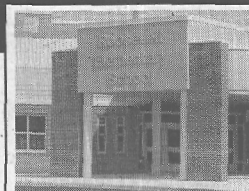


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See next week's issue for coverage of Roosevelt School Dedication.

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL 8, NO. 2

50 CENTS

SEPTEMBER 5, 2003

## September 11 Memorial Planned

A September 11 memorial service will be held at the South Plainfield Senior Center, located on the corner of Maple and Lake avenues on Thursday, Sept. 11 at 9 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

## State to Continue Helen Street Project Funding

Department of Transportation Commissioner (DOT) Jack Lettiere has confirmed the state's commitment to the Helen Street Extension Project. In a letter to Senator Barbara Buono, Commissioner Lettiere states, "Design funds for fiscal year 2004 have been designated and we are expecting that South Plainfield will move forward with design activities in fall 2003." The state will commit an additional \$1,900,000 to the project in this fiscal year. The Helen Street Extension will connect the industrial sections of Metuchen Road with Durham Avenue near the Route 287 entrance. As a result, all truck traffic will be re-routed from the residential area of Belmont Avenue and Hamilton Boulevard in the Borough.

In commenting on the letter, Senator Buono said, "Helen Street is an important project for the citizens of South Plainfield. Assemblyman Barnes, Assemblyman Diegnan and I have worked, and will continue to work, with the Department of Transportation to see it completed. In difficult economic times such as these, it is all the more important to secure state and federal funding for municipal projects."

Assemblyman Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr., who is a South Plainfield resident, commented, "The Helen Street Extension is as complicated a project as you can imagine. Now that the environmental phase is completed, all that remains is design and property acquisitions before construction will begin. No single project will further the quality of life in South Plainfield than the completion of Helen Street. It will eliminate truck traffic from the residential areas on the south side of our borough."

Assemblyman Peter Barnes said, "This is just another example of how Senator Buono, Assemblyman Diegnan and I have been able to work with the various state agencies to benefit the citizens of the 18<sup>th</sup> district. You can rest assured that we will continue to work to see that worthwhile projects such as the Helen Street Extension are properly funded."

## Washed Up, But Not Out!

Steady Rain Fails to Dampen Marchers, Parade Goers

This year's Labor Day Parade was indeed a challenge—to the organizers, the participants and even those watching the parade. Rain, heavy at times, made conditions difficult for everyone involved, but despite all the adversity, the parade went on and almost all of the planned events for the day took place.

The 5K race actually drew more runners than last year, but there were far fewer walkers. Results and photos of the run and walk will be in next week's *Observer*.

Participants in the parade arrived dressed in all types of rain gear, and hundreds of umbrellas were used before, during and after the parade.

The rain didn't dampen those watching the parade. Cheering and applauding the paraders, crowds stood in the rain all along the parade route. The huge crowds were encouraging to those marching in the rain.

Announcers Bill Cochrane at the PAL and Al Czech in front of Borough Hall introduced each group of marchers as they passed in front of the viewing stands.

Grand Marshal Joe Zekas and his wife Dolores didn't seem to mind the rain a bit. They smiled and waved to the crowd as they led the parade.



Parade viewers found many inventive ways to keep dry. The cheering group pictured above, as well as many others along the route, sought cover under tents. Parade Grand Marshal Joe Zekas, above, was honored for his many contributions to South Plainfield.

Zekas was presented with a plaque for being named this year's grand marshal.

The vendors took cover in the PAL building, except those who were grilling. They were right outside the PAL. Most vendors seemed to be very busy. Beer sales were down slightly

because of the weather. The band "Backsplash" entertained during the afternoon at the PAL and everyone seemed to enjoy their music.

The only events cancelled were the contests planned for after the parade—the pie and watermelon contests, egg toss and water balloon

toss. Also the rides that were scheduled were cancelled.

In the evening the rain looked like it might slow down. The band "Sound Investment" setup in the gazebo at Spring Lake Park and began to entertain the small crowd of faithful followers who had gathered. Some were even dancing. People slowly arrived at the park, anticipating the fireworks display. However, the crowds were much smaller than in past years. Members of the parade committee were there to hand out the glow wristbands to those who showed up.

The evening fireworks went on as scheduled, but almost on cue, with the start of the first fireworks display, the rains really started coming down and many folks ran for cover.

Even though the weather did not cooperate this year, South Plainfield stepped up to the plate and succeeded in making a disastrous day a complete success.

Many people deserve recognition and a thank you from all of us for their hard work, especially the parade marshals, who stood in the rain and directed the marchers to their positions, the judges, police officers and all of the brave marchers who were out in the rain for hours in order to make the day memorable. We should also thank the members of the Public Celebrations Committee, who have been meeting for the past year making plans. They are Marion Gallagher, Ray Petronko, Pat Vargo, John Sorrentino, Marie Smith, Joe Scrudato, Mike Mannix, Jr. Don Alexa and Michael English. You all did a splendid job!

## Poster Contest Winners Announced



First place poster winner Nina Visaggio, left, displays the poster that best depicted the theme of this year's parade. At right is runner up Christina Snogans. The contest also had a second runner up, Eleanor Haines, who was not available at presstime.



The South Plainfield *Observer* Labor Day Poster Contest winners are: in first place, Nina Visaggio, 11, who received a \$50 gift certificate from Sportworld, a SPHS Tiger Bear, and an *Observer* T-shirt and visor. Runners up were Christina Snogans, 12, and Eleanor Haines, who each won \$25 gift certificates

from Sportworld, a t-shirt and hat from the *Observer*. Honorable mention went to Fred Madison for his innovative poster made from a pizza box and a curtain rod.

Others entering the contest were Alexis Cargill, Daniel Snogans, Eleanor Haines, Chris and James Markey. Each received an *Observer*

hat. If any contestant did not receive a hat, please give us a call. All of the posters were on display at the *Observer* booth at the PAL building.

We would like to thank everyone who entered and hope that next year more people will participate in our contest.



# Mark your calendars

Log on to  
southplainfieldnj.com  
for the latest  
meeting agenda

## council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Thursday.  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. (New Time) • Questions? 908-226-7605

**AGENDA MEETING** ..... **PUBLIC MEETING**  
Thursday, September 4 (7pm) ..... Thursday, September 4 (8 pm)  
Monday, September 15 ..... Thursday, September 18  
Monday, October 6 ..... Thursday, October 9

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

## planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

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

## zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

Aug. 28, Sept. 11, Sept. 25, Oct. 16, Oct. 30,  
Nov. 6, Nov. 20, Dec. 4, Dec. 18.

## board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

The August Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting will be held Tuesday, August 26 Committee of the Whole at 6:30 p.m. and Regular Board Meeting at 8 p.m.  
Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.: Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9  
Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m.: Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 16

## taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-769-0786.

## site plan sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.  
Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 16.

## recreation commission

Meets once a month on the first Tuesday of the month, except July and August  
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716  
September 2, October 7, November 11 (Nov. 4 is Election Day) and December 2.

## environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday except August)  
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621

## business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

## traffic safety advisory commission

Meets once a month (fourth Wednesday-no meeting August) at 7 p.m.  
in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

# IN YOUR OPINION

### To the Editor:

The family of Ed Vaughn would like to express their sincere, heartfelt thanks to all the family, friends and associates who were so wonderful to us during our time of sorrow. We will never forget the hugs, thoughts, flowers, prayers, shared tears and smiles that were so comforting to us at this, our saddest time.

We will miss his smile, we will miss his face, for no one could ever take his place.

THE VAUGHN FAMILY

### Dear Editor,

Labor Day is always special in South Plainfield and this year was no exception. Despite the rainy weather, we were once again able to show off our South Plainfield pride. The Public Celebrations Committee deserves everyone's thanks for the best parade ever. Our hats go off to Marion Gallagher, Ray Petronko, Pat Vargo, John Sorrentino, Marie Smith, Joe Scudato, Mike Mannix, Jr., Don Alexa and Michael English.

In addition the Police, Fire Department, Rescue Squad and Public Works Department deserve special praise for a job well done. On behalf of the local Democratic Organization, I want to particularly thank United States Senator Jon Corzine for walking the entire parade route in the rain. No wonder Senator Corzine has become one of the most respected leaders in Washington.

I also want to thank Andy Pinto for coming all the way back from his shore house to drive his car on behalf of the Democratic team, even though it was raining the whole time. As Andy said, "Hey, you were relying on me to be there for you."

It's the people who live here that make South Plainfield such a great place to live every day of the year, not just on Labor Day.

PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

### Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to apologize for an incident that occurred on Tuesday, Aug. 26 at a South Plainfield Pop Warner football scrimmage.

I was verbally berated by another coach, stemming from a non-football related issue. When I verbally defended myself, I inadvertently used a curse word in front of my team and their families. This is what I would like to apologize for.

So, to the South Plainfield Jr. Pee Wee team, their families and the opposing team and their families, I am sorry for my lapse in judgment.

JOHN C. PETRIELLO  
ASST. JR. PEE WEE COACH

### Dear Editor:

I read with amazement last week's letter to the editor from one of the Republican candidates who said his friends asked why he would "subject himself to personal attacks and other indignities" by running for Borough Council. Are he and his running mate for real? Do they read the weekly personal attacks, which are printed in their names by those who are the self-proclaimed leaders of the local Republican party? Just last week, their campaign manager authored a letter accusing us of everything except hiding out from Saddam Hussein. Bob Cusick and I are running for council not to attack others, but to set forth our ideas for keeping South Plainfield one of the nicest towns in the state of New Jersey.

You do not have to worry about personal attacks and other indignities from the Democrats. Isn't it time you make the same promise?

SINCERELY,  
RAY PETRONKO

### Dear Editor:

Ray Petronko and I are committed to not allow those who now run the Republican party to force us into a mud slinging campaign. Those who know us, know that we are honest people. We have no other agenda than continuing to make South Plainfield a great town to live in. We are proud of our record and we intend to run on it and our plans for the future.

However, I cannot let the Republicans trash our dedicated borough employees. Last year they attacked our police department. This year they have decided to start their campaign off with characterizing our public works department as "a disaster." As council liaison to public works, I know first hand that our public works employees are an asset to the borough and they deserve to be supported, not criticized. Just look at how beautiful all of the borough grounds were for the Labor Day parade. It is an overwhelming job to set up for the parade and then to clean up after it, especially in the face of the bad weather we had. They did a tremendous job last winter with snow removal during one of the most bitter and prolonged cold periods in history.

Mayor Gallagher and the council are in the process of totally upgrading our public works equipment. In fact, we just purchased a new mower with a blade to plow sidewalks, three dump trucks with plows and salters, two pick up trucks with plows, a new stump grinder, a new wood chipper and two additional lawn mowers. On top of all

of this, due to the hard work of the employees and putting in place new efficiencies, the public works budget is actually less today than when the Republicans were booted out of office ten years ago.

Ray Petronko and I are proud of the Democratic record of no tax increase in four of the last six years, cutting borrowing and 'pay as you go government.' We are anxious to compare our record and vision with the opposition party. However, we will not allow our borough employees to be trashed as part of the Republican campaign.

VERY TRULY YOURS,  
BOB CUSICK

### To the Observer

Re: a letter in the August 22, 2003 issue of South Plainfield Observer by Plainfield teacher.

It does not cease to amaze me that any factual statement concerning public education establishment is treated by this establishment as "an attempt to destroy the character of a most noble profession: public school teachers" and "teacher bashing."

In a letter mentioned above we were also told that New Jersey Education Association is not a trade union but a professional association. Another amazing statement from a letter which I slightly paraphrase here is: "that education system cannot and will not accept all the blame" for poor academic performance of public school pupils.

To my knowledge, the National Education Association and its affiliates are the only professional associations in this country which do not feel responsible for the results of their work. Instead of answering a letter in extenso let me quote from the book, "The Conspiracy of Ignorance" by Martin L. Gross:

"The problem begins with the name, the National Education Association. Though it makes the group sound similar to such professional groups as the American Bar Association, it is a misnomer. The NEA is not an association but a trade union, a fact that has hindered professionalism. Despite its rhetoric, it is little different from the Teamsters or the United Auto Workers. But unlike those organizations, which are frank about their vested worker interests, the teachers' unions have masqueraded for years as professional groups intent on raising the quality of education."

and:  
"The teachers' unions have fought, and are still fighting, every attempt to

(Continued on page 10)

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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 ggann@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: ggann@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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## Reflections On My First Term in the Assembly

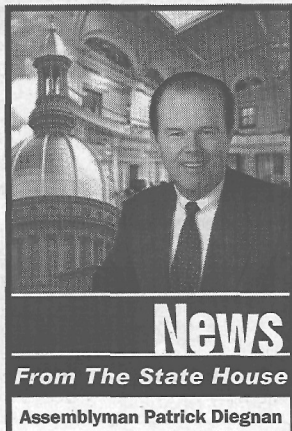
It's hard to believe that I am finishing up my first two-year term in the New Jersey General Assembly. It literally seems like yesterday when my family and friends joined me for my swearing in at the War Memorial Building in Trenton.

All in all, I think that it's been a productive two years. I was honored to be made a member of the Education Committee and Commerce Committee and I was particularly humbled when I was named Vice Chair of the Judiciary Committee. I have been the primary sponsor on five bills which have been signed into law and I have been the co-sponsor on another twenty. Two of the bills I sponsored were a direct result of input from South Plainfield residents. Rudy Poczak of the V.F.W. first told me that non-profit organizations couldn't raise money through raffles or 50/50's to fix up their buildings. In January the Governor signed my bill to make that legal. Kenneth Zushma, who, in addition to being our Emergency Management Coordinator's son, is a new teacher, suggested that I sponsor a bill creating a teaching certification for Technology. After a lot of work, the bill unanimously passed the Assembly and will soon be voted on in the Senate.

I am particularly proud of what Assemblyman Peter Barnes, Senator Barbara Buono and I have been able to accomplish for the 18<sup>th</sup> district. Every one of our towns will receive extraordinary municipal aid and we have been able to receive millions of dollars in grants for the seven municipalities in the 18<sup>th</sup>. South Plainfield received \$200,000 for our new Computer Assisted Dispatch System in our Police Department and just a few weeks ago we received a check for \$250,000 for the clean up of Veterans Park. I am confident that we will also receive almost \$300,000 in extraordinary municipal aid when the awards are announced in September. A tax point in South Plainfield is about \$140,000. Therefore we have saved almost six tax points through state aid grants during the last two years. I am pleased that South Plainfield is finally getting what it needs to stay fiscally sound. I know the people in Trenton are very impressed by South Plainfield's record of no tax increase in four of the last six years and cutting debt by almost 50 percent.

In addition, I am delighted with the tree and daffodil planting at the exit and entrance ramps to Route 287 on Durham Avenue. I lobbied hard to get that done. The state will also soon be relocating the traffic signals to make turning easier. It may seem like a little thing, but it really improves the way that entire area looks and gives a nice impression to visitors of our borough.

I have enjoyed my first term in the New Jersey Assembly. If the people honor me with re-election, I will continue to keep South Plainfield's voice loud and clear in Trenton. If you have any ideas or suggestions for laws or policy decisions, contact me. My phone number is (908) 757-1677 or email me at AsmDiegnan@njleg.org.



**News**  
From The State House  
Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan

## Pilgrim Covenant Learning Center Welcomes Director

The Board of Directors at Pilgrim Covenant Learning Center, Inc. are pleased to welcome James D. Stanley-Erickson as part-time director of their local day care and preschool program. An ordained pastor with the Evangelical Covenant Church of America, Pastor Jim has a post-graduate teaching certificate from Northeastern Illinois University and a Masters of Divinity from North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago.

Pastor Jim joined the South Plainfield community in 1998 when he and his wife, Cathy, were called as co-pastors at Pilgrim Covenant Church. Prior to that he served churches in Chicago, Stockholm and Jamestown, NY, in positions as youth leader, associate pastor and senior pastor. Pastor Jim has also served this community as chaplain for the fire department and substitute teacher at the South Plainfield High School.

"In all the churches I've served, there have been high quality preschool or day care programs and I have worked closely with them. I'm very happy to be joining the caring staff of Pilgrim Covenant Learning Center, Inc.," said Jim.

Located at 3121 Park Ave., Pilgrim Covenant Learning Center features learning enriched day care and part time preschool programs for three-year-olds and four-year-olds. There are still a few openings in the day care and four year old programs. Call (908) 756-4879 for information.

Key upcoming events include parent orientation for new families Wednesday night, Sept. 3 and an open house Saturday morning, Oct. 4.



## Level Zero to Perform at Stone Pony

One of our own local bands, Level Zero, had the privilege of playing at the legendary Stone Pony on Sunday, Aug. 10. They opened for the after-party of the large "Vans Warped Tour," which played that day at the Convention Center.

The four boys, Danny Lammi, drums; Josh Jackson, guitar; Greg Garbowski, bass and Ryan Cornell, vocals, played six songs in a half hour set. They were very well received. They were supported by some of their local fans and family. The audi-

ence also included the agent for Lisa Marie Presley and Billy Idol, as well as several musicians from the "Warped Tour."

The Stone Pony is the birthplace of Bruce Springsteen's rock career, as well as Bon Jovi and other well-known bands. They boys were honored to play on the same stage as these rock greats. They were given Stone Pony shirts by the owners to remember the occasion. For more information about this South Plainfield-based band, visit their website at [www.levelzero.cjb.net](http://www.levelzero.cjb.net).

## 12-Year-Old Sexually Assaulted; Woodbridge Man Arrested

On May 20 a 12-year-old South Plainfield girl was attacked and sexually assaulted in her home by someone she knew.

After an investigation by the South Plainfield Police Department, 18-year-old Fortunato A. Riga was arrested on August 26 and charged with aggravated sexual assault, aggravated assault,

criminal restraint and endangering the welfare of a child. He is currently being held in the Middlesex County Adult Correctional Facility on \$150,000 bail.

## SHPS Class of 1983 Reunion

South Plainfield's Class of 1983 will be holding its twentieth reunion on Nov. 28, 2003.

If you graduated in 1983 and have not received or require information, please contact Linda Beyer Daly on (609) 371-9359 or Diane Lillo Zychlinski on (732) 968-3240 or send an email to [SPHS1983@aol.com](mailto:SPHS1983@aol.com).

## 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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## Library Plans Special Programs

Another in the "Meet the Author" series will be held on Sunday, Sept. 14 at 9 p.m. Ludwig Wilhelm Knapp will be on hand to discuss his book, *Growing Up Under Hitler-I Was There*. No registration is required.

Paying for College? Come to the Investment Seminar on College Sav-

ings Plans presented by Bridget Lupia, Financial Advisor on Thursday evening, Sept. 18, at 7 p.m. No registration is required.

The South Plainfield Public Library is located at 2484 Plainfield Ave. For information, call (908) 754-7885.

## Grand Opening

Feel the Difference. See Results.

The 30-Minute Workout for Women that's fast, fun, affordable and runs circles around the competition:

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[www.spslimandtone.com](http://www.spslimandtone.com)



# Events

## VFW Plans Annual Pig Roast Picnic

September 6

VFW Post #6763 will host 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.

## Country Breakfast at VFW Post #6763

September 7

A country breakfast will be held on Sunday, Sept. 7 at VFW Post #6763, located at 155 Front St. from 8 to 11 a.m. Varied menu. Donation is \$5, children 12 and under are \$3.50.

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

## SPHS Field Hockey Alumni Game

September 7

The South Plainfield field hockey alumni game will be held on Sunday, Sept. 7. The game will take place at 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.

## Free Hypnosis Stress Management Seminar

September 11

Stress surrounds us unmercifully while fighting unfair fights as it comes in every direction possible—in the workplace, on the street and at home. Level the “playing field of life,” enhance its quality and increase your enjoyment. This presentation shall provide psychological and physical techniques to stimulate the stress alleviation activities of the right brain, which houses the attributes of relaxation, imagination and creativity.

The workshop presenters are recognized as leaders in the field of hypnosis and hold highly respected positions in organizations throughout the U.S. and have been inducted into the International Hypnosis Hall of Fame.

## What's happening in AUGUST

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

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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>September 11 Memorial</b> A September 11 memorial service will be held at the Senior Center on Thursday, Sept. 11 at 9 a.m. The public is invited to attend.				
<b>Adult Crafts</b> 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Learn to Draw 11:30am Senior Advisory Board Mtg. 4:30pm	<b>Bingo 10am-2pm</b> Lunch Available Ladies' Social Group 10 am Computer Class 10am-11am or 2-3pm	<b>Exercise &amp; Walking Club 8:45-9:45am</b> Line Dancing 10-11:30 Movie Time 11:30am AARP Crafts 1pm Monthly Mtg 1pm, Topic: Therapeutic Massage	<b>Shopping Day 9am</b> Video Exercise Class 9:30am-10:30am Practical Crafts 10-11am	<b>Bingo 10am-2pm</b> Pizza Lunch Computer Class 10am-11am
8	9	10	11	12
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.				

The Academy of Professional Hypnosis will present this free two-hour workshop as a public service at the Holiday Inn, 4701 Stelton Rd. (908) 753-5500, on Thursday, Sept. 11. The workshop will be presented two times: 1:30-3:30 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Space is limited to 80 persons per session. Reservations are required. Call (908) 964-4467, fax (908) 810-0255 or email [ggattohypno@aol.com](mailto:ggattohypno@aol.com). There are no gimmicks or add-ons for a fee. The seminar is entirely free on a first come, first served basis.

## 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 reservations or information, please call (908) 791-0294.

## Rev. Stephenson's Orchestra at 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.

## OLC to Hold a Spaghetti Supper

September 27

Our Lady of Czestochowa will be holding a spaghetti supper, sponsored by the OLC Rosary Society, on Saturday, Sept. 27 from 4 to 8 p.m. Cost for adults is \$7, children 5-12 are \$3.50, senior citizens are \$6 and children under five are free.

Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish Hall is located at 907 Hamilton Blvd.

## Sons of American Legion Golf Outing

September 24

The Sons of the American Legion, Chaumont Post 243 will hold its first

## Senior Center EVENTS

## — Out of Town —

## Fibromyalgia Support Group

September 9

Do you suffer from “Fibromyalgia Syndrome”? If so, come join others who experience FMS as well as our FMA Support Group at Pilgrim Covenant Church. The next meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 9 from 7-8:30 p.m.

For further information, please contact Pastor Cathy Stanley-Erickson at (908) 756-2474.

## 9-11 Memorial Service in Dunellen

September 11

On Thursday, Sept. 11 from 7:15 to 8 p.m., Washington Memorial Park on Washing Ave. in Dunellen, will be holding a candlelight vigil. Greenbrook, Middlesex and Dunellen will be represented. Please join us in honoring their memory.

Candles will be handed out at 7:15, but only while supplies last. Please bring flashlights for children. For additional information, please contact Lynn Giacmini at (732) 752-3808 or by email at [post911@optonline.net](mailto:post911@optonline.net).

## Tourette Syndrome Assoc. Meeting

September 11

The Tourette Syndrome Association of NJ — Middlesex/Union County Family Support Group, will meet on Thursday, Sept. 11 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Neuroscience Institute of JFK Medical Center. The Center is located at 65 James St., in Edison. The guest speaker will be Dr.Elizabeth Roberts, Clinical Nurse Psychologist. Her subject will be Recommendations for Education Parents and Educational Needs of Children with Tourette Syndrome.

For more information, call Marilyn at (908) 757-5074 or after 6 p.m., call Debbie at (732) 283-1439.

## 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 31<sup>st</sup> show. Dealers in antique bottles, as well as collectors, should attend this long-running show to be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Brick Twp. 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/dtripet2000/jsbc/jsbc.html>.

For more information, contact Richard Peal at (732) 267-2528, or email at [boxcarl@att.net](mailto:boxcarl@att.net).

## YMCA Foster Care Recruitment Fair

September 23

A foster care recruitment fair is coming to Union County. The Plainfield Area YMCA will be your host on Tuesday, Sept. 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is the first day of a three day tri-county event, sponsored by the Division of Youth and Family Services Metro-Region Foster Care Advisory Board in partnership with contracted community agencies to recruit safe, nurturing foster homes for vulnerable children in need of out-of-home placement.

## How You Can Be a Part of the South Plainfield Observer.

**ENCOURAGE YOUR ORGANIZATION TO SEND US THEIR UPCOMING EVENTS.** We want to add them to AROUND TOWN. It can make your event more successful. Send them to us by mail, fax or e-mail.

**SEND US INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MILESTONES,** i.e., promotions, births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, graduations. Include photos. Share your good news with the community!

**IF THERE IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE** in South Plainfield? Thank them by letting us know.

**USE THE OBSERVER AS AN ADVERTISING TOOL.** Introduce your business to the community. Promote your specials or sales. Residents would rather patronize local businesses than travel out of town. It is more convenient and it's good for the local economy.

**SUGGEST A BUSINESS FOR US TO SPOTLIGHT.** If you have had great service in South Plainfield share it with your neighbors through the newspaper.

**SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** to allow readers to discuss and react to issues.

**SEND US YOUR PHOTOS.** If you have an event, take a photo, write a caption identifying the event and people and send it to us via mail. The best photos record action and don't include so many people that it is impossible to identify anyone. Please don't send us photocopies or laser prints. They don't reproduce well.

**HOW TO CONTACT US.** By mail: 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; By phone: 908-668-0010; By fax: 908-668-8819; By email: [ggan@aol.com](mailto:ggan@aol.com).

**SUBSCRIBE.** It's \$25. (in town) for one year!!

## SEND YOUR EVENTS TO:

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



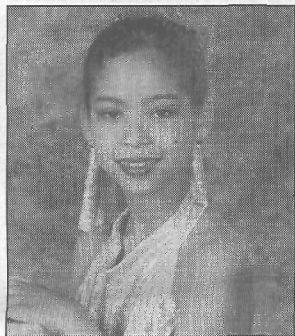
## southplainfieldpeople Milestones

### Alexandra Carter Named a Finalist in Teen Pageant

Alexandra Carter, age 9, had been chosen as a State Finalist in the National American Miss New Jersey Jr. Pre-Teen Pageant to be held Sept. 30-31 at the Sheraton Meadowlands in East Rutherford. The pageant is held for girls ages seven through nine.

The winner of the pageant will receive a \$1,000 cash award, the official crown and banner, bouquet of roses, and air transportation to compete in the national pageant at Disneyland in California. Pageants are held in each state for girls ages four to eighteen, in five age groups.

The National American Miss pageants are dedicated to celebrating America's greatness and encouraging its future leaders. Each year, the pageant awards thousands in scholarships and prizes to recognize and assist the development of young women nationwide. All activities are age-appropri-



Alexandra Carter

ate and family-oriented.

The National American Miss pageants are for "Today's Girl" and "Tomorrow's Leaders." The pageant program is based on inner beauty, as well as poise, presentation and offers an "all-American spirit of fun for fam-

ily and friends." Emphasis is placed on the importance of gaining self-confidence, learning new skills, learning good attitudes about competition, and setting and achieving personal goals. The pageant seeks to recognize the accomplishments of each girl while encouraging her to set goals for the future. This is not a "beauty pageant" - girls in this age group are not permitted to even wear makeup.

Alexandra lives on Lee Pl. with her brothers Matthew and Nicholas, and her cat Simba. She is homeschooled by her mother. She has been attending Spotlight on Dance in South Plainfield for seven years where she studies ballet, tap and jazz. She is active in the youth program at New Life Gospel Church in Piscataway. In addition to dance, she enjoys reading mysteries and horse stories, listening to music and arts and crafts.



Helen Dobrzelecki with restored doll.

### Dobrzelecki Restores Rare Shirley Temple Doll

Helen Dobrzelecki, 89, recently restored a Shirley Temple doll that belongs to her long-time friend, South Plainfield resident Toney Demico. Demico received the doll from her mother as a child, but said she was never allowed to play with it.

When Toney received the 60-year-old doll it was in very sad shape and considered throwing it out. When

she then heard it was a rare Shirley Temple doll, she asked Helen to restore it, if it was at all possible.

Dobrzelecki researched what the doll should look like on the internet, then went about sewing a new outfit that matches almost exactly what the doll had been wearing.

At 89 years of age, Helen still drives and is an active member of her community in Bridgewater.

### South Plainfield Native Directs State GOP

South Plainfield native and South Plainfield High School graduate Jeanette Hoffman has been tapped by the New Jersey Republican State Committee to be its executive director—the first woman to hold the position since 1972. Hoffman, who was born and raised in town, graduated from SPHS in 1994. Before being named executive director she served as the party's communications director and spokeswoman. Her background also includes key positions with a host of high-profile Republicans, including former Congressman Bob Franks, former Governor Christine Whitman and former Assembly Speaker Jack Collins.

"It's exciting to have someone so connected with South Plainfield leading the State party," said Republican Borough Council Candidate Marge Reedy. "Jeanette is proof of our excellent school system and the unlimited

opportunities available to our graduates."

Ray Rusnak, also a GOP council candidate, agreed. "Jeanette Hoffman is one of the leading women in New Jersey politics today. In fact, for the second year in a row PoliticsNJ.com listed her as one of New Jersey's top-ten political operatives. All this at the age of 27—I can only imagine where her future will take her."

For her part, Hoffman is happy to see her party building popularity locally: "I've always kept an eye on South Plainfield and I'm glad the local organization is growing its ranks and doing a great job recruiting top-notch candidates like Marge Reedy and Ray Rusnak. Things are really taking off, and I expect to see great things happen in South Plainfield over the next few years."

After graduating SPHS, Hoffman received a B.A. from the College of New Jersey. Her parents, Michael and

Kathy Hoffman, reside on Sherman Ave., and she has two brothers, Michael, Jr., who graduated in 1995, and Robert, who will be a senior this fall. Hoffman is not the first person in her family to enter politics. Her grandfather, Robert Hoffman, served as president of the South Plainfield Board of Education during the 1970's.

"Jeanette is well-positioned and highly-qualified to continue the State Committee's aggressive efforts throughout this year's campaign cycle, working closely with Senate and Assembly Republican campaigns to regain control of the state Legislature this November," said Senator Joe Kyrillos, Republican State Chairman. "Jeanette will also play a key role in our Party's long-term goals of increasing Republican voter registration and building the ranks of women, young people and minorities in the GOP." Hoffman replaces Michael DuHaime, who joined the Bush Campaign and will oversee political operations in the northeast part of the country.

### Deborah Rivera Elected President of Statewide Art Directors Club of NJ



Deborah Rivera

Deborah Rivera, art director of Alexander & Richardson of Warren, now serves as President of the Art Directors Club of New Jersey (ADCNJ).

"This organization is the kindest and most creative bunch you'll ever want to meet," said Rivera, a resident of South Plainfield. "The Art Directors Club of New Jersey (ADCNJ) helped me out as a student. Now it's time for me to volunteer my time and do what I can to help others."

Rivera has two main goals for the coming year: to reach out to creative

professionals throughout New Jersey to increase ADCNJ membership and offer monthly events and other interactive opportunities that inspire people to be as creative as possible in their work. ADCNJ also provides scholarships to New Jersey college students who plan careers in the visual arts through the Art Directors Club of New Jersey Student Scholarship Fund.

The ADCNJ is a statewide, non-profit organization of art directors, graphic designers, illustrators, photographers, art educators and other creative professionals dedicated to the excellence in the communication arts. Its mission is to promote outstanding work in visual communications. For more information, visit their website at [www-adcnj.org](http://www-adcnj.org).

## Nails by Lee at

### Vina Salon

Manicure ♦ Acrylics ♦ Tips ♦ Fill In  
Airbrushing ♦ Nail Art ♦ Wraps Waxing

Full Set ..... \$25	Fill In ..... \$15
Free White Airbrush	Manicure/Pedicure \$25

Monday-Friday 10am-7pm, Saturday 9am-5pm  
Sunday 11am-5pm, Closed Tuesdays

**908-754-2444**

Golden Acres Shopping Ctr., 3600 Park Ave. South Plainfield

# FREE HOME DELIVERY!

- Subs • Homemade Salads • Deli Sandwiches
- Chicken Cutlet & Grilled Chicken Heros
- Asst. Wrap Sandwiches • Hot Roast Beef Heros
- Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad • Sloppy Joes

**NEW HOURS: Mon-Sat. 8-9, Sunday 10-4**

**HAVE 2 6" HEROS DELIVERED, GET 3RD ONE FREE**

Valid thru 9/12/03

**BUY 1 6" HERO GET 2ND 6" HERO .99¢**

Valid thru 9/12/03

*"Quality Food For The Everyday Hero"*

## HOMETOWN HEROS

340 Hamilton Blvd.,  
(908) 755-HERO (4376)  
(BY THE DARE BLDG.)

**Bring the Whole Family**

# V.F.W. Annual Picnic

**September 6, 2003**  
**12 Noon to 5 pm**  
*Rain or Shine*

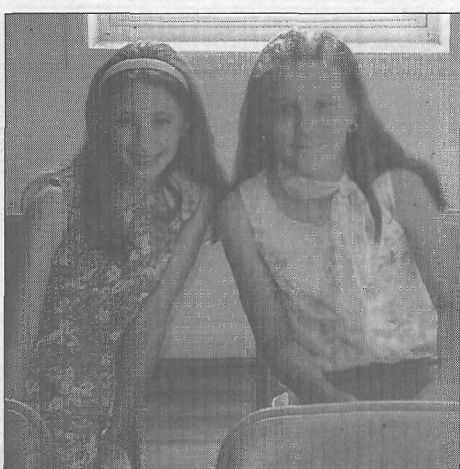
- Moon Walk • Live Music •
- Pony Rides •
- Food & Beverages •

For tickets call 908-668-9751

**Tickets in Advance:** Adults \$13.  
Children 6-12 yrs. \$7.  
**Tickets at the door:** Adults \$15.  
Children 6-12 yrs. \$8.  
Under Six, Free

**Door prizes**





## Flo's Piano Studio Offers Beautiful Music for All



From Bach to Rock, Broadway to Hip-Hop and Jazz to Class, Flo's Piano Studio plays beautiful music for all!

The Beginner's-Early Elementary students held their recital at the Watchung Arts Center in Watchung, this past June 15 (Father's Day). The first recital included special guest Samantha Leigh Rebimbas, who performed *Solfeggietto* in C minor by CPE Bach and *A Thousand Miles* by Vanessa Carlton.

Concert pianists included Sabrina Baratta, Aleah Butler Jones, Roxanne Christine Lee, Kisa Mugwanya, Megan Victoria Rebimbas, Vinceta Reddy, Jennifer Nicole Wolak, Katelyn Wolak and Julia Anne Zipp. All received the "Best Kid Award," the highest award for this level, along with piano certificates and gifts (Little



Nemo-yeah!)

The second recital included special guest Alexandra Isabel Milteer, who performed *Solfeggietto* in C minor by CPE Bach and *A Thousand Miles* by Vanessa Carlton. Concert pianists included Shayna Armstrong, John Chevalier, Nancy Andree Cooney, Jenna May Heckel, Zachary Butler-Jones, Joseph Krawiec, Maya Simons, Marcus Sims and Alexandra Skula. The Gold Award was given to Joseph, Marcus, Zachary, Alexandra, Shayna and Maya. John received the MVP award. All pianists received piano cer-

tificates and gifts.

The Intermediate/Late Intermediate students held their recital at Nordstrom in Short Hills Mall on June 22. The first recital included special guest Munirah Rea Bishop, who performed *Ronda Alla Turca* by Ellemrich and *If You Believe* by Charlie Smalls (Musical-The Wiz). Concert pianists included Jarred James Barnes, Alyssa Collier, Ashley DeShields, Matthew Alan Galinsky, Catherine Krawiec, Alexandra Nicole Maye, Samantha Rebimbas, Dominique Renne Sims and David Ernest Walton. MVP award went to Matthew, Jarred, Samantha and Dominique. The Gold Award went to Alyssa and Alexandra. All students received piano gift certificates and gifts.

The second recital included special guest Britney Holloway, who performed *Passepied* (Suite Bergamasque) by Claude Debussy and *Urban Dreams* by David Benoit. Concert pianists included Munirah Rea Bishop, Lacy Brunson, Ashley Chyrka Emmett, Karel Marshall, Nassali Mugwanya, Amber Rac Scott and Britteny Faye Watkins. The MVP award went to Munirah, Lacy and Nassali. All students received piano certificates and gifts.



## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

August 29, 2003

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on August 28, 2003.

Case #14-02/S—Bruce Druckenmiller; Block 308; Lots 11 & 12; 1213 New Market Avenue. The applicant's request for a use variance was hereby DENIED.

Case #30-03—OmniPoint Communications; Block 450; Lot 2; 1500 Seymour Street. The applicant's request for installation of (12) antennas at a maximum height of 112 ft. on the existing lattice tower, together with the height of variance, a new side yard setback variance for the equipment cabinet, a rear yard setback variance and preliminary & final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED with voluntary conditions.

Case #42-03—David Sesok, Jr.; Block 174; Lot 21; 60 Norway Lane Extension. The applicant's request for the Zoning Board of Adjustment to direct the Administrative Officer of the Borough to issue a building permit for the proposed new home was hereby GRANTED.

Case #42-03—Alex & Allison Ruchacovsky; Block 235; Lot 12; 3300 Park Avenue. The applicant's request for the construction of a second floor addition to their home with a 23.90 foot front yard setback from May Avenue was hereby GRANTED.

Case #43-03/TU—Tobia II, LLC; Block 368; Lot 11; 402 Hollywood Avenue. The applicant's request for a temporary use permit of six (6) months for the storage of no more than 60 trailers and the erection of an eight foot chain link fence was hereby GRANTED.

Case #44-03—William Katla; Block 19; Lot 3; 600 Tompkins Avenue. The applicant's request for the construction of a masonry front porch & steps, with a

26.9 foot front yard setback was hereby GRANTED.

Case #07-03—Marinoware, Inc.; Block 255; Lot 8.01; 400 Metuchen Rd. The applicant's request for a determination that the proposed outdoor storage will meet the requirements and limitations of Section 902 of the South Plainfield Zoning Ordinance, together with preliminary & final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED with voluntary conditions.

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

\$55.00 September 5, 2003

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Emmanuel Pagutalan requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the homeowner to keep an existing deck. Corner lot needs 30 foot secondary setback for side; 13 is existing; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 124 Lakeview Avenue on Block 262, Lot 4 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 25, 2003 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00 1T September 5, 2003

### From the Democrats

## Cusick, Petronko Proud of No Tax Increase Again



Democratic Councilpersons Bob Cusick and Ray Petronko commented on the outstanding record of the South Plainfield Mayor and Council in keeping municipal taxes under control. "Hopefully you have noticed our campaign signs which boast NO TAX INCREASE AGAIN," Petronko said. "Of all of the things that have happened while I've been a member of the borough council, keeping taxes under control is the most important. The people of South Plainfield are hard working folks. Anything we can do to make finances easier for the families of our borough should be an essential part of government."

Bob Cusick expanded on his running mates' comments: "I'm sure that people have seen what's going on in most towns around the state. Taxes are going up hundreds of dollars a year in municipalities right here in Middlesex County. It's taken a lot of fiscal restraint and planning to put South Plainfield in a position where there has been no municipal tax increase in four of the last six years. In fact, if you eliminate insurance costs, our borough operating expenses are actually less today than they were under the last year of Republican control, ten years ago. We actually have less people on the borough payroll today than in 1993. We have cut expenses in our engineering department by almost \$400,000 per year. We have reduced costs at the compactor and recycling and compost facilities by over \$200,000. Much of the credit goes to the outstanding decision makers that we have hired at borough hall. Our Administrator Vinnie Buttiglieri, and our Chief Financial Officer, Glenn Cullen are the best in the state. Our Recreation Director Mike English and new Senior Coordinator Joanne Graf have become the model of efficient department heads. Chief of Police Robert Merkle was selected as the head of the Chiefs of Police Organization in Middlesex County. When teamed with our existing department heads, we now have the best leadership team in the history of South Plainfield. They work everyday to save taxpayer dollars and the proof is in your tax bill."

Ray Petronko continued the Democratic theme. "On top of no tax increase in four of the last six years, we have continued 'Pay as You Go Government' resulting in 130 roads being paved and all our recreational facilities being upgraded without borrowing one penny to do it. By comparison, the Republicans borrowed over \$1 million dollars during their last year in office and tripled the borough debt. Under the leadership of Mayor Gallagher and the Democrats, the borough debt has been cut in half. We are the only town in the state that had our bond rating upgraded by Standard and Poors. Most importantly, no one-time gimmicks have been used to balance the budget. Our surplus is actually higher this year than last year."

Cusick and Petronko summed up the good news tax picture. "As the expression goes, 'You ain't seen nothing yet!' If the team of Cusick and Petronko are re-elected and the Democrats retain control of the borough council, there will no municipal tax increase next year too! You have our word on it."

### From the Republicans

## Unsnarling Traffic High On Reedy, Rusnak Agenda



Issues South Plainfield families deal with each day are priorities for Marge Reedy and Ray Rusnak. According to the two candidates for Borough Council, traffic in town, especially truck traffic, is something that touches everyone and needs addressing. The topic, however, is especially timely this week with the opening of the new Roosevelt School, because traffic passes right by the building.

"The current administration had almost a decade to solve the traffic problems, but things have only gotten worse," said Reedy. "It concerns me that trucks will be barreling down Belmont Ave. right past our new school. They knew the school would be built there, but they did nothing, other than offer promises."

"The Democrats keep talking about their plan to extend Helen Street, which is not a bad idea. But the project is years behind schedule. They promised it would be done in the mid-nineties, and it hasn't even been started," added Rusnak. "Each year they have a big 'Helen Street update meeting' in October to talk about the project where they tell the community what a great job they're doing with it, but nothing ever happens. I cannot imagine a more bungled project."

"We need solutions, not talk," Reedy said. "One thing we should look into is extending Hollywood Avenue to divert truck traffic away from Belmont Ave., Hamilton Blvd. and Roosevelt School. Former mayoral candidate Jake Cataldo suggested this years ago. If the Democrats had listened, the project could have been complete by now. But instead they've allowed traffic to worsen."

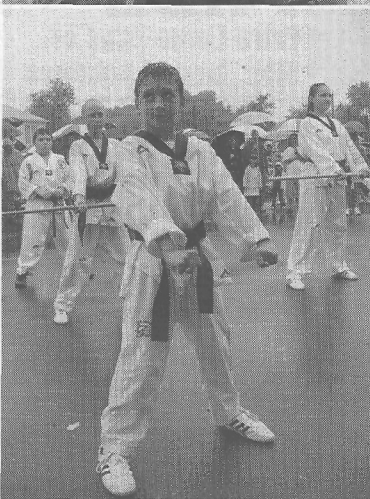
"The building tidal wave that's swept through town hasn't helped either," Rusnak added. "New developments are popping up all over, and the mayor and council are doing nothing to control them. The added cars make a bad situation worse. In fact, by selling borough-owned land to developers, the council is contributing to the traffic."

Both candidates agreed that we have to start attacking traffic congestion from several angles. Reedy summed up their position: "Controlling growth and looking for alternative routes are key, but we must start now. The current administration has done nothing to solve this nightmare. That's why we need some new faces on the Borough Council, people with new ideas and new perspectives."

I believe Ray Rusnak and I are those people."

# 2003 VOTE





## Judges Award Eleven Trophies at 46th Annual Labor Day Parade

**Honorary Grand Marshal Trophy**  
(Given by Honorary Grand Marshal to best overall entry in his/her opinion)  
**South Plainfield Tiger Sharks Swimming and Diving Team**

**Judges' Trophy**  
Best overall entry as determined by judges  
**South Plainfield Fire Department**

**George W. L. Page Trophy**  
(Given to the best civic entry)  
**South Plainfield Knights of Columbus**

**Best Youth Musical Group**  
Awarded by judges to the best youth (high school and under) musical performing group.  
**Cedarcroft Bible Chapel**

**Most Outstanding Float**  
Best Overall  
**American Martial Arts**

**Best Youth Group Float - High School and Under**  
**South Plainfield Soccer Club**

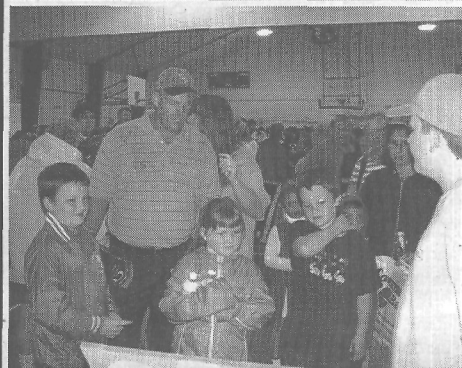
**Best Civic Float**  
**South Plainfield Girl Scouts**

**Most Patriotic Float**  
**South Plainfield Cub Scouts**

**Most Outstanding Visiting Entry**  
Awarded to the best appearing entry from out of South Plainfield  
**Greenbrook EMS, Fire and Ambulance**

**Best Antique Vehicle**  
Awarded to the best appearing antique vehicle entry of any kind entered as a separate unit.  
**1929 Model A Ford**

**Marie D. Page Musical Performance Award**  
Awarded to the best overall instrumental musical performance entry.  
**South Plainfield High School**





## From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Joan Delman

Hey, kids - it's time to stock up on pencils, erasers and looseleaf paper! Summer vacation is over, and now it's back to school (do I hear groans?) and back to... HOMEWORK! When you need help with those tough assignments, don't forget there's a wealth of resources available at your library. Whether it's an elementary school report on dinosaurs, a middle school paper on wildlife habitats or a high school essay on Shakespeare, we have books on a variety of the most commonly studied subjects. If we don't have the books you need, give us two weeks' notice and we'll get them for you through our interlibrary loan program.

Need newspaper or magazine articles for your assignment? Check out our online databases such as Ebsco-Host, Infotrac and the New York Times. These databases, which include Contemporary Authors, Facts on File and Country Watch, may be accessed at the library or from your home computer.

To make it easier to find good information from the internet, the library staff has selected and organized a large collection of websites that are particularly good for students. Just go to our homepage, <http://www.south-plainfield.lib.nj.us>, click on Homework Links and choose your subject. The descriptions of the websites on each page include tips to help you get the most from each site.

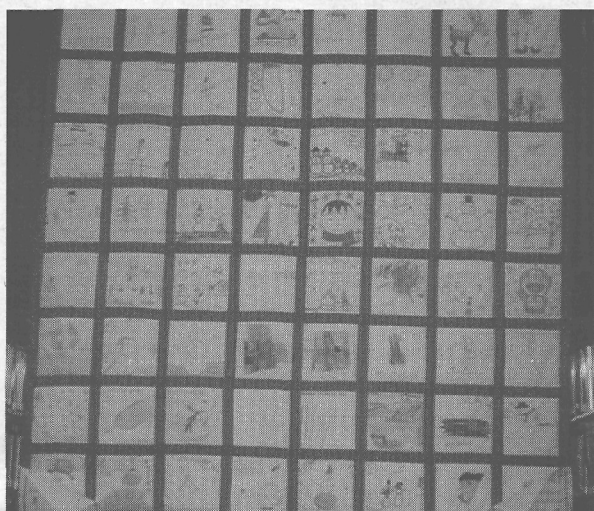
If you don't have a computer at home, we have public computers at the library for typing up your school papers. With your parents' permission, you can also use our computers to search the web. And a friendly reference librarian is always on duty to help you find what you need.

Of course, you might want to take a break from homework now and then. We have books you can actually enjoy reading, too! We've recently added an assortment of graphic novels to our Young Adult collection. We also have videos, CDs and DVDs for you to enjoy (but you'll need mom or dad's permission to check those out, too).

See you after school - and don't forget to bring your library card!

**Reminders**—There are no story times or children's programs scheduled until September 23. Kids who participated in the summer reading program may pick up their certificates at the library. Our thanks to the Friends of the Library for Camp Read-a-Lot's special programs! Please support programming and other library services by joining the Friends of the Library.

**Coming Up**—The library is currently updating our adult book collection. To better understand our patrons' reading preferences, we will be conducting a user survey this month; please stop by the circulation desk in September to pick up a survey form. We need your input!



## Library Features Quilt Display And Pansy Photo Exhibit

During the month of September the South Plainfield Library is featuring two displays. The first is the "Snow Quilt," a six ft. by six ft. quilt, made of 64 squares. Each square represents a nation with words in that country's language. The information card beneath explains that the quilt is based on the Ezra Jack Keats' book,

"The Snow Day." Last winter, the children and parents in the Story Time group were each given a square to design, with instructions to "think snow." Participants were asked to write words in any language they might know. The quilt contains words in Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog, Spanish, Polish, Dutch and Lithuanian.

Special thanks go to Mrs. Kay Denton for all her help. The project was made possible by a grant from the Jack Keats Foundation.

The second exhibit is Bill Tuthill's photos, with humorous captions of "The Pansy Farm" which were taken a few years ago. We have to enjoy these photos now, because the pansy farm is no more.

Both exhibits run through Sept.

# Sports

## Field Hockey Preview

By Tim Morgan

In the past three years, the South Plainfield High School Field Hockey team has established itself as a defensible contender on both the county and state levels, so they will undoubtedly be considered one of the teams to beat, if not the team to beat, by their competitors this season.

In 2000, the field hockey team experienced a major turning point by bucking a string of losses in advancing all the way to the finals in the GMC Tournament and ending their season on a high note.

Then in 2001, the Lady Tigers were

a tremendous underdog and disproved any skepticism that their rivals may have had about their comeback by posting a 14-4-3 record, coming in second to East Brunswick in the GMC Tournament, and also placing second to Warren Hills in the Sectional Finals. And last year, they established themselves as a legitimate assemblage by going 21-1-1, winning the GMC Tournament title 4-0 against Sayreville, and again placing second in the Sectional finals, narrowly losing a close 3-2 game against Warrenville; also, they were ranked 14th in the state.

This year, the Lady Tigers want to recapture the GMC Championship and are aiming at the Sectional title, too (and maybe a little beyond). Certainly though, Sayreville and East Brunswick will be aiming at the GMC title as well and will be the top teams the girls will face. Pingry, the state champion two years ago, will also provide a formidable game when the Lady Tigers face them this year.

The team also has less titular goals. "We all want the unity and togetherness we had last year," Flannery said. She also said that she would like to see the girls get better and better with every week of the season and repeat the combination of sportsmanship and cohesiveness they had last year.

The bulk of this year's team is juniors, many of whom were on the Varsity squad regularly last year. And there are plenty of underclassmen preparing for Varsity spots later in their careers, so the SPHS Field Hockey team should be looking at a continuous flow of skilled players for the future.

Seniors Ngozi Okparaekwe, Amanda Rastelli and Tarryn Carlton will be the forward line starters, all of whom were starters last year. Juniors Jessica Manning, Stefanie Miller, and Jamie Jakubik will all return as starters in the midfield and sophomore Melissa Szeliga will look to see some Varsity time in the midfield as well. In the backfield, junior Lauren Haus is a returning starter at left back while sophomore Courtney Eustice and senior Catherine Flannery will now fill the center back and right back positions. Junior Cassie D'Urso will emerge this year as a sweeper. Senior Heather Loenser was last year's starting sweeper, and her playing time will depend on how an injury affects her. Junior Katie Kelliher will step up as the goalie this year.

Flannery believes the girls are very

ambitious, set high goals for themselves, are very committed to hard work, encourage each other, and are confident without having an air of cockiness or conceit about them. She also said that they are prepared for and are excited about this season.

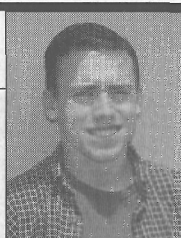
"When I got exposed to field hockey nineteen years ago, I got caught up in the speed and excitement of the game," Flannery said. "It's something I love. To see the kids' growth, development of skills, and continuation of the game in college is very rewarding. Coaching is very rewarding." Flannery was inducted into the New Jersey Coaches Hall of Fame in 2001.

It does not appear that a fairly heavy loss of seven Varsity players, one of which was probably the best the program has ever had and three more of whom were a major force in the team, will affect the Lady Tigers dramatically. The program has depth and is currently very strong thanks in part to the inception of the middle school program a few years ago. When the program was struggling, the middle school team got more girls interested in the sport, which brought in the numbers the high school program needed, as well as more experience.

Now the program is expanding even more with the reintroduction of a freshmen team, and opportunities for play outside the regular season are now available outside the high school. "I think the program has developed even more wonderfully than I had hoped," said Flannery.

As happy as Flannery was with last season, she wants this season to stand on its own by building on what was learned from last year. "We're coming off a great season, but are looking to create a whole new season this year," she said, adding that in order for the girls to be the best team possible, they must not be afraid of tough competition or the new pressure they will face this year.

Flannery calls her team "a highly dedicated group of girls" and uses the adjectives "skilled, fast and coachable" to describe them. "They are definitely committed to the idea of team effort (in a positive atmosphere)," she said.



Tim Morgan, Jr.

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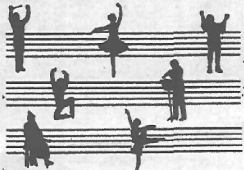
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# Sports



Pictured is Ponytail Softball team six, the Lady Lions. Team players are Brittany Alvarado, Megan Brady, Amanda Cerini, Megan Cerini, Lauren Conrad, Courtney Irber, Kirsten Nuber, Cassie Prendergast, Alyssa Rutowski, Jillian Rutowski, Stevie Stark and Tiffany Tangorra. The team's coach is Frank Irber.

## SOUTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

### Field Hockey Corner

By Sharon Miller

#### HS Field Hockey Parents

We need one parent of each player to sign up to help out at either the scrimmage workshop of the alumni game (see below for dates). In order for these two events to be successful we need everyone's help. 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 Sharon Miller at (908) 754-6461.

#### Week of September 6

**Tuesday, September 9**—The team will be facing Delaware Valley in a scrimmage game on the Carol Espinosa Field at 3:45 p.m.

**Friday, September 12**—In the first game of the regular season the team will play Vernon at home on the Carol Espinosa field at 3:45 p.m.

Please come out and support a great 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, Junior Varsity and Freshmen teams are selling the Kid-Stuff 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.



### East Brunswick Future Stars Tryouts

Future Stars of East Brunswick IU Travel Baseball Team is holding tryouts. Only a couple of positions available. If you are a serious player and would like a chance to become a Future Star, contact Manager Mike Venezia at (732) 651-7652 or mipnvenezia@msn.com. Players must not turn 12 prior to July 31, 2004.



### 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.



### JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

On Friday, Sept. 5, beginning at 6:30 p.m., we will be setting up for the annual picnic at the SPJBC Complex. We gratefully appreciate all those who can help with the set-up on this night.

Our picnic on Saturday, Sept. 6, beginning at 12 noon, has a lot to offer to the kids and parents of the baseball club. Plus, all Small Fry C players will receive a participation award. Trophies will be awarded to the Small Fry B, Small Fry A and Pony B champions. Our outgoing executive board will receive plaques for a job well done. Come on out and have a great day at the SPJBC.

The first baseball club meeting with the new executive board will take place on Monday, Sept. 8. Come out, meet the new executive board and get your new registration card for the 2004 season. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. "The Commish" will make a statement regarding these individuals: Andy Pinto, Rob Hunt, Bob Pasternak, Dennis Moskal, Danny Wasnick, Tracey

Lake, Rick Walton, Chris Hansen, Tony Cassano and Sportworld. So come out and hear what these individuals have in common. If you still have your equipment bag, please bring it to the baseball club on Friday night, Saturday during the picnic, or even Sunday morning between 8 and 10 a.m. Buddy Hutchinson is the new man in charge of equipment. Buddy, Tom Kiczula and Lee Flanagan will be taking inventory on Sunday morning for all of the equipment and uniforms.

Our fall baseball season is getting ready to start on Friday, Sept. 12. We currently have 251 kids signed up for this season. These numbers are great! This is our third season for Fall Baseball and our largest turnout ever. This is due to the efforts of Rick Walton, last year's Fall Ball director, who has been at the SPJBC Complex during the month of August, putting in countless hours signing up kids and our new Fall Ball Director Vijay Bijlani. Thanks guys!

We only have a few openings for the Fall Baseball Season. We need only six eight and nine-year-olds, and a handful of kids from ten to 15 years old. Therefore, that would bring us to 22 complete teams in three different age categories.

The Baseball School in Scotch Plains on Inman Ave. is giving free baseball clinics to our kids registered for Fall Baseball. All managers will contact the kids about these clinics.

#### Free Baseball Clinic Schedule

Friday, Sept. 5- 5:30 p.m.

All 13-year-olds

Saturday, Sept. 6

10 a.m.- All 13-year-olds

### Coaches Care Fundraiser Scheduled

The rained out portion of Coaches Care will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Baseball Club.

Teams participating are Soccer Club, Pop Warner Coaches, SPJBC

Umpires, Ponytail Coaches and the Middle School Teachers.

Thus far this year Coaches Care has raised over \$5,000 and donated six laptop computers to the JFK Medical Center.

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## Obituaries

### Rita E. Stavish Riccardo, 77

Rita E. Stavish Riccardo, 77, died on Monday, Sept. 1 at the Glenside Nursing Center in New Providence.

Rita was born in Plainfield, where she grew up. She lived in the city until moving to South Plainfield in 1950.

Since October of 1972, she had worked as the bookkeeper for Sacred Heart Church, retiring almost two years ago. She was a parishioner of the church where she had been a member and past president of the Rosary Altar Society. She was also a member of the South Plainfield Columbianettes and the Catholic Daughters of America.

Rita was a member and staunch advocate and had worked tirelessly for over 30 years for the NJ Right to Life by organizing various chapters and meetings, setting up meetings with legislators, organizing business for the March for Life Chapter and was a past member of the NJRTL Board of Directors. She had organized the Right to Life Group that marched in the South Plainfield Labor Day Parade and was a pioneer for the NJRTL Political Action Committee.

She was pre-deceased by her husband, Vincent "Jim" Riccardo, Sr. and by her brother, Joseph Stavish.

Surviving are her children and their spouses, Theresa M. and Justin Nieloff of New Providence; Germaine M. and Kenneth Scharff of Mount Holly and Vincent L. and JoAnn Riccardo, Jr. of Swoyersville, Pa.; a sister, Theresa Kolakowski of South River; four brothers, Frances Stavish of Barnegat Light, Thomas Stavish of Fla., Dr. Gerard Stavish of Coeur D'Alene, Idaho and Peter Stavish of Vienne, Va. and ten grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, Sept. 5 at 9:45 a.m. in the McCriskin Home For Funerals, followed by a Funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. in Sacred Heart RC Church. Interment at Holy Redeemer Cemetery.

### Nicholas W. Turner, 23

Nicholas W. Turner died on Saturday, Aug. 30 in Somerville.

Born in Brooklyn, he has resided in South Plainfield for the past five years. Nicholas has been employed for the past year as a chimney sweep for All America Chimneys of Flanders.

Surviving are his mother, Margaret A. (Dunn) Turner, with whom he re-

sided; two sisters, Stephanie and Dancan Turner of South Plainfield; a brother, George Turner of Jersey City; his maternal grandmother, Vivien Dunn of New York and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Sue R. (LaVecchia) Costanzo, 85

Sue R. (LaVecchia) Costanzo died on Friday, Aug. 29 in the Norwood Terrace Health Center in Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, Mrs. Costanzo has resided in South Plainfield since 1959.

She was employed as a seamstress for ten years at the former Star Dress Company of Plainfield.

Mrs. Costanzo was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church and former member of their Rosary Alter Society. She was also a member of the Progressive Dance Group of Nutley and a member of the South Plainfield PAL Senior Citizens.

She is pre-deceased by her sister, Edith Drahus, who died in 2002.

Surviving is her husband of 65 years, Dominick Costanzo; her daughter and son-in-law, Arlene and John Hochstadter of South Plainfield; two sons, Joseph Costanzo of Roselle Park and Daniel Costanzo of Florida; a sister, Jennie Maddona of Staten Island and a brother, Albert LaVecchia of Whiting.

Also surviving are nine grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Helen L. Colvin (nee Pearson), 85

Helen L. Colvin (nee Pearson) died on Friday, Aug. 29, at her home in South Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, Helen has been a resident of the borough since 1945.

In 1956, Helen, along with her late husband Frank Sr., started and ran Panel Oven Engineering, Inc., a family business in which she served as vice president and treasurer. Today, her son Frank Jr. is now president and her daughter Carol is now director.

She enjoyed sailing with her hus-

band, trips to Atlantic City and adored her family.

An avid oil painter and a member of Rosie the Riveter, Helen and her husband enjoyed traveling with the Navy League of the United States. She was also a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church.

She is pre-deceased by her husband, the late Frank Sr., who died in 1999; a sister, Virginia Ryan; two brothers, James and Norman Pearson and by her son-in-law, Frank Squindo, who died in July.

Surviving is daughter Carol Squindo of South Plainfield; son Frank Jr. of South Plainfield and a sister and brother-in-law, Rose and Jim DeFazio of Dunellen. Also surviving are four grandchildren, Kim Born, Frank Colvin III, Shannon and Megan Colvin and five great-grandchildren, Taylor, Antonio, Christopher, Julia and Delaney.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Irene Cochran (nee Buksar), 74

Irene Cochran (nee Buksar), died on Monday, Aug. 25 in the Haven Hospice at JFK Hospital in Edison.

Born in Old Forge, Pa., Irene was raised in Newark and lived in California for a short while before moving back to New Jersey. She settled in South Plainfield, where she was a resident of the borough for over 50 years.

An avid gardener, Irene also enjoyed to knit and crochet afghans, hats, gloves and stuffed animals, all of which were for her family and friends.

Along with her husband Lawrence, she was an active member of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Dunellen.

She is pre-deceased by her son, Lawrence K., who died in 1988.

Surviving are beloved husband, Lawrence L., of 54 years; her daughter and son-in-law, Susan and John Pilla of South Plainfield; her son and daughter-in-law, David and Carol of Plainfield and two brothers, Josh Buskar of Union Beach and Joe Buskar of South Plainfield. Also surviving are her three grandchildren, David J., Heidi Pilla and Baldeo Tuls.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Arthur J. Muglia September 6th



To our Beloved Art -  
devoted Husband,  
Father, Grandfather,  
Brother & Uncle,

Although you have left us physically your spirit and enthusiasm for life, love and family continues to grow in us and you are constantly in our thoughts, not only on your birthday, but each and every day.

Your Loving Wife, Matty  
And Your Loving  
Family

### ARTHUR J. MUGLIA

SEPTEMBER 6TH

Know you are  
remembered and loved each  
and every day. May the Lord  
shower you with his love,  
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## IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

and are still fighting, every attempt to raise standards in their profession. They have countenanced the haphazard selection and training of teachers in inferior curriculums in inferior colleges. They have fought every attempt to tighten licensing criteria and weed out the army of incompetent teachers, who after they graduate from education colleges, enter the classroom and become members of the unions. They have done little or nothing to raise the level of curriculum and testing."

In view of the above, what kind of COLLABORATION representative of teachers' union are you writing about?

SINCERELY,  
BOGDAN FRYSCZYK

### To The Editor,

While in the high school this summer, I observed with great pride, the 2004 senior class's beautiful artwork in the English hallway. Watching that project (which depicts Shakespeare's works) and reading your letter, Mrs. Byrne, reminds me of a very old quote; "Thou doth protest too much."

Carol, as usual, you continue to confirm your reputation as a disgruntled board member and a disgruntled former employee of the board. In short, you sound like "a woman scorned." If you intended to touch a nerve by calling me a "junkyard dog"-I take it as a compliment. Just a word of advice though, Carol, you are someone who should refrain from comparing anyone with our friends from the animal kingdom. You said in your letter, that I unjustly accused you of being anti-teacher and anti-public employees. Read your own letter, that's the clear message you sent.

You also said in your letter that you were supported by the teachers' asso-

ciation in the past as a board member, and voted independently. How then do you accuse every recent board member we supported, of being puppets of the association? They aren't voting independently, but you did? Do you really believe the poison you spew, or are you just a bit resentful that the association has refused to support you in the past several years? And don't flatter yourself about being "Public Enemy #1." We don't consider you that at all, in fact, we don't consider you.

You were once a valued board member and a friend to education. What has happened to you? When you spoke about my salary, you made it clear that I make too much for the little I do. That is an accusation that I will not tolerate from you. I earn every penny I make, because I take my job seriously, work hard and have dedicated my life to teaching the students in South Plainfield. I will not apologize for earning a competitive salary that is still below those in your "business world."

You have no idea what I do everyday, or how much time I put into my job. You don't know and you don't care, because as I once before reminded you, you never want to be confused with the facts.

We have many issues that confront our school system. The only ways to resolve them is for all parties to get involved and work together. Please don't take on the role of the backbiting bench jockey, who not only does nothing constructive, but tears down any attempt at progress. We invite you to set aside your bitterness and come be part of the solution.

DIANA JOFFE

Letters may be submitted to our office: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. We reserve the right to edit for length or clarity.

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policereport

East Golf Ave. Resident Scares Burglar

At approximately 10 p.m. last Friday evening an elderly woman was dozing off watching TV in her bedroom and awoke to see a man opening her top dresser drawer. She screamed and the suspect ran and jumped out a window.

The suspect was described as a black male with a full beard wearing a white t-shirt and dark pants. He

had entered the home through an unlocked first floor window. The husband had been on the couch in the living room.

Police chased the suspect riding a bike down Park Ave. After riding through back yards, the suspect got off the bike and fled towards Cedarbrook Park, where police lost sight of him.

• On August 15 Jennifer L. Valente, 26, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated at a motor vehicle stop.

• On August 22 several unlocked vehicles on Linden Ave. had been vandalized. Loose change, a flashlight and two screwdrivers were taken. A resident on Ten Eyck St. also reported that an unlocked vehicle had binoculars taken and juice had been poured on the seats and dashboard.

• On August 25 Dr. Mohimder Singh on Park Ave. reported that a prescription pad was missing.

• On August 26 Luis Alberto Huby, 26, of Plainfield was arrested for that sale of documents. He presented a fake alien resident card at the DMV.

• A Sprague Ave. resident reported that two unlocked vehicles had been entered. A Motorola cell phone and some change were taken.

• A Delmore Ave. resident reported the theft of the front bumper with the license plate from a vehicle that was left at Meineke Muffler on Hamilton Blvd.

• Five vehicles on Eleanor St. reported having flat tires. There were no visible puncture marks.

• On August 27 Kristine H. Sweeney, 29, of Edison was arrested for simple assault on So. Madison Ave.

• On August 28 a Foster Ave. resident reported that a 2002 Honda Accord was stolen from the driveway. Suspects had removed a window screen to enter the kitchen and removed car

keys from a table.

• A Ledden Terr. resident reported that eggs had been thrown at their home.

• An Arlington Ave. resident reported the theft of his wallet from his employer's vehicle which was parked at B&C Deli on Belmont Ave. The rear section of a lawnmower grass catcher was also taken from the flatbed trailer.

• Hugh O'Kane Electric Co. on So. Clinton Ave. theft of eight Motorola HT 750 portable radios worth \$8,000, a six bank radio changer worth \$81,000 and a Craftsman power washer worth \$1,000 from a fenced in tool crib.

• An O'Donahue Ave. resident reported the theft of a credit card from a wallet left on the front seat of his truck.

• On August 29 Joey N. Velasquez, 26, and Janeth Velasquez, 31, of Edison were arrested for shoplifting \$166.50 worth of merchandise from Macy's.

• An Ada Ave. resident reported the theft of a cell phone that was left on the front steps.

• On August 31 a Hamilton Blvd. resident reported that the rear passenger window of their 2000 Mitsubishi Montero was broken out. Nothing was taken.

• On September 1 Moretti Realty on Maple Ave. reported that someone had climbed on their roof and hung a spray painted banner saying "Darlene Pinto for Mayor."

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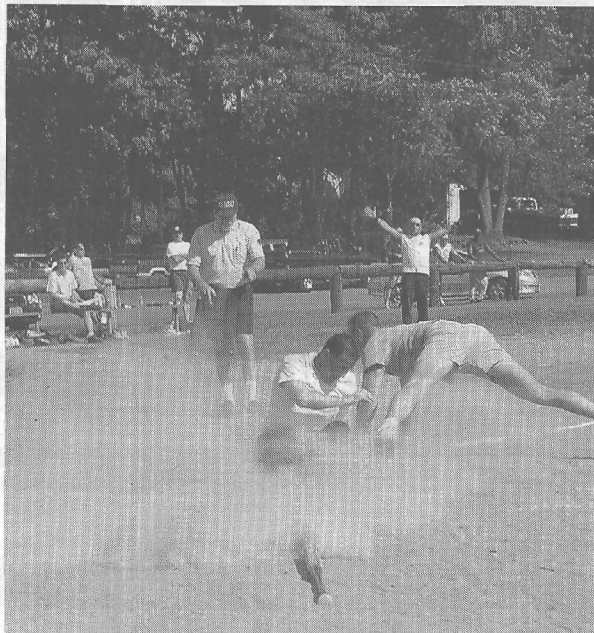
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# Battle of the Badges Helps Handicapped Children



By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Fire and Police Departments recently faced off in a contest of skill, strength and sportsmanship. The event? The Sixth Annual Battle of the Badges, a softball competition sponsored by the South Plainfield Elks. Proceeds from the game go to the Elks Handicapped Children's fund.

The game was held at the PAL. Recreation Director Mike English and Mayor Dan Gallagher both viewed the event from the shady comfort of the building, a smart move on a hot afternoon. There was no middle ground, no gray area at this game, you

were rooting for the officers or the firefighters.

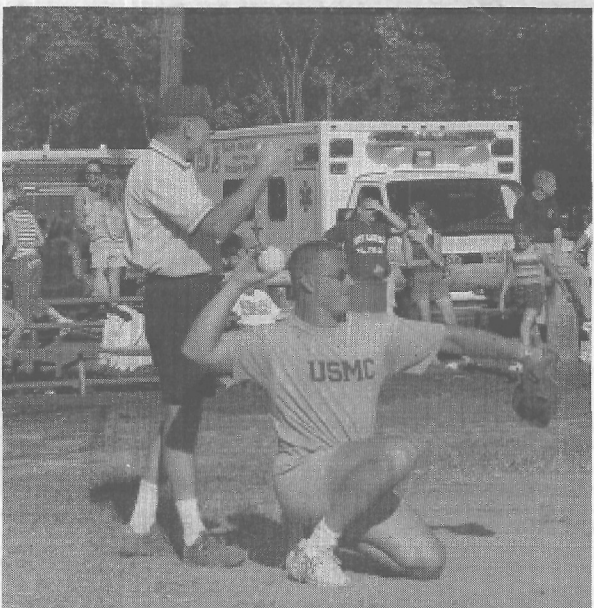
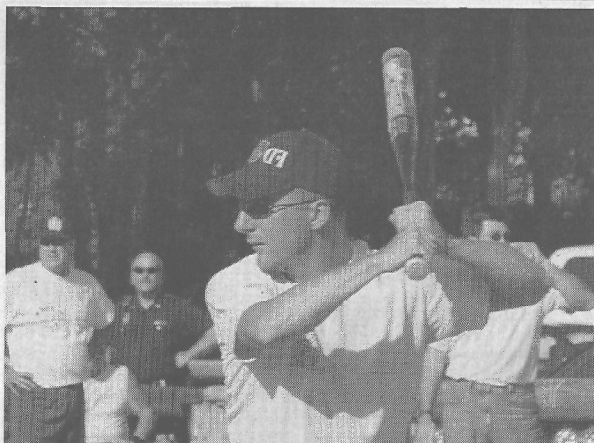
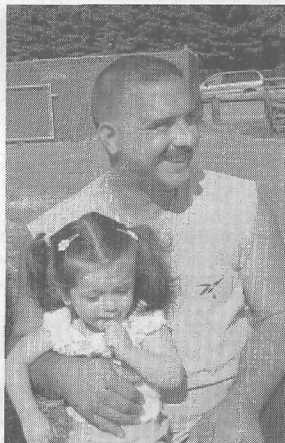
The crowd was smaller than usual, but it was suggested that the showing may have been a combination of the change in venue and the time of day. Previously the game had been held at Veteran's Park in the evening. The recent game's locale and time seemed to just exchange pesky mosquitos for sunburn and heat. The enthusiasm of those in attendance was commendable. A staunch supporter of the fire department kept up a vocal vigil throughout the game, two year old Angelia DelNegro, kept a close eye on her fire chief father as she yelled, "Daddy!, Daddy! Daddy!"

A brief chat with an unnamed member of the fire department disclosed their 2002 win and a ventured guess they'd win the current game. A quick check of the records found that the police had won last years competition. Suffice it to say someone was stretching the truth a bit. It is not an uncommon occurrence with this particular event!

The teams were tight and the competition was fierce, there were handshakes and high fives and congratulations. In the end the fire department was victorious, the final score 29-20.

The Elks presented the trophy to Larry DelNegro during a victory celebration at the fire department later that afternoon. Each team has now won three times. The winner of next year's game keeps the trophy and the series will begin all over again.

Good Luck to both fire and police departments!





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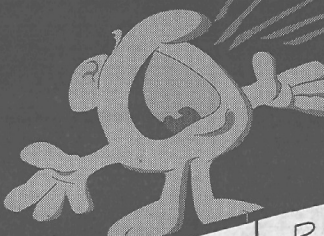
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