

South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

MARCH 19, 1998

Vision 2001 Sponsors 3rd Annual Auction To Benefit Students

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield's Vision 2001 Education Foundation, Inc. will present their 3rd Annual Art Auction on Friday, April 3 at 7:45 p.m. A preview begins at 7 p.m. The auction will be held at the Holiday Inn on Stelton Road, So. Plfd. Hors d'oeuvres, fruit, desserts, and beverages will be served. The auction will be run by the Marlin Art Company. Funds raised will benefit a variety of scholastic and civic programs and the foundation's scholarships. Admission to the fundraiser is \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door.

Vision 2001 Education Foundation, a non-profit organization, was founded in 1991. The fifteen member group is comprised of nine business leaders, five educators and one PTA/PTSO representative. The group was created to seek financial support of the business community in order to underwrite scholarships for South Plainfield High School students as well as to provide other motivational programs for South Plainfield's students.

Vision 2001 stresses the importance of recognizing South Plainfield residents with outstanding

records in serving the children of the community. This year they have chosen Mrs. Arlene Kelly as the Honorary Chairperson for the Art Auction. Mrs. Kelly has dedicated 20 years to South Plainfield's youth. She has substantial credits with the local Girl Scout program. She is currently the co-manager of the South Plainfield Girl Scouts, which includes 52 troops and an enrollment of 577 girls. She is the director of the Hillside Summer Day Camp. She is also the community fund development manager and the community volunteer manager. She is troop leader for Senior Troop 773. Mrs. Kelly has done extensive work with the Washington Rock Girl Scout Council as well.

The objectives of Vision 2001 are student-oriented, yet diverse. They provide financial support to incentive programs that encourage academic achievement. An example is the Gold Card Program by which students are rewarded for academic excellence. They also offer annual scholarships. Vision 2001 works to establish internships and co-operative work opportunities, and incentive industry/school partnerships. They provide endowment funds for scholarships. Other programs supported by this organization are Project Graduation, a drug and alcohol-free party for graduating seniors and Tiger Gold, a good citizenship program at the Middle School.

In conjunction with the auction Vision 2001 Education Foundation is currently running a 50/50 with half of the money being donated to the fifth grade trip to Stokes State Forest. For further information on the art auction or Vision 2001 Education Foundation, please call (908) 756-8038.



Activity Center Dedicated to Past Principal Thomas B. Lenahan

By Patricia Abbott

Saint Patrick's Day has always been a major event at Franklin Elementary School. Former Principal Thomas Lenahan, who passed away last year, was proud

of his Irish heritage and he shared this with his students and staff. The tradition continued after his retirement. The order of the day was a family breakfast held before school, a lively afternoon program of Irish tunes presented by all the classes and much wearing O' the green, including youngsters sporting green freckles. This year was no exception and the day was an extra special one, not just for the Franklin students, but for all who knew Tom Lenahan. The school held a dedication ceremony renaming the gym The Thomas B. Lenahan Activity Center.

The standing-room only event was led by Master of Ceremonies, William P. Slavoski a former grade school principal. Many proud Lenahan family members filled the front row. Featured guest speakers included Leonard Tobias, former Superintendent of Schools. Paul Sincavage, former

grade school teacher; Guy Ferri, Superintendent of Schools and Carol Byrne, Board of Education President and past Franklin School PTA President. Also in attendance for the dedication were Board of Education members, including former members Emile Leporino and Randy Brooks. Former South Plainfield mayor, Mike Woskey was on hand as well as Roosevelt School Principal, Mario Barbieri and Kennedy School principal, Al Czech. Many Franklin alumni also attended.

Nancy Erickson, Principal of Franklin School noted in her opening remarks that she was sure Tom Lenahan was with them in spirit and that his Irish eyes were twinkling as we watched the festivities. Leonard Tobias reflected on his memories of Lenahan, how well he interacted with the chil-

Continued on page 15

School Board Approves Tentative Budget

The Board of Education approved a tentative budget of \$32.1 million for 1998-99. The school-tax portion of the property tax bill would be increased by 6 cents per \$100 of assessed value. For the average homeowner, the proposed \$2.06 tax rate would increase taxes by \$68.

Last year voters turned down the school board budget and they were forced to shave two cents off the budget by using surplus money. Decreased rates have also had an impact on the budget along with student enrollment increases each year.

The final vote on the School Board budget will be March 30. Voters will vote on the budget at the School Board Elections on April 15.

Postal Investigation Not Affecting Service

An ongoing investigation at the South Plainfield Post Office will not disrupt service, according to Frank Santoro, spokesman for the U.S. Postal Service in Central and North New Jersey.

Concurrent with investigation, Postmaster Linda Wyatt was placed on administrative leave with pay on February 24. Mark Rizzolo has been named acting Postmaster. Santoro stressed that Wyatt, a postal employee of 25 years, has not been arrested. In-

spection Services, which is the law enforcement branch of the U.S. Postal Service, is conducting the investigation.

The nature of the inquiry has not been disclosed, but it has been reported the investigation disclosed irregularities in various financial transactions discovered February 23 during a routine audit. The South Plainfield Post Office has 68 employees who cover 27 routes. About 8,000 pieces of mail are delivered daily.

PUBLICATION DATE CHANGE

For the month of April, the *South Plainfield Observer* will publish on the 2nd and 4th Friday instead of the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Due to the dates of certain events, publication will be on Friday not Thursday for the next few issues so that we may report on these events. We would like our readers' opinions on this change. Call the editorial department at 732-469-4380 or e-mail us at spobserver.com

BOROUGH NOTES

Council Notes

■ Sewer fees will be increasing for commercial and industrial users due to an ordinance passed at the March 12 council meeting. The fees were increased after a study showed that commercial and industrial users were not paying their share of the sewer fees. There will be no increase to residents.
■ A resolution was passed to authorize a loan of up to \$900,000 to the Lutheran Social Ministries for construction of the proposed Senior Hous-

ing project at the rate of 1% per annum for 30 years. Ed Kubala stated the Senior Citizen Housing project is getting closer to groundbreaking, perhaps by mid July.

■ A Motor Vehicle Sales License was issued to Conti Enterprises of St. Nicholas Ave. to buy and sell in-house vehicles.

■ The council voted to purchase an e-mail package for the borough not to exceed \$2,800.

■ John Pulomena asked the council to investigate competi-

Continued on page 15

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor,

Best of luck with the *Observer*. It is really nice to once again have a paper we can truly call our very own. I will look forward to receiving future copies by mail, so I won't miss any.

**SINCERELY
CATHERINE DEMICO**

To the Editor:

On Friday, Jan. 23, Franklin School held their first Annual Spaghetti Dinner, "A Touch of Italy" at Franklin School. The dinner was a fundraising event to benefit the fifth grade trip to Stokes Forest/N.J. School of Conservation. We would like to thank the local businesses for their support. The generous donations helped make the evening a success. Donations from Cafe Piancone, Ferarro's Restaurant, Rudolph's Pizza, Ciccio's Pizza, Haisch's Bakery, Friendly's Restaurant, McDonald's, Bruno's Pizza Factory, Cookie's Bagel & Bakery, The BOC Group/Marriott and Freihoffer's Bakery were exceptional.

Many thanks to the merchants who provided items for our Gift Basket raffle. They are Brush Stop Hair Salon, CVS, Drug Fair, Regal Cinemas, Mohn's Florist, Pizza Stop, Million Dollar Video, Easy Video, Sam

Goody, Block Buster Video, SportsWorld, A & P, Shop-Rite, Razor's Edge Beauty Salon, Flanagan's, Pizzeria Uno, Quick Chek, Ruby Tuesday, Yogurt Express, Foto Professor and South Plainfield Liquor Store. Von Graff Flower Shop generously donated the beautiful flowers for the tables and The Party Pros of Piscataway supplied our decorations and paper goods.

We are extremely grateful to Mr. Manny Vergis, Mrs. Mary Cameron, Mrs. Mary Sacks and the fifth grade parent volunteers for their timeless effort in supporting our school. In addition, we would like to thank Ms. Nancy Erickson, principal of Franklin School, for her continued support and dedication to our children.

**LINDA DUQUETTE
JACKIE SANDOVAL**

Dear Residents:

Saturday, March 28, as promised, is Democracy Day in South Plainfield.

Your Mayor & Council, when facing a project which will cost one million dollars or more, asks you to approve or reject the expenditure; vote yes and it will be done, vote no and no tax dollars will be used.

For too many years we have been confronted with the seri-

ous flooding which occurs in the New Market Avenue area, disrupting lives, damaging property, closing streets and requiring the services of our emergency units: police, fire, rescue squad and emergency management, health concerns for sanitary sewer lines, storm sewers and water lines, all at tremendous cost to us as taxpayers.

We believe that part of the answer is to establish water retention areas along New Market Avenue to direct and contain water. To this end we have applied for funding from Green Acres Projects to purchase properties to be used to control flood water.

The balance of costs, if needed, will be funded through bonding. The amount bonded will be the amount required to purchase LESS the amount received from Green Acres Grants.

This problem of flooding affects every resident of South Plainfield and we now have an opportunity to take corrective action.

Please come to Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue on Saturday March 28, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and have your voice heard on Democracy Day.

I hope to see you there.

**REGARDS,
DANIEL J. GALLAGHER,
MAYOR**

To the Editor,

Here we go again. It's time for Democracy Day in South Plainfield. You know what Democracy Day is of course. Its the day our elected officials who are elected to make decisions, pass the buck to those who elected them because they are afraid to make decisions on difficult issues.

This year the Mayor wants your approval to borrow 1.4 million dollars to buy up privately owned property which is subjected to flooding in the New Market Ave. area. This problem has existed for many years and previous attempts to resolve it by acquiring property such as the old Elks building has not been successful.

At one point the Corps of Engineers came in and cleaned out all the brooks and pipelines under the railroad tracks and this alleviated the condition. But no one maintained this cleanup and now the problem is back and is

compounded by flooding that affects the sanitary sewer system and creates a health problem as well as a flooding problem.

Using our tax dollars to buy up private property is not going to stop the flooding or solve the sanitary sewer problem. Has anyone thought to contact the Corp. of Engineers, to at least come in an look at our problem? Maybe it would be a good idea to check to see if more water is flowing into our borough than before. Did the construction of Talmage Rd. increase the inflow of water?

We need to establish priorities on where to spend our tax dollars. Due to a failure on the part of the mayor and council to control building, our school system is facing a crisis which will probably require new building and additional teachers which of course will be costly.

With this in mind, do we really need to spend 1.4 million to buy private property or should we look to other ways of solving the problem. One thing is certain — dumping the problem back in the laps the of taxpayers by way of Democracy Day won't solve this or any other problem facing South Plainfield.

ANTHONY "JAKE" CATALDO

To the Editor:

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to Mr. John Curica, South Plainfield Business Administrator, and South Plainfield Police Department Traffic Division for their prompt action in collecting the inappropriate street signs installed in the business section of South Plainfield Avenue. The corrected signs will not confuse our customers.

**THANK YOU,
FAITH AND TOM GAUL,
SERVICES PLUS**

Dear Editor:

There is only one town in the entire state of New Jersey and maybe even in the entire United States of America, where every citizen gets to say how their tax money is spent. That town is South Plainfield. There has been quite a bit of discussion about this years' Democracy Day issue. "Should the Borough of South Plainfield borrow up to \$1.4 million to afford those residential property owners in the flood plain on New Market Avenue the opportunity to sell their property to the Borough in

order to create open space for flood control?"

Some people agree that it is a worthwhile project to give relief to those homeowners on New Market Avenue who choose to sell their homes for flood control. Other people think it is a bad idea to seek loans and grants to help a limited number of residents. I respect both points of view but on balance I believe the proposal should be supported. To demolish the homes in the flood area is not the only answer but it is one option that should at least be available, if needed.

However, the bottom line is this. Whatever the people say on Democracy Day goes. There is no other town where the people get to decide. I can remember 1993 when 200 residents pleaded with then Republican mayor and council not to borrow \$20 million dollars and they did it anyway. If South Plainfield had a Democracy Day in 1993, the Mayor and Council couldn't have ignored the residents. Whether you are for or against the proposal for New Market Avenue, come out and vote. To quote one of the founding fathers, "Here, sir, the people rule."

Democracy Day is Saturday, March 28 at Borough Hall, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Anyone over 18 years of age can vote. In addition to the New Market Avenue question, there will be space for voters to state three (3) areas they want the Mayor and Council to concentrate on such as parks, roads, or anything else of concern.

Again, please come out to voice your opinion on Democracy Day!

COUNCILPERSON VINNIE BUTTIGLIERI

UPCOMING OBSERVER PUBLICATION DATES:

Issue Date	Copy Deadline
April 9	April 2
April 23	April 24
May 2	April 30

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.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Here we go again with a 16 page issue.

We want to remind everyone that we are trying to cover each and every event you tell us about. However, sometimes it's just not possible. If we cannot cover your event, we will be glad to publish the photo you take. Send them to us at the address below or bring to Mohn's or Twice As Nice. Also, if you had an event and you don't see it in the paper, it's probably because you didn't tell us about it. We can't cover what we don't know is happening.

Thanks again for all your encouragement. The advertisers have also noticed you are reading their ads. Just keep telling them you saw their ads in the *Observer*.

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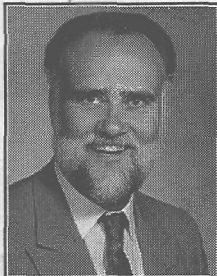
We look forward to hearing from all of you and encourage you to send in your stories and photos. The *South Plainfield Observer* is your paper. Please let us know what you would like to see in it.

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.



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events around 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.

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.

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.

Junior Woman's Club Sponsors Atlantic City Bus Trip

The Junior Woman's Club of South Plainfield will sponsor an Atlantic City Bus trip on March 29. Academy Bus Company will leave Columbia Savings Bank parking lot at 9:30 a.m. for the Taj Mahl, Atlantic City and return to South Plainfield at 9:30 p.m.

Tickets are available for \$30. Ticket price includes a meal voucher for \$15 and a coin voucher of \$14. For information or tickets contact Shannon Jefferys or Carolyn Allen at (908) 757-1055. Deadline for tickets is March 13.

The Junior Woman's Club of South Plainfield is a not for profit, community service organization. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at Pilgrim Covenant Church. For information call Cindy 764-8136.

Sacred Heart Church Plans Trip To Trumps' Casino

Sacred Heart Church is sponsoring a trip to Trump's World Fair Casino in Atlantic City on Saturday, March 21. The bus will leave at 8:15 a.m.

Upon arrival participants will receive a \$5 food voucher and \$10 in coins. The cost for the trip is \$15 Call the Parish Center at (908) 756-0633 for reservations.

Annual Lions Club Breakfast Slated

The South Plainfield Lions Club will hold their Annual Gourmet Breakfast at the South Plainfield High School Cafeteria on Palm Sunday, April 5 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The tickets are \$5 each.

The South Plainfield Lions Club have been helping the visually and hearing impaired since 1947. Through their fundraisers they are able to sponsor eye exams, eyeglasses, seeing eye dogs, scholarships, and contribute to many statewide Lions Projects.

So come, bring the family and

enjoy the fabulous breakfast which includes: pancakes, omelettes, french toast, among the many choices. You'll not only have a great breakfast, but you'll be helping to contribute to a worthy cause. The Lions look forward to seeing you there.

AARP Chapter 4144 Announce Meeting

The next meeting of AARP, Chapter 4144 will be held on April 17 at 12:30 p.m., at the PAL Building, on Maple Ave. Alice Cook of Franklin Park will demonstrate her award winning paintings on jewelry and fine china.

An April 1 trip is planned be to see and hear Charlie Prouse.

The cost of bus transportation, dinner, and theater is \$56 per person.

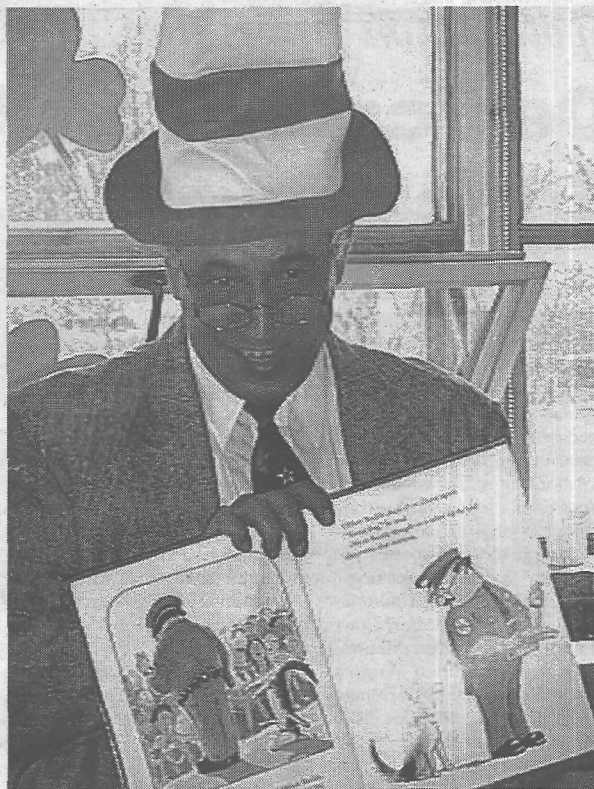
A May 7 trip to Three Little Bakers to see *Phantom of the Opera* is \$48 and will include the cost of bus, dinner and show.

For more information on either of these trips please call Lee at (732) 968-6613. Leave word for call back if necessary.

The Nominating Committee will present its slate for officers, directors and nominating committee for May elections, at the April meeting. Nominations from the floor will be taken at that time, after which no further candidates applicants will be accepted.

Sacred Heart Friday Night Fish Fry

The St. Vincent dePaul's Annual Fish Dinner are being held every Friday night during Lent from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Sacred Heart school cafeteria.



Superintendent of Schools Guy Ferri celebrates 'Read Across America' and Dr. Zuess' birthday recently by reading to students in the school.

Annual Spring Egg Hunt To be Held



The Annual Spring Egg Hunt, sponsored by the South Plainfield Recreation Commission, will be held Saturday, April 4 at 1:00 p.m. at the PAL field.

The event is open to South Plainfield boys and girls ages 9 and under. The rain date is Sunday, April 5.

There will be plenty of candy eggs, prizes, fun, laughter and "Hoppy" the Bunny will be there to meet the kids. Please bring bags or baskets for your eggs. For more information, call 226-7713.

March/April

The South Plainfield Observer

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

Board of Education Spec. Meeting 7 pm/ Reg. Meeting 8 p.m. Court 9:30 am & 7 pm

Publication of So. Plfd. Observer

Paint Recycling 8 am-2 pm

23

24

25

26

27

28

Council Agenda Meeting 8:00 pm

Planning Board 8:00 pm

Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. 7:00 pm Court 9:30 am 7:00 pm

Recycling Comm. 8:00 pm Council Meeting 8 pm

29

30

31

APRIL

1

2

Vision 2001 Art Auction Holiday Inn 7:45 p.m.

4

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Court 9:30 am Business Advisory Group 6:30 pm

Taxpayers Advisory Group 7:00 pm Copy Deadline for So. Plfd. Observer

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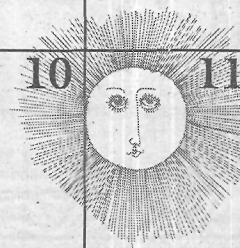


Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm Recreation Comm. 7 pm

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 Publication of So. Plfd. Observer



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.

Spotlight on Jim Lenox.... Dedicated to Education

By Mary Holmer

Jim Lenox, Director of South Plainfield's Adult Education School, is first and foremost, an educator. Whether he is evaluating the Adult School course schedule, organizing the new pre-school enrichment program or coordinating a trip to see *The Sound of Music* on Broadway, Jim's goal is to provide educational opportunities for everyone who shares his love of learning.

A graduate of Seton Hall University, Jim earned his Bachelor's degree in Social Studies and Education. He also holds a Master's degree from Fordham University in Mathematics and Education, and is a self-confessed, life-long student who has earned 80 academic credits above a Master's degree.

"I've been lucky," he explains. "I've received many educational grants which have allowed me to attend eight colleges. I've always loved to learn."

After graduating from Seton Hall, Jim began his professional career teaching math and coaching football and basketball in a high school located in San Bernardino, California. After teaching there for just one year, he was appointed Chairman of the Math

Department. After two years of teaching in California, Jim returned to New Jersey to accept a position teaching math and coaching football and tennis at Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights. It was during his tenure there that Jim accepted a part time position as the Director of Adult Education for Berkeley Heights. It was a job he held in addition to his teaching and coaching duties at Governor Livingston.

"I was coaching, teaching, working on my Master's, and running the Adult School at the same time," Jim remembers. "My wife and I had one child, and another on the way. I was young and had a lot of energy," he adds laughing.

This part time job would be a spring board to South Plainfield where Jim accepted the position of the Director of Adult Education in July 1972. He replaced Leonard Tobias, the first and only other person to fill these shoes. Under Jim's guidance and administration, South Plainfield's Adult School has grown into a dynamic educational institution which encompasses a wide range of adult education services, an acclaimed pre-school program called *Future Stars*, both pre-



Pictured above are Brittany Musolino, Jim Lenox and Allison Clawans.

school and kindergarten enrichment programs, an innovative latchkey program and, of course, the extremely popular trips that range from walking tours of historical sites in New York City to overseas excursions to London and Ireland.

When Jim came on board as Director, the Adult School was in a state of rapid development and growth. With the blueprints for a new high school on the table, the adult education program would prove another valuable way to make the new building a worthwhile investment for South Plainfield. Within a short period of time, adult education classes were running four semesters a year (fall, winter, spring and summer) and providing a wide range of courses, including computers, real estate, CPR, photography, creative writing, crafts and exercise classes. The Adult School also maintains a close working relationship with Ricochet Racquet Club in an effort to provide additional physical fitness courses, advanced exercise equipment and swimming classes for adults and children in South Plainfield.

Jim isn't concerned over whether we exercise at a class in the high school or register through the Adult School for a step class at Ricochet. "It doesn't matter who does the job, just as long as the job gets done," he says in reference to services provided to South Plainfield residents. "The important thing is that these opportunities are available for our community."

Within his first year as Director, the *Saturday Scene* Youth Program was initiated. *Saturday Scene*

is a fun and productive alternative to a morning of cartoon viewing. Kids have the opportunity to develop their interests in sports, music and crafts as well as make new friends and escape the weekend doldrums! In this venture, Ricochet Racquet Club has been a valuable partner, providing many specialized sports programs and swimming classes for children. *Saturday Scene* has been so successful that Jim has helped to design similar programs in Piscataway, North Plainfield and Metuchen.

Future Stars Program

While Jim holds the title of Director of Adult Education, a great deal of his energy and talent has been spent on developing programs for children. He spent several years researching the feasibility of incorporating a tuition based preschool program into the Board of Education. The result of this detailed planning was the *Future Stars Program*, which opened its doors in September of 1980 and quickly became the foundation on which many children have built their education.

"The *Future Stars* program is one of the things I am most proud of," Jim said. "It is an excellent program. The teachers are very dedicated and loving. The philosophy is to provide an environment where children respect each other and enjoy learning."

In a continued effort to enhance the lives of preschoolers as well as answer the needs of working moms and dads, the Adult School introduced a Preschool Enrichment Program on March 13th. This program works hand in hand with *Future Stars*, providing a variety of activities to will encourage learning and inspire creativity. Children will attend these classes on the same day as their *Future Star* class, either in the morning before or the afternoon following their regular pre-school session. With a lunchbox from home and a comfy quilt for a nap, preschoolers will be kept busy from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.. The program is designed to keep both kids and parents happy by offer-

ing a great deal of registration flexibility.

"Parents can sign their children up for one day or three days. We are very flexible because we want the program to help parents cope with the demands of their jobs. They know that their children are safe with us," Jim explains.

Latchkey Program

Keeping the children safe was the impetus behind South Plainfield's Latchkey Program. Jim recalls attempting to contact parents on the phone in the afternoon and finding young children home alone, reciting a much rehearsed, "My mother can't come to the phone right now."

"Children were being forced to accept adult responsibilities out of need," Jim comments. "Kids were home alone deathly afraid, and parents were at work worried. I saw the need for creating a workable, safe solution."

The solution was the Latchkey Program. Under Jim's direction, South Plainfield was the first school district in the state of New Jersey to institute a latchkey program as part of the Board of Education under the auspices of the Adult School. Initially operating out of a spare room at Roosevelt School, the Latchkey Program is now housed at Grant School and provides before school as well as after school care for close to 200 children. Along with snack time, play time and homework time, the staff is encouraged to provide "communication time" for the children to talk to staff members as well as each other.

Jim emphasizes that kids need to share their adventures of the day with an understanding, caring adult. "I want my staff to really listen to the kids. They have a lot of enthusiasm and many stories to tell at the end of the school day. I also like the kids to get outside and play in the fresh air. Let the kids be kids."

The success of South Plainfield's Latchkey Program has prompted several invitations for Jim to speak at conferences on the subject around the country. He

Continued on page 15

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 returned, 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.

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Randee Staats

Bill Staats



Kevin Bulla Earns the Rank of Eagle Scout

Kevin Bulla, Troop 125 became an Eagle Scout during the Awards and Recognition Dinner at the VFW Hall held on March 9. Troop 125 meets there regularly every Monday night.

In order to become an Eagle Scout, Kevin had to accumulate 21 badges, show leadership qualities and plan and complete a 'major project.' He was required to submit his project for approval to his superiors before starting. For his project Kevin chose to feed the hungry last Easter.

He visited local businesses to solicit food, money and donations. He also worked with the St. Vincent dePaul Society, the Welfare Department and Our Lady of Czestochowa.

The Eagle Scout project took over three months to complete. When he finished last Easter, Kevin had fed over 18 families with 35 overflowing boxes of food for families in South Plainfield and Plainfield using over 1,500 food items and donations.

Kevin received letters of congratulations from Bill and Hillary Clinton, Senators Robert Torricelli and Frank Lautenberg,

Governor Christie Whitman, as well as representatives from the VFW, Knights of Columbus, Watchung Area Boy Scouts, Flint & Steel Assoc., the South Plainfield Fire Department, the Elks, the St. Vincent dePaul Society and the Marine Corps.

Father John Skwara of Our Lady of Czestochowa, where Kevin is a parishioner, was present to add his congratulations. The Eagle project was done with the help of members the church.

An Eagle Scout honor guard from Troop 125 surrounded Kevin during the ceremony. They were Steven Ritter, Mike Corvelon, Brad Carlton, Guy Vincent and David Bond.

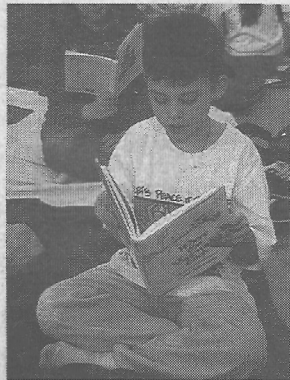
During the dinner Troop 125 received its charter for its 65th consecutive year in operation. Kevin is the 45th scout from the troop to make Eagle Scout.

Kevin lives with his parents, Kenneth and Beverly, who are life-long residents of South Plainfield. He is also a member of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department.

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 each and \$10 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.



Matt Emery reading at "Reach Across America!" celebration.

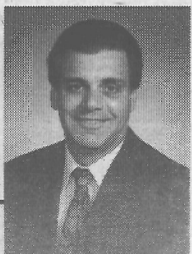
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Fourth Annual Democracy Day Scheduled for March 28

Explanation of Ballot question

Question #1: Should the Borough of South Plainfield borrow up to \$1.4 million to afford those residential property owners in the flood plain on New Market Ave. the opportunity to sell their property to the Borough in order to create open space for flood control?

Explanation

New Market Avenue is the area most affected by flooding within the Borough of South Plainfield. After a major storm, a portion of New Market Ave. is underwater. The flooding is caused by a backup of water flowing from the Green Brook Flood Plain into the New Market Pond in Piscataway. When the pond can't handle the water, it backs up and overflows onto the basin area of New Market Ave. There are 17 residential properties which are dramatically affected by this flooding. Although the Borough has explored and will continue to explore any means available to reduce the flooding, there is no simple solution to the problem.

Several New Market Ave. residents have stated that they would be willing to sell their homes to the Borough for fair market value. After the home is purchased, the borough will demolish it and create a water retention area. Any properties purchased will have permanent deed restrictions so they will always be set aside as open space for flood control.

If approved, this Democracy Day ballot question will allow the Borough to borrow no more than \$1.4 million over 20 years to purchase the property of anyone who wishes to sell. **NO ONE WILL BE FORCED TO SELL THEIR HOME.** This is a totally voluntary program designed to give relief to property owners on New Market Ave. who choose to take advantage of it. The offer will only be made to residential property owners NOT to businesses or industrial property owners. All grants will be pursued to lessen the amount to be borrowed. It is likely that some property owners on New Market Ave. will not offer their property for sale and the Borough may receive some grant money from the State or Federal government which will reduce the amount to be borrowed. Only the actual amount needed will be borrowed. At most the cost to the Borough will be approximately

\$110,000.00 per year for 20 years if a loan is needed for the entire \$1.4 million. (See a map below which shows the properties affected by this proposal.)

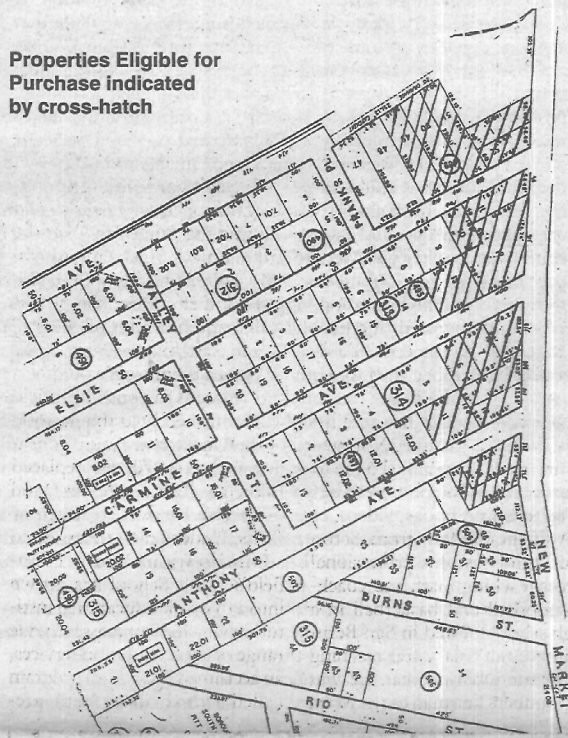
Question #2: This general question, which was included in the 1996 and 1997 Democracy Day ballot gives every voter the opportunity to set forth the areas where they think tax dollars

should be directed such as roads, parks, buildings, preservation of open space and municipal services in general.

Please list three areas which you believe should be priorities for the mayor and council in 1998.

If you will be unable to vote at Borough Hall on March 28, you can obtain an absentee ballot at Borough Hall, fill it out and return it by March 24.

Properties Eligible for Purchase indicated by cross-hatch



Dear Residents of South Plainfield:

DEMOCRACY DAY WILL BE HELD AT BOROUGH HALL, LOCATED AT 2480 PLAINFIELD AVENUE, ON SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1998 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

On that day, all residents, 18 years of age and older, will be given the opportunity to vote and will also be asked to list three areas that the Mayor and Council should make priorities for 1998.

Here is how Democracy Day will work:

1. Any permanent resident 18 years or older and a citizen of the United States can vote. Please bring a form of identification with you to prove residency. (You do not have to be a registered voter to vote).

2. Voting will be by secret paper ballot like the one enclosed.

3. You can use the enclosed ballot as an absentee ballot if you will be unable to vote at Borough Hall on March 28th.

Your Mayor and Council have agreed to be bound by the results of the Democracy Day Election. Whatever you say, goes.

PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN DEMOCRACY DAY. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL RESIDENTS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN DECISIONS AFFECTING SOUTH PLAINFIELD'S FUTURE.

**VERY TRULY YOURS,
MAYOR DANIEL J. GALLAGHER**

Upcoming Events from The Friends of the Library

The Friends of the South Plainfield Library are collecting old or unwanted candles for a fundraiser. Patrons are being asked to drop off unwanted candles in the collection box during library hours. It is a way to recycle items and benefit a worthy cause.

The Friends are also planning their second Annual Flea Market. Last year's Flea Market was very successful in terms of number of vendors as well as shoppers. This year the event will be held on April 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Anyone interested in obtaining table space is asked to call



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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Hello again. This issue's column from South Plainfield Library starts with some more computer-oriented news.

First of all, we've added another Internet terminal. This second terminal is in the children's room and is primarily for use by children. Adults may use it while school is in session, but kids get first crack it at afterwards.

Next, an advisory. Many people are very eager to use our terminals as their gateway to the Information Superhighway. The problem is that some people are inexperienced with computers and to be blunt, don't know what they're doing. Some have been clumsily pushing buttons and clicking the mouse until the machine ends up overloaded and frozen. Please be very careful when using the computer; if you don't know how to operate them, don't start. Ask at the desk for assistance. Remember, the more time we spend trying to get terminals working again is less time spent assisting the patrons. Not to mention that the money it costs to repair broken computers can be better spent on books, videos, etc.

If the last paragraph concerns you, help is on the way. The Library is now signing people up for classes on how to use the computers. As noted in the last issue, we haven't set any dates yet, but we are taking names and phone numbers from those interested.

We'll let you know when everything is set up.

After this week's hiatus, the children's storytime programs return next week. We'll be running according to the usual schedule: Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. and Thursday at 1:30 p.m. (for 3-6 year-olds), and Thursdays at 11 a.m. (for children age 18 mos-yrs). Next week's programs will feature Curious George stories. For more information, check with Children's Librarian Judy Fischer.

The latest batch of circuit compact discs is now available. The list can be found at the main desk. Elsewhere on the circuit front, the videos and audio cassettes will be available until the 28th. If you would like to borrow an item from these groups, now's the time.

You may have noticed the display we've been featuring from South Plainfield Girl Scouts. You can see this display here until the end of the month.

Finally, several patrons have mentioned a problem with the new receipts we've been handing out from the circulation computer for checked-out books. It seems they've been losing track of the receipts and can't remember when the books are due. If that happens, there's a very simple remedy. Just give us a call and we can check your record. On occasion, these new gadgets do come in handy.

That's about all for this issue.

Wayne Grennier Receives Emmy Award

Wayne Grennier was recently presented an Emmy Award he won for his participation in the 1996 Olympics. He was a Technical Supervisor for the 1996

Summer Olympics, held in Atlanta and televised on NBC Television.

Grennier, who worked at NBC for eighteen years, held various technical jobs and was the Manager of NBC's remote truck facilities. The remote trucks are used for various sporting events. As Technical Supervisor, Wayne had to temporarily relocate to Atlanta to oversee the vast amount of Technical Equipment needed in televising the Olympics.

Wayne has been a resident of South Plainfield for almost 30 years. He has two children, Michael, who is a Sergeant with the South Plainfield Police Department and Renee, who lives in Chalfont, Pa. He and his wife Nancy, publish *The South Plainfield Observer*. Wayne is also a Sales Representative with the Metuchen Office of Weichert, Realtors.



Wayne Grennier

Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

Very Rev. Michael A. McGuire, Pastor

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:45 p.m.

Sunday 7:45, 9:00, 10:30 a.m. and 12 Noon

Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)

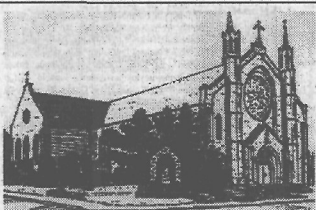
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

Holy Days 7 p.m. (Vigil); 7, 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 11 a.m. - 12 noon, 5:15 - 5:45 p.m.

and after 5:45 p.m. Vigil Mass



Franklin School Blasts Off!



The Franklin School Science Club was busy this month making rockets. The children, under the direction of volunteer parents gathered at Franklin school Wednesday night, March 11 to construct the rockets. They were made with soda bottles, paper towel cores, hot glue and paper cones.

The children took their rockets home to paint and decorate and met at Franklin School on Sunday, March 15 to launch the rockets.

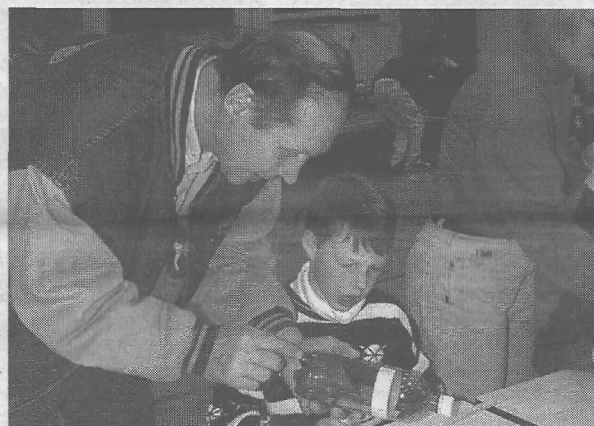
The Science Club is run by volunteer parents, many of whom are teachers, scientists and professionals from all walks of life. They decide what the projects should be done each month and vary the types of science projects.

Parents come and assist the students, K-5, with these various

projects.

Debbie Simoff, science club coordinator, says its a great learning experience for both the par-

ents and the children. Over 140 children are presently enrolled in the club, with 80-100 presently attending the meetings each time.



School Board Candidates Speak Out

"Moving Forward" was chosen as the theme of the re-election campaign to emphasize the role we wish to play in the future of South Plainfield. For the past three years, as board members, we have consistently made the progress of our school district our number one priority. Because of the expected growth taking place in the next few years, so much needs to be accomplished.

These past few months the Feasibility Committee has been meeting to generate possible scenarios for the changes necessary in our schools. A unified, proactive Board of Education is vital to the proper development of plans and time lines to complete projects demanded by the growing population of school aged children generated by the increased housing units being erected here.

Test scores have risen, in part, because we have consistently expected and demanded the best of our students and staff. As reported in the district's QAAR Report, we register above 90% across the board. Our SAT and PSAT scores follow the same trend. We now insist that all juniors take the PSAT and these tests are paid for by the district. This was started last year in order to give both students and parents an indicator of success for their fu-

ture in continuing their education.

We have held the line on budget increases while actively pursuing cost savings to make South Plainfield an effectively operated school district.

We have become a Certified Board, one of only 30 in the State of New Jersey, because we believe that a knowledgeable Board serves its citizens more efficiently.

We have placed Student Assistance Counselors in our schools to aid in the well being, both physical and mental, of our population of children.

We have created special education classes within our school buildings to better serve our classified children. This action saves

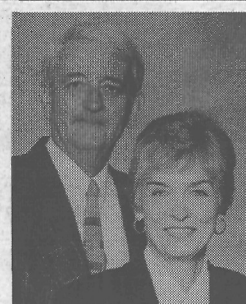
money while providing the least restrictive environment for these children.

We have created a Staff Development component to assist our employees in their constant pursuit of excellence.

There are so many more ways we can continue to serve the South Plainfield school district and we ask that you give us the opportunity to implement them.

Because the three of us care so deeply we have decided to seek re-election. Vote for Steven Bohn, Line 1; Carol Byrne, Line 2 and Marjorie Reedy, Line 3. Keep South Plainfield moving forward.

Carol Byrne, Steven Bohn and Marjorie Reedy



Paul & Maryhelen Thievon

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SCHOOL DAYS: What's Happening?

SACRED HEART STUDENTS....

By Dana Boyer, Lauren Campos,
and Kaila Randolph

Sacred Heart School students and faculty have been involved in many different activities both in and out of the classrooms. Here are some of the recent events.

Cheer Your Heart Out

The S.H.S. Cheerleaders and the Sacred Heart School Athletic Association hosted their annual Fr. Sico/Fr. McGuire Cheerleading Tournament. Teams including Christ the King, Manville; St. Matthias, Somerset; Our Lady of Victories, Sayerville; and St. Frances Cabrini, Piscataway competed in this fun-filled event. A highlight of the competition was the S.H.S. Junior J.V. Cheerleaders — coached by Mrs. Michelle Cerami, Jessica Cerami, Kristen Pietruszki and Jaclyn Fusco — who performed a hello cheer and a dance. The competition had a very successful turnout.

The S.H.S., J.V. and Varsity cheerleaders have been practicing vigorously since late September for this year's competition season. To date, they have entered into two competitions. The first one was held at Christ the King School in Manville. The standings for this competition are as follows:

Junior Varsity

Single Miss Yell: Kristina Latonio, first place; Double Miss Yell: Stefanie Cabrera and Michelle Musoke, fifth place; Most Outstanding Cheerleader: Angela Garzon.

Team: Kristina Latonio, Stefanie Cabrera, Michelle Musoke, Angela Garzon, Megan Polifka, Katie Lang, Jennifer Traynor, Jenna Zielinski, Kelly Daley, Marsia Palma and Ashley Penny, fourth place.

Varsity

Single Miss Yell: Lauren Campos, first place; Double Miss Yell: Adrienne Slaten and Crystal Rodriguez, second place; Most Outstanding Cheerleader: Candice Spence. Team: Lauren A. Campos, Dana M. Boyer, Kaila C. Randolph, Adrienne N. Slaten, Crystal Rodriguez, Candice



Sacred Heart School JV Junior Cheerleading Squad (3rd and 4th grade)

Spence, Tiffany Lewis, Danielle Taylor, Katie Selby, Beth Birath, Jennifer Hand and Lauren Martina, fourth place.

The second competition they

third place; Most Outstanding Cheerleader: Michelle Musoke. Team: Kristina Latonio, Stefanie Cabrera, Megan Polifka, Katie Lang, Jennifer Traynor, Jenna

Beth Birath, first place; Most Outstanding Cheerleader: Lauren A. Campos. Team: Lauren A. Campos, Dana M. Boyer, Kaila C. Randolph,



Sacred Heart Junior Varsity Cheerleading Squad (5th and 6th grade)

participated in took place at St. Frances Cabrini in Piscataway. The standings for this competition are as follows:

Junior Varsity

Single Miss Yell: Marsia Palma, fourth place; Double Miss Yell: Kristina Latonio and Kelly Daley,

Varsity

Single Miss Yell: Kaila C. Randolph, second place; Double Miss Yell: Lauren Martina and



Sacred Heart Varsity Cheerleading Squad (7th and 8th grade)

Adrienne N. Slaten, Crystal Rodriguez, Candice Spence, Tiffany Lewis, Danielle Taylor, Katie Selby, Beth Birath, Jennifer Hand, and Lauren Martina, second place

Mrs. Kathy Thomas, Mrs.

clothing and music from a variety of cultures will be represented that day.

We hope you enjoyed reading this column. Keep posted for more news "Write From the Heart."

Maryanne Zielinski, Stacy Thomas, and Jaclyn Fusco coach both of these competitive and skillful teams. Their next competition will probably be held on March 21. Good Luck to all the girls.

A World of Cultures

Miss Carolyn Alfonzo and the sixth grade social studies classes are studying their cultural backgrounds. Their families have originated from Puerto Rico, Peru, Jamaica, Columbia, Italy and Poland just to name a few. The students also made paper dolls, which are dressed in the countries' native clothes. To conclude this event, they will celebrate "Culture Day" on May 8th in the school cafeteria. The food,



Sacred Heart Artwork and Talent On Display at Middlesex Mall

In celebration of Youth Art Month, the Catholic Schools Art Show will be held on Saturday, March 21 and Sunday, March 22 at the Middlesex Mall from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be an opening reception for the artists at 11 a.m. on Sat. March 21.

According to Sacred Heart art teacher Mrs. Loretta McCabe, works in many different mediums, such as drawing, painting, clay and wax sculpture, weaving, and ceramics will be on display. There will also be ethnic artwork, such as Indian pictographs and Egyptian hieroglyphics.

Students throughout the show will provide entertainment. Sacred Heart's Drama Club, under the direction of Miss Michelle Perry, plans to present dialogues and monologues with props, and music teacher Mr. Paul DeLoia

will showcase performances by a small choir and pianists. Sacred Heart's Home & School Association, will donate and serve refreshments from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday.

The participating schools will be: Sacred Heart School, South Plainfield; St. Francis Cabrini, Piscataway; St. Matthias, Somerset; Our Lady of Fatima, Piscataway; and Our Lady of Peace, Fords.

WE WANT YOUR NEWS!!

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

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Riley School Celebrates Grandparents Day On St. Patrick's Day

Everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day at Riley School. Over three hundred grandparents enjoyed good food and a show on March 17.

To the lilt of Irish tunes, the P.T.S.O. served parents a tasty lunch. After the meal, Dr. Janet Munger, principal of the school, introduced the program performed by the students from kindergarten to grade two.

Some of the entertainment included Irish Poems, and a grandparents poem. There were also songs such as "St. Patrick's Day is Here" and "I'm Looking Over a Four Leaf Clover." The second graders performed an Irish jig. At the conclusion of the program the proud grandparents were free to visit with their grandchildren in the classrooms.

This special day for grandparents has been a tradition at Riley School.

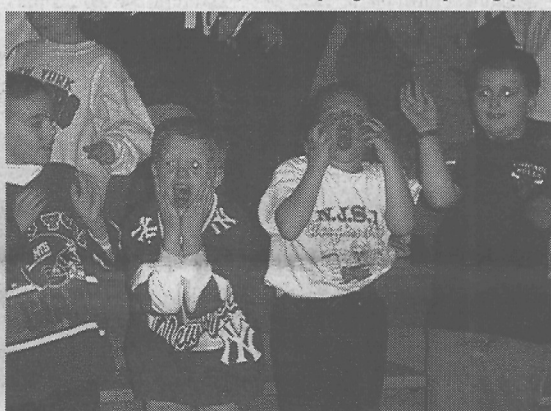
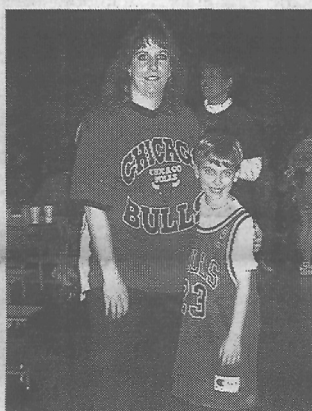
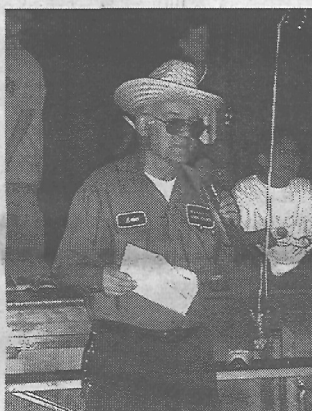


ple. The cultural arts program was sponsored by the Franklin School PTA.

Young audiences of New Jersey is a state chapter of Young Audiences,

YOUNG AUDIENCES OF NEW JERSEY presented **OPERA WORKS** at Franklin School on Tuesday, March 10. The performance is provided by Young Audiences, the country's leading provider of arts program for young peo-

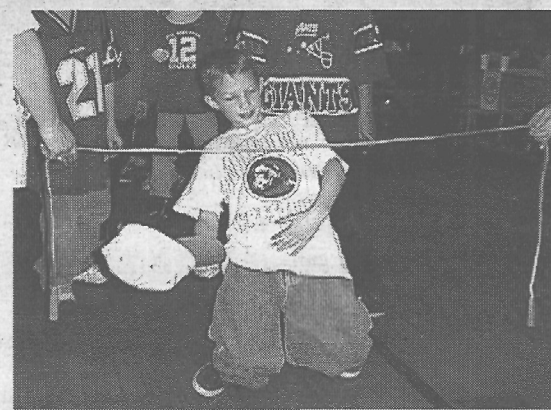
Inc., a national non-profit organization dedicated to the education of children. They are the first arts-in-education organization ever awarded the Nations Medal of Arts, presented by President Clinton in recognition of the group's work.



Riley School held their annual Mother-Son Dance on Friday, March 13. The boys and their moms decked out in their favorite teams colors and spent the evening enjoying the hand jive, the twist, the limbo, a slow dance, and of course.. FOOD!

At the close of the fun-filled evening was custodian, pictured above, Artie's rendition of ACHY BREAKY heart.

Photo by Patricia Abbott



Girl Scouts Hold Booth Cookie Sales

If you missed this year's door-to-door sales, it's not too late to buy Girl Scout cookies. South Plainfield Girl Scouts will sell cookies from booths in the following locations:

March 21: Quick Chek, Sampton Ave. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; A&P, Oak Tree & Park Ave. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

March 28: Inside Middlesex Mall 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

April 4: Inside Middlesex Mall & Outside K-Mart 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; CVS, Plainfield Ave. 9-4 p.m.; First Union Bank, Plainfield Ave. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and Quick Chek, Sampton Ave. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

April 5: CVS, Plainfield Ave. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; McDonalds, Oak Park Commons Shop. Ctr. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

April 10 & 11: Inside Middlesex Mall & outside K-Mart 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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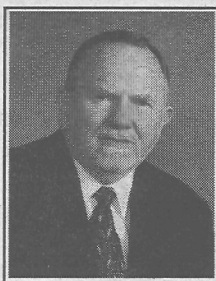
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Wayne Grennier Sales Representative

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Democrats Seeking Council Candidate

The South Plainfield Democratic Organization is soliciting resumes for any individual interested in running for Borough Council this November. Mayor Daniel Gallagher and Councilperson Dennis Cerami have been endorsed by the Municipal Committee for reelection.

However, a screening will be held to select a candidate to run for the council seat presently held by Councilman John Pulomena.

Pulomena has announced that he will not be seeking reelection to the Borough Council due to his election as a member of the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Anyone interested in seeking the Democratic nomination for Borough Council can send their resume to the South Plainfield Democratic Committee, P.O. Box 422, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Interested candidates can contact the Democratic Municipal Chairman, Patrick Diegman at (908) 753-7200.

Volunteers Needed for Litter Clean-up Week, April 25-May 1

Welcome Spring by clearing away winter's grime! The Clean Communities Advisory Board will sponsor a Borough-wide clean-up the last week in April. The main clean-up event will be held Saturday morning, April 25. Volunteers will meet from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Borough Hall parking lot at 2480 Plainfield Avenue to collect equipment and clean-up assignments. Roadsides, parks, streams and vacant lots will be targeted. All volunteers will be invited back to Borough Hall at noon for a free Pizza Pickup Picnic, complete with environmentally-friendly door prizes. Residents are welcome to organize a crew, or to come on their own. Call the Clean Communities Coordinator at 226-7621 for more information.

Riley School Playground Becomes a Reality

New playground equipment for Riley School will soon be a reality through the efforts of the Riley PTSO Playground Committee, the school board and many volunteers. The playground construction has been in the planning for sometime under the leadership of Dianna Fredericks, who has been working on this project since last summer. Groundbreaking was Feb. 27 and on March 7 the volunteers came out to begin construction. Last Saturday the volunteers came, but due to the snow they had to delay working on the playground. They plan to be back on March 21.

The playground should be completed and ready for use within a few weeks.

The volunteers who have helped so far are: Ron and Cindy Bosse, Ernie Carlomagno, Lee Flanagan, Lee Fredericks, Kim and Nick Freitas, Janice Gray, Tracy and Bill Hartmann, Lisa Hahn-Gould, Maria Krupit, Rich Little, Kim McMahon, Jan Parello, Cathy and Bob Parillo, Kathy and Bill Thomas, Marybeth Vazquez, Raul Vasquez and Donna and Dave Zushma.

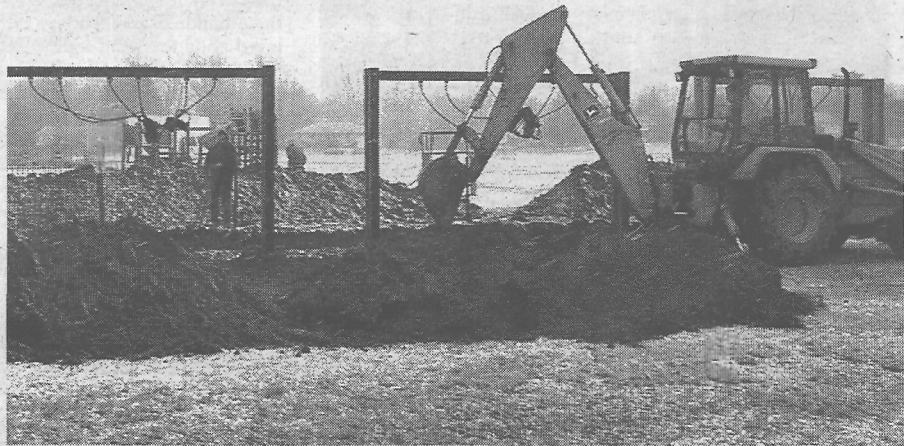
Others helping out are Lori

Dress, fourth grade teacher who helped with installation; Mayor Dan Gallagher, who helped with the installation and transportation of equipment; Ron Nowak, GameTime supervisor and Certified Playground Safety Inspector; Darren Groman, of Plunkett-Webster who donated 2x10 planks and helped install the edge New

Fall Zones; Joe Glowacki from the Public Works Department for allowing the storage of equipment at the Borough Yard and supplying trucks for transporting equipment to Riley. Also Bill Dowdal, of Marriott Services provided a snow fence and concrete mixture and the business office of

the South Plainfield School District who supplied mulch for the Fall Zone.

"Everyone involved in this project has contributed to its success. It has been a monumental team effort and a tribute to the community spirit," said Deanna Fredericks.



WE WANT YOUR NEWS!!

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

Recycling Comm. Changes Meeting Days

The South Plainfield Recycling Commission will be meeting on the fourth Thursday for the next three months, as opposed to the fourth Tuesday as previously reported. Those dates are as follows: March 26, April 23 and May 28.

These meetings take place in the Borough Hall Conference Room at 8:00 p.m. If you have any questions, call 908-561-8280.

Sacred Heart Church Holy Week Schedule

MONDAY APRIL 6TH
9:00 a.m. (Mass/Novena)
7:30 p.m. Chrism Mass at the Cathedral

CONFESSIONS
Wednesday, April 8 7-8 p.m.
Friday, April 9-Good Friday 4-5 p.m.
Saturday, April 10-
Holy Saturday 11-12 Noon.

HOLY WEEK MASSES

Palm Sunday
Vigil-Saturday, April 4 at 5:45 p.m.
(Simple Blessing of Palms at all Masses)
Sunday, April 5 at 7:45, 9, 10:30 a.m. & 12 Noon
(Solemn Blessing & Procession at 10:30 a.m. Mass)

HOLY THURSDAY
April 9 at 7:30 p.m., Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper and Procession.

ADORATION OF REPOSITORY
9:00 a.m. until Midnight

GOOD FRIDAY
(No Mass Today)
April 10 - Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m.
Solemn Liturgy of the Passion and Death of the Lord at 7:30 p.m.

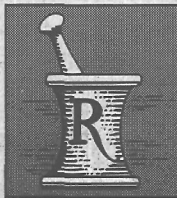
HOLY SATURDAY
April 11, Blessing of Easter Food at 12 Noon
Solemn Easter Vigil Ceremonies and Mass at 8:00 p.m.

EASTER
MASSES OF THE RESURRECTION
April 12 at 7:45, 9:00, 10:30 a.m. and 12 Noon.

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INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

By Briggs Longbothum
and Eric Tillman



I just heard that now there's an asteroid (due in 2028) that is likely to double-park in our space here! Also hearing that and with renewed argument, my nephew leaped on it and promptly reminded his mother that they better hurry up and go buy that new computer! Ah, the budding logic of youth! Kind of reminds us of ourselves way back when.

True! The prices are way down, and the performance levels of the available hardware and software components are way up, but the asteroid factor doesn't count. These are good times for computer shoppers indeed.

I want to share some thoughts on computer & peripheral buying. There are some wise moves you can make now by understanding what the market is doing to lure your into their "best deals." Lots of similarities between computer store sales efforts and car dealer sales efforts and we've all been there.

First last and always: know what you want your new computer to do. To define that, you have to know what you (actually the loudest user, if those complaints won't be yours when the dream doesn't come perfectly true) want to do with it. Home/small office accounting and word processing with simple e-mailing, faxing, and internet surfing doesn't call for the same capabilities as serious gaming (!), and audio-video processing (even for working with your home movies and pictures), and collaborative internet work such as VON (voice over the net) and video-telephony.

TIP: Most of the programs that provide for all this Internet sizzle are available free in trial form or "de-rated" free use. (Try it, you'll like it! And maybe want to buy it). This means that you can use it right away without having to run out to a store. Or you can buy it right over the Internet, remember it's safe to do that now!

TIP: Though there are far too many sites to list, I do believe that if there is software out there, you can find it on the web faster, for less money and usually with a trial version for free. Catalog sites exist too and one of the best is PC CONNECTION. They'll even send you a catalog (800-800-5555). I've ordered software from them at 10 p.m. and had it in-hand within 12 hours!

Now, what to buy? Please, get yourself a decent monitor. Do what it takes to get a 17 inch color-monitor with a "dot-pitch" of no more than .28mm. Never mind what that means, just do it. The only compromise would be for a 15 inch monitor instead, but THAT IS A COMPROMISE! Adult logic: What you see is what you get. This is for your eyes only! Get a good monitor (they do sell computers without them) and you can use it with your next computer, etc. This one's for keeps and so are your eyes. Spend a buck here.

Speakers, printers, keyboards, mouses (mice), scanners, etc. are devices you can choose to your own personal preference. Noth-

ing too complicated here. These too can be bought a la carte and I encourage you to buy to your own tastes. Package deals always leave something to be desired, but since it's your money... Such deals though, may be a good place to start. There's nothing like a spare keyboard when you suddenly down one in coffee. The software bundle that comes with these deals is a sales "incentive" (referred to as "shovel-ware"). Most of it you'll look at once and that's it! Don't be impressed here, be smart! Most new machines will come with Microsoft's Windows95 already installed. This is ok. Win95 is pretty good by now. See if you can get it without the Internet Explorer browser! No real problem if you don't, but you can install it (free) later if you really want it. There are others, and I use more than one here.

And lastly for this issue (we'll continue next time) and since this is the big money saver: you better have a real need to buy into the fastest microprocessor/chipset on the market. The smart buy is one or two steps back from the "bleeding edge." I think the slowest Pentium based machine available new now is a 200MHz-MMX. Though it is far from the fastest, it is a real, real good buy-in point. Pentium 233, 266, Pentium II's are all out there too, but remember your needs. Next issue, we'll look more into "the box" itself and cover the innards. PCnU next issue.



Emil Leperino selling Vision 2001 50/50s at the Riley School Mother/Son Dance. The proceeds of the 50/50 are donated toward the fifth grade trip to Stokes State Forest.

Rescue Squad Holds 'Western Night'



Marion Gallaher and Linda Zushma.

The Ladies Auxiliary of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad held its annual "Western Night" on Saturday, March 14 at the Polish National Home with great success. Marion Gallagher, who chaired the event, unfortunately was sick all last week and her husband Dan, had to do all the of the last minute



John Lent and Shirley Veglatt in western gear.

tasks. She said he was instrumental in the success of the dance and deserved credit. Marion said she would also like to thank Linda Zushma, Rescue Squad President and her husband Mike along with Gemini Towing who were a great help in making the event a success.

February Fire Report

Fire Chief Abbruzzese reported the South Plainfield Fire Department answered a total of 65 alarms during the month of February. A total of 1389 man-hours were spent during the month. The breakdown is as follows: alarms, 858, maintenance, 260, drills, 234 and extra duty 37.

Girl Scouts Attend Mass



Girl Scouts and leaders from South Plainfield troops worshipped together at Sacred Heart Church on Saturday, March 7. The service marked the start of Girl Scout Week, March 8-14.

Scouts started the mass with a flag procession and Brownies and scouts led the various readings for the mass.

During the mass Senior Troop 33 and Father Anthony Dandry presented Girl Scout Catholic Religious Medals to Julianne Bosse,

Rachael Esteves, Nicole Riccadonna, Jessica Vasquez, Stephanie Whitney, Megan Hartmann, Stephanie Mazurak and Selene Rayho from Brownie Troops 91, 42, 690 and 958.

Participating at the mass were the following troops: Daisy Troops 129 and 385; Brownie Troops, 42, 91, 116, 305, 314, 431, 463, 678, 690, 759, 777, 783, 786, 883, 958, 967 and 974; Junior Troops 109 and 375; Cadette Troop 350 and Senior Troop 33. A reception followed with cake and coffee.

Five Announce School Board Candidacy

Three incumbents and two new comers will vie for three seats in the upcoming school board elections.

The three board members running for re-election are Carol Byrne, president, Steven Bohn and Marjorie Reedy. The two challenging for a seat will be Dawn Jefferys and Joseph Scudato. The school board election are held on April 15.

HELP WANTED!

Director, vocal, band, tech directors, choreographers needed for South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop.

Show runs 2nd weekend in August.

Submit resume to: So. Plfd Summer Drama Workshop, So. Plfd Adult School, 305 Cromwell Place, South Plainfield, NJ 07080

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Sacred Heart Students Excel in Track Events



Danielle Todman

Two Sacred Heart students have recently inspired the pride of the entire school because of their outstanding accomplishments in track events.

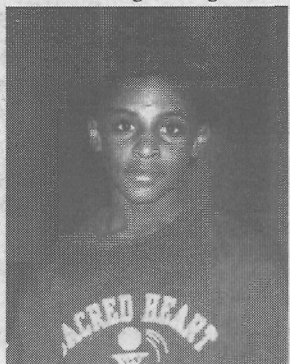
Eighth grader Danielle Todman began running when she was only five years old with a mile race at summer camp. Later in the fourth and fifth grade, she shortened her distance to sprints. Last year after coming to Sacred Heart and participating in the spring Track Program, she became interested in the Colgate Women's Games, a series of track meets held during January 1998 at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY.

Every Saturday for four weeks Danielle, accompanied by her mother, traveled to New York and ran, primarily in the 200 and 400-meter events, and once she ran the 800 meters. During the finals on February 14 she was one of six finalists selected to compete in the 200 meter "Most Promising Newcomer" event, where she came in second. "It's exciting and a lot of

fun, but also very scary to be running in front of thousands of people," said Danielle.

According to her father, Brittany Culver, a third grade student at Sacred Heart who just turned nine, has always wanted to run. With the help of track clubs, first in Plainfield, and later with the Supersonic Track Club in New Brunswick, she has been training and competing for years.

Last summer she ran in the AAU Nationals in Charlotte, NC, where she placed fourth in the US in her age group. She participated in Sacred Heart's Spring track program and also competed in the Colgate Women's Games this winter. In the four weeks of regular Colgate com-



Brittany Cuover

petition, she won first place for three of four weeks in the 200 meters, and first place all four weeks in the 55 meters, winning a total of four medals all together. For the finals on February 14, she had to pick one event, and chose she the 55 meters. Brittany won the final at Madison Square Garden with a time of 8.29 seconds.

Ponytail Parents' Association Lists Events

Ponytail softball will hold a Coach's Clinic on March 20 at 7 p.m. for any parents interested in coaching a team. Interested parents can come to the Franklin School gym for an hour or so and learn the basic techniques of softball. No registration is necessary.

Field clean-up will take place on Saturday, April 4 at 10 a.m. Help is needed in getting the fields ready for opening day, April 18. The fields are located on Pitt Street, off New Market Avenue.

The Parents' Association is selling slightly-used softball pants. They will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis on Saturday, April 4 at the refreshment stand from 10 a.m. to noon during field clean-up day. The cost is \$5.

Opening day is Saturday, April 18. Ceremonies will begin at noon. Kelly Riedel, a senior at Rutgers University and a pitcher for the softball team will be the

guest speaker. All are invited to come out and show their support for Ponytail Softball.

On Sunday, April 19 the Ponytail Parents' Association will be going to a Rutgers University home softball game at their fields

in Piscataway, behind the athletic center. It is a double-header that will begin at 11 a.m. against Providence. The group will either "caravan" or hire a bus. For more information, call Carol Boley 769-0897.

Feigley's Phantoms Win Awards

The boy's Phantom gymnastics team from Feigley's School of Gymnastics in South Plainfield, brought home many awards March 7th after the New Jersey Gymnastics Qualifying Meet held at the Head Over Heels Gym in Middletown. In Class Four, Ted Donnelly of South Plainfield took sixth place on floor and high bar and eighth place on parallel bars. Chris Glowacki of Edison had an eighth place on floor, seventh place on parallel bars and all around and third place on high bar. Mike Gentzel of Bridgewater took sixth on pommel horse, fourth on vault and high bar, second place on still rings and all around and first on parallel bars. Jamie Wongbandue of Piscataway took seventh place on floor.

In Class Three, James Nixon of Somerset placed third on high bar, second on still rings, parallel bars and all around, and first on pommel horse and Jonathan McCary of Piscataway placed third on floor, parallel bars and all around, second on pommel horse and first on high bar.

Teammates in Class One, Tim Goetz took second on still rings, vault, parallel bars, high bar and all around and Jason Douglass of Plainfield placed second on floor and pommel horse.

All the boys have qualified for the New Jersey USA Gymnastics Boy's State Championships to be held at Clifton High School in Clifton on March 21 and 22. Job well done!!



Middle School Basketball Team Takes First Place

The South Plainfield Middle School sixth grade girls basketball team took home the first place trophy at last weeks South Plainfield Basketball tournament. This is the first year the sixth grade girls have had their own team. They had a great season and are looking forward to playing in their final tournament next weekend. The girls on the team are (bottom row); Marilyn Alexander, Yorika Rawlins, Brittany DeNitzio, Jenna Smith, Kristina Lopez, Tarryn Carlton, Amanda Rastalli (top row); Renee Stophera, Jessa Jones, Courtney Turner, Danielle Tonkin, Chiara Tomei, Amanda Fugate, Dani-Jo DiMaria, Catherine Flannery, Jaclene Prongay, Shade' Coleman, Ngozi Okparacke, and Martina Ganiaris. The team is coached by Alyson Severino.

Sacred Heart's Martin Lillis Foul Shooting Contest Winner

A Foul Shooting Contest was held on Sunday, Feb. 22 at the Father Sico/Father McGuire Basketball Tournament. During the regular season there was a three point Challenge Contest at each varsity game. The top six winners were invited to participate in Feb. 22 contest.

Each contestant had 30 seconds to make as many foul shots as possible. The winner, Martin Lillis, made eight. The prize was a basketball autographed by the New Jersey Nets.



Pete Smith, President Sacred Heart Athletic Association presents Martin Lillis with basketball signed the New Jersey Nets.

Sacred Heart Varsity Cheerleaders Host Competition

On Feb.14, the Sacred Heart Varsity and Junior Varsity cheerleading squads hosted a competition for area parochial schools.

As hosts the girls were ineligible to participate in the event.

The winners for the Junior Varsity and Varsity divisions are:

JV Miss Yell
1st St. Matthias, Somerset
2nd OLV-JVI, Sayerville
3rd OLV-JV2, Sayerville.

JV Double Miss Yell
1st St. Matthias, Somerset
2nd OLV-JVI, Sayerville
3rd OLV-JV2, Sayerville.

JV Team
1st St. Matthias, Somerset

2nd OLV-JVI, Sayerville

3rd OLV-JV2, Sayerville

Varsity Miss Yell
1st Christ the King, Manville

2nd OLV, Sayerville

Varsity Double Miss Yell
1st Christ the King, Manville

2nd OLV, Sayerville

3rd St. Frances Cabrini, Piscataway

Varsity Team
1st Christ the King, Manville

2nd OLV, Sayerville

3rd Holy Trinity, Westfield

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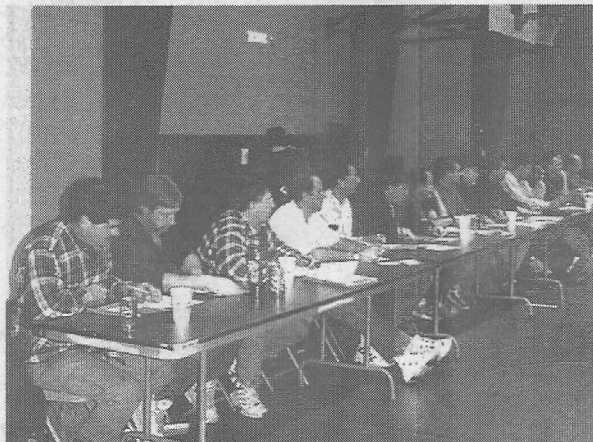
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Junior Baseball Tryouts Are Held at PAL



Coaches take notes on the kids as they tryout.

Baseball season is just around the corner and the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club is scurrying about trying to make it the best season ever.

Baseball tryouts were held March 7 at the PAL Building. Coaches are now choosing players for their teams and practice will begin soon. Approximately 500 children are enrolled this season in the Junior Baseball Program.

A parade will officially kickoff the opening day festivities on April 18, with the South Plainfield Band leading the parade from Borough Hall to Spicer Field.

This year there are a few changes that parents should be aware of. This season the uniforms issued to the children will be theirs to keep. In the past, parents and coaches had a hard time in locating, cleaning, patching and returning the old uniforms.

The pitching mounds have been completely redone and a new clay is going to be used. Dug outs are also being renovated. Last year the club refurbished the playing fields.

This year the Baseball Club's budget is projected to be \$108,000. The Borough donates \$3,500 and the remainder has to be raised by the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club and the Women's Auxiliary.

The refreshment stand has always been an important part in fundraising. This year the stand has been enlarged, painted, cleaned and new equipment is in place. Outside the stand picnic tables and an awning have been added. New menu items include a special item each night. Soup will be added along with cookies and milk.

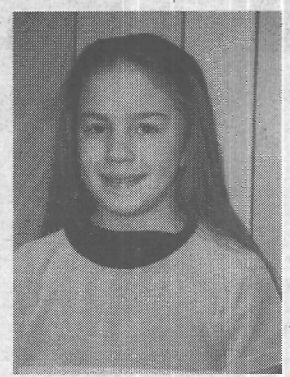
The Pony Field will have a Hot Dog Wagon parked nearby to eliminate the long walk for food and drink.



Dana DeCillis



Carlie Kazimir



Gina Severini

Little Miss Baseball Nominations Announced

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club announced its nominations for 1998 Little Miss Baseball. Their names are Carlie Kazimir, Dana DeCillis and Gina Severini. Ballot boxes, with their pictures on them, are placed in Quick Chek, Ciccio's and B & C Deli. Come on out and vote for Little Miss Baseball. Your support is appreciated to help the S.P. Junior Baseball Club. Voting ends March 29th and the winner will be announced April 1.

Become a South Plainfield Community Pool Member, Now!

Get to know your neighbors! Make new friends! Grow closer to your family! Stay cool through the sweltering summer months!

Get in on South Plainfield's premier social scene by applying for membership at the South Plainfield Community Pool.

This splendid facility boasts an exceptional safety record, lovely grounds, on-site concession and picnic areas, a safe and enjoyable playground, shuffleboard, handball, basketball, sand volleyball, horseshoes, tetherball, diaper changing stations (in both changing rooms) and tot safety seats in bathroom stalls!

Additional features include a top-notch Learn to Swim® program, an award-winning swim team, and highly trained lifeguards and support staff dedicated to ensuring your safety and maximizing your enjoyment.

New for 1998

We've listened to our members and made some really terrific changes! We've upgraded our entry procedures to be much more member friendly! We are in the process of repairing the much publicized water leak and repairs will be

1998 COMMUNITY POOL FEES

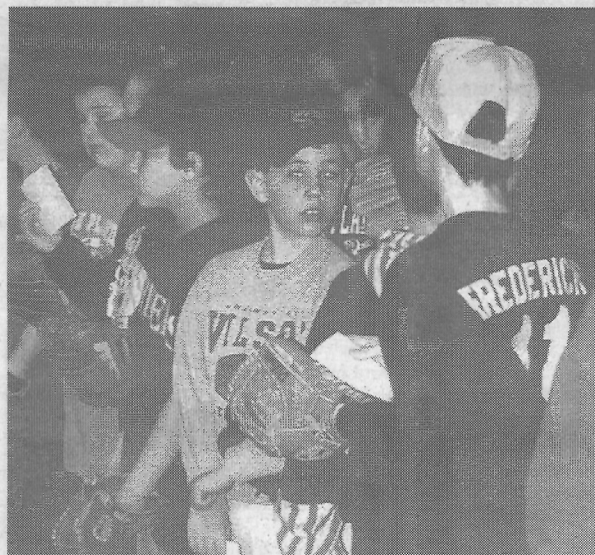
	Up to April 15	After April 15
Family	\$220	\$250
Husband & Wife	175	195
Individual	120	140
Senior Citizen	45	50
Family (nonresident)	440	440
Individual (nonresident)	220	220

completed before the pool season begins on May 30. We've also added a new guest category that allows members to bring resident guests (under age 18). Lastly, we've instituted a referral rebate program so you can earn sizable rebates simply by helping your friends become members too!

The best time to become a pool member is now, as we offer an

"Early Bird Discount" to people who sign up early. Membership costs are listed above:

For more detailed information please contact the Recreation Office at 908-226-7713. Office Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The office is also open the first and third Monday of every month from 6:00-8:00 p.m.



High School Jazz Band Performs

Friday, March 6th, the Jazz Band attended a Jazz Festival held at South Brunswick High School. Under the direction of Mr. Mark Tweed, the band performed "Big Dipper", "Don't Get Around Anymore", "Big Foot" and "Cruzin' For a Bluesin'."

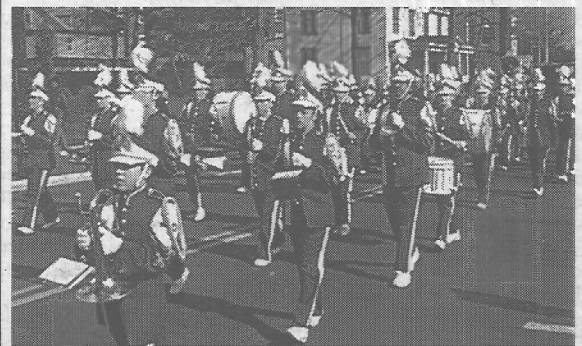
Trumpet soloist John Drangula was named an outstanding soloist. The band members heard fourteen other bands from around the state.

Their next competition is scheduled for March 18th at Warren Hills High School, Washington Township, near Hackettstown, New Jersey.

South Plainfield Band Performs



The South Plainfield Band marched in the Somerville St. Patrick's Day Parade. They played Danny Boy and Sosa marches for the parade watchers.



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Obituaries

■ William H. Colburn, 84

William H. Colburn died on Saturday, Feb. 28 in Grand Strand Regional Medical Center in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Born in Plainfield, Mr. Colburn had been a resident of Edison and New Brunswick before moving to Ship Bottom many years ago. He also maintained a part time residency in Surfside Beach, South Carolina.

He had been employed as a Truck Mechanic for White Truck sales in Edison for 43 years before retiring in 1982.

His two sisters, Edith Scouten and Dorothy Andersen, have predeceased him, and his two brothers, Kenneth Colburn and Jay Colburn have also predeceased him. His brother Jay died on Feb. 22, 1998.

Surviving are a daughter, Dolores Heinz of Edison; two sons, Jeffrey Colburn of Bound Brook and William Colburn of Edison; two brothers, Edward Colburn of Watchung and Robert W. Colburn of Goodview, Va.

Funeral Services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

■ Marguerite C. (Parks) Merring, 89

Marguerite C. (Parks) Merring died on Tuesday, March 3 at Southern Ocean County Hospital in Manahawkin.

Born in Scranton, Pa., Mrs. Merring resided in Newark, Union and Forked River. She had also resided in Clearwater, Fla. for 19 years before returning to Forked River in 1995.

She was a homemaker for most of her life.

Mrs. Merring was married to her husband, William H. Merring, Sr., on August 28, 1928.

Surviving are her husband of 69 years, William M. Merring, Sr.; a daughter June Ann Antonelli of Forked River; a son William H. Merring, Jr. of South Plainfield; two sisters, Anna Shea of South Plainfield and Catherine Locker of Waretown, NJ. Also surviving are six grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren.

Funeral Services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

■ Shakuntala Gupta, 63

Shakuntala Gupta died on Wednesday, March 4 at her home.

Mrs. Gupta was born in India and came to the United States in 1989, settling in South Plainfield. She had resided for a short time in Edison before she moved back to South Plainfield two years ago.

She had worked as an assembler for the Caro Bag Co. in Edison for 4½ years before she

retired in 1993.

Surviving are her husband Dharam Gupta; two daughters, Kanta Rani Gupta and Shobha Gupta, both in India; two sons, Rajeev K. Gupta and Chander M. Gupta, both of South Plainfield; five brothers and two sisters, all in India and also surviving are six grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

■ Nicholas S. Mingione, 53

Nicholas S. Mingione died on Sunday, March 1 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, Mr. Mingione had resided in North Plainfield, Plainfield and Cranford, before settling in South Plainfield in 1974.

He was a 1962 graduate of Plainfield High School. He had attended Temple University and New Jersey Institute of Technology before graduating with an Associates Degree in Electronics Engineering from Union County Technical Institute in Mountain-side in 1965.

Mr. Mingione had been employed by National Starch and Chemical Company in Bridgewater for the past 32 years as a Technical Supervisor.

He was an active member of the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield where he served as a Deacon and a member of the board of Trustees for the past five years.

He was a member of the American Diabetes Association and The Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers, Inc.

He is predeceased by his brother, Phillip Mingione, who died in 1994.

Surviving are his wife, Marjorie (Tyndall) Mingione; a daughter, Elizabeth Eisner of South Plainfield; a sister, Judith Witmer of Charlotte, North Carolina and his granddaughter Emma Eisner.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in his memory may be made to the American Diabetes Association central regional office, 15 Rozel Road Princeton, NJ or the First Baptist Church Building Fund c/o of 201 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

■ John A. Butrico, Sr., 75

John A. Butrico, Sr. died on Wednesday March 11, at his home.

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

Mr. Butrico was the former owner and operator of Butrico's Auto Body Shop in the FINDERNE section of Bridgewater. He founded the company in 1974

where he worked for 20 years before retiring in 1994. Prior to that he was the manager of the auto body shop at the former City Ford in Watchung for many years.

He was a communicant of Our Lady Czestochowa Church in South Plainfield, and a member of the Queen City Pigeon Club in Piscataway. He served in the Army during WW II and received the Bronze Star.

Mr. Butrico was predeceased by two sisters, Josephine and Mary Butrico and his brother James Butrico.

He is survived by his wife, Ann D. (Waitikowich) Butrico; four sons, John Jr. and Frank Butrico, both of South Plainfield, Thomas Butrico of Naples Fla. and Peter Butrico of Bridgewater; four daughters, Barbara Stahlin of South Plainfield, Mary Jane Finnerty of Middlesex, Joanne Staats of Dunellen and Nancy Robshaw of Piscataway; four brothers, Joseph, William and Frank Butrico all of South Plainfield and Carmen Butrico of Whitehouse; two sisters Theresa DiSesso and Grace Scala, both of South Plainfield and 18 grandchildren.

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

■ Mary Setnyk Aversa, 80

Mary Setnyk Aversa died on Saturday, March 7 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Mrs. Aversa was born in Perth Amboy and has resided in South Plainfield for the past 45 years.

Prior to her retirement in 1976, she had worked in production for the Web Craft Corp. of Metuchen for eight years. Before that, she had also worked in production with Chanel Perfume Co. in Piscataway for many years.

Her first husband, Jerry Tanzola died 47 years ago. Her second husband James Aversa, died in 1970.

Surviving are her son, Jerry G. Tanzola of South Plainfield; two brothers, Joseph Setnyk of Woodbridge and John Setnyk of Virginia Beach, Va. and her two grandchildren, Jimmy and Cheri Tanzola.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

■ Vicki M. (Chupko) DeRose Belle, 44

Vicki M. (Chupko) DeRose Belle of South Plainfield died on Sunday, March 15, at the Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Mrs. Belle was born in Plainfield and was a life long resident of South Plainfield.

She was employed by the Berkeley Heights Board of Education as a secretary for seven years and for the last two years was the secretary at the Columbia School in Berkeley Heights.

She was predeceased by her son, Christian Paul DeRose and her mother, Carole Andrews Chupko who both died May 31, 1992.

She is survived by her husband, Stephen Belle; a daughter, Julie M. DeRose of South Plainfield; her father Nicholas A. Chupko Sr. and a brother Nicholas A. Chupko Jr., both of South Plainfield.

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



Power Lines Downed in Accident

Pictures by William Tutbill

Monday, March 9 an oversized truck driving on Oak Tree Road was cut off by a passing van and a power shovel it was carrying was thrown off the truck. The accident knocked over a power pole carrying 13,000 volts and snarled traffic for hours. Public was called out to replace the pole. In the meantime traffic was diverted away from Oak Tree Rd. for hours.



Schoenly Family Re-Adopts Hamilton Blvd.

Alfred Schoenly, a Montrose Ave. resident, has signed a contract with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association to renew his family's adoption of Hamilton Blvd. between Montrose Ave. and Lafayette Place. They will continue to keep this block free of litter, to remove snow during the winter and cut the grass on the vacant lot and along the right-of-way during the summer.

Mr. Schoenly formally adopted this stretch of road last year when he became aware of the Adopt-A-Spot program, although he had been taking care of it for some time. The Borough Council has targeted Hamilton Blvd. and Durham Ave. for adoption because it is a heavily traveled route that gives many visitors their first impression of South Plainfield. Mr. Schoenly's adoption is one of several segments along this corridor.

The Clean Business Association is pleased with the growing response to Adopt-A-Spot, and the ongoing commitment of the adopters. Ten locations have been adopted in the Borough, and so far all groups but one have renewed their contracts each year.

For more information about

the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact the Clean Communities Coordinator at 226-7621.

Get 'Em While They're Hot!

The Junior Woman's Club is selling copies of "South Plainfield's Favorites II" cookbooks. Each book is packed with over 500 recipes, and is priced at only \$10. Get your copy now by calling Sue at 756-3930. Copies are available at Twin City Pharmacy, Sal's Spirit Shoppe and Columbia Savings Bank.

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Spotlight on Jim Lenox

Continued from page 4

describes the mechanics of the program as well as his feelings on creating an after-school environment which encourages responsibility but also respects childhood.

High School Diploma

The Adult School also addresses the needs of people who have not yet earned their high school diplomas by offering two avenues to achieve this goal — course work is provided for GED (Graduate Equivalency Diploma) preparation or adults may choose to attend the adult high school. The latter path requires passing all state tests and earning the necessary credits to graduate from high school with a traditional high school diploma. Jim notes that an increasing number of young adults are participating in the adult high school, and he recognizes the special needs of this population.

"The adult learner needs to rebuild self-esteem," he explains. "In many cases, they have already faced failure. They also need to be totally responsible for their learning. We provide the opportunity for education, but the students must be serious about taking full advantage of that opportunity."

The Adult School also provides adult basic education for adults who require remedial instruction in reading, math, problem solving and coping skills. In addition, English as a second language is included in the basic education curriculum. For adventure seekers in South Plainfield, the name Jim Lenox has

become synonymous with "great trips"! The Adult School trips began 18 years ago when Jim decided to test the interest level by including a trip to the Broadway musical *Annie* in the course listing brochure. The response was overwhelmingly enthusiastic, and since then, the Adult School has coordinated trips throughout the United States and Europe. In planning these trips, Jim is very interested in providing comfortable travel experiences in which everyone gets the best value for their money.

"We don't go for the cheapest prices," Jim notes. "We want to keep the money reasonable while insuring a first-rate trip." And true to form, Jim adds, "I see our trips as an educational opportunity through travel. That is always in my thoughts when we plan a trip."

Jim resides nearby in Edison with his wife, Eileen, and has two children, Laura and Jim. His community involvement has also included serving on the United Way Board of Directors for seven years, and for four of these years, he has served as President. He is committed to family, education and community, and these same values have made South Plainfield a town in which he is very happy to be working.

"South Plainfield is a great town. It is a community of hard working, good people with strong values," he said. "People willingly get involved. They are always quick to help each other; it is a town of very caring, interested citizens. It has been my pleasure to work here."

BOROUGH NOTES

Continued from page one

tive bidding on the purchase of gas and electric. He reported that Middlesex County is also looking into the same issue as well.

Mayor Gallagher met with Piscataway officials to discuss the repairing and repaving of New Brunswick Ave. and entering a joint application for the bonding of the project.

Planning Board

A site plan approval was granted to expand the existing food store now occupied by Edwards Supermarket. Edwards will be closing and renovations will be made to the building. A&P will then occupy the store. The expansion of the store will require the elimination of ten parking spaces in the rear parking lot of the store and rerouting delivery trucks behind the store in a one-way pattern.

The Planning Board adopted the revised Housing Element and Fair Share Plan. Art Bernard stated that if Judge Wofson approved this plan, the Borough would be protected from an exclusionary zoning suit for six years.

Board of Adjustments

Twinn City Pharmacy requested a waiver of site plan requirements for a 300 square foot addition to the present building. It would include a 10' x 10' office and 12' x 10' addition to the pharmacy. The board approved the waiver with conditions.

Oak Tree Associates is requesting a use variance to allow a conversion to commercial retail use of a 43,000 sq. ft. building with a variance from the parking requirement. The building is presently occupied by a cigar warehouse which plans to move out. Several board members expressed concern about the number of stores that will occupy the space, the number of employees it will have, the hours of operation and the traffic flow. The case will be continued until the April 7 meeting and will come before the site plan committee on March 26.



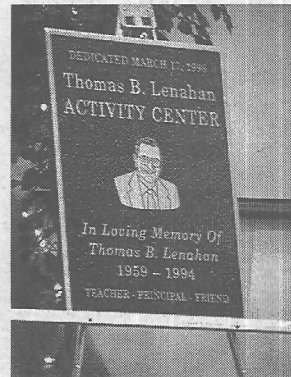
(Left to right) Nancy Ericson, Franklin School principal, Mr. Sincavage, guest speaker, William P. Slavoski, master of ceremonies, and standing at the podium, Leonard Tobias, guest speaker.

Lenahan Activity Center Dedicated

Continued from page one

dren and staff alike. As he spoke he recalled a favorite photo from his scrapbook. The photo was of Tom Lenahan on the playground with his arms around two young students as he spoke to them. The chorus entertained with several Irish songs, among them the special Franklin School version of H-A-R-R-I-G-A-N, in which the name and letters L-E-N-A-H-A-N replace Harrigan in the second verse. Instrumental Music Teacher, Mrs. Joan Stasio wrote a special song for the occasion, "Our Song to You," the Franklin School Song. A 1995 Franklin graduate Billie Jean Sarullo was on hand to perform the song "Hero" on the piano.

While the highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the unveiling of the Thomas B. Lenahan plaque. There were special moments where members of the fifth grade class presented the audience with their memories of their beloved principal, Mr. Lenahan. Their simple words spoken from the heart summed up the meaning of the evening far better than any speech ever could. Miss Kim Gaub spoke of her memories first. Kim said, "My memories of Mr. Lenahan. People called him Mr. Lend-A-Hand because he always helped people. When something was wrong like a fight, he tried to stop them. He was always at the Veteran's Day program because he was a veteran for the Navy. He was so nice and I miss



him very much."

Mr. Nicholas Vitale told of his memories. Nicholas had dressed as Mr. Lenahan for the school's career day and was made principal for the day. He said, "Mr. Lenahan was a cheerful golden hearted man who loved each of us. He always had a smile on his face every day. I remember the day I was Principal. I remember walking around the school with my best suit and tie, following Mr. Lenahan. Wherever he went, I went! We had our clipboards in our hands. I remember The day we put on a St. Patrick's Day show just for him. Remember that? When I think of Mr. Lenahan as my Principal — I think he was P-Polite, R-Responsible, I-Interesting, N-Nice, C-Courteous, I-Intelligent, P-Proud, A-Active, L-Lucky. That is what Mr. Lenahan was to me."

Next to speak was Miss Toni Ciccio. Miss Ciccio said, "Jolly old saint Nicholas, Happy little leprechaun, Mr. Lenahan was all that. Mr. Lend-A-Hand, kids used to call him, and it was true. I still think about you. All the things you were. You helped us in the good and in the bad. You still help us out. You meant a lot to us Mr. Lenahan, you still do. That will never change. Remember the song we sang to you when we were in the first grade? A-your adorable, B-you're so beautiful, C-your a cute-ti-ful of charms. I'll always remember you Mr. Lenahan, Always."

Thomas Lenahan will remain with these children on St. Patrick's Day and long after they have left behind the Thomas B. Lenahan Activity Center.

Our Lady of Czestochowa Roman Catholic Church Lenten Schedule

Rev. John M. Skwara, Pastor welcomes all to come worship with him

Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday	7:00 p.m.
Good Friday	3:00 p.m.
Stations	7:00 p.m.
Holy Saturday	7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Mass
8:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
12:15 p.m.

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Next issue deadline is April 3.

POLICE REPORT

• James Budaloto was arrested after assaulting a security officer at K-Mart. The security guard was trying to arrest him at the time for shoplifting \$167 worth of toys.

• Coppola's on New Durham Rd. reported during the night of March 11 about 50-60 aluminum ribs, used to construct greenhouses were stolen. The value of the ribs was \$4,000.

• A cellular phone was reported missing by a customer at Bennigans. The victim said he had used the phone in the restaurant but when he left he noticed it was missing.

• A tractor trailer and its contents were stolen from the parking lot at Haborlight on Kentile Rd. The trailer contained boxes handbags, totes and duffle bags. The cost of the trailer and goods was \$180,000.

• The lock was pried off the compost recycling shed at the South Plainfield Recycling Center. The problem with vandalism at the shed has been a problem for sometime. Nothing was reported missing.

• A resident on Chestnut Drive reported the theft of tools from his residents. They were valued at over \$2,500.

to his car to find it had been damaged. Apparently it was hit with a shopping cart. The car had several dents and the taillight was broken.

• An employee at Pizzarina UNO complained she was being harrassed and had been threatened by a former friend. He had attempted to harass her several times before and had come

to the restaurant shouting and refused to leave. When the police were called, he fled.

• Absolute Fire Protection reported that someone entered the premises and removed a CD rom, its carrying case, a fax modem and printer, valued at \$1,300. A surveillance camera was unplugged at the time.

South Plainfield Observer

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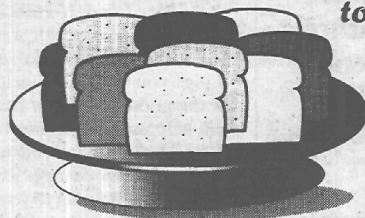
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- Bagel Pantry, Plainfield Ave.
- B & C Deli
- Corner Deli, Hamilton Blvd.
- Carousel Hair Salon, Oak Tree Rd.
- Freihofer's, Montrose Ave.
- Dave's Stationery, Sampton Ave.
- Holly Park Video, Park Ave.
- K Foods, Park Ave.
- Krauser's Food Store,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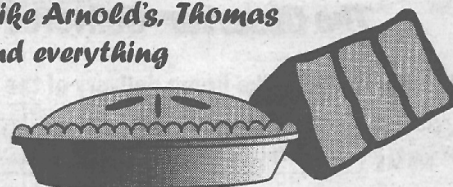
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