

South Plainfield Observer

**VOTE
TUESDAY
APRIL 19**

VOL. 8, NO. 32

50 CENTS

APRIL 15, 2005

S.P.F.D. Gets \$144K Grant



(L-R in front row) Senator Barbara Buono, Mayor Dan Gallagher, Congressman Mike Ferguson and Fire Chief Larry DelNegro display grant awarded to the SPFD.

by Patricia Abbott

On Monday, April 4 the South Plainfield Fire Department received a \$144,364 grant from the Department of Homeland Security. Congressman Mike Ferguson and Senator Barbara Buono, South Plainfield Fire Chief Larry DelNegro along with Mayor

Dan Gallagher, Council members Ray Petronko, Kathy Thomas, Dennis Cerami and Bob Cusick, and members of the Fire Department met at the firehouse for the presentation and brief ceremony.

The funds will be used to purchase 35 new air packs with the newest safety features. The grant is part of a \$750

million federal program designed to support more than 5,000 fire protection EMS delivery and fire prevention programs.

Ferguson said, "The firefighters in South Plainfield face new challenges in this post Sept. 11 world. Especially because of South Plainfield's proximity to New York City, it's crucial that first responders have the resources to meet these new challenges. Not only does the important Homeland Security grant allow them to do their jobs efficiently and safely, but it also eases the burden on community taxpayers."

According to a press release from Ferguson's office; Since 9/11 first responders in the 7th District have received more than \$2.8 million in federal homeland security grants. The 7th District includes portions of Hunterdon, Somerset and Union counties and three towns in Middlesex County—portions of Woodbridge, Edison and South Plainfield. Each year Ferguson hosts workshops for local elected officials and urges them to apply for federal funding. He also contacts each police and fire chief about the federal security grant process.

Local Man Found Dead in Spring Lake



South Plainfield Fire Department removes the body of a 68-year-old borough man from Spring Lake Park on Tuesday morning.

On Tuesday morning police discovered a body in the water at Spring Lake Park after being alerted by a caller who stated that he saw a man near the edge of the water and a short time later, the man could not be located. When police arrived, they observed an object that appeared to be clothing floating 20 feet from the shoreline. The South Plainfield Fire Department responded and used a rescue boat to guide the body to shore.

The man was identified as Frank Cox, age 68 of 2020 Greenwich Ave. Cox was last seen that morning at 9 a.m.

The Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office and Medical Examiner's Office responded to the scene. No obvious signs of trauma were noted on the body. The cause of death is pending the results of an autopsy that will be performed by the Middlesex County Medical Examiner's Office.

The investigation is being led by South Plainfield Police Detective Gene Bataille and the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office.

Water Main Break Causes Emergency



CERT volunteers ready to dispense water to residents during Friday's water main break in Bound Brook.

Last Friday's water main break left the entire south side of town without water for hours, while most residents living on the north side of town weren't aware there was a problem.

The break occurred about 4:45 p.m. in Bound Brook when a 41 inch pipe, belonging to NJ American Water (formerly Elizabethtown), began spewing clean water in the Bound Brook near the Queens Bridge.

More than 160,000 homes were suddenly without water. The five Middlesex County towns affected were Edison, Piscataway, South Plainfield, Middlesex, Dunellen and parts of Rutgers Busch Campus.

South Plainfield opened their

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 5 p.m. to deal with the emergency. Emergency Management Coordinator Michael Zushma began calling to find out the extent of the water problems. Police Chief John Ferraro, several members of the police force and Mayor Dan Gallagher were soon on the scene to help out with the emergency.

At 7 p.m. CERT volunteers were asked to report in the event it became necessary to hand out water to residents. By 8 p.m. Zushma had obtained a half dozen tanker trucks, and was prepared to bring water to various sections in the community. A Hall's Truck, which was already

filled with bottled water, was waiting for instructions. Silo positioned a tanker at Cedar Oaks filled with non-drinking water for residents. A larger tanker truck was parked at the fire house filled with water ready to accompany fire trucks in case of a fire on the southside of town. Emergency Management is always prepared for any emergency and they were more than ready again.

Fortunately, the water trucks were not needed because water pressure slowly began to return to the Borough at about 9:30 p.m. Residents were asked to boil their water for a few days for safety reasons.

When the water emergency became a reality, health inspectors were called out to notify restaurants they had to close their doors because of health reasons. Restaurants all along Hadley Blvd. and Centennial Ave. quickly closed their doors and were not allowed to open until a health inspector visited each establishment, making sure all were able to operate with clean water.

The efficiency of our EOC group and the CERT volunteers was amazing. They were ready to go, as always, and each group did their job in a professional, calm manner.

Residents are reminded that if they lose their water, gas or electricity, they should not call 911. First call the utility to report the loss. If you need to talk to the police, call the non-emergency number: (908) 755-0700. You should only call 911 for an emergency, since it ties up the lines and someone with a real emergency may not be able to get through immediately.



Junior Baseball Club Parade Grand Marshal Mike English speaks at the club's opening day last Saturday. See story and photos on page 9.

Volunteer Sought for Litter Clean-up

The big Spring Cleanup will hit the roadsides, streamsides, woods and parks on Saturday, April 23, to be followed by the traditional pickup pizza picnic at Borough Hall.

All are invited to participate—scout groups, church groups, businesses, school clubs—or sign up individually.

Call the Clean Communications Coordinator at (908) 226-7621 for more information.

From the South Plainfield Police Department Addresses Traffic Concerns at Schools

As the school year progresses, we would like to take this opportunity to address several traffic concerns and problems that have occurred at the South Plainfield Public Schools. This year, the problems have become more acute and will require the cooperation of all parties involved. Our primary concern is the safety of the students, as well as the safe flow of traffic at the schools.

We have worked with the Board of Education and the Administration designing traffic safety improvements at all of borough schools. These projects would vastly improve the traffic flow and parking at each school. These projects have unfortunately been stalled due to the budget crisis. We realize that our town has grown significantly since schools were



constructed and that our society has changed significantly, all of which has a tremendous impact on the traffic situations at the schools. We are constantly seeking solutions to these problems, but can no longer allow parents/guardians to put other students in jeopardy for the sake of convenience.

With this thought in mind, we would like to remind the parents/guardians of the traffic laws that are applicable on public roadways.

Parking is only permitted in designated areas or legally on a public roadway. The bus loading zones at the schools are for school buses to discharge and pick up students. These areas are not designated for

(Continued on page 16)



TUESDAY, APRIL 19
Polls are open 2 pm to 9 pm
Your Vote Counts!

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

council meetings

Borough Hall Council Chambers

Meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday

Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

Date	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
April 18	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
May 3	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.

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

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, *except where noted.

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

April 26, May 10, May 24, June 14, June 28, July 5*, July 19*, Aug. 16*, Aug. 30*, Sept. 13, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, Oct. 25, Nov. 29*, Dec. 13, Dec. 27.

zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, *except where noted.

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

April 14, April 28, May 12, May 26, June 9, June 23, July 14, July 28, Aug. 11, Aug. 25, Sept. 8, Sept. 22, Oct. 13, Oct. 27, Nov. 10*, Dec. 8, Dec. 22.

board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting Tuesdays at 8 p.m.

taxpayers advisory group

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

site plans sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.

April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20.

recreation commission

Meets once a month on the last Tuesday of the month, except July and August

PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716

April 26, May 24, June 28, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 7 and Dec. 13.

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621

May 11, June 8, July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14 and Jan. 11, 2006

business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

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

traffic safety advisory commission

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

in the Conference Room, Borough Hall (No Meeting in August)

board of education curriculum/technology meetings

Meets once a month on Mondays, (except where noted) at 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.

Dear Editor,

I attended a presentation of the School Budget 2005-2006 by Dr. Robert Rosado, superintendent of schools, along with his staff, Robert Davis, interim business administrator, Anthony Massaro, assistant superintendent and a group of senior students who all stated passing of this budget is essential.

They did a very good job of explaining where the monies are spent, but then put the blame on other Board members.

They are also making teachers place phone calls to parents encouraging them to vote for the budget. They are also relaying messages to the students to advise their parents to pass the school budget or programs will be cut. They have gone out of their way to have this budget passed.

As a lifelong resident and a senior on a fixed income, the \$375 increase in taxes is a burden on anyone with a fixed income.

What are the employees giving up? Their salary increase is in the area of 13 percent without counting full benefits.

This is the year to start asking for paybacks.

If the teachers and staff are dedicated to our town and our students, let them pay \$375 per employee as a paycheck to the taxpayers.

With 85 percent of our tax dollars going for education, what will the results be when they reach 100 percent? Maybe a Newark, Camden or Jersey City atmosphere.

I urge every voter to come out and vote the budget down. Let's have the school system sharpen their pencils and start getting give backs just like every big business in this country.

Bottom line—enough is enough.
JAKE CATALDO

Dear Editor,

I would like to correct some erroneous information that appeared in several letters to the editor recently. The facts are that although South Plainfield spends less per pupil than the state and county averages, our students' scores on standardized tests are one of the highest in Middlesex County (as reported recently in the *Home News Tribune*). In fact, as a member of the faculty of John E. Riley School, I can proudly claim that our school (as reported recently in *The Star-Ledger*) had the second highest test scores last year of any elementary school in Middlesex County! There were only two three-star schools in the county and we were one of them. Of course the skill and hard work of the teachers and the efforts of the children had a lot to do with these results across the district and at Riley. But I am also sure that the small class sizes were an important contributing factor in Riley's success.

By supporting this budget, a large reduction in the number of teachers can be avoided, class sizes can remain

at current levels and programs that are producing results and benefitting, all the students can remain intact.

BARBARA HARRIS

To the Editor:

April 19, 2005 is a very big day in South Plainfield. It's the day we get to vote on the board of education budget and determine the future of South Plainfield. As it stands now the BOE is recommending the elimination of 14+ positions, and that's if it passes! What if the budget is voted down? The rumors have it that the town council will eliminate approximately \$1.5 million. What does that mean to an already lean budget? It means the children lose! The children may lose ALL sports and music programs throughout the district. You heard me – ALL SPORTS and MUSIC programs!!! All after-school activities could be gone as well. In addition to that, eliminate another 15-20 teachers. What are you left with? Excess of 30 children per class and nothing for the children to do after school. It's a recipe for disaster.

If you have children, would you want to move into a town that has large class size and no activities for the children? NOT me! That means the property values will start a negative turn almost immediately. This is something that affects everyone in town, young and old alike. I think \$350 a year (\$6.75 a week) is a small price to pay for a town who values its education and children's activities. That's why I moved here 23 years ago.

For those students applying to college, you can't get into college on academics alone; you need activities. Ask any college recruiter. Both my children graduated SPHS and went on to the colleges of their choice because of education, track and field, field hockey, basketball, marching band, concert band, jazz band, Jersey club, etc. Don't ruin it for the future of these children. Get out and vote and vote YES! Vote for Tim Morgan!

If the BOE has to eliminate all sports programs, the field hockey team won't be able to defend their State Sectional title, the wrestling team can't defend their GMC and State titles, boys' basketball won't be able to de-

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Please be advised that the Observer will not publish any anonymous letters until further notice. Any letter received without identification will be discarded.

Letters may be submitted to the Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax 908-668-8819 or by email: spobsobserver@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 or to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject.

fend their back-to-back GMC titles and so on. Approximately 700-800 students in the high school rely on extra-curricular activities every year. The high school put up signs around the school this year that say "Academics, Athletics, Arts and Activities." If the budget does not pass, I guess we have to change the signs to "Academics" only!!

Please take the time to get out and vote on April 19. If just one parent of every student voted yes, the budget would pass with flying colors! Go Green and White. Vote YES!!!

NORM LOENSER

To the Editor

In Last week's issue of the *Observer* there were several letters that made accusations that the board of education, of which I have been part, should have accomplished numerous other agendas. I realize now after being a working member of the board that it is not always possible to attend to everyone's needs and wants, but what I can do is relate to the public what has been done to remedy our fiscal situation. In November of 2004 the board of education requested the assistant commissioner of education to call in the state to "...conduct an audit of financial practice for the last eight years..." This audit has been completed and has already reported their findings to the public. For those who have not availed themselves of the whole report, succinctly it states that the current financial operations are in the process of being improved and that any financial mismanagement is a thing of the past. It was also requested that the board use the Office of Compliance and this was

(Continued on page 12)

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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 spobsobserver@comcast.net. Include your name, address, telephone number. You can subscribe or contact us at: spobsobserver.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Middlesex County Participates In Federal Preparedness Exercise

On April 4 officials and residents of Middlesex County participated in the international emergency preparedness exercise known as Top Officials 3 (TOPOFF).

The county, specifically the Prosecutor's Office, the Public Health Department and the Office of Emergency Management, were featured in this five-day full scale exercise to test federal, state, county and local response to a Bioterrorism simulated event.

Coordinated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the exercise was played out throughout New Jersey, Connecticut, Washington D.C., and in Canada and Great Britain.

In addition to pre-exercise intelligence work, the departments opened and staffed the County's Emergency Operations Center. As the exercise unfolded, a Point of Dispensing (POD) opened at Rutgers University to distribute needed pharmaceuticals to the potentially exposed population.

"The Board of Chosen Freeholders is committed to protecting the lives and property of our residents in any emergency situation," said Freeholder Director David B. Crabel. "My Freeholder colleagues and I fully supported the County's involvement in this exercise to help us be prepared to ensure the safety of our citizens."

"This exercise will test every aspect of our response—from intelligence and

communications to staffing and procedures," said County Prosecutor Bruce J. Kaplan, who in the event of an actual emergency will be the lead agency in charge until the event is determined not to be criminal or terrorist in nature.

The exercise is the third and most far-reaching of the congressionally mandated series. TOPOFF officials have been planning it for two years to make it as realistic as possible. Many of the estimated 10,000 participants know few details of the exercise in order to protect the integrity of it.

"It is extremely important to be prepared for any emergency and the best way to be prepared is to drill," said Freeholder Christopher D. Rafano, chair of the County's Law and Public Safety Committee. "The best drills are those that come closest to real scenarios. Our involvement in this comprehensive exercise gives us an opportunity we've not had before."

"The Middlesex County Public Health Department takes very seriously its role in this exercise and in helping keep the residents of the County safe," said Freeholder John Pulomena, chair of the County's Public Health and Education Committee. "The department is ready for the challenge and will use the exercise to further strengthen its plans and procedures for prevention and protection."



Webelos from Cub Scout Pack 207 got a tour of Ciccio's Pizzeria in February from owner Sev Baratta. He demonstrated the art of making pizzas and let them each make their own. They all agreed the best part was eating their own creations!

Meeting Notice

The South Plainfield Board of Education will meet in the gymnasium of the Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Ave. for an Organization Meeting on Monday, April 25, 8 p.m. Formal action will be taken.

Community Pool Early Bird Pricing Ends Monday

It's time to sign up for the 2005 season at the Community Pool. You can take advantage of the early bird discounts if you sign up by April 18. The following are the 2005 fees:

Resident	Before April 18	After April 18
Family	\$250 & 10 passes	\$280 (no free passes)
Husband & Wife	\$195 & 10 passes	\$225 (no free passes)
Individual	\$140 & 10 passes	\$170 (no free passes)
Single Parent Family	\$220 & 10 passes	\$250 (no free passes)
Senior Citizen	\$ 50 & 10 passes	\$ 60 (no free passes)

Family/ Full Time

Child Care

Non Resident

Family	\$470 & 10 passes	\$470 (no free passes)
Individual	\$240 & 10 passes	\$240 (no free passes)
Senior Citizen	\$100 & 10 passes	\$100 (no free passes)

Fees are nonrefundable. Daily admission passes are available.

All guest pass books containing 10 daily passes can be purchased by members for \$50. There is a limit of one book per month.

Photo identification cards are used by all members and must be presented at the front desk each time you enter the pool. Any member allowing someone else to use their cards will forfeit their membership. The fee to replace a lost ID card is \$5.

The swim and diving teams are open to South Plainfield resident pool members ages six to 17. (Children must pass a swimming test.) Regular meets are held Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. For details contact the Recreation Office.

Swimming lessons are available. They run for 30 minutes and run for two weeks (eight classes). Fees: \$10 for members; non-members' first child is \$60 and second is \$50. Swim lessons are not refundable.

The pool opens June 4 on weekends and after 4 p.m. weekdays. Summer hours start June 27 and run to Sept. 5. They are: Saturdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sundays noon to 8 p.m. and Monday through Friday noon to 8:30 p.m.

Register at the PAL, located on Maple Ave., 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The office is also open the first and third Mondays of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. For additional information, call the PAL at (908) 226-7713.

Timber Creek Renews Adopt-A-Spot Contract

Brian Mazellan, president of Timber Creek Landscaping, has renewed his adoption of the stream crossing at the Clinton Ave. Extension, from Sampton Ave. to the railroad tracks. With his brother Don, Brian has been maintaining this heavily-littered and dumped-upon stretch of road for the last 12 years. In addition to picking up trash, they trim weeds and mow the turf at the roadsides.

Mazellan got the Adopt-A-Spot program started when he approached the Clean Business Association in 1993, saying that he traveled over the Clinton Ave. Extension every day and was always bothered by how littered it was. He wondered if the Borough would object if he cleaned it up on a regular basis. Far from objecting, CBA president Joe Diegnan immediately began to investigate Adopt-A-Road programs. Using the NJ Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway program as a model, the CBA developed procedures for a smaller-scale program that fit South Plainfield's needs. Mazellan signed the first Adopt-A-Spot contract that spring, and has renewed each year since.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact the Clean Communities Coordinator at (908) 226-7621.

Rabies Clinic Saturday

The South Plainfield Health Department will be holding a rabies clinic on Saturday, April 16 at the borough garage, located on the corner of Spicer and Belmont Ave.

Dog and cat owners are urged to bring their pets for an inoculation. Dog and cat licenses will also be available. *Please note: all cats must be in a carrier.*

The rabies clinic runs from 9 a.m. to noon. For information, call (908) 226-7631.

SPHS Hall of Fame Seeks 2005 Nominees

The South Plainfield Hall of Fame Committee is again holding their annual search for candidates for induction into the Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was established at South Plainfield High School to recognize outstanding graduates as leaders in their fields who could serve as role models for current and future students.

To be eligible, all Hall of Fame candidates must have graduated from South Plainfield High School, or the designated school at least 15 years prior to nomination. Also they must have achieved a prominent position within their careers with a significant contribution to any of the following: academia, business, community participation, service to humanity and unique accomplishments.

Those candidates selected will have their photographs and biographies displayed on the "Hall of Fame" at the entrance of the high school. They will also be honored at a luncheon and will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the high school's annual Academic Awards Program on June 1.

Parents and friends are welcome to submit candidates for this prestigious recognition. Nomination forms for this award can be obtained from: Dr. Kenneth May, Principal, South Plainfield High School, 200 Lake St., South Plainfield, NJ 07080, (908) 754-4620 ext. 248.

Our Lady Of Czestochowa R.C. Church

807 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield *

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily at 8am except Wednesdays

(908) 756-1333

Tues.-Miraculous Medal Novena followed by Mass

Thurs.-Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 10am

Weekend Schedule: Saturday evenings 5:30pm
Sunday mornings 8am and 11am

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ENROLLMENT BEGINS NOW!

Events

VFW Hosts Dinner

April 15

The VFW Post 6763, located at 155 Front St., will be holding a dinner on Friday, April 15 from 5-8 p.m. The public is welcome. For more information, call (908) 668-9751.

Cahal Dunne Concert

April 17

Cahal Dunne, singer, songwriter, pianist and comedian, will be performing at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, April 17, at 3 p.m. Admission is \$20 and seniors and students are \$15. To purchase tickets or for more information, call (908) 756-0632 ext. 10, (732) 549-9633, or (908) 755-6416.

Philharmonic Glee Club to Perform

April 17

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission will sponsor an afternoon of music and song performed by the North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club. This event will be held on Sunday, April 17, from 3-4:30 p.m. at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave. This event is free to the public and sponsored by the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission.

AARP Meeting

April 18

The South Plainfield Chapter of AARP will hold its meeting at 12 Noon on April 18 at the Senior Center. Guest speaker will be Jessica Aleman, Dietician, from Muhlenberg Hospital. Following Aleman will be the "Madrigals," a group from Dunellen High School.

Rainbow Academy Open House

April 19

Rainbow Academy Child Care Cen-

ter, located on Oak Tree Rd., will hold an Open House on Tuesday, April 19, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Limited space is available for the infant, nursery, pre-kindergarten and summer camp. Register before the open house and receive free registration and two free months of ParentWatch. For new customers only, mention the South Plainfield Observer. Visit the center for a tour during operating hours. For directions and information, visit their website at rainbowacademy.com.

12-Hour Scrapbooking Event

April 23

Are you a scrapbooker? Would you like to learn how to scrapbook? Come to a 12-hour workshop given by Creative Memories Consultant, Dayel Giammarino, on Saturday, April 23 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church on Plainfield Ave. Enjoy 12 hours of uninterrupted cropping time, light snacks and drinks, unlimited use of cropping tools, project demos, mini workshops and lots of chances to win door prizes, raffles and a grand prize raffle. Come and go, or only stay a few hours. Seating is limited to 25. Call or email to reserve a seat, Dayel at (908) 754-4255 or The8Gs@aol.com. Please register by April 16. Class fee is \$25.

Spring Fest 2005 at First Baptist Church

April 23

A celebration of Arts and Crafts will be held on Saturday, April 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Henderson Hall of First Baptist Church on Hamilton Blvd. The event is sponsored by the Women's Evening circle. For information, call Linda at (908) 754-2386.

Tricky Tray Raffle

April 30

Sacred Heart Home School Asso-

What's happening in APRIL

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
UPCOMING EVENTS May 19... Cactus Flower at Hunterdon Hills			Weekly Shopping 14 Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm	Bingo 10am-2pm 15 Pizza Lunch Available
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am 18 Yoga 10:30-11:30am Drawing Class 11:30am AARP Mtg. 12:30pm	Bingo 10am-2pm 19 Ladies Social 10am	Exercise 8:30am 20 Line Dancing 10am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 10 am 11:30 am, 1 pm Listening to Children 10am	Weekly Shopping 21 Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm	Bingo 10am-2pm 22 Lunch Available

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

ciation is sponsoring a Tricky Tray Raffle on Saturday, April 30 in the school cafeteria featuring baskets, sports memorabilia, gift certificates, bikes, 27" TV, a Dyson vacuum and more. Doors open at 6 p.m. and drawing starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 and includes five raffle tickets. For information or for tickets, call (908) 755-0891. Must be 18 years or older.

— Out of Town —

Poetry Workshops

Through May 25

The Unlimited Potential Theater Company (UPTCo) is offering a Spring Poetry Workshop Series at N. Brunswick High School on Wednesdays through May 25 from 7-9 p.m. The program is free and open to ages 16 and over.

For information, call (732) 745-3885, or info@vsanj.org.

"Gardens of the Garden State" Exhibit

April 15-17

The Edison Arts Society is pleased to present our fourth annual "Gardens of the Garden State" Art and Photography exhibit at Menlo Park Mall's Center Court on Friday, April 15 (noon-5 p.m.); Saturday, April 16 (11 a.m.-8 p.m.) and Sunday, April 17 (noon-5 p.m.). A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on Friday at noon.

For more information on this exhibit, please call the Edison Arts Society at (908) 753-2787, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Leukemia/Lymphoma Society Fundraiser

April 16

The Big Event to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society will be held in Rutgers University parking lot 26 (behind the College Avenue Student Center) from noon to 6:30 pm on Saturday, April 16.

Up-and-coming bands Petelshot, Steal the Air and Hello Lovely headline a day full of entertainment. In addition to hours of live music, there will also be a day-long silent auction. A \$25 admission fee will be charged at the door. Children under the age of 10 will be admitted free of cost.

For information on The Big Event, visit: www.thebigevent.olivebranchonline.com (or) call Douglas Schneider at (732)-709-3077.

"An Evening of Hope"

April 16

You are cordially invited to attend "An Evening of Hope" featuring traditional jazz on Saturday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m. at The Forum Theatre, 314 Main St., Metuchen.

The donation is \$65 per person. To purchase tickets, send your check and/or donations to J. Buttafuoco, Esq., Park Professional Plaza, 2509 Park Ave. Suite 1C, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Your tickets will be forwarded to you upon receipt of your check. All ticket proceeds will be given directly to The St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Rose Of Sharon Trustee Meeting

April 17

The Rose of Sharon Community Church, located on 7th St. in Plainfield, will hold a trustee board 41st Anniversary meeting on Sunday, April 17 at 3 p.m. For information call (908) 561-9070.

WOWs Dance/Social

April 17

The Woodbridge Area Chapter of Widows or Widowers (WOWs) will hold a member/guest dance-social on Sunday, April 17 at the Elks' Hall, 665 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge from 7:30-11:30 p.m. The price is \$8 per person. Live music will be performed by the Blue Notes. Homebaked refreshments will be served. For more information, call (732) 297-1775.

Food & Wine Tasting Event

April 18

On Monday, April 18, Share Our Strength's Taste of the Nation, presented by American Express and Jenn-Air at The Madison Hotel in Morristown will feature over 40 chefs from the best New Jersey restaurants preparing their signature dishes. Samples from top wine producers, brew masters, pastry chefs and caterers, while at the same time raising awareness and critical funds in the fight against hunger.

100% of all ticket proceeds go directly to fight hunger and poverty. The NJ recipients for 2005 will be the Community Food Bank of New Jersey and Eva's Kitchen in Paterson. To purchase tickets to Taste of the

Nation visit www.NJDiningGuide.net/TasteofTheNation for more details or call (973) 772-4474.

Low Vision Support Group Meeting

April 19

There will be a Low Vision Support group meeting on Tuesday, April 19, at 10:30-12 Noon at the Jewish Family & Vocational Services, 515 Plainfield Ave., Suite 201, Edison. Transportation can be arranged and insurance may be accepted in lieu of fee. New members are always welcome. Please call Fran Starr for more information at (732) 777-1940.

What the Butler Saw at Circle Players

April 22-May 8

What the Butler Saw, a comedy by Joe Orton opens at Circle Players, the community theater in Piscataway on Friday, April 22.

Performances are Friday, April 22, 28 and May 6 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, April 23, 30 and May 7 at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees, May 1 and 8 at 3 p.m. Tickets for Friday and Saturday performances are \$15. Matinees are \$12. Seniors and students receive \$1 off with ID.

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

Food Bank to Hold Rummage Sale

April 23-29

The NORWESCAP Food Bank will be holding a huge spring rummage sale on Saturday, April 23 through Friday, April 29 at the NORWESCAP Food Bank Annex, 213 North Broad St., Phillipsburg. The sale hours are: Saturday, April 23 and Monday, April 25, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Tuesday, April 26, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesday, April 27, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Thursday, April 28, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (half off day) and Friday, April 29, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (bag day sale). For more information, please call the NORWESCAP Food Bank at (908) 454-4322.

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

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Rosado Encourages Public to Vote for Budget

By Libby Barsky

What will happen if the school budget goes down?

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rosado warned that if the 2005/06 \$47,561,491 school budget were defeated, up to 40 positions would be eliminated, which would severely impact the educational and co-curricular programs in the school district. He spoke at a special meeting on the budget Tuesday night at the Administration building.

"The Borough Council has until the first week after the vote in April to make the decision," said Rosado. "Every tax point means \$140,000, and if it decided to trim 10 tax points that would mean \$1.4 million and the elimination of two elementary guidance positions, two music teachers, 10 duty aides, middle school team leaders, elementary clubs and sports (5/6), one social worker and middle school clubs and activities," he said.

This would be in addition to the 14.8 positions already being eliminated, which includes two administrators, five teachers, three and a half secretarial positions, one technology position and two aides.

Rosado urged all to vote for the budget, because if these measures are enacted and the positions eliminated, it won't be for just one year. The impact will be long term.

Grant School teacher and field hockey coach Joann Haus spoke of

how tighter restrictions on expenditures had teachers bringing in supplies for their classes.

Rosado noted that for the past two years test scores had risen, especially for minority students whose scores went up 30%, and measures taken in summer school had prevented the need for an extra transitional first grade class. He also noted that the anti-gang work of the high school staff and middle school classes by police are preventing the intrusion of gangs into the district schools. And spending for education will result in the need for fewer prisons, Rosado believes. "But there is never a lack of money to build prisons," Rosado said.

According to Rosado these improved test results were achieved with one of the lowest cost per pupil in Middlesex County. *The Star Ledger* puts the cost per pupil in the 2005-06 budget at \$10,613, while the *The Home News* pegs it at \$9,188. Rosado attributes the difference of \$1,425 to what items are calculated into the base-adult school, construction and maintenance costs, but Rosado said "We still rank the same."

Rosado warned that if the budget doesn't pass the cuts will impact on the district's ability to maintain its gains in test scores and as a result South Plainfield property values will be affected.

"What are the schools like? is the first questions a person asks in buying a home," said Rosado.



The North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club will perform at Wesley Methodist Church this Sunday.

Cultural Arts Commission to Sponsor Glee Club Performance

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission will sponsor an afternoon of music and song performed by the North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club. This event will be held on Sunday, April 17 from 3-4:30 p.m. at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave.

The North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club is the oldest professional African-American ensemble in the Northeast. Since 1939, the Glee Club has performed before an array of patrons from different cul-

tures. Past performances include the White House, Lincoln Center, NJ Performing Arts Center, the Schomburg Center and the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark.

The North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club will perform a repertoire of music ranging from gospel to classical—a performance guaranteed to delight music lovers. This event is free to the public and sponsored by the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission.

Kids Learn to Be Assault Free at PCLC

Students at the Pilgrim Covenant Learning Center will learn how to avoid being the victim of an assault in a three-day workshop at the preschool. The Learning Center is hosting the Middlesex County Child-Assault Prevention (CAP) Project April 26 through 28. The CAP Project helps children recognize and deal with potentially dangerous situations from an assault by another child, as well as from strangers and familiar adults.

The workshop uses pictures, role-play and dolls to teach children how to stay safe through supportive friends, assertiveness skills and by telling a trusted adult. Parents have their own workshop, focusing on understanding child assault and recognizing the signs of physical, emotional and sexual assault, as well as crisis intervention and when and how to report abuse.

Because CAP encourages children to share their experiences and concerns with adults they trust, it is important for parents, teachers and all concerned members of the community to know how to respond appropriately. For more information, please call Gina Birath at Pilgrim Covenant Learning Center at (908) 756-4879.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Chris Grippo

Clean out your closets, attics and basements. Alan Snyder, a certified antiques and estate appraiser, will be at the library on Sunday, April 17 from 2 to 4 p.m. He will be appraising objects on a first come basis and, due to the very popular nature of his visits we need to limit each attendee to two items. This is a great opportunity to find out if any of those treasures are worth a large amount of money.

And start planning for our May adult activity. The exciting *Practical Craft* instructor Ronda Wisniewski will be doing a program on fabric painting. There will be two separate workshops on Monday, May 2. One will be from 10:30-11:30 in the morning, the other 7-8 in the evening. There is a \$2 fee for materials and registration is required. Also Ronda will be reprising some of her classes over the summer including kaleidoscope cane pens and flower and candle painting. And watch for her fall classes. All of these workshops are a great buy and are a lot of fun, especially if you do it with friends.

Our annual book sale is coming up on May 21. This book sale is always a good fundraiser for the library and draws buyers from quite a few miles away. Again we are looking for donations of books in good condition, videos, music CDs, recorded books, etc. Unfortunately we cannot accept textbooks and encyclopedias. You can drop the donations off any time the Library is open. And let your friends know about the book sale!

Also we have received the hottest books and videos including new books by Mary Higgins Clark, Nicholas Sparks, and Danielle Steel, hot new movies including *Ladder 49*, *Exorcist: the Beginning*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *Finding Neverland*, *Taxi*, and *Troy* plus many, many more. And as long as you return them on time they are free. We also have on hand recently released boxed sets of Bon Jovi and the Beatles (the Capitol Years).

And for the kids Miss Linda and Miss Danya will be having their regular storytime/craft programs on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. There

is also the Books'n'Babies program on Friday mornings at 10:30 a.m. for the youngest children.

So we look forward to seeing you at the South Plainfield Public Library 2484 Plainfield Avenue. Telephone number (908) 754-7885.

New Jersey Property Tax Relief Programs Forum

A New Jersey Property Tax Relief forum on what programs are available for seniors will be held at the South Plainfield Senior Center. There will be two forums on May 4—the first is 10 a.m. to Noon; the second from 1 to 3 p.m.

Presenters are Matt Suto from the NJ Division of Taxation, taxpayer service rep. in Trenton and Thomas

Kuc from the NJ Division of Taxation, taxpayer service rep. in Somerville Office.

Discussion topics include property tax reimbursement and applications (PTR1 & PTR2), Homestead/Fair Rebate, program updates and program eligibility filing requirements.

The forum will also include a question and answer period.

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A Last Look at the BOE Candidates

Voters are asked to go to the polls next week to elect BOE members. election This year there are six candidates vying for the three positions.

Incumbents Ken LaFreniere, Tim Morgan and Dan Smith, whose three year terms expired, are being challenged by former board members Carol Byrne, John Markham and Jeff Seider.

Carol Byrne and John Markham are both former board members who

served on the board for three terms at almost the same time.

Byrne, a board member from 1978 to 1987 and again from 1995 to 1998, is seeking a fifth term. Byrne is a substitute secretary-aide in the South Plainfield schools.

Markham, a former stockbroker and VP of operations for two mutual funds, served from 1978 to 1988. He is married to Madeline, a secretary with the district's special services.

Seider is a life long resident of the borough. While on the board from 1999-2002, Seider was a member of the Personnel and Negotiations Committee and was chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee, which oversaw the planning and installation of the rebuilt track.

Incumbent Dan Smith is seeking his third term on the board. He served as vice president in 2003 and has been a member of most committees, including policy, curriculum and chairman of the negotiations committee. Smith endorses the tentative \$47,561,491 budget that was recently approved by the Board. Smith is a chief lineman for PSE&G, his employer for 24 years.

Timothy Morgan is making his bid for a second term on the Board. He endorses the 2005-2006 budget.

Ken LaFreniere is seeking his fourth term on the board. He has been chair of the Curriculum, Technology and Student Activities Committee and chair of the Finance Committee. He is retired from AT&T.

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Sports



Left to right: Troy Heilmann, Nick Heilmann and Anthony Ashnault.

Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Tom Gratta

Dates To Remember

Games Start April 11.

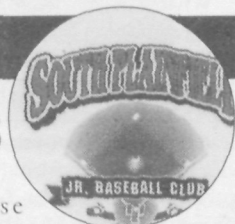
All Star Try Outs-April 30 and May 1.

Tag Day-May 5, 6 and 7.

To all coaches: don't forget your banner for opening day. The next South Plainfield Parent's Ponytail Association meeting will be held on April 26 at 8 p.m.

By Lee Flanagan

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES



Opening Day was great this past Saturday. Many people commented on the day we had and the belief that this was the finest Opening Day in the past twenty years. On this great day we started with our annual parade at 10 a.m. from the Borough Hall. The South Plainfield High School Marching Band was on hand leading the parade. Opening day festivities began when we arrived at the field; Phil Aiello was the master of ceremonies. The complex looked great with many hours being put into the preparation of the fields and the snack stand for Opening Day. I would like to thank Bob Bors for all the hours he put in down at the complex. The crew that worked the fields with Bob before opening day, Mike Pellegrino, Bill Cochrane, Tom Walsh, Jack Brady, Chris Hurst, Pat Muglia, John Pellegrino, Glenn Graves, Eric Niemeyer, Gary Bodyl, Tony Cassano, Tom Pryor, Kevin Lykes and John Polizzano and others that I might have forgotten worked diligently to make it happen for the kids of the SPJBC. Rick Walton spent many days at the

clubhouse snack stand preparing for this big moment also. We honored this opening day Tony Cassano, Dennis Kazimir and Tom Kizcula as Lifetime Member award winners, plus John Celentano, Dominic Papa and Sal Severini as Commissioner Award winners. Our grand marshal was Mike English and the special guest was Sparky, the mascot from the Somerset Patriots. Thank you Pastor Gordon Braun from the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield for leading us with the invocation. Kyle Brady caught the opening day first pitch from Commissioner Flanagan. It was a day to remember. So let's play ball and have a great season.

We have tickets on sale for a new Mercedes Benz. Michelle Kunie and First Class Travel are sponsoring the second prize, which is a trip for \$2,000 to any place the winner would like to travel to.

Tickets are available from Nancy Salici or any Executive Board member. Call the SPJBC for tickets also.

Ashnault, Heilmann Place at National Tourney

By Bob Hunter

After placing in the New Jersey state tournament, South Plainfield wrestlers Anthony Ashnault and Troy and Nick Heilmann packed their bags and headed to the World of Wrestling Reno Nationals. This season ending national tournament attracted 3,500 wrestlers from all over the United States to compete in one of the nation's toughest tournaments.

Anthony Ashnault, who won his third New Jersey title two weeks ago, continued his winning ways with a second place finish in the 10 and under 61 pound weight class. But he did it the hard way as Ashnault lost in the semifinals to eventual champion Jack Hathaway of Indiana 8-2. Ashnault was able to issue a challenge match for second place against Garrett Fortado of California who was pinned by Hathaway in the finals. Before all this he had to win two more matches, which he did in convincing fashion. He took care of Colton Schilling and Kyle Sether, both of Oregon, by fall for third place allowing Ashnault to challenge for second, defeating him 4-1 to secure a second place medal. In

the opening round Ashnault defeated Jesse Smith from Washington State 8-2, then defeated Brandon George of Utah the third seed 10-4. In the quarter-final round, Ashnault shutout Alonzo Osuna of California 4-0. Ashnault was the only wrestler in the tournament to score offensive points on Hathaway, a four time World of Wrestling National Champion.

Troy Heilmann, who has been on a mission recently, also had a great tournament, finishing in fourth place in the 32 man bracket in the 10 and under 71 pound weight class. In the opening round Heilmann pinned Steele Escobedo of California at 2:30 of the second period. Next he defeated Logan Kincross of Utah 7-2 before facing Chris Canton of North Carolina. Heilmann was losing to Canton 7-0 when he locked him up a cradle and got the fall early in the second period. But the semifinal round was a heart breaker, as Heilmann lost in a double overtime ride out to eventual champion Andrew Reidy of Nebraska. He then wrestled back to the consolation finals with a 4-2 win over Tracey Eitel of Texas. In the consolation finals, with the score tied, Heilmann got

caught while trying to escape and was pinned for a fourth place finish.

Nick Heilmann, who wrestled up in the 15 and under 92 pound weight class, had a tough going after he won his first match by fall over Justin Scherer of Idaho. He then lost his next two matches 5-3 and 3-2. Heilmann finished second in the New Jersey 12 & 13 age group and the year at 65-4 record. Ashnault and Heilmann each earned Junior All American honors for their achievements.

Henderson Eagles Gymnastics Team Competes



The Henderson Eagles Boys' Gymnastics Team displayed fine individual and team performances at this year's USAG New Jersey State Men's Gymnastic Tournament in Linden. All boys improved on their last year's performances with many of them earning ribbons and/or medals, with a handful of them taking high honors in the six events: Pommel Horse/Mushroom, High Bar, Floor, Rings, Vault and Parallel Bars. Most of the boys will represent the Eagles at the USG Regional Meet in April 2005. Team members (front row, L-R) are Daniel Palmer, William Schubiger, Nick Mavrogianis, Nathan Rutter, (back row, L-R) Vladimir Karvack, Coach Alex Balich, Philip Longo, Matthew Siegrist, Trevor Yelencsics, Joshua Berman and John Sottiriou. We send them with our strongest support and confidence.

Junior Baseball 2005 'C' League Game Summaries

8 & 9 year-olds
Opening Weekend

By Dennis Moskal, 'C' League Dir.

Yankees vs. Orioles

Yankees—Kyle Dickerson had two strong innings from the mound and had one base hit, while Aiden McDermott and Raymond Jazikoff led the offense with a few base hits each.

Orioles—Tommy Del Piano pitched one good inning in relief and also had the game-tying base hit. Brian Schillaci also made good contact at the plate with a base hit.

Cardinals vs. Astros

Cardinals—Bryan Gillen went four-for-four at the plate and his teammates, Arshan Singh and Nathan Persad each scored twice.

Astros—Matthew Maher had a big base hit to start the season and Justin Ochoa had two fine innings from the mound.

Dodgers vs. Angels

Dodgers—Dan Ruiz crushed a big double in the fifth inning.

Angels—Cody O'Connor pitched two good innings to start the game.

Red Sox vs. Mets

Red Sox—An excellent solo double play was turned in by Malik Cisson.

Adam Daubert and Anthony Santone both burned up the base paths, with each of them scoring twice.

Mets—Kyle Moroney smacked a big double and also pitched two strong innings and his teammate, Matt Hurst, hit the ball solid all day, making good contact and also throwing well in his first appearance on the mound.

Yankees vs. Dodgers

Yankees—Two young hurlers, Italo Cardosa and Austin Rivera each had an impressive performance to start the season.

Dodgers—Ryan Bythell kept the Yankees off balance during his two innings on the mound and teammate Dakota Uhl had a base hit and turned in some sparkling plays with his glove.

Orioles vs. Astros

Orioles—Charles Butrico swung a good bat with solid contact all day. Teammate L.J. Scarpitto helped his team, pitching two strong innings and belting three base hits.

Astros—Brandon Rickert started the season with two big singles and Ben Cochrane had a strong inning from the mound.

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Junior Journalist Corner



Troy Heilmann, Roosevelt School Fourth Grader, Named "Junior Journalist"



Troy Heilmann, fourth grader at Roosevelt Elementary, is pictured with his teacher Ellen Decker-Lorys and school principal Jacqueline Keogh.

Troy Heilmann, Roosevelt School fourth grader, is this week's winner in the *Observer*/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Program. His poem, "Spring," has won dinner for his family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

Students are encouraged to submit their original poetry, articles,

opinion pieces or essays to their teacher, school principal, Hometown Heros located on Hamilton Blvd. or the *Observer* office.

Winners and their families will receive a catered dinner from Hometown Heros and will be honored at a year end banquet on May 25.

Spring

By Troy Heilmann

The sun comes out and the snow goes away
And all the little children start to play
Flowers start to bloom out of the ground
Everybody smiles not one frown
On St. Patrick's Day there's lots of green
Everybody's nice no one is mean
Everyone's smile starts to shine
And it looks like a sparkling gold mine
The flowers are so pretty like a diamond ring
And that's everything and all about spring.

Juniorettes Raise Over \$400 for Kids' Charity

by Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Juniorettes are currently basking in the success of their fundraiser, a concert to benefit Cherished Creations, an organization that helps children with seriously ill diseases. The April 2 concert featured six bands from Central and South Jersey. Juniorettes member Colleen Kamen said, "We chose Cherished Creations because we wanted to help children this year. We thought a concert would be a good fundraiser."

The bands were from throughout Central and South Jersey as well as South Plainfield. The band Les Stupefians featured members from South Plainfield and Clark with SPHS Senior Patrick Pryor on vocals/guitar and Shawn Ferguson on drums. Pryor said the band sounded like "Beach Blanket Bingo on the Grassy Knoll." Also from South Plainfield was SPHS senior Pete Assad. Other bands included Red & White Letters from Clark, The Dialtones from Cranford, The Assistant Principals from Medford and The Mafia from Westfield.

The teenage members of the Juniorettes handled all the preparations for the benefit. Colleen Kamen searched the Internet to procure the six bands, while Brooke DeNitzio made arrangements to utilize the PAL for the event. Other members assisted with important details such as promoting the show with flyers and by word of mouth at school. Over 70 youths attended the concert. The community service oriented group is pleased to announce they raised over \$400 for this charitable organization.

Cherished Creations is the organi-



The South Plainfield Juniorettes

zation chosen as the state project by New Jersey State Federation of Women's Club Junior Membership division of General Federation of Woman's Clubs.

Amy Reid, State Project Chairman for the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Club Junior Membership of GFWC attended the concert and saw firsthand the results of the

girls' hard work. She said, "We are so impressed with the initiative, creativity and dedication of our South Plainfield Juniorettes. Through this concert and a lot of hard work these girls have made a significant difference in the lives of our New Jersey children. They are to be commended for helping to give dreams to the Cherished Creations families."

southplainfieldpeople

Milestones

Loenser Earns Academic Honors List

Heather Loenser has earned the distinction of being placed on the Academic Honors List for the Fall 2004 semester at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison.

Students must maintain a 3.5 or better GPA to be eligible for the Academic Honors List.

Heather is a freshman Accounting major at FDU.

Share Your Good News... Send us your Milestones!

ON APRIL 19TH, VOTE FOR

Line 2

Tim Morgan

Line 5

Daniel M. Smith

Line 6

Kenneth Lafreniere

For Board of Education

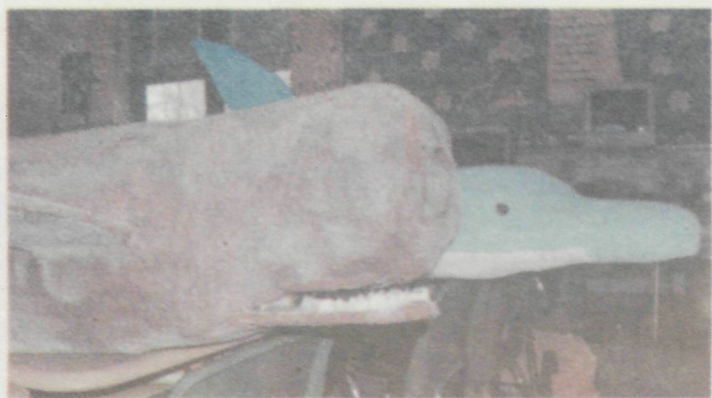


"Cleaned up a mess 20 years in the making!"

"Instituted curriculum reform resulting in higher test scores!"

"Helped make South Plainfield's schools one of the best educational values in Middlesex County!"

"Will continue to strive to make our schools better!!"



Roosevelt third graders had fun making whales.

Third Graders Have a Whale of a Time

By Jane Dornick

Mike Bertram and Mary Beth Boschen's third grade classes at Roosevelt School had fun learning about whales and then making them out of paper mache.

They started off reading "Big Blue Whale" and "JJ's Big Day," and made posters depicting whales.

Teacher's aide Addison Williams

made frames for the paper mache whales out of swim noodles, copper pipe, milk containers, soda bottles and other materials.

Students used a flour and water mixture on strips of newspaper to create the hard shell for the creatures. They spent a week and a half making and painting dolphins and beluga, gray and killer whales. Each whale measured almost four feet!

May is National Older American's Month. When Older Americans Month was established in 1963, only 17 million living Americans had reached their 65th birthdays. About a third of older Americans lived in poverty and there were few programs to meet their needs. Interest in older Americans and their concerns was growing, however. In April of 1963, President John F. Kennedy's meeting with the National Council of Senior Citizens served as a prelude to designating May as "Senior Citizens Month."

Historically, Older Americans Month has been a time to acknowledge the contributions of past and current older persons to our country, in particular those who defended our country. Every President since JFK has issued a formal proclamation during or before the month of May asking that the entire nation pay tribute in some way to older persons in their communities. Older Americans Month is celebrated across the country through ceremonies, events, fairs and other such activities.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Celebrate Long-Term Living," which was selected to by the Adminis-

NOTES FROM The Senior Center

May 11 instead of our usual first Wednesday

tration on Aging to "honor older Americans as a national treasure and to highlight the need for mid-life and older persons to be prepared to live longer than previous generations."

As part of the month long celebration, we have some special events planned.

On May 4, staff from the NJ Treasurer's office will speak at the Senior Citizen Center about a variety of financial programs available to seniors including the property tax freeze program, PTR1 & 2, homestead rebates, PAAD, etc.. The program will be presented twice at 10 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. to accommodate people's schedules. I strongly encourage not only our senior citizens but all interested residents to plan to attend this important and informative program.

On May 7, from 6 to 10 p.m., we are having our 3rd Annual Senior Prom. This year's theme is a Country Western Hoedown. The menu will include southern fried chicken, barbecued pulled pork and London broil and all the fixings. The cost is \$10 per person and advance reservations are required so stop in at the Senior Citizen Center and sign up now.

Our monthly trip to Atlantic City's Taj Mahal will be held on Wednesday,

of the month so that we can accommodate the State treasurer's program. The bus departs the Senior Citizen Center at 9 a.m. and returns around 7 p.m. The cost is \$15 which is returned as a credit when you arrive at the casino.

On May 18 the Middlesex County Department on Aging will be holding their annual *90s Birthday Bash* at the Piscataway Senior Citizen Center. If you are 90 or older, you and a guest are invited to the party. Just call the Senior Citizen Center at (908) 754-1047 to make your reservation. Transportation to Piscataway will be provided by our bus and the party is free. It is a really fun event and we hope our 90+ seniors will join us.

On May 19, we have a trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse scheduled to see "Cactus Flower." The cost is \$50 and includes transportation, full luncheon and dessert buffet and the show. The bus leaves at 10 a.m. and returns around 5:30 p.m.

Stay tuned ... more events and programs are being planned including an open house at the Senior Citizen Center, a program on Elderlaw issues, a picnic with our High School seniors, a summer walking club, a Gardening Club and a trip to NJ Performing Art Center on June 2 to see *42nd Street*.

SPHS Students Rally in Favor of the School Budget



Come April 19, the fate of the school budget will lie in the hands of the voters. This past Monday a group of SPHS students and their parents held a rally at Memorial Park to make voters aware that it's students who will either reap the rewards or suffer losses depending on their outcome.

Cassie Krajcik, 17, said, "If the budget is cut, students will miss out on after school activities and even sports, which help raise money. I am involved in three after-school activities, but if they are cut, students aren't

going to have anything to do after school and may end up getting themselves into trouble."

The rally was the brainchild of SPHS Junior Natalie Tamzoke. A dozen people gathered curbside at the park armed with signs and home made posters in favor of the budget. Participating in the event were Brittany Penevolpe, Sarah Brooks, Jeff Seesselberg, Shawn Ferguson, Kim Tran, Cassie Krajcik, Sebastian Lasota, Meg Nigro and parents Mike Tamzoke, Beth Penevolpe and Patty Nigro.

Freestyle/Greco Wrestling Signups

The South Plainfield Freestyle and Greco Team 2005 season is about to begin. This program is designed to enhance skills needed for scholastic wrestling. It is designed for the serious wrestler who wants to develop and maintain that competitive edge.

The Freestyle and Greco season will begin on Monday, April 18. Sign

up at the PAL between 8:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday only. Practice will start at 5 p.m. and conclude at 6:30 p.m. at the PAL wrestling room. Practice will be held on Monday and Wednesday nights until school lets out in June.

Registration is \$35 for everyone including out of town residents.

Neighbors

We, the undersigned, are proud of our children and the educational system in South Plainfield. We do not want to see overcrowded classes, no sports programs, and no music programs. We want the value of our homes to continue to go up and we want our children to get the educational experiences previous generations have enjoyed. We, therefore, urge every resident of South Plainfield to go to the polls on April 19, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m., and

VOTE YES ON THE SCHOOL BUDGET. OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURES ARE AT STAKE.

Mike Alvarez
Connie Besser
Bob Besser
Debbie Boyle
Bob Boyle
Ginny Butrico
Chet Czaplinski
Joy Czaplinski
Mike English
Sue English

John Ferguson
Laura Ferguson
Sherry Hardy
Tom Hardy
Joann Haus
Ken Haus
Eric Johnson
Gwen Johnson
Dennis Kazimir
Gail Kazimir

Cathie Keller
Norm Loenser
Kevin Murtagh
Nancy Murtagh
Ken Noll
Maureen Noll
Teri Pileggi
John Roesch
Ranae Roesch
Kevin Schweers

Sue Schweers
Eileen Senz
Steve Senz
Carol Ullom
Kurt Ullom
Holly Weakley
Mary Wieczorek
Frank Wrublevski
Mickey Wrublevski
Nicole Wrublevski

 **Vote Yes**

Paid for by concerned members of the South Plainfield Athletic Booster Club.

Let the Games Begin!



By Jane Dornick

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club celebrated its 52nd annual Opening Day on Saturday under picture perfect conditions. The SPHS Tigers Marching Band led the parade of teams, coaches and officials from Borough Hall through the streets of South Plainfield to the baseball complex on Spicer Ave. Special guest "Sparky," the mascot of the Somerset Patriots Baseball Team, road atop the South Plainfield Fire and Rescue truck along with the fire department's mascot, Sparky. Mayor Dan Gallagher and Council members Bob Cusick, Ray Petronko, Dennis Cerami and Charlie Butrico marched in the parade as well as Police Chief John Ferraro.

The ceremonies at the complex were led by Club Commissioner Lee Flanagan, along with Master of Ceremonies Phil Aiello and Parade Grand Marshal Mike English. Commissioner's Awards were presented to John Celentano, Dominic Papa and Sal Severini. Lifetime Member Awards were also given to Tony Cassano, Dennis Kasimir and Tom Kiczula.

The winner of the Little Miss/Mr. Baseball was chosen through a "penny a vote" fundraiser held over the last several months at local convenience stores. Contestants were Angelo Salici, Naomi McNeill, Lindsay Celentano, Kimberly Dornick and Kristen Brady. Winner Lindsay Celentano received a gift certificate to the Menlo Park Mall.

The morning concluded with the first pitch being thrown out by Commissioner Flanagan to B League Cardinals player Kyle Brady to officially kick off the start of baseball season.





On Feb. 27, the South Plainfield Elks sponsored a roast beef dinner for 35 veterans from Lyons and Menlo Park nursing homes. In addition, each veteran received \$5. The dinner was run by the Veterans Committee, which was ably assisted by Boy Scout Troop #324. The dinner will now become an annual event.

Riley School Kindergarten Orientation

Riley School Kindergarten Orientation signup is on Friday, May 6, from 2-3:30 p.m. and 6-7 p.m. in the Riley School Lobby. The cost is \$3 for snacks and crafts.

Children entering John E. Riley School Kindergarten in September 2005 are welcome to join us to explore the school and meet the teachers and staff.

The program runs for three consecutive dates as follows: May 17, 24 and 31. The morning session runs from 9-11 a.m. and the afternoon session runs from 12 Noon-2 p.m.

If you have any questions, please call Jen Curtis at (908) 755-8445.



Local scouts Joshua Coupe, Joshua Siepmann, Christopher Markey, Anthony Austin and James Markey assisted members of American Legion Post #243 at a bingo held for veterans at Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home. The boys were able to learn from veterans what scouting was like when they were scouts and also about their military experiences. The scouts assisted veterans with their bingo games.

April 19 a Major Day of Decision for Voters

April 19 should prove to be a major day of decision for South Plainfield and its voters, particularly seniors, since they have been

FROM THE Senior Men's FORUM

given many concerns to ponder over prior to that day. The school budget appears to be on the block like no other time in my experience. I have concluded that there have been too many irresponsible actions taken by the present BOE to believe that a forward march is on the horizon. As taxpayers, we cannot overlook the facts that clearly show the inability of the Board to attain fiscal responsibility, which includes the following actions: 800 to 900 line item transfers on the budget, a clean indication of insufficient comprehension of preparation of a very important document; \$2,000,000 overspent in the 2004-5 Budget; a surplus of only \$4,000 with insufficient explanation; the need for leased textbooks, a costly precedent; questionable, excessive administrative pay raises; inadequacy of administrative cuts needed for balancing the Budget and \$900,000 allocated for the improvement of safety of children at all elementary schools and sanctioned by the Traffic Safety Department, not used for that purpose and not satisfactorily explained by the board. (Where did the funds go to?)

When confronted with these findings, the Board could only find lame excuses. What our taxpayers must consider is where do we go from here? If the surplus of \$4,000 is exhausted for such things as boiler problems and roof

leaks, as well as many other unforeseen needs for repairs, replacements and major costly jobs by outside contractors, debt will surely result.

There is no other way.

Seniors cannot take a chance of fiscal mismanagement whereby \$375 is anticipated as a tax rise on a property assessment of \$117,000. Where are we headed in 2005-6 and 2006-7? Seniors will find this extremely difficult to meet the increases on their fixed incomes. Our PTR State sponsored aid may not be there with fiscal problems Trenton is having.

We must face the fact that the Board of Education has well taken care of itself for the past few years with salary increases and a health protection pro-

gram that we can all envy. Yes, we love our children, many inclusive of grandchildren, but belt tightening is well past due. I will not approve the Budget as detailed until and unless it is trimmed significantly and hope that readers will follow this advice. Also, as a result of what I believe to be excessive mismanagement, I heartily endorse change and will vote for Markham, Byrne and Seider, independents, with no ambitions for further nest feathering. —Walter J. Pasacrita, Chairman, Senior Men's Forum

Editors Note: Walter Pasacrita is chairman of the Senior Men's Forum of South Plainfield. The forum will periodically submit columns on their views and opinions. If you would like to know more about the group, you are invited to attend one of their meetings held on the first Tuesday of the month at the Senior Center, 1:30 p.m.

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Jeffrey S. Manno requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a two-story addition with attached 7 x 8 shed. Proposed addition lacks 8' required side setback, 4'6" being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 178 Florence Place on Block 171, Lot 24 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, April 28, 2005 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

April 15, 2005

GARAGE SALE

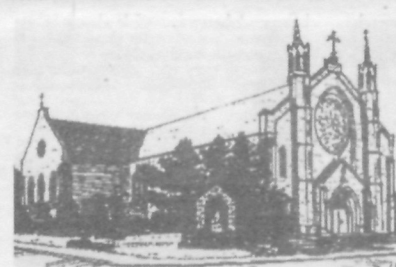
1840 Eganey St.
(Plainfield to O'Donohue to Eganey)

Saturday, April 16
9 am-3 pm

Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor



Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.
Weekdays Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9 am; Mon. and Thurs. 7 p.m.
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.
Holy Days 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

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Obituaries

Gladys H. Vondran, 87

Gladys H. Vondran died on Wednesday, April 6 at Haven Hospice in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born in Rockville Center, NY, where she lived until moving to South Plainfield over 62 years ago.

Mrs. Vondran had worked as an office manager for Shop Rite in Dunellen, Middlesex and in North Plainfield for 18 years before retiring in 1982.

She was a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens and the UFCW Local #1262 of Clifton.

Her husband, Joseph Vondran, died in 1974.

Surviving are seven children, Beverly Elkins of Laplata, Maryland, Jay Vondran of Ontario, Calif., Sharyn Suarez of Jupiter, Fla., Louise Vondran of New Bern, North Carolina, Irene McCamley of Neshanic Station, Stephanie Ciak of South Plainfield and Ellen Gentile of South Plainfield; a brother, Dr. Horace Husser of Salinas, CA and by 11 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Cecilia M. (Brennan) Metro, 81

Cecilia M. (Brennan) Metro died on Wednesday, April 6 at Baptist East Hospital in Louisville, KY.

Born on May 29, 1923, in Plainfield, Cecilia spent most of her life in North Plainfield before moving with her family to Louisville, Kentucky in 2000.

She was raised in South Plainfield and graduated from Metuchen High School. Cecilia was employed as a traffic coordinator for Mack Trucks in Bridgewater for 27 years. After her retirement, she worked at Sylvan Pools, Trailside Nature and Science Center.

Mrs. Metro served in the US Naval Service from 1943-1946 as a Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVE) and was stationed in Pearl Harbor.

A former member of the Hyde-wood Park Baptist Church in North Plainfield, Cecilia traveled extensively to Mexico, South America and Israel.

She is predeceased by her parents, Cecilia and Thomas Brennan; a brother, Leo and a sister, Rosemary Smith, all of South Plainfield.

Surviving are a daughter, Julie and her husband, Thomas Ewing and a grandson, Tyler Ewing, all of Louisville, KY.

Funeral services were held at the

McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations made be made in Cecilia's name to the American Red Cross, Tri-County Chapter, 332 W. Front St., Plainfield, NJ 07060.

Anna Maria "Mary" (Capraro) Kapsch, 94

Anna Maria "Mary" (Capraro) Kapsch died on Thursday, March 31 in the Haven Hospice at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in New York City, Mary has lived in South Plainfield for more than 80 years.

She was a dressmaker for the former Roth Dress Factory in South Plainfield for 20 years.

An avid gardener, Mrs. Kapsch enjoyed sewing and cooking. She was a member of Sacred Heart RC Church, the South Plainfield Democratic Organization and the South Plainfield Senior Citizens.

She is predeceased by her husband, Charles, who died in 1989; her parents, Guiseppe and Isabella Capraro and by a brother, John.

Surviving are two children, Virginia Cocco and her husband Nicholas of South Plainfield and Dan Kapsch, also of South Plainfield and a niece, Dolores Lestrachick of Scotch Plains.

Also surviving are five grandchildren, Daniel Kapsch and his wife Janine, Joseph and Michael Kapsch and Nicole and Frances Cocco.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mary's name to Haven Hospice, c/o JFK Medical Center, 80 James St., Edison, NJ 08820.

Olive D. (Boone) Ross, 84

Olive D. (Boone) Ross died on Sunday, April 10 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born in Weaverville, NC and lived in Elizabeth and Cranford before moving to South Plainfield in 1964, where she resided for over 40 years.

Olive had worked as a cashier for PathMark stores in Scotch Plains and later in South Plainfield. Prior to PathMark, Olive had worked at Shop Rite stores in the area for many years, retiring in 1976.

She was a longtime member of the First Baptist Church.

Her husband Benjamin Ross died in 1982. One of 10 children, she was predeceased by all of her brothers and sisters.

Surviving are three children, Laurie Ross of Charlottesville, Virginia, Barbara Ponton and her husband, Melbourne of Bloomsbury and Robert Ross of Levittown, Pa. Also surviving are two grandchildren, Jennifer Ross and Ruby Ross.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Adolph J. Cybowski, 82

Adolph J. Cybowski died on Saturday, April 9 at his home.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, he was a lifelong resident of South Plainfield.

Mr. Cybowski served an enlistment with the U.S. Army during WWII, serving in the 10th Mountain Division.

Adolph was employed with Reingo Inc. as a maintenance mechanic and machine assembler for 14 years, retiring in 1987. He was a communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, a lifelong member of the Polish Home, past director of the Polish Home and a Member of the Year in 1980. Adolph was a charter member of South Plainfield VFW Memorial Post 6763.

He was predeceased by a brother, who was MIA, Paul Cybowski and four sisters, Lucille Rogers, Jean Sternador, Helen Gryniak and Estelle Cybowski.

Surviving are his loving wife of 63 years, Stella (Olencki) Cybowski; three daughters, Barbara Farley and her husband, Bob of The Villages, FL, Jane Fusco and her husband, Paul of Jackson and Linda Kissell and her husband, Bob of South Plainfield; his grandchildren, Ken Farley and his wife, Tina, Sandy Healey and her husband, Ken, Debra Fusco, David Fusco, Mark Malecki and Christopher Malecki and his great grandchildren, Deidre and Grace Healey, Chelsie Castronuovo and Stephen Farley.

Funeral services were held at the South Plainfield Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to Haven Hospice, 65 James St., Edison.

Mary A. Shine, 95

Mary A. Shine joined her late husband, Bill, in eternal life on Monday, April 11.

Mary was born to immigrant parents, Xenia and John Wrublewski in Chicago on November 5, 1909.

She spent her early years in W. Virginia, moving to New York City in 1924.

She met her beloved Bill in New York and they married on March 31, 1929, a marriage that would last for almost 40 years.

They moved to Arbor, NJ where they raised three children, remaining there until her husband Bill's passing in 1969.

She spent her remaining years in Barnegat Pines, which she loved so dearly. There, "Aunt Mary" made a new life for herself, caring for numerous children who are certain to miss her

ever present smile.

Many people knew "Mary Sunshine" for her laughter and outgoing personality, which she shared unselfishly with all.

Her brother, Michael, has predeceased her.

Surviving are three children and their spouses, Maryann "Cookie" and Edward Robinson of South Plainfield, Bill and Kathy Shine of South Plainfield and Patrick and Patricia Shine of Kaneohe, Hawaii; a sister, Anna Caputo of Pasadena, Calif. and four brothers, Steve Wrublewski of Pomona, Calif., Frank and Mary Wrublewski of South Plainfield, Stanley and Julia Wrublewski of Indian Rock Beach, Fla. and John Wrublewski of North Port, Fla.

Also surviving are six grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Funeral services will be held on Friday at 9:15 a.m. in the McCriskin Home For Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Ave., followed by a Funeral Mass at 10 a.m. in Sacred Heart Church.

Interment will follow in St. Gertrude's Cemetery, Colonia.

Relatives and friends may call at the funeral home on Thursday, from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m.

Glenn Flakne, 49

Glenn Flakne died on Sunday, April 10 at St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in Plainfield, Glenn resided in South Plainfield for most of his life.

A 1975 graduate of South Plainfield High School, Glenn was employed with Schering Plough in Kenilworth for 29 years.

An avid gardener, Mr. Flakne enjoyed cooking, fishing and appreciating life. More importantly, he liked to

travel along with his wife and children to the Outer Banks in North Carolina.

He is predeceased by his father, Dale and by a brother, Curtis.

Surviving are his wife, Patricia (Smalley) Flakne of 28 years of South Plainfield; a daughter, Jenna English and her husband, Brian of South Plainfield; a son, Justin and his fiancé, Dana Fore of Philadelphia; his mother, Betty Mason and her husband, Harrison of New York; a sister, Debra Zotta and her husband, Jim of South Plainfield and a grandson to be born, Aidan English.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Glenn's memory to St. Peter's University Hospital Foundation, 254 Easton Ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

Theresa M. Fallat, 83

Lifelong resident Theresa "Tessie" M. Fallat died Saturday, April 9 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in South Plainfield, she has resided here her entire life.

She was a communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in and a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens. Tessie was very creative in crafts.

Mrs. Fallat was preceded in death by her loving husband Robert, who passed in 1983.

Surviving are her son Robert Fallat Jr. of South Plainfield; daughter Carol Gajarsky and her husband Alfred of Mineral, Va.; grandson Robert Fallat III; sister Mary Timko and her husband Frank of South Plainfield and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the South Plainfield Funeral Home.

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IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

done in a most expeditious manner. The Office of Compliance has completed their investigation and has provided the board with an exit interview on 4/7/05. Their conclusions were that no mismanagement of funds was done to benefit any individual. They also concluded that this year's budget has been and is being managed correctly. And as an aside to the interview, it stated that the budget, which is being presented to the public, has sufficient and correct documentation to support all of the line items. As a consequence of our present board's action, 17 of the 23 items that needed correction have been completed satisfactorily.

There have also been some questions concerning this year's budget and also as to why it was necessary to lease our books. Simply put, our budget did not cover the current expense of the district. When, after only a month, the interim board secretary/business administrator reviewed our budget it was determined that there would be a probable short-fall to the tune of 1.6 million dollars. In that situation, our board had only three choices: the first being to reduce expense by laying off staff in the amount of the short-fall, the second being to allow our board of education to be charged criminally because we allowed the short-fall to occur and thereby causing the district to practice deficit spending, and lastly to increase our revenue by doing a lease purchase. Our board chose the lease purchase plan and in order to maintain all of our staff and programs and ultimately your children were the beneficiaries.

My past 30 years of being a manager in a major corporation has benefited our community. It has enabled me to get to the root of a problem and to formulate a plan to promote a solution. This is what we have done with the Track, the five-year Technology plan, the five-year Curriculum plan, and what we are doing this year's budget and future capital projects. All of our plans are written and a matter of record, so that they may be scrutinized and improved upon for our future school years. Currently we have two projects that have a plan, but no monies are available at this time. The Traffic Safety and fiber optic projects need to be adequately addressed and if I am elected these are two of the items that I will endeavor to bring to fruition.

The education of our children in South Plainfield has consistently been moving in a positive manner. We have more high school AP classes, better SAT scores, a more unified instruction in the elementary grades, and an adjustment of time on task for the fifth through eighth grades, which inevitably addresses the different needs of children in this transition period of their life.

We have a team working towards the goal of having the best possible education for our children and I challenge each and every one of you to be a part of our team by sending a resounding YES for our budget and by electing Ken LaFreniere, Dan Smith and Tim Morgan lines 6,5 and 2.

KEN LA FRENIERE

To the Editor,

What a week! First, on Monday I received Community Contact, a taxpayer-funded newsletter sent to each home by the Board of Education. As a former board member, I could not believe what I was reading, so I decided to check the facts.

Interestingly, our esteemed Superintendent used data from the *Home News Tribune* about per-pupil spending when that information should have been at his fingertips. After all, where do the figures come from?

Well, I checked the State Department of Education's website, and as I suspected, South Plainfield reported per-pupil spending of \$10,577—not the lower amount listed in the newsletter.

Tuesday brought more news. I attended a Board meeting where during the public portion a resident reported receiving a copy of a letter about our planned fiber optic network. The letter, sent by Interim Business Administrator Robert Davis to the New Jersey School Construction Corporation (NJSCC), states: "The Borough of South Plainfield Board of Education, as a result of other priorities, has decided not to proceed with the completion of this project."

Residents may recall voting on a referendum that included bonding the cost of the fiber optic network over 30 years. The NJSCC would fund up to 40% of the project. Despite voter approval to spend this money on a capital investment, the board is obviously using it elsewhere. It is interesting that the board did not announce this decision to the people who are paying the bill; rather, we had to learn about it from a member of the public.

Thursday brought even more surprises when I received the *Observer* and a letter to the editor from Diana Joffe and Louise Mruz caught my eye. The letter claims the proposed budget represents the first increase in 10 years. Obviously Ms. Mruz and Ms. Joffe are not from South Plainfield, because if they were they would know the budget has repeatedly increased over the last 10 years. The healthcare plan alone increased 18% in each of the last two budgets!

It is amazing how in the world of Ms. Joffe and Ms. Mruz there hasn't

been an increase. Yet they must know their salaries have increased, so where do they suppose the money came from?

The letter goes on to criticize board candidate Jeff Seider for discussing the 4.9% increase given to the teachers union. Joffe and Mruz dispute the figure, yet according to the advertised budget it's accurate. Perhaps the pair would like to explain why the board would budget that amount if it weren't correct?

Finally (and inexplicably), the letter claims there were no warnings given about the current fiscal crisis. Not true. I, as well as others, repeatedly warned about the looming disaster. I spoke at public meetings; I phoned and wrote the County Superintendent; I even wrote the Commissioner of Education, with copies to the county and state school boards associations.

I also wrote letters to the editor predicting, in detail, everything that has come to pass.

The sitting Board members arrogantly ignored the warnings, and instead, proceeded without a care.

Before the board voted to accept the 2004-05 budget, I spoke about the underfunding of transportation, buildings and grounds and capital outlay. I also questioned eliminating the surplus, which had been traditionally between three and six percent. I followed that public discussion with a letter to the editor describing the shortfalls, yet low and behold look where we are today! We've leased textbooks and fire doors for goodness sake, all to cover the very shortfalls the Board was warned about.

Ms. Mruz and Ms. Joffe, as leaders of the SPEA, instead of purchasing signs supporting the incumbents and stuffing envelopes telling us how Mr. Smith and Mr. LaFreniere cleaned up 20 years of damage, why don't you do us all a big favor and do something productive? Most residents contribute toward their healthcare, so why not encourage your members to contribute \$25 per week to theirs, which would amount to \$1,300 per year? With approximately 400 union members, imagine how many jobs \$520,000 could save!

Instead of having your members scare parents by predicting that class sizes will skyrocket to 45 or more (which isn't true), why not help us out? You want residents, including hundreds of senior citizens, to pay \$375 more in taxes, but you don't want to sacrifice yourselves. You just want to reap the benefits.

Whew! What a week! How will you cast your vote? Hopefully for Carol Byrne (Line 4), John Markham (Line 3) and Jeff Seider (Line 1).

DAWN JEFFERYS

To My Fellow Residents:

I would like to take this opportunity to ask residents to support the budget and also the incumbents, Tim Morgan, Daniel Smith and Ken LaFreniere. These three current board members have withstood the barrage of unfounded criticism to insure that this budget maintained all the programs that we currently have, even though it has been cut by close to a MILLION DOLLARS in personnel already. They fought to save athletics, the arts and clubs. They fought to save academic programs such as the SAT course and Summer School, as well as keeping class size manageable at all levels. They fought to make sure that all of you have the opportunity to decide on April 19 if our school district will continue to move forward or take a huge step backwards. These three are the only candidates that have proven with their actions that they are for kids.

Before you vote, please look back at the comments made by the challengers these past weeks and ask yourself, what exactly have they said? They never committed themselves on any issue. They say they support the budget, but do not agree with it. They say they will be strong during negotiations even though two of them would not be able to participate because of conflicts. When asked directly what cuts they would make to the proposed budget, they never answered, but avoided the question. All three challengers were former board members but did not use their accomplishments as board members to ask for your support. Why?

Tim Morgan, Daniel Smith and Ken LaFreniere have shown their value to everyone. They went through months of finger pointing, but never lost focus as to why they are board of education members. They are there to make sure that every child in South Plainfield has the opportunity to succeed in academics, arts and athletics. They have given the community a chance to decide the future of its schools.

Do you want our school district to continue to move forward? Do you want all our programs to be maintained? Do you want class size to remain unchanged? Do you still want a committed board? Then vote YES for the budget on April 19, and re-elect Tim Morgan, Daniel Smith and Ken LaFreniere, Lines 2-5-6.

PIO PENNISI

To the Editor,

With all of the criticism Mr. Seider has been throwing around lately, I have a few questions for him. How is it after only attending a scant few meetings over the past few years, he feels he is knowledgeable enough of the current Board's business to make his wild accusations?

Why is it Mr. Seider couldn't take the time to show up at Candidates Night so the public could ask questions and develop a better understanding of his positions on the issues? What are you hiding?

His one quote when reached for a comment at home was, "I don't support the budget but that doesn't mean I won't vote for it." Now that's a position that's clear as mud! Is it a lack of conviction Mr. Seider, or a basic inclination to be a negative person?

On April 19, I'm asking the voters to join me in electing the candidates that have made a positive contribution to help our schools make the progress we can all be proud of. Please vote for Ken LaFreniere, Dan Smith and Tim Morgan.

**SINCERELY,
STEVEN BOHN**

Dear Editor,

As a lifelong resident and proud parent, teacher and coach in the Borough of South Plainfield, I am compelled to write this letter. Unfortunately, recent financial woes have overshadowed the many positive things that present and past boards of education have done. I am exceedingly proud of the fact that our Boards of Education have provided the children of this district with many great opportunities in the past several years. New programs in our schools have also been a very positive step in improving our students' academics. Additions to the curriculum such as extended math periods in fifth and sixth grades, Accelerated Math, wireless laptop computers and increased AP classes in the high school are just some of these assets. As part of these new programs, students have had the opportunity to enrich themselves while using new technology made available to them. Sixth graders have not only raised their math scores, but have received commendations from the Math Olympiads Program and NJ Math League Contests for achieving the highest scores since our participation began in the 1980s. Decisions such as opening Grant Elementary 5/6

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IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 12)

School have more than proved a very worthwhile investment, by providing an ideal transition from elementary schools to the middle school. Our children are given an opportunity to make the adjustment in a safe and supportive environment. Improvements have been made in our athletic program, providing our children with more opportunities and numerous successes. The rebuilt track is now a safe place for our participants and it enables the district to bring in extra revenue supporting the South Plainfield Athletic Booster Club. New sports programs in the middle school are giving more children an opportunity to participate in team sports, which help them to gain confidence, learn the importance of working together and experience success, the reward for hard work.

So keep in mind that these positive aspects of our school system are the result of a community effort. It is your support of the budget that will see that the programs continue to develop and help enrich our school curriculum and activities. However, the failure to pass this budget will result in the elimination of many of these programs. Once gone, it is very difficult to resurrect them and they have been vital to the development and future success of many of our young men and women. The increase in taxes now will result in the added value of your home in a community with a strong school system. Let's not be pennywise and pound-foolish!

JOANNE HAUS

Dear Editor,

I am a lifelong resident of South Plainfield for a total of 41 years. My father's family has lived in South Plainfield for generations. Imagine knowing the streets you drive on were

once farmland farmed by your great grandfather. That the buildings, like the old movie theatre, which houses Sportworld, is where your father spent his Saturday afternoons as a boy watching the classic old westerns. I have a large extended family, most of which still reside in South Plainfield. South Plainfield is my hometown and will always be. You can not truly understand how deeply my roots go! That is why I am raising my children here. It is a wonderful community with many lifelong residents also raising their families here. There is not a day that goes by that I do not bump into someone I grew up with, all of whom were educated in the South Plainfield school system.

The depth of my concern over the present state of our school budget is difficult to express in words. However, I do know one thing: South Plainfield was built by hardworking, loyal people; people that have dedicated years of their lives to this community. These are the people we should trust, such as Mr. Massaro, Mr. Novak, Miss Erickson, educators who have dedicated their entire careers in South Plainfield. These are the individuals who understand loyalty. It is unfortunate that we do not choose to hire or promote within our staff, but instead hire outside our district and have numerous superintendents leave when a more lucrative position comes along. I believe the last Superintendent we had that was promoted from within was Mr. Tobias. It seems to me that the people who care a great deal about the school system they spent years to help build are overlooked! It is comforting to know that Mr. Massaro is in the Assistant Superintendent's position. I hope one day he will be our Superintendent!

I do not understand, as I am sure many of you do not, what truly cre-

ated our budget crisis. I do know, however, that we all must pull together as a community and do what is best! Therefore, I am asking that we get out and vote on April 19. Vote yes for the budget! Please help keep South Plainfield a community based on dedication and loyalty. Please think about the future generations. I would hope that South Plainfield will remain a community that people would want to raise their children in!

SINCERELY,
LISA COTONE SMITH

To my fellow taxpayers,

Question: When will the current Board of Education tell taxpayers how they overspent the 2004-05 budget by two million dollars and what happened to almost one million dollars that will not be used to develop safety zones for our children? And why did they lease our textbooks when we already paid millions of dollars when they were purchased?

Answer: Never. They are too busy blaming prior Boards of Education and former employees.

Management by crisis, creative accounting practices and scare tactics are the "Orders of the Day" for this Board of Education. And who is going to pay for their mistakes? Taxpayers, of course, for a tax increase of about \$375 if your home is assessed at \$117,300. We are facing the highest percent increase in school taxes in the county.

Yesterday I received a flyer from Messers, Smith and LaFreniere, which among other claims, said they "Cleaned up the mess that was over 20 years in the making." First, let me respond by saying that Boards of Education 20 years ago did not overspend budgets; Boards of Education 20 years ago did not use almost one million dollars for line item transfers instead

of the purpose for which it was appropriated; Boards of Education 20 years ago did not lease purchased student textbooks and Boards of Education 20 years ago did not settle contracts for percentage increases greater than the amount available in the budget.

The truth is that this Board of Education has, since 2003, increased spending limits and failed to deliver on the projects for which millions of dollars were appropriated. It's time for the Board of Education and the Administrators to stop the Scare Tactics. Instruct staff not to spread false and misleading rumors that special education programs will be cut. They can't, because that's illegal. We already know how bad the situation is because the Board did not properly establish and manage a sound and sensible budget to meet the needs of our students and staff. Start telling taxpayers how you are going to clean up the mess you created.

What we need is management by design. Budgets that realistically plan for income and expense and a Board of Education that stays with the plan. It's time to stop "patchwork control" of taxpayer dollars. Let's appropriate, educate and provide a healthy and safe environment for students and staff. Help me to accomplish these changes by voting Line 3 on April 19.

Thank you for your support.
JOHN S. MARKHAM

Dear Editor,

We wish to express our opinion on the South Plainfield Board of Education election on April 19.

We need a change. The current Board members have not managed our monies effectively. We don't want to hear about former Boards. We want this Board of Education to take re-

sponsibility and give us truthful answers and we are not getting them. Where did all our money go?

We think John Markham can be a valuable asset to the Board of Education. We have known him for many years. He is a gentleman who possesses honesty and integrity. He has a financial background, as well as former experience on the Board. We are sure that we will get truthful answers not only about finances, but about all important issues regarding our children and programs.

We will be voting for John Markham on April 19 and ask you to do the same (ballot position 3).

LAURA AND TOM TIMMERMAN

Dear Editor,

On April 19, you will vote on the School Budget and for three candidates to the Board of Education. Please be sure to vote. Last year's election had only 9-11 percent of eligible voters voting. A low turnout insures that the interest groups will control. The SPEA and staff are conducting an aggressive campaign to elect the incumbents and influence your vote on the budget.

The budget has a tax increase of 32 tax points, or \$375, for a home assessed at \$117,400. Homes with higher assessments will obviously pay more. This budget has the highest one-year tax increase in my memory for South Plainfield. When you vote on the budget, look at and evaluate this Board's and the incumbents' performance to budget the last two years. The 03/04 school budget was advertised and approved at \$42,771,797 and actually spent (your money) \$46,610,515. The 04/05 budget advertised and approved at \$44,185,421 with forecasted adjusted spending pro-

(Continued from page 12)

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IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 13)

with forecasted adjusted spending projected at \$46,435,729. To close this budget gap, they borrowed money via lease purchase of textbooks and use of all available surplus. The 05/06 budget to be voted on is \$47,561,491. What do you think they will spend this time if you give them the chance? When you go to vote on the budget, ask yourself, has this Board in the last two years managed your tax dollars with due diligence? I say no. Have the budgets and the budget process been credible? I say no.

Ask yourself, do I want to reelect the incumbents responsible for this performance? I say no. I ask you to vote for Carol Byrne, Line 4; John Markham, Line 3 and Jeff Seider, Line 1. They all have good solid previous Board experience, a record of fiscal responsibility and budget credibility and integrity. They deserve your support and you deserve to have a Board that lives and operates within the framework of the published, approved and advertised budgets.

In a recent letter to the *Observer*, Ms. Mruz and Joffe were critical of Mr. Seider's recent letter and they asked that you look at the facts. Members of the public at several meetings cautioned and warned the Board about deficiencies in the way the 04/05 budget was structured and presented. That budget under funded a number of line items but this Board and the incumbents ignored this information. To cover the deficit of what was actually being spent, they borrowed money. Other comments of theirs said Mr. Seider could run but he could not hide. Mr. Seider, when he served on the Board, always met his commitments to the students and taxpayers, arranged for a contract to mill the Jost Field track at no cost to the district, he chaired a committee to assess, maintain and evaluate the special education program, had middle school brick repointing completed and he never participated in any spending

that exceeded the budget. He did not run nor did he hide.

Ms. Mruz and Joffe refer to the compensation packages for the staff and suggested a comparison be made with the county. Here is that comparison: South Plainfield teachers' average salary is \$59,094, the county average is \$50,954 and the state average is \$50,544 as reported in the *Star-Ledger* dated 2/5/05. Healthcare premiums increased from actual \$4,277,025 for 03/04 and are projected in proposal for the 05/06 budget at \$5,622,446. This benefit covers hospital/medical, prescription drug and dental at no cost to employees. This budget is not the first increase in 10 years. The budget 10 years ago was \$29,941,171, and 05/06 budget to be voted on is \$47,561,491 and this year's budget was advertised at \$44,185,421. How can you say that this budget is the first increase in 10 years? It's time to stop the practice of misinformation as your letter does.

Remember the date: Tuesday, April 19. Polls are open from 2-9 p.m. Be sure to vote Carol Byrne, Line 4; John Markham, Line 3 and Jeff Seider, Line 1.

FRANK A. MIKORSKI

To the Editor:

I read with interest the letters in last week's *Observer*. I can't remember a time in the past 30 years where the "Letters to the Editor" took over two pages of the paper. I think that this is, in and by itself, an indicator that something is amiss.

The school budget issue needs a look from a different perspective. I submit the following:

The taxes in this town have gone up about \$500 from 1996 to 2003. That's total tax, municipal and school. Not too bad. It started going down the tubes in 2003. For the school year 2003/2004 budget, the tax levy against the taxpayers in the town was

\$31,839,972. For 2004/2005 it was up just shy of a million dollars. Now for 2005/2006 it is pegged at \$37,347,987. That's a whopping \$5,508,015 over the 2003/2004 budget. If we average the increases over three years we get \$1,836,005 per year. There are roughly 8,000 taxpaying households in South Plainfield. That means your taxes will go up \$229.50 per year if this unrestrained BOE is allowed to continue. Over a 10-year period that's \$2,290. That's one heck of a difference from the previous 10 years. It's four times the money. If you want a rough guideline about the future budgets, figure for every million dollars in budget increases, your taxes will go up \$125. That's at the 2005 tax rate. What will the rate be in 10 years down the road? If you are a young family with a couple of kids at preschool age, you will be moving out of town before they graduate the high school. You won't be able to afford to live in the town. It's going to be tough raising a family and have to look forward to paying almost \$3,000 more in taxes than you are paying now. And that's just for the school system. You still have sewer, municipal and county taxes to add on to those. If the taxes are allowed to rise at that rate you will have taxation without representation because of an un-responsive BOE.

When the budget is up for the public vote on April 19 please VOTE NO. We will suffer pain in the short term, but hopefully we will heal stronger for the future. I would also urge the voters to vote for non-sitting candidates, as the present board members are not to be trusted. I voice this opinion as a taxpayer who is not affiliated with any teachers or BOE members. I live in this town and would like some answers on the issues that do not appear to be forthcoming.

ROBERT MESSER

To the Editor:

In response to Mr. Mruz and Joffe's letter to the editor last week, let me reply by saying that I do not run nor hide. The facts are what they are as I stated. I would suggest that the two of you practice what you preach to the students of South Plainfield—"do your homework" before being critical of me with your baseless facts.

The 2005/2006 budget is not the first increase in 10 years, just check the previous budgets. The budget document put out by the district states 4.9% for salary increase. Mrs. Jefferys, while a sitting member of the board issued many warnings of the financial crisis as well as Mr. Mikorski from the floor. This leads me to as WHERE WERE YOU TWO?

As for myself, during my term on the board I was not aware of any financial crisis as our obligations were met, salaries were paid, buildings were maintained, programs and positions were added and at the end of every year we had a surplus.

As far as the "sky is falling" comment, I will respond that this is the position you two as union leaders have taken by relaying half truths to the parents and students of this district, such as 45 kids to a class, special education to be cut and whatever other gloom and doom you can come up with. With regard to looking at things in proper perspective this is what I see: the union leadership sacrificing 14.8 employees, if the budget passed, 35 if it doesn't. You, as leaders of the SPEA, have the power to save those jobs as this district budget is at cap. What are you leaders going to do so that the children, your fellow employees and taxpayers are not sacrificed?

On April 19 I ask the residents of South Plainfield for your support in electing me to the Board of Education whereby the children will come first and restoring fiscal responsibility to this district will be accomplished.

JEFF SEIDER

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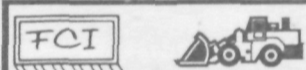
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129 South Plainfield Ave.

Police Department Addresses Traffic Concerns at School

(Continued from page 1)

usage by parents.

•Parking is prohibited within 50 feet of a STOP sign.

•Parking is prohibited within 25 feet of any intersection.

•Parking is prohibited within 10 feet of a fire hydrant.

•Parking is prohibited in front of any driveway.

•When discharging or picking up students, do not double park in the roadways.

•Parking or standing over a crosswalk is prohibited.

•Parking within 25 feet of a crosswalk is prohibited.

•Parking on a sidewalk is prohibited.

•Picking up or discharging students is permitted only when a vehicle is legally parked along a curb line or designated area. Stopping in the roadway and picking up or discharging passengers is illegal and dangerous.

It is our goal to have all motorists voluntarily comply with ALL traffic laws. However, we will take appropriate enforcement action when necessary.

In an effort to reduce these problems, we offer the following suggestions. Leave extra time in the morning and afternoon so that you can park legally and obey all the traffic laws. If your child is offered bus transportation, utilize it. It is much more efficient to park one vehicle carrying 54 students, than manage 54 vehicles with one student each. Carpool or ride share whenever possible.

As each school presents specific problems, we are seeking to correct the following problems at the listed schools:

South Plainfield High School: when utilizing the Lane Ave. parking lot, do not pull into the lot and discharge students while parked on the crosswalks. Vehicles should be legally parked in a marked parking space when discharging or picking up students. The curb area along the parking lots is designated as a fire lane and discharging or picking up students while stopped along this area is prohibited. On the Lake St. approach, double-parking in the circle area and school entrance to discharge students is prohibited. Do not double park behind vehicles in the staff parking area.

South Plainfield Middle School: parking or discharging students in the bus loading zones on Lake Ave. is prohibited. Double-parking on Lake St. to discharge and pick up students is prohibited and extremely dangerous. Stopping or standing is prohibited along the curb line along the school is also prohibited.

Grant Elementary School: Parking or discharging students in the bus-loading zone on Cromwell Place is prohibited. The parking lots on both sides of the school shall be used to discharge and pick up students.

Franklin School: Parking or discharging students in the bus-loading zone on Franklin Ave. is prohibited. U-turns at the intersections of Franklin Ave. and Gray Dr. are prohibited.

Kennedy School: Parking or discharging students while parked in the no parking zone on Norwood Ave. is prohibited. Double-parking on Norwood Ave. and discharging or picking up students is prohibited and extremely dangerous.

Riley School: Utilizing the senior housing complex to park, discharge or pick up students is prohibited. There is no parking on Walter St. near the school entrance. If your child enters/exits the school via the rear doors, utilize the parking lot on Walter St. near Mildred St.

Roosevelt School: Parents are to utilize the parking lot on Hamilton Blvd. to discharge and pick up stu-

dents. Parents are to enter the lot and discharge students near the curb line adjacent to the old school. As this is a designated Fire Lane, parking along the curb line is prohibited. Parking is still permitted on Evona Ave. Parking is prohibited on Jackson Ave. between Hamilton Blvd. and Garibaldi Ave. While there are no restrictions prohibiting left turns from the parking lot on Hamilton Blvd., this turning movement will be difficult at most times. We are encouraging motorists to exit the lot, making a right turn onto Hamilton Blvd. and utilizing an alternate route to travel south.

For district students that walk to school, this department will staff the following locations with a crossing guard. If you wish to have your chil-

dren cross a roadway where a crossing guard is present, plan a route utilizing the listed posts:

Plainfield Ave. at Maple Ave.; Plainfield Ave. at Lane Ave.; Plainfield Ave. at Sampton Ave.; Plainfield Ave. at Geary Dr.; Plainfield Ave. at Madison Dr.; Clinton Ave. at Walnut St.; Clinton Ave. at Franklin Ave.; Clinton Ave. at Tompkins Ave.; Grant Ave. at Franklin Ave.; Grant Ave. at Tompkins Ave.; Franklin Ave. at Franklin School; Maple Ave. at Front St.; Maple Ave. at the Spring Lake Park Entrance; Lakeview Ave. at Chambers St.; Park Ave. at Chambers St.; Park Ave. at W. Crescent Ave.; Park Ave. at Fairview Ave.; Park Ave. at Clark Lane; Norwood Ave. at Adams Ave.; S. Plainfield Ave. at Norwood Ave.; S.

Plainfield Ave. at Joan St.; S. Plainfield Ave. at Sacred Heart Dr.; Sacred Heart Dr. at Randolph Rd.; Cedarbrook Ave. at Morris Ave.; Rahway Ave. at Kenyon Ave.; Merchants Ave. at Freed Pl.; Hamilton Blvd. at Montrose Ave.; Hamilton Blvd. at Belmont Ave.; Hamilton Blvd. at Evona Pl.; Hamilton Blvd. at Jackson Ave. and Cromwell Pl. at Grant School.

The scheduled times for the posts vary by locations; however, the scheduled start time for the morning hours are either 7:15 a.m. or 7:30 a.m. and concluding at 8:45 a.m. The times for the afternoon also vary by location but are generally staffed starting from either 2 or 2:45 p.m. and concluding at 3:45 p.m.

We ask for your patience, under-

standing and cooperation as we continue to work with the school officials to make this a safe and enjoyable year.

Respectfully, Sergeant Kevin Murtagh, Traffic Safety Unit

RONALD D. KOSANOVICH
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
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