

South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

JANUARY 15, 1998



William Chapman, Master of Ceremonies; Michael Zushma, Captain; Linda Zushma, president and Mayor Dan Gallagher

Rescue Squad Installs Officers At Gala Installation Dinner

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad held its 1998 Installation Dinner Jan. 11 at the Holiday Inn on Stelton Rd. Several honored guests in attendance for the Installation Dinner included Mayor Gallagher and all member of the Council. Also present were Chief Joseph Abbruzzese and President Ed Silhanek from the South Plainfield Fire Department and

Police Chief Steven Merkler.

The Master of Ceremonies for the gala evening was William Chapman, Middlesex County EMS Coordinator, an Honorary Life Member of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad.

The South Plainfield Rescue officers for 1998 are: President Linda Zushma, Vice President Karen Henderson, Corresponding Secretary Joan Cantamessa, Recording Secretary Mary Chapman, Treasurer Glen Ewing and Captain Michael Zushma.

Other officials taking office are: First Lieutenant Ken Seidel, Second Lieutenant Peter McGrath, Night Sergeant William Fekete, Day Sergeant Peter Magnani and Chaplain Linda Zushma; Delegates, Mary Chapman, Ken Seidel and Rich Hamilton; Alternate Delegates, Douglas Rousseau, Gary Toth and Jose Heavens; Trustees, Gary Toth, Michael Zushma and Douglas Rousseau; Executive Board, Gary Toth and Sylvie Mulvaney; Historian, Katie Baron and Cadet, Jamie Graham.

Service Awards were presented to Michael Zushma for 15 years of service; Linda Zushma and Barbara Duffee for 10 years of service and Michael Grab for five years service; Brian Anderson, Past Presidents Award.

Kenneth Seidel was presented with a Special Captains Award from Michael Zushma for outstanding service to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad. Also Special Friends were recognized who have gone out of their way for the Rescue Squad. They are Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Owdrick of Gemini Towing; Pinto Bros. Disposal Service; Mr. Dominic

DeNardo of Holly Park Video; Mr. Richard Dorso and Mr. Chris Rowe of Domino Pizza.

Ladies Auxiliary

The 1998 Ladies Auxiliary officers are: President Joan Cantamessa; Vice President Doris Tripet; Corresponding Secretary Kathy Smolinski; Recording Secretary Darla Woodel; Treasurer Joanne Eroglu and Historian Elsie Webster.

Ladies Auxiliary Service Awards were presented to Dolly Curcio, Patricia Fizur, Marion Gallagher, Addie Levine and Patricia Rasmussen for 15 years of service and Patricia Swercer for ten years of service.

The Rescue Squad was established in 1944. The South Plainfield Rescue Squad is staffed entirely by 40 emergency medical technicians trained in life-saving, first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Many members also are trained to use defibrillators, which help shock the heart back into a normal

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Kochut Steps Down; Pulomena Sworn in as County Freeholder

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield Councilman John Pulomena was recently sworn in as a Middlesex County Freeholder. John moved to South Plainfield in 1983 and has been a member of the Borough Council for the past eight years, serving in his 3rd term. He has a strong background in computers and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from City University, New York.

His observations concerning local taxes and services provided by the borough prompted him to become more involved in the community. John felt he wanted to take a more active role in local government to try and make a difference. He feels strongly that

Mary Anne Kochut recently closed the door on three busy years on the Borough Council. At the Jan. 1 reorganization meeting, Mary Anne was presented a plaque by Mayor Dan Gallagher and the Borough Council recognizing her service and dedication to the town and its residents.

A resident of South Plainfield for fifteen years, Mary Anne's service to the borough began with her own desire to become more involved in the community.

Kochut initially spoke with her friend and Councilman Ed Kubala, and an appointment to the Cultural Arts Commission followed in early 1994.



John Pulomena



Mary Anne Kochut

a Borough Council should be accountable for managing the concerns of the residents as they relate to the services provided and the town's budget.

In 1989 a successful campaign saw him elected to a council seat. He has served as Council President for the last three years. During this time he was Chairperson of several boards: Health, Edu-

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In March of the same year, Mary Anne was approached by committee members who suggested she run for a seat on the borough council. Although she declined, citing a lack of experience and a hectic personal life, a second request in early July asking her to reconsider prompted her to rethink. With previous obligations then behind her, Mary

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BOROUGH NOTES

Council

The Borough Council met on Jan. 1, 1998 for its annual reorganization meeting. Ray Petronko was sworn in as the new councilman replacing Mary Anne Kochut, who did not run for reelection: Jim Vokral was unanimously voted Council President.

During the month of January council meetings will be held on Jan. 15 and Jan 29. The next

agenda meeting will be held on the Monday, Jan. 26. In February the council will return to their regular schedule of the second and fourth Thursdays, and the agenda meetings will be held on the preceding Mondays. All meetings are open to the public.

Board of Adjustments

The Board of Adjustments met on Jan. 6 and the following resolutions were voted on:

■ Alice Curran, Clinton Ave. approved for a fifteen foot front

setback from O'Keefe Lane.

■ Carol Gronczewski, Hamilton Blvd., approved for a use variance and settlement agreement, to permit the construction of a child care facility servicing no more than 62 pupils, subject to conditions.

■ Public Service Electric & Gas Co., Hadley Road, approval for the request for a use variance to permit the storage of maximum of 16 smaller vehicles (car, van and pick-up trucks), with

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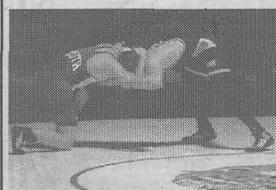
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**BLISHER'S
NOTES**

The year ahead for the *Observer* looks to be an exciting one. New columns and features will be added and the *Observer* will continue to grow in every aspect. Our readership and circulation grows with each issue we publish and we thank you all for your support.

As demonstrated in the past issues, we will continue to expand our coverage throughout South Plainfield. With the help of all of you, our readers and advertisers, we want to pursue this expansion even further. We will continue to cover events around town, however, we would like to hear from you on what is happening in your area. We welcome input from every corner of the town. Send in your suggestions and comments on what you would like to see in future issues.

February 15 is Valentines Day. We are celebrating by inviting you to send in your own personal valentines. Valentines are free to all subscribers or at a cost of \$10 for non-subscribers. The free valentines will be limited to the first 50 we receive. We will also not take any valentines after the deadline date of Jan. 29. See the advertisement on page 5 for information. If you already subscribe, you can send your valentine by e-mail at nancyg@spobserver.com or drop it off at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or at Twice Is Nice on Front St. You can also fax it to us at 732-805-0815 or drop it in the mail. If you don't yet subscribe to the *Observer*, you can either pay \$10 for the valentine or by purchase a subscription.

Police Department Seeks Police Officer; Applications Available

The South Plainfield Police Department is accepting applications for the examination for the position of Police Officer. The application is published by and must be returned to the N.J. Department of Personnel. Specific instructions regarding application fees, eligibility requirements and veterans preference are delineated in the application. Applications may be obtained any time of the day at the South Plainfield Police Department communications center, 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

The filing deadline is January 31.

Candidate must be a resident of South Plainfield as of the closing date for filing the application and must maintain residency up to and including the date of appointment.

Other requirements are as listed in the application. The starting salary is \$32,399.

A summary of benefits, duties and responsibilities is posted at the police station.

Any questions, please contact Sgt. Michael Grennier at (908) 226-7673. The Borough of South Plainfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Another holiday season has passed. For many families in South Plainfield it might have not been so happy if it had not been for the generosity of so many in our community. Between the organizations, churches, schools, businesses and individuals who care so much for our less fortunate, we had such a successful holiday drive.

By joining together as a community, we were able to give food to over 90 families for Thanksgiving and Christmas and also provide gifts for these same families for Christmas.

Whether you donated a can of food, took a name off a wish tree, gave toys, donated cash in lieu of gifts or cards to co-workers, adopted a family or in any other way made a donation, be assured that your generosity was very appreciated.

Best wishes to all for 1998.
**MARGARET ACKERMAN
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES
BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD**

Dear Editor:

I am writing on behalf of the fourth grade parents at John F. Kennedy Elementary School. On Saturday, Dec. 13, a "Breakfast with Santa" was sponsored by the fourth grade to raise money for their future three-day class trip to

Stokes State Forest in New Jersey. This event was a huge success and enjoyed by many!

I would like to thank the following businesses for making this fundraiser so successful: Doug Scheurer of Cookies's Bagels and Bakery (Oak Tree Rd.) for generously donating 150 assorted bagels and 150 assorted donuts and buns, Gina of Friehofer's for donating coffeecakes, danish and cookies, and McDonald's (Oak Tree Rd.) for donating hot cups and cold drink cups. I would like to thank the following individuals for their generous donation of time and energy: Eileen Lorange and the girls from her Girl Scout Troop #318, Mr. Ray Szamborski for being Santa, Mrs. Szamborski (formerly Miss Blanchard), Mr. Al Czech, Mr. and Mrs. Hook, Mrs. Doyon and Miss Woodruff.

Also, a great big thanks to Colleen Lazar for all her help and numerous phone calls, Joan Jaghab and Debbie Bishop for their guidance, and to all the fourth grade parents, students and relatives who donated food and their time to this breakfast. Last but not least, to all the families who came out to support this event. Your patronage was greatly appreciated and truly benefited the fourth grade's future Stokes trip.

**SINCERELY,
SUSAN DEZMIN
J.F.K. FOURTH GRADE PARENT**

school musicians and chorus who so wonderfully entertained us, to the students who so graciously served us, to the workers who prepared the delicious meal and to all those folks who dedicated their time and energy to making the luncheon a splendid way to celebrate the holiday season.

Best wishes to everyone who helped and to all those who attended. This is the type of commitment and dedication that makes South Plainfield a special community.

May the New Year be a healthy and peaceful one for all of us.

**SINCERELY,
MARY L. BELARDO**

Dear Editor:

We would like to acknowledge the excellent coverage of our recent 80th birthday celebration. We thank you for the story and picture in the *Observer* and especially for your cooperation. We can see the *South Plainfield Observer* is destined for a bright future, in that your staff is cooperative and able.

Special thanks to Patty Abbott who did such a great job with pictures and written material.

Our best wishes to you all for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

**VERY TRULY YOURS,
IRMA TABISZ AND THE
TABISZ FAMILY**

Junior Baseball Club To Hold Registration

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club will be holding registration on Thursday, Jan. 15 and Friday, Jan. 16 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 17 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the baseball complex.

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

January registration fee is \$45. per player, \$70. for two or more players in the same family. Late registration is \$50. per player, with no multiple family discount.

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

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

To the Editor:

On behalf of the seniors of South Plainfield, we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the luncheon that was sponsored for us at the high school. The hard work and the cooperation of so many people provided an afternoon of fun and friendship for all those in attendance. The food was great and the music was festive. This annual holiday event would not be possible without the support of all those who open their hearts every year. Special thanks to the Board of Education, to the high

Rabies Clinic Scheduled

The South Plainfield Health Department will be conducting the Annual Rabies Clinic for dogs and cats on Thursday, Jan. 15, 6-8 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 16, 6-8 p.m.; and Saturday, Jan. 17, 9 a.m.-noon.

The clinic will be held at the Department of Public Works, Spicer and Belmont Avenues. Licenses can be purchased at that time. Cat owners should bring their cats in a carrier case.

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

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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 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or Twice Is Nice, Front St. or fax us at (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.

UPCOMING OBSERVER PUBLICATION DATES:

Issue Date	Copy Deadline
February 5	Jan. 29
February 19	Feb. 12
March 5	Feb. 26
March 19	Mar. 12

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1998 Reorganization: Council Reorganizes, Committee Appointments Set

Photos by William Tutbill



Millie Waldrom attended the reorganization with Esther Armstead who was appointed to the Board of Health.



South Plainfield 1998 Council

Standing left to right: Ray Petronko, Dennis Cerami, John Pulomena and Vincent Buttiglieri. Sitting: Ed Kubala, Mayor Dan Gallagher and 1998 Council President James Vokral.

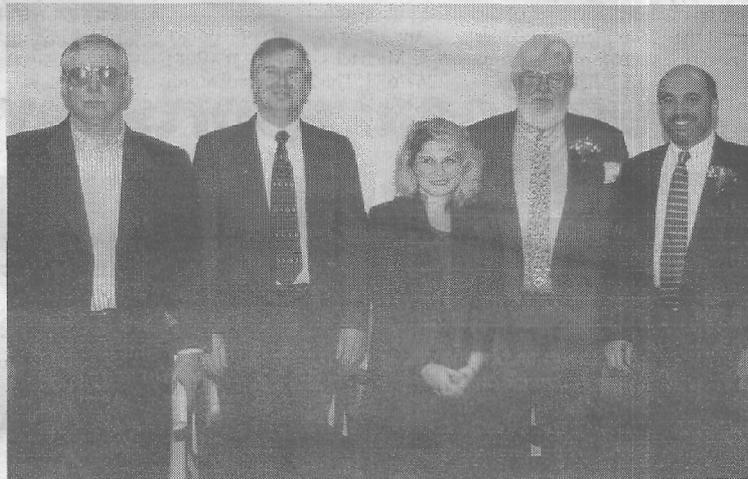


South Plainfield 1997 Council

Standing left to right: Mary Ann Kocbut, Dennis Cerami, James Vokral and Vincent Buttiglieri. Sitting: Ed Kubala, Mayor Dan Gallagher and 1997 Council President John Pulomena.



Left to right, Mary Chapman, Board of Health; Thomas Lamza, Municipal; Prosecutor; Raymond Petronko, Senior Citizen Housing Authority-Council Liaison; James Vokral, Welfare Board-Council Liaison; Dennis Cerami, Youth Guidance Council-Council Liaison are sworn in by Jim Eckert, Municipal Clerk.



Pictured left to right are: William Nagy, Taxpayers Advisory Group; Richard Nabereznay, Greenbrook Flood Control Commission-Alt II; Marie Elena Jennette, Business Advisory Group; Ed Kubla, Council HCD Representative and John Pulomena, Greenbrook Flood Control Commission.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Well, we're about half-way through the first month of 1998. Last year heralded some major changes for the South Plainfield Library. It looks like this year will mark many more changes. So here's a few words to keep you up-to-date on what's going on.

The Library will be closed on Monday, Jan. 19, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Due to the holiday closing there will be no Monday storytime. It will return at its usual time, 6:30 p.m. the following week. The other storytimes will be presented as usual. Programs for children ages 3-6 will be held on Tuesday at 10:15 a.m. and on Thursday at 1:30 p.m. The program for children ages 18 mos.-3 yrs. will be held on Thursday at 11:00 a.m. One special note: since January 28th marks Chinese New Year, that week's storytimes will feature that theme. For more information, contact Judy Fischer, the children's librarian.

As we reported in the last issue, we're in the midst of getting our circulation desk computers running and operable. Please be patient with us as we slowly but surely drag the Library into the Machine Age.

Here's something that patrons have been requesting for a while now. The postings for upcoming books have returned. The posting board is located at the circulation desk, near the reference section. The

notices posted are for books that are on order and on the way to the library. Stop by and check what's coming up, then be sure to put your reservation in as soon as possible. At present, we've got notices about new books from Tom Clancy, Robin Cook, Lillian Jackson Braun and Patricia Cornwell, among others.

We at the Library, by definition, are big supporters of education. We're proud of our role in helping students get the information they need to supplement their schoolwork. That said, we'd like to pass along a bit of advice to students. If you need library materials to complete your work on papers and reports, don't wait until the last minute. Lately, there's been a big run on source materials (particularly non-print sources) for reports. As a result, many patrons have not been able to borrow what they need. So, please be aware of the needs of others and plan ahead for possible delays. Also, be considerate of others; return those sources on time so no one is deprived of the materials they need.

Finally, if you can't find what you're looking for, the reference staff is always available to help you determine what you need and where you can find it. Trust us, allowing the extra time is worth it.

We're just about out of space for this week. Thanks for reading and please let us know your comments. See you in two weeks.

INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

By Briggs Longbothum and Eric Tillman



Remember some time ago I mentioned here that Comcast was going to roll out internet access via cable? Ultra fast, high bandwidth internet access will mean real-time video conferencing, video telephone, etc. You can become your own radio or TV station right out of the box, well almost. Just not over the air, but certainly over the entire internet which means universal coverage!!! Anyway, Comcast (our cable company) says we're due in the first quarter of '98 which is NOW. Brace yourself, this will be very cool stuff. Details to follow, stay tuned.

Tip: Give your computer a shot in the arm with more memory (RAM). If you're running Windows 95, 16MB is fine, but if you also run graphics programs and use the internet, 32MB would be an improvement. More than that won't likely help noticeably unless you are a heavy graphics or multi-media developer. If you use your computer as a server too, you might benefit from more

RAM. Windows 3.1 doesn't need quite so much memory, but what programs you plan to run may need more. Memory on SIMM chips is very inexpensive now since DIMM memory is replacing it. More can't hurt!

Remember RAM or random access memory is volatile space the CPU needs while it does its work! If it's called upon to do lots of stuff, it needs more room to work. Kind of like people, computers like elbow room! Volatile means that when you turn off your computer, unless you have "saved your work" to your hard disk (semi-permanent storage), it disappears. Also, programs and applications have to load up into RAM before you can use them. Like taking stuff out of the closet to use (in RAM) and then putting away again.

Tip: Check out www.futurekids.com. Or call Futurekids at (732)283-2383, and ask for Marilyn Hatcher. This group specializes in teaching computer skills from intro and basic to spe-

cial advanced for anyone ages 3 on up! Seniors groups, clubs, schools, churches, and even individuals are provided excellent hands-on teaching to brush up on basic skills or learn a new application or program. When I spoke with them, they sounded like a pretty good organization.

Someone asked me the other day, "what's the difference between the Internet and the World Wide Web?" Good question because most everybody, except techies of course, uses the two terms interchangeably. I do too even though it's not correct! The ubiquitous "internet" was there first. In fact, the world wide web or just "web" is a part of the internet. A big part too, as more than 85% of internet traffic is estimated to be due to the web! The web is a very large internet service.

The internet is what it is! It is both a technology and a form of communication, comparable to the telephone system. In fact, in some places, the internet is the telephone system! It includes connections of many sorts at many levels. And like the phone system, it is made up of many interwoven, overlapping and interconnected sub-networks and sub-networks connected back upon themselves etc., etc. It is what it is!

The world wide web is a special part of that huge network. And for most of us (businesses, too) the web is where we position our websites through which we make our presence known for all the world to see. Enough to know that the web is part of the net. If someone emails to me the correct answer to what does "VERONICA" stand for (it's an acronym), we can go farther into the internet-web comparison. But for now we'll stick with: it's where all that "dot com" stuff happens, ok?

Here's an easy one, What does "dot com" mean anyway? How about "dot mil" or "dot edu?" These are parts of a web address or URL (uniform resource locator) and tells you something about the type of activity the server at which the site is located is involved in. For example commercial, military, or education. We'll also look farther into this addressing stuff another time.

Tip: If you are reader of this column and haven't yet even seen the internet for yourself, do this: visit Rorden Realty's office lobby on Elm Street in Westfield. There you can test drive for free, a cable internet powered computer. No obligation and you don't have to speak to any sales people, they've just provided the space in their lobby. It's fast and cool and free! At least check out the internet somewhere and let's share some websites we've seen and liked. And I do want to hear from you: email, Bruggo@earthlink.net or through the Observer at www.spobsrver.com. More next issue, PcnU.

Girl Scouts Team Up For 1998 Cookie Sale

South Plainfield Girl Scouts will be taking orders for Girl Scout cookies Jan. 23 through Feb. 8. The annual Girl Scout cookie sale is an event that works in two ways. It raises funds for an organization that supports girls with fun, informal learning activities and it teaches important life skills such as goal setting and money management. This year the girls will be **TEAMING UP**

TO WIN as they work together to reach their Troop and Council goal for the cookie sale. Proceeds from the cookie sale are used by the Troops for program activities they have planned and by the council to fund services and programs made available throughout the year. There are eight varieties of cookies available including Sugar Free Chalet Cremes and low-fat Snaps.

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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.

CRIME TIPS:

The Home Security Alarm

By John R. Alles, S.P. Police Dept.

Home Security Alarms — With many homes left unoccupied during the day due to both adults having to work in many households, many people are having alarms installed in their homes to protect them.

How alarm systems work

Security alarms are made up of three basic parts: the detectors, or sensors, the control unit and the actual alarm.

Sensors act as observers detecting the presence of an intruder. The control unit is the heart of the system to which all sensors are connected. The unit receives a message that a sensor has been tripped and transmits a signal that triggers the alarm. Once the alarm is tripped a signal can sound the alarm in your home, send it to another location, or both.

Types of sensors

Pressure mats — When someone steps on it a signal activates the alarm. These alarms are usually hidden under carpets so they are not visible to an intruder.

Ultrasonic motion detectors — Fills the room with sound waves which, if disturbed, triggers the alarm.

Infrared Photoelectric sensors — project a light beam. If broken, it activates the alarm.

Switch sensors — are electromagnetic devices that are installed at entry points. Once the contact is broken between the two parts, the alarm is triggered.

Before buying an alarm, check out your local alarm ordinance to make sure whatever you are going to use is in compliance with local laws.

Sensors and panic buttons can be connected by wire, or by a wireless battery system to the control unit.

How intrusion is reported

The local alarm is the simplest to install and the least expensive to purchase. When the alarm is triggered, a loud audible device is activated. Its effectiveness depends on the intruder being frightened off, or by alert neighbors calling the police.

The remote alarm transmits the signal to another location, such as police headquarters, a monitoring station or to a location where the homeowner can be reached.

A dialer alarm is a remote alarm that transmits a pre-recorded message over a phone number by dialing a pre-programmed number. **DO NOT connect your dialer alarm to the police station unless you obtain prior approval from the chief of police.** Direct Connect gets hooked up directly to police headquarters.

The central station monitors most private residential remote security alarms and charges a monthly fee for this service.

What are the cost? From several hundred dollars to several thousand dollars, depending on which system you choose.

Before buying an alarm — Check out your local alarm ordinance to make sure whatever you are going to use is in compliance with local laws. This will help you avoid paying excessive fines for false alarms, or non-compliance.

If you have any additional questions about what type of alarm is right for you, or to contact the crime prevention unit, call 226-7716, but remember we can't recommend an alarm company to you.

Co-Pastors Named at Pilgrim Covenant Church

The Reverend James D. Erickson and the Reverend Catherine E. Stanley will begin their ministry as co-pastors at Pilgrim Covenant Church on January 18. The worship service is at 11 a.m.

The co-pastors come from Jamestown, NY, where Pastor Erickson has been serving as associate pastor of First Covenant Church. The couple married in July, 1997.

Pastor Stanley is the daughter of missionary parents and was born in Zaire (now the Republic of Congo). She earned her B.A. degree at Bowdoin College and the Master of Divinity degree from North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago. She has also studied in Ecuador and Norway. She served an internship at Gateway Covenant Church in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and has worked as a counselor at Covenant Harbor Bible Camp in Wisconsin.

Pastor Erickson is a native of Minneapolis and earned his B.A. degree in International Affairs and Swedish at North Park College (now University). He took Clinical Pastoral Education at McNeal Memorial Hospital and has studied in Sweden.

In 1995 he received the Master of Divinity degree from North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago. He served as intern pastor at Immanuelskyrkan in Stockholm, Sweden. He has served the past two years as secretary of the Great Lakes Conference Youth Task Force of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

They will reside at the church parsonage, 405 Pierce Street.

For more information contact A. Eugene Bloomwell, Church Chair at home (908) 561-0492 or at the Church: (908) 756-2474.

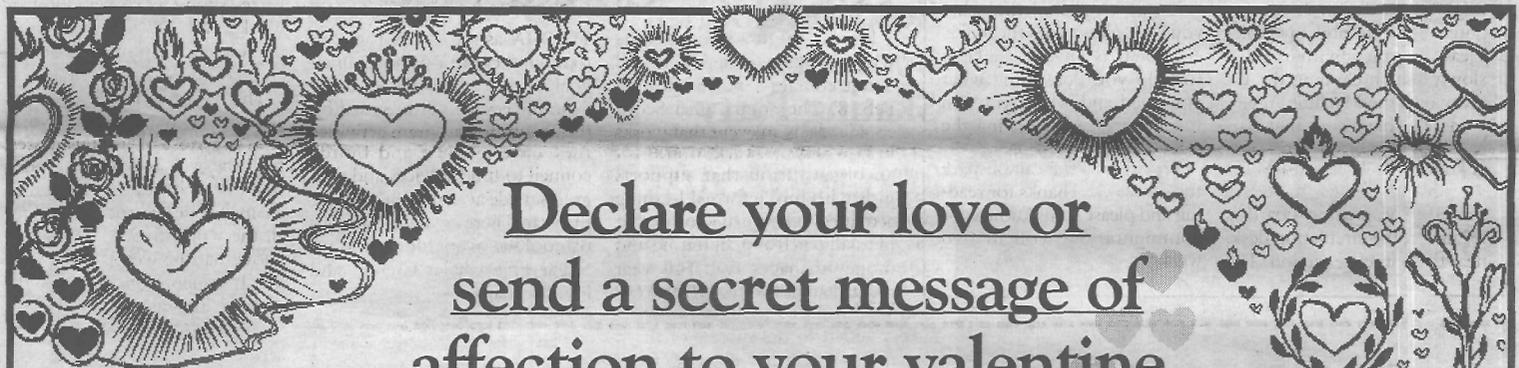


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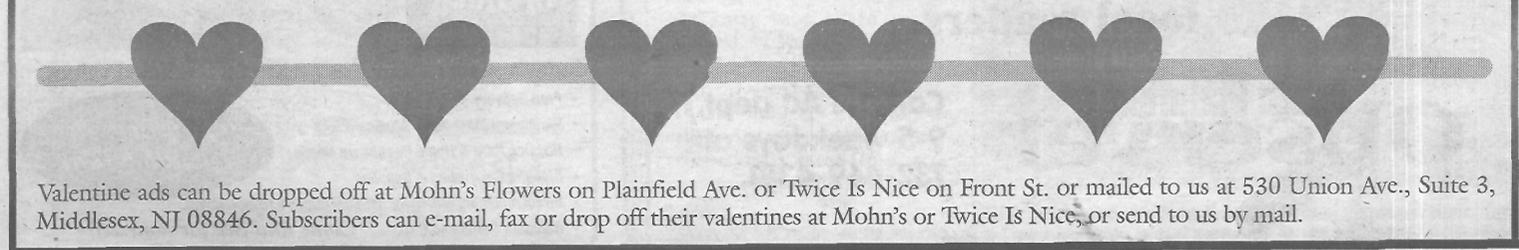
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SCHOOL DAYS: What's Happening?

Sacred Heart Announces Plans for Catholic Schools Week

The week of Jan. 25-31 is dedicated to the appreciation, celebration and promotion of Catholic Schools. During this week Sacred Heart School has several different events scheduled. The events are intended to provide students with special activities, to open the school to prospective parents and students, show appreciation for faculty and staff and promote more parental involvement.

On Tuesday, Jan. 27 and Thursday, Jan. 29 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. there will be an "Open House" for prospective parents and students to visit, register and tour the school. On Wednesday, Jan. 28 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Sacred Heart parents are invited to their children's classrooms to observe, participate and share breakfast with the class.

A special meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 28 in the evening for parents and faculty.

Dr. Lorraine Amendolara, Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Metuchen, will make a special presentation to Principal Sister Cornelia Ramirez. She will receive Sacred Heart's Accreditation Certificate from the Middle States Association which was awarded in Oct. 1997. Following the presentation Dr. Kathleen Chesto will be the guest speaker. Her subject will be "Ordinary Holiness for Everyday Saints" on the religious vocation of parenting.

Other activities planned are a facility breakfast given by the Home School Association, a concert presented by music teacher Paul DeLoia's band, and graduation from the DARE program for fifth graders, who have participated in the program for several months. The entire Sacred Heart community is looking forward to and planning for the events of this special week.



Project Read Bingo Game at Riley School

Students shown above practice reading words spelled with "c," "k" and "ck" through a Project Read Bingo Game. Project Read is a multi-sensory, phonetic-based approach to teaching students to read. Students use auditory, visual, kinesthetic, and tactile senses in this program. Pictured from left to right are: Matthew Gross, Travis Noll, David Sangster, Miss Brenda Loozen, Miss Rachel Thompson, Carolina Guardado, Jessica Flood, Samantha Bowser, Maria Soto and Kyle Lykes.



Franklin Student Council Sponsors Skating Party

The Franklin School Student Council recently sponsored a roller skating party which was held in the gymnasium. Admission to the event was two canned food items. The canned goods were donated to FISH, an organization that provides food to those in need. Freihoffers Bakery added to the success of the party by donating refreshments for the hungry skaters.



Think Twice Before You Try Marijuana

By Naleesa Haree

All you have to do is watch "cops" and you'll see someone getting arrested.

Marijuana is the shredded flowers and leaves from the hemp plant. It has green, brown or gray colored leaves, and it is illegal.

There are many reasons why people use marijuana. One of them is peer pressure.*

THC, the main active chemical in marijuana, disturbs the brain's ability to performed its duties by disrupting nerve cells that are found in the brain where the memories are stored.

Studies have shown that the more intake a person has of marijuana, the more chances they will lose certain memories.

Scientists think marijuana plays a role in cancer and problems with respiratory, immune, and the reproductive systems, but it has not been proven. THC could affect young men by delaying puberty and young women could have their menstrual period at a later

time than anticipated.

Marijuana can be addictive, but not to everyone. The way a person can tell they are addicted is by having the sensation of using marijuana again.

Marijuana can lead to other drugs. A junior recently said, "I think marijuana opens new doors to other drugs because students would want to find out what would happen if they tried another drug."

One way of getting help for marijuana abuse is by seeing your family doctor. There's more than one program to help teenagers stay away from marijuana.

*All information obtained from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

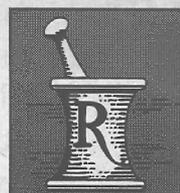
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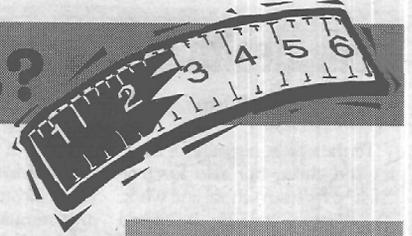
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Happy New Year from the Staff
Come and See for Yourself!

SCHOOL DAYS: What's News?



Khristina Theobald Reports...

Notes From the Middle School

Happy New Year South Plainfield, my name is Khristina Theobald. I am the current reporter for the South Plainfield Middle School. Here are some upcoming events for the month of January you should know about.

"Take the Lead"

There are several scheduled events for this month. The first was an assembly on Tuesday, Jan. 13, called "Take The Lead." The assembly was presented by the South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness and DARE. It focused on the value of good judgement, the freedom to make the right decisions, common sense regarding underage drinking, and the need to lead others into positive choices. The program is well liked because it has high-tech visual displays and it is motivational. Its follow-up curriculum hits the students between the eyes and ears with a dynamic message that speaks to their hearts and in their language. An over-



Khristina Theobald

view shows that this is the nation's #1 school assembly program.

Orientation, School Closing, Music Students' Trip

Jan. 14 was High School Orientation for eighth grade students. Also in January, we can't

forget that on the Jan. 19, we have the day off for Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday. Also let's not leave out the six grade music students who also have a big day on Jan. 20. They are going on a trip to the Metropolitan Museum to view and discuss the musical instrument collection. They leave at 8:45 a.m. and return at 1:00 p.m. Have fun 6th graders!

Students of the Month, Geography Bee

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the students of the month, Joe Sierzega and Meghan Elsmann. I would also like to congratulate the Geography Bee National Finalist, Jason Yu, the winner; Elliot Kaplan, runner-up; and finalists Joe Smalley, Chris Addvensky, Greg Garbowski, and Sean Cruz. Congratulations to all.



South Plainfield Middle School, January "Students of the Month" are left to right: Meghan Elsmann, eighth grade; Principal Robert Doggett and Joe Sierzega, eighth grade.

End of Marking Period

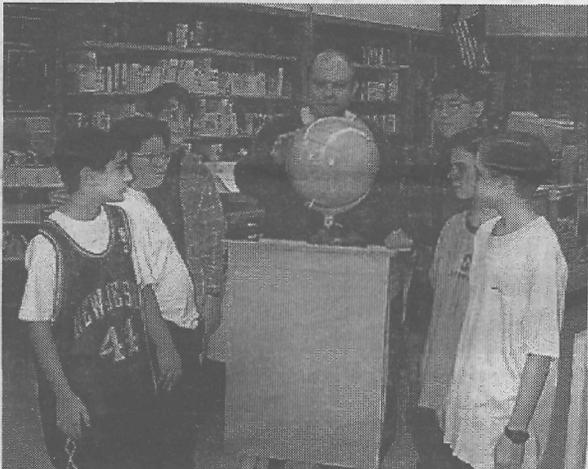
Please don't forget that the second marking period ends on the 30th of January.

Battle of Classes

On Feb. 6 at 7:00 p.m., there will be the "Battle of the Classes." The event raises funds for Tiger Gold, a reward system for good behavior. This is an enjoyable competition between all the classes in the Middle School.

There will be two teams from each grade level. Every homeroom gets assigned to a team. Each homeroom will select three players and one alternate. These names will be drawn from a hat, for a total of four. Parents, friends and relatives are invited! Come out and cheer for your team. The fun starts at 7:00 p.m.

I hope that all of you have enjoyed this holiday season. Best wishes in the coming year.



Geography Bee Finalists are from left to right: Greg Garbowski, sixth grade; Sean Cruz, sixth grade; Elliot Kaplan, eighth grade runner-up; Mr. Donald Slavin, sponsor; Justin Yu, champion; Joseph Smalley, seventh grade, second runner-up and Chris Addvensky, seventh grade.

An Actor Among Us - Mr. Joseph Versocki

By Desha Abe
South Plainfield High School

Joseph Versocki, gym teacher at South Plainfield High School, has been leading a double life the past few years. Mr. Versocki, whose professional name is Joe Versocki, is a member of the Screen Actors Guild, NY Branch.

Versocki started his acting career in September 1993, by studying in Hoboken with a member of the Independent Actors Guild.

"I started acting in 1993 when my girlfriend's neighbor cut out an article from a newspaper advertising acting classes taught by J.P. Gilbert," said Versocki.

"I have an advantage because I have 29 years of martial arts training with grand masters. It's easier to make an actor out of a martial arts master than to make a martial arts master out of an actor. We started with improvisation, where a scene is set, and you play a certain part. Gilbert taped each class and had us buy a book of movie monologues, and the one I started with was a one minute scene from Raging Bull," said Versocki, smiling.

Versocki's first break was as an extra on the popular TV show *Law and Order*, which aired in September 1995. "Being on the show with Jerry Orbeck was amazing, and it was a great opportunity that I had," said Versocki. "I think he is a great actor." Since then, Versocki has taken up screenplay writing.

"The first play I wrote was called ISS, and it was about my experiences as an ISS [In-school-suspension] teacher," said Versocki.

Versocki is now taking classes at the Actors' Training Institute,

under the direction of Mr. John Eyd, a well known stage actor and writer, and has been in 50 major productions.

Versocki said, "Mr. Eyd is a great teacher who knows what he is doing. I am so happy I found him. He is truly a diamond in the rough."

In Eyd's class the students are studying Russian teacher Stanaslavoski's style of acting, which consists of deep psychological training and a lot of improvisation.

"I am very proud of being in the Screen Actor's Guild (SAG). I wanted to do more than reach the top of martial arts. I wanted to be an actor," said Versocki, pulling his SAG card out from his wallet.

Versocki has been seen in various movies, such as *Donnie Brasco*, *Moving Target*, and *Raising the Heights*.

"I have to say that the students, especially the Drama Club, and teachers here at SPHS have been very supportive. What I am doing is not easy, and my goal is to earn \$20 million in a movie, and donate a lot of it to Project Graduation and the Drama Club here. I will never forget that I grew up in South Plainfield, my roots are from this town," said Versocki.

My advice to aspiring young actors, "Get rid of your attitude and ego. Have the support of your family and friends, and be ready for constructive criticism. Acting is supposed to be fun. Remember that," said Versocki.

JANUARY/February

JANUARY

- 15 Kennedy: Book Fair
- Riley: School Store
- 16 Kennedy: Book Fair
- 19 School Closed
- 20 Riley: Martin Luther King's Birthday Program
- Board of Education Regular Public Meeting
- 21 Riley: Literature Program
- 24 Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)
- 26 Franklin: 5th Grade DARE Graduation
- 27 Roosevelt: Multi-Cultural Festival
- High School: Semester Exams (full day)
- 28 Roosevelt: 5th Grade DARE Graduation
- High School: Semester Exam (half day)
- 29 Kennedy: 5th Grade DARE Graduation
- High School: Semester Exams (half day)
- 30 Riley: 5th Grade DARE Graduation
- High School Semester Exams (half day)

FEBRUARY

- 12 Franklin: PTA Meeting
- Riley: PTSO General Meeting
- 3 Roosevelt: PTA General Meeting
- 4 Franklin: Book Fair
- Riley: Literature Program

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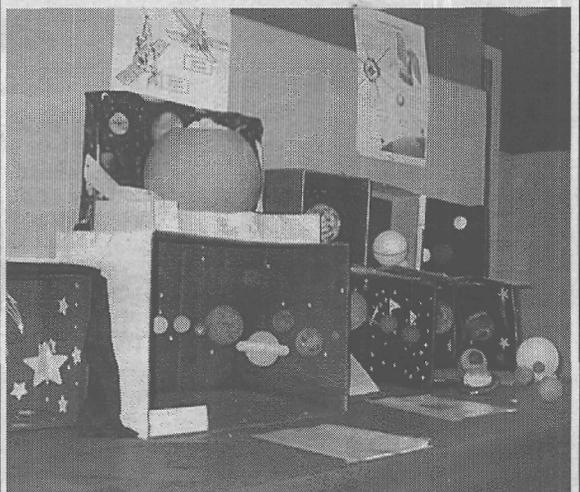
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"Space" Science Project at Franklin School



Fifth grade students from Franklin School displayed their "Space" science projects in the hallways at the school.

Your Health — The Common Cold

By Sandy Severini

Tis the season, not only for cookies and cheer, but also for true "sick" days from school and work. The common cold can be caused by one of over 200 viruses, and infects the upper respiratory tract. The well-known symptoms include head congestion, sore throat, coughing, headache fever, restlessness, sneezing, watery eyes, and aches and pains. Most colds clear up on their own in a week to ten days, but occasionally a cold can lead to a more serious illness, such as bronchitis, pneumonia, or flu.

It is estimated that healthy adults get an average of two colds per year. Children generally get many more because their immune systems are immature, and because they have not yet developed immunity to many of the viruses that cause colds. Since there is no cure for the common cold, the best approach is prevention. Once a cold has a firm grip on you, it is hard to stop it. Besides the usual commercial preparations used to treat the symptoms of a cold once it has started, there has been a great deal of success with natural remedies, herbs and vitamins, which help to make the cold itself less bothersome. When you begin to feel the first symptoms that a cold may be beginning, or if colds are running like wildfire through your home or office, it could be beneficial to be-

gin some homeopathic or natural treatments.

Some of the most popular treatments for the Common cold include Echinacea, which is an herb that stimulates certain white blood cells, and has anti-inflammatory and antiviral properties. The recommended dosage is 300mg three times daily at the very beginning signs of a cold, and not to be taken beyond a six week period. Vitamin C is an important nutrient to fight cold viruses, and should be taken in divided doses throughout the day during the infected period. Zinc lozenges also help to boost the immune system. They should be started at the first sign of a cold along with the Echinacea and Vitamin C.

Although there is no cure for the common cold, there are many ways we can reduce the effects on our bodies by eating smart, getting enough rest, practicing good hygiene when around others and things, we can keep viruses from taking hold. Viruses can survive for hours on hands, tissues and hard surfaces. A healthy person can contract the virus by touching a contaminated surface, then touching his or her own mouth or nose. It is wise to wash our hands often.

Advice for the patient using herbal or over-the-counter cold Preparations:

- Do not exceed recommended dosage.
- Stop taking product if side effects are noted.
- Do not use the drug during pregnancy and lactation, or in infants or young children, unless prescribed by your doctor.
- Herbs and over-the-counter medications may interact with prescription drugs; therefore, check with your pharmacist or doctor before starting any new medications on your own.
- Purchase herbs from reliable sources.

Culturally Speaking ON THE ARTS

By Gordon Fladger

Director, On the Arts Program Project, So. Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission

The new year has come and it is time for the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission to focus on its plans for the 1998 dance, music, theatre and art festivals.

For the entertainment of all our friends and neighbors, the Cultural Arts Commission has proposed the following tentative program schedule for 1998. • March: The South Plainfield Dance Festival; • April: The South Plainfield; Children's Theatre; • May: The South Plainfield; Music Festival; • August or September: The South Plainfield Art Festival; • October or November: The Wesley Concert Series; • December: Caroling in the Park

These months are not chiseled in stone, and may change, so keep a check in the *Observer* for further updates as they become available.

events around town

Walks 'N Talks Program Announced

- Sunday, April 19, 1 p.m.
- **Earth Day Celebration** Highland Avenue Woods Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m.
- **Spring Trail Maintenance** Highland Avenue Woods Saturday, June 20, 7:30 p.m.
- **Summer Solstice Celebration** Highland Avenue Woods Monday, September 7, 2 p.m.
- **Labor Day Celebration** Veterans Park Nature Trail Sunday, September 13, 9 a.m.
- **Fall Trail Maintenance** Highland Avenue Woods Saturday, September 19, 1 p.m.
- **Edible Complex** Highland Avenue Woods Saturday, October 18, 10 a.m.
- **Fall Festival** Highland Avenue Woods

Walkers should wear sturdy shoes, insect repellent and sun screen. Binoculars can be used for bird identification. Cross country skis or snowshoes can be used when appropriate.

Events are held rain, snow or shine. Registration is not required. Events are free. For more information call 908-226-7621.

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 Theater to see Charlie Prose.

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

Our Lady of Czestochowa To Hold Dance

A Pre-Lenten 50's Dance will be held on Saturday, Feb. 7, at Our Lady of Czestochowa Hall on Hamilton Boulevard from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

The dance is sponsored by the Combined Societies of OLC. A buffet will be served. Music will be by Jimmy Ray Band. Tickets are \$15 per person. For reservations or more information, please contact Marie at (908) 755-7328 or Linda at (908) 668-7895.

Blood Drives at Health Club & 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 year-olds may donate with signed parental consent.

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

Chinese Auction at Sacred Heart

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 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.

Sacred Heart Plans Trips

Sacred Heart Church is planning the following trips this year.

On Saturday, March 21 there will be a trip to see *Behold the Lamb* at the Living Waters Theater in Lancaster, Pa., followed by a family style dinner at Hershey Farm Restaurant. Cost is \$75 per person and includes transportation, show, dinner and all gratuities. Reservation deadline is Jan. 25.

A bus trip to Mackinack Island is planned for July 15-21. Cost of \$864 double occupancy includes, transportation, hotel, some meals,

admissions and gratuities. Detailed itinerary is available. \$50 deposit is due now with final payment due May 1.

A bus trip to Branson via Sea World in Ohio is scheduled to leave on Sept. 26. Cost of \$1,029 double occupancy and includes admission to Sea World, four shows, transportation, hotels, and some meals. 9 days. \$50 deposit due by March 1. Balance due by July 15.

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

To have your organization included in **events around town**, submit your information to the *Observer* editorial department at 530 Union Ave. Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846 or fax to 732 805-0815.

Winter Storms: Are You Prepared?

Winter weather brings cold, ice, snow and high winds to many areas of our country. To help deal with these conditions, John R. Corone, fire official at the South Plainfield Bureau of Fire Prevention offers the following advice:

*Know what winter storm WATCHES and WARNINGS mean. A winter storm WATCH means a winter storm is possible in your area. A winter storm WARNING means a winter storm is headed for your area. A blizzard WARNING means strong winds, blinding wind-driven snow, and dangerous wind chills are expected.

Gather essential supplies, including flashlights, a radio, first aid kit, protective clothing and winter wear, canned foods, and at least three gallons of water (preferably more).

Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, the Weather Channel and the local television broadcasts for the latest information about storm conditions.

- Plan to stay home during bad weather, but if you must drive and become stuck, stay with your car. Do not try to

walk to safety.

Use a flashlight if the power is out at home. Do not use candles or other open flames indoors. More people have died after recent winter storms from residential fires caused by candles than from the direct effects of the storm itself.

Use portable space heating equipment very carefully. Keep heaters at least three feet away from any combustible material, including drapes, carpeting, and furniture. Do not drape gloves, socks or other clothing over a space heater to dry. Turn space heating equipment off when you are not in the room.

Keep children and pets away from the heating equipment. Fuel-filled equipment should be filled outdoors when completely cool.

Winter storms can happen quickly and sometimes without warning. The Bureau of Fire Prevention urges residents to get ready for winter now, while there is time to prepare. For additional information on preparing for winter storms and other disasters, contact the local American Red Cross chapter.



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Obituaries

■ Frances V. (Ferarra) Arcuri, 87

Frances V. (Ferarra) Arcuri, 87, died on Dec. 23 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

She was born in Plainfield and lived there all her life before moving to South Plainfield 17 years ago.

Mr. Arcuri was predeceased by her husband, Anthony J. Arcuri, who died in 1984.

She is survived by two sons, Jo-

seph J. Arcuri of North Plainfield and Anthony T. Arcuri Jr. of South Plainfield; a daughter, Beatrice Chiovarou of South Plainfield; two sisters, Madeline Pompilio of Toms River and Angelina Fiorellino of South Plainfield and eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

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

■ Faye (Petolino) Bencivengo, 80

Faye (Petolino) Bencivengo, 80, died on Dec. 27 at her home here.

Born in Newark, she had resided in Plainfield before settling in South Plainfield 22 years ago.

She had been employed as an Avon Lady for the past 30 years in the South Plainfield and Plainfield areas. She had previously been employed as an inspector for General Motors during World War II. Mrs. Bencivengo was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

Her husband, Francis "Frank" Bencivengo, died in January of 1990.

Surviving are her two sons, David G. Bencivengo of Fanwood and Dr. Charles J. Bencivengo of Burlington, Conn. and her sister, Margaret Freato of Brick, NJ.

Also surviving are five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

■ Shirley (Hoffman) Cullen, 74

Shirley (Hoffman) Cullen, 74, of West Palm Beach, Fla., formerly of South Plainfield, died on Jan. 2 at her home.

She was born in Newark. She was a former resident of South Plainfield before moving to West Palm Beach Fla. 25 years ago.

She was a former communicant

of Sacred Heart Church.

She was predeceased by her husband, Frank T. Cullen, who died in 1978.

She is survived by a brother, Raymond Hoffman of Parlin.

Arrangements were by the James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

■ Angela (Importico) Duvall, 75

Angela (Importico) Duvall, 75, of Lanoka Harbor (formerly of South Plainfield) died on Jan. 5 at the Community Hospital in Toms River.

She was born in Plainfield and was a former resident of South Plainfield before moving to Zanoka Harbor six years ago.

Mrs. Duvall was a presser for the Vogue Cleaners in Plainfield for 15 years before retiring in 1979. Prior to that she worked at G.O. Kellers

in Plainfield for 20 years.

She was predeceased by her husband, Fredrick F. Duvall, who died in 1979.

She is survived by one daughter, Pamela Morales of Lanoka Harbor; three sisters, Jenny Buntele of Toms River, Mary Dellaputti of Plainfield and Josephine Colucci of Berkeley Heights and two grandchildren.

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

■ Ronald L. Hessinger, 56

Ronald L. Hessinger, 56, died on Dec. 29 at his home.

Born in Allentown, Pa., Mr. Hessinger had resided in Southbury, Conn. for three years and in Plainfield for three years before moving to South Plainfield in 1973.

He had been employed with the Plainfield Board of Education for the past 27 years, most recently as a guidance counselor for the Maxon Middle School.

Mr. Hessinger was a graduate of Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pa. where he received his B.S. Degree in Liberal Arts in 1962. He received his Masters Degree in 1970 in Counseling/Psychology from Southern Connecticut State University in 1970. He had also attended Seton Hall University working towards his Doctorate Degree.

He had served as a Rehabilitation Counselor for the Federal Department of Health in Tarrington, Conn.

He had served in the Peace Corps from 1965 to 1967 and was assigned to the Philippines. He was a member of the Jaycees, American Counselors Association and the Christian Counselors Association. Mr. Hessinger was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church. He was also a member of N.J. Education Association.

Surviving are his wife, Maria Myrna (Campos) Hessinger; a daughter, Lorna Mae Hessinger living at home; a brother, Barry Hessinger of Port Reading, NJ; two sisters, Elizabeth Goch of Coopersburg, Pa. and Diane Ortiz of Allentown, Pa.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

■ Stephen H. Koznowicz, 87

Stephen H. Koznowicz, 87, died on Dec. 31 at his home.

Born in Newark, he had resided in Kenilworth for 15 years before moving to South Plainfield in 1965.

He was employed as a metal finisher for the former Western Electric Co. of Kearny for 35 years before his retirement in 1975.

Mr. Koznowicz was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church and had been a member of the Western

Electric Pioneers of Kearny. He was an avid bowler.

His wife, Stella Koznowicz, died in 1995.

Surviving are his two daughters, Barbara A. Scotti of Toms River and Dolores E. Bruzzano of Flemington; a son, Edward J. Koznowicz of South Plainfield; eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

■ Dorothy "Dottie" (Turay) Lubachm, 58

Dorothy "Dottie" (Turay) Lubach, 58, died on Wednesday, Jan. 7 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

Born in Plainfield, Mrs. Lubach was a lifelong resident of South Plainfield. She also maintained a summer residence in Ortley Beach, NJ. For the past 20 years.

Mrs. Lubach was employed by Leon's Catering Service of North Plainfield for the past 10 years. She was previously employed as a secretary for Westinghouse in the late 1950's and early 1960's.

She was a devoted homemaker, a life member of the South Plainfield Polish National Home, and a communicant of Our Lady of Czes-

tochowa.

Surviving are her husband, Ted Lubach; her three sons, Ted Jr. of Piscataway, Thomas of South Plainfield and Daniel of South Plainfield; her mother, Catherine Turay of South Plainfield and her brother, Adolph Turay of South Plainfield. Also surviving are two granddaughters.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations may be made in her memory to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2506 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or the American Cancer Society New Jersey Division, 2303 Woodbridge Avenue, Edison, NJ. 08818.

■ Bertha C. (Galka) Niemczyk, 85

Bertha C. (Galka) Niemczyk, 85, of Green Brook died on Dec. 27 at her home.

She was born in Passaic and was a former resident of Brick and a 55 year resident of South Plainfield before moving to Green Brook 1½ years ago.

Mrs. Niemczyk was a cook and cafeteria worker at Grant School for 20 years before retiring in 1974.

Mrs. Niemczyk was a communicant of Our Lady Czestochowa Church and a member of the Altar Rosary Society and the St. Therese Society.

She was a life member of the South Plainfield Polish National Home, and a member of the New Jersey Education Association and

the South Plainfield Education Association.

Her husband, Stanley W. Niemczyk, died in 1989.

She is survived by a son, Stanley Niemczyk Jr. of Lawrenceville, Ga.; a daughter, Joan Jenkoski of Bridgewater; two brothers, Joseph Galka of Deltona, Fla. and Frank Galka of Oldwick and six grandsons.

Funeral services were held James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

Memorial donations may be made in her memory to the York St. Project, Sister's of St. Joseph of Peace, 89 York St., Jersey City, NJ 07302 or the Somerset Medical Center Hospice, 110 Rehill Ave., Somerville, NJ 08876.

■ Mary Kudrick Staats, 91

Mary Kudrick Staats, 91, died on Dec. 9 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

Born in Perth Amboy, Mrs. Staats had resided in South Plainfield since 1929.

She had worked as a seamstress for the former Gindoff & Gunther pocketbook company of South Plainfield. She later worked as a seamstress for the former Roth Dress Co. in South Plainfield. She retired in 1976.

Mrs. Staats was a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union Local #149 of New York.

In addition, Mrs. Staats was a very active member of Sacred Heart Church where she had been a member of the Rosary Altar Society and she was a long time kitchen cook for the Church's Annual Bazaar.

She was also a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW Memorial.

Her husband, Charles A. Staats, died in 1952.

She was also predeceased by her sister, Anna Pear and by her six brothers, Michael Kudrick, John Kudrick, George Kudrick, Andrew Kudrick, Paul Kudrick and Joseph Kudrick.

Surviving are a daughter, Dorothy M. Waskiewicz of South Plainfield; a sister, Elizabeth Burgess of Perth Amboy; a step brother, John Vawasky of Perth Amboy; four grandchildren, Cheryl Konya, Dawn Vislocky, John Waskiewicz, Jr. and Renee Waskiewicz. She is also survived by her three great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

■ Catherine (Roe) Steele, 90

Catherine (Roe) Steele, 90, of Piscataway died on Dec. 24 at the Green Brook Manor Nursing Home in Green Brook.

She was born in Newark and was a former resident of South Plainfield before moving to Piscataway 22 years ago.

Mrs. Steele was a cafeteria worker at South Plainfield High School and at Grant School for many years before retiring in 1957.

Mrs. Steele was predeceased by her husband, Percy E. Steele, who died in 1986.

She is survived by six sons, David Conroy of Piscataway, John Conroy of Tampa, Fla., George Conroy of Oshkosh, Wis., William Conroy of Columbus, Ind., Henry Conroy of Sana Rosa, Ca. and Richard Steele of North Plainfield; three daughters, Carole Nolty of South Plainfield, Grace Sadowski of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. and Jane Vanderhort of Washington, NJ; 20 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

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

■ Charles Vakerich, 77

Charles Vakerich, 77, died on Jan. 5 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

He was born in South Plainfield and was a life long resident.

Mr. Vakerich was a senior sewer repairman for the South Plainfield Public Works Department for 27 years before retiring in 1982.

He was a member of the Volunteer Fire Department, the NJ Exempt Firemans Association and the Exempt Firemans Association.

Mr. Vakerich was a veteran of WWII, serving in the Navy. He was a member of the V.E.W. Memorial Post 6763.

He was an avid gardener and a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

He was predeceased by his son, Charles John Vakerich, who died in 1993.

He is survived by his wife, Julia (Bartus) Vakerich; a son, Kenneth Vakerich of South Plainfield; two brothers, George and Frank Vakerich, both of South Plainfield; two sisters, Ann Perceval and Betty Nowakowski, both of South Plainfield and many nieces and nephews.

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

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UPCOMING OBSERVER PUBLICATION DATES:

Issue Date	Copy Deadline
February 5	Jan. 29
February 19	Feb. 12
March 5	Feb. 26
March 19	Mar. 12

Copy can be dropped off at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave., Twice Is Nice on Front St. or E-mail us at nancyg@spobserver.com. Mail to G&G Graphics 530 Union Ave., Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846 or fax at 732-469-4385.



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Youth Recreation Basketball

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 participate in the program. Games are played at the Middle School and P.A.L. Building every Saturday.

A-League Standings

Team	Won	Loss
St. Johns	5	0
Notre Dame	4	0
Seton Hall	3	1
Connecticut	3	1
UCLA	2	3
Georgetown	1	3
Rutgers	1	3
Duke	1	4
No. Carolina	0	5

A-League Scores

Team	Score
Duke	26
Notre Dame	35
High scorers: Reggi Thompson, 10; Jesses Cortese, 8; Ulysses Russell, 18 and Joseph Harrison, 9.	
Connecticut	52
No. Carolina	40
High scorers: Erica Ambielli, 18; Ericson Refe, 13; Shannon Horvath, 8; Mario DeSantos, 2; Lee Stellakis, 20 and Kenneth Wiczorbek, 13.	
UCLA	25
Georgetown	27
Paul Gross, 9; Cris Fortunka, 8; Chris Catale, 6; Thomas Daly, 10 and Sean Greivous, 5.	
Rutgers	35
St. Johns	48
Philip Degenmaro, 9; Jason Bataille, 8; Aaron Parks, 18; Lewish Harvey, 10; James Stoeckel, 8.	

Seton Hall-Bye

B-League Standings

Team	Won	Loss
Virginia	5	0
Pittsburg	4	0
Princeton	4	1
Michigan	4	1
Kentucky	3	1
Arizona	3	2
Penn State	2	3
UNLV	2	3
Miami	1	4
Syracuse	1	4
Boston College	0	5
Indiana	0	5

B-League Scores

Team	Score
Syracuse	26
UNLV	27
Jared Dembia, 16; Jason Basile, 13 and David Acevedo, 8.	
Miami	22
Kentucky	26
Garry Houston, 8; Michael Allocco, 8 and Philip DeRosa, 7.	
Michigan	16
Princeton	30
Joseph Smalley, 8; Mike Chrysanthopoulos, 10 and Brian Destafano, 6.	
Pittsburg	37
Boston College	20
Andrew Cupido, 17; Keven Joshi, 13; Ryan Decker, 10 and Jeff Smith, 6.	
Arizona	33
Indiana	26
Justin Toth, 19; Mike Wiczorek, 6; Daniel Pollin, 10 and David Caddiatore, 6.	
Penn State	11
Virginia	56
Alan Dummert, 4; Chris Czaplinski, 4; Andrew Scott, 18; Christine Strani, 22 and Mike Espin, 8.	

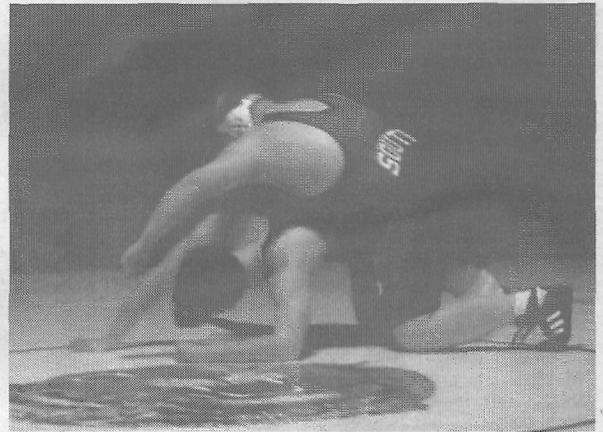
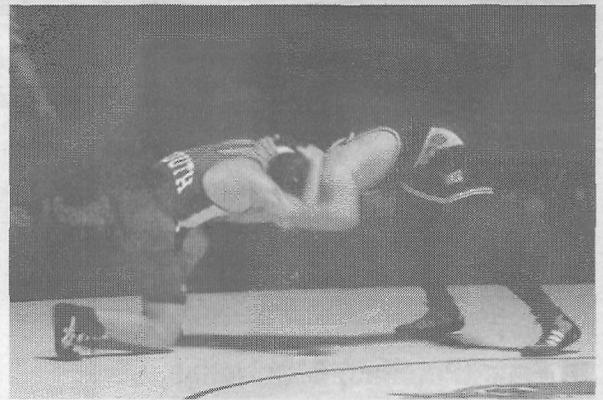
D-League Standings

Team	Won	Loss
Bulls	5	0
Pacers	5	0
Hawks	3	1
Bullets	3	2
Sixers	3	2
Magic	3	2
Hornets	2	3
Nets	1	2
Cavaliers	1	2
Celtics	1	3
Pistons	1	3
Kicks	1	4
Bucks	0	5

D-League Scores

Team	Score
Bulls	12
Kicks	10
Chris Pollin, 4; Dale McCook, 4; Brian Wiecekowski, 4 and David Alston, 4.	
Cavaliers	0
Bullets	38
Vinnie Padula, 12, Andrew Gray, 10, Mark Wagner, 6 and Donna Garcia, 6.	
Hawks	34
Nets	6
Michael Stallone, 20; Christopher Stallone, 6; and Justin Panzarella, 4.	
Hornets	20
Sixers	28
Danny McCresh, 10; Scott Hunterdon, 6; Stephen Richard, 12 and Mathew Seider, 10.	
Pacers	24
Magic	14
Kevin Cantor, 12; Tommy SMith, 6; Bonnie Gibson, 4; Brian Fabino, 6 and Taylor Mandel, 6.	
Bucks	10
Celtics	16
Trevor Rastelli, 8; Brad Martin, 8 and John Christ, 4.	
Pistons-Bye	

Wrestling



South Plainfield Wrestlers Defeat Old Bridge 30-27

The South Plainfield Tigers handed Old Bridge its first defeat of the season last Friday at South Plainfield High School.

The Tigers were underdogs, according to South Plainfield coach Bill Pavlak, at least it looked that way on paper.

The Tigers held a 19-0 lead early in the match, but Old Bridge managed to come back strong, and get the score to 27-24.

A decisive decision came in the 215-pound bout when Chris Cioffi won a 10-8 decision over Rob Rosant. It assured the team with a tie.

Then in was up to Colin Hunter. He had to avoid a pin to give South Plainfield the win. Mike Smith took it with a 9-5 decision and the Tigers went on to win 30-27.

Results:

- 103—Roberto Romas (SP) md. John Hobbs, 21-1;
- 112—David Stoeckel (SP) d. Joe Cawther, 5-2;
- 119—Tommy Doerr (SP) p. John Bird, 1:11;
- 125—Joe Celentano (SP) p. Joe Sedani, 1:33;
- 130—Tim MacIellan (OB) m.d. John Blondel, 11-3;
- 135—Jim Reeves (OB) d. John Vicari, 11-6;
- 140—Chris Johnston (SP) t.f. Kevin Quinlan, 2:35 16.16-1
- 145—David Fiore (SP) d. Van Vandervalk, 8-6 (OT)
- 152—Jose Rosa (OB) d. Frank Crinceli, 3:12;
- 171—Ken Boy (OB) m.d. Chris Francis, 10-1;
- 189—Pete Esposito (OB) m.d. Dan Kunst, 11-3;
- 215—Chris Cioffi (SP) d. Rob Rosani, 10-8;
- HWT—Mike Smith (OB) d. Colin Hunter, 9-5.

Recreation Volleyball Standings

Standings as of Jan. 6

Name	W	L	.PCT
Flying Tunas	3	0	1.000
Flannagan			
Born Hitters	3	0	1.000
Zupko's I	3	0	1.000
Dig This	3	0	1.000
Polish Home	2	1	.666
Dig Deep	2	1	.666
The Setters	1	2	.333
Zupko's II	1	2	.333
Jughouse			
Jammers	0	3	.000
Jughouse	0	3	.000
Stovepipers	0	3	.000
Roadsters	0	3	.000

C-League Standings

Team	Won	Loss
Mavricks	5	0
Spurs	4	0
Lakers	4	1
Trail Blazers	4	1
Nuggets	4	1
Kings	3	2
Rockets	2	3
Jazz	2	3
Raptors	2	3
Sonics	2	3
Clippers	1	4
Suns	1	4
Grizzlies	0	4
Warriors	0	5

C-League Scores

Team	Score
Trail Blazers	31
Rockets	29
Sonics	16
Spurs	32
Nuggets	34
Grizzlies	13
Suns	21
Jazz	22
Lakers	27
Mavicks	35
Clippers	17
Raptors	26
Warriors	11
Kings	20

Youth Bowling

Current Standings

Name	Won	Lost	.Pct
1. Life of Agonists	58.0	26.0	.690
2. Three Musketeers	48.0	36.0	.571
3. Strikers	45.0	39.0	.535
4. Team 7	44.0	38.0	.536
5. New World Order	43.0	41.0	.511
6. Losers	43.0	34.0	.558
7. MPM Killers	42.0	42.0	.500
8. No Names	37.0	47.0	.440
9. Strike Force	30.0	54.0	.357
10. Smakers	28.0	56.0	.333

Individual Boys High

Game Scratch	
Anthony Pioplo	225
Walter Kardos	155
Matthew Boley	135

Individual Boys

High Game Handicap	
Jeff Smith	249
Pat Cantarella	225
Jason Cosma	209

Individual Girls

High Game Scratch	
Kristin Herzog	195
Jennifer Allen	170
Kimberly Gaub	108

Individual Girls

High Game Handicap	
Vicki Boley	228
Lauren Haus	215
Melanie Foscolo	195

HIGHLIGHTED TEAM OF THE WEEK

Losers	T Pins	Avg.
T. Haus	3087	102
J. DeAndrea	2251	107
P. DeAndrea	1834	87

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Mary Anne Kochut Steps Down from Council

Continued from page one

Anne decided to accept the challenge and bid for a seat on the council. "I didn't know it was so easy to get involved in the community," she recalls. During the campaigning process she noted the community made her feel welcome and valued her opinions. "When you think that something is important enough," Mary Anne says, "you make the time." Even before the election campaign was over, Mary Anne had learned a lot about borough government and its many varied areas of concern.

In her three years on the Council

(1995-1997), she sat on a number of committees. For two years she chaired the Public Safety Committee, finding it to be a very detailed position with many responsibilities. She also served as liaison to the Economic Development Committee and the Land Management Committee.

Mary Anne's decision not to run for another term was not based on lack of time, she said. Rather, she felt a need to focus her energy on continuing her education. Mary Anne is currently completing a Master's program in Organization Development at American Univer-

sity in Washington, D.C. Once a month she travels to D.C. for several days of study. She said obtaining the Masters Degree is an investment in herself and her career. If in the future she returns to the Council, she feels the time spent on her education will allow her to give even more to the town.

Perhaps speaking to others in the community, Mary Anne noted that her service to our community was a learning experience. "It is important for people to educate themselves on how to get involved," she said, "and to realize that they can help and they can be heard."

BOROUGH NOTES

Continued from page one
waivers and conditions.

■ The following applications were heard:

- Ed and Karole Lechowski were granted a setback variance, with regard to South 11th Street for a kitchen extension and sun room.

- H.K. Truck Services, Inc., Hamilton Blvd., was granted a waiver of site plan requirements, with conditions, to sell new trucks at the site. The applicant agreed that no used trucks would be sold, traded-in or parked at the site. The application was granted with some conditions.

- Statewide Environmental Contractors, Inc., Somogy Court requested preliminary and final site plan approval for storage containers. Applicant was granted a variance in July with conditions. The applicant is proposing to gravel the area where the storage containers will be parked and pave certain other areas. The board asked for paving in all areas except the storage container parking area.

Also heard by the board meeting were representatives from two adjoining businesses, Everlasting Valve and Squire Trucking. Both companies complained about the amount of truck traffic Statewide has brought to Somogy Court and plans to bring in the future. They requested that Statewide make a new entrance directly onto Metuchen Road. The applicant had stated they were willing. However, the Board did not find creating a new entrance to be in the best interest of the town. It was decided that this application should be continued until the Jan. 20 meeting.

Pulomena Sworn in as Freeholder

Continued from page one

cation and Welfare, Department of Public Works, and Finance and Administration. In addition, he served on the Middlesex County Planning Board for three years, chairing the Board the last year.

He compared the role and responsibilities of a Freeholder to that of a Council person, but on a much broader basis. Freeholders oversee the concerns of twenty five towns and a \$300 million dollar budget. The budget covers such things as county colleges and vocational schools, hospitals, parks, county roads, highways and bridges. Also the correctional system, the curbside recycling program, and the county fire academy. A free-

holder works to reduce expenses by promoting the sharing of services with other towns and the county. One example is in South Plainfield, where the county repaved some of our roads at a lower cost to the borough.

John has now stepped down as Borough Council President but his new position as a County Freeholder allows him continued involvement in the growth of our county and South Plainfield's voice in the county government.

Rescue Squad

Continued from page one
rhythm during cardiac arrest.

Squad members donate at least 75 hours per month to the organization. Add to these hours training, meetings, building and ambulance maintenance, open houses and additional on-call duty and many members volunteer close to 100 hours each month.

Last year alone, squad members answered more than 1,500 calls for help from homes and businesses throughout the borough. Whether it's a motor vehicle accident, chest pains, injuries from a fall - even a train derailment - South Plainfield Rescue Squad volunteers respond quickly.

Because they are a volunteer organization, the South Plainfield Rescue Squad relies heavily on donations from the community to offset operating costs and keep medical supplies stocked.

If you feel you would like to join or want more information on the Rescue Squad call 753-2343, or stop by the building at 2520 Plainfield Ave.

By Desha Abe
SP High School

More Gold Card Prizes Offered New items added to the list

Everyone at South Plainfield High School has received the list, straight off the copy machines, naming all of the cooperative businesses that have agreed to give discounts to those Gold Card students. This year, there are a few new items that have been added.

This year, Gold Card students' names will go in the box in the main office, and a drawing will be held. The prizes are: 25 Regal Cinema movie passes, two desk clocks, three long distance phone cards, ten \$5 gift certificates for the school store and five SPHS sweatshirts.

"We wanted to find some prizes that would spark the motivation in our students," said Mrs. Helen Gottlieb. "The company, Vision 2001, sponsors the Gold Cards, and they agreed to add new incentives to reward the students even more than the normal discounts."

The discounts are for the following companies: Artists & Models, 15% to 25% off; Bagel Stop, 10% off; Ciccio's Pizza, \$2.00 off a large plain pizza; Cindy Michaels Jewelry, 25% off; Foto Professor, 15% off; Haischi's Bakery, 10% off; Million Dollar Video, rent one movie, get second one free; Mohn's Flower & Fancy Foods, 25% off; Salerno's Pizza, \$2.00 off large pizza, or 20% off \$5 or more; Services Plus, 10%

Door Number One, Door Number Two, Door Number....



The Middle School held a school-wide classroom door decorating contest for the holidays. Pictured above are two of the doors: left, Teacher M. LaSalvia's classroom door and right, Teacher Jim Mackowski's classroom door.

off; So. Plfd. Grand Slam, buy one, get one free (max-three times); Sportworld, 15% off merchandise; Yogurt Express, 50% off all ice cream; and entrance to all high school events-free.

At the end of the year, the SPHS administration and Marriott food services hold the annual Gold Card Barbecue, in which every student who has received a gold card in the past year have lunch outside in the field by the gym.

"I think the barbecue is a good way of encouraging students to do

well, and the food was good," said Michael Calderone, a senior, who received at least one Gold Card every year.

The final prize for the year is handed out at the barbecue: a drawing is held for free yearbooks and prom tickets.

Gold Card requirements are: 3.0 GPA, no unexcused tardies or absences, two extracurricular activities.

Go out and earn good grades, get those gold cards, and come and have fun at the BBQ.

Recycling Center Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

The Kenneth Ave. recycling center will be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 20 due to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. It will be open instead on Wednesday, Jan. 21, from noon to 7 p.m.

The Recycling Center and Yard Waste Site will be open as usual on Saturday, Jan. 17. Regular winter hours are Tuesdays, noon to 7 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays,

8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Regular winter hours at the Yard Waste Site are Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Used paint is accepted for recycling at the Recycling Center on the third Saturday of each month. Paint will be accepted Saturday, Jan. 17, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For updates call the Hotline: 226-7620.

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POLICE REPORT

- An employee at Home Depot re-
ported the chain link fence was cut
leading to the nursery section of the
store. He did not know if any merchan-
dise was taken at this time.

- A vehicle parked on Maple Ave.
was vandalized on Jan. 7. Several rocks
were thrown at the car breaking the
front and back windshield. The side
window was also broken and there was
a large scratch across the right side of
the car.

- A car radio valued at \$169 was
stolen from a car parked on Helen
Street.

- A resident reported someone is
stalking her. While driving home from
the Middlesex Mall, another motorist
drove up to her car and told her she
had a flat tire and changed her tire. Af-
terward she noticed that on several
occasions the aqua colored pick-up

truck was parked in places where she
was. Detectives are investigating this
case.

- When police arrived at Caldors to
arrest a shoplifter already in custody, a
cashier was caught underringing mer-
chandise and fled the store. Police ar-
rested the shoplifter and cashier and
found they were roommates. They were
charged with the theft of \$969.48 in
merchandise.

- The door of a shed at the Recy-
cling/Compost site was broken into on
Jan. 7. It is not known what tools or
items were taken.

- Max Tree on Durham Ave. re-
ported the theft of a 31 ton log splitter
valued at \$2,000.

- AJV Auto, Hamilton Blvd. said a
4.3 outboard marine motor valued at
\$1,500 was stolen from a company
boat parked in the rear of the building.



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sold at the following locations**

If you would like to sell the newspaper, call us at (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.

South Plainfield Observer Advertisers are Listed in Bold Print

1998 January/February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>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 (732) 805-0815</p>				15	16	17
				Council Meeting 8 p.m.	AARP Meets at PAL 12:30 p.m.	
18	SCHOOL CLOSED Martin Luther King's Birthday	19	20	21	22	23
	Land Management Advisory Committee 7:30 p.m.	Board of Education Reg. Meeting 8 p.m. Board of Adjustment 8 p.m.		Court 7:00 p.m.		24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Catholic Schools Week Begins Jan. 25-31	Council Agenda Meeting 8:00 p.m.	Recycling Comm. 8:00 p.m. Planning Board 8:00 p.m.	Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. 7:00 p.m. Court 7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting 8 p.m. Copy Deadline for <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Ground Hog Day	Board of Adjustment 8:00 p.m.	Court 9:30 a.m. Business Advisory Group 6:30 p.m.	Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i> Taxpayers Advisory Group 7:00 p.m.		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Traffic Safety Advisory Board 7:00 p.m. Board of Health 8:00 p.m. Planning Board 8:00 p.m.	Environmental Comm 8:00 p.m. Cultural Arts Comm. 8:00 p.m. PAL Court 7:00 p.m.			