

South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

JUNE 25, 2004

Residents Seek Relief from Grant School Traffic

Grant School cannot be accessed without going through residential neighborhoods; there is no straight thoroughfare leading to or from the school and no extended approaches that have good visibility.

Before and after school, many parents, school buses and even delivery trucks are using several different routes to get to the school. They are driving through a maze of nearby narrow residential roads surrounding the school.

A group called the Grant School Traffic Concerns Coalition (GSTCC) claims this is not only a hazard to the people living on the nearby narrow streets, but a dangerous situation for the children who are walking school.

The group is asking the Board to redesign Lake St. to provide a more

direct route for dropping children off at Grant School.

The GSTCC formally presented the petition during last week's Board of Education meeting. The petition, signed by more than 100 concerned residents, asks the Board to address their traffic safety concern.

Earlier this year, the Board completed a traffic study at Grant School which proposed that school buses drop off students behind the school on Lake St. and that suggestion will be instituted in the fall. The residents questioned why the size of Lake St. could not be increased so that all traffic to Grant School could utilize Plainfield Ave. to enter and exit.

The board listened to the complaints and suggestions, but made no public comments to the petitioners.



South Plainfield Special Olympics Track and Field Team, along with coaches and volunteers.

Special Olympic Athletes Take #1 Spot

The Board of Education recognized members of the Special Olympics Track and Field team, as well as their coaches and volunteers who took part in the Middlesex and Union Counties Area 5 competition for winning first place. They also participated in the 2004 New Jersey State Special Olympics at The College of New Jersey.

The team won 17 gold medals, nine silver, three bronze and five place ribbons in the state competition.

Everyone who competed was recognized and each received a certificate of appreciation. Also receiving certificates were members of the coaching staff, as well as the many volunteers who spent countless hours practicing with the Special Olympians and accompanying them to tournaments.

Head Coach is Addison Williams; assistant coaches are Kevin Hajduk and Sharon McGrath.

Special athletes are Juanita Adolphus, Dave Agnew, Karen Bayman, Chris Bonnell, Charlie Clark, Jason DeSantis, Robert Fallat, Richard Leonardis, Andy McClean, Anthony McLean, Franchot McLean, Dave Micabla, Jason Seay and Michael Tabachnik.

Volunteers are Dave Agnew Sr., Adam Barletta, Adam Bianchi, Sa-

mantha Bowser, Peter DeAndrea, Sandra Dowlat, Jessica Hill, Phu Huynh, Nick Jefferys, Stephanie Mazurak, Ericka McKnight, Danielle

Nobile, Eigil Pantaleon, Jenna Pein, Alishah Rahemtulla, Justin Reid, Eric Rhode, Calvin Seay, Devanee Sewdat, Darshan Suthar and Ashley Welch.



South Plainfield teachers Terry and Andrea Allen

Couple Retires After 68 Years of Teaching

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield School district has seen many wonderful teachers and staff members retire over the past year. Among them are husband and wife Terry and Andrea Allen, who met while teaching at the Middle School. Terry's 35 years of teaching experience, and Andrea's 33 gives them a combined total of 68 years educating the children of South Plainfield!

Terry Allen's interest in Social Studies was the driving force behind his career choice. He holds a B.A. in elementary education from Newark State College and an M.A. in administration supervision. His career in South Plainfield began in 1969 at Kennedy School, where he taught for 10 years—fifth grade for nine years and sixth grade for one year. During that time he assisted with the Safety Patrol program and intramural sports. He spent the next 25 years—1979

through last week—teaching Social Studies and coaching basketball at the Middle School.

Andrea Allen holds a B.A. in History from Immaculata College. It was her love of children that drew her to teaching. She began working in South Plainfield in 1971. She has taught grades three through six in Riley, (Continued on page 13)

Contractor Scams Area Residents Out of 200K

On June 18, a South Plainfield resident came to police headquarters to report a theft. The victim stated that she signed a contract in Dec. of 2003 for an addition to be added to her house. The company name was listed as "Homes by Lisa" out of Piscataway. She gave the contractor a \$16,000 deposit. The contractor gave her three start dates from March to June but failed to respond to perform the work. On June 22, the victim signed a theft complaint

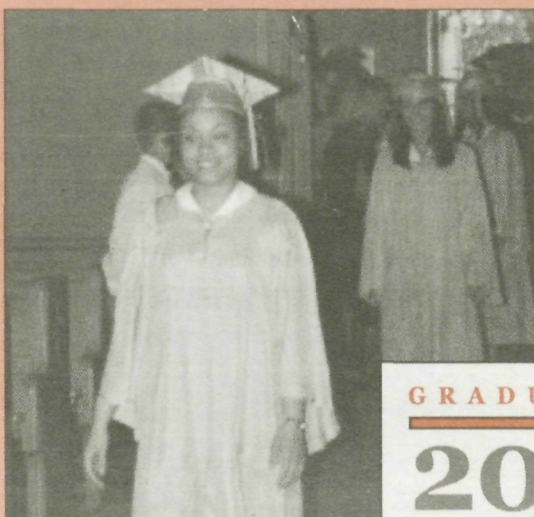
against the contractor, identified as Roger Louis Hemhauser, age 54, of Roselle.

Since June 18, numerous additional victims have come forth to report that they too had signed contracts with Hemhauser trading as "Home by Lisa." The victims reported that their work was either never started or never completed. Based upon interviews of the victims, it has been determined at

(Continued on page 16)



Reverend John Alvarado accepts the gift of a grand piano on behalf of Sacred Heart Church from 102-year-old lifelong parishioner Charles (Carl) Vomacka. Vomacka wanted to give something to the church that would be a lasting gift. For coverage of the 100th anniversary kickoff celebration, see page 3.



Sacred Heart School promotes twenty-seven eighth graders to high school. See page 8.

GRADUATION

2004

Sacred Heart School & SP Adult School



South Plainfield Adult School graduates achieve a goal. See page 8 for graduates.

Summer Parks Program Underway

The South Plainfield Recreation Department Summer Parks Program at all borough elementary schools is ongoing daily now through August 6, from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. with lunch break from 11:30-12:30. Register at the PAL. The program is free; bring student's report card.

To make next week's edition...

Copy and advertising must be received by Monday, June 28 at 5 p.m. to be included in the Friday, July 2 edition.

Mark Your Calendars

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest meeting agenda

council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Monday.
Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
Monday, July 12	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Monday, August 9	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 7	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.

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
July 6 and 20, Aug. 10 and 24,
Sept. 21, Oct. 12 and 26, Nov. 16 and 30 and Dec. 14 and 28

zoning board of adjustment

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

board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted
Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.—July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9,
Dec. 14, Jan. 11, 2005, Feb. 8, March 8 and April 5
Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m.—July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, (Monday) Oct. 18, Nov.
16, Dec. 21, Jan. 18, 2005, Feb. 15, March 15 and April 12

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 plans sub-committee

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

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
Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2 and Dec. 7

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621
July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8
January 12, 2005

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) at 7 p.m.
in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

board of education curriculum/technology meetings

Meets once a month on Mondays, (except where noted) at 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.
(Tuesday) June 22, July 19, August 16, September 13, (No meeting in October), November 15,
December 13, January 31, 2005, (No meeting February) and March 21

South Plainfield Observer

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

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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To the Editor,

Once again, Debbie Boyle directed a magnificent show on June 9! With the help of "Drama Moms" and the support of everyone at Riley School, Mrs. Boyle coordinated a talent show that truly showcased the talents of all the students involved. She has a flair for making things special and she genuinely created a memorable event for all the performers and spectators.

All of us involved in this production wish to give a big, heartfelt thanks to Debbie for all of her hard work and dedication. She gave the children the chance to cultivate their talents and to share them with friends and family. What wonderful gift she bestowed!

Thanks, Debbie.

THE DRAMA MOMS AND DRAMA CLUB MEMBERS

(See page 10 for Riley Play Photos)

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the family of the late Chad M. Cook, a graduate of the Class of 2000, South Plainfield High School, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Borough of South Plainfield, the South Plainfield High School family, the Bishop Ahr School family and the teammates of my late son for helping to make the May 2004 memorial basketball game a success.

THANKS,
JAMES E. COOK

To the Editor,

In response to "There is No Silver Bullet!" of June 18, 2004. As a former member of the South Plainfield Board of Education, I too celebrate the success of this year's GEPA and HSPA results. I complained loudly, publicly and privately to administrators over the years as a BOE member and parent, supported through vote: purchases of new curriculum, additional teaching staff, computer programs, special classes for 'at risk students' and attended many, many curriculum meetings to hear and support strategies on improving test scores. This increase does not in any way reflect the work of one year!

Let us also attach numbers to this data. In the school year 01/02 -278 students took the GEPA, only 43.4% were considered proficient in Math with 9% advanced proficient, in 02 / 03-343 students took the GEPA with only 41.1% proficient, 10.4% advanced proficient. In GEPA for the last two school years just above 50% of our 278/343 students respectively were meeting the State's minimum standards. In HSPA in 01/02 school year 54.5% of 275 students were proficient, 9.3% advanced proficient, in 02/03 school year 67.3% proficient, 17.1% advanced of 272 students, this test measures minimum graduation requirements. This data is available on the New Jersey Department of Education's web page <http://www.nj.gov/education>.

Maybe I should rephrase this for better understanding. In 2001/02, 126 eighth grade students out of 275 could not meet the state's minimum requirements in Math in eighth grade. In 02/03, 168 eighth grade students out of 343 could not meet the minimum requirements. In the high school 01/02, 84 11th grade students could not meet the state's graduation requirements of 275 students taking the HSPA and in 02/03 102 11th grade students could not meet the state's graduation requirements of 272 students tested. Celebrating 40% and 20% increases over last years scores is commendable but when slightly more than half of the students of South Plainfield are considered proficient, we should all worry.

It is, however, very disturbing to

Submit Letters to the Editor:

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have the credit for improved scores of what amounts to State minimums credited only to the teaching staff in the South Plainfield School District, especially when asked for explanation of the low scores the blame was placed directly on uneducated parents. I would like to include the parents of South Plainfield students in the credit for this year's success; after all, if you were the one to blame, you should be the people to praise. I know as a parent how many tutors and supplemental programs we all use to keep our children's heads above water, something that should not be necessary, but whether it be to remain competitive or simply to pass, a large number of parents employ tutors, learning centers, SAT prep classes, etc. in order to help their children.

I would also like to commend, Principal Fred Oberkehr of the Middle School, for bringing to the BOE a plan to address those students flagged as possible GEPA deficient. What we are seeing today in results of the GEPA directly is attributed to Mr. Oberkehr's plan of action supported by the BOE over the last three years, his communication and that of his staff to the lower levels the needed minimum preparedness of students entering the Middle School, his sleepless nights in scheduling students for intensive care in the areas of GEPA prep and his staff's response to that plan. It is disappointing we reward

this by transferring him to an elementary school. I pray for my son who will attend the Middle School in September that we continue with this plan and another to address what is lacking at lower levels that cause our students to perform so poorly when tested in eighth grade and then later in their junior year of high school.

While we are celebrating this year's success, perhaps we should also remind our Superintendent, Board of Education members, administrators, teaching staff and parents, that these tests represent the State minimums. Being proficient is not an achievement; it should be every parent's expectation. It means your child has learned what they need to know to move forward. I just hope the next article celebrates what we all should expect, that South Plainfield students exceed the State's minimum requirements by increasing by 40% the students who have achieved the advanced proficient stage of the State minimum each year. Then I will believe all SP students are prepared properly.

Continued on page 16

Additional S.A.T. Prep Classes Scheduled

An additional S.A.T. Prep Class has been scheduled to run for eight days from July 19 through July 29. The classes will be held at the South Plainfield High School. It will be a two hour math and a two hour language arts prep class. Students may register for the class at the South Plainfield Middle School, Room 2.

The S.A.T. Class is being offered as part of the Summer School, so it is free of charge. Students must pay \$20 for textbook. For information call (908) 754-4620, ext 217.

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Photo by William Tuthill



Father John Alvarado with Charles Vomacka, 102, who donated a baby grand piano to Sacred Heart Church.

Sacred Heart's 100th Anniversary Celebration Now Underway

Last Friday evening, the Sacred Heart community officially kicked off their 100th Anniversary Celebration, with a concert, mass and reception.

The evening began with a ceremony where parishioner Charles (Carl) Vomacka presented a grand piano to Sacred Heart Church. Father John Alvarado accepted and then blessed the piano on behalf of the church.

One hundred and two year old Vomacka has been a parishioner at Sacred Heart his entire life and wanted to give something to the church that would be a lasting gift.

The piano, which will sit on the side of the altar, was immediately put

to use by pianist John Bender, who played two solo pieces.

The sight and sound of the piano in the church was nothing less than spectacular. The combined choir from St. Matthews Church in Edison and Sacred Heart, then performed a musical concert, accompanied by vocal soloist Carol Mascola, with Ken Hurt and Jeff Thompson on trumpet and Pat Hurt on oboe. The choir was under the direction of Dan Mahoney, director of Sacred Music.

Pastor John Alvarado celebrated a special mass for the Feast of the Sacred Heart which marked the beginning of the official year-long 100th anniversary celebration. A reception followed in the school foyer.



New Principal Named at John E. Riley School

Last Tuesday, the Board of Education approved the appointment of Randolph Rossilli, Jr. as Riley School Principal, effective July 1. Rossilli will be replacing William Beegle, who will become the Director of Guidance for the school district.

He earned his Bachelors degree from William Paterson University in 1991, majoring in communications, and his MA degree from Seton Hall University in 1991, majoring in education and administration and supervision.

Rossilli is certified as a NJ Principal.

Board of Education Meeting Changes

The South Plainfield Board of Education has announced meeting date changes.

The Committee of the Whole meeting, originally scheduled for Tuesday, July 13 has been changed to Tuesday, July 20 at 7 p.m. The Committee of the Whole meeting, originally scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 10, has been changed to Tuesday, Aug. 17 at 7 p.m.

Meetings are held in the gymnasium at the Roosevelt Administration Building at 125 Jackson Ave.

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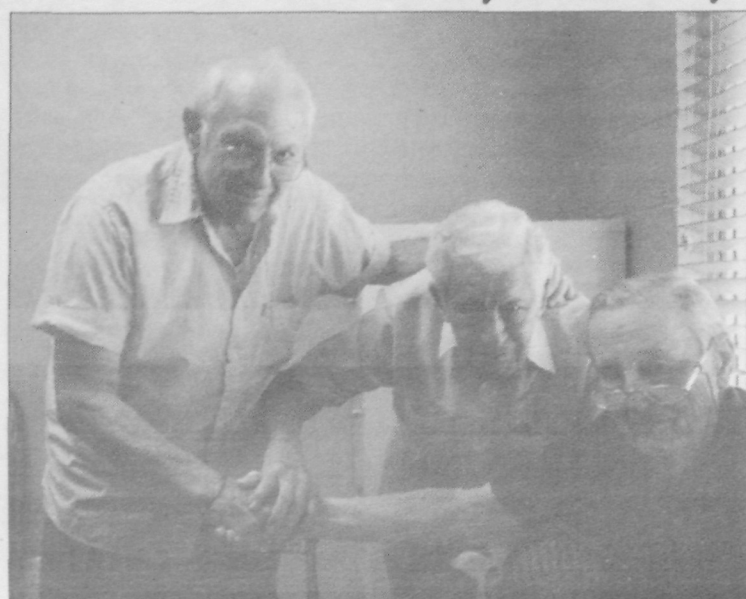
Former TWA Pilot Relates Memories of By-Gone Days

He logged 28,000 hours as an air transport pilot with Trans World Airlines, even co-piloting with the company boss, the eccentric Howard Hughes. He knew famous flyers such as Charles Lindbergh and Clarence Chamberlain and even spent two years as a Royal Canadian Air Force pilot. He has seen the world many times over, but for Edward J. Meehan, South Plainfield's Hadley Airport was the place it all started.

The 89-year-old former TWA pilot visited the Senior Center on June 10 as a guest of the South Plainfield Historical Society. Meehan related his experiences as a young wanna-be pilot at the airfield formerly located on the site of the Middlesex Mall. His story was recorded on tape and will soon be transcribed, becoming part of the Society's Oral History Preservation Program.

Meehan, besides yearning to become a pilot, was also a talented photographer. He brought never-before-seen images of the men who serviced the engines, packed the parachutists and socialized in the café across the street called "Pop's Place," now the site of Burger King on Stelton Rd. Meehan's photographs captured the likenesses of Tom Robertson, known to many long-time residents as the operator of Hadley Airport, his brother Murphy and Bill Summons, who were maintenance engineers.

Some of the highlights of the con-



Tulio Capparelli, Anthony Abbruzzese and former TWA pilot Edward Meehan shake hands after the conclusion of the oral history interview at the South Plainfield Senior Center on June 10.

versation include Meehan's description of the old airplanes, which were fabric-covered and drooped from the weight of the early morning moisture, but which snapped back into tight fit upon drying in the sun. Another recollection may strike a cord with long-time residents, that of Gates Flying Circus, which parked its planes at the far end of Hadley Airfield, close to New Durham Rd. As the name suggests, spectators could enjoy daredevil flying, wing-walkers without parachutes and other breathtaking

stunts performed by this group of barnstormers.

When he retired in 1973, Meehan was qualified to fly the Douglas DC-3, Douglas DC-4, Martin 202-404, Lockheed Constellation and the Boeing 707/720. He had an excellent safety record, but his wife was nearly killed when a commercial passenger plane taking off from Newark Airport crashed into their apartment in nearby Elizabeth, the third crash in the neighborhood within a two-year period.

Diegnan Named to Education Commission

Assembly Speaker Albio Sires recently appointed Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Jr., to serve on the state Commission on Business Efficiency in the Public Schools.

Sires (D-Hudson) said Diegnan—the Vice-Chairman of the Assembly Education Committee—has demonstrated a keen understanding on issues affecting the quality of public education. Sires also praised Diegnan for the high-level of respect he has earned after serving one term in the state Legislature.

"Assemblyman Diegnan has shown extraordinary leadership as vice-chair of the Assembly Education Committee, developing legislation that has helped to reshape New Jersey's public school system," said Sires. "I am confident that his qualifications and experience will only enhance the commission's ability to provide high-quality education opportunities for New Jersey's youth."

The state Commission on Business Efficiency in the Public Schools studies issues negatively affecting public education systems and develops a five-year plan with recommendations on how to combat the problems. The panel also makes recommendations for legislative action to improve public education.

"A healthy learning environment is essential to a good education," said

Diegnan (D-Middlesex). "As part of this commission, I will strive to provide every child in New Jersey with access to a safe and nurturing public education system."

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.

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Around Town

AARP Chapter #4144 Installation Lunch

June 25

The South Plainfield Chapter of AARP will hold its Installation Luncheon promptly at noon on Friday, June 25 at The Willows Restaurant in Green Brook.

Members are asked to arrive no later than 11:45 a.m. George Vasiliades, Area District Chairman, AARP, will perform the installation ceremony.

Guests are Senator Barbara Buono and Assemblyman Peter Barnes, guest speaker is Police Officer Louis Sgro of Philadelphia, whose topic will be on the newest scams being perpetrated on the public today.

After a summer recess, meetings of the Chapter will resume Sept. 20 at 12:30 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center.

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. to midnight.

The cost is \$50 per person and includes an open bar and buffet. Each guest receives \$500 in play money to be redeemed for auction tickets and used as chances to win one or more prizes.

For tickets contact Stacy Lake at (908) 757-9531.

Pilgrim Covenant Parking Lot Sale

June 26

Pilgrim Covenant Church will be holding their annual Parking Lot Sale on Saturday, June 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be lots of treasures! Multiple vendors will be on-hand.

Summer Scrapbooking Workshop Announced

July 9 & 10

Have you ever wanted to preserve your memories through scrapbooking but didn't know how to get started? Do you have so many pictures that you feel overwhelmed just thinking about beginning a scrapbook project? Then, this super summer scrapbooking workshop is for you!

Dayel Giammarino, an experienced Creative Memories Scrapbooking Consultant will be teaching three sessions at Wesley United Methodist Church, located at 1500 Plainfield Ave.

What's happening in JUNE

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 AM-12:30 PM—CREATIVE PAINTING 10AM

Senior Center EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
EVENTS We are looking for volunteers to help our Labor Day Parade Committee Sign Up at the Center Trip to AC Taj Mahal - July 7 & Aug. 5 Trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to See "Heat Wave" - July 29				
Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30 28 Yoga 10:30-11:30 Drawing Class 11:30	Bingo 10am-2pm 29 Ladies Social Grp 10am Computer Class 12 or 2pm	Exercise 8:45-9:45 30 Line Dancing 10-11:30am Movie Time 11:30am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 11am & 1pm	Weekly Shopping 1 Pathmark 9am Practical Crafting 10-11am Pinochle Club 1pm	Bingo 10am-2pm 25 Pizza lunch available Meditation Club 9:30am
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

on Friday, July 9 from 6-11 p.m., Saturday, July 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and again from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Each session costs \$5. You must pre-register to attend. Children may attend if registered with an adult.

Call Dayel at (908) 754 4255 or email her at The8Gs@aol.com.

Class of 2005 Holding Car Wash

July 10

The Class of 2005 will be holding a car wash on Saturday, July 10 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Middle School parking lot.

Cars are \$5 and trucks are \$7. Please come out and help support our class!

Charity Softball Tournament

July 24

A Charity Softball Tournament will be held on Saturday, July 24 at 8 a.m. to benefit Gary Muccigrossi, a South Plainfield police officer in need of a lung transplant. The tournament will take place at the South Plainfield High School ball fields.

The tournament will consist of three divisions: a men's division—men's slow pitch, double elimination, \$250 entry fee, \$500 prize (first place) and \$250 prize (second place); a women's division—women's slow pitch, double elimination, \$200 entry fee, \$200 prize (first place) and a charitable—co-ed slow pitch, single elimination, limited homeruns, \$200 entry fee. Deadline for registration is July 10.

Teams can register by contacting Det. Gary Cassio at (908) 226-7663 or Det. Chris Colucci at (908) 226-7662. You may also call the South Plainfield PAL on Maple Ave. at (908) 226-7714.

All other donations will be greatly appreciated to help defer all costs of the lab fees and medical costs for Muccigrossi.

The rain date is July 25.

Hypnosis Seminars

August 7

On Aug. 7, hypnosis experts will present nine seminars to make the public aware of the uses. An exciting day filled with such topics as Stress Reduction, Health & Hypnosis, Past Life Regression, Weight Management, Meridian Energy, Golf Enhancement, Psychic Discoveries, Anger Management and questions and answers about hypnosis.

The seminars will be held on Saturday, Aug. 7 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn on Stelton Rd. This presentation is a public service and there is absolutely no charge.

For more information, call (908) 964-4467 or visit their website at www.gattohypnoacademy.com.

Wesley Vacation Bible School

August 9-13

Wesley Church, located on Plainfield will hold a Hero Quest Vacation Bible School from Aug. 9 through 13, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The Hero Quest program is designed to lead children through four power-booster phases. Children will meet biblical heroes of faith. They will experience the power of faith in God through stories, games, crafts and music. Our students come to know Jesus as the "Ultimate Hero" and discover the faith hero inside themselves. Hero Quest finds the extraordinary in the ordinary. For registration, contact Pastor Thompson at (908) 757-2838.

Goliath's Camp at First Baptist Church

August 9-13

Explore God's great creation this summer at Davey and Goliath's Camp Creation VBS! It's all happening at the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield on Aug. 9-13, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Children ages five through entering the fifth grade are invited for a

week of exciting games, crafts, songs and Bible stories. Registration is \$5 a child or no more than \$10 a family. Registrations are now being accepted through July 28.

For more information contact Karen Flanagan at (908) 561-6348 or you can register at the church after Sunday Services. The First Baptist Church of South Plainfield is located

— Out of Town —

Art Muglia Memorial Golf Outing Planned

June 25

The first "Art Muglia Memorial Golf Outing" it will take place on Friday, June 25 at Spooky Brook Golf Course.

Art Muglia was an active businessman in South Plainfield. He spent many years volunteering his time to improve communications between the Borough and businesses. Muglia died suddenly last year and this golf outing is a way to remember him and to help his favorite charity. Proceeds will be donated to Art Muglia's favorite charity: the Matheny School for people with developmental disabilities. The cost is \$100 for golf, cart, food and awards.

Anyone interested should contact Jim Muglia, either by calling (973) 667-2466 or email at nopaino@yahoo.com.

Indoor Yard Sale

June 26

The Resurrection of Christ Church, located at 649 Bound Brook Rd. (Route 28) in Dunellen will be holding an Indoor Yard Sale on Saturday, June 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Different items have been arriving daily and there will be lots of half-priced items.

For more information, call (732) 873-1731.

2004 4-H Chrome City Car Show

June 26

If you own a hot rod or are part of an auto club, Middlesex County 4-H is looking for you to join the fun as we host the 2nd Annual Chrome City

Car Show. The show takes place on Saturday, June 26 (rain date Sunday, June 27) and is sponsored by the 4-H Teen Council and the Renegade Racers RC Car club.

Registration is \$15. Check in time for the event is 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Gates will open to the public at 9 a.m.

For information on the car show in general, contact (732) 213 4486 or email suzieQ4783@aol.com.

Traditional Chinese Hand Puppetry

June 26

Saturday, June 26, 2004 at 1 p.m., The Folklife Program for New Jersey and Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission will present Journey to the West, a traditional Chinese hand puppet show with the Wang Da Chung Hand Puppet Group, at the South Brunswick Library, 110 Kingston Lane, Monmouth Junction. Participants of this program will also learn the cultural background of Chinese puppetry and will have the opportunity to handle the puppets.

Registration is required as space is limited. For more information or to register for this free Folklife program, please contact the Commission, (732) 745-4489. Those with hearing impairments may call (732) 745-3888 (TTY users only) or 711, via the New Jersey Relay System. The South Brunswick Library is an accessible site. An Assistive Listening System will be on site during the events; an American Sign Language interpreter is available with a two-week advanced request.

CHATS Adoption Support Meeting

June 28

Adoption Support, CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support), will meet 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, June 28, at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave. in North Plainfield. Topic is "A Reunited Family Greets Baby Kelley." Check our new website at www.chatsnj.com or call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 for information.

Depression and Bipolar Support Group Meeting

June 30

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DNSA Morristown Area) monthly lecture meeting will be on Wednesday, June 30 and feature Jeffrey T. Apter, M.D., Medical Director of Global Medical Institutes, LLC, in Princeton and West Caldwell.

Visit the website of the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance/Morristown Area 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.

The meeting will take place at Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Road (about one block east of the Morris Museum) in Morristown. The meeting is at 7:30 p.m. and open to the public.

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A representative from the NJ Division of Wildlife describes several varieties of fish to the children attending the Fishing Derby.

Annual Fishing Derby Held At Spring Lake Park

The Fishing Derby was held at Spring Lake Park this past Saturday. Children took turns stocking Spring Lake Park with the fish brought by the NJ Division of Wildlife. Families were able to spend time together and scouts earned achievements listed in their book. Everyone received instructions on how to fish.

Children were shown several differ-

ent varieties of live fish and explained how to handle them safely, for both the fish and the handler.

Recreation Assistant Pete Rockwell spent time walking around the lake and teaching the children how to cast. Although the fish really were not actually biting, everyone had a great time.

-Submitted by Marie Markey

Former SPHS Graduate Heads Maine Summer Festival

Garry Chapin, who graduated from South Plainfield High School in 1985, will be in charge of coordinating a summer-long Shakespeare Festival in Hallowell, Maine. The festival will include a summer production, workshops and weekly showings of classics and contemporary film adaptations of Shakespeare's works.

Chapin was chosen because of his love of literature and, in particular, Shakespeare. He says that Shakespeare is the greatest dramatist ever to have written plays in English and that "A Midsummer's Night Dream" was one of Shakespeare's finest plays. He credits his interest in the arts to his teacher Bob Dogger, who introduced him to literature and Shakespeare and contin-

ued to encourage him while attending school in South Plainfield.

Chapin, the son of Parker and the late Maggie Chapin of South Plainfield, now resides in Maine and teaches World History at Hall-Dale High School. He also teaches an adult education class entitled, "How to Love Shakespeare." He graduated from Rutgers in 1989. He and his wife Bethany have five children, four girls and a son.

The performance of "A Midsummer's Night Dream" will take place in Vaughan Woods in Hallowell on Aug. 7 and 8. During the weeks leading up to the play, cast members will perform highlights of the play once a week for elderly residents around the area.

Local Children's Book Author Visits Students at Roosevelt School

By Jane Dornick

Trenton area resident and author/publisher Lisa Funari-Willever recently captivated audiences at Roosevelt School with her imaginative and kid-appropriate explanations of how books are published and where her inspiration for writing comes from.

The former elementary school teacher has been writing children's books full-time since 1998 and most recently a chapter book for more advanced readers. Funari-Willever and her occasional co-author and mother Lorraine Funari have published books such as Chumpik, which was featured last Christmas with First Lady Laura Bush on the A&E TV special "Holiday's at the White House." Rosie O'Donnell even promoted her book, *Everybody Moos at Cows*, on her television show which shot to the top of the rankings on Amazon.com and Barnes&Noble.com.

Writing children's books comes from the way her father told her stories when she was young that made her laugh says Funari-Willever. The inspiration for the actual stories comes from her own experiences as a youngster and her current family life with



Lisa Funari-Willever reads to students at Roosevelt School.

her husband Todd, son Patrick, four and daughter Jessica, five.

The publishing company that she also owns, Franklin Mason Press, is preparing for the release of three new books in the fall. One of the unique opportunities that she offers children is to become published writers and illustrators themselves. Children ages six

through nine are encouraged to submit their own works to Franklin Mason Press for the consideration in their upcoming publications.

For complete rules on how to enter visit www.franklinmasonpress.com or pick up one of Funari-Willever's books which contain instructions on how enter.

To My Junior Olympic Team

Christopher Marrero, Daniel Quintin, Danver Quintin, Denzel Mensah, Robby O'Connell, Juan Arrubla, Sommer Bovell, Raymond Perez, Richard Kazandzhidi, Tsaiah Mackson and Kalani Mackson

Words cannot express how proud I am of each and every one of you. The dedication that you have shown makes you champions already. I am proud to be your coach and to have you representing American Martial Arts as New Jersey's best Tae Kwon Do competitors.

See you in Atlanta!
Master Kevin Vigneri

To My Junior Olympic Parents



Thank you for your continued support of American Martial Arts. Your love and dedication to your children and their training has led them to this remarkable level of competition.

Thank you for making their training schedule top priority.

To Junior Olympic Supporters

Thank you to Flanagan's and CQJ for your generous contributions, to A&P, Quick Chek, Bagel Pantry, Dunkin Donuts, CVS, 7-11, Haisch's Bakery and the SP Police Department for allowing us to accept donations. Thank you to the patrons of these establishments for your generous donations. You have helped us pave the road to Georgia.

With Deepest Gratitude,
Master Kevin Vigneri
American Martial Arts



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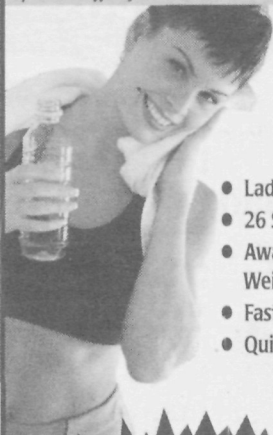
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Sunday mornings 8am and 11am



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southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Cassie D'Urso Attends Institute at Douglass College

Cassie D'Urso, who just completed her junior year at South Plainfield High School, was selected to be a delegate to the four day Girls' Career Institute at Douglass College (GCI). The 58th Institute sponsored by the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC) is held annually at Douglass College and offers high school juniors a taste of college life and future career opportunities.

The opening session included a welcome and introduction of the 2004 volunteer staff by the NJSFWC President and the Dean of Douglass College. Dean Carmen Ambar commented that her participation in a similar event had crystallized her career dreams. Stacey Mahler, a 2003 GCI graduate, spoke on the benefits of attending the Institute.

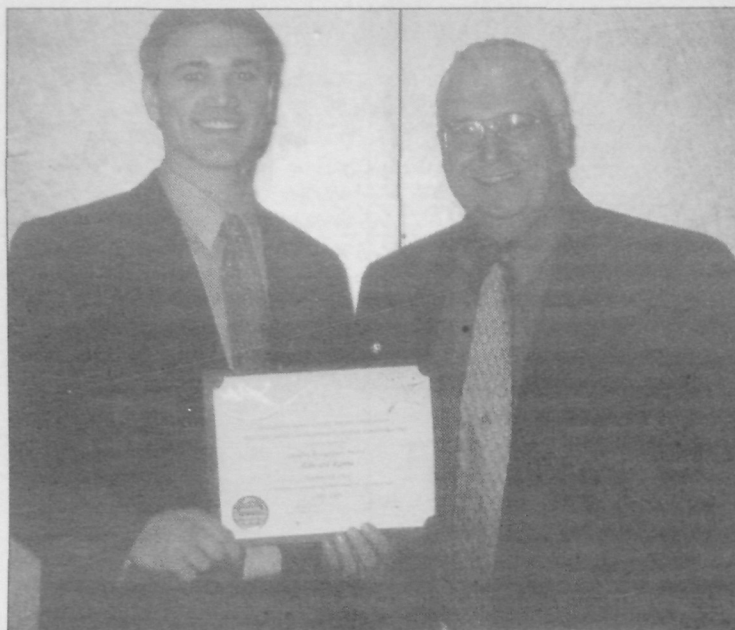
The Keynote address was given by Assemblywoman Joan Quigley (32nd District) and Linda Greenstein (14th District), both of whom gave the delegates insight into political opportunities. Debra Eckert-Casha, vice president of NJ Board of Education and Dean Joycelyn Bridell, director of Student Life at Douglass addressed two

sessions and a third featured addition.

Workshops included: Opportunities for the Creative Women given by Judith Brodsky, Professor Emerita, Mason Gross School of the Arts; Mapping the Ocean Floor by a member of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Going to Mars by a NASA engineer; Women in Business, Young Women in the Media, Mentoring and other Workplace Strategies by a Chubb Vice President.

Recreational, volunteer and musical activities were also offered. The Director of Girls' Career Institute, Eleanor Kelly of Runnemede, stressed the lasting friendships formed by the attendees as one of the many benefits of attending. Each delegate is sponsored to GCI by her local Woman's Club. Members of NJSFWC clubs around the state serve at the staff. The NJSFWC has close ties with Douglass College as the College was founded as the New Jersey College for Women by the NJSFWC in 1918.

For additional information about becoming a delegate to GCI or about the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs, visit www.njsfwc.org.



Ed Kania, senior and Pio Pennisi, principal of Dunellen High School and President of the South Plainfield Board of Education, at Middlesex County School Boards Association and Middlesex County Association of School Administrators Student Recognition Awards Dinner on March 3 at the Pines Manor in Edison.

Ed Kania Recognized as "Unsung Hero"

Ed Kania was recently recognized as the senior "Unsung Hero" from Dunellen High School for his achievements during his high school career. Ed received the award for overcoming

a personal obstacle to achieve good grades, respect from his teachers and peers, as well as contributing significantly to the school and community through various clubs, community services and organized athletics.

Ed was co-captain of the basketball team, where he was named to the GMC All-Golf Division Team and the *Courier News* All-Area Defensive Team this past season. He was also co-captain of the baseball team and has been chosen to the All-Conference Team the past two seasons. He recently represented Dunellen High School in the GMC Senior All-Star Games, pitching two hitless innings in the Red and Gold's 11-1 victory over the White and Blue All-Stars.

He has accepted a grant-in-aid scholarship to attend the Lawrenceville School next year, where he will play baseball for the two-time defending Prep A State Champs.

their academic talent and to celebrate their abilities just as we celebrate excellence in athletics or the performing arts," says Lea Ybarra, Ph.D., CTY's executive director. "Students recognized for their academic talents begin to define themselves as academic achievers. They also more clearly appreciate that 'being smart is being cool.'"

Ybarra also credits parents and educators for sharing in the honored students' accomplishments. "Parents who make school a first priority for their children and teachers who inspire their students to achieve their best, create engaged young people who are well-prepared to lead and shape tomorrow's world."

Ceremonies were held at Fairleigh Dickenson University on May 16; at Monmouth University on June 5 and at Rider University and Rutgers University-Newark on June 12. Over 78,000 students from 19 states and the District of Columbia participated in the talent searches offered.

Brittany DeNitizio Awarded Crabiel Scholarship

The David B. Crabiel Scholarship Foundation has awarded a scholarship to South Plainfield High School graduate Brittany Lee DeNitizio. The awards ceremony was held at the Pines Manor in Edison on June 16.

Among the more than 100 guests was South Plainfield Mayor Daniel Gallagher who spoke of Brittany's many accomplishments in school and in the community. State Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan was the Master of Ceremonies. In attendance were High School Principal Dr. Kenneth May and Guidance Counselor Dr. Mylissa Bauman.

Carol A. Herbert, president of the David B. Crabiel Scholarship Foundation, said of Brittany, "She is a shining star among the youth of Middlesex County. She is successful at everything and her diverse and all-encompassing level of activity impressed the selection committee. Brittany is a leader in her honors classes, athletics, extracurricular activities and community service projects. Even more impressive is how Brittany uses every life experience about herself and develops skills that will help her throughout her life. Brittany's insatiable desire to learn and improve is an essential trait of a leader."

The David B. Crabiel Scholarship Foundation awards up to \$5,000 in scholarship money to Middlesex County High School seniors who plan to further their education in a post-secondary institution.

The purpose of the scholarship is to recognize leadership and academic achievement. The scholarship hopes to encourage Middlesex County youth to continue David B. Crabiel's lifetime legacy of community service.

Elayne Russell Named to Dean's List at William and Mary College

Elayne Russell was recently named to the Dean's List at the College of William and Mary for the spring 2004 semester.

In order to achieve Dean's List status, a full-time degree seeking undergraduate student in the School of Arts

and Sciences must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester.

The College of William and Mary is the second oldest institution of higher learning in the United States.

Top South Plainfield Students Recognized for Academic Excellence

Maher Khan, Alfonse Muglia, Kristen Shiu and Jonathan Sukenik were honored this spring in special in-state ceremonies to celebrate their academic abilities.

The students participated in a national academic talent search organized by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY). Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, CTY identifies America's top students in grades two through eight and provides programs, services and resources to help them make the most of their special academic abilities. (CTY's

website: www.cty.jhu.edu).

These very bright young people were invited to participate in CTY's talent search because they scored at the 97th percentile or higher on school standardized tests. They then took additional above-grade-level exams, which yielded further information about the verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities of these bright learners.

The CTY talent awards ceremonies recognize top scorers in the CTY search. "We want these bright children to have their day in the limelight for

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Over 70 Bikes Registered at Annual Bike Rodeo

By Patricia Abbott

On May 22 the South Plainfield Police Department Traffic Safety Section sponsored a bicycle rodeo at Spring Lake Park. The Baron Von Pedaloff anti-theft program offered the annual round up of bike riders the opportunity to register their bikes with the police department. This helps prevent theft and often increases the likelihood of return in case a bike is stolen. According to Traffic Safety Officer Kevin Murtagh, Officer Karl Schuetz and the volunteers registered over 70 bikes.

Bike safety is stressed and partici-

pants had free safety checks by Ken Link of Ken's Links Bicycle Shop. State Farm Insurance sponsored a safety course and the 100 plus participants each received a 'photo bike license. Fifty helmets were distributed free of charge to youngsters who did not own one. The helmets were donated by Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. The hospital's Injury Prevention coordinator offered literature on safety and used a jello brain to show how fragile the brain is and how a helmet can prevent injuries and save lives. Area businesses offered a variety of free goodies including hot dogs, Italian ices, ice



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cream, soda and water. Fourteen children won raffle prizes including six locks and eight bikes. Some of the prizes were donated by Lehroff and Co. of Edison, ATA Blackbelt Academy and Ron and Lynn Sward of the Physical Therapy Center of South Plainfield.

The "Baron Von Peddle Off" program was the brainchild of retired Officer William Frink. The "Baron" is a cartoon character featured in a brochure that encourages children to register their bikes.

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149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul
Alvarado, Pastor

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10-11 a.m., 4-4:45 p.m.
and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass

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); 6:30 and 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.



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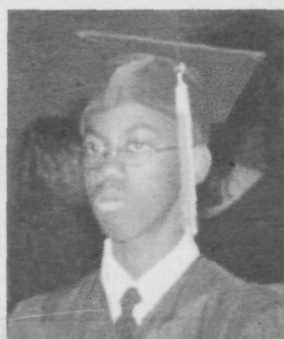
GRADUATION
2004
Sacred Heart School

Congratulations Graduates!



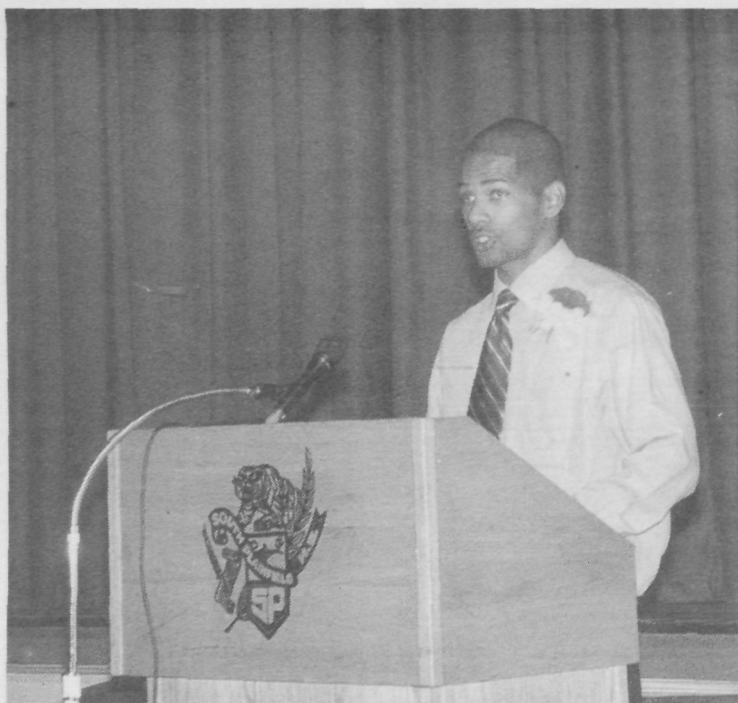
Sacred Heart School Graduates Twenty-Seven

At an evening Mass on June 11, Sacred Heart School promoted 27 eighth graders to the ninth grade. Rev. John Paul Alvarado addressed the graduates and conferred the diplomas and School Principal Sister Cornelia Ramirez, RVM presented awards. The ceremonies ended with the graduates performing "Lean on Me," accompanied on percussion by Jonathon Abel. The 2004 Sacred Heart School graduates are Jonathan Andrew Abel, Cedrick Jonathan Alexis, Simonne Davette Ali, Davonna Kelsey Approvato, Nikassie Shemika Blair, Elix Colon, Bernardo J. M. Crespo, Joseph John D'Addario, Charles Uchenna Eke, Spencer A. Fields, Olivia Lee Gerlitz, Kadeem Jamal Gilbert, Elijah Nelson Irving, Brittany Nicole Jeffers, Danielle Nicole Johnson, Rita Marie Landry, Yusuf Taylor Leary, Jordan Christopher Madsen, Ashley Diane McCloud, Megan Elizabeth McHugh, Siebidi Anita Mills, Tenisha Ann Morgan, Camille Loren Romano, Jennifer Lynn Napolitano, Jocelyn Carolina Tobar-Garces, Allison Margaret Whitefleet and Ashley L. Williams.



GRADUATION
2004
Adult School

The 2004 Adult High School graduates are Terry Adams, Terrence C. Austin, Kenneth Bender, Kevin J. Bishop, Kenya Fernandez, Stacy Forehand, Laquanda L. Griggs, Joseph M. Kotelsky, Jr., Joanna Eunice Helena Lomban, Sonia Lois Obadike, Kevin James Peterson, Matthew R. Rennie, Shawn Arthur Sabino, Elizabeth R. Schwickrath, Tashon Scott, David Tanguai, Lauren Marie Taylor and Darius A. Uknuis.



CONGRATULATIONS!

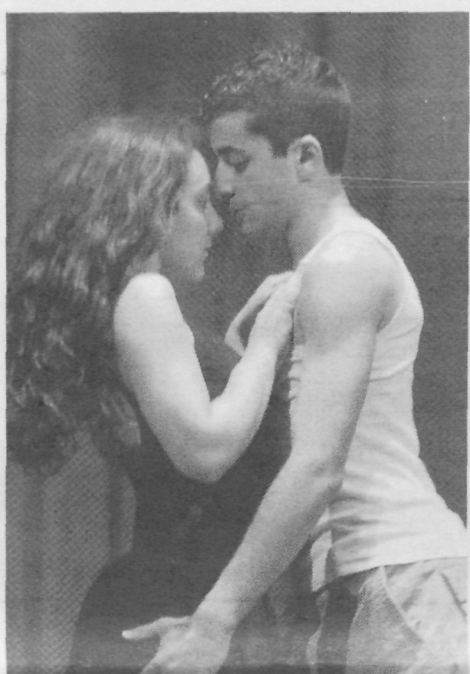
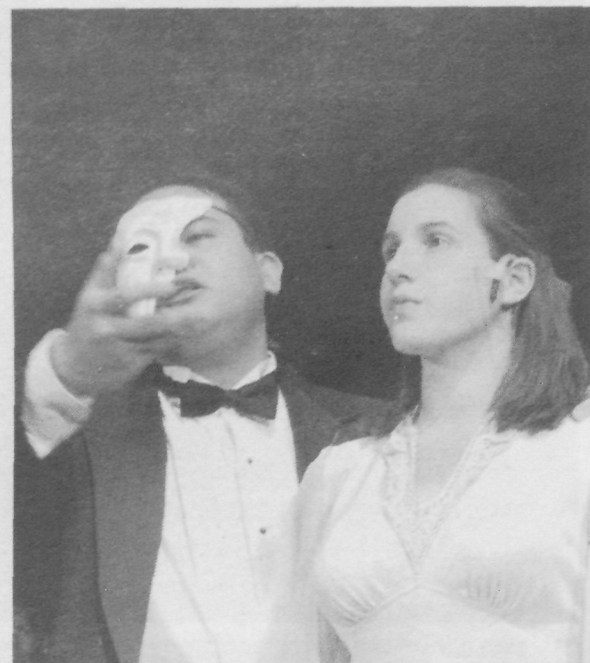
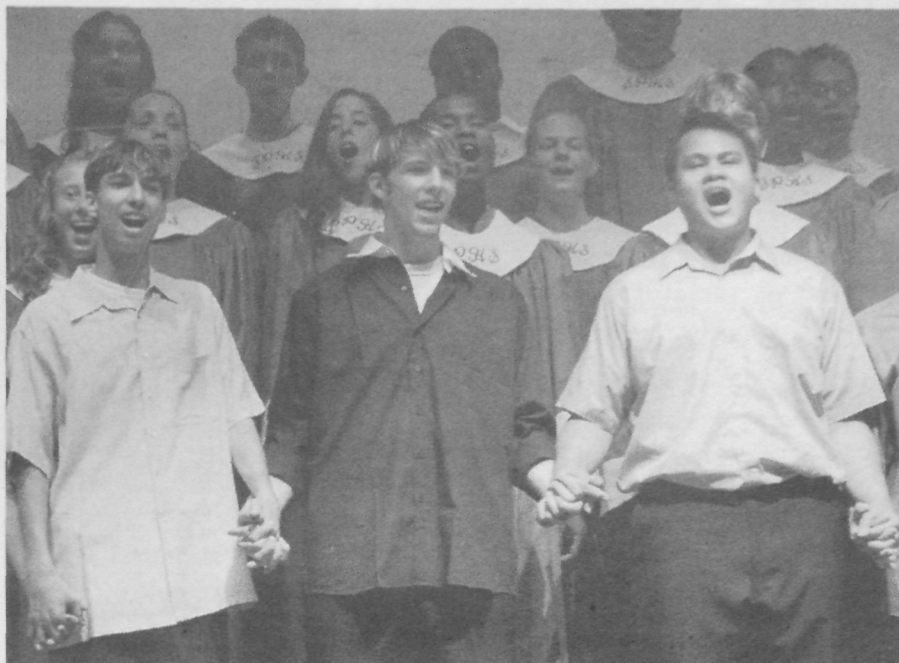
SPHS Combined Chorus Performs Broadway

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

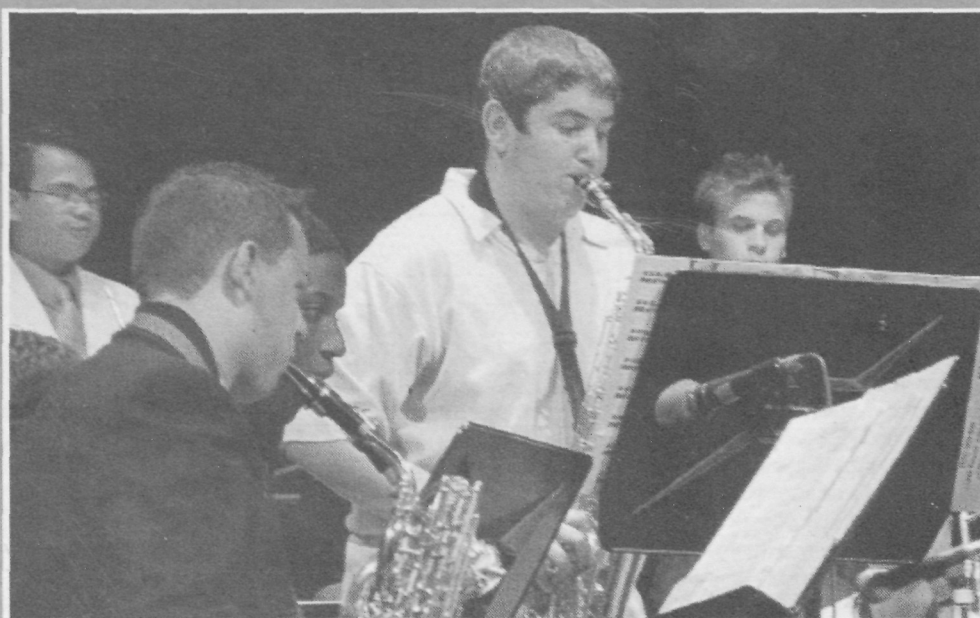
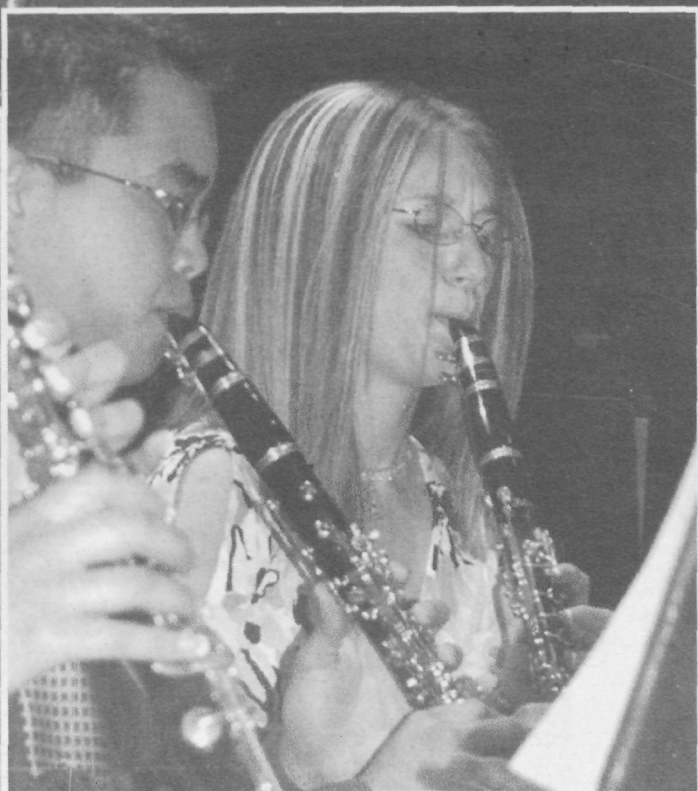
South Plainfield High School Choral Director Tracy Murray and his students offered the community an amazing mini tour of Broadway. The Broadway concert is a major SPHS choral production that is held once every four years.

The combined chorus, Emeralds, Jades, as well as soloists, presented musical numbers from Broadway hits old and new including *Jeckyll & Hyde*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Grease*, *Wicked*, *Hair*, *42nd Street*, *Rent* and *West Side Story*.

Dances were choreographed by Murray and students. The simple sets and colorful costumes brought each song to life. In the second act, Murray and teacher Gloria Naso, climbed the stage and surprised the audience with a duet. Orchestra conductor Bruce Mikolon lent his banjo skills as well. The event had an accompanying band tailor-made for the show. Killer and the Heartbreakers consisted of Adam Toth (aka Killer), Joshua Jackson, Gregory Garbowski (aka Heartbreaker), Joseph Stasio, Josef Rodriguez, Daniel Sierzeza and Dan Lammi.

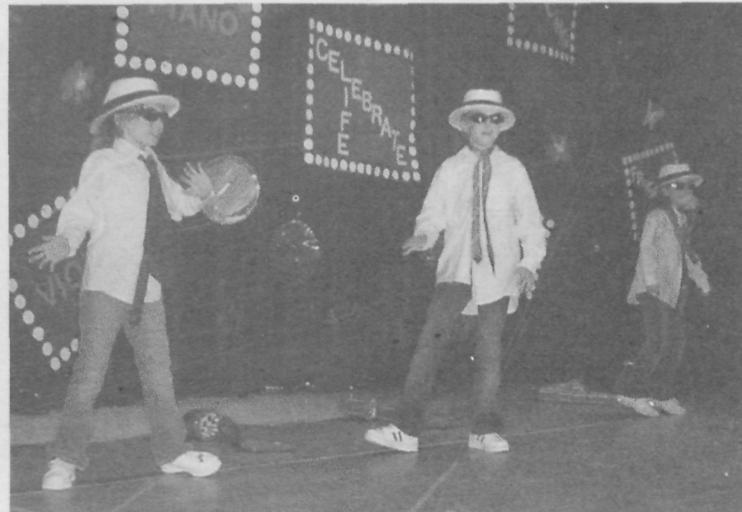


The South Plainfield High School presented their annual spring concert on June 3. The well attended event featured the Lab, Jazz, Concert and Stage bands, all conducted by Mark Tweed.



SPRING CONCERT

Riley Students Discover their Talents in a "Celebration of Life 2004"



From the Director....

This year the John E. Riley School Drama Club proudly presented the production of "Riley Kids Celebration of Life 2004." The club consisted of third and fourth grade students. The children began practicing for Celebration of Life in January. The director and drama mommas worked long and hard to set forth their inspirations. There are all types of talented champions and heroes in life and this production gave the children a chance to discover themselves.

As director of the production, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who lent a hand in making "Riley Kids Celebration of Life 2004" a successful and magnificent display of their discovery of talents, including Kelly Butrico, Mary Piekarski, Maggie Temple, Roberta Robjohns, Ann Schiavo, Karen Steingart, Deputy Chief John Mocharski, Michael and John Mocharski, Jr., Pam Mocharski, Mike Pederson, Janet and Stan Swierc, Mr. Beegle and Liz Hughs, Sodexho, Mr. Artie and Mr. Bill for setting up, Myke Boyle and Samantha Barthel for audio and lighting, Daniel and Dana Hunt for all your hard work on the spotlight and curtains, Mrs. Grennier and Jane Dornick of the *Observer* and to Bob Boyle of the Boyle Memorial Foundation for the t-shirts and Silk Supreme for creating the t-shirts and to Roma Food for the donation of water. We hope this experience had broadened the students' love of the musical stage and that they will be involved throughout their future. This was a wonderful team experience.

Sincerely, Debbie Boyle



Obituaries

Helen T. Luty Duva, 86

Helen T. Luty Duva died on Thursday, June 17 at the Greenbrook Manor Nursing Home in Green Brook.

Helen was born in Newark and was a former resident of the New Market section of Piscataway before moving to South Plainfield 45 years ago.

Helen was a sales person for the Mill End Shop in East Brunswick for 41 years before retiring in 1983.

She was predeceased by her husband, Carmen G. Duva, who died in 1993.

She is survived by her dear friends Chris and Scott Roseman of South Plainfield and their children, Mark and Megan Roseman.

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

Surviving are his sister, Virginia O'Brien of South Plainfield and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in his memory may be made to NJGSO Area 44, 2325 Plainfield Ave. Suite J, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Edward A. Rebmman, 49

Edward A. Rebmman died on Saturday, June 19 from injuries he sustained in a car accident in Rahway.

Born in Plainfield, Ed was a lifelong resident of South Plainfield. He was a former crane operator and yard leader for Harris Structural Steel Co. in South Plainfield. Recently, he worked for Schmiede Trees in Scotch Plains.

He is predeceased by a son, Joseph Edward Rebmman, who died in 1981 and a sister, Sylvia Rebmman Malchow, who died in 1994.

Surviving are his wife, Patricia A. (Patrone); a daughter, Jennifer of South Plainfield; his parents, Alfred and Helen Rebmman of Watchung and a brother, Wilhelm and his wife, Nina of Branchburg. Also surviving are six nephews, Paul, Mark, John, James, Andreas and Erik.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Albert (Albie) T Huber, 63

Albert (Albie) T. Huber of Parlin died on Monday, June 21 at the Bayshore Community Hospital in Homdel.

Albie, born in Scranton, Pa., was a former resident of South Plainfield before moving to Parlin 11 years ago.

Albie was a truck driver for Parcel Delivery Service in Kearny for 35 years before retiring in 2002. He was a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 177, serving as a shop steward for 10 years.

He was a member of the Keyport-Matawan BPO Elks Lodge 2030. He was selected as the Elk of the Year for 2004. He was a member of the Handicapped Children's Committee.

He is survived by his wife, Beverly Russo Huber; a daughter, Kim Huber

of Piscataway; two sons, Albert (Hubie) and his wife Patti Huber of South Plainfield, Michael and his wife Tina Huber of South Plainfield; a brother, Robert F. and his wife Honey Huber of Lindenhurst, NY; a sister, Mary D. and her husband Robert Dieckman of Parlin and six grandchildren, Tori, Allison, Michael, Geni, John and Colby.

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

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Keyport-Matawan Elks Handicapped Children's Committee, 249 Broadway, Keyport, NJ 07735.

James J. Lillis, 94

James J. Lillis died on Friday, June 18 in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Plainfield.

Born in Hoboken, he resided in the Hudson County area all his life before moving to South Plainfield last month.

He was employed as a real estate agent for many years in the North Jersey area. For many years, he was self employed, driving senior citizens to various appointments throughout their day. Jim truly enjoyed their company and stories.

He was a lifetime member of Alcoholics Anonymous, Bergen County chapter. The A/A organization was extremely important to Jim and he wholeheartedly supported it.

He served in the U.S. Army Air Force during WWII and was discharged as a staff sergeant. While serving in England, he met Bing Crosby.

During his youth, Jim was a paperboy. He met President Woodrow Wilson and General Pershing while delivering papers at the docks in Hoboken.

Jim was also a ballroom dancer. He won many awards competing in dance, most notable was when he won the competition in the NY Hilton.

His wife, Josephine Lillis, died in 1980.

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Sports

Ponytail Association Awards Scholarships

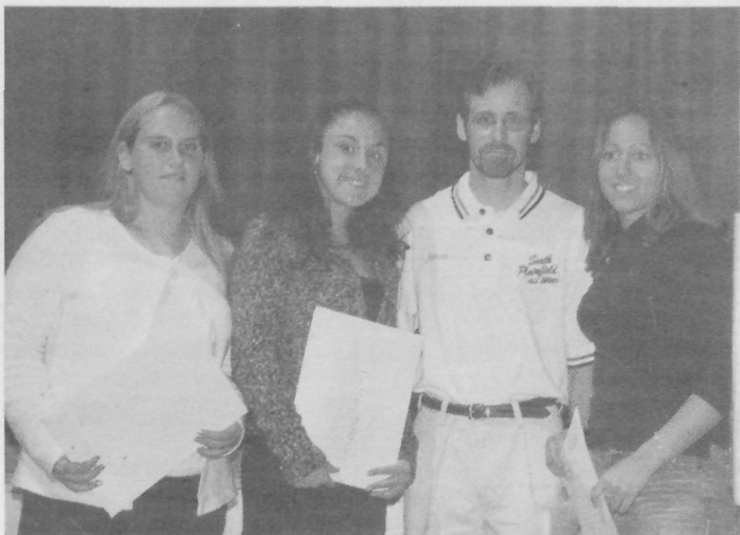
The South Plainfield Parents' Ponytail Association (SPPPA) was proud to award three scholarships this year. The first is given to a young lady who has played on our traveling All-star team as well as the recreation softball league in town. The remaining two are given to young ladies who have played in the recreation league in town and possibly on one of our all-star teams.

Congratulations to Amanda Rastelli, who played seven years of recreation softball along with six years of All-stars. She received our All-star scholarship and is planning on attending Susquehanna University.

Vickey Boley, who played seven years of recreation softball along with five years of All-stars, received our recreation scholarship and is planning on attending New Jersey City University.

Brittney DeNitzio, who played six years of recreation softball, also received our recreation scholarship and is planning on attending The College of New Jersey.

As the essays the girls wrote were read, each one talked about teamwork;



Jim Bishop, representing the South Plainfield Ponytail Association, presented scholarships to Vickey Boley, Brittney DeNitzio and Amanda Rastelli during the Academic Awards Program recently.

teamwork with fellow team mates as well coaches and parents. Even though there are individual accomplishments in softball, it means more to be part of the team. These girls will undoubtedly graduate college and go out into the workforce and again be part of a team.

I hope they remember the lessons learned while enjoying the sport of softball. Set your goals high, for we have no doubt that you will achieve them. Congratulations and best wishes for future success.

South Plainfield Golf Association Announces 10th South Plainfield Open Golf Tournament

The South Plainfield Golf Association has announced that this year's South Plainfield Open will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 4, at Gambler Ridge Golf Club. This is the tenth annual golf tournament held for the benefit of the South Plainfield High School Golf Team.

The entry fee of \$85 includes greens fee, golf cart, prizes, food and beverages. Once again we have been able to keep the entry fee at the same amount. Check-in is at 11 a.m. Lunch will be provided from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Shotgun starts at 1 p.m. Dinner and awards take place 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Food and beverages will be provided throughout the tournament. Prizes will be awarded for both men and women, including low gross, low net, low team score, longest drive, closest to the pin and a special hole-in-one prize.

Registration and payment is due by July 19. Players are encouraged to sign up early to secure a place in the tournament before all available slots are filled. Players can register for the tournament on-line at the Association's web site (www.spga.org) or print out and mail their entry forms.

Corporate sponsorships are available. All proceeds from the event go to support the activities of the South Plainfield High School Golf Team, as well as the South Plainfield Golf Association's college scholarship program. Each Platinum Sponsorship includes this year's tournament entry fees for one foursome. Gold, silver, bronze, hospitality and beverage sponsorships are also available. Sponsorship information is also available at the website.

For information about the tournament, sponsorships and entry forms, contact Dick DeAndrea (908) 55-1700 or Coach Mike Kavka (908) 753-6578, or visit the web site.



Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By James Bishop

On June 11 the South Plainfield Parents' Ponytail Association (SPPPA) held their end-of-the-season pool party at the community pool. Pizza, Ritas Italian Ice and other assorted goodies were served. It was a wonderful way to end a fun-filled season. Special thanks

to the parents who helped put this together, as well Ritas for their donation of cherry and lemon ice.

The SPPPA will be hosting our Softball Tournament this weekend, Friday, June 25 through Sunday, June 27.

The U14's will have 12 teams playing at our three Pitt Street fields. The U12's will have eight teams and the U10's will have four teams. Both divisions will be playing at the three high school fields, located between the middle school and high school.

Come out and cheer for the girls. Your support is always appreciated.

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey on July 9, 2004 at ***10 a.m.*** prevailing time in the Council Chambers of the municipal building, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey at which time and place bids will be opened and read in public for:

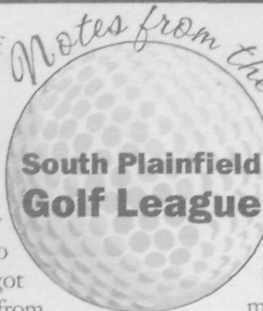
FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDBY GENERATOR
Specifications and other bid information may be obtained at the Municipal Clerk's office in the municipal building at the above address during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Only bidders who have picked up specifications will be allowed to submit bids. All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

Attest:
Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk

\$40.25

June 25, 2004

Submitted By Bob Nilan



After breaking out of their early season slump last week with a big win over the South Plainfield Elks, Masters continued its fine play with a resounding 16-4 victory over league-leading Aiello Chiropractic. Masters got excellent contributions from Adam Thomas who turned in a 37; Danny Griffin came through again, also shooting a 37 and Al Szumski had a 39. Ed Banach gained medalist honors for Aiello with a 35. Despite the loss, Aiello held onto first place in the American League.

Hank's Hackers moved into second place by edging Plainfield Animal Hospital, 11-9. John Cacciatore fired a superb one-over 34, Todd Sherman was a mere one-stroke higher with a terrific round of 35 and Kevin Boyce once again contributed a solid round of 38. Mark Chichvar was low man for PAH with a 38.

Howard Adler tied for the low-round of the night with a sparkling one-over-par 24 to lead Witty's to an 11-9 win over KC's Korner. Mark Dugan kept up his steady play for KC's Korner with a 38.

Pornovets and Sport & Social remain deadlocked for first place honors in the National League. Marty Van de Vaart fired an impressive two-over 35 to lead Pornovets to an easy 16-4 victory over VFW. Jim Pornovets looks like he's finding his game as he came through with a 39. Bob Nilan's 42 was the low score for VFW.

Dennis Bibby was the medalist for Sport & Social with a 39 as they got by Twin City 14-6, despite another fine round by Dave Mancini who shot a 36 and a 39 by Charlie Hasselgran. The South Plainfield Elks are still

struggling to achieve their first win and were thwarted again as Patti's Construction held to a 10-10 tie. Matt Ward had a 40 for Patti's while Chris Nuzzo and Dale Dube both had 43's to share medalist honors for the

Elks.

For the second time this season, Mark Dugan of KC's Korner won the weekly closest-to-the-pin competition to the third hole and "Iron Mike" Behr who seems to be facing either Mecca or Long Beach Island on his tee shots, lofted a beauty on the seventh hole to earn the luncheon-for-two weekly prize donated by KC's Korner.

Low Scores for the Night were: John Cacciatore-34, Howard Adler-34, Ed Banach-35, Marty Van de Vaart-35, Todd Sherman-35, Dave Mancini-36, Alan Thomas-37, Danny Griffin-37, Kevin Boyce-38, Mark Dugan-38, Mark Chichvar-38, Al Szumski-39, Dennis Bibby-39, Jim Pornovets-39 and Charlie Hasselgran-39.

League Standings

American Division	W	L	T
Aiello	4	2	0
Hank's Hackers	3	2	1
PAH	3	3	0
KC's Korner	3	3	0
Masters	2	3	1
Witty's	2	4	0
National Division	W	L	T
Pornovets	4	2	0
Sport & Social	4	2	0
Patti's	3	2	1
Twin City	3	3	0
VFW	2	3	1
Elks	0	4	2

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Sports

Cook Memorial Game Raises Scholarship Money

On Saturday, May 22, the Chad M. Cook Memorial Basketball Game was held at the South Plainfield High School Gym. The first annual game was held in memoriam to Chad who was a graduate of the Class of 2000 from South Plainfield High School. Chad was killed in a car accident on Dec. 19, 2002.

The basketball game was played between Chad's former teammates from both South Plainfield High School and Bishop Ahr High School. Proceeds from the game were used to award a scholarship to a graduating senior athlete from South Plainfield High School.

Shaun Brown, a member of the 2003 Varsity Football Team, was the first annual recipient of the Chad M. Cook Memorial Scholarship. Shaun will be entering college this fall.



Chad Cook's former teammates participated in a memorial basketball game to help raise funds for a scholarship in his name.

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

By Lee Flanagan

Our 2004 season will be coming to closure this week. All of our 35 teams played at least 17 games. League champions were crowned in four leagues this past week.

In Small Fry C, the Athletics took first place honors with the Marlins coming in second place. In Small Fry B, the Mets went undefeated in the playoffs taking first place and the Athletics came in second place. In Small Fry A, the Orioles also went undefeated in the playoffs taking first place with the Mets taking second place.

In Pony B, the Blue Jays went untouched in the playoffs defeating the Rangers in the title game. In Pony A, the SPJBC series starts this week, with the Yankees playing the Phillies in the best out of three for the championship.

Equipment will be collected from all teams on Saturday, June 26 from 1 to 5 p.m. Please do not hold onto your equipment bag, it must be turned in

immediately.

Our monthly meeting in July will be held on July 19, starting at 8:30 p.m., with no mid-month meeting scheduled. We will be looking for volunteers to assist the club in committee assignments for the 2005 season. So come on out and get involved for the kids of South Plainfield. Just sitting back and talking about is not the answer. GET INVOLVED!

A decision has been made not to have Fall Baseball at the SPJBC. This decision was based on the fact that our complex needs to be worked on with projects like painting, field maintenance and new lighting being installed on Fields 1 and 4.

Recreation Soccer Sign-ups Underway

The South Plainfield Recreation's Youth Soccer Program will begin on Saturday, Sept. 18.

Register now through Aug. 20. Children between the ages of 6-13 are invited to play. You must be six years old by Oct. 1, 2004. Fee is \$35 per child. Register at the PAL.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the Borough of South Plainfield requires the services of a licensed appraisal company; and

WHEREAS a proposal to conduct said appraisal services for the period July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005 has been submitted by Fleming White Appraisals as per the attached; and

WHEREAS this contract is being awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Services" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a); and

WHEREAS funds for said contract will be made available in the SFY 2005 Assessing Budget, account # 4-01-20-150-000-235.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield that:

1. This contract is not to exceed \$30,000.00.
2. This resolution shall be printed once in The Observer, as required by law.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$33.25 June 25, 2004

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the Borough of South Plainfield in need of retaining an engineering firm to act as Borough Engineer; and

WHEREAS the Borough is currently using CME Associates as the Borough Engineer since July 1, 2001; and

WHEREAS CME Associates has submitted a proposal to continue serving as the Borough Engineer for South Plainfield for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005; and

WHEREAS this contract is being awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Services" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a); and

WHEREAS funds for said contract will be made available in the Fiscal Year 2005 Budget.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield that authorization is hereby given to enter into a Professional Services contract with CME Associates to act as the Borough Engineer for the period from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. The fees are set forth in the proposal.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized said agreement.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$42.00 June 25, 2004

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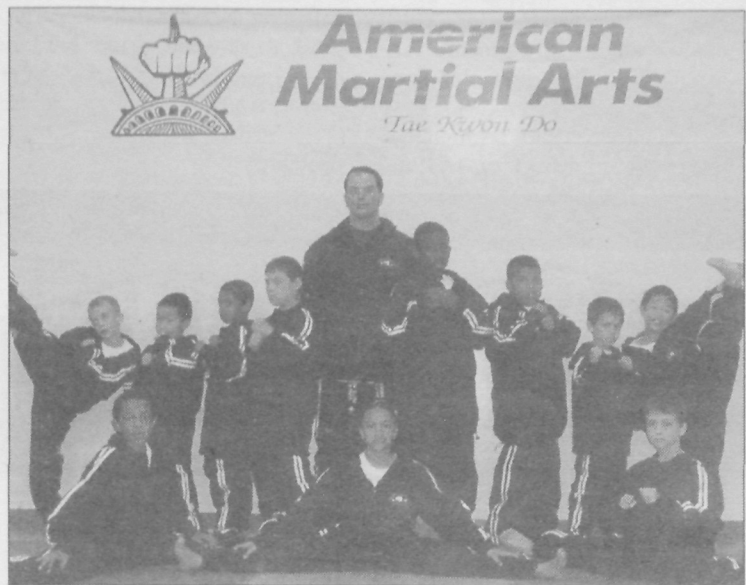
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Sports



The American Martial Arts Junior Olympics Team

American Martial Arts to Compete at Junior Olympics

Eleven American Martial Arts students will represent New Jersey from June 30 to July 6 at the 2004 Junior Olympics held in Atlanta, Ga. Thousands of competitors from around the country will arrive at the Georgia Dome to compete for the title of Junior Olympian.

These 11 competitors have been competing and winning numerous elite tournaments in addition to their rigorous training to prepare them for this prestigious level of competition.

Master Kevin Vigneri, master instructor and coach of American Martial Arts, will lead his team to the Junior Olympics. As a former Junior Olympian, Master Vigneri has had the

hands-on experience to know the skill and discipline necessary to compete at this level. "The Junior Olympics is the highest level of competition for children ages six to 17. It takes a special kind of martial artist to compete at this level. I'm fortunate enough to have 11 students from my school representing the state of New Jersey," says Vigneri.

Representing New Jersey are Sommer Bovell, Raymond Perez, Juan Arrubla, Christopher Marrero, Daniel Quintin, Danver Quintin, Isaiah Mackson, Kalani Mackson, Richard Kazandzhidi, Denzel Mensah and Robby O'Connell.

Good luck to Team New Jersey! We know you will make us proud!

Couple Retires After 68 Years

Continued from page 1

Grant, Franklin and the Middle School. She spent the last 16 years at Roosevelt School. She has worked with 16 different principals. She also coached JV basketball at SPS in 1974 and 1975. Andrea is the current membership chairman of the South Plainfield Education Association.

The Allens are both active in the S.P.E.A. and have attended the National Education Association Convention for the last 13 years. They have both been elected to the NJEA delegate assembly as well. For 20 years they chaired and collected items for the annual Christmas Children's Fund at their respective schools.

Teaching methods have changed dramatically since the early days of their careers. They both agree improved technology and continually updated curriculums have made those changes positive ones. Terry and Andrea had to continue their own education to become computer literate as computer technology advanced. Yet "old-fashioned" methods and beliefs stood the test of time. The Allens challenged their students by stressing the importance of a good education. Terry employed motivational discussions, and worked to develop interesting projects and Internet assignments. Similarly, Andrea developed projects, played games, made up songs and had the children act out activities.

The Allens have many special memories. Terry's include plays at Kennedy School, student intramural, father and faculty games at Kennedy and Middle School basketball games.



Terry and Andrea Allen

He said, "Especially the games where we defeated better teams, such as Piscataway, Sayerville, East Brunswick, Perth Amboy and South Brunswick!" Andrea's favorite memories include Donkey Basketball games, student faculty games, sixth grade and DARE picnics, teaching Technology for Children, and one special memory—meeting her future husband.

Terry and Andrea noted the comic irony of their jobs. Andrea has the history degree and is teaching in the elementary schools and Terry has the elementary degree and is teaching Social Studies, yet they are certified in both areas.

Retirement plans include a move to Long Beach Island to what will become their year round home. They plan to spend winters in Killington, Vermont, as well as fishing, skiing and traveling.

The Allens bring fond memories with them as they enter this new phase of their lives. Terry said, "I will miss the exuberance the students have shown when they've grasped various concepts to the point where they could explain it." Andrea said, "I will miss their innocent outlook on the world." Together they will miss the kids and the camaraderie and friendships made over the years.

Their parting message to the students was simple but sincere, "Keep up the good work, the world is your for the taking."

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Sunnie Randolph

Monday, June 28 is the beginning of the 2004 Summer Reading Club & Story Times at the South Plainfield Public Library. The theme this year is Discover New Trails... Read. The Read-to-Me Club is for children in kindergarten and younger. The Summer Reading Club is for children entering first grade and up. This program encourages families to read together and to include reading as part of their daily activities. Read or Listen! You may read, or someone may read to you, any book, and magazine, book on tape or book on CD. You may pick up your reading booklet beginning Monday, June 28 and you may begin checking in your books on Tuesday, July 6. Once you have read 10 books, you will receive a paper cowboy boot and star. You will receive another star on your boot for every additional 10 books that you read. There is NO LIMIT to the number of stars you can earn each week, but you may collect

only ONE PRIZE PER WEEK. The last day that books may be checked is Saturday, August 14.

There will be a kick-off program on Wednesday, July 7 at 6:30. Mr. Fischer the Magician will be here to perform his magic.

The library will be closed on Monday, July 5, in observance of Independence Day.

The South Plainfield Public Library will be OPEN every Saturday during the summer from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The library has many of the hot new summer fiction books. Come in to the library and browse or check out the library's collection on the library's web site www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. You can place a hold on an item on the computer from home or office or in person at the library.

The library has a large selection of travel books. If you haven't already made plans, come in and check out the travel section.

SPHS Varsity Golf Season Review

By Tim Morgan

If there is one thing the South Plainfield High School Varsity Golf team is known for, it is consistency. "Year in, year out, we are always competitive in the conference," said 22nd year Head Coach Mike Kavka.



Tim Morgan, Jr.

The team is widely recognized as a perennial contender for the White Division title, which they recaptured this year after regaining it last year. In this program's history, the Tigers have captured the division title more often than not. Coach Kavka attributes this to the great interest the athletes have in the sport.

This year's season was on par with many of the others. The Tigers went 18-6 this year, falling slightly from their 19-3-1 record last year and about even with the 17-5 record they had the year before. Probably the Tigers' biggest achievement was their fifth place finish in the GMC Tournament, two places better than last year. How-

ever, their eighteenth place posting in the North Jersey Section II Group III Tournament, while quite respectable considering thirty teams competed, was undeniably a letdown from the eighth place posting the year before.

Senior Guy Severini led this year's team, averaging 39 strokes per nine hole game. He finished third in the

GMC Tournament with a score of 78 on a par 72 and was an All-GMC Team selection as well as an All-White Division Team selection. He was also named to the All-Area First Team by the *Home News Tribune* and to the All-Area Second Team by the *Courier News*.

Seniors Mike Alvarez, Danny DeAndrea, and Billy Weaver were named to the White Division All-Star Team as well, averaging 39, 41, and 39, respectively. Juniors Peter DeAndrea, Brian Murtagh, and Billy Padula and freshman Danny McCreesh averaged 44, 41, 39, and 45, respectively. Also making significant contributions were freshmen Nick Baldassarre, Bryan

Hunt and Sam Martin. Also noteworthy was the emergence of the first ever female player on the team, Ashleigh Gaspari, who shot a 57 in the Girls' GMC Tournament, putting her in the middle of the pack. Severini was the team's MVP this year and McCreesh was the Rookie of the Year.

The SPS Varsity Golf team has always put itself against competitive teams, and this year was no different. One key thing that kept this season from being a great one instead of merely a good one was the number of close matches the Tigers had. They lost to East Brunswick by one stroke, to Scotch Plains by three and to Westfield by five, all top tier teams. They also split two close matches with Piscataway, who was second in the GMC.

The Tigers practice at West Nine Golf Course five days a week. Before matches start, they have a month of preparation to regain any skills they may have lost over the seasons since it is almost impossible to play golf not only in the winter season, but also if you play other sports in other seasons. They play full rounds (in practice), but working on skills is paramount to the overall score, which is the main focus of competitions instead. The Tigers focus on driving, getting the drive to the green in as few shots as possible, chipping, and putting, all while being as accurate as possible and being sure to correct errant shots while avoiding compounding mistakes and maintaining composure.

This year, the Tigers sported 18 members, one of their largest turnouts ever. "It was a big team, and we played a lot of matches. We played well in the face of our considerable competition," said Kavka, also adding that overall, he was pleased with the results of the season, and despite it not being an outstanding one, it was still fun.

Standardized Test Scores Are On the Rise!

The South Plainfield School District's test scores (below) are in and they definitely show improvement in all areas. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado was all smiles as he announced the latest test results for the GEPA and HSPA exams. Test scores reflect a 20% increase in high school Math scores, and a 40% increase in Middle Schools math scores. This year's test results also reflect the highest eleventh grade HSPA Language Arts scores to date.

South Plainfield has not tested well

in the years since the tests were introduced, especially in math, but the scores just announced have dramatically improved this year. Rosado said they are still not outstanding, but they are the best in the history of the South Plainfield school district.

Rosado said the improvements were the result of our dedicated teachers and no magic was involved. The teachers have been working very hard to find ways to teach and encourage the children so that they would improve their scores.

LONGITUDINAL DATA FOR GEPA MATHEMATICS

	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PARTIALLY PROFICIENT	PROFICIENT	ADVANCED PROFICIENT
2003-2004	308	29.5%	48.4%	22.1%
2002-2003	343	49.9%	41.1%	9.0%
2001-2002	279	46.2%	43.4%	10.4%
2000-2001	298	40.6%	42.6%	16.8%
1999-2000	276	43.5%	47.5%	13.5%
1998-1999	284	39.4%	45.1%	15.5%

LONGITUDINAL DATA FOR HSPA MATHEMATICS

	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PARTIALLY PROFICIENT	PROFICIENT	ADVANCED PROFICIENT
2003-2004	293	25.6%	48.1%	26.3%
2002-2003	272	37.5%	46.3%	16.2%
2001-2002	275	30.2%	54.5%	15.3%

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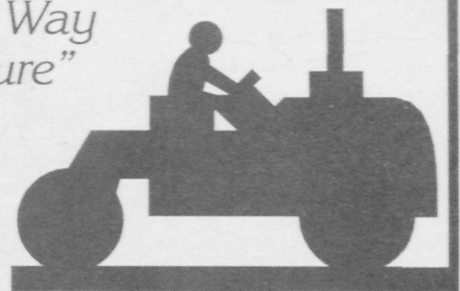
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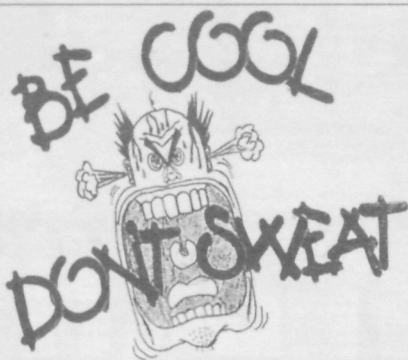
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policereport

- On June a PSEG employee reported that his vehicle's passenger door had been damaged. The lock missing and the stereo and CD changer were taken, while parked in the lot on Hadley Rd.
- On June 15 a Leeds Dr. resident reported that the side mirror of her vehicle had been broken.
- A juvenile resident reported the theft of his unlocked BMX bike from the bike rack outside the community pool area.
- On June 18 Barry Wilder, 46, of Ewing Twp. was arrested on Hamilton Blvd. for driving while suspended and an outstanding warrant.
- On June 19 a Warren resident reported that eggs had been thrown at his vehicle while parked in the Regal Cinema parking lot.
- A Joan St. resident reported finding four golf balls on his property. He believes someone is driving them from the Kennedy School grounds.
- A Norwood Ave. resident reported that the windshield of his work van had been shot at with a pellet gun.
- The Jr. Baseball Club reported that someone had climbed through an opening between the concession stand and the top of the fenced in area and stole approximately \$10 in quarters and a case of loose Gatorade bottles.
- On June 20 Stephen V. Sikes, 18, of Old Bridge was arrested for oper-

- ating a motor vehicle under 21 with a blood alcohol content of .01 to .07, driving while intoxicated, careless driving and having an open alcoholic beverage container.
- An O'Loughlin Dr. resident reported that his van's windshield had been broken by a large rock.
- On June 21 Felix Lopez, 26, of Plainfield was arrested on Anthony Ave. for having an expired registration and an outstanding warrant.
- Patrick Carl Anderson, 36, of Paterson was arrested on New Brunswick Ave. for careless driving, driving on a suspended license and two outstanding warrants.
- A Norwood Ave. resident reported that an unknown caller pretending to be from a security company asked for the pin numbers on her credit cards.
- A&P reported the theft of numerous bottles of Centrum vitamins worth \$300 by a man who fled on a bicycle.
- Starshine on Stelton Rd. reported the a juvenile walked in asking for change and was refused. The employee walked away from the counter briefly and noticed that a box containing \$200 in quarters was missing from behind the counter.

Contractor Scams Area Residents Out of 200K

(Continued from page 1)
this point that Hemhauser received approximately \$200,000 in deposits since Nov. 2003 relating to the above contracted work. Currently, there are nine victims residing in South Plainfield who have signed theft complaints.
On June 20, Hemhauser turned himself in for an outstanding traffic warrant and was subsequently charged with the thefts. He is currently in the Middlesex County Workhouse on \$150,000 bail.
The investigation is being conducted by Detective Gary Cassio, (908) 226-7663. It has been determined that additional victims are located in Edison, Woodbridge, Plainfield, Paramus and Union. Also, several local contractors had not been paid for work they performed for Hemhauser. That estimate is unknown.

Prayer of the Blessed Virgin

(never known to fail)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me here you are my mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in my necessity (make request). There are none that you can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin pray for us that have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish it and it will be granted to you.

- LL -

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IN YOUR OPINION

Continued from page 2

If I were buying a car and had the choice of cars that did not meet the state requirement, those that did and lastly those that exceeded the state's minimum requirement and they all cost the same, which do you suppose I would purchase? I tend to believe our children's future is a little more important than the car I drive. The cost of education is the same, we should all expect education that exceeds the state's minimum requirements in fact we should demand it!

DAWN JEFFERYS

To The Editor,

Dr. Rosada is far too modest in his letter of June 18. After all, great strides have been made in the short time he has been Superintendent in spite of the fact that (according to the good Dr.) we parents of South Plainfield "don't have high expectations" and are "not well educated." (N.Y. Times 2/15/04)

We should be honored that he has come to South Plainfield to toil among his intellectual inferiors. We should also be especially grateful that he took the time to write us a letter

explaining how things have improved so dramatically under his leadership, without using too many big words.

RANDALL MCCANN

Dear Editor:

Well, they did it again. At Monday's meeting the Borough Council awarded three more no-bid contracts to big-time Democratic campaign contributors. This is on top of two more the council awarded at its last meeting. In all they've given (or maybe it should be "gifted") several hundred thousand dollars worth of contracts to donors in just two short weeks.

It amazes me that after every major newspaper in New Jersey has condemned this practice (called "pay to play"), our town continues to dole out major contracts in return for campaign contributions to the Democratic Party. The message is clear: Donate and reap the rewards.

Granted, the practice is not illegal, but it's unethical. And it should be stopped.

I was particularly disappointed that not one member of the council stood up and did the right thing. Apparently they have no problem with what the

Home News Tribune described as the "corrosive practice of rewarding campaign contributors with lucrative government contracts."

The ills of one-party government are plainly obvious when every council member tows the party line and votes yes despite the firestorm of criticism "pay to play" has received over the past two years.

Giving no-bid contracts to campaign contributors is not only unethical, it hits taxpayers in the pocketbook. Lack of competition means we pay more for these services. Why give the best price when you're the only one being considered for the job? Taxpayers suffer both in terms of price and quality when competition is taken away.

The solution is simple. We should be getting competitive quotes on all major contracts for professional services. This change will not only save us money, but it will bring integrity back to the process of awarding contracts. The Mayor and Council have should adopt this policy immediately.

BOB JONES
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