

South Plainfield OBSERVER

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60 CENTS

AUGUST 31, 2012



Labor Day Parade Honorary Grand Marshal Marge Reedy poses with the parade trophies to be awarded at Monday's 55th annual parade.

Public Works Agrees to New Contract

The Borough Council voted unanimously at the August 20 meeting to accept a new three-year contract with the Department of Public Works (DPW) employees. The contract includes a 1.5% hourly salary increase this year and next; in 2013 there will be a 1.75% increase.

After their four-year contract ended in December 2010, a one-year extension was granted with new lower base salary rates for the different classifications of workers. The town felt at the time that the pay scale exceeded what the current job market for similar positions called for.

In the new contract, a "Laborer IV" step was added and prescription co-pays increased.

Most state employees, local government and education employees are now paying 1.5% or greater of their base salaries toward healthcare premiums, and it will increase each year by a large margin through 2015. This is due to Governor Chris Christie's legislation that was passed last June. Essentially, DPW workers who earn more than \$35,000 a year will be hit with the highest percentage.

"This contract was a home run for the borough," commented CFO Glenn Cullen.

There are 16 full time employees; half of whom were hired after the December 7, 2009 date when the lower base rates took effect.

Reedy to Serve as Labor Parade Grand Marshal

By Jane Dornick

The South Plainfield Public Celebrations Committee named resident Marjorie Reedy to be this year's 55th annual Labor Day Parade Honorary Grand Marshal. The theme of the 55th annual parade is "Throughout the Years, 1960-Present."

Reedy was born and raised in Plainfield. She relocated to South Plainfield in 1976 with her husband, Michael, and raised three children here, Sandra, James and Patrick.

Reedy served as a member of the Board of Education from 1988-1991 and again from 1994-2000. She was its president from 1989-1990 and from 1999-2000. Reedy has also volunteered registering entrants for the Sacred Heart 5K on race day.

"She always offered her experience and expertise from running the Labor Day 5K Race," said Carl Adlassnig who chairs the Sacred Heart run.

In 2001, Reedy became involved in the South Plainfield Education Foundation (SPEF) and was voted president in 2002 and has continued on as its leader to this day. The foundation gives out six \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors each year through various fundraisers such as its annual telethon in December, golf outing, wine and beer tasting and the 5K race preceding the Labor Day parade.

The Gold Card, sponsored by the SPEF, is an incentive program to encourage high school students to reach their fullest academic potential. They also help sponsor Project Graduation, a drug and alcohol free all-night party for graduating seniors and Tiger Gold,



Alexx White, winner of the parade theme contest, will serve as Junior Honorary Parade Grand Marshal.

a program that encourages good citizenship, which is in place at the middle school.

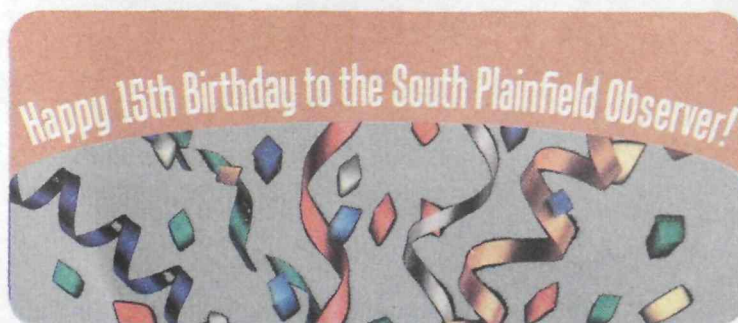
"Marge is absolutely amazing," said SPEF Trustee Frank Mikorski. "I can't believe what she has done for the foundation and the community. She does so much to raise money for the kids. She is always there running meetings and the time she spends is unbelievable. I could not say enough to really describe her."

Reedy also helped save the annual High School Hall of Fame program which recognizes outstanding graduates with a luncheon and plaques that are placed on the Wall of Fame in the school. She created the South Plainfield Alumni Association which now

sponsors its continuation through donations from alumni and patrons. The association has been able to publish an Alumni Directory which is a great resource for individuals to reach out to former classmates. They are currently holding a buy-a-brick fundraiser to honor former students which will be placed in the landscaped circle in front of the high school.

In addition to Reedy's service to school organizations, she has assisted

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Pullout pages
13-16 for
comprehensive
Labor Day
coverage.

Thank you South Plainfield for
reading the Observer for 15 years!



Borough Refunds \$347,300 in Tax Appeals

By Jane Dornick

The Borough Council refunded \$147,808.98 in tax appeal judgments to 83 residential property owners and four commercial property owners at August 20 meeting.

According to Borough CFO Glenn Cullen, the town budgeted \$300,000 this year to return to taxpayers in anticipated refunds—\$100,000 more than last year.

Most of the tax appeals result in a credit towards next year's bill; however, if the property owner has overpaid for the year the borough issues a monetary refund. So far this year the borough has exceeded the budgeted amount and accumulated \$347,300 in tax appeal judgments. The differ-

ence will come from the uncollected tax portion of the budget which has an additional \$150,000 in it and any additional appeals over and above will be taken from the borough's surplus.

"I don't want to sit here and say we've seen the worst," commented Mayor Matt Anesh. "I hope we have. It seems brighter going forth. I think we've weathered it pretty well."

Going forward, Councilman Alex Barletta feels that the future construction project at the former Tingley Rubber site on South Avenue will have a positive impact on tax rates. "It should help," said Barletta. "We are doing our job fiscally. South Plainfield is in pretty good shape." The borough is currently down approximately \$1.5M in its tax

base this year and has been on a steady decline for the past several years.

Council President and Finance Chair Ray Rusnak has approached the Board of Education several times this year attempting to collect \$158,000 in 2011 tax appeals to offset what the borough had to refund on their behalf. With the board's share of the total tax bill being approximately 57%, the borough has had to absorb \$196,692 of the \$347,300 so far this year in tax appeal refunds.

According to Rusnak, after meeting with Cullen, Superintendent Dr. Stephen Genco, Business Administrator Jim Olobardi, Board President Jim Giannakis and board member John Farinella they have agreed to discuss and vote on the issue at their Wednes-

day, Sept. 12 public meeting.

"The borough can't support it [tax appeals]," said Rusnak. "The Board of Education should help chip in."

Money that is paid out in tax appeals on behalf of the county is also not refunded to the borough.

School board member Joseph Sorrentino commented at the meeting that he does not feel that the board owes the town any money in tax relief to assist with the tax appeals. Yet he believes that something can be worked out with sharing the cost of school crossing guards, which the borough is obligated to fund at \$300,000 a year.

Property taxes are the result of the local budget process and may not be appealed; however, the property's

(Continued on page 27)

In My Opinion

Opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the publisher, nor do we guarantee accuracy.

To the Editor:

South Plainfield Schools Superintendent Dr. Stephen Genco arrived in April 2012 ready to meet the challenges in all aspects of our school system with his expertise in math and science. Dr. Genco has been a science teacher, member of a high school curriculum review committee, intermediate school principal, high school vice principal and principal.

He became an assistant superin-

tendent in a very large district where he oversaw the Human Resources department including negotiations, litigation, professional development, supervised the district registrar, student discipline, policy, operations and worked with building principals to ensure all state and district mandates were addressed. Dr. Genco facilitated Middle States Accreditation process for a high school and served as a member of a district planning team.

He has researched the development of new programs, developed high school budgets and worked on the facilitation of technology programs. Dr. Genco has coached softball, football, wrestling and was a wrestler himself in high school and college. Dr. Genco has been involved in a large range of programs all developing higher standards for students to help them reach and surpass their goals.

Dr. Genco is currently building a strong administrative team of highly qualified personnel. There is a glaring need for curriculum building to insure that our students will improve test scores and bring new initiatives and strengths to our district. His team of administrators and teachers have been involved in the interview process to help bring only the most qualified persons to South Plainfield. The newest hire, Nicole Pormilli as the assistant superintendent, was interviewed by Dr. Genco and his team and was agreed upon by the entire team, with her strengths in curriculum and assessments. The Board of Education has been completely aware of the background of all the candidates.

Dr. Genco has welcomed our district into his life in every aspect by his involvement in our community, keeping an open door policy with the

mayor, council and public relations with the *Observer*, parents, teachers, staff, workers and his concentration on curriculum and the needs of our students. We welcome Dr. Genco to South Plainfield. We will truly miss Interim Assistant Superintendent Dr. Frank Cocchiola, who brought his strengths in curriculum and student achievements. It is a pleasure to work with Dr. Genco and Dr. Cocchiola.

DEBBIE BOYLE

To the Editor:

My name is Pat DeSantis, and on July 13 I announced my bid for the town council.

It was erroneously reported that I was a member of the Sacred Heart Music Ministry, and was a member of the pastoral council. I would emphasize that I am still a member of the Sacred Heart Music Ministry as I have been for the past 23 years, and I currently serve on the current pastoral council.

I am also currently employed by the South Plainfield Board of Education as a para professional (duty aide) at the high school.

I am an independent who wants to work for you and South Plainfield. I do not want to be part of any political parties that would influence or try to

Submit Your Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax to 908-668-8819, or via email: spobserver@comcast.net. **Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m.** Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. 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. Submission is not a guarantee of publication. We do not accept anonymous letters. Letters are strictly opinion.

control my decisions.

I want to confront the issues that affect our taxes, traffic and quality of life. The discussions and solutions are more feasible if party politics are left out of the equation.

Solutions to issues are best achieved by understanding the concerns of all the residents, and focusing on what best serves the whole community. As a member of the council I will listen and act on your concerns.

The best part of running for council is the opportunity to talk with my neighbors, and to understand the concerns of the community.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve.

**PAT DESANTIS,
BOROUGH COUNCIL CANDIDATE**

Want to stay informed about the business of your Council and BOE?

FYI

Borough Council & BOE

Council meetings air on Comcast Channel 96 Mondays at 7 p.m. BOE meetings air on Thursdays at 7 p.m.

To purchase a complete copy of a council or BOE meeting, contact the *Observer*. (Check Comcast community bulletin board for last minute time changes.)

councilmeetings

Meets twice a month on Mondays, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

Agenda Meeting

Tuesday, September 4
Monday, September 17

Public Meeting

Tuesday, September 4
Monday, September 17

All Agenda Meetings begin at 7 p.m. followed immediately by the Public Meeting, unless otherwise noted. Meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with the N.J. Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Ave.

planningboard

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641
Sept. 11, Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Oct. 23, Nov. 13, Nov. 27, Dec. 11

zoningboardofadjustment

Meets first and third Tuesdays of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641
Sept. 18, Oct. 2, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 4, Dec. 18

boardofeducation

Meets Wednesdays at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave.
Special Business Meeting—Wednesday, Aug. 29, 6 p.m.
Committee of the Whole meetings (begin at 6:00 p.m.) Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 7, Dec. 12
Regular Public Meeting (begin at 6:30 p.m.) except where noted* Sept. 19, Oct. 17

BOEcurriculum/technology/student activities

Meets once a month at 4:30 p.m. in 2nd floor conference room, Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.

BOEbuildings & grounds

Meets second Monday of the month at 7 p.m., 2nd floor conference room, Roosevelt Administration Building

culturalarts commission

Meets the third Tuesday of the month at the PAL at 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 18

libraryboard of trustees

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday, at the library at 7 p.m.
Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

recreationcommission

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7716
Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

South Plainfield OBSERVER

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We encourage the submission of stories and photos. To have an article published: Type (double spaced) the article and mail, email or fax. Include name, address and telephone number. **Deadline for submission is Monday, 5 p.m.**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Submit letters to the editor by mail, email or fax. Letters should not exceed 200 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. Letters must include name and phone number, for verification.

To comment on the content or to suggest a story idea, contact the editor at (908) 668-0010.

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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Homecoming Held on Major Fessock's Return from Afghanistan

By Patricia Abbott

Major Robert (Rob) Fessock of the United States Army was welcomed home in style by his brother, Paul, who organized a huge party at KC's Korner in his honor on July 28. The event also served as a fundraiser for the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club (SPJBC) and raised over \$500. Food, provided by KC's Korner, included everything from sandwiches to KC's famous BBQ ribs. There was something for everyone, including face painting and a moon bounce for the kids.

Major Fessock served in Afghanistan and was stationed in Kabul for a year. While serving there he earned the Bronze Star and a commendation medal. During his tour of duty he lost two friends in his unit.

"I threw the party to welcome him back and honor all the soldiers who



Paul Fessock, brother Rob and Rob's son, Kaiden.

have been killed," explained Paul.

His mom, Leonor Fessock, a 35 year resident of South Plainfield, was also in attendance, along with a

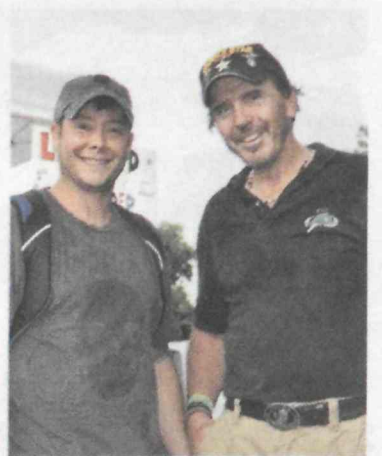
crowd of about 200 people.

During the party attendees had the opportunity to sign a picture of Rob taken in Afghanistan which Paul had

enlarged. The Fessock brothers grew up in South Plainfield. Paul graduated from Bishop Ahr High School in Edison in 1989. Rob graduated from South Plainfield High School in 1993. They were both involved with the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club at a very young age.

Rob, a police officer in Washington, D.C., has a son, Kaiden, who is two and a daughter, Wailee, who is 13. Paul owns a music studio in Summit called World of Rock. He offers lessons in guitar, bass, drums and keyboard.

He and Rob will appear in this year's Labor Day parade in Paul's 1981 Corvette. Paul's band, Amp'd will be performing in the gazebo in Spring Lake Park at 6 p.m. and they



Rob Fessock with a fellow Bronze Star recipient.

will also be selling t-shirts to raise more money for the SPJBC.

Second Annual Health and Safety Fair

The Mayor's Wellness Committee, in conjunction with St. Peter's Healthcare System, will present South Plainfield's second annual Family Health & Safety Fair on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center.

The annual event will feature free health screenings and educational information, including blood pressure, blood sugar, skin cancer and dental health screenings; vision testing, flu shots; height, weight and BMI; car seat safety check, nutrition information, Ask the Doctor, and will launch the kickoff of "The Biggest Loser South Plainfield" contest. The day will also include entertainment, face

painting, glitter tattoos, giveaways and prizes.

Participating providers and organizations include Fitness 19, South Plainfield Police Department, LA Fitness, South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department, Ricochet Racquet Club,

Douglas Klein, D.M.D. and South Plainfield Rescue Squad. Additional participants will be announced soon.

For more information, visit www.southplainfieldnj.com or the Borough of South Plainfield's Facebook page.

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Calling All Former And Current Girl Scouts

This year is the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Girl Scouts and is also the 90th anniversary of Camp Hoover! Since the theme of the parade this year is "Throughout the Years, 1960-Present," we would like to invite women who were Girl Scouts in the past to walk with us. Of course, all current girl scouts are invited as well. We will be meeting at the PAL parking lot prior to the start of the parade.

For more information, please email Heidi at heidiheath520@yahoo.com. We hope to see lots of current and former girl scouts there!

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events

Around Town

Elks Family Picnic

September 1

The South Plainfield Elks will host its annual family picnic on Saturday, Sept. 1 from 1-6 p.m. (rain date September 2).

The theme is "Kiddie Carnival" and there will be plenty of activities and contests for the children including the Piscataway Fire Department's "House on Fire," a Bounce-o-rama, games and crafts. Special buffet for the children and a variety of food, beverages and entertainment for the adults.

Adult tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door; children 7-17, \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door; children under 7 are free!

For tickets, call (908) 668-9750.

VFW Country Breakfast

September 2

We're back! VFW Post #6763 on Front Street will hold a country breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 2 from 8-11 a.m. Come in, enjoy and talk to old friends and have a delicious breakfast.

For more information, call (908) 668-9751.

SPHS Varsity Football Home Opener

September 7

The South Plainfield High School Varsity Football team home opener vs. New Brunswick High School will

be held on Friday, Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. at Frank Jost Field. The theme of this game is "Black Out Night." All fans are encouraged to wear black. Come early and get your terrible towels and mini-football giveaways. Come out and support the Tigers.

2012 New Jersey Senior Olympics

September 7-9

Join more than 1,000 senior Olympians from around the state to compete in a three-day Olympic competition in Woodbridge. World-class competition venues.

For more information, call (908) 754-1047.

Annual Sacred Heart Golf Outing

September 12

Sacred Heart Church will host its third annual golf outing on Wednesday, Sept. 12 at the Cranbury Golf Course in West Windsor. Shotgun start at 9 a.m. Prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive and hit the green. Snacks at the turn and a luncheon buffet.

Register online with a credit card at www.churchofthesacredheart.net.

Wish Upon A Hero at TD Bank Ballpark

September 12

Join the Somerset Patriots for Wish Upon A Hero Night on Wednesday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. at TD Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater. Listen to spokesperson Cory Singer perform the National Anthem; WishMaster Dave Girgenti will throw out the first pitch. Come see a wish granted live! Tickets: \$10. Proceeds support WishSeekers in NJ.

For more information, call Jill Pavel at (732) 423-2070.

Meet The Coaches Night at SPHS

September 18

Come meet all the South Plainfield High School coaches on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the SPHS Cafeteria C&D. Coffee and dessert will be served.

Sponsored by the South Plainfield High School Athletic Booster Club.

Senior Health & Fitness Walk 2012

September 19

Middlesex County Senior Health & Fitness Walk 2012 will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Roosevelt Park in Edison. Join our group as we "walk into better health." Health screenings, wellness info, entertainment, box lunch, giveaways, raffles. Registration required.

Sign up at the Senior Center or call (908) 754-1047.

American Legion Flea Market

September 22

The American Legion Post #243,

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

ZUMBA Fitness at the Senior Center, Monday and Wednesday, 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$7 per class. Call (908) 754-1047 for more info.

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

Bingo 10 am-2 pm
Ladies Social Group 10 am

WEDNESDAYS

Exercise Class 8:45 am
Line Dancing 10 am
Computer.. 10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm
Crocheting 1 pm
Tai Chi 2 pm

THURSDAYS

Active Seniors 9:00 am
Crafts Class 10 am
Computer.. 10, 11:30 am, 1:00 pm
Exercise Class 1:15 pm

FRIDAYS

Bingo 10 am-2 pm

Senior Center is open daily 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays & Sundays.
(908) 754-1047

243 Oak Tree Ave., will host a flea market on Saturday, Sept. 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Open to the public.

Members tables for \$10, non-members \$20. Non-members can bring own table for \$15. Call (908) 403-4292 if interested in renting a table.

Wednesday at 7 Meet & Greet

October 2

Grow your business with Wednesday at 7 Networking Meet and Greet on Tuesday, Oct. 2 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Paulo's BBQ, 2341 Plainfield Ave. Refreshments and light fare will be served. Bring your business cards; door prizes.

For more information, call Jill Pavel at (732) 423-7727.

Mayor's Annual Health & Safety Fair

October 3

The Mayor's Wellness Committee, in conjunction with St. Peter's Healthcare System, will present the second annual Family Health & Safety Fair on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Senior Center.

The event will feature free health screenings, and the launch of the kickoff of "The Biggest Loser South Plainfield" contest. The day will also include entertainment, face painting, glitter tattoos, giveaways and prizes.

For more information, visit www.southplainfieldnj.com or the Borough of South Plainfield's Facebook page.

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the Entertainment Book for \$30.

Contact
Lou Peralta at
(908) 756-6406.

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Fabulous 50s Weekend in Wildwood

October 12-14

Pack your bags for a "Fabulous 50s Weekend" with the South Plainfield Senior Center, Friday-Sunday, Oct. 12-14. The trip to Wildwood includes roundtrip deluxe motor coach transportation, two nights oceanfront hotel, two full breakfasts, two sumptuous dinners and a fabulous 50s concert on Friday night; Saturday afternoon street fair features car show, vendors, doo wop back to the 50s tour, a visit to Cape May, Atlantic City and so much more! Cost is \$260pp. Reservations required; booking up fast!

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

— Out of Town —

Labor Day Singles Dance Party

September 2

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting a Labor Day singles dance party on Sunday, Sept. 2 at 8 p.m. at the Woodbridge Hilton, 120 Wood Ave. South in Iselin. Ages 40 and up. No jeans/t-shirts/sneakers/shorts. Admission: \$15.

For more information, call the 24-hour hotline at (862) 397-4723.

World Trade Center Survivor to Speak

September 5

Victor Guarnera, a World Trade Center survivor, will be the guest speaker at the Metuchen-Edison Women's Club on Wednesday, Sept. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at The Heritage at Clara Barton, 1015 Amboy Ave. in Edison. The program is free to everyone.

For more information, please call Diana at (732) 548-0925.

American Flyers Career Day

September 8

American Flyers Flight School at the Morristown Airport, 50 Airport Rd., will be hosting a career day and open house starting at noon on Saturday, Sept. 8. Free lunch; meet and interact with aviation experts.

For more information, call (973) 267-3223.

St. Helen's Caregiver Support Group

September 10

St. Helen's Church Caregiver Support Group, for those caring for elderly or chronically ill loved ones, will meet on Monday, Sept. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center on Lamberts Mill Road in Westfield. Informational and sharing sessions.

For more information, call Marilyn Ryan at (908) 232-1214.

Connect with Crescent Church

September 16

The Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Ave. in Plainfield, will hold an open house for all ages entitled, "Connect with Crescent Celebration" on Sunday, Sept. 16 from noon to 4 p.m. Worship service will be held at 10:30 a.m.; guests will receive a welcoming gift.

Tour the New Jersey State landmark church. Food vendors, giant inflatable bouncers, popcorn, cotton candy, special activities throughout the afternoon and informational booths.

For more information, contact the church office at (908) 756-2468.

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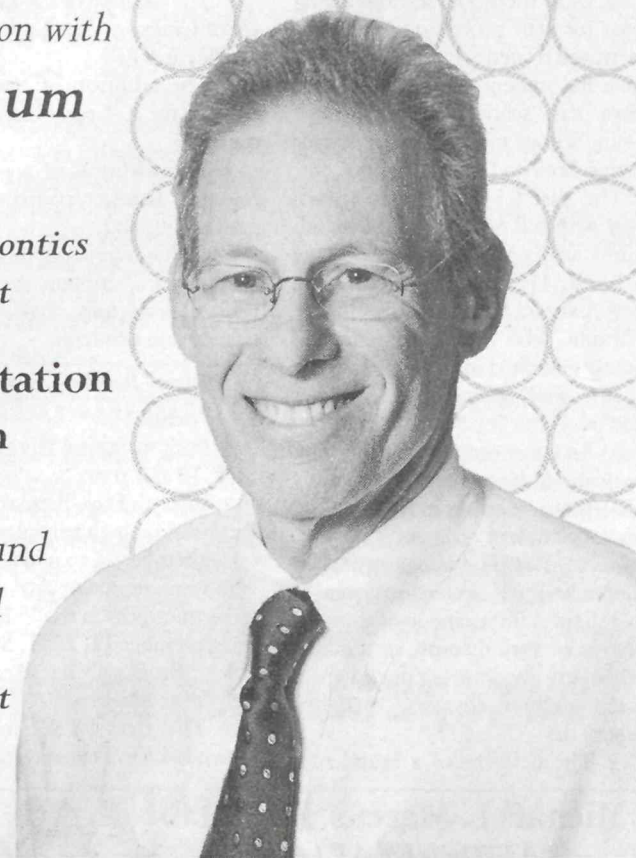
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Important School Activities and Meetings Announced

The administration and central office personnel in the South Plainfield School District have been working diligently all summer to prepare for the opening of school for students on Thursday, Sept. 6. Thursday and Friday, Sept. 7 will be single-session days with afternoon sessions being used for staff professional development and related activities. Dismissal time for students is 1 p.m. for the elementary schools, 12:12 p.m. for Grant School and 12:35 p.m. for the high school and Middle School.

The district enters this school year with full time central office administrators in Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Stephen Genco, and new Assistant Superintendent Nicole Pormilli, who begins her tenure in South Plainfield in September.

Among the new district initiatives and programs for September are:

- An enhanced technology infrastructure in preparation for pending New Jersey revisions in assessing and tracking student progress;
- An iPad pilot program for the high school AP calculus students;
- The reinstatement of a cooperative education course in the high school to provide on-site employment training for students for part of their school day;
- The delivery of a brand new

K-12 curriculum for all content areas as per the new N.J. Common Core Standards in Language Arts Literacy and Mathematics;

- The hiring of a media specialist and provision of a media literacy program for Grant School students;
- The addition of a K-12 Supervisor of Language Arts Literacy, Social Studies and ESL;
- The addition of two literacy coaches for K-4 early literacy development;
- The addition of a gifted and talented teacher/coordinator for grades K-6; and
- Technology equipment in each building and content area (smartboards, projectors, iPads, desktops, laptops and printers).

School-Related Activities

Riley School

- Back to School Night-Monday, Sept. 10 at 7 p.m.
- Patriot's Day—Tuesday, Sept. 11. Patriot's Day is an annual observance on September 11 to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. Students at Riley School will be asked to wear red, white and blue.
- The first PTO meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 13 at

7 p.m. in the library.

- Riley PTO will hold their annual outdoor movie night on Friday, Sept. 28.

Kennedy School

- Patriot's Day, Tuesday, Sept. 11. Wear red, white and blue.
- PTO Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 6 p.m.
- Back to School Night on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m.
- Back to School Dance on Friday, Sept. 21 from 6-8 p.m.
- Environmental Assembly on Thursday, Sept. 27.
- Book Fair on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 4-5.

Roosevelt School

- Back to School Night on Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 6:30 p.m.
- The first PTO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 18 in the library at 7 p.m.
- Two Roosevelt teachers, Mrs. Shannon Brace and Miss Kristen Kunie, will be presented tenure certificates at the Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 19.
- Roosevelt Elementary Book Fair will be held on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Sept. 19-21.
- PTO Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m.
- Roosevelt students will be participating in a brief presentation to the Board of Education on the night of Wednesday, Oct. 17.

Franklin School

- Franklin School has added an additional kindergarten and fourth grade for the 2012/2013 school year.
- First Franklin School PTO meet-

ing on Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m.

- PTO-sponsored Franklin School Anti-Bullying Assembly on Wednesday, Sept. 12 at 9 a.m.
- PTO-sponsored Student Fall Pictures on Friday, Sept. 21 all day.
- PTO-sponsored Back-To-School BBQ on Saturday, Sept. 29 at 6 p.m.

Grant School

- Back to School Night on Thursday, Sept. 20 at 6 p.m.
- Book Fair on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Oct. 3-5.
- PTO Meeting on Monday, Oct. 8 at 6:30 p.m.
- School pictures will be taken on Tuesday, Oct. 9.

Middle School

- Recently, the seventh grade students participated in the annual seventh grade orientation with the assistance of numerous eighth grade

students who helped with the building tours during the program.

- This school year will begin with our annual 9/11 Memorial Assembly, which welcomes various members of the community to the building in remembrance of all of the victims of the 9/11 attacks on America.

High School

- Orientation for all ninth grade students will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 5 at 1 p.m.
 - Marching Band Competition will be held at Scotch Plains High School on Saturday, Sept. 22 at a time TBA.
 - Back-To-School Night will be held on Thursday, Sept. 27 at 6:30 p.m.
- We wish everyone a healthy and successful school year.
- Submitted by Interim Assistant Superintendent Dr. Frank A. Cocchiola, Jr.

First Baptist Church Special 9/11 Prayer Service: Renewed Hope

The First Baptist Church of South Plainfield is inviting the public to join them along with other congregations and ministries in a special prayer service entitled, Renewed Hope. The service focuses on remembering those affected by some of the world's most challenging events. While prayers are submitted in remembrance of 9/11 and other trials faced by the world's people, the service also fosters hope, celebrating the triumphs they have faced as well.

The Renewed Hope Service of Prayer and Reflection will be held

on Sunday, Sept. 9 at 3:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield located at 201 Hamilton Blvd. A special offering will be collected toward the Renewed Hope Scholarship sponsored by the American Baptist Churches of New Jersey. The scholarship provides educational support to those affected by major calamities. Light refreshments will be served after the service.

For more information, contact Reverend Tamara Davis at (908) 753-2382.

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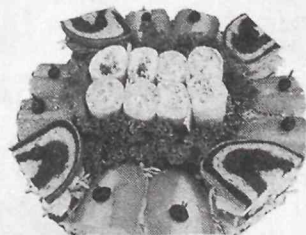
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Borough Council
August 20
meeting

borough notes

The Borough Council approved the following at its August 20 meeting:

- Waiver of permit fees for Labor Day fireworks to International Fireworks and also to borough organizations participating in Labor Day festivities at the Middle School.

- A contract with International Fireworks for 30 minutes of fireworks in an amount not to exceed \$13,500.

- Refund for overpayment of taxes in the amount of \$235.27 to Joseph Armstrong at 136 Mildred St.

- Refund monies levied to Michael Sala of 1530 Chestnut St. as he has qualified as a 100% disabled veteran commencing July 28, 2011.

- Refund \$20 to Linda Ruppert of 138 Osceola Ave. in Middlesex for senior trip to the Taj Mahal.

- Amend Resolution 11-292 from November 21, 2011 to correct a typographical error for a person-to-person liquor license transfer from "Menlo Management SP LLC" to indicate "4701 Stelton Road, LLC."

- Award a bid for on-site electrical subcode inspection services at the rate of 100% of state fees and authorize the municipal clerk and the mayor to execute the contract for same.

- Waiver of fire permit fees for St. Stephen Orthodox Church for the fifth annual International Festival in September.

- Waiver of fire permit fees for the South Plainfield High School Boosters of the Musical Arts Marching Band Competition on October 20.

- Payment of \$15,240.67 to T&M Associations for additional work to make the supplemental technical design submission to the NJDEP.

- Promotion of Kyle Schroeder and Lawrence Delaney from part time to full time Laborer I with benefits per hour effective September 10.

- Refund of 2012 taxes in the amount of \$2,939.28 due to fire damage at 1409 Clinton Ave. pursuant to a reduction in the assessed value.

- Refund taxes in the amount of \$70.54 due to overpayment to Lisa Bosques of Oak Tree Avenue.

- Approve the settlements of 2009, 2010 and 2011 tax appeals filed by the following: Natzleach Realty for the property known as 1810 Park Ave.; Valley National Bank c/o L.M. Entint. Associates for the property known as 3001-3005 Hadley Rd.; 105 Sylvania Place LLC for the property known as 105-109 Sylvania Pl.; Laka Corporation for the property known as 4111 South Clinton Ave.; South Plainfield-Hadley LLC for the property known as 6200, 6400 and 6600 Hadley Rd.

- Refund in the form of credits for tax appeal judgments for 83 different parcels totalling \$147,808.98.

- The following block parties: October 6 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 18 Gray Dr. to the end of the cul-de-sac, requested by Ursilla Mangra; September 1 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Dey Street from Trinity Street to the dead end (rain date September 20), requested by Celadawn Reid; September 3 from 2 to 7 p.m. at 129 Front St. to Randolph Avenue requested by Gary Rohrer; September 8 from 1 to 10 p.m. located on Oak Manor Pkwy., requested by Robert Hach; and September 8 from 3:30 to 10 p.m. (rain date September 9) on Kenneth Avenue from the entrance gate at the football field to the entrance gate of the recycling center, requested by Landi Hawk.

- Re-shingling the salt barn roof at the DPW in an amount not to exceed \$9,800.

- Purchase of a new Apollo Thermoplastic Striper in an amount not to exceed \$13,870.

- Purchase of a MTU Onsite Energy Emergency Generator designed to operate on natural gas in an amount not to exceed \$22,404.

- The submission of a grant application for the South Plainfield Municipal Alliance for 2013 in the amount of \$20,777 with a municipal match of \$5,544.

- Petition NJDOT to approve proposed improvements including the associated alterations to the railroad grade crossing at the Clinton Avenue extension.

- Purchase information technology equipment, Zero Footprint L300 Thin Client, from Northeast Integrated Technologies, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$4,850; and a GFI VIPRE Business Premium Competitive Upgrade from Northeast Integrated Technologies, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$3,830.40.

- Settlement of 2011 tax appeal filed by Dilip and Dipika Shah for the property known as 315 East Fairview Ave.

- Waiver of Senior Center facility fee for the South Plainfield Soccer Association to conduct their Rutgers Certification Class on August 24 and 25.

- T&M Associates to provide engineering services pertaining to response to NJDEP in an amount not to exceed \$25,150.

South Plainfield Business Association Hosting Second Taste of the Town

The South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA) will be hosting its second annual Taste of the Town on Friday, Oct. 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave.

Last year's Taste of South Plainfield was a huge success with more than 250 guests enjoying samples from a variety of local restaurants. Many of the restaurants have reported that they increased their clientele because of their participation in the event. Representatives from the restaurants had an opportunity to meet with their present and future customers. Guests were able to sample an array of food and most were surprised to

discover the variety offered by our local restaurants.

Dan Ratti, owner of Oak Tree Discount Liquors, will again have plenty of sample wines and liquors on hand.

Restaurants that have already signed up for the Taste of South Plainfield include: Flanagan's, Corner Deli, Subway, Sherban's, Hometown Heros, KC's Korner, Chef Rodney Jackson, Mr. Subs, Uncle Louie G ice cream, Ciccio's and Mei Haus.

Tickets will be on sale next month. Presale tickets cost \$30, or \$35 at the door. So plan on coming out to support the SPBA and enjoy an evening of gourmet food.

The SPBA is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Proceeds go toward scholarships for South Plainfield High School graduates.

If your restaurant is interested in participating, please contact Debbie Boyle at the number below. Space is limited. Also, any vendor not selling food that would like to set up a table in the hallway the night of the event, call for more information.

For information on participating or to purchase tickets, call Debbie Boyle at (908) 803-1573, Darlene Pinto at (908) 591-9355, Chrissy Buteas at (908) 447-3466 or Nancy Grennier at (908) 668-0010.

Join the Arbor Day Foundation and Get 10 Free Trees

Everyone from New Jersey who joins the Arbor Day Foundation in September will receive 10 free trees as part of the foundation's Trees for America program. Through Trees for America, everyone is encouraged to plant trees for the benefit of the environment and quality-of-life. Everyone joining in September will receive an eastern redbud, white pine, sugar maple, white flowering dogwood, pin oak, red maple, river birch, silver maple, northern red oak and Colorado blue spruce.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between October 15 and December 10. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge. Easy-to-follow planting

instructions are enclosed with each shipment of trees.

New members of the Arbor Day Foundation will also receive The Tree Book, which includes information about tree planting and care.

To receive the 10 free trees, send a \$10 membership contribution to Ten Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, Neb. 68410 by September 29 or join online at arborday.org/september.

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Dr. DeCosta Celebrating 35th Year

Dr. Anthony DeCosta is pleased to announce the celebration of the beginning of his 35th year in private practice.

As a family chiropractor who treats patients of all ages from infants to the elderly, Dr. DeCosta has delivered over 250,000 spinal adjustments during his 35 year career.

A biology graduate of Kean University of New Jersey (where he was on the dean's list), Dr. DeCosta graduated from the New York Chiropractic Col-



Dr. Anthony DeCosta

lege where he received the B.J. Palmer Memorial Award. He is a Diplomate of the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners. He has been in practice since 1978.

Dr. DeCosta is a member of the International Chiropractors Association, the Association of New Jersey Chiropractors and the Council of New Jersey Chiropractors. He is licensed to practice in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

As a member of the International Chiropractic Pediatric Association, Dr. DeCosta trained under Dr. Larry Webster and has been certified in the Webster Technique for over 32 years. Pre-natal chiropractic has always been one of Dr. DeCosta's specialties, and he

is now working with patients throughout the tri-state area to help women who want to feel their best during pregnancy and ease the delivery process.

Dr. DeCosta has been president and chairman of the board of the Garden State Chiropractic Society. He had served as an advisor to the Council of New Jersey Chiropractors and was the recipient of their Outstanding Service Award for 2000.

Dr. DeCosta is a chiropractic author, lecturer and teacher. He is actively involved in educating the chiropractic profession and the public about chiropractic.

Call Dr. DeCosta's office for more information at (908) 755-1117 or visit www.drdecosta.com. Rated "A" on Angie's List!

Sunday School at First Baptist Church

Sunday School begins at First Baptist Church of South Plainfield, 201 Hamilton Blvd., on September 9 at 9:30 a.m. for students in kindergarten through high school. Regular worship service is 10:30 a.m. Nursery available.

For more information, call Interim Pastor Tamara Davis or Asst. Pastor Michele Lewkow at (908) 753-2382, or visit our website at www.fbcsouthplainfield.com.

From the Democrats



Candidates for Borough Council, C.J. Diana and Franky Salerno

C.J. Diana and Franky Salerno Look Forward to Campaign

C.J. Diana and Franky Salerno, the Democrat candidates for Borough Council have set forth their goals for the upcoming campaign.

"Most importantly, our campaign will focus on the challenges facing South Plainfield. One party Republican rule has resulted in a borrow, tax and spend mentality which must end. If young families like mine are

to continue to make this their home we must bring spending and resulting taxes under control."

Franky Salerno expanded upon his runningmates comments: "It's always healthy to have differing points of view before decisions are made. Right now the council is essentially a rubber stamp. I can't believe how both property taxes and the sewer tax have gone through the roof. To make matters worse, the Republicans have borrowed approximately three million dollars to cover day to day expenses in slightly more than a year's time."

Diana set forth the Democrats plan: "(1) Franky and I will not support a tax increase for the entire three years of our term. Our residents have learned to live within their means in this poor economy, government must do the same. (2) We will roll back the sewer tax. It's unacceptable to pass along a 50% increase to our hard working families. The sewer tax threatens to run businesses out of town. (3) We will not support future borrowing to balance the borough budget. Our children and grandchildren cannot be left to grapple with the burden of borrow and spend debt."

Salerno summed up the Democrats platform saying, "Politics should never come above doing the right thing. I'm sure even our opponents recognize that borrow, tax and spend government never works in the long run. C.J. Diana and I look forward to discussing South Plainfield's future with our residents as we campaign door to door throughout the borough."

If you are interested in joining the Democrats campaign or if you want to make a suggestion or discuss an issue, you can contact C.J. Diana at (908) 616-6931; christopherjdiana@gmail.com and Franky Salerno at (908) 251-1777; frankysalerno@comcast.net.

Register for Adult High School Courses

Registration for Adult High School classes will be held Tuesday-Thursday, Sept. 4, 5 and 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. in Room 3 at the South Plainfield Middle School.

Due to lack of funding from the State Department of Education and an unknown future for the Adult High School, registration is limited to students who are in the final year of graduation to new students able to complete their course work in one year.

The non-refundable tuition for each course is: \$175 for South Plainfield residents and \$225 for non-residents.

The fall semester, which starts on Tuesday, Sept. 18 and runs until Jan. 31, 2013, will consist of 17 class meetings of 90 minutes each from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and 7:45 to 9:15 p.m. The spring semester will start on February 4 and runs through May 31, 2013.

For more information, call (908) 754-4620, ext. 213, 215 or 247.

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From the Republicans



Councilmen Dick Frank and Rob Bengivenga

Rob Bengivenga and Dick Frank Focus on Results

As they start their reelection campaign, Councilmen Rob Bengivenga and Dick Frank are asking voters to look at their record of results when voting in this year's election.

"We've been working hard to get results for taxpayers," said Bengivenga. "And in 2013 we'll work even harder."

Since the Republican team took control in 2010, they've been able to hold the line on spending and control the council's part of the tax bill for three years in a row.

"Total spending is up less than one percent in three years," explained Frank. "This is despite big increases in pension and healthcare costs."

The two also noted how in 2010 the council cut its part of the tax bill by \$178 and how most of that tax cut remains intact. "The municipal part of the tax bill is still \$99 less than in 2009 when the Democrats ran things," said Bengivenga.

Bengivenga and Frank also pointed to their party's focus on bringing in new businesses and jobs as an example of the type of results they want to continue.

"The best way to hold down taxes is to bring in new ratables," explained Bengivenga. "We're seeing quite a few new businesses, big and small, coming to town, and over the next year or two they will be making a big impact."

"These businesses not only help with taxes, but they bring jobs with them," added Frank. "All the new businesses are having an effect."

"It seems like every week or so there's a new business opening," said Bengivenga. "The one thing they have in common is that they thought South Plainfield was a great place to relocate to because the taxes are lower than other towns in the area and because of

the town's reputation for working with its businesses."

"Our goal is to continue to build on this foundation," said Frank. "Other towns are not seeing these types of results, and we've got to keep it going."

"It's about getting it done for South Plainfield," said Bengivenga. "If there's one thing we'll do for residents, that's it, work to get results for residents."

Putting the "Care" Back into Healthcare

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear someone has had a stroke? If you're like most people, you feel sorry for the person and think that if they survive it, they may end up severely debilitated and maybe even need to be institutionalized.

These used to be my thoughts also. I am a physical therapist and when I was in therapy school 25 years ago, we were taught that once someone had a stroke, we had a small window of opportunity to try to restore a person's function and then there wasn't much we could do beyond that. Not a real hopeful picture. But due to recent advances in stroke research, my perspective and practice has changed dramatically. Now when I hear that someone has had a stroke, I still feel bad for the person, but the predominant word that comes to my mind is hope. We have hope for several reasons.

We have hope because we now know that even though part of the brain dies when a stroke occurs, we know that the brain has the amazing ability to "teach" other parts of the brain to carry out the functions that were lost due to the stroke damage. So as long as a person has the motivation to get better and is fully participating in a good recovery program, they can continue to improve

their function for a very long time.

We have hope because doctors, therapists and nurses are now able to put into practice what researchers have learned. New technologies and training techniques are now available to therapists in every setting and continue to expand almost every day. Some of these include technologies such as Locomotor Retraining for walking, Bioness dynamic orthoses for the arm and leg to restore muscle control, robotic retraining tools for arm function and walking, Constraint Movement Therapy which retrains arm function, Vital-Stim for swallowing problems, cognitive rehabilitation assessment and treatment tools, just to name a few. Within each of these categories are a variety of products, tools and training available for the clinician. What this means to us is that more patients have access to what used to be only available to a few. This leads to more people being able to recover their functional

mobility and return to productive, meaningful lives.

We have hope because we now know that there is no "window of opportunity" to recover from a stroke, but recovery can take place for as long as the person is willing to build in recovery as a lifestyle. This is not easy and requires a great deal of perseverance at times, but when we look at the choice between a wheelchair and walking or a choice between having someone assist with getting dressed and diligently practicing a new approach to be more independent with dressing, for most of us, the choice is easy—we want to be as good as we can be! The human spirit is amazing—if we have hope, we can accomplish most anything. So, here's to HOPE in stroke recovery!

—Submitted by Bonnie Saunders, PT MPA CDP, director of rehabilitation and program development, Arista Care Health Services

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What to Bring: Old files, receipts, bills, financial statements, any document that you have not recycled due to a confidentiality concern.
MAXIMUM 5 file boxes or 100 pounds.

Note: No need to remove paper clips, staples, or paperboard binder covers.

What Not to Bring: Hardcover books, magazines, newspapers, bulk mail, photographs or x-rays.

This **FREE** service is sponsored by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders in conjunction with the Borough of South Plainfield for County residents. No businesses, please.

Questions? E-mail the Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management at solidwaste@co.middlesex.nj.us or call us at 732-745-4170.

Watch the Observer
For Details About
The October Debates

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Visit the Green Team's Labor Day Booth

Labor Day is coming up! The South Plainfield Green Team will have a booth at the festivities on Monday, Sept. 3 which take place after the parade at the Middle School. All are invited to stop by and play our game-spin the wheel and answer questions to win prizes.

We will also be handing out brochures on the anti-idling campaign. This campaign encourages residents to

shut off their vehicles during prolonged stops. Doing so will reduce fuel use and emissions that contribute to pollution and global warming. Information on storm water management, recycling, trees and preventing water pollution will be available as well. We will also offer coloring books for children and other giveaways. We hope to see you there!

Scout Volunteers Needed for Fun Night Jamboree

The Scout Fun Night Jamboree Committee is looking for alumni Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to help plan a huge night filled with fun and to help showcase to the public why scouting is still alive. The event will be held on Friday, Sept. 21.

The committee is looking for people to share stories and lasting memories of their years in scouting. There are other ways you can help out by helping with publicity of this jamboree night, or even making a small donation to help with the mar-

keting and overall event program.

The main purpose of this event is to showcase scouting to members from other towns who will attend, including Piscataway and Plainfield.

For more information, please email Jim Donelson at rvtroop125@aol.com and provide the following information in your email: troop or pack you belonged to, as well as how many years you were involved.

You can also stop by VFW Post #6763, 155 Front St., any Monday after 4 p.m.

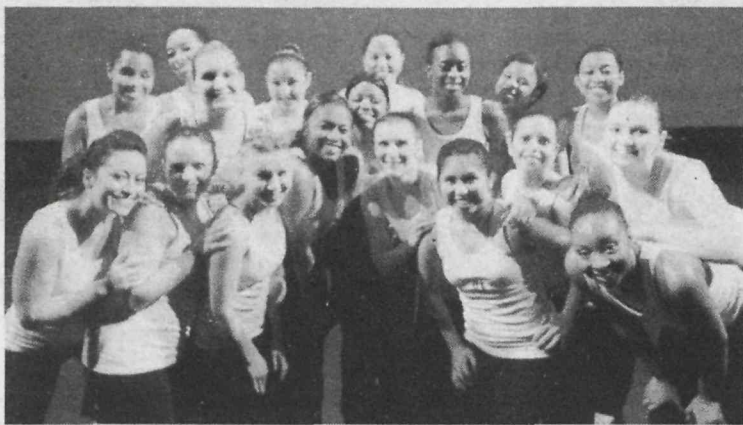
Jo-Ann's Dance Studio Celebrates 35 Years

Jo-Ann's Dance Studio The Performing Arts Centre, located at 4475 South Clinton Ave., is celebrating the 35th year in South Plainfield during the upcoming 2012/2013 season.

Since opening 35 years ago, the studio has grown and expanded into many areas. In addition to regular dance classes, private piano and vocal lessons and musical theatre classes, Jo-Ann's has become a health and wellness center, offering classes in Yoga, Pilates, Zumba, kick boxing and strength and abdominal work.

Jo-Ann's was the first and only studio in the area to offer dance and movement programs for students with various special needs and have continued to expand and fine tune these programs over the past 10 years. Also, instructors are trained in working with children with special needs.

"As a grandmother of two grandchildren with special needs, you can imagine how enormously affected I am with the successes we have achieved with these children," said Director Jo-Ann Faulkner. "Actually, this program was begun-trial and error-just after one of my grandchildren was diagnosed with Autism at the age of three. He had a great deal of improvement in so many areas due to the training we mapped out for him throughout the years. We have continually fine-tuned the program and the results have been amazing and gratifying. As they say, 'it takes a village.'"



Most students with special needs have been mainstreamed into regular dance classes and are all given the opportunity to experience the thrill of performance at Jo-Ann's annual recitals at The State Theatre in New Brunswick.

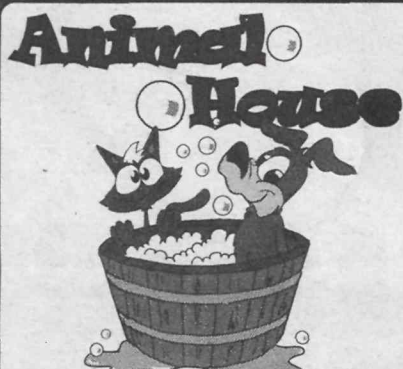
Through the years, the dance studio alumni have gone on to get their degrees and advanced degrees in the arts as teachers, dancers, musicians, actors, physical and occupational therapists stemming from their experiences at Jo-Ann's. All but two of the present staff members began their careers at the studio as very young students. "Through the years, they have taught children, their moms before and even their grandmothers before that. Talk about warming one's heart," said Jo-Ann proudly. "The studio has now become a third generation icon in

South Plainfield.

"Most small businesses do not last 35 years, and it's especially true in these tough economic times," Jo-Ann commented. "It has been a labor of love for me. It's been such a pleasure to be able to serve the youth in our community with quality dance and music education for such a long time and still going even stronger than ever, thankfully."

Faulkner is also the vice president of "Heart of the Arts Project," a non-profit organization dedicated to building, strengthening and empowering individuals, families and communities through the use of the creative arts. To learn more about this project, visit www.hapionline.org.

For more information about Jo-Ann's Dance Studio, call (908) 561-5094, email joanninnj@aol.com or visit the website: www.jo-annsdancestudio.com.



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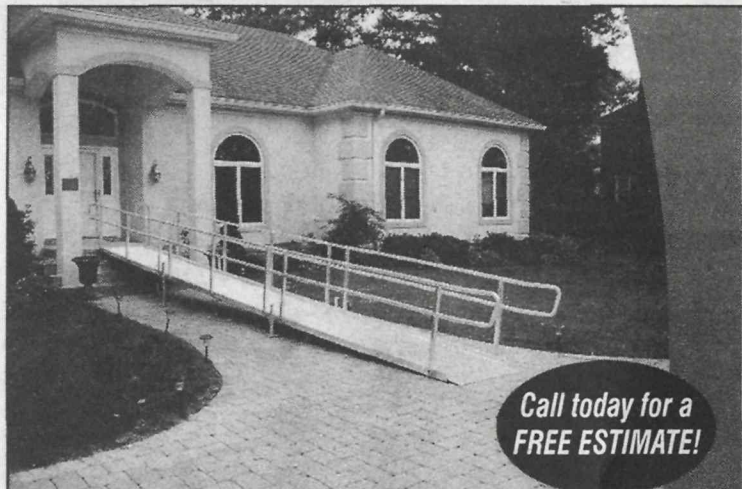
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ProCare Physical Therapy Opens New Office in South Plainfield

ProCare Physical Therapy, P.A. owners Joe and Cathy Scarpitto held a grand opening celebration on August 21 at their new South Plainfield location in the Durham Professional Center at 201 Durham Ave. More than 100 people attended the open house and ribbon cutting ceremony.

"Having been born and raised here, South Plainfield has always been home to me," Joe said. "When Cathy and I were married 26 years ago, together we chose South Plainfield as the place we wanted to raise our family and build our life together. It was our dream to build our business here as well, but the closest place we could find was just on the outskirts of town in Piscataway. While Piscataway was very good to us, after 15 years we are thrilled to finally bring ProCare home to South Plainfield."

Mayor Matt Anesh, Council President Ray Rusnak, Councilmen Derryck White and Rob Bengivenga and Borough Administrator/CFO Glenn Cullen participated in the ribbon cutting. Numerous family members, friends and patients turned out for the celebration, and as they did 15 years prior, the Scarpitto's dedicated the grand opening to their parents, Leonard and Catherine Caro and Joe and Dolly Scarpitto.

As a husband and wife physical therapist team, Joe and Cathy shared a vision of bringing to the commu-



ProCare Physical Therapy, P.A. owners Joe and Cathy Scarpitto are joined by officials at the grand opening celebration and open house.

nity a physical therapy practice where patients and employees would be treated with respect and compassion at all times. They wanted to create an atmosphere that was fun and light hearted and where the importance of family was at its core. Specializing in orthopedics, sports medicine and post

surgical rehabilitation, ProCare serves the surrounding communities and, on a local level, has offered free screenings to athletes and residents. Over the years, Joe and Cathy have been active in the community by coaching various sports such as baseball, basketball, football and cheerleading, and staff therapist

Michelle Biggs is active in Girl Scouting and her church youth group.

ProCare has grown to 15 employees who work together like family towards one goal to make a difference for their

patients and to do it with compassion and respect. Several staff members are also South Plainfield residents and/or South Plainfield natives including Biggs; Barbara Gonzalez, PTA; Kathy Boniakowski, PTA; Mary Lynn Calder, Diane Zekas, Jenny Martinez and Gerianne Scarpitto. Together, they have a broad basis of experience including geriatric physical therapy, peripheral neuropathy, osteoporosis, fibromyalgia and plantar fasciitis to name a few. In addition, ProCare offers volunteer experience to local students who would like to further their studies in physical therapy.

In March of 2010, ProCare expanded to a second location in Bridgewater where they offer wellness services with the addition of nutritionist Alyssa Cellini, and fitness classes including Pilates, Zumba, Yoga and GRAVITY Strength Training.

"We have always enjoyed and loved our involvement in this community and now we are looking forward to making a difference in the lives of our friends and neighbors through our work at ProCare," said Cathy.

For more information or to make an appointment, call (908) 205-8625. For the Bridgewater office, call 908 575-0008.

Hobby Lobby Opens Store in South Plainfield

Hobby Lobby Stores, a privately held national retail chain of arts and crafts stores, opened its doors today in South Plainfield with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 9 a.m. An official grand opening will be held on Monday, Sept. 3. The 56,000 sq. ft. retail facility, formerly occupied by Kmart, is located at

Hadley and Stelton roads just south of Rt. 287. This is Hobby Lobby's second store in New Jersey.

"What we bring to a vibrant crafting community is quality merchandise with exceptional value, and the widest variety of crafting supplies and home décor merchandise under one roof,"

stated John Schumacher, assistant vice president of advertising. "Each new Hobby Lobby location contributes to increased foot traffic, generates sales tax, and adds new jobs that enables us to become an integral part of the community while sharing in the growth of both the city and the state."

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Knights of Columbus Install 2012-2013 Officers

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus, Council #6203 held the installation of officers for the 2012-2013 Columbian year on August 18 at Sacred Heart Church. The Installation of Officers ceremony was conducted by District Deputy Ron Fojtlin and Father John Paul Alvarado of Sacred Heart Church.

The 2012-2013 Knights of Columbus Officers are: Chaplin-Father John Paul Alvarado, Grand Knight-Brian Cargill, Deputy Grand Knight-Greg Gaydos, Chancellor-Tom Pollock, Recorder-Austin Jenkin, Treasurer-Gerry Butrico, Financial Secretary-Joe Wilkowski, Advocate-Gene Baker, Warden-Joe McGeehan, Inside Guard-

Joe Archutowski, Inside Guard-Rob Richkus, Outside Guard-Ed Koznowicz, Sr.; Outside Guard-Tom Frantz; Trustee (1 Year)-Bob Walker; Trustee (2 Year)-Bill Butrico; Trustee (3 Year)-Joe Scrudato and Lecturer-Steve Belanger.

—Submitted by Joe Scrudato

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Danielle Aronowitz

Do you love listening to music? Try out our new Freegal music service! Freegal gives you free access to millions of songs. It features tens-of-thousands of popular artists in hundreds of musical genres. It is very simple to use and there is no software to install. There is a limit of three downloads per week per library card; you will be able to keep track of your downloads in the upper right corner of the site. After you download a song, it is yours to keep! Every song has a sample clip you can listen to before you download. This service will work with any MP3 player, including iPod, and can be loaded into iTunes. It works on both PCs and Macs. Freegal also has its own mobile apps for iOS and Android devices.

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Missed a movie you wanted to see in the theaters and don't want to pay for the DVD? Come to Monday Night Movies at the library. It's all the fun of a movie theater but none of the cost. We are showing brand new releases every Monday night at 6:30 p.m. The movie will be shown in the main area and we will be providing popcorn for all who attend. Call the library to find out title information or come by and pick up a schedule. There is no registration required. You can call the library for title information or stop by and pick up a schedule of all the upcoming movies.

The library is exploring the possibility of starting an adult book club that would meet on one Thursday evening a month. The first meeting will be on Thursday, Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. in the library. At this meeting the format and guidelines will be outlined. Potential titles for the first book will also be discussed.

The next Friends of the Library meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. in the library. The Friends of the Library will be having a book and bake sale on Saturday, Sept. 22 beginning at 9 a.m. Stop on by and pick up some great books and baked goods. If you have books to donate, please hold on to them until the week of September 10. If you would like to donate baked goods, please either call the library or stop by and sign up.

Storytimes and other children's programs are cancelled until Tuesday, Oct. 2, but you can still stop by to say hello to Ms. Mija and Ms. Linda and check out some books!

The library will be closed on Monday, Sept. 3 for Labor Day and will reopen on Tuesday, Sept. 4 at 10 a.m.

We are open six days a week except on holidays. Our hours are: Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We are closed on Sundays until the fall.

For more information, visit our Facebook page, call (908) 754-7885 or visit us on the web at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

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1960s
to the
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The South Plainfield Labor Day Parade Public Celebrations Committee invites you to the

55th Annual Labor Day Parade

***Monday,
September 3***

Parade begins at 10 a.m.
at the PAL and ends
at the Middle School

***Fireworks
at dusk in
Spring Lake
Park!***

***Activities Begin
at 12:30 at the
Middle School...
Including FREE
entertainment
for kids!***

Soda • Gatorade
Packaged Ice Pops • Funnel Cakes
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Chili • Corn On The Cob • Hots Dogs

Marching Bands • Civic Groups • Lots of Floats • Clowns • Snow White
Belle • Scooby Doo • Cookie Monster • Batman • Spiderman
SpongeBob • Blue (Blue's Clues) • Tigger • Bugs Bunny

***5k Race & 1.5 Mile Walk before the parade at the Middle School
(Registration begins at 8:15 a.m.)***

Supervised Activities and Contests for the Kids • Musical entertainment by Black Rose begins at 12:30 at the Middle School
Music by "Amp'd" at Spring Lake Park followed by fireworks at dusk by International Fireworks Company

Throughout The Years

1960s
to the
Present



55th Annual Labor Day Parade



55th Annual Labor Day Parade Honorary Grand Marshal Marge Reedy

The 55th annual Labor Day parade, a South Plainfield tradition for more than half a century and hallmark of the daylong festivities, will headline the end of summer celebration on Monday, Sept. 3. The theme of this year's parade is "Throughout the Years, 1960-Present."

Approximately 10,000 onlookers will line the streets to enjoy the marching bands, cartoon characters, floats by civic groups and schools and the political candidates. Trophies will be awarded in 10 categories at the completion of the parade. Announcers will be Al Czech and Bill Cochrane.

The honorary grand marshal of the parade is Marge Reedy, a longtime resident of South Plainfield, who served as a former school board member and current president of the South Plainfield Education Foundation and vice president of the South Plainfield Business Association.

New this year is the addition of a junior honorary parade grand marshal. Alexx White, who is the winner of the parade theme contest, will also appear in the parade.

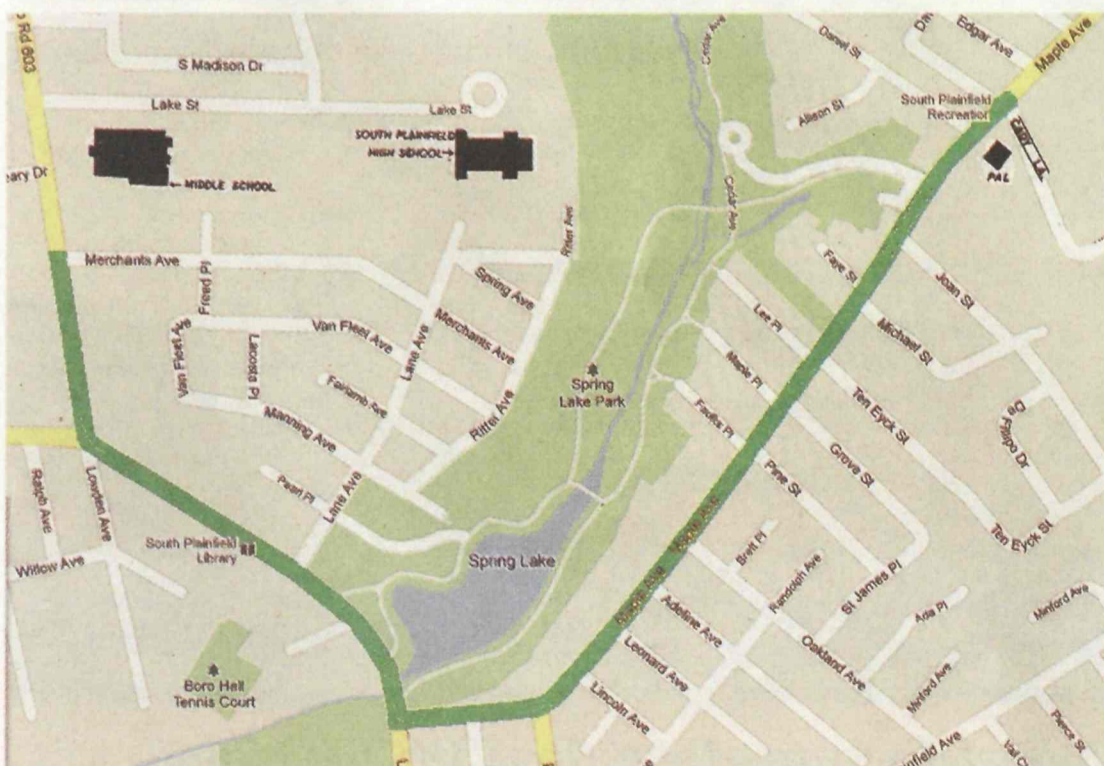
Roads along the race and parade route will close at 9 a.m. Promptly at 10 a.m. the parade officially kicks off from the PAL building and concludes at the middle school. Reviewing stands will be located at Borough Hall and the middle school.

The parade is just one of the many activities slated to take place on Monday. The day begins with the 22nd annual 5K Race and 1.5 Mile Family Fitness Walk at 9:30 a.m.; registration for the race begins at 8:15 a.m. Trophies will be awarded when all the racers have completed the course.

Activities, vendors and food concessions will offer parade goers opportunity for refreshment and fun following the parade. New this year will be the addition of a dunk tank courtesy of the South Plainfield Lions. Participant volunteers include several councilman.

Fun for the family features free activities, including a giant fun-house, big slide and much more.

The celebration moves to Spring Lake Park at 6 p.m. where the band "Amp'd" will be performing. Fireworks by the International Fireworks Company begin at 8:45 p.m. Roads close at 8:15 p.m. Arrive early for a good seat and enjoy the fireworks show.



55th annual Labor Day Parade route

Schedule of Activities

(All times are approximate and subject to change)

- 8:15 a.m. Registration starts for 5K Run and 1.5 Mile Family Fitness Walk (at the Middle School)
- 9:00 a.m. All roads on parade route will be closed
- 9:30 a.m. 5K Run, 1.5 Mile Family Fitness Walk begin
- 10:00 a.m. **Parade Kicks Off at PAL on Maple Avenue**
- 12:00 p.m. Parade Ends/Activities Begin
Trophies are awarded, refreshments all afternoon on the Middle School lawn
- 12:00 p.m. **Activities Begin at Middle School**
- 12:30 p.m. Entertainment by "Blackrose"
- 6:00 p.m. **Evening Activities Begin at Spring Lake Park**
Entertainment by "Amp'd"
- 8:15 p.m. Roads around Spring Lake Park will be closed.
- 8:45 p.m. **Fireworks by International Fireworks Company**

Labor Day Race and Walk to Raise Substance Abuse Awareness

The South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness (SPASA), the Club at Ricochet and the South Plainfield Education Foundation (SPEF) will hold the 22nd annual Labor Day 5K Race on Monday, Sept. 3. The South Plainfield Education Foundation will partner with the Brayden-Carr Foundation to help fund a new scholarship in Brayden Carr's memory.

The 1.5 Mile Family Fitness Walk will also be held this year in support of family togetherness and a positive drug free, fun-filled fitness lifestyle.

The entry fee for walkers is \$5 per person and/or family; 5K runners, \$20.

Computer timing will be handled by Best Race Systems. Race results will be posted at www.bestrace.com.

The race will begin and end on Lake Street next to the South Plainfield Middle School. Both the run and walk begin at 9:30 a.m.; register at 8:15 a.m.

All proceeds from the race support the efforts of the SPASA and the SPEF in making the South Plainfield community drug free and to inspire our students to achieve academically with positive incentives and education grants and scholarships.



2012 Parade Marching Entries

- South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298
- Everest Institute
- Cedarcroft Bible Chapel
- South Plainfield Special Athletes
- National American Miss Ambassador of New Jersey - Brianna Harris
- Giants Letter People
- South Plainfield Girl Scouts
- American Legion Post 243
- TD Bank
- Ben Deutschman - Antique vehicles
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- First Baptist Church of South Plainfield
- Awareness Buddhas' Light International Association NJ
- Military Order Purple Heart - Chapter #10
- South Plainfield Soccer Association
- MaSonia McPherson - 2012 Miss New Jersey Sr. Teen Sweetheart
- Trenton AOH Pipe Band
- Paul Fessock of Amp'd Rock Band and Major Rob Fessock - Bronze Star recipient from Afghanistan Tour of Duty
- I.B.E.W. Local 456 - Middlesex County Electricians Union
- South Plainfield Football Eagles and Cheerleaders
- Cub Scout Packs 207, 224 and 324 of South Plainfield
- Sacred Heart Church
- Investors Bank
- South Amboy First Aid & Safety Squad, Inc.
- Buddy Walk of South Plainfield
- Townley Family
- South Plainfield High School Cheerleaders
- Boy Scouts of America - Troop 124, 125, 207 and 309
- Holy Savior Academy
- Car Nutz Car Club
- South Plainfield High School Band
- Mayor Matthew Anesh, Council President Ray Rusnak, Councilman Tim McConville, Councilman Derryck White, Councilman Alex Barletta
- Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan
- Assemblyman Peter Barnes
- Freeholder Director Christopher Rafano
- Middlesex County Clerk Elaine Flynn
- Board of Education Members
- Superintendent of Schools Stephen Genco
- Police Chief James Parker
- Fire Chief Tom Scalera

- Grand Marshal Marjorie Reedy
- Jr. Grand Marshal Alexx White
- Candidate for Council - Non-affiliate - Patricia DeSantis
- Middlesex County Republican Organization
- South Plainfield Republican Organization
- Republican Candidate for 6th Congressional for U.S. Congress Anna Little
- Republican Senator Joe Kyrrillos - US Senate

Concessions

- South Plainfield Lions Club
- Uncle Louie G ice cream
- Lady Maidens Popcorn & Snacks
- North Jersey Kettle & Italian Specialties
- Maglione's Italian Ice
- Donny's Dogs

Parade Marshals

Parade marshals, banner carriers and judges are still needed for Monday's parade. Volunteers must be over the age of 17 and 13, respectively. A meeting will be held today at 6 p.m. in Borough Hall for all volunteers.

For more information, call (908) 226-7629.

Past Labor Day Grand Marshals

- 1961 Charles A. Carone
- 1962 Joseph E. Delaney
- 1963 Ann Nagy
- 1964 Harry Eagle
- 1965 Nathan Snyder
- 1966 Andrew A. Phillips
- 1967 Frank Diana, Sr.
- 1968 Albert Leibner
- 1969 Jane D. Boettger
- 1970 Irving Babes
- 1971 John A. Bori
- 1972 George L. And Marie Page
- 1973 Frank X. Mittermeier
- 1974 Joseph A. Mondoro
- 1975 Julius "Supe" Celentano
- 1976 Anna Tom
- 1977 Louis Defillipo
- 1978 George Rude
- 1979 Hanry Apgar
- 1980 Mary Mazepa
- 1981 John Shaw
- 1982 Joseph Bori & James Saverd, Frank Diana & John Cotone
- 1983 Nicola Risoli
- 1984 Harry Schulte
- 1985 Esther Armstead
- 1986 Reverend Charles Mingle
- 1987 John George
- 1988 Edward Niemczyk
- 1989 Leonard Capraro
- 1990 Adam Phillips
- 1991 Theresa Micali
- 1992 Ferdinand Thiel
- 1993 Arlene M. Kelly
- 1994 Mary Chapman
- 1995 Tulio Capparelli
- 1996 William Desabato
- 1997 Michael English
- 1998 William Cochrane
- 1999 Eleanor Haines
- 2000 Charles Decker
- 2001 Daniel J. Gallagher
- 2002 Joseph Deandrea
- 2003 Joe Zekas
- 2004 John Mocharski
- 2005 John Cotone
- 2006 Shirley ThompsonN
- 2007 Owen Kelly
- 2008 Richard Mccriskin
- 2009 Ed Kubala
- 2010 Charles Butrico
- 2011 Joseph Belardo and Trista Moretti and Michael Santoro (posthumously)

Trophies to be Awarded

- HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL TROPHY***
Given by Honorary Grand Marshal to best overall entry in his/her opinion
- JUDGES TROPHY***
Best overall entry as determined by judges
- GEORGE W. L. PAGE TROPHY***
Best civic entry
- MOST OUTSTANDING FLOAT***
Best overall
- BEST YOUTH ENTRY***
Best youth group
- BEST CIVIC ENTRY***
- MOST PATRIOTIC ENTRY***
- MOST OUTSTANDING VISITING ENTRY***
Best appearing entry from outside of South Plainfield
- BEST ANTIQUE VEHICLE***
Best appearing antique vehicle entry of any kind entered as a separate unit
- MARIE D. PAGE TROPHY***
Best overall marching entry

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



Vendor Activities on Middle School Lawn

- Fun House Productions - **FREE!**
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- Avon (Arlene Dey-Massy)
- Combinations Martial Arts & Fitness Academy
- AIMS Education
- Aristacare at Cedar Oaks
- Pilgrim Covenant Church
- Cedarcroft Bible Chapel
- Buddha's Light International Association
- Wesley United Methodist Church
- South Plainfield Environmental Commission
- So. Plainfield Police K-9 Unit
- South Plainfield Republican Organization
- South Plainfield Blackbelt Academy
- South Plainfield Democratic Organization

Parade Committee Members

- Alissa Bengivenga
- Kimberly Anesh
- Chrissy Buteas
- Gary Prendergast
- Stephanie Bartfalvi
- John Sorrentino
- Stephanie Wolak
- Kristen Semon
- Debra Anne Leporino
- Yvonne Viscosi
- Deborah Boyle
- Council Liaison Derryck White

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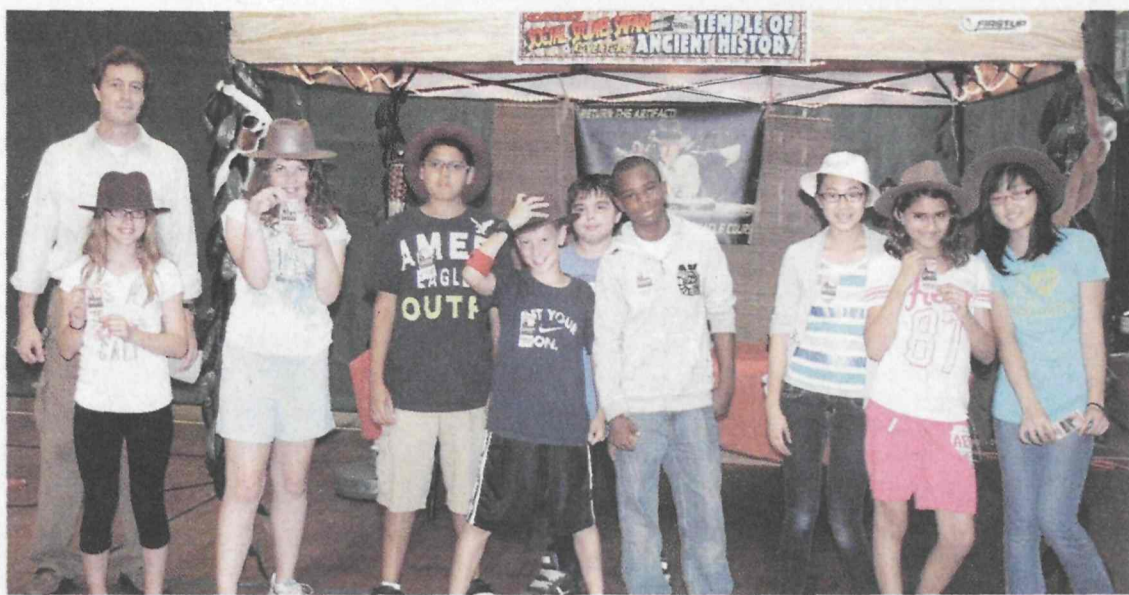
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Innovative Grant School Teacher Ends School Year in an "Ancient" Way

Scott Culver, a sixth grade teacher at Grant School, performs an end of year review by re-creating the opening scene from *Indiana Jones, Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

Culver has been teaching social studies at Grant School for the past seven

years. During the course of the year, students study ancient civilizations. To culminate the year, he builds an obstacle course based on the Indiana Jones movie. The students are given an artifact from a civilization they have studied, then they have to make

it through the obstacle course to match that artifact to the correct civilization.

This is a wonderful year end activity that incorporates the use of the Indiana Jones theme Culver uses in the classroom during the school year.

Columbiettes Seek Vendors For First Fundraising Event

Vendors are needed for the South Plainfield Columbiettes' first vendors night which will be held on Friday, Oct. 19 from 6-9 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 334 Hamilton Blvd. Set-up will begin at 4:30 p.m.

Cost for a table, which will be provided, is \$20 and each vendor is asked to donate an item from their collections, with a value of \$15 to \$20. These items will be raffled off at the conclusion of the show.

Only vendors with new merchandise will be accepted and only the first vendor of any given named brand (such as Avon, Pampered Chef, etc.) will be accepted. Space is limited to 15 vendors.

For information or an application form, call Kathy at (908) 756-3772 or email her at kathy1130@gmail.com.

Yearbook Order Forms Available

Order forms for the 2013 South Plainfield High School Yearbook at the early bird price are now available in the high school office.

These order forms are only needed if ordering by mail and must be postmarked by August 31 to qualify for the early bird price of \$80. Orders can also be made online at www.smart-pay.com.



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Affordable Home Improvements Grants Available

By Jane Dornick

The borough has announced that it is now accepting names to participate in the South Plainfield Home Improvement Program for low and moderate income families.

The program, provided to Middlesex County through the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH), is available for owner-occupied single-family homes.

To be eligible to participate, your gross annual income (pre-tax income) for all household members must be less than: one person household-\$58,016, two person household-\$66,304, three person household-\$74,592, four person household-\$82,880, five person household-\$89,510, six person household-\$96,141, seven person household-\$102,771 and an eight person household-\$109,402.

For households seeking a determination of income eligibility, all wage earners 18 years of age or older in the household must submit appropriate documentation documenting the household income which includes a copy of the deed to the property, proof that taxes are current and proof of property insurance including liability, fire and flood insurance where necessary.

The purpose of the program is to bring substandard housing up to code. Substandard units are those units requiring repair or replacement of at least one major system including the following: roof, plumbing (including wells), HVAC, electrical, sanitary plumbing (including septic systems), load bearing structural systems, lead paint abatement and weatherization such as building insulation for an attic, exterior walls and crawl space, siding

to improve energy efficiency, replacement storm windows and storm doors and replacement windows and doors. Code violations will be determined by an inspection conducted by a licensed inspector.

Additional work may include interior trim, interior and/or exterior doors, including storm doors, interior and/or exterior hardware, interior stair repair, exterior step repair or replacement, porch repair, wall surface repair, painting and exterior rain carrying system or replacement.

Up to \$17,500 per unit may be available for improvements to eligible owner-occupied units.

The rehabilitation program is designed as a forgivable loan. Any homeowner who participates in the program will be required to execute a mortgage and mortgage note which will place a conditional lien on the

home by the borough for 10 years. If the owner remains in the home for that time period the loan is forgiven and the lien is removed from the property. If the title is transferred before then, repayment of the loan will be pro-rated depending on the number of years the loan has been in use. The percentage owed will be the full amount through the fifth year; 80% in year six; 65% in year seven; 50% in year eight and 25% in the ninth year.

Should the owner decide to sell the property, transfer title, or pass away before the terms of the lien have expired, the heirs, executors, or representatives must notify the South Plainfield Planning Department. The heirs would be obligated to repay the loan based on the prorated schedule. The only exception is if the beneficiary inherits the home and meets the required income-eligibility guidelines and resides in the home. In this case the loan would remain forgiven.

The municipality may agree to the subordination of a loan if the mortgage company supplies an appraisal showing that the new loan plus the balance on the old loan does not exceed 95% of the

appraised value of the property.

Upon confirmation of income eligibility, the program staff will schedule a housing inspection. Income eligibility will remain valid for six months. If the applicant has not signed a contract for rehabilitation within six months of the date of the letter of certifying eligibility, the applicant will be required to update their file.

Monies for this program have been made available through local new construction builder contributions to the COAH Trust Fund.

To be placed on the waiting list or for any questions, call Affordable Housing Administrators President Maureen Fullaway at (732) 892-4292 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Names will be accepted until Friday, Aug. 31. A lottery will be held at a future date to determine the order in which households will be served.

**Watch the Observer
for the announcement
of the launch of
our new website.**

Literacy Programs of New Jersey ESL Groups Beginning

Literacy Programs of New Jersey will begin tutoring in September throughout Middlesex County. Literacy Programs of New Jersey provides programs that meet the needs of both ESL (English as a second language) and basic literacy adults and their families. The Basic Literacy provides free and confidential one-to-one tutoring for adults whose native language is

English and who need help with their reading and writing skills in order to improve their lives and the lives of their families. The ESL literacy program helps adult community members whose primary language is not English understand, speak, read and write English for everyday use.

They provide one-to-one, small groups (2-5 adult learners), classes

(5-10 adult learners), and conversation groups (10-15 adult learners). Tutors and adult learners meet once a week for a minimum of two hours per session. Schedules are arranged on an individual basis between tutors and adult learners.

LPNJ provides free tutoring to adult learners to improve literacy and life skills. The groups goal is to help involve parents in their children's education, increase family management abilities, enhance basic life skills and increase participation in their communities. They also want to help their adult learners increase their capacity for employment, job retention and job promotion.

Dates, times and locations for groups will be advertised at the libraries as well as on our website: www.lpnj.org. For more information, please contact Melissa Cohen, program coordinator, at (732) 432-8000 or email her at Melissa@lpnj.org

The mission of Literacy Programs of New Jersey (LPNJ) is to enable adult, native speakers of English, and those who's native language is not English, to acquire the necessary basic skills in reading, speaking and writing English, thereby empowering them to participate more fully in the daily tasks of family, school, job and community.

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Tolerance For All?

American society today is full of divisiveness and division regarding values and life-styles. Thus, the new mantra these days is "tolerance for just about everything and everyone." There is, however, one notable exception which is being tolerated less and less by those who advocate tolerance.

"And who or what might that be?" you ask?

The answer is Jesus Christ and the Bible. If you happen to believe in the teachings of Jesus recorded in the Bible, advocates of tolerance tend to be intolerant of you. [A rather interesting inconsistency, don't you think?]

Of course, when Jesus says, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life,"* He is being very exclusive. But He is the only One who was willing to sacrifice His sinless life for sinners such as we are, so therefore He has the right to be, and deserves our

serious consideration. He invites us to repent of our sins and find true peace, joy and love in a relationship with Him.

Jesus has no love for sin,** but He has great love for sinners.*** And that should be our way of viewing things today.

Are you tolerant of Jesus and those who have trusted Him as Savior? If not, please, think through this problem with your "tolerance" belief system, confess your sinfulness, ask Jesus' forgiveness, and learn from Him how much He loves you.

We, at Cedarcroft Bible Chapel, are eager to welcome you, whoever you are, and to share with you the amazing love of the Jesus of the Bible. Please check us out on our website at www.cedarcroft.org, and feel free to submit questions, comments, requests and opinions.

From *John 14:6; **John 15:22; ***Luke 19:7; Romans 5:8.

Possible Outbreak of West Nile Virus

Several states across the country are reporting large numbers of West Nile Virus (WNV) cases; the virus is being blamed for illness and deaths. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), this is the worst outbreak in many years.

It is not yet known whether New Jersey will be the next state to get hit hard by this outbreak, but we caution the public to be alert and take measures to prevent becoming a victim. Since the WNV is spread from mosquitoes to humans, the NJ Poison Experts suggest the following safety tips:

- When the weather permits, wear long-sleeved, loose-fitting shirts and long pants whenever outdoors. Pants should be tucked into socks or boot tops to help keep insects from reaching the skin.

- Limit outdoor activities at dawn, dusk, and the early evenings when mosquitoes are most active. Exposure to mosquitoes can be decreased simply by limiting time spent outdoors.

- Eliminate standing water that

collects in birdbaths, flower pots, swimming pool covers, buckets and containers, pet food and water dishes, tires, barrels, unused pools and roof gutters. Standing (stagnant) water can be the perfect breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

- Place mosquito netting over infant carriers when you are outdoors with infants.

- Install or repair window and door screens to prevent mosquitoes from getting indoors.

- Apply 10% to 35% DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) containing insect repellent to clothes and exposed skin when taking part in outdoor activities. DEET is available in many formulations including lotions, solutions, creams, gels, sprays and towelettes. Insect repellents should not be sprayed on the face since they may irritate the eyes and mouth. Instead, spray onto hands and then rub onto the face. Insect repellents are not suggested for very young children (less than three years old) and application

to broken skin or wounds should be avoided, but can be applied to clothing. Concentrations above 15% should be applied to clothing rather than skin. Insect repellents must be reapplied, as per the directions, at intervals.

According to Dr. Bruce Ruck, director of drug information at NJPIES, "Application of DEET should be according to the specific directions on the product used. Some products can be applied to the skin, while others are intended for application to clothing, sleeping bags, tents, etc. Spraying DEET on clothes is suggested because mosquitoes may bite through clothing."

If you would like further information about West Nile Virus, DEET or DEET containing products, call the NJ Poison Experts at 800-222-1222. They are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year to assist you. Program the Poison Helpline into your cell phone and post it near your home and office phones, too.

County to Sponsor Free Labor Day Weekend Concert

The Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders is proud to present the seventh annual Labor Day Weekend Concert. The event will take place at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 2 at the Stephen J. Capestro Theater on Pine Drive in Roosevelt Park in Edison. Gates will open at 3 p.m.

"We are pleased to present this annual event," said Freeholder Stephen

J. "Pete" Dalina, chair of the County's Infrastructure Management Committee, which oversees the Parks and Recreation Office. "This concert is always an entertaining show that is fun for the whole family. It is certainly one of my favorite events of the year!"

Come to Roosevelt Park for an evening of unforgettable, high energy entertainment featuring The Hit Men,

which includes original members of Tommy James and the Shondells and Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. The Hit Men will perform for the first time ever on our stage.

Then, hold onto your hats for an incredible performance by The Happenings who exploded onto the national music charts with their first release, *See You In September*. This show will feature Bob Miranda, the voice that helped rocket the group to international stardom with such hits as *Go Away Little Girl*, *I Got Rhythm* and many more.

Middlesex County Freeholder Director Christopher D. Rafano said, "Middlesex County is very proud of beautiful Roosevelt Park. It is the perfect setting to enjoy live music. On behalf of the Freeholder board I encourage all residents to join us for this wonderful free event."

The concert is free and open to the public. Concertgoers must bring their own lawn chairs. If necessary, a rain date will be announced.

For more information, contact the Middlesex County Parks office at (732) 745-3936 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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Redistricting Task Force Meets Again

By Libby Barsky

In June, the Board of Education requested that a redistricting task force be formed made up of school staff, board members and residents to study the effectiveness of the district's current grade configuration model. Former Interim Superintendent Dr. Gary Bowen and his partner, Dr. Lisa Antunes, an assistant superintendent in Hillsborough, had been asked by Board President Jim Giannakis to conduct a study at a cost of \$15,000.

At its first meeting last month, approximately 40 people met to assess the district's pre-kindergarten through middle school enrollment configuration and consider recommendations for

possible future modification.

Different variables were discussed with the audience contributing the pros and cons of each suggested change in the grade levels housed within each of the schools.

On August 14 the redistricting task force met again with nearly 25 people attending. Numerous options were discussed such as returning the four elementary schools to kindergarten through fifth grade or moving the sixth graders to the middle school which would cause overcrowding either way. Housing only one grade at Grant Elementary School would mean that there would be unused space.

A vote was taken on each of the various configurations presented by

Bowen. The audience overwhelmingly endorsed keeping the current configuration, however possibly moving the boundaries of existing neighborhood schools. The boundary request was emphasized by Transportation Supervisor Marlene Steele who was concerned about the amount of children potentially attending Roosevelt School when the proposed 550 apartment unit complex at the former Tingley Rubber site on South Avenue is completed. The project has been on hold for over five years and there are no plans on the drawing table as of yet.

The task force will meet one last time on Tuesday, Sept. 11 and Bowen will present its recommendations to the board during the October meeting.

First Unitarian Society of Plainfield Inaugural International Gift Fair

First Unitarian Society of Plainfield (FUSP) will hold its inaugural International Gift Fair on Saturday, Oct. 27 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Metuchen High School on Grove St., in conjunction with local non-profit, Breaking the Chain. The fair offers a unique opportunity for citizens to invest in their world by shopping fair trade.

Fair trade works to provide low-income artisans with a living wage for their work, ensures environmental sustainability and safe and healthy working conditions. This is a better alternative to the many products made in sweatshops or other unsafe working environments.

The purpose of the sale is to return to the true meaning of gift giving and receiving by offering gifts made from the heart and by human hands. We can avoid supporting sweatshops and other unjust trade practices by buying fair trade. "The gifts we have for sale are truly unique and knowing that they help support some of the most disadvantaged people around the world make them even more special," says sale organizer, Jason Simmons. "By holding this sale we are giving people the chance to help others feed, clothe and educate themselves and their families by ensuring that they receive a fair wage for their work."

Metuchen High School Educator Evan Robbins engages students in learning about fair trade, economic issues, and child slavery that is occurring in many parts of the world. Students will be displaying information about social justice issues affecting people around the world such as AIDS, poverty, hunger and information about fair trade. The students will also be selling food and wrapping gifts as a fundraiser.

Visitors can enjoy a free cup of fair

trade coffee, shop and learn about their power as consumers. The event is free and open to all.

Sales like this one, sponsored by FUSP, owe their success to dedicated volunteers who set up the crafts, serve

as sales clerks, educate shoppers and clean up following the event.

For more information about the International Gift Fair, contact Jason Simmons at Jason.simmons1@gmail.com or call (609) 713-7272.

police report

- On August 16 Ulises Amaya, 44, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle and refusal to submit to breath testing.

- On August 17 a Ten Eyck Street resident reported the theft of an HP laptop and change from their unlocked vehicle.

- A Green Brook resident reported the theft of their wallet that was left on a seat at McDonald's.

- On August 18 Charles Gruver, 19, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving, speeding, possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle and driving while intoxicated under the age of 21.

- A W. Crescent Parkway resident reported that the glass had been broken out of the rear door of their residence and an Apple Mac laptop, a Canon digital camera, handbags and assorted jewelry were taken from the upstairs bedrooms.

- A New Brunswick Avenue resident reported the theft of a boys BMX bike from the driveway.

- On August 19 Roosevelt Spivey, 73, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.

- A Selene Avenue resident reported the theft of a 1999 Dodge Intrepid from their driveway.

- A&M Convenience Store on South Clinton Avenue reported that the front glass door had been damaged and numerous packs of Newport cigarettes were taken along with the ATM machine.

- On August 21 Kyle E. Wood, 24, of Piscataway was arrested for shoplifting \$231 worth of pipe fittings from Home Depot, theft by deception, possession of drug paraphernalia and two outstanding warrants.

- Sandra Wood, 52, of Edison was arrested for shoplifting \$231 worth of pipe fittings from Home Depot and theft by deception.



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Congressman Pallone Launches New Official Website

Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) launched a re-designed website which can be found at www.pallone.house.gov. The new site offers visitors improved functionality and design, allowing constituents to better access important information and government resources through an innovative, interactive web-based platform.

Visitors to the site may also request tours in Washington, D.C., order commemorative flags that have been flown over the U.S. Capitol Building or request help with a federal agency. The website also includes an expanded "pressroom" where visitors can read about the congressman's latest activities, accomplishments, policy statements and press releases, access a press kit and view recent photos and videos.

"I'm excited to launch my new official website," said Congressman

Pallone. "Through the new website, constituents can better access information about how my office can assist them, contact me about issues of concern, and receive timely information about the work I'm doing around the district and in Washington."

Additionally, the website has informational resources where viewers can learn about the congressman's positions on the issues. There is also a section dedicated to information about the Sixth District, including an interactive map marked with graphic representations noting where federal grants were recently awarded throughout the district; links to social media platforms are easier to access and provide additional opportunities to interact with Congressman Pallone.

You can also follow him on Twitter @FrankPallone or Facebook, as well as on YouTube and Flickr.

"I am always eager to communicate with constituents and I am looking forward to using this new website and social media to maintain better contact with everyone in the Sixth Congressional District," Pallone said.

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milestones



Allison White with Barbara Pandolfo

Allison White Awarded Scholarship

Allison White of South Plainfield attended a breakfast hosted by the Community Foundation of New Jersey at the Woodbridge Hilton on July 25 where she was awarded the Dominique Lisa Pandolfo Memorial Scholarship. Barbara Pandolfo presented the scholarship which is in memory of her daughter Dominique.

On September 11, 2001, Dominique became a victim of the attack on the World Trade Center. This

scholarship's goal is to perpetuate Dominique's memory by helping young women to develop their potential, achieve their goals, and become successful adults as well as proud Americans. This four year scholarship is awarded to a female New Jersey student whose scholarship, character, potential, personality and leadership qualities are regarded as outstanding.

Area Residents Named to Rider University Dean's List

Rider University's colleges of Business Administration; Continuing Studies; Liberal Arts, Education, and Sciences; and Westminster College of the Arts have announced the names of undergraduate students who have been placed on the dean's list for the Spring 2012 semester.

South Plainfield residents who were

named to the list include Matthew Hoppe and Brian Pullen. They are both secondary education majors.

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Ryan Patrick Flanagan

Ryan P. Flanagan Named to Fall Honor Roll

Ryan Patrick Flanagan of South Plainfield was named to the 2012 Fall Honor Roll at Philadelphia Biblical University (PBU). This is based upon his academic performance for the 2012 Spring semester. PBU rejoices with him for his academic success.

A 2010 graduate of South Plainfield High School, Ryan will be entering his junior year at Cairn University. Philadelphia Biblical University changed its name recently with the approval of the Pennsylvania Educational Regents.

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Brianna Harris Moves on to National Pageant

By Patricia Abbott

NJ Jr. Pre-Teen Cover Girl and State Ambassador of New Jersey for the National American Miss Jr. Pre-teen Pageant are big titles for an eight year old girl. They belong to Brianna Alexandra Harris of South Plainfield.

Brianna competed at the pageant held at the East Brunswick Hilton on August 24 and 25. It was a very successful weekend for Brianna. In addition to the titles, she also won State Finalist, Spirit of America and Portfolio Award, and was third runner up in Casual Wear. She also received ribbons for casual wear and photogenic. Her prizes included six trophies, three ribbons, two crowns, two sashes, roses, an Apple iPod and a cash prize.

The Cover Girl title will allow Brianna to travel to other states to assist in other state pageants as New Jersey State Royalty. Brianna will also compete in the National Competition at Disneyland in California.



Brianna Alexandra Harris

Last year Brianna was selected as a state finalist for the 2011 National American Miss Princess Pageant. Last year, she won trophies for state finalist, Spirit of America, Casual Wear Modeling 2nd Runner Up and Most Ticket sales winner.

Last year she rode in the Labor Day parade and has made various appearances around New Jersey and

other states. She will also be riding in this year's Labor Day parade.

Brianna is the daughter of Devon and Mary Ellen Harris. She has a four year-old sister, Makenzie. She is the seventeenth grandchild of Tom and Dolores Heim of South Plainfield. She loves modeling, playing soccer, basketball and softball. She loves to dance, sing and play with her friends.

Brianna said, "I love doing pageants. My favorite part is when I walk down the runway to compete in the modeling competition. The music is playing loud and the cameras are flashing. It's so much fun! Another part that I enjoy is when I walk out in my formal wear gown. I feel like a princess. I always hear my family cheering for me so loud."

Brianna is a third grade student and attends Kennedy School.

If anyone would like to sponsor Brianna for the national pageant, email her at covergirlmodel@verizon.net. Sponsorships from businesses are tax deductible.

Students Sought For County Youth Conservation Corps

Applications are now being accepted for the Middlesex County Youth Conservation Corps, whose mission is to protect and preserve natural areas from misuse, polluters and the forces of nature at the more than 7,000 acres of open space owned and maintained by Middlesex County.

Conservation Corps crew members earn \$8.50 per hour and will work Saturdays from September 22 through November 10. Work will primarily take place at county open spaces in Old Bridge, Monroe and South Brunswick. Students age 16 and over are encouraged to apply.

"Our Youth Conservation Corps members continue to be an integral part of our efforts to maintain the open space and trails for our residents to enjoy," said Freeholder Stephen J. "Pete" Dalina, chair of the county's Infrastructure Management Committee.

"This continues to be one of our

more popular programs and with good reason," said Middlesex County Freeholder Director Christopher D. Rafano. "The youth corps is a responsible and economical way of carrying out our land management goals while introducing young Americans to conservation activities."

Activities include trail building, litter clean-up, invasive species removal and wildlife habitat improvements. Applicants should be enthusiastic, self motivated and willing to work and learn as a part of a team. Also, applicants must have the capacity to walk several miles and stand for extended periods of time, the willingness to get dirty and work outdoors in various weather conditions and the ability to use various hand tools.

Space is limited. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and application for employment to: Scott Meyler, Middlesex County Office of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box

661, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903. Applications can be downloaded at www.co.middlesex.nj.us/personnel/index.asp.

A complete job description can be found at the Middlesex County Office of Parks and Recreation website, www.co.middlesex.nj.us/parksrecreation/index.asp.

For more information, call Eric Gehring at (732) 745-8278.

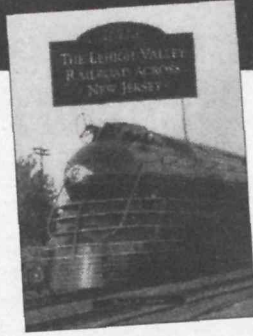
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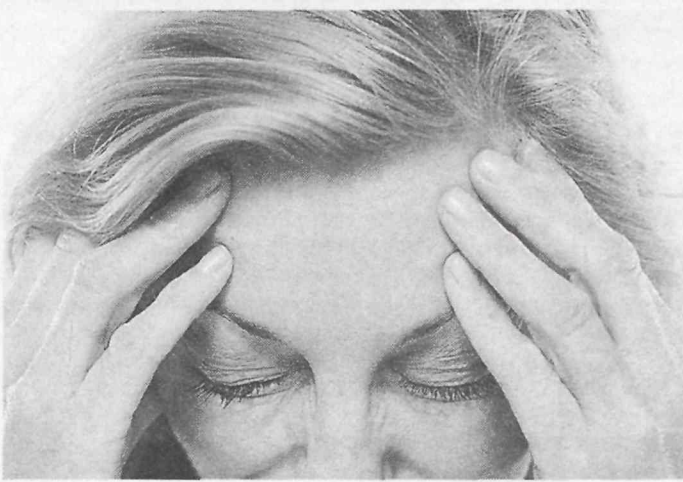
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Dr. Vicki Shekk grew up in Bridgewater, New Jersey with a strong love for animals. She attended Cook College, Rutgers University and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science. Following her undergraduate studies, she was accepted to the University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine. She obtained a Veterinary Medical Doctorate (VMD) degree, graduated with Honors and was inducted to the Phi Zeta Veterinary Honor Society, in May 2012. Dr. Shekk enjoys promoting preventative medicine to enhance pet health and human-animal bond. She has an interest in internal medicine and surgery. Outside work, Dr. Shekk spends time with her family, friends and her dog. She loves art, travel, reading and horseback riding.



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sports

New Jersey Swimming and Diving Conference Championships Results

Some of the South Plainfield Tiger Shark swimmers participated in the Conference Championships of the New Jersey Swimming and Diving Conference. The best swimmers from each of the division's leagues swam for medals in first to sixth place at the Frog Hollow Swim & Tennis Club in South Amboy on July 31 and August 1.

South Plainfield swimmers who received medals were:

Corey He (8 and under) second place-25 yard backstroke, third place-



25 yard freestyle, third place-25 yard butterfly; Andrew Galarza (11/12) second place-100 yard freestyle, fifth place-50 yard freestyle, sixth place-100 yard individual medley; Peter Zakrevski (11/12) second place-50 yard butterfly, third place-100 yard individual medley, fourth place-100 yard freestyle; Darlene Fung (11/12) first place-100 yard individual medley, first place-50 yard butterfly, first place-100 yard freestyle; Matthew Chan (11/12) first place-50 yard

breaststroke, second place-100 yard individual medley, fourth place-50 yard freestyle; Aubrey Marish (11/12) third place-50 yard breaststroke; Daniel Galarza (13/14) first place-200 yard individual medley, third place-100 yard freestyle, fifth place-100 yard butterfly.

Another summer swimming season has come to an end. The Tiger Sharks Swim Team give many thanks to their coaches, parents and fans for another wonderful season. Many of these swimmers will participate in winter club teams and high school swim teams. We wish them success.

-Submitted by Cheryl Nagel-Smiley

Annual Battle of the Badges Softball Game

The annual benefit softball game between the South Plainfield Police and South Plainfield Fire departments is back and will take place on Saturday, Sept. 8. The event will be held at the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club, Field 4, 450 Kenneth Ave. Raindate is Saturday, Sept. 22.

The first event of the evening will be the third annual Home Run Derby which is open to the public. Participants can enter the contest for a nominal fee of \$15 and compete for home run bragging rights and prizes. The number of rounds in the contest will depend on the number of entries.

The home run derby will begin at 4 p.m. and the benefit softball game will follow. There will be hot food, beer and soda available throughout the evening. Refills of beer will be available with the purchase of a \$15 commemorative mug.

Last year, the police department took back the trophy after a loss in 2010. This year, the fire department is looking to rebound and reclaim the trophy.

Proceeds from the event will go towards helping a few less fortunate

families from South Plainfield at Thanksgiving and Christmastime, along with additional scholarships to graduating seniors. Each year, South Plainfield PBA Local #100 and South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department offer multiple scholarships to graduating seniors based on merit, school activities and community involvement. These proceeds will help the departments reward additional deserving students from South Plainfield.

If you are interested in entering the home run derby or if you are a local business who would like to sponsor part of the event with a sign, banner, beer or food/product, please call Officer Pete Magnani at (908) 226-7678 or email him at Pmagnani@southplainfieldnj.com. Updated information can be found at Facebook.com/pba100.

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SPHS Varsity Football Home Opener vs. New Brunswick

The South Plainfield Varsity Football Team Home Opener vs. New Brunswick High School will be held on Friday, Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. at Frank Jost Field. The theme of the game is "Black Out Night." All fans are encouraged to wear black.

Come early and get your terrible towels and mini-football giveaways. Come support your Tigers!

Sign Up for Sacred Heart Church Third Annual Golf Outing

Sacred Heart Church will hold its third annual golf outing on Wednesday, Sept. 12 at the Cranbury Golf Course in West Windsor.

Registration and continental breakfast at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. Fee per golfer is \$130 and \$520 per foursome. Prizes will be awarded for closest to the pin, longest drive and hit the green. Hot dogs and soda or beer at the turn and luncheon buffet is included.

The following golf sponsorships are available: platinum (\$1,000 donation) includes a foursome, your corporate banner, a sign on the first tee and special recognition at the luncheon; gold (\$750 donation) includes a foursome, a sign on the 18th tee and recognition at the luncheon; and the silver sponsorship (\$500 donation) includes a twosome, a tee sign on the tee of your choice and recognition at the luncheon.

Non-golfing sponsorships start at \$600 and include a corporate banner and recognition at the luncheon. Two or more beverage and breakfast sponsors are needed for a donation of \$250. The personalized sponsorship for a \$150 donation includes a personalized sign on any hole of your choice. Also available is a luncheon only sponsor for a \$35 donation.

Four prizes (one per par 3) include a Ka'anapali golf package for two, a Mexico Tres Marias golf package for two, a Mandalay Bay package for two and a Samsung 51" plasma HDTV.

Sponsorships will help build bridges to the future by supporting Catholic education. Sacred Heart Parish has been committed to the education of children for more than 60 years. This pledge has not wavered despite a declining economy. The proceeds from this golf outing will fund much needed scholarships for parish children on the elementary, high school and college levels.

In today's world, much of the vital infrastructure of any organization is built on technology and the church is no exception. Parish data storage and management, daily communication among staff, 2,243 parish families, church organizations, diocesan and secular business activity, and ministerial outreach and support are among the many reasons why upgrades to computers, equipment and technical systems are needed.

For more information or to register online with a credit card, visit www.churchofthesacredheart.net. You can also mail the registration form and a check made payable to Church of the Sacred Heart, 200 Randolph Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

All donations are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

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Sports



Golden Tee RESULTS

Steve Raynor and Jim Lenox were first at 5 under par in the Golden Tee Golf Tournament in a team best ball event at the Plainfield West Nine Golf Course. Vic Powers and Rich Sangiamo were second over Dale Dube and Jim Carovillano in a match of cards at 3 under.

Tournaments are held every Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. and are open to everyone. Non-members may play once without joining the club. Tournaments are \$20, which includes an 18 hole cart and green fees and a 9 hole event and prizes.

For more information, call Bill Castner, PGA golf professional, at (908) 769-3672.

Meet the Coaches Night At SPHS

Come meet all the South Plainfield High School coaches on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the SPHS Cafeteria C&D. Coffee and dessert will be served.

Sponsored by the South Plainfield High School Athletic Booster Club.

Submitted By Bob Nilan



Notes from the Jim Pornovets Memorial Golf League

The Italian-American Club was officially crowned 2012 League Champions at the awards dinner held recently at KC's Korner.

It was a fantastic season for the new title-holders who got off to a great start and, at the halfway point after the eighth week, had the only undefeated record in the league.

Their first loss to Alfie's Boys was a whopper, a 20-0 blowout, that really set them back, and it took four more weeks before they notched their next victory. But they were tough when it counted and rose to the occasion on the final night of the regular season and defeated Windows Plus to clinch the National Division pennant.

Captain Frank Ferraro, Sr. must have given some inspiring pep talk before his team teed off against the American Division first place team, Alfie's Boys, because the Italian-American Club—despite their crushing loss earlier in the season—played with real confidence and pulled off a major upset, 14-6, to capture championship honors.

The Italian American Club was so elated by their team's surprising victory that they put in a rush order for golf

shirts emblazoned "Italian-American Club, League Champions, 2012" that the players proudly wore to the awards dinner. Captain Frank Ferraro, Sr., broke a Guinness World Record by sustaining the biggest, broadest grin for six straight hours.

For completing the year with the lowest stroke average, Danny Griffin of Alfie's Boys won the Player-of-the-Year title.

Matt Frederickson of Windows Plus earned the John Cotone Award for the most improved golfer, and Don Hall of 2 Buds, 2 Dubs was delighted to be the recipient of the newly-created Most Valuable Player prize.

The award for the lowest round of the season with handicap went to Efrain Solis of KC's Korner who had a net 24. Danny McCreesh of Twin City Pharmacy captured the prize for



Italian-American Club 2012 Champions—(L-R) Rich Pellegrino, Jeff Gross, Bob MacDonald, Captain Frank Ferraro, Sr. and Lou Colicchio.

the best round of the season with his awesome 29 that he fired during the end-of-season playoffs.

Tony Cotone, Jr. of KC's Korner assumed the role of president for the 2013 season. Dale Dube was elected vice president, and Mark Chichvar will again serve as treasurer.

On behalf of the entire league, out-

going president Chris Dillon expressed the gratitude of all the golfers to the other officers—Tony Cotone, Jr., Mark Chichvar and Danny Griffin—who performed their duties in exceptional fashion and to Bill Castner and his terrific staff at West Nine for their superlative assistance in helping the league enjoy another wonderful golf season.

Obituaries

Mildred V. (Bettle) Eshak, 82

Mildred V. (Bettle) Eshak died Sunday, Aug. 26 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.



Mildred V. Eshak

Born in Rahway, Mildred resided in Linden, Rahway and Clark for a short time before settling in South Plainfield eight years ago.

She had been employed as a key punch operator for Weston Instruments in Newark prior to her retirement.

Mildred was an avid bowler for most of her life and a faithful fan of the NY Mets.

She is predeceased by her loving hus-

band, Nicholas J. Eshak, who passed away on January 15, 1988.

Surviving are a cousin, Eugene Bettle and wife Ruth, along with their children and family, as well as many loving family and friends.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

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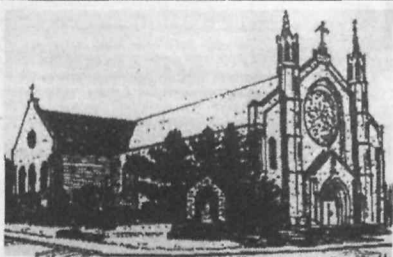
Sunday 9:00, 11:30 a.m.

Daily 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

7:00 p.m. Monday (Church), Thursday (Parish Center Chapel)

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Reedy to Serve as Parade Grand Marshal

(Continued from page 1)

in the high school marching band program through 2005, even though her oldest child graduated in 1999. She was eventually recognized with an award by the band director.

Over the years, Reedy has donated many of her family documents and artifacts to the South Plainfield Historical Society. Her great-great-grandfather, Bethune Duncan Dunham, was the first postmaster general in the borough and her step-grandfather, William Norman, was the owner of KC's Korner (formerly Norman's Bar & Grill) until his death in 1941.

Reedy is currently the vice president of the South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA) and has worked for 19 years at Lynn-Hudd Steel Corp. on St. Nicholas Avenue.

"I wholeheartedly agree with the choice of Marge Reedy as this year's honorary grand marshal. Marge epitomizes what volunteerism is all about. I truly don't know when she sleeps,

she is involved with so many things," said SBPA President Nancy Grennier. "As vice president of the SPBA, she is always there to help and advise me. I know our recent success in rebuilding and revitalizing our organization is due to her influence and hard work. Congratulations, Marge; you deserve the honor."

"The Public Celebrations Committee made an excellent choice for this year's parade grand marshal," commented Shannon Jefferys, the treasurer of both the business association and SPEE. "I have had the privilege of working with Marge on many different events over the past several years. She has always been professional and friendly in all that she does. Marge has worked tirelessly for our community and our children, asking for nothing in return. South Plainfield is lucky to have her and I am honored to call her my friend."

When asked how it felt to be named grand marshal, Reedy replied, "Humbling. I do what I do because I love doing it. I thank my daughter for nominating me and I hope this will bring some light to the two groups I am involved in."



The UNICO National Convention was held August 15-19 at Marco Island in Florida. Ann Walko of the Plainfields' Chapter was elected to the office of second vice president of UNICO National. Ann was installed at a ceremony by last year's national president, Glenn Pettinato. The Plainfields' Chapter is very proud of Ann and we assured her that we will work with her in the coming year.

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Borough Refunds \$347,300 in Tax Appeals

(Continued from page 1)

assessment can be. An assessment is an opinion of value by a licensed professional such as an appraiser. For an assessed value to be considered excessive or discriminatory, it must be proven that the assessment does not fairly represent either the true market value or "common level range" standard.

True market value is the borough's assessment of any property at a given time. The borough has not done a borough-wide re-evaluation in approximately 30 years. Common level range is what happens subsequently to affect the value due to inflation, recession, appreciation or depreciation. Physical deterioration may also change a property's value.

Assessment postcards are mailed to property owners the end of January. This statutory requirement is intended to inform property owners of their assessment for the current year. If a property owner does not agree with their assessment, they may confer with the tax assessor and file an appeal. The appeal deadline is April 1 of that year. Proof required to challenge a tax assessment must be dated prior to October 1 of the previous year.

The county tax board compares a property's true market value to the

assessed value during an appeal. If the ratio of the assessed value to true value exceeds or falls below the average ratio by 15% the assessment is reduced to the common level; however, if the assessment falls within this common level range, no adjustment is made.

Tax appeals that are denied can be appealed within 45 days from the date the judgment decision was mailed.

Special rules do apply to commercial properties. Owners of rental income properties must supply an income statement when filing an appeal. Net income generated by a property has a direct bearing on the ability to market the property and, therefore, its value. Appeals by a business entity, other than a sole proprietor, partnership or corporation, require representation by an attorney.

A tax appeal hearing must be held within three months of the April 1 filing deadline.

"I'm not sure a re-evaluation is the answer currently," said Rusnak when asked if the borough should consider one. "The cost is extremely expensive, and if you think back a few years, if we had done one back when real estate was at its highest, we would probably have tripled the amount of tax appeals we are currently experiencing. I look around at other towns locally and compared to them I think we have

managed the situation very well." Rusnak estimates that a re-evaluation could cost the borough approximately \$500,000.

"We plan to continually monitor the environment and will consider all options," said Anesh. "However, as the council president mentioned, the cost of conducting a town wide revaluation would be significant. In addition, it is unlikely the process would eliminate 100% of tax appeals in the future."

To date this year, the borough has paid nearly \$37,000 in legal fees to attorneys DiFrancesco, Bateman, Coley, Yospin, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum, P.C. for representation in tax appeals.

Also on the agenda for that evening was a Chestnut Street resident receiving a cancellation of his future property taxes and a refund for qualifying as a 100% disabled veteran under state law, and \$2,939.28 was returned to the owner of 1409 Clinton Avenue pursuant to a reduction in the assessed value. The property was the site of the devastating fire that killed five people in February. In addition, two property owners were issued \$308 in refunds for overpayment of taxes which occurs due to the timing of mortgage refinancing or home purchases.

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Oasis Church Invites Community to Hadley Theatre for Unique Service



Oasis-Church-NJ.com outreach team gathers to let folks in the surrounding community know about their upcoming church service on Sunday, Sept. 9 at 10 a.m. at the Regal Hadley Theatre in South Plainfield.

Church in a movie theater? Yup! Oasis-Church-NJ.com, an almost two year-old casual contemporary Christian church, invites everyone in the area to join them on Sunday, Sept. 9 at 10 a.m. sharp for worship services for the whole family at the Regal Hadley Cinema Theatre, 1000 Corporate Ct. This will be the church's first ever worship experience in the Middlesex/Somerset County area as they gear up for weekly services here at this fun and unique location in 2013.

Already meeting weekly (Sundays at 10:30 a.m. at Hotel 304 West on Rt. 22 West in Springfield), Oasis-Church-NJ.com Lead Pastor David Butler says, "Since our goal as a new church is to reach your average

School Menu To Feature Healthy Variety

Students returning to school in September will see many changes in the school lunch program for the 2012/2013 school year. More fresh fruits and vegetables are being offered as well as a new and exciting variety of entrees. All menus are compliant with the new State and Federal Government Guidelines for Healthier Eating.

The opening day menu for South Plainfield schools on Thursday, Sept. 6 is as follows:

Elementary Schools

Choice of tacos, pulled turkey sandwich, buffalo chicken wrap or a yogurt boat. Also included with lunch students may pick from a choice of sides including romaine tossed salad, lettuce and tomato, fresh green pepper strips, seasonal and chilled fruit and milk.

You can view your school's menu on the South Plainfield School District's website: www.spboe.org. For those who do not have access to a computer, copies of the menu will be available in your school's main office.

The menu for the high school, middle school and Grant School will be available online on the website.

Lunch Prices

Elementary schools, \$2.20 and ala carte milk, \$.80; Middle and Grant schools, \$2.35 and ala carte milk, \$.80; High School, \$2.60 and ala carte milk, \$.80. Reduced lunch in all schools, \$.40. Prepaid lunch available at all schools.

Beginning on September 6 a cold Grab and Go Breakfast will be available daily for all students at the high school, middle school, Grant School and all elementary schools. Breakfast will be available 15 minutes before homeroom. The high school also offers a hot breakfast sandwich daily.

Breakfast price for the elementary schools, middle school and Grant School, \$1.50; high school, \$1.75; and reduced price breakfast, \$.30.

New Jerseyans and their family and friends with God's love, we thought a movie theater would not only be a safe venue for people to gather for a worship experience, but also a fun place to meet for folks with kids. We have an awesome Oasis Kids program and have rented two entire theaters

(#4 and #5) just to accommodate kids through age 10. Oh yeah, did we mention the theater has stadium seating?"

The purpose of the September 9 service will be part vision casting and part celebration. Our goal is to let people in the surrounding Rutgers-University area know who we are as a church and how we can meet their needs. We are inviting folks to come out and enjoy our upbeat Christian contemporary rock worship, a relevant message from the Bible you can use in everyday life, awesome Oasis kids programs, Panera bagels and coffee and a chance to meet new friends. Also, anyone bringing a first time guest to Oasis gets a free movie pass.

If you or friends you know are tired of church as you know it, but still thirsting for God, Oasis may just be the place for you. After September 9, Oasis will continue to meet at its regular Springfield location.

Get involved by becoming part of the Oasis-Regal Theatre Stadium Launch Team or, for more information, contact Pastor Dave at (732) 406-7821 or check out the church's website at: Oasis-Church-NJ.com.

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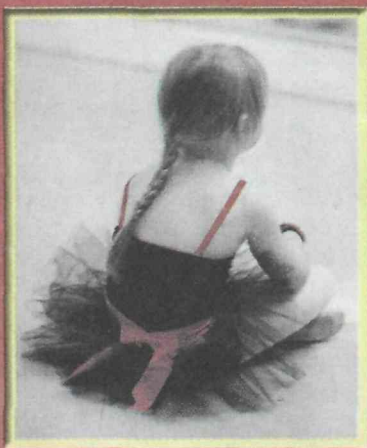
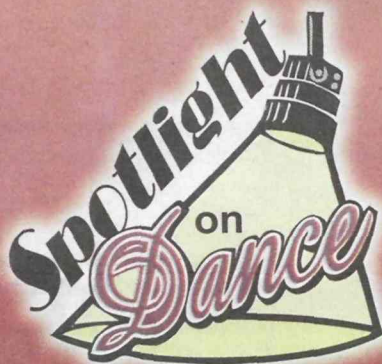
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