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South Plainfield Observer

MAR 28 2003

VOL. 6, NO. 30

50 CENTS

MARCH 28, 2003

Local Support for Troops Growing

No matter what view anyone has concerning the war in Iraq, one thing is becoming very clear—South Plainfield residents are showing support for our men and women in the armed services.

The *Observer* office has heard from many residents and groups in the area who want to show their support for those in the military, especially those from South Plainfield.

The Columbiettes have offered to send shoe box kits to the local troops. These kits will contain personal toiletries items donated by Johnson & Johnson, that are put into shoe boxes. The Columbiettes will take care of packing and shipping them to the servicemen and women.

Don and April Salerno, whose son Franky is now serving in the Navy somewhere in war zone, came home

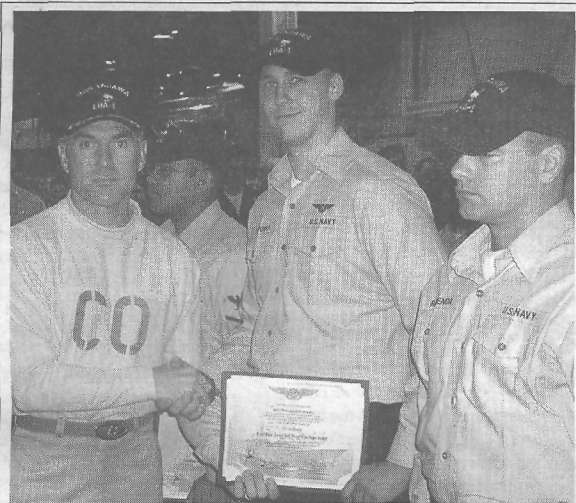
Tuesday evening to find that two high school students had placed a huge yellow ribbon around the tree outside of their home. They have also been receiving calls from several schools who want to send letters to Franky. They are truly touched by these kind acts and want everyone to know how much comfort this have brought them. They are also asking everyone to display their flags to show their support.

Georgeann DiGrazi, co-owner of Mohn's Flowers, called to say she is replacing her Easter window display with photos of local servicemen surrounded with flags and red, white and blue ribbons, and is asking family members to submit pictures of their loved ones for her window. Mohn's is located at 2325 Plainfield Ave. Georgeann also

Continued on page 7



Pictured (L-R) are Nicole Sutherland, Kelly Whitney and Jessica Manning during a ceremony held at the Senior Citizen Center. The South Plainfield Girl Scout Community proudly presented twenty-nine Junior and Cadette Girl Scouts with their Silver and Bronze awards. (See story on page 6.)



Randy Petronko, son of Councilman Ray Petronko, is stationed on the *Tarawa* somewhere off the coast of Iraq. Randy is an AOAN E2 (Aviation Ordnance Amphibious Navy Enlisted). He is responsible for the assembly of bombs and the defense of the ship by manning an antiaircraft cannon. Randy is pictured (above center) getting his air warfare wings.

Military Families to Form Support Group

A group of parents and relatives of local military servicemen is attempting to form a support group to help each other get through the difficulties they may be encountering during this stressful time.

With the war in Iraq on television 24-hours a day, many family members are glued to their televisions, watching the details with a fear we cannot even begin to understand. By forming a support group, they will be able to meet and talk with others who are in the same situation and have an opportunity to discuss their hopes and fears.

No dates or times have yet been set for meetings, but as soon as they are made public, we will pass them on to our readers.

If anyone in South Plainfield would like to join this support group, please call the *Observer* office at (908) 668-0010 and we will put you in touch with members of this group.

Borough Office Open Saturday

The Borough Clerk's office will be open this Saturday, Mar. 29 from 8 a.m. to noon for those would like to pick up 2003 compactor coupons and yard waste decals.

OEM Working with Schools On Crisis Management

The following has been excerpted from the borough's website: www.southplainfieldnj.com/oem.

Michael Zushma has again visited each school in the Borough to review the Crisis Management Plan with school administrators. These meetings are part of an on-going effort between school officials and Emergency Management personnel, who are working closely to prepare and plan for any crisis that could occur. These plans deal

with more than a possible terrorist attack. They include natural, man-made and structural emergencies which could occur at any school.

Last week, after a meeting between Mayor Dan Gallagher and Michael Zushma, Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Coordinator, it was decided that the OEM should have its own page on the Borough's website.

Lt. Michael Grenier was asked to *Continued on page 7*

School Board Passes Budget

The South Plainfield 2002/2003 school budget was formally adopted at a special meeting Tuesday night.

The voters will be asked to approve the 2002/2003 budget at the school board elections on Tuesday, April 15.

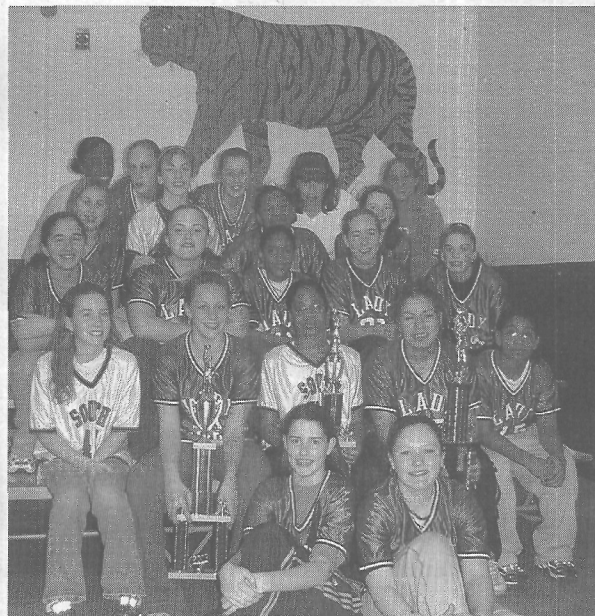
If the budget passes, the average taxpayer will be paying approximately \$104.78 additionally in school taxes.

See next week's *Observer* for more information on the budget and school board elections.

Middle School Girls Finish Season at Top

The South Plainfield Middle School Girl's Basketball Team recently concluded a very successful season. The team won the 11th annual Holiday Tournament, "South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness and the Father Sico 2003 Tournament," where Megan Boyle was named #1 MVP. The Lady Tigers took second place in the Dunellen "March of Dimes" tournament. Megan Boyle received a Scholarship Award and Samantha Horvath the MVP trophy.

Coach Maureen Barnett said proudly, "This year's team was an absolute joy to coach—tons of talent, a lot of spirit and they were a group that really enjoyed each other's company!"



Top row: Brittany Hollis, Samantha Horvath, Lauren Fry, Liz Blackford, Mrs. Barnett, Ms. Curcio. Second row: Kelly Downes, Stephanie Penny, Erica Bowden. Third row: Julie Garbowski, Donna Garcia, Bobbi Van Fleet, Elizabeth Flannery, Kristen Billich. Fourth row: Kim Arki, Megan Boyle, Dorian Bishop, Brandee Brown, Natasha Jaikaran. Bottom row: Amber Hartman and Ashley Sacks. Not pictured is Asia Hollis.

Photo by Patricia Abbott

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, April 7 Monday, April 14

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, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

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 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. 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.

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 the fourth Wednesday of the month 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 sposerver.com or ggan@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 sposerver.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

To the Editor,

On Saturday, March 8, the South Plainfield PTA sponsored an Auction/Raffle, which supported Project Graduation for the Class of 2003. This event was a culmination of months of work for a small, but dedicated committee. There were over 300 gifts won by the people who came out to support this event. The South Plainfield PTA would like to thank them all the local businesses and families who supported this event.

A special thanks to Home Depot, Flanagan's Restaurant, Butrico's Auto Body, Hometown Hero's, Buy Rite Liquors, Cindy Michaels, Park Travel, Park Cleaners, Plainfield Animal Hospital, The Woodlands-Genesis Elder Care, South Plainfield Middle School PTA teachers and staff, Grant Central Sixth Teachers, PTSO and staff, SPHS Student Council, SPHS faculty and staff, SPHS Music Boosters, South Plainfield Recreation Commission and Wrestling Club and the South Plainfield Girl Scout Community.

There were many of other local businesses in town that also donated. Unfortunately, we cannot list them all. These businesses gave so much to our students in town and we ask all of our residents to please frequent our local businesses.

We also give special thanks for the donations that were received from over 100 families or individuals that made this Auction/Raffle a HUGE success!! A note to all of our high school parents-join the South Plainfield PTA. Our PTA can use your support.

**ELLEN MELANSON AND
PAT ANDERSON,
AUCTION/RAFFLE CHAIRPERSONS**

To the Editor,

Recently Flanagan's sold hearts to their customers to raise money for the South Plainfield Rescue Squad. A total of \$150 was collected from the customers and Flanagan's matched that amount, bringing the total donation to \$300.

Special thanks to John Ziminski of Flanagan's and to all of his generous customers.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD RESCUE SQUAD

To the Editor,

I take this opportunity to share with you my beliefs in the role of school board members. We have an obligation to pursue, explore and exhaust all means to obtain our fair share of school aid to provide local taxpayers relief. Over a period of time working with our board I have suggested that we develop resolutions on certain issues and forward them to State and Federal legislatures requesting such

relief. This approach has produced some results: (a) working with then Speaker of the Assembly, Jack Collins, who sponsored legislation to make districts, such as ours, eligible for state aid for construction projects was passed. When you voted for the referendum, you noted that we will receive approximately 6.6 million dollars as a result; (b) legislation we supported has been approved to provide additional state aid for special education costs over \$40,000; (c) worked with Congressman Ferguson, who sponsored legislation that increases IDEA funding (Individual Disability Education Act) and additional federal dollars are included in the projected budget; (d) appealed to Commissioner of Education to release funds for new track at Just Field-completed. We will pursue implementation of "State Mandate-State Pay" law. If legislature mandates additional educational programs, they must provide funding. We should and will continue to work with the legislature to get our fair share of state aid.

The obligation of board members goes beyond attending two meetings a month. We have standing committees for curriculum-technology, personnel, policy, public relations, transportation, finance and negotiations. Board members assigned to these committees should take an active role by regular attendance and active participation. Some examples of issues they work on are to insure that curricula have been approved, investments made in technology and in-service training expenditures for teacher training are implemented in the classroom to produce desired results and are applied as approved and intended. We have administrators to manage these programs, but there should be vehicles in place to insure progress, accountability, consistent and continuing implementation, review and measured results commensurate with investments made by you, the taxpayer. An ad-hoc committee monitors our construction projects which are ahead of schedule and below estimates.

Board members, in my opinion, should not seek or accept endorsements of special interest groups. Individuals should be free to make judgment and decisions without pressure from such groups, but be free to act in the best interest of students and taxpayers.

These are the issues that guide me as I seek your support and to vote Line 4. I pledge that I will work in the best interest of students (customers) and you the taxpayer, together with our superintendent, administrators and staff to produce the best educational results possible.

I also ask you to support Jeff Seider, Line 1. He previously served as a board member, but more impressively he served as chair of personnel, build-

ings and grounds, curriculum, transportation, special education and construction. He performed these responsibilities objectively and in the best interest of students and taxpayers. The time and effort he devoted should serve as an inspiration to others.

There are three other candidates. One person is presently a board member seeking re-election. The other two are running for the first time. When they attended board meetings and spoke on issues, whose interest did they represent? Was it the students and taxpayers or their own personal self interest?

FRANK A. MIKORSKI

To the Editor,

With our local school budget and Board of Education election approaching, I am writing to encourage all to participate in the process which allows each to voice their opinion on who should represent you.

I have to respond to a recent letter from Mike English. I agree that it is the purpose of the BOE to "oversee the educational standards and establish the procedures." This is why one of the most important tasks of the Board of Education is to set policy and the superintendent's role to see that the policies are adhered to. Mike also states, "Board meetings should be held in places where everyone is excited and encouraged to discuss items of issues and concerns" and furthermore "acceptance and acknowledgement of respect between board members, school supervisors, teachers, parents and students," he also implies that the board meets in executive session leaving the public waiting for hours. If Mike English had bothered to attend our Board of Education meetings he would know the following:

The board meets as a whole three meetings a month:

1. Curriculum meeting
2. Committee of the Whole meeting
3. Regular Public meeting

The committee of the whole meeting is the meeting in which the board sets and accepts the agenda for the regular public meeting the following week. This meeting is held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. We immediately move to executive

(Continued to page 10)

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 sposerver.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.

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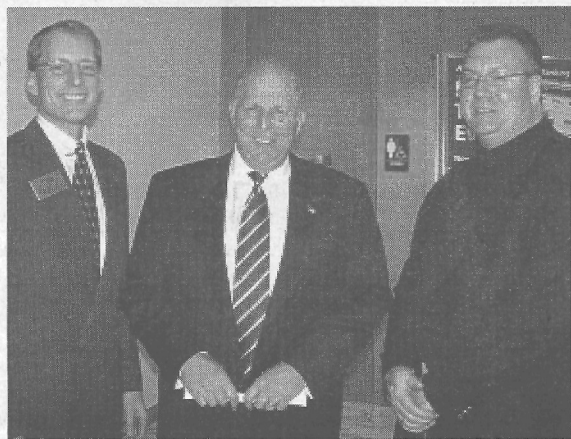
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OPEN 7 DAYS



Pictured are Erick Radell of Commerce Bank, Allan Feldman from Able Office Supply and Jack Pedersen, president of the South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA) at last Wednesday's networking function. The event was co-sponsored by the SPBA and Commerce Bank.

Suburban Women Host Political Program

Debbie Walsh will be the guest speaker at the April 3 meeting of the Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield, presenting a program entitled "Women in Politics" at 2 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, Oak Tree Rd.

Walsh is director of the Center for American Women in Politics (CAWP) at Rutgers Eagleton Institute of Politics as well as director of the CAWP's

program for Women Public Officials. In 1984, she served as associate producer of a documentary film "Not One of the Boys" which aired on PBS Frontline and had a viewership of six million people.

Anyone interested in the program is invited to attend this meeting.

For membership information, please call (908) 754-7410.

Ecumenical Good Friday Service Announced

The South Plainfield Clergy Group welcomes each and everyone to join in worship together on Good Friday, April 8. Worship will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, located on South Plainfield Ave.

Good Friday is the day in the Christian faith when Jesus Christ was put to death on a cross so that the sins of

humanity might be forgiven. Our service will be a service of Tenebrae, or darkness. This service will be marked by the reading of scriptures and the extinguishing of candles as the space progresses. At this particular time in our nation's history, we encourage you to join us in this reflective service.

Special Public Meeting Announced

There will be a Special Public Meeting of the Governing Body on Monday, April 7 at 7:45 p.m. for the purpose of introducing an ordinance authorizing the Borough to take part in the Capital Lease Program sponsored by the Middlesex County Improvement Authority.

Blood Drive Saturday at VFW Post

VFW Post #6763, located on Front St., will sponsor a blood drive on Saturday, March 29 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Post Hall.

All donors should eat prior to donating blood and all donors must present ID.

All blood types are needed, especially type O and B.

For further information call, Alan Henry at (732) 220-7061.

BOROUGHNOTES

Council Notes

■ PMK has submitted their plan for the clean-up of Veterans Park. Veterans Park has been closed since last summer due to contaminants found on the site.

■ Annual borough-wide clean up is planned for April 12. If you would like to help, call Alice Tempel at (908) 226-7621. Councilman Bob Cusick has arranged to have several prisoners from the Middlesex County Correctional Institute help on cleanup day.

■ The Recycling Center spring hours have begun. DARE officers will be on hand to check that all cars have stickers. If you need a sticker, they are available at the borough clerk's office.

■ Councilman Charles Butrico said that the acquisition documents for the Hamilton Blvd. project are done.

■ Next month's Council Public Meeting has been moved from Thursday, April 10 to Monday, April 14. The Council Agenda meeting will still be held on Monday, April 7. Both meetings start at 7 p.m.

Board of Adjustment

■ Kevin Kean of W. Golf Ave. has been granted a variance to construct a one story addition.

■ Michael Ciardiello of Seymour St. was granted a variance to permit a contractor's storage yard on the property as well as a prefabricated metal storage building.

■ Ronald Parker of Oak Tree Ave. was granted permission to construct an oversized garage.

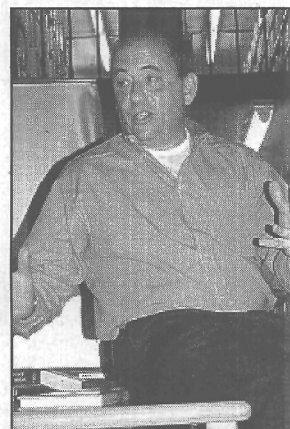


Residents listen to author Arthur Lefkowitz speak about the American Revolution at a program at the South Plainfield Public Library.

American Revolution Program at Library

The South Plainfield Historical Society hosted a program on the American Revolution last Sunday at the library. Those attending heard guest speaker Arthur Lefkowitz present a slide show based on his book, "The Long Retreat."

The program was made possible in part by the New Jersey Council on the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Guest Speaker Arthur S. Lefkowitz

Armed Robbery Occurs at Best Western Hotel

An armed robbery occurred at the Best Western Hotel located at 101 New World Way, last week. A lone desk clerk was approached by two men, one brandishing a black revolver, who vaulted the counter and demanded money from the desk clerk. The robber removed the cash drawer and placed it in a cloth bag. Both robbers fled on foot towards the Grand Buffet Restaurant on Stelton Rd.

The first suspect is described as a white Hispanic male, 5'5", with a thin build, about 18 years of age wearing a

blue sweatshirt, blue bandanna and black head rag. The other is described as a brown skinned male, 5'5", with a thin build, age about 18, wearing a black head rag and an unknown colored bandanna. Both suspects had their bandannas pulled up over their mouths in an effort to hide their faces.

An undetermined amount of money was taken and no injuries were reported during the incident.

The robbery is being investigated by Detective James Parker at (908) 226-7661.

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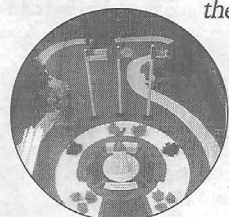
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Have You Purchased Your Brick Yet?

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.



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

Please show
your support
for our local
volunteers!

Around Town

Troop #324 Holding Yard Sale

March 29

Boy Scout Troop #324 will hold their annual multi-family Yard Sale Fundraiser on Saturday, March 29 at St. Stephen's Church, 3145 Park Ave. The sale will be 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

There will be a variety of items for sale. Anybody interested in donating items may drop them off at the sale location anytime after 8:30 a.m. All proceeds go directly to Troop #324. Any questions, feel free to call Carrie George at 755-8429.

Walt Whitman Program at Library

March 30

The South Plainfield Free Public Library will host the program "Walt Whitman: New Jersey's Good Gray Poet" on Sunday, March 30, at 2 p.m.

The speaker for the program will be author and teacher Edward M. Cifelli, Ph.D., former Professor of English at County College of Morris. Cifelli, who holds a Ph.D. in American Studies from NYU, will focus on Whitman's final years in New Jersey. He'll address Whitman's then-revolutionary poetry and personal life, as well as the many influences on them.

The program is presented free of charge, and is sponsored by Friends of the South Plainfield Library and the NJ Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information, please call the library at (908) 754-7885, or visit the library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

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 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.

Rescue Squad Presents Basket Bingo

April 6

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad Ladies Auxiliary will hold their Annual Basket Bingo on Sunday, April 6. Doors open at noon and calling begins at 1 p.m. sharp! The event takes place at the South Plainfield Rescue Squad building on Plainfield Ave.

Ticket price is \$20 and includes 17 games, three specials and door prizes. There will be a 50/50 raffle. Extra boards also available. Proceeds from the event will benefit the South Plainfield Rescue Squad. Ages sixteen years and up only.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Denise at (732) 261-8942 or Tracy at (732) 841-4844.

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.

Senior Center EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
April 2 • Atlantic City Trip				
April 10 • Monthly Membership Meeting 1 pm; Topic: Home Security				
April 15 • A Small World Pre School Easter performance & parade 10am				
Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am	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 Atlantic City Trip 9am	Shopping at Pathmark 9am Practical Crafting 10-11am AARP Tax Preparation 9am-Noon Line Dancing 10-11:30am	Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch
31	1	2	3	4

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

Easter Egg Hunt At the PAL

April 12

South Plainfield Recreation invites all children ages one to 10 to their annual East Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12.

The Easter bunny arrives at about 12:45 p.m. and the hunt begins at 1 p.m. The hunt takes place behind the PAL building on Maple Ave. Please have children bring their own baskets to collect the eggs.

Rain date is Saturday, April 19.

For more information call the PAL (908) 226-7713.

Lions to Host Annual Gourmet Breakfast

April 13

The South Plainfield Lions Club will hold the Annual Gourmet Breakfast at SPSH cafeteria on Sunday, April 13 from 8 a.m. to noon.

This breakfast is known for its many gourmet items, which include french toast, pancakes and made-to-order omelettes, all dished up by members of the South Plainfield Lions Club.

The South Plainfield Lions Club is known for helping the visually and hearing impaired.

The cost of the breakfast is only \$5 and it's a great way to start the day on Palm Sunday. Tickets may be purchased at the door. For information call (908) 755-2289. See you there!

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 preschool and summer camp programs. Everyone who registers will receive one free month of ParentWatch, an internet viewing service. For a demo of their video services, visit their website at www.parentwatch.com.

You are also 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 vs. Phillies

July 22

South Plainfield Recreation is sponsoring a trip to Veteran's Stadium on July 22 for the Mets vs. the Phillies. This could be your last chance to visit Veteran's 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!

— 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@vsan.org.

"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, located at 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.

Paterson High School Class Reunion

March 28

The 1963 January and June Classes of Paterson Central High School have combined to celebrate our 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 or 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.

Monmouth Symphony All-Russian Concert

March 30

The Monmouth Symphony Orchestra will present a concert on March 30 at 3 p.m. in 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 seat tickets 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. Please call the theatre box office at (732) 842-9000.

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

WOWs Fundraising Dance

March 30

Woodbridge Area Widows Or Widowers (WOWS) will be holding a fundraiser Dance/Social on Sunday, March 30 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Live band and refreshments. Cost is \$8. Event takes place at the Elk's Hall, 665 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge.

Metuchen-Edison Women's Club Plans Open House

April 2

The Metuchen-Edison Women's Club, Inc., an organization dedicated to raising funds to benefit the community since 1961, is holding an Open House on Wednesday, April 2.

This event will take place at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 Oak Ave. (corner Route 27) in Metuchen from 7 to 9 p.m. There will be refreshments, entertainment and door prizes. A highlight of the evening will be a check presentation to the Edison Rescue Squad 1, Edison Rescue Squad 2 and Women Helping Women, recipients of funds raised by the group at their annual winter auction in December.

The group meets the first Wednesday of each month, February through June and September through December at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Metuchen. For information, contact Laurette Oleynick at (732) 603-0683 or Cathy McMullen at (732) 381-1171.

David Mamet's "Oleanna" Drama

April 4-26

Alliance Repertory Theatre Company announces the next production of its acclaimed season is Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright David Mamet's gripping and controversial drama, "Oleanna." The production opens April 4 and runs weekends until April 26 at The Brook Arts Center, 10 Hamilton St. in Bound Brook.

Recognized as "one of the ten best plays of 1992," David Mamet's drama is as timely today as it was when it first premiered in the months following the Supreme Court nomination hearings of Clarence Thomas. Just as that event divided the nation, so too does this controversial and celebrated work by one of America's foremost playwrights.

Production dates: April 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26. Evening performances at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15; senior Sunday, April 13, 2 p.m. \$10; student/actor Thursday, April 24, 8 p.m. \$10.

EVENTS continued on page 5



Moonrakers Club Meeting Site Moved

April 8

The New Jersey Moonrakers Tall Club, Inc., a social and community service organization serving people of "taller-than-average" stature in the NJ/NY metropolitan area, is moving its monthly "Meet and Greet" social to a new location. It will be held on Tuesday, April 8 at 8 p.m., at the Saddle Brook Marriott hotel located between Interstate 80 and the Garden State Parkway in Saddle Brook.

Prospective members, women, 5' 10", and taller, and, men, 6' 2" and taller, and over 21 years of age, are encouraged to inquire.

For more information, call the club's 24-hour hotline at (973) 267-3648, or visit the Moonrakers' website at <http://www.njtall.org>. To request a copy of the club's monthly online newsletter, e-mail newjersey@tall.org.

Moonrakers Tall Club Spring Dance

April 12

The New Jersey Moonrakers Tall Club, Inc., a social and community service organization serving people of "taller-than-average" stature in the NJ/NY metropolitan area, will present "Spring Dance 2003" on Saturday, April 12 from 7 p.m. to midnight, at the Saddle Brook Marriott hotel, located between Rt. 80 and the Garden State Parkway in Saddle Brook.

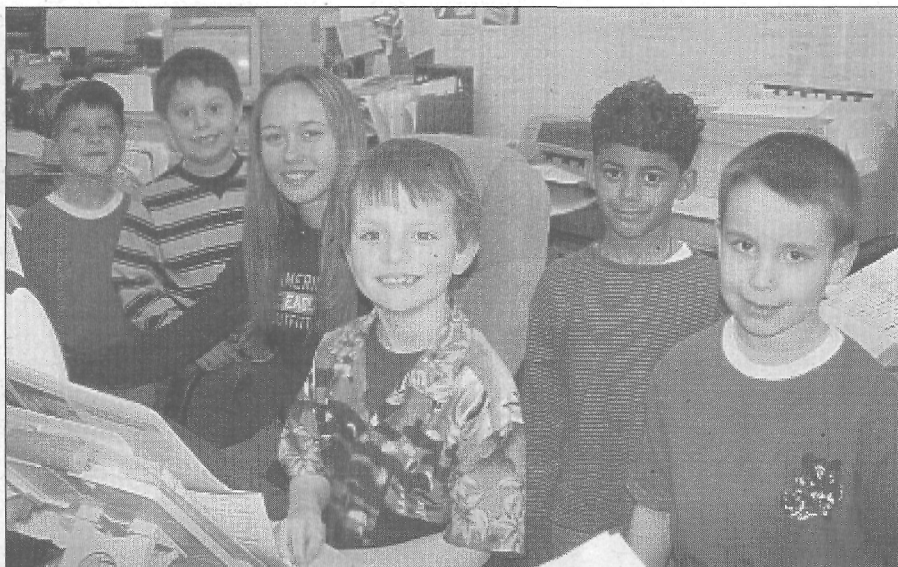
Prospective members, women, 5, 10", and taller, and, men, 6' 2" and taller, and, over twenty-one (21) years of age, are encouraged to inquire. A cash bar will be available and semi-formal attire is suggested. Full package is \$55 per person and includes buffet dinner, soda, dessert and dancing. Dance only is \$25 per person.

Reunion at Union Catholic High School

May 2-4

Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains is planning the 40th Anniversary of the opening of the school on May 2, 3 and 4. All alumni of the school who have not previously been notified should contact Anne Wischusen by phone at (908) 889-1600 ext. 316 or email to awischusen@unioncatholic.org or alumni@unioncatholic.org.

Festivities include a Friday night Open House at the school (no children), Saturday Family Fun Day at the school, Saturday Night Gala at the Pines Manor in Edison and Sunday, family Mass and brunch at the school. Visit the Union Catholic website at www.unioncatholic.org for additional details.



Tiger Scouts from Sacred Heart School visited the *South Plainfield Observer* on Monday. Pictured are Arthur Wright, Patrick Bogart, *Observer* Editorial Assistant Caity Fodor, Dakota Uhl, John Fee and Elijah Ridley.

Volunteer Applications Being Taken for 4-H Camp

Interested in volunteering a week of your time this summer to make a difference? Then 4-H Camp might be the place for you!

4-H Camp is a overnight camp located in Stokes State Forest and managed by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Program. Those who have completed grade 11 and up are invited to come spend a week in the summer with us. 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, Air Rifery, Archery and much, much more! Excellent

one day training event offered free of charge on Saturday, May 17. Spaces are limited so apply as soon as possible. The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of Rutgers Cooperative Extension. 4-H offers educational programs to all youth, grades K-13, on an age-appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national

origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. For more information or to apply please contact the 4-H Camp Office at: phone (973) 948-3550, fax (973) 948-0735, email 4hcamp@rcc.rutgers.edu. Check out our website at www.nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu to download an application. We look forward to hearing from you!

Business Assoc. Plans Golf Outing

South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA) President Jack Pederson has announced that May 6 is the date of the Annual Golf Outing, which will be held at Cranbury Golf Club in West Windsor.

This is a great opportunity for both

old and new SPBA members to get together and have a fun day of golf. You do not have to be a member of the SPBA to attend; the event is open to everyone.

The entry fee of \$125 includes 18 holes of golf, use of locker rooms, green fees and cart, continental breakfast, complimentary beverage cart, hot dog and chips "at the turn," open bar (beer, wine and soda) and BBQ luncheon. Casual attire all day, no metal spikes!

Prizes will be awarded for a hole in one, longest drive, closest to the pin (two holes), low gross, low net and the most honest golfer.

The golf day begins with registration and a continental breakfast at 8 a.m. Shotgun start begins at 9 a.m. The day will finish with an open bar at 2 p.m., followed by a BBQ luncheon at 2:30 and presentation of awards at 3:30 p.m.

Corporate sponsors are still needed. To sign up for a day of golf or to sponsor a tee or flag, contact Bob Longo, (908) 753-7004 or Ed Koznowicz at (908) 754-8900.

The SPBA welcomes any suggestions and/or help. For information on joining, call (908) 757-8811.

Pyatt Joins Unity Bank Team

Anthony J. Feraro, President, Unity Bank, announced the appointment of Brigitte K. Pyatt of Flemington as branch manager of Unity Bank's Whitehouse office.

A graduate of Raritan Valley Community College, Pyatt comes to her new position with extensive experience in the financial world, including more than eight years in banking and sales.

Pyatt commented: "Unity Bank is all about serving the community in a traditional way, yet with a modern edge. I am delighted to become part of the Unity team."

Unity Bank, located at 370 Route 22 West in Whitehouse Station, is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through



Brigitte K. Pyatt

Friday; from 9 to 12 on Saturday; and 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Each month the branch features a local business with a display to which the community is welcome. Pyatt, who hopes to get to know many of the bank's customers and neighbors personally, looks forward to spreading the Unity word over coffee and pastries available each day in her branch.

Unity Bank provides financial services to retail, corporate and small business clients through its 12 retail service centers located in Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset and Union Counties in New Jersey.

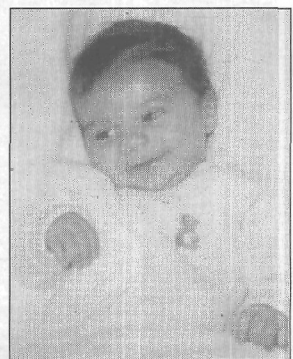
For more information about Unity Bank, see www.unitybank.com or call 800.618.BANK.

southplainfield people Milestones

Zushma Graduates From Kean

Kenneth Zushma, a 1998 graduate of South Plainfield High School, has graduated with honors from Kean University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Education.

While attending Kean University, he was inducted into Epsilon Pi Tau, an honorary in Technology. He is also the recent recipient of "the student teacher of the year" award given by the Technology Educators Association of New Jersey. He will be teaching at Heritage Middle school in Livingston, while pursuing a Master's Degree in Educational Technology from Kean University starting in the fall.



Joseph Eugene Salerno

Salernos Welcome Birth of Son

Eugene and Stephanie Salerno of South Plainfield are proud to announce the birth of Joseph Eugene Salerno, born at 1:13 a.m. on Dec. 17, 2002 at JFK Hospital. Joseph weighed in at 6 lbs. 12 ounces and was 20" inches long.

The proud grandparents are Susan and Wayne Barthel of South Plainfield and Toni Lamanna of Clark. Joseph's aunt, Samantha Barthel, also lives in South Plainfield.

We want your Good News!

Fax Us Your Milestones!

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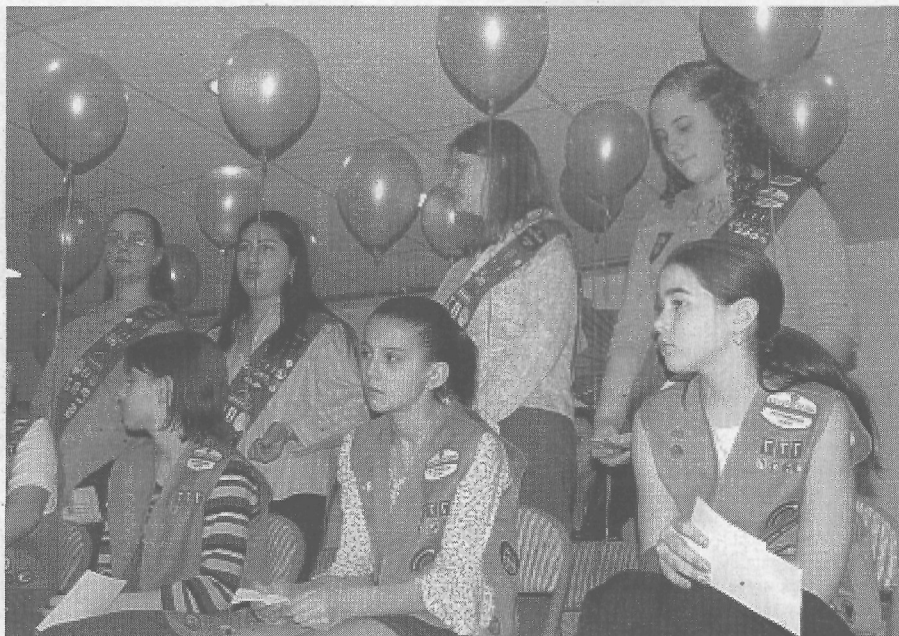
On Saturday, March 29th to
our 1st graduating class of the
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◆ Kids face painting
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Come and join up for our next class.
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For program schedule, visit our studio or log on to
www.bunchis.com
175 Front Street, So. Plainfield
(908) 755-4049



Girl Scouts Get Silver And Bronze Awards In Ceremony



By Patricia Abbott

On March 16 the South Plainfield Girl Scout Community proudly presented twenty-nine Junior and Cadette Girl Scouts with their Silver and Bronze awards. The ceremony was held at the Senior Citizen Center.

Programs were handed out at the door by the youngest members of the Girl Scout family, Daisy Troop 397. The afternoon began with a welcome by Troop Leader Nancy Regan, fol-

lowed by a presenting of the flags by Brownie Troop 489. It was a new experience for the girls, as they had only one day to learn when another troop was unable to attend. Attending on behalf of Mayor Dan Gallagher were Councilmen Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick. They presented the town's scouting community with a certificate recognizing the award achievements of the scouts. The certificate was signed by the mayor and all of the members of the council.

In a touching candle ceremony the girls lit three white candles for the three parts of the Girl Scout promise and ten green candles representing the ten parts of the Girl Scout law. Each girl lit either a silver or bronze candle as they explained what made scouting special to them.

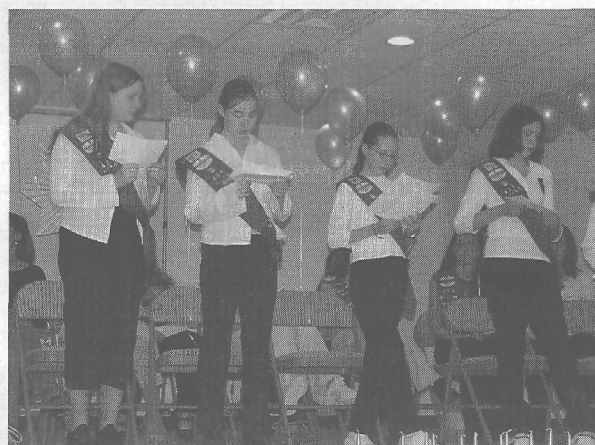
Silver and Bronze awards are the highest achievement a girl can attain at their level. Each is a three year process that includes fulfilling a number of requirements before the girls can begin their actual project. Two Junior troops receiving the Bronze award completed a 15 hour project. Troop 431 painted playground games at Riley school, painted sets for Safety Town and helped register bikes at the Bike Rodeo. Troop 777 collected and decorated a Christmas tree at the Se-

nior Center in December.

The Silver award, a 30-hour project went to three Cadette troops. Troop 117 held a children's health and safety fair, Troop 690 held a pizza party for Riley School students and Troop 375 filled backpacks with supplies for foster children. Scout Amanda Prybella made buttons and dressed teddy bears for the children's Specialized Hospital in Fanwood.

The pins were presented by Joanne Otlowski, South Plainfield Girl Scout

Service Unit manager. As each scout was announced her mother came forward to place the pin on her uniform. Afterwards, each girl was given a flower by the Daisy Scouts. The actual projects were completed in 2002 and most of the girls have bridged on to the next level. On hand to congratulate the scouts was Carmen Brown from the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council. After the ceremony the scouts and guests enjoyed refreshments served by Brownie Troop 489.



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SPRING CLEANUPS

Local Support of Troops Growing

Continued from page 1

said she is willing to donate flags or red, white and blue and/or yellow ribbons for those who would like to put them up around town. Call Mohr's at (908) 561-2808 and they will help you with these materials.

Marie Smith, the mother of a local serviceman who was featured in a recent front page *Observer* story, is busy making flags for the mothers of those serving in the military. Since our story, Smith has been interviewed on several local and national news programs and is busier than ever making flags for mothers to display in their windows.

If you have a relative in the service,

contact us and we will pass on the information to the varied groups that are forming around town.

Several groups and schools are also interested in "adopting" servicemen/women and sending letters and packages to them. If you are you would like to help in this project, call the *Observer* office at (908) 668-0010.

You can also contact us by email at ggnan@aol.com, or you can fax us at (908) 668-8819. Include your name, the name of person serving, what branch he/she is in and how we can contact them, as well as a contact number to reach you if we need more information.



Over 400 attended the sold-out auction/raffle at Franklin School.



RoseAnn Amigroni won a trip to Busch Gardens.

EMC Working with Schools

Continued from page 1

create a page which contains the latest information on preparedness planning for schools, businesses and residents. A scrolling bar rolls across the page and can be updated as needed.

The South Plainfield Office of Emergency Management (SPOEM) is committed to coordinating response activities and assistance in the borough and to prepare for, respond to and recover from the effects of any emergency caused by natural, man-made or technological disasters and/or national security crisis. Michael Zushma, Municipal Coordinator, can be reached at (908) 753-3775. Coordinator Zushma has over 20 years experience and is responsible for emergency planning for the Borough of South Plainfield, coordination of Emergency Services (police, fire and rescue), liaison for

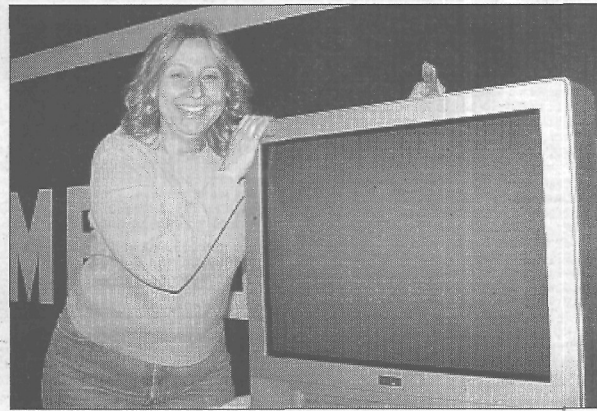
County and State Officials, assisting residents, schools, businesses and industries in the borough with emergency planning, alerting, mobilizing, coordinating and directing the activities of all Municipal units during an emergency in order to implement Emergency Management Operations.

The purpose of Emergency Management is to protect life and property in emergencies by coordinating response activities of municipal and volunteer entities in order to ensure their optimum use. Provide for actions to be taken to prepare for, respond to and recover from the effects of an emergency.

You can contact the South Plainfield Office of Emergency Management with questions by calling (908) 753-3775 (during business hours) or log on to their webpage at: southplainfieldnj.com/oem.



Airline tickets winner Laurie Duffy



27-inch flat screen TV w/DVD-VCR winner Maryann Bythell

400+ Attend the Franklin School Auction/Raffle

By Patricia Abbott

A high-spirited crowd filled the hallway, the line snaking out of sight. The excitement continued to build. Was it a movie premiere? A concert? No, something better! The seventh annual Franklin School auction/raffle night held at South Plainfield High School. Over 400 people attended the March 22 sold-out event.

The line had formed well before the scheduled preview time, 6:30 p.m. Once the doors opened there

was no holding back, the action was non-stop. Ticket tables lining the hallway had to be rearranged to accommodate the crowd anxious to purchase tickets. Before the first tickets were drawn the auction revelers were seated and well into enjoying their goodies. Munchies varied from table to table, and ranged from shrimp and gourmet treats to soda and chips. The more seasoned guests had their tickets neatly organized on a board while auction newbies frantically dug through a multi-colored

pile of twisting, curling tickets. Chairman Jim Colapietro and his hard-working committee kept the evening running smoothly from start to finish. Two Girl Scout troops were on hand to assist as well.

Among the big winners were RoseAnn Amigroni, a four-night Busch Gardens Getaway and two, four-day park passes; Laurie Duffy, four airline tickets and Maryann Bythell, a 27" flat screen TV with DVD/VCR. Winner of the 50/50 was Donna Tartz.

Easter Sunrise Service in Spring Lake Park

The South Plainfield Clergy Group invites you to joyfully celebrate Easter this year at our traditional Easter Sunrise Service! Please join us at 6:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 20 at the gazebo in Spring Lake Park.

In the Christian faith, Easter is the day that Jesus rose from the dead, conquering death, bringing new life to all who trust in him. Our service will feature prayer, the singing of traditional Easter hymns and our message of hope,

delivered by Reverend Henry Leono, of Wesley United Methodist Church.

Everyone is invited to attend by the friends and members of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Pilgrim Covenant Church, First Baptist Church, St. Stephens's Lutheran Church, Rescue House of Prayer, Wesley Methodist Church and the many of faith-fled people in our community. (In case of rain, meet at 6:45 a.m. at Wesley Methodist, located 500 Plainfield Ave.)

Calling All Boys for Scouting

Spring is the time of year when scout troops register new boys for the upcoming school year. Some schools have already started their Tiger Hunts, while others are preparing. Tiger Hunts are invitations to any kindergarten age boy to join.

Why not join now instead of in the fall? Registering now allows all new Tigers (kindergartners) to participate in any summer activities offered, in-

cluding a day at camp or the Tiger Fair this summer.

Any boy, kindergarten through fifth grade, is welcome to join. Let us include you in any pack or den summer activities. If you are past the fifth grade, you can still participate in activities with the Boy Scouts. Call Marie Markay, South Plainfield membership chairperson at (908) 755-3213, and you will be directed in the right direction.



Claire Mosher sells 50/50 tickets



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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PENDING BOND ORDINANCE

The bond ordinance published herewith was introduced and adopted upon first reading at a regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, held on March 20, 2003, and will be further considered for final passage, after a public hearing thereon, at a meeting of said Borough Council to be held at the Borough's Municipal Building, in said Borough, on April 24, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

VINCENT BUTTIGLIERI,
Clerk of the Borough of South Plainfield

ORDINANCE NO. 1619

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

Ordinance No. 1619 entitled: A REFUNDING BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE REFUNDING OF CERTAIN UNFUNDED PENSION LIABILITIES AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$360,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF PENSION REFUNDING BONDS OF THE BOROUGH TO EFFECT SUCH REFUNDING AND APPROPRIATING THE PROCEEDS THEREOF be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, March 28, 2003 and that a public hearing be held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 24, 2003 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1619

REFUNDING BOND ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE "BOROUGH") PROVIDING FOR (I) THE REFUNDING OF CERTAIN UNFUNDED PENSION LIABILITIES OF THE BOROUGH, AND (II) AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$360,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF PENSION REFUNDING BONDS OF THE BOROUGH TO EFFECT SUCH REFUNDING AND APPROPRIATING THE PROCEEDS THEREOF

WHEREAS, in accordance with P.L. 1991, c. 229, the Borough of South Plainfield, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey (the "Borough") adopted an early retirement incentive program for eligible employees covered by the Public Employees' Retirement System ("PERS"), as applicable; and

WHEREAS, by participating in these early retirement incentive programs, the Borough created unfunded pension liabilities (the "Pension Liabilities"), that would be paid by the Borough with annual payments to PERS, through the year 2021; and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2002, c. 42, was enacted to permit local units such as the Borough to issue and sell refunding bonds, in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 42A:2-51.3, to retire the present value of the Pension Liabilities attributable to early retirement incentive programs; and

WHEREAS, the present value of the Borough's liability for Unfunded Pension Liabilities for PERS has been established by the State of New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits at an amount equal to \$313,336.10 as of February 10, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has determined that the current interest rate environment will enable it to generate future savings for the taxpayers of the Borough through the issuance by the Borough of Pension Refunding Bonds (the "Pension Refunding Bonds") to refund all of the Borough's Pension Liabilities; and

WHEREAS, in efforts to realize taxpayer savings, the Borough Council now desires to adopt and enact a pension refunding bond ordinance (the "Pension Refunding Bond Ordinance") authorizing the issuance of the Pension Refunding Bonds in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$360,000, the net proceeds of which shall be used to refund the present value of the Pension Liabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring), as follows:

SECTION 1. The Borough is hereby authorized to refund all of the Pension Liabilities.

SECTION 2. In order to finance the retirement of the Borough's Pension Liabilities and to pay all related costs associated therewith, the Borough is hereby authorized to issue Pension Refunding Bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$360,000, all in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 42A:2-51.3, and appropriate the proceeds of such Pension Refunding Bonds to such purpose described in Section 5 hereof. Such Pension Refunding Bonds shall be designated as "Pension Refunding Bonds (Taxable), Series 2003."

SECTION 3. The Borough desires to provide for the retirement of the Borough's Pension Liabilities in order to generate annual interest expense savings by issuing the Pension Refunding Bonds at interest rates lower than those currently being assessed against the Borough for these unfunded liabilities.

SECTION 4. An aggregate amount not exceeding \$30,000 may be allocated from the aggregate principal amount of the Pension Refunding Bonds to pay for items of expense listed and permitted under N.J.S.A. 40A:2-51(b), including, but not limited to, the aggregate allocated costs of issuance thereof, including underwriting, printing, credit enhancement or other insurance, advertising, accounting, financial, legal and other expenses in connection therewith.

SECTION 5. The purpose of the issuance of the Pension Refunding Bonds is to reduce the annual recurring expenses of the Borough for its unfunded liabilities.

SECTION 6. A certified copy of this Pension Refunding Bond Ordinance, as approved by a resolution of the Borough, has been filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs prior to final adoption and enactment hereof.

SECTION 7. The supplemental debt statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly made and filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Borough and a complete executed duplicate thereof has been filed in the Office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey

Jersey, and such statement shows the gross debt of the Borough as defined in the Local Bond Law is increased by the authorization of the bonds or notes provided for in this bond ordinance by \$360,000 and the said obligations authorized by this bond ordinance will be within all debt limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

SECTION 8. This Pension Refunding Bond Ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption hereof and approval by the Mayor, as provided by the Local Bond Law, subsequent to and provided that the consent of the Local Finance Board has been endorsed upon a certified copy hereof.

ADOPTED ON FIRST READING
DATED: March 20, 2003

\$178.50 March 28, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Public Notice

RETURN OF PERFORMANCE BOND

To Dan Barrie Realty & Construction Company for public improvements at 2204 Hamilton Blvd., Block 420, Lot 8.01, 111 Lexington Avenue, Block 420 Lot 8.02, 117 Lexington Avenue, Block 420 Lot 8.03 and 123 Lexington Avenue, Block 420, Lot 8.04 in South Plainfield.

A public meeting has been scheduled by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield to hear objections, if any, to the release of a Performance Bond posted by Dan Barrie Realty & Construction Company for public improvements at 2204 Hamilton Blvd., Block 420 Lot 8.01, 111 Lexington Avenue, Block 420 Lot 8.02, 117 Lexington Avenue, Block 420 Lot 8.03 and 123 Lexington Avenue, Block 420 Lot 8.04 listed on the official tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held April 7, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Dan Barrie Realty & Construction Company
333 West St. Georges Avenue
Linden, NJ 07036

\$35.00 March 28, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Michael Towney requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit construction of a 24 foot by 30 foot detached garage five feet from the side lot line at the property address 165 Palmer Avenue; and other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 14, Lot 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, April 10, 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 1T March 28, 2003

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PENDING BOND ORDINANCE

The bond ordinance published herewith was introduced and adopted upon first reading at a regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, held on March 20, 2003, and will be further considered for final passage, after a public hearing thereon, at a meeting of said Borough Council to be held at the Borough's Municipal Building, in said Borough, on April 24, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

VINCENT BUTTIGLIERI,
Clerk of the Borough of South Plainfield

ORDINANCE NO. 1620

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

Ordinance #1620 entitled: A REFUNDING BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF FISCAL YEAR ADJUSTMENT REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2003 FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFUNDING CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR ADJUSTMENT BONDS be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, March 28, 2003 and that a public hearing be held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 24, 2003 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ORDINANCE No. 1620

REFUNDING BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF FISCAL YEAR ADJUSTMENT REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2003, BY THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFUNDING CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR ADJUSTMENT BONDS HERETOFORE ISSUED BY THE BOROUGH, AND APPROPRIATING THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH REFUNDING BONDS TO SUCH PURPOSE

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Local Bond Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:2-1 et seq., as amended and supplemented (the "Local Bond Law"), the Borough of South Plainfield, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey (the "Borough") issued its \$10,300,000 aggregate principal amount of Fiscal Year Adjustment Bonds, Series 1993, dated September 15, 1993 (the "1993 Bonds"), \$5,520,000 of which are outstanding and \$4,780,000 of which are maturing after September 1, 2004 and are subject to redemption, at the option of the Borough, in whole on any date, on and after September 1, 2003 (the "Callable Bonds"); and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has determined that refunding bonds can be issued to refund such Callable Bonds which, under current market conditions, can generate a net present value debt service savings to the Borough equal to or greater than three percent (3%), which savings is the minimum amount required to obtain approval for such refunding from the Local Finance Board, Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey (the "Local Finance Board"); and

WHEREAS, the Borough has determined to

provide for the refunding of the Callable Bonds through the issuance by the Borough of refunding bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$5,000,000 Fiscal Year Adjustment Refunding Bonds, Series 2003 (the "Refunding Bonds"), as provided in this refunding bond ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. In order to finance the purposes described in Section 2 hereof, negotiable refunding bonds of the Borough hereby designated as Fiscal Year Adjustment Refunding Bonds, Series 2003, are hereby authorized to be issued in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$5,000,000 Fiscal Year Adjustment Refunding Bonds (the "Refunding Bonds"). The proceeds of the Refunding Bonds are hereby appropriated to the purposes described in Section 2 hereof.

Section 2. (a) The purposes for which the Refunding Bonds are to be issued are (i) refunding the principal amount of Callable Bonds, including the payment of interest accrued thereon from March 1, 2003 to the date fixed for redemption and the redemption premium equal to one percent (1%) of the principal amount of the Callable Bonds, and (ii) paying the costs of issuance relating to the Refunding Bonds, including printing, advertising, accounting, financial and legal services, rating agency fees, underwriter's discount, and bond insurance premium, if any.

(b) The Callable Bonds mature in the principal amounts in each of the years and bear interest at the rates per annum as follows:

Year (September 1)	Fiscal Year Adjustment Bonds	Interest Rate
2004	\$ 855,000	4.45%
2005	895,000	4.55
2006	940,000	4.60
2007	980,000	4.70
2008	1,030,000	4.75

The 1993 Bonds maturing on or after September 1, 2004 are subject to redemption prior to maturity on or after September 1, 2003 at the option of the Borough from any moneys that may be available to the Borough for such purpose, as a whole at any time or in part on any interest payment date in inverse order of maturity (if less than all of the Bonds outstanding of any maturity shall be called for redemption, such Bonds to be so redeemed shall be selected by the Paying Agent by lot or in any customary manner of selection to be determined by the Paying Agent), at the following prices (expressed as percentages of the principal amount) for the respective period set forth below, together with accrued interest to the date of redemption:

Redemption Date (Both Dates Inclusive)	Redemption Price
September 1, 2003 to August 31, 2004	101.0%
September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005	100.5
September 1, 2005 and thereafter	100.0

In the event of any redemption, the Borough will give notice thereof by mailing a copy of the redemption notice by first class mail, postage prepaid, to the registered owner of any Bond to be redeemed at the address shown on the registration books of the Borough maintained by the Registrar, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the redemption date; provided, however, that failure of any owner to receive such notice, or any defect therein, shall not effect the validity of the proceedings for redemption of any bond.

(c) The aggregate cost of issuing the Refunding Bonds, as provided by N.J.S.A. 40A:2-51(b) (which amount includes all items described in Section 2(a)(ii) hereof) shall not exceed \$115,000. Such amount is included in the maximum authorized aggregate principal amount set forth in Section 1 hereof.

(d) The Callable Bonds shall be called for redemption prior to maturity thereof as provided in the certificates of the Callable Bonds. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the Refunding Bonds shall be deposited in an escrow held with the Paying Agent for the 1993 Bonds in trust for the bondholders to provide for the payment and retirement of the Callable Bonds. Any moneys so held in trust may be invested as provided in N.J.S.A. 40A:2-60, and any moneys in excess of the amounts required for such purpose may be used for any lawful purpose of the Borough.

Section 3. Any further provisions as to terms of sale, deposit, securing, regulation, investment, reinvestment, disposition or application of the proceeds of the Refunding Bonds, and matters in connection therewith, shall be determined by resolution of the Borough adopted prior to the issuance of the Refunding Bonds.

Section 4. The Borough Council hereby delegates to the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough the power to sell the Refunding Bonds at a private sale, to determine the terms of the Refunding Bonds and to perform such other actions and make such other determinations, subject to the limitations to be set forth in a subsequent resolution of the Borough.

Section 5. The Borough Council hereby authorizes and delegates to the Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer P.A., Bond Counsel to the Borough ("Bond Counsel"), the authority to negotiate, approve the terms of and to execute on behalf of the Borough a Bond Purchase Agreement with Commerce Capital Markets, Inc. (the "Underwriter"), for the purchase and sale of the Refunding Bonds.

Section 6. All other matters relating to the Refunding Bonds shall be performed or determined by subsequent resolution of the Borough, or the performance or determination thereof shall be delegated by resolution of the Borough to a financial officer of the Borough.

Section 7. A certified copy of this refunding bond ordinance, as introduced and adopted upon first reading, shall be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey prior to final adoption hereof, together with the statement signed by the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough required by N.J.S.A. 40A:2-55.

Section 8. The full faith and credit of the Borough are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and the interest on the Refunding Bonds authorized by this refunding bond ordinance. The Refunding Bonds shall be direct, unlimited obligations of the Borough, and, unless paid from other sources, the Borough shall be obligated to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all the taxable property within the Borough for the payment of the Refunding Bonds and the interest thereon without limitation as to rate or amount.

Section 9. After passage upon first reading of this refunding bond ordinance, the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish the full text of this refunding bond ordinance, together with the "NOTICE OF PENDING BOND ORDINANCE" (with appropriate completions, insertions and corrections), at least once in a newspaper qualified under N.J.S.A. 40A:2-19, at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the public hearing and further consideration for final passage (which date shall be at least ten (10) days after introduction and first reading). The Borough Clerk is further directed to comply with all provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:2-17(b) regarding postings, publications, and the provision of copies of this refunding bond ordinance. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to set the date of the public hearing for this refunding bond ordinance for April 24, 2003.

Section 10. After final adoption of this refunding bond ordinance by the Borough Council, and approval by the Mayor, the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to publish the full text of this refunding bond ordinance, as finally adopted, together with the "NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF BOND ORDINANCE" (with appropriate completions, insertions and corrections), at least once in a newspaper qualified under N.J.S.A. 40A:2-19.

Section 11. The Borough Council hereby covenants on behalf of the Borough to take any action necessary or refrain from taking such action in order to preserve the tax-exempt status of the Refunding Bonds authorized hereunder as is or may be required under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and the regulations promulgated thereunder (the "Code"), including compliance with the Code with regard to the use, expenditure, investment, timely reporting and

rebate of investment earnings as may be required thereunder.

Section 12. The purpose of the issuance of the Refunding Bonds is to effect a net present value debt service savings to the Borough equal to or greater than three percent (3%).

Section 13. The supplemental debt statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly made and filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Borough and a complete executed duplicate thereof has been filed in the Office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey, and such statement shows the gross debt of the Borough as defined in the Local Bond Law is increased by the authorization of the bonds or notes provided for in this bond ordinance by \$5,000,000 and the said obligations authorized by this bond ordinance will be within all debt limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

Section 14. This bond ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication hereof after final adoption, as provided in the Local Bond Law, but not prior to the time that the consent of the Local Finance Board, Division of Local Government Services in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs has been endorsed upon a certified copy of this refunding bond ordinance as finally adopted, as provided by N.J.S.A. 40A:2-65.

ADOPTED ON FIRST READING
DATED: March 20, 2003

VINCENT BUTTIGLIERI,
Clerk Borough of South Plainfield

\$320.75 March 28, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE NO. 1612A

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

Ordinance No. 1612A entitled: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS OF \$35,000.00 AS WELL AS A REAPPROPRIATION OF \$51,300.00 FROM ORDINANCE #1612 FOR THE PREPARATION OF A SAFETY PLAN, PROJECT DESIGN, CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION AND REPORTING FOR THE REMEDIATION OF VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, March 28, 2003 and that a public hearing be held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, April 14, 2003 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1612A

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$35,000.00 AS WELL AS A REAPPROPRIATION OF \$51,300.00 FROM ORDINANCE #1612 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS MORE SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PREPARATION OF A SAFETY PLAN, PROJECT DESIGN, CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION AND REPORTING FOR REMEDIATION OF VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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

Section 1. That there is hereby authorized pursuant to applicable statutes of the State of New Jersey, as a general improvement, a SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION of \$35,000.00 from Capital Fund Balance as well as the following reappropriations from Ordinance #1612:

FROM	AMOUNT
Vehicle for Code Enforcement	\$19,000.00
Capital Improvement Fund (unassigned)	\$16,000.00
Computers	\$5,000.00
Self Contained Breathing Cylinders	\$11,300.00
TOTAL REAPPROPRIATION	\$51,300.00
TO	
Veterans Memorial Park	\$86,300.00

Section 2. That the improvements described in Section 1 hereof shall be authorized as general 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 purposes stated in Section 1, hereof, is \$35,000.00.
- B. That the cost of said projects shall be financed from appropriations in the SFY 2003 Capital Improvement Fund, of which said funds are available for said purposes.
- C. The estimated useful life of said improvement is hereby determined to be ten (10) years.

Section 4. That the total amount of the appropriation to be expended for architectural and inspection costs, legal costs, advertisement of ordinance and other expenses as provided in Section 48-2-20 of the Revised Statutes, is not to exceed \$5,000.00.

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

Approved March 20, 2003

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$129.50 March 28, 2003

South Plainfield Public Schools
305 Cromwell Place, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080-3509
Telephone: 908.754.4620

Notice

At a Special Business Meeting of the South Plainfield Board of Education on July 10, 2001, 7:00 p.m., by a majority vote the following appointment was approved:

Turner Construction was appointed Construction Manager for the Building Project in accordance with the exhibition and information presented to the Board on July 10, 2001.

At the Organization Meeting of the South Plainfield Board of Education, April 22, 2002 at 8:00 p.m. by a majority vote, the following were chosen to represent for the 2002/2003 school year.

Dr. Nicholas Celso, III, partner in the firm of Schwartz Simon Edelstein Celso & Kessler, as School Board Attorney at an annual retainer of \$7,500 and an hourly rate of \$135.00 for partners and senior associates and \$120.00 for junior associates, except that construction and special education matters shall be billed at the hourly rate of \$140.00 and reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses and disbursements.

Suplee Clooney and Company as School Board Auditors at a cost of \$20,000 for regular funds including Special and Federal projects and the school lunch audit as part of a single audit format.

AHERA Consultants as Asbestos Consultant at a cost of \$4,250.00.

Scott Prisco of The Prisco Group, AIA, as Architect of Record on a per proposal basis.

The appointment of McManimon & Scotland, LLC was reaffirmed to provide bond services for our referendum in accordance with the terms and conditions previously applied.

Lee Nestel, President, Grinspec Insurance, was appointed Broker of Record for Property-Liability, Workers' Compensation for the 2002/2003 school year.

The Prisco Group, AIA was appointed as Project Architect in accordance with the construction plan as approved by the Board at their November 28, 2001 Regular Public Meeting.

At the Committee of the Whole Meeting on June 11, 2003 at 7:00 p.m., by a majority vote, the following bid award was made:

The bid for refinancing the remaining principal amount of \$5,470,000 aggregate principal amount of Certificates of Participation dated as of February 1, 1992, was awarded to Commerce Commercial Leasing LLC.

At the Regular Public Meeting of June 18, 2003 at 8:00 p.m., by a majority vote, the following were chosen to represent the Board for the 2002/2003 school year:

The third year contract for food service management with Sodexo Management, Inc., was approved for the 2002/2003 school year at a cost of \$49,076.00.

The custodial/maintenance service contract with Sodexo Management, Inc. was renewed at an increase not to exceed 2.6% over the 2001/2002 contract.

At the Special Public Meeting of July 23, 2003 at 7:00 p.m., by a majority vote, the following firm was chosen to represent the Board for the 2002/2003 school year:

Fleet Insurance Services was appointed Broker of Record for Health and Related Insurances for the 2002/2003 school year.

\$108.00 March 28, 2003

Sports



Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller

Ponytail Softball Pictures—April 5

All individual and team pictures will be taken on April 5. Order forms will be distributed by the coaches. Coaches will also make arrangements to distribute uniforms prior to this date. Additional info (location) will be provided in upcoming publications of the Batter's Box.

Start of Games—April 7

Softball games will begin on Monday, April 7 at 6 p.m. All games will be played at the Pitt Street Park Complex. There has been a change in fields. All "A" league teams will play on the middle field (scoreboard). "B" league games will be held on the street field and "C" league will play on the back field near the woods.

Opening Day—April 12

It is hard to believe, but after a long, cold snow-filled winter, it is time once again for the fun and excitement of softball. Please join us at the Pitt Street Park Complex on Saturday, April 12 for the Opening Day festivities. Additional info such as time will be provided in upcoming publications of the Batter's Box. In the event of rain, Opening Day will be held on April 19.

All-Star Try-outs—May 3 and 4

Try-outs for the summer All-Star teams will be held on Saturday, May 3 and Sunday, May 4 the afternoon (time not yet known) at the Pitt Street Park Complex. Players will be chosen for the 10 & under, 12 & under and 14 & under teams. One team per age group will be formed.

Age Requirements

C League Team - Girls must be 10 & under as of 12/31/02. Tryouts will take place on field C (woods). Coach is John DiDolce.

B League Team - Girls must be 12 & under as of 12/31/02. Tryouts will take place on field B (street). Coach is Mark Sutherland.

A League Team - Girls must be 14 & under as of 12/31/02. Tryouts will take place on field A (scoreboard). Coach is Rich Szegla.

Recreation Tag Day—May 8, 9 and 10

Our annual tag day will take place on May 8, 9 and 10. We need the participation of all players in order to make this fundraiser a success. Coaches will advise teams of their scheduled date and time. Players will meet at the snack bar at the Pitt Street Park Complex to receive their canning location.

Pool Party—June 6

The Ponytail Parents' Association will be sponsoring an end of season pool party. This event is open to all Recreation Ponytail softball players so please join us on Friday, June 6 at the South Plainfield Community pool. Additional info will be provided in upcoming publications of the Batters Box.

All-Star Tag Day—June 7

All-Star tag day will take place on Saturday, June 7. It is a mandatory requirement that every All-Star player participate in two tag days. This tagging requirement can be fulfilled by participating in any two of the four tag days. If an All-Star player is unable to tag on June 7, they will be permitted to tag during any two of the three recreation tag days (please see your coach to arrange this).

Sponsorship Program

Last year we revised our sponsorship program. Our sponsors can have an advertising sign placed on the outfield fences of our fields at the Pitt Street Park Complex. The sign will be 4 feet by 8 feet in size. Sponsors can design their sign with any information or logo they choose. The signs will be up for our spring, summer, and fall programs (now thru end of October). Sponsors will have the choice of a one-year agreement at a cost of \$300 (includes cost of sign with two colors) or a two-year agreement at a cost of \$400 (includes cost of sign with two colors). Additional colors may be added at a cost of \$20 per color. After the initial agreement period is up, the annual renewal fee will be \$175. This new program offers our sponsors a cost-effective advertising opportunity which will reach hundreds of families. All of the funds, which are collected from our sponsors and fundraisers, go directly towards improving and upgrading the Pitt Street Park softball facilities as well as benefiting the girls who play recreation and all-star softball. If you are interested in funding a sign, please contact any member of the S.P. Parents' Ponytail Association or contact me via our website SPONYTAIL.com.



Pre-Season Myrtle Beach Warm-Up Runners-Up

Left to right are Jim Flannery, Bill Lane, Dennis Steuwe, Tom Casavant, Kevin Flannery and Ralph Fech. Low score in the unofficial opening event of the golf season was an 88 by Jim Flannery at the Granddaddy of all Myrtle Beach Courses, Pine Lakes Country Club.

By Kevin Lykes

juniorbaseballclubnotes

Here it is, late March, and once again we find ourselves on the eve of another new season. Opening Day, Saturday, April 5, is already only one week away. Hopefully, this time next week we'll be ready to play ball on each of our fields. This past winter has been a rough one, and has left us with a lot of work to do. This weekend we hope to get most of the remaining work around the complex completed so that all is ready for next week. We will be out both Saturday and Sunday in a last minute effort to get everything done. The fields need to be raked out and have additive put down. Several areas need some sod, the clubhouse needs painting, signs need to be hung and the the complex needs a final tidying-up. All coaches, parents or Pony aged players who are able to help out will be most welcomed. Please anyone who can help out come on down, we have much to be completed.

This weekend, (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) is also our annual Booster Weekend (canning). Each Small Fry coach

has received his teams assigned time slot for one of those days, please contact him if you don't know your time. Be advised that you need to be at the Clubhouse 45 minutes prior to the start of your scheduled time to allow for attendance, a quick safety refresher, location assignments and time to travel to your assigned spots. Please, **NO SPIKES OR GLOVES ARE NEEDED**. Hot dogs and sodas will be served after each shift, with pizza also being included on Friday to accommodate those observing Lent.

As stated in previous messages this will be the SPJBC's 50th season, the traditional parade will commence at 10 a.m. at the municipal complex. This will be followed by Opening Day Ceremonies, which will include some special guests. The first pitch will be thrown out using a commemorative 50th season baseball by our past commissioners, and a special commemorative souvenir will be given to each player in the league. Photos will be taken throughout the day, coaches will be advised of team schedules.

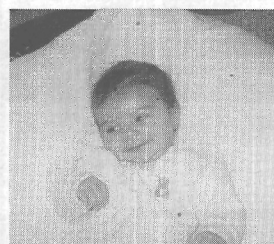
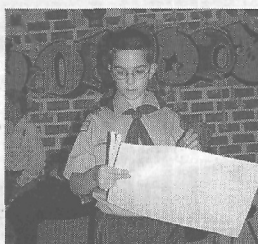
GSBS Seeks Players

The Garden State Baseball Select is looking for high school and college select teams to play in a premier high school, college and unlimited Wood Bat Select League. The league runs on weekends and offers nine nationally advertised tournaments. To obtain more information, send an email to johngsbl@aol.com, call (732) 382-4610, or go to <http://www.gardenstate-baseball.com>.

The Bloop & Blast Bash

Youth baseball tournament for competitive travel teams will be hosted on April 26-27. The tournament offers divisions for little league, freshmen, junior varsity, varsity and college unlimited. All teams are welcome to attend this great wood/metal bat tournament for all ages and out of state teams looking for weekend baseball tournaments. Get information by email: johngsbl@aol.com or call (732) 382-4610 after 3 p.m.

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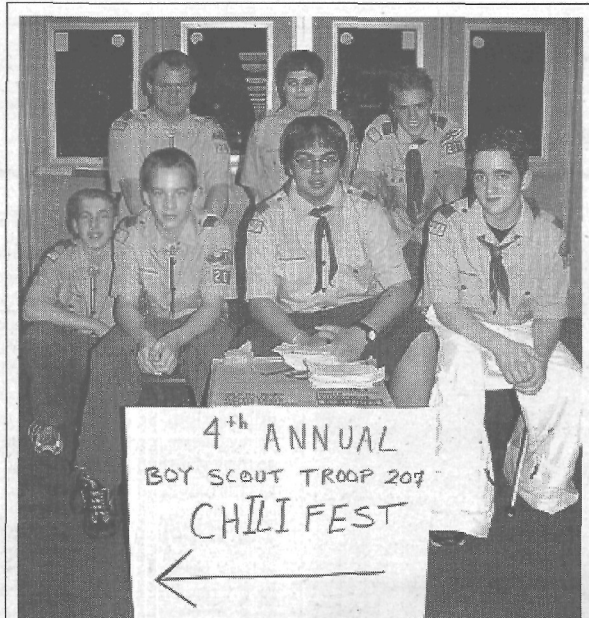
Get on board!

Call to
reserve your
space!
Deadline is
March 28

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

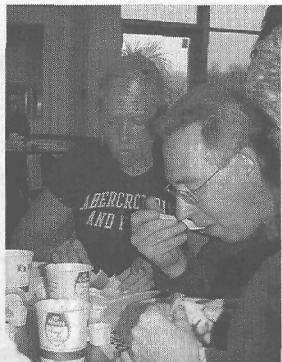
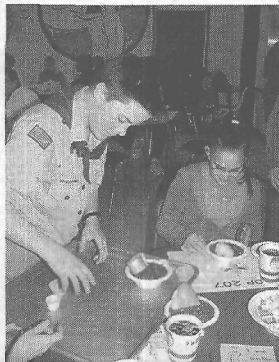


To reserve
your space call
908-668-0010.



Photos by Patricia Abbott

Boy Scout Troop 207 recently served chili and all the fixings to over 200 people during their fourth annual Chili Fest. This year's fundraiser was held at the high school instead of at Kennedy School. The scouts set and cleared tables to accompany the steady flow of people that arrived throughout the afternoon. During brief lulls the scouts were able to enjoy a chili dinner themselves. The event was chaired by Angela Uffer.



IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

session and discuss personnel, negotiations and any legal matters which must by law be discussed in private. No action is taken at this meeting unless the public is notified by newspaper, radio and building posting. Usually the public does not attend this meeting as much of the meeting is held in executive session and when we return to public we simply accept the agenda for the next week.

The regular public meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month. I have been a member of this board for five years. If an executive session is necessary it is held at the end of the meeting with only two exceptions that I can recall in which the board had to meet for no more than 15 minutes because it was an action item on our agenda and a member of the board requested clarification before voting. Mr. English implies that we go into executive session and leave the public waiting for hours. How he can write this while not attending meetings is beyond my understanding. Usually before any business takes place we hear from our student representatives and use a portion of the beginning of the meeting to recognize staff. The public is invited to discuss any agenda item prior to our vote. At the end of the meeting the public is invited to discuss any concern. Unlike other board's of education, we do not impose time restraints on how long we will listen to one subject. We have been criticized for allowing members of the public to spend a good portion of time on one subject, but the board has always allowed all who wish to speak to speak

freely. Some may feel frustrated that individual board members do not respond to public comment, but any one familiar with Robert's Rules of Order (as Mr. English is, a former council member and mayor), would realize all comments to and from the board are through the chair.

The reason I am so upset by this arbitrary comment is that I know the members of the board are very conscious about the public's opportunity to be participants of the process. In fact, this is why our curriculum committee meetings are committee of the whole meetings open and attended by many parents and staff members in the district. It is also interesting that Mike mentioned the grading procedure. For three years this has come up in the curriculum committee at least once a year. There has been resistance at both the high school administration and staff levels, and we have been unable to move this forward. There was a ray of hope last week when it was reported that this is now in policy; hopefully we will see this moved in a way that helps our students positively. Mr. English's views would have been welcomed during the many discussions. As a former member of the staff I am sure his views would be welcomed in other areas of curriculum and instruction. For example, despite over one hundred thousand dollars of staff development costs last year and thousands of dollars spent in programs and curriculum, how do we translate this to student performance? Perhaps Mr. English, as a former member of our staff, could help the board understand despite the resources and the lack of

micromanagement and staff mentoring programs, our students still score low overall in standardized tests—ESPA, GEPA, HSPT(A) or SAT, etc.

The accusation of micromanagement is also amusing as all administrators in this district know that board members are not in and out of the buildings without invitation. I know of no board member who has directed any person other than the superintendent.

A board member has a responsibility to the community to represent the interests of all, not just a special interest group. Our most important constituency is the 3,800 students and the taxpayers. It is the responsibility of each member to attend all meetings, not just public meetings. I and other members of the board are currently juggling up to five committee meetings because Mrs. Peck and Mr. Bohn attend none. It is unfair to the other members of the board who carry the additional load of extra committee meetings, and it is unfair to those we represent to not fulfill our obligations as elected officials.

I will close by asking you to support those who would take that responsibility seriously. They will represent the interests of children and taxpayers first, and they will, as they have in the past, attend the meetings and participate fully. Do not allow special interest groups to control your tax dollars or your child's education. Support Jeff Seider, Line 1 and Frank Mikorski, Line 4. Each has a proven record of putting children and taxpayers first. Remember, "birds of a feather flock together."

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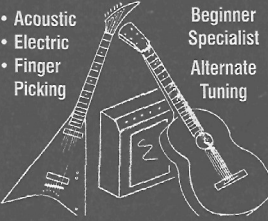
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policereport

• On March 17 Jose M. Santiago, 37, of Perth Amboy was arrested for shoplifting \$346.67 worth of DVD's and baseball equipment from K-Mart.

• McDowell's Trucking & Hawling of Scotch Plains reported receiving a bad check in the amount of \$482.57 from a South Plainfield customer.

• On March 18 Nicholas T. Gerhardt, 42, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Plainfield Ave. resident reported receiving approximately 75-100 harassing phone calls, most of which were of a sexual nature.

• Brenda F. Williams, 48, of Plainfield was arrested for theft at Home Depot and various outstanding warrants. The employee was caught stealing money from the cash register.

• On March 19, an Edison resident reported leaving her purse in a shopping cart at the Middlesex Mall. When she returned it was gone.

• A Ten Eyck St. resident reported that her drivers side rear tire had been slashed.

• On March 20, Victor Manuel Carrillo-Castro, 35, of Edison was arrested at K-Mart for concealing \$70.12 worth of merchandise under his clothes.

• A Sterling Ave. resident reported the theft of an Aiwa AM/FM CD player from his girlfriend's vehicle which he parked at the VFW.

• On March 21, Diaaeldin Essa, 48, of Edison was arrested for criminal sexual contact at his place of business on Park Ave. A Plainfield woman ac-

cused him of hugging and fondling her in his store. It is unclear if the two knew each other.

• On March 22, Nicholas Wayne Turner, 22, of South Plainfield was arrested at Blockbuster Video for concealing \$355.02 worth of DVD's under his jacket.

• An Oak Tree Ave. resident reported the theft of a quad ATV from the shed in his rear yard. Apparently an attempt also was made to take a motorcycle, because the ignition had been removed. Shortly after, the ATV was recovered on Pierce St. with its ignition removed also.

• Irma Delaluz, 31, of New Brunswick was arrested for shoplifting \$387.02 worth of assorted merchandise at K-Mart.

• On March 23 Hamwantie Persaud, 41, of Piscataway was arrested for shoplifting \$114.99 worth of jewelry at Macys.

• A Christopher St. resident reported the theft of his locked 1997 Ford Ranger from the road. A lock-out tool had been used.

• On March 24, a Piscataway resident reported the theft of her cell phone from her unlocked vehicle at Regal Cinema.

• ARMPCO on Corporate Ct. reported that a company vehicle had two broken out windows, four smashed lights, a damaged drivers door mirror and the rear windshield wiper had been broken off.

• An employee of Fiserv Co. on Craigwood Rd. reported that three tires had been punctured on his vehicle.

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Girl Scout Troop 309 Visits Animal House

Jr. Girl Scout Troop 309 from Franklin School paid a visit to Animal House Pet Grooming on South Plainfield Ave. as extra credit towards their "Pet Care" badges.

The girls were amazed as to how involved it can be taking care of a pet. Laura and Clem Approvato, owners of Animal House were wonderful,

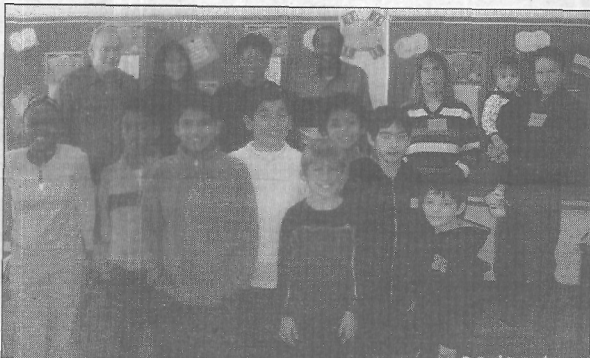
explaining in detail what is involved with owning and caring for an animal.

They were even so kind as to let the girls hold and pet some of the animals, such as dogs, cats, birds and a ferret. The animals were very well behaved (as were the girls) and very well taken care of.

Laura and Clem are two very special people and obviously take pride in their establishment. We would like to thank the two of them, as well as their children, for an enjoyable and educational visit.

If you ever need your pet groomed, Animal House Pet Grooming is the place to go.

International Day Luncheon at Franklin School



Back from left to right are Mr. Maroney, Mrs. Painton, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Shea, Christian Shea, Mr. Shea; front from left to right are Alita Eure, Teraye Garry, Brian Permaul, Brian Gonzalez, Brandon Shea, Edwin Molina, Tanner Painton and Luke Painton.

The children in Mrs. Phair's class at Franklin Elementary School recently celebrated their ethnic backgrounds. Friends and families joined in the celebration by attending an International Day Luncheon on Feb. 28.

Students brought in foods that represented their ethnic backgrounds.

Some of the foods prepared by the students were: macaroni and cheese

(USA), fried chicken (USA), arepas (Columbia), plantain chips (Guyana), rice pudding (El Salvador) and Irish soda bread (Ireland).

Prior to the luncheon, students used laptop computers to retrieve information about the different countries from which their ancestors came. The students located and marked the different countries on a world map and also colored flags to represent each country.

The students displayed their work at the luncheon so that all of the guests who attended could view the information and colorful flags from the various countries. A great time was had by all who attended the luncheon.

From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

As we near the end of March and welcome the arrival of spring (assuming there isn't any more snow on the horizon), here's news from the South Plainfield Library:

Please don't forget about our next special program. This Sunday, we'll be hosting the program "Walt Whitman: New Jersey's Good Gray Poet" at 2 p.m. Author and teacher Edward M. Cifelli, Ph.D., will speak about Whitman's life and poetry. Everyone is invited to attend. The program has been sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the NJ Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

We'll follow our normal schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. Those programs are for children age 3 and over. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. No pre-registration is necessary. The programs are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. If you'd like more information, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

We're between groups on the Video Circuit today. The next group will be available early next week. Meanwhile, Monday is the last day of availability for the current group of Circuit audiobooks. Available titles include "Lyon's Pride" by Anne McCaffrey, "1st to Die" by James Patterson, "The Summerhouse" by Jude Deveraux, "On the Road" by Jack Kerouac, "Gods and Generals" by Jeff Shaara, and, on CD, "Two for the Dough" by Janet Evanovich. Audiobooks may be borrowed, four at a time, for two weeks.

There's another special program on the horizon. On Sunday, April 6, at 2 p.m. Optimal Health consultant Dr. Gregory Kingsbury will lead the program "Reverse Aging, Overcome Disease, and Create Health Naturally". He'll talk about natural/holis-

tic means for improving health and curing common illnesses. There's no charge for this program and everyone is invited to attend.

Our display wall now features a display provided by the South Plainfield Historical Society. It includes several articles of antique clothing, along with related facts. They'll have more on display very soon, and it's all related to their special "Walk Through Old Sampton" program. (We'll have details on that in a future column.)

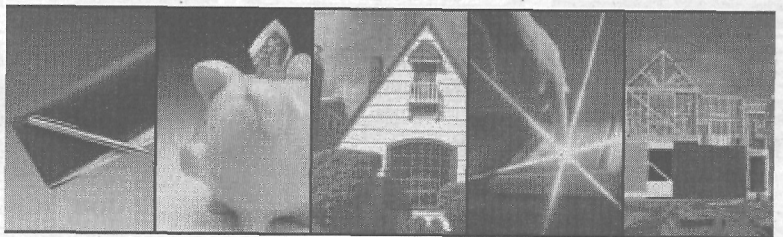
Now, let's clear up a common myth. While CDs and DVDs can store more information and provide a better quality of picture and/or sound, people are under the impression that they're all but indestructible. That is simply not true. DVDs and CDs must be handled and used with a good amount of care. Rough handling can result in fingerprints, cracks and scratches that can render the disc unplayable. And, unlike videotapes, the discs can't simply be repaired; usually, an unplayable disc must be discarded. While the demand for these discs, particularly DVDs, is high, we just don't have the cash to replace every disc that gets broken. So, if you want us to be able to afford to purchase new DVDs, treat them with care and don't abuse them (like using them as coasters, for example). If you need information or advice on proper care of DVDs and CDs, feel free to ask at the Circulation or Reference desks.

That's about all for this week. See you next Friday.

Kindergarten Enrollment

Kindergarten enrollment for the 2003/2004 school year will be held during the week of May 12-15 at each neighborhood Elementary School. Please call the Enrollment Center at 908-754-4620, ext. 223, for exact date and time for your school.

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O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of The Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me here you are my mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in my necessity (make request). There are none that you can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin pray for us that have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish it and it will be granted to you.

- L.J.L. -



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