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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 10, NO. 33

50 CENTS

APRIL 27, 2007



The Civil War memorial stone was dedicated on April 14 in Monument Park.

Memorial Honors Local Civil War Soldiers

A dedication ceremony honoring five borough men who fought and died in the Civil War for the Union began with Civil War re-enactor units in uniform marching into

Monument Park on Saturday, April 14 where more than 70 people were assembled.

The program included a blessing by Reverend Charles Mingle, the pre-

sentation of colors by the New Jersey Army National Guard, 42 Regional Support Group, Somerset; the Pledge of Allegiance, Susan Mott singing the National Anthem and speeches by Congressman Mike Ferguson (R-7th District), Senator Barbara Buono, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan and Mayor Charles Butrico.

Frank McGonigle of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War spoke about each of the men whose names are listed on the Civil War Memorial Stone and how they enlisted, fought and died.

George C. Boice enlisted as a private in 1862 in Company I of the 11th New Jersey Volunteers, rising to second lieutenant in July 1864 before dying on October 8 at age 21.

Sergeant Henry Brantingham, 35, was married with five children when he enlisted for nine months' service in the 28th New Jersey in 1862. His regiment fought at Fredericksburg, Va. on December 13. When the color guard was killed, Brantingham grabbed for the downed flag and was killed attempting to raise it. He is buried in the National Cemetery in Fredericksburg.

Private Hugh Downey lied about his age to enlist in 1862 in the 11th New Jersey Volunteers. After fighting in Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and Locust Grove, he was captured in 1864 in the Richmond Campaign and became a prisoner at the Confederate prison in Andersonville, Ga. He died of starvation and exposure in 1864 at the age of 19 and was buried in the National Cemetery in Anderson.

Private Aaron E. Randolph, 22, enlisted in the 30th New Jersey Volunteers in September 1862 and was assigned to work on defensive positions around Washington. The regiment was sent to Falmouth, Va. and was assigned to the Provost Brigade of the Army of the Potomac. Randolph came down with fever and died in an army hospital in 1863.

Private Augustus Ryno enlisted in
(Continued on page 6)

BOE Welcomes New Members



(L-R) Board members Pio Pennisi, Debbie Boyle and Bob Jones.

The Board of Education held their reorganization meeting Monday evening. Two new members and one incumbent were sworn in and will each serve a three-year term.

The start of the meeting was delayed when the Roosevelt Administration building had to be evacuated due to ballasts that burned out a row of lights in the gym. The fire department had to be called to check out the ballast and the meeting was moved to the library in Roosevelt School.

The meeting began by officially announcing the election results and confirmation that the budget passed. The three winning candidates, incumbent Pio Pennisi, and new members Debbie Boyle and Bob Jones, then took the oath of office.

Pio Pennisi nominated Jeff Seider to continue as board president and John Markham nominated Tim Morgan as vice president. Both were unanimously endorsed.

Named New Jersey School Boards

Delegate was Carol Byrne. Bob Jones was named as the alternate.

President Jeff Seider handed out a list of committees and asked board members to choose which ones they would like to serve on during the upcoming year.

Robert Stoffel of Integrity Consulting Group was appointed as broker of record for health services for the 2007/2008 school year. Also appointed were Lee Nestel as broker of record for all property, liability and worker's compensation matters; Dr. Nicholas Celso, II, with the law firm Schartz, Simon, Edelson, Celso & Kessler as school board attorney; McManimon & Scotland as bond council; Steven Senz as treasurer of school monies and Educational Data Services for bidding and right to know services.

The board also established the rate to pay custodians and other related service charges and also the fees charged for use of school facilities.

SPECIAL STORM DAMAGE BULKY WASTE COLLECTION WILL BE CONDUCTED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

SECTION 1: APRIL 30 • SECTION 2: MAY 7
SECTION 3: MAY 4 • SECTION 4 & 5: MAY 21

Questions? Call Public Works (908) 755-2187 or Borough Hall (908) 754-9000.

Cibelli Trial Begins

Opening arguments took place in Middlesex County Superior Court in New Brunswick on April 17 in the trial of South Plainfield resident Paul Cibelli Jr.

Cibelli is accused of killing his girlfriend, 35 year-old Tanya Silva, in his father's home at 171 Robert Place on October 6, 2005.

First Assistant Prosecutor William Lamb told the jury that Cibelli hit the victim in the face and head with a roofing stapler, strangled her, wrapped her body in three garbage bags and dumped her in a recycling bin near Philadelphia after she told him that she was moving out of the house they shared with his father. He said that items found with her body link Cibelli by "chemical composition" to the crime and the finding of similar garbage bags in the Cibelli home as well. Lamb said, "In a presumed haste to get rid of the evidence, instead of placing the evidence [Silva's body] in a dumpster, the defendant placed her in a recycling dumpster" where she was found by workers six days later. Cibelli, 45, was

an unemployed aviation mechanic and had worked in the area of the recycling center.

However Cibelli's defense attorney, Alan Zegas, said his client is innocent and that there is a lack of evidence tying him to the murder. He told jurors that a hair found in the bags was not linked to Cibelli. No fingerprint or other physical evidence ties Cibelli to the crime. "If she were killed in the house in a manner described by the prosecutor, don't you think there would be blood found in the house?" Zegas asked the jury. "There's not one single shred of evidence that Tanya Silva was killed in the Cibelli household. They found nothing in the cars, no blood in the home." If someone was beaten there, "aren't they going to be screaming?" Zegas asked. "Aren't they going to be in pain? Nothing was heard." As for the garbage bags, Zegas said to jury members, "I venture to say if I went into one of your homes, I'd find identical bags."

Lamb said investigators have tied the hammer stapler found with Silva's
(Continued on page 6)



Ponytail Softball Opening Day ceremonies. See page 8 for story.



The 1909 Fourth of July Parade passes in front of what is now the Observer office and the Corner Deli. Photo courtesy of the SPFD.



**Borough Council meetings air on
Comcast Channel 74, Mondays at 8 p.m.**
(Except for Holidays)

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
May 1	7 p.m.	Immediately following
May 15	7 p.m.	Immediately following

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

planning board

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

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

May 8 and 22, June 12, July 10 and 24,

Aug. 14 and 28, Sept. 11 and 25, Oct. 9 and 23, Nov. 27 and Dec. 11.

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

May 10 and 24, June 14 and 28, July 12 and 26,

Aug. 9 and 23, Sept. 13 and 27, Oct. 11 and 25

Nov. 1 and 29 and Dec. 13.

board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7 p.m.

Regular Meeting Wednesdays 8 p.m.

taxpayers advisory group

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

site plan sub-committee

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

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

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

May 8, June 12, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

July and August: No scheduled meeting

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

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.

South Plainfield Observer

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

To the Editor,

We wish to thank all our neighbors on East Golf Avenue for their support and hard work last weekend. Our cat, Ricky, got out of the house on Friday. He has never been outside in his life. He was missing and we were frantic. A lot of the neighbors went looking for him all weekend. Posters were posted in some of the merchants on Park Avenue. A special thanks to them! Monday morning Ricky turned up a little worse for the wear. He is recovering from his "great adventure." Again, we wish to thank everyone for their support and prayers.

HAROLD AND GREG

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to announce that the South Plainfield High School Guidance area will officially be designated "The Michael A. DeCarlo Guidance Center." This was made possible with the gracious approval of the Board of Education.

A formal dedication ceremony will take place on Tuesday, May 8 at 2:45 p.m. in the High School Media Center, with the unveiling immediately following in the Guidance Center. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Your presence will be greatly appreciated.

A plaque will be displayed in the high school Guidance Center and will serve as a reminder of this dedicated and professional educator who taught in the South Plainfield school system for 35 years.

Your presence will help to make this a "living" memorial to Michael A. DeCarlo.

**SINCERELY YOURS,
TULIO P. CAPPARELLI AND
ANTHONY COTOIA**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing you about an unjust situation that arose in the South Plainfield school district in recent days. My brother, a junior at South Plainfield High School, was suspended several weeks ago for getting into an argument with a gym teacher, which ended with a shoulder bump between the two. As a result of this 'assault,' he received a 10-day out-of-school suspension. In addition, he was also forced to go through a humiliating hearing in front of the Board of Education in order to be allowed back in school, resulting in a permanent suspension.

To make things worse, he had to go to juvenile court to face assault charges and was put on house arrest until his next court date. Because of this, his name is tarnished from now on. The punishment he is receiving for this meager act is completely out of line.

IN MY OPINION

The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the publisher.

Everywhere, kids are allowed to continue to attend school after committing serious crimes. SPHS is no exception to this rule, and yet my brother is not allowed back? I understand there are zero tolerance policies implemented in our schools, but for this? In this particular case the punishment outweighs the crime. The Gestapo strong-arming used to keep the students under control won't lead to complacency, but instead more disorder. But they simply handle it by expelling more students, having them arrested and depriving them of their future. The system is there to prepare students for their future, but there's no hesitation taking that away from them over nothing. His actions were wrong, but a 10-day suspension was enough punishment for what he did. Many teachers have worse things done to them daily.

The teacher involved in the incident is not one with a gleaming record of excellence in education, either. To me it seems like the process was expedited improperly, without even giving him probationary periods, sending him to counseling or some other extended punishment. The administrators say he is 'disruptive', but what teenager isn't? He may crack jokes and speak out in class at times, but is that something that should tarnish his name for years to come? Does the board want to be seen as attacking the community it was meant to support? They need to take a closer look at what their primary purpose is: to provide exceptional educational services to the children of this town. There is too much concentration on discipline and not enough on education.

Year by year the educational standards drop, and what has the board done to stop it? They 'misappropriated' millions of dollars in the school budget which disappeared several years ago, with no proper reprimands to those responsible. That should have

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Please be advised that the Observer will no longer publish anonymous letters.

Letters may be submitted to the Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax 908-668-8819 or by email: spobserver@comcast.net. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Please limit letters to no more than 200 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and to limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject.

discredited their abilities to run a school district. Still they had no repercussions of their own.

The administrators see their positions as a way to assert authoritarian control over students in a fashion that would make Stalin smile. The administration needs to begin to rethink their disciplinary strategies and begin to treat students more fairly, then they will have the order they seek. If you want to make a statement, go after an actual criminal. My brother may not be the model student, but he is by no means a criminal.

I write this in the hope that others are willing to help spread the word of this injustice and help us make right what went disastrously wrong. I hope that this gross injustice can be put behind us and the humiliation brought upon my family and community can be rectified. But most of all, I want to see my brother's name cleared of the disgrace placed upon his name for a petty offense.

RYAN C. HUNTER

To the Editor:

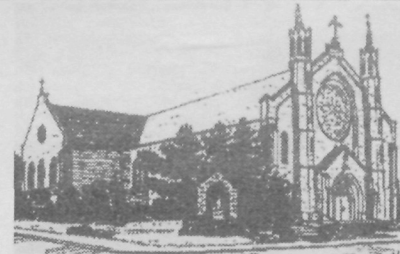
On Monday, April 16, I attended my first council meeting in probably two years. I went because I wanted to see for myself what was going on regarding the whole billboard flap. A couple of weeks ago Council President Dennis Cerami wrote a pretty impressive, even scathing letter to the editor that appeared to condemn Councilman Rob Bengivenga's participation in a vote that directly af-

(Continued on page 10)

Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul
Alvarado, Pastor



Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

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

Weekdays Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9 am; Mon. and Thurs. 7 p.m.

Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

Holy Days 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

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Tiger 24 to Benefit Local Charities

The 4th annual Tiger 24 is a 24-hour fundraising event sponsored by the SPHS Leadership Organization and Sodexo. In addition, this year it is being co-sponsored by the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club, in memory of Bob Harrington, a longtime baseball coach who passed away recently after a brief battle with cancer.

Many new and exciting activities are planned for Tiger 24 this year. If you don't feel like running or walking, there will be a dunk tank featuring teacher volunteers who will take turns going up against their students, break dancing, Sumo wrestling, a volleyball tournament and a Saturday competition specifically geared for the elementary schools, live music and food and fun for the whole family.

Registration forms will be available at the entrance to Jost Field beginning at 4 p.m. on April 27. Entrance fee is \$25 per person, or \$40 in pledges and \$10 per elementary through sixth grade students to participate in scheduled Saturday events. Tiger 24 runs overnight, ending at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Come at any time and help raise money for the Harrington Family and other community causes. Bring your mom, dad, brother, sister, grandparents, friends and neighbors!

In honor of those who have battled or survived an illness and/or lost a loved one, a special luminary lighting ceremony will be held on Friday at 10 p.m. Whether it's a parent, sibling, friend or neighbor, we all know someone who has been touched by a devastating illness. The Tiger 24 is one way of recognizing loved ones who are surviving an illness and remembering those who have lost the battle. You can purchase a luminary at the event for \$10, but supplies are limited. The Luminaria Ceremony will symbolize the hope and courage with which we all continue to fight disease.

Support Rescue Squad at Red Robin Fundraiser

Come to the Red Robin, located on Hadley Road, on Sunday, April 29 and 10% of your purchase will be donated to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad. Offer applies only at dinnertime and does not include alcoholic beverages, tax and gratuity



Jekyll and Hyde, a musical version of an old black and white horror classic, was performed last weekend by the South Plainfield High School Drama Club to standing ovations. Congratulations to the cast and crew on a great job!

Jekyll and Hyde

CAST

Dr. Henry Jekyll / Edward Hyde	DARREN KACZOWSKI
Lucy Harris, main attraction at the Red Rat	KATIE NOONAN
Emma Carew	TAYLOR KURILEW
John Utterson	CHRISTOPHER DEOLIVEIRA
Sir Danvers Carew	TAYLOR MANDEL
Bishop of Basingstoke	NATHANAEAL UDELL
General Lord Glossop	TIM RATTI
The Right Honorable Archibald Proops	MATT EMERY
Lady Beaconsfield	SUSAN MOTT
Lord Savage	ROCCO SEREVINI
Simon Stride	CORNELIUS MOOTOO
Guinevere, manageress of the Red Rat (Nellie)	BRITTANY PENEVOLPE
Spider, proprietor of the Red Rat	TIM RATTI
Poole, Dr. Jekyll's manservant;	
A butler; doorman at engagement party	DANIEL SAMBAT
A clerk; Priest at the Bishop's funeral;	
Street Dandy; guest at engagement party	PAUL ASSAD
Mr. Bisset, a pharmacist; guest at engagement party	SHANE MELANSON
Priest at wedding; Doctor; barrow boy;	
guest at engagement party	CHRIS SEESSELBERG
Socialite Man # 1; Street Dandy; guest at engagement party	JUSTIN PAULS
Socialite Man # 2; Newsboy; guest at engagement party ..	STEPHEN WAGNER
Dancer # 1; housemaid; guest at engagement party	ERICA LINICK
Dancer # 2; housemaid; guest at engagement party ...	DAVONNA APPROVATO
Dancer # 3; nurse; guest at engagement party	SARAH BROOKS
Dancer # 4; nurse; guest at engagement party	SARAH SCHULTE
Dancer # 5; Nurse #1; housemaid; guest at engagement party	KELSEY HOFFMAN
Nurse # 2; housemaid	CARLA SCALA
Nurse # 3; housemaid; guest at engagement party	NORA STASIO
Bridesmaid; guest at engagement party	MEGHAN HARTMAN
Bridesmaid; guest at engagement party	KRISTINA PALAZZO
Bridesmaid; guest at engagement party	NOELLE AGUILAR
Bridesmaid; housemaid	GABRIELLE NILLA

Councilwoman Wants to Honor Active Duty Military

Councilwoman Kathy Thomas has asked the Mayor and Council to establish a permanent tribute to honor our men and women who are on active service in the military around the globe.

Councilwoman Thomas said the idea came to her at the recent dedication of the Civil War Memorial in Monument Park. "It is right and fitting that we honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to keep America safe and free. However, we should also show our gratitude to those patriots who are today serving on the front lines around the globe. So often our military men and women are not properly recognized for their sacrifices," Thomas explained. She is asking to utilize one of the walls at the council chambers, which also serves as the municipal courtroom, as a "Wall of Heroes" for those who are actively

serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and National Guard. The wall will feature photographs of residents who are on active duty, including their branch of service, rank and where they are serving.

According to Thomas, the "Wall of Heroes" will not only in some small way show South Plainfield's appreciation to local residents in the military, but will also serve as a reminder to all that freedom is not free. Thomas is in the process of reaching out to the VFW and the American Legion for their input and welcomes the input of any resident who wishes to help or has a suggestion as to the design of the tribute.

Thomas is also asking that the families of those serving in the military contact her at (908) 226-7648 or email Thomas@southplainfieldnj.com.

Safety Headlines Bike Rodeo

The South Plainfield Police Department will host their annual bicycle rodeo on Saturday, May 12 in Spring Lake Park from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Featured will be an obstacle course presented and conducted by volunteers from the SPHS Peer Leadership Program. Proper riding techniques and rules of the road will be emphasized during this phase of the program and an On-Bike Skills Development course will be conducted. Helmet wearing cyclists will negotiate a moderately challenging cone course to improve their riding abilities.

For cyclists 17 years of age and younger, who do not have bicycle helmets, a limited supply of helmets will be provided to them. Those participants wearing their own helmet to the rodeo, and register their bicycle with the South Plainfield Police Department, will be entered into a draw-

ing to win a new bicycle. Safety oriented literature supplied by various sources will be provided to all participants. Refreshments will be served.

In conjunction with the bicycle safety program, a unique bicycle registration/theft prevention program will be available to the public. The "Baron Von Pedaloff" program, designed by South Plainfield Police Officer William Frink (retired), is specifically designed to reduce the amount of bicycle thefts that occur in the borough. "Baron Von Pedaloff" literature will be provided in an effort to remind all those in attendance not to give anyone the opportunity to "pedal off" with their bikes.

Bring your bicycle, your helmet and be ready for a fun filled day on May 12. Any questions? Do not hesitate to contact us at (908) 226-7678.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD Homes for Sale



Kennedy School Split Level
on North Edison border.
3/4 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, living room, dining room, eat in kitchen, freshly painted interior, newly refinished hardwood floors, finished basement, beautiful yard and location, close to shopping and transportation. Asking \$349,900.
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Corporate Accounts Welcome



Around Town

Tiger 24 Fundraiser

April 27 and 28

Tiger 24, a 24-hour extravaganza, will be held on Friday, April 27 beginning at 4 p.m. until Saturday, April 28 at 4 p.m. on the track at Jost Field. Come run or walk and help raise money for the Harrington Family.

There will be a concert with five bands at the PAL, face painting, kids, volleyball, Frisbee, food, a candle lighting ceremony at midnight and more.

Trip to Papermill Playhouse

April 28

The senior center has scheduled a trip to Paper Mill Playhouse on Saturday, April 28 for a matinee performance of the Broadway hit, "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers." The cost is \$55 per person and includes transportation and orchestra seats. Reservations are limited to 40 people.

For reservations, stop by the senior center or call (908) 754-1047. This trip is open to all residents.

Sacred Heart Concert Series

April 29

Sacred Heart Parish, 149 South Plainfield Ave., presents their 2007 Concert Series on Sunday, April 29 with an organ recital performance by William H. Atwood at 3 p.m.

"Beauty and the Beast" on Broadway

April 29

The recreation department still has a few tickets for "Beauty and the Beast" on Sunday, April 29. Purchase tickets at the PAL. Tickets are \$80. Bus leaves the PAL at 11:30 a.m. for the 3 p.m. show.

UNICO Membership Meeting Night

April 30

A special Membership Night meeting of UNICO, the largest Italian-American service organization in the country, will be held on Monday, April 30 at the American Legion Hall, 243 Oak Tree Ave. beginning at 7 p.m.

What's happening at the South Plainfield

SENIOR CENTER

APRIL/MAY

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
UPCOMING EVENTS <i>Atlantic City Trip to Taj Mahal - May 2 - 9am</i> <i>Hearing Loss Program May 23 - 10 am</i>				Bingo 10am-2pm 27
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am 30 Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am	Bingo 10am-2pm 1 Ladies Social Group 10am	Aerobics 8:45am 2 Computer Classes 10am, 11:20am, 1 pm Line Dancing 10am Crocheting 1 p.m. Tai Chi 2 p.m. Taj Mahal Trip 9 am	Shopping 9am 3 Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 10am, 11am, 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm	Bingo 10am-2pm 4
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

Plan to attend and see why our motto is "Service Above Self." Pizza and refreshments will be served.

For information call (908) 756-9320.

VFW Country Breakfast

May 5

The South Plainfield VFW Post 6763 on Front Street is holding a country breakfast on Sunday, May 5 from 8 to 11 a.m. Public is welcome.

The Elvis Concert to Benefit Library

May 11

The South Plainfield Public Library Foundation is sponsoring a benefit concert on Friday, May 11 at 8 p.m. at the high school.

For the past 12 year's this concert has benefitted the fire department. They are celebrating their 100th year anniversary and offered the concert to the library foundation with proceeds going towards the new library.

This year's show will be "Memories of Elvis," a live tribute concert featuring Joe Angerosa. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the library.

Soccer Club Hosting Basket Bingo

May 12

The South Plainfield Soccer Club will be hosting a Basket Bingo, fea-

turing Longaberger Baskets on Saturday, May 12 at the VFW Hall on Front Street. The cost is \$20, which includes admission and boards for 20 games. Additional boards will be available for sale at the door. Doors open at 6:15 p.m., with games beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are limited.

For information or tickets, call Dawn Hutchison at (908) 754-2716 or Debra Krawiec at (908) 757-9432.

Emil Leporino Memorial Golf Outing

May 15

The Emil Leporino Memorial Golf Outing, co-sponsored by the South Plainfield Education Foundation and the South Plainfield Business Association, will be held on Tuesday, May 15 at the Cranbury Golf Club in West Windsor. Entry fee is \$150 per golfer.

Mail registration to South Plainfield Education Foundation, P.O. Box 733, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

For information call (908) 561-3275 or (908) 753-7004, ext. 106.

Friends of the Woods Slide Presentation

May 16

A live slide presentation of "An Inconvenient Truth" will be presented at The Nature Center at Highland Avenue Woods Environmental Education Reserve, located off South Clinton Avenue at 115 Sylvania Place, on Wednesday, May 16 at 7 p.m. Free to the public. Speaker will be Tina Weishaus MS, RN, CS. Hosted by Friends of the Woods.

If you have any questions, please call Patricia at (908) 753-6147.

— Out of Town —

Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra

April 28

The Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra will continue its 37th season with a concert entitled "A Musical Journey" at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 28 at Bridgewater Middle School. Tickets are \$15; \$7.50 for students.

For information call (908) 806-4275 or (908) 231-8813.

Trash and Treasure Sale

April 28

Oak Tree Presbyterian Church in Edison is holding their annual Trash and Treasure Sale on Saturday, April 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Household goods, small appliances, toys, games, books and more. Proceeds go to the church. Early birds not admitted. For information call (908) 769-6553.

Middlesex Master Gardeners Plant Sale

April 28

The Master Gardeners of Middlesex County will host their annual plant sale on Saturday, April 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the campus of Cook College in New Brunswick.

Middlesex County Master Garden helpline is (732) 398-5220.

Fundraising Walk

April 28

Step Up for The Arc Walk 2007 will be held on Saturday, April 28 at Roosevelt Park in Edison. Activities begin at 9 a.m. with the walk starting

at 10:15 a.m. Rain or shine. New Jersey 101.5 FM's mobile unit will be there to entertain Arc supporters.

To register, visit www.Arc-Middlesex.org or call (732) 821-1199 ext.145.

Tricky Tray/Dinner/Fashion Show

April 29

A Tricky Tray/Dinner/Fashion Show sponsored by St. Helena's HSA will be held on Sunday, April 29 at the Westwood, 438 North Ave. in Garwood. Doors open at 1 p.m. Admission is \$38, adults only. Grand prizes include a DVD player, camera, appliances, electronics and much more. For tickets call (732)-283-8460.

Woodbridge WOWs

April 29

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will hold an open dance on Sunday, April 29, 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the Elks Hall, 665 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. Music by Jimmy Ray. Refreshments. All are welcome. \$8 members; \$10 guests. For information, call (732) 381-7239 or (908) 757-0515.

Single Professionals Sunday Luncheon

April 29

NJ Single Professionals is holding a luncheon on Sunday, April 29 at 2:30 p.m. at Maggiano's Italian Restaurant, 600 Commons Way in Bridgewater. \$40 includes all-you-can-eat meal, tax and tips.

RSVP to AngelButterfly37@aol.com or (732) 764-9073.

Hellenic Dancers Gala Celebration

April 29

The nationally famous Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey will commemorate their 35th Anniversary with a gala celebration on Sunday, April 29 from 3 to 8 p.m. at the Pines Manor, 2085 Route 27 in Edison.

For information call (732) 745-4489.

Art Guild Show

April 29

The Arts Guild of Rahway presents "mini-MANIA 2," featuring small scale artworks by Jessica Demcsak, Gerry Heydt, Gwen Howard, Danielle Mick, Shari Seltzer, Vanessa Van Keuren, Melanie Vasa, Claudia Waters and Janet Zdunek. Opening reception Sunday, April 29 is open to the public.

For information, call (732) 381-7511.



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WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN
FROM A BUSY BUSY MOM *jd*

Picture day at Grant School took place on April 18. Your child's picture should be arriving soon. The Grant PTO will receive \$2 for each child's sitting regardless of whether or not you purchase a package. Cheryl Papa and Eileen Brady from the PTO and gym teacher Maureen Barnett and Bruce Hunt organized the event.

A fundraising clothing drive for the Grant 2007 Stokes trip will be held on Saturday, May 12 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Grant parking lot. Please bag clothes, bedding, stuffed animals, shoes and purses and place them inside the Roma Food truck.

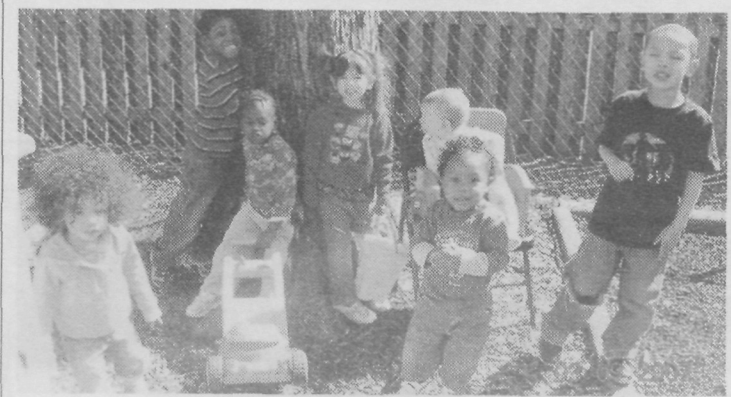
PTO Co-Presidents Cheryl Papa and Debbie Boyle organized the Teachers Appreciation luncheon and Janet McDermott and other PTO members helped out with Snack Day

last week. Jane Dornick and the PTO hosted the BOE Meet the Candidates night on April 5. Thank you to Joann Graff, the director of The Office on Aging, who emceed the evening.

All PTA organizations are seeking members for the upcoming year. If you can, please volunteer your time to help the children.

The SPHS performed the challenging musical "Jekyll and Hyde" which took place last weekend and received standing ovations from each audience. The directors, staff and talented musicians, actors and actresses did a wonderful job, along with the beautiful costumes.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Baldassarre, Grare, Butrico, Reedy, Ibarra and Post families.



Building Blocks Preschool is getting set to welcome spring! The children are excited to learn about the world around them by planting a garden, learning about seeds, caring for a garden, where food comes from and the water cycle. Last year students planted tomatoes and green beans and enjoyed tasting the fruits of their hard work! This spring Building Blocks Preschool will also be busy learning about baby animals, insects and numerous spring science projects.

NEWS FROM THE
Suburban Woman's Club

Spring is here and the South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club is busy with plans for this season.

Congratulations are due to Brooke DeNitzio who has been selected to be a delegate at The Girl's Career Institute at Douglass College to be held June 18-21. Ashley Alvarado has been selected to be the alternate delegate should Brooke for any reason be able to attend. These two young ladies, who will be seniors at South Plainfield High School next year, are outstand-

ing representative of our high school and the Woman's Club. The delegate will be the guest of the Suburban Woman's Club while she is attending the Girl's Career Institute.

We are getting ready for our Spring Yard Sale to be held on the lawn of the American Legion at 243 Oak Tree Ave., on Saturday, May 12 beginning at 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. We sure hope we have beautiful weather as we have no rain date. Any questions regarding this yard sale should be directed to Grace Farinella at (908) 753-5753.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 3 at the American Legion. We will have a Wine Tasting Party presented by Buy-Rite Liquors. Dan Ratti is going to be the guest speaker.

Don't forget the yard sale on May 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and if you see either Brooke or Ashley, congratulate them.

Submitted by Gloria M. Breuning

Correction

In last week's *Observer*, we incorrectly stated the amount the council cut from last year's BOE budget. The correct amount is \$1.2M. Also, last year's budget did not include middle school sports, but because of a grant obtained by Senator Barbara Buono, the middle school sports program was able to continue.

HOME TIP:

Clean out your roof gutters in the spring and in the fall. Make sure downspouts are clear and positioned properly to move drainage away from the foundation. Please call if I can be of service to you.



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Roosevelt Kindergartners perform songs for their grandparents as part of their annual Grandparents Day.

Kindergartners Salute Grandparents

Roosevelt School hosted their annual Grandparents Day for kindergarten students on Wednesday, April 4. Teachers Mrs. Czapinski, Miss Ferraro, Ms. Acker and Ms. Halbohm had their students rehearsing this day for weeks. Musical Director Sharon Perez lead the children in singing *We Are Roosevelt's Children, I'm Gonna Climb My Family Tree, Spend Some Time With Your Child, Let's Go See Our Grandparents, Skimmamarink, All I Really Need, Grandma, Grandpa, How I Love You and Now We Say Goodbye*. In between musical selections, several students at a time recited "What grandparents are

for," such as loving, talking, hugging, teaching and playing games.

When it was all over teary eyed

grandparents helped themselves to refreshments provided by the PTO members and families.

Fire Department Photos Wanted

The South Plainfield *Observer* will be publishing a special issue celebrating the 100th anniversary of the South Plainfield Fire Department on May 18. The fire department is planning a daylong celebration, including a huge parade on Saturday, May 19.

There are many families in town

that have roots in the early days of our fire department.

If you have information, photos, kudos, a brief story about a fellow fireman or family member that you'd like to share, please call us at (908) 668-0010 or email ggnan@aol. We hope to see everyone at the parade!

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Children require special care in emergency situations. That's why Somerset Medical Center's new Emergency Department has separate pediatric treatment areas and waiting room—a big idea that benefits our smallest patients. This child-friendly environment is designed to meet the unique needs of children and is staffed with nurses and physicians trained in pediatric care. Plus, through our affiliation with the Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital at Robert Wood Johnson University Medical Center, we have a certified pediatric hospitalist—a pediatrician—onsite 24/7.

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Memorial Honors Local Civil War Soldiers



(Continued from page 1)
the 28th New Jersey Volunteers on September 3, 1862. He was wounded in both legs at the assault on Marye's Heights above Fredericksburg, Va. on Dec. 13. His wounds weren't treated

until December 25. He died at age 39 on January 22, 1863.

"Let us keep alive the memory of these men who stood together under arms, united in a common cause and shared common values," said McGon-

igle, who, with Larry Randolph, placed a wreath created by Mohn's Flowers in front of the memorial. After the benediction by Rev. D. Gordon Braun Jr., First Baptist Church, a volley was fired, then "Taps" were played by Frosty Lawson of the 3rd N.J. Volunteers.

Professor Richard Veit of the Department of History & Anthropology at Monmouth University offered closing remarks and thanked all the participants. He presented Dorothy Miele, president of the South Plainfield Historical Society, with a plaque from the George Armstrong Custer Camp No. 17 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, which stated, "In appreciation to the South Plainfield Historical Society for the hard work and perseverance in erecting the memorial to the five local men who lost their lives during the War of the Rebellion 1861-1865, for the efforts of the group in adding the Civil War memorial to existing Monument Park memorials to local veterans of World War I, World War II, Korean War, The Vietnam War and the Gulf War."

Funding for the Civil War memorial stone and the reception held in the senior center was provided by the South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home, Franklin Rinear, Jr. owner/manager. In addition to the food prepared by Hometown Heroes, the halls of the senior center had three tables of Civil War artifacts—uniforms, rifles, swords, medals and much more from the collection of Jack Ensel, senior vice commander of General George Armstrong Custer Camp #17 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Darvene Adams came with her two sons Luke and Daniel Sprenger who had visited Chancellorsville, Va. last week during spring break to show them the battlefield where their great grandfather was captured fighting in the Civil War battle there.

"I went to the national archives and got his pension records and enlistment records. He enlisted in New York, but when the war ended he came to New Jersey. He is actually buried in the veteran's section of Hillside Cemetery

on Woodland Ave in a little circle of Civil War veterans.

"I've always tried to impress on my sons about our [family] history and how it fits in. Their grandfather was in the Marine Corps during the Korean War. I want the boys to know how these men gave their lives, their health—everything so we could have the lives we have today. I don't want them to lose sight of that. Kids don't realize, but through things like this you can bring it home to them," Adams said.



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Cibelli Trial Begins

(Continued from page 1)
body to the Cibelli residence. Three bloody towels discovered with the body match a towel in the home and a Corona light beer T-shirt, stained with Silva's blood and also found with her body, is one Cibelli is seen wearing in photographs.

Two days after Silva's disappearance, police arrested him in a motel in New Paltz, N.Y., after reports that he was wandering the halls naked. According to police, he also smeared feces on the wall of his room. He was charged with lewdness before he checked into the psychiatric unit of a Kingston, N.Y. hospital. Cibelli has also been charged with hindering his own apprehension for allegedly hiding Silva's body and a weapons offense in connection with the stapler and remains free on a \$625,000 property bond.



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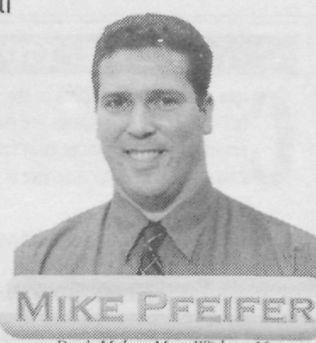
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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

After several days spent, no doubt, drying out your basement and sorting out what's salvageable, I'm sure you need a break. How's about spending it checking the latest news from the South Plainfield Library?

Next week, we'll stick with the usual schedule of children's programming. That means "Storytime" programs for children ages three and over are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. "Time for 2's & 3's," for children ages two and three, is held on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 10:30, and Thursday evenings at 6:30. "Books 'N' Babies," for children age three and under, is held on Friday mornings at 10:30. Each program lasts about an hour; no pre-registration is needed. If you would like more information, please call and ask for Miss Linda or Miss Mija.

Due to space restrictions and technological advancements, we have dispensed with our microfilm/fiche reader. However, we still have our collection of microfilm and microfiche. We are considering adding a new reader some time in the future. For more information, please check with reference.

We're between groups on the DVD Circuit today; the next group should be available some time next week. Meanwhile, the latest group from the Audiobook Circuit is now ready for borrowing. The circuit audiobooks are now found on top of the shelves for our own audiobook

collection. Audiobooks may be borrowed, four at a time, for two weeks.

The Middlesex County Emergency Food Distribution Network now has a collection box at the library. Donations of food, paper products and personal care items may be left in the box. Canned and packaged goods are requested; please do not contribute glass items. For more information, please call the Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services (MCFOODS) at (732) 729-0880.

We have room this week for an A/V advisory: if you have a problem with one of our A/V items, please let us know the nature of the problem right away, the more detailed the report the better. If it's a problem with a tape, please stop the tape at the problem area and leave it there. If it's a problem with a disc, please take note of the track or chapter that the disc is on at the time the problem occurs. As always, we appreciate your help with this.

Finally, tickets for the "Memories of Elvis" concert on Friday, May 11 are still available at the library. The tickets go for \$15 each; a portion of the proceeds from this event will be directed to funding the proposed new library building. For more information on the concert, please call (908) 412-0436.

That'll do it for this week. Please remember that you can get more details by calling us at (908) 754-7885 or visiting our Web site at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

BOE Special Public Hearing

The South Plainfield Board of Education will conduct a public hearing as a part of the Committee of the Whole Meeting on Wednesday, May 2 at 7 p.m. in the Roosevelt Administration Building gymnasium to discuss and/or modify contract terms and conditions for non-affiliated employees pursuant a new law P.L. 2007, c.53.

Members of the public are invited to submit public comments regarding the appointment of the superintendent, assistant superintendent and business administrator. The board, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, shall not publicly discuss personnel matters and shall not respond to comments made by members of the public. The board will give all comments appropriate consideration.

Please be aware that the subject of this hearing retains the right of privacy and shall retain all rights regarding defamation and slander according to the laws of New Jersey. The board is not be held liable for comments made by members of the public.

Formal action regarding amendments to contract terms for these individuals will be taken at the Committee of the Whole meeting of the South Plainfield Board of Education scheduled for Thursday, June 14 at 7 p.m.

policereport

On April 11, George A. Crosby, 37, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving and refusing to take a breathalyzer test.

Douglas J. Noel, 29, of Middlesex was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving.

On April 12, Daimion Lowe, 37, of Gardner, N.Y. was arrested for failure to exhibit documentation and an outstanding warrant.

On April 13, Simeon J. Hibbert, 35, of South Orange was arrested for no insurance and an outstanding war-

rant.

On April 14, Ivin Vernon Hill, 38, of North Brunswick was arrested for driving on a suspended license, no insurance and an outstanding warrant.

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Sports



Skies Bright for Ponytail Softball Opening Day

By Jane Dornick

The sun was shining on the South Plainfield Recreation Girl's Ponytail Softball league's opening day ceremonies on Saturday—a welcome change after rain-outs for the last two years.

Each team marched down the field with banners and posed for photos by parents. League President Jim Bishop addressed the crowd. Borough Councilman and Recreation Liaison Ray Petronko explained how the borough will be using Open Space money to demolish the old bus terminal on New Market Avenue to make way for a parking lot to be used for the fields. Recreation Commission Vice President Calvin Gross expressed his pride of the new Ponytail Park sign at the entrance to the fields that now gives the girls their own identity, saying "It [the park] belongs to you and it's all about you having fun."

Alyssa Liszewski and Laine Harris sang "The Star-Spangled Banner." Jessica Bishop threw out the first pitch to Bianca Didolce and the teams headed off to start the season.



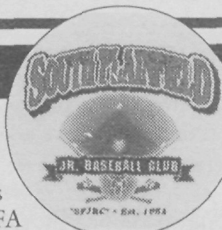
By Glenn Cullen

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

The SPJBC season is in full swing. Players should be on the lookout for traveling all-star tryout information.

The next club meeting is May 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the SPJBC clubhouse. This weekend's field duty assignments are as follows:

SEA Mets and Pony B
Phillies on Saturday, April 28 at 7 a.m.
and SFB Athletics and Pony A Reds on Sunday, April 29 at 8 a.m.



It's Ponytail Scholarship Time

The Parents' Ponytail Softball Association is sponsoring three \$500 college scholarships. Applications are now being accepted and can be obtained from the SPHS guidance office.

To qualify for the scholarships the applicant must be a high school senior graduating this June and a current resident of South Plainfield. To qualify for one of the two recreation scholarships, applicants must have played for a minimum of four years in the Ponytail Softball league. To qualify for the Ponytail All-Star scholarship, applicants must have played recreation softball for a minimum of

four years and South Plainfield Ponytail All-Stars for a minimum of three years. All-Star players may apply for both the recreation and All-Star scholarships; however, a player is eligible to receive only one scholarship. The application must be received no later than May 4. All completed applications can be mailed to SPPPA Scholarship, P.O. Box 441, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080 or returned to the high school guidance office in a sealed envelope labeled SPPPA Scholarship. Verification of school enrollment is required. Get your applications and hand them in as soon as possible.

Kyle Lykes Accepted into Babe Ruth National Umpires Assn.

Babe Ruth League, Inc. is pleased to announce that Kyle Lykes of South Plainfield is a member of the Babe Ruth Baseball National Umpires Association.

The Baseball National Umpires Association of Babe Ruth League, Inc. was organized in 1982 for the purpose of improving the skill and quality of umpiring. The Softball National Umpires Association of Babe Ruth League, Inc. was recently organized for the purpose of improving the skill and quality of umpiring. The NUA provides its members with rule interpretations, professionally done umpire manual, Umpiregram newsletters, Bullpen Newspaper, rulebooks and affiliation with the world's largest regulation baseball program.

Wood Bat League Seeking Teams, Coaches

The GSBL Wood Bat League is seeking coaches and full teams and is holding individual player tryouts for its upcoming summer '07 Wood Bat League. The league starts June 3 and

ends August 6. The league only plays games on Sundays so it does not interfere with high school, American Legion or in-town leagues. Only rainouts are scheduled on Saturday. The play-offs are on August 5 and 6. The majority of games are played in Central Jersey and a few are played in North Jersey, but the league is open to any team that wants to play. Each team is responsible for their own home ballfield and will play at least half of their games at home. Most teams with home fields usually do not travel more than four Sundays the entire season. The league features a flexible Sunday schedule, pure wood bat competition, competitive schedules based on skill level and a fun activity fundraiser program that makes complete registration reimbursement very possible. The ages of competition are high school and college (13 to 25).

We accept full teams, partial teams and individual ball players. Additional information is available at (732) 382-4610 or e-mail johngsbl@aol.com.

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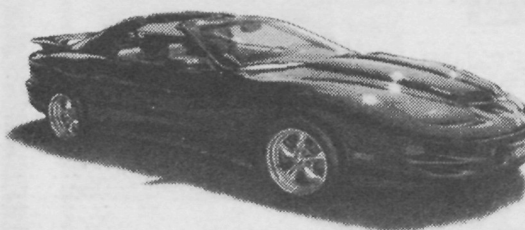
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Obituaries

Janina "Babci" Glina, 81

Janina "Babci" Glina passed away on Monday, April 23 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

Mrs. Glina, born in Rzeszow, Poland, was a lifelong resident of South Plainfield and worked for Ethicon Inc. for 17 years before retiring in 1989.

She was a communicant of Our Lady Of Czestochowa R.C. Church and was an active volunteer at the church and the Feast of St. Anthony.

Mrs. Glina was a devoted homemaker, gardener and enjoyed knitting and sewing. She was an extremely active lady who will be sadly missed by her family and friends and all those who were lucky enough to have known her.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 45 years, Zenon Glina, who passed away in 1992; a brother, Walter Tomala, and a grandchild, Bernadette Lynn Harney, who passed away in 1975.

Mrs. Glina is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Lester and Jill Glina of Dunellen; two daughters, Elizabeth King of South Plainfield and Irene Praul of Spring Hill, Fla.; two sisters, Katarzyna Batko of Dunellen and Stefania Burzynski of Bound Brook; three grandchildren, Michelle King of Orlando Fla., Bryan King of South Plainfield and Taylor Glina of Dunellen and several family members in Poland.

Funeral services were held at South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

Devin Harrison, Infant

Devin Harrison passed away on Tuesday, April 17 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

He is survived by his parents, Silvia Saez and Donnie Harrison, in addition to six siblings, Darius, Dondre, Shamira, Deja, Don Juan and Shamar.

All services were private.

Arrangements were placed under the special care of South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

Margaret Anna (Checko) Bender, 99

Margaret Anna (Checko) Bender died on Thursday, April 19 at home.

She is survived by a son, James and wife Tarty of South Plainfield; three grandchildren, John McDermott and David and James Bender Jr. and three great-grandchildren, David James, Christina Bender and Cadence.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Hector Torres, 57

Hector Torres died on Thursday, April 19 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Puerto Rico, he resided in Plainfield and was employed as a machine operator for Microtube Fabrication in Middlesex.

He is survived by his wife, Carmen, and three children, Migdalia, Hector, Jr. and Edwin.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

John G. Kaplan, 90

John G. Kaplan died on Thursday, April 19 at home.

Born in Bayonne to Stanley and Caroline Kaplan on August 16, 1916, John settled in South Plainfield in 1923 with his parents and sisters.

Mr. Kaplan served with the Army engineers during WWII from 1941-1945. During this time he was stationed in Alaska, Aleutian Islands and the Philippines on the Island of Luzon.

During the Great Depression, he served in the CCC's in Florida, and in 1972 he retired from General Motors in Linden where he worked for 35 years.

A longtime communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church, John served as an usher for many years. He is a 3rd Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus Council 6203 in South Plainfield and a 4th degree member of the Charles P. Greco Assembly of the Knights of Columbus. John was also a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 and a former member of the VFW Post 6763.

An avid gardener, Mr. Kaplan loved the outdoors and working with his hands. He enjoyed drawing, woodworking and reading. While his grandchildren were growing up, John was active in their participation in the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club. He also assisted in forming and coaching one of the first baseball teams at the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club.

He was predeceased by two sisters, Stella Prehodka and Pauline Scanzo; two brothers, Edward and Stanley and two nieces and two nephews.

Surviving is his wife of 65 years, Elizabeth (Szucs), whom he met in October of 1938 while working at Cornell Dubelier in South Plainfield. Before they were married on Christmas Day of 1941, John and Elizabeth went steady until WWII interrupted their romance.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Elizabeth Cacciatore and husband John of South Plainfield; a son, John and wife Susan of North Carolina; two sisters, Mary Gibney of Mountainside and Julia Diana of Metuchen; a brother, Zigmund and wife Dolores of Oklahoma and eight grandchildren, Dana, John, Michael, Tommy, David, Brian, Christopher and Devin.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Julio "Walter" Samayoa, 42

Julio "Walter" Samayoa passed away on Sunday, April 22 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

He was born in El Salvador on July 18, 1964. Being the youngest of six children, Julio immigrated to California in 1980 and moved to New Jersey in 1982. At the age of 23, he married Mayela in 1987. "Walter," as family and friends lovingly called him, worked for an in-ground pool construction business for more than 20 years.

Walter was very active in his community. He was a pilot and member of the First Jersey Ultralight Flight Organization. In 2002, he graduated from Class No. 8 of the John H. Stamler Auxiliary Police Academy in Union County and became actively involved with the Plainfield Auxiliary Police Program. He was then promoted to auxiliary police sergeant in 2004. Walter later became an instructor for the John H. Stamler Auxiliary Police Academy.

Walter was voted an Honorary Silver Life Membership card from the N.J. State P.B.A. given by the Plainfield P.B.A. Local 19, which is the highest honor that can be awarded to a citizen. In 2004, he was a recipient of a proclamation from then-Governor James E. McGreevey, for his involvement and many contributions to the Hispanic Community of Plainfield. In addition, Local PBA 19 awarded him for his outstanding service and dedication to the City of Plainfield in January 2007.

He enjoyed many hobbies, such as hunting, fishing, boating and flying.

Walter was predeceased by his mother, Orlia and his father, Edmundo.

He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Mayela; three daughters, Leslie 16, Gabriella 14 and Emily 7 and many friends and family members

who will always remember him and miss him dearly.

Funeral services were held at South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

Gloria M. Yonkman Bohl, 85

Gloria Mary Yonkman Bohl passed away on Wednesday, April 18 at the Lopatcong Nursing Center in Phillipsburg.

Born in Highland Park in 1921, Gloria lived in South Plainfield for 53 years. She was employed by the South Plainfield Board of Education for 23 years, retiring in 1984.

Gloria was a past member of the South Plainfield Chapter of Deborah Hospital and volunteered as a morning reader at Franklin School. She was also a member of Wesley Methodist Church. After her retirement, she enjoyed arts and crafts handiwork as well as traveling with her husband.

Gloria was predeceased by her husband of 57 years, Bernard Bohl, in 2003 and by a brother, Arnold "Jim" Yonkman, in 1997.

She is survived by a daughter, Linda DeCoons and husband John of Belvidere; a son, James and wife Linda of South Plainfield; a granddaughter, Kiersten Bohl Ravi and husband Vic of South Plainfield; two grandsons, Michael Costello of Annandale and Andrew Bohl of South Plainfield; and two great-granddaughters, Courtney Bohl and Gianna Ravi, whom she loved dearly. She is also survived by a brother, Henry Yonkman of Old Bridge; three sisters, Shirley Bailey and June Wangereen, both of Sayreville and Janet Lowich of South Plainfield.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations may be made to JFK Haven Hospice, c/o 65 James St., Edison, N.J. 08818.

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As part of a 30-hour famine to raise money to support an orphan child in India, these Young Timers from Cedarcroft Bible Chapel picked up 17 bags of trash from the brook by Cedarbrook Avenue near Spring Lake Park. Pictured (L to R) are Stacie Moore, Emily Ward, Larry Ward, Megan Hermes, Angelica Brown, Jennifer Walz, Stephanie Assad, Jon Guirguis, Holly Baehr, Alize Duncan and Alison Rabideau. Not pictured are Joshua Guirguis and Kingsley Baehr.

IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)
fected his immediate family. The operative word is 'appeared.' Letters to the Editor from the next edition of the *Observer* featured a letter that revealed that Bengivenga had recused himself from that vote. That single piece of information which Mr. Cerami left out of his letter, changed it from "impressive, even scathing" to "misleading and, perhaps deceitful." It also changed my perception of Mr. Cerami.

This might be interesting, I thought. So, I went to the council meeting to see for myself how this was playing out. Again the topic of the billboards came up. During the public discussion, I asked why the decisions weren't being made on the merits of the ordinance rather than the ownership of the property. Neither the Mayor nor Cerami directly answered that question. Instead, I was told that it was an ethical issue and one of disclosure. Cerami then recited a great deal of information about Councilman Bengivenga's family in defense of his vote. I learned Bengivenga's father has a lot of business interests in South Plainfield, is a

major contributor to the local Republican Party, the means by which the property was acquired, and many other interesting, but equally irrelevant facts about Bengivenga's father. From what I could tell, it appears to me that whatever grudge Cerami has against Bengivenga's father trumps the public interest. Odd, I thought, this man, Cerami apparently used personal factors about Bengivenga's father as the principle determinant criteria for his vote against this billboard ordinance. It wasn't 'litter on a stick' until Cerami was informed about the ownership. Is it just me, or does that smell really bad? I briefly considered that Cerami was either the most honest politician I have ever met, or one who can no longer recognize that using the awesome power of government against an individual for personal reasons is wrong.

Call me silly, but it's that sort of intimidation that makes you want to see whose political signs are in Cerami's yard before putting any in your own yard. After all, you can't fight city hall.

SINCERELY,
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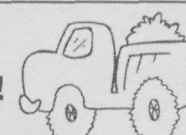
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SPHS Students Go Around the World in 40 Minutes

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield High School's Jersey Club presented the student body with their annual Cultural Heritage Day on April 7. The day offered students a chance to experience a bit of the many cultures that make up their school. The Jersey Club advisors are Fran Flannery and Anthony Barca.

The daylong event, held in the library, represented over 80 countries. It featured displays, food and performances. Many students and teachers were dressed in ethnic costumes that covered a wide array of countries. The main attraction seemed to be the food, which took up a good deal of space in the library for a good reason. There

were over 300 dishes from around the world, hot and cold, everything from appetizers to desserts. Each dish listed the student who made it, the name of the dish and the ingredients. Flannery noted that they had received more ethnic food donations than ever before.

Another section of the room was reserved for displays; students brought in flags and many other items and heirlooms from their native countries. The far end of the library held a small portable stage. Emcee Darren Kaczowski introduced over 20 acts that ranged from African-American poetry, American ballets, Irish and Polish dances and a Vietnamese fan dance.

Approximately 70 club members were on hand to keep things running

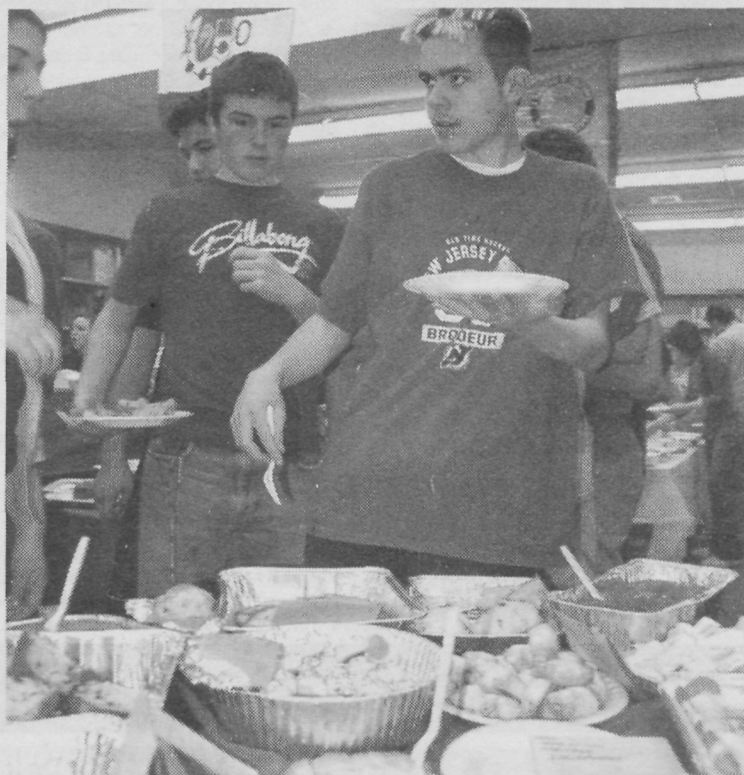
smoothly by continually bringing out fresh food, removing empty containers, keeping the food hot and cleaning up the area. Prior to the event, the club and advisors spent many months preparing for the day. Any student in a history class was allowed to attend during that class period.

The students celebrated their individual cultures while enjoying those of their classmates. Many students opted to wear national costumes, while others performed native dances before an enthusiastic audience.

This will be the last Cultural Heritage Day for Barca as he is retiring in June. He has been organizing the event for past the 16 years. Barca proudly noted how culturally diverse the school has become over the years. He pointed

out that the student body of the 1970's and earlier was generally made up of a small handful of cultures including; Italian, Irish, Polish, African-American and a few others.

The swarm of smiling faces in the library from so many places around the globe melded to offer a fascinating mini view of our world and a perfect example of today's American teenager; culturally proud, aware and accepting



LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

Take Notice that the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment will hold a hearing on Thursday, May 10, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. in the Borough Hall Court Room, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, to consider the appeal for a variance or other relief filed by EES Realty, LLC.

The relief requested is to obtain preliminary and final approval of the following: Site plan approval to permit the use of the referenced property for the business, operations and storage of a sound audio and electrical equipment rental business within the M-3 zone; for a use variance to permit the use of the subject premises located in an M-3 zone for the business purposes set forth herein, a use which is not permitted within the M-3 zone; for a variance of the minimum lot width (setback) on the property having an existing and proposed setback of 179.55 feet and the requirement being 200 feet, and for any additional, related or necessary variances and waivers associated with this application, at the property address 1301 New Market Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, Block 18, Lot 308.

The files and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for inspection in the Planning/Zoning Office in Borough Hall between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Any interested party may appear at the hearing and present any objections to granting the relief requested.

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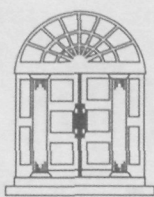
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