

VOL. 6, NO. 35

50 CENTS



The South Plainfield High School Winterguard wearing their first place medals. From left to right (top row) Kendall Green, Gaelle Amazan, Dunia Galarza, Chelsea Falato, Nadine Yon; (middle row) Natalie Picciotolli, Amy Magner, Alyssa Maiorino, Ariana Makoski, Stephanie Troia; (bottom row) Claire Dolling, Wendy Kollarik, Calty Fodor, Jenny Cai, Jaci Noonan, Samantha Gentile, Kristen Giualano; (floor) Jamie Glowacki.

Winterguard Takes #1 Spot **At Chapter 10 Competition** Squad Looks to Triumph at All-Chapter Championships

By Caity Fodor

This past Sunday, the SPHS Winterguard competed at the Chapter 10 Championships at Roxbury High School in Succasunna. Chapter 10 consists of guards from lower New York and Central and Northern New Jerse

The South Plainfield girls put on the best show they could, and when the time came for the awards cer-

emony, they lined up on the gym floor next to all of their competitors. There were a total of six guards in the Scholastic Novice group, which is the group South Plainfield competes in. The score for the sixth place guard was announced, followed by the fifth and fourth place scores and South Plain-field had not been announced yet! The girls realized they would be in the top three, but where? Would they retain the title of Chapter Champions which

received a masters degree in physics.

He has been serving in the United States Air Force for the past 19, 10

years with Strategic Air Command

(SAC), Squadron Commander at Air

Force Academy, Assistant Ops. Officer,

Sr. Navigator Examiner, Navigation

Instructor, Radar/Navigator Bomba-dier, JFCOM Liason and Air Liason

Officer. He is currently serving with

the 10th Mountain Division based in

Donnelly has been a substitute

teacher for the South Plainfield School

District and participated in "Big Brother" in Washington State. Last

year he served in the war in Afghani-

stan, and was awarded two Bronze Stars–Oakleaf Cluster and Bronze Star

with Valor for Saving Unit Under Fire.

He is currently serving in "Operation Iraqi Freedom." He has received the

Continued on page 8

Fort Drum, NY.

The South Plainfield Board of Edu-cation held their reorganization meeting Tuesday night.

they had been awarded a year ago?

They knew by now they would be re-

ceiving a medal, but what color-

Continued on page 12

gold, silver or bronze?

After Board Secretary Ed Izbicki read the official results of the School Board Election, newly elected members Mike English, Patrick Kelly and Sue Peck were each sworn in for threeyear terms.

The first order of business for board members was to elect Pio Pennisi as president and Sue Peck as vice president. Members were asked to list on which committees they would like to serve during the next year.

It soon became apparent that this election produced a changing of the guard among the board members. Several resolutions were either tabled or separated.

Board President Pio Pennisi wanted to move both COW and regular public meetings to Mondays. After a short discussion, the board voted to keep Tuesday as their meeting day, but left open the possibility that they may amend the day in the future.

Several appointments were tabled to give new board members, Mike English and Patrick Kelly, a chance to speak to the applicants.

However, the board voted to appoint Dr. Nicholas Celso III as school board attorney after rejecting a request from English to table the appointment.

Fire at Able Labs Evacuates Building

Last Thursday at 10:05 a.m. a structure fire was reported at Able Labs, located at 3601 Kennedy Road.

The fire started and was contained on the roof of the building. The fire was ignited by a forklift that had struck a one-and-a-half inch gas line, rupturing the line. The roof area sustained a

moderate amount of damage. Approximately forty (40) workers were evacuated from the building. There were no reported injuries. New Market and Plainfield fire Departments assisted the South Plainfield Fire Dept. in extinguishing the blaze. EMS from Plainfield, North Plainfield and Edison were also called in.

Workers were allowed back into the building at 1 p.m. Able Labs is a company that produces pharmaceutical products.

Several moments after the fire call Able Cabs on Hollywood Ave. reported a mercury spill. HAZMAT was called, but didn't have to respond be-cause employees cleaned up the spill.

First Rt. 287 Billboard For Borough Approved

Last week's Planning Board ap-proval of a billboard which will face Rt. 287 along the stretch of highway that passes through South Plainfield brings to an end the battle to keep them out of the borough.

During the past three years, South Plainfield has been fighting what turned out to be inevitable - billboards along Rt. 287.

Two years ago, after rejecting plans to place at least three billboards along Rt. 287, the council passed an ordi-nance forbidding them. Since then

several court cases involving billboards have declared that they are a matter of free speech.

In February Mayor Gallagher and the Council introduced and passed a new ordinance which would allow billboards on a restricted basis.

Matrix Outdoor Media was the first to apply, and last week was granted permission to place a billboard on the property of the AT&T Training Center on Hadley Rd. The billboard will be 48' wide and rise 50' above Rt. 287. Continued on page 8

BOE Swears In New Members, Elects Officers



School board members (left to right) Patrick Kelly, Sue Peck and Mike English were sworn in to three-year terms at Tuesday's reorganization meeting.

It's "Click It" or Ticket For Drivers

The South Plainfield Police Department will be participating in the "Click It or Ticket" campaign, as part of Op-eration ABC Mobilization from May 19 to June 1. This campaign will be a zero tolerance effort for unrestrained children and seat belt viola-

This high profile law enforcement is a two-pronged effort, stressing both enforcement and education, in an attempt to save lives and decrease injuries through the increased use of seat belts and child restraints. Educational materials, such as posters and morning announcements, will be provided to the South Plainfield High School.

In an effort to increase child safety seat usage, the police department has a limited number of child booster seats which will be provided to South Plainfield residents free of charge.

For more information about these programs contact Sgt. Kevin Murtagh tt (908) 226-7679 or Officer Vincent Campagna at (908) 226-7693.

Three Candidates to Join the Hall of Fame School, graduating South Plainfield High School in 1979. In college he

Established in 1995, the "Hall of Fame" at South Plainfield High School honors graduates for achievement in business, government, academia, community service and the humanities. Acknowledging these successful graduates recognizes them as leaders in their fields and provides cur-rent high school students with positive role models from within their own community.

This year's inductees will be honored at a luncheon and will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the high school's annual academic awards program on June 3. They will also have their photographs and biographies displayed on the "Hall of Fame" at the entrance to the high school.

Candidates for this year are Col. Peter Donnelly, Dr. Yvette Nicholson Gbemudu and Natalie Pompilio.

Lt. Col. Peter A Donnelly, USAF received his education at J.F. Kennedy Elementary School, Cedarcroft Middle

Log on to southplainfieldnj.com

for the lates eeting agenda

... PUBLIC MEETING

... Thursday, May 8

May 2, 2003

INYOUR OPINIO

Dear Editor,

When Mayor Gallagher and members of the council ran for office, they promised to listen to the people of South Plainfield. They promised open government. In fact, I still have some of the campaign literature where they made these promises.

But now that the campaigns are over, it seems the Democrats are back to playing politics as usual. I read in the newspaper that the mayor and council are accused of having a secret closed-door meeting in Councilman Dennis Cerami's home. This not only goes back on everything they stood for when they ran for office, it violates the law.

I can only assume the charge is true, because so far not one member of the council has denied it. That council members Petronko and Cusick have stood silent is even more disconcerting. When I ran for council against these two gentlemen, they pledged to listen to residents. In fact, one year their party's slogan was "we hear you." It's hard to hear residents when you're conducting a secret meeting in a private home

The mayor and council need to come clean and explain their actions. We didn't elect them to break the law. Nor did we elect them so they could ignore us. So far, their lack of response to this charge has been shameful. DAVID GUOTH

2003 Walks 'N **Talks Program**

Sponsored by the Friends of the Woods and the South Plainfield Environmental Com-

May 4, Sunday, 1:00 pm National Wildflower Week Wildflower Walk

Highland Avenue Woods May 16, Friday, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Family Fun Friday Senior Citizens Cente **pre-register @ 908-754-307

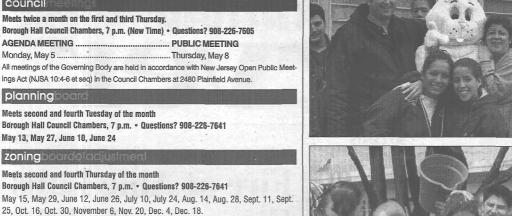
May 24, Saturday, 1 p.m Baptist Cemetery Walk with Larry Randolph, town historian New Market Avenue

June 21, Saturday, 6:30 pm Summer Solstice Celebration stories and nightime walk bring sit-upon, flashlight Highland Avenue Woods

September 20, Saturday 9 a.m. Fall Trail Maintenance please bring equipment Highland Avenue Woods

October 4, Saturday, p.m.

Fall Foliage Frolic with Dr. Alice Tempel walk the colorful reserve Highland Avenue Woods





Anything Goes Cast Members Hold Fundraising Car Wash

By Patricia Abbott

The cast of South Plainfield High School's upcoming spring musical, Cole Porter's Anything Goes took a gamble on the fickle spring weather and held a carwash at the Middle School on Saturday, April 12. The day dawned grey and dreary with a forcast of rain. But Co-director Lory Alcaro and 27 volunteers including cast, staff, parents and even two grandmothers waited out the clouds and enjoyed a successful fundraiser washing dozens of cars.

Adding to the fun were costumed characters at the entrance to the school driveway, beckoning cars to have the winter's dirt and salt removed for a reasonable price and a great cause. Throughout the morning Pooh, Tigger

and even an Easter Bunny caught the eye of drivers. Raul Rodriguez, father of cast member loe Rodriguez, was on hand serving workers hot chili to ward off the remenants of a not-so-springlike breeze.

Pleased with the success of the event Alcaro commented, "It was a day of bonding, which brought us all closer together as a family. We worked hard and laughed hard together and raised some funds to help support the show. We were able to have a great day be cause of all the support we received from parent volunteers and the community who came to have their cars washed.

The show run May 8 and 10 at the high school. For more information call (908) 754-4620.

Calling All Boys Who Want to be Scouts

On May 8, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., all boys who are interested in scouting are invited to come to the Riley School gym, where a town recruitment for Tiger Cubs (boys entering first grade in Sept.); Cub Scouts (ages 7-10), Boy Scouts (ages 11-17) and Venturing (ages 14-20 both young men and women) will be held. It's never too late to join.

The advantage of joining join now instead of the fall is that it allows the committees to plan for upcoming events and for boys to participate in summer activities, including Cub Scout and Boy Scout Camp.

Also, new Tigers are able to attend a Tiger Safari and day at camp this summer to acquaint them with Scout-

Direct questions to Marie Markey at (908) 755-3213 or Antwoine Ginlock, or Patriots Path Council District rep at (908) 654-9191 ext. 135.

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday G&G Graphics, Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B South Plainfield, NJ 07080 (908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

NANCY GRENNIER Publisher/Editor

South Plainfield

Observer

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council

AGENDA MEETING ..

planning

zoning

siteplace

December 2.

business

recreation

Monday, May 5.

Mark your

Meets twice a month on the first and third Thursday

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month

boardofeducationmeetings

May 13, May 27, June 10, June 24

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

ings Act (NJSA 10:4-6 et seg) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue

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

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

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.: May 13, June 10, July 15, August 12

Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m.: May 20, June 17, July 15, August 29

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

25, Oct. 16, Oct. 30, November 6, Nov. 20, Dec. 4, Dec. 18.

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

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

Meets once a month (second Wednesday except August)

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

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

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

environmentalcommission

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

trafficsafety _____

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

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

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

calendars

Web page: www.spobserver.com For subscriptions, advertising or information, call (908) 668-0010.

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: ggnan@aol.com or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not-exceed 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the addiced discretized ggnan@ab.com of hax soc-soc-soc is p. Letters should increaced ado 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 observer. Letters must be submitted with name and phone number, even if the writers request their name be omitted when published.

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Associate Publishe

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KENNETH MORGAN







The South Plainfield High School students pictured were just a few of the 150 volunteers who picked up five tons of trash during Volunteer Litter Day Cleanup.

South Plainfield Volunteer Litter **Clean-up Bags Mounds of Trash**

South Plainfield residents woke up to the sound of rain Saturday morning, April 12 - a sound that has become all too familiar of late. Remarkably well over one hundred of these residents came out anyway for the annual Volunteer Litter Cleanup Day. Mayor Gallagher had proclaimed the week of April 12-19 as "Volunteer Litter Cleanup Week." On April 12 service groups and individual residents cleaned sixteen sites.

Forty students from the High School cleaned up Spring Lake Park and the High School grounds. Friends of the Woods worked at the Tompkins Ave. open space parcel at the corner of Clinton Ave. Cub Scout Pack 324 cleaned out large amounts of trash from Walnut Street Park. Cub Scout Pack 224 worked at their Adopt-A-Spot on Cedarbrook Ave. and the adjacent open field along Morris Ave. and Den 9 cleaned the Municipal Building grounds. Volunteers cleaned the Borough's Oak Tree Open Space reforestation site on Park Ave., the entire length of Sampton Ave. and the vacant lot at the corner of Tompkins and Maltby avenues. Councilman Cusick brought a crew

from the County Work House to clean Helen Street, Coolidge St, a vacant lot at Hillside and Hamilton, and Metuchen Road. Boy Scout Troop 207 tackled Hadley Road. A group from the Wesley Methodist Church cleaned Willow Avenue Park. Members of the Republican Committee worked along Metuchen Road. And, joined by Freeholder Rafano, the

NAMESICONS



Former Board of Education President Marge Reedy organized a litter crew that cleaned Metuchen Road from the railroad tracks by Sherban's Diner to Belmont Avenue. The crew included (left to right) Ray Rusnak, Robyn Rusnak, Marge Reedy, Debbie Boehm, Mike Reedy and Bob Jones.

ing the week. Cub Scout Pack 202 cleaned the Community Pool and PAL building parking lots. Boy Scout Troop 124 scheduled their annual cleanup on South Clinton Ave. The Keystone Community Residence worked on Kenneth Ave. The Elsie Avenue Neighbors worked in the Elsie Ave. section of the Nature Reserve. The Carmine Ave. Neighbors did their usual impressive cleanup of New Market Ave, and the vacant lot on Carmine Ave. Harris Steel was scheduled to put a crew out on New Brunswick Ave., which fronts on extensive Harris Steel lands.

The Road Department picked up the bagged trash during the week. Re-cyclable litter that the volunteers had lected bagged litter and piles of trash. All told, Volunteer Litter Cleanup Week 2003 saw 23 sites cleaned of about five tons of trash by 150 volunteers

Many of Saturday's workers returned to Borough Hall for the annual Pickup Picnic. The rain had tapered off during the morning, and by noon the sun was emerging. Wet volunteers warmed up to hot pizza donated by Domino's, cold soda provided by the A&P, and an amazing six-foot sub courtesy of Home Town Heros. A free raffle distributed Earth-friendly door prizes, such as shopping bags made from recycled soda bottles and a Colorado blue

Sixth Annual South Plainfield Police Bicycle Rodeo May 10

On Saturday, May 10 the South Plainfield Police Department will be hosting their annual Bicycle Rodeo. The event will be held in Spring Lake Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Featured will be an obstacle course

presented and conducted by volunteer employees of State Farm Insurance. Proper riding techniques and rules of the road will be emphasized during this phase of the program and an On-Bike Skills Development course will be con-ducted. Helmet wearing cyclists will negotiate a moderately challenging course of cones to improve their riding abilities.

For cyclists 14 years of age and younger, who do not have bicycle helmets, a limited supply of helmets, do-nated by the South Plainfield Traffic Safety Advisory Commission and the Ferro Corp, will be provided to them. Those participants wearing their own helmet to the rodeo, and register their bicycle with the South Plainfield Police Department, will be entered into a drawing to win a new bicycle. South Plainfield Rescue Squad Captain Ron Sward, director of Physical Therapy Center of Woodbridge and South

Plainfield, has donated a bicycle for this event.

.3

Safety oriented literature supplied by various sources will be provided to all participants. Halls Fast Motor Freight and Warehouse, Haagen Dazs Ice Cream, Pepsi, McCriskin's Home for Funerals, Rita's Italian Ice and Freihofer's Baking Company all have donated refreshments.

In conjunction with our bicycle safety program, a unique bicycle regis-tration/theft prevention program will be available to the public. The "Baron Von Pedaloff" program, designed by retired South Plainfield Police Officer William Frink is specifically designed to reduce bicycle thefts. By encouraging bicycle owners to register their bicycle and taking anti-theft precautions, we can reduce the amount of bicycle thefts that occur. "Baron Von Pedaloff" literature will be provided in an effort to remind all those in attendance not to give anyone the opportunity to "pedal off" with their bicycle.

On May 10, bring your bicycle, your helmet and be ready for a funfilled day. Any questions? Call (908) 226-7678.

Local Businesses Support **Roosevelt Playground Fund** Strong Tower Development Makes Donation

ing back to the Community of South Plainfield where they used to live. Strong Tower Development own-

ers Cliff and Lisa Geisler have donated to the Roosevelt School Playground Fund. Strong Tower Development has been building new homes in South Plainfield for seven years and is giv-

Creative Kids Academy Contributes to Roosevelt

Creative Kids Academy (CKA) at 1615 Clinton Ave. has donated to the Roosevelt School Playground Fund. Owned by Sue and Bill Ashnault, CKA has a goal to provide a positive school experience socially and emotionally for each child. CKA offers full time and part time programs and is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Children

For information on new homes in

the area, please call (732) 382-7636. Thanks to Strong Tower for support-ing our playground fund!

from one to six-years-old are offered a curriculum by the certified staff that includes learning centers, literature, physical fitness and special programs such as the gym bus and class trips.

For information on child care availability and class registration call (908) 753-4477. Thanks CKA for support-ing the playground!

Grant School Plans Information Session for 2003-2004 Year

Grant School, located at 305 Crom- and sixth grade students. You may atwell Pl., is holding informational sessions for the 2003-2004 school year. This is for the parents of "rising" fifth School's Gym.

tend sessions on Monday, May 5 or Tuesday, May 6 at 6 p.m. in Grant



round Tow

Daily Events

9-11 AM Coffee & Cake

9 AM-4 PM Cards & Pool

(908) 754-1047

WEDNESDAY

available for public review on Tuesday,

May 13, at the next regular meeting

The photographs were donated by

the photographs were donated by the former principal of Grant School and date from the 1930's to the 1960's. School productions, play days, Halloween parades and student/

teacher portraits are among the sub-

held at South Plainfield High School

the second Tuesday of the month. and

begin at 7:30 p.m. Park in the student lot at the end of Lane Ave. and enter through the main doors. From there

you will be directed to the classroom.

John E. Riley Cub Scout Pack 224

will be hold a car wash at the South

Riley Cub Scouts

Plan Car Wash

The Historical Society meetings are

of the Historical Society.

iect matter.

May 17

Pasta Dinner at Riley May 2

John E. Riley School at 100 Morris Ave. will host a pasta dinner on Friday, May 2 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m for senior citizens only.

Dinner includes pasta with sauce, meatballs, salad, bread, beverage, des-sert, coffee and tea. Cost is \$7 per person and \$6 for senior citizens and children under 10.

Proceeds will benefit the fourth grade Stokes class trip.

VFW Installation of **Officers** Ceremonies May 2

The 57th Installation of Post and Auxiliary Officers will be held on Friday, May 2 at VFW Memorial Post #6763 starting at 7 p.m. The VFW is located 155 Front St. Food, with music by Billy Philips. The ceremonies are open to the public and are free. For more information, call (908)

668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and after 12 noon on weekends.

Country Breakfast at **VFW Post #6763** May 4

A country breakfast will be held on Sunday, May 4 at VFW Post #6763, located at 155 Front St., 8 to 11 a.m. Varied menu, Donation is \$5, children 12 and under are \$3.50.

For more information, call (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and 12 noon weekends

Scholarship Benefit Theatre Party May 4

The Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield will host a theatre performance to benefit their annual scholarship fund on May 4 at 3 p.m. at the Circle Playhouse in Piscataway.

The play being presented is An American Daughter by the award win-ning playwright Wendy Wasserstein, whose plays The Heidi Chronicles and The Sisters Rosensweig were performed in New York in recent years.

Tickets are \$15. All proceeds benefit the annual scholarship fund, which awards a scholarship to a graduating SPHS senior. Complimentary refreshments will be served during intermission and door prizes will be awarded. There will also be a chance to enter a drawing for an original painting donated by a local artist. Circle Playhouse is located at 416

Victoria Ave., Piscataway, just a few blocks from the corner of West Seventh St. and Washington Ave.

For directions, call the playhouse. For ticket information, call (908) 757-6163 or (908) 757-3680.

Author to Speak at SP Library

May 4

Author Sanyika Calloway Boyce will speak at the South Plainfield Library on Sunday, May 4, at 2 p.m.

Ms. Calloway Boyce is a South Plainfield resident and author of Crack Da Code: What Every College Student Needs to Know About Money, Love & the Dream Job. She'll talk about her book and preparing for the college experience, including subjects like credit cards, debt and financial literacy. The program is presented free of charge and everyone is invited to attend, particu-

Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30 5 Bingo 10:30-2 PM 6 Atlantic City trip 9am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Lunch Available Exercise & Walking Ceremaics 12pm-1:30pr Ladies's Social Group Club 8:45-9:45am AARP Board Meeting 10:am-12pm Movie Time 11:30am 2:30 AARP Crafts 1nm TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE. larly young adults, college students and **Historical Society** their families. Monthly Meeting For more information or directions. please call (908) 754-7885 or visit the May 13 Library's website at <u>www.south-</u> plainfield.lib.nj.us. Some of the over 600 photographs from the John E. Riley collection of Grant School photographs will be

TUESDAY

EVENTS Saturday, May 3 • 5 to 9 p.m.

"Senior Prom" Dinner Dance

Reservations Required

Golden Glove Finals May 9

What's

happening in

MONDAY

The 2003 Golden Glove finals will be held at South Plainfield High School on Friday, May 9 at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. General admission is \$8. Golden

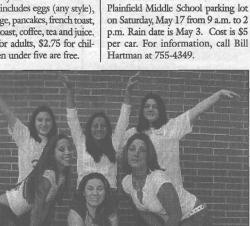
Ringside tickets are available at \$75, include dinner at Flanagan's Restaurant, 5 p.m. and an entry into a drawing for a 51" Panasonic T.V. For tickets or reservations, call

(908) 226-7663 or (908) 753-1341.

Mother's Day **Breakfast at Elks** May 11

The South Plainfield Elks, located at 1254 New Market Ave., will hold their Annual Mother's Day Breakfast on Sunday, May 11 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. A free carnation will be presented to every mother!

Breakfast includes eggs (any style), bacon, sausage, pancakes, french toast, home fries, toast, coffee, tea and juice. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$2.75 for children, children under five are free



South Plainfield High School Drama Club will present "Anything Goes" next Thursday, May 8 and Saturday, May 10. For ticket information, call (908) 754-4620 or email SPHStars@aol.com.

Send Us Your Events:

Mail or drop off stories and photos to **South Plainfield Observer**, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, fax (908) 668-8819; or email to ggnan@aol.com.

- Out of Town -

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.

Shonning at

Pathmark 9am

Shopping at

Pathmark 9am

THURSDAY

Practical Crafting 10-11a

Practical Crafts 10-11am

Line Dancing 10-11:30am

Line Dancing 10-11:30

1

8

Calvary Baptist Church Plans Revival Through May 2

Senior Center

FRIDAY

Bingo 10AM-2PM

Bingo 10AM-2PM

Listening to Children

9:20am-13:30pm

Pizza Lunch

Pizza Lunch

2

9

The Calvary Baptist Church of Plainfield, located at 324 Monroe Ave., will host its annual Bible Conference Revival each evening at 7:15 p.m. through May 2. Rev. Wm. Gerald Howard, D.Min., Pastor of Calvary says, "Revivals are a means of survival in our community. We want to increase the wisdom and the knowledge of the people in our community so that they may draw themselves closer to Christ and the Church Treasurer church. The citizens of Plainfield have had to deal with a lot of pain lately, from the loss of lives through gang vio-lence to the possibility of losing its pe-diatric ward at Muhlenberg Hospital. With all of this going on there is still hope for a better tomorrow. We want to encourage the community to join us at our revival so that they may receive a message and a blessing from God.

For more information about this conference or any other church pro-gram please call the church office at (908) 561-5187.

Reunion at Union Catholic High May 2-4

Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains is planning the 40th anniversary of the opening of the school on May 2, 3 and 4. All alums of the school who have not previously been notified should contact Anne Wischusen by phone at (908) 889-1600 X 316 or email to awischusen@ unioncatholic.org oralumni@union catholic.org. Festivities include a Friday night

Open House at the school (no children), a Saturday Family Fun Day at the school, a Saturday Night Gala at the Pines Manor in Edison and Sunday, Family Mass and Brunch at the school. Visit our website at www. unioncatholic.org for details.

SingleFaces Dances Announced May 2-4

Friday, May 2 at Radisson Inn Paramus, 9 p.m. 601 From Rd., Paramus Saturday, May 3 at Holiday Inn, 9 p.m. Observatory Ballroom, 50 Kenney Pl. in Saddlebrook.

Sunday, May 4 at Woodbridge Hilton, 8-12 p.m., 120 Wood Ave. South. Friday May 9, Clarion Hotel & Truay May 9, Clarion Flotel & Towers, 9 p.m. 2055 Lincoln High-way (Rte. 27), Edison. Saturday May 17, Ramada Plaza, 9 p.m. 3050 Woodbridge Ave., Raritan

Center, Edison. Friday May 23, Clarion Hotel &

Towers, 9 p.m., 2055 Lincoln Highway (Rte. 27), Edison

Saturday May 24, PNC Arts Cen-Saturday May 24, FNC Arts Cen-ter, \$20, 9 p.m. Reception Center. Live Music – "Dr. Bob & Co." plus a DJ. Over 600 singles expected. Gar-den State Parkway Exit 116, Holmdel. For info on all dates, call (732) 542-

2200. Unless otherwise noted, all events are \$9.

Health Screening at **Plainfield Senior** Center

May 3

A Health Screening is planned at the Plainfield Senior Center, located at 305 East Front St. on Saturday, May 3 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The health screening will include free senior health and nutrition information, workshop on living wills and estate planning and senior health insurance and long-term care information. Representatives from Local Community Organizations will be on hand.

The event is sponsored d by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Eta Omicron Zeta Chapter, Plainfield and the Plainfield Senior Center

All Breed Dog Show and Obedience Trial May 4

The Trenton Kennel Club, Inc. is holding its 74th Annual All-Breed Dog Show and Obedience Trial! The show will take place on May 4 from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Mercer County Park, West Windsor Twp., NJ, rain or shine! Admission is \$3 for adults and chil-dren under 12 are free. Parking is free. Spectators should use the Hughes Dr. entrance. Over 3,000 dogs will be at the show, and the judging schedule will be available prior to the show at www.infodog.com.

King's Daughters Annual Benefit Gala May 10

The King's Daughters Day School will host its Sixth Annual "Building For the Future" Gala at the former Monday Afternoon Club, now the home of Wendy and Rashid Burney, on Saturday, May 10 at 6 p.m. Isaac Andrea Dorra and the United Way of Greater Union County will be the honorees

The gala benefit, which begins at 6 p.m., includes a silent auction, appeprint, includes a sheft action, appe-tizers and dinner by Epicurean Cater-ing and Music by Fred Fisher. The home of Wendy and Rashid Burney is located at 1127 Watchung Ave. in Plainfield. Tickets are available by calling 908-756-7788.

The King's Daughters Day School is a United Way non-profit organization established in 1906 and provides care and education to children who range in age from 12 months to 13 years. The King's Daughters Day School Executive Director is Valeria Erdosi-Mehaffey and is located at 502 West Front Street in Plainfield, NJ 07060. Telephone 908-756-7788.

•4•

South Plainfield Scouting

Keenan Gaynor Receives His Eagle Award



Keenan W. Gaynor, who attained the rank of Eagle Scout, with his parents Rita English and Jack Gaynor at his recent court of honor.

Keenan W. Gaynor was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor held by Troop 309 last Sun-

day at Wesley Methodist Church. What makes his award even more special was that he is the fourth



Keenan W. Gaynor along with his three brothers, Jonathan, Brendan and Justin, who have all acheived the prestigious Eagle Scout Award

PAL and Unity Bank Join in Good Citizenship Promotion

Unity Bancorp recently announced its donation to the Police Athletic League (PAL) of New Jersey to assist them in their efforts to promote good citizenship and a cooperative learning environment for our youth, the general public and law enforcement professionals.

"Our assistance in this worthy cause is something we felt compelled to do as a community business here in New Jersey," noted Anthony J. Feraro, president and CEO. "In a time of uncertainty, Unity Bank feels that what the PAL of NJ is doing through their various programs is extremely important in bringing our children and police officers together." The Police Athletic League of New

Jersey is a non-profit organization.

The proceeds from this year's annual

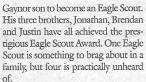
fund drive will be allocated towards

continuing and expanding the many

programs offered throughout the year. Police officers and community volunteers help to encourage team participation, raise self-esteem and direct youthful energies away from illegal activities and toward positive endeavors.

For more information on the PAL of NJ and/or to make a donation, please call (732) 308-1161 or visit their website at www.policeathleticleague.com.

Unity Bancorp, Inc. is a financial service organization headquartered in Clinton. Unity Bank provides financial services to retail, corporate and small business customers through its 12 retail service centers located in Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset and Union counties in New Jersey. For additional information about Unity visit our website at www.unity bank.com or call (800) 618-BANK.



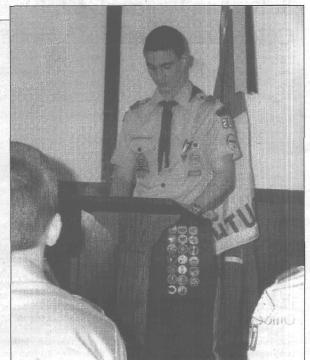
Assistant Scout Master Ronald Schoeder, himself an Eagle Scout, was master of ceremonies for the afternoon. Troop 309 has a total of 28 Eagle Scouts since their beginning in 1967.

Keenan started in scouting on Sept. 28, 1998, became a Tenderfoot in 1999. He was awarded his Second and First Class badge in 2000, became a Star Scout 2001, a Life Scout 2002 and earned his Eagle Award in January, 2003.

Keenan's Eagle project was to refurbish fire hydrants in the Borough of South Plainfield. Working with the Middlesex Water Company, Keenan organized 18 scouts and adult volunteers to paint over 60 fire hydrants in town. These were color-coded to permit firefighters to immediately know the water pressure by looking at the color of the cap and thus save valuable time when fighting fires.

Keenan received many letters of commendation from senators and congressmen, as well as President George W. Bush and Governor James E. McGreevey.

State Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan presented a Certificate of Recognition from the State of New Jersey and Councilman Bob Cusick presented a certificate from the Mayor and Council. Others presenting certificates, were Jack Martinez from the Knights of Columbus, Rick McGree representing the VFW, and Nick Cupco from the Elks.



Eagle Scout Joe Reach speaks to guests and fellow scouts about the experiences and benefits he received from Boy Scouts.

Joseph Reach Receives Eagle Award at Honor Held

On April 11, Joe Reach, son of Joan and Richard Reach, had his Eagle Scout ceremony at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Joseph, a member of Troop 207, celebrated with about 80 guests who attended the ceremony. Speakers included troop members, leaders and a past leader who have worked and participated with him throughout the years. Ray Petronko, representing the South Plainfield Borough Council spoke and presented Joe with a certificate from the Borough



Franklin School Cub Scout Pack 207 Wolf Den enjoyed a day of bowling at Stelton Lanes. Pictured are Joey Spinella, Steven Oehler, CJ Wallace, Arthur Brown, Andrew Atkinson, Brandon Shaw and Nicholas Hubert.

Council as well as one from the New Jersey Senate.

.5.

Joseph started Scouts as a Tiger Cub in 1991 and worked his way up through the ranks in order to attain his Eagle Award. He completed his Eagle Project in June of 2002. His project involved a picnic/field day he organized and ran at Veteran's Park for some residents of Keystone. His contact and advisor from Keystone was Rose Hearne.

Over the years Joe has attended many Boy Scout camps. Two particular experiences stand out for him. The first was a high adventure trek at Camp Sebattis in NY, in 1999, where he participated in a 75-mile canoe/camping trip through the Adirondack Mountains. The second was at Camp Philmont in New Mexico. This adventure involved a visit and tour of the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado and ten days of backpacking through the Rocky Mountains of New Mexico.

Joe, a member of the National Honor Society, is listed in "Who's Who of American High School Students," is a four-year member of the cross-country team and a member of the South Plainfield High School Marching Band and Jazz Band. In the fall of 2003, Joe will be attending Penn State Hazleton as a History Education Major.





Your #1 Source for Local News - South Plainfield Observer ·

Suburban Woman's Club **Celebrates 50 Years of Service**

In 1952 a group of South Plainfield women formed the Suburban Woman's Club. They met at the local res-cue squad building one evening a month. Dorothy Cose was its first president.

• 6 •

The women immediately began looking into becoming a member of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs which is a member of the Washington D.C. based General Federation of Women's Clubs, founded in 1894. They are one of the largest and oldest nondenominational, nonpartisan, volunteer service organizations for women in world.

From its inception members of the Suburban Woman's Club have worked to improve the community and adopted the causes served by the State and General Federations, such as Unicef, Operation Smile and Canine ons, to name a few. Compa

In 1964, the club was instrumental in helping form the local senior citizen's organization and in 1965 spon-sored the establishment of the Junior Woman's Club of South Plainfield.

Throughout the years these women have dedicated themselves to volunteering at the gift shop in Muhlenberg Hospital, rolling bandages for the Red Cross and providing clothing and toiletries for victims of domestic violence. At Christmas and Thanksgiving they made and distributed food baskets for needy families

Members of the club's art department served for many years as judges

You are invited to 'Spring Into

Something New in Town' on Thurs-

day nights, beginning in June! Wesley United Methodist Church presents "Pizza and Praise" and "Sun-

'Spring into Something New'

for South Plainfield High School students' Halloween store window paint ing contest and the elementary schools' Halloween costume contest, as well as judging the town's Christmas house decorating contest. Labor Day fre-quently saw a lavish float, designed and built by a hardy crew of club members to add to the fun of South Plainfield's annual parade.

Each year its members work on a variety of fundraisers to enable the granting of a \$1,000 scholarship to a South Plainfield High School senior, as well as raising funds to donate to numerous local charities and a wide variety of state and federation projects.

Since its inception more than fifty ears ago the Suburban Woman's Club has provided its members with the opportunity to expand their horizons by working together towards a com mon goal and individual growth. Although the membership roles have fluctuated through the years, the dedication of these women has been constant

Membership is offered to women of any age who are interested in the opportunity for friendship, fun and fulfillment, while working with others who also wish to serve. Meetings are held at 2 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the American Legion on Oak Tree Ave. It is not necessary to be a resident of South Plainfield to enjoy membership. If you are interested, please call

(908) 754-7410.

On March 30 Sacred Heart School

served as school nurse for the past 18 years at St. Francis Cabrini Catholic School in Piscataway. Barbara is a board certified RN, with numerous academic achievements. She is active

is currently the executive vice presikeley Heights, working in environserves in numerous ministries and is ship Committee.

Both graduates value their Catholic education and foundation here at Sacred Heart. George Mehaffey states that "Catholic Education opens a student's eyes to the wonders of the world. It Holy Spirit. It opens their hearts to the joy of Jesus's love." Congratulations to

José Pineda Graduates from Marine Training

graduated as Private First Class from

At Wesley Methodist Church p.m. for a pizza supper before their

Praise Service begins. You are also invited to join them on the third Thursday of each month for cool and creamy ice cream immediately following the 7 p.m. praise



southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Natl. Catholic Educational Assoc. Distinguished Graduate Awards

honored two of its past graduates Barbara A. Dolinski, class of 1965,

in her community and the church. George E. Mehaffey, Class of 1967, dent of The Knotts Company in Bermental water quality regulation. George is an active parishioner at St. Joseph Parish in High Bridge. He chairperson for their parish Steward-

opens their souls to the blessings of the our distinguished graduates!

José J. Pineda, son of Patricia Pineda, formerly of South Plainfield,

José J. Pineda

United States Marine Corp Recruit Training Regiment (boot camp), located in Parris Island, South Carolina on April 4. Graduation was the culmination of 13 weeks of discipline and mental exercises, as well as physical and combat training. He was appointed a Religious Lay Reader for his Platoon #3025, which is part of "I" Company, Third Battalion.

After a ten day leave, José reported to Camp Geiger, which is part of Camp Lejune in Jacksonville, NC to undergo Marine Combat Training for a period of about three weeks. At the culmination of this training he will start a 12-week course in the Motor Transport Unit in Camp Lejune, where he will receive training as a mechanic. His Reservist Duty Station is in Ebensburg, Pa. This will enable him to complete his degree at Penn State University while serving in the military





From left to right: Barbara A. Dolinski, Very Rev. John Paul Alvarado, George E. Mehaffey and Sacred Heart School Principal Sister Cornelia Ramirez, RVM.

Krissy Brooks and Jeffrey Uhler **Engagement** Announced

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Brooks of South Plainfield are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Krissy, to Jeffrey Uhler.

Jeffrey is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William P. Uhler of Dunellen.

The bride-to-be is a 2000 graduate of South Plainfield High School and currently attends Rutgers University, working towards her Masters degree in Elementary Education. She is em-ployed by the South Plainfield Board of Education in their after school progra

The groom-to-be is a 1998 gradu-e of Dunellen High School. He attended Devry Institute and is currently working towards a degree in Business Management. Jeffrey is employed by Cablevision



Krissy Brooks and Jeffrey Uhler

No wedding date has been set.

Fenstermaker Joins Unity Bank Team

Anthony J. Feraro, president of Unity Bank, announced the appoint-ment of Keith Fenstermaker of Walnutport, PA as vice president and credit manager of Unity Bank.

A graduate of Quinnipiac College in Connecticut, Fenstermaker comes to his new position with extensive loan experience in the financial world, with emphasis in credit review and risk assessment.

Chief Lending Officer Michael Downes stated, "Keith is a welcome

member to the Unity Team, and although with the bank for a short time, has shown his talents very early on and is making strides in his new department."

Unity Bank provides financial services to retail, corporate and small business clients through its 12 retail service centers in Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset and Union counties. For additional information about

Unity Bank, see www.unitybank.com or call (800) 618-BANK



of Piscataway.

Educational Sessions Set at Barbara Cheung Hospice

The Barbara E. Cheung Memorial Hospice, located in Edison, has openings for those interested in becoming hospice volunteers. Volunteers are an integral part of the interdisciplinary team in virtually all hospice programs in the United States. Volunteers will be educated to assist the terminally ill and their caregivers at patients' homes, hospice affiliated nursing homes and in our six bed inpatient facility. Volunteers can give time, run errands, offer support, compliment the work of the clinical care providers and truthfully tell the patie nt "I am here because I want to be here." A twelve-hour educational course that includes workshops, vid-

eos and lecture will begin the week of May 5 and will be completed in four to five weekly sessions.

Barbara E. Cheung Memorial Hospice opened its doors in 1989 as the first freestanding hospice in New Jersey and serves Middlesex county and surrounding areas. It is known for utilizing an interdisciplinary team approach which recognizes the patient and the family as the head of the team. The in-patient facility is available for respite stays, pain and symptom management and end-stage care. Please call Patty Kitlasz MSW, LSW volunteer coordinator at 732-321-6800, ext 526 for more details and to request an application.



Sacred Heart School's Pre-K class invited Tammy Vincent, owner of the Painting Station on Plainfield Ave., to do an Easter craft with the children. Stacey Thomas, Pre-K teacher and Alice Bach, Pre-K aide, enjoyed painting the ceramic bunnies too!

Ponytail Softball Association Offering College Scholarships

The Parents' Ponytail Association is sponsoring three \$500 college scholarships. Applications are currently being accepted and may be obtained from the South Plainfield High School guidance office.

To qualify for the scholarships the applicant must be a high school senior graduating this June and a current resident of South Plainfield. To qualify for one of the two recreation scholarships, applicants must have played for a minimum of four years in the South Plainfield Recreation Department's Ponytail Softball League. To qualify for the Ponytail All-Star scholarship, applicants must have played South Plainfield Recreation softball for a minimum of four years and South Plainfield Ponytail All-Stars for a minimum of three years. All-Star players may apply for both the recreation and All-Star scholarships, however, a player is eligible to receive only one scholarship. Please refer to the application for further details.

Filing deadline is May 22. Mail completed applications to SPPPA Scholarship, P.O. Box 441, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or return to the SPHS guidance office in a sealed envelope labeled "SPPPA Scholarship." Verification of school enrollment is required prior to funds being awarded.



Free Rabies Clinic on Saturday

The South Plainfield Health Department will be holding their annual Rabies Clinic on Saturday, May 3 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Borough Garage, located on the corner of Spicer and Belmont avenues.

The rabies clinic is open to both cats

and dogs. Residents are urged to bring

y3 from yugh Gaor cat license is \$8 if spayed/neutered and \$11 if not. Cats must be brought in a carrier.

their pets for inoculation.

For more information, call (908) 226-7631.

Dog and cat licenses can also be

SPHS Third Marking Period Honor Roll

Grade 12-Christopher Addvensky, Joseph Adorna, Alain Amazan, Ariel Avalos, Christopher Baron, Heather Barrett, Jason Basile, Tiffany Boyle, Eric Brandes, Milton Bravo, Michael Butrico, Jenny Cai, Jody Chepulis, Michael Chrysanthopoulos, Meredith Cooper, Gary Curcio, James Curcio, Ariel Curtis, Kristina DeLillo, Nadia Deba, Christina Dematos, Martin Diamant, Andrea Doell, Shante Edelen and Nicole Faorsiro.

Nicole Esposito. Abbalonia Falato, Cathleen Fodor, Kristen Fredericks, Christina Furka, Janara Krista Garcia, Amanda George, Jamie Glowacki, Dale Goberdhan, Steven Gopal, Shelly Graziano, Nicholas Green, Kristen Gumina, Thomas Haus, James Hearne, Amanda Hermann, Nadisha Hosein, Alexander Huynh, Kim Houng Huynh, Apprameya Iyengar, Lauren Kaczka, Amit Kalia, Meredith Kalman, Michael Kasmer, Lizabeth Kittell, Michelle Kravetsky Stacy Lamonda, Katharine Lawrence, Nicole Little, Nathalie Londono, Christina Lorance, Michael Martinez, Sejal Mehta, Daniel Melick, David Micabalo, Jamie Morris, Harry Mowrey, Richard Muglia, Sherin Navasca, Kristen Neitzer, Jaclyn Noonan, Kristina Ogonowski, Ellery Pagala, Chirag Patel, Dipika Patel, Kamlesh Patel, Rupel Patel, Jennifer Perez, Gabriela Pineda, Kristen Pozarycki, Cynthia Prybella, Megan Pubmena, Priscilla Quevedo, John Rayho. Joseph Reach, Brittany Regan, Eva Rodriguez, Cynthia Ross, Elayne Russell, Nida Shah, Rachel Sha, Wei Lin-

Joseph Reach, Brittany Regan, Eva Rodriguez, Cynthia Ross, Elayne Russell, Nida Shah, Rachel Shah, Wei Lin Shang, Jennifer Silhanek, Danielle Skoba, Joseph Smalley, Allison Stoloff, Stephanic Tackach, Justin Toth, Janine Turrise, Denise Vita, Ryan Vroom, Matthew Wells, Michael Wicczorek, Jeffrey Williams, Nicole Woo, Carly Yulick and Victoria Zappi.

Grade 11-Christopher Abbott, David Acevedo, Elaine Alexander, Regina Alin, David Allara, Jamaal Allen, Arti Amin, Almasa Amini, Jacqueline Arango, Danielle Aronowitz, Rebecca Banghart, Robert Barone, Karolina Blazejowicz, Victoria Boley, Shannon Boyles, Jonathan Buggey, Kaitlin Bundy, Kristie Butrico, Tarryn Carlton, Michael Carmon, Jeanine Christopher, Zachary Coppola and Jason Cosma. Christopher Czaplinski, Lucia D'Addario, Brittany DeNitzio, Jason DeSantis, Ryan Decker, Christinna Del Genio, Elvis Diaz, Christopher Dickerson, Frank Dietzold, Shannon Dillon, Julian East, Brian Edwards, Chelsea Falato, Catherine Flannery, Matina Ganiaris, Gregory Garbówsky, Corey Gilmore, Sarah Green, Johanna Hedler, Christopher Horn, Janice Hussain, Tara Israel, Galen Johnson, Katherine Kaczka.

Wajdi Kanj, Kyle Kazimir, Wendy Kollarik, Courtney Krajcik, Kristen Kunie, Lauren Laferrera, Kristina Latonio, Brittany Lee, Pauline Lee, Gary Levendusky, Charlyn Magat, Michael Maher, Stephanie Manuel, Earl Marcelo, Darleen Marin, Jennifer Martinez, Tristan More, Danielle Nobile, Ngozi Okparaeke, John Okuszki, Francesca Pasquale, Ankir Patel, Anuj Patel, Hardik Patel, Julie Patel and Ravi Patel.

Gregory Publik, Yorka Ralwins, Amanda Rastelli, Ashley Ritchey, Jessica Rodger, Jonathan Rodger, Josef Rodriguez, Michael Salerno, Shari-Liane Sangster, Matthew Santone, Andre Scott, Daniel Sierzega, Derek Smith, Carly Stoeckel, Adam Tamzoke, Chiara Tomei, Adam Toth, Stephen Turrise, Gerber Vasquez, Kenneth Wakefield, Michael Zeno, Chrisann Zushma and Robin Zushma.

Grade 10-Shakellah Amini, Peter Aquino, Christopher Bakazan, Michael Benak, Dawn Besser, Shakera Beverley, Christopher Bojarski, Matthew Boley, Jennifer Braco, Danielle Brown, Vijay Budhan, Justin Buendia, Gerry Butrico, Nina Byard, Pasquale Cantarella, Kristina Carigma, Fabian Casteblanco, Nicholas Cesare, Timothy Cheng, Mallory Christ, Lauren Ciandella, Toni Ciccia, Janine Clemente, Kristin Coffey, Paul Corrado, Nicholas Curcio, Leonard Cursi, Cassandra D'Urso, Lauren Darr and Alissa Davis.

Louana Delossantos, Aimee Demegillo, Allison DiMeglio, Stacey Diana, Jonathan Donahue, Michael Downes, Michael Duquette, Jeffrey Eng, Caitlin English, Karen Estonactoc, Shawn Ferguson, Melanie Foscolo, Keenan Gaynor, John Geczy, John George, Kendall Green, Sara Grillo, Jeffrey Grubesich, Melissa Hansen, Emily Harkins, Lauren Haus, Phu Huynh, Jamie Jakubik, Latoya Johnson.

Colleen Kamen, Peter Kelly, Thomas Kiczula, Jessica Kizmann, Kevin Lahey, Linda Lee, Johnathan Lopez, Jason Lowe, Kurtis Maglaque, Aimee Maiorino, Alyssa Maiorino, Krista Malecki, Jessica Manning, Allan Mazurak, Kayleigh McGovern, Christopher Mc-Knight, William Merkler, Jayne Merlo, Stefanie Miller, William Moates, Rosanna Mootoo, Kathleen Morgan, Jacqueline Muglia and Brian Murtagh.

who were out last weekend seeking donations.

Jacqueline Muglia and Brian Murtagh. Huan Nguyen, William Padula, Valerie Pasquarella, Deep Patel, Dhruti Patel, Krutarth Pathak, Daniel Piwowar, Amanda Prybella, Patrick Pryor, Dwight Quichua, Jessica Senz, Jaret Shelton, Erin Sikanowicz, Melissa Silva, Trevor Smith, Melissa Sticco, Sara Sukenik, Darshan Suthar, Kelly Thomas, Melissa Tinana, Ashlen Udell, Jennifer Vasquez, Erik Vesper, Philip Zazzara and Brian Zielinski.

Grade 9-Hameda Ahmed, Nicole Aiello, Gaelle Amazan, Gabriel Avalos, Alyssa Babinetz, Jamar Beverley, Ashley Bodner, Ashley Britton, Andrew Brown, Terrence Brown, Eileen Cameron, Jenny Cheng, Shaunique Cisson, Brian Cole, Joel Cortese, Jeffrey Cupo, Nicole Cursi, Kristen Dabrio, Kazuki Daimo, Joseph DeNitzio, Amanda Deba, Samantha Deffler, Cesar Dela-rosa, Keith Dezmin and Sandia Dundi. Azubuike Ejiochi, Breanne Fore, Brittany Frazer, Dunia Galarza, Kris-tine Gawroriski, Jane Gomez, Zachary Gray, Kristen Gualano, Julianne Hu-dak, Amanda Jaikaran, Beverly Jamieson, Jonathan Jarema, Ramit Kalia, Guiliana Kay, Kathryn Koury Cassa Guiliana Kay, Kathryn Koury, Cassan-dra Krajcik, Kristi Lombardi, Shawn McCarthy, Bryan Milicia, Rebekah Moore, Samuel Mootoo, Alexander Nau, Joshua O'Neal, Ryan O'Shea, Kelly Orlandini, Amit Patel, Dipal Pa-tel, Harshel Patel, Kaitlyn Pollock, Alishah Rahemtulla, Eric Reiner, Anthony Romano, Diane Romano, Angelique Rualo, Nicole Sacci, Courtney Sacco, Lauren Santillo, Brian Schulte, Jessica Schwartz, Gina Severini, Kevin Siden-burg, Amanda Smalley, Ryan Smith, Melissa Szeliga, Natalia Tamzoke, Lee Terreault, Heather Thompson, Steven Tietjen and Huong Tran, Stephanie Troia, Bhargav Vaid, Amanda Veinott, Jesse Ventura, Christopher Weakley, Stefanie Wieckowski, Edward Wil-kinson, Krystal Williams, Megan Wil-son, Keith Winsmann, Nadine Yon, Carla Zappi and Matthew Zebrowski.



A Flanagan's Restaurant 2501 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NU For Tickets or Reservations Call (908) 226-7663 or (908) 753-1341 Ticket purchase includes a chance to win a 51° Panasonic TV .8.



Cedarcroft Bible Chapel Breaks Ground For New Sunday School Addition

On Easter Sunday morning, the membership at Cedarcroft Bible Chapel broke ground for a new Sunday School addition to its present building which will contain eight new rooms for classes, including a confer-ence room/office and updated bathrooms.

The expansion of their Sunday School and youth activities necessitated this addition, which has been in the planning stages for several years. Mark Contracting of Bridgewater will be the contractor. The work is expected to be completed in three months. As part

of the construction package, Salem St. will be paved as far as the end of the parking lot in the rear of the chapel.

Cedarcroft is looking forward to using their new facility for Vacation Bible School, which will be held this summer during the week of August 11-15

Cedercroft Bible Chapel has been serving the South Plainfield community since 1965.

They are an independent, Biblebased, Bible-teaching church, where all are welcome to visit. If you do not attend a church elsewhere on Sunday

mornings, please come to Cedarcroft Bible Chapel, 1715 Kenyon Ave., at 11 a.m. You will receive a warm welcome and enjoy the music and the truth of God's Word as it is taught. There are childcare facilities, classes for ages two through high school and a teaching service for adults. There is no charge for any of the services that we provide, and we do not take a collection at any of our services from the public

For further information, visit our website at <u>www.cedarcroft.org</u> or call Kingsley Baehr at (908) 757-7598.

Three Nominated to SPHS's Hall of Fame

(Continued from page 1) following medals and awards: Action Officer of the Year, two Bronze Stars in the Afghanistan Conflict (one with Valor), Airforce Achievement Medal, Meritorious Service Award and he won Fairchild Trophy for Bomb Competition.

Dr. Yvette Nicholson Gbemudu is married with a two year-old child. She received her education at Roosevelt Elementary School and graduated South Plainfield High School in 1986 as valedictorian with high honors. She attended Princeton University, majored in Biology: Ecology and Evolution and received an M.A. in Exercise Physiology from Mankato State University and M.D. from Jefferson Medical Col-

It will be a V-type, two-sided, which will face the highway and will have

five-400 watt bulbs. The billboard will

be visible across the highway from

Home Depot, but according testi-

Mayor Dan Gallagher expressed his

mony, no homes will be affected.

(Continued from page 1)

First Rt. 287 Billboard

lege, Thomas Jefferson University. Yvette is a family physician in Wilmington, Delaware. She is also on the Board of Directors for the American Heart Association and the Speakers Bureau for Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, and does volunteer work in a Nigerian Navy Hospital in Ojo.

Natalie Pompilio received her education at Grant and John E. Riley schools and graduated South Plainfield High School in 1988. She attended The Johns Hopkins University and received a B.A. in Creative Writing in 1992. She also attended the Universita di Gonzaga during her junior year. In 1995 she received a Masters in Journalism at the University of Maryland. In 1999 she received a certificate from the Institute of Pollutes in Loyola University.

Natalie worked for almost six years at The New Orleans' Times-Picayune, Louisiana's largest daily newspaper. She moved to The Philadelphia In-quirer in 2002. Her work has also appeared in National Journal and ÛS News & World Report magazines and she is a frequent contributor to American Journalism Review. Prior to her journalism career, Natalie taught creative and expository writing to middle and high school students as an instructor with Johns Hopkins University's Cen-ter for Talented Youth program, the same program she attended as a child.

She has won numerous awards, including honors from the Associated Press Association, the New Orleans Press Association and the Louisiana Press Association. She also has won fellowships to The Casey Center for Children and Families and the University of Washington's Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma. She was also the Dart Center's Senior Fellow during its 2002 conference and is working with the center to establish a satellite in South Africa.

The Verdin clock, centerpiece for the proposed Memorial Park, will feature a faceplate around each dial face to read "South Plainfield."

should be up in four to six weeks.

concern for traffic safety, but testimony

from a traffic safety expert said it

would not be a factor. When it came

time to vote the vote was unanimous

atrix president said the billboard

to approve the billboard.



Buy Some Time... Memorial park will honor local veterans, police and rescue squad members Your donation will help fund the nearly \$100,000 cost of the project. Donate \$150 to \$499 and receive a functional miniature replica.

of the "took" Each miniature clock will have a nameplate in-scribed with the words "Monument Park of South Plainfield – Contributor" affixed to the base

 Donate \$500 and select a functional miniature replica of the "town clock" or a functional miniature "town clock" being transported on a tractor-trailer truck. In addition, your name will be inscribed on a brass plaque which will be permanently affixed to the base of the actual clock. Space will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis.

For information, call Police Chief Robert K. Merkler at (908) 226-7677 or OEM Coordinator Michael Zushma at (908) 753-3775. Or send your tax deductible donation to: Monument Park, P.O. Box 496, South Plainfield, NJ 07080

By Kenneth Morgan

As we enter the early days of another month, here are a few news items from the South Plainfield Library:

From the South Plainfield Library DDAMAR

Don't forget about the special program this Sunday afternoon. At 2 p.m., author Sanyika Calloway Boyce will be speaking. She'll talk about her book, Crack Da Code: What Every College Student Needs to Know About Money, Love & the Dream Job. She'll also talk about how to prepare for the college experience. Everyone is welcome to attend this program, especially young adults, college students and their families

While we're on the subject, if you'd like to hold a program here at the Li-brary, please give us a call at (908) 754-7885 and ask to speak to Millie. She'll give you the details.

Next week, we're going to have an abbreviated children's Storytime schedule. We'll be holding our usual program on Tuesday morning at 10:30, but our Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon programs have been cancelled next week. Our Storytime program is for children ages three and over; no preregistration is required. The program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. If you'd like more information, please call us and ask for Miss Linda.

The latest group from the Video Circuit is now available. Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days. They may be renewed, provided no one else is waiting for them.

policereport

• On April 22 Hair Fix on Hamilton Blvd. reported that someone had bro-ken through the rear window and removed a new Eureka vacuum, two pair of hair clippers and an AM/FM/CD radio.

• On April 23 CVS on Oak Tree Rd. reported that a customer attempted to obtain a forged prescrip-

• On April 25 Dawn Melissa Heavens, 18, of Somerset was arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting \$72 worth of clothing.
Treana Monique Andrews, 19, of

Franklin Park was arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting \$144 worth of clothing.
Jose Santos Amaya, 32, of Plainfield was arrested for simulation

by showing a fake driver's license at a motor vehicle stop.Desiree Wok on Hamilton Blvd.

Desire work on Hamilton Bridt, reported that a customer had cashed two bad checks totalling \$112.30.
On April 27 a Calderone St. resi-dent reported that someone had re-moved his bicycle from the front of his

home and damaged his vehicle. The front passenger side tire was flat, the side molding was pulled off, the tail

upcoming Friends of the Library Book and Bake Sale. It's been scheduled for Saturday, May 31 inside the Library. At present, we're still accepting donations for the sale. We're looking for books in hardcover and paperback, videos, DVDs, CDs and audiotapes. Donations must be in good or excellent condition, or they won't be accepted. We're also not accepting encyclopedias or textbooks. If you're planning on bringing in a large group of donations, please call ahead so we'll be ready for

Here's another reminder about the

We have some extra room this week, so let's review our operating hours. We're open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.. We'll let you know about any changes to the schedule. And we may as well review our fine structure, as well. The stan-dard fine for books and magazines is 10 cents per day, for audiocassettes and compact discs it's 25 cents per day, and for videos and DVDs it's \$2 per day. These fines are assessed on a per item basis. There's also a charge of \$2.00 to replace a lost Library card, a \$5 charge for a lost insert or case for an A/V item, a 50 cent charge to cover postage and printing for overdue notices, and a standard charge of \$15 for accounts that have to be turned over to the collection agency. If you have any ques-tions, don't hesitate to ask.

That's about it for today. See you next Friday.

light was ripped off and a bulb was

 On April 29 Chural Bharat Patel, 32, of Piscataway was arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting \$291 worth of woman's clothing.

· Raymond T. Jodziewicz, 42, of Piscataway was arrested for making terroristic threats, disorderly conduct and criminal mischief at Red Lobster. He had been arguing with a woman inside and put his hand through a glass window.

· Royal Deli on New Brunswick Ave. reported that two males had removed approximately 50 lottery tick-ets. Both men walked in together. The black male, 5'7", wearing a white t-shirt and red baseball hat walked to the back deli counter and ordered a sandwich while the other male, described as an black male, 6, wearing tan pants and a green shirt stood by the front counter. The worker taking the sandwich order heard a noise up front like someone pulling lottery tickets and saw the man stuffing tickets down the front of his pants. When confronted he denied tak-ing anything and left the store. The other man ran out after him.



tion



2003 Ponytail Softball A League Lady Bobcats are coached by Mike DiMeglio. Members of the team are Stephanie Falzarano, Elizabeth Flannery, Kate Hardy, Kate Hardy, Kate Reichert, Erica Bowden, Allison Harty, Kelly Remsing, Katie D'Aleo, Alexandra Petronko, Ashley Sacks, Diana Naser, Katie Yon and Jessica Adams.

every All-Star player participate in two tag days. This tagging requirement can be fulfilled by participating in any two of the four tag days. 'If an All-Star player is unable to tag on June 7, they

will be permitted to tag during any two of the three recreation tag days (please

see your coach to arrange this). Play-ers will meet at the snack stand at the Pitt Street Park Complex to receive

Sponsorship Program-Last year we revised our sponsorship program. Our sponsors can have an advertising sign placed on the outfield fences of our

fields at the Pitt Street Park Complex.

The sign will be 4 feet by 8 feet in size.

Sponsors can design their sign with any

information or logo they choose. The signs will be up for our spring, sum-

mer, and fall programs (now thru end

of October). Sponsors have the choice

their canning location.

Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller

Ponytail Softball Association Meeting, May 27—The SPPA will hold their

next meeting on Tuesday, May 27 at 8 p.m. in the Middle School library. If you are interested in becoming a member and being involved in girl's Ponytail Softball, join us on May 27. New members are always welcomed. Note time change to 8 p.m. 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 & un-der as of 12/31/02. Tryouts will take place on field A (scoreboard). Coach is Rich Szeliga.

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

Pool Party, June 6-The Ponytail Parents' Association will sponsor an end of season pool party. This event is open

the girls who play recreation and all-star softball. If you are interested in to all Recreation Ponytail softball players. Join us on Friday, June 6 at the funding a sign, contact any member of the Parents' Ponytail Assoc. or con-Community pool. Additional info will be provided in upcoming publications of the Batters Box. tact me via our SPPONYTAIL.com. website All-Star Tag Day, June 7- All-Star tag day will take place on Saturday June 7. It is a mandatory requirement that

SWIMMING

Tiger Sharks Swim and Dive **Registration**/ General Mtg.

Registration for the South Plainfield Swim/Dive Teams will be held on Wednesday, June 4 at 6 p.m. in the pool picnic grove (outside PAL building if raining).

Children ages 6-18, whose family are a full members of the pool are en-couraged to join. The season runs from June 5 through Aug. 3. Team suits will also be available for purchase

at this meeting. If you need further information, please contact Rosanne Ilardo at 732-878-9877

SOCCER

Sonics Shock United

On Sunday, April 27, the unde-feated South Plainfield Sonics hosted the flight-leading Watchung United team, who brought a 4-0 record into the game. The Sonics won the coin toss and opted for the field advantage, thereby giving the opening kick off to Watchung.

The first quarter saw United score on a nice breakaway goal to go up 1-0. During the second quarter, the Sonics applied pressure that paid off with a blast from the top of the penalty area by Danny Hunt to knot the score at 1-1.

The Sonics began to dominate the game during the third quarter with ball control and numerous shots on goal. The tremendous combined efforts of the United goalkeepers kept the score tied. With time winding down in the quarter, left wing Dana Hunt received a nice long pass from right back Danny Sticco. She then dribbled past three United defenders and blisters a shot past the goal keeper to put the Sonics up 2-1.

Defenders Shaun Alers, Danny Sticco, Will Mott and Nick Ross, midfielders Danny Hunt, Charlie Huber and Ryan Billich, along with attackers, Dana Hunt, Mike Dispenziere and Steve Lanza, continued to dominate the play during the fourth quarter. The combined efforts of keepers Nick Tuyp and Nick Ross stopped the United scoring cold. During the last quarter, the Sonics allowed the ball to cross the midline only twice as they took numerous shots on the United goal. However, at the final whistle, the score was Sonics 2-United 1, thereby moving the Sonics into the sole possession of first place.

Congratulations on an outstanding team effort.

juniorbaseballclub**notes**

With the Spring Recess last week, there as limited baseball action at the complex. Small Fry A

Giants vs. Athletics- For the Giants, Kurt Carlson struck out 4 batters in 2 innings. Josh Rivera was 3 for 3 and Mark Benak was 3 for 4. For the Athletics, Timmy Moskal had a great game.

Yankees vs. Giants- The Yankees had timely hitting from Mike Muglia and Rick Walton. The Giants, with Josh Rivera going 3 for 3 again, and Matt Cesare pitching three no-hit innings, established themselves as the top team in Small Fry A.

Small Fry B

Yankees vs. Athletics- Mark McCullen, Richie Szeliga, Kristopher Baker and Zach Sikanowicz each had two hits and Christopher Marrone hit a triple for the Yankees. The Athletics' leading hitters were Michael Sullivan and Patrick Millard.

Indians vs. Yankees- The Indians' hitting attack was guided by Danny Hansen when he went 3 for 3. The Yankees, Charles Gruver reached base all three times





Your #1 Source for Local News - South Plainfield Observer



Path to Peace

When you travel on the path to peace You will find a land where all your feelings will release

Because this is a wonderful land

Where families walk together hand in hand

Every step makes you stop and think about life and how much better you can make it

Are you gonna face life's worries or sit down and break it.

Just take a step outside yourself, and you'll find a world with more peace and wealth.

Step one foot on the path to peace and your dreams will always follow, but you don't know because in life some hearts don't shine in the sun beam. What's going on in life's paths?

There is no love in the air and no children's laughs.

The blue skies are drained. Now gray and gone away are the beautiful chirping sounds of the blue jay.

Violence fills the world, guns pollute our souls. This hatred is turning our diamonds back into coal.

Put your foot down so peace will grow love in our heart Planting seeds of joy in our souls so they will never part. Take a stroll down this path and be the first to find peace... A peace that will always last.

Jamie McLean

Obituaries

Angelo DeFillipo, 49

Angelo DeFillipo of Berlin, formerly of South Plainfield, died on Monday, April 28 at his home.

He was born in New Brunswick and was raised in South Plainfield and moved to Berlin 25 years ago.

Angelo was an electrical engineer for Sunoco of Philadelphia for many years. Besides being a devoted and loving man, he was a member of the Berlin Athletic Association where he coached baseball and soccer.

He was a communicant of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in



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, Oueen 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 consecu-tive days and then you must publish it and it will be granted to you.

Berlin. He is survived by his beloved wife, Lorriane Rinaldo DeFillipo; a son, Nicholas and two daughters, Maria and Stefanie DeFillipo; his parents Louis A. and Anna Coccorese De-

Fillipo of South Plainfield; his sisters, Nancy and her husband Peter Guarraci of South Plainfield and Glori DeFillipo of Springfield, MA. Funeral services were held at

Costantino Funeral Home in Berlin. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to the Samaritan Hospice, 5 Eves Dr., Marlton, NJ 08053

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

Nother 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 be-seech you from the bottom of my heart to come an in my necessity (make request) 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 consecu-tive days and then you must publish it and it will be granted to you.



Roosevelt Poetry Club Showcases Their Talent

By Jane Dornick

Roses are red, violets are blue, Mr. Bertram can rap and teach poetry too!

Since January, Roosevelt School fourth grade teacher Mr. Bertram has been hosting an afterschool Poetry Club for fourth and fifth grade stu

I Can't Write a Poem!

I can't write a poem today And boy am I annoved! It's bothering me so much And I'm not really overjoyed! I sit at my computer Wondering, "What I can do?" Then my brother comes and scares me! Boo! Boo! Boo! I scream at him! He yells at me! Then cries and runs to mom. But instead she yells at him! Not me! Boy is she the bomb!

I got back to my computer! The keyboard never makes a peep. My eyes get drowsy and really tired Then I fall asleep.

By Kelly Kline

dents. Members of the club recently read their poems in front of their classmates. Bertram stresses that poems don't necessarily have to rhyme and can be an enjoyable way to express yourself. He plans to have a poetry reading for parents in May. Students who read poems from

the Monday Club were Jamie Mc-Lean, Connie Caldroney, Danielle Schaaf, Sejal Patel, Chris Gualano, Jessica Scarpitto, Joelle Butrico, Tori Huber, Katiyah Cisson, Rachel Alexa, Brigette Kelly, Tara O'Day, Cassie Pendergast, Devina Budhan, Hanna Budhan, Vinny Lionetti and Anthony Alexander. Also reading

If I Were Showers...

If I were showers. I would pour myself all day to bring happiness and joy to a world of pain. If I were showers ... I would tell everyone to come and jump in my puddles and dance all day. If I were showers .. I would rain my special kind to make peace and love shine.

By Christian Callejas

from the Tuesday Club were Julie Rosocha, Kelly Kline, Ashley Nguyen, Kristy Ray, Luisa Cepeda, Kathy Douglas, Eman Alkotob, Umron Alkotob, Umar Alkotob, Richard Rotella, Kaitlyn Vacca, Desiree Coleman, Colleen Broderick, Ursula Buice, Christina Cody, Nina Trujillo and Christian Callejas.

Homework

Homework, Homework You really stink. I hate you! I despise you. Worksheets and sentences For homework a waste of paper. Why do teachers give it to us? We already have to sit in a desk for about 8 hours a day! It doesn't make any sense I hate you, Homework! We do a lot of work in school It takes all our time It takes hours We can't read or write poems You...Homework takes all our time We finish really late, And go to bed. I HATE YOU HOMEWORK! Ry Richard Rotella

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South Plainfield Observer Your #1 Source for South Plainfield News **908-668-0010** *Call for information on advertising.* 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 6:00 p.m. The maps and documents portaining 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 May 2, 2003

Winterguard Takes #1 Spot at Chapter 10 Competition



Caity Fodor accepts the Chapter 10 Competition Championship Award on behalf of the South Plainfield High School Winterguard.

(Continued from page 1)

rictory was not an easy one, so how The girls held hands even tighter did they get there?

than before and continued to wait in anticipation. Third place was an-nounced and went to East Side High School, with a score of 83.1. Then it happened... "In second place with an 83.8...Hillsborough!" At that point, every South Plainfield resident in the gym was ecstatic. The girls had done it again! After Hillsborough received their silver medals, it was time to hand out the gold. "In first place with an 84.4 was South Plainfield High School!" The girls had captured their second Chapter Championship title, a victory they have been dreaming about for the past six months. But this formed to "Victory," also by Bond.

The road to victory was a long one. The existence of the Winterguard was in jeopardy as a result of some financial problems. Once everything was worked out, tryouts were held and the upperclassmen began to design the now, even though they were a bit behind schedule. This year, the guard consists of 18 talented and dedicated girls, and three advisors, Mark Tweed, Kathy Petrocelli and Kara Giorgio. It was decided that this year's show would be performed to "The 1812," a remake of Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture." Last year's show was per-

Bond seemed to work well for the girls last year, so why not try it again? The first three months of the season were hard and the girls endured many obstacles, such as a fractured wrist, a few cases of mono and the departure of one girl from the guard for personal reasons. These issues resulted in blank spots on the floor, which made it difficult for the judges to understand what was going on. Many portions of the show were not working, whether it was the flag work or the way the girls were moving on the floor. It seemed as though every day the girls were coming up with new flag work and drill, but no matter how hard they tried, it never seemed to work. Their rankings at competitions always seemed to be sixth or eighth place, but never in the top three. The girls were disap-pointed. It seemed as though another Chapter Championship title was out of their reach. Many were ready to just give up. They thought they would never be able to turn it all around in time to take home another gold medal at Chapters. But somehow, they did.

Sometime in early March, Juan Ruz, the director of Roselle Park High School's Winterguard, came to South Plainfield and brought along a few good ideas for the show. Ruz helped

Next Up for Winterguard: All-Chapter Championships in Wildwood this weekend.

the girls out last year when he taught them how to fold the mat they per-form on and he was more than willing to help them out again this year. He gratefully gave up a few of his nights to spend with the Winterguard and gave them some much-needed advice on how to make the show better. Not only did he help the girls out with parts of the show they were struggling with, but he also wrote the entire ending of the show. He also lent the guard two sets of flags to use in the show. With the help of Ruz, the girls were once again on their way to the top.

After their competition on March 16, South Plainfield was ranked 30th out of 56 guards. At their next competition, one week later, the girls moved up and were ranked 23rd. Within the next month, they did nothing but continue to move up in the rankings. Following their competition on April 12, which was their final competition before Chapter Championships, the girls were ranked third with an 83.5. Within a month, the girls had moved from 30th on the coast to third. Nobody could believe it. Senior Jenny Cai said it best when she exclaimed, "We are on fire!"

Chapters was a tight competition. The girls put on one of their best per-formances, despite some technical difficulties with the music in the beginning of the show. Every girl on the floor was filled with energy and gave it their all and you could tell by the smiles on their faces that they were having a blast. Everyone was exceptionally pleased with the performance, including Mr. Ruz who was so happy with their performance that he thanked the girls for making his weekend good. South Plainfield's toughest competitors, East Side and Hillsborough, also put on exceedingly strong shows and either guard could easily have taken home the gold. But there would only be one Scholastic Novice Chapter 10 Champion guard, and South Plainfield was it. The work is not over yet though.

This weekend the guard is off to Wild-wood, for the All-Chapter Champi-onships. The girls leave early Friday morning to get there in time to check in to the hotel, practice and warm up before their performance in the pre-liminaries at 1:44 p.m. Following the preliminaries, the top ten selected guards will go on to compete in the finals Saturday evening. Hopefully, South Plainfield will be one of the ten guards selected. Congratulations to all the members of the SPHS Winterguard on your Chapter Championship victory, and good luck in Wildwood! Bring home another medal!



"Help Whip Cancer" During May

The Pampered Chef has an-nounced the kick-off of its "Help Whip Cancer" corporate giving campaign to assist the American Cancer Society[™] in raising awareness and funds for breast cancer early detection programs

From May 1 to 31, The Pampered Chef encourages you to "Help Whip Cancer" in three easy way

Purchase special "Help Whip Can-cer" products. Throughout May, The Pampered Chef will offer a special Pink Twixit! Clip Combo Pack for \$4.75 and an exclusive new Pink Mini Measure-All® Cup for \$5.50. The American Cancer Society's breast cancer early detection and education pro-grams will receive \$1 for each Twixit! Clip Combo pack and each Mini-Measure All Cup purchased. Make a cash donation to the Ameri-

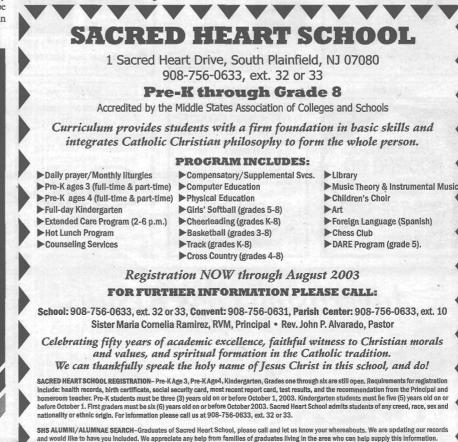
can Cancer Society™ by rounding up your product order to the nearest dol-lar or more at any Kitchen Show®, or in-home cooking demonstration, held in the month of May.

Host a "Help Whip Cancer" Kitchen Show Fund-raiser. Money raised at this Kitchen Show will be donated directly to the American Cancer Society^{TT}

Since 2000, Pampered Chef's consultants, hosts and customers have raised over \$1.7 million for breast cancer early detection and education programs through the "Help Whip Cancer" campaign.

For more information about how you can "Help Whip Cancer" in May call Marie Markey at (908) 755-3213. For more information about breast

cancer and other cancers, call the American Cancer Society™ toll-free at 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.



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