

Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers in South Plainfield!

Next Monday's Borough Council agenda and regular meetings have been moved to the Senior Center. The agenda meeting begins at 7 p.m. The regular meeting follows immediately after.

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South Plainfield Observer

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MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

50 CENTS

MAY 9, 2008

Costantino Appointed Court Administrator



Karen Costantino

By Libby Barsky

It's not often that a job seeker who applies for an advertised job too late to be considered is contacted when another opening becomes available and subsequently gets the job.

It happened to Karen Costantino in 1996 when she applied for a clerk

position with the South Plainfield court system. At the time Costantino was working as a pharmacy technician and service center representative for Foodtown. Court Administrator Pat Vargo didn't interview Costantino initially, but held onto her resume and called her a few months later and asked her to come in to interview for another position.

In January 1997 Costantino was hired as senior clerk typist. She then became violations clerk before being named deputy court administrator in 2003. When Vargo retired recently, Costantino was sworn in as full time municipal court administrator, and officially began her new position on April 7.

As municipal court administrator, Costantino heads a staff of three and cross trains them so each can do the other's job. Yolanda Diaz is assistant

(Continued on page 9)



Mayor Charles Butrico swears in newly-elected BOE member Sharon Miller. Frank Miller holds the Bible for his wife.

New BOE Members Sworn In

The Board of Education held their reorganization meeting on April 28. Mayor Charles Butrico was on hand to swear in the three newly-elected members.

Richard A. Guarini, newly appointed board secretary/business administrator, began the meeting by reading the election results, including the official count on the budget and the names of the three elected board members.

The first board member to be sworn in was Steven Bohn, who is returning to the board after an absence of a year. Second was Timothy Morgan, who is returning for a third term. Sharon Miller, the board's newest member, was the last to be sworn in by Butrico.

After the new members were seated, the board voted to appoint

Jim Giannakis president and Pio Pennisi vice president. The vote wasn't unanimous; eight members voted for the nominees, but John Markham voted present.

At a request from John Markham to change the time of the Committee of the Whole meetings to later than 7 p.m., the board voted to change the time for both the Committee of the Whole and the regular public meetings to 7:30 p.m. on the second and third Wednesday at the Roosevelt Administration Building gymnasium. However, the next Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 7 and the regular meeting on Tuesday, May 13.

Another request to reduce photocopy rates was made by Bob Jones. If the public requests information from the board, the photocopy rates presently are \$.50 a page for up to 10 pages, \$.25 each for 11-20 pages and \$.10 a page for 21 pages or more. Jones requested that the rate for one or two pages be lowered to the same

as for 20 or more, or \$.10 a page. The provision for approval of photocopy rates was tabled and will be brought up in the policy committee before being placed on the agenda for a vote.

The remaining agenda items were approved, without discussion, including the reappointment of Dr. Nicholas Celso III as school board attorney at the rate of \$7,600, which covers attendance at two regularly scheduled board meetings per month; Jilma Patricia DiCarlo, M.D. as medical inspector at a salary of \$33,000; Di-Cara/Rubino Architects as architect of record; James Vitoritt as asbestos management officer; McManimon & Scotland as bond council; Robert Stoffel, Integrity Consulting Group as broker of record for health service and Grinspec-Lee Nestel, president, as broker of record for all property, liability and workers' compensation matters; and Educational Data Services, continuing the bidding service agreement for 2008-2009 for \$10,800.



AARP Tax Aides Retire—(L to R) Joe Formica, Steve Machat, Marge Machat, Bill Hannah and Bill McAlister "retire" again after serving a total of 50 plus years as AARP and IRS tax consultants.

Students Speak Out in Congress

The South Plainfield Model United Nations Club (SPMUN) brought home two gavels from the Rutgers Model Congress conference held at the Hyatt Hotel in New Brunswick

April 16-21.

The gavels, which represented the "Outstanding Delegate Award" and "Distinguished Delegate Award," were received by senior partners Amanda

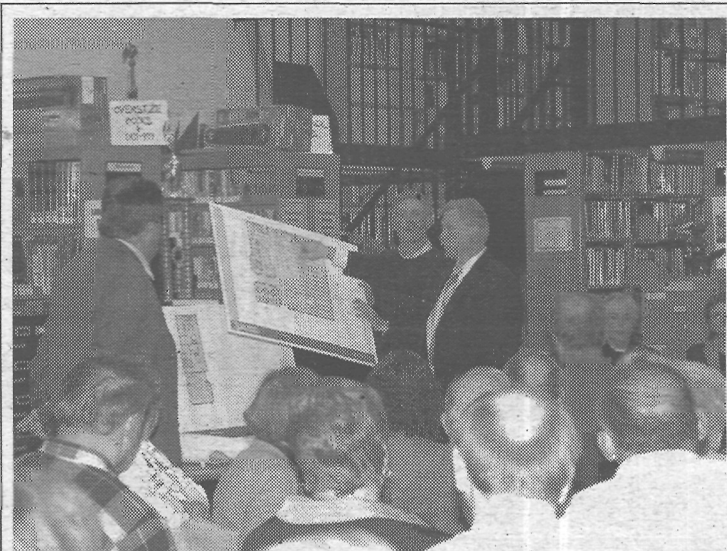
Alemzohu and Shivana Maraj and junior partners Michael Pachytel and Jeremiah Magpile, respectively. Because they were SPMUN's first awards, the two groups gladly accorded the gavels to club advisor and social studies teacher, Miten Shah. For Shah, the gavels highlighted the efforts of SPMUN during the months prior to the conference. Although he said that awards had always been a "mixed bag" for him because they sometimes do not speak for the other students who also actively participate, he was still very happy for South Plainfield's achievement.

Sponsored by the Institute for Domestic and International Affairs, Inc., the Rutgers Model Congress focused on various issues that the United States currently faces. With the topics divided into House, Senate and Advanced committees, students from South Plainfield, along with 587 others from the rest of the tri-state area, were able to participate in a number of forums that discussed subjects ranging

(Continued on page 12)



SPHS student delegates to Rutgers Model Congress



The Library Board of Trustees held a special meeting on May 1 at the library to offer residents the opportunity to examine plans for, and ask questions about, the proposed new library. Eric Aronowitz, Library Board of Trustees president, displays the plans while Robert Karabinchak, president of Tri Form Construction, answers questions from the audience.

COUNCIL MEETINGS air on Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

AGENDA and/or Other SPECIAL Meetings air every Saturday at 8 p.m.

(Check community bulletin board for last minute time changes.)



Comcast will air two hours of a meeting.

To purchase a copy of a complete Borough Council or BOE meeting, contact the *Observer*.

council meetings

Meets twice a month on Mondays, except as noted.* All meetings begin at 7 p.m.

Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

Agenda Meeting

Monday, May 12 (7 p.m.) Immediately Following (at Senior Center)
Monday, May 19 May 27 (Tuesday)
Monday, June 9 (7 p.m.) Immediately Following

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (NJS 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 13, June 10, June 24, July 8, July 22,

Aug. 26, Sept. 9, Sept. 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 21, Nov 18*, Dec. 9*.

zoning board of adjustment

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

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

May 22, June 12 and 26, July 10 and 24, August 14 and 28,

September 11 and 25, October 9 and 23, November 30*, December 11*.

board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.: June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10, January 14, February 11, March 11 and April 1.

Regular Public Meeting, Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.: May 13 (Tuesday), June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17, January 21, February 18, March 18 and April 8.

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

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, 7 p.m.

May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16,

October 21, November 18, December 16.

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8

November 12, December 10 and January 14.

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 on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

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.



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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.

IN MY OPINION

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

Dear Editor,

The citizens of South Plainfield are being asked this week to vote if they support the funding and construction of a new library.

Long before the building of a new library was first conceived, it became apparent to the members of the previous sitting council as to why we needed to build a new library:

First, if you take a trip to the library on a Wednesday night and watch the children arrive for story time, it is apparent the look of awe as they approach the bookshelves and attempt to decide what to read first. When a story is read for the evening, it's obvious that they're in thought. When the story time ends they have the desire to read that story themselves. In addition, many children and parents make new friends during story and craft time. However, the space currently provided is too small and is not sufficient to service all these excited children!

Second, in a time when our information is gathered by browsing the Internet, many have questioned its validity and source. Some of those sources are driven by derogatory screen names that claim to be the truth. Many parents worry about what our children may see on the Internet when they are only attempting to complete a school project. The library, on the other hand, is a knowledge store that encourages reading and research and offers it in a safe and comfortable environment.

Third, the library serves as an excellent resource for our seniors, who many times come to the library to use the Internet service that is provided. Many seniors do not have computer or Internet at home. This also can be said for non-seniors of course.

The services provided at the library are endless. You can go there to get copies, notarize legal documents, rent movies and CD's for free, study for a test or exam, sign up for countless classes from computer classes to job

research classes to knitting, or simply just enjoy a moment of quietness reading the daily paper. However, the current space is too small with very little room to sit, study or even hang your coat!

The library is one of our town's greatest assets because it specifically beholds the future for our children and young adults. We need to give them a good head start with a terrific knowledge store that we as parents can trust and rely on. If you have any doubts about the fact or fiction of the web, the library is the place to be for the entire family.

I encourage everyone to take time to go out and vote YES to provide our town with a new state-of-the-art library that the citizens of South Plainfield so very well deserve!

COUNCILMAN RAYMOND S. PETRONKO

Dear Editor,

With all that's been said in the debate as to whether or not to allow trucks to route back over Hamilton Boulevard, I think the most important issue has been kept from the discussion. That's the children who cross unattended to get to and come from their schools. Many of the corners have crossing guards during school hours, but the majority of corners DON'T.

From my vantage point as a crossing guard immediately outside of Roosevelt School, which enrolls children up to and including the fourth grade, there are two adjoining corners that do not have any guardian to cross these children and others who pass from other schools. Granted, the majority of these children seek a corner that is manned by a crossing guard, but unfortunately, as we all know, kids will be kids, and on a daily basis I see some who are a block or two away, crossing over Hamilton Boulevard. With no traffic lights and no crossing guard are we not inviting disaster?

Anyone who travels South Clinton,

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Please be advised that the *Observer* does not 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.

where these trucks are currently routed, knows that we're not talking about an occasional pick-up truck, but instead a barrage of tractor trailers. Before we consider allowing these killers back on a street where school children cross, we better make sure each corner has a traffic light and is manned by a crossing guard during school hours.

KEVIN O'BRIEN

To the Editor:

The Borough of South Plainfield recently held its 21st annual Volunteer Litter Cleanup Week, proclaimed by Mayor Charles Buttrico at the April 7 public meeting. Operating under the auspices of the Borough's Environmental Commission, the Clean Communities Advisory Board begins planning for this event in January every year. The cleanup committee consists of Environmental Commission member Don Baker, Clean Business Association President Joe Diegnan and Volunteer Coordinator Marie Markey.

I would like to personally thank everyone who helped plan the event and those who donated refreshments for the pickup picnic. I would also like to thank each and every volunteer who came out to spend a few hours cleaning up, but that is not practical. Therefore, I would like to thank them publicly through this letter to the editor in the *South Plainfield Observer*:

Refreshments—Charlie and Debbie

(Continued on page 9)

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Train and Car Collide, No Injuries

On May 2 at approximately 4:08 p.m., a 1994 Dodge Shadow, owned and operated by Heather Prairie, 27 of Edison, was struck by a Norfolk Southern train on South Avenue near West Street in South Plainfield.

The train, which consisted of two engines, had just dropped off freight cars near South Avenue and was traveling southbound on the Port Reading freight line, when it struck Prairie's vehicle. The train was occupied by the engineer Ronald Martz, 54, of Plainfield; a conductor, Steve Farley, 52, of Bethlehem Pa. and trainee Michael Herbert.

Prairie was traveling westbound on South Avenue when her vehicle was struck. Her car was pushed approximately 40 feet from the point of impact on South Avenue.

There is no gate or signal at that crossing.

Prairie was issued a careless driving summons by investigating Officer Michael Cleary.

Graf Resigns from Ad Hoc Truck Committee

The newly formed ad hoc alternate truck committee has lost its chairman. Joann Graf read a prepared statement at their meeting held Monday evening at the senior center saying she was stepping down. Graf explained that with her new position as municipal clerk, as well as her duties as Senior Center director, it would be a disservice to the members of the committee to continue.

Graf was the chairman of the ad hoc truck committee and the first person appointed. The committee was formed by the Borough council earlier this year to try to find a new truck route to remove trucks from residential roads such as Hamilton Boulevard and New Market Avenue. The ad hoc truck committee has no voice in whether or not trucks should be allowed back on Hamilton Boulevard.

For more than a decade the Borough had hoped Helen Street, a project that was funded with Federal money, would be the answer to removing trucks from residential roadways. However, time for funding ran out last December and the council voted not to pursue it further. One of the reasons for the delay was caused by the objections of the Edison Wetlands Association.

Graf said that Mayor Charles Butrico has asked that former Mayor Michael English be appointed to fill Graf's seat on the committee. English



Knights of Columbus members collect money for "Special Citizens."

Knights of Columbus Raise \$10K for "Special Citizens"

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 ran their 2008 "Special Citizens Drive" April 24-27. During the four-day event, \$10,000 was collected. All proceeds

will be donated to three local special needs organizations that the Knights support, Keystone Community, Midland School and McCauley School.

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank the following businesses for allowing canning in front of their stores: Commerce Bank, Drug Fair, Quick Chek, CVS, A&P, Pathmark, Shop-Rite, Super Stop and Shop, Bagel Pantry, Ciccio's Pizza, Dunkin Donuts, Witty's Liquor Store and Buy-Rite Liquors.

Co-chairmen Joe Scrudato and Grand Knight Bill Butrico reported that more than 110 members came out to can for this worthy cause. In addition, Irene Butrico, Tony Costantino, Theresa and Joe Bielinski, Bill and Willy Hartmann, Bob Barone and Gerry Butrico spent the three days at the hall counting money as it came in.

The Knights are very proud of the members, friends and family, all the community members who supported the drive and our local businesses for their support.

Former Resident Owner of Kentucky Derby Winner

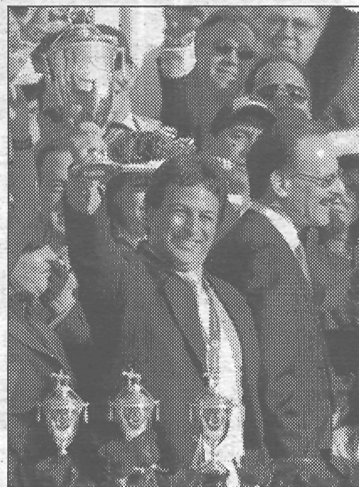
Paul Pompa, Jr. who grew up in South Plainfield, is the proud co-owner of Big Brown, this year's winner of the 2008 Kentucky Derby. Pompa now lives in Warren Township.

He was at the Derby last Saturday, and brought 22 members of his family to witness the horses victory.

Pompa purchased Big Brown for \$190,000 at Keeneland's 2007 two-year-old sale. He liked the colt because he was a half-brother to a horse he had once claimed. Pompa's business, Truck Rite Corp. located in Brooklyn, had just signed a multi-year contract renewal as agent for UPS freight in New York's five boroughs. "He was named out of a tribute to UPS," Pompa explains. "They've been a very important customer.... I was quite surprised that name hadn't been taken already, with all the brown horses out there."

It took one race for Big Brown to catch people's attention. Pompa sold a 75 percent interest in the horse privately to IEAH Stables after the colt won his maiden race at Saratoga by 11 1/4 lengths. The colt was then relocated from trainer Patrick Reynolds' barn to trainer Rick Dutrow's barn.

Big Brown won his three starts by



Paul Pompa, Jr. holds winning Kentucky Derby trophy.

a combined 29 lengths. He was the first horse to win the Florida Derby prep in his third career start. Pompa says that Big Brown's tactical speed gives him an edge.

Paul's parents Rose and Paul, Sr., were actively involved in many organizations while they lived in South Plainfield. Paul, Sr. passed away several years ago and the Pompa family have established a scholarship fund through the Lions Club in his name.

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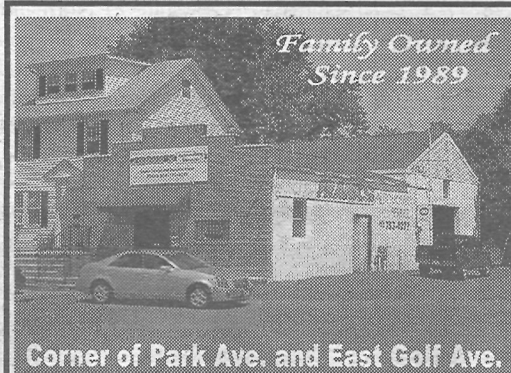
South Plainfield Gas Price Check

Gasoline prices are rising every day. To keep our readers informed, the Observer will be publishing the latest price of gasoline at our local stations.

Station	Location	29-Apr - 6:45 PM	5/6/2008 6:00 PM	See Note
Jersey Oil	Park Ave & E. Golf Ave	\$3.359	\$3.419 cash	1*
Citgo	Maple & Park Ave.	\$3.379	\$3.419	
Raceway	Clinton & W. 7th	\$3.399	\$3.439 cash	2*
Jersey Oil	Hamilton & Amboy	\$3.439	\$3.459	
Exxon	Maple & Park Ave.	\$3.459	\$3.459	
Shell	Plainfield & Lane	\$3.479	\$3.479	
Enrite	Durham & Texas	\$3.499	\$3.489	
Gulf	Stelton & New Brunswick	\$3.459	\$3.499	
Gulf	Front St. & Oak Tree Ave.	\$3.469	\$3.499	
Lukoil	Durham & 287	\$3.539	\$3.539	
Lukoil	Hamilton & Stelton	\$3.569	\$3.659	

1* Jersey Oil Credit Card Price- \$3.519

2* Raceway Credit Card Price - \$3.519



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Elks Mother's Day Breakfast

May 11

The South Plainfield Elks #2298, 1254 New Market Ave., will host their annual Mothers' Day Breakfast on Sunday, May 11 from 8 a.m. until noon. The all-you-can-eat menu features pancakes, eggs made to order, French toast, bacon, sausage, home fries, toast, juice and coffee. Prices are: \$6.50 adults; \$5.50 seniors; \$4 children three to 12; children age two and under are free.

For more information, please call (908) 668-9750.

SPBA Meeting

May 15

The South Plainfield Business Association will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, May 15 at 9 a.m. at Sherban's Diner, located on Front Street.

If you would like to be a guest speaker or do a five-minute presentation on your company or business at the June meeting, contact Debra Anne Leporino, SPBA president, at SPBA Pres@aol.com by Friday, May 30.

GOP Meeting

May 15

The regular monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held Thursday, May 15 at 7 p.m. at Sherban's. All residents are invited to attend and bring their concerns and comments for an open discussion on solutions that could benefit South Plainfield.

Cultural Arts "A Tea for Queen Victoria"

May 17

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission presents "A Tea for

What's happening at the

SENIOR CENTER

MAY

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
UPCOMING EVENTS Hunterdon Hills Playhouse "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" May 14 ... Cultural Arts Program - May 17 at 1:30 p.m. "A Tea for Queen Victoria"				Bingo 10am-2pm 9
Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am 12 Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am	Bingo 10am-2pm 13 Ladies Social Group 10am	Aerobics 8:45 am Line Dancing 10am Listen to Children 10am Computer 10 am, 11:30am, 1pm Crocheting 1pm Tai Chi 2pm	Pathmark Shopping 9am 15 Crafts Class 10am Computer Class 10am Exercise Class 1:15pm 11:30am, 1pm	Bingo 10am-2pm 16
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

Queen Victoria" on Saturday, May 17 at 2 p.m. at the Senior Center. The program is presented by Tea Historian Judith Krall-Russo.

"Mirage" Performing at KC's Korner

May 17

Local band "Mirage" will be performing at KC's Korner, 100 Oak Tree Ave., on Saturday, May 17 at 9 p.m.

Annual Memorial Day Ceremony

May 26

American Legion Post 243 and VFW Post 6763 invite everyone to join them at their Memorial Day ceremonies on Monday, May 26. Ceremony begins at the VFW on Front Street at 9 a.m. and ends at the American Legion Post on Oak Tree Avenue immediately after the wreath laying

ceremonies at Veterans Park and the three cemeteries in town. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

Summer Drama Workshop Auditions

May 30 & June 2

Auditions for the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop 2008 production of "Damn Yankees" will be held on Friday, May 30 and Monday, June 2 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Middle School.

For more information, please call (908) 561-5255.

GOP Comedy Night

June 7

The South Plainfield Republican Organization is hosting "Comedy Night" on June 7 at 8 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Avenue. Three comedians will be featured. Seating is limited. Tickets are \$50 per person in advance, \$60 per person at the door. Hors d'oeuvres and dessert are included. Cash bar. For information, call Cynthia at (908) 447-6980.

SPHS 1968 40th Class Reunion

July 19

The South Plainfield High School 1968 40th reunion will be held at the

American Legion on Oak Tree Avenue from 7 to 12 p.m.

Cost is \$50 per person with a cash bar. For information, call Bonnie Gundersen Risoli at (908) 896-7739.

Class of 1978 30th Year Reunion

Fall 2008

The SPHS Class of 1978 reunion committee is looking for alumni interested in attending their 30th reunion this fall. E-mail your name, address and phone number to SPHS30YR@gmail.com or call (908) 755-0959 to get your name on our invitation mailing list.

— Out of Town —

Gesang-und Turn Verein Concert

May 10

The Plainfield Gesang-und Turn Verein, one of the oldest New Jersey German-American Associations, will present the 122nd concert on Saturday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m. in Singer Hall in North Plainfield. Food can be purchased in the Ratskeller.

Tickets are \$17 in advance by calling Gerda at (908) 369-3359 or \$20 at the door.

Hudson Valley Resort/Spa Trip

August 18-22

South Plainfield Chapter AARP #4144 is taking a trip from August 18-22 to the Hudson Valley Resort Hotel and Spa in New York.

The price of the trip \$530 double occupancy includes chartered bus to and from hotel, spacious rooms, all meals (dining room only) with full choice menu (special diets available on request). Special complimentary cocktail party with open bar, hors d'oeuvres and music. Indoor and

outdoor pool, use of spa and glass enclosed gym. Planned daytime activities (games, sing-alongs, trivia, dance classes and more). Discounted green fees for golfers. Music and dancing before dinner, live nightly entertainment, and more. Taxes, tips and service charges included. Side trips to malls and others given by the hotel, but are not included as part of our package.

Register by calling (732) 752-3764. \$200 deposit is required. Balance due no later than August 1. Stimulate the economy and have fun besides!

LIVE TRIBUTE CONCERT

featuring

"Piano Man"

Billy Joel Tribute

Saturday, May 10th
8 PM
Tickets Only \$15

12 & under admitted free

South Plainfield High School

Tickets Available at the Door

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Golf Outing

May 16

Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church is hosting a golf outing on Friday, May 16 at Bunker Hill Golf Course, 220 Bunker Hill Rd. in Princeton. Shotgun start 1 p.m.; dinner at Middlesex Elks, 545 Bound Brook Rd., Middlesex at 7 p.m. \$90 includes dinner.

For more information or to register, call (732) 563-0262 or (732) 868-8299 or E-mail olmvlgolf@msn.com.

35th Greek Festival

May 16-18

"The Best Greek Festival in New Jersey" will be held at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 1101 River Rd. in Piscataway on Friday, May 16, 11 a.m.-11:30 p.m., Saturday, May 17, 11 a.m.-1 a.m. and Sunday, May 18, noon-8 p.m. Admission donation is \$2; children under 12 free; free admission May 16 until 4 p.m. Menu selections: \$3-\$10. E-mail take-out orders to Festival2008@patmedia.net with name and phone number and allow 10 minutes for pick up.

Proceeds benefit the church's cultural and community programming.

Edison Arts Society Gala Ball

May 17

The Edison Arts Society Gala Ball will take place on Saturday, May 17 at the Pines Manor in Edison. For information, please call (908) 753-2787.

People for Animals 'Walk for Animals'

May 18

People for Animals, a non-profit animal welfare organization, is sponsoring its annual Walk for Animals on Sunday, May 18 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Nomahegan Park in Linden. Everyone is invited to attend this fun event, with or without a dog. There will be refreshments for dogs and humans, contests and doggie bags filled with goodies for the canine participants.

To register, pledge or for more information call (973) 282-0890, ext. 312.

Depression/Bipolar Support Meeting

May 28

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance will feature Debra E. Koss, M.D., board certified in child and adolescent psychiatry, at its meeting on Wednesday, May 28 at 7:45 p.m. using the facilities of Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd. in Morristown. The public is cordially invited; a nominal donation is requested from non-members.

For information, call (973) 994-1143 or the New Jersey Self-Help Group Clearinghouse at (800) 367-6274.

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Friday May 16th, 2008

10:00 am to 2:00 pm



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- Answers to questions/concerns on diabetes
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PIANO MAN

A tribute to
Billy
Joel



EIGHTEEN WHEELERS BACK ON HAMILTON BOULEVARD

Unless we stop them, the Republicans
on the borough council will vote to
put trucks back on Hamilton Boulevard
at the council meeting this
Monday, May 12th at 7:00 p.m.

The time for action is now.

***Republicans Bengivenga and Anesh
are leading the charge to put trucks
back on Hamilton Boulevard.***

If you care about the future of our
town you must have your voices heard.

Come to the council meeting and tell
Bengivenga and Anesh....

KEEP TRUCKS OFF HAMILTON BOULEVARD!!!!!!

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Sunnie Randolph

Don't forget to vote for the new library. Vote on Saturday, May 10 until 3 p.m. We hope you will vote 'yes' and support the construction of a new library for South Plainfield.

Happy Mother's Day on Sunday. The library will be open from 1:30 until 5 p.m.

During the months of May and June there will be free Learn to Knit classes for adults only. No children please. Classes will be held on Thursday evenings, May 15, 22, 29 and June 12, 19 and 26 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. There is a choice of projects to make. You can make a scarf or potholders. You will learn three different knitting stitches. Please bring size six needles and two skeins of worsted weight yarn if you want to make a scarf or one skein of cotton yarn to make two potholders. Please call the library at (908) 754-7885 to pre-register. There is a limit of 10 people so registration is required.

Jaimie Donnelly, young adult librarian, announced the winners of the 2008 Young Adult Poetry Month

Contest. There was a tie amongst best original poem by a young adult, which was judged by the librarians and staff at the library. Journey Phillips Keats and Aspen Akunne both won the contest which includes a gift bag of prizes and winner's certificate. The winning poems are on display in the front cabinet of the South Plainfield Public Library through the month of May.

There were 10 winners of the Mother's Day contest. Each person could choose a prize. The winners were Cheryl Keraga, Judy England-McCarthy, Natalie Bergen, Beverly Blanco, Michelle Adlassnig, Helen Donnelly, Marina Ocampo, Evelyn Heid, Charlotte Burgess and Mija Clemente. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Children's programs will be held at their usual times-10:30 a.m. Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. on Thursday, and 10:30 a.m. on Friday.

The Library Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 13 at 7 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

Don't Miss One More Weekend of "The Musical of Musicals-The Musical!"

Looking for something new to do on a Friday night? What about a special date idea for Saturday or a thoughtful way to celebrate Mom on

Sunday?

The answer to all of these questions can be found this final weekend in Edison Valley Playhouse's spectacular

production of "The Musical of Musicals-The Musical!" This fast-paced and fabulously funny musical, directed by David Christopher with musical direction by Emily Bengels and choreography by Michelle Mossay-Cuevas, features four immensely talented actors telling a story in the styles of some of Broadway's most beloved styles including Rodgers and Hammerstein, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Stephen Sondheim.

Don't miss this opportunity to see a production of this quality so close to home. Run don't walk to Edison Valley Playhouse on Oak Tree Road to see the musical that has the audience on their feet at the end of every performance!

For tickets and more information call (908) 755-4654 or visit the Web site at www.evplayhouse.com.



Jeff Ronan, Darlene Rich, Eric Harper and Jennifer A. Jones

United Way Awardee Helps Feed Residents in Need

Hess Corporation once again proved itself to be a good neighbor to the people of Middlesex County when it collected 19,000 pounds—or 9.5 tons—of food to be distributed through the county food bank.

No other company in the 14-year history of Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services (M.C.F.O.O.D.S.) has run such a successful campaign nor even come close.

The incredible drive last November and the corporation's continued support of the county food bank earned Hess the distinction of being named a 2008 Hometown Hero by the Central New Jersey United Way.

"Hess Corporation always responds to the immediate and changing needs of the hungry in Middlesex County," said Jennifer Apostol, M.C.F.O.O.D.S. coordinator, who nominated Hess for the award. "The competitive nature of their most recent drive, along with leadership from the company executives, set them apart from any of the other businesses that have run food drives for M.C.F.O.O.D.S."

M.C.F.O.O.D.S. is operated by the Middlesex County Improvement Authority (MCIA) with support from Middlesex County.

Apostol said she put out an urgent call for food donations last fall. Hess executives stepped up to the plate, she said, initiating a friendly competition

with another county-based company and also starting an interdepartmental competition at its Woodbridge headquarters.

In two weeks, the Hess employees collected enough food to fill 380 green M.C.F.O.O.D.S. collection bins, each holding about 50 pounds of food.

"Their very generous donations helped to keep our shelves stocked through the winter months, when we are usually desperate for donations," Apostol said. "Their efforts also raise community awareness about our program that inspires future contributions or volunteer activities by others."

M.C.F.O.O.D.S. is the county's centralized food bank that distributes non-perishable foods and personal items to 65 local food pantries, soup kitchen and other emergency food provides throughout the county. About 25 other agencies, including residential facilities, shelters, social service agencies, programs for women and children, senior citizen housing

facilities and other outreach services, also use M.C.F.O.O.D.S. stock.

Each year, about 140 tons of food is collected through a number of corporate and organizational food drives, individual donations and permanent drop-off sites located at libraries and other public buildings throughout the county.

The annual Spring Schools Food Drive just ended, bringing in about 50 tons of food from 161 public and private schools. Next up is the annual Letter Carrier's Food Drive, a coordinated effort between the MCIA and local members of the National Association of Letter Carriers from the New Brunswick, North Brunswick and Highland Park post offices.

M.C.F.O.O.D.S. is always looking for volunteers to stock shelves and sort donations at its warehouse on Jersey Avenue in New Brunswick.

To organize a drive, make an individual donation or volunteer, please call Jennifer Apostol at (609)409-5033.

NOTES FROM The Senior Center

by Joann Graf, Director of Office on Aging

The South Plainfield Senior Center is offering a selection of trips over the coming months which are open to all South Plainfield residents. We have trips to Atlantic City on the first Wednesday to Taj Mahal and the third Thursday to the Claridge every month. The cost is \$20 which is returned to you in coin and food credits. Advance reservations are required.

On July 24 we will have a trip to Hunteon Hills Playhouse to see their summer musical, "Let The Good Times Roll!" Enjoy a great meal, desert buffet, a great on-stage band, resplendent costumes and terrifically talented cast. The cost is \$65.

This fall, we have a four-night mid-week trip to Woodloch Pines Resort in the Poconos. The trip departs on

Monday, October 27 and returns Friday, October 31. The cost is \$525 based on double occupancy. Single rooms are \$605 and triples are \$516 per person. The trip includes transportation from the Senior Center; four nights hotel accommodations; breakfast, lunch and dinner daily; hotel taxes and gratuities; all resort activities; and nightly entertainment. This is Woodloch's 50th anniversary so you can count on special activities and shows throughout the week. Reservations are now open. Only a \$100 per person deposit is needed to book your room.

For further information and to make your reservations, please call the Senior Center at (908) 754-1047 or stop by Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Jaclynn Ferraro Receives UNICO's Brian Piccolo Award

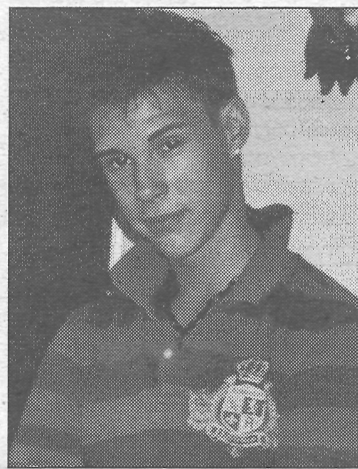


Robert Bengivena, Jr. presents the Brian Piccolo Award to Jaclynn A. Ferraro, daughter of South Plainfield Police Chief John Ferraro.

The 33rd Annual Brian Piccolo Sports Award Program, held on May 4 at Snuffy's, was sponsored by UNICO National NJ District X. Council President Robert Bengivena Jr. presented the award on behalf of the Plainfields Chapter of UNICO to Jaclynn A. Ferraro, daughter of South Plainfield Police Chief John Ferraro.

The Brian Piccolo Award is given to students of Italian heritage who are high school seniors for their outstanding athletic determination, along with their high academic standing.

UNICO is the largest Italian-American service organization in the country.



Kevin Garman

Kevin Garman Enlists with U.S. Marine Corps

Kevin Garman has joined the Marines. He is scheduled to leave for Paris Island, S.C. on May 27.

Kevin is a graduate of South Plainfield High School Class of 2007.

He is the son of Frances Rogers and Edward Marski. Kevin has two brothers, Lce. Cpl. Shawn Garman, who is stationed at Camp Lejuene, N.C. and Brian Marski of South Plainfield.

Share Your Good News... Send us your Milestones!

Mail or E-mail your milestones to 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; spobserver@comcast.com.

Christine Marie Niland and Brendan English Gaynor Wed

Christine Marie Niland and Brendan English Gaynor exchanged wedding vows on March 28 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in West Nyack, N.Y. Msgr. Edward Weber officiated the double-ring wedding ceremony and Mass. Following the ceremony the couple celebrated with family and friends at the Clubhouse at Patriot Hills.

The bride is the daughter of Joan and Michael Niland of New City, N.Y. She graduated from Clarkstown South High School in 2000 and Rutgers College in 2004.

The groom is the son of Jack Gaynor and Rita English of South



Mr. & Mrs. Brendan English Gaynor

Plainfield. He graduated from South Plainfield High School in 1999 and Rutgers College in 2003.

Following a honeymoon in the Caribbean, the pair now reside in South Plainfield.

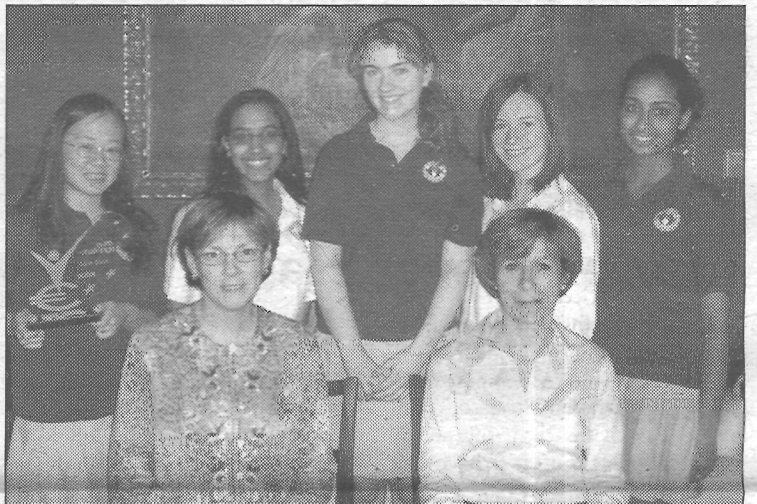
Mount Saint Mary Students Win Scholarships at Euro Challenge

Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung sent five students to compete in this year's Euro Challenge competition for ninth and tenth grade students.

The only all-female team in the competition, the students placed third, winning \$3,750 in scholarship money.

The student team was composed of Ashley Davis of Colonia, Maryam Gonzalez of Perth Amboy, Leah Geoghan of Westfield, Alannah Heffernan of Warren and Kristen Shiu of South Plainfield. The faculty advisor, Kathleen Brennan, is chair of the Mathematics Department and teaches economics. Brennan was assisted by Alicia Iacono, chair of the Social Studies Department.

For the competition, teams selected one country that has adopted the Euro and has an economic challenge and made a presentation on that problem. The students chose Italy and used the format of an Italian TV show. They also took part in a question and an-



L to R (standing): Kristen Shiu, Maryam Gonzalez, Alannah Heffernan, Leah Geoghan, Ashley Davis. Seated: Alicia Iacono and Kathleen Brennan.

swer session about the European economy and the euro. The euro is the primary currency of 15 of the 27 countries of the European Union.

The competition took place on April 18 at Credit Suisse in N.Y.C. The

Mount competed against 47 teams from various states and won a place in the final round held at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York on April 29. The top four teams competed in the final round.

Silver & Gold Dinner Celebrates Volunteers

The Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council paid tribute to over 60 of its finest volunteers and friends during the Silver and Gold Dinner held on April 29 at Snuffy's Pantagis Renaissance in Scotch Plains.

Seven men and women came away with the Emerald Award, the highest honor that can be bestowed on any adult volunteer in the realm of GSWRC.

South Plainfield honorees were

Patty Duffy, Dana Milane, Sue Piro and Kathie Pittenger, who received the Appreciation Pin and Michele Billich and Linda Kelly, who received the Honor Pin. □□□□

Founded in 1957, GSWRC proudly delivers the optimal Girl Scout experience to nearly 11,000 girls and adults in 25 communities.

For more information, visit www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts.

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12TH ANNUAL JAMES AND DORIS BOYLE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date: June 7, 2008 TIME: 1:00 PM COST: \$150

PLACE: Heron Glen Golf Course - 110 HWY 202 & 31, Ringoes, NJ

SHOTGUN BEST BALL FORMAT

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South Plainfield High School Middle States Planning Team

The South Plainfield High School Middle States Planning Team consists of the high school principal, advisors and school staff, students, Board of Education members and members of the community.

The chief purpose of the accreditation process is the improvement of education for our youth by evaluating the degree in which our school has attained outcomes set by our staff and community. This is accomplished by conducting a comprehensive self-evaluation of the total school. Through the accreditation process, the school seeks the validation of its self-evaluation by obtaining professional judgement from impartial outsiders on the effectiveness of the total school operations. Accreditation is the affirmation that our school provides a quality of education that the community has a right to expect and the education world endorses.

When the Commission on Secondary Schools accredits a school, it certifies that the school has met the prescribed qualitative standards of the Middle States Association within the terms of the school's own stated philosophy and objective.

The intent throughout the process is more than to focus on shortcomings; the chief goal is to seek remedies for inadequacies and to identify and nurture good practices.

Accreditation of a secondary school is on an institutional basis. The whole school, not just one program, such as

the college preparatory courses, is covered by the accreditation. Some of the benefits of accreditation encompass a greater clarity of purpose, stronger internal relationships, wider professional participation, more effective methods of planning for school improvements and improved consistency between educational purpose and practices.

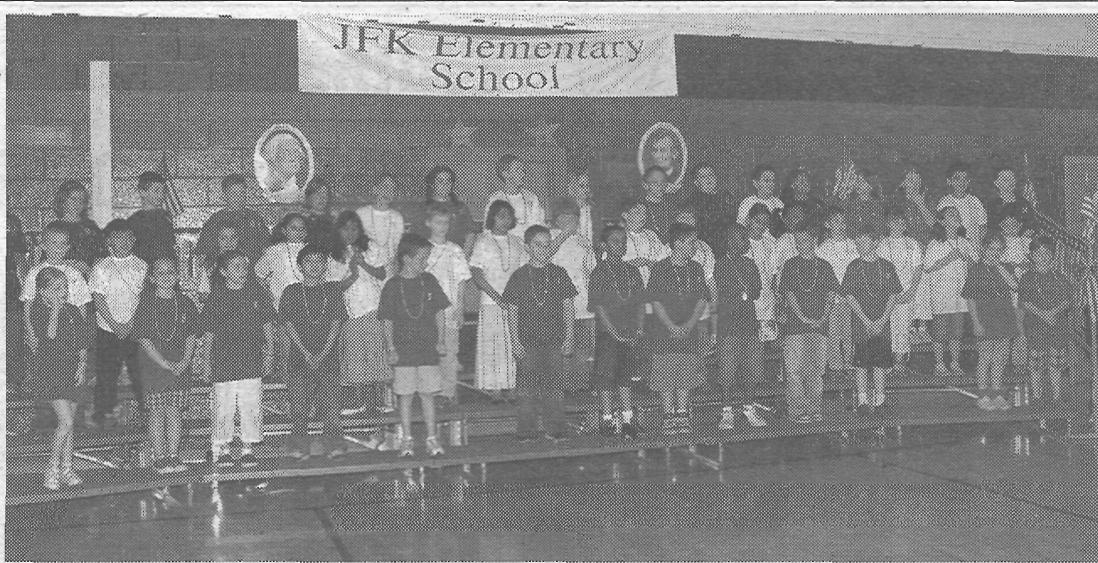
Involvement in an ongoing accreditation protocol fosters excellence and ongoing improvement in our school. The question is how we will assure continuous school improvement? Accreditation provides a systematic process that requires a school to establish a vision of its future and to determine specific objectives for reaching that vision.

The accreditation process examines the entire school, its philosophy and goals, its community, its programs and services, the facilities and financial stability. Accreditation requires a school to establish and implement a five year improvement plan, which identifies areas of strength and areas for improvements in the current educational program, insight and perspective from the evaluation team and regular staff assessment of progress during the intervening years between full studies.

Accreditation provides opportunities for grass roots, broad-based involvement of stakeholders in charting the direction of the school.

The Middle State Team is presently in the borough for their evaluation.

Submitted by Debbie Boyle and Carol Byrne, BOE Members



Kennedy Students Honor Grandparents

By Jane Dornick

Kennedy School third grade students held their annual Grandparent's Day recently. The morning included a breakfast buffet and fun activities with their grandparents or "special friends."

This year's theme was patriotic. The tables and gymnasium were decorated in red, white and blue. The PTSO raffled off baskets and everyone had their picture taken and framed to memorialize the event. The children were able to introduce their loved ones to their teachers and show them their classrooms. Students performed a variety of songs expressing their love and admiration for the special people in their lives.



Camp Hoover Has Something For Everyone

Camp Hoover, the Summer Resident Camp of the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council, is the perfect place for young campers to have their

first overnight camp experience. With youngsters in mind, Camp Hoover is offering A Little Camp Fun, Mini-Camp and Grand Tour.

Open to girls entering grades 1-3 in the fall, A Little Camp Fun runs from Thursday through Saturday. Campers will enjoy a sample of activities including swimming, arts and crafts, games, hiking and a cookout. Mini Camp is available to girls entering grades 2-5 as of the fall and runs from Sunday through Wednesday. Campers will get to experience all that the 340-acre camp has to offer.

To learn more or register, call (908) 232-3236, ext. 1213 or consult www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts.

Grant Drama Club Rehearsing "Oklahoma! Jr."

The Grant School Drama Club is busy rehearsing for their production of "Oklahoma! Jr." The show takes place on Wednesday, May 21 and Thursday, May 22. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. for both nights. The Drama Club will also be performing for their classmates during the school day on Wednesday and Thursday.

The musical "Oklahoma!" first appeared on Broadway in 1943, and was the first musical to use dance and ballet to help tell a story. The students are having a great time learning how to square dance and other forms of dance for the play. The music was composed by Rodgers & Hammerstein, so the show includes the classic songs

"Oh What A Beautiful Morning," "People Will Say We're In Love" and, of course, "Oklahoma!"

Tickets are available for \$3 and can

be purchased in advance or at the door. For more information, please call Grant School at (908) 754-4620.

Riley School Kindergarten Orientation

John E. Riley School Kindergarten Orientation signup will be held on Wednesday, May 14 from 3 to 3:45 p.m. and 7 to 7:45 p.m. in the Riley School lobby.

The cost for the program is \$3 which covers the cost for one craft and snack time for all three days.

Only children entering John E. Riley School Kindergarten in September 2008 are welcome to join us to explore

the school, meet the teachers and staff and take a brief bus ride in town.

The program offers two sessions (the a.m. session from 9-11 a.m. and the p.m. session from noon-2 p.m.), and runs for three consecutive Wednesdays as follows: Wednesday, May 21, Wednesday, May 30 and Wednesday, June 4.

For more information call (908) 754-4620, ext. 344.

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Information reported in a Statewide Market study conducted by Belden Associates for New Jersey Press Association.

Volunteer Litter Cleanup Bags Heaps of Trash

The weather forecast predicted thunderstorms, but South Plainfield's fearless volunteers came out anyway during the week of April 12-19 to wage war against trash. Volunteer Litter Pickup Day turned out dry and mild, and the Pickup Picnic at the PAL Building was held outdoors following a morning of pulling litter out of shrubs and mud. Mayor Butrico was on hand to read his Volunteer Litter Cleanup Week Proclamation. This year, he recognized long-time friends of the Clean Communities program. He gave certificates of appreciation to the Kurlands of Hometown Heros, who donate a six-foot sub for the picnic each year, to Rick Patel of Krausz's for donating soda, to Yasir Elseht

of Bruno's Pizza Factory for discounted pizza and to Rick McCrisky of McCrisky-Gustafson Home For Funerals, for donating the cost of the pizza.

Mayor Charlie Butrico also distributed certificates of accomplishment to the thirteen businesses and individuals who currently participate in the Adopt-A-Spot program. Other highlights of the picnic included a visit from MCBBlue, the Middlesex County Recycling Robot. MCBBlue entertained the children and taught them about the hows and whys of recycling.

The piles of orange bags around town bore witness to the dedication of the volunteers as well as to the thoughtlessness of fellow citizens who

left the litter for others to clean up. Pinto Brothers and the Borough's recycling program groundskeepers shared the job of collecting and disposing of the trash.

By the end of the week, cleanup reports had come in for twenty-eight locations, including parks, roadsides, streams and vacant lots. Over 200 people cleaned five miles of road and 60 acres of public land. They filled 198 orange bags. They picked up an estimated 4.9 tons of trash and 400 pounds of recyclable litter. They spent about 480 hours doing this. While the Borough can take pride in this accomplishment, the Clean Communities Advisory Board would prefer to see an end to littering.



Several staff members from Central Jersey Federal Credit Union pitched in to clean up South Plainfield on Sunday, April 13 during "Litter Clean-Up Week." The staff was appointed the area of Metuchen Road past Belmont Avenue.

IN MY OPINION

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

(Continued from page 2)

Kurland of Hometown Heros, Nick Patel of Krausz's, Yasir Elseht of Bruno's Pizza Factory and Rick McCrisky of McCrisky-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Volunteer Litter Removers:

Belmont Avenue, Metuchen Road-Democratic Organization: Charles Butrico, Chrissy Buteas, Vincent Buttiglieri, Patrick Diegnan, Joe Diegnan, Dan Gallagher, Raymond Petronko, Franky Salerno and Joe Scrudato.

Cedarbrook Avenue stream, Morris Avenue-Roseo Family: Lisa Roseo and Lucy Roseo.

Clinton Avenue Extension-Timber Creek Landscaping: Brian Mazellan and Don Mazellan.

Cotton Street Park-Brownie Troop 8: Erica Cieszkiewicz, Donna Cieszkiewicz, Natalie Garcia, Irma Garcia, Dana Milane, Quinn Milane, Julia Petrick, Kaitlyn Piro, Susan Piro, Christine Shawiak and Danny Shawiak.

Franklin School storm grate area-Residents Coleen Benwell, Nicole Benwell, Robert Benwell and Caitlyn Driscoll.

Franklin School grounds and perimeter-Tom Berry and 25 people from Cub Scout Pack 207.

Hamilton Blvd. along Rt. 287-Tim McConville and four other members of the Republican Organization.

Helen Street, Coolidge St., Durham Avenue, Hadley Road-25 people from the Middlesex County Work Crew Labor Assistance Program.

Highland Woods Nature Reserve-Debra Leporino and Andrew Ohriska representing A New Fitness, and Girl Scout Troop 431, Linda Kelly and others.

Kenneth and Spicer avenues-Key-

stone Vocational Program: Mable Bates, Keona Esannason, Corie Evans, Tosha Nelson, Shirilyn Waugh, Gearis Williams, Timmy Archibald, Jay Deep Chukraborty, Jeanene Clements, Eddie Crespo, David Doublesin, Daniel Estrin, Louie Galloni, Robert Gaydos, David Goldman, Eric Greene, Arthur Hamilton, Fred Henderson, Joseph Kedzierski, Fred Manuel, Daniel Resnick, Anthony Robinson, Wayne Sroka and Glen Wright.

Kenneth Avenue ball fields and stream corridor-Marnie Marrone and three others.

Lakeview overpass-Stillman Photography Services for the South Plainfield Business Association: Tom Stillman, Donna Jackson and Barbara Jackson.

Metuchen Road-Central Jersey Federal Credit Union: Kelly Stashko, Peggy March, Susan Martinez, Joyce Signorelli and Jane Wallace.

New Brunswick Avenue-Harris Realty and two employees.

New Market Avenue-Wesley United Methodist Church: Don Palmer, Michelle Biggs, Dave Hartpence, Wayne Johnson, Carolyn Kowalski, Paula Kowalski, Connie Palmer, Dave Walter and Ellie Wilson.

Oak Tree open space parcel-Environmental Commission: Jim Schmidt.

Pitt Street Park woods-Girl Scout Troop 843: Liz Nolt, Cynthia Goyes, Caitlin Nolt, Katie Simonds, Maggie Simonds and Dominique Schoen.

Plainfield Avenue, site of future library and Ralph Avenue across from Quick Chek-Girl Scout Troop 2: Christa Reineke, Zoe Falcone and Sara Reineke.

Putnam Park-Cub Scout Pack 324: Scott Waters and others.

Riley School area-Cub Scout Pack 224: Dana Milane, Gavin Apgar, Alex Ardito, Tyler Billian, Brad Butler, Jonathan Conrad, Liam Glynn, Alex Kelly, Joseph Kelly, Sean McConville, Michael Menkin, Owen Milane, John O'Brien, Scott O'Brien, Dion Pender, Divon Pender, Nicholas Ramos, Sean Ramos, Daniel Sprenger and 14 other people.

Tyler Road-Environmental Commission: Marc Stenersen, and other residents: John Bosse, Suzanne Bosse, Tim Gray, Stacie Moore and Denell Timpanaro.

Veterans Park-Girl Scout Troop 745:

Diane Pender, Zarra Harris, James Moore, Diana Pender, Diamond Pender, Dion Pender and Divon Pender.

Walnut Street Park-Boy Scout Troop 309: Jeff Pauls, Ray Coletta, Bill Conrad, James Conrad, Matthew Frank, Logan Green, Gwenn Kurlew, Troy Kurlew, Don Manning, Matthew Manning, Joey Miller, Tom Walsh and William Walsh.

Woodland Avenue-Residents Debbie Boyle, April Bengivenga, Bob Bengivenga, Dick Franks and Jose Mercado.

I again thank all of the volunteers as well as those whose names I have not yet received. And the CCAB also thanks the *South Plainfield Observer* for providing thorough coverage of all our Clean Communities Programs and for serving as an advocate for a clean, healthy environment in the Borough.

**SINCERELY,
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Prodigal Foundation, Inc. Holds Eighth Annual Scholarship Dinner

George Yuhasz, president/founder of Prodigal Foundation, Inc., announced that the 8th Annual Scholarship Dinner will be held on Tuesday, June 17 at the Colonia Country Club.

A scholarship application has been mailed out to all high schools throughout Middlesex County. See your guidance counselor or principal for an application. You can also obtain a copy of the application by sending an E-mail to eprodical@comcast.net. The scholarship application deadline is May 23.

Prodigal Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to reaching out to children affected by cancer. "Establishing scholarships for high school seniors who have had their lives adversely affected by cancer is one of our Missions and Goals," stated George Yuhasz. "We

invite all high school seniors that have had their lives affected by cancer to apply for our scholarship. The student will write an essay explaining the challenges that they faced in their experience which could be their own or from a family member's experience and how it affected them."

In addition to the scholarship recipients Prodigal Foundation, Inc. will present Distinguished Community Leader Awards to individuals throughout the state who have demonstrated unique efforts in helping children affected by cancer.

If interested in tickets to the dinner, placing an ad in the ad book or making a scholarship donation, contact us at (732) 636-9200, E-mail us at eprodical@comcast.net or visit us on the Web at www.prodigalfoundation.com.

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Sports

SOCCER

Submitted by Chris Paez

Bullets Ruin the Rockets

On what turned out to be a gorgeous day, the boys U-14 traveling soccer team defeated the Rockets from East Brunswick 4-0 last Sunday. The Bullets dominated the entire game, giving only one shot on goal to their opponents. So far the team is undefeated this season and they are working hard in reaching their goal of staying that way. The first goal of the game was scored by Alex Valladares only a few minutes into the first half. Jimmy Gerber and Ryan Marcoux each scored goals a short time later, giving the Bullets a 3-0 score at halftime. Ryan Riccardi scored the last goal of the game

in the second half from the side of the field. The fabulous footwork and communication by the rest of the Bullets' team, which includes David Forero, Jose Cruz, Shaun Alers, Edgar Callegas, Kevin Flanagan, Zach Noll, Anthony Quadrel, Jelani Ptah, Marc Paez, Austin Jenkin and Tony Franczak, resulted in a job well done. Their next game is away on Sunday against Somerset Hills. Wish them luck! Also on behalf of the entire soccer club, we would like to thank everyone who attended the comedy show and supported our club!

Arsenal Stays at the Top of their Game

Last Sunday the U-9 boys traveling soccer team took on the Eagles from Clark and beat them with a score of 4-2. This game was a little more exciting than the rest because one of the players from Clark is the nephew of Arsenal's head coach. This didn't stop Arsenal from going after the win. The weather finally cooperated with the team as they pressured Clark up and down the field with their continued determination to stay at the top of their flight. The teamwork the play-

ers demonstrate every week just keeps getting stronger. The first two goals of the game were scored by Caleb Kuberiet. After a quick come back by the opposition in the third quarter, Ricky Pellegrino and Alec Paez scored two more goals in the fourth quarter to give Arsenal their 4-2 win. They couldn't have done it without the great work from their teammates which include Tyler Curtis, Jake Smith, Samardhi Jeedigunta, Jake Hoffman, Nicholas Plate, Jake Giordano, Nicholas Pezzolla, Jose Arrubla, Jason Cieszkiewicz and Jared Marks. Arsenal is playing away in Bridge-water on Sunday. Wish them luck! Also tryouts for the Fall 2008/Spring 2009 season are the week of May 19 at the Kenneth Avenue soccer fields. Come on down and see what the soccer club is all about.

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SPHS GOLF TEAM

Submitted by Mike Kavka

Team Wins Two, Qualifies For State Tournament

On April 28 the Tigers were rained out of their match with Bishop Ahr on the Oak Ridge Golf Course. Both teams were relieved when the coaches agreed that it was not the day to play golf, even if the course was open.

On April 29 they traveled to Tamarack where the Tigers beat Sayer-ville 178-193, led by J.R. Licato's 43. The highlight of the match occurred on the first hole where some of the players saw a large banded water snake catch a large frog and try to swallow it. The frog got away and the snake swam in the opposite direction.

The team returned to Tamarack on May 1 for a match with North Brunswick. The Tigers won 181-196. This time Richie Szeliga fired a 43 to lead the Tigers. This week they played Woodbridge, Johnson Ray and Woodbridge again.



Ryan Smith



Matt Lytle

Submitted By Bob Nilan

John Cacciatore kept his booming drives in the fairways and played the par three's in fine fashion on his way to a 37 to lead the Hackers to a convincing 15-5 win over Unique Sports Accessories. Cacciatore got good support from Bill Mann who had a 38 and Curtis Melton who posted a 39. With back-to-back victories, the Hackers now sit in first place in the American Division.

Jack Todario had a 36 and Captain Chris Dillon registered a 38 for USA in a losing effort.

It didn't take long for Marty "Mr. Amazing" Van De Vaarst to shake the rust off his game as he fired a 37 to lead last season's champions, Pomovets, to a 12-8 triumph over Plainfield Animal Hospital. Andy Oravec of PAH had a nice round of 37, but he did not get much help from his teammates.

The match between Buy-Rite Liquors and Witty's was re-scheduled by mutual consent.

Over in the National Division, B-Datt Squad played very solidly with

all four golfers turning in rounds under 40. Tom McCreesh was the medalist with his 36, Matt Kurilew shot a 37, Dan McCreesh had a 38 and Sam Martin posted a 39. In prevailing over Sport & Social 13-7, B-Datt Squad improved its record to 2-0 and now has sole possession of first place.

Jeff Orth shot a terrific two-over 35, the low round of the night, to spark 2 Buds, 2 Dubes to a 16-4 pounding of Twin City. Jay Coppola's 36 earned the medal for Twin City.

Frank Weingart blasted some impressive tee shots on his way to a 36 to lead the Roughriders to a 13-7 victory over KC's Korner. Playing partner Andy "The Florida Feather" Hayward chipped in with a solid round of 38 as the Roughriders evened their record at 1-1.

Low scores for the night: Jeff Orth, 35; Jay Coppola, 36; Tom McCreesh, 36; Jack Todario, 36; John Cacciatore, 37; Matt Kurilew, 37; Andy Oravec, 37 and Marty Van DeVaarst, 37.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

American Division				National Division			
	W	L	T		W	L	T
Hackers	2	0	0	B-Datt Squad	2	0	0
Buy-Rite Liquors*	1	0	0	Twin City	1	1	0
Pomovets	1	1	0	Roughriders	1	1	0
USA	1	1	0	2 Buds, 2 Dubes	1	1	0
PAH	0	2	0	Sport & Social	1	1	0
Witty's*	1	0	0	KC's Korner	0	2	0

*Match to be re-scheduled.

Garden State Yankees Fielding Teams

The Garden State Yankees have been running an organization of multi-level teams since 1995. In years past, many of our players have gone on to play college baseball and a few have gone pro. Scouts and college recruiters have been at our games on occasion.

In 2008 the GS Yankees will field four separate high school and college-aged wood bat teams. Freshman 14U, JV 15U, Varsity 16-18U and college unlimited 18 and up. We are now holding tryouts to select ballplayers for each of these teams. Teams will play a very competitive A+ schedule of

league games and tournaments starting approximately June 14 and finishing approximately August 10. Home fields are based in Woodbridge, right off the N.J. Turnpike and most games are within 45 minutes of that base. Our teams do not interfere with school teams or American Legion team schedules. Eligible ages are 13 to 25 years old. Come join some of the best players from all parts of New Jersey. This is truly a state recruited team!

For more information and to register, please visit www.gardenstatebaseball.com, call (732) 382-4610 or E-mail johnsgbl@aol.com.

To find out what's happening in South Plainfield

Visit the borough's official web site at

southplainfieldnj.com

Mayor & Council • Borough Officials and Agencies • Meeting Dates • Police - Fire - Rescue Squad • Recreation • Senior Center • Upcoming Events • South Plainfield Business Association Listing • Community Bulletin Board • Yard & Garage Sales, Classifieds, Messages

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August 25 - August 29

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Credit Card# _____ Expiration Date _____ 3 Digit Security Code _____
Billing Address Zip Code _____ Contacts E-Mail Address _____
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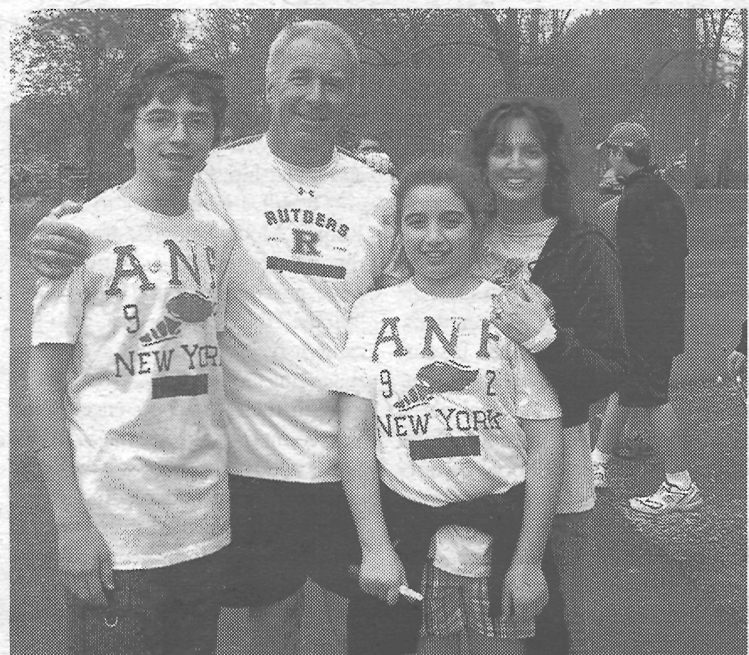
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Less Deposit \$ _____
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Coach "Cap" Reaches a Milestone: 50K Miles



Coach Cap with wife Gina and children, Michael, 14 and Alexandra, 11.

Michael Capizola, Coach "Cap," the boys cross country coach at SPHS since 1981, just ran his 50,000th mile at Spring Lake Park on April 26, accompanied by current and former runners, family and friends. The event took place at 4 p.m. with a group of about 40 runners and spectators.

Coach "Cap" began running as a sophomore at Rutgers College in January of 1972, inspired by the book "Aerobics" by Dr. Kenneth Cooper. He began increasing his mileage and eventually went from six miles a week to 35 miles a week. In 1977 he trained

for, and completed, the NYC Marathon. He has since completed five other marathons (two other NYC marathons, the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C., the Boston Marathon and the N.J. Waterfront Marathon) and countless shorter races.

A high school math teacher since 1974, he was hired in 1980 to teach in South Plainfield High School and in 1981 was hired to be the boys cross country coach. He has been coaching there ever since, running a great number of these miles with his team. The SPHS cross country team won the GMC White Division five times since 1999; it seems that the slower "Cap" gets, the faster his team gets.

As life is always full of changes and challenges, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer in February 2007. In April of 2007, he had his prostate removed at Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York City. While this procedure is life altering, it did not change his love for running. After taking off six weeks as per his surgeon's instruction, Cap was back running, although it was like starting over from day one. He is now back to the normal weekly mileage he has been doing since 1975; slightly more or less, 32 miles per week.

Costantino Appointed

(Continued from page 1)

violations clerk; Savitree Ramrup is senior documents clerk and Dawn Daponte is the documents clerk.

The administrative staff enables cases including traffic, parking and criminal complaints at the municipal level which are heard by Municipal Judge Spenser Robbins when court is in session on Wednesdays.

The position of deputy court administrator has not yet been filled.

Vargo encouraged Costantino to take classes and earn credits to be certified as a court administrator.

"I had to go to Trenton to take the classes. Now classes are given throughout the state making it easier to get to a location closer than Trenton," said Costantino. "There are always classes to take."

On May 9 she will attend an FBI class on how to recognize counterfeit currency. Another class in June will be on domestic violence awareness. Most classes are available through the Office of the Court.

As municipal court administrator, one of her jobs is to set the schedule for court appearances. Most of the

business of the court revolves around traffic summons, and when they are ignored, they become warrants subject to bail.

Walk into Borough Hall on a Wednesday when court is in session and you will see people lined up who are either directed to see the judge or given another date if the case requires witnesses.

"We try to keep everything moving," she said. "It's very important for any community to have the laws followed to keep everyone safe, for the safety of all citizens. The most important thing for everyone is to recognize that everyone has to follow the law," she added.

Costantino enjoys the work she does. "It's different from day to day." When she relaxes after work it's with a crime novel by favorite authors Janet Evonovitch or James Paterson.



Karen Costantino, Municipal Court Administrator

Obituaries

Sandra Eleazar, 72

Sandra Eleazar of South Plainfield passed away on Monday, April 28 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

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

Doris C. Bennett, 80

Doris C. Bennett died on Saturday, May 3 at Genesis Eldercare-The Woodlands in Plainfield. Born and raised in Plainfield, she was a lifelong resident of the city.

Doris retired in 1996 as a payroll clerk at National Starch Co. in Plain-

field after 35 years of employment. An avid longtime bowler, she bowled in various leagues in the Plainfield area and particularly, leagues at Strike N' Spare and the former Somerset Lanes.

She was predeceased by two sisters, Elsie Bennett and Margie Day and a brother, Richard Bennett, who was killed in action during WWII.

Surviving are three sisters, Patricia Cash of Maryland, Linda Croucher and Charlotte Saylor, both of Kentucky; two brothers, Norman Bennett of Costa Mesa, Calif. and Joseph Bennett of Kentucky, along with numerous nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

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

Joseph F. Szypula, 79

Joseph F. Szypula of Lakewood passed away on Wednesday, April 30 at Ocean County Medical Center in Brick.

Mr. Szypula was born in Elizabeth and resided in South Plainfield before moving to Lakewood in 1984.

Joseph served in The United States Army Corp of Engineers during the Korean War and at the time of his discharge. He was a staff sergeant.

Mr. Szypula was the borough engineer for South Plainfield and retired from the federal government in Fort Monmouth where he was employed as a professional civil engineer.

Joseph was a member of The Soci-

ety of Professional Engineers.

Mr. Szypula was predeceased by his beloved wife, Elizabeth Trum Szypula, who passed away in 2002.

Joseph is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Stephen J. and Debra Szypula of Grass Lake, Mich.; a daughter, Elaine Szypula of Hawthorne and two grandsons, Joseph S. Szypula and Jeffrey M. Szypula.

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

The family kindly requests that in lieu of flowers memorial contributions be made in Mr. Szypula's name to The Humane Society, 124 Evergreen Ave., Newark, N.J. 07114-2133.

Got a Story to Tell?
Call the Observer
news desk at
908-668-4371.

ELLEN ELIZABETH YURICK
Oct. 6, 1938 ~ Nov. 9, 2007
Our 1st Mother's Day without Mom.

We miss you Mom so very much & you will always be in our hearts. We think about you always & wish you were still here. We are happy that we had so many years with you & we know that you've given us your love and you've given us so much happiness back. We couldn't have asked for a more loving mother Who gave so unselfishly... Like no other. We'll miss you so much all through the years! And at holiday time we'll shed many tears. But we know where you are Mom, You are up there with Jesus, Who never forsakes us and never will leave us. He'll comfort us now as we miss your touch, For He knows how we loved you so very much Be happy there Mom, and don't worry about us. We'll help each other without making a fuss. We'll be okay Mom... we'll see you again, Up there in Heaven... only He knows when.

Let us always remember the light and joy she had brought to those around her. Forever loved, she will be missed.

Your loving husband Francis;
children, Barbara and husband Joey,
Patricia and husband Jim,
John and wife Mariah;
grandchildren, Tabitha, Mathew,
Indiana, Sahara and Driman.

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Sacred Heart students jump in the name of the heart.

Sacred Heart Students Jump for the Heart

Fourth through eighth grade Sacred Heart School students recently participated in the school's Jump-A-Thon for Heart.

Students had a great time jumping-out in the parking lot-and then in the gym. Their efforts raised over \$3,600 which will be sent to the American Heart Association, an organization that Sacred Heart has supported for many years through the jump-a-thon.

Physical Education teacher Debbie Fusco organizes the annual event, which this year included a hall of fame where hearts adorned the school's main corridor wall along with names of those for whom the students were jumping.

Representatives from the American Heart Association were on hand for part of this activity and were pleased at the number of students participating.

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Students Speak Out in Congress

(Continued from page 1)

ranging from ethanol subsidies to the privatization of public highways and Social Security reform to the implications of online prostitution. Simulating the procedures of Congress and the Senate, these specialized committees allowed students to act as senators and congressmen by employing the art of compromise and concession and taking the interests of their constituencies into account.

The SPMUN club kicked off their spring break by attending this conference. Packing their suitcases and duffel bags with the essentials—ties, blazers and two-inch research binders—the 13 delegates from South Plainfield spent the next four days emulating the everyday agendas of the nation's elected by debating, caucusing and making bills.

"My partner, Kirsten, came over a few days before the conference and practiced debating about the topic," said Susan Tian, whose Committee on Small Business dealt with the issue of healthcare reform and disaster relief. "She would assume the role of a Republican and argue with me about certain facts and proposals."

Delegates from South Plainfield were required to familiarize themselves with a "wide spectrum of research" so that they would be able to "fully understand the aspects of the topic."

Other students who attended the conference included freshman Michelle Hernandez; sophomores Holly McDede, Elizabeth Balon, Julie Stilo, Filipe Rodriguez, Shamrin Ghai, Manraj Singh; juniors Kirsten Nuber, Michael Pachytel, Jeremiah Magpile and seniors Amanda Alemzohu and Shivana Maraj. Representing the state of California, these students were required to write research papers about their respective topics prior to the conference and gather enough informa-

tion to sustain an average of 20 hours of debate. As California Democrats and Republicans, the students were tasked with portraying the goals, values and interests of both their political parties and constituents. During their respective committee sessions, which each usually lasted three to four hours, students collaborated with other delegates in an attempt to solve the issues presented in their committees.

"The real challenge when it came to writing bills was a compromise," according to Michael Pachytel whose Committee on Oversight and Reform discussed the issue of Social Security reform and defense contract accountability. "Even though you are representing a certain party and constituency with your legislation, compromise may cause you to sway from your original intentions just to get the bill passed."

In Pachytel's committee, for example, he had to concede the creation of tax brackets for the rich in order to pass legislation which involved the re-vamping of the current Social Security fund. Negotiations, however, played a vital role in the Model Congress experience. The obstacles that students experienced in writing bills depicted the everyday challenges that elected officials tackle and reflected the complexity of the issues that they are forced to answer.

Meeting other high school students to discuss issues relevant to today's society was a great opportunity for South Plainfield students to learn how states, businesses and people achieve their varying goals as actors in a federal society. With the conference theme focusing on a variety of interests, backgrounds and political ideologies that thrive under the local, state and federal levels of government, participating students were able to attain a firsthand experience of the democratic po-

litical process that serve as the basis of the United States government. In addition to a reinforced familiarity with the democratic system, participants also exercised their communication and leadership skills.

"Overall, I would have to say that Rutgers Model Congress was one of the most rewarding activities that I have participated in," said Tian. "Model UN is such a great club because it really opens your eyes up to the events around you."

With their last conference of the year coming to a close, the SPMUN hopes to carry the success of their past conferences into succeeding years. They have already participated in three conferences including the Rutgers Model United Nations conference held in November of 2007 and the Cherry Hill East Model United Nations conference held last March. The club has also successfully sponsored fundraisers for their trips including a Guitar Hero tournament and car wash last March. In June, the club plans to visit the United Nations headquarters as well as the Philippine and Sudanese Missions in New York City. Only in their first year as a club, SPMUN has been very active.

When asked about the future of the Model United Nations Club at South Plainfield, Shah could only respond positively. For Shah, "seeing the growth in the students from conference to conference in terms of their preparation, confidence and ability to articulate" was heartening. As the program at the high school becomes better established, he plans for the club to attend conferences outside of New Jersey so that the students can "see something new and experience something different." Shah, along with other history teachers, also plans on creating a Model United Nations course in the high school designed to teach international studies and the intricacies of living in a globalized world.

"There is definitely a desire for Model UN as a course," he says. "There is a long, hard task in making it happen, but there is a desire for it."

Members of the club are highly enthusiastic about the idea of creating a Model United Nations course. For them and for future members of SPMUN, the creation of this class would only mean more successful conferences, more learning experiences and more awards.

—Submitted by Jeremiah Magpile

Friends of the Woods Guided Tour at Highland Avenue Reserve

The public is invited on a guided tour of Highland Avenue Woods Environmental Education Reserve on Saturday, May 3 at 1 p.m. with Dr. Alice Tempel, South Plainfield's environmental specialist.

Join the Friends of the Woods as we look at the emerging spring wildflowers and ferns, and search for migratory songbirds returning from southern climes. The Nature Center will be open for an hour after the tour

concludes so the public can view the exhibits. Meet at the Nature Center parking lot on Sylvania Place off South Clinton Avenue (turn at Lombardi Traffic Striping Co.).

The free program requires no pre-registration. Pouring rain cancels. Bring binoculars.

For further information, contact spnaturetrails@verizon.net.

Submitted by Dorothy Miele, Friends of the Woods President

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Courier News	1,886
Star Ledger	2,600
The Observer	3,000

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Moretti Realty Holds Hamilton Commons Grand Opening

The grand opening for Hamilton Commons Condominiums, a mixed use community being developed in the downtown area on Hamilton Boulevard, was held on April 24 at Century 21 Moretti Realty. The project was greeted with great success.

Many of those who attended were able to hear the history of this project, as well as learn about the details and see floor plans of the 20 units being offered.

The project's developers, Hamilton Commons LLC, were in attendance

and were pleased to explain the project and how it will enhance the downtown of South Plainfield.

Pre-construction pricing and incentives have been offered. In addition to the condominiums, approximately 7,000 square feet of retail space will be offered for lease. Reservations for the units are now being accepted.

Call marketing agents Christine Lahey at (908) 755-5300 ext. 343 or Melissa Morehouse at ext. 331 for additional information and to set up appointments.



Developers Anthony Vizzoni and John Vizzoni describe the rendering of the Hamilton Commons project during the grand opening.

Audition Call for "Damn Yankees"

Auditions for the Summer Drama Workshop 2008 production of "Damn Yankees" will be held on Friday, May 30 and Monday, June 2 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Middle School. Auditions are open to all students who will complete sixth through 12th grade, and one year post-graduation.

A short dance routine will be taught (dance experience not necessary). Bring a prepared song (no songs from "Damn Yankees") and a non-returnable photo. You will also be given an opportunity to read from the script. If interested in crew or orchestra, come during auditions to register.

Middle School's Third Marking Period Honor Roll

8th Grade High Honor Roll

Asia Acevedo, Alexis Alba, Casey Butrico, Sabrina Delpiano, Amylin DiDario, Christine Geczy, Navneet Goraya, Michael Grzenda, Joshua Guirguis, Laine Harris, Rajath Kenath, Shianne Martinez, Nii Sackey Mills, Devang Patel, Ruchaben Patel, Stephen Petriello, Kathrine Podlovits, Jamie Quail, Ryan Riccardi, Payal Sindha, Alex Valladares, Albert Vill, Kathleen Vincent, Allison White.

8th Grade Honor Roll

Sofia Abd Elhady, Robert Aimone, Lanna Arki, Jared Aronowitz, Jackeline Barahona, Luis Benitez, Brendan Berry, Laura Biggs, Ashanti Bishop, Isaac Blanco, Jessica Bohn, Erika Buenano, Christina Butrico, James Butrico, Alexis Cargill, Hailey Carone, Roshni Chiluka, Janine Colicchio, Michael Connolly, Ken Criley, Nicole Daubert, Jake Dingler, Debby Donis, Dante Doxen.

Erica Fisher, Miranda Garcia, James Gerber, Jessica Giallanza, Khadijia Gilmore, Jamie Glavasich, Jessica Gomes, Shawn Gorman, Jack Green, Jy'neer Green, Joshua Guzman, Justin Harris, Tyler Herriott, Tyler Holoboski, Ryan Hughes, Tyler Hunt, Ehilea Jainarine, Krystian Januszko, Monika Jastrezebski, Austin Jenkin, Tamar Johnson, Tanya Joshi, Kenneth Kaczka, Brianna Kizmann, Joseph Krawiec, Troy Kurilew.

Stephen Lanza, Aimee Le, Vivian

Lee, Ashley Linick, Gina Longo, Guilermo Lopez, Kimberly Lozarito, Alexander Lundy, Frank Malecki III, Jennifer Marroquin, Jalyne McCoy, Victoria McKay, Michael McNeil, Sai Kumar Medicherla, Joseph Miller, Aubrey Nastarowicz, Christopher Neal, Brian Nguyen, Vyvian Nguyen.

Katherine O'Brien, Christopher O'Keefe, Kyle O'Keefe, Michelle O'Sullivan, Marc Paez, Jamie Pagdon-solan, Joseph Palazzo, Melissa Pasternak, Arpit Patel, Shivam Patel, Shivani Patel, Daven Persaud, Melissa Plasse, Jelani Ptah, Alyssa Ragno, Erika Ritchie, Nataly Rodriguez, Angela Sami, Andrew Sanchez, Teddy Mizael Sausa, Zachary Sbordone, Emily Sella, Brandon Shea, Joseph Skwiat, Marissa Smith, Raquan Southerland, Luke Sprenger, Katherine Staynings, Samuel Steingart.

John Tallman, Olga Tarnawska, Jennifer Tercek, Jessica Thompson, Amanda Tjong, Jade Tompkins, Matthew Valencia, Margaret Valentino, Lisa Vallone, Michael Vega, Jonathan Viola, Allison Wagner, Kelly Walsh, Allyson White.

7th Grade High Honor Roll

Anthony Ashnault, Danielle Butrico, Andrew Catalina, John Cotone, Allison Gorman, Nicholas Graves, Andrea Guerrero, Khyllah Jean, Paula Lasota, Jade McDonnough, Maggie McLean, Ankoor Patel, Amit Persaud, Hiren Rana, Brandon Shaw, Joshua

Siepmann, Angela Spadavecchia, Caroline Vill.

7th Grade Honor Roll

Alyssa Adamson, Joseph Affinito, Charles Anyamene, Sayyed Austin, Kevin Belanger, Nicole Benwell, Al-Sameen Bethea, Rina Bhalodi, Patrick Boyle, Kyle Brady, Nicholas Brinks, Ryan Buckelew, Kristel Buschan, Christopher Butrico, Tyler Calderone, Kayla Carigma, Anthony Celentano, Jenna Clemente, Quinn Cochrane, Meghan Collins, Christina Conroy, Shannah Conway, Joshua Coupe, Tyler Cruz.

Troy Davisson, Jesse Deffler, Michael DelGenio, John Didolce, Alex Dornick, Alexa Douras, Caitlyn Driscoll, Tara Dunn, Richard Duong, Jacqueline Dvorak, Catherine Emery, Taylor Estevez, Kristin Forbes, Matthew Frank, Cassidy Gillis, Steven Granados, Harshul Handa, Christopher Harrell, Troy Heilmann, Meghan Heim, Enber Hernandez, Jasmin Hernandez, Alec Hing, Zoya Hodge, Nicholas Huber, Samantha Hunte-rtton.

Kevin Jakaria, Sarah Johnson, Christina Kasmer, Samuel Knight, Nicole Kopchak, Brian Lopez, Gina Louise, Rian Lukacs, Deirdre Macchia, Jesse Masters, John McDonough, Shannon McMahon, Rebecca Moskal, Amber Mullens, Samantha Murtagh, Timothy O'Leary, Dylan Painton, Renee Parisi, Brandon Pauls, Jaclyn Pauls, Jeffrey Pellegrino, Joseph Pellegrino, Eduardo Perez, Emily Pittenger.

Christal Ramagado, Alison Ratti, Emily Reineke, Erin Remsing, Jonathan Reyes, Thomas Riccardi, Karen Rivera, Ashley Robjohns, Hayley Robjohns, Joshua Rochotte, Brianna Ross, Daniel Sanko, Raymond Santos Jr., Patrick Scaglione, Gerianne Scarpitto, Paul Seyffart, Emma Slotterback, Angelica Smith, Gabrielle Smith, Nicole Stanczak, Steven Timmerman, Jennifer Tran, Michael Uribe, Vera Viran, Wahid Walli, Kimberly Walsh.

Monday-Wednesday. Admission is \$3 per session per person. Thursday night is Cheap Skate Night. Admission is buy one, get one free. Discounted group admission rates are: \$2 per skater for groups of 50 or more and \$2.50 per skater for groups of 10 to 49. Skate rental is \$2.

For information, call (732) 494-2980 or visit www.co.middlesex.nj.us/parksrecreation.

Family Roller Skating Rink Opens

Residents of all ages and abilities can now take advantage of Middlesex County's open-air family roller skating rink in Roosevelt Park in Edison. The rink is open through June 29. It will be closed July and August and re-open September 4.

Hours of operation are Thursday and Friday, 5 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. and 5-9 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 3 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. and closed

SPHS Jerseyan Club Holds Cultural Heritage Day

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield High School Jerseyan Club recently held their annual Cultural Heritage Day.

In the span of a single class period, history classes had an opportunity to travel around the world.

Normally held in the library, this year's event was relocated to the gym. The move relieved the overcrowding, allowed easy access to the displays and food and the bleachers offered more seating. Entertainment ran throughout the day. Students

and teachers wore national costumes.

Displays from dozens of countries were featured on opposite walls. A world geography lesson ran on a screen. The event featured more than 300 hot and cold food dishes from different countries. Jerseyan Club members were kept busy lighting sterno pots and refilling food dishes.

Retired history teacher and former Jerseyan advisor, Anthony Barca, returned to help Advisor Fran Flannery with the event.

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Girl Scouts who attended Blueprints to Buildings.

Junior Girl Scouts Partner With USA Architects

Forty-five Junior Girl Scouts from throughout the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council's 25-community jurisdiction attended Blueprints to Buildings.

Sponsored and run by volunteers from USA Architects in Somerville, girls came away with the Architecture Badge. The event was held at the Morris Union Jointure Commission's Developmental Learning Center in Warren, a building created by USA Archi-

itects and is currently in use as a school for autistic children.

The girls gained firsthand knowledge about architecture from those responsible for planning and building the center. By touring the space, program participants also gained insight into the needs of autistic students. The girls were able to physically see the connection between form and function, while learning from the team of professionals who planned the center.

SHS Announces Honor Roll

4A-Principal's List-Algela German and Nicole Walker. **Honor Roll**-Joshua DeCastro, Laryssa Fee, Raymond Mercer, Lizelle Policarpio, Bryan Scipio, Lauren Yanick and Madison Zieger. **Most Improved**-Kayla Whitaker.

5A-Principal's List-Giovanna Nolan. **Honor Roll**-Shabey Joseph, Angela LoBosco, Morgan Miller, Savannah Miller, Virginia Novak and Elizah Rodriguez.

6A-Principal List-Rose Bach, Roxanne Lee and Kerri Salvatore. **Honor Roll**-Patrick Bogart, Juliana Degutis, Brittany Ferreira, Catherine Gbogi and Aryanna Torres-Lewis. **Most Improved**-Kerri Salvatore.

6B-Honor Roll-Sabrina Inigo, Alexander LeGrand, Jessica Thomas and Arthur Wright.

7A-Principal's List-Himanshu Patel. **Honor Roll**-Taylor Aljian, Jordana Approvato, Jenna Bengivenga, Janee Edwards, Stephanie Kearney, Nicholas Muglia, Devyn Nolan and Mia Plummer. **Most Improved**-Merissa Terri.

8A-Principal's List-Andrea Muglia and Carla Palma. **Honor Roll**-Christina Pokorny, Taylor David, Sydney Brown, Amanda Caruso, Dominic Gonzales, Rhel Lapitan and Kyle Whitaker.



Councilmen Robert Bengivenga, Jr. and Ray Rusnak (above) were just a few of the guests who enjoyed a spaghetti dinner last Saturday at Wesley Methodist Church. Below, volunteers in the kitchen were kept busy serving and cooking dinner.

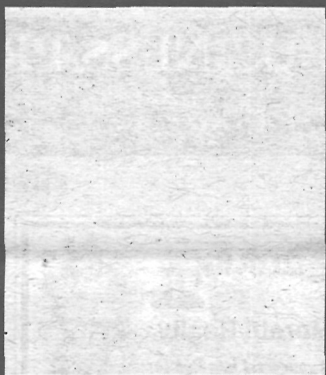


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Producers of the South Plainfield Borough Council and Board of Education (BOE) meetings currently broadcast on Comcast Cable Channel 74 are looking to expand their programming. Volunteers are needed to film school, sporting or other newsworthy events in the borough. High school students are also needed to conduct interviews in front of the camera with the mayor and school superintendent on a regular basis, as well as film the council and BOE meetings.

If interested, contact Jane at (908) 668-1258 or students can speak with Rich D'Urso in SPSHS Graphic Arts Department. Owning a camera is not required.

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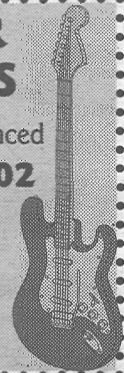
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Kennedy Moms are "Queens for a Day"

By Patricia Abbott

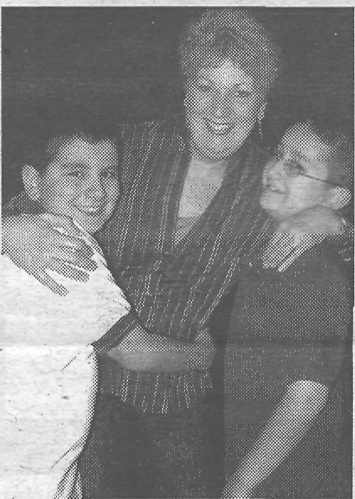
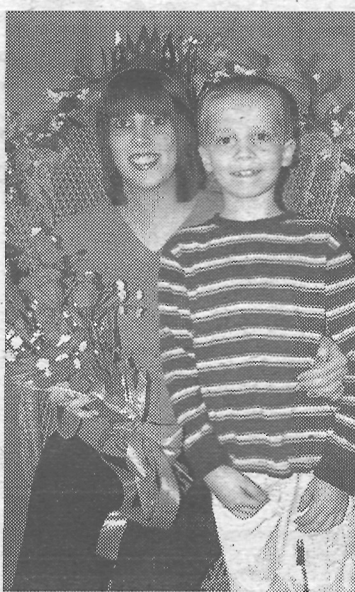
On May 2 Kennedy School moms were "Queen for a Day" at the annual mother/son dance. The boys, many dressed in suits and ties, escorted their moms to the royal event. As they entered the school lobby each mom received a colorful crown and was seated on a throne for a Polaroid photo with their "date."

The gym was beautifully decorated. Round tables draped with cloths held snacks and themed favors. The guests enjoyed a wide variety of goodies and beverages. There were over a dozen baskets to be raffled off as well as 25 door prizes.

DJ for the evening was Middle School teacher John Lymansky, who kept the boys and moms busy on the dance floor. Assistant Superintendent of Schools Dr. Fred Oberkehr donated the fee for the DJ.

In attendance were 75 moms and about 170 guests. Principal Kelly Richkus was thrilled with the event saying, "The teachers and staff organized the entire night. They donated the baskets and they set up everything."

All of the money that was raised by the teachers will be donated back to the PTSO. The unique theme made for a delightful evening for both moms and sons.



policereport

- A So. 10th Street resident reported that the driver's side window of their vehicle had been smashed. Nothing was taken.
- On April 25 Samuels Wade, 48, of Pennbrook Village, Pa. was arrested for being a fugitive from justice.
- Arthur R. Sabino, 44, of South Plainfield was arrested for disorderly conduct.
- On April 28 Lakeisha Sauntai Alexander, 22, of New Brunswick was arrested at Party City for shoplifting \$100 worth of decorations.
- On April 30 an employee of Avtech on Cragwood Road reported the theft of \$2,600 worth of Cisco voiceover IP cards.
- On May 1 Juan Rangel-Aguilar,

- 32, of Jersey City was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.
- On May 2 Sasha E. Semper, 19, of Edison was arrested for no registration and two outstanding warrants.
- On May 4 a Pitt Street resident reported that the front windshield and rear window of their truck had been broken. Nothing was taken.
- On May 5 Bhavesh Y. Patel, 23, of Edison was arrested for hindering apprehension, failure to observe a traffic signal and driving on a suspended license.
- A Cherry Street resident reported that the rear window of their vehicle had been smashed. Nothing was taken.

SCHOOL BOARD Notes

The final presentation by the MBAM Rutgers team for shared services was held on May 1 at Rutgers University and attended by Jose Negron, superintendent; Richard Guarini, BA; BOE members Debbie Boyle and Bob Jones, Borough Council President Robert Bengivenga Jr. and Administrative Secretary Marie Smith. Jones is scheduled to give a Powerpoint presentation at the COW on May 7.

An assembly was held for all students at the high school on April 30 with administrators and BOE members attending. A presentation by students of the SPHS RARE Program included short skits discussing sensitive issues impacting students. These skits were written by the students themselves and brought tears to many. This was a fabulous program.

Commendations to high school Guidance staff member Tom Baker and Principal Dr. Ken May for his presentation on Middle States to the students, along with zero tolerance for racial, gender or bias slurs, as well as gang imitation situations in the high

school and the cell phone policy.

The Tiger 24 took place on May 3 and May 4. Thank you to Peer Leadership teachers/advisors Ms. Vandermark, Mr. Encinas, Mr. Hajduk, Ms. Raimondo, Ms. Zurka, Mr. Genz, Ms. Marconi and Mr. Cirigliano. Also thanks to the student steering committee for the excellent organization, Sodexo for their help and donations; the high school athletic booster club for cooking and serving food until 12:30 a.m. and all those who volunteered their time. Thank you to MaryEllen Martko for volunteering along with the constant presence of Dr. Ken May.

The Reorganization Meeting was held on April 30. Ernie "Jim" Giannakis was elected board president and Pio Pennisi vice president.

The following appointments were made:

- The Courier News, The Asbury Park Press, Star Ledger, Home News Tribune and South Plainfield Observer as official newspapers for 2008/2009.
- Superintendent Jose Negron as Representative Assembly for the Middlesex County Educational Services Commission.
- Official depositories are Commerce Bank and Wachovia Bank.
- Richard Guarini as the District's Qualified Purchasing Agent, 2008/2009.

• Robert Stoffel, Integrity Consulting Group, as Broker of Record for Health Services.

• Grinspec, Lee Nestel president, as broker of record for all property, liability and workers' compensation matters.

• Treasurer of school monies is McManimon.

• Scotland, L.L.C. as Bond Counsel of Record 2008/2009.

• Dr. Nicholas Celso III of Schwartz, Simon, Edelstein, Celso & Kessler as school board attorney.

• Jilma Patricia DiCarlo, M.D. as medical inspector.

• DiCarlo/Rubino Architects as architect of record for the referendum project for 2008/2009.

• AHERA as asbestos consultants.

• Fredrik Oberkehr and Richard Guarini as affirmative action officers for Equity in Employment Practices.

• Affirmative Action Team are Jose Negron, Richard Guarini, Fredrik Oberkehr and Laurie Hall.

• Richard Guarini designated public agency compliance officer and custodian of school records.

• James Vitoritt as integrated pest management coordinator.

• Jeffrey Spezio Sr. as safety and health designee for the middle school and Richard D'Urso as safety and health designee for the high school.

• Elaine Gallo as the 504 committee coordinator.

• James Vitoritt as asbestos management officer, air quality designee and AHERA coordinator.

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