

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 1, NO. 12

50 CENTS

FEBRUARY 19, 1998

Future Homemakers Host Senior Luncheon

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield High School's Future Homemakers of America recently traveled to the PAL building to assist in a luncheon for the town's senior citizens. Advisors for the group, Janet Flanagan-Wurtz and Loretta Tansey, arrived on Thursday, Feb. 12 with twenty students who served lunch to the seniors. In attendance at the event were Mayor Dan Gallagher and newly-elected councilman Ray Petronko. The luncheon was catered by K's Catering of South Plainfield.

Entertainment was provided by the Melotones, a six piece band based in Piscataway. The band members are retired and perform throughout the area at nursing homes and senior centers, as well as at Veteran facilities. (See related photos on page 15.)

Students who assisted with the luncheon are Melinda Agostino, Kristin Anderson, Jennifer Basile, Dana Bertrand, Rocco Borja, Heather DiBiase, Leticia Donagan, Linh Duong, LeeAnn Errico, Susan Garfield, Janie Joy, Jessica Linico, Joanna Llerena, Isidra Price, Christina Raimondi, Jennifer Reynolds, Katherine Skoba, Amanda Sterling, Elaine Smith and Judy Wang.



Senior citizens enjoy a luncheon served by the Future Homemakers of America.



Troop 202 Holds Blue and Gold Dinner
Cub Pack 202, Sacred Heart School held their Blue and Gold Dinner on Sunday, Feb. 8. Pictured with Cubmaster Phil Thomas are Kyle Thomas, Devin Ciampi and Mohan Bayona, who received the Parvuli Dei Award, the only badge that is worn on the uniform of both Cub and Boy Scouts.

Explorers Blaze A Trail Into South Plainfield

The Explorers are a young-adult coed branch of the Boy Scouts of America. The Watchung Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America is currently seeking sponsors to establish Exploring posts locally. Exploring is open to ages 14-20. The organization is based on developing a relationship between these young adults and diversified businesses.

Ken Mayti, senior district executive with the Watchung Council, explained that the goal is to match the youth and their special interests with businesses and/or organizations who will share their knowledge and hope.

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BOROUGH NOTES

Council Notes

■ An ordinance was passed to increase commercial and industrial sewer fees. The increase will not affect residents.

■ A resolution was passed authorizing the Borough Administrator to submit application for supplemental funds towards the purchase of a new senior citizens van.

■ Vinnie Buttiglieri reported the actual cost for repaving seven streets in town was \$160,435. The work done last year by Middlesex County was estimated to cost about \$204,000. Buttiglieri also said he has asked the mayor of Piscataway to work jointly on repaving New Brunswick Ave.

■ First Union Bank will be relocating two of their branches within the Borough next month. The branch in Golden Acres Shopping Center will move to Oak Park Mall. The branch on Stelton Road will move to the Middlesex Mall.

■ Several residents from Delaney Court asked the Mayor for a progress report on the home for the physically handicapped located in their neighborhood. The mayor said an addition is under construction and work is progressing. He also said they are negotiating the wording of a proposed agreement with ResCare which will define the use of the home.

■ At the Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meeting held on Feb. 5, Councilman Vinnie Buttiglieri discussed an item the mayor and council would like to see put on the ballot for Democracy Day.

The mayor and council are proposing a 1.4 million buy-out of homes located in the frequently flooded area on and around New Market Ave. The houses could be demolished and the land would serve to contain the floodwaters. After a recent flooding incident, homeowners came to the council and asked for some relief. The council is presently applying for a grant to cover the costs, but the grant money will probably not be enough to cover the entire cost. Buttiglieri said, "This is a perfect item for Democracy Day. If the voters don't want it, all they have to do is vote 'no'."

On Democracy Day, scheduled for March 28, voters are asked to express their views in a non-binding referendum on proposed Borough expenditures.

TAG members felt taxpayer-
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Day Party at VFW

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Sal's/Twin City

Sacred Heart Writes
From the Heart

Schools Celebrate
Valentine's Day

Wrestling

H.S. Seeks Hall of Fame Nominations



By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield High School's Hall of Fame immediately catches the eye of visitors as they enter the main lobby of the school. The well-lit portraits and accompanying engraved plaques that grace the wall fea-

ture a select handful of former students. Their successes in the years preceding graduation led to their nomination and subsequent induction to the Hall of Fame. The hall has a two-fold purpose. Not only does it honor those who have excelled and who exemplify leadership or an outstanding contri-

bution to the world/community, but it also serves as a goal for current and future students. Those who have a place in the Hall of Fame become role models who can inspire and encourage students to set high goals and work towards attaining them, perhaps

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PUBLISHER'S NOTES

Thank You

This issue of the *South Plainfield Observer* is 16 pages, our largest issue to date. We have been publishing the paper for seven months and each issue we are getting more and more support from our readers. This newspaper, dedicated exclusively to South Plainfield, seems to be just what this town needs. We are also increasing our subscriptions, selling more newspapers and our advertising base is growing.

All of these things are necessary for this paper to survive and ultimately become a weekly paper. We want to thank you, because it is you, the readers and advertisers who will sustain this newspaper. We need your support and hope you continue to promote our paper to all your friends.

We also want you to look at the advertisers in this issue and tell them how much you enjoy the paper and that **YOU SAW THEIR ADS IN THE OBSERVER**. Advertising is crucial to the success of the newspaper. If we are to grow into a weekly newspaper, we need advertising. Please look over our ads and make sure when you patronize our advertisers you mention you saw their ads in the *Observer*. If you are in a store that doesn't advertise, tell them they should support the *only* newspaper that covers local news exclusively.

Thanks again for your continued support.

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."

VFW Hosts Valentine's Day Party for Keystone



The VFW Women's Auxiliary held the Annual Valentine's Day Party for the residents of Keystone. The group sang, danced, played musical chairs and refreshments were served. The VFW holds three parties a year for the residents of Keystone, Christmas, Valentine's Day and Halloween.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor;

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the *South Plainfield Observer* for publishing the article in your Jan. 15 issue, "An Actor Among Us—Mr. Joseph Versocki," by Desha Abe, a student at South Plainfield High School, submitted by Mrs. Picora, the teacher/editor of *The Tiger Times*.

It's refreshing to see a student writer from *The Tiger Times* like Ms. Desha Abe. The story she did about me was such a professionally done article. I feel she will someday in the future have a great job in journalism. Thank you again.

JOE VERSOCKI

To the Editor

Here is a quote from Mayor Gallagher's New Years Day speech:

"THERE WILL BE NO MUNICIPAL TAX INCREASE IN SOUTH PLAINFIELD IN 1998 AND I WILL GO ONE BETTER! I SEE NO REASON TO HAVE A TAX INCREASE IN 1999 EITHER. YOU HAVE MY WORD AND THE WORD OF EVERY MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL ON IT!"

Well after reading those inspiring words I could hardly wait for my 1998 tax bill. Lo and

behold, instead of reflecting a decrease in the municipal portion of the bill, it reflected over a ten percent increase. This can't be, I thought. Our Mayor would never make such a statement if it weren't true. So I called the tax office and told them they sent me an incorrect bill and asked them to lower it. Much to my surprise they said the bill was correct and IN FACT THE TEN PERCENT INCREASE was correct.

I urge every South Plainfield taxpayer to compare their '97 first half bill with their '98 first half bill to see if you also got an increase. If you did then maybe you should call Mayor Gallagher and ask him why. After all, you have his word on it

ANTHONY "JAKE" CATALDO

To The Editor

John E. Riley School recently raffled a Family Entertainment Basket, as well as ice skating and movie tickets. The basket included items such as a trivia game, a videotape, movie tickets, ice skating tickets, popcorn, soda, etc. The winner of the basket was Allison Clawans, grade one; the winner of five movie tickets was Michael Sopko, grade two and the win-

ner of five ice skating tickets was Adam Bianchi, grade five. Congratulations to all winners!

Several area business establishments contributed to the success of this basket. The Raffle Committee would like to thank these businesses for their donation to the basket and for giving so generously to the children of the community. Thank to Ciccio Pizza for their donation of a medium pizza. Thanks to Chimney Rock Ice Rink for their donation of ten ice skating tickets. Thanks to Movie City of Brunswick Square for their donation of ten movie tickets.

**RAFFLE COMMITTEE
JOHN E. RILEY SCHOOL**

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Sacred Heart School family, I would like to express our gratitude to you for the publicity you have done for Sacred Heart School.

Yes, with all our hearts, we thank you for your kindness and generosity. May God reward you in the way He knows best.

God's love is so real to me in the gift of wonderful people like you.

SISTER M. CORNELIA, RVM

South Plainfield Observer

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

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 spobserver.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

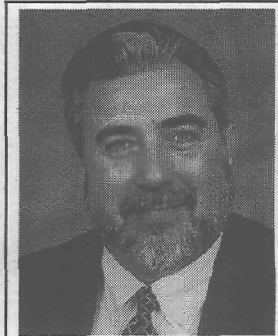
To Submit Photographs:

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

UPCOMING OBSERVER PUBLICATION DATES:

Issue Date	Copy Deadline
March 5	Feb. 26
March 19	Mar. 12
April 2	Mar. 26
April 16	April 9

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



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Rescue Squad Plans
Atlantic City Trip

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad is planning a trip to Atlantic City on Feb. 28. The bus will leave for the Claridge Casino from the Rescue Squad on Plainfield Ave. at 6 p.m. The cost is \$16. and participants will receive a coin return of \$15. The bus returns at 4 a.m. Call (908) 756-2260 for further information.

AARP Hosting 55
Alive Course

AARP Chapter 4144 is hosting a 55 ALIVE Refresher Driving Course for Mature Drivers on March 10 & 11 at Sterling Village in Piscataway. It is an audio-visual course for persons interested in a three year discount on their automobile insurance, which also will remove a two point penalty from a driving record. Two day attendance at the 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. class is required. Please call Mary at (732) 752-3764 for further information or reservations. Please be prepared to leave your name and phone number for a call back if answered by machine.

Ladies Auxiliary of
VFW Post 6763 to
Hold Dinner

The Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Post 6763 on Front St. is planning a meat loaf dinner on Feb. 20 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Live music will be provided. Price for adults is \$6. and children \$2.50. Takeouts are 25 cents extra. For more information please contact the VFW Post at 668-9751.


Rescue Squad
Auxiliary Sponsors
"Western Night"

The Ladies Auxiliary of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad will sponsor a "Western Night" on Saturday, March 14, at the Polish National Home, New Market Ave., starting at 8:00 p.m. Pam and Slim will be your "Western" hosts and will give instructions on line dancing. Tickets are \$10. each. Coffee and cake will be served. A cash bar is available. For tickets, call (908) 561-2311.

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.

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.



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.

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.

Franklin School to
Hold Annual
Auction/Raffle Night

The Franklin Elementary School PTA will be holding their Second Annual Auction/Raffle Night on Saturday, March 21 in the South Plainfield High School Gym. Come and take a chance to win a TV, VCR, patio furniture and much more! Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door. Come out and support Franklin School and have a great night of fun. For more information call Deb at 757-9432 or Kim at 755-7999.

South Plainfield Launches Web Site

South Plainfield Borough is planning to develop an Internet homepage. The project is a joint venture between the Borough, Advanced Business Communications, Inc. (ABC) and Monmouth Internet. ABC, located on South Clinton Avenue, is a telecommunications company and is a business partner with Monmouth Internet to provide Internet access and development. ABC and Monmouth Internet attended the Feb. 9 Council agenda meeting. They explained how they planned to develop the Borough webpage and answered questions from council members about costs, access, e-mail options and who

would be overseeing the overall information going onto the webpage. There will be no cost to Borough taxpayers because ABC plans to finance the development and hosting of the webpage by selling advertising space to Borough businesses. The estimated start up cost is approximately \$3,500 and the page will run at least one year. At the present time there are twelve other municipalities that have webpages. Examples of other webpages were shown to the council to demonstrate how wide ranging a webpage can become. Jack Erhardt, vice president of ABC, explains, "It's good commu-

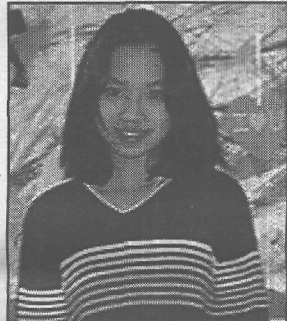
nity relations to bring new technology to the Borough. Businesses will jump at the opportunity to advertise their products and services on the Borough webpage." Michael Rossi, application development manager at ABC and Sgt. Mike Grennier, computer specialist of the South Plainfield Police Department, explained some of the applications planned for the homepage. Borough council meetings, agendas and minutes can be accessed on-line by residents. Public events and scores from the local schools and the recreation department leagues can be posted. Sgt. Grennier stated, "Any fees that the Borough charges for services can be collected over the Internet. Residents can purchase these services, with security, with their credit cards. It's much more convenient to do this on-line from home than to go to the Borough Hall and wait on line. It's also cheaper for the Borough to accept payment in this manner."

Friends of the Library Improve
Resources, Raise Funds

By Eileen Boosmann, President

The Friends of the Library is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to raise funds to enhance our town library through the acquisition of volumes for patrons and conducting programs for residents. With membership at more than 100 Friends, the group sponsors various events throughout the year for all ages. In October children paint and decorate pumpkins and enjoy a morning of music and refreshments. Holiday music and decorations in the library are provided courtesy of the Friends during December. Recent gifts for patrons' use include magazine subscriptions, bestseller titles in large print and on tape, children's books and items for their library, videos and CD-Roms. The Ed Greenfield Book Foundation receives continuous contributions from various fundraisers held throughout the year. Friends may be spotted at any time in the library volunteering in various areas of need.

Upcoming events include a Flea market to be held at the Middle School on April 26 and the annual Book Sale which will be held at the library on May 2. The book sale brings buyers from all over each year looking for bargain books. Spare change is always welcome at the library as the Friends use the funds to purchase items for the Children's Library. Due to the construction at the library, the Giving Gift program is currently suspended. Once the library is up and running again at full capacity, visitors will once again be able to purchase books, tapes and other volumes as donations to the library inventory in memoriam. Meetings of the Friends are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the library. Refreshments are served and all are welcome. Annual membership dues range from \$1.00 to \$7.50 and may be tax deductible. Employer matching funds are available. For information, call the President of the Friends, Eileen Boosmann, at 756-1803.



Riley School fifth grader Karen Estonactoc, won first place in a Spelling Bee sponsored by the Junior Woman's Club.

The South Plainfield Observer							
February 1998							
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
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., Ste 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846, or fax to (732) 805-0815	Land Management Advisory Committee 7:30 pm	Board of Education Reg. Meeting 8 p.m. Board of Adjustment 8 pm	Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	Publication of So. Plfd. Observer	AARP Meeting at PAL Bldg. 12:30	Paint Recycling 8 am-2 pm	
	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	Council Agenda Meeting 8:00 pm	Recycling Comm. 8:00 pm Planning Board 8:00 pm	Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. 7:00 pm Court 9:30 am 7:00 pm	Council Meeting 8 pm Copy Deadline for So. Plfd. Observer			
MARCH	1	2	3	4	5	6	
				Court 9:30 am Business Advisory Group 6:30 pm	Publication of So. Plfd. Observer Taxpayers Advisory Group 7:00 pm		
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm Recreation Comm. 7 pm	SP Library Bd of Trustees 7:30 pm Historical Society 7:30 SP High School Bd. of Health 8:00 pm Planning Bd. 8:00 pm	Environmental Comm 8:00 pm Cultural Arts Comm. 8:00 pm PAL Court 9:30 am & 7:00 pm	Council Meeting 8 pm Copy Deadline for So. Plfd. Observer			

Spotlight on Sal's Spirit Shop and Twin City Pharmacy

By Patricia Abbott

This week's *Observer* Spotlight turns to South Plainfield merchant, Sal Severini, Jr. Business is booming at Sal's Spirit Shoppe, a much better "boom" than the last one people saw here! The Park Avenue liquor store and bar was the site of a memorable 1995 gas explosion that leveled the entire strip mall. While Sal's Spirit Shoppe is new, the liquor license was purchased from Imperial Liquors, a tenant in the mall at the time of the explosion.

After working for Statewide Environmental Contractors for 20 years, Sal one day decided to make a change in his life. He knew he wanted to stay in South Plainfield and with the reconstruction of the mall, Sal saw his opportunity. He opened Sal's Spirit Shoppe in April of last year. "I like being around people and this is a people business," Sal smiled as he chatted with his regulars at the bar. Sal's wife Sandy says of his new career, "It suits him perfectly!" Working alongside Sal in running the business is his father, also named Sal. Said the younger Severini of his father, "I couldn't do it without him!" Another family member working with Sal is his new bartender, who happens to be his sister-in-law's sister. At one time he also had a few cousins working in the shop.

Sal is a life-long resident of South Plainfield. He attended Riley Elementary School and is a 1977 graduate of South Plainfield High School, where he was active in both wrestling and football. He and Sandy have two children, a son, Guy, 11 and a daughter, Gina, 9. When not waiting on customers and tending bar, Sal invests his spare time working in youth sports programs. For the past 19 years he has been a coach with Pop Warner football teams. His father has been coaching for



Sal Severini

28 years. Sal has been a baseball coach for 8 years, as well. In addition to the coaching duties, he is in his third year as a member of the South Plainfield Lions Club.

Twin City Pharmacy

Across the street from Sal's is Twin City Pharmacy where Sal's wife, Sandy, is employed as a manager. Twin City Pharmacy is also a family affair. The pharmacy is owned by Sandy's father Ralph Cassio, now retired, and her uncle Tom Cassio. The Cassio family are long time residents of South Plainfield. Sandy attended Riley Elementary School and is a 1979 graduate of South Plainfield High School. She said that she and her sisters literally grew up in the store.

The family tradition doesn't stop there. Sandy's uncle and brother-in-law, Bill Ashnault, are pharmacists and cousin Tom Jr. joins Sandy as a manager. All four of Tom Cassio's sons worked in the store at some point in their lives. Coincidentally, the pharmacy started out in the original strip mall where Sal's Spirit Shoppe is now located. Twin City Pharmacy resided there from 1971 until 1980 when it moved to its present location across the street.

Sacred Heart Chinese Auction Sold Out

Sacred Heart School HSA will hold its 27th Annual Chinese Auction with the theme 'Beach Party '98' on April 24. The tickets went on sale Jan. 12 and sold out within one week. Last year the HSA's first Chinese Auction was such a tremendous success and included a large variety of interesting and valuable items that tickets for this year's event are in great demand.

Chairperson Darlene Pinto was pleased, but not surprised, at the overwhelming response. "My phone was ringing off the hook, and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in their bikinis on April 24," said Pinto.

Along with Mrs. Pinto's organization, much time and energy is needed by HSA board members, along with many other parent and student volunteers, to make an event of this kind a success. Everyone is looking forward to April 24 for an exciting and enjoyable evening.

Recycling Center Sets Holiday Hours

The Recycling Center on Kenneth Ave. will be closed on Tuesday, Feb. 24, in celebration of the Washington's Birthday holiday. It will be open instead on Wednesday, Feb. 25, from noon to 7:00 p.m.

Regular winter hours at the Recycling Center are Tuesdays, noon to 7 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The holidays will not affect the regular winter hours at the Yard Waste Site: Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Used paint is accepted for recycling at the Recycling Center on the third Saturday of each month. Paint will be accepted Saturday, Feb. 21 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For updates call the Hotline: 226-7620.

Junior Baseball Club 'Little Miss Baseball' Contest

The Junior Baseball Club will be accepting nominations for 'Little Miss Baseball 1998' from Feb. 15 through Feb. 27. Girls must be between the ages of eight and eleven years old and residents of South Plainfield. To nominate someone, you can call 754-2090 and leave a name and phone number on the answer machine. Finalists will be chosen Feb. 28 and be notified by phone.

'Little Miss Baseball' is chosen by the "penny-a-vote" system. Boxes, with finalists' pictures, will be placed in Ciccio's, Quick Chek and B & C Deli starting on March 4th and will remain there until March 29th. They will then be removed and the money counted for the winner and runners-up to be determined. The winner will be notified by March 31st. Get out and vote for our '1998 Little Miss Baseball'. If you have any questions, please call Cindy Eichler at 769-4047.

INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

By Briggs Longbothum
and Eric Tillman



Welcome back readers. We're starting this week's column with a tip for those of you who may have a computer, BUT not a new one! Maybe it's an oldie, but still a goodie like one of mine. I still keep a 286 around and use it every now and then! I like it a lot and just can't part with it. It helps me keep progress in perspective.

I'm often asked about software for some pretty old machines that are still working fine and haven't yet been sent to pasture. Like those 5 1/4 inch floppies for instance. Remember them, they really are floppy. I came across a resource I just have to pass along.

TIP: Recycled Software, Inc. in Las Vegas is the place to call. They can provide bug-free, old software with manuals! Try them at 1-800-851-2425 or 1-702-655-5662. Or their website at <http://members.aol.com/recycledsw>. They boast over 2,500 titles for IBM compatible machines in stock! The only other source I can think of would be through computer clubs or computer shows. Good luck and if you have any other sources, please let me know too!

I've had a humbling experience since last issue. I ran out of space on my hard drive and had neglected to leave myself enough "elbow" room for maneuvering, as in disk housekeeping. The lesson to preach here is to ALWAYS leave yourself at least 100 megabytes to work with at the end of your hard disk. In DOS or Windows 3.1, you can create a large bogus file that can later be deleted thus giving back that needed space. In Windows 95, the "Recycle Bin" with its variable size attribute can readily serve such a need. Of course you can always go ahead and start deleting, moving, and compressing files to free up a drive, but that is slow and very tedious. The important thing is not to neglect your housekeeping duties and end up being boxed in as I was! This should be an ongoing process, important along with your other chores (remember scandisk and defrag, etc!).

Also since last issue, I've had two close friends sign on with the Comcast "@home" network. That's the high-speed cable modem internet access I've mentioned lately. They are both very impressed and are enjoying the beans out of their web surfing. Of course now they're calling me

with more questions about the internet, browsers, etc. But that's ok with me, they are having fun and learning (slowly) too! The one question that I do hear over and over is "what is a browser anyway, and what about a home page?"

The "browser" is a program which runs on your machine and it is your driver's seat for the internet or worldwide web. Microsoft's "Internet Explorer" (MSIE) and Netscape's "Navigator" are the two most common browsers out there now. Many others exist, but these two are the biggies! The browser is what presents the internet to you visually and in multimedia with the help of "plug-ins" or helper programs to give you an enhanced internet experience. The language of the internet is, you recall, HTML or hyper text markup language. Last week's closing "shttp" actually stands for "secure" http, both are standardized protocols for transporting html over the net. HTML tells your browser how to present text, graphics, sounds, etc. to you through your computer. For all intents and purposes, your browser is your means to navigate around the internet.

The "homepage" is the main page or starting page of a particular website. When referring to a browser's homepage, you generally call it the browser's "start page." It is what you see when you start up your browser. The browser homepage and startpage are not always the same though! For instance, Netscape's homepage is at <http://home.netscape.com>, but on my machine, a personalized or customized startpage appears first. That's because I first want to see just the tools and features I will be using for my session on the net. You don't necessarily need or want all the gobbledygook that Netscape offers on their homepage. Also, my customized page loads and starts up faster! I should also point out that you can have more than one browser on your computer and that more than one can be open at the same time! More about that another time.

There is a lot to talk about when it comes to one function of your browser, that electronic mail or email. Before we get into that, let me suggest that for those who are new to the internet, there are

Continued on page 15

The Elks Tale

The South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298 recently forwarded scholarship applications from four SPHS seniors to the Elks National Foundation. These applications are for four-year scholarships to be awarded by the Elks National Foundation. This year the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will grant over \$10 million in scholarships to worthy applicants from across the country, second only to the U.S. government in the total amount of monies awarded. The Elks are proud to invest in the education of America's youth, our future leaders.

Old Flags Accepted

Please drop off your tattered and torn American flags for proper disposal at the South Plainfield Elks Lodge on New Market Ave. Flags will be collected here and retired in an official ceremony in Woodbridge on February 22 at the Woodbridge Elks Lodge.

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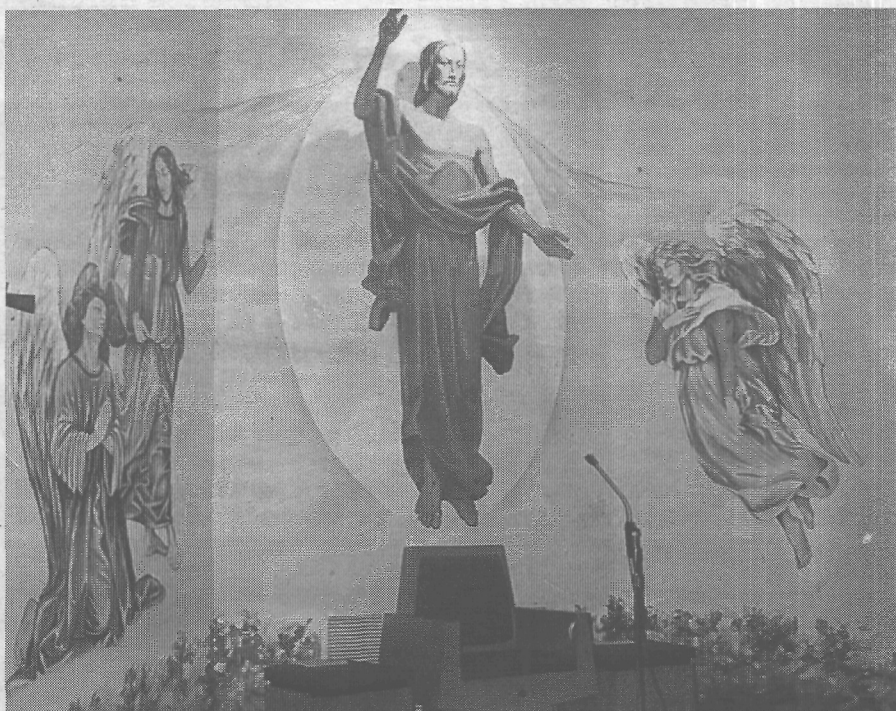
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Artist Creates Murals at Our Lady of Czestochowa

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church on Hamilton Blvd. is undergoing artistic embellishment. Father John Skwara, Pastor, has enlisted the creative talents of Andrzej Praszczuk to enhance the interior of the church with original murals. With the eye and the heart of his Polish heritage, Father John has long desired to add "old-world charm" to the thoroughly modern architecture of

Our Lady of Czestochowa. The solution to the problem of incorporating the two themes eluded Father John until he saw the work of Andrzej.

After completing his Master Degree at the Wroclaw, Poland Academy of Fine Arts, Andrzej owned an art gallery and produced high quality ceramic sculptures, fine art paintings and stained glass expressions. His



portfolio demonstrates a wide range of theme and technique during the past 30 years. Master Praszczuk worked throughout central Europe as a designer and artist for the ornamentation and restoration of ancient castles and churches. Praszczuk emigrated to the United States in 1995. A major project in New Jersey was the design and execution of 14 huge stained glass windows with Biblical themes for the Salvatorian Monastery in Verona. He may be

reached at his Livingston studio at (973) 994-3933.

Here in South Plainfield, Andrzej has chosen to center on the theme of the Resurrection. Along the two back walls of Our Lady of Czestochowa he has completed a duet of hand-painted friezes which depict the 'Crown of Thorns' evolving into a barren tree extending horizontally into blossoms, which release a butterfly as a symbol of rebirth. The backdrop of the front altar has

always held the centerpiece of a nine foot wooden sculpture of The Risen Christ. Master Praszczuk has begun the painting of three Baroque Angels flanking the sculpture to herald renewal.

Father John invites everyone to visit Our Lady of Czestochowa to view the work in progress. Services are daily at 8:00 a.m., Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and High Mass Sunday at 11:00 a.m. The Observer will be updating this project as the artistry continues.



Business Association Seeks Golf Outing Sponsors

The South Plainfield Business Association is gearing up for their Annual Golf outing. They are currently seeking sponsors to help make the event a success.

A variety of sponsors are being sought. A Gold Corporate sponsor is \$1000 and includes a foursome, a flag and a tee. A Silver

Corporate sponsorship is \$500 and includes a twosome and a tee. Corporate underwriters are needed to sponsor breakfast, the beverage cart or hospitality bar.

Additional sponsorships are for flags on the green, 1st and 18th is \$175, the 2nd through the 17th flag is \$125. A tee

sponsor is \$100. To become a sponsor or for more information contact Maria Elena Jennette at 561-3890, fax-908-561-6992.

Twice Is Nice Now Accepting Consignments For Spring

"Twice Is Nice" located on Front St. is now accepting clothing on consignment for their spring line. They also accepting crafts on consignment. Women and children's clothing in all sizes and styles is being accepted. The clothes must be clean, pressed and on hangers.

Twice Is Nice's hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday 10-4. Consignments are by appointment only. If you are interested in consigning, please call for an appointment, (908) 561-6151.

Franklin School to Hold Auction/Raffle Night

The Franklin Elementary School PTA will be holding their Second Annual Auction/Raffle Night on Saturday, March 21 in the South Plainfield High School Gym. Come and take a chance to win a TV, VCR, patio furniture and much more!

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door. Come out and support Franklin School and have a great night of fun. For more information call Deb at 757-9432 or Kim at 755-7999.

Notable Mention

Mazzeo Inducted Into National Honor Society

Gregory J. Mazzeo, son of Donald and Linda Mazzeo, has recently been inducted into the Beta Epsilon Chapter of Delta Epsilon Sigma, National Scholastic Honor Society at Marywood University in Scranton, PA. A graduate of Sacred Heart School and St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen, Greg is a Junior majoring in Broadcast Communications.

He hosts a weekly "oldies" radio show on Marywood's campus radio station. In addition, Greg has written and produced two sci-fi dramas for TVM, the University's television station where he is also the Art Director.

Billingslea Makes Deans List

Deborah Billingslea made the Dean's List for the spring and fall semester at East Stroudsburg University. Deborah is a senior at East Stroudsburg University, majoring in elementary education. She is the daughter of Ned and Susan Billingslea.

Community Pool Early Bird Registration Underway

The South Plainfield Pool is accepting registration for the 1998 season. If you register before April 15 you can save up to \$30.

	On or Before April 15	After April 15
Family	\$220	\$250
Family w/full-time child care	\$275	\$305
Husband and Wife	\$175	\$195
Individual	\$120	\$140
Individual	\$60	\$70
Single Parent Family	\$190	\$220
Senior Citizen	\$45	\$50
Family, Nonresident	\$440	\$440
Individual Nonresident	\$220	\$220

The pool will open May 30 for Saturdays, Sundays and weekday evenings. Starting June 20 it will be open on weekdays from noon-8:30 p.m.

The South Plainfield Recreation Department has a brochure available explaining the rules, fees, hours, a referral rebate program and other information. You can obtain more information at the PAL Building on Maple Ave., or call (908) 226-7713.

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SCHOOL DAYS: What's Happening?

The Battle of the Homerooms

By Patricia Abbott

Battles raged at the Middle School gym on Friday night, Feb. 6. Parents and classmates supported the athletes with cheers as the students raced through a variety of events including relay races and basket shooting. Teacher and DJ John Lymanski provided inspirational music for the event. Master ceremonies for the event was Jim Makowski. Seated onstage were a panel of judges rating everything from the athletes to the volume of the supporters. Judging the games were Joy Czaplinski, Judy Diaz, Melanie Dombrowski, Barbara Florio, Joanne Haus and Sue Slinger. The school mascot, a Tiger, Krystal McCullen, was also on hand to encourage the teams.

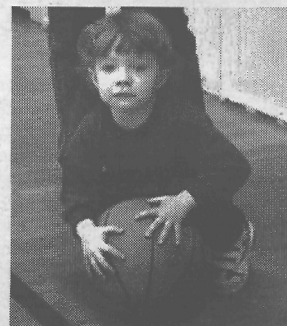
Admission was \$1.00 and the money raised will help support the *Tiger Gold* program which rewards students for helping classmates or acts of kindness witnessed by Middle School staff. Winning homerooms were 6A,



7A and 8B. The *Tiger Gold* program, sponsored by the PTA, was established four years ago. The

goal is social development. Students are rewarded for positive behavior and are given *Tiger Gold*

certificates when they are "caught being good." The certificates may be redeemed for various prizes.



Michael Whalen getting an early start on his battle of the homerooms. He is the little brother of Katie Whalen, a sixth grade Middle School student.



Top, Kerry Mackey and Kaitlin Bundy, 6th grade; Jamie Morris and Christine Meleo, 7th grade.



Judges at intermission, dancing to YMCA.

Stefanie Waingraw Reports...

Notes from the Middle School

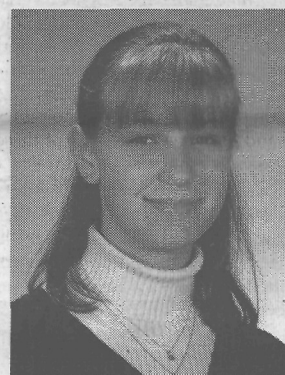
Hello, my name is Stefanie Waingraw. This is my second time reporting from the Middle School. For this edition of the *Observer* I am going to let you in on all of the great activities and events going on here at school.

School Spirit Week

The first week of February was School Spirit Week. Different activities were featured each day. On Monday, Feb. 2, many students and teachers wore team sweatshirts. Tuesday was Crazy Hat Day. That was followed by Tie Day on Wednesday, and Twins' Day on Thursday. Students and staff were allowed to dress alike. The week ended with a pep rally Friday afternoon and "The Battle of the Classes" on Friday evening.

Magazine Sale

On Feb. 11, each grade was given an assembly for a magazine sale. There will be all sorts of magazines to subscribe to and great prizes for students who sold items. The last day of the sale will be the Feb. 23.



Stefanie Waingraw

Battle of the Classes

Friday, Feb. 6 was the date for the "Battle of the Classes", a fundraiser sponsored by the PTA. Proceeds benefited *Tiger Gold*. The homerooms picked students to represent them in various relay events, poster contests, and general noise making. The event was well attended. The winning teams were grade 8 Team B, grade 7 Team A, and grade 6 Team A.

Other School Events

The Middle School Parents attended a PTA meeting on Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. On the 10th and 11th the school had a Book Fair. Every student was given the opportunity to go down to the lobby where the fair was set up and select a book. Believe it or not, we're all getting ready for the yearbook! On the 12th we had group pictures taken for the end of the school year yearbook. We saw our sixth, seventh and eighth graders with their sweet hearts at the Valentine's Dance, which was held on Friday the 13th.

Well, all of you eighth graders out there, we are almost finished with life at the South Plainfield Middle School. You know what that means? It's on to the high school! And that also means we have to start thinking about what courses we would like to take next year. On Feb. 23 we get to do our high school scheduling.

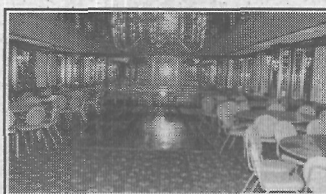
Well that's it's for now. I hoped you enjoyed my article. Next month's reporter is Tammy Dombrowski.



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SCHOOL DAYS: What's Happening?

Sacred Heart Students Speak:

Art by John Glavasich

By Dana M. Boyer, Kaila C. Randolph and Lauren A. Campos



Sacred Heart School of South Plainfield has been very busy with various activities, especially during Catholic Schools Week — a week dedicated to showing the advantages and importance of Catholic schools.

Name That Tune

Sacred Heart is fortunate enough to have Mr. Paul Daloia, a talented music teacher, who is part of the Gladys Bryant Orchestra. On Friday, Jan. 30, the last day of Catholic Schools Week, the band played popular songs such as, "Wannabe" by the Spice Girls, "How Do I Live" by Leann Rhimes, and "Tubthumping" by Chumbawumba. The students enjoyed singing along and dancing to the music. The band concluded this enthusiastic event with Bob Marley's "One Love".

Safety is the Key

New Jersey State Trooper Ruane, has been visiting monthly to educate eighth grade students about the need to reinforce safety rules. The last discussion pertained to winter safety precautions and the NJ Poster Contest, in which Sacred Heart participates annually. Mrs. Loretta McCabe, art teacher, is in charge of helping the students with ideas and drawings. Last year many Sacred Heart participants were given an honorable mention, and Heather Pezzello, now an eighth grader, made it to the finals.

Poetry in the Making

Recently, Mrs. Michelle Geene's eighth grade English classes have been discussing poems by famous authors and composing their own. They memorized well known poems such as: "Hope is the Thing With Feathers" by Emily Dickinson, "In Flander's Fields" by John D. McCrae, and "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost. In addition, they chose other poems to memorize, recite and dramatize in front of their classmates. In March, the students will be required to assemble an anthology of poems including some original and other favorites from popular authors.

New Kids on the Stage

Beginning this school year, there has been a new activity available to the seventh and eighth graders. A drama club has been formed with Miss Michelle Perry as its coordinator. The club made its debut during the annual Christmas program when they acted out the Nativity. Currently, they are preparing monologues and dialogues. The best of these will be performed at the Middlesex Mall on March 21 during the Catholic School Art Show. Everyone is excited and hopes that the Drama Club will continue to be a huge success.

We hope you will join us for further updates as we "Write from the Heart".



"Write from the Heart" co-authors (left to right) Dana Boyer, Kaila Randolph and Lauren Campos

Roosevelt Reads for the Gold

Roosevelt School students will be going for the GOLD! In keeping with the Olympic spirit, students at Roosevelt School were challenged to read for gold, silver or bronze medals. They recently did reports on specific con-

tinents as part of their study for a multi-cultural program. They are reading books to acquire Olympic medals for the continent they studied.

Fifty minutes of reading will realize a bronze medal. If they read for 100 minutes they get a silver medal. To get a gold medal they must read for 150 minutes.

Students and their parents are keeping a reading record of the minutes read and parents sign when each reading is completed. Each grade will represent a continent as points are scored toward bronze, silver and gold. The continents are: kindergarten, Africa; first grade, Australia; second grade, Asia; third grade, Europe; fourth grade, North America and fifth grade, South America.

Riley Announces Special Assembly

There will be a special assembly program for Riley School students on Feb. 23. Ronald McDonald Show Character Building Self-Esteem will be held in the gym for K-2 at 9:30 a.m. and Pre K and 3-5 at 2:00 p.m. Afternoon kindergarten children are welcome to attend the assembly program.



On Tuesday, Jan. 20, the grade six trumpets and flutes from the South Plainfield Middle School went to New York City to view the musical instrument collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The guide was Mrs. Cronheim, and the chaperones were Mrs. Picciottoli and Mrs. Lynch. The trip was organized by Mr. Sturm. During their visit the students saw approximately 700 instruments.

Kindness and Justice Challenge at Riley School

Riley School children are meeting the student Kindness and Justice (KJ) Challenge during the weeks leading up to Valentine's Day, Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays or Presidents' Day and during Black History Month. Students may do as many acts of kindness and justice as they can. This will instill character education and a willingness to be of service to others. Having children plan and record their acts and reflect and discuss what they have learned provides a unique learning opportunity that cuts across many of the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

"An Act of Kindness" is when you do something nice for some-

one or for the community, especially someone you don't know. You could pick up a piece of trash, be nice to someone who doesn't have many friends or give someone a compliment. You could help someone carry their groceries, shovel snow, assist a senior citizen or help someone with their homework.

An "Act of Justice" is when you stand up for what's right, even when it's not popular. It can be telling someone not to litter or steal or cheat or turning yourself in for something you did wrong. It can be making peace in a situation. It can be a letter to speak out on what's just. It can be defending someone from a derogatory remark, even if you don't know them.

The challenge offers a sense of participating in a national movement to highlighting the positive character of students and children. Those children who perform the most acts of kindness and justice in each classroom will be awarded certificates certifying them as outstanding leaders in South Plainfield.

Students Write Letters to Olympic Athletes

A request from Olympic Skating champion, Bonnie Blair, prompted Franklin School students to write letters and poems to our 1998 Olympic athletes. These Olympic contenders work hard on a daily basis for many years in preparation for the games. Their goal is to represent our country and hopefully provide us with a glorious victory. A victory is not theirs alone but belongs to all those who live in this country. They give Americans yet another reason to be proud of our nation. The student's letter writing campaign was their way of showing support and telling the athletes how proud we are and how much their extraditing efforts are appreciated.

Essay Contest for 4th & 5th Grade Students at Riley School

The fourth and fifth grade students have accepted McDonald's challenge to "Drive Through to the 21st Century." Students write what they think the world will be like in the next century, the changes they will see and the experiences they will have during the next century.

The essays were handed to teachers by Feb. 17. The deadline

for individual class winner's essay is due at McDonald's (Oak Tree Rd.) on March 2.

There will be one winner per class, selected by the teachers. One school winner will receive a \$10 McDonald's gift certificate, selected by McDonald's and the grand prize winner will be picked from all the elementary schools will receive a \$100 savings bond.



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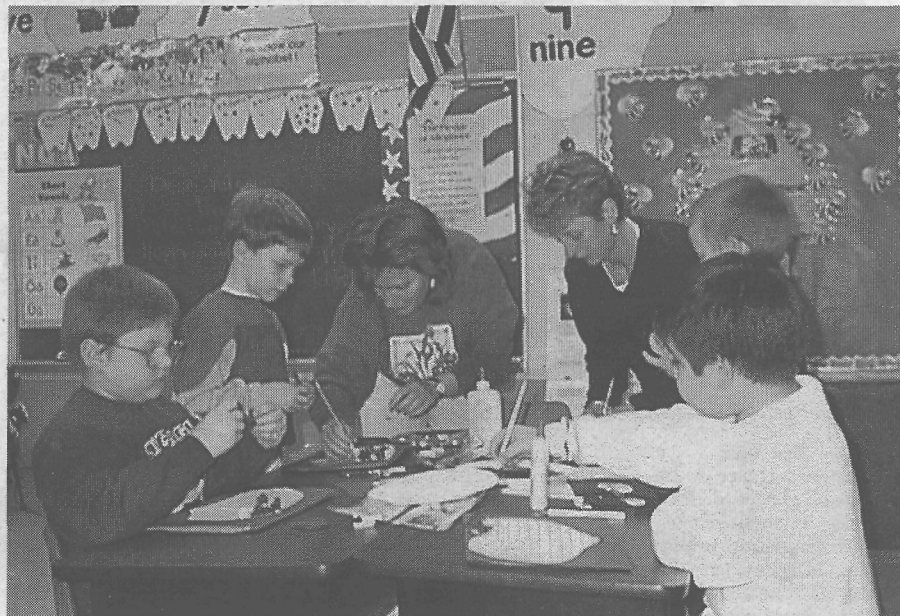
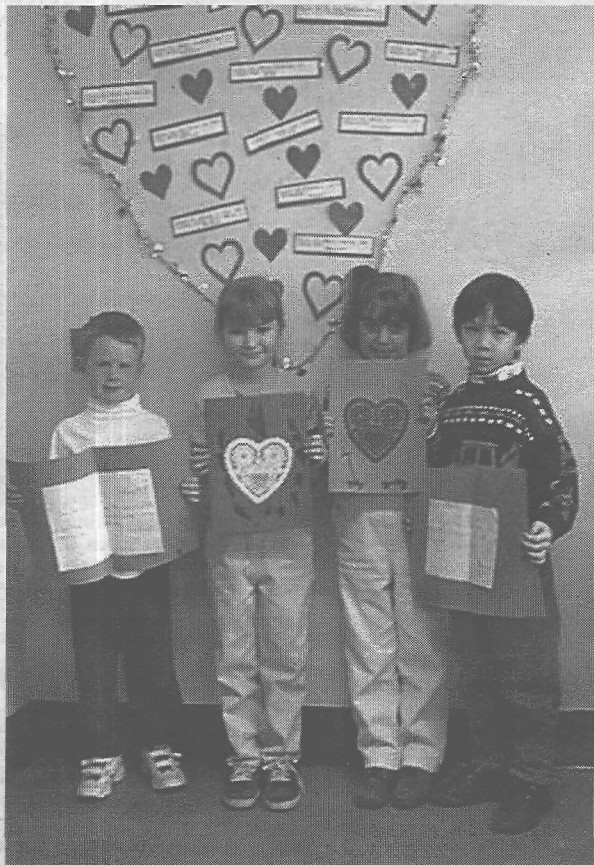
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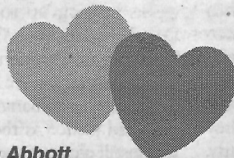
Students Share Their Hearts with Vets



First grade Riley School students create Valentines for veterans. Pictured above left to right are Michael Eustice, Mark Sprenger, Jennifer Kelly, Stephen Kelly and Luis Dubon.

Franklin School students Robbie Hoffman, Jaime Giannakis, Gina Curcio and Thang Nguyen

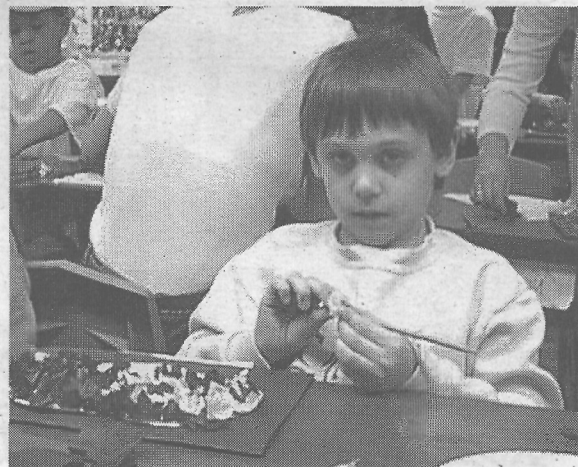
Photos by Patricia Abbott



Riley School first grader Nora Stasio and her mom, Joan Stasio



Kathy Thomas and Stevie Stark



Riley student Rocco Severini

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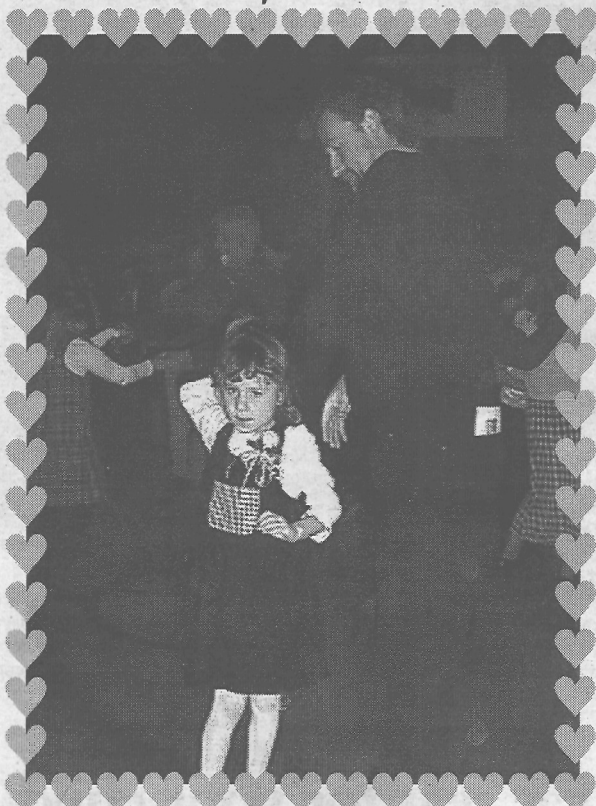
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Daddy's Girls....



Riley School hosted their annual Valentine's Day SWEETHEART DANCE, a father-daughter event on Friday evening, Feb. 13. The gaily decorated, packed gym held tiny misses dressed up in their finest accompanied by their favorite dad.

A DJ provided music for the girls and their fathers to Macarena, Twist and Waltz the night away. Corsages, makeup, heels and grown up hairdos as well as Polaroid photos with dad and the mandatory punch and goodies helped to make the evening a huge success. A mother-son dance is scheduled for March.



Roosevelt School Celebrates Valentine's Day With 'Breakfast with a Loved One'

When Mr. Barbieri proposed the idea of having a special Valentine's Day program called 'Breakfast With a Loved One' in 1986, he thought the idea would grow each year. What better way to celebrate this special day set aside to show "love" than being with loved ones. He proposed that around February 14 there would be a special program in which children could bring their loved ones to school and enjoy breakfast. Coffee, orange juice, fruit salad and bagels with cream cheese or jelly would be the menu for the special breakfast.

In 1986, one hundred and thirteen parents attended Roosevelt School's first 'Breakfast With a Loved One.' Thirteen years later, what started out as a quiet little

breakfast with children and their loved ones has grown to an annual event with close to 900 people attending.

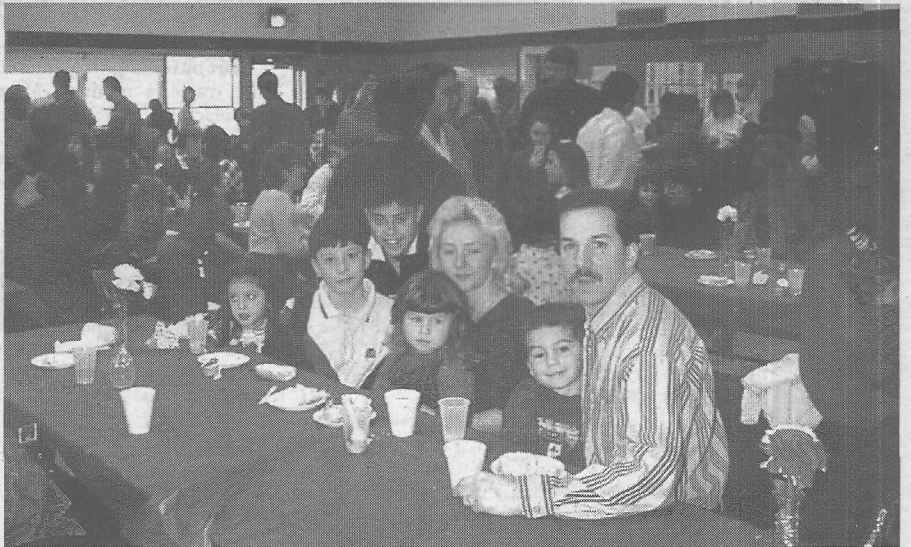
"When I first proposed the idea to the PTA subsidizing the program, there were some people who thought it would never last," said Mr. Barbieri. "Did I really think that people would come at 7:00 a.m. (7:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.) to school?" To further make the day special, parents and loved ones were invited to visit their children's class room and perhaps leave a note. Each year the program has grown. Last year over 875 replied that they would be attending the breakfast.

The success of the program is due to the hard work and efforts of the teachers and the PTA, ac-

cording to Mr. Barbieri. The children love to come to school and have breakfast with their loved ones and their teachers. The PTA transforms the cafeteria into a visual paradise. Large red hearts decorate the walls of the cafeteria with individual pictures of the students. The students enjoy showing their parents their pictures. The tables are decorated with red and white tablecloths and flowers.

The preparation for the program starts with securing supplies. The day of the breakfast, helpers arrive at 5:30 a.m. to cut bagels and prepare to receive the guests.

The PTA helpers, especially Mrs. Ann Morgan who purchased the supplies, should be thanked for their hard work in making this day so special!



Taylor and Frank Stefanelli, David Gerena, Gina, Cindy, Philip and Bob Longo enjoy breakfast with their loved ones.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

The library will be closed to the public on Tuesday, February 24. This is being done to allow staff members to be further trained in the use of the computer system. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but it will better enable us to serve the public in the future.

Due to the closing, we will again have an abbreviated schedule of storytimes next week. The Monday program for children ages 3-6 starts at 6:30 PM. The Thursday programs start at 11 a.m. (for children age 18 mos.-3 yrs.) and 1:30 p.m. (for children age 3-6), respectively. The Tuesday program (10:15 a.m. for children age 3-6) will return the following week.

On the subject of storytimes, we welcome groups from nursery schools or other children's groups. All we ask is that you call ahead so we can know how many youngsters to expect. You can also schedule special storytimes outside of our usual schedule. For more information, talk to Judy Fischer, the children's librarian.

The Friends of the Library will meet on Tuesday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the library. Everyone is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Speaking of the Friends, they are aiding us in updating our list of local organizations and community groups, which is available to the public. We would appreciate your help in this effort. Please contact our director, Sundra Fenn at 754-7885 if you'd like your group included. Please provide the name of your organization, leader, contact person, address, phone number and date, time and location of meetings.

We're in a turnaround situation regarding two of our audio/visual circuit collections. The CD Circuit is between groups at the moment and is unavailable. The Video Circuit will be in the same situation starting Monday. New selections from circuits will be

Rescue Squad Reports on January Calls

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad responded to 114 calls in January, including 90 emergencies, 19 motor vehicle accidents, two transportations, one community service request and one mutual aid request.

The volunteers spend nearly 260 crew hours answering the January calls.

If you are interested in joining the rescue squad, call (908) 753-2343 or stop by the building on Plainfield Ave.

back in circulation ASAP.

About a year ago, we instituted a new roster of fines and charges (including the infamous video fee). One of those that has not been enforced is the 25 cent charge for not rewinding tapes. Well, the amnesty is over. We will now be charging that fee, so please be sure to rewind those tapes before you return them. It's less of a hassle for everyone if you do.

Finally, the Library Board of Trustees has formally adopted a policy for use of our Internet terminal by the public. We hope to have it up and running very soon. We'll let you know the details in a future column.

That just about wraps it up for this issue. As always, we'd like to hear questions and comments. Feel free to pass them along in person, or call us at (908) 754-7885. Thanks very much.

Franklin School Celebrates "FIESTA"



Vincente Sanchez and Matthew Moates

"FIESTA," a story about Mexico's successful battle with the French and their independence, was brought to life here in South Plainfield. The story is from the reading book of Franklin School second grade students. The children enthusiastically celebrated the Mexican Day of Independence a bit early with a retelling of the story as well as dressing in colorful sombreros, vests, necklaces and maracas, all made by the students. The actual celebration is May 5. Each reading class had a different job; one group performed the Mexican hat dance, another read the story and one group gave a mini-lesson in Spanish vocabulary. The highlight of the morning was a Mexican meal of tacos and dessert donated by South Plainfield Taco Bell restaurant and its manager. After their meal it was time for another Mexican tradition, pinatas. Parents of the students provided pinatas and all the goodies inside.



Vincente Sanchez and Danielle Dembia

Crime Prevention Tips...

How to select the best car seat for your child

By Officer Joe Papa
South Plainfield Police Dept.

Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death and injury for American children, ranking ahead of all other types of accidents, and claim more lives than any childhood disease. Trauma from automobile accidents is also a major cause of epilepsy and paraplegia in children. In fact, the American Academy of Pediatrics has stated that the trauma suffered by children riding unprotected in cars involved in accidents is the major cause of death and serious injury threatening children today. It is for this reason that all 50 states and the District of Columbia have passed child restraint usage laws. During a sudden stop, swerve, or crash, all occupants of a motor vehicle need protection from impact with the car's interior. They also need to be restrained to prevent ejection from the vehicle itself. If unrestrained, infants and children are thrown around the vehicle like flying missiles. In a 30-mph crash, a child may be thrown forward with a force equal to 20 times his or her own weight. That's like falling from a three-story building!

Young passengers are most helpless. They are dangerously exposed to serious head injuries because they have disproportionately larger heads and softer, underdeveloped bones. It should be remembered that children are not small adults. Under identical situations, a young child is much more likely to be injured than an adult. Each year between 600-700 passengers under age five are killed and more than 50,000 are injured as a result of vehicle collisions and sudden stops. Many

adults believe that they can protect children while riding in a vehicle by holding them on their laps.

Safety experts call this the "child crusher" position. Actually, a parent or other adult increases both the probability and degree of injury to a child in a crash with this practice. In vehicle crashes—even at low speeds—the forces generated are such that even strong adults cannot restrain or shield a child being held in their lap. The child is thrown forward into a dashboard or setback area and is then crushed between that surface and the unrestrained adult's body.

Start by reading your automobile owner's manual. Many manufacturers have specific instructions or require special equipment for installing child safety seats. The manual will indicate if you will need "extras" such as a locking clip that secures the vehicle safety belt around the child safety seat or an accessory belt for fitting child seats in particular seating positions. If your child is old enough to help you select the seat, then take this opportunity to ask him or her to help choose. If the child can be involved in the purchase decision, they will be more likely to enjoy using the seat.

Select a child safety seat that is easy to use and convenient so that you will use it every time you transport your child. Have your child sit in several seats and try them out. The seat should fit your child's weight and height and should be comfortable. Try installing the seat in your car to be certain that it fits and can be tightly secured. Most stores will allow you to examine different models. They include:

- **Infant** — These seats are designed for babies weighing up to 20 pounds (generally 9-12 months of age).
- **Convertible** — These seats can be used for infants and toddlers. Generally they are used for children up to age four (about 40 lbs).
- **Booster** — These seats are intended for older children. They are recommended for children

weighing about 40-60 lbs.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one out of every three child safety seats is not used correctly. Be sure to read the manufacturer's instructions before you place the seat in your car.

The child safety seat must be anchored as tightly as possible with the vehicle's lap belt to insure its safe performance in a crash or sudden stop. The vehicle lap belt must be threaded properly through the frame of the child safety seat as the manufacturer specifies.

Caution! Whenever possible place a child seat in the back seat of a car, or middle seat of a van or station wagon. Avoid using the front seat, particularly when your vehicle is equipped with airbags.

NOTE: Modern continuous loop shoulder/lap belts allow you to move back and forth to reach or adjust the vehicle controls. However, a child safety seat that is held with this type of belt system will also slip and move in the vehicle. A locking clip must be used to lock the belt and tightly secure the child safety seat.

After securing the child safety seat to the vehicle, it is equally

important to properly secure the child in the seat. All straps must be tightly anchored to the child safety seat. The safety seat straps must also be adjusted to the child's body for snugness. There should be no slack between the straps and the child.

Key Points to Remember

- The best safety seat is the one that is suitable and comfortable for your child's age and size, that can be securely installed in your vehicle, and that you will use each and every time your child rides in a motor vehicle.
- Buckle up yourself. An unrestrained adult can be thrown into other passengers and cause serious or even fatal injuries. Your children need you alive and well.
- Most motor vehicle collisions and injuries occur at low speeds and close to home.
- Infants should be transported only in a rear facing infant or convertible safety seat.
- Pull all straps and belts tight. Loose or sloppy belts may contribute to injury in a crash.
- Check for hot buckles and metal frames on your child's car seat during the warm weather months.

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Grant School Reunion Search

We are looking for eighth grade graduates from Grant School in South Plainfield during the years of 1938-1942. These are the years Dr. Herman Estrin taught these students, and he is planning a reunion on May 9.

Anyone who graduated during any of the above years, or knows someone who did, please drop a note to "Grant School Reunion," P.O. Box 11, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Further information will be sent to you.

Irish Dancers Perform at Suburban Woman's Club

Several members of the Peterson School of Irish Dancers will perform at the Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield on Thursday, March 5th at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Road.

The dancers appearing will be five girls ranging in ages nine through 17. All have competed in regional competitions and four have danced in the World Competition held in Ireland. The Peterson School offers classes in many towns in Central Jersey, including Edison, Bound Brook and West Orange.

The Peterson Irish Dancers will be appearing at Carnegie Hall with Irish tenor Frank Patterson.

In an ongoing campaign to fight illiteracy, The Suburban Woman's Club has pledged to contribute books, videotapes and other media to libraries and schools. A contribution of 151 books and three videos have been delivered to the South Plainfield Public Library. Collection and contributions will continue for several years.

The local Suburban Woman's Club will also co-host a meeting of the Creative arts/Performing Program which will be held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Berkeley Heights on Feb. 24.

Jonathan Geffner & Friends' Puppet Show Slated

Bring your entire family and all your friends together for this memorable event! Laugh your cares away while you join in the fun of this truly entertaining comedian and his very silly friends.

Jonathan Geffner is a renowned ventriloquist with a cast of whimsical puppet partners. He has enchanted audiences of all ages and sizes throughout the United States at schools, theaters, festivals and various other venues. Jonathan has appeared on nationally seen television programs including *Late Night*, *Hour Maga-*

Columbiettes Council 6203 Celebrate First Anniversary

The Columbiettes Council 6203 celebrated its first anniversary Sunday, Jan. 25, at the 10:30 a.m. mass at Sacred Heart Church, with the Reverend Michael A. McGuire, council chaplain, officiating.

A celebration brunch attended by 50 members and guests followed at Jack O'Connor's Restaurant in Bridgewater.

Following the invocation by Father McGuire, an anniversary tribute was read by Grace Libby, council secretary, who served as Mistress of Ceremonies.

Among the honored guests in attendance were Sandra Bohinski, supreme financial secretary; Marie Enourato, supreme sentinel; Barbara Ann Lucarelli, state president; Babe Fabe, state secretary; Rose Marie Callahan, state treasurer; Sally Kennedy, district deputy; Barbara Lasek, instituting district deputy; Al Musmanno, worthy past Grand Knight and Harry Sandin, worthy Grand Knight.

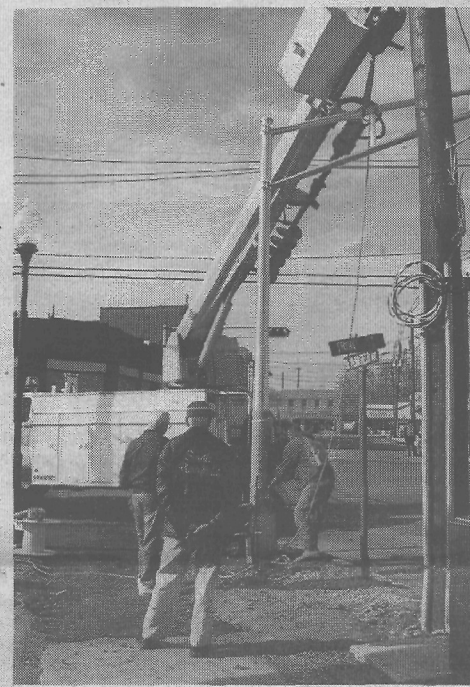
The anniversary committee was headed by Mary Ann Tennenbaum, council vice president.

Free Blood Pressure Screening

The South Plainfield Health Department will conduct a free blood pressure screening on March 5 at the A&P Supermarket on Oak Tree Ave., and on March 24 at the P.A.L. Building on Maple Ave. Both screenings will be held from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon.

High blood pressure is a SILENT KILLER! You can have high blood pressure and not know it...there are often no symptoms or discomfort. Uncontrolled high blood pressure can cause heart disease, stroke and kidney failure.

No appointments are necessary. For more information, call the Health Department at 226-7630.



Workers from Pantaleo Electric Company in Freehold install the new traffic lights in the front of Vails Hardware Store, at the intersection of South Plainfield Ave. and Front Street. These improvements are part of the Downtown Revitalization Project which is funded through grants.

Adult School Has Space Available

The South Plainfield Adult School has space available in upcoming classes. These classes are open to everyone, regardless of residence. To register for any of

the following classes or for further information please call (908) 754-4620 ext. 213 or 214.

Spanish—Beginning, and Spanish—Intermediate, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings starting on March 3; **French—Beginning**, on Wednesday evenings starting on March 4; and **Italian Beginning**, starting on Saturday morning, March 7. The instructor is Larry Pergola.

Tennis Classes for the beginner, intermediate and advanced adult player will begin on Saturday morning, March 14. The instructor is Charlie DeNicola.

Computer Hair Imaging—Styles on Video "Try on" a new hairstyle through computer imaging. This class will take place on Monday evening, March 2.

Saturday Scene Volleyball Classes (ages 8-11 years and 12-16 years) will begin on Feb. 28. The instructor is Alan Schacter.

Tennis Classes for children at the beginning, lower intermediate

and advanced levels will begin on March 14. The instructor will be Charlie DeNicola. **Dance Classes** for children 6-8 years old and 9-11 years old will be offered in the high school auditorium beginning March 7. The instructor is Taulei McPherson. **Guitar Classes** will be offered to children in grades 3-5 and 6-8 and **Piano Classes** for grades K-2, 3-5 and 6-8 will commence on March 7. The instructors are the staff of Music in the Present Tense.

Feigley's Holds Tryouts

Does your child flip on the furniture? Well, let them really FLIP...at Feigley's Gymnastics. Team tryouts are being held on Saturday, Feb. 28 at 1:00 p.m. Every child will be given a written evaluation and will also receive a free class! To reserve your space call 908-561-8888.

Montage Ski Trip Announced

The Recreation Department is running a ski trip to Montage on Sunday, March 15th.

The trip is open to all residents and their guests. The bus will leave from the P.A.L. parking lot at 5:30 a.m. and return at approximately 7:00 p.m. This trip is open to residents of all ages, however, children under 14 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

The cost for the trip includes transportation and is as follows: lift ticket only, \$37; lift ticket and equipment, \$49; learn to ski package, \$47. Nonresidents add \$5 to the above costs.

For more information on this trip or to register, contact the Recreation office located in the P.A.L. building on Maple Ave., or call (908) 226-7713. In addition to regular office hours, the Recreation Office will be open from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 17th and Monday, March 2nd for people wishing to register in the evening.

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Youth Recreation Basketball

The South Plainfield Recreation Commission's Youth Basketball program has 51 teams taking part (Ages 7-8 D-League; ages 9-10 C-League; ages 11-12 B-League and ages 13-14 A-League). Over 400 boys and girls participate in the program. Games are played at the Middle School and P.A.L. Building every Saturday.

A-League Standings

Team	Won	Loss
St. Johns	8	1
Connecticut	1	1
Notre Dame	6	1
Seton Hall	5	3
Rutgers	4	4
Georgetown	3	5
U.C.L.A.	3	6
Duke	1	8
No. Carolina	0	9

A-League Scores

Team	Score
Connecticut	59
Georgetown	41
Seaton Hall	Cancelled
Notre Dame	Cancelled
St. John	49
No. Carolina	47
(St. John) Matt Nol, 6; Aaron Parks, 18; David Zebrowski, 7. (NC) Ken Wiczedrek, 18 and Mike Tudor, 7.	
U.C.L.A.	27
Duke	16
(Duke) Chris Cassio, 8; Matthew Grego, 4; Jesse Cortese, 4. (UCLA) Paul Gross, 8; Chris Catalfamo, 5; Joe Constante, 4 and Chris Fortunka, 4.	
Rutgers—Bye	

A-League Standings

Team	Won	Loss
Virginia	10	0
Pittsburg	8	1
Kentucky	7	2
Michigan	7	3
Princeton	6	4
UNLV	5	5
Miami	4	6
Arizona	4	6
Penn State	4	6
Syracuse	2	8
Boston College	1	9
Indiana	1	9

A-League Scores

Team	Score
Virginia	37
Michigan	18
(Mich) Joe Smalley, 6; James Ales, 4; Melissa Scotto, 4. (Vir) Andre Schoot, 8; Christine Strani, 16.	
Princeton	34
UNLV	14
(UNLV) David Acevedo, 4; Jason Basile, 4. (Prin) Kyle Razimir, 8; Brian DeStefano, 8 and Stephen	

Janiszak, 6.	
Kentucky	29
Indiana	28
(Ken) Philip DeRosa, 8; Amkit Patel, 6; Michael Allocco, 6. (Ind) Jessa Jones, 16 and Daniel Pollin, 8.	
Miami	26
Syracuse	20
(Syr) Jared Dembia, 12. (Mia) Eddi Kania, 8, Gary Houston, 6; Steve Soble, 4 and Robert Hoffman, 4.	
Penn State	33
Boston College	31
(Penn) Chris Czaplinski, 11; Alan Dummett, 6 and Jim Hearn, 6. (Bos) Michael Salerno, 11; Ryan Decker, 8 and Jeff Smith, 8.	
Pittsburg	39
Arizona	6
(Ari) Justin Toth, 4. (Pit) James Plate, 14; Andrew Cupido, 8 and Sean Keane, 6.	

C-League Standings

Team	Won	Loss
Mavricks	10	0
Lakers	9	1
Nuggets	9	1
Trail Blazers	8	2
Spurs	7	2
Raptors	5	5
Kings	5	5
Rockets	4	6
Jazz	4	6
Suns	3	7
Sonics	3	7
Grizzlies	1	8
Clippers	1	9
Warriors	0	10

C-League Scores

Team	Score
Nuggets	43
Clippers	26
(Nug) Nicholas Jefferys, 13; Nick Cesare, 10 and Bret Morris, 6. (Clip) Robbie Strani, 16 and Dane Miyasato, 4.	
Lakers	27
Trail Blazers	17
(Trail) Chris Bakazan, 10 and Ryan Kenny, 3. (Lak) William Merkler, 18; Danny Piwowar, 6 and Katie Kelliher, 3.	
Sonics	25
Warriors	19
(Son) Thomas Whalen, 12; Preet Dhaliwal, 8 and Keith Dezmin, 5. (War) Dough Dietzold, 5; Charlie Kazimir, 4 and Kevin Garham, 4.	
Kings	26
Grizzlies	21
(Gri) David Elchler, 7; Joe Teller, 6; Nick Grego, 4 and Marshal Pattel, 4. (Kin) Mike Piazza, 11 and Christopher Bojars, 10.	
Spurs	35
Suns	20

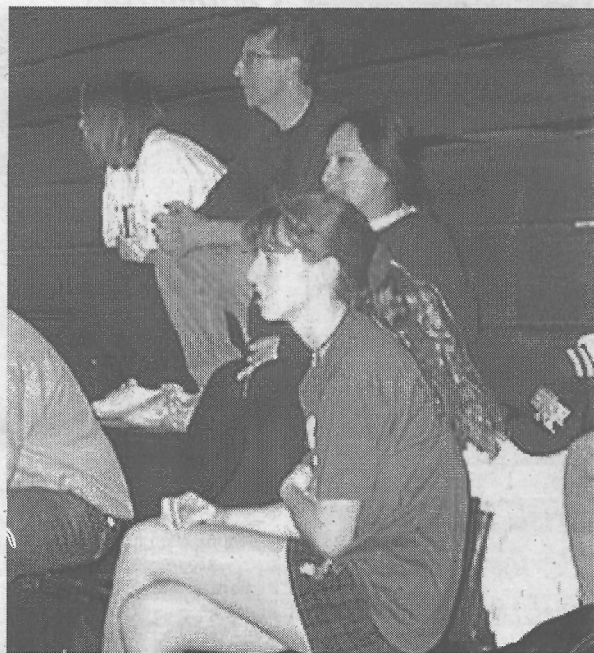
(Sun) Allan Mazurak, 10 and Vincent Genova, 6. (Spurs) Chris McKnight, 8; Billy Daly, 8; James Charneco, 7; Chris Wheatley, 4 and Joe DeFalco, 4.	
Rockets	44
Raptors	22
(Rap) Zachary Gray, 11; Dip Patel, 6 and Lacey Santone, 5. (Roc) Michael Downes, 18; Andrew Miller, 10; Kate Morgan, 4; Mat Fabino, 4 and Stever Lindgreen, 4.	
Mavricks	34
Jazz	13
(Mav) Kyle Lendach, 12; Brian Cantor, 11; Galen Johnston, 7 and Danielle Arndt, 4. (Jazz) Jonathon Lazar, 4 and Michael Richard, 3.	

D-League Standings

Team	Won	Loss
Pacers	10	0
Bulls	9	1
Hornets	7	3
Hawks	6	3
Sixers	6	3
Bullets	5	4
Magic	5	4
Pistons	4	5
Celtics	3	6
Nets	2	7
Knicks	2	7
Cavliers	1	8
Bucks	0	9

D-League Scores

Team	Score
Magic	26
Celtics	10
(Mag) Nick Baldassarre, 14 and Kyle Darr, 4. (Cel) Brad Martin, 8.	
Hornets	44
Bucks	14
(Bucs) Trevor Rastelli, 8 and Samantha Horvath, 4. (Hor) Scott Hunterton, 12; Brandon Ullom, 8; Danny McCreesh, 6 and Joseph Tiurise, 6.	
Bulls	34
Cavaliers	11
(Bul) Nicholas Desimone, 12; Chris Pollin, 10 and Brian Wiczkowski, 6. (Cav) Anthony Moretti, 8.	
Sixers	24
Nets	18
(Six) Greg Watts, 8; Steven Richard, 8 and Matthew Seider, 6. (Nets) Brendon O'Shea, 7.	
Pacers	31
Pistons	12
(Pis) Danny Espin, 8. (Pacs) Bennie Gibson, 14; Kevin Cantor, 9 and Timmy Smith, 8.	
Bullets	30
Hawks	28
(Haw) Michael Stallone, 20 and Chris Stallone, 8. (Bul) Donna Garcia, 12; Andrew Gray, 8 Mark Wagner, 4 and Vinnie Padula, 4.	



Patty Reach, a member of the high school division of recreation's indoor soccer, waits to play. Games are played at the middle school on Sunday after noons.

Wildcat Softball Camp Planned

The Wildcat General Softball Camp will be held at South Plainfield High School in the gymnasium on March 13 from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

The camp will provide a positive softball experience by improving athlete's skills and knowledge of the game. The camp will cover warm up and conditioning, field-

ing, base running, sliding and diving, throwing and receiving, out-field play and much more.

The camp is open to fourth through eighth grade girls. The cost of the camp is \$15.00 per camper. For more information and registration, call Jody D'Amato at (732) 382-6275.

S.P. Eagles Plan Registration

Registration for the Pop Warner Football Eagles will take place on March 6 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and March 7 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the football fieldhouse located on Kenneth Ave. in the Borough.

Tackle football is open for ages 7-14; flag football for ages 5-6 and cheerleading is open for ages 5 through 13.

For more information, please call Gary Prendergast, president/commissioner at 753-6344.



The Sacred Heart Lady Hawks junior varsity team made it to the finals in the Father Syko/Father McGuire tournament, held at Sacred Heart School the week of Feb. 1-8. We will have results of both the boys and girls competition in the next issue of the Observer. The boys competing this week and their finals are on Sunday, Feb. 22.

Adult Recreation Basketball

Name	W	L	Pct.
1. Petriello Landscaping	9	0	.1000
2. Roadrunners	7	2	.777
3. Harry's Liquors	6	3	.666
4. Roughriders	2	7	.222
5. Bricklayers	2	7	.222
6. Degussa	1	8	.111

Finals Feb. 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School

Douglas Klein, D.D.S.



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South Plainfield, N.J. 07080

Diana Malecki Bowls 644 Series

After 20 years of bowling, Diana Malecki bowled her first 600 series in the South Plainfield Mixed Bowling League on Feb. 1. She bowled a 237, 185 and a 222 totaling 644.

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SPORTS SCHEDULE

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

Thurs., 19	2nd Round GMC Tournament
Sat., Feb. 21	NJSIAA Girls Sectional
Tues., Feb 24	Semi-Finals GMC Tournament
Thurs., Feb 26	Finals GMC Tournament
Sat., Feb 28	NJSIAA Boys Sectionals
Sat., March 7	NJSIAA Finals

BOYS & GIRLS WINTER TRACK

Sun., Feb. 22 Championships at Princeton

JUNIOR VARSITY & VARSITY WRESTLING

Tues., Feb 27	Districts	Home	6:00
Sat., Feb 28	Districts	Home	10:00 a.m.
Tues., March 3	Regions	Away	

Wrestling

Middle School Wrestlers Win League Title

By Bob Hunter

The Middle School Wrestling Team won the New Jersey Grade School Wrestling League Championship going undefeated in league action 9-0.

League members include North Hunterdon, Randolph, Hopatcong, Delaware Valley, Phillipsburg, Hunterdon Central, Warren Hills, Voorhees and Kittatiny. This league is made up of some of the top wrestling programs in the state of New Jersey. First year Head Coach Kevin McCann and assistant coach Jamie Larsen have been at a disadvantage all year giving up three

weight classes for the entire season. But that did not stop them from winning. "This team has worked hard all season long. The tough practices and conditioning paid off for them," noted Coach McCann. The Tigers defeated North Hunterdon 33-30, Randolph 46-18, Hopatcong 46-28, Delaware Valley 40-30, Hunterdon Central 34-33, Warren Hills 48-24, Voorhees 38-13, Phillipsburg 32-27 and Kittatiny 35-29.

With all the marquee teams in this league the most satisfying win for South Plainfield wrestling fans was the win over Phillipsburg. This team has beaten the Tigers year after year. The Tigers started out strong dominating early and taking a 32-9 lead before forfeiting the final three weight class.

Tigers Win Team Title at Berkeley Heights Tournament

The Middle School continued their winning ways by claiming the Berkeley Heights PAL Invitational Tournament Team Championship. South Plainfield was the big winner with Delaware Valley second, Roselle Park third, host Berkeley Heights fourth, Somerville fifth, North Plainfield sixth, Union seventh and Nutley eighth.

Winning individual titles for the Tigers were Jim Curcio, 87; Matt Anderson, 92; Rick Ringel, 98 and Scott Doerr, 118.

Second place finishers were Ryan Mack, 67; Billy Weaver, 72; Dan DeAndrea, 82 and Steven Johnston, 104.

Third place finishes went to Danny Bayak, 62; Glenn Gross, 111 and Mike Buteas, 125.

Novice Wrestlers Outstanding at Madison Tournament

The South Plainfield Recreation wrestlers who entered the Madison Novice Tournament were very impressive, claiming four first place medals and a second place finish.

Novice tournaments are designed to give the first and second year wrestler experience. Claiming titles for South Plainfield in the Tot's Division were John Wylam and Elizabeth Martin. In the Bamtam Division, Tim Gaughan and Danny Pompilio also won titles. In his first tournament and match of his career Nick Heilmann finished second. Also winning matches but not placing was Michael Jakubik.

Tigers Win At GMCT

The Tigers needed a win in the final bout of the GMCT and Colin Hunter came through for them. Hunter beat Old Bridge's Mike Smith 10-2 and South Plainfield won the team championship by 2½ points.

Hunter was one of three Tigers who won individual titles. Tommy Doerr, a senior, won the 112-pound title and earned his 100th career victory and his third straight GMCT title. Chris Johnston, a 135 pound senior, won with a pin at 1:30.

Tigers Second In League Tournament

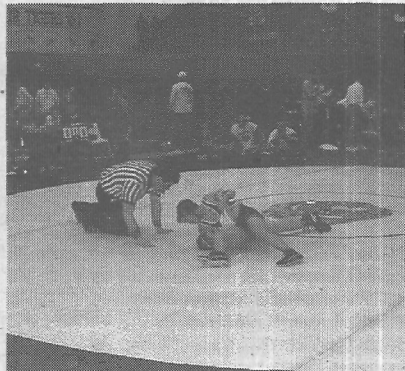
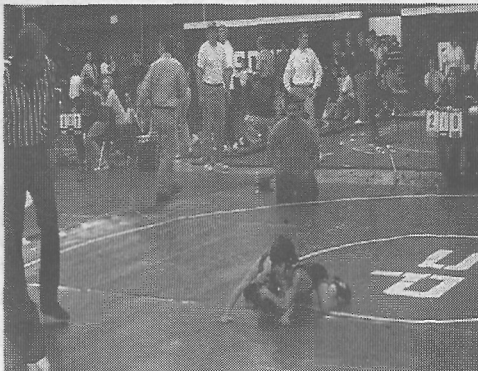
Wrestling without a full team in a team tournament finally caught up with the Tigers. They came up eleven points short in claiming team title honors. The Tigers had one champion of the day in Matt Anderson winning the 90 pound title. The Tigers had five second place finishes in Dan DeAndrea, 80; Jim Curcio, 85; Rick Ringle, 95; Steve Johnston, 107 and Glenn Gross, 107. Kyle Stoeckel won his consolation final for third place. "We were right in it," noted McCann, "If a couple of matches went the other way we were in position to win but it didn't happen." Giving up three weight classes did not help the cause, but they managed second place only eleven points back.

Tigers Dominate Central Jersey

The South Plainfield Recreation wrestler's will not to be outdone by the High School and Middle School wrestler. They have posted a 10-0 mark with two matches remaining on the schedule.

The Tigers have been dominant in league action and wins over North Hunterdon 60-24, Union 75-3, Berkeley Heights 90-4, Roselle Park 54-27, Cranford 68-16, Westfield 70-18, Middlesex 42-27, Delaware Valley 76-015, Flemington 62-24 and they edged Plainfield 37-36 in the toughest match of the season. If the Junior Tigers defeat the Voorhees and North Plainfield it will secure another Central Jersey League Championship and a possible undefeated season. It would be the first time in history of South Plainfield wrestling that the recreation team the Middle School team and the High School all went undefeated during the regular season.

The Rec JV team is also undefeated with a 5-0 record, noted coach George D'Alessandro. The younger guys have been making great progress and should help next year. There is enough talent to reload the gun for another run at a Central Jersey title.



24th Annual Invitational Tournament the Best Over 1,000 Wrestlers from Six Divisions Participate

By Bob Hunter

There was another great weekend of wrestling at the 24th Annual South Plainfield Invitational Wrestling Tournament held Feb. 14 and 15. This wrestling classic is still the best tournament in the state, drawing over 1,000 competitors from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. The tournament is known for its efficiency. It runs smooth and starts on time every year. "From weigh-ins, to charts, to medal ceremonies, this tournament is first class," noted Cecelia Bogart, whose son Mark wrestles for North Hunterdon. "We come to this tournament every year because of the level of competition that is represented here." And competition is what this year's tournament had.

South Plainfield had another banner year winning twenty seven medals in all. The Tigers claimed seven champions and had three second place finishers, ten third place winners and seven fourth place finishers.

Seven Champions

Patrick Hunter, (48) PeeWee won his title by winning four matches. As the top seed, Hunter won his opening match over Doug McRae of Mendham/Chester 6-3. In the quarter final round he defeated Sean Kane of Kenilworth 6-0 and in the semi-finals he defeated Jimmy Huff of Dunellen by major decision 10-2. In the finals Hunter held on with a close 8-7 win over Anthony Terranova of Middlesex for the only title of the day.

Jim Curcio, Jr. (83) won his final by disqualification when he was slammed in the second period. With the score tied 2-2, Jay Nettuno of Pascack Hills was warned for the second time when

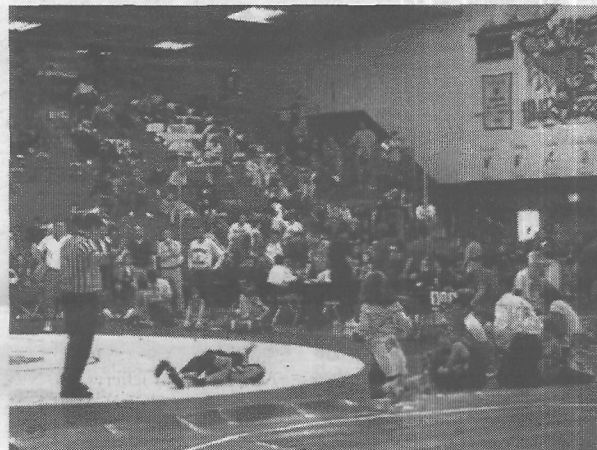
he did not bring his opponent safely to the mat. He again slammed Curcio and the referee stopped the match when Curcio was unable to continue due to the slam. The safety of the wrestler is the most important job of an official, and it is his job to make sure no one gets hurt.

Steven Johnston, (105) Intermediate won his first two matches

through the tournament.

Tigers Win Medals

Second place finishes went to Bill Ashnault, Bantom (56). Ashnault lost close 4-3 decision to A.J. Harbar of Jersey Lighting. Danny DeAndrea (77) lost a 6-0 decision to John Avola of Pascack Hills and Rickey Ringle lost to Mark Crisuiilli of Red



of the day and went on to win his title by scoring a 15-2 major decision over Jason Herliffy of Hillsborough. Johnston won his first two matches by fall.

Matt Anderson, (89) Intermediate, claimed his title by winning by fall in the Quarter final round and by decision 8-2 in the semi-finals. Anderson came back for the first time since he broke his wrist and won a close 4-2 OT decision over Eric Beitz of Flemington.

South Plainfield wrestlers Rich Gebauer (104), Dave Butrico (114) and Matt Gatti (121) each won three matches to claim their titles. Gebauer had two major decisions and a fall and Butrico and Gatti both pinned their way

Hawks 2-0 in OT. Rocco Petrilli (86) decisioned Leon Ritacco of Belleville 2-0. Jimmy Conroy (55) Midget won his consolation match with a 9-0 major decision over Joe Castiglione of Toms River. Dany Bayak (58) won his consolation match over team mate Mike Kinder 4-0. Kevin Crilley (95) decisioned Joe Platt of Hackettstown 4-3. Ryan Mack (65) Junior pinned Steve Krammer of Westfield at 0:37. Kyle Stoeckel (102) Intermediate, decisioned Lamar Collins of Plainfield 6-1. Joe DeAndrea (108) pinned Mike Veres of Rad Hawks at 0:59.

Fourth Place winners were Nick Dorey, Frank Stefanelli, Mike Kinder, Billy Poadula, Guy Severini, Joe DeBaise and Glen Gross.

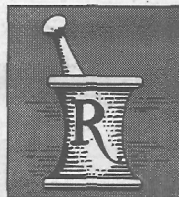
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Obituaries

■ Celestina (Villani) Antini, 103

Celestina (Villani) Antini, 103, died on Friday, Jan. 30 at The Abbott Manor for Convalescents Home.

Mrs. Antini was born in the Province of Foggia, Italy and came to the US in 1910 settling in Plainfield. She resided for a brief time in White Plains, NY before moving back to Plainfield where she resided until 1975 when she moved to South Plainfield. Mrs. Antini had resided in South Plainfield for 17 years before settling in Plainfield six years ago.

She was a communicant of St. Bernard's Church of Plainfield.

Her husband, Vincent Antini, died in 1968.

Surviving are a daughter, Mary A. Lammers of South Plainfield; three sons, Celestine "Sal" Antini of Middlesex; William Antini of Bridgewater and Anthony Antini of North Plainfield. Also surviving are seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

■ Mary R. Butrico, 87

Mary R. Butrico, 87, of South Plainfield died on Saturday, Feb. 7 at Muhlenberg Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born in New York City and has resided in South Plainfield for the last 72 years.

Mrs. Butrico was a seamstress for the former Roth Dress Company in South Plainfield for 30 years before retiring in 1973. She was a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union Local 149 in Plainfield.

She was a member of Our Lady Czestochowa Church and a member of the Altar Rosary Society, and was a long time worker for the Feast of St. Anthony.

She was predeceased by her husband, Joseph Butrico, Sr. who died in 1979; her son, Joseph Butrico Jr. who died in 1996; her sister, Josephine Butrico and her brother, James Butrico.

She is survived by a daughter, Dorothy Paradiso of South Plainfield; two sisters, Theresa DiSesso and Grace Scala, both of South Plainfield; three brothers, John and William Butrico, both of South Plainfield and Carmen Butrico of Whitehouse and four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

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

■ Stella M. (Kopiczak) Famularo, 86

Stella M. (Kopiczak) Famularo, 86, died on Saturday, Feb. 7 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Wilkes Barre, Pa., Mrs.

Famularo had resided in Brooklyn, NY for two years and Jersey City for five years before moving to South Plainfield in 1940.

She was co-owner with her late husband of the former Tom & Stella's Deli in South Plainfield for 20 years before retiring in 1970.

She was a communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church where she was a founding member of the Altar Rosary Society. She was also a life member of the South Plainfield Polish National Home and was also one of the cooks for Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church in South Plainfield where she made perogies.

Her husband, Thomas Famularo, died in 1978. She was also predeceased by her sister, Nora Diamond.

Surviving are one daughter, Rose Marie Hayeck of South Plainfield and her brother, Stanley Kopiczak of Nantocik, Pa. Also surviving are three granddaughters and three great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations may be made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2506 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

■ Elvira Rita (DelleDonne) Ferrante, 77

Elvira Rita (DelleDonne) Ferrante, 77, of Brick (formerly of South Plainfield) died on Thursday, Feb. 5 at her home.

She was born in Hoboken and was a former resident of South Plainfield and Edison before moving to Brick 23 years ago.

Mrs. Ferrante was a member of the Italian American Club of North Plainfield.

She is survived by her husband, Alex A. Ferrante; three daughters, Patricia Santoro of South Plainfield, Lynn Miller of Brielle, Donna Buldo of Cape Coral, Fla.; two brothers, Charles DelleDonne of Toms River; Arthur DelleDonne of North Plainfield; a sister, Eleanor Schroeder of Brick and six grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

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

■ Grace M. Jespersen Harris, 59

Grace M. Jespersen Harris, 59, died on Tuesday, Feb. 3 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born in Brooklyn, NY and had resided in Hoboken and Bayonne before moving to South Plainfield in 1969.

She had worked for 9½ years as a clerical worker for the former Standard Plastics Co. of South Plainfield. Before that, she had worked for New York Telephone in New York City for several years.

She was a member of the Polish National Home in South Plainfield.

Surviving are a step daughter, Kathryn Thomas of Lincoln Park; her father, John Jespersen of Hoboken and her dear friends Marie K. and Paul Cibelli of South Plainfield and three step grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations to the Hemodialysis Unit of Muhlenberg Regional Center, Park and Randolph Ave., Plainfield, NJ 07060 would be appreciated.

■ Eileen M. (Frazee) Harrison, 43

Eileen M. (Frazee) Harrison, 43, died on Thursday, Jan. 29 at Rahway Hospital in Rahway.

Born in Elizabeth, Mrs. Harrison had resided in Edison, South Plainfield and in Readington, before returning to South Plainfield ten years ago.

She was a 1971 graduate of J.P. Stevens High School in Edison.

Mrs. Harrison had been employed as an assistant manager of Giakas Cleaners in South Plainfield for the past year and a half.

She is predeceased by her brother, Peter Frazee, who died in 1979.

Surviving are three sons, David Harrison, Jr., Richard Harrison and Joseph Harrison, all at home; her former husband, David Harrison, of Colts Neck; her mother, Marilyn (Miller) Frazee of South Plainfield and her father, Joseph Frazee of Edison; two sisters, Darlene Connelly of Edison, Sandra Turaniza of Edison and her brother, Joseph Frazee Jr. of Martinsville.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

■ Beatrice J. Conrad Malinowski, 74

Beatrice J. Conrad Malinowski, 74, died on Saturday, Jan. 21 at home.

Mrs. Malinowski was born in Elizabeth and has resided in Piscataway since 1953.

Prior to her marriage to her late husband, Joseph A. Malinowski, Sr., who died in 1991, she had worked for General Instrument and later was a representative for the Household Paper Products Co. Both companies had been located in Elizabeth.

More recently she had worked as a manager for the former Ray's Charcoal Pit of Piscataway. For many years, up until approximately five years ago, she had been known for her catering of private parties throughout the Middlesex and Union Counties area.

Active for many years in the Piscataway Democratic Club, she held the position of Democratic Committeewoman for 30 years until her failing health forced her retirement in 1990. In 1989 she was honored at the annual "Spotlight on Democratic Women" Breakfast in Piscataway. She had served as president of the Piscataway Democratic Social Club as well as the Piscataway Democratic Women's Club.

Mrs. Malinowski was a communicant of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Piscataway, where she was a member of the Church's Rosary Altar Society. She was a member of the Commodore John Barry Columbiennes of Dunellen and of the NJ State Columbiennes. She had been a delegate for the NJ State Columbiennes for 15 years. During her tenure as delegate, she traveled to conventions and meetings throughout the state.

Mrs. Malinowski was an honorary member of the Polish National Home of South Plainfield and she had served as the Sunshine Committee Chairwoman for over ten years

for the club.

In addition to her husband, she was also predeceased by her sister, Mary Conrad and by her brother, former long time Chief of Police in Middlesex (Boro), Sylvester Conrad.

Surviving are a daughter Diane C. Mazro, with whom she lived; two sons, Joseph A. Malinowski, Jr. also of Piscataway and Bruce S. Malinowski of Langhorne, Pa.; five sisters, Gertrude Osmulski of Summit, Laura Hoesly of Newton, Nell Spera of Bayville, Joan Corbisiero of South Plainfield and Ida Angiola of Spotswood; three brothers, Henry Conrad of Elizabeth, Joseph Conrad of Middlesex and Frank Conrad of Greenville, SC. Also surviving are six grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

■ Geraldine L. Jackkinowitz Remyk, 50

Geraldine L. Jackkinowitz Remyk, 50, died on Thursday, Jan. 29 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

She was born in Bayonne and was a former resident of Roselle Park before moving to South Plainfield 20 years ago.

Mrs. Remyk was a secretary for Berkeley Risk Managers in Somerset. She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church and a former member of the Roosevelt and Middle School PTAs in South Plainfield.

Her husband, Joseph E. Remyk, died in 1996.

She is survived by a son, Joseph J. Remyk; a daughter, Deborah Remyk; both of South Plainfield and two sisters, Christine Vetter of Bayonne and Mary Ann Jackkinowitz of Roselle Park.

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

■ Paul J. Schkepper, 72

Paul J. Schkepper, 72, of Plainfield died on Monday, Feb. 7 at Muhlenberg Medical Center in Plainfield.

He was born in New Brunswick and was a former resident of Edison before moving to Plainfield 48 years ago.

Mr. Schkepper was a mechanical engineer for Man-Roland in Middlesex for 52 years before retiring in 1991. He later worked in the research lab for Revlon in South Plainfield for five years.

He was a member of Sacred Heart Church.

He served in the US Marine Corp. as a staff sergeant during WWII and was a member of the National American Legion.

He is survived by three sons, Paul of Edison, John of Wilmington, NC and Glen Schkepper of Las Vegas, NV; a daughter, Lorraine Rieble of Bay Village, Ohio; a step sister, Olga Abrams of Edison and five grandchildren.

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

■ Mary L. (Susko) Sharyk, 79

Mary L. (Susko) Sharyk, 79, of South Plainfield died on Thursday, Feb. 5 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Paterson.

She was born in Allentown, PA and has resided in South Plainfield for the last 65 years.

Mrs. Sharyk was a seamstress for the former Middlesex Dress Company in South Plainfield for 25 years.

She was a member of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church in South Plainfield.

She is survived by her husband, Russell Sharyk; three daughters, Susan DiVico of Edison, Janet Gryta of Califon, Lauren Mackenzie of South Plainfield; a brother, Steve Susko of Manville; two sisters, Anna Leschyn of North Plainfield, Julia Wrublevski of Largo, Fla. and five grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

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

■ Edmund Szczepaniak, 74

Edmund Szczepaniak, 74, died on Thursday, Jan. 29 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

He was born in Poland and came to the US in 1962 settling in South Plainfield. He was a former resident of Dunellen before moving back to South Plainfield five years ago.

Mr. Szczepaniak was a painter for Alfonse Makowski Painting Company in North Plainfield for 20 years before retiring in 1992. He served in the Polish Army during WWII. He was a member of the Polish Falcons Nest 281 in Dunellen.

He is survived by a son, Zenon (Mike) Szczepaniak of Piscataway; as daughter, Genevieve Novak of South Plainfield; a brother, Bolek Szczepaniak of Poland and two grandchildren.

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

■ Mary Triola, 72

Mary Triola, 72, died on Sunday, Feb. 8 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Mrs. Triola was born in Elizabeth and has resided in Edison for the past 44 years.

She was a homemaker and a very active member of St. Helena's Church in Edison. She was a member of the Church's Altar Rosary Society and she had been a long time volunteer for the bingo games.

She was predeceased by her brother, John Iannitto and by her sister, Carmel Schneider.

Surviving are her husband, Frank Triola; two daughters, Judy Sadlow-ski of Edison and Rosemary Bojarski of South Plainfield; two sisters, Gloria DePaul of Scotch Plains and Assunta Brewer of Roselle Park. Also surviving are four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

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BOROUGH NOTES

Continued from page one

ers should not be asked to pay 1.4 million for something that would effect only a few homes even if they are in a flood zone. TAG voted unanimously to oppose putting the referendum on the ballot. The TAG group wanted to place a proposed new satellite fire and emergency station on the ballot. However, Borough Fire Chief Joe Abbruzzese, stated that more time is needed to find a location and to estimate all the costs.

Planning Board

■ Christopher Rafano resigned his position as South Plainfield Planning Board attorney due to his appointment to the Middlesex County Board of Freeholders on Feb. 2. John Jorgensen was appointed board attorney based on the recommendation made by Rafano.

■ The property at 5000 Hadley Blvd. was granted a site plan approval to renovate the present building into a modern office building. The renovation would include installing a sprinkler system, making it handicap accessible, new insulation, an atrium in the entrance, repaving and improving lighting in the parking area and a new façade around the building. The office complex will employ approximately 1,300 people. The property was vacated by AT&T.

Board of Adjustments

■ Benderson Development Co., Inc. is asking to construct a 94-room Suites Hotel on New World Way. The site is behind the Holiday Inn and Days Inn. The proposed site, formerly Lean Line, will be torn down and the hotel built on that site. Thomas Sheehan, planner, said the hotel would provide a \$5.5 million ratable on a site that is now deteriorating and underused. Angelo Dalto is the attorney representing Holiday Inn, which opposes the hotel. The testimony will be continued at the March 3 meeting.



The young and the old dance to the music of the Melotones. Members of the Melotones Band are Howard Pachasa, violin; Jimmy Leone, guitar; Doris Clark, piano/keyboard; Frank Cancia, guitar; Tony Zappia, guitar and Rockie Finelo, mandolin.

Interactive Computer Corner

Continued from page 4

some good introductory books available that will give you a clearer (than mine!) idea of what it is all about. I just bought one of those "for Dummies" books for a friend and she says it's great. She's not a dummy, but the book takes you from the ground up. Check out Computer City's bookshelf or those at CompUSA or Barnes & Noble etc.

As it turns out, the most used feature of the world wide web/internet has been for email!! With the ability to attach and send

along sound clips, pictures, animations, movie clips etc. with your written message, writing letters is becoming popular again. And the animated multimedia greeting cards these days are something to behold. Needless to say, interactivity as enabled through email etc. on websites is growing by leaps and bounds. Next issue, we'll look further into email and touch on security issues. See you then.

TIP: If you're into mystery and detective work, check out <http://www.mysterynet.com>. Some real good whodunnits!

Volunteer Fire Department January Fire Report

Chief Abbruzzese reported the fire department answered a total of 86 alarms during January. A total of 1185 man-hours were spent during the month. They breakdown as follows: alarms, 739 hours; maintenance, 204 hours; drills, 206 hours and extra duty, 36 hours.

Scouting Explorers Blaze a Trail

Continued from page one

fully lead the young adults to a career choice. Sponsors offer Explorer members a chance to obtain hands-on experience in a specific area of interest. There are six experience areas that the activities are geared towards leadership, service, social interaction, fitness, the outdoors and career. Each post's activities teach while giving members the chance to grow, learn responsibility and develop leadership skills. The community hosts many potential sources for Explorer posts; businesses, churches, schools, law enforcement, rescue organizations, government, medical, environmental groups. Each offers a unique opportunity for these young people to learn and gain experience. An internship within a group in a chosen Explorer post will not only benefit the young adults but also provide the sponsor with a chance to expand community and public relations and assist in the development of the leaders of tomorrow. Those interested in the Explorers program should call Ken Mayti at 908-654-9191.

High School Seeks Hall of Fame Nominations

Continued from page one

earning their own place in the Hall.

The Hall of Fame became a reality in 1995, many years after the idea was first initiated. Candidates must be graduates of South Plainfield High School for at least 15 years prior to nomination. Emphasis is on success and leadership as well as contribution to community. The candidate's achievements, initiative, goals and high expectations are all considered. The criteria used for judging candidates is broad and encompasses more than just a review of education or business success. The criteria includes academia, business, community, government and humanities. The selection committee is made up of a board of education member, two high school administrators, a PTA representative, a faculty member and four community members. In 1995 there were 26 nominations and four chosen; in 1996, 15 applied, and six chosen and in 1997, 12 were nominated and three were selected for inclusion into the Hall of Fame. Applications of those not accepted are carried over to the following year.

Inductees range from those in high level government and/or executive positions to high school graduates to those who grew up in South Plainfield to European immigrants who struggled to learn English. Each inductee's journey to success is different and some more difficult than others.

Josephine Calabrese Jacob, a 1997 inductee, arrived in this country from Italy at age nine. She spoke only Italian and began her school days in South Plainfield learning a new language and becoming accustomed to a new culture. Her success story was created with only a high school diploma and the ambition and drive to succeed. Over the years she has risen from an entry level position to a senior manager at AT&T. Despite their varied backgrounds, those selected for inclusion in the Hall of Fame have one very important thing in common; they have a strong determination to succeed, to do their best for themselves and to share their knowledge with the world around them, whether it be at the community or world-wide level.

Graduates who have earned a place in the Hall of Fame since its establishment are as follows. Inducted in 1995 were Jawad George, class of 68; Dr. John Bogden, class of 63; Peter Calderone, class of 66 and Emile De Vito, class of 76. The 1996 inductees were Robert Cirafesi, class of 59; Jim Curcio, class of 71; David Hough, class of 76; Debra Licato-Meiman, class of 76; Mike Woskey, class of 72 and Dr. Michael Stanley, class of 62. Inducted last year were Wallace Giakas, class of 73; Josephine Calabrese Jacobs, class of 68 and Andrew Anthony Lewandowski, class of 64.

The Hall of Fame Committee is seeking candidates for 1998 nominations. The deadline for application is April 3. Those interested in obtaining a nomination form should call Mr. Massaro at 754-4620.

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POLICE REPORT

• A shopper reported that her purse was stolen in the parking lot of the A&P, on Oak Tree Rd. She put her groceries in the car and left her purse in the shopping cart. When she arrived home and noticed the purse missing, she returned to the store, but it was no longer in the cart. The purse contained cash, credit cards, a checkbook valued at \$290

• The Edward's Food Store night manager called police to report that a phoney \$20 bill had been passed at their store between on Feb. 14.

• During a traffic stop for a broken tail light, Johnetta Toney was arrested and charged with obstruction of justice, possession of drug paraphernalia, two outstanding motor vehicle charges, driving on the revoked list and driving while uninsured. There were also four contempt of court warrants still active.

• The owner of Breaktime Luncheonette on Hamilton Blvd. reported someone stole the advertisement sign from outside of the store.

• While at Grand Slam, Oak

Tree Rd., a patron reported a hockey helmet was stolen from his hockey bag while there playing hockey. The helmet was valued at \$105.

• Salawe Babatunde was arrested on Feb. 11 for obstruction of justice and being an unlicensed driver.

• Dennis Holloman of

Plainfield was arrested for shoplifting \$204 worth of merchandise from K-Mart.

• An Employee of Montrose Molders, St. Nicholas Ave., said someone broke into her passenger side window and stole the stereo. The victim had the window repaired before reporting the theft.

South Plainfield Observer

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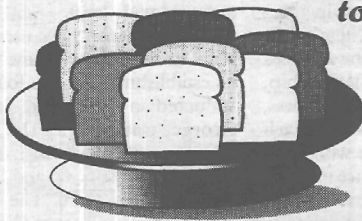
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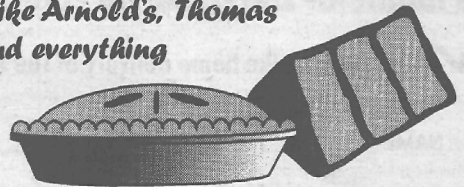
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You'll find plenty to choose from. We specialize in bakery seconds and market returns from quality bakeries like Arnold's, Thomas and Freihofer's. And everything in the store is discounted every day up to 70%.



FREE DESSERT! (Buy two, get one free)

Feast your eyes on all the goodies we carry from master-bakers at Freihofer's! Pick three, any kind whatsoever, and the lowest price box is your free. Only at Freihofer's Outlet in South Plainfield with this coupon. Limit two free boxes per customer per visit. While supplies last.



FREE BREAD! (Buy two, get one free)

We're giving away top-quality bread baked by Arnold and Freihofer's! Pick any three loaves, and the lowest price loaf is your free. Only at Freihofer's Outlet in So. Plainfield with this coupon. Limit one free loaf per customer per visit. While supplies last.



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