

The Observer celebrates 9th anniversary! Thanks to our readers, advertisers, contributors!



South Plainfield Observer

Visit us at our booth at the PAL after the parade!

VOL. 10, NO. 1

50 CENTS

SEPTEMBER 1, 2006



Borough Celebrates 49th Annual Labor Day

Festivities kick off with parade at 10 a.m. sharp

See details on pages 16 & 17

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Get Ready for the Annual Labor Day Festivities

The 49th Annual Labor Day Parade, which will be held on Monday, Sept. 4, is geared towards the enjoyment of both the young and old. Activities, which take place all day, can be enjoyed by those of all ages in South Plainfield and the surrounding areas. This is South Plainfield's day to shine and

take pride in our community, where the entire town can get together and enjoy the festivities.

The day begins with a 5K race and 1.5 mile family walk. What better way to start the day's festivities than with a healthy walk or run? And if you get a little sore, Dr. Patrick Aiello will be on

hand to massage away your pain.

The parade officially kicks off at the Middle School at exactly 10 a.m., led by the South Plainfield High School Marching Band and Parade Grand Marshal Shirley Thompson. There will be 10 marching bands and many youth and civic groups will be competing for

trophies.

When the parade reaches the PAL, folks are invited to visit the numerous concessions which will be set up by local businesses. A percentage of all proceeds will be donated to emergency services. There will be plenty of give-aways and literature available, as well

as face painting and hair braiding. The *Observer* will also be on hand to greet all of our readers.

The South Plainfield Wrestling Team will have a dunking booth. Proceeds will go toward a 30 member trip to the Minnesota National Wrestling Championships.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Log on to southplainfieldnj.com for the latest meeting agenda

Council Meetings

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

Date	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
September 5	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
September 19	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
October 3	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
October 17	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 (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

Planning Board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
Sept. 12, Sept. 26, Oct. 10, Oct. 24, Nov. 28, Dec. 12 and Dec. 26.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
Sept. 14, Sept. 28,
Oct. 12, Oct. 26, Nov. 30* and Dec. 14.

Board of Education Meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted
Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7 p.m. - Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 14 and March 28.
Regular Meeting Wednesdays 8 p.m. - Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20, Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March and April 4.

Taxpayers Advisory Group

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

Site Plans Sub-Committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.
Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21 and Dec. 19.

Recreation Commission

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
Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12

Environmental Commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621
Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13 and Jan. 10.

Business Advisory Group

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

Traffic Safety Advisory Commission

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

Board of Education Curriculum/Technology Meetings

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

IN YOUR OPINION

Thank You,

Hello friends, family, and sponsors! I just wanted to thank you all again for your donations and for allowing me to fulfill my once in a lifetime track and field meet in Australia. Without you, my sponsors, this track meet would not have been possible. I am very grateful and thankful because the Australian meet I participated in rep-



resenting New Jersey, I won not one, but two bronze medals! The first medal I won was for the 3200m race and the other for the 4x400m relay.

This whole experience honestly taught me a lot. Each day there, I was learning new techniques and strategies from people all over the world! Not only learning new techniques, but the customs and traditions people practice daily on the other side of the world. I cannot thank you enough for helping me make this all happen. It was a phenomenal experience.

I would like to specially thank the sponsors from my home town, South Plainfield, including the following: Century 21 Moretti Realty, Cedarbrook Landscaping, Barletta Family, Eder Family, Grevious Family, Lacerda Family, Maistickle Family, Martko Family, Nobile Family, Walter Niemczyk, Suppa Family, Our Town Deli, McCrskrin Home For Funerals, Licato Family Dentistry, Licato Insurance Agency, Mo's Salon, Nischwitz & Co., Park Avenue Cleaners, Plainfield Animal Hospital, Robert Smith, Rodolfo's Pizzeria, Sal's Spirit Shoppe, Schneider Family, Twin City Pharmacy and Vail Paint & Hardware.

**GOD BLESS YOU ALL,
NICOLE MIGLIUS**

people would "respect" the Republican candidates if they stopped asking questions and agreed with the Democrats.

I realize that people get caught up in politics and sometimes resort to inflammatory language, but we should never sink so low as to suggest that others don't deserve respect simply because they hold different opinions or because they ask questions.

Our system of democracy thrives on a competition of ideas. Differing opinions are good, not bad, and quite frankly, it's those who would blindly follow others who I think don't deserve respect.

Questions and debate produce better public policy, and I'm glad to see that the Republicans are asking questions and watching out for the public. It's not being "political" to ask questions. It's doing your job as an elected official. In fact, we rejected the Democratic candidates last year because we didn't want yes-men who would simply tow the party line.

It's difficult enough to get good people to run for public office. The kind of below-the-belt rhetoric we got last week from Scrudato will only make it more so. We'd all be well served if he would concentrate on debating the issues, not whether his opponents deserve respect.

JAMES EDMONDSON

Dear Editor,

Growing up in South Plainfield, I always felt it important to give back

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Please be advised that the Observer will no longer publish anonymous letters. Any letter received without identification and a phone number will be discarded.

Letters may be submitted to the Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax 908-668-8819 or by email: spobserver@comcast.net. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Please limit letters to no more than 250 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject.

to the community. When my children were young that meant volunteering to coach junior baseball, teener ball, and Sacred Heart basketball. Now that the kids are older, it means giving back in other ways.

When I was approached to run for council, I realized this would be another chance to give back. After discussing the idea with my family, I accepted, and at that point I realized there was no turning back. Luckily, I knew I had the support of my family (especially my wife), my friends and my neighbors.

I chose to run for council because we need change. Too many things are heading in the wrong direction. Taxes, traffic, overdevelopment, lack of open government and abuses at Borough Hall are a few examples. In saying that, I'm not trying to be overly critical of

(Continued on page 30)

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	JULY - DECEMBER 2006			
	THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
July	6	20	7	21
August	3	17	4	18
September	14	28	1	15
October	12	26	13	27
November	9	25*	10	24
December	7	21	8	22

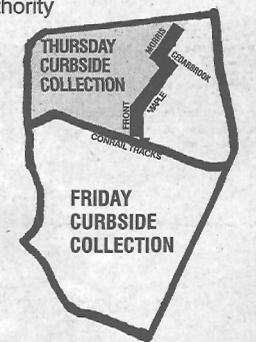
*Holiday change to Saturday pickup
Call MCIA at (800) 488-6242 for information.

The Borough's **RECYCLING CENTER** on Kenneth Avenue - **Open Year-Round Tuesday noon-7 pm, Friday 8 am-3 pm, Saturday 8 am-3 pm** - accepts all the above recyclables from residents and businesses, except that motor oil is from residents only. Other materials accepted from residents only: metal appliances, paint and batteries. Used Paint Drop-off: 3rd Saturday of each month, 8 am-2 pm
Household Batteries: bring to Recycling Center or Public Library

The Borough's **YARD WASTE SITE** at the end of Kenneth Avenue
Open Spring/Summer (March 16 - September 30): Tuesday noon-7 pm, Saturday 8 am-3 pm
Open Fall/Winter (October 1 - March 15): Saturday 8 am-3 pm
Open to Borough residents only for leaves and brush. The Road Department collects leaves at the curb in the fall. (Residents may also bring grass clippings to the drop-off. Grass is not a mandatory recyclable. We suggest Cut-It-And-Leave-It instead of bagging.) Your vehicle must have a current Yard Waste Decal mounted to enter the site.

Holiday Closings (closed on Borough holidays and any Tuesday following a Monday holiday:
7/4, 9/5, 10/10, 11/10, 11/23-24, 12/26

Call the Recycling Hotline at (908) 226-7620 for more information.



SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: spobserver@comcast.net or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 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.



Father John Alvarado of Sacred Heart Church leads a prayer during a memorial service for Bette Schiavi held last Friday at the Rescue Squad building.

BOROUGH NOTES

- The council approved block party requests from Grace and Bob Lyons for Sunday, Sept. 3 (no raindate) on Revere Rd. between May Ave. and Putnam Ave.; Janet and Pat Donnelly for Saturday, Sept. 2 (Sept. 3 raindate) on Smith St. between Spruce St. and Jackson Ave.; Gareth Farmer for Saturday, Sept. 2 (Sept. 3 raindate) on the entire length of Page Ct. and Thomas Lanza for Monday, Sept. 4 (no raindate) on the entire length of Faye St.

- A self-service laundromat license was authorized to Kobbike Corporation for the year 2006 in accordance with Ch. 122 of the Code of the Borough of South Plainfield. The appli-

cant has met all Borough requirements and paid all appropriate fees.

- Lt. Michael Lane has announced his retirement effective Dec. 1.

- The council waived permit fees, except for electrical, for the South Plainfield Board of Education for the asbestos work being conducted at various schools throughout the Borough.

- Part-time recycling groundskeeper Brad Martin announced his retirement effective immediately.

- The council approved the maintenance contract for the telephone and radio communications utilized by the police department with NICE CRS for the period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

- The council gave its support to the Mayors Wellness Campaign and urges all residents to participate in this program that promotes eating healthy and exercise.

- The Mayor and Municipal Clerk have agreed to a labor agreement with AFSCME Local 3970 for the five year period January 1, 2006 through December 21, 2010.

Historical Society Awarded Grant

The South Plainfield Historical Society has been awarded a grant to create a 56-page local history and heritage activity book. It will be printed by Rutgers Press and distributed free of charge to all fourth grade students in South Plainfield in September, 2007. Funding in part has been provided by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the New Jersey Historical Commission/Department of State.

The black and white, 8½x11 publication will include a history of the hamlets that formed South Plainfield; coloring pages of historic houses and edifices in the Borough (past and present); word searches and cross-words based on our history; dot to dot drawings; pages for creating a family tree; "how to" craft pages (such

as making a Lenape corn husk doll); an oral history interview questionnaire guideline; a map of historic local sites and more.

The publication will be based on local historian Larry Randolph's book, "Looking Back at South Plainfield" that was published by the Historical Society last year.

The lead graphic artist for the project is Sarah Miele, a senior graphic arts major at Stockton College, Pomona, who will

create original artwork.

Historians guiding the content are Larry Randolph and Dr. Richard Veit of Monmouth University. Kaye Crown, assistant superintendent of instruction, South Plainfield Board of Education, will review all material for age and grade level appropriateness.

This grant represents the third awarded in as many years to the South Plainfield Historical Society by the same funding agents.

Adult Faith Classes at Sacred Heart Church

Sacred Heart Church will be starting their adult faith classes in September for anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic religion. The Rite of Christian Initiation, RCIA, is a group dedicated to the religious education and formation of adults who

would like to become Catholic or who are baptized Catholic, but have not received the sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist.

For more information about this faith formation program, contact Sr. Kathleen at (908) 756-0633, ext. 42.

2007 SFY Budget Hearings

The 2007 SFY Budget, Departmental Budget Hearings will be held on Sept 7 and 14 at 5:15 p.m. at the Municipal Building, and on Sept 13 at 5:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.



Living Hope Outreach Center

You're Invited to Join Us for Worship

SUNDAY

Bible Hour / Discipleship Class 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service 11 a.m.

THURSDAY

Prayer / Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Youth Meeting 7:00 p.m. (2nd & 4th Thursday)

Ministry and Activities for Men, Women, Youth and Children

Place: Our Sanctuary - Living Hope Outreach Center

located in the New Market Fire House 801 Washington Avenue, Piscataway

732-424-7363

email: getlivinghope@aol.com
www.thelivinghope.net

Mailing address: P.O. Box 8596, Piscataway, NJ 08854



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Around Town

Needlecrafters

September 6

Needlecrafters meet every Wednesday from 1-3 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center. They knit for DYFS and Muhlenberg Hospital. To join, call Jean at (732) 752-0358

Somerset Patriots Buddy Walk Awareness Night

September 7

The Somerset Patriots will be hosting a Buddy Walk/Down Syndrome Awareness Night at their 7:05 p.m. game with the Pennsylvania Road Warriors on Thursday, Sept. 7. They will provide public address announcements promoting the Buddy Walk of South Plainfield to be held on Oct. 7 at Putnam Park. A table will be set up on the concourse for registration for the walk. South Plainfield's own Kyle Both will throw out the first pitch. Tickets are \$10 and available from Michele Both for this special night. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Buddy Walk of South Plainfield.

If you are interested in attending this special event, contact Michele Both at (908) 531-5100. Please come out and support our community efforts.

VFW Picnic/Pig Roast

September 9

VFW Post #6763, located at 155 Front St., will host their annual picnic and pig roast on Saturday, Sept. 9 from 12-5 p.m. Tickets are \$17 in advance and \$19 purchased at the door. Kids are \$7.

St. Stephen's Church Sunday School

September 10

You're invited to join us for Sunday School at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 3145 Park Ave. beginning on Sunday, Sept. 10 from 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Come and hear stories and music, play games and make crafts while learning about God and our church!

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
SEPT

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
UPCOMING EVENTS September 28 - Hunterdon Hills Playhouse "Catch Me If You Can" . . . October 26 - Oktoberfest at the Hofbrauhaus				Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available 1
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30am-11:30am Art Class 11:30am 4	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am Lunch Available	Exercise 8:45am Computer Classes 10am, 11:30am & 1pm DMV License Issuance Line Dancing 10am Tai Chai Class 2pm 5	Pathmark Shopping 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm 6	Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available 8

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

Register by calling (908) 756-2537 or email us at Billich@att.net.

AARP Safe Driving Course

September 16 and 23

An AARP Safe Driving course will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16 and 23, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield. Both sessions must be attended to receive a three year discount on your automobile insurance. Any legally licensed driver may take the course.

Cost is \$10 to be paid upon registration with Mary at (732) 752-3764. Space is limited, so call immediately to reserve your spot.

AARP Chapter #4144 Meeting

September 18

AARP Chapter #4144 will hold its meeting on Monday, Sept. 18 at 12:30 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center. A program on hearing

loss and hearing aid technology will be presented by Total Hearing Care of Watchung.

For information call Jean at (732) 752-0358.

SP Parents' Ponytail Meeting

September 26

The Parents' Ponytail meeting for Tuesday, Aug. 22 was canceled. The next Parents' Ponytail meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 26 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the PAL building on Maple Ave. Hope to see you there!

Antiques Appraiser at the Library

September 24

Certified antiques appraiser Alan G. Snyder will be at the library on Sunday, Sept. 24 from 2-4 p.m.

Participants are limited to two items per person; appraisals will be given on a first come, first served basis. The program is being presented free of charge; no pre-registration is required.

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

Old Timers Holding Motorcycle Run

October 1

The First Annual Run For The Children Battling Cancer, sponsored by The Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc., in cooperation with the Old Timers Motorcycle Club and Moretti Realty, will include a scenic motorcycle run through Hunterdon County on Sunday, Oct. 1 (raindate is Sunday, Oct. 8). Sign in from 9:30-11 a.m. at the PAL. Free t-shirts to the first 50 who

sign up. Cost is \$20 for riders and \$10 for passengers, non-riders and the public. Food, prizes, music and vendors at the PAL upon return at 1 p.m.

For more information, contact Rich at (908) 753-7629 or Rudy at (908) 405-0836 or send email to openyourheart@morettiirealty.com.

Wine Tasting

October 6

Oak Tree Buy-Rite Liquors is holding a wine tasting on Friday, Oct. 6 from 7 p.m. to midnight at The Polish National Home on New Market Ave. Tickets are \$40 per person and include a wine, beer and spirit tasting reception from 7 to 10 p.m., cash bar, DJ and dancing from 10 p.m. to midnight.

To purchase tickets or for more information, contact Mike Gallagher (908) 755-9874, John Celentano (908) 757-5691 or Buy-Rite Liquors (908) 561-0051.

St. Stephen's Gift Raffle

October 14

St. Stephen's Women's Group is having a gift raffle auction on Saturday, Oct. 14 at 6 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church on South Plainfield Ave. For ticket information contact Cathy Carr at (908) 806-8770. Come join us and have a night of fun!

Out of Town

Singles 30s/40s Happy Hour

September 1

Starlight Socials for Single Professionals 30s/40s will hold a Classy Happy Hour on Friday, Sept. 1 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Bamboo Grille inside Basking Ridge Country Club in Basking Ridge. Late night live music band afterwards.

RSVP AngelButterfly37@aol.com or (732) 764-9073 so you may be informed of where to meet the group. Visit us at www.StarlightSocials.com.

Middlesex East WOWs 25th Anniversary

September 8

Middlesex East Widows or Widow-

(Continued on next page)

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Over the Top Around Town

(Continued from previous page)
ers will celebrate their 25th anniversary on Friday, Sept. 8 starting at 6 p.m. with a dinner/dance at St. Demetrius Hall in Carteret. Everyone is welcome. Admission is \$30 per person. Tickets must be purchased in advance. For tickets and information call Dorothy at (732) 541-2174 or Lois at (908) 757-0515.

Young Sierrans 20s/30s Hike

September 9

Young Sierrans 20s/30s will hold a hike on Saturday, Sept. 9 at 11 a.m. at Harriman State Park, Rt. 87, exit 15A to 7 Lakes Drive in Slootsberg, NY.

Fast paced, rigorous three hour hike, good hiking shoes required. Bring plenty of water. Must be in good health. Rain cancels.

RSVP by Sept. 8 to MistyAngel22@aol.com or (732) 764-9073.

Edison Arts Society "Harvest of Poetry"

September 10

The Edison Arts Society presents "Harvest of Poetry," a free reception and reading celebrating the fifth anniversary of the Edison Literary Review, on Saturday, Sept. 10 from 3-5 p.m. at the Sheraton Edison Hotel in Edison.

For information, call the Edison Arts Society at (908) 753-2787.

Holocaust Seminar

September 10

The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education in conjunction with the Richard Stockton College of

New Jersey is sponsoring a seminar on Sunday, Sept. 10 at Rutgers University, Busch Campus Center. The title of the program is "Carrying the Legacy" and is dedicated to second and third generation family members of Holocaust survivors.

For reservations and additional information call (609) 652-4699.

Edison Arts Society Art Classes

September 11-October 16

The Edison Arts Society is offering daytime art classes for Fall 2006. Adult classes are taught at the No. Edison branch library on Grove Ave. New this fall is jewelry making classes for teenagers (aged 12-15) in the John P. Stevens High School art room, 855 Grove Ave. in Edison.

Contact the Edison Arts Society at (908) 753-2787 to register for classes or for more information visit our website at www.edisonarts.org.

Networking Party

September 12

The Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce is hosting the largest Networking Party on Tuesday, Sept. 12 from 5-8 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick.

For tickets call (732) 821-1700, ext. 208 or register at www.mcrc.org.

Women's Club Monthly Meeting

September 13

The Metuchen-Edison Women's Club will hold its monthly meeting

on Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at The Heritage at Clara Barton in Edison. Guests are welcome; light refreshments will be served.

For additional information please contact Diana at (732) 548-0925.

Good Morning Middlesex Program

September 14

The Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce is holding their Good Morning Middlesex Program on Thursday, Sept. 14. Registration at 7:45 a.m. Program begins at 8 a.m. Register on-line at www.mcrc.org or call (732) 821-1700, ext. 203.

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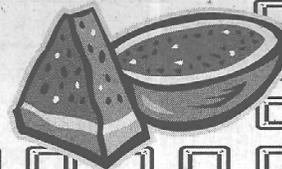
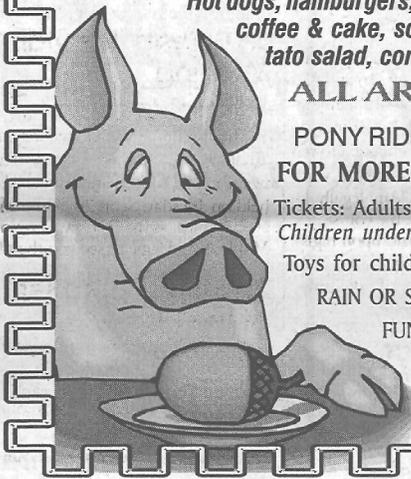
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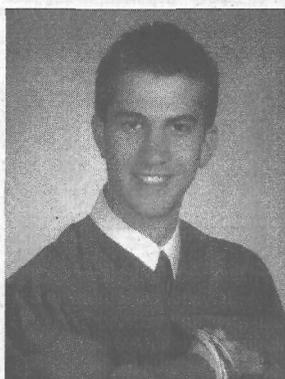
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southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Tiffany Boyle to Wed Brian Toth



James Genovese

James Genovese Will Join The Fighting Irish

James Genovese, son of Kathy and James Genovese of Monroe; has been accepted to Notre Dame University. James graduated Salutatorian from Christian Brothers Academy in Lincroft in May of 2006. James committed to Notre Dame in the Spring and has already settled in South Bend. His fall classes began on August 22. Jimmy is the grandson of Frank and Angie Cullen of South Plainfield. The Genovese and Cullen families are very proud of James' accomplishments and wish him good fortune in his future at Notre Dame.



Brian Toth and Tiffany Boyle.

Dr. Thomas and Diane Boyle of South Plainfield announce the engagement of their daughter, Tiffany Alana, to Brian Joseph Toth, son of Marlene and Gary Toth, also of South Plainfield.

The future bride graduated from South Plainfield High School. She will be entering her last year at West Chester University in Pennsylvania where she is pursuing a B.A. in elementary education.

Her fiance, Brian, also graduated from South Plainfield High School. He has earned a B.A. in elementary education from West Chester University. He is a fourth grade teacher at Rainbow Elementary School in Coatesville, Pa.

They have planned an August 2007 wedding.

Unity Bank Career Employee Promoted

Unity Bank has announced the recent appointment of Chris Bono of Union to the position of assistant vice president and branch manager of its South Plainfield office. Bono has most recently been serving as the assistant vice president and branch manager of the Unity branch in Scotch Plains. He has served his entire career in financial services with Unity Bank,

working his way up from teller to manager in just six years.

Born and raised in Union, Chris is an active member of the business community and sits on the board of the Fanwood Business and Professional Association as well as the Plainfield Chamber of Commerce. He is also a member of the Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association and the Knights of Columbus Union Council #4504.

Visit Chris at the Unity Bank South Plainfield branch on Plainfield Ave. or call him at (908) 412-9393 to learn about the unique products and services Unity Bank has to offer. Branch hours are Monday through Wednesday 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday 8 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m.-12 noon.

For additional information about Unity Bank visit our website at www.unitybank.com or call 800-618-BANK.

Dan McCreesh is Awarded "Sports Man of the Year" in Golf

Dan McCreesh, a senior on the golf team at South Plainfield High School, was awarded the Sports Man of the Year by Junior Golf America.

Junior Golf America is a national organization that sponsors golf tournaments during the summer for high school students. Dan played in six of their tournaments this summer and took second place at Highbridge Hills

earlier this summer. The high school players that play in these tournaments are the best in the state of New Jersey. Many will receive golf scholarships upon graduation.

The Sports Man of the Year award is a great honor. South Plainfield Golf Coach Mike Kavka said, "This is a reflection on Dan, his family, his school and South Plainfield."

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Help Mohn's Florist Celebrate Good Neighbor Day On September 6

Please join Mohn's in celebrating Good Neighbor Day at Mohn's Florist on Wednesday, Sept. 6.

Stop by the shop at 2325 Plainfield Ave. anytime during that day and purchase one carnation and you will receive three free carnations to share with your neighbors. This would be a good time to check on those senior neighbors and let them know you care. And for our senior neighbors, just stop in Mohn's on Sept. 6 and you will get your carnation free of charge.

Mohn's Flowers and Fancy Foods is a family owned business established in 1977 and is presently owned and

operated by Georgeann DiGrazia and Bill Cochrane since 1990.

Georgeann was born and raised in South Plainfield, is a graduate of South Plainfield High School and is a member of their Hall of Fame. Bill Cochrane is a retired South Plainfield Police Officer and has been a resident since 1968. All six of Georgeann and Bill's children are South Plainfield graduates and reside in the borough with their children.

Mohn's Florist features a full line of floral arrangements for all occasions. Weddings are their specialty; they also have a full selection of plants, fruit and gourmet baskets as well as custom gift baskets. They service both McCriskin Home For Funerals and South Plainfield Funeral Home and they also cater to any specialty arrangement you might need.

Their staff of Kathy, Linda, Samantha and Lorraine are dedicated to making your call or visit to their shop a pleasant experience. They can be reached at (908) 561-2808. They are members of Teleflora and can wire orders anywhere in the world. Visit their website at www.mohnsflorist.com. They accept all major credit cards and welcome any qualified busi-

ness, organization or individual house charge.

Mohn's has been a proud supporter of all South Plainfield civic and non-profit organizations, as well as the school system. They recognize academic excellence by honoring the South Plainfield High School Gold Card program. They are especially proud of their annual Mother's Day Essay Contest where the grammar schools are asked to judge their student's essay on the subject: "Why My Mom is the Best Mom." Three winners at each grammar school are selected and Nancy Grennier of the South Plainfield Observer accompanies either Bill or Georgeann the day before Mother's Day as they visit each winner's home and present the winners mom with a dozen roses compliments of the student and Mohn's Florist. Mohn's also distributes yellow ribbons to honor all of the servicemen in our area who are serving in harms way. All they ask is that you make a donation which goes toward donating supplies to service men.

Bill and Georgeann feel fortunate to be members of this close knit community of South Plainfield and they look forward to you visiting their shop.

Future Stars Preschool Openings

The Future Stars Preschool program is proud to announce that openings are still available in our programs.

Our Early Launch To Learning Initiative (ELLI) program is looking for four year-old students who reside in South Plainfield to attend a five afternoon a week free program. This would be contingent upon income eligibility. For more information, please call the Adult School at (908) 754-4620, ext. 215.

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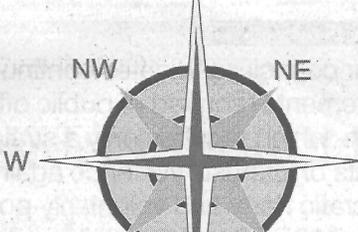
North Plainfield—Three bedroom, 1.5 bath split, close to highways, shopping & schools - \$295,000.



Woodbridge—Commuter's Delight—Close to train station! Everything inside is new—just pack and move—\$389,900



Piscataway—Three bedroom, 1 bath ranch with detached garage.



Linden—Four bedroom, 2 bath cape in Sunnyside section. Great for commuters. Family room addition off rear of home—\$345,900.



South Plainfield—In-Law Opportunity: Two ranch homes on a 125 x 225 lot. First home features 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Second home features 2 bedrooms, 1 bath.—\$549,900.



South Plainfield—Four bedroom, 3.5 bath colonial with 2 car attached garage. Nice cul-de-sac location!—\$469,900.



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OPEN LETTER TO THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATION

As we begin the 2006 campaign, it is important that you commit yourselves to adhering to the New Jersey Laws controlling campaign finances. The New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) monitors campaign financing in the state. Political organizations are required to file reports with ELEC so that the public knows who contributes to campaigns and how the money was spent. Sadly, you have violated ELEC reporting requirements several times since Bob Jones has become chairman of your organization. In 2004 you filed your 4th quarter campaign disclosure form 100 days late and the form that lists contributors was filed one year after the required filing deadline.

In 2005 you again ignored ELEC requirements when you filed both your 1st and 2nd quarter reports late. You never filed the required form that designates your organization's treasurer and depository. These are not minor omissions. In fact, in November of last year, the Election Law Enforcement Commission put you on written notice of noncompliance and possible issuance of a formal complaint. Despite this notification, you have again, in 2006, failed to file the 2nd quarter report, which was due on July 15th, and the form designating your treasurer and depository for this year's campaign.

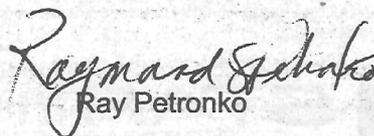
Your actions reflect a disturbing lack of transparency and full disclosure. Republican Chairman Bob Jones, who is also an attorney, regularly uses his American Express Card for campaign expenses and then reports the expense as a reimbursement to himself. This makes it impossible to determine if the expenditures are proper. Mr. Jones should immediately provide copies of the actual invoices for the items purchased on his credit card for Republican campaigns from January 1, 2004 to the present. The officers and candidates of the Republican Organization must pledge to no longer use their personal credit cards to avoid full disclosure of campaign expenditures.

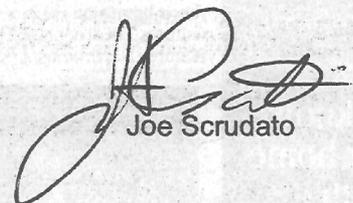
Equally troubling is your council candidates continued refusal to complete the standard financial disclosure statements required of public office holders in the State of New Jersey. This financial disclosure form, which requires only a straightforward listing of income and assets, reveals potential conflicts of interest. We once again formally request that you join with the South Plainfield Democratic Party and voluntarily post the New Jersey State Financial Disclosure form for your Mayoral and Council candidates on your website. It is important to know that your candidates are neither employed by or have holdings in business entities, which could improperly benefit from their election.

Your immediate attention is required in the above referenced matters so that our residents can be assured that both the letter and spirit of campaign finance reform will be followed not only by the Democratic Party in South Plainfield, but by the Republican Party as well.

Very Truly Yours,

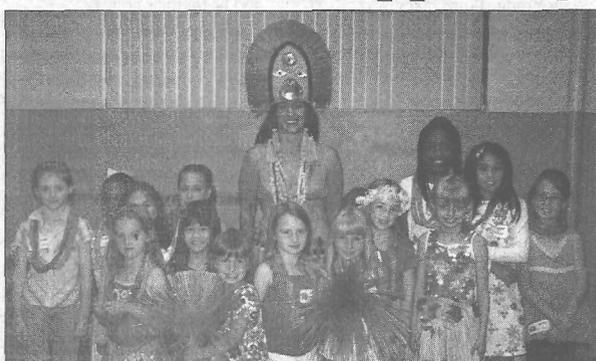

Charlie Butrico


Ray Petronko


Joe Scudato

South Plainfield Scouting

Girl Scouts Happenings....



Sacred Heart Girl Scouts and moms enjoyed a Mother-Daughter Luau. A Polynesian dancer taught the cultures and dances of Hawaii, New Zealand and Tahiti. Everybody learned to hula! They topped off the night with an ice cream sundae bar.



Girl Scout Junior Troop 585 ventured to the Philadelphia Zoo for a sleepover trip. As guests, they participated in a morning tour through private, off-limits areas of the zoo, had Q&A sessions with a zoo keeper, a craft and a night hike through the zoo. Both girls and parents had fun and learned a lot.

Girl Scouts of all ages, mark your calendar for the Labor Day parade and festival. We've won numerous awards in past years and hope we can continue our success. Come join the fun: Prep day-float decorating will be on Saturday, Sept. 2 at Hall's Trucking on Kentile Road at 9 a.m. Eventday-Parade day is Monday, Sept. 4 at the Middle School parking lot at 8:30 a.m. If you can, please wear a Girl Scout vest, sash or t-shirt.

Chris Tamburri, a troop dad, organized an outing for family and friends of Brownie Troop 883. Those who attended enjoyed a warm summer night at a Patriots baseball game. The girls were recognized on the scoreboard and invited onto the field to sing *Take Me Out to the Ballgame* with the crowd. What a great experience! Dads have great ideas for activities—we need yours! Thanks Chris!

New girls are always welcome. Adults, consider joining us as adult volunteers. You don't have to be a troop leader to be a volunteer. Watch for our information and registration table at the Labor Day festival.

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

Submitted by Madeline Christilles

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Achieving "Grand" is Business as Usual for Shirley Thompson

By Patricia Abbott

The honorary grand marshal of the Labor Day Parade, Shirley Thompson, was chosen for her extensive volunteer efforts throughout town. While a recent article in the *Observer* announcing her winning nomination detailed her efforts, it barely scratched the surface.

Shirley is a Certified Nursing Assistant and her desire to help others is an important part of her life. On Thanksgiving Day in 2002 she brought that desire closer to home. Shirley explained she was picking up her daughter from work at a local deli when she overheard a conversation between a senior citizen and an employee. The elderly woman was quite upset when told no hot meals would be available on the holiday. Upon arriving home Shirley decided she wanted to invite the woman to join them for the family's Thanksgiving feast. Unfortunately they were unable to locate her. This served to make Shirley even more determined to brighten holidays for those in need. An idea took hold and she asked her family to consider the possibility of preparing and delivering meals to the elderly for Christmas.



Shirley Thompson will step up to the podium as this year's Labor Day Parade grand marshal.

At the time, Shirley had been caring for a relative who had suffered a stroke and her family thought it was too great an undertaking. Shirley refused to take no for an answer; this was something she wanted to do. She noted that after much discussion the entire family agreed to help. With Christmas just weeks away, Shirley moved into high

gear putting her plan into action. She placed an ad in the *Observer* seeking elderly or disabled individuals in need of a hot meal for Christmas and responses poured in. Christmas 2006 will mark her fourth year of giving to the less fortunate in our community.

The first year was an experiment in organization, teamwork and timing.

From shopping to delivery, it is an involved and detailed process. The food shopping alone takes several days. Items are purchased from wholesalers such as BJ's and Costco. They also receive numerous private donations. Imagine preparing and roasting 68 turkeys. The cooking begins on December 23. Ovens in several households are kept busy until the last turkey is finished. Additional food is prepared throughout the night into Christmas Eve day. Shirley is assisted by her husband John, her son John and wife Deneen, granddaughter Kasi, her son Jerry, daughters Heather and Candice, her mother Stella and grandsons Daniel and Anthony.

John and Deneen separate and prepare perishable items such as rolls and fruit cups and prepare them for delivery. Heather and Candice map out the town and organize the deliveries. By 11 a.m. Christmas morning, a crowd is assembled at her home ready to begin the job of delivering the hot meals. Shirley's extended family consists of the DiMarias; Doreen, Dana, Denise, Devon, Dani-Jo, Brittany, Danielle and Tony Sadorski and Doreen and Scott Lessing. By 1 p.m. the good Samaritans are finished delivering not

only hot meals, but a large dose of Christmas spirit as well. They can relax and begin their holiday.

The operation has grown considerably and Shirley sought more ways to spread Christmas cheer. She gathers names of children and families in need of gifts. They are "adopted" by members of her family. Co-workers are encouraged to adopt a family as well. In the weeks before Christmas there is a wrapping frenzy. Last year well over 15 hours were spent wrapping presents.

During the remainder of the year, Shirley strives to be there for any elderly citizen in need. She said, "Whether it be a hot meal or a simple conversation, we are always willing to help out. I assist the elderly with everyday practices whenever possible. Keeping in contact is never truly a problem, as they are very open to communicate with me."

This year they expanded their generosity to include preparing and delivering Easter baskets for children. Daughter Heather discussed the idea with the high school's Peer Leadership group and they immediately jumped on the bandwagon helping to create the baskets.

A recent event shows just how far above and beyond Shirley and her family will go to help. Shirley's 89 year-old patient had a bad fall. His wife had passed away and he had no one to care for him. Shirley located a hospital bed and brought the man home to stay with her family.

On Aug. 7 Shirley received a call informing her that she had been chosen as grand marshal for the 2006 Labor Day Parade. Shirley said, "When I first found out I was in both shock and disbelief. So much so that a second phone call was needed the following day to verify and assure me that I had been awarded this privilege." Marion Gallagher, a member of the Public Celebrations Committee, called Shirley the next day to confirm that she had indeed been named grand marshal. Shirley continued, "I felt honored and grateful, I never expected this. The project would not be possible without the understanding of my family and friends. Everyone works very hard and gives up a lot. I cannot take all the credit for this task! This is also a great gift for me having everyone together for the holidays and making someone less fortunate's holiday brighter."

Shirley's children said, "We were
(Continued on page 22)

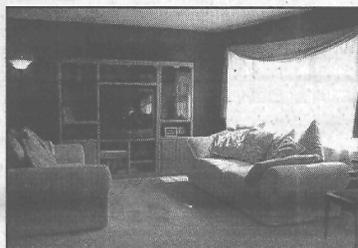
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Contact Andrea Lacerda 908-578-1166



South Plainfield—Spacious Split Level in Great Location. Large eat in kitchen, cathedral ceiling and newer bay window in living room, hardwood floors under carpet, wood burning fireplace in family room, 3 bedrooms, 1-1 1/2 baths, central air, vinyl siding and 1 car garage. 1 year American Home Shield warranty included.
Asking \$354,900.
Contact Andrea Lacerda 908-578-1166.



South Plainfield—Kennedy School Full Brick Ranch. This absolutely mint condition 3 bedroom home features an open floor plan, 1-1/2 brand new custom bathrooms, refinished hardwood floors, Corian counter in kitchen, all new interior doors, newer central air and furnace, 5 year old roof, nice sized fenced in yard with deck. Conveniently located and within walking distance to shipping.
Asking \$387,500.
Contact Andrea Lacerda 908-578-1166.



South Plainfield—Kennedy School Area, 3 to 4 Bedroom Split level home featuring new kitchen and new bathroom, newer flooring and brand new roof. The dining room had sliding doors that lead you to a new deck which overlooks a fully fenced in yard with above ground pool. The furnace was installed in 2002 and the central air in 2004. There is also a basement and a one car garage with double width driveway. Conveniently located close to the North Edison border and shopping centers and major highways.
Asking \$369,900.
Contact Andrea Lacerda 908-578-1166.



North Edison—Rare Find. Prime location, 5 bedrooms, 2 baths. Partial brick front—Custom built home with spacious layout, large eat-in kitchen, bay windows, formal dining room, finished basement with bar, workshop and outside entrance, attached garage, brand new roof, central air, cedar closets, beautiful fenced in yard with pond and two sheds. Clean, well maintained home in move in condition. Convenient access to GS Parkway and Metropark train station.
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Attention South Plainfield Residents! Beware of Distraction Burglaries

There has been a recent outbreak of "Distraction Burglaries" in and around our area. The suspects have been reported as being both white males and females. They have been using a black pickup truck, a black sports car with a loud muffler, and also a white vehicle. They have been using different techniques such as posing as a water company employee wanting to check the pipes in the basement. And most recently, knocking on a victim's front door and claiming to have lost their cat or dog. The suspects then ask for assistance from the victim claiming that the cat/dog might be in the victim's backyard. When the victim leaves the house to assist the suspect looking for the animal, other suspects exit their vehicle and enter the unoccupied house looking for cash and jewelry. Once the suspects are finished inside the residence, they call their partner who is out back with the victim, letting them know that they are out of the residence. The suspects then leave the area before the victim realizes that they were burglarized.

We ask that the public be alert for any such activity. If anyone experiences the scams listed above, we request that you do not assist the suspect and contact the police via 911 ASAP. Please remember that all calls are important. Do not hesitate calling if you are suspicious of someone who shows up unexpectedly at your front door.

We ask that you cautiously attempt to obtain a vehicle description, license plate number, direction of travel, number of suspects, or any additional information that will assist police in apprehending the suspects. Again, we would like the public to be aware and

cautious of this scam along with other scams. And remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is too good to be true.

If you have any information regarding these types of burglaries, or for questions call Det. Wendell Born (908) 226-7688, ext. 7661.

JFS Volunteer Recruitment

A recruitment and training program for those interested in volunteering at Jewish Family and Vocational Services of Middlesex County is planned for Sept. 7 and 14 and Oct. 5, from 1:30-3 p.m. at the JFVS offices, 515 Plainfield Ave., Suite 201 in Edison.

New and recent volunteers will be introduced to our agency and volunteer opportunities. The program will also include presentations on HIPAA privacy regulations, clients' rights and agency policies and procedures.

The Oct. 5 agenda will include sessions by our clinical staff on topics such as successful volunteering, the role of the volunteer, how to communicate with diplomacy, tact and credibility, juggling home, work, volunteering and building relationships with clients.

Current volunteers are welcome to join. Pre-registration is required. For information or to register, please contact E.J. Berman at (732) 777-1940, ext. 122 or ej.berman@jfs.org.

Microchipping Saves Pets Lives—A True Story

By Dr. Scott Linick

It was a stormy July night in Plainfield. Mrs. "G" was returning home from work and was greeted at the door by her husband. What they did not notice was that Alexandra, their 11 year-old German Shepherd, who is afraid of thunderstorms, ran out the door.

Alexandra apparently wandered in the storm for about three hours when she was spotted by a good samaritan near the Plainfield train station. She was limping badly. The person thought she had been hit by a car (Alexandra is badly arthritic) and called the police. The police contacted animal control who were able to identify Alexandra because her owners had the forethought to have her implanted with a microchip. Within minutes, the national registry called and Alexandra's owners were notified. She was then reunited with her family. Who can know what would have happened if she had not been microchipped.

Similar accidents happen every day.

Nationwide, thousands of lost pets have been recovered thanks to microchip identification. We have had six recoveries of our client's pets alone!

Microchipping your dog or cat is simple, virtually painless, reliable and affordable. Don't risk losing your pet. Have your pet microchipped today!

Dr. Linick is the director of the Plainfield Animal Hospital in South Plainfield.



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FROM THE DESK OF DEBBIE BOYLE

"Back To School Night" will be held on Sept. 20 for Grant Elementary school and on Sept. 18 for the Middle School.

The Grant School PTO and the Middle School PTA will be sponsoring a Fly Pen Raffle for those people who join the PTO/PTA and pay the activity fee during Back to School nights. "You gotta be in it to win it," so help us to help you by joining.

The proceeds of the Grant School store, held during lunch periods, will again go toward the 2007-08 Stokes Trip, along with the funds raised from "snack days," which are held during half days when there are no cafeteria lunches.

Please carefully follow the new student drop-off routes for Grant Elementary, which will be strictly enforced. The Grant PTO does not presently have a president and Diane Zekas, Cheryl Papa, Sue Murtagh and I will be sharing the duties of president. If you have any questions please see one of us.

The South Plainfield High School Athletic Booster Club will be hosting "Meet The Coaches Night" on Sept. 12 and all high school coaches will be on hand. There will also be a buffet dinner for those attending. The Athletic Booster Club will hold their Sept. meeting in the high school cafeteria at

6 p.m. followed by meet the coaches at 6:45 p.m. Join us during our meeting and come see what the Athletic Booster Club is all about.

We will also begin selling our Super 50/50 tickets to raise money for the ticket booth at Jost Field and the indoor high school bleachers. Tickets cost \$5 each. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Thanksgiving Day home football game. Also watch for our walk-a-thon which takes place in late October.

The South Plainfield Peer To Peer leadership program begins in the Middle School and runs through senior year at the high school. This program, along with academics, is an extremely worthwhile program. There are over 20 different activities performed by Peer To Peer leadership, which teaches children community services, along with the perils of being involved with drugs, alcohol and violence which creates an unhealthy lifestyle. Please urge your children to become involved with the Peer To Peer leadership program. Ellen Schwartz and Nick Scalzo are the team leaders at the Middle School and Mary Ellen Martko, Mr. Baker, Ms. Vandermark, Ms. Zurka and Mr. Encinas are the team leaders at the high school.

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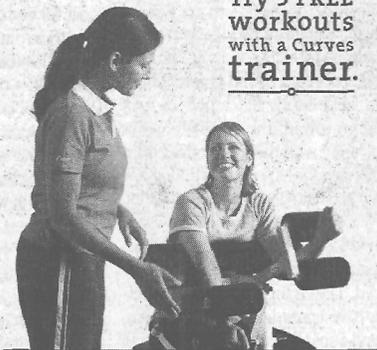
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South Plainfield American Legion Post #243 recently awarded scholarships to four SPHS graduates. Recipients were: Diane Romano, Rutgers University, Megan Wilson, William Patterson University, David Penyak, Rowan University, and Loren McConville, Middlesex County College. Pictured are (left to right) Dave Piscitelli with Matthew J. Boyle, Rich Magri, David Penyak and Loren McConville.

Century 21 Moretti Realty Plans Community Picnic and Motorcycle Run

A local business and a social group are coming together to raise funds for children with cancer and other life-threatening blood disorders. Century 21 Moretti Realty, in cooperation with The Old Timers Motorcycle Club, are sponsoring a community picnic and motorcycle run on Sunday, Oct. 1.

Monies raised will benefit the Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc.

The parade of motorcycles will rev up at 11 a.m. at the PAL on Maple Ave. and proceed on a two-hour scenic ride through Hunterdon County. Upon their return, there will be a com-

munity picnic with food donated by Sal's Spirit Shoppe, live music by Mirage and many "door" prizes. The donation for non-riders and the public for the picnic is \$10 per person. There will also be a variety of vendors.

Registration for the ride will begin at the PAL at 9:30 a.m. Members and non-members of The Old Timers Motorcycle Club are welcome to participate. Donations are \$20 per rider; \$10 per passenger. The first 50 riders to register will receive a free t-shirt.

To reserve booth space, vendors should contact The Old Timers Motorcycle Club, ofthebear@aol.com or oldtimers_mc@yahoo.com. Each participating vendor will be donating a door prize or gift certificate.

"We hope to make this an annual event," said Guy Moretti, broker/owner of Century 21 Moretti Realty. Since establishing the foundation in 2000, Century 21 Moretti Realty has partnered with area businesses and associations to sponsor fundraising events and have raised over \$300,000.

"A child's hopes and dreams and a family's stability, both emotionally and financially, are profoundly affected when the diagnosis is cancer," he said. The mission of Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc. is to provide non-medical services to families, support pediatric oncology research, and enhance the quality of life and care for children with cancer and life-threatening blood disorders. Dedicated volunteers from the real estate firm support the charity enabling 100% of the net proceeds to be donated to the work of the foundation.

Located at 225 Maple Ave., Century 21 Moretti Realty is a full service, multi-lingual brokerage firm with 60+ agents providing real estate services throughout Central New Jersey. For additional information call (908) 755-5300.

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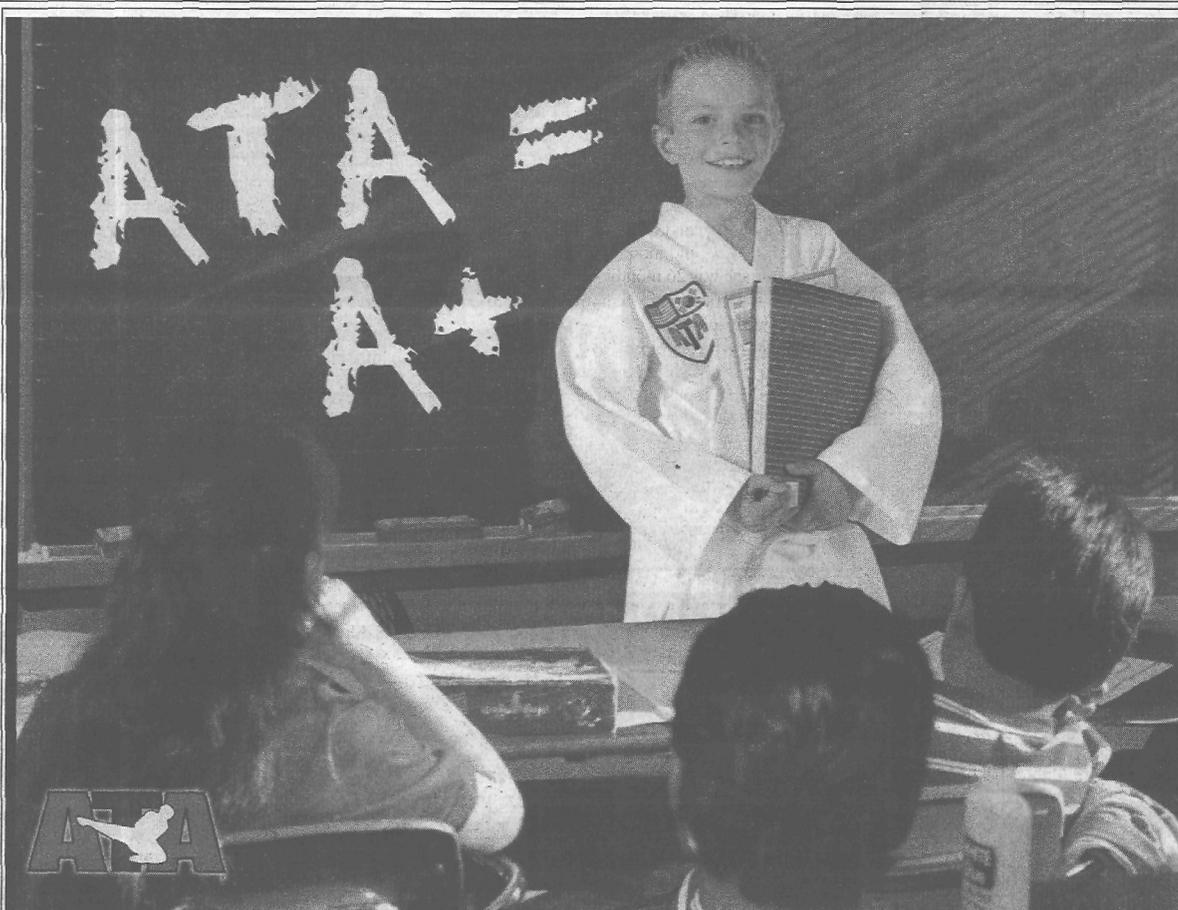
Recycle your old documents and confidential files safely and securely! Come to our mobile paper shredding event at the South Plainfield Senior Center on Maple Ave. on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bring old files, receipts, bills, financial statements, and documents that you have not recycled due to a confidentiality concern. No need to remove paper clips, staples, or binder covers.

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Community Rallies to "Cruisin' for Alyssa"



Dana and Alyssa Ricciardi

By Patricia Abbott

The recent "Cruisin' for Alyssa" car cruise attracted over 300 people to Sherban's Diner parking lot. Visitors ranged from the curious to die-hard

car fanatics. The event was a fundraiser for two-and-a-half-year-old Alyssa Ricciardi who was diagnosed with stage 4 Neuroblastoma, a pediatric cancer that attacks the nervous system.

The cruise was organized by Marguerite Fusco and Ron Fusco, Jack and Shirley Todoroff, Frank and Colleen McIntosh and Irene and Jerry McIntosh. They contacted members of various car clubs and asked them to donate used trophies. These were refurbished with plaques bearing the words "Cruisin' for Alyssa." Visitors wanting to sponsor a trophy donated \$10 to Alyssa's fund and then presented the trophy to their favorite car. About 90 car owners from all over the area—Middlesex, Hunterdon, Somerset and Monmouth Counties—proudly displayed their prized vehicles. They also ran a tricky tray and 50/50 raffle, which netted in excess of



"Cruisin' for Alyssa" organizers and volunteers.

\$4,000. Additional donated items will be raffled at various other cruises. Items for the tricky tray raffle were donated by the Fusco, McIntosh, Todoroff, Olano and Raymond families, Debbie Pace, Park Ave. Florist and Red Tower Restaurant.

South Plainfield resident Jacqueline Ortega, who recently won the title of Miss New Jersey in the American Co-

ed Pageant, helped distribute the prizes. The Ricciardi Family awarded the best of show trophy. They chose a 1963 Corvette owned by Ron Raymond of Plainfield.

Marguerite Fusco said, "Having had four healthy children and now four healthy grandsons, you never think about them being sick. Then you read about a two-year old battling a hor-

rible disease and you count your blessings. Alyssa and her family have a long, hard road ahead of them and we wanted to do something to help in any way we could. Since we are involved with many car cruises, we thought having a cruise night for Alyssa would be the best way to raise money. It was great to see the generosity of strangers for this little girl."

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A Long Road for Alyssa

Over the past months there have been numerous well attended fundraisers to help defer the medical expenses for two-and-a-half-year old Alyssa Ricciardi. Alyssa is on the road to recovery. Her story began in October of 2005 when the toddler was diagnosed with stage 4 Neuroblastoma, a pediatric cancer that attacks the nervous system.

The cancer was discovered during a routine visit to the doctor for a fever. The doctor found a small tumor on her head and one on each arm and a spot on her leg. The family has been traveling that long road to Alyssa's recovery. Alyssa and her parents, Dana and Carlo have spent many long days, weeks and months in and out of hospitals. By the time she was 26 months old, the toddler had been through five rounds of chemotherapy at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital.

In March Alyssa entered Sloan Hospital in New York City for surgery. Dr. Michael La Quaglia removed the entire tumor, the left adrenal gland and numerous lymph nodes. The successful surgery took about five hours.

After Alyssa's surgery, she went to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia where testing revealed that she was in remission. She had her first stem cell transplant on April 1 and came home on April 24. The second stem cell transplant was on May 19 and they arrived home in the middle

of June. Dana explained the lengthy hospital stay. "When you get a stem cell transplant, your white blood count drops to zero. They give the stem cells back so it helps her recover those counts that dropped. Without the stem cell rescue she would not recover. Therefore we must stay in the hospital until her counts reach a certain point where she is not at a risk for infection."

Alyssa visits the clinic at Robert Wood at least two times per week for red blood and platelet transfusions. She has been hospitalized twice for fevers. When her counts recover she will start localized radiation and begin taking a medication called Accutane, an acne pill that has been proven to make the baby neuroblastoma cells turn into adult cells that will lay dormant in her body and won't hurt her. The child will continue treatments until February of next year.

You can visit Alyssa's website at www.caringbridge.org/visit/alyssaricciardi. Donations may be made to Rally for Alyssa by sending a check made out to the Police Athletic League with a memo for Alyssa Ricciardi and should be sent to police headquarters, 2480 Plainfield Ave., attention Chris Colucci, Gary Cassio or Jimmy Parker. Donations may also be sent to the Alyssa Ricciardi Trust Fund, P.O. Box 0051, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-0051.

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11:15 a.m. Family Bible Hour

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6:30 - 7:45 p.m.

Treasure Seekers - for grades K - 5

7:45 - 8:30 p.m.

O.K. Band - for grades 6-12

V.I.P. Choir - for grades K - 5

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What will you do with Jesus? Neutral you cannot be. Someday your heart will be asking, "What will He do with me?" - Albert B. Simpson

Orientation Held for 320 Incoming SPHS Freshmen

By Libby Barsky

On Wednesday, Aug. 23, 320 incoming freshmen attended the orientation program held in the high school cafeteria. Principal Dr. Kenneth May greeted the students noting that 92 percent of the members of the graduating class are going on to college and had received over \$1M in scholarships.

Dr. May's message to the students was that if they followed the schools rules, came to school on time, weren't tardy or absent, kept up with their classes and did their homework, they could achieve a B average and by the time they were seniors they would be on their way to a college of their choice.

The school rules concern attendance, dress code and standards of behavior. "When students are absent

because of sickness or another acceptable reason, the student is responsible for knowing what the homework assignments are and for completing them," said Dr. May.

After years of bringing down the percentage of days students were absent from school, last year Dr. May worked on bringing down the percentage of students who arrive late to school or class. Last year the daily rate of for students being tardy was in the single digits, with 2,500 fewer students being tardy than the previous year. The effort to keep the tardy rate low will continue.

At 8 a.m. the first bell rings and the doors open. The doors are closed and no one enters the building until 8 a.m., unless there is inclement weather. The warning bell is rung at 8:05 a.m. and

the late bell at 8:10 a.m. when all doors are closed and students should be in their first period class.

If a student is late, he must report to the attendance office with a note signed by a parent or guardian explaining the reason for the tardiness. If the student doesn't have an approved reason (doctor's appointment, State driver's test, etc.), the student receives a lateness to school slip and will be assigned office detention of half an hour after school to be made up on that day. Two lates to school equal one day's absence from a period 1 class. On the thirtieth tardy, the student will receive his sixteenth absence and will receive no credit for the first period class.

Dr. May also cautioned incoming students about the need to dress for gym classes. "Eight seniors did not graduate because they didn't pass gym," he said. "You must dress to participate in gym. If a student doesn't get into gym clothes, they are considered unprepared and each unprepared notice lowers the grade in gym. Students are allowed only two unprepared notices; the third one the grade is an "F" and a failure for gym class.

Students were also warned not to put valuables in gym lockers, including cell phones, money or iPods, because the locker area can't be completely secured.

Assistant Principal Kelly Panuzzo, who spent the past year as assistant principal at the Middle School, listed what wasn't allowed in the building and clothing not allowed in the stu-



SPHS senior CJ Stubbs in front of his portrait of the Beatles that he designed and painted in the History Hallway with 53 of his classmates.

dent dress code. "No hats are allowed and no cell phones can be used in the building from 8 a.m to 2:30 p.m., as well as no iPods in the car. Girls are not allowed to wear spaghetti straps. Also no bare midriffs, if they wear them, they will be given white shirts to cover themselves. The boys are expected to have their boxer shorts in their pants and not visible.

Disciplinarian Robert Diehl told students that he would prefer to see them in the hall rather than in his office, adding, "We respect everyone here in the building, but disrespect will not be tolerated, nor will gang related colors or activities. If you wear a hat-

that's disrespect. Touching another person in an aggressive way is disrespect and can lead to in-school suspension. If a student is in a fight it will lead to an out-of-school suspension from five to 10 days." Besides the in-school suspension weekdays, there is also a Saturday suspension.

Seniors also spoke about their high school experience. Student Council President Michael George urged the students to become involved in the Student Council saying, "There will be elections in two weeks for freshman officers and representatives. Get involved, meet a lot of people. Everything fun in high school is sponsored through the Student Council."

George also spoke about the recently completed Senior Project, where 53 members of the senior class painted the SPHS history hallway leading to the social studies/history classes, with a new theme—that of history through the decades—with 23 paintings of world and national events coupled with those in pop culture.

Other seniors, including CJ Stubbs and Brittany and Asia Hollis, also spoke about their experiences and the importance of classes and not your letting grades slip. They were also joined by 20 other seniors who gave individual tours of the building to small groups of freshmen. Before they broke up for their tour of the building, Dr. May urged students, "Take advantage of everything we have and we will help you to be more than successful."

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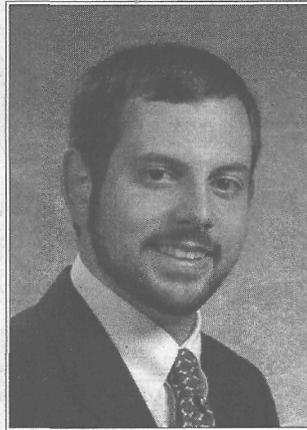
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Sign up for the grand opening
drawing, enjoy refreshments and
special "Thank You" gifts all day long.

New Customer Rewards

Start a banking relationship at Somerset
Valley Bank's South Plainfield Branch
and take advantage of these great offers
during this special time.

- Free checking account for personal and business customers with ATM/Debit Card including the first order of specialty checks.
- Free 3"x 5" Safe Deposit Box (for one year when opening an account, while supplies last).
- Special CD Rate Bonus. Receive an extra .25% on the current rate for all Certificates of Deposit. Rate subject to change, limited time offering. A penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal on Certificates of Deposit. See a Customer Service Representative for details.
- Open a new account and receive a \$10 gift certificate to Friendly's restaurant (located at 1060 Stelton Road, Piscataway, New Jersey). Limited time offer.

Ask about our grand prize drawing.



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Meet Manager Darlene Pinto and ask
about our Sizzling Savings account. Open
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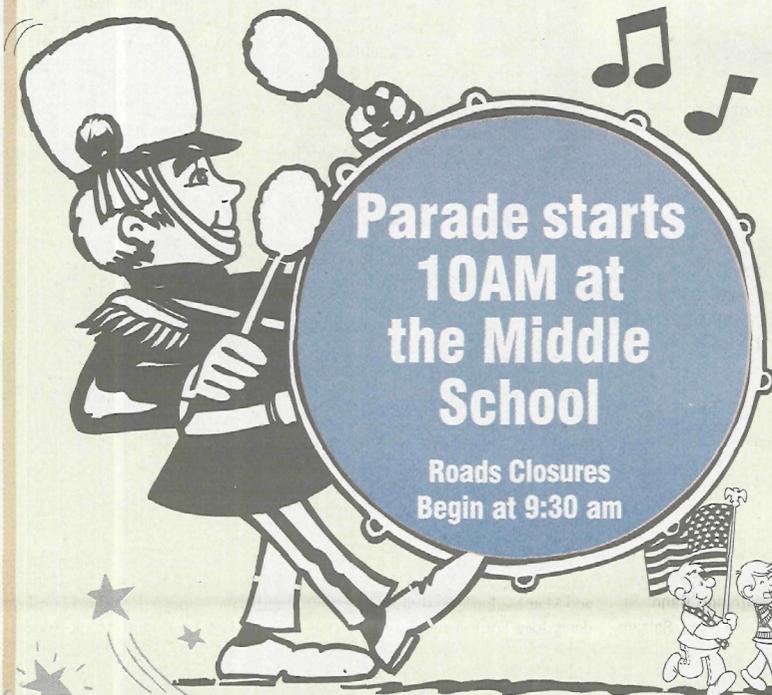
*The annual percentage yield is effective as of 9/16/06 with a variable rate of 4.40% and APY of 4.50% is guaranteed through 12/31/2006. New money only. A \$20.00 minimum balance is required to open account and to earn the APY. A \$150.00 minimum balance is required to avoid service charges. Fees may reduce earnings. Rates are subject to change.

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

“Families: South Plainfield’s Greatest Asset”

The 49th Annual Labor Day Parade

Monday, September 4



- Marching Bands
- Plenty of Clowns
- Cartoon Characters
- Civic Groups
- Much More....



Activities at the PAL Field:
9am - 5k Race & 1.5 Mile Walk

SPHS Wrestling Club Fundraiser

DUNKING BOOTH

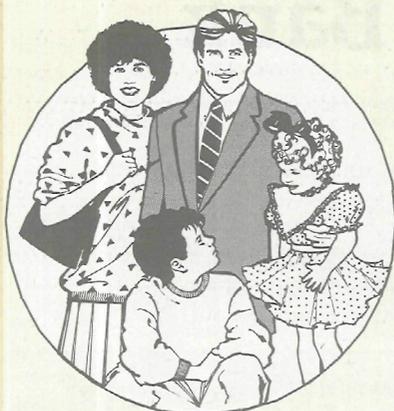
(Fundraiser for a 30-member trip to the Minnesota National Wrestling Championship)

Beginning at 12:30 pm

- Egg Toss • Water Balloon Toss •
- Extreme Rock Wall and Pirate’s Cove •
- Musical Entertainment by “Forrester” •

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

- Pretzels • Subs • Sausages
- Italian Ice • Cotton Candy
- Water • Soda • Gyros
- Face Painting • Hair Braiding
- Baby Bibs • Much More



BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

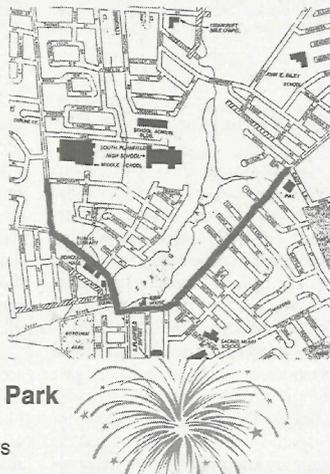
Fireworks at dusk in Spring Lake Park preceded by the entertainment of “Sound Investment”

Schedule of Activities

SOUTH PLAINFIELD

(All times are approximate and subject to change)

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



- Activities at the PAL**
- 12:00 p.m. Egg Toss, Water Balloons Toss, Extreme Rock Wall, Pirates Cove
- 12:30 p.m. Entertainment by Forrester
- Evening Activities At Sping Lake Park**
- 7:00 p.m. "Sound Investment" Concert
- Dusk Fireworks Display by Garden State Fireworks

PARADE ENTRIES

McGruff the Crime Dog, South Plainfield Tiger Sharks Swim & Dive Team, South Plainfield Police Department, Absolute Dance: Miss Nykia's School of Dance, Daren the D.A.R.E. Lion, Bear Rock Cafe, South Plainfield Rescue Squad, Tigger, South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department, 1929 Model A Ford-Phillip Burgess, Association of South Plainfield Churches, Superman, South Plainfield High School Cheerleaders, American Ex Prisoners of War, Mickey Mouse, Wesley United Methodist Church, South Plainfield Lions Eye Mobile, Watchung Valley Model A Restorers Club, Red, White & Blue Stilt Walker, Military Order Of The Purple Heart Chapter #10, South Plainfield Republican Organization, Congressman Michael Ferguson, State Senator Thomas Kean, Jr., Candidates: Freeholder-Geoff Champion, Andy Tidd, Council Candidates-Alex Barletta, Dave Sesok, South Plainfield Soccer Club, VFW Post #6763 61st Year, Elmo, Dora the Explorer, South Plainfield Democratic Organization, NJ State Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Middlesex County Freeholder Director David Crabiel, Freeholder John Pulomena, Middlesex County Clerk Elaine Flynn, Council Candidate Joe Scrudato, Girl Scouts of South Plainfield, South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298, Bob the Builder, Slim and Tone Gym, Cub Scouts of South Plainfield, Snow White, 1975 Pontiac Grand Prix-George Olsson, NY/NJ Slant-Six Club of America, Funny Factory

Comedy Stunt Car, South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission, South Plainfield Right To Life, Unforgettable Autos of Mid-Jersey, 1979 Cadillac Sedan Deville - James Singleton, Clifford The Big Red Dog, South Plainfield Glitterbugs, Old Timers Motorcycle Club, HK Volunteer Fire Co. 1926 Fire Truck, Funny Factory Calli-A-Bike with Rider, Garfield, Knights of Columbus, Knights of Columbus Columbiettes, American Legion Chaumont Post #243, South Plainfield Eagles Football and Cheerleaders, South Plainfield Wrestling Club, 1973 Dodge Challenger-Alan Graziano, American Martial Arts, Western NJ Outlaws Women's Roller Derby, Spiderman, Dozefield.com, Miss New Jersey Co-ed Jacqueline Ortega, Salaam Shrine Motor Corps, Boy Scouts Troop 207 10th Anniversary, Petro Oil Company, Yee's Hung Ga Kung Fu Association, Balloon Man-RE/MAX Realty, South Plainfield Mayor Daniel J. Gallagher, Council Dennis Cerami, Charlie Butrico, Bob Cusick, Raymond Petronko, Robert Bengivenga, Jr. and Matthew Anesh.

10 Marching Bands: South Plainfield High School Marching Band & Color Guard, Funny Factory Clown Band, Atlantic Watch Pipes & Drums, Westfield Fife and Drum Corps, Salaam Temple Oriental Band, Legionnaires Marching Band, St. Brendan's Pipes & Drums, New Jersey Polka Band, Salaam String Band and Rag Timers.

CONCESSIONS AT THE PAL

South Plainfield Lions Club-beer, steak and sausage sandwiches, Carnival Concessions-zeppoles, funnel cakes, SPSHS Music Boosters-pizza, M D Bouras Ice Cream-Good Humor ice cream, Summer Drama Workshop-barbecue on a stick, meatball subs, D & D Concessions-cotton candy, popcorn, pretzels, fresh lemonade, Bear Rock Cafe-cookies, brownies, desserts, soft drinks, fruit cups, Phil Emma-funnel cakes, apple fritters, fried Oreos, fried pretzels, Oak Tree Farms-Gyros, falafel wraps, Mangione Italian Ices-Italian ices, cotton candy, popcorn, South Plainfield Tigers Football Parents Group-candy, baked goods, t-shirts, buttons, Stone Circle Creations-homemade cookies and candies and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War-soda, t-shirts, hats.

TABLES AT THE PAL

The *Observer* "South Plainfield's Newspaper," Slim and Tone Gym, South Plainfield Historical Society, Circle Players, South Plainfield Environmental Commission, Kathy's Crafts, Friends of the Woods at Highland Woods Reserve, American Martial Arts, Alliance for a Living Ocean, South Plainfield Republican Organization, Upbeat News, Cedarcroft Bible Chapel & Puppet Show, Yee's Hung Ga Kung Fu Association, Commerce Bank, Century 21 Moretti Realty, ATA Black Belt Academy of South Plainfield, Championship Camps, South Plainfield Wrestling Club, Almost Famous Players, Boy Scout Troop 207, Central Jersey Acupuncture, ERA Suburb Realty, 123 Home, Sacred Heart Youth Group, South Plainfield Girl Scout Community, Wesley Methodist Church, and D n K Hair Design.

Everyone is Invited to Join the 5K Labor Day Run and 1.5 Mile Walk

Once again the South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness and the staff at The Club at Ricochet are sponsoring the 16th Annual The Club at Ricochet/SPASA Labor Day 5K Run on Sept. 4.

To add to the more than 200 runners last year, the 1.5 mile family fitness walk will take place again this year. Over 25 walkers participated in this event last year and the hope is to increase this number in support of family togetherness and a positive drug free fun filled fitness lifestyle. The entry fee for the walkers is only \$5 per person or family with t-shirts and substance awareness information packets given to the first 50 participants.

This year's 5K Run race day fee is \$15. The first 200 5K entrants will receive t-shirts, along with a packet of various items and substance awareness information. Again, this year Aiello Chiropractic will offer pre- and post-race/walk massages and Best Race Systems will handle computer timing. Race results will be posted on the Internet at www.bestrace.com.

The race will begin and end behind the PAL building on Maple Ave. near Jost Field. The run/walk will begin at 9:25 a.m. with registration starting at 8 a.m.

It is also important to note that all

proceeds for the race will go to supporting the efforts of the South Plainfield Education Foundation in making the South Plainfield community drug free. It is hoped that you will find time to recognize and/or patronize the many businesses and sponsors of the race list below.

Last year's race/fitness walk was one of the biggest yet. We had a lot of fun kicking off a great day in South Plainfield with parades, games, picnicking and fireworks. Bring a friend in support of healthy exercise and reducing substance abuse. Let's make this year the best ever.

S.P.A.S.A. 2006 business supporters are: Aiello Chiropractic Center, Oak Tree Farms, Bagel Pantry, Poland Spring Water, Buy-Rite Auto Parts, Presto Printing Service, Casablanca Is Hair, The Club at Ricochet, Ciccio's Pizza, Rodolfo's Pizza, David's Stationary, Sherban's Diner and Restaurant, Flanagan's Restaurant, South Plainfield Education Foundation, Giakas Cleaners, South Plainfield PAL, The Home Depot, South Plainfield Liquor Store, Joe Romer Trophy Shop, South Plainfield Middle School Graphic Arts Dept., K.C.'s Korner Bar and Restaurant, Sportworld, McCriskin Home For Funerals, Twin City Pharmacy and Mohn's Florist.

Forrester to Perform on Labor Day; Back by Popular Demand

South Plainfield based band *Forrester* is back by popular demand and will perform at the PAL on Labor Day following the parade.

Forrester features South Plainfield residents Ryan Egan, Joe Scarpitto, and Matt Madurski, as well as Clark residents Joey Sortino and Ryan Soben.

Last year, the band was praised by young fans, teens and the older crowd as well. They performed cover songs by Queen, the Beatles, the Allman Brothers and others. A two-hour set is planned for this year's Labor Day festivities with many new covers including The Grateful Dead, Jimmy Buffett, Led Zeppelin, Jimi Hendrix, Van

Halen and The Who. Due to their crowd-pleasing appeal, *Forrester* was invited to make a return appearance at the PAL this year.

Forrester members have also recorded two demos of original music and have appeared at the Hamilton Street Cafe in Bound Brook, Bloomfield Ave. Cafe, Montclair; Forum Theater, Metuchen and competed in this year's Battle of the Bands at the renowned venue The Stone Pony in Asbury Park, made famous by Bruce Springsteen and Southside Johnny. To listen to some of their music, you can go online to myspace.com/Forrester or purevolume.com/Forrester.

Parking Restrictions And Road Closings

Roads along the parade route will be closing at approximately 9:30 a.m. If coming to the PAL, you must plan to arrive early or you may not get in the park. If marching, be sure to be at your assigned location by 9:15 a.m. sharp.

The evening concert will begin at 6:30 p.m. Please beware that parking will be restricted around Spring Lake Park because of the fireworks display.

Do not park at the Senior Center.

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

Spring Lake Park is designated handicapped parking only. Best parking is at the high school or the PAL. Both have extra lighting and are easy to access. Roads will close at 7:45 p.m. for the fireworks.

Parade Trophies to be Awarded



HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL TROPHY*

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

JUDGES' TROPHY*

Best overall entry as determined by judges

GEORGE W. L. PAGET TROPHY*

Given to the best civic entry.

MOST OUTSTANDING FLOAT*

Best overall

BEST YOUTH ENTRY*

Awarded by judges to the best youth group

BEST CIVIC ENTRY*

MOST PATRIOTIC ENTRY*

MOST OUTSTANDING VISITING ENTRY*

Awarded to the best appearing entry from outside of South Plainfield

BEST ANTIQUE VEHICLE*

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

MARIE D. PAGET TROPHY*

Awarded to the best overall marching entry.

* A representative must be present for the trophy to be awarded

Parade Judges:

Richard McCriskin, Debbie Kurland, Charlie Kurland, Georgeann DiGrazia, Tamara Hawbarker, Jen Bechtoldt

The Public Celebrations Committee

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

John Sorrentino, Chair

Roy Petronko, Council Liaison

Don Alexa, Matthew Anesh, Christine Buteas, Michelle Cerami, Kim Gallagher, Marion Gallagher, Kevin Hughes, Joseph Scrudato,

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

Parade Announcers:

BILL COCHRANE at Reviewing Stand

AL CZECH at Boro Hall

SOUND by J.W.T. SOUND SERVICES at Reviewing Stand & Boro Hall

Parade Marshals:

Head Marshals: John Sorrentino, Debbie Krawic,

William Co, Carl Adlassnig and Bill Thomas

Joe Scrudato, Kyle Prendergast, Terry Alexa, Brian Cargill, Sue White, Chris Bojarski, Pat DeSantis, Crissey Buteas, Tom Perry, Charles Krieger, Anthony LaPierre, Steven Miller, Ashley Chosney, Mary Chosney, Mark Chosney

A College Graduate's Reflection: A Changed Perspective

By Tim Morgan

During your education, especially the part before college, the outside world is at a certain distance. You're interacting with it in your own ways, in high school probably through a six or seven dollar-an-hour job after

school and/or summers performing usually menial tasks. At this stage in your life you are getting your feet wet in the working world, which you will hopefully enter at a higher level when your education is completed. There is an order to be followed and you are at the bottom rung of it at this age, as

well you should be.

There is a need for potential entry-level workers to experience low-level jobs first. One of my best friends worked as a garbage collector and another worked as a factory assistant at a gum company during their summers. Both of them went on to get four-year degrees.

I spent my summers working as a cashier, a waiter, a camp counselor, and as a package handler at a Fed Ex warehouse. Along the way, I fit in working at a funeral home with my father as an assistant and became a substitute teacher, arguably the most professional of my jobs, right here in town.

Working the more taxing of those positions, especially in the factory, gave me greater insight to the working world and a greater appreciation for the path I was on (and am still on) to gain a position of greater professional and financial standing. My two friends benefited from their experience in similar ways. The variety of jobs I have had, in conjunction with the classes I have taken, gave me a more broad-based view of the business sector and the functioning of the overall economy.

Also not to be dismissed or taken lightly is establishing a common bond with the blue-collar workers who form the underpinning of society. They are the ones responsible for the houses we reside in, the buildings where we

do business, the heat and air conditioning that shields us from the weather, the garbage being disposed, the industry of many of the products we use in our everyday lives, and a plethora of other things.

At the same time, the white-collar workers drive the economy that stimulates all of these things by making decisions that effect them. They are responsible for much of the data, research, and services that advance society. Usually, they make more money than the blue-collar workers. Even though the money flow is usually regulated by different types of skill sets, I'm still not certain it's fairly distributed.

The fact remains though, the interaction of the two basic types of workers breeds a symbiotic relationship. If I had only experienced one side of the working class, I would not have been able to appreciate what the other does. Most of the time, when people experience hard labor for themselves, even if only for a short while, they will be that much less inclined to condescend to those who were never able to elevate themselves beyond that stage, or those who never wanted to begin with.

There is justice in a young person aspiring for an entry-level job to first work in one without glamour. A development in human empathy is an invaluable and important virtue that

will shine through an enhanced outlook in life. This development becomes reflected in casual, personal, and professional exchanges, and you will be a better person for it.

During my summers I did not realize all of this, but I did not doubt that the world was (and still is) wide open for me; I just was not quite ready to embrace it. My jobs have been part of a gradual buildup that formed my perspectives about where I wanted to go with my life, how I wanted to go about it, and how others have succeeded and failed in their own routes, many by their own virtue (or lack thereof) but others only by circumstance.

I have seen some very hardworking people scraping by and working long hours to make ends meet because they were born into hardscrabble existences. I have seen others who were handed just about everything they have without having to work very hard for it or even work at all. And I have seen plenty of people between these polarities, on the job and in school. That's just the naturalistic reality that is life. But usually, the people that have to work hard to earn their keep value it the most and live more cognizant of the things that make life good and bad.

Whatever your situation though, you have at least some control of the direction your life is going. When you graduate high school, it is time for your horizons to expand. The majority of students will enter college at some level, a few will decide they've had enough of being in the classroom and that they want to start making some money, and a few others will join the armed forces to serve their civic duty.

I took the conventional path of being a full-time college student, and now, four years later, my microcosm isn't quite as small anymore. The time came to make some decisions about where my life was going. My problem was that I didn't know the answer to this question until recently.

My ultimate decision to go to graduate school was arrived at carefully and cautiously, propelled by a desire to go into the humanitarian sector that did not develop until halfway through college.

There, I learned the value of volunteerism, something I was never very keen on beforehand. I joined my college's volunteer organization my freshman year and got more out of it than I ever expected. Not only did I help people who were in need on a number of different levels, but this served as the springboard for what became a pivotal point in my life—attending two United Nations Study Sessions.

I gained a much clearer view of the situations of desperate and extreme poverty and deprivation that dominate many parts of the world that we often do not see or hear about, which propelled my investigation of degrees and jobs within the social justice field. Only halfway through my senior year did my vague ideas of where I wanted to go next with my life become more defined.

College graduation can be an alternately joyous and unsettling experience. School takes on a reality of its own that is hard to separate from, if you enjoy it enough. After years of the comfort of those walls, it's finally time to decide how you're going to make your mark in the world, or at least your own world.

As education prepares you for this task, it can also insulate you. Working (and volunteering) alongside school is your outlet for that insulation. More than that though, it can be your viewfinder. Textual learning gives you the knowledge you'll need for whatever career path you choose, but experiential learning can be a crucial factor in deciding what this path will be. It gives you an indication of the world you are setting yourself up for and an understanding of how and why to connect to it.

100 Women Volunteers Needed



We are looking for 100 Women Volunteers to participate in a 4 week fitness study which will be starting mid September. Call for details.

To find the location nearest you dial

732-632-2025

908-757-4422

609-660-2500

* Must be 18 yrs. or older
* Not currently working out

Bengivenga, Barletta & Sesok

New Leadership. New Solutions.



Contact mayor candidate Robert Bengivenga, Jr. at 908-966-1491



Contact council candidate Dave Sesok at 908-217-1118

Making South Plainfield Affordable Again

- Spearheading shared services with the schools
- Eliminating waste and unnecessary administrative costs
- Cutting contract costs by increasing competition
- Planning growth so business and industry pick up a greater share of the tax burden



Contact council candidate Alex Barletta at 908-578-5095

Protecting our Neighborhoods from Traffic and Overdevelopment

- Extending Hollywood Avenue so truck traffic won't affect neighborhoods on the south side, especially New Market Avenue
- Revising the zoning ordinance to discourage overgrowth
- Keeping our industrial areas intact and not converting them to apartments and condos.

Helping Our Seniors

- Planning senior housing for the right locations—near the services seniors need
- Controlling taxes and spending so seniors can stay in the town they helped build
- Expanding programs for seniors, including the new volunteer program to help them maintain their homes and yards

Councilman Bengivenga Announces Plan to Save Taxpayer Dollars

Pointing out that making South Plainfield more affordable for families and seniors is his top priority, mayoral candidate Robert Bengivenga, Jr. this week outlined the first phase of his plan to trim borough spending. Bengivenga and his two running mates, Alex Barletta and Dave Sesok, agree that controlling taxes and spending should be their highest priority if elected.

According to Bengivenga, the plan comes at a time when spending is skyrocketing, up more than a million dollars over the past two years. "We can't

continue to spend like this," he said. "These spending increases mean taxpayers have to make up the difference," Barletta added. "Taxes have jumped for two straight years, with property taxes going up last year and the sewer tax going up the year before."

Controlling spending is the key according to Sesok. "Since the late 90s the town has been increasing spending at twice the rate of inflation. I run a small business, and when expenses go up, we have to look for places to cut. The town should work the same way."

Bengivenga, Barletta and Sesok this week announced the first five elements of the plan:

- 1. Develop a Shared Services Program with the School System**—As a councilman, Bengivenga is already spearheading this program so we can trim costs for the town and the school system. Other towns have been reaping the rewards of shared services for years, but unfortunately, South Plainfield has not. It's time we do.
- 2. Hire an in-house engineer to replace costly consultants**—Engineering costs are soaring, with our engineering firm being paid over \$340,000 last year. Hiring an in-house engineer could cut costs by as much as 25%, if not more.

3. Focus on the right types of growth—We need to create an economic development commission that will market our town to low-traffic businesses and light industry. This type of smart growth doesn't increase school costs and has little effect on services. As a result, it lightens the tax burden for homeowners.

4. Bring down contract costs by increasing competition—Real competition can save on contracts. Right now, however, we're not looking for better prices for professional services. A strong pay-to-play ordinance would make sure these contracts are going to qualified professionals who also offer a good value. Right now they go to campaign donors who know they

don't have to give their best price.

5. Cut newly created administrative jobs—The town created several new administrative positions that can be cut immediately without affecting services.

According to Barletta, these are just some of the ways to cut costs. "We plan to announce more ways to trim expenses as the campaign progresses," he said.

"We've said it before, and we'll say it again, families shouldn't have to choose between paying their property taxes and saving for retirement or to send their kids to college. And our seniors shouldn't feel they are being squeezed out of the town they helped build. But that's the choice for too many residents," Sesok added.

"The key to making South Plainfield more affordable is being innovative," Bengivenga explained. "It's easy to tick off a list of ways you spent money, but the hard part is coming up with ideas that will control spending and at the same time not cut into services. If Alex, Dave and I are fortunate enough to be elected, we will provide the new leadership and new solutions that will get South Plainfield back to being the affordable place to live that it once was—and can be again."



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★ ★ ★ EXCEPTIONAL VALUES ★ ★ ★

CARLO ROSSI 8.99 Burgundy, White Grenache, Chablis, Sangria, Chianti 4 liter jug	ZELKO 10.99 London Dry Gin 1.75L	BENTLEY'S 11.99 Blended Whiskey 1.75L	CLUB 400 12.99 Blended Whiskey 1.75L
ALMADEN MOUNTAIN 10.99 Burgundy, Chablis, Blush, Rhine 5 liter box	PETER VELLA 12.99 Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot, White Zinfandel 5 liter box	PORT ROYAL 12.99 Light Rum 1.75L	CANADIAN PEAK 13.99 Scotch Whiskey 1.75L

South Plainfield Properties



SOUTH PLAINFIELD—Dutch Colonial, \$359,900. 3 BR, 1 Bath, LR, FDR, EIK, BSMT, Barn surrounded by Borough park land near baseball complex.



SOUTH PLAINFIELD—Park Avenue Commercial Rental \$1,500 month, 4 rooms, former hair/nail salon. Salon equip avail. Great for small business owner.



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New Jersey Properties

Charles L. Decker Jr., Sales Associate
1996 Washington Valley Road
Martinsville, New Jersey 08836
732-469-1516 x 378

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DEKUYPER 8.99 Peachtree Cordial 750 ml	BACARDI 19.99 Light or Gold Rum 1.75 liter
SMIRNOFF 19.99 Vodka 80° 1.75 liter	COURVOISIER VS 23.99 Cognac 750 ml
GREY GOOSE 26.99 Vodka 80° 750 ml	BOMBAY 27.99 Gin 1.75 liter
GLENLIVET 31.99 12 Year Old Scotch 750 ml	PATRON 36.99 Silver Tequila 750 ml

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Many Changes to Welcome Students at Start of School Year

By Libby Barsky

Many changes, such as new textbooks, new teachers, new computer programs and even menu choices will welcome students returning to school from summer vacation.

One change that students will see when they arrive at Franklin, Riley and Roosevelt will be the lack of swings in the playground area. Due to a safety survey of playground equipment, most of the swings were found to be unsafe and removed by the ground

crew of Sodexo.

Students returning to South Plainfield High School will see a newly painted history hallway. Every year for the past 10 years, members of the incoming senior class paint one of the hallways or the lunchroom in the school promoting the idea that students have ownership of their building.

Class President Michael George coordinated the project with student artists Carrie Moore, CJ Stubbs, Taylor Mandel and 50 members of the class of 2007. They painted 23 scenes for

the hallway highlighting this century's historical events balancing each decade (i.e. the Vietnam War, Civil Rights movement personified with a portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King, along with the popular artists of that time.) Class advisors Diana Joffe, Michelle Fugazzi and Tom Baker helped oversee the process. Sherwin Williams on Park Ave. contributed the paints for the mural.

New social studies textbooks will be issued to students from grades two through high school, replacing books

that were over 13 years old. The new textbooks were chosen for their world view providing a background on nations in all continents of the world and reflecting the diversity of the district's population. The selection for textbooks used the Muther Analysis. Teachers in grades two-eight who have been teaching the subject, along with Kaye Crown, assistant superintendent of instruction, rigorously examine content and how it compares to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Con- (Continued on page 28)



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34th Annual Art Show Benefits Scholarship Funds and Local Charities

For the past 33 years art lovers have gathered in Washington Park, Dunellen on the first Saturday after Labor Day to enjoy and purchase original work from area fine artists and craftspeople, all to benefit the local communities. "Art on the Green" is just such a great day for the family, the monies raised benefit the community and that is why we enjoy sponsoring the event," says Guy Moretti of Century 21 Moretti Realty. "Art on the Green" is an annual show which awards prizes to exhibitors and embodies two

goals of its sponsor, the Dunellen/Green Brook Rotary Club: volunteerism and charity. "The Rotary Club is all about giving back to the community and having fun while doing it," explains Rotarian, Leonard Siskin, chairperson for "Art on the Green" and a local chiropractor on Route 22 in Green Brook.

"Art on the Green," which is run almost entirely by volunteer effort, is the Rotary Club chapter's largest fundraiser. Proceeds support local fire and rescue squads and provide schol-

arship money for high school students. Ray De Marco, a Rotarian and attorney in Dunellen observes, "We've estimated that over the years the Dunellen/Green Brook Rotary Club has given out over \$200,000 in scholarship assistance." This will be the third year that the events sponsor, Century 21 Moretti Realty will have a table for community events including information about events and membership for Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc., a charitable organization founded by a group of realtors from Century 21 Moretti Realty.

This years event will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9 (rain date Sept. 16) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Expect to join a great group of fellow art enthusiasts to experience the works of approximately 100 area artists and fine craftspeople. PNC Bank will be sponsoring the great food at "Art on the Green." Over half of the talented artists and craftspeople are from local surrounding towns. By the same token the show is rumored to draw artists and craftspeople from as far as Virginia, Western Pennsylvania and Northern New England.

There is no entrance fee to attend the show and there is ample free parking. Show-goers often replenish their focus after spending time perusing the artwork by visiting the food area supplied by the Rotary Club. There will be hot dogs, hamburgers, and according to electrician and second generation Rotarian Joe Spera, "We make a fantastic sausage and pepper sandwich!" Beverages are also available as are a variety of snack foods. Profits from the food booth contribute to the event fundraising effort and all the folks working food booths at the event are volunteers. Dr. Siskin elaborates: "The money we raise from the proceeds of this show comes from the exhibitors' entry fees, food and beverage sales, and the terrific support of our show and food sponsors. For instance, Century 21 Moretti Realty sponsors the art show while PNC Bank subsidizes the food."

Of course, the focus of the show itself is on the art and crafts. At 3 p.m. prizes will be awarded at the large gazebo in the center of Washington Park to the best pieces of art and craft as determined by our expert paid-professional judges. Monetary first, second and third place prizes will be awarded to both artists and crafters for the best works at the show.

According to Mr. De Marco, what makes "Art on the Green" different from other shows is two-fold. First, the Rotary Club takes no commission on the sales made by exhibitors, second, the process by which pieces are judged differs from most other shows, where exhibitors choose themselves what piece enters the competition. At "Art on the Green," anything on display can be judged. Our judges decide at 11 a.m. what pieces they would like to include as finalists. At 1:30 p.m. an announcement is made as to what pieces have been selected as finalists. Exhibitors are then invited to bring their pieces to the gazebo where they remain on display for final judging. Judges then make the final decisions.

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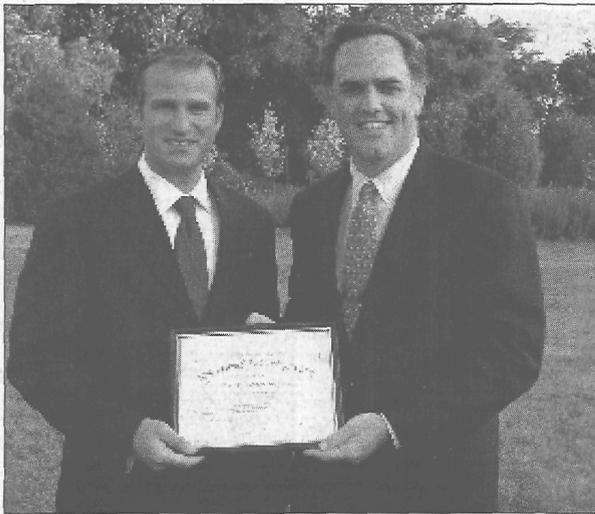
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Congressman Mike Ferguson (right) presents the 2006 National Leadership Award to Councilman Robert Bengivenga, Jr. Along with receiving the award, Bengivenga was appointed to the NRCC Business Advisory Council and will serve as an honorary chairman from New Jersey.

Bengivenga Receives 2006 National Leadership Award

During a visit to town last Wednesday, U.S. Congressman Mike Ferguson presented Councilman Robert Bengivenga, Jr. with a framed certificate honoring his selection by the NRCC for its 2006 National Leadership Award.

Along with receiving the honor, Bengivenga was appointed to the Business Advisory Council (BAC), where he will serve as an honorary chairman. The BAC is a group dedicated to making sure small business has a voice in Washington, and it includes representatives from across the country.

Bengivenga will serve as a representative from New Jersey and is expected

to play a crucial role in the group's efforts to involve top business people in the government reform process. Bengivenga, who has long supported government reform, is an elected member of the Borough Council and also belongs to the South Plainfield Business Association.

In accepting the appointment to the BAC, Bengivenga stressed his desire to represent not just New Jersey, but also South Plainfield. "I'm committed to the idea that we need tax reform, and I look forward to voicing these concerns not just locally in South Plainfield but now nationally as well," he said.

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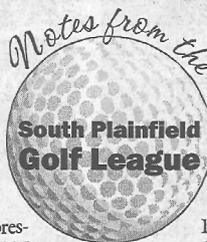
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Submitted By Bob Nilan



KC's Korner put together another solid team effort, just as they have done all season long in key matches, to earn a convincing 15-1/2-4-1/2 win over Witty's to gain championship honors in the American Division.

Rich Steele fired an impressive two-over 35, Dan "Old Reliable" Conte posted a 38, and Mark "The Spark" Dugan had a 39 as KC's Korner swept aside a team with two of the best golfers in the league. Howard Adler shot a 35 and Kevin "Boom Boom" Bickunas had a 39 in a losing cause for Witty's.

For the first time this season, there was a shutout in the American Division as 2 Buds, 2 Dubes obliterated Pornovets, 20-0. Chris "I'm Forever Grateful that Dale Dube Showed Me How to Hit a Drive" Nuzzo was the medalist for the victors with a 38, and Mike "Sometimes I Can Bear Dale" Dube had a 39. Marty Van De Vaerst was the only member of the hot-and-cold Pornovets team to break 40—and he barely did that with a 39.

In a very well-played match, Plainfield Animal Hospital defeated Eddie's Grinders, 12 1/2-7 1/2. Mark "Mr. Steady" Chichvar, who found his game in the second-half of the season, led PAH with a 37, while teammate Mike Sikanowicz chipped in with a 38, and Steve Schock had a 39.

Ed Banach admitted that he had been struggling a bit this year, but he turned in a beautiful one-over 34 that is reflective of his real talent. Jay Bertleson finished off the regular season in nice fashion for the Grinders

with a 37 and Fred "Catfish" Kirchofer carded a 39.

The formidable duo of Jay Coppola and Guy Severini again played extraordinarily well together as Twin City downed the VFW, 13-7, to cap a fine season and earn the National Division Championship. Bob Nilan posted his best score of the season for the VFW, a solid round of 37.

In a bogey-filled match, Patti's Construction squeaked by Sport & Social, 11-9. Frank Ferraro captured medalist honors for Patti's with his round of 40.

Led by Irish Danny Griffin's superb 1-under par round of 32, Buy-Rite Liquors had a tough match and got by the Hackers, 13-7. Al Szumski had a 38 for Buy-Rite, who finished the season in second place.

Todd Sherman turned in another sparkling round, a two-over 35, and John Cacciatore posted a 37 for the Hackers who slid from first place to third place after losing their last three matches.

In next week's playoff action, American Division champions KC's Korner will tee off against Twin City, the National Division titleholders, for League Championship honors. Buy-Rite Liquors and 2 Buds, 2 Dubes will face one another to determine third-place overall.

Low Rounds of the Night: Danny Griffin, 32, Ed Banach, 34; Guy Severini, 34; Todd Sherman, 35; Howard Adler, 35; Rich Steele, 35. Jay Coppola, 35.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

	AMERICAN DIVISION			NATIONAL DIVISION			
	W	L	T	W	L	T	
1 KC's Korner	9	4	1	Twin City	8	3	3
2 2 Buds, 2 Dubes	8	6	0	Buy-Rite Liquors	8	5	1
3 Eddie's Grinders	8	6	0	Hackers	7	7	0
4 PAH	7	6	1	Sport & Social	7	7	0
5 Pornovets	6	7	1	Patti's Const.	6	7	1
6 Witty's	6	8	0	VFW	0	14	0

SPJBC Annual Picnic Sept. 9

The SPJBC will hold its annual fall picnic on Saturday, Sept. 9. Festivities are set to begin at 12 p.m. Early registration for the Spring 2007 season will also be available. Save money by registering early.

The picnic is open to all 2006 and 2007 SPJBC families and will run from 12 to 5 p.m. Bring the whole family out to the SPJBC and enjoy the fun.

The next SPJBC monthly meeting is set for Monday, Sept. 11. New membership cards for 2007 will be available at both the picnic as well as the monthly meeting.

SPJBC Women's Auxiliary Super 50/50

The women's auxiliary of the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club is holding a super 50/50. Tickets are \$5 each with one drawing on Sept. 9 at the annual baseball picnic. The proceeds go towards the club.

For tickets or information contact Barbara Bythell at (908) 754-9629 or Janet McDermott at (908) 755-4830.

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Candidates Debate Scheduled for October 4.
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Community Pool Members Celebrate The End of Summer with a Party

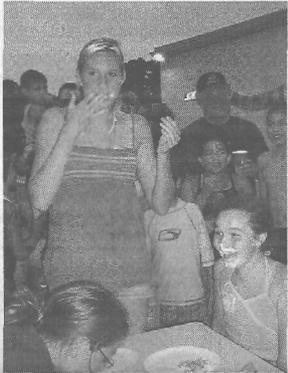
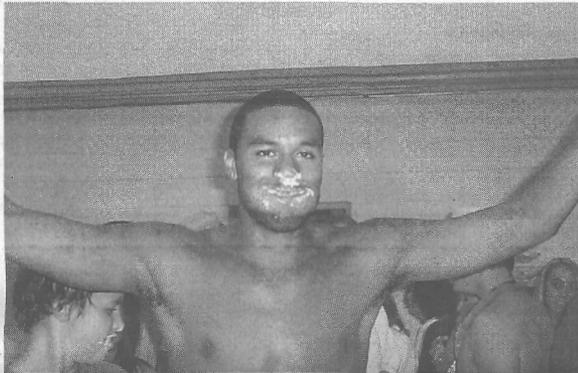
By Jane Dornick

South Plainfield Community Pool members celebrated the end of the summer season with their annual Hawaiian Night last Friday. Over 400 adults and children spent the evening enjoying each others company, eat-

ing, swimming, dancing and participating in contests.

Youngsters participated in an egg hunt, musical chairs, limbo, a penny hunt in the kiddie pool and a pie eating contest. DJ Chris Chesar entertained the crowd with dance favorites including Cotton Eye Joe and

the Macarena. The hungry group devoured 45 pizzas from Bruno's Pizza Factory, while Sal Severini cooked up 480 hamburgers and 350 hot dogs. A raffle was held with the winner taking the whole prize of \$148. Everyone left with fond memories and dreams of a never ending summer.



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Dunellen, 10am-3pm

Obituaries

Bette Rose Schiavi, 52

Bette Rose Schiavi lost her long battle with breast cancer on Tuesday, Aug. 22 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.



Bette Schiavi

Born in Plainfield on April 13, 1954, she was a lifelong resident of South Plainfield. Bette attended public schools in the borough and graduated from South Plainfield High

School in 1973.

For the past 12 years, Bette had worked as a communications dispatcher with the South Plainfield Police Dept. and most recently her position was supervisor of Public Safety Communication.

Bette was a life member of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad and had over twenty years of service. She began her volunteer career with the squad as a teenager when she joined the squad's cadet program.

Early in her working career, Bette had worked as a switch board operator at the Carrier Clinic in Princeton. She had a passion for animals and

over the years and had Shelties Shelby and Poppy and her cats, Harley and Mr. Tibbs. In her spare time, Bette enjoyed doing counted cross stitch as well as arts and crafts.

She was predeceased by her parents, Leo and Modesta Schiavi and by a sister, Virginia Schiavi.

Surviving is a sister, Constance Matejek of Safety Harbor, Fla.; a brother, Leonard Schiavi of Stuart, Fla.; three nephews, Christopher, Adam and Scott; five nieces, Melissa, Jessica, Deanna, Rhonda and Barbara; many great nieces and nephews; close friends Nancy and Jim Power of Tinton Falls and Kim and Jim Feeny of Jupiter, Fla. and many extended family members at the rescue squad and police department.

Graveside services were held in the Holy Redeemer Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, PO 65039, Dallas, TX 75265-0309.

Arrangements were handled by McCriskin Home For Funerals.

and a brother, Anthony Indico. Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Julia (Indico) Golden, 82

Julia (Indico) Golden died on Tuesday, Aug. 22 at home.

Born in Plainfield, the daughter of Rose Mangini and Joseph Indico, Julia grew up in Plainfield and had resided there until 1958 when she moved to South Plainfield.

Julia had been employed as a waitress at the Fountainbleau Diner in Piscataway. She enjoyed working in her yard and had been an avid bowler.

A son, Gregory, her husband, William, a sister, Edith Hawkins and three brothers, Louis, Alfred and Joseph Indico, have all predeceased her.

Surviving are a daughter, Verna R. Lucas of South Plainfield; two sisters, Margaret Nigro and Mary Raffini

Lewis Colucci, 79

Lewis Colucci of Los Alamitos, Calif. died on Wednesday, Aug. 9.

Lewis was born and raised in South Plainfield before moving to Long Branch, Calif. in 1963.

Surviving are his wife, Patricia; two sons, Richard and Kenneth; a daughter-in-law, Linda; three granddaughters, Valerie Vanderbend and husband Jason, Jennifer and Christina; two sisters, Marjorie Daly of Naples, Fl. and Annabelle Lanza of South Plainfield, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at St. Hedwig Church in Los Alamitos.

Walter Kulawiak, 59

Walter Kulawiak died on Sunday, Aug. 27 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born and raised in Izabela, Poland, Walter came to the United States in 1974. He lived in Dunellen for a short time before moving to South Plainfield, where he resided for the past 29 years. Just recently he and his family moved to Piscataway.

Mr. Kulawiak worked as a general contractor for Yulando and Sons in Madison for 25 years.

An avid gardener, Walter loved to fish and enjoyed woodworking.

Surviving is his wife of 29 years, Carolann (Jakacki); two sons, Michael and Christopher, all formerly of South Plainfield and a brother, Joseph of Poland.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

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Tiger Sharks Swim Team Win Championship

On July 30 and 31, the South Plainfield Tiger Sharks faced the nine other teams in the "A" league of the New Jersey Swimming and Diving Conference. They were victorious and took first place with a score of 253.5 points, beating out the second place East Brunswick Sandpipers by 5.5 points. Coming in third place was the Roycefield Rapids from Hillsborough whose score was 243 points. The other teams in the "A" league are Hillsborough YMCA, Coppermine Cudas, Metuchen Municipal Pool, Willows Waves, Chatham Colony, Cranford Gators and Brookside Swim Club.

Taking the first place trophy from the tough competition was a wonderful way to end the 2006 swim season. South Plainfield received many compliments from the other teams for hosting the championships. This was the first time that the South Plainfield Tiger Sharks Parents Organization was host to such a prestigious event. Many thanks to Coaches Laurie Post, Sarah Blessing, and President Janet McDermott for organizing this two day championship.

Medals were awarded to those swimmers who placed first through sixth in their events. The following are the medal winners for South Plainfield:

Nicholas Gurrieri was third in the 25m freestyle; Megan McDermott placed sixth in the 25m breaststroke; Kate McLaughlin was sixth in the 100m freestyle, sixth in 50m freestyle, fourth in the 50m breaststroke; Aidan McDermott was second in the 100m freestyle, second in the 50m freestyle; Charlie Butrico was fourth in the 50m breaststroke, third in the 50m backstroke, fourth in the 100m IM; Taylor Aljian placed first in the 50m backstroke, sixth in the 100m IM; Kelley O'Brien was fifth in the 50m backstroke; Joey Valentino took second in the 50m backstroke; Enzo Butrico was fifth in the 50m butterfly; Anthony Gurrieri placed first in the 50m freestyle, fifth in the 50m backstroke, fourth in 100m freestyle; Dylan McDermott was first in both the 50m butterfly and 100m IM; Zak Post was second in both the 50m breaststroke and 50m backstroke; Maggie Valentino was fifth in the 50m freestyle and Katie O'Brien was first in the 50m



The South Plainfield Tiger Sharks celebrate winning the team championships last month.

Chelsea Cullen was first in the 100m freestyle, sixth in the 100m butterfly; Matt Moates was fifth in both the 100m backstroke and the 100m butterfly; Jennifer Boyle was third in the 200m freestyle, first in both the 100m backstroke and 100m butterfly; Ella Volynets was first in the 100m breaststroke, fourth in the 100m backstroke; Greg Bellizi was fourth in the 100m freestyle and sixth in the 100m butterfly.

Freestyle relay winners were: Boys eight-and-under first place-Dylan O'Connor, Billy McLaughlin, Cristian Butrico and Nicholas Gurrieri.

Boys eight-and-under: fifth place-Timothy Nuber, Ben Lundy, Kyle

Bythell and Max Niemeyer. Girls eight-and-under: sixth place-Justice Lipuma, Megan McDermott, Madison Faustini and Moriah Garcia.

Boys 9-12: first place-Joey Valentino, Anthony Gurrieri, Zak Post and Aidan McDermott. Girls 9-12: first place-Gracie Piekarski, Maggie Valentino, Kate McLaughlin and Taylor Aljian. Girls 13-18: third place-Ella Volynets, Jennifer Boyle, Sarah Konops and Chelsea Cullen. Girls 13-18: sixth place-Teresa Gustafson, Joanna Luzny, Michelle Gustafson and Ellen Zinsky. Boys 13-18: fourth place-Greg Bellizi, Dylan McDermott, Matt Moates and Michael Boyle.

Medley Relays: Boys eight-and-under: second place-Nicholas Gur-

rieri, Billy McLaughlin, Dylan O'Connor and Cristian Butrico. Boys eight-and-under: fourth place-Max Niemeyer, Ben Lundy, Timothy Nuber and Kyle Bythell. Girls eight-and-under: fifth place-Madison Faustini, Moriah Garcia, Megan McDermott and Justice Lipuma. Boys 9-12: first place-Aidan McDermott, Zak Post, Dylan McDermott and Charlie Butrico. Boys 9-12: sixth place-Enzo Butrico, Jerry Ching, Liam McDermott and Joey Valentino. Girls 9-12: second place-Maggie Valentino, Kelley O'Brien, Taylor Aljian and Kate O'Brien. Boys 13-18: second place-Greg Bellizi, Matt Moates, Ian Mulhgeier and Alan Kasmer.

Parents/Coaches 100 IM Relay: fourth place-Janet McDermott, Sh-

annon Dabrio, Laurie Post and Calvin John Smiley.

While the season has finished and the team is looking forward to next year, we say good bye to senior swimmer Kristen Dabrio. Kristen has been a member of the South Plainfield Tiger Sharks for over 10 years. She is a recent graduate of South Plainfield High School and will attend Montclair University this fall. The Tiger Sharks wish her much success as she ventures into the next phase of her educational endeavors.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the champion Tiger Sharks swim team, please ask for information at the PAL on Maple Ave. when you sign up for pool membership next spring.

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Rita's Italian Ice on Park Ave. hosts several weeks of special events designed to bring some summer fun to both the canine and his family. Each Monday Rita's adds custard topped with a dog biscuit to the menu. It's hard to say who enjoys the evenings more, the four footed friends or the humans they belong to.

The Chemsol Mitigation Site on Stelton Road, Piscataway Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey may be treated on or between 4 September and 11 September for the control of *Phragmites*. Application of Rodeo (Glyphosate) will be made by ground spray tank equipment. The work will be conducted by Princeton Hydro, LLC (NJDEP #97186A), 1108 Old York Road, Ringoes NJ 08554. Upon request, the pesticide applicator or applicator business shall provide a resident with notification at least 12 hours prior to the application, except for Quarantine and Disease Vector Control only, when conditions necessitate pesticide applications sooner than that time. For Emergency Information, contact the NJ Poison Information and Education System 800-222-1222, or The National Pesticide Information Center 800-858-7378 for routine health inquiries, and to obtain information about signs and symptoms of pesticide exposure, or this number for Pesticide Control Program about pesticide regulation information, pesticide complaints and health referrals, 609-984-6666. For all other information please contact Scott Churm, Staff Scientist 908-237-5660. www.princetonhydro.com

Shirley Thompson

(Continued from page 10)

ecstatic to hear that our mother had received the honor of being named the Labor Day parade grand marshal. Our mom is a very kind-hearted and giving person to everyone and anyone she feels that she can help, whether

it be a longtime friend or a stranger on the street. She spends a lot of time helping others and getting no rewards other than the satisfaction of knowing she has made a difference. We are all very happy for her and feel that she deserved this honor. We are also glad

to know that the community does realize the good things that people do and not just dwell on the bad things. We are very happy that our mother was recognized and thank all who had a part in making this happen."

Upon hearing that the *Observer* was doing a story about this year's Labor Day Parade Grand Marshal, Shirley Thompson, her neighbor, Rosemary Petriello, submitted the tribute below.

A Tribute to My Friend and Neighbor

By Rosemary Petriello

If there were a picture in the dictionary next to the words kind, charitable, friend, considerate, generous, humble—it could be Shirley Thompson's picture to describe any of those words. I'm sure there are many other words that she personifies as well.

As my neighbor for the last 15 years, Shirley has been there for me through thick and thin, no matter what my request. If I needed a cup of sugar, I'd come home with a 5 lb. bag and instructions to "keep it." If I needed a cup of milk, I'd come home with a gallon and the same instructions. Always without hesitation, she and her family would help me in whatever way I needed them to, and they continue to do so each and every day. Her kindness and generosity has extended to the habits of her entire family for whom she sets an amazing example in her daily life.

It doesn't matter if I need someone to watch my house and take in the mail while I am away, or a helping hand with a picnic or party, or help with childcare or rides to school for my kids, Shirley and her family are always there, never expecting anything in return. My thoughts and feelings on many occasions have been, "How can I ever repay her?" Well, when Shirley does something for someone, she expects absolutely nothing in return. It is all done from the depths of her soul and with complete sincerity.

Her charitable acts during the holiday season have left me in awe. It's tough enough to do all that we have to for our own families to get ready for Christmas, let alone have much time left to think of others. The Thompson family impressively shares their kindness not only with each other, but extends it to those in our community who are in need. Shirley is truly a role model who continues to amaze me with her boundless energy and kindness. As her "peers," we often wonder, "How does she do it?"

It'll be dark at night, and after having taken care of her elderly patient and her home and family all day, she will be outside watering her flowers and tending to her beautiful yard. For Shirley, caring for God's creatures comes naturally and it can be seen not only in the beautiful flowers she grows, but in the four admirable adults she has nurtured and raised. Her "extended family" seems endless at times, and for those of us who are fortunate enough to be "under her wing," the world is a better place. Shirley and John Thompson, together, have done a fine job in their lives, and live by example every day.

As the old saying goes, "You can choose your friends, but you can't choose your family." I'm sure that, if given the chance, Shirley Thompson's family would be one that I, and many others, would choose to be a part of.



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Decker-Lorys New Assistant Principal at Middle School

By Libby Barsky

With the retirement of Nancy Erickson as principal of Franklin School, there has been a reshuffling of administrators and the addition of Ellen Decker-Lorys, a teacher in the district for 22 years, has become the new Middle School assistant principal, beating out 60 applicants who applied for the position. She is replacing Kelly Panuzzo, who is returning to her earlier position as assistant principal at South Plainfield High School, which was left open when SPHS Assistant Principal Althea Bowman-Williams was appointed principal of Franklin School.

Decker-Lorys was born and raised in South Plainfield and attended Roosevelt School, South Plainfield Middle School and graduated from South Plainfield High School "I'm a South Plainfield girl," says Decker-Lorys with pride. She currently lives in South Plainfield with her husband. "I always wanted to teach," said Decker-Lorys. "I loved my first grade teacher, Rose Gortlick, so much I wanted to be a first grade teacher just like her."

Decker-Lorys didn't become exactly like her teacher Rose Gortlick—she never taught first grade, but she did teach in Roosevelt School for 22 years. She started as a fifth grade teacher in 1984, hired by former Roosevelt School Principal/Curriculum Director Dr. Kwasnaza. In 1987-1988 she taught fourth grade, then taught fifth grade again until the district reorganized the elementary schools as K-4 in 2003. She taught fourth grade until this year's assistant principal appointment.

Former Roosevelt Principal Mario Barbieri instituted the Stokes State Forest trip from the time he became principal in 1978. Even when Barbieri had moved to principal of the Middle School for a few years, Roosevelt School fifth graders still attended Stokes. From 1986 until 2003, Decker-Lorys was the coordinator of the three day, two night environmental study trip to the New Jersey School of Conservation at Stokes State Forest for 17 years. As a fifth



Ellen Decker-Lorys

grade teacher she also chaperoned students on those trips every year.

Decker-Lorys met up with Dr. Barbieri at Kean University again as his student when she was taking classes for her Masters in Educational Administration and Supervision.

Despite problems that developed with a family member's illness from the time she started her classes, she graduated with honors maintaining a 4.0 average throughout her studies. She was inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi in 2006.

Is being a fourth grade teacher a tough job? "It's not tough to me," says Decker-Lorys. "I loved every mo-

ment of it. I look at this job [being assistant principal] as an extension of teaching. I look at being an administrator as the next level because I work with both teachers and students. I'm very excited about this and the staff has been wonderful," she said.

Decker-Lorys said she is doing her homework and is in the process of learning the names of the staff although she knows many of the teachers from being in the district and going to different workshops. "I've actually obtained a [Middle School] yearbook. I've been studying the pictures and the names so when I see them I'll know their names," she said. "I've even gotten a copy of the Grant yearbook, to see the children who will be coming in," she added.

Decker-Lorys describes herself as very motivated and very energetic. She is optimistic and always sees the glass half full. For 12 years she coached cheerleading as assistant and head coach at South Plainfield High School and in honoring her service, there has been an annual Ellen Decker Excellence in Cheerleading Award given to an outstanding student performer since 2003.

In 1993 she was selected for the Governor's Teacher Recognition Pro-

gram and has been recognized four times by the publication Who's Who Among America's Teachers. A former aerobics instructor at The Club at Ricochet, she enjoys lifting weights, walking and riding her bike in her free time. "I'm a huge Pittsburgh Steelers

and NY Mets fan, and love Mickey Mouse," she said. Her favorite vacation spot is Disney World where she tries to get to at least once a year. "But my favorite thing to do is to spend time with my loving husband Stan and wonderful family."



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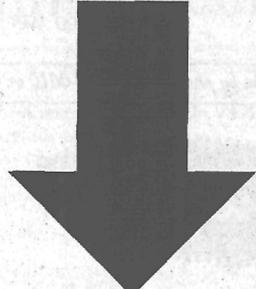
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- Ham Sub
- French Bread Pizza

Middle School & High School

- Choice of Grilled Cheese Sandwich
- Chicken Patty on a Bun
- Choice of Deli Subs
- Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza

All meals include milk and choice of two sides.

Lunch prices for the elementary schools is \$1.85.

Grant School and Middle School is \$2.00.

High School Lunch is \$2.25.
Milk is \$.45.



Photo by Christopher Abbott

Police Athletic League President Detective Chris Colucci and Police Athletic League Treasurer Lt. James Parker present PAL scholarship awards to Amanda Deba and William Daly.

Curves Offers Weight Management Program to Non-Members

Curves, the world's fastest growing fitness franchise, announced the launch of its new Six Week Solution weight management classes at the Curves in Westfield and South Plainfield. Classes begin mid September and are open to members as well as non-members.

"We are really excited to be able to offer our revolutionary weight management program to all the women in our community, not just our members," said Jerri and Elissa, owners. "The classes provide a lot of support and there is absolutely no obligation to purchase a Curves membership."

The cost of the program is \$69 and includes weekly classes, a copy of the new, more robust Member Guide (with expanded shopping lists, new recipes, and more), multivitamin supplements, protein shake samples and weekly support groups that are informative and instructional.

"The value of this program is incredible," said Jerri and Elissa, "plus,

it's proven to help women lose weight and teach them how to keep it off for life without endless dieting. Who doesn't want that?"

The new Six Week Solution includes modifications based on the results of an ongoing five-year study of the effectiveness of the Curves program conducted by researchers at Baylor University. To sign up for the Curves Six Week Solution, call (908) 757-4422 in South Plainfield or (908) 232-3200 in Westfield.

Curves offers a 30 minute workout that combines strength training and sustained cardiovascular activity through safe and effective hydraulic resistance. Curves also offers a weight management program featuring a groundbreaking, scientifically proven method to raise metabolic rate and end the need for perpetual dieting. We are located at 299 South Ave. East in Westfield and 27 South Plainfield Ave. in South Plainfield.

Brigitte Yefko-Nowicki Certified As Expert For Seniors

Local real estate professional Brigitte Yefko-Nowicki of ERA E.A. Boniakowski Agency, Inc. recently completed a certification program to make her especially suited to serve the needs of seniors. The training will help her expertly assist customers considering retirement moves, buying or selling homes, obtaining rental property or making other life-changing real estate decisions.

The "SRES" designation ("Seniors Real Estate Specialist") equips Brigitte to address the concerns and realize the dreams of seniors, who are one of the fastest-growing segments of the American population and can have considerations which go beyond those of the average homebuyer or seller.

"The real estate transaction is always one of the most complex and potentially daunting of experiences for any customer," noted Joseph Boniakowski, broker, "because it's one of the most important decisions in life, financially and emotionally. Add to that the prospect of moving perhaps for the first time in decades, selling a beloved family home, maintaining rental properties, and navigating the tax issues involved, and you have unique concerns for seniors which require a unique level of service."

The SRES designation makes Brigitte well-qualified to meet these challenges, which is why she is the local realtor seniors will want to meet."

Brigitte Yefko-Nowicki is a lifelong resident of South Plainfield. She can be reached at (732) 968-0700, ext. 320 at the ERA E.A. Boniakowski Agency, Inc. located at 929 N. Washington Ave. in Green Brook and serves the entire Central New Jersey area west to the Delaware River.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

Well, Labor Day weekend has arrived. That means that you've got one more summer vacation weekend before the school year begins (cue groans from kids and cheers from parents). But, before you get started, let's take a look at some news from the South Plainfield Library.

The library will be closed on Sunday and Monday in observance of Labor Day. While we're on the subject of our operating times, our usual Sunday operating hours will resume next Sunday, Sept. 10. We'll be open from 1:30-5 p.m.; all of our usual services and amenities (except for notary services) will be available.

It's usually about here that this column includes a rundown of the schedule of next week's children's programs. This week is different, though, for a very simple reason: there are no children's programs next week. In fact, our children's programming has been cancelled for the month of September, which will allow Miss Linda to recuperate from the busy summer and prepare for the busy fall. Our children's programs will return on Oct. 3.

We've made another bit of a schedule change around here. Our monthly meeting of the Library Board of Trustees, normally held on the second Tuesday of the month, has been rescheduled for this month. It'll be held on Tuesday, Sept. 19, at 7:30 p.m. Feel free to attend this meeting and find out about our current and future plans. (We don't do all this stuff on a whim, you know.)

While things are quiet as far as kids' programs in September, we've got three programs for adults scheduled this month. First, we'll have an adult craft program on Thursday, Sept. 21 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Local resident Valerie Molineaux will lead participants in making some stylish jewelry. The program is being presented

free of charge. Space is limited, so pre-registration is required.

Later that day, we've got another program set. Kevin R. Garron of New York Life will speak about Social Security benefits at 7 p.m. He'll address subjects including Social Security taxation levels and alternative methods of providing for retirement. This program is also being presented free of charge; no pre-registration is required.

Our third program is set for Sunday, Sept. 24. (Well, we can't do *everything* in one day, can we?) Certified antiques appraiser Allan G. Snyder will make a very welcome return appearance at the library from 2-4 p.m. As before, appraisals will be done on a "first come, first served" basis, and participants are limited to two items. You don't need to pre-register for the program, but you're advised to come early to beat the crowd (and we do mean *crowd*). The program is being presented free of charge.

A quick word on library merchandise: we still have some summer reading t-shirts available, but they're going fast. We also have some large library canvas tote bags in stock. The shirts cost \$5 each, while the tote bags go for \$10 each. (No word yet on those library chewable vitamins, though.)

Finally, we have room this week for a want ad, of sorts. We're still looking for someone to lead some adult craft programs on a continuing basis. Experience in a variety of crafts is preferred. We would genuinely appreciate any assistance offered. For more details, please give us a call and ask for Millie.

That's just about it for this week. For more details call us at (908) 754-7885 or visit the library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. Thanks for your attention. Now, go have some fun... then get back to work. (Now the parents are groaning, I'll bet.)

Many Changes To Welcome Students at Start of School Year

(Continued from page 20)

tent Standards. The music K-six and art one-12 curricula have been revised to align with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and also to be more inclusive of music and artists from historical periods and world cultures.

The health curriculum has also been revised for grades five to eight. A new health textbook, *Health and Wellness* by Linda Meeks and Philip Heit was

selected through the Muther method.

An advanced placement course in art history will be introduced in the Social Studies area this year by Dawn Noonan in high school.

A new computer program to teach math to special education students—a cognitive math tutor program—will be introduced this year. A pilot program tested the materials earlier in the year and found them very effective according to Kaye Crown.

The Guidance Department will increase its use of computer programs it began in spring to help colleges search for juniors and seniors. The program has a financial search component and has the capability of transmitting student transcripts to colleges with compatible software. Middlesex County College can accept electronic transcripts, but Rutgers and other New Jersey colleges are not yet equipped for electronic transmission.

There will also be several changes in selections in the cafeteria during lunch. Soda will no longer be available in any of the district's cafeterias during lunch, only water, milk and 100% juice will be sold. Candy will not be sold either. These requirements are set by the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans and USDA nutrition standards in an effort to allow students to make healthier choices and prevent an increase in obesity and diabetes in school aged children. The district must be in compliance to these guidelines by September 2007.

"We started doing this last year when we cut out all 20-ounce drinks and made sure snacks don't have more than eight grams of total fat so we are in compliance," said Mary Cameron di-

rector of Sodexo food service. "We started last year ahead of the mandates because I didn't want to get stuck with the rushing. I wanted to get the kids used to their healthy choices," she said.

"We make fresh soup every day unless it's tomato. All of our meals are done on the computer so that fat content items on the menu meet all the government criterion. Parents seem to think we fry a lot of food. We don't," Cameron added. "The 'fried' chicken is really baked these days. There is no frying of the chicken nuggets or chicken patties. The only thing fried are the French fries and that isn't part of the regular meal—it's an ala carte item, but the French fries that are part of the meal at the elementary schools are baked. They aren't fried in oil."

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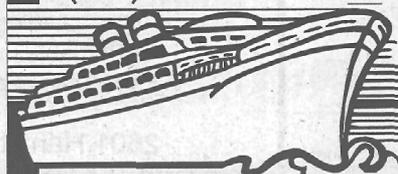
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Hamilton Blvd. and Belmont Ave. Truck Traffic Ban Ordinance Passes

The Borough Council passed two ordinances at a special meeting on Aug. 22 which will restrict truck traffic on Hamilton Blvd. and Belmont Ave.

Both ordinances prohibit trucks over four tons on Hamilton Blvd., from St. Nicholas to Spicer, and on Belmont Ave., from Spicer to Hamilton Blvd. Traffic has been temporarily prohibited on these roads during the Hamilton Blvd. reconstruction, but it now becomes permanent. Trucks will now be required to travel along South Clinton Ave. to New Market and then onto Spicer as they had prior to the closing of the intersection at

Hamilton Blvd. and New Market Ave.

Dennis Driscoll, who lives at 1056 New Market Ave., objected to the new traffic route. He asked if there had been a traffic study, if the road was sturdy enough to handle the weight of the trucks. He was assured the road met the requirements for truck traffic. Driscoll also complained about the speeders on New Market who do not obey the speed limit. Mayor Dan Gallagher said more speed limit signs would be installed and police would use radar on the road and issue tickets, if necessary.

Dale Jayne of Hall's Trucking objected to the ordinance. He explained

that the new truck route would force trucks to travel 2.24 miles farther. Jayne said that Hall's averages 125 trips each day, and it would ultimately cost Hall's an additional \$225,000 a year. He also added that it would increase pollution as well as traffic congestion along the route. Mayor Gallagher said the council was, "looking for what is the best for the most." He also reminded Jayne that there is a school on the corner of Hamilton and Belmont and the safety of the children was also considered in the decision.

The question of flooding on New Market Ave. was brought up by Mr. Buckalow, who lives on that road and has experienced years of flooding. New Market Ave. has flooded in previous years when heavy rains falls in a short time and was closed. In that case, explained Councilman Dennis Cerami, trucks will be allowed temporarily on Hamilton Blvd.

The council voted unanimously 6-0 to pass both ordinances.

NEWS

Suburban Woman's Club

September 7 will be the first meeting of the South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club for 2006-2007. The meeting will be held at the American Legion at 243 Oak Tree Ave. at 2 p.m.

We are looking forward to this, as the guest speaker will be Amanda Harzula, our delegate to the girls' Career Institute at Douglass College. We are sure that Amanda will give us an interesting recollection of her days at the institute that brings together high school juniors from all over the Garden State.

The institute is sponsored by the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs. Our October meeting is Husbands/Guest Night. The programs will feature "Flavian: The 4th Dimension of Mind Power." It will be audience participation. Guests are welcome to join us for this covered dish supper at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion on Oak Tree Ave.

Women interested in coming please call (908) 754-4856 for a reservation.

Submitted by Gloria M. Breuning, Publicity Chairman



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IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

the current administration, but they've failed to remedy problems, and by ignoring them, allowed them to fester and grow.

We need new leadership with new ideas and new solutions and I know I can be part of a team that can offer that to South Plainfield.

My running mates and I are committed to running an issue-oriented

Adult School Brochures in Mail

Brochures are being mailed to all area residents for the upcoming fall 2006 semester of the South Plainfield Adult School. If you do not receive a brochure, and would like to be added to the mailing list please call the Adult School at (908) 754-4620 ext. 213.

The Adult School offers a variety of classes including typing, computers, scrap booking, rubber stamp art, dance, yoga, exercise, oil painting, volleyball, Spanish, golf, as well as an extensive range of exercise and swimming classes for adults and children offered through The Club at Ricochet.

campaign based on ideas. For the next two months we'll be offering our thoughts on improving our town's government, and starting this week we have done so by discussing ways we feel we can trim costs. That article is in this paper.

We decided to devote our first article to cost savings, because keeping South Plainfield affordable is the biggest and most important challenge the town faces. There are other important issues, and we'll be tackling them in upcoming weeks. For example, traffic and overdevelopment are rampant. Our solution is not to spend \$4M to just shift truck traffic from one neighborhood to another, but rather, to get it off all—and that's an important word, all—residential streets. Again, we'll be talking about this as the campaign progresses.

As a team, Robert Bengivenga, Jr., Dave Sesok and I hope to earn your vote based on our vision for South Plainfield. If given the chance, we can offer new leadership and new solutions our town needs. I look forward to doing just that.

ALEX BARLETTA, CANDIDATE FOR BOROUGH COUNCIL



The Knights of Columbus #6203 recently ran their third of four fundraisers planned throughout the year at the Somerset Patriots Ballpark in Bridgewater. Over 25 Knights of Columbus members and their wives ran the third base concession stand during the ball game. All profits from the four games went towards two council scholarships which is given to members children and grandchildren who graduate eighth grade and plan to attend a Catholic high school and a graduating high school senior continuing his or her education in college. Chairman of this fundraiser was Past Grand Knight Joe Scrudato.

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policereport

• On Aug. 15 a Scotch Plains resident reported that the passenger side window and rear view mirror of their vehicle was damaged while parked at Sears Hardware. Nothing was taken.

• A Carmine Ave. resident reported that two vehicles had the drivers side view mirrors broken off.

• On Aug. 16 Bernard L. Garvin, 34, of Willingboro was arrested for obstruction and careless driving.

• On Aug. 17 a St. James Pl. resident reported that an oily substance had been poured on their vehicle. Several other vehicles in the vicinity reported similar damage.

• On Aug. 18 Antione B. Morgen, 21, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a closed roadway, driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

• On Aug. 19 a Jackson resident reported that the hood, passenger side front fender and both passenger side doors of their vehicle had been damaged while parked at Glass Tech on South Clinton Ave.

• A Piscataway resident reported that the front passenger side window of their vehicle had been broken and a purse was taken while parked at The Club at Ricochet.

• On Aug. 21 John Howard Scott, 48, of Bloomfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, no insurance, careless driving and several outstanding warrants.

• Getty Gas on Park Ave. reported that a customer fled the area without paying for \$56 worth of gas.

• On Aug. 23 a Central Ave. resident reported the theft of a BMX bike worth \$250 from the side of a home on Geary Dr.

• A Palmer Ave. resident reported that someone had used their social security number to obtain a Sam's Club credit card.

• Radio Shack on Hadley Rd. reported that a customer tried to use a counterfeit \$100 bill to pay for a DVD player.

• On Aug. 24 a Duffy Pl. resident reported their pickup trucks windshield was smashed and a Craftsman tool box

with \$100 worth of tools was taken.

• On Aug. 25 Alison Casey, 18 and Danielle L. Schmitt, 21, both of South Plainfield were arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia along with Kattie M. Lang, 20, of South Plainfield and Megan L. Polifka, 20, of Plainfield who were arrested for possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

• On Aug. 26 a Wadsworth Ave. resident reported the theft of a mountain bike from the shed in their backyard.

• On Aug. 27 Joseph Nowakowski, 54, of South Plainfield and Rebecca Palmer, 31, of Staten Island, N.Y. were arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

• On Aug. 28 Clara Ann Morris, 43, of Plainfield was arrested for taking \$45 from her cash register at Sears Essentials.

• A Risoli Terr. resident reported the theft of a DeWalt miter saw worth \$600 from their home that's under construction.

• Itran Corp. on Montrose Ave. reported that a truck had been broken into through a vent window and the ignition had been popped out.

• CVS on Plainfield Ave. reported that "clew" had been spray painted on the rear of the building.

South Plainfield Postal Customers Can Now Enjoy 24/7 Access

South Plainfield Postmaster Michael Diegnan has announced the expansion of customer access to the new Automated Postal Center (APC) to 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Postmaster Diegnan knows his customers are on the run around the clock, and so he is pleased to offer 24-hour/7 day-a-week access to South Plainfield's APC. Postal customers are invited to use the state-of-the-art APC at the post office, conveniently located at 114 Oak Tree Ave.

The APC is a free-standing kiosk that accepts credit and debit cards, enables customers to weigh and mail letters and parcels and purchase stamps. It also dispenses postage in any amount for express mail, priority mail, first-class mail, and parcel post services. The APC also provides mailing information, zip code lookup, and delivery confirmation services.

"By expanding access to the APC to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, we are making it easier for customers to do business with us at their convenience," said Diegnan. "The APC provides quick, easy, and convenient access for postal products and services just as ATMs have provided for bank-

ing customers, but with no extra fee."

For customers with online computer access, Postmaster Diegnan also recommends the postal service's usps.com website which he describes as, "the post office at your fingertips." Over 231 million customers visit the postal service's award-winning website every month.

Postmaster Diegnan advised that

just about anything that can be done at a post office can be done from a home or office computer. Ordering stamps, print shipping labels with or without postage, shipping packages, scheduling carrier pick-ups for packages, sending greetings and gifts, and using postal services of all kinds can all be done online at usps.com.

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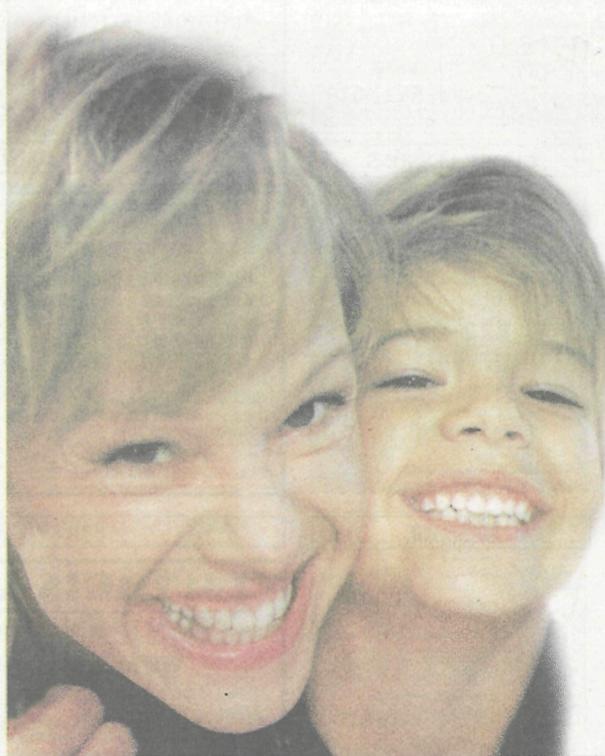
N.J. Home Improvement Contractor License #13VH00273500

Now...

Available To South Plainfield Moms!!!

6 ways you can tell if an Orthodontic practice is

Right for You



#1 Ask Friends and Neighbors who they use or who they've heard is the best.

We have earned our reputation in the Somerville / Bridgewater / Branchburg / Raritan / Hillsborough / Belle Mead communities with over 25 years of more than satisfied parents and patients. Now our services are available to YOU at our newly opened Warren location.

#2 The Atmosphere is one that your child likes and you like. Ours is a friendly, family atmosphere (check us out...anytime... un-announced!)

#3 The doctor always communicates with the patient and parent. You always receive clear, consistent and understandable communication... Every Visit!

#4 Your needs are considered when scheduling and rescheduling appointments. We're open 4 days a week, and we have early (7AM) and late appointments to accommodate after school activities and your very active schedules.

#5 You don't waste time waiting at the doctor's office. We don't even have a "waiting room" ... because nobody waits at our office!

#6 You receive assistance with insurance and payment plans. We coordinate all of your insurance needs for you, and we have numerous flexible budget plans including charging to your credit card monthly.

Recycling Center Closed For Labor Day Holiday

The South Plainfield Recycling Center on Kenneth Ave. will be closed on Tuesday, Sept. 5 because of the Labor Day holiday. Recycling will be open instead from noon to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 6. The Yard Waste Site will also be closed on Tuesday and open on Wednesday from noon to 7 p.m. Both facilities will be open as usual from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 2.

Regular recycling drop-off center hours are noon to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Regular yard waste hours are 12 noon to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays through the end of Sept. Yard waste will start winter hours on Oct. 1.

2006 yard waste decals are available in the Municipal Clerk's office in Borough Hall Monday through Friday. Bring the registration of the vehicle you will be using.

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

AIDA SANTOS
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BRANCH MANAGER

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Warren, NJ 07059
Specialty Permit #: 3413, 4063, 5300

Call 732-469-7150
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