

# South Plainfield Observer

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VOL. 8, NO. 51

50 CENTS

AUGUST 27, 2004

## Future Stars Legislation Becomes Law

*Diegnan/Barnes/Buono Initiative  
Expanding Pre-school Access*

Legislation permitting the charging of tuition for preschool programs in school districts that are not required to provide early education services, was signed into law by Governor James E. McGreevey. The passage of this legislation will allow South Plainfield's Future Stars Preschool to continue as it has for 23 years.

Last July the board was informed by board attorney Dr. Nicholas Celso, that the Future Star program was illegal. He came to that conclusion because of a 1996 court ruling concerning a preschool program in Montclair, which declared that all public school programs must be tuition free. Celso interpreted the ruling to mean that the Future Star Program could no longer be run by the South

Plainfield Adult School.

Board members Steve Bohn and Sue Peck did not accept that ruling. Along with other board members, they contacted Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan and asked for his help in finding a way to continue the program.

The result was Assembly Bill A-2170/S-1586, sponsored by Assemblymen Patrick Diegnan and Peter J. Barnes and Senator Barbara Buono. The bill provides a means of financing pre-school programs in school districts that are not classified as eligible for Abbott funding or state childhood program aid. These non-Abbott/non-preschool-mandate districts can now finance preschool programs by charging tuition, pro-

*Continued on page 10*

## Firemen vs. Police in Battle of the Badges

The annual Battle of the Badges Charity Softball Game, sponsored by the South Plainfield Elks Handicapped Children's Commission will be held on Friday, Sept. 3 starting at 7 p.m. at Veterans Park.

The South Plainfield Volunteer Firemen will be pitted against the

South Plainfield Police Department. This annual event is a must for all residents to attend. The rivalry between the police department and firemen promises an interesting evening and all the proceeds go to the Elks Handicapped Children's Fund.



The Tiger Sharks eight-and-under boys medley relay champions and free-style silver medalists at the League Championships. Pictured above are Joe Valentino, Sean Cullen and Aidan McDermott. Missing from the picture is Charlie Butrico. At right: the Tiger Sharks eight-and-under girls undefeated freestyle and medley relay League and Conference Champions. From left to right: Kaitlyn Faustini, Taylor Aljian, Coach Post, Kate McLaughlin, Kelly O'Brien and Coach Cone. For full story, see page 8.



## Celebrate Labor Day with Borough!

The 47th Annual Labor Day Parade, which will be held on Monday, Sept. 6, is geared for the enjoyment of both the young and old. Activities take place all day. This is South Plainfield's day to shine and take pride in our community.

The day begins with a 5K race and 1.5 mile family walk. What better way to start the days festivities than with a healthy walk or run and if you get a little stiff or sore, Dr. Patrick Aiello will be on hand to massage away your pain.

The parade officially begins at the Middle school at exactly 10 a.m., led by the South Plainfield High School Marching Band. This year there will be at least six bands marching. Many of our youth groups will be marching and interpreting their explanation of this year's theme, "Our Youth of Today—The Leaders of Tomorrow." Lots of antique cars, personnel from all branches of the armed services and many local organizations have already

signed up to march.

Those participating in the parade are reminded that every float must have four spotters, one at each corner, or they will not be allowed to participate. Safety is a huge concern to the parade committee.

After the parade reaches the PAL, folks are invited to visit the numerous concessions which will be set up by local businesses. There will be give-aways and literature available. The *Observer* will also be on hand to greet all of our readers, answer questions and if you like, you can sign up for home delivery.

There will also be plenty of food. The South Plainfield Lions Club will be selling beer, steak and sausage sandwiches and soda. Other's selling food are: Hometown Heroes, Cake and Bagel Shop, Carnival Concessions, Summer Drama Workshop, SPSHS Class of 2005, D&D Concessions and the South Plainfield Cheering Competition Team.

Several contests will be held at the PAL after the parade. They include pie and watermelon eating contests, an egg toss, a big slide, water balloons, tug 'o war, a rock mountain climb and a moon walk. All are as much fun to watch as to participate, so plan to stick around and enjoy them. Musical entertainment will be presented by James Nigro.

The evening fireworks at Spring Lake Park will be preceded by entertainment by "Sound Investment" at 7 p.m. Bead necklaces will be handed out to the first 4,000 children who arrive at the park. Fireworks will be presented by Bay Fireworks and begin at dusk. Remember the roads will be close near Spring Lake Park, so make plans accordingly.

If you would like more information on the parade, or want to find out how you can participate, call Kim Gallagher at (908) 755-9874 or log on to the Borough's website at: [southplainfieldnj.com](http://southplainfieldnj.com).



Eleven through fifteen-year-olds participated in the Middlesex County Health Department and the South Plainfield Public Library sponsored babysitting course held at Borough Hall. See page 6 for story.



See next week's Observer for complete info on the Labor Day Parade and Festivities.

## Mark Your Calendars

Log on to  
[southplainfieldnj.com](http://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
Tuesday, September 7	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Monday, September 20	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  
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  
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.—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.—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.  
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  
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 (No meeting in August)

### 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.  
September 13, (No meeting in October), November 15, December 13,  
January 31, 2005, (No meeting February) and March 21

## Freeholders Approve Grants for Municipal Recreation Projects

At its regular meeting, the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders authorized the use of approximately \$5.3M from the county's Open Space and Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund for various recreation projects throughout the county.

Beginning in 2003, municipal officials were able to receive development grants from the county's Trust Fund to improve or construct active recreation facilities, such as ball fields, public pools, walkways and municipal parks.

"By expanding the scope of the original Open Space Trust Fund, we can help out municipalities who do not have open lands to protect, but have specific active recreation needs for their residents," said Freeholder Director David B. Crabel.

Crabel and Freeholder Camille Fernicola, liaison to the county Open Space Advisory Committee, sent letters to officials in the county's 25

municipalities to identify priorities for the development of recreational facilities under local jurisdiction.

"By asking the municipalities to prioritize their needs, we can allocate the Trust Funds and respond to our residents' needs more effectively," Fernicola said.

Grants for 11 recreation projects in seven municipalities were approved by the Freeholder Board on Thursday night.

South Plainfield received \$595,000 for Putnam Park, Phase II, which will

be used to relocate the basketball court, construct playfields, walkways and a comfort station. The money will also be used for improvements to the Police Athletic League Building, including a new locker room and cafeteria.

Other local municipalities who received grant money were: Carteret-\$150,000, Edison-\$1,395,585, Jamesburg-\$150,425, Metuchen-\$316,000, Middlesex Borough-\$97,556 and Woodbridge-\$1,900,000.

## Make 'n Take Library Craft Program

South Plainfield Free Public Library will offer another "Make 'n Take" craft program on Monday, Sept. 13, at 10:30 a.m.

The program will be conducted by Ronda Wisniewski, Practical Crafting instructor. Participants will make a candleholder from polymer

clay. There is a \$2 fee to cover the cost of materials and participants must register in advance.

The library is located at 2484 Plainfield Ave.

For more information, call (908) 754-7885 or visit their website at: [southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

## IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

I just got my sewer bill in the mail, and it contains a \$50 annual increase. Funny, last week I got a letter from the town saying there was no tax increase this year. Obviously that's not true.

It was just a few years back the sewer tax was raised and now they're doing it again.

No tax increase? Nonsense—tell my wallet that.

KATHERINE SEESSELBERG

Dear Editor,

Like other taxpayers, I received my tax bill last week and in it was this year's first Democratic campaign ad. It's a litany of the current administration's so-called successes.

The letter was most notable for what it left out. For example, nowhere does the letter say that we received a 25% sewer-tax increase. And while it says there will be no municipal tax increase, it fails to point out that for several years the mayor and council have been siphoning off money from the sewer budget to prop up the general budget. I wonder if this is the type of bait-and-switch scheme the council president thinks 'other municipalities should take a lesson from South Plainfield' on.

Nor does the letter say that the mayor and council cut the bulk pick-up program. Residents can no longer call for bulk pick-ups, but rather, must wait until a scheduled date. Hmmm, we can't afford bulk-item pickups anymore, but we can afford to give a huge raise to a former Democratic councilman who now works for the town. We can also afford to dole out big-money, no-bid contracts to Democratic campaign contributors. Something's wrong.

The letter also fails to mention Helen Street and Hamilton Blvd. I guess I too would hesitate to mention a project that's eight years behind schedule (Helen St.) and a project that's more than four years behind schedule (Hamilton Blvd.) if I were updating the public.

But we all know the annual letter in the tax bill is not a real update. It's a campaign ad. If it were a real up-

date, the authors wouldn't time and again slip in the names of the council members up for re-election. Or maybe we're not supposed to notice that.

Instead of patting themselves on the back with self-congratulatory letters, I wish the mayor and council would start fixing what's broken.

At least they'd save the paper and the extra postage!

LINDA R. MACKENZIE

### Submit Letters to the Editor:

Letters may be submitted to the Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax 908-668-8819 or by email: [spobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net). Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Limit letters to no more than 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. We reserve the right to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject.

## Our Lady Of Czestochowa R.C. Church

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## 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., fax us at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at [spobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net). Include your name, address, telephone number. You can subscribe or contact us at: [spobserver.com](http://spobserver.com).

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## NOTES FROM The Senior Center

by Joann Graf, Director of Office on Aging

**Senior Computer Class Forming—**A new beginners computer class is now forming at the Senior Center. The class will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 15 and will be held every Wednesday at 11 a.m. Any senior citizen who would be interested in joining this class should register at the Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave., as soon as possible. The class size is limited so please act quickly.

**Senior Washington, D.C. Trip—**The Senior Center is sponsoring an overnight trip to Washington, D.C. on Friday, Oct. 1 and Saturday, Oct. 2. The trip's sightseeing highlights include visits to the new World War II Memorial, the Vietnam and Korean War Memorials, Arlington National Cemetery and a tour of Washington at night. The trip includes accommodations in suburban Washington, dinner on Friday evening, breakfast at the hotel, transportation and sightseeing. The cost is \$159 per person double and \$209 single occupancy.

**Theatre Trip to Lord of Dance—**The Senior Center is sponsoring a theatre trip to see the theatrical spectacle,

Michael Flatley's *Lord of the Dance* on Thursday, Nov. 4. *Lord of the Dance* is a mesmerizing blend of traditional and modern Celtic music and dance. It features more than 40 performers and is played out on a grand scale with precision dancing, dramatic music and vibrant costumes. Cost is \$50 per person including transportation.

**Lancaster Christmas Show Trip—**The Senior Center is sponsoring an overnight trip to Lancaster, Pa. on Nov. 17 and 18. The trip includes tickets to the Sight and Sound Millennium Theatre to see the breathtaking production of "The Miracle of Christmas." Accommodations will be at the Ramada Inn, dinner at the Maple Shade Smorgasbord, buffet breakfast at the hotel and visits to the Farmer's Market and Kitchen Kettle Village.

The cost is \$165 per person double and \$205 single occupancy. Reservations will be available beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 7 at the Senior Center.

For reservations or information on the above, call the Senior Center at (908) 756-4135 or stop in.

## Haiti Slide Show to be Shown at Suburban Womans Club Meeting

The September meeting of the G.E.W.C. South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club will be held Thursday, Sept. 2 at 1 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Ave.

According to the vice president and program chairperson Mary Ann Iannitto, the program will feature a slide show on Haiti. The narrator, Bill Tuthill, a retired plumber and his wife, a registered nurse, have spent much time volunteering in Haiti in their respective areas of expertise. Since 1989 their volunteering project in Haiti has

been the Haitian Health Foundation. It began as a dental clinic and over the years has become a lying-in hospital for women with problem pregnancies. The Health Foundation will be featured in the slide show.

Also invited to speak is Cassandra D'Urso, a senior at South Plainfield High School. She was selected by the Suburban Woman's Club as a delegate to Girl's Career Institute held at Douglass College last June. She will relate her experiences at the workshops and lectures.

The South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club meets monthly with varied and interesting programs. Throughout the year many fundraisers are held to support their annual scholarship award and donations to local community charities.

Any woman interested in joining can call (732) 356-5174 for information.



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado serves a piece of cake to Manny Vergis, Sodexho Food Service Manager, who is leaving the district. He has been assigned to the Freehold Regional District.

## Sodexho's Manny Vergis Leaving South Plainfield

Food Service Manager Manny Vergis is leaving the South Plainfield School District. Sodexho has reassigned Manny to a larger school district in Freehold.

Many of Manny's co-workers were on hand at last week's school board meeting to officially say goodbye. Superintendent of School Dr. Robert Rosado said, "Manny will surely be missed. He is a warm individual and has served outstandingly while work-

ing in the district." To say goodbye, Rosado personally cut and served a piece of his farewell cake, saying it was time to turn the tables on Manny.

Manny told the audience that he was sorry to be leaving South Plainfield, but it was a promotion he couldn't pass up. "Even though I don't live in South Plainfield, I have always felt a certain love for this town and I will miss it working here very much," he said.

## County to Honor Brave, Selfless Firefighters

Freeholder Christopher D. Rafano, the Office of the County Fire Marshal and the staff of the county Fire Academy have announced a new program to honor firefighters from throughout the county for acts of bravery, heroism and distinguished service.

Nominations are now being sought for the Middlesex County Fire Service Awards, to be awarded at a 7 p.m. Sept. 28 ceremony at the Fire Academy in Sayreville. Officials anticipate this will be the first of an annual event.

"Every day, firefighters from throughout the county are risking their lives to help their neighbors," said Freeholder Christopher D. Rafano, chairman of the county Law and Public Safety Committee, which oversees the Fire Academy. "We want to honor their courage, their dedication and their selflessness."

Four medals will be presented: Medal of Valor—To be given to a firefighter who goes above and beyond duty and puts him or herself at extreme personal risk to save the lives of others; Medal of Gallantry—To be given to a firefighter who saves the lives of others while putting him or herself at

great personal risk; Medal of Courage—To be given to a firefighter who completes an act of bravery while fighting a fire and the Distinguished Service Medal—To be given to a firefighter who performs an act of heroism not directly related to a fire. For example, a man or a woman who helps free a victim trapped in a car or in any other dangerous situation.

The action to be recognized must have been performed between June 30, 2003 and June 30, 2004. Each honoree will receive a medal with a ribbon and matching ribbon bar for their dress uniform.

Firefighters who have delivered babies while on duty during those 12 months will be recognized with pins.

Letters and nomination packets are being sent to all fire chiefs in Middlesex County. All 2,742 paid and volunteer firefighters from the county's 53 fire departments are eligible.

Applications are due by Sept. 7. The award committee, including Rafano, Middlesex County Fire Marshal Michael Gallagher and six fire chiefs and past chiefs from throughout the county will make the final decisions.

## Historical Society Awarded Grant

The Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission has informed the Historical Society today that it has been awarded a History Grant in the amount of \$2,000.

The grant will fund the continuation of the Oral History Preservation Program for a full year. Since the program's inception in February of 2003, they have conducted 82 interviews which have yielded an incredible amount of information. The program has inadvertently become an invaluable source in procuring old photos (in the hundreds!) of South Plainfield.

Dr. Richard Veit of South Plainfield will help implement the next phase of the project to be sure it meets the guidelines set forth by the Commission. The grant will fund the program through July 15, 2005.

### OTHER NEWS:

The Historical Society's 2005 Keepsake Calendar will be ready for sale at the South Plainfield Labor Day Parade at a cost of \$8. If you are in the vicinity of the PAL, stop by the Historical Society tent/table. Kathy Horvath, John, Sarah and Dorothy Miele will be there with a new picture display and calendars for sale.

### MEETING DATE:

The next meeting of the South Plainfield Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 14 at the Senior Center starting at 7:30 p.m. Discussions include Town History Day, a proposed Civil War Memorial and other projects.

## PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised that the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield will be holding a Public Hearing on Monday, August 30 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 2480 Plainfield Avenue for the purpose of discussing the Application for Renewal of Municipal Consent to Construct and Operate a Cable Television System in the Borough of South Plainfield which has been filed by Comcast of Plainfield, LLC.

Anyone interested in reviewing the application can do so at the Municipal Clerk's Office which is located at the above noted address between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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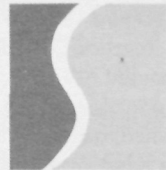
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# Events

## 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.

## VFW Breakfast

September 5

The VFW will be holding a breakfast to benefit veterans at the Lyons VA Hospital 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 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.

## Computer Class Forming

September 15

A new beginners computer class is now forming at the Senior Center. The class will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 15 and will be held every Wednesday at 11 a.m. Any senior citizen who would be interested in joining this class should register at the Senior Center as soon as possible. The class size is limited so please act quickly. For further

*What's happening in*  
**AUGUST/SEPT.**

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><b>EVENTS</b></p> <p><i>We are looking for volunteers to help our Labor Day Parade Committee Sign Up at the Center</i></p> <p><i>Fire Prevention Program August 26</i></p>			<p>Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am <b>26</b> Practical Crafts 10-11am Computer Class 11 &amp; 1pm</p>	<p>Bingo 10am-2pm <b>27</b> Pizza lunch available</p>
<p>Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am <b>30</b> Yoga 10:30am-11:30am Drawing Class 11:30am Parade Committee 1pm</p>	<p>Bingo 10am-2pm <b>31</b> Ladies Social 10am</p>	<p>Exercise 8:30am <b>1</b> Movie Time 11:30am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 11 &amp; 1pm Atlantic City Trip</p>	<p>Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am <b>2</b> Practical Crafting 10am Computer Class 11&amp;1pm</p>	<p>Bingo 10am-2pm <b>3</b> Lunch available</p>

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

information, please call the Senior Center at (908) 756-4135.

## Pierogi Sale at Nativity of Blessed Virgin

September 16

There will be a pierogi sale on Thursday, Sept. 16 at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church, 400 Delmore Ave. (corner of Belmont and Delmore). The pierogies are \$4 a dozen and handmade freshly cooked to order by Sisterhood and Brotherhood members. You have a choice of potato with cheese or sauerkraut.

Order by 4 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 13 for pickup on Thursday, Sept. 16. To order, or for information, call (908) 561-6366 and leave your name, phone number and order. For more information or questions, contact Dorothy at (908) 756-7223.

## VFW Post 6763 Holding Dinner

September 17

The VFW will be holding a dinner on Friday, Sept. 17 from 5 to 8 p.m. The VFW is located at 155 Front St. Tickets are \$5. For information, call (908) 668-9751.

## Rescue Squad Auxiliary Fundraiser

September 18

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad Auxiliary is presenting "Joey and Mary's Irish/Italian Comedy Wedding" on Saturday, Sept. 18. This fundraiser will be at the Holiday Inn in South Plainfield at 7 p.m.

Enjoy the fun of a "traditional" wedding with the wackiest bridal party and the craziest two families you will ever meet. This hilarious show is run with all the trimmings of a real wedding and the audience plays the role of wedding guests as the characters mingle throughout the tables and treat everyone as "part of the family."

Evening includes a four-course dinner. Advance purchase only.

Tickets are \$60. For more information, contact Denise at (732) 261-8942 or Tracy at (732) 841-4844.

## Travelling Soccer Club Family Picnic

September 18

Every Soccer club family is welcome and encouraged to come and join in the FUN at a picnic to be held on Saturday, Sept. 18, (rain date is Sept. 25) at Veterans Memorial Park from 3 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$10 per family. RSVP required by Sept. 1.

There will be plenty of great food, beer/wine, soda, hamburgers, hot dogs, crab cakes, sausage, chicken, good friends, tons of fun and games.

For more information or to volunteer call Ann Marie Ferrante-Scyffart at (908) 756-7543.

## AARP Chapter #4144 Meeting

September 20

The South Plainfield Chapter of AARP will resume their meetings at the Senior Center on Monday, Sept. 20 at 12:30 p.m. Michael Lopes and Bonnie Testa from the Public Relations Dept. of Vitalize will speak about the many resources open to retired persons.

## — Out of Town —

## MCRCC Patriots Game/50's Night

August 28

Join us for a nighttime Patriots game at Commerce Bank Ballpark at 6 p.m. in Bridgewater and all-you-can-eat buffet with special performance by Jim Barone as Elvis, sponsored by Miller Lite. Friends and family are welcome. \$30 MCRCC Members. \$40 Non-Members. Seating is limited. Tickets must be purchased prior to event date at [www.mcrcc.org](http://www.mcrcc.org) or (732) 821-1700.

## Married Couples Dinner Meeting

August 29

The B'nai B'rith Ketubah Married Couples Unit (40+) will be meeting for dinner at Sir John's, 230 Washington Place in North Brunswick on Sunday, Aug. 29 at 6 p.m. Non-members are welcome to join the group for dinner.

Please R.S.V.P. to Elaine at (908) 232-0062 by Aug. 27.

## WOWs Dance/Social

August 29

The Woodbridge Area Chapter of Widows or Widowers (WOWs) will be holding a fundraiser dance/social on Sunday, Aug. 29 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. The price per person is \$8 and all are welcome. Refreshments are offered and there will be live music by the Blue Notes. The dance will be held at the Elk's Hall, 665 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. For more information, call (732) 297-1775.

## Metuchen-Edison Women's Club Hosts Author

September 1

Feather Schwartz Foster, author of "LADIES: A Conjecture of Personalities," will be discussing her book at a program sponsored by the Metuchen-Edison Women's Club at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 1 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 Oak Ave., Metuchen.

This proves to be a fascinating and educational evening. The meeting is open to the public at no charge and refreshments will be served. For more information about the club and membership, please call Diana Degnan at (732) 548-0925.

## Sisters of Mercy 10th Annual Golf Classic

September 9

The Sisters of Mercy of New Jersey invite all their friends to participate in the 10th Annual Golf Classic at the Navesink Country Club in Middletown on Thursday, Sept. 9.

The fee is \$350 per person or \$1,400 for a foursome. Individuals and businesses are invited to support this event that will benefit the infirmed and retired Mercy Sisters who have touched many lives and gave such excellent service to the people of New Jersey.

You can participate by golfing or sponsoring the lunch, dinner reception, driving range, practice green, tee or green and carts.

The schedule begins with registration, a gourmet luncheon, shotgun start and a delicious dinner with something for everyone. The dinner reception is \$100 for those who may want to come and visit with the sisters.

Registrations should be in immediately for play, program ads and sponsorships.

Call Linda Cavallo, Development Director at (908) 756-0994 ext. 4006 for a brochure or information.

## Circle Players' Present Docudrama

September 10

The Laramie Project, the award-winning docudrama by Moises Kaufman, will be presented at Circle Players, in the community theater of Piscataway on Friday, Sept. 10.

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

## Moonrakers "Meet and Greet"

September 14

The New Jersey Moonrakers Tall Club, Inc., a social and community service organization serving people of "taller-than-average" stature in the New Jersey/New York metropolitan area, will hold its monthly "Meet and Greet" social at the Saddle Brook Marriott hotel, located between Route 80 and the Garden State Parkway in Saddle Brook on Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 8 p.m.

For further information about the club or for a schedule of our social events, call our 24-hour hotline service at (973) 267-3648 or visit our website at <http://www.njtall.org> or email at [newjersey@tall.org](mailto:newjersey@tall.org).

## MCCRC Networking

September 14

The Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce is planning their 12th Annual Largest Networking Party on Tuesday, Sept. 14 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the rooftop of the Hyatt Regency, 2 Albany St. in New Brunswick.

Business owners and the community are invited to attend.

Pre-paid advance tickets may be purchased by calling (732) 821-1700. Or register online at [www.mcrcc.org](http://www.mcrcc.org). Tickets are available at the door for \$35 per person.

**Send Your Events to:**  
 South Plainfield Observer, 1110  
 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B  
 South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
 or fax (908) 668-8819  
 email: [spobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net)

## A New Colorful World for a Loved One with Alzheimers

On a daily basis, residents from Cedar Oaks Care Center have a pleasurable opportunity to enter a room where their five senses are introduced into a world of excitement and wonder. A world where the environment introduces sounds, smells and sights that stimulate, as well as promote, relaxation from the every day confusion and stress which Dementia and Alzheimer patients experience.

Cedar Oaks' Snoezelin, or sensory room, was created to offer a place where such residents could reduce anxiety and agitation in lieu of pharmacological intervention. This same concept was introduced at Cedar Oaks to provide our Alzheimer and Dementia residents with a pleasing atmosphere that may enhance their quality of life.

Families and staff have found Alzheimer and Dementia residents who utilize our sensory room to be less agitated and confused. Alzheimer residents who used to wander the halls at night have enjoyed a better night's sleep, which assists them in their confusion of time and place. Facility staff can utilize this room to tackle their stress at work and home as well.



**CEDAR OAKS CARE CENTER**

For additional information, please feel free to visit Lorie Antonelli, Director of Recreational Services, Cedar Oaks Care Center, 1311 Durham Ave., or call at (732) 287-9555 ext. 139.



## southplainfieldpeople

# Milestones

### Dr. Jonathan Crane Receives Award

A native of Plainfield, Dr. Jonathan Crane received the American Society for Horticultural Science Award for Outstanding Extension Educator. A professor at the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agri-

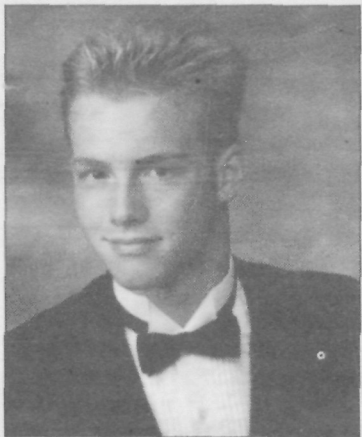
cultural Sciences, Crane received the award from the American Society for Horticultural Sciences (ASHS) in July. The awards ceremony was held at the Annual Conference in Austin, Texas.

Crane was recognized for his outstanding and valuable contributions as the program leader for an extremely effective statewide extension program in tropical fruit culture and management. He has been a member of ASHS since 1983 serving on the ASHS Fruit Publication Award Committee in 1995 and 2001 and on the Extension Division Committee from 2000-2003.

Crane is very highly regarded nationally and internationally by his academic colleagues and the agricultural community as an authority on tropical fruit crop biology, production and management.

### Noll Named to Dean's List at George Mason Univ.

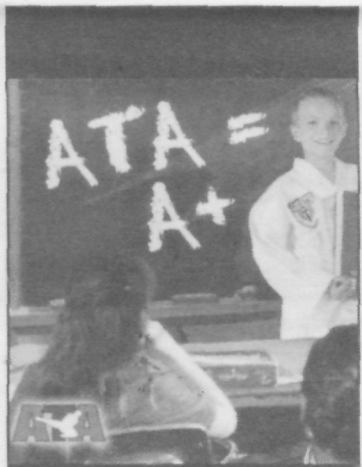
Matthew R. Noll, son of Kenneth and Maureen Noll of South Plain-



Matthew R. Noll

field, has been named to the Dean's List for the second semester at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA.

Matthew has dual majors in finance and economics and will be a junior this year. Only 16% of students in GMU's School of Management achieve the grades to make the Dean's List.



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Lauren Renna and Jon Dean

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your Milestones!

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Fax: 908-668-8819

### Lauren Renna and Jon Dean Announce their Engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Renna of Clark are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Lauren to Jon Andrew Dean, son of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Dean of South Plainfield.

Lauren is a graduate of Kean Uni-

versity and is currently a second grade teacher in Plainfield. Jon is the owner of A-Tech Landscaping Design and is a member of the South Plainfield Fire Department. An October 2006 wedding is planned.

### Richard Fonti and Amy Miller are Wed

Richard Fonti and Amy Miller were married on Saturday, Aug. 14 in Spring Lake, NJ.

The couple resides in South Plainfield.

Richard is a teacher at South Plainfield High School and Amy is a customer service representative at R.P.I. in South Plainfield.

The couple plans on an October reception and a November honeymoon in Key West, Fla.



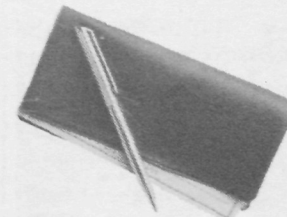
Richard Fonti and Amy Miller

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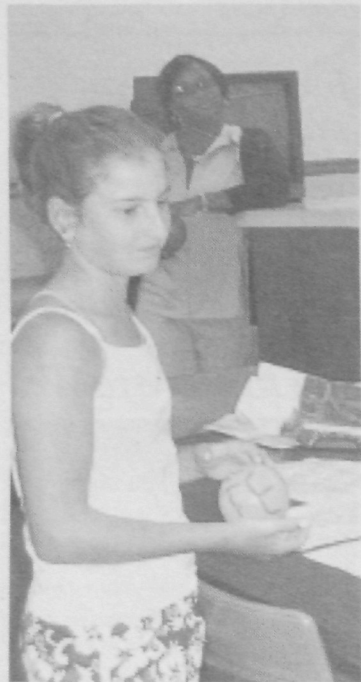
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## Youth Learn Babysitting 101 in County Health Department Class



By Jane Dornick

The Middlesex County Health Department, in conjunction with the South Plainfield Public Library, recently held a two day class on babysitting.



The program was taught by Health Educator Twyla Paige of the Middlesex County Health Department, and was attended by boys and girls ages 11 through 15.

During the three-hour sessions, Paige covered everything from bottle feeding to poison control. The students learned what is expected of a sitter—getting emergency phone numbers, paying attention to the environment to prevent injuries and never opening the door to strangers. They

also were instructed on how to play with, entertain and feed children of all ages and be safe.

Probably the most difficult challenge for all of the students was how to deal with children who won't listen. The students were told that the best part of babysitting was that it could be a super way to earn extra money. Some students participated who just wanted to be better at taking care of their younger brothers and sisters.



## Reward Offered For Hit and Run Information

If anyone has any information regarding a hit and run accident in the parking lot of CVS Pharmacy on Monday, Aug. 23, between the hours of 4 and 10 p.m., please contact the Observer.

The car that was struck was a black 1995 Accura Integra and judging from the damage done, it was apparently hit by either a white car, truck or SUV.

The car belongs to a very hard-working South Plainfield teenager who did not have collision coverage. The car was parked in the CVS parking lot while he was at work.

If you were a witness to this incident, or have any information on who might have done this, please contact Nancy Grennier at the Observer at (908) 668-0010. No complaints will be filed. Our only intention is to have the car repaired.

If you were the person who damaged this car, please do the right thing and come forward!

## Hunted House Auditions

ALMOST FAMOUS PLAYERS  
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There will be an Almost Famous Players Haunted Woods Audition at 2 Page Ct, (off New Brunswick Ave., near 7th St.) on Friday, Aug. 27 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call for a specific audition appointment time. Almost Famous Players also need adults to help handle security, costume, stage crew and makeup help as well. Call (908) 346-2290 or email [almstfamousplyrs@aol.com](mailto:almstfamousplyrs@aol.com) or [angel-only@aol.com](mailto:angel-only@aol.com).

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For the third year in a row the Morton Ave. Annual Block Party was held on a rainy day. However, the spirits of those attending were high and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Party organizer Betty Schiavi again did a wonderful job organizing and hosting the event. DJ Paul Melillo kept things lively spinning tunes all day. There was plenty of homemade food and games kept the children busy. The South Plainfield Fire Department also brought their truck to party.



## From the South Plainfield Bookmarks

By Christopher Grippo

The grand total is in for the Summer Reading Program and we are happy to say that 261 readers participated and they read 9,518 books. Congratulations and keep up the good work! Furthermore, remember to pick up your certificate of participation.

It's getting to be that time of year. School starts in another two weeks and before you know it school projects will be due. Whether you are entering first grade or college our homepage ([www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us)) has something for you.

For the scholar there are links to EBSCOhost, an online periodical database which is available from your home. Contemporary Authors is a biographical/bibliographical database, while Opposing Viewpoints discusses the major controversies of modern American Society from both the pro and con. Later on this fall we will be offering classes in the use of these databases.

For the younger set there is Kids InfoBits, a website for students K-5, with full-text, age-appropriate, curriculum-related magazine, newspaper and reference information on current events, the arts, science, health, people, government, history, sports and more.

Also please remember that you can do the following through our website: you can check our catalog, place a hold, request an item from another library, renew materials, etc. This can save you the hassle of calling the library and you can perform any of these procedures 24/7.

Don't forget our BIG Book Sale on Sept. 18!!!

No children's programs until Oct. 5.

## Knights of Columbus Looking for New Members

The Knights of Columbus & Columbiettes of South Plainfield, Council #6203 are looking for new members. If you are interested in joining the world's largest Catholic Fraternal Service Organization. You will have fun, make friends and support your church and community. What could be more rewarding? Make your

family a part of ours.....

For more info, please contact Zig Sutor at (908) 755-9708 or Grand Knight Joe Scudato at (908) 754-0869.

## Sept. 11 Memorial in Spring Lake Park

A September 11 memorial candlelight ceremony will be held on Saturday evening at 7 p.m. in Spring Lake Park. The SPHS band will be providing music. Bring your own candle.

See upcoming issues for more details.

Father John Skwara will celebrate his birthday on Sunday, August 29. Interested parties may send him birthday greetings at McCarrick Care Center, 15 Dellwood Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873.

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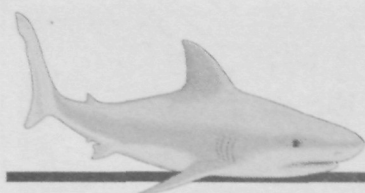
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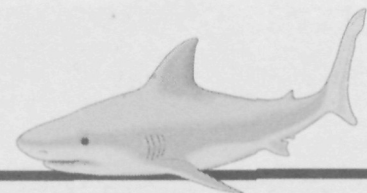
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# Sports



## Tiger Sharks Place Third in Swimming and Diving Conference

The New Jersey Swimming and Diving Conference held the League "A" Swimming Championships on July 30 and 31 at the Frog Hollow Swim Club in South Amboy. The South Plainfield Tiger Sharks placed third overall in the championship meet against the 10 teams in the league.

For the dual season, the South Plainfield Tiger Sharks received a trophy for second place. The top medal winners for the girls in the eight-and-under were Taylor Aljian, 9/10 Maggie Valentino, 11/12 Sarah Konops and 15-18 Katie Kaczka. The top medal winners for the boys in the eight-and-under were Aidan McDermott; 9/10 Anthony Gurrieri and 15-18 Calvin-John Smiley.

Swimmers 13-and-older competed on Friday, July 30, while the younger swimmers competed on Saturday, July 31. Scores from the two days were added together and South Plainfield scored 207 points, placing them in third place. The Cranford Gators placed first with 265 points and East Brunswick scored 218.5 points for second place. Medals were given to those swimmers who placed between first and sixth place.

Friday evening started off well for the Tiger Sharks. The boys 13-18 medley relay placed sixth. Swimmers were Calvin-John Smiley, Philip Luzny, Alan Kasmer and Michael Boyle.

Katie Kaczka placed first in the girls 15-18 100 meter freestyle and Calvin-

John Smiley placed second in the same event for the boys. Katie turned around and placed first again in the 15-18 100 meter butterfly. Philip Luzny placed second in the boys 100 meter butterfly.

Two medals were given to the Tiger Sharks for the 100 meter backstroke. In the girls 15-18, Katie Kaczka placed third and Nina Byard placed fifth. Calvin-John Smiley placed third in the boys 15-18 100 meter backstroke. Smiley had eight minutes to rest and then swam the 200 meter freestyle, placing fourth. Teammate Philip Luzny placed sixth in the same event, which gave the team the needed points.

Swimmers placing in the 13-18 age group were: Abby Petritsch (personal best time) in the 200 meter IM. In the 200 Meter Medley Relay: seventh place went to Nina Byard, Joanna Luzny, Katie Kaczka and Abby Petritsch and placing ninth were Kristen Dabrio, Megan Boyle, Amanda Ray and Anna Petritsch.

In the 13/14 100 meter freestyle: 12th place went to Joanna Luzny. Recording personal best times were Liz Valentino, Anna Petritsch, Michael Boyle, Alan Kasmer and Steven Pinto.

In the 13/14 100 meter breaststroke Joanna Luzny placed 12th.

In the 15-18 100 meter breaststroke Kristen Dabrio placed 11th for the girls and Chris Reed placed 12th for the boys. Kristen also swam her per-

sonal best time in the 100 meter butterfly.

In the 13/14 meter backstroke Abby Petritsch placed ninth and Amanda Ray placed 11th. Swimming his personal best time in the same event for the boys was Alan Kasmer.

In the 13-18 girls 200 meter freestyle relay, Joanna Luzny, Nina Byard, Amanda Ray and Kristen Dabrio placed 10th and Anna Petritsch, Liz Valentino, Abby Petritsch and Megan Boyle came in 11th. For the boys, Michael Boyle, Philip Luzny, Alan Kasmer and Chris Reed placed eighth.

When the 12-and-under swimmers competed on Saturday morning, they realized that the team needed points to place in one of the top three positions. With true team spirit the 12-and-under swimmers achieved this goal.

The day started with great victories. Maggie Valentino placed third for the girls and for the boys, Anthony Gurrieri placed fourth. Liam McDermott placed sixth in the 100 meter IM. In the 10-and-under group, Michelle O'Sullivan also swam her personal best time in this event. Chelsea Cullen placed fourth in the same event for girls ages 11/12.

The eight-and-under girls knew they had to keep making points. Kelly O'Brien, Kate McLaughlin, Taylor Aljian and Kaitlyn Faustini took second place in the eight-and-under 100 meter medley relay. The boys in the same age group and event showed the girls how to do it by taking first. Swimmers were Sean Cullen, Aidan McDermott, Charlie Butrico and Joey Valentino. Tiger Sharks also placing eighth in the same event were Michael Olano, Enzo Butrico, Michael Petritsch and Billy McLaughlin.

In the 9-12 girls, Maggie Valentino, Chelsea Cullen, Kate O'Brien and Sarah Konops placed first in the 200 meter medley relay. Ninth place went to Lucy Roseo, Ellen Zinsky, Kelly McLaughlin and Gracie Piekarski.

After the relays, the Tiger Sharks were ready to take on the competition.

In the eight-and-under girls 25 meter freestyle Taylor Aljian won third place and fourth place went to Kate McLaughlin.

For the boys sixth place went to Aidan McDermott. Personal best times were set by Brianna Swenson, Christina Kasmer, Amy Zinsky, Megan McDermott, Enzo Butrico and Michael Olano.

In the 9/10 50 meter freestyle Gracie Piekarski placed seventh in the girls. For the boys Anthony Gurrieri placed fourth and Liam McDermott took 10th. Personal best times were set by Jamie Quail, Lauren Parello, Allison Quintanilla and Patrick Boyle.

In the 11/12 girls 50 meter freestyle fourth place went to Sarah Konops and personal best times were recorded by Chelsea Ng and Jessica Ray.

In the girls breaststroke eight-and-under, Kate McLaughlin took third. For the boys, Aidan McDermott placed fifth and Charlie Butrico was 10th.

In the 9-10 girls, Kate O'Brien was first and Kelly McLaughlin placed 10th. For the boys Liam McDermott was fifth. Sarah Konops was first in the girls 11/12 group. Swimming recording their personal best times in breaststroke were: Jamie Quail, Evelyn Peregrin, Cristina Butrico and Chelsea Ng.

In the 100 meter freestyle Maggie Valentino placed first in the 10-and-under; Grace Piekarski took sixth and Kaitlyn Kenny was 10th. For the boys Anthony Gurrieri was third. In the girls 11/12 Lucy Roseo was 10th and Chelsea Ng 11th.

In the girls backstroke eight-and-under Kelly O'Brien was sixth, Kaitlyn Faustini was ninth, Maggie Quintanilla was 11th and Annie Pezzolla placed 12th. For the boys Sean Cullen was fifth and Joey Valentino was 10th. In the girls 9/10 Kate O'Brien placed fifth and Michelle O'Sullivan was 12th.

Personal best times in backstroke were recorded by Christina Kasmer, Megan McDermott, Michael Olano,

Billy McLaughlin, Jamie Quail, Lauren Parello; Cristina Butrico; Evelyn Peregrin; Allison Quintanilla; Nicole Pinto and Ellen Zinsky.

In the girls eight-and-under butterfly Taylor Aljian was first and Sean Cullen was seventh in the boys. In the boys 9/10 Zak Post placed third and Patrick Boyle was 11th. In the girls 11/12 Chelsea Cullen was third and Ellen Zinsky was 12th. Personal best time was recorded by Lauren Parello.

With the meet almost over the team had to make up points in the final relays and they did just that!

In the girls eight-and-under 100 meter freestyle relay, placing first were Taylor Aljian, Kelly O'Brien, Kate McLaughlin and Kaitlyn Faustini. Placing sixth place were Brianna Swenson, Maggie Quintanilla, Annie Pezzolla and Amy Zinsky. For the boys Charlie Butrico, Sean Cullen, Aidan McDermott and Joey Valentino placed second and Enzo Butrico, Michael Olano, Billy McLaughlin and Michael Petritsch were seventh.

In the girls 9-12 200 meter freestyle relay Chelsea Cullen, Gracie Piekarski, Sarah Konops and Maggie Valentino placed second and Ellen Zinsky, Kelly McLaughlin, Chelsea Ng and Kate O'Brien finished eighth. For the boys Zak Post, Anthony Gurrieri, Liam McDermott and Patrick Boyle placed fourth.

The Tiger Sharks' season ended with the championships, but the best of the swimmers competed in the conference championships on Aug. 3 and 4. Look for the those results in the upcoming weeks. The team is coached by Laurie Post, with assistants Robin Cone and Jen Orlowski. The team is always looking for new members. You don't have to be a great swimmer, but just have the willingness to try. If interested for next year, sign up at the PAL.

*Submitted by Cheryl Nagel-Smiley*

## Annual Emil Leporino Memorial Golf Outing

The 10th Annual Emil Leporino Memorial Golf Outing of the South Plainfield Education Foundation will be held on Monday, Sept. 27 at the Heron Glen Golf course in Ringoes.

The cost of golf is \$125 per golfer and includes lunch, golf and dinner with awards and prizes.

Prizes include a new car, vacation or pot of gold for a hole-in-one. Also low net, low gross, longest drive, closest to the hole, the line, corporate net and team gross. Registration takes place at 10 a.m., lunch at 11 a.m., shotgun start is at 12 noon and dinner and awards take place at 5 p.m.

Proceeds from the golf outing go to the South Plainfield Education Foundation. The outing is named after one of its founders, Emil Leporino. The Foundation gives financial support for incentive programs that encourage academic achievement and good citizenship for South Plainfield students and have already given 80 scholarships to students at South Plainfield High School totaling \$127,000.

For information contact: Rob Hunter at (908) 756-2800 or (908) 769-0439 or Rich Regan at (732) 249-4702 or (908) 756-4530.

## Golf Outing Planned by Sons of American Legion

The Sons of the American Legion Chaumont Squadron 243, located at 243 Oak Tree Ave. are hosting their Second Annual Golf Outing at Bunkerhill Golf Course in Princeton on Wednesday, Sept. 29.

The cost of golfing is \$85 per person. This price includes green fees, cart, prizes, breakfast (coffee and bagels), lunch (hot dogs and burgers), drinks (beer, soda, water) and buffet dinner at Chaumont Post 243.

Tee time starts at 9 a.m. Hole-in-

one on the 13<sup>th</sup> hole wins a trip for two to Hawaii.

If you would like to participate in the tournament or be a sponsor, please see/call Mark Zeff at (908) 755-5914.

Also, we are looking for sponsors at \$50/tee or \$100/hole. Proceeds will go to the various charities supported by the Sons of the American Legion.

Make all checks payable to the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 243.

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# Sports

Submitted By Bob Nilan

Plainfield Animal Hospital held on to its slim first place lead in the tight American Division race by pounding Hank's Hackers, 15-5. Steve Schock led the way for PAH with a nice round of 37, while Todd Sherman continued to play well for Hank's Hackers and turned in another solid round of 38.

Masters and KC's Korner remain tied for second place, just a half-game in back of league-leading PAH.

Masters won its second key match in a row in soundly defeating Aiello Chiropractic, 17-3. Danny Griffin and Al Szumski both fired 37's for Masters to offset the excellent one-over 34 posted by Ed Banach and the 39 turned in by partner Bob Tumolo, Sr., of Aiello.

KC's Korner lost the opportunity to move past PAH by simply attaining a 10-10 tie with Witty's. Rich Steele shot 40 to earn medalist honors for KC's Korner; Howard Adler was low-man for Witty's with his 38.

Divisional championship honors will be decided next week, the last week of the season schedule, when PAH will go head-to-head with Masters, Aiello will face Witty's and KC's Korner will meet Hank's Hackers.

Over in the National Division, Patti's Construction, with the best record in the league, maintained its slim first place lead by edging out the Elks, 11-9, for its fourth win in a row. Dave Hodge's 35 was the key round in helping Patti's gain its narrow triumph; Dale Dube had a 39 for the Elks in a losing effort.

Twin City's 13-7 win over Sport & Social was sparked by Dave Manici's 37, Jay Coppola's 38 and Joe Dillar's 39. Frank Mathews had a 42 for Sport &

## Notes from the South Plainfield Golf League

Social who dropped their fourth match in a row.

Marty Van de Vaart, whose busy schedule limits his golf to the nine holes he plays on Tuesday nights, still manages to be one of the top players in the league. His three-over 36 and partner Frank Oades's 38 sparked Pornovets to an easy 14½-5½ win over the understaffed VFW team.

The determination of first place honors in the National Division will also come down to the final week of regular season play. In key matches, Twin City will face the Elks and Patti's Construction will take on the VFW.

Tony Cotone, Jr. of KC's Korner won the weekly closest-to-the-pin competition on the third hole and Bob Nilan of the VFW earned the lunch-con-for-two prize from KC's Korner with his excellent shot on the fifth hole.

Low Scores for the Night: Ed Banach- 34; Dave Hodge- 35; Marty Van de Vaart- 36; Al Szumski- 37; Danny Griffin- 37; Steve Schock- 37; Dave Manici- 37; Howard Adler- 38; Jay Coppola- 38; Frank Oades- 38 and Todd Sherman- 38.

### League Standings:

American Division	W	L	T
PAH	7	4	2
Masters	7	5	1
KC's Korner	7	5	1
Aiello	6	7	0
Hank's Hackers	5	7	1
Witty's	4	8	1
National Division	W	L	T
Patti's	9	3	1
Twin City	9	4	0
Pornovets	7	5	1
Sport & Social	6	7	0
Elks	4	7	2
VFW	2	10	1

## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

By Lee Flanagan

We are still waiting for all equipment bags to be turned in. You can drop them off on Monday, Aug. 30 from 6:30 to 7 p.m., prior to the Executive Board Meeting. The following teams still have equipment bags out; Small Fry C-Athletics and Devil Rays, Small Fry B-Mets, Small Fry A-Mets and Red Sox and Pony B-Blue Jays. 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 in 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.

Our annual end of the year picnic is scheduled for Sept. 11. The picnic starts at 12 noon at the SPJBC Complex and ends at 5 p.m. All preparing and/or cooking of food will stop at 4 p.m. Trophies and awards will be presented at 3 p.m. The Executive Board

is currently finalizing the details of this event.

We will be taking registrations for the 2005 baseball season at the annual picnic. Board members will be available from 2 to 5 p.m. to accept player registrations. The fee for the 2005 season will be \$95. Come on out and get your child registered for our new and exciting season. Opening Day for 2005 is April 9.

This fall we will be revisiting the SPJBC Rules and Bylaws. Any recommended changes must be submitted by Nov. 1, 2004. If you have a recommendation to the Rules and Bylaws committee please visit our website [www.spjbc.com](http://www.spjbc.com). Charlie Huber is the Chairperson of the committee. He is looking for two other individuals to serve on the committee.



## Registration for Fall Soccer

The United Soccer Academy and South Plainfield Soccer Club will again be hosting the popular Soccer Squirts programs. These development programs will be run on seven consecutive Saturdays beginning on Sept. 18

and ending on Oct. 30. All sessions will be held at the Kenneth Ave. soccer fields, located just before the South Plainfield recycling center on the right. Junior Squirts, ages 3, 4, 5 from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. and 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Senior Squirts, ages 6, 7, 8 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The fee for either program is \$89. In-person registration will be held on Wed., Sept. 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the PAL. Or, to register online go to [www.unitedsocceracademy.com](http://www.unitedsocceracademy.com), or call (908) 823-0130.



The Observer will close at 1 p.m. on Fridays during the month of August.

## SFY 2005 MUNICIPAL BUDGET of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex for the State Fiscal Year 2005

### Revenue and Appropriation Summaries

Summary of Revenues	Anticipated	
	2005	2004
1. Surplus	2,650,000.00	2,550,000.00
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues	7,146,667.62	7,053,227.03
3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	3,000.00	25,000.00
4. a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	12,441,052.00	12,194,402.66
b) Addition to Local District School Tax		
Total Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget	12,441,052.00	12,194,402.66
Total General Revenues	22,240,719.62	21,822,629.69

Summary of Appropriations	2005 Budget	Final 2004 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	9,042,401.29	8,862,573.00
Other Expenses	8,695,720.36	8,314,604.24
2. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	654,271.97	656,129.45
3. Capital Improvements	222,500.00	490,000.00
4. Debt Service	2,680,826.00	2,560,823.00
5. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	945,000.00	938,500.00
Total General Appropriations	22,240,719.62	21,822,629.69
Total Number of Employees	135	135

SFY 2005 Sewer Utility Budget		
Summary of Revenues	Anticipated	
	2005	2004
1. Surplus	350,000.00	365,000.00
2. Miscellaneous Revenues	4,441,277.00	3,769,500.00
3. Deficit (General Budget)		
Total Revenues	4,791,277.00	4,134,500.00
Summary of Appropriations	2005 Budget	Final 2004 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	411,502.00	415,652.00
Other Expenses	3,466,347.93	2,827,149.00
2. Capital Improvements	172,000.00	163,000.00
3. Debt Service	701,165.00	697,140.00
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	40,262.07	31,559.00
5. Surplus (General Budget)		
Total Appropriations	4,791,277.00	4,134,500.00
Total Number of Employees	3	3

SFY 2005 Swim Pool Utility Budget		
Summary of Revenues	Anticipated	
	2005	2004
1. Surplus		2,500.00
2. Miscellaneous Revenues	172,080.00	166,500.00
3. Deficit (General Budget)	72,125.00	74,500.00
Total Revenues	244,205.00	243,500.00
Summary of Appropriations	2005 Budget	Final 2004 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	106,500.00	96,500.00
Other Expenses	71,066.98	81,500.00
2. Capital Improvements	5,000.00	8,500.00
3. Debt Service	48,338.02	49,075.00
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	13,300.00	7,925.00
5. Surplus (General Budget)		
Total Appropriations	244,205.00	243,500.00
Total Number of Employees	2	2

Balance of Outstanding Bonded Debt at June 30, 2004 (Includes Debt Service Appropriation Listed Above)				
	General	Water Utility	Sewer Utility	Swim Pool Utility
Interest - Current Year	355,000	n/a	226,165	4,408
Principal - Current Year	1,793,000	n/a	475,000	42,000
Remaining Outstanding Principal Balance	8,778,700	n/a	4,090,000	81,300

Notice is hereby given that the Budget and Tax Resolution was approved by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex on August 9, 2004.

A Hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held at the Borough Hall on September 20, 2004 at 8:00 o'clock P.M., at which time and place objections to said budget and Tax Resolution for the year SFY 2005 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

Copies of the budget are available in the office of Vincent Buttiglieri, Borough Clerk, at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, (908) 226-7606, during the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. each weekday.





The grand opening of Park Avenue Barber Shop located in the Golden Acres Shopping Center is set for Saturday, August 28 at 10 a.m. Refreshments will be served. Stop in during normal business hours, Monday through Friday 9-8 or Saturdays and Sundays 9-6 for a "hot towel" shave or a haircut. Pictured seated is the shop's owner, Amir, along with his wife and baby girl Issa and barber Jason.

## Future Stars Legislation Becomes Law

(Continued from page 1)

viding the amounts do not exceed the per-pupil cost of providing such early childhood services.

South Plainfield's Future Stars preschool program teaches students with disabilities alongside their nondisabled peers. Hundreds of youngsters have attended the program in the 23 year history.

"The benefits associated with early childhood education are indisputable," said Diengnan. "Preschool programs enable children to develop social skills and an aptitude for learning at an early age, setting them up for academic success in the future. This law will provide school districts a means to establish their own funding for early education programs, thus ensuring seamless educational opportunities so all children can succeed."

"The benefits that preschool pro-

grams bestow upon their students really speak to their value as part of a complete education," said Senator Buono. "Preschool students tend to do better academically in the early grades and are less likely to be placed in special education classes. Preschool is an investment that pays enormous long-term dividends."

Under current law, school districts that receive early childhood program aid are required to provide preschool programs and services. Also, Abbott districts are required to provide preschool programs in accordance with the directives of the New Jersey Supreme Court and state Board of Education regulations.

Some school districts currently ineligible for early childhood or Abbott aid, however, have chosen to provide such services because of the enormous educational benefits they provide for children.

## Obituaries

### Brodie "Joe" Pucciarelli

Brodie "Joe" Pucciarelli died suddenly on Thursday, Aug. 16 in Old Bridge.

Born in Plainfield, he grew up in Piscataway and had attended all of Piscataway's public schools. He graduated high school in 1996 and went on to graduate from Citone Institute in Edison with a Certificate in Computer Electronics.

He was a very well known individual who surrounded himself with numerous caring friends and a loving family. Many of his friends have been long time buddies from years ago growing up together. They stayed close even after high school. Brodie was also very conscious of his health and well being; he maintained good health and physical appearance by running.

As his only brother stated, "He will always be missed and loved brother."

He is survived by his mother and her husband, Marlene and Keith Downey of South Plainfield; his father, Fred Pucciarelli, Sr. of North Carolina; a brother, Fred Pucciarelli, Jr., of Green Brook and Marcella Ryan of Piscataway, a special person who he could always rely on.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the family would be greatly appreciated.

### Velma M. Devine, 78

Velma M. Devine, formerly of South Plainfield, died on Saturday, Aug. 21 at the St. Luke's VNA Hospice Center in Fountain Hill, Pa.

Velma was born on Feb. 13, 1926, in Strawberry Ridge, Pa., daughter of the late Leonard and Margaret Temple Brown.

Mrs. Devine had resided in West-

field prior to moving to South Plainfield, where she spent 36 years before settling to Allentown in 1997.

She was employed as a crossing guard in South Plainfield for the Board of Education, assisting children for 20 years. She enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren and participated in worship services at Westminster Village in Allentown, Pa.

Her husband, James Devine, died in 2000 and her daughter, Lois Jean Widell, died in 1987. She is also predeceased by a great granddaughter, Jasmine Isabella Barnhart and four brothers, Leonard Jr., Doyle, Kenny and Blaine Brown.

Surviving are four daughters, Val- edric Hall and her husband, Daniel of Bethlehem Township, Pa., Patsy Kapsak and her husband, Tony of Longwood, Fla., Maxine Chism of Brooksville, Fla. and Sherry Craddock of Tenn.; two sons, James P. Devine and his wife, Mickie of Roselle Park and Alvin Campbell and his wife, Carleen of Muncy, Pa.; two sisters, Irene Girven of Montoursville, Pa. and Shirley Kellogg of Muncy, Pa.; four brothers, Lehman Brown of New York, Carl Brown of Williamsport, Pa., William Brown of Fayetteville, NC and Rocky Brown of Montoursville, Pa. and 21 grandchildren and many great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Roger E. Martin, 93

Roger E. Martin died on Sunday, Aug. 22 at JFK Haven Hospice in Edison.

Born and raised in Taunton, Massachusetts, Roger resided in Roselle Park and Edison before settling in Cape May Point. He also maintained a part-time residence in Florida and in addition, resided with his daughter and son-in-law in South Plainfield.

He attended Columbia University for 13 years at night, graduating with a degree in Metallurgy.

A metallurgist for Phelps Dodge, he later worked as the vice president of research and development for the former Triangle Conduit and Cable Company in New Brunswick, retiring at the age of 62.

Roger was a communicant of St. John of God RC Church in Lower Cape May and had attended Our Lady of Czestochowa. In addition, he was a member of the AARP and was an avid salt water fisherman. He was known as one of the top five fishermen in Southern New Jersey. Winning many tournaments was among his accomplishments.

His wife, Lucy E. Martin, died in 1991 and his brother, Larry, is also deceased.

He is survived by three daughters and their husbands, Barbara and John Murray of Maplewood, Carol and Bill Abbas of South Plainfield and Lois and Joe Zelenski of Port Townsend,

Washington; a brother, William of Florida; six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

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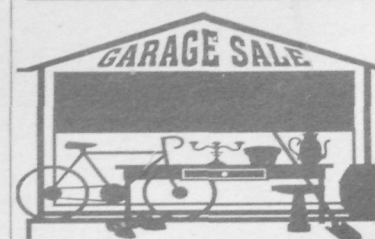
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# Sports

## Varsity Football Preview

By Tim Morgan

The South Plainfield High School Varsity Football team has resurged significantly in the past three years. After hitting a 1-9 record in 2001, both the coaches and players became permeated with an ambition to remove themselves from the mire they were in. The following year, they improved to 4-6 and last year, the Tigers hit .500, so they have been in an upturning motion since that low moment.

"I think we've been climbing the ladder," said eleventh year Head Coach Philip "Phlip" McGuane. "We'd like to continue to improve as a football team and get back to where we feel the program belongs."

The Tigers have certainly been putting in the effort required to lift them further out of the lower half of their cycle. This summer, the team attended a week-long camp in Pennsylvania that decreed triple session practices as well as regular team meetings to discuss strategies to implement.

Part of the overall training regimen for the Tigers is extensive conditioning, including running and weight lifting, to be able to play fully capably throughout the entire game and this was implemented during camp as well. The goal is 'to be a competitive football team with a chance to win in the fourth quarter,' according to McGuane. The Tigers have also been scrimmaging both amongst themselves and with other teams to gain this effect and they will continue to do so until regular season play.

McGuane is definitely not underemphasizing what it will take to achieve a winning season. "We need to come out every week and play our best in order to win. There are no breathers in our schedule," he said.

Three of the teams on the Tigers' schedule are perennial playoff teams and will undoubtedly be tough games: Carteret, South River, and Spotswood. Monroe is also a much improved team and will make for a challenging match-up as will Perth Amboy. The Tigers will also be renewing their decades old rivalry with North Plainfield in the Thanksgiving football game. Their season opener will be at home against rival Bishop Ahr, which the Tigers are very capable of winning.

McGuane feels that his team will be poised to be formidable in GMC competition. "We certainly have a chance in every football game," he said. "The kids have given tremendous effort in the off-season this summer and we want to continue to build on that." McGuane also underscored how the coaches feed off the kids' energy and desire. "It's gratifying to see the improvement and the impact you see on the players not just as athletes but students as well," he said.

This year's Varsity lineup will include seniors Chris Bojarski (tight end and offensive linebacker), Henderson Catlyn (offensive tackle and defensive tackle), Nick Curcio (wide receiver and defensive back), Peter DeAndrea (wide



Tim Morgan, Jr.

receiver and offensive linebacker), Karim Drayton (tight end and offensive linebacker), Daryl Jackson (right back and defensive back), Ryan Kenny (right back and left back), Johnny Martin (offensive guard and left back), Andrew Miller (quarterback and defensive back), and Billy Moates (offensive tackle and defensive end); and juniors Jamar Beverley (right back and defensive end), Kevin Criley (center and defensive tackle), Jarrel Godette (offensive tackle and defensive tackle), Charlie Leon (right back and offensive linebacker), and Gary Smith (center and defensive tackle).

Kenny, Martin, and Miller are the team captains. Assistant Coaches include Brian Bilal as the offensive coordinator, Bill Hamilton as Assistant Head Coach, Joe Cirigliano working with the quarterbacks and defensive backs, Tom Risk working with the offensive line and outside linebackers, and Gene Bataille working with the tight ends and defensive line.

## policereport

• On Aug. 17 a Plainfield Ave. resident reported the driver's side passenger window had been smashed. Nothing was taken. Another Plainfield Ave. resident reported the driver's side rear passenger door had been dented by a metal object around the same time.

• The A&P reported that an employee had refunded \$300 cash to himself by fictitiously returning items.

• The compressor and jackhammer that was reported stolen by Skoda Contracting last week was found on the corner of Houston and Perry St.

• On Aug. 18 Johny Vinicio Samaniego, 55, of Forked River was arrested at the DMV for presenting a fraudulent passport to obtain a driver's license.

• Regina J. Lett, 20, of Roselle was arrested for driving while suspended and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop. Passenger Tyrell E. Johnson, 24, of New Brunswick was also arrested on outstanding warrant.

• On Aug. 19 a Kenneth Ave. resident reported that flowers around her mailbox had been cut.

• A Hamilton Blvd. resident reported that a heavy key chain had been thrown at his bedroom window causing it to break.

• SRI One Stop Auto Service Center on Park Ave. reported that two males fled the station without paying

after receiving \$18 worth of gas.

• On Aug. 20 a Crown Ln. resident reported that a license plate was missing from her parked vehicle.

• On Aug. 21 Willie Morris Blacknall, 58, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated at a motor vehicle stop.

• On Aug. 22 Gregory Lowich, 22, of South Plainfield was arrested for possession of a controlled substance at a motor vehicle stop.

• The Taj Mahal Boutique on Stelton Rd. reported that one of the store windows had been cracked by a rock.

• An Edison resident reported the theft of his 2002 Mitsubishi from the Regal Cinema parking lot.

# AJV

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