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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 1, NO. 13

50 CENTS

MARCH 5, 1998



South Plainfield Police Officer Joe Papa carefully shaves the head of Kennedy School Principal Al Czech. See story and additional photos on page 7.

Vandalism Increasing In Schools; Band Bus Set Ablaze

By Patricia Abbott

Vandalism within the South Plainfield school district is at an all time high. The most recent suspicious incident involves the newly acquired Music Boosters van. The van, which was parked inside the fenced area of the high school parking lot, was ablaze in broad daylight on Sunday, March 1 at approximately 3:30 p.m. The police and fire departments responded promptly. The torched vehicle was towed after the fire was extinguished.

Superintendent of Schools Guy Ferri said this is far from the first incident of vandalism of school property. In a concentrated period over several months there were 26 tires slashed on school vans, buses and maintenance vehicles. Windshields were shattered on the maintenance vans. Headlight and tail lights where shattered on the buses and vans that transport stu-

dents to school. Safety equipment such as the STOP signs were also damaged. Older vans being readied for discard were broken into and the inside trashed.

The heavy vandalism can be traced back several years. During the 1996-97 school year Franklin School was burglarized, and computers were stolen. The previous year a similar incident occurred at Riley School. Classrooms and offices were ransacked in both instances. Roosevelt School had a window smashed in the main

Continued on page 11

BOROUGH NOTES

Council Notes

■ The Mayor and Council will utilize the Housing and Community Development Block Grant of \$61,000 for the completion of the Downtown Revitalization Program.

■ Robert Capperelli and Michael Gallagher were appointed of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department.

■ The Borough Council authorized the purchase of five self-contained breathing devices with spare bottles for use by the fire department. Purchase will be through state contract. The total amount of the purchase is \$11,886.

■ Edison Township advised Mayor Gallagher that they have completed appraisals for acquisition of property necessary to begin the joint road improvement at the Durham Ave./New Durham Rd.

■ Removal of the asphalt from Putnam Park is underway. Ray Pentronko is in the process of obtaining bids on new playground equipment.

■ Replacement of the roof at the PAL Building began this week.

Board of Adjustments

■ A rear yard variance of seven feet, Richard Stracensky, Fairlamb Ave. was granted.

■ Lackland Associates requested a conceptual review of the site on Durham/Bushwick Avenues, for a proposed building to be used solely for retail purposes.

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INSIDE:

CMF Wins Glitter
Award

Events/Calendar

Honor Roll

Cool Cats and
Lost Heads

Sacred Heart Father
Sico Tournamnet

'No Smoking Policy' at Borough Schools to be Expanded

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Board of Education is just steps away from passing a ground-breaking 'No Smoking Policy.' For many years the existing policy voiced the much echoed "no smoking on school property". A chain of

events that runs from a parent with asthmatic children, to a Board member, to the Superintendent of Schools, has put the efforts to curtail student smoking into high gear.

High school students smoking outside the nearest exit is a common sight before and after school,

during evening events as wells in between or into class time. The staff can often be spotted grabbing a cigarette during a break as well. The process of change began with a parent of two asthmatic children. As the parent weaved his way through the

Continued on page 11

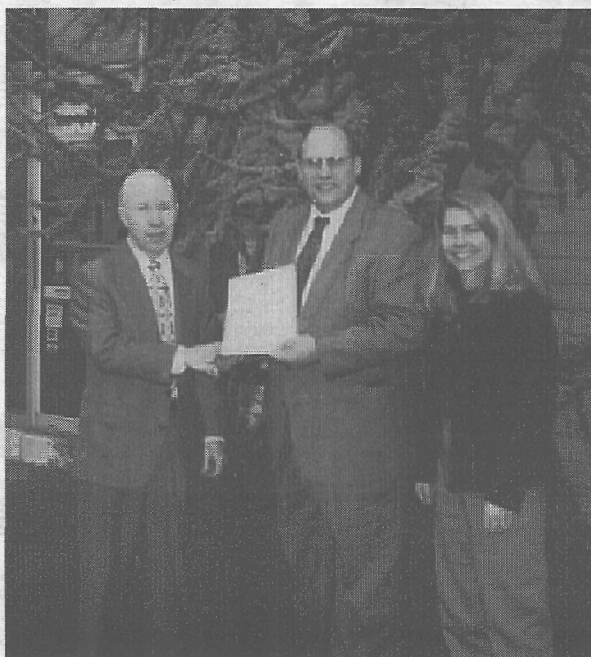


A group of students from Flo's Piano Studio entertain the residents of Ashbrook Nursing Home at a "Pajama Party Piano Recital." See story and photos on page 5.

CMF Wins Glitter Award

Mr. Doyle Hunsinger, president of CMF, and Ms. Dana Nolan, office manager, accepted the South Plainfield Clean Business Association's Glitter Award from Joe Diegnan, CBA President. CMF, which provides computer supplies and service, moved to its 3622 Kennedy Road address from Garwood in 1990.

Mr. Hunsinger explained that the entire building was renovated inside and out when they took it over. The company chose South Plainfield because of its convenient location between Philadelphia and New York, major highway access and business has more than tripled here. An important benefit of the move, however, was the opportunity to create and maintain a pleasant working environment. Unlike their Garwood building, which was all brick and asphalt, the Kennedy Road facility has a landscaped front lawn. The lawn is kept trimmed by a lawn care service, but the rest of the landscaping is lovingly maintained by Mr. Hunsinger and his em-



ployees. Gary Brandle, a sales representative, plants flowers and fertilizes the lawn. Mr.

Hunsinger weeds the flower beds, and picks up any litter that blows onto the property.

Mr. Hunsinger noted that his employees spend as much time at work as they do at home, and it is important to keep things nice. The inside of the building is regularly painted and has new carpeting. A steam cleaner was purchased so that the truck fleet can be kept clean. "When people feel good, they do good," said Mr. Hunsinger. He commented that when CMF renovated their landscaping, their next-door neighbors followed suit, and now the entire block seems to be in a competition to improve their properties. He thinks the sense of pride is contagious and is glad to be contributing to a better Borough business community.

CMF is planning to participate in the Borough's Volunteer Litter Clean-up Week in April. A team of employees will pick up litter along the nearby vacant wooded frontage on Montrose Avenue.

The Clean Business Association gives Glitter Awards to South Plainfield businesses that are unusually well-maintained or have recently improved their appearance through renovation or landscaping. Membership in the CBA is open to all businesses that share its goals of enhancing the appearance of commercial districts through property maintenance and litter control. For more information, contact Alice Tempel at 226-7621.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

On Monday, Feb. 2 we at Multitech Associates, Inc. endured the misfortune of having an electrical fire in our office building in South Plainfield. Luckily, no one was hurt.

Although this event was quite harmful to our business... a complete disaster was avoided through the prompt and efficient actions of the South Plainfield Police and Fire Departments who responded immediately to the call. Their swift and professional actions kept the fire and the subsequent damage in check. Thank you.

Also, we would be remiss if

we didn't recognize the positive reactions of our landlord, Frank Criscola of Crisgold Associates and of our fellow tenant, Natkin Contracting. They teamed with our employees to keep us operating during a very difficult week. Their support was greatly appreciated.

Simply, we were very lucky to be back "up and running" so rapidly, and soon we will recover from the damages as well. However, we will always remember the selfless efforts of our neighbors and friends who helped us in our time of need.

**JOHN W. KENNEDY,
PRESIDENT**

South Plainfield Observer

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1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail or fax it to: Editorial Department
South Plainfield Observer, 530 Union Ave., Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or Twice Is Nice, Front St. or fax us at (732) 805-0815 or email us on the web page at spobserver.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

To Submit Photographs:

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

South Plainfield Business Association Invites Local Businesses to Join Them

The South Plainfield Business Association is asking all the businesses of South Plainfield to join the Business Association and become a major voice in the community. The Business Association is actively working to make the town a more desirable place to live, work and attract new businesses. If you want your voice to be heard, joining the Business Association is a start in the right direction.

Some of the accomplishments of the South Plainfield Business Associations are:

- Initiated *Overhead Street Signs* at intersections;
- Funded "Welcome to South Plainfield" signs.
- Spearheaded town *Storage Trailer Ordinance*.
- Purchased specialized fingerprint machine for the Police Department.
- Purchased specialized fire fighting equipment for the Fire Dept.
- Worked closely with PSE&G to secure utility credits.
- Painted trim and repaired sidewalk at the Senior Citizens Building.

Projects that are ongoing are:

- Sponsoring art created by our physically challenged children
- Participating in the *Annual Labor Day Parade*.
- Initiated work on the *Helen Street Proposal*.
- Responsible for downtown curbs and lighting.
- *Railcar Restoration* project for the new museum.
- Design and construction of a *Pedestrian Walk Bridge on Hamilton Blvd.*
- School and Scholarship Educational Funds.
- Fostering relationships with neighboring communities.
- Sponsoring the annual "Candidate Debate Event."
- Constant involvement with town officials.
- Providing input for road improvements and traffic rerouting.

The Business Association needs the support of all the businesses in the borough. For a detailed account of how the Association works, businesses are invited to attend the Business Association meeting held on the third Thursday of each month at Sherban's Diner at 9:00 a.m.

For membership information, please contact the South Plainfield Business Association, PO Box 852, South Plainfield or call (908) 755-5300.

S.P. Republican Organization Seeking Local Candidates

Anyone interested in screening as a candidate for the upcoming election representing the South Plainfield Republican Organization, please contact Municipal Chairwoman Linda Dashuta no later than March 14 at 756-6519.

There are two council seats and the mayors seat up for the November election. Screening will take place before the committee at their March 19 meeting.

Meetings

The South Plainfield Republican Committee meets at the Italian American Club the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

The South Plainfield Republican Club meets after the committee meeting at 8:15 p.m.

County Republican Candidates, who have been screened, will introduce themselves at the next meeting held on March 19. The public is invited. For more information, call Linda Dashuta.

UPCOMING OBSERVER PUBLICATION DATES:

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

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events ground town

First Baptist Church To Hold Spaghetti Dinner

The First Baptist Church of South Plainfield will hold a Spaghetti Dinner on March 21 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. The dinner will be held at Henderson Hall, adjacent to the church on Hamilton Blvd.

The menu will include salad, spaghetti and meatballs with homemade sauce, hot and cold beverages and dessert.

The cost of the dinner is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages three to twelve. There will be no charge for children two and under.

Tickets can be purchased from any member of the Monday Evening Bible Study Group. Tickets will also be sold at the door the night of the dinner. For advanced tickets or more information call (908) 753-8224.

Polish Home Plans Atlantic City Bus Trip

A trip to Atlantic City is planned for Sunday, March 15. The bus will leave from the Polish National Home parking lot at 10:30 a.m.

The cost is \$13 with a \$15 coin return and a \$3 food voucher.

Proceeds will go to the Polish National Home Scholarship Fund. For more information, call (908) 757-3428 or 561-6551.

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.

**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

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.

and cake will be served. A cash bar is available. For tickets, call (908) 561-2311.

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.

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.

Chicken Dinner to be Held at Czestochowa

A Chicken Dinner will be held on Sunday, March 29 at Our Lady of Czestochowa Hall on Hamilton Blvd. The hours will be from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The cost for adults, \$7; senior citizens, \$6; children 5 to 12, \$5; and children under 5 are free. For additional information or tickets, please call Marie (at 908) 755-2378 or Carolyn at (908) 755-2516.



School Board President Carol Byrne is presented an American flag by members of the American Legion at a recent school board meeting. Mrs. Byrne won the flag at a raffle. Pictured with Mrs. Byrne are Bob Newel, Jack McDonough, Ed Wisbow, Bill Fellows and Billy Mack.

Business Association Sets Date For Annual Golf Outing

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Business Association has set the date for their Annual Golf Outing. The event will take place on Tuesday, May 5 at the Cranbury Golf Club located at 49 Southfield Road, Cranbury, NJ. A raindate will be announced at a later date.

A full day of fun is planned and dress is casual. The registration deadline is April 17. Individual entry fees are as follows: golf and luncheon-\$100, BBQ lunch only-\$30, late registration-\$115. The entry fee includes the 18 hole event, green fees and cart, continental breakfast, beverage cart.

barbecue luncheon and a one hour hospitality bar, and all gratuities.

The tournament schedule begins with an 8:00-8:45 a.m. registration and continental breakfast. A shotgun start starts the day at 9:00 a.m. The BBQ lunch will be served at 2:00 p.m. followed by awards at 3:00 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for male and female participants in the following categories: longest drive, closest to pin, low net, low gross and most honest golfer.

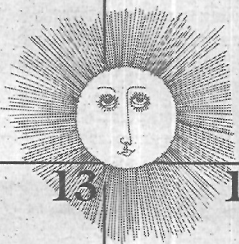

Sponsors, corporate sponsors and corporate underwriters are still being sought. A Gold Corporate sponsorship includes a foursome, a flag and a tee and costs \$1000. Silver includes a twosome

and a tee. For those interested in becoming a corporate underwriter, \$250 will sponsor the breakfast, the beverage cart, or the hospitality bar. The cost to sponsor the 1st or 18th flag is \$175, flags 2-17 is \$125. A tee sponsor is \$100. A flag sponsor will have the company's name on the flag; a tee sponsor will have the name noted on a sign located nearby. Funds raised by the outing are used for the betterment of the community. Checks should be made payable to: SPBA, P.O. Box 852, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. For more information, contact Maria Elena Jennette at (908) 561-3890.

March

The South Plainfield Observer

1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 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	2	3	4 Court 9:30 am Business Advisory Group 6:30 pm	5 Publication of <i>So. Plfd.Observer</i> Taxpayers Advisory Group 7:00 pm	6 	7
	9 Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm Recreation Comm. 7 pm	10 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	11 Environmental Comm 8:00 pm Cultural Arts Comm. 8:00 pm PAL Court 9:30 am & 7:00 pm	12 Council Meeting 8 pm Copy Deadline for <i>So. Plfd.Observer</i>	13	14
15 	16 Land Management Advisory Committee 7:30 pm	17 Board of Adjustment 8 pm	18 Board of Education Spec. Meeting 7 pm/ Reg. Meeting 8 p.m. Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	19 Publication of <i>So. Plfd.Observer</i>	20 Paint Recycling 8 am-2 pm	21
22	23 Council Agenda Meeting 8:00 pm	24 Recycling Comm. 8:00 pm Planning Board 8:00 pm	25 Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. 7:00 pm Court 9:30 am 7:00 pm	26 Council Meeting 8 pm Copy Deadline for <i>So. Plfd.Observer</i>	27	28

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Here's some pretty important news from South Plainfield Library!

Recently, we've had a lot of requests from patrons to get our Internet email running. Well, we've listened and, now we've responded. This past Monday, our public Internet terminal went on-line. We have a couple of basic ground rules, though. First, there's only one terminal, so please be willing to share. Second, we ask that you please limit your time at the terminal to thirty minutes. There are a few other regulations and they can be found in our formal Internet policy. Copies are available at the main desk, and we suggest you take time to read it.

There's also been a development at our other computer terminals, or there soon will be. The public access terminals will soon allow patrons to scan their records, like checked-out books, and place reservations at their convenience. These features will be ready soon. We'll keep you informed.

There's something else to look forward to. Many patrons are confused and a little mistrustful of our terminals. (Thanks, HAL, for giving people the wrong idea.) We however, are ready to assist you. We are setting up classes for patrons in how to use both the public access and Internet terminals. Sign-up sheets will be available when we iron out the details. We promise no mid-term exams. Watch future columns for more information.

Now, for some non-computer-

ized items.

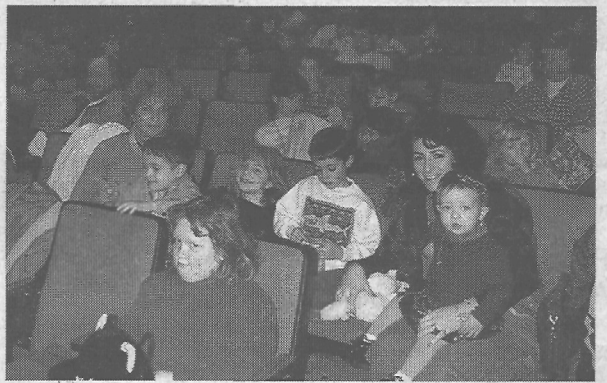
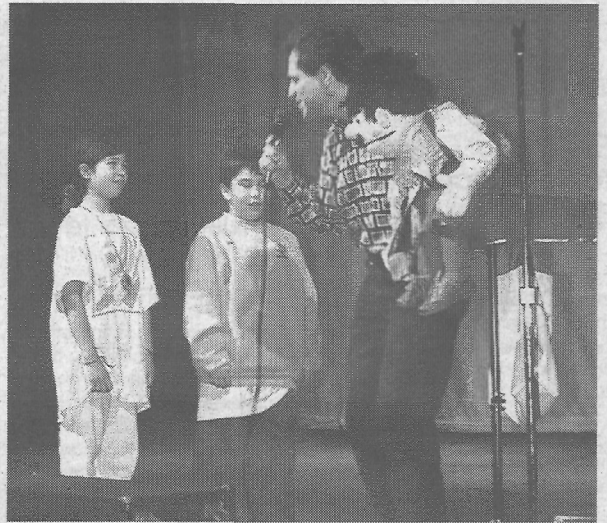
Next week we'll hold our regular storytime programs. The programs for children age 3-6 will be on Monday at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at 10:15 a.m. and Thursday at 1:30 p.m. The program for children age 18 mos. - 3 years is on Thursday at 11 a.m. Next week's programs will feature stories about tigers. However, the following week (March 15), no storytime programs are scheduled. For more information, please contact Judy Fischer, the children's librarian.

The Library board of trustees will meet on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend what promises to be a very informative meeting.

On the circuit front, the new group from the video circuit is in place and ready for checkout. It will still be a few days, however, until the new selections from the CD circuit are ready.

Finally, here's a word regarding video and audio tapes. If by chance you borrow a tape and find that it isn't working, don't keep it to yourself. Please let us know at once. Tell us in as much detail as possible the nature of the problem. And if possible, leave the tape stopped at the problem area. Don't worry, we won't tag you with a "no rewind" fine. All of these things better enable us to check and, if possible, repair the damage. Thanks for your help.

That just about wraps it up for our first column in March. Boy, February went fast. We'll be back in the next Observer with some more news. See you then!



Jonathan Geffner & Friends' Puppet Show Entertains Crowd

Even though the weather outside was like spring, the auditorium at the high school was crowded with enthusiastic children and their parents. They all turned out to see Johnathan Geffner, a renowned ventriloquist and his silly puppet friends.

The kids were treated to a laugh filled afternoon with Jonathan's whimsical puppet partners. Some

of the kids were even lucky enough to take part in the show by participating on stage.

The performance was a huge success with parents and children laughing and participating in the fun.

One person in the audience who really enjoyed the show was Josiah Krause, a third grade student from Franklin school. He

brought his own puppet, "Danny O'Day," to see the show, too. Josiah has several puppets and someday hopes to be the one performing for the kids at the high school. After the show he was able to speak with Johnathan Geffner about puppets.

The show, sponsored by the South Plainfield Recreation Commission, was free to the public.

Calling All Baby Faces

The GFWC Junior Woman's Club is looking for children who are South Plainfield residents, between the ages of newborn and 36 months for its annual "Beautiful Baby Contest."

To enter, send two photographs, no larger than 4-by-6 inches with child's name on the back. Include a \$3 registration fee and a 3" x 5" card with parents name, address, phone number and the child's name and age. Entries may be sent to the Junior Woman's Club of South Plainfield, c/o Carol Ullom, 223 Harvard Ave. South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Deadline for entries is March 18. If you want the photos re-

turned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Photos will be on display March 22 to April 11 at A&P Supermarket, Oak Tree and Park Avenues and Sherban's Diner, Front Street.

Vote for the beautiful baby of your choice by dropping money into the appropriate slot of the ballot box. All votes will be tallied at one vote per penny.

Winners will be notified by April 18. Prizes will be awarded during the Junior Woman's Club general meeting Wednesday, May 6 at the Pilgrim Covenant Church.

Proceeds go to a nursing scholarship for a So. Plainfield resident.

The Little Raindrop

Written by Alice Buttermark, 1998

One day when the sun hung very high,
a little raindrop opened one tiny eye...
Surrounded by clouds of heavenly white,
the little raindrop hid from light so bright.
His mother was a raindrop, that he knew,
so he moved closer to her as a child will do.

"Oh, mother," he exclaimed, "when will we go...
down to the planet where the rivers flow?"

"Hush," cried his mother, "your time grows near,
and soon the clouds will darken and disappear."

"Then, all of we raindrops will start to fall
and spread ourselves gently over all!"

"Down to the cities and towns as well,
and the waters everywhere will start to swell!
"You'll meet other raindrops here and there...
Raindrops, raindrops, everywhere!"

Suddenly, the clouds moved in the sky...

Darkness crept in as the clouds rolled by,
raindrops poured down in a heavy stream...
The little raindrop thought he was in a dream!
Down, down, he went and his mother too...
Where they would land, he hadn't a clue!

All at once, they spied a beautiful rose,
standing erect with its petals closed.
The little raindrop and his mother were caught
by a breeze...

Fell on to the rose with a feeling of ease.
Slowly, the rose petals opened wide,
and the two raindrops together slipped inside.

Thus, in this garden where beauty grows,
the raindrops were absorbed by the rose.
Now when we see roses healthy and alive,
remember that raindrops helped them survive,
with quantities of raindrops sent from above
to a flower that is a symbol of love.

Alice Buttermark lives on Gubernat Drive in South Plainfield. She is legally blind and spends her time listening to "Talking Books" and writing poetry. She shared this poem with us to remind us "Spring" is almost here.

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INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

By Briggs Longbothum
and Eric Tillman



Following last issue's email topic, I'm expecting that most readers utilize the email feature of the internet quite often. I've been using two neat little messaging programs that run in the background while you're connected to the net. Not exactly email, and your browser does not have to be running at the same time, but that connection is a must. With AOL's "Instant Messenger" and Mirabilis' "ICQ" you are definitely the King of All That! You can be playing a game, working in a spreadsheet or text document or just staring blankly at your screen saver while these programs monitor your "personal contact list(s)" for you. Whenever a person on your list logs in to the internet, even without you doing anything, your computer notifies you of that person's "availability." Now with just a keystroke you can exchange quick and easy notes that pop up in front of whatever you're doing. Just read the note, click and dismiss it, or fire off a reply. I leave my front door open (for selected relatives and friends) and it is way cool to suddenly hear from my friends in the mountains of Kauai, friends in Seattle, San Jose, Gloucester Mass., and Texas. What a way to stay in touch.

TIP: Try "Instant Messenger" available free from www.home.netscape.com and/or "ICQ" from www.mirabilis.com.

A few words on security issues are due. Though this can be a very complex and thorny subject when you are trying to set up a security system for network transactions over the internet, by and large it is a minor issue for the user. Secure internet commerce is enabled by work done behind the scenes by your operating system (Win95 & NT, etc.), your browser, and even by the website through which you're trying to do business. They all work together to invoke encryption programs and identification verification routines. The end result is that I can send whatever I want to just about any computer connected to the internet with perfect certainty that the computer I'm sending to is indeed that computer and not an imposter. Further, encryption technology available off the shelf can also make it impossible if not incredibly difficult to decode even if it were intercepted! By the way, this has been very disturbing to the law enforcement community. When a programmer wrote and freely distributed an encryption program called PGP (for "Pretty Good Privacy") all hell broke loose in the Justice Department when suddenly anyone could encrypt their email and files. There's a fascinating story of his persecution by the government over his invention. He ultimately won the war, but the Justice Department is still fighting the battle for access. For you and I though, we

can take simple steps that enable us to conduct "business as usual" over the internet with great confidence and security. Businesses and consumers should have little fear. Go for it, the waters are safe!

Update on Technology: You've heard me tout the coming benefits of the high speed cable modems. About how our area cable company (Comcast) will enable a greatly enhanced internet experience for all of us; well they're being very noncommittal about it lately! A year ago, they said South Plainfield would have it in August, then it was delayed till last quarter 1997, then first quarter 1998, and now they won't say anything! (Can they dance or what?) I've been staying on top of them for all of our benefit, but I do think they're worthy of the same "bait and wait" label that Microsoft wore when the infamous Windows '95 release date was pushed back into 1996! What can we do? Maybe make a difference by holding their feet to their own fire. If anyone would like to help encourage them to come through as promised, perhaps several voices might get heard. Remember, cable services are a franchised utility and they can be held accountable for poor performance or in this case, no performance!

Next issue we'll take another look at buying a computer with internet connectivity in mind. My nephew wants a computer and he knows very little about them other than that is what he wants! Sound familiar? Check in as I help him spec out a machine for his needs and we'll survey some area vendors to see what kind of money we're looking at. Let's do this: write down what you'd like in a new machine that will perform well for game playing and internet use (graphics!) and let's see what we agree on without going right to the cutting edge in available technology. Ignore software other than Win95 for the operating system, we'll just concentrate on the hardware. See you then.

Girls Scouts Seek Vendors for Family Fair and Flea Market

The South Plainfield Girl Scout Community is currently seeking vendors for a Family Fair and Flea Market to be held on Saturday, April 25, with a rain date of May 2. The Fair and Flea Market will take place at the PAL Building on Maple Ave.

Vendor spaces will cost \$15.00 each and \$10.00 for each additional space. Vendors are asked to contact Maria Huber at 757-4360 or Michelle Billich at 756-2537 for the times or additional information.

Flo's Kids Perform At Ashbrook Nursing Home

A pajama party and piano recital was the highlight of the evening for the residents of the Ashbrook Nursing Home. A group of students from Flo's Piano Studio, Plainfield Ave., clad in pajamas and holding their Teddy bears, performed a "Pajama Party Piano Recital" for the group.

The "Pajama Party" concept is practiced by piano schools throughout the country. It aims to drop the glitzy piano recital for a more casual performance that is less stressful for young students. This was the first time a "Pajama Party" took place in a New Jersey nursing home.

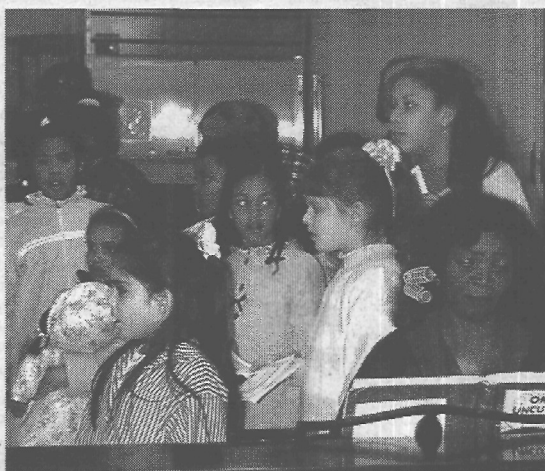
The children, ages six to ten, donned pajamas and night caps as they performed songs and piano pieces for the Ashbrook residents. They were accompanied by their piano instructor Flo Powell along with many parents and grandparents.

The purpose of the evening was two-fold, explained Mrs. Powell. "It gives the young piano students an opportunity to become accustomed to performing before audiences while giving something special to the elderly in our community," she said.

Mrs. Powell explained that the children prepared for the "Pajama Party" by learning popular songs from the 30s and 40s in the hope that the residents would join in. The evening ended with a sing-along led by Flo and the kids. It didn't take long before everyone, including the aides, nurses and visitors had joined in their favorite old standards.

The children who participated in the "Pajama Party Piano Recital" were Olivia Gerlitz, Julia Zappi, Arianna Lyons, Ashley DeShields, Britteny Watkins, Amby Williams, Syelle Collier, Joi Hurd-Troutman, Stacy Feloncas, Britney Holloway, Kimberly Galinski, Cai King-Young and Ms. Freda Jones.

The soloists were concert pianists Ms. Freda Johns, Miss Britney Holloway, Miss Kimberly Galinsky and Miss Cai King-Young.



Crime Prevention Tips For Parents....

Gangs? Parents Say: Not My Kid!

Children join gangs and commit vandalism or violent acts due to a need to belong to someone or something. Children who join gangs are as young as 14, sometimes younger. Gang membership, especially among hard-core members is strongly tied to drug use, sexual activity, violence and crime. It's a difficult cycle to break.

Parents can protect their children from a gang's influence:

- Spend time with each of your children to help convince them that they are an important part of the family.
- Supervise your children's activities. Make sure a reliable adult is present at all functions.
- Help your children get involved in athletics or other group activities.
- Talk with your children about your values. Let them know why you think gangs are dangerous. You could mention the following:
 - constant threat of violence, either to gang members or to innocent bystanders.
 - hatred of others groups for no reason.
 - drug use, which leads to its own problems.
 - increase chance of being arrested.
 - Teach your children what to do if gang members approach them. The best response is to walk away. Warn children not to respond with the same gesture—

the gang members may be "false flagging," using the sign of a rival gang. The response could be a violent one. It's possible, if there is gang activity in your area, that your children may become involved. Often parents don't recognize their children's gang activity until it's too late, such as when the children are hard-core members. How can you tell if your children are involved?

- Be on the lookout for signs of possible gang involvement: change in a child's type of friends, changes in dress habits, such as

wearing the same color combination all the time or purchasing a gang sweater or jacket, secretiveness about activities, new-found affluence from unknown sources, changes in behavior and diminishing interest in the family and school. An even more reliable, but often ignored, sign of gang activity is if a child is arrested or detained by the police.

• If you notice these patterns, you can get help. Contact the South Plainfield Police Department for assistance in referring to counseling information.



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SCHOOL DAYS: What's Happening?

High School Honor Roll

Freshmen

Michelle Aboosamara, Nicole Adorna, Manzoor Ahmad, Lindsey M. Aiello, Samuel R. Alexander, Eric Amrielli, David Aquino and Jessica L. Arndt.

Jason Bataille, Kimberly N. Benson, Jonathan J. Bloodgood, Nicholas J. Bloodgood, Kyan Bowman, Rosemarie Brizak and Alison Butrico. Tricia-Marie Chosney, David Cupo, Mark W. Dimacje, Michael Edgecomb, Joshua P. English and Lisa M. Evans.

Rachel Feller, John Foscolo, Enima Fulton, Angelique Ganiaris, Richard Gebauer, Alissa N. Gittens, Paul Hermann, Lisa Hewitt, Melissa N. Jamieson, Maria Antonell Leonardis and Nichole C. Luthman.

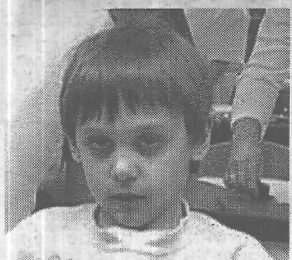
Joanne Michalski, Margaret Morales, Adrienne Nagy, Joseph Nappe, Cathy Nguyen, Huy Nguyen, Lam D. Nguyen, Joseph Nicolay, Lindsay Noonan, Bryan Novajosky and Daniel Novajosky.

Gregory Ogonowski, Sarah Oppelt, Julie Palmer, Annette Papa, Jessica Pasco, Millie Patel, Heather Penderson, Steven A. Popp, Stephanie Prybella and Jennifer Reynolds.

Martin J. Schreck, Karl Schuetz, Evan J. Sims, Jessie Spayder, Julyn C. Stay, Ryan Szybel, Alison Tiftjen, Anh L. Trinh and Kristin A. Turner. Christina Varma, Vena Varma, Justin Woo, Eman Yones, Veronica Zappi and David J. Zebrowski.

Sophomore

Melinda Agostino, David Alles, Johanna Alzate, Jessica Ardis, Alison Barrett, Jennifer Basile, R. Justin Benford, Charles Benward,



Pictured above is Teddy Skwiat from Riley School, not Rocco Severini as reported in the Feb. 19 issue. We are sorry for the mix up.

Amanda Bertrand, Jeri Bradley, Raymond Brandes, Krissy Brooks, Matthew Brooks and Christine Buteas.

Cindy Carlson, Shannon Cassidy, Laura Colicchio, Sheryl Cwiekalo, Michael Dematos, Margaret Derosa, Dina Diaz, Kelly Doerr, James Donelson and Brian Donnelly.

Pamela Eng, Courtney L. English, John E. Espin, Melissa Garatino, Jeanette Garcia, Jessica Graisser and Krista Gundersen. Andre Harry-Penn, Lynda Hepburn, Carolyn Hoffman, Rebecca Horn, Maria A. Hudak and Jennifer Infante.

Eric Jackson, Michelle King, Matthew Kravetsky, Michael Loenser, Stefani MacDougall, Brenda Mendez, Ruben S. Mera and Lisa Mocerino. Jane Nguyen, Rebecca Perez, Lauren A. Perry, Shanee D. Person, Peter Vu Pham, Jennifer Rayho, Tracy Regam, Ashley Rettberg and Heather Roth. Joseph Scotto, Carol Ann Serago, Katherine Skoba, Matthew Square, Robin Stayvas, David Stoeckel and Jillian Stokes.

Steven Terjek, Bradford Tierney, Yolanda Toca, Eric Tooth, Laura Walter, Nichole Wrublevski and Lauren Youves.

Junior

Fatima Ahmad, Tanya Altomare, John A. Blondet, Bradley Carlton, Lisa Christensen and Erinn Crane. Salvatore Degennaro, Rachel K. Denno, Rochelle Dimacje, Chiemeka Ejiochi, Juliette Falocco, Dana Marie Fore, Brendan Gaynor and Amy Glowacki.

Kelly Hall, Jullian Hoppe, Shaline Itwaru, Krishnan Iyengar, Daniel Laspatha, Matthew Laspatha, Melinda Lawson, Khahn Le and Bruce Lee. Michael Maina, Sara Malave, Erica McGrath, Luke Melick, Joseph Monahan, Zachary Moore, Brienne Morrison and Richard Mowrey.

Linda T. Nguyen, Minh Dinh Nguyen, Gina Marie Nobile and Melissa O'Connor.

Dina Pasco, Bhaven Patel, Dimple Patel, Danielle Persa, Thais Petrocelli, Kristin Pfeifer and Michael L. Picciottoli.

Elaine Ramos, Prachi Rastogi, Candace Romascindo, Kelly Ann Schnyderite, Lisa Sepkowski, Elizabeth Serago, Kaminee Sewdat and

Mohamed Shiliwala.

Michael Vito, Roger Vroom III, Erin M. Walter, Patricia Walter, Judy Wang, William Wilson, Matthew Wojcik, Riza C. Ysla and Sara Ziobro.

Seniors

Celia Afonso, Shelly Algoos, Mark Anderson, Kristen Basilone, Maria K. Berberabe, Dana Bertrand, David Bond, Jennifer P. Borja, Rocco A. Borja and Steven Brizak. Michael Calderone, Jamie L. Cammarata, Adrienne Christatos, Jon Dean, Thomas Destefano, Thomas Doerr, John Drangula, Elizabeth Dressler, Keith Dueker and Linh Duong.

Lee Ann Errico, Michael H. Francis, Shaun Galya, Susan Garfield, Lynn Marie Gawlick, Joseph Glowacki, Nya Green and Rebecca C. Gross. Christopher Johnston, Sunaina Joshi, Janie Joy and Keiko Kameda. Michelle Lamberti, Brendan Lazar, Jennifer Lesniak, Rachel Leszczynski, Eric Milstein, Stanley Miszczenski and Sarat Munjuluri. Hai Dinh Nguyen, Jennifer Nicolay, Jennifer Orlowski, Keith Palmer and Allison Paiti.

Diane Ringel, Jessica Servedio, Christine Smalley, Elaine Smith, Stephanie Stahlin, Danielle Stebila, Robyn Stein, William Sutton and Marlana Swinick.

Carolyn Timinski, Silvia Toca, Carey Vandermeulen, Heather Vankleef, John Vasiladiis, Joy Walter, Richard Wiander and Stephanie Wrublevski.



Drifters to Appear at Star Night '98

By Patricia Abbott

Like stargazing? You can catch some super stars not in the sky, but on-stage when Project Graduation Star Night '98 presents the music group the Drifters on March 28.

The Drifters, all still original members, have a 25-year history that has produced several generations of fans. The annual fund-

raiser will feature their 50's and 60's hits as well as contemporary standards and several songs from their new Columbia album, TOO HOT. The event will be staged at the South Plainfield High School auditorium. The show starts at 7:00 p.m. Advance tickets are \$15. They will cost \$20 at the door.

The evening will include hits, such as "There Goes My Baby", "Under The Boardwalk", "Up on the Roof" and "This Magic Moment". Also scheduled to perform are the groups Class of '57 and Sound Investment.

Project Graduation is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a substance free party for graduating seniors. The all-night event allows the graduates to celebrate their accomplishment in an environment that is free of drugs and alcohol.

For more information, or to order tickets call (908) 756-4416.

Roosevelt School Awards Medals Students Who Read for the Gold

Mr. Barbieri is pleased to announce that Roosevelt School students have gone 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 completed reports on specific continents as part of their study for a Multi-cultural program.

Students read books to acquire Olympic medals for the continent they studied. Fifty minutes of reading realized a Bronze Medal; 100 minutes got them a Silver Medal and to receive a Gold Medal they read for 150 minutes.

Mrs. Soltesz developed a form the students can use for their Olympic reading and parents can sign when the reading is com-

pleted. The results of the reading Olympics are:

	G	S	B
Kindergarten	32	16	16
First Grade	41	26	23
Second Grade	38	16	22
Third Grade	92	35	32
Fourth Grade	121	35	31
Fifth Grade	79	17	19

The fourth grade, representing North America, won the medal total for the Olympics!

All participants were winners and everyone who received an award will be enjoying an ice cream sundae provided by the Roosevelt School PTA.

A special thank you to Mrs. Soltesz for making the medals for the students.

McDonalds is Moving

The South Plainfield McDonalds last day of business at the Oak Tree Rd location will be March 8 and it will be closed permanently March 9. It will reopen at the new shopping center across the street on March 12. The grand opening is the March 23.

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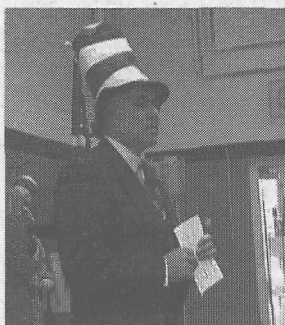
SCHOOL DAYS: What's Happening?



Cool Cats Chat, Read Dr. Seuss



Read Across America was celebrated along with Dr. Seuss's Birthday throughout South Plainfield's grade schools on Monday, March 2. At Roosevelt School, The Cat in the Hat was introduced by the "Principal in the Hat," Mario Barbieri. The "Cat" chatted with students and garnered a number of smiles and giggles from the younger students. Many staff members as well as a few students also sported the tall striped hats. Reading teacher Chris Soltesz made badges and thank you notes for the many readers. Parents provided cupcakes in honor of the legendary author's birthday. Superintendent of Schools Guy Ferri, Assistant Superintendent Lillian DeSimon and many other guests were on hand to read to the students. The event was coordinated by Chris Soltesz.



Fr. John invites you to worship with him at

Our Lady of Czestochowa R.C. Church

807 Hamilton Blvd.,
South Plainfield

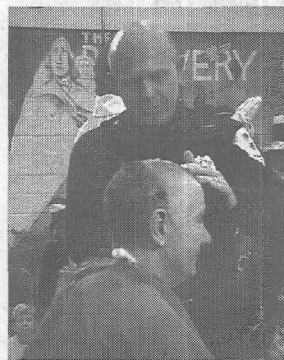
Masses Daily at 8 AM
Saturday evenings 5:30 PM
Sunday mornings 8:00 and 11:00 am

Principal "Loses His Hair" Over Students' Success

At Kennedy School the students were having a "...really big show!"

The morning started off with the Cat in the Hat prancing through the crowd greeting the children and discussing Suess books. The staff was decked out in "cat" hats and ties. Many carried stuffed versions of the cat as they lead their pupils into the room. The day was the culmination of several reading programs. As part of the BOOK-IT reading program which is sponsored by Pizza Hut, the youths read books from Oct. 1 until Feb. 28. When they reach a set goal they receive a certificate good for a personal pizza. McDonald's also sponsors a reading program called "Read For My McDonald's." Upon completion of 24 books, the students receive a coupon good for a free happy meal. Over 500 free happy meals have been distributed throughout the town. Kennedy School principal Al Czech gave the children some

of the schools as were members of the Board of Education. CBS, Channel 2 arrived to capture the event. The Cat in the Hat



watched from the sidelines. Ronald McDonald was also on hand. The honors went to South Plainfield Police Officer Joe Papa. The children roared with laughter as Officer Papa began to shave their principal's head. After the first once over with a razor, the



Kennedy School principal Al Czech with Officer Joe Papa before he loses his hair.

added incentive. He challenged them to read 20,000 books by the February deadline. He sweetened the pot with the promise to have his head shaved if the children met their goal. Not only did they meet it, they went over the goal and ended the program with a total of 22,000 books read. Four years ago Al Czech spent the day on the roof after his students met his challenge.

There was a large turnout for the "shaving". No one wanted to miss "Czech's Challenge!" Superintendent of Schools Guy Ferri and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Desimon were making the rounds

children chanted "Make it shorter, make it shorter!" When the principal's hair lay scattered on the floor the children applauded. Al Czech briefly spoke to the young readers to remind them why the event took place and to encourage them to continue to explore books.

Next was an educational presentation on building character sponsored by McDonald's called ON THE INSIDE. The Famous clown stressed to the children that no matter what a person is like on the outside, its the inside that counts. The Kennedy School students had a busy morning indeed!

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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	10	1
Notre Dame	9	1
Connecticut	8	2
Seton Hall	7	3
Rutgers	5	5
U.C.L.A.	4	6
Georgetown	3	7
Duke	1	10
No. Carolina	0	11

A-LEAGUE SCORES

Team	Score
St. Johns	53
Georgetown	50
(St. John) Aaron Parks, 18; Lewis Harvey, 12; Robert Bradley, 11. (Georgetown) Thomas Daly, 20; Joe Dezmin, 18.	
Rutgers	49
Duke	21
(Rutgers) Derek Staats, 17; Nicky Ronzo, 9; Philip Degennaro, 7. (Duke) Reggie Thompson, 6; Jesse Cortese, 6.	
Seton Hall	30
No. Carolina	25
(SH) Joshua English, 10; Scott Morrison, 10; Mike Lammi, 8. (NC) Terrence Austin, 8; Mike Tudor, 6; Frank Wrublewski, 5.	
Notre Dame	34
U.C.L.A.	27
(ND) Ulysses Russell, 21; Steven Popp, 11. (UCLA) Tom Rugger 10; Paul Gross, 9; Chris Advensky, 5.	
Connecticut - Bye	

B-LEAGUE STANDINGS

Team	Won	Loss
Virginia	12	0
Pittsburg	10	1
Kentucky	8	3
Michigan	8	4
Princeton	7	5
UNLV	6	6
Miami	5	7
Arizona	5	7
Penn State	4	8
Boston College	3	9
Syracuse	2	10
Indiana	1	11

B-LEAGUE SCORES

Team	Score
Princeton	40
Indiana	12
(Prin) Greg Garbowski, 10; Steven Janiszak, 8; Brian Destefano, 8. (Ind) Daniel Pollin, 4; Ryan Mack, 4.	
Boston College	28
UNLV	27
(Bos) Jeff Smith, 10; Steven Mincevich, 6; Mike Salerno, 4; Ryan Decker, 4. (UNLV) Alex Ferraris, 15; Mike Alvarez, 6; Nick Green, 6.	

Arizona	18
Syracuse	17
(Ari) Justin Toth, 8; Adam Toth, 4. (Syr) Jared Dembia, 9; Terry Paschall, 4.	

Virginia	35
Miami	17
(Vir) Andre Scott, 10; Danny Melick, 9; Christine Strani, 8. (Mia) Eddie Kania, 6; Gary Houston, 5.	

Michigan	45
Penn State	26
(Mich) Joe Smalley, 11; James Ales, 8; Melissa Scott, 8; John Rayho, 6; Sean Cassidy, 6. (Penn) Chris Czaplinski, 11; Garone Shirley, 8.	

Pittsburg	31
Kentucky	26
(Pitt) James Plate, 10; Kevin Joshi, 6; Andrew Cupido, 6; Tommy Haus, 6. (Ken) Philip DeRosa, 8; Michael Allocco, 8.	

C-LEAGUE STANDINGS

Team	Won	Loss
Mavericks	12	0
Lakers	11	1
Nuggets	11	1
Spurs	10	2
Trail Blazers	8	4
Rockets	6	6
Kings	6	6
Jazz	5	7
Raptors	5	7
Suns	4	8
Sonics	3	9
Clippers	2	10
Grizzlies	1	11
Warriors	0	12

C-LEAGUE SCORES

Team	Score
Kings	23
Jazz	22
(Kin) Mike Piazza, 15; Chris Bojars, 4. (Jazz) Brian Murtagh, 6; Sam Martin, 6; Erik Vesper, 4.	
Nuggets	35
Suns	24
(Nug) Nick Cesare, 13; Alex Ramos, 6; Andy Roibal, 6. (Sun) Allan Mazurak, 8; Adam Bianchi, 6.	
Mavericks	43
Raptors	14
(Mav) Danielle Arndt, 14; Brian Cantor, 12; Kyle Lendach, 9. (Rap) Conor O'Brien, 6.	
Lakers	36
Sonics	27
(Lak) Mark Warness, 12; Danny Piwowar, 10; William Merkler, 8. (Son) Keith Dezmin, 9; Thomas Whalen, 7; Rachel Cupido, 6.	

Clippers	33
Grizzlies	20
(Clip) Robbie Strani, 12; Dane Miyasato, 7; Vincent Donato, 6. (Gri) David Eichler, 8; Nick Grego, 6; Joe Teller, 4.	
Rockets	37
Warriors	22
(Roc) Mike Downes, 13; Andy Miller, 12; Nick Kratz, 6; Mat Fabino, 6. (War) Jeff Pollin, 10; Doug Dietzold, 6; Kevin Graham, 6.	

Spurs	45
Trail Blazers	26
(Spurs) Chris McKnight, 20; Joe Defalco, 6; David Miglis, 4; James Charneco, 4. (TB) Mike Hanley, 12; Chris Bakazan, 8; Ryan Kenny, 6.	

D-LEAGUE STANDINGS

Team	Won	Loss
Pacers	11	0
Bulls	11	1
Hornets	8	3
Hawks	8	3
Bullets	7	4
Sixers	7	4
Magic	6	5
Pistons	5	6
Celtics	3	8
Knicks	3	8
Nets	2	9
Cavaliers	1	10
Bucks	0	11

D-LEAGUE SCORES

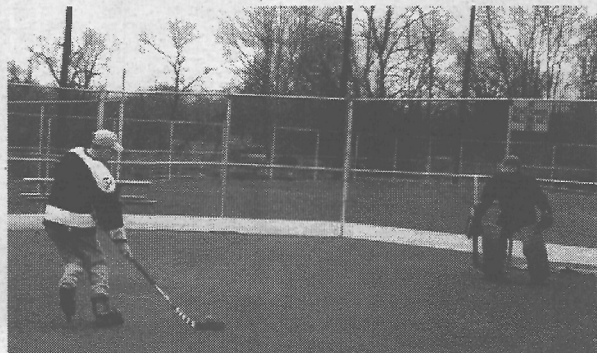
Team	Score
Knicks	12
Nets	11
(Knicks) David Alston, 4; Nick Giannakis, 4. (Nets) Brendan O'Shea, 7; Chris DeOliveira, 4.	
Hawks	26
Pistons	20
(Haw) Michael Stallone, 22; Anthony Meleo, 4. (Pis) Dan Espin, 10; Ryan Curtis, 4; Amber Hartman, 4.	
Magic	26
Sixers	8
(Mag) Brian Fabino, 8; Nick Haupt, 8; Nick Baldassarre, 6. (Six) Matthew Seider, 4.	
Hornets	46
Cavaliers	12
(Hor) Frank Alfano, 14; Scott Hunteerton, 10; Tim Keane, 6; Joe Turrise, 6; Mike George, 6. (Cav) Raymond Le, 4; Anthony Moriatti.	
Bulls	35
Celtics	15
(Bulls) Chris Pollin, 19; Denise Lopez, 6; Brian Wiczkowski, 4; Nick Desimone, 4. (Cel) Brad Martin, 6; Mathew Ramos, 6.	
Bullets	34
Bucks	5
(Bul) Vinnie Padula, 10; Dona Garcia, 10; Andrew Gray, 6; Becky Keller, 6. (Bucks) Trevor Rastelli, 3.	
Pacers - Bye	
This was the final week of competition for the Youth Basketball League.	

Ponytail Softball Registration

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is holding registration its 1998 Pony tail Softball League. All games will be played at Pitt Street Park, Monday through Saturday.

The fee is \$22 per participant if you register before March 16, after that date the fee will be \$27. Placement on a team is not guaranteed after March 16.

Registration is open to all South Plainfield girls, ages 8-13, (as of Oct. 1, 1997). Register at the recreation office at the PAL Building on Maple Ave. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registration will be taken through March 16. The recreation office will be open from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Monday, March 16. Proof of residency and a birth certificate are required for first time registrants. Parents who wish to coach may also contact the recreation department. For more information call (908) 226-7713.



Roller Hockey League Forming

Story and Pictures by Bill Tutthill

A group of high school age hockey players are pictured practicing Roller Hockey. The team pictured here, calls its team the 'Black Knights.' They have been playing together since January and hope to form Roller Hockey League. Many other boys are interested, but the equipment is expensive. One advantage of playing roller hockey versus ice hockey is the convenience of having the rink behind Borough Hall and not having to pay fees at the ice rink. The Roller Hockey courts located behind Borough Hall were finished just a few weeks ago, but there still is some work to be done around the grounds. Some of the players on the 'Black Knights' are: Joe Valente, Dave Alles, Jan Berberate, Mark Colquhoun, Dough Leigh, Marca Miglilli, Rich Druneore, Mike DeMato, Charles Benward and Anthony Sorrento.



Recreation Department is Holding Registration for T-Ball/Teener Ball

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is holding registration for 1998 T-Ball/Teener Ball. Registration is open to all South Plainfield resident boys and girls in grades K-2. T-Ball is open to children 5 years old by Oct 1, 1997 and Teener Ball for children 6-7 by Oct 1, 1997.

Teener Ball has two divisions, girls play softball, boys play baseball. The fee is \$14 per person. Registration will be taken until April 6.

If you are interested in coach-

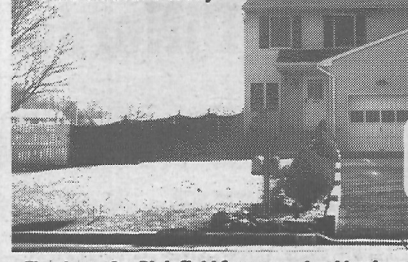
ing, there is a special section on the registration form to include that information.

Register at the Recreation office at the PAL Building on Maple Ave. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registrations will be taken through March 16. The Recreation office will be open from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Monday, March 16. Proof of residency and a birth certificate are required for first time registrants. For more information call (908) 226-7713.

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Father Sico Tournament Played at Sacred Heart

The annual Father Sico/Father McGuire Basketball Tournament was recently held at Sacred Heart School. The Sacred Heart Lady Hawks Varsity and Junior Varsity took part and both teams reached the finals.

In the fifth and sixth grade consolation game St. Helena's won over Mary Mother of God (Gold) 27-13. In the championship game Mary Mother of God (Blue) beat Sacred Heart 19-13.

In the seventh and eighth grade consolation game St. Helena's won over St. Francis of Metuchen 26-8. In the championship game, Our Lady of Mount Virgin defeated Sacred Heart 20-16.

Some of the teams that participated were Our Lady of Mount Virgin, Mary Mother of God, St. Francis Cabrini, St. Helena's, St. Francis of Metuchen, St. Charles and Sacred Heart.



Sacred Heart Varsity Lady Hawks

First row left to right: Heather Pezzello, Margaret Monroe, Stacy Theofilos and Nicole Lakatos; second row: Krystal Ladao, Monique Brown, Frenchesca Johnson, Jennifer Perez, Kristin Semon) and Marlene Maullon; top row: Tracy Johnson, Tiffany Jeffers, Dave Eddy (coach), Howard Semon (coach), Danielle Todman, Lisa Revolinski and Jennifer Gold.

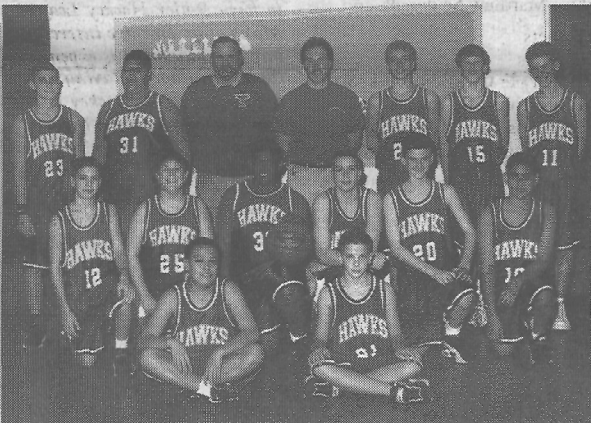


Sacred Heart Junior Varsity Lady Hawks

First row, Aileen Monroe, Kristen Salvatore, Jessica Arismendi, Kelly Hrut Kay, Mary Lillis, Alexandria Gamboa, Marianne McBride; second row, Stephanie Pittman, Summer Scott, Linh Tran, Shakira Mitchell, Kim Brana, Rachel Perez, Lauren Simmons; top row left to right: Valerie Rojas, Joan Mitchell, Joe Dolce, Freedy Boosman, Ray Perex, Nicole Gutierrez.

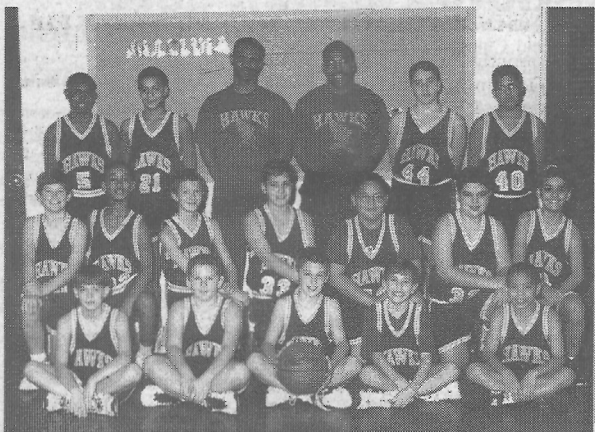
Sacred Heart Hawks Varsity

Top row left to right, Joe Cerami, Chauncy Scott, Coach Mike Sikanowicz, Assistant Coach John Glavisich, Michael Sikanowicz, Philip Veinott and Adam Lewandowski; second row, John Glavisich, Chris Pruss, Frank Hall, Philip Thomas, Michael Lillis and Chris Mitchell; bottom row, Brennard Gamboa and Nick Sacco.



Sacred Heart Hawks Junior Varsity

Top row left to right, Tyson Johnson, Calvin-John Smiley, Assistant Coach Tyson Johnson, Coach Nate Penny, Matt Kopf and Claudino Cruz; middle row, Kenny Abel, Andreas Campos-Marquetti, Derek Smith, Chris Grzan, Vincent Velaz, Alex Barletta and Ricky Cabrera; bottom row, Kevin Ciampi, Kyle Thomas, Kevin Hohner, Matt Revolinski and Mario Campo.



SPORTS SCHEDULE

VARSITY & JUNIOR VARSITY BASEBALL

Sat., Mar. 14	Livingston (scrimmage/Var.)	(H) 11 a.m.
Mon., Mar. 16	Franklin (scrimmage)	(H) 3:45
Wed., Mar. 18	No. Plainfield (scrimmage)	(H) 3:45
Fri., Mar. 20	Wardlaw-Hartridge (scrim./V)	(H) 3:45
Sat., Mar. 21	New Providence (scrimmage)	(H) 11/1

FRESHMEN BASE

Tues., Mar. 24	Watchung Hills (Scrim)	(A) 3:45
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VARSITY & JUNIOR VARSITY SOFTBALL

Tues., Mar. 17	Middlesex (scrimmage)	(A) 3:45
Thurs., Mar. 19	Hunterdon Central (scrim)	(H) 3:45
Sat., Mar. 21	Notre Dame (scrimage)	(A) 11 am

Wrestling

Fifteen Tiger Wrestlers Qualify for N.J. State Wrestling Tournament

By Bob Hunter

Sas the 1998 wrestling season winds down South Plainfield will be well represented with fifteen wrestlers qualifying for the 1998 New Jersey Wrestling Federation Kids State Tournament. The tournament will be held over two week-ends: March 21 for the Bamtams and Intermediate Freshmen wrestlers and March 22 for Midgets at Union High School and March 28 for Juniors and March 29 for Intermediates at Lakewood High School.

There are eight regional qualifying tournaments and the top three winners from each weight class will advance to the state tournament. There are three remaining qualifying tournaments.

Fifteen South Plainfield wrestlers have qualified so far for the NJ Kids Wrestling Tournament.

In the Bamtam Division, Robert Gentile (45) won his opening match 5-1, then won his final 9-2 for a first place finish. Patrick Hunter (50) won his first two matches by the score of 5-0 and 5-3. Hunter lost his final match

for second place. Billy Ashnault (55) won all three of his matches for first place.

In the Midget Division, Jimmy Conroy (55) won all his matches to claim his title. Kevin Crilley (95) won his first match, lost his next and went on to win two more matches for third place.

In the Junior Division, Dan DeAndrea (75) won his first two matches, but lost in the finals for second place. Joe DeBiase (105) won his first two matches and pinned in his final for first place. Steve Johnston (112) won his first match 5-4 and his final 12-3 for first place. In the Intermediate Division Kyle Stoeckel (100) pinned his first two opponents and won 3-0 in the finals for his first place finish.

Ricky Ringel won his first two, dropped his second but came back to win his consolation match for third place. Glen Gross won his first, lost his second match and won his consolation match by fall for third place. Scott Doerr won his first three matches but lost a 9-3 decision for second place. In the (90) class Matt Anderson won his first match by fall and his next two by tech-fall for first place.

In the Freshmen Intermediate Division Rich Gebauer (103) won 2-1 and 3-2 for first place. Matt Gati finished in second place losing his final 6-4.

Also wrestling but not placing were Tim Gaughen, Nick Doery, Brad Martin, Matt D'Alessandro, Sam Martin, Ryan Mack and Mike Buteas.

Smiley, Moates Medal at Swim Championships

Calvin John Smiley of South Plainfield, received a fifth place medal for Boys 11-12 100 yard Freestyle at the New Jersey YMCA Swimming Silver State Championships held at Gloucester Institute of Technology on Feb. 21.

Smiley and his teammates Daniel Lin, Jonathan Sheffield, and Derrick Middleton placed third and received the Bronze Medal for Boys 11-12 200 yard Freestyle Relay.

Billy Moates of South Plainfield and his teammates David Hauptman, Billy Swenson, and Luke Makowski received the Silver Medal placing second in the Boys 9-10 200 Freestyle Relay at the New Jersey YMCA Swimming State Championship also held at Gloucester Institute of Technology on Feb. 22.

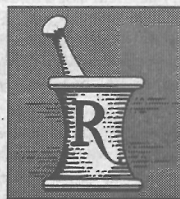
Both Smiley and Moates did their personal best times at other events held that weekend. The boys swim for the Fanwood Scotch Plains YMCA under the direction of Coach Ed Foeri.

Junior Baseball Now Accepting Scholarship Applications

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club is now accepting applications for their college scholarship. Applications can be picked up from the guidance department at South Plainfield High School or by contacting the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club at (908) 754-2090.

The applicant must be a graduating student this June, be a South Plainfield resident and have participated in the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club for a minimum of five (5) years.

The deadline is April 1, 1998.



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Happy Valentine's Day from the Staff



Obituaries

■ LUISITA SALAZAR BARRERA, 81

Luisita Salazar Barrera, 81, died on Wednesday, Feb. 18 at home.

She was born in San Vicente, Columbia and came to the U.S. in 1977 settling in North Plainfield before moving to South Plainfield 14 years ago.

She was a communicant of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in New Brunswick.

She was predeceased by her husband, Isisa Barrera, who died in 1941.

She is survived by a daughter, Virginia Troche of South Plainfield, a grandson and nine great grandchildren.

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

■ JULIA MACIK CHIEGO, 88

Julia Macik Chiego, 88, died on Sunday, Feb. 22 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born in Southington, CT and was a former resident of Newark and Irvington before moving to South Plainfield 47 years ago.

Mrs. Chiego was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

She is survived by her husband, Joseph J. Chiego Jr.; two sons, Ronald Chiego of South Plainfield and John Chiego of Fair Lawn and one grandson.

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

Memorial contributions in her memory may be made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

■ RITA G. (HAEFNER) ENGLISH, 72

Rita G. (Haefner) English, 72, died on Tuesday, Feb. 24 at home.

Mrs. English was born in Milltown. She grew up in New Brunswick and has resided most of her life in South Plainfield.

She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church and she was a member of the Catholic Daughters of America.

Her husband, Jack G. English, died in 1987.

Surviving are a daughter, Rita-Claire English of South Plainfield; four sons, Jack English of Watchung, Thomas R. English, Patrick English and Michael English all of South Plainfield; two sisters, Claire Raiello of South Plainfield and Marilyn Fischer of North Carolina; two brothers, William Haefner of New Brunswick and Robert Haefner of Sacramento, Calif. Also surviving are 13 grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations may be made to the Mosaic Fund at Sacred Heart Church, 200 Randolph Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

■ JOHN LOPATKA, JR., 74

John Lopatka, Jr., 74, died Wednesday, Feb. 25 at Birchwood Nursing & Convalescent Center in Edison.

Born in Jerome, Pa., Mr. Lopatka had resided in Piscataway before moving to South Plainfield 42 years ago.

He has been employed as an electrician for the former Alcan Company of Woodbridge, now known as Gentek Building Products of Cleveland Ohio before retiring ten years ago.

Mr. Lopatka served in the U.S. Navy during WW II and was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

He was also a life member of the South Plainfield Polish Home where he held the position of director, the Chaumont Post #6763 and the Piscataway American Legion Post # 261.

Mr. Lopatka was also an avid bowler in the Plainfield Area for many years.

His brother, Charles Lopatka, has predeceased him.

Surviving are his wife Emily M. (Kowalska); a son Thomas Lopatka of Augusta, Ga.; five sisters, Stella Snyder of Fiddletown, Calif., Manya DeBonis of Try, NY, Nellie Dey of Rocky Hill, NJ, Lydia Stutski of Edison, NJ and Gen Tindall of Bridgewater, NJ; a brother Leo Lopatka of Lady Lakes, Fla. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews and grandchildren and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in his memory to the Hemophilia Association of New Jersey, 37 W. Prospect Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08816.

■ NORMAN "Nip" SOFIELD, 91

Norman "Nip" Sofield died on Thursday, Feb. 12 at Roosevelt Care Center in Edison.

Mr. Sofield was born in South Plainfield and had resided there until moving to Piscataway in 1980.

He had been employed by the Mack Truck Co. at their former locations, first in New Brunswick and later in Plainfield, before the company moved to Maryland in 1956. He had worked for Mack for over 20 years in production. He then worked for the Borough of South Plainfield Public Works Dept. as a custodian in Borough Hall for 11 years before his retirement in 1967.

Mr. Sofield was an Army Veteran of WWII and a former member of the South Plainfield Vol. Fire Dept. He was a life member of the NJ State Exempt Firemen's Assoc. and a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 of South Plainfield.

In addition, he was a communicant of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Piscataway, where he was formerly an usher.

He was a former Communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

He was predeceased by his sisters, Mae Miller and Loretta Gawler and by his brothers Jeff and Harry Sofield.

Surviving are his wife, Mereta Hoffman Sofield; a son, John Sofield of Brick Township; two step sons, Peter Soper of Brick Township and Robert Soper of Middlesex. Also surviving are seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

■ JOSEPHINE (PERRY) WOOD, 85

Josephine (Perry) Wood, 85, of Martinsville died on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at home.

She was born in Leone, Italy and came to the United States in 1919 settling in Plainfield. She was a former 27 year resident of South Plainfield before moving to Martinsville two years ago.

Mrs. Wood was a hatter in the men's hat department for the former Bronson Hat Company in Plainfield for 32 years. She then worked as a waitress for the Sback-amaxon Country Club in Scotch Plains for 13 years. Mrs. Wood was a member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield and attended the Blessed Sacrament Church in Martinsville. She was a member of the Bridgewater Senior Citizens the Somerset County Senior Citizens and a former member of the Tri-County Senior Citizens and the South Plainfield Senior Citizens and A.A.R.P. Chapter 4144.

She was predeceased by her first husband, Louis Perry, who died in 1969 and her second husband, Michael L. Wood, who died in 1994.

She is survived by a daughter, Rose Marie Bruno of Martinsville; a step-daughter, Irene Dubiel of Plainfield; two sons, Lou Perry of Califon and Carmen Perry of Martinsville; three stepsons, Michael Wood Jr. of Lawrenceville, Ga., Anthony J. Wood of Westfield and Robert A. Wood of Tamarac, Fla.; 15 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

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

Memorial contributions in her memory may be made to the Martinsville Rescue Squad or the Somerset Visiting Nurses Association, 386 East Main St., Bridgewater, NJ 08807.

■ EDWARD A. VAIL, JR.

Edward A. Vail, Jr., died on Friday, Feb. 27, at Beth Israel Medical Center in Newark.

Born in Plainfield, Mr. Vail had resided for most of his life in Dunellen.

He had been employed for 43 years with Howell Electric Company of Plainfield before retiring in 1990.

Mr. Vail was a Veteran of World War II from 1942-1946 where he served in the Signal Pigeon Corps 366 division 3rd Army of the United States Army under General Patton.

He is a member of the Queen City Pigeon Club of Piscataway.

Surviving are his sisters, Jane E. Vail and Marion L. Vail both of Piscataway; three brothers, David K. Vail of Dunellen, H. Eugene Vail of Brooklyn Heights, NY and A. Clifford Vail of South Plainfield.

Also surviving are many nieces and nephews and many grandchildren and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Dental Disease in Pets

By Scott Linick, DVM, EAVD

February was National Pet Dental Health Month, a national public awareness campaign to stress the importance of pet dental care.

Most people are very aware of their own teeth. We are subject to a constant barrage of information regarding plaque control, cavity prevention and the catastrophic effects of bad breath. Many of us also visit our own dentists regularly. Despite this awareness of human dentistry, many pet owners still do not realize that their pets are subject to the same dental concerns.

Why is it important to care for your pet's teeth? For exactly the same reasons it is important to care for your own. The most common disease in pet animals is periodontal (gum) disease. It affects at least 90% of dogs and cats over the age of five years. Periodontal disease is the result of bacterial infection of the structures that support the teeth. As it progresses, these structures weaken, leading to loose and lost teeth.

While this is going on, the animal is fighting a constant battle with the bacteria in the mouth. As the animal chews its food, the infected and inflamed gums bleed, and a shower of very aggressive bacteria enters the blood stream. These germs are carried throughout the body and may cause infection in many areas.

Among the diseases that have been documented as a result of periodontal disease are arthritis, kidney disease, liver disease and heart disease. With the immune system constantly challenged by oral bacteria, it is less able to respond to other invasions. Pets with periodontal disease have sore mouths. They do not chew their food as well and have digestive problems. The overall effect is that the quality of life suffers dramatically, and at worst, the life span may be shortened.

What can you do about dental disease? Plenty! The first step is to look in your pet's mouth. If the gums appear red or inflamed, if there is a

foul odor, if you see pus at the gum line or if you see loose or broken teeth, arrange to have your veterinarian do an oral examination as soon as possible. The problem will be assessed and a treatment plan formulated.

The only way to properly carry out dental procedures on pets is with them asleep. Fortunately, the drugs available today make anesthetic risk lower than the risk of dental neglect.

Now that we have the teeth clean and healthy, it is up to you to keep them that way. As mentioned before, this is done by brushing your pet's teeth daily. Some owners can start brushing their pet's teeth on the first day whereas with others, it may take weeks of gradual effort to build up to brushing. Be patient because if you try to progress too rapidly, you might make your pet mouth-shy making it very difficult to proceed.

If handled properly, many animals come to truly enjoy their home-care and the extra time you spend each day with your pet will increase the bond between you.

Dr. Linick is the owner of the Plainfield Animal Hospital, 2201 Park Avenue and is a Fellow of the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry, one of only 62 fellowships worldwide.

NOTABLE MENTION

• A son, Daniel Charles Sprenger, was born on Dec. 26, 1997, to Darvene Adams and Mark Sprenger of South Plainfield. He joins two brothers, Mark Thomas and Luke Allen, at home. The grandparents are Allen and Norma Sprenger of Goshen, Indiana and Thomas Adams of South Plainfield.

• Danielle Gromosak daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Gromosak of John Street was named to the dean's list of distinguished students for the fall term of the 1997-98 academic year at Roanoke College, Salem, VA.

In order to be named to the list, a student must be enrolled in at least four units during the term and earn a grade point average of at least 3.50, with no grade lower than a "C."

Roanoke College is a coeducational liberal arts and sciences college with an enrollment of 1,700.

Culturally Speaking ON THE ARTS

By Gordon Flaadger

On Sunday, March 29 the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission will present its annual "Spring Into Dance Festival" at 2 p.m. at South Plainfield High School.

This year, we are presenting the "workshop" project featuring JoAnn's Performing Arts Center, the Plainfield Performing Arts Center, Spotlight on Dance and special guests.

As you know, all this wonderful entertainment is free to all friends and neighbors.

Our local girl scout troop will sell refreshments to raise funds.

Stay tuned, for there will be more news to come.

Juniorettes Hold Valentine Dance

The South Plainfield Juniorettes and Saturday Night at the PAL co-sponsored a Valentine dance on Feb. 14. It was a great success. The proceeds of the dance went to the American Heart Association.

The Juniorettes would like to thank all those who made it possible. Special thanks go to J. Joyce and the PAL staff, Officer LaMonda, Shaun Morrison, Mrs. Haus, Mr. and Mrs. Winner, Mr. Taber, the advisors, and all the kids who came.



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'No Smoking Policy' To be Expanded

Continued from page one

crowd of smokers to gain access to a sports event at the high school, his grade school-age child noticed how many of those smoking were students. The nine year old said, "Daddy, how come all these kids are smoking? Don't they know that smoking is bad for them?" The simplicity and logic of this child's comment prompted this father to voice his concerns to Lillian DeSimon, Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

The parent stated he was pleased with her assistance in providing him with a copy of the school's smoking policy, but he felt that any new policy would have to be worded very specifically. Seeking further assistance, he contacted Board of Education member Ken LaFreniere. Ken, already aware of the serious smoking problem within the high school, approached Superintendent of Schools Guy Ferri and High School Principal Tony Massaro with his concerns. He discovered that Ferri and Massaro had done extensive research and were working towards a solution for several months. The superintendent acknowledged that smoking was an addiction problem that needed a strong course of action and he agreed that a change in smoking policy was in order. Ferri stated that there would be two important changes to the school's smoking policy. The first would be that the no smoking regulation would be extended from no smoking within the building to no smoking on school grounds. The second was the plan to develop and implement a smoke stop program for staff and students alike. He explained that they had contacted local pharmacies, hospitals, and pharmaceutical companies in search of assistance, yet had come up empty-

handed. With no help forthcoming, it was decided to create a Smoke Enders Program geared towards students and run by their peers.

Proceedings were begun to institute this new policy banning smoking on school grounds altogether. The first step was a draft of the policy read at the February 17 Board of Education meeting. Ken LaFreniere noted that the proposal presented in the first reading was readily accepted and passed unanimously. He said, "I honestly feel that this is the most positive step taken towards protecting the children's future health." He was concerned however about the availability of cigarettes from vending machines in town. He feels that they should be eliminated. The machines defeat the purpose of the law banning the sale of tobacco products to minors. Vending machines for cigarettes have been outlawed in a number of neighboring towns.

Superintendent Ferri, pointing out that they regarded smoking as an addiction said, "We are not looking to punish the students, penalties don't cure." Currently only seniors are allowed to leave the grounds. In order to have a cigarette, the students would have to leave school property. Once the new policy is in place, students caught smoking on school grounds would not be suspended but required to attend a Smoke Enders Course. All school work missed due to this course would be made up in the school's Saturday program. He said they are currently looking into an adult program for staff smokers and that all teachers would have the opportunity to attend free of charge. All involved expect the updated policy to be in effect for the 1998-99 school year if not sooner.

BOROUGH NOTES

Continued from page one

namely a multi-product drug store (Rite Aid/CVS). Barry Rosenberg, the attorney representing the applicant, stated the tenant would most likely be Rite Aid. A conceptual review was not binding to the applicant or to the board. James Clarkin, board attorney, explained to the Board that there is no application submitted at this time.

• McDonald's, Oak Tree Rd. came before the board to ask if the roof beams of their building were considered a sign. The Board decided to interpret the lighted roof beams not as a sign, but they should be considered distinctive architecture.



Lauren Campos, team captain of the Varsity Team of Sacred Heart School won first place on Single Miss Yell Varsity Division at Christ the King Cheerleading Tournament. Lauren Campos is also a contributor writer for "Write from the Heart" for the South Plainfield Observer.

Vandalism Increasing; Booster Bus Set Ablaze

Continued from page one

office and computers stolen. At Kennedy School the wooden ark play area was defaced, the inside littered with graffiti. In a more serious incident at the Middle School, dumpsters were set on fire outside of the loading dock. The dumpsters have since been relocated as a safety measure. Several incidents occurred at the high school, but the vandals were caught. Every school has experienced repeated broken windows. Mr. Ferri noted there is an ongoing police investigation into the onslaught of vandalism, he also said that all would be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. He hopes that this will deter further damage to the town's schools.

One of the more heinous acts was the destruction of the new state-of-the-art playground equipment at Grant School which houses

the Future Stars pre-school and the handicapped pre-school programs. All that remained of the structure was a mass of melted plastic. Before this incident the wooden train play space at Grant School was demolished by vandals. Fortunately in this case the criminals, all minors, were apprehended.

Superintendent Ferri feels strongly that while money is an issue that comes into play, cost is not main concern. The children's safety is a far more important issue and must come first. He said these crimes are depriving the children of opportunities. He said the youngsters at the pre-school were devastated, and could not understand why someone would do this to their playground. Ferri stated, "These are crimes against the children, not against property. They are not crimes against the school but crimes against the taxpayer." At this time they are uncertain if any of the incidents are related.

He said that the transportation vehicle damage creates a special problem. If damage is discovered in the morning, the children are often left waiting for a bus that will not arrive. A bus must be sent on a second run and there is no way to notify all the parents of the delay. The students are the ones most affected by the acts of violence.

All the schools are currently safe-guarded by security systems. The Board is looking to enhance and extend those measures to include the surrounding school grounds. Mr. Ferri stated that the critical issue is whether or not these plans will survive the budget. When the budget is cut, important items such as the planned security enhancements suffer. He pointed out that while the initial outlay of money for advanced security is large, despite insurance, replacing computers and other equipment is equally expensive and costs taxpayers more in the long run. The Board of Education will

continue to research ways of keeping school property safe.

The destruction of the Music Boosters van was especially devastating. The organization wanted to find a way to help eliminate the expense of transporting band equipment to and from various events. Music Booster parents, the school's transportation supervisor and the business administrator worked together to find a means to accomplish this. They came up with a van in need of refurbishment at a transportation service. The service then donated the van to the school. The van was put back in shape through parental labor and donations. The Board of Education only had to provide new tires for the vehicle. Work was finished by the beginning of the school year, just in time for the band's busy season of football games and competitions. It had only been in operation for about six months. Fortunately the bulk of the band season was concluded. However Creighton Pfeifer, President of Music Boosters, said that they had planned to use the van to transport equipment to the annual Somerville St. Patrick's Day parade. A truck will be rented to replace the torched vehicle. The Music Boosters volunteers are a support group that help fund band and chorus trips and events. They also sponsor a scholarship that any senior band, chorus, or color guard member may apply for. Pfeifer said, "We will not allow this setback to interfere or slow us down. We will do whatever it takes to have what we need for our students ready for the next season."

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

Next issue deadline is March 12.

POLICE REPORT

• A resident of Nunnink Lane reported the left side rear window of his car was broken and the trunk was dented while parked on the street.

• A lap-top computer was reported stolen from Prudential on Durham Ave. While police were taking the report they were informed that two IBM PCs were also missing. The building has 24 hour security. Security is checking its tapes. The computers were valued for over \$5,000.

• A man from Adeline Ave. was assaulted by two subjects after he confronted them for punching a trailer parked in front of his house. He was punched in the jaw and received minor injuries.

• An employee from Easy Video on Maple Ave. complained that a regular customer tried to kiss her and put his hand on her buttocks. She said he had tried to kiss her before, but refused to listen when she asked him to stop. The man was arrested and charged with sexual contact.

• An ATM theft was reported by a customer who mistakenly left her card in the ATM machine at First Union on Plainfield Ave. Even though she reported it immediately, the card was used twice to withdraw a total of \$600. The bank is investigating and checking the surveillance tape.

• An employee working at the DMV office at the Middlesex Mall, re-

ported his car, parked behind the building, was broken into by smashing the driver's side front window. Stolen were AM/FM cassette, CD changer, cellular phone, remote control radio and a calculator. The total value was \$909.

A suspect attempted to deposit part of a \$1862 check and take the rest in cash at the Valley National Bank on Durham Ave. When the teller

started to ask questions about the account, the suspect left. After further investigation it was found out the account had been closed.

Cross Stitch reported their receipts, which were in a clear plastic bag, were stolen from the desk in the office. There was no sign of entry and the alarm did not go off. The bag contained cash and checks totalling \$2162.76. Police are still investigating

South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is sold at the following locations

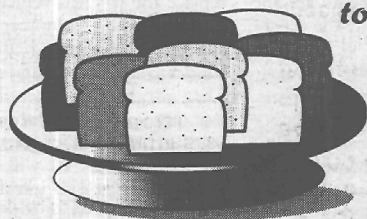
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- 7-Eleven, Plainfield Ave.
- Bagel Pantry, Plainfield Ave.
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- Carousel Hair Salon, Oak Tree Rd.
- Freihofer's, Montrose Ave.
- Dave's Stationery, Sampton Ave.
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- Twice Is Nice, Front Street
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Once in a while, the tastiest things in life are free!

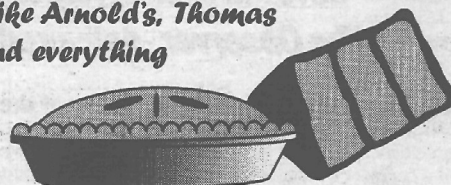
Good bread and fun desserts really add to the quality of everyday life. We're happy to provide you with both - at savings that permit you to enjoy the best often!



And to thank you for your business, we invite you to make use of the coupons below with your next

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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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