

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 1, NO. 11

50 CENTS

FEBRUARY 5, 1998

## Tax Appeals Force Ratables Down

At the Jan. 20 School Board meeting Frank Mikorski, finance chairperson, reported the value of tax ratable properties was reduced by \$9,203,147. Ratables have fallen by \$107 million since 1991, requiring 16 tax points to be absorbed. Mr. Mikorski stated that this has had a serious impact. The tax assessor reported this drop was due to continuing tax appeals. Board members expressed their concern about this pattern and the effect it will have on school tax rates. Since the sewer moratorium was removed several years ago, there has been new industrial, commercial and residential construction. Yet, in spite of this activity, taxable ratables have been reduced.

Mikorski reported the cumulative decreases and especially this year's current decline have been a perplexing frustration for borough officials. It was expected that the amount of ratables would rise, however, this is not the case, due to tax appeals, most recently the reported \$5.2 million reduction for Kentile and the projected \$4.0 million reduction for Prudential.

The school district is seriously impacted because school taxes have

had to increase. The pressure on the school tax rate over this seven year period has been equal to 16.0 tax points. Through judicious management the increase has been held to eight points over this period. The tax assessor estimates that as a result of this reduction on the 1997 values, school taxes would increase by 1.4 cents, assuming all other school board revenues and sources, including expenses, stay the same as this year.

Mr. Mikorski noted that what residents should ask is why the tax appeals continue and who in fact approves the settlement reduction. The mayor and some council members last year predicted that the taxable ratables will increase in 1998. At a recent municipal meeting, the mayor stated that the 998 ratables could increase by \$14 million.



**Sacred Heart School is presented Middle States Accreditation Certificate during the celebration of Catholic Schools Week. Pictured left to right are Gail DelNegro and Mary Sikanowicz, HSA co-presidents; Father Mike McGuire, Pastor; Dr. Lorraine Amendolara, Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Metuchen; Sister Cornelia Ramirez, principal and Linda Goetz, steering committee chairperson. See story on page 5.**

## Schools Hold DARE Graduation Ceremonies

The week of Jan. 26-30 saw five D.A.R.E. graduations in South Plainfield, one from each grade

school. The DARE graduation ceremony was attended by many dignitaries including Dr. DeSi-

mon, representing the School Board; Chief Merkler of the South Plainfield Police Department; Sergeant John Alles and Officer Joe Papa, the officers who taught the DARE Program. A member of the council was in attendance each day. Parents, relatives and siblings filled the hall at each graduation ceremony.

Students were required to submit an essay and a poster. Officer Joe Papa had the dubious honor of judging the essays and posters and declaring a winner for the best essay and poster from each class. A medal and calculator went to the poster winners and a Dare Bear was given to each essay winner. Winners also read their essays at the ceremony. Officer Papa said it was really hard to choose a winner because all the posters and essays were very good. The students wore black and red DARE tee shirts to the graduation ceremony. The tee shirts and awards were donated by South Plainfield Alliance for

Substance Awareness (SPASA).

### Sacred Heart School Winners

Mrs. Bennett's class: Allison Pietruszki/essay and Katharine Straut/poster. Mrs. Depol's class: Sarah Kulihin/essay and Summer Scott/poster.

### Riley School Winners

Mrs. Mariani's class: Stefanie Miller/essay and Jessica Kizmann/poster. Mrs. Elster's class: Douglas Dietzold/essay and Victoria Maione/poster. Mrs. Gaffney's class: Jarrett Linczyk/essay and Manuel Bravo/poster.

### Roosevelt School Winners

Mrs. Allen's class: Linda Lee/essay and Michael Medici/poster. Mrs. Frederickson's class: Jeffrey Pollin/essay and Brian Cantor/poster. Mrs. McGrath's class: Nicholas Grego won of both the poster and essay contest.

### Franklin School Winners

Mrs. Donahue's class: Coral  
*Continued on page 7*



**THE SHOW MUST GO ON - Coach Greg Hoffman coaches the D-League Nets, on crutches, despite having surgery only five days ago.**

### INSIDE:

Events Around Town

Catholic Schools  
Week Celebrated

South Plainfield  
Observer Writer Patricia  
Abbott Dedicated to  
Summer Drama  
Workshop

DARE Graduations at  
Five Area Schools

Sports & Calendar of  
Events

## BOROUGH NOTES

### Council Notes

■ Ray Petronko announced that he, along with Vincent Buttiglieri, Jay Joyce, Ed Kubala and Joe Glowacki, surveyed Putman Park for possible revitalization. During their visit, several residents arrived and offered suggestions about what changes the park needed. From this meeting a preliminary plan for the Putnam Park Project was made. Some of the suggestions in-

cluded eliminate the tennis court, remove the asphalt from the volleyball court and replace it with sand, remove asphalt from the shuffleboard court, remove the fences around the softball outfield, add new playground equipment and plant trees along Oak Tree Rd. as well as within the park. Ray Petronko said he will welcome any comments and suggestions regarding plans for the park.

■ South Plainfield is planning

to create a web site. The site will provide information about borough hall, provide minutes of meetings and, in the future, allow residents to apply for permits and pay fines. ABC Communications and Monmouth Internet of Red Bank have agreed to set up and maintain the web site. They will solicit advertisements for the page to defray the costs.

■ Ray Petronko reminded residents that it is time to renew

memberships for the community pool.

■ The Borough Council recently passed a bond ordinance allowing the borough to refinance older bonds at a lower interest rate. The savings to the borough will be \$245,658.

■ A resolution was passed urging the NJ Legislature to adopt Bill S-609 which allows municipalities to impose education impact fees on developers to offset

*Continued on page 11*



# Letters to the Editor

## To the Editor:

I want to personally thank you for the generous article you published about my recent performance at Town Hall in New York City.

I've enclosed a check for a subscription. I'd like to also wish you the best of luck in your venture. Your paper certainly does stand up for the community of South Plainfield

**THANK YOU AGAIN.  
DAVE STREET**

## Dear Editor:

*I would like to share with the community a letter my husband and I hand delivered to the Middle School in January, the day before a closed meeting on the dress code policy. We received a reply two weeks later in the form of a brief note telling us when the next dress code committee meeting was.*

PTA Executive Board:

My husband and I are taxpayers in this town and parents of three children in Franklin School. Our children will attend the Middle School in a few years and any major change in that school affects my family greatly. I am dismayed not to have been asked my opinion on any uniform or dress code policy. My husband and I, and every mother that I have spoken to, were absolutely appalled to discover that you, the Middle School PTA are considering putting into effect a school uniform policy. I am 100% against any type of uniform policy or dress code.

In a country where we try to encourage uniqueness and individuality, how can a uniform policy in a PUBLIC school even be considered? There are many reasons why I am against this issue. The total disregard to our children's feelings and basic freedom and the fact that uniforms suppress children's creativity. What about the huge cost that

will be involved, which I most definitely cannot afford.

I have listened to arguments for uniforms that say each if children dress the same, it will make them feel more secure and help them to "fit in". I cannot disagree more! If a child is overweight, he/she can dress to conceal the area they are not happy with. If a young girl has developed sooner than others and is embarrassed, she can dress to conceal this. With uniforms, any kind of weight problem becomes more noticeable because it is not the same and does not "fit in."

Another argument is that children (or young teens) that are dressed the same will concentrate and learn better because they will not be distracted. Again, I completely disagree. If a child is not interested in a particular subject, how can making them wear a uniform change that? For a young child, deciding on their own what to wear in the morning, is an important early step in the life-long decision making process. Another stand against uniforms is that not all children are the same! Nor should they be expected to be. Their lives will be as different for them as our lives are for us, and what a wonderful thing that is!

I have heard that uniforms make the kids feel equal. Well they are not. I am very happy to have not grown up with uniforms, to have known that "YES" some people have more money and some less. Things would be a lot tougher for me now if I had assumed we all dressed the same because we were equal. I want and hope for my children to embrace the individuality and differences in us all, including how much parents can afford to give them. I feel very strongly that it is up to us as parents to decide what is and what is not appropriate for our

children to wear. If I do not approve of my child's dress then I will deal with it. I certainly do not expect or welcome a PUBLIC SCHOOL to do that for me. Our town schools already adhere to a good dress policy.

In Franklin School every year we have a memorial to our town's veterans. We are SO proud that they gave their all for our freedom. Now our children's most basic freedom, "freedom to choose" is in question. I sincerely hope you will all listen to my words. Even if you disagree remember one thing; all people are different, with differences of opinion. If you want your child to wear a uniform, be my guest, but do not force your opinions on me and mine. Do not force uniforms on those who do not want them!

**CRAIG AND LINDA  
BERKOWITZ**

P.S. Since sending this letter, I contacted the Civil Rights Union and was referred to Child Services. I spoke to one of their lawyers and was informed that a uniform policy in a public school had to be on a voluntary basis. On Wednesday Feb. 28, I attended a meeting of the dress code committee and found that many people who attended were not aware that in fact uniforms were involved, fewer realized it had to be voluntary. A question from the audience inquiring about the exact dress code policy now...was answered by someone in charge who admitted a lack of knowledge about the present policy! While I know my children will Not wear uniforms, I am concerned at the lack of thought and research displayed by those who are meant to inform others. Parents need to be aware of this issue. We have not heard the last on the subject!

**LINDA BERKOWITZ**

## Dear Editor,

I would like to share my Christmas Eve experience with you and your readers. All too often we see the bad side of humanity portrayed in the media and not enough of the good deeds people do.

While opening gifts at my parents' house in South Plainfield on Christmas Eve, my husband had a Grand Mai seizure. We immediately called 911. After seconds, which seemed like hours, my mother ran to our neighbor's house who happens to be a South Plainfield police officer. Bob Merkler and his brother, Police Chief Merkler, came over to assist us. They immediately took over the situation and calmed my husband as he was recovering from the seizure.

It was a terrifying experience for all of us, but thanks to the help and expertise of two of South Plainfield's finest, we knew he was in good hands until the wonderful rescue team arrived. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank Officer Merkler, Chief Merkler and the South Plainfield Rescue Squad for helping us through this holiday nightmare. Much to my son's relief, my husband was home for Christmas morning. Thanks to all who sacrificed their time, even on Christmas Eve.

**KIM BELLIZZI, SKILLMAN NJ**



*Members of the South Plainfield Middle School Student Council as they return from a trip to Medieval Times restaurant. Students earned points toward this trip through activities they participated in from December through January.*

## South Plainfield Library Board of Trustees Elects New Officers

At the Jan. 13 meeting of the South Plainfield Library Board of Trustees, the following officers were elected: Nancy Lawrence, president; Dorothy Berney, vice president; Stephen Magura, treasurer.

Returning trustees are: January Adams, Peter Calderone, Frances Greany and Robert Neumann.

Reappointed as Mayor's Alternate was Catherine Cavaliere. Reappointed as Liaison to Schools was Patricia Massey.

Board of Trustees meetings are held at the Library, located at 2484 Plainfield Avenue, on the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:30 pm. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

## School Board Candidacy Information Available at Local School District Office

Borough Business Administrator Ellen B. Johnson announced that the deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the South Plainfield Board of Education is 4 p.m., Monday, March 2. The election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21.

Prospective school board candidates can obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" at the local school district office located at 305 Cromwell Place, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. daily. Published by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the School Board Candidate Kit includes information about legal qualifications for school board candidacy, campaign procedures and the role of the school board member. Information about the New Jersey School Ethics Act, important dates in the school election process and briefing sessions for school board candidates are also included in the kit.

"I urge citizens who believe they can make a contribution to their schools to consider board of education membership," said Beulah M. Womack, NJSBA president. "You don't have to be an educator or have a college degree to serve on your local school board. What you need most is a sincere interest in children and their education."

## Corrections to the South Plainfield Recreation Department Calendar

As the annual South Plainfield Recreation Calendar/Brochure went to press, several errors went unnoticed. The Recreation Department staff asks residents to make the following corrections to their calendar:

- Borough offices will be open on Presidents Day, Feb. 16.
- Borough offices will be closed on Monday, Feb. 23.
- The ages for Ponytail Softball are 8-13 as of 10/1/97.
- The ages for Teener Ball are 6-7 as of 10/1/97.
- The age for T-Ball is five as of 10/1/97.
- The December Council Meeting is scheduled for December 17, not December 10.

The Recreation Department

staff apologizes for any inconvenience these inaccuracies may have caused.

## UPCOMING OBSERVER PUBLICATION DATES:

Issue Date	Copy Deadline
February 19 .....	Feb. 12
March 5 .....	Feb. 26
March 19 .....	Mar. 12
April 3 .....	Mar. 27

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.

## South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every first and third Thursday of the month by

G&G Graphics, Inc.  
530 Union Avenue, Suite 3,  
Middlesex, NJ 08846

(732) 469-4380 • FAX (732) 805-0815

Web page at <http://www.spobserver.com>

For subscriptions, advertising or information, call (732) 469-4380.

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

NANCY GRENNIER  
Publisher/Editor

WAYNE GRENNIER  
Associate Publisher

SUSAN KANEPS  
Art Director/Associate Editor

PATRICIA ABBOTT  
Staff Writer

MARY HOHNER  
Feature Writer

BRIGGS LONGBOTHUM  
KENNETH MORGAN  
Correspondents

ROBERT SELIGA  
WILLIAM TUTTILL  
Advertising Sales

## SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in *South Plainfield Observer*:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail 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 [www.spobserver.com](http://www.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.

## Aiello Chiropractic Center, P.C.

Your hometown source for quick pain relief

2201 South Clinton Avenue, Suite H  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080-1471  
On the corner of New Market and South Clinton

**755-2289**





Pictured from left to right are Chief Steven Merkley, Thomas Wooden, Jr., area superintendent, Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation and Sgt. Ken LaVerne.

## S.P. Police Receive Donation For Delta Traffic Counter

Texas Eastern Corporation recently donated a check for \$1,700 to the South Plainfield Police Department for the purchase of a Delta Traffic Recorder. The traffic recorder will allow police to measure the speed of vehicles, weight class, the gap between cars and to conduct a volume analysis. With this information the police can direct enforcement efforts to those areas in need.

The recorder can measure the speeds of vehicles. The police get a printed report listing every speeding vehicle with the time, direction, speed and classification.

The new traffic recorder will help police study high traffic areas and other areas where speeding is a problem and help in directing the police department to the roads that need concentrated efforts in the future.

## VFW Post 6763 Presents Awards to "Voice of Democracy" Winners

VFW Post 6763 awarded certificates and prizes to the winners of the "Voice of Democracy Contest" held in South Plainfield High School during their monthly VFW dinner held on Jan. 16. Each student wrote an essay on the "Voice of Democracy." The essays were judged and finalists were then asked to record their essays on tape. The top three essays received awards.

First place award of \$200 went to senior David Bond; second prize of \$150 went to junior Minn Nguyen and third place prize of \$100 went to senior Crystal Osley. First Place Winner David Bond went on to compete at the district level in Iselin and placed second at the event.

The "Voice of Democracy" Essay Contest is conducted by VFW Posts nationwide. After local win-



David Bond receives a \$200 US Savings Bond from VFW Post Commander Phil Cortese (left) and Past Post Commander Rudy Poczak (right).

ners are chosen the first place winner goes on to compete at the district level, then the state level. The

state champion then competes in Washington, DC for National Champion. The state finalists spend a week in Washington, DC while they are competing and the top winner receives a \$5,000 U.S. Savings Bond.

Rudy Poczak, past post commander and Marlene Poczak, Woman's Auxiliary, co-chaired the contest. The Post Commander of VFW 6763 is Phil Cortese and the Women's Auxiliary President is Harriet Square.

### Youth Essay Contest

The next contest the VFW is holding is the Youth Essay contest which is open to seventh, eighth and ninth grade students. The prizes range between a \$500 and a \$5,000 U.S. Savings Bond.

To enter, a student must write a short original essay expressing his or her interpretation of the assigned theme: "What Patriotism Means to Me." There will be one winner from each school with a prize of \$100. The finalists will receive \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place and \$50 for third place. The Youth Essay deadline is March 15. For more information student should contact their school counselors.

## High School Principal Anthony Massaro Addresses Business Association

The January 15 meeting of the South Plainfield Business Association was characterized by a somewhat unusual activity. The meeting opened with a surprise address by South Plainfield High School Principal Anthony Massaro, Assistant Principal Helen Gottlieb and Guidance Counselor Eileen Boettger.

The purpose of their visit was to present the Level of Student Achievement at the high school, and to ask the members of the Business Association to help bring those achievements to an even higher plane.

Like most good things, this meeting did not come about by accident but rather through the efforts of members Emil Leporino, Barbara Ballard and Art Muglia, who raised the idea of meeting with the Business Association in a conversation with high school representatives earlier this year. The members of the high school staff present were happy to have this meeting and were thankful for the inspiration from these people.

In addition to members receiving documents representing the Levels of Student Achievement,



S.P. High School Principal Anthony Massaro

they were also presented with a survey. The purpose of the survey was to solicit participation by the members of the business community in meeting with students and presenting to them "real world" business situations and require-

ments. The members of the Association were also asked to list on the survey those skills the students of South Plainfield High School possess which are positive and should be reinforced. Just as important, they were asked to list the skills which students lacked, those which need to be incorporated into the curriculum. The members present enthusiastically endorsed the high school's reaching out to them and to all other businesses in South Plainfield in this joint effort.

Many of the members volunteered to take part in a roundtable discussion with students to reach these high goals. Businesses interested in participating are asked to contact either Mr. Massaro, Mrs. Gottlieb, or Mrs. Boettger at South Plainfield High School at (908) 754-4620.

## events around town

### Adult Seniors to Meet Feb. 6

The Adult School Seniors will hold their monthly meeting on Friday, Feb. 6 in the Administration Building at 10:00 a.m. Benjamin Eckman, Esq., an Elder Law Attorney, will discuss the following topics: Wills, Trusts, Living Wills, Medicaid Planning, etc.

Please call 754-1047 for further information or transportation.

### Historical Society Meets

The South Plainfield Historical Society will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 10 in the media center of South Plainfield High School at 7:30 p.m. Members are asked to bring their favorite valentine with them.

There will be an update on the progress of the Railroad Museum and the Hadley Airport display case to be placed at the Holiday Inn. Refreshments will be served and guests are always welcome.

### St. Patrick's Day Dinner

The American Legion Chaumont Post 243 will hold its annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance on Saturday, Mar. 14. Corn beef, cabbage, all the trimmings and beer will be served.

Advance tickets are available at the post for \$10. They are \$15. at the door. Entertainment will also be provided.

### Atlantic City Trip

The Recreation Department presents a trip to Resorts Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City on Sunday, Feb. 22. The cost is \$12 and

participants will receive \$16 in coins and \$3 food voucher. Call 226-7713 for more information.

### AARP to Highlight Health Care

The next meeting of AARP Chapter 4144 will be held on Feb. 20 at the PAL Building on Maple Ave., at 12:30 p.m. The speaker will be Gilbert Torres, Manager Educational Services, AARP Health Care Services. Mr. Torres acts as the program liaison with AARP staff members. He will present information regarding the range of plans and services offered through AARP Health Care Options, as well as Medicare and other health related issues.

We are hosting a 55ALIVE MATURE DRIVING COURSE on March 10 and 11 at Sterling Village in Piscataway. Cost is \$8.00 due at sign-up. In most cases, this course will reduce the cost of your automobile insurance and may eliminate two points (in some cases) you may have against your drivers' license. If interested call Mary at (732) 752-3764.

Information on other planned activities will follow.

### 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 Blvd., 7-11 p.m. A buffet will be served. Music will be by Jimmy Ray Band. Tickets are \$15 per person. For information, contact Marie at (908) 755-7328 or Linda at (908) 668-7895.

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.

## Douglas Klein, D.D.S.

(908) 757-6677

2110 Maple Avenue  
South Plainfield, N.J. 07080



Third place winner Crystal Osley



Second place winner Minn Nguyen

**SPACIOUS ONE-OF-A-KIND CUSTOM ALL BRICK RANCH** in mint condition—3 BDRMS, 2 full baths, fireplace, finished bsmt, family room, Florida room and more!  
Call the Thievens today!



House of the Week

Thank you So. Plainfield for your valued business!



Paul & Maryhelen Thievon  
MARKETING SPECIALIST  
LICENSED BROKER  
SPECIALISTS IN SOUTH PLAINFIELD

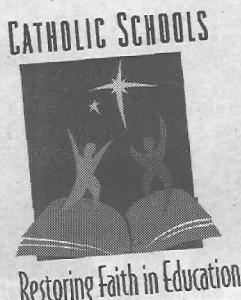
**Weichert, Realtors**

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



# Sacred Heart Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year was "Catholic Schools: Restoring the Faith in Education." Faith is very much a part of education at Sacred Heart School. It permeates all we do and makes a difference in the lives of our students. Many activities and events were held during the week to promote the appreciation and celebration of our Catholic school.



## Ancient Egyptian Art Comes to Sacred Heart

Anyone entering the Sacred Heart lobby will notice beautifully painted Mummy Case art works on display. Mrs. Loretta McCabe, Sacred Heart Art teacher stated: "After a trip to Egypt, I became fascinated with the ancient Egyptian history and incorporated these themes into my own art-work and into art classes at school." The students are introduced to hieroglyphics and learn to write their own names. They also learned about making papyrus paper and mummification.

As an art assignment, the fifth and sixth graders formed groups of four or five and each group created a Mummy Case. They painted a portrait of a pharaoh, queen or sacred animal on each one and ornamented it with a headdress, jewels, hieroglyphics and Egyptian designs. In ancient Egypt, amulets were placed around mummies before burial to ward off evil, so the students cre-



Egyptian Art created by Sacred Heart's fifth and sixth grade classes.

ated their own amulets from clay. After firing them, one from each group was selected to adorn their mummy case. This is a favorite art

project for the students and a special addition to the school work on display during Catholic Schools Week.



Miss Bennet's 5A students Jason Brubaker, Alexandria Gamboa and Marianna Sansone enjoyed breakfast with visiting parents during Open House on Wednesday, Jan. 28.

## Sacred Heart Holds Open House for Parents

On Wednesday, Jan. 28, Sacred Heart School held an "Open House". Parents were invited into their children's classrooms to observe, participate and share breakfast with the students and teachers. It was an opportunity for parents to meet their children's classmates and other parents, as well

as catch up on the latest school news. Parents were able to stroll the hallways and see samples of artwork, essays, posters, reports and student goals posted in a special display for Catholic Schools Week. The Home and School Association and the individual class mothers provided the breakfast.



To close the celebration of Catholic Schools Week Sacred Heart School students enjoy a band performance by Gladys Bryant Orchestra Band.

## Sacred Heart School Earns Middle States Accreditation

For the past two years, the administration, faculty, parents and students of Sacred Heart School have been working on the criteria for accreditation. This included the development of a program to communicate the Sacred Heart School philosophy, presenting the program to a team from the Middle States Association - Commission on Elementary Schools and compiling an "Action Plan" for long range development in the areas of increasing enrollment, developing faculty and staff in academic and collateral areas, and broadening the school's base of support. All the hard work came to fruition on October 24, when the Commission issued Sacred Heart School the Certificate of Accreditation, which is granted for a period of ten years.

Formal presentation of the certificate was made by Dr. Lorraine Amendolara, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Metuchen at a Catholic Schools Week parents and teachers meeting on January 28. The combined efforts, faith and teamwork of the Sacred Heart "family" went into the achievement of this significant milestone.



Left to right: Dana Boyer, Kaila Randolph and Lauren Campos

## Eighth Grade Students "Write from the Heart"

Eighth grade Sacred Heart students Lauren Campos, Dana Boyer, and Kaila Randolph, will be writing a column for the *South Plainfield Observer* entitled "Write from the Heart".

Seventh grade teacher Mrs. Michelle Geene and Harriet Siedek, HSA Publicity coordinator will be their advisors. Classmate John Glavasich designed their column header logo. Their subject matter will be anything school-related which they feel is interest-

ing or newsworthy, such as classroom activities and assignments, special school events, student government, sports, etc. all from the student's point of view. Best of luck to these budding reporters.

**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.

Carousel Hair Salon

The Family Place

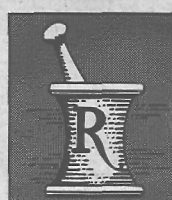
307 Oak Tree Avenue • South Plainfield, NJ

908-668-8397

Happy Valentine's Day

**Starr Radiator Service**  
"26 YEARS AT SAME LOCATION"  
700 Hamilton Blvd. • So. Plainfield  
561-6263

Auto • Truck • Industrial Parts & Service • Radiators • Heaters  
Air Conditioner Service  
Gas Tanks • Aluminum & Plastic Repairs & Replacements



**Twin City Pharmacy**  
755-7696

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

**COLD EEZE In Stock**

- ALSO:
- **Echinacea** (anti-viral)
  - **St. John's Wort** (for depression)
  - **L-Lysine** (to help prevent cold sores and fever blisters)

Today's modern pharmacy with old fashioned values

- Free Delivery
  - We Accept Most Major Medical Plans
  - Hospice Care & Home Healthcare Needs
  - Diabetic Counseling & Supplies
  - Direct Medicare billing for medical goods and equipment.
  - Hallmark Cards and Gifts
- Happy Valentine's Day from the Staff*  
**Come and See for Yourself!**



From the South Plainfield Library

# Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Well, there's one month gone for 1998. As we move ahead, here's some news from the South Plainfield Library.

First, the circulation computer terminals are now up and running. This means that a couple things are a bit different. First, instead of the old "date due" cards, patrons receive a receipt (similar to a cash register slip) listing the items borrowed and when they're due. Also, due to the need to scan a patron's bar code, patrons must present their library cards when borrowing. As we learn to use the system in actual transactions and bring our records up to date, the delays will continue for a little while longer. Sorry about that!

Another phase of our automation project has been realized. Several days ago, our old card

catalog, the one using real cards, was removed never to return. In its place, our new Public Access Terminals are being brought online. At present, they can scan our shelf list and give you information about our collections. So, you'll also be able to check your borrowing account and place reserves on items. We'll keep you posted on the new developments. And, as for the Internet...we'll it's on the way.

The library will be closed on Thursday, Feb. 12, in honor of Lincoln's birthday, and Monday, Feb. 16, in honor of President's Day.

Due to the closings, some storytime programs won't be held. Next week, the programs for 3-6 year olds are on Monday, Feb. 9, at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 10:15 a.m. That week's program will feature a Valentine's Day theme. The following week, they'll be held on Tuesday, Feb. 17, and on Thursday, Feb. 19, at 1:30 p.m. That week the program for children 18 mos.-3 years old will be held on Thursday at 11:00 a.m. Children's Librarian Judy Fischer can provide more information.

The Library Board of Trustees will meet at the Library on Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this informative meeting.

The new Circuit videos for February are now on the shelves and ready to circulate as are the present group of Circuit books-on-tape. Get 'em while they're hot.

Finally, we have a very large selection of items at our book sale cart, including books, magazines, and audiocassettes. Please stop by and see what's available.

That's about all for this week. Be sure to check this space for the latest developments.

## Notable Mention

### Buceys Become New Parents

Rich and Jenny Bucey are the proud parents of a 9 lb.-3 oz. baby boy, born on February 1.

The proud grandparents are Stan and Nancy Pauls. The Pauls now have nineteenth grandchildren. Congratulations!

### Pvt. Keane Graduates Military Police Training

Army Pvt. Dennis Keane, son of Dawn and Glen Schaeffer, has graduated from Military Police training at Fort McClenan, Alabama.

He will be stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. He is a 1997 graduate of South Plainfield High School.

## Observer Writer in the Spotlight...

# Patricia Abbott Dedicated to Summer Drama Workshop

By Mary Holmer  
Feature Writer

*Editors Note: Pattie Abbott has been writing for the Observer for some time. I thought you would like to know a little about her background and interests. She has been a tremendous help covering stories all over town and her contributions to the paper have helped the Observer gain the respect of many residents. — NG*

"When I was fourteen years old, I decided to audition for Summer Drama Workshop. The play was 'Bye-Bye Birdie'. When I arrived, I was told to sign-in and wait my turn ... to sing. I immediately signed up for the stage crew!"

Patricia Abbott laughs as she recalls her first experience with South Plainfield's Summer Drama Program, and she adds candidly, "I still don't like to sing in front of people."

While her first audition may not sound like an auspicious beginning, it was, in fact, the start of a relationship that would nurture, encourage and inspire a shy teenager to overcome her natural reticence and explore the theater, first as an actress, and then as a writer, director and producer. After her year on stage crew for "Bye-Bye Birdie", Pattie performed on stage for the next five Summer Drama Workshop productions, "until I was too old to be eligible," she explains. After a respite of a few years in her early twenties, Pattie approached then-producer Pat Guarraci in 1984 and joined the workshop staff as an assistant producer, and then spent the next several years learning the ropes. When in 1990 Pat

Guarraci decided to take the summer off, Pattie took a deep breath and put on the producer's hat.

"I couldn't see disappointing all of the kids, so I offered to step in," she remembers. "Marge Witkowski came on and helped me, but I was scared!"

That was 8 years ago. Now Pattie is well established as not only the Summer Drama Workshop's producer but also one of its most passionate advocates. South Plainfield's Summer Drama Workshop has been promoting theater, entertaining audiences, and most importantly, helping young people to develop their talent and self-confidence for 26 years. Kids from sixth grade through one year past high school graduation are eligible to participate, and everyone who expresses a sincere interest will find a role either on stage or behind the scenes.

"We turn no one away," Pattie says firmly.

Pattie Abbott's talent, enthusiasm and commitment are admirable under any circumstances, but her personal story is a truly remarkable one. As a young woman in her early twenties, Pattie suffered a freak accident which took both of her legs. While for many people it may have been an abrupt end to their dreams, for Pattie, "it was an obstacle to overcome," according to long time friend Linda Kissel.

Linda, who has been Pattie's friend since the seventh grade, sums it up succinctly. "Pattie is a woman with a tremendous sense of determination. You might expect someone who has suffered such a loss to turn inward and become self-absorbed. If any-



Patricia Abbott

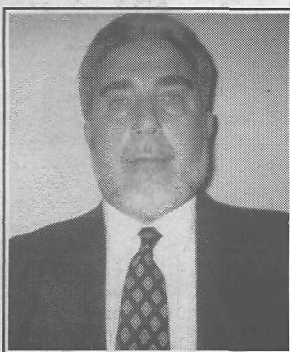
thing, Pattie's accident and recovery made her more interested and more involved in the world around her. She has a wonderful giving spirit. She really cares about the kids she works with."

This concern is very evident in Pattie's vision for the Summer Drama Workshop, where she sees the program as more than just teaching kids the fundamentals of acting, singing and understanding stage instructions.

"The kids learn about teamwork," Pattie said. "They learn how to support each other, and they gain self-confidence. We teach them that the chorus is as important as the leads. Everyone involved in the production, on and off stage, really matters."

Pattie brings this same all-inclusive approach to the drama clubs she has organized for local school children. Answering a flyer for parent volunteers at Franklin School, Pattie organized an after school drama program and ran it for five years. She has recently brought a similar program to Roosevelt School. With the help of her eleven year old son, Christopher, and middle school students Pam Cianfrocca and Christopher Imbrosiano, Pattie holds drama club meetings every Wednesday and Friday afternoon for students ranging in age from kindergarten through fifth grade.

Continued on page 11



Proudly Living —  
Marketing —  
Selling Homes  
in Town for many years.

Bob Kupcho  
MILLION DOLLAR SALES CLUB

**Weichert Realtors**

OFF: (908) 757-7780 • EVES: (908) 753-9799  
FAX: (908) 756-5696

791-9463

1645 Park Avenue  
South Plainfield

**Sally's Spirit Shoppe**  
COLD BEER, FINE WINES & SPIRITS

**\$1.00 Mug Beer**  
on Tap

**15% OFF Wine Purchases**

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

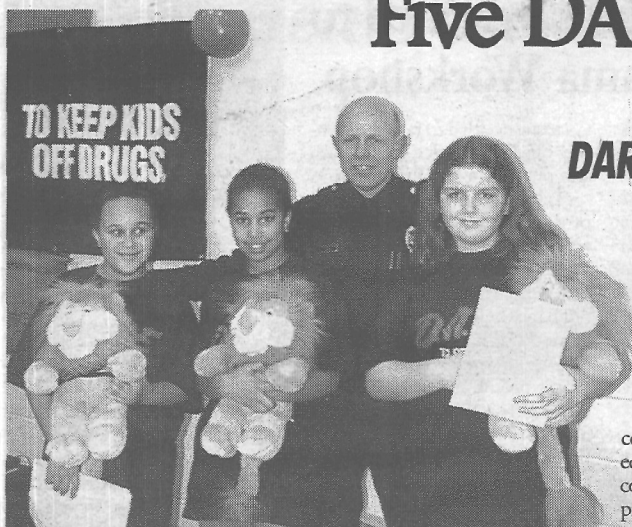
<p>Dear Gary, You have my undying passion forever... ....Love Patti</p>	<p>To Taylor and Troy: You are the best two Valentines any parents could have. Love, Mommy and Daddy</p>	<p>To Carol, Roses and red, violets are blue, this Valentine's Day all I can think of is being with you (forever) ...Mike</p>
<p>LYMYWYNY memories bring smiles. you light up my life! I Believe. I will always Love you! Yours only, angeleyes</p>	<p>Alan...So Happy Together!...27 years and still going strong... All my Love. Valerie</p>	<p>MOTHER GOOSE, BELLE, PETER and all the Roosevelt Drama Club members- you are ALL STARS! Happy Valentine's Day! Ms. Pattie</p>
<p>To Justin.... thanks for dropping all the food on the floor. Happy Valentine's Day ....Love, Snoopy</p>	<p>Happy Valentine's Day Maria... Love, Robert</p>	<p>Christopher Abbott HAPPY VALENTINES DAY! I am proud of you always! Love you, Mom</p>

# Happy Valentine's Day!



# Five DARE Graduation Cermonies

## DARE Program Offers Students Training in Making Choices



Franklin School DARE winners Coral Willis, essay Allissa Davis, essay and Toni Ciccio, essay. Not pictured Amanda Prybella, poster; Carlos Pineda, poster and Alexa Lyszczasz, poster.

**D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) is a collaborative effort by DARE**

certified law enforcement officers, educators, students, parents and the community to offer an educational program in the classroom for the prevention and reduction of drug abuse and violence among children and youth. Emphasis on helping students recognize and resist the

many direct and subtle pressures that influence them to experiment with alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, inhalants or other drugs or to engage in violence. The DARE

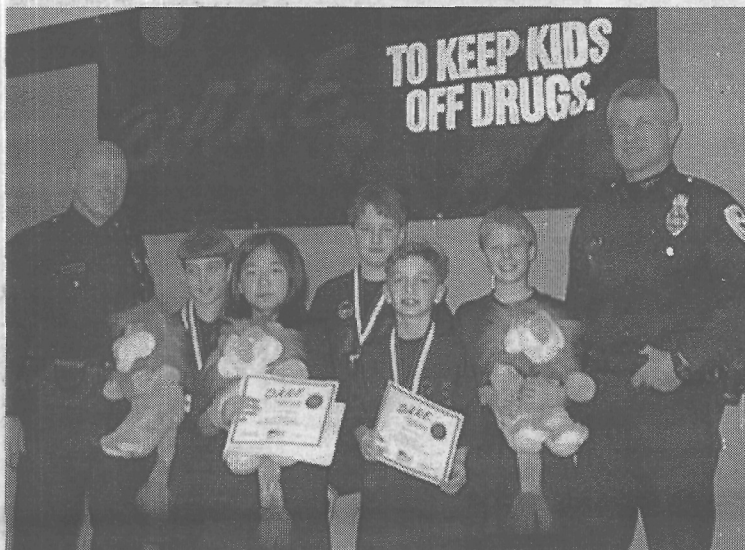
program offers preventive strategies to enhance those protective factors — especially bonding to the family, school, and community — which appear to foster the development of resiliency in young people who may be at risk for substance abuse or other problem behaviors. Researchers have identified certain protective and social bonding factors in the family, school and community which may foster resiliency in young people, in other words, the capacity of young people for healthy, independent growth in spite of adverse conditions. These strategies focus on the development of social competence, communication skills, self-esteem, empathy, decision making, conflict resolution, sense of purpose and independence, and positive alternative activities to drug abuse and other destructive behaviors.

The program content for DARE is organized into seventeen 45- to 60-minute lessons to be taught by a law enforcement officer with sug-

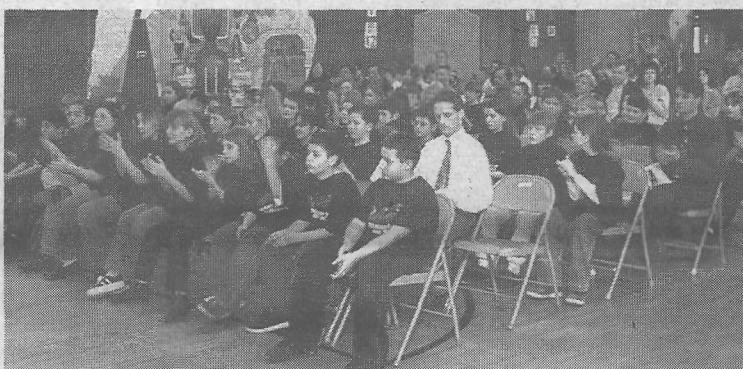
gested extended activities to be integrated into other instruction by the classroom teacher. A specially trained officer is assigned to the school one day a week for one semester to conduct weekly lessons in grades five or six.

DARE offers a variety of interactive, group-participation, cooperative-learning activities which are designed to encourage students to solve problems of major importance in their lives. An important element of DARE is the use of student leaders who do not use drugs as positive role models in influencing younger students.

The DARE program-offered in concert with other school-based prevention activities and intervention strategies for the identification, early intervention and aftercare support of students at risk for substance abuse—may be viewed as a comprehensive substance abuse program that meets the goals of the federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act.



Roosevelt School DARE winners are: Linda Lee, essay; Michael Medici, poster; Jeffrey Pollin, essay; Brian Cantor, poster; Nicholas Grego, poster and essay.



### TCM CONTRACTING

Contracting  
Residential and Commercial  
New Construction  
and Renovations  
Central Jersey



Free Estimates/Fully Insured TIM O'BRIEN

908-668-6836

P.O. Box 288  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

### ALL VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS 25% OFF

- Unique Gifts • Gift Wrapping & Greeting Cards
- Russell Stover Candies • Party Supplies
- UPS Service • Copies • Fax Services
- School & Office Supplies • Helium Balloons

Ambassador  
Helm Cards Inc.

### David's Stationery

140 Sampton Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ  
(908) 754-3444 • FAX (908) 753-3996

A World of Treasures  
waits You...Where?



**Twice Is Nice**

The Consignment Boutique

Now accepting  
consignments for  
Spring clothes

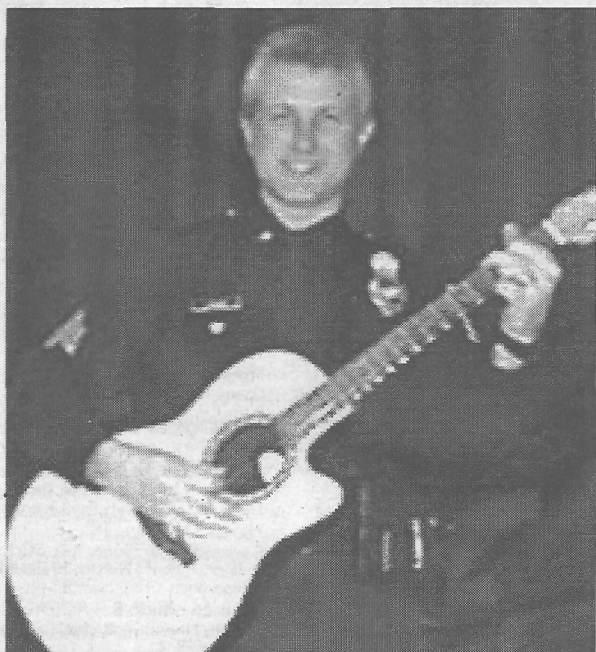
Please call for an appointment

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

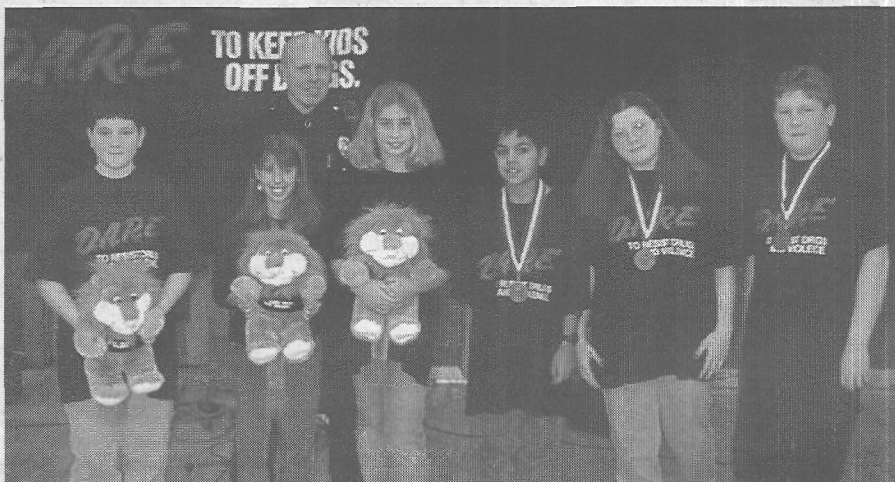
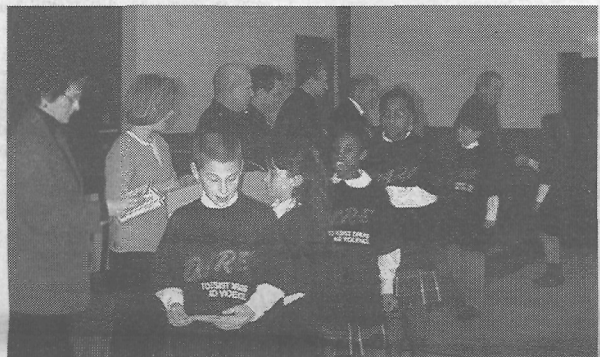
Mon.-Fri. 10-5 • Sat. 10-4



# Held In South Plainfield Schools



Sgt. John Alles performs his own original DARE song.



Kennedy School DARE winners are: Keenan Gaynor, essay; Abby Papa, essay; Mallory Christ, essay; Christopher Bakazan, poster; Jenna DePalma, poster and Ryan Suleski, poster.



Assistant Superintendent of Schools Dr. Lillian DeSimon attended for all five DARE graduations.



Sacred Heart DARE winners, Sarah Kulihi, essay; Summer Scott, poster; Allison Pietruszki, essay and Katharine Straut, poster.

## Schools Hold DARE Graduation Ceremonies

Continued from page one

Willis/essay and Amanda Prybel-la/poster. Mr. Orfan's class: Toni Ciccio/essay and Carlos Pineda/poster. Miss Rojas's class: Allissa Davis/essay and Alexa Lyszczasz/poster.

### Kennedy School Winners

Mr. Miller's class: Abby Papa/essay and Jenna DePalma/poster. Miss Sosnak's class: Keenan Gaynor/essay and Ryan Suleski/poster. Mr. Montemurro's class: Mallory Christ/essay and Christo-

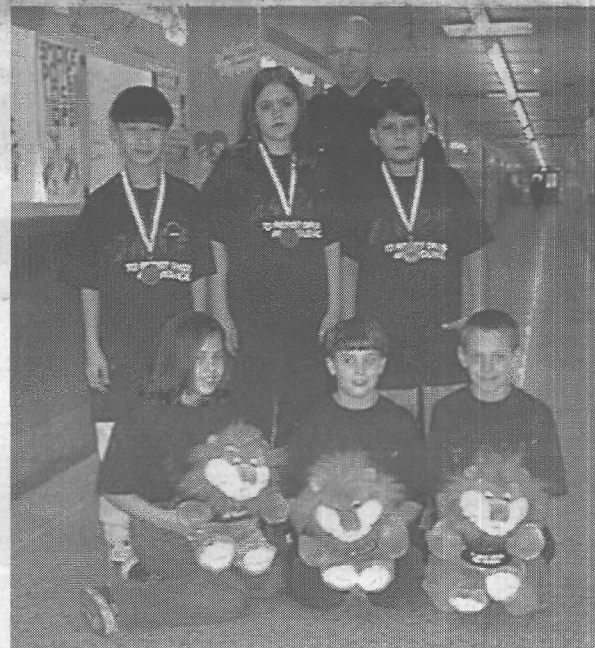
pher Bakazan/poster.

Sgt. John Alles will be stepping down as the DARE teacher. He was recently promoted to sergeant and is going back on patrol. He said, "People say that now that I am returning to patrol duty, I will be doing what a police officer should be doing, preventing crime. I truly believe the DARE program is the best crime prevention program there is." He also told the students that while on the patrol recently, out of 8 arrests, 7 were related to drugs or alcohol. If the

DARE program prevents drug and alcohol abuse, crime can only go down. Sgt. Alles closed each program by performing a song he wrote about drugs.

Joe Papa will become the new DARE teacher. He said he knows he has a challenge filling John Alles' shoes, for one thing he doesn't play the guitar or sing. He quoted an unknown author, "All it takes for evil to prevail is for people to do nothing." He asked the students to remember what that m and he stressed how important parents are in the DARE program.

The DARE Program is taught to all fifth grade students to help them make the transition to junior high school and to prepare them for the inevitable temptations they will face with drugs, alcohol and smoking. The DARE course is taught one hour a week for 17 weeks.



Riley School DARE winners: Front row, Stefanie Miller, essay; Jarrett Linczyk, essay; Douglas Dietzold, song. Back row, Alex Bravo, poster; Victoria Maione, poster; Huan Nguyen, essay. Not pictured, Jessica Kizmann, poster.

**R&M Rosary**

Custom Handmade Gemstone  
& Lead Crystal Rosaries

908-769-7735

First Holy Communion • Bead Jewelry • Bridal Party Sets

Fr. John invites you  
to worship with him at

Our Lady of  
Czestochowa R.C. Church

807 Hamilton Blvd.,  
South Plainfield

Masses Daily at 8 AM  
Saturday evenings 5:30 PM  
Sunday mornings 8:00 and 11:00 am

Furniture  
Refinishing &  
Custom Design



**WONDERLAND  
WOODS**

FINE HANDMADE  
furniture

185 EMERSON ROAD  
SOMERSET NJ  
732-545-3132

TAX RETURNS PREPARED • WILLS, CLOSINGS  
INDIVIDUAL AND BUSINESS • PERSONAL INJURY  
WORKERS COMPENSATION

**PAUL W. GRZENDA**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

HOUSE CALLS AVAILABLE  
SO. PLAINFIELD OFFICE Tel.: (908) 769-8602



# Youth Recreation Basketball

## A League Standings

Team	Won	Loss
St. John's	6	0
Connecticut	5	1
Notre Dame	5	1
Seton Hall	5	2
Georgetown	3	4
Rutgers	3	4
U.C.L.A.	2	5
Duke	1	7

## A League Scores—Jan 17

No. Carolina-Georgetown Can.  
Notre Dame-Rutgers Cancelled  
Seaton Hall 48 - U.C.L.A. 38  
Joshua English, 18; Valerie Katsonis, 10;  
Scott Morrison, 10; Tom Rutter 17 and  
Paul Gross, 10.

## Connecticut 66 - Duke 27

Ericson Refe, 11; Eric Ambicelli, 20;  
Mario DeSantis, 19; Joseph Krumpfer,  
12; Chris Cassio, 10 and Billy Olson, 8.  
St. John - Bye

## A League Scores—Jan 24

Notre Dame - N. Carolina Can.  
Connecticut-St. Johns Cancelled  
Seaton Hall 34 - Duke 31  
Scott Morrison, 6; Joshua English, 8;  
Chris Kulawik, 8; Michael Lammi, 7;  
Jesse Cortese, 10; Reggie Thompson, 6  
and Chris Cassio, 6.

## Rutgers 43 - Georgetown 32

Joseph Dezzini, 13; tohomas Daly, 12;  
Jason Bataille, 18 and Lee Durnak, 16.

## Make Ups Games

Georgetown 41 - No. Carolina 32  
Lee Stellakis, 13; Michael Tudor, 10;  
Thomas Daly, 10; Joseph Dezzini, 10  
and Sean Greivous, 6.

## Notre Dame 51 - Rutgers 28

Steven Popp, 20; Ulysses Russell, 12  
and Johsph Harrison, 12.

## B League Standings

Team	Won	Loss
Virginia	8	0
Pittsburg	6	1
Michigan	6	2
Kentucky	5	2
Princeton	5	3
Arizona	4	4
UNLV	4	4
Miami	3	5
Penn State	3	5
Boston College	1	7
Syracuse	1	7
Indiana	1	7

## B League Scores—Jan 17

Princeton 31 - Miami 14  
Gary Houston, 8; Richard Muglia, 4;  
Alan Amazan, 11; Mike Chrsan-  
thopoulos, 10; Greg Garbowski, 4.

## Michigan 43 - Boston College 21

Ryan Decker, 10; Michael Salerno, 7;  
Adam Tamzoki, 4; Sean Cassidy, 13; Joe

Smalley, 10; Melissa Scottro, 10 and  
Fernando Sandoval, 6.

## Indiana 23 - Syracuse 20

Jared Dembia, 10; Terry Paschall, 4;  
Morgan Lichtensti, 4; Daniel Laverne, 9;  
Jessa Jones, 6 and Daniel Pollin, 4.

## Virginia 36 - UNLV 17

Andre Scott, 14; Chris Horn, 8; Chris-  
tine Strani, 8; Nicholas Green, 5 and  
Alexander Ferraris, 4.

## Kentucky 28 - Arizona 27

Justn Toth, 19; Mike Wiczorek, 4;  
Michael Allocco, 16 and Philip DeRosa,  
8.

## B League Scores—Jan 24

## Penn State 35 - Syracuse 14

Jakyle Shirley, 10; Garone Shirly, 8; Chris  
Szaplinski, 8; Kyle Prendergest, 8 and  
Jared Dembia, 4.

Boston College 19 - Princeton 15  
Ryan Decker, 7; Mike Salerno, 4; Jeff  
Smith, 4; Brian Destefano and Mike  
Chrysanthopoulos, 6.

## UNLV 37 - Arizona 25

Justin Torh, 17; Jason Basile, 13 and  
Alexander Ferraris, 10.

## Michigan 26 - Kentucky 25

Michael Allocco, 12; Matthew Finn, 10;  
Sean Cassidy, 12; Joseph Smalley, 6 and  
Melissa Scottro, 6.

## Miami 18 - Indiana 16

Daniel Polin, 8; Jessa Jones, 4; Ryan  
Mack, 4; Gary Houston, 8 and Joey  
Sorrentino, 4.

## Virginia 52 - Pittsburg 37

Christine Strani, 18; Andre Scott, 10;  
Chris Horn, 10; Danny Melick, 6; James  
Plate, 11; Tommy Haus, 10 and Kevin  
Joshi, 8.

## C League Standings

Team	Won	Loss
Mavericks	8	0
Lakers	7	1
Trailblazers	7	1
Nuggets	7	1
Spurs	5	2
Raptors	5	3
Jazz	4	4
Rockets	3	5
Kings	3	5
Suns	3	5
Sonics	2	6
Clippers	1	7
Grizzlies	0	7
Warriors	0	8

## C League Scores—Jan 17

## Raptors 22 - Warriors 14

Kevin Graham, 6; Doug Dietzodk,  
4; Caitlin English, 9 and Dip Patel, 6.

## Mavericks 40 - Clippers 17

Danielle Arndt, 13; Glacen Johnson, 10;  
Kyle Lendach, 9; Biran Cantor, 8; Dan  
Miyastato, 9 and Aj Romano, 4.

## Spurs 42 - Kings 22



D-League teams the Pacers and the Bulls fight it out for first place. Both teams came into the game undefeated. The Pacers beat the Bulls 24-18.

James Charneco, 24; Chris McKnight,  
10; Joe DeFalco, 4; Mike Piazza, 14 and  
Christopher Bojars, 6.

## Rockets 42 - Suns 28

Michael Downes, 20; Andrew Miller, 12;  
Mike Kratz, 4; Matthew Rabino, 4; Ryan  
Taylor, 10; Jonathon O'Connor, 6 and  
Adam Bianchi, 4.

## Lakers 29 - Jazz 22

Brian Murtagh, 10; Erik Vesper, 4;  
Jonathon Lazar, 4; Danny Piwawar, 12;  
William Merker, 6; Mark Warness, 6 and  
Kevin Siedenburgh, 5.

## Trailblazers 34 - Grizzlies 23

Nick Grego, 10; Marshal Patel, 7; Joseph  
Teller, 4; Chris Bakazan, 14; Michael  
Hanley, 12 and Ryan Kenny, 6.

## Nuggets 29 - Sonics 18

Nick Cesare, 10; Justin Basilone, 6; An-  
thony Petricillo, 4; Andrew Roibal, 4;  
Thomas Whalen, 6 and Preet Dhalial,  
6.

## C League Scores—Jan 24

## Trailblazers 32 - Sonics 30

Chris Bakazan, 15; Ryan Kenny, 9;  
Michael Hanley, 8; Preet Dhalial, 14;  
Thomas Whalen, 5; Melisse Hansen, 4  
and Keith Dezzini, 4.

## Suns 27 - Grizzlies 24

Adam Bianchi, 8; Jonathon O'Conner, 6;  
Allan Mazurak, 6; Nick Grego, 11;  
Harshall Patel, 5; David Eichler, 4 and  
Joseph Teller, 4.

## Lakers 29 - Rockets 27

William Merker, 13; Danny Piwawar, 8;  
Mark Warness, 4; Michael Downes, 16  
and Andrew Miller, 4.

## Jazz 28 - Clippers 22

Samuel Martin, 10; Brian Mortach, 6;  
Vincent Donato, 6; Danc Miyasato, 6 and  
Roggie Strani, 6.

## Mavericks 31 - Warriors 10

Jeffrey Pollin, 4; Danielle Arndt, 8; Joey  
Jaghab, 6 and Galen Johnson, 5.

## Spurs 30 - Nuggets 31

Nick Cesare, 22; Chris McKnight, 24 and  
Joseph DeFalco, 4.

## Raptors 24 - Kings 20

Mike Piazza, 8; Christopher Bojars, 6;  
Ranir Kalia, 4; Caitlin English, 12; Dip  
Patel, 4 and Todd Rivers, 4.

## D League Standings

Team	Won	Loss
Pacers	8	0
Bulls	7	1
Hawks	5	2
Hornets	5	3
Bullets	4	3
Sixers	4	3
Pistons	4	3
Magic	4	4

## Recreation Volleyball Standings

Name	W	L	.Pct
Zupo's I	12	0	.1000
Flannigan			
Born Hitters	11	1	.917
Zupko's II	7	2	.777
Jughouse	8	4	.667
No Names	6	3	.667
Polish Home	7	5	.583
Flying Thomas	6	6	.500
Dig This	6	6	.500
Stovepipers	5	7	.417
Dig Deep	3	9	.250
The Setters	1	8	.111
Jughouse			
Jameers	0	9	.000
Roadsters	0	12	.000

## Bullets 20 - Knicks 14

Vinnie Pudala, 14; David Alston, 6 and  
Jeffrey Licato, 4.

## Hawks 14 - Celtics 6

John Christ, 4; and Michael Stallone, 12.

## Hornets 25 - Nets 8

Sean Tamzoke, 4; Danny McCreesh, 9;  
Frank Alfano, 6 and Kathleen Eder, 2.

## Pacers 31 - Sixers 20

Stephen Richard, 11; Greg Watts, 5;  
Matthew Seider, 4; Kevin Cantor, 9;  
Tommy Smith, 12; Bennie Gibson, 6 and  
Kelly Downes, 4.

## Bucks - Bye

## D League Scores - Jan. 24

## Pacers 24 - Bulls 18

Bennie Gibson, 10; Kevin Cantor, 6;  
Kelly Downes, 4; Chris Pollin, 6; Ryan  
Bunting, 4; Dale McCook, 4 and Brian  
Wickowski, 4.

## Pistons 28 - Nets 21

Danny Espin, 14; Amber Hartman, 8;  
Ryan Curtis, 4; Chris DeOliveira, 8;  
Brendon O'Shea, 6 and Sean Tamzoke

## Hornets 22 - Knicks 16

Danny McCreesh, 7; Scott Hunterdon,  
5; Timothy Keane, 4; Joseph Turrisi, 4;  
David Alston, 6 and Jeffrey Licato, 6.

## Hawks 21 - Magic 18

Christopher Stallone, 14; Michael  
Stallone, 7; Daniel Hubner, 10 and Brian  
Fabino, 5.

## Sixers 16 - Bucks 8

Samatha Horvath, 6; Richard Le, 10 and  
Troy Russell, 4.

## Celtics 25 - Cavaliers 22

Anthony Moretti, 18; Scott Barton, 4;  
Brad Martin, 14; Matthew Ramos, 4 and  
John Christ, 4.

## Bullets - Bye

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

### JUNIOR VARSITY & VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

Fri., Feb. 6	Perth Amboy	Home	5:30/7:00
Tues., Feb. 10	South Brunswick	Away	5:30/7:00
Fri., Feb. 13	North Brunswick	Home	5:30/7:00
Thurs., Feb. 19	GMC Tournament	State Tournament	

### JUNIOR VARSITY & VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday, Feb. 6	St. Peter's	Away	5:30/8:00
Tues., Feb. 10	South Brunswick	Home	5:30/7:00
Thurs., Feb. 12	Bishop Ahr	Away	5:15/7:00
Fri., Feb. 13	North Brunswick	Away	5:15/7:00
Wed. Feb. 18	GMC Tournament	State Tournament	

### BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING—CAROLIER LANES—ALL GAMES 3:45

Thurs., Feb. 5	Monroe Township	
Tues., Feb. 10	J.F. Kennedy	
Wed., Feb. 11	Edison	
Thurs., Feb. 14	Carteret	
Tues., Feb. 17	1st Round GMC Tournament	
Thurs., Feb. 19	2nd Round GMC Tournament	

### BOYS & GIRLS WINTER TRACK

Sun., Feb. 8	Sectionals at Princeton	
Wed., Feb. 11	Bishop Ahr	Away 3:45
Sun., Feb. 22	Championships at Princeton	

### JUNIOR VARSITY & VARSITY WRESTLING

Fri., Feb. 6	GMC Tournament	Away 6:00
Sat., Feb. 7	GMC Tournament	Away 10:00 a.m.
Fri., Feb. 13	J.P. Stevens	Away 5:30/7:00
Tues., Feb. 17	Team Sectionals	



## Sherban's Restaurant

Diner • Restaurant • Banquets & Parties

222 Front Street, South Plainfield, NJ

(908) 755-7427

Seating Capacity: 400

Private Party Facilities  
for 25-150 Guests

Daily Specials

Come downstairs and  
see our banquet room

Sherban's Restaurant wishes everyone a Happy New Year!

## Adult Recreation Basketball

	Name	W	L	.Pct.
1.	Petricello Landscaping	8	0	.1000
2.	Roadrunners	6	2	.750
3.	Harry's Liquors	5	3	.625
4.	Roughriders	2	6	.250
5.	Degussa	2	6	.250
6.	Bricklayers	1	7	.125

## Losing "interest" in your C.D.?<sup>1</sup>

Now may be the time to consider an alternative for your retirement planning ... a Tax Deferred Annuity from Lincoln Life.

Lincoln Life offers:

- IRA rollovers.
- Guaranteed income for life.<sup>2</sup>
- Tax deferred earnings.<sup>3</sup>

For a prospectus containing complete information, including charges and expenses, contact:

Craig Wolpert  
(800) 445-2448

LINCOLN LIFE

Please read prospectus carefully before you invest or send money.  
<sup>1</sup> Bank CD's are insured and offer a fixed rate of return. Both the principal and yield of investment securities will fluctuate with changes in market conditions.

<sup>2</sup> Based on continued claims paying ability.

<sup>3</sup> Investment earnings may be taxed upon withdrawal.

©1996 Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.



## Wrestling

### Tiger Wrestlers Now 9-0, Team Effort Keeps Tigers Perfect

By Bob Hunter

The South Plainfield Varsity Wrestling Team, the 18th ranked team in the state continues to surprise a lot of people in the wrestling community with the effort the young team has given thus far. With big wins over Red Division rival Edison and a huge win over a very strong High Point team it is now making believers out of the skeptic's.

This team led by seniors Tommy Doerr, Joe Celentano and Chris Johnston have given this young team the leadership needed to make this a championship team. Doerr noted that working with the younger wrestlers in practice along with the conditioning has prepared them to wrestle six minutes or more. "We lead by example," he said. Noted Celentano, "they see us working hard and they work hard and it shows by the results this team is having." Chris Johnson, the tiger 140 pound star has been working and going real hard with some of the younger guys and it has done some good. "If they go hard with me in practice they go hard for a full six in the match, that's what I want from them, total effort," Johnson said.

Tigers Tame Edison 36-23

The Tigers Red Division showdown with Edison was all that it was hyped up to be. The Tigers pulled out the match winning the last three bouts of the night to get the victory. South Plainfield led for much of the match holding a 15-3 lead after five bouts, but Edison charged back winning the next four bouts. The Tigers re-

gained the lead when freshman John Foscolo scored a tech fall 16-1. Then Edison Felton Monroe shocked the Tiger crowd when he caught Chris Francis and scored the fall at 1:14 to regain the lead 23-20 with three bouts to go. Sophomore Dan Kunst was fired up and went right at William Miller pinning him at the 1:07 mark to regain the lead for good. Chris Cioffi sealed the victory with a 12-1 major decision over Tom Kim.

"We knew it was going to be close match," Tiger coach Bill Pavlak said. "We knew we had to win the last three matchers."

#### Tigers Get By High Point

The Tigers came from behind in dramatic fashion to post a 36-30 victory over the High Point Wildcats. In a battle with the lead changing four times and the scored tied going into the 215 bout. The Tiger heroics came at 1:89 when Dan Kunst trailing in his match 15-1 with 12 seconds

left on the clock escaped and proceeded to take down John McCarthy to his back and scored the fall with five tenths of a second left on the clock for the victory. After the referee and coach's went to the scorer's table, the official raised Kunst hand in victory, tying the score at 30-30. Chris Cioffi came out and scored an 8-5 decision over Eric Space in the 215 match to give the Tigers the lead 33-30. That left it up to sophomore heavyweight Colin Hunter who only needed a win to escape the tie. With the score tied Hunter got the take down on John Lee for a 7-4 lead. With 12 seconds on the clock Hunter let Lee up to make it 7-6. "I knew he couldn't take me down so I just rode out the clock for the win for the team." This was a big win for this young Tiger team. A win against East Brunswick will lock up the Tigers with their second consecutive Red Division Championship.

### Middle School and Rec Combine To Win Fourth Consecutive Title

The South Plainfield Middle School and the Recreation team joined forces to defend their Roselle Park Tournament Championship. This was a team tournament wrestled over two days. Roselle Park was the leader after the first day of wrestling with the Tiger's in second.

#### Jr. Tigers Win 11 Medals

South Plainfield took to the mat on the second day of the tournament and dominated the field with

five champion places: two second, three thirds and a fourth place finish. That was enough to take home another team title. The points rolled up with the second, third and fourth place finishes. Noted Coach Joe DeBiase, "Our kids wrestled real tough today. We were happy with how all the kids wrestled." The Tigers out scored Roselle Park 144 to 117 to claim its fifth team title.

Winning titles were Robert Gentile-bantam 50; Billy Ashnault-bantam 55; Nick Dorey-bantam 60; Brad Martin-bantam 70 and Jimmy Conroy-midget 60.

Second place went to Danny Pompilio-bantam 70 and Frank Steffanelli at bantam heavyweight.

Winning consolation matches for third place were Patrick Hunter-bantam 50; Peter DeAndrea-midget 70 and Kevin Crilley-midget 95. Greg Yefko came home with a fourth place medal.

Also winning match's but not placing were Tim Gaughan-bantam 55; Jason Petrillo-bantam 55; Nick Giakas-bantam 60; Michael Jakubik-bantam 65; Pocco Petrillo-bantam HWI; Brian Hunt-midget 55, Matt D'Alessandro-midget 60 and Sam Martin-midget 70.

### Junior Tigers Claim 17 Medals At Novice Tournament

The South Plainfield Recreation Wrestling Team had 17 place winners at the Tenth Annual Middlesex Novice Wrestling Tournament. The tournament is a double station for wrestlers with no varsity experience.

#### Crown Championship

John Wylam won the first Tiger title by winning the bantam 45 title by fall. The next Tiger champion came when Nick Pauls won the bantam 41 pound final. Timmy Gaughan claimed his bantam 52-point title winning a 3-0 decision. Brad Martin won his title by scoring a technical fall 15-0

for the bantam 67-pound championship.

Second place finisher's were pee wee 40 Frank DiBiase, pee wee 53 Jordan Petrillo, bantam 59 Michael Jukubik, bantam 86 Rocco Petrillo and midget 52 Bryan Hunt.

Third place winners were Ryan Sacco pee wee 42, pee wee 48 Michael Baron and pee wee 50 Elizabeth Martin. Fourth place winners were Jonathan Conroy pee wee 47 and Danny Pompilio bantam 69.

Fifth place ribbons went to Rocco Severini pee wee 44, Nick Giakas bantam 62 and Greg Yefko midget 79.

## INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

By Briggs Longbothum  
and Eric Tillman



Last issue I asked if anyone knew what VERONICA was. The hint was that it is an acronym. Congrats go to Donna Milcarek who correctly responded. It's not the Elvis (Costello) song title, but rather it stands for Very Easy Rodent (as in your computer mouse) Oriented Netwide Index to Computerized Archives! I guess you have to have been around computer systems for a while to know that. Donna surely has. Prior to the World Wide Web, (remember that it is just another internet service) there was "Gopher." Back then, it was the fastest growing internet service. And it was a menu-based system for finding stuff on the net. You would search through a list of menu items including specific resources and even more menus which you could then search further, view, download, etc. That whole world of menu-based stuff was affectionately referred to as "Gopher-space." Sure, why not! VERONICA was a new utility for searching gopherspace. Donna reports not having ever used VERONICA, but has used "ARCHIE." Anybody want to ring in and tell us about ARCHIE? Certainly you won't be alone if you've never heard of either, since the WWW now includes just about everything anyway. But yes, I know, some people still study Latin!

There's lots more, of course, to the internet and in time we'll try and touch on most of it. At least as far as a present day user would likely be concerned.

My impression of the World Wide Web (or internet if you must) is that this is where you and I will be interfacing with most of the world and its output. Today we have TV, radio, newspapers, telephone, etc.

Tomorrow, all of this will come to us via the net. Technology is very quickly making this so!

High speed internet connections for everyone are almost here. I've spoken of Comcast's cable modems as recently as the last issue. Since then, we've heard from the telco's (telephone companies), Intel, and Microsoft about their high speed connection solution. No surprise that it involves existing copper wires already in place. Believe me when I say "Wow!" You and I will be the benefactors of all this new stuff and it really is coming down the pike fast.

TIP: Get yourself in front of a computer connected to the net

and see for yourself. I've already mentioned Rorden Realty (Westfield) has a free demo where you can go and do this. I'm sure everyone knows someone who'll be happy to show you if you don't already have access, but go ahead and see for yourself.

I sat in on a meeting a few evenings ago where the internet was described to the members. The organization had set up a website for its statewide members, and it was being offered for communication and information dissemination. Some said they were going to buy a fax machine for that purpose! Let me first say that I applaud any advance in communication technology, but for a buy-in point, a fax machine alone falls seriously short in the presence of better alternatives. Fax capability and more is built into just about every computer sold at retail today. Hey, I'll admit that I'm a tech-junkie, and that most of my friends don't know a gigabyte from a mosquito bite. But I'm also a realist. If you don't know very much about technology and what it can do for you, for your own wallet's sake, don't decide and buy blindly. It's not just about dollars. First, it's about getting a job done, and then being able to do it over and over again efficiently.

I am hopeful that this column and the advice and suggestions one can easily obtain here and elsewhere will provide real help for those who want to take that awkward first step into newer tech! I really hate to see and overhear salespeople oversell naive customers, but I do believe that's not likely when the customer is well informed. Do feel free to contact us at the *Observer* for a second opinion or third party input on such decision making. We are here to help!

TIP: Are you into market investing? For sure, the internet is the place for timely info and help. If you're just starting out investing and want to get some good experience without getting your own feet wet, try these sites for learning the ways of Wall Street: EduStock <http://tqd.advanced.org/3088/> or Invest Smart <http://library.advanced.org/10326/>.

By the way, here's one more for you: you've seen "http://" and some of you have seen "ftp://", anyone know what "shttp://" designates? If you think it's short for "shut-up," I'll go with it and see you next issue.



### Wayne Grennler Sales Representative

Resident of South Plainfield  
For 30 Years

OFF: (732) 906-8200  
EVES: (908) 755-8565  
FAX: (732) 906-8109

We Sell More  
Because We Do More

Metuchen Office  
640 Middlesex Ave.  
Metuchen, NJ 08840

**Weichert,  
Realtors®**

Valentine's  
Boxed  
Candy For  
All Your  
Sweet-  
hearts

\$4 OFF  
2lb. box (reg. \$30)  
\$2 OFF  
1lb. box (reg. \$15)  
\$1.50 OFF  
1/2lb. box (reg. \$7.50)  
Offers expire 2/21/98

FREE  
1/2 Pound Gourmet Jelly  
Beans With Purchase of  
1 Pound of Chocolate

### VALENTINE DAY SPECIALS

- ♥ Gourmet Confections
- ♥ Sugar-Free Candy
- ♥ Frozen Desserts
- ♥ Specialty Gift Baskets
- ♥ Gourmet Pretzels
- ♥ Party Favors
- ♥ Personalized Gifts

**Delicious Delights**

(908) 412-9755  
Corner of Front St. & So. Plainfield Ave.



## Obituaries

### ■ Claire B. Brandt, 76

Claire B. Brandt, 76, died on Tuesday, Jan. 20 at her home.

She was born in New York City and was a former resident of Dunellen before moving to South Plainfield 47 years ago.

Mrs. Brandt was an office clerk with American Cyanamid Company in Bound Brook for 29 years before retiring in 1983.

She was a member of Sacred Heart Church and a former member of the church choir.

She was a charter member of the Columbiettes at the Commodore John Barry Knights of Columbus Council 2544, Dunellen and a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens and the Tri-County Senior Citizens in Piscataway.

She is survived by her husband Frank Brandt; a son Richard Brandt of Hanford Ca. and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at James Conroy Funeral Home.

### ■ George J. Decker, 68

George J. Decker, 68, died on Saturday, Jan. 17 at his home.

Born in Newark, Mr. Decker had resided in Irvington before settling in Piscataway 20 years ago.

He had been employed with the former Quantex Pipe Company of South Plainfield as a machine operator for 15 years before his retirement in 1992. He was previously employed as a baker for the Ward Baking Company of Newark.

He was a peacetime veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps where he served in the Mediterranean after WWII. Mr. Decker was an avid stamp collector.

He is predeceased by a sister, Suzanne Decker and a brother, William Decker.

liam Decker.

Surviving are his wife, Evelyn (Fila) Decker; four daughters, Deborah Silvio of Piscataway, Stephanie Trumbauer and Valerie Giuliano both of South Plainfield and Josephine Perron of Jacksonville Fla.; two sons, George J. Decker III of South Plainfield and Joseph Decker of Dunellen; two sisters, Johanna Decker of Fort Myers, Fla. and Helen Ringo of Venice, Fla. and three brothers, Albert Decker of Germany, Arnold Decker of Parsippany and Paul Cox of Ky. Also surviving are 16 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### ■ Rita M. (Katika) Dunay, 66

Rita M. (Katika) Dunay, 66, died on Saturday, Jan. 17 at her home.

Mrs. Dunay was born in Millersville, Pa. and had resided in Elizabeth before moving to South Plainfield 39 years ago.

In 1953 she received her R.N. when she graduated from the Elizabeth General Hospital School of Nursing and then worked at Elizabeth General Hospital for a brief while before taking time off from her work to raise a family. In 1973 she resumed her nursing career, working at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center as an R.N. She retired in 1995.

Mrs. Dunay was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church and a

member of the AARP.

Her husband, Anthony J. Dunay, died in 1991.

Surviving are three daughters, Nancy A. Seeland of Tabernacle, NJ, Patricia N. Kovach of Flemington and Michelle M. Bolt of North Brunswick; a son, Anthony J. "Chip" Dunay of White Plains, Md. and a brother, John Katika of Hazelton, Pa. She is also survived by four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad or to the South Plainfield Vol. Fire Dept.

### ■ Kurt A. Granget, 96

Kurt A. Granget, 96, died on Sunday, Jan. 25 at his home in The Monroe Village, a retirement community in Jamesburg.

Born in Durlach, Germany he came to the United States in 1929 residing in Westfield. He had resided in Greenbrook and South Plainfield before moving to Jamesburg in 1989.

He had been employed as a private caretaker for the late Otto Lindberg of Mountainside for 35 years before retiring in 1968.

Mr. Granget had attended the Greenbrook Baptist Church, and was the volunteer greenhouse manager at the Monroe Village in Jamesburg for many years.

His wife, Frieda Granget, died in 1988.

Surviving are two daughters, Lorraine David of Somerville and Irene J. Mitchell of Murray Hill. Also surviving are five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### ■ William McLean, 70

William McLean, 70, died on Saturday, Jan. 17 at his home.

Born in South Plainfield, Mr. McLean had resided in the borough for most of his life. He had resided in Tuckerton, NJ for seven years before returning to South Plainfield in 1995.

### ■ John F. Dunbar, 66

John F. Dunbar, 66, died on Tuesday, Jan. 13 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

Born in New York City, Mr. Dunbar had resided in Ireland from 1939 to 1950. He returned to the United States where he had resided in Westfield, New Brunswick and in Plainfield before settling in Greenbrook in 1978.

He was a veteran of the US Army, serving during the Korean Conflict where he was stationed in Germany.

He was employed as a quality control supervisor for Economics Labs of Avenel, retiring in 1986. He was previously employed by Magnus Chemical Co. of Garwood as a lab technician during the 1960's, before the company was bought by EcoLab.

Mr. Dunbar had attended

Rutgers University in New Brunswick during the 1960's.

He was a member of the New Jersey Chapter of the Audubon Society.

He is predeceased by his sister, Mary Miller, who died in 1994 and his two brothers, Eugene Dunbar who died in 1944 and Robert B. Dunbar who died in 1997.

Surviving are his brothers, Frank J. Dunbar of Kennesaw, Ga. and Patrick J. Dunbar of South Plainfield. Also surviving are his 12 nieces and nephews and his 15 great nieces and nephews.

Memorial services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the New Jersey Chapter of the American Cancer Society, 846 Main St. Fords, NJ 08863.

### ■ Paul C. Howard, 88

Paul C. Howard, 88, died on Saturday, Jan. 10 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, one day before his 89th birthday.

Mr. Howard was born in Kingston, NY and he had resided in Newark and Jersey City before moving to South Plainfield, where he resided with his late wife, Helen McAndrew Howard, for 55 years. He has resided in Carteret for the past ten years.

In his younger years, while in Kingston, NY, Mr. Howard was one of the original members of the Kingston Yellow Jackets semi-pro football team.

While in Kingston, during the 1930's, he was the co-owner operator of the Knight-Howard Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Co.

He retired 24 years ago, after serving 25 years as the Supervisor of Grounds and Maintenance for the Johnson & Johnson Co. in

North Brunswick. Prior to working with J&J, Mr. Howard had worked for many years in heating and air conditioning with various companies in the Essex and Hudson Counties area.

During WWII Mr. Howard had worked as a civilian employee at the Camp Kilmer Military Depot in Edison.

He was a ham radio operator for many years and was a member of the Tri-County Amateur Radio Club.

Surviving are a daughter, Anne Howard of Scotch Plains and a son, Paul R. Howard, of Bergenfield. Also surviving are four sisters, Pearl Pribis of Little Falls, NY, Geraldine Howard and Ruth Best, both of Kingston, NY and Nellie Ondrey of South Plainfield and a brother, Russell Howard of Lake Katrine, NY and one grandson.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### ■ Wiktor Makarewicz, 78

Wiktor Makarewicz, 78, died on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at his home.

He was born in Plantecka, Poland and came to the United States in 1958 settling in Boston. He was a former resident of Newark before moving here 32 years ago.

Mr. Makarewicz was a machinist for H & H Swiss Screw Products in Hillside for 15 years before retiring in 1985.

He served in the Polish Army during WWII as a paratrooper.

He was a member of Our Lady Czestochova Church.

He is survived by his wife Jozefa Swidzikowski Makarewicz; three sons, Victor T. Makarewicz of Hampstead NH; Zdzislaw Joe Makarewicz of Plainfield and George Makarewicz of South Plainfield; a sister, Lonia Arczuch of Poland and eight grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

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

Warren, Margaret Wilson of Oregon and a brother, Fred McLean of Arizona. Also surviving are ten grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the United States Military Academy Association of Graduates, 698 Mill Rd., West Point, NY 10996-1607.

### ■ John N. (Red) Torsky, Sr., 66

**Former So. Plainfield Police Officer**

John N. (Red) Torsky, Sr., 66 died on Tuesday, Jan. 13 at Cedar Oaks Care Center in South Plainfield.

He was born in New Brunswick and resided in South Plainfield for the last 43 years.

Mr. Torsky was a police officer with the South Plainfield Police Department for 30 years before retiring in 1984.

He is a life member and past president of the PBA Local 100 in South Plainfield.

He was a communicant of Our Lady Czestochova Church.

Mr. Torsky was a peacetime veteran of the US Navy and a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post 243.

He was a member of the Polish National Home and a former member of the Knights of Columbus Council 6203.

He was predeceased by his wife, Terry Sulinski Torsky, who died in 1997.

He is survived by two sons, John Torsky, Jr. of Cooper City, Fla. and Ronald Torsky of Califon; a daughter, Roberta Torsky of South Plainfield and a step daughter, Gail Sulinski of South Plainfield; three brothers, Michael Torsky of Tacoma, Wash., Samuel Torsky and Joseph Schlactun, both of South Plainfield; two sisters, Katherine Breuer of Linden and Nellie Silneck of Lemon Grove, Ca. and seven grandchildren.

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

### ■ Nora (Banfield) Scott, 75

Nora (Banfield) Scott, 75, of Scotch Plains died on Friday, Jan. 16 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

She was born in Bayonne and was a former resident of Plainfield before moving to Scotch Plains 40 years ago.

Mrs. Scott was a customer service representative for the former Franklin State Bank in Scotch Plains for 15 years before retiring in 1984.

She was a member of the Covenant United Methodist Church in Plainfield and member of the Joy Circle at the church. She was a member and past treasurer of STAR FISH in Plainfield.

Surviving is her husband, Frederick J. Scott; a daughter, Patricia Gunderson of South Plainfield; a brother, William Benfield of New Rochelle, NY; two sisters, Rita Benfield of Point Pleasant and Doreen Bremen of Spring Hill, Fla. and two grandchildren.

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

*James W. Conroy  
Funeral Home*

*Serving the Area Since 1949*

**"Because We Care"**

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

**ROBERT HUNTER JR.**  
Owner-Manager  
**756-2800**  
2456 Plainfield Ave.  
South Plainfield

**"Consult the Families We Serve"**



**McCriskin**

**HOME FOR FUNERALS**

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

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

(908) 561-8000



## Franklin Spaghetti Dinner Declared a Huge Success

The delicious aroma of spaghetti wafted through the halls of Franklin Elementary School on the evening of Friday, Jan. 23. The mouth-watering scents hinted at a tantalizing beginning to the school's First Annual Spaghetti Dinner. In celebration of the event the cafeteria was transformed into a colorful Italian restaurant. The tables were bedecked with red and white checked table cloths, balloons and festive lighting added to the fun-filled atmosphere.

The spaghetti was served to the hungry crowd with all the traditional trimmings. One hundred and twenty five tickets were sold in advance. Many more arrived at the door to feast on the Italian meal which was served by fifth grade student's parents. The event was a fund-raiser for the fifth grade class trip to Stokes State Forest. Adding to the evening was a "Gift Garden" where those attending could select from a variety of gifts. The lobby held a large selection of merchandise donated by the out-of-business shop of the same name. Inside the

cafeteria were beautifully displayed gift baskets waiting to be raffled off. The baskets were made up of items and gift certificates from many area merchants. Food for the event was also provided through donations, amongst those who assisted the fund raiser were local businesses; Cafe Piacone, Rodolfo's and Edison's Ferraro 5, located on Inman Ave. The successful event was chaired by Linda Duquette and Jackie Sandoval.



Fourth and fifth grade students of Roosevelt School celebrate Multi-Cultural Day by recreating the process the immigrants took to come to America.

## Patricia Abbott Dedicated to Drama Workshop

*Continued from page 5*

There are over 50 children participating, and in an effort to insure that there are enough speaking parts for every one, Pattie actually writes plays for the children to perform. "I want all of the children to feel good about themselves, and I try to give everyone a line," Pattie states matter-of-factly.

Pattie is also a founding member of the Unlimited Potential Theater Company (UPTCo), an

organization of disabled as well as able-bodied performers who work to educate the general public on the importance of making theater accessible for all audiences and performers. With accessibility considerations in mind, she has a dream for South Plainfield's Summer Drama Workshop. "I would love to see a performance signed for the deaf," she explains. "It would be a difficult undertaking, but it is one of my goals."

While Pattie takes great satisfaction producing, directing and writing, she remains, at heart, an actress. As a member of UPTCo, she has performed locally at Roosevelt Park in Edison and the Villagers Theater in Franklin. For the past eight years, she has also

performed with the New Jersey Renaissance Festival and Kingdom located in Somerset. This year she has been cast as a storyteller and a village performer.

Pattie also brings her passion for theater to the Internet, where she is a section leader for Theater Row on CompuServe's on-line service for E drive on the E Forum. Theater Row is a message board for theater-minded people to log on and share ideas and news.

Along with her theater work, Pattie is a regular contributor to *The Observer*. She called publisher Nancy Grennier to subscribe to the paper and hung up the phone as a newspaper reporter. "I really enjoy my work for *The Observer*," Pattie said. "I love to write, and I am glad that South Plainfield finally has its own newspaper for local news."

Pattie remembers herself as a shy, hesitant girl who found her voice while she held a script in one hand and a scenery paint brush in the other, and she has watched countless other young people undergo the same metamorphosis from insecure observer to confident player, on stage and off. For this reason, she is dedicated to helping to provide this positive experience to as many young people as possible.

"It is important to me to keep the Summer Drama Workshop up and running," she said. "It is a very worthwhile program, and I am committed to it."

## Wayne Grennier Joins Weichert Metuchen Sales Office

James M. Weichert, President, has announced that Wayne Grennier has joined Weichert Realtors' Metuchen office as a sales associate.

Mr. Grennier is a 29-year resident of South Plainfield. "Weichert is the best real estate company in the area," Grennier said. Prior to real estate sales, Mr. Grennier was employed by NBC. He can be reached for real estate transactions at 732-906-8200.



Working toward their caring/sharing try-it, Brownie Troops 228 and 974 of Franklin School celebrated the season by caroling at the Hartwyck Nursing Home of Plainfield. Their session ended with each girl giving a hand-made angel to each resident, which had been donated by the school's Holiday Boutique Committee. The girls and the residents seemed to enjoy their time spent together.

## BOROUGH NOTES

*Continued from page one*

the additional burden on taxpayers of meeting the fiscal needs created by new residential development.

■ An ordinance was passed eliminating all parking restrictions on South Plainfield Ave. between Hamilton Blvd. and Front St.

■ An ordinance was passed to appropriate \$12,000 for the purchase of materials and supplies for refurbishing the PAL building roof. Funds will be appropriated from the developer's improvement fund.

■ The council passed a resolution to lease three new police cars for three years, with a \$1 buyout.

■ Joyce Drew was hired as Teen Night Supervisor to fill the vacancy created by a resignation.

■ The tax bills mailed to property owners last month incorrectly stated, "will be eligible for tax sale after May 11, 1998." The words "All unpaid taxes and sewer" were missing. Revised letters will be mailed by the computer company who made the error.

■ The trailers parked in the lot behind police headquarters will be removed and additional spaces for parking are to be made available.

## Planning Board

■ Degussa won approval for the construction of an additional waste-water tank to service their existing barium titanate process.

■ Patricia Hamm was granted site plan approval by a 6-3 vote to open a day care center on Plainfield Ave.

## Board of Adjustments

■ Statewide Environmental Contractors, Inc. was granted final site plan approval for the storage of containers with conditions.

**Read local sports, events, school happenings, government, etc.**  
in the only newspaper devoted exclusively to South Plainfield—*The Observer*—delivered right to your door.

✓ Yes, I would like home delivery of the SOUTH PLAINFIELD OBSERVER.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**South Plainfield Observer**

For more information call (732) 469-4380.



**Century 21**

Moretti Realty

100 Front Street  
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

**888-221-8919**

South Plainfield's #1  
Broker for two generations

**CUSTOM HOME:** This is a one of a kind flagstone front Cape-Featuring LR w/FP; Spacious Kit w/Dining Area; 3 Bdrm; full 2 car garage; 150 x 100 Lot. Asking \$155,000.00 Adv. 341. Realtor.

Three Bdrm; 3 full bath; ceramic tile entrance foyer; FLR; FDR; EIK; FR that features a custom stone FP and double sliding glass doors that leads to patio & private yard; fin basmt w/dry bar; 2 car garage. Asking \$197,000.00 Adv. 241. Realtor





POLICE REPORT

• On Wednesday, Jan 28 the South Plainfield Police Dept. and Middlesex Co. Narcotic Task Force executed a Search Warrant at 106 Day St. in the Borough. This investigation began about a year ago by the Detective Division began about a year ago. Seized was evidence pertaining to the sale and use of narcotics, as well as a quantity of marijuana with an approximate street value of \$5,000. Randy M. Spencer, age 19, was arrested at the time of the raid. He was charged with possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS),

possession of CDS with intent to distribute, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of CDS with intent to distribute within a school zone. Bail was set at \$40,000. An order to vacate the house was issued by the health officer and it was declared a fire hazard.

• A BMW stolen from Hamilton Blvd. and was later found later at Sylvania Place. Several items were reported missing such as a cellular phone, spare tire and a check book. The owner stated he kept a spare set of keys under the mat of the car.

• Million Dollar Video reported a welcome mat valued at \$100 and a silver ash tray worth \$50 were stolen from the store.

• LaBonbonniere Bake Shop reported that a total of \$935.60 was missing from the store drop safe. It contained the previous days sales. Police questioned employees at the store, however one of the employees has not yet been located.

• Elliott Clark was stopped for a MV violation. He was unable to provide any ID and was arrested. He was later charged with Driving Under a Suspended Licence.

Brownie Troop #14 Holds Ceremonies



John E. Kennedy School Brownie Troop #14 held their Investiture/Bridging Ceremony on Dec. 3 in the Kennedy School multi-purpose room. Eight girls received their Bridging Patches because they were part of the troop as Daisy Girl Scouts last year. These girls are: Danielle Atcachunas, Katie Baldassarre, Lindsay Barton, Frankie Bayak, Tori Baggstrom, Christina Cornelius, Danielle Ranger and Sandy Plettev. Girls who were invested as Brownie Girl Scouts are: Sarah Johnson, Jennifer Disch, Jessica Murtagh, Lisa-Anna Migliore, Molly O'Brien, Nicole Rann and Andrea Vedutis.

Each girl recited the Girl Scout Promise alone to receive her Brownie pin. The girls sang songs and looked into the

"Magic Pond" to see that the Brownie they were looking for was actually "themselves."

Many families, siblings and friends attended the ceremony which was followed by refreshments for all.

Troop #14 also distributed holiday cards at the Marriot Assisted Living in Edison. The girls joined with the third year Brownie Troop and Daisy Troop, also from Kennedy School. The girls sang Christmas carols and presented each resident with a special gift and card. Refreshments were served and a good time was had by all.

Brownie Troop #14 meets alternate Tuesdays at Kennedy School. Troop leaders are Robyn Atcachunas, Diane Ranger and Jenifer Baldassarre.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING WORKS.

Place your "HELP WANTED" or "FOR SALE" ad in the February 19 issue and we'll run it until your position is filled or your item is sold.

Call (732)469-4380 to place your classified ad.

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

Next issue deadline is February 12.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

**TEACHER ASSISTANT** needed for day care center, 2-5:30 M-F. Must be reliable. References required. Call 753-4477 anytime.

**PART TIME TYPESETTER**—for growing newspaper. Must know Pagemaker, call 732-469-4380.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE**, full/part-time. Flexible hours, some eves. weekend hours required. Woodbridge. Light maintenance a plus. 732-750-1440.

FOR SALE

**HANDMADE ROSARIES**—Taking orders for First Communion. 908-769-7735

FURNITURE REFINISHING

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

WANTED

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

South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is sold at the following locations

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

- 7-Eleven, Plainfield Ave.
- B & C Deli, Belmont Ave.
- 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 February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <i>Ground Hog Day</i>	2	3	4	5	6	7
To add your listing to the next calendar, 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			Court 9:30 a.m. Business Advisory Group 6:30 p.m.	Publication of <b>So. Plfd. Observer</b> Taxpayers Advisory Group 7:00 p.m.	GMC Wrestling Tournament Preliminaries Piscataway HS	GMC Wrestling Tournament Piscataway HS
8	9 Council Agenda Meeting 8 p.m. Recreation Comm. 7 p.m.	10 SP Library Bd of Trustees 7:30 p.m. Historical Society 7:30 SP High School Bd. of Health 8:00 p.m. Planning Bd. 8:00 p.m.	11 Environmental Comm 8:00 p.m. Cultural Arts Comm. 8:00 p.m. PAL Court 9:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	12 Council Meeting 8 p.m. Copy Deadline for <b>So. Plfd. Observer</b>	13 AARP Meets at PAL 12:30 p.m.	14 
15	16 Land Management Advisory Committee 7:30 p.m.	17 Board of Education Reg. Meeting 8 p.m. Board of Adjustment 8 p.m.	18 Court 9:30 a.m. Court 7:00 p.m.	19 Publication of <b>So. Plfd. Observer</b>	20	21
22 	23 Council Agenda Meeting 8:00 p.m.	24 Recycling Comm. 8:00 p.m. Planning Board 8:00 p.m.	25 Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. 7:00 p.m. Court 9:30 am 7:00 p.m.	26 Council Meeting 8 p.m. Copy Deadline for <b>So. Plfd. Observer</b>	27	28