

Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

JULY 29, 2005

Update on **CAUTION: UNDER CONSTRUCTION** Borough Construction

Construction work has started on Hamilton Blvd. between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. in the area of Ryan St. and St. Nicholas Ave. Please take note of the alternate routes which are listed below.

American Water Company has stopped work on Hamilton Blvd. until Aug. 8.

Construction has also started on Maple Ave. between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. At this time, the curbs and sidewalks will be replaced and traffic will flow in both directions during the construction at all times.

All local businesses on Hamilton Blvd. will remain open during the construction period.

Should you have any questions, please call Borough Administrator Vincent Buttiglieri at (908) 226-7606 or Construction Coordinator Michael Zushma at (908) 753-3775.

Alternate Route to Avoid Hamil-

ton Boulevard for Passenger Cars

Going to Route 287, Route 27 or New Durham Road—Turn right onto Park Ave., at second traffic light, turn right onto Tallmadge Rd., at the second traffic light is New Durham Rd. and then go straight to routes 287 or 27.

If traveling to Oak Tree Rd., Plainfield or Rt. 22—Turn left onto Park Ave.

Alternate Route to Avoid Hamilton Boulevard for Truck Traffic

From Interstate Route 287, Exit 5 Stelton Rd.—Going south, turn left onto Stelton Rd. or going north, turn right onto Stelton Rd.

Turn right onto New Brunswick Ave., turn right onto New Market Ave., at end turn left onto Hamilton Blvd., go to traffic light and turn right onto Maple Ave., at first traffic light, turn right onto Front St., take Front St. over railroad tracks to Metuchen Rd.



Kevin Conroy with PAL Tournament winners, Universal Nutrition.

PAL Tournament Raises Over 6K

By Patricia Abbott

On July 16 twenty-four softball teams gathered on fields across town for the fourth annual South Plainfield PAL Softball Tournament. This year's event was a benefit for Kevin Conroy, son of Diane and Tom Conroy. Kevin, who is almost five years old, needs ongoing surgeries for a cleft lip and palate.

Playoffs continued throughout the afternoon. Winners moved on to the next game, while those less fortunate

were comforted with the knowledge they had donated to a worthy cause. It was late afternoon before the last two teams faced off, Bada Bing! from Sal's Spirit Shoppe and Universal Nutrition from New Brunswick. After two fiercely competitive games, Universal Nutrition emerged the victors with a 12-3 win.

Spectators enjoyed a variety of picnic fare. The food was donated by Hall's Freight, rolls by Frichoffers, (Continued on page 6)



Kevin Conroy with parents Diane and Tom



The South Plainfield High School Junior Varsity Softball Team finishes 23-0.

SPHS JV Softball Team Makes School History

The South Plainfield High School Junior Varsity Softball Team completed their 2005 season, finishing with a perfect 23-0 record. According to school officials, this undefeated season was the first by a JV team in school history.

The Tigers capped their perfect season by defeating South Brunswick 6-2 in the GMC JV Tournament Championship. Jackie Miller and Stephanie Szeliga led the offense by going a combined 5 for 6, and Jennifer Little gave up only two runs in seven innings while striking out 10 batters.

South Plainfield showed that they could beat teams in many different ways during the season. In total, they outscored their opponents 228-25.

They also won four games by only one run, including a 3-2 win over Old Bridge and a 1-0 win over Edison in the GMC Tournament.

The season was special for first-year Coach Brian Figueiredo because the girls showed unbelievable commitment to the program, and with only ten girls on the team, none of that success would have been possible.

The girls on the team are: Jackie Miller (1B), Jessica Ross (2B), Kim Arki (3B), Stephanie Szeliga (SS), Lauren Primavera (OF), Christina Schuetz (OF), Rebecca Dacheille (OF), Jeanette Gorman (OF), Jennifer Little (P) and Kate Reichert (C).

Congratulations to the entire team on a great season!

Asst. Superintendent Resigns Anthony Massaro to return on interim basis

By Libby Barsky

In January 2004 Anthony Massaro cleaned out his principal's desk at South Plainfield High School and moved to the Administration Building to start his new position as assistant superintendent of schools.

On July 5 of this year Massaro addressed his resignation letter to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado and all nine school board members informing them of his intent to retire. "It is with decidedly mixed emotions that I am sending this letter... serving as notification of my intent to retire as an employee of the South Plainfield Board of Education effective at the end of September 2005," Massaro wrote.

The board voted to approve Massaro's resignation at its regular meeting July 19.

Massaro started teaching in the district in 1969 when classes were held in split session before the current high school was built. For 16 years he taught as a high school social studies teacher before becoming an administrator and principal at Roosevelt School, the middle school and the



Anthony Massaro

high school.

"He was my football coach and my mentor," recalled Board Member Pio Pennisi. Board Member Sue Peck recalled that when she came to events at South Plainfield High School, she felt an enthusiasm not seen before at other schools and noted many students were crying at the SPHS graduation ceremony because they didn't want to leave South Plainfield High School. "I don't want him to

go. It'll be a great loss to the school system," said Peck who reluctantly voted for the resignation.

But it's doubtful that Massaro will be cleaning out his desk at the end of September, because after four months, he will be return in February as interim assistant superintendent.

"This saves the board money," said Board Member Carol Byrne. "During the period that he is gone Dr. Rosado will handle what he does. When he returns as an "interim" administrator (at \$500 a day) he has no benefits and we can work out the rest of next year's budget. This is the same situation for the principal of Franklin School. Frances Sills will be the "interim" principal and Nancy Erickson will return as an "interim" principal. It gives us extra time to look for a replacement," said Byrne.

Another resignation was that of Kenneth Van Kleef as central registrar/residency-in-town enforcement officer. That position was created when the board needed an officer to expose and expel students who attended South Plainfield schools but did not live in the district. Van

(Continued on page 12)

Mark Your Calendars Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest meeting agenda

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
August 9	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
September 6	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
September 20	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.

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

planning board

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

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

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

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. Aug. 9, Sept. 13,

Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13, Jan. 10, 2006, Feb. 14, March 14 and March 28.

Regular Board Meeting Tuesdays at 8 p.m. Aug. 16, Sept. 20,

Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20, Jan. 17, 2006, Feb. 21, March 21 and April 4.

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.

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

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

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.

August 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, Dec. 19, Jan. 23, Feb. and March 20.

board of education curriculum/technology meetings

Meets once a month on Mondays, (except where noted) at 6:30 p.m. at Roosevelt

Administration Building on Jackson Ave. Work session. No public comment

Tuesday, Aug. 1, Tuesday, Sept. 6, Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5, Jan. 2, Feb. 6, March 6 and April 3.

Dear Editor:

As your Mayor, I constantly struggle with the need to provide services that will keep South Plainfield the great borough that it is while at the same time keep property taxes under control. That goal is complicated when emergencies arise which were not anticipated in the annual budget. Two such events occurred within the last month. We are in the process of constructing a new building behind Borough Hall to enhance our police services, particularly in the area of juvenile justice. It was expected that the cost of construction would be totally offset through the use of drug forfeiture funds, which have been accumulated by the police department over the years. When the project went out to bid, we discovered that an additional \$50,000 was needed to award the contract. Police Chief John Ferraro and I met with our hometown Assemblyman, Patrick Diegnan, and asked for his assistance.

A few days after this meeting, our police department was notified that all of the bulletproof vests used by our officers were potentially defective and that the company that provided them had declared bankruptcy. The cost of replacement was approximately \$18,000, which also was not anticipated in the borough budget. Again the Chief and I reached out to Assemblyman Diegnan for help.

In both instances Assemblyman Diegnan came through for our residents. He met with Governor Codey's Assistant Chief of Staff and convinced him of the need for a \$50,000 grant for the police building. He also proved the need to the Attorney General's office and we have been informed that South Plainfield will receive a grant to cover the cost of the bulletproof vests.

These are just two of the most recent occasions when our hometown Assemblyman has come to bat for South Plainfield. Although both of these involve public safety, Assemblyman Diegnan's efforts haven't stopped there. Just last month we were informed that we will be awarded \$50,000 under a state livable community grant to build a footbridge over the brook which separates the fireman's memorial from the veteran's memorial on Plainfield Avenue. We will now be able to complete our vision of a memorial walk, which will connect the memorials in a beautiful, reflective walk with benches. Last winter, Assemblyman Diegnan obtained \$200,000 in grant money to cover the cost of decorative lighting along the

newly reconstructed Hamilton Boulevard. He is also pursuing a grant for historic looking street signs. He obtained over \$200,000 in grant money for the new sidewalks and curbs on Maple Avenue. Our state-of-the-art computer assisted dispatch center at the police station, which cost \$600,000 was totally paid for with a safe and secure communities grant through the efforts of our Assemblyman. Only through his efforts were we able to receive a grant of \$1 million from the D.E.P. to clean up Veteran's Park. In fact, Commissioner Campbell personally delivered the check to Assemblyman Diegnan and me at a ceremony at the park.

All of this is in addition to the efforts that our Assemblyman has made on behalf of the South Plainfield school district. There would not be a Future Stars Program if not for the law authored by Assemblyman Diegnan, which literally saved the pre-school program. Our Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Rosado, called Assemblyman Diegnan's actions "miraculous" and he said he never dreamed that the district would receive the approximately \$230,000 in funding which was a direct result of the Assemblyman's intervention with the state treasurer.

I was always taught to never forget to say "thank you" when someone does something nice for you. On behalf of all of the residents of South Plainfield... "Thank you Assemblyman Diegnan."

MAYOR DANIEL GALLAGHER

To the Editor,

I would at this time like to thank our past and present School Board members. And let's not forget past Business Administrator Edward Izbic, for his part of our \$1 million shortfall. Also, past President Pio Pennisi, also a member of the BOE; Louise Mruz, president of the Teachers' Union; Daniel Smith, chairman of the Negotiation Committee, in which all contributed to unprofessional actions being taken pertaining to citizens' tax money - which they stated as "mismanagement of funds." Thanks also go out to Dr. Rosado for accepting two raises awarded to him for a job well done (?). What did he do?

Taxpayers have always believed that board members were in office to respond to issues that have a serious bearing upon citizens they represent, especially the younger generation. The last BOE budget and election enlightened me, as did the action taken by the Teachers' Union. Having teachers calling parents' homes encouraging

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.

them to vote for the budget! Encouraged by the teachers' union president-unprofessional acts against taxpayers have been shown when teachers go out of their way to pressure parents on how to vote. (Apparently they forgot to mention the budget was for their professional gain.) The union broke every violation of the election process. These are the educators of the young generation?

This budget cost taxpayers dearly. Let's not forget that there are citizens on fixed income. They are the people who built this community. Meanwhile, there are retired staff members being retired as interim staff members (while collecting "retirement funds") for a salary as much as \$500 a day. And we are still paying \$500 a day for the business administrator.

Our board has yet to find anyone qualified for this job. Perhaps to explain why, we can paraphrase our mayor: "This is a Dunkin' Donuts community, not a Starbucks community."

I would feel better about my tax increase, though, if the monies were used for air conditioning, upgrading textbooks, or increased educational programs. When parents have to send their children to school with Kleenex, paper cups and other school supplies, there is a message being sent out.

With the actions being taken by the Teachers' Union and monies being called "mismanagement of funds," nobody is taking taxpayers seriously about their feelings. I urge board members: there should be NO negotiations, advise the teachers' union that they mistled parents and no raises and then start to request givebacks on their prescription and health benefits. Also, new teachers or employees starting new jobs with the Board should not have full benefits.

Maybe starting to reduce school taxes for taxpayers would be in order. Let's not forget the young generation did not benefit by this present or past tax increase. Let's not forget: isn't it YOUR money that's being spent?

JAKE CATALDO

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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

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: spobserver@comcast.net or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer. All letters must be submitted with name and phone number, for verification.

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SDW's Pajama Game Production Promises to Deliver

By Michael Duquette

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop (SDW) is hard at work in their 34th season, presently tackling Richard Adler and Jerry Ross' *The Pajama Game*. This spirited musical, famously made into a 1957 film starring Doris Day, tells the tale of a romance between the leaders of rival camps engaged in a wage dispute of seven-and-a-half cents at the Sleep-Tite Pajama Factory.

For a production of such magnitude, boasting a cast of over ninety kids ranging from middle school to college ages, *The Pajama Game*, like most SDW shows before it, seems quite a task. However, the talent of the students involved has been proven time after time, and the kids have eagerly been practicing night after night and promoting around town. Two weeks ago, they could be seen canning at various local businesses and they sang the national anthem at a Somerset Patriots game on July 16. Additionally, the ambitious group of adults that help these kids perform for their audiences help add up to what promises to be a treat for South Plainfielders.

Eric Hafen, a Morristown native who has directed in South Plainfield with SDW's *42nd Street* in 2000 and has returned to direct every show since *Footloose* in 2002, has returned to lend his directorial abilities to *The Pajama Game*. He expressed a lot of excitement over directing this particular show. He said that *The Pajama Game* is "a fun story that these students can grab a hold of right away," somewhat of a departure from dance-heavy productions like *42nd Street* and *Footloose*, or musicals rooted deeply in theater traditions, such as Gershwin's *Crazy for You* (2003) or Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Two Children's Programs at Library

The South Plainfield Library will host two special children's programs, "Dinosaurs and Fossils" on Monday, Aug. 1 and "Mammal Mania" on Wednesday, Aug. 10 both at 6:30 p.m.

"Dinosaurs and Fossils" will focus on facts and theories about dinosaurs using actual fossils and replicas. This program is for children ages eight and over. "Mammal Mania", a program for children ages four and over, will look at mammals from all over the world, including behaviors, habitats and relationships with humans. Both programs are presented free of charge, but pre-registration is requested.

Each program is presented by Snakes-N-Scales and Turtle Tales, a New Jersey-based company which presents environmental education programs for people of all ages, in conjunction with "Be a Reader-saurus", South Plainfield Library's Summer Reading Program.

For more information, please call (908) 754-7885 or visit the Library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. You may also visit the Snakes-N-Scales and Turtle Tales website at www.snakes-n-scales.com.

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(2004). Hafen adds that the cast helps contribute to the success. "This cast," he says, "is probably second to [the cast of] *42nd Street*. They've made [*The Pajama Game*] their own in a short period of time."

Vocal direction is being supervised by South Orange native Thomas Langmaack, a middle school music teacher who has worked extensively with WYACT (the Westfield Young Actors Cooperative Theatre), a group that has performed at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. As a first-time member of SDW, Langmaack cited his enjoyment of working with talented young people as a positive aspect of being involved with this show. "I like watching kids learn skills and going from being anxious... to getting their skills." Although the wide range of skills and maturity levels may appear daunting to some, Langmaack is unfazed. "Being a teacher for a number of years, I have my tricks."

Emma Fulton, a Kean University student and longtime SDW veteran who served as intern to choreographer Patti O'Brien last season, takes over full duties as dance instructor this season. She says the transition is "exciting... a big load on me, but I'm ready to do it." She adds that coming back to instruct people she has known and befriended over the years is not as much of a challenge as one would suspect. Things are quite the opposite, according to Fulton: "I know them so well that they respect me and respond very well to my direction."

The ambition of the SDW is to not only put on a great show, but also to educate prospective actors, directors, stagehands, and musicians is evident in the successful workshop programs, implemented last season



A tense moment with Sid Sorokin (Adam Tamzoke), SleepTite Pajama factory's new superintendent, and Babe Williams (Marianne McBride), leader of the Union Grievance Committee. —Photo by Patricia Abbott

and coming back this year. Each week, students learn about all the basics of drama – choreography, the duties of a director, stage presence, props, and much more.

"The idea of the workshops is to allow each student to experience all parts of the theater," said Bill Mott, president of the workshop. He further added that the education "[has] encouraged some to change what they do" – for example, actors working on stage crew and vice versa – "partially because of the experience with the workshops."

Education does not end there, though. SDW encourages college students who are too old to participate onstage to serve as interns and learn the craft of theater firsthand. This year, Christopher Baron and David Garatino, two individuals well-known to theatergoers for their captivating past performances, are serving as interns to the director and vocal director, respectively. David says that serving as an intern is "a nice opportunity to come back. It just shows what a great program [SDW] is. You get the theater experience... with people you've come to know and care about over the years."

Chris asserts that an intern's job is

more than being sent for random tasks. The Rutgers University student has actually been given several scenes to work with, thereby giving him the opportunity to, he says, "focus on one particular aspect [of theater] and try some things on my own." Hafen is just as excited to have his former stars come back. "That's a process I've been hoping to do for years," he says. "It continues the whole concept of education."

Clearly, the ambitions of all involved will culminate into a production to remember. Be sure to catch *The Pajama Game* when it opens at South Plainfield High School on August 4 at 7 p.m. The show will run August 5 and 6 at 7 p.m. and August 6 at 2 p.m. Tickets will be sold at \$10 for adults and \$8 for children.

"Senior Freeze" Property Tax Relief Is On Its Way!

The Division of Taxation has begun mailing the 2004 Senior Freeze (Property Tax Reimbursement) checks. The Division has until September 1 to issue checks for applicants who filed between May 1 and June 1, 2005. Reimbursement for applicants who file between June 1 and August 15, 2005 will be issued as quickly as possible. The deadline to file your PTR forms is August 15, 2005.

To qualify for reimbursement, you

must be 65 years or older, have been a resident of New Jersey for the past ten years or longer, own your own home for at least three years, have paid your 2002, 2003, and 2004 property taxes; and have a maximum income of \$40,869 if single or \$50,113 for couples.

If you have not filed a Property Tax Reimbursement application, you can contact the South Plainfield Office on Aging at (908) 754-1047 for assistance.

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Around Town

Girl Scout Troop 431 Book Exchange

Through August 25

Girl Scout Troop 431 is holding a Book Collection and Exchange as their silver award project. They are looking for required summer reading books for grades 1-12 including Battle Books. Come and bring the books you've read or look for books you'd like to read.

The drive will be held every Monday and Thursday through Aug. 25 from 5-7 p.m. at the Administration Building on Jackson Ave. Donations of all books can be left at the drop off box at the building throughout the summer. The remaining books will be donated to the libraries of our schools and the South Plainfield Public Library.

Rainbow Academy Plans Open House

July 30

Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an Open House on Saturday, July 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rainbow Academy offers a variety of programs to fit your child's needs, from ages six weeks to eight years.

You are also invited to visit the center for a tour during normal operating hours. For directions and information, visit: rainbowacademy.com.

American Legion Annual Picnic

July 30

The American Legion Chaumont Post #243 will hold its annual picnic on Saturday, July 30 from 2-7 p.m. The cost of admission is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Infants are free.

Pitchers/Catchers Camp at PAL

August 1-5

Baseball Services is holding a Pitchers/Catchers Camp at the PAL Building from August 1-5 from 8:45 a.m. to 12 p.m. Players between ages 7-17 may enroll. The cost to participate is \$100, which includes instruction, insurance, and a camp t-shirt.

SDW Presents The Pajama Game

Aug. 4, 5, 6, 7

South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop will present *The Pajama Game* on Aug. 4, 5, 6 at 7 p.m. and Aug. 7 at 2 p.m. in the air conditioned auditorium at the high school. Tickets prices are: adults \$10 and seniors and children \$8.

For info call (908) 561-5255.

First Baptist Goliath's Circus Spectacular

August 8-12

Come and join us at Davey and Goliath's Circus Spectacular VBS! It's all happening at the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield Aug. 8-12 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Children ages five through entering the fifth grade are invited for a week of exciting games, crafts, songs and Bible stories. Registration is \$5 a child or no more than \$10 a family. Registrations accepted through July 30.

For information call (908) 753-2382. First Baptist Church is located on Hamilton Blvd. Come and join us for Davey and Goliath's Circus Spectacular.

What's happening in JULY/AUG.

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

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

Senior Center EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Hunterdon Hills Playhouse August 24, Cost \$55 Woodlock Pines Pocono Resort Oct. 31-Nov. 4 Info at Senior Center				
UPCOMING EVENTS Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Drawing Class 11am	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am	Exercise 8:30am Line Dancing 10am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 10am, 11:30am & 1pm	Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm ATLANTIC CITY	Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available
1	2	3	4	5
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

Stress Factory Comedy Club

August 21

The Stress Factory Comedy Club will present a fundraiser to benefit the South Plainfield Rescue Squad on Sunday, Aug. 21. Dinner starts at 5 p.m. and show begins at 7 p.m. Cost is \$30.

Feature performer will be Lenny Marcus. Reserve your tickets now. The Stress Factory is located on Church St. in New Brunswick.

For tickets call (732) 558-9076 or (908) 754-2324.

Hunterdon Hills Trip

August 24

The Senior Citizen Center is sponsoring a trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on August 24 to see the new summer musical *Living It Up: A Celebration of 100 Years of Popular Music & Dance*. The cost is \$55 including transportation, a wonderful luncheon and the show. The bus departs the Senior Center at 10 a.m. and returns around 5 p.m. You do not have to be a member of the Center to participate.

Sons of the American Legion Super 50/50

September 5

There will be a Super 50/50 drawing sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #243 held on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 5 at 6 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at American Legion on Oak Tree Ave. The cost is \$5 per ticket. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold. Proceeds go to benefit the various charities that SAL #243 support.

Trip to Lancaster Includes Theatre

September 21-22

The Senior Citizens Center is sponsoring an overnight trip to Lancaster, Pa. on September 21 and 22.

The trip includes transportation via private motor coach, overnight accommodations at the Best Inn, tickets to *The Story of Ruth* at the Millennium Sight and Sound Theatre, dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord, breakfast at the hotel, a tour of the Amish Country, and tax. The cost is \$179 per person double occupancy.

For reservations, please call the Senior Center at (908) 754-1047.

— Out of Town —

Starlight Socials 30's-40's Event

July 31

Starlight Socials, for professionals in their 30's and 40's, will hold a singles get-together at the Balloon Festival at Solberg Airport in Readington on Sunday, July 31 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tickets are approx. \$20.

For information on where to meet and RSVPs by July 30, contact Angel Butterfly37@aol.com or (732) 764-9073.

Woodbridge WOWs Dance-Social

July 31

The Woodbridge Area Chapter of Widows or Widowers (WOWs) will hold an Open Fundraiser Dance-Social Sunday, July 31 from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at the Elks' Hall, 665 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge. The cost is \$8. There will be live music by the Jimmy Ray Band and homebaked refreshments. All are welcome! Call (732) 297-1775 for more information.

Middlesex County Fair Week

August 1-7

During the 2005 Middlesex County Fair, to be held August 1-7, various events will be taking place highlighting the not-for-profit activities of the Middlesex County Fair Association. Events include rides, music, competitions for the County Fair King, Queen, Prince, and Princess, a blood drive, raffles, and a Charity Challenge. For more information, call the Association at (732) 257-8858.

Chess Club Organizing Meeting

August 3

A meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 3 at the John F. Kennedy Library in Piscataway beginning at 7 p.m. for the purpose of organizing the Middlesex County Chess Club. To be discussed is how often to meet and where, selection of officers and what goals to set for the club as it promotes the game of chess in the county.

The club will be an affiliate of the U.S. Chess Federation and will hold rated tournaments. Members will be able to get a USCF rating and a re-

duction in the cost of books, chess sets, etc. when ordering through the club.

Anyone interested in playing chess and wanting to play a part in forming this new club is invited to attend. For further information you may call Jack Sarhage at (732) 317-2951.

YMCA Summer Photography Class

August 3-24

The Metuchen Branch YMCA, located on 65 High Street in Metuchen, will be hosting a summer photography class every Wednesday from August 3-24. Participants will focus on how to take better pictures and to get a better understanding of photography. The class will include trips to Metuchen Artworks, Roosevelt Park and downtown Metuchen. The cost is \$15 for YMCA members and \$25 for non-members. Call the front desk at (732) 548-2044.

Employment Workshop at Hyatt Regency

August 4

Nova Employer Spotlight invites all job seekers to a free workshop presented by Stephanie Hayes, HR Director of Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick. Learn about available positions and strategies to gain employment at the Hyatt. Get the right answers to interview questions.

The workshop will be presented on Thursday, August 4 at 10 a.m. at Jew-

ish Family & Vocational Services of Middlesex County, 515 Plainfield Ave., Suite 201 in Edison. For registration call (732) 777-1940.

Art For Everyone At Metuchen ArtWork

August 6

Gallery members are proud to announce The Miniature Show at Metuchen ArtWorks. Consisting of contributions from all 15 members, every piece available will be 12" x 12" or smaller. The range of styles represented are as many and varied as the members themselves, and are both sized and priced to accommodate any space. Media will include painting, sculpture, photography, pottery, pen and ink, three dimensional, and more.

A departure from regular exhibitions, The Miniature Show at Metuchen Artworks, "Have a Little Art!" will be cash and carry, both during its reception on Saturday, Aug. 6 at 7 p.m. and during normal operating hours.

The gallery is located on Station Pl. in Metuchen. For information call the gallery office at (732) 603-9299 or visit www.metuchenartworks.com.

Somerset/Hunterdon Walk to Cure Diabetes Luncheon

August 18

The Mid-Jersey Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) is hosting a Somerset/Hunterdon County Walk to Cure Diabetes Kickoff Luncheon on Thursday, August 18 from 12-1:30 p.m. at the Bridgewater Marriott at 700 Commons Way, Bridgewater. Don't miss out on this fun and inspiring event. Information will be available to help you create or grow your walk team. RSVP by Aug. 5 by calling the JDRF at (732) 296-7171. For information e-mail mmalak@jdrf.org.

Cruise and Seaside Heights Visit

August 27

Join People for Animals on Saturday, Aug. 27 for a two-hour sight-seeing cruise on the "River Lady" including lunch onboard, followed by a two-hour visit to the Seaside Heights Boardwalk. Motor coach leaves at 10 a.m. from the Jeanette Avenue Municipal Parking Lot in Union. Free parking for the day is available in this lot.

A donation of \$69 per person is requested. Call (908) 688-8787 for reservations before July 22.

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Kennedy's Extracurricular Activities Promote Public-Spiritedness



The American Girl Club is just one of the opportunities in activities for Kennedy School students.

John E. Kennedy School offered several extracurricular activities this school year. They include the American Girl Club, Student Council and Literature Club.

The American Girl Club was organized and is led by Janice Urciuoli, one of the fourth grade teachers. Urciuoli began this popular club for fourth grade girls several years ago as an outgrowth of her interest in American history. At club meetings the girls study the historical period associated with each doll from 1774 to 1944. The dolls were collected over a period of years through in-school fundraising efforts of the members and Urciuoli. The club meets twice a month, and in addition to studying history the girls also read books, do crafts related to each time period, and of course have fun. Two special events are the Christmas and end-of-year parties, when the girls bring their dolls along to enjoy the festivities.

The Student Council is Kennedy School's service organization. Teri Luck, a third grade teacher, is the group's advisor. Student Council is comprised of elected students from the different classes. They meet on a regular basis to fundraise for charities and to organize and sponsor a variety of

philanthropic and cultural school-wide events. This year, the Kennedy students were involved in a math-a-thon for St. Jude's Research Hospital, which raised \$3,560! They sold \$100 worth of chocolate lollipops for Women Aware and donated a raffle basket with \$100 worth of goods to this same organization. The children also donated \$100 to the USO and \$100 to the Make-a-Wish Foundation. To assist veterans, they collected stamps for their therapy activities and created "Valentines for Vets" in February. JFK students also sent four care packages, valued at \$100, to the troops in Iraq. In January, "Kindness and Justice" tokens were collected to honor Dr. Martin Luther King and a Book Swap was held in March for Read Across America. The school also held a food drive, which was so successful that they collected the fifth largest quantity of food goods in Middlesex County.

The Literature Club was organized by two special education teachers, Ann Witkowski and Sherry Lawrence, to encourage the love of reading and promote participation and responsibility in fundraising. The children meet with the teachers during lunchtime from October through May. Pizza is served and books are read and discussed by

the members. This includes oral and written reports. Members must read a minimum of three books outside of school and participate in fundraising activities to encourage and foster generosity. This year the students donated a portion of their fundraising to Women Aware, a group that helps women and children who are victims of domestic violence. They invited Eve Hook, whose husband, Al, is the physical education teacher at Kennedy, to come in to receive the check and discuss her organization with the members. A portion of the money raised funds a culminating field trip activity to visit Scholastic Publishing in New York City. This money provides for the costs of transportation into New York, tee-shirts worn on the day of the trip, and prizes for children who met certain club goals for the year. The trip was coordinated by the Kennedy School speech teacher, Peggy Monagle, whose husband Ed is employed at Scholastic. In New York the children meet with a Scholastic editor, who discusses aspects of publishing books, including the roles of the author and illustrator and the interests of the readers. Scholastic provides the children with lunch and a treat bag that always includes books.

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SP Police Detective Gary Cassio, who organized the event.

PAL Tournament

(Continued from page 1)

beverages and cooking were handled by Sal Severini and friends from Sal's Spirit Shoppe. The event was organized by Detectives Gary Cassio and Chris Colucci, and was sponsored by the PAL and the Elks.

Kevin and his sister Christina were adopted from the Ukraine in March of 2002. He was 17 months and she was seven. Both spoke only Russian. Diane said, "Christina is very good with Kevin; she thinks she is his mother!" Kevin was undernourished at the time of the adoption. He is still small in stature. He is on a growth hormone and currently weighs 27 pounds. He attends St. Barnabas Hospital twice a week for speech therapy. Kevin has had six surgeries and requires at least three more.

Universal Nutrition team captain Tommy Maiorana said, "Today was a phenomenal day for our players and for Universal Nutrition, coming back the way we did to win the championship. It was our absolute pleasure to be a part of the tournament and to play for such a great cause. Universal Nutrition would also like to thank Garret Cassio of the South Plainfield Police

Dept. for inviting us to be a part of this memorable day. We look forward to playing again next year."

Diane said, "I am so grateful to everyone involved; thankful to all the people and teams that helped to make the tournament a success!"

If anyone would like to make a donation, they can contact Gary Cassio (908) 226-7663 or Chris Colucci (908) 226-7662.



Tommy Maiorana, captain of the Universal Nutrition team.

Year Three of College Life: A Renewed Perspective

By Tim Morgan

It has been quite a while since I've written something for the *Observer*. Another year of college has passed, and it has been a busy one. I have been occupied with plenty of papers and reading these past two semesters and have also undergone some of my most intensive training for running, trying to make the most of my increasingly diminishing NCAA eligibility and time for liberal arts studies. I have decided to move on from my series of high school sports articles to focus more on working and running, but in this past year, I have made some observations of my own I would like to share.

Studying is a labor in its own right, but I have had the privilege of not having an actual job coincide with it while I am in school. Granted, I run cross country and track, but I am on scholarship and, for the most part, enjoy doing it. Lately, it has occurred to me more and more how fortunate I am to be in the position I am.

I have most of my education paid for while deriving great satisfaction from competing in NCAA Sports. When I get to graduate school, I may be in deeper financial straits, but I have worked and studied hard to get inducted into two national honor societies so that I can hopefully avoid this. Anyway, I realize that all of this would not have been possible without the existence of three main factors: my background, my environment and chance.

What I have just described in the theory of naturalism. I was born into the wealthiest, most opportunistic and non-discriminatory country in the world as part of a middle-class family. All of this was completely out of my control, yet I am thriving as a result of it. I have not had to endure any seriously taxing struggles in my life. I have not had to contend with disease, hunger, homelessness, oppression, deprivation, or any of the other numerous threatening maladies that literally billions of other people in this world have to face. Because of this, I feel an imposing, absolutely inescapable and inextricable responsibility to be grateful for my circumstances in this often cruel world and appreciate the fruitful life I am able to lead.

A number of things led me to this realization. Perhaps the most impacting of them all has been the Midnight

Runs I have participated in since I started attending college. A Midnight Run is when a group of people venture into often squalid areas, in my case, certain recesses of New York City, to provide the homeless with food, beverages, toiletries, and company. These people are forced to subsist in these places because they have nowhere else to go. The contrast between the affluence of Manhattan and their private settings is both saddening and grating, forcing you to ask yourself how the richest city in the world can allow so many people to succumb to states of poverty. It is one thing to hear about the problem of homelessness, it is another to be thrust in the middle of it.

Also influential has been my interactions with a variety of students at school. Some strain considerably to get their schooling paid for so they can get into the working world to start making money, pay off their student loans, and start a different lifestyle. Sometimes they are too busy concentrating working part-time or full-time jobs to pay for college to take any real interest in many of their classes.

I have seen many others who have had everything handed to them and have no idea how to face challenges because they have few, if any, worries, and consequently, take no pride in their schoolwork and gain virtually nothing from the subjects that are supposed to enrich and enlighten them.

College is supposed to be a unique time in your life when you have a chance to look into different and illuminating fields that you may not get another look at again in your life, and I have seen too many people who do not take advantage of this for one reason or another. There are plenty of others, especially in southern countries, who would like to be able to go to college, or even just any type of school at all, but cannot for a variety of reasons that gear their lives elsewhere, too often into miserable, fruitless, and unrewarding circumstances.

This past spring I got to attend a three day seminar at the United Nations on "Women and Development." What I learned was completely appalling, egregious, and even lachrymose, ripping away at my senses of pathos and basic human empathy. About two million women and children are trafficked into prostitution each year, the majority of them in Thailand. In the


USA, the statutory maximum for this is only ten years per count, while the statutory maximum for dealing 10 grams of LSD or distributing a kilo of heroin is life. According to the United Nations Development Report, which weighs economic, education, and health indicators, in no country is the status of women equal to that of men. And one of the worst facts: the richer countries are supposed to be contributing 0.7% of their Gross National Product to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals to aid the poorer countries, but most are not. The USA is barely above 0.1%.

Last year I wrote about availing yourself of the opportunities in your education. Now, I'm talking about availing yourself of opportunity to live productively and understandingly. When you're depressed over not being able to save up enough money for a vacation this year, think of the people in Afghanistan or Burundi or the dozens of other third world countries who would like a permanent vacation from the stricken nature of their lives. I also talked last year of not knowing what I was going to do with my English and Religious Studies degrees. At the very least, I know that I would like to combine education with some sort of relief work. Right now, I'm thinking about how I'm going to pay for my health insurance when I get too old to fall under my family's policy. There are plenty of people on this planet who cannot afford health insurance or have never even heard of it.

This world is filled with affliction, wrath, and need, simply put, blight. In the USA, too many of us are too distracted by pop culture and self-interest to notice it. Capitalism creates the underpinning of what makes this country great and promotes collective and unified effort, but it is often emulous in nature. Perhaps that view is pessimistic, but it is not without foundation and at the very least, it is something to think about.

The first step toward a proactive stance is to stop and appreciate your surroundings. Even if this is the only step you take, at least you'll be able to live life with a stronger drive and a more comprehensive view.

The main thing I've come to learn during my third year of college is that we as individuals can always have room for personal and collective growth. That's what education is really about.



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Milestones

Jessie Spayder Graduates East Stroudsburg University



Jessie Spayder

Jessie K. Spayder graduated from East Stroudsburg University on May 7 with a Bachelor of Science degree in

Rehabilitative Services. An active member in the Rehabilitative Services Student Organization, she was not only treasurer, but helped to implement mental health awareness within the organization.

During her four years at East Stroudsburg, Jessie was also active as a cheerleader and tutor for the East Stroudsburg school district.

Jessie had been named to the dean's list for the past three semesters, eligibility being a grade point average of 3.0 or better.

Jessie is now employed at New Hope Clubhouse of Stroudsburg, a vocational rehabilitation program for adults living with mental illness. Jessie will be returning to school in January to pursue a masters in the mental health field.

Era Suburb Team Welcomes Lori Tangorra



Lori Tangorra

Lori Tangorra has now joined ERA Suburb Realty Agency, established in

1961 and the oldest real estate company in Scotch Plains.

She is a graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High and majored in business. Lori has been practicing real estate since 1989 and has always kept her finger on the pulse of the real estate market. Lori has completed the ABR course (Accredited Buyers Representative) and is continuing her education in real estate.

The office is a member of both Garden State and Middlesex Multiple Listing Systems. Lori now resides in South Plainfield for the past 17 years. Call Lori with any of your questions or concerns. She can be reached at (908) 322-4434 ext. 164. Surf with us on the web at www.erasuburb.com.

Babysitting Workshop at Library

There will be a babysitting workshop hosted by South Plainfield Library on Monday, Aug. 8, Tuesday Aug. 9 and Wednesday, Aug. 10 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The workshop is for young people age 11-18. It's designed to teach young

people the safest approach to childcare, including basic instruction regarding safety and discipline. Each participant will receive a certificate upon completion of the course. The course is being presented free of charge by the Middlesex County Public Health Department. Pre-registration for the course is required.

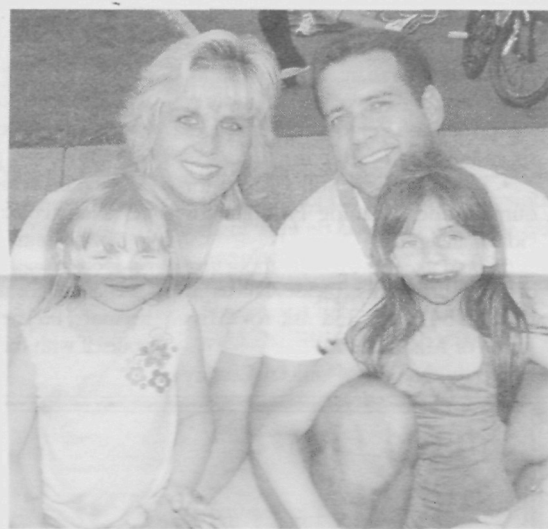
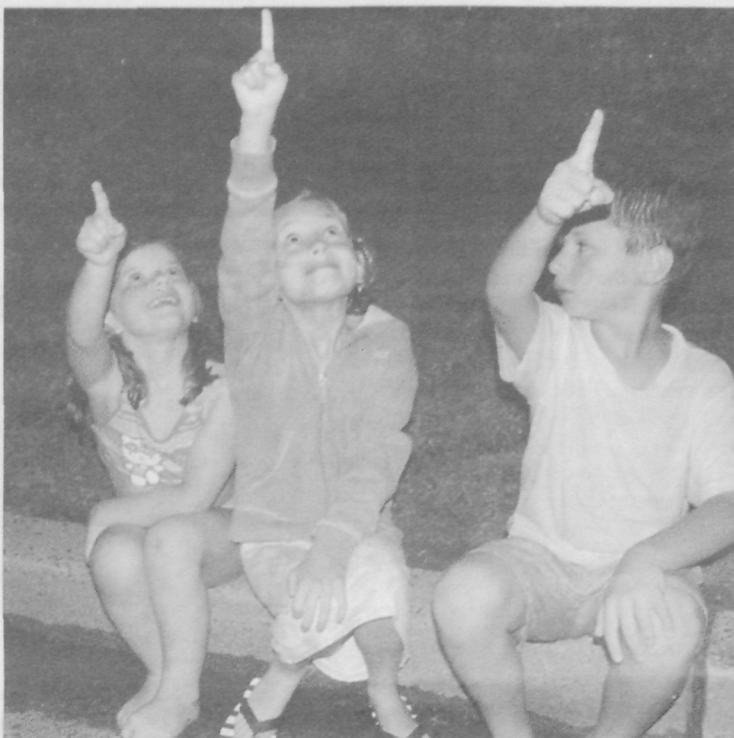
The library is located at 2484 Plainfield Ave. For more information, please call (908) 754-7885, or visit the library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

SCHOOL NEWS FLASH

Grant School Locker Camp / Schedule Pick Up, Aug. 25 - 6 p.m.

If you have any questions, please call (908) 754-4620, Ext. 224

SUBSCRIBE! CALL 908-668-0010



Annual Block Party Celebrates The Globe

Story/photo by Patricia Abbott

On Saturday, July 9, the residents of Grant Avenue gathered for their annual block party. This year's event had an international theme, with each family representing a country. The street was closed off at noon. Tables and umbrellas were set up in the street with food and beverages lining the curb. Grant Ave. families each provided a hot dish and outside guests brought desserts and ice. Organizer Nancy Hoffman explained they try to add something every year, such as cotton candy and snow cones. This year the adults enjoyed a 300 pound ice "shot block."

A fire truck arrived to cool off the kids. It was a perfect day for a party at least until the sky grew dark around 3 p.m. When the rain began, the residents grabbed whatever they could and headed indoors to wait out the storm. When the sun returned barely 20 minutes later the residents picked up where they left off. Chairs were dried off, the street was cleared of wind blown paper goods and the party continued. While the adults lounged the children hit the streets with bikes, quads, bubbles, water guns and more. A DJ provided music and games. Fireworks lit the evening sky and the fun continued long after the sun went down.

IT'S BACK ...

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construction and selected articles from the South Plainfield Observer.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Well, it's Friday again, so here's more news from South Plainfield Library:

Remember the long list of children's programs in the last two columns? Well, here's this week's list, and it's still pretty long:

- We have our Books-N-Babies program for children up to ages three today and next Friday morning at 10:30.

- Next, there are our Dino Craft programs for children ages 6-10 today and next Friday afternoon at 3; you have to pre-register your child for these programs.

- We now have two "Time for 2's & 3's" programs for children ages two and three (appropriately enough); on Monday afternoons at 1:30 and Wednesday mornings at 10:30.

- We'll host the special program "Dinosaurs & Fossils", presented by "Snakes & Scales & Turtle Tales", on Monday night at 6:30. The program is for children age eight and over; pre-registration is requested.

- Our regular Storytime programs for children ages three and over will be held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. No need to register for them.

- The Chess Club will be meeting on Tuesday afternoon at 3:30. It's for kids ages eight and older; feel free to bring your chess set with you.

- Our summer "Game Gang" program will be held on Wednesday afternoons at 1 this year. Kids can play one of our board games, or bring one of their own to share.

- Next Friday, we'll have another session of Dino Bingo for children ages six and over at 12:30 p.m.

- Lastly, you can still sign up for our Summer Reading Program for kids of all ages.

If you'd like more details about any of these programs, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda or Miss Danya.

Yet another bit of official Library

merchandise is now available. We're offering Summer Reading t-shirts for \$7 each; cash and checks are accepted. All sizes are currently available. You can pick them up at the Circulation Desk. (We're checking on whether a Library video game will sell.)

Our Notary Public will be away on vacation Aug. 4-13. We apologize for any inconvenience, but he could use a breather.

Tuning to the Circuit collections, we now have the latest groups from the Circuit CD and Audiobook collections. Artists featured on the CDs include Jessica Simpson, Bob Dylan, Paul Robeson, Dave Brubeck, and Matchbox Twenty. Available audiobook titles include *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom, *The Broker* by John Grisham, *Velocity* by Dean Koontz, *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt, and, on CD, *Countdown* by Iris Johansen. Meanwhile, we're between groups on the Video Circuit; they'll be back in a few days.

This is a good time for a reminder regarding A/V items. In case you haven't noticed, summertime weather tends to be very hot. (I can just hear your sarcastic, "Really? It does?") A/V items like videos and CDs don't react well to heat and direct sunlight; they melt, warp, or get erased. Please don't leave those items in your car in hot weather for long periods of time. If you have no choice, at least put them in the trunk, where they'll be out of the sun. Thanks for your help on this.

Finally, the answer is yes, we do have *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. We've received our copies of both the book and the CD version, and they're in circulation. There are reserves on them, so be prepared to wait. You can place your own reserve, if you wish; there's a 50 cent charge, payable upon pick-up. And the answer is no, we don't have the new Harry Potter movie yet. It's not due in theaters until later this year, but we'll get it eventually.

That's all for now. See you next time for more. Feel free to go back to fanning yourself with this issue.

Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul
Alvarado, Pastor

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10-11:30 a.m. and by appointment

Mass Schedule:

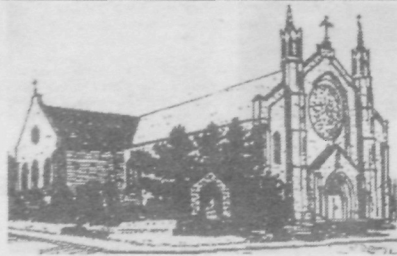
Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Weekdays Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9 a.m.; 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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Sports

Tiger Sharks Win Again!

The South Plainfield Tiger Sharks won their sixth and seventh meets of the season. The Tiger Sharks won their last home meet on July 20 swimming against the Willows Swim Club from Kendall Park. The final score was 155 to 121.

Eight year old Aidan McDermott was the star that evening. Aidan broke the team record in the eight-and-under 25 meter Butterfly with a time of 23.36. In his next event, he broke the eight-and-under 25 meter freestyle pool record with a time of 19.18. The pool record had stood since 1994.

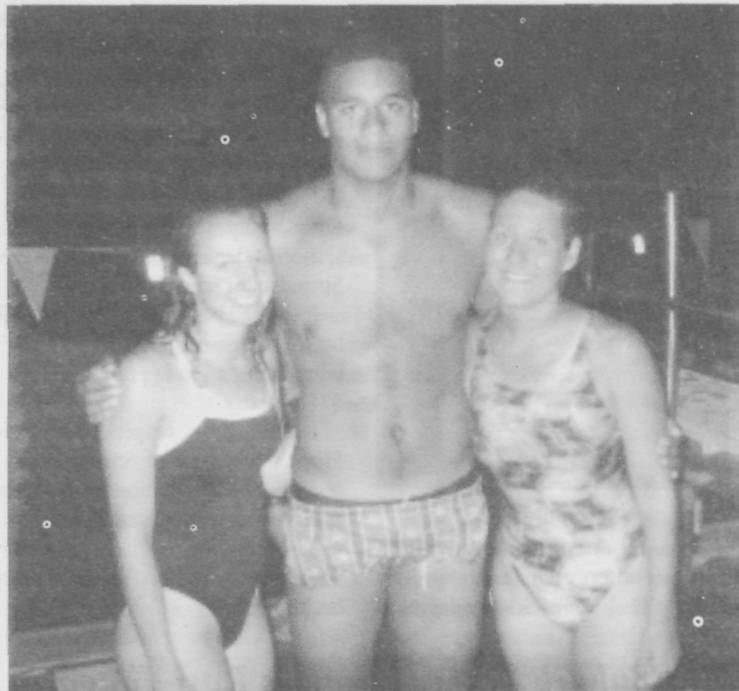
Brian Green also broke the team record in the 13-18 200 meter IM with a time of 2:47.24 and Dylan McDermott did it once again breaking his own pool record in the 11/12 50 meter fly with a time of 37.56. Amy Wolf from the Willows broke the pool record in the 15-18 100 meter breaststroke with a time of 1:32.85.

The boys started the meet taking first place wins in the IM events. First place wins went to Liam McDermott (10-and-under), Dylan McDermott (11/12) and Brian Green (13-18). CalvinJohn Smiley (13-18) placed second, and Sean Cullen (10-and-under) placed third.

Swimming the longer freestyle events and taking first place were Gracie Piekarski (10-and-under) and Katie Kaczka (13-18). Chelsea Cullen placed second and Sarah Konops placed third for the 11-12 age group. Emily Piekarski placed second for the 13-18 age group. The boys took four first place ribbons in the butterfly events: Aidan McDermott (eight-and-under), Anthony Gurrieri (9/10), Dylan McDermott (11-12) and Philip Luzny (15-18). Kevin Jan (11/12) placed second, and Enzo Butrico (eight-and-under), Michael Boyle (13-14), and Brian Green (15-18) placed third in the same event.

The girls had some heavy competition in the breaststroke events. Gracie Piekarski (9/10) was the only Tiger Shark who captured a first place ribbon. Kelley O'Brien (eight-and-under), Sarah Konops (11/12), Nina Byard (15-18) placed second, and Kelly McLaughlin placed third in the 11/12 age group. The boys did it again with the freestyle events taking four first place wins. Taking home first place ribbons were: Aidan McDermott (eight-and-under), Anthony Gurrieri (9/10), Kevin Jan (11/12), and CalvinJohn Smiley (15-18). Liam McDermott (9/10) and Philip Luzny (15-18) placed second in the same event.

The girls wiped out the competition in the backstroke events. The 11/12 age group swept the event. First placed ribbons went to Kelley O'Brien (eight-and-under), Chelsea Cullen (11/12), Emily Piekarski (13-14), and Katie Kaczka (15-18). Kate McLaughlin (9-



Tiger Shark swimmers (left to right): Katie Kaczka, CalvinJohn Smiley and Nina Byard

10), Kate O'Brien (11-12), and Nina Byard (15-18) placed second. Taylor Aljian (9-10) and Maggie Valentino (11-12) placed third.

Tiger Sharks won three of the relays. First place wins went to: 9-12 Free Relay swimmers Kate McLaughlin, Gracie Piekarski, Sarah Konops, Chelsea Cullen; and 13-18 Free Relay swimmers Nina Byard, Katie Kaczka, Emily Piekarski, and Maggie Valentino. The 9-12 Medley Relay first place swimmers were Kevin Jan, Dylan McDermott, Anthony Gurrieri and Liam McDermott.

Swimming competitively for the last time at the community pool were the senior swimmers Nina Byard, Brian Green, Katie Kaczka, and CalvinJohn Smiley. While Brian is a newcomer to the Tiger Sharks, he captured two records. Brian is a 2005 graduate of St. Joseph's High School and will be attending Georgetown University and swimming for them in the fall.

Veteran swimmer Nina Byard is a 2005 graduate of South Plainfield High School and holds a freestyle relay record for the team. She will be attending Monmouth University in the fall. Katie Kaczka holds eight records on the Tiger Shark Record Board. Katie is a 2004 South Plainfield High School graduate and is a sophomore at Lafayette College and swims on their varsity swim team. Veteran swimmer CalvinJohn Smiley holds four Tiger Shark records. CalvinJohn has been a continuous member of the swim team since he was six years old and will be finishing his thirteenth season with the Tiger Sharks. CalvinJohn was a 2004 graduate of St. Joseph's High School. Presently he is a member of the varsity swim team at Lehigh University and will be a sophomore this fall.

On July 23rd, the Tiger Sharks traveled to Chatham and defeated Chatham Colony at their pool with a win of 150 to 126. The meet started slowly with only two wins in the IM. Gracie Piekarski (10-and-under) placed first and Kristen Dabrio (13-18) placed third. In the longer freestyle events Dylan McDermott (11-12) was the only Tiger Shark to place first. Anthony Gurrieri (10-and-under) and CalvinJohn Smiley (13-18) placed second. Liam McDermott (10-and-under) and Philip Luzny (13-18) placed third.

After the Tiger Sharks felt more comfortable swimming in the sandy

bottom, and cloudy water pool at Chatham, there was no stopping them. In the butterfly events Kelley O'Brien placed first and Megan McDermott placed second for the eight-and-under age group. Chelsea Cullen placed first and Sarah Konops placed third for the 11-12 age group. Teresa Gustafson placed first and twin sister Michelle Gustafson placed third in the 13-14 age group. Taylor Aljian placed second for the 9/10 year olds. Once again, the dynamic duo of Katie Kaczka and Nina Byard placed first and second respectively for the 15-18 year olds.

The McDermott brothers captured three first place ribbons in the breaststroke events: Aidan McDermott (eight-and-under), Liam McDermott (9/10), and Dylan McDermott (11-12). Finishing the event was Brian Green (15-18) who also captured a first place win. The Butrico brothers Enzo (eight-and-under) and Charlie (9/10), Alan Kasmer (13-14), and Philip Luzny (15-18) placed second in the same event. Freestyle wins included Kelley O'Brien (first) and Megan McDermott (third) for the eight-and-under age group. Gracie Piekarski (first) and Taylor Aljian (second) for the 9/10 year olds. Sarah Konops placed second for the 11/12 year olds. Twin sisters Teresa and Michelle Gustafson placed second and third in the 13-14 age group while Katie Kaczka (first) and Nina Byard (third) for the 15-18 year old age group. Aidan McDermott (eight-and-under) was the only Tiger Shark to capture a first place in the back stroke events. Enzo Butrico (eight-and-under), Anthony Gurrieri (9/10), Alan Kasmer (13-14), and CalvinJohn Smiley (15-18) placed second. Joey Valentino (11-12) and Brian Green (15-18) placed third.

The only boys relay to take home first place was the eight-and-under swimmers: Michael Petrutsch, Billy McLaughlin, Enzo Butrico, and Nicholas Gurrieri.

The eight-and-under Medley Relay of Madison Faustini, Kelley O'Brien, Megan McDermott and Emily Sukenik placed first. 13-18 Medley Relay first place winners were Nina Byard, Teresa Gustafson, Sarah Konops and Katie Kaczka.

The Tiger Sharks have one dual meet left and championship meets on Friday, July 29 for the 13 and older swimmers and Saturday July 30 for the 12 and under swimmers. Championship meets will be held at Cedar Hill Swim Club in Somerset.

"Chef for a Day" Volunteer Program

Do you love to cook? Join Jewish Family & Vocational Service's "Chef for a Day" program at Elderday. Volunteers are needed to prepare lunch for the elderly members of our social adult day program, which is located in Edison. If you are available one or more days in the months of August between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and have a passion for cooking and nurturing others, please call E.J. Berman at (732) 777-1940, ext. 122.

Sports

Submitted By Bob Nilan

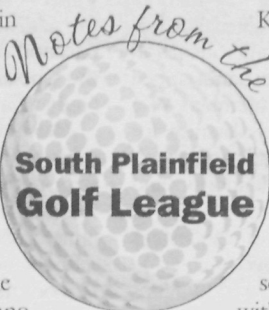
It is now crunch time in the American Division, and all the title-contenders are showing signs of the pressure. First-place Pornovets faced a formidable challenge in taking on Plainfield Animal Hospital, and both teams had a tough time making pars. Mike Sikano-

wicz, the only member of his team to break 40, led PAH into first place with a 12-8 victory. Sikanowicz's 39 was matched by Jim Pornovets, who also shot a 39 to earn medalist honors for his team.

KC's Korner didn't have even one player shoot below 40, but the team scored well enough to gain a 12½-7½ victory over Twin City. Mark Dugan's 40 led the way for KC's Korner, who are now deadlocked with Pornovets for second place. Jay Coppola and Guy Severini continue to play well together for Twin City; Coppola had a solid round of 37 and Severini shot a 38 in a losing effort.

Patti's Construction got some fine play from "Iron Mike" Behr who fired a 36, and from "Merry Matt" Ward, who had a 39, as Patti's eked out a 10½-9½ win over Masters. Irish Danny Griffin had another remarkable night for Masters, posting a sparkling one-under par 32, to tie the low score in the league for the season. What was especially remarkable was that he used one of his father's old putters, which is about ten times the size of his regular blade putter.

Over in the National Division, Aiello Chiropractic had to give away a lot of strokes in their match with Sport & Social. As a result, despite a superb one-over par 34 by Fred "Catfish"



Kirchofer, a nice round of 37 by Ed Banach, and another terrific effort by Phil Aiello, Jr., who shot a 38, Aiello was only able to manage a 10-10 tie with Sport & Social. Chad Hibbard turned in the lowest score for Sport & Social with a 42.

Dale Dube of the South Plainfield Elks may have started the season with an 8-handicap, but he's not playing at that level now. He came through with a 38 that could even have been a few strokes lower with some breaks as he led the Elks past the VFW, 13-7. Bob Nilan won the medal for the VFW with a 42.

With this win, the Elks are still in second place, but now they are less than one game behind league-leading Aiello.

When Witty's teed off against the Hackers, it appeared it would be a really tough match. But it turned out to be simply no contest as Witty's overwhelmed the Hackers 1901. Led by Jim Parker, who had another beautiful round with a 1-over 34, and by Howard Adler's 35, Witty's cruised to a surprisingly easy win. The best score for the Hackers was an unusually high round of 43 by John Cacciatore.

Fred Kirchofer won the weekly closest-to-the-pin competition on the third hole, and Jeff Johnson, who admits to not having hit the most picturesque of tee shots, nonetheless won the KC's Korner luncheon-for-two prize on the seventh hole.

Low Scores for the Night: Danny Griffin, 32; Fred Kirchofer, 34; Jim Parker, 34; Howard Adler, 35; Mike Behr, 36; Ed Banach, 37; Jay Coppola, 37.

LEAGUE STANDINGS:

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



Pictured are (L-R): Tom Casavant, Ralph Feh, Bob Besser, and Charles Woodhull; back row (L-R): Len Padula, Frank Cirigliano, Joe Sosnak, Bill Schulte, Jack Kudrick and Gary Colister. Missing from picture are Tom McCreesh and Mike Sikanowicz.

-Submitted by Ralph Feh

2005 Pocono "Ryder Cup" Champions

The 2005 Pocono "Ryder Cup," a grueling three-day 63-hole event, was played at a trio of top-notch golf courses. Hideaway Hills and Olde Homestead, both in Pennsylvania, were the sites for the first two days, while the finale was played at the Prestigious Hawk Pointe Layout in Washington, NJ.

The top three scorers at each course

were:

Hideaway Hills-Mike Sikanowicz and Jack Kudrick-69, Tom Creesh and Len Padula-71 and Frank Chirichillo and Chip Grundman-72.

Olde Homestead-Tom McCreesh-72, Jim Flannery-80 and Tony Pompilio-83.

Hawk Pointe-Rob Disch-85, Tom McCreesh-86 and Jack Kudrick-88.

Register Now for Predators Baseball

The South Plainfield Predators Senior American Legion Baseball Team is taking registrations for players for the 2006 season. If you are a high school baseball player and you are interested in trying out, you need to e-mail your full name, phone number, age, grade, school and home address. It is important we have your information now to help prevent us from signing players from other towns to fill our roster. As of now players need to be born on or after January 1, 1987, but official rules and age limits have not yet been posted.

E-mail your information to Coach Tony Bakazan at Sppredators@msn.com.

PBA to Hold Annual Golf Tournament

The South Plainfield Police PBA Local 100 will be holding their 11th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, Aug. 22. The event will be held at the Concordia Golf Club, conveniently located at 3 Clubhouse Way in Monroe Township, just minutes off Exit 8A of the New Jersey Turnpike.

The golf outing is held each year and helps the PBA raise money. This money allows the PBA to provide for sick and injured police officers and support many worthwhile causes, including sponsoring youth sports

teams, the Special Olympics and scholarships for local students.

This year's tournament will begin at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start. The cost for a golfer is \$105. A complimentary breakfast and lunch will be offered at the course and each golfer will get a commemorative golf shirt and goodie bag to enjoy. They will also get the chance to compete for many prizes and awards, including a new car.

The day will conclude with an awards banquet at the Crystal Room at The Polish Home on 312 New

Market Ave.. All golfers will enjoy a full buffet and open bar. Door prizes will include golf apparel, electronic equipment and sports memorabilia.

Last year's event was attended by over one hundred golfers and space filled up fast, so don't hesitate to be part of a great day for all. If you are interested in playing or sponsoring a hole, or would like to request a brochure, contact Matt Koep at (908) 392-0541 or Mark Hollain at (908) 392-6154. We look forward to seeing you there.

-Submitted by Jena Cianfrocca

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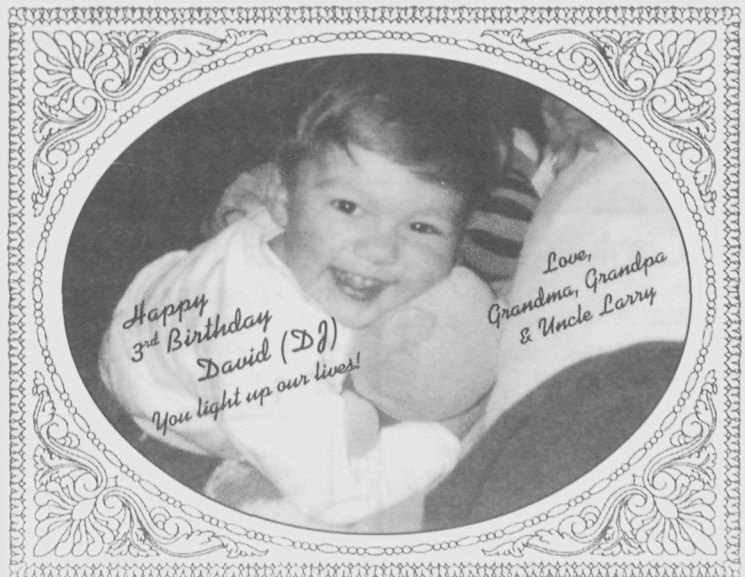
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The Linick Family welcome guests to the grand opening of Plainfield Animal Hospital's new facility last weekend. See next week's issue for story.

College Tuition Assistance

It's There, You Just Have to Know Where to Look

A conservative estimate of college costs for a full-time student runs from \$10,000-\$30,000; high cost colleges can run from \$40,000-\$100,000! Most parents and students think that scholarships are only for the students with excellent grades, low-income families, or the athletically inclined. A small example of the numerous scholarships available include: handicapped students scholarships, members of a church scholarships, scholarships for "C" students, veteran children's scholarships, scholarships for minorities and much, much more.

Though the majority of scholarships is from the Federal Government and are merit and/or need-based, millions of dollars are available to students from private sector scholarships. Much of private sector financial aid goes unused because the parents and students do not know how or where to apply. There are organizations that have

spent hundreds of hours in research locating scholarship sources. The US Commission for Scholastic Assistance-College Bound is such an organization and supplies the public with over 1,000 different private scholarship sources. The scholarship list includes the scholarship names, addresses, application deadlines, summaries about the scholarships and the amount the scholarship will pay your child.

Many scholarships pay the entire tuition; others can be applied towards tuition, living expense and/or other fees. Most scholarships can be used at junior colleges, career and vocational schools, four-year colleges, graduate schools, medical and law schools.

For information on obtaining these scholarship lists, send a self-addressed, stamped, business size, #10 envelope to: The US Commission for Scholastic Assistance, P.O. Box 650067, Potomac Falls, VA 20165-0067.

police report

- On July 19 Michele Pugliese, 61, of Edison was arrested at Home Depot for shoplifting a C.O. detector, some tools and a faucet stop.
- A Dominick Ct. resident the theft of four rims and tires off their 2004

Mitsubishi Lancer.

- A Woodland Ave. resident reported the theft of the front license plate of their vehicle.
- On July 20 Barbara J. Whitley, 50, of Plainfield was arrested for pos-

session of drug paraphernalia and obstruction at a motor vehicle stop.

- On July 22 Newark resident reported the theft of a \$500 chained and padlocked air compressor from his jobsite at Harris Steel.
- On July 23 Gary M. McQuaid, 25, of Somerset was arrested for disorderly conduct, driving while intoxi-

cated and resisting arrest after a fight at Pizzeria Uno.

- Three resident of Traditions reported damage to their vehicles. Two had the headlights removed from their Acuras and another had dents in the fender and engraved obscenities on the hood of his Acura.
- On July 24 Joshua Ramagado,

20, of So. Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving, driving on a suspended license and D.W.I. under 21 at a motor vehicle stop.

• An Edison resident reported that both sides of his vehicle had been keyed while parked in the A&P parking lot.

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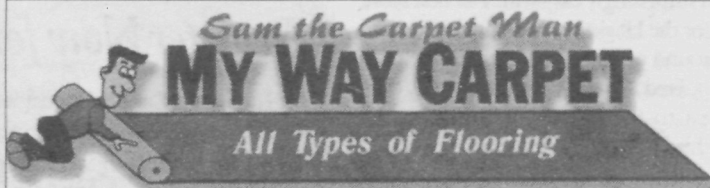
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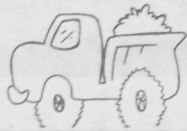
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Obituaries

Dorothy M. (Kiefer) Schieder

Dorothy M. (Kiefer) Schieder passed away on Wednesday, July 20 at her home in South Plainfield.

She was predeceased by her husband Emmet F. Schieder, who passed away in 1985. Both born and raised in Newark, they also resided in Edison, South Plainfield and Jackson. After her husband passed away, Mrs. Schieder moved to Howell and later returned to South Plainfield to live with her daughter's family.

Dorothy and her husband Emmet were hardworking and loving parents, grandparents and great-grandparents who gave much to everyone who knew them. She worked for many years as a seamstress in Newark and in factories around South Plainfield.

She utilized many techniques to create a multitude of handmade articles including clothing, bed and table coverings and decorations. Dorothy used many of her works in her home and gave most to friends and charities. She will live in our memory and hearts as a wonderful person that we will all miss.

In addition to her husband Emmet, Dorothy is predeceased by her sister, Myrtle Kiefer, and three brothers, Chester (Whity) and his wife Elma, Albert and his wife Marian and Harold Robert (Bob) Kiefer.

Surviving are daughter, Marion J. Helsler and her husband William of South Plainfield; a son, Robert F. of Fla.; two sisters, Florence Mercer and her husband Robert, and Gracy Szalay and her husband Steve; two brothers, William and his wife Mac, Herbert and Donald and his wife Marlene and her sister-in-law, Janice Becker, all of New Jersey. Also surviving are her grandchildren, William Helsler, Jr. and his wife Stephanie Konik, Monica Cusick and her husband Robert, Wayne Heller and his wife Lisa, Brad Helsler and his wife Renee and Erika Helsler and nine great-grandchildren Phillip Helesler, Phoebe Konik, Shane, Garrett, Gabriella, and Robert Cusick, Jr., Brad Helsler, Jr., Darla Helsler and Brianna Helsler, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Memorial donations in her memory can be made to the charity of your choice.

Rose "Dolly" DeSepio, 89

Rose "Dolly" DeSepio died on Tuesday, July 19 in Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center.

Born in Point Pleasant, Rose had resided in South Plainfield since 1940.

She was employed by M + M Packaging of South Plainfield.

She was a homemaker and a member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

Her husband, Veneto J. DeSepio, died in 1969 and her grandson, Mark Conselina, died in 1981. She is also predeceased by her five brothers and three sisters.

Surviving are a daughter, Frances M. Conselina of South Plainfield; four grandchildren, Teresa and Glen Lucas, and Vincent and Michelle Conselina and two great-grandchildren, Ethan and Jillian Lucas.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Donations in her memory may be made to Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center, 65 James Street, Edison, NJ 08820.

Edward T. Nichuck, 82

Edward T. Nichuck died suddenly on Friday, July 22 at his home in South Plainfield.

Born and raised in Plainfield, Mr. Nichuck had resided in South Plainfield since 1950.

An Army veteran of World War II, Ed was a member of the 7th Armored Division, also known as the Lucky Seventh, that participated in the D-Day invasion at Normandy Beach.

While growing up, Mr. Nichuck was an outstanding athlete, particularly in baseball. He played in what was known as the Plainfield Baseball Twilight League, as well as various baseball leagues throughout the Central Jersey Area. Several weeks prior to his entering WWII, Ed received an invitation to play baseball with the Brooklyn Dodgers at their baseball camp.

For nearly 20 years, Ed was the owner and operator of Queen City Auto Parts in Plainfield, retiring in 1989.

An avid bowler, golfer and gardener,

Mr. Nichuck enjoyed playing the guitar, singing, collecting Lionel model trains, and was quite fond of Indian and Harley-Davidson Motorcycles.

He was a member of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield, a member of the North Plainfield Lions Club, the Watchung Knights of Columbus Council #552, the VFW Storr-Richie Post #506 in Warren, and he was also a member of the North Jersey Chapter Indian Motorcycle Club.

He is predeceased by his brother, John Nichuck.

Surviving are his loving wife of 57 years, Margaret (Harvick) of South Plainfield; two sons, Edward and his wife Ginny of Milford and Thomas and his wife Jill of South Plainfield and a sister, Dorothy Danchick of Lavalette. Also surviving are four grandchildren, Bryan, Douglas, Taylor and Lauren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Massaro Retires

(Continued from page 1)

Kleef, who had retired after 25 years with the South Plainfield Police Department and worked as a substitute teacher in the district, was uniquely qualified for the position which he held since 2000.

With the resignation of Van Kleef, the board has consolidated the position and created Secretary II-Enrollment/Special Services Office to register and maintain the enrollment records of students in the district and to assist the Special Services office with clerical needs.

The board appointed Kathleen DiMeglio to the position of Enrollment and Special Service Office Secretary II. DiMeglio started in the district as a substitute secretary/clerk typist in 1995 and has worked in South Plainfield High School for past three years as secretary to the disciplinarian

and assistant principal.

According to Board President Michael English, the board will appoint a retired police officer on a per diem basis to investigate alleged non-resident students.

In other personnel matters, the board appointed Charles Ford as principal of Roosevelt School. Last year Ford was an assistant principal at South Plainfield High School. His prior experience was in the Irvington school district where he taught third and fifth grade for four years at Chancellor Ave. School and was assistant principal at Union Ave. Middle School for three years. He was also a case manager for SERV Behavioral Health Systems, a not for profit organization serving adults and children working to recover from and cope with serious mental illnesses or developmental disabilities.

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Dennis Holowka requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a new 4' x 16'9" porch. Proposed porch lacks 30' required front setback, 22'28" being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 118 Norman Street on Block 120, Lot 12 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, August 11, 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

July 29, 2005

Applying for a variance?

Be advised that, by law, all legal notices must be published at least 10 days prior to your meeting date.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Raymond Gallina requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit removal and rebuilding of front porch. Proposed removal and rebuilding of front porch lacks 30' required front setback, 11' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 117 Park Lane on Block 96, Lot 13 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, August 11, 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.

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BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Beverly and Isaac Blanco requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a 12' x 30' shed. Proposed shed exceeds maximum square footage of 200 sq. ft. 360 sq. ft. being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 1602 Frase Street on Block 152, Lot 64 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, August 11, 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.

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July 29, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Bernardo Correa requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a 13' x 20' deck. Proposed deck lacks 30' front setback from So. 10th Street, 13' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 1119 McDonough Street on Block 134, 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, August 11, 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.

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