

Joseph Zekas Named Grand Marshal of 46th Annual Labor Day Parade -- See story next week.

South Plainfield Observer

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VOL. 6, NO. 49

50 CENTS

AUGUST 8, 2003

Monument Park Fundraising Hits Halfway Mark

A number of months ago, a plan was introduced to construct a new park dedicated to the military veterans from South Plainfield who served in a theatre of operation during a time of conflict, as well as police officers and rescue squad members who served our community.

Slated to be constructed in the Borough directly across from Spring Lake Park, the cost of the project was estimated at approximately \$100,000. The plan involved moving the existing monuments at Borough Hall to the new park, updating the military veterans' monument with names of those who served, installing a town clock and placing military artifacts within the park.



The Verdin Clock will be the centerpiece of the Memorial Park.

A committee heading up the park plans reported they have reached the halfway point in donations, which has enabled them to order the clock. It should be delivered sometime in October. They have completed some preparatory work at the site of the park and hope to start building foundations for the respective monuments and artifacts in the next few weeks. The target date for completion of the project is Veteran's Day. The committee expressed their sincere appreciation to all the individuals and businesses that have made donations. The project would not be possible without this support.

The committee, an incorporated not-for-profit organization, continues to move forward, because they have yet to reach their final goal. They still need and seek the support of donations to complete this worthwhile project. Anyone making donations of \$1,000 will have a park bench dedicated to a

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ObserverInside

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Kids sing along at Library's Camp Readalot Program -- see page 12.

South Plainfield For Sale?



South Plainfield's first billboard advertising on Route 287 seeks a tenant.

One Up, Another on the Way... How many more?

For years South Plainfield has fought the presence of billboards along the corridor of Rt. 287 in South Plainfield. In fact, the Borough Council passed an ordinance forbidding billboards of any kind last year after Carol Media and AMI sought variances to erect two billboards. The Planning Board rejected both cases, but after a court ruled that banning billboards denied free speech, a new ordinance was passed which allowed billboards, with restrictions.

Ordinance #1615 was passed in February without objection from the public. The ordinance allows billboards along Rt. 287, not less than 250 feet apart and only four within a linear mile. How many billboards South Plainfield will end up with as a result of this ordinance is unknown.

A few months ago the Planning Board voted to allow the first billboard in South Plainfield, which is now located behind the Verizon property on Hadley Rd. The billboard can be seen along Rt. 287, just east of Stelton Rd.

Last Tuesday a second applicant, David Klein, went before the Planning Board and asked to erect a billboard on Rt. 287 in the rear parking lot of Caffè Piancone Restaurant, located op-

posite the existing billboard.

While the Planning Board was hearing this case, the number of applicants and how many permits the Department of Transportation (DOT) have already issued was a topic of discussion. According to testimony, an applicant puts in an application to the DOT asking for a space along Rt. 287 and a permit is issued. Applicants are not required to obtain permission from the township prior to their applying. There are some restrictions, however, such as distance from an entrance or exit and the spacing between billboards. David Klein has already obtained a DOT permit and is leasing the space from Caffè Piancone. The billboard will be placed facing Rt. 287, but will be visible at the intersection of South Clinton Ave. and Hamilton Blvd.

The Planning Board requested that the applicant move the location of the billboard 50 feet east so it would not be directly in the line of site to those on South Clinton Ave. nearing the intersection at Hamilton Blvd., a very busy intersection. The applicant said they could not because another DOT billboard permit is just east of them. The Board then asked the applicant to

find out if they have latitude to move their site with the permission of the DOT, so that it would not be in the line of site at the intersection. The application has been continued until Tuesday, Aug. 12 at 7 p.m. so the Board

Continued on page 12

Not Just a Walk in The Park

Annual Labor Day Parade Offers a Full Day of Fun

The 46th Annual Labor Day Parade is shaping up to be another red letter day in South Plainfield.

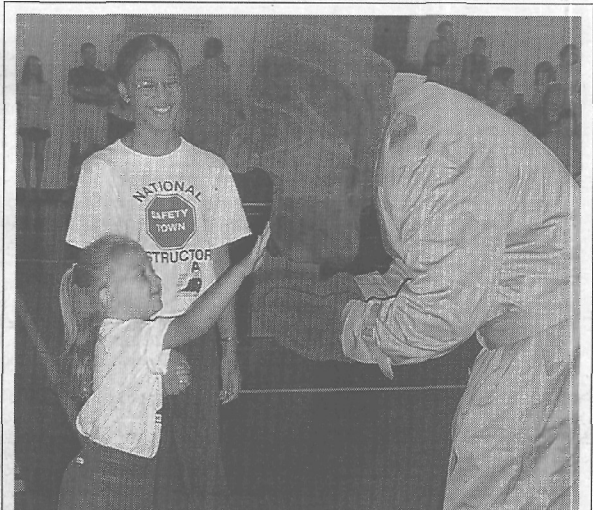
Held on Sept. 1, the parade will follow the same route as last year, ending at the PAL Building. Participants as well as the organizers felt that because the floats don't have to make many dangerous turns, last year's route was safer. And in case of inclement weather, vendors will be able to set up inside the building.

In keeping with the theme of this year's parade, "Honoring Those Who Proudly Serve," veterans of the Iraq War and their families are invited to view the parade in the reviewing stand at the PAL.

Labor Day festivities are scheduled all day long. The day begins with the 5K run and 1.5 mile Family Walk. The parade then kicks off at 10 a.m. at the Middle School. After the parade, everyone is invited to the PAL field for food, activities and contests. Join the community for pie and watermelon eating contests, balloon toss, egg toss, the awarding of trophies and handouts by vendors. People Pleasers will have three rides: a giant slide, rock wall and hurricane for the kids to enjoy. A wide variety of food and drinks will also be available from non-profit groups and businesses in town. Entertainment will be provided by "Back Splash" during the afternoon festivities.

The *Observer* will be there as usual; "Fraisier" will ride in our car in the parade. We are running a poster contest once again and will award prizes. Last year the winners were published in the paper and the posters were on display at Borough Hall. To enter the

Continued on page 12



McGruff, the crime fighting dog (aka South Plainfield Police Officer Dave Franchak), paid a visit to the Safetytown graduates. See story on page 7.

Mark your calendars

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest
meeting agenda

councilmeetings

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, August 11 Thursday, August 14
Tuesday, September 2 Thursday, September 4
Monday, September 15 Thursday, September 18

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

planningboard

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

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

Aug. 12, Aug. 26, Sept. 9, Sept. 23, Oct. 14, Oct. 28,
Nov. 11 (no meeting) Nov. 25, Dec. 9, Dec. 23.

zoningboardofadjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

Aug. 14 (meeting cancelled), Aug. 28, Sept. 11, Sept. 25, Oct. 16, Oct. 30,
Nov. 6, Nov. 20, Dec. 4, Dec. 18.

boardofeducationmeetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

The August Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting will be held Tuesday, August 26- Committee of the Whole at 6:30 p.m. and Regular Board Meeting at 8 p.m.

Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.: Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec 9
Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m.: Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec 16

taxpayersadvisorygroup

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

siteplansub-committee

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

Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 16.

recreationcommission

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

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

environmentalcommission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday except August)

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

businessadvisorygroup

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

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

trafficsafetyadvisorycommission

Meets once a month (fourth Wednesday-no meeting August) at 7 p.m.

in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

Last week the Borough Council took another step backwards in providing open government. Up for review, among other things, was a million-dollar contract to finally start remediation work at Veterans Park. And rather than hold the meeting when the public could actually attend, the Mayor and Council held it at 5 p.m. on a Monday—when most people were either working or still battling south-side traffic to get home. I wanted to go, but unfortunately, could not get out of work.

It might seem trivial to criticize the administration for purposely holding a meeting at an inconvenient time. But it's the pattern that troubles me. This is a group that holds secret closed-door meetings, hands over huge no-bid contracts to campaign contributors, and awards special favors to developer buddies. Ethical lapses of judgment like these hurt our town and erode public trust.

Meeting an hour or two later would not have delayed the project, which is already well behind schedule.

For this Mayor and Council, open government is simply a campaign slogan chanted before elections. In fact, when these men first ran for office,

they campaigned on open government and promised to listen to voters, saying "we hear you." Apparently they've gone deaf.

GEOFF CHAMPION

To the Editor

It is that time again: collective bargaining for teachers, secretaries and aides—negotiations. It is also time for the "teacher bashing" to begin. This time and quite predictably, it's Carol Byrne. This time she hasn't only denigrated the teachers and staff, now she's added all public employees to her list. She's now impugning the integrity of principals, public workers, municipal workers, and even the police!

Mrs. Byrne apparently feels these public employees who happen to be Board members have conspired to break the bank and over pay the greedy, good-for-nothing, undeserving teachers with settlements that reach between 4% -5%!

And here is where the irony of Mrs. Byrne's crusade lies: Last summer, these same Board members who she is now criticizing are the same who gave Mrs. Byrne a 300% raise to be the Board of Education's Substitute Caller. Also on the Board at that time

was Frank Mikorski. I was in attendance at that particular Board meeting and I don't recall Mrs. Byrne complaining about her 300% raise at all.

Mrs. Byrne alludes to the business world, and how she wonders how the teachers percent raise compares. If she truly did her research then she would have known that the nurses at Robert Wood Johnson negotiated 11% - 17% increases with a base salary of at least \$55,000. I guess that Mr. Penisi, Mrs. Peck, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Smith, Mr. Bohn and Mr. English have conspired with the nurses too!

Mrs. Byrne attacks by implication do not do anything to help move public education in South Plainfield forward. It's a matter of record that the collective bargaining in South Plainfield have been for the last 10 years less than the County average.

If we wish to fully examine the history of Carol Byrne in South Plainfield, we should logically include those settlements which were arrived at during her term as Board Member. In the meantime, we would like to arrive at a fair settlement and then get on with the business of educating South Plainfield's youth.

DIANA E. JOFFE
SPEA VICE PRESIDENT

Commerce Bank Wins Glitter Award

Bill Snell, assistant vice president and manager of Commerce Bank in South Plainfield, accepted the South Plainfield Clean Business Association's Glitter Award. CBA President Joe Diegnan presented the award to Snell at the Commerce branch at 2473 Plainfield Ave. Assistant Manager Julie Skula was also on hand to accept the award, which was presented in recognition of the bank's attractive design and well-maintained property.

The bank replaced a deteriorating residential property across from Borough Hall. It opened its doors in December 2001. Commerce chose the location based on demographics, traffic patterns and availability, and Snell said it has proved to be an excellent location. The large mural of the old Hadley Airport behind his desk signals the bank's interest in community participation and service. In less than two years, the branch has become involved with Junior Baseball, Pop Warner football, the music committee at the high school and has provided scholarships for graduating seniors. The branch is a member of the South Plainfield Business Association as well as the CBA.

The building's clean lines and the airy, open spaces of the interior



Commerce Bank Asst. Manager Julie Skula and William Snell, Asst. Vice President and So. Plainfield Manager accept the Glitter Award.

report on the quality of the service and the condition of the facility. South Plainfield Commerce Bank has been getting high marks on both.

Snell thanked Diegnan for the Glitter Award and said they are glad to be here and they work hard to contribute to the community. They want to make the branch a friendly and clean place to bank.

The CBA gives Glitter Awards to South Plainfield businesses that are unusually well-maintained or have recently improved their appearance through renovation or landscaping. Membership in the CBA is open to all businesses that share its goals of enhancing the appearance of commercial districts through property maintenance and litter control. For more information, contact Alice Tempel at (908) 226-7621.

Roosevelt Plans Kindergarten Orientation

Kindergarten orientation for Roosevelt Elementary will be held on Friday, Aug. 15. If you need further information, call Stephanie Walsh at (908) 769-7761 or the school at (908) 754-4620 ext. 333

South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

G&G Graphics, Inc.
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

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www.spobserver.com

For subscriptions, advertising or information, call (908) 668-0010.

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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Advertising Sales

The South Plainfield Observer (U.S.P.S. 018253) is published weekly, except Thanksgiving week, by G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Second class postage paid at South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080-9998. POSTMASTER: Forward change of address orders to G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Subscription rates \$25 per year in South Plainfield; \$30 per year out of town. To subscribe: 908-668-0010.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: ggnan@aol.com or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the 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.

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Catering On & Off Premises

Blue Comet Makes One Final Stop



We recently reported that the "Blue Comet" railcar, which was parked in the downtown area for five years, was removed after being repeatedly vandalized. The car was brought to South Plainfield in the hopes that it would become a museum that would display memorabilia of South Plainfield's past. These hopes were never realized, and instead, the railcar became an eyesore.

Frank Reilly, executive director of the NJ Division of Transportation Man-

agement, was instrumental in relocating the railcar, and has offered an update on the progress of the railcar since it was removed from the downtown area.

After being loaded on trailers, the railcar was taken to Trans American Trucking on St. Nicholas Ave. where the exterior, as well as some of the interior, graffiti was removed. The lower portion of the car on which all the graffiti was located was painted the

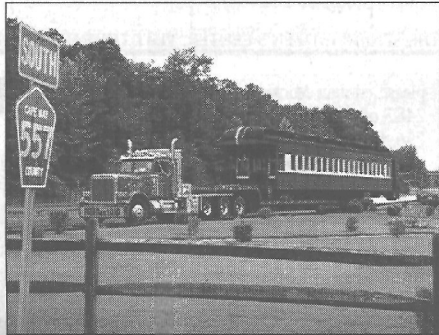
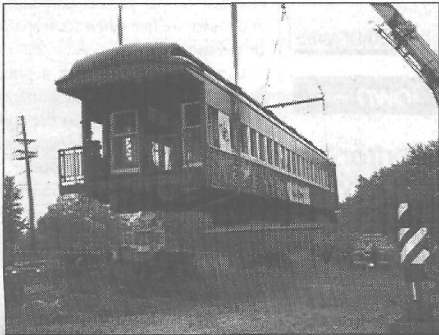
same color as the lower portion of the car. In just two days it looked like new and was ready for the trip to its final destination in Tuckerton.

The railcar departed from South Plainfield at 5 a.m. on Monday, July 14 and arrived in Tuckerton at 10 a.m., four hours ahead of schedule! The next morning the trailer with the wheel sets arrived, as did two large cranes to unload the railcar. The wheel sets were placed on the tracks starting about 9:30 a.m. and the railcar was lifted about an hour later where it was ready to roll on the tracks of the Cape May Seashore Lines RR.

During the entire loading and move the sky was heavily overcast and rainy. But just as the railcar was about to be lifted off the trailer, the clouds parted and the sun shone brightly while it was placed back on the tracks which everyone thought was a good omen.

Reilly estimates it will take about three years to fully restore the railcar to first class operating condition. Meanwhile it has a good, safe, and caring home now.

—Submitted by Frank Reilly, Executive Dir., Div. of Transportation Management



Seniors Asked to Reminisce For History's Sake

"Grandma, tell us about the old times." How many times have your kids and grandkids asked you that?

Well, the South Plainfield Historical Society is asking the same kind of questions to seniors to provide a record of what it was like while they were growing up in the borough.

Nick Risoli talked about going to school in a covered wagon.

Some remembered the amusement park that was located where the community pool is now, or the stables in back of Sullivan's gas station. Others spoke of Thorton's Hotel, Hadley Airport and the two racetracks, one be-

tween Tompkins Ave. and Franklin Ave. and the other near Park and Maple Ave.

It seems that there is no one old enough to remember the grist mill or the saw mill which had been a big part of the developments of "Samptown"—what South Plainfield was known as in the 1880's.

Those that would like to add their story to this collection of history are invited to come to the Senior Citizens Center at 9 a.m. on Tuesday mornings. Come share your story with friends and neighbors.

Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Earn Silver Award

Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council Cadette Troop 91 from South Plainfield completed their Silver Award Project at Camp Hoover June 27, 28 and 29.

Julianne Bosse, Katie Noonan, Jennifer Mocerino and Jessica Vasquez spent over 20 hours in three days on the makeover for Sinawik cabin by scraping, cleaning and painting all of the interior walls. In preparation for painting the cabin, the Cadettes con-

ducted a supply drive for Camp Hoover, collecting numerous board games, arts and crafts supplies and various camping and household items. "It was a lot of work, but we had fun at Camp Hoover and we felt really good about what we were doing," said Julianne Bosse. The girls completed their project in time for campers to use the cabin and supplies this summer.

The girls will be attending SPHS in the fall.

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southplainfieldpeople Milestones



Rev. Charles and Mrs. Jean Mingle

Rev. Charles and Mrs. Jean Mingle Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Rev. Charles and Mrs. Jean Mingle of South Plainfield are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary! They were married on a Saturday afternoon on August 8, 1953 at the First Lutheran Church in Ridgway, Pa.

Charles is a retired pastor of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in South

Plainfield and is currently the chaplain for the South Plainfield Police and Fire Departments. Jean is a retired North Plainfield school teacher. Together, they have one son, Philip, and four grandchildren of Wantage, NJ.

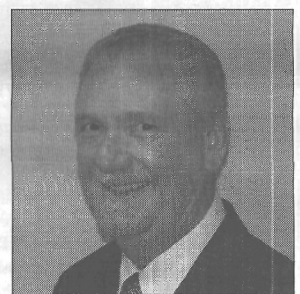
A quiet family celebration is expected for the occasion.

Celestino Brings Thirty Years of Solid Reputation to Unity Bank

Anthony J. Feraro, President, Unity Bank, announced the appointment of Salvatore Celestino of Stroudsburg, Pa. as a new Business Development Executive for Unity's SBA Department in Clinton.

After graduating from St. John's University in 1973 with a degree in business management, Celestino spent the next 30 years of his life dedicated to developing and nurturing his broker relationships and loan origination sources. Most recently, Sal acted as Vice President, Sr. SBA Business Development Officer for Small Business Loan Source, Inc. where he successfully originated \$18,750,000 in approved loans.

"We are extremely pleased to have such a talented small business lender like Sal join the Unity team," said Executive Vice President Michael Downes. "Sal has always had a solid



Salvatore Celestino

reputation for finding quality loans and for providing excellent customer service as well."

Celestino will be housed at the Bank's Headquarters located at 64 Old Hwy. 22 in Clinton. Stop by for coffee and pastries at our Café Unity and meet Sal, or call him direct at (908) 730-7630, ext. 315.

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South Plainfield, NJ 07080
908 561-5445

Events

Wesley Methodist Vacation Bible

August 11-15

Wesley United Methodist Church, located at 1500 Plainfield Ave. invites you to join them for Vacation Bible School taking place Aug. 11-15 each evening from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The theme this year is "Lighthouse Kids." Children will learn about "Shining God's Light" while they enjoy music, crafts, games and refreshments.

To register, contact the church office at (908) 757-2838.

Sonshine Bible School

August 11-15

Sonshine Bible School will take place Aug. 11-15, 9 a.m. to noon at Cedarcroft Bible Chapel, 1715 Kenyon Ave., for children ages four through those entering fifth grade in the fall. Bible stories, games, crafts, singing, refreshments, and it's FREE!!

To register, call Bobbie; (908) 754-8069 or e-mail bosseight@aol.com.

South Plainfield Music Boosters Meeting

August 13

The South Plainfield Booster Club will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 13 at 7 p.m. in the band room at the high school.

This meeting is open to anyone who wants more information on the club. New members are welcome.

SPHS Field Hockey Team Car Wash

August 16

As a fundraising event, the SPHS Field Hockey team will have a car wash on Saturday, Aug. 16, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Middle School parking lot. The cost is \$5 for cars and \$7 for vans and SUVs.

Come out and support our team! Rain date is Sunday, Aug. 17, same place and time.

Rev. Stephenson's Orchestra Returns to Sacred Heart

September 21

The Sacred Heart Rosary Altar Society will once again present the internationally acclaimed Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea, conducted by Rev. Alphonsus Stephenson. This year the orchestra will be playing Broadway tunes as well as patriotic anthems. The concert will take place on Sunday, Sept. 21 at 3 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church.

Father Alphonsus Stephenson is well-known for his versatility—part maestro, part comedian and part priest.

Father Alphonsus has a long and impressive background in music, studying under George Schick of the Metropolitan Opera and Dr. Robert Abramson of Juillard School. He has served as guest conductor at Fresno Philharmonic, Delaware Valley Philharmonic and many other orchestras.

St. Peter by the Sea consists of 45 members who have 750 years of study and performed over 57,000 concerts and recitals.



Rev. Alphonsus Stephenson

What's happening in AUGUST

Daily Events
9-11 AM Coffee & Cake
9 AM-4 PM Cards & Pool
(908) 754-4135

The Senior Citizen's Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
NOW OPEN SATURDAYS 9:00 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
UPCOMING TRIPS....				
September 28 & 29 Cape May Trip				
EVENTS				
Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30am 11 Yoga 10:30-11:30am Learn to Draw 11:30am	Bingo 10am-2pm 12 Lunch Available Ladies's Social Group 10am	Exercise & Walking Club 8:45-9:45am 13 Movie Time 10:30am AARP Crafts 1pm Monthly Meeting, Topic: Foot Care & Screenings	Shopping Day 9am 7 Video Exercise Class 9:30am-10:30am Practical Crafts 10-11am	Bingo 10am-2pm 8 Pizza Lunch
Shopping 9am 14 Video Exercise Class 9:30-10:30am Practical Crafts 10-11am	Bingo 10am-2pm 15 Pizza Lunch			

General admission is \$25 and seniors and students are \$20. For ticket information, please call (908) 756-0632, ext. 10, (908) 755-6416, or (732) 549-9633.

Sons of American Legion Golf Outing

September 24

The Sons of the American Legion, Chaumont Post 243 will hold its first annual golf outing at Bunkerhill Golf Course in Princeton on Wednesday, Sept. 24. The cost is \$85 per person and includes green fees, cart, prizes, breakfast (coffee and bagels), lunch (hot dogs and burgers), drinks (beer, soda, water), as well as a buffet dinner at Chaumont Post 243. Tee times start at 10 a.m. and a hole-in-one on the 13th hole will get you a trip for two in Hawaii!

If you would like to participate or sponsor a tee for \$50 or a hole for \$100, contact Mark at (908) 755-5914, or Joe at (908) 822-0494.

Proceeds will go to the various charities supported by the Sons of the American Legion. Make checks payable to the Sons of the American Legion, Post 243, 243 Oak Tree Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Checks must be in by July 21.

Rainbow Academy Plans Open House

October 4

Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an Open House on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

In addition to the Open House, you are invited to visit the center for a tour during normal operating hours (7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). For directions and additional information, visit their website at www.rainbowacademy.com.

Fall Pocono Getaway to Woodlock Pines

Oct-27-31

The South Plainfield Seniors will be running a trip to the Woodlock Pines Resort in the Poconos, Oct. 27-Oct. 31. The cost is \$475 per person based on double occupancy and includes transportation via private motor coach, four nights accommodation, all meals from lunch on Monday through breakfast on Friday, hotel tax and gratuities. For more information or to make a reservation,

please contact Mickie at (908) 755-2487 or the Senior Center at (908) 756-4135. This is a very popular vacation, so sign up today.

Class of 1989 Plans 15 year Reunion

November 27

The South Plainfield High School Class of 1989 is planning their 15th reunion to be held in Edison at the Sheraton in Raritan Center on Nov. 27, 2004. Price is \$80.

Contact SPHSclassof89@yahoo.com with address information.

Rec Plans Trip To See Hairspray

February 22, 2004

South Plainfield Recreation is sponsoring a trip to Broadway to see *Hairspray* on Sunday, February 22, 2004. The bus will leave the PAL at 10:30 a.m. and return around 7 p.m. There will be plenty of time to shop and eat before the show. Tickets are \$100 per person and are available at the PAL Building between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays. Only 45 tickets are available, so come and get yours now!

Rec Plans Trip to New Orleans

Sept. 11-19, 2004

South Plainfield Recreation presents a trip to Biloxi and New Orleans from Saturday, Sept. 11 to Sunday, Sept. 19, 2004. The trip includes the following: A guided tour of New Orleans, eight nights deluxe hotel accommodations, including four nights in a luxurious Gulf Coast Casino Hotel, a Jazz Cruise on a Mississippi riverboat, a tour of NASA's Amazing Stennis Space center and much more! The price also includes deluxe motorcoach transportation and 14 meals- eight breakfasts and six dinners.

For info and reservations, contact Mike English at (908) 226-7714. The cost is \$560 per person based on double occupancy. Add \$219 for single occupancy. \$75 is due upon signing. Final payment is due July 6, 2004.

Senior Center EVENTS

— Out of Town —

Hispanic Riverfront Festival Offers Family Fun

August 7-10

The Puerto Rican Action Board will be sponsoring the 25th Hispanic Riverfront Festival of New Brunswick on Thursday, Aug. 7 through Sunday, Aug. 10. The festival will be held at the renovated scenic Boyd Park by the beautiful Raritan River, Route 18 North, New Brunswick.

Middlesex East WOWs Meeting

August 8

Middlesex East WOWs, Carteret Chapter, will hold an open dance on Friday, Aug. 8 at St. Demetrius Community Center, 681-691 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. Live music and refreshments. All are welcome.

For more information, call (732) 969-1123 or (908) 757-0515.

Woodbridge Area WOWs Meeting

August 13

The Woodbridge Area Chapter of Widows or Widowers (WOWs) will have a business meeting on Wednesday, August 13, at 7 p.m. It will be held in the Main Public Library, George Frederick Plaza, Amboy Ave., Woodbridge. For more information, call (732) 297-1775.

Return Engagement At Wayne Manor

August 13

Perennial Productions presents a luncheon theatre, "Show Me Where The Good Times Are," at the Wayne Manor on Aug. 13.

The musical revue has enjoyed sold out houses in NYC cabarets and features Broadway divas Alice Evans, Betsy Parrish and Nancy Barry with Paul Trueblood at the piano.

Luncheon matinees are \$43 for individuals, \$40 for groups of 10 or

more and includes one-hour open bar, wine, beer and soft drinks on the table, four course luncheon with coffee, tea and ice cream sundaes for dessert, show, tax and tip, Wayne Manor, 1515 Rt. 23 in Wayne. Open bar at 11 a.m., luncheon at 11:30 a.m.; curtain is 1 p.m.

German-American Folk Festival

August 16 & 17

The 129th German-American Folk Festival sponsored by the Plattduetsche Volksfest-Verein of NY and NJ will be held at Schuetzen Park, Bergen Turnpike (32nd St.) and Kennedy Blvd., North Bergen, on Saturday, Aug. 16 and Sunday, Aug. 17, starting at noon. The festival, open to the general public, is held for the benefit of the Fritz Reuter Home for the Aging and other charities. \$5 per person. Children 16 and under are free when accompanied by a responsible adult.

German delicacies such as a potato pancakes, sauerbraten, bratwurst, etc. will be available. A visit to the coffee house will be a pleasurable experience. There will also be prize shooting.

For more info, call (201) 553-9171.

WOWs Hosts Fundraiser Dance

August 17

The Woodbridge Area Widows Or Widowers (WOWs) is hosting a fundraiser dance on Sunday, August 17, from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. All are welcome. There will be a live band, and refreshments will be available. Admission is \$8. The dance will be held at Alzheimer's Foundation of America.

The program will be held at Brighton Gardens of Mountainside, 1350 Rt. 22 West in Mountainside. Registration is 6:30 p.m. The program will be held from 7-8 p.m. Please call (908) 654-4460 to RSVP.

Jersey Shore Bottle Club Holds 31st Show

September 21

On September 21, a 30-year tradition continues as the Jersey Shore Bottle Club holds their 31st show. Dealers in antique bottles, as well as collectors, should mark Sunday, Sept. 21, on their calendars and plan to attend this long-running show. Sponsored by the BTHS Class of 2005, the show will again be held 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Brick Twp. High School, 348 Chambers Bridge Rd. in Brick. Admission is \$2. A limited number of tables are still available. Contracts can be obtained from the club's website, <http://www.geocities.com/dtripet2000/jsbc/jsbc.html>.

Previous shows have showcased dealers not only from NJ, but also from throughout the mid-Atlantic and New England regions. Hundred year old bottles from most towns in Ocean and Monmouth counties will be for sale, as well as post cards and local memorabilia.

For more information, contact Richard Peal at (732) 267-2528, or email at boxcar1@att.net.

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.



Assemblyman Pat Diegnan joins South Plainfield resident Helen Andresen, who won first place in the "watercolor" category of the Middlesex County Department on Aging's county-wide art contest.

Local Woman Wins County Art Contest

By Jane Dornick

The South Plainfield Senior Center had the privilege of hosting the annual Middlesex County Senior Citizen Art Contest and Exhibition on Monday.

Sponsored by the Middlesex County Department on Aging, the contest had 99 participants from 20 towns in the county. The artwork has been on display at the Senior Center since July 15 and judges included artists from around the county. Categories for entry were oil, acrylic, water color, drawing, print, sculpture, pastel, mixed media, photography, craft and computer graphics. Both professional and non-professional works were included.

On hand to give out awards and

pose for pictures with the winners were Assemblymen Pat Diegnan and Peter Barnes and Middlesex County Freeholders Jane Brady and David Crabiel.

Among the many winners was lifetime South Plainfield resident Helen Andresen. Her watercolor painting of a Raggedy Ann doll entitled "Annie" earned her first place in that category. Mrs. Andresen had worked in the advertising art field all her life and was very surprised she won. She said she had to "hone up" on her painting skills to enter as she has been doing a lot of quilting lately.

The first place winners from the contest in each category move on to statewide competition in a few weeks in Hunterdon County. Best of luck to Mrs. Andresen and her artwork!

Middlesex Cty. Fair To Host Civil War Encampment

The New Jersey Civil War History Association will present the 14th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry, Company H at the Middlesex County Fair on Aug. 8-10 at the fairgrounds on Cranbury Road in East Brunswick. The association is a non-profit living history and reenacting group. The unit is based on the historical model of the original Company H raised in Cranbury in August of 1862. Activities at the fair will include presentations of the company's history and parades through the fairgrounds.

The 14th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry was recruited in the summer of 1862 in response to President Lincoln's call for 300,000 volunteers. Commanded by Colonel William S. Truax, the regiment was formed on July 8, 1862. It trained at Camp Vredenburg near Freehold, on the grounds of the Monmouth battlefield of 1778. Its companies came mostly from Central Jersey and were a good mix in origin. Four companies were from urban Trenton and Elizabeth and six were from rural Monmouth, Ocean and Middlesex counties. The soldiers of the 14th were formally mustered into United States service for three years on Aug. 26, 1862. They proudly boasted to be neither draftees nor bounty men, but freely enlisted patriots.

"We are very excited to have the New Jersey Civil War History Association joining us for the fair this year," said Alan Habiak, president of the Middlesex County Fair Association. "We hope that everyone gets a chance to join us at the fair and meet the members of the 14th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry."

The Middlesex County Fair will be held this year from Aug. 4-10. Admission to the fair is required to visit the encampment site.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS
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THE OBSERVER!

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

Last day to check in books for Summer Reading is Saturday, Aug. 9! Booklets will not be collected. Children may pick up Summer Reading Club certificates beginning Wednesday, Aug. 13.

The last Monday night Kid-Craft program will be on Monday, Aug. 11.

The last program of the summer for Books 4 Babies for children 18 months to 3 years will be on Friday, Aug. 8.

All children's story times and programs will be cancelled from Aug.-Sept. 23 to allow Miss Linda to recover and plan for programs in the fall.

Caryn Lin and her Electric Violin will be performing at the Library on Wednesday, Aug. 13 at 6:30 p.m. This is not a sing along program. This is a musical introduction to classical music for children. If you have enjoyed the wonderful children's programs this summer, many of them were sponsored by the Friends of the South Plainfield Public Library, please consider becoming a member of the Friends and help support future pro-

grams in the Library.

Babysitting classes sponsored by the Library and the Middlesex County Health Department will be held on Thursday and Friday, Aug. 14 and 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please call and register with Miss Linda at the Library (908) 754-7885. If you attend both days you will receive a certificate.

While you are relaxing and enjoying the remainder of the summer, you may want to learn a new craft. The Library has a selection of crafts books for people of all ages. We have books on how to make paper, nature crafts, shell crafts, candle making, soap making, decoupage and making wreaths. There are books on holiday crafts for Halloween and Christmas. We have needlework books on knitting, crochet, embroidery and beading. There are also books on fabric painting and rug hooking. All of these books include how to instructions as well as patterns for projects. If you need assistance in finding any of these books, please ask a librarian for help.

High School Music Boosters Looking for Sponsors

The South Plainfield High School Music Boosters recently acquired a 1990 box truck to be used to transport instruments and equipment for the marching band and color guard. The truck, which is driven by the parents of these students, travels throughout the tri-state area attending various competitions and football games.

The music boosters are asking local businesses to help support these hard working students by either a donation or by sponsorship. All businesses that sponsor this organization will have their business name lettered on the truck, as well as placed in the music booster program that is sold at various music functions throughout the year. This means free advertising, just for helping out these fine students.

Items needed to get the truck off and running are: lumber, six quartz lights, a generator (enough to run six 500 watt quartz lights), wire, brackets, hinges, assorted hardware, ratchet straps, communication devices (walkie talkies), and lettering for the vehicle, just to name a few things. A cash donation is also appreciated, since there are too many items needed beyond what is mentioned. If your business is interested in helping out the music boosters, please contact Gregory Kuhn at (908) 754-8294 for more information.



Celebrating our 26th year in South Plainfield

Jo-Ann's Dance Studio
The Performing Arts Centre
4475 South Clinton Avenue, S. Plainfield, NJ 07080
(908) 561-5094
E-mail JOANNinNJ@aol.com

Hip Hop Sessions Available

A complete line of dancewear available

Classes available in all areas and levels of dance
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~ ADULT CLASSES AVAILABLE ~

In person registration from
Mon., August 20 through Fri., August 22
from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

JO-ANN FAULKNER,
DIRECTOR
*Official dance training
for Feigley's School of
Gymnastics
South Plainfield, NJ

TARA FAULKNER-CATALINA,
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
*Home of the
award winning
LeCentre Dance Ensemble
(membership by invitation only)

Walk in - Dance Out
Visit our web site
<http://www.jo-annsdancestudio.bigstep.com>

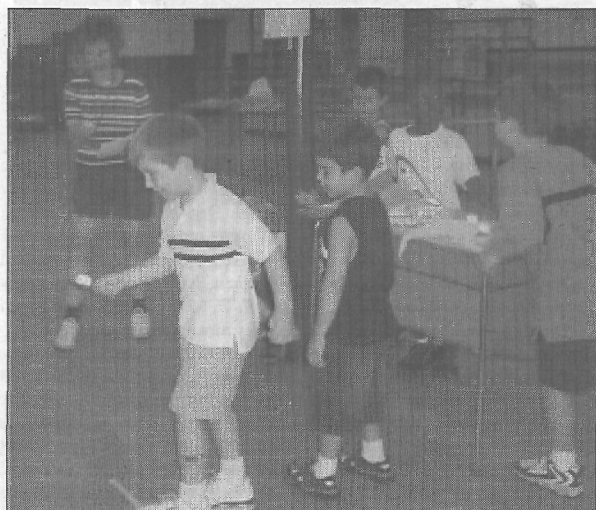
It only comes twice a year...

THE BIG EVENT

The South Plainfield Observer Labor Day issue will be mailed to every home in South Plainfield.

Don't miss this opportunity!

RESERVE YOUR SPACE NOW
908-668-0010



Tiger Day Campers race with marshmallows.

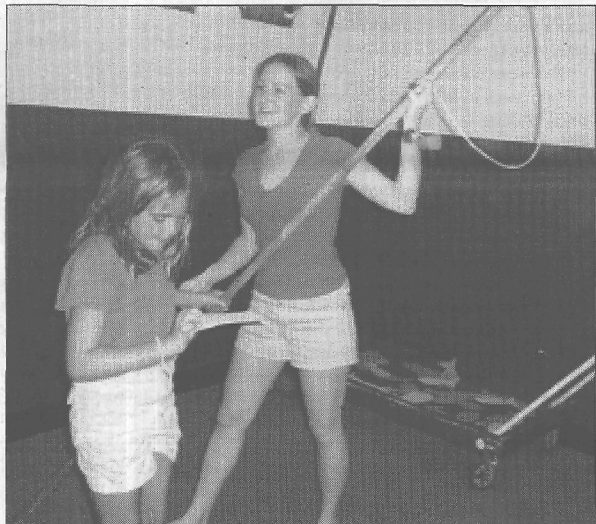
Tiger Day Campers Enjoy A Day of "Camping In"

Campers at Tiger Day Camp had a pretend "campout" inside the cafeteria at the Middle School last week.

Camping out inside held many challenges. The cafeteria was transformed into an artificial campsite. Campers experienced fishing using wooden poles with a magnet and tried to catch paper fish with paper clips out of a box. They hunted by throwing balls at plastic bottles and objects with cutout pictures of animals. A pretend archery area was set up with a velcro dart

board. Children were timed as they raced back and forth holding spoons with marshmallows. A "rest area" included drinks for the weary campers. Points were given for each activity and the children were awarded small prizes for their efforts.

After a busy day of activities, the campers rested in sleeping bags they had brought from home around a pretend campfire made with twigs and red and yellow pipe cleaners shaped like flames.



Campers try their hand at "fishing" at Tiger Day Camp.

Understand Windows at Free Library Program Next Week

The South Plainfield Free Public Library, located at 2484 Plainfield Avenue, has planned the following computer programs for Wednesday, Aug. 13 from 7-8:45 p.m., "Understand the Window Operating System in 75 Minutes!"

Participants will understand the

parts of the desktop, the start menu and file structure. Lecture/Demonstration/Hands-on. Mouse/Keyboard experience is required.

The programs is FREE, space is limited and reservations are required. For more information, call the library's Reference Desk at 908-754-7885.

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SCHOOL BOARD Briefs

- The Board of Education renewed the custodial/maintenance service contract with Sodexo Management, Inc. for the sum of \$2,014,653.19.

- The Board of Education approved an agreement between Middlesex County and the South Plainfield Board of Education pertaining to the Middle School after-school program, whereby the County of Middlesex will provide the BOD with \$32,205 in start up funds for the program.

- The firm of Hodulik & Morrison, P.A. was appointed as School Board auditors for the 2003/2004 school year at a fee of \$25,000 for regular funds including Special and Federal projects and the school lunch audit, as well as building/construction matters as part of a single audit format.

- A change of title for Mario C. Barbieri, Ed.D. from Assistant Superintendent for Operations and Personnel to Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Operations was approved.

- The Board approved the South Plainfield Curriculum Review Cycle for 2003-2008.

- The Board approved the High School Football Team Trip to Camp Chen-A-Wanda.

- The Board of Education approved the first reading for the following: Policy No. 2224-Nondiscrimination/Affirmative; Policy No. 5131.9-Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation; Policy No. 5145.4-Sexual Harassment/Equal Education Opportunity; Policy No. 4111.1-Rights of Handicapped Persons/Employees and Policy No. 5145.7-Rights of Handicapped Persons/Students.

- The Board accepted the resignation of Loren MacIver as assistant business administrator, effective Sept. 8, 2003; Rita Marcocci as High School English Teacher, effective Sept. 30, 2003 and Rebecca Lerner

as Middle School Music Teacher, effective July 1, 2003.

- The Board approved the appointment of Donna Kregler as Middle School Music teacher, effective Sept. 1, 2003 (replacement for Rebecca Lerner who resigned).

- The Board appointed Arleen Suszko as High School Special Education teacher (additional position created at June Board Meeting); Susan Fenning as Middle School Reading teacher (additional position created at June Board Meeting); Mary Clyde as Grant School Music teacher (replacement for John Zazzali who resigned); Linda Rodino as Grant School Fifth Grade Elementary teacher (replacement for Dana Bertrand whose appointment was rescinded); Lauren Lopez as Roosevelt School Special Education teacher; (replacement for Cathy Gilsky who resigned) and Rachel Klausner Gomez as Middle School Spanish teacher (replacement for Monica Velazquez who declined the position).

- The following voluntary teacher/itinerant/registered nurse transfers were approved: Laura Doughty, from High School Media Specialist to High School Social Studies Teacher (replacement for Robert Mussari who resigned); Angela Raimondo, from Riley School Special Education Teacher to Riley School Elementary Teacher; Lydia Svoboda, from Riley School Transitional First Grade teacher to Riley School Elementary teacher; Kathleen Renz, from Kennedy School Special Education Teacher to Roosevelt School Special Education Teacher; Catherine Bonanno, from Riley School Elementary teacher to Grant School Fifth Grade Elementary teacher and Ann Marie McManus, from Grant School Itinerant/Registered Nurse

to Roosevelt/Administration Itinerant/Registered Nurse.

- The position of High School Assistant Field Hockey Coach, effective for the 2003 Fall coaching season was approved.

- The Board approved the appointments/reappointments of the following assistant coaches, effective for the 2003-04 school year, conditional upon sufficient enrollment to have the program:

Fall Season in the high school football program William Hamilton-first asst., Robert Jones, Willard Schulte, Joseph Cirigliano, Brian Bilal, Scott Horowitz and Charlie Garcia and Gene Bataille and Tom Rizk-volunteers. In boys soccer Cameron Green and Tim Serbe; girls soccer Dana Curcio and Megan Mosher. In field hockey Tammy Zurka and Joanne Haus; gymnastics Anthony Guida; cheerleading Amy Curcio and Jennifer Orzepowski.

Fall season in the middle school football, Nick Scalzo.

Winter season in high school: boys basketball Robert Jones; girls basketball John Greco and Taryn Decker; winter track Chris Fish; wrestling William Hamilton and Shane Kagan; cheerleading Amy Curcio and Jennifer Orzepowski.

Winter season in the middle school: girls basketball Dana Curcio and wrestling Nick Scalzo.

- Cheryl Papa has been appointed as Grant School Secretary to the Principal (Replacement for Ann Schenck who retired).

- The Board of Education voted to abolish the position of Adult School Secretary and created the position of Grant School Secretary to the Assistant Principal. They also approved the secretary transfer of Diane Ranger from Adult School Secretary, at her current salary subject to negotiations.

AARP Salutes Assemblyman Diegnan for Protecting Vital Senior Programs

The AARP thanks Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan for voting to support full funding for PAAD and Senior Gold, critical state prescription drug assistance programs for modest-income seniors and people with disabilities.

With the challenging budget situation, seniors across the state rallied and volunteers and staff at AARP New Jersey made an all-out effort to preserve full funding for these programs, beginning as early as January. AARP and the Governor's Office co-sponsored a Senior Seminar on prescription drugs that brought over 1,700 seniors to Trenton on January 13, and since then, AARP volunteers conducted lobbying visits to the statehouse, made numerous calls, wrote letters to the editor of their local newspapers and wrote many letters to their legislators. AARP also asked each legislator to sign a Prescription Drug Pledge that they would not support a budget unless it provided full-funding for these vital

programs. Through the advocacy of seniors around the state, over half of the members of the State Legislature signed the pledge.

"We want to thank the legislators who have followed through on their promises to protect these vital programs and our most vulnerable residents who rely on them," said Marilyn Askin, AARP NJ state president.

"AARP appreciates Assemblyman Diegnan's support of measures that will prevent people who used PAAD and Senior Gold from experiencing cuts in benefits, losses of eligibility, or increases in their out-of-pocket expenses. Access to prescription drugs has proven to shorten expensive hospital stays and help people live longer, healthier, more independent lives.

New Jerseyans Can Now Call Senator Lautenberg for Free!

Senator Frank R. Lautenberg was the first U.S. Senator in the history of New Jersey to provide a toll free number for constituents to contact his state offices in Newark and coming soon in Camden.

"This toll free number will allow everyone in New Jersey to contact me," said Lautenberg. "We in congress should be as accessible as possible to our constituents because after

all they are the ones who hire us."

Lautenberg's toll free number is 1-888-398-1642.

The current address for the Washington, D.C. and New Jersey offices of Senator Lautenberg are: 324 Senate Hart Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, phone (202) 224-3224, fax (202) 445-4054 and One Gateway Center, 23rd floor, Newark, New Jersey 07102. Fax: (973) 639-8723.

Need Computer Help? Clogged Drain? Want to Buy or Sell a House?

Need a Landscaper? A Contractor? A Painter? Need a Massage?

A Mortgage? Your Driveway Sealed? Looking to Rent A Hall?

Driveway Need a Facelit? Call KLEEN SEAL for a free estimate. See their ad on p. 11.

Find it all here in the
Observer Business &
Professional Listings
on page 10 and 11.

Youth Learn Safety Skills in Annual Program

Photos/story by Jane Dornick

The South Plainfield Recreation Department's Safetytown program graduated 64 safer youngsters during July. They held two sessions that ran for two weeks each.

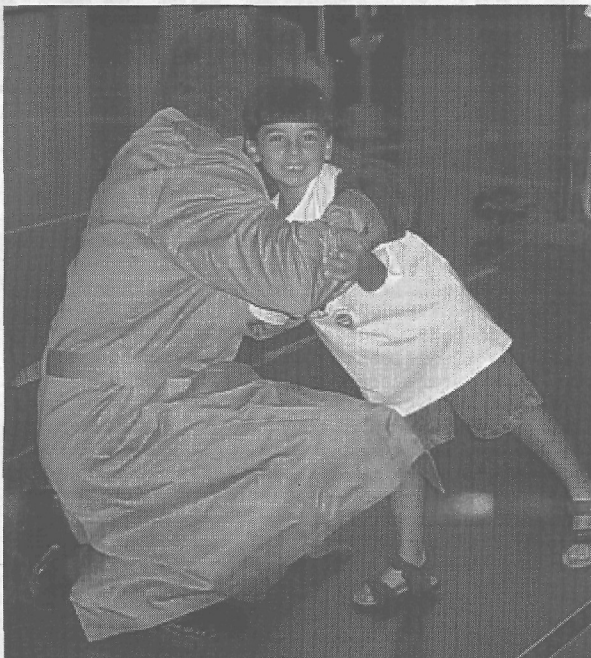
Under the direction of Kiley Jackson, high school students helped guide the youngsters in learning about fire, water and bike safety as well as dealing with strangers and crossing streets.

During graduation ceremonies the youth sang songs they learned about safety and showed off their newly acquired walking and riding skills through a pretend town. South Plainfield Police Officer Allen LaMonda and the crime fighting dog "Mc Gruff" were on hand to personally congratulate each child after receiving their diploma.



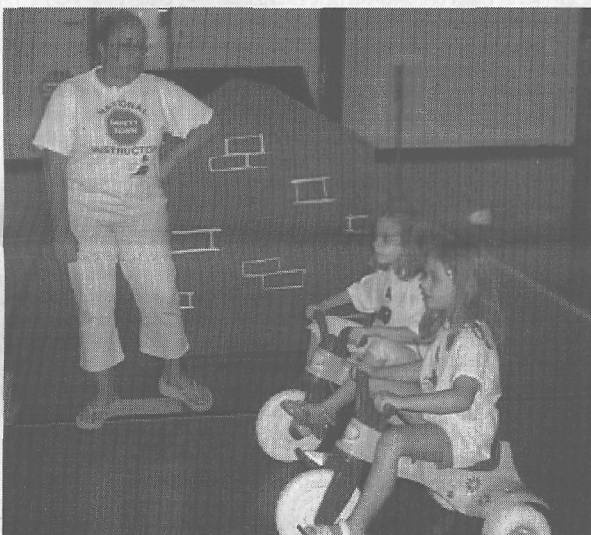
Graduates from session one are Stephanie Boettger, Sarah Bosse, Wesley Bowe, Jenna Calderone, Lindsay Celetano, Kayla Fisher, Robert Gwiazda, Daniel Hedden, Kevin Jones, Krista Kaczka, Jack Kane, Alex Kelly, Christopher Kuberiet, Christopher Marrero, Naomi Nieves, Daniel Pacheco, Ricky Pellegrino, Scott Pietschker, Nicholas Polizzano, Caroline Ratti, Brenden Russell, Kyle Russell, Nicholas Scalera, Connor Skelly, Emily Sukenik, Jack Townley, Anthony Vacca, Sarah Walsh, Matthew Waters, Laura Weinberger, Lea Wietrzykowski, Christian Wizda, Kyle Wong and Reece Young.

Second session graduates are Alexes Aquilina, Cristofer Baratta,



Nicholas Battista, Miranda Bourbeau, Rachel Cannalunga, Sarah Cargill, Alexander Catalina, Annika Ciccariello, Brittany Dellasala, Jessica Dillon, Jack Falato, John Joseph Fallet, Dianne Ferraro, Frank Ferraro, Alexa Gentile, Nicholas Grasso, Eddie

Kobilis, Michael Lampasona, Elissa MacKenzie, Matthew Maher, Timmy Nuber, Sarah Ann Oehler, Melissa Pokorny, Kenneth Quin, Samantha Ratti, James Schulkes, Samantha Schulkes, Cody Soper, Kevin Soper and Xavier Wilson.



Time's Running Out! Enter Observer Poster Contest!

Entries are coming in for the South Plainfield Observer's second annual Poster Contest for this year's Labor Day Parade.

Entries must interpret this year's theme, "To Honor Those Who Proudly Serve Our Country." It can be a family or an individual project. The idea is to get everyone involved

with this year's annual festivities on Labor Day.

To enter, create a poster in any media, no larger and 22" x 17", and bring it to the Observer office by Friday, August 29.

Everyone who enters will receive a prize. The grand prize winner will receive a gift certificate from

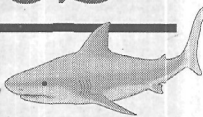
Sportworld and other prizes to be announced. Winner will also be featured on the front page of the Observer.

So get the family together and make the contest a family affair.

If you have any questions, call the South Plainfield Observer at 908-668-0010.

Sports

Tiger Sharks Update



Continuing a pattern set early this summer, the Tiger Sharks swim team won one meet and lost another, facing off against Roycefield Rapids of Hillsborough on July 12 and Rivercrest of Piscataway on July 16.

The Tiger Sharks, representing the South Plainfield Recreation Community Pool, swim competitive meets throughout the summer against other area teams with the same ranking in Central Jersey. This year the Sharks advanced to "A" league, which includes the best swimmers in the area.

Swimmers who gained points for the Tiger Sharks in the Hillsborough meet, which SP lost with a score of 162-114, included Matt Santos with a first place win in the 10 and under, 100m, individual medley race; Caleb Tou in third place, 11-12 year olds, 100m and CalvinJohn Smiley, third place, 13-18, 200m.

Girls freestyle saw three 10 and under girls take the top three places with Maggie Valentino, first place, 100m; Sarah Konops, second and Chelsea Cullen, third. In the 11-12, 100m, Emily Piekarski took third and for the older girls, Nina Byard took first place in the 200m, 13-18 division.

For boys freestyle, Patrick Boyle placed second in the eight and under, 25m; Mike Grzenda, third in the 9-10, 50m; Philip Luzny, first place, 13-14, 100m and CalvinJohn Smiley, first, 15-18, 100m.

Backstrokers in the eight and under category also took all three top spots, with Kate McLaughlin, first place; Rachel Krause, second and Grace Piekarski, third in the 25m race.

Maggie Valentino placed first for the 9-10, 50m and Katie O'Brien took second, while in the 11-12 50m, Amanda Ray placed second; and for the 15-18 girls, Nina Byard took first place in the 100m.

The eight and under girls continued to have a great day with all three top places in breaststroke taken by the Tiger Sharks, with Grace Piekarski in first; Rachel Krause, second and Kate McLaughlin, third; in the 25m. The 9-10 division did the same with Katie O'Brien taking first place; Sarah Konops, second and Chelsea Cullen, third in the 50m race. Emily Piekarski nabbed third place for the 11-12, 50m; Leah Konops took second in the 13-14, 100m and Kristen Dabrio took third in the 15-18, 100m.

For the butterfly swimmers, Patrick Boyle took third place in the eight and under, 25m; Mike Grzenda placed second in the 9-10, 50m and Mike Boyle took third in the 11-12, 50m. Philip Luzny claimed first place, with Matt Moates in second, in the 13-14, 100m event, while Adam Timberlake took third in the 15-18, 100m.

In the girls freestyle relay, teammates Gracie Piekarski, Kate McLaughlin, Rachel Krause and Jenna Cianfrocca won for the eight and under, 100m; for the 9-12, 200m, teammates Emily Piekarski, Chelsea Cullen, Sarah Konops and Amanda Ray took first place.

At the Rivercrest meet, the Tiger Sharks racked up 178 points to win over the 92 scored by the Piscataway team. Dylan McDermott placed first in the 10 and under, individual medley, 100m race; Caleb Tou took second place in the 11-12, 100m, with Michael Boyle in third. CalvinJohn Smiley took third in the 13-18, 200m race.

For freestyle girl swimmers, Maggie Valentino took first place in the 10 and under, 100m and Chelsea Cullen took second; Emily Piekarski placed first in the 11-12, 100m and Nina Byard

placed first in the 13-18, 200m.

Boys freestyle point scorers were Liam McDermott, second place, and Patrick Boyle, third, in the 8 and under, 25m; Michael Grzenda, first, and Ryan Lind, second, in the 9-10, 50m and Caleb Tou, second, and Brian Babinetz, third, in the 11-12, 50m. For the 13-14 boys, Philip Luzny took second in the 100m race and in the 15-18, 100m, CalvinJohn Smiley placed second.

The eight and under girls again scored well at this meet in backstroke with the top three places going to Tiger Shark swimmers in the 25m with Rachel Krause in first place, Grace Piekarski, second, and Kate McLaughlin, third and the same three girls taking the top spots in breaststroke with Kate in first place, Grace in second and Rachel in third.

In breaststroke, Kate O'Brien took first place in the 9-10, 50m and Chelsea Cullen placed second; Theresa Gustafson placed second in the 11-12, 50m and Michelle Gustafson took third. Leah Konops nabbed first place points for the 13-14, 100m with Allison Harty in third and Kristin Dabrio took second in the 15-18, 100m.

Other backstroke winners were: Maggie Valentino, first place, and Kate O'Brien, second, in the 9-10, 50m; Emily Piekarski, second, and Amanda Ray, third, in the 11-12, 50m race; Leah Konops, first and Abigail Petritsch, second, in the 13-14, 100m and for the 15-18 girls, Nina Byard, first, and Jessica Manning third in the 100m.

Boys butterfly point scorers were Patrick Boyle, second place, and Aidan McDermott, third, in the eight and under, 25m; Dylan McDermott, first place and Michael Grzenda, second, in the 9-10, 50m. All three top places were nabbed by the 11-12 boys in the 50m with Michael Boyle in first place, Steven Grzenda, second and Brian Babinetz, third. Philip Luzny took first place in the 13-14, 100m, with Matt Moates in third place and Chris Reed second place in the 15-18, 100m.

All three freestyle relays were won by Tiger Shark relay teams, including eight and under teammates Grace Piekarski, Kate McLaughlin, Rachel Krause and Jena Cianfrocca in the 100m; 9-12 age group teammates Maggie Valentino, Emily Piekarski, Amanda Ray and Sarah Konops in the 200m and 13-18 teammates Kristen Dabrio, Joanna Luzny, Nina Byard and Leah Konops in their 200m event.

For the medley relay, boys teammates Sean Cullen, Liam McDermott, Aidan McDermott and Patrick Boyle won the eight and under, 100m and 9-12 teammates Ryan Lind, Caleb Tou, Dylan McDermott and Michael Boyle won the 200m event.

Tiger Shark coaches are Laurie Post, head coach, assisted by Robin Cone, Jen Otlowski and Shannon Dabrio.

-Submitted by Donna Egan

Register Now For Fall Ball!

Registration for Fall 2003 baseball season at the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club Complex is underway!

Applications will be taken by any board member or at the snack stand throughout August.

For more information, email fallbaseball2003@yahoo.com, or contact the S.P.J.B.C. at P.O. Box 166, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or call (908) 754-2090.

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Eight Year-Old National All Star Team-Top (l to r) Coaches Claude Payne, Jack Maniaci and Gary George (not pictured Coach Brett Giakas). Center (l to r) Austin Miceli, Brett Maniaci, Liam McDermott, Claude Payne, Steven Vincent, Timothy O'Leary, Chris Giakas and Erik Elsmen. Bottom (l to r) Zack George, Matt Ward, Alex Dornick, Joshua Coup and Joe Jakubik.

By Kevin Lykes

junior baseballclubnotes

• **Final Tournament Team Results**—Congratulations go out to all of the South Plainfield traveling tournament teams. Some were more successful than others but all offered the participants a baseball experience that they will learn from and remember for some time to come.

Here are the final results for each of our teams:

• **8 Year Old American**—First place in Carteret; Good Sportsmanship Award in Bridgewater, 10-9-1 overall.

• **8 Year Old National**—This team did not enjoy a lot of success on the field in terms of wins, however the experience the players received will be invaluable to them in future years.

• **9 Year Olds**—Won Cal Ripken District 9 championship and advanced to state Tournament; first place in Colonia, second place in South Plainfield 15-8 overall.

• **10 Year Olds**—Won Cal Ripken District 9 championship and advanced to state tournament where they finished fourth, first place in Piscataway, first place in South Plainfield, 23-5 overall.

• **11 Year Olds**—First place in Milltown, first place in Cranford, first place in S. Plfd., 20-7 overall.

• **12 Year Old American**—First place in S. Plfd., second place in Cal Ripken district 9 tournament, third place in Linden, third place in Elmora (Elizabeth), 17-6 overall.

• **12 Year Old National**—Second place in Elmora, 9-14 overall. A combined 12-11 year old team also finished fourth in Iselin.

• **13 Year Olds**—Second place in Babe Ruth District 9, and due to the size of the District 9 group also represented South Plainfield at the State Tournament.

• **14/15 Year Olds**—Coached by three college freshmen who are recent SPJBC players gaining their first coaching experience, this team enjoyed a 8-7 overall record in three different tournaments and represented South Plainfield well.

Congratulations to all our traveling teams. To those of you who brought home trophies it was a job well done. For those of you who did not I hope you enjoyed the experience of participating in competitive games, learned valuable baseball lessons, and held your heads high for being selected to wear the South Plainfield uniform and represent our club in numerous other towns.

Just a reminder! The club picnic is set for Saturday Sept. 6 at 12 noon, mark your calendars. Food, refreshments and awards will be on hand.

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Sports

Girls' Cross Country Preview

By Tim Morgan

Individual efforts control the collective result. This applies to any sport but not to the extent that it does to cross country and track. With the exceptions of wrestling and bowling, all other sports are collectively dependent more than they are individually dependent, and a certain solidarity needs to be achieved amongst team members. This is one of the things I talked to Head Coach Bill Milone about when I interviewed him, and, truth be told, it doesn't have a whole lot to do with the rest of this article, but it is an important thing to mention.

So why would I talk about a relatively impertinent thing in the opening paragraph of an article about the South Plainfield High School Girls' Cross Country team, defying an important rule of writing? Have I lost it or just decided to abuse the liberty I have in writing this column? Read on to find out.

The SPHS Girls' Cross Country team history could be called inversely proportional to the boys' team. Right now, you're probably wondering what the hell I'm talking about, so I'll explicate. The Lady Tigers have had a string of losing seasons since 1999. They are in the same rut as the boys were in during their 1993-1997 seasons. Before 1998, they were one of the teams to beat in the GMC; now they are rebuilding. Before 1998, the boys were rebuilding, and now they are one of the top teams in the GMC.

Last year, the girls went 2-5, and it was a season that was similar to, but not exactly the same as, the 2000 and 2001 seasons, which were 1-7 and 2-6. The difference was that junior Kathleen Morgan placed 15th in the GMC Championship race as a sophomore last year, improving on her impressive 24th place finish in her freshman year. Coach Milone said that

Kathleen is progressing as he expected and should continue to do so. He calls her "a very hard worker (who is) determined to beat Monika (Lehman's) record." Lehman holds the school record of 19:00 for the 5K (3.1 mile) race; Kathleen's best time thus far is 20:53.

The Lady Tigers currently have 10 runners on their roster for the upcoming season, which is up a little from last year. They have more depth this year, times are expected to improve, and dedication has reached a healthier level. Three of the girls have run or will run track as well. Signs point to a better season, perhaps the best one in years. Milone calls the girls "vivacious."

Besides Morgan, the team consists of seniors Almasa Amini, Jackie Arango and Suzy Smela; juniors Katie Crilley, Alicia Miranda, Jessica Musolino and Kelly Whitney; and sophomores Mallory Cooper and Lindsay Loiacono.

Morgan and Arango are the team captains.

Milone's main goal for the team is to break .500. "I'm looking forward to a winning season," he said. He would also like to see Kathleen advance to the State Group meet from the State Sectionals, place in the top five to top ten in the GMC meet, and for her to break 20:00 this year.

Milone calls the competition the girls will face this year "strong." However, he also thinks that the girls will be more competitive than they have been for the past few years and that they have a real chance at pretty much every meet. JFK will almost certainly dominate the White Division again, and Bishop Ahr will be a well stacked team as usual (but has also moved to the Blue Division, so the girls may not even face them this time around), but otherwise it will be a tight race in the White Division this year.

Getting back to the issue I addressed in the second paragraph, I employed the tactic I did to make a segway to some of Milone's coaching philosophies. Milone, who is entering his 36th year coaching, recognizes that you have to keep the sport fun to keep interest alive. Running can get boring if

you don't variegate what you do and remember to enjoy yourself. When you have to be independently dependent, it becomes difficult and more challenging to stay motivated sometimes. He knows that in order to keep focus on the sport, sometimes you have to take focus off of it for a little bit while not forgetting to concentrate on your training when it is necessary and important. There is also the need to find variety in workouts during practices.

Milone is willing to acknowledge that events outside the sport influence it. That is another reason for having to make it fun – the more you enjoy it, the more you'll want to stick with it. The age old lesson that winning isn't everything is a little trite for me. I'm not going to sugarcoat the truth – if you're in a sport, you play to win (at least by the time you get to high school). However, the reason that expression originated is because winning should not be paramount to why you're doing the sport in the first place. Milone believes that winning is important but also that the satisfaction and sense of accomplishment running provides should be preponderant.

Some of Milone's goals are intangible ones – to have a team that learns from the sport and to have girls that mature and become dedicated from participating in the sport despite whatever outside events happen to them.

Milone believes in importance in numbers. The fact is that to have depth, there needs to be a fair amount of kids on the team. He believes that the wins will come more easily as the team membership rises, because that depth will be built. The team is progressing, because participation is increasing little by little. The Lady Tigers will very likely soon return to their winning ways.

Garden State Fall Baseball League

The Garden State Baseball Fall League is open for registrations for 2003 Fall League. Teams interested in playing in a competitive wood bat league with nationally advertised tournaments are wanted. Freshman, JV, Varsity and College Unlimited will play Sundays and some Saturdays starting after Labor Day weekend, Sept. 6 and 7. Information about the league can be found at www.gardensatebaseball.com or at 888-765-0529.

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Sports

Tiger Basketball Still Looking Up

Despite the losses of Mike Allocco and Phil Veinott to graduation, the outlook for the South Plainfield Tigers Basketball Team is still very good. They will still have some issues with size underneath and their bench, but overall the team is certainly on the right track to be one of the top teams again in the GMC in 2004.

Jersey Stallions AAU Basketball Wrap Up

The Jersey Stallions AAU Basketball Team wrapped up its second year with a 15-4 record, which was a much better win loss record than last year's 14-11 campaign. They also played another season of close to 20 games despite having fewer players on the roster this season.

After losing its first game to the Bridgewater Buccs, the Stallions ran off 11 consecutive victories, before losing to the Jersey Jammers of Somerset. The AAU squad, which was able to hold together despite player commitments to other sports and AAU teams, then finished the season by winning four of its last six including a 2-1 record down at the Battle of the Boardwalk Tournament in Wildwood.

Tigers Compete Again At Kean Team Week

After successfully winning the White Division Championship over Marist in last year's Kean Team Camp, South Plainfield moved up into the tougher Blue Division. The division consisted of such teams as Scotch Plains, which now has one of the top sophomores in the country in Derrick Character, who previously played at St. Patrick's. Other teams in the Blue Division were: Hillside, Newark East Side, Elizabeth,

Rahway, Union, Cranford, Bridgewater, Hillsborough and Immaculata.

The Tigers managed to go 3-2 in the round-robin play as they defeated Morristown-Beard, Hillsborough, and Immaculata while losing to Linden and Hillside, which lost in the Championship to Scotch Plains. The game against Linden was particularly heartbreaking since the Tigers held a 39-23 advantage early in the second half before Linden went on a 29-10 surge to close out the game for a 52-49 victory.

South Plainfield didn't fare too well in the playoffs as it lost its opening round game to Cranford in the eighth seed vs. ninth seed game. Cranford won the North Jersey Section 2 Group 3 Championship, and eventually lost in the Group 3 State Championship Game to Franklin. For those who do not know, Franklin had their best season in school history as they advanced to the Tournament of Champions Semifinals before losing to eventual winner St. Patrick's of Elizabeth. Cranford features a young and talented team lead by junior Terrance Grier.

SPHS Playing At Hawks Basketball Summer SlamFest

This summer, there have been some changes to the high school basketball summer league scene. The J.P. Stevens Summer League, which had been an annual fixture for GMC teams to compete in for the past 10 years or so, is not running this year. As a result, GMC teams are spread out among the HawksBasketball Summer SlamFest in Perth Amboy, Middlesex County College's Summer League, the Linden Summer League, and the Elizabeth Summer League.

South Plainfield is competing in the HawksBasketball Summer SlamFest in Perth Amboy. Despite an early loss to New Brunswick, and a recent 49-18 rout to Perth Amboy, the Tigers are faring quite well with a 6-2 record overall, which puts them in third place as of this report. Wins include victories over Cardinal McCarrick by one, and Piscataway. The playoffs are scheduled to start next week, and early favorites include the Tigers, although Rahway, New Brunswick, St. Joseph's, Plainfield, and Cardinal McCarrick will be tough, too.

JV Team In Action At Colonia JV Summer League

The SPHS Varsity team is not the only team in action this summer. The Tiger JV squad is also competing in a Junior Varsity Summer League at Colonia High School. There are 12 teams competing, most of which are from the GMC. So far, the Junior Tiger Cagers are doing quite well with a 5-2 record that puts them in fourth place behind Linden, South River, and Metuchen.

The fourth place start is in spite of a quite surprising defeat at the hands of the St. John Vianney seventh and eighth grade CYO team from Colonia. St. John's was originally supposed to compete in a Freshman League at Colonia, but since only three teams signed up, the league was canceled. So, St. John's decided to take their lumps and play in the JV league. Surprisingly, they've been quite competitive with two wins including a 49-37 upset over the Junior Tigers.

Greg Machos covers the South Plainfield Tigers as well as other Greater Middlesex Conference Varsity Boys Basketball for his website, GMC Hoops at <http://www.gmchoops.com>. -Submitted by By Greg Machos



The Ponytail Softball Lady Knights C League are coached by James Bishop. The team is Jayme Bishop, Alena Brady, Carey Butrico, Joelle Butrico, Sabrina Del Piano, Jessica Gomes, Caitlyn Hogan, Sarah McCarthy, Jaime Parelo, Lauren Parelo, Karly Sanko, Jessica Scarpitto and Deanna Ranger.

Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller



Ponytail Softball Association Meeting—August 26—The South Plainfield Parents' Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, August 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield Middle School library. If you are interested in becoming a member and being involved in girl's Ponytail softball, please join us on August 26. New members are always welcomed. Please note time change to 7:30 p.m.

Art Auction—October 3—On Friday, Oct. 3 the SPPA will once again be hosting an art auction presented by Ross Galleries. Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased at the door or in advance by contacting Debbie Boyle, Mark Sutherland or myself. Attention SPPPA members, the fundraising committee is looking for volunteers to help out during the auction. If you are able to assist in any way, please contact Debbie Boyle or Mark Sutherland.

Sponsorship Program—Last year we revised our sponsorship program. Sponsors can have an advertising sign placed on the outfield fences of the fields at the Ponytail Park Complex. The sign will be four by eight 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 Oct.). Sponsors have the choice of a one-year agreement at a cost of \$300 or a two-year agreement at a cost of \$400 (either choice 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. If interested, please contact any member of the S.P. Parents' Ponytail Association or contact me via our website SPPONYTAIL.com.

Murtagh and Hubner Win Recreation Golf Tournament

Brian Murtagh and Riley Hubner won the South Plainfield Recreation Golf Tournament at the West Nine.

Brian Murtagh, a junior at South Plainfield High School, shot a 38-37-75 to win the junior division. Brian was pleased with some fine iron play and improved putting skills.

The Boys Division was taken by a fifth grader, Riley Hubner, who shot a 40-38-78. Riley kept the ball on the fairway, only missing four fairways all

day. Riley has excellent putting skills and rarely three putts.

In the Boys Division, other fine scores were turned in by J.R. Licato-79, Andrew Gray-80, Jeff Pryor-81, Brad Martin-83, Vinnie Padula-84, Dan Pompilio-90, Anthony Simone-96 and Mike Pryor-98.

This tournament was run by the Recreation Department and showed the skills of some of South Plainfield's young golfers.

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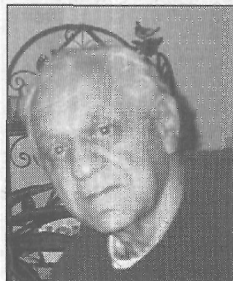
Obituaries

Joe Falcone, 77

Joe Falcone died on Monday, July 28, at his home in Cape May.

He was born in Newark, where he grew up. He moved to South Plainfield for over 34 years, before moving to Cape May eight years ago.

Joe had been a truck driver with the former Consolidated Freightways



Joe Falcone

Trucking Company of Port Newark, where he worked for 17 years before he retired 34 years ago. He was a member of the Teamsters Local #478 of Newark.

He was a Navy Veteran of WWII, and was a member of the Plainfield Area Chapter of UNICO.

Joe enjoyed his family and had a special talent of helping his friends and neighbors in any way he could.

He was predeceased by his sisters Margaret Falcone and Josephine Grante.

Surviving are his wife of 58 years, Rose M. Falcone; four daughters and sons-in-law, Jennie Joyce and Dewitt Giles of Edison, Margaret and John Celentano of South Plainfield, Patricia and David Donatelli of Hillsborough, and Laura and Robert Doherty of Toms River; four sons and daughter-in-law, Joseph A. Falcone of West Long Branch, Angelo and Dolores Falcone of Toms River, Gerard Falcone and his fiancée, Lynda Perzyna of Berkeley Township and Anthony Falcone of Manalapan Township; his sister, Angelina Casale of Belleville; his brother, Richard Falcone of East Hanover; and by his 15 grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Cheryl Pornovets (nee Downes), 37

Cheryl Pornovets (nee Downes) died Saturday, August 2 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Jersey City, Cheryl grew up in Nutley and had resided in Montclair, Bayonne and Roselle Park before moving to South Plainfield ten years ago. She was currently serving as the president to the Central Jersey Christian Home Schoolers Association, Inc., as well as president to the Women's Bible Study, Inc.

Cheryl was an avid racquetball and volleyball player at The Club at Ricochet in South Plainfield and also played softball in the Scotch Plains Women's Rec. League.

She was a home school mother of two of her children, Christopher and Thomas. In 1996, Cheryl graduated Magna Cum Laude from Kean University where she earned a B.S. degree in psychology. She was a devoted wife and mother and will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Surviving are her beloved husband, John of 10 years; her parents, Ruth and Rev. George Downes, III of Belleville; her three boys, Christopher, Thomas and A.J.; and one brother, George Downes, IV of Belleville.

Funeral services were held in McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations may be made in Cheryl's memory to the Central Jersey Home Schoolers Association, Inc., 109 Cambridge Rd., Westfield, NJ 07090, attention: Lucy Church.

Alicia Espinosa, 80

Alicia Espinosa died on Friday, August 1 at Haven Hospice in JFK Medical Center, Edison.

Born in Puerto Rico, she came to the United States in 1950. She resided in Manhattan for many years before moving to South Plainfield in 1985.

Her husband Virgilio died in 1983.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Virgilio "Bill" and Sharon Espinosa of South Plainfield and Henry and Margaret Espinosa of New York; two sisters, Luisa and Alana and a brother, Chello Schutz of Puerto Rico. Also surviving are two grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Funeral services were held in McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Louis Nicholas Ettre, Jr., 79

Louis Nicholas Ettre, Jr., died on Monday, July 28 in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

Born in Bronx, NY, he has resided in South Plainfield for the past 60 years.

Louis was employed by Ford Motor Company in Edison before retiring in 1982.

He enjoyed carpentry, gardening and mechanics. He was a member of The Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses of Middlesex.

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Louis was the beloved husband of Mary Patricia (Timpanaro) Ettre who just celebrated their 53rd anniversary in June. Surviving are two sons, Mark and John and three daughters, Marylou, Lucille and Michele. Also surviving are 12 grandchildren, three great grandchildren, one brother, Bernard and three sisters, Tessie, Millie and Mary.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Jack G. Mazellan

Jack G. Mazellan passed away on July 30 in Pennsylvania, his birth state and one he always had professed a fondness for.

Jack was born on December 21, 1923 in Shamokin, Pa. Jack was the eldest of four children.

He served in the United States Air Force and was a disabled American Veteran.

Jack was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in So. Plainfield. He proudly served as an usher at Mass for many years. He had also been a member of the Nocturnal Adoration Society as well as a member of the Knights of Columbus.

He worked for Union Carbide Corp. for 35 years. Jack was a machinist and over his many years of employment, received special recognition highlighting his craftsmanship and attention to detail. Though proud of his accomplishments, it was never his nature to seek attention.

He maintained a strong sense of work ethic at home. He lived by the motto of doing a good job right the first time. Jack had an eye for details and always admired a job well done.

He was known for his legendary early arrivals, no matter what the event was.

He would often quip that if he was not at a destination early, then he would not be there.

Jack always enjoyed taking care of his home and landscaping his property. In his free time, he loved working on his 1964 Valiant, which he meticulously maintained over the years.

He is predeceased by his beloved wife, Patricia Mazellan; a grandson, Chris Bartsch; and a sister, Carolyn Mazellan.

He is survived by three daughters, Diane Medici and Kathleen Bartsch, both of Shoholas, Pa. and Barbara Whale of Raritan Twp.; six sons, John of Branchburg, Michael of Middlesex, Ronald of Marion, Ind., Donald, Robert and Brian, all of South Plainfield. Also surviving are 18 grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in McCriskin Home For Funerals.

The family has requested that donations in his memory be made to the Salesian Missions, 2 Lefevre Lane, P.O. Box 30, New Rochelle, NY 10802.

Bertha Wallis Rogers, 81

Bertha Wallis Rogers died on Wednesday, July 30, in Genesis Care Center, The Woodlands, in Plainfield.

Born in Newark, she had also lived in Irvington and Maplewood. She has resided in South Plainfield since 1949.

Bertha had worked as cook for 15 years for the Wardlaw School, later becoming the Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Plainfield. She retired in 1983.

During the 1970's, she had been a very active member and past president of the Plainfield Rescue Squad Women's Auxiliary. After her retirement, she enjoyed traveling the New

Jersey and Pennsylvania regions with her sister.

She was predeceased by her sisters, Lillian Bezyak and Gertrude Fuetterer.

Surviving are her husband of 60 years, Peter A. Rogers; a daughter, Patricia A. Bradshaw; a son, Peter A. Rogers, Jr., both of South Plainfield; son and daughter-in-law Richard and Rae Angela Ruggiero of Clifton, as well as by her four grandchildren, Cara and Samantha Ruggiero, and Michael and James McDonough.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Patricia A. Guthrie, 68

Patricia A. Guthrie of South Plainfield died on Saturday, July 26, at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Pat was born in Philadelphia and was a former resident of North Plainfield before moving to South Plainfield 43 years ago.

Pat was a management consultant and the owner of Guthrie Associates in South Plainfield for 20 years before retiring in 1981. She then worked for Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield as director of personnel until 1986.

Pat was a member of the American Consultants Association and the New Jersey Society of Personnel Directors, where she served as president. She was past president of the Central Jersey Chapter of the American Society of Personnel Managers.

She is survived by a sister, Nancy L. Hall of South Plainfield; and two nieces, Valerie Scalera of Piscataway and Pamela Martinez of South Plainfield.

Funeral arrangements were by James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

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Obituaries

Raymond J. Newman, 47

Raymond J. Newman, 47, died suddenly on Sunday, August 3 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, Ray moved to Plainfield where he had resided for the past 16 years.

While residing in New York, Ray graduated from St. Francis College in Brooklyn and was then employed with Downstate Medical Center, also in Brooklyn, for 15 years. He was currently employed with LAB CORP in Raritan as a supervisor for the Department of Chemistry for the past ten years.

Ray was an avid chess player and sports fan. He enjoyed watching baseball, football, hockey and golf.

Ray was considered a proud father to his two boys, Andrew Raymond and Matthew George, and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

He is predeceased by his father, Ray, who died in 2000.

Surviving are his beloved wife, Ann Vardy Newman; his sons, Andrew Raymond and Matthew

George; his mother, Joan (nee Syers) Newman of Spring Lake Heights; his brother, George of Connecticut; and many nieces, one nephew, and many friends who loved him dearly. Funeral services will be held today in McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ray's memory to the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA, 1340 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ 07076.

Nancy J. (Hamilton) Rautenberg

Nancy J. (Hamilton) Rautenberg of Melrose, Mass. died on Monday, July 21.

Nancy, a former resident of South Plainfield, was married to Paul Rautenberg. She was the daughter of Richard and Rose Hamilton of Wakefield, Mass. and had two sisters, Mrs. Barbara Hakioglu of Wakefield, Ma. and Mrs. Ann Mackenzie of Grapevine, Tx.

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Research Triangle Institute, a research firm in North Carolina, is seeking field interviewers to interview randomly selected household residents in the Plainfield/Middlesex/NJ09, Plainfield/New Brunswick areas. The study will start in September, and continue through the end of December 2004.

- Evening and Weekend hours
- Average 20 to 25 hours per week with a possibility of up to 40 hours per week
- Paid training (7-8 days)
- Pay range, based on experience, starting at \$12.50*
- Dependable transportation required, mileage reimbursed at .36
- No solicitation involved, although skills gained from previous sales work is helpful
- Household interviewing and/or computer experience preferred but not necessary
- Bilingual English/Spanish helpful but not required

To express an interest, call toll free 1-877-419-1767 and be prepared to enter the following 6 digit code: 314433

*All interviewers will be employed by Headway Corporate Staffing Services, under subcontract to RTI. Headway Corporate Staffing Services is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

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policereport

• On July 27 a Puha Rd. resident reported that a Century 21 sign had been placed on his lawn and a car cover had been removed and placed on a neighbor's car.

• On July 28 Barbara S. Williams, 50, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• Kathryn A. Lee, 24, of New Brunswick was arrested for driving on a suspended driver's license and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• On July 29 Chris R. Cook, 35, of Parlin was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

• A Brennan Ct. resident reported the theft of his 2000 Jeep Cherokee while away on vacation.

• On July 30 a Wickford Rd. resident reported the theft of a bike from a friend's house on Firth St.

• On July 31 the Knights of Columbus on Hamilton Blvd. reported that graffiti had been spray painted on the rear of the building.

• A Faulks Pl. resident reported the theft of her purse from her unlocked vehicle in front of Quick Chek on Sampron Ave.

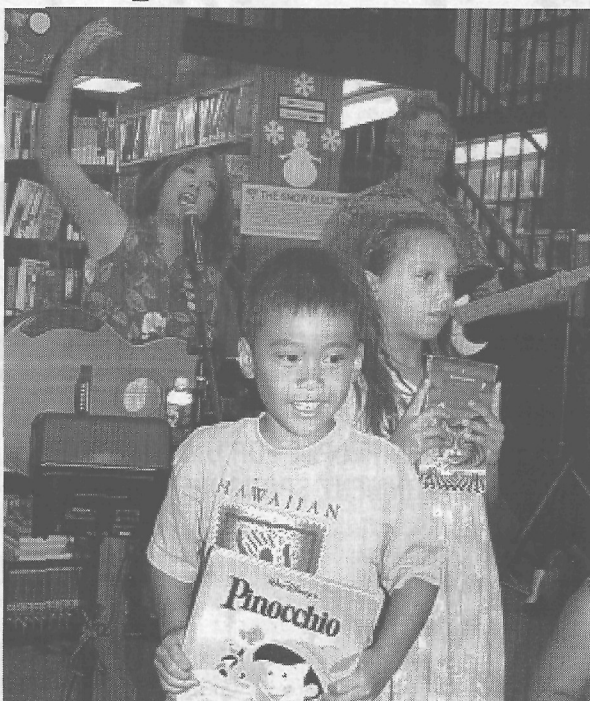
• On August 1 Insulation Materials Corp. on Metuchen Rd. reported the theft of a rear license plate from a delivery truck. It is the second time in a week that a plate had been removed from this truck.

• The Painting Station on Plainfield Ave. reported the theft of \$236 from an unlocked drawer. A black female had asked to use the phone on the counter and the co-owner noticed a petty cash envelope that was there missing shortly afterward.

• On August 2 a Dumont Ave. resident reported the theft of his bike from an open garage on So. Central Ave. An old damaged bike had been left in the street.

• On August 3 the Jr. Baseball Club reported that a white powdery substance had been thrown on the sod of the infield of field #3. Damage had also been done to field #2.

Camp Readalot Treats Kids to Sing-A-Long

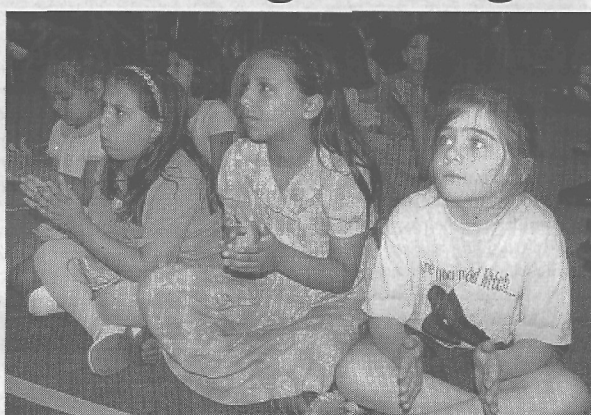


Patrick Mirasol and Kaitlyn Faustini enjoy the music of Patricia Shih.

Photos/story by Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield Library Camp Readalot's busy readers have been devouring books at a steady rate since the

program began just a few weeks ago. On July 24 the library treated the young page turners to a musical break and the children enjoyed a concert by singer/songwriter Patricia Shih. About



30 youngsters and parents clapped and sang their way through song after song. Patricia often accompanied herself on six and 12 string guitars and other instruments.

A revision of the preschool favorite "Little Bunny Foo Foo" had the audience interacting as well as anticipating the next line. Most of the songs allowed volunteers to become part of the show. Twelve youths took part in a "12 days of Christmas" spoof about book titles. By the time Patricia made her way to the last book, even the parents had given in to the giggles. A special song spoke of the importance of family roots while the youths learned to sing some of the words. The original songs bounced back and forth between silly

and playful with thought provoking ideals that even youngsters can grasp.

The award winning musician wrote her first song at age 12 and to date has written over 250 songs. Her work spans the generations with shows for adults as well as children. She has toured internationally and has appeared on TV and radio, in clubs, concerts, schools, libraries and more. She starred for a year on Cablevision's "Tell Me a Story" on the Extra Help Channel. She also and also wrote and performed the show's theme song. Her songs are recorded and performed by numerous other artists throughout the United States. For more information on Patricia Shih visit her web site at www.patriciasih.com.

Memorial Park Fundraising Reaches Halfway

(Continued from page 1)

person/family/company of their choice. People who donate \$500 or more will have their names permanently scribed on the base of the ac-

tual clock. Additionally, donors of \$500 or more will receive either a miniature desktop replica of the actual clock or a miniature flatbed truck delivering the clock. Those who

would like to donate a minimum of \$150, but less than \$500, will receive a miniature desktop replica of the actual clock.

The committee is presently preparing the final draft of names of those individuals who are entitled to be included on the military monument.

To be included on the monument you must have served in one of the branches of the military during one of the recognized wars/conflicts (theatres of operations), your permanent mailing address at the time you entered the military must have been in South Plainfield, you must have been honorably discharged and you must supply a copy of your DD-214 for confirmation purposes.

To determine if you or someone you know is eligible, contact Marie Smith at Borough Hall at (908) 226-7604, or if you would like to make a donation to this project, contact Police Chief Robert K. Merkler at (908) 226-7676 or OEM Coordinator Michael Zushma at (908) 753-3775.

South Plainfield For Sale?

(Continued from page 1)

and the applicant may explore their options.

There are three more applications which have been filed, one with the Planning Board and two with the Board of Adjustment. The proposed billboards would be located on

Durham Ave., 500 Hadley Blvd. and Bedford Ave.

The Observer contacted the DOT and asked just how many permits have been issued along the section of Rt. 287 that comes through South Plainfield, but as of presstime we have not received a reply.

Labor Day Parade

(Continued from page 1)

the contest, check out the rules on bottom of this page. Winners will receive gift certificates from area businesses, so why not make it a summer family project and enter the contest.

The evening entertainment will take place in Spring Lake Park. The band "Sound Investment" will perform in the gazebo starting at 6:30, followed by a patriotic fireworks display put on by Garden State Fireworks. Children will receive glow wristbands as they enter the park (while they last).

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Angelo D'Albis requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the construction of an open porch. Proposed 8' X 28' 8" porch lacks 30" front setback; 24.05 proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 309 Libourl Road; Block 123, Lot 7 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, August 28, 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 Planning/Zoning Office, South Plainfield Borough Hall, Monday through Thursday, between 9:00 am and 5:00 p.m.
\$35.00 1T August 8, 2003

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2ND ANNUAL

POSTER CONTEST

Illustrate your interpretation of this year's Labor Day Parade theme.

Entries must be received in the office of the South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, no later than Monday, Aug. 25, 2003. Entries will be on display at the Observer booth at the Labor Day Parade. All entrants will receive a prize. Grand prize to be announced. Contest is open to all South Plainfield residents. Posters can be no larger than 22" x 17". Any media is allowed. One entry per person. Posters will be judged on the theme, "To Honor Those Who Proudly Serve Our Country" on Monday, Sept. 1, 2003. Questions? (908) 668-0010.

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