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SOUTH PLAINFIELD NJ 07080-3531

MAR 14 2003

All
South Plainfield
Schools are open
on March 18.

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 6, NO. 28

50 CENTS

MARCH 14, 2003



Jim and Betty Eckert are all smiles as they receive a plaque from Dennis Little, Charlie Haus, Richard Kennedy, David Guoth and other members of the Republican Party.

Former Borough Clerk Honored With Farewell Party

Jim Eckert and his wife Betty, were honored last Saturday at a farewell party attended by scores of their friends. Jim and Betty, residents of South Plainfield for over four decades, recently moved to the shore where Jim will pursue his golf game full-time.

Eckert has a long history in South Plainfield. He was a member of the Borough Council in 1973, the publisher/editor of the South Plainfield Reporter for six years. In 1986 he was appointed Borough Clerk/Administrator and held the position until he retired in 2001. Jim was very active in the Republican Party, serving as the Republican Chairman for several years.

Two of South Plainfield's former Republican chairpeople, Dennis Little and Charlie Haus presented a plaque of appreciation to Eckert for his dedication and service to the party. Also presenting were other past chairpersons including Linda Dashuta and Dave Guoth.

New Jersey State Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan presented Jim with a



Pictured left to right are former Borough Clerk and Councilman Bill DeSabato, former Councilman Anthony Cotoia, Jim and Betty Eckert and Borough Clerk Vinnie Buttiglieri, who read the council's proclamation.

copy of a resolution unanimously passed in the New Jersey State Assembly. Municipal Administrator/Clerk Vincent Buttiglieri read a proclamation from the Borough Council for Jim's years of service to South Plainfield. Nancy Grenier, publisher of the *South Plainfield Observer* presented Jim with a mock front page of her paper.

During the years he lived in town, Jim was a member of many organizations and groups. He served as president of the South Plainfield Drug Abuse Association from 1969 to 1971, at which time the DARE program was founded. He was instrumental in initiating the first-ever Recreation Fishing Derby and served ten years on the South Plainfield Public Celebrations Committee, as well as a member of the Bi-Centennial Committee.

He is a long-time member of the South Plainfield United Way, the Knights of Columbus and the Ameri-

can Legion Chaumont Post.

Attending were two past mayors, Richard Kennedy and Michael Woskey, Councilpersons Dennis Little, Anthony Cotoia, Charlie Haus, Linda Dashuta, Andrew Lewandowski and former Borough Clerk Bill DeSabato, who was a Borough Councilman from 1952-1955. Those who were unable to attend sent the Eckerts their best wishes.

Jim and Betty raised four children while living in South Plainfield, Maribeth Bolger of Langhorne, Pa., Theresa Eckert of Fair Lawn, Jim Eckert of Matthews, NC and Gerry Eckert of Piscataway.

The success of this party belongs to the committee members who put in many hours of planning. They are Lillian Smith, Joan Elliot, Bob Jones, Bill DeSabato, Charlie Haus, Sil and Chuck Gover, Dennis Little, David Guoth and Linda Towne.

Police Cars, Fire Truck Involved in Accidents

By Jane Dornick

Separate accidents this past week involved two police cars and a fire truck. Both incidents occurred at nearly the same spot, but on different days.

In an unusual mishap late Friday night two South Plainfield Police Department cars collided while responding to the same back-up call.

Police Officer Michael Molinaro was traveling on Hamilton Blvd. crossing the intersection of New Market Ave. toward the bridge, when Officer Brad Bullard pulled out of the Hamilton Blvd. Industrial Site driveway heading in the same direction. Bullard's vehicle struck Molinaro's, sending it across the road into a homeowner's vehicle which was parked in a driveway on Hamilton Blvd.

Molinaro's vehicle suffered severe front end damage and was towed from

the scene. Fortunately neither officer was injured.

The second accident occurred on Monday morning. A Hancock St. man was charged with careless driving when his 2000 Ford Taurus rammed a South Plainfield fire engine that was exiting the driveway of the Hamilton Blvd. Industrial Site. Neither the driver nor the five year-old female passenger in the car had their seat belts fastened.

Fireman Joe Abbruzzese was making a right turn onto Hamilton Blvd. when he was struck by the vehicle making a left turn at the green light from New Market Ave. A statement by the driver said he blamed "sun glare" for his inability to see the truck in front of him.

Both occupants were treated at the scene by the South Plainfield Rescue Squad for minor injuries. The driver was also cited for non-use of seatbelts and no child restraint.

Citizens Beware: Confidence Games & Swindles

What would you say if someone called on the phone and wanted to give you:

- A free gift just for verifying your Visa Card number and expiration date?
- Offered you the chance of a lifetime to invest in a new company with enormous potential, but you had to produce the cash right now?
- Came to your door and said he could give you a great deal on home repair because of material left over from another job?

If you are offered a deal that sounds too good to be true, chances are that is just the case. It's probably a con game

or a swindle. Most of us think that we couldn't be tricked into handing over hard-earned money for phony deals. But confidence artists are experts in human psychology and behavior. They know how to gain your confidence with smooth talk and a self-assured manner. Con artists and hustlers often prey on victims like older women, who are not used to making decisions on their own.

Most successful con games are old schemes with new trappings. You can't recognize a con by the way he or she looks, but you can be on the lookout for the most common consumer fraud.

Borough Gets \$375,000 For Industrial Property

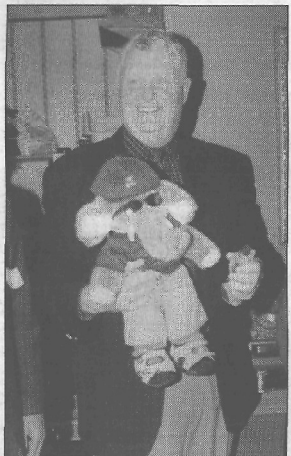
A parcel of borough-owned land at 304 Pulaski St. went up for bid during last week's council meeting. Only one bidder was on hand to bid for the land and purchased it with a minimum bid of \$375,000.

Mayor Gallagher explained that the borough-owned property was contaminated with several types of hazardous materials. It was cleaned up and will now be placed back on the South

Plainfield tax books.

The winning bidders were Benny Kang and Kwang Ahn, who said they will clean up the property, estimating it would take about two years, and plan to operate a dry cleaning warehouse-type facility there.

Before the property was scheduled for auction, a complete list of the preliminary contaminants was listed for prospective buyers to review.



Jim Eckert receives an elephant with its own set of golf clubs.

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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, March 17 Thursday, March 20

Monday, April 7 Thursday, April 17

Monday, April 21 Thursday, April 24

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

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

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. April 1

Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m. 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

site place sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.

March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 16

recreation commission

Meets once a month on the first Tuesday of the month, except July and August

PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716

April 1, May 6, June 3, September 2, October 7, November 11 (November 4 is Election Day) and December 2.

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday except August)

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621

business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

traffic safety advisory commission

Meetings, held at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room, Borough Hall



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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 ggnan@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor;

I had the privilege this evening of watching the South Plainfield Varsity Boys Basketball team play in the State games against Red Bank. I think I speak for each person in the stands when I say that it was one of the most exciting games witnessed this season! Each and every player gave 150 percent to lead our team to a near-victory. Though our team were not the victors in this game, I was pleased to notice how many fans there were in the stands—both students and adults.

We are fortunate in South Plainfield to have an incredible athletic program. I commend the parents, siblings, friends and fans who come to many of the games, providing support for our team players. They had a great season, but most of all, I think they enjoyed playing the game.

I want to wish all of the graduating seniors the best of luck in their future endeavors, and am looking forward to another exciting season next year!

BEST REGARDS,
KELLY L. DECKER-MAREN

Dear Editor;

I wish to respond to the concerned citizens of Oakmanor Parkway and Matis St., who were slightly inconvenienced during the President's day snowstorm.

You will see just how great your street conditions are if you take a ride down Salem St., right off Kenyon by the Cerdarocroft Bible Chapel.

This unpaved road is an absolute disgrace and in the eight years that I have lived here, it has only gotten worse. It currently looks like a mine field. Some of the potholes are a foot deep. Recently, the town scraped it and put down asphalt filings, which gets tracked into my house and has totally ruined my carpets.

YOU GUYS ARE LUCKY!
GLEN ETTMAN

To the Editor;

Last Saturday night, the South Plainfield High School PTA sponsored an auction to benefit Project Graduation. The sold out event, I'm sure was a huge success. As the announcer, I had a lot of fun and I hope all who attended did as well, whether you won or not. I asked several times during the evening, "who had not won anything" and quite a few hands went up, but everyone there was a winner. By paying an admission and/or buying more tickets, you supported a great cause—the young adults of South Plainfield. You help provide a substance-free place for all seniors to go on graduation night. The seniors will truly have a great time and the parents will have peace of mind knowing that their kids will be safe.

I forgot to mention one thing about the co-chairs of this event. Pat Anderson and Ellen Melonsen have been doing this for many years. Their children graduated a few years ago and still they put in countless hours of work and store all those auction items in their homes. THANK YOU both, for all your hard work and also to your husbands for their patience! This may

be the last year for these two great ladies (they have said that the last three years!)

A big THANK YOU to all the companies and families who donated all the items we auctioned off. Check your program for the list of families and companies.

Congratulations to all the winners! Where are the fire exits?

NORM LOENSER

To the Editor;

Last Saturday the South Plainfield Girl Scouts and the New Jersey Blood Services conducted their annual Blood Drive.

We would like to thank everyone who made it such a success—especially those in our community who took the time to donate, Mike English for graciously providing the use of the PAL Building, local businesses who allowed us to put signs up and to the young ladies of Senior Troop 318 for organizing, advertising and working all day at the blood drive.

EILEEN LORANCE
LEADER OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
TROOP 318

To the Editor;

Education is a process. At each step a child is asked to develop both cognitive and social knowledge and skills. Who decides at what pace should a child learn? Who decides what facts will be covered and what thought processes should be developed?

Recently, the state seems to be taking the lead in determining what should be taught through the use of mandatory statewide testing. I believe that there is nothing wrong with this as long as it is used as a guideline and not as the core curriculum that all students must take.

I believe we must redesign the curriculum development of each subject matter. There must be better coordination within all grades. Teachers and principals should be responsible for specific core content in the elementary schools. Sixth through twelfth grades curriculum should be organized by teachers within each discipline. We must bring back a department chairmen. They should have the authority to make sure that every grade level serves as a building stone for the next grade and that the course content will enable every student to graduate with the knowledge to go on to higher education. Each chairperson should teach several classes a day to make sure that they never lose contact with the most important people in the system—the students.

Department chairmen would also be responsible for mentoring new teachers. Many of our professional staff have been retiring over the past five years and been replaced with teachers with very little experience. We do have a staff development program, but I feel the best person to demonstrate teaching skills and monitor progress would be the person who is the most experienced in each subject matter. A good teacher can transform any child into a student; a bad teacher can turn off any student. Let's put your education taxes where they belong—in the classroom with the students and teachers.

Thank you for listening. If you have a comment, please e-mail me at englishmp@hotmail.com.

RESPECTFULLY,
MIKE ENGLISH, CANDIDATE FOR
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Letter to the Editor;

I am campaigning for re-election as a member of the South Plainfield Board of Education. I have had the privilege of serving for three terms and one year and during this time I have made conscientious efforts to insure

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Letters may be submitted to our office: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email at our website at spobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Please limit letters to no more than 500 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. We reserve the right to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher.

students were provided with resources that would provide them the opportunity to be the best they can be. Efforts were directed at insuring that non-instructional costs were controlled and where possible, reduced in recognition of the taxpayer impact.

There were significant improvements either completed or in progress to our physical plant. It will be a challenging year to complete the construction of our new elementary school, the conversion of the old school for administrative use, the addition of 10 classrooms for Grant School and upgrading our electrical and technology. These projects are on schedule. Other projects completed are a) the replacement of the track; b) replacing stage lighting in the High School; c) the brick repainting and boilers replaced at the Middle School.

This will be a difficult budget year. We face another year in which the Governor has proposed about the same level of State aid as last year. We are faced with significant increases in our health premium costs, increase in energy costs, increases in property and casualty insurance, are in the process of negotiating a new labor agreement with the Teachers Association and we must pay back pay to some teachers as a result of the arbitration ruled in favor of the Teachers Association. These issues represent a significant cost impact and a challenge to minimize the impact to you, the taxpayer.

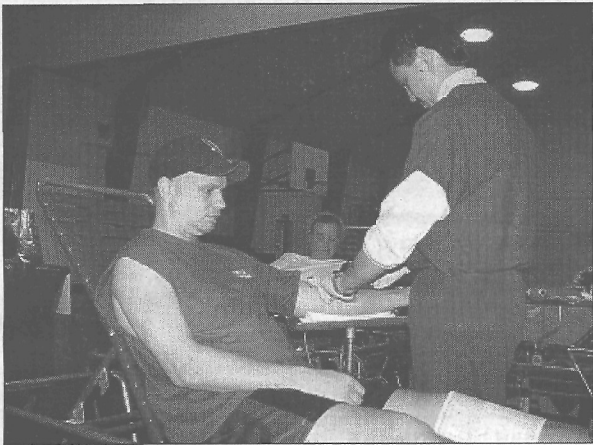
I have always believed the road to quality education does not mean more money alone. It requires performance, accountability and achievement of definitive educational objectives and goals. We must be certain that those who are paid and responsible for delivery of the educational product return value to the students and taxpayers. We must insure that those in administrative, instructional and related activities are held accountable for quality, effective performance and commitment to achieving measurable educational objectives. The education of all students should be and must be JOB ONE.

On the educational side we are faced with new requirements for improving quality and accountability because of new Federal legislation known as "No Child Left Behind" as well as State requirements for testing and improved results and changes in curriculum. These are significant mandates that have an impact on our costs, but as of now, the Federal and State legislatures have not provided additional funding. It is hoped they will do so in the future.

I thank you for the opportunity and privilege to have served you over the years. I ask for your continued support by voting Line 4. I commit to insure effective use of your hard earned tax dollars. I further commit I will not be influenced, compromised or obligated to special interest. I will also continue to influence the legislatures, at all levels Federal and State, to provide our district with its fair share of Federal and State aid.

FRANK A. MIKORSKI





Girl Scout Troop 318 Sponsors Blood Drive

by Patricia Abbott

New Jersey Blood Services and South Plainfield Girl Scout Troop 318 recently held a blood drive at the PAL. The drive is an annual event sponsored by the Senior Girl Scouts. Fifty-three people attended and forty were able to donate. Scouts in troop 318 are: Heather Barrett, Quien Bowe, Christina Lorange and Elayne Russell. Leader is Eileen Lorange. Stephanie Tackach of Troop 774 also participated. Blood is always in high demand during the winter months. Advertising is the key to a successful drive. The girls arranged for posters at local businesses and schools. They sent flyers out through the school system, called other scout troops, previous donors and alerted local newspapers. Their job



didn't end with publicity. They worked at the PAL acting as escorts and provided snacks. Three of the girls donated blood as well.

Two Local Businesses Burglarized

Sometime between March 4-5, GDB International at 101 Coolidge St., was burglarized. The burglars moved a trailer from the front of the overhead door, then pried open an entrance door, gaining access to the building. Once inside they removed two Toyota propane-powered forklifts and apparently loaded them on to a truck. The forklifts are described as being late 1990's models, one orange, the other yellow in color. The vehicles were valued at a total of \$12,000.

The burglary is being investigated by Det. Gary Cassio, (908) 226-7663.

In an unrelated crime, Lube Express, located on Stelton Rd., was the scene of a burglary between March 5-6. According to police, the burglars twisted off the front door lock, cut the telephone and alarm wires and entered the building. Once inside, they pried open a night drop box and cash register and removed an undetermined amount of cash.

The theft was discovered by the manager, who arrived at 7:30 a.m. and found the door lock damaged.

In charge of the investigation is Det. James Foran, (908) 226-7665.

At prestime police have no suspects in either burglary. If anyone has any information, they are asked to call the numbers above.



Volunteers were hard at work last Friday night at Sacred Heart's fish fry.



Lenten Fish Dinners Return To Sacred Heart Church

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield is sponsoring their famous Lenten Fish Dinners on March 14, 21, 28, April 4 and 11.

Dinners are served in the Sacred Heart School cafeteria, located on South Plainfield Ave. from 5 to 7 p.m.

The menu features filet of fish (fried, broiled, parmigiana) or pizza;

fresh garden salad, French fries or macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, coffee, tea, or cold drink, plus dessert. Take out orders are also available.

Admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$4 for children. Pay at the door.

Stations of the Cross are held each Friday in the Church at 7 p.m.

American Revolution Program at Library

The South Plainfield Historical Society is hosting the program, "New Jersey in the American Revolution," on March 23 at the So. Plainfield Public Library. The 2 p.m. program is presented by award-winning author, Arthur S. Lefkowitz, of Piscataway.

The 50-minute slide presentation is based on Lefkowitz' book, *The Long Retreat*, which focuses on the British invasion of New Jersey in late 1776. The culmination of that invasion was Washington's Christmas night raid on Trenton.

"This period was the military low-point of the American Revolution, when the British came the closest in the eight-year conflict of defeating the Americans," Lefkowitz states. "This period of the war was marked by a large, well-equipped British army of 10,000 soldiers." They pursued General Washington's harried Continentals numbering as few as 2,000 from Fort Lee to Trenton. The Americans then crossed the Delaware River to the safety of Pennsylvania.

Lefkowitz will discuss that the clos-

est the British forces ever came to winning a military victory during the Revolution was at nearby New Brunswick on December 1, 1775.

The speaker is also the author of *Washington's Indispensable Men*, due in March from Stackpole Books. He is currently writing a book about the 1775 Benedict Arnold expedition, which was an attempt to capture Quebec City from the British. *The Long Retreat* is in its third printing and available from Rutgers University Press. It was cited as the "Best Book on the American Revolution Published in 1998" by the American Revolution Round Table.

The So. Plainfield Public Library is located at 2484 Plainfield Ave. No pre-registration is required for the March 23 presentation.

The free program is made possible in-part by the New Jersey Council on the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Log on to: <http://community.nj.com/cc/sphistoricalociety> for more information on this and future programming, or email SPHistoricalSoc@cs.com for more details.

Yard Waste Site to Start Spring Hours

The Yard Waste Site at the end of Kenneth Ave. will begin spring hours the week of March 16. Yard Waste will be open to South Plainfield residents on Tuesdays from 12 noon to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Vehicles must have a 2003 yard waste decal mounted on the driver's side back window to be admitted to

the site. Decals are available at the Borough Clerk's office in the Municipal building.

Only leaves, brush and grass clippings can be accepted. Materials must be kept separated, and any plastic bags must be emptied and removed from the site.

For updates, call the Recycling Hotline at (908) 226-7620.

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 Avenue (adjacent to the Municipal building) will hold the following program

as part of the library's Job Information Center:

• Saturday, Mar. 15, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon - Interviewing 101

The program is 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.

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(By the DARE Building)

908-755-HERO(4376)

OPEN 7 DAYS

Events

Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner at VFW March 14

A corned beef and cabbage dinner will be held at VFW Post 6763, Front St., on March 14 from 5 to 8 p.m. Donation is \$7, children 12 years and under are \$3.50.

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

American Legion Saint Patrick's Dinner Dance March 15

A St. Patrick's Dinner Dance will be held at American Legion Chaumont Post 243, located at 243 Oak Tree Ave. on Saturday, March 15 from 6 to 11 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of fine food and entertainment for only a \$5 donation. Proceeds will benefit the Post Scholarship Fund.

For tickets or information call (908) 668-9414.

Elks Annual Corned Beef And Cabbage Dinner March 15

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is sponsoring their annual corned beef and cabbage dinner on Saturday, March 15 from 4:30 to 9 p.m. Adults are \$10; children are \$5. All you can eat. Beer and soda will also be provided.

Knights of Columbus St. Patrick's Day Party March 15

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus is holding their annual St. Patrick's Day party on Saturday, March 15, at the Knights hall, 334 Hamilton Blvd., 8 to 12 p.m. \$20 per person includes a corned beef and cabbage dinner. It also includes an open bar (beer, wine and soda) and a DJ will play classic Irish music.

If interested, contact Jim Shea at 908-756-0478 for tickets. Seats are limited.

Boy Scout Troop 207's 4th Annual Chili Fest March 16

Boy Scout Troop 207 will hold its fourth annual "All You Can Eat" Chili Fest on Sunday, March 16, 3 to 7 p.m. at the South Plainfield High School cafeteria. Tickets are \$4 each. Games and prizes also.

If you need additional information, contact Troop 207 at (908) 753-2562.

AARP Chapter #4144 Meeting March 17

AARP Chapter #4144 will meet on Monday, St. Patrick's Day, March 17 at the Senior Center at 90 Maple Ave. at 12:30 p.m. The Highland Lassies will entertain with a lively performance of traditional Scottish Highland dancing. They will be in full costume and will take questions from the audience, time permitting. It will be fun!


Reserve tickets for the May 13 trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to see Agatha Christie's mystery, *The Mousetrap*. Cost is \$54, which covers all expenses, including transportation. Call May at (732) 752-3764 or Lee (732) 968-6613.

A Tuesday through Friday trip is

What's happening in MARCH

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.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
EVENTS 	Tax Prep Assistance, Tuesdays & Thursdays 9 a.m. to noon.		Shopping at Pathmark 9am Practical Crafting 10-11am AARP Tax Preparation 9am-Noon	Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch Listening to Children 9:30am-12:30pm
	Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30 Yoga 10:30-11:30am AARP Meeting Noon	Bingo 10-2 PM Lunch Available AARP Tax Preparation 9am-Noon	Exercise & Walking Club 8:45-9:45am Movie 11:30am AARP Crafts 1 PM	Shopping at Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10-11am AARP Tax Preparation 9am-Noon
17	18	19	20	21

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

planned to the Raleigh Hotel in the Catskills on July 15-18. Indoor and outdoor pools, daytime activities and entertainment at night available on premises. All meals, transportation, taxes and gratuities are included. Call Mary at (732) 752-3764 for more details and reservations.

Republican Club Monthly Meeting March 19

The regular monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held Wednesday, March 19 at 8 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Ave. All committee members are urged to attend this important meeting. There will be a discussion with residents interested in running for borough council.

Any resident who would like to become involved with the organization, or has concerns about the borough that should be addressed, are also invited to attend.

Franklin School to Hold Auction/Raffle March 22

The Franklin School PTA is sponsoring the Seventh Annual Auction/Raffle Night on Saturday, March 22, 6:30 p.m. at South Plainfield High School gym. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Advanced tickets are \$7 or \$10 at the door. For tickets, call Dorothea at 753-7117 or Terry at 753-2864.

Complimentary ticket for grand prize drawing with every advanced sale. Food is welcomed. Soft drinks available for purchase.

Fashion Bug Plus Size Fashion Show March 22

25,000 women across the country will take to the runway on Mar. 22 at 2 p.m. for the 2003 Spring Plus Size Fashion Show, a chain-wide fashion show hosted by Fashion Bug, a women's retailer. Women of plus size are encouraged to become a model for a day by signing up at any Fashion Bug store in the country. All models are women who live in the communities surrounding Fashion Bug stores.

The community fashion show features looks for all walks of life and will highlight the best plus size looks from the Spring 2003 Fashion Bug collection.

For the Fashion Bug store closest

to you, please call 1-888-289-8284, or contact your local Fashion Bug at (908) 757-0770.

Columbiettes Hosting Fashion Show March 23

On Sunday, March 23, the Columbiettes are sponsoring a fashion show and luncheon at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Hamilton Blvd. The catered affair will include a relish tray, salad and chicken, beef, pasta, potato and vegetable dishes. Coffee, tea and soda will be provided and dessert will follow. Fashions will be by Dress Barn and Dress Barn Women, both in South Plainfield. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. and the luncheon begins at 1 p.m.

Cost is \$20 per person and reservations can be made by calling Geri Diegman at 908-753-2032. Deadline is Thursday, March 20.

Columbiettes Easter Bunny Luncheon March 30

The Columbiettes Annual Easter Bunny Luncheon will be held on Sunday, March 30 at Sacred Heart School, off South Plainfield Ave. The location was changed this year due to the increase in the number of people attending.

Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Buffet lunch follows. Cost is \$10 for all ages. Children seven years and under will receive Easter baskets from the Easter Bunny. There will be prizes and drawings for all ages.

Space is limited. Reserve in advance. Call Geri at (908) 753-2032. Please give the ages of all children attending. Deadline is Thursday, March 27.

Rainbow Academy Open House April 19

Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an Open House on Saturday, April 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rainbow Academy offers a variety of programs to fit your child's needs, from ages six weeks to 10 years. There is limited space available for the infant, nursery, pre-kindergarten, half-day pre-school and summer camp programs. Everyone who registers will receive one free month of Parent-Watch, an internet viewing service. For a demo of their video services, visit their website at www.parent-watch.com.

watch.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.

Recreation Plans Trip to Aida April 27

South Plainfield Recreation is sponsoring a trip to Broadway on Sunday, April 27 to see *Aida*.

The bus leaves the PAL at 11 a.m. The musical starts at 3 p.m. You will have time to shop in NYC. Tickets are \$75 per person.

Purchase your tickets (only 45 available) at the PAL on Maple Ave.

Senior Center to Visit Lancaster, Pa. May 29 & 30

The South Plainfield Senior Center will offer an overnight trip to Lancaster, Pa. on May 29 and 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 per person based on double occupancy. For reservations, stop by the Senior Center at 90 Maple Ave. A deposit of \$59 per person is required.

Recreation Plans Trip to Mets July 22

South Plainfield Recreation is sponsoring a trip to Veterans Stadium on July 22. It's the Mets vs. the Phillies and this could be your last chance to visit Veterans Stadium. Gametime is 1 p.m. Bus leaves from the PAL at 10 a.m. Seats will be located in the outfield terrace box and tickets are \$25 per person. Only 45 tickets will be sold, so get yours now!

Trip to Niagara Falls, Canada September 8-12

South Plainfield Recreation is planning a five-day, four-night trip to Niagara Falls, Canada, with a side trip

to Toronto. The trip will take place from Sept. 8-12.

The package includes White Star Escort for the entire trip, motorcoach transportation, four nights lodging in Niagara Falls, four full course breakfasts and dinners and all taxes and standard gratuities. Activities include an all day tour of Niagara, including Niagara-on-the-Lake, an all day tour of Toronto, centering on a harbor cruise and Casa Loma, IMAX Theatre, Famous Maid of the Mist Boat Ride and a tour of the falls and more.

For reservations or information, contact Mike English at the PAL, (908) 226-7714.

— Out of Town —

Art/Music Programs for Children With Autism

Through 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 Saturdays through Apr. 12, in New Brunswick, Morristown and Waldwick. The program is sponsored by VSA Arts of NJ, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing accessible arts opportunities to children and adults with disabilities.

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.

Contact Karen Singer at VSA Arts of NJ at (732) 745-3885, 745-3913 (TTY) or info@vsanjanj.org.

Dr. Cook's Garden Benefit for Girl Scouts March 14

On Friday, Mar. 14 at 8 p.m., the Westfield Community Players will present *Dr. Cook's Garden*, a murder mystery by Ira Levin. This performance will benefit the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council located in Westfield at 201 Grove Street East.

The show centers on the antics of Dr. Cook, a physician with a hidden agenda, who makes house calls to care for his disagreeable patients. His disapproving protégé attempts to alter his mentor's elimination of the annoying townsfolk, which brings the show stopping climax to the production.

Tickets (\$15) are available from the Council Service Center or by calling (908) 232-3236, ext. 1221. The Westfield Community Theatre is located at 1000 North Ave. West in Westfield.

Refreshments will be sold along with tickets for gift baskets and a silent auction.

The Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council Serve over 11,000 girls and adults in the following communities: Elizabeth, Hillside, Union, Kenilworth, Roselle Park, Roselle, Linden, Springfield, Cranford, Garwood, Mountinside, Westfield, Berkeley Heights, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Plainfield, South Plainfield, Dunellen, Green Brook, North Plainfield, Watchung and Warren. Girl Scouting is for every girl, everywhere. Help us to help girls grow strong!

(Continued on next page)

SEND YOUR EVENTSTO:

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

even

(Continued from previous page)

Middlesex East WOWs Dance

March 14

Middlesex East WOWs Carteret Chapter will hold a dance for widows and widowers on Friday, March 14, at St. Demetrius Community Center, 681-691 Roosevelt Ave. in Carteret from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. Live music and refreshments. For more information, call (732) 969-1123 or (908) 757-0515.

SingleFaces Dances Planned

March 14, 15

SingleFaces Dances—Elegant Locations for Sophisticated Singles will hold dances on the following dates and places: Friday, March 14, 9 p.m. in the Oak Room of the Shadowbrook, Rt. 35 in Shrewsbury, \$13 and Saturday, March 15, 9 p.m. at the Ramada Plaza, 3050 Woodbridge Ave., Raritan Center, Iselin. \$12. Super double dance, two DJs—two rooms, two age groups (25-39/40 and up).

Woodbridge WOWs Fundraiser Dance

March 16

The Woodbridge Area Widows or Widowers (WOWS) will be holding a Fundraiser Dance/Social on Sunday, March 16, from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Live band and refreshments. The cost is \$8. The event will be held at Elk's Hall, 665 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge. Call (732) 297-1775 for information.

Mendham Rotary Antique Show

March 22-23

Mendham Rotary Club's 22nd Annual Spring Antique Show will be held March 22-23 at the West Morris Mendham High School, Rt 510/124, Mendham. More than 45 antique dealers from New Jersey and New York gather to offer collectors a selection of furniture, prints, glass, quilts, porcelain, tools, linens, brass, and books. Hours are Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. \$6 donation supports humanitarian and scholarship projects.

For more information call (973) 543-2552.

Paterson High School Class Reunion

March 28

The 1963 January and June classes of Paterson Central High School have combined to celebrate their 40th anniversary of graduation.

This gala reunion event will be held in the Wayne Manor, 1515 Route 23 in Wayne, on March 28 at 7 p.m. \$50 per person for a million dollars worth of fun, such a bargain!

Contact Vivian (Gray) Allen, 87

Boyle Ave, Totowa, NJ 07512, Dave Mayo, P. O. Box 381 Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927 or MayoSearch@aol.com.

If you do not wish to attend the reunion, please contact us anyway so we can stop searching for you.

Union Catholic "Birthday Bash" Tricky Tray Auction

March 28

"Birthday Bash" to honor Union Catholic's 40th anniversary year is the theme of the annual "tricky tray" auction sponsored by the Parents Guild of Union Catholic High School.

The auction will begin at 6 p.m. March 28 in the Union Catholic cafeteria, 1600 Martine Ave. in Scotch Plains.

Baskets that will be available at the various theme tables include seasonal, food, recreational, craft, sports, local restaurant gift certificates, etc.

An \$8 admission fee includes one sheet of bid tickets, light refreshments, coffee and tea. You are also welcome to bring your own snacks to enjoy during the auction. There is ample parking and the cafeteria is handicapped accessible. No children under 18 years old will be admitted. For more information call (908) 889-1600.

Monmouth Symphony All-Russian Concert

March 30

The Monmouth Symphony Orchestra will present a concert on March 30 at 3 p.m. at the Count Basie Theatre, Red Bank. Pianist Marina Young will be featured in Rachmaninoff's *Second Piano Concerto*. In addition, Roy D. Gussman will conduct the *Festive Overture* by Shostakovich and the *Suite No. 3 in G Major* by Tchaikovsky. Reserved seats are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors (age 60 and over) and \$5 for college students. School-age children accompanied by an adult may obtain free tickets. Call the theatre box office at (732) 842-9000.

For more information about the Monmouth Symphony Orchestra, visit their Web site at www.monmouthsymphony.com or (732) 842-9000.

Freedom From Smoking Program

April 8

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.

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Guido & Mildred Abbruzzese Celebrate 60th Anniversary



Guido and Mildred Abbruzzese on their sixtieth anniversary.

Guido and Mildred (Sacco) Abbruzzese celebrated their 60th anniversary last week.

The Abbruzzese's were married in Sacred Heart Church in 1943 with Father Lyons officiating. Their reception was held at the Polish Home in South Plainfield.

Their 60 anniversary celebration was held at the Italian American Club.

Guido is a retired construction worker. He was a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army during WWII, serving in the Pacific Theatre. Mildred spent her 60 years of marriage as a devoted mother and housewife.

Guido and Mildred raised eight children, Erminia Dunn of Sayreville, Mario Abbruzzese of South Plainfield, Marian Durnya of South River, Sandi Holowka of South Plainfield, Anna Marie Santiago of Jamesburg, Bernadette Thimons of Pa., Denise Figueroa of South Plainfield and the



Guido and Mildred Abbruzzese on their wedding day in 1943.

late Guido Abbruzzese, Jr.

They also have 22 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Denise Montefusco, Robert Ford are Wed

Denise Lynn Montefusco, daughter of Ron and Gina Montefusco of Roseland, was married on Dec. 14 to Robert Anthony Ford, son of Carmela Ford of South Plainfield and the late James Ford.

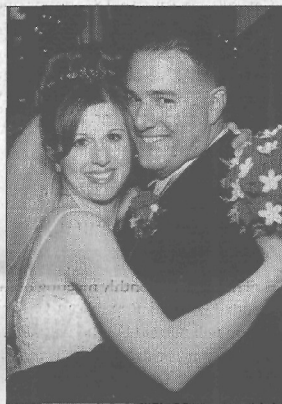
Reverend Daniel Meenan performed the ceremony held at The Olde Mill Inn in Basking Ridge, where a reception immediately followed.

The maid of honor was Maria Krowicki of Linden, a friend of the bride. The best man was Dale Morin of South Plainfield, a lifelong friend of the groom. Julia Sofo of Warren, niece and goddaughter of the groom, served as the flower girl.

The bride is employed as an Executive Assistant at Cendant Corporation in Parsippany. She is a graduate of Montclair State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education.

The bridegroom received a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from Ramapo College and is employed as a Director of Integrated Marketing for Cendant Corporation in Parsippany.

Following a honeymoon cruise to the Caribbean, the couple will reside in Bedminster.



Mr. & Mrs. Robert Anthony Ford

played as a Director of Integrated Marketing for Cendant Corporation in Parsippany.

Following a honeymoon cruise to the Caribbean, the couple will reside in Bedminster.

Gallaghers Announce Birth of Grandson

Mike and Kimberly Gallagher are the proud parents of a son, Brian Patrick. Born on March 5 at 11:52 p.m., Brian weighed in at 8 lbs. 3 1/2 ounces and was 19 1/4 inches long.

Brian is Dan and Marion Gallagher's second grandchild. Congratulations!

Melody Hogan Named To Dean's List

South Plainfield resident Melody M. Hogan has been named to the Dean's List for the 2002 fall semester at Messiah College. Hogan, a junior music education major, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Hogan of South Plainfield. Dean's List is earned by receiving a 3.6 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Hogan is a 2000 graduate of New Life Christian School.

Messiah College, a private Christian college of the liberal and applied arts and sciences, enrolls nearly 2,900 undergraduate students in 60 majors. Established in 1909, the primary campus is located at Grantham, Pa. near the state capital of Harrisburg. A satellite campus affiliated with Temple University is located in Philadelphia.

Melissa Anderson Named to Dean's List

Melissa Anderson, daughter of Stephen and Patricia Anderson of South Plainfield, has been named to the Dean's Honor List at Kean University in Union for the Fall 2002 semester.

Appointment to the Dean's List is based on successful completion of at

least 12 credits with an earned GPA of 3.45 or better.

Melissa is currently a junior at Kean. She is a photography major and is a staff photographer for the university's newspaper, *The Tower*.

Thomas Toolan Named to Dean's List

Thomas Toolan has been named to the Dean's List at Nyack College in New York for the Fall 2002 semester.

Thomas earned a GPA of 3.5. He has not declared a major yet, but has a strong interest in youth ministry.

Thomas is a South Plainfield High School 2002 graduate.



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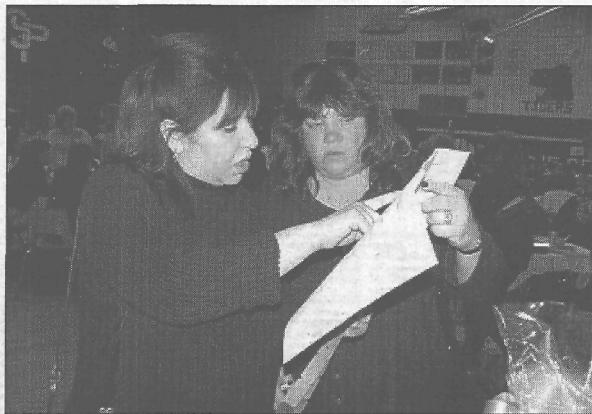
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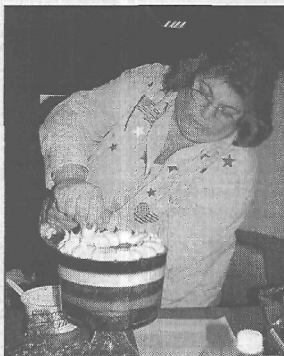




High School Students the Real Winners of Annual Auction

by Patricia Abbott

Even before the doors opened, the Project Graduation Auction/Raffle was a success! Approximately 475 people attended the sold-out fundraiser, the largest crowd ever. Due to the huge crowd, the one hour preview was extended by half an hour. As the first numbers were called people were frantically dashing about the room depositing their last few tickets. Auction/raffle chairpersons Pat Anderson and Ellen Melanson were kept busy throughout the night.



Ticket tables were located throughout the hallway and at the front of the gym. The process of calling winning ticket numbers for the huge array of prizes was lengthy, but seasoned guests of the auction knew just how to handle the wait. Almost all tables were set up for a party. Food and beverages filled tables to near capacity.

The auction was the most successful to date. The "mega prize" winner of the Dell computer was Lee Dombrowski; the 32" wide screen TV winner was Cheryl Uth. The grand prize winner of the Victorian Lace Inn Weekend was Pete Schelling; the digital camera winner was Christina Brisebois; the gas grill winner was Joanne Robinson; the printer/scanner winner was Pat Gocklin. The patio furniture winner was Bernadette Almodovar; Xbox winner was Kathy Murano; Oriental rug winner was Muha Decker; cedar Adirondack chair winner was Janet Miller; and the Yankee basket winner was Michael Povall. Winner of the 50/50 raffle was Pete Massett.

"We raised \$26,000—the most ever.... It will mean not only a Project Graduation evening, but also scholarship money!" said auction chair Pat Anderson.



Photos by Christopher Abbott

Imaginative Ideas for St. Patrick's Day

Everyone can have a little luck of the Irish this St. Patrick's Day with a little imagination in the kitchen. Here are some fun ideas that are offered this season at home show cooking classes by Marie Markey, Independent Kitchen Consultant for the Pampered Chef®. For additional Cooking Tips, holiday ideas, or free cooking product information, call 908-755-3213.

- Add pistachio pudding mix to vanilla cake mix while preparing. Not only does it add a green tint to the cake, it tastes yummy too.

- Prepare a green drink mix for the kids or tint lemonade with food coloring.

- Make your own green beer, just add a few drops of green food coloring to your favorite brew.

- Take prepared bread dough or one you made yourself and divide it into four sections. Roll three of the dough sections into balls and one into a tube. Place on baking pan in the shape of a shamrock and bake following bread dough directions.

- Use a green pepper as garnish or in a recipe. When selecting a pepper, look for a pepper with only three bumps. Slice the pepper in thin slices to create rings to resemble a shamrock.

- Tint any icing green with food coloring, or make your own using pistachio pudding and whipped cream.

Follow directions for icing on pudding or dream whip box. Sprinkle with mini chocolate chips for an added treat.

Instead of making traditional corned beef and cabbage, try something new this year with this yummy recipe from The Pampered Chef Limited.

Reuben Roll Ups

2 packages (8 oz. each) refrigerated crescent rolls

½ cup sauerkraut, drained, squeezed dry and chopped

1 cup (4 oz.) finely shredded Swiss cheese

1 package (2.5 oz.) corned beef,

finely chopped

¼ cup Thousand Island dressing

Preheat oven to 375°. Unroll crescent dough; separate into eight rectangles. Press perforations together to seal. Using food chopper, finely chop corned beef and sauerkraut; set aside.

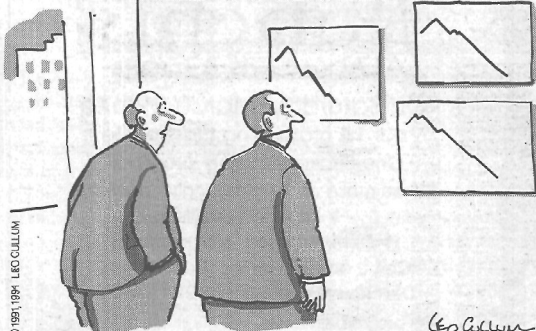
Using all purpose spreader, spread about 1½ teaspoons dressing evenly onto each rectangle; top with corned beef, sauerkraut and cheese. Starting at shortest side, roll up each rectangle, jelly roll fashion; press seams together to seal. Cut each roll into four one-inch thick slices; place cut side down on round baking stone. Bake 20-22 minutes or until golden brown. Serve

warm with additional thousand island dressing, if desired. Yields 32 roll-ups, approximately 160 calories and 10 grams of fat per 2 roll up serving.

Cook's Tip: Crescent roll dough is easiest to work with if kept refrigerated until ready to use. Once the dough is warm, it becomes soft and sometimes sticky, making it difficult to work with.

This recipe is printed with permission of the Pampered Chef Limited, and is from the Stoneware Sensation Cookbook.

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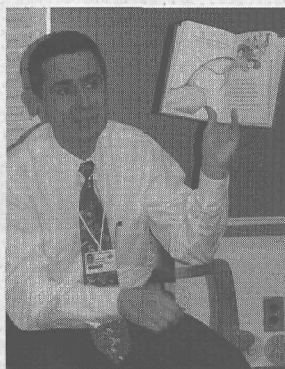
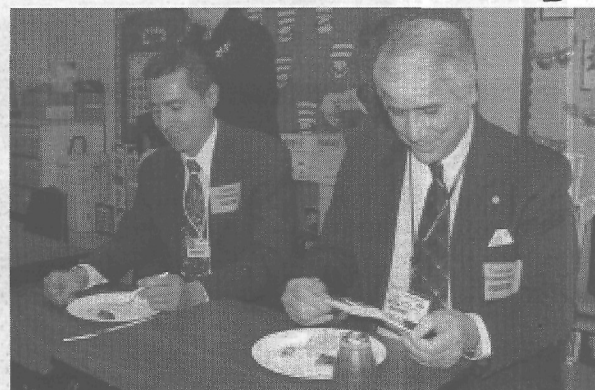
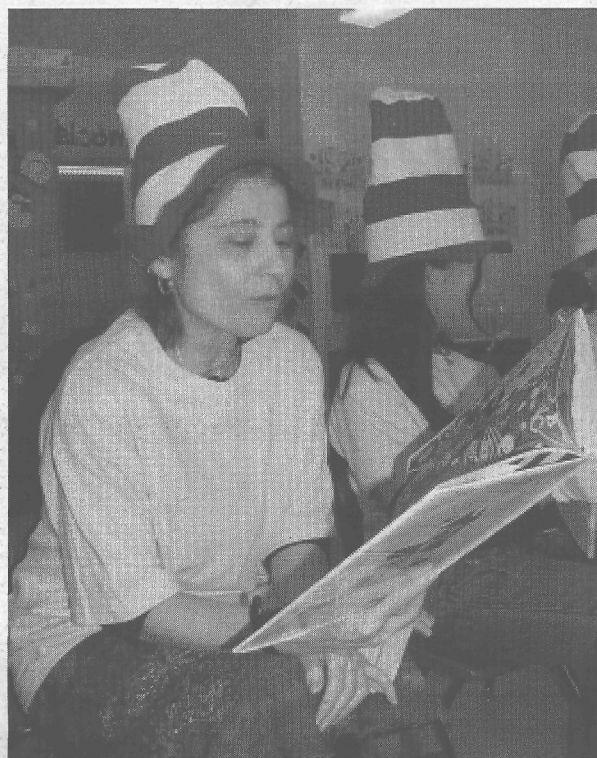
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Franklin School Students Celebrate Dr. Seuss and Reading



Story and photos by Patricia Abbott

Children are always up for a birthday party, whether it be the most important their own, or that of a family member, pet or even an imagined dolls birthday. Each year schools around the country and around the world celebrate the March 2 birthday of the much loved Dr. Seuss also known as Theodor Geisel, author of the youth classic *Cat in the Hat* and many more. Birthday bashes were held throughout South Plainfield's grade schools. The infamous stove pipe red and white hats and versions in a rainbow of colors were prevalent everywhere.

Franklin School celebrated well into the week. Librarian Kim Alongi had 30 parent guest readers in the library. Adorned with Cat in Hat stove pipe hats, several fifth grade students and reading teacher Esther Markus performed Seuss skits for grades K-2. Later in the week school Superintendent Robert Rosado, Assistant Superintendent Mario Barbieri and Pat Higgins of the Child Study Team arrived to read to first grade students. While the guests read assorted Seuss books, small groups of youths were brought into the next classroom for a special treat—*Green Eggs and Ham*. Teacher Patti Ratti and aide Sue Hill were kept busy scrambling the green eggs as group after group devoured the odd looking but delicious concoction.

Read Across America was founded by the National Education Association 1998 as a way to promote reading while celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday. The event has become a national tradition with more than 40 national partners including PBS, Saturn, Random House Children's Books, Youth Service America, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the NAACP, the Urban League, the Organization of Chinese Americans and LaRaza. The goal of the NEA is to motivate children to read. This year's honorary chairmen were Ming-Na, known as Dr. Chen on NBC's *ER* and the voice of Mulan of Disney film fame and Esai Morales who plays Lt. Tony Rodriguez on ABC's *NYPD Blue*. While the *Cat in the Hat* has left to pursue his mischief elsewhere and the green eggs are not scrambling in local frying pans, kids are still scrambling to read.

There's no need to fret if you missed the big day, celebrate reading, pick up a book and read to a child today!

Is this the best we can do for 2003?

◆ Diminishing Services

- Dilapidated snowplowing equipment
- No in-house Engineering Department
- No in-house Board of Health

◆ Postponed Promises

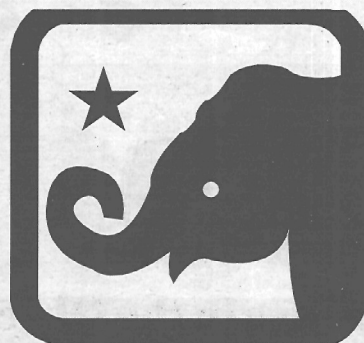
- Helen Street Project
- Reconstruction of Hamilton Blvd.

◆ Veteran's Park

- Contamination issue still unresolved

We have got to do better!

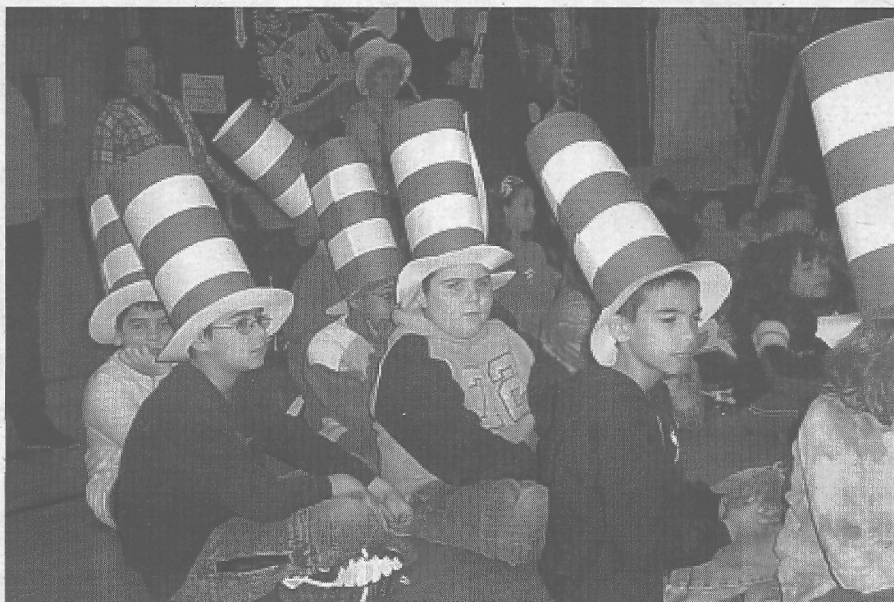
If you would like to see a change, have suggestions or want to get involved, contact Bob Jones at 222-9435 or email bobj152@aol.com



Kennedy Students Celebrate Dr. Seuss and Reading



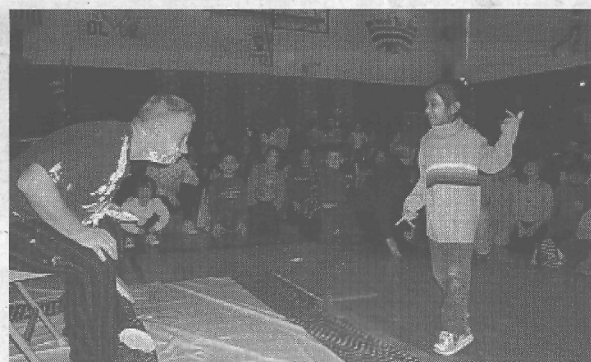
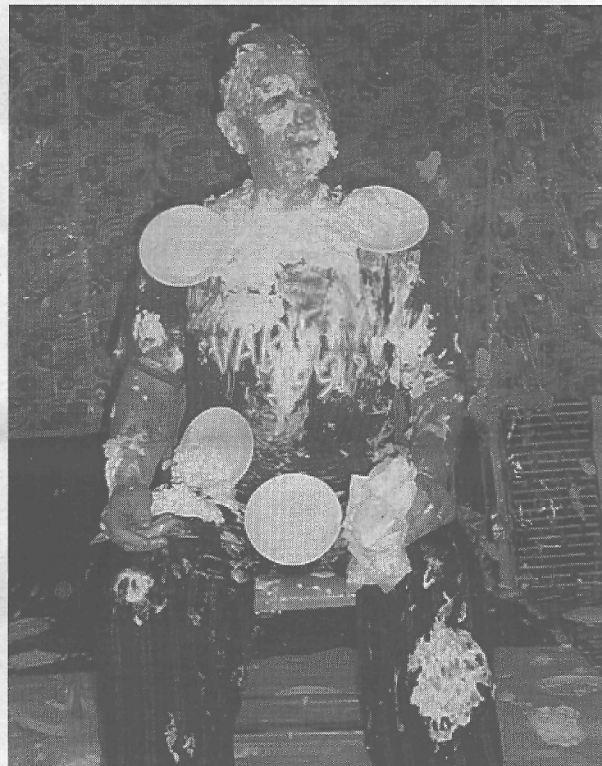
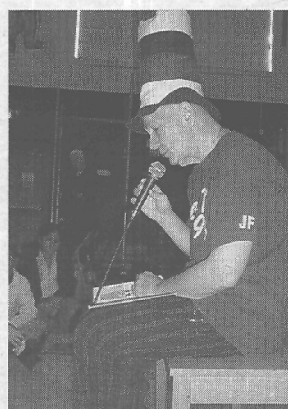
It's Read Across America Week!



J. F. Kennedy Elementary School Principal Al Czech always makes celebrating Dr. Seuss' Birthday one of the most memorable days of the year at the school. In past years we have seen him tarred and feathered, his head shaven, sitting on the roof of the school in a lawn chair and one year he dyed his hair green.

Each year Czech challenges students to read 20,000 books in five months and they have never let him down. After reading *The Cat in the Hat*, Czech spoke about the importance of reading.

This year as their reward, qualifying students had the opportunity to throw a pie or paper plate full of whipped cream at their fearful leader. This type of challenge to the students always ignites the children to read, read, read!



Reserve Your Space Now!!

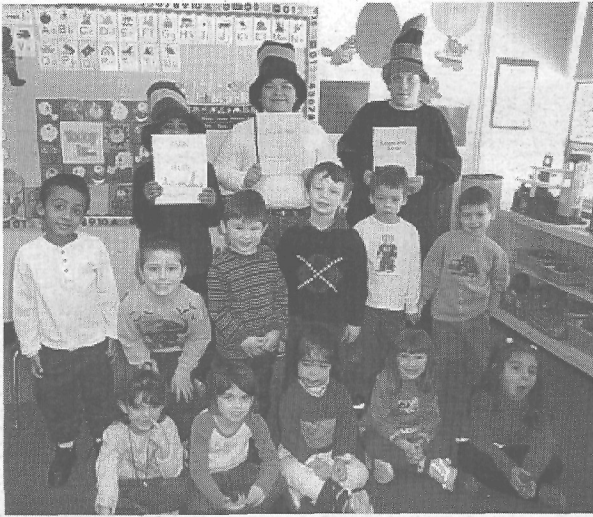


On April 4, the Observer will be mailed to every household in South Plainfield (almost 8,000 homes). Don't miss this unique opportunity!

To reserve your space or for rates & info, call 908-668-0010.

Get on board!

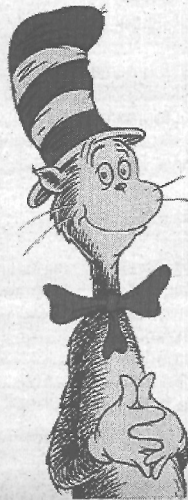
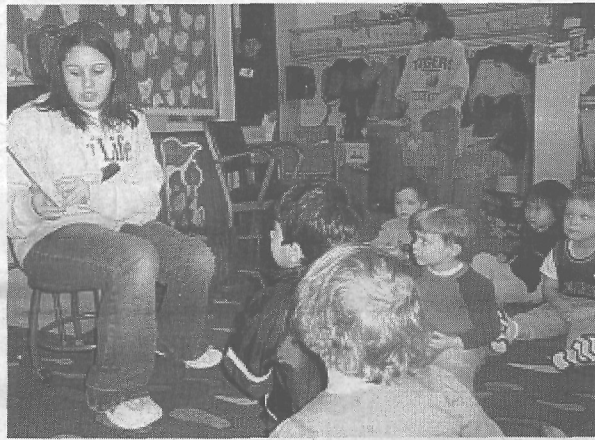
Set your business on the right course. Call today!



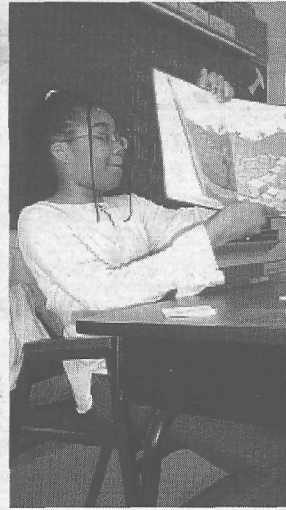
Elementary School Students Celebrate Dr. Seuss and Reading

Read Across America Celebrated at Grant Central

Grant Central Sixth School students traditionally read Dr. Seuss books to Future Stars Preschoolers on Suess' birthday. This year, however, they read books they had written themselves. Several sixth graders were chosen to read a take-home book project from their reading and language class. Each book was unique and the students were very proud to read them to their captivated youngsters.

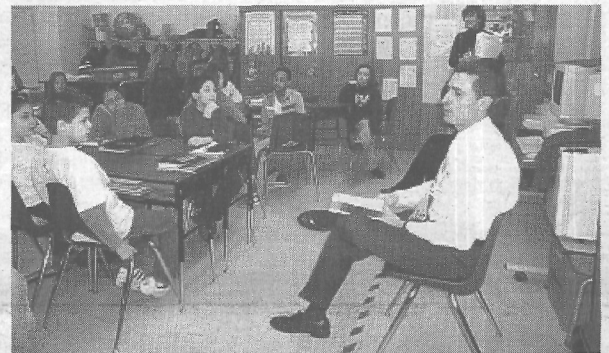


It's Read Across America Week!



The Middle School Pays a Visit To Riley School Students

Volunteers from the Peer Leaders Club at the Middle School visited the kindergarten through fourth grades at Riley Elementary School and read several Dr. Seuss books in honor of his birthday. Afterwards, the Peer Leaders handed out special written learning projects about Dr. Seuss' work. The fifth grade classes were treated to special guest readers, including Asst. Superintendent Mario Barbieri and newly appointed Superintendent Dr. Robert Rosado.



Check It Out!

The Observer has a new and improved website.

Submit your letters, send us emails, subscribe...
spobserver.com

Have You Purchased Your Brick Yet?

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



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Call John Cotone at 908-756-4761 to purchase your brick.

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South Plainfield High School

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Spring 2003

VARSITY & JUNIOR VARSITY BASEBALL

MARCH			
14	Abraham Clark (scrimmage)	Home	4:00
15	Sat. Somerville (scrimmage)	Home	11:00am
17	Mon. North Plainfield (scrimmage) ..	Home	3:45
19	Wed. Roselle Catholic (scrimmage) ..	Home	3:45
20	Thurs. South River (scrimmage)	Home	3:45
22	Sat. Hopatcong (scrimmage)	Home	11:00am
26	Wed. Union Catholic (scrimmage) ..	Home	3:45
27	Thurs. Somerville (scrimmage)	Away	3:45
29	Sat. Bridgewater (scrimmage)	Away	10:00am

APRIL			
1	Tues. Perth Amboy	Home	3:45
3	Thurs. Carteret	Home	3:45
5	Sat. Sayreville	Home	11:00am
8	Tues. J. F. Kennedy	Home	3:45
10	Thurs. North Brunswick	Away	3:45
12	Sat. Tournament	Away	2:00
14	Mon. Colonia	Home	3:45
16	Wed. Monroe Township	Home	3:45
18	Fri. Roselle Park	Away	4:00
19	Sat. Tournament		
19	Sat. Roselle Catholic (JV)	Home	1:00
22	Tues. Carteret	Away	11:00am
24	Thurs. Sayreville	Away	11:00am
26	Sat. North Plainfield	Home	11:00am
28	Mon. J. F. Kennedy	Away	3:45
30	Wed. North Brunswick	Home	3:45

MAY			
2	Fri. Colonia	Away	3:45
3	Sat. Dunellen	Home	11:00am
5	Mon. Monroe Township	Away	3:45
7	Wed. Perth Amboy	Away	3:45
8	Thurs. Spotswood	Away	3:45
13	Tues. Johnson Regional	Away	3:45
16	Fri. Somerville	Home	3:45
20	Tues. Piscataway	Home	3:45
23	Fri. Union Catholic	Home	3:45
GMC Tournament State Tournament			

BOYS TRACK

APRIL			
2	Wed. Monroe Township	Home	3:45
14	Mon. North Brunswick	Away	3:45
16	Wed. J. F. Kennedy	Home	3:45
23	Wed. Carteret	Home	3:45
28	Mon. Colonia	Home	3:45
30	Wed. Sayreville	Home	3:45
MAY			
6	Tues. GMC Relays	Away	
7	Wed. GMC Relays	Away	
14	Wed. Bishop Ahr	Away	3:45
17	Sat. GMC Meet	Away	
21	Wed. Perth Amboy	Home	3:45
23	Fri. Sectional Meet		
24	Sat. Sectional Meet		
30	Fri. Group Championships		
31	Sat. Group Championships		

JUNE			
4	Wed. State Championships		



BOYS TENNIS

APRIL			
1	Tues. Colonia	Away	3:45
2	Wed. Sayreville	Home	3:45
4	Fri. North Brunswick	Home	3:45
7	Mon. Bishop Ahr	Away	3:45
9	Wed. Perth Amboy	Home	3:45
14	Mon. J. F. Kennedy	Away	3:45
15	Tues. Carteret	Away	3:45
25	Fri. GMC Tournament @ Middlesex County College		9:00am
26	Sat. GMC Tournament@ Middlesex County College		9:00am
30	Wed. Colonia	Home	3:45
MAY			
2	Fri. Sayreville	Away	3:45
5	Mon. Carteret	Home	3:45
9	Fri. North Brunswick	Away	3:45
12	Mon. Bishop Ahr	Home	3:45
13	Tues. Monroe Township	Home	3:45
16	Fri. Perth Amboy	Away	3:45
19	Mon. Monroe Township	Away	3:45
23	Fri. J. F. Kennedy	Home	3:45
State Tournament			

GOLF

APRIL			
1	Tues. Sayreville @West-9		3:30
3	Thurs. Woodbridge @Colonia CC ...		3:30
4	Fri. Woodbridge @West-9		3:30
7	Mon. Old Bridge @Glenwood		3:30
8	Tues. Scotch Plains @Shackamaxon		3:30
9	Wed. Bishop Ahr @West-9		3:30
11	Fri. Colonia @West-9		3:30
15	Tues. Watchung Hills @West-9		3:30
16	Wed. Johnson Regional (Clark)@Hyatt Hills		3:30
17	Thurs. Perth Amboy @Raritan Landing		3:30
21	Mon. Sayreville @Tamarack		3:30
22	Tues. Westfield @Echo Lake		3:30
28	Mon. Jonathan Dayton (Springfield) @Baltusrol		3:30
29	Tues. Spotswood @West-9		3:30
30	Wed. East Brunswick @West-9		3:30
MAY			
1	Thurs. Bishop Ahr @Oak Ridge		3:30
2	Fri. North Brunswick @West-9		3:30
5	Mon. North Brunswick @Tamarack		3:30
6	Tues. Colonia @Colonia CC		3:30
7	Wed. Perth Amboy/Old Bridge @West-9		3:30
8	Thurs. South Brunswick @West-9 ...		3:30
12	Mon. Group III Sectionals		
14	Wed. Spotswood @Tamarack		3:30
15	Thurs. GMC Preliminaries		3:30
15	Thurs. Watchung Hills @Quailbrook.		3:30
19	Mon. Groups/Tournament of Champions		
20	Tues. GMC 1st Round		
22	Thurs. GMC Tournament		7:00am

GIRLS TRACK

APRIL			
2	Wed. Monroe Township	Away	3:45
14	Mon. North Brunswick	Home	3:45
16	Wed. J. F. Kennedy	Away	3:45
23	Wed. Carteret	Home	3:45
28	Mon. Colonia	Home	3:45
30	Wed. Mother Seton	Away	3:45
MAY			
6	Tues. GMC Relays	Away	
7	Wed. GMC Relays	Away	
14	Wed. Bishop Ahr	Home	3:45
17	Sat. GMC Meet	Away	
21	Wed. Perth Amboy	Away	3:45
23	Fri. Sectional Meet		
24	Sat. Sectional Meet		
30	Fri. Group Championships		
31	Sat. Group Championships		
JUNE			
4	Wed. State Championships		

VARSITY & JUNIOR VARSITY SOFTBALL

MARCH			
14	Fri. J. P. Stevens (scrimmage)	Away	3:45
15	Sat. Notre Dame (scrimmage)	Home	10:30am
17	Mon. Middlesex (scrimmage)	Home	3:45
19	Wed. Edison (scrimmage)	Home	3:45
20	Thurs. Immaculata (scrimmage)	Home	3:45
21	Fri. St. John Vianney (scrimmage) ..	Home	3:45
26	Wed. Hunterdon Central (scrimmage)	Away	4:00
27	Thurs. Immaculata (scrimmage)	Home	3:45
28	Fri. Bound Brook (scrimmage)	Away	3:45
29	Sat. Mt. St. Dominic (scrimmage) .	Home	11:00am
APRIL			
3	Thurs. Carteret	Away	3:45
4	Fri. North Plainfield	Away	4:15
5	Sat. Sayreville	Away	11:00am
8	Tues. J. F. Kennedy	Away	3:45
10	Thurs. North Brunswick	Home	3:45
12	Sat. Watchung Hills	Away	1:00
14	Mon. Colonia	Away	3:45
16	Wed. Monroe Township	Away	3:45
19	Sat. Piscataway	Home	11:00am
21	Mon. Bishop Ahr	Away	3:45
22	Tues. Carteret	Home	10:30am
24	Thurs. Sayreville	Home	11:00am
26	Sat. All-Jersey Classic	Home	10/12
28	Mon. J. F. Kennedy	Home	3:45
APRIL			
3	Wed. North Brunswick	Away	3:45
2	Fri. Colonia	Home	3:45
3	Sat. Woodbridge	Away	10:30am
5	Mon. Monroe Township	Home	3:45
7	Wed. Bishop Ahr	Home	3:45
8	Thurs. J. P. Stevens	Home	3:45
12	Mon. Old Bridge	Home	3:45
14	Wed. GMC Tournament		
16	Fri. Bridgewater	Home	3:45
17	Sat. GMC Tournament	Home	
21	Wed. GMC Tournament	Home	
24	Sat. GMC Tournament	Home	
26	Mon. GMC Tournament	Home	
State Tournament			

How You Can Be a Part of the South Plainfield Observer.

ENCOURAGE YOUR ORGANIZATION TO SEND US THEIR UPCOMING EVENTS. We want to add them to AROUND TOWN. It can make your event more successful. Send them to us by mail, fax or e-mail.

SEND US INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MILESTONES, i.e., promotions, births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, graduations. Include photos. Share your good news with the community!

IF THERE IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE in South Plainfield? Thank them by letting us know.

USE THE OBSERVER AS AN ADVERTISING TOOL. Introduce your business to the community. Promote your specials or sales. Residents would rather patronize local businesses than travel out of town. It is more convenient and it's good for the local economy.

SUGGEST A BUSINESS FOR US TO SPOTLIGHT. If you have had great service in South Plainfield, share it with your neighbors through the newspaper.

SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR to allow readers to discuss and react to issues.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS. If you have an event, take a photo, write a caption identifying the event and people and send it to us. The best photos record action and don't include so many people that it is impossible to identify anyone. Please don't send us photocopies or laser prints. They don't reproduce well.

HOW TO CONTACT US. By mail: 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; By phone: 908-668-0010; By fax: 908-668-8819; By email: ggnan@aol.

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SPHS Class of 1977 Gathers to Reminisce About 'Old Times'



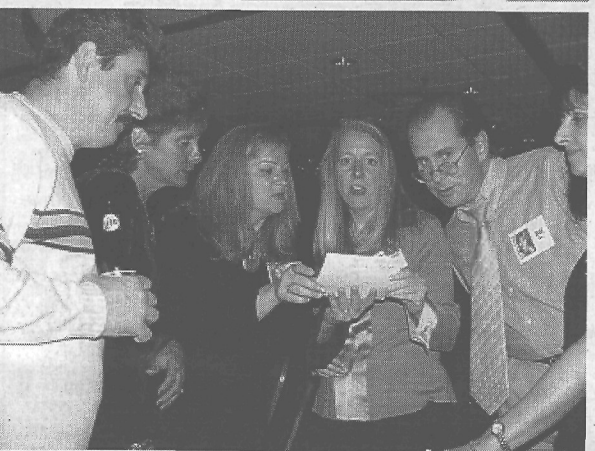
Angelo Pennisi, 1977 class president; Tony Barca, class advisor and Sal Severini, vice president. The yearbook photo (right) shows them in 1977.



This picture was taken from the SPHS Class of 1977 yearbook. Pictured are 1977 Class President Angelo Pennisi, Vice President Sal Severini, Secretary Kathy Fimiani, Treasurer Janet Partika and teachers Ms. Zajkowski and Mr. Barca.



Sal Severini (left) and Maureen Readie Veinott, both of South Plainfield and Ron Kacsma of Eatontown.



Patty Dozier Palma of Middlesex and Terry Hedden Christ of South Plainfield

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

The year was 1977. Aliens, Luke Skywalker and John Travolta ruled the silver screen, and disco was still going strong. "The force" was with South Plainfield High School Class of 1977 as school Principal Harry Lobby officially pronounced them graduates. Their journey began during the mass exodus off the football field. After four long years, old friends had just two short months to squeeze in more memories. On the horizon were weddings, jobs, colleges and careers.

It was the beginning of life's adventures, whether they married the boy or girl next door and settled in their hometown, or took off beyond the borders of South Plainfield. On

Feb. 22 the ongoing journey brought almost one hundred graduates back together for their 26-year reunion. The event was held at the Holiday Inn on Stelton Rd.

Class President Angelo Pennisi of Edison, Vice President Sal Severini of South Plainfield and advisor and History Teacher Tony Barca were in attendance. The reunion was organized by Maureen Readie Veinott of South Plainfield and Sal Severini. Ron Kacsma of Eatontown assisted by creating a reunion website. Francine Martinkovic-Hill did the graphic work, making name tags with photos. Missing were class secretary Kathy Fimiani, treasurer Janet Partika and class advisor Ann Zajkowski. Councilman Charlie Butrico was among those attending the reunion.

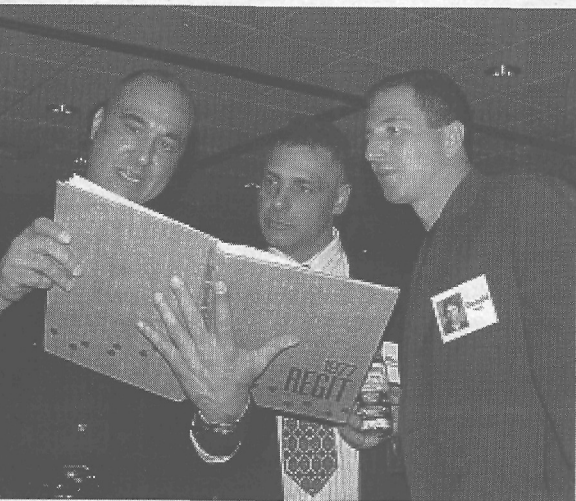


Councilman Charles Butrico

Alumnae came from all over the country including Texas, Connecticut, Florida, North Carolina, California and Washington, just to name a few. The name tags bearing once familiar faces helped identify old friends. Gasps were followed by surprised smiles as old friends reunited. Well-worn yearbooks and old photos were mingled with family snapshots. Cameras flashed throughout the evening and old acquaintances were renewed. While many had lost contact with classmates after graduation, others celebrated long friendships, such as Lisa Zabel O'Brien and Karen Krajewski, best friends who met when they were just 12 years old.

The reunion officially ended at 11 p.m. but the partying was still going strong. The festivities were moved to Sal's Spirit Shoppe where the revelry continued until 2 a.m. Several of the women who had attended without their spouses were not about to miss the opportunity to have a long girl's night gabfest and held a slumber party at the hotel.

Maureen Readie Veinott and Sal Severini were pleased with the success of the reunion and are considering an annual event for those that live in the area as a possibility for the future.



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BRANCH MANAGER

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SPHS Announces Second Marking Period Honor Roll

Grade 12

Christopher Addvensky, Joseph Adorna, Alain Amazan, Christopher Baron, Heather Barrett, Jason Basile, Quen Bowe, Eric Brandes, Milton Bravo, Michael Butrico, Jenny Cai, Jody Chepulis, Michael Chrysanthopoulos, Meredith Cooper, Gary Curcio, James Curcio, Ariel Curtis, Kristina Cwikalo, Kristina DeLillo, Nadia Deba, Christina Dematos, Jenna Desimone, Brian Destefano, Denise DiMeglio, Martin Diamant, Andrea Doell, Shante Edelen, Abbalonia Falato, Cathleen Fodor and Kristen Fredericks.

Christina Frick, Christina Furka, Jennifer GaNun, Janara Garcia, Hollie Gaster, Amanda George, Jamie Glowacki, Dale Goberdhan, Steven Gopal, Shelly Graziano, Nicholas Green, Francisco Guevara, Kelly Hart, Thomas Haus, James Hearne, Amanda Hermann, Nadisha Hosein, Alexander Huynh, Kim Huynh, David Jacobs, Tiffany Johnson, Lauren Kaczka, Meredith Kalman, Michael Kasmer, Michelle Kravetsky, Keli-Andrea Lee, Nicole Little, Nathalie Londono, Ashley Madalone and Sejal Mehta.

Daniel Melick, Meghan Mercurio, David Micabalo, Alexis Montanaro, Jamie Morris, Harry Mowrey, Richard Muglia, Sherin Navasca, Kristen Nietzer, Daniel Occhipinti, Ellery Pagala, Terry Paschall, Chirag Patel, Dipika Patel, Henry Patel, Kamlesh Patel, Rupel Patel, Jonathan Pereira, Jennifer Perez.

Gabriela Pineda, Jennifer Piwowar, Kristin Pozarycki, Cynthia Prybella, Megan Pulomena, Priscilla Quevedo, John Rayho, Eva Rodriguez, Cynthia Ross, Elaine Russell, Rachel Shah, Wei Lin Shang, Jennifer Silhanek, Danielle Skoba, Lance Smith, Frank Stahlin, Allison Stolf, Stephanie Swierc, Justin Toth, Janine Turrise, Ryan Vroom, Craig Warren, Matthew Wells, Michael Wiczorek, Jeffrey Williams, Nicole Woo and Victoria Zappi.

Grade 11

Elaine Alexander, David Allara, Jamaal Allen, Arti Amin, Almasa Amini, David Amini, Jacqueline Arango, Danielle Aronowitz, Robert Barone, Karolina Blazejowicz, Victoria Boley, Shannon Boyles, Jonathan Buggy, Kaitlin Bundy, Kristie Butrico, Tarryn Carlton, Michael Carmon, Jeanine Christopher, Jason Cosma, Christopher Czapinski, Britanny DeNizio, Jason DeSantis, Ryan Decker, Siobhan Delaney, Kevin Demarest, Elvis Diaz, Christopher Dickerson, Frank Dietzold, Shannon Dillon and Brian Edwards.

Chelsea Falato, Nicholas Figler, Catherine Flannery, Martina Ganiaris, Gregory Garbowski, Miguel Garcia, Sarah Green, Robert Hoffman, Christopher Horn, Tara Israel, Katherine Kaczka, Wajdi Kanj, Kyle Kazimir, Wendy Kollarik, Daniel Lammi, Kristina Latonio, Daniel Laverne, Brittany Lee, Pauline Lee, Heather Loenser, Jordan Lynch, Charlyn Magat, Amy Magner, Michael Maher, Darleen Marin, Jennifer Martinez, Ashley Mazellan, David Miglis, Danielle Nobile, John Okuski, Ankit Patel and Anuj Patel.

Julie Patel, Ravi Patel, Natalie Picciottoli, Gregory Publik, Yorka Ralwins, Amanda Rastelli, Ashley Ritchey, Jessica Rodger, Josef Rodriguez,

Michael Salerno, Shari-Liane Sangster, Matthew Santone, Andre Scott, Daniel Sierzega, Susan Smela, Lauren Smithline, Carly Stoeckel, Rachel Tambone, Adam Tamzoke, Alexander Tierney, Charles Tinana, Chiara Tomei, Adam Toth, Stephen Turrise, Gerber Vasquez, Jeremy Vesper, Meagan Wilson, Mina Youssef, Christann Zushma and Robin Zushma.

Grade 10

Shakellah Amini, Peter Aquino, Felicia Bacchus, Christopher Bakazan, Michael Benak, Dawn Besser, Shakera Beverley, Christopher Bojarski, Matthew Boley, Jennifer Braco, Justin Buendia, Gerry Butrico, Nina Byard, Pasquale Cantarella, Trisha Capparelli, Kristina Carigma, Fabian Casteblanco, Timothy Cheng, Mallory Christ, Lauren Ciandella, Janine Clemente, Kristin Coffey, Paul Corrado, Rachel Cupido, Nicholas Curcio, Peter DeAndrea, Louana Delossantos, Aimee Demegillo and John Louine Demegillo.

Christina DeFrancesco, Allison DiMeglio, Stacey Diana, Kaitlynn Disch, Jonathan Donahue, Michael Downes, Michael Duquette, Jeffrey Eng, Caitlin English, Karen Estonac-too, Shawn Ferguson, Melanie Foscolo, Kimberly Gaub, Allia Ghanim, Carolina Gomez, Kendall Green, Sara Grillo, Jeffrey Grubesch, Emily Harkins, Lauren Haus, Joseph Helgesen, Phu Huynh, Jamie Jakubik, Latoya Johnson, Colleen Kamen, Peter Kelly, Craig Kulick, Kevin Lahey, Linda Lee, Johnathan Lopez and Kurtis Maglaque.

Aimee Maiorino, Alyssa Maiorino, Krista Malecki, Jessica Manning, Christina Martin, Allan Mazurak, Kayleigh McGovern, Christopher McKnight, William Merkle, Jayne Merlo, Stefanie Miller, James Milliron, William Moates, Rosanna Mootoo, Kathleen Morgan, Katie Mott, Brian Murtagh, Huan Nguyen, Jesse Nietzer, William Padula, Valerie Pasquarella, Deep Patel, Dhruvi Patel and Krutarth Pathak.

Daniel Piwowar, Lisa Primavera, Amanda Prybella, Patrick Pryor, Dwight Quichua, Justin Reid, Eric Rhode, Ana Santiago, Jessica Senz, Jaret Shelton, Justin Shelton, Erin Sikanowicz, Trevor Smith, Melissa Sticco, Sara Sukenik, Darshan Suthar, Joseph Teller, Kelly Thomas, Melissa Tinana, Kari Trembley, Jennifer Vasquez, Coral Willis, Philip Zazzara and Brian Zielinski.

Grade 9

Hameda Ahmed, Nicole Aiello, Brandon Alpert, Gaelle Amazan, Alyssa Babinetz, Jamar Beverley, Ashley Bodner, Ashley Britton, Andrew Brown, Terrence Brown, Eileen Cameron, Jenny Cheng, Dana Chepulis, Shaunique Cisson, James Conroy, Jeffrey Cupo, Kristen Dabrio, Kazuki Daimo, William Daly, Joseph DeNizio, Amanda Deba, Samantha Deffler, Cesar Delarosa, Keith Dezmin, Patrick Driscoll, Sandia Dundie, Breanne Fore, Gabrielle Franco, Brittany Frazer, Dunia Galarza, Zachary Gray, Kristen Gualano and David Hackett.

Julianne Hudak, Jaikaron, Beverly Jamieson, Ramit Kalia, Guiliana Kay, Kathryn Koury, Cassandra Krajcik, Nikit Kumar, Binh Lam, Jonathon Lazar, Kristi Lombardi, Bryan Milicia, Samuel Mootoo, Alexander Nau, Tony Nguyen, Joshua O'Neal, Kelly Orlandini, Heather Palitto, Bhavesh Patel, Dipal Patel, Harshel Patel, Satyam Patel, Kaitlyn Pollock,

Alishah Rahemtulla, Eric Reiner, Andrew Roibal, Anthony Romano, Diane Romano, Angelique Rualo, Nicole Sacci, Courtney Sacco, Lauren Santillo and Denise Scavone.

Michael Schuetz, Brian Schulte, Jessica Schwartz, Gina Severini, Kevin Siedenburgh, Ryan Smith, Laurie Sobel, Melissa Szeliga, Allante Talbert, Natalia Tamzoke, Lee Tetreault, Heather Thompson, Huang Tran, Stephanie Troia, Amanda Veinott, Jesse Ventura, Rebecca Watts, Christopher Weakley, Krystal Williams, Megan Wilson, Keith Winsmann, Nadine Yon, Carla Zappi and Matthew Zebrowski.

Free Child Booster Seats Available

The South Plainfield Police Traffic Safety Unit has a limited number of free booster seats available to residents with children ages four through eight.

For further information, contact Police Officer Vincent Campagna at (908) 226-7693.



Pictured (left to right) with some of the food donations are Joyce Field (Honeywell); Donald Nichols, Jr. (Salvation Army); Yifu Zhang (Honeywell); and Alex Galarza (Honeywell).

Local Companies Support United Way

Honeywell International and Strachan Shipping Agency in South Plainfield recently supported United Way of Greater Union County's fight against hunger in our community by organizing employee food drives to support our neighbors in crisis. Employees filled dozens of United Way "Cartons of Caring" with non-perishable foods for the Salvation Army/Plainfield Area Corps.

"Many of our neighbors are facing daily struggles that they have never experienced as a result of the slumping economy and a rise in unemployment," said Elisse Glennon, Chief

Executive Officer of United Way of Greater Union County. "Honeywell International and Strachan Shipping Agency have shown a strong desire to lend a helping hand to our neighbors in crisis. Their efforts serve as a shining example of what it means to care for our community."

Residents are encouraged to support United Way of Greater Union County's South Plainfield Community Fund to benefit local programs serving our community. For more information or to support United Way, please call (908) 353-7171 or visit www.uwguc.org.

Luna di Luna
Cabernet/Merlot
A very light wine with a crisp and smooth finish in the palate. One might note the subtle hints of melon and berries. A light red with hints of raspberry and plum. A great accompaniment with beef or tuna.

Columbia Crest
Grand Estates Merlot
The Grand Estates Merlot has concentrated aromas of ripe raspberry, blueberry and coconut with intense berry, mocha and vanilla bean flavors. Pairs well with rack of lamb and spaghetti and meatballs.

J Lohr Los Osos
Merlot
This Merlot is deep, vibrant plum red in color with complex syrupy red fruit aromas of raspberry, red currant, blackberry and violet with a bouquet of vanilla, roasted almond and smoky oak toast. Great with Poultry Dishes.

Sterling
Merlot
Deep purple red ruby in color. Concentrated notes of grape jam, black olives, anise, and toasty maple brown sugar oak. Firm, yet soft, round tannins linger through a powerfully long finish.

Arbor Valley
Chardonnay, Merlot, White Zinfandel
\$4.99 1.5 Liter

Bolla
Soave, Bardolino & Valpolicella
\$9.99 1.5 Liter

Louis Jadot
Macon Villages
\$7.99 750 ML

Cavit
Pinot Grigio
\$9.99 1.5 Liter

Veuve Clicquot
Brut N/V Yellow Label
\$30.99 750 ML

Walnut Crest
Chardonnay, Merlot
\$7.99 1.5 Liter

Columbia Crest
Grand Estates Cabernet, Chardonnay
\$8.99 750 ML

Rosemount
Shiraz
\$9.99 750 ML

Here's to a Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Cline Zinfandel
Carlo Rossi Paisano, Rose, Rhine, Blush, W. Zin
\$7.99 1.5 Liter

Franzia
Burgundy, Rhine, Chablis, Chianti
\$8.99 1.5 Liter

Peter Vella
Cab, Chard, Merlot, Wh. Zin
\$10.99 1.5 Liter

Piper Heidsieck
Brut Cuvee or Extra Dry
\$22.99 750 ML

Sutter Home
Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot
\$8.99 1.5 Liter

Vendange
Chardonnay, Cabernet, Merlot
\$6.99 1.5 Liter

Robert Mondavi
Woodbridge
\$11.99 1.5 Liter

Smirnoff Ice Triple Black
12 oz NR Btl
\$21.99 Case

Bud or Bud Light
12 oz cans cube
\$13.99 24 Pak

Miller High Life & High Life Light
12 oz cans
\$10.99 30 Pak

Yuengling Traditional Lager or Black & Tan
12 oz NR Btl
\$14.99 Case

Natural, Light & Ice
12 oz cans
\$8.99 Case

Stock
Sweet or Dry
\$6.99 1.5 Liter

Dekuyper
Peachtree Schnapps
\$7.99 750 ML

Beefeater
Gin
\$26.99 1.75 Liter

Zelko
Vodka
\$9.99 1.75 Liter

Bushmills
Irish Whisky 80
\$18.99 750 ML

Club 400
Blended Whisky
\$11.99 1.75 Liter

Canadian Peak
Parrot Bay Rum
\$12.99 1.75 Liter

Captain Morgan
Parrot Bay Rum
\$12.99 1.75 Liter

Seagram Extra Dry
Gin
\$14.99 1.75 Liter

The Glenlivet
12 Yr Old Scotch
\$26.99 750 ML

Chivas Regal
750 ML
\$25.99

Christian Brothers
Brandy
\$16.99 1.75 Liter

Cian MacGregor
Scotch
\$15.99 1.75 Liter

Bacardi
Light & Gold Rum
\$17.99 1.75 Liter

Wolfschmidt
Vodka
\$13.99 1.75 Liter

Licor 43
Cuarenta Y Tres
\$16.99 750 ML

Old Crown
Whisky
\$14.99 1.75 Liter

Seagram VO
Canadian
\$19.99 1.75 Liter

Johnnie Walker
Red Label Scotch
\$31.99 1.75 Liter

Absolut
Vodka
\$28.99 1.75 Liter

Wild Turkey 80
\$26.99 1.75 Liter

Remy Martin
VSOP Cognac
\$29.99 750 ML

Sierra Nevada
Pale Ale 12 oz NR Btl
\$11.99 12 Pak

Becks, Beck's
Dark, Beck's Light 12 oz NR Btl
\$20.99 Case

Foster's Lager
12 oz NR Btl
\$18.99 Case

Pilsner Urquell
12 oz NR Btl
\$11.99 12 Pak

Harp Lager
12 oz NR Btl
\$19.99 Case

Bass Ale
12 oz NR Btl
\$19.99 Case

Guinness
14.1 oz Pub Thru Case
\$5.99 4 Pak

Killian's
Irish Red 12 oz NR Btl
\$8.99 12 Pak

Ballantine Ale
12 oz NR Btl or cans
\$12.99 Case

Heineken
12 oz cans
\$10.99 Case

O'Doul's
(Non-Alcoholic Lager or Amber) 12 oz NR Btl or cans
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Sports

WRESTLING

By Bob Hunter

High School Tigers Send Five to Atlantic City

The South Plainfield High School will be represented by five Tiger wrestlers at the upcoming NJSIAA state wrestling tournament which will be back at the Atlantic City Convention Center on the boardwalk. Preliminaries start on Friday night and will continue through Sunday to the finals. After qualifying in the Region 3 tournament the Tiger wrestlers look set to make a good run at placing in the top eight.

Freshman Jimmy Conroy 103 (29-2), wrestling in his first state tournament, finished in second place at Region 3. In the quarterfinals Conroy scored a tech-fall over Tom Eidel of Seton Hall Prep 16-0 (4:33) to advance to the semi-finals where he went on to win by major decision 9-0 over Greg Schvey of Millburn. Conroy the seventh seed overall had to face number one seed Mike Grey of Delbarton. Grey came out strong and caught Conroy for the pin at 0:57.

Junior Guy Severini 152 (27-3), also wrestling in his first state tournament, finished in second place at Region 3. In the quarterfinals Severini pinned Roberto Cerbone of Colonia at 2:52. In the semi-final round Severini had to face number one seed Steve Fordyce of Seton Hall Prep and went on to win a 5-3 decision to reach

the finals. The upset of Fordyce was the match of the day. In the final, Severini was down by three when he got the takedown to bring the score 10-9 as time ran out for second place.

Senior Glenn Gross 160 (26-4) will make his first trip to AC after a second place finish at the Region 3 tournament. Gross, a four year starter for South Plainfield and three time district champion, won his quarterfinal match by scoring a major decision over Ryan Aldrich of Watchung 19-7. In the semifinal round Gross had a tough time with Jon Latona of Boonton but went on to win a 10-9 decision to reach the finals. In the finals Gross faced number one seed Mike Whalen of Parsippany. Gross who kept the score close at 1-0 got caught with a headlock and pinned at 2:57 for second place.

Senior Steve Johnston 171 (27-3) will also make his first trip to Atlantic City after qualifying at Region 3 with a second place finish. Johnston, one of the leaders of this team, had a quarterfinal decision win over Sean Bodner of Columbia 5-3. In the semifinals Johnston faced number three seed Bill Colgan of Delbarton and won a 4-3 decision to reach the finals. Johnston then faced Andrew Silber of Scotch Plains and lost by decision 6-3.

Tiger Wrestlers Qualify For Kids State Tournament

Seven more South Plainfield wrestlers qualified for the upcoming USA New Jersey Kids State Wrestling Tournament, which starts on Saturday March 22 and 23 for the Bantam and Midgets on March 30 and 31.

Qualifying at the Edison Qualifier in the Bantam Division were Anthony Ashnault (50), with a first place finish. Scott Whalen (55) finished in third place. In the Midget division, Tyler

Hunt (60), who had a great tournament, finished in second place. In the Junior Division, Justin Smith (85) finished in second place. In the Intermediate Division, Umit Cayli (120) also had a good day, finishing in second place. In the Freshman Intermediate division, Billy Daly (140) finished in second place, while teammate Kevin Crilley (189) qualified with a first place finish. Good luck.

South Plainfield Soccer Club Looking for More Players

The U12 Girls team, The Strikers, are looking for a few more players for the spring season.

To be eligible for the U12 Strikers, your birth date must fall between Aug. 1, 1990 and July 31, 1991.

This is a traveling team so games will be played both home and away.

If interested, please contact Ele Soisson, coach, at (908) 757-2924 or Pete Kelly, president SPSC, at (908) 226-1999.

By Kevin Lykes

juniorbaseballclubnotes



Last week saw the first of our scheduled major work details come and go. Unfortunately, the amount of snow still on the fields prevented us from doing much outside. Indoors we were able to change or repair all the lights in the building and start cleaning up the snack stand. More importantly the fields were plowed, and with the favorable weather over the weekend by Sunday evening they were basically bare and ready to

be worked on this weekend.

This Saturday we hope to get all the wind screens up, powerwash the building in preparation for painting, put out the sponsor signs, start work on the fields themselves and do some repair work on the field lights. We need as many volunteers as we can get to accomplish all this in the short amount of time we have remaining before opening day. Any and all parents, coaches or even Pony aged players would be a welcomed addition to the cause, even if only for an hour or two. If you are a Pony aged player in need of performing community service towards confirmation or whatnot the time you spend here can be applied towards these obligations, and we will be happy to sign a verification form for you.

Once again, just a reminder, scholarship applications have been supplied to all three local high schools, (SPHS, St. Joseph's, and Bishop Ahr), see your guidance departments for more details.

This season will be the club's 50th, and our opening day program will be dedicated to families who have had three generations involved here at the club. We know about most of these families that are presently involved, but there are some others out there that are beyond our memories. If anyone has information about one of these families please call the clubhouse and leave a short message for me, and I'll be happy to contact you for the details.

You will be hearing more about opening day and our 50th season in the weeks ahead. That's all for now, let's hope the weather begins to break and we can get everything ready for April 5.

Junior Baseball Club Taking Scholarship Applications

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club is now accepting applications for their college scholarship. Applications may be picked up at the guidance department of South Plainfield High School or contact South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club at (908) 754-2090.

The applicant must be a graduating high school student this June, must be a South Plainfield resident and must have participated in the South

Plainfield Junior Baseball Club for a minimum of five years. Please note that the filing deadline is Apr. 1.

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Designed by Wayne Plaghoft

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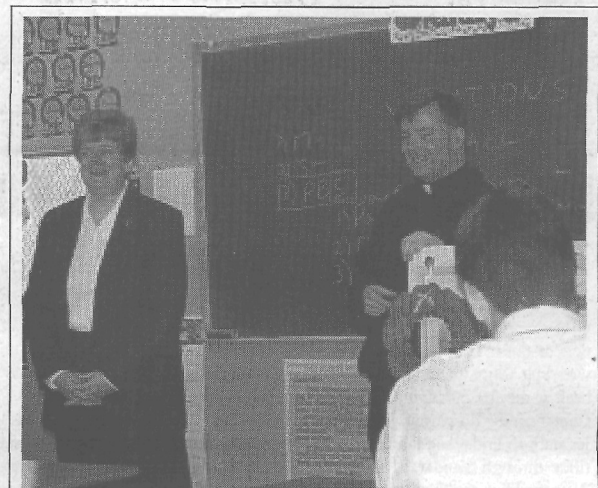
Union Catholic Planning 40th Anniversary

The 40th Anniversary has generated much enthusiasm and excitement for Union Catholic. The year-long celebration has been underway! The festivities began in September with each class having a juice and doughnut celebration during their orientation. The Student Council placed a banner and giant birthday cake in front of the school as a public acknowledgment of this as a celebration year. In October, over one hundred guests attended the formal dedication of the Our Lady of Grace Statue and Memorial Walkway. In November, the "Hollywood Night Gala" provided guests with an elegant evening of entertainment, music, hors d'oeuvres, dessert and a silent auction. Sister Percylee Hart, RSM, Principal of Union Catholic celebrated her

Golden Jubilee in December. Sister's fifty years as a Sister of Mercy has been an inspiration to our students and all of the UC community. As the year progresses, a variety of events and special activities are being planned. Allan Wright, a religion teacher at UC, published a book this November entitled, *Silent Witness to the Gospels*, and had a special book signing at the school. Students and UC families had the opportunity to have their copies of the book personally signed by Wright. For the past two years, a special committee of alums have been hard at work planning a special 40th Anniversary Alumni Weekend for May 2, 3, and 4. This weekend of events will provide an opportunity for UC alums

to return to the school and renew old friendships, see former and current faculty and show their children and family their high school. There will be an Open House on Friday evening with a special Archives Display, a Family Fun Day on Saturday with games, food and activities for children, a Saturday Evening Gala (at the Pines Manor in Edison) and a Mass on Sunday celebrated by UC Alumni who are ordained priests, followed by a Brunch. Union Catholic is very proud of its accomplishments and its presence in the community over the past four decades. We look forward to the opportunity to continue to provide an outstanding academic program, infused with the latest technology within the framework of a faith-based program for the next forty years!

Alumni wishing additional information should check the school's website at www.unioncatholic.org or awischusen@unioncatholic.org, or call the school office at (908) 889-1600.



Sister Patricia Donlin, RSN, a Sister of Mercy from Mount St. Mary in Watchung and Father Bob Gorman from Holy Spirit Church in Perth Amboy, recent visitors to Sacred Heart School eighth graders, explained the story of how they each found their vocation. They revealed that a religious vocation was not a choice that either of them had considered during their younger years, but fate and God had led them to their true vocations in life. Sister Pat and Father Bob visit schools in the area to spread the word on vocations.

Obituaries

Ruth L. Caruso 77

Ruth L. Caruso died on Monday, March 10, at Meridian Nursing & Rehab. Center in Brick, NJ. She was born in the New Market section of Piscataway, where she grew up and had lived in South Plainfield for 25 years before moving to Howell Twp. 18 months ago. She had been a homemaker, however, during the 1940's and 1950's, Ruth had been a beautician in the Dunellen and Plainfield areas. Her husband, John Caruso, died in 1998 and her daughter, Diane Caruso, died in 2001. Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, James D. and Margaret Caruso of Howell Twp.; four sisters, Mildred Passariello of Bridgewater, Amelia VanAllen of Piscataway, Grace Maiorano of Edison and Marianne Giordano of Martinsville; her three grandchildren, Megan Formolo, Sarah Graeme and Abigail Melia and her great grandson Jacob Daniel Formolo. Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

worked for eight years at the Dutch Girl Dry Cleaners in South Plainfield. Prior to that she had worked in the mail room for Dunn & Bradstreet in Murray Hill for five years and she had been with Pauls Dry Cleaners in North Plainfield for 15 years. Helen enjoyed sewing and drawing and had been an especially talented singer and dancer. She had survived most of her 10 brothers and sisters. Surviving are her daughter and son-in-law, Bonnie and Hank Ertle of South Plainfield; two sons, Jeff Loeffler and Mark Loeffler and his wife Karen, both from Warren and four grandchildren, Brianna and Lexi Loeffler and Jonathon and Matthew Ertle. Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals. Memorial donations may be made to the Beth Israel Medical Center, Foundation in Newark.

Ruth Marie Force, 86

Ruth Marie Force died on Sunday, March 9 in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield. Born in Westfield, she resided in North Plainfield, Garwood and Plainfield before moving to South Plainfield in 1983. Mrs. Force was very devoted to her church, Hydewood Park Baptist Church in North Plainfield. She was a member of the church for over 50 years and participated in all church functions. She was a fervent prayer warrior for her family, friends and everyone. She will be dearly missed by all. Her husband, Frank D. Force, Jr., died in 1990. Surviving are her daughter, Barbara Levinson of South Plainfield; her son and daughter-in-law, Gary K. and Valerie S. Force of Woodbridge and a brother, Charles Froehlich of Garwood. Ruth had a special relationship with her nine grandchildren, especially Laura Beth and Matthew, whom she helped raise from their childhood. She is also survived by four great grandchildren. Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Genevive "Helen" Maloney, 70

Genevive "Helen" Maloney died on Sunday, March 9 at the Beth Israel Medical Center in Newark. Born and raised in Taunton, Mass., she had resided in Oceanside, Calif. for 14 years before moving to this area in 1966, settling in Scotch Plains. She then lived in South Plainfield before moving to North Plainfield, where she has lived for the past 30 years. Before retiring last year, she had

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BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY ORDINANCE NO. 1579A

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:
Ord. 1579A entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #1579 APPROPRIATING AN ADDITIONAL \$50,000 FROM THE SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL FUND SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEW AND STUDY OF THE BOROUGH'S SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM, USERS BILLING AND COLLECTIONS be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, March 14, 2003 and that a public hearing be held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 10, 2003 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1579A
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #1579 APPROPRIATING AN ADDITIONAL \$50,000 FROM THE SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEW AND STUDY OF THE BOROUGH'S SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM, USERS BILLING AND COLLECTIONS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY as follows:

- Section 1. The purpose hereby authorized is to review all commercial and industrial sewer rates being charged by the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey.
- Section 2. That the improvement described in Section 1 hereof shall be authorized as Sewer Utility Capital Improvement for the Borough of South Plainfield in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey.
- Section 3. It is hereby determined and declared by this Mayor and Borough Council as follows:
- A. That the maximum estimated amount of money to be raised from all sources for the purpose stated in Section 1, hereof, is \$50,000.00.
 - B. That the cost of said project shall be financed by funds from the Capital Improvement Fund in the Sewer Utility Capital Fund, which said sum is available for said purpose.

Section 4. That no bonds or notes are to be issued or indebtedness incurred for this purpose.

Section 5. This law shall take effect after final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

DANIEL J. GALLAGHER, Mayor

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk

\$66.50 March 14, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Leon Shatkin requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the add-level addition, 26.51' x 42.43', 2' cantilever on each side. Proposed addition lacks the required 30' front setback, 15.48' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 108 Day Street, Block 382, Lot 12.01 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 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 March 14, 2003

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LEGAL NOTICES

NJ DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Natural and Historic Resources, Engineering and Construction Flood Control Section Notice of Rule Proposal Flood Plain Redelineation of Bound Brook N.J.A.C. 7:13-7.1 Public Notice

Take notice that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 7:13-7.1, Delineated Floodways, in order to revise the current flood hazard area map and water surface profiles for a 3,350-foot reach of Bound Brook, from a point just west of Hamilton Boulevard to Belmont Avenue, within the Borough of South Plainfield, Middlesex County N.J.A.C. 7:13-7.1 delineates floodways and flood plain areas associated with New Jersey streams and rivers. These delineations are used in the implementation of the Flood Hazard Area Control Act (FHACA), N.J.S.A.58:16A-50 et seq.

The current flood hazard area map and profiles were adopted by the Water Policy and Supply Council on May 21, 1979. The proposed amendments would delineate a slightly wider floodway at the Hamilton Boulevard pedestrian bridge crossing and a narrower floodway for the remaining portion of the revised reach. The flood levels shown in the profiles for the portion of the affected reach from the first railroad crossing upstream of the Hamilton Boulevard bridge, upstream to Belmont Avenue are proposed to be lowered; the height of both the 100-year flood profile and the New Jersey Flood Hazard Area flood profile would range between six to 12 inches lower in this portion of the affected reach. The proposed amendments would also update the flood hazard area boundaries on the map, for those portions of the reach for which detailed survey information is available (e.g. for the Clayton Concrete property, Block 255 and Lot 8.01).

The Department is undertaking this rulemaking in response to a request, made by Marinoware, Inc. (Marinoware). Marinoware is interested in developing the Clayton Concrete parcel, which is adjacent to its own facility. Portions of the Clayton Concrete property lie in the floodway as currently promulgated, and the proposed development of that portion of the site would be prohibited pursuant to the Flood Hazard Area Control Act. Marinoware's consultants presented their own hydraulic computer modeling to demonstrate that the current floodway delineation map is based on inaccurate information. The results of their modeling demonstrated that it would be proper for the Department to relocate the floodway boundary along Metuchen Road, closer to Bound Brook. Metuchen Road runs along the section of the Clayton Concrete property boundary that is closest to Bound Brook. This relocation of the floodway boundary would result in the portion of the Clayton Concrete parcel, now classified as lying in the floodway, as being reclassified as lying in the flood fringe area. Under the Flood Hazard Area Control Act, regulated development can be allowed in a flood fringe, provided the property owners obtain a Stream Encroachment Permit from the Department's Land Use Regulation Program and any required local permits.

The Department review also confirmed that there had been input bridge coding errors in the original modeling on which the promulgated flood plain delineation map was based. These coding errors were corrected. Marinoware's consultant provided the Department revised modeling, which was accepted by the Department.

The Department has concluded that the floodway as shown on the currently promulgated map, and the associated water level profiles, are inaccurate due to the defects in the information used in the original hydraulic modeling. To correct the identified inaccuracies, the Department is therefore proposing herein to amend the flood plain delineation map. The amendment, if adopted, would remove the Clayton Concrete property as well as portions of several adjacent properties east of Metuchen Road from the floodway. The Department has verified that the proposed redelineations and lowered profiles meet the State's floodway delineation criteria and would make the map and profiles more accurate. The proposed redelineation is consistent with the purposes of the FHACA and the State's rules. The proposed flood plain delineation and flood profiles are specifically identified on the following plate:

State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water Resources
Delineation of Floodway and Flood Hazard Area
Bound Brook
Sta. 1488+00 to Sta. 1545+10
Borough of South Plainfield
June 1977 Plate No. 7

The proposal is scheduled to be published in the New Jersey Register dated on March 17, 2003. A copy of the proposal is available from: the DEP web site, John Scordato, NJDEP Flood Plain Management Section, P.O. Box 419, Trenton, NJ 08625 or (609) 292-2296; and Westlaw Publishing at 1-800-808-WEST. Be advised that there may be a fee for obtaining a copy of the proposal from some sources.

A public hearing, concerning the proposal to amend the State's delineation, is scheduled to be held on April 16, 2003, at 10:30 am at:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Engineering and Construction
Hudson Room, Second Floor
5 Station Plaza, 501 East State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Submit written comments by May 16, 2003, to:
Gary J. Brower, Esq.
Attn: DEP Docket Number 04-03-02/361
Office of Legal Affairs
Department of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 402, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0402

\$168.00 March 14, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Edwin Buehner requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the extension of existing rear second floor dormer; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 709 Jackson Ave., Block 404, Lot 29, Zone R-10 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 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 March 14, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Joseph Penyak requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a residential home to be built in industrial zone; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 320 Pulaski Street, Block 332, Lot 13 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 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 March 14, 2003

New Jersey 4-H Summer Camp

Registrations are being taken now at the Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp located in Sussex County. 4-H Camp is a sleep-away camp located on 100 acres with a beautiful camp lake. This 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. Youth who have completed grades 3-11 are invited to come spend a week in the summer with us. All sessions begin on Monday morning and end on the following Saturday

morning. Camp runs for six consecutive weeks from July 7 through August 16. Special County Preference weeks and bussing allow campers to come to camp with those from their local area. All youth are invited to attend. 4-H Camp offers challenging and exciting programs, tailored to the campers individual interests and guided by experienced staff at all times. Activities include: swimming, boating, arts & crafts, hiking, camping, nature and ecology, drama, riflery, archery and much, much more! For more information contact us at: (973) 948-3550, email: 4hcamp@rcc.rutgers.edu.

Free Poetry Contest Open to Residents

The International Library of Poetry has announced that \$58,000 in prizes will be awarded this year in the International Open Poetry Contest. Poets from the South Plainfield area, particularly beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of over 250 prizes. The deadline for the contest is June 30. The contest is open to everyone and entry is FREE.

To enter, send ONE original poem, any subject and any style to: The In-

ternational Library of Poetry, Suite 19916, 1 Poetry Plaza, Owings Mills, MD 21117. The poem should be 20 lines or less, and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked or sent via the Internet by June 30. You may also enter online at www.poetry.com.

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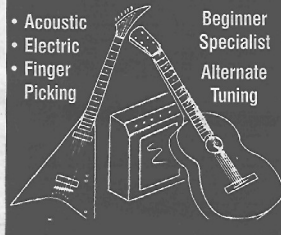
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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Time for more news from the South Plainfield Library:

The Library will be open normal hours on Monday, St. Patrick's Day. Feel free to come in and browse while waiting for an open spot at Flanagan's.

We'll stick with our usual schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. Those programs are for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. The programs are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. We also have this month's Kidcraft program scheduled for next Friday, March 21, at 4 p.m. This program is for children ages six and over, or children who are able to use scissors. The Library will provide all of the craft materials. Pre-registration is requested for this program. If you'd like more information, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

We've got another special program coming up. On Sunday, March 23, at 2 p.m., we'll be hosting the program "New Jersey in the American Revolution." Area author Arthur S. Lefkowitz will lead this audio/visual presentation focusing on the British invasion of New Jersey in late 1776, culminating in Gen. Washington's attack on Trenton on Dec. 25, 1776. The program is presented free of charge; all are welcome to attend. It's being presented by the South Plainfield Historical Society, and is made possible in part by the NJ Council on the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information, please call us or check the Historical Society's website at <http://community.nj.com/cc/sp/historicalsociety>.

The latest group from the CD Circuit is now available. Artists in this group include Louis Armstrong, Merle Haggard, the Monkees, Mannheim Steamroller, and Lena Horne. CDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two weeks. We've also added a new group of books from the Foreign Language Circuit. Currently, we're featuring books in Korean, Chinese, Hindi and Gujarati.

Our main display cabinet now features items of *Wizard of Oz* memorabilia, courtesy of Reference Librarian Allan Kleiman. This display will be in place until the end of the month.

Interested In Rome, Performing Arts & Volunteer Work?

For the summer of 2003, the Rome Festival Orchestra, Ltd., an American charity (fully recognized by the IRS), needs volunteers to help with the Rome Festival in Rome, Italy. The Rome Festival presents symphony concerts with chorus, chamber music concerts, and fully staged operas and classical ballets. Volunteers are needed from all performing arts area, including concert choral singers, back stage helpers, set designers, artists, plus many more. For general information visit our web page <http://www.geocities.com/romefestival>.

To inquire about specific positions email romefestival@yahoo.com (specify area of interest and career status or age) or telephone 1-800-811-3841 during morning hours specifying volunteer. Volunteers serve in Rome for two or more weeks. Their out-of-pocket expenses usually qualify as charitable contributions.

We made a disturbing discovery recently. It seems that some young people have been using other patrons' barcodes to log onto our Internet computers without those patrons being aware of it. Be aware that not only is this an underhanded thing to do, but it also constitutes identity theft, which is a crime. Since we assume that it isn't in your best interests to be arrested and prosecuted, we strongly urge you not to misappropriate bar codes. If we discover someone doing this, we will, at the very least, suspend their Library privileges. Further action will be taken, depending on the circumstances. And, always in situations like this, remember: **WE'RE NOT KIDDING.**

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

policereport

On March 7, 27-year-old Christopher Kustiwi of Piscataway was charged with several shoplifting incidents throughout the borough. The stores include Pathmark, Blockbuster Video and K-Mart. Kustiwi was already being held at the Middlesex County Adult Correctional Center in New

Brunswick on separate charges. Bail was set at \$25,000.

• On March 3 Hector Raymond Acevedo, 37, of Bound Brook was arrested for refusal to submit to a breathalyzer test, driving while intoxicated and having an unregistered and uninsured vehicle at a motor vehicle stop.

• On March 5 Rema Singh, 27, of South Plainfield was arrested for shoplifting \$191.99 worth of display items at Kohl's.

• A Maple Ave. resident reproted the theft of a CD player and Sony tape player from his unlocked vehicle.

• On March 7 Linda Namotka, 36, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Keystone Community employee reported the theft of her wallet from her purse which was inside an office.

• Newco Data on Hadley Rd. reported the theft of four comfort recliner chairs worth \$347.96 and an IBM Think Pad worth \$2,051 from a company van. The door lock had been pried out.

• On March 10 a resident at the senior housing on Morris Ave. reported that her front license plate had been removed from her car while parked in the lot.

Graces's Kitchen Asks for Support

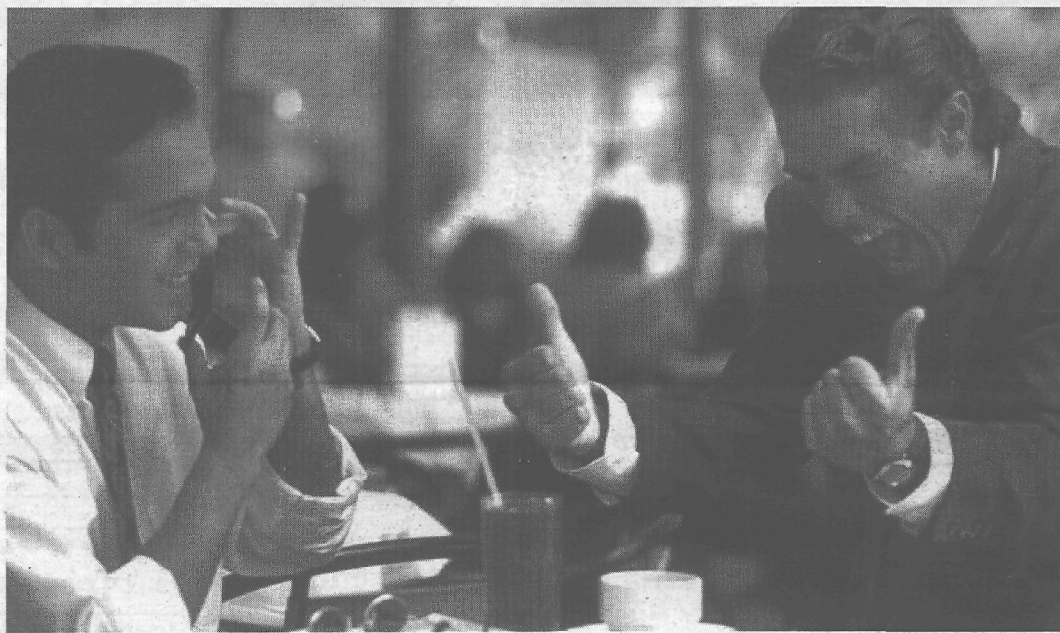
Rhode Island Philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein is offering \$1 million to non-profit anti-hunger agencies nationwide to help them raise funds during March and April. Each agency will get that portion of his \$1 million representing their proportion of the total raised and reported to him.

Grace's Kitchen, the feeding program of Plainfield Community Outreach, Inc., has been feeding hungry people in our community since 1994.

An average of 900 meals are served at Grace Episcopal Church in Plainfield during the last five days of each month (excluding Sunday).

The kitchen is staffed by volunteers from Grace Episcopal Church, St. Mark's Episcopal Church and Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield; Church of the Holy Cross in North Plainfield; St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Westfield; All Saints Episcopal Church in Scotch Plains; St. Francis Episcopal Church in Dunellen; and St. Bernard's Church and The Church of St. John on the Mountain in Bernardsville.

Grace's Kitchen, a tax exempt organization, makes an appeal for funds only once each year in conjunction with the Feinstein Challenge.



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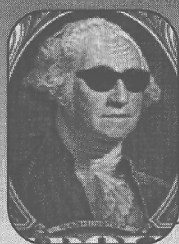
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