

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 4, NO. 30

50 CENTS

MARCH 30, 2001

## This Weekend in South Plainfield

### 32nd All-District Music and Art Festival

Friday, March 30

The South Plainfield Public Schools' Fine Art Department will hold its 32nd Annual All-District Music and Art Festival on Friday, March 30 at South Plainfield High School, starting at 7 p.m. The festival will feature music performed by instrumental and vocal ensembles, as well as displays of art work by the many talented art students from each of the town's schools.

### 2001 Golden Gloves at SPHS

Saturday, March 31

The 2001 Golden Glove Quarter finals will be held on Saturday night at South Plainfield High School. All bouts are sanctioned by the New Jersey Association of USA Boxing Inc.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and bouts start at 8 p.m. Tickets can still be purchased at Sal's Spirit Shoppe, Durham Deli and the *Observer* office. They are also available at the door.

### St. Stephens Hosts Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, March 31

St. Stephens Lutheran Church will host an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Mar. 31, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at St. Stephens, 3145 Park Ave.

A price of \$3 per person includes dinner, beverage and dessert. No advance tickets sold.

### Country Breakfast at VFW Post #6763

Sunday, April 1

The VFW, located on Front St. is hosting a country breakfast on Sunday, April 1 from 8 to 11 am. There will be a varied menu, including a children's menu. Donation is \$5. The breakfast is sponsored by Pup Ten 41 Military Order of the Cootie. Proceeds go toward parties at the Lyons Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

For more information, call (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and after 12 noon on weekends.

### Columbette; Easter Bunny Lunch

Sunday, April 1

The South Plainfield Columbettes will host their second annual Lunch with the Easter Bunny, on Sunday, April 1 at the K of C Hall, 334 Hamilton Blvd. Lunch features a hot and cold buffet. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person.

Children seven and under will receive an Easter basket. There will be door prizes and the Easter Bunny will have gifts for all who attend.

Reservations must be made in advance. Call (908) 226-1222.



Jessica Rapatski, winner of the Labor Day Theme Contest reluctantly accepts the prize of \$100 from Mayor Dan Gallagher.

## Jessica Rapatski Wins Labor Day Parade Theme Contest

At Thursday nights council meeting, Jessica Rapatski was announced the winner of the contest naming a theme for this year's Annual Labor Day Parade. The contest was sponsored by the Celebrations Committee.

The theme chosen for this year's parade is "To All Generations of Families, Happy 75th Birthday."

Jessica is a seven-year-old first grader at Roosevelt School. She was a bit reluctant to come forward and receive her first place prize of \$100. But with the help of her mom, she ventured up to the front of the council chambers to accept her award from Mayor Dan Gallagher and then

immediately burst into tears.

Mayor Gallagher, took charge of the situation and soon persuaded Jessica into opening the envelope with the prize money in it. When she opened the envelope, she found a \$100 dollar bill inside and immediately broke into a broad smile. Many of Jessica's relatives were in attendance to help cheer her on.

John Sorrentino, this year's parade chairperson said this year will be very special, since it is the 75th birthday of South Plainfield.

He also noted that there will be new safety rules issued this year to prevent any accidents or mishaps which could hamper the festivities.

"To All Generations  
of Families,  
Happy 75th Birthday."

## This Year's School Budget Will Have No Tax Increase

At a special meeting held on Tuesday evening the members of the Board of Education voted to approve the 2001/2002 year school budget.

The \$39.7 million budget has increased spending, but it also shows increased revenues, therefore there will be no tax increase in the school portion of residents tax bills. The budget actually increased by \$40 million, but rateables have also gone up. The school tax rate remains the same, \$2.03 per thousand.

Voters will be asked to approve the school budget at the Annual School Board Election held Tuesday, April 17. They will also be

electing three School Board candidates for three-year terms.

This year there will be one more question on the ballot. It is the bond referendum vote which was cancelled due to inclement weather earlier this month.

The bond referendum, costing \$19.3 million may be a little confusing in the way it is written on the ballot. The total cost is \$19.3 million, but the state will be kicking in \$6.6 million of the cost and taxpayers will actually only be bonding \$12.6 million. The bond covers a new Roosevelt school, adding eight classrooms to Grant and upgrading the other schools with electricity and technology.

## Jo-Ann's Dance Sponsoring a Benefit for Autism Awareness

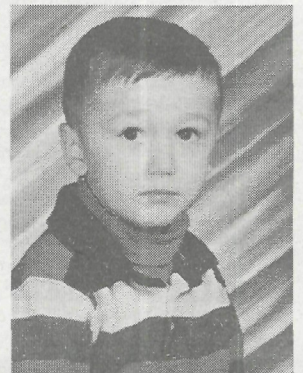
Jo-Ann's Dance Studio and Feigley's School of Gymnastics, have joined together to present a program celebrating the 'Art of Dance and Gymnastic' to benefit autism awareness. April has been declared Autism Month.

Some of the top gymnasts from Feigley's School of Gymnastics will be performing, along with dancers from Le Centre Dance Ensemble from Jo-Ann's School of Dance.

This celebration will take place on Saturday, April 7 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and includes activities for the whole family, 50-50 drawings, prizes for the kids, food and refreshments.

The idea of raising an awareness of Autism is a project that is very close to JoAnne Faulkner's heart since her grandson, Alexander, was diagnosed with autism when he was two-years old.

Alexander, is the son of Michael and Tara (Faulkner) Catalina. Tara is JoAnne's daughter and also the Artistic Director of Jo-Ann's Dance Studio — The Performing Arts Centre and the school's student dance company, Le Centre Dance Ensemble. She has won many awards for her innovative



Alexander Catalina, 3, is just one of the children who has benefited from a special class taught in South Plainfield.

and creative choreography throughout the years.

Alexander, who will be four-years-old in June, has been attending a wonderful special education class for autistic children, along with five other children, right here in South Plainfield. This years class is the first class that has been dedicated to just children with autism.

According to his mom, he has made huge stride's since

*Continued on page 7*

## School Board Candidate Debates To Take Place Next Wednesday

Next Wednesday evening, April 4 at Riley School. The school board elections will be held on Tuesday, April 17.

Six candidates are running for three seats on the Board. Both Dawn Jefferys and Steven Bohn are seeking a second term. Patricia DeSantis and Pio Pennsi,

both are former board members. Christine Sienkielweski and Tim Morgan are running for the first time. Marjorie Reedy is not seeking re-election.

Questions from the audience can be submitted to the moderator. The public is invited to attend.



## Tumi Luggage Donates \$32,751 to United Way

Tumi Luggage, located on Durham Rd. has once again made a generous donation to the United Way of South Plainfield. Their employees donated \$32,751. Tumi has only about 100 employees, so this donation is quite generous. Pictured are Joe Chanely and Cardwell Thaxton, accepting the donation on behalf of United Way from Human Resources Director Sharon Margulies and Human Resources Assistant Lora Lobusso.

# Borough Notes

## Council Notes

- The police are requesting bids on a 2001 Ford Expedition and various professional computer forensic software packages, which will be paid for with the drug forfeiture money the police department received last year. The computer lab will be used to investigate hard drives that may be needed as evidence in crimes.
- The engineering department is working with Jack Morris on the plans for the new senior center to be built on the corner of Maple and Lakeview Avenues.
- A 2001 Dodge BR2500 with 4-wheel drive will be purchased for \$26,705 from Warnock Fleet and Leasing in East Hanover. The vehicle will be used by the Emergency Management Coordinator.
- An agreement between Middlesex County and JWV, Inc has been authorized to preserve open spaces by purchasing a nine acre tract located at the intersection of Tompkins and Clinton Ave. The price is \$750,000, of which the Borough will pay \$75,000 and Middlesex County pays the balance.

## Planning Board

- Maran Development has been approved to construct two single family dwellings, with conditions on Plainfield Ave.

## Board of Adjustment

- Helen Spisso of West Crescent Parkway, was granted approval to construct a porch and 10x10 wood shed.
- Hollywood Tanning was granted a zoning permit for the tanning salon at 907 Oak Trec Road.
- New Era Development on Hamilton Blvd. and Easton Blvd., was granted final site plan approval to build.
- Bright Horizons Children's Center, located on Hadley Road and Cragwood Road was granted a use variance, preliminary and final site plan.

## 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, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-754-9000

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

Monday, April 2 ..... Thursday, April 5

Monday, April 16 ..... Thursday, April 19

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

### zoning board of adjustment

Meets first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

April 3, April 17, May 1, May 15, May 29, June 5, June 19, July 3, July 17, July 31, August 7,

### business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

## South Plainfield Observer

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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: Editorial Department  
South Plainfield Observer, 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 on our web page at [sposerver.com](http://sposerver.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

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email at our website at [sposerver.com](http://sposerver.com) or faxed to 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer.

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# In My Opinion

## To the Editor,

The South Plainfield Historical Society extends a great big "THANK YOU" to all those that came to the Borough's 75th Anniversary Party on Monday night, March 19. It was a real fun time and the food was also good.

For those who missed the fun, present Council members reenacted the parts of the first Council members at the first Council meeting in 1926. Some members of the Historical Society, in costume, acted as borough residents of the past and read short stories about incidents concerning them and the town.

To those wishing to join the Historical Society and can get involved in future activities, come to our next meeting, April 10 at the high school library at 7:30 p.m.

**THANK YOU,  
WILLIAM TUTHILL, PRESIDENT  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

## To whom it May Concern,

I am a concerned student from South Plainfield High School. Lately there has been an outburst of accusations stating that our high school has a great deal of problems ranging from simple mischief; to violence, to racial "gang" wars. I am writing today to prove those accusations completely FALSE!

As the Student Council President, I am constantly introduced to students, parents, and administrators from other districts, states, and even from other countries. I have given many tours to these people and there has not been one negative word stated about our fine school. All of these individuals are for the most part amazed at the positive attitude and the lack of problems which have occurred here. Throughout my entire high school career, I can count the number of fights we've had on one hand. Out of those rare fights, none of them have been over a racial issue.

Our school shines with pride received from our academics, sports and our extra curricular activities. This year alone, so far we have excelled in all three aspects. Our wrestling team won the state championships for the second year in a row. The team also managed to send eight wrestlers to the state individual championships at the Meadowlands (this was a new school record).

Our Competition Cheerleading Team also received gold this year. Our cheerleaders traveled to Orlando, Florida, where they competed at the National Competition Cheerleading Championships. After only three years in existence, our competition team managed to place first in the nation, defeating almost twenty teams that qualified throughout the country. Our marching band once again made an appearance at the Atlantic Coast Championships held in Pennsylvania. The competition ranged from bands in Maine, all the way to Virginia. Our band finished

in the top twenty-five with almost sixty-percent of the band consisting of freshman.

All of these three outstanding groups accomplished their goals while maintaining close to a 3.0 grade point average.

Within the school, our test scores and attendance record keep going up, while the number of disciplinary problems keep diminishing. The students here at SPSHS are generally happy, friendly and enjoy the entire high school experience.

In conclusion, I would like to say how personally impressed I am with the way this school is run. If you don't believe me, I challenge you to come to our school, meet with our administration and our children. Walk the halls and see how clean they are. Look into our classrooms and witness the intensity of our educators to teach and of our students to learn. This school DOES NOT represent violence, hate, or mischief. This school represents honor, integrity and most of all pride.

We achieve only greatness and our only weakness is our constant struggle to be even better. I thank you for your time.

**THOMAS C. DOYON**

## Dear Editor,

As a current junior at South Plainfield High School, I would like to inform your readers of the great things happening in our school. Linger all around us in this day and age are headlines of school shootings and dysfunction and yet, despite this, there is hope to be found that can restore the loss of faith in teenagers. This hope lies in one of the many positive programs offered at SPSHS.

Over the past couple of years, our district, as well as 60 others throughout the state, have membership in the Diversity Council, sponsored by Kean University. Our advisors, Tom Baker, the Student Assistance Counselor and Mary Ellen Martko, our district's Staff Developer, have involved us in many of the Council's wonderful activities. Through this program, a group of student leaders have been trained to facilitate discussion and activities with students to reduce prejudice and promote unity and understanding.

Recently, we attended the facilitator's training that would pre-

pare us for the annual high school conference attended by approximately three hundred students from over 60 school districts. We had the chance to interact with and meet many students and discuss many different issues that schools and students deal with on a daily basis. These issues range from subjects concerning race issues, similarities and differences, profiling and student-teacher interaction. Besides great discussions, we modeled what a good facilitator does.

What we learned that day was something that we have always known. I guess you could say it is something that many of us take for granted. We always knew our school was special, but that day was a real eye opener. Besides good things, we heard many horror stories about violence, racial disharmony, and student and staff apathy. They complained about administrators who remain behind closed doors and not being accessible to staff and students. Each and every day we see our administrators walking the halls, supervising the cafeteria, or just interacting with students. We were amazed and the other students knew it. These students were impressed that we could not account for any violent outbreaks within the past four years. They shared things such as minority groups sharing a corner table in the their cafeteria. In our lunchroom, all races are integrated.

That day, we returned to South Plainfield High with an even stronger sense of pride and the motivation needed to spread the good news and to continue our good works. The diversity we encounter every day in our school is what makes it the wonderful place I go to each day. I know my school experiences will help me in my future and make me a better adult.

On May 2, 2001, a group of fourteen high school students from South Plainfield will be leading a conference at North Brunswick Middle School. This will be the first time that a school district has offered to be a site for this event. Other high school students will be observing us and we hope to instill in them some of the knowledge and skills we have gained from this special program. Also, before the end of this year, we will be traveling to our own middle school in hopes of

*Continued on page 12*

## PLEASE NOTE!

## DEADLINE CHANGE

We will be taking a Long Needed Vacation During the Week of April 9-13, 2001

Deadline for the April 13, 2001 Issue is Friday, April 6, at 5 p.m.

Any copy submitted after that date will appear in the April 20th Issue.



Thank you for your cooperation Any questions, call 668-0010

## Specialty Gift Baskets

Gourmet coffee, tea, popcorn, crackers and cheeses.

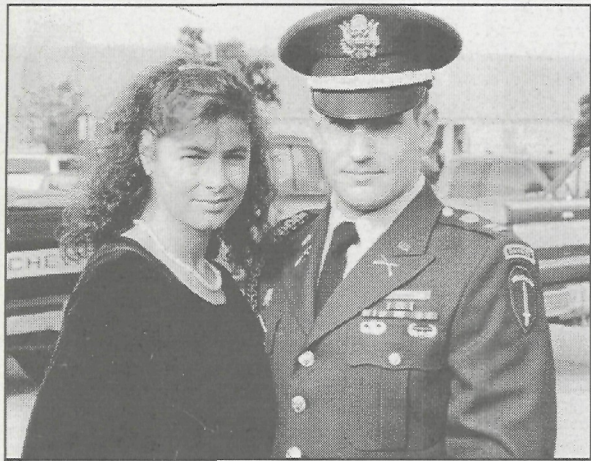
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## Milestones



Dirk Smith and Pamela Randolph announce their engagement.

### Dirk Smith, Pamela Randolph Their Engagement Announced

CSM (R) James Randolph and Betty Randolph of Ft. Polk, Louisiana have announced the engagement of their daughter, Pamela Randolph to Capt. Dirk H. Smith, Jr.

Dirk is the son of Marie K. Smith and Dirk H. Smith of South Plainfield. Marie Smith has been a secretary at Borough Hall for 13 years as an administrative clerk.

The groom is presently serving in

the U.S. Army and stationed at Fort Bragg, NC, where he will be training to enter the Special Forces. Dirk is a graduate of South Plainfield High School and attended Rutgers University where he earned a commission through the R.O.T.C. program.

The bride is also in the U.S. Army and serves as a trauma nurse.

A South Plainfield wedding is planned for the Spring of 2002.

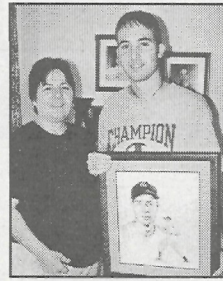
## James Fiorentino—A Rising Star in the Art World

James Fiorentino, 23, is a young artist who lives in nearby Middlesex and is fast becoming very well-known in the sportsworld for his lithographs of famous sports personalities and teams. James has a special talent for producing sports portraits which take on a life of their own.

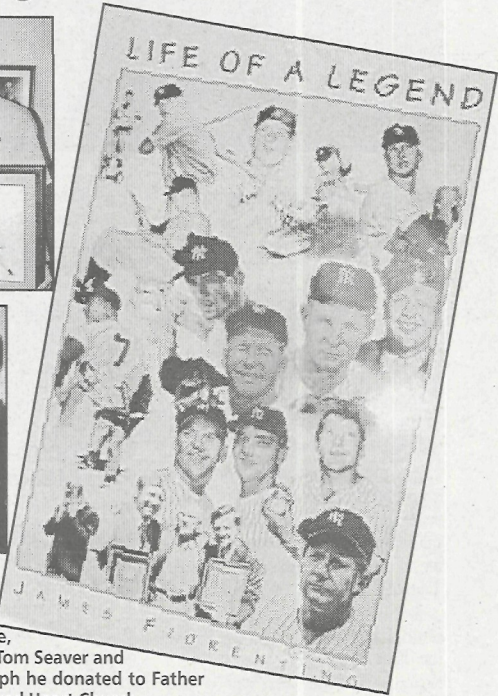
Once someone sees just a sampling of his lithographs, they realize what a talent James possesses. At the age of 15, James was the youngest artist to be featured in the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum for his likeness of Reggie Jackson, which now hangs beside paintings of Norman Rockwell and Andy Warhol. His character portraits and team lithographs have become more and more popular in the sport world and elsewhere.

He is best known for his lithographs of sports legends, such as Mickie Mantel, Reggie Jackson and Roberto Clemente. He has been commissioned by Upper Deck Baseball Cards to do a series of cards. Next year Upper Deck will be producing a collection of cards called "The James Fiorentino Series."

He began producing artwork of major league baseball players, creating portraits of famous players and then asking them to autograph his work. He also started attending sport shows to display his work. After people began to see his artwork, orders began pouring in. He is now a much sought after artist, producing portraits and collages of



James Fiorentino pictured on top with his mom, Jackie, below with pitcher Tom Seaver and right is the lithograph he donated to Father John Alvarado of Sacred Heart Church.



sport players, teams, covers for books and trading cards.

However, James feels his best work is yet to come. He is now painting abstracts and he is expanding his skills by doing portraits of people, when the time allows.

James graduated from Drew University in 1999 with a degree in art and business. While in college, he played on Drew's baseball team. He has a sister who writes poetry. His mom, Jackie, grew up in South Plainfield.

Recently James donated one of his original works to Father John Alvarado of Sacred Heart Church. The lithograph will be most likely

used as a fundraiser for the Sacred Heart Athletic Association.

One of James most avid fans is Tullio Capparelli, former Chief of the South Plainfield Police Department. A visit to his house is almost the same as going to the James Fiorentino gallery. He has an extensive collection of his works. 'Cappi' recalled how he called James when he saw his work in the *Courier News*, purchased his first painting and after that, the rest is history.

To learn more about Fiorentino, log on to his web page, [www.jamesfiorentino.com](http://www.jamesfiorentino.com). You can view his art work and even place an order if you would like to make a purchase.

## Friends of the Woods...

### Trees Fight Climate Change

By Dorothy Miele

The kids learn about it in school, and we hear about it on the nightly news, and read about it in the newspaper — the frightening prospect of global warming.

Many scientists believe that carbon dioxide (CO2) is a key contributor to global warming and have pushed for regulation of coal-burning power plants that produce more than 50 percent of the electricity in the United States. On March 13, the Bush Administration reversed its campaign promise to regulate power plants' emissions of carbon dioxide. Bush cited in a letter that regulation was too expensive for the industry to comply with "at a time of rising energy prices and a serious energy shortage." What, then, can we do to fight global warming?

A relatively cheap, reliable and effective way to help control CO2 and

fight climate change is planting trees.

After oceans, forests are the world's second largest carbon reservoirs. Trees store carbon as they grow, naturally removing carbon dioxide from the air. They absorb carbon (C) from the CO2 molecule and release oxygen (O2) into the air. Trees are a cheap and effective means of removing excess CO2 from the atmosphere. Planted as shade trees, trees reduce air conditioning costs and make the interior environment of your home more comfortable while saving energy. Realtors tell us that trees and other plantings increase the "curb appeal" of their listings besides beautifying the neighborhood and community. Trees provide windbreaks, help prevent erosion, provide food and shelter for wildlife, protect rivers and streams, and are a great place for kids to climb or swing.

The National Day Foundation has set aside April 27 as a special day for tree planting. With a \$10 member-

ship fee, the non-profit foundation will send you 10 free bareroot flowering trees of varying species or 10 Colorado blue spruce. The trees are guaranteed to grow or will be replaced free of charge. They send planting and care instructions, a bimonthly newsletter and offer a discount on other tree purchases. Spring shipments are made between Feb. 1 and May 31.

With this kind of bargain, you should consider planting several trees this year. Plant one to commemorate a birth, a graduation, marriage or anniversary, in memory of someone special, or to watch the wildlife it attracts. Whatever the reason, this environment-friendly, optimistic gesture will help clean the air and provide many, many seasons of enjoyment.

Visit your local nursery, or log on to the National Arbor Day website at [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org), or American Forests at [www.americanforests.org](http://www.americanforests.org) for some great information. You can purchase a Famous and Historic Tree like the one the Friends of the Woods will be planting at the South Plainfield Public Library on April 27 at 3:30 p.m. The Edgar Allen Poe hackberry tree will be the first in a proposed native historic tree grove behind the library. In 2002, an Abraham Lincoln persimmon is being considered, followed by a Gilbert Stuart flowering dogwood in 2003.

For a free copy of the Rutgers University publication, *50 Small Trees for New Jersey Home Grounds*, send a self-addressed stamped business size (#10) envelope to Friends of the Woods, c/o Miele, 123 Elliott Place, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Visit the Friends of the Woods website at: <http://community.nj.com/cc/friendsofthewoods> or e-mail us at [SPNatureTrails@cs.com](mailto:SPNatureTrails@cs.com) for more information.

Dorothy Miele is President of the Friends of the Woods, Inc. and an Associate Member of the South Plainfield Environmental Commission.



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**THE RAZOR'S EDGE**

25 South Plainfield Ave  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

### Residents Should Have Received Spring Semester Adult School Brochures

Brochures have been mailed to all area residents for the Spring Semester of the South Plainfield Adult School.

The Adult School has received many calls from residents saying they did not receive their brochures. If you

did not receive a brochure, please contact the South Plainfield Adult School at 908-754-4620, Ext. 213.

The Spring Semester will have many classes for both adults and children as well as many trips.

**Jo-Ann's Dance & Feigley's Gymnastics**  
Presents  
**CAMP 2001**  
Dance/Gymnastics/Musical Theater Camp

**| Dance | Gymnastics**

**A Fun-Filled Summer Experience Your Children Will Never Forget!**

**Where: 4475 South Clinton Avenue, South Plainfield**

**Jo-Ann's Dance Studio • Feigley's School of Gymnastics**  
(908) 561-5094 (908) 561-8888

**When:** (Two three-week sessions available)  
**Session 1 – July 9-July 27**  
**Session 2 – July 30-August 17**  
9 am-12 noon / Monday-Friday  
Early drop off service available (\$5/half hour)  
**DON'T FORGET TO BRING SNACKS!**

**Ages:** 5-9 years / 10-14 years  
**Fee:** Each three-week session.....\$299  
*Price includes costuming and materials.*

Take 10% off if you register before May 15/\$75 deposit will hold a place in class and will be applied toward your tuition)



# Around Town

## Lenten Fish Dinners at Sacred Heart Church

March 30; April 6

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of the Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield, is hosting their famous Lenten Fish Dinners on Fridays, March 30 and April 6.

Dinners will be served in the Sacred Heart School cafeteria, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The menu will feature fillet of fish (fried, broiled, parmigiana) or pizza, fresh garden salad, french fries or macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, coffee, tea or cold drink, plus dessert. Take out orders are also available.

Admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$4 for children. Pay at the door.

Stations of the Cross will be held in the Church at 7 p.m.

## Friends of the Library to Host Author Loren Schmidtberger

April 3

On Tuesday, April 3, the Friends of the South Plainfield Library will present a program by Dr. Loren Schmidtberger, a professor from St. Peter's College in Jersey City, called "Irish, Blacks and Ladies" in William Faulkner's *Absalom Absalom*. The program will be held in the library and starts at 7 p.m. A synopsis of the book can be found at the South Plainfield Library. Refreshments will be served.

Loren Schmidtberger grew up on a wheat and cattle farm in western Kansas. Just before graduating from Fort Hays Kansas State, he was drafted into the United States Army at the beginning of the Korean War. After returning to civilian life, he earned a PhD. in English and American literature at Fordham University.

This program is sponsored by the NJ Council for the Humanities.

## Library Director, Sundra Fenn to Speak At Women's Club

April 5

Mrs. Sundra "Sunnie" Fenn, director of the South Plainfield Library, will be the guest speaker at the GFWC Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield at their April 5 meeting, 2 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, Oak Tree Road.

Her presentation will be about Library Services and specifically those provided by the local library. Literature concerning the library will be made available to those attending the meeting.

Mrs. Fenn has mentioned that one of the most interesting parts of her job is chatting with the people who come into the library and getting to know about them through their selection of books, tapes and library materials.

Mrs. Fenn has been the library director for the past 10 years and previously was the director of the Dunellen library for two years. She graduated from Rutgers University with a Bachelor's degree in history and a Master's degree in library services.

The South Plainfield library is staffed with four part-time librarians, in addition to Mrs. Fenn. It has experienced a great expansion of its facilities in recent years, offering audio books, CD's, programs, speak-

ers, video tapes, crafts, library catalogs on computer and a Homebound program.

In addition, volunteers belonging to the organization, Friends of the Library, donate time working in the library and in raising funds for its use.

Anyone wishing to attend the April 5 meeting is welcome. For more information, call 757-6163.

## Girl Scouts Sponsor Flea Market/Craft Show

April 7

South Plainfield Junior Girl Scout Troop #14 will be sponsoring a Flea Market/Craft Show on Saturday, April 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will be held outside at J.F. Kennedy School, 2900 Norwood Ave.

Vendors are currently being sought. Spaces are being sold for \$20 and you will need to bring your own table and chairs. All proceeds from this event will go toward a troop trip this summer to Hershey Park.

For information or a vendor reservation form, contact Robyn at (908) 769-7395.

## Recreation Announces Annual Easter Egg Hunt

April 7

The South Plainfield Recreation Department will hold their Annual Easter Egg Hunt, on Saturday, April 7, at 1 p.m.

All South Plainfield children, ages newborn to 9 years old, are invited to attend the hunt behind the PAL building. Parents are asked to bring baskets. Harvey the Bunny will be present.

## Jo-Ann's Presenting Program to Benefit Autism Awareness

April 7

Jo-Ann's Dance and Feigley's School of Gymnastics are teaming up to present a program of dance and gymnastics to benefit autism awareness.

The program includes drawings, food and refreshments and prizes for the kids. The program takes place on Saturday, April 7 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Donation is \$5. Tickets are available in advance or at the door. For further information call (908) 561-5094.

## Vision 2001 Annual Art Auction to be Held

April 20

The South Plainfield Vision 2001 Education Foundation's Sixth Annual Art Auction will be held on Friday, Apr. 20, at 7 p.m. in the South Plainfield High School Cafeteria.

This year former Police Chief Steven Merkler will be the Honorary Chairperson for this annual Vision 2001 fundraiser.

Vision 2001 recognizes residents who have made an impact on the children of South Plainfield and felt that Chief Merkler's services to the residents of South Plainfield have definitely made such that impact.

## AARP Chapter #4144 Meeting

April 20

The next meeting of AARP Chapter #4144 will be held on Friday, April 20 at 12:30 p.m. in the PAL Building on Maple Ave.

The speaker for the April meeting is Richard Miller, a Certified Elder Law Attorney, from Parsippany, who will discuss the benefits of planning with your children your Power of Attorney, wills, etc., and other matters they should know if you become incapacitated. He will take questions from the audience.

The AARP is also offering a six day, five night trip from July 15 to 20 to Montreal, Quebec City and Lake George to all who are interested. Cost is \$560 double and \$710 single occupancy.

Call Lee at (732) 968-6613 or Mary at (732) 752-3764 for information and reservations. Be prepared to leave a message.

## Recreation Plans Trip to Atlantic City

April 22

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is planning a trip to Atlantic City on Sunday, April 22. The bus leaves the PAL at 11 a.m. Price is \$15 per person with a return of \$14 in coins.

Tickets can be purchased at the PAL Building, located on Maple Ave.

## Vendors Sought for Flea Market/Fair

April 28

The South Plainfield Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Girl Scout Council are seeking vendors for their Family Fair and Flea Market to be held on Saturday, April 28 (rain date is May 5). The event takes place at the South Plainfield Middle School from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Set up 7:30 to 9 a.m. Clean up is 4 to 5 p.m.

Registration fee is \$15 for a 15x5 ft. area. Each additional space is \$10. You must supply your own table. Sorry, no food vendors!

For further information, call Debra Krawiec at (908) 757-9432 or Sharon Snogan at (908) 755-7481.

## Elks Planning Annual Comedy Show

April 28

The Elks will be holding their Annual Comedy Show, with a hypnotist on Saturday, April 28 from 7 to 11 p.m.

Food and beverages are included in the price of \$30 per person. Only 100 tickets will be sold for this event.

For more information call (908) 668-9750.

## Grant Central Sixth Performing "School House Rock Live"



Grant Central Sixth School's drama club will present "School House Rock Live" on Friday, April 6 at the Middle School. The show is based on the TV series of the same name. Approximately 77 children are involved in the production. Grant School Principal Mr. Doggett is one of the main characters. He plays Tom, a new teacher who is nervous about his first day. "School House Rock Live" is directed by Cherisse Miglis and Drama Advisor Lori Kowalski. Two performances are scheduled, 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. show. Tickets are \$3 and available after 3 p.m. at Grant School and the Middle School.

## SP Business Association Hosting Golf Outing

May 1

On Tuesday, May 1, the South Plainfield Business Association will host a golf outing, at the Cranbury Golf Club in West Windsor.

The event will include green fees and cart, continental breakfast, open bar, BBQ luncheon, and prizes.

For additional information, contact Bob Longo at (908) 753-7004.

## Rec Announces Trip to Papermill Playhouse

May 9

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip to the Papermill Playhouse to see *Funny Girl*.

The bus leaves the PAL at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$35 per person. Register at the PAL.

## Columbiettes Plan Trip to Bingo World in Baltimore

June 2

The South Plainfield Columbiettes are sponsoring a bus trip to Bingo World in Baltimore on Saturday, June 2.

The bus will leave the Knights of Columbus Hall on Hamilton Blvd.

at 7:30 a.m. and return after the last game of the afternoon session.

Cost of the trip is \$55 and includes driver gratuity and admission pack for the main session. We will arrive in time to purchase discount early bird packs.

For additional information and reservations, call Mary Ann at (908) 226-1222.

This trip is open to Bingo lovers.

## Trip To See Mets Vs. Braves Planned

June 23

Sacred Heart Church has planned a trip to the Mets vs. Braves on Saturday, Jun. 23. Seats are located in the downstairs loge.

Cost for the trip is \$43, which includes game ticket, transportation and driver gratuity. The trip is open to everyone. Reservations can be made by calling the parish center at (908) 756-0633, ext. 11, or Mary Ann at (908) 226-1222.

—Out of Town—

## WOWs To Hold Dance

March 30

Middlesex East WOWs Carteret Chapter will hold an all-welcome dance on Friday, March 30, at St. Demetrius Community Center, 681-691 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret. Admission is \$7 and there will be live music and refreshments.

For more information, call (732) 969-1123 or (908) 757-0515.

## Alliance Bible Church To perform Passion Play

April 12, 13, 14

*A Day To Remember...A Passion Play*, will be performed at Alliance Bible Church in Warren, on April 12, 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for all performances are free and can be obtained by contacting the church office at (732) 469-1425.

The church is located at 52 Mount Horeb Road in Warren, N.J. just minutes off Interstate 78.

For additional information or directions, contact the church office at 732-469-1425.

## PLEASE NOTE!

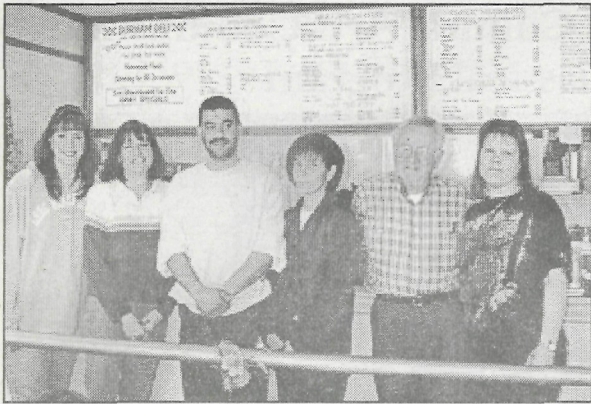
## DEADLINE CHANGE!

We will be taking a Long Needed Vacation During the Week of April 9-13, 2001  
Deadline for the April 13, 2001 Issue is Friday, April 6, at 5 p.m.

Any copy submitted after that date will appear in the April 20th Issue.

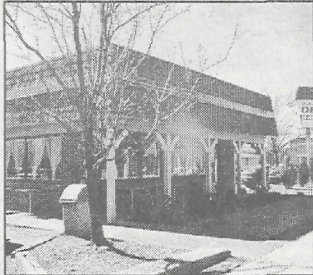


Thank you for your cooperation  
Any questions, call 668-0010



Pictured left to right, Kathy DiGirolamo, Mary Martin, Martin Alfaro, Maryann Valenti, Pete Dalto, Jennifer MacDuff

## Durham Deli Relocates to South Plainfield Ave.



In case you haven't already noticed, Durham Deli has re-located from Durham Ave. to its new home at 100 South Plainfield Ave.

The owners, Kathy and Louis DiGirolamo of Hillsborough, recently took over the reigns from Louis's parents, who opened Durham Deli 11-years-ago. Louis's sister, Mary Martin, along with lifelong South Plainfield resident, Peter Dalto, help out in the kitchen.

The new store still has take-out,

along with delivery service and room for dining in. Everything at Durham Deli is homemade, including their famous chicken salad. Along with deli specials, they have added fried foods and a kids menu.

Durham Deli still offers great menu items and many ideas for catering parties from christenings to graduation parties.

The ceremonies will take place on Saturday, March 31 at about 10:30 a.m.

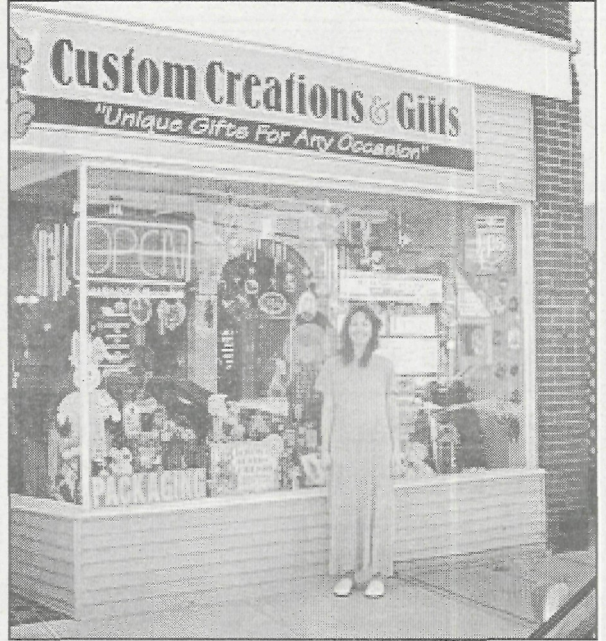
## HS Student Arrested Carrying a Knife.

On March 13, an eighteen-year-old South Plainfield High School student had thrown a bottle at a fifteen-year-old student who was waiting for a school bus at the school. The suspect, later identified as, Santos L. Reyes, also threatened to have a gang beat the student and then made a throat-slashing gesture with his hand towards the student.

On March 14, Reyes again threatened to beat the victim at school and again made a throat-slashing gesture towards the victim in the presence of another student. The victim said that he had taken enough of the abuse and threats and reported those threats to school officials.

A school official detained Reyes and also checked his backpack for weapons. He located a curved handled, six-inch razor knife in his backpack. Detective James Darby investigated the incident and prepared complaints for a school official to sign.

Reyes was charged with possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, terroristic threats and harassment. He was arrested and bail was set at \$1,000. Reyes has been excluded from attending school, pending the outcome of the court proceedings.



## Custom Creations — New Owners; New Name

The Grand Opening of Custom Creations, formerly Services Plus, located at 24 South Plainfield Ave. is scheduled for Saturday, March 31 at 10:30 a.m.

The shop still has a lot of the same great services as the previous owner, such as UPS shipping, faxing, laminating and mailboxes. The store still features Boyd Bears, balloons, flags, stakes, greeting cards and unique gifts.

However, new owner, Donna Siepmann, has added her own personal touches with Village and Country Home Candles, baskets for any occasion, kids craft kits, woodworking and hand-crafted items. You can also purchase her handmade Peek-A-Boo dolls there.

Donna has lived in South Plainfield for 34 years. Her husband, Robert, is originally from Edison. They have two young sons, Joshua and Matthew.

Check out her flyer in this week's *Observer*, for promotional items, specials and hours of operation.

## Free Photography Contest Open to So. Plfd. Residents

The International Library of Photography is pleased to announce that over \$60,000 in prizes will be awarded this year in the International Open Amateur Photography Contest. Photographers from the South Plainfield area, particularly beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of over 1,300 prizes. The deadline for the contest is May 31, 2001. The contest is open to everyone and entry is FREE.

"Everyone has at least one memorable photo that captures a special moment in time," stated Pamela Roberts, Contest Director. "When people learn about our free photography contest, they suddenly realize that their own favorite photos can win cash prizes, as well as gain national exposure," continued Roberts.

To enter, send ONE photograph in ONLY ONE of the following categories: People, Travel, Pets, Children, Sports, Nature, Action, Humor, Portraiture, or Other. The photo must be a color or black-and-white print (unmounted), 8" x 10" or smaller. All entries must include the photographer's name and address on the back, as well

as the category and the title of the photo. Photographs should be sent to: The International Library of Photography, Suite 101-2611, 3600 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Entries must be postmarked by May 31, 2001. You may also submit your photo directly online at [www.picture.com](http://www.picture.com).

## Wesley United Methodist Church Calendar of Events for 2001 Easter Services

The Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave. will be celebrating another joyous Easter Season in our community. On Sunday, April 8, we will celebrate Palm Sunday at our 10:30 a.m. service. On April 12, we will celebrate Maundy Thursday with Communion Services at 7:30 p.m.

Join us on April 13 at our Good Friday Ecumenical Service at The Rescue House of Prayer in South Plainfield at 7:30 p.m. On Easter

Sunday, April 15, we welcome everyone to again join The South Plainfield Ecumenical Churches for Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. at Spring Lake Park. In case of inclement weather these services will be held at Wesley United Methodist at 6:45 a.m. We will also hold our Easter worship at the regular 10:30 a.m. service time.

For further information contact: Pastor Reverend Henry Leono at the church office (908) 757-2838 or the Parsonage at (908) 756-1044.

## Police Looking for Witnesses to Last Weeks Robbery at Quick Chek

The South Plainfield Police Detective Bureau is looking any possible witnesses who may provide information regarding an armed robbery at the Quick Chek, located on Sampton Ave.

The robbery occurred at about 9:15 p.m. on Sunday, March 18. The suspect was described as possibly a Hispanic male, thin build, 5' 7", wearing a red bandana over his face and

wearing a red plaid jacket. The suspect may have been in the area of the store prior to the robbery.

A 63-year-old female cashier was struck in the head with a gun and knocked to the ground during the robbery.

Anyone with information is asked to call Detective Barnes Parker at the South Plainfield Detective Bureau (908) 226-7661.

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## Durham Deli

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Hours: Mon. thru Fri. 5 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Saturdays 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

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**Fax: 908-756-4636**

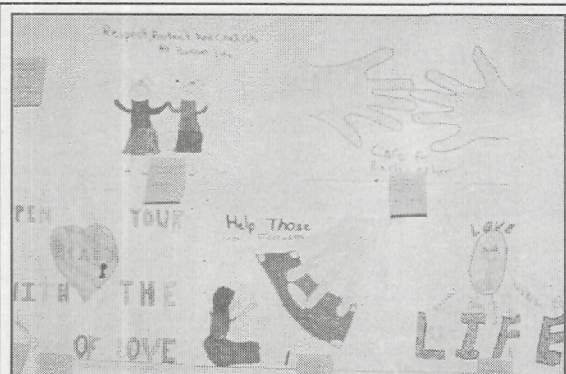
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## Sacred Heart Poster Contest Winners are Recognized

Sacred Heart and CCD students recently competed in a poster contest entitled "Respect for Life." Many great entries were entered.

Virginia Palmer, CCD Coordinator, recognized the winners of the contest on Sunday, March 11.

Winners in first through third grades were Katelyn Criste, Jillianne Gulotta and Mellisa Perrine.

In fourth through sixth grades, winners were Elija Beverly, Dazonna Approvato and Jackie Dougherty. Kathryn Paterek receive honorable mention.

Seventh and eighth grade winners were Michael Downes, Courtney



Cullin, Joseph Helgensen. Honorable mention went to Cristina Padilla and Lindsay Honsicker.

## Grant Central Sixth Health Contest Poster Winners



Students of Grant Central Six Elementary were invited to enter a Health Contest sponsored by the School Nurse, Dawn Wallis. Mrs. Wallis taught Health to the sixth graders and ran the contest to reinforce what was learned during class.

The students also had the option of choosing any health topic they felt was important to them. The projects

included disease control, nutrition, drugs, dental care and general hygiene. The entries included posters, paintings, essays and even a song.

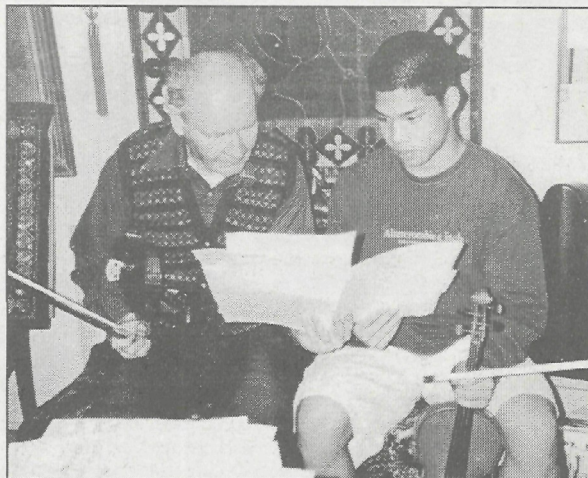
There were three Grand Prize winners; Tina Bijlani, Peter Yeung, and Gina Butrico. The runners-up were Daniel Becker, Jessica Montuori, Brian Wiekowski, Ryan Miller and Anthony Valle.

## South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission Will Present a Classical Program

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission will present the Westfield Concerto/Solo Chamber Orchestra in a program of classical music at the Wesley United Methodist Church Hall, located on Plainfield Ave., on Sunday, April 8, at 4 p.m. This 15-piece orchestra, comprised of teenage violinists and pianists of exceptional ability and led by violin maestro and teacher Steve Wolosonovich of Westfield, will perform excerpts from concertos by such famous composers as Bach, Mozart and Vivaldi.

Also on the program will be a performance by clarinetist, Robert Romano and a selection of beautiful songs by lyric tenor, Bernard Ruth of Newark. A special item on the program will be a violin duo titled *As Time Goes By*, composed by 16-year old Oliver Eng, a member of the orchestra.

Comprising the orchestra are: violin, Oliver Eng, Jean Namkung, Henry Namkung, Robert Won, Tom



Sixteen-year-old Oliver Eng and violin maestro and teacher Steve Wolosonovich discuss Oliver's new composition, *As Time Goes By*, during a practice session.

Yip, David Louie, Cassandra Lambros, David Hsieh, Jennifer Hsieh, Averil Kuo, Jaime Yang; on

viola is Katja Gruening; cello is Carl Baron and on bass is Dan Jaeger.

Admission to the program is free and the general public is cordially invited to attend the performance.

## From the South Plainfield Library

# Bookmarks

By Marcia Lubansky

The Friends of the Library will hold their monthly meeting Monday afternoon, April 2 at 1 p.m. Both members and non-members are welcome to attend. The Friends will begin accepting book donations for the annual spring book sale the last two weeks in April. Get a head start on your spring-cleaning and support your library. We remind you that textbooks and Readers' Digest condensed books are not accepted.

The Friends are also hosting a special program on Tuesday, April 3 at 7 p.m. here at the Library. Dr. Loren Schmidtberger will present "Irish, Blacks and Ladies in William Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom!*" Dr. Schmidtberger, a professor from St. Peter's College in Jersey City, was appointed Will and Ariel Durant Professor of Humanities in 1991. All are welcome to attend this program, sponsored by the NJ Council for the Humanities.

The library is looking for several more volunteers who could spend approximately one to two hours a month helping keep our shelves in order. Our Friends of the Library provide invaluable help, but we could use a few more people. We would love to hear from you!

Join Miss Linda, Miss Cheryl and Mr. Tim for the regularly scheduled children's Story time and craft programs. The programs are for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. Story time sessions are held on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. For more information, check with Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

New to the library this past week is an automated telephone system allowing our public to leave voice messages for specific staff or departments. We hope you find it useful. The library recently received a grant from Toys R Us, which allowed us to purchase children's audio books. Twenty titles are ready for checkout; they include the book and cassette so that our preschoolers can "read" and listen to the book at the same time. Also new to the kids' collection are the paperback book series "Sweet Valley Jr. High" (series numbers 1-24) and the American Girl series "History Mysteries".

## Volunteers Needed For Litter Clean-Up Week, April 21-28

Are you bitter about litter? Welcome spring by cleaning away winter's grime! The South Plainfield Clean Communities Advisory Board will sponsor a Borough-wide cleanup at the end of April.

The main clean-up event will be on Saturday, April 21. Volunteers will meet from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Borough Hall parking lot at 2480 Plainfield Ave. to collect equipment and clean-up assignments.

We will target roadsides, parks, streams and vacant lots. All volunteers will be invited back to Borough Hall at noon for a Pizza Pickup Picnic, complete with environmentally friendly door prizes.

Residents are welcome to organize a crew, or to come on their own. Call Alice Tempel, the Clean Communities Coordinator, at (908) 226-7621 for more information.

## John E. Riley P.T.S.O. Accepting Scholarship Applications

The John E. Riley P.T.S.O. is accepting applications for their annual college scholarships. The P.T.S.O. offers two scholarships for \$500 each.

Applicants must be residents of South Plainfield graduating from high school (private or public) this June and must have been promoted from fifth grade at Riley School. The filing deadline for these scholarships is April 27, 2001.

Applications are available at South Plainfield High School, Riley School, or by calling (732) 926-0427.

## Lions Palm Sunday Breakfast

Sponsored by the South Plainfield Lions Club

Helping the Visually & Hearing Impaired Since 1947....

When: **Palm Sunday, April 8, 2001**

Where: **South Plainfield High School Cafeteria**

Time: **8:00 am to 12:00 noon**

Ticket Price: **\$5.00**

Tickets may be purchased at the door or through a Lions member. For information, please call 755-2289.



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## Jo-Ann's Dance Sponsoring a Benefit for Autism Awareness

*Continued from page 1*

he began school last July. Before he started, he had a very limited vocabulary. Now he speaks quite well. He also works with picture exchange cards to help reinforce his communication skills. When he began school, he could sit still no more than a few seconds at a time and now he can sit in a chair for limited amounts of time. Things like combing his hair, brushing his teeth and touching certain textures are very hard for him. He has just begun to play with things like play dough and glue. Tara credits a lot of Alex's progress to his teacher Linda DiDario. Alex also has a private tutor, who works with him several days a week. He has made a lot of progress since beginning these wonderful programs.

Routine is very important for Alex. His parents try to stick to a schedule at home and he functions much better that way. At school, they have a picture schedule for each thing they do and that helps him a lot. He has also learned how to use the computer

and plays many educational games that he can actually play by himself, which is a life saver for his parents.

Recently Tara was appointed as a special ambassador for the NJ Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community (COSAC). The Autism Awareness Celebration at Jo-Ann's is meant to get information out to the public on what autism is and what can be done for children who have been diagnosed with it.

Autism is currently incurable, so is important to start early intervention programs. The sooner a child with autism gets into a program, the higher his/her chances are to become a functioning adult in society.

Both Michael and Tara have the highest hopes for Alex and they hope everyone will come out to the program at Joanne's and support Autism Awareness Month.

Tickets for the event can be purchased in advance or at the door. For more information call (908) 561-5094.

### What is autism?

When a person has autism, it means that something in their brain is different from other people's brains. This causes them to act differently than other people.

People with autism sometimes have trouble understanding what other people are saying. They can have a hard time using words to say what they need, and they might end up saying the same word or sentence over and over.

Children with autism might play in a different way than other kids. They may like to stare at something for a long time or maybe twirl a piece of string or spin a toy car around and around. A lot of times they may play by themselves, instead of with other kids because they don't know how.

Some kids with autism might be happy, but all of a sudden they will become sad or mad and might even have a tantrum. It might be because they can't tell people what they need or want.

### Do children with autism go to school?

Yes, children with autism go to school to learn just like you. You might even know someone who has autism! They could be in your class or maybe in a class that is just for them.

### What are people with autism like when they grow up?

Lots of people with autism can learn to do all sorts of things when they grow up. They might have a job at a grocery store or as an artist or even working on a computer. Even though autism never goes away, many people with autism learn to make friends, do a job and have a very happy life.

### How should I act around someone with autism?

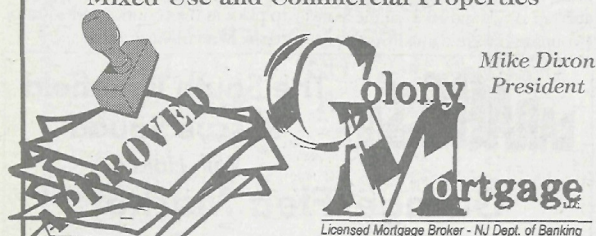
Just remember that people with autism aren't that much different from you. Just like you, they can do some things better than others. Just like you, they have lots of different feelings. They might feel happy, sad, excited, frustrated, proud, lonely, or loving - just like you. It's important to know that even if someone with autism acts different from you or your friends, they still have feelings and they care about other people. You should always try to be a caring person too! So just be yourself when you're with someone who has autism. You may even make a new friend!

For more information on Autism contact The New Jersey Center for Outreach & Services for the Autism Community, Inc., 1450 Parkside Avenue, Suite 22, Ewing, NJ 08638 or call 1-800-4-AUTISM (in NJ) or 609-883-8100. E-mail: information@njcosac, Web site: www.njcosac.org.

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# Sports

## GIRLS SOFTBALL

### South Plainfield Girls Varsity Softball

The South Plainfield Girls Varsity Softball Team knows how it feels to win a State Championship. The team won the Group II State Championship last year with a 23-7 record. However, there are some personnel changes due to the graduation of key players. The new starting pitcher will

be Christine Strani with the catching duties going to Chiara Tomei. Returning players Kimberly Bishop (CF), Shannon Bishop (2B), Mindy Kovacsy (1B), Kelly Ritchey (SS) and Danielle Schweers (3B) all hope to contribute to another winning season. Although there are still others vying

for positions, the team has shown great potential in its pre-season play.

According to Head Coach Donald Panzarella, he hopes to again have a strong defense along with solid pitching which has always been a large part of their success. When asked if there was any pressure felt being a returning State Champ Panzarella said, "We were always a competitive team and we take one year at a time. We have one of the toughest divisions with strong opposition from Bishop Ahr, Carteret and No. Brunswick. Our goal for the team this year is to be in every game, win our division and to qualify for the States. We have a great group of girls who know when it's game time, its all business and you have to give 110% to be successful. Our veterans know that this is a highly competitive team and we don't settle for anything but the best. We're looking to steal bases, create scoring opportunities, and to score runs. They're all hard workers, and know that their hard work will pay off. But, they also know how to have fun at practice. We try to keep a balance of both work and fun so that they maintain a high level of motivation."

Players to look out for: Candace D'Alco, Denise DiMeglio, Kelly Eustice, Meaghan Schweers, and Melissa Scotto.

Panzarella is assisted by Leanne Roudi, Laurie Maticola, & Bonnie Schoonover.

The Lady Tigers will open their season at home this Monday against Carteret.

### Blaze U-12

### Girls Dull

### Emeralds 2-Nil

South Plfd Blaze vs. East Brunswick Emeralds on March 25.

Facing East Brunswick Emeralds for the third time in two seasons and having our first game rained out, South Plainfield Blaze U-12 girls traveling soccer team started their spring season with a 2-nil win at home. Seems our defense is no match for East Brunswick.

Helping our keeper Becky Keller produce her third shut out in a row against East Brunswick, were fullbacks Tiffany Smith, Jenna DeLillo and Katelyn Conrad. Sweeper Elizabeth Flannery and stopper Jackie Miller played solid in our defensive third.

Dominating our center mid positions, Jennifer Copeland and Dorian Bishop helped to control the tempo of the game, while wing midfielders Lauren Fry, Megan Boyle and Ashley Little did a great job keeping our strikers busy.

Our first strike of the game came in the 27th minute from right forward Denise Lopez, who floated in a well-placed corner kick from left forward Kate Hardy.

The second score came in the 64th minute when on a cross from Kate Hardy, Denise Lopez blasted it in the net putting the game out of reach for East Brunswick.

Good team effort girls! Our next game is away at Metuchen. Visit the South Plainfield Soccer Club web site at [www.sopfldsoccerclub.com](http://www.sopfldsoccerclub.com).

Submitted by Coach Hardy



### Ponytail Softball Batters Box

#### Opening Day - April 7

It is hard to believe, but after a long, cold, snow-filled winter, it is time once again for the fun and excitement of softball. Please join us at Pitt Street Park on Saturday, April 7 for Opening Day festivities.

Games will begin at 9:30 a.m. Opening Day ceremonies will start at 11:45 a.m. In the event of rain, Opening Day will be held on Saturday, April 14.

**Softball Jackets-Ordering Deadline - April 15**—Sportworld is offering a light lined nylon jacket in green with the players name on the front and the ponytail logo on the back. There are two styles available, zip-down and pull-over. The jackets are available in both adult and youth sizes. Don't forget to use your discount coupon supplied by the Ponytail Parents' Association. The coupon must be presented to Sportworld at the time you place your order. Please see your coach if you have not yet received your coupon. The last day to place orders is April 15.

**Ponytail Softball Pictures - April 21**—All individual and team pictures will be taken on April 21 at the Pitt Street Park complex. Order forms will be distributed by the coaches. In the event of rain, pictures will be taken indoors at the PAL Building. Additional info, will be provided in upcoming publications of the Batters Box.

**All-Star Try-outs - May 6**—Try-outs for the summer All-Star teams will be held on Sunday, May 6 at 1 p.m. at Pitt Street Park. Players will be chosen for the 10 and under, 12 and under and 14 and under teams. One team per age group will be formed.

**Age Requirements**—C League Team - Girls must be 10 & under as of 12/31/00. Tryouts will take place on field C.

**B League Team**—Girls must be 12 & under as of 12/31/00. Tryouts will take place on field B.

**A League Team**—Girls must be 14 & under as of 12/31/00. Tryouts will take place on field A.

**Pool Party - June 8**—The Ponytail Parents' Assoc. will be sponsoring an end of season pool party. This event is open to all Recreation Ponytail softball so please join us on June 8 at the South Plainfield Community pool. Additional info, will be provided in upcoming publications of the Batters Box.

#### Field Cleanup - Thank You

Our annual field cleanup was held this past Saturday, March 24th. Thanks to all of the parents who volunteered their time and effort to prepare the Pitt Street fields for this year's softball season. Your participation in support of Girls Ponytail Softball is greatly appreciated. Submitted By: Sharon Miller

By Tony Cassano



### juniorbaseballclubnotes

**BOOSTER WEEKEND -THIS WEEKEND (3/29 - 3/31)**—The SPJBC annual 'Booster Weekend' started yesterday and will continue today and tomorrow. Players from Small Fry 'A', 'B', and 'C' leagues will be positioned throughout the town at local stores and will be fund raising on behalf of the club. Please lend your support and help make this effort a success.

**ATTN: ALL MANAGERS/COACHES- WORK DETAIL THIS SATURDAY (3/30) @ 7:30AM**—This Saturday, we will be holding our next to last pre-season work detail. Thanks to the many volunteers this past Saturday (3/24), a lot was accomplished but we still have a lot to do. We need all Managers/Coaches and as many volunteers to get the club ready for Opening Day (April 7) Please bring a grass rake or wheel barrel if available. Work Detail will start at 7:30 a.m.

**APRIL MONTHLY MEETING - SET FOR THIS MONDAY- APRIL 2 at 7:30**—Our next monthly meeting is set for this Monday at 7:30. With less than one week to go to Opening Day, we still have a lot to discuss as we prepare for Opening Day and the Season ahead. All Managers/Coaches of all leagues should attend. General Membership meetings are open to all club members.

**OPENING DAY FINAL PREPARATION AND SET-UP - FRIDAY APRIL 6 at 6 PM**—Our annual Opening Day set up will be held next Friday (April 6) at 6 p.m. This will be our last opportunity to prepare for Opening Day which is set for Saturday, April 7. Volunteers are welcomed and encouraged to help out.

**OPENING DAY 2001 - NEXT SATURDAY APRIL 7**—Next Saturday, April 7, is Opening Day. Its hard to believe but its true. Baseball is back and we are ready to go. Starting with our Annual Parade at 9:30, followed by our Opening Day Ceremonies, we are set for to have the first pitch of the 55th season at the SPJBC followed by the first game at 12 noon. Come out and join us to support youth baseball in So. Plainfield and the start of a new year.

# Sports



## Grant Central Sixth Boy's Basketball Team

The Grant Central Sixth Boys Basketball team had an extremely successful season. Pictured above are (back row): Anthony Moretti, Mike George, Ryan Curtis, C.J. Loiacono, Trevor Rastelli and Nick Pasquale; (middle row): Ben Maverick, Brian Wicowski, Tim Williams, Coach Mack, Justin Basilone and Chris Stallone; (front row): Matt Fabino, Chris Pollen, Nick DeSimone, Mike Stallone and Nick Giannakis. Missing: Dan McCreesh, Joey Turrise and Dandre Harden.

### HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

## Back with a Bounce

By Carrie Reilly

For the second consecutive year, the SPHS boys tennis team has an abundance of members, with the total at 25 players. However, 14 of those members are returning from last year, which shows that the other 11 are new to the team. With this addition, the team has made a strong program for itself, which will help it to flourish for years to come.

This year, expectations are high. While the team boasted a successful 10-5 record last year, the 2001 season has brought about a new challenge. Along with the growing population of SPHS, the team itself has jumped from Blue to White divisions, which will prove their season tough. Coach Marjorie Kopacs feels that while it is going to be a challenging season, the boys should rise to the occasion and expectations are high. "It is going to be a challenging season as we moved up from blue division to white division. My first year we were in white division, but we will be more competitive there than three years ago. We have doubled our team size and increased our awareness of the game."

This year's team boasts 14 returning players, including both the number 1 and 2 singles players from last year. Returning for the 2001 season are seniors Leo Campos, Chris Sangster, Eric Ambielli, Lam Nguyen, Huy Nguyen; juniors CJ Headley, Mike Tudor, Andy Falocco, Eric Kim; and sophomores Steve Sobel, Martin Diamant, Mike Conrad, Chirag Patel, Joe Smalley. Manager senior Carrie Reilly also returns.

Newcomers this year include senior Steve Allara, junior Jigar Patel, sophomore Ellery Pagala, and freshmen Danny Sierzega, Earl Marcelo, Chris Nguyen, Jordan Lynch, David

Allara, Adam Toth, Alex Tierney and Eric Papricka. Also new to the team this year is Manager junior Mary Odlowski.

This year, the captains began their practices during the first week of March, to get an early edge on the competition. Official practices began March 12, as well as grudge matches to determine this year's starting lineup. The lineup for the 2001 season looks competitive and the players all have their eyes set on one thing: winning. First singles this year is senior Eric Ambielli; second singles is senior Lam Nguyen; third singles is senior Huy Nguyen; the number one doubles team consists of junior Eric Kim and senior Chris Sangster; and second doubles this year is junior Andy Falocco and senior Steve Allara.

The boys now have three scrimmages under their belt, taking home victory on two. Their first official match is on Monday, April 2, at North Brunswick, and the first home match will take place on Wednesday, April 4, against Perth Amboy. Come out to the courts to support this ever-growing, successful team!

#### Schedule for the 2001 season

- 4/2 North Brunswick (Away)-3:45
- 4/4 Perth Amboy (Home)-3:45
- 4/6 Bishop Ahr (Away)-3:45
- 4/18 JFK (Home)-3:45
- 4/23 Monroe Twp (Home)-3:45
- 4/25 Colonia (Away)-3:45
- 4/26 St. Joseph's (Home)-3:45
- 4/27 GMC Tournament-9 a.m. (at MCC courts)
- 4/28 GMC Tournament-9 a.m.
- 5/2 North Brunswick (Home)-3:45
- 5/4 Perth Amboy (Away)-3:45
- 5/7 Bishop Ahr (Home)-3:45
- 5/9 St Joseph's (Away)-3:45
- 5/11 Colonia (Home)-3:45
- 5/16 JFK (Away)-3:45
- 5/18 Monroe Twp (Away)-3:45
- 5/21 Boundbrook (Home)-3:45

### TRACK

## Boys' Spring Track Outlook

By Tim Morgan

The Boys' Spring Track Team is different from all the other running seasons in a few different ways. One is that there are no definitive varsity and junior varsity runners; all of the runners are pitted up against each other in the meets if deemed worthy to do so (except in the state and county meets). Basically, the newer guys are pitted up against the big dogs and get a taste of what the real competition is like. This can become a learning experience and build on the thirst for competition and make the runners want to constantly improve themselves. Still, to earn a varsity letter, the runners must score a certain number of points in the meets and/or show that they really deserve one.

Leading the team, will be head coach Mr. Fonti, with assistants Mr. Horowitz and Mr. Smith. There are currently 55 people on the roster. Two of the team captains are seniors, Mike DeSimone and John Foscolo, with one more to be determined.

The outlook for the boys this year is the best it has been in years (or maybe ever). The team has a group of strong, talented, dedicated runners and throwers this year, to cover every event. "We have a very good shot at wiring the White Division and solid core veterans top off a lot of promising freshmen," states Mr. Horowitz. The top competitors for the Tigers for the division are Sayerville and Perth Amboy.

Although it is too early to tell, the team is looking to send a few competitors to the State Groups and to place in the GMC's. The team will also compete in several weekend invitationals in which they will strive to place individually and for the relays. Improvement from last year's 3-4 record will come from losing only a few seniors, experience and restoration of people in the weight events, which was limited last year.

The distance parcel of the team will consist of mostly solid cross country runners, most of which have participated in winter track. In the 3200 and

1600 will be Mike DeSimone and Tim Morgan, also alternating in running the 800, as well. Also running in the distance events, as well as some sprints, will be Galen Johnson (800, 1600), Bill Olson (400, 800 and/or 1600), Tom Troia and Jeff Williams (400 and 800), with newcomer Tom Holowka.

Leading the pack for the sprinters and hurdlers will be veterans John Foscolo, Brian Wilson, John Rayho, Phil Thomas, Mike Raynes, Sean and Chris Grievous, and Chinny Oparakee. A pack of promising newcomers will give them a solid backing. The boys will be especially competitive with the hurdling events this year, led by the experienced Wilson. They will be running the 400, 400HH, 200, 100, and 110HH. Many of the pack, such as Wilson, Raynes and Grievous, will cover the long jump and high jump, as well. Both of those events have always been pretty dependable and competitive.

The pole vault will be led by veteran Ted Donnelly, along with Danny DeFalco and Mike DeSimone.

The weight events will be led by many of the sprinters, as well as hard core throwers, Foscolo, Rayho and Thomas. James Bender is the only previous shotputter to return. Newcomers Jormaine Thomas, Danny Lahey, Marc Tyler, and Joey Sierzega will also lend their support. Ian Levine will serve as a backup in addition to hurdles and sprints. There will also be a significant number of freshmen in the weights. Many of the sprinters who throw in the discus and javelin are steadfast, so those events should have some backing.

This year's team should hypothetically be stronger than last years, with several individual competitors to boost the team's morale. The Tigers definitely have a hunger to win, knowing their chances to do well. They will practice hard and put the bulk of their training in at the beginning. If things go as planned, some credible team and individual results will emerge at the end of the season.

## Boys Winter Track Notes

By Tim Morgan

The Boys Winter Track had a tough season this year, due to inclement weather all around. The torrent snow and rain prevented any dual meets for the Tigers. However, the team did manage to scratch out some noteworthy performances in the States and GMC's. Winter track is a program that is limited on runners, due to other sports and conditions, but it also prepares athletes for the spring season. The distance team had considerable success. Tim Morgan placed fourth in the GMC's, with a time of 10:08 and Mike DeSimone placed fifth, with a time of 10:09. The two also ran 10:20 and 10:27 at the State Groups and were named first team,

in the White Division All Star Team, for the two events. There were some promising newcomers who will be able to succeed them in the future, Galen Johnson, John Wicowski, and Kyle Kazmir.

The hurdling team also saw some success. Brian Wilson became the White Division champion for the 55 High Hurdles. At the GMC Relays, the relay team of Wilson, John Rayho, Ian Levine and Phil Thomas took sixth place.


The spring season promises some good results with many more people coming out and more favorable weather. The next winter season we will be looking for a few more people to place in the counties and advance to the Meet of Champions.

**PLEASE NOTE! - DEADLINE CHANGE**  
**We will be taking a Long Needed Vacation**  
**During the Week of April 9-13, 2001**

**Deadline for the April 13, 2001 Issue is**  
**Friday, April 6,**  
**at 5 p.m.**

**Any copy submitted**  
**after that date will**  
**appear**  
**in the**  
**April 20th**  
**Issue.**

**Thank you for your**  
**cooperation**  
**Any questions, call 668-0010**



**GARAGE SALE**     **The South Plainfield**  
**Rescue Squad**  
 Will Hold a  
**Garage/Flea Market**  
 April 6 from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
 April 7 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
 April 8 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*This Indoor/Outdoor Event Come out and support this all volunteer organization*



# Sports



## SPHS Boys Bowling Team

### Final Results

#### Fourth Place White Division

#### Division (11-5-0) Overall (13-7-0)

Grade		Hi Game	Hi Set	#Games	Avg.
12	<b>Ray Tomei</b>	246	660	65	198.46
<i>GMC Individual 8th Place, All Division, All-Area Honorable Mention, Bronze Medal, SPHS Record Hi Avg., SPHS MVP, 209.5 Tournament Avg., Most Improved +20.46</i>					
12	<b>Erich Gaub</b>	246	655	65	185.80
<i>All-Area Honorable Mention, Captain</i>					
12	<b>Paul Larisch</b>	249	638	70	185.34
<i>Improved +12.54</i>					
12	<b>Jeff Smith</b>	254	669	64	174.73
<i>Rookie of the Year</i>					
10	<b>Joe Adorna</b>	215	534	37	148.05
11	<b>Rishi Ramgobin</b>	191	525	28	147.71
11	<b>Brett Snyder</b>	190	501	48	144.87
10	<b>Anthony Ingerto</b>	193	482	30	139.50

#### Highlights of the 2000-2001 Season:

- Team Average - 893 - Individual Average per game 179
- Thirty-First Out of 44 teams - Bishop Ahr Holiday Tournament
- Forty-Third Out of 52 teams - Central Jersey Winter Classic
- Eighteenth Out of 35 teams - Central Jersey Sectionals
- Fourth Out of 12 teams - Joe Romer Memorial XXV
- Tigers Recorded 11 Shutout Victories

### TIGER WRESTLING NEWS

## Five Tiger Wrestlers Advance to Middle Atlantic Regional Tournament

By Bob Hunter

Well wrestling fans, it's not over yet! South Plainfield will be sending five wrestlers to the Middle Atlantic Wrestling Association Regional Tournaments, with a chance to advance to the Middle Atlantic Eastern Nationals, which will be held on April 21 and 22 at the Kohler Field House at East Stroudsburg University.

District tournaments were held in four regions, within Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, North and

South Carolina, making up the Middle Atlantic region. The top three wrestlers in each division and weight class advance.

At the North Burlington qualifier, advancing in the South Region for South Plainfield were Billy Ashnault, 78 pound Junior division champion. Ashnault defeated Mike Bocellari of New Providence 7-2 in the finals.

Jimmy Conroy Intermediate 80 pound Champion, defeated Chris Battaglia of Fort Lee by fall at 1:27.

Mike Jakubik 82 pounds, advanced by winning his consol-

ation match 8-4 for third place.

These wrestlers will travel to Salisbury, MD for the South Regional tournament.

Wrestling in the West Region at the Lancaster Pa. qualifier and advancing were Mike Wagner, Midget 75 pound division, who defeated Zach Kinert of Lanscola Seminoles 9-2 for first place.

Patrick Hunter, Junior 66 pound division, won his title when he defeated Mike Mouseris of Manheim Twp. Pa by major decision 12-0. These wrestlers will travel to Millersville University for the West Regional Tournament.

## Conroy and Petriello Win State Wrestling Titles

By Bob Hunter

South Plainfield was well represented at the annual 2001 New Jersey State Kids Wrestling Tournament with eight Tiger wrestlers placing. The Tigers crowned two champions, had three second place winners, a fourth and two fifth place winners.

Rocco Petriello, wrestling in the Midget heavyweight II division, pinned Ray Fedor of South River in the finals to win his first state title. Petriello won his first match

by fall and the semi-final match by decision.

Jimmy Conroy, a Middle School wrestler, won the 75 pound Junior division title when he won by decision over Nick Menditto of Ocean 8-1 in the finals. In the semi-finals, Conroy defeated Kellen Russell of the Red Hawk wrestling club 10-2. It was Conroy's first state title after placing third and fourth the last two years.

Coming in second place for the Tigers, were Mike Wagner Bantam 75 pounds, Kevin Crilley Jun-

ior (Heavyweight I), who lost in double overtime, and Guy Severini, Freshmen Intermediate at 140 pounds.

Billy Ashnault, Junior 70 pounds, finished fourth and Ryan Sacco, Bantam 60 pounds, and Kyle Bostick, Intermediate 125, finished in fifth place.

Congratulations to all the place winners and to those wrestlers who did not place. You should be proud knowing that you are among the top twenty-four in the state at your weight and division.



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a lot  
going on...



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## 2001 GOLDEN GLOVE

### QUARTER FINALS



Doors Open at 7 pm  
Bouts Start at 8 pm

Saturday ~ March 31, 2001

South Plainfield High School  
200 Lake Street, South Plainfield, NJ

General Admission ~ \$ 8.00  
GOLDEN RINGSIDE \$ 75.00  
includes DINNER AT 5:00 PM

at Café Piancone Restaurant

For Tickets or Reservations Call  
(908) 226-7662 or (908) 561-0649

Tickets can be purchased at Sal's Spirit Shoppe on Park Ave., Durham Deli on South Plainfield Ave., at the Observer office on Hamilton Blvd. and at the PAL Building on Maple Ave.

Send a check or money order for \$25/one year (out-of-town-\$30) payable to: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Or order your subscription via email at nancyg@spobserver.com and send your check to the above address.

✓ Please send me home delivery of the Observer.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

### Obituaries

#### Christian "Chris" Madsen, 65

Christian "Chris" Madsen died on Monday, Mar. 26, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Chris was born in Kearny and grew up in Iselin, where he lived for many years before moving to South Plainfield in 1974.

He had worked as a machinist for over 25 years with Combined Processes of South Plainfield before retiring three years ago.

He served with the U.S. Army during the Korean War and had been stationed in Panama.

Chris was also a member of the Italian American Progressive League, where he was a past president and the BPO Elks Lodge 2298, both in South Plainfield.

He is survived by his wife, Anna (Campilonga) Madsen; two sons, Christian G. Madsen of Iselin and Louis P. Corradi III of Piscataway; his mother, Clara (Petersen) Madsen of Iselin; a brother, Fred Madsen of Avenel and by three granddaughters, Hannah, Cathlyn and Sophia Madsen.

Private cremation was held under the direction of the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

#### Frances (Massaro) Procida, 82

Frances (Massaro) Procida died on Saturday March 24, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Brooklyn, Mrs. Procida had resided in Brooklyn for most of her life before settling in South

Plainfield 15 years ago.

She had been employed by the former Standish Manufacturing Co. in Brooklyn as a machine operator.

She was a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield and their Caring and Sharing Group. She was also a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens Organization.

Mrs. Procida is predeceased by her husband, Francis C. Procida, who died in January of 1977.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Joseph and Donna of South Plainfield and Ciro "Jerry" and Marylou of Brooklyn; two sisters, Mary Sparaciano of Calif. and Vera DeMuro of So. Carolina and a brother, Paul Massaro of Jackson, NJ.

Also surviving are her grandchildren, Kerry Greenwood, Tracio Cerillo, and Frank Procida and two great grandchildren, Ashley and Christian Procida.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Haven Hospice, c/o JFK Medical Center, 65 James Street, Edison, NJ 08818.

#### Virginia (Moynahan) Allen, 77

Virginia (Moynahan) Allen died on Thursday, Mar. 27, at her home.

She was born in Bronx, NY and was a former resident of Bound Brook; before moving to South Plainfield 12 years ago.

Mrs. Ellen was a nursing assistant at the Somerset Medical Center in Somerville for 13 years before retiring in 1978.

She was a member of Saint Stephen's Lutheran Church in South Plainfield.

She is survived by her daughter, Joyce and her husband Gary Eckert of South Plainfield; her sons, Bruce Jr. and his wife Bonnie Allen of South Bound Brook and Michael Allen of Carteret; her grandchildren Melissa and Joseph Eckert, Jennifer and Michael Allen Jr. and Joseph DeLong.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in her

memory may be made to Haven Hospice, c/o JFK Medical Center, 65 James St., Edison, NJ 08818.

#### Frank Mihovich, 74

Frank Mihovich died on Friday, Mar. 23, at his home.

He was born in Wilkes Barre, Pa. and was a former resident of Newark, before moving to South Plainfield 45 years ago.

Mr. Mihovich was a machinist for Western Electric in Kearny for 45 years before retiring in 1985.

He was a sergeant in the U.S. Air Force during WWII and a member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield. He was an avid bowler and loved to play golf.

He is survived by two sons, Frank Jr. of Edison and Charles of Port St. Lucie, Fla.; two sisters, Gloria Chrvala and Delores Plawski both of Bricktown and three grandchildren.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 601, Edison, NJ 08818.

#### Frank A. Gunther

Frank A. Gunther, a 9th Air Force Veteran during WII, died on Friday March 23, at Bridgewater Care Center in Bridgewater.

Mr. Gunther was born in New York and had lived in Plainfield before settling in South Plainfield in 1948. He graduated from the Air Force Technical Training Command, Paterson Field, Dayton, Ohio and Kansas City, Mo., as an aircraft power plant specialist.

He served with the 12th Air Force Division in Africa and Sicily and with the 9th Air Force Division in Europe as a crew chief. He was awarded the European-African and Middle Eastern Ribbons with three Bronze Stars and the Good Conduct Medal for his service from 1942-1945.

Mr. Gunther had worked for American Cyanamid for 47 years as a systems analyst in Wayne, retiring in 1980.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen, a member of the Jerusalem Lodge #26 of the Free and Accepted Masons of Plainfield, the Air Force Association, as well as one of the original founding members of the So. Plainfield Eagles Pop Warner Football League.

His wife of 51 years, Irene (Bernat) Gunther, died in February of 1997.

He is survived by a daughter, Irene B. Kutsch of Kensington, New Hampshire; two sons, Alfred J. of Bridgewater and Frank D. and his wife, Teresa Gunther of Humble, Texas; a sister, Ethel Bendel of Harvey Cedars, Long Beach Island, NJ and a brother, Herman Weinlech, Jr. of North Plainfield.

Also surviving are his five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Ladies Auxiliary of Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, c/o Park and Randolph Ave.

Plainfield, NJ 07060 or the First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen.

#### Jasper A. "Jack" Muglia, 85

Jasper A. "Jack" Muglia died on Monday, Mar. 26, at Princeton Medical Center in Princeton.

Born in South Plainfield, Mr. Muglia had resided in town for most of his life before moving to Palm Coast Florida in 1984. He had resided there until December of 2000, when he returned to South Plainfield.

Mr. Muglia was a veteran of WWII, where he served in the U. S. Army Air Corps in Africa, Italy and Europe as a photographer with the Signal Corps as a Sgt.

He was employed as a machinist for the former New Departure Hyatt in Clark for 30 years, retiring in 1981.

He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign War in Palm Coast, Fla., the United States Auto Works Local #736 of Clark and a former communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Palm Coast.

His wife, Mary D. (Natalizio), died in April of 1993.

He is survived by two daughters, Cindy Butrico of West Windsor and Marlene Stritzel of Maplewood; two sons, Barry Sr. and Richard Muglia, both of South Plainfield; two sisters, Edith Guaracci of Piscataway, Jenny Muglia of South Plainfield, three brothers, Alfred of Va., Ernest, of Mass., and Victor Muglia of South Plainfield. Also surviving are his seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

#### Linda A. (Zawadzki) Przybowski, 48

Linda A. (Zawadzki) Przybowski died on Sunday, Mar. 25, at her home.

Born in Plainfield, Mrs. Przybowski had been a lifelong resident.

She is a graduate of Woodbridge Vocational School where she attended their nursing program, graduating in 1973 as a Licensed Practical Nurse. She was employed initially by Skillman Neuro-Psychiatric Facility and later as a nurse for Overlook Hospital, then working for Dr. Luadonio in North Plainfield.

Mrs. Przybowski was an Evangelist for God, constantly reading her Bible and passing on His word to people she encountered. She also enjoyed gardening and horses, as well as needlework.

She is predeceased by her husband, Ronald Przybowski.

Surviving are two sons, Michael and Christopher; her parents, Henry and Magdalena (Seider) Zawadzki, all of South Plainfield; her dear friend and helper, Jeff Bogden, a sister, Teresa Seitzmeyer of Piscataway, and a brother, Henry Zawadzki Jr., of Locktown, NJ.

Funeral services were held the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to her sons and would be greatly appreciated.

### LEGAL NOTICES

#### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ordinance #1440M entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #1440 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION FOR THE YEAR 2001; be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, March 30, 2001 and that a public hearing be held Thursday, April 19, 2001 at 8:00 PM in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

#### ORDINANCE #1440M

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #1440 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION FOR THE YEAR 2001.

2001

Table listing administrative positions and salaries: ADMINISTRATOR 101,152; BOROUGH CLERK 92,341; TAX COLLECTOR 20,000; TAX ASSESSOR 87,588; MUN ENGINEER 104,692; ENVIRON SPECIALIST 46,241; RECYCLING COORDINATOR 3,711; OEW COORDINATOR 16,942; FIRE OFFICIAL 87,084; SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS 77,549; SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR/ASSESSING CT 41,683; POLICE CHIEF - STEVE MERKLER 107,583; CAPTAIN 91,664; LIEUTENANT 81,843; SERGEANT 73,074; SOCIAL WORKER 49,457; CONST OFF/ZONING OFFICER 73,119; COURT ADMINISTRATOR 75,167; RECREATION DIRECTOR 55,435; POOL ADMINISTRATOR 6,396; MAYOR 2,495; COUNCILPERSON 2,078; BOROUGH ATTORNEY 6,930; MUN PROSECUTOR 28,000; PUBLIC DEFENDER 5,924; PLANNING BD ATTORNEY 6,237; ZONING BOARD ATTORNEY 6,237; MUN COURT JUDGE 38,000; COUNCIL PRESIDENT 2,354; HOUSING ASSISTANCE TECHNICIAN 5,000; ASSIST. DEPTY. EMERG. MGMT. 1,000; DEPUTY REGISTRAR 500; PLUMBING INSP 25,574; TEMPORARY PLUMBING INSP. 3,680; PROGRAM COORDINATOR 5,000; ADMIN. CLERK TYPIST 32,609; SECRETARY TO MAYOR 1,213.

SECTION 2. INCONSISTENCY - All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE - This ordinance shall become effective and operative ten days after the publication thereof after final passage.

Approved March 22, 2001

Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor

Attest: Vincent Buttiglieri, Borough Clerk

\$72.00 11 March 30, 2001

#### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

March 26, 2001

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was then by the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on March 20, 2001.

A. Case #401/I—Hollywood Tanning—Block 222, lot 1, 907 Oak Tree Road—Applicant's request for a zoning permit for the tanning salon is hereby GRANTED.

B. Case #300/S—Harry Popik—Block 265; Lot 27; 139 Hamilton Blvd.—Applicant's request for an extension of the previously granted use variance is hereby GRANTED.

C. Case 2-01/S—Reckson FS Limited Partnership—Block 528.01; Lot 47; 40 Cragwood Road—Applicant's request to dismiss this case, without prejudice, is hereby GRANTED.

D. Case #30-00/S—Harry Popik—Block 265; Lot 27; 139 Hamilton Blvd.—Applicant's request to dismiss this case, without prejudice is hereby GRANTED.

E. Case No. 41-00/S/A—Hewson Enterprises—Block 284; Lot 5, New Market Ave.—Applicant's request to discuss this case, without prejudice, is hereby GRANTED.

F. Case #7-01/I—Andrienne Cole—Block 437; Lot 6; 227 Woolworth Ave.—Applicant's request for an interpretation is hereby DENIED.

G. Case #1-01—Helen Spisso—Block 219; Lot 16, West Crescent Parkway—Applicant's request for variances for a 10 x 10 wood shed and an 11.9 x 3.7 porch was hereby GRANTED.

H. Case #13-00/S/V—New Era Development—Block 538; Lots 3 & 4; Hamilton Blvd. and Easton Blvd.—Applicant's request for final site plan approval is hereby GRANTED with conditions.

I. Case #53-00/S—Bright Horizons Children's Center—Block 528.01; Lot 45.08; Hadley Road & Cragwood Road—Applicant's request for a use variance, preliminary and final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED.

J. Case #50-00/S—AMI, LLC—Block 524; Lot 2.01, 318 Durham Ave.—Applicant's request for a use variance and bulk variances to erect a billboard were hereby DENIED.

K. Case #4-00/S—Carole Media, LLC—Block 528.01; Lot 45.04, 500 Hadley Road—Applicant's request for a use variance and site plan approval was hereby DENIED.

L. Case #3-00/S—Carole Media, LLC—Block 537; Lot 2, Bedford Ave.—Applicant's request for a use variance and site plan approval was hereby DENIED.

Janice J. Muccilli, Secretary, Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$60.00 11 March 30, 2001

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## YARD SALE

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# In My Opinion

Continued from page 2

preparing our own eighth graders for the high school experience.

In conclusion, when you begin to lose trust and faith in our public school system, please know that there is a school working hard to instill and keep good values.

**SINCERELY,  
GINA M. D'URSO**

Dear Editor,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of Mr. Pio Pennisi, a candidate for the Board of Education in South Plainfield. I believe that Mr. Pennisi is extremely qualified for the position for a variety of reasons. First, having previously served on the Board, he is experienced in the matters that must be decided by a school Board. I think that it is commendable, to say the least, that Mr. Pennisi is willing to serve the children and taxpayers of South Plainfield once again.

Secondly, Mr. Pennisi is a lifelong resident of South Plainfield. He is a graduate of South Plainfield High School and his two children attend public school in the town. Mr. Pennisi is thoroughly familiar with the town and the schools, and he would be mindful of the best interests of both.

Finally, Mr. Pennisi is an educator with twenty-five years of experience. For many years he was a science teacher, and he also served as Director of Technology, playing a vital role in integrating computers in the curriculum. I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Pennisi at Dunellen High School, and I can tell you that he is respected by colleagues, parents and students as a dedicated, caring, professional. For the past four years, Mr. Pennisi has served as an administrator, first as assistant principal of the high school and now, as principal of Lincoln Middle School. His "no-nonsense" approach to education is a blend of knowledge, experience, sound judgment and common sense. As a resident of South Plainfield who is concerned about the future of our schools, I urge fellow residents/neighbors to vote for Mr. Pio Pennisi on April 17-Line 3. I cannot think of a more qualified candidate for the Board of Education of South Plainfield.

**JOANNE MISSIMER**

Citizens of South Plainfield:

In a few weeks, the citizens of South Plainfield will again be asked to vote for Board of Education representatives. There is one very special person who is in the running that will get my vote. That is Pat DeSantis. Pat, who has served on the Board before, has proven she knows what our community needs.

**Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) Seeking Members**

Councilwoman Darle Pinto is asking residents who like to volunteer and serve on the Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG). The group meets once a month on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Anyone interested should contact Councilwoman Pinto or Mayor Gallagher at 226-7601.

Pat is a dedicated wife and mother and has had one child already go through our school system, and has two that are in school now. She knows first hand what the needs of our children are. She lives it everyday like we do.

Pat's thoughts are of our children first. I have seen her at many school functions, regardless of whether her children were involved or not. Pat doesn't hide from people. If you have a question, she will honestly answer you and if she doesn't know the answer, she will try her hardest to find it.

Pat was instrumental in getting Summer School back. A lot of us know how important it is for some children to have that little extra help over the long summer. If Summer School was not brought back a couple of years ago, it would have been lost and forgotten. Thank you Pat!

Pat worked long, hard hours when she was on the Board. And it showed by all the good things she was able to do for our schools. Pat wants the best for our children, her children and the community. She wants all of our children to get the best education possible without sacrificing programs.

Pat is out of retirement and back running for a seat. Let's put Pat back where she belongs. Tell your neighbors, tell a friend to vote for a truly caring, sincere, and honest person. Vote for Line 4 on April 17 and put Pat DeSantis back where she belongs!

**THANK YOU  
GWENN KURILEW**

Dear Editor,

I think Pio Pennisi would make an excellent member of the Board of Education. Not only has he served on the board in the past, but he has two children in the South Plainfield school system, so he also wants what is best for our children.

He is principal at Dunellen Middle School, and has coached soccer, baseball and football. It is obvious that his focus is on the children.

I have known Pio for over 20 years and feel he will be a great asset to the Board of Education. Vote for Pio Pennisi on April 17!!

**CATHY POMPILIO**

To the Editor

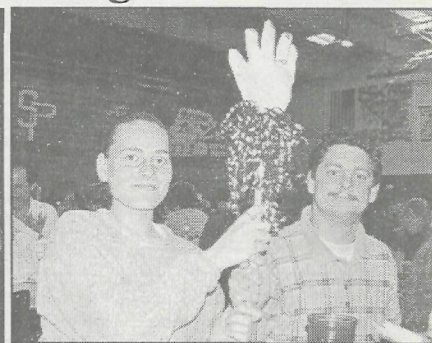
The Franklin School 5th Annual Auction/Raffle Night held on March 24, 2001 was a huge success! This event gets bigger and better each year because of the local businesses that support our schools. We are very fortunate to have such caring merchants in our town and the surrounding communities.

Also, thanks to all the classroom parents and families of Franklin School students who donated fabulous Theme Baskets, as well as their time spent in preparing for this huge event.

This Auction/Raffle will provide before and after school programs that will inspire our children for years to come. Please show appreciation to our contributors by utilizing their services. Again, thank you everyone for your generosity.

**PATTI GROBEN/  
DEBRA KRAWIEC  
AUCTION/RAFFLE COMMITTEE**

# Franklin School Raffle a Huge Success



The Franklin School 5th Annual Auction/Raffle Night held on March 24, 2001 was a huge success! Thanks to all the local businesses and parents for their donations and support. The winner for the 50/50 was Josephine DeStefano. The winner of the Mini Vacation in Cape May was Linda Ruppert, and the Super Grand Prize "A Vacation Adventure" was won by Debra Krawiec. Again, thank you everyone for all your help.

## policereport

### • Motor Vehicle Accident on Hadley Blvd.

At about 2 a.m. Saturday morning, the police were called to a motor vehicle accident at Stelton and Hadley roads which involved a sport utility vehicle and a tractor-trailer.

The sport utility vehicle, a 1991 Ford Bronco, was northbound on Stelton Rd. and operated by Michael Cremona, 31, of North Plainfield. His vehicle collided with a tractor-trailer owned by Estes Express of Richmond Va., who was making a left turn from Stelton Rd. onto Hadley Rd. The tractor was driven by Dunvin Newsome, 31, of Pikesville, N.C.

Michael Cremona had to be extricated from the vehicle by the South Plainfield Rescue Squad and the South Plainfield Fire Department and was treated by paramedics from Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick. Cremona was transported to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, for extensive serious injuries to his extremities. Newsome was not injured in the accident.

Police Officer Joseph Campagna and the South Plainfield Police Traffic Safety Division are investigating the accident.

### • Attempted Robbery at Amoco Station

Last Wednesday at about 9:30 in the evening there was an attempted robbery at the Amoco Gas Station located on Durham Ave. A white, 1980 vehicle, with tinted windows, pulled in to the station. The driver asked for \$6 worth of gas.

The attendant approached a passenger in the vehicle who stated, "Give me your money, I have a gun." The suspect then reached under his jacket acting like he was reaching for something.

The attendant did not see a gun and refused to turn over any

money. The vehicle left the scene traveling north on Durham Ave. The suspect was described as a black male in his early 20's, clean shaven, short hair and wearing a brown jacket. Detective Garrett Cassio is investigating the case.

### • Other Police News

• An employee of CVS, Stelton Rd., was arrested on Wednesday for stealing \$3,382 from the store safe. His intention was to pay off his debts.

• A Plainfield Ave. resident reported that two of his tires had been slashed overnight on Thursday.

• On Friday, a man was observed placing Tylenol Cold Medicine into his coat at CVS on Stelton Rd. The man fled with \$40 worth of medicine after being told to put it back.

• A Pt. Pleasant woman lost her pocketbook in the Home Depot corporate office parking lot on Friday. The pocket book

was returned by an unknown person but cash was missing.

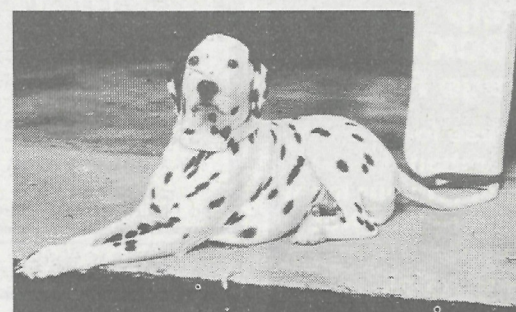
• A Sewaren resident had left his truck for repair at Curtis Service Corp. on Kennedy Rd. It was parked in the rear lot and sometime overnight someone entered through the rear doors of the truck and removed miscellaneous items.

• There was a physical altercation outside of KC's Korner Saturday night. Two people were injured, but refused medical treatment.

• An employee of Domino's on Maple Ave. walked out to find his tires had been slashed. He observed a young male walking away, called out and the suspect ran. Shortly after, a young male called the pizza store and told an employee not to call the police about the tires and hung up.

• On Saturday, Radio Shack on Hadley Rd. reported that a DVD player worth approximately \$350 had been missing from the display shelf.

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