



Community Pool celebrates the end of the season with Hawaiian Night! See page 20.

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 8, NO. 1

50 CENTS

SEPTEMBER 3, 2004

## THE TRADITION CONTINUES! *Celebrate at the Labor Day Parade and Festivities*

The members of the Celebrations Committee would like to invite all residents to join the festivities planned for Labor Day. This is the one day of the year when South Plainfield residents can spend the entire day with their families and friends, celebrating with each other. Hopefully the weather, which has not been kind to us the past few years, will be perfect this year. Either way, the parade will go on.

The 47th Annual Labor Day Parade will be held on Monday, Sept. 6. The day is geared toward the enjoyment of both young and old. The Celebrations Committee has spent the past year planning this day long event so that everyone can enjoy themselves.

The day begins with a 5K race and 1.5 mile family walk. This is a great way to start the Labor Day fun and festivities. If you get a little sore, Dr. Patrick Aiello will be on hand to massage away your pain.

The parade officially starts at the Middle school at exactly 10 a.m., led by the South Plainfield High School Marching Band. This year 11 bands will participate. 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



The 47th Annual Labor Day Parade Honorary Grand Marshal John Mocharski displays the trophies to be awarded this year.

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, about noon, folks are invited to visit the numerous concessions which will

be set up by local businesses. There will be plenty of give-a-ways 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. Others supplying food are, with marinated chicken heros—Hometown Heros, cakes and bagels by Cake and Bagel Shop, zeppoles and funnel cakes by Carnival Concessions, barbecue on a stick by Summer Drama Workshop, baked goods by SPHS Class of 2005, cotton candy, popcorn, etc. by D&D Concessions and Italian ice by the South Plainfield Cheering Competition Team.

Several contests will be held at the PAL after the parade. They are a pie and watermelon eating contests, egg toss, big slide, water balloons, tug o war, rock mountain climb and a moon walk. These contests are just as much fun to watch as to participate, so plan to stick around and enjoy them. Live entertainment will be also be provided.

The evening fireworks at Spring Lake Park will be preceded by entertainment by "Sound Investment" at 7 p.m. This year's fireworks will be presented by a new company, Bay Fireworks and begins at dusk.

Remember, roads along the parade route will be closed during the 5K race, the parade and in the evening.

For the latest update on the parade, log on to the Borough's website at: [southplainfieldnj.com](http://southplainfieldnj.com).

## Lack of Funds May Delay School Repairs, Projects

For more on BOE funding woes, see upcoming issues.

The Board of Education Building and Grounds Committee has submitted a list of repairs and upgrades needed in the schools, totalling over \$19M to other board members for

review. However, when they submitted the report they added that there is no money in the budget to make any of these repairs.

Some of these items would normal-

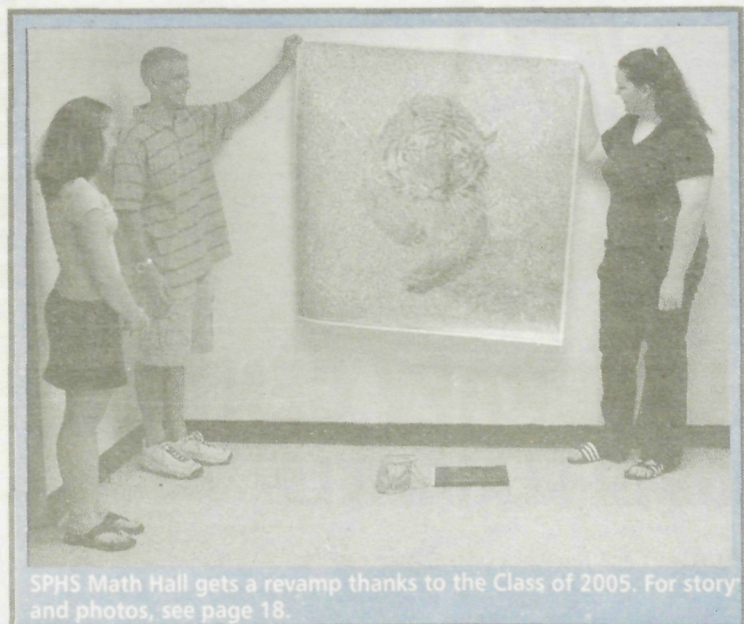
ly be paid for from the capital outlay account, but when this year's school budget was proposed and passed, one of the most glaring items missing was the lack of funds allotted for capital outlay.

During the public session on the budget, former board members Frank Mikorski and Dawn Jefferys questioned the lack of any capital outlay funding and the fact that the budget actually showed a reduction in funding in the operations and maintenance section. No changes were made, and ultimately the budget was passed by the voters with no capital outlay funding.

This is the first time in the past 10 years that no funding was included in the budget for capital outlay. In the 10-year fiscal report of South Plainfield's budgets, no less than \$200,000 and as much as \$1M+ had been budgeted each year.

One priority item is the high school HVAC. Two choices were given: to re-

(Continued on page 11)



SPHS Math Hall gets a revamp thanks to the Class of 2005. For story and photos, see page 18.



Stephanie Stellakis just returned from participating in Project Mexico.

## Youth Joins Project Mexico

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield resident Stephanie Stellakis recently returned from a week-long trip to Mexico. There were no fancy hotels and restaurants nor leisure time at a pool, yet it is a trip she will remember for years to come.

On Aug. 3, the 17-year-old left for Tijuana, Mexico as part of Project Mexico, a mission work trip sponsored in part by her church, St.

George Greek Orthodox Church in Piscataway. Project Mexico is a worldwide Orthodox Outreach program that sends groups of teens and adults to destitute areas to build two-room homes for poor Mexican families who often live in dirt floor shacks roofed with tin or cardboard.

Stephanie's journey began a year ago when she made the decision to participate in the Mission Trip. Each

(Continued on page 9)



# Subscribe!

If you enjoyed this complimentary issue and would like to subscribe, call 908-668-0010.

## Mark Your Calendars

Log on to  
southplainfieldnj.com  
for the latest meeting agenda

### councilmeetings

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 (NJSA 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

### planningboard

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

### zoningboardofadjustment

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

### boardofeducationmeetings

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

### taxpayersadvisorygroup

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

### siteplansub-committee

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

### recreationcommission

Meets once a month on the first Tuesday of the month, except July and August  
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716  
Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2 and Dec. 7

### environmentalcommission

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

### businessadvisorygroup

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

### trafficsafetyadvisorycommission

Meets once a month (fourth Wednesday) at 7 p.m.  
in the Conference Room, Borough Hall (No Meeting in August)

### boardofeducationcurriculum/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

## IN YOUR OPINION

To the Editor,

This year's Summer Recreation program was terrific!

From the trips that were run to the aquarium, zoo and Liberty Science Center, to the everyday fun and creative activities that were done at the schools—the program was just great.

Thank you to Mike English and the entire Recreation Staff for a Job Well Done!

**SINCERELY,  
THE WALSH FAMILY**

Dear Editor,

In the past two months, the South Plainfield Middle School has undergone an "extreme makeover" for the upcoming school year. All this was accomplished because of the kindness and generosity of the following people: Home Depot, Sherwin Williams, Sears Hardware, Twin City Pharmacy, Dominic Papa of HBC Electric, Gary Gaspari of Telecable, Mike Allocco of AKA Inc., Barton Landscaping, Steven Giordano of Giordano Landscaping, Rich D'Urso of D&D Graphics, South Plainfield Middle School Student Council, KKK Inc., Harold Schultz of Spring Lake Florist, Aquarius, Mr. Jain, Bill Mosca, Carpet Bazaar, Bob Stilo of Stilo Paving, Bruce Watts and my painting partner, Ivan of Sodexo.

The highlight of our makeover was a gift of \$3,800 from Debbie and Bob Boyle of the Boyle Foundation for the construction of a pond within the Middle School courtyard.

I am planning to have a Fall Planting Day on Saturday, Sept. 25 from 8 a.m. to noon. Donations of flowers, shrubs and trees for the Middle School property will be gratefully accepted. If you bring it, I'll plant it.

**ALLEN CZECH, PRINCIPAL  
SP MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Dear Editor,

All too often we wait too long to acknowledge the good works of a dedicated individual, a deserving man or woman. In South Plainfield, we are fortunate to have such a man, an outstanding police officer, Police Chief Robert Merkler.

His meticulous organizational ability and dedication to detail is just one example of his many strengths. He attends all borough functions, all military veterans functions and many school athletic functions. When he is there, he is in control and everyone feels safe and at ease. He is quiet, reserved, strong and dependable.

How he coordinated and directed the program for the Dedication Ceremony for the South Plainfield Monument Park so flawlessly will always amaze us. He was there at the inception of the plans for the Park with the Committee Members and he was there until it was completed, often times working late into the evening, always with such joy and such enthusiasm and now we have an awe-inspiring Monument Park.

Thanks for all your good work and for being there for all of us.

**SINCERELY, PHIL AND MARIANNE  
CORTESE, JR.**

Dear Editor,

This past weekend the Democrats put up signs saying they didn't raise taxes. I find this hard to reconcile with the 25% sewer-tax increase.

Either the signs are wrong, or I wasn't close enough to read the asterisk and the fine print.

**BOB JONES  
BOROUGH COUNCIL CANDIDATE**

To the Editor,

I agree with Ms. Nagel's letter of August 13 stating that the New Jersey students are blessed with highly qualified public school teachers.

Public school teachers are mostly graduates of teacher's colleges with their very demanding course loads. While in college they have to pass rigorous tests called Praxis I and Praxis II. Praxis I, a general test consisting of basic reading, writing and arithmetic, is taken in the second or third year of teacher training. Praxis II, which includes several tests of knowledge for teaching specialties, is taken at or near graduation from college. If passed, in most states it leads to near-automatic certification and licensing as a teacher.

### 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. 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.

Because of the high degree of difficulty a would-be teacher can take these exams as many times as needed and have only 60 percent of correct answers.

Ms. Nagel also writes about the shortage of public school teachers. Inquiry in the Human Resources Department of South Plainfield Schools confirms this bleak and frightening reality.

For every advertised elementary school position in South Plainfield, there are only about 300 certified teacher applicants. For a high school math teacher position, there are about 30 candidates. In the City of New York this year 60,000 hopefuls applied for about 6,000 teaching jobs (*New York Daily News*, Aug. 21, 2004 p.38).

Indeed, the teacher's shortage reaches a crises proportion. I can see no other remedy for this teacher shortage disaster but to pray for teacher's vocation.

The only sentence in Ms. Nagel letter I have some problem with is the following: "Only 50 years ago either ad juris or de facto segregation existed."

For parts of her letter Ms. Nagel consulted South Plainfield teachers. If instead of consulting the teachers, Ms. Nagel consulted the dictionary (for instance "Webster's Dictionary of the English Language") she would have found that the phrase she is using should read "de jure or de facto." May be during her 700 hours of professional development, she may have a chance to look it over. But I guess there is a slim chance for that. The use of a dictionary while writing a letter is not in a teacher's contract.

**BOGDAN FRYSCZYK**

## 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. 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.

# INJURED?



## PHYSICAL THERAPY CENTER OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD 908-668-1951





THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME? Traffic detours due to road improvements on Belmont Ave. affected many local roads last week. Here traffic backs up on Maple Avenue.

## Recycling Center Labor Day Holiday Schedule

The Recycling Center on Kenneth Ave. will be closed on Tuesday, Sept. 7, because of the Labor Day holiday weekend. It will be open instead from 12 noon to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 8.

The Yard Waste Site, at the end of Kenneth Ave., will also be closed on Tuesday, Sept. 7 and be open instead

on Sept. 8.

Both facilities will be open as usual from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 4.

Regular hours at the Recycling Center are noon to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Yard Waste regular summer hours are 12 noon to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturdays. Summer hours will end Sept. 30.

2004 Yard Waste Decals are available in the Municipal Clerk's office in Borough Hall. Bring the registration of the vehicle you will be using.

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

The South Plainfield Office on Aging is currently developing several new programs which will require the assistance of the good people of the Borough. These programs are intended to provide security and safety and companionship for our frail and homebound seniors. The number of seniors living alone in our community with no assistance, no family or friends nearby is significant. Loneliness and a sense of isolation are often a part of their lives and can lead to depression and a feeling of hopelessness. To address this situation, the Office on Aging is establishing a Telephone Buddy Program and a Friendly Visitors Program which will address these needs for companionship and socialization.

The Telephone Buddy Program is a protective and friendly service designed to help our elderly live independently, without worrying about special dangers that living alone sometimes entails. At the same time, the program helps to build friendships and provides the care and concern necessary for good health and social well-being. The way it works is simple... the volunteer person or family calls the senior every morning to check in and make sure the senior is well.

The Friendly Visitor's Program matches volunteer visitors and senior citizens in one-to-one friendships. The companionship and caring support provided by regular visits from a Friendly Visitor help elderly town residents keep in touch with the outside

## NOTES FROM The Senior Center

by Joann Graf, Director of Office on Aging

### Make A Difference in a Senior's Life

world and feel less lonely and more appreciated. The Office on Aging will provide matches based upon mutual interests, geographical area or level of need. The Friendly Visitor Program facilitates wonderful social interaction between seniors and other members of the community, and helps to thwart the isolation that so many often face.

Become a volunteer. Call the Senior Center to join in these programs. As a volunteer you'll get as much out of the program as our elderly do. This is an experience your whole family can share. It's a way to show someone you care. Adults 18 years of age or older may volunteer. Younger volunteers may participate along with an adult.

Any senior over 62 who lives alone and feels the need for assistance or companionship may register for the Telephone Buddy Program and/or the Friendly Visitor Program. For more information, call the Senior Center at (908) 754-1047.

**NEW 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 as soon as possible. The class size is limited so please act quickly.

**WASHINGTON, DC TRIP**—The Senior Center is sponsoring an overnight trip to Washington, DC 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 hotel, transportation and sightseeing. The cost is \$159 per person double and \$209 single.

**LORD OF THE 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. A mesmerizing blend of traditional and modern Celtic music and dance features more than 40 performers and is played out on a grand scale with precision dancing, dramatic music and vibrant costumes. The 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 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. Reservations will be available beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 7 at the Senior Center.

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

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**CLASSES NOW FORMING:**  
Fitness Kickboxing  
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Day & Evening Classes

**COME SEE WHY WE'RE #1 !!!**

### Aerobics Sign-Ups Underway

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for its Karate classes. All boys and girls ages seven and up are eligible. The fee is \$35 a sessions on Tuesday nights. Each session runs for two months.

You may choose between sessions in Jan. and Feb., March and April, May and June, July and Aug., Sept. and Oct. and Nov. and Dec.

You can register at the PAL, 1250 Maple Ave. First time registrants must have birth certificate.

where you are always treated like one of the family

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# Events

## VFW Breakfast

September 5

The VFW will hold 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.

## SPHS Music Boosters Meeting

September 8

South Plainfield High School Music Boosters will hold its monthly meeting in the high school chorus room at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 8. All band and chorus parents are urged to come to this important meeting to begin a united school year. Your attendance will be greatly appreciated.

## 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.

## 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)

## What's happening in SEPTEMBER

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                                  |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>EVENTS</b><br><i>Computer Class Forming—A new beginners computer class is forming. Begins Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 11 a.m.</i> |   |   | Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am<br>Practical Crafts 10-11am<br>Computer Class 11 & 1pm     | Bingo 10am-2pm<br>Pizza lunch available |
| Labor Day Center Closed   | 6<br>Bingo 10am-2pm<br>Ladies Social 10am<br>Men's Forum 1pm<br>Red Hat Society 2pm | 7<br>Exercise 8:30am<br>Line Dancing 10am<br>Movie Time 11:30am<br>AARP Crafts 1pm<br>Computer Class 11 & 1pm | 8<br>Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am<br>Practical Crafting 10am<br>Computer Class 11 & 1pm | 9<br>Bingo 10am-2pm<br>Lunch available  |
| TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.   |   |   |   |   |

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 hold 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.

## SPHS Football Parents Holding Yard Sale

September 18

The South Plainfield High School football parents will holding a yard sale on Saturday, Sept. 18 from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (rain or shine).

Donations will be accepted between 6 to 7 a.m. The fundraiser will be held at the South Plainfield Middle

School, located on Plainfield Ave.

## 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.

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.

## SP Republicans Plan Comedy Night

September 18

The South Plainfield Republicans will hold their first-ever comedy night on Sept. 18 at 8 p.m. The event will feature three professional comics and be held at the Ramada Limited on Hamilton Blvd. Proceeds will go toward the Reedy, Rusnak, Jones campaign for Borough Council. Tickets are \$50.

For tickets or information, contact Dawn Jefferys at (908) 755-3986.

## 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-Seyffart at (908) 756-7543.

## Free Fall Program Kick-Off Picnic

September 18

On Saturday, Sept. 18, from 4-8 p.m., Cedarcroft Bible Chapel is sponsoring a picnic to kick-off its fall programs. There will be no charge; everything is free. "Everything" includes activities for all ages, including volleyball, round robin pingpong, horse-shoes, crumbling pyramids, portrait contest, a strength contest, a straw contest, caught in the rain, human pipe organ, etc. Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy the picnic with us.

Cedarcroft Bible Chapel is located at 1715 Kenyon Ave. For information, call Kingsley Bachr at (908) 757-7598 or email him at [kbachr@erols.com](mailto:kbachr@erols.com).

## AARP Chapter #4144 Meeting

September 20

The South Plainfield Chapter of AARP resumes 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.

The trip to Lancaster to see "Noah the Musical" is open to all. Starts Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 8 a.m. from the PAL building. Included in the \$110 pp cost are round trip transportation, visit to Rockvale Outlet, tickets to Millennium (Continued on next page)

Celebrating our  
27th year  
in South Plainfield

## Jo-Ann's Dance Studio The Performing Arts Centre

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E-mail [JOANNinNJ@aol.com](mailto:JOANNinNJ@aol.com)

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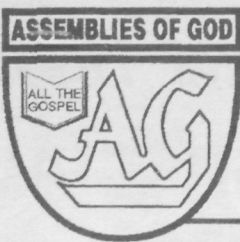


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Worship Service 11 a.m.

### THURSDAY

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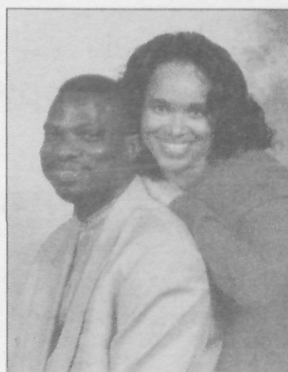
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**908-756-4885**

email: [getlivinghope@aol.com](mailto:getlivinghope@aol.com)

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 8596, Piscataway, NJ 08854



Pastor Roy and  
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# events Around Town

Continued from previous page

Theater for performance, an Amish style dinner, all taxes and gratuities. Call Lee at (732) 968-6613 or Mary at (732) 752-3764.

## Trip to Dover Raceway

September 26

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

## Sons of American Legion Golf Outing

September 29

The Sons of the American Legion Chaumont Squadron 243, located at 243 Oak Tree St. are hosting their Second Annual Golf Outing at Bunkerhill Golf Course in Princeton on Wednesday, Sept. 29. Golfing is \$85 per person and includes green fees, cart, prizes, breakfast, lunch, drinks and buffet dinner at Chaumont Post 243.

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

## Jr. Baseball Club Art Auction Fundraiser

October 1

The South Plainfield Jr. Baseball Club will host their first Ross Galleries Art Auction on Oct. 1 at the South Plainfield High School. Tickets are \$5 and all proceeds will benefit the SPJBC. For ticket information, contact Anthony Celentano, Debbie Boyle or Pat DeSantis.

## Washington, DC Trip

October 1 & 2

The Senior Center is sponsoring a

trip to Washington, DC on Friday, Oct. 1 and Saturday, Oct. 2. Sight-seeing highlights include a visit to the World War II Memorial, the Vietnam and Korean War Memorials, Arlington Cemetery and Washington at night tour. Cost includes accommodations, dinner on Friday evening, breakfast at hotel, transportation and sight-seeing. The cost is \$159 pp double and \$209 single. For reservations, call the Senior Center at (908) 756-4135 or stop in.

## Rainbow Academy Plans Open House

October 2

Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an Open House on Saturday, Oct. 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rainbow Academy offers a variety of programs to fit your child's needs, from ages six weeks to eight years. There is limited space available for the

infant, nursery and pre-kindergarten programs. Everyone who registers will receive one free month of ParentWatch, an internet viewing service.

In addition to the Open House, you are invited to visit the center for a tour during normal operating hours. For directions and information, visit their website at [www.rainbowacademy.com](http://www.rainbowacademy.com).

## Buddy Walk for Down Syndrome

October 2

Individuals with Down Syndrome, their friends, family and many other supporters will march in full force on Oct. 2 for the first annual Buddy Walk, organized by the Buddy Walk of South Plainfield, the national Down Syndrome Society and the South Plainfield Rescue Squad.

The Buddy Walk begins at 1 p.m. at Spring Lake Park; registration will

start at 11:30 a.m.

Call Michele Both at (908) 531-5100 for more information about participating in the Buddy Walk of South Plainfield, or visit our website at [www.buddywalkofsouthplainfield.com](http://www.buddywalkofsouthplainfield.com). See story on page 11.

## 1974 Class Reunion

October 9

We are looking for classmates!! Our 30-year reunion will be held at The Clarion Hotel in Edison (across from the Pines Manor).

Contact Rich D'Urso (908) 753-7629 or Ginny Butrico at (908) 392-0538. Invitations and pricing will follow soon.

## 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.

## Fire Dept. Bingo

October 22

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department will be honoring all its members by constructing a Firefighters Memorial. A bingo is being held to help support the construction of the memorial on Friday, Oct. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Food and drinks are available. The Bingo will be held at the Sacred Heart School on South Plainfield Ave.

## LEGAL NOTICES

MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Honorio Jacalan requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a 2 story addition. Proposed 2 story addition lacks 30' required front yard setback, 26.3' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 177 Ten Eyck Street on Block 202, Lot 37 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 23, 2004 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00 September 3, 2004

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### LEGAL NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held August 24, 2004.

A. Case #684 Amended—Northeastern Products Co. Block 467.02; Lot 2; 3500 S. Clinton Ave. The applicant's request for preliminary and final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED with conditions.

B. Case #682/Final—CNC Associates, Block 255; Lot 10; Kentile Road. The applicant's request for final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED with conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Beth Khidre  
Recording Secretary-Planning Board

\$24.75 September 3, 2004

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

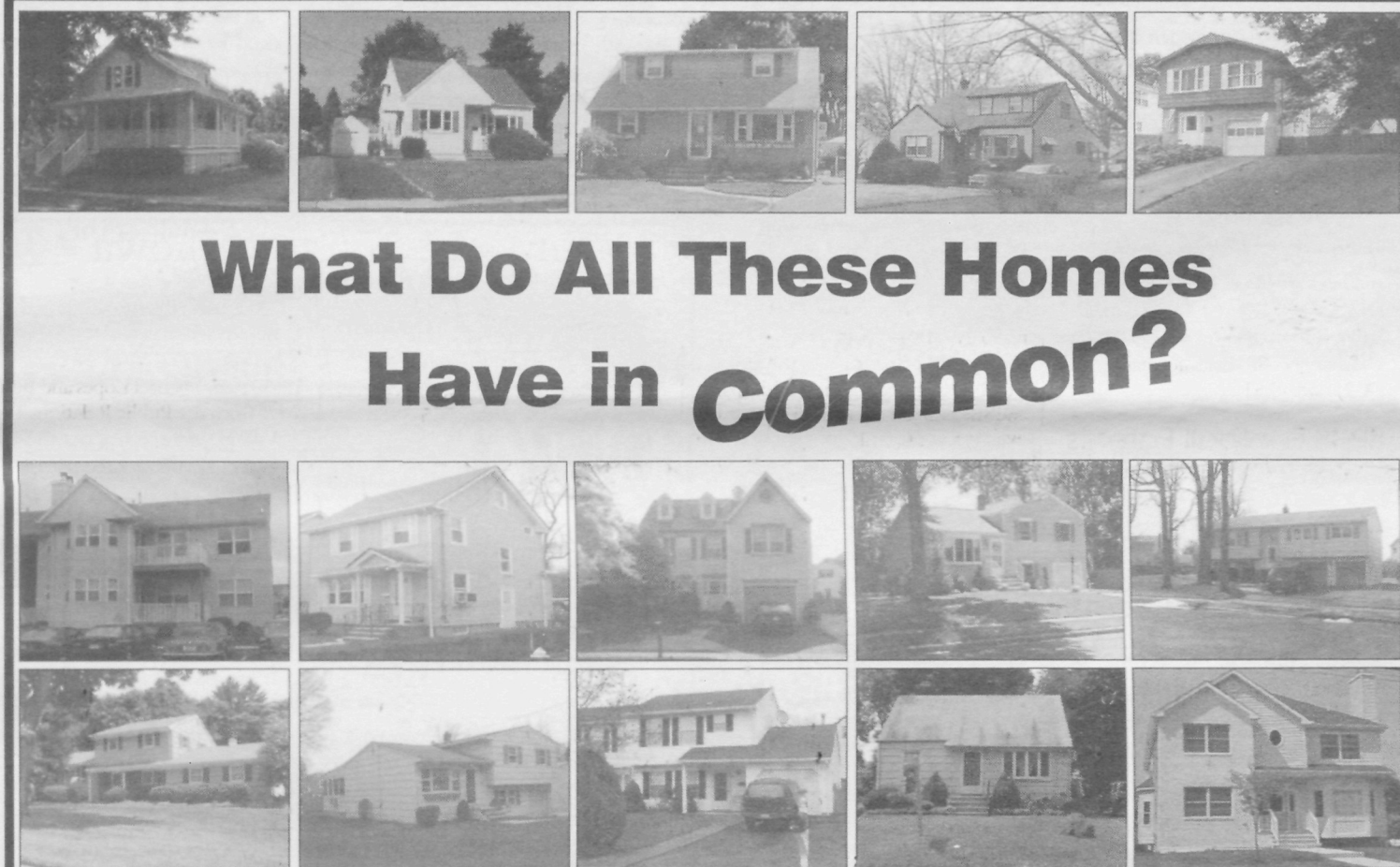
### LEGAL NOTICE

August 27, 2004—Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on August 26, 2004.

A. Case #49-0400 Alex Hermes, Block 75; Lot 20; 2333 Oxford Ave. The applicant's request for a side yard setback variance and lot coverage variance in order to erect a deck extension measuring four ft. in depth by 16 ft. in width with a six ft. northerly side yard setback and lot over coverage of 180 sq. ft. was hereby GRANTED.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Beth Khidre  
Secretary-Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$22.75 September 3, 2004



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## From the Democrats

# Democrats Kick-Off Campaign 2004



Council members Charlie Butrico, Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas kicked off the 2004 election race this week. Council President Dennis Cerami set forth the tone of the campaign. "The South Plainfield Mayor and Council are respected throughout the State for their foresighted and innovative approach to government. In particular we are admired for our fiscal policies that have led to no municipal tax increase in five of the last seven years. When you team that with the fact that our municipal debt is less than it was 11 years ago when the Republicans left South Plainfield's finances in shambles, it's little wonder that other towns look at us as a model of good government. We don't expect to rest on our laurels, however. Charlie, Kathy and I look forward to discussing our vision for South Plainfield during this election campaign. A lot of good things have happened during the years that the Democratic team has been on the council. Remember when the Republicans objected to 'pay as you go' government? Remember when our municipal taxes went up every year under Republican control? Remember when our infrastructure was a mess and Hadley Road looked like a moon crater and those in charge said nothing could be done about it? A lot has been accomplished, but there are always new and exciting things to be done. The campaign will give both parties the opportunity to set forth their proposals for the future of our great borough."

Charlie Butrico expanded upon Dennis' comments saying, "Dennis, Kathy and I are proud to run on our record and our vision for South Plainfield's future. After we kept our promise to build new affordable senior housing and a state-of-the-art senior center and expanded the PAL, some wondered what the Democratic majority could do for an encore. Well as the expression goes, 'You ain't seen nothing yet.' Under the leadership of Councilmember Kathy Thomas, we have acquired the house on Plainfield Ave. next to Unity Bank. That house will be demolished in a couple of weeks to make way for our new 15,000 square foot library. The acquisitions for the total reconstruction of Hamilton Blvd. are being completed and that project will start before the end of this year. Over \$500,000 in federal grant money has already been spent on the expansion of Helen Street. We did have a delay over information required by the Federal Bureau of Fish and Wildlife, which our experts are now completing. That project will also be back on course by the end of the year. Dennis Cerami and I live off Hamilton Boulevard. We are committed to completing the Helen Street project and eventually banning truck traffic on Hamilton Boulevard and Belmont Avenue."

Kathy Thomas concluded the Democrats position. "Dennis, Charlie and I could go on and on about our proposals for

South Plainfield's future. Over the next eight weeks before Election Day we will highlight them in a weekly column. We have also started going door-to-door so that we can hear your thoughts about our great borough. We look forward to exchanging ideas with the Republican Candidates. I am proud to

run with people of the integrity and dedication of Charlie Butrico and Dennis Cerami. The Butrico family is the embodiment of what South Plainfield is all about. Charlie is as nice a person as you could ever meet. There is a reason Dennis Cerami was unanimously chosen to succeed Jim Vokral as Council President. His leader-

ship is essential to the workings of the governing body. I have lived in South Plainfield for virtually my entire life. My husband Bill and I went to school here and my daughters are both students at South Plainfield High. Charlie, Dennis and I love this town and we will always work our hardest to keep it the best town in Middlesex County. We look forward to the upcoming campaign and meeting you as we go door-to-door. Please visit our website at [www.spdems.org](http://www.spdems.org) where you can find information about the South Plainfield Democratic Organization, our campaign, voter registration forms, polling locations and much more."

# 2004 VOTE

## Are You a Registered Voter?

*Don't miss your opportunity to have a voice in your local government.*

*Register to vote at Borough Hall any day of the week.*

## From the Republicans

# Reedy, Rusnak, Jones: "Let's Take Back South Plainfield"



Summer isn't yet over, but Borough Council candidates Marge Reedy, Ray Rusnak and Bob Jones have already been hitting the campaign trail talking to voters. And the three candidates have reached a unanimous conclusion: It's time to take back South Plainfield.

"Voters are telling us they want to be heard," said Jones. "They want action on issues like overbuilding, traffic and senior housing. They also believe the Borough Council is working for special interests, like their campaign contributors and the developers, rather than the people who elected them. This has to change."

Rusnak also believes that problems like overbuilding and traffic are important and he hopes his opponents will debate these issues. "Last year, the Democrats refused to debate and they were unwilling to talk about issues like addressing overbuilding, developing a long-term traffic plan and enacting ethics reform. Let's debate. It's nice to talk

about what you've done, but tell us where you stand on these issues and what you are going to do about them."

Reedy is proud of her campaign's agenda. "Based on community feedback, we've developed a positive agenda for change," she said. "Our 'Blueprint for South Plainfield' includes a list of more than a dozen things we can do to get our town back on track. To view it, voters can go to [www.spgop.com](http://www.spgop.com). These ideas include things like enacting ethics reforms, ensuring adequate senior housing, getting the best price for services through competitive bidding and more."

"Marge is right—senior housing should be a priority," added Rusnak, a financial specialist with Wachovia Bank. "We know additional senior housing is needed, but the seniors we've met with say they want input on the location and the type of housing. The Council, however, wants to relegate senior housing to an industrial area (the old Tingley Rubber site), as proposed by mega-developer Jack Morris. That would be a mistake. We

shouldn't banish our seniors to an industrial area near the highway."

"We also need ethics reform," added Jones. "It's disheartening that despite practically every newspaper in New Jersey condemning pay-to-play no-bid contracts, South Plainfield has become one of the leading pay-to-play towns in the state. The Council needs to end this policy and stop rewarding their contributors with hundreds of thousands of dollars in no-bid contracts."

"It's also time to end dual office holding," Jones said. "Despite promising to end the practice, the Democrats and their family members hold nearly a dozen different paid positions with the town, the county and the state. It's not just us who thinks this is wrong; the Democrats campaigned on ending this practice before they got elected."

Reedy summed up the position of the three candidates: "We need to bring back two-party government. The other side has lost touch with what residents want and need. It's time to take back South Plainfield."

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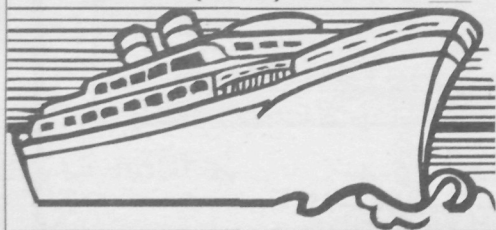
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**Rosemary Holt • Owner**

Rosemary Holt is a long time resident of South Plainfield and the owner of Slim and Tone. She was born and raised in Michigan before moving to the metro area. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Keen University in Political Science. She has worked in real estate investments and was a substitute teacher, K-12 in South Plainfield. She is trained through Slim and Tone and also has her CPR certification. She works full time at the club as the owner/manager.



**Nancy Pasternak • Co-Manager**

Nancy Pasternak is also a long time resident of South Plainfield. She worked at AT&T and Bellcore for 12 years in the Billing and Telecommunications department. She and her husband Bob have two children Robert and Melissa. She has also been working part time at the club since its beginning in September and is presently CPR certified.

*"My first year at Slim and Tone has been very rewarding. I have met so many wonderful women who have improved their physical fitness level tremendously during our first year. Results vary from weight loss, to maintaining weight or just simply improving physical fitness endurance.*

*Whatever the progress, it has been great watching them achieve their success. I'm looking forward to another great year!"*



**Dana Holt**

Dana Holt was born in Staten Island and raised in South Plainfield. She is the daughter of owner Rosie Holt and she has been a staff member at the club since its opening in September. She graduated Wagner College of Staten Island with a Bachelor's Degree in elementary education in May of 2004. She is licensed through Slim and Tone and also has her CPR certification. She currently works part time at the club.

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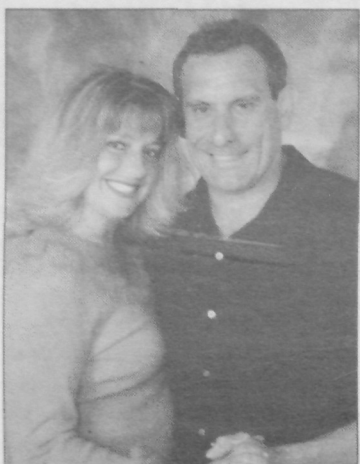
# southplainfieldpeople Milestones

## Sharon McGrath and Frank Aroneo Announce Engagement

Sharon Marie McGrath, daughter of Frank and Patricia McGrath, has become engaged to Frank Joseph Aroneo, son of Marty and Sally Aroneo.

Sharon is employed as a teacher for the South Plainfield School District. Frank is employed by the Home Depot of South Plainfield.

A fall 2004 wedding has been planned.

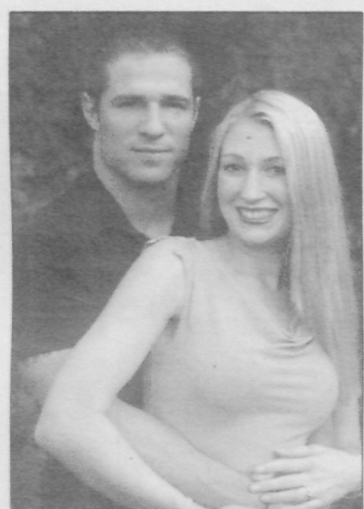


Sharon Marie McGrath and Frank Joseph Aroneo

## Local Entrepreneur Wins Championship Cup

Joe Yurcisin, who operates a Kirby Distributorship in Fords, recently earned a championship winner's cup from The Kirby Company. The prize is part of the Challenge of Champions "Driven to Greatness" Campaign, a yearlong promotion in which Distributors can win prizes and trips for reaching their business goals. The Kirby Company of Cleveland, Ohio, sells ultimate F series home care systems in more than 60 countries. It has been manufacturing American-made home care systems for 90 years.

## Deanna Leigh and William Seiple, Jr. Announce Their Engagement



Deanna Leigh and William Crozier Seiple Jr.

received a BA with honors in English and Philosophy from Rutgers University in 2002. Deanna is currently employed by the Brunswick Service Group in Monmouth Junction.

William graduated from Belvidere High School in 1995. He joined the U.S. Marine Corp. in 1996, was promoted to Sergeant in June of 1999, and proudly served his country until his last tour of duty in Iraq in 2003. William received his honorable discharge from the U.S. Marine Corp. in March of 2004. He is currently employed by Verizon Wireless in Bridgewater.

The couple will be married on March 19, 2005.



Jerry Grennier and Cindy Williams were married on Aug. 20 in Round Rock, Texas. Jerry is the brother of Wayne Grennier, associate publisher of the Observer. The couple honeymooned on a cruise and reside in Round Rock.

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Brooks of South Plainfield are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Deanna Leigh, to William Crozier Seiple Jr. of Harmony, N.J. William is the son of Reverend William and Didi Seiple of Harmony, N.J.

Deanna is a 1997 graduate of South Plainfield High School. She

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## New School Year; New Teachers

By Patricia Abbott

As the final days of summer vacation race by, parents, and often reluctant students, are preparing for the new school year. In addition to the incoming students, the South Plainfield School District will welcome 18 new teachers and four administrators. Eight of the teachers have been employed by the district before.

Joining the faculty at Grant School are Sandra Acker, special education; Michele O'Toole and Steven Valente, sixth grade and Judy Wang, special education, who will spend half day at Grant and half day at the preschool. Teaching Spanish at Riley School will be Lizbet Arriola. The Middle School welcomes Tiffany Kitchen teaching mathematics; Gina Nobile, physical education and James Petty Jr., special education.

The high school opens its doors to

10 new teachers: Dana Bertrand, Robert Conway and David Knarr teaching mathematics, Dana Curcio, Brian Figueiredo and Victoria Uniacke teaching physical education, Thomas DeVine teaching physical science, Orlando Garcia and Joshua Kardo, Spanish and Dawn Noonan, social studies.

New administrators include Althea Bowman Williams, Charles Ford and, coming from the Middle School, Kelly Panuzzo, assistant principals at the high school and Randall Rossilli Jr., principal at Riley School.

Of those listed above, Sandra Acker, Dana Bertrand, Dana Curcio, Gina Nobile, Dawn Noonan and Judy Wang attended South Plainfield High School. The district can be proud that so many graduates return to teach in our schools. Watch the Observer in coming weeks for more on the newest members to our school district.

## Recreation Accepting Basketball Registrations

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for the 2004 Ed Niemczyk Youth Basketball League. Registration begins Sept. 20 and ends Oct. 18. The league is open to all South Plainfield youth ages 7-14 (as of Oct. 1, 2004). The

fee is \$35 a child (no refunds). You may register at the PAL, 1250 Maple Ave., Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

First time registrants must have a birth certificate. All registrants must show proof of residency.

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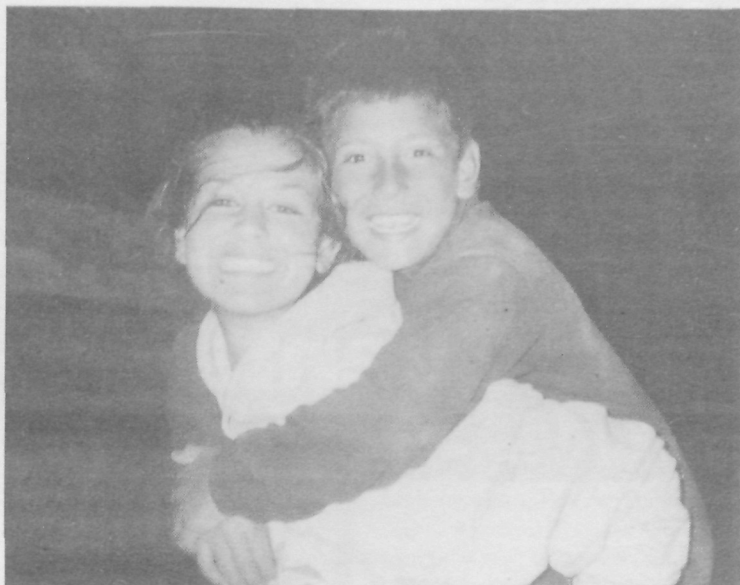


# Youth Joins Project Mexico

(Continued from page 1)

participant must raise \$1,000 to cover building materials and their travel expenses. Stephanie's group consisted of four teenagers and one adult chaperone. In Mexico they were joined by groups from Minnesota, Georgia and Florida for a total of about 20 people. The young mission group stayed at St. Innocence Orphanage, a home for orphaned and abused teenage boys. Stephanie's mother Eileen pointed out that this particular care center is a rarity in Mexico. Normally children must leave the state-run homes by age 12. Girls typically find jobs or marry young. Boys, however, often end up living in the streets and become involved with drugs, gangs and prostitutes. St. Innocence offers youths a loving home environment where they are raised in an Orthodox Christian lifestyle. The boys finish school and receive vocational training as well as social and cultural.

The normally confident young lady was skeptical and nervous about the trip; she didn't know what to expect in Mexico. She worried she'd be frightened and unable to handle what she saw. The culture shock was very real. The conditions were far worse than she imagined. Stephanie explained, "As we pulled into the orphanage the first thought that went through my mind was that it was nothing like I had expected.



Stephanie Stellakis is pictured here with a child from St. Innocence Orphanage.

We were told heartbreaking stories about the boys' pasts. The fact that we were in a poverty stricken area of Mexico immediately became a reality to us."

The living conditions for the group were very basic. The volunteers slept in a structure identical to the home they were building. There was limited hot water for showers and electricity. Her first night in Tijuana Stephanie took a cold shower in the dark. The simple meals shared with the boys consisted mainly of refried beans. There

was no safe drinking water.

Stephanie was the only one in her group with any knowledge of Spanish, a potential communication problem, but she said, "Not only did we do physical labor but we also formed relationships with the children and families in the neighborhood. We reached out to these children and got to know each of them despite the language barrier." Each morning the group traveled to their work site where they met a trained supervisor who

taught them how to construct the house. Completion of a home normally takes about five days.

The attitude of the orphaned boys made a lasting impression on Stephanie. Despite their horror stories they reached out to the American youths with friendship and love. It amazed her that they had so little yet seemed truly happy and content. One boy named Aaron delighted Stephanie by calling her his 'sister.' They became close friends. On their last night in Mexico she noticed he wore a simple silver chain. When explained that he had no charm Stephanie removed the small silver cross her mother had given her before she left and placed it on Aaron's chain.

The experience has changed Stephanie's life in many ways. She said "The amount of hard work we did was unbelievable, but well worth it. I learned how to use a saw, hammer and nails and did more physical labor in six days than I have ever done in my life. We constructed a home with simple hand tools. I left the orphanage with one thought in mind, "I can't wait to go back. It was an enlightening and amazing experience." Stephanie came home with a true understanding of "Blessed are the poor."

Stephanie is an active honor student entering her senior year at Mount Saint Mary Academy in Warchung. She is an Executive Board member for the National Honor Society and a member of the Senior Service Leadership Team. She has been a member of Varsity winter and spring track, JV volleyball team and has received academic scholarship awards for her participation in chorus. She has achieved her Gold Award in Girl Scouts and is certified in CPR, first aid and lifeguarding. She studies ballet and pointe. She has been employed at Charlie's Ice Cream Factory for three years and will be volunteering at JFK Hartwyck Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Edison in the fall. She sang the National Anthem at the opening of the 2003 Mets vs. San Francisco Giants game at Shea Stadium, a fundraiser for the Greek Children's Fund to raise money for children with cancer. She is also a very active member of the Greek Orthodox community, serving as a Sunday School aide and treasurer of the St. George's Youth Group.

For more information about Project Mexico, contact: Project Mexico, P.O. Box 120028, Chula Vista, Calif. 91912-3128. Phone number is (619) 426-4610. Their website is [www.projectmexico.org](http://www.projectmexico.org).

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908-753-6922  
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[Cerami@southplainfieldnj.com](mailto:Cerami@southplainfieldnj.com)

## Councilpeople Charlie Butrico, Dennis Cerami & Kathy Thomas Are Coming To Your Neighborhood

Over the next few weeks, Charlie, Dennis and Kathy will be stopping by to say hello. They want to know how you think they are doing and what you want to see done in South Plainfield. If you're not at home when they knock on your door, please e-mail or give them a call.

Please visit our web site, [www.spdems.org](http://www.spdems.org), where you can find information about the South Plainfield Democratic Organization, our campaign, voter registration forms & polling locations.

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**Please stop by and support our Cookbook Sale.**  
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## Summer Drama Workshop Gets Grant from Target Stores

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop has received a grant of \$1,000 from Target Stores in support of this year's production of "The Pirates of Penzance."

"The recognition of our program by the business community, along with the support of all of South Plainfield, is a testament to the strength of our program and the hard work done by the parents, students, staff and volunteers," said producing board member Bill Seesselberg. "We thank Target for this generous grant."

Target Stores, along with parent company Target Corporation, has

a strong tradition of giving back to the communities where it does business and this year, that giving will amount to over \$2 million a week. That commitment is reflected in Target Stores' grant-making program, which supports projects that promote education, the arts and family violence prevention. "At Target, we feel it is not only our responsibility to give back to the community, we feel it is our privilege," says Laysha Ward, Vice President of Community Relations. "The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop is doing incredible things to help strengthen our communities."

## Buddy Walk to Promote Down Syndrome Awareness

By Patricia Abbott

October is National Down Syndrome Awareness Month. In recognition of this, there will be a Buddy Walk held at Spring Lake Park on Oct. 2. The Buddy Walk, a one mile advocacy walk, was organized by South Plainfield resident Michele Both. It is designed to help promote acceptance and awareness of individuals with Down Syndrome. The event will begin by the playground at the back of Spring Lake Park (there is an entrance off of Maple Ave.). Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. and the walk begins at 1 p.m. There will be refreshments, music and a visit from the mascot of the Somerset Patriots.

Michele's son Kyle, 19 months, was diagnosed with Down Syndrome a week after he was born. Michele describes Kyle as a happy baby with no major health concerns. She also has a four-year-old son, Patrick. Michele attends an informal support group held once a month at The Children's Learning Center in Edison, but attendance is minimal.

The Buddy Walk of South Plainfield is supported by the South Plainfield Rescue Squad/Auxiliary. Michele hopes the walk will bring the



Michele Both and Heather Olson (back row), Kyle Both, 19 months; Patrick Both, 4; Ryan Olson, 3 and Ashley Olson, 3.

community together in support of the NDSS, as well as increase awareness. Proceeds from the event will go to the National Down Syndrome Society, South Plainfield Rescue Squad and The Buddy Walk of South Plainfield. There is a \$5 registration fee that includes a t-shirt. Registration forms and pledge forms are available on their website at [www.buddywalkofsouthplainfield.com](http://www.buddywalkofsouthplainfield.com).

Michele said, "Your support will help all people with Down Syndrome take steps for a brighter tomorrow."

For more information or to make a donation, call Michele Both at (908) 531-5100 or email her at [michele@buddywalkofsouthplainfield.com](mailto:michele@buddywalkofsouthplainfield.com). The Buddy Walk of South Plainfield is currently seeking local businesses that would like to become a sponsor or donate items to the walk.

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## Lack of Funds May Delay School Repairs, Projects

(Continued from page 1)

place the present system at a cost of \$2M, or a control replacement which cost \$700,000. The high school has no windows and cannot function without HVAC.

Other items listed as priorities were replacement of doorways between halls and stairwells. Fire inspectors have issued violations because approximately 70 of the room doors are not up to code. Both the high school and the middle school need new floors installed in the shop areas.

The grade schools need doors replaced, bathroom fixtures updated and HVAC is needed in Riley, Franklin and Kennedy schools. Also, all chimneys are badly deteriorated and need repainting. These are all priority one items, meaning they must be addressed immediately.

School Board members will now study these items which are listed according to their priority. A special meeting will be held sometime in Sept. to discuss those capital needs and ways to finance the improvements. If they cannot find the money in the budget for these projects, they may have to go to a voter referendum to ask for funding.

## Make 'n Take 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.

South Plainfield Free Public Library is located in the South Plainfield Municipal Complex at 2484 Plainfield Ave. in South Plainfield, NJ. For more information, please call (908) 754-7885 or visit the Library's website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).



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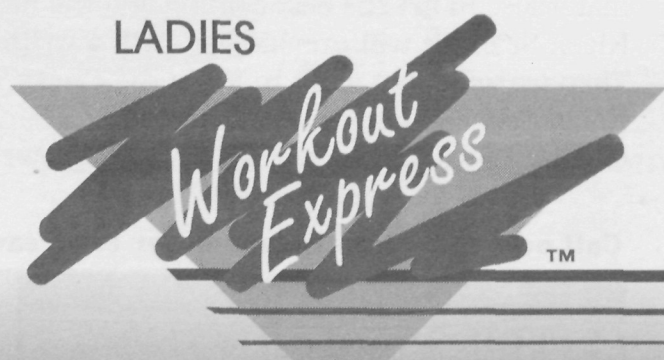


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## Schedule of Activities

## SOUTH PLAINFIELD

(All times are approximate and subject to change)

- 8:15 a.m. Registration starts for 5K run and 1.5 mile family fitness walk  
 9:30 a.m. All major roads will be closed in town  
 9:30 a.m. 5K Run and 1.5 Mile Fitness Walk begin  
 10:00 a.m. **Parade Kicks Off at Middle School**  
 12:00 p.m. Parade Ends/Activities Begin at PAL  
 Trophies are awarded  
*Food and drinks available all afternoon at the park*



### PAL Activities

- 12:00 p.m. Pie Eating Contest, Watermelon Contest, Egg Toss, Big Slide, Water Balloons, Tug'O'War, Rock Mountain Climb and Moon Walk  
 12:30 p.m. Entertainment by James Nigro  
 Radio Station WDHA 105.5 will be at PAL

### Evening Activities

- 7:00 p.m. "Sound Investment" Concert – Spring Lake Park  
 Dusk Fireworks Display by Serpico International



## Put On Your Running Shoes: Labor Day 5K Run and Walk

One again this year, the South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness and the staff at The Club at Ricochet are sponsoring the 13th Annual The Club at Ricochet/SPASA Labor day 5K Run on Sept. 6. There will also be a 1.5 Mile Family Fitness Walk once again.

Last year's rainy weather was not an ideal condition for either runners or walkers, but even so, more than 200 participated in the 5K run and 15 in the walk. Everyone is hoping for better weather this year.

The family walk supports family togetherness and a positive drug free, fun-filled fitness lifestyle. The entry fee for the walkers is \$5 per person or family. T-shirts and substance awareness information packets will be given to the first 50 participants.

This year's 5K Run registration is \$15. The first 200 5K entrants will receive t-shirts along with a packet of various items and substance awareness information. Once again this year, Aiello Chiropractic Center will offer pre- and post-race/walk massages and computer timing will be handled by Best Race Systems. Race results will be posted on the Internet at [www.bestrace.com](http://www.bestrace.com).

The race will begin behind the PAL Building, near the SPHS football field. The run/walk will begin at 9:25 a.m. with registration starting at 8:15 a.m.

All proceeds for the race go to supporting the efforts of the South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness in making the South Plainfield community drug free. It is also hoped that participants will find time to recognize and/or patronize the many businesses and sponsors of our race.

Prizes include \$100 in cash, one month free membership to The Club at Ricochet, \$50 gift certificate donated by Home Depot or Nike running shoes donated by Sportworld. Also, trophies will be presented to the overall male and female winners in each age group.

The race is just the first of a full day of fun in South Plainfield. Festivities include the race, the parade, games, picnicking and fireworks. Bring a friend in support of healthy exercise and reducing substance abuse. Let's make this year the best ever.

The SPASA 2004 business supporters are as follows: Aiello Chiropractic Center, Bagel Pantry, Buy-Rite Auto Parts, Casablanca Is Hair, Ciccio's Pizza, David's Stationary, Domino's Pizza, Flanagan's Restaurant, Giakas Cleaners, The Home Depot, James W. Conroy Funeral Home, Joe Romer Trophy Shop, K.C.'s Korner Bar and Restaurant, McCrisky Home For Funerals, Mohn's Florist, Oak Tree Farms, Poland Spring Water, Physiques In Motion, Presto Printing Service, The Club at Ricochet, Rodolfo's Pizza, Sherban's Diner and Restaurant, South Plainfield PAL, South Plainfield Liquor Store, SP Alliance for Substance Abuse, Sportworld, Spring Lake Texaco Service Center, Twin City Pharmacy and Vail Hardware.

## Parking Restrictions And Road Closings

Roads along the parade route and the 5K run will be closing at approximately 9:15 a.m. If you are coming to PAL you must plan to arrive early or you may not get in the park. If you are marching in the parade be sure to be at your assigned location by 9:15 sharp.

Streets along the parade route

will be closed at some time during the parade. This includes Plainfield Ave. and Maple Ave., which is the actual parade route.

After the parade, roads will be re-opened. There is limited parking in the downtown area, Spring Lake Park, the area across from the PAL and near the tennis

courts.

The evening concert will begin at 6:30 p.m. Please beware that parking will be restricted around Spring Lake Park because of the fireworks display. Do not park at the Senior Center.

No parking will be allowed behind Borough Hall, the library, Veterans' Park, Lowden and Willow Ave.

Spring Lake Park is designated handicapped parking only. The best parking will be at the high school or the P.A.L. Building. Both have extra lighting and are easy to access. Roads will close at 7:45 p.m. for the fireworks.

### Cool Off at the Community Pool After the Parade

The pool is still open, so after the Labor Day Parade residents can go over to the community pool and swim. So bring your swimsuits and cool off at the pool all afternoon.

## Parade Trophies to be Awarded



### HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL TROPHY

*Presented by Honorary Grand Marshal to best overall entry in his/her opinion.*

### JUDGES' TROPHY

*Best overall entry as determined by judges*

### GEORGE W. L. PAGET TROPHY

*Given to the best civic entry*

### BEST YOUTH MUSICAL GROUP

*Awarded by judges to the best youth (high school and under) musical performing group*

### MOST OUTSTANDING FLOAT

*Best overall*

### BEST YOUTH GROUP FLOAT

*High School and under*

### BEST CIVIC FLOAT

*Most Patriotic Float*

### MOST OUTSTANDING VISITING ENTRY

*Awarded to the best appearing entry from out of South Plainfield*

### BEST ANTIQUE VEHICLE

*Awarded to the best appearing antique vehicle entry of any kind entered as a separate unit*

### MARIE D. PAGE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE AWARD

*Awarded to the best overall instrumental musical performance entry*

*\*A representative must be present for trophy to be awarded.*

### Parade Judges:

Robert Longo, Georgeann DiGrazia, Calvin Gross, Steve Merkler and Jack Pedersen

## VISIT THE OBSERVER AT THE PAL AND HELP US CELEBRATE OUR 7TH ANNIVERSARY!

### The Public Celebrations Committee

The following people have been working behind the scenes to make this year's parade a success. They deserve our thanks for all the work and time they have put in. Everyone on the committee is a volunteer. The only compensation they receive is the satisfaction of putting together this once-a-year parade. (What would this town be without our volunteers?)

**Joe Scrudato, Co-chairperson**

**Don Alexa, Co-chairperson**

**Pay Petronko, Council Liaison**

**Marion Gallagher, Pat Vargo,**

**Mike English, John Scrudato, Dan Nigro,**

**Christine Buteas, Kim Gallagher**

Also working very hard on the parade are members of the police department, rescue squad, fire department, R.A.C.E. radio operators and the public works employees.

### Parade Announcers:

Bill Cochrane at PAL Reviewing Stand  
 Al Czech at Borough Hall

### Parade Marshals:

John Sorrentino, Dan Nigro, Joe Scrudato, Patti Nigro, Debbie Krawic, Crissey Buteas, Tom Perry, Marie Smith, Pat DeSantis, Angelo Paradiso, Terry Alexa, Trisha Chosney, Brian Cargill, Claire Mosier, Sue White, Carl Adlassnig, Mark Chosney, Mary Chosney, Bill Thomas, William Co and Brad Cintron

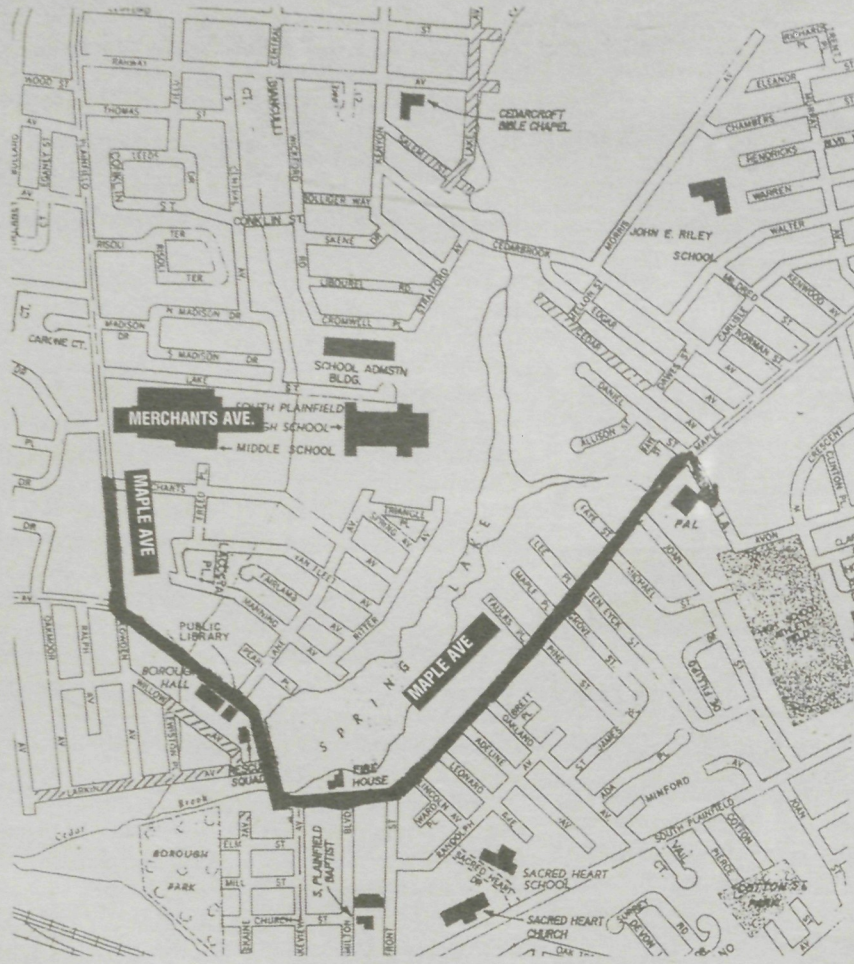


# BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Fireworks at dusk in Spring Lake Park preceded by the entertainment of "Sound Investment"



labor day parade route



## Concessions at the PAL

South Plainfield Lions Club Beer-Steak & Sausage Sandwiches, Soda • Carnival Concessions- Zeppoles, Funnel Cakes • Cake & Bagel- Shop Cakes and Bagels • Hometown Heros- Grilled Marinated Chicken Heros, Chips, Salads, Soda • Summer Drama Workshop- Barbecue on a Stick, Soft Drinks, Water • D & D Concessions- Cotton Candy, Popcorn, Pretzels, Fresh Lemonade, Soda • SPSHS Class of 2005- Baked Goods, Soda, Water, Juice • South Plainfield Cheering Competition Team- Italian Ice • SPSHS Varsity Football- Football Tee Shirts • SPSHS Music Boosters- Hot Dogs • Ralph Mangione- Nachos, Pretzels, Cotton Candy, Popcorn, Water

## Tables at the PAL

Observer "South Plainfield's Newspaper" • Slim and Tone Gym • South Plainfield Historical Society • Circle Players • American Martial Arts • Kathy's Crafts • Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War • South Plainfield Republican Organization • South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Dept. • Cedarcroft Bible Chapel • Knights of Columbus • Commerce Bank • Squeegie Printing • ATA Black Belt Academy of South Plainfield

## Parade Entries

McGruff the Crime Dog • South Plainfield Tiger Sharks Swim & Dive Team • South Plainfield Police Department • South Plainfield Seniors • Daren the D.A.R.E. Lion • J.J. Gardner Detachment Marine Corps League • South Plainfield Rescue Squad • A Small World Preschool & Kindergarten • South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department • 1929 Model A Ford - Phillip Burgess • South Plainfield Fire House Kids • Cookie Monster • South Plainfield High School Cheerleaders • American EX Prisoners of War • 1968 Camaro Super Sport - Jeff Pellegrino • St. Stephens Lutheran Church • South Plainfield Lions Eye Mobile • Watchung Valley Model A Restorers Club • Red, White & Blue Stilt Walker • Military Order Of The Purple Heart • South Plainfield Republican Organization • Green Brook EMS, Fire, Ambulance • Slim and Tone Gym • Company B 2nd Rhode Island Volunteers • 1931 Ford Business Coupe - Tony Pisaniello • 1975 Pontiac Grand Prix - George Olsson • Queen City Steppers • Funny Factory Comedy Stunt Car • South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission • Right To Life • Unforgettable Autos of Mid-Jersey • 1979 Cadillac Sedan Deville - James Singleton • Clifford the Big Red Dog • ATA Black Belt Academy • 1969 Camaro Convertible - Paul Kosinski • Smith Championship Racing Team • Funny Factory Calli-A-Bike with Rider • Sponge Bob Square Pants • Knights of Columbus • Knights of Columbus Columbiettes • American Legion Chaumont Post 243 "70th Anniversary" • Pop Warner Football • Crowned Teen New Jersey American Coed Pageant • 1937 Chevrolet 1/2 ton pickup-Michael Townley • American Martial Arts • Circle Players • Spider Man • Ecumenical Clergy Group Crop Walk • South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298 "40th Anniversary" • Cub Scouts of South Plainfield • Girl Scouts of South Plainfield • Bob the Builder • NY/NJ Slant-Six Club of America • Jam Stepper's Drill Team • 1937 Ford Hot Rod & Go Cart - Gregory Burchell • Wesley United Methodist Church • Congressman Michael Ferguson • Middlesex County Clerk Elaine Flynn • HK Volunteer Fire Co. 1926 Fire Truck • VFW Post #6763 and Auxiliary • Possumtown Volunteer Fire Department • Arbor Hose Company #1 • New Market Fire Department and Auxiliary • 1956 Ford Fairlane-Ronald Raymond • American Gymnastics Academy • Teamsters Local 877 • Teamster Motorcycle Association of New Jersey.

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The South Plainfield Labor Day Parade  
Public Celebrations Committee invites you to

# The 47th Annual Labor Day Parade

Monday, September 6

Parade starts  
10AM at  
the Middle  
School



*"Our Youth of  
Today— The Leaders  
of Tomorrow"*

## Featuring

- 11 Bands
- State Police Mobile Unit
- Edison Horse Patrol
- Free Necklaces to first 4,000 at Spring Lake Park

Roads Close at 9 a.m. for parade  
Trophies Awarded at 12:30 pm.

## BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Fireworks at dusk in  
Spring Lake Park preceded by the  
entertainment of "Sound Investment"

## Activities at the PAL Field:

- 9am - 5k Race & 1.5 Mile Walk
- Beginning at 12:30:
  - Pie/Watermelon Eating Contests
  - Egg Toss • Water Balloon Toss • Tug of War
  - Musical Entertainment
  - Rides by the Party People

**Come out and enjoy crafts, food, local business  
and organization giveaways and plenty of food at the field!**





Mayor Dan Gallagher is about to cut the ribbon at South Plainfield's newest business, the Park Avenue Barber Shop while owner Amir, his wife Sisra, son Issa and many well wishers look on.

## Park Avenue Barber Shop Holds Grand Opening

Last Saturday, Park Avenue Barber Shop held their grand opening ceremonies. The shop is located in the Golden Acres Shopping Center.

On hand to perform the ribbon cutting ceremonies were Mayor Dan Gallagher, Councilmen Dennis Cerami and Bob Cusick and Councilwoman Kathy Thomas, as well owner Amir; his wife, Sisra; son, Issa; barbers, Sam and Jason and many friends and family. There were plenty of bagels, baked goods and coffee on hand for the guests and customers.

The Park Avenue Barber Shop features "hot towel" shave or haircut.

They also do fades/Brooklyns, traditional hair cuts, shape-ups, flat tops, kids haircuts, salon style haircuts, ethnic hair, beard and moustache trims and eyebrow arching. No appointments is necessary.

ments is necessary.

The Park Avenue Barber Shop is open seven days a week, Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Allan M. Kleiman

Back to School!

We'll it's that time, again! It's 3 a.m. in the morning and you have a school paper due tomorrow at 9 a.m. What do you do? Log on to the library's web site: [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us) for the answers!

The library has a variety of online resources that can help you get that assignment done on time. Some of them include: Ebsco (periodical and newspaper articles), The *New York Times*, *Opposing Viewpoints*, and *Country Watch*. Each of these resources require your library card number for entry—so keep that handy when you begin.

Q&A New Jersey is a 24/7 online reference service. Click on the icon from our home page to get started. You will be connected to a professional reference library who can answer your quick information questions. Also, if you need homework help they can transfer you to a subject specialist teacher you can work through your problems with you online.

The Homework Link will help you

navigate the Internet. Our librarians have chosen these sites with you in mind.

Books in your e-mail (Online Book Club) are a good way to keep up with what's new. You can sign up for free through the library, read a chapter a day of a new book, or even listen to an audio book. If you like the book, stop by the library to borrow the book and finish it. What a great idea!

We don't have it all—but we can try and get it for you. The library's Inter-library Loan service is one that you may not be aware of. If we don't have a book, we can try and borrow it from another library. Books newer than 3 months old are more difficult to borrow. This service can take a few days to up to a few weeks depending on if we can borrow the item from a library in New Jersey or we have to get it from out-of-state.

Remember! School's back and we're here to help you get through another year of reading, writing and arithmetic! See you in the stacks! Or call us at: 908-789-4090 or on the Internet: [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us). We never close!

## SAT Preparation Classes

The school district will be offering two opportunities to take a SAT Preparation Course.

The SAT's will be offered in South Plainfield on Oct. 9.

Tuition is \$50 and may be paid by check, MasterCard, Visa or cash. Make checks payable to the South Plainfield Adult School. There will also be a \$20 book charge payable by either cash or check, which should be brought to the first class and will be refunded if the students all classes. Call the Adult School for information at (908) 754-4620, ext. 213.

Classes will be held on Mondays and Wednesday as follows for the Oct. SAT test:

Class #1-Sept. 15, 20, 22, 27, 29; Oct. 4 and 6 from 3:15 to 6 p.m.

Class #2-Sept. 15, 20, 22, 27, 29, Oct. 4 and 6, from 6:15 to 9:15 p.m.

## Knights of Columbus Looking for 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, join the Knights! You will have fun, make friends, 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.

My sincere thanks to all the members of the South Plainfield Parade Committee.

Pat Vargo

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## Seven Slots Left for "Early Launch Learning Initiative" Program

The South Plainfield Board of Education has received a \$60,000 grant to fund the "Early Launch to Learning Initiative." The grant money is being used to fund a preschool program for four-year-olds who meet certain income requirements.

The program runs five afternoons a week and will be held in conjunction with the Future Stars Pre-School Program at the Roosevelt Administration Building, located on Jackson Ave.

The board is still looking for eligible four-year-olds who would like to participate this year. There are only seven slots left to be filled.

To be eligible, families must meet certain income requirements, depend-

ing on a family's income and household size. For example, a family of four making under \$34,873 would qualify for this program.

To find out if you are eligible, contact the Adult School or stop by and pick up an application. Salary eligibilities are listed on each application form. If interested, fill out the form immediately since there is a limited amount of

slots available for the program.

School is less than a week away, and there are only seven slots left, so it is important to contact the Adult School as soon as possible to sign up. If you know of anyone who may be eligible, pass the word on to them.

For more information, call the Adult School at (908) 754-4620, ext. 215.

## Almost Famous Players Looking For Donations

The Almost Famous Players are still looking for donations for their fundraising yard sale to raise money for their upcoming "Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour 2004."

Items in good condition can be dropped off at 2 Page Ct. (off New Brunswick Ave.) or 715 Sampton Ave.

Please call and let them know if you plan a drop off or need items picked up. Please pack items against wet weather. Call (908) 346-2290 for a pick up or drop off. Projected dates for the yard sale are Sept. 18 and 19.

The 2003 Haunted Halloween show at Putnam Park was just the be-

ginning of what Almost Famous Players has to offer the community.

We hope to have this show become an annual South Plainfield event with annual donations to the Rescue Squad and the Fire Department.

Future plans include a Scholarship and much more.

## Elks Selling Entertainment Books

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the 2005 Entertainment Book for \$30. It can be used immediately. Please call (908) 756-6406.



## Wellness Corner

### Defining Health Care Reform

By Dr. Patrick M. Aiello D.C.

As a chiropractor, one who is in the healthcare field yet outside of "traditional medicine," I find it amusing to watch the debate on "Healthcare Reform." Since my graduation from Chiropractic College in 1991, it is hard to estimate the number of times this topic has come up. This is especially true around election time. Whether we realize it or not, issues such as dealing with rising medical costs, higher insurance premiums and should the government control take control of our healthcare all impact each and every one of us on a daily basis.

Sure, there have been some "band-

aids" to healthcare. Managed care was supposed to be a viable alternative to reducing healthcare costs. Yet, all managed care has seemed to do is increase the paperwork and bureaucracy between the doctor and the patient.



Dr. Patrick Aiello, DC

That's why I think it's extremely important for each and every one of us to define what's important to us as far as our health care goals. Is it to

not feel pain? Is it to never go into a hospital? What about this mysterious thing called "Wellness Care?"

First off, let's define a couple of aspects of care the general public or a more appropriate term, the healthcare consumer might have the need to use.

**CRISIS CARE:** This can also be known as emergency care. This type of care can include accidents and sudden severe illnesses that usually rely on immediate hospitalization. This care is short-term. When the patient is out of danger, they are then usually transferred to the next type of care, sickness care.

**SICKNESS CARE:** This form of care is rendered to a patient with a specific disease, illness or condition. This type of care starts when an ailment begins and stops if and when the ailment is resolved. This is the most common form of healthcare and it does include ongoing treatment of the seriously or chronically in hospitals and/or nursing homes.

**WELLNESS CARE:** This care is designed to enhance the level of health of an individual who may not have any present sickness or disease. This care is not based on the person's illness, but rather on his or her ability to continuously exude the greatest possible potential.

While the majority of us are very familiar with crisis and sickness care, more and more people are researching and embracing wellness care. Let's make a point here: in the current medical model, wellness care is often defined as doing tests (blood work, diagnostics, etc.) aimed at catching problems earlier. While that is extremely beneficial and highly recommended, it is basically sticking to the same crisis and sickness care paths that we've been using for the longest time. The ones in which everyone has conceded for over the past decade, needs to be reformed.

No, wellness care is about responsibility. Wellness care is about being pro-active. It's about acknowledging the habits we do on a daily basis that affect the way our health evolves during the course of our life. Wellness care is not only about monitoring our health through specific tests such as yearly physicals, etc. It's also about taking care of ourselves on a daily basis. Are our nutritional habits sound? Do we get the proper amount of exercise? Are we handling the stress in our lives well? Are our spinal nerves working and communicating the way they are intended to?

Wellness care is about trying to improve upon our habits each and every day. For us, being human and most definitely imperfect, that is a wonderful first step in improving our health. That is, reduce the need for crisis and sickness care. How's that for healthcare reform?

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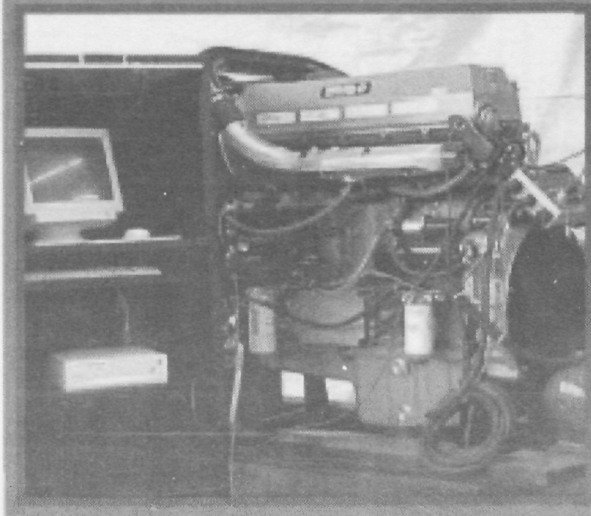
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# High School Math Hall Gets Facelift Courtesy of Class of 2005



While most of South Plainfield's students were enjoying their summer, the Class of 2005 spent weeks painting the walls of the math hall.

It is an annual tradition for the seniors to decorate a hallway in the high school during the summer before they graduate.

This year the students chose the math hall and used that theme for their design and decorations. The finished project is nothing less than amazing.

"Math Around the World" and "Careers in Math" were the themes used throughout the hallway, painting sev-

eral versions of the calendar, careers in math and an equation ( $\pi=3.14159...$ ) which runs along the top the entire length of both sides of the hall and has no end. During the ribbon cutting, the students admitted that there was an error in the equation somewhere along the way and they challenged their underclassmen to find the mistake.

A clock above each door is set to a timezone somewhere in the world. Statistics about the high school are listed around all the door frames. They include statistics such as: the length of the school is 606 feet, there are 85 different ways to leave the building, the gym has 12 basketball hoops and the best one is that there are 718 Tiger paw prints in the school.

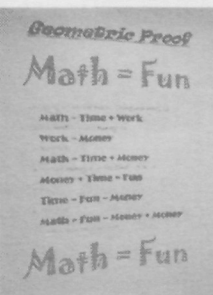
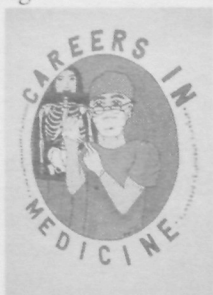
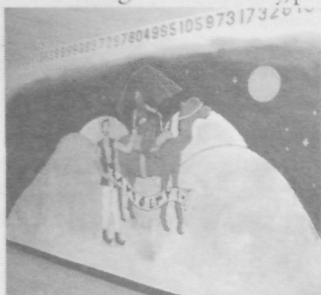
In all the students used 39 gallons



of paint and put in 207 hours of labor. The cost of the hall was \$2,247, which the students raised through fundraisers. The students also unveiled a large print of a tiger, but when you get a closer view of the tiger is made up of 10,000 photos which were taken while they were painting and decorating the school. It will be framed and placed on the wall for all to study.

Class of 2005 officers are: Toni Ciccia, president; Caitlin English, vice president; Gerry Butrico, secretary and Linda Lee, treasurer. The Student Council Executive Board officers are: Cassie D'Urso, president; Michael Benak, vice president; Stefanie Miller, secretary and Jean Pagdonsolan, treasurer.

Over sixty seniors participated in the senior project.



## Cornerstone Needs Your Help!

In the last eight years Cornerstone Architectural Group's (CAG) "Team Tambo" has raised \$30,571 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. This year they want to break the \$40,000 mark, but in order to accomplish this, they need your support.

The members of Team Tambo will again ride across 100 miles of New Jersey roads during this tour and will fight through the aches and pains of this physical endeavor, but the true fighters and spirits are those that live with MS every day. The team's efforts last two days a year; their's last a lifetime.

When asked, "Why do you ride?" The answer is simple. While observing someone who suffers with MS, you see and appreciate a spirit that will not permit this disease to run their lives. They simply push on and say "I can do it." Once again, they are asking for help to allow MS sufferers to say; "I can" and to put an end to this debilitating disease.

With the help of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's charity rides, MS researchers have given new hope to the many individuals who suffer from this disease. New drugs have been working wonders for MS sufferers and the research continues for even better drugs. But they still haven't found the cure. Your donations will help continue the fight and hopefully end this disease.

So, PLEASE help sponsor CAG's Team Tambo as they ride over 100 miles through Northern New Jersey in "The 17th Annual MS100 Bike Tour." The team goal this year is to raise \$10,000.

Together, we can make a difference. Thanks for your support, All the "Gang" at Cornerstone Architectural Group. Just send a check payable to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society c/o Cornerstone Architectural Group, 202 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080 for whatever you can afford, by Sept. 13 and be added to our list of "Official Sponsors." Please help out as much as you can. If you think "you can" and would like to join "Team Tambo" and ride with us, please give us a call at (908) 753-7004.

*You're Invited*

# Open House/Ribbon Cutting

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Since Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation's inception in the year 2000, we have raised in excess of \$200,000 for children with cancer. 100% of our efforts are on a volunteer basis. Please join us to support this worthwhile cause.

Fortunoff's Gift of Giving three-day charity event takes place on Wednesday, Sept. 29 through Friday, Oct. 1. Open Your Heart has been selected to receive 10% of pre-tax purchases in the Wayne, Woodbridge and Paramus Park stores. There will be discounts available to supporters.

Contact Toni Moretti at (908) 755-5300 ext. 305 or Andrea Lacerda at (908) 755-5300 ext. 302 for additional details.

*We would like to take this opportunity to thank our community for their continuing generous support of our efforts. Your assistance has made a difference in the quality of lives of others.*



OPEN YOUR HEART TO CHILDREN  
BATTLING CANCER FOUNDATION, INC.

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# Event Calendar

Call our office at 908-755-5300, and ask for Toni (ext 305) or Mary Ann (ext 309) for additional information

## Art on the Green in Dunellen

September 11

Washington Park  
9:00-5:00 PM

Various artists, paintings and crafts will be there. Get an early start on your holiday shopping

## Vendor Night Extravaganza

November 11

South Plainfield Senior Center  
6:30-9:30 PM

Various vendors will be on hand to help you with your holiday shopping...Party Lite, Home Interiors, Longaberger Baskets, and Pampered Chef just to name a few.

## Open Your Heart Gala



In Honor of  
Wall Township PBA

for their support to Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc.

February 25

Proceeds from all events to benefit Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc.

## Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer has hosted or participated in these past events:

Spring Lake Park Walk-a-Thon • Coaches Care Golf Outing • Entertainment Book Sales • Heartfelt Cook Book Production and Sales • Coins for Kids-Green Brook School System • Wall Township PBA Picnic • Cornucopia Princess Cruise Fundraisers • Berkeley Plaza Gala Fundraiser • Vendor Nights • Silent Auctions • Decorate a Ruler Fundraiser • Dress Down Day • Canister Collections





## Hundreds Celebrate Season's End at Community Pool Hawaiian Night

By Jane Dornick

It was another nice evening for the South Plainfield Community Pool's annual Hawaiian Night for members last Friday.

Tiki torches welcomed the 457 guests who attended while they lined up outside the pool entrance to get a good spot on the grounds in order to enjoy swimming, food and fun with friends that night.

Lifeguards wearing leis served soft drinks with little bamboo umbrellas to guests while others manned the barbecue grill or helped serve the hungry crowd. The staff served 2000 hotdogs and hamburgers during the evening and 30 pizza pies were consumed. Guests were asked to bring a dessert and the table was overflowing with food.

A huge line formed for a game of

water balloon toss and children participated in a watermelon eating contest.

DJ Kevin Murtagh played everyone's favorite tunes throughout the night with mothers and daughters side-by-side doing the Macarena and Cotton Eye Joe dance.

Hawaiian Night was once again a successful event that signifies the end of another long summer season at the Community Pool.



## Computer Drop Program

With the computer revolution growing as fast as it is, many people are buying new computers rather than upgrade. This means old computers are stacking up in homes. What to do with your old computers can be a problem.

Did you know that Middlesex County has a computer drop off program for residential material? Residents can bring their old computers twice a month to HessTech, 45 Executive Ave. in Edison at no cost. The drop off dates are every first Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and every third Monday from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Residential items accepted other than computers are: monitors, scanners, CPUs, modems, printers, cables, keyboards, televisions, telephones, irons, fluorescent lights, thermometers and thermostats.

Directions to HessTech are: Stelton Rd. south to the end (becomes Plainfield Ave. in Edison), cross Rt. 1 and turn left onto Woodbridge Ave. Go about two miles to Middlesex County College, turn right onto Mill Rd. Drive, in 1/2 mile turn right onto Executive Ave. and in 1/2 mile turn left onto Corporate Row. The first immediate left is HessTech's parking lot.

For more information, contact the Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management at (732) 745-4170 or visit their website at: [solidwaste@co.middlesex.nj.us](mailto:solidwaste@co.middlesex.nj.us).

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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.*

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## Local Women's Club Collects Over 3,000 Diapers

Metuchen Edison Women's Club collected over 3,000 diapers and other baby care items during its May Diaper Drive. The diapers were donated to Amanda's Crossing, a transitional housing program for single-parent families located in Edison.

Julia Misurella, Spring Project Chairperson, said "Thanks to the help of several local merchants, the generosity of our community and the dedication of our members, we filled a full-size pick-up truck!" What's the Scoop on Main St. in Metuchen, Donna's Hometown Deli on Amboy Ave. in Edison and Remax Real Estate in Tano Mall were drop-off locations. "We certainly hope that these generous local merchants will benefit from their participation," said Laurette Oleynick, Club President.

Jill Millerand of Amanda's Crossing had tears in her eyes when she saw what the community and club had done for the families she helps. She attended their Sept. meeting to share her gratitude with the members.

For information about the club, call Diana Degnan at (732) 548-0925.

If you missed the auditions for Almost Famous Players Haunted Woods tour and would still like to participate, call (908) 346-2290 or email [almostfamousplyrs@aol.com](mailto:almostfamousplyrs@aol.com). Running crew and security people are still needed.



Grace Bertucci holds the portrait of Father Michael McGuire, which now hangs in the newly named McGuire Hall in the Sacred Heart cafeteria.

## Sacred Heart Cafeteria Renamed!

The cafeteria at Sacred Heart School has been renamed McGuire Hall in honor of Father Michael McGuire who was Sacred Heart's Pastor for more than 14 years before passing in March of 2002.

During the summer months, the cafeteria, kitchen and staircase were painted by volunteers from the Knights of Columbus. They spent 430 man hours and hundreds of gallons of paint on the project.

On Sunday, Aug. 22, Father John

Paul Alvarado led a procession carrying the painting of Father Michael McGuire from the church to the cafeteria and officially renamed the cafeteria McGuire Hall.

The date of Aug. 22 is also significant because it was the 99th anniversary of the date Sacred Heart was incorporated as a parish. Sacred Heart is celebrating their 100th Anniversary throughout the next year and this is just one of many activities planned. A schedule of events is on page 26.

## Calling All Student Writers! Observer and Hometown Heros Will Resume Junior Journalist Writing Contest

The South Plainfield Observer and Hometown Heros will once again co-sponsor a writing program entitled "The Junior Journalist Corner." Last year's program was very successful, publishing more than 20 essays, poems and stories by students throughout the district. The program encouraged students to write and then rewarded them for their efforts.

At the end of the year, all of the winners and their families were recognized at a banquet. The smiles of the students and their proud parents were all of the encouragement needed to repeat the program this school year. The rules are the same as last year:

Students should submit their own original poetry, article, opinion piece or essay to their English teachers.

Teachers in the schools have agreed to help with and to submit, the students' original writings to Hometown Heros and the Observer. After reading and judging students' works, a winner will be selected and his or

her article will be published in the Observer with a byline each week. Watch upcoming issues for winners and published works.

Students whose articles are selected will win a catered dinner for their families from Hometown Heros, which will be delivered to their homes.

At the end of the school year, winning students and their parents will be treated to a banquet and each will receive a certificate of achievement for their journalistic efforts.

All students are encouraged to submit their essays, poems, opinion pieces or articles to their teachers. Each school has already been notified about the rules on submissions.

For more information on the contest, or if you would like the name of your school contact, call the Observer at (908) 668-0010, or stop by Hometown Heros, located at 340 Hamilton Blvd. or call them at (908) 755-4376.

## Summer School Deemed Success

This year's summer school was the most successful ever, according to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado.

Rosado said 2004 was the most aggressive summer school project in the district, with more than 30 teachers and 448 students participating. He added that the entire program came

in on budget.

Classes were taught at the Roosevelt Administration Building, elementary schools and the high school.

Rosado said the results can only be a benefit to the students who attended the classes. He commended all who participated and said it was a job well done.

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## HAPPY LABOR DAY!

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### SEPTEMBER IS SPECTATOR GREAT VALUES MONTH!

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>ROSENBLUM OAKLEY VINEYARDS</b><br>Zinfandel<br><b>11.99</b><br>750 ml<br><small>A rich, ripe and zesty style with tiers of black cherry, raspberry, wild berry, and plum, all well-defined, focused and persistent through the finish. Ripe fine-grained tannins let the fruit flavors push through, showing a touch of heat. Chosen by the Wine Spectator among the top 5 California red wine values.</small> | <b>CONCHA Y TORO XPLOADOR</b><br>Chardonnay, Merlot<br><b>6.99</b><br>750 ml<br><small>The Chardonnay is fresh and bright, with pear, lime, and quince flavors atop bouncy acidity. The Merlot is bright, with a soft berry and grapefruit, and a fresh vanilla and chocolate-tinged finish. Both were chosen by the Wine Spectator among the top 60 red &amp; white wine values from around the world.</small> | <b>NOBILO (MARLBOROUGH)</b><br>Sauvignon Blanc<br><b>9.99</b><br>750 ml<br><small>Explosive acidity packed with flavors of pink grapefruit and white currants, a honey suckle floral nose and a long cool finish. A great wine with fans fresh veggies and delightful with seafood. Chosen by the Wine Spectator among the top 35 white wine values from around the world.</small> | <b>SMOKING LOON</b><br>Syrah<br><b>7.99</b><br>750 ml<br><small>Focused and lingering, with blackberry and huckleberry flavors that mingle nicely with mineral and savory bay leaf, game and beef notes and hints of white pepper and rosemary. Chosen by the Wine Spectator among the top 25 California red wine values.</small> |
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## Engine City Technical Institute Moving Here

Engine City's success in growth and job placement in today's economy is due to the ongoing need for maintenance of equipment associated with the transportation industry, the 7th largest industry in the United States.



Engine City Technical Institute, one of the leaders in the diesel training and mechanics industry for over 34 years, is moving out of its present location from the Mack Boring building in Union and relocating to 901 Hadley Rd. in South Plainfield.

Engine City Technical Institute is a post secondary accredited school that offers diploma programs in the field of diesel technology for the transportation industry.

Due to the increasing demand for diesel technicians, the school was forced to expand its facilities from 21,000 square feet, to a more modernized and larger facility of 48,000 square feet on Hadley Rd., across from Grainger's to accommodate its training needs.

The school, which has seen an unprecedented growth in the student population in the past years, offers on site corporate training, and has been training most major corporations including the U.S. Coast Guard.

Engine City Technical Institute, known industry wide, offers scholarship programs to high school seniors for its September starting classes.

The new facility on Hadley Rd. will feature a larger computer lab, a library and 48,000 square feet for its modernized shop areas. Over 50% of what

### "Crazy for You" Nominated for Two Awards

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop's 2003 production of "Crazy for You" has received two award nominations from the NJ Association of Community Theatre. Patti O'Brien was nominated for choreography and Mark Reilly received a nomination for lighting design.

This is the first time the SPSPDW has been nominated for awards. The NJACT season starts in July and runs through June, making the SPSPDW productions part of the beginning of the nominating season.

students learn is on "hands on," working on live equipment as well as lab and general industry related studies.

"Even though we are moving into a huge modern facility, we always keep the class sizes small, (usually 20 or less students) and students will still receive

that personalized 'friendly' feeling that we have always offered," stated school President and Director Daniel Kasper.

The school is owned wholly by Kasper and is not a chain school. The school is approved by the NJ Department of Labor, accredited by the ACCSCT, approved for veterans and is a participant with all government retaining programs.

Engine City is a member of The Marine Trades Association, the PCSA, New Jersey Motor Truck Association, Association of Diesel Specialists, The Equipment Managers Council Of America and the Career College Association.

The school, which offers financial aid to those whom qualify, also offers free ongoing job placement assistance. Because of a severe shortage of diesel technicians, job placement is at an all time high.

For more information, contact the school at 1-800-305-3487, or log onto [www.enginecitytech.com](http://www.enginecitytech.com).

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## policereport

• On Aug. 25 Michael P. Smith, 40, of Dunellen was arrested on New Market Ave. for theft. He was found walking down the street carrying copper wire wrapped in rubber tubing around his neck. It had been taken from Dallas Contracting Co. on New Market Ave.

• An employee of RTG Trucking on Hollywood Ave. reported that cinder block stones had been thrown at his vehicle, causing damage.

• A Teeple Pl. residents reported that someone had entered through the unlocked rear door and took cash and various change.

• On Aug. 27 Wilmer J. Varela-Nunez, 20, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, driving while intoxicated under age 21, reckless driving, consuming an alcoholic beverage while driving, failure to wear a seat belt, careless driving, leaving the scene of an accident, failure to report a motor vehicle accident, no front license plate and following too closely.

• Oscar A. Costanze, 30, of Plainfield was arrested at Home Depot for shoplifting a tape measure and screw driver set worth \$24.99.

• An Irvington resident reported that someone had cashed a fraudulent check against her bank account at Wachovia Bank on Oak Tree Rd.

• On Aug. 28 a Clinton Ave. resident reported the theft of a Mongoose bike from their unlocked garage.

• On Aug. 30 Wilford Younger, 42, of Plainfield was arrested on Park Ave. for receiving stolen property (the vehicle he was driving) and an outstanding warrant.

• A Pitt St. resident reported the theft of his wallet from his unlocked vehicle.

• A Durham Ave. resident reported that paintballs had been shot at his house.

• A Joan St. resident reported that the rear door of the home had been pried open and the bedrooms were ransacked. Some cash and jewelry were taken.

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**September 6**  
**1937**

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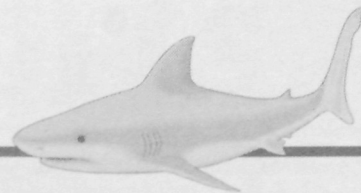


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# Sports



## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

By Lee Flanagan

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. 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.



## Fastpitch Softball Tryouts

Jersey Intensity fastpitch softball organization will be holding tryouts for the 2004/2005 season on Saturday, Aug. 28 at Oak Glen Park in Howell. 10u/12u at 9 a.m., 14u/16u at 2 p.m., 18u at 5 p.m. The Intensity organization is a Junior Olympic softball pro-

gram, affiliated with ASA, NSA and Pony. Our teams compete year round at the national level.

For more info and directions, visit [www.jerseyintensity.com](http://www.jerseyintensity.com) or e-mail [kod@jerseyintensity.com](mailto:kod@jerseyintensity.com). Call (732) 577 0797 for more information.

## Tiger Sharks compete in New Jersey Swimming and Diving Championships

On August 3-4, the top swimmers of the South Plainfield Tiger Sharks Swim Team competed in the New Jersey Swimming and Diving Conference Championships.

Twenty-five teams from the four leagues participated, sending their top swimmers to this event. During the preliminary events only six swimmers in each event, who had the fastest times, were able to compete in the finals. South Plainfield was well represented at both the preliminary events and the finals.

The following swimmers won at the finals:

Calvin John Smiley - second place: 15-18 200 meter freestyle.

Chelsea Cullen, Kate O'Brien, Emily Piekarski, Gracie Piekarski - third place: 9-12 meter medley relay.

Aljian Taylor - second place, Kate McLaughlin - fifth place: 8-and-under 25 meter freestyle.

Dylan McDermott - first place: 10-

and-under 100 meter freestyle.

Emily Piekarski - sixth place: 11/12 100 meter freestyle.

Calvin John Smiley - second place: 15-18 100 meter freestyle.

Katie Kaczka - first place: 15-18 100 meter freestyle.

Kate McLaughlin - first place: 8-and-under 25 meter breaststroke.

Kate O'Brien - first place: 9/10 50 meter breaststroke.

Sarah Konops - fourth place: 11/12 50 meter breaststroke.

Dylan McDermott - first place in the 9/10 50 meter freestyle.

Emily Piekarski - fifth place: 11/12 50 meter freestyle.

Kelly O'Brien - fourth place: 8-and-under 25 meter backstroke.

Calvin John Smiley - fifth place: 15-18 100 meter backstroke.

Katie Kaczka - second place: 15-18 100 meter backstroke.

Taylor Aljian - first place: 8-and-under 25 meter butterfly.

Dylan McDermott - first place: 9-10 50 meter butterfly.

Philip Luzny - second place: 15-18 100 meter butterfly.

Katie Kaczka - first place: 15-18 100 meter butterfly.

Sarah Konops, Kate O'Brien, Emily Piekarski, Gracie Piekarski - second place: 9-12 200 meter freestyle relay.

Sean Cullen, Aidan McDermott, Billy McLaughlin, Michael Petritsch - fourth place: 8-and-under 100 medley relay.

Taylor Aljian, Kaitlyn Faustini, Kate McLaughlin, Kelly O'Brien - first place: 8-and-under 100 medley relay.

Sean Cullen, Billy McLaughlin, Aidan McDermott, Michael Petritsch - second place: 8-and-under 100 meter freestyle relay.

Taylor Aljian, Kaitlyn Faustini, Kelly O'Brien, Kate McLaughlin - first place: 8-and-under 100 meter freestyle relay.

Other participants for the preliminaries in their respective age and gender events were: 25 meter freestyle: ninth place - Aidan McDermott, personal best time - Kaitlyn Faustini 50 meter freestyle: qualified - Kevin Jan (due to other commitments could not swim in the finals).

100 meter freestyle: seventh place - Anthony Gurrieri, 12th place - Kate O'Brien, ninth place - Philip Luzny. 200 meter freestyle: seventh place - Philip Luzny.

25 meter butterfly: personal best time - Sean Cullen, 50 meter butterfly: ninth place - Chelsea Cullen.

25 meter breaststroke: seventh place - Aidan McDermott, 12th place - Mike Olano, Personal best time - Kelly O'Brien, 50 meter breaststroke: seventh place - Liam McDermott, Personal best times - Gracie Piekarski, Kelly McLaughlin 100 meter breaststroke: personal best time: Caleb Tou.

50 meter backstroke: qualified - Kevin Jan (due to other commitments could not swim in the finals).

100 Individual Medley: eighth place - Anthony Gurrieri.

The Tiger Sharks had a successful season. The coaches, Laurie Post, Robin Cone and Jen Orlowski were happy with the results of each swimmer on the team. If you are interested in joining the team, sign up at the PAL next spring.

Submitted by: Cheryl Nagel-Smiley,  
Secretary-Tiger Sharks Parent  
Organization

## Congratulations to Our Newest Black Belts!



Mark Piltz

Recommended Black Belt

Milan Tailor

Second Degree Recommended

Kayla Gilman

Perseverance Award

J. J. Boetcher

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First Degree Black Belt

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First Degree Black Belt

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Daniel Snogans

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## Looking for Baseball Players

13U NJ Blaze baseball club (from Aug. 1 through 2005) is looking for dedicated players to compete on a national level. The club has winter workouts, must be the primary sports program and takes place throughout the spring, summer and fall. For more information and a package for the 2005 season, please go to [www.leagueline-up.com/blaze](http://www.leagueline-up.com/blaze) or contact us at [aaublaze@verizon.net](mailto:aaublaze@verizon.net) or call (908) 903-0297 (office) or (908) 377-4111 (cell).

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# Sports

## SOUTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

### Field Hockey Corner

By Sharon Miller

#### Parent's Meeting Thank You

The SPFHA thanks all of the parents who attended the Aug. 25 meeting. We hope the information you received was helpful. If you were unable to attend this meeting and need information on what was discussed, please feel free to contact me. We also appreciate everyone who signed up to help out at the scrimmage workshop and to provide healthy snacks for the away games. In order for the workshop to be successful we need everyone's help. We still have a few time slots unfilled for the snack and clothing booths.

If you are unable to help out at the workshop, then please sign up to provide snacks for the away games. We still have three unfilled openings for snacks for the JV/V games. Snack openings for the freshmen away games have all been filled. You do not need to attend the away games in order to provide the snack.

You can contact Coach Haus or

#### SEND YOUR EVENTS TO:

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myself to sign up.

#### Schedule Week of September 5

Tuesday, Sept. 7- Scrimmage in Delaware Valley at 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 8- Scrimmage in Pequannock at 4 p.m.

Please come out and support a wonderful team of players.

#### Special Events—Sept. 4 and 12

• Once again South Plainfield will be hosting the annual NJFHCA Pre-season Scrimmage Workshop on Saturday, Sept. 4. Games will take place on the Carol Espinosa Field (Varsity) and the HS Soccer Field (JV) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vendors will be onsite offering field hockey clothing. There will also be refreshments (drinks and light snacks) for purchase at both sites.

• An alumni game will take place on the Carol Espinosa field on Sunday, Sept. 12 at 3 p.m.

#### KidStuff Fundraiser

The Varsity, JV and Freshmen teams are selling the KidStuff coupon savings book as one of this year's fundraisers. The book offers hundreds of coupons for a variety of stores such as clothing, shoes, toys, crafts and sporting goods as well as food, recreational, educational and cultural activities. The book is being sold for \$25. Please support this year's field hockey team by contacting any member of the team to purchase a book.

## Varsity Girls' Cross Country Preview

By Tim Morgan

The South Plainfield High School Girls' Cross Country team will be looking to continue to rebuild this year to work toward a turnaround within a few more seasons. Having gone 3-5 last year, the girls showed some slow, but steady progress from the 1-7, 2-6 and 2-5 seasons that preceded it.

"I'm just looking to be competitive. We might fool a few people, depending on how the girls progress, especially in light of how well the spring season went," said Head Coach Bill Milone. "I'm looking forward to having some fun and building a good program for the future," he added. Milone, who will be entering his 37th year as Head Coach, calls cross country "a great individual sport where you can bring out the best in your runners." Milone looks to bring out enjoyment from the sport over aiming



Tim Morgan, Jr.

strictly at winning. He is more concerned that the girls walk away from their competition with a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment and then, along with a growth in numbers, he believes the wins will come.

Milone describes his team as "young and enthusiastic." With only four returning runners and a handful of neophytes, the Lady Tigers are small and lack real depth. This and the amplitude of girls' fall sports are problems that have hindered their development for the past few years. Despite their lack of collective continuity though, the Lady Tigers are buoyed by returning senior captain Kathleen Morgan's presence.

Morgan, who has been MVP three years in a row and provides the team with experience, finished 19th in the GMC meet last year and has been responsible for organizing sum-

mer practices for the girls. Milone is looking for her to crack a top 10 finish this year, score a top 25 finish in the Shore Coaches Invitational, and to break the 20:00 mark for the 5K (3.1 mile) race.

Following Kathleen's lead should be sophomore Jessica Hill, whom Milone is "looking for big things" from. Seniors Katie Crilley and Kelly Whitney and junior Victoria Kedmenec are returning letterwinners and juniors Katie Fasolo and Carla Zappi and freshmen Ashley Alvarado, Nicole Cosma and Rachael Milliron are newcomers. "I think they're going to be hard workers," said Milone, who believes the girls could hold real promise if training goes as planned.

Milone is looking for two main things out of this season: to do well in the White Division by cracking .500 and for the team to improve its State Sectional placing. JFK will probably be the Lady Tigers' strongest competitor and Bishop Ahr and Perth Amboy will be crucial meets as well.

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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<br>(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 21, 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.

Sports

Submitted By Bob Nilan

Masters clinched the American Division championship on the last night of regular-season play in impressive fashion by soundly defeating defending champion Plainfield Animal Hospital, 15-5.

Danny Griffin, who has played so extremely well all season long for Masters, again led the way with a superb two-under par 31 while teammate Adam Thomas came through with a nice round of 37. Mike Sikanowicz's 39 was the only score below 40 for PAH.

Masters got off to a terrible 0-3-1 start this year and didn't win their first match until the fifth week of the season. They fought their way up to .500 and finished the season like true champions with three straight wins, beating always tough Aiello Chiropractic, 2002 league champions Sport & Social and then knocking off PAH.

In next week's playoff action, Masters will face the National League Champions, Patti's Construction, a team that did a complete turnaround from last year. In 2003, Patti's only managed to win four matches and finished in fifth place. This season, Patti's posted the best record in the league and also finished the year like champions, running off five straight victories.

With both teams playing well and on winning streaks, the head-to-head match next week between Masters and Patti's Construction should bring an exciting finish to another terrific South Plainfield Golf League season.

In other American Division matches, Hank's Hackers defeated KC's Korner, 14 ½-5 ½, as Todd Sherman fired a 36, John Cacciatore had a 37 and Kevin Boyce shot 39. Mark Dugan again earned medallist honors for KC's Korner with his 39.

Aiello Chiropractic finished the season with a flourish in pounding Witty's, 18-2. Ed Banach had another gem, a sparkling two-under 31 and partner Fred "Catfish" Kirchofer had a solid round of 36. The best substitute in the league, Bob Tumolo, had a two-over 34 for Aiello. Howard Adler was low-man for Witty's with a 40.

In the National Division, Matt Ward's 37 and Mike Behr's 39 parked Patti's Construction to an easy 17-3 win over an understaffed VFW team.

Marty Van de Vaart's round of 38 was not enough for Pornovets as they dropped their match to Sport & So-



cial, 13 ½-6 ½. Chad Hibbard turned in the best score for Sport & Social with his 40.

Twin City completed the season with the longest winning streak in the league, six in-a-row and overpowered the Elks, 15 ½-4 ½, to finish just a half-game behind league leading Patti's. Joe Dillar led the way for Twin City with a 36 and Dave Mancini and Charlie Hasselgren had solid rounds of 38. Jim Gashi was the medallist for the Elks with his 40.

If they keep with their revised lineup and if they can get off to a little better start than they did this year, Twin City could be strong contenders for championship honors next season.

Dale Dube of the Elks won the weekly closest-to-the-pin contest on the third hole and Kevin Bickunas of Witty's earned the luncheon-for-two prize awarded by KC's Korner with his fine tee shot on the seventh hole.

Low Scores for the Night: Ed Banach- 31; Danny Griffin- 31; Bob Tumolo- 34; Joe Dillar- 36; Fred Kirchofer- 36; Todd Sherman- 36; John Cacciatore- 37; Matt Ward- 37 and Adam Thomas- 37.

Final League Standings:

| American Division | W  | L  | T |
|-------------------|----|----|---|
| Masters           | 8  | 5  | 1 |
| PAH               | 7  | 5  | 2 |
| KC's Korner       | 7  | 6  | 1 |
| Aiello            | 7  | 7  | 0 |
| Hank's Hackers    | 6  | 7  | 1 |
| Witty's           | 4  | 9  | 1 |
| National Division | W  | L  | T |
| Patti's           | 10 | 3  | 1 |
| Twin City         | 10 | 4  | 0 |
| Pornovets         | 7  | 6  | 1 |
| Sport & Social    | 7  | 7  | 0 |
| Elks              | 4  | 8  | 2 |
| VFW               | 2  | 11 | 1 |

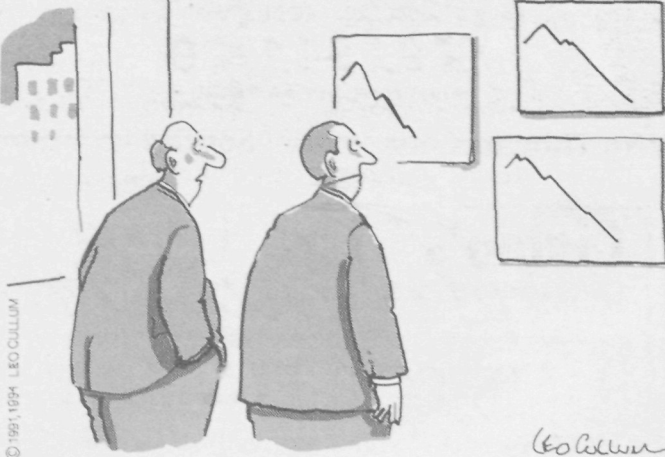
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# Sports



First row: Bat Boy Chris Graves, Anthony Ashnault, Jeff Pellegrino, Troy Heilmann, Taylor Born, Nick Graves and Bat Boy Ben Cochrane. Second row: Joel Curran, Patrick Boyle, Nick DeMarco, Quinn Cochrane, AJ Celentano, Eric Burnham and Kyle Brady. Third row: Coach Bill Ashnault, Head Coach Bill Cochrane, Coach Jack Brady and Coach Wendell Born.

## Nine-Year-Olds Win Tournament

The South Plainfield Crush finished out the season with a first place win in front of their home crowd, beating Holmdel 9-2. A great time was had by all. Crush then went on to take second place in the Carteret Tournament against Matawan, 2-3. Although this was a disappointing loss, Crush held their heads high as their season came to an end.

Congratulations to all the players and coaches for an incredible finish.

## SPHS To Host NJFHCA Field Hockey Scrimmage

By Sharon Miller

Summer is just about over and it is time once again for Field Hockey. In preparation for the start of the season, the girls have been practicing extensively for the past two weeks under the guidance of head Coach Fran Flannery and assistant coaches Tammy Zurka (JV), Bohl (F) and Joanne Haus. The season kicks off as SPHS hosts the NJFHCA Preseason Scrimmage Workshop, which takes place on Saturday, Sept. 4, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Schools participating are Cranford (C), East Brunswick (EB), Johnson Reg (JR), Metuchen (MT), Monroe (M), Mt. St. Mary's (MSM), North Plainfield (NP), South Brunswick (SB) and South Plainfield (SP). Vendors will be onsite offering field hockey clothing. There will also be refreshments (drinks and light snacks). Please join us in support of our team for an exciting day of field hockey.

| Time    | Field One (V) | Field Two (IV) |
|---------|---------------|----------------|
| 9:00am  | MT vs JR      | MSM vs MT      |
| 9:30am  | JR vs MSM     | MT vs JR       |
| 10:00am | MSM vs MT     | JR vs MSM      |
| 10:30am | M vs NP       | SP vs C        |
| 11:00am | NP vs SB      | C vs EB        |
| 11:30am | SB vs M       | EB vs SP       |
| 12:00pm | SP vs C       | NP vs M        |
| 12:30pm | C vs SP       | M vs NP        |

Submitted by Sharon Miller

## Post 243 Senior American Legion 2004 Baseball Results

The South Plainfield Predators finished the 2004 season with nine wins and 12 losses. The Predators competed in the Middlesex County American Legion Baseball League, which is regarded as one of the most competitive leagues in the state. It includes teams like Edison, Milltown, Carteret, JFK, St. Joe's and Clara Barton to name a few. Many of the teams in the Middlesex League continued to the District finals. Carteret and Milltown both advanced to the State finals.

South Plainfield's roster consisted of one college player, seven graduating seniors, five senior varsity players, one sophomore and two freshmen. All of South Plainfield's players are current or former South Plainfield High School students. By the current rules, only three of these players will be ineligible to return next year because of their age.

Steve Turrise led the team with a .386 batting average, five home runs, 19 runs batted in and 24 runs scored. Chris Bakazan followed with a .354 batting average, one home run, 17 runs batted in and 18 runs scored. Chris Bakazan also led the team in pitching with four wins and two losses. Turrise and Bakazan had grand slam home runs in the same game to highlight their seasons. Mike Downes was close behind with a .351 batting average, four home runs (including a

grand slam), 16 runs batted in and 11 runs scored. Mike Downes also provided the team with the best ERA as a pitcher while collecting two wins.

Other players batting over .300 included Jon Buggie, David Spayder, Dan Piwowar and Kyle Kazimir. Kazimir had a home run and drove in 10 runs while scoring 12 runs. Jon Buggie compiled eight runs and batted in and crossed the plate 12 times. Chris Czapinski provided additional pitching.

## Sacred Heart 100th Anniversary Schedule of Events

### September

- 12 Parish Picnic 2 to 6 p.m. in the schoolyard. Free!
- 19 Liturgical Ministers Retreat 3-5 p.m. at the church

### October

- TBA Renew begins at Sacred Heart Parish
- TBA Cosmic Bowling for Youth
- 3 Feast of St. Francis Assisi 3 p.m. on the grounds
- Animal Blessing and Parade of Pets
- 11 Chef Night—Culinary Delight at SP Senior Center
- 24 Main Street Brass Concert 3 p.m. at the church
- 31 Children's Halloween Event 6 p.m. and the SH Café



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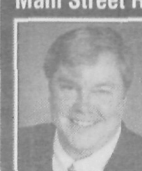
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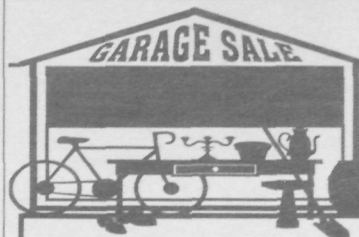
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My Credit is: ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ Bankruptcy

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