

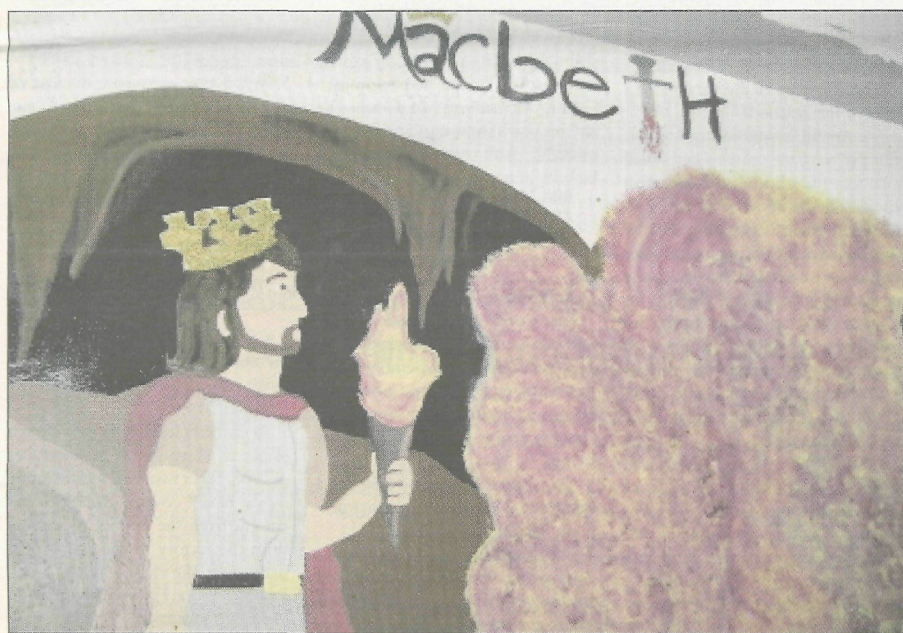
South Plainfield Observer

Box 8542

VOL. 6, NO. 50

50 CENTS

AUGUST 15, 2003



Seniors Tribute to Shakespeare Adorns High School Hallway

By Patricia Abbott

Thanks to the South Plainfield High School's Class of 2004 the English hallway has been transformed into an amazing tribute to William Shakespeare. A castle-like brick archway adorns the main hallway and continues through the halls. A simple step into the hall and one is surrounded by four of the Bard's classic works, one for each year, *Romeo and Juliet* studied in their freshman year, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth* and this year's course of study, *Hamlet*. Each classroom door is flanked by gray brick col-

umns adding an enchanting medieval touch to the ongoing collages.

Class President Brittany DeNitzio met with interested students in early May for in-depth discussions. They poured over detailed sketches before deciding to honor Shakespeare. The work started immediately after the school year ended. Over forty seniors spent the summer painting the detailed scenes. Advisor Tom Baker commented, "I've never before seen so much participation from a class!" The students worked five days a week. Their scheduled time slot was 8 a.m. to noon, but many students worked well into

the afternoon, while others returned at night to sketch and paint. DeNitzio said, "Our class was so focused and excited about the project. Usually each student works strictly on their own drawings, but this year the artists helped teach others how to paint. They were so patient and they were also great teachers. Just like this past year's Junior Prom Committee, the Senior Project was a great way of getting others involved, meeting new friends and being in complete awe of one another's remarkable talents."

Angelica Keller said, "It was a great

Continued on page 12

Police Nab Car Thief At Jersey Oil Station

Armed Robbery Occurs Same Day

By Jane Dornick

Two separate incidents last Thursday at Jersey Oil Gas Station, located on Park Ave., resulted in a burglarized car and an employee being robbed.

At 1:30 a.m. a motorist stopped South Plainfield Police Officer John Petriello, who was on patrol and advised him of a suspicious male on the Jersey Oil property. Officer Petriello pulled in the driveway just as a beige 1991 Acura was attempting to leave. He got out of his vehicle to question the driver. The driver, Choice Phillips, 23, of Plainfield, claimed he was checking on a friend's white 1990 Acura which was in the lot. During the conversation a low sounding alarm was sounding. Officer Petriello asked Phillips to step out of his car and show some identification.

When Officer Petriello approached the white Acura, he discovered the driver's side window on the ground and noticed that the frame was dam-

aged. He also noticed the radio was missing and other items in the car had been disturbed. After searching Phillips car, he found the headrests of the white Acura were the floor, along with a slim-jim type lock opener and a small flashlight.

Phillips was immediately placed under arrest for burglary, possession of stolen property, possession of burglary tools and hindering apprehension by initially giving a fake driver's license.

Later the same day, an attendant was pumping gas when a male approached him from behind. He stated, "I'm not playing with you. Give me the money." Something was then placed in the attendants back, possibly a gun. The employee handed him \$100 in cash and the man ran to the rear of the building and fled.

The suspect was described as a black male, 5'10", wearing a dark colored baseball cap, black do-rag, white t-shirt and blue jeans. As of presstime, no arrest has been made.

Everyone is Invited To New School Dedication

The South Plainfield Board of Education, in conjunction with the Administration and Faculty of Grant Elementary School and Roosevelt Elementary School, is inviting the South Plainfield community to attend the dedication ceremony commemorating the new addition at Grant Elementary School and the new Roosevelt School.

Ceremonies will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 2 at 6 p.m. at Grant Elementary School and 7 p.m. at Roosevelt Elementary School. A reception will follow at the new Roosevelt Elementary School.

Joseph Zekas Named This Year's Labor Day Parade Grand Marshal

The theme of the 46th annual Labor Day Parade "To Honor Those Who Proudly Serve Our Country" is befitting of Joseph G. Zekas, this year's nominee for Grand Marshal.

Joe is a highly decorated war veteran, having served in WWII and the Korean War. He received a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Medical Badge, Korean War Service Medal, Distinguished Unit Emblem, four Bronze Campaign Stars, a Japan Occupational Medal, an Overseas Bar and most recently the Korean Presidential Unit Citation Award.

Zekas worked for Lockheed Electronics in North Plainfield as a senior engineering administrator for 33 years, yet still managed to find the time to volunteer his services to many local organizations. He was the president of the South Plainfield Senior Citizen's Club, a Middlesex County Senior

Citizen's Home Safety Inspector, president of Our Lady of Czestochowa's Holy Name Society and a little league baseball manager. Joe also served on the Greenbrook Flood Commission and the South Plainfield Police reserves.

Currently Joe is a volunteer at the Senior Center and is a member of the Senior Advisory Committee. He is a life member of the Polish National Home and has worked at the Feast of St. Anthony at Our Lady of Czestochowa for 28 years. He also belongs to the Lockheed Star Dusters Retirement Club.

Among his other accomplishments, Zekas was a key mover in having a new Senior Center built. He spent countless hours making the center a reality and even drew up plans for the interior and presented them to the architect. Joe wanted to make sure that the center was structured to the needs of



The year's Honorary Parade Grand Marshal, Joe Zekas.

the seniors and all the rooms he proposed were included in the final layout. His hard work and dedication has been greatly appreciated by the members of the center. If you visit the center, there is a photo album which he put together,

Continued on page 12



The children attending Tiger Day Camp enjoyed a rodeo last week. See next week's Observer for story and pictures.

Mark your calendars

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest
meeting agenda

council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Thursday.

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

AGENDA MEETING PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, September 2 Thursday, September, 4

Monday, September 15 Thursday, September 18

Monday, October 6 Thursday, October 9

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

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

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

Aug. 26, Sept. 9, Sept. 23, Oct. 14, Oct. 28,

Nov. 11 (no meeting) Nov. 25, Dec. 9, Dec. 23.

zoning board of adjustment

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.

board of education meetings

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

taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-668-0538

site plan sub-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.

recreation commission

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

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

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

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday except August)

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

business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

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

traffic safety advisory commission

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

in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

IN YOUR OPINION

Submit Letters to the Editor:

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

the South Plainfield Elks for their gracious hospitality.

At this time of sorrow, the love of friends and family strengthens our hearts and helps ease the pain of our loss. We take comfort in the tremendous display of love and prayers we have received from each of you and we thank you most deeply.

God bless you all.

SINCERELY,
THE BORI, FRASER AND FRINK
FAMILIES

To The Editor,

We can call this "South Plainfield's Unsolved Mystery."

At the dedication of the new church of Sacred Heart Parish in November of 1965, I shot two 25 ft. reels of 8mm. movie film. I covered the entire ceremony, from the clergy's procession from the rectory to the church, the mass from the choir loft and when Bishop Ahr and Father Sico placed the corner stone outside.

This may not seem important to many people, but with the 100th anniversary of the parish coming in 2005, a committee is putting together memorabilia for a book. If we can find this film, we want to convert it to a video tape so many people can see it.

The two reels were put together as one and kept in a 250 ft. olive gray reel can. On the lid was written "Dedication" in red.

The film was loaned to someone for a showing to a group, as was done a few times, but not returned. The "sign-out" card has been lost, so there is no way to track it down.

What I am afraid has happened is that the person who had it either moved out of town or died. If so, someone not knowing what it was probably just threw it out.

The film has no monetary value to anyone, it is a historic item to the Parish. If you have any clue as to its whereabouts, call me at (908) 756-9654 or the Parish Center at (908) 756-0633. Any help would be appreciated.

WILLIAM (BILL) TUTHILL

To the Editor,

The 2001-02 N.J. School Report Card revealed that the median South Plainfield teacher's salary is \$63,978, while the State median is \$50,147.

We constantly hear the New Jersey Education Association's (public teachers' trade union) argument that the higher salaries will attract and retain better teachers. One would reasonably expect, then, that being that much above the state average in salaries should produce above average student performance on various state tests. However, a review of the HSPT and GEPA test scores does not reflect that. On the contrary—South Plainfield School students' scores are below State and National averages. Why is that?

Who is not up to the par: our students or our teachers?

The district is now in negotiations with the teachers' union. One would hope that the school board members would take the above facts into consideration when negotiating salaries. The board negotiating committee should also consider the healthcare premiums' increase of \$825,000 for this year alone (as reported by the Superintendent at budget meetings). It is reasonable to demand the teachers and other district employees contribute towards these increased premium costs. The average taxpayer—who pays the bill for the district—has faced changes in their healthcare plans. Even senior citizens on Medicare—so why should the teachers be immune?

It is hoped that the negotiating committee will meet its responsibility to the students and taxpayers of this community who approved the 2003/2004 budget. The credibility of the board is at stake. The future contract has to have the following provisions:

1) Recognition of low student achievements and specific demand for its improvement.

2) While negotiating wages, recognition of the fact that the district salaries are well above state average.

3) Contributions of district employees towards health care premiums.

Anything less would be a disservice to the students and taxpayers.

BOGDAN FRYSCZYNY

To The Editor:

Another season of the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop has ended and everyone who came to see each performance enjoyed our production of "Crazy for You." To those of us behind the scenes, it was especially rewarding to see the enthusiasm and pride in every cast member over the six weeks of rehearsal and performance.

Many others—a hard working stage crew, a group of talented musicians in the orchestra and the many volunteer parents and others who pitched in wherever they were needed and supported those onstage. Our appreciation and grateful thanks go out to every one of these fine individuals.

"Crazy for You" was the most challenging endeavor we've taken in our 32 years and our production staff enjoyed working with the students to learn the intricate melodies and dance steps which were some of the highlights of the show.

The students on stage deserve the

biggest accolades for their efforts, talents, attitude and enthusiasm make up the true soul of the program—and these kids deserve the best of everything available to them.

We also want to thank the Board of Education, its employees and the staffs at the high school and middle school; the businesses in town who supported us through canning and other contributions; the public works department for assisting us with our banners and anyone else who contributed in any way to our program.

A special thank you to the community of South Plainfield for supporting our program and the performing arts in our area. By attending our show they were a part of an experience that was unique and enjoyable.

And whether you had a chance to see this year's show or regret that you missed it, mark your calendars—we'll be back next year!

SINCERELY,
BILL SEESSELBERG, PRESIDENT
SUMMER DRAMA WORKSHOP

Dear Editor,

Last week's paper included an article about the AARP supporting Patrick Diegnan for Assembly. I find this ironic, especially since last month Diegnan voted for a state budget that cuts the senior citizen property tax freeze.

Yes, Patrick Diegnan voted for a budget that slashes this crucial program for our seniors.

Diegnan in his column a few weeks ago bragged how he "lost sleep" over the budget. Well, apparently he took a nap at some point, because he was snoozing when he should have been protecting the senior citizens in his district and in South Plainfield.

JAKE CATALDO

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Bori, Frink and Fraser families, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks and deepest appreciation for all the love and kindness shown to us at the passing of our beloved Danette. It is difficult to find the words to adequately convey how much your outpouring of comfort and support means to all of us.

We would like to offer special thanks to Jimmy Gustafsen and McCriscin Funeral Home; Father Igor and Father John Paul of Sacred Heart Church for their compassion and care with the funeral arrangements and mass; the Somerville Barracks of the NJ State Police and the So. Plainfield Police Department for their assistance with the funeral procession; Georgeann DiGrazia and Mohn's Florist for the beautiful floral arrangements and to

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Department, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at spobsobserver.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.

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

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South Plainfield Lions Install 2003-2004 Officers

An installation dinner was held at the Holiday Inn in South Plainfield recently. Pictured above left to right are: State Council Chairman Larry Massaro. Officers installed were Third Vice President Ron DeSclafano, Lion Tamer Mario Abbruzzese, Secretary Hank Grabarz (third term), President Bob Desch (fourth term), First Vice President Mike Zushma, Director Dieter Hollain, Treasurer Brian Capparelli and Director Harry Popik. Missing from photo is Second Vice President Peter Walsh. At their installation dinner, the Lions Club also awarded two scholarships to local students in the amount of \$3,000.

Keep Middlesex Moving (KMM) Introduces Emergency Ride Home Programs for Commuters

Keep Middlesex Moving, Inc. (KMM), the Transport Management Association for Middlesex and Monmouth Counties, is pleased to announce its newest program, Emergency Ride Home. This groundbreaking program is a benefit for commuters registered in KMM's rideshare network- an incentive that says "thank you" to commuters who help to reduce the region's tremendous traffic woes.

To qualify for the program, the commuter must work in Middlesex or Monmouth County and travel to work by carpool, vanpool or mass transit at least once a week. Once registered for KMM's Emergency Ride Home program, the commuter is entitled to three free rides home per year in instances of unexpected overtime or personal emergency.

"We are pleased to offer commuters who work in Middlesex or Monmouth County a new reason to help fight traffic congestion," said Peter Cantu, Executive Director of Keep Middlesex Moving. "Emergency Ride Home is a safety net that makes it easier than ever for commuters to rideshare. This program both encourages new people to try ridesharing and rewards those who are already doing their part."

KMM worked with Enterprise Rent-a-Car and A-1 Limousine to set up this innovative transportation program. Through contracts with Enterprise Rent-a-Car and A-1 Limousine, KMM offers commuters two options: a rental car for one day (Enterprise), or one trip home via driving service (A-1 Limousine). KMM is able to offer this great new rideshare incentive

program thanks to important funding from the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

Commuters interested in more information about transportation options or Emergency Ride Home can contact KMM at (732) 745-4368 or visit www.kmm.org.

Working in association with the Middlesex County Improvement Authority, Keep Middlesex Moving, Inc. is funded in part by the New Jersey Department of Transportation and NJ Transit, with additional support from its member base of companies and municipalities. KMM works with local government, employers and commuters to reduce traffic congestion and improve mobility, making the region of Middlesex and Monmouth Counties a better place to live, work and do business.

Driver Killed in South Clinton Ave. Car Accident

Last Thursday, at about 2 a.m., a 1999 BMW 528 owned and operated by Hitesh R. Bhagat, 29, of Edison, was traveling southbound on South Clinton Ave. near Tyler Place when it left the roadway and struck a tree. Paramedics from Mercy 6 from Muhlenberg Hospital, pronounced Bhagat dead at the scene.

Witnesses report observing his vehicle being operated at a high rate of

speed just prior to the crash. Evidence of alcohol use was found in the wreckage.

The South Plainfield Fire Department and Rescue Squad responded to the crash. The South Plainfield Police Traffic Safety Unit and the Middlesex County Prosecutors Office are investigating this crash.

Any witnesses should contact Sgt. Kevin Murtagh at (908) 226-7679.

New Exercise Classes Being Offered at Senior Center

The South Plainfield Senior Center will be offering a new health/exercise program for Seniors and their friend called "Qi Gong." Qi Gong (pronounced Chee Gong) is an ancient Chinese art that combines movement, visualization and specific breathing

patterns to promote the balanced flow of vital life flow (Qi). Qi Gong can range from being a very gentle internal practice as in health promotion, to a vigorous external practice like martial arts. In essence, the regular practice of Qi Gong can prevent and treat illness, reduce stress and establish an inner balance through the integration of the internal energies of the mind, body and spirit.

The instructor will be local resident, Tom Grant, who has been practicing Chinese Martial Arts which includes Qi Gong, acupuncture and herbalism, since 1972. Sifu Tom Grant has trained in various Kung Fu and Qi Gong styles including Hung Kuen under Sifu Chin Gum Yu, Hung Ga under Sifu Yee Chi Wai and Lo Han Chuan under Shaolin Monk Shi Yan Chang. Sifu Grant also trained in New York's Chinatown for many years and in Asia while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Class will begin on Saturday, Aug. 16 from 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at the Center. Classes are open to all seniors, their friends and family.

Music-in-the-Parks Summer Series at Spring Lake

The Middlesex County Parks Department will be presenting two more concerts at Spring Lake Park on Sunday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Concerts are free to the public.

The U.S. Recording Industry, in part, provides the instrumental music for these performances through the Music Performance Trust Funds, arranged by Local #204-#373 and Local #746, American Federation of Musicians.

Upcoming events are:

- Aug. 17-*The Verstiles*
- Aug. 24-*The Live Sound of Magic*

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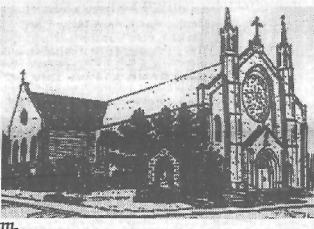
Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.
Weekdays 6:30 a.m. (except Monday) 9:00 a.m. (church)
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.
Holy Days 7 p.m. (Vigil); 7 and 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

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



Enter Observer Poster Contest

There are only two weeks left to enter the *South Plainfield Observer* Poster Contest.

The poster must interrupt this year's theme, "To Honor Those Who Proudly Serve Our Country." This can be a family project or a single project. The idea is to get everyone involved with this year's annual festivities on Labor Day.

It's very simple to enter, just create your poster in any media and bring it to the *Observer* office no later than Monday, Oct. 25.

Everyone who enters will receive a prize. The grand prize winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate from Sport World, second and third prizes are \$25 gift certificates from Sport World. Winner will also be featured on the front page of the *Observer*.

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

Any questions, call the *Observer* at 908-668-0010.

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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.*

Around Town

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.

Open House at Building Blocks Preschool

August 16

Building Blocks Preschool, located at 507B Hamilton Blvd., will hold an Open House on Saturday, Aug. 16 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Building Blocks Preschool is committed to quality care and a structured learning atmosphere for children two-and-a-half to five years old. We pride ourselves on a small family atmosphere where your child will receive individualized attention. Join us for our Open House and see what our program can offer your child! Craft projects and snacks will be provided.

Everyone who registers by Aug. 31 will receive free registration. Call (908) 405-6761 for information.

Republican Organization Monthly Meeting

August 20

The regular monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held Wednesday, Aug. 20, at 8 p.m. at the American Legion building on Oak Tree Ave.

All are invited to meet council candidates Marge Reedy and Ray Rusnak and discuss any topics that may concern the residents of South Plainfield.

SPHS Marching Band Car Wash/Fundraiser

August 23

On Saturday, Aug. 23, the South Plainfield High School Marching Band will hold a fundraiser/car wash at the South Plainfield Middle School from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For only \$5, you can get your car washed (\$6 for vans, trucks and SUVs) and at the same time, you can help to support our kids and their efforts for a terrific 2003-2004 Marching Band season. See you there!

Senior Center Atlantic City Trips

Sept. 3-Oct. 1-Nov. 5

The South Plainfield Senior Center will be running three trips to Atlantic City on Sept. 3, Oct. 1, and Nov. 5. The bus will depart from the Senior Center at 9 a.m. for the Taj Mahal. The cost is \$15 per person, and you get \$13 back from the hotel. Please stop by the Senior Center at 90 Maple Ave. to make your seat reservation. Reservations open up 30 days prior to the trip date.

For more information, call Joann at

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.... EVENTS September 28 & 29 Cape May Trip				
Adult Crafts 18 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Learn to Draw 11:30am	Bingo 10am-2pm 19 Lunch Available Ladies' Social Group 10am	Exercise & Walking 20 Club 8:45-9:45am Movie Time 10:30am AARP Crafts 1pm	Shopping Day 14 9am Video Exercise Class 9:30am-10:30am Practical Crafts 10-11am Shopping 9am 21 Video Exercise Class 9:30-10:30am Practical Crafts 10-11am	Bingo 10am-2pm 15 Pizza Lunch Bingo 10am-2pm 22 Pizza Lunch
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.				

the Senior Center at (908) 756-4135.

VFW Plans Annual Pig Roast Picnic

September 6

VFW Post #6763 will be hosting their annual picnic and pig roast on Saturday, Sept. 6 from 12 to 5 p.m., rain or shine, at the VFW Post at 155 Front Street.

There will be live music, door prizes, a moon-walk and pony rides for children. Donation for adults is \$13 if purchased in advance, \$15 at the gate, children 6 to 12 year olds are \$7 are advance or \$8 at the gate. Children five years and under are free.

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

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

Father Alphonse 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. Alphonse Stephenson

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.

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.

Theatre Trip To 'Annie Get Your Gun'

October 16

The Senior Center is running a trip to the Fiesta Dinner Theatre in Wood Ridge, NJ, on Thursday, October 16, to see *Annie Get Your Gun*. Tickets are

Senior Center EVENTS

Alzheimers Education Program

August 21

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America and Brighton Gardens of Mountainside are co-sponsoring a FREE educational program on Alzheimer's Disease on Thursday, Aug. 21. Topics include an overview of Alzheimer's Disease, early diagnosis, stages of the disease, treatment options and medications, wandering, sundowning, sleeping disturbances and communication tips for caregivers. The speaker will be Lorren Becker, director of programs and services for the 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.

CHATS Adoption Support Meeting

August 25

CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support) will meet on Monday, August 25 from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. at the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, located at 170 Watchung Ave., North Plainfield. "Twenty-seven Years in the Life of an Adoptive Mom" by Lana Noone, adoptive mother whose family's activities with the Vietnam Baby Lift have been featured in numerous magazines, books and TV shows.

Open sharing of adoption-related stories; light refreshments. Check our website at <http://community.nj.com/cc/chats> or call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 for information.

SingleFaces Labor Day Dance

August 31

SingleFaces Dances—Elegant Locations for Sophisticated Singles on Sunday, Aug. 31 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel 8-12 p.m. Cost is \$12. Celebrate the holiday with us. No work the next day!!! Raritan Center in Edison.

For more information call (732) 542-2200, directions (732) 661-1000.

Alliance Bible Church Presents Program

September 2

The Little Disciples Club at Alliance Bible Church, in conjunction with Church Communications Network, will present a live simulcast of *Bringing Up Boys* with Dr. James Dobson of Focus on the Family at Alliance Bible Church in Warren on Tuesday, Sept. 2, from 7:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. When it comes to questions about the family, it's hard to find a Christian family that doesn't turn to Dr. James Dobson.

Register for the *Bringing Up Boys* seminar on to our website at www.alliancebiblechurch.com. Registration fee is \$10. This is a suggested donation only. Space is limited. You can also register by phone, by calling (732) 469-1425.

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

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

\$39 per person and include transportation, lunch and the show.

Stop in or call the Senior Center at (908) 756-4135.

Pocono Getaway to Woodlock Pines

October 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.

— Out of Town —

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 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 the Elk's Hall, 665, Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge. For more information call (732) 297-1775.

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.



Garden Drive Residents Hold Block Party

Garden Drive residents gathered for their second annual block part on Saturday, July 12. More than 80 residents of Garden Drive attended the festivities. In addition to the delicious food that was available, both adults and children enjoyed paying volleyball, water balloon toss and spin art. There were also a variety of crafts to keep the children occupied.

South Plainfield Lions Pay Visit to Morristown Seeing Eye Foundation



Members of The South Plainfield Lions Club visited The Seeing Eye Foundation in Morristown. "The Seeing Eye" was founded in 1929. Since then, the Seeing Eye Foundation has placed over 13,000 dogs with blind people who live and work in the United States and Canada.

The South Plainfield Lions Club donated \$1,000 to The Seeing Eye Foundation in memory of their recently deceased member, George Reinhardt, a past district governor. A male German Sheppard puppy was named "George" in his memory. The puppy will live with a family for one year, where it will receive love and socialization. After a year, the puppy will return to the Seeing Eye Foundation and begin formal training as a seeing eye dog.

To make a donation in someone's memory through the South Plainfield Lions Club, please call Bill McCriscin, Club Chairman at (908) 561-8000.

Pictured in front of the main campus are: Front row, Allan Cesare, Maryellen Grabarz, Club President Bob Desch, Doris Massaro, Larry Massaro and Bill McCriscin. Back row, Hank Grabarz, Mike Grennier, Ron DeSclafani, Harry Popik and Brian Capparelli. Committee Chairman, Bill McCriscin, organized the visit.

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From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Chris Grippo

Incredibly, the summer of 2003 is coming to a close. The Library's Summer Reading Program formally ended this week and storytime will be cancelled from now until Tuesday, Sept. 23. This gives Miss Linda a chance to catch her breath after a very busy summer and plan her fall programs. However, while the Library's Summer Reading Program is over, the South Plainfield School District's is still ongoing. Students entering third, fourth, Grant School and Middle School all have reading lists created by the appropriate school. Now, while the Library does own these titles, please be aware that they might be checked out. So if you are planning on reading any of these titles, please stop in the library soon to check availability. If necessary, we might have to interlibrary loan items for you.

Moreover, this is the ideal time to remind patrons that if there is a title the library does not own, we will attempt to obtain it from another library. You can stop in or call and speak to a Reference Librarian, or submit a request through our website www.south-plainfield.lib.nj.us.

Furthermore, this is the perfect time

of the year to find local farms at which to buy fresh fruits and vegetables. If you go to the link on our website, "Websites of the Month," and click on "Roadside NJ Farm Markets," you can find local farms that sell produce and even some that will let you pick your own. This is a perfect weekend activity for the whole family and some of the farms are close, including a few in Bridgewater. This particular website will also give you information on how to choose fresh produce and recipes for using your purchases.

And finally, don't forget that we also have a multitude of travel books dealing with short getaways to squeeze in that final vacation of the summer! These include *New Jersey: Off the Beaten Path*, *25 Nature Spectacles in New Jersey*, *Quick Escapes, Philadelphia*, *Fun With the Family in Pennsylvania*, *Quick Escapes from New York City* and many more! So you can still travel these last two weeks before Labor Day. Bon Voyage!

Board of Adjustment Meeting Announced

There will be a Board of Adjustment meeting on Sept. 10 at 8 p.m. at the Senior Center, located at 90 Maple Ave.

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Rep. Ferguson Plans Town Hall Meeting in Edison

Rep. Mike Ferguson will hold a Town Hall Meeting, with 7th Congressional District residents on Friday, Aug. 15 at the Edison Job Corps Academy, located at 500 Plainfield Ave. in Edison.

Rep. Ferguson will discuss current issues in Congress, including the

economy, jobs, Iraq, the war on terror and the recently passed prescription drug benefit for seniors.

For additional information on this event, please contact Bailey Wood in Congressman Ferguson's Washington D.C. office at (202) 225-5361 or (202) 225-1788 cell.



The South Plainfield Senior Center pool players recently held a home match against the Woodbridge Seniors.

The South Plainfield Labor Day Parade Public Celebrations Committee

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at the

Start time:
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The 46th Annual Labor Day Parade

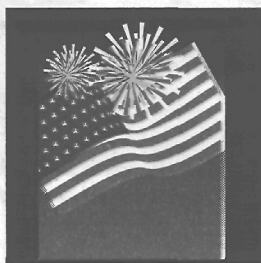
Monday, September 1

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Fireworks at dusk in
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Activities at the PAL FIELD:

- 5k Race & 1.5 Mile Walk
- Pie/Watermelon Eating Contests
- Entertainment by "Backsplash"
- Egg Toss
- Rides by the Party People
- Water Balloon Toss



Enjoy Plenty of Food at the Field!

If your organization would like to participate in the parade, or is looking for a fundraising idea and would like to have a concession in the park, contact Marie Smith at (908) 791-0735.

From the Republicans...

GOP Criticizes Diegnan for Vote to Slash Senior Program

South Plainfield senior citizens will have less money in their pockets this year thanks to a vote by 18th District Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan according to local Republican leaders. When Diegnan and fellow Democrats in the New Jersey Legislature voted for the state budget last month, they also voted to cut the senior citizen property tax freeze program. The program protects seniors, many of whom are on fixed incomes, from skyrocketing property taxes.

"Diegnan, who claims he is a friend of seniors, voted to gut this vital program," said Bob Thuring, candidate for 18th District Assembly. "The budget he endorsed hurts seniors and raises taxes on those least able to afford it. This is the wrong way to balance a budget."

"This is a slap in the face to our seniors," added South Plainfield Borough Council Candidate Ray Rusnak. "I understand Trenton under the McGreevey administration is having budget problems, but balancing the budget on the backs of seniors is no way to achieve fiscal responsibility."

The property tax freeze program was

among a host of programs cut when the Legislature voted in July on the State's multi-billion-dollar budget. It comes at a time when McGreevey's popularity is sinking in the polls. A recent Quinnipiac poll showed the governor with only a 35 percent approval rating among New Jersey voters. In the same poll, 49 percent of voters said they are unhappy with the governor's performance.

"I was shocked when I read about this cut," said Marge Reedy, also a candidate for South Plainfield Borough Council. "I hope Diegnan realizes he made a horrible blunder and votes to restore this vital program, especially since he claims to care about seniors. In fact, just last week Diegnan put out a press release touting his support for senior citizen programs. His vote on the budget belies everything he said."

All 37 members of the Republican caucus in the State Assembly opposed the budget for a variety of reasons, including the cut to the senior citizen tax freeze. Many of these same Assembly members plan to offer bills restoring funding when the Legislature reconvenes this fall.

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Sports

SP Golf Association's Open Golf Tournament Results

The South Plainfield Golf Association (SPGA) held its Ninth Annual Golf Tournament on Aug. 6 at Bunker Hill Golf Course. This was the ninth annual golf tournament held for the benefit of the South Plainfield High School Golf Team. There was almost a full roster with 124 golfers registering for the tournament. The weather was beautiful and everyone enjoyed a great day of golf and fun. Food and beverage was served throughout the day and special thanks in this category goes to an outstanding crew of Sal ("Bam") Severini, Jay Copolla, Chet Czaplinski, and Jimmy Patti. They certainly know how to feed and entertain the guests! Thanks to Lois Severini for donating 400 of her special homemade meatballs!!

Prizes were awarded for both men and women, including Low Gross Women (Darlyne Raciti), Low Gross Men (Jason Bataille), Low Net Women (Christina Coleman), Low Net Men (Richard O'Connor), Low Team Score (Joe Campana, Bill White, Kevin Brady, Irv Brown), Longest Drive Women (Rose DeAndrea), Longest Drive Men (Jason Bataille), Closest to the Pin (Mike DiCindio). There was a special hole-in-one prize (Infiniti FX35 SUV) sponsored by Ray Catena. Nobody took home this prize but there were a couple people that came within a couple feet of the Pin!

The SPGA wants to thank its many Sponsors. Platinum Sponsors were Armpco Office Machines, Charlie's Ice Cream Factory, DeAndrea Associates, Flanagan's, Frank's Automotive Ser-

vice, Grotto Engineering, Howard Paving, Jimmy Patti Construction, Oak Tree-Buy Rite Liquors, The Prisco Group, Wesco-Wahl Industries, and Zensky Electrical Contractor. Gold Sponsors were Arbor Interiors, Disch Tree Experts, ECI Communication, Elizabeth Contracting Corporation, Galaxy Steel Door Frame, Inc., Jafco Supplies, JDM Trucking, John Cecchetti Insurance, Reydel Volkswagen, Roma Foods, and TeleCable, Inc. Silver Sponsors were Absolute Fire Protection, Butrico's Auto Body, Caruso-Dellomo Construction, Columbia Bank, Di-Lex Trucking, Inc., Federated Fire Services, Italian-American Progressive League, Nischwitz + Co., Park Avenue Cleaner, Plainfield Animal Hospital, Staats Auto Body, T.E. Peloquin Electrical, The Hess Group, Thomas E. Hood, Twin City Pharmacy, and Walter Abrams. Bronze Sponsors were Emile DeVito, Jersey Tank Fabrications, Inc., NBTY Inc./Nutro labs, North Stelton Lumber, Renato Biribin, Santoro and Santoro Attorneys, and Vail Hardware. Beverage Sponsor was Skrocki Memorial Home. Hospitality Sponsors were Joe and Rose Marie DeAndrea and Valley National Bank. Special Sponsors were 1-800-FLOWERS, Angelo's Ice, Bagel Pantry, Farmstead Golf Club, Frichoffers, Fujitsu Consulting, GE Capital, Halls Motor Freight, High Bridge Hills Golf Club, MASDA, Pebble Creek Golf Course, Penske Trucking, Sal's Spirit Shoppe, Sand Barrens Golf Course, Southmoore Golf Course, South Plainfield Booster Club, Sportworld, and VA Tramitano.

The SPGA and The High School Golf Team looks forward to the support of all the Golfers and Sponsors at next year's 10th Annual. The scores for each player and other tournament results can be viewed at the SPGA web site (www.spga.org).

Varsity Cheerleading Preview

By Tim Morgan

Cheerleading is a unique sport. It can't be measured in or by numbers, there are no win/loss records or conference or state championships, and no games or meets or matches against other schools take place (except in Competition Cheerleading). However, it does require hours upon hours of preparation for games/meets/matches, and it encourages qualities, principles, and togetherness.

Ironically, one of the reasons that cheerleading is such a unique sport is because the NJSIAA chooses not to recognize it as one. For whatever reasons the NJSIAA chooses to take this stance, they don't discourage the Tigers from treating it as one.

Head Coach (note that this term, which is indigenous to sports, is accepted by everyone) Georgeann Larsen is entering her 12th year as a cheerleading coach. She was a cheerleader when she went to SPHS and is glad that she is able to give something back to it. She said that she enjoys "being around the kids" and that she wants to instill in them the same ideas given to her when she was an athlete – commitment, dedication, and hard work.

Coach Larsen fervently encourages the Tigers to give a full, one hundred percent effort, which she said they willingly do. She said that one of the best things her athletes can learn is that they can reach the best of their abilities when they practice with their hearts. That is the attitude that allows them to have eight dances, eight cheers, about one hundred chants, and myriad stunts at their disposal. And being able to work and communicate effectively with each other without dissension is another important thing the Tigers manage to do.

It takes time to be able to build the kind of arsenal the Tigers have. They have been practicing every Wednesday since May and, of course, will practice several times a week come the last week of August. Practicing demands working on lots of techniques, including conditioning, stunt work, dancing, jumping drills, cheering, quick movements, and working in unison in consistent, steady motions.

One thing the Tigers intend to do this year is increase their availability to sports other than football. Another is to simply enjoy their season while fostering the success of the fall sports.

Currently, there are 27 people on the roster, the breakdown being 25 girl cheerleaders, one boy cheerleader, and one girl as the tiger. The seniors are Elaine Alexander, Marilyn Alexander, Kaitlin Bundy, Shannon Boyles, Kelly Butrico, Kristie Butrico, Christinna DelGenio, Arielle Fumosa, Quentin Jackson, Wendy Kollarik, Margaret Lay, Kristina Lotonio, Kerry Mackey, Jessica Rodger (who will be the tiger), Carly Stoeckel, Meagan Wilson, and Robin Zushma. The juniors are Mallory Christ, Kaitlynn Disch, Melanie Foscolo, Allia Ghanim, Erin Gyuris, Eva Humber, Lisa Primavera, and Alisha Stasenko. The sophomores



Tim Morgan, Jr

are Jenny Cheng and Juliane Hudak.

Amy Curcio is the Junior Varsity Coach, and Jennifer Orzepowski is the Competition Cheerleading Coach.

So what does it take to be a cheerleader? In a nutshell, school spirit. According to Larsen, the main duty of being a cheerleader is supporting the school and its sports, but there is more than that. The Tigers work more for fostering awareness and enthusiasm of SPHS athletics, football in particular, than for themselves. Examples are decorating the high school hallways on game days, getting the crowd involved in the excitement of the game and increasing their enjoyment of it with their performances, pushing attendance, and facilitating the revival of the Thanksgiving Day game against rival North Plainfield. The reward for the Tigers, according to Larsen, is knowing that they have done their part to help their team – if the team wins, it enriches the feeling even more.

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Sports

Notes from the South Plainfield Golf League

-Submitted by Bob Nilan

Mark Dugan of KC's Korner was absolutely superb in firing the low round of the season, a marvelous two-under par 31 that included an eagle on the fourth hole and birdies on 1, 3, and 8. Mark's partner, Tony Cotone, Jr., came through with a 37 as KC's Korner defeated Masters, 14-6. Danny Griffin of Masters had a fine even-par round of 33 while teammate Al Szumski posted a 38 in a losing effort.

National Division leader Aiello Chiropactic soundly defeated their first-place counterpart in the American Division, Witty's Liquors, 18-2. Fred Kirchofer and Ed Banach both shot 36's to lead Aiello.

Plainfield Animal Hospital had an easy 13-7 win over Patti's Construction, who played with one man short. Mike Sikanowicz and Keith Steele had 38's to move PAH back into first place in the American Division, a half-game ahead of Witty's.

Frank Matthews, with his best round of the year by far, an impressive 35, lead Sport & Social to a 13-7

victory over Hank's Hackers. All the members of Hank's posted solid rounds-Wayne Hanrahan had a 38 and Hank Gianfresco, John Cacciatore and Kevin Boyce had 39's. Unfortunately, their collective efforts were not enough to offset the terrific performance by Matthews.

There were two lopsided 9-0 wins in each of the two-man matches between Pornovets and Twin city, but it was Pornovets that won the crucial final two overall medal points to eke out an 11-9 victory. Jay Coppola continued his excellent play for Twin City with a 35 and Dave Mancini scored a 37.

Dale Dube led the way with a 39 as the Elks downed the VFW, 15-5. Al Tillotson earned medalist honors for the VFW.

Low scores for the night: Mark Dugan-31, Danny Griffin-33, Frank Matthews-35, Jay Coppola-35, Fred Kirchofer-36, Ed Banach-36, Tony Cotone, Jr.-37, Dave Mancini-37, Al Szumski-38, Wayne Hanrahan-38, Mike Sikanowicz-38, Keith Steele-38, Kevin Boyce-38, John Cacciatore-39, Hank Gianfresco-39 and Dale Dube-39.

League Standings:

American Division	W	L	T
PAH	8	4	0
Witty's	7	4	1
Elks	6	5	1
Pornovets	5	6	1
Masters	5	6	1
Sport & Social	5	7	0
National Division	W	L	T
Aiello	9	2	1
KC's Korner	7	4	1
Hank's Hackers	5	5	2
Twin City	5	6	1
VFW	3	8	1
Patti's	2	10	0

Battle of the Badges Charity Softball Game

The annual Battle of the Badges Charity Softball Game, sponsored by the South Plainfield Elks Handicapped Children's Commission will be held on Sunday, Aug. 24 starting at 3 p.m. at the PAL Field.

The South Plainfield Volunteer Firemen will be pitted against the South Plainfield Police Department. This annual event is a must for all residents to attend. The rivalry is between the police department and firemen promises an interesting afternoon and all the proceeds go to the Elks Handicapped Children's Fund.

This year's softball game will be played on the field directly behind the PAL Building.

Garden State Baseball Fall League Open for Registrations

The Garden State Baseball Fall League is now open for registrations for the start of the 2003 Fall League. Teams interested in playing in a competitive wood bat league with nationally advertised tournaments are wanted.

Teams ages Freshman, JV, Varsity and College Unlimited will play Sundays and some Saturdays starting after Labor Day weekend, Sept. 6 and 7.

More information about the league can be found on their web site located at www.gardenstatebaseball.com and by sending an email (checked daily) to johngsbl@aol.com.

They can also be reached at (888) 765-0529.



After finishing last season at 2-8, the Sr. Vipers 12 year old team turned it around to win this year's championship with a record of 8-3. They beat the Monmouth Yankees 20-10 for the Division Championship and the Long Hill Blaze 11-2 for League Championship. Congratulations to all players for a great season. Team Manager, Dominic Papa, Coaches: Pat Muglia, Pat Kelly, Tom Pryor, Al Kunie and Al Czech. Bottom Row: Jeff Pryor, Dominic Papa, Nick Levendusky, Steve Wiczorek. Middle Row: Garrett Kelly, A.J. Kunie, Josh Rivera and Mike Muglia. Top Row: Tramane Miller, Michael Dezmin and Taylor Curtis.

By Kevin Lykes

junior baseballclubnotes



Dear members:

As this season comes to a conclusion so too does my term as SPJBC commissioner. This past year has been a most challenging, one caused mostly by the unfavorable weather conditions last fall and this spring.

Every single scheduled special event, beginning with opening day, was rained-out. Then the rescheduled dates were also rained-out. The weather also caused an extensive setback in the reconstruction of field 4 from the fall to early spring, delaying the Pony season start. Inclement weather was responsible for a significant shortfall at the snack stand as well, with everyone rained-out on the weekends, or watching games from their cars in the early and later parts of the season.

When we were finally able to play, the absence of a head of Buildings & Grounds presented another obstacle. Because of the efforts of our core membership, and you know who you are, we were able to get in most of our season, faring better than numerous other leagues around our area.

Even with our inability to complete the playoffs in two age groups, all the weather difficulties and several other hurdles, the club will enter the 2004 season in the black and in reasonably good shape. We will, however, face some huge challenges this fall to get all of our fields back into the condition that we are all used to. As I said, the extreme weather took it's toll this year and despite our best efforts our stressed fields are now showing it. Your new commissioner, Lee Flanagan, will be looking for all the help he can get to put the complex to bed for the winter in the proper condition, so that they are ready to go next April.

Please keep in touch by attending the regular meetings on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m., and by checking the club website at www.spjbc.com. Doing so will keep you up to date with scheduled off-season plans regarding work projects, registration info and requirements for coach selection. Remember, the operation of this club is not limited to the four months of our season. Year-round planning is required to make for a successful season next spring.

As this will be my last message as commissioner, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all of the club members who have helped make the past two seasons enjoyable and successful. There are too many of you to name everyone, but the list includes all who served as board members, league directors, committee heads and members, snack stand captains and field captains, as well as all who donated professional services from their own businesses. There are several individuals who rate a special mention for all the time and dedication they have given to the club over the last two seasons: Stacy Lake, President of the Women's Auxiliary; Danny Wasnick and Lee Flanagan, both served as Tournament Directors; Anthony Romano, who was in charge of the snack stand operation and last but not least, Dennis Moskal, who headed Buildings & Grounds for the 2001 and 2002 seasons. Although not officially in charge during 2003, he bore much of the burden of getting the complex ready for play.

Believe me when I tell you that these positions are vital to the club and require as much time as would any side business. The individuals who took on this responsibility truly deserve a huge thanks, from both myself, and the general membership of the SPJBC.

Finally let me mention some quickly upcoming scheduled activities: Fall baseball is slated to start after Labor Day. There will be several age groups. Time to register is getting short. Contact the club for details. The club picnic is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 6, 12 noon at the complex. Complimentary food and drink will be provided and awards from the regular season will be handed out. Come out and enjoy a good time, hopefully it won't be rained-out. Also the 50th anniversary dinner-dance is scheduled for Friday evening, Sept. 19 at the Woodbridge Sheraton. Attendance is limited, so get your reservations in soon, as time is running out. Details are on the website, or you can contact me directly at (908) 756-3671.

In closing, let me wish Lee Flanagan and the new incoming board all the best for the upcoming season and beyond. I'm sure that the SPJBC will continue to enjoy the same success under their direction that we have experienced over the first 50 years.

SINCERELY, KEVIN LYKES, COMMISSIONER, 2002-2003

Jr. Baseball Club Hosted State Finals

The South Plainfield Jr. Baseball Club had the honor of hosting the 9 year-old N.J. Cal Ripkin State Final Championship for the first time recently. The winner went to the regional championships in Stephensville, Md. South Plainfield's 9 year-old team was eliminated in a previous game. A representative from Dunkin Donuts was on hand to give out free rain hats and donuts. Dunkin Donuts is a sponsor of Babe Ruth Little League Baseball which includes the Cal Ripkin division.

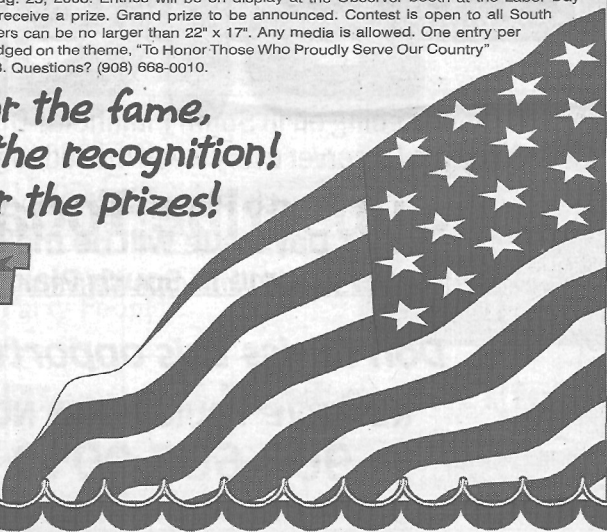
ENTER THE OBSERVER'S "To Honor Those Who Proudly Serve Our Country" 2ND ANNUAL POSTER CONTEST

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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Sports

Girls All Star 10 and Under Place Second in Tournament



Girls Ponytail 10 and under All Star team took second place in the South Plainfield tournament.

Pictured above: front (L to R): Colleen Broderick, Jessica Jazikoff, Bianca DiDolce, Lauren Conrad and Andrea Muglia. Center (L to R): Jayme Bishop,

op, Kelly Pauls, Courtney Irber, Kristy Crilley, Sam Maiorino and Elizabeth Gratta. Top (L to R): Kaitlin Muglia, Coaches Ray Jazikoff, John DiDolce, Tim Crilley and James Bishop. Missing from picture is Ashante Bishop.

Girls 14 and Under All Stars Finish with 30-4 Record



The 2003 South Plainfield 14 and under Softball All Stars recently concluded their season with an overall record of 30-4. They won tournaments in South Plainfield, Readington and came in third in Little Falls and Colonia. The girls were undefeated regular season champions of the Parkway League.

Players pictured above are: Megan Boyle, Dorothy Cameron, Kelly

Downes, Stephanie Falzarano, Elizabeth Flannery, Lauren Fry, Donna Garcia, Katie Hardy, Amber Hartman, Carlie Kazimir, Jennifer Little and Melissa Szeliga. Head Coach is Rich Szeliga, assistants are Mike DiMeglio, Tom Hardy and Ken Fry.

The coaches expressed their pleasure in working with the talented youths over the summer and expressed their congratulations.



Ponytail C League Lady Cougar—Team players are: Jennifer Barone, Colleen Broderick, Jena Cianfrocca, Samantha DeVico, Jessica Frank, Amanda Joe, Kelly McLaughlin, Andrea Muglia, Erin O'Connor, Amanda Pileggi, Taylor Rorke, Michele Schuetz, Kelly Walsh and Allyson White. Coach is Liz O'Connor



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, Aug. 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—Oct. 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 Sharon Miller. Attention SPPA members, the fundraising committee is looking for volunteers to help out during the auction. If you are able to assist in any way, 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, contact any member of the S.P. Parents' Ponytail Association or contact me via our website SPPONYTAIL.com.

Ponytail Softball Website—Visit Ponytail Softball online anytime at our

website- SPPONYTAIL.com. You'll find the latest news/events, team rosters, schedules, pictures, information on our Parents' Association, and All-Star teams. Please feel free to contact me by keying on the email link Webmasterspponytail.com found on our home page.

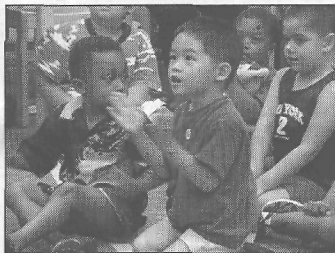
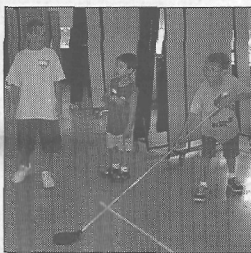
Register Now For Fall Ball!

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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Obituaries

Richard L. Bauer, 68

Richard L. Bauer died suddenly on Monday, Aug. 4 while walking in Marlboro.

Born in Bayonne, he has resided in South Plainfield for the past 37 years.

He served with the US Army Corps of Engineers and was honorably discharged in 1963.

Rich had graduated from the Institute of Practical Drafting in Newark. He worked in the aerospace industry as a draftsman and design engineer for over 40 years. Most of his career, over 25 years, had been with Smiths Industries Aerospace & Defense Systems of Florham Park, where he was the section head of Design Documentation. He later worked for GEC Marconi Systems of Wayne, where he was the supervisor of Documentation Services. He retired in 1999.

He was a member of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield.

Surviving are his wife of 45 years, Joan M. Bauer; a daughter and son-in-law, Amy and Leo Sinicin of Marlboro and two grandchildren, Jake and Arielle Sinicin.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations may be made to the Humane Society, 75 Rock Ave., Plainfield, NJ or to the American Heart Assoc., 2550 Rt. 1, North Brunswick, NJ 08902.

Margaret A. (Trocodeo) Leo, 91

Margaret A. (Trocodeo) Leo died on Monday, Aug. 4 at Genesis Elder Care in Westfield.

Mrs. Leo was born in Plainfield, where she resided for many years before settling in South Plainfield in 1950.

First Anniversary In Loving Memory of Grant A. Smith



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Your wife Love & son David



Mrs. Leo was a homemaker for most of her life. Prior to this, she worked for Western-Electric in Kearny as an executive secretary for 15 years.

She is a former communicant of St. Stanislaus RC Church in Plainfield and a former member of their Holy Name Rosary Society.

Mrs. Leo is a former member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens and the Middlesex County Senior Citizens.

She is predeceased by her husband, Ralph Leo, Sr., who died in 1990; three sisters, Mary Turcicrone, Rose Baumpene, Minnie Trocodeo and a brother, Thomas Trocodeo.

Surviving is her daughter, JoAnn L. Lyons of Toms River; a son, Ralph J. Leo, Jr. of North Plainfield; two sisters, Lucille Hall and Louise Schumacher of South Plainfield; and two brothers, Dominick and John Trocodeo of South Plainfield. Also surviving are two grandchildren, Gia and Aaron.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin home For Funerals.

Donations in her memory may be made to the charity of your choice.

Timothy J. Gartland, 72

Timothy J. Gartland died on Tuesday, Aug. 5 at the Passaic Beth Israel Hospital in Passaic.

Born in Bayonne, he grew up in Piscataway and has resided in South Plainfield for the past 42 years.

Tim had been a stero typer and had worked for 15 years at the former Art Color Printing Co. of Dunellen until the company closed in the early 1960's. He later worked at various newspapers throughout New Jersey. He retired eight years ago.

He was a member of the Graphic Communication Int. Union Local 18 and was a Navy Veteran, having served during the Korean War during which he had been stationed at various ports around the world.

Tim was a life member of the VFW Memorial Post 6763, a member of the BPO Elks Lodge 2298 and of the Sacred Heart Parish, where he was a former usher and a former member of the Holy Name.

His son, Timothy, died in 1978. He was also predeceased by his sisters and brothers, Mary Maier, Theresa Staats, James, Joseph and Peter Gartland.

He is survived by his wife of 45

years, Liberta "Bert" Gartland; five daughters and sons-in-law, Karen and Michael Piersanti of South Plainfield, Susan and Harold Bolton of North Plainfield, Deborah and Dino Miller of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Janice and Severino Baratta of South Plainfield and Joanna and Edward Gibbons of Edison; a son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Karen Gartland of Davies, Fla.; a sister, Joan Phillips of North Branch; a brother, John Gartland of Neilcrest, Fla. and 12 grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Minnie (Huffman) Antini, 79

Minnie (Huffman) Antini died on Monday, Aug. 4, at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Mrs. Antini was born in Collin Springs, NC. After WWII, when she met her husband, she settled in Plainfield, where she resided for many years before moving to Middlesex in 1995.

She had worked for over 20 years in the production department as a coil

winder for Lockheed Electronics in North Plainfield. She retired 25 years ago.

She was predeceased by her sister, Mildred Burke.

Surviving are her husband of 60 years, Sal Antini; two daughters and sons-in-law, Sandra Lee and Gary Mirsky of Clinton and Celest and Robert Ruzak of Rahway; a sister, Aleam Moore of Jamestown, NC; three grandchildren, John Gorman, Debbie Mollo and Christian Ruzak and two great grandchildren, Jacob and Justin Mollo.

Kyliegh Lynn Geurts

Kyliegh Lynn Geurts, 4 week old baby daughter of Gregory and Lisa Pereira-Geurts, died on Tuesday, Aug. 5 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

In addition to her parents, surviving are her maternal grandfather, Rui Pereira of Highland Park; maternal grandmother and her husband, Kathy and Greg Meyers of South Brunswick; paternal grandparents Margarit and Hermann Geurts of South Plainfield; and several aunts and uncles and many cousins.

Funeral services were held at the

McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Kennedy Krieger Institute, 707 No. Broadway, Room 530, Baltimore, Md. 21205, Attn: Dr. Hugo Moser.

Philip J. Russo, Sr., 74

Philip J. Russo, Sr. of South Plainfield died on Wednesday, Aug. 6 at home.

Philip was born and raised in Plainfield before moving to South Plainfield 35 years ago.

He was a carpenter in the maintenance department at the Busch Campus of Rutgers University in New Brunswick for 20 years before retiring in 1991. Prior to that, he was a partner in A.I.P. Construction Company in Plainfield.

Philip enjoyed his daily walks with his wife in Spring Lake Park.

Philip served his country as a staff sergeant in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. He was a communicant of Our Lady Czestochowa Church in South Plainfield.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 50 years, Mary (Molly) Appezato

Continued on next page

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Obituaries

(Continued from previous page)

Russo; two sons, Philip J., Jr. and his wife Heidi Russo of South Bound Brook and Anthony and his wife Sarika Russo of South Plainfield; two daughters, LeeAnn and her husband Alan Graziano of South Plainfield and Diane E. Russo of South Plainfield; a brother, Elpedio (Apy) Russo of Plainfield; a sister, Rachel Ciotta of Dunellen; his dearest grandchildren, Philip III, Jessica, Christopher, Brittany, Alan, Shelly, Kaitlyn, Jay Jr., Alyssa, Megan, Michael and Danielle and his great grandchildren, Brooke and Summer.

Funeral services were held at James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

Ronald O. Bengivenga, 60

Ronald O. Bengivenga died on Saturday at his home.

Born in Plainfield, Mr. Bengivenga has resided in Plainfield for most of his life.

He had been a veteran of the

United States Marine Corps, serving in various locations all over the world from 1960 to 1964.

A shipping manager for 18 years with the William Zinsser Company of Somerset, Mr. Bengivenga retired in 1996.

He was a member of the Alliance Bible Church in Warren and was active with their music ministry.

He is survived by his two sons, Ronald E. of Plainfield and Edward and his wife, Sharon, of Raritan; two daughters, Rhonda and her husband Joseph Spera of Manville and Loree Bengivenga of Manville; his parents, Michael and Helen (Olsen) of Plainfield; his sister, Linda Falloon of Louisiana and his brothers, Anthony of Beach Wood and Michael of South Carolina.

Also surviving are seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCrisky Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Disabled American Veterans National Foundation, 3725 Alexandria Pike Cold Spring, KY, 41076.

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police report

Carol Pl. Home Burglarized

Last Thursday afternoon a Carol Pl. resident reported that their home had been broken into. Cash and a gold watch were taken.

The suspect entered the home through a rear bathroom window which was accessible from the deck. Two small holes were punched out of the screen to gain access.

Once inside, the bedroom had been entered and a white envelope containing \$260 in cash was removed from a night stand. The envelope was then left on a bed pillow. A gold plated watch was also removed from a watch box on a shelf in the room. The suspect then left through the bathroom window.

A suspicious male had been reported in the area, but no arrest has been made. • On August 5 a Camden Ave. resident reported the theft of Huffy Glacier mountain bike from their driveway.

Other Police News

• On August 6 Terez Nicole Miller, 28, of North Plainfield was arrested for receiving stolen property. She was driv-

ing a stolen vehicle.

• April Renee Harris, 21, of Hampton, Va. was arrested on a warrant out of Newport News Va. as a fugitive from justice at a motor vehicle stop.

• On April 7 Toby Richard Gaster, 46, of South Plainfield was arrested for possession of hypodermic needles.

• A Park Ave. resident reported the theft of a 1992 Saturn from their driveway.

• An Eleanor St. resident reported that the front drivers side window of her vehicle was shattered while stopped on Rahway Ave.

• On August 9 a Franklin Ave. resident reported that a front window of their home had been broken by a small red rock.

• On August 11 Arnold Manresa, 41, of Elizabeth was arrested for terroristic threats and assault on a warrant out of Bound Brook.

• Riley Elementary School reported that a window had been broken on the east side of the school.

• An employee of Hamseema Corp. on Helen St. reported that the drivers side window of their vehicle had been smashed. Nothing was taken.

Joe Zekas Named This Year's Labor Day Parade Grand Marshal

Continued from page 1
beginning with the demolition of the old gas station followed by photos of

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Brad Bullard requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the proposed 2nd floor addition, lack 30' front setback, 25' proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 193 Garden Drive; Block 174, Lot 58 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, September 11, 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 15, 2003

each stage of the construction, up until the completion of the building.

Joe and his wife, Dolores, have lived in South Plainfield for 44 years and raised five children; Patricia, Diane, Richard, Joann and Joseph Jr. They are also the proud grandparents of six grandchildren. When asked about being chosen Grand Marshall of this years parade, Joe took a moment and said, "I'm speechless. It's an honor and I feel humbled." He was looking forward to marching in the parade with the Korean War Veterans from the VFW, but now he will have a completely different perspective.

Not only has Joe Zekas proudly served our country, but he has and continues to serve the entire community of South Plainfield.

Seniors Tribute to Shakespeare Adorns High School Hallway



Continued from page 1

way for everyone to get a little closer and to do something that will remain in the school for at least another five years."

Ten years of art lessons helped Jacklene Prongay create a wondrous piece featuring Macbeth. She said, "I think the walls came out really nice and bring a lot of interest to William Shakespeare. There used to be books painted on the wall of the stories read by the class of 1999, but ours are open and full of action. I never knew we had so many artists in our class until we all got together and did this." Jacklene echoed the sentiments of Angelica, "I really do believe that we are getting to know each other better because of this project. Most of us are in different classes and we are so busy with school, extracurricular activities, work, and getting ready for college we never have anytime to talk or just hang out with each other, this is one memory I will

always remember about South Plainfield High School."

Principal Tony Massaro said, "Over the years I have learned to not be amazed by our students. However, this year's Senior Project surpasses even my wildest expectations. Any student of the class of 2004, any alumni, any parent or teacher could not be anything but 'blown away' by the project. On a very personal note, I am very proud of these young men and woman. If this is any indication, then this should be a terrific year in the history of South Plainfield High School."

DeNitzio summed up the project by defining the Class of 2004 as a team. She said, "I have never seen so much dedication, enthusiasm and energy. I'm so proud to be given the opportunity to lead such hardworking, loyal peers. By spending many long summer days together, we've been able to find the best in each other. It's truly unbeliev-

able what can be accomplished when working as a team."

Artists include the Class Officers: Brittany DeNitzio-President, Miguel Garcia-Vice President, Kristie Butrico-Treasurer, Jessie Rodger-Secretary, Amanda Rastelli-Student Council President, Ryan Decker-Student Council Vice President, Danny Sierzega, Shari-lane Sangster, Wajdi Kanj, Katherine Kaczka, Chelsea Falato, Kaitlin Bundy, Christopher Abbott, Claire Dolling, Samantha Gentile, Amy Magnier, Danielle Aronowitz, Greg Garbowski, Kristina Latonio, Earl Marcelo, Siobhan Delaney, Sandra Amaya, Shade Coleman, Shannon Boyles, Ashley Ritchey, Cha Magot, Angelica Keller, Jenn Martinez, Pauline Lee, Jacky Arango, Vinnie Carubia, Liz Carney, Steve Mandes, Tom Holowka, Jacklene Prongay, Lauren Smithline, Nick Figler, Chiara Tomei, Danielle Nobile and Geraldine Ascencio.

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