

South Plainfield Observer

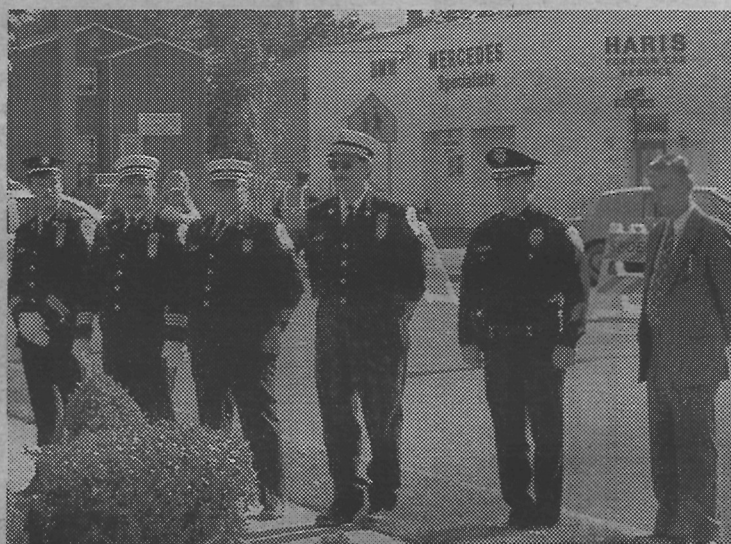
VOL. 1, NO. 4

50 CENTS

OCTOBER 16, 1997

BULK RATE
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South Plainfield Fire Department Kicks Off Fire Prevention Week with Open House



South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department held an open house for Fire Prevention Day on Sunday, October 12. Events included a visit by Smokey the Bear, the Saint Barnabas Burn House, stove fire demonstrations, apparatus and equipment displays and memorial services.

Tobacco Ordinance Passed

At the October 9 Council meeting an ordinance was passed to limit the display of cigarettes and tobacco products at retail stores. Several storeowners spoke out against the ordinance. The storeowners in attendance were Pauls Stationary, BP Mini Mart, Tobacco Barn, and Sunrise Food Store. These storeowners claimed that they receive a promotional fee for prominently displaying the tobacco products on the counter or on floor displays in front of the counter and this ordinance would dramatically cut into their profits.

Mayor Gallagher commented that each storeowner had been approached and asked to remove the displays voluntarily. Most storeowners did not comply. He said that he didn't believe the stores would lose money because of the ordinance. He said that moving the tobacco products out of reach will deter minors from buying cigarettes. Instead, purchasers would have to request cigarettes from the clerk rather than picking them up from displays.

The ordinance states that all displays of tobacco products must be moved back out of reach from the customer.

REMINDER:

The 1997 Candidates Debate will be held this evening at South PI H.S., 7:30 pm. The South Plainfield Observer will publish Oct. 30 to include coverage of the debate. This issue will replace the Nov. 6 issue.

-BOROUGH HALL NOTES-

Council Meeting

John Polos, Mayor of Highland Park, spoke at the request of Mayor Gallagher about Highland Park's revitalization of its downtown areas. The area has been going through a major renovation. Businesses are sprucing up the storefronts by adding new facades, awnings, and paint. They have added new street lighting and sidewalk benches. He said that by hiring a full time redeveloper the town received grant money to help businesses with the financing and planning. After the presentation Mayor Gallagher said he would like to share the services of the Redeveloper with the permission of Mayor Polos.

Art Muglia and several members of the South Plainfield Business Association were present to hear the Mayor's talk. Muglia asked if the Planner would come and address the Business Association at their meeting. He thought this type of program would be beneficial to the downtown area and its continuing plans for the future.

Road Work

Road repaving will begin on Cedar Ave., Edgar St. South 9th, South Central St. and Madison Ave. They will start milling and repaving will be done from Oct. 20 to Oct 24.

Public Works

Vinnie Buttiglieri expressed his thanks to the following public works employees for their help

in installing the new roof on the public works garage, and work on Delmore Ave.: Sup. Glowacki, and employees Donatelli, Appolloni, Calderoni, Capparelli, Mielnikowize, Millard, Ritchey, Zekas, Doyle, Fiore, Kurila, Etel, Danby and Maleski. Through the extra efforts of these public works employees, the Borough saved money on these projects.

Bits and Pieces

The first Teen Night was fairly well attended.

HK Trucking donated \$1,500 towards the cost of the hockey rink.

Library renovations are nearing completion. The major work is completed and now the finishing touches are being done.

Stinky Stuff

Irene Wall of Edison presented a petition to the Mayor and Council from 200 residents of South Plainfield regarding the odor coming from Recycling Inc., on Harmich Rd. The odor varies from day to day and the smells range from strawberries to detergent.

A meeting held last week with residents, Recycling Inc. representatives, Councilman Kubala, and the Middlesex County Health Department. The company agreed to install a pollution-control device. However, Recycling Inc. said the installation could take up to a year. Ms. Wall told the Council that she and her neighbors could and would not

Continued on page 9

TREATS, NOT TRICKS

By PO John R. Alles

Halloween may be an enjoyable holiday for kids, but it can be a bit tricky for parents. Concerns about your children's safety, whether they are out in the neighborhood or back home with their bags of goodies, can blacken an otherwise fun day.

Here are some safety tips that can help you relax, and better enjoy the holiday.

Make sure your kids dress up safely. Check that the costumes are flame retardant so little ones aren't in danger near burning jack-o-lanterns.

Keep costumes short to prevent trips, falls, or other bumps

in the night.

Try make up instead of a mask. Masks tend to be hot, and uncomfortable, and can also obstruct your child's vision — a dangerous thing while crossing streets or using stairs.

Make sure kids wear light colors, or wear reflective tape if they will be out at night.

Trick or treaters should stay in groups so they aren't a tempting target for real life goblins. Parents should accompany very young children.

Make trick-or-treating trouble free. Make sure older kids stick in groups with their

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Rickel Home Center announced they will close 49 stores by the end of the year, eliminating 2,800 jobs. The first layoffs will affect Rickels' 240 employees in the South Plainfield office and distribution center. The company has been under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection since Jan. 1996.

PUBLISHERS NOTES

Tonight at South Plainfield High School, the *ONLY* debate by the candidates for Council will be held. I hope residents will come out to listen and ask questions. This may not be seem like the most earth shaking election of the decade, but it is important to our town and to the candidates. Since Labor Day, they have spent their spare time walking house to house, asking questions of the residents and listening to their suggestions. They sure feel it's important! We hope you aren't too busy to come out and listen to their views and their visions for the town. In the next few years there are going to be many decisions that the Council will be making. By asking questions now, you can find out which Candidate shares your viewpoint. This is your only opportunity to find out first-hand. We hope to see you there! A full-house would really impress our elected officials.

Starting with this issue we are introducing a new school page. We have asked the schools to give us information about their activities. The response has been great! The high school and middle school have assigned guest writers. We think this is a great idea!

Our new web page is up and running. We can be reached at www.spobserver.com. It will have news, features and updates about events happening between newspapers. You can also e-mail us news and comments right on the new web page.

Our next paper is scheduled for Oct. 30. It will replace the Nov. 6 issue. We felt it important to cover the debate, so we will publish another paper before the election.

The responses coming in are still very positive about the paper. We're glad to see you enjoy all the news. We are trying to get everyone's news in each paper. Watch the deadline date for each issue. If your copy is late, your story will likely be published in the next issue. This *Observer* is going to be sold in most stores in town. If your favorite store does not sell the *Observer*, call us or tell the store manager to call us.

Keep in mind that our advertisers also want your support. When you shop or need a service, take a look at the ads our paper. Be sure to tell them you saw their ad in the *South Plainfield Observer*.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM LOCATED ON PAGE 8

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, and you have the right "not to remain silent" but to let us know what you want to see in it.

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail or fax it to: Editorial Department
South Plainfield Observer, 520 Union Ave., Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846
Fax (732) 805-0815 or email us on the web page at spobserver.com
Include your name, address, telephone number.

To Submit Photographs:

1. Make sure the photograph is sharp and bright.
2. Any size picture will do.
3. Black and white pictures are preferred.
4. Type the names of all the photographs, or accurately describe the action in the photograph. Do not write on back of photograph, except with non-reproducing pen or pencil.
5. All unsolicited photographs and stories sent to the *South Plainfield Observer* will be considered the property of the *South Plainfield Observer* and will not be returned, unless a self-addressed stamped envelope accompanies material.

South Plainfield Observer

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Letters to the Editor

To the Editor,

I am grateful that the residents of South Plainfield again have a newspaper in which our community's news is reported. Thank you for your efforts and keep up the great reporting.

In the course of a week, reading two dailies, one weekly, and *The South Plainfield Observer*, I was upset by the number of articles which seem to chart the direction the community of South Plainfield is taking. It seems we will now have a strip mall on every corner of Park Avenue. The Council has decided that it is okay for a Pharmacy to open where Bandy's now stands, just across the street from Peter Pan Pharmacy and two blocks down from Twin City Pharmacy. Another Pharmacy will open across from the existing Oak Tree Plaza (across from CVS) and the new mall on the former Asarco Property. I have not read anything about how the existing traffic problems will be handled. It distresses me that our Council members think so little of the long standing businesses in town that they would allow a competitor to open across the street.

Our senior citizens are now begging and demanding, no longer asking, for a center where they can meet. Is this really too much to ask for? After all, didn't the senior members of this community build the schools that are here and now help pay for the education provided, and support with their tax dollars, the recreation programs used by our children, etc.? It is sad to see how little all their hard work and past and present tax dollars mean to the Council.

Our Council proudly tells us how with a "pay as you go" philosophy roads are repaired and repaved. Last election I received a letter with a promise, "Next year South Central Ave, North and South Madison Drive will be repaved on a "pay as you go" basis. You have Ed Kubala's and Jim Vokral's word on it. Guess what? As the many residents who travel down my street to get their children to school each day (and there are many), I know this promise was not kept. Now I read that Ray Petronko and Vinnie Buttigieri, "have identified the roads in most need" and South Central, and South and North Madison were not among them. Does this mean the earlier promise which last election year "You have our word on it" no longer counts?

When will we begin to pay the \$6.2 million for the outdated, antiquated sewer system which our council took off the hands of the City of Plainfield. I know that was not a "pay as you go" purchase.

It is very sad when the small family owned businesses are pushed out, and you can not travel down Park Avenue and make a left turn unless you sit through two or three traffic lights, and Senior Citizens are repeatedly begging for action in a community they helped build, and promises are not kept. No wonder why so many are against

a one party system, doesn't it? Do you really "Hear Us?"

I will be casting my vote for Candidates Frank Hanley and Dan Kenny in this election in hope that a two party system will bring back the checks and balances and hope that the "little people" residents are heard and considered above the developers voices.

Dawn Jefferys

Dear Editor,

South Plainfield should change its welcome signs to "Welcome to South Plainfield, a developers dream come true." Do you own a piece of corner property in South Plainfield? Well hold on to it, sooner or later it will be a strip mall. Mall madness is breaking out all over town!

Picture yourself driving into South Plainfield from almost any direction. Coming from Plainfield along Park Avenue you will be greeted by the Imperial Deli Mall, and the Bruno Pizza mall. Drivers from Piscataway will see Middlesex Mall or Hadley Center. Coming from Edison or Metuchen, you could stop at the new Dead Oak Commons or Bradlee's mall. You get the picture, these are only a fraction of the strip malls in South Plainfield.

Have you ever really thought about what other people see when they drive through South Plainfield? Have you looked around lately and realized what's happening to our town? Well, get ready for more of the same. Mayor Gallagher, Freeholder candidate Pulomeno, and the rest of the council have just begun to "pave paradise and put up a parking lot" or two or three....

The location at Bandy's has just been approved for another strip mall. If you can believe it, the last remaining corner at Oak Tree and Park is being bought by a developer. It is Mr. Harvey Steinberg of Bryn Mawr, Pa. These developments don't just HAPPEN. They must be approved and existing zoning laws must be waived by the Borough Council to allow their existence. WHY? I want the mayor and council to explain why our zoning laws aren't worth the paper they are printed on under this administration. What could the possible advantage be for so much retail development?

One explanation offered by officials is that the developers improve roads. The roads wouldn't have to be improved if it wasn't for the increased traffic brought here by the development itself. Taxes will go down! They won't go down a fraction of the percentage your property value will

when no one wants to live in Mallville, N.J. You'll spend more money on gas trying to get through the increased traffic than you'll save in taxes.

The developers know exactly what they are doing. Crowds of citizens attending council meetings sometimes shame the council into temporarily stopping development. The developer lets things quiet down, until fewer and fewer people come to meetings. That allows the council to pass the developers' plans on the basis that there was then no opposition.

It is time to let the Mayor and Council know we do not want any more commercial development. Put your feelings in writing! Send them a letter and tell them to stop ignoring the building plans of the town.

I was born in South Plainfield, my parents, grandparents, and great grandparents all lived here. I have never wanted to move out, until now. I am a ashamed of what is happening to our town and there doesn't seem to be any way to stop it, to stop them from developing us to death!

Rita C. English

To the Editor,

This letter is in response to the recent article in *The Reporter* (Sept. 12, 1997), in which senior citizens were calling for a new Senior Citizen Center.

I'm very happy to hear that "there is no need to convince" you that the senior citizens of South Plainfield need a newer, bigger facility, and that you are willing to increase taxes to accomplish this project.

However, as a parent of a child in Roosevelt school, I'm very concerned and confused about your priorities. In case you haven't noticed, the children in Roosevelt school are overcrowded. They have art and music "class" on a traveling cart because there is not enough space for a real class "room."

The Board of Education is now discussing the possibility of establishing a central kindergarten to make more room in our schools. The good news is the continued growth from new construction on this side of town will continue to add more families which will in turn add more children to our already overcrowded school.

It is a sad day when the children of this town are overlooked in favor of a recreation center for our seniors. Who said "put children first?" It certainly wasn't the mayor of South Plainfield. Thank you for letting us know where your priorities lie!

Cathy Pompilio

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The next issue of *The South Plainfield Observer* is Oct. 30. The deadline for copy is Oct. 23.

S.P. Detective George Green Honored

The New Jersey Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association, Inc. recently honored Det. George with their "Law Enforcement Award" at their Annual Conference.

George Green, affectionately known as DOUBLE G, is a detective with the South Plainfield Police Department, and a 26-year veteran of Law Enforcement. Throughout George's career, which began as a uniform officer on the streets of Plainfield, he was personally responsible for numerous motor vehicle

arrests of individuals for violations of this State's Drug statutes. After seven years with the Plainfield Police Department, he left and gained employment with the neighboring jurisdiction of South Plainfield. Because of George's zealous efforts in the area of controlled dangerous substances, he was subsequently promoted to the Detective Bureau and among his vast responsibilities, was commanding and working in the Department's Narcotics Unit. George, throughout his career, has coop-

eratively worked with Federal State, County, and Municipal Agencies, involving numerous large-scale seizures of all types and quantities of controlled dangerous substances, monies, and other drug related assets.

Throughout George's career, he has been assigned to various County, State, and Federal Task Forces. In 1995, George was assigned to the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office Task Force for a second time. At the age of 48, George once again was thrown back into the world of undercover assignments. George devised a witty scheme where, after making a drug purchase, he would have the defendant fill out an employment application containing all pertinent information which included name, address, phone number, social security number, date of birth and sometimes, even a photograph.

On one or more than one occasion, skeptical defense attorneys have questioned how their clients could have been so stupid; however, once shown discovery, these individuals immediately pled out.

George's tenacious efforts in the field of narcotics have gained him the reputation as being a hard-working, conscientious, and devoted individual. His past achievements and numerous commendations speak for themselves.

**SUBSCRIBE TO THE
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1997 Leaf Pick-Up Program Starts Nov. 3 to Dec. 5

SECTION 1	WEEK OF NOV. 3
SECTION 2	WEEK OF NOV. 10
SECTION 3	WEEK OF NOV. 17
SECTION 4	WEEK OF NOV. 24
SECTION 5	WEEK OF DEC. 1

The Road Department will be taking biodegradable paper leaf bags **only**, during the 1997 residential leaf bag program.

They will **not** be picking up any plastic. All plastic **must** be taken to the compost area at the residents discretion. This is to save time and be more efficient and to comply with composting rules and regulations.

For your convenience the compost area only will be open Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. starting Nov. 3 through Dec. 5. Ten free biodegradable paper bags will be available at the Public Works Garage starting Oct. 23, and ending Coupons were mailed to residents, along with a map indicating the five sections of town.

With mother nature's unpredictably, please do not call the Public Works Office for leaf pick-ups as trucks will be returning to all sections throughout the leaf program. Leave all paper bags at the curb.

Compost—For disposal of leaves only—Open Nov. 3, Dec. 5, Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Residents wishing to purchase additional paper bags may do so at a local hardware store.

events around town

Pumpkin Painting Event

On Saturday, Oct. 25, Friends of the Library is sponsoring a Pumpkin Painting Event. Children between the ages of five and ten are invited to come to the library between 10 a.m. and noon to decorate a pumpkin. The cost is \$1 and advance registration is required at the library's main desk.

Toastmaster Club to Meet

The Conacamak Toastmaster Club will hold its next meeting Wednesday, Oct. 22 at the Christ Methodist Church, 485 Hoes Lane in Piscataway. The organization's mission is to promote the art of public speaking. Members learn improved speaking skills, the ability to think quickly, better listening talents and strong leadership skills. For more information call Pearl Scott at 445-6878.

Lions Celebrate 50th

The Lions Club of South Plainfield is celebrating its 50th Anniversary on Friday, Oct. 24, with a banquet at

the Holiday Inn in South Plainfield.

The Lions sponsor member community activities, such as eye exams and donating glasses to underprivileged children and bring a greater public awareness to the dangers of eye disease.

The cost of the banquet is \$30 per person and includes dinner, entertainment, and a great opportunity to learn more about Lionism. For more information please contact Ken Redler at 756-5445.

Blood Drive To be Held

The American Red Cross, Plainfield Area Chapter and New Jersey Blood Services will be holding a blood drive at the South Plainfield Elks on New Market Ave., on Saturday, Nov. 29 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Donors must be in good health, weigh 110 pounds or more, be between 17 and 76 years old, and have a form of identification. You must also know your social security number. Signed parental consent is required for anyone seventeen years old. It is recommended that you eat before donating.

For further information please call Chris at 756-6414.

IN 1994 YOU VOTED OUT THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD REPUBLICANS BECAUSE THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN TO YOU.

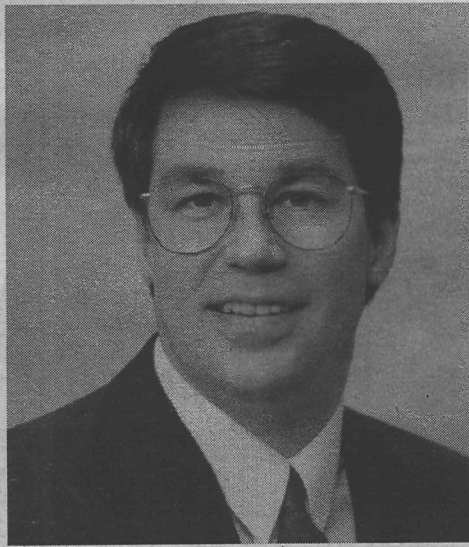
HERE'S WHAT YOU GOT IN RETURN...

- ★ Borough expenses are lower today than in 1994!
- ★ Borough debt has been reduced by \$4.1 Million!
- ★ 32 Roads have been repaved on a "Pay As You Go" basis!
- ★ **You** get to say how your Tax Dollars are spent on "Democracy Day"!

**Vinnie
Buttiglieri**



&



**Ray
Petronko**

We Hear You!

Why Do Dogwoods Turn Red Early?

By Emile DeVito, S.P.
Environmental Commission

Brightly colored advertisements, over and above the usual Realtors' placards, now hang in the woods in every fragment of wild habitat left in northern Middlesex county. The first clue that fall was on the way came in late-August, when leaves on black gum trees began to turn scarlet and the goldenrods along wood edges burst into a yellow flame.

These early reds and yellows remind me to scan the treetops for molting Scarlet Tanagers, also a patchwork of red and yellow, on their journey back to the Amazon basin.

By the equinox, a parade of red and yellow leaves and fruits can be seen glittering among the lengthening shadows of autumn. Virginia creeper, black gum, poison ivy, staghorn sumac, dogwood, grapes — all plants with ripe and ripening fruits whose seeds are transported in the gut of a fruit-eating migratory bird—display dazzling colors against the green backdrop of other forest trees which have yet to resorb their green pigment.

This display of colors in late summer and early fall, which coincides with influxes of large numbers of migratory songbirds, is not a coincidence! Virtually every plant with bird-dispersed fruits advertises its ripening stock in some way. Many

plants, like spicebush, simply produce brightly colored fruits and do not sacrifice photosynthesis by turning color early. Some plants, like sassafras and pokeweed, produce bright red hues in stems, which hold black fruits, and no signal stands out better than black on red.

But some plants go the extra mile, trading photosynthesis in many of their leaves long before the autumn chill forces the issue, augmenting the advertisement of their fruit. If you scan the countryside on the first day of fall, you'll find about a dozen species with colorful leaves, with red maple being the only species in the bunch without berries.

Dozens of plant species produce brightly colored leaves later in the autumn, when the air is chilled and most fruit-eating birds are long gone. But none of the late color-changers produce bird-dispersed fruits. For example, maples and ashes have wind dispersed seeds, and the fruits of persimmon are eaten by mostly colorblind mammals. But of all the plants with colorful leaves in the fall, only fifteen species, all with berries for birds (except red maple) turn color early!

The only explanation is the powerful selective force of the process of natural selection. Over the millennia, hungry migratory songbirds selected fruits from plants that accidentally

hung a colorful "on sale" sign in the store window (branches). This accident of early color change, which causes a loss in essential photosynthesis, improved the reproductive success of the seeds. Birds learned to find the fruits by looking for color, and the seeds, which are not harmed by a fruit-eating bird, were the recipients of a free ride to a good place for germination and growth, away from the shade of the parent.

In order to fully appreciate this bird / fruit / plant color spectacle, take a stroll along the forest paths at Sandy Hook while it's still early autumn. Just about every woody tree, shrub, or vine on Sandy Hook arrived there in the dropping of a migratory bird: junipers with bright blue berry-like cones, black cherry, poison ivy and grape vines, loaded with food and advertising with red, orange, and yellow leaves, scarlet Virginia creeper vines and black gum trees with purple berries, and orange sassafras with red stems and purple-black drupes. Even the American hollies, whose bright red berries don't ripen until Thanksgiving, were planted by robins and mockingbirds that winter "down the shore."

Thievens Join Weichert Realtors

James M. Weichert, president, has announced that the husband and wife team of Paul and Maryhelen Thievon has joined the Warren Office of Weichert Realtors and Associates.

Lifelong residents of South Plainfield, the Thievens were associated with another local real estate company, where they consistently won awards for their listing, sales and production achievements.

"The professionalism of manager Maryann Golding, the office's market share, and the company's advanced technology, extensive support staff and good reputation were all factors in our decision to join Weichert," said Maryhelen Thievon upon joining Weichert.

Maryhelen Thievon brings ten years of experience, including three as a broker to Weichert. A member of the Somerset and Middlesex County Boards of Realtors, Thievon is also a member of the Garden State Multiple Listing Service (MLS). Her accomplishments include membership in the New Jersey State Million Dollar Club for each of the past three years, including at the silver level in 1996. She won three consecutive annual top associate awards at her previous company.

Paul Thievon owned a commercial painting business for 32 years before joining his wife in real estate sales. He specializes in buyer representation, calling upon his construction experience to assist first-time and trade-up buyers, and those interested in new construction. He is a member of the Middlesex County Board of Realtors. Joining her parents will be Elizabeth Thievon, the youngest of the couple's four children. For real estate transactions, call Maryhelen and Paul Thievon at Weichert's Warren office, (908) 757-7780, located at 61B Mountain Boulevard or evenings 756-9197.

INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

By Briggs Longbothum
and Eric Tillman



Okay, here we go again. For this issue, we've kicked some butt and taken names. All for you of course! Last issue reminded you that the holiday shopping season is upon us and you need to shop wisely. Plenty of good deals abound, but where are they? Well, since you'll need a computer and an internet connection anyway, let's consider my advice: Buy locally! Should you need warranty service, no point in having to drive too far or worse, sending your machine out to wherever. Believe me, support your local technology vendor and they'll support you. Service turn around is much faster too when you deliver and pick-up yourself locally. So...

TIP: BESTA INT'L, 1941 Oak Tree Rd. Suite 3E (2 d bldg. After the Sunnyside Deli), Edison (908)906-1533. Be sure to speak with Andrew, he's the owner, and mention me, Briggs. He expects to hear from many South Plainfielders since we're so close. For software, printers, and add-on accessories you do have to go elsewhere, but for the actual computer itself, you can have it custom built and configured specifically for you, warranted and serviced overnight, and supported locally for, by far, the best price. Don't pass up this deal!

Tip: EARTHLINK NETWORK for your internet access (ISP). 1-800 395-8425. Be sure to mention my network account name ("Bruggo") as a reference because that will help us later on if we go ahead and put our own site on the net. "Power in numbers" so to speak. Also, you'll get consistently the fastest connections day or night via a local (no toll) dial-up. And that's a good thing! They'll give you Netscape, but you can download any other browser (web viewer) or upgrade you want. Further, they don't cut you off in mid-session like some other ISPs. I did mention other internet service providers last week, but Earthlink is out to help us so they get my vote. BESTA's on our side too, so its worth our while to shop these sources.

TIP: (Here's my best ever tip too, by the way!) Pick up the phone and call Russ Walter at 1-617 666-2666 anytime at all, 24hrs, (do it right now) and order the latest edition of his *Secret Guide to Computers*. This is a necessary work to have. It costs \$15.00 and besides being super easy to read even for kids, it covers absolutely everything about everything! And, get this, this guy honestly and truly will be at your service to help you with whatever kind of question or problem you may have, 24hrs a day!! I know, I've spoken to him in the wee hours too. Russ bills himself as a "computer mission-

ary" and that is a perfect description of him.

I have to mention here that someone had inquired about "how to run the 'scandisk' and 'defrag' programs. This is a real good question for a few reasons: 1) It reminds us that even though this is a very basic windows housekeeping routine, there are people who do not know about it and they aren't too bashful to ask for help. This is good because that's how we can help you. Ask the questions! 2) It also suggests that there are plenty of machines out there that could use a "tune-up" pronto! 3) It proves that most of us are in the same boat in that "nobody reads the manual!" You don't have stay after school for not doing your homework here, but the manual that came with your machine is a good item to know about. There it tells you about maintaining your computer. Need a rule of thumb: 1) Run 'Scandisk' at least weekly and whenever you reset or turn-off Windows95 without going through the whole shutdown routine. DOS and Win3.1 users, weekly is fine. 2) Run 'Defrag' at least monthly. To run: In Windows95, click on the start button, programs, accessories, systems tools, then first run scandisk followed by 'defrag.' These programs come with windows and DOS 6.2. Other very helpful hints are there also, so do locate the manual and be sure you're doing what it says to do.

In fact, to learn just about anything anymore, you can find courses on any subject or topic right on the internet. Cooking, engineering, medicine, language, trade school classroom work, even how to write programs and applications for your computer are taught on the net. Also there are many night school courses in computer subjects available here in town. Check with the Adult Education office 754-4620. Education/training sources are everywhere.

Here's another tremendous resource, pick up a copy of *PC NOVICE "Smart Computing"* magazine and the *PC NOVICE "Guide To"* series from any well stocked magazine rack. I do this every month because I think their articles are well written and helpful. There's actually a series of very successful and excellent books available called the "For Dummies" books. They're like the old 'Cliffs Notes', but about computer subjects and beyond.

So far, we've got some great, local, low cost sources for the computers we need, the internet connection we'll need, and for help in getting it (us) to work! Let's take stock of our own situations and get up to date so we can move ahead with a project. Remember to get in touch with us so we know you're with us.



Weichert Realtors

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PBA Meets Democratic Candidates

PBA Local 100 met with the Democratic Candidates for Council Vinny Buttiglieri and Ray Petronko, at the VFW Hall. The meeting kicked off with an introduction by the candidates and their agendas for the fall election.

PBA member Tom Malecki asked prepared questions submitted by the group as a whole, then the candidates responded to questions from individuals. Some of the issues addressed were the leaking roof of the PAL building and the repairs needed to resolve the problem. Buttiglieri assured the PBA members that the repairs would be done and that the Council was looking for the most cost effective means to do them.

The issue of the difficulties with the PBA's group health insurance and prescriptions was raised a number of times. A meeting was scheduled for the following day to specifically address these issues.

When questioned about Democracy Day, both candidates said that they would support it. Mr. Petronko welcomed it as a way for the constituency to directly express their opinions on spending proposals and issues affecting South Plainfield.

Downtown revitalization efforts were discussed and the candidates assured the group that the renovations would be done at no cost to the Borough. The project will be funded in whole through grants. Both candidates were in agreement that this project would provide a needed boost to the town's image.

Atlantic City Trip Planned for Nov. 9

The South Plainfield Recreation Dept. is planning a trip to Resorts Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City Sunday, Nov. 9. The bus leaves the PAL Building at 10:30 a.m. and returns approximately 8:30 p.m.

The cost of the trip is \$13 and you will receive a coin voucher for \$13 and a food voucher for \$3 from the casino. For information call 226-7713.

Silent Witness Exhibit Planned

In an effort to raise public consciousness during "National Domestic Violence Awareness Month," the Middlesex County Coalition of Domestic Violence Response Teams in cooperation with the Department of Sexual Assault Services and Crime Victim Assistance, Rutgers University are sponsoring a *Silent Witness Exhibit*. The exhibit consists of 22 life-sized silhouettes, each representing a domestic violence murder victim from 21 New Jersey counties, and a single silhouette in memory of all other New Jersey victims who have been slain through an act of domestic violence. The story of each woman is written on the

Borough's Economy Top Priority for Republican Candidates

With Election Day quickly approaching, Republican Council candidates Frank Hanley and Daniel Kenny continue to deliver their message to the residents of the Borough.

"We want the people to know who we are, and why we are out here," said Kenny. "As homeowners and parents, we have a lot invested in South Plainfield and we need to protect it," Kenny added.

"A top priority of ours is to address the Borough's economy. Property values declined steeply this year, and taxes increased for the third straight year. Let's stop passing blame and develop a solid plan to attract new business and keep it here," said Hanley. There are a number of empty commercial buildings that we would like to see filled. This will generate the revenue necessary to allow us to stabilize taxes and restore property values," Kenny added.

"The Democratic candidates sound like a broken record," continued Hanley. "Buttiglieri goes on and on about the roads that were paved, and Petronko goes on and on about what a great job Buttiglieri has done. From what the residents are telling me, road paving is not the people's number one priority."

"It's 'political paving' time in town," quipped Kenny. "All paving seems to have started just before the election. Why didn't they do this during the summer when

there is less traffic? Does the Democratic Council think the residents are blind to what they're up to?"

"When are the Democratic candidates going to address the real problems in the Borough?" asked Kenny. "They are hiding behind their party because as individuals they have little or nothing to offer. They have not presented one single new idea."

"If you look through all of the smoke the Democratic Council is blowing, you see that they really have accomplished nothing. They bungled labor negotiations with the PBA and health coverage for the Borough employees creating a dismal work atmosphere in Borough Hall," said Hanley.

"They continue to ignore the many Senior Citizen issues. They have done nothing to address the flooding problem on New Market Avenue. The parks continue to deteriorate. What about the Helen Street extension to reduce truck traffic? It was supposed to have been completed this year. It hasn't even been started," Kenny added.

Both Hanley and Kenny are looking forward to the upcoming debate on Thursday Oct. 16. They are prepared to bring their major issues and plans to the people.

Goal of Taxpayers Advisory Group Explained

By Karen Blackford

The South Plainfield Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) is a nonpartisan committee which was established by the governing body of the Borough of South Plainfield. The role of TAG is to contribute ideas and suggestions to the Mayor and Council that might benefit the community of South Plainfield.

TAG's mission statement, in brief, is as follows: To identify and act on issues which impact the integrity of service to the community with a general emphasis on quality of life and budget control. The ultimate goal is to represent a cross section of the taxpayers of South Plainfield at all levels.

The most integral philosophy of TAG is that its base are discussions, analyses and suggestions to the Mayor and Council are all based on fact. Tag sup-

ports the belief that there is always room for change and improvement, but only when necessary and only when it benefits South Plainfield.

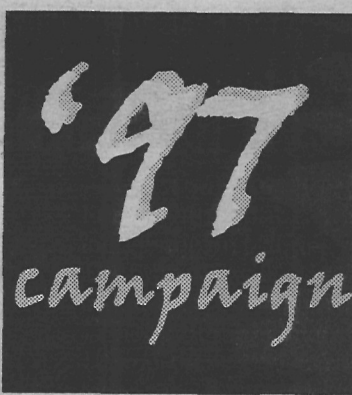
A few previous items addressed were the Asarco site, the Environmental Preserve, Compactor/Recycling programs and healthcare benefits for the Borough's employees. Our current focus will be on the Borough's pool facility and the Downtown Revitalization. We also plan to have representation at each meeting which will include discussion the Borough's current fiscal year budget.

TAG meets publicly at 7:00 on the first Thursday of every month in Borough Hall. Residents are encouraged to attend our meetings to express thoughts or ideas that they may want to present to TAG. If you are unable to attend, please address your suggestions to our mailbox in Borough Hall.

South Plainfield has grown significantly over the years and TAG's intent is to aid its future growth with hard work, diligence and with the best interests of all residents in mind.

Rescue Squad Plans Fashion Show

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad Ladies Auxiliary is planning a fashion show for Sun., Oct. 26, 12:00 at the Polish National Home, New Market Ave. The donation is \$25 and includes a buffet brunch. Prizes include holiday baskets, door prizes, raffles for a set of luggage, VCR, and 50/50's. For information call Dolly at 754-8275.



Democrats Explain Their Campaign Slogan "We Hear You"

Democratic Council candidates Vinnie Buttiglieri and Ray Petronko explained how their campaign slogan, "We Hear You",

was chosen for this year's campaign. "We wanted a campaign slogan that said something about the Democratic Party in South Plainfield," Vinnie Buttiglieri said. "When I was first elected in 1994, the new Democratic Party was in the first stages of fulfilling its commitment to really hear the people. That year, the Taxpayers Advisory Group and the Businessperson's Advisory Group were formed to review every action of the Mayor and Council before they were put into effect. As a result of the hard work of those two organizations, we now have the historical railroad car, the center of town renovations are underway, the compactor facility is running efficiently at one half the cost, we have a Paint Recycling program, and hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings have been identified in the municipal budget."

Ray Petronko expanded on his running mates comments saying,

"Vinnie Buttiglieri's single most impressive accomplishment is 'Democracy Day.' When he ran along with Mayor Gallagher, they guaranteed that every year the taxpayers would be guaranteed a voice on how their tax dollars are spent. Democracy Day has been a tremendous success. Just look at Hadley Road, three years ago it had moon sized craters. Now it is a safe, totally rebuilt roadway. That happened because the residents supported it on Democracy Day."

Vinnie Buttiglieri continued, "I still don't know why the local Republican's oppose Democracy Day. I am a firm believer that the process of government only becomes stronger when you listen to the people. Democracy Day along with the Taxpayers Advisory Group and the Businessperson's Advisory Group guarantee that in South Plainfield, your voice will be heard."

Ray Petronko summed up the Democratic Position, "If Vinnie Buttiglieri and Ray Petronko are elected to the Borough Council there will be a Democracy Day because you have a right to be heard and We Hear You!"

Century 21 Announces Merger

Mary Ann Lieswski, Broker of Century 21 Performance Realty of Iselin, has announced she has merged her office with Century 21 Moretti Realty of South Plainfield for expansion purposes and has been named manager for the company. Ms. Lisewski has been recognized within an elite network of international relocation companies, her peer recognition also include past officers of both Middlesex Multiple Listing Service, the Century 21 Brokers Council of North East and over 25 years of experience in residential, commercial and investment real estate. "With combined sales for 1996 in excess of 45 million dollars, 41 sales asso-

ciates, and aggressive plans for grown, we can now offer products and services to our customers not available before," said Mary Ann Lisewski Broker Manager of Century 21 Moretti Realty. "I am truly excited to have an opportunity to work side by side with such a talented individual," said Guy Moretti Broker of Century 21 Moretti Realty. "Our mutual goal is combine the talents and resources of Century 21 Moretti Realty and Century 21 Performance Realty, two successful marketing leaders in their own right, and create one super company focused on growth and quality service," according to Guy Moretti.

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What's New and Happening in Our Schools?

Stefanie Waingraw Reports...

Notes from the Middle School



Hello, my name is Stefanie Waingraw. I am pleased to be the first of four student reporters who will be writing columns for the *South Plainfield Observer* together with three other eighth graders, Tammy Dombrowski, Shannon Dabrio, and Khristina Theobald. I will be reporting the news from the Middle School this year. Oct. and Feb. are the months when I will be the school's reporter. Tammy will be writing the columns in Nov. and March; Shannon will be submitting them in

Dec. and April; and Khristina will be preparing them in Jan. and May. We hope that you find this new feature interesting and informative. We want to thank the editor of the *Observer* for the opportunity.

The normal day for a South Plainfield Middle School student involves ten Periods and the usual academic subjects such as math and science. But academic subjects are not the only things the Middle School has to offer the students. Among the different activities are the school newspaper, library assistants, and the R.A.R.E.: S.P.E.A.C.H. organization. We also have team sports such as field hockey, wrestling, and basketball. The Middle School provides students with computer labs that are used during and after school.

Student Council Elections

As does any other organized group, we have a "government." We prefer to call it our student council. Recently we held our

elections. The new officers include the following: Billie Jean Sarullo, president; Chris Cornish, vice president; Amanda George, secretary; and Katie Lawrence, treasurer. Billie Jean and Chris are eighth graders. Amanda and Katie are seventh graders.

"Overview of Multi-Cultural Activities"

The South Plainfield Middle School is having its "First Annual Overview of Multi-Cultural Activities." Teachers will be presenting different cultural activities within their classrooms for all parents, adult friends of Middle School students, and faculty who wish to attend. It will take place on Thursday, Oct. 16, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Faculty members taking part include the following: Marjorie Kopacsi, Barbara Florio, Susan Slinger, Jackie Trusewicz, Betsey Sampson, Melissa Creagh, Maria LaSalvia, Kathy Wilson, Diane Scarpulla, Joanne Haus, Pat Higgins, Alan Van Zantwyk, Doris Younken, and Diane Kardos.

The brainchild of language arts teacher Maria LaSalvia, the "Overview" is being coordinated by Assistant Principal Phyllis Savage.

That same evening there will be a silent auction. Tickets for the auction are ten for \$2.00. All proceeds go to the R.A.R.E. S.P.E.A.C.H. organization.

Halloween Dance

The annual Halloween Dance sponsored by the student council will be held on Oct. 30, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the school gymnasium. Costumes are strongly encouraged but not required.



Members of the South Plainfield Student Council are left to right: Treasurer, Katie Lawrence, grade 7; Secretary, Amanada George, grade 7; Vice President, Chris Cornish, grade 8; President, Billie Jean Sarullo, grade 8 and Principal, Robert Dogett.

News from Roosevelt School

By Mario C. Barbieri
Principal Roosevelt

This year we at Roosevelt School would like to focus on reading programs and environmental education. For the reading goal, we are planning a creative reading program which will be held in the winter during the Olympics. This will be the only clue given about it until December.

The other goal that we will work on is environmental education. We have monthly meetings scheduled which are part of our "PAL" program — Protectors of Air, Land, and Sea. Each month we will meet to discuss environmental issues. We will also adopt an endangered species from the air, land, and sea.

We have discussed the over-harvesting of the horseshoe crab in the Delaware River. The horseshoe crab's eggs provide nourishment for migratory birds flying from South America. Because the Red Knot is one of those dependent on horseshoe crab eggs.

In conjunction with our program, we are planning several school activities in the spring. Mrs. Perez has several songs related to the environment and we will have a special program similar to our multi-cultural program. Mrs. Miele and her daughter Sarah are planning a special activity at the Highland Ave. site which will be fun, perhaps a tour, a dig, or something special that the children will enjoy. As you

can see, we have big plans for the entire school year.

Upcoming Events

World Series of Reading—October is baseball month with the highlight of the month being the World Series. Students can participate in the "World Series" by reading books to score a run for the team of their choice.

Children read a book which will count as a run for a team of their choice. Children can read books for any one of the four teams. From Oct. 14 to 21, students can read for the World Series Championship. The winner will be announced on Oct. 22.

Magic & Monster Program—Children in grades K-5 will see a special Magic program on Mon. Oct. 27 at 9:30 a.m. Parents are welcome to attend.

Tennis Club—This is a new club open to children grades 3-5.

Halloween Parade and Parties Oct. 31—The parade will start at 1:15 p.m. and the parties will follow.

For further information, please call the Roosevelt School at 754-4620.

By LeeAnn Errico, South Plainfield High School

The Best of the Best

Emerson College Journalism Contest Winners

Last summer Desha Abe, a senior, learned that she won first place for her feature article "What Are We Going to Do Now?" The article was originally printed last year in the *Tiger Times*. The article was the first feature that Desha had written for the newspaper. "What Are We Going to Do Now?" was about a fifteen year old friend of Desha, who learned that she was pregnant. Desha competed with over 240 students from twenty different countries and thirty different states.

"I was in shock," Desha responded, "I am glad to see someone else likes my writing besides myself," she commented with a smile.

Desha plans on majoring in journalism next year at either Emerson or New York University, her top two choices for college.

"I write down all the ideas that run through my head, and that's how I get ideas for the articles I write," she stated.

Former Jessica A. Stillman, Editor-In-Chief for the *Tiger Times* during the 1996-1997 school year, received a honorable mention for her feature article. "Now I am Only Half," was about how drugs not only affect the people doing the drugs, but also the people around them.

Melinda Robbins, Ph.D., a former newspaper reporter and editor, judged the feature category for the Emerson contest.

South Plainfield Gets Graded

New Jersey High Schools Are Ranked

South Plainfield High School is ranked twenty-fifth among the 38 New Jersey schools rated in the *Star Ledger*.

South Plainfield is rated in Group FG. Schools in Group FG have a median family income of \$51,924. They also have an average school tax of \$1,716 and a 20.5% rate of students that attend a four-year colleges.

Principal Mr. Massaro, was pleased with the school ranking. "This New Jersey High School grading system tells us we are doing more than other schools, even though our students don't have the highest attendance."

South Plainfield ranked average or above average in all categories except attendance. Mr. Massaro continued, "There is always room for improvement, and the next level of improvement will come from fine-tuning and not wholesale changes."

According to the *Star Ledger*, the school's average instruction time is 352 minutes a day, and the percentage of students that pass the HSPT test the first time is 85.4%. Average teacher attendance is 95.25%, and the average student attendance is 90.75%.

The South Plainfield Board of Education is considering adopting a new attendance policy starting Sept. of next year which will allow students to be absent only sixteen days per year, excused or unexcused. The Board was pleased with the ranking.

"I wouldn't trade our student body for anything. You won't be able to go to any other school where students have so much pride," Mr. Massaro continued. "We've got the best kids I've ever seen," he said with an enthusiastic grin.

Pancake Breakfast To Be Held at Franklin School

Franklin School's Family Fall Harvest Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the school cafeteria. Pancakes, sausage, cereal, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and juice will be served. Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors, and \$2 for children thirteen and under. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the school or at the door the morning of the breakfast. Anyone who would like to help serve at the breakfast can contact Denise Humber or Kelly Bostick at the school.

Other Activities

Activities are in full swing here at Franklin School. After school clubs began this month. On Oct.

8, the Science Club held its first meeting and the Computer Club started on Oct. 15 for fourth and fifth graders. A roller skating party is planned for Oct. 17 to help raise money for the fifth grade class trip to Stokes State Forest. The annual pumpkin sale is being held on Oct. 16 and 17, to be followed by the pancake breakfast on October 18. A pumpkin design contest is scheduled for Oct. 29.

Red Ribbon week begins on Oct. 29. During that week all the children pledge to stay drug free. Oct. 31 the Halloween Parade and parties will be held. Also, all parents are invited to attend the next PTA meeting scheduled for Nov. 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the school library.

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What's New and Happening in Our Schools?

Parent Forums Helping Students Prepare for College

By LeeAnn Errico,
South Plainfield High School

The South Plainfield High School Guidance Department and the South Plainfield Parent Teacher Association are holding a series of four discussion programs on informative topics related to college planning.

On Oct. 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the SPHS Information Center, Mr. John Scott, Director of Admission at Rutgers, Newark, will be speaking on topics pertaining to college planning. The topics will be "Preparing for and Choosing a College," "The ABC's of College Preparation," and "Selections With a Focus on Making Good Decisions."

On Nov. 18, Ms. Patricia C. Grove, Director of Cook/Douglas Learning Resources, will be leading a forum in the SPHS Information Center dealing with college planning. The topics she

will be discussing are "So You're the Parent of a First-Year Student: Fear Not, This Too Shall Pass" and "The ABC's of Self-Management."

The South Plainfield High School Guidance Department and the PTA are very enthusiastic about the new forums. "We are trying to encourage the participation of parents who might feel the need to learn about the transition that their children will need to make. These forums are informative opportunities for parents to learn some of the important features that will enable them to assist their children and themselves. Information available will help them deal with these transitions," said Mr. Neil Torino, guidance counselor.

Additional forums will be held in Dec. and Jan. They will focus on other topics to help parents aid their children in college planning and preparation.



Mr. Anthony Massaro, South Plainfield High School Principal, congratulates senior Jennifer Mesniak, for being selected as a commended student in the 1998 National Merit Scholarship Program. About 35,000 commended students throughout the nation are being honored for their exceptional academic promise. Jennifer placed among the top five percent of more than a million students who entered the 1998 Merit Program by taking the 1996 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

German-American Day Celebrated at the Middle School

By Phyllis Savage,
South Plainfield Middle School

Oct. 6, was a special day in South Plainfield. The Borough Council proclaimed that date German-American Day. For the third year the South Plainfield Middle School staff and R.A.R.E.: S.P.E.A.C.H. Student Organization have fulfilled their commitment to honor the contributions of German-Americans on that day.

Upon entering the building on the morning of Oct. 6, the German National Anthem "Deutschlandlied" could be heard. An announcement by Danielle Larisch about the proclamation and the school activities honoring the heritage followed. The main office display case boasted a magnificent display of German articles donated by the community and staff. Among these were the lederhosen worn by seventh grade English teacher Mrs. Sausville's son fifteen years ago; two German steins, one from the Hoffbrau House in Munich, Germany and another which depicts famous landmarks of

Munich, Germany, both are owned by special education teacher Ms. Boyle; pictures taken by health teacher Ms. Slinger of the Wall actually being hammered away by people and the Oktoberfest; prints by German expressionist artists Franz Marc, Edward Munch, Wasseley Kandensky, and Kathe Kolivitz contributed by art teacher Diane Kardos; a decorative vest and socks purchased in Salzburg, Austria by secretary Kathleen Bisci for her grandson; and a listing of English words which have German roots. A German-American Day banner, flag, and map of Germany prepared by Mr. Hanlon and Mrs. Fiorillo named the display.

Celebrations also took place in some of the classrooms. The aroma of the German pancakes prepared by Mrs. Lepore and her foods students' filled the seventh grade wing. In Mrs. Villani's sewing classes, the students studied the design, fabric, and stitching of the outfit worn by Patrick Mann, a former student when he was three years old. The seventh grade geography classes viewed a video entitled "Romantic Germany" which celebrated the living history, colorful pageants, open markets and breathtaking beauty of Germany. The sixth grade social studies department also studied the geography of Germany. The eighth grade history students discussed aspects of the immigration of the Germans to the United States.

The middle school staff is to be commended for lending their expertise to the expansion of the German-American Day Celebration. Also, please join the South Plainfield Middle School teachers for the First Annual Overview of MultiCultural Activities from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, 1997. Door prizes and a Silent Auction are the extras.

Franklin School Hosts Grandparents Day

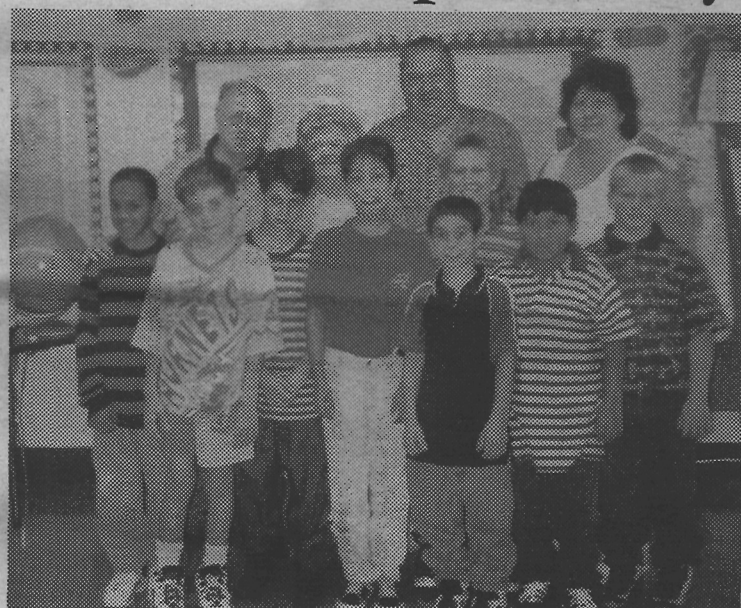
In honor of Grandparent's day, children in Mrs. Stemmle's and Mrs. D'Amico's class at Franklin School invited their grandparents to visit the group. Those who could not attend sent letters to their grandchildren which were shared with the class.

The guests described their elementary school experiences as compared with that of today's youngsters. Al Forsythe, having attended parochial school in Jersey City, recalled sitting at a desk with an arm for writing. There were no school buses in the city, and children walked to and from school, including going home for lunch. In gym class children marched like soldiers.

Thomas Moran remembered writing the times tables ten times each night while attending parochial school in Bayonne. Safety patrol boys wore white belts and were actually crossing guards.

No music, library, or changing of classes were some of Catherine DeRiggis Newark elementary school memories. Computers were unknown at that time. To graduate from eighth grade girls had to make their own dresses.

Other adults present at the



gathering related some of their experiences in "the old days". Miss Erickson told of desks bolted to the floor at her Staten Island school. Mrs. Forsythe surprised the children when she said that sports were for boys, and girls could only do extra curricular activities such as playing a musical instrument.

Another experience shared by post World War II adults was air raid drills. Silence in class was always expected, as was walking in straight lines at all times.

AT&T Learning Points Program

By William Beegle
Assistant Principal, Middle School

The Middle School has been enrolled in the AT&T Learning Points Program since Oct. of last year. For every household/customer who registers as a South Plainfield Middle School supporter, the school earns five learning points for every dollar spent on AT&T residential telephone Service calls. It also receives 500 bonus learning points for every new customer account. These learning points can be redeemed for computer software, equipment and services.

The Middle School has accrued more than 190,000 learning points and has 95 customers directing learning points to the school. Free software has been ordered and will be arriv-

ing soon. The software will enrich the curriculum in the areas of writing, social studies, science, math and art, and will be used by the art department and the computer labs.

You can help the Middle School obtain computer technology software and equipment by registering for the AT&T Learning Points Program. There is no cost to you. Simply by calling 1-800-354-8800 and providing AT&T with the Middle School account number 00900861, the school can earn valuable learning points. The goal is to register 200 new customers during the 1997/98 school year.

If you need more information, please call William Beegle, Assistant Principal, at 754-4620, ext. 310.

School Calendar

October

- 16 HSPT: Make-Up Grade
- 11 Preschool: Book Fair
Franklin/Kennedy:
Pumpkin Sale
Riley: School Store
- 17 Preschool: Book Fair
Franklin/Kennedy:
Pumpkin Sale
- 18 Franklin: Pancake Breakfast
- 20 Riley: Cultural Art
Assembly
- 21 BOD: Regular Meeting
- 22 Kennedy: School Store
Riley: Literature Program
- 23 Kennedy: Spaghetti Day
- 24 Riley: Pumpkin Sale
- 25 Roosevelt: Halloween
Pumpkin Patch
- 26 High School: Marching
Band Festival
- 27 Future Stars: School
Pictures
- 30 SEPA: Deadline
Tournament of Cham-
pion Registration
Middle School:
Halloween Dance
- 31 Frank/Kennedy/Riley/
Roosevelt: Halloween
Parade

NJ Nets Trip Planned for Nov. 7

The Recreation Commisioin is planning a trip to the Meadowlands to see the NJ Nets play the Miami Heat on Nov. 7.

The Bus will leave the PAL building at 6:00 p.m. and the game starts at 7:30 p.m.

The cost for adults is \$34, children under sixteen, \$24 and non-residents, \$44. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The price includes tickets to the game and deluxe motorcoach transportation.

Seating is limited. To register visit the Recreation Office in the PAL building. For more information call 226-7713.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

As we enter the latter half of October here is the news from the South Plainfield library.

Things are still moving along as far as the renovations are concerned. The long, long, long-awaited computers will soon be installed. Meanwhile, the library is still on "renovation hours" and will remain so until further notice.

Some parts of the library remain off-limits to patrons, most notably the rest rooms and the circulation area. Stay clear of them until they're all finished.

Storytime programs will also stay on the modified schedule. The programs for children ages 3-6 are held on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the library and Thursdays at 1:30 p.m., at the Rescue Squad. The program for children ages 18 months-3 years is held on Thursday sat 11 a.m. at the Rescue Squad. For more information, contact children's Librarian Judy Ellsworth.

A last-minute notice: The Friends of the Library are hosting a pumpkin painting program. The program will be held on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. It's for children ages 5-10 and there a \$1 participation fee. Space is limited so register now. The deadline is today!

Circuit collections: the new group from the audio cassette circuit is in and will be available for check out in a few days. The large print circuit is back on the shelf. However the compact disc circuit is unavailable.

In response to some concerns voiced by our patrons, here's a tip: Wednesday is Court Day, so parking spaces are difficult to find, even for the library staff. If you plan to visit the library Wednesday, try stopping in from 3-6 p.m. between the days court sessions. You're more likely to find space at that time. The word is that more parking spaces are on the way.

That's all for this time. Let us know if you've got any questions. Catch you on the 30th.

Community Help is Sought For Teen Night Program

By Jaye Joyce

Young People. They are our future. What are we doing as a community to ensure they grow up safe, happy, and well rounded? Well, we have recreational programs for the young, and high school sports for gifted teens. We have schools for learning, and we have various religious groups to help spiritually. One area has traditionally been lacking — that is social programming for teens. . . those awkward years between childhood and driver's license.

Three years ago the South Plainfield Recreation Department and Alliance for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse banded together to form Teen Night. Over the years they've improved, but we need to improve more. We need more to attract more teens. We are officially requesting the help of residents and our local business community.

We are looking for, a large screen TV (27" or more, cable ready), a couch and some comfy chairs, volunteers to check I.D.s as teens walk in the door, DJ services, spotlights and prizes we can give away (compact discs of today's popular artists are very popular).

The Teen Night program has already received a sizable cash donation from H.K. Trucking, and received compact discs from Sam Goody. We want to thank both of these companies heartily for the commitment they are making to our Borough youth.

If you or your company is looking for a great way to help out the community, we invite you to give some thought to investing in Teen Night... and this town's future!

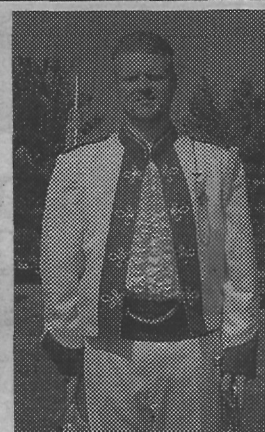
For information please contact Jaye Joyce at the Recreation Office, 908-226-7713.



band marching on field in Matawan



Drum majors: Jose Pineda & John Drangula; soloists: Adrienne & John; Student Director of Marching: Roger Vroom; Color guard: Jennifer Ward & Erica McGrath.



Drum Major and trumpet soloist John Drangula



Melophone soloist Adrienne Christatos



Band Director Mark Tweed

Photos by
Ronald A.
Hepburn

Tiger Band Competes

The South Plainfield High School Tiger Marching Band, competing in Group 3, took first place at the Bayshore Band Competition at Matawan Regional High School in Aberdeen, NJ on October 5 and second

place at the Triton Marching Band competition in Runnemede, NJ on Saturday, September 27, 1997. Under the direction of Drum Majors Jose Pineda and John Drangula, the band performed pieces from

"Conan the Barbarian" and "Carmina Burana" featuring trumpet soloist John Drangula and baritone soloist Adrienne Christatos., and "Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves". The Tigers perform at all football games..

Tips for Halloween Walkers

By PO John Alles
Crime Prevention Unit

Once again as Halloween approaches we will be more likely to leave our cars behind, and use foot power as a mode of transportation. Most of us, however, don't give much thought to pedestrian safety, yet every year people out walking are struck by vehicles, sometimes with deadly consequences.

Tips for walking safely — Be sure to pay attention to vehicles around you, and that you are visible to drivers nearby. You can increase your own visibility by walking on bright sunny days, or in well lit areas when walking at night or in bad weather. Wear bright clothing, or when walking at night, wear light colored clothing with reflective tape to enable

drivers to see you better. Many people who strike pedestrians say that they did not see them until it was too late.

Face the flow of traffic — By facing traffic when you walk you keep an eye on approaching vehicles, and move out of the way of any cars that appear to present a danger to you much more easily than if your back is to approaching traffic.

Use the sidewalk — When sidewalks are present use them. Don't be lazy and walk in the roadway. If no sidewalks are available walk as far on the shoulder as possible. If you are walking with other people, and you have to walk on the shoulder of the road, walk single file when traffic is present.

At intersections — Before crossing, look all ways. Cross at the crosswalks, and stay to the right within the crosswalks. At crosswalks with traffic signals present, cross only on the proper signal *green light facing you* or when the *walk* message is lit. Watch for cars, and be sure that the way is clear before crossing. Remember that at most NJ intersections, cars can turn right on red after stopping. However, drivers in a hurry are sometimes looking only to the left for vehicles approaching the intersection, and if no cars are coming they sometimes don't look to the right for pedestrians and fail to come to a complete stop before turning right. Also watch for cars turning right or left at the intersection that have a green light facing them. These drivers may be watching out for other vehicles, and forget to look for pedestrians in the intersection. Don't take for granted that a driver sees you and will stop for you.

When a pedestrian first steps off the curb is riskier than when the pedestrian is almost across. **Cross the street at corners when possible** — Avoid crossing the street in the middle of the block when possible, and especially

avoid crossing from in between parked cars, or other objects that obstruct your vision or an approaching drivers vision.

Don't trust all turn signals — People sometimes leave their turn signals on from a previous turn.

Be alert for backup lights — Avoid walking behind cars that are backing up, or have their back up lights on. Also avoid walking behind vehicles that are giving you an audible beeping signal. Many trucks are equipped with these devices to warn people when they are backing up.

If you think a driver doesn't see you — Wave your arms to get the attention of a driver if you feel they present a possible danger to you. This motion will often make them aware of your presence if they haven't already spotted you.

Walking is great exercise. Enjoy this activity by doing it safely.

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530 Union Ave. Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846, or for more information call 469-4380.

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The Elks Tale

The South Plainfield Elks and their Ladies Auxiliary are proud to be sponsors of the upcoming Red Cross blood drive scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 29, 1997. The Bloodmobile will be in the ELKS parking lot, 1254 New Market Ave.

The ELKS Community Welfare committee is asking for food donations to aid the needy over the Thanksgiving holiday. Donations may be dropped off at the lodge 1254 New Market Avenue after 12:00 noon daily.

The South Plainfield Elks are proud to support the South Plainfield High School Class of 1998 Project Graduation with our donation of \$100.00. "Let this gift be an expression of confidence in our graduates as our future and as our leaders." All local businesses and organizations are urged to join us in supporting this drug and alcohol free celebration.

Treats, Not Tricks: Halloween Safety Tips

(Continued from page 1)

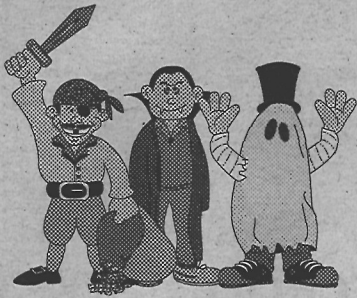
friends. Have them map out their route ahead of time so you will know where they will be. Tell them to stop only at familiar homes where lights are on, and to finish before any town imposed curfews are in effect.

Try to have your kids trick-or-treat during daylight if possible. If it is dark have someone carry a flashlight, and have your child use well lit streets.

Make sure your kids know not to enter a strangers house, or strangers car.

Alternatives to trick-or-treating. Parents and kids can avoid trick-or-treating troubles all together by organizing a Halloween costume party with treats games, contest, music, scary stories, and much more. Make your Halloween party the place to be!

Checking the treats. Kids should be told not to eat any of



their treats until they return home. Try to give your hungry children a snack or meal before they go out so they aren't so tempted to have a snack while out trick-or-treating.

Check out all of your children's treats in a well lit area before they eat it. They should only eat unopened candies and other treats that are in original wrappers. Don't forget to inspect fruit and homemade goodies for anything suspicious.

Have a safe and Happy Halloween!

-BOROUGH HALL NOTES-

(Continued from page one)

The Mayor said he would look into the matter and if the company was found to be in violation they would be summoned. The company had stated at the meeting that if they could not stop the odor, they would move. Wall said she would like to see the plant shut down today.

Residents Speak

Will Carey asked if there was an environmental issue at the construction site on Oak Tree Rd and Park Ave. He saw drums and wanted to know what was happening. The mayor said the Construction Company found some unknown substance in

plastic bags and until they could be analyzed they and the dirt around them was put in drums. OHM is at the site and samples have been sent to a lab. It seems that it is just a precaution.

Audrey Schuetz asked if the minutes could be more specific. She said that some of her recent comments spoken at Council meetings either were not in the minutes or were so vague they missed the point she tried to make.

Planning Board

The Planning Board gave preliminary and final site plan approval to Osborner Associates to erect an Eckerd Drug Store on the corner of Maple and Park Ave. with conditions.

CLASSIFIEDS

Classifieds: 3 line minimum at \$10.00 and \$2.00 per additional line. All classifieds must be prepaid. To place a classified send your check to the Observer, c/o G & G Graphics, 530 Union Ave., Ste. 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846.

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TYPESETTER—Part-time, for growing newspaper. Must know PageMaker. Call 469-4380.

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HELP WANTED

Grant Coordinator

The South Plainfield School District is seeking help from the community. In an effort to keep your taxes at a minimum, your Board of Education and administration has chosen to actively pursue the availability of grants as a means to enhance district offerings. Because the district leadership realizes and appreciates the wealth of talent that lies within our borders, we are making an appeal to the community for this specific expertise. If you have a proven track record in Grant and/or Foundation Administration, please consider donating your time and expertise for the coordination of this worthwhile effort. Interested parties are invited to contact:

Mr. Guy Ferri, Superintendent
South Plainfield Public Schools
305 Cromwell Place
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080
908.754.4620

Please reply by October 30, 1997.

Obituaries

Rosario J. "Roy" Carubia

Rosario J. "Roy" Carubia, 74, died on Saturday, Sept. 27, at Cedar Oaks Care Center in South Plainfield.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y. Mr. Carubia had resided there for many years before settling in South Plainfield four years ago.

Carubia had been employed as a photo developer for many years with McGraw-Hill Publishing in New York City, working with magazines such as *Red Book*, *Readers Digest* and *McCall's* before his retirement in the early 1980's.

He is predeceased by his two brothers, Barney and Vincent Carubia.

Surviving are a nephew, Roy V. Carubia, of South Plainfield; and his two nieces, Maria Campanella of South Plainfield and Serafina Giordano of Elizabeth.

Funeral services will be held on Sept. 30 at McCriskin Home for Funerals

May (Dominica) Carlucci

May (Dominica) Carlucci, 93, died on Monday Oct. 6 in the Arbor of Bayonet Point Nursing Home in Hudson, FL.

Born in Italy, Mrs. Carlucci came to the United States in 1909, settling in Jersey City for 55 years. She also resided in South Plainfield for seven years and Plainfield for 12 years before moving to Spring Hill, Fla. in 1991.

She was a homemaker.

Mrs. Carlucci was a former, member of the South Plainfield, Dunellen and Plainfield Senior Citizens. She was also a member of the Tri County Senior Citizens. Mrs. Carlucci was a communicant of St. Frances Cabarini Church in Spring Hill, Fla., and a former communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

Her husband, Nicholas F. Carlucci died in 1958. Her four sisters, Antoinette Carucci, Helen Griffo, Anna Giaquinto and Carmelia Bottenger, and her two brothers, Albert and John Pennipede have predeceased her.

Surviving is a daughter, Betty R. O'Melia of Springfield, Fla.; a son Philip N. Carlucci of Algonquin, Ill.; and two sisters, Mary Del Vecchio of Lyndhurst, Angelica Pennipede of Ca. Also surviving are 4 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral Services were held on Oct. 11 at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Richard H. Johansen

Richard H. Johansen, 65, died on Thursday, Oct. 2 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in Staten Island, N.Y., Mr. Johansen had resided there for 32 years before settling in South Plainfield in 1964.

Mr. Johansen was a 1950 graduate of Curtis High School in Staten Island. He continued his education at Wagner College before entering the U.S. Navy during the Korean Conflict where he was stationed in Newfoundland. He then returned to

Wagner College to finish his studies. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business from Wagner College in 1961. He had played football in various positions for both his high school and college. He was also an avid New York Giants and New York Yankees fan.

Mr. Johansen was employed as a controller for Electronic Measurements Co. of Neptune for the past seventeen years.

He was a member of the St. Francis Episcopal Church in Dunellen.

Surviving are his wife, Audrey (Ablett) Johansen; a daughter, Joyce Waskiel Tereman of Raritan; and two grandsons, Nicholas Waskiel of Dudley, MA, and Timothy Tereman of Raritan.

Funeral services were held on Oct. 5 at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the St. Francis Episcopal Church Memorial Fund, 400 New Market Road, Dunellen, NJ 08812.

Josephine V. (Richkus) Smyth

Josephine V. (Richkus) Smyth, 90, died on Wednesday, Oct. 1, in The Geneis Elder Care, The Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born in Newark, she had resided in Hillside for 60 years before moving to South Plainfield in 1969.

Mrs. Smyth was a homemaker most of her life, and was employed by Bristol Myers Company formerly of Hillside, in the maintenance department for five years.

She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield, and a past president of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Irvington.

Her husband, Edward J. Smyth, died in 1986.

Surviving are three daughters, Edith J. Bobowski of Berkley Heights; Ruth C. Lanza and Frances E. Melif, both of South Plainfield; a son Edward T. Smyth of South Plainfield; two sisters, Nellie Parnowski of Roseland, and Ann Slahor of Westfield. Also surviving are eleven grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Oct. 4 at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Eileen M. (Lavin) Kirby

Eileen M. (Lavin) Kirby, 69, died on Sunday, Sept. 28, at her home. Born in Hoboken, Mrs. Kirby had resided in West New York, N.J. before settling in South Plainfield in 1962.

She had been employed for 20 years as a part time cashier by the former Stop & Shop Supermarket in South Plainfield, before it became A&P Supermarket. She retired in 1989.

Mrs. Kirby was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

Surviving are her husband of 46 years, Eugene J. Kirby; a daughter, Barbara Dolinski of Piscataway; a sister, Anna Barrett of Sea Girt; and five brothers, Paul Lavin of Payson, Arizona, Joseph Lavin of Maywood, Francis Lavin of Bogota, Raymond Lavin of San Francisco, Cal. and Larry Lavin of Washington Twp; and four grandsons.

Funeral Services were held on Oct. 1 at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Marie Jeanne (Lariviere) Lavoie

Marie Jeanne (Lariviere) Lavoie, 85, died on Thursday, Oct. 9 at John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Iberville, Province of Quebec Canada, Mrs. Lavoie had resided in Springfield, Mass. and North Plainfield, before settling in South Plainfield in 1958.

Mrs. Lavoie was a homemaker for 56 years. She is a former member of

Plainfield Moose Club, and she was communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

Surviving are her husband of 56 years, Gerald Lavoie, her three daughters, Michelle of South Plainfield, Marielle Ambis of North Plainfield, Sandra Perrine of Easton, Pa.; her son, Peter of Middlesex; and her brothers, Lucien and Fernand Laviere both of Iberville, Province of Quebec Canada. Also surviving are her five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Oct. 13 at the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Donation in her memory may be made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad 2506 Plainfield, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

REMINDER: Flu Shots Available

The South Plainfield Health Department will be conducting the 1997 Flu Shot Program on Thursday, October 23, at the P.A.L. Building on Maple Avenue between 10 a.m.-noon. This program is available to senior citizens and people with chronic disorders such as anemia, heart, circulatory or kidney diseases, pulmonary disorders, diabetes, cancer, etc.

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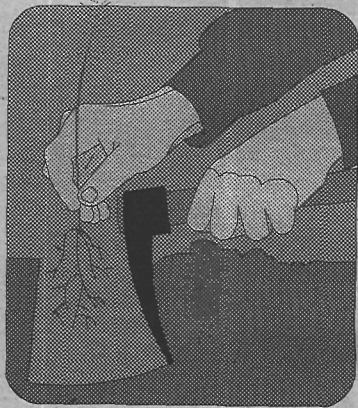
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Environmental Commission Encourages Tree Planting

For the past few weeks, the South Plainfield Environmental Commission has been distributing information to South Plainfield residents, encouraging them to



plant trees.

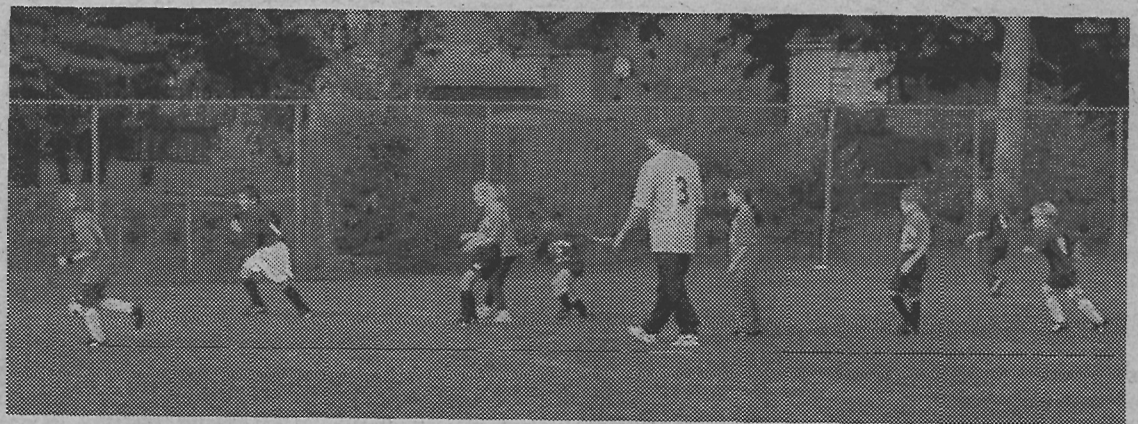
Seven hundred flyers, printed by the High School print shop are being distributed to those homes whose front lawns could be improved by the addition of trees. Commission members and other volunteers, including George Coyne, Stephanie Ramos, Tina

Friday, Chris Gati, Keith Slicner and Sheri Agens, have been surveying the Borough for treeless lawns, and leaving an envelope at each home.

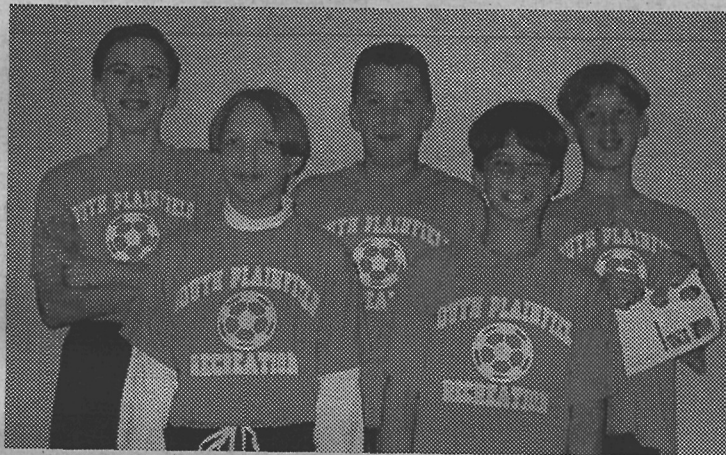
The flyer includes a "Dear Neighbor" letter, a copy of a recently published article on street trees, detailed descriptions of twelve flowering trees and six shade/ornamental trees and instructions for ordering.

The recommended trees are suitable for planting in our area, and almost all are priced at less than ten dollars each. Not listed, but also available from the National Arbor Day Foundation (100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410) are fruit and nut trees, evergreens, and shrubs, all at reasonable prices.

Any interested person who did not get a flyer or who wants further information may contact the Borough's Environmental Specialist, Alice Tempel, at 226-7621. Copies of the flyer are also available at the library.



So. Plfd. Recreation Soccer Program



South Plainfield Recreation's youth soccer program kicked off its 1997 season on Sept 27. The



program began about 17 or 18 years ago according to Recreation Director Bill Nothnagel. 423 children participate in the bi-weekly games. The young athletes, ages 6-13, display their varying levels of soccer prowess to excited parents and friends at Veterans Park Monday through Saturday. The Recreation Department reports that there are 32 teams this year. Leagues are divided by age with an October 1 cut off date. The D league is age 6; C league is for ages 7-8; B league is 9 and 10, and A league is ages 11-13.

Nothnagel stated that "Em-



phasis is placed on fun and skill." However the older students, the A league, do compete for first and second place trophies. The coaches and assistants are all volunteers. These men and woman share their time and knowledge with the children. They teach the value of teamwork, good sportsmanship, and encourage all to do their best.

Each child receives a team Tee shirt and when the season is over, each will receive a soccer trophy for participation. Games are played at Veterans Park at 6 and 7 pm Monday through Friday and 9:30 til 2:30 on Saturday.



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Council President
Vincent Buttiglieri
Dennis Cerami
Mary Anne Kochut
Ed Kubala
James Vokral

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Hjordis Joyce, Superintendent 226-7713

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Harriet Wagner 226-7630

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Non-Emergency Number 754-2343

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RECYCLING COMMISSION

Recycling Hot Line 226-7620

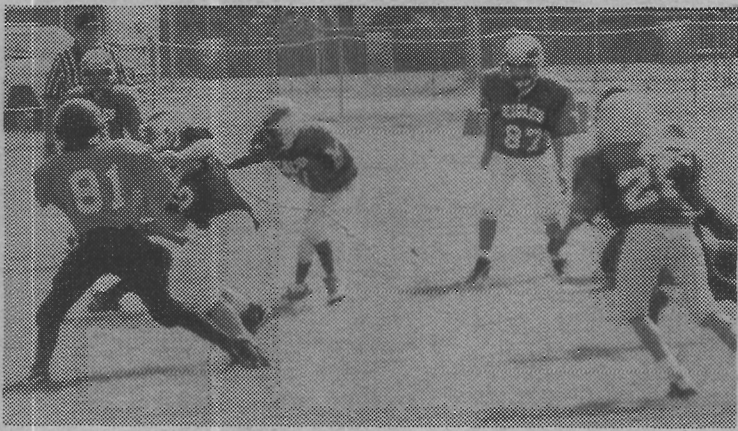
WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Margaret Ackerman, Director 226-7625

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Michael English, Chairman 755-1282

EMERGENCIES DIAL 9-1-1



Junior Pee Wee's Dwayne Lamont on second end run.

Pop Warner Eagles Results

Flag Football

The Flag Eagles continued to enjoy good times with a single game against the young Flag Panthers. Turning in a fine performance were Daniel Espin, Zachary Haupt, Philip Longo and AJ Kunie.

Mighty Mites

The day opened with the defeat of the Eagles by the undefeated Panthers 19-0. The Eagles held the Panthers scoreless until the second quarter. Turning in a fine performances by the young Eagles were Charlie Loiacono, JJ Deliflo, and Robert Gentile.

Junior Pee Wee

The Eagles started off on a good note when on the first offensive play of the day Dwayne LaMont ran around left end with blocks by Doug Dietzold, Ryan Kenny and Tom Deschaine. The extra point was added when quarterback Andrew Miller hit Steve Turrise in the end zone for the PAT. The second half saw the offensive line open holes for two scores by Steve Turrise. Turrise scored around left end and then bounded the ball up the

middle for the 20-0 victory

Junior Midgets

The second place Eagles handed the Panthers a 13-0 loss. Steven Johnson setup the first drive with a fumble recovery on the Panther 40 yard line. Jimmy Nguyen found the end zone with a pass from Nick Ronzo for the first score of the game. Calvin LaMont added the extra point with a run around right end. In the second half LaMont took a hand off and ran around left end for a 40 yard run. David Spayder, Jeremy Price and Phil Veinott opened the hole for LaMont.

Midgets

It was a long day for the senior Eagles as they were handed a defeat by the second place Panthers. However there was a bright spot in the game when Andrew Fyffe ran around left end for a score against the number one defense in the league. Eric Ford added the extra point when he was on the end of a pass by Fyffe in the end zone.

The Eagles are home this weekend with games against New Providence.

Fall Baseball League

The Tigers went on a "tear," winning their last five games in the Merrill Park/Fords Senior League, to bring their record to 10-1-2. They routed Merrill-Park 11-0 behind the pitching of Mike Kapsch, who threw a one hitter. Brendan Lazar knocked in two runs with a first inning single. Kapsch went two for four with two rbi's. Pat Sarrullo notched his first win as the Tigers whipped Roselle Park 9-3. Sarrullo went three for four with two rbi's and Kapsch three for three with two rbi's. South then took Colonia 6-3 in a game played at Middlesex County College. Chris Atachunas picked up his third victory while strik-

ing out eight batters. "Ack" was one for two at the plate with an rbi and run scored. The team then trounced East Brunswick 15-2. Chris Malecki was two for three with a double and two rbi's. Sarrullo picked up his second victory. St. Joe's came into town and Steve Buchigano handled them with ease. "Buc" struck out seven Falcons in the 10-1 victory. It was Steve's fourth win this fall. Atachunas tripled to knock in two runs. Kapsch followed with a triple to knock in one run. The team ends regular season play with home games Saturday 10 a.m. vs. Roselle Park and Sunday 12:30 p.m. against Perth Amboy.

Junior Baseball Club To Hold Registration

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club will be holding its registration on Thursday, Oct. 23 and Friday, Oct 24 from 6:00-9:00 p.m.; and Saturday, Oct 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the baseball complex.

To be eligible you must be a South Plainfield resident and between eight and sixteen years of age, on or before Aug. 1, 1998. New players must bring their birth certificate or a copy. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at the time of registration. Sign ups for manager, coaches and umpires will be held at the registration.

October registration fee is \$40. per player, \$60. for two or more players in the same family. The January registration is \$45 per player, \$70. for two or more

players in the same family. Late registration is \$50. per player, with no multiple family discount.

All players will receive a new hat, shirt and pair of pants to keep at season's end.

The Women's Auxiliary will be selling SPJBC jackets, sweats and shirts. Full payment is required when placing an order.

Boys Soccer Tied for First Place in White Division



The South Plainfield High School Boys Soccer team started off the season on a very positive note. They are tied for first place in the White Division due to the play of seniors John Vasiliadas, Keith Palmer, Jairo Giraldo and Steven Cisz. Seniors Anthony Moriera and Jeff Noll have been very suc-

cessful in keeping the opposition pinned down in the midfield. Goalies Kris Nagy is proving he is one of the best goalies in the county.

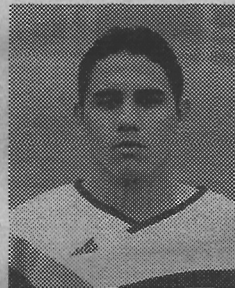
The Tigers opened the season with a tough 2 to 1 loss to Group IV School J.P. Stevens. They suffered another heartbreaking loss to Metuchen 1-

0. But the team has buckled down and beaten two White Division foes — South River 3-0 and Spotswood 6-1

Sophomore Edwin Diaz and juniors Matt Wojick, Eric Johansen, Michael Lindgren and Trevor Willis round out a team which challenge for the Division Crown.



Keith Palmer



Jairo Giraldo



Jeff Noll



Stephen Cisz



Kris Nagy



Anthony Moreira



Jim Valiliadis

The South Plainfield Observer extends its apology to the Soccer team for inadvertently printing the wrong photo with last week's story.

Girls Gymnastics Team Sets South Plainfield Record

By Al Hook, Head Coach

A milestone was achieved Sept. 25 by the South Plainfield High School Girls Gymnastic Team. The girls gymnastic team set a new South Plainfield High School record South Brunswick by scoring 96 points, the highest ever scored by any South Plainfield High School Gymnastics Team.

Outstanding routines and performances by all of the girls helped to set the new record.

Every team member was able to improve their personal score, and contribute to the new record.

Freshman Lacey Walter had an excellent performance taking first place in vault and uneven bars, second place on balance beam and floor exercise and then taking first place in the all-

around event, scoring a total 34.9 points. Lacey has now qualified for the State Tournament.

Sophomore Team Captain Heather Hearne scored 30.5 points making this her best all-around score.

Freshman Veronica Zappi also scored her personal best all-around score accumulating 30.3 points.

Freshman Justine Carubia scored 26.2 points in her first ever all-around participation.

Additional fine performances were also turned in by junior Tanya Altomare and freshman Melissa Jamieson in helping to set the new High School Record.

Congratulations to all of the girls in setting this new record.

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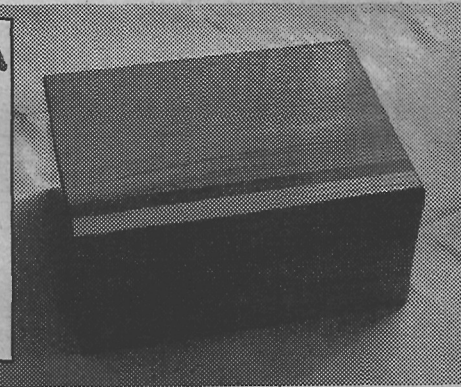
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October/November 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				16	17	18
To add your listing to the calendar, send date and time to the South Plainfield Observer, c/o G & G Graphics, 530 Union Blvd, Suite 3, Middlesex, New Jersey 08846, or fax to 805-0815				Debate South Plainfield High School 7:30 p.m.	AARP Meeting 12:30 p.m. Pall Building	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Council Agenda Meeting 8 p.m. Board of Education Admin. Bldg. 8 p.m. Landmanagement Advisory 7:30 p.m.	Planning Board 8 p.m. Recycling Comm. 8 p.m.	Court 9:30 a.m. Court 7 p.m. Traffic Safety Advisory Commission 7 p.m.	Council Meeting 8 p.m. Copy Deadline for <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>		
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Daylight Savings Time Ends				Special Election Edition Publication Replaces Nove 6 issued of <i>South Plainfield Observer</i>		NOVEMBER
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Recreation Comm. 7 p.m.	Board of Adjustment 8 p.m.	Business Advisory 6:30 p.m. Court 9:30 a.m.	Taxpayer's Advisory Group 7:00 p.m.		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Council Agenda Meeting 8 p.m.	Board of Health 7:30 p.m. Planning Board 8 p.m. Library Board 7:30 p.m. Historical Soc. 7:30 SPHS Senior Citizens PAL Building 10 a.m.	Court 9:30 a.m. Court 7 p.m. Cultural Arts 8 p.m. Environmental Commission 8 p.m.	Copy Deadline for <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i> Council Meeting 8 p.m.		

South Plainfield Police Report

- On Oct. 9 someone siphoned the gas of a car parked at Mid-Atlantic Waterproofing on Holly Blvd
- Kevin Green, of South Plainfield, was arrested at the scene of a motor vehicle accident for DWI, driving while suspended and careless driving.
- Otto Corona was arrested for possession of a stolen vehicle after a traffic stop.
- Bradley's security guard observed three suspects shoplifting various items from the store on security cameras. The suspects were stuffing merchandise in their shirts and down their pants. The security guard notified the manager and approached the suspects to identify herself. She was punched and pushed into the wall by one of the shoplifters. The manager and an employee attempted to stop them and a fight broke out. Two of the suspects fled toward Park Ave. and were arrested by police a short time later. Arrested were John Giles and David Falcone. Casy Giles was arrested in her car. The car was searched and police found 46 savings bonds later found to be stolen during a burglary in Somerville.
- A Clinton Ave. resident reported his ten speed bike, equipped with a child's seat, was stolen from his open garage.
- Four school buses were broken into over the weekend of Oct 3 - 6, while parked in the rear lot of the Board of Education building on Cromwell Rd. Taken were three Motorola 2-way radios valued at \$616 each. One of the buses had damage totalling \$500. The entry appeared to be through the rear and side doors of the bus.
- Police stopped a car on Plainfield Ave. driving 25 mph with a flat tire. A check of the suspect found that he had three outstanding warrants. He was arrested and taken into custody.
- Kmart reported shoplifters took \$120 worth of merchandise from the store on Oct. 5. The matter is still under investigation.
- The rear window of a car parked at Drug Fair was broken on Oct. 5. The amount of damage to the car is unknown.
- An employee at DeGussa reported his locker had been broken into and his shirt, pants and wallet were stolen. A total of approximately \$275 in total was taken. The locker was locked with a combination lock at the time of the burglary.
- Jersey Oil, Park Ave reported a motorist left without paying after filling his tank.

Experts Say It's Good to be Batty

The following column is provided by the South Plainfield Environmental Commission.

They aren't blind, they aren't rodents and they won't get tangled in your hair. These myths are jeopardizing bats, one of our most valuable agricultural and outdoor quality-of-life allies.

Bats actually like those nasty garden pests that paw on your plants and vegetables. They are the predator of beetles, moths and leafhoppers. Many garden pests can hear a bat from over 100 feet away and avoid the area.

Avoiding mosquitoes usually requires some chemical or electronic intervention. Entice bats to your yard instead. A little brown bat, a New Jersey native, consumes up to 600 mosquitoes in one hour and can live up to 32 years! A nursing mother eats more than her own body weight nightly — up to 4,500 insects, including mosquitoes.

While searching for insects, bats pollinate plants and disperse seeds. This is especially crucial for tropical fruits such as ba-

nanas, avocados, peaches, figs and dates. Who is this ally? Bats are mammals, just like humans.

They make up one-quarter of all mammal species but bats are the only mammals that can fly. Most bats produce only one pup annually, making them the lowest-reproducing mammals on earth for their size.

Bats are nocturnal, sleeping during the day (by hanging upside down) and feeding at night. Large colonies roost in eaves or abandoned mines. They rely on echolocation, similar to sonar, to detect objects as fine as a human hair in total darkness.

When not eating or sleeping, bats groom themselves carefully. They are resistant to diseases. Although any mammal can contract rabies, the small percentage of bats that do contract rabies normally bite only in self-defense (as any wild animal would) and pose little threat to people who do not handle them.

Bats prefer to roost in caves or old mines, where their droppings support whole ecosystems of unique organisms, including bacteria useful in detoxifying wastes and improving detergents. An anticoagulant from vampire bat saliva, a Latin American native, may soon treat human heart patients.

Did you know that bats have lived in America since the dinosaur age yet today rank among the most endangered wildlife? Most than half the American bat species is in severe decline or already listed as endangered or awaiting listing. Why? We have destroyed, dis-

turbed or sealed off their cave and old mine habitats. Bats are homeless.

How does this affect you? Loss of bats increases demand for chemical alternatives, which often threaten environmental and human health. It jeopardizes whole ecosystems of other animal and plant species and can harm human economies.

What is being done? Bat conservationists encourage landowners to install bat-friendly grates instead of sealing old mine and cave entrances, which suffocate thousands of bats at a time.

What can you do? Erect a bat house to provide alternative roosts and attract these insect-eaters to your garden. The South Plainfield Environmental Commission can provide house construction information and advice at (908) 226-7621. To get involved with the Bat Research Project or learn more contact Bat Conservation International at www.batcon or (800) 538-BATS.



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