

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 1, NO. 8

50 CENTS

DECEMBER 18, 1997

BOROUGH NOTES

Council Meeting

■ Vinnie Buttiglieri asked for an estimate to fix or replace the roofs at Borough Hall and the PAL Building.

■ Work on the downtown revitalization has been stopped until spring. The new lights are up, but they will not be working until work resumes.

■ A resolution was passed supporting the Environmental Commission's application for a grant to make improvements to the trails in the Highland Woods Nature Reserve.

■ Nicastro's Garage on Hamilton Blvd. was granted a waiver to use storage trailers at the garage while repairs are being done. A fire at the garage last month gutted the building.

■ The South Plainfield Radio Amateur Civil Emergencies Services Radio Club (South Plainfield RACES ARC, Inc.) was recognized as an entity organized to render assistance to borough emergency services through use of radio amateur services.

■ Edward Anderson was appointed to membership in the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Dept.

■ At the Dec. 11 meeting, the Borough Council passed the 1998 Fiscal Year Budget. Municipal expenses were kept level, however state-aid was reduced and there will be an increase in taxes to the average homeowner of about \$70.00

Planning Board

■ Degussa was granted preliminary and final site plan approval, with waivers, to construct a ramp in the rear of the property, to permit fork-lift access to the loading dock area, to construct a stair tower on the front of the building

Continued on page 11



Caroling in the Park

The South Plainfield Chorus, under the direction of Tracy Murray (left), entertained the residents with a variety of holiday songs in the gazebo at Spring Lake Park on Sunday, Dec. 14 while Santa (Councilman Ed Kubala) listened to Andrew Torres Christmas wishes. The crowd joined the chorus in a sing-along of holiday songs. The concert put all in attendance in the holiday spirit. It was truly a holiday treat. At the end of the concert, a candle-lighting ceremony (below) was held and all were invited to enjoyed refreshments at the Fire House.



Delaney Court Residents Receive Assurances on Delaney Ct. Home

Over 50 Delaney Court residents came to the Monday, Dec. 8 Council agenda meeting and then returned on Thursday, Dec. 11, before the start of the regular council meeting, with questions about the group home which will be located on their street.

At the Dec. 8 meeting residents questioned the Mayor and Council on their concerns re-

garding the home. Blanche Ellis, representing the New Jersey Department of Disabilities Division, was present to respond to the residents' questions. Mayor Gallagher attempted to dissolve some of their fears and Ms. Ellis also took part in the discussion. ResCare was unable to send a representative, but it was noted they would be present at the Dec. 11 meeting.

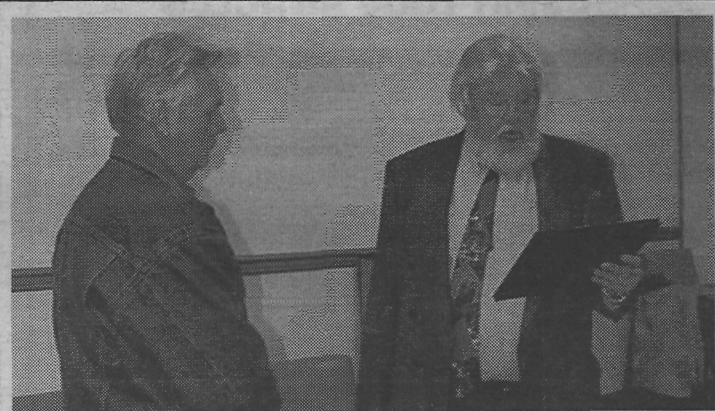
Mayor Gallagher had answers to some of the residents' questions given to him before the meeting and stated he also had some reservations about the move. He disclosed that ResCare, a for-profit company, will run the home, but Outlook America, a non-profit group with tax-exempt status, was the purchaser of the house. The mayor also disclosed that the state usually pays a fee to the town that covers the county and municipal taxes, but does not pay the school tax.

The home will be occupied by four developmentally disabled women, ages 36 to 74. Mrs. Ellis explained that developmentally disabled does not mean the mentally ill or criminally insane.

Continued on page 11

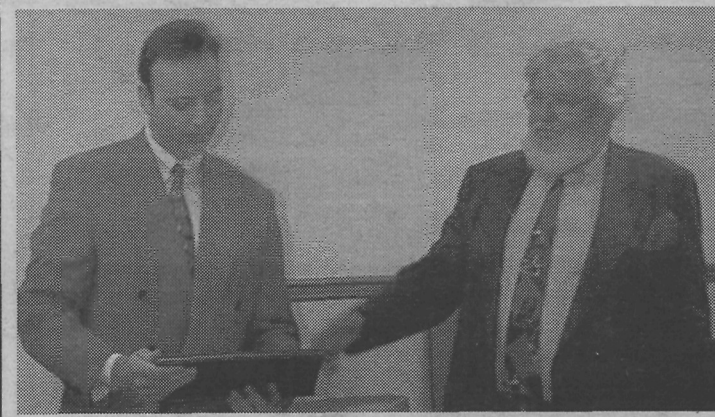


John Alles and his wife, Denise, are pictured with Jim Eckert, borough clerk, at his swearing in ceremony, where he was promoted to sergeant. John has been a South Plainfield Police Officer since 1981. He has headed the D.A.R.E. program for many years, which challenges children to stay away from drugs.



Certifications of Appreciation Awarded

At the Dec. 11 Council meeting, Councilman Ed Kubala presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the Mayor and Council to Collis Moore, of Moore's Stone and Garden located on Hamilton Blvd. and Brian Mazellan of Timber Creek Landscaping. Mr. Moore donated two stone benches to the Veterans Memorial. Mr. Mazellan designed, installed and maintains the landscaping surrounding the Veterans Memorial. Mr. Mazellan said he was honored to be able to do something towards the site. He also said he would like to dedicate his award to his father who was a veteran and is now ill.



Letter to the Editor

Sixth Annual Twin City Pharmacy/SPASA Holiday Basketball Tournament

Last week Dec. 11-13, The sixth Annual Twin City Pharmacy/South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness Holiday Basketball Tournament was held. Both boys and girls teams from East Brunswick, North Plainfield, Sacred Heart and South Plainfield Middle School competed.

The purpose for organizing this tournament was to heighten the awareness of the dangers of substance abuse as well as promote a positive healthy attitude toward participation in athletics and not the use of dangerous substances by athletes. Prior to each of the preliminary games, each player coach and manager viewed a video, "Saying 'No' To Alcohol And Other Drugs," which outlined the dangers of teenage alcohol and substance abuse. Also Tom Baker and Valerie Northey, SAC counselors and Bill Beegle, Middle School assistant principal, spoke to the student athletes on the dangers of smoking cigarettes and using smokeless tobacco. Each student athlete received a packet containing substance awareness information and a T-shirt with an anti-drug message.

There were many individuals who helped make this tournament a success. Bill Cochrane and Joe Oranchak donated their time to officiate and help keep score. DARE officers, John

Alles and Joe Pappa; Reverend Dennis O'Neill from the First Baptist Church; Twin City Pharmacy owner Tom Cassio and SAC counselor Tom Baker helped with the tournament operations. Also assisting were Gall Dougherty, Joe Kopacsi, Marge Kopacsi, Frank Vatalare and Roxanne Cortese. Mike Buggey, high school athletic director, was very cooperative with arranging the tournament facilities. A very special thank you to Joe Romer, a South Plainfield resident who owns Joe Romer Trophies in Woodbridge for donating the first and second place team trophies and individual awards for each member of the winning teams. Jeff Spezio, Middle School graphics teacher, designed the T-shirts for the student athletes and T-C Screen Printers of Plainfield also assisted with the silkscreening of the shirts. The Middle School Student Council, under the supervision of Joann Haus, assembled packets for the athletes.

The tournament was a tremendous success not only for the benefits of healthy athletic competition but also for the educational component. If only one student athlete decides not to take up smoking or abusing substances as a result of this tournament, then we have achieved our goal.

**WILLIAM BEEGLE,
TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR/
SPASA COORDINATOR**

On behalf of South Plainfield Girl Scout Troop #136, we would like to thank all the blood donors, everyone who donated baked goods and all the merchants who displayed posters for our recent blood drive. A special thank you goes out to the South Plainfield Fire Department for allowing us to use their building. The fire department was more than accommodating and truly went out of their way to help us in any way they could. Their generosity surely sets a good example to all the scouts and demonstrated the good that can happen when two community organizations work together.

Again, thanks to all.

**JOANNE COX, MARLENE
DABRIO, KAREN IRBER,
LEADERS OF TROOP 136**

Dear WWII Veterans/Defense Workers and Families:

Help save the personal legacy of World War II. The experiences and memorabilia of those who served in the armed forces and defense industries — so often discarded — is a valuable part of this nation's history. The Florida State University Department of History has set up the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience to collect and preserve this physical heritage for research, teaching and exhibition. If you or someone you know may have letters, diaries, photographs or other mementos of the period, please contact the Institute at the Department of History, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-2200 (850) 644-9541. We will be delighted to answer any questions concerning the future of materials given to the Institute.

**WILLIAM O. OLDSON,
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY
MAE E. NIELANDER,
GRADUATE ASSISTANT
INSTITUTE ON WORLD WAR II
AND THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Subscribe to the South
Plainfield Observer.
See page 4.**

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**
*Mohn's
Flowers
& Fancy
Foods*

*Designs by
Georgeann*

Wedding & Reception
Specialists • Sympathy
Arrangements • Distinctive
Floral Designs • Fresh,
Silk & Dried Flowers
• Customized Gourmet,
Fruit and Goodie Gift
Baskets • Balloons &
Stuffed Animals
• Greeting Cards


2325 Plainfield Ave
So. Plainfield, NJ
(908) 561-2808
1-800-356-2908



South Plainfield Business Association Holds Annual Holiday Party

The Business Association held its annual Holiday Lucheon at Sherban's Diner on Dec. 11. A Special award was presented to: (pictured above receiving the Award from Mayor Gallagher) Tom Pelick from Sky Hi Erectors, for his work on the lifting and placement of the train. Also presented with awards were: Mark Daniels from Daniels Engineering for the initial DEP drawings for the train; John Mazzeo from Classic Signs for the work on the railcar float at the Labor Day Parade and Dan Barclay from Dan Barclay, Inc, for trucking of the train.

William (Bill) Tuthill In the Spotlight

By Patricia Abbott

In this his issue of the Observer our spotlight is on long time resident William Tuthill. He and his wife, Elaine, were married in 1948 and settled in South Plainfield in 1950. They have spent the last 47 years as part of this community. They have three children and four grandchildren. Bill, a plumber by trade, is best known on the South Plainfield scene as a photographer. His work has been displayed in the library a number of times and he has also participated in other area photo shows.

Photography began as a hobby, but soon became a major part of his life. Bill described an early memory from his days in the Marine Corp, he recalled being airborne in a plane shooting photos of another aircraft flying alongside. Courses at Middlesex County College in 1980 and 1981 furthered his photography career. While he is not working as a professional photographer on a regular basis he certainly has earned professional status. He was one of the few to capture photos of the of the nationally covered train derailment that occurred last summer.

Bill has photographed weddings and other more formal events but he prefers travel and outdoor photography. Many of his photos reveal life in Haiti. He and Elaine, who is a clinical registered nurse, have visited Haiti about six times. They travel to this rather poor country to volunteer their time and skills helping the people at an orphanage run by a mission. They give assistance in whatever capacity is needed, taking care of simple things, that most here in the states take for granted. Bill made



a major contribution to the people at this orphanage when he taught them how to get much-needed fresh water. He is awaiting publication on a book he wrote, which details the couples experiences working with the Haitian people at the mission.

When not helping folks in need in Haiti, Bill can be found busy with a number of organizations here in town. He has been active with Cub and Boy Scouts for the past 23 years. He is also a member of the Juvenile Conference Board, which is a branch of the county juvenile court. All members are volunteers. Youths brought in with first or minor offenses will have their cases mediated through this group rather than have to face court. Bill is currently the President of the South Plainfield Historical Society and is active in working with the Business Association on the restoration of the railroad car that will house the history of the borough.

Through photographs he has chronicled each step of the restoration process. His vivid photos depict life both within our borders and locations far from South Plainfield.

**The next issue of *The South Plainfield Observer* is
JANUARY 2. Deadline for copy is December 24.**

Due to the holiday, delivery of the newspaper may be delayed.

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, 530 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**

The South Plainfield Observer is published every first and third Thursday of the month by G&G Graphics, 530 Union Avenue, Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846

(732) 469-4380 FAX (732) 805-0815

Web Page at <http://www.spobserver.com>
For subscriptions, advertising or information, call (732) 469-4380.
The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

NANCY GRENNIER
Publisher/Editor
WAYNE GRENNIER
Associate Publisher
SUSAN KANEPS
Art Director/Assistant Editor
PATRICIA ABBOTT
Feature Writer
Briggs Longbothum,
Kenneth Morgan;
Correspondents

Services Plus

Your Shopping and Shipping Store



Everything Christmas
HALF PRICE

SHIPPING AN ITEM? Bring it in and let us package and ship it for you. We are an authorized Shipping Outlet for UPS, FED EX

HOURS: MON-FRI 10-5:30 SAT 10-4

(908) 755-5060 • Fax (908) 755-8729

24 So. Plainfield Ave., So. Plainfield, N.J. 07080

South Plainfield Clean Business Association Holds Seventh Annual Glitter Awards Breakfast

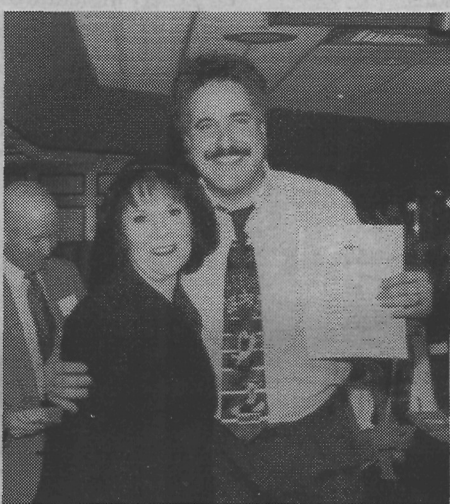
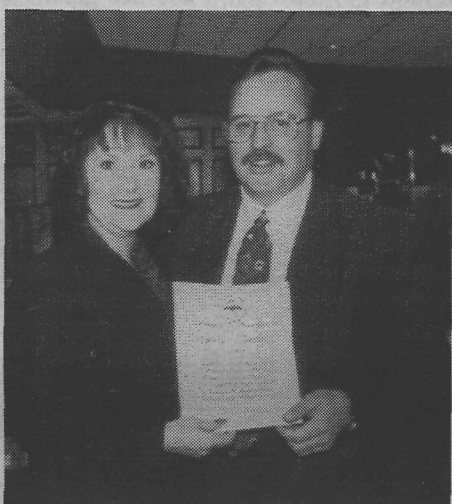
Local business people and borough officials gathered at Sherban's Diner on Front Street to recognize and honor the Clean Business Association's 1997 Glitter Award winners and Adopt-A-Spot participants at the Clean Business Association's Seventh Annual Awards Breakfast.

Mr. Emil Leporino, chairman of the South Plainfield Clean Communities Advisory Board, welcomed the group and discussed the status of the borough's Clean Communities Program. Since 1988 over \$229,000 in grants have been received from the Department of Environmental Protection for litter control projects, including \$26,400 received in 1997.

Councilwoman Mary Anne Kochut, standing in for Mayor Gallagher, honored the 1997 Glitter Award Winners: Cross Stitch Only, South Plainfield Ave., Lorraine Bossert, owner; Twice is Nice, Front St., Darlene Pinto, owner; American Legion, Chaumont Post 243, Oak Tree Rd., Donald Austin, Commander; and Moretti Realty, Front Street, Guy Moretti, owner.

In honor of the Seventh Annual Awards Breakfast previous winners were also recognized. Since the awards program inception in 1991, the CBA has awarded the Glitter Award to 34 properties.

Councilmember Vincent Buttiglieri recognized the businesses and groups that participated in the Adopt-A-Spot program in 1997. Three new spots were adopted this year: two stretches of Hamilton Blvd. by the Spisso family and the Shoonly family,



Councilwoman Mary Anne Kochut presents awards to: (top left) Tom Gaul of Services Plus; (top right) Darlene Pinto of Twice Is Nice; (lower left) Bill McCrisky, McCrisky Home for Funerals; and (lower right) Dr. Scott Linick, Plainfield Animal Hospital.

and the entire length of Front Street by the Keystone Community Residence. Nearly all previously adopted spots were re-adopted this year: Federal Metals and Alloys, Thomas Dietz, president; Timber Creek Landscaping, Brian Mazellan, owner; Blue Ridge Landscaping, Larry

Dowdy, owner; Junior Woman's Club, Dawn Jefferys, president; Cub Scout Pack 224, Debbie Herbster, Conservation Chair; and the Home Depot Store and Northeast Division Corporate Office, Lisa Grenskie, manager.

The CBA is an association of commercial, industrial and pro-

fessional people who are committed to making South Plainfield an attractive place to do business through improved property maintenance, landscaping and litter control activities. Glitter Awards are earned by businesses that have either consistently maintained a high standard over time, or have recently renovated and improved their properties. A "Glitter Award" sign is posted at the winning property for a month.

William Tuthill, president of the South Plainfield Historical Soci-

ety, spoke about the historic railroad car which has been placed behind Sherban's Diner as part of the borough's Downtown Revitalization program. The car is being refurbished and will be used as the Historical Society Museum.

CBA members were introduced to borough officials who enforce illegal dumping, littering and property maintenance ordinances: Health Officer Michael Bonk and Property Maintenance Code and Litter Control Official Michael Zushma, and Chief of Police Steven Merkler.

Spisso Family Re-Adopts Hamilton Blvd.

Somerset Ave. resident Brian Spisso has signed a contract with the Clean Business Association to renew his family's adoption of Hamilton Boulevard between Somerset Avenue and Pomponio Avenue. They will continue to keep this block free of litter, to remove snow during the winter and cut the grass along the right-of-way during the summer.

The Spisso family undertook the adoption last year because children walk to school on that street, and Mr. Spisso was worried about the poison ivy overhanging the sidewalk. It took considerable effort over the growing season to get the poison ivy under control, but they were successful, and now intend to continue to maintain the street frontage. The new agreement covers calendar year 1998.

The Clean Business Association is pleased with the growing response to Adopt-A-Spot, and the ongoing commitment of the

adopters. Ten locations have been adopted in the borough, and so far all groups but one have renewed their contracts each year.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Spot Program, contact the Clean Communities Coordinator at 226-7621.

South Plainfield Ham Named Assistant Director

Paul Toth has been named an Assistant Director for the American Radio Relay League's Hudson Division. Toth, whose Amateur Radio call sign is KB2WNZ, assumes his new responsibilities promoting Ham Radio, Public Service activities and Emergency Communications immediately. The appointment was made by Frank Fallon, N2FE, Hudson Division Director for the ARRL, Amateur Radio's governing organization.

Toth will continue as Northern New Jersey Section Emergency Coordinator for the ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Service and as the National

Weather Service's SKYWARN Coordinator for Middlesex and Union Counties. He has been instrumental during the last year helping rebuild the ARES and SKYWARN organizations in the area.

Toth is involved in South Plainfield's Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services organization (RACES). He helped organize the group earlier this year to provide South Plainfield's Office of Emergency Management with Amateur Radio communications assistance in the event of a local emergency or disaster. The RACES group provided communications coordination for this year's South Plainfield Labor Day Parade.

One of his goals is to get more young people involved with ham radio and public service. "I got my license two years ago as a way to give something back to the community I live in", he noted, adding that hopes his new position will afford him "the opportunity to introduce this worthwhile and fascinating hobby and its technology to even more people."

Century 21 Wins Glitter Award

Century 21 Moretti Realty takes pride in being a progressive company that offers quality and service to its customers. This commitment to quality also extends to the community. Guy Moretti, owner/broker, has also been working to improve and enhance the environmental quality of his office building. As a result of these efforts Century 21 Moretti Realty has been awarded the South Plainfield Clean Business Association's Glitter Award.

New landscaping, including plantings, a brick wall and other touches, have been completed by Nischwitz & Company for Century 21 Moretti Realty. Additional plantings will be added in the spring.

Mr. Moretti stated, "Being born and raised in South Plainfield, I think it is a great town, and I want to do my part to help improve it. I feel honored to receive the award and I hope others will keep moving forward to improve the community in which we live."

Century 21 Moretti Realty and other Glitter Award winners was recognized by the Mayor and Council at the Clean Business Association's Seventh Annual Breakfast held on Dec. 4 at Sherban's Diner.

Photos by Bill Tuthill

*Twice Is Nice Wishes
You and Yours
A Very Happy
Holiday Season!*

**A World of Treasures
Awaits You...**

Where?



**Twice
Is Nice**

The Consignment Boutique

**175 Front Street
South Plainfield
561-6151**

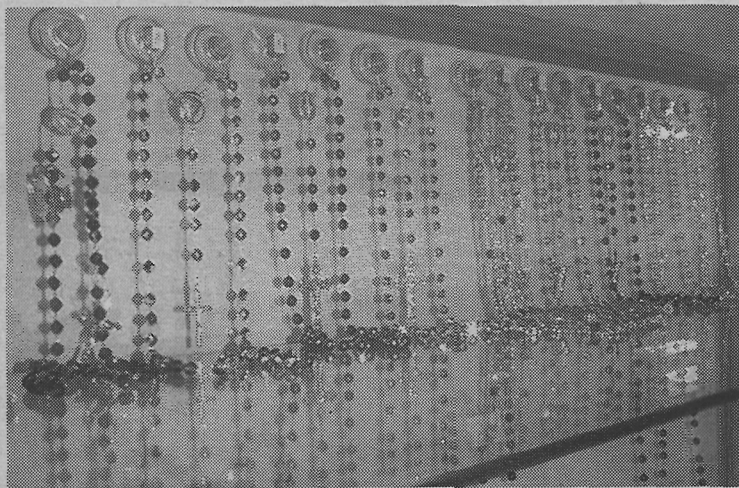
Mon.-Fri. 10-5
Sat. 10-4

MOTIVATED

**PART-TIME AD SALESPERSON WANTED
FOR SOUTH PLAINFIELD OBSERVER....**

CALL THE OBSERVER... 469-4380

Handmade Rosary Beads Displayed at Library



By Patricia Abbott

A lost art of the Renaissance era is currently on view at the South Plainfield Public Library. The hand-crafted rosaries on display were created by local artist Robert Seliga, who has been a resident for over ten years. He began his endeavors as a Rosary-maker creating the prayer beads

for Catholic missions, hospitals, and churches. He makes hundreds of rosaries with plastic beads. These rosaries are distributed up and down the east coast to nursing homes, soup kitchens and prisons.

Priests and Brothers take the rosaries to various missions. The rosaries are also sent to the Appalachian Health Clinic which

is run by nursing sisters. The sales of his one-of-a-kind gemstone pieces enable him to purchase the supplies needed to continue to provide rosaries to the less fortunate.

A rosary is described as a continuous circle of fifty-nine beads with a hanging portion of a centerpiece and crucifix. It was developed during the early years of Roman Catholicism to pray and pay homage to the Virgin Mary. The rosaries on display in the library include Swarovski crystal pieces, some from antique beads. Other pieces are made of gemstones such as garnet, malachite, tiger's eye and rhodonite. All are carefully hand-linked on gold fill or sterling silver findings. The centerpiece of the display is a double chain crystal Rosary in shades of blue modeled after pieces worn during the Italian Renaissance. For more information on the hand crafted rosaries you can call 769-7735.

INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

By Briggs Longbothum
and Eric Tillman



Last month after Thanksgiving dinner, someone asked a question about what it is about turkey that makes you so sleepy after a meal? I called in to Dr. Derrick DeSilva who appears Saturday mornings on WCTC (1450 AM) with a medical talk show.

He explained that turkey, as well as tuna fish and warmed milk, contain high levels of tryptophan, which is a naturally occurring sleep inducing compound. He also directed me to the internet for additional help! Cool, huh?

So there's another great reason for going on-line: medical help. And it's a lot less expensive than asking your family doctor. Yet, I'm still being asked for

help with computer buying decisions, but "we don't want the internet!" I find it very interesting how such a great resource is so feared by parents. Seems to me those same parents should also be keeping their kids out of the libraries and encyclopedias of the world for the reasons they give me! Oh well, best that people are not logical anyway. We'd probably evolve into Spock types with pointed ears, heads, noses and with no sense of humor. But to me, this resource abused and misused as it has been, is still a very great and beneficial thing of the present. It's just us that have to get better instead of blaming the mailman.

For those of us who are internet-abled, there are some pretty good sites for our kids to visit to learn about finances, banking, investing, health, safety, even parenting and just plain common sense! You know, the good stuff that they just don't seem to get enough of in school (or at home for that matter anymore). In future columns, I would like to share some internet sites we could all benefit from. I will be posting these sites on the OBSERVER's own web page so visit there often (www.spobserver.com), and be sure to send your thoughts on the paper's articles to the e-mail site (editor@spobserver.com). Here's a few tips for you:

TIP: If you decide to upgrade Microsoft's Office 95 to Office 97, be advised that your Word documents will be in different formats! Other subtle changes exist too, but not a problem because there are free downloadable file format conversion programs which are easy to use. But if you want, you can keep your old Office 95 along with the new Office 97. However you must move the Microsoft Office 95 menu items to a separate folder in the Programs folder because otherwise your original program items with the same name will be overwritten! And as they say: "Now that would be a situation!"

TIP: Don't be throwing out all those AOL free time diskettes that are glued into magazines these days. Just be sure the "write protect" tab is disabled (or tape over the hole if it is not there), and plop them in your A-drive. Open "My Computer" and right click on the A-drive icon and select "format". Use "quick format" if this diskette was for a PC or select "full format" if the diskette was for a Mac computer. The diskettes will be erased and reformatted for reuse! Don't forget to put a new label on them. I prefer the glossy labels and dry-erase markers for labeling so you can wipe them clean and reuse again.

TIP: Stand back and get ready for ComCast's internet access via cable modem. I was just told that very early in 1998 we'll have it in South Plainfield. I'm going for a test drive today and will report back next issue. I also went to the Fall Internet World Conference and have lots to say about that too. It was great! More about that next issue.

Have a merry, safe and spectacular holiday!

By Kenneth Morean

We interrupt this hectic Holiday season with some news from the South Plainfield Library.

One children's storytime is scheduled for each of the next two weeks. They are for children ages 3-6, and will be held Mondays at 6:30 p.m. If you'd like more details, ask Judy Fischer, children's librarian.

Please note, the library will close at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24, for both Christmas Eve and the first night of Hanukkah. It will be closed all day on Thursday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day and Friday, Dec. 26, for those who need a holiday after the Holiday. The library will re-open on Saturday, Dec. 27. The following week the library will close at 1:30

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31, for New Year's Eve and will be closed New Year's Day. We will re-open on Friday, Jan. 2, 1998.

The three charitable efforts found at the library are still in operation, but will be finishing up soon. The collection of gloves, hats, and scarves by the Friends of the Library ends Dec. 19. The library's "Food for Fines" program runs until Monday, Dec. 22. Even though the "Books to Keep" program officially ended on Dec. 15, you can still donate books or money at the main desk. All are very worthy causes, so please act now!

There's been a huge positive

response to the return of free videos. There's still time to take advantage of this gesture of thanks to our patrons. Videos will be loaned for free until further notice.

Music is an integral part of this time of year. Our collection of compact discs includes a good line-up of holiday tunes. The line up of artists ranges from Elvis Presley to the Three Tenors, from the Chipmunks to the Muppets and from Handel's stirring "Messiah" to Vince Guaraldi's jazzy "A Charlie Brown Christmas". Be sure to check the CD lists at the main desk and make a musical selection. No, we don't have Bart

Simpson's rendition of "Jingle Bells". You can't have everything.

Time to correct your maps of the library. The biography section has been moved to the upstairs shelves near the elevator. The folio collection is now downstairs near adult fiction. We'll let you know when we next decide to juggle things around.

And, for that last-minute Christmas gift you can't find anywhere else, and we do mean anywhere, South Plainfield coverlets are available at the library for \$45 each.

Coverlets in both green and blue are still in stock; details are available at the main desk.

Well, this closes our column for both this issue and this year. We'll be back with more in the fast-approaching 1998. Until then, have a happy and safe holiday season.

We'd like you to stuff it, please...

The South Plainfield Observer, of course!
It makes a great holiday stocking stuffer.

South Plainfield Observer

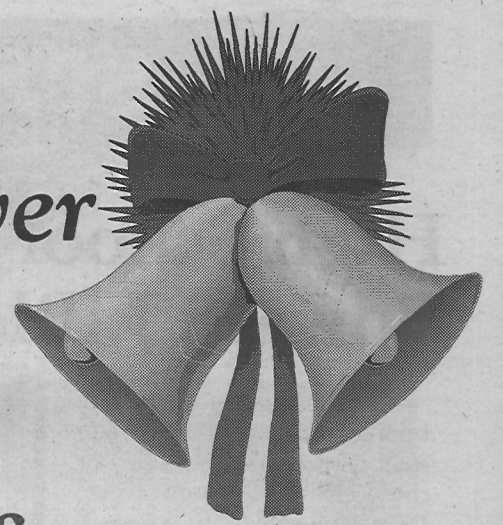
✓ Yes, send my gift of 26 issues of the South Plainfield Observer to the following person(s).

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
MY NAME _____
PHONE NUMBER _____

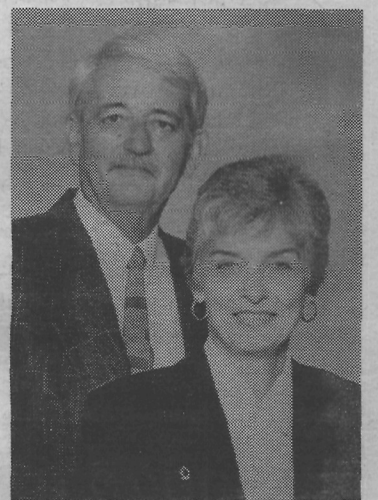
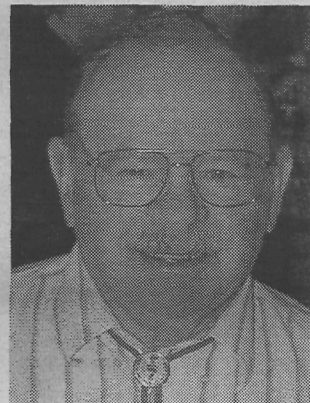
Enclosed is my check or money order for \$13.00 for each 26 issues. Mail to: The South Plainfield Observer, c/o G&G Graphics, 530 Union Ave., Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846, or for more information call 469-4380.



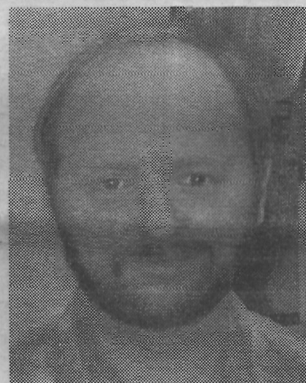
The
South Plainfield Observer
staff, its advertisers
and all contributors,
wish everyone a joyous
holiday season and a happy new year.



Mohn's Flowers

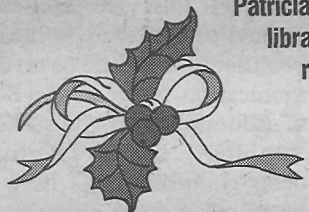
Weichert
Realtors

Gabriel's Cafe



Twice Is Nice

Pictured left to right, across: Wayne Grennier, associate publisher; Nancy Grennier, publisher; William Tuthill, photographer; Patricia Abbott, feature writer; Kenneth Morgan, library correspondent; Susan Kaneps, art director and associate editor; and LeeAnn Errico, production assistant. Not pictured, Briggs Longbothum and Eric Tillman, correspondent



Sals Spirit Shoppe

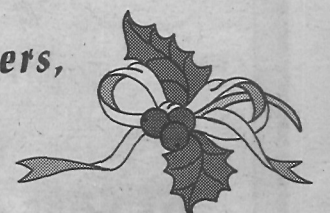
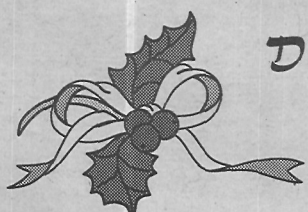


Service Plus

Carousel
Hair SalonTwin City
Pharmacy

Advertisers not pictured:

Dandee's Pets, TMC Construction, Cindy Michael Jewelers,
Almasy & Almasy, Joanne's Dance Studio
Star Radiator, Dr. Aiello Chiropractic Center, PC



SCHOOL DAYS: What's News?

High School Students Selected as 1998-99 Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars

The following students have been selected as Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars for the 1998-99 academic year: Dana Bertrand, Scott Bertucci, Michael Calderone, Adrienne Christatos, Tom Doerr, Brendan Lazar, Jennifer Lesniak, Sarat Munjuluri, Keith Palmer, Allison Raiti, Carolyn Timinski and Joy Walter.

The Distinguished Scholars Program recognizes the academic achievement of New Jersey secondary school students.

The program provides a \$1,000 annual scholarship award for up to four years of undergraduate study at a New Jersey college or university.

The students placed in the top ten percent of their class and have a minimum combined SAT score of 1260 or are ranked first, second or third in their class as of the end of their junior year.



Pictured from left to right: first row, Jennifer Lesniak, Carolyn Timinsky, Dana Bertrand, Adrienne Christatos and Joy Walter; second row, Mr. A. Massaro, Michael Calderone, Keith Palmer, Scott Bertucci, Sarat Munjuluri and Brendan Lazar.

DECEMBER/ calendar JANUARY

- 18 Middle School: Holiday Concert
- 19 High School: Senior Citizen Luncheon, Instrumental & Choral Concert, Boys Basketball first home game
- 20 Kennedy: Breakfast with Santa
High School: Wrestling Tournament
- 21 First Day of Winter
- 22 High School: Girls Basketball first home game
- 23 Roosevelt: Holiday Parties
Riley: Visit with Santa, Holiday Parties
- 24 Schools close for winter recess
- 27 High School: Wrestling tournament away
- January**
- 5 Schools reopen
Franklin: Read-a-thon begins, PTA meeting
Riley: PTSO General meeting



New officers of J.F. Kennedy Student Council are Mallory Christ, president; Courtney Sacco, vice president; and Keith Dezmin, secretary.

Kids Speak for Kids

Mrs. Lynn Reebe's sixth grade Middle School language arts class has been reading books and articles about the issue of child labor throughout the world. The students wrote essays expressing their opinions and suggesting what can be done to stop the exploitation of child labor. They submitted their published essays to the "Kids Speak for Kids" Es-

say Contest, sponsored by UNICEF for the purpose of providing an opportunity for children in the United States to think about problems that affect the world's children.

As a culmination of the writing project, Mrs. Reebe's class created a bulletin board displaying their essays and describing their future dreams.

Student Delegates, New Addition to South Plainfield Board of Education

By Lyreshia Hailstork

The Board of Education asked the students of South Plainfield High School by becoming student delegates. A student delegate is a representative of the student body to the Board of Education.

The Board needed student delegates to get the students' point of view on all aspects of student life. There are three student delegates who were nominated by participating seniors. A panel of five teachers interviewed the candidates, and they chose the students to represent the student body.

The student delegates this year are seniors Stephanie Cupo, Lyreshia Hailstork, and Crystal Osley.

When asked why she wanted to be a student delegate, Stephanie Cupo responded, "I chose to be a student delegate because I wanted to bridge the gap between the Board of Education and the students of the high school. I wanted to help students understand why the Board of Education does what it does. I also wanted to be able to voice the opinions of the high school to help them understand what the students are thinking."

Crystal Osley responded, "I wanted to be a student delegate because there is little or no communication between the Board of Education and the students. Year after year, I have heard students complain and I have also heard many good suggestions. I decided to take the initiative and apply for the position as student

delegate, for the second year in a row, because even if the students are happy, it is nice to know that you have peers on the Board who are willing to represent you.

"I also chose to be a student delegate for the Board because it is a nice experience and I am sure I can use the experience elsewhere," said Olsey.

Lyreshia Hailstork stated, "I wanted to be a student delegate because I felt that being a student at South Plainfield High, I should know what was going on in the school. I feel that students have the right to know what's going on with the Board and how they run things.

I also feel the Board should know how the students feel about the way things are run."

Students Make "Giving Tree" Ornaments

First and second graders of Franklin School made ornaments for Hasbro's "Giving Tree". The children hope that each of their ornaments will enable Hasbro to donate toys for needy children

through the Toys for Tots program.

The children were very excited about the project and hope

to see their ornaments on the Giving Tree which is to be displayed on the Rosie O'Donnell Show in December.

THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

(Teachers, Secretaries and Aides)



extends best wishes
for a happy, healthy
and peaceful
Holiday Season
to our students,
their parents,
and the



South Plainfield community.

**THE SPEA
WE CARE ABOUT YOUR KIDS**

Kennedy Student Council Spreads Holiday Cheer

The John F. Kennedy Student Council would like to spread a little kindness this holiday season by helping a hospital in Bosnia. The hospital, which was started by two missionaries from New Jersey, is in desperate need of baby items.

The council is also asking for band-aids, gauze, combs, brushes, etc. If you would like to contribute, there will be a box in the front lobby of the school. Thank you from the children of J.F. Kennedy School.



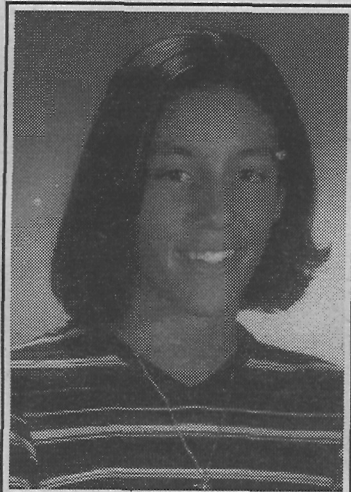
Pictured above are Daren Campbell and Natasha Catarino, first grade students, busy making ornaments for Hasbro's Giving Tree.

SCHOOL DAYS: What's News?

Shannon Dabrio Reports...

Notes From the Middle School

Hi! My name is Shannon Dabrio. I am in eighth grade at the South Plainfield Middle School. I'm reporting from the Middle School for the month of December. Here's what's going on in our school.



Shannon Dabrio

PSE&G Survey

Recently, the sixth, seventh and eighth grade science classes went through a program run by PSE&G called "In Concert With the Environment." I was part of this program. All classes filled out an energy survey. The questions asked about the type of home that we live in, what type of heating and cooling systems we have and other questions about the home. It also asked questions about our appliances. After the surveys were done, the answers were put into computers brought in by PSE&G. The results were printed out and they showed how a student's home uses energy in the form of Eco-Watts. The report showed how our families use energy and ways to save energy as well as money. PSE&G had a game which we played and a follow-up session

once we received the results.

This program was helpful to everyone in the school and their families. It showed how we use energy in our homes, how much money we spend and what we need to do to save energy. I learned ways to make my home more efficient and ways in which it was efficient.

I had the opportunity to interview several students who were part of the survey. They were Katherine Kaczka, Katie Baldes-

sari, and Meghan Elsmann.

SD: Did you find the program helpful?

Katherine: "Yes, because you can save money."

Katie: "Yes, because it shows how much energy I use."

Meghan: "Yes, because if we start now saving energy, we can live longer in the future."

SD: What did you like or dislike about this program?

Katherine: "I liked the game where we used the buzzer to answer the question."

Katie: "I liked the computers and I liked the games."

Meghan: "I liked when we used the computers to get all different kinds of results."

SD: Are you now trying to conserve energy and money?

Katherine: "I always try to shut off lights and conserve water."

Katie: "Yes, I am. I also try to shut off lights and conserve water."

Meghan: "Yes, I am, because I shut off the lights when I'm not using them, and watch less TV."

A special thanks to Mr. Beagle who coordinated the program for our school.



Sixth grade students in Mrs. Ann Nelson's class input data into computers while taking part in PSE&G's program, "In Concert with the Environment."

The classes attended a Spanish dance and then later went on to Chi Chi's Restaurant.

Winter Concert

The winter concert is on Dec. 18. The concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the gym. The audience will be treated to all kinds of music by the students. The sixth grade chorus and the sev-

enth and eighth grade concert choir will perform along with the sixth grade band, seventh and eighth grade band, and also the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade orchestra. Good luck to all the musicians in the concert.

Well, that's all the news for now. Happy Holidays and happy new year!!!!!!

Home at Last: SPHS Student Finds a Home



Keiko Kameda

By Sarah Lowich

Keiko Kameda, as you probably already read about in the October issue of the *Tiger Times* and the *Observer*, was searching for a host family. Thanks to the help of many like SPHS teacher Mrs. Flanagan-Wurtz, she finally

found one.

After hearing about Keiko's ordeal, Mrs. Marjorie Kopacsi, who is the coach of the middle school basketball team, coach of the girls' soccer at the high school, and a guidance counselor in the middle school, took Keiko under her wing and invited her to join the Kopacsi family for the time she is to remain in SPHS.

"The Kopacsi's are excited," stated Keiko. "They have five sons. Now they have a daughter. I am very happy to be here, and the Kopacsis are really nice." Keiko is grateful to be able to remain in America.

"South Plainfield is very different from Japan. In Japan we don't have Halloween or Homecoming," Keiko continued. "I went to a school of all girls. I like the boys."

Field Hockey

The first South Plainfield Middle School Field Hockey team had its First Annual Field Hockey Dinner on December 6, 1997. The dinner was held at the South Plainfield High School. The team members' families were invited to attend. Awards were given out to all team members. The team was coached by Miss Severino who did a great job. The captains were Tawanna Nichols, Shannon Dabrio, and Cheryl Yates. Good luck to the team next year!!!

Parent Conferences

Parent Conferences were held on Dec. 11 at the Middle School. They were held from 1-3 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Report cards were given out last month. Congratulations to all honor roll and high honor roll students.

Spanish Trip

The eighth grade Spanish classes went on a trip Dec. 12.

Feathers of Thanks



Students at John F. Kennedy School created the biggest turkey in South Plainfield. Each child designed a feather telling what they were most thankful for. The turkey was displayed in the school gym.

791-9463
1645 Park Avenue
South Plainfield

Sally's Spirit Shoppe

COLD BEER, FINE WINES & SPIRITS



Holiday Gift Baskets
\$10 & up

Free Giftwrap

Delivery Available • Special Orders & Requests
Volume Wine Discounts
FAX Orders, 908-791-1566

ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

- Inventory Control
- Central Record Keeping
- Outsource

Reduce Bottom Line Costs

908-755-8565



Twin City Pharmacy
755-7696

1708 Park Ave., South Plainfield (Next to ACME)

Vitamin and Herb Supplements
Featuring Solgar & Hudson Brands

Solgar's Full Potency Herb line is a reliable mix of standardized extracts that elicit healthful benefits.

Hudson Quality Vitamins for over 60 years. Quality vitamins at affordable prices.

Today's modern pharmacy with old fashioned values

- Free Delivery
- We Accept Most Major Medical Plans
- Hospice Care & Home Healthcare Needs
- Diabetic Counseling & Supplies
- Direct Medicare billing for medical goods and equipment.
- Hallmark Cards and Gifts

Come and See for Yourself!

Happy Holidays from the Staff

SCHOOL DAYS: What's News?

Council Recognizes Students from The Family Leaders of America

The South Plainfield Borough Council recognized the students from the Family Leaders of America for their work with the senior citizens. The group invited the seniors to lunch at the high school and presented a concert program afterward.

As Councilman Kubala presented the awards, he noted that we all hear the negatives about students. This is a positive and we are proud to recognize these students.

The Family Leaders of America are planning two other events with the seniors in future months.

Those receiving the certificates were: Regina Adams, Nicole Adorna, Fatima Ahmad, Celia Alfonso, Kristin Ander-

son, Melinda Agostino, Maggie Arbelaez, Amanda Bertrand, Dana Bertrand, Jennifer Basile, Maria Berberabe, Rocco Borja, Kim Bulla, Christina DeStefano, Leticia Donegan, Vincent DiNizo, Susan Garfield, Adam Gerb, Jaime Grubesich, Lyreshia Hailstork, Shannon Hecht, Keiko Kameda, Mindy Kovacs, Amanda Kress, Joanna Llerena, Joanne Michalski, Jennifer Nicolay, Isidra Price, Christina Raimondi, Jennifer Reynolds, Lauren Richardson, Kathy Skoba, Robin Stavis, Amanda Sterling, Elaine Smith, Sandra Sharbash, Jennifer Tigue, Melissa Tittoson, Judy Wang, Nicole Wrublewski, Lauren Yulick.



Pictured left to right are Family Leaders of America Chapter Advisors, Janet Flanagan-Wurtz and Loretta Tansey.

Our Lady of Czestochowa Roman Catholic Church CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE

| | | |
|--------|----------|---|
| Dec 24 | 5:30 pm | Children's Mass with Santa |
| Dec 24 | 10:30 pm | Caroling with the Senior Choir |
| | 11:00 pm | Christmas Eve Mass (formerly midnight) |
| Dec 25 | 8:00 am | Shepherd's Mass |
| | 11:00 am | High Mass of Christmas Day |
| | 12:15 pm | Special - Angel's Mass |

Happy Holidays
from Marty and the Staff
of

Carousel
Hair Salon

The Family Place

307 Oak Tree Avenue • South Plainfield, NJ

908-668-8397



Suzanne Weller, a teacher at Roosevelt Elementary School (pictured left), and with Lara Kensey (pictured right), a teacher at Franklin School, were recently awarded tenure.



Elementary Teachers Awarded Tenure

The Board of Education recently awarded tenure to two South Plainfield elementary school teachers.

Lara Kensey, one of the recipients, teaches first grade at Franklin Elementary School. Mrs. Kensey is in her fourth year at Franklin. She graduated from

Plattsburgh University in New York.

Also receiving tenure is Suzanne Weller, a first grade teacher at Roosevelt Elementary School. She has been teaching at Roosevelt for three years. A product of the South Plainfield school system, she attended

Riley Elementary School and graduated high school in 1987. She continues a family tradition, her mother taught school in Scotland and her father, Robert Owens, now retired, taught Biology at South Plainfield High School.

High School Students Named to Honor Roll for First Marking Period

The South Plainfield High School Guidance Department announces the following students were named to the Honor Roll for the first marking period.

GRADE 9

Michelle Aboosamara, Nicole Adorna, Lindsey Aiello, Samuel Alexander, Stephen Allara, Eric Ambielli, David Aquino, Jessica Arndt, Sandhya Balkaran, Jason Bataille, Kimberly Benson, Jonathan Bloodgood, Nicholas Bloodgood, Che Bowman, Kyan Bowman, Rosemarie Brizak, Johanna Camino, Tricia-Marie Chosney, David Cupo, Michael Desimone, Mark Dimacje, Thomas Doyon, Joshua English, Mathew Eustice, Rachel Feller, John Foscolo, Ema Fulton, Angelique Ganiaris, Richard Gebauer, Antonio Gigante, Alissa Gittens, Scott Gunderson, Paul Hermann, Lisa Hewitt, Melissa Jamieson, Shelly Jankowski, Mathew Kurilew, Maria Antonell Leonardis, Nicole Luthman, Joanne Michalski, Sabina Montanaro, Adrienne Nagy, Cathy Nguyen, Huy Nguyen, Lam Nguyen, Joseph Nicolay, Gregory Ogonowski, Sarah Oppelt, Jennifer Pagala, Julie Palmer, Annette Papa, Jessica Pasco, Millie Patel, Heather Penderson, Jessica Persa, Steven Popp, Stephanie Prybella, James Reedy, Caroline Reilly, Jennifer Reynolds, Christopher Sangster, Martin Schreck, Evan Sims, Jessie Spayder, Julyn Stay, Alison Tietjen, Kristen Turner, Sergio Vizcaino, Brian Wilson, Justin Woo, Eman Younes, Veronica Zappi, David Zebrowski and Ping Zhang Qui Pang.

GRADE 10

Melinda Agostino, Diana, Algoo, David Alles, Johanna Alzate, Jessica Ardis, Glen Barlics, Alison Barrett, Jennifer Basile, Justin Benford, Amanda

Bertrand, Raymond Brandes, Krissy Brooks, Matthew Brooks, Cindy Carlson, Shannon Cassidy, Laura Colicchio, Lyra-Akina Cummings, Sheryl Cwiekalo, Michael Dematos, Margaret Derose, Dina Diaz, Kelly Doerr, James Donelson, Brian Donnelly, Pamela Eng, Courtney English, John Espin, Christopher Francis, Melissa Garatino, Jessica Graisser, Krista Gunderson, Andre Harry-Penn, Lynda Hepburn, Carolyn Hoffman, Rebecca Horn, Maria Hudak, Kenny Huynh, Jennifer Infante, Eric Jackson, Jasmin Jones, Michelle King, Christopher Laferrera, Theresa Lamas-tro, Paul Lee, Jason Lichtenstein, Stefani MacDougall, Sandra Marin, Brenda Mendez, Ruben Mera, Lisa Mocerino, Jane Nguyen, Dominique Pender, Rebecca Perez, Lauren Perry, Shanee Person, Peter Pham, Jennifer Rayho, Tracy Regan, Jessica Rodrigues, Heather Roth, Joseph Scotto, Carol Serago, Katherine Skoba, Robin Stayvas, David Stoekel, Steven Terjek, Bradford Tierney, Yolanda Toca, Eric Toth, Laura Walter, Kimberly Warren, Kimberly Wilcox, Nichole Wrublewski, Rania Younes and Lauren Yulick.

GRADE 11

Fatima Ahmad, Michele Allen, Tanya Altomare, Steven Ambielli, John Blondet, Leyna Bollwage, Bradley Carlton, Melanie Carmon, Emme Castillo, Lisa Christensen, Erinn Crane, Salvatore Degennaro, Rachel Denno, Julie Derose, Rochelle Dimacje, Chiemeka Ejochi, Juliette Falocco, Jarel Foster, Christina Freeman, Michael Gage, Brendan Gaynor, Amy Glowacki, Victoria Gray, Meagan Harth, Roscoe Hill, Jillian Hoppe, Shaline Itwaru, Krishnan Iyengar, Kenneth Kugelman, Daniel LaSpata, Matthew LaSpata, Khanh Le, Bruce Lee, Michael Maina, Sara

Malave, Veronica Maranon, Erica McGrath, Joseph Monahan, Zachary Moore, Brianne Morrison, Richard Mowrey, Linda Nguyen, Ming Dihn Nguyen, Gina Marie Nobile, Melissa O'Connor, Dina Pasco, Bhaven Patel, Dimple Patel, Danielle Persa, Thais Petrocchi, Kristen Pfeifer, Michael Picciotto, Elaine Ramos, Prachi Rastogi, Sandra Lynne Reedy, Candace Romascindo, Andrew Santos, Kelly Ann Schnyderite, Lisa Sepkowski, Elizabeth Serago, Kaminee Sewdat, Mohamed Shiliwala, Michael Vito, Roger Vroom, Erin Walter, Patricia Walter, Judy Wang, Matthew Wojik, Riza Ysla, and Sara Ziobro.

GRADE 12

Desha Abe, Shelly Algoo, Mark Anderson, Kristen Basoline, Jennifer Borja, Rocco Borja, Steven Brizak, Phuong Bui, Michael Calderone, Jamie Cammarata, Joseph Celentano, Adrienne Christatos, Lisa Costante, Stephanie Cupo, Michelle Demcoe, Thomas DeStefano, Thomas Doerr, John Drangula, Elizabeth Dressler, Keith Duck-er, Lihn Duong, LeeAnn Errico, Michael Francis, Jaime Friendland, Shaun Galya, Susan Garfield, Lynn Marie Gawlick, Rebecca Gross, Carol Ibarra, Christopher Johnston, Janie Joy, Keiko Kameda, Michelle Lamberti, Brendan Lazar, Nghi Le, Jennifer Lesniak, Rosanny Lima, Stanley Miszczewski, Sarat Munjuluri, Hai Dinh Ngyuen, Jennifer Nicolay, Daniel Nieves, Jennifer Otlowski, Keith Palmer, Allison Raiti, Jessica Sevedio, Richard Shinkle, Christine Smalley, Elaine Smith, Stephanie Stahlin, Danielle Stebila, Robyn Stein, Marlana Swinick, Carolyn Timinski, Thanh-Ngoc Tran, Heather VanKleef, John Vasiladis, Joy Walter, Richard Winner and Stephanie Wrublewski.

Obituaries

Stella Enoch Barile

Stella Enoch Barile, 81, died on Tuesday Nov. 25, at Robert Wood Johnson University Medical center in New Brunswick.

She was born in Bayonne and was a former resident of Manville before moving to South Plainfield 63 years ago.

Mrs. Barile was an assembler for Ceramic Elements in South Plainfield for five years before retiring in 1976. Prior to that she worked for Standards Plastics in South Plainfield for 20 years.

Mrs. Barile was a member of Sacred Heart Church and a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens and AARP.

She was predeceased by her husband, Anthony Barile Sr., who died in 1973 and her son Thomas A. Barile, who died 1980.

She is survived by her son, Anthony Barile Jr. of South Plainfield; two daughters, Rose Barsarika of Middlesex and Mary Ann Barile of South Plainfield; four sisters, Sophie Kralovich and Lottie Youkowsky, both of Manville, Mary Carey of St. Petersburg, Fla. and Helen Enoch of Manville. Also surviving are five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

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

Edward L. Cannizzaro

Edward L. Cannizzaro, 83, died on Wednesday, Nov. 26, in the Genesis Elder Care-The Woodlands, Plainfield.

Born in Woodbridge, he resided in Plainfield before moving to South Plainfield in 1952.

He was employed by Northeastern Products of South Plainfield as a soup & spice blender for 10 years. He retired in 1985. Previously, he was employed as a chemical operator for the former Sinclair-Koppers Company of Carteret.

Mr. Cannizzaro was a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens and the Sacred Heart Church Senior Citizens, where he had served as treasurer for many years. He was also a communicant of Sacred Heart Church. He had served in the United States Army during WW II, and served as a Special Police Officer for the Borough of South Plainfield for many years. He was a member of the South Plainfield Special Police Pistol Team. He was a member of the B.P.O. Elks of Woodbridge. He was also an avid bowler, and had won many bowling tournaments in the Central Jersey area.

Surviving are his wife, Irene (Czeto) Cannizzaro; a daughter Diane Boyle, South Plainfield;

two sisters, Eleanor Manyak, of Texas and Lucy Bonomola of Santa Clara, Calif.; and a brother James Cannizzaro, South Plainfield. Also surviving are three grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Mary A. (Pritstavec) Decker

Mary A. (Pritstavec) Decker of Dunellen died on Wednesday Dec. 3, at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

She was born in Forest City, Pa., and was a former resident of Irvington before moving to Dunellen 24 years ago.

Mrs. Decker was a clerical worker for the Prudential Life Insurance Company in South Plainfield for 25 years before retiring in 1982.

She was a communicant of Our Lady Czestochowa Church and a member of the Rosary Altar Society.

She was a member of the Dunellen Senior Citizens.

She was predeceased by her husband, Conrad B. Decker, who died in 1980.

She is survived by her son, William Decker of Reading, Pa.; two daughters, Mary Ann Gianfrancesco and Lorriane Shiminsky, both of Dunellen. Also surviving is her brother, William Pritstavec of Linden and four grandchildren.

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

Donald P. Fritze

Donald P. Fritze, 61, died on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at his home. Born in New York City, he resided in South Plainfield for many years before settling in the Sayreville area 15 years ago.

He was a veteran of the Korean Conflict where he had served in the United States Air Force.

He was employed by the State of New Jersey in the State Department of Health as an Infectious Disease Educator for the past seven years. Previously, he had been employed by the former Hyatt Roller Bearing Company of Clark for 25 years as a Substance Abuse Counselor.

Mr. Fritze is a former member of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department and the New Jersey State Exempt Fireman's Association. He was also an Emergency Medical Technician and had been a former member of the Morgan Rescue Squad.

He is a member of American Legion Chaumont Post 243 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post 6763.

Mr. Fritze was an avid gun collector and had been a member of many gun collector organizations.

Surviving are his two sons, John Fritze of Piscataway and Jeff Fritze of South Plainfield; his sister, Janet Tetlus of Staten Island and his brother, Roger Fritze of Miami, Fla. Also surviving are five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Hedwig E. Betty" (Zalenska) Hamill

Hedwig E. "Betty" (Zalenska) Hamill, 82, died on Thursday Dec. 4, at her home.

Born in Perth Amboy, Mrs. Hamill had resided in Elizabeth before moving to Linden in 1940. She settled in South Plainfield 25 years ago.

Mrs. Hamill had been employed by Mectron Manufacturing Co. of Linden as an assembler in the late 1950's. She was also a homemaker for most of her life.

She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

Her husband, John F. Hamill, died in 1966.

Surviving is her daughter, Linda DeLair of South Plainfield; her brother, Daniel Zalinski of Calif. and her four grandsons, David, Mark, John and Andrew DeLair, all of South Plainfield. Also surviving are two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Vera T. Puntorno

Vera T. Puntorno, 75, died on Tuesday, Dec. 9, in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

Born in Irvington, Mrs. Puntorno had resided in the Iselin section of Woodbridge, Forked River and Hallandale, Fla. before moving to South Plainfield six months ago.

She was a homemaker.

Mrs. Puntorno was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post #6763 Ladies Auxiliary. She held many offices including the office of past president of the Middlesex County Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary. She was a former member and past president of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary Iselin Post #2636. Mrs. Puntorno was a former member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary Forked River Post #10118. She was also a

member of the VFW "Cooties" in the Iselin VFW Post and the Hallandale, Fla. VFW Post.

Her husband, Orlando Puntorno, died in 1996.

Surviving are her two daughters, Virginia Sarullo of South Plainfield and Gloria Puntorno of Florida; four sisters, Etta Matino and Jennie Puntorno of Calif.; Fran Ferrara of Bayville and Mary Palmieri of Berkley Height.

Also surviving are eight grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Helen L. (Willman) Schiavoni

Helen L. (Willman) Schiavoni, 70, died Wednesday, Dec. 10, at Rahway Hospital.

Born in Louisville, Ky, Mrs. Schiavoni had resided there before meeting her husband of 50 years on April 12, 1947. They resided in Newark before settling in South Plainfield in 1954.

Mrs. Schiavoni was employed by the Borough of South Plainfield as the Supervisor for the Circulation Desk of the South Plainfield Library for 10 years before her retirement in January. She also ran the Summer Reading Program and the Adult & Children Craft Program for the library.

She was the former owner of Helen's Dance Studio in South Plainfield during the 1970's. She also was employed as a knitter for the Fleck Knitwear Co. of Plainfield in the 1980's.

Mrs. Schiavoni was a former member of the Wesley United Methodist Church of South Plainfield where she was instrumental in organizing their annual Flea Market and Craft Show.

Mrs. Schiavoni was also involved with the South Plainfield Historical Society.

Surviving are her husband of 50 years, Dominick "Sonney"

Schiavoni; two daughters, Connie Schiavoni and Valerie Schiavoni, both of Chatham; a sister, Roberta "Bobbie" McGill and a brother-in-law, Hank McGill of Lagrange, Ky.

Services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Herbert E. "Red" White

Herbert E. "Red" White, 82, died on Monday, Dec. 1, in Veterans Administration Medical Center in East Orange.

Born in Springfield, Mass., he resided in Westfield before moving to South Plainfield over 25 years ago.

Before his retirement 15 years ago, he was the security supervisor for the Pinkerton Security Co. of Maplewood and was stationed at National Starch Corp. in Plainfield for 10 years.

From the 1950's until the early 1970's, he had owned and operated the H. White and Sons Disposal Co. of Westfield.

Mr. White was an Army Veteran of WW II. While he was stationed in Africa with the 17th Field Artillery Unit, he was wounded and subsequently awarded the Purple Heart.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church and a life member of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 28.

His wife, Antoinette Riccardo White, died in 1986. He was also pre-deceased by his brother, Harvey White.

Surviving are his sons, Edward H. White of Spotswood and Robert J. White of South Plainfield and his two granddaughter, Lisa and Lauren White of Spotswood.

Memorial donations to the American Cancer Society would be appreciated.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.



(908) 561-8000

McCriskin

HOME FOR FUNERALS

2425 PLAINFIELD AVENUE
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
FAX (908) 561-6744

RICHARD W. MCCRISKIN, Pres., Mgr.
William C. McCriskin, V. Pres., Dir.
James A. Gustafson, Dir.
James F. Connaughton, Assoc. Dir.

HELP WANTED

ADVERTISING SALESPERSON for newspaper. Part-time. 732-469-4380.

FOR SALE

COMPUTER DESK. Shelves and drawers. 755-8565. Ask for Molly. Best offer.

STAT CAMERA Agfa Repromaster 310 with developer and Kodak paper. \$300, paid \$4500. 732-469-4385.

FURNITURE REFINISHING

FURNITURE REPAIRED, refinished and custom made. 732-545-3132.

WANTED

HISTORIC PHOTOS of South Plainfield buildings, landmarks and/or businesses. 732-469-4381

James W. Conroy
Funeral Home



Serving the Area Since 1949

"Because We Care"

- Forethought Funeral Planning
- N.J.D.A. Choices
- Complete Care Financing
- Serving All Faiths
- Cremation Services
- Pre Arrangement Specialists

ROBERT HUNTER JR.

Owner-Manager

756-2800

2456 Plainfield Ave,
South Plainfield

"Consult the Families We Serve"

Classified Advertising Works.

Call 469-4380 to place your classified advertising.

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.

Next issue deadline is December 24.

Youth Bowling

Current Standings

| Name | Won | Lost | .PC |
|---------------------|------|-------|------|
| 1. Life of Agonists | 39.0 | 23.00 | .619 |
| 2. Strikers | 38.0 | 25.0 | .603 |
| 3. MPM Killers | 35.0 | 28.0 | .555 |
| 4. Three Musketeers | 34.0 | 29.0 | .529 |
| 5. New World Order | 33.0 | 30.0 | .523 |
| 6. Losers | 29.0 | 27.0 | .517 |
| 7. Team 7 | 30.0 | 23.0 | .589 |
| 8. No Names | 27.0 | 36.0 | .428 |
| 9. The Smakers | 24.0 | 39.0 | .380 |
| 10. Strike Force | 20.0 | 43.0 | .317 |

Individuals Boys

High Game Scratch

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Anthony Pipolo | 225 |
| Walter Kardos | 155 |
| Joey Deandrea | 135 |

Individuals Boys

High Game Handicap

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Jeff Smith | 249 |
| Anthony Rowlands | 222 |
| Matthew Boley | 212 |

Individuals Girls

High Game Scratch

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Vicki Boley | 166 |
| Jacquie Herzog | 162 |
| Melanie Foscolo | 92 |

Individual Girls

High Game Handicap

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Kristine Herzog | 223 |
| Erin Gyurisin | 212 |

HIGHLIGHTED TEAM OF THE WEEK

| Strikers | T Pins | Avg. |
|------------|--------|------|
| K. Gaub | 2103 | 87 |
| M. Foscolo | 1626 | 67 |
| V. Boley | 3821 | 115 |

Wrestling

Tigers Capture 12 Medals in Turkey Day Classic Conroy claims title DeBaise, Dorey Second

By Bob Hunter

South Plainfield Recreation wrestlers looked strong in the Voorhees Turkey Day Wrestling Tournament held over Thanksgiving weekend.

The Tigers had sixteen wrestlers enter the day's competition with twelve wrestlers claiming medals. The action started in the bantam 44 pound weight class with Patrick Hunter facing Chris Hall of Pocono Hills, Pa. Hunter, who jumped out to an early 5-0 lead, was caught in late in the match and was pinned. He rebounded in the wrestle backs with falls over Jason Mesce and Brian Stifken, both of Del Val, to claim a fourth place finish. Tim Gaughan was next at 53 pounds. He won a 8-0 decision over Kurt Chiusoto of Monroe but lost in the next round to pin Joey Krolmajor of Bridgewater. In the consolation final he dropped a close 3-0 decision to Steve Mazurek of Voorhees for fifth.

Brad Martin, wrestling at 68 pounds, faced Cory Kent, another PA wrestler and dropped a 16-4 decision. He won his next match and won the consolation final with a come from behind 6-5 win over Jimmy Hodge of

Long Valley for fourth place.

In the Midget division, Robert Gentile won his opening 47 pound match 6-0 over Jason Hojnowski of Voorhees but lost his semi final match to K. Lutz of Red Hawk 3-2. Gentile won his consolation final with a 3-2 decision over Billy Schenck of Phillipsburg for third place.

Jimmy Conroy was the lone Tiger champion in the Midget 50 pounds class. Conroy won his opening match, dominating Jeremy Scheid of Rev Brown PA 8-1 then pinned Jose Diaz of Monroe. He shutout Bryan Bogusz of Phillipsburg 5-0 in the finals.

Matt D'Alessandro, 59 pounds, lost his opening match to Taylor VanCleaf of East Stroudsburg, Pa., then lost his second match in a close 10-8 decision to Eric Wright of Roselle Park.

Nick Dorey, in the 59 pound class, won his first match by a decision 4-2 over Erik Pryslak of Phillipsburg, then pinned Jason Mazurek in the semi final round. He lost a heart breaker in the finals to Rob Fulton of Phillipsburg for a second place finish.

Mike Jakubik, in the 61 pound weight class, won his opening round match 7-1 over Jeremy Wene, then lost to Mike Green-

wald of Union. He lost an overtime decision to Mark Murray of Greenbrook in the consolation finals 4-2. Sam Martin lost his first match in the 68 pound class to John Mangini of the Red Hawks, then pinned Tom Lombardi of Long Valley, but lost his consolation final to Joey Smith of Stanford. Frank Stefanelli lost a close 2-0 decision to JC Clark of Rumson, then came back to pin Billy Stang, but lost in the consolation finals in the 72 pound class 4-2 to Chris Hoffmann of Voorhees.

In the 97 pound class, Kevin Crilley lost to Alex Caruso, 10-4, then won his next two by fall for a fourth place finish. In the 100 pound weight class, Charlie Decker had a bye in the opening round, lost in the second round and won his third match for a third place finish.

In the Junior division, 57 pound class Billy Padula won his opening round match by fall over Cory Victorella of Pohatong, lost his semi final match, then lost a close 7-6 consolation match. Guy Severini defeated Derek Guant 9-4, then dropped his second match but came on to win his consolation final by fall over Tim Kocot of Long Valley for a third place finish.

Rob Maistirkle lost his opening 100 pound match but came back to pin Tim Kowalak of Long Valley.

Joe DeBaise pinned Steve Daybent of Cranford and pinned John Gordon, but lost 7-4 decision to Jason Callmere in the finals for second place.

Special thanks to Sue D'Alessandro for all her help in keeping the stats.

Soccer Registration Continues Through December 26

Registration for Indoor Soccer, sponsored by the Recreation Department, is now under way and will continue through Dec. 26.

Boys and girls in grades 6-12 are eligible. Teams will be co-ed. Games will be played Sunday afternoons from Jan 11-March 8. The fee is \$22 per participant.

Registration is at the Recreation office, located in the PAL Building on Maple Ave., Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The office will also be open from 6:00 -8:00 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 15. Applicants must present a birth certificate and proof of residency if they haven't participated in a Recreation Youth League program within the past year. Checks should be made payable to South Plainfield Recreation. For further information call (908) 226-7713.

Basketball

Youth League

The South Plainfield Recreation Commission's Youth Basketball program has 51 teams taking part (Ages 7-8 D-League; ages 9-10 C-League and ages 13-14 A-League). Over 400 boys and girls will participate in the program. Games are played at the Middle School and P.A.L. Building every Saturday.

A-League Basketball Standings

| Team | Win | Loss |
|-------------|-----|------|
| Connecticut | 1 | 1 |
| Notre Dame | 2 | 0 |
| St. Johns | 2 | 0 |
| UCLA | 2 | 0 |
| Georgetown | 0 | 1 |
| Seton Hall | 1 | 1 |
| N. Carolina | 0 | 1 |
| Duke | 0 | 1 |
| Rutgers | 0 | 1 |

A-League Basketball Scores

| Team | Score |
|--------------|-------|
| Duke | 16 |
| St. Johns | 55 |
| Connecticut | 38 |
| Notre Dame | 40 |
| UCLA | 56 |
| No. Carolina | 38 |
| Seton Hall | 36 |
| Rutgers | 29 |
| Georgetown | Bye |

B-League Basketball Standings

| Team | Win | Loss |
|------------|-----|------|
| Princeton | 2 | 0 |
| Michigan | 2 | 0 |
| UNLV | 1 | 1 |
| Indiana | 0 | 2 |
| Syracuse | 1 | 1 |
| Virginia | 2 | 0 |
| Penn State | 0 | 2 |
| Arizona | 1 | 1 |
| Boston | 0 | 2 |
| Miami | 0 | 2 |
| Pittsburg | 1 | 0 |
| Kentucky | 1 | 0 |

B-League Basketball Scores

| Team | Score |
|----------------|-------|
| Syracuse | 16 |
| Miami | 20 |
| Indiana | 20 |
| Pittsburg | 58 |
| Boston College | 23 |
| Virginia | 26 |
| Kentucky | 42 |
| UNLV | 38 |
| Miami | 23 |
| Arizona | 25 |
| Princeton | 22 |
| Penn State | 19 |

C-League Basketball Standings

| Team | Win | Loss |
|-----------|-----|------|
| Lakers | 2 | 0 |
| Rockets | 2 | 0 |
| Nuggets | 1 | 1 |
| Mavericks | 2 | 0 |

| | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| Raptors | 1 | 1 |
| Clippers | 1 | 1 |
| Sonic | 1 | 1 |
| Jazz | 0 | 2 |
| Kings | 1 | 1 |
| Trail Blazers | 1 | 1 |
| Suns | 0 | 2 |
| Warriors | 0 | 2 |
| Spurs | 1 | 0 |
| Grizzlies | 0 | 1 |

C-League Basketball Scores

| Team | Score |
|---------------|-------|
| Kings | 24 |
| Suns | 20 |
| Warriors | 14 |
| Lakers | 30 |
| Grizzlies | 42 |
| Rockets | 47 |
| Clippers | 22 |
| Spurs | 34 |
| Sonic | 26 |
| Jazz | 10 |
| Mavericks | 34 |
| Nuggets | 25 |
| Raptors | 14 |
| Trail Blazers | 24 |

D-League Basketball Standings

| Team | Win | Loss |
|-----------|-----|------|
| Cavaliers | 1 | 1 |
| Hornets | 1 | 1 |
| Pacers | 2 | 0 |
| Bulls | 2 | 0 |
| Bullets | 1 | 1 |
| Magic | 2 | 0 |
| Bucks | 0 | 2 |
| Celtics | 0 | 1 |

| | | |
|---------|---|---|
| Nets | 1 | 1 |
| Sixers | 1 | 1 |
| Pistons | 0 | 2 |
| Knicks | 0 | 2 |
| Hawks | 1 | 0 |

D-League Basketball Scores

| Team | Score |
|-----------|-------|
| Knicks | 12 |
| Hawks | 22 |
| Bulls | 18 |
| Hornets | 12 |
| Magic | 26 |
| Bucks | 0 |
| Sixers | 24 |
| Pistons | 4 |
| Cavaliers | 14 |
| Nets | 16 |
| Pacers | 24 |
| Bullets | 14 |
| Celtics | Bye |

Adult Basketball

| Name | W | L | Pct |
|-----------------|---|---|-------|
| Petriello | | | |
| Landscaping | 2 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Harry's Liquors | 2 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Roadrunners | 1 | 1 | .500 |
| Roughriders | 1 | 1 | .500 |
| Bricklayers | 0 | 2 | .000 |
| Degussa | 0 | 2 | .000 |

January 15, 1997 moved to PAL

| | |
|------|---|
| 6:30 | Roughriders vs. Bricklayers |
| 7:30 | Roadrunners vs. Degussa |
| 8:30 | Harry Liquors vs. Petriello Landscaping |

Happy Holidays!!



Weichert Realtors

OFF: (908) 757-7780
EVES: (908) 756-9197
FAX: (908) 756-5696

Paul and Maryhelen Thievon

MARKETING SPECIALIST/
LICENSED BROKER

SPECIALISTS IN
SOUTH PLAINFIELD



DANDEE'S PETS

217 Hamilton Blvd.

(908) 755-3077

Pampered Pet Grooming!

FREE!! SANTA PHOTO
WITH GROOMING!

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT!

-BOROUGH NOTES-

Continued from page 1

to permit easy access from the first to the second floor and for roof access for Degussa and the fire department.

■ Patricia Hamm came before the Planning Board to request a preliminary and final site plan to open and conduct a day care center on Plainfield Ave. Members of the Board asked questions about proper lighting, traffic flow, fire safety requirements and handicapped bathrooms. John Hogan stated that due to the number of items not indicated on the plans submitted, the missing items should be clearly indicated before a final vote is taken. John Allen made a motion to grant preliminary site plan approval, with a number of conditions.

■ Woodland Manor asked that the case before the Board be continued until the next meeting and the Board agreed.

■ Rich O'Connor distributed a letter and package to the Board backing up his opinion that Section 808 of the Development Review Ordinance should provide for performance guarantees and inspections fees for improvements both on and off site. The Board agreed with O'Connor and voted to adopt the recommendations.

■ Mayor Gallagher has asked Cris Rafano to come up with a procedure that would allow the Board to bring the health officer, fire official and environmental officer into the loop of application review.

■ The next regular meeting of the Planning Board is scheduled

for Jan. 13.

Board of Adjustment

■ PSE&G is requesting a use variance at 4000 Hadley Rd., to use an existing interior warehouse section of the existing structure for truck parking and storage for PSE&G overhead transmissions department.

■ Larry and Donna Clark, Jersey St., requested a use variance for the construction of a self-storage facility, a use not permitted in the M-3 zone. Applicant is also seeking a variance from front and side setback.

■ Benderson Development Co. Inc. requested a variance for the construction of a 94-room Main Stay Hotel on New World Way and is seeking other lot variances.

Delaney Court — A Statement From Blanche Ellis

By Blanche Ellis, Department of Human Services

My name is Blanche Ellis and I work for the Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities. I have prepared a brief statement based on the concerns I heard expressed last Monday night. I am limiting my remarks to information regarding the Division's services for people with Developmental Disabilities. Ms. Renee Fannin of ResCare will be presenting information regarding the Delaney Court home.

The Division of Developmental Disabilities has been opening Community Residences like the one planned for Delaney Court

since 1979. Twenty years ago there were over 8,000 people living in New Jersey's institutions for people with developmental disabilities, and fewer than 100 people living in Division funded community placements. Twenty years ago most people with Developmental Disabilities who could no longer live in their family homes were placed in institutions, because alternatives in the community were limited to a handful of group homes and skill development homes.

When the North Princeton Developmental Center, (NPDC) closes next April, there will be 3,600 people remaining in New Jersey institutions for people with Developmental Disabilities and there will be nearly 6,000 people living in Division funded community placements. You may also have heard that there are 5,000 people on the Community Waiting List. Not one of these individuals is waiting for a place in a Developmental Center. Today people are admitted to an institution only in the circumstance of an immediate need for placement without any place available in the community.

I am giving you this information

Volunteer Fire Department Report

Chief Abbruzzese reported that during November the department answered a total of 777 fire alarms. A total of 1,355 man-hours were spent during the month. The breakdown is as follows: 888 hours on alarms, 146 hours on maintenance, 257 on drills and 64 hours of extra duty.

Custom Handmade Furniture & Repair**WONDERLAND WOODS**

FINE HANDMADE furniture

185 EMERSON ROAD
SOMERSET NJ
732-545-3132

Risoli's Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Risoli of Hamilton Boulevard celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 8, 1997 in Florida after returning from a trip to Greece. They were given a dinner party in Ft. Myers, Florida, by their five children. In attendance were James Risoli of San Antonio, Texas; Thomas Risoli of Westerville, Ohio; Ronald Risoli of South Plainfield, New Jersey and their two daughters Rosemarie Danchik and Linda Ann Ward of Lehigh Acres, Fla., and their families.

They also renewed their wedding vows at a mass at Saint Raphaels Catholic Church in Lehigh Acres, Florida.

Tony Risoli is a life-long resident of South Plainfield and began his school years in a small schoolhouse on Hadley Airfield



Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Risoli

along Stelton Road, which is now a shopping mall. He has seen many changes in what used to be a small town.

The Risoli's now spend their winters in Lehigh Acres, Florida. They have two granddaughters and six grandsons.

the community.

As you know, Community Residences like the one on Delaney Court have been a permitted use in any residential area of any municipality since the amendment to the Municipal Land Use Legislation, known as 40:55D-66.1, was enacted in 1978. The law then in effect allowed municipalities to apply concentration and distancing restrictions to homes have more than six residents. Your town's attorney pointed out that these restrictions were declared invalid in 1996. This court decision was based on the Federal Fair Housing amendments, which had been passed eight years earlier in 1988. The federal amendments declare that, with respect to housing, people with disabilities are a protected class and may not be discriminated against any more than can people of different races, nationalities or religions. Therefore the four women with disabilities who will be moving to Delaney Court may be treated no differently than you were treated when you purchased your homes. For this reason, neither the State nor your municipal official or ResCare were permitted to give you notice of the women's intentions. To do so is against the law.

Having said that, I must tell you that I do understand why you want to know about these women and their disabilities in advance of their moving in. I realized that you are afraid of what they might do to you, or more especially, to your children. I understand that you view their presence as a threat to your life styles and property values. I also realize that anything we can say to you, any reassurance we can give, any answer to any question is not necessarily going to change your mind about this home. We truly believe that the presence of these women will not effect you in any way, but only time and the experience of living with them as neighbors can convince you of this.

Delaney Court Residents Receive Assurances

Continued from page 1

Assemblyman Jerry Green, 17 District, also spoke to the group. He said he is in contact with state authorities and they assured him this home would not be used exclusively for a home for the developmentally disabled and not a half way house.

The Dec. 11 meeting, which started early so the regular council meeting could take place on time, included Blanch Ellis and Linda Suchovic, both from the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Also present were Renee Fannin, executive director and Heather Smith of from ResCare. Blanch Ellis began the meeting by reading a prepared statement (printed above) in response to the questions residents had asked at Monday's meeting.

Renee Fannin answered questions of Mayor Gallagher and Delaney Ct. residents. She assured everyone that ResCare would not place drug addicts, sex offenders, the criminally insane or violent people in the home. She said ResCare fully expects the women to live out their lives in this house.

The Mayor asked Ms. Fannin if she would be willing to sign an agreement similar to the one ResCare signed with Lacy Town-

ship. The agreement limits the use of the home and the amount of people living in the home. She stated they would be agreeable to discuss such an agreement with the town.

Ms. Fannin said she hoped the women would be welcomed into the neighborhood and they would like to become a part of the neighborhood and to be included in any future group meetings. She also said that she would be glad to meet with the residents to help integrate the group, both into the neighborhood and the town.

The house presently has three bedrooms and will have to be expanded to accommodate four bedrooms for the women. The Mayor reported that no permits have been issued as of this date. Ms. Fannin assured everyone that all building codes would be met, including permits and inspections, both by the town and the state.

Most residents said the meetings helped put aside some of their fears and answered questions. They also said they would like to have been informed about the home earlier. Both Mrs. Ellis and Ms. Fannin said that was not possible as it is against state law to inform the residents ahead of time.

Aiello

Chiropractic Center, P.C.

Your hometown source for quick pain relief

2201 South Clinton Avenue, Suite H
South Plainfield, NJ 07080-1471

On the corner of New Market and South Clinton

755-2289

TCM CONTRACTING

Contracting
Residential and Commercial
New Construction
and Renovations
Central Jersey

Free Estimates/Fully Insured



TIM O'BRIEN

908-668-6836

P.O. Box 288
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Sixth Annual Twin City Pharmacy/SPASA Holiday Basketball Tournament

By William Beegle

| Grades 7-8 | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Thurs.- Girls Preliminary | |
| East Brunswick | 61 |
| Sacred Heart | 11 |
| South Plainfield | 44 |
| North Plainfield | 14 |
| Fri. — Boy's Preliminary | |
| East Brunswick | 55 |
| Sacred Heart | 46 |
| South Plainfield | 52 |
| North Plainfield | 47 |
| Saturday - Final - Girls | |
| East Brunswick | 45 |
| South Plainfield | 40 |
| Boys | |
| East Brunswick | 48 |
| South Plainfield | 65 |

Thursday, Dec. 11, the East Brunswick Bears girls defeated Sacred Heart 65-11 and the South Plainfield Tigers girls defeated North Plainfield 44-14. Friday, Dec. 12 the East Brunswick Bears boys defeated Sacred Heart by a score of 55-46. The South Plainfield Tigers boys team beat North Plainfield 52-47.

The finals were held on Saturday, Dec. 13 at the high school gym. The East Brunswick girls defeated the Tigers of South Plainfield 45-40 in a very close game. On the boys side, the Tigers of South Plainfield were triumphant over the East Brunswick Bears by a 65-48 score.

In the six years the tournament has been held, the Tigers boys team has won the tournament three times. Congratulations to everyone involved!

Crime Tips for Vacation Goers

By John Alles
SP Police Department

Many people are now getting ready to go away for the holidays. Here are some tips that may help to make your time away safer, and more worry free.

Before you leave

Make sure that your home looks lived in, not empty.

Stop mail and newspapers, or make arrangements for a friend to collect these for you.

Have a friend put some of their garbage in your cans.

Leave shades and blinds in normal positions, and put lights and a radio, or TV on automatic timers.

Have a neighbor maintain your property (cut lawn, remove snow, etc.) For longer vacations, leave a key and emergency numbers with a trusted neighbor.

Store valuables in a safety deposit box.

Lock all windows and doors. Double check your basement, garage, shed doors and windows before you leave. Unplug your electric garage door openers and put the emergency release cord up out of sight if it

can be easily reached by breaking a garage window. When you arrive home don't forget to turn the power back on for the garage doors and to place the emergency release cord back into its proper position.

If you have a pool, remove any ladders and secure the fencing around the pool.

Ask the police to check your home and fill out a vacant house card at police headquarters if you will be away for an extended period of time, or you don't have a trusted neighbor who can watch your home while you are gone.

While you are away

Carry a minimum amount of cash. Use travelers checks and credit cards, and keep a record of their numbers in a separate safe place.

Keep careful tabs on your travel tickets - they're as good as cash. Carry them on an inside pocket and be careful not to leave them in plain sight unattended.

If driving, plan your route carefully. Travel on main roads and make sure your car is in good working order prior to leaving.

Don't advertise your plans to strangers.

Always lock your car when it is parked, even if your stop is brief. Keep valuables out of sight and, if possible, locked in the trunk.

Never pick up hitchhikers.

If you stop overnight, remove bags and other valuables from your car and store them inside.

If your car breaks down, turn on your flashers and raise the hood, or tie a white rag to the antenna. If you must abandon your car, keep all the passengers together.

Carry a flashlight with fresh batteries in your car.

South Plainfield Police Report

An arrest has been made in the investigation of the fire at Nicastro's Garage on Hamilton Blvd. Arrested was Anthony Fasano, Kosciusko St., South Plainfield. The investigation was conducted by the South Plainfield Police Dept. and the Middlesex County Arson Task Force.

A Dorset Dr. resident came home on Dec. 11 to find his front door kicked in. Stolen were a VCR, gold ring, watch, gold charm bracelet, diamond heart and other jewelry estimated at \$1,750. The theft is under investigation.

A shopper at Home Depot reported her pocketbook was stolen while shopping in the store. The pocket book was later found in the ladies room and turned over to an employee. Missing were her credit cards, \$200 in cash, a checkbook and keys.

Sometime overnight on Dec 8, someone took a six foot emerald green arborvitae from the front lawn of a house on Park Ave. The plant weighed over 200 pounds, was balled in burlap and sitting on the lawn with several other plants.

A resident of So. Madison was arrested for possession of crack cocaine, possession of hypodermic syringe and drug paraphernalia. He complained of seizures and was taken to Muhlenburg Hospital. Upon his release he was placed under arrest.

Frederick Livingston of Irvington came to police headquarters to post bail on outstanding warrants. Upon further investigation the suspect was found to also have warrants from Woodbridge and was placed under arrest.

So. Plfd. Recycling & Yard Waste Site Christmas Holiday Schedule

The Recycling Center and the Yard Waste Site on Kenneth Ave. will be closed on Friday, Dec. 26, which is a Federal holiday. Both facilities will be open as usual from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 27.

The Yard Waste Site is on its winter hours schedule. Winter hours at the Yard Waste Site are Saturdays only from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Recycling Center will continue to be open Tuesdays, noon to 7 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Used paint will be accepted for recycling at the Recycling Center on Saturday, Dec. 20 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For updates call the Hotline: 226-7620.

Elks Are Selling Entertainment Books

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the Entertainment Book for \$30. For more information please contact Lou Peralta 756-6406.

South Plainfield Observer

is sold at the following locations

If you would like to sell the newspaper, call us at (732) 469-4380.

- 7-Eleven, Plainfield Ave.
- B & C Deli, Belmont Ave.
- Cindy Michaels Jewelry, Front St.
- Corner Deli, Hamilton Blvd.
- Carousel Hair Salon, Oak Tree Rd.
- Dandees Pets, Hamilton Blvd.
- Dave's Stationery, Sampton Ave.
- Gabriels, South Plainfield Ave.
- Holly Park Video, Park Ave.
- K Foods, Park Ave.
- Mohn's Flowers, Plainfield Ave.
- Oak Tree Farms, Oak Tree Road
- Pauls Stationery, Hamilton Blvd.
- Quick Foods, Park Ave.
- Sals Liquor Store, Park Ave.
- Service Plus, South Plainfield Ave.
- Sunrise Foods, Front & Maple
- The Little Store, Clinton Ave.
- Twice Is Nice, Front Street
- Twin City Pharmacy, Park Ave.
- Yogurt Express, Maple Ave.

South Plainfield Observer Advertisers are Listed in Bold Print

December/January

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--------|---|--|--|--|---|
| <div>To add your listing to the next calander, send event, date and time to the SOUTH PLAINFIELD OBSERVER, c/o G & G Graphics, 530 Union Blvd, Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846, or fax to 805-0815</div> | | |  | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| | 21 | 22 | | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| | | <div>Hanakkah</div> <div>Hanakkah Begins at Sundown</div> | <div>Hanakkah</div> <div>Copy Deadline for So. Plfd. Observer</div> | <div>Christmas Day</div> | | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | <div>JANUARY 1998</div> <div>Council Reorganization Meeting Borough Hall</div> | <div>Publication of So. Plfd. Observer</div> | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 10 |  |
| | | <div>Board of Adjustment 8 p.m.</div> | <div>Court 9:30 a.m. Business Advisory 6:30 p.m.</div> | | | |