

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 9, NO. 38

50 CENTS

MAY 26, 2006



Members of South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department escort Chief John Cotone to his final resting place.

Answering the Final Call

SPFD Bids Farewell to Former Chief

Former South Plainfield Fire Chief John Cotone, 68, a lifelong resident of South Plainfield, died last Wednesday after a long battle with cancer.

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department paid their respects Tuesday morning to their former chief by giving John the full honor he deserved for his many years of volunteerism. His flag draped casket was placed on a fire truck and was joined by other fire apparatus, including one filled with flowers, for a procession to the Fireman's Memorial, Sacred Heart Church and Cotone's final resting place, Holy Redeemer Cemetery. He was escorted by Fire Chief Larry Del-Negro and his fellow firefighters, who

marched beside and behind him in full dress uniform, while a bagpiper led the way. Traffic came to a standstill during the parade and ceremonies. Along the way, Borough Hall employees, members of the rescue squad, police and residents lined the road to pay their last respects.

At the Fireman's Memorial Reverend Charles Mingle led with prayers and spoke of Cotone's dedication and valor. The eulogy was given by former Fire Chief Joe Abbruzzese, who referred to Cotone as his "mentor and friend." Abbruzzese addressed both his relatives and the Brotherhood when eulogizing him. "He was a special gift from God. There was never

a doubt in your mind that he was a firefighter's firefighter," he explained.

At the ceremony's conclusion, Mario Abbruzzese rang the bell at the Chief's Monument for every year Chief Cotone served as a firefighter. As the procession proceeded to Sacred Heart Church, the bell in front of the fire department was also rung in his honor.

This marked the first time a memorial ceremony was held at the newly completed Volunteer Firefighters' Memorial. Dedication ceremonies scheduled for last Saturday were cancelled due to Cotone's death.

John Cotone was the perfect example of what volunteerism in South Plainfield is all about. He was a member of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department for 43 years, joining in 1962. He served as a volunteer, captain, deputy captain and as chief for 18 years, from 1977 to 1993, the second longest term in the history of the fire department. During those years he was involved in many projects that helped upgrade fire department equipment and training and has helped the department obtain a reputation as one of the most outstanding departments in the state.

"Chief" Cotone was named grand marshal of the 48th Annual Labor Day Parade held on Sept. 5, 2005.

John's volunteerism went beyond the fire department. He was a charter member of the South Plainfield Elks,



John Cotone

holding office as esquire, lecturing knight and loyal knight. He was an assistant coach with the South Plainfield Eagles Football Club for seven years and head coach for six. In 1968, the South Plainfield Jaycees named him "Young Man of Year."

He was a member of the Association of Firemen, NJ State Fire Prevention Assoc., NJ State Fire Chief's Assoc., International Assoc. of Fire Chiefs, Middlesex Co. Fire Prevention Assoc. and Building Offices Assoc. of NJ.

John joined the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1954 and went on active duty in 1956, returning to reserve status in 1958. He played semi-pro football with the Plainfield Merchants.

In 1961 he started working with the borough as a heavy equipment operator for the South Plainfield DPW and was promoted to foreman. He had been a code official for 20 years.

For Cotone's full obituary, see page 12.



Mario Abbruzzese rings the bell at the fire chief's monument for each year Cotone served.

BOE Votes 'Yes' to Budget Cuts

The Board of Education met last Wednesday to decide whether to accept or contest the Borough Council's recommended cuts to the 2006/2007 school budget. After the budget was rejected by voters in April, the responsibility of recommending cuts fell upon the Borough Council.

"I see no purpose in continuing an exchange of negatives between the Board of Education and the town council...When we walk out this door tonight, let's stop the name calling."

—BOE member John Markham

During the past weeks, members of the Borough Finance Committee, as well as CPAs Garry Higgins and Anthony Lamarco, hired by the council to examine and recommend cuts, met with BOE members to better understand the budget.

On May 16 the council trimmed \$1.18M from the budget. The cuts were in areas recommended by Higgins and Lamarco and members of the Borough Finance Committee. Before the council voted, they heard from members of the board, including Superintendent Dr. Robert Rosado, who asked them to reconsider cutting \$500,000 from Special Services portion of the budget. CPAs Higgins and Lamarco had claimed the account was \$721,342 over budget, but Rosado disagreed, saying those cuts would result in a \$300,000 shortfall. Despite their pleas, the council voted unanimously.

At the start of the BOE meeting last Wednesday, board members went into an executive session to discuss the possibility of making additional personnel cuts in light of the budget cuts. When they returned, Rosado announced that the board would vote to accept the recommended school budget cuts and not make any further cuts in personnel at this time. Rosado cautioned that if there is a budget shortfall in the coming months, which he feels is a strong possibility, a decision will have to be made on where additional money can be found in other areas of the budget. He added that if there is a shortfall in the Special Education fund, the board will have to either exhaust the surplus, freeze capital projects or make a minimum of \$400,000 in staff and program cuts. In the meantime, letters will be going out to the 41 staff members notified last month that they may not be rehired, they will be keeping their jobs.

During the public portion of the meeting, Louis Murz, SPEA president, again objected to the board's decision to cut two computer teach-

(Continued on page 16)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest meeting agenda

councilmeetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday
Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

Date	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
June 6	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
June 19 (Monday)	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
July 11	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.

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

planningboard

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

June 13, June 27, July 18*, Aug. 15*, Aug. 29*
Sept. 12, Sept. 26, Oct. 10, Oct. 24, Nov. 28, Dec. 12 and Dec. 26.

zoningboardofadjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

June 8, June 22, July 13, July 27, Aug. 10, Aug. 24, Sept. 14, Sept. 28, Oct. 12, Oct. 26, Nov. 30* and Dec. 14.

boardofeducationmeetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted
Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7 p.m.–June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 14 and March 28.

Regular Meeting Wednesdays 8 p.m.–June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20, Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March and April 4.

taxpayersadvisorygroup

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

siteplansub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.
June 20, July 18, August 15

Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21 and Dec. 19.

recreationcommission

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716

June 13, (No meetings July and Aug.) Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12
No scheduled meetings, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12.

environmentalcommission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621

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

businessadvisorygroup

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

trafficsafetyadvisorycommission

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

boardofeducationcurriculum/technology meetings

Meets once a month on Mondays at 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at
Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.



High School students honored for participating in the NJMEA All-State Opera Festival: Paul Assad, Christopher Delaney, Christopher DeOliveira, Christopher Duquette, Darren Kaczowski, Wael Kanj, Cassandra Krajcik, Cornelius Mootoo, Justin Pauls, Scott Rann, Daniel Sambat, Jeffrey Seesselberg, Nathanael and Stephen Wagner.

Franklin Learns to Reuse, Recycle and Reduce

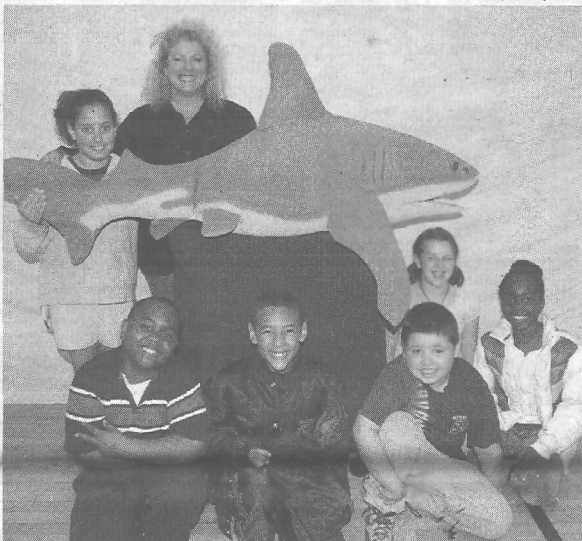
By Jane Dornick

Franklin School student recently learned a valuable lesson about recycling and the environment through an hour long presentation called The Blue Planet from Jack Bragan's Earth Matters productions.

Researched and created by presenter Michele Van Allen, the show helped children understand how the oceans were formed, why they are salty and blue and that the food chain begins with tiny animals and plants called plankton. The message was how important the oceans are and that each of us must do our part in protecting our "Blue Planet" and its inhabitants. She goes into depth about how large and deep the oceans are, that there are more than 20,000 kinds of fish and over 200,000 different types of plants and animals with plenty more that have not been identified or discovered yet.

Creating a shadow play using a large screen and overhead projectors, several fourth grade students were chosen to "dive into the depths in search of exotic inhabitants." During their pretend journey, Van Allen, who plays a scuba diver, encounters an eel, starfish and even a shark.

Van Allen learned to scuba dive to get the true feel for what it is like to explore below the surface of the ocean.



The Blue Planet presenter Michele Van Allen with fourth grade student volunteers Kaitlyn Bonanno, Dominick Scalera, Najee Brunson, Vito Pelliccia, Yasmee Mighty and Heather Scofi and Boris the shark.

She traveled and interviewed scientists and oceanographers and gained a wealth of knowledge to enrich her program.

A final slide show presentation with extraordinary pictures of our planet and it's underwater creatures revealed to students the beauty of our planet. Along with brilliant scenery, a darker

side showing pollution from littering and the harm that can come to its inhabitants was intended to drive home the message of reuse, recycle and reduce trash.

Students were urged to help keep the planet a cleaner place in order to preserve the wonders of nature.

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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 sposerver@comcast.net. Include your name, address, telephone number.

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: sposerver@comcast.net or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 200 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.

South Plainfield Elks 2006 Poster Contest Winners

The South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298 hosted an awards ceremony recently at the senior center to honor the participants in the 2006 Poster Contest.

The New Jersey State Elks organization sponsors the annual poster contest for eligible students in grades kindergarten through high school. This year, students in every school in the South Plainfield School district participated, with the exception of the middle school.

A total of 66 posters were submitted for judging. Of those 66, there were 24 lodge winners, 15 district winners and six state winners. Each participant was awarded a certificate and medal. First, second and third place winners at the lodge level also received trophy medal stands. Additionally, winners at the district and state level received cash prizes totaling \$473.50.

Family and friends enjoyed cake, ice cream and other refreshments during the ceremony.

The Elks would like to thank the students for their participation, the teachers and administrators from the South Plainfield Board of Education for their support and the staff at the senior center for the use of their facility.

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South Plainfield Middle School music students with trophies won at Allentown competition.

Middle School Students Sweep Competition

Several groups from the South Plainfield Middle School music department competed in Allentown, Pennsylvania on Friday, May 19. The Gems, a selected women's choir conducted by Donna Markiewicz, the orchestra, conducted by Carleen Tedeschi and the wind ensemble, conducted by Andrew Weiss, all competed at the festival.

All three groups were awarded a

trophy for first place in their category. For the third year in a row, the Gems won first place overall in the choral division.

Many students received individual awards during the ceremony. Erin O'Connor received a best vocal solo award, Jhemarr Anderson received a best oboe soloist award and Chelsea Ng received a best piccolo soloist award. The viola and flute sections also

received a special award for best section.

Since October the students attended rehearsals both before and after school to practice for this competition. After the competition, the students were awarded a day of fun and excitement at Dorney Park. "We are very proud of their dedication and excellence in musicianship that all of these students have displayed," said Markiewicz.

Skunk in Old Bridge Tests Positive for Rabies

A skunk tested positive for rabies in Old Bridge. The animal was found in the vicinity of Texas Rd. (Rt. 520) and Rt. 527.

The Public Health Department is recommending the following:

- Avoid contact with wild animals or stray pets.

- Immediately report any bites from a wild or domestic animal to your local health department and consult a physician as soon as possible.

Rabies is caused by a virus which can infect all warm-blooded mammals, including man. The rabies virus is found in the saliva of a rabid animal and is transmitted by a bite, or possibly by contamination of an open cut. New Jersey is enzootic for raccoon and bat variants of rabies. Bats, raccoons, skunks, groundhogs, foxes, cats, and dogs represent about 95% of animals diagnosed with rabies in the United States.

Rabies Prevention Guidelines

The Middlesex County Public Health Department is advising residents to follow these guidelines in order to prevent rabies from being transmitted to themselves or their pets:

- Immediately report a bite from a wild or domestic animal to your local health department. Wash animal bite

wounds thoroughly with soap and water as soon as possible after the bite. Contamination of open cuts or scratches with saliva of potentially rabid animals should also be washed off immediately. Consult a physician as soon as possible.

- Report any wild animal showing signs of unusual behavior.

- Be sure that all family pets are up to date on their rabies vaccination.

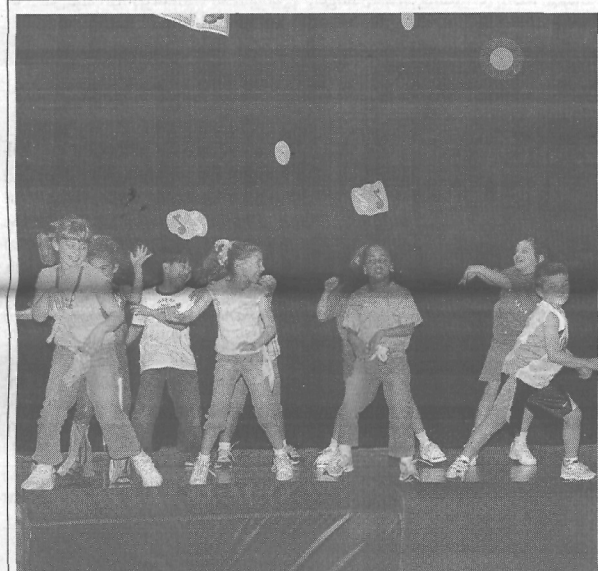
- Animal proof your home and yard. Make sure all garbage containers have tight fitting lids and do not leave pet food or water outside.

- Avoid contact with stray animals or pets other than your own.

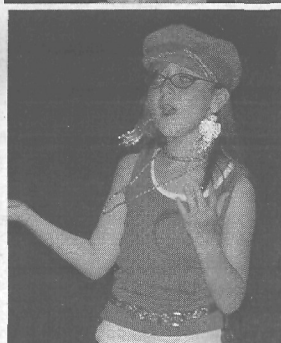
- Try to prevent your pets from coming into contact with wild animals.

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Sacred Heart kindergarten, first, second and third graders took to the stage recently to the delight of parents and teachers to lipsink several classic songs. They performed songs such as "I Love Rock and Roll" and "Why Do Fools Fall in Love."



NOTES FROM The Senior Center

by Joann Graf, Director of Office on Aging

Promoting Peace of Mind

Do you worry what would happen if you were alone in your home and in a crisis situation such as a fall, or a fire or a medical emergency? You can't get to a phone to call for help. You are in a totally vulnerable position and helpless to get the aid you need. Personal emergency response systems provide seniors and their families and caregivers with the peace of mind that help is always available, even if you are alone or incapacitated. This widely-used eldercare tool is invaluable in helping seniors remain in their homes for as long as possible.

A personal emergency response system (called PERS for short) is an electronic device that enables a senior to summon help in an emergency. It consists of three parts: a light-weight radio transmitter that is worn by the senior as a wristband or pendant, a two-way voice console connected to the senior's existing telephone line and an emergency response center that monitors calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

If a senior falls, is confronted by an

intruder or experiences any other emergency, he or she simply presses the transmitter's button, which signals the console to automatically dial the response center. Even if the phone is off the hook, the console can still dial out. A two-way voice conversation with a trained respondent at the emergency call center is established. A caller is automatically identified by his or her signal.

If the senior is able to talk, the respondent establishes the nature of the crisis and dispatches the appropriate help—an ambulance, the police, the fire department or a neighbor. If the respondent can not communicate with the caller, the senior's designated contact (usually a family member or neighbor) is called. If a crisis is suspected, emergency service providers are sent to the senior's home. The call center respondent usually monitors the situation until it is resolved. Charges for a personal emergency response system consist of an installation fee and a monthly monitoring fee. You can purchase, rent or lease the

personal emergency response unit. Neither Medicare nor Medicaid will pay for a PERS. Nor will most insurance companies. Local hospitals or social service agencies may provide personal emergency response services at a subsidized rate. The South Plainfield Office on Aging strongly urges seniors and their families to look into getting a PERS for many reasons. A personal emergency response system will enable seniors to remain at home rather than moving to a new living environment where help is on staff at all times. A personal emergency response system will help you and other family members by putting your minds at ease. Personal emergency response systems are recommended by doctors and other professionals who know that even a minor fall or incident can have major consequences on an older adult's health.

For further information or to get a full list of PERS companies who sell or rent these systems, please call the Senior Center at (908) 754-1047. We will be happy to assist you.

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Around Town

Elks Italian Dinner

May 27

The South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298, 1254 New Market Ave., will hold an Italian dinner on Saturday, May 27 at 6:30 p.m. Dinner consists of veal parmesan, chicken parmesan, eggplant parmesan, pasta, salad, and dessert. Cash bar. Tickets are \$15 and must be purchased in advance. Call Pete (908) 656-4011 to purchase tickets. They will not be sold at the door.

Annual Memorial Day Service

May 30

The American Legion, located on Oak Tree Rd. will be holding a Memorial Day service to honor those who gave their lives in service to our country on Monday, May 29 at 11 a.m. after laying wreaths at the four area cemeteries and Veterans Park. Lunch will follow at the American Legion.

Opening ceremonies will be begun at VFW Post #6763 on Front St. at 9 a.m., followed by services at the four cemeteries and Veterans Park. The public is welcome to attend all or any of the services.

Long Term Care/Insurance Seminar

June 1

You are invited to attend an insurance sales presentation on Long Term Care and Long Term Care Insurance presented by Robert Abel and Jack Pedersen of Watchung Financial Services on Thursday, June 1 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center. The presentation will help answer questions about long term care and help you decide if long term care insurance is right for you.

Feel free to bring your spouse or a friend, but seating is limited. To reserve your place call (908) 756-8900. Refreshments will be served.

Grant Vendor Night

June 2

The 2007 Stokes Committee will host a vendor night on Friday, June 2 at Grant School from 5 to 9 p.m. Vendors are needed on a first come first serve basis. A six foot table is \$35 and vendors are asked to donate a raffle prize valued at \$20. For more information, call Debbie at (908) 561-2320.

Rainbow Open House

June 3

Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an open house on Saturday, June 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rainbow Academy offers a variety of programs to fit the needs of children ages six weeks to seven years.

Those interested are also invited to

South Plainfield SENIOR CENTER

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

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

What's happening in
MAY/JUNE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<div>UPCOMING EVENTS</div> <div>Overnight trip to Baltimore w/Dinner Theatre (Date Changed to September 30-October 1)</div>				
<div>29</div> <div>CENTER CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am Lunch Available Ladies Social Group 10 am</div>	<div>31</div> <div>Exercise 8:45am Computer Class 10am, 11:30am & 1pm Tai Chi Class 2pm</div>	<div>1</div> <div>Shop Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available</div>
				<div>2</div> <div>Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available</div>

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

meet the staff and visit the center for a tour during normal operating hours 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For directions and additional information, visit our website at www.rainbowacademy.com or call (908) 769-3224.

Bowling Fundraiser

June 4

The SPHS Music Boosters are sponsoring a bowling "fun" raiser on Sunday, June 4 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Brunswick Edison Bowl, Oak Tree Rd. in Edison. Cost is \$10 and includes two hours unlimited bowling, shoe rental and a pitcher of soda per lane. Families, friends and groups of all ages welcome. Bumpers available upon request.

For information or to reserve a space, call Julie (908) 791-0294.

VFW Breakfast

June 4

The South Plainfield VFW Post #6763, located on Front St., will be hosting a breakfast on Sunday, June 4 from 8-11 a.m. The public is invited. For information call (908) 668-9751.

Yankees vs. Orioles

June 4

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip to see the Yankees vs. Orioles at Camden Yards on Sunday, June 4. Tickets are on sale now. Call the Recreation Department at (908) 226-7713 to make reservations.

Feast of St. Anthony

June 6-10

Our Lady of Czestochowa R.C. Church's Annual Feast of St. Anthony

will be held Tuesday through Saturday, June 6-10 on the church grounds on Hamilton Blvd. Hours are Tues. through Friday 6 to 11 p.m. and Saturday 1 to 11 p.m.

Advance ride tickets worth \$18 can be purchased for \$10 after all masses, or at the church. Tickets will also be on sale at Bagel Pantry, Corner Deli, David's Stationary, Oak Tree Farms and Sal's Spirit Shoppe.

Rides, licensed games, traditional homemade Polish/Italian food, hot dogs, burgers, french fries, beverages, desserts, Caribbean booth, pizza frite, special food concessions, zeppoli, calzone, shish ka-bob, roast beef, clams/shrimp, bar-be-que. Come visit "the boardwalk in South Plainfield."

Hunterdon Hills Trip

June 6

AARP Chapter #4144 is planning a bus trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on Tuesday, June 6 to see *Born Yesterday*. Cost is \$65 per person. You need not be a member to take this trip. For information or to purchase tickets, call Lee at (732) 968-6616.

VFW Dinner

June 16

The South Plainfield VFW Post #6763, located on Front St., will be hosting a dinner on Friday, June 16 from 5-7 p.m. The public is invited. For information call (908) 668-975.

"Billy and Rose Falcon" in Concert

July 8

On Saturday July 8 at 7 p.m. the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus will be hosting their second annual 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. Tickets are limited and available by advance sales only. All proceeds will go toward the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus charity fund.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for anyone under 18. This price includes the concert and the "after show" party. Refreshments are included. Doors open at 6 p.m., concert starts at 7 p.m. Performers will be around afterwards to sell CDs and mingle with the guests. For tickets call Brian Cargill (908) 755-9717. You can check Billy and Rose Falcon out on the web at www.billyfalcon.com.

Senior Fitness Walk

May 31

The Middlesex County Department of Aging is sponsoring a Senior Health and Fitness Walk on Wednesday, May 31 at Johnson Park in Piscataway. The walk is co-sponsored by the 20 municipal senior centers in the county. Check-in begins at 10 a.m. The walk will kick-off at 11:15 a.m. Rain date is June 1.

Walkers may choose the length of their course, with stops at the half-mile, mile and two-mile marks.

Registration is required. Call (732)

745-3295. Contact your municipal senior centers for transportation.

Depression/Bipolar Alliance Meeting

May 31

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance monthly educational meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 31, at 7:30 p.m. at the Morris-town Unitarian Fellowship in Morristown. For information call (973) 994-1143.

Lions Chili Cook Off

June 4

The North Plainfield Lions Club will be hosting their annual Chili Cook Off on Saturday, June 10 from noon to 4 p.m. The Cook Off is being held in conjunction with the North Plainfield Street Fair on Somerset St. and is sanctioned by the International Chili Society.

The Lions are looking for additional competitors from civic, scout and service groups and also police and fire departments. Those interested can obtain an entrance form and rules by contacting the chairman at (908) 754-2754.

Family Fun Day

June 4

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) of Middlesex County, Inc. and the Middlesex County Substance Abuse Coalition will hold the first annual "Pedaling for Prevention" Family Fun Day on June 4.

Registration starts at 8 a.m. in Grove 4 in Johnson Park. Activities start at 9 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m., rain or shine. Ample parking will be available. Registration fee is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. For more information call NCADD of Middlesex County, Inc. at (732) 254-3344 or register online at www.ncadd-middlesex.com/bike-tour.html.

"Swingin' With The Big Bands"

June 7

A bus trip is planned to the Wayne Manor in Wayne on Wednesday, June 7 to see "Swingin' with the Big Bands." Price includes bus transportation, lunch and show. Call Fran at (908) 722-9025 for complete details and trip flyer.

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Woodloch Pines

Oct. 30 - Nov. 3

The senior center has announced a trip to Woodloch Pines from Oct. 30 to Nov. 3. Trip includes: transportation, four night hotel accommodations, breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, hotel taxes and gratuities, resort activities and nightly entertainment. Cost is \$505 pp double occupancy, \$495 triple and \$585 single.

Downpayment of \$100 required, then \$100 due the first of each month. Make reservations as early as possible.

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

POP QUIZ

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2. Do you have a high interest rate on your mortgage?
3. Do you have an ARM mortgage?
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5. Do you owe the IRS?
6. Do you want financial freedom?

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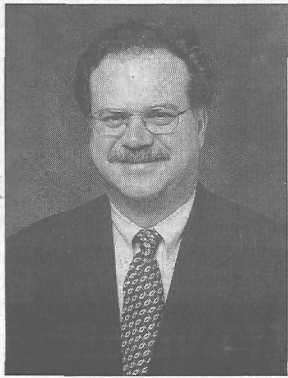
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southplainfieldpeople Milestones

John Santoro, SPHS Graduate, Appointed Pfizer Vice President



John Santoro

John Santoro, a 1971 graduate of South Plainfield High School, has been appointed vice president, leadership and colleague communications for Pfizer Inc.

In his new role, Santoro directs overall communications to Pfizer's 106,000 colleagues worldwide. He also has responsibility for executive speech writing, the Pfizer Annual Review, and the company's annual meeting of shareholders.

Santoro, 52, joined Warner-Lambert Company in 2000 as manager, Human Resource Communications. He was promoted to director, management communications in 1994. In 2000, when Pfizer acquired Warner-Lambert, he joined Pfizer's

Matthew Kravetsky Graduates from East Stroudsburg Univ.

Matthew P. Kravetsky, a resident of South Plainfield, graduated from East Stroudsburg with a M.E. in Elementary Education.

A total of 874 students received degrees from East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania at commencement exercises held on May 13.

Amy Leso Graduates From Lycoming College

Amy Leso was among the 377 members of the Class of 2006 during its 158th Commencement on Sunday, May 7.

Dr. William A. Turnbaugh, a professor of anthropology at the University of Rhode Island and noted anthropologist, was the featured speaker. He received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Lycoming College, from which he graduated in 1970 as the class valedictorian.

Lycoming College is a private four year liberal arts college in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The Carnegie Foundation has rated Lycoming as a national liberal arts college.

Forgash Recognized For 34 Years Service

Dr. Andrew J. Forgash, Professor Emeritus of Rutgers University, was recognized for his many years of service and commitment to the Middlesex County Mosquito Extermination Commission in a resolution adopted at the May 18 meeting of the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

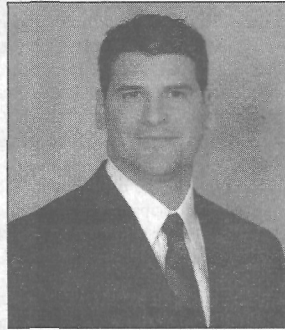
Dr. Forgash, a resident of South Plainfield, was appointed to the commission April 1, 1971 and served more than 34 years as assistant treasurer and treasurer.

Corporate Affairs Division as executive director, leadership communications. He was promoted to senior director, leadership and colleague communications, in 2005. Prior to Pfizer, he worked for Brecker & Merryman, Inc. as creative director.

Santoro earned his BA from Dickinson College (Pa.) in 1975. He holds a master's degree from Seton Hall University and is an Adjunct Professor there.

He was selected for inclusion in the South Plainfield High School Hall of Fame in 2001. He is the co-founder of the Paula Rosina Santoro Foundation, a charity named in honor of his late daughter. Santoro and his family reside in Morris Township.

Pfizer Inc., headquartered in New York City, is the world's largest research-based pharmaceutical company, operating in more than 180 nations and generating annual sales of approximately \$50 billion.



Kevin Krystopik

Krystopik Graduates Cum Laude From Michigan State

Kevin Krystopik graduated Cum Laude from Michigan State University College of Law with a Juris Doctor on May 14.

Kevin graduated from South Plainfield High School in 1999 and Penn State in 2003.

He is the son of Sue Krystopik of South Plainfield and the late Kenneth Krystopik, Sr.

Imbrosciano to Join Williamstown Theatre

Christopher Imbrosciano of South Plainfield has been chosen to attend the renowned Williamstown Theatre Festival in Massachusetts from June 14 through Aug. 21 as an acting apprentice.

The Williamstown Theatre Festival every year offers promising students a chance to expand their theatre education. The Apprentice Program is an

intense training program taught by professional theatre artists. Apprentices study acting, voice and movement and learn about the acting business. Apprentices also have the opportunity to audition for Williamstown Theatre Festival productions. Former students of the program include Christopher Reeve and Gwyneth Paltrow.

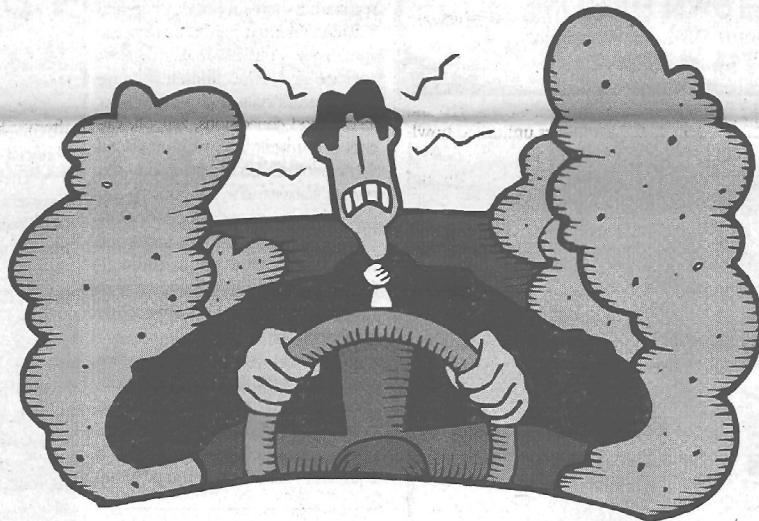


Shannon Fonti

Shannon Fonti Finishes First in Boonton Meet

Shannon Fonti of Henderson's "La Gymnastique" gymnastics team competed in the North Star Invitational Move-up Meet in Boonton and finished first all-around in Level 4 with a combined score of 36.6. Henderson's "La Gymnastique" team also finished in second and third place all-around. Congratulations on a great job!

Had Enough of Traffic?



Charlie Butrico has a Plan!

Come hear Charlie Butrico's Traffic Plan
for South Plainfield and let your
thoughts be heard!

Thursday, June 1st at 7:00 PM

The Italian American Club
Garibaldi Avenue
(behind Roosevelt School)

FROM THE DESK OF DEBBIE BOYLE

Middlesex County residents are asked to contact Senator Barbara Buono on her proposed bill SCR-37 and Assemblymen Peter J. Barnes, Jr. and Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr., on their proposed bill A-2814, seeking re-evaluation of the Abbott Districts' funding, which affecting thousands of our tax dollars. They can do so by logging on to spnet.k12.nj.us. You can also contact Senate President Richard Codey at 449 Mount Pleasant Ave., West Orange, NJ 07052, (973) 731-6770 and Assembly Speaker Joseph Roberts, Brooklawn Shopping Plaza, Rt. 130 & Browning Rd., Brooklawn, NJ 08030, (856) 742-7600. Let them know that you support a special legislative session during the 2006 summer session to act on property tax reform or school funding. Property tax reform is needed now, not two years from now. The future education of our children should not be a political football.

Congratulations to the Grant El-

ementary School Drama Club, the directors and choreographers: Joan Stasio, Sandra Acker and Elizabeth Mazzocco, on the presentation of "The Music Man, Jr." The performance was outstanding! You are all so talented.

The Grant 2007 Stokes Wall Ball Fundraiser will take place on June 3 at the Riley School wall ball area. Chairman Bill Cochran will be calling everyone who will be competing with their team and game times. Sixty children will be participating from various South Plainfield elementary schools.

The Grant 2007 Stokes used clothing, shoes, belts, purses, stuffed animals, coats, fundraiser will take place on Saturday, June 17 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Grant School parking lots. Please bag all items and drop them off in the Roma Food trailer. All participants are welcome. These items will be shipped to Poland to benefit the less fortunate. The 2007 Stokes

fundraiser will receive two-cents per pound. If you need any further information, please contact me at (908) 791-9439.

The Grant 2007 Car Wash fundraiser will take place on Saturday, June 10 in the Grant School parking lot, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Parents are needed at 8 a.m. to help set up. Pre-paid tickets will be available at the bottom of the flyer that will be going home via backpacks. Fill out the sign-up information on the flyer with the fifth grade participants name and time they will be able to join in the fun of washing cars. For further information, contact me at (908) 791-9439.

The SPHS Girls Varsity Softball senior night took place at the Pitt Street field on Thursday, May 18. SP vs. Middlesex. South Plainfield won 12-2. Thank you so much to Lori Little for purchasing signature softballs for team members to sign as gifts for the departing seniors and for helping me to decorate with balloons and sparkling streamers!

Thank you to all the residents, teachers and staff who have attended the past months meetings at the Board of Education and the Borough Council meeting and for offering your input during the public sessions. Thank you to Councilmen Butrico, Petronko, Cusick and Bengivena who publicly stated that they would work along with the Board of Education. The entire council were hand delivered a copy of the Board of Education budget on February 28 for review. The only obscenity in this budget was that the majority of registered voters in South Plainfield did not come out to vote their opinion.

Once again, the children who are not professionals and play various sports in leagues and schools need the encouragement and support of all those people who are there to watch games. Parents who continue to discuss other players and their abilities by putting them down are causing a great disservice not only to the players themselves but for the people who have to listen to you. Open your own closet door and look around.

Thank you to Debby DiDolce for your help at the Teachers' Appreciation lunch. Miss Sarah Walsh, sure hope you are doing well.

Congratulations to the SPHS Golf team and your coaches. You go gang!

Meals on Wheels Drivers are Urgently Needed

Jewish Family and Vocational Services of Middlesex County urgently needs caring volunteers to perform a valuable mitzvah (good deed)-delivering meals to homebound clients. We are currently seeking substitutes to work on an on-call basis.

Substitutes fill in for regularly scheduled volunteers who have either a planned or a last-minute absence. Therefore, prospective volunteers must have a flexible schedule and be available with approximately one hour's notice.

The Kasher Meals on Wheels Program is a five-day-a-week, Monday through Friday service that provides two daily meals to seniors and disabled individuals who are temporarily or permanently unable to shop or cook for themselves. We have routes throughout northern Middlesex County including the towns of Edison, Colonia, Perth Amboy, Woodbridge and Highland Park.

Meals are distributed at our Edison office weekdays at 10 a.m.

Call E.J. Berman today to set up a meeting at (732) 777-1940.



Pictured with author Trinka Hakes Noble are contest winners (back row) Owen Cascante, Spoorthi Jeedigunta, Neha Lund and Anjali Patel, (front row) Franchesca Gomez, Yujin Lim, Maria Espinoza and Emily Padilla. Not pictured are winners Laura Rodriguez and Nina Bavosa.

Author Trinka Hakes Noble Visits Roosevelt

By Jane Dornick

May 10 was Roosevelt School's Author Day and featured children's author and illustrator Trinka Hakes Noble. Each grade spent time in the school library listening to Noble read some of her books and explain how and why they were written. The characters and plots in her books are invented, however they are all based on real events in history. Some of her most noted works are *The Scarlet Stockings Spy*,

Apple Tree Christmas and the *Jimmy's Boa* series.

Prior to Noble's visit, third and fourth grade students were asked to write their own stories based on the character Jimmy and his boa constrictor and kindergarten through second grade colored in pictures related to the Jimmy's Boa books. A contest was held with the winners having the honor of enjoying a pizza party at lunch-time with Noble.

Coast Guard Announces Auxiliary Programs

Flotilla 4-5 of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary based in Edison has announced its Spring 2006 programs.

- The Spring Boating and Safety Course will be held Tuesday nights at Middlesex County College beginning May 30 until June 27. The new boating laws require all power vessel operators to have passed this course. All those who were born in 1969 or later are required to have passed this course by June 1, 2006; born 1959 or later by June 1, 2007; born 1949 or later by June 1, 2008 and all power vessel operators by June 1, 2009.

- The new boating laws allow for a test-out option. You must have proof of age that you were born before 1979 and certify that you have 100 hours of power vessel operations. This is a one-time test. If you fail there are no re-exams, which means that you must attend an authorized Boating Safety Class. The fee for this test is \$25. Flotilla 4-5 will give this test on Tuesday evenings in June at the

Middlesex County College.

- The Coast Guard auxiliary will continue its traditional Vessel Safety Exam. We will make a courtesy examination of your boat to check for safety conditions. Upon passing, a decal will be affixed to your boat. Unlike the test-out exam, the boat can be reinspected if the boat does not pass the exam and the defective safety condition is corrected. This examination can be conducted in your driveway for your convenience.

- Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month and the Division meetings are held the second Thursday of each month. Both are held at the Edison Moose Lodge located on the border of Edison and South Plainfield.

For further information, contact Flotilla Commander Joseph Scalera at (908) 757-8359 or by e-mail at scalerajoe@aol.com.

High School Students are Honored for Accomplishments

Gina Severini, senior at South Plainfield High School, was honored at the 28th Annual Middlesex County Principals and Supervisors Association Outstanding Student Banquet held on May 3. Gina was recognized for her accomplishments in initiating Heroes and Cool Kids in the Peer Leadership Program and for assisting in collecting donations for Hurricane Katrina victims and adopted needy families in the South Plainfield area during Christmas.

Three seniors from South Plainfield High School will be participating in the New Jersey Governor's School Program running during this summer. The students are: Amanda Harzula, for School of the Environment, attending Stockton College in the fall;

Tony Joe, for the the School of Public Issues, attending Monmouth University this fall and Wael Kanj, for the School of Engineering and Technology, attending Rutgers in the fall.

Several students have been chosen from South Plainfield High School to have their literary works published in the Edison Arts Society first teen literary magazine, *The Incandescent Donut*, featuring literature and art submissions from high school students throughout Middlesex County.

Students selected in the first issue are: Jake Levine, senior, "The Ups and Downs of Heroes," Gabriella Franco, senior, "When We Were Young," Krystal Williams, senior "Words Like Thunderbolts" and Alison Smith, sophomore, "A Rose Among Weeds."

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South PlainfieldScouting

Girl Scouting Happenings

South Plainfield Girl Scouts and their families donated food items that were then assembled into baskets and delivered to local families in need. This service project is done by the girl scouts at least three times a year. Feel free to donate non-perishable foods to the community food bank at any time throughout the year. They welcome your generosity.

Troops from all over town decorated small cups for spring and filled the cups with sugar-free candy. Members of Daisy Troop 883 and Junior Troop 493 delivered over two hundred cups to Roosevelt Care Center in Edison. The girls stayed and visited with the residents. They made 'Lots of Smiles' that day!

Girls working toward their Silver and Gold awards collected books, pet food and supplies for donation to local agencies. Junior Troop 489 is currently working toward their Bronze award by collecting 'Help Bunny Rabbits' supplies.

Five- and six-year old Daisy scouts came together in their PJs, with sleeping bag and stuffed animal in hand, to hear stories and do crafts. Older scouts did a wonderful job supervising and working with the younger girls.

Recently over 50 young scouts journeyed to Homewood Suites in Somerset for an overnight adventure. There they enjoyed crafts, swimming, a pizza party and friendship. Junior troops 118 and 838 were on hand as helpers. The girls had a great time!

Despite a little rain, junior girl scouts spent a March weekend at Camp Lou Henry Hoover in Middleville for Junior Jamboree. They learned map skills, knots, hiking safety and camping basics. They also took part in activities such as leather craft-



Daisy scouts participated in an overnight adventure.

ing and candle-making. Cadette/Senior troop 232 planned and ran the event perfectly. They did a great job.

The girl scouts brought back their Family Fun Fair in April. This year's event was a big success, providing families with a fun, inexpensive and entertaining day. On a gorgeous, sunny day, the children enjoyed the moonwalk, spin art, a goldfish pond, good food and many other fun activities. Over 30 local troops took part in this event. If you missed it this year, make sure to look out for us next year!

Upcoming community events in-

clude mother-daughter events, father-daughter cosmic bowling, theatre trips and more. Planning continues for the biggest scouting event of the year, Encampment 2006 in September.

South Plainfield is one of 24 communities proudly served by Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council, Inc. Founded in 1957, GSWRC provides the optimal Girl Scout experience to nearly 11,000 girls and adults.

For information please call (908) 232-3236 or log on to www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts.

Submitted by Madeline Christilles



Mom and Me Weekend a Success

Mothers and daughters spent an enjoyable overnight at Camp Lou Henry Hoover the weekend of May 12-13. The theme of the weekend was

time spent together and relaxation. Mothers and daughters enjoyed a variety of activities, including arts and crafts, the low ropes course, cooking,

baking, boating, hiking and more. The weather was perfect and the daughters spent the weekend honoring their mothers.

Camp Lou Henry Hoover is owned and operated by the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council Inc. and offers a wide variety of programs throughout the year for girls and others. In addition, Camp Hoover offers a six week residential camp with a variety of programs for girls entering grades two through 12. The end of August is reserved for Family Camp. This is a great opportunity for families to spend time together in the outdoors, to go hiking, boating and much more.

To find out more about these and other programs, contact the Washington Rock at (908) 232-3236, ext. 1213 or email campregistrar@gswrc.com. Visit the camp's website at www.camphoover.org.



Webelos, Bear Scouts Make Blankets for Kids

Webelos and Bear Scouts of Pack 207 wanted to share their love with those less fortunate. Along with leader Marie Markey and their parents, they made 19 blankets and donated them to Project Linus, which provides blankets for terminally ill children. The children who participated in this project were: Grant School students Joshua Siepmann, Joshua Coupe, Christopher Markey and Kathy Pacheco, and Riley School students Daniel Pacheco, James Markey, Frank Ferraro and Matthew Siepmann. The children selected the fabric and went to work making the blankets; some were tied, some fringed, but all were beautiful. Dr. Martin of Project Linus was delighted to accept the blankets. He assured the scouts that they will be a comfort to the children. The scouts like the idea of helping other children and have already decided they will be making more blankets.



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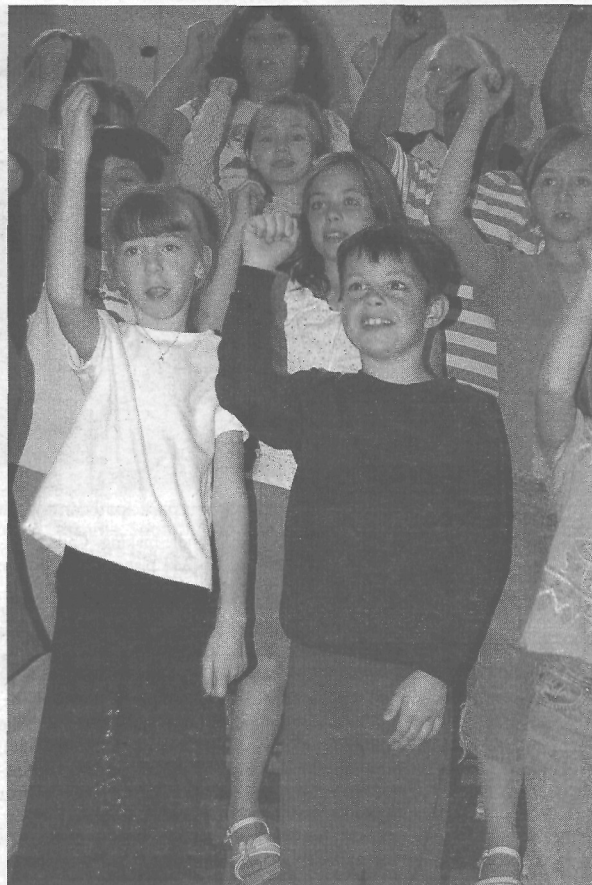
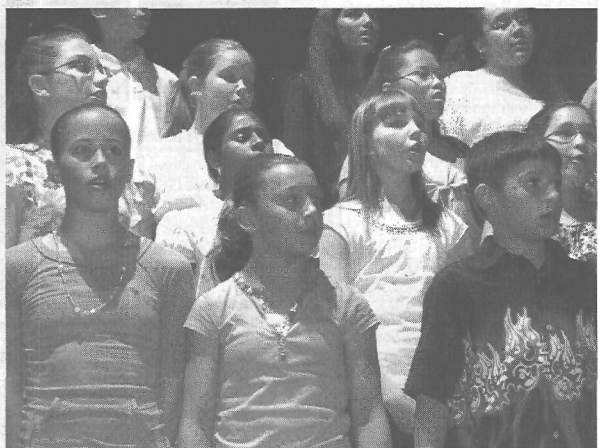
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Grant, Franklin Celebrate Spring in Song

Grant Elementary School Spring Concert took place on May 3 in the South Plainfield High School Auditorium with performances by many diverse musicians.

The program began with the "Pledge of Allegiance" led by Student Council President Casey Butrico. Flutists Casey Butrico, Miranda Garcia and Olga Tarnawska played the "Star Spangled Banner." The Grant School Orchestra, led by conductor Tobie Baldwin, kicked off the show with "Scarborough Fair" and "Classic Sinfonia." The Jazz Band, featuring students Kevin Belanger, Jesse Masters and Kayla

Karigma on alto sax and Shianne Martinez on trumpet and led by Mark Tweed performed "Shout it Out," "Ants in the Pants" and the "Theme from Spider Man." Tweed also directed the fifth grade Concert Band with songs "William Tell Overture," "China Suite," "Atlantis," "Slideways" and "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy." The sixth grade band played "Here, There and Everywhere," "Irish Tune from County Derry," "Salute to Beethoven" and "Cameron," directed by Joan Stasio. The evening concluded with the Grant School Chorus singing "La Musica," "The Water is Wide,"

"You've Got a Friend," "An American Celebration" and "Catch a Falling Star," directed by Joan Stasio and accompanied by Patricia Landy on piano and Joseph Stasio on drums.

• • •

Franklin School recently presented their Spring Concert to two appreciative audiences: the student body in the afternoon and family and friends in the evening. The concert featured the Franklin Chorus directed by Glenn Parisi and accompanied by Brenda Day. The young vocalists sang five songs. The Franklin School Band, directed by Kristen Gennings, presented five numbers and featured soloists Yasmeen Mighty, Gabrielle Payne and Jonathan Prins. The Franklin School Orchestra, directed by Bruce Mikolon, offered four numbers, including the comical "Aunt Rhodie's Appetite." As the orchestra played, the story was narrated by librarian Mrs. Alongi. Using assorted hats, reading teacher Mrs. Marcus portrayed the characters Aunt Rhodie, French Chef and Old Grey Goose. Her antics brought hoots of laughter from the audience.



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Freeholders Authorize \$3.35M for Municipal Rec Projects

The Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders authorized the use of \$3.35 million in Open Space and Recreation funds to help eight municipalities improve or construct local parks.

South Plainfield received \$323,000 to add handicapped accessible dining

and locker room facilities at its recreation center and to build two tennis courts behind the municipal building.

The grants to municipalities for recreation projects are from the County's Open Space and Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund.

"The recreation grants help our municipalities improve their recreational offerings for their residents," said Freeholder Director David B. Crabel. "These grants will go a long way ensuring that residents of all ages and abilities have access to quality facilities."

"These grants and our Open Space Preservation program help keep Middlesex County a great place to live and raise a family," said Freeholder Camille Fernicola, liaison to the County Open Space Advisory Committee.

Mark Your Calendars – Tiger Sharks Team Summer 2006 Season

Come out and discover the South Plainfield Community Pool Tiger Sharks Diving and Swimming Team at the P.A.L. on June 7, at 6 p.m. Meet and greet the

coaches and visit the Metro Swim Shop.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Keneth Morgan

Well, we're on the verge of Memorial Day weekend, the publicly-accepted beginning of summer (Earth's axial tilt, notwithstanding), culminating in Memorial Day on Monday, when we honor those who've given their lives to defend our country. We at the library hope you'll not forget the latter while celebrating the former. Here's some library news:

The library will be closed on Sunday and Monday in observance of Memorial Day.

Today is the last day of availability for our current group of Circuit videos and DVDs. Get 'em while you can. The next group will be available late next week.

We'll follow our usual schedule of children's programs next week. By "usual," we mean the following: Storytime programs, for children age 3 and over, will be held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. "Time for 2's & 3's," for children age 2 and 3, will be held on Wednesday morning at 10:30 and Thursday evening at 6:30. And "Books-N-Babies," for children under age 3, is held on Friday morning at 10:30. For more details, check with Miss Linda.

Before we leave the subject of our children's programs, here's a quick teaser: our summer reading program, "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales," will be along soon. Registration should be starting in late June, with the program formally starting in July. We'll have some more information soon.

That went pretty well, so let's throw in a few more previews while we're at it. We'll start with our annual book sale, set for Saturday, June 10. In addition to a wide variety of books, we'll also be selling a lot of audio/visual items. You can also pick up a library tote bag or candy bar, while supplies last (and those candy bars are going very, very fast). Prices will be as marked, and they'll be fantastically, unbelievably low. Please stop by and take advantage of the bargains before we come to our senses.

The program, "The Art of Paying for College," will be presented at the library on Monday, June 19 at 7 p.m. Nancy Ziering of the Education Funding Consultants Association will talk about topics including the college admissions and enrollment process, financial aid forms and the effect of tax laws. The program is being presented free, no pre-registration is required.

We have a two-part scrapbooking program on the way. Part one is set for Monday, June 26, with part two on Monday, July 17. Both will start at 7 p.m. The program is geared towards beginners, and both parts will be taught by Dayle Giammarino of Creative Memories. Patrons may sign

up for individual programs, or for both. Pre-registration is required, and there's a \$3 materials fee. Participants should bring up to three photos to the first session and six photos to the second. Please call us for more details.

We have room this week for what could be considered a want ad: We're looking for someone to lead our adult craft programs starting this fall. We'd prefer someone who can put the programs together on their own, and can offer both a daytime and an evening session, preferably running about an hour. Programs may be scheduled over the course of several months, or you can just offer one. For more details, you can call us and ask for Millie. And unfortunately, no, you won't get your own parking space.

That's about all for now. We're always willing to answer your questions, listen to your suggestions, take note of your opinions, and bask in your admiration. Please call us at (908) 754-7885, or drop a note in our Community Suggestion Box. You can also get information from our website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. Thanks for your attention; see you next Friday.



Demarest Completes Tour of Duty in Iraq

Marine Lance Corporal G. Everett Demarest IV, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Everett Demarest III of South Plainfield, has recently completed a seven month tour of duty in Iraq. He was stationed at Camp Fallujah, assigned to the Combat Logistics Battalion-8 Transportation Support Company located 40 miles west of Baghdad. He will remain on active duty until May 31, at which time he will return to reserve status reassigned to the U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters and Service Company, 6th Motor Transport Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, Red Bank. Lance Corporal Demarest is a 2002 graduate of South Plainfield High School.

Almost Famous Players Seeks Donations for Benefit

The theatre troupe that brings the Haunted Woods Tour to Putnam Park each year has once again been asked to entertain for the St. Peter's Hospital Cancer Survivors Day Picnic. This year's theme is Western.

We are seeking donations of cowboy hats, bandanas, overalls, any type of western style shirts or skirts, vests, toy stick horses, cowbells, wooden gavel, spittoon (both for the courthouse), heavy rope, or any western related item that can be used for a costume, set or game. Items are needed by June 3. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

Call (908) 346-2290 for pick up.

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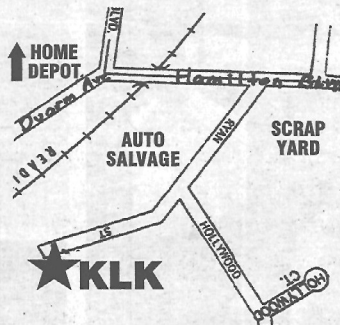
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Rename The Brush Stop Contest

The Brush Stop, located at 132 South Plainfield Ave. next to Drug Fair, is holding a contest to rename the hair salon. The winner will receive \$100 worth of services and products along with their photograph in the *Observer* with their winning entry on the new sign outside the shop. You can bring in your entries during business hours, Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Contest ends June 9. For more information contact The Brush Stop at (908) 753-6969.

We are located at 265 Ryan St. South Plainfield, NJ 07080

-K-L-K- PHONE (908) 757-4434 FAX (908) 757-2421 -K-L-K-

HOURS: MON-FRI 7:00-4:30 SAT 7:00-12:00

Sports

By Glenn Cullen

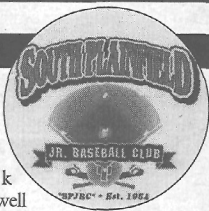
JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

The Executive Board would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make the All-Star celebration a wonderful success.

This weekend is the Memorial Day Tournament. SPJBC members that are expected to work one snack stand and at least one day of field duty. There should be some very exciting games this weekend at the club.

This coming week begins round robin tournament play for many of the age groups. Managers must keep members informed regarding game times.

The SPJBC is preparing for its Father's Day Baseball Classic. The club is looking for volunteers to work the



snack stand as well as the ever important snack stand captains. The SPJBC is still looking for other tournament teams that may be interested in playing in both SPJBC tournaments. If interested, please contact the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090.

The SPJBC is still looking for volunteers for the 2006 season. In particular, the SPJBC needs Snack Stand captains. Anyone interested is asked to call the SPJBC or e-mail the club at www.southplainfieldjbc@yahoo.com. Feel free to visit the SPJBC website at www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc.

The SPJBC would like to wish all veterans a Happy Memorial Day.

Baseball Club Recognizes Volunteers

By Jane Dornick

In its 53rd season, the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club held their annual award ceremonies on All Star Sunday, May 21, in lieu of opening day which was cancelled due to inclement weather.

The Master of Ceremonies was Club Trustee Tom Walsh. Accepting the Commissioners Award for his outstanding contribution to the club was Tulio "Cappy" Capparelli, retired deputy chief of the South Plainfield Police Dept. who also coached at the baseball club. Special appreciation awards were given to Irene Flanagan, South Plainfield VFW, South Plainfield PBA Local 100, South Plainfield Fire Dept., South Plainfield Elks, South Plainfield PAL and South Plainfield Italian American Club, which helped to purchase and install new flag poles around the club, and Ronnie Bechtle, who donated the fence capping on all of the fields. Receiving Lifetime Member awards were Kevin Lykes, who was a past commissioner,



board member, coach and tournament director and currently umpires and is director of the A League; Tom McCreesh, former board member, coach and principal founder of COACH's Care, who now umpires and is the director of COACH's Care; and Joe Sierzega, former board mem-

ber and coach, and who is now an umpire and scholarship committee chairperson.

In attendance were Mayor Dan Gallagher and Councilman Ray Petronko, who threw out the first pitch to begin All Star Sunday.

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Please take notice that the Applicant, Sonador, Inc., has applied to the Mayor and Borough Council of South Plainfield and the State of New Jersey, Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control for a transfer of liquor license #1222-33-008-008. The license will be used at Block 401, Lot 5, 2243 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, New Jersey.

The Application is now on the Borough Council calendar and a Public Hearing is scheduled for Monday, June 5, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. in Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, at which time you may appear in person or through an attorney and present any objections you may have to the granting of the relief sought in this application.

All documents relating to this Application are on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk and may be inspected by the public Monday through Friday at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

The notice is being given by the Application by the direction of the Mayor and Borough Council and pursuant to Municipal Ordinance.

EDWARD J. SANTORO, JR., ESQ.
Attorney for Applicant

\$94.60

May 19 & 26, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Stephen J. Lipka requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a deck. Proposed deck lacks 20' required rear setback; 16.5' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 235 Hillside Avenue on Block 404, Lot 11 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, June 22, 2006 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 Friday, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

\$38.50 May 26, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

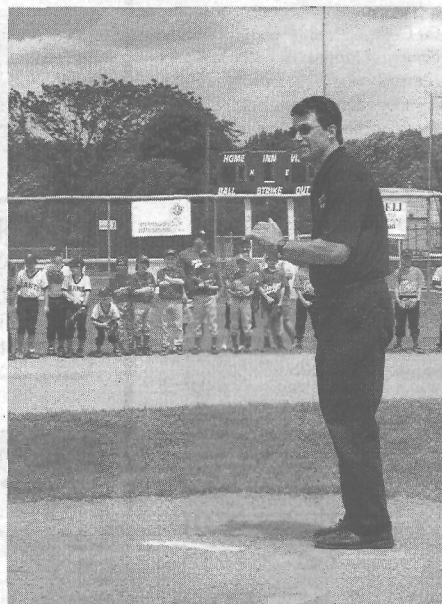
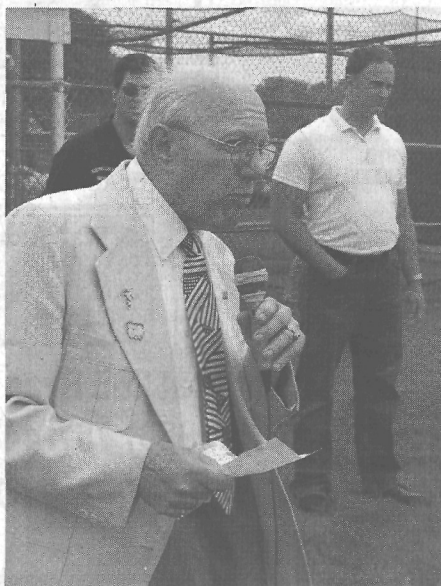
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Neil Rothwaller requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit an addition. Proposed 12x24 addition exceeds 25% allowable lot coverage by 65 sq. ft. or 1%; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 189 Garden Drive on Block 174, Lot 57 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, June 8, 2006 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 Friday, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

\$38.50 May 26, 2006



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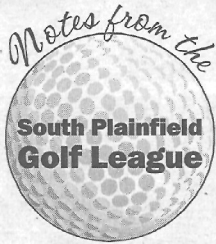
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Sports

Submitted By Bob Nilan

Notes from the South Plainfield Golf League



League Standings

AMERICAN DIVISION				NATIONAL DIVISION			
	W	L	T		W	L	T
1 KC's Korner	3	0	0	Patti's Const.	2	1	0
2 Pornovets	3	0	0	Buy Rite Liquors	2	1	0
3 Witty's	2	1	0	Hackers	1	2	0
4 2 Buds, 2 Dubs	2	1	0	Twin City	1	2	0
4 PAH	1	2	0	Sport & Social	1	2	0
5 Eddie's Grinders	0	3	0	VFW	0	3	0

KC's Korner, led by Mark "The Spark" Dugan, got by a tough Hackers team, 11½-8½, to hold onto their share of first place in the American Division. Dugan had another fine round, this time a 4-over 37, to earn medalist honors again for KC's Korner; Jeremy Szoc posted an impressive 36, and teammate Bill Mann had a 38 for the Hackers.

Pornovets remained tied with KC's Korner with a 3-0 record after thumping Patti's Construction 15-5. The Pornovets brothers, Jim and Bob, both kept their drives in the fairways for a change—Jim had a nice round of 37, Bob was just one stroke higher with a 38, and sub Charlie Tohira came through with a 38. Frank Behr's 39 was the low-score for Patti's who, despite the loss, remained tied for first place in the National Division.

Witty's was on cruise control as they easily defeated the VFW 16-4, with Kevin "Boom Boom" Bickunas shooting the low round of the match with a 39.

Jim Gash of 2 Buds, 2 Dubs, shot a beautiful 1-over par 34 to fire his team to a stunning 17-3 win over previously undefeated Buy Rite Liquors. Dale Dube had a solid round of 38 for the victors. Mike King also had a terrific round of 34 in a losing cause, and Irish Danny Griffin posted

a 37 for Buy Rite who are still tied for first place in the National Division.

Plainfield Animal Hospital dropped their opening two matches so they were all charged up as they teed off against Sport & Social. They then proceeded to blast Sport & Social out of the water, 17-3, as Mike "I Have Found My Game" Sikanowicz shot a 3-over 36, and Andy Orazec had a 38 for PAH. Dennis Bibby's 39 was the best round for Sport & Social.

In the most surprising and most lopsided win of the night, Twin City overwhelmed Eddie's Grinders 18-2, to drop them into last place with an 0-3 record. The Grinders have to be wondering why other teams are inspired to play so well against them. Eddie Banach fired an impressive 2-over 35; Chris Dillon continued his fine play with a 38; and Fred "Catfish" Kirchofer had a 39—and that's pretty good golf. But it wasn't nearly good enough as Twin City put together the best team effort of the season as Guy Severini, Tom McCreesh and Jay Coppola all had 36's, and Joe Diller registered a 39.

All the members of the South Plainfield Golf League extend their very best wishes to Kumi Fuji who recently resigned as supervisor at West Nine Golf Course after 12 years of highly decorated service in order to return to her

native Japan. Kumi was very supportive of the Tuesday night golf league and always did everything she could to provide the players with an enjoyable golfing experience. Her efforts were greatly appreciated. We shall miss you, Kumi.

Low scores for the night: Jim Gash, 34; Mike King, 34; Ed Banach, 35; Guy Severini, 36; Jay Coppola, 36; Tom McCreesh, 36; Mike Sikanowicz, 36; and Jeremy Szoc, 36.



The South Plainfield Elks donated \$4,000 to the Junior Baseball Club for the purchase of a new score board. Elks Exalted Ruler Arthur Sabino Sr. presents a check to Commissioner Lee Flanagan with (L to R) Assistant Commissioner Bob Bors, Trustee Tom Walsh, Assistant Commissioner Bill Butrico, Elks Inner Guard William Rueter, Leading Knight Debbie Czech and Loyal Knight Debra Shuleski.

New USA Soccer Camps

USA (United Soccer Academy) has launched new exciting camp formats for 2006. World Cup camps (ages five to 12 years) pushes the enjoyment factor with a fun packed week of playing vibrant soccer games. Campers join an international team for the week learning exciting skills from around the world, culminating in daily fun contests. Travel Academy camps (eight to 14 years) are for the serious travel player. Based on professional club academics, this camp gives

players an insight into how the pros train. Players receive professional instruction and progress reports from USA's qualified coaches. USA's Soccer Squirts camps for three to five year olds this summer will run at Kenneth Ave. fields on the following dates: Soccer Squirts, Aug. 21-25; World Cup Camp, Aug. 21-25 and Travel Academy, Aug. 21-25.

For information, visit www.UnitedSoccerAcademy.com or call (908) 823-0130.

Baseball Tickets Available at Ricochet

The Club at Ricochet has tickets available for the following baseball games:

Monday evening June 26—Yankees vs. Atlanta Braves
Monday evening July 3—Mets vs. Pittsburgh (fireworks night)

Saturday afternoon July 15—Yankees vs. Chicago White Sox

Wednesday evening August 2, Yankees vs. Toronto Blue Jays tickets which include the bus are \$54 and may be obtained by calling (908) 753-2300.

South Plainfield Recreation Offering 2006 Discount Ticket Prices

	Gate Price	Our Price
Sesame Place (all ages)	\$45.26	\$37.00
Mountain Creek (adult)	27.99	21.00
Hershey Park (adult)	41.95	34.95
Hershey Park Jr./Sr. (ages 3-8; 55-69)	24.95	23.05
Great Adventure (adult)	59.99	31.00
includes safari, 49" and over		
Hurricane Harbor (adult)	32.99	28.00
Dorney Park (adult)	36.95	31.50
Philadelphia Zoo (adult & child)	16.95	12.50

Tickets may be purchased at the recreation office in the PAL building on Maple Ave. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month. For more information or to check on availability, please call (908) 227-7713 during office hours.

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Shiraz
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RANCHO ZABACO 7.99 750 ml
DANCING BULL Zinfandel
This Zinfandel is a very solid value that starts with a touch of matchstick, but folds into toasty oak, black cherry, tart, tangy structure and dried berry notes that carry through the finish. Rated by the Wine Spectator on May 15, 2005.

SMOKING LOON 7.99 750 ml
Chardonnay
This Chardonnay is smooth and round, with balanced butter, citrus, apple, spice and sweet cream flavors that linger nicely on the finish. Rated by the Wine Spectator as a Best Value.

KENDALL JACKSON 12.99 750 ml
Cabernet Sauvignon
This Cabernet is ripe and juicy, with fleshy plum, blackberry and wild berry fruit that's well-centered and supple in texture, with a touch of leather and mint. Rated by the Wine Spectator on December 15, 2004.

JACOB'S CREEK 6.99 750 ml
Chardonnay

LUNA DI LUNA 7.99 750 ml
All Blends

ROSEMOUNT 7.99 750 ml
Chardonnay

TURNING LEAF 6.99 750 ml
Cabernet, Merlot, Chardonnay

VENDANGE 6.99 1.5 liter
Cabernet, Merlot, Chardonnay, White Zinfandel

SMOKING LOON 7.99 750 ml
All Types

BRANCOTT 8.99 750 ml
Sauvignon Blanc Classic

MEZZA CORONA 11.99 1.5 liter
Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio

RANCHO ZABACO 7.99 750 ml
DANCING BULL Sauvignon Blanc

BERINGER 8.99 1.5 liter
White Zinfandel

CLOS DU BOIS 9.99 750 ml
Chardonnay

COOKS 5.99 750 ml
Brut or Extra Dry

M & R 9.99 750 ml
Asti Spumante

PERRIER JOUT 30.99 750 ml
Gran Brut

COLUMBIA CREST 9.99 750 ml
GRAND ESTATES Cabernet, Merlot

FISH EYE 11.99 1.5 liter
All Types

KENDALL JACKSON 12.99 750 ml
VINTNER'S RES. Merlot

CARLO ROSSI 8.99 1.5 liter
Pilsano, Rose, Rhine, Blush

ALMADEN MOUNTAIN 10.99 1.5 liter
Burgundy, Chablis, Blush, Rhine

PETER VELLA 12.99 1.5 liter
Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot, White Zinfandel

ZELKO 10.99 1.75 liter
Vodka

BENTLEY'S 11.99 1.75 liter
London Dry Gin

PORT ROYAL 12.99 1.75 liter
Light Rum

EXCEPTIONAL VALUES

CLUB 400 12.99 1.75 liter
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CANADIAN PEAK 13.99 1.75 liter
Whiskey

SCOTCH ISLAND 14.99 1.75 liter
Scotch Whisky

LIQUOR AND SPIRITS

STOCK 4.99 1 liter
Dry or Sweet Vermouth

BLACK BELVET 13.99 1.75 liter
Canadian Whisky

E & J GALLO VS 16.99 1.75 liter
Brandy

BOZZO 17.99 750 ml
Amaretto

B & B 25.99 750 ml
Liqueur

ZYR 26.99 750 ml
Vodka 80°

OLD GRAND DAD 27.99 1.75 liter
Whiskey 86°

GLENFIDDICH 31.99 750 ml
12 Year Old Single Malt Whisky

DEKUYPER 8.99 750 ml
Pucker Sour Apple Cordial

SAUZA 12.99 750 ml
Gold or Blanco Tequila

MALIBU 14.99 750 ml
Coconut Rum

SVEDKA 18.99 1.75 liter
Vodka 80°

HENNESSY VS 25.99 750 ml
Cognac

BEEFEATER 26.99 1.75 liter
Gin

CUTTY SARK 26.99 1.75 liter
Scotch

KETEL ONE 34.99 1.75 liter
Vodka 80°

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18 Pack

PILSNER URQUELL 21.99 12 oz. N.R. Bottles
Case

Heineken 22.99 12 oz. N.R. Bottles
Loose Case

NATURAL LIGHT or ICE 10.99 12 oz. Cans
36-Pack

O'DOUL'S 12.99 12 oz. N.R. Bottles
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MIKE'S 21.99 11.2 oz. N.R. Bottles
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Thurs. Fri. Sat. 9-10
Sun. 10-7



Future Stars Enjoy a Day Family Fun

The Future Stars Preschool hosted its annual Family Fun Day on Saturday, May 13 at the Roosevelt School playground. Events included a trackless train, two moonwalks with slides, a bear mill where the children got to take home a stuffed bear, cupcake decorating, crafts and games. The members of the Parents

Group would like to thank Jim Giannakis for all his time and hard work, the Sacred Heart volunteers, teachers Elyne Foscolo, Joanne Cox and Sue Butrico; Charles Ford for allowing the use of his school for the event; Dr. Rosado for approving the use of school property; Sophia Domogala and all of the par-

ent volunteers: Sue Fierro, Layla Bell, Michelle Romano, Jennifer Zeeb, Marie Andrew and Kelly Villares—what a wonderful job! Future stars is accepting registration for the 2006-2007 school year. Anyone interested should come to the adult school on the third floor of the administration building on Jackson Ave.



Obituaries

John R. Cotone, 68

John R. Cotone, known to many as "Chief," and a lifelong resident of South Plainfield, lost his battle with cancer on Wednesday, May 17, at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick. He was 68.



John R. Cotone

Born in Jersey City, John graduated North Plainfield High School in 1956. He joined the U.S. Naval Reserve and went on active duty in 1956, returning to reserve status in 1958.

He has furthered his education through the years by taking numerous courses and obtaining several certifications in fire fighting, fire prevention and building codes.

In 1961 he started working with the Borough of South Plainfield Public Works as a heavy equipment operator and was later promoted to foreman. He has been a fire prevention officer and for many years Chief of

the Bureau of Fire Prevention in the community and a sub-code official for over 20 years.

A perfect example of what volunteerism in South Plainfield is all about, John had been a member of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department for 43 years, joining in 1962. During those years he served as a volunteer, captain, deputy chief and as chief from 1977 to 1993, the second longest chief in the history of the fire department. His vision of being involved in many projects helped upgrade fire department equipment and training and was instrumental in obtaining a reputation as one of the most outstanding volunteer fire departments in the state. The recently completed Firefighters Memorial and Park was his vision. This past September John had been elected to serve as the Honorary Grand Marshal of the Labor Day Parade in South Plainfield.

He would have been the first to provide you with the statement that he has received much more in return than he ever gave over those 43 years of service by simply being involved.

His volunteerism went further than just the fire department. He was a charter member of the South Plainfield

Elks Lodge 2298, in the past holding the offices of Esquire, Lecturing Knight and Loyal Knight. He has been an assistant coach with the South Plainfield Eagles Football Club for seven years and head coach for six years. In 1968, the South Plainfield Jaycees chose him as "Outstanding Young Man of the Year."

John was an avid sportsman. For many years, he had played golf in the West Nine's men's league of Edison and in the winter months, he could be found snowmobiling in the mountains of New York State. In his younger years he had played semi-pro football with the former Plainfield Merchants.

In addition to the Fire Co., John was a life member of the So. Plfd. Exempt Firemen's, the NJ State Firemen's and NJ Exempt Firemen's Assoc. and a member of State Fire Prevention Assoc., NJ State Fire Chiefs Assoc., International Assoc. of Fire Chiefs, Middlesex Co. Fire Prevention Assoc. and the Building Officials Assoc. of NJ.

He was predeceased by his father Frank "Butch" Bumback.

Surviving are three children, Donna Gaster, John A. Cotone and wife Hope, and Cheryl Cotone; his mother, Christina Bumback, all of South Plainfield; five grandchildren, Christopher, Ryan, Kayla, Jenna and John E.; his wife, Marilyn Cotone of Gettysburg, Pa.; three step-daughters, Dawn, Colleen and Kelly; six step-grandchildren and three sisters and brothers-in-law, Louise and Bob Doyle of South Plainfield, Kimberley and William Honnick of Exton, Pa. and Grace Cotone of Scottsdale, Arizona and two brothers and sisters-in-law Anthony and Diana Cotone and Ralph and Marge Cotone of South Plainfield.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department Memorial Fund or to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad would be appreciated.

Edward M. Seigel, 65

Edward M. Seigel passed away on Monday, May 22 at his home in South Plainfield where he lived for 30 years.

He was born in Plainfield and grew up in North Plainfield. He graduated from North Plainfield High School in 1959 and attended Rutgers University.

Ed was the third generation president and owner of The Seigel Insurance Agency in North Plainfield. The agency was founded in 1933 by his grandfather and his daughter Jennifer is a fourth generation insurance agent, who will continue the family business.

He is predeceased by his father, Samuel Seigel, who passed away in 2001.

Mr. Seigel is survived by his beloved wife of 30 years, Rita; three daughters, Lynda Chiarella and her husband Chris of Edison, Lisa Siegel of Piscataway and Jennifer Luersen and her husband Greg of Fords and three grandchildren, twin girls Olivia and Jessica Chiarella and Ryan Edward Luersen. Also surviving are his mother, Beatrice of New Brunswick; two brothers, Ronald M. and wife Lori, also of New Brunswick and David and wife Eileen of Green Brook and his best friend his black Lab, Sambuko.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Ed's name to the Haven Hospice c/o JFK Medical Center, 65 James St. Edison, NJ 08818.

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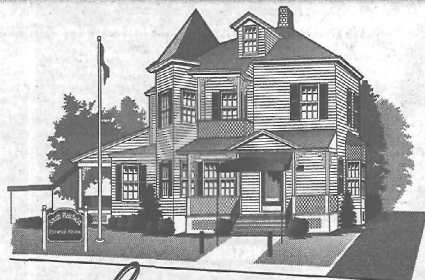
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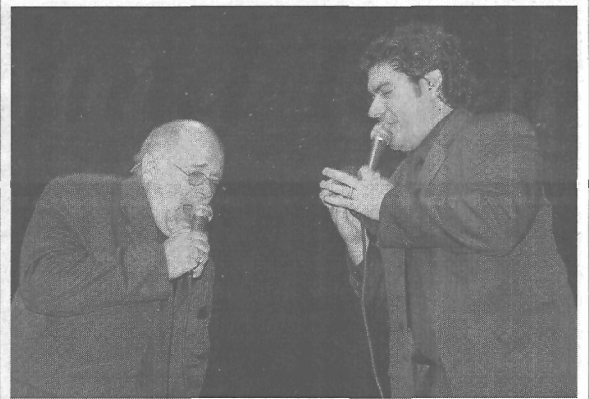
Knights Host 'Red Hats' Breakfast



Red Hats ladies enjoyed lunch courtesy of the Knights of Columbus.

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203, in conjunction with the Red Hat Society, held a "Breakfast at Tiffany's" brunch on April 15 at their council hall. The Knights members served the Red Hat ladies a full course breakfast.

Upon finishing their brunch the Red Hat ladies watched the classic movie "Breakfast at Tiffany's," with Audrey Hepburn and George Peppard. Over 50 Red Hat ladies from South Plainfield, Dunellen and Woodbridge attended in their pajamas and a great time was had by all who attended. All proceeds from this event will go towards the Knights of Columbus charity fund. The event was chaired by Grand Knight Joe Scudato with the help of many Knights of Columbus members.



The Vogues returned to the SPHS stage for the 11th annual Fire Department Oldies Concert. As always the concert played to a full house of happy oldies fans. The event is a major fundraiser for the Fire Department.

Red Cross Talks of Need for Pool Safety

In the wake of the tragic drowning death of four-year-old twins in Union recently, the Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross is emphasizing the need to exhibit extreme caution when faced with young children and pools.

"The bottom line is that you should never, ever, take your eyes off of small children when there is a pool or any other body of water in the

vicinity," said American Red Cross spokesperson Pat Fossella. "Pools should always be enclosed and totally inaccessible whether the pool is active or closed during the off-season."

Fossella, who is the Chapter's lead water safety instructor trainer, said the Red Cross has specific guidelines for pool safety that should be strictly adhered to:

- Never leave a child unobserved

around water. Adult eyes must be on the child at all times. Watch children around any water environment (pool, stream, lake, tub, toilet, bucket of water) no matter what skills your child has acquired and no matter how shallow the water.

- Enclose the pool completely with a self-locking, self-closing fence with vertical bars. Openings in the fence should be no more than four inches wide. The house should not be included as a part of the barrier.

- Learn Red Cross CPR and insist that babysitters, grandparents and others who care for your child know CPR.

- Post CPR instructions and 9-1-1 or your local emergency numbers in the pool area.

- Keep your cell phone with you. If you don't have one, install a phone by the pool or keep a cordless phone nearby so that you can call 9-1-1 in an emergency. At a swimming facility, locate the nearest pay phone and keep change with you.

Further information regarding pool safety can be obtained by contacting the American Red Cross Tri-County Chapter at (908) 756-6414.

Plainfield Animal Hospital Hosting Pet First Aid Course

The Plainfield Animal Hospital is hosting a Pet First Aid Course, given by the American Red Cross on Tuesday, May 30 from 6 to 9 p.m. The cost for the course is \$4 per person.

Pet first aid is the immediate and temporary care given to an injured animal until it can be taken to a veterinarian for more definitive medical care and attention. A primary goal of pet first aid is to protect yourself and your pet from further harm or injury. Some of the things you will learn

are:

- How to approach a sick or injured animal
 - Administering medications
 - Recognizing an emergency
 - Performing CPR and first aid
 - Treating common problems and emergencies requiring immediate attention
 - What to stock in a pet first aid kit
- Call the Animal Hospital at (908) 755-2428 to reserve your space. Seating is limited.

Clean Communities Grants

Senator Barbara Buono and Assemblymen Peter Barnes and Patrick Diegnan announced today that seven municipalities in the 18th Legislative District will receive a combined \$174,811.92 in Clean Communities grants from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The Clean Communities funds can be used to purchase or rent equipment and receptacles, as well as to provide trash bags, gloves and other protective clothing to encourage municipalities and volunteers to clean up solid waste in their localities.

Cleaning up the litter found in our neighborhoods is an important part of maintaining a community's appearance and protecting the health of its residents said Senator Buono, D-Middlesex. "Keeping our communities clean also gives us the benefit of reducing the amount of contamination entering our drinking water sources."

The grants, announced by DEP Commissioner Lisa P. Jackson, are part of New Jersey's Clean Communities program. The Clean Communities funding offers New Jersey's cities and towns some of the necessary resources

to educate residents about the environmental hazards associated with the improper disposal of waste.

"The municipalities in the 18th legislative district need these grants to support their litter-abatement efforts," said Assemblyman Barnes, D-Middlesex. "With these grants, our local municipalities will be able to better address the clean-up of environmental hazards associated with the improper disposal of waste."

The grant amounts awarded to the municipalities in the 18th District are the following: East Brunswick will receive \$41,699.02, Edison will receive \$80,295.36, Helmetta will receive \$4,000, Metuchen will receive \$11,221.28, South Plainfield will receive \$18,533.33, South River will receive \$12,036.36, and Spotswood will receive \$7,026.56.

"Senator Buono, Assemblyman Barnes and I realize that the efficient management of solid waste helps create livable communities," said Assemblyman Diegnan, D-Middlesex. "These grants will help keep our communities clean and enhance the quality of life issues which make New Jersey a more desirable place to live."

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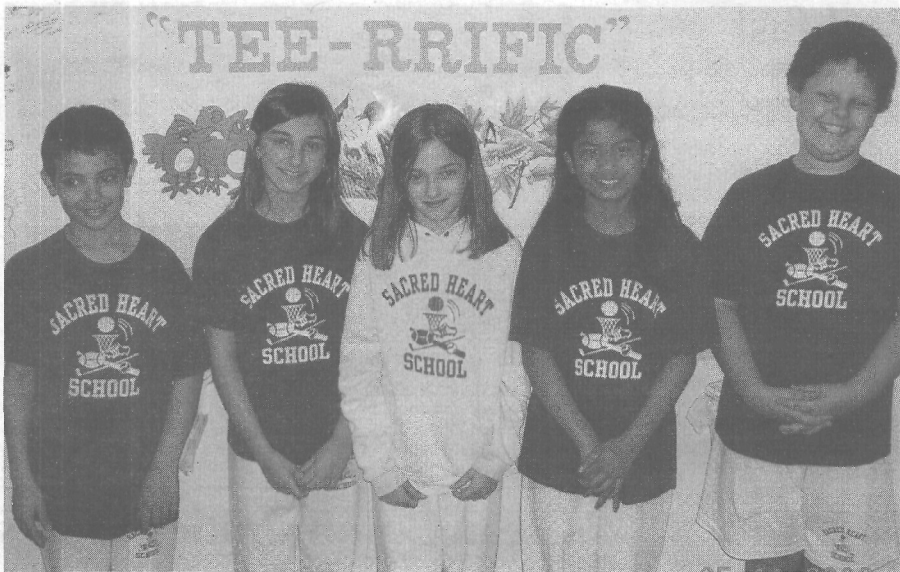
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Left to right—Michael Vella, Rose Bach, Kerri Salvatore, Sabrina Inigo and John Fee.

SHS Fourth Graders Participate in Web Quest Challenge

Congratulations are in order for all fourth grade students of Sacred Heart School who participated in the "Celebrate New Jersey Web Quest Challenge." This project was under the direction of Kristen Pietruszki, former student of Sacred Heart School, who is now student teaching fourth grade with Linda Goetz.

Special recognition will be given to five of these students whose articles were chosen for publication in a special insert of the *Courier News* coming out sometime in June. They will

also participate in a special awards ceremony later this month, to be held at the Barnes and Nobel Bookstore in Bridgewater.

The winners are Sabrina Inigo, Michael Vella, Rose Bach, Kerri Salvatore and John Fee.

Veterans Can Show How They Served

Men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces can now display their military service with VetSignias, metalized film window stickers and magnetized vehicle plaques.

"A simple bull session among a small group of retired war vets generated the idea," said Bob Kline, a WWII Marine and spokesman for the group. "We want veterans to be visible on more than a couple of holidays like Memorial Day or Veterans Day." The distinctive VetSignias give veterans "every-day" visibility. The group designed and makes the attractive badges.

Over 30 different VetSignias are available, honoring service in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Overseas Expeditionary Campaigns, in peacetime with the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine.

Veterans who served in wartime can display the war served in and their branch of service. VetSignias for those who served in expeditionary campaigns such as Panama, Somalia, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq, etc., show branch of service. Veterans who served in peacetime can get VetSignias that show vet and their branch of service. VetSignias feature black print on metallic silver, with a stars and stripes background. They let the veteran say, "I

did it when it had to be done and I'm proud of it."

All VetSignias, window stickers and magnetic vehicle plaques can be viewed on the internet at www.vetsignia.org.

Send requests to Bob Kline, Box 382, Blue Bell, Pa. 19422. Include branch of service, war served and expeditionary or peacetime. Call (610) 277-1171 or e-mail bobk.wv2@vetsignia.org.

Tri-County Chapter Looking for Auction Items

The American Red Cross Tri-County Chapter will hold its 12th Annual Fundraising Auction on May 19 at the Gran Centurions in Clark. The chapter is currently accepting items and services to be auctioned off in both a live and silent auction.

Contributions of items, services and gift certificates are being accepted for the auction. For further information, contact Denise Nero Wilson at (908) 756-6414, ext. 11.

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policereport

On May 18 Christina Lynn Price, 25, of Chillicothe, Ohio and Robert M. Wilson, 27, of Bound Brook were arrested for receiving stolen property after taking her father's car.

A So. 9th St. resident reported that six plastic picket fence slats had been removed from their property.

On May 19 a Piscataway resident reported the theft of her purse from her vehicle. The driver side window had been smashed.

On May 20 Café Everest on Park Ave. reported the theft of six packages of sausage and hamburgers, eight packages of French fries, four boxes of 30 dozen eggs and three London broils from their walk-in refrigerator and

freezer. The lock had been pried off.

On May 21 Michael Boyle, 21, of Springfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, tailgating, reckless driving, leaving the scene of an accident and failure to report an accident.

On May 22 Josue A. Chiclana, 25, of Piscataway was arrested for driving on a suspended license, failure to wear a seatbelt and three outstanding warrants.

A Hamilton Blvd. resident reported that a basement window had been broken and toiletries had been taken.

JP Express Services, Inc. on New Era Dr. reported the theft of four cases of Nukote copier toner from a trailer.

Library Plans Book Sale

The South Plainfield Library will hold a book sale on Saturday, June 10 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The sale will take place inside the library.

A wide variety of books and audio/visual items will be available; prices will be as marked. Other sale items, including tote bags and candy bars, will also be available. Proceeds will

benefit ongoing library programs, including the proposed new library building.

The South Plainfield Library is located in the South Plainfield Municipal Complex at 2484 Plainfield Ave.

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

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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. Please limit letters to no more than 200 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and to limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject.

To The Editor,

An Open Letter to the Borough Council:

The viability and future of a community rests, in large part, on its school system. To disable a working entity without in-depth and reasonable knowledge is self-defeating. The South Plainfield schools are a vital part of the borough identity and to remove such a huge part of their budget will hamstring the upward growth of a strengthening educational environment.

In one meeting, with 26 questions, abetted by an accountant who seemed to be lost at sea in some areas, this council has determined that an enormous amount of money is to be removed from the schools. From my observation, while all the questions were answered with reasonable positions, the council, for whatever purpose, has chosen to ignore common sense and do harm to the children of South Plainfield.

We, and everyone else in this community, are faced with up to 30% increases from PSE&G. How are we to heat our buildings, run our machines or light our rooms when the money runs out, probably around December or January, because of your cuts? How will hundreds of children, including all the handicapped that are transported daily, be gotten to school when the \$3+ a gallon gasoline can't be paid for, even though it comes out of the municipal pump?

Tuition for our handicapped children is a ludicrous area to propose cuts. We have provided you with every child's initials, the school they attend, the tuition for this year and the proposed tuition for next year, the cost to transport and the medical personnel necessary for their daily functioning. You have been told of six autistic preschoolers that are coming into the population and must be accommodated. We have told you that there are several children that cost this district over \$100,000 per year and that we are anticipating the influx of at least one and possibly three more, but you persist in the notion of cutting a huge amount out of this account.

It was explained in excruciating detail how monies are transferred to balance accounts as

needed throughout the year. You have ignored the cuts in many line items and honed in on areas that have gone up because, as explained, they were reallocated to the proper areas. It was explained how the state demands certain accounting activities, especially since the passing of S1701, forcing fund transfers in the month of April. It was explained how the Federal Government has cut back \$50,000 on the funding for "No Child Left Behind," but has not cut back on the mandates. It was explained that the state has cut 15% from our IDEA funding for Special Education. It was explained that we are in a negotiations year and that we are attempting to structure a contract that is fair to both the employees and the taxpayer. Nothing said seems to make a difference.

Before you say that some of these are not areas you are cutting, think about how costs change from month to month and how money must be moved to accommodate that. You have said that no personnel are cut, but you can't do some of these cuts without that effect.

Because you have made this unconscionable cut, and, mid-year this district will most likely have to petition for emergency relief, remember what you have done and why and who you did it for... because a lot of other people will remember.

CAROL BYRNE, BOE MEMBER

To the Editor:

The Board of Education believes that districts public relations should encompass all aspects of the schools' relationship with the total community. That is why at the May 17 meeting, I stated "Let's stop the name calling" and move forward to resolve the difficult task of dealing with the school's defeated budget.

Board President Jeff Seider asked for the co-operation of the mayor and council to work with the board while recognizing their responsibility to the taxpayers. Members of the council present at the May 17 meeting all agreed to work with the board and in fact, scheduled a meeting with the board's finance committee to review the proposed budget cuts.

The Board of Education recognizes that money and money management are a necessary support of the whole school program. So, let's sharpen our pencils and review all sources of revenue and expenditures. The board must and will adjust the budget, but in doing so, ensure a level of pupil expenditure sufficient to provide quality education.

Let's work together, the board, administration and staff, and we will succeed!

JOHN S. MARKHAM, BOE MEMBER

BOE Votes 'Yes' to Budget Cuts

(Continued from page 1)

ers. That decision was made when the budget was introduced and had nothing to do with the cuts made after the budget was defeated. She also addressed members of the Council who were in attendance. "What you did last night was an absolute disgrace. That you would not think that our kids deserved the very best is mind boggling to me."

Resident Bill Ashnault said, "Somehow we have to find a middle ground between the children of South Plainfield and the seniors who are struggling to pay higher taxes every year. Without the children and the senior citizens of South Plainfield, we really don't have anything. Everyone has to be more fiscally responsible. Teachers have to accept more responsibility and help pay for their healthcare costs. The average person is paying 15-20 percent for their healthcare costs."

Several members of the board expressed their dismay that the council felt it could suggest making cuts to the budget after only a few days, and

in some cases hours, of examining it and they defended both Business Administrator Donna Tolly and Budget Consultant Bob Davis, who worked for hours on the budget.

Councilman Charlie Butrico, who attended the meeting with several other members of the council, explained that he felt there were still areas in the budget that could be trimmed without cutting programs or teachers.

Board member John Markham changed the tone of the meeting by saying that it was time for board members to do their job. He added that it was also time that both board and council members stop calling each other names and blaming each other and to start working together. "I see no purpose in continuing an exchange of negatives between the board of education and the town council... When we walk out this door tonight, let's stop the name calling," he said.

Board President Jeff Seider reported that earlier that evening he had spoken with Councilman Butrico and Petronko, and agreed to accept their offer to sit down and go over the budget, line item by line item. He also publicly asked that the mayor and council work with the Board of Education in every way possible in the future, including sharing services. All council members present agreed to work together.

Dr. Rosado ended by saying, "The reason we are sitting here is because we didn't have enough people supporting the budget this year, 900 less people showed up to vote yes for the budget than last year. I hope next year we can get those 900 people out to support the budget."

Comments from Councilman Charles Butrico Regarding Board of Education Budget: May 16, 2006

I was born and raised in South Plainfield and am a product of our public schools. I love this town and it is an honor representing our residents as a member of the Borough Council. When the Board of Education budget was overwhelmingly defeated I did not look forward to the task of reviewing and cutting the budget. However, I realized that is part of the job of a councilperson. We live in a democracy, and as elected officials it is our responsibility to carry out the will of the people. South Plainfield is made up of families who work hard to pay their bills and live within their budgets. Remember, last year our residents supported a huge increase in the Board of Education budget because they were told it would correct past abuses and put our schools on a sound financial footing. Our residents were shocked, as was I, when this year's budget was introduced at an additional 21 point tax increase that was only reduced to 18 points because of increased rates in the borough. This governing body is obligated by law and by conscience to do what is right for our taxpayers. I am confident that the action which we will take tonight meets that mandate.

We are about to adopt a Resolution which will reduce the Board of Education budget by approximately \$1.2 million, which equates to nine tax points. We will meet Mayor Gallagher's goal of keeping the tax increase to single digits. Keep in mind that the resulting budget is \$1.3 million higher than last year's budget despite the fact that we have less students this year. I want to commend Gary Higgins and Anthony LaMarco from the firm of Lerch, Vinci and Higgins who reviewed the budget in detail and highlighted the areas of reduction while preserving every position and program that presently exists. Let me repeat that... we have reduced the budget by over \$1 million and have not eliminated one teaching position or one program. At the outset of this process we promised that we would not eliminate positions or reduce essential programs. We have kept our word. If anyone told anyone differently, I suggest that you think about their motivation for doing so.

-CHARLES BUTRICO, COUNCILMAN-

What follows below is the 2006/07 Local School Budget Defeat Tax Levy Reductions Resolution passed by the Borough Council and the Board of Education:

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY 2006/07 LOCAL SCHOOL BUDGET DEFEAT TAX LEVY REDUCTIONS

ADDITIONAL REVENUES

ACCOUNT NUMBER

10-303 BUDGETED FUND BALANCE - GENERAL FUND

The District's "Advertised Recapitulation of Balances" (Page C-1) included in the 2006/07 budget document does not reflect any additional amounts in fund balance to be generated in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006. The District will be receiving \$82,530 in Extraordinary Aid which will increase the surplus at June 30, 2006. The District has indicated that salaries are encumbered in excess of actual salaries for 2005/06 in the amount of \$87,000. The cancellation of these encumbrances will generate surplus from the 2005/06 budget. The District has recorded a blanket purchase order in the amount of \$230,000 to offset projected miscellaneous revenue shortfalls. The projected revenue shortfall is \$111,519 which will result in the blanket order not being utilized for the intended purpose resulting in surplus to be generated in the amount of \$118,481 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006.

\$ 288,011

Total Additional Revenues

288,011

Various Salary Appropriations:

The District has provided proposed salary line items reductions totaling \$108,977 (see below) as a result of employees notifying the District of their intended retirement effective June 30, 2006. These salary adjustments represent the difference between the retiring employees salary in the 2006/07 budget and the proposed replacement salary provided by the District for each employee.

Employee	Account	2006/07 Budget	Replacement Cost	Breakage
DE	11-110-100-101	\$ 58,804	\$ 55,000	\$ 3,804
BF	11-120-100-101	75,860	60,000	15,860
MS	11-130-100-101	75,860	70,000	5,860
AN	11-120-100-101	76,889	75,000	1,889
EG	11-120-100-101	84,632	45,000	39,632
MS	11-204-100-101	85,744	55,000	30,744
ES	11-000-222-100	86,188	75,000	11,188

\$ 108,977

108,977

11-000-100-565 - TUITION TO CSSD & REG. DAY SCHOOLS

11-000-100-566 - TUITION TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS FOR DISABLED WITHIN STATE

The District has indicated that during 2005/06 it began charging its IDEA grant for special education tuition and will continue this practice in the 2006/07 budget year. (The IDEA 2006/07 budget is \$776,000). The modified budget for these accounts as of February 28, 2006 is \$1,401,773. Additionally, the Board has encumbered blanket orders against these accounts totaling \$255,148 which they have indicated will be utilized for other than tuition purposes which will in turn reduce the modified budget to \$1,146,625. The 2006/07 budget for these two accounts is \$1,867,967 or \$721,342 greater than the 2005/06 projected modified budget. These accounts should be reduced by \$500,000 after giving effect to three replacement students who the District has indicated will cost an approximate additional \$80,000 per student.

\$ 500,000

11-000-230-331- GENERAL ADMINISTRATION - LEGAL SERVICES

This account has increased \$10,455 or 7.5% over the 2005/06 modified budget. This increase is deemed excessive and the account increase should be reduced to 3.8%.

5,100

11-000-291-250- EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

The balance in the District's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund at March 31, 2006 is \$83,441. The District's 1st quarter 2006 actual liability to the State of New Jersey is \$11,837 which results in a net balance of \$71,604. As of April 30, 2006, the District's budget for this line item contains an encumbrance of \$142,891. The transfer of these encumbered funds to the Trust Fund will result in a balance of \$214,495 excluding additional employee contributions and interest earnings. The balance plus \$50,000 from the 2006/07 budget would be sufficient to fund the District's projection of \$50,000 per quarter in claims.

230,000

12-000-400-450 - FACILITIES ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

The paving of the school access roads can be deferred to a future date. The remaining capital projects totaling \$660,500 shall be completed in the 2006/07 school year.

52,000

Total Appropriation Reductions

896,977

Total Tax Levy Reductions

\$ 1,184,088

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