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# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 6, NO. 38

50 CENTS

MAY 23 2003

MAY 23, 2003

## Former Borough Activist Dies



George H. Reinhardt, 80, a long time resident of South Plainfield died suddenly on Wednesday, May 14, at his home in Coconut Creek, Fla.

Reinhardt was born in Newark where he grew up. He had lived in Irvington before moving to South Plainfield, where he resided for 42 years. He moved to Florida two years ago.

During World War II, he served as a sergeant in the US Army with the 29th Infantry Division in the 894 Signal Radio Relay Company. He had been in combat action in the Invasion of the D-Day Normandy Beach in France, in central Europe and in Germany. He was awarded four Battle Stars and the Good Conduct Medal. He was recalled to army duty during the Korean War Conflict. He was a life member of the VFW Memorial Post 6763.

After his discharge from the Army, he began his 34 year career with New Jersey Bell Telephone Co. in Newark, where he was a Central Office Technician. He retired 15 years ago. He had been a member of the Telephone Workers Union Local 827 and had served as the chairman of Unit 14 for four years and was a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America since 1963.

While in South Plainfield, George had been involved in politics and joined the Democratic Club, serving as a first vice-president. He had also served as the Democratic Municipal Chairman in South Plainfield from 1973 through 1976 and was a Democratic committeeman for 10 years. In 1963 he ran for the Borough Council, as the Democratic candidate and had served as a member of the Recreation Commission from 1967-1972 and was a former member of the Ad-

(Continued on page 12)



From left to right: Hung "Paul" Le, Yamara Salazar, Orlando River, SPSHS Principal Anthony Massaro, CE Student of the Year Shante Edelen and Herry Patel.

## Cooperative Education Announces Top CE Student Achievement Awards

The South Plainfield High School Cooperative Education/School to Careers Program announced this year's top awards. CE Student of the Year and four Outstanding Achievement awards were sponsored by Commerce Bank in South Plainfield in an ongoing Business/Education Community Partnership.

A check for \$500 from Commerce Bank will be awarded to Shante Edelen. Shante, the daughter of Teresa Edelen of Elm St., will attend the Nursing Program at Middlesex County College next fall. Her CE job is at Pathmark of Green Brook on Rt. 22 East. Store manager Tanya McAllister said, "Shante is a very giving, loving young woman who has the maturity to mix humor and a seriousness of purpose at our Team Center/Information Dept. She is a terrific, extremely responsible customer service representative and will be a great success in the field of nursing."

Four students are also being honored. Each will receive a \$200 check from Commerce Bank for Outstanding Achievement.

Orlando Rivera, son of Virginia Troche of Kosciusko Ave., will attend Cititone Institute for Hospital Administration.

Hung "Paul" Le, son of Daniel and Somanin Le of Firth St., will attend DeVry College of Technology, and major in Computer Information Systems.

Herry Patel, son of Harshad and Shital Patel of Hogan Dr., will attend Rutgers University and major in Engineering/International Business.

Yamara Salazar, daughter of Maria Rodriguez of Plainfield Ave., will attend the Cititone Institute. She will be majoring in Hospital Administration.

Eric Radell, vice president of Commerce Bank and the South Plainfield Education Foundation, strongly believes in the importance of schools in

partnership with the business community. "The School to Careers/Cooperative Education program teaches students how to explore career options and opportunities with real work experience. It is an honor to work with these outstanding seniors."

## Pitt St. Park to be Renamed

A resolution submitted by Councilman Ray Petronko to rename Pitt Street Park to Ponytail Park will be voted on at Thursday night's council meeting.

Pitt Street Park has been the home of the Ponytail Softball League for years, and parents and volunteers have spent countless hours working to improve the park. Fields have been completely renovated and a scoreboard was

## Public Invited To Remember Veterans this Memorial Day

On Monday, May 26, American Legion Chaumont Post #243 and VFW Post #6763 will commemorate veterans at Memorial Day services.

Opening ceremonies begin at 9 a.m. at the American Legion Post #243 located on Oak Tree Ave. and continue on with a visit to each borough cem-

## In Loving Memory

Join the Knights of Columbus as they put American flags on the graves of all deceased members at Holy Redeemer Cemetery at 10 a.m.

etry, where wreaths will be laid and taps will be played. Cemeteries to be visited are the Jewish Cemetery and Samptown Cemetery, both located on New Market Ave., Holy Redeemer Cemetery on Clinton Ave. and Veterans Park. Closing ceremonies will be held at the VFW on Front St. where an open house with refreshments will be served until 2 p.m.

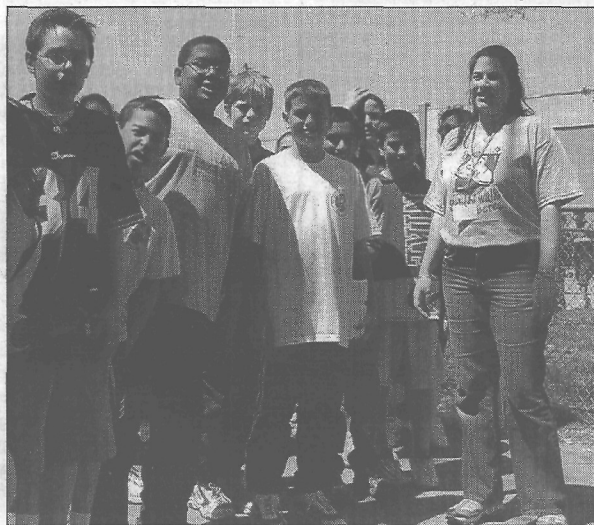
The public is invited and encouraged to attend these services. Let's not forget our veterans, especially this year. Without them we would not enjoy the freedom we take for granted.

installed along with fencing.

Petronko said, "It's time to rename the park to thank all of the volunteers who have worked so hard to ensure that the girls have competitive fields to play on."

The Ponytail League has agreed to have a new sign made and to install it. They will also make sure that the new sign has been approved by the Board of Adjustment, if necessary.

## Walk-a-Thon Nets \$10,000 for Diabetes



By Patricia Abbott

The hard work and footsteps of Grant Central Sixth students generated a sizeable contribution to the American Diabetes Association—over ten thousand dollars!

The walk-a-thon, two circuits around Spring Lake Park, was sponsored by the Student Council.

In 2002 the ADA offered their first school walk program. According to Student Council Advisor Kara Giorgio, Grant School chose this cause because diabetes affects several of the Grant School family members.

Last year the sixth grade students raised \$9,000. This year's goal was to top that figure. 260 of the 282 students in the school participated in the walk raising \$10,029. The top five

(Continued on page 6)

## BOROUGHNOTES

### Council

■ Twenty-two municipalities applied for a grant for their downtown areas; eight were selected, including South Plainfield, which will receive a \$63,000 grant to be used to for sidewalks and curbing along Church St.

■ The Borough will donate \$1,000 to Project Graduation.

■ Agnes Ficorelli has resigned as a member of the Senior Citizens Advisory.

■ Captain Robert Puliakitis of the South Plainfield Police Department has announced his retirement as of Jan. 31, 2004.

■ The council authorized the purchase of a new radio system from Motorola at a total cost of \$146,943, to be used by Borough emergency services.

■ A new security access system costing \$17,225 and a new air conditioning unit costing \$5,500 will be purchased for the police department.

■ Borough Clerk Vinnie Buttiglieri was appointed as the Borough's Commissioner to the Middlesex County Joint Insurance Fund.

■ An identification card system from Mack Camera, costing \$6,614 will be purchased for the DARE Program.

# Mark your calendars

Log on to [southplainfieldnj.com](http://southplainfieldnj.com) for the latest meeting agenda

## council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Thursday.  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. (New Time) • Questions? 908-226-7605

### AGENDA MEETING ..... PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, May 22  
Monday, June 2 ..... Thursday, June 5  
Monday, June 16 ..... Thursday, June 19

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

## planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641  
May 27, June 10, June 24

## zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641  
May 29, June 12, June 26, July 10, July 24, Aug. 14, Aug. 28, Sept. 11, Sept. 25, Oct. 16, Oct. 30, November 6, Nov. 20, Dec. 4, Dec. 18.

## board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted  
Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.: June 10, August 12, Sept. 9  
Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m.: June 17, July 15, August 19

## taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-668-0538

## siteplace sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.  
June 17, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 16.

## recreation commission

Meets once a month on the first Tuesday of the month, except July and August  
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716  
June 3, September 2, October 7, November 11 (Nov. 4 is Election Day) and December 2.

## environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday except August)  
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621

## business advisory group

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

## trafficsafety advisory commission

Meetings, held at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

# IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

We would like to publicly thank local businesses and other contributors who generously donated merchandise and services to be awarded as prizes at the Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield theatre benefit held May 4 at Circle Players Theatre in Piscataway. All proceeds from the benefit go toward the club's annual \$1,000 scholarship awarded to a graduating SPHS senior.

Contributors for the 2003 benefit were The Brush Stop Hair Salon, Carousell Hair Salon and Mohn's Florist, all of which donated a gift certificate; Spring Lake Florist, a wreath; Twin City Pharmacy, ceramic wall plaque; Park Avenue Cleaners, two gift certificates; Circle Players of Piscataway, four future show tickets and Mary Ann Iannitto, an original oil painting. Mrs. Iannitto is a local artist and co-president of the Suburban Woman's Club.

All donations were greatly appreciated and contributed to making the theatre benefit a very successful event.

**SINCERELY,  
FILOMENA VIOLA AND FRIEDA WALKER, COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS FOR THE THEATRE BENEFIT**

To the Editor,

I am writing this letter to say thank you to the Rescue Squad and Police Department for being there when I needed them.

On Easter Sunday my husband, Walter, needed to be taken to Muhlenberg Hospital. When I called they arrived in a matter of minutes. Once again on Tuesday, they were called to take him back to the hospital. Again I did not have to wait, they arrived in no time.

I am writing to say a BIG "Thank You" to all of the people who were at my home helping me. Between the Rescue Squad, the 911 dispatcher and the police officers, everyone was really professional and courteous. They are all the BEST!

The people in South Plainfield are very lucky to have volunteers like this who are always ready to assist us.

South Plainfield should be very proud, I know that Walter and I are. Keep up the good work!  
**SINCERELY, PAT JANUS**

Dear Editor,

Week after week people are writing this paper asking the mayor and members of the council to explain themselves. Did they or did they not convene a secret meeting in Dennis Cerami's home in December? The mayor and council refuse to respond. This refusal leads to only one assumption—they did.

Secret closed-door meetings not only violate the law, they show contempt for the public, an arrogance that offends me and probably most people who care about our town. I hope everyone remembers this in November.  
**GEOFF CHAMPION**

To the Editor:

On May 10, the South Plainfield Police Department hosted its Sixth Annual Bicycle Rodeo at Spring Lake Park. Over 200 residents attended the event, which promoted bike safety and theft prevention. The children first had a safety check performed on their bike by the staff of Ken's Links, a bicycle store in South Plainfield. They then took part in a safety obstacle course staffed by State Farm Insurance, where upon completion they received a "photo license." To further emphasize helmet use, the children participated in a safety demonstration conducted by Joann Cummings, R.N. of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, where the children observed the effects of a fall and its effects on the human brain. Cummings utilized a brain made

of Jello to demonstrate these effects.

As part of the "Baron Von Pedaloff" anti-theft program, approximately sixty children registered their bikes with the police department. This program, designed by retired South Plainfield Police Officer William Frink, encourages the children to register their bikes with the police department in the event they are stolen.

The Department distributed approximately eighty bicycle helmets to the children that attended and did not have a helmet. The helmets were purchased with funds donated by the Ferro Corporation and the New Jersey SAFE KIDS Chapter of Middlesex County. Children also received safety literature, reflectors and other items obtained from the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety. Girl Scout Troop #431 from South Plainfield assisted in preparing these items. Finally, the attendees received commemorative water bottles donated by McCriskin's Funeral Home.

The children then feasted on hotdogs, soda, Haagen Daz ice cream and Rita's Italian Ice. Rita's Italian Ice, Halls Fast Motor Freight, Freihofer's Bakery, Roma Foods, Canada Dry and Pepsi Co. donated these items. Halls Fast Motor Freight supplied cameras and clothing items as prizes.

Finally, several lucky children won bicycles that were raffled off. Six bikes were donated by an anonymous source and two were donated by Lynn and Ron Sward of the Physical Therapy Center of South Plainfield.

I would like to personally thank the sponsors for their generous support of this annual event. It's nice to see that their efforts have a positive impact on protecting the safety of our children.

**SINCERELY,  
SGT. KEVIN MURTAGH  
TRAFFIC SAFETY UNIT**

To the Editor,

I am writing to thank the leaders and girl scouts of Troops 819, 431, 489, 120, 117, 91, 830, 428 and 314. In true holiday spirit, they baked, decorated and delivered beautiful cakes to the Star-Fish food pantry in Plainfield. This is the second year Carrie George organized this effort and we are so grateful.

## Submit Letters to the Editor:

Letters may be submitted to our office: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email at our website at [spobserver.com](http://spobserver.com) or faxed to 908-668-8819. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Please limit letters to no more than 500 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. We reserve the right to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher.

These homemade goodies were very special additions to the Easter food baskets we sent to the needy Plainfield families. I am sure all the recipients were very pleased with these delicious reminders that someone cared.

**SINCERELY,  
KATHI DELUCCA, DIRECTOR**

Dear Editor,

There is an interesting news story going on in Washington, DC that could effect the freedom of speech for every one of us.

I am referring to an upcoming meeting of the Federal Communications Commission where it will be decided if huge media moguls will be allowed to become even bigger.

Most of us didn't even realize that a free press is very dependent on autonomy and that a democracy is dependent upon a free press. If a large concentration of newspapers, TV stations, radio stations, publishers and Internet Providers are allowed to be controlled by just a few corporations then all we'll ever hear or see will be based on the dictates of those corporations. What an undesirable circumstance that will be for all of us!

There is a bright spot though, this behind the scenes vote of the FCC over who'll control what America sees and hears won't happen until June 2. The FCC is allowing public input until May 30, 2003 so now is the time to act. Everyone is invited to contact the FCC at: <http://www.fcc.gov/contacts.html> or call them toll-free at: 1-888-225-5322 (1-888-CALL FCC) for more information. Make your voice heard.

**SCOTT ZORC,  
BUFORD, GA 30518**

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## SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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**Our Customers refer us again and again because we care!**

**This Week's Featured Property**



Charming Cape Cod with many upgrades throughout. Newer kitchen, formal dining room with Pergo floor, lots of closets, finished basement with third bedroom, 1 1/2 baths (updated baths), Anderson windows, enclosed front porch, great yard with deck and patio, vinyl siding and central air. Offered at \$258,000.



Mayor Gallagher cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of Twigs & Blooms on Hamilton Blvd. Also pictured are Donyale Reid, Rose Reid, owners Nikisha Reid-John and Kenville John and assistant Hope Sullivan.

## Twigs & Blooms Holds Grand Opening

Kenville and Nikisha Reid-John are the proud new co-owners of Twigs & Blooms Florist located at 340-C Hamilton Blvd., next to Hometown Heros. They held their grand opening ceremonies last Friday. Mayor Dan Gal-

agher was on hand to do the ribbon cutting.

The John's are residents of South Plainfield. Nikisha has been working with flowers since she was a little girl and professionally for the past six

years.

Twigs & Blooms specializes in wedding and funeral pieces, custom arrangements and unique floral designs, fresh and artificial. They may be reached at (908) 755-7731.

## New Grave Markers Placed on Civil War Graves

New markers were recently placed in Hillside Cemetery of Samptown, New Market Ave., on the graves of four men who saw service in the Civil War. This effort was brought about because the original tombstones on these graves were badly deteriorated and there was a fear that the graves themselves might be lost. The new markers were provided with the help of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The grounds crew of the cemetery donated the labor and materials necessary to install

the markers on the graves.

New markers were placed on the graves of the following men:

*2nd Lieutenant George C. Boice*—Company G; 11th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers. Lieutenant Boice was killed in action at the Siege of Petersburg, Va. on Oct. 8, 1864.

*Private Aaron F. Randolph*—Company H; 30th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers. Private Randolph died of a fever while serving with his regiment as part of the Army of the Potomac at Belle Plains, Va. on March 9, 1863.

*Private Augustus Ryno*—Company C; 28th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers. During the course of his duties, Private Ryno was fatally injured while serving with his regiment as part of the Army of the Potomac at Falmouth, Va. He died in an Army hospital in Washington D.C. on January 22, 1863.

Lastly, a new marker was placed on the grave of *Corporal William H. Spencer*—Company K; 25th Regiment, United States Colored Troops. Corporal Spencer was one of only 2,900 New Jersey men of African descent to enlist in the U.S. Army during the Civil War.

While ongoing research has yet to determine the total number of Civil War veterans buried in Hillside Cemetery of Samptown, it has revealed the names of two men from the community who never returned from the war:

*Sergeant Henry Brantingham*—Company C; 28th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers. Records indicate that Sergeant Brantingham was killed in action at the Battle of Fredericksburg on Dec. 13, 1862. His body was never identified and he lies buried in an unknown grave in the National Military Cemetery in Fredericksburg, Va.

*Private Hugh Downey*—Company I; 11th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers. Private Downey died from the effects of exposure and starvation on Sept. 19, 1864 while held as a prisoner of war in that infamous Southern prison known as Andersonville. His remains are buried in the National Military Cemetery in Anderson, Ga.

## South Plainfield Recycling Center Memorial Day Holiday Closing

The South Plainfield Recycling Center and the Yard Waste Site on Kenneth Ave. will be closed on Tuesday, May 27, because of the Memorial Day

holiday weekend. Both facilities will be open instead on Wednesday, May 28, from 12 noon to 7 p.m.

Both the Recycling Center and the Yard Waste Site will be open as usual on Saturday, May 24, from 8 to 3.

The Recycling Center regular schedule is Tuesdays, 12 to 7 p.m., Fridays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Yard Waste Site spring/summer schedule is Tuesdays, 12 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Decals for 2003 are available Tuesdays and Fridays in the Municipal Clerk's office.

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

### Special Board of Adjustment Meeting Scheduled

The Board of Adjustment will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, June 3 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall. The case to be discussed is the proposal to build houses on Oak Tree Ave. submitted by K-Land.

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## Bel Musica Presents a Tribute to "Cole And Noel"

BEL MUSICA presents a musical tribute to the legendary Cole Porter and Noel Coward entitled, "Cole and Noel," on Sunday, June 1 at 4 p.m., and sponsored by the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission. This program, the first of a concert series for the year, will be held at the South Plainfield Senior Citizens Center, intersection of Plainfield and Maple avenues.

The program includes Florence Lazzeri, soprano; Rick McElhiney, baritone, and pianists Carole-Ann Mochernuk and Paul Kueter. Also featured is guest violinist, Danny Hedinger of Clark. Some of the songs included in the program are *Begin the Beguine, Anything Goes, Mad Dogs and Englishmen, Night and Day* and selections from Cole Porter's most famous Broadway show, *Kiss Me Kate*.

Lazzeri is no stranger to music lovers in the area. As founder of the ensemble, BEL MUSICA, the Scotch Plains resident has performed throughout New Jersey, New York and the Caribbean. With a diversified professional career, she combines operatic and non-classical music in her repertoire. As a recent recipient of a Union County HEART Grant, she toured the public schools in Union County with "The A-B-Cs of Opera," a musical introduction to opera for students from grades two through six.

McElhiney, a resident of Edison, has appeared on Broadway in *The King of Schnorrers* and toured with the national



Florence Lazzeri

company of *My Fair Lady*.

Mochernuk and Kueter have played concerts in the northeast, west coast and Europe. For the past six seasons, they have given four-hand recitals at the Library of Performing Arts at Lincoln Center in New York. Their CD "Five Broadway Greats" with Mr. Kueter's four-hand arrangements of music by Kern, Gershwin, Bernstein, Porter and Loewe and George Gershwin's centennial CD and cassette, "Gershwinianna" are now available to the public. They also teach privately in their North Plainfield studio and conduct workshops on the art of four-hand pianism.

Admission to the program is free. For further information, call (908) 668-3972.

## Sidewalks to be Installed Along Belmont Ave.

During the years Frank Mikorski served on the School Board of Education, he asked the council on numerous occasions to install sidewalks along Belmont Ave., saying the board would save money on the cost of busing. Mikorski, who began his campaign in 2000, was delighted to hear his request is finally being answered.

At present, children attending Roosevelt who are not usually eligible for busing are bused because of the lack of sidewalks along Belmont Ave.

In 2000 the council applied for a grant to do the project and received \$72,000, which was not enough to cover the cost of the project. They applied again the next year and got an addition \$100,000. Since then they have received a third grant which will cover not only sidewalks on both sides of the road, but also curbs and the resurfacing of Belmont Ave.

A legal notice published on page 10 of this week's *Observer* is asking for

bidders to submit bids on the project.

There are already sidewalks on several sections of Belmont Ave., but pedestrians cannot travel very far without having to walk along the road dirt. When the new sidewalks and curbs are installed they will run on both sides of Belmont from Hamilton Blvd. to Metuchen Rd.

The sidewalk, curb and resurfacing project will be started shortly after the winning bid has been awarded.



## GOLDEN OLDIES CONCERT

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2003

8 PM

TICKETS ONLY \$15

starring 1960's Recording Group

### THE VOGUES

"Five O'Clock World" "My Special Angel"  
"Turn Around, Look At Me"

OPENING ACT - COMIC MIKE MORSE

SPHS Auditorium-200 Lake Street, So. Plainfield  
Tickets Available at the Door-Kids 13 & under Free  
Sponsored by South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department

# Around Town

## Hillside Cemetery of Sampton History Walk

**May 24**  
Larry Randolph, Environmental Commission Chairman and uncontented expert on the history of South Plainfield, conducts an immensely popular tour of historic Samptown Cemetery, which is affiliated with the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield.

Burials, which possibly date from the late 1600s, include veterans from the Revolution to Vietnam. Larry gives us rare insight about the founders of our community once known as Samptown and Brooklyn. Don't miss this outstanding event!

The Cemetery is located at the intersection of New Market and South Clinton avenues. For additional information, call (908) 754-3073.

## Senior Center Plans Trip to Lancaster, Pa.

**May 29 & 30**  
The South Plainfield Senior Center will be offering an overnight trip to Lancaster, Pa. on May 29 and 30. The trip includes transportation, one night's hotel accommodations at the Hawthorn Inn, tickets to a performance of "Daniel" at the Sight and Sound Theatre, shopping at Kitchen Kettle Village and Rockvale Square outlets, dinner on Thursday, breakfast on Friday, hotel tax and service. Cost is \$159 per person based on double occupancy. For reservations, stop by the Senior Center at 90 Maple Avenue. The trip is open to the public.

## VFW Plans Country Breakfast

**June 1**  
A country breakfast will be held on Sunday, June 1 at VFW Post #6763, located at 155 Front St., 8 to 11 a.m. Varied menu. Donation is \$5, children 12 and under are \$3.50. For information, call (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and 12 noon weekends.

## Rainbow Academy Plans Open House

**June 7**  
Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an Open House on Saturday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Rainbow Academy offers a variety of programs to fit your child's needs, from ages six weeks to 10 years. There is limited space available for the infant,

**What's happening in MAY**

**Daily Events**  
9-11 AM Coffee & Cake  
9 AM-4 PM Cards & Pool  
(908) 754-1047

**Senior Center EVENTS**

The Senior Citizen's Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**NOW OPEN SATURDAYS 8:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>EVENTS</b>	~Tickets are available for~ <i>Lancaster, PA trip on May 29 &amp; 30</i> <i>Riverdance/NJPAC June 12</i> <i>Hunterdon Hills Playhouse July 28</i>			22 Shopping at Pathmark 9am Practical Crafting 10-11am Line Dancing 10-11:30
26 Center Closed Memorial Day	27 Bingo 10:30-2 PM Lunch Available 10am-12pm	28 Exercise & Walking Club 8:45-9:45am Ladies' Social Group AARP Crafts 1pm	29 Shopping at Pathmark 9am Movie Time 11:30am Line Dancing 10-11:30am Trip to Lancaster	23 23 Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch 11:30am
<b>TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.</b>				

nursery, pre-kindergarten, half-day preschool and summer camp programs. Everyone who registers will receive one free month of ParentWatch, an internet viewing service. For a demo of their services, visit their website at [www.parentwatch.com](http://www.parentwatch.com).

You are also welcome to visit the center for a tour during normal operating hours (7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday-Friday). For directions and additional information, visit their website at [www.rainbowacademy.com](http://www.rainbowacademy.com).

## Afternoon Music at Senior Center

**June 8**  
Are you in the mood for an afternoon of music? If so, come join us at the Senior Center on June 8 for Musical! This performance will feature local musicians including Paul DiDario, Gerard Pleasant, Eric Seiz, David Michalewsky, Judith A. Hannah, Al Ganun and the SPSHS String Orchestra. The performance is open to the public (not just seniors!) and will run from 2-4 p.m. The Senior Center is located at 90 Maple Ave.

## "River Dance" at Performing Arts Center

**June 12**  
The South Plainfield Senior Center is offering a trip to the NJ Performing Arts Center on Thursday, June 12 for a matinee performance of RiverDance. A limited number of seats are still available at \$45 per person including trans-

portation. Call the center to reserve your seat at (908) 756-4135.

## "All American Day" at Knights of Columbus Hall

**June 14**  
The Second Annual South Plainfield Knights of Columbus "All American Day" will be on Saturday, June 14, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Hamilton Blvd. The Knights will be honoring the flag and the USA.

Tentative events include raising the Colors, with several representatives attending from the city and state in Uniform. There will also be disposal ceremony of non-usable American Flags. Hot dogs, hamburgers, lemonade and desserts will be served for a price of \$3 a person and \$5 a family.

Call Pat Bonaventura for more details at (908) 755-6203 or (732) 382-1534.

## Annual Fishing Derby at Spring Lake

**June 14**  
On June 14, the South Plainfield Recreation Department and Fishing Club of SPSHS will partner with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife to run a Children's Fishing Derby at Spring Lake Park. The derby will be held from 9 a.m. to noon and is free to all children. A parent or other adult must accompany children. Children

should bring their own bait and fishing equipment. For more information, call (908) 226-7714.

The Children's Fishing Derby program is part of the division's Take Me Fishing program. The derby program has been offered for more than 12 years to encourage family oriented recreation in urban and suburban areas. For more information about fishing, see the division's website: [www.njfish-andwildlife.com](http://www.njfish-andwildlife.com)

## Baseball Club Plans Trip to See Trenton Thunder

**June 13**  
The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club is planning a trip to see the Trenton Thunder play the Norwich Navigators on Friday, June 13. Game starts at 7 p.m. Cost is \$7.

The baseball complex will be closed that night, so everyone can attend.

Checks should be made payable to SPJBS and mailed Attn: Lee Flanagan at 1801 Plainfield Ave. South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

For more information or questions call Lee Flanagan at (908) 561-6348.

## AARP Chapter 4144 Installation Meeting

**June 20**  
Chapter #4144 of South Plainfield will be holding their Installation meeting on June 20 at The Willows, in Green Brook. Lee Larson, Regional Coordinator of Central Jersey, will perform the ceremony and the featured speaker will be her husband, Sy Larson, AARP State Coordinator, Prescription Drug Task Force.

## Polish Home Monmouth Race Track Trip

**June 29**  
The Polish Home is planning a trip to Monmouth Race Track on Sunday June 29. The bus leaves the Polish Home, located at 312 New Market Ave. at 9:45 a.m. Cost of \$40 per person includes food, beer, wine, soda and a program. Deposit required by June 1. Call (908) 668-9442 for more information.

## — Out of Town —

## New Jersey Blues Events

**May 23**  
The New Jersey Blues will be celebrating the 2003 "Year of the Blues"

as designated by Congressional decree and also the talents of New Jersey's amazing blues men and women.

The event takes place Friday, May 23 at 9 p.m. at Crossroads, 78 North Ave. in Garwood. Door cover is \$8. For information call (908) 232-5666.

## Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration

**May 31**  
New Jersey's Asian American Heritage Council of New Jersey (AAHC) will hold a banquet celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage on Saturday, May 31 at the Sheraton at Woodbridge Place Hotel, 515 Route 1 South in Iselin. AAHC is this state's singular pan-Asian community organization representing Chinese, Indian, Indonesian, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Mongolian, Pakistani, Vietnamese, Pacific Islander and other ethnic groups.

For information on attending or sponsorship, contact AAHC President, Giga Andreyev, at (732) 363-9418 or [s.andreyev@worldnet.att.net](mailto:s.andreyev@worldnet.att.net).

## 4-H Yard Sale

**May 31-June 1**  
Looking for some good spring bargains? The 4-H Teen Council will be holding a yard sale on Saturday, May 31 and Sunday, June 1, at the 4-H Center on Cranbury Rd, in East Brunswick. The sale begins at 9 a.m. Proceeds from the sale will support the 2003 4-H Project GIFT (a holiday charitable event for families with limited income).

4-H programs are open to all youth, grades 4-13, regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.

For information on becoming a member or volunteer call (732) 745-4097.

## Edison Arts Society Opening Reception

**June 1**  
The Edison Arts Society will be holding an opening/reception of its second statewide juried Art Gallery exhibit "I've Been There" on Sunday June 1 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Sheraton Edison Hotel at Karitane Center. "I've Been There" features 29 pieces of art and photography by 20 visual artists.

The gallery opening/reception, which is free and open to the public, features refreshments provided by the Hotel, and delightful music by harpist Mary Lebus of Tinton Falls.

For information, call Nina Hand, at (908) 753-2787, or Linda LaStella, gallery director, (732) 906-4137.

## Messiah Lutheran 80th Anniversary Services

**June 8**  
A special service will be held on Sunday, June 8 at Messiah Lutheran Church, 630 East Front St. in Plainfield to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the church. Refreshments will be served. Service starts at 11 a.m. Guest preacher will be William Klettke, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, New Jersey District President.

For more information call the church office at (908) 755-4525.

## How You Can Be a Part of the South Plainfield Observer.

**ENCOURAGE YOUR ORGANIZATION TO SEND US THEIR UPCOMING EVENTS.** We want to add them to AROUND TOWN. It can make your event more successful. Send them to us by mail, fax or e-mail.

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

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

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

**SUGGEST A BUSINESS FOR US TO SPOTLIGHT.** If you have had great service in South Plainfield share it with your neighbors through the newspaper.

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

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

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

**SUBSCRIBE.** It's \$25. (in town) for one year!!

# southplainfieldpeople Milestones

## Harms Announce Birth of Jordan Alexis

Jordan Alexis Harms was born on April 21 at 6:57 a.m. Jordan weighed in at 6 lbs. 4 oz. and was 19 inches long.

Jordan joins her sister, Caitlyn Amanda Harms, at home. Parents are Rich and Cara Harms from Union.

The proud grandparents are Alvin and Ina Wild from South Plainfield and Loren and Chris Harms from Roselle Park.



## Brittany DeNitzio Selected to be Delegate to Career Institute

Brittany DeNitzio has been selected as delegate to the Girls' Career Institute by the South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club. The alternate delegate is Kristina Latonio. Both girls have completed their junior year at South Plainfield High School.

The Girls' Career Institute will be held at Douglass College from Monday June 16 thru Thursday June 19.

The delegates will experience a sample of college life, living in a dorm, eating in the cafeteria, attending lectures and workshops and learning

about career choices. They also have the opportunity to network with delegates from other areas of the state. Organized sport activities, orchestra, crafts, games and after dinner sessions in the dorm are just a few activities that are available during the girl's free time.

The Girls' Career Institute is a program offered by the New Jersey Federation of Woman's Clubs. The South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club sponsors a South Plainfield High School girl each year.

## New Kidd on the Block Promises More Business for Unity Bank

Anthony J. Ferraro, president, Unity Bank, announced the appointment of Donna E. Kidd of Berkeley Heights, NJ as Vice President/Business Development Executive of Unity Bank.

A graduate of Thomas A. Edison College, Kidd comes to her new position with over 18 years of extensive loan experience in the financial world, providing creative solutions to small business financing needs. Kidd comes to Unity most recently from UnitedTrust in Bridgewater as a Commercial Loan Officer and Municipal Lease Specialist. In 2001, Kidd was the recipient of the prestigious TWIN (Tribute to Women in Industry) Central Jersey Award.

Chief Lending Officer Michael Downes stated "With Donna's lending background and her financial skills, we're confident that she will be an attribute to the Unity family and our customers."

Kidd is located at Unity's Scotch Plains branch, 2222 South Ave. and can be contacted by calling (908) 233-0507. Stop in and join her for pas-



Donna E. Kidd

tries and a beverage at our Café Unity and let Donna tell you about all that Unity Bank has to offer.

Unity Bank provides financial services to retail, corporate and small business clients through its twelve retail service centers located in Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset and Union Counties in New Jersey.

For additional information about Unity Bank, see [www.unitybank.com](http://www.unitybank.com) or call (800) 618-BANK.

# A Reflection of the First Year of College Life: A Contemporary Perspective

By Tim Morgan, Jr.

College is a unique experience. It can be fun, exciting, developmental and enlightening. The studies can be seemingly overwhelming at times, but there is more to higher learning than the academic aspect. It is a completely different environment than high school.

There are no distinctive social factions, because status is not of great concern. Most students have a select group of friends they associate with. Gossip does not spread like wildfire, because everyone does not know who everyone else is and what's more, they don't care. You are forced to separate and distinguish yourself from your influences and peers, because college by nature fosters self-reliance. All of a sudden, preparation for your future and further establishing your own life become primary focuses.

One decision that will profoundly affect your college experience is whether or not you choose to become a resident or commuter; they are two different lives. Being a resident who knows both commuters and fellow residents, I can decidedly say that I prefer my current situation.

While every student's preferences and predilections are different, I think that you can get more enjoyment and appreciation out of the college experience by living there. You can meet many different people from various backgrounds. You will likely connect with people that you probably would not have associated with in high school, because when you live around and see the same people day-in, day-out, at all times of the day, you realize that you want to get along with as many of them as you can. One advantage to living with others at college is that you will form many types of relationships and open yourself to interacting with people outside the types you did in high school. In my opinion, this better equips you for "the real world," because it is a skill that you can apply in life after college.

Colleges sponsor plenty of activities, trips, events, and clubs that cater to every group and interest. There are ample opportunities to become involved at college, and truthfully, residents are more likely to do this than commuters. Commuters tend to retain their old ways of life, which are usually outside of the college environment. Residents, on the other hand, usually cannot keep the ones they established at home, so they are likely to turn to their new living environment - the school.

In either situation, there is an importance in social life at college. Irrefutably, the main reason for you to go to college is to pave your path for the rest of your life, but there is no reason you can't have fun along the way. In fact, I would argue that enjoying your time at college is conducive to academic performance, provided prioritization takes place.

Your interactions with fellow students will differ greatly from high school. Remember how teachers used to have to control constant talking in classes? That doesn't exist in college. Professors are there for you to gain a better knowledge of the material and will not tolerate extra conversations in their classes. Students tend to show professors more respect. It is understood that outside of class participation, when professors talk, you listen (or at least don't distract them or others). Students are not particularly loquacious in classes, because they often do not know one another. In college your friendships are often formed outside the classroom.

My class sizes ranged from a dozen or so students in my smallest classes to about 40 in my largest classes. This is not usually the case with a larger school, though.

If you are lucky, you can avoid Friday classes and find yourself with a nice three day weekend. Most full-time students take around fifteen credits per

semester, which is usually five classes at three credits each. Some classes are four credits, usually sciences. Each credit generally denotes one hour of class time per week. Every school is different in regard to how the hours per week are broken up, but at St. Thomas Aquinas College, I have either two one hour and twenty five minute classes or one two hour and fifty minute class per week. I found this to be a big change from the 44 minute periods that I had in high school five days per week, and it takes some adjustment, like many other aspects of college life do.

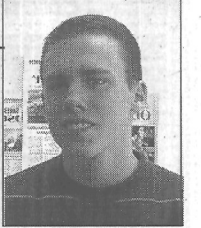
The personal attention professors give to students varies. Depending on class size, some will barely know your name and could care less whether or not you attend their class, while others will communicate with you on a fairly regular basis and strictly enforce attendance policies. "Extra help" is given during office hours, not after classes are over. Also, outside of extenuating circumstances, if you fail to show up for an exam, you receive a zero for it; there are rarely make-up sessions. Your interactions with your professors will differ quite a bit from those you experienced with your high school teachers.

Now to either confirm or dispel a few rumors. I'll start with the less incendiary ones. Cafeteria food is not as bad or disgusting as people make it out to be, but is often a mixed bag - sometimes the food is surprisingly good, other times egregiously unpleasant. Sometimes sleep will be compromised due to your roommates' behaviors and activities. Time management is essential to academic survival. There will be plenty of distractions and time to slack off and procrastinate, especially if you become involved in campus activities; you will be up very late writing that paper or studying for a test for the next day (or rather, that day) should you do this. Cram sessions and late night writing sessions can often, although not always, be avoided. If

you do not get adequate sleep, one of three things will happen to you in class the next day: you will either still be wired and manage to stay surprisingly alert, somewhat drowsy and zone out from time to time, or drained and enervated, unable to pay attention to your professor as you fight your body's natural urge to close your eyes.

Now on to other concerns. I don't care what the Residence Life Director or President or whoever says about any dry campus policies or alcohol prevention attempts, hear me loud and clear, you WILL be exposed to drinking. How you choose to handle yourself is up to you. More than likely, your roommates will come up with the ingenious brainstorm to either have a party in your room, go to where a party is being held, or to go off campus to get wasted. You WILL witness an abundant amount of drunken behavior, you WILL have to encounter situations where you will be encouraged to drink, and you WILL get to know substance abusers of all kinds. I was fortunate to not be exposed to any drugs besides alcohol, but that is not to suggest that that you will have the same fortune. You will be expected to act safely and responsibly or face consequences if you are stupid enough to get caught.

The fact of the matter is that college is what you make of it. This goes for what you learn in and out of the classroom and how you value and respond to it. You will learn things about yourself and others that will be eye-opening. You will have to make decisions you've never been faced with before and be put in situations you've never been in before. College is a learning experience, but that does not mean it cannot be an enjoyable one.



Tim Morgan, Jr

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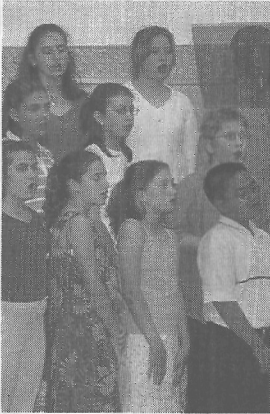
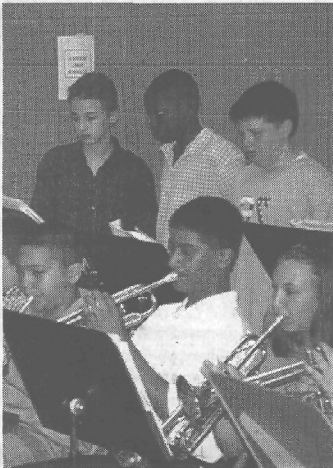
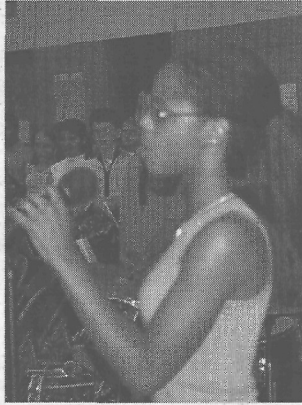
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# Grant School Students Delight Parents, Teachers and Guests at Spring Concert



Sixth grader Asleigh Gray, student soloist, performed *The Star-Spangled Banner* at Grant School's May 7 Spring Concert. Entertaining the captive audience were the String Ensemble, directed by Carleen Tedeschi and accompanied by Joan Stasio on piano; the Grant Central Sixth Band, which performed four numbers and the Sixth Grade Chorus, which featured soloists Brittany Musolino and Katie Baldassarre. The Band and Chorus closed the program with *Salute to America*.

## From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

Well, the upcoming long weekend will give many of you the chance to relax, watch a parade, have a picnic, see "X2" or "Matrix Reloaded", and, we hope, remember those who lost their lives in defense of this country. Add to this list "take a few moments to check on news from South Plainfield Library":

The Library will be closed on Sunday and Monday in observance of Memorial Day.

Turning to our children's programs, this month's Kidcraft program is scheduled for this afternoon at 4:00. It's for children age six and over, or children who are able to use scissors. The Library will provide all of the craft materials. We do ask, though, that you call ahead and register, so we'll know how many people to expect. Next week, we'll follow our normal schedule for children's Storytime programs. Those programs are for children age three and over; no pre-registration is required. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. They're held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. If you'd like more information, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

Tuesday will be the last day of availability for this month's group of Circuit videos. Titles this month include "Marnie," "X-Men," "Air Bud: Golden Receiver," "The Man Who Wasn't There," "My Summer Story" and, on DVD, "Mad Monster Party" and "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider." Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days.

Time is running out, but there's still an opportunity for you to donate items for our big Book and Bake Sale

on Saturday, May 31. If you want to bring in inedible items, we're looking for books, audiocassettes, CDs, VHS tapes, and DVDs. They should be in brand new or very good condition. If you're not sure about whether or not we'd be interested in an item, please call and check with us. If you'd rather donate baked goods, please stop by the Library and sign up at the Circulation Desk. We're also looking for volunteers to help out during the sale; details on that are also available at the Circulation Desk.

We've added two new databases to our computer system. First, there's CountryWatch.com. This website features up-to-date information and news on 192 countries throughout the world. There's political, economic, cultural and business data available. We've also added access to the AccuNet/AP Multimedia Archive. This site features photos, graphics and text articles from the vast archives of the Associated Press. These sites are available via our in-house computers, or via our website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us). If you have any questions on how to use these resources, please ask a staff member for help.

And, while we're on the subject of computers, we've added a new library catalog system called iPac. Along with our own catalog, this new system offers new and improved links to other library catalogs, online databases, and useful websites. It loads into your computer faster, and is more compatible with current browser systems. We hope this makes things easier for you; please let us know how it works out.

That's about all for now. Please drive carefully over the weekend. See you next Friday.

## The Great 4-H Alumni Search

The Great 4-H Alumni Search is on! From High Point to Cape May and Salem to Hackensack, the NJ 4-H Youth Development Program is searching for 4-H alumni who grew up in NJ or who currently live in the state.

Nationally, over 45 million people are 4-H Alumni. Our goal is to identify 20,000 4-H alumni within the next year. Help us reach our goal by telling us about yourself and your 4-H experiences. Visit the NJ Great 4-H Alumni Search web page at [www.nj4h.rutgers.edu/alumnisearch/](http://www.nj4h.rutgers.edu/alumnisearch/) and complete the Alumni Info Form.

Share your 4-H memories and find out what is happening with 4-H in NJ. Spread the word by telling a friend or family member to log on to the web site or call the 4-H Office in your county to request an alumni

form. The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of Rutgers Cooperative Extension. For additional information, contact the Cumberland 4-H Program (856) 451-2800.

## Walk-a-Thon Nets \$10,000

(Continued from page 1) fundraisers were Daren Campbell, Nick Levendusky, Matt Praul, Nicole Soisson and Alex Vajda.

Giorgio, and fellow Student Council advisor Kelly Panuzza, proud of the students who went above and beyond what was asked of them, said, "We are so impressed by this group of students. They set their goal. Not only did they meet it, but they surpassed it."

If you are a high school student, have an interest in newspapers and web page design, we are looking for you. Call the Observer at 908-668-0010 for info.

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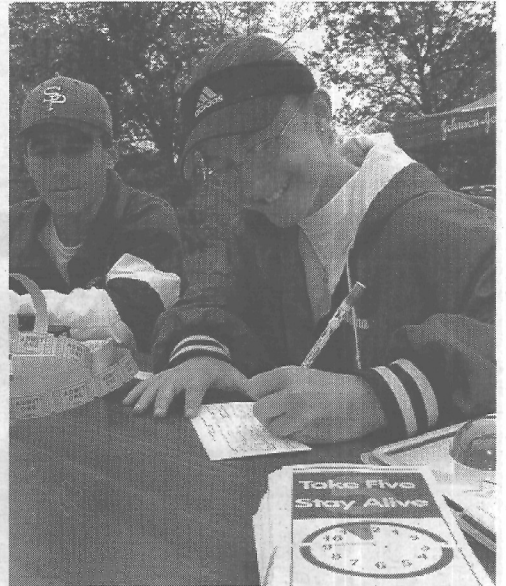
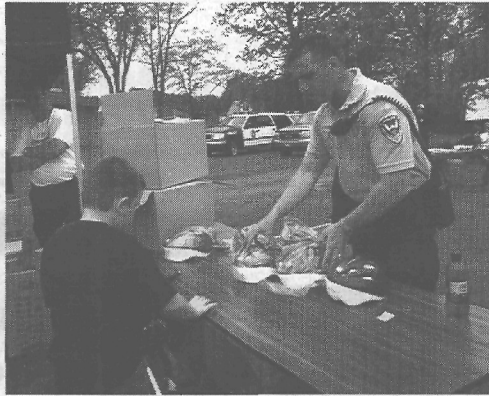
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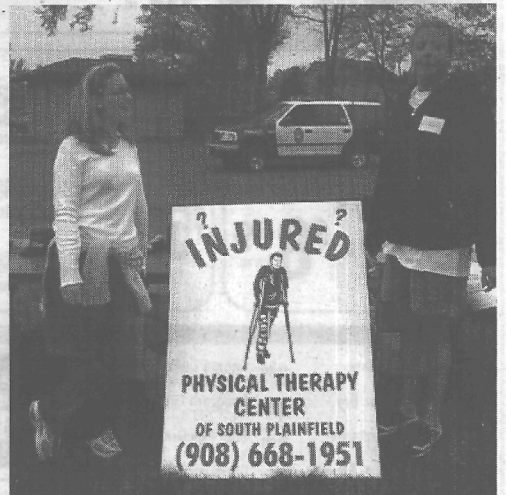
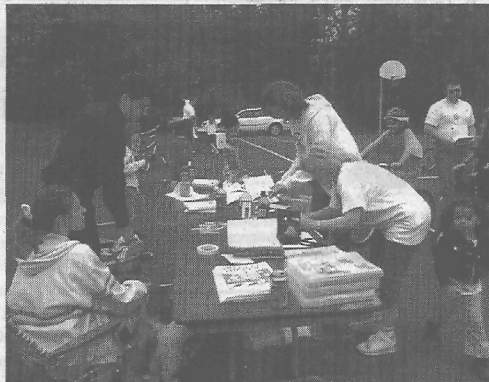
# Annual Bike Rodeo Attracts Over 200

by Patricia Abbott

The recent South Plainfield Police Department Bicycle Rodeo attracted over 200 people. Young and old alike arrived on bikes, trikes and everything in between. The annual event held at Spring Lake Park included a number of fun activities, all promoting bike safety and theft prevention. The staff of Ken's Links conducted safety checks. State Farm Insurance challenged the young cyclists with a safety obstacle course. The Bike Rodeo always stresses the importance of wearing a bike helmet. Joann Cummings, R.N. of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, was on hand to help drive this point home. She showed a simulation of the effects of a fall and how it can cause brain injury. Eighty bike helmets were given to children who did not have one. The helmets were purchased with funds donated by the Ferro Corporation and the New Jersey SAFE KIDS Chapter of Middlesex County.

"Baron Von Pedaloff's" anti-theft program registered approximately 60 bikes with the police department. The program was designed by retired South Plainfield Police Officer William Frink. The children received literature, reflectors, water bottles and more. They also enjoyed free hotdogs, soda and ice cream.

The highlight of the afternoon was the bike raffle. Six bikes were donated by an anonymous source and two were donated by Lynn and Ron Sward of the Physical Therapy Center of South Plainfield. Bike winners were: Jessica Jazikoff, Frankie Malecki, Ashley Franchak, Melissa Gallant, Michelle Schuetz, William Hartman, Jose Halls and Pablo Medina.

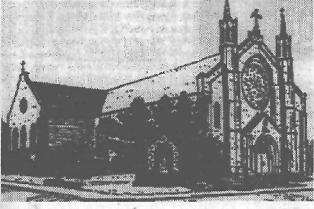


Photos by Jane Dornick and Patricia Abbott

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# Sports

## SOCCER



The South Plainfield Traveling Under 11 Boys Soccer Team

## Rainy Day Can't Put Out The Fire's Flame

The South Plainfield Traveling Under 11 Boys Soccer Team won their fifth game in a row after being undefeated last year on their new home field.

The South Plainfield Fire has started their spring season on fire. On Sunday, May 11 (Mother's Day) the Fire had a match against the Clark Sharks.

The Fire decided to provide their moms with a very exciting game. In the first half of the game three goals were scored by Bryant Villamarin, Luis Acosta and Johnathan Llerena. During the half time break the players decided to put some more balls in the net as a gift for their mothers on Mothers Day. The team worked flawlessly together to put seven more balls in the net.

Soccer balls were being crossed in front of the net from all over the middle field. The middle fielders, Justin De Oliveira, Joao Rafael Simon and Logan Green did a great job feeding balls to the front offensive line. The front line of Douglas Porzio, Filipe Rodrigues, Logan Green, Briant Valimarin, Luis Acosta and Johnathan Llerena didn't waste the opportunities by putting in seven more goals. You would think that with all the scoring going on that the defense had a easy job for the day. That couldn't be any further from reality. The Clark Sharks were determined to put the ball into the

net. They produced many breakaway plays during the match. The Fire's defense was relentless; they played the finest game all year. The defense team of Rich Szelega, Scot Bishop, Anthony Baldasarre, Kyle Pompilio and Derick Wilhelm (in goal) made a pack to not let any Shark players score.

During a very physical battle in the goal area, the Sharks were awarded a penalty kick off of a very aggressive play in the penalty box. This provided the Clark Sharks with their only score.

After the match was over and the coaches had a chance to congratulate the team on their game, the players decided they wanted to let out a great big cheer. It went like this: "HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!" The Fire's coaches, Scot Bishop and Paul Baldasarre, are extremely happy with the way the team has come together. The team has been together for about four years and the coaches feel this is the strongest team that they have ever had. Keep up the good work Fire!

Missing for game play this week were Greg Herbster and Mat Santos. They were well missed.

Anyone interested in more information on the team or our club please visit the web site [www.soplfd.soccerclub.com](http://www.soplfd.soccerclub.com). The Soccer Club will be having fall tryouts this June. See the web site for more information and for home game schedules.

## Sonics Harpoon Sharks

On May 18 the South Plainfield Sonics hosted the Montgomery Sharks. Shortly after kickoff, Danny Hunt scored off a nice square pass from Dana Hunt to give the Sonics an early 1-0 lead. The next Sonics score came from a perfectly placed through ball from Ryan Billich to Steve Lanza to make the Sonics up by 2-0 going into halftime.

The Sonics applied pressure from all positions during the third quarter. It finally paid off when Steve Lanza assisted Charlie Huber, who first timed a nice shot past the diving Montgomery goalkeeper to make the score 3-0. Not finished yet, Danny Hunt shot a rocket from 25 yards that whisked by the keeper's outstretched arms, increasing the Sonics lead to four. Shaun Alers had a nice run up the left wing, then centered a ball that

Steve Lanza buried to make it 5-0 at the end of the third quarter.

Fourth quarter action saw the tide begin to turn. With only a few minutes left, the Sharks finally tallied a goal off a defensive mistake by the Sonics to break the shut out.

The attackers for the game were Dana Hunt, Steve Lanza, Nick Okosko and Mike Dispenziere. The midfield was covered by Will Mott, Danny Hunt, Charlie Huber, Ryan Billich and Nick Tuyp and the defensive line was comprised of Shaun Alers, Luke Goitiandia, Nick Ross and Danny Sticco.

Outstanding job by Nick Tuyp, Nick Ross and Danny Hunt as keepers for the game, holding their opponent to one goal. This win makes the Sonics spring record 5-1-1.

Great Job!

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Clos Du Bois Merlot 750 ML <b>\$13.99</b>	Estancia Chardonnay Pinnacles 750 ML <b>\$8.99</b>	Redwood Creek Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot 1.5 Liter <b>\$9.99</b>	Freixenet Cordon Negro Brut Champagne 750 ML <b>\$7.99</b>	Harvey's Bristol Cream Sherry 750 ML <b>\$8.99</b>	Yellowtail Cabernet Chardonnay Merlot Shiraz 750 ML <b>\$5.99</b>	Bolla Soave/Bardolino/Valpolicella 1.5 Liter <b>\$9.99</b>	Concha Y Toro Xplorador 750 ML <b>\$6.99</b>	Wynham Estate Chardonnay Bin 222 750 ML <b>\$6.99</b>	Bella Serra Pinot Grigio 1.5 Liter <b>\$9.99</b>	

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Dekuyper Peachtree Schnapps 750 ML <b>7.99</b>	Clan MacGregor Scotch 1.75 Liter <b>15.99</b>	Sauza Gold/Blanco Tequila 750 ML <b>\$14.99</b>	Chivas Regal Scotch 750 ML <b>\$25.99</b>
Cruzan Tropical Flavors Rum 750 ML <b>9.99</b>	Christian Brothers Brandy 1.75 Liter <b>16.99</b>		
Port Royal Rum 1.75 Liter <b>11.99</b>	Canadian Club 80 1.75 Liter <b>17.99</b>		
Fleischmann Preferred Whisky 1.75 Liter <b>12.99</b>	Dalmore 12 Yr Old Scotch 750 ML <b>23.99</b>		
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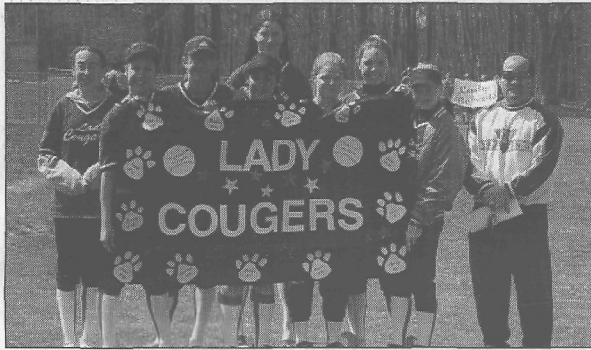
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# Sports



**Ponytail Softball A League Lady Cougars** are Stacie Carrasca, Dorothy Cameron, Amber Hartman, Christina Schuetz, Allison Huffsmith, Gina Siringo, Sydney Gentile, Katelyn Conrad, Nicole Listorti, Samantha Rivera, Elizabeth Valentino, Tara Goitandia and Katie Nuber. The coach is John Carrasca.



## Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller

**C League Games Extended**—The players in C League will have their season extended until Tuesday, June 10. Recreation Director Mike English will provide coaches with more details.

**Ponytail Softball Association Meeting**—The Parents' Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, May 27 at 8 p.m. in the South Plainfield Middle School library. If you are interested in becoming a member and being involved in Ponytail softball, please join us on May 27. New members are always welcomed. Please note time change to 8 p.m.

**Play-Off Tournaments**—May 29 - The A and B leagues will begin their play-off double elimination tournaments on May 29. The A League's final game will be played on June 10. The B League's final game will be held on June 11.

**Pool Party**—June 6 - The Ponytail Parents' Association will sponsor an end of season pool party. This event is open to all Recreation Ponytail softball players so please join us on Friday, June 6 at the South Plainfield Community pool. Additional info will be provided in upcoming publications of the Batter's Box.

**All-Star Tag Day**—June 7 - All-Star Tag Day will take place on Saturday, June 7. It is a mandatory requirement that every All-Star player participate in two tag days. This tagging requirement can be fulfilled by participating in any two of the four tag days. If an All-Star player is unable to tag on June 7, they will be permitted to tag during any two of the three recreation tag days (please see your coach to arrange this). Players will meet at the snack stand at the Pitt Street Park Complex to receive their canning location.

**SP Summer Softball Camp**—July 14 through July 18 - The South Plainfield Recreation Department will be running a summer softball sports camp for girls ages 7-15. It will take place at the SPHS varsity softball field. The cost is \$35 and includes a T-shirt. Applications are available at the PAL. For more information, contact Recreation Director Mike English. In case of rain, the camp will be held in the SPHS gym.

**Sponsorship Program** - Last year we revised our sponsorship program. Our sponsors can have an advertising sign placed on the outfield fences of our fields at the Pitt Street Park Complex. The sign will be 4 feet by 8 feet in size. Sponsors can design their sign with any information or logo they choose. The signs will be up for our Spring, Summer and Fall programs (now through end of October). Sponsors will have the choice of a one-year agreement at a cost of \$300 (includes cost of sign with two colors) or a two-year agreement at a cost of \$400 (includes cost of sign with two colors). Additional colors may be added at a cost of \$20 per color. After the initial agreement period is up, the annual renewal fee will be \$175. This new program offers our sponsors a cost-effective advertising opportunity which will reach hundreds of families. All of the funds, which are collected from our sponsors and fundraisers, go directly towards improving and upgrading the Pitt Street Park softball facilities, as well as benefiting the girls who play recreation and all-star softball. If you are interested in funding a sign, please contact any member of the S.P. Parents' Ponytail Association or contact me via our website at [www.spponytail.com](http://www.spponytail.com).

### Ponytail Softball Website

Visit Ponytail Softball online at [www.spponytail.com](http://www.spponytail.com). You will find the latest news/events, team rosters, schedules, pictures, information on our Parents' Association, and All-Star teams. Feel free to contact me by keying on the email link [webmasterspponytail.com](mailto:webmasterspponytail.com) found on our home page.

In Cross-Division action in the South Plainfield Golf League, National Division KC's Korner defeated last season's league champions, Sport & Social of the American Division 13-7. Rich Steele led the way for KC's Korner with 39 as Sport & Social stumbled to their third defeat in a row.

Frank Capparelli fired a 35 and Dave Manici came through with a 36, but their fine efforts were not enough to overcome playing with one man short as Twin City dropped its match to the South Plainfield Elks, 14½-5½. The Elks benefited by their easy win to move into first place in the American Division.

Aiello Chiropactic was again led by this season's duo of Ed Banach and Fred Kirchofer who both had sparkling rounds of 35 as Aiello defeated Plainfield Animal Hospital, 12-8.



Mike Behr kept it in the fairway for a change and had a solid round of 38 to lead Patti's Construction to a convincing 14-6 win over Pornovets. Showing signs of getting over the idleness of winter, Jim Pornovets had a 39 in a losing cause.

Danny Griffin had the low round for the league with an impressive one-over-par 34, but the best he could gain for his Masters team was a 10-10 tie with Hank's Hackers. Kevin Boyce turned in the best score for Hank's Hackers with a 39.

Kevin Bickunas showed what inactivity can do as he spayed some tee shots all over the landscape, sometimes into different zip code areas, and still managed a 38 to lead Witty's to a 10-10 tie with VFW. Bob Nilan was medalist for his VFW team and won the weekly closest-to-the-pin competition on the third hole.

## juniorbaseballclubnotes



Despite the rough weather in the beginning, the season is starting to move along. Most teams are at the point now where rainouts will start to be made-up. League directors will handle the rescheduling.

Coaches Care Day, (C.O.A.C.H., or Coaches Offering Assistance for Children's Health) is going to take place at the complex on Saturday, June 7 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. This a charity softball marathon featuring the SPJBC Coaches vs. various other teams from around our area with the proceeds from the entire day benefiting the Children's Fund at JFK Medical Center. The two previous events resulted in over \$10,000 being raised to help support the Children's Fund. This coupled with corporate and private donations to the fund given throughout the year has raised the total to over six figures.

Also featured is a Chinese Auction with prizes that include two Bruce Springsteen Tickets, an AT&T BlackBerry PDF and phone valued at \$500, various memorabilia items signed by sports, movie and TV celebrities and numerous other valuable merchandise. Tickets for the Chinese Auction can be purchased during the week preceding June 7 at the club during regular games, and on Saturday, June 7. A NASCAR simulator is scheduled to be on hand for entertainment and a

variety of special foods will be prepared for your enjoyment. The final game of the evening will pit the South Plainfield Middle School Baseball and Softball teams against the Middle School teachers. Come out one and all to cheer on your favorite player, coach or teacher and help support a worthwhile cause.

Opening Day Activities, rained out last month, have been rescheduled and will also be held on Coaches Care Day, Saturday, June 7, at approximately 12 noon. Small Fry teams are invited. They should all bring along their banners and assemble at Field 6 (down near the football complex) at 11:30 am for a short parade down the street to Field 2 where an abbreviated version of the Opening Day ceremonies will take place. Lifetime Member and Commissioner's Award recipients will be on hand to accept their awards, along with other special guests. Everyone is invited to attend to support these well deserved honorees.

The annual club baseball trip is scheduled this year for Friday, June 13. The Trenton Thunder will be hosting a Friday the 13th Halloween Night at Waterfront Park in Trenton. This year the Thunder have become the Double AA affiliate of the New York Yankees, so you never know what future Yankee might be playing that evening. You might even see a present Yankee rehabbing. Tickets can be ordered from Lee Flanagan at (908) 561-6348, or you can pick up an order form at the snack stand. Hurry though, tickets are going fast and our final order has to be in soon.

### This Week's Results:

#### Small Fry A

**Athletics vs. Giants**- Kurt Carlson pitched three good innings. Barry Brown had a game winning single all for the Giants.

**Phillies vs. Yankees**- Jeffrey Pryor and Jonathan Cursi combined to pitch a two-hitter for the Phillies.

**Dodgers vs. Phillies**- Dominic Papa doubled in a run for the Phillies and Mike Maorino doubled in a run for the Dodgers. J.P. Barry stole second on Jeffrey Pryor.

**Giants vs. Dodgers**- In the battle for the top spot in Small Fry A, the Giants prevailed. Michael Dezman pitched four excellent innings for the Giants.

#### Small Fry B Highlights

**Red Sox vs. Indians**- The pitching of Cody Woodruff, Brandon Downes and Danny Hansen guided the Indians.

**Indians vs. Athletics**- Danny Hansen had four hits, Kyle Junge pitched two strong innings and Thomas Katowich had three hits all for the Indians.

**Tigers vs. Red Sox**- Alphonse Muglia and Eric Niemeyer combined to pitch a no-hitter for the Red Sox. Kenny Calderoni led the Red Sox in hitting.

**Dodgers vs. Giants**- For the Giants, Ryan Sacco had two hits. Eric Lake had two hits and three runs batted in. Seth Yocum drove in two runs also for the Giants. The Dodgers' Michael Romano led his team.

**Indians vs. Cardinals**- Brandon Downes pitched an outstanding game. Thomas Katowich and Jarrell Watkins had big hits for the Indians.

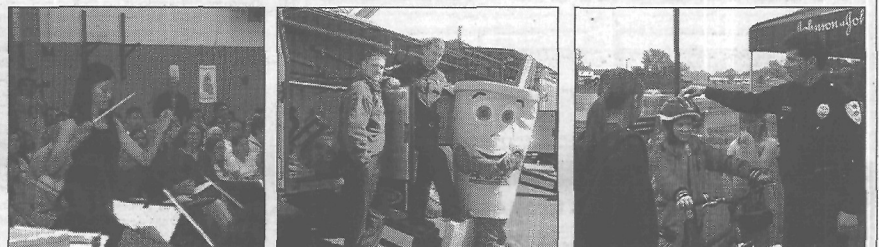
**Phillies vs. Yankees**- For the Yankees, Zachary Sikanowicz pitched two excellent innings and had two hits. Richie Szeliga had two hits and drove in four runs. Brian Ream had two hits also for the Yankees. Kyle Pompillio had the only hit for the Phillies.

**Red Sox vs. Athletics**- Alphonse Muglia had four hits. Ninnie Appello had a solid game in the field and Gerry Pinto had four hits for the Red Sox. Matthew Little had a solid game for the Athletics.

## Want to be a HS Basketball Official?

If you would like to become a high school basketball official for the 2003-04 season, please contact Allan Kaufman at (732) 390-1860 or at [triplauto@aol.com](mailto:triplauto@aol.com). Classes begin in October in East Brunswick and will get you on the court for the start of the 2003-04 season.

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### Obituaries

#### Frances Pica Chiarella, 84

Frances Pica Chiarella of Piscataway died on Thursday, May 15 at the Robert Wood Johnson University Medical Center in New Brunswick.

Frances was born in Jersey City and was a former resident of South Plainfield before moving to Piscataway 37 years ago.

Frances was an assembler for Dranetz Technologies in South Plainfield for 10 years before retiring in 1986.

She was a communicant of Our Lady of Fatima in Piscataway.

Her favorite pastime was caring for her family and playing bingo. She was a regular player at St. Helena's Church Bingo in Edison.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, August L. Chiarella, who died in 1976.

She is survived by her two sons, Anthony and August Chiarella, both of Piscataway and her brother Joseph Pica of Jersey City and many nieces and nephews.

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

ion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division, FMF as a private first class. As a UDTA operator with Unit #45, he served during the Korean Conflict in operations in South and Central Korea. In addition, he was also part of the Amphibious Landing in Inchon.

After his time in the Marines, Mr. Lipka settled in South Plainfield.

He had been employed for 35 years as a locomotive engineer. He began his career with the Pennsylvania Railroad as a fireman on November 7, 1955 later becoming an engineer on August 10, 1960. He worked for the PA Railroad then Conrail and later for Amtrak before retiring at the age of 62.

He is predeceased by his parents, Joseph and Josephine and his brother, Leon.

Surviving are his wife, Rosalie (Godlewicz) Lipka; two sons, Anthony and Stephen, both of South Plainfield; two sisters, Marie Smith of Piscataway and Bernardine Regis of Pa. and two brothers, Walter of Maryland and John of Pa.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

### Lions Club Cooks Dinner for Keystone Community



Members of the South Plainfield Lions Club recently cooked dinner for the members of the Keystone Community. Head Chef Lion Larry Massaro's menu included tortellini soup, Salisbury steak, potatoes, vegetables and dessert.



#### Stanley E. Lipka, 70

Stanley E. Lipka died suddenly on Monday, May 19 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in West Wyoming, Pa., he grew up there before entering the United States Marine Corps. He served in the Marines, 3rd Battal-

### LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

#### ADVERTISEMENT AND NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the Borough of South Plainfield for the "BELMONT AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS" and publicly opened and read aloud at the Borough of South Plainfield, Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080 on Tuesday, June 10, 2003 at 10 a.m. prevailing local time.

The project generally consists of the construction of missing sections of concrete curb and sidewalk along Belmont Avenue from Hamilton Boulevard to Metuchen Road and the resurfacing and minor construction of Belmont Avenue from Arlington Avenue to Metuchen Road within the Borough of South Plainfield, including bituminous concrete milling, hot mix asphalt base course pavement installation, 2" average compacted thickness of hot mix asphalt surface overlay, including sweeping, tack coating and other pavement preparation and related work and all other associated work as contained in the Contract Documents or as ordered by the Engineer.

Contract documents and plans for the proposed work prepared by David J. Samuel, P.E., Borough Engineer, CME Associates, may be examined at the office of said engineer at 3141 Bordentown Avenue, Parlin,

New Jersey, and at the office of the Borough Clerk, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, during business hours and may be obtained at the Borough Engineer's office until 48 hours prior to the time set for the opening of bids upon payment of \$100.00 per set. No refunds will be made. Proposals and the Contract Documents must be enclosed in sealed envelopes bearing the name and address of the Bidder and the name of the work on the outside addressed to Mayor and Borough Council, Borough of South Plainfield, and must be accompanied by a Statement of Consent of Surety from a surety company authorized to do business in the State of New Jersey and acceptable to the owner. All bids submitted prior to the bid opening shall be mailed or delivered to the Borough Clerk at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check or cash in the amount of not less than ten (10%) percent of the bid payable without any conditional endorsement as a guarantee that in case the contract is awarded to the bidder, he will within ten (10) days thereafter execute such contract and furnish satisfactory performance bond. Upon failure to do so he shall forfeit the deposit as liquidated damages and the acceptance of this requirement by the bidder. No interest shall be allowed upon any such certified check or cash. A bid bond in the amount of ten (10%) percent of the bid may be substituted for certified check or cash.

Each bid must also be accompanied by a certificate from a bonding company licensed to do business in the State of New Jersey guaranteeing that if the proposal of the bidder be accepted they will furnish the bond set forth in paragraph one of the General Conditions of the contract and the acceptance of the bid will be contingent upon the fulfillment of this requirement.

The Borough reserves the right to increase or decrease quantities specified in the manner designated in the Specifications. The Borough reserves the right to award this contract based on funds available.

The successful bidder shall be required to comply with the provisions of the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, Chapter 150 of the laws of 1963, effective January 1, 1964.

During the performance of this contract the Contractor agrees to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27), all requirements of the State of New Jersey Worker Health and Safety Act (N.J.A.C. 12:110 et seq.) as amended and the United States Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) (29 CFR 1910), as amended with regard to worker and jobsite safety.

No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening thereof. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a surety company bond in the full amount of contract price indemnifying the Borough of South Plainfield, New Jersey, for all proceedings, suits or actions of any kind of description and conditional for the faithful performance of the work.

All bid security will be returned to all Bidders except the three (3) apparent lowest bidders within 10 working days after the opening of bids, and to the three (3) apparent lowest Bidders within three (3) working days after the successful Bidder has executed the Contract and his Contract security has been approved by the Borough.

The award shall be subject to the approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

Bidders are advised that the capital improvements are partially funded by the State of New Jersey, 1984 Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act, and the successful bidder will be required to fully comply with the applicable current "New Jersey Department of Transportation Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction" if, and as amended or supplemented by the NJDOT Local Aid District Office.

The Borough reserves the right to reject any or all bids if in its opinion it is in the best interest to do so and to award the contract for any and/or all items.

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## policereport

- On May 13 Amit Y. Patel, 20, of Edison was arrested for two outstanding warrants, hindering apprehension and various motor vehicle violations at a motor vehicle stop.
- Darlys Dehorte-Donada, 18, of Piscataway was arrested for credit card fraud. She had used the victim's card at Sam Goody, Macy's, Burlington Coat Factory and KB Toys.
- Sam Goody on Hadley Rd. reported that \$582 had been removed from a safe drawer underneath the cash register.
- On May 15 Donald Howell, 37, of Cheselhurst, NJ was arrested for driving while intoxicated and three outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.
- Stacy A. Wagner, 18, of Fords was arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting \$231.99 worth of clothing.
- Dennis B. Basile, 53, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving at a motor vehicle stop.
- Jimmy R. Custodio, 25, of Plainfield was arrested for hindering, falsifying an applications for a driver's license and driving on a suspended li-

cense at a motor vehicle stop.

- Nicole M. Melnick, 19, of Avenel was arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting \$202.99 worth of clothing.
- On May 16 An employee of Northeastern Products reported that someone had written on his vehicle in magic marker.
- On May 17 Landress R. Funderbark, 34, of Edison was arrested for robbery, hindering apprehension, an outstanding warrant at Eckerd Drugs on Maple Ave. He had previously stolen \$25.40 worth of film and was apprehended while in the store again.
- David Russell Relyea, 22, of Piscataway was arrested for shoplifting \$49.96 worth of shirts and pants at Burlington Coat Factory.
- On May 18 Michael Joseph Ruggieri, 35, of Scotch Plains was arrested for shoplifting \$427 worth of women's clothing at Macy's.
- Alan D. Lee, 52, of Plainfield was arrested for burglary, possession of drug paraphernalia and three outstanding warrants after stealing a bike from a garage on New Market Ave.

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