

South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

AUGUST 29, 2003

Ray Petronko Joins the Navy in Operation Tiger



Councilman Ray Petronko with his son Randy aboard the USS Tarawa.

By Patricia Abbott

Councilman Ray Petronko's summer "vacation" began in Hawaii, but it was far from a relaxing jaunt in the tropics. In fact, he was there for less than 24 hours. Ray participated in "Operation Tiger," the US Navy's unclassified name for a special 'cruise' program that allows relatives of crew members, embarked staff and marines returning to the U.S., to board their vessels. His trip began with his son Randy, a Navy Ordinance Airman on the USS Tarawa who was recently deployed with the 15th MEU Marines serving in Iraq. The purpose of the trip was to acquaint family members with the ship and allow them to participate in shipboard routine. It serves as a morale boost for service members and helps instill a sense of pride in the Navy and their ships. Guests are known as "Tigers" and must be at least eight years of age. Married couples and spouses/girlfriends/boyfriends of embarked personnel are not allowed to participate in Operation Tiger Cruise.

On July 5, Ray flew to Pearl Harbor and boarded his son's ship, the USS Tarawa. By 8 a.m. the next day the ship set sail for San Diego, beginning Ray's seven day "Tiger Cruise." Approximately 300 civilians took part in Operation Tiger, joining 700 Navy personnel and 1,000 marines returning from Iraq.

The trip began with a fast course in rules and regulations. All crew members and Tigers had a "muster area," a designated safe place where each person was accounted for during specific alarms. An important demonstration was the "man overboard drill." The intercom alerts the entire ship of a man overboard and the ship makes an immediate 180 degree turn and a search and rescue team are activated. A helicopter equipped with night and infrared vision, paired with Navy divers, began the rescue efforts. A marine

most exciting parts of the trip was watching and hearing the Harrier jets. The noise alone was a danger, along with a rocking ship and a flight deck slippery with hydraulic oil. He explained that hearing protection was an absolute necessity when outside, and noted they could still be heard five levels away inside the ship. Ray described the ship as a maze. "I ventured to the propeller shaft, which is 10 stories below the

(Continued on page 16)



Come Celebrate & Enjoy! South Plainfield Hosts 46th Annual Parade



For the past 46 years, the residents of South Plainfield and guests from surrounding towns have been celebrating Labor Day with a huge parade. This is the one day of the year that South Plainfield truly shines. Almost everyone in town either marches in the parade or watches

it from a viewing point. The Labor Day Parade is a time for everyone to get reacquainted with their neighbors after a long summer, maybe meet candidates, or just spend the day enjoying the many planned festivities.

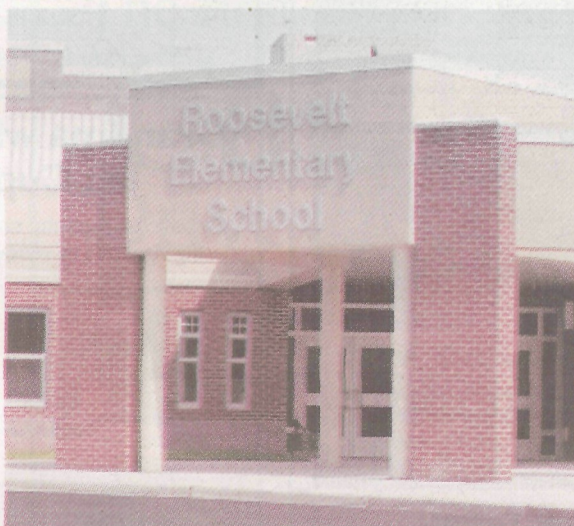
This year's theme is "To Honor Those Who Proudly Serve Our Country." Grand Marshal Joseph Zekas is a perfect fit for this year's theme. Joe is a decorated war veteran, having served in World War II and the Korean War. He received a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Medical Badge, Korean War Service Medal, Distinguished Unit Emblem, four Bronze Campaign Stars, a Japan Occupational Medal, an Overseas Bar, and most recently, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation. Also following this year's theme, the parade committee is asking that all veterans join the dignitaries in the reviewing stand.

Several military groups and vehicles will participate in the parade. A complete list of all participants can be found on pages 10 and 11.

Just before the parade, the 13th annual 5K Race and Walk will be held. Registration starts at 8 a.m. and the race begins at the PAL at 9:25 a.m. The parade kicks off at 10 a.m. at the Middle School on Plainfield Ave. and continues past Borough Hall, turns left onto Maple Ave. and ends at the PAL. This is the same route as last year's parade. If the weather is inclement, the vendors will

(Continued on page 16)

Roosevelt Ready to Welcome Students



Front entrance to the "new" Roosevelt School

Summer is coming to an end and school age children are fiercely directing their energies toward enjoying every remaining second of vacation. The remaining days of freedom seem to fly by, bringing that first day of school ever closer. Stores are filled with 'back to school' specials and parents are gleefully armed with shopping lists. While summer still reigns for some, the new school

year is already in session for staff members at South Plainfield's brand new Roosevelt Elementary School. They have been hard at work for days organizing classrooms, offices and more. Teachers are busy adding special finishing touches to welcome students to their new school.

The Observer visited the school a few weeks ago. While there was an unnatural quiet, there was also that

feel and smell of something wonderful and "new." The building process was complete, but the school was still merely a shell. Every hall, every turn, exhibited the massive work that loomed ahead. There were hallway floors lined with cardboard, piles of boxes containing supplies, desks and chairs waiting to be placed, and empty rooms—clearly a work in progress. A school is more than a building; it is the teachers and staff that bring it to life.

A recent visit to the school found the classrooms in various stages of completion. There was a major transformation from cluttered rooms devoid of life, to colorful rooms sure to make any student feel welcome.

There are four classes for each grade level. The average class size (ideally 16) is still undetermined, but enrollment is still increasing. With the exception of the kindergarten rooms, each grade level has one set of classrooms with a removable divider to allow one large room. The school also has a large library and computer classroom. Second grade teacher Ms. Mottley said, "I am very excited to be among the first to work and learn in the beautiful, modern Roosevelt School."

The school has a combination

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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.

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500+ Spend An Evening in the Tropics

By Jane Dornick

Last Wednesday night's weather was ideal for the South Plainfield Community Pool's annual "Evening in the Tropics" gala for its members.

In keeping with the theme, plastic blow-up palm trees were placed at the entrance along with lighted tiki torches. Guests swam, enjoyed the food and listened to music spun by DJ Kevin Murtagh. Children had fun playing penny and water balloon toss games for prizes, testing their batting skills with a pinata and shaking their stuff to popular dance toons.

According to Recreation Director Mike English, 545 people signed up for the free party, but many more attended. The large crowd devoured 1,200 hotdogs and hamburgers, 45 pizzas and 2,000 cups of soda complete with little bamboo umbrellas.



Adults and children alike enjoy the festivities at the Community Pool's "Evening at the Tropics."

Council Changes Meeting Dates

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

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

Woman Impaled by Fence Post Defeats the Odds

Resident Survives Horrific Auto Accident

It's been almost three months since 77-year-old South Plainfield resident Mary Weishaar was impaled by a fence post in a horrific car accident on Oak Tree Ave. South Plainfield rescue workers and doctors at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick worked feverishly to save the elderly woman's life. Much to everyone's surprise, she survived many hours of delicate surgery and remained in surgical intensive care for several weeks.

Minus a lung and part of her rib cage, Mary is currently recuperating

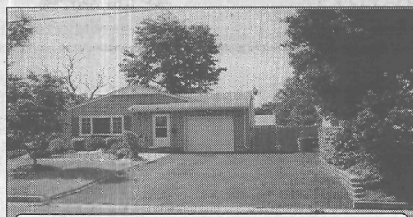
at the Edison Estates Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Edison. According to a close friend who visits often, she can speak, write and uses a walker to get around. On Sept. 8, Mary will be released from the rehab center and is moving to California to be with her niece.

The bizarre accident occurred on the morning of June 12, when Mary's 1987 Oldsmobile Cutlass missed the bend in the road and plowed through a chainlink fence. The top rail of the fence crashed through the windshield, pierced her chest and penetrated the seat. Rescue workers had to cut the pole and extricate her from the vehicle with the seat and pole still intact.

According to South Plainfield Police, the cause of the accident is still under investigation.

If you enjoyed this complimentary issue of the Observer and would like to subscribe, call 908-668-0010.

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| 613 Spicer Ave.* | 279 South Plainfield Ave. | 546 Elsie Ave.* |
| 120 Conklin Avenue* | 2509 Oxford Avenue** | 125 Adams Ave.* |
| 246 Kosciusko Avenue | 141 Pine Street* | 155 Florence Pl. |
| 134 Lafayette Street** | 195 Manning Avenue | 191 Teneyck St.* |
| | | 117 Fairview Ave. |

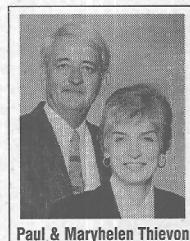
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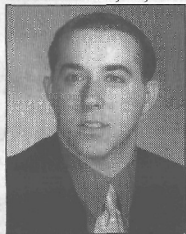
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Richard McCriskin II Receives License

Richard W. McCriskin, II, best known as Rick or Ricky, recently received his license from the NJ State Board of Mortuary Science as a funeral director to practice in the State of NJ.



Richard McCriskin II

Rick is a life-long resident of South Plainfield and went through the South Plainfield School system, graduating High School in 1996. After high school, he earned his Bachelor of Science from St. Peter's College of Jersey City in 2001 and this past May he graduated from Mercer County Community College, earning an Associates Degree from Mercer County.

He did his internship under James A. Gustafson, Director at McCriskin Home For Funerals in South Plainfield.

Rick is now a director with his family's business, the McCriskin Home For Funerals located on Plainfield Ave. in South Plainfield.

Rick is the son of Rich McCriskin and the late Kathy McCriskin.

Fraternal Order Of Police Endorse Patrick Diegnan

The New Jersey Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) through its president, Edward R. Brannigan, has announced its endorsement of Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr. for reelection to the 18th District of the New Jersey Assembly.

The Fraternal Order of Police has 17,000 members and 169 lodges.

When informed of the endorsement, Diegnan said, "I am humbled by the support of the Fraternal Order of Police. They represent New Jersey's finest. In the times that we live in, the police are our first line of defense in protecting and keeping our citizens safe and secure. I'm proud to be an advocate for police in the NJ Legislature and am particularly gratified to know the membership of the FOP support my reelection."

Roosevelt PTA Selling JUMBO Book Socks

Roosevelt PTA will sell JUMBO Book socks during the first week of school on Thursday and Friday, Sept. 4-5. Cost is \$3.50 (less than in local stores).

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From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

As could be expected, the summer vacation season has gone by far too fast. But, you still have a couple more days left before Labor Day heralds the generally accepted arrival of autumn. And, to help you decide how best to spend those last couple of days, as well as the early days of fall, here's the latest news from South Plainfield Library:

The Library will be closed on Monday in observance of Labor Day. Also, please be advised that our Sunday operating hours (1:30-5 p.m.) will resume on Sunday, Sept. 7.

We're between groups on the Video Circuit today. The September group should be available early next week. In the meantime, we've added a few titles to our own collection. New DVDs include "Daredevil" and "The Quiet American," while new VHS tapes include "The Bad News Bears" and several volumes of "Rumpole of the Bailey." We also have copies of "Best Picture" Oscar-winner "Chicago" available in both formats. DVDs and videos may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days.

Our children's Storytime programs have been cancelled for this week. In fact, they've been cancelled for the next several weeks, as Miss Linda takes the opportunity (and the vacation time) for some much-needed rest and reorganization as she prepares for the fall. Storytimes are slated to resume their normal schedule on Tuesday, Sept. 23. Of course, if your kids still want to stop by for a visit, they're more than welcome.

We've got a couple of special programs coming soon. First, on Sunday,

Sept. 14, German-born NJ resident Ludwig Wilhelm Knapp, author of *Growing Up Under Hitler: I Was There*, will be speaking at the Library at 2 p.m. Then, on Thursday, Sept. 18, Bridget Lupia, financial advisor with UBS Financial Services Inc., will lead an investment seminar on the subject of "Paying for College" at 7 p.m. Both programs are free; no pre-registration.

Here are a couple of computer notes. First, you may have noticed that our Internet computers have had a few problems recently, mostly due to the fallout from the recent computer virus attack and the big blackout of 2003. However, those problems have been dealt with and normal service has been restored. (But please let us know if you're still having problems.) Second, Library patrons must have their Library card, with the attached Library bar code, in order to log onto the internet from our computers. Library staff will no longer remind patrons of their code numbers.

And here's a note from your friendly neighborhood notary public: When you come in to have something notarized, please bring valid, legal proof of your identity. Acceptable IDs include a valid drivers license, a passport, a military ID and the like. If you have any questions about what to bring, please call ahead so we can check. Also, please remember that our notary is not an attorney, nor has he received legal training (repeated viewings of "Law & Order" doesn't count.). For matters requiring a legal opinion or judgment (wills, advance directives, etc.), you are strongly advised to consult a lawyer or other legal professional.

That's about all for this week.



Gal Wylam, on behalf of the South Plainfield Business Association, presents a \$500 check to Police Chief Robert Merkler for Monument Park, which is currently under construction. Wylam is employed at Bryant Staffing in Piscataway.

Suburban Woman's Club Notes

The September meeting of the G.E.W.C. Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield will be held Thursday, Sept. 4 at 1 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Rd.

The speaker will be Tony LoCascio, a certified financial planner and an accredited tax preparer.

SPHS senior Brittany DeNitizio was also invited to speak. She was chosen by the Suburban Woman's Club

as a delegate to Girl's Career Institute held at Douglass College last June. She will relate her experiences.

The Suburban Woman's Club meets monthly with interesting programs during the year. Also, many fundraisers are held to support annual scholarship award and donations to various local community charities.

Any woman interested in joining can call (908) 754-7410.



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Around Town

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 noon to 5 p.m., rain or shine, at 55 Front Street.

There will be live music, door prizes, a moon-walk and pony rides for children. Donation for adults is \$13 purchased in advance, \$15 at the gate. Children 6 to 12 years old are \$7 in advance or \$8 at the gate. Children five and under are free. For information, call (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and after 12 noon on weekends.

SEND YOUR EVENTS TO:

South Plainfield Observer,
1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South
Plainfield, NJ 07080 or
fax (908) 668-8819; email ggnan@aol.com.

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 3 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 Maszczak 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 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 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. Alphonse Stephenson. This year the orchestra will be playing Broadway tunes, as well as patriotic anthems. The

concert will take place on Sunday, Sept. 21 at 3 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church.

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

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) and drinks (beer, soda, water), as well as a buffet dinner at Chaumont Post 243. Tee times start at 10 a.m. and a hole-in-one on the 13th hole will get you a trip for two in Hawaii!

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

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

— Out of Town —

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.

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. 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, Sept. 1, 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 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 seminar at www.alliancebiblechurch.com. Registration fee is \$10 (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. Turn left onto Mount Horeb Rd.

For more information, contact the church office at (732) 469-1425.

Jersey Shore Bottle Club Holds 31st Show

September 21

On Sept. 21, a 30-year tradition continues as the Jersey Shore Bottle Club holds their 31st show. Dealers in antique bottles, as well as collectors, should attend this long-running show. The show will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Brick Twsp. High School, 348 Chambers Bridge Rd. in Brick. Admission is \$2. Limited number of tables are available. Contracts can be obtained from the club's website, <http://www.geocities.com/dtriper2000/jsbc/jsbc.html>.

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

MILANO

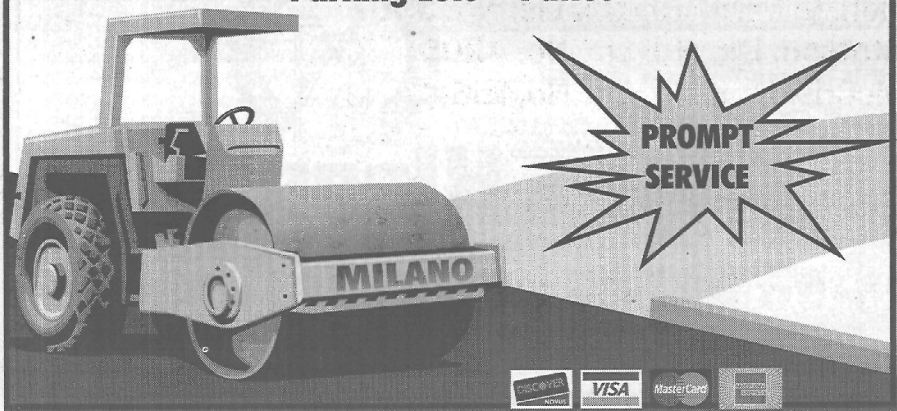
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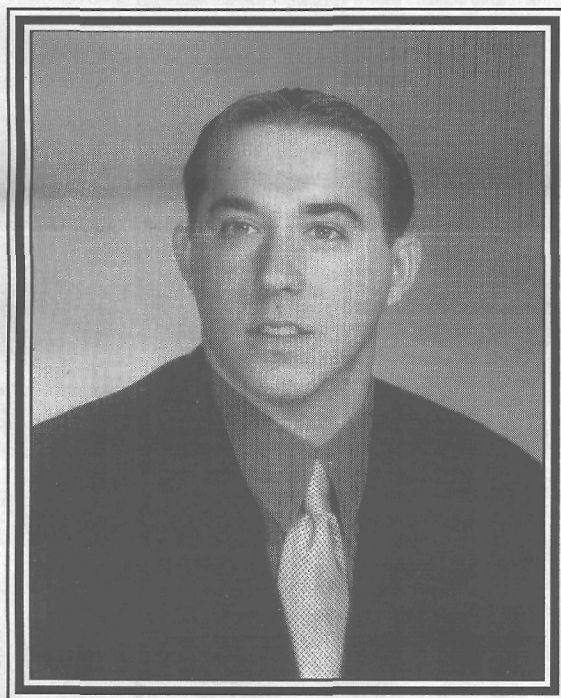
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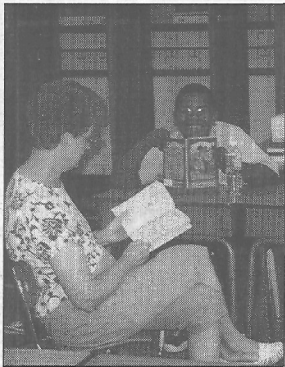
James A. Gustafson, Dir. N.J. Lic. No. 4205

Richard W. McCriskin, II N.J. Lic. No. 4564

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908-561-8000

Sacred Heart School Enjoyed This Summer's Camp and School



Kathryn Houghton and Zaire Ali enjoy reading a chapter from Dragon Slayers Academy.

Sacred Heart School introduced a new summer program this year. The program included a fun-filled day camp, as well as academic classes taught by the best teachers in South Plainfield. Well, we think they are the best teachers in South Plainfield, and even though it was summer school, we had a great time.

The summer camp was open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Some kids came to camp full-time, while other kids attended part-time and went home at noon. Before care and aftercare were also available for the early birds and late birds. This was convenient for parents who needed to get to work on time or might need to work late.

Camp was a lot of fun. There were many activities, such as creative arts and crafts projects, daily ceramic classes, classic board games, rainy day videos and good old-fashioned playing outside in the sprinkler. Miss Thomas, Mrs. Bach and Miss Tiffany worked hard to keep the campers happy and busy. They also took good care of us by providing delicious treats like munchkins, cakes, lollipops and frosty ice pops.

Virginia Novak and Rebecca Joe, both six, were happy that they came to summer camp/school this year. "I never came to camp before," said Virginia, "and I really liked it." "I liked having friends to play with," added Rebecca.



(L to R): Allyson Piersanti, Andres Ochoa, Brandon Wingo, Shannon Coughlin, Shannon Wingo and Brittany Coughlin.

Along with the camp program, Sacred Heart also offered summer school classes. Children had the chance to get a jump-start on the next school year by taking classes in math, reading, writing and computers. While no one really wants to go to school in the summer, the classes were small and the teachers planned fun, interesting lessons. We had a good time with Mrs. Goetz, Mrs. Egerton, Mrs. Houghton, Mrs. Glacken, Mrs. Kardos and Mrs. Hohner, and everyone learned a lot. We also want to thank Tammy Vincent from The

Painting Station for the fun ceramics classes.

Andrea Aguilar is happy that she came. "I liked math class. It helped me understand math better and refreshed my memory to start the new school year."

We recommend Sacred Heart's summer camp/school program to everyone. For kids, it's a day full of fun and friends. For parents, it's a way to be sure that your kids are keeping out of trouble and not sitting home all day messing up the house. We hope to see you there next summer.



Tammy Vincent and her ceramics class.

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149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul
Alvarado, Pastor

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

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

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

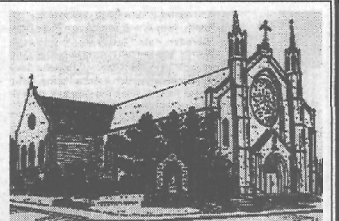
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10-11 a.m., 4-4:45 p.m.

and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass



HAPPY LABOR DAY!



Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Freeholder John Pulomena, Councilperson Bob Cusick, and Councilperson Ray Petronko

From South Plainfield's Home Team!

Labor Day is the day we all get to show off our "South Plainfield Pride" and we have a lot to be proud of...No Tax Increase for four of the past six years, Borrowing cut in half, New Senior Housing and Recreation Center, P.A.L. doubled in size, Parks and Roads Upgraded, "Pay-As-You-Go Government" and Millions of Dollars in State and County aid for Public Safety and Open Space.

The Home Team will continue to keep South Plainfield's voice loud and clear in Trenton, Middlesex County and right here on the Borough Council!

From the Democrats

Cusick and Petronko Promise Clean, Issue Oriented Council Campaign

Councilpersons Bob Cusick and Ray Petronko have promised to run a positive, issue-oriented campaign for reelection to the South Plainfield Borough Council on Nov. 4. Councilperson Bob Cusick said, "Political campaigns should really be an opportunity to exchange ideas and give the candidate's vision for the future. All too often 'negative campaigning' is employed by those who really have little to offer in terms of proposals or recommendations."

Councilperson Ray Petronko agreed with his running mate saying, "Bob and I are not only proud of our record but we are looking forward to discussing the new programs that the Democratic Mayor and Council have

in mind for the next three years. South Plainfield is the best-managed borough in the entire State of New Jersey. No other town can boast of no municipal tax increase in four of the last six years while cutting debt almost in half. When you see the fiscal challenges that the federal government and states are facing, it becomes doubly impressive what we have been able to accomplish in our little town."

Cusick commented, "Everyone who knows Ray Petronko is aware of what a humble guy he is. He gives everyone credit but himself. Well, let me tell you, Ray Petronko is the mover behind the addition, which doubled the size of the P.A.L., and our new state of the art Senior Recreation Center.

He also was an integral part of seeing the dream of senior housing finally become a reality when we opened our beautiful 100 unit complex last year. In addition, every park in town has been upgraded, including Putnam Park which will have an official grand opening next month. It is the crown jewel, with its new jogging trail, parking and overall improvement. Ray Petronko is the model of a dedicated, intelligent and motivated public servant, and I'm fortunate to have him as a running mate."

Petronko returned Cusick's compliments, saying, "As chairperson of Public Works, Bob Cusick has been personally responsible for South Plainfield's 'pay as you go' road program, which at last count has repaved over 130 roads along with paving the parking areas at the junior baseball, soccer and softball complexes. It's because of Bob Cusick's leadership that the park improvement program was made a reality. He also put in place the security policies which have stopped illegal use of our compactor and compost facilities which last year saved our taxpayers almost \$200,000. Bob Cusick is a terrific councilperson and a great asset to our borough. He deserves reelection."

The candidates summed up their hope for the election. "We intend to run on our record and set forth our goals for South Plainfield's future. I encourage the Republican candidates to join us in a full and open positive discussion of the issues."



From the Republicans

Reedy, Rusnak to Focus on Rebuilding Trust and Restoring Services

Restoring trust and rebuilding diminishing services will be the theme of this year's campaign by GOP council candidates Marge Reedy and Ray Rusnak. Their campaign, which kicks off this weekend, will focus on restoring the trust voters have lost in Borough government and rebuilding diminishing services, especially those offered by the public works department. The two are eager to begin campaigning and plan to take their message to every voter in town over the next two months.

"South Plainfield is a great place to raise a family, but over the last decade I've seen too many things go in the wrong direction," said Reedy. "We need to get things back on track. The public works department is a key part of our plan. A skeleton crew using dilapidated equipment to plow our roads isn't working. This year's snow plowing and leaf pickup are prime examples. They were a disaster. We can't let that happen again—especially when public safety is at risk."

"We also need to focus on increasing services so residents get the most for their tax dollars," added running mate Ray Rusnak. "More convenient

hours for things like the compactor make a lot of sense. In addition, the leaf and grass area should be open for a few hours on Sundays. It's open on Tuesdays, but most people work weekdays. The focus should be on making these things convenient for people."

Rebuilding the trust lost by those currently in power is another goal. "We've got to bring back open government," Reedy said. "The secret closed-door meetings have to stop. They violate the public trust and go against everything the Democrats promised when they ran for office."

"We've also got to put an end to 'pay to play' no-bid contracts," said Rusnak. "For example, the Mayor and Council awarded a \$50,000 contract recently without getting competitive bids. The contract went to a company that recently gave \$3,000 to the Democrat's campaign. This is just one example. Things like this happen at practically every Council meeting."

The two agreed that their campaign theme sums up what they want to do if elected. The theme is "Rebuilding our town...Rebuilding your trust."



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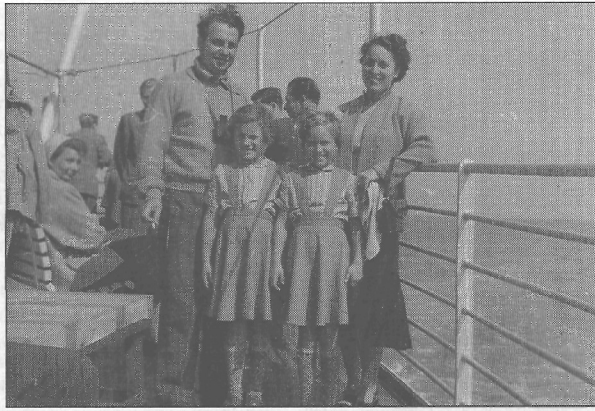
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Labor Day Has a Special Meaning for One South Plainfield Family



Johanna, Gerhard, Gabriele and Helga Skotarczak on their voyage to America.

For one South Plainfield family, Labor Day is more than a holiday, more than a day for celebrating and much more than a day off of work. This Labor Day, it will be the 50th anniversary of when they immigrated to the United States.

Most of us, who were born and raised in the United States, find it hard to comprehend exactly how much courage it actually takes to pack up their belongings, say farewell to their many relatives and friends and set off for an unknown future in an unknown country. In 1953, Gerhard and Johanna Skotarczak, their daughters, Gabriele, nine and Helga, eight, did just that. They packed up their most precious possessions, boarded a ship, the *Fairsea*, and set off for America, not sure what the future would bring, but determined to start a new life.

The *Observer* had the pleasure of sitting down recently with Johanna and her daughter Gabriele, as they recalled their adventure coming to American 50 years ago.

The had lived in Berlin, Germany, six miles from the border. They were close enough to actually hear shooting and knew they didn't want to be involved in another war. Both girls were born during World War II and even though they survived the bombing in Berlin, which just about leveled the city, the family had had enough of war. It took them three visits to the U.S. Consulate before they got a visa. To get a visa, they needed a sponsor who would help them find living accommodations and also guarantee Gerhard a job.

Johanna remembers boarding the *Fairsea* and the 10-day trip across the ocean. It was the last ship sailing to the United States, since the weather would be getting colder and too dangerous for an ocean crossing. In fact, their ship passed between icebergs during the journey. The ship docked in Quebec, Canada. Thus they don't have their names listed with those who passed through Ellis Island. The *Fairsea* was not a luxury liner with private cabins, instead during the journey they slept in bunk beds. All of them suffered occasional bouts with sea sickness, but all in all the trip was uneventful.

When their personal belongings were unloaded, the Canadians, who disliked Germans, made a point of dropping their trunks filled with dishes and other treasures and most everything they had packed was damaged or broken. When they arrived in Quebec in September the weather was cold, so they dressed in warm clothing, but the weather got warmer and warmer

it helped with her sea sickness, a memory she would like to forget.

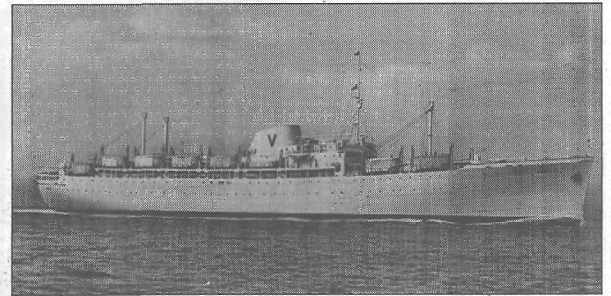
During the first few years in America, Johanna was not happy and considered returning to Germany. She was concerned for her daughters, who couldn't speak or write English and were having a difficult time with arithmetic. She finally met a doctor who helped her to enroll her daughters in a parochial school and from then on everything changed. Johanna taught herself the English language by watching television. Gerhard worked as a tool maker and in 1969 they moved to South Plainfield and have lived here ever since. He passed away in 1990.

Johanna and Gaby were kind enough to share a picture album of their journey to America and their early days, as they reminisced of their experiences. They are very proud of their German heritage and of their 50 years in America. Gabriele and Helga are now grown and have children of their own. Both hope that with their albums and recollections their children can grasp how proud they are to have made that journey 50 years ago, what it means to them be an American and the sacrifices it took for them to make a new life here.

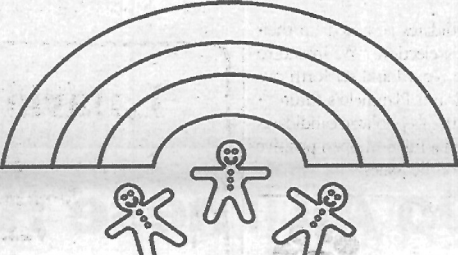
God Bless America!



Pictured (l-r) standing are Helga and Denise Tappe, Gaby, Steven and Dieter Hollain. Sitting are Kristen, Nancy Tappe, Johanna and Gerhard Skotarczak and Mark Hollain at the Skotarczak's 40th anniversary.

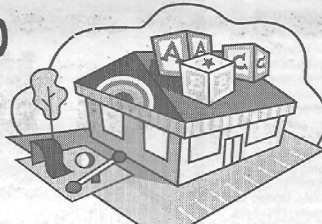


The *Fairsea* was the ship the Skotarczak's sailed to their new life in America.



OPEN HOUSE

10am to 2pm



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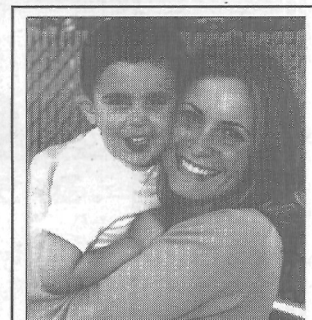
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policereport

- The owner of a 2000 Freightline box truck parked at Federated Fire on West Ave. reported that two front wheels and tires were removed. The truck was found on wood blocks.
- Grainger, located on Hadley Rd., reported the fraudulent use of a credit line by a contractor from Scotch Plains.
- Shahidah Denise Johnson, 20, of Plainfield was arrested for presenting a false insurance card in order to get a release form for a vehicle that had been towed.
- Summer Breeze Landscaping on Plainfield Ave. reported that the padlock had been removed from an equipment trailer. An industrial mower, three

blowers, two weedwackers, three gas containers and various hand tools valued at \$3,090 were taken.

- A Strong Pl. resident reported misplacing his wallet at the Mobile Station on Durham Ave. The wallet was never found.

- A Hancock St. resident reported observing two white males sitting in her vehicle that was parked in front of Burlington Coat Factory. As she approached the car, the two men jumped out and fled. A tool had been used to open the door lock and the ignition was tampered with.

- Roy Vargas, 24, of Plainfield was arrested for possession of marijuana

under 50 grams in the parking lot of Best Western Motel.

- Rushonda C. Smith, 26, of North Brunswick was arrested for an outstanding warrant and showing a fake insurance card at a motor vehicle stop.

- A Rustay Ct. resident reported the theft of a Playstation 2 and an XBox. Nothing else was taken and there were no signs of forced entry.

- Two high school football players reported the theft of their unlocked bikes while they were at practice.

- A Chestnut St. resident reported the theft of a Fury roadmaster mountain bike from their front porch.

- Dennis Hado Jr. Inc. reported that the window of a backhoe had been broken at a construction site on Pulaski St.

- A&P reported that a female had left the store with frozen meats inside her clothing. The women fled in a car with another man.

- A Warren resident reported that her ATM card was stolen and was being used on W. 7th St. and in various other towns.

- Warren Keith Crute, 47, of Plainfield was arrested for an outstanding warrant and shoplifting \$68.87 worth of items from Sears Hardware on Oak Tree Rd.

Jack Pedersen Joins Colony Mortgage

Mike Dixon, president of Colony Mortgage, has announced the addition of Jack Pedersen to his team of loan officers.



Jack Pedersen

For the last five years, Jack has been serving New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania businesses as a consultant, specializing in the areas of collections and accounts receivable control.

In addition to consulting, Jack will now help home buyers and those interested in refinancing to secure mortgages through Colony Mortgage's South Plainfield office under the direction of Vice President Dominic Carlucci.

Prior to consulting, Jack spent ten years with various new car dealers, much of that time in finance departments.

A ten year resident, Jack is currently the president of the South Plainfield Business Association, a member of the Borough Planning Board and the Business Advisory Group. He has served as vice president for the Piscataway, Middlesex and South Plainfield Chamber of Commerce, as well as warden and membership director for the Knights of Columbus.

He has volunteered his time to many local organizations, including the Boy Scouts and Pop Warner Football. He resides in South Plainfield with his wife Helen and their children Michael, Thomas and Rachael.

Jack can be reached at (908) 822-0090 or jackp@comcast.net.

Preliminary Budget Meetings Slated

Budget hearings will be held at Borough Hall during the next few weeks. The hearings on the budget are preliminary and not the official public hearing. The hearing will take place in the council chambers from 7 to 9 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

The hearings are as follows:
September 3—Assessing, Building, DPW, Emergency Management, Fire, Fire Prevention and Police.
September 5—Court, Public Celebrations, Environmental, Recreation, Finance, Clerk and Administration.

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
 MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
 NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey on **SEPT. 12, 2003 AT 10 A.M.** prevailing time in the Council Chambers of the municipal building, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ at which time and place bids will be opened and read in public for:

PURCHASE OF REFUSE COMPACTORS

Specifications and other bid information may be obtained at the Municipal Clerk's office in the municipal building at the above address during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Only bidders who have picked up specifications will be allowed to submit bids. All bids must be submitted on the Proposal Forms furnished by the Borough. A bid bond in the form of a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond payable to the **BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD** in the amount equal to 10% of the highest bid amount, including alternates, if any, but not to exceed \$20,000 and a duly executed Consent of Surety. Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq.), the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.25; Employment on Public Works N.J.S.A. 10:2; EOE, ADA.

ATTEST:
 Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk
 \$33.25 August 29, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
 MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
 LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Nicola and Patricia DeSantis requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a proposed addition; proposed addition lacks 30' front setback, 25' proposed; proposed addition lacks 9' side setback, 5' proposed; proposed fireplace lacks 9' set setback, 75' proposed; proposed porch lacks 30' front setback, 29'7" proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 214 Oakmanor Pkwy. on Block 229, Lot 55 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.

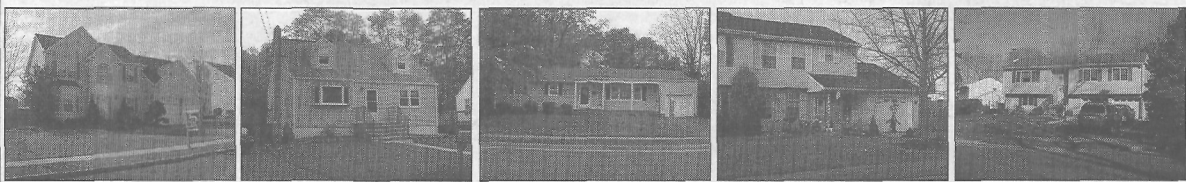
The maps and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Building Inspector's Office, South Plainfield Borough Hall, Monday through Thursday, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.
 \$35.00 August 29, 2003

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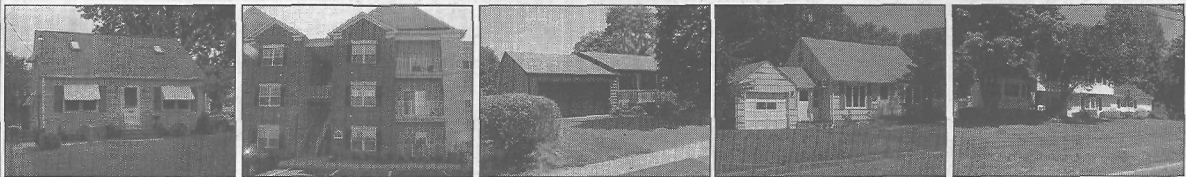
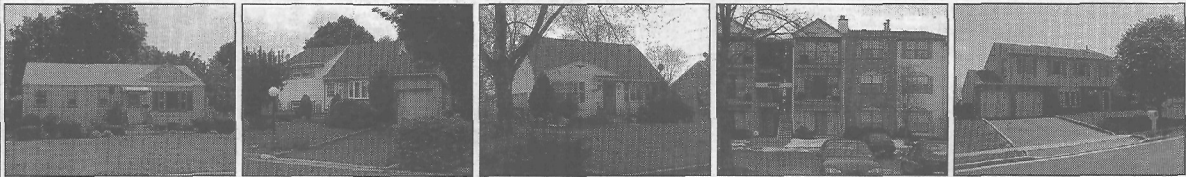
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The 46th Annual Labor Day Parade

Put Your Walking Shoes On!

13th Annual Labor Day 5K Run and Walk

Once 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 5-K 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 support-

ing 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 a parade, 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, Mohr'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, So. Plainfield PAL, So. Plainfield Liquor Store, So. Plainfield Middle School Graphic Arts Dept., Sportworld, Spring Lake Texaco Service Center, Twin City Pharmacy and Vail Hardware.

Trophies to Be Awarded

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Given by Honorary Grand Marshal to best overall entry in his/her opinion.

JUDGES' TROPHY

Best overall entry as determined by judges.

GEORGE W. L. PAGET TROPHY

Given to the best civic entry.

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Best overall.

BEST YOUTH GROUP FLOAT

High School and under.

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MOST PATRIOTIC FLOAT

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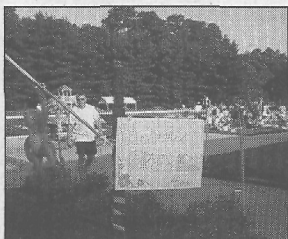
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Parade Judges

Patricia Bender
Robert Longo
Georgeann DiGrazia
Richard McCrisky
Frank Mikorski

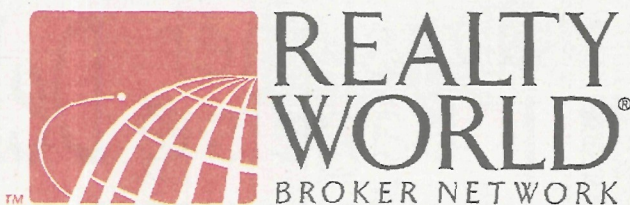
Parade Marshals

John Sorrentino
Tricia Chosney
Joe Scrudato
William Co
Pat DeSantis
Angelo Paradiso
Brian Cargill
Herb Frank
Cynthia Frank
Jim Orth
Heather VanKleeft

Becky Orth
Carolyn Allen
Carl Adlassnig
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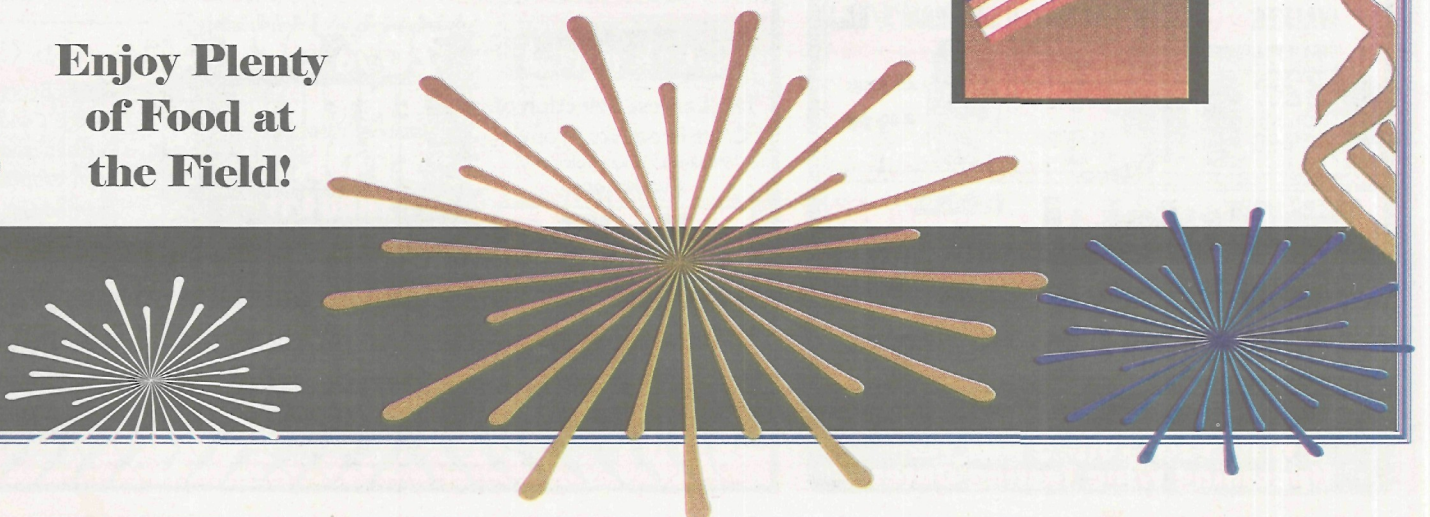
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IN YOUR OPINION

To the Editor,

During our 30 plus years in South Plainfield, we have gotten to know some of the fine people in the community. We would like to add someone to this list. Joe and Cathy Car Scarpitto of the ProCare Physical Therapy Center.

My wife and I have recently had injuries that required their services. After having therapy, previously at a different location, I feel somewhat qualified to render an opinion. Joe, you and Cathy have "raised the bar" in your field. What used to be a drudgery and a very boring routine in a necessary rehab is just not the same. Their professionalism and change of pace has not only restored our mobility, but has also given us a long range plan to remain that way. It is very evident, on your first visit, that something is different. They have surrounded themselves with a competent and very personable staff.

We thank you both for your dedication to the excellent service you provide to the people of this community.
CAROL AND BILL ABBAS

publicans should be happy that one of South Plainfield's own is in our state legislature and rather than saying bad things about a good person like Patrick Diegnan, they should use him as a model of how a public servant should act.

**VERY TRULY YOURS,
ELEANOR HAINES**

To the Editor,

I am really not interested in taking sides in the "debate" over who is to blame for the slow cleanup of the "black tar-like ooze" bubbling up from the ground in Veterans Park, but after reading the "From the Republicans..." column last week I felt compelled to throw in my two cents.

Over thirty years ago my brother and I (along with a neighborhood friend) were enrolled in a tennis clinic that took place in what was then called Borough Park. After becoming bored with the repetition of standing on line to take a few ineffective swipes at tennis balls that were tossed our way we wandered off to find our own amusement. Imagine our delight when we found this mysterious black "tar-like" substance oozing out of the ground (right next to the courts in plain view for anyone to see). We poked at it with sticks and imagined we had found the New Jersey version of the La Brea tar pits and that if we dug deep enough we would find a wealth of dinosaur fossils. We never imagined that what we had found was dangerous.

That stuff has been oozing out of the ground for decades and I am sure that it was common knowledge to anyone that frequented the park with any regularity. To blame the current Mayor and Council for something that has been there for so long through Democrat and Republican administrations seems ludicrous.

RANDALL MCCANN

Dear Editor,

Several friends have asked why I want to run for public office, especially when nowadays it means subjecting yourself to personal attacks and other

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.

indignities. As the campaign season started, I thought this would be a good time to explain to you, the people of South Plainfield, why I'm running.

First, I have to say I'm honored to be a candidate for Borough Council. My wife Robyn and I live on Field Avenue, and I work for Wachovia Bank as a financial specialist. I enjoy living in South Plainfield, and that's why I'm anxious to give back to the community. Serving on the council would allow me to do that.

I'm running for office, in part, because I want to bring an independent voice to the council and restore open government. Right now there's no alternative points of view, no debate. Everyone just bows the party line and says "yes" to whatever the party bosses tell them—one thing I'm not is a "yes man."

We need council members who will do what's right for South Plainfield regardless of what their friends, contributors, or, for that matter, regardless of what their party says. We need council members who are independent thinkers and who respect the public. That's the kind of councilman I want to be.

Over the next two months I plan to continue to share my vision for South Plainfield with you. I'll be going door-to-door to meet people, hear what they have to say, and offer my plan for the future. I'm anxious to begin a campaign you and I can be proud of. In doing so, I hope to earn your vote.

RAY RUSNAK

(Continued on next page)



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IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from previous page)

Dear Editor,

This Monday is Labor Day, and for many that means one day until back to school. For me, however, it means the kick-off of my third campaign for Borough Council. My friends tell me I'm crazy, but I enjoy public service and I believe I can make a difference. That's why I hope you'll consider me when you vote this year.

I live, work, and raise my family in South Plainfield, and our community is important to me. We have a wonderful town, but over the last decade too many things have gone in the wrong direction. Traffic is horrendous, new developments are being squeezed onto every plot of vacant land, and our services are dwindling. In fact, anyone who remembers last year's snowplowing knows that our once-solid public works department has been dismantled—leaving a skeleton crew with dilapidated equipment.

The list could go on, but suffice it to say our town needs council members who will rebuild what has been let go for far too long. We need to restore services and also make them convenient. Things like convenient days

for dropping off grass clippings or better hours for the compactor may seem minor to some, but families (especially those with two parents working) need that kind of flexibility.

There is so much the council can do to make life easier, but the current members do not make these things a priority. For me, these things, as well as making sure we get the most from our tax dollar, are paramount.

There's a lot more I'd like to say, and that's why I look forward to talking with you, the voters, when I hit the campaign trail. I'm anxious to share my thoughts and plans with you.

Thank you ahead of time for considering me when you vote this November. They say the third time's a charm. I hope that's true!

**VERY TRULY YOURS,
MARGE REEDY**

P.S. — They also say something about three strikes, but let's not think about that one!

Dear Editor,

I have been friends with Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan since we went to South Plainfield High School to-

gether. Simply put, Patrick is a person of integrity and honesty who has always been enormously proud to be born and raised in our little town of South Plainfield. I, along with most South Plainfielders, look with pride every time I see of some state program or state grant going to South Plainfield because Patrick Diegnan is giving us a voice in Trenton.

Therefore I was disgusted when I read the nasty and bizarre comments by the Republican Candidates for council about Patrick in the local papers. They actually tried to say that our Assemblyman doesn't care about seniors and made fun of the AARP, which is a totally non-partisan group, because they named Patrick Diegnan as one of the most effective legislators for senior issues in New Jersey. If this is the way the Republicans plan on running their campaign, they better quit while they are ahead. Do they really want to replace one of South Plainfield's own with some unknown Republican from another town? The right thing for the Republicans to do would be to put politics aside and encourage all voters in the borough to show their pride in South Plainfield

by re-electing Patrick Diegnan to the Assembly. The people would then respect their integrity and maybe begin to take them seriously.

**SINCERELY,
FRANK FURINO**

Dear Editor,

While the Northeast, including parts of New Jersey, experienced a major blackout last week, South Plainfield has been experiencing its own blackout—an ethical blackout at Borough Hall.

Over the past few years, the all-Democratic mayor and council in South Plainfield have engaged in a series of ethically challenged acts:

- They've awarded over a million dollars in no-bid contracts to campaign contributors who, in turn, have donated tens of thousands of dollars to the Democratic party.

- They've used public resources to help their re-election campaigns.

- They've given special favors to campaign contributors, especially big builders (e.g., sold them Borough land, allowed them to use Borough property rent free).

- They've held many secret, closed-

door meetings that violate the Sunshine Law and the public trust.

- They've taken "pay to play" to new extremes by combining resources with the County Democratic Machine.

- They've engaged in sex discrimination. (Anyone notice how the council is all male and how they haven't appointed one woman to a management position? In fact, the one woman in management, who was hired by a prior administration, had to sue to get equal pay).

- They've hired family and friends—and each other—for spots in South Plainfield, Middlesex County and the local Assembly office. It's nepotism and cronyism at its finest.

The list could go on and on. Let's get the lights back on. In November, please vote for Marge Reedy and Ray Rusnak.

DARLENE PINTO

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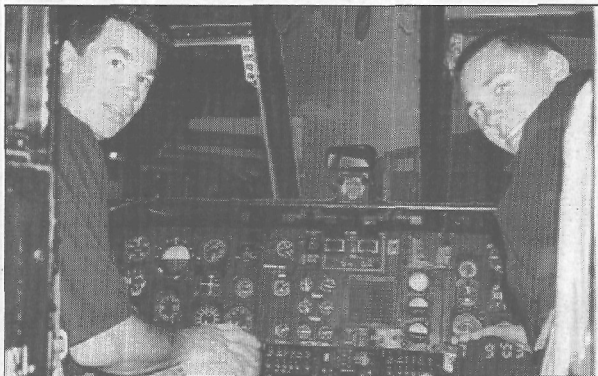
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Councilman Ray Petronko with his son, Randy in a Sea Knight helicopter.

Councilman Petronko Joins the Navy in "Operation Tiger"

(Continued from page 1)

flight deck to the RADAR tower, which is eight stories above the flight deck.

July 12 marked the beginning of the end of Ray's vacation. When the Tarawa was five miles off the coast of California near Camp Pendleton, Tiger Marines, Marines and Humvee's boarded the landing craft and were dropped all off at the camp. The following day the Tarawa arrived in San Diego where Ray disembarked

with his son, Randy.

Ray is still in awe of his great adventure. He said, "In the past I have attended air shows and have been on other ships, but the Tarawa is the most exciting ship in the world. Its vast array of aircraft and landing craft deployment make it flexible and versatile. The preparation, the Navy and Marines display, make me proud of them. I think we all can sleep a little better at night. I had the best vacation ever!"

Come Celebrate & Enjoy!

South Plainfield Hosts 46th Annual Parade

(Continued from page 1)

be able to set up inside the building, avoiding the soggy fields. Road will be closed starting at 9 a.m., so plan accordingly.

After the parade, everyone is invited to the PAL field for plenty of delicious food, activities and contests. Activities include pie and watermelon eating contests, balloon toss, egg toss, the awarding of trophies and handouts by the vendors. People Pleasers will have three rides: a giant slide, rock wall and hurricane for the kids to enjoy. A wide variety of food and drink will also be available from several non-profit groups and businesses in town. During the afternoon entertainment will be provided by "Back Splash."

The Observer will be there as usual, in fact "Fraiser" will be riding in our car. We will be announcing the winners and awarding prizes for the poster contest.

The evening entertainment take place in spring Lake Park. Glow wrist bands will be handed out on a first come, first serve basis, so get to Spring Lake Park early. The band "Sound Investment" will perform in the gazebo

starting at 6:30, followed by a patriotic fireworks display put on by Garden State Fireworks.

Come out and enjoy the days festivities. Bring a friend or neighbor with you. See you on Labor Day.

Roosevelt Ready to Welcome Students

(Continued from page 1)

gym/cafeteria/auditorium. Lunch tables are easily spirited away into storage spaces that are flush with the wall. A room divider creates smaller areas for gym, or opens up to provide room for lunch or a full audience. The school has a beautiful large stage. Of special note is the accessibility to physically challenged students via a stage right lift. Past theatrical efforts had to utilize a portable stage with no curtains nor any other stage amenities.

Over the years South Plainfield's grade schools have seen art, music and instrumental music rooms vanished to make room for much needed classroom space. Roosevelt Elementary proudly boasts a music room, art room and instrumental music room. Vocal music teacher Sharon Perez said, "Mrs. Posey and I are delighted with the new art and music rooms. These rooms will provide our students with access to a

greater variety of materials and equipment, and also the space in which to use them, which was not possible in the old school. The students will benefit from all the activities we will now be able to provide. We are looking forward to sharing a very exciting year with our students."

The building will be a confusing maze for students during those first weeks of school, but the final result itself is a truly amazing school that will fulfill a long awaited need.

The official dedication is scheduled for Tuesday evening at 7 p.m., following the open house at Grant Central at 6 p.m. A reception will follow the ceremonies. The public is invited to attend.

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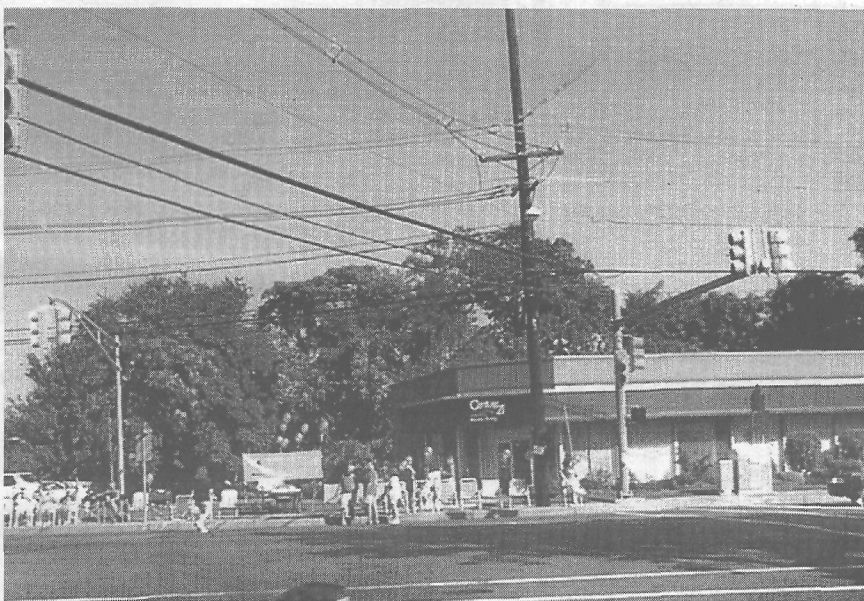
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Sports



South Plainfield Football Eagles

Welcome Back!

Our Football season has officially begun!

After one long week of conditioning for all football players and a week of stunting classes for all cheerleaders, the South Plainfield Football Eagles are practicing and getting ready to begin the season.

The new cheering surface has been installed thanks to Bob Stilo and Frank Malecki; this completes phase one. Phase two, a rubberized surface, will be sprayed next week and will be ready for our season opener.

Throughout the month of August, the Eagles will participate in the following activities:

- August 28 Scrimmage Away Somerville 5:30 p.m.
Looking ahead:
 September 1 Labor Day Parade
 September 4 Tag Day Jr. Midget Squads 6 p.m.
 September 5 Tag Day Jr. Pee Wee Squads 6 p.m.
 September 6 Tag Day Flag Squads 9 a.m.
 September 7 Game Away Montgomery
 September 13 Punt Pass and Kick Contest 9 a.m.
 September 14 First Home Game - Washington Rock
 September 18 Monthly Meeting 8 p.m. - All Parents Encouraged to Attend

Game Times:

Flag 10 a.m.-Mighty Mites 11 a.m.-Jr. Pee Wee 12:30 p.m.-Jr. Midget 2 p.m.

Girls' Gymnastics Preview

By Tim Morgan

Third year Assistant Coach Guida stressed that the gymnastics environment is one of enjoyment, learning, and development. Coach Guida admittedly came onto the South Plainfield Gymnastics program scene without a strong background in the area. He confessed that he was a new teacher at the time and wanted to help out the school any way he could. Despite that his athletes knew more than he did about the sport, he agreed to give the program the Assistant Coach it needed with the intentions of helping it to the best of his ability. "The girls make it fun," he said, adding that he has and still is listening to his own description of the environment by enjoying himself while learning more about the sport and developing his own ability in coaching it.

The South Plainfield High School Gymnastics team has always been small-sized. In 2001, there were eight girls. In 2002, there were twelve. This year, there will be seven. One identifiable thing about the sport of gymnastics is the unique camaraderie that is encouraged as a result of this.

Guida explained that while, like all other sports, the spirit of competition is present, meets take on a more con-

vivial than aggressive fashion. The athletes energetically cheer one another on, even those from opposing teams, and the atmosphere is a fun, reassuring one. Guida admits that this was not something he was accustomed to when he starting helping the team, having come from a team sports background, but said that he has come to enjoy it.

Last year, the Tigers posted a respectable 4-4 overall record (they were 4-3 in the GMC). The main obstacle the girls will face this season is the loss of several seniors, two of whom added a lot of strength to the team. However, a few of the Lady Tigers who demonstrated promise last year are returning.

Juniors Kayleigh McGovern and Lauren Darr will be expected to provide leadership and statistical success for the team. McGovern narrowly missed qualifying for the State Sectional meet last year and will likely perform quite strongly this year, as will Darr. There are also hopes and prospects for sophomores Guliana Kay and Beverly Jamieson this year. Freshmen Heather Ray and Sara Brooks have considerable depth and experience and should add some weight to the team. Senior Regina Alin returns for her second year and will essay the skills she learned from last year on the mats.

If there is one thing the Lady Tigers veritably have this upcoming season, it is ambition. Guida is looking for almost every girl to compete "all-around," which is competing in all four events - the beam, bars, floor and vault. Despite their losses, they want to at least equal their .500 record from last year, but that is only the bare minimum goal. Their real aspirations are to go 5-2 or better and to win the GMC Tournament in the near future. "I'm really expecting us

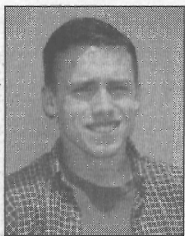
to have a pretty good year," Guida said.

Guida said that the team consists of seven different personalities that mesh together well. He expects team chemistry to play a conducive role this year.

Bishop Ahr, East Brunswick and Old Bridge will present the main competition for the Tigers this year.

In practices, after thorough stretching and a routine of line and tumbling acts, the girls all work on their own routines, because gymnastics is very much an individual activity. Guida emphasized that his job is to help the girls the best he can and do whatever is needed of him so that the girls can fine-tune their routines and skills because, except in the instance of a complete newcomer, the girls all know what they are doing from having learned the basics in other gyms in New Jersey. "They hope to improve themselves in any way they can," he said, referring to them working both an individual and team basis.

There is a range of abilities in gymnastics. Some of the girls have been active in the sport since grade school. However, Guida made it clear that anyone is welcome to join the team, even if they will be learning its mechanics for the first time. Regardless of any differences in abilities, he expects to accomplish a lot in practices from everyone's efforts. Guida said that he believes the girls will be very competitive this season and is confident that as long as the girls put in their hard work, the team will only get better and build on what they already have.



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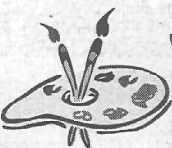
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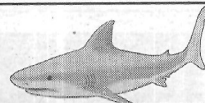
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Tiger Sharks Compete in League Championships



The South Plainfield Tiger Sharks swim team competed July 25 and 26 in the New Jersey Swimming and Diving Conference, League A Championships held at the Frog Hollow Swim and Tennis Club, South Plainfield placing third in their division against nine other area swim teams. The Tiger Sharks represent the South Plainfield Recreation Community Pool.

Other participating teams were: Brookside, Milltown; Cranford Gators, Hillsborough YMCA, Frog Hollow, South Amboy; Cedar Hill Country Club, Somerset; East Brunswick Sandpipers, Roycefield Swim Club, Hillsborough; Rivercrest Swim Club, Piscataway; and Metuchen Municipal Pool.

Medals were given from first through sixth place in each event held and many swimmers took medals or placed in several events. In the girls eight and under races, Rachel Krause took second place in the 25m butterfly and seventh in the 25m freestyle event; Kate McLaughlin placed fifth, 25m breaststroke, and fourth, 25m backstroke and Gracie Pickarski took second, 25m breaststroke, and fourth, 25m freestyle. In the medley races for the girls eight and under, 100m Medley relay second place went to teammates Allison White, Rachel Krause, Kate McLaughlin and Gracie Pickarski; sixth place went to teammates Allison Quintanilla, Kelly O'Brien, Taylor Alijan and Katelyn Kenny. In the 100m Freestyle Relay:

First place went to Taylor Alijan, Kate McLaughlin, Gracie Pickarski and Rachel Krause; sixth place went to Katelyn Kenny, Allison White, AnnMarie Pezzolla and Kelly O'Brien.

For girls 9/10 events, Maggie Valentino took third, 100m individual medley; third, 100m freestyle and eighth, 50m backstroke; Kate O'Brien placed third, 50m breaststroke and ninth, 50m backstroke; Sarah Konops, fourth, 50m freestyle and second, 50m breaststroke; Chelsea Cullen, first, 100m individual medley; fifth, 50m breaststroke and third, 50m butterfly;

and Kelly McLaughlin, tenth, 100m freestyle. Girls 11/12 events had Emily Pickarski place eighth in both 100m individual medley and 100m freestyle; and Amanda Ray, ninth, in both 50m freestyle and 50m backstroke. The relay races for girls 9-12 had these results: fifth place for teammates Amanda Ray, Chelsea Cullen, Kate O'Brien and Emily Pickarski in the 200m medley relay and fifth place for teammates Maggie Valentino, Amanda Ray, Sarah Konops and Emily Pickarski in the 200m freestyle relay.

Boys eight and under swimmers had Liam McDermott take fourth in the 25m breaststroke and Sean Cullen, ninth, 25m backstroke. Winning teammates in the eight and under relays were: Sean Cullen, Joey Valentino, Liam McDermott and Aidan McDermott, third in the 100m medley relay and third in the 100m freestyle relay. For the 11/12 year old boys, Michael Boyle took fifth in both the 100m freestyle and the 50m butterfly; Caleb Tou placed third, 50m breaststroke and seventh, 100m individual medley and Brian Babinetz placed ninth, 50m backstroke. Teammates Matt Santos, Caleb Tou, Michael Boyle and Ryan Lind took fifth place in the 9-12, 200m medley relay and in the 200m, freestyle relay: teammates Dylan McDermott, Michael Boyle, Caleb Tou and Michael Grzenda took fifth place.

For the older girls: Leah Konops placed sixth in the 100m butterfly and seventh in the 100m freestyle, ages 13/14; and for ages 15-18, Nina Byard took second, 100m backstroke, and sixth, 100m freestyle and Jessica Manning placed ninth in the 100m backstroke. Relay race results for the girls 13-18 group had teammates Nina Byard, Leah Konops, Kristen Dabrio and Joanna Luzny take fourth place in the 200m medley relay and sixth place in the 200m freestyle relay and teammates Jessica Manning, Abigail Petritsch, Katie Koury and Rachel Esteves take eighth place in the 200m medley relay and tenth place in the



200m freestyle relay.

Philip Luzny took first place in the 100m butterfly, boys ages 13/14; third, in the 100m breaststroke and fifth in the 100m freestyle, while Matt Moates took sixth place in both 100m backstroke and 100m butterfly. For the boys ages 15-18, Calvin/John Smiley took second in the 100m freestyle; fourth in the 100m butterfly and eighth in the 100m backstroke. In the relay race for boys ages 13-18, the team of Phil Luzny, Calvin/John Smiley, Matt Moates and Chris Reed took eighth place for the 200m freestyle relay.

Other Tiger Shark swimmers who participated in the 8-12 girls division were:

Elizabeth Rue, Evelyn Peregrin, Maggie Quintanilla, Christina Kasmer, Jamie Bohn, Michelle O'Sullivan, Lauren Parelo, Jessica Bohn, Christina Butrico, Kirsten Nuber, Nicole Rann, Sara Johnson and Anna Petritsch. Girls ages 13-18 who also participated were Liz Valentino and Jennifer Garner. Other participants in the boys' events were Charlie Butrico, Michael Petritsch, Alan Kasmer, Anthony Baldasare and Steven Grzenda.

Tiger Shark swimmers have now completed their competition season for 2003 and will begin to plan for next year, while some swimmers will look forward to swimming with other teams during the winter months. Coaches for the Tiger Sharks are Laurie Post, head coach, assisted by Robin Cone, Jen Otlowski and Shannon Dabrio.

Submitted by Donna Egan

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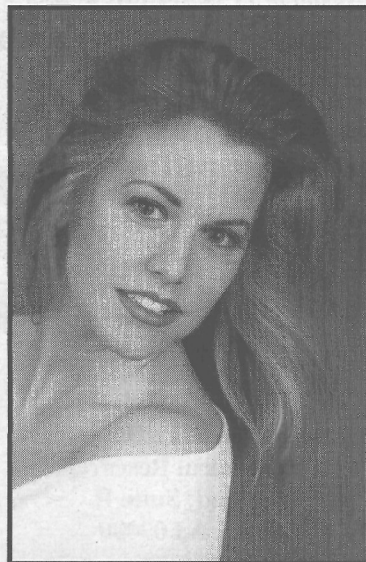
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South Plainfield Ponytail Three Lady Tigers team players are Lana Arki, Alexis Cargill, Janie Colocchio, Jamie Glavasich, Elizabeth Gratta, Sheena Higgins, Kate O'Brien, Katherine Podlovits, Jamie Quail, Elizabeth Rue, Stephanie Sherwood, Rachel Sutherland, Amanda Tjong, Danielle Tramutola and Danielle Yulick. Their coach is Robert Podlovits.



Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller

The South Plainfield Parents' Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield Middle School library. If you are interested in becoming a member and being involved in girl's Ponytail softball, please join us on Sept. 23. New members are always welcome.

On Friday, Oct. 3, the SPPPA will once again be hosting an art auction presented by Ross Galleries. Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased at the door or in advance by contacting Debbie Boyle, Mark Sutherland, or myself (via our website). Location and time are not yet known.

Attention SPPPA members: the fundraising committee is looking for volunteers to help out during the auction. If you are able to assist in any way, please contact Debbie Boyle or Mark Sutherland.

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Sports

SPHS FIELD HOCKEY

By Sharon Miller



The SPFHHA thanks all of the parents who attended the Monday night meeting. We hope the information you received was helpful. We also appreciate everyone who signed up to help out at the Scrimmage workshop and the alumni game. In order for these two events to be successful, we need everyone's help.

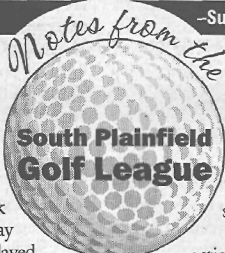
If you were unable to attend this meeting and need information on what was discussed, please feel free to contact me. Also, we need one parent of each player to sign up to help out at either the scrimmage workshop or the alumni game. In addition, each parent needs to sign up to provide a healthy snack for one of the away games. You can contact one of the team captains or myself to sign up.

Saturday, Aug. 30 at 11 a.m., the first scrimmage of the season will have the team facing Pequonak at home on the Carol Espinosa Field.

On Sept. 4, the team will play Hillsboro (away) in a scrimmage game on Thursday. Time to be advised. Please come out and support a wonderful team of players.

Special Events—Once again South Plainfield will be hosting the annual NJFHCA Preseason Scrimmage Workshop on Sept. 6. Games will take place on the Carol Espinosa Field and the high school soccer field from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vendors will be onsite offering field hockey clothing. There will also be refreshments (drinks and light snacks) for purchase at both sites. Alumni game takes place on the Carol Espinosa field on Sept. 7 at 3 p.m.

The Varsity, JV and Freshmen 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.



—Submitted by Bob Nilan

Plainfield Animal Hospital again moved back into first place in the tight American League race with an overwhelming 16-4 win over the South Plainfield Elks. Mark Chichvar's 38 led the way for PAH while the Elks played with one man short.

Witty's fell to second place after dropping their match to Masters, 14-6. Howard Adler fired a 37 for Witty's; Danny Griffin earned medalist honors for Masters with another fine three-over-par round of 36.

Mary Van De Vaart shot a 38 and teammate Jim Pornovets came through with 39 as Pornovets defeated Sport & Social, 14-6. Frank Matthews was low-man for Sport & Social in a losing cause.

In the National Division, Aiello Chiropractic finished the regular season in great form in getting by KC's Korner, 11-9 to finish with a 10-2-2 record, the best in the entire league. Fred Kirchofer and Ed Banach both had sparkling rounds of 34 for Aiello. John Cotone had another fine round, posting a 37, and Rich Steele pitched in with a 39 for KC's Korner.

Patti's Construction had no problem with VFW who played with just three men as Matt Ward's 38 sparked Patti's to an easy 17-3 victory. Bob Nilan was medalist for VFW.

John Cacciatore's 36 and Wayne Hanrahan's 37 were enough to offset

the terrific one-over-par 34 turned in by Jay Coppola of Twin City as Hank's Hackers earned a 13-7 win to move into third place in the National Division.

In next week's playoff action, Aiello Chiropractic, National Division champs, boasting the best record in the league, will face the American Division first-place titleholders, Plainfield Animal Hospital. KC's Korner will match up against Witty's Liquors to decide third place honors.

Leading scores for the night: Ed Banach-34, Fred Kirchofer-34, Jay Coppola-34, Danny Griffin-36, John Cacciatore-36, John Cotone-37, Wayne Hanrahan-37, Howard Adler-37, Marty Van De Vaart-38, Matt Ward-38, Mark Chichvar-39 and Jim Pornovets-39.

STANDINGS

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

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Sports

Bonnie Brae Tartan Golf Classic 2003

Bonnie Brae will host their Annual Tartan Golf Classic on Monday, Sept. 22 at the Plainfield Country Club in Plainfield. The cost is \$550 per player (Includes green fees, cart, fore caddie, locker room, range, player gift bag, contests, on course beverage, lunch, cocktail hour, grand reception and buffet dinner.)

Awards for men's first, second and third low gross and low net; ladies' first and second low gross and low net and first place best ball gross team.

Contests include closest to the pin, ladies' longest drive, men's longest drive, closest to the line and on the green and a 50/50.

For more information call Special Events Department at 908-542-2739 or e-mail at sortiz@bonnie-brae.org

The "2003 Tartan Golf Classic" is sponsored by Merlin Industries for the benefit of Bonnie Brae, a year-round residential treatment center for troubled New Jersey boys.

By Lee Flanagan

juniorbaseballclubnotes

At this time I would like to wish the South Plainfield Community a festive, safe and relaxing Labor Day weekend.

When the 2003 South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club season comes to closure on Sept. 6 with our annual picnic, it will signal the start of a "new beginning" for the 2004 season and the new Executive Board. The 2004 season is our 50th Anniversary season.

The new Executive Board has been meeting during the month of August on several occasions to create and explore new innovative ways in keeping the quality of youth baseball in South Plainfield. I am confident that every parent and/or guardian who has a child playing at the SPJBC and members of the Community will step-up in some way to help create and be a part of the "new beginning" process for the baseball club. If you have any questions about this endeavor please call Lee Flanagan at 908-561-6348.

On Friday night Sept. 5, beginning at 6:30 p.m., we will be setting up for the annual picnic at the SPJBC Com-

plex. We gratefully appreciate all those who can help with the set-up on this night.

Our picnic to bring closure to the 2003 season will be on Saturday, Sept. 6, beginning at 12 p.m. All of the kids who participated in our Spring baseball program this past season and their families are invited. The day will start with the Parent/Youth softball game and the Dunk Tank and horseshoes will be available at this time also. Food and refreshments will be served. We will be having a Home Run Derby contest, and a speed pitching contest measured by the radar gun also. Prizes will be donated by Sportworld for all contests. We will be presenting plaques to the outgoing Executive Board and trophies will be awarded also. Come out and have a family fun day at the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club.



12U All-Stars players are Dana Alexa, Erica Bowden, Gina Curcio, Brooke DeNitzio, Stephanie DiCindio, Sydney Gentile, Ashley Hawkins, Allison Huffsmith, Jackie Kukuch, Rachel Senz, Alyssa Sutherland and Stephanie Szeliga. Coaches are Mark Sutherland, Steve Senz, Gary Curcio and Dave DiCindio.

Ponytail 12U All-Stars Finish 27-3

The summer of 2003 was another outstanding season for the South Plainfield All-Stars. The team finished their Parkway Invitational Softball League schedule undefeated and won

the playoff championship.

In tournament action the ladies came away with the Monroe Classic Thunder Tournament Championship, going a perfect 6-0 for the weekend.

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| <p>Clos Du Bois Chardonnay \$9.99 750 ML</p> <p>Gentle acidity with balanced oak and green apple crispness make for a rather unique Chardonnay ideal for mineral seafood like oysters, clams, bass, or trout.</p> | <p>Estancia Chardonnay Pinnacles \$8.99 750 ML</p> <p>Buttery and round, this lush Chardonnay has maintained a Wine Spectator "Best Buy" rating for eleven years straight. Buttery seafood like lobster and scallops would be divine.</p> | <p>J Lohr Los Osos Merlot \$11.99 750 ML</p> <p>A vibrant example of merlot showing red fruit and violet aromas with toasty oak notes and a supple, velvety tannin structure. A lovely accompaniment to roasted meats, rich pastas, and poultry.</p> | <p>Nobilo Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough) \$9.99 750 ML</p> <p>Explosive acidity packed with flavors of ripe grapefruit, a honey suckle floral nose and a long cool finish. A great wine with summer's bounty of farm fresh veggies, and delightful with seafood.</p> |
| <p>Beringer White Zinfandel \$4.99 750 ML</p> <p>Arbor Valley Chardonnay, Merlot, White Zinfandel \$4.99 1.5 Liter</p> | <p>Gallo of Sonoma Chardonnay \$8.99 750 ML</p> <p>Kendall Jackson Vintner's Reserve Cabernet, Merlot \$12.99 750 ML</p> | <p>Nathanson Creek Cab, Chard, Merlot \$5.99 1.5 Liter</p> <p>Redwood Creek Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot \$9.99 1.5 Liter</p> | <p>Cline Zinfandel \$7.99 750 ML</p> <p>Sutter Home Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot \$4.99 750 ML</p> |
| <p>Clos Du Bois Cab Merlot \$11.99 \$13.99 750 ML</p> | <p>Corbett Canyon Coastal Cellars Cab, Chard, Merlot \$5.99 1.5 Liter</p> | <p>Robert Mondavi Woodbridge White Zinfandel \$6.99 1.5 Liter</p> | <p>Rodney Strong Sonoma Chardonnay \$8.99 750 ML</p> |
| <p>Asti Cinzano Asti Spumante \$6.99 750 ML</p> <p>Piper Heidsieck Brut Cuvee or Extra Dry \$24.99 750 ML</p> | <p>Harvey's Bristol Cream Sherry \$8.99 750 ML</p> | <p>Cavit Pinot Grigio Walnut Crest Chard, Merlot \$10.99 \$7.99 1.5 Liter</p> <p>Yellow Tail Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot, Shiraz \$5.99 750 ML</p> | <p>Georges Duboeuf Cab, Chard \$9.99 1.5 Liter</p> <p>Luna Di Luna Chard/Pinot Grigio Cabernet/Merlot \$7.99 750 ML</p> |

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| <p>Stock Sweet or Dry Vermouth 1 Liter \$4.99</p> <p>Arbor Mist Flavored Coolers 1.5 Liter \$5.99</p> <p>Paul Masson Grande Amber Brandy 750 ML \$8.99</p> | <p>Zeiko Vodka 1.75 Liter \$9.99</p> <p>Club 400 Blended Whisky 1.75 Liter \$11.99</p> <p>Fleischmann Dry Gin 1.75 Liter \$11.99</p> | <p>Canadian Peak 1.75 Liter \$12.99</p> <p>Scotch Island 1.75 Liter \$13.99</p> <p>Clan MacGregor Scotch 1.75 Liter \$15.99</p> | <p>Kahlua Especial 750 ML \$17.99</p> <p>Wild Turkey 80 1.75 Liter \$27.99</p> |
| <p>Courvoisier VS Cognac \$21.99 750 ML</p> <p>Gordon's Vodka \$13.99 1.75 Liter</p> <p>Malibu Coconut Rum \$11.99 750 ML</p> | <p>Tanqueray London Dry Gin \$29.99 1.75 Liter</p> <p>Sauza Gold/Blanco \$14.99 750 ML</p> | <p>Chivas Regal Scotch \$25.99 750 ML</p> <p>Johnnie Walker Red Label Scotch \$32.99 1.75 Liter</p> <p>The Glenlivet 12 Yr Old Scotch \$26.99 750 ML</p> | <p>Tanqueray No. Ten Gin \$22.99 750 ML</p> |

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| <p>Rolling Rock Premium or Light 12 oz NR btls \$13.99 Case</p> <p>Natural Light & Ice 12 oz cans \$8.99 Case</p> <p>Coors Non-Alcoholic 12 oz NR btls or cans \$11.99 Case</p> | <p>Coors Light & Ice 12 oz cans \$13.99 Case</p> <p>Foster's Lager 12 oz NR btls \$18.99 Case</p> <p>Corona Extra or Light 12 oz NR btls \$20.99 Case</p> | <p>Becks, Becks Dark, Becks Light, Octoberfest 12 oz NR btls \$20.99 Case</p> | <p>Keystone Light & Ice 12 oz cans \$11.99 Case</p> <p>Coors Light & Ice 12 oz cans \$13.99 Case</p> <p>Bacardi Silver & O's 12 oz NR btls \$20.99 Case</p> |
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Obituaries

Albert P. Spence, Jr., 29

Albert P. Spence, Jr. died on Tuesday, Aug. 19 at home.

Born in Summit, Al has resided in South Plainfield for most of his life and was a 1993 graduate of South Plainfield High School.

He had been a self-employed floor mechanic, installing all types of flooring for A. Spence Custom Floors of South Plainfield, working mostly as a sub contractor for Irvington Lino-leum. Al recently started his own company, Hill Top Floors.

He loved fishing and was a member of the South Plainfield High School fishing club. Al also enjoyed professional football, as well as a host of other sports.

Surviving are his parents, Albert, Sr. and Phyllis (Swody) of South Plainfield; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Donna and Pat Cantarella of South Plainfield, Debbie and Scott Peters of Belmar and Hannah and Ron Stria of Washington Twsp. and four nephews, Pat, Paul, Jake and Dakota and a niece, Jordyn.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Josephine "Jo" Di Dolce (nee Cipolla), 65

Josephine "Jo" Di Dolce (nee Cipolla) died on Wednesday, Aug. 20 at her South Plainfield home, after a valiant battle with breast cancer.

Born in Newark and raised in Cranford, she had lived in South Plainfield for the past 33 years.

While her children attended the South Plainfield School System, Jo was very active in the Parent Teachers Association (now known as PTSO)

and she was also a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

A loving mother who adored her family, Jo was considered strong, full of grace, love, life and happiness and will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.

She is predeceased by her parents, Michael and Natalina Cipolla; her sister, Esther Kirkland and her nephew, Ramsey Alteria, Jr.

Surviving is her beloved husband of 42 years, John, Sr.; a daughter and son-in-law, Natalie and Craig Rosenthal of Homdel; a son and daughter-in-law, John, Jr. and Debby of South Plainfield and her three special angels, Bianca DiDolce, Alexandra Palazzo and John DiDolce, III. Also surviving are four sisters, Rose and her husband Ramsey Alteria, Sr. of Fla., Marie and her husband Robert Dudas, Sr. of Pt. Pleasant, Patricia Cipolla of Fla. and Jean DiMarco of Fla. and three brothers, Ralph and his wife Ann Marie Cipolla of Pt. Pleasant, Lou Cipolla of Fla. and Mike and his wife Joyce Cipolla of Fla.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jo's memory to Ocean of Love, 1709 Highway 37 East, Toms River, NJ 08753.

Elizabeth (Betty) Cortese Ronzo, 85

Elizabeth (Betty) Cortese Ronzo of South Plainfield died on Tuesday, Aug. 19 at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Betty was born and raised in Plainfield and lived there before moving to South Plainfield 50 years ago. She was a communicant of Sacred

Heart Church in South Plainfield and a former member of the Alter Rosary Society.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 65 years, Diamone Ronzo; two sons, Louis S. and his wife Maryann Ronzo, Joseph A. and his wife Sandy Ronzo; a daughter, Marie Thompson and her husband Walter, all of South Plainfield; a brother, Michael Cortese of Califon; a sister, Margaret Giglio of Piscataway; five grandchildren, Walter and Jeffrey Thompson and Jennifer, Joseph and Nicholas Ronzo and two great-grandsons, Dylan and Shaun Thompson.

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

Eric M. Zirger, 29

Eric M. Zirger died on Aug. 21 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Portsmouth, Va., he resided in San Diego for a short time before spending most of his life in Plainfield.

He had attended the Sacred Heart Church School in South Plainfield and later the Plainfield High School.

Eric loved music and played the guitar. He was also active with youth ministry through Sacred Heart Church.

Working lastly in security for The Wiz in Somerville, he previously worked as an assistant manager for Mooney General Paper in Hillside and Crystal Supply of South Plainfield.

He is survived by his parents, Karl and Barbara (Pursey) Zirger; a sister, Rebecca and his paternal grandmother, Louise. He is also survived by numerous uncles, aunts and cousins.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

May L. Annexstein, 79

May L. Annexstein died on Sunday, Aug. 24 at JFK Haven Hospice in Edison.

Born in Brooklyn, Mrs. Annexstein had resided in Brooklyn for most of her life before settling to South Plainfield in 2001.

She had been employed by Gulf Oil in New York City as a secretary for many years before her retirement.

An active member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens, she also had been an animal lover, who do-

nated to numerous animal charities.

She leaves behind her granddaughter, Michelle Minkowsky and her dog, Princess.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Caroline S. Protko, 69

Caroline S. Protko died on Tuesday, Aug. 19 in Union Hospital in Union.

Born in Elizabeth, she resided in Cranford, Clark and Garwood before moving to Westfield four years ago.

Caroline was employed as an office worker with Schering-Plough in Kenilworth. She worked there for many years before retiring in 1990.

Surviving are her sister, Betty J. (Flanke) Mason and her husband, Harrison of Salem, NY; her nieces, Colleen Thomas of Asbury and Debra Zotti of South Plainfield; her nephews, Glenn Flanke of South Plainfield and Michael Thomas of Belleville; and her great nephew, Billy Thomas. Also surviving is her best friend, Joan Nemeth of Kenilworth.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

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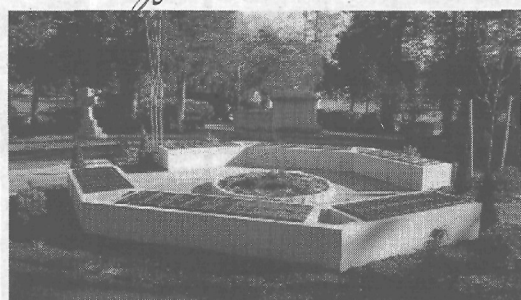
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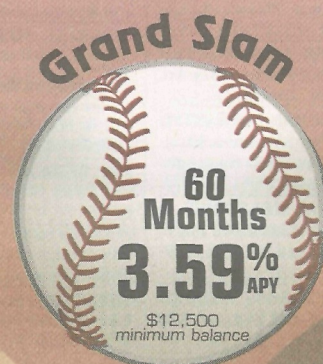
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