



PLAINFIELD
PLAINFIELD
PLAINFIELD NJ

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 6, NO. 24

50 CENTS

FEBRUARY 14, 2003



Temporary "No Parking" signs have been placed, and replaced, on the side streets near the West Nine Golf Course to stop sledders from parking.



Residents Say 'Sledders Stay Away'

By Jane Dornick

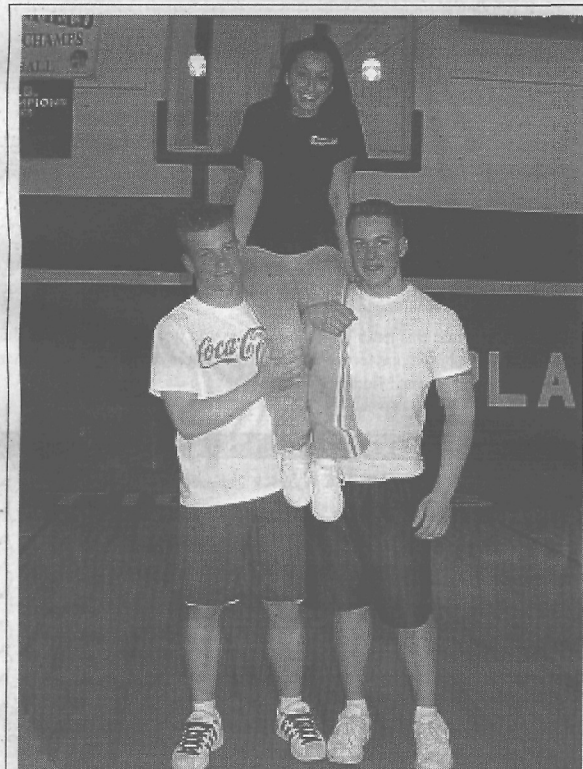
With schools closed last Friday due to the snowstorm, many residents and sleigh riding enthusiasts had hopes of enjoying the near perfect conditions by gliding down the hills of the West Nine Golf Course on Woodland Ave. To their dismay, many people who ignored the emergency "No Parking" signs posted by the South Plainfield Police Dept. were issued summonses. Edison police were also called, and warned the sledders on loud speakers to vacate the private property, which is clearly posted with "No Trespassing" or "No Sledding" signs.

According to Mayor Dan Gallagher, he received a petition from approximately 29 residents who live in the area which stretches from Sprague Ave. to Carlisle St. between Woodland and Oxford avenues. Most complaints were about driveways being blocked and cars being parked on lawns, as well as the difficulty of navigating the narrow streets due to the volume of cars.

After discussing the issue with Police Chief Bob Merkler, both agreed the extensive amount of cars parking in this particular area was a public safety hazard, creating a potential danger to pedestrians and motorists. The Public Works department could not clear the

roads of snow properly and emergency equipment would have difficulty getting through in a crisis. Traffic Safety began posting temporary "No Parking" signs after the first snowfall back

(Continued on page 11)



Pictured are cheerleading squad seniors David Spayder, Nathalie Londono and Steve Janizak. South Plainfield High School Cheerleaders are going for the gold! See page 7.

Is It Billboards For the Borough?

Newly Introduced Ordinance Will Allow Supersized Advertising

Almost one year has passed since the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment voted to reject three billboards along Rt. 287. Last week, a new ordinance was introduced allowing them, on a restricted basis. (See page 12 of last week's *Observer*.)

Last year Carole Media and AMI sought a variance from the Board of Adjustment to allow three billboards along Rt. 287. Their request was denied, and in addition, the council passed an ordinance forbidding any kind of billboards in South Plainfield.

However, several courts have held that restricting billboards is a violation of free speech, according to Ordinance #1615.

The new ordinance will have several restrictions. Billboards will only

be allowed on Rt. 287, cannot exceed 50 feet in height, must be at least 250 feet from any residential zone boundary and only four will be allowed within any linear mile of each other.

Any billboard proposed to be located within 250 feet to 1,000 feet of any residential zone must be oriented so that its copy cannot be read from within any part of the residential zone, and must be adequately screened by existing trees, building or topography so as not to be visually obtrusive to the affected residential areas.

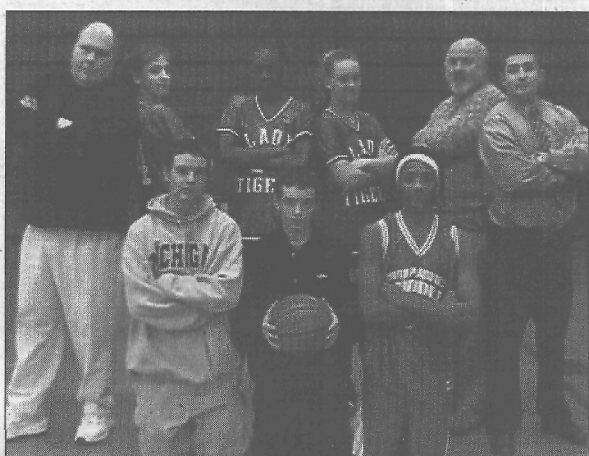
A public meeting on Ordinance #1615 will be held on Thursday, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers, before a vote on its final adoption. The public is welcome to express their opinion on this ordinance.

Rivals for a Cause: 9-11 Memorial Fund

South Plainfield Middle School students and staff are lining up on the basketball court for a good cause. An evening of fun has been organized, which will feature student basketball team members versus a team of male and female faculty, at the Middle School gymnasium on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m.

The event will kick off with a pre-game honor guard of representatives from the South Plainfield police, fire and rescue squad, the New York police, fire and rescue, and the Port Authority police. A live DJ will begin the entertainment, which will also include student and faculty cheerleaders, half-time games and giveaways, and refreshments baked by the school's home economics department.

The idea for the construction of a 9-11 memorial by the students and staff in the Middle School courtyard was conceived while the school was honoring the 9-11 victims and heroes at a school-wide ceremony on September 11 of this school year. Staff and students were encouraged



The South Plainfield Middle School Basketball Team with their coaches, who will face the teachers in a fundraising game on Feb. 25.

to submit designs, and a composite of the best ideas was created. The design for the memorial will be on display in the gymnasium.

Middle School students and staff invite the public to join them in support of this worthy cause. Tickets are

\$3 and may be purchased after school or at the door the evening of the event. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

For more information, visit the school's website: www.spnet.k12.nj.us/spmswebpage/mshome.htm

—Submitted by Diane Scarpulla

Project Graduation Needs Your Help

Each year the South Plainfield High School seniors celebrate their graduation with an all night, fun-filled, substance-free party at Ricochet Racquet Club. The historically popular program, "Project Graduation," is supported through the fundraising efforts of the South Plainfield High School PTA. Parental contributions are the backbone of Project Graduation funding. The overall cost of this event is over \$17,000. The PTA counts on the

parents to help with the funding.

This year the PTA is facing a deficit in its fundraising efforts, and are looking to residents and local businesses to help support this important program through donations and parent support. Chairpersons are still needed for the following committees: prizes, food, manpower (set-up/clean-up) and chaperones.

This year Project Graduation is scheduled for Thursday, June 19, from

10 p.m. to 6 a.m., at The Club at Ricochet on St. Nicholas Ave. Activities include racquetball, volleyball, dancing, swimming, DJ music, videos, contests, Simon Sez, wandering magician, entertainment and food. The night ends with an early morning breakfast.

The PTA is sponsoring the Project Graduation Auction/Raffle to be held on March 8. The suggested senior parent contribution is \$50, either as a cash

(Continued on page 11)

**THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD
BOARD OF EDUCATION**
*cordially invites you to attend an
informal gathering to welcome our
newly appointed Superintendent of Schools,*
Dr. Robert Rosado
on Wednesday, Feb. 19.
from 7 to 9 p.m.
at the
South Plainfield High School Cafeteria

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, February 18 Thursday, February 20

Monday, March 3 Thursday, March 6

Monday, March 17 Thursday, March 20

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

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

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

Feb. 25, March 11, March 25, April 8, April 22, May 13, May 27, June 10, June 24

zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

Feb. 13, Feb. 27, March 13, March 27, April 10, April 24, May 8, May 22, June 12, June 26, July 10, July 24, Aug. 14, Aug. 28, Sept. 11, Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Oct. 23, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11.

board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

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

March 11, April 1.

Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m. Feb. 18, March 18, April 8.

taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-668-0538

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 the 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 ngann@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

IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

Our economy needs a boost. Over the past two years, more than two million Americans have lost their jobs. Today, the unemployment rate stands at six percent, the highest rate in eight years.

Mortgage foreclosures are at a record high. The stock market has lost about \$5 trillion in value. Consumer confidence is low. Demand has declined to such an extent that American businesses are now operating at only 75 percent of capacity. Our projected federal deficit is running at \$300 billion-plus, leaving state governments across the country about \$90 billion in the red. Here in New Jersey, Governor McGreevey faces a deficit of \$5 billion.

Now is the time for an economic stimulus package that will immediately boost growth through targeted tax cuts, aid for the states, and assistance to the long-term unemployed. Unfortunately, the President's plan to stimulate the economy rejects these approaches, and it won't work. In fact, it is a reckless plan that abandons fiscal discipline and puts us on a dangerous path toward large deficits and mounting federal debt.

To get our economy moving again, we need a plan that delivers short-term stimulus and long-term fiscal discipline.

The goal of any stimulus package should be to prime the pump that drives the economy by getting money into the hands of lower and middle-income families—families that will pour money into the economy. States also need help balancing their budgets, otherwise the impact of cuts in federal taxes will simply be cancelled by higher state or local property taxes, which would depress the economy even further.

I support those parts of the President's program that were targeted at working-class families, including an increase in the child credit and a reduction in the marriage penalty. But now is not the time to accelerate planned tax reductions for high-income earners. This is a time of potential war, a time of high unemployment, and a time for tough choices. It is not a time to reward the wealthy.

One measure that should be considered to help stimulate the sagging economy is a tax cut that would reduce the burden on all workers and businesses. Louisiana Senator Mary Landrieu and I have introduced the Wage Tax Cut Act of 2003, which would give every working American a refund of payroll taxes paid on the first \$10,000 of income earned. That would mean a tax rebate of up to \$765 for individuals, and as much as \$1,530 for a working couple.

Compare that to the tax cuts proposed by the President, which are disproportionately aimed at the wealthy, like eliminating the tax on dividend income. That idea would not stimulate the economy. Instead, it would encourage corporations to shift money away from investment and employment, and into dividends. It also would reduce

Submit Letters to the Editor:

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state income tax revenues and increase capital costs for states and municipalities by creating a financial instrument that would compete with tax-free municipal bonds issued to pay for important public projects. In addition, the high costs of the President's proposal would impair the federal government's ability to make needed investments in homeland security, education, health care, and transportation.

The President's proposal would create deep deficits for years to come, which would harm our economy. Instead of catering to the wealthiest among us, we need to put more money into the hands of working-class families who will help stimulate economic growth by putting money into the American market. That's what the Wage Tax Cut Act of 2003 is designed to do. And I'm hopeful that we can win bipartisan support for this approach.

SINCERELY,
JON S. CORZINE, U.S. SENATOR

To Whom it May Concern,

In the past few months DYFYS has been getting a lot of bad publicity. We just wanted to write a letter telling you about our experience with DYFYS.

We have a child who is 16-years-old with a diagnosis of bipolar disease. The past six years have been a nightmare for us. My husband and I have tried to

get our daughter the help she needs on our own without putting her in the system; a system that scares everyone nowadays. However every corner we turn, another door was slammed in our face (this includes various hospitals - CCIS units, the school system and health psychology places). In the meantime, our daughter's condition got considerably worse. We then had to ask the courts for help and they in turn got DYFYS involved.

The next two months were wonderful. We initially spoke with Kim Maloney, who then assigned our case to Jennifer Dowdell. Kim and Jennifer were truly incredible, they kept us informed and got things moving, finding placement for our daughter. They found a treatment facility in two months that would take her in, after we've been fighting with these same facilities for six years. These two DYFYS employees were the most professional, caring individuals we have ever dealt with.

We wanted to take a moment to thank them for their work and we wanted to write a letter to someone so that Kim Maloney and Jennifer Dowdell get the recognition they deserve. If DYFYS had more individuals like these two people, there probably wouldn't be any bad things happening in the organization and then the term "DYFYS" wouldn't be so scary to normal people like us who only wanted to get our daughter help.

I do, however, think it's horrible that families who want to help their children can't do so without bothering a system that is obviously taxed. Maybe someone should look into why people can't get the help for their children when they need it; instead of blaming employees of an organization that is already bursting at the seams. If there were more attainable help out there for everyone, maybe then DYFYS could concentrate on the cases they need to.

SINCERELY,
KENNETH AND DEBORAH CLARK

To the Editor,

Having been a resident of South Plainfield for the past 20 years, I must admit I have not been involved in community affairs or local politics. My four children all graduated from SPHS and are all doing well.

However, on reading the recent *Star Ledger* "School Report Card," the statistics concerning our school system were, to say the least, surprising.

Out of a total of 23 school districts in Middlesex County, South Plainfield was ranked as follows:

Cost per Pupil	9,131.00	10th
Median Adm. Salary	102,640.00	2nd
Median Teacher Salary	63,978.00	3rd
Class Size	22	10th
Mobility (Student Turnover)	42%	1st
Advance Degree Courses	37%	18th
Advanced Placement Exams	8%	18th
4 year College Placement	48%	17th
Average SAT Score	973	18th
Total Taking SAT	75%	13th

I have always been under the impression that SPHS was above average, but as the above numbers would seem to indicate, we are high on cost and mediocre on results.

Please note that this letter is an observation and not a critique. But I think that the report should open some eyes as to the condition of our school system, compared to the rest of Middlesex County.

JOHN O'DONNELL



Remember Your Special Someone
Valentine's Day Weekend
Fri. 14, Sat. 15 & Sun. 16

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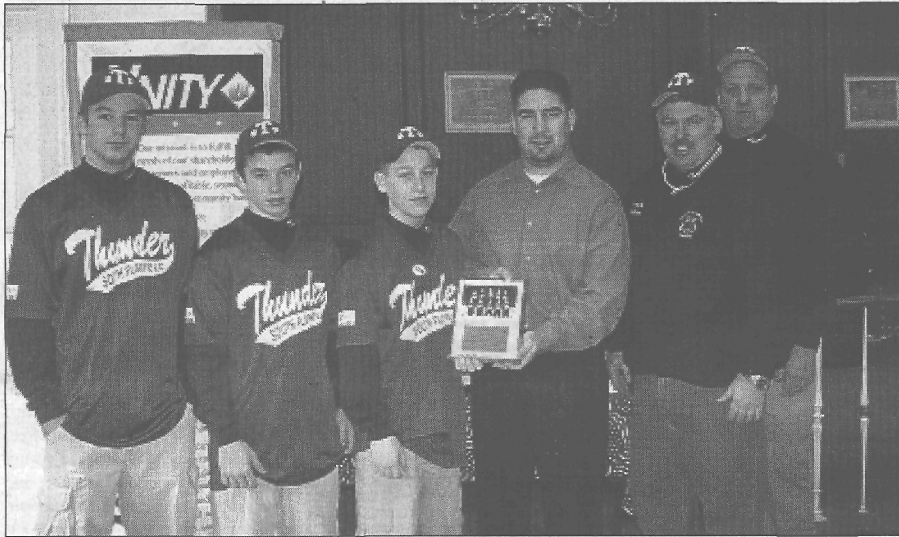
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Members of the South Plainfield Thunder, an AAU Traveling All-Star Baseball Team, presented a plaque to Tino Fontes, manager of Unity Bank, in appreciation of their support in sponsoring the team. Pictured are Chris and Mike Stallone and Danny McCreesh with managers John Stallone and Tom McCreesh.

Black History Month Cultural Arts Program

On Sunday, Feb. 23 the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission presents, "Hold Fast To Dreams," a celebration of African American Poetry featuring Joanna Featherstone. The event will take place at 3 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center. Admission is free and refreshments will be available.

Joanna Featherstone, actress, storyteller, teacher and poet extraordinaire, brings the works of four African-American poets to life. Her inspiring performance features frequent audience participation, in which young people join in the music and the verse of Phillis Wheatley, Paul Laurence Dunbar, James Weldon Johnson and Langston Hughes.

Joanna Featherstone's art is not only a satisfying educational experience, but also an outpouring of her love for all people and for life. Joanna explains, "I want people to know that the Black experience includes poems about daffodils and sunsets, children and love, all the human experiences, not only the Black struggle."

Joanna Featherstone made her New York debut in the award winning Broadway hit, *The Great White Hope*, and returned to Broadway in the Joseph Papp-Tom O'Horgan production of *Leaf People*. Off-Broadway audiences have been moved by her performances in Ed Bullin's *Home Boy*, *So Nice They Named It Twice*, at the New York



Joanna Featherstone

Shakespeare Festival; *Traps*, at the Player's Workshop; and *Uncle Tom's Cabin and Moon of the Caribbees*, at the WPA Theatre.

A talented and versatile actress, Joanna Featherstone's range includes commedia dell'art, as Smeraldina in Goldoni's *The Servant of Two Masters*, and the avant garde, as the Ballad Singer in the American premiere of Ghelderode's *Pantagloize*. She has also played in Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Miller's *Crucible*, McCullers' *Member of the Wedding*, Saroyan's *The Time of Your Life*, Wilder's *Our Town*, and Capote's *The Grass Harp*, in productions in her native Kansas, Washington, DC, and with the Milwaukee

Repertory Theatre and the Trinity Square Theatre, in Providence, Rhode Island.

A graduate of the University of Kansas, she continued her studies at Howard University, the University of Wisconsin and the famed Neighborhood Playhouse School in New York City. Before her acting career, Joanna Featherstone taught English in high school and drama at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

Joanna Featherstone specializes in presenting the work of African American poets, from 1760 to modern times. She features dialect poetry that was expressive of early African American language, and was frequently used by both black and white early American writers.

For more information on "Hold Fast To Dreams," please call (908) 753-0444.

Housing and Community Development Block Grant Meeting

A public hearing for the 2003 Housing and Community Development Block Grant has been scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers, South Plainfield Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Ave.

The purpose of this hearing is to introduce projects being considered for inclusion in the 2003 Housing and Community Development Block Grant application. Public input on this project as well as input on any other projects will be entertained by the Governing Body at this time.

Further questions may be addressed to Councilman Raymond Petronko, Mayor's Representative to the Housing and Community Development Agency or Vincent Buttiglieri, Borough Administrator/Clerk.

Senator Buono to Present Vision Program at South Plainfield AARP Meeting

On Feb. 20 at 12:30 p.m., Senator Barbara Buono, who is a member of the Senate Health Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee, as well as the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, will present a program for the South Plainfield AARP at the Senior Citizen Center. Dr. Bruce Kastner, an optometrist, with the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, will discuss the major vi-

sion problems which effect the elderly. This valuable program will inform seniors about potential conditions that may affect their eyesight and let them know what types of treatments are available. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions.

The Senior Citizen Center is located at 90 Maple Ave. To contact the Senior Center, call (908) 754-1047. All are welcome to attend.

Midco Renews Metuchen Rd. Adopt-A-Spot Agreement

Joe Vitulli, General Manager of the Midco Residential Services solid waste transfer station at 11 Harmich Rd., has renewed his Adopt-A-Spot agreement with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association for the coming year. The adopted spot covers the stretch between the Midco facility on Harmich Rd. to the intersection of Metuchen Rd. and Belmont Ave.

Midco first adopted this spot in 2002, to address the problem of cardboard and other materials occasionally dropping onto the roadway from their trucks. The refuse adds to the litter that accumulates along this heavily traveled route from other vehicles and indus-

try. Two or three employees go out once a week to clean both sides of the road.

When joining the Adopt-A-Spot program, Vitulli volunteered to dispose of all the litter they collect, as well as litter collected by any other Adopt-A-Spot participants, free of charge. On signing the renewal agreement he said, "Midco is happy to be participating in this program, and looks forward to another year."

For more information about the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact the Clean Communities Coordinator at (908) 226-7621.

Republicans to Screen Candidates

South Plainfield's Republican Organization will begin screening candidates this month for the 2003 Borough Council race. While the election is not until November, nominating petitions are due the beginning of April, and the Republican Party will be interviewing prospective nominees over the next four weeks.

"We want to open the screening process up to all Borough residents," said Republican Chairman Bob Jones. "We're eager to talk to people who want to bring good government to South Plainfield. Our town needs top-notch council members who can start dealing with the problems residents

face: rising taxes, mounting traffic, deteriorating services, and overbuilding. An open screening allows us to pick from a wide assortment of talent—something our town has no shortage of."

Those interested in interviewing should send a resume or short letter of interest to: South Plainfield Republican Organization, P.O. Box 371, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. The resume or letter should include the applicant's history of community involvement, work experience, and educational background. For more information, contact Bob Jones at (908) 222-9435.

Job Information Center at Library

Looking for a job? Don't know where to begin? Try the South Plainfield Public Library!

The South Plainfield Free Public Library, located at 2484 Plainfield Ave. (adjacent to the Municipal Building) has planned the following programs for February and March as part of the library's Job Information Center.

- Saturday, Feb. 22, 10:30 a.m.-12 noon
- Job Searching on the Internet
- Saturday, Mar. 8, 10:30 a.m.-12 noon
- Resumes and Cover Letters

Saturday, Mar. 15, 10:30 a.m.-noon

- Interviewing 101

All programs are free, space is limited and reservations are required. For more information please call the library's reference desk at (908) 754-7885 or visit the library web site at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

The library's Job Information Center provides free classes for job seekers, computer programs, books/materials on interviewing and resumes and fee services such as fax and notary public.

Corporate Accounts Welcome

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Events

Pancake Breakfast At American Legion

February 16

The American Legion, located at 243 Oak Tree Ave., will be holding a pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids 6-13. Children under six are free.

Republican Monthly Meeting

February 18

The regular monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 8 p.m. at the American Legion hall on Oak Tree Ave.

All committee members are urged to attend this important meeting. Any resident who would like to become involved with the organization, or have concerns about the borough that should be addressed, are also invited to attend.

SPHS PTA/Project Graduation Meeting

February 20

The next meeting of the South Plainfield High School PTA will be held on Thursday, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. in the SPHS Information Center.

The purpose of the meeting is to finalize plans for the Project Graduation Auction/Raffle to be held on Saturday, March 8 and to discuss activities for the night of Project Graduation, June 19. Parents of seniors are asked to attend this meeting.

Class of 1977 "25th" Reunion to be Held!

February 22

The South Plainfield High School class of 77 is holding their 25th reunion at the Holiday Inn on Stelton Rd. in South Plainfield from 7 to 11 p.m.

\$75 per person includes hors d'oeuvres, upgraded open bar, buffet dinner and DJ entertainment.

Call Maureen Veinott (Readie) for info and to RSVP at (908) 754-3455. Hope to see you there!!

Education Foundation Annual Art Auction

February 22

The South Plainfield Education Foundation will be holding their annual Art Auction on Friday, Feb. 22 in the High School cafeteria. This year's Honorary Chairperson is William Ashnault.

If there are any items of particular interest you would like to see presented at the art auction, please call Marge Reedy at (908) 561-3951 after 6 p.m.

Rainbow Academy Plans Open House

February 22

Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an Open House on Saturday, Feb. 22, 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 and pre-kindergarten programs.

Everyone who registers will receive one free month of ParentWatch, an internet viewing service. For a demo of their video services, visit their

What's happening in FEBRUARY

Daily Events
9-11 AM Coffee & Cake
9 AM-4 PM Cards & Pool
(908) 754-1047

The Senior Citizen's Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
NOW OPEN SATURDAYS 8:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.

Senior Center EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
EVENTS	Tax Prep Assistance, Tuesdays & Thursdays 9 a.m. to noon.		Shopping Pathmark 9AM	13 Lincoln's Birthday Center Closed
	February 21 Blood Pressure Screening 10 AM to 12 Noon		Practical Crafting 10-11AM Line Dancing 11AM-Noon AARP Tax Preparation NOTE: Senior Meeting is Rescheduled for Feb. 26	14
President's Day Center Closed	17 Bingo 10-2 PM AARP Tax Preparation	18 Exercise & Walking Club 8:45-9:45AM Concert & Luchon South Plfd. High School Noon AARP Crafts 1 PM	20 Shopping at Pathmark 9AM Practical Crafts 10-11AM Line Dancing 11AM-Noon AARP Tax Preparation AARP Meeting Noon	21 Blood Pressure Screening 10AM-Noon Listening to Children Group 9:30AM-12:30PM Bingo 10AM-2PM Pizza Lunch

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

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.

SPMS Student Council Basketball Fundraiser

February 25

The Middle School Student Council will be sponsoring a Basketball Fundraiser "SPMS Faculty vs. the Eighth Grade Boys/Girls Basketball Teams" on Tuesday, Feb. 25. Doors open at 6 p.m. Pre-game ceremonies begin at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3 each and may be purchased at the door.

The proceeds will go to fund the Middle School's September 11th Monument to be placed in the Middle School's courtyard. The Color Guard will have members from the New York City Police and Fire Departments; the Port Authority Police Department; and also representatives from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines.

For information, please contact Joe Blondo or Joe Bennett at the Middle School at (908) 754-4620, ext. 307/308.

The Middle School Student Council thanks the community for their support.

Senior Center Membership Meeting

February 26

The Senior Center membership meeting originally scheduled for Feb. 13 has been postponed to Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 1 p.m. This is the first general meeting for members of the South Plainfield Senior Center. All members are invited. Monthly meetings will be held on the second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m.

February's meeting will be a general organizational meeting at which time standing committees will be established. Future meetings will feature guest speakers.

The March 13 speaker will be Allison Cook of the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs. The topic will be "Fraud against Seniors"—what you should know and how to avoid being taken.

Spaghetti Dinner at St. Stephen's Church

March 2

An all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner is being held on Sunday, March 2, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 3145 Park Ave. The cost of \$5 per person, children under 12 free, includes beverage and dessert. No reservations are needed.

Senior Center Atlantic City Trip

March 5

The South Plainfield Senior Center is starting up their monthly bus trip to Atlantic City again on the first Wednesday of the month beginning Wednesday, March 5. The bus departs the Senior Center at 9 a.m. for the Taj Mahal. The cost is \$15 per person.

Stop by the Senior Center at 90 Maple Ave. to make seat reservation. For more information, please call Joann at the Senior Center at 908-754-1047.

Farewell Party for Jim and Betty Eckert

March 8

Long-time residents Jim and Betty Eckert will be the guests of honor at a going-away cocktail party hosted by the South Plainfield Republicans at Flanagan's Restaurant on Saturday, March 8 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 per person or \$60 a couple. To purchase tickets, contact Bob Jones at 908-222-9435.

Project Graduation Auction/Raffle

March 8

SPHS PTA's Project Graduation Auction/Raffle will be held on Saturday, March 8. Doors open at 6 p.m. The auction begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$7. Prizes include a Dell computer, digital camera, flat-screen TV, gift baskets, and more. The purpose of the auction is to fund SPHS' Project Graduation, an all-night, substance-free party for the SPHS Class of 2003 held on their graduation night.

For tickets, please contact Janet at (908) 757-3148. For information concerning the raffle, including donations, please contact Ellen at (908) 756-3731 or Pat at (908) 756-6512.

Recreation Plans Trip To Atlantic City

March 23

The South Plainfield Recreation Department will sponsor a trip to Atlantic City on Sunday, March 23.

The bus will leave the PAL at 10:45 a.m. and return around 9 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person, with \$16 back.

Only 45 tickets will be available. Purchase your ticket at the PAL Building located on Maple Ave.

Senior Center Offers Trip to Lancaster, PA

May 29 & 30

The So. Plainfield Senior Center will be offering an overnight trip to Lancaster, PA on May 29 & 30. The bus trip includes transportation, one night's hotel accommodations at the Hawthorn Inn, tickets to a performance of "Daniel" at the Sight and Sound Theatre, shopping at Kitchen Kettle Village and Rockvale Square outlets, dinner on Thursday, breakfast on Friday, hotel tax and service. The cost is \$159.00 per person based on double occupancy. For reservations, please stop by the Senior Center at 90 Maple Avenue. A deposit of \$59.00 per person is required.

— Out of Town —

Alliance Presents "Spinning into Butter"

February 14 - March 1

Alliance Repertory Theatre Company is pleased to announce its production, Rebecca Gilman's highly acclaimed "Spinning into Butter." The production runs through March 1 at The Brook Arts Center, 10 Hamilton St. in Bound Brook.

Production dates are Feb. 13-16, 20-23, 28, and Mar. 1. Evening performances are 8 p.m., Sunday matinees are 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Senior citizen, student and group discounts are available. Call (732) 469-7700 for reservations.

Art/Music Programs for Children With Autism

February 14-April 12

Classes for the Parent/Child Workshops in Music/Movement and Art for Children with Autism or Autistic Behaviors have resumed. Workshops will

be held on Saturdays, through Apr. 12, in New Brunswick, Morristown and Waldwick. The program is sponsored by VSA Arts of New Jersey, a nonprofit statewide organization dedicated to providing accessible arts opportunities to children and adults with disabilities. These workshops are free.

Saturday sessions provide young people with experiences in music and art, while developing communication, social and cognitive skills. Young people ages three to 17 are invited to participate.

Millstone Chorus Singing Valentines-

February 11-15

The chorus will be doing "Singing Valentines" for someone special Feb. 11-15 at your location! \$50 includes two songs in four-part harmony, customized Valentine card, chocolate treat, a Polaroid of the recipient with the quartet and a silk rose. Limited availability! Payment due in advance.

Contact Anita (908) 874-3079.

Judith Kroll-Russo at Brass Lantern

February 15

On Feb. 15, at 1:30 p.m., Judith Kroll-Russo, a well known food historian, will present a program on a Victorian Tea at the Brass Lantern, located in Metuchen. Her magnetic personality and popularity is evidenced by the increasing number who attend her lectures. Refreshments will be served!

Woodbridge Area WOW Dance

February 16

The Woodbridge Area Widows or Widowers (WOWS) will hold a Dance/Social on Sunday, Feb. 16 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Live Band and refreshments. Cost is \$8. Dance takes place at the Elk's Hall, 665 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge. Call (732) 297-1775.

Concert at Mount St. Mary Academy

February 23

Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung will host a Classical Chamber Ensemble concert on Sunday, Feb. 23 at 3 p.m. A group of advanced Academy instrumental students will play classical and light selections on piano and violin. The performance will be in the parlor. Refreshments follow. Free-will offerings appreciated.

For information, call Sr. Mary Gomolka (908) 756-0994 Ext. 4529.

Adoption Support

February 24

CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support) will meet 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24 at Watchung Ave. Presbyterian, 170 Watchung Ave., North Plainfield. "Creating Relationships After Reunion" by Carol Schaefer, author of book and TV adaptation, *The Other Mother: A Woman's Love for the Child She Gave Up for Adoption*.

Open sharing of adoption-related stories and light refreshments. Check our web site at <http://communitynj.com/cc/chats> or call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 for information.

Send Your Events to: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; fax (908) 668-8819; email ggnan@aol.com.

southplainfieldpeople

Milestones

Baby Girl Born to Congressman Mike and Maureen Ferguson

The Office of Rep. Mike Ferguson, R-NJ, is pleased to announce an addition to the Ferguson family...

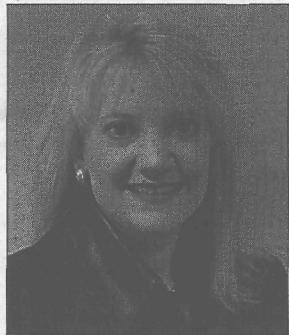
Congressman Ferguson's wife, Maureen, gave birth early last Friday morning to a baby girl, Rose Chiavella Ferguson.

Rose, the Fergusons' third child, was

born at 4:15 a.m. at Overlook Hospital in Summit. She weighed in at 8 pounds, 11 ounces and is 21¼ inches long.

Rep. Ferguson reports the delivery was normal and Maureen and Rose are recovering well. Both were released from the hospital Sunday.

Unity Bank Names Paula Sierp to Corporate Relations Department



Paula L. Sierp

Anthony J. Feraro, President and CEO, Unity Bank, announced the appointment of Paula L. Sierp of Clinton Twp. as vice president of the bank's Corporate Relations department.

Feraro said: "We are delighted to welcome Ms. Sierp to the Unity team in this important position."

Sierp began at Unity Bank in 1999 as director of purchasing. Ms. Sierp has a degree in finance from Seton Hall and has corporate experience, having served as comptroller for a manufacturing company. Sierp says that she is

offering business customers an opportunity to explore the full range of Unity Bank's financial services in the convenience of their place of business, in a comfortable atmosphere.

Sierp has a great deal of enthusiasm for her new position. "It permits me to help the Bank as well as our corporate clients," she explained. "I'll be serving as a kind of picture window onto Unity Bank as a whole."

Since its inception in June of 2002, the Corporate Relations Department is helping to maintain the friendly, neighborhood relationships that are Unity's trademark as the Bank continues to grow in size and holdings.

"We are customer-centered in everything that we do," concluded Feraro. The Corporate Relations Department forms a whole other layer of protection and service for business account holders."

Unity Bank is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Unity Bancorp, Inc., and has served New Jersey since 1991, and provides a full range of commercial and retail banking services through 12 Retail Financial Service Centers across Central New Jersey.



Roosevelt Principal Jacqueline Keogh and Student Council Advisor Allison Ferraro, along with the student council, present a check for \$161 to Fire Chief Joe Abbruzzese, Michael Pelegrino and Eddie LaFerrera.

Roosevelt Students Buy a Brick for Future Firemen's Memorial

Roosevelt Elementary School student council members held a 'Name Tag Fundraiser' recently in order to purchase a brick for the soon to be

built Firemen's Memorial.

For 50 cents students could wear a name tag with any name they choose, and were referred to by that name throughout the day.

Members of the student council are: Rachel Alexa, Brittany Alvarado, Mark Brindley, Christina Cody,

Vincent DaPonte, Tyler Driscoll, Joseph Fierro, Alana Franco, Charles Gruver, Brigitte Kelly, Frank Licato, Ashley Nguyen, Gerry Pinto, Amanda Plum, Kyle Pompillio, Kristy Ray, Carlos Ruiz, Jessica Scarpitto, Courtney Schaefer, Katherine Douglass and David Smith.

Nominate Little Miss Baseball Contest

Once again, it is time to crown Little Miss Baseball 2003. We ask that all the girls nominated march with the Baseball Club in our parade on Apr. 5. The parade ends up at the Baseball Complex, and during Opening Day Festivities we will announce Little Miss Baseball 2003. Winner must be present to be crowned.

We will be accepting nominations for Little Miss Baseball 2003 through Feb. 17. Girls must be between the ages of 7 and 12 years old and be residents. To nominate someone, call 757-9531.

School Board Candidacy Information

The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the South Plainfield Board of Education is 4 p.m., Monday, Feb. 24, 2003. The election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2003.

Prospective school board candidates can obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" at the school district office, 305 Cromwell Pl., between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily. The kit includes information about legal qualifications for school board candidates campaign procedures and the role of the school board member.



Vesica Tan Celebrated their Grand Opening last Saturday with seventy-four people enjoying a free tan. The tanning salon is located at 1110 Hamilton Boulevard.



Bella Grotto Cafe recently opened in Middlesex Mall near the Motor Vehicle Department. Owners are Angelo Tranquellino Jr. and Sr. This is their first store, after previously working at Justino's, Gennaras and Sabaros in Staten Island. The Tranquellino's bring a N.Y. style pizza to New Jersey (try it, you'll like it!).

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Sports

WRESTLING

By Bob Hunter

Conroy, Severini, Johnston and Gross Claim County Titles at GMC

The South Plainfield High School Wrestling Team finished in third place overall in the recent Greater Middlesex Conference Tournament, but claimed four individual titles. The Tigers, at a disadvantage going into the tournament with junior Joe DeBiase (189) not in the lineup and Ryan Elliot (Hwt.) just back after undergoing knee surgery, plus a forfeit did not help the effort. But, the Tigers fought on scoring enough points to stay in the mix, sending four into the finals. After the final round, the Tigers found themselves only nine points behind East Brunswick, who won their first county title since 1991 with 172.5 points. Old Bridge was second with 165.5 and the Tigers were third with 163.5.

East Brunswick was shut out in the finals, with no individual champions and the Tigers went four for four. Starting off for the Tigers was Jimmy Conroy (103) who won his first two matches by fall. In the finals, he defeated John Pagnotta from Old Bridge for the second time this year by a 6-2 decision for his first County title. Conroy is now 23-1 on the year. Guy Severini (152) had an outstanding

Tiger Wrestlers Qualify for Kids State Tournament

South Plainfield wrestlers traveled to Union High School this past weekend for the New Jersey Kids State Qualifying Tournament. The Tigers did an outstanding job qualifying 15 wrestlers.

Claiming titles in the Midget division were Corey Hay (80) and Mike Wagner (95). In the Junior division, Patrick Hunter (80) and Danny Pompilio (100). In the Intermediate division winners were Robert Gentile (75), Billy Ashnault (90), Bryan Hunt (95) and Nick Dorey (112). Finishing in second place were Alex Lundy, Bantam Hwt.; Nick Heilmann, Junior 75 and Travis Noll, Intermediate 140. Third place went to Stephen Petriello Bantam 75, John Wylam Midget 85, Rocco Petriello Junior Hwt. and Mark Wagner Intermediate 119.

tournament, dominating his first two matches to reach the finals. In the finals, Severini scored the only fall in the championship round. He took early control and was winning 9-2 when he pinned East Brunswick's Matt Merrihan at 3:39, to claim his first County title. Senior Glenn Gross (160) captured his third County title with an exciting 10-8 overtime win over Mike Valentino of South Brunswick. Gross, who appeared to have the takedown in regulation, however the win was denied when head official Jim McCauley consulted with assistant Roy Dragon and they determined that they were out of bounds and the points were removed with 24 seconds left. It only took Gross 13 seconds to score the winning takedown for the win and his third County title. Gross is now 20-2 on the year. Senior Steve Johnston (171) also had a great tournament and some sweet revenge when he defeated East Brunswick's John Clay 3-1 in the finals. Johnston won his first County title and the fourth Tiger title of the day. Johnston, who lost to Clay during the dual meet season, gave up an early takedown and an escape. Trailing 3-0 with thirty seconds left, Johnston cut him loose and fought him off as time ran out.

Ryan Elliot (Hwt.) lost his semi-final match to Old Bridge's Matt Lamela, but came back strong in the consolation finals and scored a major decision 13-4 over Tom Scanlon of South River for third place. Elliot seemed a little rusty, but still did a good job. Paul Ritchey (140) also made it to the consolation finals but got caught and pinned by Danny Collins of Woodbridge for fourth place. Viet Vo (112) won fifth place honors when he won a 3-1 decision over Jon Horning of North Brunswick. Peter DeAndrea (135) traveled the hard way for his fifth place finish after losing early. He came back defeating John Jensen of Monroe 2-1 in overtime time when he escaped for the win. It was a disappointing finish for the Tigers, but if they were healthy and had everyone at peak form, they would have won this tournament. They wrestled well throughout the tournament and are now looking to the sectionals which start next week. Congratulations and good luck.



On Feb. 9 the Grant Central Sixth Boy's Basketball Team won the First Annual Derek L. Hammer, Sr. Memorial Tournament in North Plainfield. Four teams competed in the two day tournament. On Saturday the young Tigers beat Berkley Heights and Sunday's win against North Plainfield, 54-27, garnered them the championship. The boys received individual trophies, as well as a large trophy that is on display at Grant School. Organized by Dan Leary of the North Plainfield Youth Sports Association, the tournament is a memorial for the North Plainfield sixth grade basketball coach who died suddenly last year.

-Photo by Christopher Abbott

SWIMMING

JCC Blue Dolphins Power Past Palisades

The JCC-Blue Dolphins shrugged off illness and early Super Bowl revelers to come from behind and beat JCC-Palisades by over 120 points. The Blue Dolphins were down 41 athletes at the start of the meet, but were still able to extend their unbeaten streak. Below is a listing of South Plainfield residents placing in the Palisades meet.

JCC Edison vs Palisades

In the 6+ Under Girls, Kate McLaughlin placed first in both the free-style and backstroke.

In the 6+ Under Boys, Joey Valentino placed first in both the backstroke and in the free-style.

In the Girls 7-8 year old events, Kate O'Brien placed first in the backstroke and breaststroke. Maggie Valentino placed first in the Individual Medley and first in the butterfly. Kelly McLaughlin placed first in freestyle and third in breaststroke.

In the Boys 7-8 events, David Brzozowski placed second in backstroke and Patrick Boyle placed second in freestyle.

In the 9-10 Girls events, Emily Pickarski placed first in the IM and first in the free-style. Chelsea Cullen placed first butterfly and second in the breaststroke.

In the 9-10 Boys events, Dylan McDermott placed second in the Breaststroke.

In the 11-12 Girls events, Amanda Ray placed first in the freestyle and second in the backstroke.

In the Boys 11-12 events, Michael Boyle placed third in the IM.

In the 13-14 Girls events, Kristen Dabrio placed first in the breaststroke. Megan Boyle placed second in the freestyle and second in the backstroke. In boys 13-14 events Emmett Marsili placed second in the IM and second in the backstroke.

In the 15-18 Girls events, Nina Byard placed first in the freestyle and first in the butterfly. Becky Brzozowski placed first in the breaststroke and second in the IM.

In the 15-18 Boys events, Calvin John Smiley placed first in the Backstroke and first in the breaststroke.

BASKETBALL

Tiger Win Streak Reaches Nine


By Greg Machos

The South Plainfield Tigers continued to play extremely well, picking up two more victories this week.

First the Tigers defeated North Brunswick in a showdown for first place in the GMC White Division and then they shot down J.E. Kennedy's hopes of making the Central Jersey Group II State Tournament with a win on Saturday. With these two victories, the Tigers have raised their winning streak to nine games, which is the most

consecutive victories a South Plainfield Basketball team has had since the 1991 season when they won their second straight Central Jersey Group II title.

Against North Brunswick, the Tigers got a pair of 16 point and eight rebound performances from center Ian Robinson and guard Marquis Jones as they defeated the Raiders 67-56 at the SPSHS Anthony J. Cotoia Gymnasium. The victory put the Tigers in sole possession of first place for the first time this season, and in the driver's seat for their first divisional title since 1991.



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Preview

Competition & Varsity Cheerleading

by Tim Morgan

In 1998, the South Plainfield High School Competition Cheerleading team branched out of the SPHS Varsity Cheerleading team. The result proved to be an almost immediate success.

According to 12th year Head Coach Georgianne Larsen, it was something that both the coaches and the kids wanted to do. There were a number of girls who wanted to bring the sport of cheerleading to the next level, and Coach Larsen, who cheered in high

Foscolo, Eva Humber, Destiny Jazikoff, Ryan Kenny, Jackie Muglia and Lisa Primavera; and freshmen Alicia Disanco, Allia Gonnem, Julianna Kay, Courtney Sacco and Meghan Wilson comprise the rest of the team.

Larsen listed me the entire team roster because she could not exclude anyone due to relatively equal contributions by all. "They're a good bunch of kids, and they work well together," she said. "They're always looking to

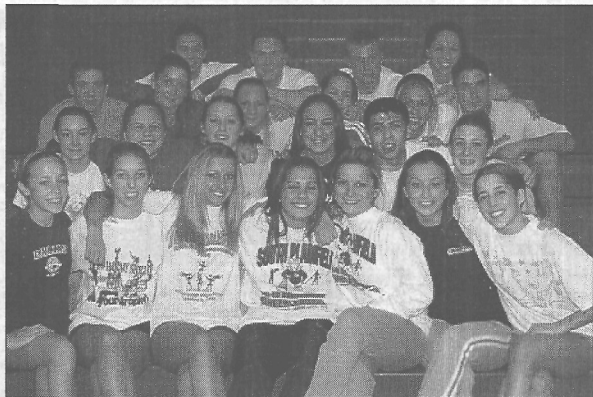
I put the term "relaxed" in quotations in the previous paragraph, because I mean it in the sense that Varsity is different, not easier. The Varsity squad has approximately three weeks to learn 8-10 different cheers, about 100 sideline chants and half-time dances.

The Competition squad focuses on one long routine to modify and perfect as the season progresses. And when I said that the Varsity squad does not practice daily, that was only partly true. The girls meet about an hour and a half before games and matches to go over that night's cheers.

Larsen had compliments for both her squads. Of the Competition team, she said, "They have confidence within themselves" and "They're starting to mold as one." She said that they work well under pressure, because their routine will always be hit clean during competitions, even if not in practices. Of the Varsity team, she said their commitment and dedication distinguishes them. Like the Competition team, they also try to better themselves and work well collaboratively.

Their goals for the season are to be sure everyone works well together by giving input, listening to everyone's suggestions, and changing parts of different cheers accordingly; to perform as a team; to work on a variety of (difficult) stunts; and, of course, to have a good time.

"I hope that we (all) continue working well into the fall season," Larsen said. Juniors Meagan Riley and Natasha Kurlew are the team captains with a third rotating up to the front row every game or match (to consider possible captains for next year). Juniors Elaine Alexander, Shannon Boyle, Kelly Butrico, Britney Denitzio, Wendy Kollarik, Cha Magot, Meagan Wilson, and Robin Zushma; and freshmen Jenn Chaing, Kaitlyn Disch, Erin Guyerson and Julianne Hudak comprise the rest of the team.



SPHS Cheerleaders Go For the Gold

by Patricia Abbott

The SPHS Co-ed Competition Cheerleading team is shooting for the top. Their ultimate goal is to become the CANAM National Champions, the impressive title won by the 2001 SPHS team. On Jan. 5 the team took first place against Jackson High School in Jackson, qualifying them to attend the CANAM Nationals in South Carolina. Jackson has taken state championships for several years and has remained undefeated.

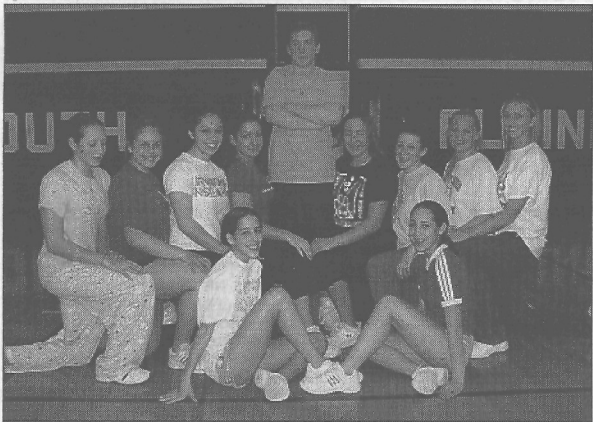
Proud Head Coach Georgeann Larson said, "This was one of the greatest moments in my coaching career other than winning the Nationals in 2001!" The team took first place at competitions on Jan. 18 and 19 at Manchester and Bayonne high schools. There are several different national competitions, such as United Cheerleading Association, National Cheerleading Association and Americheer. The winners of these various competitions do not compete

against each other.

The 2003 team consists of 25 athletes, seven males and 18 females. Captains are seniors Nathalie Lóndono and David Spayder, Steve Porcelli and Steve Janizak. Working with Coach Larsen are Jennifer Orzopowski, Competition Coach and Amy Curcio, JV Coach. Larsen said, "All the coaches help with each aspect of the cheerleading program at SPHS. We dedicate our lives to each program from May to March."

Co-ed teams are becoming more common place. Strength and agility are a must for both the male and female members. Two of the male members had this to offer, "This is harder than football!" and "What a rush I get for 2.5 minutes. There is nothing like this feeling!"

The team is currently fundraising to cover expenses in South Carolina. Donations of any amount are welcome and appreciated. Checks are payable to SPHS Cheerleading, 223 Rahway Ave. South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080



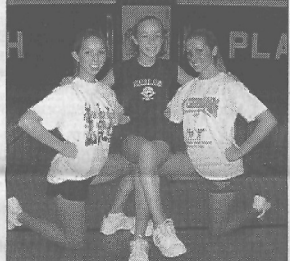
school, fully supported the idea. These girls wanted to compete for themselves instead of cheering for another team. Their rapid success put them "on the map" and got the Lady Tigers "the respect they deserved," according to Larsen. The program has since become co-educational, which has been to its benefit.

Larsen called the boys and girls "dedicated" and "motivated," saying that they have the right attitude and a desire for the sport. She admitted that their success was a surprise being as early as it was and added that the team "pulled it together" when they won the Nationals only two years after the program's inception. One thing, however, the Tigers and Lady Tigers (and all the other cheerleaders and coaches in New Jersey) have been unable to accomplish is getting the intractable NJSIAA to classify either Competition or Varsity cheerleading as a sport.

This season, the Tigers and Lady Tigers have garnered two first, two second and one fourth place in competitions. They have already qualified for the National Competition and are aiming for another title. They are also gunning for a state championship (after placing fourth last year) and are aspiring to defeat Lacey this year.

Larsen also said that defeating Jackson was a big victory, and now they will be vying to beat Colonia.

Seniors Natalie Lóndono and David Spayder lead the team as captains. Other seniors include Steve Porcelli and Steve Janizak. Juniors Arielle Fumoso, Miguel Garcia, Marissa Judd, Kerry Mackey, Matt Santone, Carly Stoeckel, and Alex Tierney; sophomores Mallory Christ, Lauren Darr, Jackie Dilillo, Melanie



better themselves."

The Competition team practices three to four days per week. They work on tumbling and stunting, which along with voice projection, arm tightness, expressions and enthusiasm are judged in competitions.

They work week-by-week on their skills, dancing, timing and conditioning, looking back at and evaluating their performances. However, the Varsity squad has to take a different approach. The majority of their practices take place in the beginning of the season, because once basketball games and wrestling matches get under way, so does their season. The Lady Tigers perform at about three to five games or matches per week, leaving virtually no room for daily practices.

The major difference between Competition and Varsity Cheerleading is that the Varsity team supports the SPHS teams and is more "relaxed." The option to try out for either team is voluntary, said Larsen. However, an athlete can only be on one team.

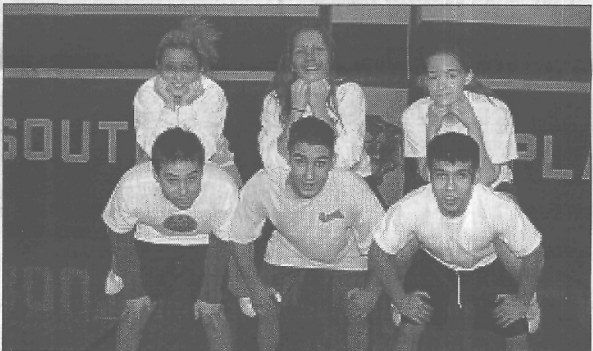
The decision depends on whether the boys or girls like and can manage the pressure of competition. Some prefer to cheer to directly support the school; others prefer to compete more for themselves.

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4-H Summer Camp Jobs

Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp, located in the northwest corner of New Jersey, has positions open for the summer of 2003. Available positions include: Waterfront Coordinator, Outdoor Education Coordinator, Counselor, Lifeguard, Craft Staff, Kitchen Staff, and more!

Must be 18 years old and available to live and work at camp from June 27 through August 17. Salaries for this seven-week period range from \$1,600 to \$2,400 for the season depending on position and experience. The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

4-H educational programs are offered to all youth, grades K-13, on an age-appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

Download an application at www.nj4hcamp.Rutgers.edu.

Freedom From Smoking Program

The Will County Health Department's Tobacco Control & Prevention program is offering the American Lung Association's Freedom From Smoking program at Plainfield High School, which begins April 8.

This quit smoking program uses a positive behavioral change approach that teaches participants how to become nonsmokers for good. They'll get special attention in developing their own quitting plan, dealing with recovery symptoms, controlling weight, managing stress through relaxation techniques that work and fight the urges to go back to smoking.

For many smokers, especially those who have tried to quit before, group support can make the difference in helping to stay smoke-free. The cost of the program is \$20, which covers the materials. To register call (815) 727-8769.

Class of 1989 Plans 15 year Reunion

The South Plainfield High School class of 1989 is planning their 15th reunion to be held in Edison at the Sheraton in Raritan Center on Nov. 27, 2004. Price is \$80.

Contact: SPHSclassof89@yahoo.com with address information.

Legal Notices

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

An appeal has been filed by JWV, INC., 219 Scotland Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey, requesting a use variance and other variances as more particularly set forth below from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a retail establishment of approximately 2,530 sq. ft. The Applicant is also seeking Site Plan Approval in accordance with plans submitted by Menlo Engineering Associates, Inc. entitled "Park Avenue Plaza" dated August 21, 2002, consisting of 12 sheets. The premises is located in the R-10 Zone, adjacent to an existing retail/commercial building. Said property is designated as Block 78, Lot 4 on the tax map of the Borough of South Plainfield, and is commonly known as 2323 Park Avenue.

The applicant is seeking relief from the following variances:

1. Use variance for commercial use in R-10 zone (residential)
2. Minimum open space: 75% required, 38.5 provided (Section 704.2(D)).
3. Parking Stalls: 13 required, 12 provided (Section 603.4)
4. Freestanding sign: prohibited in the R-10 zone (Section 801.2)
5. Wall sign: prohibited in the R-10 zone (Section 801.2)
6. Lot coverage: 25% allowable, plans show 61.5% (Section 704.2(D)).

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2003 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8 p.m.

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

David Weinberg,
Attorney for Applicant
(908) 301-1818

\$55.00

February 14, 2003

NOTICE TO PERSONS DESIRING CIVILIAN ABSENTEE BALLOTS

If you are a qualified and registered voter of the State who expects to be absent outside the State on April 15, 2003 or a qualified and registered voter who will be within the State on April 15, 2003, but because of permanent and total disability, or because of illness or temporary physical disability, or because of the observance of a religious holiday pursuant to the tenets of your religion, or because of resident attendance at a school, college, or university, or because of the nature and hours of employment, will be unable to cast your ballot at the polling place in your district on said date, and you desire to vote in the School Election to be held on April 15, 2003, kindly complete the application form below and send to the undersigned, or write or apply in person to the undersigned at once requesting that a civilian absentee ballot be forwarded to you. Such request must state your home address, and the address to which it should be sent, and must be signed with your signature, and state the reason why you will not be able to vote at your usual polling place. No civilian absentee ballot will be furnished or forwarded to any applicant unless request therefore is received not less than 7 days prior to the election, and contains the foregoing information.

VOTERS WHO ARE PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED SHALL, AFTER THEIR INITIAL REQUEST AND WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION ON THEIR PART, BE FORWARDED AN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION BY THE COUNTY CLERK FOR ALL FUTURE ELECTIONS IN WHICH THEY ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE. PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED VOTERS ALSO HAVE THE OPTION OF INDICATING ON THEIR ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS THAT THEY WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR EACH ELECTION THAT TAKES PLACE DURING THE REMAINDER OF THIS CALENDAR YEAR. PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED VOTERS WHO EXERCISE THIS OPTION WILL BE FURNISHED WITH ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR EACH ELECTION THAT TAKES PLACE DURING THE REMAINDER OF THIS CALENDAR YEAR, WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION ON THEIR PART. APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED BY APPLYING TO THE UNDERSIGNED EITHER IN WRITING OR BY TELEPHONE, OR THE APPLICATION FORM PROVIDED BELOW MAY BE COMPLETED AND FORWARDED TO THE UNDERSIGNED.

DATE: February 14, 2003

ELAINE M. FLYNN
MIDDLESEX COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
P.O. Box 1110
NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. 08903
(732) 745-4463
TDD (732) 754-5553

A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY HAS THE RIGHT TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT OR TO BE ASSISTED AT THE POLLS BY TWO ELECTION CLERKS, ONE FROM EACH PARTY, OR BY A PERSON CHOSEN BY THE VOTER OTHER THAN THE VOTER'S EMPLOYER OR AGENT OF THAT EMPLOYER, OR OFFICER OR AGENT OF THE VOTER'S UNION. VOTING LOCATIONS MUST BE ACCESSIBLE AND ACCESSIBLE PARKING WITH PROPER SIGNAGE MUST BE PROVIDED. DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED VOTERS CAN ACCESS THE FOLLOWING TDD NUMBER: (732) 937-8364. INSTRUCTIONS PRINTED IN LARGE TYPE MUST BE CONSPICUOUSLY DISPLAYED AT EACH PERMANENT REGISTRATION FACILITY AND POLLING PLACE. VIOLATIONS OF THE ABOVE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS: (732) 745-3471.

☐ Marque aqui si usted quiere materiales electorales en Español.

CIVILIAN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION

You must apply for an Absentee Ballot for each Election. I hereby

apply for an absentee ballot for the (Check One)

☐ Primary ☐ General ☐ Municipal ☐ Special

☐ Local School ☐ Regional School ☐ Voc. Tech. School

☐ Other _____ To be held on _____ DATE _____

SPECIFY

CHECK AND COMPLETE

I live in the ☐ City ☐ Town ☐ Township ☐ Borough

☐ Village of _____

My legal residence address including Street Number and/or R.D.

Number and Box Number is as follows:

STREET ADDRESS

MUNICIPALITY

ZIP CODE

PHONE

Mail my ballot to the following address:

STREET ADDRESS

MUNICIPALITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

CHECK REASON FOR BALLOT

I am unable to vote at my regular polling place on election day

because:

☐ I expect to be absent from the State of New Jersey on election day.

(DATE OF DEPARTURE)

☐ Of illness or temporary physical disability.

☐ I am permanently and totally disabled.

state reason

☒ I am permanently and totally disabled and wish to receive an absentee ballot for all elections to be held during the remainder of the calendar year.

☐ Observance of a religious holiday on election day.

☐ Resident attendance at a school, college or university on election day.

☐ Of nature and hours of my employment on election day.

Under penalty of Law, I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true and correct.

SIGN YOUR NAME AS IT APPEARS IN REGISTRY BOOK

PRINT OR TYPE YOUR NAME

☐ If sick or confined a voter may apply for an absentee ballot by authorized messenger. Messenger shall be a family member or a registered voter of this County.

☐ I designate _____ to be my

authorized messenger (NAME OF MESSENGER)

(SIGNATURE OF VOTER)

☐ Authorized messenger must sign application only in presence of County Clerk or County Clerk designee.

SIGNATURE OF MESSENGER

STREET ADDRESS

MUNICIPALITY

ZIP CODE

VOTER NUMBER

PARTY

WARD

DISTRICT

Rev. 10/01

\$335.50

1F2/14/03

AVISO PARA LAS PERSONAS QUE DESEEN PAPELETAS DE CIVIL AUSENTE

Si usted es un elector del Estado calificado y registrado, pero espera estar ausente del mismo en Abril 15, 2003 o va a estar en el Estado en Abril 15, 2003, pero no va a poder ir a votar a su lugar de votación debido a las siguientes razones: incapacidad permanente o temporaria; por enfermedad o incapacidad física temporaria; por causas religiosas; por asistir a la escuela, colegio o universidad; o por horario o tipo de trabajo. Si usted desea votar en la Elección Escolar en Abril 15, 2003, por favor llene la solicitud de abajo y envíela a la dirección indicada; o escriba, o solicite personalmente en la dirección de abajo, para que le envíen una papeleta por correo. Su solicitud debe incluir; su dirección residencial y la dirección a la cual se le enviara la papeleta; su firma y la razón por la cual no podrá votar en su lugar de votación. No se le enviara, o proveerá papeletas de civil ausente a nadie a menos que la solicitud sea recibida por lo menos 7 días antes de la elección y contenga la información requerida.

ELECTORES QUE SON PERMANENTEMENTE Y TOTALMENTE INCAPACITADOS DEBEN, AUTOMATICAMENTE DESPUES DE SU SOLICITUD INICIAL Y SIN MAS ACCIÓN FUTURA DE SU PARTE, RECIBIR UNA SOLICITUD PARA LA PAPELETA DE ELECTOR AUSENTE, DE LA SECRETARIA DEL CONDADO, PARA TODAS LAS ELECCIONES FUTURAS EN LAS CUALES SEAN ELEGIBLES. ELECTORES PERMANENTEMENTE Y TOTALMENTE INCAPACITADOS, TAMBIEN TIENEN LA OPCION DE INDICAR EN SU SOLICITUD PARA UNA PAPELETA DE AUSENTE, QUE LES GUSTARIA RECIBIR PAPELETAS DE AUSENTE PARA CADA ELECCION QUE SE LLEVE ACABO DURANTE EL RESTO DE ESTE AÑO. ELECTORES PERMANENTEMENTE Y TOTALMENTE INCAPACITADOS QUE EJERCITEN ESTA OPCION SERAN PROVEIDOS CON PAPELETAS DE AUSENTE PARA CADA ELECCION QUE SE LLEVE ACABO DURANTE LO QUE RESTA DEL AÑO, SIN ACCIÓN FUTURA DE SU PARTE. SOLICITUDES PUEDEN SER OBTENIDAS ESCRIBIENDO, LLAMANDO, O ENVIANDO LA SOLICITUD INCLUIDA ABAJO A LA SIGUIENTE PERSONA.

FECHA: Febrero 14, 2003

ELAINE M. FLYNN
MIDDLESEX COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
P.O. Box 1110
NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. 08903
(732) 745-4463

UNA PERSONA INCAPACITADA TIENE EL DERECHO A VOTAR CON PAPELETA DE AUSENTE O A SER ASISTIDA EN LAS URNAS POR DOS OFICIALES DE ELECCIONES, UNO DE CADA PARTIDO, O POR UNA PERSONA ELEGIDA POR EL VOTANTE QUE NO SEA SU JEFE, O EL AGENTE DE ESE JEFE, U OFICIAL O AGENTE DE SU UNION. LUGARES DE VOTACION DEBEN SER ACCESIBLES Y ESTACIONAMIENTO ACCESIBLE CON SEÑALES APROPIADAS DEBE SER PROVEIDO. VOTANTES CON SORDERA O POCA AUDICION PUEDEN CONTACTAR EL SIGUIENTE NUMERO TDD: (732) 937-8364. INSTRUCCIONES IMPRESAS EN LETRA GRANDE DEBERAN SER CLARAMENTE EXHIBIDAS EN CADA LUGAR PERMANENTE DE REGISTRACION O VOTACION. VIOLACIONES A LO DE ARRIBA DEBERAN SER REFERIDAS A LA JUNTA DE ELECCIONES DEL CONDADO DE MIDDLESEX: (732) 745-3471.

SOLICITUD DE PAPELETA DE CIVIL AUSENTE

Usted debe solicitar una papeleta de ausente para cada elección. Por la

presente solicito una papeleta de ausente para la elección (indique una)

☐ Primaria ☐ General ☐ Municipal ☐ Especial

☐ Local Escolar ☐ Regional Escolar ☐ Técnica Escolar

☐ Otra _____, que se realizará el _____

ESPECIFIQUE

FECHA

REVISE Y COMPLETE

Vivo en ☐ la ciudad ☐ el pueblo ☐ el municipio ☐ el barrio

o la aldea de _____

Mi residencia legal, incluyendo el número de la calle, el de la ruta

o ambos y el apartado, es la siguiente:

DIRECCIÓN

MUNICIPIO

CÓDIGO POSTAL

TELÉFONO

Envíen mi papeleta a la siguiente dirección:

DIRECCIÓN DE LA CALLE

MUNICIPIO

ESTADO

CÓDIGO POSTAL

INDIQUE LA RAZÓN PARA LA PAPELETA

El día de la elección no podré votar en mi urna regular debido a que:

☐ Espero encontrarme ausente del estado de Nueva Jersey el día

de la elección

(FECHA DE LA PARTIDA)

☐ Una enfermedad o incapacidad física.

☐ Sufro de invalidez permanente y total.

Exprese la razón

☒ Sufro de invalidez permanente y total y deseo recibir una papeleta de ausente para todas las elecciones que se llevarán

acabo durante _____ lo que resta del año.

☐ El día de la elección deberé observar un feriado religioso.

☐ El día de la elección estaré asistiendo como residente a una

escuela, escuela superior o universidad.

☐ La naturaleza de mi trabajo y su horario, el día de la elección.

Bajo pena de ley, yo certifico que mis anteriores afirmaciones son veraces y correctas.

FIRME SU NOMBRE COMO APARECE EN EL LIBRO DE REGISTRO

ESCRIBA O IMPRIMA SU NOMBRE

Si el votante se encuentra enfermo o recluso, puede solicitar un voto de ausente por intermedio de un mensajero autorizado.

Nombro a _____ mi mensajero autorizado.

(NOMBRE DEL MENSAJERO)

(FIRMA DEL VOTANTE)

El mensajero autorizado debe firmar las solicitudes únicamente ante el Secretario del Condado o su delegado.

(FIRMA DEL MENSAJERO)

(DIRECCIÓN)

MUNICIPIO

CÓDIGO POSTAL

VOTER NUMBER

PARTY

WARD

DISTRICT

\$335.50

1F2/14/03

Sports



Kneeling L-R are senior Anthony Ingerto and sophomores Geroge Kleinknecht and Matt Boley. Standing L-R are Coach Ralph Fech, sophomores Shawn Ferguson, Jon Jeglinski, Nick Grego and Jason Lowe.

BOWLING

By Ralph Fech

Boys Place 19th in Strong Field of 35 Teams

SPHS 796-971-966-2733
The Boys Bowling Team placed 19th in a strong field of 35 teams in the Central Jersey sectionals this past weekend at Carolier Lanes. It was a solid team effort after a slow first game as all five bowlers averaged 195 for the remaining 10 games. High scores

for South Plainfield were Anthony Ingerto, with a 200-215-566 set, Matt Boley with 216-559, Shawn Ferguson bowled 203-551, Jon Jeglinski recprded a 193-537 and George Kleinknecht bowled 202-520 set.
Woodbridge won the event with Edison placing second.

Boys Stun Woodbridge in First Game, Barons Wiggle Away With a Win

SPHS- 1028-937-980
Woodbridge- 1024-1061-1078
Batting against the odds after two close defeats earlier in the season, the Boys Bowling Team applied the pressure on top seeded Woodbridge, stunning the Barons in the first game with a 1028 to 1024 win.

The Barons regrouped for the second game to even the see-saw match.

The frantic pace of the third game, with over 500 fans viewing the finale, saw Woodbridge squeeze out a victory and avert the upset of the season. High scores for the Tigers were Shawn Ferguson's 258-615 set, Jon Jeglinski's 249-595 set, Matt Boley's 225-589 set, Nick Grego's 234-554 set, George Kleinknecht's 203-547 set and Anthony Ingerto's 191-520 set.

Basketball

2003 Ed Niemczyk Youth Basketball League

League A

Spurs	45	Lakers	41
76ers	48	Jazz	23
Rockets	29	Knicks	39
Cavaliers	33	Bulls	32
Nuggets	25	Pistons	42

Standings

	W	L
76ers	11	0
Cavaliers	9	2
Spurs	8	3
Nuggets	7	4
Lakers	6	5
Knicks	5	6
Pistons	4	7
Rockets	2	9
Jazz	2	9
Bulls	1	10

League B

Spurs	33	Cavaliers	42
Rockets	17	Nuggets	39
76ers	42	Hornets	45
Bulls	27	Timberwolves	17
Jazz	28	Pistons	31
Knicks	50	Lakers	20

Standings

	W	L
Hornets	10	0
Cavaliers	8	2
Bulls	8	2
Nuggets	6	4
Knicks	6	4
Timberwolves	6	4
76ers	5	5
Lakers	5	5
Spurs	3	7
Rockets	2	8
Pistons	2	8
Jazz	0	10

Check Out Our Website at

www.spsobserver.com

Let Us Know What You Think!
Designed by Wayne Plaghoft

LEGAL NOTICES

AVISO PARA ELECTORES EN EL SERVICIO MILITAR, SUS PARIENTES Y AMIGOS

Si usted se encuentra en el servicio militar; es esposo(a) ó dependiente de alguien en el servicio; es paciente en un hospital para veteranos; es un civil adjunto a, ó sirve con, las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos, fuera del Estado de Nueva Jersey; es esposo(a) ó dependiente de un civil adjunto a, ó que sirve con, las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos. Si usted tiene estas características y desea votar, ó es un familiar ó amigo de alguien que las tenga y que usted crea que quiera votar, en la Elección Escolar en South Plainfield de Abril 15, 2003. Escriba a la dirección de abajo para solicitar la papeleta del servicio militar, para votar en dicha elección. Si usted esta en el servicio incluya su nombre, edad, número de serie, dirección residencial y la dirección de su base ó donde se le pueda localizar. Si desea la papeleta para un pariente ó amigo, haga la petición bajo juramento, declarando que la persona es mayor de dieciocho años, su nombre, su número de serie si esta en el servicio militar, dirección residencial y dirección de su base ó de donde pueda ser localizado.

Electores del servicio militar pueden solicitar la papeleta de voto militar enviando una solicitud federal en forma de tarjeta postal al Secretario del Condado.

En la solicitud para la papeleta del servicio militar, electores del servicio militar pueden requerir que una papeleta del servicio militar les sea enviada pára las demás elecciones que se lleven acabo éste año.

(NOTA: EL ELECTOR MILITAR QUE DECLARE SU ESTACION MILITAR COMO DOMICILIO PARA VOTAR NO PUEDE USAR LA PAPELETA DE MILITAR AUSENTE A MENOS QUE ESTE REGISTRADO PARA VOTAR EN EL MUNICIPIO DONDE DICHA ESTACION ESTA LOCALIZADA.)

Las solicitudes, excepto la solicitud postal federal, pueden ser obtenidas en la siguiente dirección:

FECHA: Febrero 14, 2003

ELAINE M. FLYNN
MIDDLESEX COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY COURT HOUSE
P.O. BOX 110
NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. 08903

\$130.00

1T 2/14/03

NOTICE TO MILITARY SERVICE VOTERS AND TO THEIR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

If you are in the military service, or the spouse or dependent of a person in military service or a patient in a veterans' hospital or a civilian attached to or serving with the Armed Forces of the United States without the State of New Jersey, or the spouse and dependent of and accompanying or residing with a civilian attached to or serving with the Armed Forces of the United States, and desire to vote, or if you are a relative or friend of any such person who, you believe, will desire to vote in the School Election in South Plainfield to be held on April 15, 2003, kindly write to the undersigned at once making application for a military service ballot to be voted in said election to be forwarded to you, stating your name, age, serial number if you are in military service, home address and the address at which you are stationed or can be found, or if you desire the military service ballot for a relative or friend then make application under oath for a military service ballot to be forwarded to him, stating in your application that he is over the age of 18 years and stating his name, serial number if he is in military service, home address and the address at which he is stationed or can be found.

Military service voters may also apply for a military service ballot by sending a federal postcard application form to the undersigned.

On the application for a military service ballot, military service voters may request that a military service ballot be sent for all subsequent elections held during this calendar year.

(NOTE: MILITARY SERVICE VOTER CLAIMING MILITARY STATION AS HOME ADDRESS FOR VOTING PURPOSES MAY NOT USE MILITARY ABSENTEE BALLOT UNLESS REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THE MUNICIPALITY WHERE SUCH STATION IS LOCATED.)

Forms of application other than federal postcard application forms can be obtained from the undersigned.

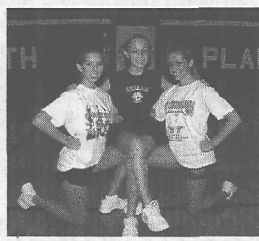
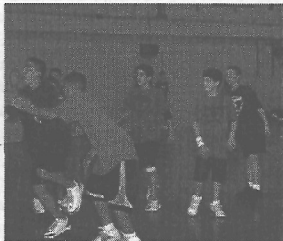
DATE: Februray 14, 2003

ELAINE M. FLYNN
MIDDLESEX COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
P.O. BOX 110
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08903

\$130.00

1T-2/14/03

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Enjoy the Observer every week mailed to your home.

Subscribe Today!

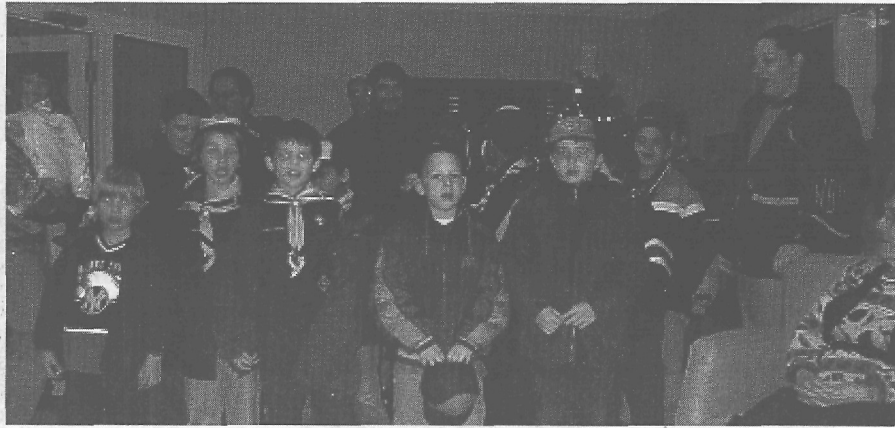
Send a check or money order for \$25/one year (out-of-town-\$30) payable to: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Or order your subscription via email ggnan@aol.com and send your check to the above address.

☒ I would like home delivery of the Observer.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____



Cub Scout Pack 224 of Riley School wanted to share good cheer around the holidays. As part of their pack meeting, the boys walked across the street and visited their neighbors at the new senior housing development. The boys were greeted by smiling faces and were thrilled to sing for the residents. Pack 224 would like to thank those who assisted us, and who treated us with home baked goodies to make the night special.

From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Today is Valentine's Day. If you're lucky, you have roses, chocolates, your designated sweetheart, and this newspaper close at hand. Now, for the next few minutes, let's exercise some willpower, put those other things aside for a moment, and look at some news from South Plainfield Library:

The Library will be closed on Sunday and Monday in observance of President's Day.

Next week, we'll follow our normal schedule of children's Storytime programs. Each program lasts about

an hour, and features stories and a craft activity. They're for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. The programs are held on Tuesday morning at 6:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30, and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. If you'd like more information, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

We have another special program coming up. It will be on the history of African-American stamps. Wanda Garbett, a member of the African-American stamp club ESPER, will speak on the subject, as well as answer questions from the audience. She'll also bring along a number of stamps from both the U.S. Postal Service and foreign sources. The program starts at 2 p.m.; no pre-registration is needed and the program is presented free of charge.

We're between groups on the CD Circuit today. A new group should be available early in March.

Don't forget that you can still enter our Bundle of Love contest. Each Friday in February, two randomly drawn winners will receive a bundle of romance paperbacks. For more details, please stop by the Circulation Desk.

As we roll on towards the dreaded day of April 15, more and more patrons are coming in to pick up tax forms and booklets. Unfortunately, as of this writing, we still haven't received a number of items, mainly the booklets for Federal tax returns. We apologize for the delay and the inconvenience. We'll make the booklets available just as soon as we receive them.

Here's a reminder about book donations. At present, we're still accepting donations of most types of books, as well as video, CDs, and DVDs. In particular, we're interested in paperbacks and present or recent best sellers. If we can't use them for our own collection, we'll put them out for the Friends of the Library book sale. If you're planning on bringing in a large number of items, please call ahead so we'll be ready for you. Also, please be advised that we don't accept textbooks or encyclopedias, and that donations must be in fairly good condition. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

That's about all for now. Thanks for reading, and we'll see you next Friday. You may now return to your romantic pursuits.

Obituaries

Robert L. Stine, 61

Robert L. Stine died on Wednesday, Feb. 5 in South Plainfield.

Born in Elizabeth, Bob grew up in Roselle Park where he attended public schools. He played varsity football and was most proud of his 1959 team, which went undefeated. He later settled in South Plainfield.

After high school, Bob entered the U.S. Army and served during peacetime as an E-4 specialist stationed in California.

He is a 1972 graduate of Rutgers University of New Brunswick, where he earned his degree in Chemistry. He was employed as a Medical Technologist for Pharmacia and South Amboy Hospital.

He was a member of the South Plainfield American Legion Chaumont Post #243 and the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203. Bob also volunteered many hours at Our Lady of Czestochowa and Sacred Heart Churches of South Plainfield and assisted with Sacred Hearts sports programs.

He is predeceased by his brother, Benedict.

Surviving are two sons, Peter of New Brunswick and Kazimierz of Carteret; his former wife, Dianne and two step children, Myra and Gerald Feldheim.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the family would be greatly appreciated.

Judy A. (Testa) Krempa, 61

Judy A. (Testa) Krempa died on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at her home.

Judy was born in New Brunswick and grew up in South Plainfield, where she was a life long resident. She went through the Borough's Public School System, graduating high school in 1960.

She enjoyed making a home for her husband of 36 years, Richard A. Krempa. She also enjoyed traveling, shopping and partying.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, John and Geraldine Krempa of Atlanta, Ga., her parents, Salvatore "Sam" and Ruth (Krommes) Testa, two sisters and brothers-in-law, Ruth "Cookie" and Frank Ferraro and Doreen and Butch Bolesta, all of South Plainfield and two grandsons Thomas and Jeremy Krempa.

Funeral services will be held on Friday at 9:15 a.m. at McCriskin Home For Funerals, followed by a funeral mass at 10 a.m. in Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church. Visiting hours are Thursday, 2-4 and 7-9 p.m.

Robert Gitto, 47,

Robert Gitto died on Thursday, Feb. 6 in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, Bob resided in South Plainfield his entire life, before moving to Plainfield two years ago.

He was the owner of Pegasus III Janitorial Maintenance Service of Plainfield for the past 20 years.

Bob was a member of Sacred Heart Church and the Knights of Columbus Council #6203, both of South Plainfield.

Bob had a great affection for his two pet dogs, Jessie and Deputy.

His parents, Joseph and Pauline Gitto and his brother, Anthony Gitto, all have predeceased him.

Surviving are his wife, Linda-Susan Gitto; his nephew (who he treated as his son), William E. Hall of Plainfield. Also surviving are many aunts and uncles.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial contributions in his memory may be made to Children's Specialized Hospital, New Providence Rd. Mountainside, NJ.

Marie A. (Kosinsky) Grieb, 72

Marie A. (Kosinsky) Grieb died on Thursday, Feb. 6 at JFK Haven Hospice in Edison.

Born in Staten Island, Mrs. Grieb had resided briefly in Florida then in Edison before settling to South Plainfield in the mid 1950's.

She had been employed by Johnson & Johnson in New Brunswick in their mail room for 10 years before staying home to be a homemaker and raising her children.

She was a good cook who enjoyed time playing cards, caring for her dogs and cats and trips to Atlantic City with her husband.

Surviving are her husband of 52 years, Lucas; a daughter, Diane Lynn Brown of South Plainfield; three sons, Lucas W. of South Plainfield, Peter M. of Florida and William S. of Illinois.

Also surviving are three grandchildren, Brian, Jason and Nancy.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Joseph E. Scheiderman, Sr., 66

Joseph E. Scheiderman, Sr. died on Sunday, Feb. 9 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in New Providence, NJ, Mr. Scheiderman grew up there before entering the U.S. Army. He served in the 35th Armored Division as a heavy equipment operator during the Vietnam Era in Germany. His wife joined him overseas and upon returning to the U.S., they settled to South Plainfield in 1964.

He was employed as a steel forger for Julius Hof & Sons Co. in Berkeley Heights from 1963, until his retirement in 1983.

He is a member of the Piscataway VFW Post #0261 and the Trinity Reformed Church in North Plainfield.

Joe was a vivid freshwater fisherman and played the guitar. He was also a wonderful grandfather to his grandchildren and loved them tremendously. He often had lollipops waiting from them and their friends.

He is predeceased by six brothers.

Surviving are his wife of 43 years, Barbara (Reeves) Scheiderman; two sons and their wives, Joseph E. Jr. and Regina of North Carolina and Ward and Beth of Green Brook and three sisters, Betty Garrison of Dover, Mickey Caruso of Tuckerton and Edna Carlin of Oklahoma.

He is also survived by his three grandchildren, Robert, Stephanie and Joseph E. III.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Wilbert J. Baldessari, 80

Wilbert J. Baldessari of Tuckerton, formerly South Plainfield, died on Saturday, Feb. 8 at the JFK Hartwyck Edison Estates in Edison.

Born in Minersville, Pa., he was a former 33-year resident of South Plainfield, before moving to Tuckerton 15 years ago.

Wilbert was a boiler operator for White Westinghouse in Edison for 20 years before retiring in 1988. Prior to that he worked for Kentile Floors in South Plainfield for 15 years.

Wilbert served his country during WWII as a Tech 4 in the U.S. Army and was a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post #243 in South Plainfield.

He was a member of the Southern Ocean County Organ Society in Tuckerton.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Evelyn Bradfield Baldessari, who died in 1991.

He is survived by his son James Baldessari of Randolph; two daughters, Susan Baldessari of South Plainfield and Carol and her husband Ray Cuneo of Metuchen; two sisters, Josephine Brandt of Wharton and Alma Kroznuski of Minersville, Pa. and two grandchildren, Katherine and James Baldessari.

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

policereport

• On Feb. 4 a Cliffwood resident reported that her missing ATM card had been used at several stores in South Plainfield.

• On Feb. 5 Spisso's Luncheonette on Hamilton Blvd. reported minor damage to the front door of the shop.

• A Maple Ave. resident reported the theft of a Pioneer car stereo and CD's from her unlocked vehicle.

• On Feb. 7 Duke Energy on Coolidge St. reported that an SUV was driving around on the clearing of their property. No trespassing signs are posted.

• An employee of Airborne Express on New Durham Rd. reported that someone broke the passenger side rear window of his vehicle.

• On Feb. 8 Jennifer Erin Mahoney, 23, of Manalapan was arrested for filing a false police report. She claimed that her vehicle had been stolen from Bannigan's parking lot when in fact she had loaned the car to a friend.

• Michael Mazon, 24, of New Brunswick was arrested for obstruction, resisting arrest and an outstanding warrant during a fight in the park-

ing lot of Liquid Assets.

• On Feb. 9 a Kissam Ct. resident reported that her vehicle had been broken into and the Engine Control Computer or ECU was taken. The part is valued at \$1,000.

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Brownie Troop #830 was recently "treated" to a tour of the bakery department in A&P on Oak Tree Rd. With the Girl Scout cookie sale in full gear, the tour was a great opportunity for the girls to learn about how high volumes of cookies and baked goods are baked, packaged, displayed and sold. It also played an important part in the steps needed to earn the cookies count "Try-It!" Lynette showed the girls how to make roses and decorate cakes and Teresa, the bakery manager, showed the girls how Italian breads and cream pies are prepared and baked. According to the girls, their favorite parts of the tour were "the giant chocolate chip cookies that they got to sample," and the "sprinkles that they got to try!" A great time was had by all. Pictured from the troop are Kristen Wong, Lauryn Loalbo, Taylor Jankoski, Nina Bavosa, Meghan Skelly and Nikole Desclafani.

Cornerstone Architectural Group Creates New Construction Company

Cornerstone Architectural Group has announced the formation of a new construction management company, ArchCon Design Management, LLC. The new company's name is derived by combining the terms architect and construction. ArchCon's focus is to provide project management and construction services for commercial design projects in Central New Jersey. "We have found a growing request from our clients to provide architect-lead building construction services," said partner Robert Longo, AIA.

Today, many client's recognize the concept of single point responsibility for delivering a quality design project on time and on budget," said partner Robert F. Barranger, AIA. No longer

are traditional architectural firms providing strictly design services. Instead, clients are selecting firms not only for their building design expertise, but also for the expertise architects bring to a construction project. With over 80 years of building design experience, ArchCon founding partners, Robert M. Longo, AIA, Vito Tamborrino, AIA, Michael G. Soriano, AIA and Robert F. Barranger, AIA, are now working even more closely with their clients to design and construct their building projects.

ArchCon is located at 202 Hamilton Blvd. in South Plainfield. Additional information can be found on the company's new website www.ArchConDM.com.

"Sledders Stay Away"

(Continued from page 1)

in November, but sledders seemed to ignore them. The signs were made of paper, and some either blew away or were taken down. More sturdy, temporary signs—printed with red letters—have now been posted.

Several residents have called the Observer to complain that they have been sledding at West Nine for over 25 years and they should be able to park on any public street in South Plainfield, as long as they don't block a driveway. However, an existing ordinance (No. 1213) allows police to put up temporary no parking signs

if they feel their is a need.

Mayor Gallagher emphatically stated, "I'm not against sleigh riding. We need to keep our roads safe."

Chief Merkler said that he can remember the same signs being posted there periodically as far back as 1993. He also stated that Traffic Safety will continue to evaluate the parking situation throughout the season. Signs will be taken down when there is no further potential of cars parking to enjoy the snow at the golf course, and will be reinstalled when conditions prevail.

Project Graduation

(Continued from page 1)

donation or a gift basket for the Auction/Raffle. (See page 4 for details on the auction.)

To make a tax deductible donation or information on how you can help, call Donna Tierney at 757-6045 or Karen Stahura at 755-9392.

A special thank you to The Club at

Ricochet, who has donated the use of their facility once again for the 2003 Project Graduation night.

The next SPHS PTA meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. in the SPHS Information Center. Parents of seniors and anyone interested in donating or helping is welcome to attend.

Area Course Offers Friendship And Hope Amid Difficult Times

In these troubling times of war and terrorism, many are seeking greater meaning in life and deeper relationships. In response, Grace Alliance Church offers the Alpha Course free to the public from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., beginning Sunday Feb. 16, at Timothy Christian School in Piscataway.

This 10-week practical introduction to the Christian faith offers a look

at some key questions about life. Each weekly session begins with an informal dinner, followed by a talk on such topics as dealing with guilt and the fear of death. The evenings end with a small-group time where questions or opinions are expressed.

For more information or to register, call David Butler, Alpha Director, at 732-463-7835, or click on www.seeking.jesusanswers.com.

Classifieds

Rates -- \$11 for 3 lines (min.) \$1 ea. additional line

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RECEPTIONIST—ENTRY LEVEL position. Responsibilities include answering phones, typing, filing, copying, faxing, mail, general office duties. Must have excellent phone manners, know Microsoft Word and be computer literate. Hours are 8am-5pm. Salary \$12/hr. Fax resume to Marge at (908) 561-1429. Lynn Steel Corp. 235 St. Nicholas Ave. South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

HAIRDRESSER/ASSISTANT-FULL/part-time in friendly salon. License and exp. a plus. 908-322-8666.

LOOKING FOR ENTHUSIASTIC individuals to join our winning team at Wendy's. If int., see Bob Hahn at the Wendy's location, 2-5 pm or call (908) 753-6150.

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A+MATTRESS SETS-ALL QUEEN SZ. Brand name, new with warranty, orthopedic/plush sell \$130. Pillow-top sacrifice \$149. Can deliver, call 732-259-6690. **BEDS-NEW MATTRESS SETS IN plastic.** Full size plush, list \$499, sell \$120. King size orthopedic/plush, list \$799, only \$190. Can deliver, 732-259-6690. **SLEIGH BED-Cherry, unopened in box.** Suggested list \$799, sell \$369. 732-259-6690.

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To place a classified ad, call 908-668-0010

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY NOTICE OF SALE OF LAND

At a meeting of the Mayor and Common Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, held on February 6, 2003, I was directed to advertise the fact that the Mayor and Council will meet in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey on Thursday, March 6, 2003 at 7:00pm to expose and sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, according to terms of sale on file with the Borough Clerk, the property described below.

Take further notice that the Mayor and Council have, by resolution and pursuant to law, fixed the minimum price at which said property will be sold together with all other details pertinent, said minimum price being as shown below, plus \$1,000.00 for costs of preparing deeds, all necessary appraisals, advertising this sale and title search costs.

Take further notice that at set sale or any date or place to which it may be adjourned, the Mayor and Council reserve the right in its discretion to reject any or all bids and to sell said property to such bidder as it may select, due regard being given to terms and manner of payment in case one or more minimum bids shall be received.

Take further notice that in each instance where necessary, I have been authorized to notify all contiguous property owners as required by N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.2.

Upon acceptance of the minimum bid or bid above minimum, by the Council and the payment thereof by the purchaser according to the manner of purchase in accordance with terms of sale on file, the Borough will deliver a Bargain and Sale Deed for said premises.

/s/ Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk

Details of proposed land sale to be advertised in The Observer on Friday, February 14, 2003 and Friday, February 21, 2003, the sale of property known as:

Lot # 1 - Minimum Bid \$375,000
Block 294, Lot 28

Any other information pertaining to this parcel can be obtained by reviewing the tax maps located in the Assessing Department of the Borough of South Plainfield, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

The said property being owned by the Borough of South Plainfield and not needed for public purposes or use, sale to be held on Thursday, March 6, 2003 at 7:00pm in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey and will be subject to the following conditions:

1) That conveyance by the Borough of South Plainfield shall be by Bargain and Sale Deed, without conveyance and without representations as to the marketability of title. In the event that the purchaser shall not be good and marketable, any questions as to the marketability of title shall be submitted to the Borough Clerk's office within forty-five (45) days of the date of sale. In the event said questions have not been raised within said forty-five (45) day period, then and in the event all questions relating to the marketability of title shall be deemed waived and this matter shall proceed to closing of title within ninety (90) days of the date of sale.

2) Easements, both of record and not of record.

3) Restrictions of record.

4) Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield as presently constituted without representations as to the use to which said property can be put.

5) In the event that the purchaser is unable to close title within ninety (90) days of the date of the sale, they shall forward to the Borough of South Plainfield a check representing the balance of the purchase price to be placed in the general fund of the Borough.

6) In the event that the purchaser fails or refuses to close title and/or pay the consideration therefore within the ninety (90) day period, then in that event, the Borough of South Plainfield, may, by resolution of the Mayor and Council, declare the transaction null and void and the purchasers' deposit shall be retained by the Borough of South Plainfield as liquidated damages.

7) At the time of acceptance of the successful bid,

10 percent (10%) of the purchase price plus \$1,000.00 shall be paid by the purchaser representing the cost of appraisal, legal fees, advertising and associated costs incurred by the Borough.

8) Within ninety (90) days of the date of sale, the purchaser shall make application for any required approvals, including but not limited to subdivision approval, on-site and off-site improvements as required by appropriate Borough Boards, Agencies and Officers, and all costs shall be paid by the purchaser. In the event said approvals are not received within ninety (90) days of the date of sale, the purchaser shall forward the balance of the purchase price in conformance with paragraph five (5) above.

9) It is expressly agreed by the purchaser that if the subject parcel does not require Planning Board or Board of Adjustment review, then in that event, the purchaser will make all required improvements as determined by the Borough Engineer. The necessary performance guarantees shall be posted for same prior to the issuance of any building permits.

10) Purchaser recognizes that the sale is subject to development standards to be set by the Planning Board, Board of Adjustment and/or the Borough Engineer in addition to the Middlesex County Planning Board if applicable. This sale is made without representation as to same and is subject to same.

11) Purchaser will take any action required by the Borough Engineer and/or the Borough Environmental Officer to protect any designated wetlands or flood plain existing on the subject parcel.

12) At set sale, or any date or place to which it may be adjourned, the Mayor and Council reserve the right, in its discretion to reject any or all bids.

13) Certain properties within the Borough of South Plainfield may be designated as contaminated sites by the Environmental Protection Agency and/or the Department of Environmental Protection. One such property is the "Cornell Dubilier" facility now known as the "Hamilton Boulevard Industrial Complex" located at the intersection of Hamilton Boulevard and New Market Avenue which has been designated as a Super Fund site. The purchaser acknowledges knowledge of such locations and the existence of same will not be a basis for avoidance of buyer's obligations.

14) Within sixty (60) days of the date of sale, Purchaser shall do what is necessary to determine if the subject property is affected by wetlands. In the event that no such determination is made within said sixty (60) day period, the Purchaser shall proceed to closing as set forth herein.

15) This sale is subject to completion of any remedial actions recommended by the NJDEP by the successful bidder/purchaser as set forth in appendix A attached hereto. The purchaser agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Borough of South Plainfield harmless for action in reference to the site investigation/remedial investigation findings.

MEMORANDUM RE: NON-FERROUS METALS 304 PULASKI STREET SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY PMK GROUP #0589163

Please be advised that PMK Group (PMK) has completed the site investigation (SI) and remedial investigation (RI) work under the supervision of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) case manager, Mr. Christopher Dwyer at the Non-Ferrous Metals company (herein referred as the Site). On October 5, 2001, PMK submitted the Remedial Investigation Report (RIR) to the NJDEP for their review and comments. At the present date, an official response letter from the NJDEP approving the RIR has not been received by our office.

To date, the following reports were submitted to the NJDEP: a Preliminary Assessment, dated January 21, 2000, a Site Investigation Workplan, dated February 25, 2000, a Site Investigation Report, dated June 22, 2000, a Remedial Investigation Workplan (RIW), dated September 19, 2000, and a Remedial Investigation Report (RIR), dated October 5, 2001. The most recent NJDEP response and approval letter is dated October 24, 2000 and was issued approving the RIW.

Attached, please find a summary of findings for the Site Investigation performed at the Site. Please note that at the present time the NJDEP has not issued a formal response to the RIR submitted. The prospective purchaser of the property would be responsible for the implementation of the additional

remedial investigations and remedial actions recommended in the RIR as well as any additional investigations, actions or requests made by the NJDEP.

In general, the following is the summary of Preliminary and Site Investigation/Remedial Investigation findings.

Preliminary Assessment:

The Preliminary Assessment (PA) was performed to investigate the potential environmental impacts from previous site activities at the Site. The PA identified the following six areas of concern:

1. AOC#1-Aboveground Storage Tanks and Associated Piping
2. AOC#2-Belowground Storage Tanks and Associated Piping
3. AOC#3-Silos
4. AOC#4-Loading and Unloading Areas
5. AOC#5-Storage Pads Including Drum and/or Waste Storage
6. AOC#6-Former Lagoon
7. AOC#7-Dumpsters
8. AOC#8-Chemical Storage Cabinet or Closets
9. AOC#9-Waste Piles (as defined by N.J.A.C. 7:26E)
10. AOC#10-Electric Transformers and Capacitors
11. AOC#11-Hazardous Material Storage and Handling Area
12. AOC#12-Discolored or Spill Area
13. AOC#13-Bolter Rooms
14. AOC#14-Smelling Furnaces
15. AOC#15-Laboratory
16. AOC#16-Asbestos-Containing Material (ACM)

Site Investigation and Remedial Investigation

Based on the findings of the PA, the Site Investigation and Remedial Investigation were performed to investigate the above listed concerns, with the exception of AOC#16. In general, priority pollutant metals (antimony, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, selenium and zinc) and volatile organic compounds (trichloroethylene, benzene, tetrachloroethene, and total xylene) were identified above the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) groundwater cleanup criteria. Furthermore, priority pollutant metals (copper, thallium, silver, cadmium, nickel, lead, selenium, antimony and zinc), poly aromatic hydrocarbons, and total petroleum hydrocarbons were detected above the NJDEP Soil Cleanup Criteria (SCC). Based on these results, any future purchaser of this property will be required to perform additional sampling and ultimately will need to develop and implement a Remedial Action Workplan in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:26E, Table A (attached) presents a summary of the findings based on AOCs, as well as the recommended action for the AOC.

If you have any questions concerning the above, please feel free to contact our office at (908) 497-5900.

Respectfully submitted,
PMK Group
Devang R. Patel, Project Manager
\$523.60 27 February 14 & 21, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

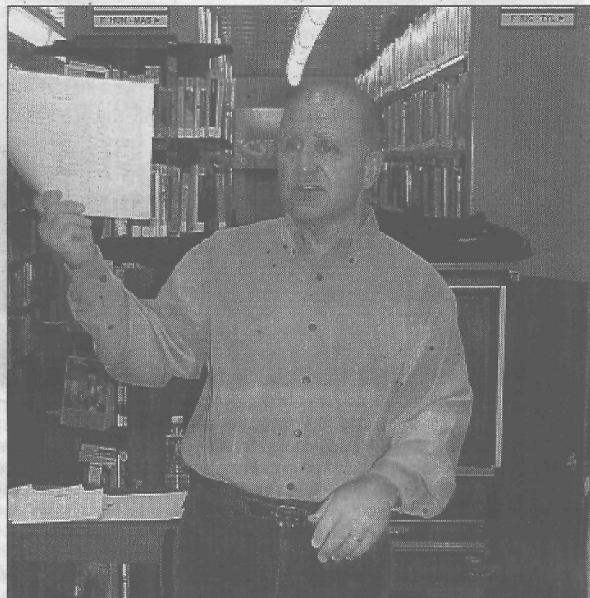
An appeal has been filed by Cathy and Kevin Kean requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit (1) 448 sq. ft. 1st story addition. Proposed addition lacks the required 8' side setback, 4'6" proposed; (2) 240 sq. ft. soft deck lacks the required 8' side setback, 5' proposed; (3) 240 sq. ft. deck exceeds lot coverage by 108.4 sq. ft. or 15%; and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 96, Lot 9 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 27, 2003 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00

February 14, 2003



Historical Society Remembers Big Band Era — On Sunday, Jan. 26 approximately 45 people filled the South Plainfield Library to attend a lecture on the Big Band Era. Guest speaker was Dr. Steven Marcone of William Patterson University. The event, sponsored by the South Plainfield Historical Society, featured brief film clips and musical selections from the big bands and popular musicians such as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Harry James and the "King of Swing" clarinet maestro Benny Goodman. Despite the somewhat serious and attentive expressions of the audience, many toes were seen tapping and fingers snapping along with the music. —Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

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