

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 11, NO. 44

MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

50 CENTS

JULY 4, 2008



**SADLY MISSED...** Kay Sesselberg, 75, died on Monday afternoon. She will be remembered fondly for the homemade cakes she brought to each polling place for poll workers. "She was the kind of person you could always depend on. She never let politics get in the way of friendship," said Joann Graf, Senior Center director. For Kay's full obituary, see page 9.

## Council Explores Energy Saving Ideas

With fuel costs skyrocketing, the Borough Council is looking to cut energy costs by exploring solar power and other ways to conserve energy—and ultimately save taxpayer dollars.

"We're looking to bring down fuel costs," said Council President Rob Bengivenga. "We've asked our administrator and department heads to cut back on vehicle use, and we're looking at putting solar panels on the roofs of our buildings," he explained.

Councilman Ray Rusnak has been exploring how other towns are using solar power: "They are adding solar panels to their public buildings and are finding that they help save on fuel costs. For example, Woodbridge just announced a solar-panel initiative,

and I spoke to the mayor there about how they got started. These types of alternatives make sense with the high price of oil."

"While the state is cutting grant programs for solar projects, we're looking at federal programs and private grants as a possible way to defray the costs," added Bengivenga.

While Rusnak has been looking into solar, Councilman Matt Anesh has been focusing on gas use. "I've asked Administrator Glenn Cullen to look at ways to cut down vehicle use. We have a new policy July 1 that limits employees from using borough cars for anything other than necessary driving. With the price of gas, we simply have to cut back."

Anesh also praised Police Chief John Ferraro's recent effort to conserve fuel. "Police cars used to idle when officers left them, but now officers are instructed to turn off the engine. Officers are also riding in pairs whenever possible."

Ferraro is also asking officers to spend more time on foot as part of an expansion of the "park, walk, and talk" community policing initiative. "The chief is setting a great standard," Anesh said.

Bengivenga sees a switch to hybrid

cars as another possibility. "We need to explore every possibility," Bengivenga said. "We're not going to stop with just these ideas. Everything is on the table. It only makes sense."

Mayor Charles Butrico agrees there is a need to save on energy costs saying, "I have met with state agencies to find ways for the Borough to be more green. There is a lot more that can be done besides solar energy. I am also looking forward to working with the school board and partner with them on energy cost savings."

## Visual Litter Mars Landscape

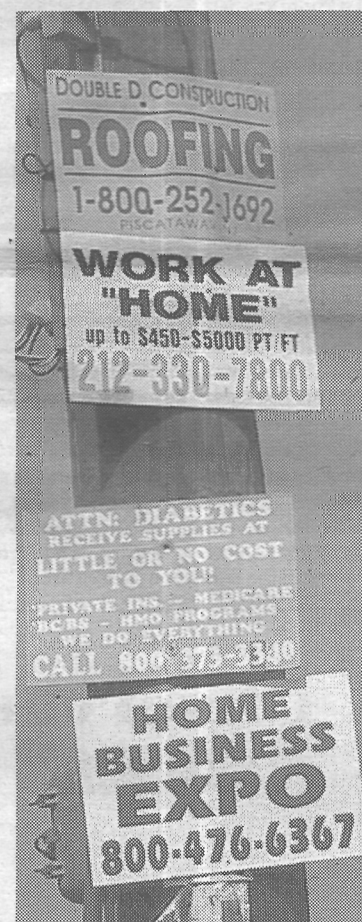
(This story appeared in the Observer in October, 2000. We thought it appropriate to reprint it again.)

Advertisements to lose weight, job offers, garage sales and lost pets are just some of the signs that clutter telephone poles along the roads of South Plainfield. Most are removed by responsible individuals, but others remain up for weeks or are blown down and add to the litter.

Despite the seemingly little-known ordinance against this practice, an epidemic of hand-lettered or computer generated signs tacked one on top of the other continues to pollute the borough. It becomes a more obvious problem when the signs are not removed.

The Borough of South Plainfield Zoning Board, Ordinance 1278, section 801 entitled "Signs" provides that "all signs advertising a product or service not sold on the premises, advertising or direct attention to another premises, or any other signs not related to the premises on which the sign is erected shall be prohibited." The fine for illegal signage can be up to \$1,000.

School and general elections bring a flood of political signs, both large and small. Many are placed with permission on private property; others are placed near intersections



or on vacant lots. These are usually removed promptly after each election, but occasionally signs for state or county candidates tend to be forgotten.

Code Enforcement Officer Mike Zushma says he has removed scores of signs and when possible visits the addresses listed. He explains the ordinance and requests the removal of any additional signs. He noted that often the signs are placed by people from out of town.

Residents are reminded that it is unlawful to distribute or attach to any tree, pole, sign, billboard, fence or building, except where located on the premises of the distributor issuer, any card, circular, pamphlet, papers or other publications or any form of advertising matter unless said person shall first obtain a permit.

Every person distributing any card, circular, pamphlet, newspaper or other publication or any form of advertising matter shall do so in a manner to avoid the littering and scattering of papers and shall comply with the rules and regulations.

## Riley Presents the Stars of Tomorrow

On May 29 the students at Riley School rocked the house. This year PTSO president Melissa Menkin came up with an alternative to a drama show by having a lip sync show. She knew the most energetic person to contact would be Stacey Pace, who has been involved with previous events at Riley School for the past four years. Jointly they announced it to the student body, and the enthusiastic response was apparent from the start.

More than 55 students who juggle wrestling, baseball and T-ball still found time to practice two times a week. Students did have to sacrifice their recess time during the day, but no one seemed to mind.

With the help of two talented and artistic ladies, Stephanie Murano and Francis Ruiz, it only took three weeks to put the show together. Linda Kelly, Joy Ewing and Kim Anesh jumped at the chance to help out and were just as excited to perform as the students were. Twenty-six acts took the stage, including drum solos from John Carone, Christian Gonzalez and Alex Kelly. Admission was \$2 per person,



Borough Councilmen Tim McConville and Matt Anesh mix up a little bit of the Wiggles' "Fruit Salad" at the Riley School lip sync show.

and snacks and beverages were available during the show.

The night began with the entire cast lip syncing to "We're All in This Together" from HSM, and continued with "Mr. Artie" singing his live performance of "Achy Breaky Heart," wearing a white

cowboy hat and matching boots. The first standing ovation came when Zachary Gorman and Brian Csobor sang a tribute to "American Soldier" from Toby Keith. In the background played a video that was made by Stacey Pace,

(Continued on page 12)

## "Go to Guy" Says It's Time to Say Goodbye

### Thomas Baker Retiring After 40 Years at SPHS

By Libby Barsky

A student rushes into the guidance office and slides into a seat in counselor Thomas Baker's cubicle. It's the last period of an abbreviated school day.

"I have to talk to you," demanded the student.

"Not now. You won't graduate if you don't go to class now. The teacher is reviewing for the tests you'll be taking. Your attendance will be counted toward graduation. You've got to go to your class," said Baker.

"I don't care. I've got to talk to you now," insists the student.



Thomas Baker

Baker repeats what he said, but ends with, "I'll make an appointment for you to see me tomorrow."

The student leaves.

It's a scene that's played out regularly in Baker's office. He is the go to guy high school kids seek out. They have to talk to HIM. Why? He listens.

Thomas Baker didn't start out as a guidance counselor. When he came to South Plainfield High School in 1968 Baker was a physical education teacher, a position he held for 25 years. He began teaching here before the present high school was built, when classes were held in today's

Middle School even before double sessions started, which created the indisputable fact that a new high school needed to be built. During those years he taught gym classes and coached wrestling with legendary wrestling coach Al Ranger.

Baker credits Al Ranger and Tony Cotoia for "taking me under their wing. If not for them I would have lost this job," he said.

After teaching 25 years of phys ed Baker felt he needed a change, took classes, and for the last 15 years he's been a guidance counselor.

Baker credits his daughter for making him acutely aware of parent/child relationships. He is a single dad with two children; daughter Caitlin,

18 and Thomas Patrick, 15.

"I thank God for my daughter," Baker said. "Being a parent is the toughest job in the world. I didn't realize that until I had my own. South Plainfield has a lot of good parents because there are a lot of good kids here," he added.

Learning to listen to his high school students made him a better parent, Baker said. "I hope I've helped them as much as they have helped me," he said of his students.

Early in his career as a guidance counselor, Baker started the RARE program (Respect All Races Everywhere) to help students understand the implications of hate speech

(Continued on page 10)



**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS** air on Mondays at 7:30 p.m.  
**AGENDA** and/or Other **SPECIAL** Meetings air Saturday at 8 p.m.  
**BOE** meetings air Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.



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

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	Public Meeting
July 7 .....	July 14
August 4 .....	August 11
September 2 (Tuesday) .....	September 8

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.

#### ad hoc alternative truck route committee

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month  
 Senior Center, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7605

July 10, July 24, August 14, August 28, September 12, September 26

#### 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

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.: 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.: 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.

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

July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10, 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.

**South Plainfield Observer**

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#### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: spobserver@comcast.net or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 200 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the *Observer*. All letters must be submitted with name and phone number, for verification.

#### To the Editor:

We are writing this letter to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to the Lacerda Team at Century 21 Moretti Realty. They recently assisted us with the sale of our home and the purchase of our new one, and we couldn't be happier with the service they provided for us. Andrea and Jesse Lacerda, along with Michele Leavy and Sue Espin, are true professionals. Their expertise in the real estate field is evident right from the start. They led us through the entire process, from listing to closing, and were always available to answer our questions and address our concerns. They even recommended a wonderful attorney, Suzanne Lyte, to handle all of the legal aspects of our sale and purchase.

Who would have thought that in this tough real estate market, we would have been able to sell our home, and move into our new one, all within three months time? It wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the Lacerda Team. We have been in our new home for about two months now, and we couldn't be happier.

Speaking of our new home, we would like to extend our compliments to the builder, David Miglis, for building such an exquisite house. The quality of the materials used, along with the meticulous workmanship, make this house a work of art—especially in comparison to the other newly built houses we looked at. We feel very lucky to have purchased it.

In closing, we would recommend to anyone with real estate needs to contact the Lacerda Team at Century 21 Moretti Realty. Also, if you can find a house that David Miglis built—buy it!

**SINCERELY,  
 MARIANNE & JOSEPH DADDARIO**

#### To the Editor:

On June 14 we held the fifth annual Coaches Care Golf Classic at Heron Glen Golf Course. We were blessed to have a beautiful day which surely helped us raise a record amount of funds to be donated to The Children's Neurological Center at JFK Medical Center.

There are many people and companies to be thanked, the golf committee really makes this event the success that it is. Tony Cassano, Keith Heckel, Kurt Ullom, Bill DeNitzio, Guy Moretti and Ted Tucker once again spent countless hours of business and personal time to ensure all participants were treated to a first class tournament. A special thanks to Co-Chairman

## IN MY OPINION

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

Thom Lanza, without whom this event would not exist. His drive and dedication allows this charity to achieve the successes it has and I can't thank him enough. Once again, special thanks to Kevin Lykes, who for the fifth year designed our program, this year from Florida.

To the people who volunteered their time to be witnesses and salespeople on the par three's (Kathy Thomas, Joe DeNitzio, Laura McCreesh, Sharon Brown, Carolyn Stallone, Maryanne Decker, Toni Moretti, Colleen Hubner, Nancy O'Shea and Carol Ullom), I thank you and hope you all enjoyed the hot day.

A special thank you to the following businesses and people who were hole sponsors: Mangia Bene Restaurant, Oaktree Buy Rite Liquors, Annabelle Lanza, South Plainfield Golf Association, Thomas Ernst and Associates, Santoro and Santoro, Lombardi and Lombardi, Nischwitz, Dynasty Kitchens, Lehigh Utility Associates, Ron Paconi, Lynn Reed Associates, Andy Singer, McCriscin-Gustafson Home For Funerals, Goodwin Associates, HBC Electric, South Plainfield PBA 100, Clarkin and Vignuolo, Lanza and Lanza, Johnstone, Skok, Loughlin and Lane, Harris Steel Company, Thermal Service, Sales Team Solutions, Meyer and Depew, R.T Tech Electric Company, Shotman Basketball, Haisch's Bakery, and Ciccio's Pizza.

The putting contest sponsors were Duro Dyne, EWC Controls and MAP Sales Company. Chipping sponsors were Edison-Metuchen Orthopedic Group and Frank's Automotive. Breakfast sponsor was the Bagel Pantry, who donated all of the morning's bagels. A hole-in-one car was donated by Flemington Car and Truck Country. Silver sponsors were The Newmark Schools in Plainfield and Carteret and Cleworth Conditioning. Gold sponsor was Southwark Metal Mfg. The platinum sponsors were Watermark Graphics, Dunphy Smith Company, JFK Medical Center and Frank's Automotive.

The following businesses donated door prizes for the golfers: New Jersey Nets and Devils, Philadelphia Eagles, Binder Machinery, Witty's, JGS Associates, Acqua Ristorante, Maggiano's, Longhorn Steakhouse, Bob and Debbie Boyle, Charlie Brown's, Mi Sueno, Rudolphs, Flanagan's, Sherbans, Paulos Barbeque, Gikas Cleaners, Ciccio's, Applebees, Vincenzo's, Al Dente, Gabriele's, Rosina's, Johnny Carino's, Ski Setting, Hometown Heros, Ellery's, Café Eve-

#### 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.

rest, Girasole, Pizza Stop, Avellino's, Pizza and Pasta, Capelli's, Mangia Bene, All About U Hair Salon, Mike Alvarez, Mark Rizzi, Arnold Palmer, Fedway, Charlie Decker, Dr. Frank Licato, John Stallone, Commerce Bank, Sharon Brown, Sal's Spirit Shoppe, Jeff Licato, Carmens, Cordes and Hay, Adelines, Thermal Service and Jack Baker's Restaurant.

Even as our economy takes a downturn, all of these businesses selflessly donated prizes or certificates, and I wanted to extend my thanks and appreciation for all you do for our charity. All of you contribute to what I proudly say is one of the best tournaments for one of the best causes in all of our area.

This year we expect to raise over \$37,000 from the outing, which would make it our best year ever. When people like Frank Raciti of Frank's Automotive take the time and effort to support our charity like he did this year, it helps our goal of making this a year-round charity become a reality. To the 156 golfers who participated, we hope to see you next year and are excited to know we should be sold out on July 13, 2009. To RH, for once again showing that prayers were answered, and to the "Big Man," we did it again. Thanks for the sun.

**TOM MCCREESH**

#### Dear Editor,

Credibility is vital for anyone in public office. That being said, last week's letter from Charles Butrico makes me wonder where this man is coming from. False statements and half truths seem to be his trademark. Let's examine a few.

Butrico said Council President Rob Bengivenga works for a trucking company that benefits from ending the dangerous truck detour. The truth? Bengivenga works for Marpal Disposal, a sanitation company that only does business in Monmouth and Ocean counties.

Butrico quoted a state statute to suggest that Bengivenga had a con-

(Continued on page 10)

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Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan accepts the Legislative Excellence Award from Dr. Richard Wellbrook.

## Patrick Diegnan Honored with Legislative Excellence Award

The New Jersey Council of County Colleges presented its 2008 Legislative Excellence Award to Assembly Higher Education Committee Chairman Patrick Diegnan for his exemplary support of the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Rewards Scholarship (NJ STARS) and NJ STARS II programs.

"The New Jersey Council of County Colleges' Legislative Excellence Award is an honor bestowed each year on a selected legislator who has served as an exceptional advocate for the state's 19 community colleges," said Council Chairman Dr. Richard Wellbrook. "We truly appreciate Chairman Diegnan's passion and commitment to the NJ STARS scholarship, our community colleges and our students."

NJ STARS is the first state-sponsored, merit-based scholarship program in the country that covers community college tuition and approved fees for students who graduate in the top 20 percent of their high school class.

NJ STARS II covers tuition and approved fees at any New Jersey public four-year college or university for community college NJ STARS students who have earned their associate degrees with 3.0 grade point averages or better and are transferring to earn their bachelor's degrees.

Diegnan, the author of 35 pieces of legislation signed into law, serves the 18th New Jersey Legislative District. In addition to chairing the Higher Education Committee, he serves on several committees and boards. Among them are the Assembly Edu-

cation Committee, the Regulated Professions and Independent Authorities Committee, the Assembly Task Force on Vocational and Technical Education, the Commission on Business Efficiency in the Public Schools, the New Jersey Commission on Programs for Gifted Children, and the Joint Committee on the Public Schools.

He is also a member of the National Conference of State Legislatures Education Committee and the association's Redistricting and Elections Committee.

Diegnan has received many honors and awards throughout his career, including the South Plainfield High School Hall of Fame, the Middlesex County Jewish Community Center Honoree, the Displaced Homemakers Network of New Jersey Outstanding Legislator Award, and the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Irishman of the Year Award.

Diegnan is an attorney in private practice and is a member of the N.J. State Bar Association. He earned his juris doctorate and bachelor's degree from Seton Hall University.

Diegnan is married to Anita, his wife of 31 years. They have two daughters.

The New Jersey Council of County Colleges is the state association representing New Jersey's 19 community colleges. As an independent, trustee-headed organization that joins the leadership of trustees and presidents, the council is the voice of the community college sector before the state legislature and other branches of government.

## Fireworks Are Illegal

During the past few years hundreds have been treated in hospital emergency rooms for burns, eye injuries, lacerations, or amputations caused by fireworks. Many others may have been treated by their own physicians or at hospitals out of state.

New Jersey laws forbid the sale or purchase of fireworks. The maximum fine is \$7,500, and/or a jail sentence of up to 18 months. Also, any individual who possesses or discharges fireworks is guilty of a petty disorderly offense and subject to a maximum fine of \$500, and/or a jail sentence of up to 30 days.

Sparkler and novelty items, such as cigarette loads, trick matches, trick noise makers, smoke grenades, toy propellants, snaps and pops, poppets and champagne poppers, as well as firecrackers, roman candles, rockers, etc., are all illegal in New Jersey. Don't be fooled if a salesperson tells you that they are authorized to sell fireworks by the Consumer Products Safety Commission or through mail order. The only fireworks that can legally be sold and used in New Jersey are paper and plastic caps for toy cap guns.

If you are approached by a person selling fireworks, call the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LDW) office at (609) 292-2096, or the South Plainfield Police at (908) 755-0700 for verification.

## Kennedy School Students Hold Two Fundraisers

Linda Downey, student council advisor at John F. Kennedy Elementary School, has announced two successful fundraisers sponsored by the group this school year.

Kennedy students raised \$1,187.60 to benefit The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society through their "Pennies for Patients" fundraisers. The students also participated in the St. Jude Math-A-Thon and earned \$1,336.89 for St. Jude Research Hospital.

In addition, Student Council members conducted a clean campus event during the year.

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Boy Scout Troop 309 recently participated in the Parkinson's Unity Walk. The 14th annual walk for Parkinson's disease held in Central Park drew about 10,000 walkers. Troop 309 joined Richard Goyette, "Mr. G," and his "Team Old Dawg" in a two-mile walk through Central Park. Team Old Dawg consists of Mr. G's family and friends, and this year, some of his scouts. Pictured (L-R): top row-Jeff Pauls, Matt Manning, Brandon Pauls, Logan Green; bottom row-Richard Goyette, James Conrad, Troy Kurilew and Jonathan Conrad.

## Cultural Arts Commission Expanding Membership

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission is looking to expand its membership and its audience. "Last year was an amazing year for us," said Pamela Stefanek, chair and treasurer. "We had a number of extraordinary programs."

Beginning with our concert program at Wesley Methodist Church, a free performance of "A Christmas Carol," the Spring into Dance Festival and the Winter Holiday December Tea, the 2007 cultural arts calendar provided a wide variety of events. It also included the very successful children's theatre presentation of Jim West's dinosaur puppets and an in-school program of "Sweet Potato Pie."

"We're eager to build on last year's success and make 2008 even better as we celebrate the organization's 25th anniversary," Stefanek said. In order

to accomplish that, she is not only looking to expand the roster of the seven-member commission, but to increase community awareness and attendance at the cultural arts events.

"We have exceptional, enjoyable and free programs which take place right in South Plainfield and this year we are going to focus on getting the word out!"

The community can look forward to a gala event this September as the Cultural Arts Commission celebrates its 25th anniversary of bringing cultural arts to South Plainfield.

The purpose of the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission is to promote interest and support for the arts throughout the borough. If you are interested in becoming a member of the commission, please contact Pamela Stefanek at (908) 754-2381.

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# Around Town

## Library Magic Show at the Senior Center

July 7

South Plainfield Public Library is sponsoring a children's magic show, "Hocus Pocus with Joe Fisher," on Monday, July 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center on 90 Maple Ave.

The program is suggested for children ages three and over. The program is being presented free of charge. No pre-registration is needed.

For more information, call (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda, or visit [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

## Vacation Bible School at Sacred Heart

July 7-11

Sacred Heart will hold vacation Bible school Monday through Friday, July 7-11 from 9:15 a.m. to noon for children grades pre-k through fourth grade. Cost is \$25 per child. Daily snack is included. Adult and older-teen volunteers are needed.

For information, call (908) 756-0633, ext. 43.

## Elks Lodge First Classic Cruise Night

July 18

Elks Lodge #2298 is holding the first annual Classic Cruise Night on Friday, July 18, 6 to 10 p.m. at 1254 New Market Ave. Cars (1932-1975) and motorcycles are welcome. Food, music, trophies, 50/50. Rain date is July 25.

Call (908) 561-4433 or (908) 668-9750 for more information.

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Please call Century 21 Moretti marketing agents Christine Lahey or Melissa Morehouse at 908-755-5300 for additional information and details, or stop in at our office at 225 Maple Avenue for brochures.

What's happening at the

## SENIOR CENTER

JULY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Center will be closed on Saturdays during July and August due to minimal attendance. However, if you have suggestions for possible programs for Saturdays, let us know and we can possibly schedule something.

July 24 – Hunterdon Hills Summer Musical Luncheon, bus, show - \$65

Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am  
Yoga 10:30-11:30am  
Art Class 11:30am

7

Bingo 10am-2pm  
Ladies Social Group 10am

8

Aerobics 8:30 am  
Computer 10am, 11:30am, 1pm  
Line Dancing 10am  
Crocheting 1pm  
Tai Chi 2pm

9

Pathmark Shopping 9am  
Crafts Class 10am  
Computer Class 10am, 11:30am, 1pm  
Exercise Class 1:15pm

10

Bingo 10am-2pm

11

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

## SPHS 1968 40th Class Reunion

July 19

South Plainfield High School Class of 1968 40th reunion will be held at the American Legion on Oak Tree Avenue on Saturday, July 19 from 7 to 12 p.m. Cost is \$50 per person with a cash bar.

For information, call Bonnie Gunderson Risoli at (908) 896-7739.

## SPBA Meeting

July 24

South Plainfield Business Association will hold a monthly meeting on Thursday, July 24 at 9 a.m. at Sherban's Diner on Front Street. As a member of SPBA, feel free to offer incentives for your business at the meeting as well as be a guest speaker at monthly meetings. This month's "Spotlight on Business" segment will be Graphix One.

Please contact Debra Anne Leporino, SPBA President, at SPBAPres@aol.com if you would like to be a guest, a guest speaker or do a five-minute presentation on your business at the next membership meeting.

## KC's Korner Charity Golf Fundraiser

August 11

KC's Korner, 100 Oak Tree Ave., is hosting a charity golf outing at Concordia Golf Club in Monroe to benefit Haven Hospice on Monday, Aug. 11 beginning with breakfast/registration at 7:30 a.m. at the course. Shotgun start, scramble format 9 a.m. Cost per golfer is \$125 and includes two hour open bar, buffet lunch at KC's Korner and door prizes. Cash bar/no cover charge for non-golfers.

To donate merchandise or services that can be raffled, monetary donations or to register, call Grace Ciampi at (732) 599-7222, or mail donations to Haven Hospice, c/o Grace Ciampi, 145 Howard Ave., Edison, N.J. 08837.

## — Out of Town —

### Pet Adoption at PetSmart

July 5 & 6

People for Animals, a nonprofit animal welfare organization, will sponsor cat and kitten adoption events on Saturday and Sunday, July 5 and 6 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at PetSmart in Bridgewater's Promenade Mall, intersection of Rt. 28 and 287. All are current with their vaccinations and litter box trained; they will be altered prior to adoption.

For low cost spay/neuter information, call at (973) 282-0890.

### Temple Sholom Blood Drive

July 10

Temple Sholom's Social Action Committee will host a blood drive on Thursday, July 10 from 3 to 8 p.m. in the parking lot of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, corner of Martine and LaGrande avenues. Donors over 17 years-old and in good health are

needed. Please bring valid ID.

For more information, call (908) 889-4900, E-mail [office@sholomnj.org](mailto:office@sholomnj.org) or visit [www.sholomnj.org](http://www.sholomnj.org).

## duCret School Student Art Exhibit

July 12-31

A multi-media showcase of works by 20 young award-winning artists selected from the Annual Juried Student Exhibit at the duCret School of Art will be the summer exhibit July 12 through July 31 at Swain Galleries, 703 Watchung Ave. in Plainfield. The opening reception is Saturday, July 12 from 5 to 7 p.m.

For more information, call (908) 756-1707.

## Country Western Night Outside

July 12

A Country Western Night Outside will be held on Saturday, July 12 from 5 to 10 p.m. at the Deutscher Club of Clark, 787 Featherbed Lane. Dance to the live music of the Thunder Hill Country Western Band. Gates open at 5 p.m.; music from 6 to 10 p.m. German and American food will be available; no outside food or beverages permitted. Picnic tables and free parking. \$5 donation per person, children under 12 free. Rain or shine (covered pavilion).

For more information, call (732) 574-8600.

## EAS "Art in the Garden" Tour

July 19

The Edison Arts Society (EAS) will hold its "Art in the Garden Tour" on Saturday, July 19 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

For further information, please call the arts center at (908) 753-2787.

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**SEND US YOUR MILESTONES.** Share your good news with the community, i.e. promotions, births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, graduations. Include photos if you like.

**IS THERE SOMEONE YOU KNOW WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE** in South Plainfield? Thank them by letting us know.

**USE THE OBSERVER AS AN ADVERTISING TOOL.** Introduce your business to the community. Promote your specials. Residents would rather patronize local businesses than travel out of town. It is more convenient and it's good for the local economy.

**SUGGEST A BUSINESS FOR US TO SPOTLIGHT.** If you have had a great retail, restaurant or service

experience in South Plainfield, share it with your neighbors through the newspaper.

**SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** to allow readers to discuss and react to issues.

**SEND US YOUR PHOTOS.** If you have an event, take a photo, write a caption identifying the event and people and send it to us. The best photos record action and don't include so many people that it is impossible to identify anyone. Please don't send us photocopies or laser prints. They don't reproduce well. Electronic photos should be 150 dpi or higher.

**HOW TO CONTACT US.** By mail: 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; By phone: 908-668-0010; By fax: 908-668-8819; By email: [spobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net).

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**South Plainfield Observer**





Poetry Slam winners (L-R) Kristen Forbes-honorable mention, Brittany Coupe-first place, Gracie Piekarski-honorable mention and Angela Spadavecchia-second place.

## Middle School Poetry Slam

By Jane Dornick

The South Plainfield Middle School held a Poetry Slam contest on May 28 where students read their original spring-themed poems. The contest was the idea of Language Arts Teacher Michelle Thompson and student Jade McDonnough. The contest was judged by fellow teachers Kristin Bennett, Wendy Su and Robyn Mikaelian.

First place winner Brittany Coupe received a \$30 gift certificate to Barnes & Noble; second place winner Angela

Spadavecchia won a \$25 gift certificate to the movies and third prize, a \$15 gift certificate to Friendly's, went to Dominique Orphee.

Janet Kelly, Kristen Forbes and Gracie Piekarski received honorable mentions and a \$10 gift certificate to Blockbuster Video. Other participants were Robert Benwell, Christina Conroy, Amanda Borrankas, Katie McHugh, Patricia Cruz, and Jonathan Reyes, who each received participation awards.

Prizes and refreshments were donated by the PTO.

## Nominations for Labor Day Parade Grand Marshal Being Accepted

The Public Celebrations Committee is seeking nominations for honorary grand marshal. If you know of an individual you feel has contributed outstanding service to South Plainfield, send the Public Celebrations Committee a letter stating your reasons why this person should be considered for honorary grand marshal. Include the candidate's name, address, evening phone number and detailed list of volunteer activities and accomplishments. The deadline for accepting nominations is July 25. Nominations may be sent to the Public Celebrations Committee, John Sorrentino, Chairman, 225 Hopkinson Street, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

Any business or organization interested in having a concession stand or informational table at the PAL grounds

at the conclusion of the parade should complete an application available in Borough Hall or online at [www.southplainfieldnj.com](http://www.southplainfieldnj.com). Send the completed application to the Public Celebrations Committee, Debra Leporino, 170 Oakmanor Pkwy, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080. For information, contact Leporino at (908) 754-6914.

In addition, parade marshals are needed to assist in the facilitation of the parade. All marshals must be 18 years or older. If interested in assisting or for further information, contact Joe Scrudato at (908) 406-5920 or [jascrudato@hotmail.com](mailto:jascrudato@hotmail.com).

Also needed are volunteers who would like to participate in the parade as a cartoon character. If interested or for information, contact Matt Anesh at [matthew\\_anesh@verizon.net](mailto:matthew_anesh@verizon.net).

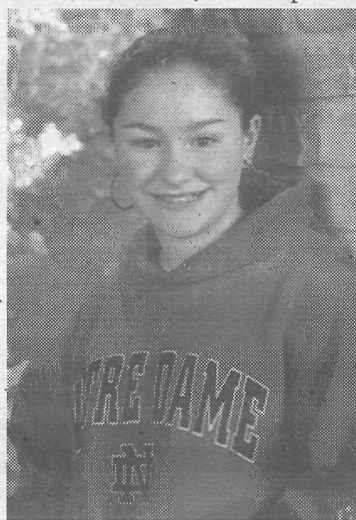
### south plainfield people

## Milestones

### Talia Ferrigno Selected Pre-Teen America Finalist

Talia Ferrigno, daughter of Stephen and Dawn Ferrigno of South Plainfield, has been selected as a finalist in the Pre-Teen New Jersey Academic and Enrichment Program to be held August 8-10 at the Parsippany Hilton in Parsippany.

Pre-Teen New Jersey is a by invitation only academic and enrichment event involving young ladies seven to 12 years of age based on school academic records, awards and honors won and/or participation in outside activities. Additionally, young ladies are invited who have been recognized publicly for their outstanding personal achievements, volunteer services, school involvement, leadership abili-

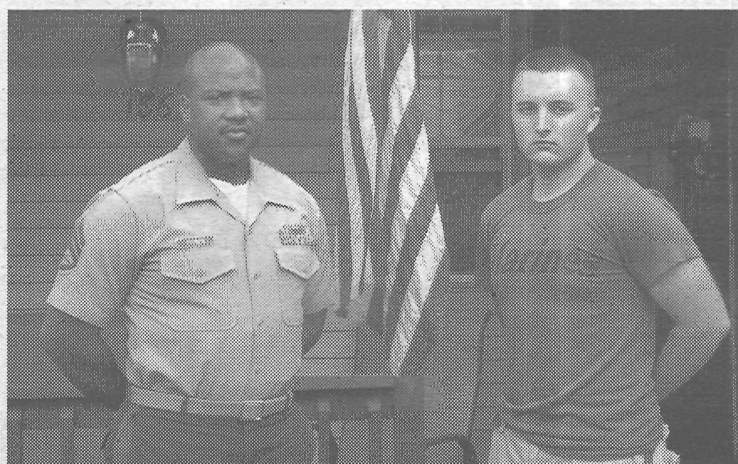


Talia Ferrigno

ties or creative talents.

State finalists will be evaluated on academic achievement, volunteer service to community, school honors and activities, development of personal skills and abilities, general knowledge assessment, communicative ability and on-stage acknowledgement of accomplishments.

Pre-Teen New Jersey will be award more than \$5,000 in Education Savings Bonds, prizes and awards.



Jason Tucker, Marine Corps recruiter, and Nicholas Jankoski.

### Nicholas Jankoski Enlists in the Marines

On July 19, 17 year-old Nicholas Jankoski will be granted the honor of taking the oath of enlistment with the United States Marine Corps at Fort Hamilton in New York.

Nick is one of just 15 high school juniors to be selected throughout the State of New Jersey to be sworn in to the United States Marine Corp's Delayed Entry Program as a high school junior representing Recruit Sub Station Elizabeth. Nick has been active with Marine Corps Recruiter SSgt. Jason Tucker and RSS Elizabeth since the age of 15. "Serving my country is my purpose in life, it's my destiny."

Nick's dream to become a United States Marine was apparent at a very early age, but his decision to enlist was

justified on September 11, 2001.

What best describes Nick's thoughts about the United States Marine Corps is best quoted by Marine General Anthony Zinni. "What we are doing was not a job, not even a profession, but a calling..." Nick will tell you, "That's what the Marine Corps is to me, my calling. I'm not doing it for college, for money, or because I have nowhere else to go, but because being a Marine is who I am and what I'm all about."

Nicholas will be spending his senior year at SPHS as a Pooler of Marines with Recruit Sub Station Elizabeth and upon graduation he will be sent to Paris Island, South Carolina for Marine Corp Basic Training in July 2009.

### Roberta Aiello Retires from Guidance

Roberta Aiello retired earlier this year after more than 24 years as a secretary in the guidance department in the South Plainfield school system. Her last position was in the high school guidance office.

Aiello loved being a part of guid-

ance. She enjoyed working for Mr. DeCarlo, Mr. Farber, Mr. Beegle and Ms. Gallo. "I believe being with young people keeps you young and makes you happy to be just a small part of their lives. They are the best!" Aiello explained. In addition to being a big supporter of teenagers, Aiello is also a big fan of the New York Yankees.

### Send Your Milestones

to:  
[spobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net)

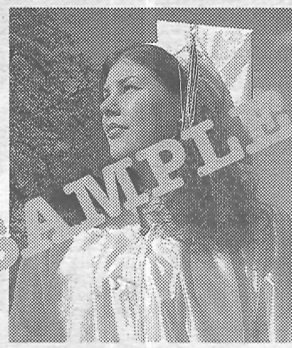
*Applaud the successes of your children, grandchildren, nieces & nephews, friends or loved ones with a graduation ad in the Observer!*

## Congratulate Your Grad in Print!

We will publish a photo of your graduate along with your congratulatory wishes for \$20.

Send graduate's photo along with your message to: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or email high resolution photo to [spobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net).

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SPHS Class of 2008



*Congratulations grad!!*  
Love, Mom and Dad

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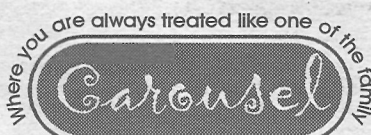
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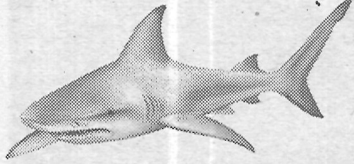
285 Durham Avenue, Suite 1B, South Plainfield



# Sports

## Tiger Sharks Swim Team

### Tiger Sharks Open Season With Big Win



The South Plainfield Tiger Sharks Swim Team opened their season on June 21 at the Willow Grove Swim Club. The Tiger Sharks hit the water with a 165-111 victory.

Starting the meet with two first place wins in the individual medley were new team members Aubrey Marich (10 and under) and Allison Huber (11-12). Jenny Huber finished second for the 10 and under group, while veteran swimmers Emily Piekarski and Maggie Valentino took second and third for the 13-18 year-olds.

Winning first place for the longer freestyle was Nicholas Gurrieri (10 and under). Matt Lind (10 and under), Marcel Green (11-12) and Matt Moates (13-18) placed second. Finishing third for the 11-12 year-olds was Enzo Butrico.

The girls swept the shorter freestyle events taking first place in each age group. 8 and under: Erin Pepe, 9-10 Shannon Pepe, 11-12 Allison Huber, 13-14 Maggie Valentino and 15-18 Emily Piekarski. Emily's sister, Gracie Piekarski, took second for the 13-14 age group and Chelsea Cullen also placed second for the 15-18 year-olds. Finishing in third place was Aubry Marish (8 and under), and Ellen Zinsky took third in the 15-18 year-olds making a clean sweep in that age group.

The boys took four place wins out of five for the backstroke. Miles Green (8 and under), Nicholas Gurrieri (9-10), Marcel Green (11-12) and Matt Moates (15-18) all placed.

The 11-12 age group swept their event with Joey Valentino taking sec-

(Continued on page 11)



Polish National Home Billiards Team won top spot in Aberdeen.

### Polish National Home Wins 9 Ball State Billiards Tournament

On June 6 and 7 the Polish National Home participated in the state APA 9 Ball Billiards Tournament at the Cue and Brew in Aberdeen. The tournament consisted of the top teams in our area hoping to make it to the Nationals in Las Vegas being held at the Riviera Hotel. They beat out eight other teams in their division to win this spot.

The nationals will be held from August 15-18. They will be competing against 300 other teams from all over the United States and Canada.

Tommy Kaufman had two teams competing this year: the Monday

night team, the winners, and the Thursday night team, which fell a little short this year. This is the first year the Monday night team is going to the Nationals. Kaufman has had several teams in the past make it to the finals.

Team members are Captain Tommy Kaufman, Jay DeRose, Chris Nastarowicz, Linas Eitmanas, Nancy Murniers, Tonya Kurocza, Karl Aplanalp and Rickey Seubert.

Good luck to the Polish Home and we hope they bring back the winning trophy this year.

By Gary Lampasona

### JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

Summer's here and the action is hot at the ballfields!

#### Summer Baseball Camp

Our summer baseball camp begins on Monday, July 7 with only a few spots still available. Please call the clubhouse at (908) 754-2090 to sign up. Don't miss this opportunity to develop or strengthen your child's baseball skills in an exciting and fun environment.

#### Fall Baseball Signups

Fall baseball is back again this year. Last year's season provided continued fun and learning for players already in spring baseball and for those teener ball kids ready to take the step to "C" League. Come to the clubhouse to sign up on Friday, July 18, 6 to 9 p.m. and on Saturday, July 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Let's make this year more fun and successful than last year!



Submitted By Bob Nilan

Showing the terrific form that helped him gain the Most Improved Player of the Year honors last season, Todd Sherman fired a marvelous even-par 33 as the Hackers soundly whipped last year's champions, Pornovets, 16-4. Bill Mann continued his fine play, turning in a 2-over 35 as the Hackers maintained their tie for first-place in the American Division with Buy-Rite Liquors.

There was a tricky, almost ridiculously difficult, pin placement on the ninth hole so there were a lot of golfers who finished their rounds with three putts. Irish Danny Griffin was among the victims of that pin position on the final hole, but he still managed to register an impressive score of 35 to lead Buy-Rite to a 12-1/2-7-1/2 victory over Plainfield Animal Hospital. Sporting his lucky green cap again (the dark blue one is back in the garage), Griffin did his Red Auerbach imitation at the end of the match and lit up his victory cigar and shook hands with teammate Ken Fivek who made an auspicious league debut with a solid round of 36. Good old reliable Mark "Mr. Steady" Chichvar turned in another nice score, a 37, only to see PAH's record drop to 3-5, three matches out of first place.

Whenever Kevin "Boom Boom" Bickunas keeps his awesome drives in the fairways, the Witty's squad becomes a very formidable opponent. Bickunas was on his game and posted a nifty 3-over 36 to spark Witty's to a convincing 15-5 triumph over Unique Sports Accessories. Captain Chris Dillon had another good round for USA, a 3-over 36, and teammate Jack

Todaro pitched in with a 38.

Jay Coppola of Twin City is on fire. Two weeks ago, he shot a 36 and then came back the following Tuesday with a 35. In last week's match, he tied for the low-round of the season with a sparkling even-par 33. Despite Coppola's superb round, the best Twin City could manage was a 10-10 tie with the Roughriders who again had nice performances from Jerry Foglia who shot a 38 and from Frank Weingart who carded a 39. With the tie, the Roughriders moved into sole possession of first place in the National Division.

Mark Dugan and his first-place teammates on KC's Korner relished the chance to tee off against Sport and Social who are struggling along with a dismal 1-6 record. But the 2002 league champions came back to life, led by Dennis Bibby's 38, and pulled off the biggest upset of the season by upending KC's Korner, 12-8. Both Dugan and Billy Capparelli shot nice rounds of 37 for KC's Korner, but their good play was not quite good enough to overcome the handicap differences.

The talented B-Datt Squad broke out of their four-match losing streak by flattening 2 Buds, 2 Dubes, 15-5. Tony Cassano's 36, Danny McCreesh's 37, and Tom McCreesh's 38 were just too much as the B-Datt Squad cruised to an easy victory. Jay Orth played well for 2 Buds, 2 Dubes, in notching a 38.

**Low scores for the night:** Jay Coppola, 33; Todd Sherman, 33; Bill Mann, 35; Danny Griffin, 35; Ken Fivek, 36; Kevin Bickunas, 36; Chris Dillon, 36; Tony Cassano, 36.

#### LEAGUE STANDINGS

American Division				National Division			
	W	L	T		W	L	T
Buy-Rite	6	2	0	Roughriders	5	2	1
Hackers	6	2	0	KC's Korner	5	3	0
USA	5	3	0	Twin City	4	3	1
Witty's	4	4	0	B-Datt Squad	4	4	0
PAH	3	5	0	2 Buds, 2 Dubes	2	6	0
Pornovets	1	7	0	Sport and Social	2	6	0

## WJC SPORTS

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## LEGAL NOTICES

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

June 27, 2008-Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on June 26, 2008.

- Case #39-07-AAA Self Storage, Block 451; Lot 1; South Clinton Avenue and Jersey Street. The applicant's request for a use variance for the erection of a sign on another site and site plan approval was GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.
- Case #5-08-N.Y.SMSA Limited Partnership; dba Verizon Wireless, Block 50; Lot 1; Cedarbrook Avenue. The applicant's request for a use variance for a 128' monopole, a fence variance and site plan approval was GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.
- Case #15-08-Tam H. Nguyen, Block 192; Lot 4.02; 1585 Mellon Street. The applicant's request for a side yard setback variance for the installation of a driveway was GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Beth Khidre  
Secretary-Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$34.20

July 4, 2008

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

June 27, 2008-Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on June 24, 2008.

- Case #07-06/M/V-Harry Popik, Block 347; Lots 5 and 8.08. Harvard Avenue. The applicant's request for an EIS waiver, (3) variances; lot width, lot area and lot coverage and minor sub division approval was GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Beth Khidre  
Recording Secretary-Planning Board

\$20.90

July 4, 2008

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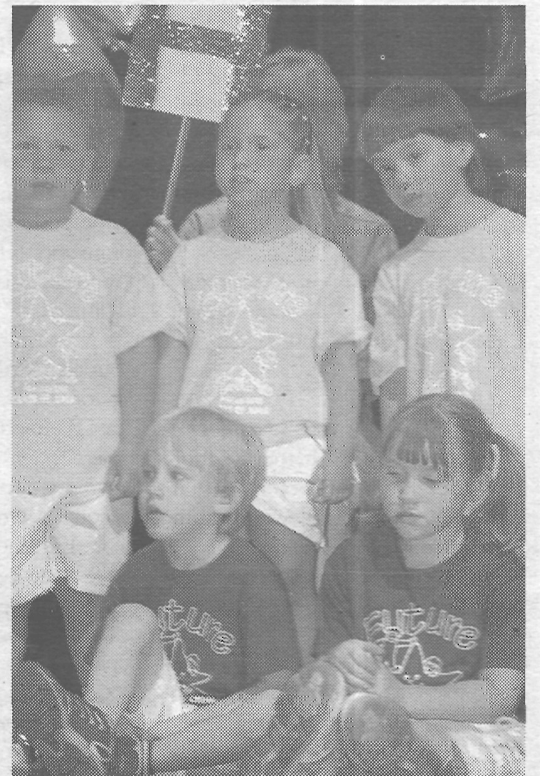
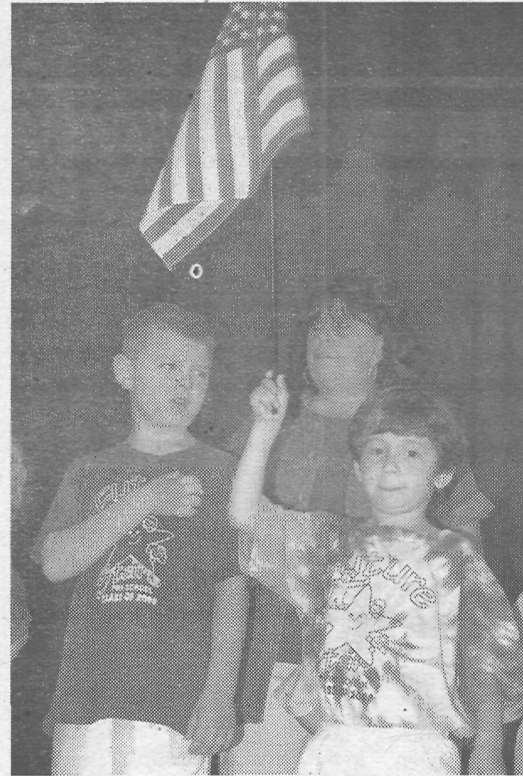
Follow the ups and downs of the borough in the Observer, an independent newspaper for South Plainfield. Send check or money order for \$25/one year (out-of-town \$30) to: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

South Plainfield  
Observer

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# Future Stars Pre-School Holds Graduation



By Patricia Abbott

On June 9 a new group of preschoolers crossed the bridge on their way to kindergarten. The event was the 28th annual Future Stars Preschool graduation. The two ceremonies, held at the high school, were divided into A.M. and P.M. sessions. The children were dressed in their class colors: Future Stars t-shirts and white shorts or skirts.

Seven classes of youngsters took to the stage and entertained parents, friends and family with songs and dances. Two teachers sat in front of the stage with prompts for the children while the rest of the staff sat behind the children. After a musical display of things they learned in class, the students left the stage to prepare for the

big moment. Superintendent Jose Negron and BOE members mounted the stage with a basket full of 'diplomas.' Each child was introduced as he or she climbed a small sliding board, waved and blew a kiss. After sliding down they crossed the "bridge to kindergarten" and received their diplomas.

The graduation took place on a blistering hot day. The high school had experienced power outages all day, and Stage Director Lory Jackson noted that they had a generator on stand-by in case the power went out.

The program featured a poem en-

titled, "The Star Polisher," by Leah Becks that seemed tailor-made for the graduation.

"I have a great job in the universe of occupations. What do I do? I am a 'star polisher.' It's a very important job. If you want to know how important, just go out at night and look at the stars twinkling and sparkling. You see, I am a teacher. The stars are the children in my class. My job is to take them in, in whatever shape they come, shine and buff them and then send them out to take their places as bright little twinkling beacons in the sky. They come into my room in all shapes and sizes. As I buff, polish train, teach my little star, I tell them that they world cannot do without them. I tell them they can do anything they set their minds to do. I tell them they can be the brightest, shiniest stars in the sky and the world will be a better place because of them. Each night as I look at the sky, I am reminded of a very important job and awesome responsibility. I go and get my buffing cloth and my bottle of polish in preparation for tomorrow for my class of little stars."

The students who crossed over to kindergarten are:

**Sunshine Room, Monday-Friday P.M.:** Preeyant N. Gheewala, Jonathan Gonzalez, Amy Heller, Dylan Peter Leonardis, Alexander McNelly and Sami Rani.

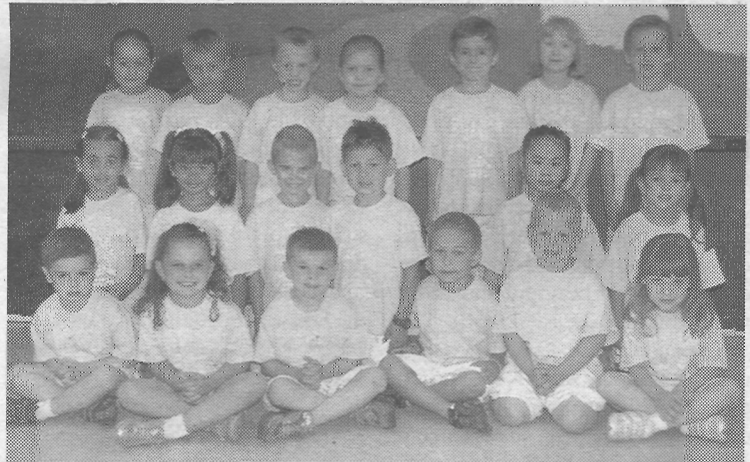
**Rainbow Room, Monday-Friday A.M.:** Farid Amini, Patrick Quinn Berry, Kenneth Clevenger, Max Aaron Coppola, Jessica Jellall, Vanessa Jimenez, Robert Kelly, Javid Khan, Nicholas Loneiwski, Sarah Matapersad, Ryan Maurer, Timson Nguyen, Samantha Pareja, Aneil Persaud, Justin Shay and Andrew Teelucksingh.

**Blue Room, Monday/Wednesday/Friday P.M.:** Jack Anderson, Alexandra Mariana Bedford, Olivia Grace Brown, Evan Cabrera, Shannon Grace Csordos, Rachel Jean Eggert, Nicholas Ryan Hannon, Gabriel Jastrzebski, Lawrence E. Jimenez, Hana S. Mustafic, Robert Pearsall and Jacob Dylan Rochotte.

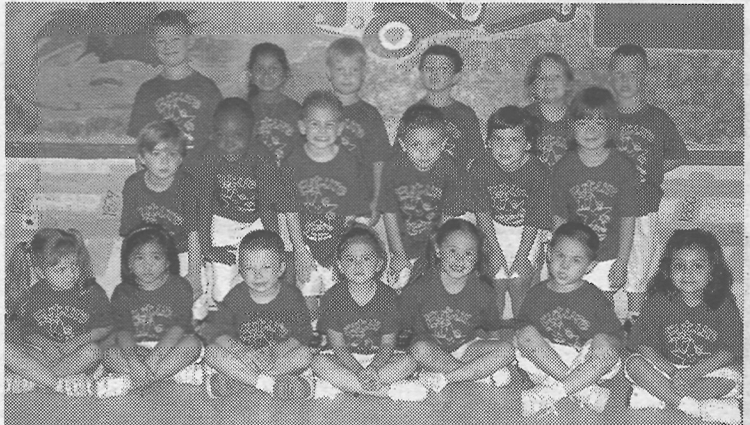
**Blue Room, Tuesday/Thursday:** Olivia Giaele Ardito, Agatha Rose A. Baybay, Rayden Klaus Clapp, Patrick Michael Corsello, Owen Michael Dugan, Brian T. Doherty, Anthony Michael Frascino, Erica Kristine Gilson, Daniel Vincent Marchena, Brian Christopher Mazellan, Jennifer Nguy, Conner Jay Olsen, Jeanette A., Orelana, Rebecca Lynn Palmer, Riya Patel, Jace Peoples, Kristina Marie Shaw, Henry George Sprigle and Brooke Jolie Winston.

**Read Room, Monday/Wednesday/Friday P.M.:** Robert John Albano, Anna Batoool, Jenna H. Elmasry, Jonathan Eric Galarza, Anthony Steve Garcia, Margaret Krug, Dante A. Obispo-Tanco, Divya D. Patel, Stephanie Peterson, Alanna Rowen Rivera, Rajit Sharma, Joseph Peter Sottiriou and Kelly Tran.

**Yellow Room, Monday-Friday P.M.:** Tymere Isaiah Alexander, Carlos Andres Arias Jr., Victor Balewicz, Kady Lynn Blend, Aaron Cacoilo, Isaiah Andrew Drisker, Joshua Estrella, Griffin Tyler Fraser, Faizan Khan, Gia Maisonet, Nicole O'Sullivan, Ericka Paredes, Fatima H. Rizvi, Michael Turner and Frank J. Urbano-vitch.



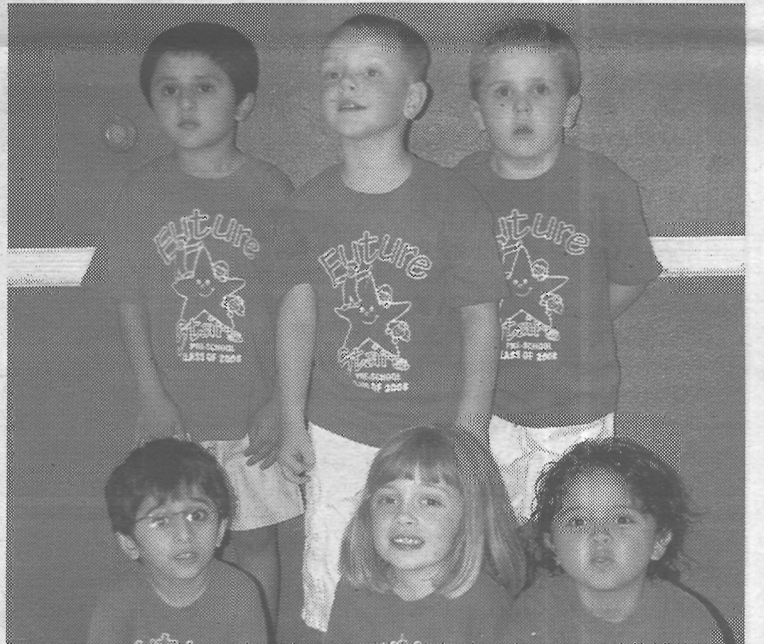
AM Yellow



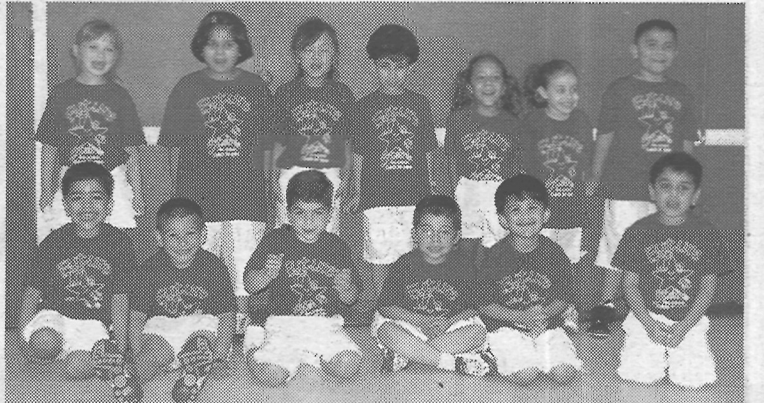
AM Blue



AM Rainbow



PM Orange



PM Red



PM Yellow



## BOROUGH NOTES

- A \$150,000 check will be issued to the South Plainfield Free Public Library toward repayment of funds expended for the new library project.
- Angelo Strillacci has been hired from July 10-18 to fill in for Plumbing Inspector Vinny Franchino, who will be on vacation.
- The council authorized the transfer of \$80,000 of 2007 Community Development Block Grant funding for the proposed library to ADA approved handicap-accessible safety ramps on various borough streets.
- A block party was approved for Diane Zekas on Saturday, July 26 (rain date July 27) on Grant Avenue from Franklin to Melrose avenues.
- The council approved the temporary budget for FY2009-total general appropriations in the amount of \$7,761,481; total sewer utility in the amount of \$1,693,075 and total pool utility in the amount of \$70,500.
- Resolution #08-156 was amend-

- ed to include East Hendricks Boulevard and construction authorization for engineering services by T&M Associates as part of the Linden Avenue project at a cost not to exceed \$61,000.
- Mary Beth Khidre was appointed to the position of secretary, boards/commissions effective June 24 and the position of assistant zoning officer was eliminated.
- A road improvement contract was awarded to Stilo Escavation, low bidder for the South Plainfield Avenue Phase II project and Tompkins Avenue project.
- A contract was awarded for professional services to Maryann Nergaard, Esq. and the law firm of Woolson, Sutphen, Anderson & Nergaard, P.C., to represent the borough as special counsel for the Durham Plaza tax appeal.
- A contract for professional services was approved with The WBA Group, Inc. for the engineering and

- designing of the multi-purpose turf field and associated improvements, for a fee not to exceed \$91,500.
- The council approved \$2,000 to provide for a preliminary draft of the Ad Hoc Truck Route Committee's proposed new bypass truck route.
- The council authorized the municipal clerk to issue 2008-2009 liquor license to Sonador, Inc.
- New brush truck apparatus will be purchased from Absolute Fire Protection with funds authorized under the 2007 MCIA Lease Program, at a cost not to exceed \$8,870.
- The council approved the purchase of inflatable boats and motors from Busters Marine Service for the fire department, at a cost of not to exceed \$6,794.
- The council approved a capital budget amendment in the amount of \$385,000 to be utilized for Linden Avenue, East Hendricks Boulevard and various borough roads.

From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Sunnie Randolph

Summer Reading is underway at the South Plainfield Public Library. The South Plainfield School District Summer reading list books are available in limited quantity at the library. Grades 1-4 books are in the children's room and 5-12 are on the mezzanine level. For those of you unfamiliar with the library, read the signs and labels for each grade. Books for grades 5-12 are checked out for two weeks and may not be renewed. Overdue fines are \$.10 a day per book. If you listen to a book on CD, the overdue fine is \$.25 per day per item. If you place a hold on a book, the fee is \$.50 when you pick up the book. This policy is an attempt to make books available for everyone who wants to read them. Don't take out more books than you can read in a two week period.

The fun Summer Reading Clubs began on June 30. There are three Summer Reading Book Clubs—children's, young adult and adult. Come into the library to sign up, get your reading log and begin reading.

The theme for the children's reading club is "Catch the Reading Bug." There are green t-shirts to purchase for \$5. They are available in many sizes. See the display near the front door. The display cases show samples of the prizes that can be won by reading.

The theme for the Young Adult reading club is metamorphosis. Stop in the library to register and pick up a schedule of events—movies, programs, etc., or check the library's Web site at

[www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us) for more information.

The Adult Reading Club is for adults who read or listen to books. For every 10 books read, your name will be placed in a raffle to win prizes like gift certificates to restaurants, stores, etc. The library is also distributing a questionnaire to be filled out if you would like to be automatically placed on a holds list for your favorite authors whenever they publish a new book. We did this in the past, but staffing changes have made it very sporadic. We would like to provide this service again. It also helps us know how many books to order pre-publication of a new book. We can look at how many people want holds placed on the book and order multiple copies and formats (regular print, large print, books on CD or books on cassette) of the book.

Check the library's Web site or stop in the library to pick up a calendar of events for the month of July. There will be the regular storytimes and crafts but there are extra special programs and movies during the summer. Check the calendar for dates and times.

Don't forget the downloadable books and movies on the library's Web site. If you can't get to the library, try downloading a movie or book.

If you don't think South Plainfield needs a new library, you should visit the library sometime during the summer—especially if you have not set foot in the library. You might just change your mind about the need for a larger library building.

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## WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN

### FROM A BUSY BUSY MOM *jd*

The Middle School eighth grade dinner/dance took place on June 20 at the high school. Thank you to DJ John Limyansky, Custom Creations, Hometown Heros, Principal Steve Novak, Assistant Principal Lisa Parker, Sodexo, the PTO executive board and all the parents who helped set up, decorate, chaperone and clean up. The children looked beautiful and had a wonderful time.

The Middle School graduation took place in the high school auditorium due to the threatening weather forecast. Thank you to Superintendent Jose Negron, the BOE, school staff, Pattie Abbott of the *Observer*, Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Zushma and staff, Mike Pellegrino and the fire department, the police, rescue squad, Sodexo, Principal Steve Novak, Assistant Principal Lisa Parker and teachers for a well organized evening.

The high school graduation took

place on June 24 at Jost Field. Thank you to Principal Ken May, Superintendent Jose Negron, Board of Education, Mike Zushma and staff, the fire department, rescue squad, Mayor Charlie Buttrico, Council President Robert Bengivenga, Jr., the various student speakers and BOE Vice President Pio Pennisi for your speech.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Seesselberg Family.

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## Obituaries

### Katherine Seesselberg, 75

Katherine Seesselberg passed away on Monday, June 30 at JFK Medical Center in Edison after a brief illness.

Kay, as she was known, was born in Staten Island, N.Y. to William and Marie Kelley. She graduated as a registered



Katherine Seesselberg

nurse at the McCutcheon Friends Home in North Plainfield.

Kay was an active member of Our Lady of Czestochowa parish and served as treasurer for the Rosary Altar Society. She was a volunteer at the South Plainfield Senior Citizens Center. She was a county committeewoman, secretary and past chairman of the South Plainfield Republican Organization and served on the Land Management Commission. She was also involved in cub scouts and other community activities.

Kay was always supporting and giving and enjoyed knitting, crocheting, cooking and baking. She was well known for her election day cakes and intermission brownies. She also enjoyed traveling, trips to Atlantic City and long, great friendships.

She was a good mother who enjoyed sharing activities and time spent with her children and grandchildren.

Kay is survived by four sons, Bill and wife Dianne, Bob and wife Patricia, Charles, Peter and wife Cindy and a daughter, Mary Huffsmith. She is also survived by eight grandchildren, Jeffrey, Christopher, Matthew, Ryan, Charles, Katelin, Justin and Allison.

Funeral services will be held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals on Saturday, July 5 at 8:15 a.m. followed by a funeral mass at Our Lady of Czestochowa at 9 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be

made to the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or the charity of your choice.

### Mabel "Mabe" Naegele, 95

Mabel "Mabe" Naegele of Easton, Pa. passed away peacefully at her home on Thursday, June 26 surrounded by her loving family.

Mrs. Naegele was born in Otisville, N.Y. and resided in South Plainfield most her life before moving to Easton recently.

Mabel was known as "Nana" to everyone and enjoyed all types of baking and most especially providing cookies for her family and friends as part of a tradition during the holidays. She will be sadly missed most of all for her devotion, love and kindness shown to her family and friends.

Mrs. Naegele was predeceased by her husband, Carl J., Sr., who passed away in 1986; a son, Carl J., Jr., who passed away in 2005; a sister and six brothers.

Mabel is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Leah and William Degnen and Nancy and Craig Weber, all of Forks Township, Pa.; a daughter-in-law, Betty Naegele of San Rafele, Calif.; seven grandchildren, William Degnen, Katie Hebb, Jennifer Brennan, Erin Naegele, Jessie Weber, Molly Weber and Rebekah Weber in addition to three great-grandchildren, Alexis Hebb, Michael Hebb and Taylor Hebb who all called her "Nana."

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

Memorial contributions in Mrs. Naegele's name can be made to The American Cancer Society, 1 Union St., Ste. 301, Robbinsville, N.J. 08691-4183.

### Thomas Bosco, 43

Thomas Bosco suddenly passed away on Saturday, June 28 at his home in Jim Thorpe, Pa.

Born in Kearny, he was raised in Piscataway and moved to Jim Thorpe 10 years ago.

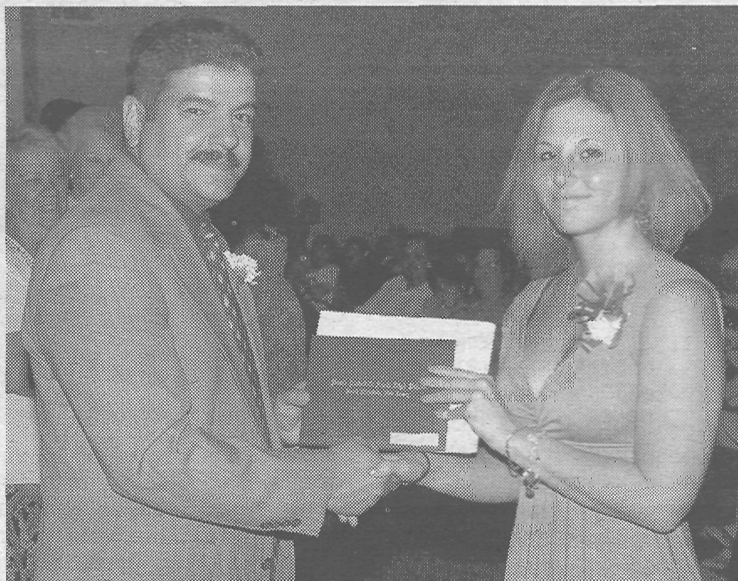
He worked for eight years as operations manager at Waste Management in Mt. Olive. Thomas was an outdoors man who enjoyed hunting and fishing and was a huge fan of the New York Giants.

He is survived by his wife, Michelle; a son, Vincent; seven daughters, Natalie, Gina, Angela, Bella, Emilia, Olivia and Grace; his parents, Carmen and Pasquale; a sister, Patricia Ann Renner; a brother, Michael, along with several nieces, nephews and cousins.

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

In lieu of flowers, contributions be sent for his eight young children's education to: Michael Bosco, c/o P.O. Box 8002, Parsippany, N.J. 07054.

## 33 Receive Diplomas at Adult High School Commencement Exercise



Thirty-three students received their high school diplomas at the South Plainfield Adult School's 31st annual graduation ceremony.

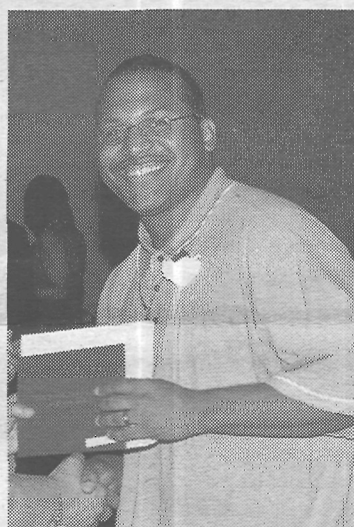
Also receiving certificates for their efforts were students from the English as a Second Language classes.

Students of all ages and from all walks of life attend the adult school to earn a high school diploma. Many of this year's graduating class plan to attend college or institution of higher learning to further their education. It takes determination and dedication for these students to return to school and complete their high school education. Many have full time jobs and family responsibilities, along with homework and studies.

This year's speakers were Superintendent of Schools Jose Negron and Sophia Domogala, director of Adult Education, who commended the students extraordinary effort to return to school and better themselves.

Congratulations to the 2008 graduates: Tiffany Alicea, Danielle Anthe-nelli, Malcolm Brown, Terry Lynne Amatullah Campbell, Bryant Draper, Samantha Lynn Fiore, Stephanie Marie Franco, Marcel Graham, Jamal Idrissi, Kerri Ann Jones, Kyle Sinclair Lewis,

Terrell M. Lucas, Nicholas Marino, Bruce Richard Mason, Cynthia Michelle Mejia, Khoi Nguyen Pham, Jessica Pope, Jean Carlos Reyes, Mary Jane Rodriguez, Gianni A. Rodriguez, Elsie Victoria Rosales, Jeffrey Salles, Lisa Samet, Vicente Sanchez, Brenton A. Saunders, Tristy Saunders, Teodoro Castaneda Sausa, Jaddy Torres-Ordenez, Blanca M. Torrez, Christopher Twine, Niasha Twine, Isaac R. Ventura, Jr. and Tyrell Willis.



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## IN MY OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

conflict of interest in voting to end the dangerous truck detour. Yet Butrico only quoted part of the statute. He left out the part that undercut his argument. How convenient.

Butrico said the law on conflicts, according to our Borough Attorney, was "not clear." The attorney actually said it was very clear and Bengivenga had no reason to abstain from voting.

Unlike Butrico, Rob Bengivenga has no purpose in wanting to abolish the truck detour other than to do what's right for South Plainfield. Remember, it's Butrico, Democratic Councilman Joe Scrudato, former Democratic Councilman Dennis Cerami, Democratic Party boss Patrick Diegnan and Democratic supporter Joe Diegnan who live off Hamilton Boulevard and personally benefit from the dangerous truck detour. The trucks are no longer in their neighborhood and their property values are higher because of it.

If Butrico wants to have an honest debate, it's time that he uses facts, not falsehoods, to make his point. But apparently he knows that using the truth alone will show his positions to be exactly what they are, self-serving and foolhardy.

**VERY TRULY YOURS,  
SANDY CASTAGNO**

### Open Letter to the South Plainfield Library Board of Trustees:

I could not believe my eyes when I read the letter you had published in the last edition of the *Observer* to the Mayor and Council. My question to you is, "Are you people nuts?" The proposal for a new library was voted down. What is it you don't understand about that vote? What did you do or not do to warrant this push for a new library? Is it because you put the cart before the horse and did things you should not have done before this proposal was put to a public vote?

We are experiencing difficult economic times in New Jersey and it is not going to get better. The new state budget is going to cost taxpayers more money in property taxes, the school budgets are going to cost taxpayers more money in property tax, and you want the taxpayers to accept an additional increase to property taxes already out of sight. Again, "Are you people nuts?"

Your reasoning is absolutely absurd. People like myself who are on fixed incomes feel that even an additional \$10 or \$15 a year increase in property taxes is a hardship because we do not have that extra \$10 or \$15 to play with. Something no one seems to realize.

So, as a senior citizen on a fixed income, I really feel strongly about being coerced or bullied into doing something I don't want to do. I personally do not feel that our students will suffer if there is no new library, most, if not all, have access to computers which are used more widely for research and anything else students need than spending time in the library.

My suggestion to you members of the Board of Trustees is this: if you feel so strongly about a new library, raise the monies needed to build it yourselves. Then, you can have the cornerstone engraved with all your names for all to see as building the new library.

**PATRICIA MCDONOUGH**

Dear Editor,

Last month a coalition of law enforcement agencies and non-profits across the United States came together to collect and redistribute used cell phones to any community member who needs a 911 phone in the event of an emergency. The coalition is led

by our nationwide non-profit organization, "Secure the Call Foundation."

Our purpose for contacting you today is a simple one. We're hoping that you'll help us collect old cell phones by asking your readers to bring in any unneeded cell phones they may have.

Secure the Call Foundation takes the phones, inspects them, charges their batteries, and then reprograms them to be used as free 911 emergency phones. Any phone that can be turned on can access 911 services even without a carrier service plan. Then the phones are distributed to domestic violence shelters, senior centers, neighborhood watch groups, school crossing guards and other agencies with an immediate need for 911 access. These free 911 emergency cell phones are available to individuals and organizations nationwide.

For information on the program, prepaid mailing labels or to download a tax receipt for your donation, visit [www.donatemycellphone.org](http://www.donatemycellphone.org) or call (888) 883-6628.

**SINCERELY,  
T. MICHAEL MORGAN,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



Dee McCriskin (center) of South Plainfield completed the 39-mile Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in Boston last month. More than 3,000 people walked during the event and collectively raised \$6.9 million. Personally, Dee raised more than \$2,800 for the cause. Dee was sponsored by Mom Mazzetta, Richie McCriskin, Mom McCriskin, Sal, Christine and Vincent Meo; The Natelli Family, The Macan Family, Barbara and John Shuleski, Uncle Jim and Jimmy, Courtney, Betty and Denise McCabe, Barbara, Kevin and Collin Griffin; Patsy and Bill Boehm, Debbie and Joe Macellara, Renee and Tom Doherty, Nancy and Jim McCriskin, Eileen and Daniel Uken, Robyn and Glen Bartics, Annie and Pete DeNunzio, Barbara Lucas, Robert Hoesly, Andrea Gustafson, Kathy Misko, Rob Lowe; Liz, Hen, Albert, Steve and Phil; Pam and John Mocharski, Eileen and Rich Magee, South Plainfield Elks, Toni and Guy Moretti-Moretti Realty, Johnstine Skok Loughlin and Lane, Lanza & Lanza Attorneys, Linda and Tommy Malinowski-Federated Fire Services Inc., McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals, and Chris and John Zernoski-Flanagans.

## Thomas Baker

(Continued from page 1)

and actions. The program was in response to an incident at a pep rally at the high school. A student waved a handkerchief stamped like a Confederate Flag. "The student who waved that hanky had no idea what that Confederate Flag meant to the population of the school. We took kids into the media center and had different outside people, including the Middlesex County Prosecutor, come in and explain how it felt to be different. We were trying to have the kids understand what someone was feeling when they saw the flag," said Baker. "RARE is still going strong," he added.

Eight members of RARE recently performed a dramatic presentation at Kean University that they created about the problems girls face. The eight girls wrote, directed and performed in skits dealing with eating disorders, addiction, cutting and pregnancy.

"They received a standing ovation by the Kean professors," said Baker.

Baker is retiring from his career after 40 years in the South Plainfield school district.

"I am blessed that for 40 years I did something I loved," he said. "If someone asked me what I'd do if I had this life to live over, I'd say I'd do it all over again and in South Plainfield."

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Tiger Sharks Swim Team

Tiger Sharks Big Win

(Continued from page 6)

ond and Enzo Butrico taking third. Anthony Gurrieri (13-14) placed second and Michael Stanczak (8 and under) placed third.

In the more difficult breaststroke Cristian Butrico (8 and under) and Anthony Gurrieri (13-14) took first place ribbons and were the only South Plainfield swimmers who placed in their categories. Matt Lind (9-10) and Alan Kasmer (15-18) were also the only South Plainfield swimmers to capture a ribbon in their age groups, and their second place wins helped secure the victory.

In the 11-12 age group, Charlie Butrico and Joey Valentino placed second and third.

The girls also had some tough competition in the butterfly stroke. Erin Pepe and Aubrey Marish placed second and third in 8 and under. Shannon Pepe took first place in the 9-10 category and was the only South Plainfield swimmer to do so in that age group. Amy Zinsky and Kelley O'Brien (11-12) placed first and third. In the 13-14 age group, Gracie Pickarski was the only South Plainfield swimmer to

take second. Finishing the butterfly (15-18) with a second and third place ribbon were Chelsea Cullen and Michele Gustafson.

Securing the win and advancing the Tiger Sharks to a 54-point victory were the relays.

The boys swept the free relays. 8 and under: Michael Stanczak, Cristian Butrico, Miles Green and Caleb Ivaniuc; 9-12: Marcel Green, Matt Lind, Enzo Butrico, Nicholas Gurrieri; 13-18: Michael Boyle, Matt Moates, Anthony Gurrieri and A. Mehta. The girls secured two medley relay wins. 8 and under: Aubrey Marish, Brianna Spadavecchia and Erin Pepe; 9-12: Shannon Pepe, Amy Zinsky, Jenny Huber and Allison Huber.

The South Plainfield Tiger Sharks are coached by Laurie Post, director at the JCC on Oak Tree Road; Sarah Blessing, swim coach at Bishop Ahr High School; Shannon Dabrio, swim coach at South Plainfield High School and Mary Otlowski, former swimmer for the South Plainfield Tiger Sharks.

Submitted by Cheryl Nagel-Smiley



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# Riley School Presents The Stars of Tomorrow

(Continued from page 1)

which featured pictures from South Plainfield's very own Marine, John McConville. What an honor it was to

have him in our audience. He was given a standing ovation for all his service in the military. John McConville was in attendance to watch his own

nephew, Sean, and niece, Kaitlyn, perform. John's brother, Councilman Tim McConville, did an interpretation of the Wiggles "Fruit Salad," which also featured Councilman Matt Anesh.

The second standing ovation came when second grader Chloe Wilson sang live to Queen Latifah's, "I Know Where I've Been." On her first day at practice she went to Pace and asked what she would need in regards to costumes or back up, and was told to wing it and all the props will be taken care of. When she finished her first run through Chloe asked, "What do I need?" and Pace answered, "Chloe you need nothing, you are amazing."

The Blues Brothers (Physical Education teacher Eugene Clapsis and the Principal Al Czech) danced and raised the roof to their rendition of "Soul Man." They had hats, sunglasses and side burns to demonstrate that they had soul.

What would a lip sync show be without Riley School dads performing their own version of "YMCA?" The room was filled with screaming, cheering and dancing. After the performance, some people were asking if they could be booked for parties.

This was Riley School's first lip sync show, but from the applause and compliments from the audience, it is sure to become an annual event.

The event was quoted by Mickie Martinez as, "The first family-oriented event [he has seen] in a long time."



Riley School fathers performing as The Village People—Mickie Martinez, Alfred Pace, Mike DeCarlo, Anthony Palmeri and Don Ardito.



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