

South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

JUNE 24, 2005



Police Chief John Ferraro, along with GREAT program teacher Det. Gene Bataille, give certificates and handshakes to graduating students.

GREAT Program Graduates #1 Class

By Jane Dornick

A graduation pizza party was held for the first 133 Middle School seventh grade students to successfully complete the new Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) program recently.

Rather than have a formal ceremony, GREAT program teacher South Plainfield Police Det. Gene Bataille opted for a lunch, with pizza and drinks donated by McCriskin's Home for Funerals. Afterwards, students were called up to receive a certificate for completing the course and were congratulated by Police Chief John Ferraro and Capt. Paul Brembt.

The GREAT program was developed in 1991 through a combined effort of the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Phoenix Police Dept. Due to its increasing success over the years, it was expanded nationwide and is now federally funded. The goal of the program is to prevent youth crime, violence and gang involvement, while developing a positive relationship among law enforcement, families and young people to create safer communities.

The police department is also seeking funding for a GREAT families training program and to incorporate it into the summer recreation Junior

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Erickson Retires after 34 Years

By Patricia Abbott

After 34 years of service to the South Plainfield school district; decades of teaching, mentoring, guiding and befriending countless numbers of students, Franklin School Principal Nancy Erickson is retiring. Many teachers in our school district are former students, including high school guidance counselor Eileen Boettger who said, "We all loved and respected her. She was always energetic and positive. I don't think I ever heard her raise her voice. As a co-worker, I learned a lot from her. She was always supportive; pro-teacher, pro-student and pro-education. Not only did she lead by example, but she always had words of encouragement. She is one of those educators who should be considered 'one in a million.' Many have tried to walk in her shoes but none have been able to fill them."

As principal of Franklin, Nancy always gives 110% and is actively involved in every event and program. Each Halloween she sports a unique costume and parades down Franklin Ave. with her students, dancing with them at their parties later in the afternoon. She proudly introduces each and every choral/instrumental concert and student production. A favorite of hers is the annual Veteran's Day program. Her face lights up when she speaks of the program, her eyes



Retiring Franklin School Principal Nancy Erickson with Franklin student Joseph Pellegrino at a retirement party at the school.

filled with pride as youngsters read their heartfelt essays and poems to the veterans and guests. Sadly, she

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SPHS CE Teacher John Lartaud retiring after 36 years—see page 6.



"Keep Kids Alive, Drive 25" Begins

The South Plainfield Police Department has announced the implementation of a pedestrian safety campaign called "Keep Kids Alive, Drive 25." It is a safety campaign targeting the observance of the speed limit on residential streets.

In most towns and cities across the United States, the residential speed limit is 25 miles per hour. The goal of this campaign is to simply remind drivers to check their speed when driving through Borough neighborhoods.

The vision of the "Keep Kids Alive, Drive 25" campaign is to unite neighborhoods across the country in creating safer streets for the benefit of all pedestrians and motorists. As the school year ends, pedestrian traffic will increase in our neighborhoods and on our roadways. The goal is to make these neighborhoods as safe as possible.

The South Plainfield campaign is being paid for and sponsored by the South Plainfield Funeral Home located on Plainfield Ave. They have

purchased a 25-foot roadway banner which reads "Keep Kids Alive, Drive 25." This banner will be displayed throughout the Borough on main roadways as a reminder to motorists of our safety efforts. They also purchased 50 lawn signs, which

can be obtained at no cost to South Plainfield residents by calling Sgt. Kevin Murtagh of the Traffic Safety Bureau at (908) 226-7679. The signs will be displayed in residential neighborhoods, especially those areas

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Flag Day Ceremony at John E Riley Elementary School

Each Flag Day, rain or shine, patriotism shines at Riley School. At this year's ceremony the flags were replaced by William Ball as students, dressed in red, white and blue, saluted and sang their favorite Flag Day song, *It's Flag Day, It's Flag Day, Come on and Wave Your Flag*. Not only did they sing, the kids waved homemade flags they made with the help of their teachers. Joanne Gurske accompanied the children and along with all the teachers, helped them learn the songs. It was a schoolwide effort and citizenship and patriotism shined through. See page 6 for the Elks Flag Day ceremony.

Vroom to Take Tweed's Spot as SPHS Music Teacher, Band Director

Rumors started to circulate a few months ago that Mark Tweed was in danger of not returning next year as the high school music teacher and band director. That rumor became a fact last week when the school board voted to hire Roger Vroom III to replace Tweed, who will teach at Grant School in the fall.

Last Tuesday, almost the entire high school marching band and numerous students from the music department,

along with many of their parents, pleaded with the board to reconsider, or at least table the appointment of Vroom. For a few minutes those in the audience thought they may have made an impression, because the board went into an executive session to discuss a personnel item.

However, when the board returned from the closed session, they voted unanimously to hire Vroom. Board

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IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

I would like to congratulate the C League Cardinal's on their C League Championship victory. The game was an eight inning thriller against a formidable Oriole team. The game ended in the eighth inning with only winners on both sides of the diamond.

In March, when I selected my team, I could not have asked for a greater group of boys and parents. At times, I had nearly as many parents willing to volunteer as players themselves. I would like to thank everyone, particularly my coaches Jim Olano and John Walsh for such a successful year. The season was tremendously fulfilling to me irregardless of the final score in the last game. Following are the eleven champion boys of the C League Cardinals: Chris Burton, Sean Cullen, Bryan Gillen, Joey Hart, Tucker Merkle, Mike Olano, Nathan Persad, Samuel Persad, Mike Schroeder, Arshan Singh and Ryan Walsh.

Congratulations and have a great summer!

COACH GLENN CULLEN

To the Editor,

During the weekend of June 11-13, the ATA Black Belt Academy of South Plainfield collected money at the Pathmark grocery store on Stelton Rd. for the National Association for Autism Research. The student volunteers raised over \$500 for this cause. We would like to thank Pathmark and the residents of the South Plainfield area for their support. For more information regarding the NAAR programs offered at the ATA Black Belt Academy, please call (908) 755-5440.

TOM GUERIN

Dear South Plainfield Parents:

The time has come for me to retire. I will be retiring on July 1. It will have been 27 years of service in South Plainfield as a teacher and administrator and eight years as a teacher in Newark. I feel privileged and honored to have had the opportunity to serve the children and parents of the South Plainfield Middle School.

Please accept my gratitude for the cooperation, trust and respect you've given me while working with your children. Whether I asked you to contribute to a cultural program or to accept a consequence I was giving your child, we pooled our resources and parted with a smile. Each time I was left with more of

everything to share with the next student and parent. Know that I have learned so much from you about relationships by listening to the advice you gave me on how to relate to you and your children and watching you relate to me so positively.

I always wanted to be rich and famous—and I am! I will be leaving here rich in spirit, resources of love—empowered by my relationship with you and your children. Whether walking down the street, going to the supermarket, even walking down the dark streets of Chinatown, I've heard voices saying, "Hi, Mrs. Savage," or "Is that Mrs. Savage?"

At this time, I also want to thank our wonderful PTA! It honored every request I made to some degree. Support for my family during our painful times, my illnesses and the professional acknowledgements were exceptional. Its membership and presidents, beginning with Ellen Melanson, have changed through the years, but the theme of "togetherness for the good of the children" remains. I want to give Debra Bishop, PTA President, a special thank you because of her commitment to the Middle School since I've been here.

Finally, I thank Nancy Grennier and her efficient staff for ensuring that the projects and programs and all people related to them received the deserved publicity. This was carried through even when notification was given at the last moment.

So my family of friends, I leave the position, but my heart stays with you forever.

**LOVE,
PHYLLIS SAVAGE, MIDDLE
SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

To the Editor:

This letter concerns the circumstances surrounding the removal of Mr. Tweed as the high school band leader. I was at the Board of Education meeting last week when that issue—actually, the issue of hiring his replacement—was finalized. However, I was not alone. The room was filled with students, parents and even alumni, many of whom used the comment period to speak on Mr. Tweed's behalf. Some of the speakers were quite emotional. Previously, that amount of emotion over a teacher would have surprised me, but over the last few weeks I have witnessed many such reactions to Mr. Tweed's impending departure. Many of the speakers asked the

Board why this move was being made and while they were disappointed in the Board's lack of response, it is understandable that for privacy reasons the Board cannot discuss personnel moves.

Then, the Board voted. They voted on virtually all of the 50 personnel items at once. Most of the audience, and virtually all of the students for whom this was such an important issue, were not even aware that Mr. Tweed's future had been decided. After seeing the number of people interested in that decision and listening to an hour or so of impassioned support of Mr. Tweed, including from some alumni, the Board made no effort to recognize how important that one vote was to the people in attendance. Mr. English, the head of the Board, did make a statement that noted that the recommendation for Mr. Tweed's transfer did not come from the Board—the recommendation apparently came from the Superintendent or the high school principal. The Board merely acted on it.

However, the Board is not appointed by the Superintendent—we elect them. They are not accountable to the Superintendent—they are accountable to us. Perhaps there were good reasons for Mr. Tweed's transfer. However, there are no good reasons for the Board's failure to at least make some effort to acknowledge that they take the opinion of the people that elected them seriously. Students, and some parents, were actually crying at that meeting and the Board apparently paid no attention. We deserve representation that takes our opinions seriously and respects them. I know I will remember this at the next election; I suggest you do so too.

RICHARD J. SULLIVAN

Dear Editor,

I would first like to say congratulations to Assistant Principal of the South Plainfield Middle School Phyllis Savage on her retirement. She will be sadly missed and I would like to publicly wish her all of the best. Even more importantly, I would like to thank her for all of her support this past school year. She offered me great support with my son, an eighth grader at the Middle School. He was not the easiest child to deal with and many of his teachers, other administrators and his guidance counselor seemed to give up on him early in the school year. Mrs. Savage never gave up on him and never stopped offering me her support.

From November, my requests for help with my son fell on deaf ears. A request for counseling with the school counselor was not granted until March and he only had a few meetings with her from that point. He was continuously sent to "time-out," something I recall from my elementary school days. I questioned many as to whether time-out was the correct solution and was told that that is the school policy. In my opinion, time-out pleases both the teacher and the student—the student is out of class and the teacher is free of the troubled student. Shouldn't those teaching pubescent children be capable of controlling a classroom full of children in this age group?

My first experience at the Middle School was with my oldest son who also did not excel at first. If it were not for two very exemplary teachers, Anne Snee and Robert Richkus, Anthony may not have graduated with his class. Sadly, my younger son was not fortunate enough to have teachers who were willing to go over and above their call of duty as the aforementioned two and he will not walk with his class at graduation. In hindsight, I wish I had demanded more contact with his teachers and administrators, but I also wish they had done it without having to be demanded. Now, as a mother, I am disheartened and very

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sad. My wish for the future is that he will move into South Plainfield High School and have the supportive teachers that my older sons have had there. As parents, teachers and administrators, it is vital to the success of our children, not to mention that it is our jobs, that we communicate and cooperate with each other and not just say that is our intention, but most importantly, that we support the children, even the ones who cause trouble—they may very well be the ones who need us the most.

Thank you for joining forces with me, Mrs. Savage, Mr. Richkus, and Mrs. Snee. I'd also like to extend a special thanks to Juvenile Detective Jim Darby and Youth and Family Counselor Gail Dougherty for their efforts to help my family. These are all people who truly tirelessly do their jobs for their hearts.

**SINCERELY,
ROSEMARY PETRIELLO, A MOM
WHO REALLY CARES**

To the Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank David Ratti, a Ponytail Softball coach, for representing all that a coach should be. Before this year's season, I wasn't sure whether my daughter Gracie even wanted to play softball. She didn't seem as enthusiastic last year as I thought she would be. I signed her up anyway. What a great season she had! Everything was about softball and her team! Thanks to Mr. Ratti, Gracie has caught softball fever and not only enjoyed this season, but is looking forward to years ahead on the field.

Kudos to Dave for being a great example of what coaching is all about.

**MARY PIEKARSKI,
A GRATEFUL MOM**

To the Editor,

I watched as one by one they approached the podium to address the Board of Education in a final pitch to save their father figure, Mark Tweed, from being reassigned as band director of the high school to a position at Grant School. They came with team spirit, with team pride and high hopes in an effort to sway the board members not to approve this proposal. Unfortunately, their pleas fell upon deaf, if not uncaring, ears.

How could it be that the Board of Education, elected by the town to oversee such issues as this, did not for one instance listen to the students that might be the most affected by this move?

This reassignment, which was shamelessly pushed through, is an effort that may very well work out for both the high school students and the students at Grant School, but what if it doesn't? The students are the ones who will suffer, perhaps losing a year or more of quality learning. The move just doesn't make sense.

But they came united as one, they left defeated as one, but they were one

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Please be advised that the Observer will no longer publish anonymous letters. 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: spobserver@comcast.net. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Limit letters to no more than 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length or to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject.

united, and I was never more proud of the band students than I was that night. Though they lost the fight, they should hold their heads high and be proud that they stood up for their friend and mentor and the Board of Education, along with Dr. Rosado, should hang their heads in shame.

**JEFFREY M. PAULS,
PROUD PARENT OF A
SPHS BAND STUDENT**

Dear Editor,

I recently attended the June 14 Board of Education meeting in South Plainfield. I, as well as almost 100 or more parents and students, attended this meeting in support of the current high school instrumental teacher, Mark Tweed, who is being reassigned to Grant School. This is an involuntary transfer on his part. The current administration and Board of Education thought it was in the high school's best interest to transfer Tweed, who has been at the school for 10 years, and to hire somebody new with only two years' teaching experience. Students, parents and alumni have written letters and spoken with the administration and several board members to try and reverse this terrible decision. At the Board meeting, many students, parents, and alumni got up to speak and to ask the Board to at least table the item in question and to look into the reasons why the administration wants to reassign Tweed. As each person got up to speak, it was apparent that their pleas were falling on deaf ears. The students were very passionate, and some were near tears, when speaking about their beloved director. At times, while the students were speaking it looked as though the Board members were not even listening. The president of the Board of Education was even rude to some of the parents and students who got up to speak in support of Tweed. Throughout it all, the students' questions about why Mr. Tweed was being reassigned were never answered. The Board and superintendent just kept saying it was personal.

People of South Plainfield: these are Board members whom we have voted into office. They are supposed to be representing the majority of the taxpayers in this town; however, after being at a few Board meetings, I have come to re-

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Department, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave., fax us at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at spobserver@comcast.net. Include your name, address, telephone number. You can subscribe or contact us at: spobserver.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Postal Service Offers Shipping Supplies at Sears

The U.S. Postal Service is on a mission to make it quick, easy and convenient to do business with them by making shipping solutions available to customers while they shop at one of the nation's leading commercial retailers. Consumers in the South Plainfield area will find all the shipping supplies they'll need at the new Sears Essentials store, which opened recently at 6801 Hadley Rd.

Called "The Shipping Standard" the officially licensed USPS-branded products include:

Advanced Security Tape-secures your package and informs you if someone has attempted to tamper with it in transit. When this tape is pulled back from the package the work "OPENED" appears repeatedly. Even if the tape is replaced, the word still appears through the tape.

Packaging Tape-virtually noiseless when pulled from the roll.

Gift Wrap-It Tape-features a lock

for one-handed pulling.

Bubble Mailers-strong and durable and shows consumers how to best tape the box for mailing.

"We're making The Shipping Standard products widely available because we know that our customers recognize and trust the postal service brand and we believe they will appreciate having easy access to high quality, reasonably priced supplies when they don't have an opportunity to visit their post office," said South Plainfield Postmaster Michael Deignan.

"All of this is part of how we're transforming the postal service by making it quick, easy and convenient to do business with us, whether you're visiting the local post office or shopping at your favorite store," said Deignan.

In addition to the Sears Essentials location, the Shipping Standard products are also available at Kmart locations nationwide.

SPHS Band, Orchestra Hit High Notes With Spring Concert

By Michael Duquette

South Plainfield High School's Lab Band, Stage Band, Concert Band, and Orchestra took audiences by storm once again with their annual Spring Concert held at the Joseph A. Mondoro Auditorium. The music was, as usual, performed with all the gusto and professionalism characteristic of SPHS' young performers. However, the night took on a heavy weight of emotions with the concert being the final high school concert under the guidance of Band Director Mark S. Tweed.

The show started off with lively numbers from the Lab Band: there was "Valero," with Joe Dachille and Brian Schulte featured on trumpet; the classic rock song "Louie, Louie" the "Tater Hill Shuffle," featuring Francisco DeLaCruz and John Roesch on trombone and Alex Visconti and Taylor Mandel on tenor and alto sax, respectively and Billy Joel's classic "Just the Way You Are," featuring Pat Cantarella on alto sax.

Bruce Mikolon took the stage next to conduct the Orchestra, which performed a very entertaining set. Highlights included Respighi's "Antique Dances and Airs," Leopold Mozart's "Kinder-symphonic," which featured senior orchestra members on comical toy instruments and selections from Andrew Lloyd Webber's immortal Broadway musical *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Afterward, the Stage Band took up a jazzy set that included "Ol' Man River," featuring tenor saxophonists Ike Ejiochi and Brian Schulte and

trumpeter Wael Kanj; "Round Midnight," with Taylor Mandel featured on trumpet and flugelhorn and "Cruisin' for a Bluesin," which had a host of great solos by tenor saxophonists Ike Ejiochi and Brian Schulte, alto saxophonists John Roesch and Scott Rann, baritone saxophonist Keenan Gaynor and Paul Cantarella.

Following a brief intermission, the Concert Band rounded out the night. Highlights like "Salute to American Jazz" (featuring Taylor Mandel on trumpet, Ashlen Udell on flute and Ike Ejiochi on tenor sax), "Little Bop Riding Hood," a humorous interpretation of the children's tale with a narration by Chorus Director Tracy Murray and the dramatic tone poem "Pilatus."

The night closed with a very poignant salute to Tweed, who, after ten years is moving from South Plainfield High School to Grant School. The students presented him with several parting gifts, alumnus Jose Pineda spoke to the audience about the lessons Tweed has imparted upon him, and Tweed led the band in some final, upbeat standards, accompanied by many alumni from the past decade on their instruments.

The concert was another success for the Music Department. Congratulations to Mikolon and Tweed for a job well done, and best wishes to Tweed on his new job at Grant School. It is a guarantee that the young students there will be influenced in the same positive way that the musicians of SPHS have been.



American Legion, Sons of American Legion Installs Officers

The installation of new officers of the American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion was held at the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 on Friday, May 27. Pictured (l to r) are Chairman of the Executive Board Bill Ruha, Commander Joe Penyak, Vice Commander Jim Yednak, Sons of the American 1st Vice Commander Dave Guoth, Sons of the American Legion Financial Secretary Vince Lee, Financial Officer John McConville, outgoing Commander John Blanchard and Vice Commander David Piscitelli.

Oak Park Commons Wins Glitter Award



Rose Evans and Sheri Fevelo accept the Glitter Award from Joe Diegnan.

Rose Evans, Vice President - Property Management for the Levin Management Corporation, accepted the South Plainfield Clean Business Association's Glitter Award. CBA President Joe Diegnan presented the award to Evans and Sheri Fevelo, Senior Property Manager, in front of Rockaway Bedding at the Oak Park Commons Shopping Center at the corner of Park and Oak Tree avenues. The award was presented in recognition of good long-term maintenance and the recent improvements that have restored the attractive, neat look of the shopping center when it was first constructed in 1998.

Levin Management Corporation is based in North Plainfield and handles 11.5 million sq. ft. in five states. They oversee maintenance of the 137,000 square feet of retail space in Oak Park Commons. They took over responsibility for the 16-acre property in February of this year, shortly after it changed hands. The damaged retaining wall at the eastern end of the prop-

erty was repaired. They have arranged for painting, cleaning, landscaping improvement, regular sweeping and cleaning up after illegal dumpers. TSS Sweeping sweeps parking lots every night and during the day a hand picker removes litter from shrubbery and cigarette butts from the mulched flower beds, sweeps the sidewalks, and washes the windows and ledges. North Jersey Property Maintenance, of Butler, handles the landscaping.

Evans said that they have very high maintenance standards. The retail tenants can call with any problems, knowing they will get a prompt response. Evans said that a good relationship with the tenants was the most important element in good property maintenance. Fevelo is on site at least once a week, and works with the A&P and other stores to manage litter sources. How a supermarket distributes its li-

ers, Evans said, is a major factor in whether the fliers turn into litter. Fevelo agreed that the A&P has been cooperative in working with them to keep the fliers under control.

Diegnan thanked Evans and Fevelo for providing a good example to the rest of South Plainfield's business community. "Thank you," Fevelo said, "It's an honor."

The Clean Business Association gives Glitter Awards to South Plainfield businesses that are unusually well-maintained or have recently improved their appearance through renovation or landscaping. Membership in the CBA is open to all businesses that share its goal of enhancing the appearance of commercial districts through property maintenance and litter control. For more information, contact the Clean Communities Coordinator at (908) 226-7621.

Lions Seek Used Computers

A teacher of the Blind and Visually Impaired for the State of New Jersey has asked our Lions District for a laptop computer for a five-year-old student, Hanna Michlick. In her short life she has had nine operations, which involved 7-14 day hospitalizations, with the last stay being three months.

There are many other visually impaired, financially drained students who need computers. We have already collected two used computers, but more are needed. We invite businesses or individuals to consider donating used notebooks or desktop computers for this worthwhile cause. Call Eddie Hui (201) 967-6862 or Larry Massaro (908) 753-3850 if you have any questions.

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Events

ATA Black Belt to Hold Open House

June 24

The ATA Black Belt Academy on Maple Ave. will host an Open House on Friday, June 24 from 5-9 p.m. Special classes will be offered including advanced safety, confidence and self esteem training and basic Tae Kwon do for beginners.

Refreshments will be served and special summer program discounts will be available. Enjoy a night of learning and excitement for the whole family. For more information call (908) 755-5440. Mention the *South Plainfield Observer* and receive an additional discount.

Knights Sponsoring Acoustic Concert

June 25

On Saturday, June 25 at 7 p.m. the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus will be hosting a live acoustic concert with pop recording artists Billy and Rose Falcon. Billy Falcon, a well respected major label recording artist, singer/songwriter and producer will perform with his daughter, recording artist Rose Falcon in this live event.

Tickets are limited and by advance sales only. Price is \$25, which includes concert and after show party. It includes hors d'oeuvres and beer, wine and soda. Doors open at 6 p.m., concert at 7 p.m. Afterward performers will mingle with the guests.

For tickets call Brian Cargill at (908) 755-9717.

Mr. Kurt Sing Along

June 29

The children's program, "Sing Along with Mr. Kurt" will be held on Wednesday, June 29, at 6:30 p.m. at the library.

A longtime favorite of South Plainfield Library audiences, Mr. Kurt will perform his trademark silly songs, as well as old favorites. In addition, information about the Library's Summer Reading Club will be available. The program is suggested for children up to age eight. It's being presented free of charge; pre-registration is suggested, but not required.

For more information, call the Library at (908) 754-7885 or visit the Library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

Scrapbooking Class at Library

June 30

There will be a mother/daughter Scrapbooking class on Thursday, June 30, from 10 a.m. to noon at South Plainfield Free Public Library.

Dayel Giammarino of "Creative Memories" will teach participants how to make a 7x7 scrapbook album. There will be a hands-on segment showing how to crop and mount photos, as well as finished examples. Participants should bring along 2-4 photos for the project. There is a fee of \$5 for the class; pre-registration is required.

For more information, please call (908) 754-7885 or visit the library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

What's happening in JUNE/JULY

Daily Events
9-11 AM Coffee & Cake
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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 Lancaster Pennsylvania Sight & Sound Theater Trip \$179 Woodlock Pines Pocono Resort -- Info at Senior Center			Weekly Shopping 23 Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am COMPUTER CLASS 11am & 1pm	Bingo 10am-2pm 25 Lunch Available
Knitting/Crocheting 27 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Drawing Class 11am	Bingo 10am-2pm 28 Ladies Social 10am	Exercise Club 8:30am 29 Line Dancing 10am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer class 10am, 11:30am & 1pm	Weekly Shopping 30 Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm	Bingo 10am-2pm 1 Lunch Available
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

Scrapbooking Benefits Breast Cancer

July 9

Resident Jackie Vill is training for AVON's Marathon for Breast Cancer which is to take place on Oct. 1 and 2. To help her raise funds, there will be an eight hour scrapbooking event on Saturday, July 9 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church.

The fee is \$28, of which \$20 will go toward breast cancer awareness, education, screening, diagnosis, treatment, research and support services. The scrapbooking event offers snacks and drinks, unlimited use of cropping tools, chances to win door prizes and raffles, scrapbook gift bags, make and takes, project demos and mini workshops and a thank you gift.

Contact Dayel Giammarino by July 6 at (908) 754-4255 or The8Gs@aol.com.

Library Craft Program

July 11

The South Plainfield Library will host a special adult craft program on Monday, July 11 at 7 p.m.

The program will be led by "Practical Crafting" instructor Ronda Wisniewski. Participants will paint a decorative flower pot or a six-inch pillar candle. Space is limited, so pre-registration is required. A \$2 materials charge is payable upon registration.

For information, call (908) 754-7885, or visit the library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

PAL Charity Softball Tournament

July 16

The South Plainfield Police Athletic League will hold their Fourth Annual Charity Softball Tournament on Saturday, July 16 beginning at 8 a.m. Proceeds from this year's tournament will go to a fund for four-year-old Kevin Conroy.

The event takes place at the South Plainfield High School Ballfield on Lake St. The Open Division is limited to the first 16 teams and Charitable Division is limited to the first 10 team. Teams can register by contacting

Det. Gary Cassio at (908) 226-7663, Det. Chris Colucci at (908) 226-7662 or at the PAL on Maple Ave. at (908) 226-7714. Rain date is July 23.

— Out of Town —

Curves Fundraising Event for St. Jude

June 24

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital announced that Curves for Women in Piscataway will be conducting a St. Jude "Workout" to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital on June 24. Locally, Jennifer Larrondo has agreed to coordinate the program.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is internationally recognized for its pioneering work in finding cures and saving children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases. For information, please visit www.stjude.org.

Art Muglia Golf Tournament

June 24

The Second Annual Art Muglia Memorial golf tournament will take place Friday, June 24 at Spooky Brook Golf course in Franklin Township.

Art Muglia was a dedicated South Plainfielder for he loved his home town. Friends and family gather annually to share camaraderie, laughs and food and participate in one of Art's favorite hobbies, golf.

Golfers will tee-off at 8:30 a.m. and afterwards meet at Sherban's Diner. Cost is \$100 and includes golf, cart, continental breakfast, prizes and food to follow.

For more information, contact Jim Muglia at (973) 667-2466 or email Artsmemorialgolf@yahoo.com.

Young Professionals

June 25

A singles social will be held on Saturday, June 25 at 7 p.m. at the Torino Italian Restaurant on Mt. Bethel Rd. in Warren. A \$5 service fee plus cost of dinner, tax and tip. RSVP Required by June 24 to (732) 764-9073 or AngelButterfly37@aol.com.

Senior Center EVENTS

Father's Day Carnival

June 26

A Father's Day Carnival will be held on Sunday, June 26 from 1 to 5 p.m. at CareOne at The Highlands on Inman Ave. in Edison. Games, prizes, raffles, food and much more!

For information, call (908) 754-7100.

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance

June 29

On Wednesday, June 29 the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance will feature talks from a panel of people living with mood disorders at their monthly meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m. The meeting takes place at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship in Morristown.

For information, call (973) 994-1143.

Adoption Support Group Meeting

June 27

The Adoption Support Group will meet on Monday, June 27 from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. at the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church on Watchung Ave. in Plainfield. Susan Beaton, an adoptee, with her adopted daughter and her birth sisters will speak.

For information, call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 or check out their website at: www.chatsnj.com.

Chinese Gardens Exhibit

June 30

An exhibition of Chinese Gardens opens June 1 at the Woodbridge Main Library, George Frederick Plaza in Woodbridge, and continues through June 30. The free exhibit is open during regular library hours.

For information, please call the Commission at (732) 745-4489.

SinglesFaces Dance

July 1

A SingleFaces dance will be held on Friday, July 1 at Short Hills Hilton at 8 p.m. This is the largest singles event in New Jersey. Cost is \$20.

For information, call (732) 345-9900.

Singles Starlight Socials

July 2

The Morristown Bar & Comedy Show Night Out will be held on Saturday, July 2. Meet at the Cafe Calaloo Bar in Morristown. Cost is \$15 and starts at 9 p.m. Recommended for singles ages 30 to 49, but open to everyone. RSVP required by July 1 to (732) 764-9073 or AngelButterfly37@aol.com

SingleFace Dance

July 2

A singles dance will be held on Saturday, July 2 at Gibbs Hall at the Ft. Monmouth's Officers Club at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12. Free American Flag pin to each attendee.

For information call (732) 345-9900.

Diane Surine at Metuchen Artworks

July 6

Metuchen Artworks is proud to present the artworks of multi-media artist Diane Surine, who lives and exhibits her work in her hometown of Metuchen, July 6 through 31. Artist reception is July 9 from 7 to 10 p.m.

For information, contact the gallery at (732) 603-9299 or visit www.metuchenartworks.com.

Tri-State Model Contest

July 18

Talent Unlimited has announced the Mister/Miss Tri-State Model 2005 Contest will be held on Friday, July 8 at the Radisson Hotel in Mount Laurel at 4 p.m.

We are looking for single contestants ages 9-30, who will be judged in an interview and swimwear and formal wear. For information, call (856) 931-1962.

Calling Handcrafters

October 15

Join the Merchantville Business & Professional Association as a vendor on Saturday, Oct. 15 for their Seventh Annual Handcrafts Festival. The event is a popular regional attraction bringing residents, neighbors and visitors together for a day of shopping, exhibitions and food in our historic downtown.

This is a handcraft only show and no resale vendors or products will be accepted. Information and registration forms are available online at www.merchantvillennj.com or email your name and address to merchantvillennj@comcast.net. For information call (856) 663-4001.

Class of 1980 Reunion

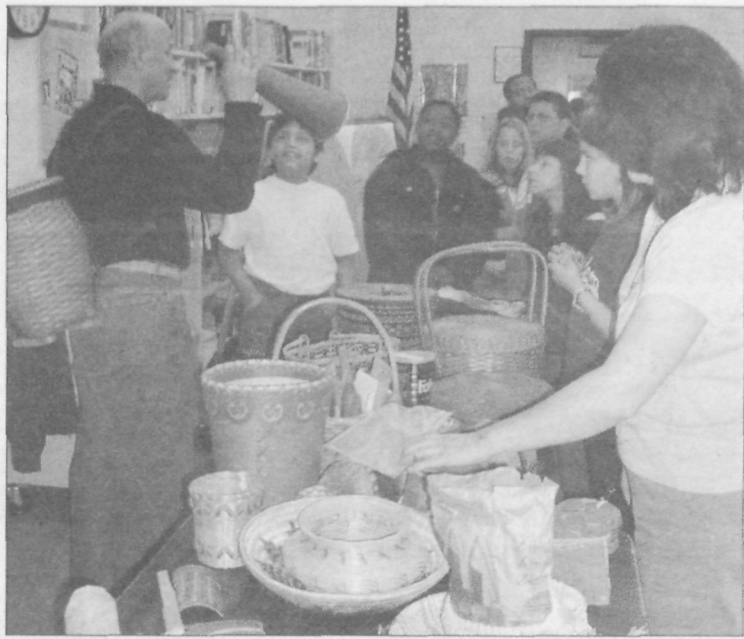
November 25

St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Edison will hold their 25th reunion on November 25 at the Double Tree Hotel in Somerset. A web page has been set up for fellow alumni.

Email amf831@aol.com to receive an invitation. For information, call Ann Marie Ferrante at (908) 756-6218 during the day and (908) 756-7543 in the evening. You may also contact Rich Fuentes at richk-ofc@aol.com.

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Roosevelt Students Learn About Native Americans

By Jane Dornick

Fourth graders at Roosevelt were visited by Ted Behne, the grandparent of two students in the school district, who has acquired extensive knowledge of Native American culture.

Behne is a Berkeley Heights resident who has been studying Native American handcrafts such as birch bark canoes, snowshoes and traditions of which he has a large collection and dis-

played for students. He builds both full size and scale model birch bark canoes and has written several magazine articles on Indian handcrafts. Students were also amazed to find out how many states and towns in New Jersey whose name was derived from a Native American Indian word. Behne also brought along wild rice and toasted maple syrup for everyone to try. They were originally cultivated by the Native Americans in this country many years ago.

Knights Conduct Special Citizens Drive

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 recently had their 2005 "Special Citizens Drive." Over \$7,800 was collected during the four-day event and will be donated to local organizations like the Keystone Community, the Midland School and ARC. The Knights would

like to thank the following businesses for their support: Drug Fair, Quick Chek, CVS, Pathmark, A&P, Bagel Pantry, Ciccio's Pizza, Dunkin' Donuts, Witty's Liquor Store, Hong Kong Supermarket and Buy Rite Liquors. Co-organizers of this event were Bill Butrico and Joe Scrudato.

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Muglia Recognized for High Score in Academic Talent Search

Andrea Muglia, a fifth-grade student at Sacred Heart School, was recognized for being among the highest-scoring participants in the State of New Jersey in verbal and mathematics in the National Academic Talent Search organized by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth. The State Award Certificate was presented to Andrea and other top academically talented students at a special ceremony held at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark on Saturday, June 11.

The Talent Search is open to students scoring in the top three percent on school standardized tests. Andrea earned the right to participate by her scores on the Terra Nova tests she took at Sacred Heart, which administers the Terra Nova to all students first grade and above each year. Subsequently, Andrea performed outstandingly on the PLUS, an above-grade level exam, to merit the State Award.



Dr. Marguerite Schneider and Andrea Muglia

Local Student Selected to Attend Junior National Student Leadership Conference

Jenae Keith, Class of 2010, has been selected to participate in the Junior National Student Leadership Conference (JNSLC), an extraordinary leadership development program for outstanding middle school students. Keith, a seventh grader at the Middle School, is the daughter of James and Velma Keith.

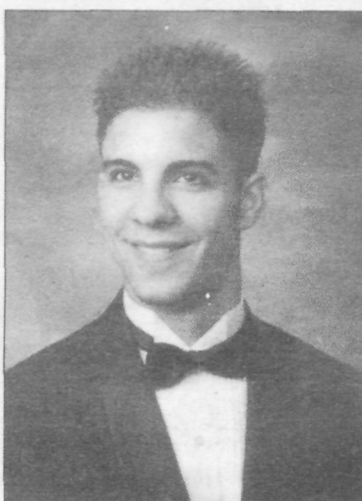
While attending the JNSLC, Jenae will have the opportunity to study, experience and develop the skills and traits that define and identify a leader. This year, approximately 1,500 gifted middle school students from across the United States and from 45 countries around the world will find themselves immersed in a learning environment unlike any they have ever experienced. These young leaders return to their schools with increased potential and newly developed abilities that enable them to make a positive difference in their communities.

During the conference, students attend special workshops and classes where they study distinctions of leadership. Special guest speakers (that in previous years have included U.S.

Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona, U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige, former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, former Attorney General Janet Reno, President of the World Bank James Wolfensohn and Supreme Court Justices Anthony Kennedy, Sandra Day O'Connor, and David Souter, as well as world-renowned surgeons, international medical researchers, ambassadors, Pentagon and White House officials) add a sense of reality and bring current national and international issues to life.

Through participation in this extraordinary program, students develop their abilities to think on their feet, to engage in critical analysis, and to communicate effectively — skills that will serve them well as leaders in high school, college, and throughout their lives. The JNSLC mission is to identify and recognize outstanding young leaders from around the world, and to provide them with a unique learning environment that encourages not only academic achievement, but also diversity, co-operation, and social responsibility.

"Students develop a sense of independence and responsibility," said DR. Paul M. Lisnek, JNSLC Director of Academics and former Assistant Dean of Loyola University Chicago School of Law. "They leave with a true feeling of accomplishment and confidence in their ability to handle the challenges that lie ahead."



Ryan Decker

Ryan Decker Named to Deans List

Ryan Decker, a student at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, Va. has been named to the Dean's List this past semester. He is an engineering major and made the Dean's List for the Spring semester.

Ryan is a graduate of the South Plainfield High School Class of 2004 and the son of the very proud Mr. and Mrs. Michael Decker.

SPHS Grad Makes Ramapo Dean's List

Danielle Aronowitz, a graduate of SPHS Class of 2004, earned Dean's List status at Ramapo College for the Spring 2005 semester. Aronowitz, who has just completed her freshman year, also made the Dean's List during the Fall 2004 semester,

earned a 3.76 GPA during the spring semester, and was inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta, the National Freshman Honor Society.

Danielle is the daughter of proud parents Phyllis and Eric Aronowitz of South Plainfield.

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Elks Hold Flag Day Ceremonies, Award 2 Scholarships



By Patricia Abbott

On Tuesday, June 14 the South Plainfield Elks Lodge held their annual Flag Day ceremony and awarded scholarships to two senior high school students. The flags were presented by members of cubs and boy scout troops.

Honoring our country's flag on this day is a custom that dates back to 1907 when the BPO (Benevolent and Protective Order) Elks Grand Lodge passed a resolution to designate June 14 as Flag Day. In 1911 it became a mandatory requirement for

every Elks Lodge but it was not until 1949 that President Harry Truman, an Elk member, made it a day of national observance honoring old glory.

The solemn ceremony celebrates seven flags flown in America since revolutionary days. The first is the Pine Tree flag, flown on Colonial ships and carried through the Battle of Bunker Hill. Next is the Snake flag carried by southern colonists from 1776-1777. The flag we know today began to evolve with the Continental Colors or

Grand Union flag which had 13 red and white stripes and a blue field with a red cross and a white cross. The following flags were similar; the crosses were replaced with 13 white stars on the blue field, then 15 stars, 20 stars and finally 50 stars. The ceremony ended with the Pledge of Allegiance.

After the flags had been retired the Elks awarded two \$1,000 scholarships. Brian Murtagh received the Gery Fantazir Memorial Scholarship and Juztina Siegrist received the Rose Napoliello Memorial Scholarship.



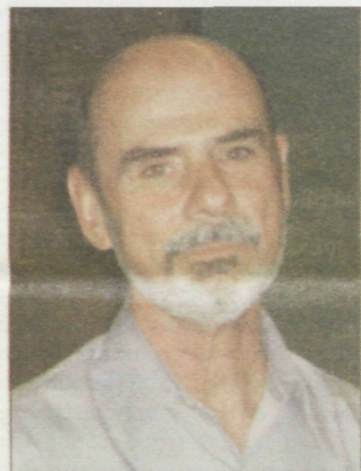
Elks member Mr. Artie, with Riley School Cub Scout Pack 224 Tiger Den 7, attended the Flag Day ceremonies at the Elks on June 14. Pictured along with Mr. Artie are (left to right) Dion Pender, Alex Kelly, Daniel Sprenger, Jonathan Conrad, Trevor Abood, Kyle DelPaoli and Brian Csobor.



Above, left to right, are Peter Smith-PER (also pictured below); Brian Murtagh, Barbara Muller-Esquire and John Mullerm-PER.



SPHS Teacher John Lartaud Retiring After 36 Years



SPHS Drafting and Co-op Ed teacher John Lartaud

By Libby Barsky

After 36 years, John Lartaud is retiring as teacher of drafting and co-operative education at South Plainfield High School. Lartaud began teaching drafting in the district in 1969 and has kept the program current with computer aided drafting.

Lartaud's drafting students contin-

ued using drafting in their careers in industry and government and one who will graduate from the New Jersey Institute of Technology this year will be working for Cornerstone Architecture in South Plainfield.

He has also taught auto mechanics, metal shop and wood shop in the high school and 10 years ago became a certified cooperative education teacher working with Dee Falato in Co-operative Education.

With his retirement the co-op education classes may be reduced from the 75 students in this year's program. "The state limits the number of students a teacher can supervise in cooperative education by allowing a half an hour per person every two weeks," said Lartaud.

SPHS will also need to replace the jobs that Lartaud held, including supplying audio visual materials, projectors, screens, microphones to classrooms and filling out the Right to Know OSHA forms on potential hazardous materials used in the school.

Lartaud received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in education at

a time when The College of New Jersey was known as Trenton State College and he isn't pleased with the name change. "When I was there they tried to make it Ewing College because it was located in Ewing, but the students voted it down," said Lartaud.

According to Lartaud there haven't been many changes in the students from when he started teaching. "Hair and fashions that students wear might change, but not the students. Students are students," said Lartaud. What has changed though, is the attitude of students, Lartaud believes. He remembers that before the new high school was built, the former building (now the middle school), had a roof that leaked like a sieve. "We dodged buckets in the hallway. Now I'm in a building where the roof doesn't leak and we have air conditioning," said Lartaud. Another memory of the old high school was watching teenagers engage in the practice of streaking. "I had a room with a view that overlooked the courtyard. Every once in a while I would see students streaking across the courtyard (without their clothes on)

and sometimes their friends wouldn't let them in," he said.

Lartaud thinks the attitude of students today has changed. "Everyone thinks they are owed something. They are owed a great job in co-op education to get \$10-\$15 an hour. They have bills to pay. They all want to make lots and lots of money. I don't blame them, because I'd like to make lots of money too."

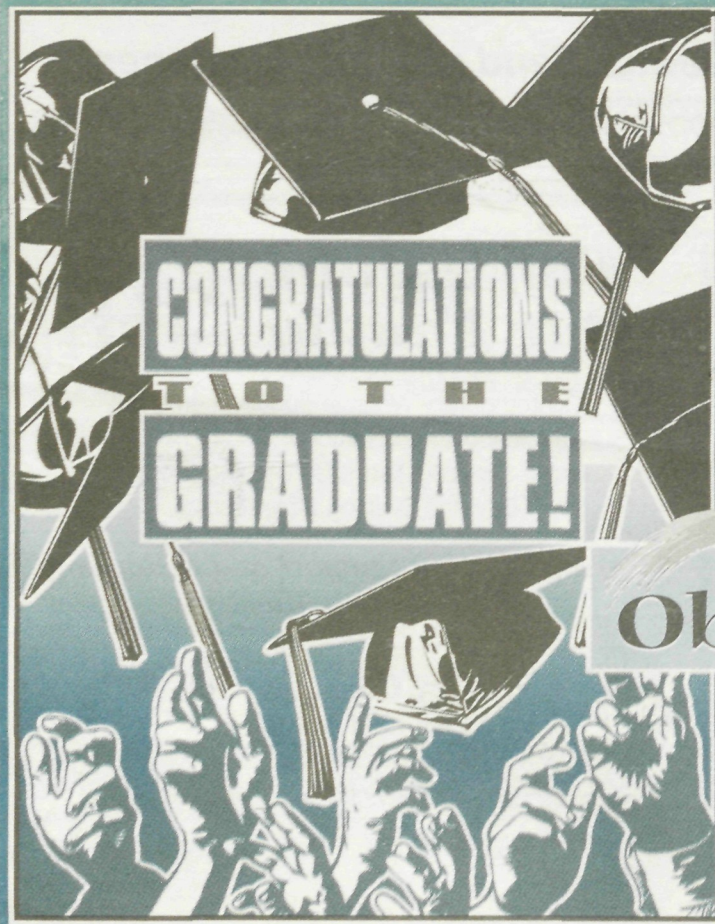
Because Lartaud's classes are electives, he hasn't had any major discipline problems. "Students are here because they chose to be. I don't have any resistance to learning. Drafting is a hands-on type of program. The earlier shop classes of woodworking and auto mechanics can lead to a trade to go to a future career," he said. "Plan for the future, but enjoy the now," is Lartaud's motto.

"The most important thing I've learned is to enjoy life, because you never know what tomorrow is going to bring. In the snap of a finger it can

be another 9/11 or a gas explosion. Enjoy when you can," he said. Enjoyment for Lartaud comes in the form of riding his motorcycle (sometimes to school), fixing up a 1972 MG Midget, digging and collecting rocks (he's a member of Rutgers Geology Museum) and charting his genealogy. "My father is French and my mother is Russian living in Lakehurst. I've been doing genealogy for 35 years and traced the Lartaud line back to 1585 in France." Add golf, and these are the activities he will to continue when he is no longer teaching.

Lartaud, married for 30 years to Helen, a massage therapist, has two children: Danielle, 26, who runs the office at Piscataway Auto Body and Robert, 23, who is attending Collins College in Tempe, Arizona and majoring in computer graphics.

No great changes are anticipated by Lartaud when asked what he will do in retirement. "I plan to put a chair up against a wall," he replied.



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Erickson Retires after a 34 Year Career in Education



The 1976 SPHS Track Team State Champions (above) was coached by Nancy Erickson. The team (at left) reunited at Nancy's retirement party: Cindy Eckel, Monika Stickel, Janice Baunach, Kathy Baunach and Dr. Barbara Gertz.



(Continued from page 1)

missed the 2004 Veteran's Day program after a serious accident while helping decorate the gym for the event. Her recuperation was a long one. When she returned to school after a long absence, she was greeted with a surprise homecoming celebration.

Nancy has touched many lives and hearts in her years at Franklin. PTA President Sue Butrico noted how Nancy taught parents to recognize and value each child for their individual strengths. She shared a favorite "Nancy" story, explaining that she was in the office when a mother "was leaving with her son who was whining, complaining and just bouncing off the walls. After they left, everyone rolled their eyes. Miss Erickson said, I really enjoy her children, they are so spirited. She went on to explain how that will translate to success someday. That night, at dinner one of my children presented similar behavior. I was happy to tell my husband not to worry, he's just spirited, and that is a good

thing! My son is still spirited, it has been his greatest strength and it has translated to success in high school."

Two 1976 graduates remember her as their freshman gym/health teacher. They recalled a brief tale of her dancing into the classroom gleefully singing, "We're going to have a test today! We're going to have a test today!" The memory was fondly tucked away in the back of the 1976 year book.

Nancy's sister Maren Mathiesen offered a glimpse into her early years. She said, "All teachers loved Nancy, her enthusiasm, her creativity; she was bright and quick." She was chosen for a special program to finish grades 6-8 in just two years. She took years of piano, ballet, pointe and tap dancing lessons. She was a girl scout from brownies on up to a senior scout. It is not surprising she became a physical education teacher. Her athletic prowess was evident early on. She participated in annual races at school and church, played softball, handball and ice and roller-skating. She attended New Dorp High School in Staten Is-

land where she was a member of the Honor Society, cheerleader captain, yearbook, newspaper and other clubs. She graduated from NY University at Cortland, with a BS in Physical Education and received her MS in Administration and Supervision from Kean University. Nancy taught high school PE in the US Virgin Islands and Manhattan before coming to South Plainfield.

Assistant Superintendent Anthony Massaro said, "Any gains in the physical education program in our district were initiated by her. She was also instrumental in the development of Project Graduation; it is not possible for me to attend Project Graduation without thinking of her. She brought it to us!" He was not exaggerating when he noted that Erickson's contributions to our students and district are lengthy. Her long career in South Plainfield began in 1971 when she was hired as a Physical Education teacher for the high school. She became assistant principal at the high school in February of 1989 and became principal of Franklin in July 1994.

Nancy started both girls' track and field and cross country teams in South Plainfield. She had served as head coach in cross country and track field and was an advisor for varsity cheerleading. Her teams won conference and county championships in cross country and track. In 1982 she

was awarded Mid State Conference Outstanding Coach of the Year for all sports. She was also a guest speaker at NJ American Association of Health, Physical Education Recreation and Dance on several occasions. In 1988 she chaired a committee to raise funds to construct a field hockey field in memory of fellow PE teacher Carol Espinosa. In 1996 she received the Distinguished Service Award from the

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make every day a good one."

Brianna Ross, "Without Miss Erickson here I don't know how all of us would get through this school year. I'm happy she was with me for five years." From Cody Cooke,



"I love Miss Erickson, because when I came to Franklin School she made me have a great feeling like I never had before." Michelle Lesniak, "I have many wonderful memories of Franklin School, one is her 'Welcome Back' ceremony. Four members of the student council got to hold red, white and blue balloons. When Miss Erickson came up to the school we let go of the balloons. ...The balloons may be gone, but a part of me will always stay at Franklin School."

The ceremony concluded with every child and staff member stepping up to the stage to give Erickson a hug. Smiles wavered and tears flowed as they all expressed their love and said farewell to their principal.

ing. She also plans a summer in Arendal, the home of her mother's family as well as visiting Swedish relatives and other parts of Scandinavia. Massaro, a long time friend, said, "Nancy Erickson is the type of person who made those around her better. She has been a great source of guidance to me. To say she is a dear friend and trusted and respected colleague is a major understatement. Her depart-



Nancy Erickson receives good wishes from Franklin School crossing guard Claire Mosier.

South Plainfield Jaycees.

Her sister noted that her retirement plans include pursuing watercolor painting and a return to piano play-

ture is going to leave more than a vacant position. Her departure will leave a vacuum that may not be filled in the immediate future."

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Sports



After many rainouts in the post season, the Ponytail "B" League softball season came to an end on June 16. The Lady Crows, managed by Joe Scrudato, took on the Lady Blue Jays managed by Bob Sanko in the championship game. In an exciting game the Lady Crows defeated the Lady Blue Jays 8-3. Great pitching by Andrea Muglia and Kelly Pauls for the Lady Crows and Liz Gratta for the Lady Blue Jays made this a game to watch. The Lady Blue Jays took a early 3-1 lead after the first inning, but the Lady Crows battled back to take the lead for good in the fourth inning. Members of the Lady Crows included Amanda Auletto, Miranda Black, Heather Calderone, Alexis Cargill, Jesse Doyle, Nicole Daubert, Lainie Harris, Moriah Kunch, Andrea Muglia, Kelly Pauls and Rachel Scrudato. Lady Crows assistant coaches were Billy Hauver and Jerry Harris.

South Plainfield Golf Association Announces 11th South Plainfield Open Golf Tournament

The South Plainfield Golf Association has announced that this year's South Plainfield Open will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 3, at Gambler Ridge Golf Club. This is the 11th annual golf tournament held for the benefit of the South Plainfield High School Golf Team. The tournament this year will be a scramble format.

The entry fee of \$85 includes greens fee, golf cart, prizes, food and beverages. Once again we have been able to

keep the entry fee the same amount. Check-in is at 11 a.m. Lunch will be provided from 12 to 1 p.m. There is a Shotgun start at 1 p.m. Dinner and awards will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Food and beverages will be provided throughout the tournament. Prizes will be awarded for low team score, longest drive, closest to the pin, closest to the line and a special hole-in-one prize.

Registration and payment is due by

July 18. Players are encouraged to sign up early to secure a place in the tournament before all available slots are filled. Players can register for the tournament on-line at the Association's website: www.spga.org or print out and mail their entry forms.

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

For more information about the tournament, sponsorships and entry forms, players can contact Dick DeAndrea at (908) 755-1700, Coach Mike Kavka at (908) 753-6578 or visit the association's web site.

SOCCER TRYOUTS

for the

South Plainfield Blast U15/U16 2005/2006

season will be held on Friday, June 24 from 6-8 p.m. at the soccer fields on Kenneth Ave. Bring shin-guards, cleats and water. No player will be allowed to try out without the proper equipment. For more information, contact Coach Carlos at (908) 917-6733 or Coach Ed at (908) 756-1291.

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Submitted By Bob Nilan

Notes from the South Plainfield Golf League

Plainfield Animal Hospital moved back into first place in the American Division, spearheaded by the fine play of Mark "Mr. Steady" Chichvar, who posted a three-over par 36 to lead his team to an impressive 16-4 win over Patti's Construction.

The Keith Steele of PAH ably assisted with a 39, while Mike Behr's 41 was the low score for Patti's, who have now dropped six out of seven matches.

The amazing Marty Van De Vaerst missed a few putts along the way, but his 38 was good enough to give Pronovets a 14-6 victory over Twin City to help his team climb into second place. Frank Capparelli of Twin City had a rare lapse on the first hole when he topped his tee shot and scrambled for a double bogey, but he then quickly got his act together and played even-par for the rest of the round to finish with a sparkling two-over 35.

Danny Griffin's superb one-over 34, combined with Al Szumski's 39, gave Masters a 14½-5½ win over KC's Korner to knock them out of first place. Dan Conti earned medalist honors for KC's Korner with a 39.

Fred Kirchofer of Aiello Chiropractic not only has his Rattlesnake driver working well for him, but all his chipping and putting practice sessions are also paying off as he tied Danny Griffin for medalist honors for the night with a fine one-over par 34 to lead his team to a 13-7 victory over the South Plainfield Elks. Last season's Player-of-the-Year, Ed Ba-

nach, fired another terrific round with a 35 as Aiello moved back into sole possession of first place in the National Division. Jeff Orth of the Elks had the low round for his team with a 40.

Sport & Social hammered Witty's, 19-1, as the low-handicap golfers for Witty's were really off their games. Capt. Frank Mathews and Dennis Bibby of Sport & Social shared medalist honors with a pair of 41's, while Jim Parker had a 39 for Witty's who dropped into a tie for second place with the Elks.

Todd Sherman and Jeremy Szoc both had solid three-over par rounds of 36 as the Hackers breezed by the VFW, 16-4. Bill Mann chipped in with a 39 for the Hackers, who now seem primed to make a surge in the second-half of the season. Bob Nilan had a 42 for the VFW.

At the halfway point in the individual competition for Player of the Year in 2005, Ed Banach and Danny Griffin both sport handicaps and four other players have three-handicaps: Howard Adier, Mike Behr, Kevin Bickunas and Todd Sherman.

Jeff Johnson of Masters won the closest-to-the-pin competition on the third hole, and Fred Kirchofer earned the KC's Korner luncheon-for-two award with a splendid tee shot on the fifth hole.

Low Scores for the Night: Danny Griffin, 34; Fred Kirchofer, 34; Ed Banach, 35; Frank Capparelli, 35; Mark Chichvar, 36; Todd Sherman, 36 and Jeremy Szoc, 36.

LEAGUE STANDINGS:

American Division				National Division			
	W	L	T		W	L	T
PAH	3	2	2	Aiello	6	1	0
Pronovets	3	3	1	Elk's	5	2	0
KC's Korner	3	3	1	Witty's	5	2	0
Twin City	3	4	0	Sport & Social	3	2	2
Masters	3	4	0	Hackers	2	4	1
Patti's	1	6	0	VFW	1	5	1

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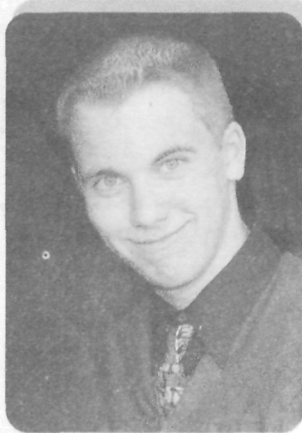
Weekend Schedule: Saturday evenings 5:30pm
Sunday mornings 8am and 11am

Congratulations
Joe Grennier on your
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South Plainfield
Middle School!

Good luck
in high school!
Love, Grandpa and Grandma

2005

GRADUATION



Talented Students Shine at Kennedy and Riley Spring Concerts



Riley Elementary School held their annual Spring Concert and Art Show last month. The third and fourth grade classes participated in a variety of musical genre.

The evening began with the third grade classes playing a recorder ensemble. Fourth graders delighted everyone square dancing. The string ensemble played *Serenade*, *March Royal*, *Surprise Symphony*, *The Happy Go Lucky Jumping Bean* and *Folk Dance* directed by Carleen Tedeschi. The school band played *Yankee Doodle*, *Sweetly Sings the Donkey*, *Theme by Beethoven* and *Marine's Hymn* and was directed by Kristen Gennings.

For the finale, the chorus, under the direction of Joanne Gurske, presented Give Thanks; A Musical Celebration of Life's Many Joys! by Jill and Michael Gallina. Students narrated songs including *Give Thanks*, *Simple Things*, *The Land of Opportunity*, *There's Nothing Like Family*, *I would Like to be Your Friend* and *We are the Future*.

Afterwards, parents and guests were invited to roam the hallways which were decorated with artwork from all of the classes.

Kennedy School's Spring Concert and Art Exhibit last month featured a string ensemble, the school band and chorus.

The string ensemble, conducted by Carleen Tedeschi, was accompanied on piano by Barbara Habeeb. The third and fourth graders played *Serenade*, *March Royal*, *The Happy Go Lucky Jumping Bean* and *Folk Dance*. Kristen Gennings conducted the band, made up of fourth grade students, who played *Yankee Doodle*, *Sweetly Sings the Donkey*, *Marine's Hymn* and *Theme by Beethoven*.

The school chorus was directed by Barbara Habeeb and accompanied on piano by Carleen Tedeschi. The master of ceremonies was fourth grader Alex Dornick, who introduced the songs for the evening including *We Are the Children*, *Get on Board This Train*, *Jada* and *Side by Side*. Fourth grader Gina Louise accompanied the chorus on the cabasa to the song *Get on Board this Train*.

Teachers Barbara Harris, Glenda Posey and Mary Ellen Kopf help put together an art display of students works in the hallways for everyone to view.

Obituaries

Ella Marjorie (Briggs) Tillou, 91

Ella Marjorie Tillou (nee Briggs) died Sunday, June 12 at Green Brook Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Greenbrook.

She was born May 23, 1914 in Muskegon, Michigan. Most of her life was spent in South Plainfield. She enjoyed canning and needlecraft work, continuing a long family tradition.

While her son was growing up, she served as den mother for his scout troop. She and her husband enjoyed visiting the seashore, the lakes of New England and the casinos of Las Vegas. She worked for the League of Women Voters and in recent years participated in swimming classes at the Metuchen YMCA.

She was predeceased by her husband Stanley, and three months ago by her only son, Glenn A. Tillou, Clark Superintendent of Schools. She leaves behind her nephews Robert and Donald Briggs and her nieces Joan Anderson and Yvonne Kohrheir, as well as daughter-in-law Sharon Kehrer Tillou.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Clark Education Association Scholarship Fund, c/o Clark Board of Education, 365 Westfield Ave., Clark NJ 07066 or to the Friends of Rutgers Gardens c/o Cook College, 112 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

Lenore Piscitelli, 51

Lenore Piscitelli died suddenly on Sunday, June 19 at her home.

Born in Elizabeth, she grew up and had resided in Roselle before settling to South Plainfield eighteen years ago.

Mrs. Piscitelli had been employed as a legal secretary for Virginia Barrett, Esq. of Barrett, Lazar and Lincoln in Maywood, NJ for the past ten years.

She was a member of the Ladies' Committee of the South Plainfield American Legion Chaumont Post #243.

Surviving are her husband, David A. Piscitelli; a daughter, Noelle Piscitelli of Westfield; her mother, Sophie Silika of South Plainfield and two brothers Raymond and Thomas Silika, both of Maine.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her

memory may be made to the Plainfield Animal Shelter, 75 Rock Ave., Plainfield, NJ 07060 or the American Cancer Society, PO Box 102454, Atlanta, GA 30368-2454.

Denise A. Crianza, 39

Denise A. Crianza died on Sunday, June 19 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in New York City, she had been a lifelong resident of Edison.

Denise had a love for children and animals. Her nurturing personality led her to become the head teacher at the New Friends Day Care in Edison, where she had been employed for the past several years.

She is predeceased by her beloved father, Robert Crianza, and her mother, Constance Crianza.

Surviving are her fiancé, Tony Kosciuk, and her son, James Carney, both of Edison; her sister, Joanne Karkick; her brother, Robert Crianza; her aunt, Dorothy Kelly and family, and a host of nieces, nephews, godchildren and friends.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

In Loving Remembrance



Geneva Dunn

10th Anniversary-June 6, 1995

Ten years have passed since you were called home, and with each and every day that special part of my heart is left alone.

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Mom my children could get.

Thanking you and missing you all the rest of my life.

Your loving daughter, Sheila

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GREAT Program Graduates #1 Class



First GREAT graduating seventh grade class.

(Continued from page 1)
it into the summer recreation Junior Police Academy program.
"There is occasional transient gang presence in South Plainfield, based on intelligence and graffiti indicative of gang activity. We do not have a gang problem, however with this program we are taking measures to prevent it," stated Chief Ferraro.



GREAT Program teacher South Plainfield Police Det. Gene Bataille.

"Next year the program will be 10 weeks, which will fit into the curriculum at the middle school. It will be taught twice a year so as to reach all the seventh graders. This program does not teach about gangs. It gives the students tools they can use to reject participation when they are invited

to join in gang activity. It teaches them different skills such as verbal and non-verbal communication, conflict resolution and other life skills," commented Bataille.
2005 GREAT graduates are: James Cocco, Amanda Freitas, Philip Longo, Luis Valladares, Filipe Rodrigues, Katyah Gisson, Chelsie Melendez, Richie Szeliga, Corey Hay, Kristopher Baker, Jasphe Dimayugo, Joshua Boodram, Jennifer Gallogos, Cassie Capparelli, Morgan Berthea, Alisa Calderone, Donna Rice and Ryan Flanagan.

Kyle Kaczka, Brian Palma, Tommy Loalbo, Richard Hogan, Stephen Acosta, Johnny Virutias, Andre Williams, Raza Shafgat, Bianca DiDolce, Brittany Pasquarella, Mike Pryor, Christian Leguizamon, Sheena Higgins, Matt Franzon, Christopher Marone, Kimmy Le, Mahar Khan, Jenae Kieth, Matt Galinsky, Anun'ra Archibald, Nich Heilmann, Mike Guarraci, Alyssa Pileggi, Ashly Aya, Carla Scala, Katie Reins, Jessica Olah, Elizabeth Fasullo, Michael Farrell, Zack Bisbara, Jerry Squier and Seth Yocum.
Iyanosa Ogeboen, Matthew Cooper, Nicole Herrador, Jasmin Vest, Julie Stilo, Briana Williams, Nick Smith, Tom Zazzara, John Duran, Samun Chan, Brittany Alvarado, Megan Cerini, Laurie Ascencio, Jake Butynski, Freddy Almanazar, Kathy

Douglas, Joey Vedutis, Kristy Ray, Kristina Palazzo, Matt Miceli, Elizabeth Martin, Christian Lee, Evelyn Lopez, Trang Doan, Danielle Campanella, Amanda Fritze and Steve Kovalevich.
Bria Edmonds, Tobeche Alemczohu, Kyle Junge, Charles Merryman, Chris Hoagland, Brittany Williams, Frank DeBiase, Stephen Alvear, Moica Toca, Devin Evans, Daniel Lang, Scot Bishop, Gary Ferguson, Angel Sarmiento, Ashley Pierce, Kevin Coffey, Kenny Moncado, Billy Bori, Alyia Hollis, Lea Hafner, Linda Colocho, Felicia Mulbearn, Nicole Slatky, Rudacia Thomas, Kaitlin McKay and Samiah Greene.

Kishan Patel, Katie Morgan, Jacqi Mascolo, Juliana Agrillo, Kevin Smith, Samantha Maiorino, Jennifer McClary, Mike Jefferys, Jayce Lombardi, Dharan Soni, Jamie Handwerker, Megan Kerper, Melissa White, Jessica Napolitano, Michael Carrion, Dorsey Britton, Kelly Kline, Courtney Irber, Arham Jain, Alana Franco, Francis Delgado, Melissa Loiacono, Carlos Ruiz, Nina Trujillo, Gagan Dhalwal, Fanuel Uacia, Tareek Watkins, Chanelle O'Neal and Lee Stranzebach.

Vroom to Take Tweeds Spot

(Continued from page 1)
mously to hire Vroom. Board President Mike English was the only Board member to make a comment, saying that the Board was only following the recommendation of the Superintendent. No explanation was given publicly on why Tweed was not rehired, saying they could not discuss personnel information. English meet with the music students and band members the day before the Board meeting to assure them there would still be a band camp and to answer as many questions as he was able about the situation.
The members of the audience were far from satisfied with that explanation and many expressed their frustration with the fact the board would or could not discuss the reasons for not reappointing Tweed to the high school.

After the vote, some students were openly crying and those that spoke could only express their deep disappointment and anger with the Board's decision.
The Board once again confirmed that there will be a band camp this summer.
Other appointments announced by the Board were naming Steven Novak as principal of the Middle School, he had been assistant principal at the high school. Frances Sills was appointed Interim Franklin School Principal through Dec. 23 at a cost of \$500 per day, without benefits. Kelly Panuzzo, who was assistant principal at the high school will become Middle School assistant principal and Al Czech, who was principal of the Middle School has been named principal at Riley School.

"Keep Kids Alive, Drive 25"

(Continued from page 1)
used as cut-through streets to avoid traffic signals or congestion. Traffic enforcement will also be increased throughout the Borough, targeting speeding violators.
The campaign has proven to be highly successful throughout other

states. The campaign is part of the South Plainfield Police Department's continuing effort to provide a safer Borough by raising the awareness of speed limits throughout neighborhoods where our children play and pedestrians walk. For more information, go to www.keepkidsalive.org.

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD Public Notice RETURN OF PERFORMANCE BOND

To JoAnn and Anthony Zelek for public improvements at 107 West Ave. in South Plainfield, Block 429, Lot 7. A public meeting has been scheduled by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield to hear objections, if any, to the release of a Performance Bond posted by JoAnn and Anthony Zelek for public improvements at 107 West Ave. in South Plainfield known as Lot 7, Block 429 listed on the official tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 12, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.
JoAnn and Anthony Zelek
1501 Peek St.
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

\$35.00 June 24, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Cindy Kane/Windfall Inc. requesting a temporary use permit from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a temporary storage trailer; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 417 Hamilton Blvd. on Block 256, Lots 6 and 7 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, July 14, 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 June 17, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY, THAT:
WHEREAS the Borough is exploring the feasibility of extending New Market Avenue as to alleviate truck traffic off of the residential sections of the Borough; and
WHEREAS the Borough has received a proposal from PMK Group to perform said feasibility study, including determining the best alignment of the roadway and identifying the potential necessary property acquisitions, at a cost not to exceed \$42,300.00; and
WHEREAS this contract is being awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Services" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1) (a); and
WHEREAS funds have been certified by the Chief Financial Officer and are available in the Capital Improvement Fund, account # C-04-55-861-000-901;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield that authorization is hereby given to enter into a professional services contract with PMK Group to perform a feasibility study for the extension of New Market Avenue at a cost not to exceed \$42,300.00.
ATTEST: Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$38.5 June 24, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE No. 1704

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

Ordinance #1704 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CH. 48 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED: "POLICE DEPARTMENT" was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Tuesday, June 21, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$22.75 June 10, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE No. 1705

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

Ordinance #1705 entitled: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES REGARDING THE PLACEMENT, REPLACEMENT OR REMOVAL OF PUBLIC UTILITY POLES OR UNDERGROUND FACILITIES was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Tuesday, June 21, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$22.75 June 10, 2005

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police report

- On June 7 a Day St. resident reported that their vehicle had a yellow circle spray painted around the gas tank while parked at Franklin School.
- On June 8 Jarbin H. Martinez, 36, of Plainfield was arrested for having an uninsured vehicle and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.
- The owner of Alutok Amusements reported the theft of a pirate mannequin from the fairgrounds at Our Lady of Czestochowa.
- A Ledden Terr. resident reported the theft of a portable DVD player from her vehicle that was parked near Kohl's.
- On June 9 a Bergen St. resident reported that the liner to their pool had been cut.
- On June 10 Damitrea Annette Ross, 23, of Plainfield was arrested for

- driving on a suspended license, expired inspection sticker, expired insurance and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.
- A Plainfield resident reported the theft of a bank envelope containing \$2,000 which was on a counter at Bravo Supermarket.
- A Mahar Ave. resident reported that their windshield and rear window had been shattered by large asphalt rocks.
- A Delmore Ave. resident reported that the initials "GD" had been written in marker on the drivers side door of their vehicle.
- On June 11 Tray A. Austin, 22, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated, driving on a suspended license, fictitious plated, care-

- less driving and speeding at a motor vehicle stop.
- An Eleanor St. resident reported the theft of a cell phone from her pocketbook that was left at the entrance to a ride at the OLC fair.
- An Elliott Pl. resident reported that their mailbox had been shattered by a large firecracker.
- On June 12 Jameelah E. Connelly, 22, of Plainfield was arrested for operating a vehicle without a license in possession, hindering apprehension by providing false information and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.
- On June 13 a New Market Ave. resident reported that someone had attempted to open their front door with a pry tool.

PAL Softball Tourney to Benefit Four-Year-Old Boy

Proceeds from this year's South Plainfield Police Athletic League Fourth Annual Charity Softball Tournament will go to a medical fund for four year-old Kevin Conroy, a Ukrainian orphan adopted by Tom and Diane Conroy of South Plainfield.

The Conroys went to the Ukraine three years ago with the intention of adopting a seven year-old girl. When they reached the orphanage they laid eyes on an 18-month-old boy who not only weighed just 12 pounds, but who stole their heart too. Unfortunately, he was born with disabilities, such as a cleft lip and palate, which they knew would require years of surgeries.

Since his adoption, Kevin has had six surgeries performed to correct his cleft lip and palate, and he will need three more to complete the process.

He currently receives speech therapy at St. Barnabus Hospital in Livingston, and because of his small stature, takes growth hormone shots. He currently attends preschool through the South Plainfield Adult School Sunshine program.

The softball tournament will take place on July 16, at 8 a.m. at the SPSHS baseball fields on Lake St. Rain date is July 23. The Open Division is limited to 16 teams and the Charitable Division is limited to the first 10 teams.

Teams may register by contacting Det. Gary Cassio at (908) 226-7663, Det. Chris Colucci at (908) 226-7662 or the PAL at (908) 226-7714. This event is being co-sponsored by the South Plainfield Elks. All proceeds will go towards the Kevin Conroy Fund for medical expenses.

IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

few Board meetings, I have come to realize that they have their own agendas and after seeing what happened at the last meeting, it is apparent that they are not representing the majority, but the minority. After the last person spoke with their plea to keep Tweed at the high school, the Board adjourned into an executive meeting. Upon their return, they proceeded to quickly approve every item on the agenda. This was done so rapidly that the students and some parents did not even realize until the public portion of the meeting, when a parent got up to tell the students that the new band director was hired and Tweed was reassigned. The students, parents, and alumni were stunned and very upset that the Board of Education had not even considered anything they were saying. I was also very unhappy that the union rep from the high school did not say anything until it was all approved and then she got up and wished Tweed good luck in his new position. (Could this have anything to do with the fact that the high school union rep is married to the Assistant Superintendent of Schools?) The president of the South Plainfield Teachers Association did get up in the beginning, but only to ask if all the band activities in the high school would remain the same. The union never asked for reasons behind the transfer and they never asked for the item to be tabled or looked into.

I am a lifelong resident of South Plainfield and both of my children graduated from South Plainfield High School. They were both involved in all areas of the music program from the time they were in third grade. They both had the honor and privilege of being in the high school instrumental program under the direction of Tweed. The students, faculty and staff at Grant School are gaining an excellent teacher. Tweed has a real passion for what he does. I am thankful that both my children have graduated and are no longer a part of a school system which has a central administration that does not take into consideration what the majority of the people want. South Plainfield has excellent teachers who are always going above and beyond what is expected of them. Isn't it time that they have a central administration that is worthy of them?

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