WINTERGUARD HEADS FOR CHAPTER X CHAMPIONSHIPS; SEE PAGE 3.



VOL. 8, NO. 35

50 CENTS

APRIL 23, 2004

BOROUGH BEATS BUDGET! Incumbents Win Reelection

Tuesday's School Board elections had one of the lowest turnouts in recent years. Less than nine percent (8.58%), or 1,035 people, of the 12,057 eligible voters, voted for the school board candidates and the 2004-2005 school budget.

One reason may have been the fact that this year's candidates ran unopposed, and no real campaigning was done by the candidates. No signs, no brochures and no handshaking took place. There was a last minute attempt to get voters to write in some candidates. Some residents received postcards in the mail asking them to cast write-in votes for Frank Mikorski and Jeff Seider.

South Plainfield voters rejected the school board budget by a vote of 535 to 449. The budget will now go to the Borough Council, who will decide what funding, if any, should be cut from the 2004-2005 school budget.

Top vote getter was Pio Pennesi with 619 votes, followed by Terry Alexa with 575 and Steven Bohn with 563. Receiving write-in votes were Frank Mikorski, with 217 votes, Jeffrey Seider with 169 votes and Dawn Jefferys with 21. A number of people received one or more votes, including Mayor Dan Gallagher and Sgt. Kevin Murtagh.

Apparently some voters chose not to cast a vote either for or against the budget, since a total of only 984 of the 1,034 votes were recorded.

A cool and wet April weather gave way to bright sunshine on Volunteer

Volunteer Litter Clean-up

Bags Mounds Of Trash

Litter Pickup Day this past Saturday. Over 175 borough residents turned out in response to Mayor Daniel Gallagher's "Volunteer Litter Cleanup Week" proclamation. The volunteers removed litter and trash from 18 public places, including parks, open space preserves, roadsides and vacant lots.

Using bags, gloves, rakes and brooms provided by the borough's New Jersey Clean Communities Grant, volunteers removed about four tons of accumulated debris.

Several groups that could not make it on Saturday planned to do their cleanups later in the week. The town was filled with orange bags lining the roadsides. The Recycling Program staff picked up recyclable litter that the volunteers had bagged separately, and the Public Works Department picked up the bags for disposal throughout the week. Midco Residential Services volunteered to dispose of this trash free of charge.

About half the volunteers returned to Borough Hall at noon for the annual pickup picnic.

Domino's Pizza provided pizza pies, and Hometown Heros donated an impressive six-foot sub for the tired, hungry workers. A free raffle "

distributed environmentally friendly door prizes, such as tote bags made of recycled soda bottles, plants and tree saplings. Volunteers traded war stories and shook their heads in disbelief at some of the trash they had unearthed from out-of-the-way places, such as Venetian blinds and an intact boat trailer. One volunteer from the Wesley Methodist Church proudly displayed a dollar bill he found.

The highlights of the picnic were Mayor Dan Gallagher's Volunteer Litter Cleanup Week proclamation and the Design-A-T-shirt contest awards.

Winners in each grade category received \$25 gift certificates to SportWorld, as well as the T-shirt they helped design. Kindergarten-first grade winner was Nicole Bythell, age seven. Grade 2-4 winner was Anthony Austin, age eight. Grade 5-7 winner was Anna Petrisch, age 12 and Grade 8-12 winner was Gina Butrico, age 14. All contest entrants received certificates of participation. The t-shirt designs will hang on the walls in Borough Hall through the end of Volunteer Litter Cleanup Week.

For information about how you can get involved in the Clean Communities Program, call the coordinator at (908) 226-7621. See page six for additional story.



Sandy DiLeo, a volunteer at the borough's litter clean up day earned a profit from his efforts when he unearthed a dollar bill!

K-Foods Robbed at Gunpoint .

Who Dun It...and to Whom? at Middle School By Patricia Abbott

The 2004 South Plainfield Middle School Player's annual show offers a hysterical twist on an old audience favorite, the ever popular mystery. WhoDunit ... and to Whom? by Robert Frankel is described by Pioneer Drama Service, specialists in children's plays, as "A play within a play within a ... in two acts." The spoof on classic detective stories will keep the audience guessing from start to finish. The script follows the story of Harold Finnegan, a paint salesman played by Mike Boyle, as he tries yet again to pen a detective story. Finnegan, by the way, hates violence, creating for some mind boggling scenes. His script unfolds on stage, but as he makes corrections and revisions, the plot instantaneously changes with his fictional characters struggling to keep up. We meet the beautiful Russian painter nicknamed Anytime, played by Sarah Schulte, who also plays Christina, and hero Detective Grip, portrayed by Rocco Severini. Then there's Cathy Krawiec, who plays a pizza delivery person that believes she almost witnessed a murder. Throw in (Continued on page 6)

K-Foods convenience store at 2112 Park Ave. was robbed at gunpoint by a lone individual early Tuesday afternoon.

The suspect entered the store and asked for a pack of cigarettes. As the cashier turned to get the cigarettes, the suspect reached into a display case to take several other packs of cigarettes.

When the cashier confronted him, the suspect pulled out a small silver handgun, demanded money and then removed an undetermined amount of cash from the register. He then walked from the store with the cash and several packs of Newport cigarettes.

The suspect fled prior to the arrival of police. The cashier was unharmed.

The suspect is described as a white male in his early 20's, 5'2", medium build, wearing a blue baseball cap and a blue shirt.



The cast of the Middle School production of Who Dun It ... and to Whom? Missing from photo is Keith Campbell and Nora Stasio. The show runs this Thursday and Friday, April 22 and 23 at 7:30 p.m.

To subscribe to the South Plainfield Observer call 908-668-0010

If you enjoyed this edition of the Observer & would like to subscribe. call 908-668-0010.

Mark your calendars

Log on to southplainfieldnj.com for the latest meeting agenda

8:00 p.m

Meets twice a month on the first and third Monday. Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605 Agenda Meeting **Public Meeting** 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 4 7:00 p.m.

Monday, May 17

. 7 .

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

7:00 p.m.

planningboard

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641 May 11 and 25, June 8 and 22, July 6 and 20, Aug. 10 and 24 Sept. 21, Oct. 12 and 26, Nov. 16 and 30 and Dec. 14 and 28.

zoning

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641 May 13 and 27, June 10 and 24, July 8 & 22, Aug. 12 and 26, Sept. 9 and 23, Oct. 14 and 28, Nov. 4 and 18 and Dec. 2 and 16.

boardofeducationmeetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m.

taxpayers advisory g

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.

siteplansub-comn

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m. May 18, June 15, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16 and Dec. 21.

recreationcommission

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 May 4, June 1, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2 and Dec. 7

environmentalcommission

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

May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8 and January 12, 2005.

businessadvisorygroup Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

trafficsafetyadvisorycom

Meets once a month (fourth Wednesday) at 7 p.m.

in the Conference Room, Borough Hall



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INYOUROPINION

Dear Editor,

We, the Future Stars Staff, wish to express our thanks to Board of Education members Sue Peck and Steve Bohn. We would also like to thank Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan for his efforts to speed up the passage of the pending bill to ensure permanence for the Future Stars Pre-School Program.

For the past 24 years Future Stars Pre-School has provided children an environment with a comprehensive and planned curriculum, getting our children ready to move forward, with success, to kindergarten.

Our staff has many dedicated veteran teachers who create a warm and loving environment for our pre-scholars

Kudos to all who are instrumental in support of the Future Stars Pre-School

MANY THANKS, **FUTURE STARS PRE-SCHOOL** STAFF

Dear Editor,

After living in South Plainfield for 40 years, I have been blessed with never needing to call 9-1-1 for myself or my family.

But on Friday, April 16, all that changed! After suffering for nearly a month with a case of bronchitis, 5:30 p.m. brought on a near catastrophe.

I gasped for air to the point that I thought I would pass out. Since I was home alone, I was left no alternative

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Letters may be submitted to the Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: ggnan@aol.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. 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.

but to call 9-1-1. Struggling to reach the phone while gasping for air, I dialed the number that I thought I would never need. I am thankful to say that the 9-1-1 operator was professional, courteous and most importantly, completely under control. She helped me "spit" out my name and address and a police officer and rescue squad personnel were dispatched within minutes.

I would like to say how proud I am and how much safer I feel living in our community. I learned that South Plainfield has excellent professional police and rescue squad personnel. My personal thanks and compliments go to Patrolman Mark Hollain, John Celentano, Gary Toth and squad members Gobel and Dean.

Their ability to respond, react, advise and implement action certainly made the difference in helping me get through a very dangerous situation.

I am confident in saying that we can all feel secure with people and friends like these folks on duty. We don't often see the force behind life saving events such as this and all of these men and women should be recognized for their excellent service to our commu-

SINCERE THANKS, **RICH D'URSO**

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club, we would like to thank all those people who came out and enjoyed our fabulous spaghetti dinner held on Friday, April 17. We send out sincere gratitude to Bob Boyle of Roma Food for donating all the food, desserts, drinks and water and to the parents who baked desserts. Chefs Rick Walton and Charlie Decker, your cooking was superb! Thanks to Bill Butrico and Chris Hanson for your ticket sales at the front door, and to Eileen and Jack "Jacque" Brady (the cannoli stuffer), Nancy and Mike Salici, Margaret Celentano, Maryann Decker, Kim Born, Charlie Decker, Jr., Tom Walsh, Danny While and Pam Heilmann for all the table cloths and a big thanks to Linda and our custodial persons from Sodexho Management for being there from start to finish and for the use of the cafeteria and utilities!

SINCERELY, DEBBIE BOYLE AND ANTHONY CELENTANO. **SPAGHETTI DINNER COMMITTEE**

PAAD Recipients Could be Enrolled in **Medicare Discount Program**

The head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently told U.S. Senator Jon S. Corzine (D-N.J.) that their agency was moving toward a decision that would allow New Jersey to automatically enroll seniors participating in PAAD, the state's pharmaceutical assistance program, in the new Medicare discount card program.

Senator Corzine and Senator Frank R. Lautenberg wrote to CMS in early January expressing concern that interim rules affecting the new Medicare

Prescription Drug Discount Card appeared to exclude states with pharmacy assistance programs like New Jersey's PAAD, from being eligible to receive the federal subsidy.

As many as 100,000 low-income New Jersey seniors will be eligible to receive the transitional assistance subsidy authorized as part of the new Medicare drug law. But under New Jersey's PAAD program, seniors receive better benefits and were unlikely to enroll in the discount drug program on their own, creating a situation in

which the state could lose out on as much as \$100 million in federal prescription drug assistance.

New Jersey officials are seeking the ability to automatically enroll PAAD beneficiaries in the new federal card program.

Sen. Corzine said that Mark Mc-Clellan, the CMS administrator, assured him that CMS is moving toward a decision to allow New Jersey to automatically enroll its seniors in the discount card program. The new discount program is scheduled to start May 1.

Diegnan Named To State Policy Panel

Assembly Speaker Albio Sires recently reappointed Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan Jr. to serve on a state commission that helps shape government policy for the betterment of education-the Joint Committee on the Public Schools.

Sires said that Diegnan, the vicechairman of the Assembly Education Committee, has long exhibited a command and sensitivity on issues affecting the quality of public education. Sires also praised Diegnan for the highlevel of respect he has earned after serving one term in the state Legislature. "Assemblyman Diegnan has considerable experience and concern for the quality of education," said Sires. "I am confident he will be just and fair as he addresses issues that so profoundly affect our state's most valuable resource: children."

Public Schools conducts ongoing analyses of the public schools, their financing, administration and operations. The panel also makes recommendations for legislative action to improve public education.

Diegnan was a member of the panel during the 2002-2003 Legislative session.

The decisions and investments we make today in education will make our state stronger in the future," said Diegnan (D-South Plainfield).

Diegnan has been an attorney with a private practice in South Plainfield for 29 years. He also has taught law and accounting at Middlesex County College.

information, call (908) 668-0010.

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer

- Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
- 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 ggnan@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number. You can subscribe or contact us at: spobserver.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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From the South Plainfield Library Bookmark

By Chris Grippo

Dogs are called "Man's Best Friend" for a variety of reasons. They are excellent companions, they provide security and they can act as the eyes and ears of humans who have lost the use of their own. To find out how our canine companions are trained to assist humans with vision problems you can come to the Library on Monday, April 26 at 6:30 p.m., when the Hartmann Family will be here with their trainees. This is a very important program in assisting those with vision problems to be able to lead an independent life. So come and see how the dogs are trained and maybe you might want to start training a dog of your own.

The planning for the new library building is rapidly progressing. As many of you know part of that planning is the User Survey which has been

distributed throughout the borough. In order to incorporate all of your suggestions, the last day for returning the surveys will be April 26. Please make sure you let us know your thoughts.

The Friends of the South Plainfield Public Library will be having a Bake/ Book Sale on Saturday, May 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the South Plainfield library. At this time we are accepting only book donations for this sale at the library. We request that the books be clean and that you refrain from donating textbooks or encyclopedias. There will be additional book sales later in the year that will include audio-visual materials and they can be dropped off anytime at the library to the attention of our Children's Librarian, Linda Hansen. The proceeds of these sales fund books, programs, and other activities at the library that are over and above what usually is available.

So stop in and see us at the library!



Lobby is Open at Newly **Renovated Post Office**

By William Tuthill

The new lobby at the South Plainfield Post Office opened for business beginning Monday, April 12 at 8:30 a.m. Although the entire job of remodeling the post office is not finished, the lobby is open for customers.-The stamp machine has also been moved to the new lobby.

The post office has been undergoing renovations during the past two years. The parking lot was increased and the building was expanded.

New post office mail boxes will be

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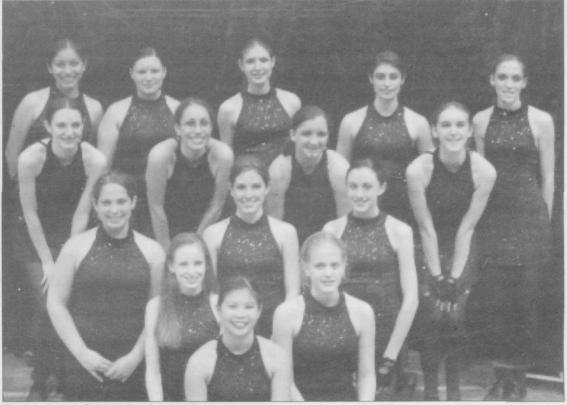
online at

located in a temporary location until the rest of the renovations are completed and then moved to a permanent location. Customers will find they have more room to access their boxes than they have had in the past.

The postal clerks are very pleased that they too have more elbow room to work with. The lobby is well lit and has a nice color scheme. There is plenty of room for people to write out money orders, mailing labels and other postal forms

A target date for a grand opening is in July.

Chapter Championships Here We Come...



The South Plainfield High School Sivler Dreams Winter Guard.

The Silver Dreams Winter Guard from South Plainfield High School did an excellent job this season giving them a top seeded position as they enter the Chapter X Championships to be held this Sunday in Wayne Hills. The Silver Dreams Winter Guard are the 2002 and 2003 gold metal winners and Senior guard members Amy Magner and Samantha Gentile head to their third straight championship, hoping to bring home the gold again.

This past Saturday the guard scored

an excellent 87.3 in the scholastic novice division at their competition at Salisbury High in Allentown, Pa. The guard continues to practice several times a week to improve their skills and make the necessary changes to their routine. The guard's show is based on the Broadway hit musical Fosse and includes music from the titled soundtrack Fosse and Bye Bye Blackbird.

The guard would like to thank evervone who attended the fundraising events at Wendy's. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Silver Dream guard members are Amy Magner, Samantha Gentile, Alvssa Maiorino, Stephanie Troia, Nadine Yon, Nicole Aiello, Dunia Galarza, Kristen Gualano, Brianne Howarth, Cassie Hoffman, Brittanie Wong, Tara O'Keefe, Katie Eder, Alyssa Woodel and Gina Butrico. Their advisors are Mark Tweed, Kathy Petrocelli and Kara Giorgio.

Good luck this Sunday as you compete at the Chapter X Championship!

Franklin Students Enjoy Puppet Show

On Thursday, April 8, Franklin Elementary School students enjoyed a presentation of Stone Soup by puppet master Robert Rogers. Rogers' version of this classic tale used seven characters, which included a weary solider, a pompous mayor with a complaining wife and wailing baby, a dimwit banker, an anxious butcher and an old, untrusting woman. The tale was told using observations of the unkindness and selfishness people become used to when they stop believing in their fellow man. The conclusion of the story emphasized the importance of integrity, caring, trusting and cooperation. Rogers demonstrated to the children hand puppets that he fashioned himself. After the performance, the children asked very intelligent questions

indicating that they truly were paying attention.

When asked what made him want to be a puppeteer, Rogers explained that as a kid he always put on puppet shows. He was always playing and working with them. It was a big hobby for him. After he got out of college, he found a job working with a puppet company. Then he found out that he could do the things he did while working with this company alone.

Rogers had traveled as a puppeteer overseas a few times. He has performed all over the country, including New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. Beginning his career in 1980, he has performed thousands and thousands of times. When asked why he chooses the stories he does, he explained he

tends to think about the stories he liked as a child. Sometimes, he considers the curriculum being presented. Rogers chooses his stories from classic and original stories. He does try to choose stories that teach positive principles of life. He writes all the music and the scripts for his performances.

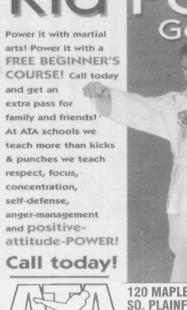
From Stone Soup, he is the only puppeteer. It is very hard to perform all the characters alone. At different shows, he uses actors and actresses. For his presentation of A Christmas Carol, 58 marionettes are operated by ten puppeteers. Rogers is married and has an eight-year-old daughter. He and his family live in Binghamtown, NY. He can be reached at www.frontier.net/ ~robertrogers.

Submitted by Linda Wilson

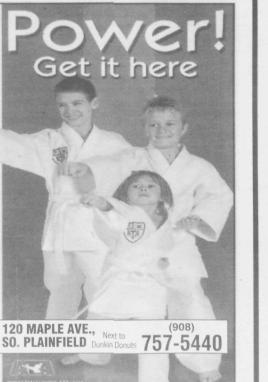


You know that woman you've always wanted to be? This is her summer.

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round Tor

April 23, 2004

Recreation Trip to Italy

The Recreation Dept. is sponsoring a nine day classic Italy tour from March 6-14, 2005. Sightseeing tours to the Vatican, Ancient Rome, the Trevi Fountain and more. Per person is \$1,699 including airfare. A valid US passport is required. For more information, call Recreation at (908) 226-7713.

VFW Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner April 23

The VFW Memorial Post 6763 is hosting a pork and sauerkraut dinner on Friday, April 23 from 5 to 8 p.m. The donation is \$7 per person and children 12 years and under are \$4. Take outs are an additional 50 cents. For more information, call (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and after 12 Noon on weekends. The VFW is located at 155 Front St.

Country Western Line Dancing Evening April 24

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission is sponsoring an evening of Country Western Line Dancing for all ages on Saturday, April 24 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center on 90 Maple Ave. Georgeanne Valis, country western instructor from the Colorado Café, will lead the evening activities. You are invited to come dressed in your country best and enjoy a free evening of country western line dancing!

Pack 324 Car Wash April 24

South Plainfield Boy Scout Pack 324 will be holding a car wash on Saturday, April 24 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the South Plainfield Middle School. Come out, get your car cleaned and support the scouts.

Pilgrim Covenant Learning Ctr. Open House April 24

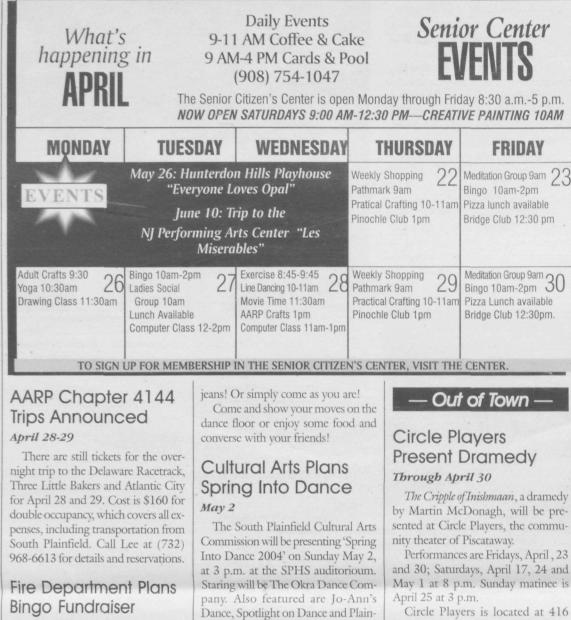
Pilgrim Covenant Learning Center, Inc., 3121 Park Ave. will hold an open house on Saturday, April 24, 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The Learning Center offers a variety of programs for children ages 21/2 to five years old, both full and part time classes and summer camp.

If you are unable to attend the open house, visit the Learning Center Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. For information, call (908) 756-4879.

Historical Society Reunion Sunday April 25

South Plainfielders! Renew old friendships and reminisce of times gone by at "Reunion Sunday" on April 25 from 1-4 p.m. The reunion, sponsored by the South Plainfield Histority will be held at the Senior Center on Maple Ave. Light refreshments available. Admission is free. All are welcome. There's ample parking!



field Performing Arts.

Momma Mia

May 2

Course

May 15-22

All are invited. Admission is free.

South Plainfield Recreation is spon-

soring a trip to see Broadway's

Momma Mia on Sunday, May 2 for a

2 p.m. matinee. The bus leaves the

PAL at 10:30 a.m. There are 45 or-

chestra seats available. The fee is \$95

a person and tickets can be purchased

at the PAL. The office is open week-

AARP # 4144 Driving

On Saturdays, May 15 and 22, a De-

fensive Driving course will be held at

Muhlenberg Hospital, which will al-

low a three-year discount on Automo-

bile Insurance. You must attend both

days from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Recreation To see

April 30

The South Plainfield Fire Department will be holding a fundraiser bingo on Friday, April 30 starting at 7:30 p.m. The event takes place at Sacred Heart School.

The bingo will help to support the new Firefighters Memorial, honoring all of its members. The memorial will to be constructed on Plainfield Ave. next to the Senior Center.

For information, call (908) 756-4761.

Education Foundation Annual Art Auction May 1

The South Plainfield Education Foundation will hold their annual art auction on May 1 at SPHS. Preview is 6:30-7:30 p.m. Auction begins at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$5. Tickets are available at the door. There will be refreshments served.

The auction will be presented by Ross Galleries from New York. They also have celebrity signed items that will be brought by special requestsigned baseballs, record albums and guitars. For special requests, call Marge Reedy, (908) 561-3951.

Present Dramedy

The Cripple of Inishmaan, a dramedy by Martin McDonagh, will be presented at Circle Players, the commu-

Performances are Fridays, April, 23 and 30; Saturdays, April 17, 24 and May 1 at 8 p.m. Sunday matinee is

Circle Players is located at 416 Victoria Ave. in Piscataway. For tickets, call (732) 968-7555.

Israel Horovitz's 'Line' at Cabaret Theatre April 23, 24, 30, May 1

Cabaret Theatre presents its latest production, Israel Horovitz's "Line." Directed by Matt Ferguson, this gender bending, unique theatrical experience is sure to leave you laughing.

Show dates and times are April 23, 24, 30 and May 1 at 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. Ticket Prices are \$5 for students and \$10 for non-students,

For more information please visit our website www.cabarettheatre.org or call (734) 846-2134

Brookdale Performing Arts Center

April 24, 25

The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood will be presented at the Brookdale Performing Arts Center on April 24 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and April 25 at 2 p.m. Tickets are all \$5.

To make a reservation, call the Box Office at (732) 224-2411.

Moonrakers Dance April 24

The New Jersey Moonrakers Tall Club, Inc. will present "Spring Dance 2004" on Saturday, April 24 from 7 p.m. to 12 midnight at the Saddle Brook Marriott hotel, located between Route 80 and the GSP in Saddle Brook Prospective members are 21 and over. Women, 5'10" and taller and men, 6'2" and taller are encouraged to inquire. A cash bar will be available and semiformal attire is suggested.

For information, go to our website at http://www.njtall.org and select the Spring Dance" link, or call (201) 677-0001 for reservations or information.

Oak Tree Presbyterian Trash Treasure Sale April 24

The Women's Association of the Oak Tree Presbyterian Church, 455 Plainfield Rd. in Edison, will hold its annual Trash and Treasure Sale on Saturday, April 24 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Household goods, small appliances, toys, games, books, jewelry, sports items, baby items, children's items, holiday décor and baked goods will be available. All proceeds go to the church. Early birds are not admitted.

Depression/Bipolar Alliance Meeting April 28

The Depression and Bipolar Sup- port Alliance (DBSA Morristown Area) monthly lecture meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 28.

Visit their website at www.dbsanewjersey.org/dbsamorristownarea to learn more about the chapter. For further local information, call (973) 994-1143 or the New Jersey Self-Help Clearing House at (800) 367-6274.



Columbiettes Annual **Fashion Show**

April 25

The Columbiettes will hold the Annual Charity Spring Fashion Show on Sunday, April 25 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 334 Hamilton Blvd. Doors will open at 12:30 p.m.

Fashions will be from Dress Barn and Dress Barn Woman, both located in South Plainfield. The luncheon will be provided by Catering By Carole in Edison. Cost is \$20.

For reservations, cal Geri at (908) 753-2032. Deadline is April 22.

SEND YOUR EVENTS TO:

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

This year's honorary chairperson is Patrick Diegnan, Legislator from the 18th District. Come out and join us for a fun evening!

Sock Hop at the Senior Center May 1

Wake Up Little Susie and come do The Twist all night long At The Hop! The Senior Center is inviting you to a Sock Hop! The Senior Dance 2004 will be held on May 1 from 6 to 10 p.m. in the Senior Center Recreation Room. The price is \$10 per person.

Girls, grab your poodle skirts and saddle shoes! Guys, grease your hair and roll up the bottom of your blue sessions! Any licensed driver can take this \$10 course, which will also remove two points, if you have them. Call Mary for information at (732) 752-3764.

Baseball Club Chinese Auction June 25

A Casino Royale and Chinese Auction is being sponsored by the SPJBC on Saturday, June 25 at the Italian American Club from 7 p.m. until midnight.

The cost is \$50 per person and includes an open bar and buffet. Each guest will receive \$500 in play money. Money must be redeemed for Chinese auction tickets. These tickets can be used as chances to win one or more of the prizes.

For information and tickets contact Stacy Lake at (908) 757-9531. Tickets are limited to the first 100 people.

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WYETH	Auction: 7.30 p.m.			
McKNIGHT	Auction: 7:30 p.m.			
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Riley School Raises \$7,000 for Cancer Research southplainfieldpeople



Ninety-nine Riley School students participated in a Math-a-thon benefit for St. Jude's Children Research Hospital.

By Jane Dornick

John E. Riley Elementary School recently held a Math-a-thon to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. Students were very excited about the event and raised \$6,981.47 in sponsor pledges. "The students should be very proud of themselves for all their hard work for such a worthwhile cause," commented Eileen Stellakis, the Basic Skills Instructor at Riley and event coordinator.

The school held an awards party, hosted by the PTSO, where ice cream and certificates were given to the 99 students who participated. Students who raised \$35 or more were give a Math-a-thon t-shirt, along with a pass to Six Flags Great Adventure. Students who raised \$75 or more were also given a sports bag. The student who raised the most money was third grader Joshua Coupe, who raised



Ice cream is distributed to students at the awards party.

\$600.35, and was awarded a boom

St. Jude's was founded by the late entertainer, Danny Thomas. The hos-

pital is an internationally recognized biomedical research center dedicated to finding cures for catastrophic diseases of childhood.

4-H Presents E-Week Summer Program

Middlesex County 4-H will be hosting the 2004 Explorations Week Summer Program from Monday, July 5 to Friday, July 9 at the Middlesex County 4-H Center located at 645 Cranbury Rd. in East Brunswick. The aim of the program is to encourage kids creativity, as well as to promote their self-confidence. Helping kids make new friends and achieve a sense of accomplishment are important goals of the program as well. E-Week is open to boys and girls who will have completed grades three through seven in 2004. Arrangements can be made for kids with special needs.

Attendees of the program will have a chance to choose from daily activities such as Rocketry, Dance, Cheerleading, Wilderness Survival, Drama, Drawing and Biking. The theme of E-Week 2004 will be "Adventures on the High Seas." The cost of the program is \$140 for 4H members, \$150 for non-members and includes program materials, lunch and beverages, an E-Week t-shirt, field trip and an optional Friday night overnight stay. Explorations Week fills up fast, so call now to get your registration in.

If you are interested in more information on E-Week or to register, please contact the Middlesex County 4-H office at (732) 7453446. 4-H will also accommodate efforts to carpool, and the need for early drop off or late pick-up.

4-H is a Department of Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County and offers educational programs to all youth, grades K through 13 on an age appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

Milestones

Kimberly Kirchofer and Michael Pfeifer **Engagment** is Announced

Frederick and Thia Kirchofer of South Plainfield have announced the engagement of their daughter, Kimberly Kirchofer, to Michael Pfeifer, son of Frederick and the late Joyce Pfeifer of North Edison.

Miss Kirchofer graduated with a Bachelors Degree in English Literature and History from Rutgers University in 2001. She also graduated with her Masters Degree in Business Counseling from Kean University this year and is pursuing her career in University Student Relations.

Mr. Pfeifer graduated from Florida Atlantic University in 1992 with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration and currently owns and operates Graduate Lawn Care. He also

Michael Pfeifer and

Kimberly Kirchofer is a real estate agent for Century 21 John Anthony in Edison. A March 2005 wedding is planned.

Robert Fessock Promoted to US Army Captain

Officer Robert Fessock, a member of the Washington D.C. Metro Police Department has been promoted to the rank of Captain in the United States Army. He will serve as Company Commander of Alpha Company Second Battalion 318 Training Brigade in the Maryland Reserves.

Robert is a 1993 graduate of South Plainfield High School and a 1998 graduate of Towson State University, Baltimore, Marvland.



Officer Robert Fessock

Shannon Bishop Named to Dean's List

Shannon Bishop was named to the Dean's List at Rowan University for the Fall 2003 semester. Shannon is enrolled in a five-year Master's Program with a double major in Elementary Education and Special Education. Shannon is the daughter of Scot and Debra Bishop.

Wings of Dove Summer Adoption Program

Amy Martinsen, New Jersey vol- families throughout NJ who are inunteer coordinator and cofounder of a not-for-profit organization called Wings of Dove announced there will be a two-week summer program for Russian orphans between the ages of six and 16 from July 23-Aug. 7. We are in search of

terested in hosting children and possibly adopting them. If you are interested in hosting or adopting, call Amy Martinsen at (732) 229-0452, or visit the website at http:// home.comcast.net/~wingsofdove/ wsb/index.html.



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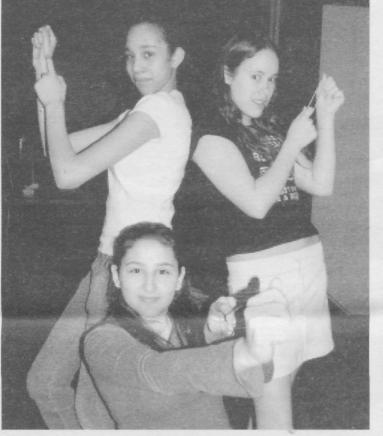


SPMS Players Present: MhoDun Jt... and to Mhom? by: Robert Frankel

Who's Who in Who Dun It... and to Whom?

Michael Boyle, 7th grade, plays Harold Finnegan a beleaguered paint salesman who is making yet another attempt at penning a detective novel. Mike has appeared in numerous Riley school productions including; Riley Kids Disney Spectacular, Riley Kids on Broadway where he appeared as Conrad Birdie and Riley Kids Stars and Stripes Forever. Mike is a member of the Student Council, M.S. Peer to Peer and chorus. he enjoys playing baseball, basketball, soccer, diving, winter and summer swimming. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his best friends, watching his brother and sister, and playing in a band with his good friend Ashleigh Gray. He is looking forward to his first role with the SPMS Players. He is influenced by his family and the incredibly talented Arvil Lavigne.

Rocco Severini, 7th grade, plays Detective Grip, the beleaguered gum shoe who is the main character in Harold's plot. Rocco, who has appeared in numerous productions, is currently a member of the Middlesex County Middle School of the Arts for Theater program. In 2003 Rocco made his first appearance with Summer Drama Workshop in Crazy For You. He plans to continue his involvement with theater arts and his dream-supported and encouraged by his family-to make his way to the Broadway stage.



Anytime, Christina and Honey Lake, has been acting for 11 years. She participated in church Christmas plays for many years, and has also appeared in Hansel and Gretel, and last year's MSP show Yearbook. She is a member of the -Middle School chorus, Gems and Tiger's Claw staff.

Catherine Krawiec, 7th grade, is the Pizza Delivery Person. She has appeared in many shows, including Annie Jr. as Ms. Hannigan, Alice in Sarah Schulte, 8th grade, who plays Wonderland as the Queen of Hearts

and The Wizard of Oz as a talking tree. She has also performed in The Lion King and Annie. She enjoys singing and playing the piano and plans to continue acting through her school vears.

Jaime Giannakis, 7th grade, is the snooty and mysterious Elizabeth. She has also appeared in Alice in Wonderland as a caterpillar and The Wizard of Oz as a flying monkey. She enjoys cheering and singing, and hopes to continue with drama next year.

Diana Naser, 8th grade, portrays Tessie and Trixie. She has been acting for 10 years, and appeared with Roosevelt School Drama Club in Hang Loose, Mother Goose!, The Dragon Heart, Rerun Runaround 2000 and she played the lead in The Pirates and the Princess. She plans to perform with Almost Famous Players in their Haunted Woods Tour 2004. Other activities include field hockey, chorus and student council. Julia Zappi, 8th grade, plays Bitsy and Marcia. She appeared in last year's SPMS players show Yearbook. Other performances include Cats, Annie, and Summer Drama Workshop's Footloose and Crazy for You. Hobbies include singing, piano and dancing. Stephanie Kelly, 8th grade, plays Mother. She appeared in last year's SPMS Players show Yearbook, as well as numerous shows at Riley School including Bad Sam and the Devil. Other hobbies include playing guitar, dancing and writing. Keith Campbell, 8th grade, is Police Officer # 1. He is enjoying his first time performing on stage in the SPMS players show Whodunit and by Whom. Nicole Soisson, 7th grade, plays Dolores. She was in Grant School's





2003 production of Annie Jr. as a maid and an orphan. Other hobbies include soccer and archery. She loves drama.

Timothy Ratti, 7th grade, is Montgomery. He has appeared in Riley Kids on Broadway, Oliver, Sound of Music and Annie Jr. He also appeared in the 2003 Summer Drama Production of Crazy for You.

Nora Stasio, 7th grade, appears as Shelley and Mabel. She has been acting since fourth grade and has appeared in Riley Kids on Broadway, Disney Spectacular, Annie Jr. and Summer Drama Workshop's Crazy for You. After school she assists with the Grant School production of Once on this Island. She plans on performing in the 2004 Summer drama production of Pirates of Penzance.

Chris Seesselberg, 7th grade, appears in three roles-Chief of Police, Dirk and Officer #3. He has been performing since fourth grade, and has appeared in Summer Drama Workshop's Bye Bye Birdie and last year's production of Crazy for You. Hobbies include playing cards and bike riding.

Olivia Smith, 8th grade, plays Sheila Cryline. She appeared in last year's SPMS Players production of Yearbook. Her first show was in Riley School's Disney Spectacular

Audrey Louise Cupo made her first appearance in November of 1990, starring as an adorable curly haired newborn and winning the hearts of those around her. She put her career on hold while in nursery school. She made a comeback with Roosevelt School Drama Club in their production of The Dragon Heart. Audrey perfected her acting skills at home earning her the nickname "Drama Queen." She brings her skill to another level with her performance as Police Officer #2. Audrey's hobbies include reading, and sewing and shopping on eBay for

Who Dun It.. and to Whom? at Middle School

(Continued from page 1) liceman armed with rubberbands thanks to Finnegan's anti-violence fe-

"power to stop the play and freeze written out of his own script?

of characters who, according to the is real. Is it Harold or is it Elizabeth Pioneer Drama synopsis, have the and Montgomery? Will Harold be

.6.

tish, Villian Sheila Crylinski, played by Olivia Smith; Grip's vengeful brilliant daughter Bitsy, played by Julia Zappi (who also plays Marcia). Add to the mix an outrageous assortment

the other characters." The audience is left to ponder, who is writing the play? (Harold or is the Who really writing this play anyway?) The audience grapples with thoughts of who

Additional actors include some who play multiple roles, including Diana Naser as Tessie/Trixie; Keith Campbell as Police Officer #1; Chris Seesselberg as Chief of Police; Dirk and Officer #3; Nicole Soisson as Dolores; Stephanie Kelly as Mother; Nora Stasio as Shelley and Mabel and Audrey Cupo as Police Officer #2. WhoDunit and to Whom? is directed by language teacher Dale Salisbury. The amusing adventure runs April 22 and 23 at the South Plainfield Middle School auditorium. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. Tickets, \$5 for adults, \$2 for senior citizens and students and children under five-free, are available at the Middle School. For more information, call (908) 754-4620.

Want to Reach the Borough? Call 908-754-9000

thimbles

Director Dale Salisbury is a Language Arts teacher at the Middle School. This is his third year directing the S.P. Middle School Players. He directed Yearbook in 2003 and Male Order Brides in 2002. He is an after school program advisor, a NJ Peer to Peer Mentor and a Middle School graduation advisor. In 2000 he was named in the Who's Who in American Teachers.

Marissa Kline, an SPHS freshman, is a volunteer assistant to Dale Salisbury. Marissa is a Roosevelt School alumni and performed in many shows with the Roosevelt Drama Club and summer theater camp. She is a member of Almost Famous Players and was most recently seen in the Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour. She is enjoying working behind the scenes as Mr. Salisbury's "executive assistant."

The stage crew for Whodunit .. and to Whom is Jessica Vasquez, JP Barry, Brian Earhart, Marissa Kline.



Coffeehouse a Hit!



Abbie Falato

Almost Famous Players Coffeehouse began as an experiment and just like their Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour it can be declared a major success. The room exuded a night club atmosphere. Tables were festively decorated with black and white table cloths and sprinkled with glittering confetti. Each table held a small candle lit lantern. The stage was centered against the dividing wall and was backed with a beautiful curtain courtesy of John Bundy. Bundy also loaned the group a spotlight giving the stage an extra special touch.

The three hour event featured four acts. Abbie Falato and her band, Chris Abbott and Joe Rodriguez accompanied by Eve and Tim Barkalow, Justina Carubia accompanied by Steve Am-

from Pennsylvania. MC's for the Coffeehouse were Vinnie Carubia and Marie Lombardo.

The kitchen offered a variety of goodies including baked goods, hot dogs, chili, snacks, hot and cold beverages

During a set change Almost Famous Players presented a check to the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department for their assistance during the Halloween show at Putnam Park. Prior to the final act over 20 door prizes were distributed. Prizes ranged from pizzas and Avon items to three foot subs and tshirts, all courtesy of very generous South Plainfield merchants and private donations.

Almost Famous has plans to host another coffeehouse as well as other



Chris Abbott and Joe Rodriguez,

events. The Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour entertained almost 1000 people in three days. They presented a check for \$1000 to the South Plainfield Lions Club. This year they



bielli. Also performing was Dave Sala MC's for the evening were Vinnie Carubia and Marie Lombardi.

Borough Cleanup Produces Unusual Trash

During last Saturday's clean-up day, one of the volunteer groups, which included Ray Rusnak, his wife Robyn, Mark Makowski and Bob Jones, were assigned the job to cleaned up Tyler Place. The group was truly was shocked by the amount of garbage they found. They bagged five garbage bags each and also found some really interesting things, such as an air conditioner, a bumper and mud flaps from a tractor-trailer, a tire and various other unusual items

Last year this group was assigned the area between Sherbans and Belmont and found not nearly as much trash, picking up maybe a bottle here and there and a cigarette pack every once in a while. By contrast, Tyler Place had a couple full bags of household garbage, food containers, bottles, cans-you name it, it was there. There was so much trash on Tyler they were not able to even finish in the allotted three hours. It seemed like they filled a bag every ten to fifteen feet!

Two items they found were so interesting that they decided to take photos of them. The first was a skull,



ond was two intravenis bags - something no one never imagined finding on the side of the road.

During Mondays Council meeting, Mayor Gallagher said his group, which included members of the council, found a boat trailer, which they also photographed. Gallagher said

that there is usually a prize awarded for the most unusual item found during cleanup day. He added that he hoped the boat trailer wasn't the prize.



Justina Carubia

plan to donate proceeds to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad and Fire Department. Auditions for the 2004 Haunted Woods will be held in May with a possible second audition in August. The group is currently working on becoming incorporated and are seeking an accountant who can assist them with their efforts to obtain an official none profit/tax exempt status.

For more information on Almost Famous Players visit http://hometown.aol.com/almstfamousplyrs/myhomepage/business.html or call (908) 756-8011

Kennedy School Kindergarten Get Acquainted Program

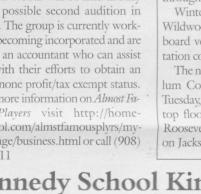
The J.F. Kennedy School PTSO will be holding "Get Acquainted" classes for all students who will be attending kindergarten at Kennedy in Sept. 2004. The purpose of this class is to familiarize the students with the school and staff. Hopefully any anxieties the children may have about coming to a new school will be alleviated. Some of the activities during the program are; visits to the school nurse, visits to

a kindergarten classroom, a visit to the principal and a safety bus ride.

Sessions are scheduled for Tuesdays, May 11, 18 and 25 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Parents may register at the Kenendy School main office between 9 and 11 a.m. or 1 to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Registration must be completed by May 4.

For information, call (908) 754-4620.



The regular meeting of the Curriculum/Technology/Student Activities committee was held on Tuesday, March 30. Here are some of the highlights of the meeting. Grant School grading policy will

BOE Curriculum/

Meeting Highlights

Technology Committee

change to align with the middle school report card grades as follows: A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=65-69 and F=55-64.

Summer School will be expanding from 17 days to 22 days and will include basic skills (K-6), ESL (K-6), GEPA prep, HSPA prep, SAT prep, algebra prep and make-up credit in pre-algebra, algebra one, algebra two and geometry.

Advanced Placement may add two AP programs, studio and Spanish.

College Applications-Eightyfive percent of high school seniors have applied for 2-year or 4-year colleges. This is an increase over previous vears.

DEPA Grant for \$154,389 to be used to provide instruction base on individual student needs, strengths and reading and basic skills teachers.

Technology Update-There are 60 teachers eligible for free computers from the Tech2000 Program.

Band Trip to Willimsburg will take place May 26-31. The trip is funded through fundraisers held throughout the school year.

Winter Guard will be going to Wildwood April 29 to May 2. The board voted to fund the transportation costs but not the hotel costs.

The next meeting of the Curriculum Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 27 at 8 p.m. in the top floor conference room at the Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.

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Junior Journalist James Butrico, with parents Bill and Suzanne, brothers Adam and Gerry and sister Gina, receives dinner from Debbie and Charlie Kurland of Hometown Heros.

unior ournalist

Win a catered dinner for your family from Hometown Heros through the Observer/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Contest! To enter, ask your language teacher at school for details.

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April 23, 2004



Personal Trainers: Another Team Member.

By Dr. Patrick M. Aiello D.C.

Being a sports fan, I sometimes like to use analogies related to sports. Things such as teamwork, setting and meeting goals, and developing a game-plan are all important ingredients of successful sports team. In dealing with my patients, I view myself as a team member for that pa-

.8.

tient. Whether it's the family chiropractor, the family medical doctor, or the family dentist. There are many "team" members when addressing one's healthcare needs.

In this regard, one aspect that is frequently overlooked is that of having a personal trainer. A personal trainer can be someone who oversees your workout and exercise regimens as well as someone who helps define your dietary habits.

In the simplest terms, it's someone who holds you accountable to your exercise and dietary goals. Personal trainers can be someone who works with you at your local health club or gym, or they can be someone who works one on one with you at your home

Some of the benefits of utilizing a personal trainer can include customizing a program designed for your specific needs. Whether that is weight loss, cardiovascular improvements or just simply toning up, having a personal trainer design a program for you can help you achieve your goals and see results faster. Another benefit of



Dr. Patrick Aiello, DC

Another aspect of having a personal trainer is they'll help keep your workouts safer. Important because that will help you avoid injuries that sometimes arise when we jump into an exercise program too quickly or not in the best manner. Convenience is another benefit of having a personal trainer by having them come to your house for your exercise regimen.

help.

the support system that

will help keep you mo-

your health or looking

to take it to another

and on top of your regi-

Carolyn McNulty, a certified AFAA personal trainer for over ten years has said "that having a personal trainer reduces the risk of boredom and burnout". That's a benefit of having you stick to your program longer, thus seeing better results. So, if you're thinking of improving your health through an exercise regimen, consider adding a personal trainer to your healthcare team.

House-call Update

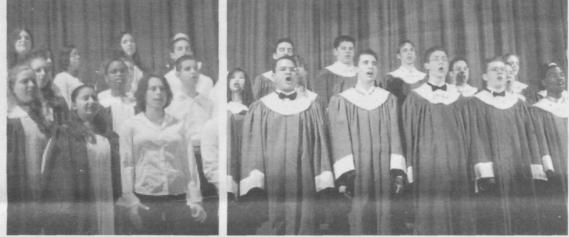
For more information on adding a personal trainer to your healthcare regimen or if you're interested in scheduling your in-home chiropractic consult, please call us at (908) 755-2289

Kennedy Kids Jump for Charity

Kennedy Elementary School students were asked to help raise money for the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart program by soliciting sponsors and jumping their hearts out. The fundraiser, held late last month, was held during gym class. Students jumped rope, used the Skip It, a Hula Hoop, jumped around on big bouncy balls and wall jumped. The school raised \$1,336 for this worthy cause.







High School Hosts 35th Annual District Music Festival and Art Festival

By Jane Dornick

Music was in the air the evening of April 7 when South Plainfield High

School hosted the thirty-fifth annual District Music Festival and Art Exhibition.

The tradition began in 1969 when the high school's choral and band directors arranged a junior-senior high school concert. The next year the elementary schools were invited to participate thus becoming the District Music Festival. Since 1991 the District Art Exhibition has been included in the festival, which display works of talented students from all grade levels. The art is displayed on the walls of the hallways and on tables.

The festival was originally staged in the high school auditorium, but for the last 18 years was moved to the gymnasium. This year the event was moved back to it's original venue in the Joseph A. Mondoro Auditorium. Also something new this year was the option of purchasing tickets for specific performances. In between shows, audiences were invited into the gymnasium to watch the High School Winter Guard perform. The orchestral portion kicked-off the show, beginning with the Grant 5/6 Elementary String Ensemble, the Gems, the Middle School Orchestra, the Jades and the SPHS Orchestra. Choruses from Grant and Middle schools and SPHS came on. The show ended with the band portion including the Grant Band, and the Middle School Concert and Jazz Bands.

More than 600 students participated in this highly anticipated and successful evening.



The Terra Nova Garden Club



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will hold its April meeting on Wednesday, April 28 at 6:45 p.m. at the North Edison Public Library, 777 Grove Ave. in Edison. The program for the evening is "The Art of Pressed Flowers" presented by Linda Villa. The presentation is free and open to the public. Dues of \$15 will be collected at the meeting and there will be a Plant Swap.

Seeing Eye Dog Program at Library

The public library wil host a Seeing Eye Dog program on Monday, children ages five and over. There is April 26, at 6:30 p.m.

Members of the South Plainfieldbased Hartmann family will talk the South Plainfield Municipal Comabout raising seeing eye dogs, in con- plex at 2484 Plainfield Ave. junction with the Somerset County 4-H Club. They'll explain how the (908) 754-7885, or visit the library dogs are trained, and will bring their website, www.southplainfield. dogs along to show to the audience. lib.nj.us.

The program is for adults and for no admission charge and no need to pre-register. The library is located in

For more information, please call



By Bob Nilan

The South Plainfield Tuesday Night Men's Golf League will begin the 2004 season on April 27 at the West Nine Golf Course.

President Mike Cortese of fending champion Plainfield Animal Hospital announced that the opening matches will have PAH facing last year's third-place finisher, Witty's, while Aiello Chiropractic, the runnerup team in 2003, will tee off against KC'S Korner. In the third American League match, Hank's Hackers will go head-to-head against Masters. In National League action, Twin

South Plainfield league champions two **Golf League** years ago, will complete the schedule with a match against the VFW. The 14-week season will

Pornovets will play the

South Plainfield Elks

and Sport & Social,

continue through August and will conclude with a position night playoff tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 17.

This year, in addition to the weekly closet-to-the-pin competition on the third hole, KC'S Korner will offer a free luncheon to the winner of the weekly closest-to-the-pin contest on either the fifth or seventh City will meet Patti Construction, hole.



Teams assemble for opening ceremonies of Ponytail Softball (above) last Saturday.

Ponytail Accepting Applications For College Scholarships

Motes from

The Parents Ponytail Asso. is sponsoring three \$500 college scholarships. Applications are being accepted and may be obtained from the SPHS guidance office. To qualify, the applicant must be a high school senior graduating this June, a current resident of South Plainfield, and must have played for a minimum of four years for the Ponytail Softball League. To qualify for the Ponytail-All-Star scholarship, applicants must have played for a minimum of four years and the Ponytail All-Stars for a being awarded.

minimum of three years. All-Star players may apply for both the recreation and All-Star scholarships, however, a player is eligible to receive only one scholarship. Refer to the application for details.

By James Bishop

at 4 p.m.

Middle School Library.

Ponytail association meeting will be

held on April 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the

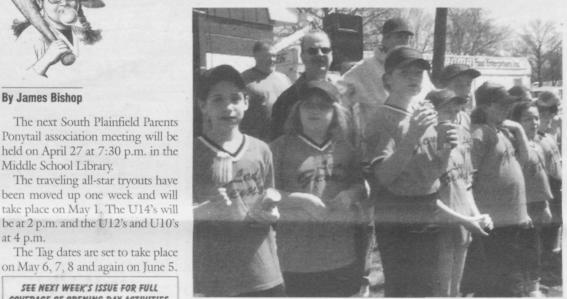
take place on May 1. The U14's will

on May 6, 7, 8 and again on June 5. SEE NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE FOR FULL

COVERAGE OF OPENING DAY ACTIVITIES.

Filing deadline is May 7. Mail applications to SPPPA Scholarship, P.O. Box 441, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or return to SPHS guidance office in envelope labeled "SPPPA Scholarship." Verification of school enrollment is required prior to funds

all Batters Box



.9.

Players wait for the conclusion of ceremonies to start play.

Shotman To Participate in 12-Week Basketball Clinic

Mike "Shotman" Lanza will be participating as an instructor in a 12week basketball clinic for middle school and high school boys and Girls, who want to get quicker, stronger, and better. Other instructors included Darryl "D-TRAINED" Smith, and Danny Waddleton.

For more information, please call (732)-324-0077 extension 224, or visit gmchoops.com or www.shotman.net.

Metuchen YMCA Fitness Classes

The Metuchen Branch YMCA is offering a 2004 Spring Fitness Class Session. Classes will begin in April and end on June 12. The Metuchen YMCA's fitness department runs a variety of fitness classes, such as stretch and tone, on the ball, basic step, body firm, pilates, hatha yoga, gentle yoga

and cuts and butts.

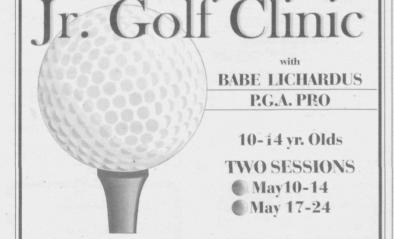
There is no fee for members and a \$6 drop in fee per class for nonmembers. Call (732) 548-2044 for more details or long on to www.metuchen-edisonymca.org.

The Metuchen Branch YMCA is located at 65 High Street, Metuchen.





Follow the ups and downs of the borough in the Observer, an independent newspaper for the residents and businesses of South Plainfield exclusively.



To sign up, call Plainfield West Nine (908) 769-3672

Are you a high school student who loves sports and attends SPHS sporting events? THEN WE WANT YOU! Call the Observer at 908-668-0010 for details.

Send a check or money order for \$25/one year (out-of-town-\$30) to: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or call 908-668-0010 to pay by credit card .

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Mary A. Barto, 81

· 10 ·

Mary A. Barto died on Friday, April 16 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, Mary had resided in South Plainfield for over 50 years.

Mary was employed by the former worked her way to becoming a book-

Her husband, Raymond L. Barto, Sr.; a grandson, David Minicozzi and a great grandson, John Gregor have all predeceased her.

A. Jacques of South Plainfield, Raymond L., Jr. of Sydney, Australia and Leonard H. of South Pines, North Carolina and a sister, Angie Jembrysek of Toms River.

McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Jay Michael Chabrak, Jr.

(nee Dress) Chabrak, Sr., died on Easter Sunday.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his paternal grandmother, Joan Chabrak and his maternal grandparents, Philip and Beverly Dress. Also surviving are a number of aunts, uncles, cousins and extended family members. His paternal grandfather, Dr. Theodore Chabrak has prede-

of the McCriskin Home For Funerals

Julia Czahor (nee Hawran), 84

Julia Czahor (nee Hawran) died early Friday morning, April 16 at Haven Hospice in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

past president of the South Plainfield PAL Senior Citizens and a long timemember of St. Nicholas Byzanine Catholic Church in Dunellen. She had

Obituaries Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center

in Plainfield, where she was a recipient of the 1,000 hour award.

She was a former member of the Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Memorial Post #6763 in South Plainfield and was a former member of the Suburban Women's Club, also in South Plainfield.

son, Brian Czahor.

Funeral services were held at the

McCriskin Home For Funerals.

pice in JFK Medical Center in Edison. Born and raised in Long Island City, NY, Lenny moved with his family to Metuchen 55 years ago when he entered Rutgers University.

He received his Bachelors of Science Degree in Chemistry from Rutgers and through his career as a chemist, he had worked with the

Corps.

two sons and their fiancés, Kenneth H. Parada and Shannon Flannery of South Plainfield and Leonard A. LaPetina, Jr. and Christine Callaghan of Fairfax, Va. and by a grandson, Fernando Sandoval, II.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.



Intersection	Turn Prohibited	Movement Prohibited
Durham Avenue and the Driveway to the Quik	Left	(a) Southbound on Durham Avenue to Eastbound into the Quik Chek store driveway.
Chek Convenience Store, Block 488 Lot 8.01		b) Westbound on the Quik Chek Store driveway to Southbound on Durham Avenue.

April 23, 2004



Deadline to submit classified advertising is Monday, 5 pm 908-668-0010

· 11 ·

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NANNY HELP-BABYSITTER HELP needed for 1-2 days/wk. between 6pm 9pm. References & experience neces sary. Call (732) 985-1278.

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EXPANDED RANCH-5 BEDROOMS, 21/2 baths. For information, go to Foxtons.com, see #C6456.

97 DODGE CARAVAN-7 PASSENGER Auto/AC, PS, PB, cruise control, good cond., Michelin tires. 79,000 miles. Make offer. Call Marilyn (908) 757-8032. MUST SELL-SNAPPER LAWNMOWER with rear bag, runs great. \$125. Vacuum chipper with bag \$200. GE air conditioner 5,000 BTUs \$75. (732) 463-3929.

GIANTS TICKETS-TWO SEASON tickets (10 tickets ea. seat). Upper deck, 300 series. Must buy whole season, both seats. Call (908) 755-2442.

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(between Home Depoi & Durbam Ave.)

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FOR SALE

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FOR SALE

WAREHOUSE SUPER SALE-TRUCKloads of brass animals & giftware. Men's Bill Blass & Brooks Bros. designer suits & sports coats & ladies wool coats. 2 for \$100. Coleman tools & lights, pots & pans, office furniture, pallet jacks & shopping carts. Exit 4 off Rt. 287 No. Right at Quick Chek, 161 Helen St. 10 to 7.

BABY TENDER CRIB-TURNS INTO youth bed. \$400 or best offer. Call Jennifer (732) 494-3476

HOME FURNISHINGS FOR SALE 7 PC. BEDROOM SET-BED, CHEST dresser & mirror and night stand. New in box. Value \$2600. Sell \$975. (732) 259-6690.

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5 PC. BDR SET-NEW IN BOX. LIST \$1299. Sacrifice \$565. (732) 259-6690. BED-KING MATTRESS SET, NEW in plastic. Sell \$225. (732) 259-6690.

DINING ROOM SET-CHERRY W/1 pc. hutch, table and chairs, new in boxes. Sell \$825. Can deliver. (732) 259-6690.

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Call Won (201) 803-0294.

FOR RENT

MEDICAL OFFICE FOR RENT-1300 sq. ft. Ample parking \$2400/mo. Fanwood Medical Bldg., 346 South Ave. Call (732) 469-7932.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

3 ROOMS, QUIET & PRIVATE. \$850/ mo. inc. heat, HW, disposal & parking. Req. security & references. Avail. May 1. Call (908) 756-5165. No pets.

Sell Your Used Items Every Friday in the Classifieds

FOUND

PARAKEET, WORTH DRIVE Area, 4/12/04. Call (908) 754-3924.

BUSINESS PARTNER WANTED

ESTABLISHED BEAUTY SHOP looking for experienced hairdresser as a business partner in South Plainfield. Call (908) 561-2226.

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April 23, 2004



Karan Patel Named "Junior Journalist"



Roosevelt School Principal Jacque

line Keogh (left) Karan Patel and

teacher Christina Bloch.

Roosevelt School kindergartner Karan Patel is this week's winner in the Observer/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Program. His story has won him dinner for his family courtesy of Hometown Heros.

Students are encouraged to submit their original poetry, articles, opinion pieces or essays. Entries should be given to teachers.

Winners and their parents receive a catered dinner from Hometown Heros and will be invited to a banquet on June 2.

For the name of your school contact, call the Observer at (908) 668-0010 or Hometown Heros at (908) 755-4376.

My Make Believe Brother By Karan Patel

Let me introduce myself to you. My name is Karan Patel and I am six-years-old. I go to kindergarten. I am the only child. I really wish I had a younger brother. I would ask my mom to name him Raj. I wonder how he would look, how tall he would be. I also wonder how he would talk. But I have a picture of him in my mind.

I often dream of Raj when I go to sleep. In my dream Raj talks to me about basketball and plays all types of sport games with me. He shows me all cool tricks to win.

When my mom comes to wake me up in my bedroom I start looking for Raj, but I see Raj nowhere. That was when I realized that Raj was my make believe brother in my dream. All of a sudden, I got very upset and started crying. So my mom hugged me and asked me why I was crying, so I told her the reason.

But my mom takes care of my feelings and my loneliness and always invite my friends to my house to play with me.



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Haven Hospice Provider for JFK & Muhlenberg Hospitals



Hawaiian Theme At Franklin Auction

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

Four hundred fifty plus people packed Franklin School for an Hawaiian adventure at the auction/raffle this past March. Committee members, decked out in Leis and tropical attire, transformed the high school gym to create a Hawaiian party atmosphere.

There were over 200 prizes up for grabs, including a trip to Hawaii. Jim Colapietro, chairman of the event, said, "The support of the local stores was fantastic; it really showed the community spirit businessowners have for our young children." The event was a success well before the first ticket was drawn. The 8 p.m. start time had to be delayed when organizers ran out of red tickets and had to send someone for more.

The grand prizes went to Fran Gielen, who won a trip for two to Hawaii, and Stephanie Bonanno, who won the 27-inch flat screen TV with a DVD/VCR.

Colapietro noted many people worked hard organizing and running the event. "I would also like to thank our runners, Girl Scout troops #228, #129 and #309. These young ladies ran all the prizes to the winners and were completely exhausted by the end of the night."



policereport

• On April 8 a Pershing Pl. resident reported that their garage door was open and a garage door opener had been removed from their car.

· An employee of Continental Precision on St. Nicholas Ave. reported that her driver's license, social security card and resident alien card were missing from her pocketbook that was on the lunch table.

• On April 9 David R. Relyea, 22, of Piscataway was arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting a pair of \$65 Nike Air sneakers

· On April 10 Agenis Antonio Lazo-Jimenez, 18, of New Brunswick was arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting shirts worth \$149.

· Raceway Gas on W. 7th St. reported that a customer only paid \$10 for \$15 worth of gas and drove off. -

• On April 11 a Bell Pl. resident reported the theft of his 2000 Chevy Impala which was left running in front of Quick Chek on Sampton Ave.

• On April 12 a Redding Ave. resident reported that their unsecured garage door had been opened and the door to the kitchen had been pried open. A laptop computer, two telephones, a DVD player, a watch and approximately \$120 in change was taken.

• On April 13 Thomas J. Jiovino, 43, of North Plainfield was arrested on Joan St. for driving while intoxicated at a motor vehicle stop.

· On April 14 Dennis B. Beni of Plainfield was arrested on W. 7th St. for driving while intoxicated and careless driving at a motor vehicle stop.

• On April 16 a Lucy Ct. resident reported that a cement block had been thrown on the windshield of his vehicle.

• A guest at Best Western on New World Way reported that a gold owl cigarette lighter valued at \$75 had been taken from her room.

· An employee of Mid Atlantic Waterproofing on Hadley Rd. reported the theft of a bag from a table containing two prescription bottles in it.

• The manager of Best Western on New World Way reported the theft of his laptop computer, which had been borrowed and left in a room unattended.

· On April 17 Marcelo J. Chavez, 34 and Estuardo D. Paredes, 21 both of North Plainfield were arrested at Commerce Bank on Plainfield Ave. for exhibiting fake social security cards.

· A Conklin St. resident reported that barbecue sauce, maple syrup, hair gell, shaving cream, sugar and toilet paper had been put all over her vehicle

• A Franklin Ave. resident reported that a rear window of his residence had been broken by a BB gun.

· A Piscataway resident reported that the windshield of his vehicle had been broken by a large rock, while parked at Regal Cinemas.

· China Buffet on Park Ave. reported that a female customer refused to pay her bill of \$11 and left.

· A Harvard Ave. resident reported that their mailbox had been knocked over and another resident reported that someone had jumped on the hood and windshield of their vehicle.

• On April 18 a George St. resident reported that their vehicle had been shot with a paint ball gun.

· A Sherman Ave. resident reported the theft of his wallet and cell phone from his unlocked vehicle.

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