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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 6, NO. 51

50 CENTS

AUG 22 2003

AUGUST 22, 2003

Police Surprise Car Thieves; Give Chase

Last Wednesday morning police were called on a report of a suspicious incident in the parking lot of Innovative Packaging on Durham Ave. Upon arrival, police noticed a red Acura which had been reported stolen from Perth Amboy earlier that day. A witness saw the suspects abandon the Acura and leave in a red Honda. The area was searched for the vehicle with no results.

Detectives James Parker and Gary Kline set up surveillance of the abandoned stolen vehicle in the

event the suspects' return to pick it up. Approximately 40 minutes later, the suspects returned to the parking lot to retrieve the stolen vehicle. As Det. Parker approached the driver of the Honda and ordered him out of the vehicle, two occupants fled on foot. Det. Parker reached in through the driver's open window and attempted to detain the driver. With Det. Parker still holding onto him, the driver sped away. Det. Parker was thrown from the vehicle, resulting in an injury to his right arm and left leg.

As Det. Kline attempted to block the path of the fleeing vehicle, his car collided with the rear of the suspect's car. The suspect fled onto Rt. 287 South at a high rate of speed, lost control of his vehicle, struck a fence and came to a stop on the median. Det. Kline then placed the driver under arrest. The vehicle they were attempting to escape with was reported stolen from Sayreville.

An extensive search of the Hadley Road area was conducted for the two remaining suspects. Det. Parker and

Lt. Paul Brembt arrested without further incident one of the individuals who was hiding in a rear yard. A State Police helicopter was called to assist in the search for the remaining suspect in a heavily wooded area off of Hadley Rd. with no results. Piscataway Police also assisted in the search.

A short time later, a resident of the Traditions Residential Complex on New Durham Rd. reported that his vehicle, which had been left running in the parking lot, had been

stolen. The car was described as a gray Ford Focus, NJ license plate LHT25Z. Police believe that the fleeing suspect was responsible for the motor vehicle theft.

The driver of the stolen vehicle was identified as Edwin Rodriguez, 18, a Perth Amboy resident. He was charged with aggravated assault on a police officer, two counts of possession of a stolen motor vehicle, possession of burglary tools and eluding police. The passenger was identified

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Second Billboard Gets OK

South Plainfield is about to get its second billboard along Rt. 287. Last Tuesday the Planning Board approved the application submitted by Klein Outdoor Advertising, to construct a billboard on the Caffè Piancone Restaurant property.

The applicant's hearing was continued from last month's meeting so that the applicant might find a way to move the proposed billboard that was in a direct line with traffic on South Clinton Ave. approaching Hamilton Blvd. Klein returned last Tuesday with several alternatives, one of which was to move the original placement of the billboard 120 feet to the east, thus placing it behind Caffè Piancone, not on the side. Thus, traffic approaching Hamilton Blvd. from South Clinton would not be directly in their site.

According to David Klein, owner of Klein Outdoor Advertising, the preparation and construction of a new billboard runs approxi-

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Borough Gets \$250K Grant for Park Cleanup



New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell presents a check for \$250,000 to Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan. Also pictured are Councilmen Bob Cusick, James Vokral, Ray Petronko, Mayor Dan Gallagher, John Johnson from PMK and Middlesex County Freeholder John Pulomena.

Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan Jr., along with representatives from the offices of Senator Barbara Buono and Assemblyman Peter J. Barnes Jr. teamed with New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell in presenting

a \$250,000 Livable Communities Grant to the Borough of South Plainfield last Thursday to help fund the cleanup of contaminated soil and other pollutants that were discovered last summer in Veteran's Park.

DEP Commissioner Brad Camp-

bell noted that the normal time for a cleanup of this type is usually to 1½-2 years. However, plans for the cleanup of the park took just one year.

Also on hand for presentation were several members from the Edison Wetlands Association,

who applauded the clean up of the park. "The Edison Wetlands Association would like to applaud South Plainfield's commitment to the clean up of Veteran's Memorial Park," said Camile Nicholes, spokeswoman for the Edison Wetlands Association.

"Today's presentation is an outstanding example of how effectively local government, with the help of the state, can address an environmental hazard," said Diegnan (D-South Plainfield). "As someone who played in this park during most of my youth, I am particularly grateful to Governor McGreevey and DEP Commissioner Campbell for their ready response and financial assistance."

South Plainfield closed Veteran's Park last summer after large patches of oily tar began surfacing in portions of the park and stacks of asbestos tiles were discovered along Bound Brook in the park's northwest corner. The estimated cost and restoration was approximately \$1.3 million. A total of five bids were received on the cleanup project, the winning bidder was Clean Earth Environmental Service, with a bid of \$969,000.

Diegnan said the work is expected to start immediately and borough

Continued on page 10

Municipal Hotel Tax Ordinance Introduced

South Plainfield Borough Council recently passed an ordinance allowing the borough to assess occupancy tax on hotels and motels here. A bill

passed earlier this year by the State gives municipalities the authority to charge a one percent tax effective immediately and up to three percent starting in July of 2004.

South Plainfield presently has three hotels, the Holiday Inn, Days Inn, both located on Stelton Rd. and the Ramada Inn on Hamilton Blvd. A third hotel has been approved by the Planning Board, but is yet to be built. It will be located directly behind the Days Inn on the property formerly occupied by Lean Line.

Environmental Commission member Larry Randolph said he was opposed to the tax. "By charging an occupancy tax, the Borough would be opening a can of worms to raise

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South Plainfield Gearing up for Labor Day--

See next week's issue for parade, activities and road closures info.



Joe Zekas, Grand Marshal of this year's Labor Day Parade, displays the trophies to be awarded at the conclusion of the annual event. See next week's Observer for complete list of vendors, marchers and participants.

Mark your calendars

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest
meeting agenda

council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Thursday.

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

AGENDA MEETING PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, September 4 (7pm) Thursday, September 4 (8 pm)

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 (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

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

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. 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? 908-769-0786.

site plan sub-committee

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

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

To the Editor,

I wish to thank the South Plainfield Library, in particular Linda Hansen, for holding a wonderful variety of summer library programs.

Enough cannot be said commending the library personnel who are simply terrific even though their efforts are without much reward. However, your efforts create values beyond monetary rewards. My daughters, much like many of the other children who participated in these programs, look forward to reading and participating in the varieties of entertainment.

The combination of a reading program and enjoyable activities inspire learning.

Recently, I was impressed with the music artist who presented the "Electric Violin," who dazzled young children with her musical skill. She aroused an interest in music while also sharing her experiences about perseverance in finding what you love to do and pursuing it!

Thank you for enlightening the minds of my children. Your programs are really worthwhile and hopefully you can pursue additional funding to create and offer more programs like this.

SINCERELY,
ROBERT C. PODLOVITS

To the Editor,

I find it highly amusing that Diana Joffe felt called upon to attack me like a junkyard dog, in part because of the money I earned as the Substitute Caller for the school district last year. Diana teaches for five 44 minute periods a day, 180 days a year for a salary of \$71,391 and is complaining that I was paid \$10,000 a year to start calling people at 6 a.m. in the morning to 8:30 a.m. and from 3 p.m. on and off till 9:30 p.m., seven days a week, including holiday evenings, if there was school the next day, to fill positions for teachers who had called in sick, or had personal days, or just didn't bother to give a reason. The position also included the generation of daily, weekly and monthly reports. A position I might add, that would have been unnecessary if the absenteeism rate were not so high.

She also accused me of being anti-teacher, anti-secretary and anti-teacher aide, and included all public employees under that umbrella. Actually, what my letter addressed were the people her union aided and abetted to positions on the Board, who now vote with amazing regularity the way the union wishes them to. The funny thing is, every time I was elected to the Board (four terms), I had the support of the Teacher's Association. And every time I received that support, I made it clear to them that I was happy to accept it but it would not color the way I voted as a Board member. Now, I am public enemy #1 because I choose to enlighten the citizenry to what I believe is occurring at the negotiating table. I never was anti-teacher. I hold the vast majority of our staff in high esteem. But I also believe that the integrity of our School Board has been compromised.

Over the years, as a Board member, I voted on and negotiated many contracts. Some of them included raises of 10 percent at a time when our staff was well below the county average. I was proud to vote in the affirmative on them.

Our teachers are among the highest paid in Middlesex County, if not the State of New Jersey. They pay not a single penny of their health care benefits, they work 180 days a year plus two professional days, some for salaries upwards right now of \$74,000. Do you think the money negotiated in this round is going to go to the new teachers who make \$36,650? She also makes reference to the nurses at Robert Wood Johnson who received 11-17 percent raises; how much do they

pay for their health benefits Diana? How many personal days do they get each year? How many sick days? How much are they paid to cover 44 minutes a day for a co-worker (is it \$40 per period)?

CAROL M. BYRNE

To the Editor,

As a teacher of special need students in Plainfield for 34 years, I must respond to Mr. Fryszczyn's repeated "Letters to the Editor" where he attempts to destroy the character of a most noble profession: public school teachers.

As an executive officer of the Plainfield Education Association and a former Delegate Assembly Member of the NJEA, Mr. Fryszczyn needs to get his facts correct. The New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) is not a trade union. The NJEA is a professional association whose membership includes teachers and other certified staff, paraprofessionals, secretaries, custodians, educational support staff, and administrators. NJEA provides many workshops throughout the year for professional development of its members. It is the "mother" organization of each local association and provides assistance and guidance not only in negotiations and grievances but in all professional aspects. There are also NJEA programs to assist parents and the schools.

The amount of a teacher's salary does not make test scores rise or fall. Neither does the percentage of premiums paid by the School Board. This is proven in many schools across the state.

What does make test scores rise is COLLABORATION of all parties involved in the educational process, i.e. school board, central administration, administrators, certified staff, support staff, parents, students and the community. If any component does not take responsibility for the education of its youth, the students are doomed for failure.

There is a teacher shortage in this country. The educational system is blamed for all the social, academic, and moral problems of the youth. The educational system cannot and will not accept all the blame. It is only when all parties, not just the politi-

Submit Letters to the Editor:

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

cians, are involved in finding viable solutions will students accept their own responsibility along with teachers, parents, school boards, and the community to make education their top priority.

Instead of teacher bashing, what has Mr. Fryszczyn and others who agree with him done to improve the schools? There are many volunteer programs available and other opportunities to help with the educational structure. I am proud of the youth in South Plainfield and this paper highlights each week the positive endeavors of our youth in the academics, sports, and volunteerism.

After all, Mr. Fryszczyn, if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.

CHERYL NAGEL-SMILEY

To the Editor,

For generations a pansy farm was located on New Brunswick Ave. in Piscataway, bordering South Plainfield. The farm was known as the Cold Creek or Coldbath Farm.

The pansies are no longer grown there and it makes me so sad. No pansies were planted last fall to bloom in the Spring. It looks like pumpkins are the crop for this year. The farm was one of the most beautiful sites a person could find in our paved-over environment.

A few years ago I took a series of photographs of the pansies and put humorous titles to them. These photos will be on display in the South Plainfield Library starting Sept. 2.

Why not stop by and take a look?
BILL TUTHILL

South Plainfield Observer

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: 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.

Celebrating our 26th year
in South Plainfield

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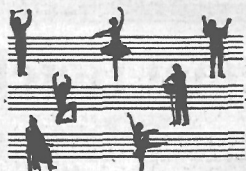
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BOROUGHNOTES

The Borough Council...

■ Authorized the mayor and municipal clerk to execute a contract with Digman and James Auction Co. to conduct a sale of municipal property the Borough deems no longer useful.

■ Approved block parties as requested by Bob and Grace Lyons on Aug. 31 (no raindate) on Revere Rd. between May Ave. and Putman Ave.; Thomas Lanza on Sept. 1 (no raindate) on Faye St. from Maple Ave. to the end; and Kathy Molinaro for Sept. 6 (no raindate) on West Elmwood Dr. from Park Ave. to Joan St.

■ Authorized the waiver of all borough fees, except electrical, for Sacred Heart Church for the installation of a fire alarm system.

■ Authorized the hiring of Stephen Perbach as a full-time Public Safety Telecommunicator effective Sept. 2.

■ Authorized Remington, Vernick and Vena to prepare a Flood Mitigation Plan for the borough. Funds are available in a previously adopted resolution (#02-355).

■ Denied permission for a block party requested by Victoria Donohue for Sherman Ave. on Sept. 1.

■ Midco Waste Systems was awarded a contract for removal and disposal of refuse containers for a five-year period at a cost of \$158 per haul.

■ The Borough will purchase a vehicle for the Fire Chief at a cost of \$28,865.37 from Holman Ford.

■ The following individuals have been appointed to the Volunteer Fire Department: Brett R. Derewsky and Jose Estrada.

■ The following individuals have become Junior Members of the Volunteer Fire Department: Alison Schmidt, Destiny Marie Jazikoff, Jason Bosse, Danny Sierzega, John R. Mocharski, Jr., Brian Sheldon, David Eichler, Mike Peterson, Dave Martinez, Veronica Konya, Robert Cusick, Jr., Christopher Pine and Katherine Kelliher.

■ A raffle license was issued for an on-premise 50/50 raffle at the South Plainfield Rescue Squad on Sept. 1 at 10 p.m.

■ Kristen Dabrio was employed as a Lifeguard I at the Community Pool from Aug. 1 through Sept. 1.



Bob Desch, South Plainfield Lions Club President, awards the President's Plaque to Lion's member David Deutsch.

David Deutsch Receives Lions Club President's Award

David Deutsch, a member of the South Plainfield Lions Club, was awarded the President's Award for his nearly 15 loyal years as a club member. Deutsch served on many of the organizations committees and was chairman of the White Can and the Diabetes Committee. He also served as chairman of the Peace

Poster for the Middle School. He is often seen working at the Lions Annual Pancake Breakfast, as well as the Labor Day festivities, selling food tickets, 50/50 chances, acting as a greeter, socializing with the people, explaining the workings of the Lion's Organization and trying to recruit new members.

Last Chance to Enter the Observer's Poster Contest

There is only week left to enter the South Plainfield Observer Labor Day Poster Contest.

The poster 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 Labor Day festivities.

Create your poster in any media and bring it to the Observer office no later

than Monday, August 25.

All entrants will receive a prize. Grand prize winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate from Sportworld, second and third prizes are \$25 gift certificates from Sportworld. Winner will 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.

Borough Council Amends Meeting Dates

The Agenda Meeting of the South Plainfield Governing Body originally scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 2, has been rescheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 4.

The Borough Council's Public Meeting, originally scheduled for 7 p.m. on Sept. 4, will be held at 8 p.m. following the agenda meeting.

Judge Denies Request to Drop Pinto's Lawsuit

A Superior Court judge refused Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan's request to dismiss a sexual discrimination claim by former Borough Councilwoman Darlene Pinto. In doing so, Judge Nicholas J. Stroumstos rejected Diegnan's assertion that Pinto failed to state a valid claim in a bias suit naming the 18th District Assemblyman as a defendant.

However, Judge Stroumstos did ask Pinto to supply more information before proceedings continue in September.

Pinto sued Diegnan, as well as South Plainfield Mayor Daniel Gallagher and several others, for sexual discrimination and defamation. The suit alleges Gallagher and members of the council met secretly at a councilman's home in violation of the Sunshine Law and conspired to deny Pinto a Borough job she planned to apply for. She contends they refused to hire her because she is a

single parent and because she did not "need" the job due to a divorce settlement she received.

Dan Fleming, Pinto's attorney commented, "As the defendants and their lawyers are finding out, Darlene has a solid case, which includes evidence that comes right from the mouths of people involved in the decision-making. This evidence shows they turned her away from a job merely because she is a woman and a single parent. These types of bigoted attitudes are what New Jersey's Law Against Discrimination was designed to eliminate."

In addition to serving as an Assemblyman, Diegnan is also the attorney for South Plainfield and chairman of the Borough's Democratic party.

Dan Fleming and Linda Wong of Wong Fleming, P.C. represent Pinto. The firm is based in Princeton, with offices in Philadelphia and New York City.

Recycling Center Closed For Labor Day Holiday

The Recycling Center and the Yard Waste Site on Kenneth Ave. will be closed on Tuesday, Sept. 2 because of the Labor Day holiday. They will be open instead from 12 Noon to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 3. The Recycling Center and the Yard Waste Site will be open as usual from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 30.

The regular schedule at the Recycling Center is: 12 Noon to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. The regular Yard Waste Site schedule is: 12 Noon to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays.

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

The Public 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FATHER JOHN SKWARA

Father John Skwara's birthday is August 29. Those who want to send a card can mail it to him at:
McCarrick Care Center, 15 Dellwood Lane (2nd floor)
Somerset, NJ 08873

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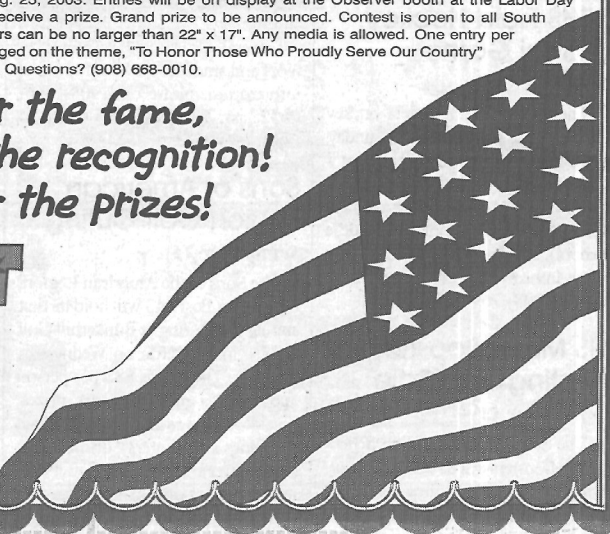
2ND ANNUAL POSTER CONTEST

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.

Do it for the fame,
the glory, the recognition!
Do it for the prizes!

**JUST
DO
IT!**



Events

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!

Pilgrim Covenant to Host Musical Recital

August 24

On Sunday, Aug. 24, at 4 p.m., Elizabeth Buatti, pianist at Pilgrim Covenant Church will be hosting a Musical Recital. Students of Westminster Choir College and friends of Pilgrim Covenant Church will be performing. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the church.

All are invited! If you have any questions, please call the church office at (908) 756-2474.

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 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 and children 6 to 12 years olds are \$7 in 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.

SPHS Field Hockey Alumni Game

September 7

The South Plainfield field hockey alumni game will be held on Sunday, Sept. 7. The game will take place at 2 p.m. at the Carol Espinosa Memorial Field (located between the South Plainfield High School and Middle School). All alumni are welcome. For more information, call Karen Maszszak at (908) 769-7136.

HS Music Boosters Hosting Yard Sale

September 13

The South Plainfield High School Music Boosters will be hosting an outdoor yard sale on Saturday, Sept. 13 on the South Plainfield Middle School

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.

Senior Center EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
UPCOMING TRIPS.... September 28 & 29 Cape May Trip October 16 -- Annie Get Your Gun				
Adult Crafts 25 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Learn to Draw 11:30am	Bingo 10am-2pm 26 Lunch Available Ladies's Social Group	Exercise & Walking 27 Club 8:45-9:45am Movie Time 11:30am AARP Crafts 1pm	Shopping Day 9am 21 Video Exercise Class 9:30am-10:30am Practical Crafts 10-11am	Bingo 10am-2pm 22 Pizza Lunch
Adult Crafts 25 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Learn to Draw 11:30am	Bingo 10am-2pm 26 Lunch Available Ladies's Social Group	Exercise & Walking 27 Club 8:45-9:45am Movie Time 11:30am AARP Crafts 1pm	Shopping 9am 28 Video Exercise Class 9:30-10:30am Practical Crafts 10-11am	Bingo 10am-2pm 29 Pizza Lunch

EVENTS

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

lawn, located on Plainfield Ave., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Table space is still available for \$20 (You provide your own standard size table). For table reservations, or any additional information, please call (908) 791-0294.

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

Father Alphons 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.

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 buffer 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 \$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

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 Babylist 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.

Journalist to Discuss Depression and Bipolar Illness

August 27

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) monthly lecture meeting on Wednesday evening, Aug. 27, will feature John McManamy, a former financial journalist with a law degree. After a lifetime of denial and struggle, he was diagnosed with bipolar illness in 1999.

Topic for the evening is "A Companion Called Fred: My Story of Denial, Acceptance and Healing."

The meetings take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd. (about one block east of the Morris Museum) in Morristown. Open to the public; a nominal donation is requested from non-members.

Visit <http://community.nj.com/cc/1stnjdmtdsg> to learn more about the chapter and to view links to other sources of helpful information. For more information, call (973) 994-1143 or the NJ Self-Help Clearing House at (800) 367-6274.

Free Community Festival In Dunellen

August 30

You are invited to an afternoon of totally free food and live music, plus arts and crafts for kids and games for teens, at "Praise in the Park" on Saturday, Aug. 30, in Washington Memorial Park on Washington Ave. Sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen, the festival begins at noon, with food and entertainment for the whole family until 5 p.m.

Free hot dogs, sodas and cotton candy will be available throughout the afternoon. Live music will include the rock band Mindset, the Praise Teams from First Presbyterian and Our Lady of Fatima, the ever-popular gospel choir from Chris Fellowship in Elizabeth, and others. You and your children will have fun at the crafts table, and even your teenagers can come and enjoy the great music and food, plus hang with other local teens.

"We hold this free festival each year because we want to show the love of Jesus in a practical way," says Pastor Wildrick. "We want people of any faith to come and enjoy. We want to meet them, welcome them, and help them have a good time."

For more information, call (732) 968-3844. Rain date is Monday, Sept. 1.

SingleFaces Labor Day Dance

August 31

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

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

Labor Day BBQ at Autumn Woods

September 1

Autumn Woods Assisted Living invites you to join them for a Labor Day BBQ! This event will be held on Monday, September 1, from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Autumn Woods Assisted Living is located at 680 Route 202/206N, Bridgewater, NJ 08807. For reservations or directions, please call (908) 252-2400.

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, 7:30 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Register for the *Bringing Up Boys* seminar on 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 Rd. 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.

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.

From the Republicans...

Effort To Clean-up Veterans' Park Long Overdue

The South Plainfield Democrats held a press conference last week touting a grant the municipality received to fund clean-up of PCB- and asbestos-contaminated soil from the ground in Veteran's Park. The event was organized by the Assembly campaign of Borough Democratic Chairman Patrick Diegnan and featured Democratic officials from throughout the area.

The park, which has been closed since last summer, began emitting black tar-like ooze several years ago. But the Borough's elected officials ignored the problem until several news outlets reported on the issue, forcing the Borough to shut the park last year. Before that, Borough workers would cover the ooze with sand and topsoil.

"For the second summer in a row, Veteran's Park is closed to the public," said South Plainfield Borough Council candidate Ray Rusnak. "This project is well behind schedule and rather than expedite the work, the Democrats are holding press conferences, issuing

press releases and grandstanding. This show should have been completed years ago, but rather than confront the problem, the council ignored it. Now they are seeking the spotlight for doing what should have been done long ago."

Council candidate Marge Reedy agreed, "The mayor and council knew about this problem for years, but despite this, they let our kids play in the park, only closing it after the media forced their hand. They knew about the contamination and did nothing. Finally, last summer, after several news stations highlighted the problem, the council president shut the park out of a so-called 'abundance of caution.' One has to wonder why reporters and news cameras had to come to town before these officials became so cautious."

"Yes, I'm glad the park will finally get the attention it deserves," added Rusnak. "But this should not overshadow how the mayor and council blundered this sensitive situation by ignoring the contamination without

knowing what health hazards it might create. It's ironic that they are now boasting about their efforts to remedy the problem they closed their eyes to for so long."

South Plainfield Republican Chairman Bob Jones had another concern: that the municipality's all-Democratic governing body used Borough employees to prepare the park, which is closed to the public, for the event. "Today's press conference, put together by the Diegnan Assembly campaign, was a political event. Yet Borough workers were used to prepare the park grounds," said Jones. "South Plainfield taxpayers should not foot the bill for a campaign press conference. Moreover, the park should not have been opened for a political function when it is closed to the public."



Richard Plechner (standing, second from right) and Jack Jacobs (standing, third from right) at the rally with Ernest Stoukas (standing, far right), "Plechner for Senate" Veterans' Coordinator and a contingent from the Menlo Park Veterans' Home.

Vietnam Hero Endorses Plechner For Senate

Colonel Jack H. Jacobs, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for exceptional valor in Vietnam, endorsed 18th District State candidate Richard F. Plechner at a rally at the Metuchen American Legion Hall on July 28.

Jacobs' speech emphasized the importance of homeland defense and the need to elect candidates like Plechner, a retired Army Reserve

colonel as well as a retired judge, who understand homeland security. Jacobs is New Jersey's only living Vietnam War recipient of the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military honor.

In addition to South Plainfield, the 18th District consists of East Brunswick, Edison, Helmetta, Metuchen, South River and Spotswood.

Board of Education Member to Serve on Panel

Dawn Jefferys, a member of the South Plainfield Board of Education, is serving on a statewide panel that will study issues involved in the funding of New Jersey's public schools.

Glenn B. Ewan, New Jersey School Boards Association president, appointed Jefferys to the organization's School Finance Committee last month.

The panel monitors the school funding law in New Jersey and its impact on school districts and, as necessary, makes recommendations to

NJSBA's semi-annual meetings concerning Association policy on school finance.

NJSBA first established the School Finance Committee in 1992. The committee has issued reports concerning New Jersey's over-reliance on property taxes to fund the schools, the need for increased federal aid to support special education and other required services, the school budgeting process and other subjects related to the funding of public schools.

Board of Adjustment Meeting Set

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

IRS Grants Tax Relief to Power Blackout Victims

The Internal Revenue Service announced tax relief for those hit by the power blackout in the Northeastern United States. The IRS will consider as timely any tax returns or payments due through today, Friday, Aug. 22, if they are completed by today. However, the law does not allow the agency to abate interest on any overdue taxes during this period.

While the IRS cannot extend the time for making employment and excise tax deposits, it will waive penalties on such deposits due during this period for affected taxpayers due to reasonable cause if the deposits are made by Aug. 22.

"We recognize that individuals and businesses will need time to recover after the power is restored, which is why we are granting this additional time," said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson.

For the purposes of this tax relief, affected taxpayers include individuals and businesses located in the blackout area, and those whose tax records, including records needed for tax deposits, are located in the area of the power blackout.

To qualify for this relief, affected taxpayers should put "NORTH-

EAST BLACKOUT" in red ink at the top of the return relying on this relief. Individuals or businesses located in the blackout area, or taxpayers outside the area, that were directly affected by the power blackout should contact the IRS if they receive

penalties for filing returns or paying taxes late.

The IRS will monitor this ongoing situation to determine if any additional relief is warranted.

The toll-free number for general tax questions is 1-800-829-1040.

Middlesex County to Hold 4-H Clothing Drive

It's time to clean out your closets to support a good cause! The Middlesex Co. 4-H Teen Council will host a Clothing Drive on Wednesday, Sept. 10 and Wednesday, Sept. 17 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. The clothing drive will take place at the 4-H Center, on the corner of Cranbury and Fern Roads in East Brunswick. (These will be the only drop-off dates.)

Interested participants are encouraged to bring old and used items including clothing, shoes, handbags, stuffed animals and household linens (such as towels, blankets, curtains and sheets). All donations should be packed in sturdy plastic trash bags.

Proceeds from the Clothing Drive will be used to support the Third Annual Project GIFT event. Project GIFT

is a holiday shopping event for families with limited resources. This collection of old and used items should not be confused with the collection of new toys and clothing to be used as gifts, for the Project GIFT event.

Sewer Bills Have Been Mailed Out

The South Plainfield Tax Office announced that the sewer bills have been mailed to all South Plainfield residents.

The due date for the sewer bill is Sept. 8, 2003. Please note your block and lot number on your check when making a payment.

The tax office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Thao Nguyen Named to Pingry School Honor Roll

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

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

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

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Put On Your Running Shoes: Labor Day 5K Run and Walk

One again this year, the South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness and the staff at The Club at Ricochet are sponsoring the Thirteenth Annual The Club at Ricochet/SPASA Labor Day 5K Run on September 1.

This year they hope to add to the more than 200 runners last year. They also will be holding the 1.5 Mile Family Fitness Walk again this year. Over twenty-five walkers participated in this event last year and the hope is to increase this number in support of family togetherness and a positive drug free, fun-filled fitness lifestyle. The entry fee for the walkers is \$5 per person or family. T-shirts and substance awareness information packets will be given to the first 50 participants.

This year's 5K Run pre-entry registration is \$13 (by Aug. 26) with a race day fee of \$15. The first 200 5K entrants will receive t-shirts along with a packet of various items and substance awareness information. Again this year, Aiello Chiropractic Center will offer pre and post race/walk massages and computer timing will be handled by Best Race Systems. Race results will be posted on the Internet at www.bestrace.com.

Due to the closing of Veteran's Park, the race will begin and end at the PAL Building on Maple Ave. near the SPHS football field. The run/walk will begin at 9:25 a.m. with registration starting at 8 a.m.

It is also important to note that all

proceeds for the race go to supporting the efforts of the South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness in making the South Plainfield community drug free. It is also hoped that participants will find time to recognize and/or patronize the many businesses and sponsors of our race.

Last year's race/fitness walk was one of the biggest yet. Everyone had a lot of fun kicking off a great day in South Plainfield with parades, games, picnicking and fireworks. Bring a friend in support of healthy exercise and reducing substance abuse. Let's make this year the best ever.

The SPASA 2003 business supporters are as follows: Aiello Chiropractic Center, Bagel Pantry, Buy-Rite Auto Parts, Casablanca Is Hair, Ciccio's Pizza, David's Stationary, Flanagan's Restaurant, Giakas Cleaners, The Home Depot, James W. Conroy Funeral Home, Joe Romer Trophy Shop, K.C.'s Korner Bar and Restaurant, McCriskin Home For Funerals, Mohn's Florist, Oak Tree Farms, Poland Spring Water, Physiques In Motion, Presto Printing Service, Ricochet Health and Racquet Club, Rodolfo's Pizza, Sherban's Diner and Restaurant, South Plainfield PAL, South Plainfield Liquor Store, South Plainfield Middle School Graphic Arts Department, Sportworld, Spring Lake Texaco Service Center, Twin City Pharmacy and Vail Hardware.



Joseph Demico poses proudly in front of his sunflower garden.

Youngster Plants a Garden of Sunshine

Seven-year-old Joseph Demico who lives on Wooden Ave. has grown a garden full of sunshine. In early May, Joe bought two packs of sunflower seeds from Drug Fair and planted them between the bricks of his backyard patio. Soon the seeds began to sprout, and it was evident they had to be moved from in front of the grilling area.

After relocating the plants farther apart, the sunflowers continued to grow and grow. The Demicos now have sunflower plants that are more than ten feet tall, with stalks having diameters of nine to ten inches thick. The leaves are as large as 19 inches wide by 17 inches long.

This was Joe's first attempt at gardening. He may possess the greenest thumb in the family. We'll check back with Joe next year to see the future fruits of his efforts.

Annual New Jersey Ride for AIDS

The second annual New Jersey Ride for AIDS, a three day, 250-mile bicycle ride covering the length of New Jersey, will be held Friday, Oct. 3 through Sunday, Oct. 5. The purpose of the Ride is to raise awareness that AIDS is still a concern in New Jersey and to raise money to address that concern.

Organizers of the ride hope to raise over \$150,000 for New Jersey based AIDS charities. One of the extraordinary features of this event is that 100% of the pledges raised by riders will go directly to New Jersey charities. Expenses for the ride will be covered through corporate and private sponsorship and participant registration fees.

The beneficiaries that have been identified to date include The Center in Asbury Park, South Jersey AIDS Alliance, The Eric Johnson House, NAMES Project Foundation, Central New Jersey Chapter, and NJ Women and AIDS network. The ride will begin on Friday morning in High Point (Sussex County) and end on Sunday afternoon in Cape May.

The ride is actively recruiting riders, volunteers and sponsors. The event will be limited to the first 100 riders and 100 crewmembers to register. Registration deadline is Sept. 15.

New Jersey Ride for AIDS is a 100% volunteer organization, with no paid or salaried employees. For more information, please see our website at <http://www.njrideforaids.org>.

Stop by the Observer booth at the PAL after the Labor Day Parade. We'll have the Poster Contest entries on display.

SCHOOL BOARD Briefs

- 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.

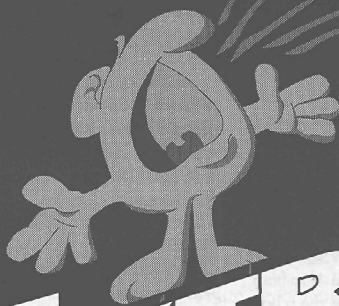
- The Board approved the appointments of the following substitute secretary/clerk typists and the substitute instructional support/bus aides: Amanda Burgos, substitute bus aide; Cheryl Papa, substitute secretary/clerk typist; Nicole Plate, substitute secretary/clerk typist; Karen Yorkanis, substitute instructional support aide and Eileen Zawacki, substitute secretary/clerk typist.

- The Board approved the instructional support/duty aide transfers as follows: Sherry Bu-

- trico, from Grant School Instructional Support Aide to Roosevelt/ Administration Building Instructional Support Aide; Donna Rowlands, from Roosevelt/ Administration Building Instructional Support Aide to Grant School Instructional Support Aide; Grace Catanzaro, from Riley School Instructional Support Aide to Roosevelt/ Administration Buildings Instructional Support Aide; Edward Eggert, from High School Duty Aide to Middle School Duty Aide and Charlene Figler, from Roosevelt/ Administration Building Instructional Support Aide to Riley School Instructional Support Aide.

- Nancy Rubright was appointed as high school duty Aide, 5.25 hours per day (temporary replacement for Marion Gallagher who is on a leave of absence).

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Sports

SPHS FIELD HOCKEY



Members of the SPHS Field Hockey Team express their appreciation for support of their August 17 car wash.

SPHS Field Hockey Cleans Up for Team at Fundraiser

A recent car wash sponsored by the SPHS Field Hockey Parent's Association saw a steady flow of business throughout the day. Car after car arrived at the Middle School parking lot to support the team and team members and coaches were kept busy washing and drying.

Amanda Rastelli and Nagozi Okparaekwe are team captains. Official

practices began this week and the team's first scrimmage will be home on August 30 at 11 a.m. The team expressed appreciation for the support of the family, friends and community members.

Coaches for the team are: Head Coach Fran Flannery. Assistant Coaches are Tammy Zurka, Kiersten Bohl and Joanne Haus.



NOTES FROM THE FIELD HOCKEY TEAM

By Sharon Miller

Car Wash- Thank You—The 2003 SPHS Field Hockey Team would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who participated in their Preseason Car Wash Fundraiser on Sat., Aug. 17. It was a huge success due to the generosity of the South Plainfield community. We would also like to thank the parents who helped us arrange this fundraiser, as well as those who volunteered their time on Saturday to help us.

Parent's Meeting, August 25—There will be a parent's meeting held on Monday, August 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the SPHS cafeteria (gym side). Information provided will include fundraising, preseason pool party, pasta parties, end of the year dinner, scrimmage workshop, parent volunteer sign-up sheets, etc. Since important information regarding the season will be provided, we are asking that each player have a parent attend this meeting.

Week of August 24

Aug. 25-29—Preseason practices will continue Monday through Friday, 8-11 a.m.

Aug. 25-28—Practice scrimmages Monday through Thursday starting at 5:30 p.m.

Aug. 29—Preseason pool party will take place Friday at noon after practice.

Aug. 30—On Saturday at 11 a.m. the first scrimmage of the season will have the team facing Pequonok at home on the Carol Espinosa Field. Please come out in support of a great team of players.

KidStuff Fundraiser—The Varsity and JV teams are selling the KidStuff coupon savings book as one of this year's fundraisers. The book offers hundreds of coupons for clothing, shoes, toys, and sporting goods stores, as well as food, recreational, educational and cultural activities. The book is being sold for \$25. Please support this year's field hockey team by contacting any member of the team to purchase a book.

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Tiger Sharks Perform Well at Odd Age Meet

Members of the South Plainfield Tiger Sharks swim team competed earlier this summer at the Odd Age Jubilee held at the Recreation Community Pool July 1 against swimmers from many other area teams and racked up points in the 40 events. It is an Invitation Only competition and swimmers from 30 area teams who qualified were invited. For this competition only, medals are awarded from first to third place and ribbons from fourth to tenth place, due to the large numbers of competitors in each event.

The Odd Age Jubilee is so-named because it is the one swim meet where swimmers' age groups are adjusted so that (for example) a nine-year-old who always competes against 10-year-olds in the 9/10 age group is able to compete against eight-year-olds in the adjusted 8/9 age group. This gives the nine-year-old the chance to be the senior swimmer for one competition and not have to swim against older/stronger swimmers in his/her age group. It also gives them a preview of what competition may be like the following year, when they become the older swimmer in their category.

Tiger Shark swimmers who won ribbons in the individual medley events included Emily Piekarski, age 11, sixth place in the girls 10/11, 100 yd. race; Dylan McDermott, first place, age 10, in the boys 10/11, 100 yd. race; Maggie Valentino, age 9, took first place in the girls 8/9, 100 yd.; with Rachel Krause, age 8, taking sixth place; Kate McLaughlin and Taylor Alijian, both 7 years old, took first and second place respectively in the girls 5-7, 100 yd. race.

In the butterfly events, Dylan McDermott, age 10, took first place in boys 10/11 age group, 50 yd. race; Chelsea Cullen, age 10, placed seventh in girls 10/11, 50 yd.; Maggie Valentino, 9, took first place with Rachel Krause, 8, in fifth and Kaitlyn Kenny, 8, in ninth place for the girls 8/9, 50 yd. Liam McDermott, 8, placed sixth in the boys 8/9, 50 yd.; and for the younger swimmers, ages 5/7, South Plainfielders Kate McLaughlin and Taylor Alijian, both 7, took first and second respectively in the girls 25 yd.; and for the boys, Aidan McDermott, 6, and Joey Valentino, 7, took first and second respectively in the 25 yd.

Backstrokers also fared well with Abigail Petritsch, 13, taking third and Rachel Esteves, 13, in fourth place for the girls 12/13, 100 yd.; sisters Teresa



and Michelle Gustafson, both 11, took fifth and eighth place respectively in the girls 10/11, 50 yd.; and Dylan McDermott, 10, took first place in the 10-11 boys, 50 yd. The 8/9 year old girls scored well with Maggie Valentino, 9, in first place, Kate O'Brien, 9, in fourth place, Kelly McLaughlin, 9, seventh place, and Rachel Krause, 8, in eighth place in the 50 yd. event. Liam McDermott, 8, took sixth place for the boys 8/9, 50 yd. race. The younger swimmers again did well with Kate McLaughlin, 7, in first place, Taylor Alijian, 7, in fourth and Kelly O'Brien, 6, in sixth place for the girls 5-7, 25 yd. race. Boys in the 5-7 category took the top three spots with Sean Cullen, 7, claiming first place; Aidan McDermott, 6, in second; and Joey Valentino, 7, in third for the 25 yd. race.

Tiger Shark swimmers taking home medals and ribbons for breaststroke events were Joanna Luzny, 13, in first place; Liz Valentino, 13, in third place; Anna Petritsch, 12, in fourth place; and Rachel Esteves, 13, in fifth place for the girls 12/13, 100 yd. race. Girls 10/11, 50 yd. race scorers were Chelsea Cullen, 10, in fifth place; Emily Piekarski, 11, ninth place; and Teresa Gustafson, 11, tenth place. Dylan McDermott, 10, took first place for the 10/11 boys, 50 yd. race; girls in the 8/9, 50 yd. scored big with Kate O'Brien, 9, in first place; Maggie Valentino, 9, in second; Kelly McLaughlin, 9, in fifth; and Gracie Piekarski, 8, in eighth place. Liam McDermott, 8, took first place for the boys 8/9, 50 yd. while his brother, Aidan, 6, took first place for the boys 5-7, 25 yd., with Sean Cullen, 7, taking second place. Two

younger girls scored in the 5-7, 25 yd. race, with Kate McLaughlin, 7, taking first place and Taylor Alijian, 7, taking fifth.

The final events of the day's competition were the freestyle races with Tiger Sharks again scoring well. Joanna Luzny, 13, took third place in the girls 12/13, 100 yd., with Abigail Petritsch, 13, in fourth; her sister Anna, 12, in sixth; Liz Valentino, 13, in seventh and Rachel Esteves, 13, in eighth place. For the girls 10/11, 50 yd. event, Emily Piekarski, 11, took fourth place and Chelsea Cullen, 10, placed ninth. Dylan McDermott, 10, again placed first for the boys 10/11, 50 yd. and Maggie Valentino, 9, took first place for the girls 8/9, 50 yd. with Rachel Krause, 8, in fourth; Kate O'Brien, 9, in sixth; Gracie Piekarski, 8, in eighth place; and Kelly McLaughlin, 9, in tenth place. Liam McDermott, 8, took sixth place for the younger boys, 8/9, 50 yd. race with four Tiger swimmers in the boys 5-7, 25 yd. race taking top spots: Joey Valentino, 7, first place; Aidan McDermott, 6, second place; Sean Cullen, 7, third place and Michael Petritsch, 6, fourth place. For the younger girls, three swimmers came in in the top five in the 5-7, 25 yd. race: Kate McLaughlin, 7, first place; Taylor Alijian, 7, third place; and Kelly O'Brien, 6, fifth place.

The Odd Age Competition is an annual event that the swimmers look forward to and most of these swimmers will be seeking to qualify to compete again next year. Tiger Shark coaches are Laurie Post, head coach; assisted by Robin Cone, Jen Orlowski and Shannon Dabrio.

—Submitted by Donna Egan

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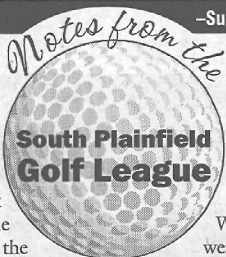
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Sports



-Submitted by Bob Nilan

By Kevin Lykes

junior baseballclubnotes



Howard Adler fired a sparkling one-under-par 32 to lead Witty's Liquors to an 11½ to 8½ win over Pornovets, moving his team back into first place in the American Division of the South Plainfield Golf League.

Marty Van De Vaart continued his fine play for Pornovets with a 37.

Plainfield Animal Hospital lost its hold on first place after being crushed by Masters, 16-4. Danny Griffin, who has played so steadily all season long, came through for Masters once again with a solid round of 36 to offset the 38 by Mike Sikanowicz and the 39 by Mike Cortese of PAH.

Dennis Bibby sank some crucial putts along the way to his fine round of 36 to lead Sport & Social to a 14-6 victory over the South Plainfield Elks.

With just one week of regular season play remaining on the schedule, the battle for first place in the American Division will come down to a contest between Witty's and Plainfield Animal Hospital. In the decisive final week, Witty's will face a formidable opponent in Masters while PAH will go head-to-head with the always tough South Plainfield Elks.

In the National Division, league-leading Aiello Chiropractic clinched first place while managing a 10-10 tie with Twin City. Jerry Minlionica shot a superb two-over-par 35 and teammate Jay Coppola had another fine round of 38 for Twin City. Fred Kirchofer and Ed Banach, who was recently crowned the Men's Champion of West Nine, both scored 38's for Aiello.

Patti's Construction showed the kind of firepower that could make them contenders next year as Mike Behr shot

a one-over-par 34, Matt Ward had a 36 and Frank Ferraro had a 38, as Patti's defeated Hank's Hackers, 13-7.

Kevin Boyce's 37 and Wayne Hanrahan's 38 were best for Hank's.

Mark Dugan of KC's Korner does not want this season to end as he continues to be the hottest golfer in the league. Dugan had another splendid round, a one-over-par 34, as KC's Korner overwhelmed VFW, 17-3. John Cotone has learned to keep the ball off Woodland Ave. and came through with another solid round of 38 as KC's Korner secured second place in the National Division.

Leading Scores for the night: Howard Adler-32, Mike Behr-34, Mark Dugan-34, Jerry Minlionica-35, Danny Griffin-36, Matt Ward-36, Dennis Bibby-36, Marty Van De Vaart-37, Kevin Boyce-37, Steve Schock-38, Fred Kirchofer-38, Ed Banach-38, Frank Ferraro-38, Wayne Hanrahan-38, Jay Coppola-38 and Mike Cortese-39.

Standings

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

Dear Members,

I realize that August offers many of our club families their only opportunity to take a well-deserved vacation, and you may have missed this message last week. For this reason I have repeated my final message from last week in the hope that all, or at least most, of you will be able to read it in one issue or the other.

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 four 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 and 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 its 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**

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE No. 1629

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ordinance 1629 entitled: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF MUNICIPAL LAND KNOWN AS BLOCK 279 LOT 5 TO A CONTIGUOUS PROPERTY OWNER AT A PRICE OF \$2,500.00 be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, August 22, 2003 and that a public hearing be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 4, 2003 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ORDINANCE No. 1629

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF MUNICIPAL LAND KNOWN AS BLOCK 279, LOT 5 IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY TO WAYNE AND JANICE DIANA FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500.00.

WHEREAS, the Borough of South Plainfield is the owner of property known as Block 279, Lot 5, said property being situated on Lowden Avenue, in the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Wayne and Janice Diana, are the owners of a contiguous parcel; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of South Plainfield by and through its governing body has deemed that Block 279, Lot 5 is not needed for public purpose or use; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey Statute provides for the sale of said parcel to a contiguous owner without the need for public sale;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD THAT the said property shall be sold to said contiguous owner on September 4, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building of the Borough of South Plainfield, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey and will be made subject to the following conditions:

- That conveyance by the Borough of South Plainfield shall be by Bargain and Sale deed without covenants and without representations as to the marketability of title. In the event that the purchaser shall determine that the title of the property in question shall not be good and marketable, any questions as to the marketability of title should be submitted to the Borough Clerk's Office within forty-five (45) days

of the date of sale. In the event said question have not been raised within said forty-five (45) day period, then and in that event all questions relating to the marketability of title shall be deemed waived and this matter shall proceed to closing of title within ninety (90) days of the date of sale.

- Easements, both of record and not of record.
- Restrictions of record.
- Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield as presently constituted without representations as to the use to which said property can be put.
- In the event that the purchaser is unable to close title within ninety (90) days of the date of the sale, they shall forward to the Borough of South Plainfield a check representing the balance of the purchase price to be placed in the general fund of the Borough.
- In the event that the purchaser fails or refuses to close title and/or pay the consideration therefor within the ninety (90) day period, then in that event, the Borough of South Plainfield, may, by resolution of the Mayor and Council, declare the transaction null and void and the purchaser's deposit shall be retained by the Borough of South Plainfield as liquidated damages.
- At the time of second reading of this Ordinance, ten percent (10%) of the purchase price plus \$1,000.00 shall be paid by the purchaser representing the cost of advertising, legal fees and associated costs incurred by the Borough. The purchaser shall be credited the cost of any appraisal previously paid by the purchaser as required by the Land Management Committee.
- The purchaser shall make application for any required approvals, including but not limited to subdivision approval, on site and site improvements as required by appropriate Borough Boards, Agencies and Officers, and all costs shall be paid by the purchaser.
- It is expressly agreed by the purchaser that if the subject parcel does not require Planning Board or Board of Adjustment review, then in that event, the purchaser will make all required improvements as determined by the Borough Engineer. The necessary performance guarantees shall be posted for the same prior to the issuance of any building permits.
- Purchaser recognizes that the sale is subject to development standards to be set by the Planning Board, Board of Adjustment and/or the Borough Engineer in addition to the Middlesex County Planning Board, if applicable. This sale is made without representation as to same and is subject to same.

- The subject parcel shall merge with and become a part of the contiguous parcel owned by the purchaser and shall not be subdivided at any future date.

- Purchaser will take any action required by the Borough Engineer and/or the Borough Environmental Officer to protect any designated wetlands or flood plane existing on the subject parcel.

- Certain properties within the Borough of South Plainfield may be designated as contaminated sites by the Environmental Protection Agency and/or the Department of Environmental Protection. One such property is the "Cornell Dubilier" facility now known as the "Hamilton Blvd. Industrial Complex" located at the intersection of Hamilton Boulevard and New Market Avenue which has been designated as a Super Fund site. The purchaser acknowledges knowledge of such locations and the existence of same will not be a basis for avoidance of buyer's obligations.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon publication and adoption in accordance with New Jersey Law.

DANIEL J. GALLAGHER, Mayor

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$142.50 August 22, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE No. 1626

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ordinance 1626 entitled: AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING LEWD ACTS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Thursday August 14, 2003 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$21.60 August 22, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE 1627

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ordinance 1627 entitled: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF MUNICIPAL LAND KNOWN AS BLOCK 538 LOT 7 TO A CONTIGUOUS PROPERTY OWNER AT A PRICE OF \$92,700.00 was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Thursday August 14, 2003 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$23.50 August 22, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE No. 1628

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ordinance 1628 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE IMPOSITION OF A MUNICIPAL HOTEL AND MOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX AS AUTHORIZED BY P.L. 2003, c. 114 was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Thursday August 14, 2003 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$23.50 August 22, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Theresa Wilson requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the expansion of a non-conforming use. One and two family homes are not permitted in the HDD zone; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 134 Front Street on Block 265, Lot 26 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 between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. Any interested party may appear at the hearing and present any objections to granting the relief requested.

\$35.00 August 22, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

August 13, 2003

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on August 12, 2003.

Case #667-South Plainfield Urban, Renewal LP Block 113; Lots 4 & 5.01; 151 Morris Avenue. The applicant's request for preliminary & final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED with conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Recording Secretary-Planning Board

\$21.00 August 22, 2003

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Sports

Firemen to Face Police in Battle of the Badges Charity 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.



12-Year-Old All-Stars Finish 17-6

Congratulations to the Jr. Baseball 12-year-old American All-Stars who finished 5-1 for third place in Elizabethtown, 4-2 for third place in Linden, 3-2 for second place in the Districts and 5-1 for first place in South Plainfield. Most of these players have been together since they were eight-years-old. Although they never made a playoff game in South Plainfield for the last four years, this year they ended their 12 year old season, beating Elmora in the South Plainfield Championship, 5-2.

12-year-old All Stars pictured above

are: Mike Muglia (1st Base), Dominic Papa (2nd Base), Nick Levendusky (Short Stop), Josh Rivera (Catcher), Jeff Pryor (Pitcher), Garrett Kelly (Right Field), Mike Dezmin (3rd Base), Tramane Miller (Pitcher), Taylor Curtis (Center Field), Steve Wiczorek (Left Field), A.J. Kunie (Pitcher), and Mike Maiorino (Left Field). Manager is Dominic Papa, Asst. Manager is Pat Muglia, First Base coach is Pat Kelly, Third Base Coach is Tom Pryor, Pitching Coach is Al Czech and Score Keeper is Alan Kunie.



Eight-Year-Old All Stars Win Final Seven Games

The South Plainfield eight year old American All-Stars team recently completed their season. The team got off to a slow start but was able to finish with a record of 10-9-1, including wins in their final seven games. They placed first in the Carteret tournament and received an award for Best Sportsmanship in the Bridgewater tournament. Congratulations to all the players for a terrific season.

Pictured with their first place trophies are: bottom row, Taylor Born, Troy Hielmann, Patrick Boyle, Bar Boy Ben Cochrane, Anthony Ashnault, Nicholas Graves; middle row, Jeffery Pellegrino, Nicholas Muglia, A.J. Celentano, Nicholas DeMarco, Kyle Brady, Eric Burnham, Quinn Cochrane; top row, Coaches Jack Brady, Bill Cochrane, Pat Muglia and Bill Ashnault.

The Ponytail Softball Team Lady Bobcats

Bobcats players are: Miranda Black, Jessica Bohn, Heather Calderone, Gina Cannalunga, Deanna Dean, Vanessa Guevara, Laine Harris, Jessica Jazikoff, Brigitte Kelly, Brittany Plasse, Rachel Scrudato, Marissa Smith, Tyler Stranzenbach and Margaret Valentine. The Bobcats are coached by Joe Scrudato.



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 girls' Ponytail softball, please join us on August 26. New members are always welcome. 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 (via our website). Location and time are not yet known.

Attention SPPPA members! The fund-raising committee is looking for volunteers to help out during the auction. If you are able to assist in any way, con-

tact 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 in 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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BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL LISTINGS.

Obituaries

James Rennie, 78

James Rennie of South Plainfield died on Thursday, Aug. 14 at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Jim was born in Plainfield and resided in South Plainfield for 44 years before moving to Clermont, Fla. for six years. He moved back to South Plainfield three years ago.

Jim was a custodial engineer for the public works department in Piscataway for 12 years before retiring in 1989. Prior to that, he worked for Wood Industries in Plainfield for 32 years.

Jim served his country during WWII, serving in the United States Navy. He was a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 in South Plainfield.

He was a former coach and member of the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Lois Jean Rennie, who died in 2000.

He is survived by his sons, James C. and his wife Pat Rennie of Dunellen, Mark and his wife Mary Ann Rennie and Keith and his wife Donna Rennie, all of South Plainfield; two daughters, Karen and her husband George Mathis of Palm Bay, Fla. and Lori and her husband Anthony Del Paoli of South Plainfield; a sister, Dorothy Murray of Plainfield; 12 grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Monday at the James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

Elizabeth (Lee De Lello) De Rose, 85

Elizabeth (Lee De Lello) De Rose

Prayer of the Blessed Virgin

(never known to fail)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of The Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me here you are my mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in my necessity (make request). There are none that you can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin pray for us that have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish it and it will be granted to you.

- DAC -

of South Plainfield died on Thursday, Aug. 14 at the Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Lee was born and raised in Plainfield and lived there before moving to South Plainfield four years ago.

Lee was a sales clerk for the former Bamberger's-Macy's in Plainfield for 25 years before retiring in 1990.

She was a former member of the Rosary Society at St. Mary's Church in Plainfield.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband Anthony DeRose who died in 1974.

She is survived by her sons, Anthony and his wife Pat DeRose of North Plainfield and James and his wife Betsy DeRose of Mountainside; a sister, Rose Hunter of South Plainfield; four brothers Henry DeLello of Plainfield, John and Salvatore DeLello, both of Piscataway, and Anthony DeLello of Los Alamitos, Calif. her loving grandchildren Denise Meyers, Anthony J., Andrew and Alex DeRose and her great grandson, Robert Meyers.

Funeral services were held on Saturday from the James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

Ralph Sabino, 76

Ralph Sabino of Jensen Beach, Fla. died Friday, August 15 at St. Lucie Medical Center in Port St. Lucie.

Mr. Sabino was born in Plainfield and was a former resident of Toms River, before moving to Jensen Beach in 1994.

He served with the U.S. Coast Guard.

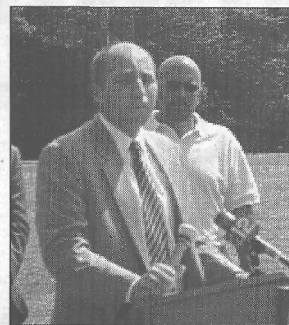
He is survived by his wife, Anna Sabino of Jensen Beach; a son, Ralph Sabino, Jr. of England; a daughter, Rosemarie Eckel of Whitehouse Station; a step-daughter, Antoinette Gilrain of Jensen Beach; a brother, Matthew Sabino of Plainfield; 10 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in Palm City.

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Borough Gets \$250K Grant for Park Cleanup



DEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell speaks at Veteran's Park. Middlesex County Freeholder John Pulomena is also pictured.

(Continued from page 1)

leaders hope the park will be reopened in October. The cleanup will include excavation of the contaminated material, removal to an off site facility, clean fill being brought in to replace what was removed and then retesting the contaminated areas.

"It is our responsibility to ensure the safety of the many children and adults who wish to enjoy Veteran's Memorial Park," said Buono (D-Edison). "No one should have to worry about hazardous materials when enjoying the recreational opportunities provided by a park. "This \$250,000 grant will ensure that Veteran's Memorial Park is enjoyed by

future generations of families looking for a safe park where they can find enjoyment."

The DEP Statewide Livable Community fund has provided more than \$7 million in grants to more than 75 communities to acquire and improve open space and parks.

"Today's grant award ceremony is a terrific example of what happens when local and state government work collaboratively to keep our communities safe and clean," said Barnes (D-Edison). "This funding will help restore Veteran's Park to its former beauty and honor those from South Plainfield who fought for their country."

Second Billboard Gets OK

(Continued from page 1)

imately \$40,000. He also said his company has the right to reject any advertising that is not deemed appropriate.

Another applicant, Carol Media, has also filed an application to construct a billboard on Durham Ave. at Rt. 287. Two years ago this same bill-

board application was denied by the Planning Board. However, an appeal of the case sent it back to the board. Carol Media wants to put up a billboard that will be 72 feet high and in close proximity to the Rt. 287 entrance on Durham Ave.

While the applicant was presenting the testimony portion, Construction/Zoning Officer John Pabst stated that if the billboard would be 72 feet high the applicant might need a height variance and thus have to appear before the Board of Adjustment. The height restriction in that zone is 60 feet. The case was held until the next meeting when it will be determined if the applicant should seek a variance for the billboard's height.

According to confirmation from the Department of Transportation (DOT), five permits for billboards along Rt. 287 in South Plainfield have been issued, and there four additional applications pending at this time.

Police Surprise Car Thieves

(Continued from page 1)

as Anthony Diaz, 18, also a Perth Amboy resident. He was charged with two counts of possession of stolen motor vehicles, possession of burglary tools, and eluding. Bail has not been set at this time for either suspect.

The third suspect was described as a Hispanic male, tall, thin, wearing a white shirt and blue pants.

Det. Parker was treated for his injuries and released at John E Kennedy Hospital.

Municipal Hotel Tax Introduced

(Continued from page 1)

revenues other than the traditional property tax."

Mayor Gallagher said that this tax is justifiable since people who use the local hotels also use the Borough's services, i.e. police, fire and rescue squad.

The borough's portion of the occupancy tax, along with revenue collected for the State Occupancy Tax, will be sent to Trenton and then returned to South Plainfield. The Borough will not have to spend time keeping track of or collecting the tax, thus saving those resources.

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policereport

• On August 12 Galen D. Wright, 31, of Plainfield was arrested for two outstanding warrants, possession of a controlled substance under 50 grams and hindering apprehension by giving a false name at a motor vehicle stop.

• Carol Arlene London, 50, of Piscataway was arrested at Macy's for shoplifting two pieces of lingerie and spandex pants worth \$172.99.

• One Call Electric on Shevchenko Ave. reported the theft of an invoice booklet used to write up orders.

• On Aug. 14 Valley National Bank on Durham Ave. reported that a woman tried to cash a fraudulent check.

• Wordwise Publishing on Oak Tree Rd. reported that someone had been using electronic wire transfers to remove money from the company account.

• Total Health Care on Oak Tree Rd. reported the theft of prescription pads from the office closet.

• A Flakne Ct. resident reported that his vehicle's front bumper was on the ground and a headlight had been removed.

• On Aug. 15 an employee of AT Jersey on St. Nicholas Ave. reported that the soft top of his vehicle was open. The drivers side door was unlocked and the car registration and a CD holder were removed.

• An employee of G & W Labs Coolidge St. reported that his rear drivers side window was smashed and an Aiwa car stereo face plate and 25 blank CD's were taken.

• A Field Ave. resident reported that two unlocked vehicles had been entered. Both glove compartments were opened and papers thrown around, however nothing was taken.

• An employee of Liquid Assets on New Market Ave. reported that the

passenger side window had been smashed and a pocketbook and book bag were taken.

• On August 16 Lyndsey Development Corp. reported that their trailer on Plainfield Ave. had two locks cut off and a copy machine and water pumper were taken.

• A Piscataway resident reported leaving their fanny pack with a wallet and checkbook in a shopping cart at Pathmark. When they returned the fanny pack was gone.

• An employee of Innovative Carton on Durham Ave. reported that his vehicle had been entered. The car radio and three children's mountain bikes were taken.

• A North Plainfield resident reported the theft of her 1996 Nissan Maxima from the Regal Cinema lot.

• On August 17 a Bergen St. resident reported the theft of a bank envelope containing \$600 from an unlocked vehicle.

• On August 18 Shahidah Denise Johnson, 20, of Plainfield was arrested for hindering apprehension by giving a false name at a motor vehicle stop.

• Eduardo Figueroa, 25, of Plainfield was arrested for shoplifting and an outstanding warrant at the A&P. He concealed 54 packages of Visine eye drops worth \$259.63.

• John H. Richardson, 54, of Edison was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and speeding at a motor vehicle stop.

• Bravo Super Market on W. 7th St. reported that two black males entered the store and put 10 bottles of Pedialyte and four packages of meat into a plastic bag. When approached they fled the store with the items.

• Mihirkuma S. Patel, 22, of Piscataway was arrested for harassment at his place of employment.

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Tiger Day Campers Lasso Up A Good Time at the Rodeo

By Jane Dornick

Last Thursday, Tiger Day Campers held their annual "Rodeo" in the Middle School cafeteria. The room was

transformed into an indoor version of fun and games with a rodeo theme.

Children tested their "down on the farm" skills with a "bull ring toss," where they threw rings at a handmade replica of a bull head and earned points for landing one on its horns. They played shuffle board and "rodeo golf" for points. Head Counselor Carol Christatos made her own version of a game called "Lasso the Bull." She pulled a small bull pinata back and forth on a cart and the young cowboys and cowgirls tested their lasso skills.

Counselors Addison Williams, Leslie Dillolo, Jennifer Chechio and Krissy Brooks helped the weary campers pick out small prizes for their efforts at the end of the day.


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LEGAL NOTICE

SFY 2004 MUNICIPAL BUDGET of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex for the State Fiscal Year 2004

Revenue and Appropriation Summaries

Summary of Revenues	Anticipated	
	2004	2003
1. Surplus	2,550,000.00	2,175,000.00
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues	6,670,160.80	6,657,139.05
3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	25,000.00	38,850.00
4. a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	12,477,664.00	11,959,398.00
b) Addition to Local District School Tax		
Total Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget	12,477,664.00	11,959,398.00
Total General Revenues	21,722,824.80	20,830,387.05

Summary of Appropriations		2004 Budget	Final 2003 Budget
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages	8,762,369.00	8,420,170.00
	Other Expenses	8,355,003.35	8,131,798.10
2. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations		656,129.45	439,084.00
3. Capital Improvements		450,000.00	400,000.00
4. Debt Service		2,560,823.00	2,545,342.00
5. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes		938,500.00	893,992.95
Total General Appropriations		21,722,824.80	20,830,387.05
Total Number of Employees		135	135

2004 Sewer Utility Budget		
Summary of Revenues	Anticipated	
	2004	2003
1. Surplus	365,000.00	363,548.00
2. Miscellaneous Revenues	3,769,500.00	3,362,500.00
3. Deficit (General Budget)		
Total Revenues	4,134,500.00	3,726,048.00
Summary of Appropriations	2004 Budget	Final 2003 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	395,652.00	327,775.00
Other Expenses	2,847,149.00	2,615,683.00
2. Capital Improvements	163,000.00	
3. Debt Service	697,140.00	718,000.00
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	31,559.00	64,590.00
5. Surplus (General Budget)		
Total Appropriations	4,134,500.00	3,726,048.00
Total Number of Employees	3	3

2004 Swim Pool Utility Budget		
Summary of Revenues	Anticipated	
	2004	2003
1. Surplus	2,500.00	10,000.00
2. Miscellaneous Revenues	166,500.00	154,300.00
3. Deficit (General Budget)	74,500.00	76,995.00
Total Revenues	243,500.00	241,295.00
Summary of Appropriations	2004 Budget	Final 2003 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	106,500.00	103,000.00
Other Expenses	79,000.00	78,250.00
2. Capital Improvements	1,000.00	
3. Debt Service	49,075.00	51,763.00
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	7,925.00	8,282.00
5. Surplus (General Budget)		
Total Appropriations	243,500.00	241,295.00
Total Number of Employees	2	2

Balance of Outstanding Bonded Debt at June 30, 2003 (Includes Debt Service Appropriation Listed Above)				
	General	Water Utility	Sewer Utility	Swim Pool Utility
Interest - Current Year	389,044	n/a	247,140	6,175
Principal - Current Year	1,772,100	n/a	450,000	42,900
Remaining Outstanding Principal Balance	10,571,700	n/a	4,565,000	123,300

Notice is hereby given that the Budget and Tax Resolution was approved by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex on August 14, 2003.

A Hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held at the Borough Hall on September 29, 2003 at 7:00 o'clock P.M., at which time and place objections to said budget and Tax Resolution for the year SFY 2004 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

Copies of the budget are available in the office of Vincent Buttiglieri, Borough Clerk, at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, (908) 226-7606, during the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. each weekday.