

South Plainfield Observer

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VOL. 8, NO. 48

50 CENTS

AUGUST 6, 2004

Teacher Returns From Alaska as a Master Teacher



Kevin Hajduk

With the help of NASA's Living With a Star/Star Partners Teacher Program, South Plainfield teacher Kevin Hajduk traveled to distant places to learn about the effects of the sun on the earth. The program was started four years ago by NASA scientists, coordinators and a dream. The dream was to share the knowledge of all the NASA scientists with the students of the world. What better way to share their knowledge then with the teachers who spend so much valuable time with their students everyday? The program links teachers from Puerto Rico with teachers from the United States. Collaboration between the teachers is extremely important because of the amount of group work that is integrated into the program.

In the first year participants traveled to Mayaguez, Puerto Rico and were able to visit such places as the Arecibo Observatory, Phosphorescent Bay and Puerto Rico's Solar Observatory. The 25 participants studied with NASA scientists about the Sun/Earth connection at the University of Puerto Rico.

Last year, the participants journeyed to Oracle, Arizona to spend time learning about the biomes at Biosphere 2. The trip included a backstage tour of Biosphere 2, which included learning about how

the structure is able to regulate the amount of carbon dioxide in the world today.

On July 5, the group of participants voyaged all the way to Anchorage, Alaska. The trip included a conference in which the Star Partners, including Hajduk, presented workshops related to the Sun/Earth Connection to science, mathematics and technology. Hajduk presented two workshops during the seven day conference. The first workshop, "A Virtually Real Trip to the Ancient Ruins," discussed the concept of a virtual field trip in the elementary grades. The second workshop was titled, "Our Star the Sun—THE LWS/STP PROGRAM." Out of the 25 participants, Hajduk was honored to explain the LWS/STP program to Alaskan teachers using a PowerPoint presentation that he created earlier in the year.

On July 9, NASA celebrated the accomplishments of the program by hosting an awards ceremony at the Anchorage Hilton. During the course of the evening, 10 participants were awarded a plaque and \$400 for outstanding achievements throughout the LWS/STP program. In the end, Hajduk was one of the 10 recipients! Hajduk interviewed earlier in the week with members of the Masters Teachers panel to be accepted into the highest level of the LWS/STP program, the Master Teachers. At the awards ceremony Hajduk learned that he was one of four participants accepted into the program out of 30 applicants.

As a Master Teacher, Hajduk will be involved in planning future conferences and areas to study, and was also asked to take on a leadership role in the area of special education.

Hajduk expects to incorporate his learnings as a teacher in the high school this year. He previously taught in Roosevelt Elementary School for the past four years. He is looking forward to continuing the program, especially the next stage which takes place in South America next summer.

Labor Day 2004 Parade Plans Shaping Up

South Plainfield's 47th Annual Labor Day Parade is less than a month away. The Parade Committee will announce this year's Honorary Grand Marshal shortly.

The day will begin with the annual 5K run and 1.5 mile family walk.

The parade starts at 10 a.m. at the Middle School and will follow

the same route as last year, ending at the PAL.

Many activities are planned for the PAL at conclusion of the parade. The day's festivities will finish with a fireworks display at Spring Lake Park.

See next week's *Observer* for the latest information on the day's activities and participants.

Resident Threatened at Gunpoint

South Plainfield Police arrested Kyle Worrell, 20, of Plainfield on Tuesday afternoon after he threatened Devon Sobers of Clinton Ave. with a gun.

Worrell, also known as Kyle Campbell, arrived at Sobers' home and confronted him about personal property he claimed belonged to him. Sobers was reportedly in possession of Worrell's Playstation games, controllers and wires, but refused to

turn over the items, claiming Worrell had previously broken a window in his home.

Worrell approached Sobers' home with a gun which was wrapped in a t-shirt, and threatened Sobers with it. A resident in the house called police. Worrell threw the gun into a parked car in the driveway. The car was occupied by his girlfriend, Rhonda Brown, 18, also of Plainfield.

Police saw the gun in the car and

confiscated it and then placed Worrell and Brown under arrest. Brown denied any knowledge of the gun. The gun was found to be an unloaded 22 caliber semi-automatic. No injuries were reported.

Worrell was charged with possession of a weapon for unlawful purpose, unlawful possession of a weapon and terroristic threats and bail set at \$15,000. Brown was also charged with hindering apprehension.



The U-10 Girls All Star Team nabbed first place, 6-2, in Parkway League with a no hitter.

U-10 Girls Capture #1 Spot Exciting Finish to Girls All-Star U-10 Season

By Jane Bishop

The U-10 girls played an exciting game to clinch first place in the Parkway League. Elizabeth Gratta pitched

her second no hitter of the season against Clark in the Parkway League Finals on Wednesday, July 28.

South Plainfield was ahead 2-0 until the bottom of the fifth inning when

Clark tied the score 2-2. In the top of the sixth inning, with two outs and no one on base, Ali Ratti and Rachel Sutherland started their team's two out rally by getting on base. Next up was the team's lead off batter, Andrea Muglia. She was hit with a pitch and Ashanti Bishop was put in to run for her. With two outs and bases loaded, Jayme Bishop with a full count got on base to walk in on the tie-breaking run. The score was now 3-2.

Next up with bases still loaded, Jessica Jazikoff hit a three run triple over the right fielder's head, to increase South Plainfield's lead 6-2. In the bottom of the sixth inning, Elizabeth Gratta struck out the last Clark batter, winning the game with a final score of 6-2.

It was an exciting end to a great season. The South Plainfield All-Star U-10 players are Ashanti Bishop, Jayme Bishop, Colleen Broderick, Rebecca Eustice, Jamie Glavasich, Elizabeth Gratta, Michelle Hernandez, Jessica Jazikoff, Andrea Muglia, Kelly Pauls, Alison Ratti, Rachel Sutherland and Allison White. James Bishop, Tom Gratta, Danny White and Ray Jazikoff coached them this season. The scorekeeper was Joanne Broderick.



49 Kids Get a Handle on Safety in Annual Rec Program

Forty-nine youngsters underwent training to handle the perils of crossing streets, stranger danger and bicycle safety at "Safety Town," the South Plainfield Recreation Department sponsored annual program was held at the PAL. For story and photos, see pages 6 and 7.

To make it in next week's edition...

Copy and advertising must be received by Monday,
August 9 at 5 p.m. to be included in the Friday, August 13 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, 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 (NJSA 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
Aug. 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
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.—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.—Aug. 17*, Sept. 21, (Monday) Oct. 18, Nov. 16,
Dec. 21, Jan. 18 2005, Feb. 15, March 15 and April 12
*Meetings will be held in Roosevelt Elementary School Gym)

taxpayers advisory group

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

site plan sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.
August 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
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
August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8 and 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.
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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NANCY GRENNIER
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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., fax us at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at spobserver@comcast.net. 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: spobserver@comcast.net 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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IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

Back in the day of the Roman Empire, Christians were persecuted because they believed in God. This type of persecution went on for many years and then the Roman Empire fell.

The people of Europe were constantly being harassed because of their religious beliefs and then finally, in 1620, the English Puritans landed in what is known as Plymouth, Massachusetts, with the hopes of living in peace with each other and God.

To sail the great Atlantic in those tiny sail ships took courage and faith in God, to guide them to this land which would someday become the greatest country on this planet.

Many more people arrived in this new world and again people began to be pushed around. On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 men, ranging in age from 30 (Thomas Lynch, Jr.) to 96 (James Smith and Charles Carroll). The first, second and last paragraphs of the Declaration of Independence make reference to God.

The preamble of the Constitution mentions that we would like to have a "more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility and secure the blessings of liberty."

An amendment to the Constitution and Declaration enforced in 1791, Article One (first half): "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

This is great but what does it all mean? Just this, that this great country of ours was settled by religious people and the Declaration of Independence was signed by religious people and therefore, America was founded and grew up as a religious nation, which at this time, is decaying due to the short sighted unreligious, un-American decision of the Supreme Court of the United States of America by abolishing prayer in schools.

The same people that raised their right hand and placed their left hand on the Bible to be lawyers and did the same to be municipal, county, superior and finally, Supreme Court Justices.

People are sworn into public office with the use of the Bible.

Witnesses are sworn in at trials with the Bible.

Repeating that the first amendment

to the Constitution says that "Congress shall make no law prohibiting the free exercise of religion," and yet the "black cloaked" Supreme Court changed the law and prohibited my children and millions of other children their rights, as American citizens, to open their school days in asking Almighty God to guide them and learn their days' assignments.

If this was put on a ballot, the desire and the voice of America would be heard to overturn the unconstitutional decision in favor of the American way of life.

TED ZYCHLINSKI

To the Editor,

On July 31 I once again had the opportunity to participate in the annual charity softball tournament sponsored by the South Plainfield PAL. The event, which was for the benefit of Gary Muccigrossi, was again well planned and extremely well organized. My hats off to Det. Gary Cassio and Det. Chris Colucci and numerous volunteers for making this a fun day for all involved.

It's nice to see a community come together to help one of their own. This was the third year this event was held and hopefully it will continue for years to come.

RAY RUSNAK

Dear Editor,

This is a letter of thanks to the high school seniors, Mike Benek, Nick Cesare, Andrew Miller and Andy Cupido and their wonderful kind mothers, that ran the First Annual South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club Summer Camp 2004.

I was apprehensive to let my son attend the camp at first, in the heat and playing baseball for five hours.... without me being present. When I arrived in the afternoon to collect my son, not only were my fears relieved, but I also received a special gift; my son's smile and the words "Mom, I had so much fun!"

I was so impressed by the maturity and patience of the high school seniors that coached these kids. They thought of new ways to teach them different techniques through games, races, team work and lots of laughing.

Their mothers helped with the bumps, bruises, lunches and clean-up. They also took it upon themselves to take pictures all week and prepared a

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collage of photos that they displayed on a board in the clubhouse.

At the end of the week, they had an awards ceremony in which every child was honored for their efforts and what they had accomplished.

The game of baseball invokes memories and feelings for all that love and play the game that span a lifetime; thanks to these boys and their families, and to Mr. Lee Flanagan...

Let's do it again next year! That was a week my son will never forget. Well done!

Thank you again.

**SINCERELY,
PATRICIA OLANO**

To the Editor,

Thank you, Ms. Nagel, for your predictable answer to my letter. Your letter is full of well-worn cliché: "teaching to the tests," "art of teaching," etc., but devoid of any factual information.

Because you cannot negate the fact that the majority of students enrolled in teacher's colleges will not be admitted to any other college due to their dismal academic performance in high school, you write, "All teachers in this country must be highly qualified either by course work, experience, or passing rigorous tests." Let me give you an example of the test would-be teachers are subjected to: Praxis I, a general test, is taken in the second or third year of teacher training. One of the questions in that exam describes a conversation between a customer and what she believes is TransGlobal Airlines about a flight from New York to Tokyo. But in fact she gets a wrong number. The question is not a difficult one about the distance between the two cities or the time zones, but a multiple-choice question that asks whether she's trying to reach the airline by letter, radio, telegram, or telephone! For you, Ms. Nagel, a question like that constitutes a difficult and rigorous test; for me, it insults the intelligence.

An identical sham is the NJ State requirement of 100 hours of professional development every five years for all teachers.

Mrs. Nagel also writes, "By the way, I don't understand the concerns of Mr. Fryszyzyn when his children don't attend the South Plainfield public schools."

My interest in American public education pre-dates the education of my children. I did not go through the school system in this country, so in the beginning I could not comprehend why approximately 40% of the applicants for laboratory technician jobs, all proud graduates of local public high schools, would misspell every second word on their applications. Or why adding or subtracting two numbers is beyond their capabilities.

Now after attending a number of South Plainfield school board meetings, reading Mrs. Nagel's letters and some books on the subject, I understand.

By the way, I also understand your, Ms. Nagel, total lack of concern for what kind of education South Plainfield children are receiving. With the salaries public school teachers are making, you and other members of the NJ Education Association can well afford a real education for their children by sending them to the very expensive private schools.

BOGDAN FRYSZCZYN

Sacred Heart Looking for Choir Members

Need a reason to join the Sacred Heart Adult/Centennial Choir for the 2004/2005 season? Sacred Heart Parish will be celebrating their 100th anniversary and music will be an important aspect leading up to the 100th Anniversary Mass in August of 2005.

The choir will resume their rehearsals beginning Thursday, Sept. 9 at 8 p.m. The choir alternates between the 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday Mass, as well as other "special" liturgies leading up to the 100th anniversary celebration. There will be free voice lessons at each rehearsal.

If you are considering joining the choir, please consider making this the year you take the leap of faith. Even if you can only commit to one year, make this centennial year the time you contribute your talents to the parish.

If you have any questions, contact Dan Mahoney at (908) 756-0633 Ext. 39. The choir is open to those of high school age and beyond.

Gas Line Ruptured by Back Hoe

Last Wednesday afternoon, the South Plainfield Fire Department responded to the area of New Brunswick Ave. and Cherry St. on the report of a strong odor of natural gas. When they arrived they found that a contractor operating a back hoe had ruptured an inch-and-a-quarter gas line while digging in the area of New Brunswick Ave. in Piscataway.

The roadway was closed for approximately one hour. One South Plainfield and one Piscataway resident were evacuated. There were no reported injuries. The contractor was identified as C.A.S. Contracting of East Brunswick.

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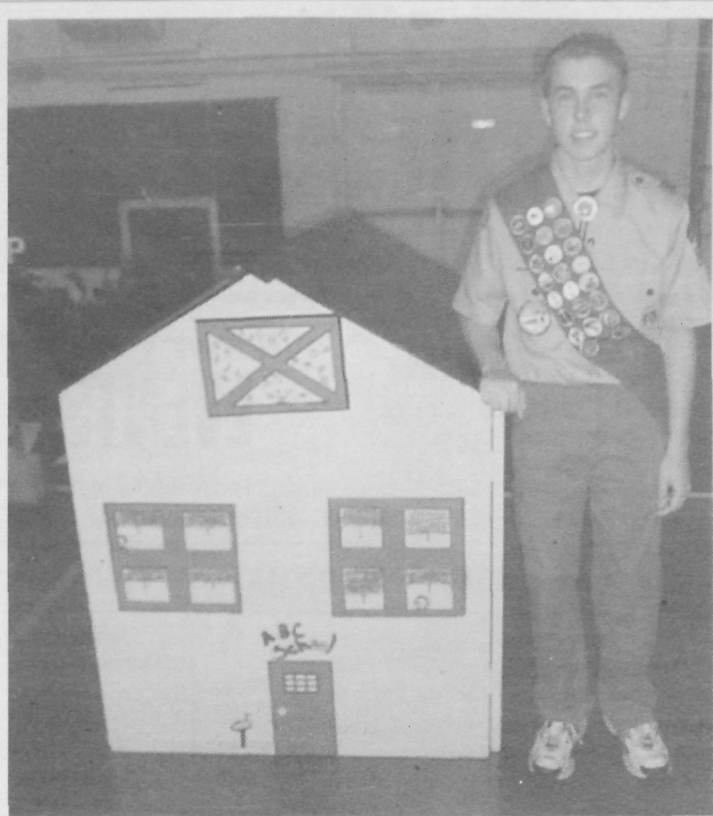
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Kevin Lahey from Knights of Columbus Boy Scout Troop 207 chose as his Eagle Scout Community Service project the planning and organization of the building of new wooden houses for the Recreation sponsored Safety Town program. Fellow troop members assisted Lahey in the building and painting of ten new houses which were used during this summer's sessions.

Teen Pursues Dream at Rutgers Summer Acting Conservatory

South Plainfield's own Steven Tietjen chases his dream of becoming a professional actor as a student in the prestigious Rutgers Summer Acting Conservatory—"a boot camp for actors!" RSAC, a five-week residency program at the State University, which runs through Aug. 8, offers students an intense pre-professional and wide-ranging acting and theater curriculum.

"Speech and acting classes are the best parts of the program," said Steven, "especially speech class. It's opened up a new side of a future pursuit."

Marshall Jones, III, Rutgers University professor and NYC producer who serves as the director of the Conservatory, states, "Steven is a very caring person and is really growing." Kevin

Kittle, Steven's acting teacher, added, "Steven is very in touch with himself for his age and very in touch with joy. As an actor, he's really inventive and extremely serious about his work."

The South Plainfield High School junior's performing interests have led him to take the stage in *Peter Pan*, *The Music Man* and *Bye-Bye Birdie*, among others. His other interests include opera (for which he has performed Puccini's *Traveller* in Little Opera Theater), piano, creative writing, Maria Callas and shopping. He feels the program has given him the opportunity to "explore my interest in creative writing and incorporate it with acting," as well as "being more open and approaching everything with an open mind."

Our Lady Of Czestochowa R.C. Church

807 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily at 8am except Wednesdays
(908) 756-1333

Regular Weekend Schedule:
Saturday evenings 5:30pm

Sunday mornings 8am and 11am

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Catherine Fryszczyn

August is Romance Awareness Month. From paperbacks to books on tape to videos, romance abounds in all media in the library, ranging from gentle romances to passionate affairs. *Blankets*, a graphic novel about first love, is filled with meditative silences masking deeper turmoil. Alice Hoffman's *Blackbird House* contains love and pain in equal amounts. Large Print Circuit romances bear a "Romance" sticker on their spines for easy identification. The paperback exchange rack consists largely of romance novels; you are free to take whatever you wish from the rack, providing you bring it back, or bring back an equal number of books. The library book sale, now housed in the foyer, also has a fair number of romances; books are now a dollar per bag.

On Aug. 9 and 10, there will be a babysitting workshop for ages 11 and up from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is required; participants will meet in front of the municipal building, and it is recommended you bring a snack.

On Aug. 11, the library will host a sing-a-long with Lisa La La, whose specialty is "rock and roll for kids." The

show will begin at 6:30 p.m. and is recommended for ages three and up. Registration is requested but not required. Additional information on Ms. La La can be found on her website: <http://www.lisalalarocks.com>.

Aug. 16 is the 27 anniversary of Elvis going into hiding. Why not celebrate by checking out an Elvis biography or CD? Or, if you're feeling particularly adventurous, why not pick up a guidebook to Memphis and plan a trip to Graceland?

Story times are cancelled from Aug. 13 until Sept. 30. They will resume on Oct. 1. However, during this time, Ms. Mija's American Girls Club will continue to meet and read American Girls books on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Mija has set up a display of American Girl dolls in the cabinet in the library foyer. They will stay up through the month of August. (The large cabinet will house a display of birds in various media—ceramic, wood, etc.)

The deadline for the "Design the New Library" contest has been extended until Aug. 31. Patrons are invited to submit their drawings of their vision of the new library. There is no age limit. Submissions will be posted on the wall in the library foyer.

Middlesex County Fire Academy to Graduate 100

Graduation ceremonies will be held on Aug. 11 for the 100 volunteer and paid firefighters who completed spring courses at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. Members of the classes will receive their certificates at a 7 p.m. ceremony at the Middlesex County Vocational-Technical High School, East Brunswick Campus. Freeholder Christopher D. Rafano, chairman of the county's Committee of Law and Public Safety and the academy's instruc-

tional staff will speak.

Some 77 graduates completed Firefighter 1 training and passed the New Jersey State Firefighter 1 exam, which they must pass to become members with any fire department; 23 students completed Firefighter 2 training, advanced training that concentrates on fighting structure fires, dealing with flammable liquid and gases, fighting fires in confined spaces, rope rescue and vehicular extrication.

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Around Town

Hypnosis Seminars

August 7

On Aug. 7, hypnosis experts will present nine seminars to make the public aware of stress reduction, health and hypnosis, past life regression, weight management, meridian energy, golf enhancement, psychic discoveries, anger management and questions and answers about hypnosis.

The seminars take place Saturday, Aug. 7 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn on Stelton Rd. This presentation is free of 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 Ave. 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.

First Baptist Vacation Bible Schools

August 9-13

The First Baptist Church of South Plainfield, located at 201 Hamilton Blvd., will be hosting a Vacation Bible School Aug. 9-13, at 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Children ages five through fifth grade are invited for a week of exciting games, crafts, songs and Bible stories. This year's theme is "Camp Creation." Explore God's great creation this summer at Davey and Goliath's Camp Creation VBS!

For information call (908) 753-2382, contact Karen Flanagan at (908) 561-6348 or register at the church.

SPHS Music Booster Club Meeting

August 11

There will be a meeting of the South Plainfield Booster Association on Wednesday, August 11 at 7 p.m. in the high school chorus room.

What's happening in AUGUST

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

Senior Center EVENTS

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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>EVENTS</p> <p><i>We are looking for volunteers to help our Labor Day Parade Committee</i></p> <p><i>Sign Up at the Center</i></p> <p><i>Trip to AC Taj Mahal -- Aug. 5</i></p>				
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30am-11:30am Drawing Class 11:30am Parade Committee 1pm	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am	Exercise 8:30am Movie Time 11:30am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 11 & 1pm	Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10-11am Computer Class 11 & 1pm Atlantic City Trip	Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza lunch available
9	10	11	12	13

TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.

VFW Breakfast

September 5

The VFW will be holding a breakfast to benefit veterans at the VA Hospital at Lyons on Sunday, Sept. 5 from 8 to 11 a.m. Tickets are \$5 and children get in for a reduced rate. This is an all-you-can-eat breakfast. The VFW is located at 155 Front St.

Pig Roast at VFW

September 11

The VFW will be holding a Pig Roast/Picnic on Saturday, Sept. 11 from 12 noon until 5 p.m. at the VFW Post, 155 Front St. Tickets are \$13 in advance and \$15 at the gate. Children six to 12 are \$7. Children under five are free. For tickets or information, call (908) 668-9751. The event will be held rain or shine.

Trip to Dover Raceway

September 26

The Polish National Home is sponsoring a trip to Dover Raceway for Sept. 26 for the Nascar race. For information and to sign up for the trip, call (908) 668-9442 and speak to a bartender.

1974 Class Reunion

October 9

We are looking for classmates!! The reunion is planned for Oct. at the Clarion Hotel in Edison (across from the Pines Manor).

Contact Rich Dúroso (908) 753-

7629 or Ginny Butrico at (908) 392-0538. Invitations and pricing will follow soon.

Rec Going to Fiddler on the Roof

October 10

The Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip to Broadway to see the musical revival "Fiddler on the Roof" on Sunday, Oct. 10. Bus leaves the PAL at 11 a.m. The performance starts at 3 p.m. and we will arrive back at the PAL at 6:30 p.m. Price is \$95 a person. Purchase tickets at the PAL.

Children Safety Class

September 1

ATA Black Belt Academy will be holding their Children's Street Smart Safety Class at the library on Wednesday, Sept. 1 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The program is geared to help keep children safe during the upcoming school year. Teacher for the class is Master Tom Guerin of the ATA Black Belt Academy.

For more information, contact the library or call (908) 755-5440.

Class of 1979 Reunion

November 13

A gala reunion is currently being organized for the South Plainfield High School Class of 1979 for Nov. 13. If you are a member of this class, please write to Reunions Unlimited, Inc., P.O. Box 150, Englishtown, NJ 07726 or call (732) 617-1000.

— Out of Town —

Middlesex County Fair

Through August 8

The Middlesex County Fair Association is looking for non-food vendors. The fair will be held Aug. 2-8 at the fairgrounds on Cranbury Rd. in East Brunswick.

For information, contact Mary Lou Conover at (732) 416-1929.

USS Isle Royale Reunion

August 5-8

The USS Isle Royale AD is having its first reunion on Aug. 5-8, at the President's Casino in Biloxi, MS. Contact the reunion coordinator through the web page at www.ussisleroyale.com or mail to George Lowell, Box 307, Hatfield, AR 71945.

Moonrakers Meeting

August 10

The New Jersey Moonrakers Tall Club, Inc., serving people of "taller-than-average" stature in the NJ/NY metropolitan area, will hold its monthly "Meet and Greet" social at Saddle Brook Marriott hotel, located between Route 80 and the GSP in Saddle Brook on Tuesday, Aug. 10 at 8 p.m.

For a schedule of our social events, call (973) 267-3648 or visit our website at www.njtall.org.

Free Workshop About College Costs

August 10

A workshop, presented by Mark J. Mauro, CPA, is being held for the parents of college bound high school students at Raritan Valley Community College on Aug. 10.

The workshop class is from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Seating is free but limited. To reserve a seat, call toll free 1 (877) 656-2727.

WOWs Business Meeting

August 11

The Woodbridge Area Chapter of Widows and Widowers (WOWs) will have a business meeting and social on Wednesday, Aug. 11 at 7 p.m. in the main Public Library, George Frederick Plaza, Amboy Ave., Woodbridge. Light refreshments will be served. For more information call (732) 297-1775.

Willow Grove Church Summer Session

August 11-12

Learn what Jesus' disciples find out about a real give-and-take situation at the sixth session of "Life-Transforming Encounters With Jesus" will be held at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, in Scotch Plains, on Wednesday evening, Aug. 11, from 7-9 p.m. and Thursday, Aug. 12 from 10-11:55 a.m. in Alexander Hall.

For more information, call the church office at (908) 232-5678. Babysitting will be available.

Middlesex East WOWs Luau

August 13

Middlesex East Widows or Widowers Carteret Chapter will hold an open "Luau" dance on Friday, Aug. 13 at St. Demetrius Community Center, 681-691 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret. Members are \$8 and guests are \$9. Live music will be performed and light refreshments will be served. The luau is from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. All are welcome. For more information, call (732) 541-2174 or (908) 757-0515.

B'nai B'rith Couples Meeting

August 15

The B'nai B'rith Ketubah Married Couples Unit (40+) will be meeting for a buffet brunch at O'Connors Beef 'N Ale House, 708 Mountain Blvd. in Watchung on Sunday, Aug. 15 at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$11.95 per adult, plus tax and gratuity. For seniors (62+), the cost is \$8.95 per person.

Non-members are welcome to come to the brunch. Please R.S.V.P. to Elaine at (908) 232-0062 by Aug. 13.

Curves Weight-Loss Workshop

August 18

Curves of Somerset will present a special workshop utilizing hypnosis for weight loss on Wednesday, Aug. 18 at 7 p.m. Curves is located in the Village Plaza Mall, 1075 Easton Ave., Suite 5, Somerset. The one-hour workshop includes hypnosis exercises, discussion and an optional audio tape for \$10 or CD for \$15, which assists in reinforcing immediate and long-term success.

Barry Wolfson, director of the Hypnosis Counseling Center, will lead the workshop. The cost is \$49 per person. Registration is now open.

To register, or for further information on this seminar, stop by the club or call (732) 545-8365. For information on hypnosis techniques or other hypnosis workshops, contact Mr. Wolfson at (908) 996-3311 or visit www.hypnosisnj.com.

MCRCC New Member Orientation

August 18

Members who have joined the Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce (MCRCC) within the past six months are invited to attend a free orientation program. Attendees will learn how to take advantage of Chamber benefits and meet Chamber President, Chris Phelan.

Pre-registration is recommended either online at www.mcrcc.org, or via phone (732) 821-1700.

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SEND US YOUR MILESTONES. Share your good news with the community, i.e. promotions, births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, graduations. Include photos if you like.

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

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had great service in South Plainfield, share it with your neighbors through the newspaper.

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

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS. If you have an event, take a photo, write a caption identifying the event and people and send it to us. The best photos record action and don't include so many people that it is impossible to identify anyone. Please don't send us photocopies or laser prints. They don't reproduce well. Electronic photos should be 150 dpi or higher

HOW TO CONTACT US. By mail: 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; By phone: 908-668-0010; By fax: 908-668-8819; By email: spobserver@comcast.net.

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South Plainfield Observer

Middlesex/Mercer Co. Walk to Cure Diabetes at Cook College

The Mid Jersey Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's annual Walk to Cure Diabetes in Middlesex and Mercer counties will take place on Sunday, Oct. 31, at Cook College, Rutgers, New Brunswick. Walkers and team members may contact the Mid Jersey Chapter to register or receive team packets. Walkers may also obtain supplies at the Kick-off Luncheon, set for Tuesday, Aug. 17 from noon to 1:15 p.m. at the Doral Forrestal Hotel, 100 College Rd. East in Princeton. Walkers should RSVP by Aug. 13 to (732) 296-7171.

In 2003, over 1100 walkers from Middlesex and Mercer counties, representing local corporations, families, schools, and organizations, raised over \$200,000 to fund research for a cure for Type 1 diabetes and its complications. Herman Cukier, senior director of Global Marketing for Bristol-Myers

Squibb will serve as Corporate Recruiting Chair. "It's great to be working together with JDRF on such an important goal—curing a disease which kills one American every three minutes and costs our nation over \$105 billion a year in health care expenses," said Cukier. "That's why we are committed to raising money for cutting edge research. By working together we can make a difference."

The Mid Jersey Chapter Walk to Cure Diabetes is one of the many held in more than 225 cities worldwide. More than 550,000 people worldwide walked to cure diabetes last year, and more than 750,000 are expected this year. Nationally, last year the walks raised \$78 million, and this year they are expected to surpass that number.

For more information, visit the JDRF website: www.jdrf.org or call (888) 422-9590.

Imagine Awards Nominations

VSA Arts of New Jersey (VSA/NJ) is proud to announce the First Annual "Dare to Imagine" awards. The awards will recognize adults and children under the age of 18 who have made a positive difference in the life of a person or persons with disabilities.

Awards candidates must have made an impact that relates to one or more of the following focus areas: corporate and organizational responsibility; education, training and enrichment opportunities; accessibility and personal commitment and volunteerism. Individuals whose contributions are related to the arts are especially encouraged to apply. The application deadline is

Nov. 15.

Selections will be made in February 2005. Award recipients will be honored at a ceremony in March 2004, followed by a performance of the Unlimited Potential Theater Company, a project of VSA/NJ that is dedicated to providing opportunities for adults with physical disabilities to be actively involved in all aspects of the performing arts.

To request an application or for additional information, contact VSA Arts of New Jersey, 703 Jersey Ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901; (732) 745-3885; 745-3913 (TTY for individuals with hearing impairments); info@vsanjanj.org or www.vsanjanj.org.

Host Family Volunteers Needed

World Heritage is seeking families, couples or single parents (with or without children at home) who are adventurous, fun-loving, responsible and, most of all, caring who are interested in hosting a high-school-aged foreign exchange student.

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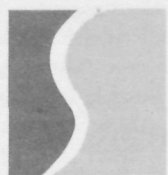
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southplainfieldpeople Milestones



On July 17 Jessica Danielle Garcia, along with her family and friends, celebrated her Sweet Sixteen birthday at the Polish National Home. She had a court of eight young ladies and eight gentlemen. The Garcia family would like to thank to Polish National Home for a wonderful job. They would also like to thank Robert Aroacho, their photographer, for a great job on the pictures.

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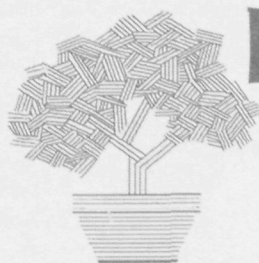
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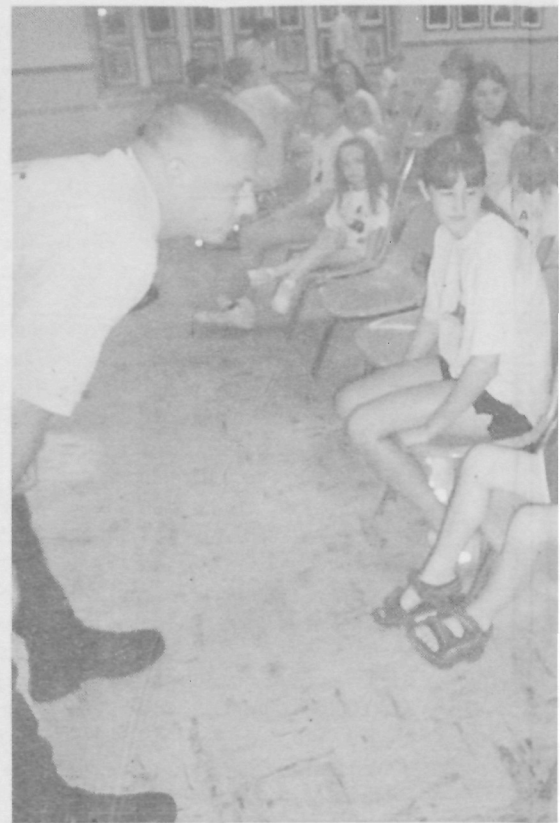
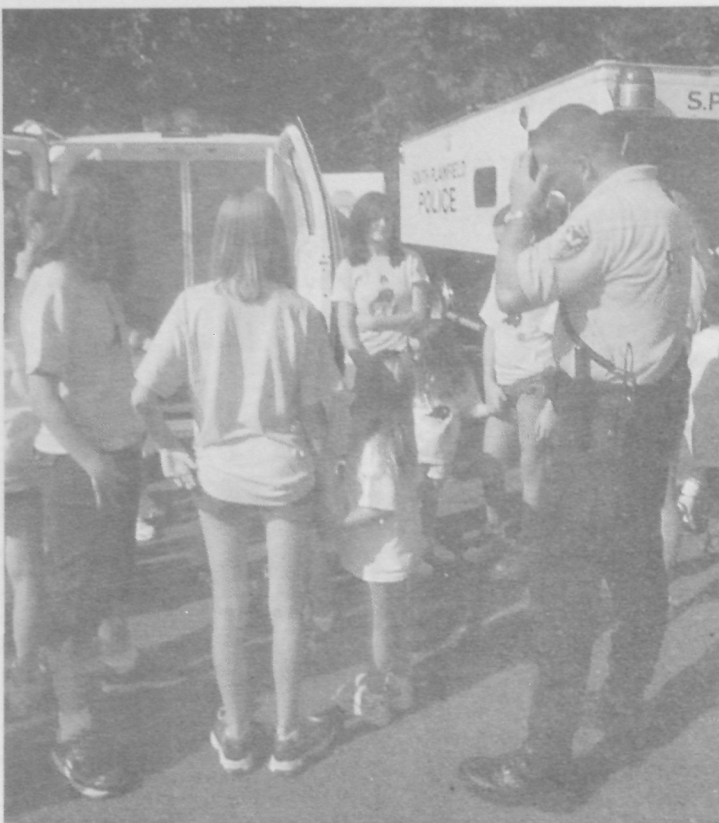
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Forty-Nine Kids Learn Safety

By Jane Dornick

Forty-nine youngsters underwent training to handle the perils of crossing streets, stranger danger and bicycle safety and more at "Safety Town," the South Plainfield Recreation Department's annual program held at the PAL.

Students participated in two sessions, which each ran for two weeks. Head Teacher Patty Reach, Teacher's Assistant John Rayho and the many volunteers did a wonderful job instructing the five- and six-year-old students about the many places they will need to practice safety in the future.

During the course youngsters learned about bike safety while

riding bikes on a special course which was set up for them. They visited the South Plainfield Fire Department where they learned about fire prevention and what to do in the event of a fire.

The classes also visited the South Plainfield Police Department. DARE Officers Allen LaMonda and Dave Franchak took the students on a tour of the station and the courtroom. A visit to the Woodlands Preserve in South Plainfield provided invaluable information on safety in the woods and outdoors. A walk around the South Plainfield Community Pool afforded the children the opportunity to be instructed by lifeguards about water safety.

At the end of the sessions, a graduation ceremony was held where the youth sang the songs they had learned, "At the Curb," "Stop, Look and Listen" and "Fire." Moms and dads watched the students ride tricycles around a pretend town and each graduate received a diploma.

Graduates from the first session were Hannah Arntz, Ashli Bell, Miranda Bourbeau, Jason Cieszkiewicz, Jessica Dillon, River Dress, Dianne Ferraro, Allison Graves, Robert Gwiazda, Jenna Karcher, Alex Kelly, Caleb Kuberiet, Christopher Kuberiet, Benjamin Lundy, Drew MacKenzie, Megan McDermott, William McLaughlin, Dylan O'Connor, Danny O'Shaughnessy, Alec Paez, George Pittenger III, Nicholas Plate, Meagan Praul, Angela Sanchez and Briana Spinella.

Second session graduates were Nora Bogart, Steven Clemente, Brian Csobor, Kyle DelPaoli, Brett Hawn, Thomas Licato, Brian McCann, Emily McCann, Samantha Pisano, Max Rohrer, Natalie Romano, Connor Skelly, Cody Soper, Kevin Soper, Emily Sukenik, Jack Townley, Katherine Vill, Lauren Villares, Matthew Waters, Cassandra Whalen, Kyle Whalen, Zachary Wolpin, Meghan Barry and Nicholas Torchia.

The program volunteers were Ashley Rivera, Angelique Bualo, Taryn Billich, Kristen Partesi, Becky Deffler, Lauren O'Day, Eric Reiner, Jackie Bossel, Kevin Siedenburger, Kerri Siedenburger, Michelline Anin, Brian Erhardt, Jessica Gray, Felicia Mulhearn, Sara Johnson, Mike Muglia, Dominic Papa, Kaleigh White, Steven Wiczorek, Andrea Vedutis, Christine Snogans, Rachel Smith, Kristen Yorkanis, Jessica Handwerger, Samantha Deffler, Chris Lesniak, Tim Moskal, Tim Ratti, Alyssa Sutherland, Dana Alexa, Alison Smith, Joe Menuti, Nick Jeglinski, Katie Baldasarre, Chris McKnight, Joey Lacerda, Erik White, Cori Black, Alyssa McCreesh, Katie Crilley, Sara Johnson and Mike Dezmin.



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Mass Schedule:

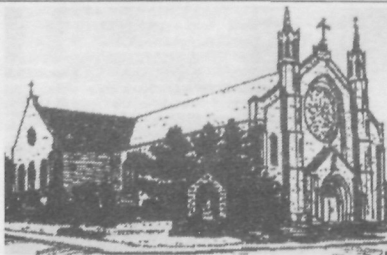
Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

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

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

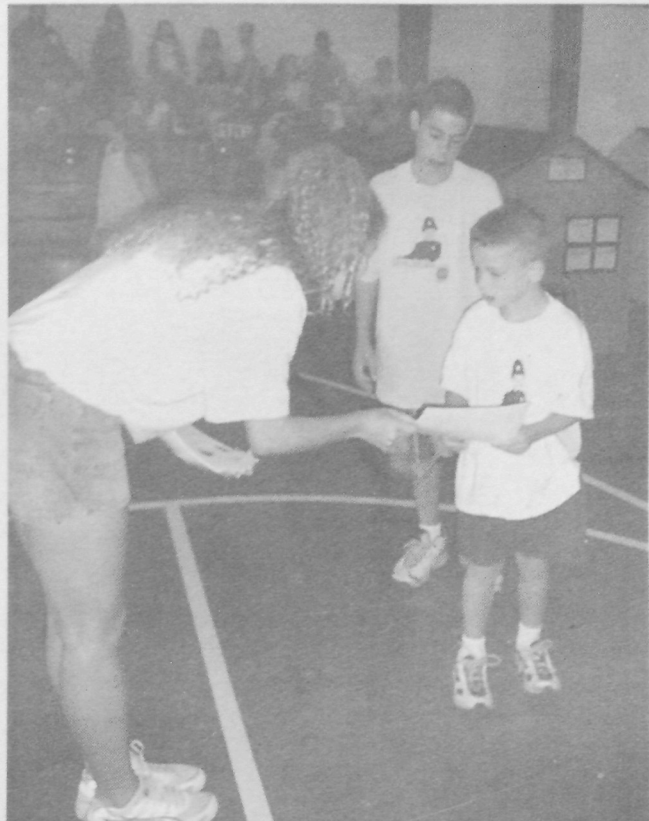
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

Holy Days 7 p.m. (Vigil); 6:30 and 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

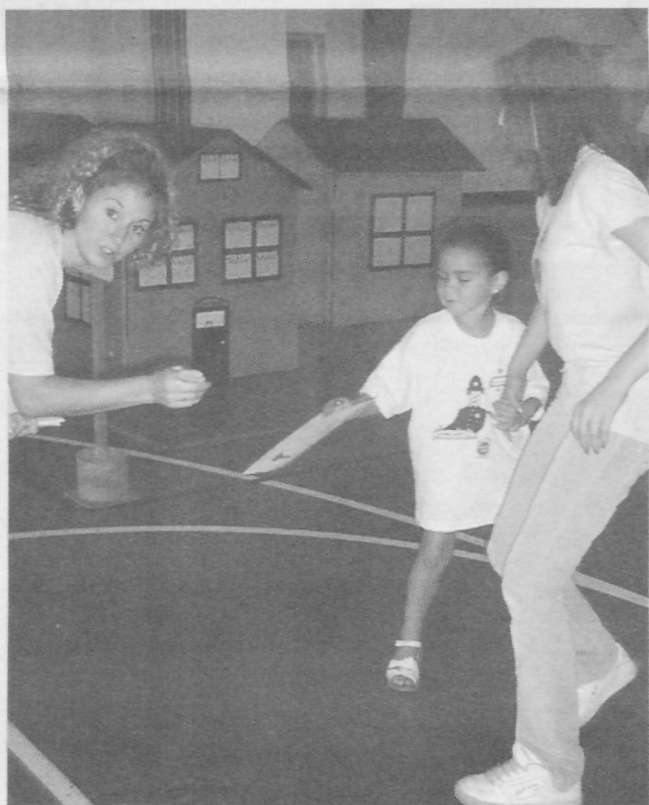
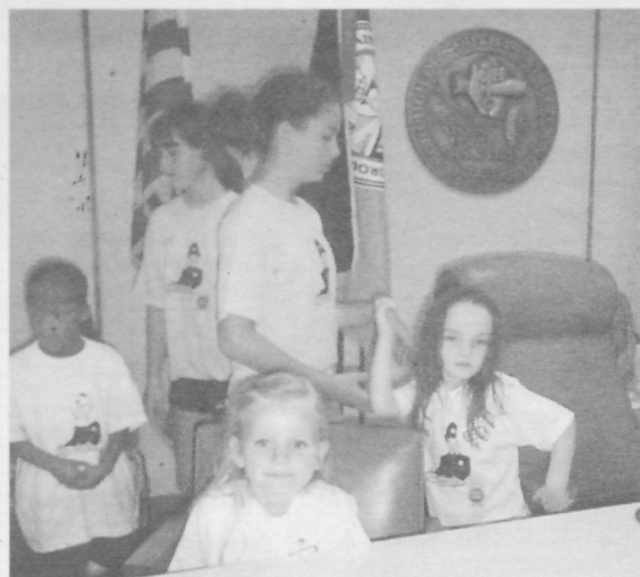


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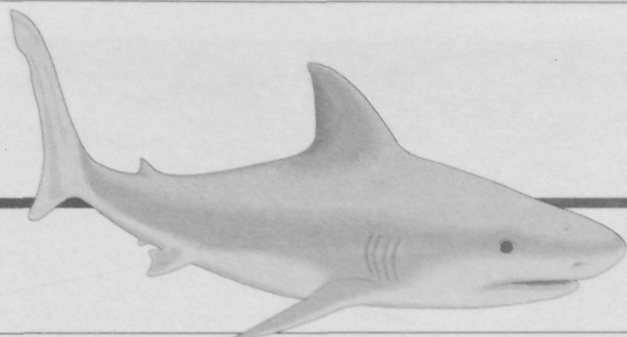
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Sports



The Tigersharks celebrate with Coach Jen at League Championships. Far left is Sarah Konops and far right is Maggie Valentino, who both registered two gold medals and a silver to spearhead a ferocious comeback at the A League Championships.

Tiger Sharks Defeat Nob Valley Swim Team

The South Plainfield Tiger Sharks stormed the Nob Valley swim team of North Brunswick, winning the meet held July 17 with a score of 159 to 115.

South Plainfield swimmers Maggie Valentino and Kate O'Brien claimed first and second place, respectively, in the 10-and-under category of the girls individual medley race, and Emily Pickarski and Chelsea Cullen took first and second place for the 11/12-year-olds. Tiger swimmer Katie Kaczka raced into first place for the 13-18 year olds.

In the 10-and-under boys freestyle, Anthony Gurrieri took second place for the 10-and-under set; Dylan McDermott claimed first place for the 11/12 year old and CalvinJohn Smiley and Philip Luzny scored in first and second place respectively for the 13-18 group.

Girls racked up some freestyle points with a lot of first and third place finishes. Gracie Pickarski took first place in the 9/10 division, with Kate O'Brien in third. Emily Pickarski placed first in the 11/12 group, and Sarah Konops took third. Joanna Luzny placed third in the 13/14 year-old-race; Katie Kaczka took first in the 15-18 year old; first and second places were won by Katie McLaughlin and Taylor Aljian, respectively, in the youngest category, the eight-and-under race.

Only one first place winner came in for the boys backstroke competition: CalvinJohn Smiley in the 15-18 year group. However, other Tiger swimmers scored second and third places including Sean Cullen, who placed second, and Aidan McDermott, who took third. In the eight-and-under, Anthony Gurrieri took second and

Liam McDermott placed third in the 9/10, and Michael Boyle took third in the 13/14 year-old-race.

Breaststrokes Charlie Butrico and Aidan McDermott claimed first and second place in that order for the eight-and-under set. Dylan McDermott and his brother Liam took first and second for the 9/10 year olds. Steven Pinto placed third in the 11/12 race, and Caleb Tou came in second in the 13/14 competition. Philip Luzny placed first in the 15-18 group race, followed by Chris Reed, who took third place.

Girl butterfly swimmers placed in all races, with Kate McLaughlin and Taylor Aljian again taking first and second for the eight-and-under. Maggie Valentino and Kelly McLaughlin were first and third for the 9/10 division. Chelsea Cullen and Sarah Konops won first and second for the 11/12 year olds. Joanna Luzny scored a second place finish for the 13/14 group with

Abby Petritsch coming in third. Nina Byard took a second place win for the over 15-18-year olds.

Tiger Sharks took four out of six first place wins in the relay races with the eight-and-under boys team of Joey Valentino, Enzo Butrico, Aidan McDermott and Charlie Butrico winning the free relay and the team of CalvinJohn Smiley, Philip Luzny, Michael Boyle and Dylan McDermott winning in the 13-18 in the free relay. Their female teammates, who took first place in the eight-and-under medley relay, were Kelly O'Brien, Taylor Aljian, Kate McLaughlin and Ann-Marie Pezzolla. In the 9/10 division of the medley relay, teammates Emily Pickarski, Kate O'Brien, Maggie Valentino and Chelsea Cullen took a first place ribbon.

Coaching the team is head coach Laurie Post, assisted by Robin Cone and Jenn Otowski.

—Submitted by Donna Egan

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

By Lee Flanagan

We are still waiting for all equipment bags to be turned in. You can do this on Sunday, Aug. 8, or on Sunday, Aug. 29, from 6 to 6:30 p.m. Failure to surrender equipment in a timely manner may result in the manager and/or assistant manager from that team being denied the right to receive a team the following season. We need to know what equipment we have and what needs to be repaired, so we can order accordingly for the 2005 season.

On Sept. 11 we will hold our annual end of the year picnic. The picnic will start at 12 noon at the SPJBC

Complex. The Executive Board is currently making plans for this event. Watch for more details on this event in the *Observer*.

This fall we will be revisiting the SPJBC rules and bylaws. Any recommended changes must be submitted by Nov. 1. If you have a recommendation to the Rules and Bylaws Committee, please visit our website, www.spjbc.com. Charlie Huber is the chairperson of the committee and is looking for two other individuals to serve on the committee.



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Sports

Submitted By Bob Nilan

With only two weeks remaining in the regular league schedule, championship honors in both the American and National Divisions are still up for grabs.

KC's Korner moved into first place in the tight American Division race by defeating the VFW, 12½-7½. Dan Conti's 37 and Rich Steele's 39 led the way for KC's Korner while Jack Ford of the VFW had a fine round of 35 in a losing effort.

KC's now holds a slim lead over Plainfield Animal Hospital, who managed a 10-10 tie with cross-division rival Pornovets. Mark "Mr. Steady" Chichvar earned medallist honors again for PAH with a solid 36, and teammate Mike Sikanowicz came through with a 38. Marty Van de Vaart was low-man for Pornovets with a 36.

Danny Griffin fired a superb one-over-34 to lead Masters to a 15-5 triumph over Sport & Social to gain third place in the American Division. Adam Thomas also turned in a nice round of 36 for Masters. Paul Thievan was the medallist for Sport & Social with a 41.

Patti's Construction maintained its narrow lead in the National Division with a resounding 17-3 victory over Hank's Hackers. "Iron Mike" Behr kept hitting fairways and greens with his irons-only system on his way to a 38. Kevin Boyce had a 38 and John Cacciatore had a 39 in a losing cause for Hank's.

Twin City solidified its second place position with a big 16-4 win over Aiello Chiropractic. Joe Dillar's 36 and a pair of 37s from Charlie Hasselgren

and Kevin Cunniff of Twin City were just too much for Aiello to overcome. Ed Banach turned in another terrific round for Aiello with a one-over-34 and Bob Tumolo also played extremely well and posted a 35.

Chris Nuzzo helped the Elks get by Witty's 11-9, by leading his team with a 38. Kevin Bickunas has clearly regained his old form for Witty's and shot a 35.

Mike Sikanowicz of Plainfield Animal Hospital won the weekly closest-to-the-pin competition on the third hole and Joe Dillar of Twin City earned the luncheon-for-two prize from KC's Korner with his excellent tee shot on the seventh hole.

Low scores for the night: Ed Banach-34; Danny Griffin-34; Bob Tumolo-35; Kevin Bickunas-35; Jack Ford-35; Mike Chichvar-36; Adam Thomas-36; Marty Van de Vaart-36 and Joe Dillar-36.

LEAGUE STANDINGS:

American Division	W	L	T
KC's Korner	7	5	0
PAH	6	4	2
Masters	6	5	1
Aiello	6	6	0
Hank's Hackers	5	6	1
Witty's	4	8	0
National Division	W	L	T
Patti's	8	3	1
Twin City	8	4	0
Pornovets	6	5	1
Sport & Social	6	6	0
Elks	4	6	2
VFW	2	9	1

Varsity Boys' Soccer Preview

By Tim Morgan

A problem that has plagued the South Plainfield High School Varsity Boys' Soccer team for the past few years is losing close games. According to sixth year Head Coach Bob Diehl, the Tigers have always been a contender in the White Division, but they have been too low scoring to pull through with victories in many of the games.

"Our record has never been an indicator of how competitive we are. Rarely have we ever been out of a game," Diehl said, adding that over half of the games the Tigers played last year were lost by only one goal. Simply put, their offensive game has been behind their defensive game.

The Tigers have been showing slow but definite progression. Diehl asserted that despite their record, they have always been competitive. They went 4-12-2 last year, winning more games than the last four years. They also won their first GMC Tournament game in seven years, qualifying them for the quarterfinal round. "We continue to solidify and stabilize," Diehl said.

This upcoming season, Diehl is looking to go .500, especially so that the team can be eligible to compete in the state tournament for the first time in years. He is also vying to win the season opener against Perth Amboy and get the Tigers off on the right foot.

The games against White Division foes North Brunswick and Colonia, as well as Sayreville, should also be ones to watch.

Currently, the varsity roster is waiting to be broken into. Diehl calls the prospective varsity lineup "young and talented," with a number of freshmen and sophomores with the potential to qualify for the squad and push the older members. Seniors Pete Kelly and Chris McKnight will be looking to re-

turn as goalies while seniors David Sanchez and Dwight Quichua and juniors Steve Lindgren and Chris Weakley are also likely return. Otherwise, there will be a lot of young talent coming to fill the ranks.

The boys have been meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays to practice this summer, giving Diehl the chance to assess the talent he has. "The spirit of the boys has been very high," he said, adding that this is partly due to how hungry the younger athletes are for the Varsity spots.

In order to try and make a deeper mark in the White Division, Diehl wants to experiment with defensive

and offensive positions and scramble the lineup to determine who fits best

where and how to make the players blend into the most cohesive whole.

Diehl, who has been involved with the game for forty years and has a great passion for it, is assisted by veteran seventh year coach Cameron Green and second year freshmen coach Tim Serbe, both teachers at the high school.



Tim Morgan, Jr.



Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By James Bishop

This Saturday, Aug. 7 at 10 a.m. we'll be at our snack stand for a clean up. Don't forget that every fourth Tuesday of each month the South Plainfield Parents' Ponytail Association meets in the Middle School library at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting will be Aug. 24.

Checkout the great job that Beth Sutherland has done this year on our website www.spponytail.com

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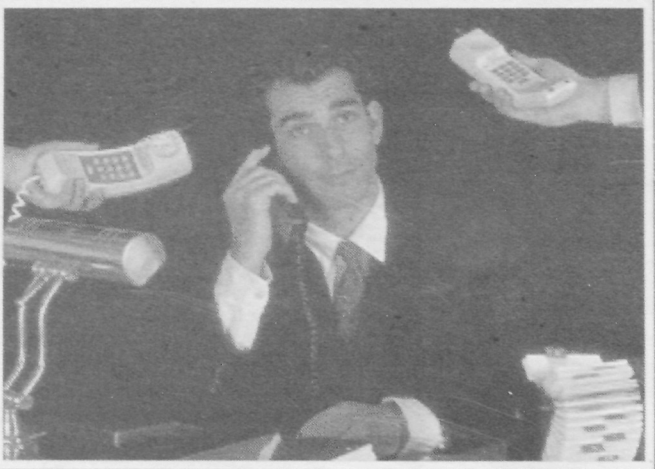
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(v.t.): 1. to

celebrate ceremonially // 2. to notice (something), to pay special attention to // 3. (a) to look at with attention // 4. to perceive, notice, come to know by seeing // 5. to comment, to note attentively

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Obituaries

Joseph D. Buccellato, "Jody," 53

Joseph D. Buccellato, "Jody," died on Tuesday, July 27 at his home in Georgia.

Born in Plainfield, Jody was raised in South Plainfield and had resided in Georgia since 1981.

He graduated South Plainfield High School in 1969. In 1973, he graduated from Rutgers University with a bachelor's degree in Business.

In 1981, Jody received his law degree from the University of Maryland. After earning his law degree, he started his own law practice in Atlanta.

An avid golfer who enjoyed gardening, Jody loved the Jersey Shore and Bruce Springsteen. He had a passion for opera and loved his children dearly.

He is predeceased by his father, Joseph S., who died in 2001.

Surviving are his wife, Svetlana; two children, Gabriella and Dante, all of Georgia; his mother, Nancy Leonard-Parello of Florida; three sisters, Beth MacArthur and her husband, John of Florida, Nancy L. Parello of Annandale and Leslie Parello of Florida and two brothers, Pete Parello of Middlesex and Jeffrey and his wife, Maria of Green Brook.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Doris G. Siegler-Ballouz (Wickert)

Doris G. Siegler-Ballouz (Wickert) died on Tuesday, July 27 at JFK Haven Hospice in Edison.

Born and raised in London, England, Doris came to the United States as a "war bride." She met her first husband, Solomon, during World War II while he was stationed in London. Doris lived in Newark and Irvington before settling in South Plainfield 38 years ago.

An avid gardener with a beautiful English garden, Doris had a wickedly funny sense of humor, who nursed both of her husbands through their long illnesses, as well as caring for other relatives during their illnesses.

Always appreciative for what she had, Doris helped her father manage the family business. She had an endless smile on her face, thought of others first and was highly thankful and lucky for dealing with the very nice people in the JFK Haven Hospice

program.

Her favorite thing in her life was to help care for her great grandson, which she did up to her illness. Beloved by all family, friends and neighbors, she was very devoted to her family and kept in touch with relatives in England on a regular basis. One of her more enjoyable moments was traveling with her family. Taking trips to New England, going to the Caribbean with her first husband, Solomon Siegler and going to Atlantic City with her second husband, John Ballouz.

She had a special love for all animals, especially birds and dogs. In 1991 she was cited in a book called *The Tea Party*, written by a family friend, Ormus Davenport. The book discussed her husband Sol's traumatic experience during World War II, where she was recognized for her "courtship."

She is predeceased by her first husband, Solomon Siegler, who died in 1987; her second husband, John Ballouz, who died in March 2002 and four brothers, Frank, Charles, Peter and Freddie.

Surviving are three daughters, Rosalyn Metzger and her husband Robert of Pittstown, Debbie Rien and her husband Joseph of Glen Gardner and Frances Siegler of Highland Park; two step-sons, Frank Ballouz of London, England and John Ballouz II of Florida; a sister, Vera Bryant and her husband Leonard of Calif.; two granddaughters, Michelle Bratter and Nicole Silverman and her beloved great grandson, Benjamin Bratter. Also surviving are two nephews, Trevor Bryant and Stewart Bryant and their families and two dear friends, Connie DeSalvo and Doris Tobin, both of South Plainfield.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Doris' memory to the Mary Ann Dale Pavilion c/o The JFK Medical Center Foundation, 80 James St., Edison, NJ 08818.

Michael John Orak, Jr., 74

Michael John Orak, Jr., known as Pee-Pa to his grandchildren, has sadly departed our world. He passed away on Monday, July 26 at the JFK Haven Hospice Center in Edison.

Michael was born in Linden, where he lived for his first 26 years, before

moving to South Plainfield where he had resided for the rest of his life.

A butcher by trade, for five years during the 1960s, he owned and operated his own butcher shop on Main St. in Metuchen. He then worked for Shop Rite and Pathmark in South Plainfield and Middlesex for many years. After his retirement 12 years ago, to keep himself busy, he worked for over 10 years for Oak Tree Farms in South Plainfield.

He was a sergeant and a cook in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict and was stationed in Korea. He was honored with the Korean Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, the United Nations Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge and the Distinguished Service Medal.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church and was a member of the United Food Workers Local 464A of Little Falls and the VFW Memorial Post 6763.

Michael is survived by his wife of 49 years, Theresa (Pugliese) Orak and his loving and caring children, Cynthia Kuban and her husband Michael of Colonia, JoLynn Judka and her husband Phil of Cranford, Michael Orak

and his wife Judy of Colonia and Jennifer Guimaraes and her husband Joe of Woodbridge.

He will be greatly missed for his joke-telling by his grandchildren, Lauren, Christopher and David Kuban, Andrew and Brandon Judka, Heather, Michael-John and William Orak and Joe-Michael and Emily Guimaraes.

He is also leaving behind his mother, Anna Astalos Orak of Linden; three sisters, Anna Mickla of Jupiter, Fla., Mary Kertis and Eleanor Urso of Linden. He is also survived by many nieces.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like donations to be made to the Mary Ann Hale Pavilion (Haven Hospice), c/o The JFK Medical Center Foundation, 80 James St., Edison, NJ 08818-9972.

Edith E. Stranzenbach, 71

Edith E. Stranzenbach died on Sunday, Aug. 1 in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in North Plainfield, she resided in South Plainfield and Plainfield before moving to North Plainfield in 1970.

She was employed as a Dental Assistant for the late Dr. Mintz of Plainfield for many years before her retirement.

Edith was a former member of the South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298 Ladies Auxiliary. She was an avid bowler and shuffle board player.

Her husband, Fred Stranzenbach, died in 1980 and her son, Mark, died in 1990.

Surviving are a daughter, Linda and her husband, John Hicks of North Plainfield; a son, Allyn and his wife, Lisa Stranzenbach of North Plainfield; her companion, Mike Buyachek; a brother, Edwin Frank Van Horn of Columbia, So. Carolina and a granddaughter, Alison Hicks.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Ave.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Adult Medical Day Care Center, Park Ave. and Randolph Ave., Plainfield, NJ 07060.

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The Wall That Heals will be open 24-hours a day, and there is no charge for admission. The Veterans Council is seeking corporate and individual donations to cover the cost of the visit.

For more information on the event or to make a donation, contact Carl Asszony, veterans service officer at (732) 745-4051.

Volunteers are needed around the clock during the visit. If you would like to volunteer, contact Ken Holman at (732) 247-3727.

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South Plainfield alumni band, Unnamed, recent first place winners of the National Hard Rock Cafe Battle of the Bands, showcased for several major record labels on Tuesday, July 27.

Over 125 loyal fans, as well as industry executives came out in the pouring rain to see Unnamed perform at New York City's Hard Rock Cafe.

Unnamed will be playing an all-ages show at the Starland Ballroom in Sayreville on Wednesday, Aug. 11 at 8 p.m. Be sure to take advantage of this night as it will be one of the few all-ages shows that Unnamed performs! For advance discount tickets, contact Eric Seiz at EricS@unnamed.com.



Unnamed performed at the Hard Rock Cafe in New York.

SCHOOL BOARD *Briefs*

Notes From Curriculum Meeting

• Mike English reported that presentations will be given by students at public board meetings at several schools during the next school year. Each presentation will include something of importance to that school. Presentations will be held at Franklin School in October, Kennedy School in November, Riley School in December, Roosevelt School in January, Grant School in February, Middle School in March.

• Preliminary approval was given for approximately 220 eighth grade students' to take a trip to Washington, Williamsburg and Baltimore next June. The cost is about \$320 per student and \$260 for chaperones.

• The committee approved a trip for the cheerleaders to attend a camp in the Pocono Mountains. Two coaches will accompany about 12 students. The purpose of the camp is to improve skills and safety and build team unity.

• Kate Crown reported on the HSPA, GEPA and NJASK 4 math scores. She explained that the exceptional growth seen in the math scores was due to many factors that were put into place in March of 2003. Curriculum alignment, increased math time in grade six, GEPA review programs, CRT assessments, PSAT's for all 10th graders, regular department meetings for grade 5-8 teachers and the summer math institute and math inventory tests, all contributed to the students' growth. Crown added that the fourth grade CRT scores correlated highly with NJASK 4 scores. In 2004-2005 all of this information will be used to help identify students for early intervention.

• Anthony Massaro asked the Board of Education to officially recognize the French Club, saying it is a viable club, based on the number of students who participate and the number of meetings held. The finance committee will evaluate whether the board can support it monetarily.

• Russ Mattoon said the technology is in the maintenance mode. They plan to have every computer updated with virus protection and tag the computers. They will also examine, replace and increase wireless access points.

• Teachers in five different schools will receive SmartBoard technology for

their classrooms. Selected teachers will receive training this summer. The purchase of additional boards will be purchased through grant dollars.

• The results of pilot tests given days prior to the HSPA were reported by Mrs. Crown. The tests were given

to 92 eleventh graders, who were taking the following math courses: Pre-calculus, Algebra 3/Trig, Algebra 2 honors, Algebra.

• The next curriculum meeting is Monday, Aug. 16. Meetings are open to the public.

policereport

• On July 27 Dallas Contracting Co. on New Market Ave. reported that the locks had been cut off to several storage sheds and \$330 worth of copper wiring had been taken.

• A Barone Ave. resident reported receiving fraudulent charges on his credit card.

• A Maple Ave. resident reported receiving harassing phone calls.

• On July 30 William Kruczak, 48, of Edison was arrested for driving while intoxicated and refusing to take a breathalyzer test at a vehicle stop.

• A Matis St. resident reported the theft of a front grill off of their vehicle.

• On July 31 Edgar Geovani Monge Rosa, 27, of Alexandria, Va. was arrested for driving while intoxicated, being an unlicensed driver, careless driving, failure to stay right and wear a seat belt during a motor vehicle stop.

• Ronald Gonzalez, 35, of Bronx, NY was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving at a

motor vehicle stop.

• A Carmine Ave. resident reported that the trunk of her vehicle had been broken into and blankets, sneakers and towels were missing.

• A West Ave. resident reported that the plastic hood emblem had been taken off the front of his vehicle.

• The owner of Rus Corp. reported the theft of \$22,240 from the company by an employee.

• Dallas Contracting Co. on New Market Ave. reported that for the second time in a week a hole had been cut in the fence and scrap copper pipe and wire had been taken.

• Raceway Gas on W. 7th St. reported that an attempt had been made to pry the front door lock open.

• Firemen responded to a small fire on Geary Dr. Sunday which caused by a combustible material which was too close to a dryer vent. The fire was quickly extinguished. The washer and dryer were extensively damaged.

Borough Tax Bill Update

Borough Extends Due Date to Aug. 31

The South Plainfield tax bills will be mailed Friday, Aug. 6. The grace period for property tax payment has been extended until Aug. 31.

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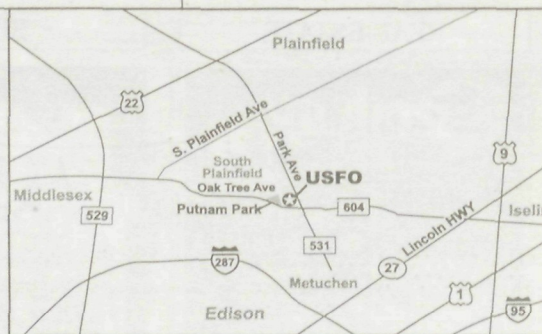
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