

VOL. 1, NO. 9

**50 CENTS** 

**JANUARY 2, 1998** 

# 1998 Borough Council in Place

# **Councilmen Sworn in at Annual Reorganization Meeting**



Ray Petronko, surrounded by his family, is sworn in to his first term. Pictured from left are his son, Randy, his wife, Patricia and his daughters, Alexandria and Kimberly



Vincent Buttiglieri, second from right, takes the Oath of Office from Borough Clerk Jim Eckert. Also pictured are from left to right: Rajean Neubig and Vinnie's parents, Josephine and Charles Buttiglieri.

By Patricia Abbott

Newly elected Councilmen Vinnie Buttiglieri and Ray Petronko were sworn into office during the annual reorganization meeting held at Borough Hall held on New Year's Day. Appointments were also made to a

Day. Appointments were also made to a number of commissions and boards as well. (See page 11 for the list of appointments.)
Attending the ceremony with Mr. Petronko, were his wife Patricia, and children Randy, Alexandra and Kimberly. Ray enters his first term on the Borough Council. One of his goals for the coming year is to meet of his goals for the coming year is to meet the many people he will be working with in the borough. From the Roads Department to those in administrative positions. Ray believes that a councilman should be available to the citizens and listen to them in order to put their ideas to work. As a member of the council, he feels he is accountable for his decisions. He stated that becoming familiar with the people and the workings of the town will assist him in the decision-making process. As a means to this end he has attended Planning Board meetings, Recreation Department meetings and is also a member of the Traffic and Safety Commission. He feels that the written word that often crosses a councilman's desk doesn't always paint a clear picture. Speaking with the people who cor-respond with him will provide him with a better insight and enable him to do a more

Mr. Petronko has lived in South Plainfield for ten years. He has volunteered with a number of organizations and joined the traffic and safety commission since he moved here. His desire to help the growth and prosperity of the town prompted his decision to run for a

Seat on the council.

Councilman Vinnie Buttiglieri enters his second term of office on the Council. He was elected to his first term in 1995. He has been the council liaison for the Department of Public Works for three years and he has served on the Administration, Finance and



Mayor Dan Gallagher presents Mary Ann Kochut with a plaque of apprecialtion for her service as a Councilwoman.

Public Information Committee and on the Economic Development Committee. His goals for the coming year include the continued repair of Borough roads and buildings. Vinnie pointed out the 35 plus roads that have been reconstructed and repaved the purpose of the p throughout the town since 1995. Repair of the library was another major project in 1997. He also plans to continue to keep a close eye on the taxpayer's pocketbook. He will assist in finding alternate ways to accomplish certain projects. As an example, he cited the upcoming repair of the PAL roof. The including the doce using Public Works employed. job will be done using Public Works employ-ees instead of contracting the work out, which will save a significant amount of tax

Mr. Buttiglieri moved to South Plainfield in 1991. He became a member of the Tax Advisory Group in 1994. He stated that he enjoyed being involved and wanted to continue to help improve South Plainfield. He felt that the next step was the Borough Council. This led to his a successful run for office and his re-election to a second term.

### Mayor Daniel Gallagher's State of the Borough Speech To the Citizens of South Plainfield, January 1, 1998

In our fast paced daily lives, we rarely take the time to reflect In our fast paced daily lives, we rarely take the time to reflect on where we have come from, what we have accomplished, and what we hope to achieve in the future. Today I want to reflect on the last four years of our collective lives as the community of South Plainfield.

Let us together evaluate how far our Borough has progressed, and what we together hope to accomplish as South Plainfield approaches the 21st centure. This is an appropriate time to group our progress because

This is an appropriate time to gauge our progress because 1998 marks the beginning of the fifth year our Borough has been governed by the new democratic majority. The prior five years, from 1989 through 1993, were under republican control. But sadly, to a large extent, South Plainfield was out of control during that rines. Long range, planning was abantrol. But sadly, to a large extent, South Plainfield was out of control during that time. Long range plaining was abandoned for short term fixes. "The chickens came home to roost" in 1993. As most of our citizens know, the Municipal budget increased an average of \$1 million dollars per year from 1989 to 1993, from a total of \$12 million dollars to \$17 million dollars. The Municipal debt tripled and our Borough infrastructure was ignored. However, the most critical shortfall of that period was the inability of the Mayor and Council to listen to the will of the people. On Jan. 1, 1994, we made a pledge to open up government in South 1994, we made a pledge to open up government in South Plainfield. On the fourth anniversary of that pledge, let us evaluate how that promise has been kept.

The first action taken by the 1994 Borough Council was the creation of the *Tucpayers Advisory Group* and shortly afterwards the *Businespersons Advisory Group* was formed. These groups have been an invaluable asset to the people of South Plainfield. They are largely responsible for the revitalization of the downtown area, in addition to numerous recommendations which have saved hundreds of thousands of tax dollars.

Above all, these groups paved the way to a revolutionary

Above all, these groups paved the way to a revolutionary expansion of open government ... *Democracy Day!*No single act more dramatically shows the difference between the prior administration and this Mayor and Council than Democracy Day. We have proved beyond doubt that the more the people are involved, the stronger and more vibrant the process becomes. I am pleased to report open government is alive and well and growing stronger everyday in our Borough.

We all know what terrible financial shape South Plainfield was in on December 31, 1993. Our Borough was in a fiscal crisis that demanded discipline from our elected officials. At that January firstt swearing in ceremony, we promised to treat the Borough budget like the family budget. We said we'd spend only what we could afford, we would keep ex-penses under control and we wouldn't borrow money to buy things we can't pay for. Lets look at the facts to see if that promise has been kept.

South Plainfield is the only community in Middlesex County, probably in the entire state, that hasn't borrowed one penny to cover current expenses for four straight years. At the same time, the Library renovations have been com-At the same time, the Library renovations have been completed, the roof at Public Works replaced, and Borough Hall renovated with a new roof, air conditioning and heating system. On top of all of this, 42 roads have been repaved. This has been accomplished on a pay as you go basis. Today, the Borough debt is \$2 million dollars less than it was on January 1, 1994. Most importantly, today's Borough budget is exactly the same as it was when you first elected us four years ago. Anyone who says government can't be disciplined when spending tax dollars should come to South Plainfield. We've done it

ing tax dollars should come to South Plainfield. We've done it for four straight years and we will continue to do it in 1998!

Obviously I'm proud of the record of this Mayor and Council. We have worked hard to keep our promises and restore faith in government. However, the one thing every elected official must be concerned with is being too proud of his or her accomplishments. As the ancient Greeks knew, pride is the enemy of democracy. When a leader becomes too content with what he or she has done, they fall into the trap of thinking there is little more to do. This Mayor and Council knows that there is much that remains to be done in South Plainfield. With your help and support, here is what I hope to see Continued on page 11

## Franki Mikorski Disputes Supreme Court Ruling

The Supreme Court of New Jersey again rendered its decision on State funding of educa-tion — Abbott vs. Burke. The Supreme Court was wrong in its original position that thorough and efficient education is achieved by providing more money to special needs districts equal to what the wealthiest districts spend. History proves that more money for special needs districts has not produced better educational results for those students. The Supreme Court completely ignores the middle

Let's look at the facts. Of the \$4.6 billion in state aid, 28 special needs districts receive about 50% in \$2.3 billion in state aid. There are approximately 285,000 special needs district students and those districts receive about \$8,000 per student in state aid. I live in a middle income district and we get \$1,100 per student. We watch how we spend our dollars very carefully because of the impact on our property tax rate. Want to compare how the special needs districts spend money?

cial needs districts, but probably deny students in the non-special needs districts the opportunity to retain or improve their level of educational performance and drive senior citizens from their homes. Our obligation is to fund districts on a more equal basis, not on a preferential basis. New Jersey spends more per

student than almost all other states. We don't need another way to finance education. What we need first is more equitable distribution of the \$5 billion in state aid. We need to insure that

State Aid Property Taxes

. 85%

73%

87%

89%

\*AREA DISTRICTS

Not Classified as Special Needs

7%

South Plainfield ...... 11% ...



NEW PRESIDENT FOR 1998 — This year's President of the American Institute of Architects/Central New Jersey Section (AIA CNJ) is Robert M. Longo, AIA (center), a South Plainfield architect. Mr. Longo was honored at the officer's installation dinner at the Forsgate Country Club on Dec. 5. An active member in the profession, Mr. Longo has chaired the AIA CNJ Professional Practice Committee and is Vice President of the South Plainfield Business Advisory Group.

#### \*SPECIAL NEEDS DISTRICTS

District	State Aid	Property Taxes
East Orange	81%	14%
Irvington		
Newark City		
Perth Amboy	67%	24%
Elizabeth		

rce: The Star Ledger 3/14/97 and New Jersey De

income districts and vet in their recent decision the stubborn members of the Court do not have the ethical courage to admit they have been wrong. They insist that more money be pro-vided to 28 special needs districts. The courts, in my opinion, do not constitutionally have the right to spend money or determine how it is to be spent. This is the legislators responsibility. The courts should be challenged on their approach to interpreting thorough and effi-cient. By their actions, they are dividing people.

The next issue date of the South Plainfield Observer is JANUARY 15. Copy deadline is Jan. 7.

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monies spent by the special It's about time the middle income districts rebelled against needs districts are spent on education and not to provide spe-cial privileges for school board members. It is time for the Suthe flawed Supreme Court policy. Want to help education and reduced impact on property taxes? Allocate state school aid on a per capita basis or so many dollars preme Court to stop this unequal allocation and provide school districts with fair distribution of for each student. Or instead of special needs spending to match wealthiest districts, have them state aid. In the boxes above is an exmatch middle income districts and monitor their spending. The

senior citizens in middle income

districts should also mobilize to

reduce the over reliance on prop-erty taxes because we don't get

Because of the Supreme Court decision in Abbott vs. Burke, sen-

ior citizens in middle income

districts are facing serious prob-

lems. If the Supreme Court con-

tinues to adhere to the philoso

phy of more aid for special needs

districts at the expense of other

districts, what they will do is not

improve education in the spe-

our fair share of state aid.

District

Edison..

Metuchen

Piscataway ....

ample of the effect on property taxes with the current Supreme Court ruling. This illustrates how monies are raised for education.

It is clear from these figures that the Supreme Court, by equating thorough and efficient with dollars, is creating the property tax problem. Thorough and efficient should be judged on the basis of academic standards. Achievement and effective use of educational dollars. Just putting more money is clearly not the answer!

FRANK MIKORSKI, MEMBER, SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOARD OF **EDUCATION** 

## Volunteer Fire Company Installs 1998 Officers

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company announced its slate of officers for 1998 at its annual installation dinner. They are: Line officers - Chief Joe Abbruzzese; Deputy Chiefs Joe Celentano and Larry DelNegro; Captains Andy Juttner and Tom Scalera; Lieutenants Joe Bowbliss and Ed Laferrera. The Ex ecutive Board will consist of President Ed Silhanek, Vice President John Calvey, Treasurer Joe Sierzega, Secretary Adam Tennenbaum and Trustee Pete Eckel.

The following personnel were recognized: Service Anniversa-ries: Jim Buckelew, 5 years; Paul Melilio, 10 years; Robert Harding, 30 years; Charles Sieden-burg, 30 years; John Cotone, 35 years; Jim Hanlon, 35 years and

Peter Ackerman, 45 years.

• Awards went to: Chief Nick Lombardi of the New Market Fire Department for loyal and dedicated service to the S.P.V.F.D.

· John Mocharski for four outstanding years as Chief of the

• Charles Siedenburg for serving two years (1995-1996) as S.P.V.F.D Exempts Association.

• Edward Silhanek for serving one year (1997) as S.P.V.ED. Exempts Association.

Gary Shelhimer for serving four years as President of the S.P.V.F.C.

• Joe Palma received a Service Commendation for helping rescue a man trapped under a wood chipper.

• Paul Besse received the first annual Chief's Service Award for stepping in when there was a void to be filled and for outstanding and dedicated service to the S.P.V.F.D.

#### **SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES**

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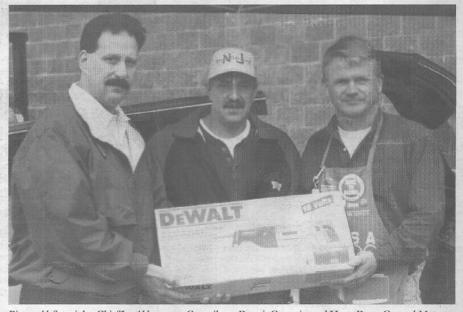
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# Home Depot Donates Saw to Fire Department



Pictured left to right: Chief Joe Abbruzzese, Councilmen Dennis Cerami a and Home Depot General Manager

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department recently participated in a demonstration at Home Depot on Hamilton Blvd., during which the DeWalt Company used a reciprocating saw (saw-

zall) to cut a car in half.

After the demonstration, the DeWalt Company

donated a reciprocating saw to the South Plainfield Fire Department. Chief Joe Abbruzzese, on behalf of the fire department, expressed his gratitude and thanked the DeWalt Company and Home Depot for their donation.

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## Mary Mazepa to Speak to Suburban Women

The GFWC Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield will host a joint meeting for the Junior Women's Club of South Plainfield on Jan. 8, at 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Road.

Mary Mazepa, a South Plainfield resident whose family was among the earliest residents of the borough, will be the guest speaker. Her topic will be "The History of South Plainfield."

Mrs. Mazepa is an active member of the South Plainfield Historial South Plainfield Historial South Plainfield Historial South Plainfield Historian South Plainfie

Mrs. Mazepa is an active member of the South Plainfield Historical Society, where she is a past president; the Terranova Garden Club, publicity chairperson for the State Board of the Garden Club of New Jersey; and a member of the Rosary Society.

She always expresses enthusiastic feelings for South Plainfield, its historic past, its present and its future. "The history of South Plainfield is important and sometimes people don't realize that we do have a lot to be proud of here."

Mazepa feels that the residents

comprise the most important part of community living.

A current project of the Historical Society is the borough's Downtown Revitalization program, which includes the placement of an historic railroad car behind Sherban's Diner. The railroad car will eventually house the Historical Society Museum.

The local Suburban Women will co-host, along with another chapter, a meeting of the Arts Performing Program which will be held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Berkeley Heights on Feb. 24.

Other anticipated programs will include guest speakers, an Irish dancers program to be held in March, a hair-cut-athon and a theatre party fundraiser in the spring, which will fund a \$1,000 scholarship. The scholarship is presented annually to a graduating high school senior from South Plainfield.

The club also funds other charities through the year.



South Plainfield Police present the "Free Ride in a Police Car" sign to the manager of KMart in the Middlesex Mall. The sign, designed to curtail shoplifting, is displayed in stores all over South Plainfield. The sign reads, "FREE RIDE IN A POLICE CAR IF YOU SHOPLIFT FROM THIS STORE—Compliments of South Plainfield PoliceDepartment." Pictured from left to right are Capt. J. Gear, Sgt. John Allis, Ptl. Joe Papa, Bob Williams, KMart Store Manager and Yvonne Kober of KMart.

# Students Support United Way



By Patricia Abbott

Frank Mikorski, a member of the Board of Education and the United Way of South Plainfield, recently acquired a lot of unexpected assistance with the United Way's Poinsettia Card fund raiser. He contacted the principals of the local schools and inquired if the students would like to become involved in the fund drive. Various student councils, as well as the Honor Society more than answered the call for help. The students could be seen selling pointsettias all over town, as well as the Borough Council meeting, where they managed to sell poinsettias to the council and most of the people who attended the meeting.

Each school had a wall displaying the many poinsettia cards sold by the student council members to standard amount members to standard members to

Mr. Mikorski said, "The response of the youth in town is tremendous!" He expressed his hope that the example set by the students will become infectious to others. The Poinsettia Cards were available for \$1.00. The purchaser's name is placed on the poinsettia embellished card and the card is displayed at various businesses throughout the community showing support for the United Way. Some community businesses involved in helping the United Way are Summit Bank, Core States, Columbia Bank and Dunkin Donuts.

The United Way is an umbrella organization that provides services to members of the community in need. They also assist the American Red Cross, Association of Retarded Citizens, scouting groups and other organizations.



Santa Claus (Keith McCoy) eagerly awaits listening to the Salvatore children's Christmas wishes: Kristen, 10; Katlyn, 6; and Kerri, 1 at the annual Elks Club Breakfast with Santa held on Dec. 21.

# A World of Treasures Awaits You at... The Semi-Annual Half-Price Sale For the month of January Where?... Twice The Consignment Boutique 175 Front Street South Plainfield 561-6151 Mon.-Fri. 10-5 • Sat. 10-4

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# South Plainfield Senior Citizens Plan Activities

Adult School Seniors

The Adult School Seniors meet at 10 a.m. on the first Friday of every month in the boardroom of the administration building on Cromwell Place. All residents over age 60 are welcome. Transportation is available to the meeting by calling (908) 754-1047. Coffee and cake are served after each meeting. A craft group meets every other Monday 10 a.m.noon, at the Administration

Pal Senior Citizen's Club

The Pal Senior Citizen's Club meet at the PAL Recreation Center, Maple Ave. on Tuesdays, September through June, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

The club is open to South Plainfield residents age 60 and over. Dues are \$6 annually. Features include bingo, card games and friendly conversation. Coffee is served. Bring a lunch.

Activities and Trips
The following programs are all partially subsidized by the borough for residents of South Plainfield over age 60.

Winter Luncheon day, Feb. 12, 11:30 a.m.-noon. members of Future Homemakers of America (FHA) from the South Plainfield High School will

#### WE WANT YOUR NEWSII

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serve the meals and prepare des-sert. Lunch is catered. Sing-along and dining music will be provided by The Mello Tones. \$2.00 suggested donations. Reservations are required.

Line Dancing — Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Learn all the great dances such as the Electric Slide, New York, New York and many more. Starts on Feb 5 at the PAL Building on Maple Avenue. Resident fee is \$18; non-resident

fee is \$23. Register by Jan 29.

Trip to Atlantic City — Look for a trip sponsored by the Recreation Department in April or

Art for Art's Sake — Thursdays, starting Feb. 5, 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the PAL arts and crafts room. A class for people who love to create. Resident fee is \$12; non-resident fee is \$18, plus paint. Register by Jan. 29 at the Recreation Office located in the PAL building on Maple Avenue.

# **AARP Plans** Meeting

The AARP January meeting will be held on Friday, Jan. 16, at the P.A.L. Building on Maple Ave. at 12:30 p.m. Carol Romer, Councilor for GMAC Income Advantage, will be the guest speaker. Carol will clarify how the

"reverse mortgage" works.

The AARP is also planning a trip on April 1, to the Evergreen

A trip to Three Little Bakers, and Phantom of the Opera is in the planning stage for May. Details and phone numbers will follow



# Dave Street Performs at Town Hall in New York City

Dave Street of South Plainfield recently performed in a packed Holiday Concert show at Town Hall in New York City. The show, which was sponsored by Coca-Cola, was a free concert for New York City students from Brooklyn, Harlem and Manhattan.

The program featured performances by cast members of the Broadway shows Grease and Bring In Da Noise, Bring In Da Rouse well as other professional Funk as well as other professional

Street, who performs highly acclaimed theater shows for elementary school and middle school students throughout New Jersey, performed an original skit which he wrote about the power we all have to create the kind of world we wish to live in. The 1,300 students in the audience, who listened attentively and cheered loudly for him, warmly received Mr. Street.
Street then emceed the rest of

the program, introducing cast members from the Broadway shows and other performers, as well as continuously interacting with the audience.

Street is a graduate of South Plainfield High School, Kean-University and Rutgers University. He recently performed in the at Maxson and Hubbard Middle Schools in Plainfield, Sayreville's Middle School and Manasquan's Elementary School. His next upcoming public performance will be for kids as part of FirstNight98 Maplewood/South Orange. He also has upcoming shows scheduled in January for schools in Union, Morristown, Sayreville, Staten Island and Scarsdale, New York.

As part of the New Jersey Clean Communities program he has also developed special programs for at-risk teenagers whom he recently presented in conjunction with law enforcement agencies in Monmouth and Morris County.

Last year Mr. Street was also given the honor of being named the dence at the Hackensack Meadow lands Development Commission's Environment Center in Lyndhurst. He also has a homepage for his pro-

For more

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information

grams at http://www.townline.com/schools/habitat.

From the South **Plainfield Library** 

# Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Well, the presents have been unwrapped, the balloons and confetti have been dropped and another holiday season (as well as another year) have passed. Now, as we return to our regular, everyday sched-ules, let's take a few moments and check up on the South Plainfield Library.

First, there's been a change in the storytime schedule. By popular demand, the Tuesday storytime has returned, here's how the schedule looks now. The programs for children 3-6 years old are held on Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. and Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. The program for children age 18 mos.-3 years is held on Thursdays at 11 a.m.

There are a couple of meetings coming up at the library. The Friends of the Library will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 6, at 7:30 p.m. The Library Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday, January 13, also at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend either or both meetings.

We're about to take another step towards getting our computer system up and running. We'll be conducting some tests and making adjustments to the terminals at the circulation

We'll be refining the system and procedures as we go along, so please expect some delays in checking out your selec-

There's news of a changing of the guard in our circuit collections. The audio cassette cir-cuit will be unavailable starting Monday; we'll be changing over from one group to another. Meanwhile, this month's group of circuit vid-eos will be ready for borrowing in a couple of days

Now, to start off the year, here's some library information. You may be confused about how to find things in our non-fiction section. have to remember that non-fiction, unlike fiction, isn't filed alphabetically by the author's name. It's arranged in accordance with the Dewey Decimal System, a cataloging method that arranges them by subject. Here's a quick subject guide, with corresponding numbers, for the Dewey system: 000-099 Generalities; 500-599 Natural Sciences; 100-199, Philosophy & Psychology; 600-699; Technology; 200-299, Religion & Mythology; 700-799, Arts; 300-399, Social Sciences; 800-899, Literature; 400-499, Language and 900-999 Geography & History.

And Biographies have their

own separate section. Got it? If not, ask a staff member and we'll help you. Well, that's about all for our

first column of 1998. And we do hope that the New Year, young as it is, is turning out

We'll have more next issue.

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happy for you.

# Scouting in South Plainfield



South Plainfield Cadette Girl Scout Troop 318 relaxes with Santa after the "Future Stars' Breakfast with Santa." The girls, all members of South Plainfield Middle School, spent the morning doing various jobs as Santa's helpers. Pictured are: Laura Painton, Kristen Fredricks, Elayne Russell, Christina Lorance, Lauren Kaczka, Heather Barrett, Jennifer Silhanek, Erica Thiry, and Michelle DeSantis.



The new Daisy Troop 222 had their Investiture Ceremony at Kennedy School last month. The new Daisys are: Jessica Gregorio, Felicia Mulhearn, Julie Stilo, Christina O'Brien, Jenna Heckel, Holly McDede, Jacquelyn Mascolo, Alexis Milo, Elizabeth Fasullo, Kristie Crilley, Stephanie Tercek, Bianca Di Dolce and Vcitoria Gaydos.



Cub Scout Pack 324 Den 3 from South Plainfield visited the Woodlands Eldercare Facility in Plainfield to spread some Holiday Cheer. The boys sang holiday songs, delivered homemade cookies and holiday cards. Pictured from left to right are: Tony Simms, Brian Amigroni, Christian Johansen, Jack Shea, James DePalma, Robert McGree and Joey Horn.

# Chinese Auction to be Held at Sacred Heart

While most of us are busy breaking every New Years resolution we've made and are bracing ourselves to face the winter doldrums, the Chinese Auction Committee at Sacred Heart School is in full swing, planning "Beach Party '98".

"Beach Party '98".

Beach Party '98, Sacred Heart's second annual Chinese Auction, will be held on Friday, April 24. The "beach party" theme will be reflected in everything from the decor and refreshments to the prizes. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and the party will start at 7:30 p.m.. Ticket price is \$6.00.

While it may seem early to be

While it may seem early to be making plans for spring, last year's Chinese Auction sold out three weeks before the party, and over 100 people were disappointed at the door.

The Chinese Auction is Sacred Heart Home School Association's most ambitious fundraiser, and allows them to provide the teachers and students with many "wish list" items. To purchase tickets and/or reserve a table, please call Chairperson Darlene Pinto at (908) 561-1517.

#### VFW to Hold Breakfast

A Country Breakfast will be held on Jan. 4, Memorial Post 6763 VFW, Front St. from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The menu will be varied. Donation is \$4.00. For further information, phone (908) 668-9751.



# SCHOOL DAYS: Celebrating the Holidays



The Franklin School Student Council, under the choral driection of Mrs. Stuewe sang carols at the Birchwood

# Franklin School Students Spread Cheer at Birchwood Manor Nursing Home

In keeping with the spirit of the season, members of the Franklin School Student Coun-cil spread a little Christmas cheer well beyond the hallways of their school. Mrs. Rudnick arranged for the students to present the gift of a songfest at Birchwood Nursing Home in Edison. The students arrived on Tuesday, Dec. 17 to serenade residents with Christmas carols. Most of the young vocalists were decked out in Christmas garb right down to santa hats and bells. About thirty residents were on hand to enjoy the caroling. There were numerous requests for songs and a number of them were repeated to the delight of the residents.

With the help of Mrs. Mruz, first grade students provided the nursing home with hand-crafted Christmas tree centerpieces. Students who participated in the caroling are: Gina Curcio, Becky Deffler, Caitlin



Rebecca Deffler and Caitlin Herriott present the Birchwood Manor Nursing Home of Edison with holiday centerpieces that were made by the

Herriott, Taryn Billich, Robert Annunziata, Stephan Varrna, Lauren Stoeckel, Gina Butrico, Beverly Jamieson, Jacob Levine, Sam Deffler, Chris Bojarski, Ashland Udell, Amanda Smalley and Christine Manfredo. The students were accompanied by Franklin Principal Nancy Erickson; bus driver Mrs. Janet; teachers Mrs. Rudnick, Mrs. Stuewe, Mrs. Winston, Mrs. Mruz and Mrs. Clark-Udell, pia-

#### Roosevelt School PTA Holds Annual Craft Morning

On Saturday, Dec. 13, Roosevelt School PTA offered its annual craft morning. For eight years, students have had the opportunity to make presents for their loved ones. After they made the gifts, PTA members wrapped them.

The coordinators of the event were: Sue Gaughan, Ann Morgan, Michele Kunie, Laura Miyasato and Marie Benak.

The following were the crafts

that were offered and the volunteers who assisted the children:

Candy Cane reindeers-Mario Barbiere; Beaded Candy Canes-Sue Gaughan and Debbie Lauria; Felt Snowmen-Diane Gualano; Wreaths-Robyn Stoeckel, Sharon Scrudato, Carol Ullom and Denise Maistickle; Sleds-Jamie Gaughan and Diane Steger; Potpourri Jars-Kristen Kunie and Denise Kelly; Snow-men-Brittany DeNitzio, Michele Puskas and Marie Benak; Magic Reindeer Food-Amanda, Ken Rastelli and Amy Rastelli; Caterpillars-Sue Pleeter and Nancy O'Shea; Christmas Trees-Eileen Senz; Snowflakes-Michael Benak. Brian Murtagh, and Nancy Murtagh; Gift Wrapping- Michele Kunie, Ann Morgan and Geri Eng; Elves, Tickets and various chores-Kathleen Morgan, A.J. Kunie, Timmy Gaughan, Samantha Gaughan, and Pam Eng.



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# **Roosevelt School Students** Take the KJ Challenge!

What is the KJ Challenge? KJ (Kindness & Justice) Challenge is a program that begins Monday, Jan. 5, and continues through Monday, Jan. 19, Martin Luther King Day. Students nationwide are invited to do as many acts of kindness and jus-tice as they can during this time. The program, which concludes on Martin Luther King Day, is a way for students to keep his dream alive and renew the commitment to make the world a better place. Students are to write down their kindness and justice acts, have their parents sign the student form, then sub-mit the form to the school office. The number of acts are then reported by mail or the Internet to the national "Do Something" office which sponsors the program. Acts of kindness can include doing something nice for an individual or the community, school or home. An act of justice is standing up for what's right, even when it is not the popular thing to do. It can be telling someone not to litter, steal, cheat or helping to make peace in a situation, or defend someone from a derogatory remark. The program is endorsed by Dr. Klagholz, Commissioner of Education in New

Mr. Barbiere, Principal of Roosevelt School, received information about the program in the mail. Additional information was available from the Internet. He was able to download a curriculum for the program that includes lesson plans on kind-ness, justice, honesty, caring,

compassion and respect.

Mr. Barbiere traditionally starts the year off with a "Rainbow Fish" program in which children are acknowledged for their caring and sharing deeds. The program was patterned after the American Book Seller's Book of the Year Award for 1995 and Abby Award winner in which a beautiful fish with shiny, rainbow colored scales learns that sharing and caring feels good. According to Mr. Barbiere, "I was eager to par-ticipate in the Kindness and Justice Program because it is a creative use of the Internet as Roosevelt School data can be entered via the Internet. Also, students can talk with kids across the country about their acts so it can involve student Internet use as well. I may set aside a day after school to su-pervise a club for children who would like to use the Internet to chat with other participants."



First grade students from John E. Riley School listen as their teacher, Ms. Lepore, reads them a Holiday story after they participated in their Christmas program.

## Sacred Heart "Giving Tree" Yields **Bumper Crop of Donations**

Throughout the month of December, the students of Sacred Heart School participated in the "Giving Tree" program. The students took paper ornaments off the Christmas tree in the cafeteria. Each ornament specified an age range and infant, ages 1-3, 4-6, 7-10, 11 and above; and girl or boy. Appropriate items such as toys, games, clothing, stuffed animals, baby and personal items were then brought in to school to be donated to those in need. Lorraine Mc-Hugh, assisted by Carol Ray, Home School Association (HSA) chairpersons for Social Concerns, with help from many others, were in charge of organizing this effort and collecting the donated gifts.

The response from students and parents was overwhelming. Every day children arrived at school with bags and bundles, and the piles around the tree grew. Hundreds of items were brought in and given to the St. Vincent de Paul Society for distribution.

According to Debbie Vokral, who with her husband Jim Vokral, are co-presidents of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the majority of the donations were distributed to over 40 individual facilities in the area. Mrs. Vokral stated that identifying items by age and sex made it much easier to distribute gifts, appropriately to family members. The rest of the donations were given to shelters in the area.

The Sacred Heart School HSA has been using the "Giving Tree" concept of outreach and social concern for many years and was a leader in this area. In this season of giving, the students and parents of Sacred Heart School were happy to share out their blessings with those in need.

SCHOOL DAYS: What's News?



# Kennedy School Holds Holiday Concert



The Kennedy School Chorus, above, performed at the holiday concert. Daniel Agostino and Todd Rivers, pictured top right, were soloists at theconcert. Jesse Nietzer, bottom right, performs a trumpet solo at the Kennedy Christmas Concert.

# Awards Presented by Board of Education

Education meeting several com-mendations and awards were made as follows

"True Blue Hero" Commendation from Crayola Crayon Com-pany—Commendation to William pany—Commendation to William Pavlak for being named one of eight True Blue Heroes chosen from among more than 10,000 entrants by Crayola Crayons. Brad Johnson, a seven year old from Belle Mead, submitted an essay recommending Mr. Pavlak for his fairness in working with students.

 Scholarship Award—Commendation to Linda Rocca for being awarded a scholarship through the Scottish Rite Masonic Learning Center, Teacher Training Project, which will cover the costs of six (6) graduate credits at Fairleigh Dickinson University during the Fall, 1997 and Spring,

 SAT/1998 National Merit Scholarship—Commendation to Jennifer Lesniak for being selected as a commended student in the 1998 National Merit Scholarship Program. Jennifer placed among the top five percent of more than a million students who entered the 1998 Merit Program by taking the

During the Dec. 16 Board of 1997 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Schol-

arship Qualifying Test.
• Distinguished Scholars for the 1997 Academic Year—The following students have been selected as Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars for the 1997/98 academic year. The purpose of this program is to recognize the aca-demic achievement of New Jersey's secondary school students and to provide an annual scholarship award to be used toward up to four (4) years of undergraduate study at a New Jersey college or university: Dana Bertrand, Bertucci, Calderone, Adrienne Christatos, Thomas Doerr, Jennifer Lesniak, Brendan Lazar, Sarah Munjuluri, Keith Palmer, Allison Raiti, Carolyn Timinski, Joy Walter.

• New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association Award—Commendation to Mr. Michael Buggey for a special award for service in the field of interscholastic athletics and for his specific contribu-tion to the students/athletes of our state over an extended period of

• 1997 Essay Contest from The American Academy of Aerospace

Education—Commendation to the following students at the Middle School for their prize winning essays in the contest sponsored by The American Academy of Aerospace Education: Gary Curcio, Jr., Second Prize; Tiffany Boyle, Honorable Mention; Laura Painton, Honorable Mention and Victoria Zappi, Honorable Men-

 Athletic Awards—Football— Michael Francis, selected to the GMC All-Conference Football Team. Coach Philip McGuane, High School Football Team, selected as GMC Sportsmanship Award Winrier for football.

Gymnastics—Lacey Walter, GMC first Team All-Conference, qualified for New Jersey State Championships. Coach Al Hook, selected for the GMC "Sportsmanship Award" for Girls Gymnastics 1997.

Boys Soccer—John Vasiliadis, GMC first Team All-Conference. Keith Palmer, GMC first Team All-Conference. Coach Drew Smith, Middlesex County "Coach of the Year," GMC "Coach of the Year," and GMC "Sportsmanship Award" for Boys Soccer 1997. The boys soccer team won the GMC Blue Division Championship. Assistant Coach Mike English, Selected for GMC "Sportsmanship Award" for boys soccer 1997. The boys soccer team won the GMC Blue Division Champi-

onship.

Girls Soccer—Coach Marge Kopacsi, selected for the GMC "Sportsmanship Award" for girls soccer 1997. Asst. Coach Bruce Hunt, selected for the GMC Sportsmanship Award" for girls soccer 1997.

Field Hockey-Shelly Alszoo, Sheryl Thimons and Joy Walter, GMC first Team All-Conference; Coach Cheryl Hughes, Middlesex County Field Hockey "Coach of the Year" and GMC Field Hockey "Coach of the Year"





#### Sacred Heart School Looks Forward to Catholic Schools Week

The week of Jan. 25-31 is dedicated to the appreciation, celebration and promotion of Catholic Schools. In order to provide the students with special activities, Sacred Heart School has several different events scheduled: open the school to prospective parents and students; show appreciation for faculty and staff and promote more parental involvement. The entire school community is looking forward to and planning for the events during the week





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# Jill Sosnak Receives Recognition for Nomination



Till Sosnack

Jill Sosnak, a fifth grade teacher at Kennedy Elementary School, was recently presented with a commendation from the Board of Education honoring the nomina-tion she received last year for the Sally May First Year Teacher Award.

A select few are nominated and only one New Jersey teacher in their first year of teaching will receive the prestigious award. Ms. Sosnak was nominated by Mr. Mario Barbiere, principal at Roosevelt School and Mr. Al Czech, principal at Kennedy School. She has worked in longterm substitute positions as well as working at Kennedy and

Roosevelt Schools. This is her second year teaching full time in the South Plainfield school system.

Ms. Sosnak, a South Plainfield resident, attended Kennedy School and graduated from South Plainfield High School in 1990. She attended Boston University in Massachusetts on a basketball scholarship.

She also received her Masters Degree from Boston University. Her father, Joseph Sosnak, is a Social Studies teacher at the Middle

Ms. Sosnak enjoys teaching at Kennedy School and said, "It is great to work with some of the teachers that taught me!"

#### Interactive Computer Corner

By Briggs Longbothum and Eric Tillman



Welcome to 1998.com (or something like that!). I sure hope everyone has enjoyed their Holi-day season and are getting into the rush of the new year. I got a big kick out of some of the electronic greeting cards I was sent. I just clicked on my e-mail and a little video played compete with audio. Verry Cool! Hey, and how bout them Giants, and them Jets! We did have a pretty good foot-ball season ('cept Rutgers) didn't we? Not bad Santa, thanks again anytime for that!

Did everyone get a new computer gizmo for a gift? Come on, tell us all about your new whiz-bang, super cyber, digital RAM blaster. Inquiring minds want to know! For me, I'm still spinning from the Fall Internet World Con-ference two weeks ago at Javits Center. Sixteen-plus acres of internet stuff was very interesting. Lots about internet commerce and resources for better web site development. I was intrigued by some approaches to web security. That is, the average citizen's comfort level with the idea of buying (money transacting) over the web. The technical issues over the secure exchange of credit card info, bank check accounts, etc. have been very well handled already. It's the falsely perceived risk of cyber thieves hacking account numbers or of something getting "screwed up electronically" and leaving you with no recourse that is believed by many to be the re-maining dam against a huge tide of internet commerce growth. The message is: "wait till the fear subsides and then watch out!" Some very large amounts of money will be made very fast and very efficiently. The rules will be set, the products and services will be available and consumers will be just as comfortable buying and doing business online as they were from the Sears Catalog in 1906! The phrase "the future is here now" couldn't be more true.

Remember last time I said that you can find all sorts of information and help on the internet, including such things as parenting and education. I met people from the Stork Site (www.storksite.com) and NetNanny at the show. They say their sites are incredibly popular and they even host "chat rooms" and online help sessions for childcare questions. And as for school stuff, the availability of high quality education and training in absolutely everything over the internet is just mind boggling! You can go k-12, college and graduate level schooling, technical and recurrent training in all fields (especially the professions), and even religion and theology! The BriggsWord for America's teachers is to get up-front and real personal with these and evolving net resources. The internet will(is) take over a large part of your job and do it better too! I know that thought is a call to arms for some, but it will happen! And education won't be driving the internet either. It will be the other way around!! Call it whatever you want, but in the end, it's "tomorrow."

How about using the net for a

personal reminder service. Many such services are free (advertises supported), yet are very useful. All you need is an email address to receive the reminders. But someone needs to go to the website and enter your address and dates. These services send reminders to you on specified dates. Try: Remind Me! At (www.gbs.com/flowers/remind.htm), or FREEminder at (www.cvp.com/ freemind), or GetReminded at (www.getreminded.com).
For Travel check out: Travelocity

at (www.travelocity.com), or Inter net Travel Network at (www.itn.net), or even Microsoft Expedia at (www.expedia.msn.com). Or you can still call Frank at CandleRidge Travel (1-800-277-8472) and he'll do it for you. Be sure to mention my name and he'll get your best deal for you! I know because he does my travel and I do his internet! He's good, fast, and fair and absolutely reliable. I can't afford to take risks here either. The internet searches in the travel arena are fantastic. One stop shopping is clearly demonstrated here!

Tip: (I just go done with this myself) If you're having printer trouble, your Windows95 installation CD and the stallation CD and th lation CD may be just what you need. Plop it into your CD-ROM drive and navigate to D:\ (or whatever drive letter applies to your CD-ROM) D:\Other\ Misc\Epts and double click on Epts.exe. This introduces the en-hanced printer troubleshooter. Answer the questions and in no time you'll be back in business. Keep in touch and send in your questions c/o the Observer.

# Gold Card Incentive Program **Encourages High School Achievement**

The South Plainfield Gold Card Student Incentive Program was introduced to reward students who demonstrate a commitment to academic achievement and

The goal of the program is to motivate students to pursue academic excellence and good citizenship by providing them with meaningful incentives to reward them for their success. It is hoped that the success of those gaining the incentives will motivate all students to reach their fullest po-

tential.

The business community is invited to join in this endeavor by becoming Gold Card sponsors. The program hopes to result in higher academic achievement, improved attendance and good citizenship by our students, which will enable them to become more productive workers and citizens of our community. As partners, the school and the business community can make a difference.

Gold Card History

Due to its success in other school districts, the Gold Card program was introduced to the high school administration by the South Plainfield Vision 2000 Education Foundation. The school administration presented the program to the high school staff and received its support. A student survey was taken, with about 65% of the students re-sponding. They expressed an interest in the following incentives: free yearbooks, prom tickets, lunches, admission to school events, discounts at Hadley Cinema, Sportsworld and other lo-cal businesses.

The Gold Cards were designed and printed in-house. Foundation trustees interacted with the local business community to arrange the incentives. The staff and PTA volunteers will help administer

It is anticipated that about 15%

to 20% of the students would receive the SPHS Gold Card. Students will have to requalify each marking period, so the cards will expire at the end of every mark-

As volunteers, we want to invite the public to join us to help give our students added incentives toward achieving academic success and improving their attendance. Student response to the proposed program has been very positive, and we believe that this program has great potential. Will you join us and help to make this program a success? Together we can make a difference!

#### CAMPUS Notes...

Gregory J. Mazzeo, son of Donald and Linda Muzzo, has recently been inducted into the Beta Epsilon Chapter of Delta Epsilon Sigina, National Scho-lastic Honor Society at Marywood University in Scranton, PA. A 1995 graduate of St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen, Greg is a Junior majoring in Broadcast Communications. He hosts a weekly "oldies" radio show on Marywood's campus radio station. In addition, Greg has written and produced two scifi dramas for TVM, the university's television station where he is also the Art Di-

#### WE WANT YOUR NEWS!!

If you have news about South Plainfield people or events, send us a note or give us a call (732) 469-4380. We would like to include your story in the paper.



#### Blood Drives at Ricochet Health and Racquet Club and High School

The American Red Cross, Plainfield Area Chapter and New Jersey Blood Services will be holding the following blood drives in January in South Plainfield.

· Ricochet Health & Racquet Club on St. Nicholas Ave Monday, Jan. 19 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
• South Plainfield High

School, Lake St., Tuesday, Jan

20, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The donor must be in good health, weigh 110 lbs. or more, be between 17 and 76 years old, and have a form of identification. Seventeen yearolds may donate with signed parental consent.

For additional information, call (908) 756-6414 ext. 18.

#### Obituaries

#### Richard S. Coughlin

Richard S. Coughlin, 90, died on Saturday, Dec. 3, in the JFK Medical Center.

Born in Taunton, MA, he had resided in Queens, NY, for fifty years before moving to Edison in 1995.

Mr. Coughlin had been employed as a typesetter for many years in the New York Area. He had served in the United

States Army during WWII serving in the Military Police.

His wife, Henrietta Coughlin, died in 1989.

Surviving are his daughter, Karen Coughlin of South Plainfield and several nieces and

nephews. Funeral services were held at

McCriskin Home for Funerals. Memorial donations may be made to the First Unitarian So-ciety of Plainfield, 724 Park Ave., Plainfield, NJ or to the NJ Grey hound Adoption Program, 335 Country Road Rt. 513, Califon, NJ 078340-4164.

#### Anthony A. Smigelski

Anthony A. Smigelski, 77, died on Tuesday, Dec. 16, at Cedar Oaks Care Center in South Plainfield.

Mr. Smigelski was born in Jersey City and had resided in Kendall Park and in Iselin before settling with his daughter in South Plainfield seven years ago. He had been employed for 43

years as a weigh master for the Colgate-Palmolive Co. in Jersey

ity before retiring in 1983. He had served in the US Army during WW II and was stationed

Mr. Smigelski was a former communicant of St. Cecilia's Church in Iselin.

His wife, Sophie (Suminski) Smigelski, died in 1982. Surviving are his two daugh-

ters, Patricia Kochera of North Arlington and Eileen Uken of South Plainfield; a son, Michael Smigelski of Lakewood and a sister, Antoinette Kicas of Maryland, along with three grandchildren and two great grandsons.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

#### Hedwig (Borowski) Hasulak

Hedwig (Borowski) Hasulak, 71, died on Thursday, Dec. 18, at her home.

She was born in Bound Brook and was a life long resident of South Plainfield.

Mrs. Hasulak was a nurses aid at the Cedar Oaks Care Center in South Plainfield for 10 years before retiring in 1992. Prior to that she worked for the Ashbrook Nursing home in Scotch Plains

for many years.

She was a member of St. Francis Episcopal Church in Piscataway.

She was predeceased by her husband, Daniel J. Hasulak, who died in 1978 and a son, Michael Hasulak who died in 1974.

She is survived by two sons, Daniel J. Hasulak Jr. of Ham-ilton Square and Mark J. Hasulak of South Plainfield and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at James Conroy Funeral Home.

#### Alfred H. Ranger

Alfred H. Ranger, 74, died on Monday, Dec. 15, at the Vet-erans Administration Medical at

He was born in Hampton, a., and had resided in South Plainfield since 1924.

He graduated from North Plainfield High School in 1942 and had won numerous recognition awards, including a May-oral Plaque from the Mayor of North Plainfield, for being an outstanding athlete, excelling in football, track and wrestling.

A teacher for 40 years, Mr. Ranger had received his Bachelors of Science Degree in 1948 from East Stroudsburg University. In 1949 he earned his Master of Education Degree from Rutgers University.

His began his teaching career in Pleasantville, and after four years, and returned to South Plainfield and taught Biology and Earth Space Science for 36 He retired from teaching in 1988.

In addition to teaching, Mr. Ranger founded the wrestling program at South Plainfield as head wrestling coach for 25 years, the high school won nu-

merous State Championships. He was selected as the Mid-State Conference Male Coach for 1979-1980.

In 1975 he was honored and commended for his total com-mitment to the youth of South Plainfield by the Mayor and Council.

Mr. Ranger was an Army Vet-eran of WW II and served with the elite 82 and Airborne Division as paratrooper and demolitions specialist. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his heroic actions during the Battle of the Bulge on Christmas Eve, 1944. His division was chosen to occupy Berlin at the war's end and was awarded the honor of marching in the Victory Parade in New York City.

Mr. Ranger was a member of the National Education Associa-tion, the NJ Education Association and a Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans, formerly of Dunellen. In addition, he was a member of the American Legion Chaumont

Post 243 in South Plainfield and the Airborne Static Line and the Plainfield Area Chapter of Deborah.

He was predeceased by his brother, Donald G. Ranger, who was killed in action in WW II.

Surviving are his wife of 53 ears, Audrea J. Knott Ranger; his two daughters, Janet A. Ranger of Rahway and Linda C. Ranger of South Plainfield; his son, Ronald W. Ranger of South Plainfield and his brother, Dr. James B. Ranger of Fripps Island, So. Carolina and by his three grandchildren, Jessica, Danielle and Deanna Ranger.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Memorial donations may be made to the Deborah Hospital Plainfield Area Chapter, c/o of Dot Greenfield 3223 Revere Rd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

#### Anthony S. Shallo, Sr.

Anthony S. Shallo, Sr., 54, of Piscataway, died on Friday, Dec. 12, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

He was born in Plainfield and was a former resident of South Plainfield before moving to Piscataway 28 years ago.

Mr. Shallo was co-owner of the

A&H Imported Italian Deli in Piscataway for last two years. Prior to that he was a mechanic for Kentile Floors in South Plainfield for 32 years.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church and was the former bingo caller at Sacred Heart for ten years.

He was an avid hunter and

outdoorsman.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Nutley Shallo, along with of South Plainfield; Ricky V. Shallo of Scotch Plains, Robert L. Shallo of Piscataway and Timothy Y. Shallo of South Plainfield; two brothers Lawrence Shallo of Piscataway and John Shallo of South Plainfield. He has two surviving sisters Nancy Romeo and Antoinette Mulligan, both of Piscataway and five grandchildren.

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

#### **Nicholas** Bayachek, Sr. Nicholas Bayachek, Sr., 76,

died on Friday, Dec. 19, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

Born in Kempton, West Virginia, Mr. Bayachek had resided in Pa. and in New Brunswick, before settling in South Plainfield in 1947.

Mr. Bayachek was a World War II veteran of the U.S. Navy where he was stationed on the USS Harrison, the USS Adams and the USS Page where he received a Bronze Star of combat aboard this ship.

He was the owner and opera-tor of a Victory Cab Taxi Ser-vice in New Brunswick for twenty years before his retirement in 1989. He previously was employed by the former Nixon Baldwin Chemical Co., later know as Tenneco Chemical Co., as a plant worker in the 1960's.

He is a former member of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church in South Plainfield.

He is predeceased by his sis-

ter, Mary Schlachtun. Surviving are his wife, Mary (Mokis) Bayachek; his three daughters, Janet M. Schmidt of

Poolesville, Md., Christine Repasky and Kathleen Askew, both of Point Pleasant; his son, Nicho-las Bayachek, Jr. of Middlesex; his four sisters, Anna Stefko of Ocean Beach; Sophie Schlachtun of Las Vegas; Helen Popadiuk of Raritan and Catherine Halasz of Highland Park; his two brothers, John Bayachek of Las Ve-gas and Michael Buyachek of South Plainfield. Also surviving are ten grandchildren.

McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Funeral services were held at

## Surviving are her niece, Catherine Cavaliere of South Plainfield and her two nephews, William Dunn of Harrison and John Dunn of South Plainfield. Also surviving are 13 great nieces and nephews, 23 great-great nieces and nephews, and two great-great-great nieces and nephews.

and Joseph Dunn.

Funeral services were held at McCriskn Home For Funerals.

her husband, Edgar, who died in 1967. She is also predeceased by her brother, James Dunn, and

her two nephews, James Dunn

#### Margaret D. "Peg" Ashworth

Margaret D. "Peg" Ashworth, 73, died on Monday, Dec. 22 in the Genesis Elder Care, The Woodlands, in Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, she had re-

sided there most of her life before moving to South Plainfield

She had been employed as a trust securities clerk for United National Bank of Plainfield for 19 years. Most recently she had been employed as a sales clerk for the McAuley Hall Gift Shop at Mount St. Mary's Academy of Watchung for seven years.

Mrs. Ashworth was a commu-

nicant of Sacred Heart Church, where she was active in the church's school cheerleading squad. She served as a cheerleading

judge for competition. She was a charter member of the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 Columbettes. She served as a volunteer for Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center for 20 years. Mrs. Ashworth was ac-tive with the South Plainfield High School Athletic Club. She was predeceased by her

sister, Jane Latocha and her brother, Anthony "Bud" Naples. Surviving are her mother, Su-san D. Naple of South Plainfield

and her daughter, Virginia "Ginger" Helgert of South Plainfield. Also surviving are two grandchildren, Michelle Miller of Coopersburg, Pa. and Ingrid Stacy of Ortley Beach; one great grand-daughter, Lauren Ashley Miller

of Coopersburg, Pa. Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

#### Agnes V. (Dunn) Reilly

Agnes V. (Dunn) Reilly, 96, died on Sunday Dec. 21, at Muh-lenberg Regional Medical Center.

Born in Jersey City, Mrs. Reilly resided in Flushing, Long Island before moving to North Arling-ton in 1960, where she resided for 37 years before settling in South Plainfield in April of this year.

She was a communicant of Queen of Peace Church in North Arlington and a member of the North Arlington Senior Citizens. Mrs. Reilly is predeceased by Ralph G. Simanski

Ralph G. Simanski, 62, died on Friday, Dec. 12, at home. He was born in Johnston, Pa.,

and had resided in Florida for one year and various parts of Central New Jersey for many years before moving to South Plainfield in 1974.

He had been employed as a meter repairman for Elizabethtown Water Company of Plainfield for 31 years and retired in April of this year.

Mr. Simanski had served in the United States Navy from 1955 to

Mr. Simanski had adored his family life with his wife Evelyn, their children and grandchildren; one sister, Esther Karashin of Johnstown, Pa. and three broth-ers, Emil and Albert Simanski, both of Johnstown, Pa., and Ray Simanski of Sidman, Pa. Also surviving are six grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Memorial contributions in his memory may be made to The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, 195 Little Albany Street New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

Dominick J. Barbieri

Dominick J. Barbieri, 73, of Edison died on Sunday, Dec. 21 at his home.

He was born in New York City

He was born in New York City and was a former resident of East Port, Long Island before moving to Edison 13 years ago.

Mr. Barbieri was a life insurance agent for the Prudential Life Insurance Company in Smithtown, Long Island for 25 years before retiring in 1985.

He was a companyation of Society and Society and Society So

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church. He was a member of the Edison Senior Citizens.

He is survived by his wife, Theresa Cagglano Barbieri, a son, Joseph A. Barbieri of Elm-hurst N.Y.; a daughter, Rochelle M. Ales of South Plainfield; a brother Comming Barbieri of brother, Carmine Barbieri of Deer Park, N.Y.; two sisters, Theresa Barbieri of Astoria, Queens and Christine Romeo of West Palm Beach, Fla. and two grandchildren.

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

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#### Wrestling

#### HIGH SCHOOL:

# Tigers Take Second at Morris Knolls Tournament

The South Plainfield High School Varsity wrestling team began the 1997-98 season recently with a second place finish at the annual Morris Knolls Wrestling Tournament. Morris Knolls, the host team, was the winner outscoring the Tigers 197½-138½.
Coming into the tournament the

Tigers were short handed, missing wrestlers in the 152, 171 and 215 weight classes. The team had been hit with illness the week leading up to the tournament. Some of the wrestlers had very limited practice time and still managed a second place finish.

In the opening round the Tigers had byes in the 103 and 112 pound weight class. In the next round Rich Gebuaer lost a close 2-0 deciion to John Monkovich of Wayne Hills. They went on to pin Steve Slotkin of Cherry Hill West for a third place finish. In the second round Tom Doerr posted a fall at 0:17 over Matt Deter of Morris Knolls at 112.

In the finals Doerr won a 6-2 decision over Dan DiGirolomo of Cherry Hill West to claim the first Tiger championship. Next up was Dave Butrico at 119. Butrico was pinned by Jason LaPlaglia of Wayne Hills at the 0:56 mark. In the next round he defeated Jeremy Hollins of Cherry Hill West in OT 4-3. To advance to the consolation

finals where he won a 5-3 decision for third place. In the 125-pound weight class

Joe Celentano pinned Brian Kapral of Montville at 3:18. He then won his next match by decision, 12-7 over Dave Hocking of Wayne Hills. In the finals Celentano won the second Tiger championship with a 7-2 decision over Bryon Flynn of Morris Knolls.

In the 130-pound weight class John Blondet was pinned in his opening match but came back strong as he won his consolation match 8-1 over Erik Holtzman of Montville and won his consolation final with an 11-5 decision over Craig Gassenmeyer of Morris Knolls for third place.

In the 135-pound weight class Chris Gatti was pinned in his first match by AJ Prentice of Wayne Hills at 1:37. He won his next match by fall at 5:02 over Rich Stembach of Montville. He lost his consolation final by fall for a fourth place finish.

In the 140 pound weight class tri-caption Chris Johnston majored decisioned Chris Skretkow of Wayne Hills, 10-0. He then defeated Ben Demisen of Morris Knolls 10-6.

In the finals Johnston won the third Tiger Championship with a 7-3 decision over Dan Flynn of Wayne Hills

In the 145-pound weight class

freshman Dave Fiore won a come from behind decision over Jarred

In the semi-final round Fiore edged Mike Lewis of Cherry Hill West 2-1 to reach the finals. In the final Fiore came out strong and won a 12-2 major decision over Jesse Centrella of Morris Hills to claim the forth Tiger championship. In the 160-pound weight class freshman John Foscolo had a tough day getting pinned in his first varsity matche

In the 189-pound class Dan Kunst won his first match by fall over Fred Poker of Wayne Hills and pinned Rich Hatfield of Westfield to reach the finals. He lost in the finals by fall. At 275 Colin Hunter had a bye in the opening round and went on to pin Corey Graves of Morris Hills in 40 seconds. In the final Hunter dropped a 10-6 decision for second plate.

#### Jr. Tigers Win 16 Medals At Union Tournament

#### Elizabeth Martin Makes Her Debut

By Roh Hunter

The debut of six year old Elizabeth Martin, who had never wrestled before was the hit of tournament. Elizabeth, known as little Liz to her teammates, went out and dominated the PeeWee 50 lb. weight class by winning three matches by the score of 13-1, 15-0 and claiming the title with a 15-0 victory. Elizabeth has two brothers, Sam and Brad who also placed in the tournament, but it was Elizabeth who stole the show.

Tigers Claim 16 Medals

Excluding Elizabeth, South Plainfield has six other first place finishers: Robert Gentile, Bantam 45; Billy Ashnualt, Bantam 55; Nicky Dorey, Bantam 60; Jimmy Conroy, Midget 55;

Kevin Crilley, Midget 95 and Guy Severini, Junior 100.

The Tigers also had three second place finishers in Patrick Hunter, who lost 1-0 to teammate Robert Gentile in the Bantam 45 final. Timmy Gaughen lost to teammate Billy Ashnualt the Bantam 55 final. Joe DeBaise finished second in the Junior 115 final.

Third place finishers were Mike Jakubik, Bantam 65; Brad Martin, Bantam 70; Billy Padula, Midget 65 and Gary Curcio, Junior 100.

Finishing with fourth place medals were Danny Pompilio, Bantam 70 and Matt D'Alessandro, Midget 60. Sam Martin finished in the fifth-sixth position.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL: Wrestlers Excel at Randolph Tournament

#### Tigers Finish Fifth

The South Plainfield Middle School wrestling team started out strong and never looked back as they defeated Mt. Olive, Lenape Valley, Washington and Randolph,

December 18, 1997

Petriello Landscapino
 Harry's Liquors
 Roadrunners

before losing a close match to the Pascack Hills all-star squad for a fifth place finish in the sixteen team tournament.

Defeats Mt. Olive-The Tigers jumped out to an early lead and never looked back as they defeated Mt. Olive Middle School 58-21.

Pct

.750

.750

250

Tigers Crush Randolph-The second match of the day the Tigers came out with a roar and a convincing 60-24 victory over host Randolph Middle School.

Tigers Dominate Lenape Valley-The Tigers made it look easy as they defeated the Lenape Valley Middle School 63-6 for their third team victory of the day.

Tigers Roar Past Washington-The Tigers came out roaring against the Washington Middle School getting eight big view and a tech-fall to go on to a 68-16 win. It was the fourth victory of the day.

Tigers lose in Finals-The Tigers entered the final round looking for a win over Pascack Hills to finish third overall in the team point standings. The loss dropped the Tigers into a fifth place finish. Forfeits hurt the Tigers but they wrestled well throughout the

#### Boys Basketball

# Tigers Take Season Opencr

By Terry Allen, Coach

The South Plainfield Middle School boys' basketball team, consisting of the seventh and eighth graders, opened their season against Sacred Heart in the Meadowlands before a Nets' game.

The team was led by David Francis, Tommy Rutter, Bobby Merkeler, Aaron Parks, Ronnie Smith, Rafael Diaz, Joe Dezmin, Ellary Paqala, Ulysses Russell and Tommy Toolan. They defeated Sacred Heart in this unique game on a professional court.

The team fought a bigger North Plainfield team and won 47-42. This win earned them a shot at the four team South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness Tournament. Sacred Heart lost a close game to East Brunswick. As a result, East Brunswick opposed South Plainfield in the finals. The South Plainfield team coached by Mr. Allen and Mr. Genz went on to defeat East Brunswick for the victory and the championship.

The eighth graders on the team are Cedric Casey, Joseph Dezmin, Rafael Diaz, David Francis, Bobby Merkler, Aaron Parks, Matt Peloquin, Ulysses Russell, Tommy Rutter, Ronnie Smith, Tommy Toolan and Jared Burnham. The seventh graders on the team are Michael Allocco, Jason Basile, Michael Espin, Francisco Guevara, Danny Melick, Ellery Pagala, James Plate, Scialabbia and Justin Toth. Ryan

#### Sam Pauls Bowls 300 Game

Sam Pauls of Leeds Drive earned top honors in the Edison Sportsmen League at Stelton Lanes in Piscataway by bowling a 300 game along with a 221 for a high series of 705. Bobby Pauls, Sam's brother, bowled a perfect 300 in the same league as last year.

908-668-6836

Roughriders .250 6. Bricklavers 0 January 15, 1998 Games Moved To Pal 6:30 Roughriders vs. Bricklayers 7:30 Roadrunners vs. DeGussa Harry Liquors vs. Petriello Landscaping 8:30

Adult Recreation Basketball

#### Youth Recreation Basketball

A-League Standings		Arizona	2	2	Suns	1	3	
Team	Won	Loss	Miami	1	3	Grizzlers	0	3
St. Johns4	0		Syracuse	1	3	Warriors	0	4
Notre Dame	3	0	UNLV	1	3			
Seton Hall	3	1	Boston	0	4	D-League Standings		
Conectitcut	2	1	Indiana	0	4	Team	Win	Loss
UCLA	2	2				Bulls	4	0
Rutgers	1	2	C-League Standings			Pacers	4	0
Duke	1	3	Team	Won	Loss	Magic	3	1
Georgetown	0	3	Mavericks	4	0	Hawks	2	1
No. Carolina	0	4	Lakers	4	0	Cavaliers	1	2
			Spurs	3	0	Nets	2	1
B-League Standings		Trailblazers	3	1	Bullets	2	1	
Team	Won	Loss	Nuggets	3	1	Sixers	2	2
Michigan	4	0	Rockets	2	2	Hornets	2	2
Virginia	4	0	Kings	2	2	Knicks	1	3
Pittsburg3	0		Sonics	2	2	Pistons	1	3
Princeton	3	1	Jazz	1	3	Celtics	0	3
Kentucky	2	1	Raptors	1	3	Bucks	0	4
Penn State	2	2	Clippon	T	2			

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# Mayor Gallagher's State of the Borough Address

(Continued from page one) accomplished in 1998: 1) Continue road and infrastructure improvements on a pay as you go basis. In 1998, Anna Place, Avon Avenue, Cady Lane, Clinton Place, DeFilipo Drive, Delekas Avenue, Delmore Avenue, East Hendricks Boulevard, East Fairmont Avenue, Maple Avenue, Martin Drive, New Market Avenue, Norway Lane, Oak Tree Avenue, P.A.L. Parking Lot, St. James Place, West Crescent Parkway and West Fairview Av-

enue will be repaved.

In addition, the intersections of Oak Tree and Front Street and Park and Maple Avenues will be improved to allow right hand turns. Finally after years of delay, the Durham and New Durham intersection will be completed

with the installation of a long over-due traffic light.

2) The Borough must acquire the land to construct a 10,000 square foot Senior Center. I am hopeful of acquiring the property across from Borough Hall, although the developer who owns it is being less than totally cooperative. We are exploring other locations so that all options can be considered before the Borough legally commits to a specific site. After the land is acquired, we intend to fund construction of the senior center with grants and contributions at no

cost to the taxpayers.

3) Begin construction of Senior Housing. The Lutheran Social Ministries is confident that they will have the funding in place by July of this year so that construction can start in the fall. There

was an unanticipated one year delay because an environmental impact study was required by the financing agency. That is now complete. I expect Senior Hous-

ing to finally become a reality in 1998.

4) Complete phase I and start phase II of the Downtown Revitalization Project. In the spring, Front Street will be reconstructed with sidewalks, decorative street lamps and Belgium Block curbs and a new traffic signal will be installed at Front and South Plainfield Avenue. That will complete phase I. Phase II will extend the project from Front Street and South Plainfield Avenue to the railroad tracks next to Sherban's Diner. In dition, a storefront facade program will be put in place. Under this program, \$10,000.00 will be available to shop owners to help finance im-

provements to their stores, in the form of 50% grant money and 50% low interest loans. This project is being conducted as a result of an inter-local agreement with Highland Park which has already successfully implemented this pro-

gram in their downtown area.

5) Now that Borough Hall, the Library and the Public Works Building have been put in shape, we should turn our attention to our recreation facilities in 1998. Putnam Street Park and Shadyside Park will be the first parks to be Park will be the first parks to be improved. New playground equipment will be installed, the fields will be upgraded and new landscaping and fences will be installed. These projects will be completed in house by our Public Works Department.
The Community Pool is also in

the process of being repaired at a

fraction of the original estimated cost. Thanks must go to Mike Sikanowitz of the Recreation Commission who has given of his time and expertise to save our Community Pool. In addition, the roof at the P.A.L. will be replaced by our Public Works Department at a fraction of the original estimated cost. From the renovations at Borough Hall, to the replacement roofs at the garage, to the landscaping along the median at Hadley Road, to road repaving projects and now to parks and the PA.L., our Public Works Department has saved our taxpayers hundreds of thousands of tax dollars over the last four years. For too long the men and woman at Public Works were ignored. Prior Mayors and Councils awarded contracts to private contractors at an excessive cost that our Public Works employees were prepared to do. Our Public Works Department

Our Public Works Department proves that public employees welcome the opportunity to produce for the people.

Finally, and most importantly, its time that the taxpayers of our Borough get some relief. The people of South Plainfield have supported the spending discipline which has been adopted by this Mayor and Council. However, as a result of reduced state aid, reduced ratables and debt payments of over \$1 milreduced state aid, reduced ratables and debt payments of over \$1 million a year our taxpayers have not received the relief they are entitled to. I'm happy to say that the successful financial policies put in place over the last four years will pay dividends in 1998. There will be no Municipal tax increase in South Plainfield in 1998 and I will go one better, I see no reason to have a tax increase in 1999 either. You have my word and the word of every member of this Council on it!

If we stay the course and keep our financial house in order, large Municipal tax increases should be a thing of the past in South

a thing of the past in South Plainfield. When we first compared Plainfield. When we first compared the Municipal budget to a family budget, we were ridiculed by those in power. One Councilperson bragged in the paper that, "you can't have pay as you go government." The sitting Mayor believed that a \$1 million dollar per year increases in expenses was reasonable. increase in expenses was reasonable and something to be accepted by the taxpayers. Well, the citizens of our Borough challenged the status quo and the results speak for them-selves. Maybe South Plainfield

should change its slogan to "the can do Borough."

As your Mayor, I look forward to 1998 as a year of new challenges and new opportunities. No one can and new opportunities. No one can predict what crises or rewards await us in the next 12 months... But I can say one thing with certainty ... if we continue to work together as a community, there will never be a task too daunting. Of course we should make note of the accomplishments of the last four years, but more importantly we must be prepared for the future. To quote President Kennedy, "hold fast to the best of the past and move fast to the best of the future."

God's graces to you and your family for 1998!

## Appointments and Nominations Announced At Annual Reorganization Meeting James Vokral Named 1998 Council President

By virtue of the power vested in me as mayor of the Borough of South Plainfield, I, Daniel J. Gallagher, do hereby appoint:

NAME Cornelia Calderone John Hogan Darlene Pinto Mary Anne Kochut

Emil Leporino Gary McKnight Larry Randolph

Michael Alvarez John Corica

Michael Martin

Dennis Cerami

BOARD

Planning Board -Class IV Planning Board-Class IV Planning Board-Alternate I Planning Board-Alternate II

**Environmental Commission** Environmental Commission Environmental Commission-Chair

Recreation Commission Recreation Commission

Mayor's HCD representative

Property Maintenance Bd of Appeals Traffic Safety Advisory Committe Council Liaison

As council president, I, James Vokral, am putting the following names in nomination for the following positions:

NAME John Pulomena

Paulette Giroux Marie Elena Jennette Arthur Muglia

Ed Kubala Robert Longo

Richard Naberezny

John Pulomena

Alice Temple

John Iovan William Nagy

Loretta Conroy

Sue Mischka

BOARD

Planning Board-Class III

Business Advisory Group Business Advisory Group Business Advisory Group

Council HCD representative

Greenbrook Flood Control Commission-Alt I Greenbrook Flood Control Commission-Alt II Greenbrook Flood Control

Commission Greenbrook Flood Control

Commission Taxpayer's Advisory Group Taxpayer's Advisory Group

Senior Citizen Advisory Committee-Liaison to Recreation Senior Citizen Advisory Committee-

The following appointments are to be made by the mayor With the advice and consent of the council. As mayor, I, Daniel J. Gallagher, am putting the following names in

NAME

Ronald Zilinski

**Edward Santoro** Mary Chapman Natalie Bergen Theresa Caslow Esther Armstead

Christine Meyers Melanie Friedman

Raymond Petronko

Raymond Petronko

James Vokral Linda Mazzeo Gary Kline/James Darby BOARD

Municipal Prosecutor Tax Search Officer

Public Defender

Board of Health Board of Health Board of Health

Board of Health-unexpired term

Cultural Arts

Senior Citizen Advisory Committee-Council Liaison

Senior Citizen Housing Authority-Council Liaiso

Welfare Board-Council Liaison Welfare Board

Youth Guidance Council-Police Youth Guidance Council-Council

The following appointments are to be made by the mayor with the advice and consent of the council. As mayor, I, Daniel J. Gallagher, am putting the following names in nominations:

NAME Paul Grzenda Peter Richkus Karl Schuetz/

Kenneth Laverne Joseph Glowacki Frank Mikorski

Vincent Buttiglieri Joseph Glowacki William Miller

Howard Simone Peter Calderone Guy Ferri Joseph Abbruzzese Michael Martin

Ronald Bossee Karen Blackford BOARD

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Police Officer

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee-DPW Traffic Safety Advisory Committee-Bd Ed

Recycling Commission-CouncilLiaison Recycling Commission-DPW

Land Management Advisory Commission Land Management Advisory Commission-Alt I

Library Board

Library Board-Superintendent of Schools Construction Board of Appeals- Alt. Fire Construction Board of Appeals

Zoning Board of Adjustment Zoning Board of Adjustment Zoning Board of Adjustment-Alt I







#### **POLICE REPORT**

 An theft was reported of 44 sheets of ¾ inch plywood valued at \$968 from the new home construction site on Hogan Drive.

 A shopper returning to her car at the Middlesex Mall reported that after she entered her car, a well dressed black male reached into her car from the drivers side window and stole her purse. He then got into a white car and drove away. Her purse contained \$70 in cash, credit cards and various other items.

 A bicycle was stolen from the front yard of a home on South 11th Street.

 A woman reported her wallet missing. She stated she noticed the wallet missing while loading groceries into her car. She said the last time she saw it was while paying her bill at Edwards Food Store. There were not witnesses. Her wallet contained approximately \$150 in cash, a drivers license, credit cards and a check book

 While driving on Stelton Road a motorist reported someone threw a rock from a white Jeep into the windshield of his car, breaking the window.

 During a motor vehicle stop, Perez Ramirez gave police a false name. When checking the name out it came back to deceased person. Ramirez was charged with Obstructing Justice.

 Starr Radiator reported someone threw a golf ball through a window and breaking it.

 A Schilke Construction employee reported his cell phone was taken from his vehicle while working on the Thompkson and Maltby construction etta

#### Local Student Wins Yogurt Express/ Welsh Farms Sundae Contest



Alexandra Fodor

Alexandra Fodor of South Plainfield recently won the local ice cream sundae contest sponsored by Yogurt Express and Welsh Farms, Inc. The grand prize was \$100 for Alexandra's third grade classroom, six free sundaes (one a month for six months for Alexandra), and a coupon for a free Welsh Farms soft ice cream cone at Yogurt Express for each student in the

#### Ski Resort Lift Tickets Available

Thanks to the New Jersey Recreation & Parks Association, the South Plainfield Recreation Department will offer tickets to area ski resorts at a great discount!

The Winter Ski Program includes tickets from Shawnee Mountain, Jack Frost, Camelback, Montage and Ski Windham.

Tickets can be purchased at the Recreation Office located in the PAL Recreation Center on Maple Ave., Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; and from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on the following evenings: Jan. 5, 20; Feb. 2, 17 and March 12. Tickets will be available through early March.

For more information, call (908) 226-7713.

# Classified Advertising Works.

Call 469-4380 to place your classified advertising.

Classifeds: 3 line minimun 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 January 8.

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

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- B & C Deli, Belmont Ave.
- · Bagel Pantry, Plainfield Ave.
- Corner Deli, Hamilton Blvd.
   Carousel Hair Salon, Oak Tree Rd.
- · Dave's Stationery, Sampton Ave.
- Holly Park Video, Park Ave.
- . K Foods, Park Ave.
- Krauser's Food Store, Oak Tree Rd.
- 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.

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