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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 6, NO. 36

50 CENTS

MAY 9, 2003

WAYNE DIANA NAMED VFW POLICEMAN OF THE YEAR



South Plainfield Police Officer Wayne Diana and VFW Commander Julius Peterson. Diana was named Policeman of the Year by the VFW.

Each year the VFW asks Police Chief Bob Merkler for the name of an officer they can nominate for Policeman of the Year. According to Chief Merkler this year's nominee was an easy choice.

Wayne Diana, a 22-year-veteran of the SPPD, was named South Plainfield's VFW 'Policeman of the Year' and

as is custom, his name was submitted on the district and state level. For the second time in three years South Plainfield's VFW Policeman of the Year was chosen as both the State and District Policeman of the year. He will be honored by the VFW this summer at their Annual Convention in Wildwood. Last Friday night, while over a dozen

of his fellow police officers watched, Diana was honored by the VFW for being chosen as VFW Policeman of the Year. Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan presented Diana with a resolution from the New Jersey State Senate and Assembly and Mayor Dan Gallagher read and presented him with a resolution from the Borough Council.

Officer Diana is a hometown product. He was raised and schooled in South Plainfield. After his graduation from SPPS in 1976, he joined the Marine Corps. When he returned home from active duty, he became a South Plainfield Police Officer. In 1984 he volunteered to become the department's K-9 officer.

On September 11, 2001, Diana, along with 3,000 other officers, was dispatched to ground zero to aid in the rescue efforts.

During his 22 years on the police force, the South Plainfield Police Department has received numerous letters from residents commending him on his compassion and dedication to duty.

Diana was awarded an Exceptional Duty Metal for his heroic efforts in saving a drowning victim in Spring Lake and an Honorable Service Metal for his assistance in evacuation of a senior citizen from a burning home, as well as four other commendations.

South Plainfield High School Presents...

Thursday, May 8
Saturday, May 20

7 P.M.

For tickets call
(908) 754-4620



Two Homes on Jacobus St. Burglarized

By Jane Dornick

Two residents on Jacobus St. returned home last Wednesday afternoon to find that their homes had been broken into.

One homeowner returned to find their front door open and a flower pot on the floor in the den. A hole had been cut in the bottom of a rear window screen. The window was pried open, breaking off the lock. Four \$5,000 savings bonds were taken from a bedroom dresser.

The second victim had their side door forced open by bodily force. Jew-

elry, a Gamecube, Playstation 2, Nintendo 64 and various video game accessories were taken, as well as a pocket PC.

Neighbors in the area reported seeing a black male with a goatee, dressed in black on foot and later leaving on a moped.

Other residents in the same vicinity stated that lone black males have been knocking on doors asking for money or claiming to be looking for someone.

Police are asking anyone with additional information to contact Detective James Parker at (908) 226-7661.

Co-op Ed Students Get \$110,000 in Scholarships

Scholarships and prizes for the Cooperative Education students totaling \$110,000 were announced at the Business/Community breakfast held last Friday.

The winners of the New Jersey School to Careers Association Scholarship held on March 20 are as follows:

Francisco Guevara—DeVry College of Technology won \$24,000.

Renita Brooks—Teterboro School of Aeronautics won \$5,600.

James Hearne—Teterboro School of Aeronautics won \$5,600.

Brittany Regan—Cittone Institute won \$7,000.

Yamara Salazar—Cittone Institute won \$5,000.

Orlando Rivera—Cittone Institute won \$5,000.

Sears Cassidy—DuCret School of the Arts won \$10,350.

Aaron Leszczynski—Gibbs School won \$1,500.

Kristin Pozarycki—Brick Computer Science Institute won \$8,000.

Frank Stahlin—Somerset County Technical Institute won \$660.

Craig Warren—Somerset County Technical Institute won \$330.

Christina Frick—Cittone Institute

won \$1,000.

Edy Veliz—Lincoln Technical Institute won \$8,000.

Hector Marrero—Lincoln Technical Institute won \$8,000.

Ryan Scialabba—Lincoln Technical Institute won \$8,000.

Liz Kittell—European Academy of Cosmetology won \$1,500.

Jennifer Haná—European Academy of Cosmetology won \$1,500.

Harry Mowrey—Engine City Technical Institute won \$5,000.

Lizbeth Kittell—Somerset School of Massage won \$1,000.

Additional Awards

Missy Harrah, Alison Stoloj, Harry Patel and Andrea Lee—Kobo Inc. Science & Technology won \$500.

Additional awards and scholarships will be handed out at the Awards Night Ceremonies held on June 3.

Advisors to the Cooperative Education students are Deidre Falato, CE Coordinator, John Lartaud, Applied Technologies team leader and Steven Katz, SPPS Assistant Principal.

See related story and pictures of the Cooperative Education's Fifth Annual Business Breakfast held last Friday on page 5.

Historical Society Dresses Up for History

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Historical Society recently sponsored "A Walk Through Old Samptown: South Plainfield's history through its antique clothing," a unique fashion show at the library. With the help of South Plainfield



Alice DeNizio resident and preservationist Alice DeNizio and her antique clothing collection, both the models and audience were

transported back in time to the early days of South Plainfield.

Many of the dresses were over a century old, including the black silk mourning outfit of a Civil War widow. The outfits covered years from the 1860's to the 1940's. Despite their age, wear and repair occasionally visible the clothing was in remarkably good condition. Approximately 20 models displayed ensembles of the socially prominent, leisure clothes, traveling suits and more. The show offered a brief history lesson as each model was introduced as a resident from a

Continued on page 6



Bill Tuthill, former Historical Society president, Kathy Horvath, vice president; Lynn Fasolo, Secretary and Loretta Conroy dress up in historical clothing for a "Walk Through Old Samptown."

Mark your calendars

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest
meeting agenda

council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Thursday.

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

AGENDA MEETING PUBLIC MEETING

Monday, May 19 Thursday, May 22

Monday, June 2 Thursday, June 5

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

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

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

May 13, May 27, June 10, June 24

zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month

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

May 15, May 29, June 12, June 26, July 10, July 24, Aug. 14, Aug. 28, Sept. 11, Sept. 25, Oct. 16, Oct. 30, November 6, Nov. 20, Dec. 4, Dec. 18.

board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.: May 13, June 10, August 12, Sept. 9

Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m.: May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19

taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at

Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-668-0538

site place sub-committee

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

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

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

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday except August)

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

business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

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

traffic safety advisory commission

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



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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: 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 ggan@aol.com or ngrannie@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: ggan@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 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 phone number, even if the writers request their name be omitted when published.

IN YOUR OPINION

To the Editor:

Well, our new Board of Education is now seated. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend last night's meeting. However, I have been informed of a few items that the Board took action on at the meeting. First, the Board voted to table the appointment of Prisco - the architect for the new schools. If this is changed at this point and he is not appointed, the new school will most likely not be finished in time for September of this year. Prisco has done an amazing job with this project. The project has been moving along steadily and from what I know, is ahead of schedule and under budget. Why then, would the Board decide at this late date to remove this architect at this point?

The second item was to change the Board of Education meeting dates. The Board of Education has been meeting regularly the second and third Tuesday of the month as long as I can remember. This doesn't conflict with the Borough Council meetings or too many other community meetings that are regularly held on a monthly basis. To change the meeting dates to accommodate a few people that are elected to represent their community would be absurd.

I sincerely hope that this Board will very seriously consider these two items and allow the architect to finish this

large project and also continue to meet on the regularly scheduled dates going forward.

SINCERELY,
MARJORIE M. REEDY

To the Editor:

Our American flag came into being on June 14, 1777 when the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act which established a flag with thirteen stripes, alternating red and white, with 13 stars, white in a blue field.

Since then it has stood as a beacon of hope, a symbol of enduring freedom, and an emblem of unity. Many have given their lives in its defense, and countless men and women have worked to ensure that Old Glory continues to stand for the ideals of freedom, justice and equal opportunity for all.

The flag that inspired Francis Scott Key to write our National Anthem 189 years ago still energizes and inspires the American spirit. People throughout New Jersey proudly display their flags, showing their commitment to always remember those who lost their lives and to remain unremittant in the pursuit of justice.

Today, as we face the challenges of a new era, our flag reminds us that freedom will prevail over oppression and that good will overcome evil.

I couldn't be prouder of the brave men and women who, right now, are

serving under our flag, fighting to preserve freedom in the world. All Americans are profoundly grateful for their service and their sacrifice.

I also commend the contributions of our veterans who have bravely defended our nation's founding principles through history.

Finally, it's important to always remember the struggles and successes for which our flag stands. We look to the flag as an everlasting symbol of our commitment to a world of peace, a nation of principle, and a people of unity.

SINCERELY,
ASSEMBLYMAN PATRICK DIEGNAN,
JR., D-SOUTH PLAINFIELD

To The Editor,

The "Book" says, "Seek, and you shall find; ask and it will be given to you."

In my quest to find a New Jersey State flag, I received one phone call and one letter.

New Jersey State flags can be purchased at The Flag Shop on Rt. 31 in Washington, N.J just north of the A&P Shopping Plaza on the South bound lane, at Gates Flags & Banners, 25 Rt. 46 West in Clifton and Walmart in Piscataway.

Thanks to those who helped me find them.

BILL TUTHILL

CO Detector Requirements Signed into Law

A bill sponsored by Senators Barbara Buono and Joseph E Vitale which would require the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in single-family and two-family homes was signed into law today.

"Carbon monoxide is known as the silent killer, and CO detectors serve as our best line of defense," said Senator Buono (D-Middlesex). "This is one tool we can use effectively against the colorless, odorless gas to help save lives."

The new law would require the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in single-family and two-family homes upon initial occupancy or a change of occupancy.

Previous law required detectors in hotels, multiple dwellings, and both rooming and boarding houses. In addition, it provided that the regulation for single-family and two-family homes

be held inoperative until the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs determines that it should be made operative.

"Years ago it became apparent how critical smoke detectors were at saving lives. Today CO detectors must get the same recognition," said Senator Vitale (D-Middlesex). "Approximately 120 people die each year from carbon monoxide poisoning, with about 20 of those lives being lost right here in New Jersey. This is a simple, cost-effective way to address such a horrific problem."

Carbon monoxide poisoning most commonly results from a faulty heating

system that has a blocked vent or malfunctioning furnace. The gas is formed in the combustion process and can build up in homes particularly in the winter time when heating systems are on and homes are kept closed-up for heat retention.

"Early warning is the key," said Senator Buono. "These CO detectors can alert families well-before gases build up in people's homes to toxic levels."

This winter, the deaths of five people in Middlesex County from carbon monoxide fumes, and the poisoning of three others, prompted Senators Buono and Vitale to push for such legislation.

GOLDEN OLDIES

CONCERT

starring 1960's Recording Group
THE VOGUES

"Five O'Clock World"
"My Special Angel"
"Turn Around, Look At Me"

SPHS Auditorium-200 Lake St, So. Plainfield
Sponsored by South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2002

8 P.M.

TICKETS ONLY \$15

Tickets Available at the Door-Kids 13 & under Free

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St. Joseph High Collecting Used Clothing

St. Joseph Home School Association in North Plainfield is collecting used clothing and household textiles as a fundraiser for the school. This is the third and final clothing collection of the school year.

The items will be weighed by American Used Clothing, which then pays the group for clothing by the pound.

Dianne Phillips, president of the association, hopes to reach their three-drive project goal of 7,500 pounds. So far, approximately 3,500 pounds have been collected.

Wearable clothing in any size from any season, along with shoes, boots, belts, handbags, linens, throw rugs, pillows, comforters, blankets, curtains and stuffed animals can be dropped off in plastic bags beginning May 9 at the Convent garage across from the school on Manning and Westervelt Ave. The collection begins May 9 and ends May 16. Drop off times are 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call (908) 245-2119.



Pictured left to right are VFW Post 6763 Quartermaster Carl Zakzewski, Commander Harold Evgan, Service Officer Philip Cortese and Past Commander Julius Peterson.

VFW Officers Hold Installation of Officers

Last Friday VFW Post 6763 held their 57th Annual Installation of Officers for 2003.

The ceremony was witnessed by members of the VFW, visitors from nearby VFW posts, Assemblyman Pat Diegnan, Mayor Dan Gallagher, members of the Borough Council and many other distinguished guests.

The 2003 VFW Commander is Harold Evgan, a Korean War Veteran who served in 1952. Past Commander Julius Peterson presented Evgan with the Commanders cap and a pin which has been passed down to each commander for 57 years.

The 2003 VFW officers are: Commander Harold Evgan, Sr. Vice Commander Metro Kopcak, Jr. Vice Commander Rudy Poczak, Chaplain Michael Peterson, Quartermaster Carl Zakzewski, Post Advocate Arthur Bullwinkel, Post Surgeon George Jepson, Three Year Trustee Julius Peter-



VFW officers for 2003 were sworn in at ceremonies last Friday.

son, Two Year Trustee Bruce Bird and Service Officer Philip Cortese.

The evening also honored Wayne

Diana, who was chosen State VFW Policeman of the Year. A dinner followed the ceremonies.

Police Bicycle Rodeo This Saturday

On Saturday, May 10 the Borough of South Plainfield Police Department will be hosting their annual Bicycle Rodeo. This event will be held in Spring Lake Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

An obstacle course will be setup, conducted by volunteer employees of State Farm Insurance.

Cyclists 14 years of age and younger who do not have bicycle helmets will receive a helmet, but the supply is limited. The helmets are donated by the South Plainfield Traffic Safety Advisory Commission and the Ferro Corp. Those wearing their own helmet to the rodeo who register their bicycle with the South Plainfield Police Department, will be entered into a drawing to win a new bicycle. Ron Sward, the director of the Physical Therapy Center of South Plainfield and a member of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, has donated a bicycle for this event.

Safety oriented literature supplied by various sources will be provided to all participants. Halls Fast Motor Freight and Warehouse, Haagen Dazs Ice Cream, Pepsi, McCrisky'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 registration/theft prevention program will be available to the public. The "Baron Von Pedaloff" program, designed by South Plainfield Police Officer William Frink (retired), 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 in South Plainfield. "Baron Von Pedaloff" literature will be provided in an effort to remind all those in at-

tendance not to give anyone the opportunity to "Pedal Off" with their bicycle.

Don't forget, May 10, bring your bicycle, your helmet and be ready for a fun-filled day. Any questions? Do not hesitate to contact us at (908) 226-7678.

Friends of The Woods Sponsoring Family Fun Friday

The Friends of the Woods are sponsoring a "Family Fun Friday" environmental program on Friday, May 16.

Hazel England, a naturalist with Somerset County's Lord Stirling Environmental Center, promises a fun, hands-on program that the whole family will enjoy. Games and activities are the order of the evening. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center at the intersection of Maple and Lakeview avenues. A \$1 donation is suggested per child.

Pre-register by calling Dorothy Miele at (908) 754-3073.

Thirteen Borough Roads Slated for Repaving

Once again through an inter-local agreement with Middlesex County, 13 South Plainfield roads are scheduled for topping and milling this summer. By using the Middlesex County Road Department, South Plainfield has already saved thousands of dollars in costs during past years. Dates of repaving have not yet been announced.

Roads that are scheduled to be repaved are:

- Banta Road from May Ave. to dead end
- Intersection of Belmont Ave. and Metuchen Rd.
- Clarke Ave. from Norwood Ave. to West Crescent Pkwy.
- Clarke Lane, the entire length
- Clinton Terrace, the entire length
- Field Ave. from Leeds Drive to Thomas St.
- Hollywood Ave., the entire length
- Ivy Street, the entire length
- Kenyon Ave. from Bolliger Way to Stratford Ave.
- Oxford Ave. from East Crescent Pkwy. to Clarke Ave.
- Putnam Ave. from Banta Rd. to Park Ave.
- Ten Eyck St. the entire length
- Yale Place the entire length

Are You Ready in Case Of an Emergency?

Last month when the war with Iraq was about to break out, Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Zushma was bombarded with phone calls asking questions about what they should do to be prepared.

Zushma decided to develop a program which could be presented to residents to help them prepare in the event of an emergency.

He asked Lt. Michael Grennier of the South Plainfield Police Department to help and they developed a slide presentation which covers just about any emergencies that could happen in the future and they announced plans to present it to all residents at the senior center.

However, in the span of only one month, with the war in Iraq just about

over, hardly anyone took the time to show up. Only a handful of residents were on hand to hear the presentation, but those who turned out were not disappointed. Zushma and Grennier presented a slide show which thoroughly covered what Emergency Management does when an emergency occurs and what residents should do. Suggestions were made on how families should plan for emergencies occurring during school and work hours, such as where to meet and contact each other.

Each attendee received a CD rom to take home with the procedures to follow for the various emergencies which could occur. If you would like a copy of the CD or would like your group to hear the presentation, call Mike Zushma at (908) 753-3775.

Summer Drama Auditions

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop will hold auditions for this year's show "Crazy for You" on June 2, 3 and 4 at the South Plainfield Middle School.

The program is open to all students attending school in South Plainfield and have completed sixth grade

through one year out of high school.

Scripts to review are available at the South Plainfield Library, at the High School, and at the Middle School.

For more information, contact us at our website www.spsdw.com, or by phone at (908) 561-5255.

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Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.
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Rev. John Paul
Alvarado, Pastor

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

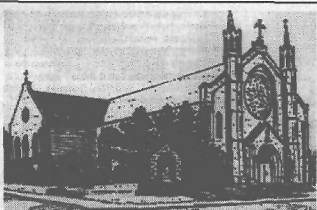
Weekdays 6:30 a.m. (except Monday) 9:00 a.m. (church)

Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

Holy Days 7 p.m. (Vigil); 7 and 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10-11 a.m., 4-4:45 p.m.
and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass



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Events

Golden Glove Finals

May 9

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 for \$75, which 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.

Historical Society Monthly Meeting

May 13

Some of the over 600 photographs from the John E. Riley collection of Grant School photographs will be available for public reviewing on Tuesday, May 13, at the next regular meeting of the Historical Society.

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 subject matter.

The Historical Society meetings are 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.

Fibromyalgia Support Group

May 13

Do you suffer from "Fibromyalgia Syndrome"? If so, come join others who experience FMS as well, at our informal FMS Group at Pilgrim Covenant Church. The next meeting is Tuesday, May 13 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

For further information, contact Pastor Cathy Stanley-Erickson at (908) 756-2473.

Riley Cub Scouts Plan Car Wash

May 17

John E. Riley Cub Scout Pack 224 will be holding a car wash at the South Plainfield Middle School parking lot on Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rain date is May 3. Cost is \$5 per car. For information, call Bill Hartman at (908) 755-4349.

Rita's Hook and Ladder Weekend

May 17

Rita's Italian Water Ice on Park Ave.

What's happening in MAY

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

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

Senior Center EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
EVENTS Tickets are available for: Lancaster, PA trip on May 29 & 30, Riverdance/NJPAC June 12, Hunterdon Hills Playhouse July 28	Bingo 10:30-2 PM Lunch Available Ladies's Social Group 10am-12pm	Exercise & Walking Club 8:45-9:45am Movie Time 11:30am Monthly Mtg. 1pm Topic: Emergency Response System Medallions AARP Crafts 1pm	Shopping at Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10-11am Line Dancing 10-11:30	Listening to Children 9:20am-12:30pm Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch 11:30am
Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30 Yoga 10:30-11:30am Ceramics 12pm-1:30pm	Bingo 10:30-2 PM Lunch Available Ladies's Social Group 10am-12pm	Exercise & Walking Club 8:45-9:45am Movie Time 11:30am Monthly Mtg. 1pm Topic: Emergency Response System Medallions AARP Crafts 1pm	Shopping at Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10-11am Line Dancing 10-11:30am Pool match vs. Perth Amboy	Bingo 10AM-2PM Pizza Lunch

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

will hold a Hook and Ladder weekend to help raise money for the Fire Fighters Memorial. The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department will celebrate their 100th Anniversary in May 2007 and the memorial, which will be erected on Plainfield Ave. across from the fire house, will honor all the members who have volunteered their services to South Plainfield.

The event takes place on Saturday and Sunday May 17 from 12-4 p.m. A firetruck will be on the grounds for kids to explore. There will be balloons, tattoos, Rita's mascot and more. Stop by and support the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department.

AARP #4144 Meeting

May 19

AARP Chapter #4144 of South Plainfield will meet on Monday, May 19 at the Senior Center in South Plainfield located at 90 Maple Ave., at 12:30 p.m. William (Buzz) Hundley, a Somerville Historian, will talk about the New Jersey, Rt. 27 Underground Railroad. Also, a representative from Tripple Nickles of WWII will speak about the first Black Para Trooper. This will be informative and interesting.

Concerts to be held at Wesley Methodist Church

May 22

Wesley United Methodist Church, located at 1500 Plainfield Ave., is holding a special concert event on Thursday, May 22, with the singing trio "Catalyst" at 7 p.m. Ice cream will be served after the show.

This is a great night out that everyone can enjoy! Don't miss out on friendships, faith and fun! For more details, call us at (908) 757-2838.

AARP Chapter 4144 Installation Meeting

June 20

Chapter #4144 of South Plainfield will be holding their Installation meeting on June 20 at The Willows, in Green Brook. Lee Larson, Regional Coordinator of Central Jersey, will perform the ceremony and the featured

speaker will be her husband, Sy Larson, AARP State Coordinator, Prescription Drug Task Force.

Polish Home Plans Trip to Monmouth Race Track

June 29

The Polish Home is planning a trip to Monmouth Race Track on Sunday June 29. The bus leaves the Polish Home, located at 312 New Market Ave. at 9:45 a.m.

Cost is \$40 per person and includes food, beer, wine, soda and a program. Deposit is required by June 1.

Call (908) 668-9442 for more information.

— Out of Town —

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, 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, appetizers and dinner by Epicurean Catering 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.

Artists by Candlelight Gala

May 10

The Edison Arts Society is proud to announce our fifth Anniversary Gala Celebration "Artists by Candlelight," our major annual fundraiser, at the Pines Manor on Saturday, May 10 at 6:30 p.m. This year we are honoring Dr. Vincent J. Capraro, Superintendent of Schools for the Public Schools of Edison Township, with the Edison Arts

Society Medal of Honor.

Dr. Capraro is a true and loyal supporter of the Arts and the Edison Arts Society, and currently serves on the Board of Trustees. Our celebration will also honor our twelve 2002 Artists of the Month whose works will be exhibited as well as for sale. Our popular Silent Auction will be held, along with dancing to the music of The Edison Arts Society Big Dance Band and added attraction Bobby Burnett.

Tickets are \$125; \$65 of the ticket price is tax deductible. Call the Edison Arts Society at (908) 753-2787 for reservations.

AT&T to Sponsor 5K Run for Girl Scouting

May 10

The Girls Scouts of Washington Rock Council are proud to announce AT&T joining our sponsorship for the 5K Run/Fun Walk on Saturday, May 10 at Cedarbrook Park in Plainfield. Other sponsors include Unity Bank and Commerce Bank. The Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council would like you to run for the benefit of girl scouting in our local communities. The 5K race will be followed by a two Mile Fun Walk.

The fee is \$15 on or before May 5 and \$18 after. A t-shirt is only \$10. Race day registration begins at 7:30 a.m., the 5K race at 9 a.m. and the Fun Walk stretching at 9:30 a.m. with the two Mile Fun Walk beginning at 10 a.m. The course is certified and the race will be timed and scored by Best Racing Systems. There will be water stations during and refreshments after the race, including Girl Scout cookies. Goody bags are available and medal and door prizes will be awarded after the walk.

Registration materials may be picked up in advance at the Council office Thursday, May 8 from 5-8 p.m. at 201 Grove St. East in Westfield. Forms are also available at the Council or may be printed online at www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts under News & Events.

Anyone who is interested or has any questions about the please call (908) 232-3236 ext. 1209.

Millstone Valley Chorus Open House

May 12

Open house and guest night for men and women by Millstone Valley Chorus, Sweet Adelines International, and Brothers in Harmony, SPEBSQSA,

U.S.A., Monday May 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Church, 33 Mercer St., Princeton. An evening of harmony, fun, refreshments. Both choruses have openings in all voice parts.

For more information call Mickey Mears (215) 493-5165, Darrell Hill (610) 285-2442, or Jack Pinto (609) 581-5850.

NJ Moonrakers Tali, Club's "Meet & Greet"

May 13

The New Jersey Moomakers Tali Club, Inc., a social and community service organization serving people of "taller-than-average" stature in the New Jersey/New York metropolitan area, will hold their monthly "Meet and Greet" social at the Saddle Brook Marriott hotel, located between Rt. 80 and the Garden State Parkway in Saddle Brook on Tuesday, May 13th at 8 p.m.

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

For further information about the club, or, for a schedule of our social events, call our twenty-four hour hotline service at (973) 267-3648, or, visit our web site at <http://www.njtal.org>, or, e-mail at newjerseytali.org.

DeMolay Announces New Chapter/Open House

May 14

The DeMolay Leaders of New Jersey announced the opening of its newest Chapter in Keyport. The Chapter is sponsored by the Free and Accepted Masons in the community. We invite you to attend our Open House scheduled for Wednesday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m. to take place at the Keyport Mason Lodge, Third and Osborn streets, in Keyport. We are expecting several young men and their families from the community to attend this informational and enlightening dinner and presentation.

DeMolay is an organization dedicated to preparing young men to lead successful, happy and productive lives. Basing its approach on timeless principles and practical, hands-on experience, DeMolay opens doors for young men aged 12 to 21 by developing the civic awareness, personal responsibility and leadership skills so vitally needed in society today.

For more information concerning DeMolay, and to reserve a spot at our Open House, feel free to contact me at (732) 745-2884 or via email at egonzalez7@hotmail.com

Connected Hearts Adoption Meeting

May 17

ADOPTION SUPPORT CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support), will meet 10 to 12 a.m. on Saturday, May 17, at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave. in North Plainfield. "Adoption in the Schools," presented by Kathryn Creedy, Executive Director of Celebrate Adoption, Inc., is meant especially for teachers of K-5; light refreshments. Check our Web site at <http://communitynj.com/cc/chts> or call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 for information.

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.

southplainfieldpeople Milestones



Congratulations to Mary McFadden who just celebrated her 94th birthday. The residents of the Senior Center on Morris Ave. gave her a birthday party. Head cook was Dorothy Owens and Dominic Denardo helped out with the carving and got to sample most of the food.

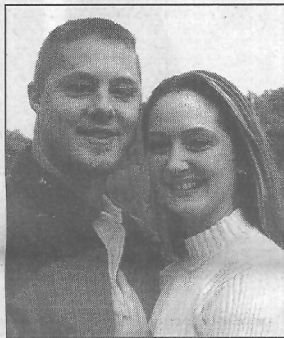
GaNun and Dumont Engaged

Alan and Cindy GaNun are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Jason GaNun to Jessalynn Dumont. Jessalynn is the daughter of Ernie Dumont of Webster, Mass. and the late Janine Dumont.

The groom-to-be is a 1997 graduate of South Plainfield High School and a 2001 graduate of Franklin Pierce College. He works for Brandenburg Industrial Service Company in Bethlehem, Pa.

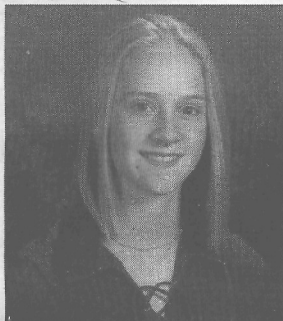
The bride-to-be is a 1999 graduate of Bartlett High School and is a dental assistant in Allentown, Pa.

They planned to be married September of 2003.



Jason GaNun and Jessalynn Dumont

Kathleen Morgan National Award Winner in Journalism



Kathleen Morgan

The United States Achievement Academy announced that South Plainfield resident Kathleen Morgan has been named a United States National Award Winner in Journalism.

This award is a prestigious honor very few students can ever hope to attain. In fact, the Academy recognizes fewer than ten percent of all American high school students.

Kathleen, who attends South Plainfield High School, was nominated for this national award by Bonnie Vignerie, a teacher at SPHS school.

Kathleen will appear in the United States Achievement Academy Official Yearbook, which is published nationally.

"Recognizing and supporting our youth is more important than ever before in America's history. Certainly, United States Achievement Academy winners should be congratulated and appreciated for their dedication to excellence and achievement," said Dr. George Stevens, Executive Director of the United States Achievement Academy.

The Academy selects USAA win-

ners upon the exclusive recommendation of teachers, coaches, counselors and other qualified sponsors and upon the standards of selection set forth by the Academy. The criteria for selection are a student's academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, dependability, and recommendation from a teacher or director.

Kathleen Morgan is the daughter of Ann and Tim Morgan of South Plainfield. Grandparents are Joseph Lazar of Edison and Mary Morgan of East Brunswick.

Sixth Annual Business Breakfast Forum

Last Friday more than 25 businesses were on hand to participate in the Fifth Annual School to Careers Breakfast. Every facet of business was represented by the more than 25 guests who participated in the forum, including architects, bankers, florists, pharmacist and several small businesses owners.

The breakfast brought together students from South Plainfield High School Applied Technology Department with businesses in and around South Plainfield. The idea is to give students a chance to ask questions of the various professionals that take part in the forum.

Welcoming the businesses and serving was Orlando Rivera, CE Student Chairperson, who introduced the guest speakers and special guests.

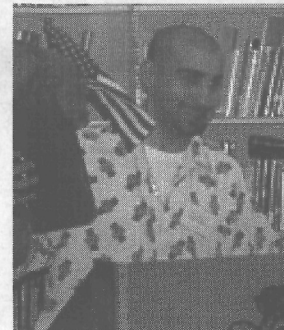
CE student Yamara Salazar thanked the participating businesses in their help with students choosing a career direction saying, "We the students are grateful for our CE work experience which you, the business companies have provided us with. We cherish the opportunity that you've given us."

CE Student Allison Stoloff continued with the theme of a partnership of businesses and education. "Even with the attacks of 911 when the job market took a huge fall, you still opened the doors of your businesses and let us in. We are lucky to have a community like this, where the businesses care about us," Stoloff said.

After breakfast student teams took their places at assigned tables and took turns asking questions of the business/community leaders, who moved from table to table. Included in the community leaders were Mayor Dan Gallagher, Police Chief Bob Merkler and Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Zushma.



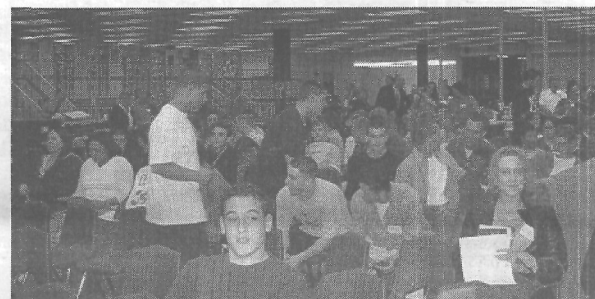
Mayor Dan Gallagher with Allison Stoloff, Orlando Rivera, Areil Avalos and Yamara Salazar.



Joe Costanti will be entering the U.S. Navy after graduation.



Sue Peck, School Board Vice President addresses students.



SPHS Winterguard Technical Mishap Earns Squad a Standing Ovation

Last weekend, the SPHS Winterguard competed at the All-Chapter Championships held in Wildwood. They competed in the preliminaries on Friday afternoon and came in fifth place out of 28 guards with an 85:1, beating out two of their toughest competitors, East Side and William Penn, neither of which made it to finals.

Finals were held on Saturday evening. Towards the end of the SPHS Winterguard performance, the music stopped due to technical difficulties. For a second the girls were confused and did not know what to do, but then they started spinning their flags to counts and finished the show without the music, earning themselves a standing ovation.

The girls left the floor in tears and upset that this happened during their final competition. In a matter of minutes, the girls calmed down and were told they had a second chance to do it again. They wiped away their tears, grabbed their equipment and took the floor again. This time the music did

not stop and they finished the season with a great show.

The girls came out in sixth place with an 85 as their score.

The girls had a great season and should be very proud of themselves. Great job girls!

To the Troops (and their parents) of Operation Iraqi Freedom:

Grant Central Sixth School wants to thank the South Plainfield troops for their unending dedication and their parents for the generous sharing of their children in this recent encounter.

Please keep open the evening of May 21. More news in next week's Observer. Call Dawn Wallis, Grant School nurse at (908) 754-4620, ext. 227.

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Kelly Downes and Jessica Ruiz as Virginia and Nellie Geary.



Kelly Downes is Nellie Geary one of the Geary children. Megan Boyle is Widow Brantingham whose husband, Henry, was killed at Fredricksburg, Va on December 13, 1862. Samantha Horvath, 1912 is Mildred Norman of the Norman hotel interests.



L-R Susan Mott as Lizzie Dalrymple from the cover of Images of South Plainfield, Sarah Mott as her little sister, Amber Berkowitz as Katherine Geary 1905, and Paige Berkowitz as Rebecca Manning.

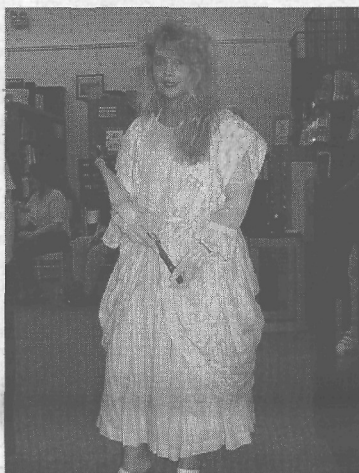
Historical Society Dresses Up for the Past

(Continued from page 1)

a well-known family such as the Gearys, Mannings, Blackfords and Apgars.

South Plainfield was once composed of two hamlets Samptown and New Brooklyn. Samptown was located at the intersection of Sampton Avenue and Clinton Avenue extension. Around 1840 there were eight to 10 houses and businesses. The houses in New Brooklyn were built near the grist mill and saw mill which were located near what we now call the center of town. The name "South" Plainfield was derived in the 1880s from the Lehigh Valley Railroad's need to distinguish its railroad passenger schedule from that of the Central Jersey's line through Plainfield. The two small hamlets were located south of Plainfield, creating what is now our town.

Alice DeNizo recently donated her Ida Rose Antique Clothing Collection to the Historical Society. The collection is currently on display at the library. For more information on the society visit <http://community.nj.com/cc/sphistoricalociety> or email sphistoricalsoc@cs.com



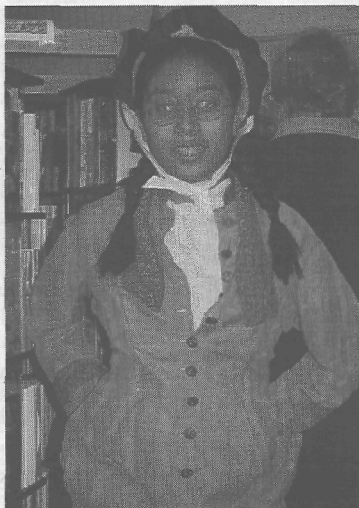
Mary Beth Khidre is Dr. Link's wife.



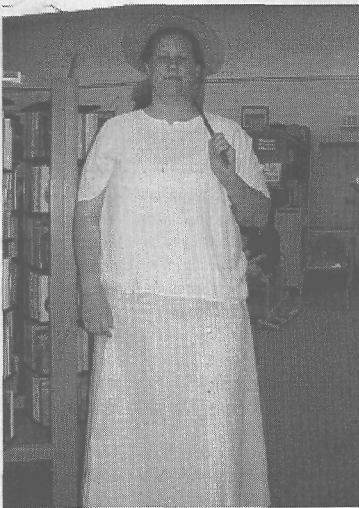
Erica Bowden as Charity Dunham.



Marion Gallagher as Ruth Apgar, wife of Major Henry Apgar.



Michelle Alacantara is Mrs. Jay Blackford, outfit circa 1880.



Katie Fasolo as one of the Ten Eyck girls.



Sarah Miele as Emma Manning and Sara Crane as Anna Ward, a good friend of Emma's who helped nurse her back to health after a bout of pneumonia.

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Through The Years

HISTORY OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

The South Plainfield Police Department was formed when the Borough of South Plainfield was incorporated in 1926. Their goal was, and still is, to provide professional, effective and efficient police services to the residents and visitors of South Plainfield.

POLICE STATION

Originally, the South Plainfield Police Station or Headquarters was located at 119 Hamilton Blvd. near Maple Ave., (pictured right) which is now the home of private businesses. In 1961, when the new Municipal Complex was constructed at 2480 Plainfield Ave., the police department moved into the new building, where it remains today. Due to expansions and an increased need for space to house modern communications, systems modifications have been made periodically to the facility. In 1996, what was once the main police entrance was closed due to the expansion of the Emergency Services Communications Center. In 2002, the Police Department moved into additional office space made available in Borough Hall. This modification allowed them to designate rooms specifically for operational purposes and made for a safer, more efficient work environment.



Borough Clerk Charlie Carone.

COMMUNITY POLICING BUILDING

Starting in 1995, the D.A.R.E./Community Policing Officers called office space in the Middlesex Mall their home. It not only gave them much needed office space, but provided a sub-station for the shopping public to stop by and talk to officers about a variety of topics, such as obtaining general information regarding directions to crime prevention issues. However, when the mall underwent renovations, new office space was needed. In 1999, Chief Steven A. Merkler and Officer Allen LaMonda were able to arrange for the Borough to take ownership of an old gas station building from the corporate owner. Officer LaMonda, Officer Joe Papa and members of our Public Works Department spent countless hours renovating the building and these officers occupied the building in October of that year. Costs for these renovations did not involve tax dollars, since many of the materials and labor were donated and forfeiture monies were utilized. Now, there is a clean, modern looking building which serves the Police Department's needs and community needs.



Pictured left is the new Community Policing Building with black and white patrol car.



FAMILY MEMBERS IN BLUE

Policing in general is rich with many traditions. One such tradition is the desire to protect and to serve. This desire is often passed on to siblings and/or children of police officers. Policing often times becomes a "family business." The South Plainfield Police Department is no stranger to this tradition. The desire of family members to not only emulate a parent or sibling and pursue a law enforcement career, but to do so within the same department is a credit to the department itself and the borough. Since the birth of the South Plainfield Police Department, many cousins and individuals related through marriage have served the borough in the capacity of police officers. It was not until 1983 when Robert Merkler was sworn in as a police officer, joining his brother Steven, that immediate family members served as

police officers in the borough. Since that time, this tradition has blossomed. Listed here are all the immediate family members who have served as police officers with the borough's police department. Not all served simultaneously with their parent/sibling.

- Bullock: Thomas, Mark and Taralyn - father, son, daughter
- Brembt: John and Paul - brothers
- Campagna: Philip, Vincent and Joseph - Father & Sons
- Cochrane: Bill and Chris - father and son
- DeLair: Mark and David - brothers
- McConville: John and James - brothers
- Merkler: Steven and Robert - brothers
- Piro: Peter and Michael - father and son
- Rogers: Richard and Robert - brothers

HISTORY OF THE CHIEFS OF POLICE

Since its inception, the South Plainfield Police Department has had a total of ten individuals who served as Chief of Police. Listed below is a chronological listing of each Chief of Police who has served the Borough, as well time frame in which he served in this capacity.

- Chief Cornelius McCarthy 1926-1945
- Chief Andrew A. Phillips 1948-1965
- Chief Dominic Spinelli 1966-1973
- Chief Michael Oschanski 1974-1974
- Chief Edward Tyler 1974-1979
- Chief Frederick Boosman 1979-1984
- Chief Thomas Boyle 1984-1991
- Chief John Muller 1992-1996
- Chief Steven A. Merkler 1997-2001
- Chief Robert K. Merkler 2001-present

DEPARTMENT GROWTH

The staffing of the department has increased over the years to correspond with the growth of the town. The increased workload of the department was a direct result of the dramatic growth of residential homes, businesses and industry within the Borough. With the increased need for police services comes a need for additional staffing of the Department. There have been many factors that contributed to the growth of South Plainfield. However, the construction of Interstate 287 in the late 1960's with entrance and exit ramps into South Plainfield as well as nearby communities, played a significant role in changing our borough from a community of small single family homes and farms to one of a thriving suburb with homes in a variety of price ranges, as well as a boom in industry and commercial establishments. In the late 1960's to the early 1970's, the staffing of the department increased from 36 to 52 sworn officers, where it remained until 1996, when the staffing of sworn officers increased to 56. As of 2003, the staffing levels remain at 56 sworn officers.

DEPARTMENT FIRSTS

- First African American officer - Edwin Daly (1954)
- First K-9 officers - John Gear & Al Gajarsky (1976)
- First D.A.R.E. officer - John Alles (1990)
- First set of brothers to serve as officers - Steven & Robert Merkler (1983)
- First twin brothers to serve as officers - Robert & Richard Rogers (1986)
- First father/son to serve as officers - Philip & Vincent Campagna (1994)
- First Female officer - Sherilyn Courtney (1999)
- First Latino American officer - Roberto Vega (2000)
- First father/daughter to serve as officers - Thomas & Taralyn Bullock (2003)
- First brother/sister to serve as officers - Mark & Taralyn Bullock (2003)
- First full-time bicycle officer - David Franchak (2002)



Sgt. Tulio Capparelli, Chief Andre Phillips, NY Yankee first baseman Bill Skowron and Charles Lammers presenting the PAL Charter.

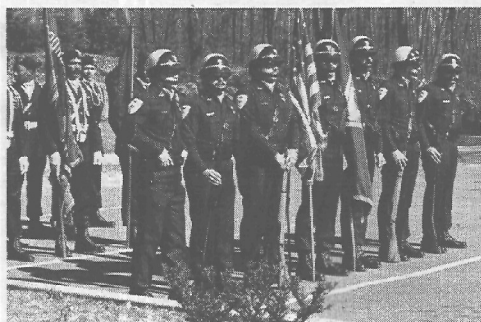
COMMUNITY POLICING

In the 1990's, the concept of "community policing" was considered to be a new phenomenon in policing. However, it is actually a reintroduction of a concept prevalent in cities in the early to middle stages of the 20th century. Part of the concept of "community policing" was that police officers should become involved with the young adults of the community, keeping them active so they don't get into trouble, and to develop a relationship of trust and respect between the police and these young adults. There has been no better example of commitment to this concept than the formulation of the Police Athletic League, or "PAL." Formed locally in 1959, officers from the SPPD became involved in coaching youth sports, supervising boxing and other athletic endeavors and chaperoning trips to athletic events. A crowning achievement of our forefathers that still impacts us today was the construction of the Andrew A. Phillips P.A.L. Recreation Center on Maple Ave. Funding for the original building came from police officers obtaining donations of money, construction materials and/or labor skills. The Center, as it was when it first opened in 1959, is the envy of people from many other towns who see this building and the programs it offers. Most people today don't realize that from the time the PAL Recreation Center opened until 1961, it was operated solely by police officers from South Plainfield. Since its original construction, it has undergone major renovations and expansion, and is considered once again to be a "state of the art" facility, one which we are proud to see have the "PAL" logo attached to.

The PAL now serves as the home of the Recreation Department. And while police officers no longer operate the day-to-day aspects of the PAL, there are still many officers who volunteer their time to coach youth sports as well as officers who serve in the Police Athletic League organization, which now functions in a support capacity for youth and recreation groups in town.

THE SPPD HONOR GUARD

In 1984, at the request of Lieutenant Thomas Bullock, Chief Thomas Boyle authorized the formulation of a Police Honor Guard. The purpose of the Honor Guard was to perform cer-



South Plainfield Police Honor Guard.

emonial functions at funerals for officers killed in the line of duty throughout the tri-state area. Over the years, the SPPD Honor Guard has developed a reputation of an elite unit that sheds a positive light on law enforcement in general and the SPPD in particular.

Over the years, the members of the SPPD Honor Guard have changed due to retirements or lack of time due to other commitments. However, this unit continues to represent the SPPD and the Borough with class and distinction. Listed below are those members who have served in this unit. The asterisk (*) indicates that the member served at some point as a Commander of the Honor Guard.

Phillip Aquilina, Robert Bender, John Brembt, Paul Brembt, Thomas Bullock*, Wayne Diana, John Ferraro*, David Franchak, Joseph Franchak, Raymond Jazikoff, Michael Lane, Kenneth LaVerne, Richard Martin, Robert K. Merkler*, Steven A. Merkler*, Gary Muccigrossi, Kevin Murtagh, James Parker, John Petriello, Karl Schuetz, Walter Smialowicz and John Wilson.

OTTO THE AUTO

Many times, what we think is a new idea is really just an idea that is recycled and modernized using current technology. In the late 1980's, the SPPD purchased a remote controlled car and school bus to educate young children in safety issues. Each vehicle had a speaker in it and an officer would remain hidden from sight of the children. When the children would talk to the vehicle, the officer could hear what was said and respond to the children via a microphone. This is a great tool to reach the youngsters.

As was stated earlier, some of these "new" ideas are merely recycled ideas. In 1975, Deputy Chief Tulio "Chuck" Capparelli came up with the idea of remodeling an actual car for this very purpose. He, along with Officers Fred Heyeck, John Torsky and Philip Campagna obtained an old VW Beetle, painted it, developed some basic robotic features and named him "Otto the Auto". Otto became a fixture in South Plainfield and surrounding communities for many years. The headlights were fashioned to look like eyes, whenever he "spoke", his lips mounted on the front bumper would move, and his police hat on the roof of the car would lift up and down to show his joy of talking to the children.

After many years of dedicated service, Otto decided it was time to retire. Like so many other retirees, Otto retired to Florida, and made his home in the Police Hall of Fame and Museum in Miami, Fla. Last we heard, Otto makes periodic guest appearances to children in and around the Miami area. However, Otto will always be a fixture in the hearts of the officers who served with him as well as the children he touched during his service with the SPPD.

COMPUTERIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT

Like all other professions, policing has seen dramatic changes in the use of available technology and has learned to embrace it. Perhaps no other invention has had a more significant impact upon law enforcement than that of the computer. Computers are now ingrained in everyday life, whether it is at home or in the workplace. The question often asked is "How did we do it before we had computers?"

The computerization of the South Plainfield Police Department did not begin in earnest until 1987, when approximately \$125,000 was allocated for the purchase of a Computer Aided Dispatch System, also commonly referred to as "CAD". This system moved the Department away from the cumbersome process of handwriting all reports, time/date and punching cards every time a call for service was required and the countless hours of filing and research-

Mayor Proclaims Police Week

In honor of the South Plainfield Police Department, this article follows the history of the department. We thank Chief Bob Merkler for compiling this information.

ing the files in order to gather statistics in order to identify crime trends. CAD allowed us to enter everything into the computer system at the time it is reported and ultimately enabled us to amass the large volume of data and access it in a timelier manner.

Also in 1987, we purchased our first desktop computer to be utilized for administrative purposes.

Since that "dinosaur" age of 1987, we have seen dramatic changes in our philosophies towards computers in general and how the computers affect us in how we do our jobs. Now, every workstation within the Police Department is equipped with desktop computers that are networked with our master computer system. We now have the ability to access previous files in seconds rather than days. This gives us the ability to identify crime trends and react to them in a more timely manner, resulting in better service to the residents.

In 1994, we purchased our first computer to be placed in a patrol car in the field. These Mobile Data Terminals, or "MDT's", are now standard equipment in each and every patrol vehicle. They allow the officers to access files, write reports, and communicate with other units in the field, all of which enhances efficiency of the operation and safety of the officers.

In 2002, we purchased a computer driven fingerprint system that allows us to fingerprint criminals, electronically send the prints to National Crime Information Center in Washington D.C., compare those prints to all prints on file, determine if the person that was arrested is who he says he is—all within about fifteen minutes.

In 2003, we received a grant to upgrade our CAD system with the latest technology. This new system faster, has greater data storage capabilities, is more user friendly and increases our operational capabilities.

BICYCLE PATROLS



"Otto the Auto" was used to teach safety to children.

units in the Borough, additional shopping centers and expansions of some of our schools, we felt that we needed to implement a form of community policing that would make our officers more visible to the large concentration of people in these particular areas, create a feeling of safety to visitors of these locations all the while giving us the ability to move patrols quickly should the need arise. At the suggestion of Sergeant Charles Siedenbueg, a decision was made to implement full-time bicycle patrols. Officer David Franchak was selected to serve in this capacity. He received 40 hours of training on the bicycle patrol techniques for law enforcement and we received a \$1,300 bicycle through a grant from the Neumann Foundation. The success of this program and the positive feedback we received encouraged us to expand the unit to two officers. In 2002, Officer Dan Noonan joined Officer Franchak in bike patrols. Officer Noonan was also issued a new \$1,300 bicycle, made possible through a grant by the Neumann Foundation and completed the necessary training requirements. He began active patrols in the spring of 2002.

One of the philosophies behind the community-policing concept is to get the officers out from behind the wheel of marked patrol units and have them out amongst the people we serve. Some cities with large downtown districts have reintroduced foot patrols. Other agencies have purchased motorcycles. In examining these two concepts of community policing, we felt that due to the manner in which the Borough is configured, neither of these methods of patrol were viable or cost efficient. However, with the patrolling of Spring Lake Park now becoming a local responsibility, and the construction of multi-family housing



Det. Bob Smith, Rev. Charles Mingle, Police Officer William Cochran.



The Ultimate Sacrifice

Police work is inherently dangerous work. Every time an officer answers a call for service, he or she is at risk. The risk of serious injury and death is a something each police officer and their family face whenever the uniform is worn. South Plainfield Officers are not immune to the risks associated with their profession. The nature of the calls we handle range from the simple task of giving directions to a lost motorist to encountering individuals armed with weapons to handling emotionally disturbed people. On two separate occasions, the SPPD has experienced the tragic loss of two of its "finest" in the performance of their duties. In a strange twist of fate, one of deaths occurred on top of the Stelton R.d. overpass over Interstate 287, while the other occurred on Interstate 287 where it intersects the Stelton R.d. overpass. While these officers lost their lives many years ago, our thoughts and prayers are always with them and the families they left behind. These brave men made the ultimate sacrifice to the community they served. May they never be forgotten.

RICHARD H. CONKLIN

Patrolman Richard Conklin was born on Oct. 11, 1944 in Queens and graduated from South Plainfield High School. Conklin served in Cuba and Vietnam as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. During his military service, he received the National Defense Medal. After completing his tour of duty with the military, Conklin became a member of the South Plainfield Police Department on Nov. 13, 1967 and served in the Patrol Division. It was while working in the capacity of a patrol officer that he was killed on Jan. 21, 1972.

Conklin assisting the rescue squad in the transportation of a mentally ill patient. He was riding in the rear patient compartment of the rescue squad vehicle when the patient, who had been restrained, broke free of the restraints, literally ripped Officer Conklin's firearm from his holster and shot the officer twice. Officer Conklin died as a result of his wounds within moments of being shot. The circumstances of his death resulted in a nationwide review and subsequent revision of the then accepted practice of officers remaining armed while performing escort duties in the patient compartments of rescue squad vehicles.

During his five-year career, Conklin received numerous commendations and had earned the respect of his fellow officers, his superiors and the citizenry of the community he served.

His parents, Henry and Mary, sisters Mary and Ethel survived him. He was engaged to be married to Patricia Ann Gratta at the time of his death. The Borough of South Plainfield named a local street in memory of Officer Conklin. Officer Richard H. Conklin was 27 years of age at the time of his death.

(Shortly after his son's death, Henry Conklin initiated a bulletproof vest fund drive for officers at the South Plainfield Police Department.)

WILLIAM J. CADY

Patrolman William Cady was born on April 22, 1945 and graduated from Woodbridge High School. Cady served in Vietnam as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. While in the military, he received a Good Conduct Medal and Vietnam Service Medal. After completing his tour of duty with the military, Cady became a member of the SPPD on Feb. 24, 1969 and served in the Patrol Division. He was selected to become a member of the Tactical Response Squad, whose responsibility was to target high crime areas. It was while working in this capacity that he was killed on April 19, 1975.

While conducting a routine traffic stop on an entrance ramp to Highway 287, he was struck and killed by a passing vehicle. The operator of that vehicle was under the influence of narcotics at the time of the accident.

During his six-year career, Cady received numerous commendations and had earned the respect of his fellow officers, his superiors and the citizenry of the community he served. In 1971, he received a commendation for single handily subduing two burglary suspects who had violently resisted arrest.

His wife, Jane, daughter Stephanie and son Rhett survived him. The Borough named a local street in memory of Officer Cady. Officer William J. Cady was 29 years of age at the time of his death.

Rhett Cady, Bill's son, has followed in his fathers' footsteps, serving his country as a member of the U.S. Navy and now is a police officer in Hollywood, Fla.

The names of these officers are permanently memorialized on the police monument in Washington D.C.

(Continued on next page)

DRUG AWARENESS & RESISTANCE EDUCATION (D.A.R.E.)

This nationwide program was first introduced to students within the South Plainfield District in 1990. Officer John Alles was the first D.A.R.E. Officer to teach this program to local fifth graders. Since the program originated, approximately 400-600 students annually get an opportunity to hear about the perils of drugs, how to resist becoming involved with them and hopefully, develop respect for and trust of those involved in law enforcement that will last a lifetime. Since its inception, there have been a total of four officers from the South Plainfield Police Department who have been certified to teach this program. In addition to Officer Alles, Officer Allen LaMonda, Officer Joseph Papa and Officer David Franchak have instructed students in our D.A.R.E. program.

In 2002, an opportunity arose in which members of the Middlesex County Department of Corrections offered to assist our local D.A.R.E. officers with this program. The additional staffing allowed more flexibility in terms of scheduling and exposed the students to another segment of the law enforcement profession that they might not have had an opportunity to experience. This partnership worked out well and both agencies look forward to continuing with this partnership.

PATROL VEHICLE MARKING DESIGN

Like many agencies, the original marking design on our police vehicles was "black and white." However, again like many agencies, the SPPD went to a different look in the late 1960's to the early 1970's. We had vehicles that were all blue at one time; then all white. The vehicles had distinctive striping and our shoulder patch serving as the door insignia. While some of the marking designs were memorable, these same designs did not necessarily blend in with the style changes of the vehicles themselves. In 1999, at the suggestion of Sgt. Bob Barone, a decision was made to "go back in time" - we reinstituted the distinctive "black and white" patrol car. The result was a traditional, clean look that we continue to utilize and one that we are proud of. Now, if you look around at many other law enforcement agencies throughout the area, they too have followed the same path and adopted this "traditional" look of yesteryear.



Police Department Communication Center.

PARTICIPATION IN CHARITABLE EVENTS

The members of the South Plainfield Police Department have often volunteered their time and participated in various benefit fund raising events, with either specific families in crisis or specific charitable organizations. Listed below is just a sampling of different events that members of the SPPD participated in over the years.

In 1980, a group of officers participated in a 110-mile marathon relay race that originated in South Plainfield and ended in Atlantic City. The monies generated from this run went to a fund for crippled children. The officers who participated as runners were: Thomas Boyle, Wayne Bowden, John Brembt, Tim Dziomba, Fred Heyeck, Dave MacDonald, Steve Merkler and Doug Pierson. Those members to serve on the support team were: Tom Bullock, Tullio Capparelli, Bill Cochrane, Joe Franchak, Al Gajarsky, John Gear, Ken Van Kleef and Mr. J. Young.

There have been a number of benefit basketball games "pitting" the police officers against either the teachers from our school district or the local firefighters. Officers who participated in these events over the years include: John Alles, Pete Arancio, Gene Bataille, Wayne Bowden, Gary Cassio, Bill Cochrane, Chris Colucci, James Darby, Wayne Diana, Tim Dziomba, David Franchak, Ray Jazikoff, Gary Kline, Kevin Krajniak, Mike Lane, Ken LaVerne, Ted Malecki, Bob Merkler, Kevin Murtagh, Jim Parker, John Petriello, Daryl Strother and Paul Wylam.

Officers participated for a number of years in the "MIA/POW" 5k races in Elizabeth. Officers who participated in these runs include: Paul Brembt, Joe Franchak, John Ferraro, John Gear, Ken LaVerne, Bob Merkler and Kevin Murtagh.

There is the annual "Mayors Trophy Softball Game", which pits our police officers against our firefighters. This "grudge game", which originated in the late 1980's, generates money that goes to the Elks Club, who in-turn donate the proceeds to the NY Children's Hospital. Officers and staff who have participated in this game over the years include: John Alles, Bob Barone, Gene Bataille, Wendell Born, Wayne Bowden, Brad Bullard, Mark Bullock, Vincent Campagna, Gary Cassio, Bill Cochrane, Chris Cochrane, James Darby, Dave DeLair, Mark DeLair, Wayne Diana, Tim Dziomba, David Franchak, George Green, Mark

Hollain, Mike Hoppe, Tim Kelly, Gary Kline, Matt Koep, Kevin Krajniak, Ken LaVerne, Joe Lynch, Matt Mahoney, Ted Malecki, John McConville, Mike Molinaro, Kevin Murtagh, Jim Parker, John Petriello, Michael Piro, Roberto Ramos and Chuck Siedenburgh.

In 1999, a number of officers volunteered to provide security at the Special Olympics, which was hosted at the Frank Jost Field in South Plainfield. For the officers involved, one of the highlights was when we were given the honor of placing the medals around the necks of the winners of the track and field events.

In 2003, Officers Michael Molinaro, James McConville, Raymond Jazikoff and David DeLair participated in the "State PBA Polar Bear Plunge" at Point Pleasant, with the proceeds generated going to the Special Olympics.

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Periodically, members of the SPPD have been temporarily transferred to serve with task forces, or County/Federal agencies. Traditionally, the assignments have been for a period of six months. However, some have been extended due to the involvement of our personnel in ongoing investigations. The purpose of these assignments includes gaining invaluable experience, developing contacts for future use and possibly securing seized monies through forfeiture. Listed below are the officers who have represented the SPPD on these assignments:

Casimir Anunias - Middlesex County Prosecutors Office Fatal Accident Unit

Gene Bataille - Middlesex County Prosecutors Office
Wayne Diana - Middlesex County Prosecutors Office
John Ferraro - Middlesex County Prosecutors Office
George Green - Middlesex County Prosecutors Office
Michael Lane - Middlesex County Prosecutors Office
Steven A. Merkler - Middlesex County Prosecutors Office
Kevin Murtagh - Middlesex County Prosecutors Office
James Parker - Federal Task Force

NOTEWORTHY INVESTIGATIONS

The SPPD conducts numerous criminal investigations as part of their daily duties. However, once in a while, we become involved in a case of international proportions. Listed below are examples of cases that originated in South Plainfield and/or cases that members of the SPPD were heavily involved.

ATTACKS ON THE WORLD TRADE CENTER

The dramatic and historical events that occurred on September 11, 2001 will always be etched in our minds. Like other tragic events that occurred, people will remember where they were or what they were doing when those events took place. Although the attacks on the WTC occurred in the City of New York, these events impacted the SPPD.

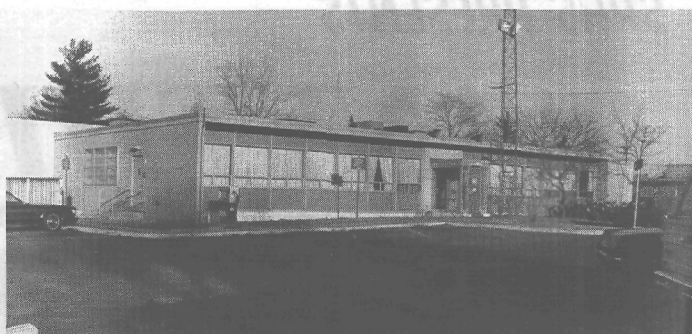
Shortly after the towers collapsed, Sergeant Kevin Murtagh, Sergeant Charles Siedenburgh and Officer Vincent Campagna assisted in escorting emergency lighting equipment from companies in South Plainfield into New York City.

As these events were unfolding, many off-duty officers from the SPPD were phoning our Emergency Operating Center and offering to assist in any manner possible. On the evening of 9/11, South Plainfield Officers Wayne Diana, Brian Iarrapino and Daniel Noonan were detailed with other police officers from Middlesex County to Ground Zero to assist in the search for survivors.

Once the removal of the debris from Ground Zero was initiated, the grim task of searching the tons of debris for evidence and personal affects of victims fell upon officers from the NYPD and other officers from around the country who volunteered to participate. In all, a total of 22 present and past officers from the South Plainfield Police Department volunteered to go to the Fresh Kill Landfill on their own time to assist in the search of the debris field. They were: Peter Arancio, Gene Bataille, Robert Barone, Wendell Born, Garrett Cassio, Chris Colucci, Sherilyn Courtney, Wayne Diana, John Ferraro, Michael Hoppe, Brian Iarrapino, Raymond Jazikoff, Matthew Koep, Kevin LoMonte, Matthew Mahoney, Robert Merkler, Steve Merkler, Daniel Noonan, Joseph Papa, Robert Rogers, Charles Siedenburgh, and Daryl Strother.

COMPUTER FRAUD

In 1986, when computers were just becoming prominent, the SPPD became involved in an investigation whereby local juveniles were involved with scheme to commit fraud via the computers in order to obtain merchandise. While such schemes may be more common today, because of what was considered "new" technology at that period of time, there were very few individuals



Present location of South Plainfield Police Department

capable of determining how the crime was conducted. Officer Michael Grennier, the "computer guru" of the SPPD, was able to utilize his knowledge and expertise to determine how the crimes were committed. As a result of his investigation, the case was solved. Because it was one of the earliest investigations involving computers as a tool to commit a crime, we received international attention. Media outlets from throughout the United States, Canada and Europe sent representatives to the press conference held to discuss this case.

COLUMBIAN MONEY LAUNDERING SCHEME

In 1989, members of the SPPD became directly involved in a nine-month investigation involving money laundering scheme tied to Panamanian and Columbian drug cartels. The investigation originally focused on a home in South Plainfield where the money was allegedly being delivered, sorted and packaged for shipment. However, after the early stages of the investigation, it quickly became obvious to local investigators that this investigation had the potential of becoming a large-scale investigation of International proportions. Federal agencies were consulted and became involved in the investigation. The investigation involved members of the SPPD, Middlesex County Prosecutors Office, U.S. Customs, FBI, DEA and the IRS. The investigation was culminated on Feb. 10, 1990 with coordinated execution of search and arrest warrants at homes and business in NJ, NY, Delaware and Florida. The raids in NJ occurred in the counties of Middlesex, Somerset, Passaic and Union. At 4:00 a.m., approximately 150 law enforcement officers from various agencies (30 from SPPD) gathered at the P.A.L. for a pre-raid briefing. The officers then responded to their designated locations to execute the warrants. The timing of each raid was coordinated with all agencies involved, including those occurring in other states.

As a result of this investigation/operation, 25 people were arrested, \$10,000 in cash was seized, eight cars and 55 pounds of cocaine. The P.A.L. building served as a clearinghouse for all of the suspects arrested in NJ. As a result of our involvement in this investigation, in March of 2000, the SPPD received \$566,000 via the Federal Forfeiture program. This investigation had significant impact upon the operation of laundering drug proceeds through legitimate institutions in the United States.

EVOLUTION OF THE POLICE SHOULDER PATCH

Police Departments have traditionally worn shoulder patches that clearly identify themselves as belonging to a particular agency. In the early stages, most law enforcement chose to emulate the triangle patch design worn by the N.J. State Police. The patch was simple: it was in the shape of a triangle and had the agencies name and the words "Police Department" on it.

As time evolved, some agencies wanted to establish their own identities by designing patches that were distinctive and unique to them. Often times this was accomplished by placing issues associated with their hometown on the patch. In 1954 or 1955, our patch was revised to reflect this change of philosophy. The new patch, designed by future Mayor Robert Baldwin, was oval in shape, continued to read "South Plainfield Police Department", but incorporated the words "Vision, Family, Industry", which was the Boroughs logo. This patch was utilized until 1976.

In 1976, as part of our celebration of the Borough's 50th anniversary, the Police Department

adopted a modified triangle shaped patch. A South Plainfield High School student designed this new patch. On the patch, and American Bald Eagle was placed in the center of the patch with a shield of stars and stripes on its chest. The eagle clutches either Olive branches or arrows in either set of claws. Symbolically, the eagles' head is supposed to face the olive branches in times of peace and the arrows in time of war. The patch also included the words "Police", "South Plainfield" and the year the Department was established. There have been two changes to this patch since its adoption. In 2001, as part of our celebration of the Borough's anniversary, we once again issued a limited number of 75th anniversary patches that read "75th Anniversary 1926-2001". The second change was made in the background color of the patch. For a long period of time, our officers wore a light blue colored uniform shirt and the background on the patch reflected that color. In 1994, the Department went to a dark blue color for its uniform shirt. In 2000, it was decided to change the background color of the patch to reflect that of the uniform shirts.

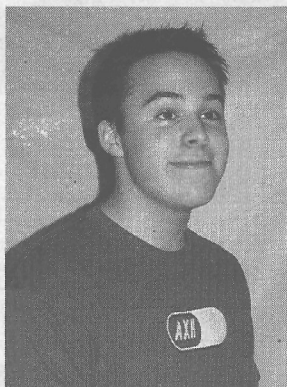


Sgt. Ken LaVerne and Captain Robert Pilukaitis

SPHS PRESENTS

“ANYTHING GOES”

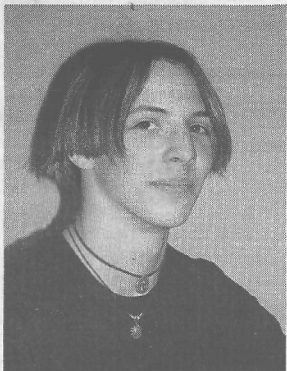
Fair Winds and Following Seas Predicted for the SS “Anything Goes!”



SHIP'S PURSER—Alex Tierney



HOPE HARCOURT—Cassandra Krajcik



LUKE ~Christopher Abbott



By Patricia Abbott

All Aboard for the SPHS Players production of Cole Porter's *Anything Goes*! The musical comedy will be presented on Thursday, May 8 and Saturday, May 10 at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Porter was ahead of his time when he paired romance with the high seas—long before the TV sitcom “Love Boat” sailed through the seventies. Porter's “opposites attract” formula makes for an evening of sidesplitting laughter. Outrageous characters and fast-paced action will keep theater patrons anticipating the actors' next moves. Songs run the gamut from lively toe-tapping numbers to mellow love songs. The show offers such memorable numbers as *Friendship, It's De-Lovely, You're the Top, Blow, Gabriel, Blow* and the title song *Anything Goes*.

Full-scale musicals of this caliber don't happen overnight. The incredibly energized cast and hard working crew and band have been hard at work for weeks. Behind the scenes, a first-class staff that keeps the cast in shipshape.

Talented co-directors, Lory Alcaro and Bill Seesselberg, keep the cast

sailing on course. Lory is a 1979 SPHS graduate who has seen the stage from nearly every conceivable angle. She worked with the South Plainfield Summer Drama in 1972 and continued performing on the stage throughout high school. She was the stage manager for the 2002 SPHS production of “Hello, Dolly!” and Summer Drama Workshop's “Footloose!” She has worked with Westfield Community Players, Edison Valley, Parish Players and the Bickford Theater in Morristown. Her extensive theater/stage credits include; performance, artistic design, stage management, make up and work on a cable documentary. She has had years of training in voice and dance.

Bill Seesselberg is also an SPHS graduate. Not only is he co-directing “Anything Goes,” he is also the producer as well as lighting and sound designer. Bill, who is President of the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop, has directed Parish Players, Unicorn Productions, Playhouse 22, Somerset Valley Players, Edison Valley Playhouse, and was the founder of the Oak Tree Theatre Company. When not working with theater, Bill is an editor and director.

Choreographer Patti O'Brien is the guardian angel who puts wings on the feet of the cast of 36. A kindergarten teacher in South Amboy, Patti choreographed the 2001 SPHS production of “Damn Yankees,” as well as three shows for the Summer Drama Workshop. Her choreography has been seen on high school and community theater stages throughout the state. She enjoys performing on stage and was most recently seen as Tintinabula in “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum,” which was performed at First Avenue Playhouse in Atlantic Highlands. She has appeared with GB Productions, Stagecrafters, Phoenix Productions, Center Players in Bayonne, and Westfield Community Players.

Vocal director Joan Stasio is a 1979 SPHS grad who nurtures the multitude of heavenly voices. She has taught instrumental music in South Plainfield for 19 years and is currently teaching at Grant Central Sixth School serving as team leader for the music department. She graduated from Douglass College with a BA in Music Education. Her interest in theater began when she was a student in Summer Drama Workshop's “Oklahoma” in the late 70s. Joan has been involved as Music Director/pit musician for over 40 productions. She is currently busy with her students at Grant School co-directing “Annie Jr.”

Stage Manger Bob Alcaro is another SPHS grad. His technical credits span 24 years. He has worked with SDW, SPHS, Parish Players, Stage Door Productions, and South River Drama. He has worked in various technical positions for twenty six shows including “Jesus Christ Superstar,” “Anything Goes,” “Play It Again Sam,” “Footloose” and “Sound of Music.” He has served as a technical director, stage manager, set designer, and crew member, fulfilling every possible phase of technical theater.

Orchestra Director Mark Tweed is an important staff member who is among those who are not as visible during the weeks of rehearsal. Mark is currently the director of bands at SPHS. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Glassboro State College. He performs instrumentally throughout Southern New Jersey in various high school pit orchestras. He has worked sound for SPHS Players production of “The Who's Tommy,” and SP Summer Drama Workshop's production of “The Music Man.” His many credits include, “The Sound of Music,” “Grease,” “My Fair Lady,” “The Wizard of Oz.” This is his third year as orchestra director for SPHS Players.

Adam Tamzoke is student producer, Vinney Carubia is student assistant director.



**Thursday, May 8 &
Saturday, May 10
7 PM**

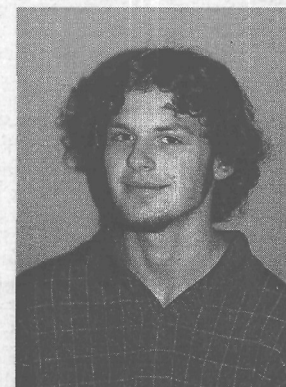
Tickets Available at the Door

In addition to those mentioned above, others who contributed to the success of the show include: producer Maureen Imbrosiano, producer/costumes-Janis Nietzer; Jesse Nietzer-rehearsal pianist/ program book, Lynn Fasolo-props, Kristin Nietzer-costumes. There are additional volunteers too numerous to list.

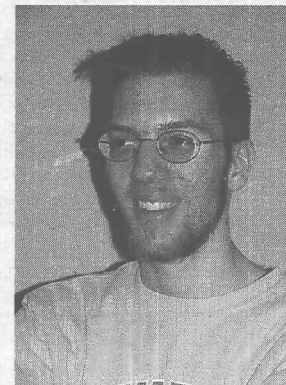
The show only makes two voyages, Thursday, May 8, and Saturday, May 10. Both voyages set sail at 7 p.m. Don't miss the boat! Tickets for the fun-filled night are \$8 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and students.



RENO SWEENEY~ Natasha Kurilew



BILLY CROCKER~Christopher Baron



LORD EVELYN OAKLEIGH~
David Garatino

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

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Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools

Curriculum provides students with a firm foundation in basic skills and integrates Catholic Christian philosophy to form the whole person.

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- ▶ Daily prayer/Monthly liturgies
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- ▶ Hot Lunch Program
- ▶ Counseling Services
- ▶ Compensatory/Supplemental Svcs.
- ▶ Computer Education
- ▶ Physical Education
- ▶ Girls' Softball (grades 5-8)
- ▶ Cheerleading (grades K-8)
- ▶ Basketball (grades 3-8)
- ▶ Track (grades K-8)
- ▶ Cross Country (grades 4-8)
- ▶ Library
- ▶ Music Theory & Instrumental Music
- ▶ Children's Choir
- ▶ Art
- ▶ Foreign Language (Spanish)
- ▶ Chess Club
- ▶ DARE Program (grade 5).

Registration NOW through August 2003

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:

School: 908-756-0633, ext. 32 or 33, Convent: 908-756-0631, Parish Center: 908-756-0633, ext. 10

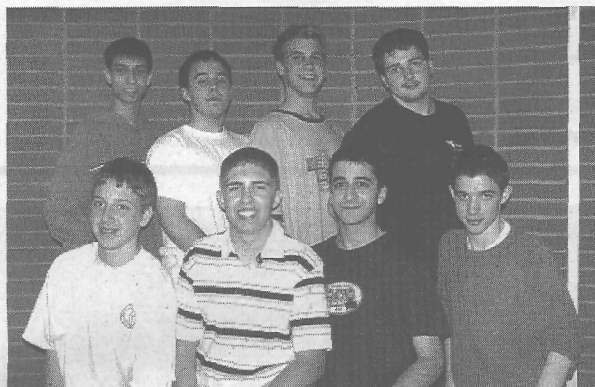
Sister Maria Cornelia Ramirez, RVM, Principal • Rev. John P. Alvarado, Pastor

Celebrating fifty years of academic excellence, faithful witness to Christian morals and values, and spiritual formation in the Catholic tradition.

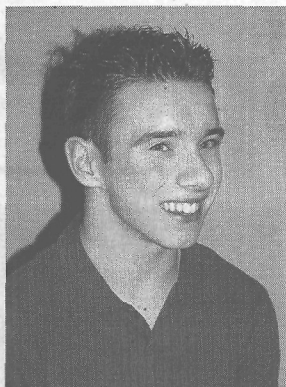
We can thankfully speak the holy name of Jesus Christ in this school, and do!

SACRED HEART SCHOOL REGISTRATION—Pre-K Age 3, Pre-K Age 4, Kindergarten, Grades one through six are still open. Requirements for registration include: health records, birth certificate, social security card, most recent report card, test results, and the recommendation from the Principal and homeroom teacher. Pre-K students must be three (3) years old on or before October 1, 2003. Kindergarten students must be five (5) years old on or before October 1. First graders must be six (6) years old on or before October 2003. Sacred Heart School admits students of any creed, race, sex and nationality or ethnic origin. For information please call us at 908-756-0633, ext. 32 or 33.

SHS ALUMNI/ALUMNAE SEARCH—Graduates of Sacred Heart School, please call and let us know your whereabouts. We are updating our records and would like to have you included. We appreciate any help from families of graduates living in the area who can help supply this information.



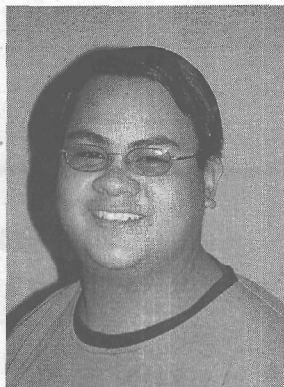
CREW—Top row: Vincent Carubia, Alex Tierney, Greg Publik, Paul Nicolosi. Bottom row: Jeff Seesselberg, Danny Sierzega, Wajdi Kanj, Steven Tietjen.



MOONFACE MARTIN~ Christopher Imbrosciano



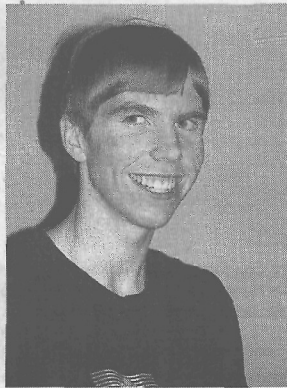
FRED~Paul Nicolosi



ELISHA WHITNEY~Josef Rodriguez



EVANGELINE HARCOURT~ Kim Arend



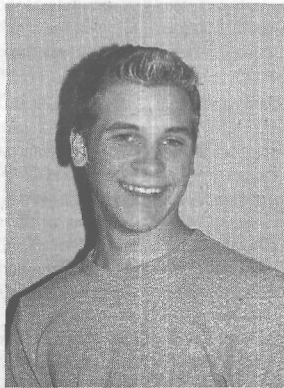
JOHN~Patrick Pryor



ERMA~Jamie Morris



HENRY T. DOBSON~Tristan More



SHIP'S CAPTAIN~Greg Publik

The Story Behind the Story

by Patricia Abbott

Cole Porter's "Anything Goes!" opened at the Alvin Theatre on Nov.

21, 1934 and was the fourth longest running musical of the 30's. "Anything Goes!" has been regarded by theater historians as "the quintessential 30's

musical," the memorable hit songs showing Porter at his very best. The 1936 screen version starred Ethel Merman and Bing Crosby. In 1987 it was revived at the Vivian Beaumont Theatre with Patti LuPone in the leading role and a revised book by Timothy Crouse and John Weidman.

The story takes place aboard the luxury S.S. American as its eclectic group of passengers travel across the Atlantic to England. Passengers include; Moon Face Martin a gangster-on-the-run posing as minister, Mooney's sidekick the feisty Erma, Reno Sweeney, a former evangelist turned nightclub singer and her tap-dancing "Angels," Purity, Chastity, Charity, Virtue, Faith and Grace. Also society debutante Miss Hope Harcourt, her overprotective, money-hungry mother Evangeline Harcourt and Hope's fiancé English gentleman Lord Evelyn Oakleigh, Hope's stowaway ex-boyfriend Billy Crocker, and Wall Street millionaire Eli Whitney, who has his nearsighted eye on Evangeline Harcourt.

Then there is Missionary Henry T. Dobson who's trip is a brief one after being hauled off by the FBI, mistaken as Wanted Mobster Snake Eyes Johnson. Dobson leaves behind gamblers turned Christians, Luke and John, who quickly pick up where they left off. Keeping the ship on course are the celebrity hungry captain and his sidekick the over eager purser.

Rounding out the cast are nosy media mongers, a slew of sailors and a passel of passengers. Sit back and enjoy and BON VOYAGE!



SHIP'S PASSENGERS-Shannen Rivers, Chrisann Zushma, Jessica Musolino, Anna Ferrer, Eric Reiner, Eric Rhode, Christina Martin, Tristan More, Nicole Cortese, Katie Fasolo, Leslie Sideck, Takara Kaczowski.



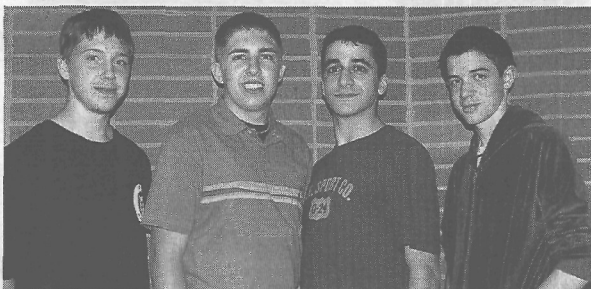
Christopher Imbrosciano, Christopher Baron and Kim Arend.



ANGELS—Top Row: CHASTITY- Katie Mott, CHARITY-Marissa Judd, GRACE-Natalia Tamzoke. Bottom Row: PURITY-Jacqueline Muglia, FAITH-Nicole Aguilar. VIRTUE, Eva Humber.



REPORTERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS—L-R: Jessica Musolino, Katie Fasolo, Chrisann Zushma, Leslie Sideck.



MALE QUARTET—Jeff Seesselberg, Danny Sierzega, Wajdi Kanj, Steve Tietjen.

Mom will love Kinkadee's Tea Cup Collection!

Ceramic teacups and saucers with real gold trim featuring vignettes by renowned artist Thomas Kinkadee.



\$35⁰⁰
each plus delivery

Mother's Day
is Sunday, May 11

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Sports



Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller

All-Star Try-Outs—About sixty girls tried out for the summer All-Star teams this past weekend. The teams have been selected and the results have been posted at the snack stand. Congratulations to all three teams.

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

College Scholarships, May 22—The Parents' Ponytail Association is sponsoring three \$500 college scholarships. Applications are currently being accepted and can be obtained from South Plainfield High School's guidance office. The filing deadline is May 22. Please refer to the application form or the separate scholarship article appearing in this week's *Observer* for further details.

Ponytail Softball Association Meeting, May 27—The South Plainfield Parents' Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, May 27 at 8

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 May 27. New members are always welcomed. Please note time change to 8 p.m.

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

All-Star Tag Day, June 7—All-Star tag day will take place on Saturday, June 7. It is a mandatory requirement that every All-Star 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). Players will meet at the snack stand at the Pitt Street Park Complex to receive their canning location.

Sponsorship Program—Last year we revised our sponsorship program.



PONYTAIL SOFTBALL LADY HAWKS are Coached by Kathi Downes. Players are Megan Boyle, Brandee Brown, Kelly Downes, Donna Garcia, Stephanie Hansen, Samantha Horvath, Stephanie Kelly, Kimberly Marin, Stephanie Mazurak, Jackie Miller, Susan Mott, Jessica Ross and Ashley Woodel.

Our sponsors can have an advertising sign placed on the outfield fences of our fields at the Pitt Street Park Complex. The sign will be 4 feet by 8 feet in size. Sponsors can design their sign with any information or logo they choose. The signs will be up for our spring, summer and fall programs (now through end of October). Sponsors will have the choice of a one-year agreement at a cost of \$300 (includes cost of sign with two colors) or a two-year agreement at a cost of \$400 (includes cost of sign with two colors). Additional colors may be added at a

cost of \$20 per color. After the initial agreement period is up, the annual renewal fee will be \$175. This new program offers our sponsors a cost-effective advertising opportunity which will reach hundreds of families. All of the funds, which are collected from our sponsors and fundraisers, go directly towards improving and upgrading the Pitt Street Park softball facilities as well as benefiting the girls who play recreation and all-star softball. If you are interested in funding a

sign, please contact any member of the S.P. Parents' Ponytail Association or contact me via our website.

Ponytail Softball Website—Visit Ponytail Softball online anytime at our website at www.spponytail.com. You will find the latest news/events, team rosters, schedules, pictures, information on our Parents' Association and All-Star teams. Please feel free to contact me by keying on the email link webmasterspponytail.com found on our home page.

SOCCER



Sonics Suffer Setback

On Sunday May 4, the Sonics traveling soccer team took on the tough Matawan Cobras. The Sonics scored first on a nice left footed shot by Will Mott assisted by Steve Lanza in the opening minutes of the match.

Five minutes later, Nick Ross crossed a nice ball to Dana Hunt who first timed a beautiful left footed shot past the Cobra's goalkeeper. This put the Sonics up 2-0. Just before the end of the first quarter, the Cobras mounted several scoring opportunities. One finally resulted in a goal off a rebound to end the quarter, Sonics 2 Cobras 1.

The second quarter saw the Cobras continue to press the Sonics defense and knot the score at two to end the first half. Third quarter action saw our Sonics rebound by pressuring the Cobras defense time after time. Shaun Alers finally took it upon himself to dribble through the central defense. He buried one in the back of their net to put our team up 3-2. The remainder of the quarter saw end to end action. The Cobras tied the score on a rebound off a corner kick to make it

3-3 at the end of the third quarter.

The fourth quarter saw more continuous action when the right defender for the Cobras unleashed a booming shot from the midfield line. It caught the Sonics keeper off his line and bounced in the goal to give the Cobras the lead 4-3. The Sonics resumed pressure on the Cobra defense with numerous shots, all to no avail. Somehow, the Cobras flighted a ball to their left wing who caught the Sonics right defender off guard. He blistered a beautiful first time rocket past a diving keeper to finish the scoring for the day. Final score Matawan Cobras 5 - South Plainfield Sonics 3.

Goalkeepers for the game were Nick Tripp, Nick Ross and Danny Hunt. Sonic defenders were Shaun Alers, Luke Goitiandia and Danny Sticco. The mid-fielders Ryan Billich, Danny Hunt, Shaun Alers, Nick Ross and Will Mott along with the attackers Dana Hunt, Steve Lanza and Nick Okoszko round out the lineup for the Sonics.

A great team effort makes the Sonics record 3-1-1.

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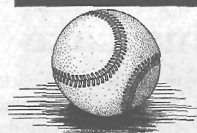
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Friday ~ May 9, 2003

South Plainfield High School

Sports



juniorbaseballclubnotes

C League Game Summaries (8 & 9 year olds)

Games played Monday April 21 thru Sunday May 4

Phillies vs. Dodgers—Dodgers - Joe Krawiec had a very good day at the plate with two doubles. Phillies - Taylor Born went one for two with one run scored and Mike Miller also scored a run while getting a clean single.

Indians vs. Yankees—Indians - The entire team played well and had fun at the same time. Yankees- Joey Skwiat pitched two very strong innings while Antonio Franczak hit the ball very well.

Athletics vs. Tigers—Athletics- Jared Aronowitz pitched two strong innings and Anthony Torchia had two big base hits.

Pirates vs. Reds—Pirates - Joshua Rochotte had two base hits, Jeffrey Pellegrino pitched well with three strikeouts and Mike Molinaro had two putouts and a base hit.

Indians vs. Tigers—Indians - Justin Harris pitched well for his first time on the mound. Joshua Smith had two base hits. Tigers - Davis Landy had a single, got on base three times and ended up scoring two times.

Giants vs. Dodgers—Dodgers - Chris Butrico played a very good defensive game.

Dodgers vs. Indians—Dodgers - Joshua Coupe caught a fly ball and Daniel Snogans played two solid innings at first base.

Giants vs. Yankees—Giants - Alex Lundy pounded out a double and triple while Ryan Hughes pitched two strong innings. Yankees - Mike Dolan did a great job behind the plate and Jesse Deffler hit the ball hard putting it in play two times.

Phillies vs. Pirates—Phillies - Mike Atcachunas scored three times and had a good day in the field with his glove. Tyler Hunt almost hit for the cycle smacking out a single, double and triple. Pirates - Claude Payne had a clean base hit and Ryan Aguiar pitched two good innings.

Reds vs. Yankees—Reds - Jack Green and Tyler Herriott each smacked triples while Anthony Quadrel pitched well for two innings. Yankees - Anthony Ashnault hit the ball hard with two singles and a double.

Dodgers vs. Tigers—Dodgers - Joseph Krawiec hit the Dodgers' first Home Run of the season. Tigers - Nick DeMarco smacked out a single and double to drive in two runs.

Pirates vs. Yankees—Pirates - Frankie Malecki had two base hits and Mike Molinaro pitched well. Yankees - Danny Lyew

had a great day from behind the plate and also on the mound.

Tigers vs. Reds—Tigers - Ryan Riccardi - had a good game defensively he also reached base four times and scored three runs. Nick DeMarco pitched two good innings.

Dodgers vs. Reds—Dodgers - Billy Waldrop had an excellent game behind the plate.

Small Fry A Highlights

Athletics vs. Phillies—Baseballs were flying out of Field #3. Four homeruns were hit. For the Phillies, Jeffrey Pryor hit a three run homer and Parth Patel hit a solo shot. Jonathan Cursi pitched four excellent innings for the Phillies. The Athletics' Matt Kopchak hit a two run homer and A.J. Kunic blasted a solo shot.

Cardinals vs. Giants—Douglas Avery hit a triple for the Cardinals. Matt Cesare pitched two scoreless innings for the Cardinals and also went 4-4. Steven Wiczorek reached base four times.

Yankees vs. Dodgers—Four Yankee pitchers shut down the undefeated Dodgers. Al Miranda, Mike Niemczyk, Chris Fulton and Mike Muglia pitched for the Yankees. The Dodgers' Robert Pasternak shut down the Yankees for four innings.

Small Fry B Highlights

Red Sox vs. Yankees—The Red Sox were limited to a single hit by Eric Niemeyer. Al Muglia pitched three nice innings for the Red Sox. Richie Szeliga and Mark McCullen had two hits a piece for the Yankees.

Giants vs. Red Sox—The pitching of Ryan Sacco and Mike Wagner was the difference for the Giants. The Red Sox's Charlie Huber had two hits and scored two important runs. Joey Delgado had a double for the Red Sox.

Reds vs. Dodgers—The Reds' Steven Grzenda went two for two and the Dodgers received outstanding pitching from Christian DiCarlo.

Yankees vs. Cardinals—Yankee pitchers limited the Cardinals to one hit. Zachary Sikanowicz pitched three excellent innings striking out eight Cardinal batters. Richie Szeliga had a base clearing double for the Yankees. Paul Zushma had the Cardinals hit.

Athletics vs. Yankees—The Athletics' Doug Porzio pitched two great innings and also had two hits. The Yankees' Zachary Sikanowicz had two doubles and Mark McCullen had two hits including a triple. Mark McCullen pitched two perfect innings.

GOLF

SPHS Golf Team Continues Their Winning Ways

After a trip to Ocean City, Maryland to improve their skills, the Golf Team beat Spotswood 193-268. Low rounds were turned in by Billy Padula-34, Jimmy Bataille-36 and Mike Alvarez-38.

Next came undefeated East Brunswick. The match ended with both teams recording identical 195's. The Tigers won on a tie breaker with Guy Severini, Frank Gaspari, Billy Weaver and Dan DeAndrea all shooting 38's. Then came a trip to Ashbrook to face

Bishop Ahr. The team won 214-246 with Guy Severini leading the way with a 41 while Billy Weaver and Dan DeAndrea had 42's.

On Monday the Golf Team went to Tamarack and beat White Division rival North Brunswick 220-245. Frank Gaspari and Billy Padula led the way with 41's. This win gave North Brunswick only their second loss in the White Division and the Tigers have not lost a division match. Their record is now 12-1-1.

Defending champions Sport & Social didn't get off to a good start in defense of their title in the South Plainfield Golf League, losing their opening match of the season to Masters, 13-7. Dan Griffin of Masters led his team to the upset win with a solid round of 37.

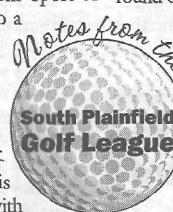
Plainfield Animal Hospital kicked off their new year with a crushing victory over Witty's 19-1.

In other American Division action, Pornovets & the Elks struggled to a 10-10 tie. In the National Division, Jerry Minlionica's fine one-over-par

round of 34 sparked Twin City to a resounding 17-3 win over Patti Construction. Dave Hodge came through with a 37 for Patti's, in a losing cause.

Kevin Boyce's 39 was the low score in his foursome, but it was not enough as Hank's Hacker's lost to KC's Korner, 11-9.

Ed Banach, Player-of-the-year in 2001, returned to league play after a one-year layoff and displayed some of his old form with a round of 36, but he and his Aiello Chiropractic teammates dropped their match to VFW, 11-9.



Local Junior Golf Program Tees Up

The Independent Insurance Agents of New Jersey (IIANJ) announced the kickoff of its statewide junior golf program. The Independent Insurance Agent Junior Classic (IIAJC) is now in its 35th year. State and local qualifying tournaments begin in Spring, culminating in the prestigious 2003 IIAJC National finals Aug. 11-15, 2003 at Olde York Country Club.

The top NJ state qualifiers will advance to the IIAJC national finals where they will join some of the best junior golfers from around the country for some tough competition.

The IIAJC national program began in 1969 and has grown to become the world's largest golf tournament as well as one of the most highly anticipated junior golfing events in the country. For information about the local qualifying tournaments, call (800) 952-6948.

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Obituaries

George T. Sabino, 56,

George T. Sabino died on Friday, May 2 in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in Plainfield, he has been a lifelong resident of the city.

George was a laborer for the Laborers International Union of North America Local #472 of Newark for 34 years.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era. George was a member of the 173rd Airborne, as a paratrooper, while serving in Vietnam. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal and a Parachutist Badge.

George was a caring and loving man who adored his family. He will be dearly missed by family and friends.

His father, Joseph Sabino, died in 1995.

Surviving are his daughter, Casey Sabino of Dunellen; his mother, Ruth A. Sabino of Plainfield; two sisters,

Mary (Phil) Petraglia of Bridgewater and Joanne (Richard) Levine of South Plainfield; his companion, Cathy Goody of Dunellen. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Carmella M. (Papaccio) Mastropietro, 83,

Carmella M. (Papaccio) Mastropietro died at home on Friday, May 2. Born and raised in Bayonne, Mrs. Mastropietro settled with her husband in South Plainfield in 1949.

She had been employed by Saks - Fifth Avenue in NYC prior to staying home to raise her family. She later returned to work, part time, for many years in the Sacred Heart RC Church School as a cafeteria worker. Mrs. Mastropietro also worked at the election booths for South Plainfield.

She and her husband are members of the Sacred Heart Parish community.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Michael Sr.; her daughter and her husband, Michele and Walter Beck Jr. of Edison; a son, Michael Jr. of Metuchen; four brothers and a sister. Also surviving are her six granddaughters, Lisa, Lori, Leslie, Angela, Nancy and Jennifer and two great grandsons, Dominick Spence and Francis Barber.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

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



Girls from Brownie Troop 410 of John F. Kennedy School attended Scout Day at Rutgers University to watch the Lady Knights defeat Pittsburgh, 67-53. As evidenced above, it was "Pom Pom Giveaway Day" as well. The girls had a ball.

Patricia Ireland Named CEO of YWCA

The YWCA of Plainfield/North Plainfield announced the selection of Patricia Ireland as the new CEO of the YWCA of the USA, the association's parent organization, marking the culmination of a multi year, grassroots led drive to transform the organization and initiate an aggressive national advocacy agenda based on its twin goals of women's and girls' empowerment and racial justice.

Prior to joining the YWCA, Ireland, 57, worked for 10 years as the longest-serving president of the National Organization for Women. She most recently practiced law in the private sector, consulting on equal employment and communications strategies. As CEO, she brings diverse experience as well as a strong commit-

ment to the YWCA's longstanding tradition of empowering women and combating racism.

"We are thrilled to see Patricia Ireland take the helm as CEO of the YWCA of the USA. This is representative of the culmination of years of work in reengineering the YWCA as a stronger organization for the 21st Century," stated Jacquelyn Glock, Executive Director of YWCA of Plainfield/North Plainfield.

With roots dating back to the Civil War, the YWCA was one of the first U.S. institutions to include people of color within its programs and chapters. The YWCA, one of the largest nonprofit providers of child care services, developed the first childcare programs in the United States.

Annual Fishing Derby at Spring Lake

On June 14, the South Plainfield Recreation Department and Fishing Club of SPHS will partner with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife to run a Children's Fishing Derby at Spring Lake Park. Fish will be stocked for the Derby by the Division of Fish and Wildlife and come from its Hackettstown Hatchery and include approximately 200 sunfish, bass, catfish and crappies-raised especially for the event. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to noon. It is open and free to all children. A parent or other adult must accompany children. Children should bring their own bait and fishing equipment. For more information call (908) 226-7714.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife operates two hatcheries to supply public waters with both warm and coldwater fish. The Pequest Trout Hatchery in Oxford raises nearly 700,000 brook, brown and rainbow trout. Hackettstown Hatchery raises about a dozen species of warm and coolwater fish including muskellunge, walleye, pike, hybrid striped bass and Gambusia (mosquito fish) in addition to the fish stocked for derbies. Both hatcheries operate on funds from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and trout stamps.

The Children's Fishing Derby program is part of the division's Take Me Fishing program. The derby has been offered for more than 12 years to encourage family oriented recreation in urban and suburban areas.

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

May 2, 2003

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Zoning Board at its meeting held on May 1, 2003.

A. Case #12-03—Leon Shattkin; Block 392; Lot 12.01; 108 Day Street. The applicant's request for the construction of a second floor addition to his home, with a 14.48 foot front yard setback was hereby GRANTED with voluntary conditions.

B. Case #14-03—Michael Townley; Block 14; Lot 10; 165 Palmer Avenue. The applicant's request for the construction of a 30 foot deep by 24 foot wide garage with a maximum height of 15 feet and a 6 foot side yard setback was hereby GRANTED with voluntary conditions.

C. Case #7-01/S—JSM @ West End Avenue; Block 538; Lots 8-11; 106 West End Avenue. The applicant's request for an expansion of a previously granted use variance, the introduction of a new use variance on Lot 8, the front yard setback variance for one of the additions, a partial waiver with regard to the foot candle illumination standard, and preliminary and final amended site plan approval was hereby GRANTED with additional conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary-Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$34.00

May 9, 2003

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 the construction of a 2 family duplex to be built in an industrial zone; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 300 Block of Pulaski Street 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, May 29, 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 May 9, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Kidambi Raghunathan requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit rear deck. Rear deck lacks required 28' rear setback, 13.6' proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 1501 Pisanelli Court on Block 628, Lot 43 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, June 12, 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.

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People for Animals, a nonprofit animal welfare organization serving New Jersey, will sponsor a

cat and kitten adoption event on Saturday and Sunday, May 10 and 11 from noon until 4 p.m. at the PETSMART store in the Watchung Square Mall on Route 22 and at the PETSMART store in Bridgewater's Promenade Mall, intersection of Route 28 and Route 287.

Among the many cats for adoption will be Paco, a handsome one-year old orange tabby and white cat. This affectionate gentle cat is good with other cats and loves people. He is neutered, current with his vaccinations and tested negative for feline leukemia and FIV. He was rescued from a shelter where his life was at risk due to lack of space. To adopt or for other information, call (908) 688-1073 and press 8 for cat adoption or 1 for dog adoption to leave a message. Other pets for adoption can be seen on the Internet at www.pfa.petfinder.org.

Stop the cycle of homeless pets now! Alter your pets and any outside cats that you may be feeding. For low cost spay/neuter information, call the People for Animals Clinic at (908) 964-6887. Spay/neuter surgery costs range from \$35 to \$55 and include rabies and distemper vaccinations.

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Saturday, May 17
9 am - 2 pm

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115 Harvard Avenue
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Designer Bagels & Deli, located in the Golden Acres Shopping Center celebrated their grand opening recently. Along with grand opening specials, balloons and face painting, Clowns "Piper" and "Petals" were on hand to greet and entertain both the kids and adults.

Grant Central Sixth Announces Honor Roll

Third Marking Period High Honor Roll

John Barry, Francesca Bayak, Michael Burton, Allison Clawans, Audrey Cupo, Jared Czech, Rebecca Deffler, Quynhn-hu Doan, Lindsay Fredericks, Maricela

Gonzalez, Zane Lesky, Daniel Maistickie, Patrick Nolty, Eric Nuber, Brian Pullen, Timothy Ratti, Rachel Smith, Christine Snogans, Nora Stasio, Scott Suleski, Kara Thomas, Victoria Tran, Anthony Usuriello and Erik White.

policereport

- On April 27 a Carteret resident reported the theft of a passenger side headlight from her car parked in front of Shopper's World on Oak Tree Ave.
- On April 30 the Piscataway Fire Dept. reported the theft of their 2001 GMC Yukon Wagon which was being serviced at Absolute Fire Protection on Hamilton Blvd.
- A Home Depot employee reported being harassed while driving a fork lift in their lot by a van that was trying to pass him. The driver got out and began yelling and pointed his finger which struck the employee's glasses, causing a red mark next to his eye.
- Kristin's Hallmark on Stelton Rd. reported that \$9,400 in cash was taken from an office desk drawer.
- On May 1 Namrata Patel, 19, of Edison was arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting 11 bras and a pair of pants valued at \$333.
- An Evergreen Ln. resident reported that eggs had been thrown at her vehicle overnight.
- A Plainfield resident reported that a \$177 money order he had purchased, with the payee left blank, was stolen from his room and cashed at First Union Bank in South Plainfield.

- A Maple Ave. resident reported that someone had replaced his vehicle's NJ EZ Pass tag with a NY EZ Pass tag while it was being serviced at Goodyear on Oak Tree Rd.
- On May 3 Andres S. Ruiz, 40, of Plainfield was arrested at a motor vehicle stop for driving while intoxicated, failure to stop, failure to keep right and reckless driving.
- Federal Metals and Alloys on Skyline Dr. reported losing approximately \$50,000 over the last 17 months from a scam. A driver bringing rims in a roll off garbage truck had only been putting his truck partially on the weight scale after unloading.
- On May 5 Michael R. Giuliano, 22, of Edison was arrested for being a fugitive and driving on a suspended license at a motor vehicle stop.
- A Piscataway resident reported that her right front passenger window was smashed while parked in front of Before and After Beauty Salon on Hamilton Blvd.
- H & S Card & Gift on So. Clinton Ave. reported that their front door was smashed in with a large stone. \$735 worth of lottery scratch off tickets were taken.

Riley School Kindergarten Orientation

Sign ups for Riley School's kindergarten orientation will take place on Friday, May 16 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Riley School lobby. Cost is \$4 for snack and craft.

The program will be held three Wednesdays, May 21, May 28, and June 4. There is a choice of morning or afternoon sessions. The morning session is from 9-11 a.m. and afternoon session is from 12-2 p.m.

Children entering kindergarten in Sept. 2003 are welcome to explore the school and meet the teachers and staff.

Any questions please call Jennifer Gonzalez at (908) 226-0686.



South Plainfield School Board President presents a plaque of appreciation on behalf of the board to Frank Mikorski. Mikorski spent nine years on the Board of Education.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

Kenneth Morgan

Let's take a break from making sure the flowers and card you're sending your mom arrives on time, and look at some news from the South Plainfield Library:

The Library will be closed on Sunday in observance of Mother's Day.

We're returning to our usual children's Storytime schedule next week. For those of you who weren't taking notes, they're held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. The programs are for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. If you'd like more information, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees has been scheduled for this Tuesday evening at 7:30. The public is invited to attend and learn more about the Library's present and future plans.

The Library continues to offer classes in both basic computer usage and job searching. Due to limited space, you must pre-register for these classes. If you're interested, please call us and ask for either Chris or Allan.

There's been a change at our ongoing Book Sale. For the present, we've returned to the previous prices: 25 cents each for paperbacks, 50 cents each for hardcovers, and other items priced as marked. But all you bargain hunters shouldn't worry. Our big semi-annual Book and Bake Sale is set for Saturday, May 31 and you're sure to find great low prices there.

We now have something new on our display wall. Vivian Kimlee from South Korea, who's presently living in

South Plainfield, has provided an assortment of hand-made quilts for the display. You can see them here at the Library throughout the month.

We're in the process of adding another bunch of DVDs to our collection. Titles include first season episodes of "C.S.I.", "Two Weeks Notice", the new release of "West Side Story", "Treasure Planet", and "Jonah: A Veggie Tales Movie". We're also adding both DVD and VHS copies of "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" and the Oscar-winning "Spirited Away". These items will be available soon. And, if you have any suggestions regarding future additions, feel free to pass them along.

Once again, we've been having a bit of a run on our materials by students looking for sources for reports, papers, projects, etc. And, once again, we ask that you make allowances for time and procedure on our part. If you need help from us, please let us know as soon as possible. This will allow us to, if need be, check with other libraries and resources in order to provide you with what you're looking for.

Recently, a local company heard about our collection drive for used inkjet cartridges. Through the Funding Factory organization, we send the cartridges in for recycling, and, in return, we can earn points towards new computer and recreation equipment. In response, the company sent over a very large bunch of empty cartridges for us to send in. We'd like to thank them for their generosity. And, if you'd like to participate, don't feel left out just because you only have one or two cartridges. Just bring over whatever you have, and we'll do the rest.

That'll do it for this week. We'll have more next Friday. Be sure to send our regards to mom.

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