

OCT 09 2003

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S PLAINFIELD NJ 07080

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 8, NO. 8

50 CENTS

OCTOBER 10, 2003

Putnam Park Expansion is Complete

Last Saturday, despite a steady rainfall, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the newly expanded South Plainfield Putnam Park. Rain did not stop members of both the Recreation Commission and Borough Council, along with Mayor Dan Gallagher, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Freeholder John Pulomena, Sen. Barbara Buono and a few brave souls from the official opening of the park.

Approximately two years ago, a Walgreen Drug Store expressed an interest in purchasing property on the corner of Park and Oak Tree avenues and developing the corner. After an uproar by residents in the area, South Plainfield applied for and ultimately received a grant for \$1M from the Middlesex County Freeholders to purchase the property and expand Putnam Park.

According to Mayor Gallagher, with the Putnam Park expansion, South Plainfield now has a total of 218 acres in recreational parks. Ray Petronko said that our parks are used by residents of all ages.

Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan

"Picture the spot we are all standing on; it could have been a Walgreen instead of a park."

—Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan

reminded everyone of what could have happened to the corner, saying, "Close your eyes and picture a Walgreen Drug Store on this corner. It could have happened if not for the \$1M grant from the Middlesex County Freeholders." He personally thanked Freeholder John Pulomena for his help in obtaining the funds. Pulomena, a resident and former councilman from South Plainfield, is running for re-election as a Middlesex County Freeholder. The grant was used to purchase the homes on Park Ave. located next to the jogging track.

The ribbon cutting took place in front of a newly placed Putnam Park monument on the corner of Park and Oak Tree. Vinnie Buttiglieri contacted the owner of the Oak Tree Business Center, Denholtz Associates, located on the opposite corner of Park and Oak Tree and asked if they would like to help with the cost of the monument, estimated at over \$25,000. Without hesitating, Denholtz Associates donated the monument with the name Putnam Park on it and planted scrubs and trees surrounding the monument as a donation to the town.

The Putnam Park expansion in-
Continued on page 8



Getting ready to cut the ribbon at Putnam Park are Councilmen Jim Vokral and Bob Cusick, Freeholder John Pulomena, Mayor Dan Gallagher, Senator Barbara Buono, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Councilman Ed Kubala, Recreation member Calvin Gross and Recreation President Bill Cochran, Councilman Ray Petronko and Borough Clerk Vinnie Buttiglieri.

What Happened to the Signs?

Last Thursday afternoon several of the Republican candidates' signs were removed from lawns and properties around town. Republican Chairman Bob Jones received a call from a resident saying someone from the Borough was trying to remove a sign from their lawn. Jones called Borough Hall and was connected with Recycling Coordinator Alice Tempel.

According to Tempel, South Plainfield recently received a new Clean Communities Grant to aid in the cost of removing signs around town. A part-time person was hired to remove signs placed within 10 feet of curbs—a Borough ordinance.

However, both Tempel and the employee did not realize that po-

litical signs were exempt. She immediately apologized and told the employee to refrain from removing any political signs.

Over 60 signs were removed from telephone poles, as well as dozens of real estate and contracting signs from lawns. They have been taken to the recycling center and will remain there for about a week anyone would like to recover them.

According to Jones, the Republicans lost about a dozen small signs in all. He added that he saw no Democrats signs confiscated at the recycling center. However the Democrats do not have any small signs up yet. Tempel in turn stated only two political signs were picked up and they were found in the gutter.

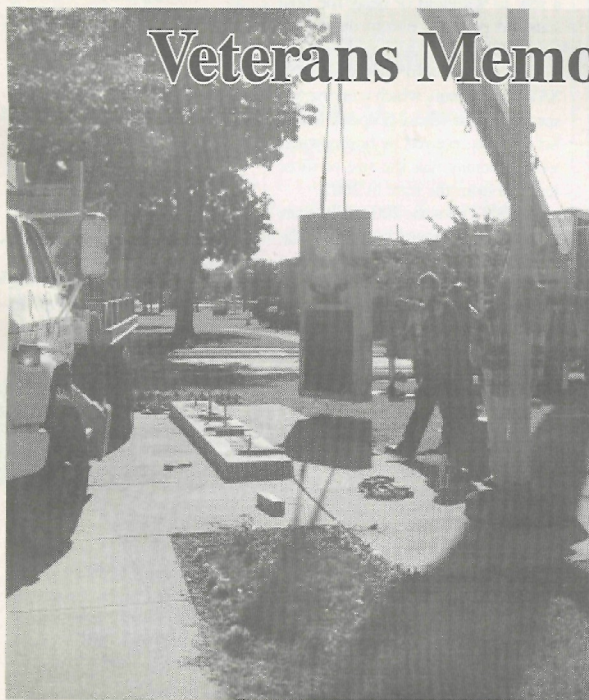
"The Borough calls this a 'mistake' but that's hard to believe. Pictures we took show that the town did not confiscate any Petronko-Cusick signs," said Jones. "Unfortunately, I can no longer give them the benefit of the doubt. Last year, we had over two dozen signs stolen and within an hour of making a police report, we received a call from a Democratic councilman saying they were at his house and had been left there as a 'prank.' We gave him the benefit of the doubt. The Mayor was also harassing business owners last year about putting up our signs, even calling Marge Reedy's employer. There are too many important issues that need attention to be wasting time on this nonsense," he concluded.

Fire Dept. Open House Kicks Off Fire Prevention Week

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Dept. 2003 Fire Prevention Day will held this Saturday, Oct. 11 from noon until 4 p.m. at Fire Headquarters on Maple Ave., rain or shine. Planned events include a visit from Smokey the Bear, the Saint Barnabas Burn house, PSEG & Co., apparatus and equipment display and much more. Memorial ceremonies begin at 11 a.m.

Veterans Memorial Relocated to New Home

The Veterans Memorial, which stands in front of Borough Hall, was carefully dismantled and moved to its new home near the rescue squad building, the future location of the planned Memorial Park. It took most of the morning to move each piece of engraved marble to the new site. The focus of the Memorial Park will be a Verdin clock situated in the center of several paths leading to individual memorials for veterans, police and rescue squad members. Working diligently all day were Teddy and Kasimir Dabrowski, who used a crane to lift the heavy marble. Also Greg Pinho from Greenbrook Memorial brought his crane to help move the monuments. An artillery gun has already arrived at the site and a helicopter will be arriving shortly.



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

Monday, October 20 Thursday, October 23

Monday, November 10 Thursday, November 13

Monday, December 8 Thursday, December 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

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

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.: 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

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,

On Monday, Sept. 22, we held a blood drive at Kennedy School in support of our husband/father Tom McCreesh. We had never organized anything of this order and were a little apprehensive about the potential turnout. What we saw that day was an outpouring of love and friendship that words will never come close to describing. Over 200 people showed up and still others had to be turned away due to time constraints. Scheduled from 3-9, the drive went until nearly 11, with some people waiting nearly two-and-a-half hours to donate blood.

Some waited almost that long, only to be turned down for one reason or another. During the eight hours of the drive, not one person mentioned the wait, while others left and returned hoping for a shorter line, only to see it was probably longer, yet still remained to donate. The people from the Blood Bank of New Jersey worked continuously, maintaining a professional positive attitude the entire time.

The drive was scheduled in quick order and outside the immediate family, many people need to be thanked. First to Al Czech, for volunteering the use of the school; we could not have done it without you. To all of the businesses who put signs in their windows and the *Observer* for the mention in your paper, thank you so much. To our friends (old and new) and family, especially those who came to give blood for the first time, you hold a special place in our hearts.

The support we have received has been overwhelming to say the least and has maintained our continued faith in our friends. We thank all for your thoughts and prayers. To those of you thinking about donating blood, we encourage you to do it. The blood supply is dangerously low and you may play a part in saving someone's life.

THE MC CREESH FAMILY

Dear Editor,

Serving in the U.S. military is one of the most honorable, yet challenging things one can do for their country. To the delight of all military veterans in New Jersey, there are those local politicians who also recognize this dedication and commitment to one's country and work hard, making sure that they are rewarded for their efforts. Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan is one of these men and on Nov. 4, I will choose to re-elect him as an Assemblyman from the 18th District.

As an advocate for our military veterans, Patrick Diegnan supported the establishment of a college scholarship program for spouses and children of those killed in the Iraqi war and war on terrorism. Also recognizing our Iraqi veterans, he supported legislation, recognizing active duty personnel who participated in Operation "Iraqi Freedom" as honorably discharged veterans, marking them eligible for a variety of benefits.

Diegnan's appreciation for our armed services does not end there. Concerned for the safety of veterans, he supported the development of a plan to alleviate overcrowding at the state's three Veterans' nursing homes, through home health care and outpa-

tient services.

Lastly, he also supported legislation, providing a gross income tax exclusion for housing and subsistence allowances received by National Guard members who are called up by the Governor for emergencies.

Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan's support of the military veterans' community has not gone unnoticed and on Nov. 4, I will vote to re-elect him to the NJ Assembly.

LEO SURAK

To the Editor,

(This letter was sent to Senator Barbara Buono, Assemblyman Peter Barnes and Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan.)

It was with sadness I read of your vote on S-3000. A petition called "Put Children First" was presented to you with more than 20,000 signatures urging the Governor and Legislature to honor your statutory and constitutional obligation to provide each child a thorough and efficient education by fully funding the state school aid formula. We only asked that you not short-change the children or precipitate another painful rise in property taxes. Unfortunately, the state budget approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor failed to fully fund state aid to education by hundreds of millions of dollars, thereby increasing property taxes at a local level.

S-3000: This is the 2003-2004 State budget bill approved by the legislature and signed into law by Governor McGreevey. It set the level of state appropriations for the fiscal year that began July 1, 2003. You voted yes.

Although your vote provides \$6.8 billion in direct aid to the school district, \$200 million more than the previous year (\$100 million in school construction aid and \$100 million in school aid), half of the extra school aid went to New Jersey's special needs, or Abbott District—30 school districts! Aid for extraordinary special education costs increased by \$37 million.

In addition to the state aid authorized by this budget being woefully short, the amount districts would have received under the Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act (CEIFA). This was the second consecutive budget that did not use the CEIFA formula to allocate school aid. Most districts received only minuscule increases in state aid, if they received an increase at all. The 2003-2004 budget perpetuates a questionable financial accounting practice that gives the State the ability for the second year in a row to withhold or delay the final state aid payment due to districts in June 2004.

This budget also reduces the NJ SAVER program, which is earmarked specifically for school property tax relief. Checks received by homeowners were generally half the size of those received from the state in 2002.

S-2003: This is the 2002-2003 State budget bill approved by the Legisla-

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Letters may be submitted to our office: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email at our website at spobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Please limit letters to no more than 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.

ture and signed into law by Governor McGreevey. It established the state funding level for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002. You voted yes.

Your yes vote provided \$6.6 billion in direct aid to school districts. The budget assured all school districts would receive as much state aid as they did during the 2001-2002 fiscal year. Unfortunately the budget froze state aid, which under the CEIFA formula should have risen about \$300 million. The budget bill gave the State Treasurer the ability to withhold the final state aid payment, which he did. This effectively reduced school aid and placed tremendous pressure on local property taxes.

It is sad that our children are not registered voters; perhaps they would be put first if they were. I urge my fellow citizens to carefully scrutinize the voting record of those we elect to serve us. As you can see, the result of this vote will impact you directly in the pocketbook on a local level.

**DAWN JEFFERYS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER**

Dear Editor,

I met Ray Petronko at a Traffic Safety Commission Meeting in the early 1990's. My concern regarding the safe passage of school children walking to and from Riley School prompted me to present my position to town officials. Ray, as well as the other members of the commission, were empathetic and supportive. The next time I saw Ray, he was walking door-to-door, campaigning for his first town election. A perfect opportunity to address the status of the sidewalk plans. I was told it was moving forward. The traffic safety arm of law enforcement was looking into securing a grant for construction funds. Ray

Continued on page 5

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My-Lynn Nails

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\$25/Mon & Tues


Tips for Students \$23 • Refill \$15

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South Plainfield

MONDAY-SATURDAY 9:30-7:30

CLOSED SUNDAYS



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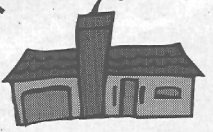
We look forward to hearing from all of you and encourage you to send in your stories and photos. The *South Plainfield Observer* is your paper. Please let us know what you would like to see in it.

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Department, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at spobserver.com or ggnan@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: ggnan@aol.com or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the *Observer*. All letters must be submitted with name and phone number, for verification.



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Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass



Con Artists Attempt to Scam Two Residents

In two separate incidents last week, residents were approached by scam artists, one with disastrous results.

A elderly Murray Ave. resident was outside his home last Friday afternoon when he was approached by a Hispanic male who stated that he was installing a fence on his neighbors property and needed to speak with him in his back yard. He asked the man if he was home alone and the resident answered "yes."

The suspect began speaking on a walkie talkie to someone who apparently entered the man's residence and removed \$1,000 cash from a file safe in the kitchen and a checkbook from a bedroom dresser top. After distracting the victim for nearly 30 minutes, the suspect then casually walked away.

The second incident occurred on Monday afternoon on Cumberland St. when an older woman answered a knock on her door by a 35 year-old black male who asked if she wanted him to cut her grass. She agreed, but began to get suspicious from the questions he was asking and called police.

When South Plainfield Police Officers Wendell Born and Peter Papa arrived, they asked the man for identification. After questioning him, Craig B. Station of Plainfield was subsequently arrested on an outstanding warrant.

Unsuspecting elderly men and women often fall prey to criminals looking for an easy target. The Police Department encourages all residents to always ask for proper identification and when in doubt, call the police.

Board of Ed Meeting Date Changed

Because of the NJSBA School Boards Convention, the Regular Public Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 8 p.m. in the Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place has been changed to Monday, Oct. 20 at 8 p.m.



The contaminated soil at Veterans Park is shown above. The soil has been piled and covered until it is ready to be moved.

Veterans Park Clean-up Work On Schedule

Work on Veterans Park is on schedule according to a report given to the Council by the PMK Group. Veterans Park was closed since last year, when an oily tar-like substance was found in portions of the park. Tests later also revealed a small amount of PCBs.

Work has begun on the excavation of soil containing the 'tar-like' substance. The loading, transporting and disposing of the substance has already begun and should be completed by Oct. 22.

The disposal of the PCB contaminated soil, including taking it offsite, has already been completed.

Site clearing, tree cutting and the disposal of the material has also been completed.

Recycling Center Columbus Day Holiday Closing

The Recycling Center on Kenneth Ave. will be closed on Tuesday, Oct. 14, because of the Columbus Day holiday weekend. Recycling will be open instead from 12 noon to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

The Recycling Center and the Yard Waste Site will be open as usual from 8 to 3 on Saturday, Oct. 11.

The Recycling Center regular schedule is 12 to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. The Yard Waste Site regular fall/winter schedule is 8 a.m. to

3 p.m. on Saturdays. During the leaf collection period from the last week of October through the first week of December, Yard Waste will be open for leaves from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

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

The cost of the clean-up was originally estimated at approximately \$1.3 million. Out of the five bids received, a low bid from Clean Earth Environmental Services reduced the clean-up to \$969,000. South Plainfield also received a grant of \$250,000 from the New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Simple Fire Prevention Tips For Your Family

Twenty-three percent of all fire fatalities are children, according to the Division of Fire. New Jersey children under the age of ten die more from a house fire than any disease. Since October is Fire Prevention Month, I would like to remind all of us on some simple fire prevention tips to protect your home and yourself from fire.

- Test your smoke detectors regularly to ensure they work properly (remember: "Change your clock, change your battery" during daylight savings time).

- You and your family should plan and drill escape routes from your home if a fire should occur. Figure two ways of getting out in case fire prevents you from leaving.

- Once outside, select a meeting place away from the home. Call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's house and never go back inside a burning house.

- Never run extension cords under rugs or carpet. Purchase only UL (Underwriters Laboratories) approved extension cords that are only capable of handling the electrical load they are meant for.

- Install at least one UL (Underwriters Laboratories) Carbon Monoxide detector with an audible warning signal near the sleeping areas of your home. Like smoke detectors, they should be tested monthly and batteries changed once a year or as often as needed.

- Prevent a cooking fire in your kitchen: always stay in the kitchen while cooking; keep the stove clear of anything flammable, such as paper towels, potholders and cookbooks and wear clothes that fit you, since loose clothing can catch on fire easily.

- If possible, make sure you have a fire extinguisher in your home and the gauge arrow is in the green. This means it is charged and ready to go.

- Keep flashlights with new batteries available throughout your house for emergency use.

These are just a few tips in preparing you and your family in making your home safe.

Fire can start anywhere at any time; being prepared can reduce the chances of being a victim of a fire.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, you can contact your local fire department or the Middlesex County Fire Marshal's office at (732) 316-7171.

*Submitted by Michael Gallagher
Middlesex County Fire Marshal*

Hearing on Billboards Continued

The Board of Adjustment held another special meeting recently to hear the application for two more billboards along Rt. 287. Only one resident and a lawyer representing the Highlands Apartment complex were at the meeting to object to the billboards.

Carol Media is asking to place a billboard on the property on Bedford Ave., formerly owned by John Rosoli and recently purchased by Robert Bengivena. Carol Media will be leasing the space to erect the 43 foot structure. The proposed billboard will be located just 420 feet from the Highland apartments and requires a variance.

According to testimony, the billboards will not be visible to residents of the Highlands, because of a buffer of 30-40 foot tall trees.

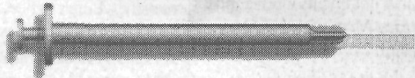
AMI is asking to put up a billboard on Durham Ave. next to the overpass of Rt. 287. Originally they asked for the billboard to be 71 feet tall, but have revised the height to 50 feet.

Both hearings were carried to the Board of Adjustment meeting scheduled on Thursday, Oct. 16 at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

The Board of Adjustment Meetings are always open to the public. Residents can speak before a vote is taken.

FLU SHOT • FLU SHOT • FLU SHOT

It's Time For An Important Health Tip.



Get Your Annual Flu Vaccination.

It's at your neighborhood Medicine Shoppe® Pharmacy.

The flu is not a "bad cold." It's a serious virus that can have dire consequences on your health. Get your flu shot before the flu gets you. It's fast, easy, and important for your health.

Did we make our point?

**Thursday, October 16, 2003
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

Our flu vaccination service is one more example of The Medicine Shoppe PromiseSM to help you care for your health and your family's health with confidence.

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Must be 18 years or older to receive flu shot. Attn: Medicare® recipients. The flu shot is free unless you are enrolled under Medicare HMO. Simply present your Medicare card with valid Part-B (Medical) coverage.

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Okay, we can't promise you your name in lights.

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Be A Star.

Advertise in the Nov. 21 issue,
of the *Observer*, going to
every home in South Plainfield.

Call 908-668-0010 now
to reserve the best space.

Deadline is Nov. 10

Events

Harvest Fest at John F. Kennedy School

October 11
John F. Kennedy Elementary School invites you to their Harvest Fest, held on Saturday, Oct. 11 from 1-4 p.m. at the school (raindate scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 12).

Bring the whole family to enjoy a fun-filled day and at the same time, make a wonderful donation to UNICEF. There will be games, food, raffles, pumpkin painting, arts and crafts, a hayride and much, much more!

The ticket prices are as follows: one ticket for \$1, five tickets for \$4 and ten tickets for \$6. Activity tickets can only be purchased on the day of Harvest Fest.

Harvest Fest is sponsored by the third grade classes and the student council. All proceeds from the Harvest Fest will be donated to UNICEF. Kennedy School PTSO, third grade parents, student council and teachers have provided materials for all of the activities.

Suburban Woman's Club Yard Sale

October 11
The Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield will hold a fundraiser yard sale on Saturday Oct. 11 at the American Legion Hall, Oak Tree Ave. from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Raindate is Oct. 12. Baked goods will also be available.

SPHS Athletic Booster Club Meeting

October 14
The next meeting of the SPHS Athletic Booster Club is on Tuesday Oct. 14, at 7:30 pm in the high school cafeteria. They will be discussing their upcoming Sports Auction/Raffle to be held Nov. 15. See any Booster Club executive member for a ticket. This event will probably sell-out, so get your tickets early! Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door (if available). We will also discuss any coaches requests and any other issues concerning our student-athletes.

Any parents of a senior Fall athlete, please keep Friday night, Oct. 24 open as we honor our seniors and their parents before the home football game. Hope to see you all at the meeting next week! Go TIGERS!

Historical Society Monthly Meeting

October 14
The South Plainfield Historical Society will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 14, at the Senior Citizens Center at the intersection of Lakeview and Maple avenues. The public is invited to attend the 7:30 meeting. For information, call Dorothy Miele at 908 754-3073.

Fibromyalgia Support Group Meeting

October 14
Do you suffer from "Fibromyalgia Syndrome?" If so, come join others who experience FMS as well as our FMS Support Group at Pilgrim Covenant Church.
The next meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 14 from 7-8:30 p.m. For information, please contact Pastor Cathy Stanley-Erickson at (908) 756-2474.

What's happening in OCTOBER

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.

Senior Center EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Flu Shots Oct. 15 9am-11:30am November 10 5:30-7:30pm Halloween Dance Nov. 1, 7-11pm Wear a costume and join in the fun!				
Center Closed for Columbus Day 13	Bingo 10am-2pm 14 Ladies Social Group 10am Computer Classes 10-11am or 2-3pm	Exercise 8:45-9:45 15 Line Dancing 10-11:30 Movie Time 11:30am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 1-2pm Flu Shots 9-11:30am	Shopping Day 9am 9 Video Exercise 9:30am-10:30am Practical Crafts 10-11am Computer Class 1-2pm Decorative Painting 2:30-3:30pm	Bingo 10am-2pm 10 Pizza Lunch 10am-11am Computer Class 10-11am Men's Forum Steering Committee 1:30pm
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.				

Republican's to Hold Monthly Meeting

October 15
The regular monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization (SPRO) will be held Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Rd. The meeting will be held at 8 p.m.

All residents of the Borough are invited to attend and discuss their concerns with council candidates Marge Reedy and Ray Rusnak.

The SPRO also would like to remind all eligible voters to go out to the polls and make their voices heard on Election Day, Nov. 4. The polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Theatre Trip To "Annie Get Your Gun"

October 16
The Senior Center is planning a trip to the Fiesta Dinner Theatre in Wood Ridge 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.

Bingo Night Fundraiser for Fire Department

October 17
The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department will hold a Bingo Night at Sacred Heart School on Friday, Oct. 17 at 7:30 p.m.
The Bingo Night is being held to help support the construction of the planned Firefighters Memorial next to the Senior Citizens Center.
Refreshments will be available.
Sacred Heart is located on Sacred Heart Dr., off South Plainfield Ave.

Baked Chicken Dinner at VFW

October 17
VFW Post #6763 will be holding a Baked Chicken Dinner on Friday, Oct. 17 at the VFW, 155 Front St., from 5 to 8 p.m. Donation is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children under 14.
For more information, please call

(908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and after 12 Noon on weekends.

Tournament of Bands Competition

October 18-19
The South Plainfield High School Marching Band will be hosting a Tournament of Bands competition on Saturday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. The bands attending are Raritan High School, Gateway Regional High School, West Essex High School, Red Bank Catholic High School and Jefferson Township High School. Tickets are \$7 for the competition.

They will also be hosting their 22nd Annual Marching Band Festival on Sun., Oct. 19 at 1 p.m. The bands attending the festival are Nottingham High School, Hackensack High School, Warren Hills Regional High School, Pompton Lakes High School, Dunellen High School, JFK High School and Saddlebrook High School. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for students and seniors.

Trophies will be awarded to the bands in the Group I, II, III and IV categories. S.P.H.S. band parents will be selling various foods and craft items at both shows. All monies collected will be given to Music Boosters and Scholarships to graduating high school seniors in June. The two shows will be at the Frank R. Jost Memorial Field, located on Maple Ave.

Questions may be directed to Nanette Babinetz at (908) 753-9181 or by email at nanetteis@hotmail.com.

Historical Society Town History Day

October 19
The South Plainfield Historical Society will be sponsoring the inaugural Town History Day on Sunday, Oct. 19 at the Senior Center. The public is invited to enjoy an afternoon of programs, displays, entertainment and refreshments.

Planned events include a talk on the history of the Borough by Dr. Richard Veit, Director of New Jersey History at Monmouth University; a slide program of old houses and structures

in South Plainfield; an antique fashion show and display; an antique car show; a silent movie; memorabilia; entertainment and access to the Society's extensive photograph collection. Refreshments will be served throughout the day.

Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Opening ceremonies and entertainment will begin promptly at 1 p.m., followed by the antique fashion shown and history programs. There is no admission charge.
For further information, contact Dorothy Miele at (908) 754-3073, or email at SPHistoricalSoc@sc.com.

Seminar on Investing at SP Library

October 19
The Cornerstones of Investing, a free seminar, will be given by Bridget Lupia, financial advisor of the UBS Financial Services, Inc., on Sunday, Oct. 19 at 2 p.m. No registration is required. This seminar will take place at the South Plainfield Public Library, on Plainfield Ave.
Any questions, please call (908) 754-7885.

Golf Outing to Benefit Education Foundation

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

— Out of Town —

4-H to Host Haunted House

Weekends through Oct. 31
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.

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

Middlesex East WOWs Dance

October 10
Middlesex East WOWs Carteret Chapter will hold a dance for widows and widowers on Friday, Oct. 10 at St. Demetrius Community Center, 681-691 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret. Admission is \$8. There will be live music and refreshments will be available. The dance is from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. For more information, call (732) 969-1123 or (908) 757-0515.

Fall Harvest Celebration At CareOne

October 11
A Fall Harvest Celebration will be held on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 12 to 4 p.m. at CareOne at the Highlands, 1350 Inman Ave. in Edison. There will be a free shuttle service, a petting zoo, live entertainment, games, pumpkins and face painting.

SingleFaces Events

Saturday Oct. 11 at the Ramada Plaza, Raritan Center in Edison at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12 Free dance lessons with admission (8 p.m.)
Sunday Oct. 12 in the Woodbridge Hilton, 120 Wood Ave. in Iselin, 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. Cost is \$12.
Friday Oct. 17 at the Clarion Hotel & Towers, 2055 Lincoln Highway (Rt. 27) in Edison at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12.

Open House/Friend Day- Alliance Bible Church

October 12
Alliance Bible Church will be hosting an Open House/Friend Day on Sunday, Oct. 12, following the 11:30 a.m. service until 4 p.m. on the lawn at 52 Mt. Horeb Road in Warren. All are welcome.
The event will feature a picnic style lunch, as well as some outdoor games, face painting, balloon art and clowns.
Alliance Bible Church is located at 52 Mount Horeb Rd. in Warren.

For information or directions, contact the church office at (732) 469-1425, or check out our website at www.alliancebiblechurch.com.

Springfield High Plans 55th Reunion

October 12
The Jonathan Dayton Regional High School of Springfield, Class of 1948 is planning a 55th Reunion for Oct. 12 from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Gran Centurions in Clark.
For information, call: Trudy Lorenz Piccarillo at (908) 647-5958 or (908) 754-5976.

Job Fairs Scheduled

October 14-15
Superior Job Fairs, New Jersey's largest job fair, is hosting two huge, free events!
The fairs are: Tuesday, Oct. 14- Sales Only job fair at The Bethwood in Torow, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and Wednesday, Oct. 15- Entry level/Retail only at The Pines Manor in Edison, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Applicants should bring plenty of resumes and dress professionally.

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.

IN YOUR OPINION

Continued from page 2
assured me the sidewalk was a concern of his as well. It was the beginning of Ray's commitment to safety and what would become a sidewalk on Chambers St.

Our paths soon crossed again. Riley School parents and I were involved in building a new playground. On the day of construction, Ray showed up, along with his son Randy, for a day of hard work. Ray had no children attending Riley School, just a willingness to help out. It was the beginning of what would become Ray's commitment to recreation.

Years later, Ray was the person I contacted with the idea for a skateboard park. My son and others of his age group were without a safe place to skate. Ray agreed and suggested I bring the boys to a recreation commission meeting to present their case. Mike English and members of the Recreation Commission were responsive and encouraging. Ray and Mike worked diligently researching vendors, investigating insurance options and establishing park policy. It was the beginning of

South Plainfield's Skate Park.

I voted for Ray in his first election and have done so every election year since. It is the easiest vote I cast. Ray is the most approachable, dedicated, enthusiastic and genuine town official I've had the pleasure to know. He always has time to listen. Ray is just a nice guy. I can't call Ray a politician because Ray is more than that. He takes his job as councilman seriously without taking himself too seriously. It's not about power and position for Ray. It's about people.

Good Luck, Ray! If you win, we win.
DEANNA FREDERICKS

Dear Editor,

I've known Pat Diegnan and his family since they moved into town. He's friendly and has a good sense of humor. I actually like him as a person.

But unfortunately this is not the man we need representing us in Trenton. Think about it.

1. Diegnan voted to slash the senior citizen tax-free program. In other

words, he voted to raise taxes on those least able to afford it.

2. In its series entitled "Profiting from Public Service: How Many New Jersey Legislators Exploit the System," the *Home News* didn't even reveal all the money he and his family rake in from the public. It was just the tip of the iceberg.

3. He voted to raise taxes by cutting the Homestead Rebate. The checks are barely half what they should be.

4. His conflicts of interest are amazing. He is borough attorney, assemblyman, Democratic chair and borough attorney for another town. Who does he represent? The people of South Plainfield? His district? The Democrats? According to the *Home News*, he also had Mayor Gallagher on his payroll. But as borough attorney, he works for Gallagher. Who works for whom? Isn't that a conflict of interest?

The *Home News* series shed light on how politicians like Diegnan and his friends in Trenton abuse the system. One quote in its recent editorial sums it up: they "manipulate state law—or lack thereof—for the primary purpose of enriching themselves, family, friends, political patrons and business associates, virtually anyone of influence except, naturally, the ordinary citizen... multiple jobs, no-bid contracts for influential donors, nepotism..." all at the expense of taxpayers.

Diegnan's got to go.
JACK CATALDO

To the Editor,

For the past few years, South Plainfield has had one-party rule. The Mayor and council, all Democrats, have been able to make decisions that affect the life in our borough without any input from other points of view.

Have they always made the right decisions? And have we been aware of all their decisions? And most importantly, have they alone been making decisions based on what is good for the town, or have they been "guided" by individuals who influence the decisions that we in South Plainfield have to live with and pay for?

One-party rule means one point-of-view. One-party rule of government and elect representatives who can bring other points of view to the challenges that face our borough. Ray Rusnak and Marge Reedy will bring their ideas to the council and make sure that every decision is the best one for the Borough of South Plainfield.

CHARLES C. HAUS

Letter to the Editor,

When out for a Sunday drive, why not drive past South Plainfield's Taj Mahal—the \$12 million Senior Residence on Morris Ave. While you are at it, note our spacious parking lot!

We have 60 parking spaces, eight for handicapped parking. We also have

over 100 residents and 35 handicapped cars. Visitors park where available, depriving residents of space. One would think that for \$12M there would be sufficient parking spaces. Someone goofed in the planning and in approval.

A CO was granted in April, 2002 and as residents moved in, they became aware of the lack of parking spaces and were told that more parking would be available soon. A "Grand Opening Ceremony" took place, with local politicians and the usual pat-on-the-back for a great job well done. No mention of the parking situation!

In October, 2002, council members attended a meeting with the residents and promised an additional parking lot would be added in November. Most of us, being new to "South Plainfield Politics," believed it. They were so busy handing out voter registration forms that they forgot to mention November of what year.

Well, the winter and all of the snow problems came and it was too cold to pour tar or whatever they use to build a parking lot. Snow, more snow and more frustrations. A petition was signed by most of the residents and as far as I know, it now lies in someone's file, or maybe a circular file. And the promises continued.

Finally, spring came and the excuses began. They (not sure who they are) were waiting for bids; the land had to be leased to the management company that operates the building; the buck was passed to management and management passed it back to the council. And so it continues. The parking lot would be built soon? When?

Finally in June, we were told that the Planning Board had to approve the parking lot. So a few residents attended the meeting and applauded the "okay." We came away thinking, "Finally, we're getting more parking spaces."

It is now October, 2003 and still no sign of the parking lot. Oh, some posts have been placed in the ground to show where an access road might some day be, but no equipment, workers, or politicians. Election time is upon us and we will hear from the politicians soon, because its the time of year they make their public appearances. But we are not new to South Plainfield anymore!

We have endured a year and a half of a very acute parking problem. Residents now make sure to be home by 3 p.m., so they can still park their cars. Those who come home later have a choice of parking on the grass or the access road, which means that the garbage trucks may not be able to get in.

So when driving past this beautiful and expensive building, please note our

great parking lot. We thank this political non-progress every time we get in our cars.

It's a sad story, that had to be told!
A SENIOR RESIDENT

To the Editor:

Now that the political season is here, I am sure that the Republican candidates for Borough Council and their supporters will find some things to complain about. Of course, every campaign needs issues, even if they are without much substance. But the one thing you won't hear them say is how many good things the Democrats have done in the past few years. Just look at the improvements to our Borough and our government, such as a stable municipal tax rate with no increase in four out of the last six years, a Taxpayers' Advisory Board, a significant reduction in borrowing, the new Senior Recreation Center, the new senior housing and the new addition to the PAL. These are things that are real and make South Plainfield a better place to live.

Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick have been a key part to these changes and have shown that they know how to make our Borough government work better for the residents. On Election Day, vote for Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick because they make South Plainfield a better place to live.

EUGENE W. KATARYNIAK

To the Editor,

On Election Day, please re-elect Bob Cusick and Ray Petronko to the Borough Council. The Democrats promised that there would be no municipal tax increase and they have delivered with no increase in four of the last six years. The Democrats have run our Borough's finances so well that South Plainfield has one of the best credit ratings with Standards and Poors of any municipality in the state.

In fact, the Borough's credit rating is so good that the borough can borrow without insuring the debt. South Plainfield is one of only a few towns in New Jersey that can do this.

Under Ray Petronko's leadership, beautiful improvements have been made to Putnam Park. The Democratic team has many ideas for the future, such as improving traffic by completing the Helen St. extension and continuing the pay-as-you-go financial strategy.

On Election Day, re-elect Bob Cusick and Ray Petronko to the Borough Council.

JENNIE DALY

southplainfieldpeople

Milestones

Jessalynn Dumont and Jason GaNun are Married

Alan and Cindy GaNun of South Plainfield are pleased to announce the marriage of their son, Jason Kent GaNun to Jessalynn Janine Dumont, daughter of Emie Dumont of Webster, Mass. on Sept. 27 in Webster, Mass.

Jason is a 1997 graduate of South Plainfield High School and a graduate of Franklin Pierce College in Rindge, NH, where he met his bride. He is employed by Brandenburg in Bethlehem, Pa. Jessalynn is employed as a dental technician. They are making their home in Orefield, Pa.

Gina Zingarelli, friend of the bride, was the matron of honor. Joseph McDermott, friend of the groom, was



Jessalynn and Jason GaNun

the best man. Also in the wedding party were the sisters of the groom, Janna Dowdell and Jennifer GaNun and brother of the bride, Tyler Clayton Dumont.

Architect Michael G. Soriano, AIA, Receives YMCA Volunteer Award

At their Third Annual New Jersey YMCA State Alliance Public Policy Dinner held at the Sheraton/Woodbridge Place on Oct. 2, local architect Michael G. Soriano, AIA, was awarded the "2003 Volunteer of the Year Award," representing the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA.

Soriano has been a YMCA board of directors volunteer member since 1994 and has inspired the work of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA through his leadership as the board's vice president and chair of its Long Range Planning Committee. His experience as an architect has laid the groundwork for their next building expansion. His enthusiasm and dedication to the YMCA movement has also led him to his recent election to the YMCA of the USA's 2003 National Assembly.

Mike is a licensed, practicing architect and principal partner at Cornerstone Architectural Group, LLC in

South Plainfield. He is also an active member of the New Jersey Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the architects' state professional association. He received his Bachelor of Architecture Degree from the New Jersey Institute of Technology's School of Architecture in 1983.

Soriano is a resident of South Brunswick and is a proud supporter of the YMCA's mission to "Build Strong Kids, Strong Families and Strong Communities."



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SPHS Marching Tigers Roar On!

On Saturday, Sept. 27 at Roselle Park High School, the South Plainfield High School Marching Band placed

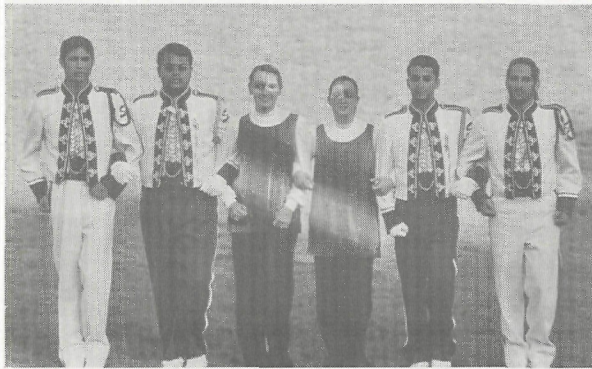
second in their Group IV division at the U.S.S.B.A. marching band competition. The Tigers performed a 70.05

score, marching to the theme of 'X-Men II' under the direction of High School Band Director Mark Tweed and Assistant Director Kathy Petrocelli.

Colorguard advisors are Angela Green and Kara Georgio. Drill Designer is Joe Borgese and Music Arranger is Brian Sleeper. Percussion Advisor is Bob Publik.

On Sunday, Oct. 5 at Matawan High School, the Tigers placed third in their Group III division with a score of 78.45, beating out East Brunswick, Jefferson and Egg Harbor Townships High Schools.

The Tigers will compete locally on Saturday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Frank Jost High School Football Field and again on Sunday, Oct. 19 at the same field at 1 p.m. during our 22nd Annual Marching Band Festival. The public is invited to attend.



Left to right are Student Coordinator Josh Jackson, Drum Major Josef Rodriguez, Colorguard Captains Ashlen Udell and Sam Gentile, Drum Major Wajdi Khan and Drum Captain Danny Lammi.

Flu Shots Available to South Plainfield Residents

The Middlesex County Health Department has announced that flu shots will be available at the South Plainfield Senior Center at 90 Maple Ave. on Wednesday, Oct. 15 (not Monday as we reported last week), from 9 to 11:30 a.m. for residents 50 years and older and on Monday, Nov. 10, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Only Middlesex County residents 50 years of age or older, or those who have chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems and those with chronic metabolic diseases, including diabetes mellitus, renal dysfunction, hemoglobinopathies or immuno-suppression may obtain a flu shot on Oct. 15. Any resident who is less than 50 years of age will be required to bring a prescription from their physician stating that they are under medical care for one of the conditions listed above. There are no exceptions.

The second clinic on Monday, Nov. 10 will offer flu vaccines to any Middlesex County resident age 18 or older. No one under the age of 18 will be vaccinated and proof of age will be required.

For a pneumococcal vaccine appointment, call (732) 745-3100, Monday through Friday, between 2 and 4 p.m. Please bring your Medicare card to the clinic.

From the Republicans

Reedy and Rusnak: Problems Won't Get Solved With One-Party Rule



One-party rule in South Plainfield is not working, according to Borough Council candidates Marge Reedy and Ray Rusnak. It's left us with more traffic, more building, and less services. What's more, the fox is guarding the henhouse: The Democrats are looting the town by awarding no-bid contracts to influential campaign donors, engaging in nepotism and cronyism and giving special favors to builders who contribute to their campaigns.

"Two-party government can solve these problems," said Reedy. "New people with new ideas can get us moving again and at the same time, provide some oversight. Someone has to be there to stop what's going on."

"Our plan offers solutions," Rusnak added. "The Democrats want us to say how we're going to solve the problems they created, but they apparently haven't been reading our literature or press releases. For example, we've proposed a halt to selling Borough-owned land to builders. We all know more

building brings more traffic. Yet the town is selling land to builders, so the builders can put up new developments. In fact, they just sold a large parcel to local developer Jack Morris."

"We've also got to move traffic, especially truck traffic, off Hamilton Blvd. and away from Roosevelt School," Reedy explained. "Extending Hollywood Ave. would do that. The other side wants to wait for the Helen Street project, but that project is already eight years behind schedule. We need relief now."

That's just the start according to Rusnak. "Rebuilding our town services and making them more convenient is another priority. We need to rebuild the public works department so it can better handle snow plowing, leaf collection and bulk-item pickups. We also want to make the compactor hours more convenient and add Sunday hours for grass and leaf drop-off."

"That area also needs cleaning up," Reedy explained. "The road going into that site is like a minefield and depending upon the weather, dropping off

leaves and grass can leave your car covered with mud or snot. It needs to be paved. Also, we should have workers help residents unload their bags into the containers. Extra staffing would be inexpensive, especially if it prevents lawsuits from people getting hurt."

"Play-to-pay reform and open government are also on our list," Rusnak added. "Meetings must be open to the public—no more secret closed-door meetings. And we need to set limits on what contractors can give to political campaigns. The Democrats have given over a million dollars in no-bid contracts to contributors, who in turn, have given back tens of thousands to their campaigns. This is not right. We also need to get competitive prices on these services. With no-bid contracts we are losing money."

Rusnak summarized their plans if elected: "Our priorities are straightforward. We need to 1.) get a handle on traffic and overbuilding, 2.) rebuild our services and 3.) restore open government. If elected, these will be our top three priorities."

From the Democrats

Cusick, Petronko Let Down By Republicans Lukewarm Support Of New Library



Democratic Councilpersons Bob Cusick and Raymond Petronko expressed their disappointment at the Republican candidates half-hearted support for the proposal to build a new state of the art library on Plainfield Avenue. "I guess I shouldn't take things to heart, but the Republicans release and letters to the editor questioning the new library really disappointed me. In one of their letters, they insulted me personally for proposing the new library, in another they questioned the need for the library and in their formal campaign release they said that although they support the concept of the new library, they must first study how it will be financed."

All the Republicans had to do was read the newspaper or come to a council meeting and they would know how the process will work. To refresh everyone's mind, here's how the new library will be paid for: The Borough already owns the

property next to Conroy's Funeral Home, so there will be no cost for the land. Our hometown Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan is committed to work to get us a state grant, which will pay for 25% of the cost of construction. The library has approximately \$200,000 in its treasury, which will offset the cost of architectural and engineering design fees. Any bond-

cans wishey-washy support of the new library. It is sad that anything that the Democrats propose, the Republicans believe they must criticize. They did the same thing with the Senior Housing project on Morris Ave., the addition that doubled the size of the PAL, the Senior Recreation Center and they are doing the same thing right now concerning the Helen Street Project and the reconstruction of Hamilton Blvd. Heck, they even criticized the Mayor and Council and our Assemblymen for getting a state grant to clean up Veteran's Park. I know it's politics as usual and we shouldn't be surprised, but it is really disappointing."

Councilmen Cusick and Petronko summed up the Democrats feelings saying, "Come on Republicans, say something positive, support the Library; surprise us all and actually propose something positive for the future of South Plainfield. There are only four weeks left to Election Day."

Raymond Petronko expanded on his running mates comments. "Just like Bob, I am flabbergasted by the Republi-

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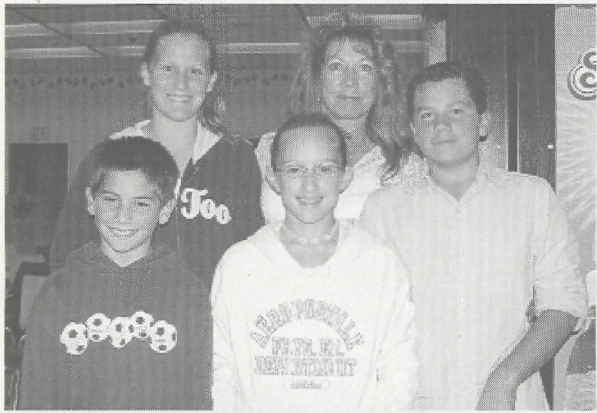
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Ponytail Park to Benefit from Annual Art Auction



In back left to right are Rachel Senz and Debbie Boyle. In front are Richie Szeliga, Cori Marie Black, Mykhal Boyle. At left is Marge Reedy.

By Patricia Abbott

Despite a slow start to the evening the South Plainfield Ponytail Parents' Association declared their second annual Art Auction a success. Over 30 people attended the event chaired by Debbie Boyle and Pat DeSantis. The

evening netted \$6,500 in sales with \$900 for the SP Ponytail Parent's Association. The auction was conducted by Ross Galleries of Holbrook, New York.

A preview was held from 6-7 p.m. Potential buyers enjoyed a variety of desserts, sandwiches and beverages as they perused the wide selection of art and autographed collectibles, over 160 pieces. Among the works to be auctioned were a baseball bat signed by Mickey Mantle and a guitar signed by Mick Jagger. Assisting in moving the artwork to and from the podium were South Plainfield youths Rachel Senz, Richard Szeliga, Cori Marie Black, Mykhal Boyle, Allysa Sutherland, Patrick Boyle and Marissa Piancone.

Proceeds from the auction help purchase equipment for Ponytail Park, formerly Pitt Street Park. A scoreboard and sound system are among improvements to the park in recent years. Over 240 females participate in the South Plainfield Recreation sponsored softball program. Ponytail Parents Association President is Mark Sutherland and Vice President is Steve Senz.



OLC Rosary Altar Society 13th Annual Spaghetti Dinner

The Our Lady of Czestochowa spaghetti dinner is an event the ladies of the church's Rosary Altar Society are extremely proud of. The annual event is in its 13th year and many of the women have been cooking for the dinner since it began. All the food was homemade. Volunteers dished up the salad and poured beverages. The dessert table was self serve. Proceeds from the event go to the Rosary Society.



policereport

- On Sept. 26 Compact Disc World on Montrose Ave. reported the theft of a company van from their parking lot. The keys were still in the office.
- On Sept. 29 the owner of a tractor trailer parked on Kentile Rd. reported the theft of two clear plastic containers and an aluminum cookie container filled with various coins totaling \$400. There was no sign of forced entry.
- On Sept. 30 a Brennan Ct. resident reported that their apartment door had been pried open. Some jewelry was missing.
- A Scotch Plains resident reported the theft of his license plates while parked

at Al's Service Center on Park Ave.

- On Oct. 1 William John Woronicki, 45, of Dunellen was arrested for shoplifting at Kohl's. He attempted to leave the store wearing a pair of \$75 Skechers sneakers.

- On Oct. 3 Lorenza Haydee Amaya-Guevara, 21, of Plainfield was arrested for shoplifting at Macy's. She had put a purse inside her own and tried to return two shirts she had picked up in the store.

- A North Plainfield resident reported that his rear passenger side window had been smashed while parked at China Buffet on Park Ave. A drivers license, \$50 in cash, a resident alien card, social security card and credit card were taken.

- An employee of G & W Labs on Helen St. reported the theft of a chainsaw, a cell phone and a case of Penzoil oil from the trunk of his vehicle.

- A North Plainfield resident reported the theft of his Harley Davidson motorcycle from his workplace at 3001 Hadley Rd. He observed a black male with a blue hat walking across the parking lot talking on a cell phone. He heard his bike start up and he saw the man drive away.

- On Oct. 5 Eric M. Vogler, 24, of

North Plainfield was arrested for shoplifting a paint ball gun, a CD and a Playstation remote totaling \$139.97 from K-Mart.

- The owner of a business at 712 Clinton Ave. reported that the locks had been cut off the metal security gate and telephone wires had been cut. No entry was gained.

- On Oct. 6 a 16 year-old Palmer Ave. resident was attacked by four black and two Hispanic males while riding his bike on Clinton Ave. He was pushed off his bike and punched and his MBX Mongoose bike was ridden away by one of the attackers.

- On Oct. 7 a 14 year-old Plainfield resident was riding his moped on Woodland Ave. and made a turn onto Sprague Ave. A red Honda pulled in front of him causing him to stop. He started to back up and go around the vehicle when he was struck by a white Honda Accord. He dropped his moped and ran towards Woodlands Genesis Eldercare Center, where he called police. As he ran, he saw a black teenage male exit the red Honda and yell, "This bike is mine now."

He was transported by the Plainfield Rescue Squad to Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center for minor leg pain. The moped was recovered at the scene.

Two Injured In Industrial Accidents

Last Wednesday morning, officers were called to Supersal Window Manufacturers, located at 125 Helen St., on a report of a worker with severed fingers. Apparently Mario Guanin (age and address unknown), had been using a miter saw and inadvertently cut off the first three fingers on his left hand. Guanin and the recovered fingers were taken to Robert Wood Johnson Hospital by the Plainfield Rescue Squad. Mercy 6 also responded to the scene. His condition is unknown at this time.

On Wednesday afternoon., police responded to KKK Trucking, located at 265 Ryan Street, on a report that a worker had gotten his right arm caught in a rubber conveyor belt. Jose Santos, age 34, received also scrapes and cuts to his lower back. He was taken to Robert Wood Johnson Hospital by the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, along with Mercy 6. His condition is unknown at this time.

Casino Nite to Benefit 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.

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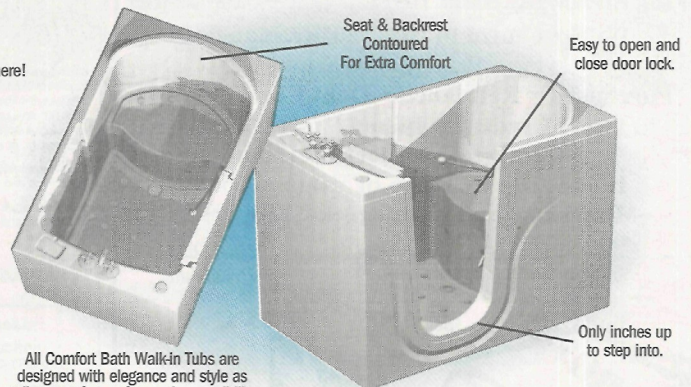
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High School Student Success Presentation Slated for SPHS

South Plainfield High School announced on Oct. 1 that it has scheduled the highly rated "Making It Count" presentation program for its freshman class. The one-hour, assembly-style presentation will be delivered free to students and parents at 7 p.m. on Wed., Oct. 15.

"Making High School Count" is designed to help students understand the importance of high school and what they need to accomplish to maximize their opportunities upon graduation. The program also addresses transitional issues, such as time management and study skills.

"Entry into high school and college are key transition periods in a student's academic career," said Patrick S. O'Brien, founder of the Making It Count programs. "Our goal is to provide and reinforce the positive messages counselors and teachers are giving to their

students during these crucial times and help students understand that anyone can be successful if they choose to be."

The *Making High School Count* presentation program was successfully presented to more than one million students nationwide in 2002. On average, guidance counselors rated the value of ideas presented a 9.5 on a ten-point scale. This year, Making High School Count will be delivered to another one million freshmen. The growth of this program, combined with the success of the organization's additional presentations for juniors and seniors, will allow Making It Count to deliver its message to more than 2.5 million high school students in 2003.

Key content from all of the Making It Count in-school programs can be found on the company's website at www.makingitcount.com.

Lights, Camera, Action!

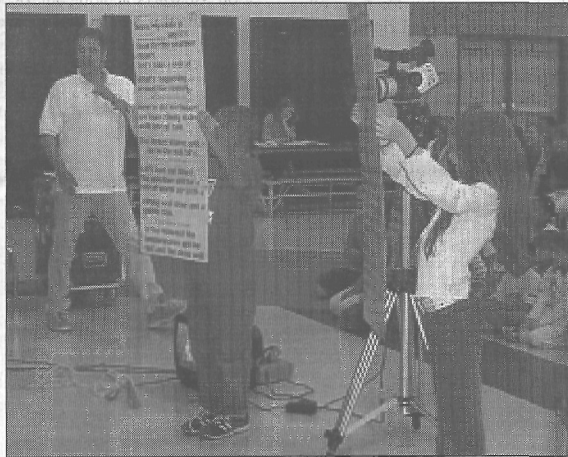
By Jane Dornick

Mobile Ed Productions, Inc. brought their popular "Lights, Camera, Action!" program to Roosevelt Elementary School recently.

Held in the school's new all purpose room, the assembly was a one-man demonstration of how a digital, state-of-the-art television studio

works.

Students were chosen for several different productions and stood in front of a chroma key screen, while the cameraman demonstrated to the audience the "tricks of the trade." Effects such as swimming underwater, flying like Superman and even a weather report were taped for the school to keep.



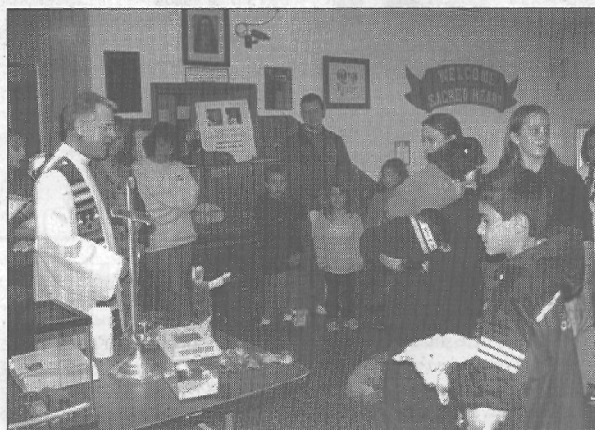
Pilgrim Covenant Church Pastor Cathy Stanley-Erickson blesses pets at the Pilgrim Covenant Church's Blessing of the Animals service.

Blessing of the Animals at Area Churches

Pilgrim Covenant Church held a Blessing of the Animals service on the church grounds last Sunday. Attendees brought pets and photographs of their pets to receive the blessing.

Pastor Cathy Stanley-Erickson preached: "Because animals are part of God's creation and are loved by God, we ask God to bless these animals, our pets, our special friends on the feast day of Saint Francis." The service was enjoyed by all creatures, great and small, in attendance.

Sacred Heart was forced to move their Blessing of the Animals ceremonies inside due the rain. Animals that swam, slithered, barked, growled, sang and purred each received a blessing by Father John Alvarado during the ceremonies.



Father John Alvarado addresses those who attended Sacred Heart Church's Blessing of the Animals last weekend.

Putnam Park Expansion is Complete

(Continued from page 1) includes a .42 mile jogging trail, a 300x180 foot soccer field, basketball court, additional parking and still to come, a comfort station. Most of the new additions are already used by local youth who play soccer each weekend. The handball court, which is a very

popular spot, remains in the same spot as before.

The wooded area is still in tact, except for the jogging track, which was built around the perimeter.

Putnam Park will be the site of the Haunted Woods Tour, performed by Pattie Abbott's "Almost Famous Play-

ers." The volunteer troupe will be running a scary tour in Putnam Park woods on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, Oct. 28, 29 and 31. Shows run approximately 30 minutes from 7 to 9:15 p.m., except on Halloween, Oct. 31, the tour start at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds will go to the South Plainfield Lions Club.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE No. 1636

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

Ord. 1636 entitled: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #892, ENTITLED: 'AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING HANDICAPPED PARKING'" be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, October 10, 2003 and that a public hearing be scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on October 23, 2003 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

ORDINANCE NO. 1636

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #892 ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING HANDICAPPED PARKING"

Be it ordained by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield that Ordinance #892 be hereby amended as follows:

SECTION 6. Violations and Penalties

Any person, firm, association or corporation convicted of violating any provision of this ordinance or any amendment or supplement thereto shall be subject to a fine of \$250.00 for the first offense. For subsequent offenses, the fine will be "at least \$100.00" to "at least \$250.00" and up to 90 days community service on such terms and in such form as the court deems appropriate, or any combination thereof.

All other provisions of Ordinance #892 shall remain in full force and effect.

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

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk
\$49.00 October 10, 2003

LEGAL NOTICE CORRECTION

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY

September 24, 2003 Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on September 23, 2003.

Case #02-01—A. Ferraro Construction; Block 255; Lot 34; Delancy, Good Luck and Spring Streets. The applicant's request for preliminary and final major subdivision approval was hereby DENIED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Recording Secretary-Planning Board
October 10, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Patricia C. Stillo requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a 12x18 foot front dormer. Proposed dormer lacks the 30' front setback; 24.45' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 200 Ritten Avenue on Block 184, Lot 1 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, November 6, 2003 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00

October 10, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by James and Cindi Canfield requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a 12x18 foot front dormer. Proposed dormer lacks the 30' front setback; 24.45' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 139 Jerome Avenue on Block 211, Lot 11 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, November 6, 2003 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00

October 10, 2003

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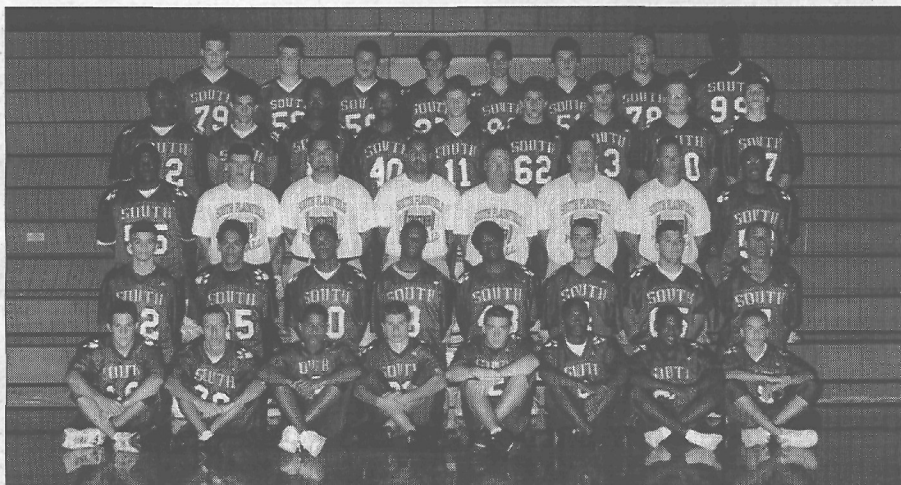
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Sports



South Plainfield High School football is 2-2 this year. Pictured are Seniors—Marcellus Abrams, Shawn Brown, Quinten Carter, Zachary Coppola, Christopher Czapinski, Christopher Dickerson, Ryan Elliot, David Miglis, Jonathan Rodger, Michael Salerno, Jermaine Thomas and George Watkins. Juniors—Christopher Bojarski, Henderson Catlyn, Nicholas Curcio, Peter DeAndrea, Karim Drayton, Nicholas Jefferys, Ryan Kenny, Robert Maistickle, Johnny Martin, Andrew Miller, William Moates and Christopher Moore. Sophomores—Eric Albarg, Jamar Beverley, T.J. Brown, Kevin Crilley, Michael Glover, Jarrel Godette, Zachary Gray, Scott Hartje, Justin Huffsmith, Charlie Leon, Gary Smith, Steven Tangorra and Greg Yefko. Head Coach is Philip McGuane and Asst. Coaches are Bill Hamilton, Joe Cirigliano, Brian Hilal and Charlie Garcia.

Back to Back Games for the Sonics

The Sonics U11 soccer team hosted the Hopewell Valley Thunder. Ironically, the game rained out last weekend, was played on Saturday at the Kenneth Avenue Complex in the rain. Hopewell Valley was aggressive and tough.

At the half, the Sonics were down 4-0. In the second half, a different Sonics team emerged holding the Thunder to only one goal. With about 10 minutes left, Danny Hunt passed to Shane O'Connor who slipped one by the keeper to prevent a shut out. The final score was Thunder 5-Sonics 1.

Sunday, the Sonics traveled to Buccleuch Park in New Brunswick to take on the Player Development Acad-

emy Sharks. The Sonics came back fighting after suffering their first loss the day before. The aggressive defensive line of Shaun Alers, Lucas Goitandia, Kurt Maniaci, Will Mott, Nick Ross, Nick Tuyp and Agu Ufodu held the Sharks scoring to one goal during the first half. Down by one, Danny Hunt passed to Dana Hunt who put the Sonics on the score board. Shortly after, Dana scored again on an assist by Shane O'Connor. With a few minutes left in the half, Danny Hunt passed to Steve Lanza who blasted one by the PDA keeper to make it Sonics 3 - Sharks 1 at the half.

Midfielders Ryan Billich, Charlie Huber, Danny Hunt and Mike Zelasko

were relentless and the offensive lineup consisting of Dana Hunt, Steve Lanza, Jose Moya, Shane O'Connor and Nick Okosko kept the pressure on PDA during the second half. Fifteen minutes into the second half, Danny Hunt took advantage of an opportunity and scored unassisted.

Goal keepers Nick Ross and Nick Tuyp made several great saves, but PDA scored once more to make the score Sonics 4 - Sharks 2. The Sonics continued to control the ball and with ten minutes left, Dana Hunt passed to Steve Lanza. Steve blew one by the keeper to score again. At the whistle, it was Sonics 5 - Sharks 2. This victory makes the Sonics record 3-1.

Join us at our next game, home against the Readington Stars on Sunday at 11:30 a.m.

By Lee Flanagan

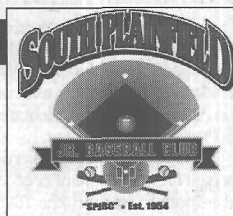
JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

Registration for the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club will be conducted at the baseball club on Oct. 16, 17 and 18. Representatives of the SPJBC will be there on Oct. 16 and 17, from 6 to 9 p.m. and Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The registration to the first of the year is \$75. The Women's Auxiliary will be selling South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club apparel at all the registration days. All managers, please return your equipment bags at registration if you still have it from the spring season. According to our records, there are several equipment bags still outstanding.

Also at registration, coupons will be handed out to all those players who sold at least \$40 worth of raffle books this past spring. Coupons are redeemable at Sportworld.

For the first time the SPJBC will be conducting a Flea Market on Oct. 25. All types of vendors are welcome; the cost will be \$15 for a spot. Food and refreshments will be available at our snack stand. The Flea Market will run from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you would like to reserve a spot for this event, please call the baseball club at (908) 754-2090 and leave your name and telephone number. Someone will get back to you immediately.

The Junior Baseball Club will be running a trip to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. Yes, the Baseball Hall of Fame. On Monday, Dec. 29, we will be leaving early in the morning by bus to arrive in Cooperstown at 11:30 a.m. and take the complete tour of the Baseball Hall of Fame. We will leave Cooperstown and stop at the Old Country Buffet on the way home. This will be a great trip. Total cost for the whole trip is \$65 per person; this includes transportation, entrance to the Hall of Fame and the



buffer style dinner on the way home. We would like to start registering parents and kids for this trip. You can come down anytime during our Fall Baseball games at night or you can pay at registration.

The Women's Auxiliary will once again be conducting "Night of Holiday Shopping." This event will take place at the Menlo Park Mall on Nov. 23, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Ticket price is \$8. This is a night of special shopping discounts, entertainment and events. For more information, call Stacy Lake at (908) 757-9531 or Betsy Spayder at (908) 757-8928.

When at the complex, please look for our donation jug around the snack stand area. We are collecting for our new scoreboard fund. Any amount will help us in this endeavor.

We would like volunteers this Sunday, Oct. 12 at 7 a.m. There is much to be done in preparation for our 2004 season. We will be aerating our friends and seeding this Sunday. If you have a spreader, please bring it with you. Come on down and give us a hand. This would be greatly appreciated. Come on out and get involved with the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club. "It is a new beginning."

Sign Up for Basketball League

The 2003 Ed Niemczyk youth basketball league, sponsored by the Rec Dept., is being offered to South Plainfield youth, ages seven to 14 (as of Oct. 1, 2003). Fee is \$35 per child. Sign-up at the PAL. Registration ends Oct. 20.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL From Sharon Miller

Field Hockey Corner Weekly Wrap-Up

Congratulations to the team as they go 8-2 after defeating Monroe 1-0. The team had its second loss of the season against Pingry. The team is ranked number two in Middlesex County behind Sayreville. (ranking as of Oct. 8)

Week of October 11

Friday, Oct. 10—South Brunswick away at 3:45 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 13—Johnson Regional, Clark away at 4 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 14—Old Bridge home at 3:45 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 16—Piscataway away at 3:45 p.m. This is the must see game of the week.

Special Events

GMC's take place on Tuesday, Oct. 29 and Thursday, Oct. 30.
South Plainfield will once again host the GMC Championship game on Saturday, Nov. 1 at 2 p.m. at the Carol Espinosa Field.
Please come out and support a wonderful team of players.
The best of luck to players and coaches for a great season. Go Tigers!

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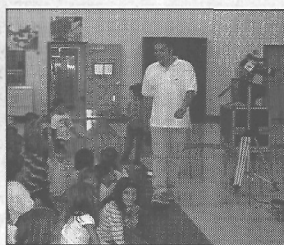
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PHONE NUMBER

Obituaries

Eugene E. Anderson, 84

Eugene E. Anderson died on Wednesday, Oct. 1 at his home in Oxford.

Gene was born in Plainfield and was the son of the late Clara and Phillip Anderson. He and his wife, Margaret Anderson (nee Speno), were married on April 12, 1947 and celebrated their 56th anniversary this year.

In 1941, he entered the service and served through September of 1945 in the South Pacific with the 754th Tank Battalion. He was a mechanic and at one time owned Anderson Lawn Mower Service in Scotch Plains, which is now owned by his son, Brian.

Gene was a member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Oxford, the VFW of Berkley Heights and the Elks Lodge #885 in Plainfield.

He is predeceased by his brother, Lloyd, who died shortly after WWII and by his sister, Doris McCormack.

Surviving are his wife of 56 years, Margaret (nee Speno) Anderson; three sons, Allan L. of Piscataway, Brian P. and his wife Pat of South Plainfield and Philip J. of Plainfield; two sisters, Audrey Vojc and her husband Frank and Genevieve Radzio and her husband Walter, both of Berkley Heights; four grandchildren, Dawn, Paul, Mark Anderson and Allison Tighe and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Care Alternatives Hospice, 70 Jackson Dr., Suite 200, Cranford, NJ 07016.

Mary "Agnes" (Baumgartner) Ficorilli

Mary "Agnes" (Baumgartner) Ficorilli died on Thursday, Oct. 2 at Haven Hospice in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Newark, she had resided in South Plainfield since 1957.

She had been a registered nurse for the Presbyterian Hospital in Newark, where she graduated from their nursing school. Agnes worked in the hospital and provided private duty nursing. During WWII, Mrs. Ficorilli entered the Medical Cadet Corps of the United States Navy prior to the end of the war.

Mrs. Ficorilli was a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens and was appointed to the South Plainfield Senior Advisory Committee. A communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in South Plainfield, Agnes was also a member of their Altar Rosary Society.

She is survived by her husband, Eugene (married in April 1952); her

son, Michael and his wife Jeanmarie and their daughter, Marie and her husband Frank Benak, all of South Plainfield. She is also survived by five grandchildren, Michael, Michael Dean, Mark, Nicole and Michael Eugene.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the South Plainfield Senior Citizens, c/o Joanne Graff, 90 Maple Ave., South Plainfield, or the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Donald J. Cucurello, 62

Donald J. Cucurello died unexpectedly on Wednesday, Oct. 1 at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City.

Born in Plainfield, Donald grew up in South Plainfield and graduated in 1959 from SPHS.

He was a 1964 graduate of Montclair State College with a BA in World Language, specializing in French and Spanish, later receiving a Masters degree in World Language. In addition to Montclair, Donald had also studied at the University of Caen, France, before beginning his career.

He began a long and successful career as an educator, teaching French and Spanish in Westfield High School from 1964 to 1970. He later became the first World Language Supervisor at Hillsborough High School, from 1970 to 1990, responsible for the development of the entire curriculum. For the past 13 years, Donald had been with the Summit School District, supervisor of World Language and responsible for upgrading the curriculum, recruitment of faculty and the evaluation of the program. He was named the Foreign Language Educator of the Year in 1999 by the Foreign Language Educators of New Jersey for his dedication and in addition, had been a member of the NJEA and the NEA.

In addition to the schools in which he taught, Donald dedicated his knowledge and experience to the town of Mendham, in which he resided, by serving on the Board of Education, where he served for six years and spent four of those years as the board president.

He is predeceased by his father, Daniel J. Cucurello.

He is survived by his son, Nick; his mother, Rosanne (DeAndrea) of Plainfield and two sisters, Nancy Jo Cucurello of Upper Montclair and Barbara S. Delaney of Brick.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in his name may be made to the Donald J. Cucurello Scholarship Fund, c/o Summit High School, 8 Wellesley Rd., Upper Montclair, NJ 07043.

Joseph E. Baker, Sr., 86

Joseph E. Baker, Sr., died on Thursday, Oct. 2 in Genesis Care Center, Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born in Staten Island, he resided in South River and Matawan for many years before moving to South Plain-

field in 1999.

Joe was employed as an instrument mechanic for American Cynamid in Linden for 40 years before retiring in 1980.

He served in the U.S. Army Air Corp during WWII and was a former member of the VFW in Aberdeen.

His wife, Ruth Baker, died in 1973.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Margaret and Robert Ackerman of South Plainfield; a son and his fiancé, Joseph E. Baker, Jr. and Janet Marsteller of Easton, Pa.; a brother, Edward Baker of Staten Island and two grandchildren, Melissa and Stacey.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Miguel Angel Rivera-Rivera, "Mike," 70

Miguel Angel Rivera-Rivera, "Mike," died on Wednesday, Oct. 1 at the VA Medical Center in East Orange.

Born in Cidar, Puerto Rico, he came to the United States in 1960 after his discharge from the Army. He settled in Elizabeth where he lived until moving to Plainfield over 30 years ago.

He served from 1953-1955 in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He worked as a material handler for many years for Revlon in Edison before retiring over five years ago.

He was a member of the Iglesia Apostolica Cristiana Church in Plainfield.

Surviving are his wife, Estela Rivera; two daughters and sons-in-law, Aida Luz and Rolando Martinez of Linden and Elizabeth and Ovidio Torres of Plainfield; a son, Franklin Pierce of Princeton; a brother, Hiram Rivera of Plainfield; six grandchildren, Ovidio, Jr., Jerry and Jeannette Torres, Gloria

Rodriguez and Doris and Roland Martinez and four great-grandchildren, Rebecca and Tina Marie Rodriguez and Julian Cordova and Evelyn Monte.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Michael A. DeCarlo, 76

Michael A. DeCarlo of South Plainfield died on Saturday, Oct. 4, at Robert Wood Johnson University Medical Center in New Brunswick.

Michael was born in South Plainfield and was a lifelong resident.

Mike was a 1953 graduate of East Tennessee University with a BA in Education and received his Masters Degree in Education from Rutgers University.

Mike retired from South Plainfield High School as director of guidance in 1990 after 42 years of service. He was a member of the South Plainfield Education Association and the New Jersey Education Association.

Mike was a member of the Plainfield Area Chapter of UNICO and served on the South Plainfield Labor Day Parade Committee for many years.

Mike served his country during WWII, serving in the United States Army.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

He is survived by his wife, Beulah Kate Sweeten DeCarlo; two sons, Steven and his wife Lee Ann DeCarlo of Charlotte, NC and Christopher and his wife Angela DeCarlo of Nashville, TN; his daughter, Suzanne and her husband Paul Dundas of Wassener, Netherlands; two brothers, Joseph and Frank (Duke) DeCarlo, both of South Plainfield; three sisters, Mary DeCarlo of Edison, Helen DeRose of South Plainfield and Ann Ludington

of Toms River and six grandchildren, Jenna, Reid, Nicholas, Arielle, Erin and Ellen.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to the Michael A. DeCarlo Memorial Scholarship c/o South Plainfield Education Foundation, P.O. Box 733, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Bernice T. (Vinchkoski) Kiernan, 87

Bernice T. (Vinchkoski) Kiernan died on Sunday, Oct. 5 in Center State Hospital in Freehold.

Born in Nanticoke, Pa., she resided in Brooklyn for 40 years and South Plainfield for ten years before moving to Hightstown in 1997.

Mrs. Kiernan was employed as a cook in Meyerleevan High School in Brooklyn, NY for 14 years, before retiring in 1983.

She was a former member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

Her husband, Joseph Kiernan, died in 1997 and her son, Gerald Kiernan, died in 1993.

Surviving are her daughter and son-in-law, Christine and Ronald Dumarest of East Windsor; a son, Otis Banfill with whom she resided and her sister, Michaeline Zultevicz of Stillwater, Pa.

Funeral services will be held on Friday at 9:15 a.m. in McCriskin Home For Funerals, followed by a mass at 10 a.m. in Sacred Heart Church. Entombment will follow in Holy Redeemer Mausoleum, South Plainfield. Relatives and friends may call at the funeral home on Thursday, 2-4 and 7-9 p.m.

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GARAGE SALE

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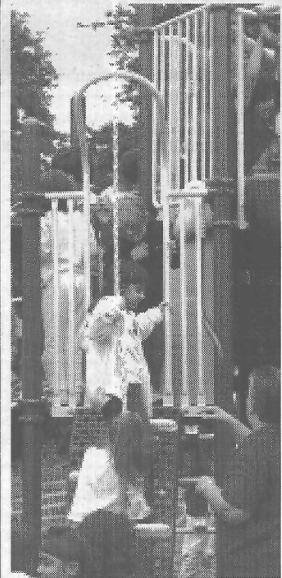
Roosevelt Playground Open—A Final Thanks!

Laughing, jumping, climbing and swinging! Recess at Roosevelt Elementary School has a whole new meaning – a playground! On Sept. 16, the playground was finally open for fun. With a total fundraising effort of over \$25,000 from the generosity of those listed below, as well as equipment donations from Weldon Concrete and Jesco, it was all made possible.

At the top of the list of people to thank is Bob Stilo of Stilo Paving and Excavating. Bob and his crew spent their entire day excavating 12 inches down on a 90 x 130 piece of property, which allowed the dads to come in and build the playground. Bob donated his equipment and time, just for the good of the children.

We would like to also show final recognition to the wonderful families and businesses that donated to the Playground Fund. Please thank them and support them; they made it all possible!

Again, thank you: ProCare Physical Therapy, Sherbans, H.K.Truck Services, Halls Warehouse, The Brush Stop, Thatcher & Lanza, Creative Kids Academy, KKK Trucking, Dr. Dinardo, Rich Panzarella, Neuman Sheet Metal, Frank Licato DMD, Plainfield Animal Hospital, One Call Electric, The Kelly Family, Hummel Croton, The Battista Family, Tonsar Inc. Central Jersey Federal Credit Union, Plumbers Local 24, GEM Janitorial Supply, CPS Decorating Services, H. Hero Foods of South Plainfield, Staats Auto Body, Knights of Columbus, So. Plfd, The Medicine Shoppe, Roosevelt Teachers, Roosevelt Student Council, Brownie Troop 664, Book Sales Inc. Tri Form, Strong Tower Development, Creative



From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Sorry, no time for a big intro this week; there's too much to cover. Here's the latest from South Plainfield Library:

The Library will be closed on Sunday and Monday in observance of Columbus Day.

We'll follow the usual Storytime schedule next week. The programs are for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. The programs are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30, and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. We also have our Books-n-Babies program for children under three. It'll be held this morning and next Friday morning at 10:30. There's also this month's Kidcraft program, featuring a Halloween project, next Friday afternoon at 4. It's for children ages six and over; pre-registration is requested. The next day (Saturday, Oct. 18), there's our special Pumpkin Painting program from 10 a.m.-12 noon. Registration is required; there's a fee of \$1, payable upon registration. For more details about our children's programs, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

Two Library-related meetings are scheduled for Tuesday. The Friends of the Library will meet Tuesday morning at 11:30, while the Library Board of Trustees will meet that evening at 7:30. The public is welcome to attend both meetings.

We've also got another special program coming soon. On Sunday, Oct. 19, at 2 p.m. financial consultant Bridget Lupia will lead the seminar, "Cornerstones of Investing." This program is presented free of charge and everyone is invited to attend.

On the Circuit front, we're between groups on the Audiobook Circuit. New titles should be available later this month. On the other hand, this month's group of Circuit Videos is available. This month's

titles include "We Were Soldiers," "The Adventures of Tom Thumb," "Chocolat," "Almost Famous" and, on DVD, "The Tuxedo." Videos and DVDs may be borrowed four at a time for two days. They'll be available until Oct. 30. We've also just added new titles from the Large Print Circuit. That selection includes *Prey* by Michael Crichton, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* by J.K. Rowling, *The Jester* by James Patterson, *Johnny Angel* by Danielle Steel and *A Cold Heart* by Jonathan Kellerman. LPC books may be borrowed for two weeks.

Regarding videos, you may have noticed that we no longer have a binder with a printed list of our videos at the main desk. We've removed it because it was out of date and because we now add items to the collection at such a rate that keeping that list current was too much of an effort. You can, however, access the full list via one of our computers. Just select the "Videos" option and type the word "videocassette" in the search box; this will put an alphabetical list of the items on the screen. If you'd like more information, check with a Reference Librarian.

The return appearance this past Sunday by antiques appraiser Alan G. Snyder was very well attended. Thanks to everyone who turned out and brought their questions and collectables. Also, if you're interested in putting on a program here at the Library, please give us a call; ask for Millie Condon.

Finally, please be advised that we have recently revised our policy regarding unattended children at the Library, as well as the policy regarding "unruly" young people. Please make no mistake; this policy will be strictly enforced. For more precise details, please ask at the Circulation desk.

That's all we have space for this week. Stop by next Friday, when we'll have space for more.

Blood Drive at Sacred Heart

The ARC/Tri-County Chapter and New Jersey Blood Services will run a blood drive at Sacred Heart RC Church on Wednesday, Oct. 20, from 3 to 8:30 p.m.

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