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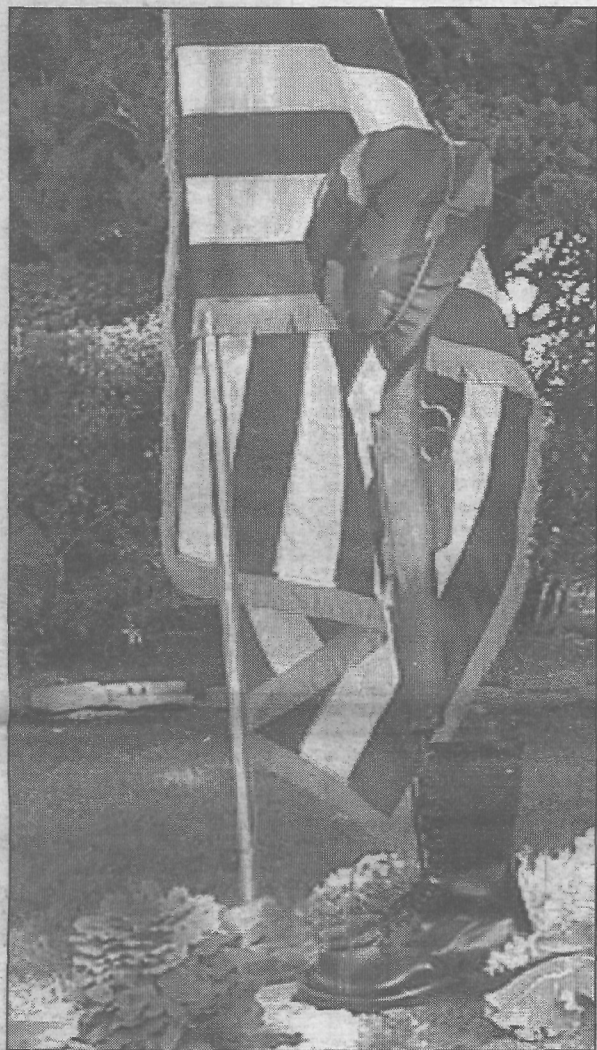
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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 2, NO. 8

50 CENTS

DECEMBER 17, 1998



McCriskin's Home For Funerals and members of the 101st Airborne Division held their annual tree lighting ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 12. See story and additional photos on page 5.

Michael English Appointed Director of Recreation

Mike English, popular high school teacher and former mayor of South Plainfield, has been unanimously chosen to be the next Director of Recreation. He will officially be appointed to a three year term starting Feb. 17, 1999 this evening.

A commission to find a new Director was formed last fall after the resignation of Director Jaye Joyce. It consisted of three recreation commissioners, Jim Curcio, Bill Cochran and Calvin Gross and three councilmen, Dennis Cerami, Ed Kubula and Ray Petronko. The committee received 21 resumes and after reviewing the resumes, eight candidates were chosen and called to a first interview. Four candidates were called back for a second interview and then the choice of Mike English was made.

Jim Curcio said the choice of Mike English by the committee was unanimous. Mike is a strong, powerful candidate and he will get along with everyone. He is community oriented and has been involved with high school sports and youth groups during his entire career. He will be a positive force for Recreation and will help put the department back on a positive track.

Curcio said the Recreation Department has been without a director for 10 weeks and it has not been easy time. He expressed his thanks to those who have helped



Mike English

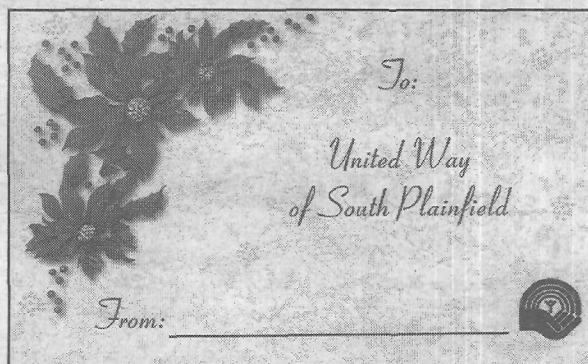
in the interim by going above and beyond the call of duty. Curcio pointed that he, along with Bill Cochran and Mike Alveras, organized the Adult Basketball Program. Calvin Gross and Mike Sikanowicz have been working with the Youth Basketball Program. Pete Rachwal and Peggy Devlon have worked tirelessly keeping the many recreation programs running smoothly. Mildred Waldron has been working with the senior programs. Curcio said that without all of these people giving their all, we would not have been able to survive.

The Recreation Department is responsible for the Youth and Adult Basketball programs as well as the Wrestling program. They run trips all year, offer Aerobics and exercise programs, arts and

crafts, a weight room at the PAL and numerous other activities open to the residents of South Plainfield. They also run the Softball program in spring and the community pool. Plans for an expansion of the PAL building are presently in the works.

The Recreation and Cultural Arts Commissions just sponsored a very successful sing-a-long at the PAL. Thanks to the hard work of Georgeann DiGrazia, who rented costumes, purchased candles and helped decorate the PAL for the occasion. Santa's room, all decked out for Christmas, was especially well received. Over 200 people attended, held candles and sang along with the High School Chorus under the direction of Tracy Murray. Santa, Frosty and 'Chucky' from the 'Rugrats' were there to greet the children. Afterward Santa led everyone into the PAL for hot chocolate and cookies. Over 100 eager children got a chance to talk to Santa and tell him they really were good this year.

S.P. United Way Sponsors Holiday Poinsettia Card



The United Way of South Plainfield would like to help make the holiday season brighter for the neediest families in South Plainfield by conducting a holiday poinsettia card sale.

The poinsettia cards are \$1.00 each and every participant will place their name on a card to be used as a festive decoration at one of a number of South Plainfield businesses and companies.

The Human Service Agencies benefit South Plainfield residents in some of the following services: Homeless Prevention, Visiting Nurse/Home Care Services, Hot Line Services, Boy Scouts, People With Disabilities, Family Counseling and Girl Scouts.

The goal is to raise \$5,000 with all proceeds earmarked for South Plainfield's neediest. Many com-

panies and businesses will be asked to participate. If your company or business would like to participate, please call Jim Lenox at 754-4620 Ext. 217.

The next issue of
The Observer
will be
Friday, January 8.

Starting with the
Jan. 8 issue we will
publish every Friday
on a weekly basis.

Check our webpage at
spobserver.com
for updates and
the latest news.



Santa Claus (Councilman Ed Kubula) greeted over a 100 children after a sing-a-long held at the PAL building on Dec. 13. Additional photos of Christmas in South Plainfield are on pages 7-9.

From the **PUBLISHER**

The Observer is Going Weekly!

Starting with the Jan. 8 issue, the *Observer* will be published weekly. Readers have been asking us to publish every week and we plan to do just that starting in January! Please note that the publication date will be on Fridays instead of Thursdays.

We will continue with the extensive coverage of schools activities, organization events and borough happenings. We plan to do more in depth stories about the fire department, rescue squad and borough hall departments and councilpeople.

The first few weeks will probably be a little hectic for us, but we are determined to fulfill the vision we had when we started this paper. We believe this paper is the only way residents get a complete overview of South Plainfield and its activities and happenings and we believe we do it in a positive way.

As you read this paper, you can see what a busy town we live in. Each page in our paper shows how excited we are to bring you the news and what's going on at the schools, library, Borough Hall and the activities of the organizations around town.

Part of our future plans include relocating our office to South Plainfield. We are presently actively looking at several sites. We'll let you know where we move, and when its going to happen.

Again, we must remind you that all of this cannot be done without the help of our advertisers, who have been supportive for the past year and a half. Do your part and visit their stores and businesses to tell them thanks and how glad you are that they support the *Observer*.

If your organization, group or school is not in our newspaper, find out why. Tell your publicity person to get in touch with us. We cover just about everything if we are notified in advance. We have been known to be driving by an event and upon seeing a group of cars and people, run in to take pictures.

If you have any suggestions on what you would like to see more of or would like to submit a story or happening in your life, we welcome them — the more local news, the better.

We want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at the *Observer* family. See you next year with more news and pictures!

We invite you to send in your letter or opinion on subjects pertinent to South Plainfield and we will be glad to publish it. 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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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

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

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



Mary Otlowski, Cheryl Yates and Stefanie Zarra are packing clothing they collected for victims of the hurricane victims.

Girls Scouts Collect Clothes For Hurricane Victims

Stefanie Zarra, Mary Otlowski and Cheryl Yates, Girls Scouts from troop 257 have been collecting clothing for the Hurricane Victims at various spots in town for the past few months and storing them in their basements. They are working towards their Silver Award Project.

On Dec. 5 the scouts took all the clothes they had collected and met at Hall's Trucking to divide the clothing, into sizes, girls and boys items and clothes needed for summer or winter. They boxed the clothes and

loaded into a truck donated by Halls Truck.

A project like this does not just happen. The girls parents spent the day driving around collecting the clothes and bringing them to Halls. Innovative Folding Carton and Squire Corrugated donated the boxes. Marriott contributed containers used for collecting the items, Allstate Legal Supply and AKA helped with printing and copying supplies and Columbia Savings Bank set up a savings account for the Hurricane Relief Victims.

Mohn's 'Wish You a Merry Christmas' Contest

Mohn's Flowers is running a new contest with 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.

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.

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

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

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

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

Sherban's Restaurant—Reserve our banquet room for your Christmas party or special event.

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

Independent Cellular—Let's welcome this new business in town! Great for a last minute shopping idea—see their ad on page 3 for their opening specials.

Many local merchants and professionals support this newspaper 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*.

Fire Calls

Chief Abbruzzese reported that the Fire Department answered a total of 419 alarms during September through November. The breakdown is as follows: alarms, 4,466; maintenance, 617; drills, 270 and extra duty, 504.

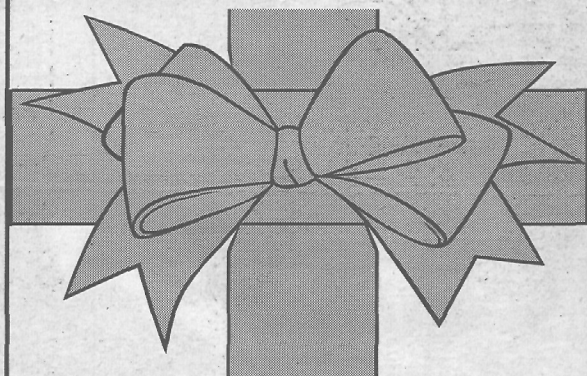
UPCOMING OBSERVER PUBLICATION DATES:

Issue Date	Copy Deadline
January 8.....	December 31
January 15	January 8

Copy can be dropped off at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave., Twice Is Nice on Front St. or E-mail us at nancyg@sposerver.com. Mail to G&G Graphics 530 Union Ave., Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846 or fax at 732-805-0815.

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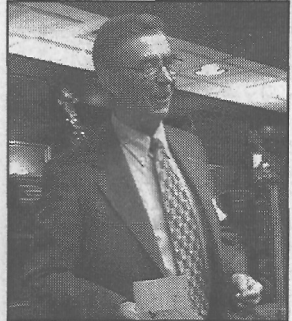
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Clean Business Assoc. Presents Glitter Awards

A group of business people and borough officials met Dec. 3 at Sherban's to recognize and honor the Clean Business Association's 1998 Glitter Award winners and



Mayor Dan Gallagher

Adopt-A-Spot participants.

South Plainfield Clean Communities Advisory Board Chairman Emil Leporino welcomed the group and discussed the status of the borough's Clean Communities Program. Over \$256,000 in grants have been received from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for litter control projects since 1988, including \$26,400 received in 1998.

Mayor Dan Gallagher honored the 1998 Glitter Award Winners. Honored were the Drug Fair Plaza renovation by Butrico Enterprises, CMF Business Supplies Inc. on Kennedy Road, Federal Metals & Alloys on Kennedy Rd., South Plainfield Rescue Squad on Plainfield Ave. and Park Plaza Office Building on Park Ave.

Mayor Gallagher also recognized those businesses and groups

that participated in the Adopt-A-Spot program in 1998. Nearly all previously adopted spots were readopted this year. Recognized were: two stretches of Hamilton Boulevard, by the Spisso family and the Shoonly family; the entire length of Front Street by the Keystone Comm. Residence, the Belmont Ave. stream crossing by Federal Metals and Alloys, the Clinton Ave. Ext. stream crossing by Timber Creek Landscaping, the Durham Ave. overpass by Blue Ridge Landscaping, the Cedarbrook Ave. stream crossing by Cub Scout Pack 224 and Hamilton Blvd. along Rt. 287 by the Home Depot Store and Northeast Division Corporate Office.

Captain Michael Zushma, Rescue Squad Emergency Management Coordinator and Property Maintenance Code Officer, was the featured speaker. He discussed the facade renovation program in the Downtown Revitalization district and code enforcement issues.

The CBA is an association of commercial, industrial and professional people who are committed to making South Plainfield an attractive place to do business through improved property maintenance, landscaping and litter control activities. Glitter Awards are earned by businesses that have consistently maintained a high standard over time. A "Glitter Award" sign is posted at the winning property for a month.

Anyone interested in joining the CBA or CCAB's programs, call Alice Tempel, at (906) 226-7621.

BOROUGH NOTES

Council

■ Police exam applications are now available at the Clerk's office in Borough Hall. They must be submitted by Jan. 29. A spring exam date will be announced.

■ Mayor Gallagher met with the Business Advisory Group to start planning how to revise some of the ordinances in effect in the downtown area. The goal is to amend the ordinances and make the area more shopper-friendly.

■ Chief Steven Merkle just graduated from a FBI National Academy course in Quantico, Va.

■ Ray Petronko met with the seniors and they plan to visit other Senior Citizen facilities in order to study what other senior centers offer. They will use these examples to begin plans for a future senior center in the Borough.

Planning Board

■ Coppola Farms on Durham Ave. was granted a two lot subdivision. Approximately 1.5 acres where they presently run a greenhouse will remain and the rest of the 25 acres was subdivided into affordable housing.

Board of Adjustment

■ David A. Lackland explained to the Board that at the time his application was made, Rite Aid Pharmacy was going to be the tenant on the property at Bushwick and Durham Ave. However, Rite Aid has since declined interest in the site. Lackland asked the Board's permission to build on the site with the original footprint and any tenants would be those who would be a permitted retail use in the OBC-3 zone. The Board stated it could not agree to the plans unless it knows how many tenants and what type of businesses would occupy the spot. Parking, traffic patterns, and the possibility of a drive-through area are all issues that would have to be addressed before the Board could approve the site.

Board Denies Bullard and Pershing Subdivision

A number of Bullard and Pershing Place residents filled the Council room at the Dec. 1 Planning Board meeting. They were there to object to the proposal to subdivide a large piece of property that fronts both streets and build four new houses on the site.

Richard J. DeAndrea, testified for the developer, Bill Wilkins of Edison, saying many homes in the

area presently do not conform to R-75 zoning codes. Mayor Gallagher noted that many of those homes were built in the 50s and were considerably smaller than the ones proposed by the builder.

After a heated two hours of residents objections and questions, the board unanimously rejected the application and told the builder he could return if he would

reduce the amount of homes to be built on the property.

Many of the residents said they would like the property to become a park and cheered when the Board denied the application.

Walter K. Abrams, attorney for the developer, said he may appeal the board's ruling. Wilkins was unsure what he would do next with the property.

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Franklin School's Student Council sponsored a pajama and slipper day on Wednesday, Nov. 25. Many children brought along their favorite stuffed animal to help celebrate the event. Co-advisors were first grade teachers Marilyn Winston and Louise Mruz.

Terra Nova Garden Club Holiday Activities

Members of the Terra Nova Garden Club met to decorate wreaths for the New Jersey Home for Disabled Soldiers in Menlo Park at the home of President Gail Sulinski in South Plainfield.

This annual workshop marks the beginning of the holiday season for the club. Terra Nova will join with other area clubs to decorate Lyons Hospital and to make bedside, altar and ward flower arrangements. The Garden Therapy Committee will teach clients of the Muhlenberg Hospital Adult-care facility to make holiday flower arrangements. This is an ongoing

monthly flower arrangement workshop.

The December membership meeting was held at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 16 at the home of member Kathi Stern. Regular monthly meetings will resume in January at 7:30 p.m. at the North Edison branch of the Public Library on Grove Ave. in Edison. The January meeting will feature guest speaker Raul P. Rodriguez of Elijah's Promise Culinary Arts Training Center in New Brunswick, who will hold a vegetable carving workshop. Guests are welcome.

Free Christmas Clinics at Grand Slam USA

Grand Slam USA, located on Oak Tree Rd., will be holding three free clinics on Sunday, Dec. 20. The clinics include baseball hitting, softball pitching and hockey.

The baseball clinic held from 10-11 a.m. will be directed by Pete Albarano, former pro player and former Brooklyn College coach. Ed will be explaining his philosophies and proven techniques on the art of hitting a baseball.

The softball clinic held from 11-12 noon will feature Ed Carmichael, who will give a unique and refreshing approach to softball pitching. Ed has tutored and instructed women of all ages on softball pitching for over 30 years in the Plainfield Area.

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 information to 732 805-0815

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Historical Society Looks To the Future

By William Tutbill

Although the Historical Society's purpose is to keep records of the past about a town, they often look toward proposed future plans when they hold their monthly meetings.

Michael Zushma, Borough Code Enforcement Officer, was the guest speaker at the South Plainfield Historical Society's recent meeting. He spoke about the new Borough Commercial Facade Improvement Program and what is involved in its implementation. He explained there are loans available up to \$5,000, at 1% below prime rate and up to \$40,000 in Community Development Grant Funds have been committed for individual grants. Columbia Savings Bank has committed \$5,000,000 in the form of low-interest loans, with repayment schedules up to seven years. Brochures are available at Borough Hall which explain in detail how the program works. Drop in or call Mr. Zushma for more information.

Another issue of importance discussed at the meeting was transportation for Vocational school students who have been working on the rail car. A snag has come up over who is to furnish the bus for this project. Right now there is no bus, so no work is being done by the students. If an individual or an organization could supply a 25 seat bus and driver, with proper insurance, the project could get going right away. The students are scheduled to work from 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school term.

The paint has arrived and is in safe storage, away from freezing temperatures, until Spring. There is a lot of other work that can be done in the meantime.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Right now you're probably preparing to celebrate, or are already celebrating, one or more of five major holidays that fall around now. Sure you're busy, but please take some time to read up on some news from South Plainfield Library:

The Library will close at 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 24, Christmas Eve and Dec. 31, New Years Eve. We'll be closed all day on Dec. 25, Christmas and Jan. 1, New Year's Day. We will be open on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2, however, we'll be closed the following Sundays, Dec. 27 and Jan. 3.

Due to the closings, we'll only be having our Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday 6:30 p.m. storytime program for the next two weeks. The Thursday program, 1:15 p.m. will return the first week in January. All of these programs are for children ages 3-6. There's also our children's craft program, for kids six and up, this afternoon at 4. In addition Monday through Wednesday, Dec. 28-30, we'll be hosting a "Game Gang" program. Kids of all ages can come in and play the board games we'll have set up or bring in their own. The Monday program runs from 11 a.m.-12 noon; the other two run from 2-3 p.m. You have to register for these programs.

Two of our charitable programs are still running. The toy drive, organized by local Scout Eric Toth, will be collecting gifts until tomorrow. Meanwhile the "Food for Fines" program will be gathering foodstuffs until Dec. 26. Also, while we're no longer accepting books for the "Books to Keep" program, you can still make a monetary donations at the main desk. And to top it off, the Friends of the Library are collecting used candles, left over from your holi-

day celebrations, for recycling.

Speaking of the Friends, their first meeting of 1999 will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend; refreshments will be served.

If you're frantically searching for a last- or near-last minute holiday gifts, the Library has two items that might fill the bill. The aforementioned Friends of the Library are selling Book Lovers' desk calendars for \$6.50 each and the Library still has South Plainfield coverlets available for \$45 each.

A brief end-of-year A/V note. This group of Circuit videos will be around until Dec. 28 and the Circuit Books-On-Tape will be available until Jan. 2. Both Circuits will be back on the shelves ASAP.

Finally, a word about our new furniture. We've already received a lot of good feedback about it; people think it looks nice and so do we. So, let's try to keep it looking nice for as long as possible, shall we? Thanks in advance.

That just about closes out this last Library column for 1998. We'd like to wish everyone a happy and safe Holiday Season. See you next year.

Oh, those Holidays are in order of occurrence, Hanukkah, Ramadan, Christmas, Kwanza and New Year's. Did we miss any?

AARP Chapter 4144 Meeting

The next meeting of Chapter 4144 will be Dec. 18, 12 noon at the Willows. Entertainment will be by our own members.

Dinner and entertainment is being planned on March 22 at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse Dinner Theater. The play "Catch Me If You Can" will be featured. For reservations and more information call Lee at (732) 968-6613.

Dec 1998/99 Jan						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
13	14 	15	16	17 Publication of So. Plfd. Observer Taxpayers Advisory Group 7 pm	18	19
20 	21 Roosevelt School Concert 6:45 pm Land Management Advisory Committee 7:30 pm	22 High School Concert-7 pm Recycling Comm. 8 pm Planning Board Meeting 8 pm	23 Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. 7 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	24 	25 Merry Christmas!	26
27	28	29 Board of Adjustment 8 pm	30 Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	31 Copy Deadline for So. Plfd. Observer	1 	2
3	4	5 Friends of the Library 7:30 pm Board of Adjustment 8 pm	6 Business Advisory Group 5:30 pm Court 9:30 am	7	8 Publication of So. Plfd. Observer	9

101st Airborne Treelighting at McCriskin Home for Funerals

By Patricia Abbott

Reporter's note: Sometimes a story comes along and you find that you cannot put on the journalist's hat. The 'story' and those involved touch you in such a way that remaining uninvolved and objective seems impossible. The human touch is contagious and with this in mind, I give you my account of the majestic memorial tree that proudly stands in front of McCriskin Funeral Home on Plainfield Avenue.

In December of 1985, Richard and William McCriskin of McCriskin Home For Funerals decided to decorate the huge tree which stands like a silent sentinel on their front lawn. It was the first time the tree was to be adorned for Christmas. On Dec. 12, 1985, a plane carrying servicemen, members of the 101st Airborne Division, The Screaming Eagles, crashed in Newfoundland, Canada. Two hundred and forty eight aboard were killed. The McCriskin Family, with ties to the military and a deep respect for military tradition, transformed the decorating of a tree into a living memorial for those who lost their lives for our country. A plaque was set beneath the tree dedicating it to the memory of those American servicemen.

The servicemen were returning home for the holidays from a peace-keeping mission in the Sinai Peninsula. The plane



crashed in Gander, Newfoundland. While never official, mechanical malfunction was the reason given for the tragedy. It is considered the eighth worst aviation disaster in history.

The towering tree, bearing 13,000 white lights is lit on Dec. 12 of each year. A memorial service is held on the lawn of McCriskin's prior to the lighting. The ceremony brings veterans and their families to the site, often in bitter cold, to honor the fallen Eagles.

In 1985 Richard and William McCriskin never thought that their gesture would become so far reaching or that an ever-expanding group of veterans and residents would make an annual homage to pay tribute to the fallen Americans. The small plaque carries a big message.

That tradition continued this year on Saturday, Dec. 12. At 11 a.m. under a bright December sky, people once again gathered before the stately tree to pay tribute to the Screaming Eagles. In attendance were members of the 101st Airborne Division Association and members of General Anthony C. McAuliffe, New York/New Jersey chapter. The somber ceremony was attended by Mayor Dan Gallagher and Councilman Ray Petronko, as well as many local veterans. The focal point is a plaque set at the base of the tree. Behind the plaque stood a pair of boots that glistened in the sunlight and rising from the boots was a rifle topped with a combat helmet. Off to either side were flags; the flag of the United States and the 101st Airborne Division flag. The brief ceremony recalled

the tragedy and reminded those who were non-military of what our servicemen and woman do for us. The vets needed no reminding – the ceremony was another brick cementing the bond of veterans who gave so much for our country. The morning was highlighted with the placing of the wreath before the plaque, a wailing bagpipe added a bitter-sweet, eerie sound reminiscent of

ancient battlefields. It somehow seemed appropriate to hear the everyday street sounds punctuated with the staccato sounds of the rifles as they offered their salute. At night the 13,000 lights become a beacon in the dark. Visible for quite a distance, the tiny lights shine like stars, each twinkling in memory of the 101st Airborne-Screaming Eagles.

Veterans Want Their Fallen Comrades Remembered

By Patricia Abbott

The huge fir tree in front of McCriskin's Home for Funerals was ablaze with lights, visible even in the morning sun. Private memories and silent prayers filled the winter air and the memorial

ceremony paying tribute to the fallen members of the 101st Airborne Division was complete. But the camaraderie was just beginning. After the memorial service, McCriskin's sponsored a luncheon for those in attendance. The social event is alternated annually between the American Legion Post 243 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post 6763. Among those in attendance were members of the 101st Airborne Division Association-New York/New Jersey Chapter. The room was filled with overheard shards of military jargon and personal tales intermingled with an enjoyable meal.

President Vincent Vicari of 101st Airborne Division Association, General Anthony C. McAuliffe New York/New Jersey Chapter seemed content with his friends, new and old. In the pleasant confines of the small room, he laughingly joked about the coasters on the chairs, they had a habit of rolling away as one prepared to be seated. He expressed dismay at the lack of material relating to America's war times taught in the public schools. A young teen seated at his table agreed that the schools do not cover the wars in any detail or in some cases not at all. The young boy admitted that he had little knowledge of WWII other than what he was told about his grandfather.

It was generally acknowledged by many that this is common throughout the country. The practice deprived today's youths of fully understanding the role of the U.S. Armed Forces – that freedom isn't free. It costs a terrible price in lives, even for those who live through it. That's why history is important.

A mention of Franklin Elementary School's Annual Veterans Day program provided nods of approval. During the course of the meal Mr. Vicari became more serious as he discussed the event that had brought the eclectic group of veterans and civilians together. He spoke of an associate member, a woman whose son was aboard the plane on that

continued on page 16

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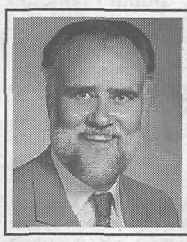
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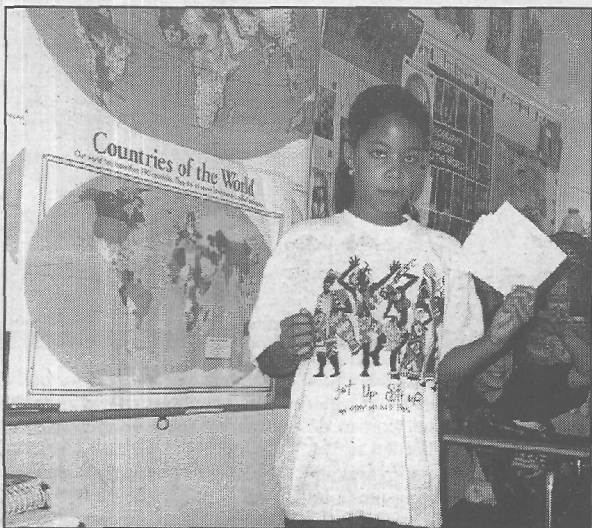


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American Education Week

American Education Week was celebrated by all the Middle School through many unique activities. American Education Week may be over now, but the thinking and dreaming continues every day at S.P.M.S.



By Melissa Creagh
and Kelly Panuzzo

President Johnson's sentiment echoed through the halls of South Plainfield Middle School in November as the children were taught to "Think and Dream" during American Education Week. This theme was celebrated in many unique ways throughout the building. It began with the faculty and staff, who proudly wore buttons with an American Education Week logo. A banner displayed in the main entrance announced "S.P.M.S. Celebrates American Education Week". Also in the main foyer there was a poster saying "Hello" in 50 languages. Throughout the sixth grade hallway, display cases were devoted to the work of students from all areas of the curriculum.

Several bulletin boards also represented the "Think and Dream" theme. Ms. LaSalvia created a bulletin board outside the main office which displayed on a large map where the Middle School staff learned to think and dream themselves. Many colleges in the tri-state area were represented; however, some were as far away as the Universidad de Salamanca in Spain, Colorado State University and Prairie View University. A second bulletin board by the gym explained how the Student Council was collecting pencils and supplies for South African children. Mrs. Shrank also helped make some dreams come true by coordinating a summer clothing drive for Central America.

The thinking and dreaming didn't stop in the hallways of the South Plainfield Middle School. It continued across the curriculum and in every classroom. In Mrs. Port's Reading classes, they discussed setting goals and future aspirations. The students then wrote a journal entry in which they set goals and devised a plan for attaining them. Corresponding with *The Outsiders*, Ms. Panuzzo's seventh grade reading class discussed positive and effective conflict resolution methods. Mrs. Reebe's students designed a car of the future after reading "Nation on Wheels" in *Strides*. While reading *Cheaper by the Dozen*, Mrs. Wolpert's seventh graders attempted to better understand the life, family, and customs of the 1920s.

In Language Arts class, Mrs.

**"At the desk where I sit, I have learned
A one great truth. The answer for all our
national problems — the answer for all the
problems of the world — comes down to a
single word. That word is education."**

—LYNDON B. JOHNSON

Mikaelian's sixth graders read a poem entitled "What If" by Shel Silverstein. Then they wrote their own versions of this poem. Mrs. Reebe's Language Arts students pretended to be in a time machine that traveled 5, 10, 15, or 20 years into the future. Once there, they had to describe where and how they were living. The English as a Second Language students wrote paragraphs comparing and contrasting their current American education to the education they received in their native countries. Ms. Boyle's class learned all life skills, such as counting money, consumer shopping, telling time, and reading and writing current events.

Can you imagine going on a mock space mission to intercept Comet Haley? If you're an eighth grader in Mrs. Hartshorn's or Mrs. Porzio's classes, you can because they did just that! On a field trip to Buchler Science Center, the

students were introduced to space travel by spending time in both the space craft and as mission control. Through discussions, charts, graphs, writing and viewing programs, Mr. Kavka's seventh graders studied the complex ecosystem of Indian tigers, as well as the influence India's rivers have on the wildlife and people.

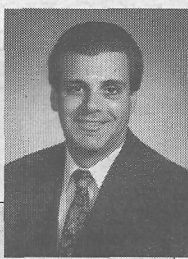
Seventh grade geography students are thinking and dreaming about competing in the National Geography Competition. Preliminary rounds were already held, and the winners will participate in the grade level and championship rounds. Mrs. Cocco's sixth graders celebrated Geography T-shirt day by wearing a shirt that was purchased in a distant place. Each T-shirt model was then asked to locate the city or country on a map and briefly explain about the people and culture. Mrs. Florio's students are studying Egyptian life, government and schools. In Mrs. Wilson's math class, they learned to count in Egyptian.

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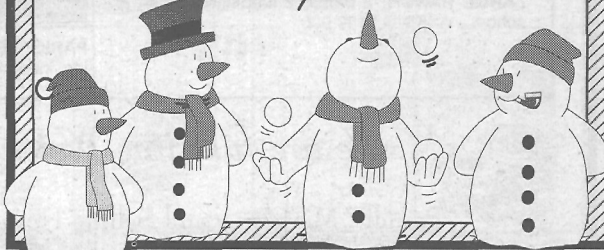
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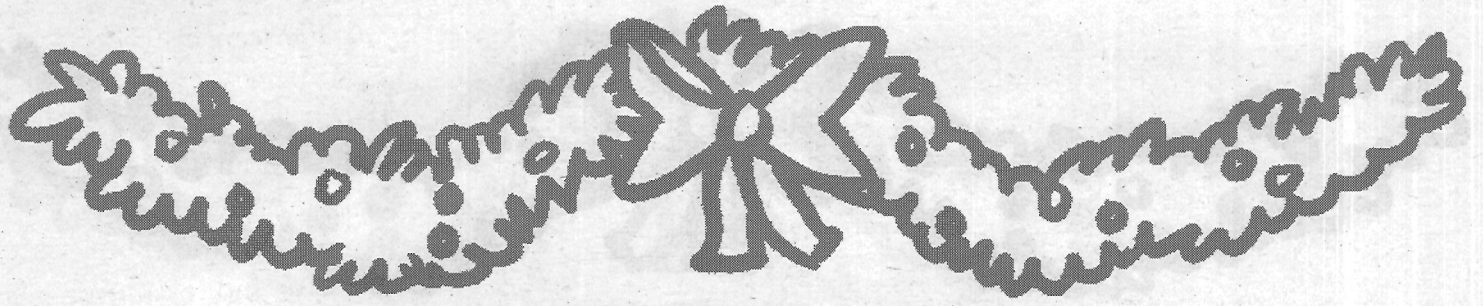
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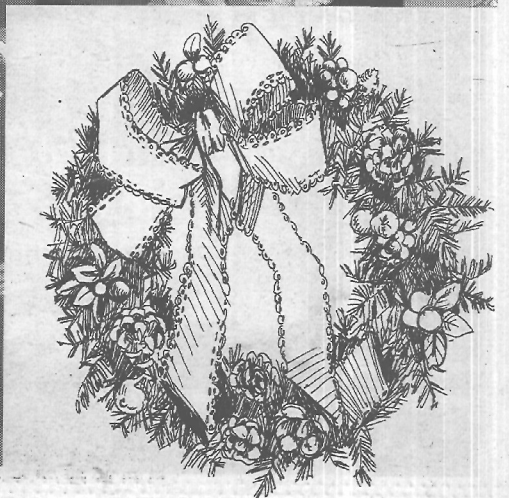
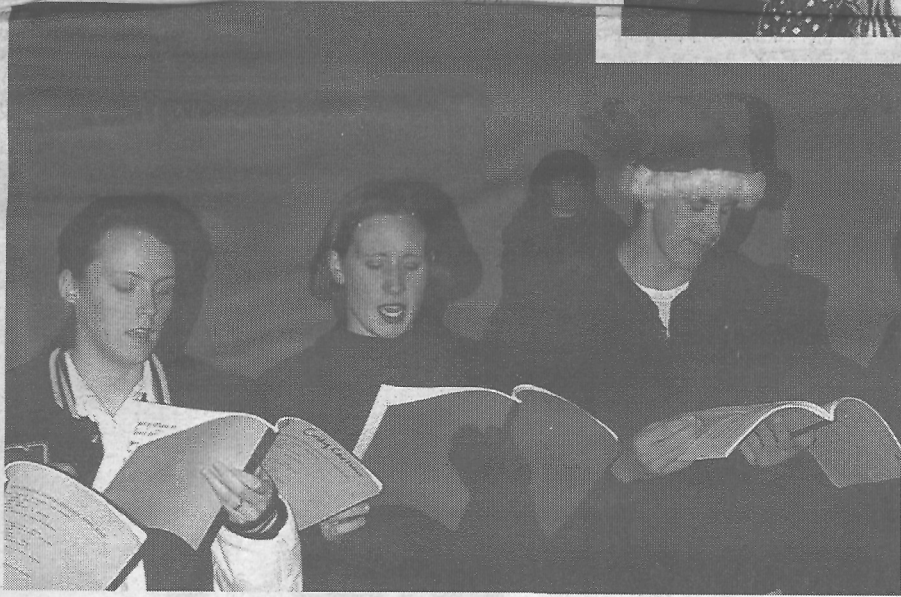
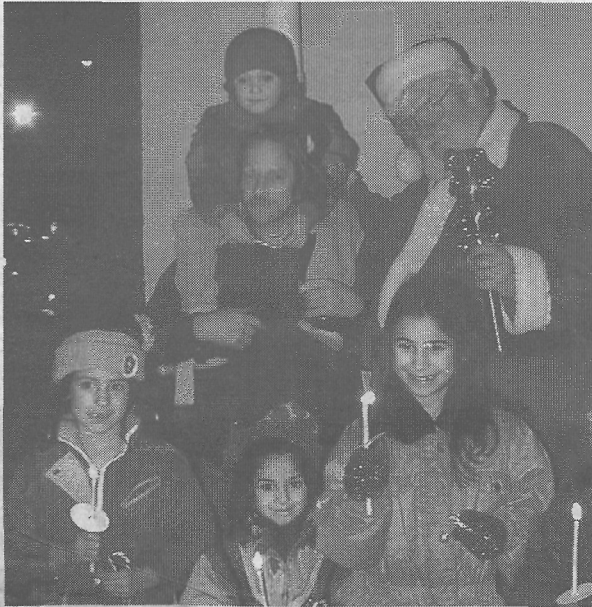
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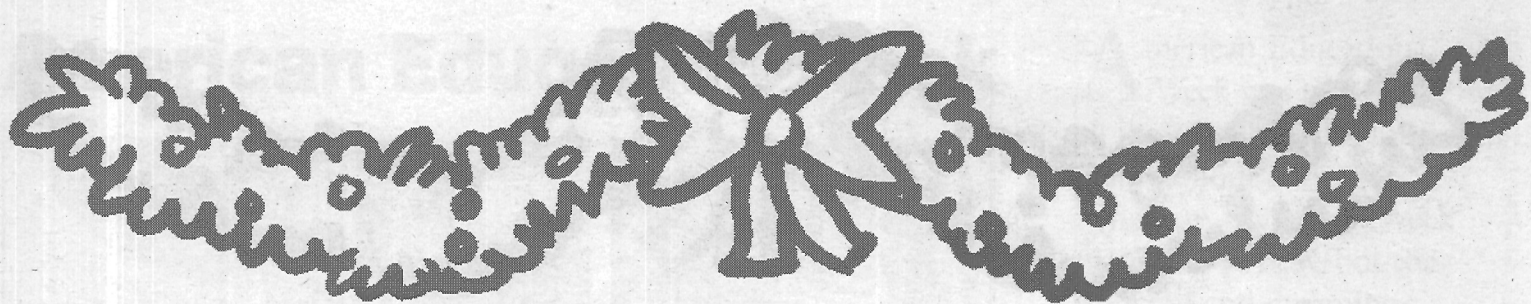
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Caroling at the PAT





Wish Tree in Place at Middle School



By Joanne Haus
Student Council Advisor

As the holiday season descended upon the Middle School, the spirit of giving was quite evident. The Student Council transformed this year's holiday tree into a "Wish Tree" (giving tree). Ornaments were made under the direction of Mr. Aiello in the metal shop by many of the students. Each ornament was placed on the tree with a gift suggestion on the back. Students selected an ornament and returned it with that particular gift with the hope that it would help to make someone's holiday a little bit nicer. Gifts were distributed to families in South Plainfield.

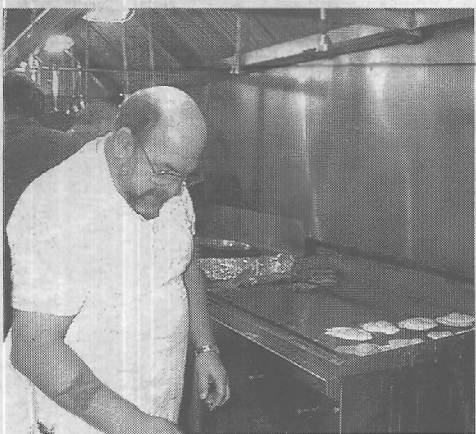
The Student Council would also like thank the students and staff who contributed to the holiday cleaning and paper product drive. The items were sorted and delivered to the welfare department in time for holiday distribution.

The student council also sponsored a Holiday Door Decorating Contest in December before the winter break. The contest helped everyone get into the spirit of things as the halls were gaily adorned around the school. Students and staff members helped to make this idea a success. In fact some classes are already thinking of ideas for next year!

Special thanks to the PTA for judging the contest for us. The Middle School student council advisors are Joanne Haus, Donna Tierney, John Limyanski and Mickey Sammons.

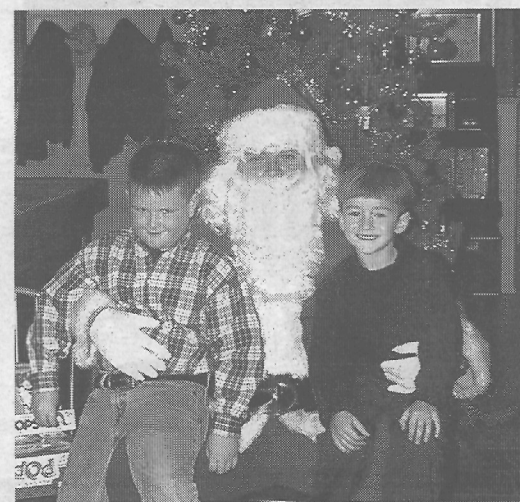


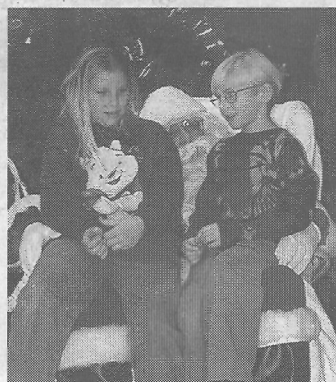
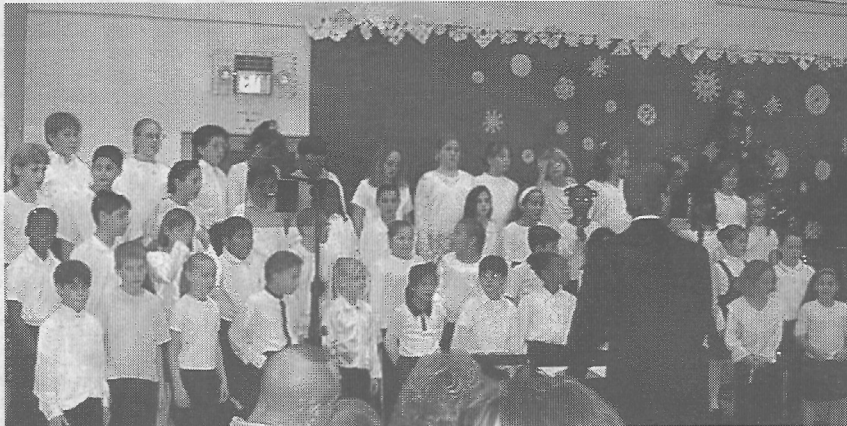
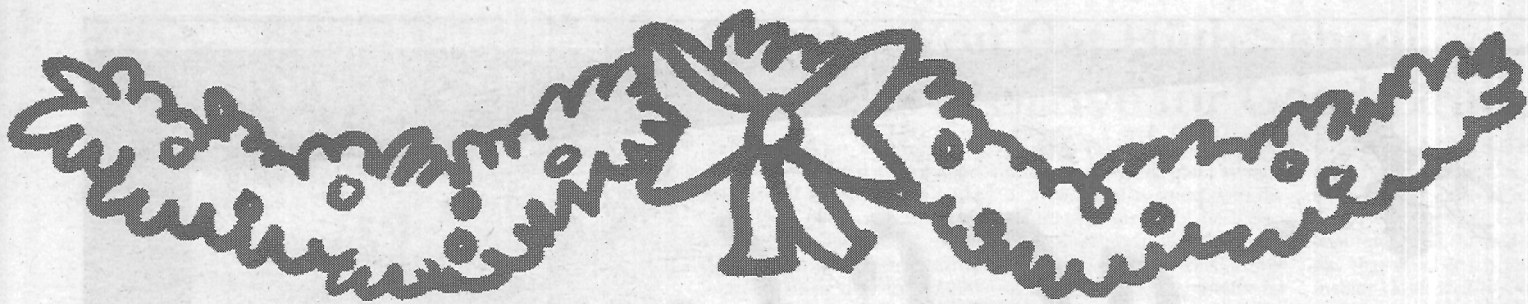
Pictured above are Sherbans owners Peter Ganiaris and John Stellakis with Pam Michelle and Mary Ann Schany, who hosted the Business Association Christmas lunch. Sherbans also hosts their monthly meeting on the third Thursday of every month. Below is Robert Longo new president of the Business Association receives the gavel from outgoing president Paulette Giroux.

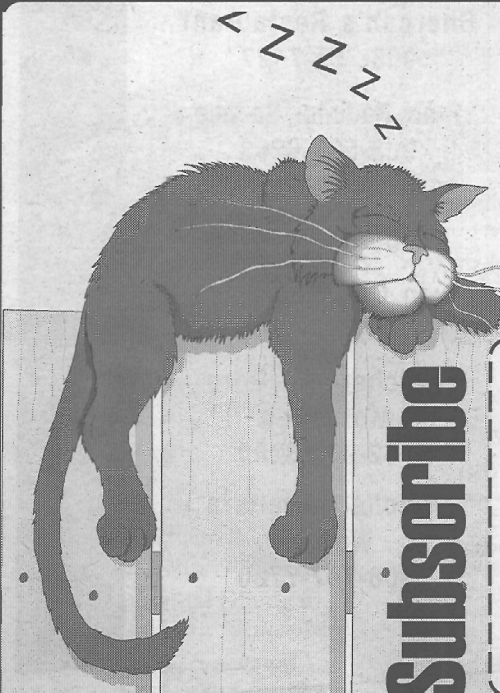


The pictured above are some of the cooks at the annual Elks Holiday Breakfast. The children also had an opportunity to visit with Santa.

Below is the 'Wish Tree' at the Library.







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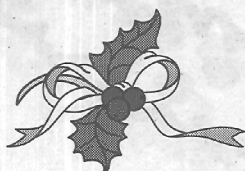
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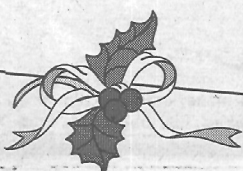
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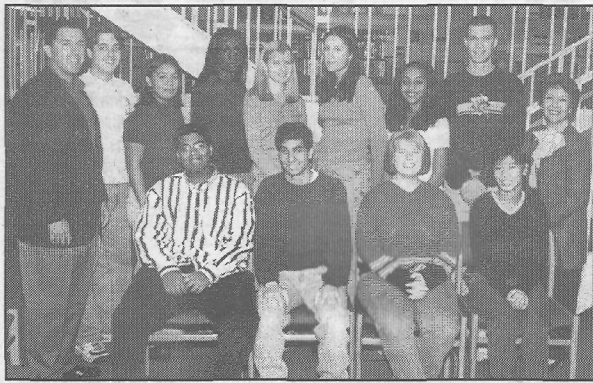
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Seated left to right are Mohamed Shiliwala, Matthew LaSpata, Thais Petrocelli and Judy Wang; standing are Daniel LaSpata, Rochelle Dimacje, Chiemeka Ejiochi, Amy Glowacki, Lisa Sepkowski, Dimple Patel and Matthew Wojcik. Not pictured is Sandra Reedy.

Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars

Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars are congratulated by High School Principal Anthony Massaro and Guidance Department Team Leader Melinda Lally. The highest achieving students were selected as Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars. These students placed in the top 20% of their classes and have

a minimum combined SAT score of 1260 or are ranked first, second or third in their class as of the end of their junior year. The Distinguished Scholars Program provides (without regard to financial need) a \$1,000 annual scholarship for up to four years of undergraduate study at a New Jersey college or university.

Sacred Heart Announces Principal's List, Honor Roll

Sacred Heart School is happy to announce their honor listings for the first marking period of the 1998-99 school year.

Students earning all A's on their report cards were named to the Principal's List.

Their names are: Grade 1A, Alfonso Muglia, Jessica Napolitan, Adrienne Novak, Sean Piersanti and Sarah Rusk.

Grade 2B, Taylor Boosmann, Sarah Crane, Lauren David, Jacqueline Dougherty, Gloria Lobato Michael Muglia and Kathryn Paterek.

Grade 3B, Kristen Partesi.

Grade 4A and 4B, Kristen Ciandella, Samantha Crane, Erica Palma and Daniel Schiavo.

Grade 5A, Juliet Fryszyzyn, William McCall, Jr., Adam Pruss, Diane Romano, Lauren Sprott and Paigja Spruill.

Grade 5B, Julia Dougherty, Robyn Douglas and Daniel Russo.

Grade 6A and 6B, Courteny Ervin, Allison Peitruszki and Jenna Zielinski.

Grade 7A, Kristina Latonio, Marsia Palma, Saniqua Pitt and Valerie Rojas.

Grade 8A and 8B, Margaret Monroe and Vanessa Grant.

Students earning all A's and B's on their report cards were named to the Honor Roll. Their names are:

Grade 1A—Alexandra Fee, Joshua Howard, Daniel Lang, Brielle Macellara, Nicholas Montuori, Aaron Pinkard, Zachary Sikanowic and Samantha Vella.

Grade 1B—Jayson Bolton, Nicole McDonough, Kaitlin Muglia, Richard Ortegon, Ryan Ricarte, Jonathan Saravia and Arianna Sullivan.

Grade 2A—Janies Abney, Daphne Aguinaldo, Aedan Bayona, Alessandra Grant, Alice Hsich, Allyson Paterek, Kaitlyn

Continued on page 15

How Do You Get High School Students to Strive for Good Grades?

How do you inspire high school students to strive for good citizenship? Offer them a Gold Card! The Gold Card is an incentive program, introduced to the high school administration by South Plainfield Vision 2000 Education Foundation. After studying the programs success in other districts, the Gold Card program was implemented at South Plainfield High School in 1995.

The Gold Card is an incentive

program that rewards students who achieve a 3.0 grade point average. The card entitles students to discounts at a variety of businesses throughout town, free admission to school sporting events as well as the chance to enter a raffle for free yearbooks and prom tickets.

The card is good for one marking period. The students must then reapply if they meet the requirements. To qualify for a Gold Card students must attain a 3.0

GPA, be involved in two extra curricular activities, and be without unexcused absences or tardies.

In 1995, first Gold Card recipients numbered 90 students. Today that number has jumped to include closer to 200 Gold Card recipients. Gold Card holder Melinda Lawson said, "It is a good program. It gives students something to strive for. They work for the grades and will be rewarded with the gold card."

News from Sacred Heart School

By Margaret Monroe
(Margaret Monroe is one of several Sacred Heart students who will be writing columns of school news for the The Observer.)

On Wednesday, Nov. 25, Sacred Heart School held its annual Pep Rally to kick-off the 1998-99 athletic season. Approximately 200 boys and girls participate in all of our sports activities, which include basketball, cheerleading, track and girls softball.

This year, for the first time, we have a third and fourth grade girls basketball team as well as a third and fourth grade boys basketball team. In previous years, our "freshman" basketball squad has been co-ed, but due to tremendous interest, two teams were established this year. The fifth and sixth grade boys and girls play on the Junior Varsity team. The girls JV team will have a hard act to follow as last year's team finished the season undefeated in their league. The seventh and eighth grade boys and girls Varsity teams are also ready for the new season. All of our basketball teams compete in the Diocese of Metuchen Catholic Youth Organization league. Our season officially began on Saturday, Dec. 12.

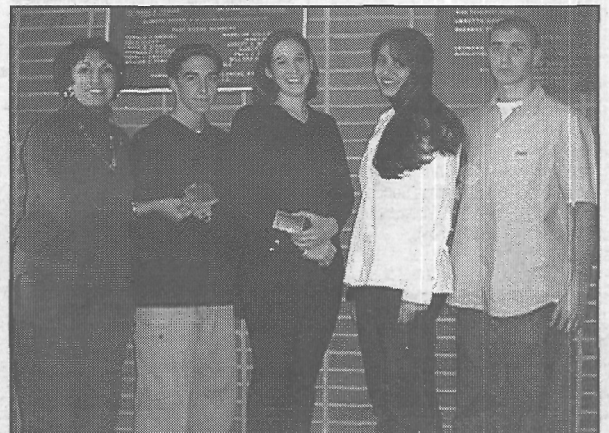
Cheering the basketball teams on were our enthusiastic cheerleaders. From our youngest Junior J.V. cheerleaders (third and fourth graders) to our J.V. cheerleaders (fifth and sixth graders) and Varsity girls (seventh and eighth graders), all of our teams were met with rousing cheers.

The entire school, as well as many parents, attend our yearly pep rally. For our Pre-K class, it was a new experience, and although at first they seemed overwhelmed, they quickly joined in the cheering as loudly as the rest of the school.

Before the Pep Rally began, Father Michael McGuire, our Pastor, led the student body in prayer for a safe and injury free season.

Father McGuire also picked the winners of the Raffle Fund-raiser sponsored by the Home & School Association. The lucky winners of the \$3,000 travel certificate were Mr. & Mrs. Steven Landry. The second prize, a \$2,000 Fortunoff's gift certificate, was won by Mr. Ben Salvatore, and the third place prize of a \$1,000 A&P gift certificate was won by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Daley.

Congratulations to raffle winners and good luck to our basketball teams and cheerleading squads!



Brad Tierney, Juliette Folocco, Rania Younes, Paul Israel receive Gold Cards from Assistant Principal Helen Gottlieb.

Union Carbide Awards Middle School \$3,000 Grant

The South Plainfield Middle School received a \$3,000 grant for its R.A.R.E.: S.P.E.A.C.H. program from Union Carbide Corporation. Mr. Pat Cornell, father of seventh grader Ryan Cornell, is employed by Union Carbide and was the initiator of

the grant application.

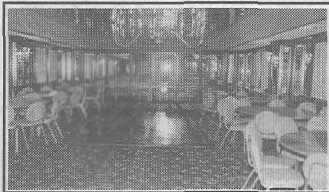
The staff and students of the Middle School extend their appreciation to Mr. Cornell for his efforts on their behalf and Union Carbide Corporation for its invaluable support of diversity.



Front row left to right are Pat Cornell of Union Carbide, Milton Bravo, Chinedum Okparaek, Danielle Larisch, and James Nguyen, all eighth graders; back row are Robert Doggett, Middle School Principal; Phyllis Savage, Middle School Assistant Principal, and R.A.R.E.: S.P.E.A.C.H. Advisor.



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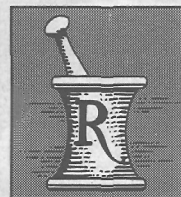
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Twin City wishes you and yours a Happy & Healthy Holiday Season!

Come and See for Yourself!

Youth Basketball Results — December 5 & 12

The South Plainfield Recreation Youth Basketball Program kicked off Saturday, Dec. 5 with 50 teams, 420 girls and boys ages seven to 14 years. Games are played at the Middle School and the PAL.

A LEAGUE STANDINGS

AGES 13-14

So. Carolina	2	0
Maryland	2	0
Texas	1	0
No. Carolina	1	1
Tennessee	1	1
Georgia	1	1
Kentucky	0	1
L.S.U.	0	2
Florida	0	2

A LEAGUE SCORES-DEC. 5

Florida	31
Georgia	41
High scorers —Fla: Chris Fortunka-13, Jessica Irber-6 and Melissa Scott-4; Ga: Jason Basile-18, Mike Wiczorek-8, Phil Derosa-6 and Tim Keller-4.	
L.S.U.	22
Maryland	42
High scorers —L.S.U.: Kevin Joshi-8, Chris Catalano-4, Chris Baroon-4, Mike Espin-4; Md: Anthony Vitelli-7, Matthew Pelouin-6 and Erica Parks-5.	
North Carolina	40
South Carolina	42
High scorers —NC: Ulysses Russell-30, Nick Green-4 and John Bugey-4; SC: Joe Dezmin-17, Jeff McKnight-6, Victor Essien-6 and Terrence Austin-5.	
Kentucky	19
Tennessee	37
High scorers —Ky: Robert Merkler-11; Tenn: Christine Stani-19, Marcellus Abrams-8, Jim Stoekel-7 and Ryan Mack-6.	

A LEAGUE SCORES-DEC. 12

Tennessee	30
No. Carolina	37
High scorers —Tenn: Jonathan Fredericks-12, Jim Stoekel-4, Tom Cupido-4 and Marcellus Abrams-4; NC: Ulysses Russell-24, Mike Jaghab-6 and Tom Haus-4.	
So. Carolina	53
L.S.U.	31
High scorers —SC: Shannon Horvath-15, Joe Dexmin-10, Terrence Austin-8 and Stephen Janiszak-6; L.S.U.: Mike Espin-9, James Ales-5 and Chris Catalani-5.	
Maryland	52
Florida	18
High scorers —Md: Anthony Vitelli-18, Aaron Parks-12 and Matthew Pelouin-8; Fla: Jessica Irber-6, Chris Fortunka-5 and Alex Ferraris-4.	
Georgia	21
Texas	30
High scorers —Ga: Jason Basile-12 and Lee Stellakis-4; Tx: Francisco Guevara-15 and Chris Sanchez-4.	

B LEAGUE STANDINGS

AGE 11-12

Michigan	2	0
Rutgers	2	0
Pittsburgh	2	0
Illinois	2	0
Notre Dame	1	1
Syracuse	0	1
Seton Hall	1	1
Kansas	1	1
U.C.L.A.	0	1
Arizona	0	1
Kentucky	0	2
Georgetown	0	2
Ohio State	0	2

B LEAGUE RESULTS DEC. 5

Michigan	42
Kansas	24
High scorers —Mich: Chris Bakazan-20, Nicholas Jefferys-10, David Miglis-6, and David Acevedo-4; Kan: William Merkler-16, Eddie Kania-4.	
Notre Dame	41
Ohio State	34
High scorers —ND: David Cacciatore-12, Galen Johnson-11, Amanda Fugate-10 and Douglas Dietzold-6; Ohio: James Charneco-18, Mike Downes-6 and Robert Yuill-4.	
Syracuse	20
Illinois	30
High scorers —Syracuse: Andrew Cupido-8, Kyle Kazimir-4 and Steven Mincevich-4; Ill: Andre Scott-10, Daniel	

Arndt-8, Alan Dummett-4 and Catlin English-4.	
Rutgers	36
Georgetown	32
High scorers —Rutgers: Brian Cantor-16 and Dane Miyasato-12; Georgetown: Nick Cesare-14, Nicholas Grego-6, Terry Paschall-4 and Jeff Toolan-4.	
Seton Hall	30
Kentucky	12

High scorers —SH: Andrew Miller-8, Daniel Laverne-8, Erik Vesper-4 and Chris Bojarski-4; Ky: Amanda Rastelli-4 and Jasen Ortiz-4.	
U.C.L.A.	23
Pittsburgh	31
High scorers —U.C.L.A.: Allan Mazurak-11, Joseph Teller-6 and Chris Czaplinski-4; Pitts: Chris McKnight-15, Chris Horn-9, Michael Salerno-4 and Adam Bianchi-4.	

B LEAGUE RESULTS-DEC. 12

Pittsburgh	42
Seton Hall	38
High scorers —Pittsburg: Chris McKnight-16, Chris Horn-16 and Michael Salerno-8; Seton Hall: Andrew Miller-14; Kevin Graham-8, Daniel Laverne-6 and Erik Vesper-4.	
Kentucky	18
Rutgers	24
High scorers —Ky: Jasen Ortiz-8, John Okuski-4 and Nicholas Bukovec-4; Rutgers: Jeff Pollin-8, Brian Cantor-8 and Dane Miyasato-6.	
Georgetown	20
Syracuse	29
High scorers —Georgetown: Nick Cesare-6 and Garrett Linczyk-6; Syracuse: Greg Garbowski-9, Andrew Cupido-10, Kyle Kazimir-6 and Jonathan Donahue-4.	
Illinois	26
Notre Dame	17
High scorers —Ill: Andre Scott-12, Danielle Arndt-8 and Ankit Patel-6; ND: Michael Hanley-4 and Douglas Dietzold-3.	
Ohio State	32
Michigan	35
High scorers —Ohio: Michael Downes-19 and James Charneco-11; Mich: David Acevedo-16, Chris Bakazan-11, Daniel Piwowar-4 and Nicholas Jefferys-4.	
Kansas	19
Arizona	18
High scorers —Kansas: William Merkler-9 and Vincent Velez-8; Arizona: Brian Acin-18.	

C LEAGUE STANDINGS

AGES 9-10

Kings	2	0
Trailblazers	2	0
Spurs	2	0
Grizzlies	2	0
Warriors	2	0

Mavericks	1	1
Nuggets	1	1
Suns	1	1
Hawks	1	1
Supersonics	0	2
Wizards	0	2
Rockets	0	2
Bucks	0	2
Cavaliers	0	2

C LEAGUE RESULTS-DEC. 5

Kings	33
Mavericks	28
High scorers —Kings: Michael Stallone-20 and Danny McCreesh-10; Mav: Samantha Horvath-4.	
Trailblazers	35
Hawks	10
High scorers —Trail Blazers: Matthew Fatino-14, Erika Blaszak-10 and Daniel Ramos; Hawks: Joey Denitzio-6.	
Nuggets	40
Bucks	36
High scorers —Nuggets: Kevin Siedenberg-28, Chris Weakly-6 and Nicholas Desmone-6; Bucks: Keith Dezmin-26 and Nick Baldassarre-4.	
Supersonics	20
Suns	29
High scorers —Supersonics: Samuel Martin-10 and Kelly Downes-4; Suns: Stephen Richard-8, Tommy Smith-8, Anthony Petriello-4 and Alexander Ramos-4.	
Spurs	26
Cavaliers	13
High scorers —Spurs: Joseph DeFalco-10, Matthew Jeglinski-6, Tiffany Roth-4 and Ryan Curtis 4; Cavaliers: Robert Strani-7.	
Wizards	17
Warriors	28
High scorers —Wizards: Bennie Gibson-7 and Kyle Mathews-8; Warriors: Bill Daly-12 and Brett Morris-8.	
Grizzlies	42
Rockets	16
High scorers —Grizzlies: Kyle Lendach-19, Stephen Dvorak-11, Andrew Pinto-6 and Kevin Cantor-4; Rockets: Marshal Patel-6.	

C LEAGUE RESULTS-DEC. 12

Suns	16
Hawks	17
High scorers —Suns: Stephen Richard-6, Alex Ramos-4 and Tommy Smith-4; Hawks: Jonathan O'Conner-10 and Joey Denitzio-4.	
Mavericks	34
Wizards	28
High scorers —Mavericks: Mike Piazza-16, Jonathan Guirguia-8, Samantha Horvath-4 and Bryan Wagner-4; Wizards: Bennie Gibson-12, Kyle Mathews-6 and	

Zack Famula-6.	
Grizzlies	28
Nuggets	26
High scorers —Grizzlies: Kyle Lendach-14, Andrew Pinto-6 and Stephen Dvorak-6; Nuggets: Kevin Siedenberg-12 and Nicholas Desimone-6.	
Rockets	19
Spurs	29

High scorers —Rockets: Zachary Gray-14; Spurs: Justin Kelly-8, Justin Basilone-7, Matthew Jeglinski-4 and Ryan Curtis-4.	
Warriors	28
Supersonics	21
High scorers —Warriors: Chris Collin-18, Brett Morris-4 and Bill Daly-4; Supersonics: Kelly Downes-5, Bill Hodge-4 and Scott Hartje-4.	
Bucks	21
Trail Blazers	22
High scorers —Bucks: Keith Dezmin-13 and Nick Baldassarre-4; Trail Blazers: Lacey Santone-8 and Matthew Fabino-6.	
Cavaliers	20
Kings	32
High scorers —Cavaliers: Robert Stranni-16; Kings: Danny McCreesh-12 and Chris Stallone-8.	

D LEAGUE STANDINGS

AGES 7-8

Bulls	2	0
Raptors	2	0
Hornets	2	0
Magic	2	0
Knicks	1	1
Nets	1	1
Jazz	1	1
Timber Wolfs	1	1
76ers	1	1
Clippers	0	1
Pistons	0	1
Celtics	0	2
Lakers	0	2
Heat	0	2
Pistons	0	1
Lakers	0	1

D LEAGUE RESULTS-DEC. 5

Knicks	22
Clippers	16
High scorers —Knicks: Aaron Wright-10, Chris Ascencio-4 and Brian Hanley-4; Clippers: Ryan Bunting-10 and Brian Fabino-4.	
Nets	26
Heat	6
High scorers —Nets: Joey Grennier-6, Kyle Quail-4, Bob Harrington-4 and Brandon Ullom-4; Heat: Troy Russell-2, Douglas Avery-2 and Ashley Sacks-2.	
Bulls	30
76ers	22

High scorers —Bulls: Grey Coppi-12, Greg Watts-10 and Scott Barton-8; 76ers: Andrew Gray-18 and Jonathan Marcoux-4.	
Celtics	18
Magic	24
High scorers —Celtics: Jordan Petriello-6, Rocco Petriello-6 and Kyle Darr-4; Magic: Brad Martin-18 and Jonathan Cursi-4.	

Jazz	12
Hornets	26
High scorers —Jazz: Matthew Seider-8; Hornets: Jali Williams-14, John Crist-6 and Jose Cameco-4.	
Pistons	8
Raptors	22
High scorers —Pistons: David Alston-6; Raptors: Danny Espin-8, Blaire Houston-6 and Jimmy Cos-4.	
Lakers	18
Timberwolves	20
High scorers —Lakers: Chris Deolivera-14 and Brendan O'Shea-4; Timberwolves: Winnie Padula-11.	

D-LEAGUE RESULTS-DEC. 12

Magic	12
Heat	4
High scorers —Brad Martin-6.	
Clippers	26
Pistons	26
High scorers —Clippers: Ryan Bunting-8, Peter Adoma-8, Andrew Onriska-6 and Brian Fabino-4; Pistons: David Alston-18 and Steven Wiczorek-6. Tied after overtime.	
Lakers	32
Bulls	40
High scorers —Lakers: Brendan O'Shea-12, Chris Deolivera-10, Chris Hartje-6 and Sohan Gupte-4.	
Timberwolves	12
Jazz	18
High scorers —Timber Wolfs: Raymond Lee-4; Jazz: Matthew Seider-8, Anthony Simone-6 and Kevin Reviello-4.	
Raptors	36
Celtics	24
High scorers —Raptors: Danny Espin-12, Blaire Houston-8, Robbie Hoffman-6 and Steven Kelly-4; Celtics: Kyle Darr-8, Jordan Petriello-6, Kyle McMahon-4 and Chris Pennisi-4.	
76ers	22
Nets	12
High scorers —76ers: Andrew Gray-14, Jonath Marcoux-4; Nets: Kyle Quail-4.	
Hornets	16
Knicks	6
High scorers —Hornets: Jali Williams-6, John Christ-4 and Jose Charneco-4.	

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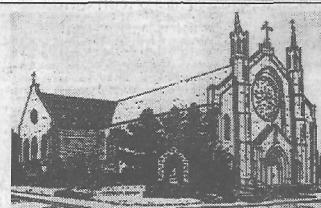
Very Rev. Michael A. McGuire, Pastor

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.
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Twin City Pharmacy/SPASA Holiday Basketball Tournament Results

By William Beegle

The Twin City Pharmacy/South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness Holiday Basketball Tournament was a great success again this year. The seventh annual event featured boys and girls teams from Dunellen, East Brunswick, Sacred Heart and South Plainfield. The purpose of the tournament was two-fold: to provide a quality, healthy, athletic event and to disseminate information regarding the dangers of smoking, drinking, the use of controlled dangerous substances and steroids. High School Student Assistance Counselor Tom Baker, Elementary Student Assistance Counselor Diane Mandel and Middle School Assistant Principal Bill Beegle, presented a video on substance awareness and led a discussion on the dangers of student athletes abusing drugs and smoking. Mr. Baker stressed that nicotine in cigarettes is ten times more addictive than cocaine. He indicated "The best thing to do about smoking is don't start."

Volunteers and Alliance Board of Directors who helped make the tournament a success were Tom Cassio, owner of Twin City Pharmacy; Gail Dougherty, Police Juvenile Department Social Worker; DARE Officers Al LaMonda and Joe Pappa; Cheryl Fox, high school guidance counselor; Frank Vatalare, high school assistant principal; Marge Kopaci, Middle School guidance counselor; and Lisa Campo, Middle School Student Assistance Counselor.

Joe Romer, resident of South Plainfield and owner of Joe Romer Trophy Shop, donated the team trophies and individual awards for the winning teams. Joe has been doing this for seven years and his support is greatly appreciated. Shirts with an anti-drug message were given to each player, coach and manager along with substance awareness information. Jeff Spezio and the Middle School graphic arts program designed the artwork for the shirts.

Phyllis Savage, Middle School assistant principal, engaged the RARE/SPEECH Club in preparing packets for the tournament.

The preliminary games for the



boys held on Tuesday, Dec. 8 saw East Brunswick defeating Sacred Heart and South Plainfield defeat Dunellen.

Similarly, in the girls' contest on Thursday, Dec. 10, South Plainfield won over Dunellen as did East Brunswick over Sacred Heart.

The finals were held on Friday, Dec. 11. The East Brunswick boys defeated South Plainfield by a score of 51-22. The girls' final

was a very exciting, close game with East Brunswick edging out South Plainfield by a 43-41 score.

Congratulations are in order for all teams for their participation including the South Plainfield Middle School cheerleaders, who provided the spirit and enthusiasm each of the three days of the tournament. Marylo Vatalare is doing a fine job as coach of the cheerleaders.

Tiger Wrestlers Seek to Repeat as Champions

By Brian Cochrane

The 1998-99 South Plainfield Tigers wrestling season is under way and their quest to repeat as last years central Jersey sectional champions begins this weekend at the Morris Knolls tournament. "This is one tournament we didn't win last year, so we have made it an important team goal

to win this year," says coach Bill Pavlak, who starts his fifth year as the Tigers head coach.

Although the tigers lost three key wrestlers to graduation last year, the coach admits that this years squad will now be a more balanced team with fewer superstars than in the past. Anchoring the Tiger grapplers this year will be last years district champ and greater Middlesex Conference champ Colin Hunter. Colin is a junior and will compete in the 275 lb. weight class. The 189 lb. slot will have junior Dan Kunst, also a District Champion last year with a 20-8 record.

Another District Champ, Roberto Ramos, at 112 lbs. along with David Fiore, at 145 lbs. and John Foscolo at 160 lbs., form the core of up and coming sophomores the Tigers will be looking to for the next few years. Seniors Chris Cioffi at 215 lbs. and Billy Wilson at 119 lbs., both district runners-up last year, add the element of experience to what should be a very exciting Tigers wrestling season.

As always, this years key matches on the Tigers road to repeat will be home matches with High Point on Jan. 9, Delaware Valley on Jan. 14 and Piscataway on Jan. 29. The high school gymnasium has always been a loud and somewhat raucous venue to see the Tigers compete in, so if you haven't experienced the thrill of a South Plainfield victory, this is the year to do it.

INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

By Briggs Longbothum



Our last issue's topic generated requests for more help regarding credit reporting. I had hoped so, since this is important to everyone! The Fair Credit and Reporting Act (FCRA) has recently been expanded to everyone's benefit. All consumers have the right to ask and if turned down for credit, the lender is required to give the name and address of the credit information sources that provided the negative information. You are advised to do this at least annually, and not at the last minute when a surprise could sidetrack an important transaction. Here are some important "800" numbers you should keep on hand. These are for the three primary credit reporting agencies who can help straighten out errors. Remember, erroneous information hurts everyone! EQUIFAX 1-800-685-1111, EXPERIAN (formerly TRW) 1-800-682-7654, TRANS UNION 1-800-916-8800. Also very helpful is the information available from the Federal Trade Commission's website <http://www.ftc.gov>. Do keep records of your communications with these firms as they are required to respond within definite time limits. Remember to act promptly, and to be calm. Remember, you are acting in your own interest!

I continue to field help requests for individuals who have problems with their home PCs and applications. I know how easy it is to call someone else and ask for help when you need it, but most of the time you can figure these things out for yourself and learn something in the process. Always, as in ALWAYS, explore the help files that come with your application or program. Also check the Windows help file that is accessible from the Start button. After you've exhausted these resources, go to the program's website or search the Internet under that program's name. You will find much more information there than any single guru will be able to offer. You will have to wade through more than you need or want, but you will become much more proficient in your application, as well as in your search technique!

Speaking of search technique, check out these sites: <http://SearchEngineWatch.com> and

http://www.ima.green.wednet.edu/Search_Tut/boolean.html. They are good sources for learning "how to search for, and find things" using Internet search engines. Most, if not all, search engines employ Boolean algebraic terminology (not a Star-Trek term) called "operators". Efficient searching requires that you know just a little bit about how to use some of these terms. Believe me, it is extremely helpful to do this!

TIP: Learn how to properly use the Boolean operators "and" "or" and "not", then select one or two search engines to use all the time. Knowing well how to use your favorite search engine will make you an overnight whiz at ferreting out all the wealth of information available through the Internet. Now it will work wonders for you.

TIP: Once you've learned how to search effectively and efficiently, show and teach someone else how to benefit from what you've learned. (Of course, and on the other hand, maybe your phone will start ringing like mine does!)

Ok, time now for another puzzle. Get ready to think!

I have a clock on my mantle that keeps perfect time. I know this because each day I check it against the time standard via the Internet. One day something strange occurred: My clock correctly displayed five minutes before nine o'clock. One minute later, it read four minutes before nine o'clock. Two minutes later it read four minutes before nine o'clock. One minute later, it read five minutes before nine o'clock. At nine o'clock, I knew what was wrong. Do you? (hint, remember my clock keeps perfect time!). See ya.

OLC Receives Hammond Organ

Fr. John Skwara, Pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church announced the donation of a Hammond practice organ which has been added to its music department.

Janina R. Jackson of Westfield donated the organ in memory of her sister, Irene. R. Zabalski. She is the daughter of former parishioners Mr. and Mrs. Michael Rozanski.

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Christmas 1998 Schedule of Services

Thursday, December 24

Children's Mass with Santa — 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Night Mass — 11: p.m.

Friday, December 25-Christmas Day

Shepherd's Mass — 8:30 a.m.

Solemn High Mass — 11:00 a.m.

Benefactors Mass — 12:15 p.m.

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Obituaries

Julia (Dentino) M. Mastrangelo, 91

Julia (Dentino) M. Mastrangelo of South Plainfield died on Wednesday, Dec. 9, at her daughters home in South Plainfield.

She was born in New York City and was an 81 year resident of South Plainfield.

Mrs. Mastrangelo was a teacher's aide at the former Grant and Cedarcroft schools in South Plainfield for five years before retiring in 1991.

Mrs. Mastrangelo was a member of the Sacred Heart Church and a member of the Altar Rosary Society and the Care & Share program, both at Sacred Heart Church. She was also a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens.

She was a predeceased by her husband, Artillo Mastrangelo, who died in 1958 and her daughter Teresa Pellegriano who died in 1992.

She is survived by her daughter, Loretta Letostak of South Plainfield; a sister, Pauline Faso of South Plainfield and six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

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

Antoinette (Adamski) Hodge, 94

Antoinette (Adamski) Hodge of Hazlet died on Thursday, Dec.

10, at the Bayshore Community Hospital in Homdel.

She was born in Newport Center, Pa. and was a former resident of South Plainfield and Plainfield before moving to Hazlet 30 years ago.

Mrs. Hodge was a quality inspector for Art Color in Plainfield for many years before retiring in 1960.

She was a predeceased by her first husband, Felix Karpowicz, who died in 1969 and her second husband, Arthur Hodge, who died in 1975 and by her sons William, Charles and Benedict Karpowicz and Anthony and Joseph Karpavage.

She is survived by a daughter, Antoinette Hodge of Hazlet; a son, Felix Karpavage of Taylor Island, Md. and a granddaughter, Billy Jean Sarullo of South Plainfield. She is also survived by 10 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Arrangements were by the James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

Monica S. (Gondola) Coyne, 79

Monica S. (Gondola) Coyne of Edison died on Sunday, Nov. 29, at her home.

She was born in Fords and was a former resident of South Plainfield and North Plainfield before moving to Edison 35 years ago.

Mrs. Coyne was a receptionist for the Union Carbide Corporation in Bound Brook for 28 years before retiring in 1977.

She was a member of St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen.

She was predeceased by her husband, James J. Coyne, Jr., who died in 1975 and her son, James J. Coyne, III, who died in 1991.

She is survived by a grandson, James C. Coyne of Wall Twp.; a granddaughter, Allison Coyne of Boca Raton, Fla.; a sister Helen Golub, of Edgewater, Fla. and several nieces and nephews.

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

Louise (Ungerer) Casey, 74

Louise (Ungerer) Casey of Metuchen died on Wednesday, Dec. 9, at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison.

She was born in Plainfield and was a former resident of Piscataway and Plainfield before moving to Metuchen 15 years ago.

Mrs. Casey was a counter person for the Metuchen Kosher Deli in Metuchen for 15 years before retiring in 1991.

Mrs. Casey served in the Women's Army Corp. (WAC's) during WWII.

She was a predeceased by her husband, Joseph Casey, who died in 1979.

She is survived by four daughters, Christine Casey of Wake Forest, NC; Maureen Santonastaso of Piscataway; Patricia Brandt of Dunellen and Kathy Lamastro of South Plainfield; three sons, Michael Casey of Dunellen; Joseph Casey of South Plainfield and Francis Casey of Metuchen; three brothers, Robert Ungerer of Sarasota, Fla.; David Ungerer of Edison and

John Ungerer of Berkeley, Calif.; five sisters, Alice Hass of Brick; Marge Manner of Hampton; Janet Skinner of Middlesex; Mildred Redrup of Dunellen and Carolyn Anderer of North Plainfield. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Funeral Services were held at James W. Conroy Funeral Home. Cremation was private.

Annette (Recchia) Goglia, 80

Annette (Recchia) Goglia, died on Sunday, Dec. 13, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born and raised in West Orange, Mrs. Goglia has resided in South Plainfield for the past 50 years.

She had been employed by Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center for 19 years in nursing payroll before her retirement in 1982. Previously she had been employed by Public Service Electric & Gas in Newark for six years.

She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

Mrs. Goglia has dedicated her life to her husband of 52 years, Joseph Goglia, and her two children Joanne Reinhart of Groton, Mass. and Richard Goglia of Andover, Mass.

Also surviving are her two sisters, Phyllis Johnson of Union and Anne Montross of Bloomfield and her four grandchildren Todd, Joseph, Lauren and Christine.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Donations in her memory may be made to Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center Hospice Program, c/o Park and Randolph Avenues, Plainfield, New Jersey 07060.

Rose (Beresnizka) Rejman, 72

Rose (Beresnizka) Rejman of South Plainfield died on Saturday, December 5, at her home.

She was born in Poland and came to the United States in 1949 settling in Dunellen before moving to South Plainfield 47 years ago.

Mrs. Rejman was a quality inspector for the Solid State Division of the RCA Corporation in Somerville for 28 years before retiring in 1988.

She was a member of the Sacred Heart Church and a Life Member of the Polish National Home in South Plainfield.

She was predeceased by her husband, Boseslaw Rejman, who died in May of 1998 and her son, Leon Rejman, who died in 1992.

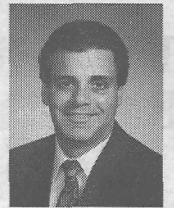
She is survived by three daughters, Stella Schoonover, Nina Zeccardo and Ela Tomala all of South Plainfield and five grandchildren.

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

Starting with the Jan. 8 issue of the *Observer* we be publishing on a weekly basis.

The Alternative View

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



Dear Dr. DeCosta:

My doctor told me he thinks I have a hiatal hernia. What can be done to alleviate this problem and not undergo surgery? - H.D.

Dear H.D.:

H iatal hernia is a disorder that is caused when the opening in the diaphragm where the stomach and esophagus meet becomes stretched, allowing the upper end of the stomach to push up into the chest cavity. The esophageal sphincter, which normally acts as a one-way valve to allow food to travel down into the stomach, now is unable to prevent the contents of the stomach, including gastric acids, from traveling upward.

Many patients have no symptoms, but sometimes there is chest pain or heartburn. The heartburn may worsen on bending over, especially after eating, or upon lying down. Sometimes the pain of hiatal hernia can mimic other health problems such as stomach ulcers or heart attacks.

Often in association with a hiatal hernia there is some material from the stomach that gets pushed upward into the esophagus. This is called an esophageal reflux and may cause heartburn.

According to Leon Chaitow, N.D., D.O., Director of Nutrition and Health Research Associates, London, England, and Editor of *The Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine*, there is a mechanical aspect to hiatal hernia which can involve extreme tension in two large muscles which merge with the diaphragm — the psoas and quadratus lumborum, if either of these is chronically tense, a stress will be imposed on the diaphragm which can result in the hernia. Chiropractic and osteopathic techniques can be applied to normalize these muscles.

Some things you can do to help your problem are to strictly avoid overeating. Try to avoid spicy foods, fried foods, coffee, tea, carbonated drinks, citrus juices, alcohol, green and red peppers, and onion. Avoid eating large meals and then lying down or bending over. Eat numerous small meals throughout the day. Try to reduce stress. Avoid eating foods or food combinations which cause excess gas formation.

Deep breathing exercises may be performed to strengthen the muscles of the diaphragm and to expand the lungs. According to Dr. Chaitow, many people with hiatal hernia have been shown to have breathing restrictions, and to have a habit of swallowing air more frequently than the average. This leads to excessive air reaching the stomach putting great stress on the diaphragmatic aperture through which the esophagus passes and exacerbating hiatal hernia problems.

One such exercise includes sitting in an armchair and breathing in and holding your breath. Lift your legs up toward your chest. Slowly lower your legs and then exhale. Repeat this exercise several times.

Finally, sleep with your upper body in an elevated position to keep the chest cavity above the stomach. This will prevent the stomach from rising into the chest cavity and will also cut down the possibility of any esophageal reflux. Put blocks under the head of the bed, approximately six to eight inches high, or sleep with a wedge-shaped bolster.

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.

Fire Department Says Thanks

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company would again like to thank Mr. & Mrs. George Goodrich for their generous contribution. The sign that has been erected outside the firehouse will be a lasting remembrance of their gift. Their donation also enabled us to restructure other programs within the Fire Company.

Members of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company would also like to extend our

special thanks to all of the people who took an interest in us and donated to our annual fund drive. Your contribution is a warm reminder that the people of South Plainfield appreciate the effort the members of the South Plainfield Fire Company put forward.

We would like to extend to you our wish that your Holiday Season be a very merry one and please keep Fire Safety in mind during this time of the year.

Because We Care
by Robert Hunter



A LIFE LIVED WELL

Those who live good lives filled with compassion and good deeds will find that their efforts will feed upon themselves in an inexorable march of positivity. That is to say that following the path of goodness is its own reward. And, those who follow this path are rewarded with a life that is both well-lived and warmly regarded. As the Roman poet Martial observed: "Of no day can the retrospect cause pain to a good man, nor has one passed away which he is unwilling to remember; the period of his life seems prolonged by his good acts; and we may be said to live twice, when we can reflect with pleasure on the days that are one."

While modern thought exhorts us to "take care of number one," those who never know the joy of stretching out a steady hand to one who falters, are poor indeed. At the JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME, we offer respectful, dignified memorial tributes to members of all beliefs and financial ability. We can also assist you in pre-arranging end-of-life services. To learn more, please call 756-2800. You'll find us conveniently located at 2456 Plainfield Avenue in South Plainfield. Cremation services available.

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-William Wordsworth



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(908) 561-8000

VOICES Heard Loud and Clear

South Plainfield High School has some voices that can be heard throughout town, they stretch across Middlesex County and even reach Puerto Rico! These voices do not need volume to do their work. VOICES is a community service organization founded three years ago at the high school. The old adage "actions speak louder than words" defines what this group of students is all about. Instead of talking about how they can help the world around them, they are out and doing something.

Melinda Lawson, President of VOICES, spoke enthusiastically about projects past and present. For the past two years members have been visiting Cedar Oaks Nursing home once a month to play Bingo with the residents. VOICES is in the process of raising money for hurricane Mitch victims. To help alleviate some of the loneliness and fear of a hospital stay, VOICES has organized a book and toy drive for the Robert Wood Johnson Hospi-

tal children's ward. Melinda noted that donations are gladly accepted for any of the projects. Past projects include a highly successful coat drives for the homeless. A number new projects are being planned for after the holiday break. The group is always on the lookout for new ways to help people around them. Suggestions are welcome, contact advisor, Miss Olvany.

Additional VOICES officers include: Vice President - Robin Stayvas, Secretary - Kaminee Sewdat, Treasure - Cheryl Cwickalo, and Public Relations director is Rochelle Dimacje. Special mention was made of student volunteer Candace Romascindo, for her dedication to VOICES.

VOICES was founded by Chareese Britton and Hetel Patel three years ago. The group has approximately fifty members. The students learn through their experiences and prove that they can make a difference and their voices can be heard.

Sacred Heart's Principal List

Continued from page 11

Salvatore, James Sansone and Melissa Santiago.

Grade 2B—Carl Banks, Jr., Carissa Baratta, Ian Collins, Khaliyah Douglas, Ryan Hohner and Marika Simmons.

Grade 3A—Elix Colon, Luke Russo, Kacey Peterson and Camille Romano.

Grade 3B—Jonathon Abel and Samatha Anderson.

Grade 4A—Adam Barletta, Marie Cunicella, Lisa Del Negro, Amanda Iavarone, Maria Lipnick and Christian Wormley.

Grade 4B—Erin Boosmann, Alexandra Durning, Amy Hsieh, Oliver Pinkard, Alicia Presley, Tiffany Smith, Kiersten Whitaker and Peter Yeung.

Grade 5A—Michael Clore, Brittany Frazer, Roseller Lipitan and Shanell Worrell.

Grade 5B—Kristin Barko, Philip Campos, Samantha Moctezuma, Caitlin Monroe, Marian Pho, Michael Ray, Amanda Veinott, Jamaie Williams and Jennifer Yeung.

Grade 6A—Kenneth Abel, Lauren Ciandella, Alexandria Gamboa, Kristin Gilormini, Sarah Kulihin, Marichris Maullon, Kate Polifka, Matthew Revoliniski, Kristen Salvatore and Lauren Simmons.

Grade 6A—Michelle Arango, Jinelle Arki, Kevin Ciaipini, Nicole Cunicella, Kristy Glavasis, Kevin Hohner, Mary Lillis, Monca Nash and Erin Sikanowicz.

Grade 7A—Shaun Casey, Kaitlyn Gregory, Shakira Mitchell, Jessica Regenyne and Calvin John Smiley.

Grade 7B—Angela Garzon, Raymond Kardos, Matthew Kopf, Michelle Musoke, Tiffany Odrodnik, Megan Polifka and Linh Tran.

Grade 8A—Esther Cho, Janara Garcia, Krystal Ladao and Lauren Martin.

Grade 8B—Lauren Abbate, Anna Cho, Frenchesca Johnson, Katie Selby, Candice Spence and May Tanudutanud

Classified

BABYSITTING POSITIONS WANTED

13-YEAR-OLD EXPERIENCED and certified babysitter to watch your kids after school and weekends. 908-668-8155.

LOOKING FOR A BABYSITTER?

Well, you found just the right person. My name is Heather. I'm an 8th grader at SPMS. Very responsible. See for yourself. 908-668-7754. Weekdays 3:30-9:30pm, weekends 11am-9:30pm.

FOR SALE

1989 RENKIN BOWRIDER Classic with Trailer. Excellent condition. Inboard/Outboard 125 HP Mercruiser. Great family boat for fishing or cruising. New in 1998: Boat cover, trailer tires, Hummingbird fish finder and AM/FM cassette stereo. Used in both fresh and salt water. Hate to sell it but moving on to a bigger boat! Asking \$5,200.00. Contact: Mike at 908-226-7673 or 908-757-4894.

HANDMADE ROSARIES—ALL OCCASION. 908-769-7735

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

EDISON: HUGE CAPE 100 x 200 ft lot, 2 car garage. \$239,900. Weichert Realtors 732-906-8200.

CLASSIFIED

DEADLINE

FOR JAN. 7 ISSUE

IS DEC. 28.

WE WANT

YOUR NEWS!!

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

Ask for Rick McElhiney

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

1/2 ACRE BLDG. LOT IN SOMERSET. \$69,900. Call Susan Kaneps @ Prudential Golden Key, 560-0665, ext. 30.

SERVICES

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY that Captures the Special Moments. Tom Stillman, 908-755-4161

CUSTOM HANDMADE FURNITURE, furniture repair. 732-545-3132.

PHOTOGRAPHY—Weddings, special occasions. Tuthill Photos (908) 756-9654

ATTENTION TEEN AGE BABYSITTERS....Are you looking for sitting jobs? Would you like to be in a baby-sitting pool? Advertise in the classified section of the Observer at no charge. Call 732-469-4380 or fax your ad to 732-805-0815.

WANTED

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

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

LOST

LOST—PAPER MACHE CHICKEN, approximately 24" tall, white with black spots and red feathers on top of head. Last seen at First Baptist Church Coffee House on Oct. 23. Reward for return. No questions asked. Call (908) 754-3214.

NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

Apostle and Martyr
(Feast October 28)
Saint Jude, glorious Apostle, faithful servant and friend of Jesus! The name of the traitor has caused thee to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and involves thee universally as the patron of hopeless cases — of matters despised of. Pray for me who are so miserable; make use, I implore thee, to bring visible help where help is almost despised of. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolations and succor of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations and sufferings, particularly... (Here make your request) and that I may bless God with thee and all the elect throughout eternity.
I promise thee, O blessed Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, and I will never cease to honor thee as my special and powerful patron and do all in my power to encourage devotion to thee. AMEN.
Saint Jude, pray for us, and for all who honor thee and invoke thy aid.
Marie Pinto

South Plainfield Police Department Accepting Applications for Police Officer

Applications for the N.J. Department of Personnel written examination for the position of police officer are now available at the South Plainfield Police Department.

The application is published by and must be returned to the N.J. Department of Personnel. Applications may be obtained any time of the day at the South Plainfield Police Department communications center.

FILING DEADLINE

29 January 1999

RESIDENCY

Must be a resident of South Plainfield as of the closing date for filing the application and maintain continuous residency in South Plainfield up to and including the date of appointment.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

As listed in the application.

STARTING SALARY

\$32,399.00 (1998)

BENEFITS

A listing of job benefits may be obtained with the application.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

A brief summary of duties & responsibilities may be obtained with the application.

Any questions please contact Lt. Robert Merkler at (908) 226-7674.

The Borough of South Plainfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

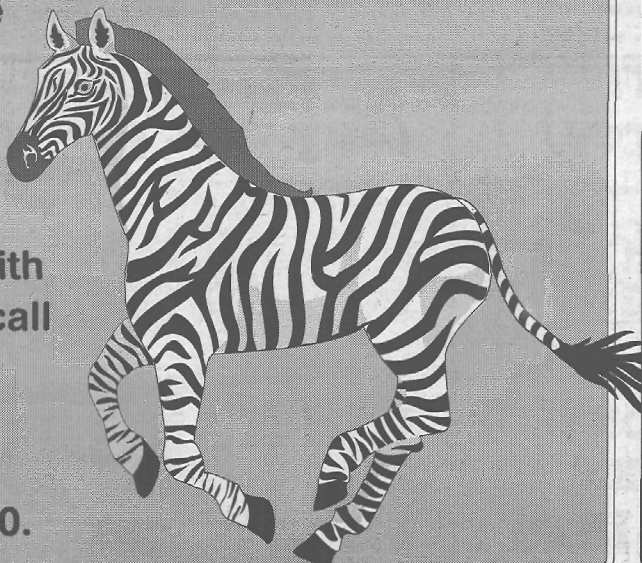
"Setting the Standards of Excellence"

Are you highly motivated?...

Show your stripes.

Join the fastest growing local newspaper dedicated exclusively to serving the residents of South Plainfield.

If you are interested in writing, selling advertising or helping with circulation, call the South Plainfield Observer at 732-469-4380.



Classified Advertising Works.

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

3 line minimum, \$10.00. \$1.00 per additional line. All classifieds must be prepaid. To place a classified send your check to the Observer, c/o G & G Graphics, 530 Union Ave., Ste. 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846.

South Plainfield Observer

is sold at the following locations:

- 7-Eleven, Plainfield Ave.
- Bagel Pantry, Plainfield Ave.
- B & C Deli, Belmont Ave.
- Corner Deli, Hamilton Blvd.
- Carousel Hair Salon, Oak Tree Rd.
- Cookies, Oak Tree Ave.
- Dave's Stationery, Sampson 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.
- Service Plus, South Plainfield Ave.
- Sunrise Foods, Front & Maple
- Twice Is Nice, Front Street
- Yogurt Express, Maple Ave.

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

South Plainfield Observer Advertisers are Listed in Bold Print

McCriksen Tree Lighting

Continued from page 5
 tragic day. He told how the woman was unable to get any information from the government regarding the crash. She beseeched the group to try and help her find answers to her question, "What happened to my son?" She attended meetings for three years. All efforts received the same response.. nothing was being said about the accident. The records have been sealed for 50 years. A question arose, had it been a mechanical failure, why the need for all the secrecy? The question hung heavily with no answers forthcoming. What was obvious as conversation turned to lighter topics, was the deep sense of caring, of dedication and commitment and the support that these veterans have to offer fellow vets and their families.

What's going on in South Plainfield?

YOU'LL FIND IT ALL IN THE OBSERVER.

To subscribe, see form on page 9.



McCriksen brought in a crane to prepare its tree for the lighting ceremonies on Dec. 12. The tree is 79 feet high, has over 13,000 lights and burns over 10,000 watts of electricity. Feeding the lights are nine circuits at the base of the tree that go up the trunk into five enclosed junctions.

POLICE REPORT

- Dunkin Donuts located on Park Ave. was robbed last week. A man entered the store and asked for an employment form and left. He came back several times asking question. On the fourth visit he purchased coffee and as the clerk rang it up, he produced a paper bag and demanded all the bills in the register.
- A house on Clinton Ave. was broken into and ransacked. The resident came home to find a window was forced open on the front porch and several rooms in disarray. The resident was unsure of how much was taken.
- A 1998 Mercury was stolen from the parking lot of Days Inn on New World Way. Glass was found on the ground near where the vehicle was parked.
- A customer at the Exxon gas station on Park Ave. tried to pass a counterfeit \$20 bill and was arrested.
- A security guard at K-Mart observed a shopper stuffing merchandise in her clothes. When she confronted the shopper, the security guard was attacked and punched several times. The shopper was placed under arrest and charged with shoplifting \$175 worth of merchandise.

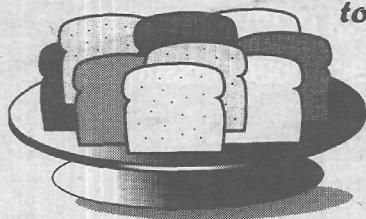
TAX RETURNS PREPARED • WILLS, CLOSINGS
 INDIVIDUAL AND BUSINESS • PERSONAL INJURY
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PAUL W. GRZENDA
 CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
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HOUSE CALLS AVAILABLE
 SO. PLAINFIELD OFFICE Tel.: (908) 769-8602

Check out our new low prices at Friehofer's!

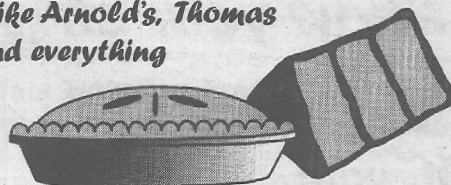
Good bread and fun desserts really add to the quality of everyday life. We're happy to provide you with both - at savings that permit you to enjoy the best often!



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
 SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080
 908-753-1526**

