

Easter Sunday
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The All-District
Music Festival Took
Place Last Weekend
-- See page 7

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 6, NO. 32

50 CENTS

APRIL 11, 2003

VOTE! School Board, Budget Election Next Tuesday

Three seats on the School Board and the 2003-2004 budget will be on the ballot at next Tuesday's election.

The 2003-2004 school budget includes proposals for additional teachers, an assistant principal at Grant Central, start-up and moving costs for grades five and six and capital funds to improve traffic safety around schools.

The total cost of the proposed 2003/2004 budget is \$42,771,797, which will mean a \$104.78 increase in the average home assessed at \$117,200.

Running for three open seats on the Board of Education are incumbent board members Frank Mikorski and

Sue Peck, former board member Jeff Seider, and running for the first time, Mike English and Patrick Kelly. Winners will serve three year terms.

A candidates' debate was scheduled for Wednesday evening, but do to printing deadlines, the *Observer* is unable to cover it. Hopefully during the past weeks readers have had the opportunity to read letters from the candidates and learn their views on several issues.

Read the letters in this issue. Learn more about the candidates. Exercise your right--vote on Tuesday, April 15. Polls are open from 2 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Middle School Students Support Servicemen

By Patricia Abbott

The lawn in front of South Plainfield Middle School is awash in yellow ribbons thanks to seventh grade student Jessica Brandes and her friends Katie Yon, Sam Hogan and Constance Flannigan. Walking home from school, Jessica noticed yellow ribbons popping up all over. When she learned what they were for she decided what she could do to show support for the troops.

Geography teacher Barbara Pinelli-McDonough said, "I am always telling them that they can make a difference." The determined youth began a petition seeking support for her project. "I had about 35 people sign the petition, including three teachers who said 'yes' to the idea and zero people who said 'no'," said Jessica. "So I thought that was good. Not only did

I have the support of my three friends and Ms. McDonough, I also had the support of my peers and classmates." McDonough explained to Jessica the project was a good one and the petition was unnecessary. She obtained permission from Principal Fred Oberker and on March 26, McDonough and the girls set to work tying ribbons around the many trees that surround the school.

The ribbons are a symbol of support and hope, a daily reminder of those who fight to keep us free. Jessica, Katie, Sam and Constance can be proud of their efforts. The next day, members of the National Guard were at the school presenting a program to health classes. The men expressed pleasure at the sight of the yellow ribbons. The girl's simple gesture has already made a difference.



Middle School students (standing left to right) Jessica Brandes, geography teacher Barbara Pinelli-McDonough, Katie Yon. Kneeling are Sam Hogan (left) and Constance Flannigan.



Georgeann DiGrazi, owner of Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave., has redesigned the shop's front window to honor our servicemen. DiGrazi is giving away yellow or red, white and blue ribbons to those who would like to display them at their business or home. She has received hundreds of dollars in donations which she has in turn given to Marie Smith to help defray the cost of making the flags for mothers of servicemen.

New Computer System Will Increase Police Response Time

By Jane Dornick

By the end of this month South Plainfield police officers will experience a new era in computer technology. Originally installed in 1986, the police department's current computer system hardware experienced a major failure in August of 2002 and has since been patched into Plainfield's system. As of January of 2003 the computer hardware currently being used would have become obsolete, so the police department had already been researching companies that manufacture law enforcement packages.

The borough applied for a grant from the Bureau of Homeland Security, and with the assistance of local Assemblyman Pat Diegnan, was able to obtain \$200,000 to cover the purchase of new equipment.

A computer assisted dispatch system was purchased through Quenues Enforth Development, Inc., or Q.E.D. Inc., which is currently being used by large towns and cities in New Jersey. South Plainfield will be the first town in the state to go "browser based" through Microsoft Internet Explorer.

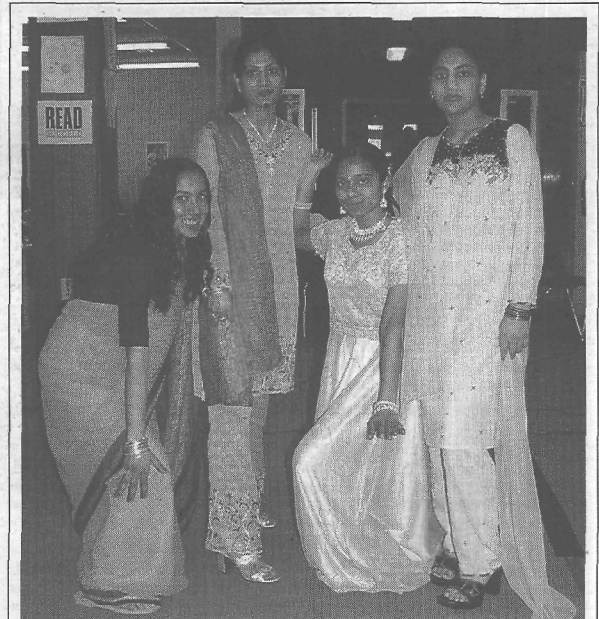
Officers will now be able to enter computerized reports on scene which can be reviewed, updated or browsed in real time anywhere in town and thus eliminate the need for a lot of paper shuffling at the station. A computerized mapping system will aid in generating statistical diagrams on spe-

cific incidents where detectives or traffic safety might have to analyze and pinpoint problem areas. Better crime analysis can also be conducted through a Master Name File.

The new system will better aid of-

ficers in locating 911 calls, therefore increasing response time.

According to Lieutenant Michael Grennier, the system should be installed and fully operational within the next few weeks.



SPHS students (left to right) Saira Memon, Jawaria Shafqat, Dipika Patel and Maryum Shafqat adorned in splendid native costumes presented an Indian dance often performed at weddings at the school's Cultural Heritage Day. See story on page 6.

VOTE-Tuesday, April 15

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

Thursday, April 17

Monday April 21 Thursday, April 24

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

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

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

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

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.

Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m..

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

siteplace 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

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

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday except August)

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

business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

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

traffic safety advisory commission

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

South Plainfield Observer

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

IN YOUR OPINION

To the Editor,

We want to start off by saying it's been a great program for our child. He has been a wrestler now for a number of years, and he really enjoys the sport. We've never had a problem with the program or the people who run it. As a matter of fact, we commend and admire the people involved with the whole program. They give a lot of their time and are very committed to it and our children. We appreciate all of their efforts.

But we feel that an injustice was done at our annual end of the year pizza party for the wrestlers. Plaques were given out to our children for doing a fine job and working hard. Most coaches were also given plaques for their time and dedication. We feel one coach was overlooked at this time. His name is Scott DelVecchio.

Maybe he isn't a "coach" in the eyes of the Rec program, but to most kids he was THEIR coach. We can say that he was at every tournament our child was at and he was always on the mat with our child and in his corner, cheering him on and "coaching" him.

He not only did this for our child, but for a lot of other children. We have talked to some of their parents and they feel the same way, that Mr. DelVecchio indeed should have been recognized for his efforts with the wrestling program.

As we've said before, the program is a great program and we hope it continues to be so.

But please, give credit where credit is due.

THANK YOU,
A WRESTLING MOM AND DAD

To the Editor,

On April 15 you will decide who will represent our district. The following are reasons why I seek reelection to the board. Simply stated these are:

- To advance the educational process to where we see measurable improvement in student performance and can be proud of the results.

- To insure that the substantial investments of your dollars in physical plant, technology, curriculum, staff development and other educational programs produce measurable results.

- To insure that these investments are applied as intended and there is true and measurable accountability for performance by those paid to deliver the instructional and educational product.

- To maintain high standards, unquestioned credibility and the pledge of no involvement with any special interest groups.

- To continue to seek additional state aid so that our district is fairly treated. This will also extend to Federal Aid for IDEA and No Children Left Behind funding.

- To maintain our ongoing construction progress, which is ahead of schedule and below cost estimates.

- Three other candidates are running as a team. My record and commitment is clear; how about theirs?

Mike English has attended recent budget meetings and expressed concern about administrative costs, yet he suggests adding department heads. It is regrettable that he did not express such cost concern at earlier board meetings when he repeatedly criticized the board for not settling an arbitration. You are all aware of the costs to the district for the back pay resulting from this arbitration. Whose interest was he representing then, you the taxpayer, the students or his own self interest?

Sue Peck is a board member and has a record. Ask her about her attendance at committee and board meetings.

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Corporate Accounts Welcome

Pat Kelly is running for the first time as a member of the interest group and has attended several board meetings.

I believe that when one surrenders their independence to self interest groups, it is difficult to be objective if the issue being considered negatively affects the group's interest. Neither I nor Jeff Seider have or sought the support of such an interest group.

You will be asked to vote on a school budget. It is not easy to ask taxpayers to vote YES for a budget that includes a tax increase. Consider these facts:

State aid to our district has not been increased for a second year in a row, the budget includes funding to pay the back pay for the teachers arbitration, healthcare premium costs have increased substantially, we are in negotiations for a new teacher, secretary and aides labor agreement, energy and other insurance costs have increased, as well as special education costs. These represent substantial cost increases. Every effort in this budget has been made to protect the integrity of ongoing educational programs for our students. It is a responsible budget. I support it and ask you to do the same.

In closing I ask that you vote and support me, Frank Mikorski, Line 4 and Jeff Seider, Line 1. Be sure to exercise your vote. Voter turnout is the key in order to prevent well organized self interest groups from achieving control.

THANK YOU,
FRANK A. MIKORSKI

To the Editor,

KIDS COME FIRST. That is our motto and the basic theme in all my letters during this campaign. To ensure a quality education for all our children we need to better organize the core curriculum every student takes. We need to put into place a better system for training our new staff members. We need to revamp our present grading system and bring back department discipline by reestablishing department heads.

KIDS COME FIRST. We need to spearhead a drive to change the state constitution to allow for a more equitable means of paying for education. The new system will rely on all wage earners, not just property owners and our seniors should be exempt from this tax altogether.

KIDS COME FIRST. If elected I will ask that all the elementary schools be open after school for true neighborhood latch key programs. Why should all the children have to leave their neighborhoods and go to the Central Six School for this worthwhile program? Our elementary schools should be used more often in the afternoons and evenings for educational and social activities. And we should look into a breakfast program if enough parents are interested.

KIDS COME FIRST. To make these changes happen, we need a majority on the board with the same philosophy. To guarantee this we ask that you vote for Pat Kelly (line 2), Sue Peck (line 3) and Mike English (line 5) on April 15. Together we can make sure that KIDS COME FIRST.

THANK YOU,
MIKE ENGLISH

Submit Letters to the Editor:

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

Dear Editor,

Last week's *Observer* contained letters and a press release touting the so-called successes of the all-Democratic Borough Council. It never ceases to amaze me how much gall the local Democrats have. Between the broken promises and the chicanery, it never ends.

Councilman Charlie Butrico signed a letter, in part, about the Helen Street project. It astounds me that he and his party would even bring up Helen St., let alone talk about the so-called progress of it. When they ran for council in 1996, Jim Vokral and Ed Kubala promised completion of Helen St. by 1997. And when Raymond Petronko and Bob Cusick last ran for council, they promised completion by the end of 2002. The Democrats have been talking about this for more than a decade. I can't imagine a more bungled project.

Butrico also mentioned the reconstruction of Hamilton Blvd.—another broken promise. He and his party now say construction will start in 2004. But what they fail to mention are the promises already made and broken. In January 2000 Mayor Gallagher promised to completely reconstruct Hamilton Blvd. by the end of 2001. (*Observer* 1/7/00). Then, during his re-election campaign last year, the mayor promised it would be done in 2003. Now they say 2004. At this rate, the Hamilton Blvd. project might rival the Helen St. project for the all-time broken-promise record.

Petronko also wrote a letter. I agree with his praise of the fire department and rescue squad wholeheartedly. But the letter goes on to heap praise on Bob Cusick, who, not so coincidentally, announced in the same issue of the paper that he is running for reelection as Petronko's running mate. It's not hard to read between the lines. Oddly, the letter doesn't mention that Cusick presided over the dismantling of the Public Works Department. Maybe if Cusick were doing his job, we would have had enough working equipment and personnel to get snow plowing and leaf pick-up done properly this year.

The chicanery also continues. The developer who wanted to put townhouses on Oak Tree Ave. before the election is now back looking to put 24 homes up instead. Of course, the area is not appropriate for an intense residential use, but hey, anything goes in South Plainfield.

And despite protests from the neighbors, one of developer Jack Morris's

(Continued on page 9)

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Looking for Those Serving in The U.S. Armed Forces

The *Observer* is compiling a list of every South Plainfield resident and/or their relatives (son, daughter, husband, wife, etc.), who are presently on active duty in the military. We would like to recognize them for their patriotic duty and the sacrifice each one is making in serving our country. With the help of our readers, we would like to start a letter writing campaign or possibly send them their hometown paper.

Marie Smith, the proud mother of a serviceman in the U.S. Army, has offered to make a flag for any mother of

a serviceman or woman from South Plainfield. If you would like a flag, contact Marie at (908) 791-0735 or email: mothersflagmaker@cs.com

If you have a relative in the service, please contact us through our webpage spobserver.com, email us at ggnan@aol.com, fax (908) 668-8819 or call us at (908) 668-0010. Include your name, the person serving, in what branch he/she is serving, if you have a way to contact them and a contact number to reach you for more information.

Coin Program at Library this Sunday

The special program, "Tale of the Coin," will be presented at the South Plainfield Public Library on Sunday, April 13, at 2 p.m.

Presented in conjunction with the American Numismatic Association's 80th Annual National Coin Week, four members from the Watchung Hills Coin Club of Warren will tell stories related to ancient, foreign and United States coins, and display actual coins and illustrations. Members of the au-

dience will be able to ask the speakers questions.

The program is presented free of charge and everyone is invited to attend. South Plainfield Free Public Library is located in the South Plainfield Municipal Complex at 2484 Plainfield Ave.

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

Neumann Sheet Metal Donates to Roosevelt Playground Fund



Maggie and Jamie McLean with Roosevelt School Principal Jacqueline Keogh and PTA President Therese Montouri. On behalf of the family business, Neumann Sheet Metal made a generous donation to the school's playground fund. Neumann Sheet Metal, located at 759 North Ave. in Plainfield, was founded in 1911 to service the local area's plumbing and heating needs. During the early 1950's, custom sheet metal fabrication became the main product line and it remains the same over 50 years later.

Recycling Center Closed Good Friday

The Recycling Center on Kenneth Ave. will be closed on Good Friday, April 18. It will be open instead on Thursday, April 17, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Both the Recycling Center and the Yard Waste Site will be open as usual on Saturday, April 19, 8 to 3. The Recycling Center will accept used paint on Saturday, as it does on the third Saturday of every month.

The Recycling Center regular schedule is Tuesday, 12 to 7 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Yard Waste Site regular spring/summer schedule is Tuesday, 12 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Decals for 2003 are available in the clerk's office.

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

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William (Bill) Tuthill Sr., South Plainfield Observer advertising representative, celebrated his eightieth birthday on Sunday with 68 family and friends at Sherban's Diner. Here Bill (center) is pictured with wife Elaine Tuthill (far left), Ann Saverd, Lisa Saverd, Bill Tuthill, Susan Tuthill, Michelle Kurilew, Donna Tuthill and Sal Sessanta.

Police Officers Take a Plunge for Charity

By Jane Dornick

South Plainfield Police officers from NJ PBA Local #100 attended a Special Olympics fundraiser at Pt. Pleasant recently. No, it wasn't to enjoy the beach or rides, but to participate in the 10th Annual Polar Bear Plunge. Even though it was an unusually warm afternoon, the challenge was to endure the 42 degree ocean.

The officers were sponsored by PBA Local #100, and the fearless "polar bears" managed to raise \$1,035 by taking a plunge in the frigid water for this worthy cause. Jenkinson's Restaurant provided a buffet on the beach for everyone.

Participating in the event were Police Officers Wendell Born, Mike Mollinaro, Jim McConville, Brian Iarrapino and Ray Jazikoff.



Battle of the Books Challenges Middle School Students

The annual Battle of the Books was held in March at the Middle School. This competition challenges the students to read a series of books selected by librarians throughout the state and compete in teams answering questions about characters, plots and situations in the books.

The competition began in the beginning of the school year with 144 teams, each team consisting of six students. Throughout the course of the year, teams were eliminated in school competitions.

At the end of the final round at the Middle School, the results were:

First Place — Robin Michaelian's seventh grade team;

Second Place — Jean Smith's eighth grade team; and

Third Place — Barbara Hepburn's seventh grade team.

The first and second place teams will

now compete against five other schools in the Battle of the Books Competition to be held in Englishtown on Friday, May 2.

Pictures of the winning teams and additional information are posted on

the South Plainfield Middle School web site at www.spnet.k12.nj.us

Just go to school—Middle School and click on "Battle of the Books."

Good luck to our Middle School teams!

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Craft and Flea Market Vendors Wanted

◆ VFW Post 6763 is looking for vendors for their Craft and Flea Market to be held on Saturday, May 10 at 155 Front St. A table and space are \$20; space only is \$15. The flea market is open to the public. For questions, please call (908) 753-9035.

◆ Vendors wanted for a Craft Fair & Garage Sale. It will take place on May 3 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Rain date is May 10. The fair is being held at the South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298, located at 1254 New Market Rd. For information or reservations, contact Anna at 908-754-3682.

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Around Town

The Easter Egg Hunt
scheduled for Saturday, April 12
at the PAL has been rescheduled
for Saturday, April 19.



NJ Poet/Author At Library

April 10

New Jersey author and poet Ed Smith will appear at the South Plainfield Public Library on Thursday, April 10, at 7 p.m.

A resident of Manasquan, Smith is the author of the book, "I am That Hero." An acclaimed poet, one of his works has been included in the "12 New Jersey Poets" display at Penn Station in NYC, and other works have been included at the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

This program is presented free of charge. For info, call (908) 754-7885.

Spring Craft Fair at Riley School

April 11

A spring craft show will be held April 11 at John E. Riley Elementary School, located on Morris Ave. from 5 to 9 p.m.

Car Wash for High School Musical

April 12

The cast of the South Plainfield High School Spring Musical "Anything Goes" will hold a car wash on Saturday, April 12 from 9 a.m. to noon in the Middle School Parking Lot. Cars are \$5; trucks, vans and SUVs are \$8.

Come on out and support the 2003 high school spring musical!

Lions to Host Annual Gourmet Breakfast

April 13

The South Plainfield Lions Club will hold the Annual Gourmet Breakfast in the SPHS 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.

Cost of the breakfast is \$5. 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!

Republication Club Meeting

April 16

The regular monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held Wednesday, April 16, at 8 p.m. at the American Legion building on Oak Tree Ave. All are invited to meet council candidates Marge Reedy and Ray Rusnak and discuss any topics that may concern the residents of South Plainfield.

Easter Egg Hunt At the PAL Rescheduled

April 19

South Plainfield Recreation invites all children ages one to 10 to the annual East Egg Hunt on Sat., April 19. Due to this week's snowfall, the event, originally scheduled for April 12, was rescheduled.

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

What's happening in APRIL

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

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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
April 10 • Monthly Membership Meeting 1 pm; Topic: Home Security April 15 • A Small World Pre School Easter performance & Parade 10 am				
EVENTS Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30 Yoga 10:30-11:30am	Bingo 10:30-2 PM Lunch Available AARP Tax Preparation 9am-Noon A Small World Pre-School Easter Parade 10am	Exercise & Walking Club 8:45-9:45am Movie 11:30am AARP Crafts 1pm	Shopping at Pathmark 9am Practical Crafting 10-11am AARP Tax Preparation 9am-Noon Line Dancing 10-11:30 Membership Mtg. 1pm	Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch
4	15	16	17	18
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.				

have children bring their own baskets to collect the eggs.

For info, call (908) 226-7713.

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.

Visit the center for a tour during normal operating hours (7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). For directions and information, visit their website at www.rainbowacademy.com.

Jane Doherty to Conduct Ghost Tour

April 27

Ghost hunter Jane Doherty will conduct a free ghost tour at Liquid Assets at 118 New Market Ave. on April 27 at 2 p.m. during non-business hours. Raindate is May 4. There will be a tour of both the inside and outside the building with a question and answer period afterward. The tour should last approximately one hour depending on the crowd. Open to the public. Any questions, please call the *Observer* (908) 668-0010.

SPHS Guidance to Present The Admission Game

April 28

Have you ever wondered what happens to the application you submit for admission to selective colleges? Who reads it? How is it read? What are the deciding factors?

The SPHS Guidance and Counseling Dept. will present an interactive and provocative presentation of the selective college admission process call "The Admission Game." The event features Peter Van Buskirk, executive officer to the provost and former dean of admission at Franklin & Marshall College on Monday, April 28 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. The Admission Game will provide you with all the answers.

— Out of Town —

David Mamet's "Oleanna" Drama

Through April 26

Alliance Repertory Theatre Company announces its production of 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 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26. Evening performances at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15; \$10; student/actor Thursday, April 24, 8 p.m. \$10.

Easter Egg Hunt & Festival

April 12

An Easter Egg Hunt and Festival will be held at Alliance Bible Church in Warren on Saturday, April 12, 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. The Easter Egg Hunt will start at 10:15 a.m. out on the church lawn. Admission is free.

This year will feature "Dr. Cassi," a local clown from Warren, along with a live petting zoo, complete with baby chicks, ducks and lambs.

The church is located at 52 Mount Horeb Rd., minutes off Interstate 78. Take exit 33 off I-78 and proceed toward Martinsville. Travel three miles and turn left onto Mount Horeb Rd. The church is one mile on the right. For information or directions contact the church office at 732-469-1425.

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 12 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 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 is \$25 per person.

Women Aware Hosting Fundraiser

April 14

Women Aware, a not-for-profit agency that provides the only services and shelter for battered women and their children in Middlesex County, is hosting its 11th Annual Soup Kitchen Fundraiser on Monday, April 14 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Pines Manor in Edison. Tickets are \$35/advance or \$40/door. \$75 donors will be listed in our program as "Heroes." \$250 donors will be listed as "Super Heroes." The event will feature tasty soups from the area's finest restaurants. Warm hearty breads, cheese and dessert round out the menu. Door prizes, raffles and a lot of fun at this very worthy event. All proceeds go directly to Women Aware's children's domestic violence intervention program entitled "ELVES" (Empower the Littlest Victims to Emerge Strong).

For info, call (732) 937-9525.

A Day to Remember - A Passion Play

April 17

A Day to Remember-A Passion Play will be presented at Alliance Bible Church in Warren, Thursday through Saturday, April 17, 18 and 19 at 7 p.m. There will be a matinee on Saturday, April 19 at 3 p.m. The concluding act will be presented on Easter Sunday, April 20 at 8:30, 10 and 11:30 a.m. Admission is free.

This 90-minute musical adaptation of the Easter story, incorporating both contemporary Christian music and dance, is a retelling of the events leading up to and including the Triumphal Entry, Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The church is located at 52 Mount Horeb Rd. in Warren, minutes off Interstate 78. Take exit 33 off I-78 and proceed toward Martinsville. Travel three miles; turn left onto Mount Horeb Rd. The church is one mile on the right.

For info or directions, contact the church office at (732) 469-1425.

Spring Assembly Of Westfield Genealogical Society

April 23

The Spring Assembly of the Westfield History Societies will feature Robert Peterson, historian and journalist, in an illustrated lecture entitled "Patriots, Pirates and Pineys." The assembly will meet at the First Baptist Church on Elm St. in Westfield on Wednesday, April 23 at 8 p.m. Introductory music begins at 7:45 p.m.

Peterson's articles have appeared in numerous publications here and abroad. He is the headmaster of The Pilgrim Academy in Egg Harbor City and he authors a weekly column, "Our South Jersey Heritage," for several Gannett newspapers.

The program this year will highlight the men and women who lived and died in the Pine Barrens. The presentation is without charge, is open to the public and will be followed by refreshments. A short musicale of folk tunes and ballads of the Colonial period will precede the program. Parking is prohibited at the rear of the video store adjacent to the church, but is available in the town lot accessible from either Elm St. or Mountain Ave.



Lions Palm Sunday Breakfast

Sponsored by the South Plainfield Lions Club

Helping the Visually & Hearing Impaired Since 1947....

When: Palm Sunday, April 13, 2003

Where: South Plainfield High School Cafeteria

Time: 8:00 am to 12:00 noon

Ticket Price: \$5.00

Tickets may be purchased at the door or through a Lions member.

For information, please call 755-2289.

Please bring your old eyeglasses to the breakfast. There will be a collection box there.

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Battoni Named Harness Horseman Man of the Year

Ron Battoni, who resides in Wright Township, Pa. with wife Linda, was recently named 2003 Harness Horsemen International Man of the Year Award. The presentation took place at the annual meeting of Harness Horsemen International (HHI) at the Fort Lauderdale Sheraton Yankee Trader Hotel.

Battoni, a native of South Plainfield, is the executive director of the Pennsylvania Harness Horsemen's Association and represents the horsemen at the Downs at Pocono, the home of Pocono Downs harness racing.

Battoni has been active in Standardbred racing for more than 30 years. He started racing in the early 1970s at Freehold Raceway as a driver-trainer. He later campaigned at Rockingham Park, Foxboro Raceway, the Meadowlands, Pocono Downs and Liberty Bell Park.

Mother and Daughter Share "Citizen of the Year" Award

The South Plainfield Elks honored Dorothy and Sarah Miele as "Citizens of the Year" on March 23 at the Edison Elks Lodge. Dan Uken, Americanism chairman of the South Plainfield Elks, presented them with their awards.

Dorothy, an art teacher and naturalist, is president and archivist of the South Plainfield Historical Society and president of the Friends of the Woods, where she coordinates public programs and maintains the trail at the Highland Woods Environmental Education Reserve. She is also a member of the South Environmental Commission.

Sarah is a freshman at Stockton College in Pomona. She is a double major in environmental science and art. She is second vice president of the South Plainfield Historical Society and chairwoman of fundraising. She is a founding member of the Friends of the Woods at Highland Woods and has been a nature guide there since the age



Dorothy and Sarah Miele

of 12. Sarah is the youngest ever associate member and full member of the South Plainfield Environmental Commission.

Dorothy and Sarah donated their time and talent to paint the Flag Retirement Box located in front of the Elks building on New Market Ave. It is to be used by residents to dispose of old and worn American flags.



Recreation Takes Irish Pub Tour

South Plainfield Recreation recently returned from a "Pub Tour" in Ireland. Michael and Susan English, Thomas R. and Ellen C. English, Dennis and Patricia Watson, Peter and Cornelia Calderone, Sheila Ann and Albert Blom, Pat Scalera, Patricia Browning, Constance and Dawn Besser, C. Reihl, Patricia and William McDonough, Thomas and Josephine Conlon, Michael and Rosemary Barry, Patricia Trapani, Katherine A. Seesselberg, Lubov Sims-Mack, Bradford and Helen Johnston, Patricia A. and Patrick Scanlon, Margaret Maciejewski, Jane Burke, Muareen Sopher, Patricia and Roland Pumm, Thomas P. and Jane T. Erdo, Maureen P. Seidel, John T. Foley, Joseph Glowacki, Lisa Pagerie, Miriam Bowman, Ann Malinchak, Darlene and Peter Goushy, Michael Tofte, Barbara Garcia-Gibilisco and Thomas and Barbara McCauley all had a great time and are eager to return.

"Hot Air" Was Smokin' at the Middle School

By Jane Dornick

Middle School seventh and eighth graders recently saw "Hot Air," an edu-

cational play that follows the daily activities of a middle school track star, her advertising executive father and her friends. The play focused on the diffi-

cult decisions and dilemmas the characters face when confronting the issues that surround tobacco use. Themes touched on were addiction, the affects of advertising on children, peer pressure, decision making and priorities.

Students spent time in workshops learning about tobacco marketing strategies in the media. They held scientific experiments about the negative physical affects of smoking, such as loss of taste buds, diminished lung capacity and tar in the body.

"Hot Air" was sponsored by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services with funds from the increase in the NJ cigarette tax.



Easter Sunrise Services in Spring Lake Park

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

Spring Lake Park.

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. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Rescue House of Prayer, Wesley Methodist Church and the many of faith-led people in our community.

(In case of rain, we will meet at 6:45 a.m. at Wesley Methodist, located at 500 Plainfield Ave.)

Good Friday Services Announced

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

Our service will be a service of Tene-

brae, or darkness, and will be marked by the reading of scriptures and the extinguishing of candles. At this particular time in our nation's history, we encourage you to join us in this reflective service.

Local Easter Service Schedule

SACRED HEART CHURCH

Holy Week Schedule 2003

- **Palm Sunday**- April 13,
Sat. Vigil 5 p.m.; Sun., 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
(Solemn Procession and Blessing at 9:30 a.m. Mass)
- **Monday of Holy Week**- April 14
7:30 p.m.-Chrism Mass (St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral)
- **Holy Thursday**- April 17, 7:30 p.m.- Mass of the Lord's Supper
Eucharistic Procession and Adoration
11:30 p.m.- Closing Night Prayer
- **Good Friday**- April 18, 9 a.m.- Morning Prayer
3 p.m.- Liturgy of the Lord's Passion & Death
7:30 p.m.- Ecumenical Service of Tenebrae
- **Holy Saturday**- April 18, 9 a.m.- Morning Prayer
12 Noon- Blessing of Easter Food
8:30 p.m.- The Solemn Easter Vigil
- **Easter Sunday**- April 20
6:30 a.m.- Ecumenical Sunrise Service, Spring Lake Park
Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

- April 12- Prayer Vigil for Peace from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- April 17- Maundy Thursday Service at 7:30 p.m.
- April 18- Good Friday Ecumenical Service at Sacred Heart Church at 7:30 p.m.
- April 20- Ecumenical Sunrise Service at Spring Lake Park at 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

- **Easter Sunday**- 10:30 a.m. Mass

OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA R.C. CHURCH

- **Palm Sunday Weekend Masses:**
Saturday, Apr. 12 at 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, Apr. 13 at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Palms distributed at every mass.
- **Monday, Apr. 14 and Tuesday, Apr. 15**- Mass, 8 a.m.
- **Wednesday, Apr. 16**- Mass at 7 p.m.
- **Holy Thursday, April 17, 9 a.m.-** Morning Prayer
7 p.m.- Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10 p.m.
- **Good Friday, April 18,**
3 p.m.- Celebration of the Lord's Passion,
Veneration of the Cross and Communion Services
7 p.m.- Stations of the Cross, Visit the Tomb of Jesus
- **Holy Saturday, April 19**
11 a.m., 12 Noon, 1 p.m.- Blessing of Easter food in Parish Hall.
8 p.m.- The Easter Vigil Mass
- **Easter Sunday, April 20**
8 a.m. and 11 a.m.- Mass of the Resurrection

RESCUE HOUSE OF PRAYER

- **Monday, April 14**- 6 o'clock Prayer; 7 p.m. Recovery Ministry
- **Tuesday, April 15**- 7:30 p.m.- Bible School
- **Friday, April 18**
7:30 p.m.- South Plainfield Ecumenical Clergy Combined Good Friday Service-Sacred Heart RC Church
- **Sunday, April 20**
6:30 a.m.- South Plainfield Ecumenical Clergy Combined Easter Sunrise Service at Spring Lake Park
- **11 a.m.-** Easter Morning Worship Services at YWCA, 232 East Front St., Plainfield, NJ.
- **5 p.m.-** Sunday School Easter Program

Price Family Welcomes Baby

Tanner William Price was born on March 4 at 5:37 a.m. at St. Peter's Hospital in New Brunswick to Bill and Janet Price of South Plainfield.

Paternal grandparents are Bill and Marge Price of South Plainfield. Maternal grandparents are John and Pat Tracey of East Brunswick.

Pictured at left is Tanner with his sister Shea, 3-1/2.



Nguyen Named to Pingry Honor Roll

Headmaster John Neiswender of The Pingry School is pleased to announce that Thao Nguyen, grade 12, of South Plainfield, was recently appointed to the Upper School's first semester Honor Roll. The Honor Roll recognizes those students who have achieved a B+ average or better with no individual grade lower than a B-.

The Pingry School, with an annual enrollment of approximately 1,000 students from 90 area communities,

serves its students through two campuses; a Lower School (K-6) campus located in Short Hills and a campus in Bernards Twsp. for the Middle (7-8) and Upper School (9-12). Founded in 1861 in Elizabeth by Dr. John F. Pingry, the school is recognized nationally for its academic excellence, Honor Code, sports programming and a universal concern among faculty, advisors and staff for each student in the school.

Seniors Get Prepared for Emergencies

Michael Zushma, Emergency Management Coordinator, met with the residents of the South Plainfield Senior Residence on Thursday, April 3. "What you should know and what you should do in case of a terrorist attack or other emergency" was the topic. Zushma gave detailed instructions followed by a question and answer period. A committee will be formed to deal with evacuations, fire drills, etc.



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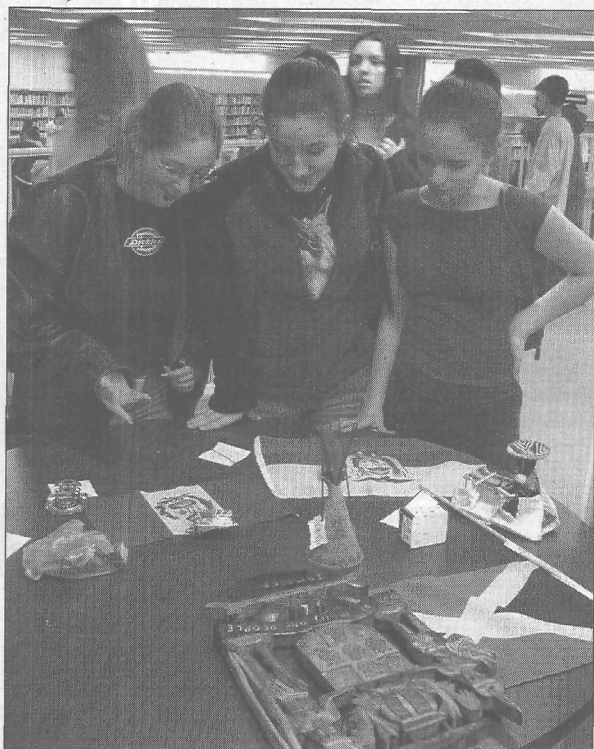
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Multi-Cultural Day Takes High School Students Around the World

Story and photos by Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield High School's March 13 Cultural Heritage Day offered all the perks of a trip around the world without the hassles of expensive plane tickets, bulky luggage and language barriers. Travel was no problem—the event, which was held in the high school media center, was sponsored by the Jerseyan History Club. "Travel agents" were club advisors, history teachers Fran Flannery and Anthony Barca and members of the club.

Passport to enter was enrollment in a history class and a desire to explore new cultures from around the globe. During each period throughout the day, history classes would converge on the library. The students scattered, trying to explore each area in the brief time allowed. The annual event featured many countries. The diverse displays included photos, documents, artwork, crafts, currency and other items related to the country. Colorful national costumes hung from railings on the upper level of the library. Students and teachers were also seen wearing costumes.

Mouth-watering aromas led many directly to the large section reserved for food. Three long tables were filled with rows of national culinary favorites. Each dish bore a card detailing the country represented, who made it and the ingredients. The selection was amazing; from assorted casseroles and rice dishes to vegetables and desserts, simple all American macaroni and cheese to favorites from Europe, Great Britain, South America and Asia. The food was an obvious favorite with staff and students alike. Seniors Christina Lorraine, Stephanie Tackach and Cindy Prybella took on the difficult task of organizing and setting up the food.

A positive change was the addition of regularly scheduled entertainment for each period. One end of the room was designated as the stage area. National flags hanging overhead added a special touch. Entertainment announcements prompted students to hurry for a good seat for the numerous selections of entertainment. They enjoyed Salsa, Indian and Filipino dances, including the popular Indian Stick dance, Spanish and Irish songs, martial arts, Latin American poetry and



more. To the delight of the students, Flannery and Barca volunteered to try the stick dance.

Dressed in splendid native costumes, Dipika Patel from India, Jawaria and Maryum Shafquat from Pakistan and Saira Menon from Bangladesh presented an Indian dance often performed at weddings. Dipika explained, "All four of us knew this song and dance because it's part of our culture and it's the same in all three countries. Because these are neighbor countries, we all understand Hindi, India's national language, same as Urdu and very similar to

Bangali. The song is in Hindi, which is from Indian-Bollywood. We all are good friends, we have classes together and we get along very well. We all watch Bollywood movies and listened to the same music."

They sound like typical American teenagers. In the United States the friendship shared by the girls is not considered unusual, but there is more than meets the eye. The girls' native countries—India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are not politically friendly. In another part of the world if they even chanced to meet, it is most likely they would not be allowed to associate with each other much less become close friends.

Our vast cultural diversity is what makes America unique. Turn back the pages of history and most Americans will find their ancestors were once immigrants who brought their own customs to this country. Customs that are so deeply integrated they are often considered "American." Newcomers willingly share their heritage with us, and as Americans we have the ability to take the time to understand and accept other cultures. SPHS Cultural Heritage Day is not just a study of ethnic diversity, it is an extraordinary celebration of life.



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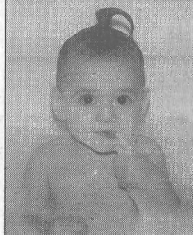


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Please note: Last week's Observer reflected a typographical error in Charlie's Ice Cream ad. The coupon offered an ice cream cake for \$2. The correct coupon – for \$2 off a cake – is printed here.



Paul Octavian Baldassarre

You entered our lives just a year ago, and filled every part of hearts with love and made them grow. You're our little angel sent from heaven above. So Happy 1st Birthday Tav, with lots and lots of love!

4-8-02
Love, Dad, Mom,
Nick, Katie & Anthony

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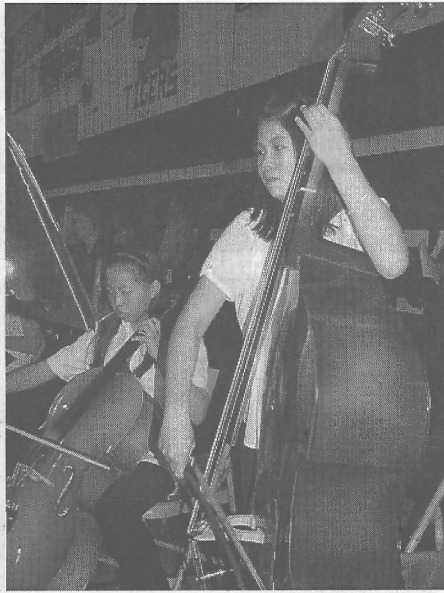
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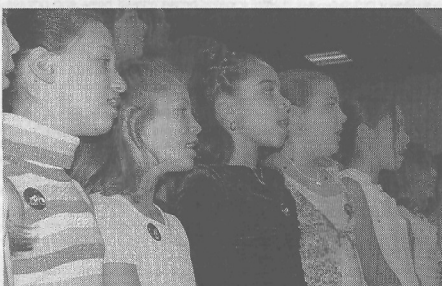
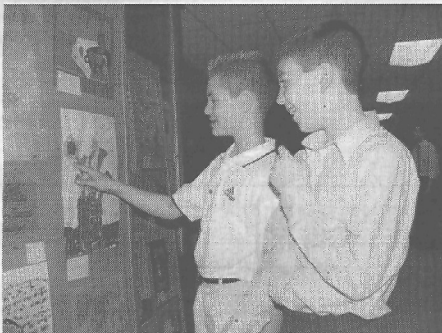
www.bunchis.com



Photos by Patricia Abbott

All District Music Festival Held

The sounds of music, a hallway ablaze with colorful and creative works of art, and a capacity crowd—all these elements combined to make the 34th Annual All District Music Festival and Art Exhibit an outstanding success. One after another, band, orchestra and choral—gave excellent performances.



From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Time for some more news from the South Plainfield:

The Library will be open on Palm Sunday, but will be closed the next Friday, April 18, in observance of Good Friday.

Don't forget about our next special program this Sunday. It's "Tale of the Coin," featuring members of the Watchung Hills coin Club of Warren. They'll tell stories related to ancient, foreign and U.S. coins, as well as display actual coins and illustrations. The program starts at 2 p.m. and is presented free of charge; everyone is invited to attend.

Let's check on our children's programs. We'll start with a correction; this month's Kidcraft program is set for today at 4 p.m. It's for children ages six and over, or those who are able to handle scissors. We ask that you sign up in advance for this program. Next week, we'll have our normal schedule of children's Storytime programs. They're for children age three and over; no pre-registration required. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. They're held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. For more information, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

We're making a change in our public computer system. More specifically, we're changing the way we handle printouts. We're in the process of setting the system up so that all printouts will be done by a single printer

located behind the Circulation Desk. To print an item, you still have to click on "PRINT" at a computer; you then pick up your printouts and pay for them at the Desk. Please be advised of several things, though. First, printouts are made on a "first come, first serve" basis; if there are other people printing things at the same time you are, you'll probably have to wait a few minutes until your stuff is ready. Second, if you only need to print out part of a document, rather than the whole thing, make sure you instruct the computer of this when you begin printing. Next, if you need a printout in color, rather than black-and-white, be sure you let us know this before you begin printing, so we can adjust the printer. Finally, due to the increased expense, we will now charge 50 cents a page for color copies; black and white copies will start at 10 cents apiece. If you have any question, don't hesitate to ask.

Finally, a reminder. At times, we allow patrons to borrow items from our Reference collection. This is done at the discretion of the Reference librarian, since we may need those items handy to help a patron. When we do loan out a reference item, remember that the loan period varies depending on the item. Also, remember that, due to the higher cost, lower availability and greater need for Reference items, the overdue fine is \$5 per day per item. For more information check with the Reference Dept.

That's about all for now. We'll be back next week with more Library news (assuming we don't get hit with yet another snowstorm.)

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Easter Flowers

Sports



Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller

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. The first game will begin at 9 a.m. second game at 12 and the third game will start at 2 p.m. Opening Day ceremonies will begin at 11 a.m. In the event of rain, Opening Day will be held on April 19.

Softball Jackets-Ordering Deadline, April 15—Sportworld is offering a light lined nylon jacket in green with the players name on the front and the Ponytail logo on the back. There are two styles available, zip-down in kelly green for \$35 and pullover in hunter green for \$45. Don't forget to use your \$5 discount coupon supplied by the Ponytail Parents' Association. The coupon must be presented to Sportworld at the time of your order. Please see your coach if you have not yet received your coupon. The last day to place orders is April 15.

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

All-Star Try-outs, May 3—Try-outs for the summer All-Star teams will be held on May 3 at 4 p.m. 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. A second try-out day may be needed. Second date TBA.

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 Szeliga

High School & College Select Travel League

The Garden State Baseball League for High School & College Teams are now registering to play in GSB Summer Wood bat weekend League. The league will officially start May 25 for all teams that are registered. We offer the best competition available for teams looking for a place to give their players exposure, great competition and a real baseball experience. Please head to our website for more information @www.gardenstatebaseball.com.

We can also be reached at 732-382-

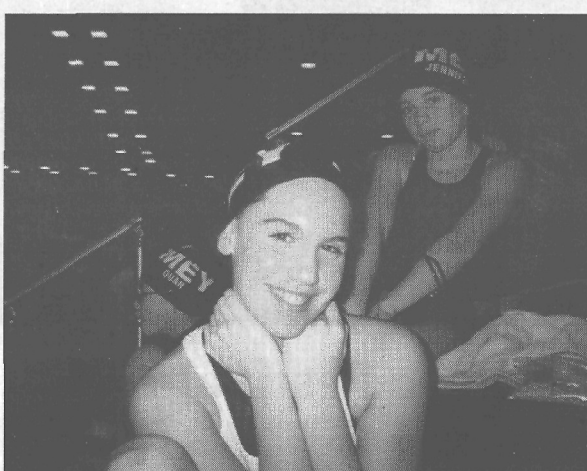
4610 and johngsbl@aol.com. Registrations are now being accepted.

Baseball Bloop and Blast Bash

The Youth Baseball Tournament for competitive travel teams will be held April 26-27.

The tournament offers divisions for little league, freshman, junior varsity, varsity and college unlimited. All teams are welcome to attend this great competitive wood/metal bat tournament.

SWIMMING



Danielle Atcachunas

Danielle Atcachunas Swims In Junior Olympics

In her second year since she has been part of the Metuchen-Edison YMCA Swim Team, Danielle Atcachunas qualified to swim at the NJ Junior Olympics. The meet was held March 21-23 at the Sonny Werblin Pool at Rutgers University.

Over 40 teams competed from NJ and Maryland. Danielle, age 12, and a sixth grader at Grant Central Sixth, began competitive swimming at age eight and has competed for the South Plainfield Community Pool, the JCC in Edison and is now finishing her second season at MEY. She also swims on the MEY Long Course Team and

the Metuchen Municipal Pool Swim Team during the summer.

The NJ Junior Olympics are only open to State qualifiers who have "gold times" in individual events. Danielle qualified with 12 events again this year swimming butterfly, backstroke and breaststroke. She placed in the top 16 for many individual events. Her medley relay team won a third place medal, breaking the MEY team record.

The team included Danielle (backstroke), Jill Rann (freestyle), Melissa Lang (breaststroke) and Alexa Hetzel (butterfly). All of these girls practice in the MEY "White Group," which is an 11/12 practice group consisting of swimmers that are YMCA State qualifiers.

Danielle will now enjoy a one month well deserved break before the spring clinic and summer season begins on April 28.

The MEY White Group is coached by Metuchen-Edison YMCA Head Coach Dave Kessel.

Sonics 1-0-1 After Two

The Sonics U10 soccer team traveled to Montclair for their season opener to take on the Montclair United Meteors on Sunday, March 30. Throughout the game they played through rain, hail and snow flurries!

It was a blustery 38 degrees at game time. Montclair scored twice during the first quarter. Down by two, Charlie Huber scored the Sonics' first goal of the spring season with a nice left foot shot off a through ball from Dana Hunt. Half time score was Montclair 2, Sonics 1.

During the third quarter, Dana Hunt's goal, assisted by Steve Lanza, tied the game 2-2. It was a tie game for a short time as Montclair scored again to go ahead in the fourth quarter. The Sonics were down to their last minute of the game trailing 3-2. Mike Dispenziere passed to Danny Hunt who caught the United keeper off his line and lofted the tying shot over the keeper's head. Down by two at one point in the game, the Sonics had fought back to a 3-3 tie.

The Sonics had another away game in Montgomery on April 6. They were privileged to play the first game at the new Mill Pond Fields. The Montgomery Sharks scored first on a fluke goal to go up 1-0 at half time. The second half saw a Sonics team together and ready score. They came roaring back off a rebound goal by Dana Hunt. Danny Hunt had the Sonics second goal of the match on a nice individual effort. Steve Lanza, Mike Dispenziere and Nick Okosko had several near misses each. Then the scoring was rounded out when Dana Hunt sent a nice blast past the goalkeeper to make the final score Sonics 3, Sharks 1.

Defenders for the games were Shaun Alers, Will Mott, Luke Gotiandia, Nick Ross and Danny Sticco. Midfielders were Charlie Huber, Danny Hunt and Ryan Billich while Dana Hunt, Mike Dispenziere, Steve Lanza and Nick Okosko played the attacking line.

Goalkeepers for the Sonics were Nick Tiupp and Nick Ross. Two great comebacks Sonics! Keep up the great team effort.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PENDING LEASE ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY

The lease ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, was introduced and passed upon first reading at a meeting of the governing body of the Borough of So. Plainfield in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, on April 7, 2003. It will be further considered for final passage, after public hearing thereon, at a meeting of the governing body to be held at Boro Hall, So. Plainfield, in the County of Middlesex, on April 24, 2003 at 7 p.m. During the week prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting copies of the full ordinance will be available at no cost and during regular business hours, at the Clerk's office for the members of the general public who shall request the same. The summary of the terms of such bond ordinance follows:

Title: An Ordinance of the Borough of So. Plainfield, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, approving and authorizing the entering into, execution and delivery of a lease and agreement with the Middlesex County Improvement Authority relating to the issuance of County-guaranteed capital equipment lease revenue bonds, Series 2003 of the Middlesex County Improvement Authority.

Purpose(s): Lease certain capital equipment from and approve the entering into of a lease agreement with the Middlesex County Improvement Authority.

Appropriation: Amount sufficient to amortize the lease payment obligations.

Bonds/Notes Authorized: None

Grants (if any) Appropriated: None

Section 20

Costs: Costs of issuance to be allocated pro rata

Useful Life: In accordance with the equipment being purchased.

Vincent Buttiglieri, RMC
Clerk of the Borough of South Plainfield

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE NO. 1621

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE ENTERING INTO, EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A LEASE AND AGREEMENT WITH THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF COUNTY-GUARANTEED CAPITAL EQUIPMENT LEASE REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2003 OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY.

WHEREAS, the Middlesex County Improvement Authority (the "Authority") is authorized to issue its bonds pursuant to the provisions of the County Improvement Authorities Law, chapter 183 of the Laws of New Jersey of 1960, as amended and supplemented (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-44 et seq.) (the "County Improvement Authorities Law"), and other applicable provisions of law; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has determined to issue its revenue bonds for the purpose of financing the acquisition of capital equipment for the purposes of leasing the same to various municipalities located in the County of Middlesex in the State of New Jersey (the "2003 Program"); and

WHEREAS, the Borough of South Plainfield, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey (the "Municipality") has determined to participate in the 2003 Program and to lease certain capital equipment from the Authority; and

WHEREAS, there has been prepared and submitted to the Municipality the form of the Lease and Agreement (the "Lease"), to be entered into by and between the Authority and the Municipality, which Lease has been approved by the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey (the "County") and which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, providing for the acquisition and leasing of certain items of Equipment from the Authority, which Equipment is described in Exhibit B attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein. All terms used herein and not otherwise defined shall have the same meanings ascribed to such items under the Lease.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE GOVERNING BODY 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. Pursuant to section 78 of the County Improvement Authorities Law, N.J.S.A. 40:48-1 et seq., the Municipality is hereby authorized and directed to enter into and perform the Lease, which Lease provides for the leasing of certain items of Equipment acquired with the proceeds of County-Guaranteed Capital Equipment Lease Revenue Bonds, Series 2003 (the "Bonds") to be issued by the Authority under a resolution of the Authority to be adopted by the Authority entitled, "Resolution of the Middlesex County Improvement Authority Authorizing the Issuance of County-Guaranteed Capital Equipment Lease Revenue Bonds" (the "General Bond Resolution"). The Lease, in substantially the form submitted herewith in Exhibit A (a copy of which is on file in the office of the Clerk of the Municipality), is hereby approved with such changes, amendments or modifications as may be approved by counsel or bond counsel to the Municipality and bond counsel to the Authority and the County.

Section 2. The full faith and credit of the Municipality are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the obligations set forth in the Lease authorized by this ordinance, including without limitation, (i) all Basic Rent and Rent obligations of the Municipality under the Lease including, Authority Administrative Expenses and Additional Rent, (ii) all amounts due and owing to the County as a result of payments made by the County on behalf of the Municipality under the Lease pursuant to the County Guarantee, including County Guarantee Costs and (iii) all direct and indirect costs of the Authority and the County related to the enforcement of the Lease and the County Guarantee, (i), (ii) and (iii) collectively, the "Lease Payment Obligation"). The Lease Payment Obligation under the Lease shall be a direct, unlimited and general obligation of the Municipality, not subject to annual appropriation by the Municipality pursuant to the County Improvement Authorities Law, and unless paid from other sources, the Municipality shall be obligated to levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable property within the Municipality for the payment of the Lease Payment Obligation thereunder without limitation as to rate or amount.

The Mayor or other Authorized Municipal Representative (as defined in the Lease) is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Lease on behalf of the Municipality in substantially such form as attached hereto in Exhibit A and the Clerk of the Municipality is hereby authorized and directed to attest to such signature and affix the seal of the Municipality thereto and the Lease is authorized to be delivered to the Authority. All representative, officials and employees of the Municipality are hereby authorized and

directed to enforce and to implement provisions of the Lease.

Section 3. The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

- (1) The maximum Lease Payment Obligation for which the Municipality shall be obligated hereunder, which, inter alia, will be used for the payment of principal of land interest on the Bonds of the Authority shall not exceed the sum necessary to (a) acquire the Municipality's Equipment described in Exhibit B which will be subject to the Lease, (b) pay interest on the Authority's Bonds allocated to the Municipality and used to acquire the Municipality's Equipment, and (c) pay the Municipality's share of the costs of issuance, Authority Administrative Expenses, Additional Rent, County Guarantee Costs and all other amounts required to be paid by the Municipal under the Lease.
- (2) The Bonds shall mature within ten (10) years from the date of issue.
- (3) The Lease Payment Obligation authorized herein shall remain effective until all the Authority's Bonds shall have been paid in full accordance with their terms and/or when all obligations of the Municipality under the Lease have been satisfied, notwithstanding the occurrence of any other event, including but not limited to the termination of the Lease with respect to some or all of the items of Equipment leased thereunder.
- (4) The Items of Equipment described in Exhibit B are hereby approved to be leased from the Authority in accordance with the terms of the Lease, with such changes, amendments or modifications as may be approved by counsel or bond counsel to the Authority.

Section 4. To the extent the Municipality is an "Obligated Person" (as defined under the Rule (as hereinafter defined), the Municipality hereby agrees to comply with the requirements of Rule 15c2-12 (the "Rule") promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended and supplemented, including the secondary market disclosure requirements contained therein, and agrees to covenant to such compliance in the Lease. The Mayor, Clerk, Chief, Financial Officer or other Authorized Municipal Representative are each hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver a Continuing Disclosure Agreement, approve and "deem final" the Official Statement of the Authority and the preliminary form thereof to the

extent the information contained therein relates to the Municipality and to execute and deliver all certificates, documents and agreements to the Authority in connection therewith and to file budgetary, financial and operating data of the Municipality on an annual basis and notices of certain enumerated events as required to comply with and in accordance with the provisions of the Rule.

Section 5. The Mayor, Clerk, Chief Financial Officer or Authorized Municipal Representative are each hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all certificates, documents and instruments and to do and cause to be done any and all acts and things necessary or proper for carrying out the execution and delivery of the Lease, the leasing of the Equipment which is to be the subject of the Lease and all related transactions contemplated by this ordinance.

Section 6. Upon the payment of all amounts referenced in Section 3 (3) herein, the full faith and credit pledge of the Municipality as to its Lease Payment Obligations authorized herein shall cease to exist.

Section 7. The provisions of this ordinance are severable. To the extent any clause, phrase, sentence, paragraph or provision of this ordinance shall be declared invalid, illegal or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 8. This ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after final adoption and publication in accordance with applicable law.

Adopted on First Reading
Dated: April 7, 2003

ATTEST:
Vinnie Buttiglieri/South Plainfield Borough Clerk

MIDDLESEX COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY LEASE ORDINANCE FOR CAPITAL EQUIPMENT LEASE 2003 CAPITAL EQUIPMENT LEASE PROGRAM

SCHEDULE B

Description	Estimated Cost
Dump Truck with Plow	\$60,000
Pick-Up Truck with Plow	\$33,000
911 Terminal	\$12,000
Emergency Mgmt SUV	\$35,000
Fire Department SUV	\$45,000
TOTAL	\$185,000

\$311.50

April 11, 2003

IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

companies got a variance to expand its facility on West End Ave. Did I forget to mention the large donations this man makes to the Democratic Party? The neighbors didn't have a chance.

Another developer wants to put a strip mall on Park Ave. in a residential area near Eckerd's. When dozens of residents showed up to oppose the project, the Zoning Board let the developer cancel the hearing at the last minute—even though it meant residents wasted their evening and would have to come back a second time. God forbid we inconvenience the developer.

Broken promises and game playing are the norm under this administration. South Plainfield is becoming a builder's delight and a taxpayer's nightmare. One can only hope change comes soon.

JAKE CATALDO

To the Editor:

On April 15 some of you will take part in the Board of Education election process.

This year, as in the past, there are two groups of candidates to the board.

One group of three candidates is closely bound to the public education monopoly establishment in this town.

This is why it is important for you to vote—so that they do not gain control of the board and the district.

Then there is a group of two candidates who do not represent any special interest.

Their overriding concern is for the school children and citizens of this town.

One of them is Frank Mikorski—current president of the board, seeking reelection—a man of integrity who speaks in terms that can be understood by people far away from the day-to-day politics of the board. He has proposed actions at the legislative level in Trenton that have helped us get funds for our school building program as well as our new athletic track. He firmly believes that the administration and staff should be held accountable for quality performance. I recall when Frank Mikorski first proposed the idea of foundation (now Vision 2001), promoted the Tech Prep program with Middlesex County College and worklink program with the Private Industry Council. You can be sure Frank Mikorski will not be influenced by special interest groups; he will choose what is best for students, ever mindful of the cost impact on taxpayers.

Jeff Seider has served on the board previously and has diligently met his responsibilities as chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee as well as Personnel, Policy and Transportation Committees. He also established and chaired a committee on special education. He is dedicated to the students and taxpayers.

I support and ask you to vote Line 1 Jeff Seider and Line 4 Frank Mikorski. Be assured that your hard earned dollars will be spent effectively on educational resources for students.

Get out and vote.

Do not let 10–11% of eligible voters make the decision for all of South Plainfield.

BOGDAN FRYSZCZYN

To the Editor:

The Board of Education election will soon be upon us and I am asking for your support for my election and the election of my running mates, Sue Peck and Mike English on April 15. If elected, as part of the Board of Education Team, we want to focus on the future with a common goal and a shared vision that is in the best interest of everyone, the taxpayer, the students and the staff.

I want to assure the public, that if we are elected to the South Plainfield Board of Education we will be committed to the goal of scholastic achievement by focusing on the social and academic development of our students. Of course, every district wants that as its primary goal. But our commitment, I believe, is unique.

We face problems every day that make achievement difficult, such as,

children in crisis, economic conditions in our town, and lack of funding from the state. This makes it difficult for our district to achieve the levels that we believe we are capable of reaching. Every day, we work toward a common goal because we believe in our children and in our schools.

As a board of education, we must be committed to assuring that the district adheres to state directives as well as board policy. The directives provide us with a map. The board policy provides us with the compass to find our way. Adherence to both is our elected responsibility, and we take it seriously.

As a board of education, we must be committed to overseeing the completion of administrative mandates as established by the State Department of Education, following code and statute, and fairly applying regulations.

If we do this consistently, we will be sure that funds allocated for children get to them. It will ensure that personnel and resources are allocated effectively, technology is acquired appropriately and the academic program for our children is available in quality and quantity.

As a board, we must strive to function as a cohesive unit that works for the benefit of our students. We must show courtesy and respect to each other and act with the dignity of our elected office.

We must, above all else, maintain our focus when interacting with each other on issues of significance. If we can do this, we will be able to function effectively to enact change that leads to improved test scores, lower dropout and truancy rates and provide an efficient system of education for all our students at an affordable price to the taxpayer.

As a board of education, we must do the work necessary to carry us forward, exhibiting professionalism that will be deemed exemplary throughout New Jersey. And that, ultimately, will lead to student achievement, our only real purpose for existing as a board of education.

We must continue to seek scholastic achievement whenever and wherever it can be found, demand quality education and high expectations daily, and make the learning experience for our children the finest in the state. Our children deserve no less than this level of commitment from us every day, all year round. And we intend to fulfill our promise to our children by working hard for as long as it takes to meet our goals.

Please remember to vote for Pat Kelly - Line 2, Sue Peck - Line 3, and Mike English - Line 5.

**SINCERELY,
PATRICK W. KELLY**

Dear Residents,

As our Board of Education election approaches I hope each and every resident will exercise their right to vote. Unfortunately, our students and the residents of South Plainfield cannot depend on our elected officials at the State or Federal levels to ease the burden of funding education. They do, however, seem to have little difficulty mandating South Plainfield's delivery of educational services. The budget before you this year will maintain services already offered to our school children and address much needed safety issues that each parent who delivers and picks up their student has known for a long time. School children are in danger each day due to the large volume of traffic congestion around each school. This budget will enable the creation of safe drop off and pick up areas around our elementary schools and hopefully we will also be able to address the Middle School.

You will also be asked to vote for three candidates. I hope you will consider the actions of two who are running for this three-year term. I believe there is much to do, and the qualities of Frank Mikorski and Jeff Seider have been demonstrated repeatedly over their time of service to South Plainfield.

On November 16, 1999, Jeff Seider made a motion from the floor to reopen Grant Elementary School. This

building had been used to house administrative offices while our school buildings were becoming increasingly overcrowded. The building re-opened in September 2000 and we are in the second successful year of housing sixth grade. In September of 2003 we will include the fifth grade to the population, moving into phase two of addressing the overcrowding at each elementary school. Once again, each building will have an art and music room and children will have space for resource and remedial services in areas without distraction. As buildings and grounds chairman, Jeff worked diligently to get our track program running again and fought hard to get the board to support the brick replacement and restoration at the Middle School. This was a project that kept falling to the bottom of the list because of the expense. Because of Jeff's insistence, this probably saved the residents much more than it cost to complete. The damage this building was experiencing because of water would have been much more extensive had the problem not been addressed. Jeff invited members of the police, fire and emergency management departments to building and grounds meetings to discuss the safety and traffic issues at each school. It was through these efforts of all involved that (if this budget passes) these issues will be addressed. Jeff also served on transportation, construction, personnel, and residency and lobbied for and served on a special education ad hoc committee. He invited members of the special education staff, parents and board members to explore how services and communication could be improved to help our neediest population. Jeff Seider has worked hard for South Plainfield and we need members on the board that are willing to not only put in the time, but stand up for students and taxpayers even when the decisions are difficult.

Frank Mikorski has served this community for many years. This gentleman has no children or grandchildren in our district, yet works tirelessly to maintain fiscal responsibility to each homeowner. Frank has lobbied at all levels of government for fair treatment of the residents and students of South Plainfield. He is famous for telling all that will listen: our children are as special as those in the special needs districts, (AKA Abbott districts). I believe it is through

Frank's efforts that the board has evolved to responsible spending. Not one member of this or previous boards can say he hasn't given the time to scrutinized spending, looked for ways to save and keep the resources where they belong, in the delivery of education. Frank takes little credit for bringing the educational foundation to South Plainfield. Through his involvement with Bloomfield Public Schools Foundation he helped form the foundation that raises funds for scholarships and services that are beyond what we can ask of the taxpayers. Frank has fostered relationships with businesses that have benefited our students. Frank worked diligently to have the funds released from the oil tank removal project to be used to fund the track replacement at Jost Field. Frank Mikorski is a member of this and past boards of education that have demanded fiscal responsible spending that enabled South Plainfield to put forth budgets with little or no impact to our homeowners. Most recently Frank headed the renegotiation of the COPs to take advantage of lower interest rates. Frank serves on the construction committee and all projects are under budget and ahead of schedule. Frank, by far our most experienced board member, is respected by board members, public officials locally and throughout the state for his knowledge and determination and treats your tax dollar frugally without compromising our students or their needs. The students and residents need Frank Mikorski to continue his work and his keen business sense to maintain this responsible approach to the delivery of education.

My final comment is that Frank Mikorski and Jeff Seider take this seriously; they know that a child is affected by the decisions made at board level. Each of these gentlemen attends all meetings and put the time in and out of the board room to insure quality and fiscal responsibility. I cannot think of a better choice in this election than Jeff Seider Line 1 and Frank Mikorski Line 4. The evidence is clear, their track record supports, and they care about the residents and school children of South Plainfield first and foremost. I hope you will support them!

DAWN JEFFERY

To the Editor,

I am asking you to join me in supporting Frank Mikorski and Jeff Seider

in their election bids to the South Plainfield Board of Education. These two individuals have presently and in the past, given a great deal of their time and talents for the betterment of our school system.

During his time on the board Frank has made more trips to Trenton than we can count. On behalf of our community he has attended numerous meetings, lectures and seminars, always seeking out our representatives in the assembly and the senate, or the commissioner of education, pleading our causes and making sure that we get our fair share of state money.

The Building and Grounds committee, of which Frank is a member, also includes the new construction projects in the district. This entails two additional meetings each month with the construction officials that usually last two to three hours each. Working so closely with these professionals has helped to a large degree to keep these projects on or ahead of schedule and also under budget.

Jeff served on the board from 1999 to 2002 and also dedicated much of his time to the Buildings and Grounds committee, where he served as chairman. He was an integral part of the early stages of the new construction projects, laying the ground work for what we have today, and the finished product we will have for the September opening of the school year.

One of the finest qualities that I have seen in both Frank and Jeff is their efforts to be active participants at meetings. They pay close attention to all that is going on, never being afraid to ask questions or offer opinions. The students are always their primary focus.

April 15 is a very important day this year for all of us. Your support for Jeff Seider Line 1, Frank Mikorski Line 4, and a 'yes' vote for the school budget will have lasting results for all of our students.

TIM MORGAN

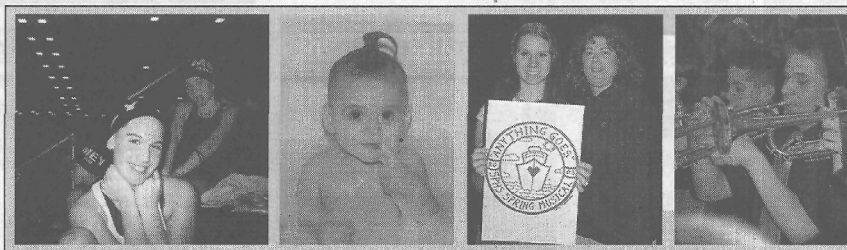
Letter to the Editor:

The election for school board members will be April 15. This election usually has a very low voter turnout. I encourage all registered voters to go out to vote this year for your school board representatives and for the budget.

As far as electing the people who

(Continued on page 10)

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IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued on page 10)

would best serve the students of South Plainfield, I believe that Frank Mikorski and Jeff Seider will be the best candidates this year.

Mr. Mikorski has gone to our state legislators to fight for every dollar he can for our district. He has led the way with new legislation over the years to ensure that our students have everything they need to succeed. He has insisted that the state pay for all that they mandate our district to do. He consistently has the best interests of all the students of our town with every decision he makes.

Mr. Seider has been a school board member previously and as such, also has the students best interests in mind. He understands what it takes to be a good school board member.

When you make the commitment to run for any office, you must be willing to attend the regularly scheduled meetings every month, as well as attend the committees to which you are assigned, and to come prepared to all meetings.

I would encourage you to vote on April 15 for Frank Mikorski and Jeff Seider on election day. They both put the best interests of the children of South Plainfield first.

SINCERELY,
MARJORIE REEDY

To the Editor:

As I read the editorials in the April 4 edition of the *Observer*, one in particular peaked my interest with cause to respond.

The editorial referenced the blatant unconstitutional way we pay for education. This is in reference to the State Supreme Court decision on Abbott vs. Burke in which 30 districts receive most of state aid monies to cover their school budgets, while the remaining school districts, like South Plainfield, rely mostly on property taxes with little state aid.

As I read that letter I thought to

myself, here goes Frank Mikorski again, his favorite mantra, time and time again, board meeting after board meeting, resolution upon resolution Frank Mikorski has lobbied for equal and fair funding of school districts, even testifying before legislators on education.

Frank Mikorski has stated many times that State Mandate State pay; Federal mandates Federal pay and has urged the public to write their legislators demanding change to this discriminatory practice of funding. As I came to the end of that editorial to my surprise, the author was not Frank Mikorski. The author on that editorial was that of Mike English, former South Plainfield mayor and South Plainfield High School teacher and current candidate for the board of education. Mr. English closes his letter stating if elected, along with his running mates, which includes a current board of education member, that he promises to dedicate their term in office trying to change the way people pay for education in this state. This strong statement brings some questions to mind.

First, why have you not previously pursued change with regard to this is-

sue while as the political leader and or former political leader of this community or as an educator and taxpayer?

Secondly, why only now if elected, would you seek change?

And lastly, why has this now become an issue for the current member of the board of education you support for reelection? You see, I believe it's never too late take on an issue for cause, but I do question the timing of such, especially one of this importance. I would sincerely hope that this promise Mr. English has made with regard to this issue is not one of words but one of action regardless of the election's outcome.

I conclude this letter by stating I agreed with most of Mr. English's editorial as it reinforces my belief that Frank Mikorski's message is being heard and repeated.

On April 15, I ask that you support Jeff Seider Line 1 and Frank Mikorski Line 4 where our commitment is proven by actions not words, whether we are board members or not, all year long.

JEFF SEIDER, BOARD OF
EDUCATION CANDIDATE

police report

• On April 3 Carpet Bazaar on Montrose Ave. reported that sometime between April 1 at 5:15 p.m. and April 2 at 12 p.m., 10-12 Persian area rugs had been removed from the store valued at approximately \$12,000. There were no signs of forced entry. There are no witnesses or suspects at this time. It is unknown how the rugs were removed from the store. The burglary is being investigated by Detective Gary Cassio at (908) 226-7663.

• On April 2 Stephanie A. Romeo, 46, of Jamesburg was arrested for driving while intoxicated at a motor vehicle stop.

• Israel Rodriguez, 19, of Somerset was arrested at Macy's for shoplifting a watch from a display counter.

• Ciro Gallagos Hernandez, 27, of Bound Brook was arrested for fraud. He presented a false driver's license for ID at the DMV.

• H & S Gifts on So. Clinton Ave. reported that someone attempted to enter the store by kicking the front

door, which was smashed. No entry was gained.

• On April 3 Luis Fontanez, 21, of Perth Amboy was arrested for driving on a suspended license at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Tremont Ave. resident reported the theft of his 1994 Nissan Pathfinder.

• On April 4 Frank A. Irber, 43, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving and reckless driving at a motor vehicle accident.

• Desi Video on Oak Tree Rd. reported that a toothpick had been jammed into the keyhole lock on their front door.

• The owner of Town & Country Greenhouse on Sampton Ave. reported that the gas line of his van had been cut.

• A Front St. resident reported that someone had kicked both rear quarter panels, the driver's side rear door and the roof of his vehicle.

• Home Depot reported that a package had been left in front of the store that no one could account for. The store was evacuated and the State Police Bomb Squad was called. Bomb technicians determined that the package was not an active threat.

• On April 5 an employee of McDonald's reported that she was assaulted while working at the drive-up window. A man walked up to the window, pushed her and got into his car and left.

• On April 6 a Second Pl. resident reported that her front door had been forced open. Nothing was taken.

• A Piscataway resident reported that a vehicle he had for sale in front of Buttrick's Auto Body on New Brunswick Ave. had its drivers side window smashed. A pry bar was also found inside.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Antonio Grasso requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the construction of a single family dwelling. Proposed dwelling lacks the required 30' front setback from Smith Street, 27.72' is being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located on 333 Smith Street, Block 347 Lot 8.03 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, May 15, 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 April 11, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Robert Price requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the construction of a single family dwelling. Proposed dwelling lacks the required 30' front setback from Smith Street, 27.72' is being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located on 512 Wooden Ave., Block 406.02 Lot 4 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 24, 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 April 11, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Jun Dung Zhang requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the expansion of a non-conforming use in a HD D zone; single family not permitted; lacks 10' side setback, 5.7' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located on 147 Lakeview Ave, Block 284 Lot 17 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 24, 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 April 11, 2003

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The Historical Society scholarship form is available in the guidance office, and is due in guidance on or before April 28.

Access the Historical Society web page at: <http://communitv.nj.com/cc/sphistoricalociety> or e-mail the society at SPHistoricalSoc@cs.com for more information.

Subscribe online at
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LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

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

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 24, 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 April 11, 2003

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Obituaries

Cpl. Michael Edward Curtin, 23



Cpl. Michael Edward Curtin

Cpl. Michael Edward Curtin died on Saturday, Mar. 29 in Najaf, Iraq (Operation Iraq Freedom).

Cpl. Curtin was born in Plainfield and had lived in Garwood before moving to Howell in 1984. He was a graduate of Howell High School Class of 1998 and a communicant of St. Veronica's RC Church.

Upon graduation from high school

in 1998, Michael was employed by Petro-Packaging Company in Cranford where he was a tool & die apprentice from 1998 until 2001. Cpl. Curtin enlisted in the US Army in May 2001 and attended basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia where he completed Advanced Infantry Training and graduated from the US Army Airborne School and US Army Ranger Regimental Indoctrination Program. He was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division of Fort Stewart, Georgia where he received commendations. He was deployed to the Middle East in January 2003.

Michael had a passion for music, especially the Beatles, and he also enjoyed playing the guitar. He was an avid NY Yankees and Dallas Cowboys fan. He loved vacationing with his family at Disney World and the Jersey Shore. He was very proud of his Irish heritage. Most of all, he loved being with family and friends.

Surviving are his mother and father, Joan M. and Michael J. Curtin of

Howell Township; a brother, Daniel; three sisters, Katherine Curtin, Jennifer Curtin and Stephanie Curtin; a niece, Kayla; grandparents Elsie and Edward Larsen of South Plainfield and Catherine and Michael J. Curtin of Brick; two aunts and two uncles, Karen and Robert Thompson of Bridgewater and Patricia and John Curtin of Lakewood and four cousins, Robbie Thompson of Bridgewater, Kasey Thompson of Bridgewater, Jonathan Curtin of Lakewood and Carrie Ann Curtin of Lakewood.

Visiting at The Church of St. Veronica, 4215 State Highway 9 North, Howell, will be on Thursday, Apr. 10 from 2-4 and 6-9 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be on Friday, Apr. 11 at 10 a.m. at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to the Cpl. Michael E. Curtin Scholarship Fund C/O Barbara J. McMorow, Howell High School, 405 Squankum-Yellowbrook Road, Farmingdale, NJ 07727 would be appreciated.



Janet Panella, Helena Gromosaik, Christel Takacs, Angela Iacobelli and Kathleen Wilson (not pictured) are Bunchi's All About Arts and Crafts' first One-Stroke Program graduates. The program consists of 24 lessons and six projects that utilize a quick and easy technique mixed with Bunchi's owner Yorka Ralwins' (far right) interpretation to better the students' performance in their decorative creations.

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Last fall, Michele Kunie and Joe and Denise Maistickle opened First Class Travel, which is located at the corner of Maple Ave. at 100 Front St. Their experienced and knowledgeable staff is ready to help with all your travel needs. They pride themselves on offering a wide range of travel related services in a friendly atmosphere.

Michele has been working in the travel industry for many years and when you give her the details of your dream vacation she will be able to put together a vacation of a lifetime. A dream vacation could be gambling in Las Vegas, a cruise around the world, a beautiful relaxing island or white water rafting down the Colorado River. First Class Travel can accommodate your every need.

Last summer Michele organized a trip of over 130 people to a resort on the Turks and Caicos Islands. She set up entertaining cocktail hours and

luxurious dinners outside by the ocean. She made sure every detail was perfect. Before the week was over, the group was asking about next year's trip. This summer a trip to Cancun, Mexico is being booked and next summer they will return to Turks and Caicos.

First Class Travel specializes in honeymoons, cruises, family and group travel and go out of their way to provide personal and unmatched service and attention. They are committed to ensuring you the best possible prices and will make every trip special. Wouldn't it be nice to call a trained professional and discuss every detail of a trip rather than plug a credit card into a computer with no assistance and hope for the best?

When planning a trip, call First Class Travel for great service and competitive prices. When you go on vacation through them you never go alone. They are only a phone call away.

Elizabeth Pellegrim, 90

Elizabeth Pellegrim died on Tuesday, April 1, in Genesis Elder Care Center The Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born in Richmond, Va., she has resided in Plainfield for the past 75 years.

She was employed by Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield for 15 years working in Central Supply.

Her husband, John Pellegrim, died in 1968.

Surviving are a daughter, Jean Masters of Vero Beach, Fla. and her children, Randol, Tracy, Jonathon Scott and Kaura Beth Masters; a son, Judge Ernest Pellegrim and his wife Bernice of Gallatin, Tenn. and their children, John Pellegrim, Joanne Smith and Jean Hale. Also surviving are nine great grandchildren.

Memorial services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

A member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield, she was also a member of the church's Rosary Altar Society. Ethel was a life member of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad Ladies Auxiliary and the South Plainfield PAL Senior Citizens. In addition, she was a member of the Democratic Club and the VFW Memorial Post #6763 Ladies Auxiliary, both of South Plainfield.

Surviving are her husband, Angelo Bruscatto; a son, Robert J. Ward of Riva, MD; stepchildren, Carol Ann Miller of New Milford, Rose Mary Harding and Joan Bahooshian, both of Piscataway and John Bruscatto of Milford. Also surviving are 10 grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Memorial donations in her memory may be made to South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

1961.

Surviving are her three daughters, Anita Tierce of Seaside Park, Patricia Black of Bradenton, Fla. and Jeanie Alexander of Somerset; three sons, Alfred of Orlando, Fla., Raymond of Bradenton, Fla. and John of South Plainfield; three sisters, Susan Covington, Mary Voorhees and Helen Latkovetz and her brother, Joseph Szraga. Also surviving are 13 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

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

Peter "Brooklyn Pete" Maniscalco, 87

Peter "Brooklyn Pete" Maniscalco died on Tuesday, April 1 at home.

Born in New York City, Mr. Maniscalco had resided in Brooklyn and in Newark before settling in South Plainfield in 1957.

He was employed as the foreman of the planting department of Pal Nut Co. of Mountainside for 40 years before retirement in 1985.

Mr. Maniscalco was a WWII veteran of the US Air Force, a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens and Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years; Josephine (Facciponti) Maniscalco; a daughter, Diana Scioscia-Zaslow of Westport, Conn.; a son, Peter J. Maniscalco of South Plainfield; a brother, Joseph of Brentwood, Long Island and three grandchildren, Jennifer Marie Scioscia, Jessica Lynn and Adam Paul Maniscalco. all of South Plainfield

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Ethel M. (Rooney) Bruscatto, 87

Ethel M. (Rooney) Bruscatto died on Tuesday, April 1 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born in New York City. She resided in Moonachie and River Edge before moving to South Plainfield in 1955.

Ethel was employed as an accounting specialist for the Boy Scouts of America, Nationwide Headquarters, formerly of North Brunswick, for 15 years, before retiring in 1981. She had previously been employed as a real estate agent for L. Simmons & Company of Hackensack.

Jennie (Szraga) Celentano, 87

Jennie (Szraga) Celentano died on Tuesday, April 1 at Manatee Memorial in Bradenton, Fla.

Born in South Amboy, she had been a resident of South Plainfield for the past 75 years.

Jennie was a homemaker for most of her life and a member of our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church in South Plainfield.

She was predeceased by her husband, Julius "Supe" Celentano, who died in 1985 and by her son, George "Dutch" Celentano, who died in

CORRECTION



NEW LIONS MEMBERS WELCOMED—South Plainfield Lions Club President Bob Desch welcomes new members Michael Grenier, Frank Matthews and Mario Abbruzzese while District Governor John Dutkowski looks on. (Last week we incorrectly identified Frank Matthews. We regret the error.)

Prayer of the Blessed Virgin

(never known to fail)

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.

— KS —

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