

Visit the public viewing of the Middle School 9/11 Memorial Sept 30, 5-8 p.m.

Visitors to Spring Lake Park on 9/11 pay their respect through verse and light. See p. 12.

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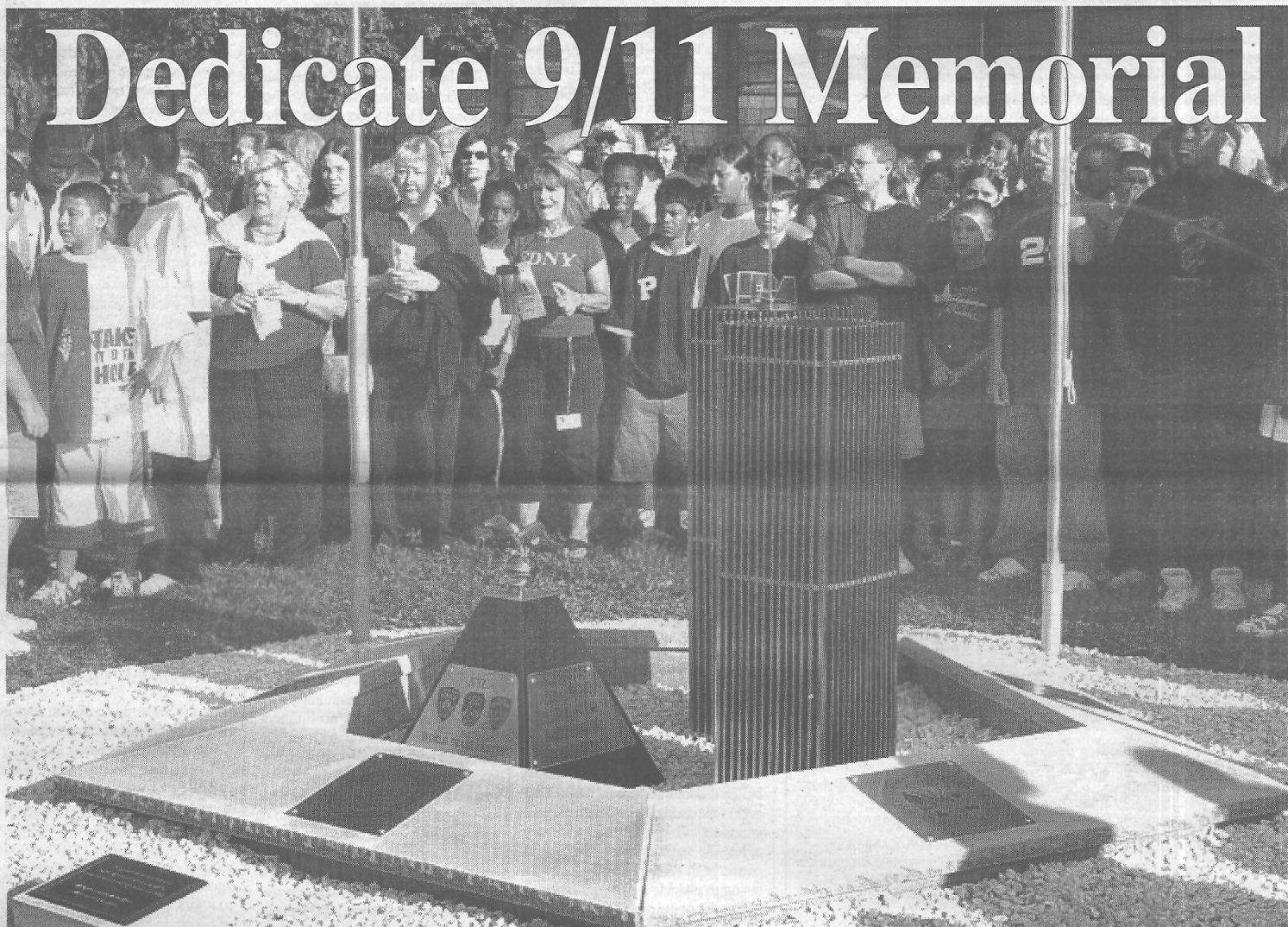
# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 8, NO. 4

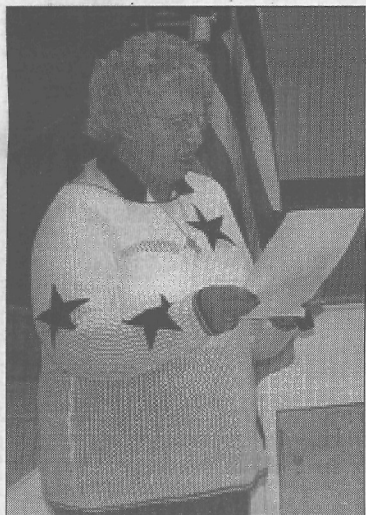
50 CENTS

SEPTEMBER 19, 2003

## Middle School Students Dedicate 9/11 Memorial



The faculty and entire student body of the South Plainfield Middle School, as well as Board of Education members, school administrators, police, fire and rescue squad members and state officials attended the dedication of the September 11 memorial which is permanently situated in the school courtyard.



Marge Sheldon reads a prayer to honor the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks at a borough-sponsored memorial service held on the second anniversary of the tragedy at the Senior Center on Maple Ave.

South Plainfield Middle School students and teachers spent countless hours during the past year creating a memorial dedicated to the heroes of the September 11 attacks.

The project began last year, shortly after the school held memorial services on the first anniversary of the attacks when Student Council President Gina Severini approached Principal Fred Oberkehr and teacher Joe Blondo with the suggestion of building a memorial to honor the victims, as well as members of the emergency services who saved and attempted to save lives. The memorial would also honor those respondents who lost their lives.

Students were involved in every aspect of the memorial, including the design and construction. They held a successful student/teacher basketball fundraiser last year that raised over \$2,500. Local businesses donated some construction materials, as well as the funds to help build the monument.

Last Thursday morning, students, teachers, members of the Board of Education, as well as representatives from the police and fire departments and rescue squad, gathered in the courtyard of the middle school to officially dedicate the new memorial.

Students and teachers dressed in red, white and blue gathered around the monument as flags were raised by the students. Last year's student council members, who now attend the

high school, also attended the ceremonies.

An open house is planned for the entire community to view the new monument on Tuesday, Sept. 30 from 5 to 8 p.m.



Students at Riley School sang patriotic songs during their 9/11 memorial service.



# 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**

Special Meeting Monday September 29 (public hearing on budget 7 p.m.)

Monday, October 6 ..... Thursday, October 9

Monday, November 11 ..... Thursday, November 11

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

## planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

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

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

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

Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.: 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.

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

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

## South Plainfield Observer

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## SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

## IN YOUR OPINION

### Submit Letters to the Editor:

Letters may be submitted to our office: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email at our website at sposerver.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 400 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.*

menous reduction in our debt service and all on a pay-as-you-go program of not borrowing money in our name.

Bob and Ray speak for me and on Election Day I will be voting for them to continue the great job they are doing.

**CHARLES W. HASSELGREN**

### Dear Editor,

It's been amusing to watch the Democrats try to defend how they bungled the Helen Street project. If they knew it was going to take this long, why did they promise voters in 1996 that it would be done in 1997? And why when they ran three years ago did Cusick and Petronko promise completion in 2002?

I have just one comment for them: It doesn't take a decade to build a road.

**DAVID GUOTH**

### To the Editor

If you have children, enjoy walking in one of our parks or are a senior citizen, you can easily understand why Raymond Petronko has earned your support. His accomplishments range from the expansion of the PAL, restoring our parks, expanding recreational and senior activities to a new senior center. He takes pride in his position as an elected official and continues to listen to the resident's requests and ideas.

I remember reading that some families addressed the mayor and council about an in-line skate park. Soon after, I read Councilman Petronko was checking insurance responsibilities, plans were being drawn up and the councilman was looking for funding. A few months later there was an in-line skate park built behind Borough Hall.

His running mate is no different. Robert Cusick's rapport with the Department of Public Works goes far beyond being a councilman. He has upgraded DPW equipment year after year, adding to the fleet of trucks including snowplows and salt spreaders, wood chippers and lawn mowers and has revitalized their morale. He continues to save taxpayers dollars by reducing tonnage at the recycling yard. With the assistance of the police department, he put a stop to the illegal dumping and frequently inspects the area himself. Each year Councilman Cusick has improved the infrastructure by repaving roads and installing sidewalks. In some areas the sidewalks make it much safer to walk to and from school.

Just think, one councilman from Recreation and one councilman from Public Works put their ideas together

and repaved Kenneth Ave. to the soccer field, provided parking and paved the parking lots at the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club. It doesn't get any better than these two.

Raymond Petronko and Robert Cusick have earned your support and deserve to be reelected.

**MARY AGUSTA**

### To the Editor

Councilman Cusick points out the council's recent upgrades of equipment for the public works department. I'd like to ask—what took them so long?

Their list of newly purchased trucks, salters and other equipment seems like a high-cost shopping spree for one-year's capital budget. Wouldn't it have made better fiscal sense to spread the purchases over the past few years? The equipment has been in need of repair for many years—why was it purchased this year?

Because they were called on their lack of attention to the needs of the department. This continues a pattern of "government by reaction" that seems to only do big things right before election time.

The new public works equipment was purchased AFTER the need was pointed out by the Republican candidates in recent years. Veteran's Park was only closed AFTER the news media came out and made the mayor and council take action. (What other public sites in town are in need of cleaning up that the council knows about but the residents do not?) Updates on the Helen Street Project became more frequent AFTER the increased truck traffic was an issue in past campaigns.

South Plainfield needs two-party government to work on the borough's problems BEFORE they become campaign issues. With Marge Reedy and Ray Rusnak elected to the borough council, they will work to make that happen.

**BILL SEESSELBERG**

### To the Editor,

I met Ray Petronko from a knock on my door during the 1997 campaign season. He took the time to listen to me and showed genuine interest in the Borough. At that time he was seeking election to the Borough Council. I wanted to vote for a person that not only worked hard for South Plainfield, but also showed preparation.

I have since become good friends with Ray. I know that a councilperson has many meetings to attend, as well as many events that need a spokesperson. I noticed that even before he was elected, he attended all public and agenda meetings and still found time to knock on the doors of the majority of homes in South Plainfield. It is obvious how much improvement that there is in South Plainfield. The commitment to the position of councilperson that Ray gives deserves your support.

Bob Cusick is also in step with Ray's self-motivation. Bob gives our borough complete dedication to the position. They both deserve to be re-elected.

**JOE SCRUDATO**

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DAILY SPECIALS



## Red Cross Offers Hurricane Safety Tips for Families

The American Red Cross Tri-County Chapter recommends that people in hurricane-prone areas become familiar with the hurricane warning message and plan ahead to reduce the chances of injury or major property damage. A hurricane warning is issued when hurricane conditions are expected within 24 hours or less. During hurricane conditions, winds are at 74 miles per hour or greater, or there is dangerously high water and rough seas.

The Red Cross offers the following lifesaving tips to help people prepare and respond appropriately in the event of a hurricane warning: listen constantly to a battery-operated radio or television for official instructions; if in a mobile home, check tie-downs and evacuate immediately; store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container on the highest level of your home and avoid elevators.

If at home, stay inside, away from windows, skylights and glass doors; keep a supply of flashlights and extra batteries handy; avoid using open

flames, such as candles and kerosene lamps, as a source of light and if power is lost, turn off appliances to reduce power surge when electricity is restored.

If officials indicate evacuation is necessary: if time permits and you live in an identified surge zone, elevate furniture or move it to a higher floor to protect it from flooding; secure your home by unplugging appliances and turning off electricity and the main water valve; bring pre-assembled emergency supplies and warm protective clothing; take blankets, sleeping bags and prescription medicines to shelter; tell someone outside of your storm area where you are going; lock your home and leave immediately and avoid flooded roads and watch for washed-out bridges.

For more preparedness information, visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or call (908) 756-6414 to locate your local chapter.

Residents may visit the borough's website for last minute emergency information: [southplainfieldnj.com](http://southplainfieldnj.com).



Sacred Heart School Principal Sister Cornelia Ramirez and Church Pastor Father John Alvarado present the Distinguished Alumni Award to Mike English, pictured here with his wife, Susan English.

## English Named Distinguished Alumni

Sacred Heart School, which is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year, has awarded their Distinguished Alumni Award to Michael English. The award is presented to an individual who has graduated from Sacred Heart School, and by word and example, have put into practice the values and lessons of their Catholic school education.

Mike English is the product of an all-Catholic education. He graduated from Sacred Heart Grammar School, St. Joseph High School in Metuchen, St. Joseph University in Philadelphia and did graduate studies at Seton Hall University. His siblings, Jack, Tom, Patrick and Rita are also graduates of Sacred Heart School.

The award was presented last Sunday after mass by Sacred Heart Pastor John Alvarado and School Principal Sister Cornelia Ramirez.

Mike English and his wife Susan have two children, Shawn and Brian. Mike holds the distinction of being the

first graduate from Sacred Heart School to have been elected South Plainfield's mayor. He was mayor from 1983 to 1986. English also served four years as a South Plainfield councilman. He is currently the Borough's director

of recreation and last year, he was elected to the Board of Education.

Before becoming director of recreation, English was a teacher at South Plainfield High School.



Cedarcroft Bible Chapel on Kenyon Ave. held their week-long Vacation Bible School in August. Children made craft items, played together and learned about the Bible.

## Annual Golf Outing to Benefit Education Foundation

The South Plainfield Education Foundation is holding its ninth Emil Leporino Memorial Golf Outing on Mon., Oct. 20 at the Copper Hill Country Club in Flemington.

Come join us for a relaxing day of golf. Your entry includes an 18 hole golf event, green fees and cart, lunch and a buffet dinner, with awards and prizes. The price per golfer is \$150. All gratuities are included. Casual attire is recommended and you may only wear rubber spikes while on the green.

The event will be using the Calloway Scoring System. Prizes include a new

car, vacation, or Pot of Gold for a hole-in-one, as well as prizes for low net, low gross, longest drive, closest hole, closest to the line, corporate team net and corporate team gross.

The objectives of the South Plainfield Education Foundation are financial support for incentive programs that encourage academic achievement and good citizenship of South Plainfield, annual scholarship, internship and co-operative work opportunities, opportunities for inventive industry/school partnerships and endowment funds for scholarships.

The accomplishments to date of the South Plainfield Education Foundation include the awarding of \$127,000 in 80 scholarships, \$85,000 in endowments, \$30,000 in curriculum programs, \$20,000 in academic incentive programs and \$20,000 in school equipment.

For more information, contact Bob Hunter at (908) 756-2800 (work) or at (908) 769-0439 (home), or Rich Regan at (732) 249-4702 (work) or at (908) 756-4530 (home).

## Blood Drive for Tom McCreesh, Sr.

A blood drive in support of Tom McCreesh, Sr. has been scheduled for Monday, Sept. 22 at Kennedy School, from 3:15 p.m. until 9 p.m. Tom was recently diagnosed with leukemia and is currently undergoing treatment.

Although the blood may not go directly to Tom, the drive has been set up to support the Blood Center of New Jersey, which is in great need of donors and has been a source of his transfusions.

Donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds, know their social security number and bring a signed photo form of identification. Anyone with questions may call Loren McCreesh at (973) 667-6091.

## Historical Society Plans Town History Day

Free event to feature rare movie, entertainment

The first annual "Town History Day" will be held on Sunday, Oct. 19 at the South Plainfield Senior Citizen's Center from 1-5 p.m.

Organized by the South Plainfield Historical Society, the event features history programs, a rare movie of the 1951 parade celebrating the 25th anniversary of the borough, an antique fashion show, antique cars, photo and memorabilia displays, entertainment and home-baked refreshments. The event is free.

Community groups are invited to

display their photo albums and memorabilia. For more information, call Dorothy Miele at (908) 754-3073.

The South Plainfield Historical Society has moved its meeting venue to the South Plainfield Senior Citizen Center beginning with the next regular monthly meeting on Oct. 14 at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend. For further information on the Society's fall program schedule, please contact Dorothy Miele at (908) 754-3073.

## Lautenberg Announces Over \$198K for NJ Fire Depts.

Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ) announced \$198,641 in federal funding for local fire departments throughout New Jersey. This is the fourteenth round of grants as a part of the 2003 Assistance to Firefighter Grant program.

"On the second anniversary of September 11, we are reminded that firefighters are part of our brave ground soldiers in the war on terror here at home," said Senator Lautenberg. "It's imperative that we provide them with the tools and resources necessary to protect the health and safety of the

public as they risk their lives each and every day."

Funding will be used to increase effectiveness of firefighting operations, fund firefighter health and safety programs, acquire new fire apparatus, enhance EMS programs and conduct fire prevention and safety programs. There are four program areas that are supported through the Assistance to Firefighter Grants: Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety Program; Fire Prevention Program; Emergency Medical Services Program and Firefighting Vehicles Acquisition Program.

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# Events Around Town

## VFW Plans Meat Loaf Dinner

September 19

VFW Post #6763 will be hosting a meat loaf dinner, complete with mashed potatoes, vegetables and salad on Friday, Sept. 19 from 5 to 8 p.m., at the VFW Post at 155 Front Street. Donation is \$12.

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

## Cultural Arts Comm. Celebrates 20th Anniv.

September 20

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission will be celebrating their 20th anniversary with a gala evening of live entertainment, music and refreshments on Saturday, Sept. 20, at the South Plainfield Senior Center from 7 to 10 p.m.

RSVP is required as seating is limited. Semi-formal attire. Please RSVP to Frank Furino at (908) 754-5167 or to [SPCAC@aol.com](mailto:SPCAC@aol.com).

## Rev. Stephenson's Orchestra at Sacred Heart

September 21

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

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

## Rutgers Athletic Recruiting Program

September 24

All student athletes in grades 7-12 and their parents are invited to join the South Plainfield Guidance Department K-12 for a presentation by Michael A. Micello from Rutgers University. The presentation will discuss the recruiting process, NCAA Clearinghouse procedures, eligibility standards, the student-athlete as school leader and making the transition to college. The presentation will take place on Wed., Sept. 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield High School, cafeteria C/D. To R.S.V.P., call (908) 754-4620 ext. 257.

## 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, lunch and drinks, as well as

## What's happening in SEPTEMBER

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
UPCOMING TRIPS.... <i>September 28 &amp; 29</i> <i>Cape May Trip</i> <i>October 16 – Annie Get Your Gun</i>			Shopping Day 9am-11am Pool Tour. 10am vs. Perth Amboy Seniors Practical Crafts 10-11am Computer class 1-2pm	Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch Computer Class 10am-11am
 <b>EVENTS</b>				
Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Drawing Class 11:30 am-12:30 pm	Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available Ladies Social Group 10 am Computer Classes 10-11am or 2-3pm	Exercise & Walking Club 8:45-9:45am Line Dancing 10-11:30 Movie Time 11:30am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 1-2pm	Shopping 9am Video Exercise 9:30-10:30am Practical Crafts 10-11 am Computer Class 1-2 pm	Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch Computer Class 10-11am
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.				

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

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 to Hawaii!

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.

## 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.

## Boy Scout Troop 207 Plans Car Wash

September 27

Boy Scout Troop 207 will be holding a car wash on Saturday, September 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the South Plainfield Middle School. Proceeds from this fundraiser will help support the troop in the purchasing of new gear and summer camp.

Your support is needed, so please drive by and let us wash your car.

## Republicans to Host Cocktail Party

September 28

Marge Reedy and Ray Rusnak, Republican candidates for Borough Council, will be guests of honor at a cocktail party on Sunday, Sept. 28 at Flanagan's Restaurant.

The party is from 2 to 4 p.m. and includes a two-hour open bar. Cost is \$35 per person. For more information, call Bob Jones at (908) 222-9435.

## Senior Center Atlantic City Trips

Oct. 1, Nov. 5

The South Plainfield Senior Center

will sponsor two trips to Atlantic City on 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. 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.

## Rainbow Academy Plans Open House

October 4

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

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

## Columbiettes Fashion Show

October 5

It's never too early to start planning! The South Plainfield Columbiettes will hold their annual fall fashion show on Sun., Oct. 5 at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Hamilton Blvd. Doors will open at 12:30 p.m. and the catered, family-style luncheon will begin at 1 p.m.

Fashions will be provided by Dress Barn and Dress Barn Women in South Plainfield. There will also be door prizes and a basket raffle. Proceeds from the luncheon will go to support local charities.

Tickets are \$22 and can be purchased by contacting Gerri at (908) 753-2032. Deadline is Oct. 2.

## Theatre Trip To "Annie Get Your Gun"

October 16

The Senior Center is running a trip to the Fiesta Dinner Theatre in Wood Ridge, NJ, on Thursday, October 16, to see *Annie Get Your Gun*. Tickets are \$39 per person and include transportation, lunch and the show. Stop in or call the Senior Center at (908) 756-4135.

## Pocono Getaway to Woodlock Pines

October 27-31

The South Plainfield Seniors will

## Senior Center EVENTS

teer, you can call us at (201) 823-4498, or email [NPKD@aol.com](mailto:NPKD@aol.com). Registration may also be done online at [www.pkdcure.org](http://www.pkdcure.org).

The New Jersey Chapter of the PKD Foundation has regular monthly support group meetings for those afflicted with polycystic kidney disease (PKD), their family members and friends. These meetings are free.

## Woodbridge Area (WOWS) Dance

September 21

The WOWS will be holding a fundraiser social dance on Sunday, Sept. 21, from 7:30-11:30 p.m. All are welcome. There will be a live band and refreshments. The cost is \$8 per person. The dance will be held at the Elk's Hall, 665 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge, NJ. For more information, please call (732) 297-1775.

## MCC Recruiting Fair for Grades 7-12

September 21

The Middlesex County Guidance Council is sponsoring the 26<sup>th</sup> annual John E. McGowan Continuing Education Fair on Sun., Sept. 21, from 1-3:30 p.m. at the Middlesex County College Student Center.

## CHATS Adoption Support Meeting

September 22

CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support) will meet 7:15-9:15 p.m. on Mon., Sept. 22, at Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave., North Plainfield. Open sharing of adoption-related stories. There will be light refreshments. Check out website at <http://community.nj.com/cc/chats> or call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 for information.

## 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.

For the first time ever, YCS, Catholic Charities, Babyland, Plainfield YMCA, Tri-City, Children's Aid & Family Services, Harvest of Hope, United Family & Children Society and Independence and the Division of Youth and Family Services will come together and present to the public a united appeal for foster homes. Each agency recruits homes for children of different age groups and with different characteristics; they also offer a variety of support services.

Right now there is a dire need for homes that will care for infants, medically fragile children and sibling groups. You can attend Recruitment Fairs in Essex County at Essex County College on September 24 and in Middlesex County at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital on September 25.

For more information, contact Tobbia Corbitt or Donna Davis at (973) 648-7770.

## — Out of Town —

## Jersey Shore Bottle Club Holds 31st Show

September 21

A 30-year tradition continues as the Jersey Shore Bottle Club holds their 31<sup>st</sup> show on Sept. 21. Dealers in antique bottles, as well as collectors, are invited. The show is 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/dtripet2000/jsbc/jsbc.html>.

For more information, contact Richard Deal at (732) 267-2528, or email at [boxcar1@att.net](mailto:boxcar1@att.net).

## Walk for Polycystic Kidney Disease

September 21

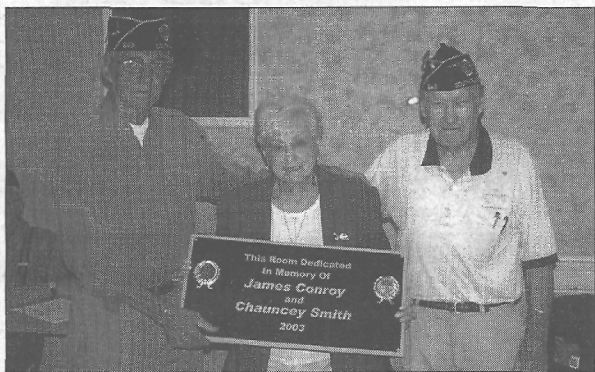
On Sunday, Sept. 21, the New Jersey Chapter 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Walk for Polycystic Kidney Disease will take place at Liberty State Park in Jersey City. Registration is at 10 a.m., and the walk begins at 11 a.m. To register or volun-

## Send Us Your Events:

Mail or drop off stories and photos to  
South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B,  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080, fax (908) 668-8819;  
or email to [ggnan@aol.com](mailto:ggnan@aol.com).



## southplainfieldpeople Milestones



**Loretta Conroy Recognized by American Legion**  
On Sept. 9, American Legion Post 243 recognized Loretta Conroy by presenting her with a plaque dedicated in memory of James Conroy and Chauncy Smith. The award was presented by Lou Dauber, vice commander and John Blanchard, commander.

### Christina De Matos Awarded Scholarship

Christina De Matos has received a scholarship from International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825. The award was presented at a reception dinner on June 26 at Costa del Sol.

Dr. Dean Casale, vice president of Kean Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 2187 and Pete Strannemar, president of Local 825, presented the award. This is a four-year-scholarship of \$1,500 each year and is based on the candidate's academic standards, community services, letters of recommendation and essay.

Christina will be pursuing a degree in marketing at Pace University in New York City. She received the President's



Christina DeMatos

Scholarship, as well as the Pace Honors College Scholarship.

### Walko Promoted to Lt. Commander

Joseph J. Walko, son of Joseph and Theresa Walko of Norwood Ave. in South Plainfield, was recently promoted to Lt. Commander in the Naval Air Reserve.

Joseph first entered the Navy in

1979 and is employed by Delta Airlines at Laguardia Airport as a lead mechanic.

He resides in Manhasset Hills, Long Island, NY with his wife, Debra and three sons, Kyle, Brian and Ian.

### Ashleyanne Chosney Joins Bishop Ahr Gymnastics Team

Ashleyanne Chosney, a freshman at Bishop Ahr High School in Edison, has joined the Bishop Ahr Gymnastic Team, which is set on winning the NJ State Champion this year.

Chosney, 14, of South Plainfield is a teammate of Jill Dean, who was last year's Pioneer Classic Champion at the American Gymnastics Academy in South Plainfield, formerly Feigley's.

Ashleyanne Chosney, a level 9/10 club gymnast, placed third in the state last year after leading the competition

and a controversial call when a judge ran out of ink while she was performing her floor exercise.

Freshman Chosney, along with sophomore Dean and senior McReel resemble what everyone already describes as a collegiate level team that is virtually unbeatable. Chosney's only obstacle will be toning down her skills to high school gymnastics level of competition.

Ashleyanne's goal is a career in medicine and to compete for a Division 1 collegiate gymnastics team.

## Liquid Assets the Setting for TV Halloween Special

By Jane Dornick

South Plainfield's resident ghost hunter Jane Doherty is back and so are the ghosts at the gentleman's club, Liquid Assets on New Market Ave. The establishment will be the setting for part of a one-hour WB Channel 11 primetime television special called "Haunting New York," which will air on Halloween night.

The segment was taped at the bar on Aug. 24 with Doherty performing a seance to conjure up the ghosts for television.

Look for future articles about how the spirits have already made their presence known while the *Observer* was present in upcoming issues.

### 4-H to Host Haunted House

If you're looking for a good scare this Halloween season, the 4-H Teen Council will sponsor a Haunted House every Friday and Saturday in October through the 31. The haunting lasts from 7 to 10 p.m. each night.

Willing participants should visit the Middlesex County 4-H Center, on the corner of Cranbury and Fern Rd. in East Brunswick, and be prepared to scream. Parking is located near the adjacent Fern Rd. entrance.

The Haunted House is a fund-raising event and the \$1 admission fee will go toward 4-H's Project GIFT. That annual event held in December is a free day of holiday shopping for Middlesex County families in need.

For more information, please contact the Middlesex County 4-H office at (732) 745-3446.

From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Sunnie Randolph,  
Library Director

September is library card sign up month. If you do not have a library card, now is a good time to get one. Library staff will be attending back to school nights so you may sign up for a library card, as well as getting one for your children. The South Plainfield Public Library is open seven days a week and three nights a week for your convenience.

September is also the kick-off of a new statewide library campaign. Watch for advertisements on cable television, in the newspapers and at the Library. The concept of the campaign is that the library is a cool place; a dynamic community resource, full of energy, with an ever-changing menu of services designed to meet a myriad of people and their needs. The library is beyond books. It is on the cutting-edge of the information age. The library has the most up-to-date information tools. The library of your childhood is a thing of the past. The library is your gateway to the world. The library offers access to a huge worldwide network of information, bigger and deeper than the World Wide Web. The library connects your world to the world. Visit your local library.

Computer and Internet training classes for September and October 2003 are available at the Library. Classes are limited to three people. If a class is full, you may add your name to the waiting list and you will be contacted to see if you are still interested before the next classes are advertised. There is still space in "Understand Buying A Computer in 90 Minutes" on Wednesday, Oct. 8, from 7:15 to

8:45 p.m. "Understand the Windows Operating System in 90 Minutes" is offered Wednesday, Oct. 15 from 7:15 - 8:45 p.m. "Understand Keeping Your Computer Running in 90 Minutes" is on Wednesday, Oct. 22 from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. Also, every Monday evening in September and October you can stop by and speak to the Librarian on duty with questions about using the Internet, Microsoft Word or email. If you would like computer help one-on-one with the Librarian, please call ahead to make an appointment.

READ your receipt that you receive when you check items out of the Library. The receipts not only tell you when your items are due back, but also the title and what the item is - book, CD or video. Different items circulate for different time periods. Avoid a fine, be on time. Remember you can renew your library materials by telephone (908) 754-7885 when the library is open, or call Elvis (908) 757-3280 to renew items 24 hours a day.

Children's story time programs resume on Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 10:30 a.m. for children three to six years old. Come and join the fun.



# Opportunity's Knocking Again.

Over 60 advertisers responded to the opportunity to reach South Plainfield homeowners in the August 29 issue.

We would like to thank all the advertisers who supported the *Observer* in the August 29 issue. We hope you'll join us again in the November 21 issue when we once again offer the opportunity to expand your customer base and increase sales.

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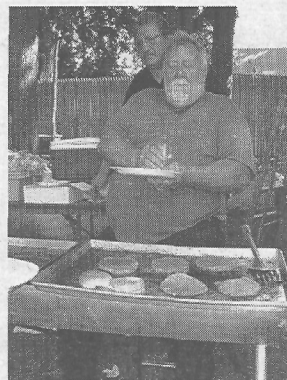
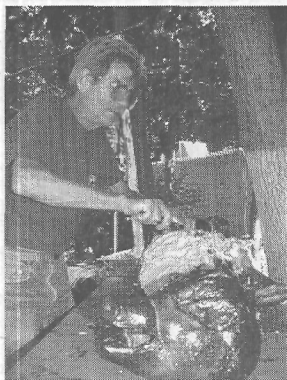
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## Guests Enjoy Varied Fare At Annual VFW Picnic

Unlike Labor Day, Mother Nature granted the VFW a perfect September day for their annual picnic.

Regulars and newcomers flocked to the event to enjoy a wide variety of picnic fare, including burgers, hot dogs and clams. The highlight of the afternoon was the carving of a succulent roast pig.

Cold beer and soft drinks flowed throughout the day. Youngsters enjoyed pony rides and a moon walk,

while adults listened to live music and took part in an egg toss contest.

Tino Fuentes of Unity Bank was on hand with assorted giveaways. There was a raffle for a wheelbarrow full of goodies that included soda, snacks, liquors and more as well as a 50/50 drawing.

Winner of both big prizes was Mary Timko. As the afternoon drew to a close, Rudy Poczak handed out t-shirts as door prizes.



## Adult Fall Art Classed Offered in Edison

The Edison Arts Society is pleased to offer daytime Adult Fall Art Classes at the North Branch Edison Library meeting room starting the week of Sept. 15. Edison Artist and resident Ray Skibinski, a published illustrator for *Time Life Magazine*, will be instructing Basic Realistic Drawing workshops, for a seven week long session. Students can either pick Mondays from 1:30-3:30 p.m. or Fridays 12 Noon to 2 p.m.

The cost for this workshop is \$100, with a 15% discount available to seniors and/or EAS members. Students must supply their own sketch pads, charcoal and pencils. A \$50 deposit is due prior to the first week of classes, and reservations are required. Please call the Edison Arts Society at (908) 753-2787 for reservations or more information.

### From the Democrats

## Democrats Propose New Library Building



Councilperson Bob Cusick this week asked for the support of Mayor Gallagher and his fellow council members for the construction of a new, state-of-the-art library for the borough. Councilperson Cusick said, "We have a great library and a terrific staff that works there, but the building itself is not adequate to meet the needs of our residents. Our librarian Sonny Fenn and our library board, headed by Eric Aronowitz, deserve credit for putting the existing structure to optimum use, but it's time that we commit ourselves to a new state-of-the-art facility. I envision a 10,000 to 15,000 square foot, two story library building to be constructed on the vacant lot already owned by the borough next to Conroy's Funeral Home."

Councilperson Raymond Petronko enthusiastically endorsed Councilperson Cusick's proposal on behalf of the Mayor and entire Council. "I was excited when Bob Cusick first discussed it with me, and I know Mayor Gallagher and the rest of the council will be thrilled with the proposal. This is just one example of how our Democratic team works. Bob Cusick is an outstanding councilman who has a terrific record as liaison to public works. It's because of his focus that 130 roads have been reconstructed on a 'pay-as-you-go' basis, that the parking areas at the soccer and baseball complexes have been paved and that our buildings and grounds are so meticulously maintained. But Bob isn't content to just sit back and rest on his laurels. He is always thinking of new ways to make South Plainfield even nicer than it already is. The proposal for a new library is his best idea so far."

Councilperson Cusick expanded on his proposal: "Our new state-of-the-art library will be equipped with expanded computer labs and dedicated quiet space for children's programs and activities. In addition, we should set aside an area for use by the South Plainfield Historical Society. It's time that the society be given the space it deserves to showcase the history of this great borough and to hold lectures and meetings. Our hometown assemblyman, Patrick Diegman, tells me that there are state grants available for library construction, which will offset one quarter of the cost. By state statute, the library receives a mill factor each year that will more than cover the finance costs for the remainder of the project. In fact, the library board had the foresight to have sufficient funds in its treasury to pay for architectural costs. Since the borough already owns the land, we can build a new library for our citizens without affecting our municipal tax rate at all."

Raymond Petronko summed up the Democrats vision for South Plainfield: "This is another example of how we look at our jobs as members of the council. If you re-elect Bob Cusick and Ray Petronko, we are committed to build a new state-of-the-art library, while at the same time continuing our conservative fiscal policies which have led to no tax increase in four of the last six years, cutting the borough debt in half and pay-as-you-go government."

### From the Republicans

## Council Needs to End No-Bid Contracts



Ending "pay-to-play" is a hot topic in Trenton, but this week Republican candidates Marge Reedy and Ray Rusnak pointed out the need to bring these same reforms to South Plainfield. "Giving no-bid contracts to campaign contributors hurts the town," said Reedy. "It's the taxpayers that end up losing."

Rusnak agreed, "The Mayor and Council have given over a million dollars in no-bid contracts to contributors, who in turn, donate tens of thousands back to the Democratic Party," he said. "One example happened recently when the council awarded a \$50,000 contract to do appraisal work along Hamilton Boulevard and never solicited competitive bids. As it turned out, the business that received the contract gave almost \$3,000 to the Democratic campaign last year and has already given almost \$2,000 this year."

"In practically every instance where the Council has the power to award a contract without bidding, the contract goes to a Democratic campaign contributor," said Reedy. "This is an abuse of power and must stop. The taxpayers end up paying more, and one has to wonder if we're hiring the best people for the job."

"Other towns have curbed pay-to-play," added Rusnak. "For instance, municipalities like Franklin Township are considering ordinances that forbid contractors from donating more than a set amount. Franklin's plan is based on a model put together by Common Cause NJ. It's a reasonable way to deal with the problem."

"A recent *Courier News* article pointed out how 10 towns in New Jersey have already enacted these types of limits," Reedy explained. "In fact, Old Bridge just set a \$400 limit for contributions from professionals who do business with the town. We encourage our Mayor and Council to pass a similar measure."

Rusnak summarized the feelings of both candidates, "Pay-to-play has to end. The Democrats should not allow this practice to continue because it hurts our town and erodes public confidence at a time when we should be rebuilding the trust lost over the last few years."

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# Runners/Walkers Brave the Elements for SPASA

## RACERESULTS

Two hundred and ten runners registered to run the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Ricochet/South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness (SPASA) Labor Day 5k Race, while 15 brave walkers participated in the 1.5 mile fitness walk. The following are the race winners in their respective categories.

### Overall Winners

#### Males

- 1-Selvyn Molineros
- 2-Timothy Morgan
- 3-Brian Kopnicki
- 4-Peter Buccino
- 5-Christobal Arias
- 6-Edgar Valiente
- 7-Galen Johnson
- 8-Juan Lopez
- 9-Chris Weakley
- 10-Rich Gebauer

#### Females

- 1-Joy Jaworoski
- 2-Christine George
- 3-Kathleen Morgan
- 4-Laura Harrison
- 5-Jessa Jones
- 6-Asteria Clause
- 7-Elizabeth Elko
- 8-Allison Hoynes-Oconn
- 9-Gina Ferretti
- 10-Kathleen Higgins

### 14 & Under

#### Males

- 1-Sean Maxwell
- 2-Stephen Richard
- 3-Ed Stallone
- 4-Travis Mahoney
- 5-Nick Dorey
- 6-Scott Davimos
- 7-Joseph Lacerda
- 8-Robbie Hoffman
- 9-Richie Szeliga
- 10-Billy Ashnault

#### Females

- 1-Allison Hoynes-Oconn
- 2-Gina Ferretti
- 3-Jenelle King
- 4-Stephanie Falzarano
- 5-Jennifer Copeland
- 6-Jennifer Komaiko
- 7-Ashley Little
- 8-Julianne Bosse
- 9-Selene Rayho
- 10-Nicole Cosma

### 15-19

#### Males

- 1-Timothy Morgan
- 2-Brian Kopnicki
- 3-Galen Johnson
- 4-Chris Weakley
- 5-Tom Holowka
- 6-Kyle Kazimir
- 7-Keith Jennings
- 8-Kevin Hohner
- 9-David Allara
- 10-Jimmy Conroy

#### Females

- 1-Christine George
- 2-Kathleen Morgan
- 3-Laura Harrison
- 4-Jessa Jones
- 5-Elizabeth Elko
- 6-Christine Deluch
- 7-Jacqueline Arangs
- 8-Joy Maszczak
- 9-Johanna Hedler
- 10-Shade Coleman

### 20-29

#### Males

- 1-Selvyn Molineros
- 2-Edgar Valiente
- 3-Marc Hourican
- 4-Greg Cassio
- 5-Jeffrey Koegel
- 6-Philip Thomas
- 7-Stephen Ritter
- 8-John Foscolo
- 9-Michael Powell

#### Females

- 1-Donna O'Connor
- 2-Sarah Kelly

### 30-39

#### Males

- 1-Peter Buccino
- 2-Christobal Arias
- 3-Juan Lopez
- 4-Evan Gordon
- 5-Eric Morris
- 6-Joseph Aguiar
- 7-Pharaoh Winsted
- 8-Karl Stamm
- 9-Francisco Javier
- 10-Steven Gassaway

#### Females

- 1-Kathleen Higgins
- 2-Dawn Klein
- 3-Loretta Inigo
- 4-Lori-Ann White

### 40-49

#### Males

- 1-Kenneth Vercammen
- 2-Paul Fiorilla
- 3-Dennis McNeerney
- 4-Eric Jaworoski
- 5-Kevin Glover
- 6-Stuart Bruno
- 7-Thomas O'Connor
- 8-Aldwyn King
- 9-Dane Doyle
- 10-Bill Pavlak

#### Females

- 1-Joy Jaworoski
- 2-Asteria Clause
- 3-Lynne Shinkle
- 4-Candice Ying
- 5-Kathi Gladis
- 6-Lois Buceolo
- 7-Erica Doyle
- 8-Beth-Ann Oliver
- 9-Tammy Cassano
- 10-Emilie Bishara

### 50-59

#### Males

- 1-Rich Gebauer
- 2-Jorge Rivera
- 3-Cecil Vincent
- 4-Walt Kaczka
- 5-Ronald Winner
- 6-Michael Shinkle
- 7-Terrence Robak
- 8-Hubert Reeder
- 9-William Field
- 10-John Bogden

#### Females

- 1-Jo Anne Coffee
- 2-Queen Trotman

### 60 & Over

#### Males

- 1-Sidney Howard
- 2-Joseph Rotunda
- 3-Giuseppe Formica



Many runners from South Plainfield's elementary, middle and high schools (above and right) came out on a rain-soaked Labor Day morning to run alongside adults in their support of the activities of the South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness.

The rain came down, heavy at times, but it didn't deter the more than 200 runners who participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Ricochet/SPASA Labor Day 5k race. Many young runners from South Plainfield's elementary, middle and high schools came out on this rain-soaked morning to run alongside adults in their support of the

activities of the South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness. Teams representing high school sports included girls' field hockey and soccer, along with both boys' and girls' cross country. Approximately 15 walkers also braved the elements to walk 1.5 miles in the Family Fitness event.

Selvyn Molineros of Plain-

field was the top male finisher, and Joy Jaworoski of Jersey City was the top female runner. The Morgan Family of South Plainfield was well represented as the top finishers in the 15 to 19 age group. Tim Morgan finished first in the male group with a 5:20 minutes per mile rate and Kathleen Morgan finished second in the



female category with a 6:38 minutes per mile rate. Super efforts were made by these runners, as well as all who completed the three-mile course.

Kudos go to all the many sponsors of the race that The Observer published in the Aug. 22 edition. Special thanks to Rudy Williamsen and the staff at The Club at Ricochet for supplying the shirts for each runner/walker, as well as second place awards. Joe Romer Trophies of Woodbridge donated all the trophies for the first and second place male and female finishers in each category. The Home Depot donated \$50 gift certificates for category winners and Sportworld donated running shoes. The Bagel Pantry and Oak Tree Farms provided refreshments at race end. The Middle School Graphic Arts Department, under the director of teacher Jeff Spezio, helped in the design of the race application and T-shirt. Aiello Chiropractic Services provided pre- and post-race massages and Sherban's Diner and Restaurant donated funding to print each runner's bib number. Again, thanks to all the race sponsors!

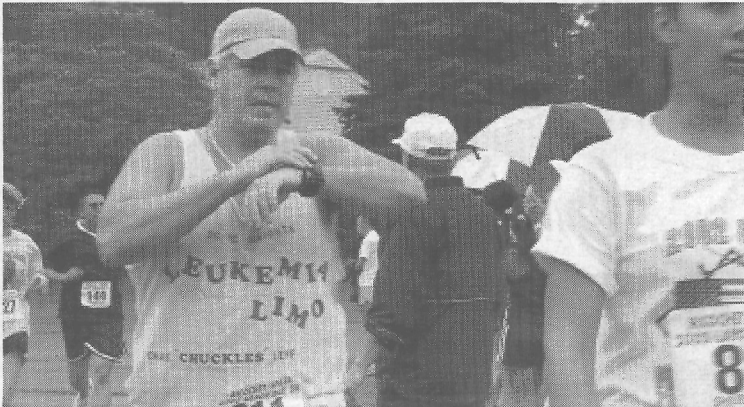
The backbone of any event/community organization is the volunteers who give their time and effort. The following individuals helped make this race a big success: Kevin Beegle, Kathe Beegle, Tom Cassio, Nancy Erickson, Robert Hunter, Russ Mattoon and Officer Dave Franchak. We thank them for their time and dedicated support.

Additionally, the Rescue Squad and Police Department were instrumental in providing first aid support and security. The weather did not deter anyone from having a great time in another successful race.

Submitted by William Beegle



Overall fourth place winner Peter Buccino (left) finished first in the 30-39 category and overall ninth place finisher Chris Weakley (right) finished fourth in the 15-19 category.



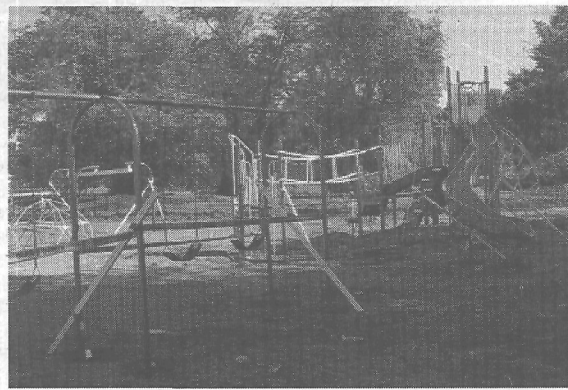




## Roosevelt Parents Pitch in To Help Build Playground

With the opening of a the school, a new playground at Roosevelt School was the next project to be tackled. Students there have been without a playground for more than three years, after the playground was deemed unsafe and was torn down. Then plans for a new playground were held up while construction of the new school was underway.

Last year, the Roosevelt PTA and Playground Committee successfully raised the \$16,000 needed for a new playground. On Saturday, Sept. 6 more than 100 volunteer parents (pictured here) spent the day constructing the new playground. They arrived early in the morning and worked until to dusk. The result is a state-of-the-art new playground for the Roosevelt School students.



# Sports

## Varsity Football Preview

By Tim Morgan

If one were to trace the win-loss record of the South Plainfield High School Varsity Football team on a graph, an oscillating trend would be detectable.

Head Coach Philip "Phlip" McGuane has seen a pretty wide spread in his past nine years with South Plainfield. If a .500 record were to be used as the breaking line on an oscillating graph, four of his years would be above it, five below. The Tigers' history seems almost cyclic. McGuane's first year as Head Coach was in 1994 and it was a winning season. It was followed by a losing one and then, the Tigers bounced back for the next three (1997 being the best with a 7-2 record).

Since 1999, the Tigers have had a string of losing seasons, but things are looking to be on the upswing for this one. In 1999, they went 4-6; in 2000, 2-8; in 2001, 1-9; and last year they were 4-6 again.

History indicates that the Tigers are due for a winning season this time around. 2001 was undoubtedly the low point, and the Tigers demonstrated improvement last year. According to Coach McGuane, this improvement should continue.

McGuane called last year a bit of a turnaround and said that this year the team should be in position to climb up the cycle. "The kids put in a tremendous off-season and pre-season, and we're excited about the start of

this season," he said.

"Our goal is to be a very competitive football team this year in a very difficult White Division," McGuane said, adding that the boys getting better each day in practice is "a daily goal that will bode well for the season."

"I enjoy teaching and coaching, working with the kids and seeing them grow, and watching the team grow," McGuane stated. "We're a young team. We've got good speed in the skilled positions, but we need to develop in the offensive and defensive lines," he also said.

The Tigers are known for keeping most of their games close until the fourth quarter. McGuane predicts that the fourth quarter will again be the crucial, determining part of most of their games this year.

His plan is to have his defensive and special teams act in that fourth quarter in order to carry away the victories that too often escaped them in the past.

McGuane admits that there is no easy spot on the team's schedule, but also says that you shouldn't be on the field if you are not willing to play your best. The "perennial team to beat," according to McGuane, is Carteret, who always has a strong team. Bishop Ahr, Colonia, Monroe and North Brunswick will also give the Tigers competitive games this season.

This year, junior Chris Bojarski will be the tight end; juniors Billy Moates and Rob Maistick will be at right tackle; senior Quinten Carter and jun-

ior John

Martin will both be playing the right guard position; senior Mike Salerno will be the center; senior

Chris Czapinski will be the left guard; senior Ryan Elliot will be the left tackle; senior Zac Coppola will be the quarterback; senior Marcellus Abrams and sophomore Jamar Beverley will be the fullbacks; seniors Shawn Brown and Chris Dickerson will play as right halfbacks; juniors Ryan Kenny and Daryl Jackson and senior George Watkins will all be at left halfback and juniors Nick Curcio, Pete DeAndrea and Andrew Miller will be the wide receivers. Junior center player Nick Jeffreys will likely be out for the season due to a shoulder injury, but senior John Rodger may be able to return to playing wide receiver once his own shoulder injury heals properly.

Coppola, Dickerson and Rodger are this year's captains. Bill Hamilton is the Head Assistant Coordinator; Brian Bilal is the Offensive Coordinator; Charlie Garcia is the Special Teams Coordinator and Joe Cirigliano, Tom Risk and Gene Bataille are the Varsity Assistant Coaches. Scott Horowitz, Willard Schulte and Bob Jones are the Freshmen Coaches.



Tim Morgan, Jr

## Traveling Soccer News...

## Sonics Team Gets Off to A Good Start

Sunday was opening day at the Kenneth Avenue Fields for the South Plainfield Soccer Club. The Berkeley Heights Boomers came to play our Sonics U11 team. It was sunny, hot and humid for the Sonics first full field

game. Debuting as Sonics were Kurt Maniaci and Agu Ufondu on defense with Mike Zelasko at midfield.

Rounding out the newcomers were Jose Moya and Shane O'Connor on offense. The effort these players showed in their first game was superb.

It was a 0-0 knot at the half thanks to a tremendous effort by the returning defensive line of Shaun Alers, Lucas Goitandia and Will Mott, along with mid-fielders Ryan Billich, Charlie Huber, Danny Hunt and Nick Okoszko. Between the pipes for the Sonics were Nick Ross and Nick Tuyp with ten saves between them. Mike Dispenziere, Dana Hunt and Steve Lanza returned to start their third season on the offensive line for South Plainfield.

Finally, midway in the second half, Steve Lanza eluded and maneuvered around three Berkeley Heights defenders to score unassisted, putting the Sonics ahead 1-0. Minutes later the Boomers scored. A outstanding effort by Nick Tuyp saved three shots on goal, but ultimately one got by to tie the Score 1-1. With ten minutes left in the match, the Sonics put the pressure on the Boomers, not allowing the ball over the midway mark more than twice. Finally, Dana Hunt found an opening. She passed to Danny Hunt who blasted the ball by the Berkeley Heights keeper. At the whistle, the Sonics were victorious 2-1 over the Boomers.

Sonics, great start to the fall season!

## Karate Class Registration Underway

The PAL is accepting members for Karate classes. The fee is \$35 per session and they run every two months. Sessions start at 5 or 6 p.m. every Tuesday, depending on the experience. Registration is open to all boys and girls, ages 7-14.

Register at the PAL Recreation Center, 1250 Maple Ave. The office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday and at night on the first and third Monday of each month, from 6 to 8 p.m. A birth certificate is required for any registrant who is not in our computer database. If you have any questions, please call the Recreation Office at (908) 226-7713.

## Garden State Baseball Fall League

The 2003 Garden State Baseball Fall League is registering teams for the Fall Wood Bat Baseball League. All teams from freshman up to college unlimited are invited to find out more about the GSBL Fall Season. All teams will play on weekends, Saturdays &

Sundays.

More information about the league can be located at [www.gardenstate-baseball.com](http://www.gardenstate-baseball.com) and by emailing us at [johngsbl@aol.com](mailto:johngsbl@aol.com). We are also available between the hours of 3-9 p.m. at (732) 382-4610.

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# Sports

## Tiger Shark Swimmers Compete in Invitational Conference Championships

Top swimmers from 30 swim teams in Central Jersey competed in an invitational conference championship held July 29 and 30 at Frog Hollow Swim and Tennis Club in South Amboy, with the finals also held on July 30.

South Plainfield Tiger Shark swimmers representing the South Plainfield Rec Community Pool, who were invited to compete included the following:

CalvinJohn Smiley took second place in the men's 15-18 200m freestyle. Boys eight and under 25m freestyle: Liam McDermott finished 11<sup>th</sup>; Aidan McDermott, 19<sup>th</sup> and Joey Valentino, 21<sup>st</sup>. In the Girls eight and under 25m freestyle: Gracie Pickarski,

seventh and Rachel Krause, eighth. Boys ten and under 100m freestyle: Dylan McDermott, first. Girls ten and under 100m freestyle: Chelsea Cullen, fifth and Maggie Valentino, seventh. Girls 11/12 100m freestyle: Emily Pickarski. Boys 13/14 100m freestyle: Philip Luzny, first. Men's 15-18 100m freestyle: CalvinJohn Smiley, fourth. Boys eight and under 25m breaststroke: Gracie Pickarski, third and Kate McLaughlin, seventh. Girls 9/10 50m breaststroke: Sarah Konops, fourth; Chelsea Cullen, seventh and Kate O'Brien, ninth. Boys 13/14 100m breaststroke: Philip Luzny, fifth. Boys 9/10 50m freestyle: Dylan McDermott, second. Girls 9/10 50m

freestyle: Sarah Konops, seventh; Maggie Valentino, 17<sup>th</sup> and Kate O'Brien, 21<sup>st</sup>. Girls 11/12 50m freestyle: Emily Pickarski, 19<sup>th</sup>. Boys eight and under 25m backstroke: Sean Cullen, 15<sup>th</sup>. Girls eight and under 25m backstroke: Kate McLaughlin, ninth. Girls 9/10 50m backstroke: Maggie Valentino, 13<sup>th</sup>. Girls 11/12 50m backstroke: Emily Pickarski, 17<sup>th</sup>. Girls eight and under 25m butterfly: Rachel Krause, third. Boys 9/10 50m butterfly, Dylan McDermott, first. Boys 13/14 100m butterfly: Philip Luzny, first. Men's 15-18 100m butterfly: CalvinJohn Smiley, sixth. Girls ten and under 100m IM: Chelsea Cullen, seventh. Boys eight and under medley relay: Aidan and Liam McDermott, Joey Valentino and Sean Cullen, first. Girls eight and under medley relay: Kate McLaughlin, Rachel Krause, Gracie Pickarski and Taylor Aljian, third. Girls eight and under free relay: Rachel Krause, Gracie Pickarski, Taylor Aljian and Kate McLaughlin, second.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL From Sharon Miller

## Field Hockey Corner



### Weekly Wrap-up

Hats off to the field hockey team as they go 3-0 after defeating Vernon (3-0), Metuchen (3-1) and Monroe (8-0) this past week.

Ngozi Okparaekwe, senior right wing, was chosen by the *Star-Ledger* as one of the state's top ten forwards to watch this season.

at 3:45 p.m.

Please come out and support our great team of players.

The best of luck to the players and coaches for a great season. Go Tigers!

### Week of September 19

**Friday, Sept. 19**—The team plays South Brunswick at home on the Carol Espinosa field at 3:45 p.m.

**Monday, Sept. 22**—This game is against Union at home at 3:45 p.m.

**Tuesday, Sept. 23**—The team faces Old Bridge away at 3:45 p.m.

**Thursday, Sept. 25**—This is the must-see game of the week, as the team goes against Piscataway at home

By Lee Flanagan

## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

Just a reminder: all Small Fry C players who could not attend the picnic, you should contact your manager or coach to get your participation trophy. Trophies were awarded to the Small Fry B, Small Fry A and Pony B first, second and third place teams. See your manager or coach to get your trophy if you did not attend the picnic, either.

Our fall baseball season started on Fri., Sept. 12. The Reds from Roselle Park played the Royals from South Plainfield. The Reds pitched a one-hitter at the Royals. For the Royals, Jimmy Bijlani had the only hit. In the other game, the Diamondbacks played the Giants. Michael Polizzano for the Diamondbacks and Quinn Cochrane for the Giants had a great game. Our new Fall Ball Director is Vijay Bijlani. If you would like to umpire some fall baseball games at the complex, call the baseball club at (908) 754-2090.

Just a note to everyone: if you see the Red Flag flying at the complex, this means all fields are not playable. Please do not use them. In addition, there will be a daily message concerning game cancellations.

Finally, our registration for the 2004 baseball season is under way. You can go to the SPJBC website and download the form. The registration will also be conducted at the baseball club on Oct. 16, 17 and 18. The registration from now until the first of the year is \$75.



## 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 in the South Plainfield High School cafeteria. 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). Art preview is from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Auction begins at 7:30 p.m.

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.

## Recreation to Sponsor Co-Ed Basketball League

A 2003 High School Co-Ed basketball league, sponsored by the Recreation Department, is being offered in two divisions, grades nine and ten and grades 11 and 12.

The league is open to all South Plainfield youth currently in high school. There is a fee of \$400 per team,

and there will be no refunds. Every team must have an adult coach.

You can register at the PAL at 1250 Maple Ave., Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. First timers must have their birth certificate. Everyone must show proof of residency. Registration ends Oct. 20.

## Ed Neimczyk Youth Basketball League Accepting Applications

The 2003 Ed Niemczyk youth basketball league, sponsored by the Recreation Department, is being offered to all South Plainfield youth, ages seven to 14 (as of Oct. 1, 2003). The fee is \$35 per child and there will be no refunds.

You can register at the PAL at 1250 Maple Ave., Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. First timers must have their birth certificate. Everyone must show proof of residency. Registration ends Oct. 20.

## Weight Room Accepting New Members

The PAL is accepting members to join and use their weight room. Fees are \$60 for six months or \$100 for one year. The weight room's hours are weekdays, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. All members must bring a towel and their ID cards at all times. For information on the weight room, call (908) 226-7713. To tour the weight room, you can come to the PAL Building on Maple Ave.

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# Morton Ave. Annual Block Party Celebrates the Red, White and Blue

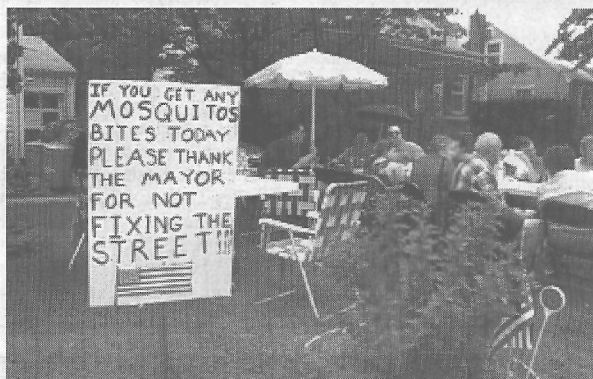


By Jane Dornick

The Morton Ave. block party, which has become an annual event, was held on Aug. 30 and was another success thanks to resident and organizer Betty Schiavi. This year's theme was a patriotic one, and red, white and blue was visible everywhere you looked. Flags, hair, clothing and the decorations along the street all carried the red, white and blue theme.

Although some rain did fall during the afternoon and evening, it didn't stop the South Plainfield Fire Dept. from stopping by and giving everyone an additional wetdown. Barbecued foods of every variety were the staple of the day, along with a cotton candy and popcorn machine, a popular spot for the small children. Betty ran an egg toss contest, as well as a 50/50 raffle. All the youngsters enjoyed pounding the patriotic hat pinata for lots of treats.

The fun went on well into the evening with everyone leaving a bit tired and a bit soggy.



## LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Joseph Agrillo requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a Second floor Add-A-Level and new front porch lacking 30' setback from Tompkins Ave. (Addition 22.46 and porch 25.62). Also lacks 30' front setback from Pershing Place. (Addition 16.91 and canilever 28.91); and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 404 Tompkins Ave. on Block 24, Lot 14 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, October 16, 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 September 19, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Antonio Cunha requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the applicant to keep an existing wood shed. Lacks 5 foot side setback; 36' is existing; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 318 Church St. on Block 261, Lot 10 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, October 16, 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 September 19, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### LEGAL NOTICE

September 10, 2003

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on September 9, 2003.

A. Case #672/V-S-G & W Labs, Inc., Block 481; Lot 1.01; 111 Coolidge Street. The applicant's request for six waivers and preliminary site plan approval was hereby GRANTED with conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Beth Khidre  
Recording Secretary-Planning Board.

\$20.00 September 19, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### LEGAL NOTICE

September 12, 2003

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on September 11, 2003.

Case #20-03/TU-High Tech Landscapes; Block 287; Lot 2; Sage St. & Middlesex Ave. The applicant's request to withdraw this application without prejudice was hereby GRANTED.

Case #45-03-200 Helen Street; Block 480; Lot 1. The applicant's request for a use variance to permit a public garage, parking spaces, signage, an EIS waiver and amended preliminary & final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED with conditions.

Case #48-03-Angelo D'Albis; Block 129; Lot 7; 309 Libourel Rd. The applicant's request for an 8 foot wide by 28 foot long wood porch with a 24.05 foot front yard setback was hereby GRANTED with conditions.

Case #49-03-David A. Riccadonna; Block 230; Lot 3; 417 Joan Street. The applicant's request for a second dwelling unit (use variance) was hereby DENIED.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Beth Khidre  
Recording Secretary-Planning Board.

\$34.00 September 19, 2003

## Obituaries

### Dolores Rae (Schwink) Brown

Dolores Rae (Schwink) Brown died on Saturday, Sept. 6 at Alive Hospice in Nashville, Tenn.

Born in Meriden, Conn., Dolores grew up in East Rochester, NJ and had resided in South Plainfield prior to moving to Brentwood, Tenn. with her daughter in the early 1990's.

A graduate of the University of Rochester in NY, she was pursuing a career as a teacher, prior to marriage and raising her family.

Dolores worked in her husband's office and later worked in her daughter's office in Nashville. She enjoyed traveling and visiting friends and relatives, as well as the simple pleasures in life.

Her husband, Rev. James Benjamin Brown, former pastor of the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield, died in May of 1987.

She is survived by her son, James B. Brown, Jr. of Manasquan; two daughters, Bevra Brattenmaker of

Va. and Kathryn Rae Sherrod of Tenn.; a sister, Bevra Checho of NY; a brother, Hubert Schwink of NY and six grandsons.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

### Frank T. DeBerardinis, 86

Frank T. DeBerardinis died on Wednesday, Sept. 10 in Scranton, Pa.

Born in Ossining, NY, Mr. DeBerardinis had grown up in New York and had attended and graduated from Walden High School. He later resided in Edison for a number of years and then South Plainfield, before retiring to Pa. He had resided in Grandville Summit, Pa., finally settling in Greentown in 1995.

He had been employed by the L.A. Dryfus Co. in Edison for 17 years as the assistant maintenance manager before his retirement in 1987.

He was an avid golfer, playing in the pro-am tours and holding a one handicap card. He was also an active member of St. John's RC Church in Troy, Pa.

He is predeceased by two brothers, Jim and Gene.

Surviving is his wife, Gloria (Bilewicz); two daughters, Phyllis Kobylarz of Bogota, NJ and Valerie Witt of Charlotte, NC; two sisters, Julia Cheche and Rose Moses; four brothers, John, Bob, Mike and Donald; three grand daughters, two great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

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## Casino Nite Benefit for Homeless Pets

People for Animals, a nonprofit animal welfare organization serving New Jersey, will sponsor its second annual Casino Nite event on Sat., Oct. 11 at the Elks Club, 281 Chestnut St. at Five Points in Union. The doors open at 7 p.m. with the casino running from 7:30 until 10:30 p.m. Admission is a donation of \$20 per person in advance and \$25 per person at the door. All profits benefit homeless pets that so desperately need help.

The casino will include roulette and dice wheels, blackjack, craps and a 50/50 raffle. Included with each admission is \$100 in "play" money. Additional play money may be purchased throughout the evening at special prices. Prizes include televisions, a camcorder, a DVD player, gift cards and baskets and more. Prizes will be drawn at 10:30 p.m.

For information, to order tickets, or to donate prizes, call People for Animals at (908) 688-1073 and press three to leave a message with your name and an evening phone number.

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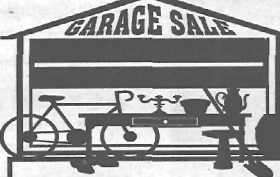
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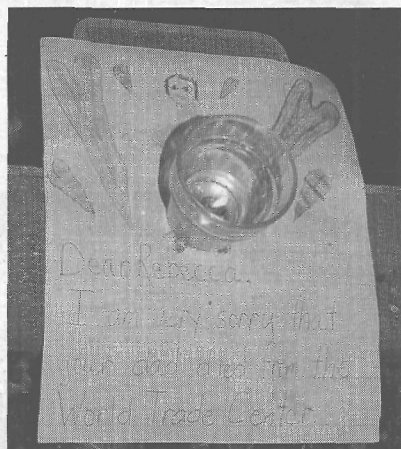
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**"Dear Rebecca,  
I am very sorry your dad died  
from the World Trade Center."**

On 9/11 2001 and 2002 the lake in Spring Lake Park was surrounded, aglow with candles. In the absence of a formal ceremony this year, people silently arrived to pay tribute to those who died in the 9/11 tragedy.

Some brought candles and lined them on one side of the bridge. Here and there small rows of candles glowed along the water's edge.

This year unknown South Plainfield youths left touching letters at the lake.

A South Plainfield youth expresses her sadness in a letter left at lake's edge in Spring Lake Park. -Photo by Christopher Abbott



Members of the South Plainfield Police and Fire departments and Rescue Squad members were honored guests at the middle school ceremony dedicating the 9/11 memorial. Pictured at right is Middle School Principal Fred Oberkehr holding his daughter.



## Sacred Heart Students Dive Into New School Year

On Sept. 4 Sacred Heart School began the 2003-2004 school year. Excitement was in the air as students entered the gym.

Principal Sister Cornelia Ramirez led the opening prayer and then introduced faculty and staff. Students waited with anticipation to see who their teachers for the year would be.

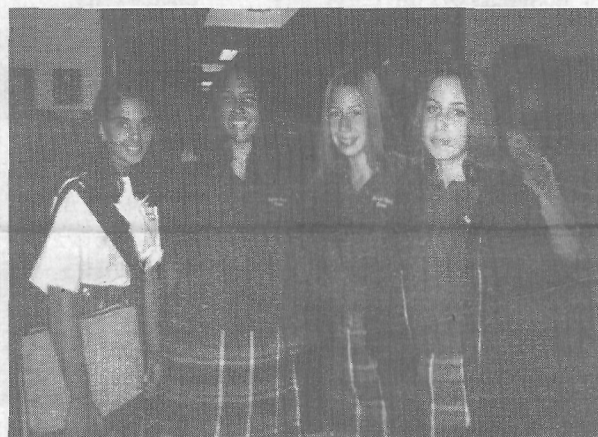
Wide-eyed kindergarten students, ready for a year of learning and fun, walked to their classrooms looking quite grown-up in their new uniforms and backpacks.

Eighth graders are beginning a

year busy with deciding which high school to attend, preparing for the Catholic high school entrance examinations, the Sacrament of Confirmation for some students and graduation ceremonies in June.

There are exciting new programs at Sacred Heart this year, such as a foreign language program taught from pre-school three-year-olds to eighth grade. An advance mathematics program has also been added.

A great beginning for Sacred Heart School's Fiftieth Anniversary year!



## policereport

- On Aug. 31 a South Plainfield Ave. resident reported the theft of two Schwinn boy's mountain bikes from an unlocked garage.

- On Sept. 2 a Chambers Ave. resident reported that the window of his vehicle had been smashed and some change was taken.

- On Sept. 3 a Park Ave. resident reported the theft of a CD player from his vehicle.

- On Sept. 4 a Del Negro Ct. resident reported that his vehicle had been keyed from the passenger side door to the rear quarter panel.

- On Sept. 9 a Hancock St. resident reported observing a thin white male approximately 5'11" with a white baseball cap exiting their parked vehicle. The suspect was running toward Amboy Ave. Nothing was missing from the vehicle.

- On Sept. 11 a victim parked on Cragwood Rd. reported that the front lip spoiler valued at \$200 had been removed from his 1991 BMW.

- On Sept. 12 an employee of New Pac on Kennedy Rd. reported that his car window had been smashed and a Panasonic radio was taken.

- On Hadley Rd. a vehicle's window was smashed and a Sony radio was taken.

- A Clinton Ave. residents reported that eggs had been thrown at their car.

- On Sept. 13 a Famularo Dr. resident reported that a radio was taken from his car.

- On Durham Ave. several vehicles had their windows smashed. Items taken were a Samsung portable DVD player, a JVC CD player, a Dell laptop computer, an infrared hand-held scanning heat sensor and an IBM laptop computer.

- On Sept. 14 Gulf Gas Station on Stelton Rd. reported that the side window of the building was struck numerous times by an unknown object. No entry was gained.

- Kohl's reported observed shoplifting in progress. The suspect fled the scene in a green Mercury Sable when approached.

- A Greenwich Ave. resident reported that the screen window at the rear of the house had been tampered with. No entry was gained.

- On Sept. 16 a Wickford Rd. resident reported the theft of their 2003 Envoy. A screen window had been removed and car keys and a purse were taken from the kitchen table.

- The following arrests were made: Max Hall, 30, of Somerset was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

- Irene Peixoto, 22, of Piscataway was arrested at a motor vehicle accident for possession of a controlled substance.

- Gabriel G. Pirono, 41, of Franklin Lakes was arrested for an outstanding warrant and writing a bad check to Holly Park Mower on Park Ave.

- Carlos Rojas, 23, of Raritan was arrested for possession of fraudulent documents at DMV.

- Janeth Velasquez, 31, and Joey N. Velasquez, 26, both of Edison, were arrested for shoplifting \$166.50 worth of merchandise at Macy's.

- Juan Jaramillo, 36, of North Plainfield was arrested for possession of fraudulent documents at DMV.

- Edinson J. Ulloa-Valdez, 23, of Perth Amboy was arrested for possession of a stolen vehicle, eluding, possession of burglary tools and an outstanding warrant in Perth Amboy.

Ulloa-Valdez took part in the stolen car chase in August.

- Ana Gamboa, 32, of Plainfield was arrested for possession of a fraudulent driver's license at a motor vehicle stop.

- Keshia G. Santiago, 18, of Plainfield was arrested for shoplifting \$40.83 worth of merchandise at K-Mart.

- Manuel E. Yunga, 29, of Hightstown was arrested for possession of fraudulent documents at DMV.

## SHPS Class of 1983 Seeks Classmates for Reunion

South Plainfield's Class of 1983 is holding its 20th reunion on Nov. 28, 2003. If you 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.

Below is a list of classmates we cannot locate. Please contact us if you have any information on their whereabouts.

Missing Classmates: Maria Aiello Jasinski, Trinity Barton, Kathleen Boyle, Shivpersaud Budhan, Robert Castagna, Donna Chabok, Vincent Ciccio, Lelin Chao, Jeffrey Cortese, Robert DeFeo, Chris DiPaolo, Cynthia Dreyer, Glen Dunn, Donna Eger, Diane Fitzpatrick Carletti, Catherine Fitzsimmons

Aileen Grady, Bonnie Hannah Wick, Karen Hawkins, Jon Keizer, Kellie Kitchen, Jeffrey Machos, Dennis Mahowski, Lisa Mazro, Kevin McGahey, Stacey McLeod, Sharon

Mulvey, David Nolty, Amanda O'Donnell, Carrie Olsen, Melissa Powell, Rose Santonastasso, Cynthia Scheneman, Kimberly Smith, Reginald Smith, Mark Sodoma, Carl Steele, Karen Sweeney Strassburger,

Bryan Traum, Edward Trembley, John Tokar, Donald Tharp, Marcea Wade, Donna Washington, Richard Waskiewicz, Ellen Wasserbach, Sharon Williamson and Robin Young.

## Thinking Ahead?

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## High Cholesterol?

Are you 45 to 80 years old with high cholesterol? If so, you may qualify for a clinical research study comparing an investigational medication with an approved medication. Benefits of participating in this study include: study related physician visits (including laboratory work), medication, & reimbursement up to \$225 for time and travel.

Also Recruiting For The Following:

Insomnia, Type 2 Diabetes, Overweight

For more information, call Irene:

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[www.centerwatch.com/pro230.htm](http://www.centerwatch.com/pro230.htm)  
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