

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 2, NO. 7

50 CENTS

DECEMBER 3, 1998



Home for the Holidays Danielle and Joseph Lacasale celebrated Thanksgiving this year with their new family, Anthony, Stephanie, Joseph and Patricia. All four of the quadruplets are now home and thriving. Danielle says they are all very good babies and are gaining weight. She said she truly feels blessed. Danielle says she is thankful for the volunteers who have been helping her take care of the babies. If you would like to donate your time helping out with the quadruplets, or if any business is interested in donating baby items, contact the *Observer* at 732-469-4380 and we will relay the message to the Lacasales.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

To raise money for its upcoming 100th Anniversary (May 2007) and the Firemen's Memorial, members of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company will have Santa deliver Christmas presents by fire engine. Can you imagine how excited your children would be to have Santa bring

them a present on a fire engine!

The Fire Department is requesting a \$10 donation from each family who would like Santa to deliver their presents. The \$10 check should be made payable to the SPVFC 100th Anniversary. The entire \$10 will go directly to 100th Anniversary fund. The Fire De-

partment is also asking that you wrap a small gift for Santa to give to your child. Small presents are all that are necessary.

The gifts should cost no more than \$15. Please do not give any expensive gifts. After you wrap the gift, put your child's name and address securely on the gift. Firefighters will visit every block in the borough to deliver the gifts. They will sound their sirens and activate their lights. The children can then come to the engine and receive their gift from Santa and his elves.

Santa will be delivering presents on Dec. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18. Dec. 19 will be used as an overflow day.

See page four for more information and registration form.

BOROUGH NOTES

Council

■ The Borough Council is scheduled to meet only one time in December. The agenda meeting will be held on Dec. 14 and the regular Council meeting will be held on Dec. 17.

■ The annual reorganization meeting normally held on Jan. 1 will be held on Sunday, Jan. 3 at 1 p.m. The change was made to allow the mayor, council and public time to enjoy New Year's Day.

Board of Adjustment

■ Thomas DeStefano, Jr. of Morton Ave., was granted approval for a set back to build a front porch and a second floor addition.

■ Rising Up Garden Center & Greenhouse, Inc. of Park Ave., was granted approval for a temporary permit to sell seasonal flowers and Christmas Trees.

■ Bell Atlantic, Inc. was granted approval for a use variance to construct a primarily underground concrete vault, with conditions, on the corner of Oak Tree Rd. and Park Ave. They plan to house land-line telecommunications equipment in the underground vault. This facility will be an unmanned facility which will be visited about once a month.

■ Harris Structural Steel, Inc. was granted approval for a use variance and preliminary site plan for a service maintenance building.

School Expansion Plans Unveiled

The Board of Education unanimously accepted the Feasibility Study Update presented by Scott Presco of Presco and Edwards of Lawrenceville at the Nov. 24 meeting.

The 23-page study includes seven design options for Grant School to handle the expected increase in school enrollment which has been projected in the next few years. Future projections say 500-800 students will be moving into the borough in the next five years.

The proposal offers several different options including centralizing all fifth grade classes at Grant School or centralizing the kindergarten and pre-kindergarten classes at Grant School. The seven different scenarios include rearranging classrooms in Grant, adding an extension to the school and/or moving the administrative offices to another location.

Superintendent of Schools Guy Ferri said there are pluses and minuses for each scenario presented. He said that the Middle School enrollment has also increased this year and with the proposed apartments on the south side of town Roosevelt School is expecting increased student enrollment. All of these factors have to be taken into account when the final decision is made.

Members of the audience made several suggestions and comments. One suggestion was that the tuition-based pre-kindergarten program be moved to another location in order to free up room for the kindergarten classes, thus eliminating building an expensive addition. Another idea was to put fifth and sixth graders in Grant School, freeing up both the grade schools and the Middle School.

A projected 500-800 students will move into borough in the next five years

Several parents felt if an addition was accepted for Grant School, it should be expanded to enclose the courtyard area.

Roosevelt School, the oldest school in the borough, will see the most growth according to the study. Plans to build a new school located on the south side of town are also being considered.

The Board will be meeting to decide what plan they will accept. Board President Marjorie Reedy said, "We realize we need to move fast on this, but we need to get all our ducks in a row first."



Pictured is part of the art exhibit currently on display at the South Plainfield Library. It consists of oil paintings by students from the South Plainfield Adult School and their teacher, Maria Buschiasso. This display will run through December.



The South Plainfield Chorus will hold their Annual Holiday Concert Sunday, Dec. 13 in front of the P.A.L. Building

Everyone is invited to attend the Holiday Concert presented by South Plainfield Chorus. There will also be a sing-along of holiday favorites. The concert will take place in front of the PAL Building on Maple Ave. from 6-8 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 13. After the Holiday Concert everyone is invited into the PAL Building for refreshments. Santa will also be on hand to hear children's holiday wishes. Come out and join in the holiday spirit in our community. This event is sponsored by the Cultural Arts and Recreation Commissions.

In my OPINION

To The Editor,

I am deeply grateful to the residents of South Plainfield for allowing me to continue to serve as their mayor.

With Dennis Cerami and Darlene Pinto, the Democrats conducted a clean, issue oriented campaign. Our message was well received and we thank you for your vote of confidence. I thank the committee members, the poll workers and most importantly, my wife Marion, my sons Dan and Michael and my daughter-in-law Linda.

We took forward to working for and representing the interests of our residents.

DANIEL J. GALLAGHER
MAYOR

To The Editor,

With the end of the first marking period and the beginning of a new one, members of South Plainfield Education — South Plainfield's teachers, aides and secretaries — know that parents are anticipating their children's first progress report of the year. When the news from school is good, parents usually feel proud and pleased. But what's a parent to do when a child gets a bad grade?

Teachers want to work together with parents and guardians as partners to help our students succeed in school. If your child gets an undesirable grade, the SPEA offers these tips:

- Stay positive in a nonjudgmental way, "I see you're having trouble in English."
- Explore the problem, "Let's talk about what happened in English this marking period."

- Enlist the teacher's help in finding the problem, "Let's ask your English teacher what she thinks contributes to the problem and how we might solve it."

- Brainstorm solutions together, "So every evening you'll put off TV until your homework is done — and some work on your long-term projects, too! Then in the morning I'll check that you have your English notebook in your backpack..."

- Sign on the dotted line, "Let's write these solutions down and put them on the frig."

- Check out health problems. Vision and hearing problems, learning difficulties and even allergies can cause performance problems. Discuss these with your child's doctor.

- Reward, don't bribe. — Reward your child for working hard, developing good study habits and being disciplined; don't offer bribes for results such as good grades.

- Let the punishment fit the crime. "We agreed there would be no TV until homework was done, but you violated that last night. So the TV is off limits for two evenings."

- Finally, back off. Let your children know that you're always available for support and guidance, but that they MUST do the work themselves. Good grades are up to them, not you.

The SPEA believes that parents are teachers' true partners in education. We look forward to working with them to help all South Plainfield children reach their full potential.

LOUISE A. MRUZ
PRESIDENT, SPEA

We invite you to send in your letter or opinion on subjects pertinent to South Plainfield and we will be glad to publish them. If you choose to not have your name published let us know, however, you must give us your name and phone number when submitting a letter.

South Plainfield Observer

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

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail or fax it to: Editorial Department
South Plainfield Observer, 530 Union Ave., Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or Twice Is Nice, Front St. or fax us at (732) 805-0815 or e-mail 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. Black and white pictures are preferred.
3. 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.
4. All unsolicited photographs and stories sent to *South Plainfield Observer* will be considered the property of *South Plainfield Observer* and will not be returned, unless a self-addressed stamped envelope accompanies material.



Mohn's Thanksgiving Writing Contest Winner Announced

Mohn's Flowers presented a bouquet of flowers to Peter Guaraci on Thanksgiving Eve. He was the winner of the Thanksgiving contest held by Mohn's Flowers. Everyone was invited to send a letter saying why they would like to thank someone special to them.

The winning letter was written by Kerri Howells of Garabaldi Ave. She wanted to give special thanks to her neighbor, Peter Guaraci, for always being there as a friend. She said, "I honestly can't say enough good things about him. He is extremely nice, thoughtful, loving and caring."

Mohn's Flowers announced that they have started another contest. This one will have a Christmas theme. So, if you would like to say a special 'Wish You a Merry Christmas' to your wife, husband, teacher, parent, friend or anyone who has done something special this past year, write a letter to Mohn's with your reasons. Kids as well as adults are invited to participate in this contest.

During the year we meet all kinds of people who have done that little extra something to help you or someone you know. You can show your appreciation and thanks in a special way by sending in a letter to acknowledge them. Let's recognize those who do good deeds by writing

a letter. If you choose, you can remain anonymous, however, you must sign the letter.

Mail or bring in your letters to Mohn's Flowers, 2435 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080. If you have any questions or need more information call (908) 561-2808.

Christmas Toy Drive

Eagle Project of Eric Toth, BSA, Troop 309, Wesley Methodist Church

There are over 100 families in South Plainfield that will not have enough money to provide Christmas gifts for their children. For my project, with your help, I am running a toy drive through the Director of Social Services in South Plainfield. I am looking to collect new toys and gift certificates purchased from local stores to help these families have a merrier Christmas. Thank you for your help.

There will be collection boxes in the schools, at the library and in Borough Hall to place these unwrapped toys in. If you have any further questions, please call me at (908) 791-0706.

Just in Case You Missed ...

Just in case you haven't had time yet to check the ads in this issue of the *Observer*, here are a few bargains you might not be aware of. Check the ads for coupons and use them when you shop.

Freihofer's—You can get a free dessert or loaf of bread when you buy two, with a coupon.

Village Salon—Receive \$5.00 off any service for new customers with coupon.

Details—Save \$29.95 on a full service detailing job with a coupon.

Mohn's—A 'Wish You a Merry Christmas' contest is now underway. Send in your letter today.

Sal's—Has Holiday Gift Baskets with free gift wrapping.

Cookies—Will be open for Christmas 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sherban's—Reserve a room for your Christmas party or ask for their catering menu.

Heavenly Country Store—Has a free Angel Pin with any purchase and new holiday hours.

Tupperware—Jill Gorman will give a free gift to a party hostess.

Twin City Pharmacy—Wants to thank everyone for attending their Diabetes Clinic.

Many local merchants and professionals support this paper by advertising in the *Observer*. If you need a service or product, why not try one of our advertisers and make sure you tell them you saw their ad in the *Observer*.

UPCOMING OBSERVER PUBLICATION DATES:

Issue Date	Copy Deadline
December 17.....	December 10
January 7.....	December 31

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 732-805-0815.

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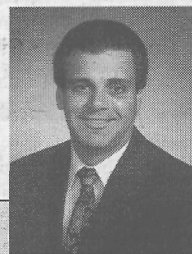
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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Believe it or not, it's only been about a week since the Holiday season officially started. Please take a breather from all the frantic activity and get the latest from the South Plainfield Public Library.

As promised, our new furniture has arrived. We'll be installing it on Monday, Dec. 7 and Tuesday, Dec. 8. The Library will be closed to the public both days. However, both of our drop boxes (for books and A/V items, respectively) will be open to accept returns.

"Drop boxes?" you ask. Yes, that wasn't a misprint. We now have two return boxes outside; one for books and one for A/V stuff. Please don't get them mixed up.

In spite of being closed during the day on Dec. 8, the meeting of the Library Board of Trustees will go on as scheduled that evening at 7:30. The public is welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Due to the Dec. 8 closing, we won't be holding our regular Tuesday storytime next week. It'll be back the following week at 10:30 a.m. Our other storytimes will be held as scheduled both weeks, Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. All of the programs are for children ages 3 and up.

The latest group of circuit videos is in place and available for borrowing. You can pick up tapes from this group until Dec. 28.

A new artistic display can be seen at the Library throughout December. It consists of oil paintings by students of the South Plainfield Adult School. The artists and their teacher, Maria

Buschiazzo, have provided the paintings.

The Library is still participating in several charity drives. The Friends of the Library are continuing to collect hats, gloves and scarves for those who need them. Patrons can still make financial or book donations to "Books to Keep," providing books to disadvantaged children. Also, local Scout Eric Toth, as part of his Eagle Scout project, has organized a toy drive. He will collect gifts for the children of local needy families. Finally, patrons can clear up their outstanding overdue fines by contributing nonperishable food for the needy through our "Food for Fines" program. Please try to participate in these worthy causes.

The Friends of the Library are selling Book Lovers' desk calendars for \$6.50 each. Also, you can still pick up a South Plainfield coverlet for \$45 each. For more information about these potential Christmas gifts, stop by the main desk.

Finally, a word regarding damaged A/V items. Please do not mistake the Library staff members for the "Amazing Kreskin". If you get a damaged A/V item, please let us know immediately. Also, please describe the problem in as much detail as possible. (Don't just say, "It doesn't work.") This will better allow us to check the item and assess whether it can be, or even needs to be, repaired. We appreciate your cooperation.

Thanks very much for your attention. In the midst of the hectic start to the Holiday season. We'll be back next time with more news from the Library.



Twin City Diabetes Clinic – An Enormous Success

By Patricia Abbott

A resounding success perfectly describes Twin City Pharmacy's Diabetic Awareness Clinic. The Nov. 21 clinic was held in honor of Diabetes Awareness Month. There is no cure for diabetes. The goal of the clinic was to make people aware that they can lead healthy lives through the management of their diabetes. From 10 a.m.-3 p.m., the pharmacy featured healthcare professionals and demonstrations of new technology for the management of this disorder. People attended throughout the day, often leaving standing room only.

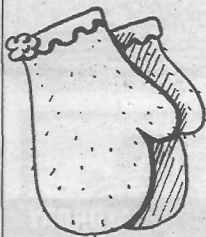
One of the keys to living with diabetes lies in maintaining a diet. A dietician spoke with guests

about the importance of diabetes following a nutritious, balanced diet. Daily meal planning was discussed along with suggestions for eliminating sugar and fats. Monitoring blood sugar and medications was also covered.

Representatives from two companies displayed equipment to aid in the management of diabetes. From Schering Pharmaceuticals, the NovoPen 3 was demonstrated. The device is a technological advance in insulin delivery that eliminates the standard syringe. It looks like a pen and holds more than one dose of insulin. Some advantages to this system are the ease with which an injection can be given as well as the convenience of transporting

in a pocket or purse. From Abbott Laboratories, a blood glucose monitoring system was demonstrated. The Precision QID is an advance in monitoring blood sugar, something that is critically important in managing diabetes. The system displayed uses less blood and eliminated common test errors. Literature on both products was available to guests. The dietician and the representatives fielded questions.

A complimentary nutritious lunch was available to all and a raffle was held for a number of prizes. Pleased with the success of the clinic, Store Managers Sandy Severini and Tom Cassio plan to hold more informational health clinics in the future.



Hats & Mittens Needed

The Friends of the Library are in the midst of their annual collection of new hats, mittens, scarves and gloves for the needy. A donation box has been placed in the library and the collection will continue until Dec. 18. Thanks for your support.

Council Accepting Resumes for Boards and Commissions

Residents who would like to serve on a board or commission in the Borough are being asked to send their resumes to the Mayor and Council. There are several board and commission seats open. If you would like to get more involved in town, this is a very good way to get started. Send your resume and a note indicating what board or commission would you like to serve on.

The Borough Clerk's office has a free Municipal Directory Card which lists the all the boards and commissions and their meeting schedules. It also lists the Borough Hall Department phone numbers.

Pick up a free Directory Card the next time you visit Borough Hall.

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events around town

"Christmas Spectacular" Bus Trip Planned

The Recreation Dept. is planning a bus trip to the "Christmas Spectacular" at Radio City Music Hall on Thursday, Dec. 10. The bus will leave the P.A.L. parking lot at 6 p.m. and the show will begin at 8 p.m. The cost is \$60, adults; \$48, children under 16 and \$65, nonresidents. (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

Seating is limited to the first 46 registrants. To register visit the Recreation Office located in the PAL Building or call (908) 226-7713.

AARP Chapter 4144 Meeting

AARP Chapter Christmas meeting will be held on Dec. 18 at the Willow's in Dunellen at noon.

Holiday Craft Fair

The 15th Annual Holiday Craft Fair will be held Saturday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield located at 201 Hamilton Blvd. The event is sponsored by the Women's Evening Circle who will have baked goods, crafts, Kids Korner (no adults, please!) and hot lunch in the kitchen.

Proceeds from these areas will be distributed among various Church functions and charity work for our community. The crafters joining us will be offering items which include holiday decorations, dried flowers, knitted sweaters, decorated wood, jewelry and gifts for year-round

giving.

Please start your holiday shopping with us.

Riley School PTSO Plans Atlantic City Bus Trip

Riley School's PTSO announces a bus trip to Caesar's Casino, Atlantic City. The trip is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 5. The bus will leave from Riley School parking lot at 3 p.m. and will return between 12:30-1:00 a.m. Tickets are \$20 with a \$17 return.

Raffles will be held during the bus trip to Atlantic City. Prizes were donated by The Brush Stop, Sal's Spirit Shoppe, Hollywood Video and others. For more information or to reserve a seat, call Tracey at 908-755-8240.

SPHS Booster Club Plans Sports Auction/Raffle

On Saturday, Dec. 5, the Athletic Booster Club will host a Sports Auction/Raffle at South Plainfield High School. The purpose of the evening is to raise funds for the various high school athletic programs which are aided by the Booster Club.

The Athletic Booster Club has asked each sport team at every level of play to donate a basket with items particular to their own sport. All proceeds will go directly to the purchase of supplies, practice gear and/or uniform items for the teams. Some of things being donated include sports apparel, a tailgating basket, specific sports packages, sports memorabilia and game tickets.

Ticket prices are \$7 if purchased in advance and may be purchased at the South Plainfield High School main office located at 200 Lake St., or the B&C Deli, located on Belmont Ave. Tickets purchased at the door are \$10. Doors will open at 6:30 and the event will begin at 7 p.m.

SPHS Players Present "Laura"

On Friday, Dec. 11 and Saturday, Dec. 12, the SPHS Players Drama Club will take a trip to the past and present the classic murder mystery, *Laura*, which originally starred Gene Tierney, Dana Andrews, Clifton Webb and Vincent Price in the movie version.

The story is based on a portrait of Laura which intrigues the main detective McPherson. There are surprises in the plot so not much can be revealed except that it is an adult mystery.

The play will be presented at 7:30 p.m. in the Joseph A. Mondoro Auditorium at South Plainfield High School on 200 Lake Street.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens.

Downtown Facade Program Topic at Historical Society Meeting

The South Plainfield Historical Society will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the Media Center of South Plainfield High School.

The guest speaker will be Michael Zushma, who will ex-

plain the Downtown Facade Improvement Program. Mr. Zushma has been instrumental in obtaining grant money for this program, which will further enhance the original shopping area of South Plainfield. Holiday refreshment will be served. Guests are always welcome.

Elks Club Holiday Breakfast Dec. 13

The South Plainfield Elks will be hosting a Christmas Season Pancake Breakfast with Santa on

Sunday morning, Dec. 13 at the Lodge on New Market Avenue 8 a.m.-noon. Plan to bring your camera too!

Everyone is invited to bring your family, friends and neighbors to eat all you can and get into the spirit of Christmas. The food's hearty and wholesome, the company is warm and friendly and the Elks wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

Adults eat for \$6, kids \$2.75 and under five are free. Join us for breakfast and let's kick it off the holiday season on a full tummy.

REGISTRATION FORM

Santa Claus is Coming

From page one

Fill out the form below completely. Drop off your check, the form and gift at Fire Headquarters any Monday night prior to Dec. 14. Santa will be delivering presents on Dec. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, with December 19 being used as an overflow day. When you drop off your gift, you will be given a schedule of the times and dates for your area. This is a huge undertaking by the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company, so it is very important that we have the proper information for each gift so that no child will be disappointed.

For further information call the SPVFC Activities Hotline at (908) 412-8868 and leave a message.

Family Name: _____
Name of Child/Children Receiving Gifts: _____
Age of Child or Children: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
Number of Gifts: _____ A mount: _____
School District: _____
Official Use Only: Number: _____ Time: _____ Day/Date: _____

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Dec 1998						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Friends of the Library 7:30 pm Board of Adjustment 8 pm	2 Business Advisory Group 5:30 pm Court 9:30 am	3 Taxpayers Advisory Group 7 pm Publication of So. Plfd. Observer	4	5 Holiday Craft Fair at First Baptist Church 9 am-3 pm SPHS Athletic Boosters Auction/ Raffle 6:30 pm
6	7	8 Historical Society Meeting, Media Center SPHS 7:30 pm Library Board Meeting 7:30 pm Planning Board Meeting 8 pm	9 Environmental Comm. 8 pm Cultural Arts Comm. 8 pm PAL Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	10 Copy Deadline for So. Plfd. Observer	11 	12 SPHS Players Present "Laura" HS 7:30 pm Breakfast with Santa at Riley School 8:30-12 noon
13 Elks Club Holiday Breakfast 8am-noon	14 Council Agenda Meeting 8:00 pm	15 Board of Adjustment 8 pm	16 Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	17 Borough Council Meeting 8 pm Publication of So. Plfd. Observer	18	19
20 A Christmas Carol, SP High School 2 pm Sponsored by Roosevelt School	21 Land Management Advisory Committee 7:30 pm	22 Recycling Comm. 8 pm Planning Board Meeting 8 pm	23 Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. 7 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	24 	25 	26



Flo's Piano Recital Gets Jazzy

Flo's Piano Studio located on Plainfield Ave. held a piano recital last month for the intermediate students at the Watchung Arts Center in Watchung.

The evening began with special guests David Benoit and Marcel

East performing with Britney Holloway, Roland Washington and Flo Powell, who formed a jazz trio.

Concert pianists Erin Walsh, Lauren Kaczka, Kaija Hunter, Kimberly Galinsky, Cai King-Young, Britney Holloway, Victoria

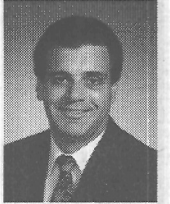
Zappi and Jeanine Reese performed for the guests at the recital.

Flo Powell closed the recital by presenting gifts, special awards and scholarships to the performing concert pianists. Flo plans another recital in the spring.



The Alternative View

By Dr. Anthony J. DeCosta, D.C.



Dear Dr. DeCosta:

Recently, Tylenol manufacturers said they were going to put new warning labels on the drug because Tylenol has been blamed for liver damage and deaths in children. What is a safer way to lower a fever, especially in children? R.C.

Dear R.C.:

You are correct that acetaminophen — the active ingredient in Tylenol — has been implicated in causing liver and kidney damage and even deaths in children. A recent study also concluded that just one Tylenol (acetaminophen) tablet taken every four days increases the risk of kidney disease by 2.4%.

But to answer your question properly, we need to understand what a fever really is. A fever is not a disease. In fact, it is one of the body's most powerful defenses against disease and infection. In almost every case, the body raises its temperature on purpose. An elevated temperature helps it fight bacteria, viral or other microorganisms and permits the body to work better and more efficiently during periods of sickness.

For example, when the body temperature raises above 102 degrees, huge amounts of interferon, a powerful natural antibiotic and antiviral agent, are produced.

Fever is usually very good for us and when we try to lower a temperature, we are depriving the body of a potent defense mechanism. By indiscriminately lowering the fever, we're often interfering with the body's disease fighting ability and preventing the body from doing its job. We might even be causing the disease to linger longer or develop complications.

In the July 1998 edition of *Better Homes and Gardens*, there was an article which typifies the absurdity of the common notion that when there is a fever, we should take something to get rid of it. In the article entitled, "The Amazing Aspirin," it states that, "As far as doctors can tell, most of aspirin's magic boils down to one basic thing — its stun-gun effect on prostaglandins. Prostaglandins are hardworking, vital substances that regulate many activities in the body, including uterine contractions, elasticity of blood vessels, and the functioning of blood platelets that help stop bleeding."

"They're also the 'Paul Revere' of the body. When a white blood cell detects an invasion of an unfriendly germ, it makes a prostaglandin. Soon there's a crowd of prostaglandins, and they travel en masse, taking their 'the-enemy-is-coming' message to the brain. The brain kicks on the body's heater (that explains a fever) to attack and kill the invading germs. Aspirin is effective because it stops cells from making prostaglandins, so the brain never gets the message to turn up the heat, according to Dr. Steven M. Weisman, former director of medical and clinical affairs for Bayer Aspirin."

Can you believe the audacity of thinking that this drug knows better than the innate intelligence of the human body how to handle a fever? In fact, taking such a fever reducing drug disrupts and works against the body's normal homeostatic mechanisms to fight off disease and infection. Such fever phobia, the automatic rush to lower a fever, is an unscientific, often unnecessary and sometimes dangerous attitude.

The late Robert Mendelsohn, M.D., one of America's leading pediatricians, offered this advice, "...the presence of fever, by itself does not mean that (the medical doctor) should do anything at all. Unless there are additional symptoms such as extreme listlessness, abnormal behavior, respiratory difficulty, and others that could indicate the presence of serious diseases such as diphtheria and meningitis, your doctor should tell you there is nothing to worry about and send you and your child home."

The body produces its own chemicals to raise or lower its temperature as needed. It creates thousands of its own medications including its own antibiotics and antiviral agents to fight infection. It is truly the world's greatest drugstore and we should work with it, not against it, in order to promote healing.

Questions for *The Alternative View* should be addressed to: *The Alternative View*, c/o Dr. Anthony J. DeCosta, D.C., 129 South Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Visit *The Alternative View* on the web at www.usalternativemedicine.com.

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South Plainfield High School WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE

Junior Varsity & Varsity Wrestling 1998-1999

Sat., Dec. 5, 1998	Rahway/Metuchen (scrimmage)	Home	10:00 am
Wed., Dec. 9, 1998	Roselle Park (scrimmage)	Home	3:15
Sat., Dec. 12, 1998	Somerville/North Plainfield	Home	10:00 am
Sat., Dec. 19, 1998	Morris Knolls Tournament	Away	10:00 am
Wed., Dec. 23, 1998	J. P. Stevens	Home	6/7:30
Tues., Dec. 29, 1998	Hunterdon Central Tournament	Away	
Fri., Jan. 8, 1999	East Brunswick	Home	6:00/7:30
Sat., Jan. 9, 1999	High Point	Home	5:30/7:00
Wed., Jan. 13, 1999	Edison	Away	5:00/7:00
Thurs., Jan. 14, 1999	Delaware valley	Home	6:00/7:30
Sat., Jan. 16, 1999	Woodbridge	Away	10:30/12:00
Tues., Jan. 19, 1999	South Brunswick	Away	5:30/7:00
Fri., Jan. 22, 1999	Old Bridge	Away	5:00/7:00
Tues., Jan. 26, 1999	South River	Home	6:00/7:30
Fri., Jan. 29, 1999	Piscataway	Home	6:00/7:30
Sat., Jan. 30, 1999	Elizabeth	Home	5:30/7:00
Fri., Feb. 5, 1999	GMC Tournament @ Piscataway	Away	6:00
Sat., Feb. 6, 1999	GMC Tournament @ Piscataway	Away	10:00 am
Tues., Feb. 16, 1999	Team Ssectionals		
Thurs., Feb. 18, 1999	Team Sectionals		
Sat., Feb. 20, 1999	Groups		
Fri., Feb. 26, 1999	Districts	Home	6:00
Sat., Feb. 27, 1999	Districts	Home	10:00 am
Tues., March 2, 1999	Regions	Away	

Junior Varsity & Varsity Girls Basketball 1998-1999

Sat., Dec. 5, 1998	Bridgewater (scrimmage)	Home	2:00
Wed., Dec. 9, 1998	J. P. Stevens (scrimmage)	Home	3:45
Tues., Dec. 15, 1998	Watchung Hills (scrimmage)	Home	3:45
Fri., Dec. 18, 1998	Bishop Ahr	Away	5:15/7:00
Tues., Dec. 29, 1998	Bound Brook Tournament	Away	
Wed., Dec. 30, 1998	Bound Brook Tournament	Away	
Tues., Jan. 5, 1999	Sayreville	Away	5:30/7:00
Thurs., Jan. 7, 1999	Perth Amboy	Home	5:30/7:00
Tues., Jan. 12, 1999	Monroe Township	Away	5:30/7:00
Thurs., Jan. 14, 1999	Piscataway	Away	5:30/7:00
Fri., Jan. 15, 1999	North Brunswick	Home	5:30/7:00
Wed., Jan. 20, 1999	Colonia	Away	5:30/7:00
Sat., Jan. 23, 1999	Bishop Ahr	Home	11:30/1:00
Tues., Jan. 26, 1999	Cranford	Home	5:30/7:00
Thurs., Jan. 28, 1999	Sayreville	Home	5:30/7:00
Mon., Feb. 1, 1999	Perth Amboy	Away	5:30/7:00
Thurs., Feb. 4, 1999	Monroe Township	Home	5:30/7:00
Tues., Feb. 9, 1999	North Brunswick	Away	5:30/7:00
Thurs., Feb. 11, 1999	Colonia	Home	5:30/7:00
Tues., Feb. 16, 1999	East Brunswick	Home	5:30/7:00
Thurs., Feb. 18, 1999	GMC Tournament/State Tournament		

Boys & Girls Winter Track 1998-1999

Tues., Jan. 5, 1999	Carteret GMC Relays	Home	3:45
Sun., Jan. 17, 1999	State Relays at Princeton		
Tues., Jan. 19, 1999	Metuchen	Home	3:45
Tues., Jan. 26, 1999	Spotswood GMC Meet	Away	3:45
Tues., Feb. 2, 1999	New Brunswick	Home	3:45
Tues., Feb. 9, 1999	Highland Park	Away	3:45
Sun., Feb. 14, 1999	Sectionals at Princeton		
Tues., Feb. 16, 1999	Monroe Township	Away	3:45
Sun., Feb. 21, 1999	Championships at Princeton		

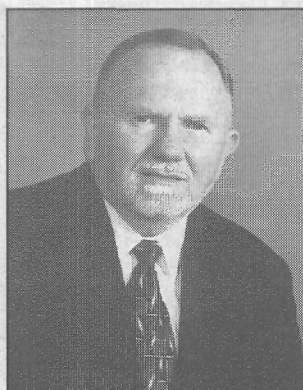
Junior Varsity & Varsity Boys Basketball 1998-99

Sat., Dec. 5, 1998	Carteret/Dunellen (scrimmage)	Away	10:00
Tues., Dec. 8, 1998	St. Mary's (Elizabeth)	Home	3:45
Wed., Dec. 9, 1998	Piscataway Vo-Tech	Away	3:45
Sat., Dec. 12, 1998	Highland Park/North Plainfield	Home	10:00
Mon., Dec. 14, 1998	East Brunswick Vo-Tech/ J.P. Stevens	Away	5:45
Sat., Dec 19, 1998	Carteret	Away	11:30/1:00
Mon., Dec. 21, 1998	J. F. Kennedy	Home	5:30/7:00
Wed., Dec. 23, 1998	Middlesex	Away	5:30/7:00
Tues., Dec. 29, 1998	Bound Brook Tournament	Away	
Wed., Dec. 30, 1998	Bound Brook Tournament		
Mon., Jan. 4, 1999	Spotswood	Home	5:30/7:00
Wed., Jan. 6, 1999	Metuchen	Home	5:30/7:00
Mon., Jan. 11, 1999	Highland Park	Home	5:30/7:00
Thurs., Jan. 14, 1999	South River	Away	5:30/7:00
Tues., Jan. 19, 1999	New Brunswick	Away	5:30/7:00
Thurs., Jan. 21, 1999	Carteret	Home	5:30/7:00
Mon., Jan. 25, 1999	J. F. Kennedy	Away	5:30/7:00
Wed., Jan. 27, 1999	Middlesex	Home	5:30/7:00
Fri., Jan. 29, 1999	Spotswood	Away	5:30/7:00
Mon., Feb. 1, 1999	Cranford	Away	6:00/7:30
Tues., Feb. 2, 1999	Metuchen	Away	5:30/7:00
Thurs., Feb. 4, 1999	Monroe Township	Away	3:45/5:30
Sat., Feb. 6, 1999	Highland Park	Away	11:30/1:00
Mon., Feb. 8, 1999	South River	Home	5:30/7:00
Wed., Feb. 10, 1999	New Brunswick	Home	5:30/7:00
Wed., Feb. 17, 1999	GMC Tournament/State Tournament		

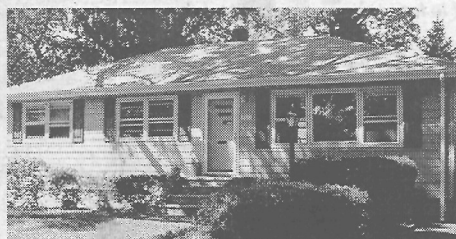
Boys and Girls Bowling 1998-1999

All Matches Played at Carolier Lanes - 3:45 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 1, 1998	Middlesex
Wed., Dec. 2, 1998	South River
Thurs., Dec. 3, 1998	Bishop Ahr
Tues., Dec. 8, 1998	J.F. Kennedy
Wed., Dec. 9, 1998	Carteret
Thurs., Dec. 10, 1998	Colonia
Sat., Dec. 12, 1998	Bishop Ahr Holiday Classic
Wed., Dec. 16, 1998	Monroe Township
Thurs., Dec. 17, 1998	St. Mary
Tues., Dec. 22, 1998	Edison
Mon., Jan. 4, 1999	Franklin Township
Tues., Jan. 5, 1999	Middlesex
Wed., Jan. 6, 1999	South River
Thurs., Jan. 7, 1999	Bishop Ahr
Tues., Jan. 12, 1999	J.F. Kennedy
Wed., Jan. 13, 1999	GMC Individual Qualifying
Thurs., Jan. 14, 1999	Carteret
Tues., Jan. 19, 1999	Colonia
Wed., Jan. 20, 1999	GMC Individual Finals
Tues., Jan. 26, 1999	Monroe Township
Wed., Jan. 27, 1999	St. Mary
Thurs., Jan. 28, 1999	Old Bridge
Sat., Jan. 30, 1999	Central Jersey Winter Classic
Mon., Feb. 1, 1999	GMC Preliminary Round
Tues., Feb. 2, 1999	GMC Tournament 1st Round
Thurs., Feb. 4, 1999	GMC Tournament 2nd Round
Sat., Feb. 6, 1999	NJSIAA Girls Sectionals
Tues., Feb. 9, 1999	GMC Tournament Semi-Finals
Fri., Feb. 10, 1999	Franklin Township
Thurs., Feb. 11, 1999	GMC Tournament Finals
Sat., Feb. 13, 1999	NJSIIA Boys Sectionals
Sat., Feb. 20, 1999	NJSIIA Finals



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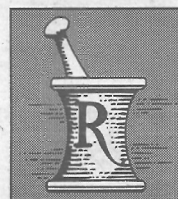
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SPHS Basketball Season About to Begin

By Brian Cochran

We all know at the start December not only to we have the holidays approaching, but the winter athletic program is in full swing at South Plainfield High School.

The Tigers boys basketball team and coach, Jeff Lubreski, will most definitely improve on last years 2-18 record, but will have to accomplish it with only two returning players that have varsity experience. Dominique Penders, a 5' 8" junior, will run the floor from the point guard position and senior, Steve Ambicelli, will anchor the middle of the Tigers offense. "We pretty much have a whole new ball of wax this year because many guys are still challenging to get into the starting line-up," said Coach Lubreski. He figures that Highland Park and Carteret to be among the Ti-

gers toughest opponents. The boys first game is home Dec. 8, against St. Mary's of Elizabeth.

On the girls side, Coach Bill Schulte is a little less indecisive. Seniors Dana Curcio, Carolyn Schweers and Shereel Pronker along with juniors Sheryl Cwickalo and Kim Wilcox will see a lot of playing time in the girls quest to improve on last years mark of 16-9. Coach Schulte admits the team is deep this year which will result in a lot of different combinations on the floor at any given time. The girls first game is Dec. 18 in Edison against Bishop Ahr, a new team just added to the White Division this year and one of our tougher opponents.

The pre-season wrestling overview will appear in our next issue...good luck to all!!

Twin City/SPASA Sponsors Holiday Basketball Tournament

The South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness and Twin City Pharmacy are sponsoring the Seventh Holiday Basketball Tournament for the Middle School seventh and eighth grade students. The preliminaries will be held on Tuesday and Thursday, Dec. 8 and 10 and the finals will be held on Friday, Dec. 11.

The purpose of the tournament is to increase the awareness of student athletes to the dangers of substance abuse. Each player, coach and manager in the tournament will receive a packet of substance abuse literature and a T-shirt with an anti-drug message. Tom Baker, High School SAC Counselor, will develop a seminar for all athletes regarding the dangers of smoking, substance abuse and the use of steroids. William Beegle, SPASA Chairperson indicates, "We want student/athletes to understand that the use of dangerous controlled substances can hinder their athletic and academic performance. Their participation in this tournament will heighten their awareness to the dangers of substance abuse."

The tournament will consist of four teams, both boys and girls,

from South Plainfield, Sacred Heart, Dunellen and East Brunswick. On Tuesday, Dec. 8, the Sacred Heart boys will play East Brunswick at 4 p.m. and the Dunellen boys and South Plainfield matchup at 5:30 p.m. On Thursday, Dec. 1, the South Plainfield girls will play Dunellen at 4 p.m. and the East Brunswick girls will play Sacred Heart at 5:30 p.m.

On Friday, Dec. 11, the finals will be played comprising the winners of the previous four contests. The girls finals will start at 4 p.m. and the boys will be at 5:30 p.m. All games for the tournament will be played in the Middle School gymnasium.

Mr. Beegle said that the SPASA executive board is very excited about this tournament and its purpose of substance awareness. Executive board members will be donating their time and efforts to make this an effective tournament for substance awareness.

He also indicated that the several sponsors for the tournament have been very generous and gracious in donating their time and resources for the success of the

Continued on page 11



Louis and Pauline Hasbrouck celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Hasbroucks Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hasbrouck recently celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. A dinner was held in their honor and given by their children. Gail Merlo, Randal Hasbrouck, Nancy Kusmick, Sharon Gimmeschi and their spouses at Lake Edge Restaurant in Watchung.

Mrs. Hasbrouck's handmade wedding dress, photo album and other memorabilia were on display.

Mr. Louis Hasbrouck and the former Pauline Patricia Tietjen were married at the United Methodist Church in Linden on Oct. 16, 1948.

In addition to their children Mr. and Mrs. Hasbrouck have 11 grandchildren. They have been members of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church since moving to South Plainfield forty-one years ago.

Ashbrook Nursing Home to Spread Holiday Cheer With 'Angel Tree'

Ashbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center located in Scotch Plains, plans to lift spirits this holiday season with "The Angel Tree," a program that encourages employees, volunteers and the community to bring heart-warming presents to its elderly residents.

From now until Dec. 19, the public can stop by the nursing home located at 1610 Raritan Rd. and choose an item from a gift list or drop off an unwrapped gift of their choice. Ashbrook hopes "The Angel Tree" will collect enough gifts for its 120 residents.

"We always receive a wonderful and generous response from the community," said Ashbrook Administrator Margaret Degnan. "We hope that people will rise to the occasion once again this year."

Here are some different holiday gift ideas for nursing home residents or for an elderly person living alone:

- An offer to mend.
- Photo album or scrapbook of pictures of "favorites" (i.e. people, flowers, animals, food).
- A donation to a charity or cause in the person's name.
- Seasonal mobiles, pictures and/or bulletin board to hang in a person's room.
- Lap quilt or shawl.
- Photo frames.
- Pre-addressed stamped envelopes with note cards and pen.
- Bird feeder to hang on window and offer to refill it on a regular basis.

Junior Woman's Club Solicits Wish Holiday Gifts

The Junior Woman's Club of South Plainfield will again sponsor a Wish Tree to benefit the residents of the Woodbridge Developmental Center. The purpose of this project is to collect small gifts to add to the holiday joy of the 600 developmentally disabled residents of the center.

Holiday trees will be decorated with hand-crafted ornaments that have a tag with a gift suggestion attached. Individuals are invited to take an ornament and return a small wrapped gift in its place. Please indicate on the package what the gift is.

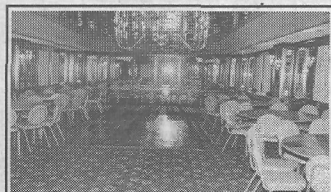
Wish Trees can be found at the following locations, South Plainfield Library located on Plainfield Ave. and Columbia Savings Bank located on Oak Tree Ave. The gifts will be collected until Dec. 12.

Yogurt Express Helps 'Toys for Needy Children Program'

Community members who want to help needy children this holiday season are urged to drop off a new toy at Yogurt Express, 112 Maple Ave. All donated toys will become part of Yogurt Express' and Parmalat Welsh Farms' efforts for the Marine Corp. Reserves 'Toys for Tots' program, a not-for-profit public charity that provides toys to needy children. They are seeking new, unused, unwrapped and non-violent toys.



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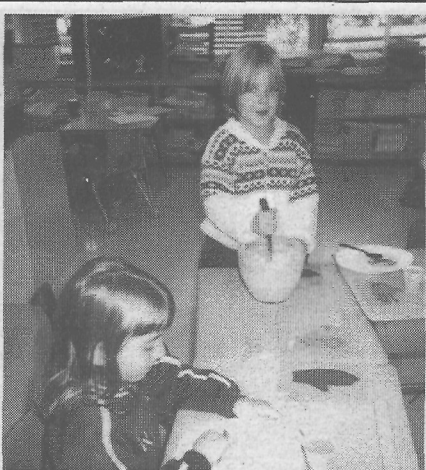
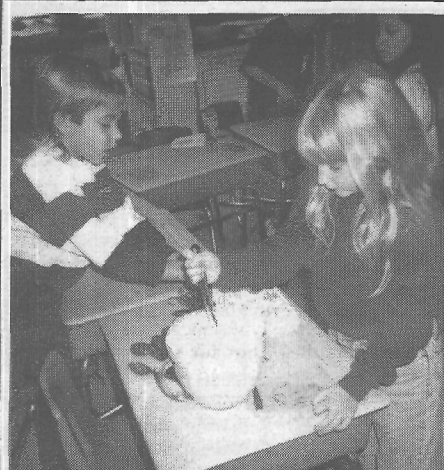


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Franklin School First Graders Go Round With Pancakes

The first graders at Franklin School completed a reading unit on "round things," including several stories on pancakes. As a culminating activity for the unit, the first grade students, under the direction of Miss Meredith Migliaro, Miss Louise Mruz, Mrs. Patti Ratti and Mrs. Marilyn Winston made pancakes and enjoyed a fantastic pancake breakfast.

American Education Week Noted by SPEA

By Patricia Abbott

November 15-21 marked the celebration of American Education Week. The theme for this 77th annual observance was "Teaching children to think and dream." Originally established in 1921 by the National Education Association and the American Legion in an effort to promote literacy, the week is one of the nation's longest-running observances.

In honor of American Education Week, the South Plainfield Education Association held a dinner at Cafe Piancone. The dinner was the first to include members of the PTA and PTSO in an effort to bring the organizations closer in line with their common bond - our town's children. Sixty-four members and guests attended this event.

Guest speaker for the evening was Wayne Dibofsky from the New Jersey Education Association. Mr. Dibofsky is the Assis-



Wayne Dibofsky, N.J.E.A. Government Relations

this year is based on the school population from 1996.

In an example of how this affects our schools, he noted that the current population at the Middle School is considerably higher than that of 1996. Twenty five hundred more students in the state entered the schools in



Officers of the South Plainfield Education Association at a recent dinner celebrating American Education Week. Photos by Bill Turbill

tant Director of N.J. Government Relations. During the course of his speech he pointed out that only 11% of South Plainfield's school budget is provided by the state, the balance comes from municipal taxes and the state pays their share eighteen months after the school's fiscal year. Simplified, this means that the state's percentage received

September than graduated in June. Just under 70% of South Plainfield residents do not have children in the school system. In stressing the importance of passing school budgets Mr. Dibofsky said, "We can prepare to pay our taxes now or society will pay later."

South Plainfield Education Association
Continued on page 11

Roosevelt School Sponsors A Christmas Carol

Roosevelt School will be sponsoring a performance of the Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol* at South Plainfield High School on Lake St. on Sunday, Dec. 20, at 2 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Fifth Grade Project.

This classic tale will be presented by The Yates Musical Theatre Company, who have performed at the Paper Mill Playhouse, PNC Art Center and The Forum Theatre in Metuchen.

Tickets are \$7 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets in advance (seats will be pre-assigned), please call 755-2174 or 561-7559.

Scope Night at Kennedy School

At dusk on Thursday, Oct. 29, Kennedy School offered an evening star gazing demonstration. John Miller, an astronomer from Raritan Valley College, with help from SPEA teacher members Tom Montemurro and Mary Rodger and Kennedy's Principal Al Czech, organized "Scope Night". This event gave the students and family members an opportunity to take a closer look at planets surrounding our sun.

School Work



J.F. Kennedy School students Kevin Kile, Mellisa Budham, Katie Hardy, Julie and Katie Stilo, Kristen Billish and Joseph Mennuti.

Kennedy Students Give Thanks

Every student at J.F. Kennedy was asked to write what they were thankful for on a turkey feather this Thanksgiving. The students wrote a variety of different things they were thankful for such as, family, friends, loved ones and even for a successful kidney transplant.

Sacred Heart Church

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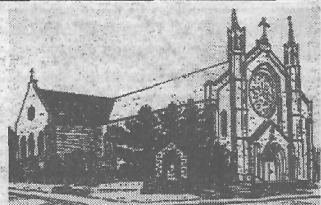
Very Rev. Michael A. McGuire, Pastor

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



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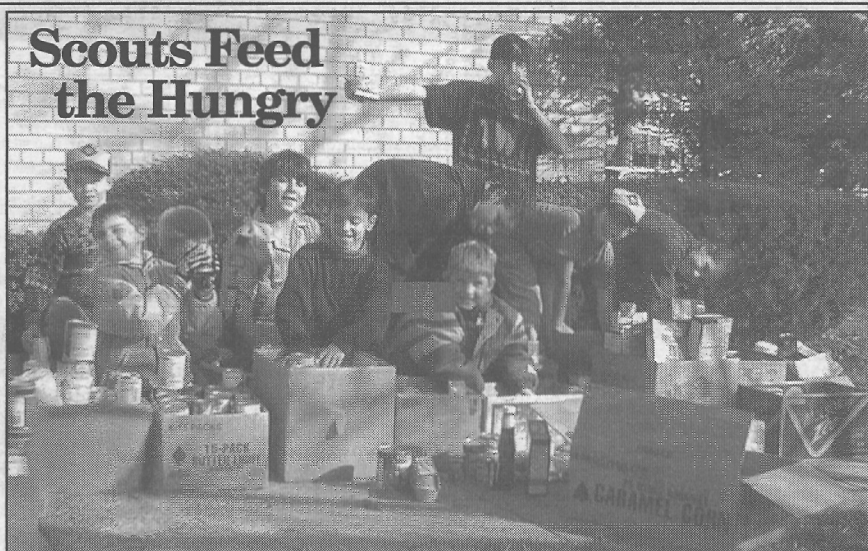
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Scouts Feed the Hungry



Local Boy Scouts and leaders collected a large amount of non-perishable food items for the South Plainfield Food Bank. The food was distributed by the borough to the needy in South Plainfield for Thanksgiving dinner.

— Photo by Bill Seesselberg

Middle School PTA Donates New Sign

By Patricia Abbott

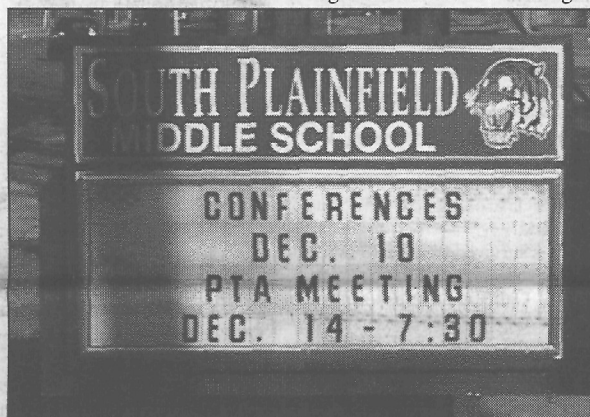
Each year the Middle School PTA donates a gift to the school. This year's gift is prominently displayed for all to see. A new announcement sign located near the traffic light at Geary and Plainfield Ave. identifies South Plainfield Middle School.

The project began about a year ago with PTA Vice President Debra Bishop. Debra noted that the Middle School sign is often overlooked. Visitors see the large high school sign located on the corner of the Middle School lawn and assume it is the high school. Debra felt it was important for the Middle School to be more easily identified and it is equally important that people know what events are scheduled at the school. With this goal in mind, Debra and the PTA set out to obtain a new sign

for the front of their school.

Somewhere along the way the sign's installation became stalled. Debra credits Middle School shop teachers Jeff Spezio and Bill Mosca along with Marriott's Bill

Dowdall with pooling their knowledge and finalizing plans for the sign. Their joint efforts have allowed the sign to be erected. In the near future the sign will be illuminated at night.



INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

By Briggs Longbothum



Last issue I was referring to privacy and security matters and in a tip, I advised to check your own credit report to insure accuracy. Wow, that was good advice, at least for me too! I just received my own credit report and it has two very significant errors. Believe me when I tell you, that with all the information about you that abounds in databases everywhere, there are lots and lots of errors, false and misleading information, as well as records that are easy to misinterpret! This is where the danger lies my fellow citizens! Although I have nothing to hide, I do care that if some aspect of my temporal existence is going to be tracked and recorded, it should at least be accurate!

So what do you (I, in this case) do next when you find a mistake? Firstly, collect your own records to verify that the mistake or error is in fact a mistake. You may need to prove it, so save whatever you can find. Secondly, you are allowed to write an "explanation" or a response that will also appear on the report. You might want to state that this item is under legal review or is disputed, etc. Thirdly, and by all means, immediately contact the creditor to correct the record. Keep in mind, you'll be speaking with another human being just like you, and a helpful friendly tone will pay off well. Confusing, yes, and absolutely frustrating to be sure, but keep calm and work it through. Remember, this is YOU that you're helping and a defensive posture at this point is a no-no! In the end, everyone wants to be accurate in their record keeping, and all will help if you have the right

attitude. Lastly, and this is after you've gone so far as to contact the Dept. of Consumer Affairs for their help, you can engage a lawyer. But try first the American Pro Se Assoc. (who will help YOU do the same thing that a lawyer will, but for far less money). Ultimately, correct records is everyone's goal, and you will have yours too.

TIP: Lawyers are fine when you absolutely need them, but there is a wealth of legal help and information available before you have to spend money. Try www.legalhelp.org first. You may have to join their association, but they're the best in legal assistance and won't let you spend a dime until you have to! I very highly advise this route first. It is a very worthwhile organization. Other sources exist also, and the Internet is certainly a good place to go. Do that at your library since not only can they help too, they also have internet access right there for you to use.

You have to believe me here, there are just too many database errors to ignore. That's just the way it is. Unfortunately, you're the only one who can discover them. Check your most obvious records so the poop doesn't hit the fan at the wrong time! That would be credit reports and DMV records. There are too many others to mention here, but these are the easy ones to check out first. Do it now. We'll look into other databases another time, but for now, these should be checked.

So much for Big Brother keeping tabs on Little Brother. If you have a topic or a thought you'd like to have described here, or even if you'd like to share some of your own technology insight, please feel warmly invited to contribute. Contact me via the *Observer*, and I'll be happy to follow up with you. One thing I would ask all readers is for input on your own use of computer technology in unusual or domestic situations. How do you use technology in your own lives and business? Let's share some good ideas. See you next issue. —Ed. (Briggs Longbothum may also be reached by Email: Bruggo@earthlink.net or by telephone in South Plainfield at 753-4700).

Breakfast with Santa at Riley School

Santa is planning to visit Riley School for breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 8:30 to 12 noon.

You can plan to have your picture taken with Santa, shop the Riley School holiday boutique and buy a holiday raffle ticket or 50/50 at the door.

You have your choice of a pancake breakfast with juice and sausage links or a continental breakfast. Coffee, tea or hot chocolate is included.

The cost is \$3.50 for adults, \$2.50 for children ages 3-12 and children under three are free. Reservations must be made by Dec. 4. For further information call Bill or Kathy Thomas at 561-3237 or Thomas Lanza at 753-6010.

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Obituaries

Stella Kaplan Prehodka

Stella Kaplan Prehodka, "the Iron Lady", died on Wednesday, Nov. 11, at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center in Baltimore, Md. She was 86 years old.

Mrs. Prehodka was born in Bayonne and she had resided in South Plainfield for over 70 years.

She started her working career at Muhlenberg Hospital in Plainfield and later worked for many years as a quality control inspector at the former Markay Bag Co. of Plainfield. She retired over 20 years ago. She was a long time member of the Ladies Garment Workers Union of New York City.

Mrs. Prehodka was an active member of Our Lady of the Blessed Virgin Nativity Russian Orthodox Church in South Plainfield, where she was worked on the Church's Pierogi Project.

In addition, she was a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens and had marched with the organization for many years in the annual South Plainfield Labor Day Parade.

She had also worked with the Caring and Sharing Project in South Plainfield and she was a member of the Plainfield Chapter of Deborah.

Her husband of over 60 years, Charles Prehodka, died in 1991 and her son Charles, retired CPO of the USN, also preceded her in death.

She is survived by two daughters, Jeanette Lenoci of Churchville, Md. and Carolyn Wolfe of Athens, Ga; two sons, Theodore Prehodka, retired LCDR, USN of Plainfield and Henry Prehodka of New York, NY and two sisters, Julia Diana of Semiole, Fla. and Marion Gibney of Mountinside and three brothers, John Kaplan of South Plainfield, Zigmund Kaplan of Bixby, Okla. and Stanley Kaplan of Readington. Also surviving are eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McKrisky Home for Funerals.

Michael C. Dunne, 78

Michael C. Dunne of South Plainfield died on Sunday, Nov. 15, at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison.

He was born and raised in Newark and moved to South Plainfield 44 years ago.

Mr. Dunne was the plant supervisor for Cook & Dunn Paint Corp. in Lodi for 60 years before retiring in 1996.

Mr. Dunne was a staff sergeant in the US Army Air Corps during WWII. He was an aerial gunner flying in 35 missions in the Blakans, Rhineland and the Northern Apennines where he received a purple heart.

He was predeceased by his wife, Edna Trum Dunne, who died in 1982. His brothers Adam G. Dunn, Edward and Joseph Duzniowski and his sister Evelyn Adler also predeceased him.

He is survived by a daughter, Diane Santoro of South Plainfield; a brother, Frank Dunn of Bellville and five grandchildren.

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

Bethea (Betty) Boardfoot Kennedy, 76

Bethea (Betty Boardfoot) Kennedy of South Plainfield died on Friday, Nov. 13, at the JFK Medical Center in Edison.

She was born in Airdrie, Scotland and came to the United States in 1928 settling in Newark where she lived until moving to South Plainfield 45 years ago.

Mrs. Kennedy was a secretary in the real estate office at the Royal Gardens Apartments in Piscataway for 10 years before retiring in 1983. Prior to that she was a cafeteria aide at the Kennedy Elementary School for 12 years.

She is survived by her husband, Fred Kennedy; a son, James E. Kennedy of Englewood Fla.; two daughters, Carol Smith and Joyce Walton, both of South Plainfield; a sister Isabella Harkey of South Plainfield and six grandchildren.

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

Agnes V. Walls (Nana) Guthrie, 87

Agnes V. Walls (Nana) Guthrie of South Plainfield died on Monday, Nov. 23 at her home.

She was born in Philadelphia and was a former resident of

Plainfield and North Plainfield before moving to South Plainfield 34 years ago.

She was the office manager for Dr. George F. Lane in Plainfield for 35 years before retiring in 1990.

Mrs. Guthrie was a former member of the Altar Rosary Society at St. Marys Church in Plainfield.

She is survived by two daughters, Patricia A. Guthrie and Nancy L. Hall, both of South Plainfield; two grand daughters and three great grandchildren.

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

Philip C. Morella, 48

Philip C. Morella, of Hollywood Fla., formerly of South Plainfield, died on Tuesday, Nov. 17, at his home.

He was born in Plainfield and was a life long resident of South Plainfield before moving to Florida 11 years ago.

He was a 1968 graduate of St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen.

Mr. Morella was a mason for the Pompino Mason Co. of Pompino Beach, Fla. for the last year. Prior to moving to Florida he worked for the Brookchester Construction Company in Chester for 12 years.

He was a member of the Laborers Union Local 395 in Westfield.

He is survived by a son, Philip C. Morella, Jr. of Huntington Beach, Calif.; a daughter, Vicki Lynn Morella of Marietta, Ga.; his parents, Philip and Elizabeth L. Grego Moralla of South Plainfield and a sister, Diane Grimaldi of South Plainfield.

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

Francis E. "Fran" McElwee, 80

Francis E. "Fran" McElwee died on Tuesday, Nov. 24, at his home here.

Mr. McElwee was born in Bayonne and had resided in Cranford before moving to South Plainfield in 1948.

He had been a layout man for the former Stampings Co., a sheet metal fabricating company formerly of Mountinside. He had worked for the company for many years before his retirement about 10 years ago. He had previously worked as a laborer for the Standard Oil Co. at the Bayway refinery in Elizabeth.

Mr. McElwee was a First Lt. in the US Army. He was a fighter pilot, attached to the 503 Fighter Squadron, 339 Fighter Group; Fighter Action in the European

Theater. He was awarded the Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters.

Mr. McElwee was inducted into the American Model Aviation Hall of Fame in August of 1997.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield, where he and his wife of 54 years, Jeanne M. (Walker) McElwee, were honored in Sept. of 1996, at the Church's dedication of the Right to Life Statue, by the Church's Pastor, Very Reverend Michael McQuire, for their many years of volunteer work as foster parents with the United Family and Children's Society of Plainfield. Since 1957 they had cared for over 200 newborn babies.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Eileen Flavin of Arnold, Md; five sisters; Rose Cosmas of Edison, Mary Trahan of Cape Cod, Mass., Eleanore McFarlane of Newington, Conn., Florence Carter of Summerfield, Fla. and Anne Hold of Elizabeth. Also surviving are eight grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McKrisky Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations may be made to the Mulenberg Hospice Fund, c/o Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Park and Randolph Ave., Plainfield, NJ 07060.

Vivian J. Pearson Scherer

Vivian J. Pearson Scherer of Plainfield died on Tuesday, Nov. 24, at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born in Jersey City and had lived in Plainfield for the last 78 years.

She was a secretary for the Mack Fuel & Supply Co. in New Brunswick for many years and then worked for the Middlesex Manufacturing Co. in Middlesex as an office manager.

Her father, S.K. Pearson, was the United States Cooperative Weather Observer in the Plainfield area since 1905 until his death in 1957, when Mrs. Scherer carried on until November 3, 1998. She reported the local weather everyday to the National weather service and to the Courier News in Bridgewater for the last 41 years.

Mrs. Scherer was a former member of the Monday Afternoon Club and the Quota Club, both of Plainfield.

She was predeceased by her husband, Raymond D. Scherer, who died in 1975.

She is survived by two daughters, January (Jill) Adams of South Plainfield and US Air Force Colonel Joan G. Bullock who is stationed in Stuttgart Germany.

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

Pauline Bolliger McCoy, 84

Pauline Bolliger McCoy of Whiting, formerly of South Plainfield, died on Tuesday, Nov. 24, at the Community Medical Center in Toms River.

She was born in Brooklyn, NY and was a former 71-year resident of South Plainfield before moving to Whiting eight years ago.

Mrs. Bolliger was a secretary for Pigment Dispersions in Edison two years before retiring in 1976.

She was predeceased by her husband, James J. McCoy Sr., who died in 1979.

She is survived by four sons, Robert Vasquez of New Smyrna Beach, Fla., James J. McCoy Jr. of Barnegat, Keith C. McCoy of South Plainfield and Thomas C. McCoy of Manasquan and a daughter, Frederica Whitney of Winfield West Virginia. She is also survived by nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

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

Stanley P. Malic, 78

Stanley P. Malic of South Plainfield died on Sunday, Nov. 29, at the William B. Kessler Memorial Hospital in Hammonton, NJ.

He was born in Oil City, Pa. and has lived in South Plainfield for the last 70 years.

He was a laborer for the Laborers International Union of North America Local 156 in New Brunswick for 42 years before retiring in 1985.

He was a member of Our Lady Czestochowa Church.

Mr. Malic was a sergeant in the US Army during WWII. He was a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 and the Polish National Home both in South Plainfield and a member of A.A.R.P.

He is survived by a sister, Bernadette Robertson of Middlesex; two brothers, Walter Malec of South Plainfield and Edward Malec of Folsom, NJ and many nieces and nephews.

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

Winifred S. Stiles MacLachlan

Winifred S. Stiles MacLachlan died Nov. 14, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

Born in Kearny, Mrs. MacLachlan lived in South Plainfield.

She graduated from Trenton State College. She taught music for the Plainfield Board of Education, retiring in 1985.

Mrs. MacLachlan was a member of the Woman's Club of North Plainfield. She was a member of the Wesley Methodist Church in South Plainfield and the church's Woman's Society. She was church organist for many years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Arnold MacLachlan.

Surviving are a brother-in-law, Russell MacLachlan of Marble Mountain, Nova Scotia; a sister-in-law, Jean Nicholson of Ontario and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were by Higgins Home for Funerals in Plainfield.

Because We Care
by Robert Hunter

GRIEVING OVER THE HOLIDAYS

The upcoming holiday can be a difficult time for those who have recently lost a family member because the deceased's absence is so conspicuous at family gatherings. Surviving family members may also endure the stress associated with giving themselves permission to enjoy the holiday in light of their recent loss. One key to coping with this situation is recognizing that things are going to be different this year. Denying that they are going to feel sad is only going to bury feelings deeper. It also may help to make some changes in holiday rituals and to initiate some new traditions. And, while those who continue to grieve may want to cut back on the number of invitations they accept, they should be willing to share their grief to some extent.

Rather than hide your sadness in isolation, why not choose a close friend to whom you can confide your feelings, or seek out another struggling with loss, and offer a helping hand. The staff at the JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME offer our best wishes for your peace and enjoyment during this holiday season. We have helped families and individuals of all faiths for many years, and are always available in times of need. For assistance, please call 756-2800. We are located at 2456 Plainfield Avenue in South Plainfield.

"Let no one who loves be called altogether unhappy."
—Sir James Matthew Barrie



McCriskin

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POLICE REPORT

• The BP Gas Station on Durham Ave. was robbed of \$100. The robber said he had a gun and told the employee he didn't want to hurt him and to give him the station's money. The station employee did not see a weapon.

• A motorcyclist driving on Durham Ave. was stopped by a motorist and told he had dropped his fanny pack containing his wallet and papers. When he went back to look, he couldn't find them.

• Getty Gas Station on Park Ave. reported an attempted armed robbery. A man pulled a 4½ inch knife on an attendant. The attendant kicked the robber in the groin and the robber fled without any money.

• Ferraro Foods on Hadley Blvd. reported that \$1,750 of was missing from a truck. The truck had been loaded at night and when it arrived at its destination, there were 16 cases of mozzarella cheese missing. The truck showed no signs of forced entry.

• A theft was reported at Pitt Street Park. Someone pried open the clubhouse used by the Ponytail Softball League. They broke into the locker and threw supplies on the floor.

• New England Motor Freight on Hollywood Ave. got a tip that an employee was stealing men's clothes from the warehouse. Police were called and a search of the suspects car found a Brook's Brother suit, shirts and \$1,114.99 of merchandise.

• A shopper at A&P on Oak Tree Ave. reported her wallet was missing. The wallet was in a large shoulder bag and contained \$400, drivers license, bank and credit cards.

• A lap top computer belonging to an employee at RonPak on South Clinton Ave. was reported missing from his office. He said that he had packed up and moved some of his office things because a carpet was being installed overnight.

"Cruisin Club" Plans Trip

The "We're Cruisin Again Club" is planning a millenium cruise from July 1 to July 8, 2000 aboard Carnival's "Elation".

The 46 people who cruised last time will tell you about the fantastic time they all had. Once again 30 cabins have reserved July 1 through July 8, 2000 aboard one of Carnivals newest and most luxurious ships the "Elation".

Ports of call are Puerto Vallarta, Muzatlan and Cabo San Lucas on the Mexican Riviera.

Accommodations are category eight, outside cabins with a large picture window at the price of

\$1,867. per person. This includes roundtrip airfare from Newark to Los Angeles, all amenities aboard the ship, except for drinks.

There are a limited number of cabins for three and four persons at the cost of \$1,211. per person.

A first deposit of \$100 per person is due by Dec. 7, 1998, a second deposit of \$250 per person is due by Nov. 1, 1999 and the balance is due by April 12, 2000. Your deposit will be fully refunded if cancelled before Jan. 30, 2000.

For information or to answer any questions, call Georgeann at (908) 561-2808.

SPHS Conducts Business Club Food Drive

Members of the South Plainfield High School Business Club conducted a food drive for the Thanksgiving Holiday to benefit needy families. Students and staff members donated cans, boxes and bags of nonperishable items. Boxes of food were taken to the Ozanam Shelter Home in Edison for distribution among needy families in the Central Jersey area.

The Business Club was established to provide students opportunities to explore various career options. Meetings are held monthly and students make their own deci-

sions as to what activities they wish to pursue. This year one such choice was to run the Thanksgiving food drive.

Businesses in the South Plainfield area are encouraged to contact Ms. Keltz, one of the advisors to the Business Club, if they have suggestions for future group activities or if a business member of the community would like to provide a guest speaker for the Club.

Appointed as the two chief Executive Officers are Jane Nguyen and Kaminee Sewdat. Members of the Club would like to extend a sincere thank you to those who have made a contribution to the food drive. Hopefully the effort of the students helped make a difference in the Thanksgiving holiday for other people.

So. Plfd. Website Gets Holiday Spirit

The South Plainfield website is ready for Christmas. Log on and send an e-mail to Santa or you can link up with the North Pole. You can log on to their website at southplainfieldnj.com.

Basketball Tournament

Continued from page 7

tournament. Tom Cassio, owner of Twin City Pharmacy, Joe Romer, owner of Joe Romer Trophies of Woodbridge and Michael Buggy, South Plainfield Athletic Director have been very cooperative in providing some of the financial resources and personal time for the tournament. T.C. Screen Printers of Plainfield will assist with the shirts. Without their support, this program could not have been possible.

The SPASA executive board hopes that the students and community will come out to support this tournament. Those individuals seeking more information should contact Mr. Beegle at the Middle School at (908) 754-4620, extension 310.

American Education Week

Continued from page 8

Association officers are Louise Mruz-President, Dianna Joffe-First Vice President, Linda Elster-Corresponding Secretary, Elizabeth McHenry-Vice President, Eileen Zawacki-Vice President, Marie DeVico-Vice President, Ann Zajkowski-Treasurer, Marilyn Winston-Recording Secretary, Barbara Harris-Public Relations Director, Maria LaSalvia-Community Relations Director and Wayne Dibofsky-NJEA Government Relations.

The South Plainfield Education Association was formed over 35 years ago. They are affiliated with county, state and national education associations. Locally, they have over 300 members which include teachers, secretaries, aides and van drivers.

The South Plainfield Education Association hopes to form a coalition with the school's PTA and PTO organizations, creating a joint effort to have school budgets passed. Community members interested in work with the coalition can contact Maria LaSalvia at the Middle School.

Library is Selling Desk Calendars

The Friends of the Library are selling desk calendars. The desk calendars will make a great holiday gift and by purchasing them from the Library you will be helping the Friends of the Library. The cost is \$6.50 and the calendars can be purchased at the front desk at the Library.

Classified

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Lost your cat or dog? The Observer will print your "Lost and Found" classified ad at no charge. Call 732-469-4380.

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- Corner Deli, Hamilton Blvd.
- Carousel Hair Salon, Oak Tree Rd.
- Dave's Stationery, Sampton Ave.
- Details, So. Clinton Ave.
- Freihofer's, Montrose Ave.
- Holly Park Video, Park Ave.
- K Foods, Park Ave.
- Krauser's Food Store, Oak Tree Rd.
- Twin City Pharmacy, Park Ave.
- The Little Store, South Clinton Ave.
- Mohn's Flowers, Plainfield Ave.
- Oak Tree Farms, Oak Tree Road
- Pauls Stationery, Hamilton Blvd.
- Quick Foods, Park Ave.
- Sals Liquor Store, Park Ave.
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Pacer Tool & Plastics Raised a 'Ton of Goods' for Dominican Republic Relief



When the employees at Pacer Tool & Plastics located on Montrose Ave. realized just how badly Hurricane Georges had devastated the small Caribbean country of the Dominican Republic they wanted to do something to help the people get back on their feet.

The call went out to the 85-person work force to contribute any clothing, food or bottled water they could. The response has been quite heartwarming. Can

after can, bottle after bottle and bag after bag began piling up. The goods were packed in cartons and placed on skids.

After just one week, over 2,000 pounds of support, in the way of bottled water, canned food, rice, other non-perishables and clothing had been donated and shipped to the Dominican Republic. The people at Pacer have pulled together to help the people of the Dominican Republic bounce back. These goods will be distributed by Pacer's major customer, Revlon, which operates an assembly facility in the Dominican Republic.

Pacer Tool & Plastics provides engineering services for injection mold design, mold making and plastic part molding. It operates a three shift manufacturing operation and has been in business for twenty years.

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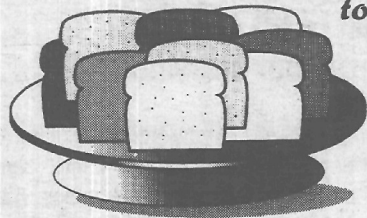
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Check out our new low prices at Friehofer's!

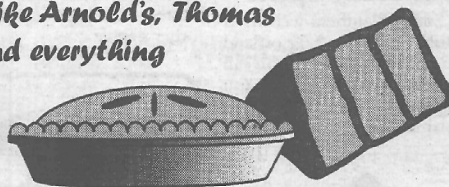
Good bread and fun desserts really add to the quality of everyday life. We're happy to provide you with both - at savings that permit you to enjoy the best often!



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

purchase. Each entitles you to a free item from our shelves.

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



FREE DESSERT!
(Buy two, get one free)

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



FREE BREAD!
(Buy two, get one free)

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



**FRIEHOFFER'S • 901 MONTROSE AVENUE
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