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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 3, NO. 9

50 CENTS

OCTOBER 29, 1999

Kim Dziomba Takes First Place at GMC Championships

South Plainfield High School freshman Kim Dziomba won the all around competition at the GMC Gymnastic Championships held at Old Bridge High School last week. Her winning score was 36.45 nearly a full point higher than the competition. She also scored a 9.4 on beam.

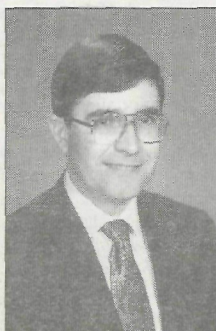
In four events, Kim finished no lower than third place. The Tigers Gymnastic team finished in third place. Great job!

Developers' Fees Bill Vote Delayed Again

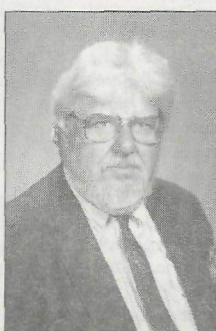
Board of Education member Frank Mikorski is asking residents to call State Senator Donald T. DiFrancesco and ask him to allow the Impact Fee Bill S-14/S-60 to come up for a vote. This bill would require developers to pay impact fees towards schools, roads and other municipal services.

At presstime, it was announced that the bill will again be delayed until Nov. 8. This bill has been in process for two years.

DiFrancesco can be reached at 908-322-5500 or faxed at 908-322-9347. His address is 1816 Front St., Scotch Plains, NJ 07076-1103.



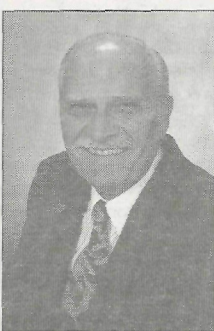
James Vokral



Edward P. Kubala



Mark Tomei



Hank Grabarz

It's Time to Decide! Vote Tuesday, Nov. 2

The election for South Plainfield Borough Council is Nov. 2 and there are four candidates vying for the two available seats.

Incumbents James Vokral and Edward Kubala head the democratic ticket and Hank Grabarz and Mark Tomei are running on the republican ticket. The candidates have been compassing the town, shaking hands and talking to the residents.

Here are a few facts about them to help you decide.

Hank Grabarz, a republican, resides on Nassau Ave. and has been a resident for 28½ years. He is married to Maryellen. Grabarz is a designer/engineer.

He had previously served on the Planning Board for five years, the Environmental Commission for six years and Public Celebra-

tions Committee for six years.

Mark Tomei, a republican, resides on Brenda Place and has lived in town for 39½ years. He is married to Wendy and has a daughter and son.

Tomei is a truck mechanic supervisor at Hall's Fast Motor Freight. Tomei has been involved in helping to design and organize the floats for the Labor Day Parade.

Councilman James Vokral, a democrat who lives on Lexington Ave., has lived in South Plainfield for 21 years. He has been married to his wife, Debbie, for 29 years and has three children and seven grandchildren.

Vokral has worked for AT&T/Lucent Technologies for 29 years. During his six years on the council, he has chaired both the Eco-

nomie Development and the Health, Welfare and Environment committees, acted as liaison to the Planning Board, Land Management and Business Advisory Group. He was also a member of Middlesex County Economic Development Commission.

Edward Kubala, a democrat, lives on Hamilton Blvd. He has resided in town for 22 years.

Kubala has worked for the State of New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and E.D. Consultants Enterprises, Inc.

He is an active member of Our Lady of Czestochowa, served for 11 years on the Governor's Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and was chairman of the Recreation Commission and Administration and Finance.

(See story on debates on page 3.)

Halloween Curfew Hours Set

Because of the increasing possibility of accidents and the childish pranks played on "Mischief Night" which have resulted in physical harm to others as well as damage to automobiles and property of innocent owners, Mayor Gallagher has announced a curfew.

"Mischief Night," Saturday, Oct. 30, a curfew of 6 p.m. will be imposed and enforced for all minor residents of South Plainfield. Also on Sunday, Oct. 31, "Trick or Treat Day", all trick or treat activities will be conducted between the hours of 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

The mayor is also requesting young children be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult and that householders indicate their willingness to welcome children by keeping their porch or exterior lights on. Youngsters are asked to only call on homes with the lights on.

Gallagher is also asking that parents carefully examine any food or candy the children receive and make sure that it has not been tampered with. Parents should follow the rule "if in doubt—throw it out" when any evidence of tampering with packaging or surfaces of consumable products is noticed.

School Bond Referendum Vote Scheduled for Dec. 14

The Board of Education has scheduled a referendum on Dec. 14, 1999 to vote on the proposed \$22.5 million school bond. The bond includes constructing a new Roosevelt School, renovating Grant School and converting the present Roosevelt School for use as the school board administration offices. After its renovation, Grant School will include 28 additional classrooms.

Also included in the bond is funding for a new track at Frank Jost Field, new boilers at the Middle School, installation of

technology infrastructure and upgrading of electrical systems in all schools.

On Monday night the board held a special meeting to inform the public about the building plans and to answer questions on the project. Plans for a new Roosevelt School include 28 classrooms, six smaller classrooms, two special education rooms, a media center, electronic library, multi-purpose room and gym. The new classrooms will be 800 square feet.

The proposed \$22.5 million bond will be paid over a 20-year period. The average cost per taxpayer will be about \$12.50 per month or \$135.42 per year. With new construction on the south side of town the district is expecting the student enrollment to increase by 851 in the next few years.

A Nov. 10 meeting is planned to begin disseminating the proposed plans to the public. The meeting will include focus groups. There will also be a meeting on Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. at the high school which will include a question and answer session. The architect will be present at the meeting and everyone is invited to attend.



Lacasale's Quadruplets Celebrate Their First Birthday

Danielle and Joseph Lacasale proudly hold their one-year-old quadruplets, Patricia Loretta, Anthony Patrick, Joseph Frank III and Stephanie Theresa. Danielle is a special education teacher at South Plainfield High School and Joe is an accountant, fire instructor and member of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department.

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In My Opinion

To Whom It May Concern:

According to a story in the *Newark Star Ledger*, Gary Lupo, owner of J&L Plumbing & Heating of Voorhees, NJ was charged with defrauding the government of over 1.5 million dollars by billing for bogus problems while installing heating systems at low income housing developments.

We would like to inform the public that James Franceschetti, owner of J&L Plumbing & Heating of South Plainfield, NJ is in no way affiliated with J&L Plumbing & Heating of Voorhees. Mr. Franceschetti has been a plumber for over twenty-five years and he and his company are known for their integrity and excellent workmanship.

SINCERELY,
MARCIA FRANCESCHETTI

To the Observer,

Girl Scout Troop #819 would like to thank the whole community

for their contributions toward our Silver Award project. These gracious people helped us tremendously by donating supplies to beautify Camp Hoover.

Troop #819 left on July 30 to plant 99 daffodil bulbs, paint a ping-pong table, put curtains up in the cabin and much more. We all had a great time completing our Silver Award project. We'd like to thank everyone again for their generosity.

SINCERELY,
TROOP #819

To the Editor,

In the Oct. 15, issue, I read a letter submitted to the local newspapers reportedly signed by "the good people of South Plainfield," although the signatures were not included. The letter claimed to be part of a petition signed by adults urging South Plainfield High School students to ostracize classmates whom they thought to be involved

in the football hazing incident. The letter, in part, asked students to turn their backs on these students if their names were announced at events, specifically during Homecoming activities.

In response, this is an attempt to provide some facts and a different perspective to all the people of South Plainfield. In that regard, I would like to address several points as they relate to this matter.

The incidents which occurred during football camp were gross, indecent and humiliating acts perpetrated by a few upperclassmen on three young players against their will. There is no question that these acts were absolutely wrong and unacceptable. Once discovered and investigated, the situation was dealt with firmly, quickly and directly.

We did not "bury our heads in the sand," but rather made a decision which we knew would call public notice to the situation. Realizing full well that statewide media attention would immediately follow, we chose to forfeit the next football game to make a strong statement that hazing will not be tolerated in any form now or in the future from this team or any other team. Once the students realized the implications of their actions, they stepped forward and admitted their involvement during the subsequent interviews. Those who were identified as perpetrators received additional school and team discipline. (Names and/or specifics cannot be addressed by school district administrators for reasons of confidentiality, just as they cannot speak publicly about any student's poor academic performance, discipline record, confidential medical information, etc.).

Another item misconstrued in various papers concerned a pro-active decision made which amended the original penalties to add a community service component requiring active participation in a volunteer activity. Personally, I feel this was an insightful decision by Mr. Ferri and Mr. Massaro. These students committed infractions which were extremely indecent and insensitive, however, they had no prior record of disciplinary action. By having them participate in an activity which would require the very qualities which were missing, in this case de-

centy and sensitivity, Mr. Massaro and Mr. Ferri may have added the right component to teach an important lesson to those involved. Any student who does not comply will have the original penalty restored.

The level of supervision provided by the coaching staff, which included a coach bunking in every cabin and full on-site presence twenty-four hours a day, was, in my opinion, comprehensive and appropriate. I have complete faith in the integrity and responsibility of our football staff. Coach McGuane does so many positive things behind the scenes for the students in the football program that it would be impossible to mention them. On any overnight activity, there will be periods of time when students can make wrong decisions in spite of the level of supervision. This was one of those cases. To eliminate this possibility totally would mean eliminating all such trips and programs.

Finally, I find two specific items in the letter very troubling. First, adults are encouraging children to physically turn away from their peers which does nothing but cause further alienation and isolation. The second item is a reference to Columbine as if to link the two situations. Clearly, we have an obligation and a responsibility to help and support those who were on the receiving end of the hazing. There is no justification for what happened to them. To their credit, they all have remained contributing and enthusiastic team members and now simply want to play football. The coaches are sensitive to their situation and are assessing it daily. These players should be commended for their courage and sense of purpose.

I have, however, been in the district long enough to see many otherwise good kids make mistakes—some minor and some major. In any number of cases, because people didn't turn their backs on them, figuratively or literally, many were able to put it behind them and do well. This probably includes some people involved in recreation or youth activities, similar to the person mentioned in Ms. Carlton's letter, who now want to give some-

thing back for the help and understanding they received as teenagers.

Telling kids it's okay to turn their backs on others for actions we don't approve of is only a small step removed from telling them to turn their backs on others for thinking, believing, or looking differently. How different is this from the attitude that caused the problem in the first place?

In the first paragraph of the "open letter," tolerance and understanding are mentioned as worthwhile qualities. What was forgotten, however, is that both qualities need to be unconditional and universal to have any meaning. Selective tolerance is by definition intolerance. What's the point in understanding others if we limit our understanding only to those who think and act the same way we do?

The lesson from Columbine speaks to the level of loneliness, desperation, isolation and anger teenagers can fall victim to. No question that the type of actions that occurred contribute to this problem. As adults, parents and educators, we need to be certain that our actions provide a much different message. We shouldn't turn our backs on those who are different, get in trouble, make mistakes, or even act outrageously in an offensive manner. Rather, we should do all we can to help them accept responsibility for their actions, be accountable, and most importantly, learn to act differently in the future. This is what we have tried to do.

(As a point of information Homecoming activities are scheduled for November 3-5. As in previous years, to participate a student needs to be in good academic standing, be involved in at least two school activities, and be suspension-free, for the last two years.)

MICHAEL BUGGEY

To the Editor:

For the past six years, Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral have been tirelessly working for South Plainfield. The results of the efforts of these two dedicated public servants have been

See Letters, page 6

IMPORTANT BOROUGH MEETING NOTES

Board of Education Meetings 1999/2000

The following dates have been scheduled for Committee of the Whole and Regular Meetings of the South Plainfield Board of Education. All meetings are to be held on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. in the Board Conference Room of the Administration Building, Cromwell Place, unless otherwise designated.

Committee of the Whole Meetings 1999

1999: November 9, December 14

2000: January 11, February 8, March 7, April 4

Regular Monthly Meetings

1999: October 19, November 16, December 21

2000: January 18, February 15, March 14, April 11, 2000

Zoning Board of Adjustment 1999 Meeting Dates

First, third and fifth Tuesday of the month as follows:

Nov. 4 (Thursday), November 16,

November 30, December 7, December 21

Site-Plan Sub-Committee Meeting Dates:

Fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

November 25

Planning Board 1999 Meeting Dates

Second and fourth Tuesday of the month as follows:

November 9, November 23,

December 14, December 28

ALL MEETINGS ARE
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Council Meetings

AGENDA MEETINGS PUBLIC MEETINGS

Monday, Nov. 8 *Monday, Nov. 22

Monday, Dec. 6 Thursday, Dec. 9

* Date has been changed from Monday, Nov 15

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey.

Log on to southplainfieldnj.com for the latest meeting agenda.

South Plainfield
Observer

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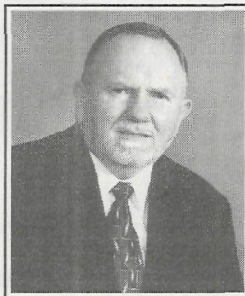
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South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or Twice Is Nice, Front St. or fax us at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us on our web page at spobserver.com or ggnan@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

Submit letters to the editor to:

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Letters may be submitted by email at our website at spobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819.

We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length.



Wayne Grennier

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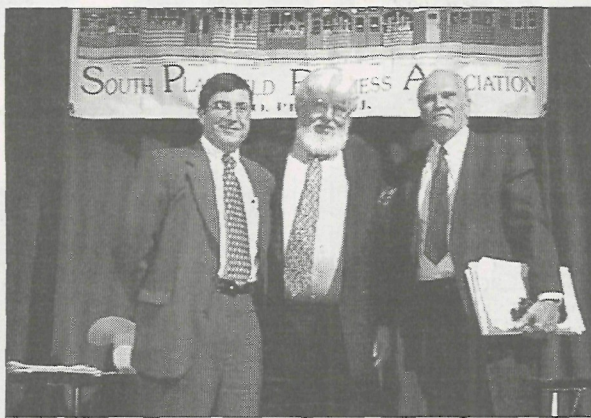
Debate Draws Modest Crowd

A sparse crowd turned out last Thursday night to hear the candidates for Borough Council discuss issues and explain what they would like for the future of South Plainfield. Most of the audience consisted of friends and relatives of the candidates.

The debate was sponsored by the South Plainfield Business Association. Moderator for the evening was Chris Sienkiewski from Pilgrim Covenant Church Learning Center.

Republican candidate Mel Tomei was not present for the debates due to a scheduled vacation with his family that was planned before he became a write-in candidate. Robert Longo, president of the Business Association, read a statement from Tomei in which he explained his absence and asked people to call him at 754-4896 if they had any questions.

Republican candidate Hank Grabarz and Democrats Jim Vokral and Ed Kubala read open-



Candidates for Borough Council (left to right) James Vokral, Edward Kubala and Hank Grabarz.

ing statements and answered questions for almost two hours.

This debate covered many issues, ranging from senior housing to redevelopment, flooding, taxes, traffic, shared services, downtown redevelopment and the Helen Street Project intended to help truck traffic.

When asked about one-party rule Kubala and Vokral said that they feel that votes should be cast for a person, not a party. They also explained that the present council worked together well as a team. Grabarz felt there is too much favoritism with a one-party system. He also said that differences of opinion usually brings about better decisions.

Republican Hank Grabarz felt that more pre-planning could have helped prepare for the development which is taking place on the south side of town. He

also agreed that the downtown project was a good thing, but some sidewalks are very dangerous due to poor planning. The sidewalks are now sloped and could be hazardous in icy weather. He said that the municipal tax rate has gone up directly challenging the democrats' statement that municipal taxes have remained level.

Democrats Jim Vokral and Ed Kubala reiterated their accomplishments during the last six years: keeping the municipal tax rate level, starting the Taxpayers Advisory Group and the Business Advisory Group, opening up council meetings to resident discussion, the pay-as-you-go policy, and the preservation of open spaces. They both said that they feel South Plainfield is better off now than it was six years ago when they took office.

Let Our Legislators Know— South Plainfield Deserves State Aid!

Last week we reported that the State of New Jersey has denied South Plainfield any discretionary funds this year. The town had requested \$250,000 in aid.

Mayor Gallagher and the Borough Council feel we are being punished for keeping expenses in line and the tax rate level. Towns that have not kept their taxes and expenses in check will be receiving aid from the state.

Residents are asked to write or call Governor Whitman and legislators to protest the decision of denying discretionary aid to South Plainfield. Below is a list of addresses and phone numbers.

Governor Christine Todd Whitman

Officer of the Governor

PO Box 0001, State House, Trenton, NJ 08625

609-292-6000 FAX 609-292-3454

Sen. John A. Lynch

100 Bayard Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-2165

732-249-4550 FAX 732-249-6426

Assemblyman Gerald B. Green

7-9 Watchung Ave., Suite 204, Plainfield, NJ 07060-1228

908-561-5757 FAX 908-561-5547

Assemblyman Robert G. Smith

216 Stelton Rd., Suite E5, Piscataway, NJ 08854

732-752-0770 FAX 732-752-1590

Future Stars Reports Fundraiser Top Seller

The Future Stars would like to congratulate Joshua Siepmann who had to sales of \$735 for our wrapping paper/candle fundraiser. Joshua received a \$150 cash prize for his efforts. Joshua is a student with Mrs. Ewing and Mrs. Errico in the four-year-old program. Thank you Joshua for a job well done!!

Recycle Your Old Phones For 9-1-1 Emergency Use

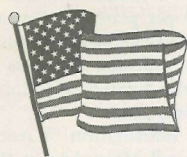
The South Plainfield School System has been certified as a Bell Atlantic Mobile sponsored agency for its "Wireless At Work Phone Recycling Program."

The program asks people to turn in their old and unused wireless phones which could potentially save lives. Residents are requested to bring any old used wireless phones to police headquarters between Dec. 1

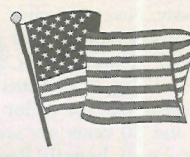
and Dec. 31. After collecting the phones they will be reprogrammed at the nearest Bell Atlantic Mobile Communications Store. Each phone will be tested and pre-programmed to dial 9-1-1 at the touch of a button, providing a direct link to police assistance.

The phones will then be given to schools to be used in case of an emergency.

Love Your Freedom?



Thank A Vet!



VOTE YES

Public Question No. 2 On Election Day Nov. 2nd



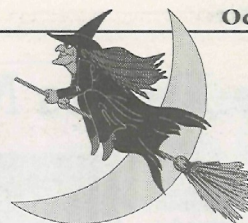
Property Tax Deduction for Veterans from the Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Increase the Current \$250 in \$50 increments over 4 years

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NO NEW TAXES

V.F.W. Memorial Post 6763 So. Plfd.

AROUND TOWN



EVENTS



This Weekend...

Halloween Dance At Polish Home

The Polish National Home located on New Market Ave. will be holding a Halloween Dance on Saturday, Oct. 30, from 8 p.m. to midnight.

The price of tickets is \$35 per couple or \$20 per person. The price includes food, beer wine and soda. The doors open at 8 p.m. For tickets, call 908-668-9442 or you can purchase them at the door. Costumes are optional.

Art Auction at Wesley Methodist

An Art Auction sponsored by Wesley United Methodist Church on Plainfield Ave. will be held on Saturday, Oct. 30.

Preview starts at 7 p.m. and the auction begins at 8 p.m.

Help us support the Bishop's Initiative on Children in Poverty, which supplies scholarships to families in need of Pre-School and Day Care Programs. Proceeds will also benefit local mission programs. There will be refreshments and door prizes. A variety of artists will be featured such as Moses, Delacroix, Rockwell, Wyeth, Picasso, Boulanger and McNight. You may also request specific artists if you contact us before auction time.

Admission is \$5 per person. For tickets and information, please contact Dick Petrone (908) 757-7107 or Connie Palmer (908) 755-3850. MasterCard, VISA, Discover and AmEx are accepted.

Scoop Dinner to Benefit Project Graduation

South Plainfield High School Project Graduation cordially invites you to sample culinary treats at the South Plainfield High School Cafeteria on Thursday, Nov. 4. Senior citizens are welcome at 4:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome at 5:00 p.m. The cost is 50 cents per plate (plate free for senior citizens) and 50 cents per scoop. All proceeds benefit Project Graduation.

Project Graduation is a celebration for all graduating seniors on graduation night. The main purpose of Project Graduation is to eliminate an old tradition of party-hopping on graduation night and to provide a safe, drug and alcohol free environment, where the graduating seniors can celebrate with each other one of the most important days of their lives.

Help keep graduation safe and drug-free. JOIN US ON NOVEMBER 4!!

Spread the Word!

Submit your events for the **AROUND TOWN** page. Mail or drop off your stories and photos: The South Plainfield OBSERVER, 1100 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Fax to (908)668-8819

email to GGNAN@aol.com.

Czestochowa To Hold Election Day Supper

The Rosary Society of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish is holding its annual Election Day Supper on Tuesday, Nov. 2, at the Parish Hall on Hamilton Blvd., from 4 to 8 p.m. Adults are \$7; children under 12 are \$5. There will be a choice of three entrees: (1) two stuffed cabbage with mashed potatoes and vegetable, (2) two stuffed cabbage and two pierogies, or (3) kielbasi or sauerkraut and mashed potatoes along with dessert. For take-out orders, call the OLC Hall on Nov. 2 at (908) 753-4077.

AARP Chapter 4144 To Hold Meeting

AARP Chapter 4144 will be running a bus trip on Sunday, Nov. 28, to Bucks County Playhouse to see "The Chorus Line."

They plan to browse the many beautiful shops of New Hope and lunch at the quaint Logan Inn located across from the playhouse. The cost is \$49 and covers transportation/luncheon and the show.

For information, call Lee at (732) 968-6613 or Mary at 752-3764. Be prepared to leave a message.

Trip to Three Little Bakers Dinner Theatre

The Caring and Sharing group of Sacred Heart is sponsoring a trip to Three Little Bakers Dinner Theatre on Sunday, Oct. 31.

The cost of \$48 covers transportation, dinner, Christmas show and all gratuities.

The bus will leave at 9 a.m. from behind the South Plainfield Municipal Building. The trip is

open to anyone wishing to go.

For additional information call Lydia (908) 755-1596.

SPHS Class of 1979 Planning Reunion

What a long strange trip it has been since graduation from South Plainfield High School in 1979. Join us at the twenty year reunion of the class of 1979 and tell us about what the past 20 years have been for you.

The reunion will be held on Saturday, Nov. 27, at the Pines Manor located on Route 27 in Edison, from 8-12 p.m.

The cost is \$45 per person and includes a buffet and a DJ. There will be a cash bar. Pass the word to other alumni. For more information log on to <http://idt.net/~abbottk/SPHS1979.HTML>.

New Jersey's 18th Annual "Let's Talk Adoption" Conference

The 18th Annual "Let's Talk Adoption" Conference will be held at Seton Hall University in South Orange on Saturday, Nov. 6 from 8 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

The conference is sponsored by Concerned Persons for Adoption. The scheduled speakers are Dr. David Brodzinsky and Dr. Anne Brodzinsky.

Over 25 workshops will be held throughout the day for prospective and current adoptive parents, adoption professionals and members of the adoption triad.

Workshops to be held include: Homestudy, International Opportunities, Adopting the Waiting Child, Searching, INS Update Subsidies, How to Finance an Adoption, Finding a Therapist, School Issues and Language Issues for the Internationally Adopted Child.

To register, call 908-273-5694 or email mcben216@aol.com to request a registration flyer.

Single Parents Group to Meet

A newly formed Single Parents of Central New Jersey group will meet on the first and third Wed-



SPHS French Club students raise money at a recent car wash fundraiser held at the Middle School.

nesday of each month, 7:30-10:30 p.m. For info, call Sandra 732-283-1250 or e-mail nglpmtnj@aol.com.

Adult School Seniors November Meeting

The Adult School Seniors will hold their monthly meeting on Nov. 5 at 10 a.m. in the Administration Building on Cromwell Place.

After the general meeting, Jane Brady, representing St. Peter's Hospital will speak about the Balanced Budget Act as it relates to Medicare and cuts to payments for Medicare services provided by hospitals to senior citizens.

All senior citizens who live in South Plainfield are invited to attend. Coffee and cake will be served. Transportation is available. Call 754-1047 for further information.

Columbiettes Upcoming Events

The South Plainfield Columbiettes are sponsoring a shopping

trip to Reading, Pa. on Saturday, Nov. 6. The cost is \$18.

They are also sponsoring a trip to see "The Miracle of Christmas" at the Millennium Theatre in Lancaster, Pa. on Saturday, Dec. 11.

The cost is \$85 and includes transportation, show, family style dinner and all gratuities. The bus will leave the Knights of Columbus hall on Hamilton Boulevard at 9 a.m. and return by 9 p.m.

The reservation deadline has been extended until Friday, Oct. 29. For information, call Mary Ann at (908) 226-1222.

The group is also planning a trip to see the New Jersey Devils play the Washington Capitals on Friday, Jan. 14, which is baseball cap giveaway night to all fans in attendance. The cost is \$65 per person and includes the hockey game ticket, bus and driver gratuity. The bus will leave the Knights of Columbus Hall at 6 p.m.

For information or reservations, call Mary Ann at (908) 226-1222. All events are open to the public.

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755-2289

Sacred Heart Church

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South Plainfield, NJ

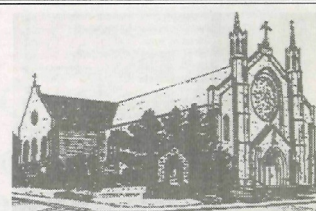
Very Rev. Michael A. McGuire, Pastor

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:45 p.m.
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:15 a.m.
Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.
Holy Days 7 p.m. (Vigil); 7 and 9 a.m., 12:10 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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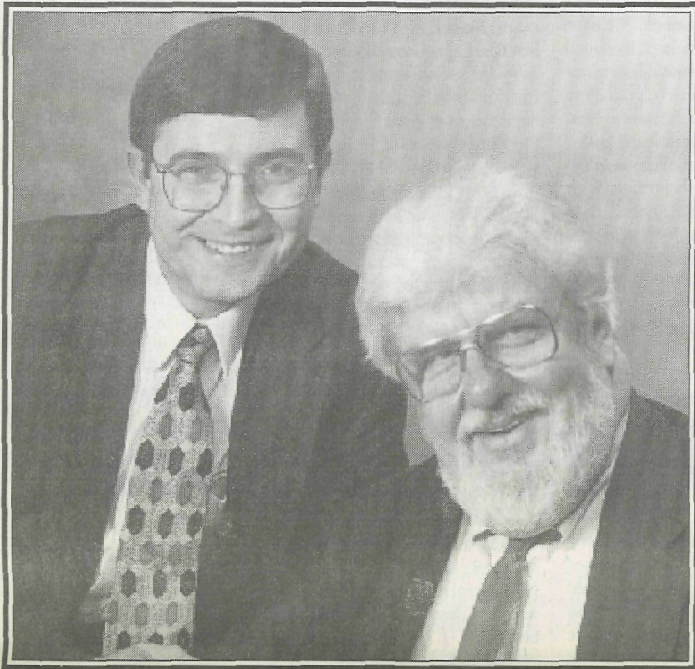
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The Democratic Plan for year 2000

- ★ Continue to keep Taxes and spending under control. The Republicans Increased expenses \$1M every year. Under Kubala & Vokral expenses have remained flat for 6 straight years.
- ★ Expand **"Pay As You Go"** government. Next year the senior center will be built, more parks upgraded and 15 more roads repaved ... without borrowing to do them.
- ★ Listen to the people! Ed and Jim started The Taxpayers Advisory Group, The Businesspersons Advisory Group and Democracy Day. Your right to be heard will always be guaranteed as long as Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral are on the Borough Council.
- ★ Preserve open space. The 35 acre Environmental Preserve, 9 Acre Open Space on Park Avenue and permanent protection of the corner Oak Tree Avenue & Park Avenue show Ed and Jim's commitment to open space. More open space will be preserved.

Come to the Democratic Cocktail Party on Sunday, Oct. 31, 1999 at Holiday Inn, 5-8 p.m.

Election Results at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Tuesday, Nov. 2

Visit our website: www.Spdems.org.

In My Opinion

Letters

Continued from page 2

nothing short of outstanding. Over 60 roads repaved, downtown revitalization, renovations to our library, borough hall, fire and police departments and the PAL, a budget spending plan that has not increased in six years, a municipal tax rate with no increase for two consecutive years, interlocal agreements with Middlesex County and neighboring communities to reduce costs and enhance and services, all on a pay-as-you-go program.

I know Ed and Jim, and you know that they have earned your trust. Both are truly deserving of your continued support.

November 2, 1999, cast your vote for Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral for South Plainfield Council.

**THANK YOU,
DANIEL GALLAGHER**

To the people of South Plainfield,

Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral say they keep their promises, as stated on the back page of the Oct. 22, 1999, issue of the *Observer*. "We promise senior housing, senior center, and Helen Street extension." We've been hearing this same line for six years. Still believe them? I don't! Ed and Jim say next year only the senior center will be built, what about their other promises. No tax increase again, just look at your municipal tax in 1995 and in 1999. You can't tell us there was no tax increase because there was.

Vote Mark "Mel" Tomei and Henry "Hank" Grabarz on November 2. Put South Plainfield back on the right track, not a broken promise track.

**MARK "MEL" TOMEI
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE**

Dear Editor:

As a member of the Borough Council for the past five years, I have had the opportunity to work on a daily basis with Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral. I have seen the dedication both of these men exhibit in their elected capacity. Both Ed and Jim truly understand what it means to be a public servant. They always put the needs and concerns of the residents first in their decision-making process. The residents are blessed to have two such caring and compassionate individuals leading the way into the next millennium. I do not believe that there have ever been two individuals who deserve to be re-elected more than they do.

There has been significant progress made during Ed and Jim's first two terms on the borough council. Our roads, parks and buildings have been upgraded and improved, a borough-wide recycling program has been instituted, our borough finances have been put in order, and the "borrow and spend" mentality of the past administration is a distant memory. Sure, each member of this council works very hard to make these improvements happen but as the senior members of the council, Ed and Jim guide and direct each one of us to bring these improvements to reality.

Although much has been accomplished during the past six years, so much remains. We need to continue to have progressive and innovative thinkers on the council, especially as we approach the year 2000. I believe both Ed and Jim's record speaks for itself. I urge each member of this borough to come out on election day and cast your vote for the re-election of Councilman Ed Kubala and Council President Jim Vokral. We deserve the very best!

**SINCERELY,
VINNIE BUTTIGLIERI,
COUNCILMAN**

To the Editor

It's rare that you run into somebody who doesn't brag or boast about themselves. But one of those people is Councilman Ed Kubala. He literally spends four or five hours a day helping other people, not only as a councilman but as a friend. But rather than taking credit Ed is always giving the credit to somebody else. If you look at the center of town Ed would be the last one to point out how hard he worked to get the money from Middlesex County to do that project at no cost to the residents. If you see the beautiful Veteran's Memorial at Veteran's Park, Ed would never point out that he was the one that got all the contributions so that the monument could be completed. If you look at the hockey rink behind Borough Hall Ed would never point out how hard he worked to get contributions for that. Well, Ed may be modest but his friends know what a great councilperson he is.

Vote for a man on November 2nd who really deserves our support, Councilman Ed Kubala and his friend, Councilman Jim Vokral.

FRAN MANNA

To the Editor,

Ed Kubala and I have had the privilege to serve for the last few years on the Borough Council in South Plainfield. We appreciated and valued your support during all of that time and feel that we have tried to do what was right for our town and you the taxpayers. We have learned a great deal having spoken to many people both private citizens and business owners.

During these two terms, we feel that we have made some significant changes to South Plainfield. We have turned around our finances, managed taxes, instituted a major road improvement program, improved police/fire and rescue squad communications, increased our open space and parks, just to name a few major accomplishments. We have also been faced with several challenges, like how to manage the town debt, reduction in state aid as a result of Governor Whitman's cuts and increasing costs to provide services.

However, one of the changes that Ed and I are very proud of is the expanding of open government. Our agendas are clear and understandable. Democracy Day is a success, and we have developed a Borough WEB site (www.southplainfieldnj.com) information for those who cannot attend meetings.

Ed Kubala and I feel that we have listened to you and have followed your recommendations. We would like a chance to continue to serve our great town for the next three years. We would appreciate your vote on Nov. 2 and hope to be able to work with you again.

**JAMES VOKRAL
COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Dear Editor,

As a councilman myself, I work with Jim Vokral and Ed Kubala on a daily basis discussing the day-to-day operations of the borough. The job of councilman has few requirements, but many tasks. The position of Councilman needs the personality of a best friend, the strength of your parents, and the wisdom of a scholar. I believe Jim and Ed possess these traits. They are very knowledgeable about borough government and the fabric of the community. They attend all the meetings, submit State and Federal Grants, and plan infrastructure improvement. These are just a few of the daunting tasks that are asked of and delivered by Jim and Ed.

Both Jim and Ed serve their local churches with true dedication; which becomes apparent when they need to communicate to the residents. Our borough is in excellent financial strength today because of their commitment to a sound budget. South Plainfield has become the cornerstone

of Middlesex County, and it is because of the dedication and skill of, the best there is, Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral. On Nov. 2nd vote for the complete package. Vote Democratic-Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral for Borough Council.

**RAYMOND S. PETRONKO
COUNCILMAN**

To the Editor,

South Plainfield finally has a Borough Council who keep their promises. The Democrats promised to stop the wild spending of the Republicans and they kept their word. They have stopped cold the credit card spending practices of the Republicans who have borrowed and borrowed until South Plainfield was \$40 million in debt. The Democrats promised to open up the process of government in our Borough and they delivered with Democracy Day, a Taxpayers Advisory Group and a Businesspersons Advisory Group, and gave residents the opportunity to speak at all council meetings. The Democrats promised to get spending under control and they have not increased spending over the last five years and we have not had an increase in our borough tax rate the last two years. Clearly, these people are leaders who know what their job is and how to get the job done. Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral are these type of leaders and they deserve your vote on election day.

FRANK C. MALECKI JR.

Dear Editor,
Re-elect Kubala and Vokral

On November 2 you are urged to vote and to vote for Edward Kubala and Jim Vokral. I have attended municipal meetings on a regular basis and observed both in action. They have demonstrated an ability to evaluate and assess issues in the best interest of the taxpayers. Both have worked diligently in support of shared services with the Board of Education and the County. Mr. Kubala has promoted the completion of the Helen St. project which would remove truck traffic from Hamilton Blvd. and Belmont Ave., thereby providing better safety for students who attend Roosevelt School. Mr. Vokral has worked with the Board of Education and is in the forefront to pass an ordinance which will help the school district with its efforts to prevent non-resident students who may attempt to attend our schools. Vokral has also planned and promoted a Website for our community. Mr. Kubala and Mr. Vokral have cooperated with the School Board in land planning for the new school.

They deserve re-election because they not only talk the talk, but they

walk the walk, by following through on programs critical to the cooperative success of the municipality and school district.

FRANK A. MIKORSKI

Dear Editor,

I was at the newspaper store the other day and I heard someone say, "Hey 'Big Ed' how is it going?". I didn't have to turn around to know they were talking about Ed Kubala. But Ed qualifies for the name "Big Ed" not only because of his physical stature but because of his big heart. Whether you run into Ed at the stationery store, at Borough Hall or anywhere else around town, if you have a problem he's always there to listen and help out as best he can. We need more like "Big Ed" serving in political offices.

On Election Day, November 2, 1999 let's all of us give a big turnout for "Big Ed" Kubala and his running mate, Councilman Jim Vokral. It will be a big win for all of our residents.

JOHN BUSH

Dear Editor,

Before I was elected freeholder, I was a member of the South Plainfield Borough Council. During my nine years as a councilperson, I had the honor of serving with many distinguished public servants. Two of the best are Councilpersons Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral.

Over the last six years Ed and Jim have spearheaded policies and programs that have significantly improved the quality of life in our borough. Their accomplishments include new playground equipment at our parks, the new hockey rink behind Borough Hall, improvements to the library, repaving 70 roads, and the list goes on and on.

Most importantly, Ed and Jim took South Plainfield back from the brink of financial disaster. The borrow, spend and tax mentality of the prior Republican administration has been replaced by "pay as you go" and NO TAX INCREASE AGAIN! As a member of the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, I can attest to the partnerships created between South Plainfield and Middlesex County resulting in better services at a lower cost to our residents.

Above all else, Ed and Jim know that in a democracy, the people must be heard. They started the Taxpayers Advisory Group and the Businesspersons Advisory Group and Democracy Day to guarantee citizen input into the process of government.

Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral prove that those who you elect can make a difference. I strongly urge all of the residents of South Plainfield to vote for Kubala and Vokral on Election Day, next Tuesday, November 2.

JOHN PULOMENA



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Kids Practice Fire Safety and Fun at Annual Open House

Photos and story by Patricia Abbott

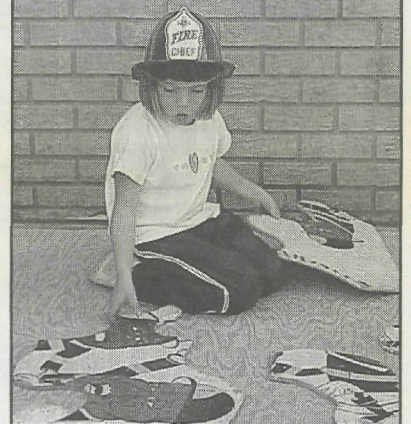
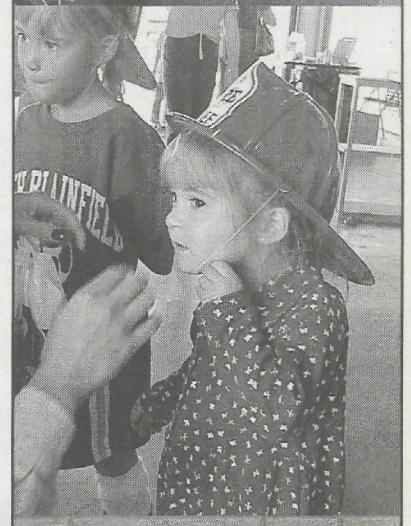
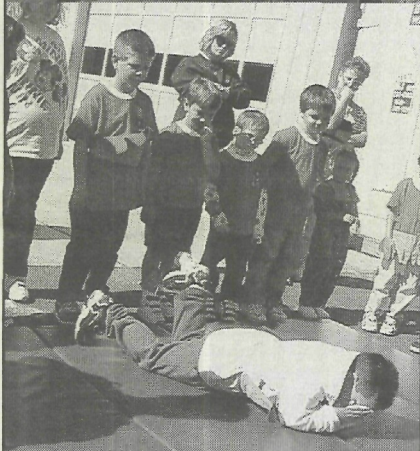
The South Plainfield Fire Department held their annual open house on Saturday, Oct. 16. Children were encouraged to climb aboard and explore the fire trucks. Wearing toy helmets, they scrambled about the trucks and took turns sitting in the driver's seat. Many delighted in sounding the alarm on the older fire truck. Children also played with life-size jigsaw puzzles borrowed from the Plainfield Fire Department.

Visitors were treated to Italian ices donated by Ralph's Ices and drinks donated by McDonalds and Burger King. Film for picture buttons were provided by South Plainfield's CVS and A&P. Many giveaways were purchased by the fire company to provide a fun-filled, educational and informative day.

Inside the truck bays the fun continued. In addition to the ices and drinks, visitors were treated to popcorn, balloons, flying disks and red plastic fire helmets. The youngsters had the opportunity to have picture buttons created. They giggled their way through attempts to fit into fire gear; struggling with the oversized pants and coats. Parents enjoyed the opportunity to snap photos.

PSE&G donated their time and an informative display. St. Barnabas Burn Hospital provided a trailer that simulated a burning house and taught children what to do in case of a fire. A popular display, the trailer has been a part of the open house for five years. Adding fun to education was former SP fire personnel Kim Tabor. She incorporated fire safety with laughter at her "Stop, Drop and Roll" booth.

The Fire Department Open House event has its roots in the early 60s. Approximately 2,000 people visited the open house this year.



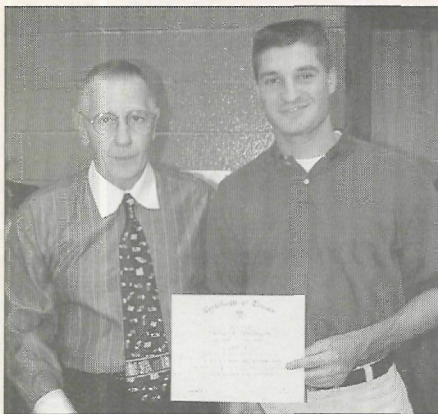
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(Above left) Kennedy School Principal Allen Czech (left) and teacher Thomas F. Montemurro. (Above right) South Plainfield High School Principal Anthony Massaro (left) and Assistant Principal Janet Gottlieb (right) congratulate teacher Barbara Boyer.



Fifteen Staff Members Receive Tenure Certificates

Tenure Certificates were presented to 15 teachers and secretaries at last week's board of education meeting.

Receiving tenure certificates from the high school were: Barbara J. Boyer and Gregory E. Genz, from the middle school, Robert A. Cousins and Denise Hogan; from Kennedy School,

Thomas F. Montemurro and Jill A. Sosnak; from Riley School, Catherine B. Bonanno, Kimberly D. Broggi and Diane Esther Marcus; from Franklin School, Kimberly A. Fredericks, Kimberly D. Broggi and Diane Esther Marcus; from Grant school, Linda J. DiDario and from the business administrator's office, Debra A. Schroeder.

From the Democratic Candidates

Kubala, Vokral Thank Voters

Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral reflected on the current council campaign which comes to an end next Tuesday, Election Day.

"One of the nicest things about running for council is the opportunity to campaign door to door. You really come to appreciate what a terrific town South Plainfield is when you walk our neighborhoods. No wonder people want to live here. It's obvious that our residents take pride in their homes when you see how well kept they are."

Jim Vokral echoed his running mates sentiments saying, "The only thing nicer than the homes in South Plainfield is the people that live in them. This is the third time we've run and it's always great to talk with the voters as we go door to door. We first became aware of the traffic problems at Durham Avenue and New Durham Avenue when we walked the Shadyside area. Now that intersection has been totally reconstructed with a traffic light because of the input of the residents."

Ed Kubala pointed out another example of resident input saying, "The homeowners who reside near Clinton Avenue let us know they wanted New Brunswick Avenue repaved. As a result Mayor Gallagher and the Council, with the help of Mayor Merola from Piscataway and the Middlesex County Freeholders, worked out an agreement under which New Brunswick Avenue

will be repaved in the spring. Your new Democratic Mayor and Council have always encouraged citizen input. That's what a democracy is all about."

Jim Vokral summed up the Democrats' position saying, "Win, lose or draw, the campaign was great. We thank all of you for being so courteous when we knocked on your doors and we ask for your support for the team of Kubala and Vokral on Election Day, November 2nd."

**'99
Vote**

United Way Kicks Off 1999-2000 Campaign

United Way of South Plainfield officially kicked off its 1999-2000 fundraising campaign to help create a brighter future for our community. James Lenox, vice president of the campaign, has established a goal of \$100,000 for this campaign year.

"We can only make a positive impact in our community by working together," said Lenox. "When our community works together, we lift burdens and raise hope for our neighbors in need."

Rick Stefany, United Way board president, also believes that the key to a successful campaign is our community's unified vision of a better tomorrow. "When we all participate, we have the power to change lives. Our investments will help shape South Plainfield in the new millennium."

United Way of South Plainfield helps fund programs at 13 health and human service agencies that serve South Plainfield residents. Like other local United Ways throughout the country, United Way of South Plainfield is independently operated and must generate all of its financial resources through the collaborative effort of its staff, volunteers and community leaders.

The community-wide fundraising campaign is focused on lending assistance to the hungry and homeless, children-at-risk, people with disabilities, and the elderly.

School Calendar Dates Revised

For the second year in a row the school calendar has had to be revised. Last year the changes were made as a result of the Labor Day storm which delayed the opening of schools. This year Hurricane Floyd closed schools because of water problems and flooding.

The last day of school will be June 19 instead of June 15. Middle school promotional exercises have been moved to June 16 instead of June 14 and high school graduation will be moved to June 19 instead of June 15.

The organization also supports programs for disease prevention and treatment, and family support.

To support the 1999-2000 campaign, United Way of South Plainfield will hold a Holiday Pointsettia Drive in November.

For more information about volunteer opportunities or to make a tax-deductible donation, please contact United Way of South Plainfield, P.O. Box 145, South Plainfield, NJ, 07080-0145; or call (908) 353-7171.

The Alternative View

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



Dear Dr. DeCosta:

My children often complain about their backs hurting from using their backpacks. Do you have any suggestions what they can do to help with this problem? -M.P.

Dear M.P.:

"There is currently a health concern facing school children throughout North America which, if left alone, could lead to permanent spinal column damage. It's also an issue that doctors of chiropractic are especially qualified to address."

So writes Dr. Marvin Arnsdorff, D.C., author of "Our Children...Back To The Future." The article which was featured in the August, 1999 issue of *The ICA Review* goes on to say that, "Parents, teachers and school administrators alike are showing greater concern and worry over children hunched over as they lug their books to and from school and between classes. Students are carrying backpacks weighing 20 to 40 pounds and more, so the concern is legitimate. Common sense tells us that a heavy load distributed improperly or unevenly, repeated day after day, is indeed going to cause stress to a growing spinal column."

Dr. Arnsdorff points out that, "The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that more than 3,300 children, ages 5 to 14 were treated in emergency rooms last year for injuries related to book bags. There is also concern that youngsters may be causing themselves long-term back problems."

The following are several basic backpack safety tips which Dr. Arnsdorff recommends:

1. Make sure the backpack is sturdy and appropriately sized. Some manufacturers offer special child-sized versions for children ages 5 to 10. These packs weigh less than a pound and have shorter back lengths and widths so they do not slip around the back.

2. Consider more than looks when choosing a backpack. An ill-fitting pack can cause back pain, muscle strain or nerve impingement. You want to have padded shoulder straps to avoid pressure on the nerves around the armpits. Some backpacks have waist straps designed to stabilize the load. These should be used whenever possible.

3. The proper maximum weight for loaded backpacks should not exceed 15 percent of the child's body weight. For example, an 80-pound child should not carry more than 12 pounds in a pack. If the pack forces the carrier to bend forward, it is overloaded.

4. In loading, it is obvious that excessive backpack weight can cause problems. Prioritizing the pack's content is very important. Avoid loading unnecessary items. It is important to balance the weight of the contents or the body will shift into unnatural postures to compensate.

5. Often ignored is the act of lifting and positioning the backpack. Lifting 20 pounds improperly can cause damage. Follow these simple steps: 1) Face the backpack before you lift it. 2) Bend at your knees. 3) Using both hands, check the weight of the pack. 4) Lift with your legs, not your back. 5) Carefully put on one shoulder strap at a time; never sling the pack onto one shoulder.

6. Use both shoulder straps. Make them snug but not too tight. Carrying the backpack on one shoulder, while it appears fashionable, can cause long term neck, shoulder, back, and postural problems. Use the stabilizing strap around the waist.

If these measures don't seem to help much with your children's problems, spinal damage may have already occurred. I would then recommend a professional spinal examination by a doctor of chiropractic.

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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Kennedy Harvest Festival – Fun and “Funds” for UNICEF

By Patricia Abbott

Kennedy School third graders spent the past few months learning that “character counts” as they studied the Pillars of Character: values such as trustworthiness, responsibility, respect, fairness, caring and citizenship.

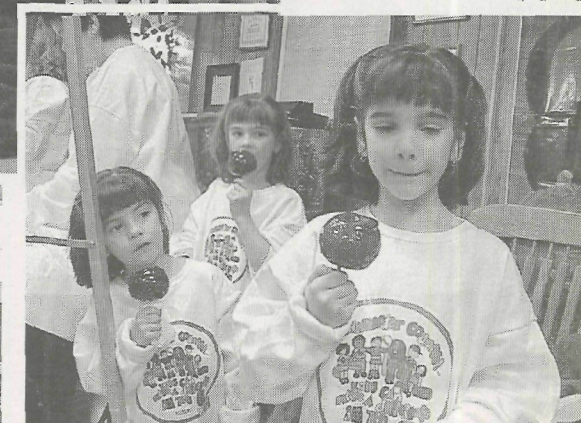
As part of their studies the students, assisted by teachers, parents and the PTSO, organized a Fall Harvest Festival. The day combined an old fashioned family day along with a fundraiser for the United Nations Children’s Fund. The fun-packed day included a host of activities, both

indoors and outs. The fall weather was perfect for hayrides, sack races, mummy wrap, scarecrow stuffing and games of skill. The front of the school was turned into a pumpkin patch. Youngsters roamed the lawn seeking the perfect pumpkin or gourd. Indoors, baked Halloween goodies and beverages were sold by volunteer parents and students. Tables throughout the gym offered the children a chance to express their artistic talents. The pumpkin painting created a colorful display of work that ranged from the traditional jack ‘o lantern to outrageous characters complete with yarn hair. At another table, children turned Styrofoam balls and pipe cleaners into spiders.

A favorite table was the ‘haunted house.’ Children created haunted houses out of graham crackers by “gluing” them to the sides of empty milk containers with marshmallow fluff as the glue. They decorated the houses with a variety of other edible goodies including candy worms, mini marshmallows and cake icing. Much of the fun was in the tasting as well as the building. Music teacher Miss Habeeb provided entertainment. Armed with her guitar and a microphone she sang song after song to the delight of the crowd.

Seventy-five third grade students participated in the project which was created by third grade teachers Mrs. Luck, Mr. McCann and Mrs. Dvorak. The PTSO and parents donated craft supplies and food, and manned the many booths. The event raised \$1,350 for UNICEF. The children experienced the satisfaction of helping others and had fun with their family and friends.

UNICEF works in more than 160 countries and territories to help meet children’s basic needs in health, nutrition, education and sanitation. The children will also be trick-or-treating for UNICEF.



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SPORTS



Middle School Field Hockey Team members are: Nicole Carlson, Tarryn Carlton, Dana Chepulis, Rachel Cupido, Kristen Dabrio, Samantha Deffler, Brittany DeNizio, Cassandra D'Urso, Courtney Eustice, Chelsea Falato, Catherine Flannery, Breanne Fore, Melanie Foscolo, Kim Gaub, Jaime Gaughan, Allia Ghanim, Lauren Haus, Eva Humber, Jamie Jakubik, Katie Kelliher, Katie Koury, Heather Loenser, Laura Mackintosh, Alyssa Maiorino, Jessica Manning, Jessica Miller, Stephanie Miller, Kathleen Morgan, Jacqueline Muglia, Ngozi Okparaek, Brittany Patrushevich, Amanda Rastelli, Jessica Senz, Laurie Sobel, Alisha Stasenko, Stephanie Stellakis, Nicole Sutherland, Melissa Szeliga, Kelly Thomas, Danielle Tonkin, Amanda Veinott, Morgan Walter and Megan Wilson.

Field Hockey at Middle School is Thriving

By Patricia Abbott

The Middle School Field Hockey Team is enjoying a very successful season this year according to Coach Joanne Haus. The sixth through eighth grade girls show a lot of spirit and enthusiasm and boast a record of 5-3-1 to date.

The large team currently has 43 players. There are eleven eighth grade students, 20 seventh graders and 12 sixth graders. Eleven players are on the field at one time. Coach Haus stressed that she tries to give the girls equal playing time. The sixth grade students are still learning the game

and often play against other teams sixth graders between halves. This Friday, Oct. 29 the sixth grade players will have their own game. The girls practice every day after school and play scrimmage games occasionally on Saturdays. The season started on the second day of school, not only did the girls have no a chance to practice, but the coach didn't even know who was on her team at that point.

This is Haus's first year of coaching field hockey. Last year she was a volunteer and helped coach the team. When the coach left the school for Argentina she took over. Joanne said she played field hockey in high school and had to brush up a bit on game play and rules.

There are no recreational field hockey teams locally for middle school age level and students wanted the opportunity to play. The team was founded three years ago. Parents attend all of the games to cheer on the girls. The team receives a lot of faculty support as well as support from the high school field hockey coach, Fran Flannery. The season ends today. The team used to play an end of season tournament, but it was cancelled for this year. An end of year banquet is being planned.

Over 30 Compete at Annual Alumni Soccer Game

Over thirty South Plainfield High School Alumni returned to Frank R. Jost Stadium last Saturday to participate in the Third Annual Alumni Soccer Game. The smell of muscle ointment was in the air as former soccer team members from the past thirty years took the field to play a friendly game of soccer.

Former Varsity Coach Steve Novak was in the announcer's booth and narrated the action on the field. Another former varsity coach, Mike English made sure the chocolate was hot and the hot dogs were tasty in the SPHS Booster Club's refreshment stand.

What has become an annual event in South Plainfield began three years ago when present varsity soccer coach, Drew Smith attempted to contact graduates of SPHS who received a varsity soccer letter in their senior year. Researching names from the past thirty years, Coach Smith sent out

hundreds of letters to the players. Over sixty alumni have responded to date and the list grows every year as word of this unique event reaches more alumni.

The game featured some of the stars of the soccer program over the past 30 years and the "athletes" didn't disappoint the large crowd. The game ended in a 3-3 tie as the "Green Team" came from a three-goal deficit to knot the score against a strong "White Team."

A South Plainfield Youth Soccer Club Scrimmage and the South Plainfield High School Boys Soccer Team's Greater Middlesex County Tournament Game against Bishop Ahr preceded the game. The "younger" SPHS Tigers advanced to the next round of the tournament by defeating the visiting Bishop Ahr team by a score of 3-1.

Coach Smith hopes to continue this annual event next year, with even more alumni returning to wear the Green and White.

Junior Baseball Club Notes

By Frank Hanley

2000 Season Registration

October "EARLY" registration for the 2000 season was held at the clubhouse last weekend. Parents and players dropped in throughout the weekend to register, get fitted for uniforms and order jackets and other clothing items.

The next registration weekend will be in held in January. The January registration will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 13 and Friday, Jan. 14 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 15 at the clubhouse. January registration fees are \$55 for one player, \$85 for two players, \$105 for three or more players (all per family). Registration is open to all South Plainfield residents ages 8 to 16. New players must turn eight years old before Aug. 1, 2000 and must present a copy of a birth certificate.

Late registration fees are \$60 per player with no discounts.

2000 Membership

Membership cards for the 2000 season are now available. The cards may be purchased at the monthly meetings.

2000 Season Playing Rules

Playing rule changes will be voted on at the next monthly meeting. Copies of the proposed changes are available at the clubhouse and will be distributed prior to voting.

Parent Sign-up

Any parent interested in being a manager, coach or umpire can sign up during registration. Parents are encouraged to attend the monthly Men's and Woman's Club meetings. The Men's meeting is held on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. The Woman's Club meeting is held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse.

Woman's Auxiliary

Ladies are invited to join us for the annual installation/holiday dinner to be held Friday, Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m. at Flanagan's. The cost for the dinner is \$25 per person. Contact Cindy Eichler at 769-4047 by Nov. 24.

The Women have extended the sale of Home Interior Jar Candles. Nine different scents are being offered at a cost of \$5.50 per jar cash and carry. For more information contact Cindy Eichler at 769-4047.

Fall Work Detail

A work detail will be held on Saturday, Nov. 6 at the complex. Anyone available to help out can meet at the clubhouse at 8 a.m.

Contact the SPJBC...Clubhouse 908-754-2090 or email spjbc99@aol.com. Web Site members.aol.com/spjbc/spjbc.html

Events at a glance

Monthly Meeting	Monday, Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse
Woman's Auxiliary	Wednesday, Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse
Work Detail	Saturday, Nov. 6 at 8 a.m. at the clubhouse
Registration	Jan. 13, 14, 15 at the clubhouse
Try Outs	Saturday, March 4 at the PAL
Opening Day	Saturday, Apr. 15

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SPORTS



South Plainfield High School Varsity Football Team—Kenny Baker, Chad Cook, Dan Czaplinski, Nick DeFalco, Brian Donnelly, Rich Drumbore, John Espin, Chris Frances, David Friedland, Lamaar Grier, David Johnston, Shawn Kenny, Jason Bataille, Chris Cassio, Michael Cardona, Thomas Daily, John Foscolo, David Fiore, Robert Freeman, Richard Gumina, Scott Gunderson, Matthew Kurilew, Roberto Ramos, James Reedy, John Tempe, Kenny Wiczorek, Sal Carrano, Chris Cornish, Brian DeVito, Rafael Diaz, Scott Doerr, Jonathan Fredericks, James Garcia, Chris Grevious, Sean Grevious, Jamar Mayers, Robert Merkle, Chris Lamberti, Sean Parelo, Matt Rennie, Ulysses Russell, Frank Salerno, Joe Sierzega and Tom Toolan.

Tigers Breeze Past Hackettstown

By Brian Cochrane

The South Plainfield High School Tiger Football Team upped their record to 3-4 this weekend by pounding out a 28-6 victory over Hackettstown Friday night.

Offensively, the Tigers employed a two-pronged attack. The first half belonged to senior tailback Lamaar Grier, racking up 108 yards on 13 carries, including a 34-yard end around that put South Plainfield on the board first midway through the opening frame. After an 18 minute lull in scoring, South Plainfield put up two quick touchdowns to open the second half. This time it was senior fullback Chris Francis getting the call and the ball off tackle as coach McGuane unleashed the second of his two horses of the

night. Francis sprinted 30 yards for a touchdown two series after Jason Bataille hooked up with senior wide receiver David Johnston on a ten yard scoring strike.

The fourth quarter began and so did the rain but that didn't slow down the Tiger offense as sophomore tailback Rafael Diaz tallied a score of his own with a 22 yard scamper to round out the Tiger scoring. The Tiger defense seemed to be on their way to a possible shut out but with just under nine minutes to go in the game, Hackettstown quarterback Ryan Jamieson plunged in from two yards out to break the drought.

Lamar ended the night with 126 rushing yards while Chris Francis netted 84 on the ground. Senior place kicker Danny Czaplinski converted all four extra points for the Tigers. Only

two games remain on the Tiger schedule ... tonight in Edison vs. Bishop Ahr and next week at home against South Amboy.

Greater Middlesex Conference Standings

Blue Division		
J.E. Kennedy	6-0	5-0
Carteret	6-1	4-1
Spotswood	3-3	3-2
TIGERS	3-4	2-3
Monroe	2-4	1-4
New Brunswick	1-6	0-5

Shotman Basketball Camp Forming

A basketball camp for junior and high school players is forming. The Shotman Basketball Camp, run by Mike "Shotman" Lanza will be held on Friday, Nov. 12 at 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 13 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Students can improve their shooting by learning slight adjustments in their mechanics and personalized drills that lead to shooting improvement as well as increase free throw and field goal percentages.

The sessions will be held at St. Mary's High School in South Amboy. The cost is \$65 and includes a free tee shirt.

For a registration form or more information, call (908) 754-2692.

We Want Your News. Period.

The South Plainfield Observer would like to promote your nonprofit organization, school, club, etc., but you've got to notify us (in advance) and we will cover it. Or, send us your news, along with photos, if applicable, and **WE WILL PUBLISH IT!**

Pop Warner Football Results

Results from last Sunday's games against Hillsborough are as follows:

Mighty Mites

Hillsborough 13-So. Plfd. 0

Standouts on offense were Frank DeBiase, Jonathon Conroy, Shawn Parisi and Jordan Petriello. Standouts on defense were Shawn Boyle, Tareek Watkins and Jarrell Watkins.

Junior Pee Wee

Hillsborough 6-So. Plfd. 0

Standouts on offense were Mark Wagner with an interception, Bryan Hunt, Nick Hogan, Jacob Rosocha and Alan Maclagu. Standouts on defense were Charles Loiacono, Eric Paley, Kyle Darr and Amber Hartman.

Junior Midgets

Hillsborough 14-So. Plfd. 18

Ryan Kenny had three touchdown runs for 65, 50 and 8 yards. Offensive standouts were Mike Capella, Anthony Costante, Greg Yefko and Steve Turris. Standouts on defense were Tom Whalen, David Gerena, and Mike Dowens.

Midgets

Hillsborough 0-So. Plfd. 14

Marcellus Avrams scored on two touchdown runs. The two point conversion was made by Joe DeBiase and Guy Severini recovered a fumble. Offensive standouts were Marquis Jones, Greg Krylowski and Chris Czaplinski. Standouts on defense were Raj Jainarain, Chris Dickerson, Frank Demarest, and Jocsam Aguire.

Flag

Standouts were Alex Lundy, Kenny Calderon, Matthew Manning, Jeffrey Conroy and Shawn Gorman.



Wrestling Sign-ups on Nov. 6

The South Plainfield Recreation Department will begin registration for those children interested in joining their wrestling program on Saturday, Nov. 6 from 1-3 p.m.

Registration will take place at the PAL Building on Maple Ave.

Wrestling is open to children ages 5-11 (as of 10/1/98). The fee is \$25. Parents must accompany their child.

Wrestling teaches self discipline, self defense, keeps children physically fit and is a great way to meet friends.

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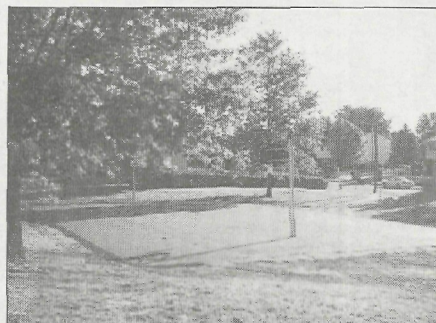
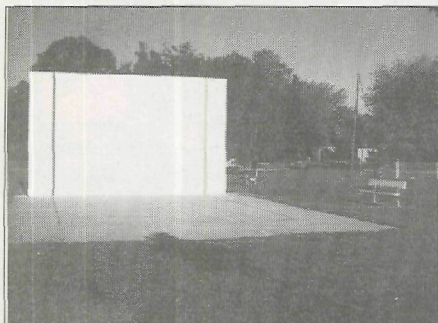
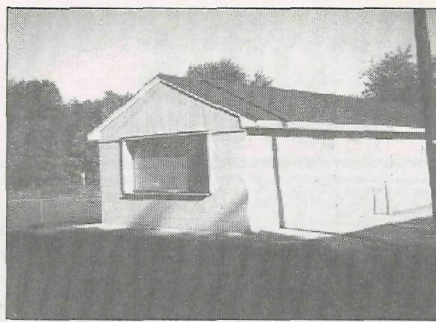
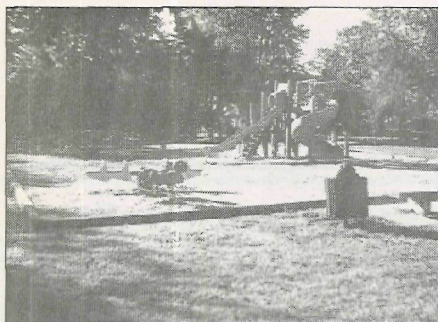
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Clockwise from top left is the playground at Shadyside Park, which has new ground covering, the concession stand roof at Pitt Street Park has been replaced, the basketball court at Shadyside Park has been resurfaced and the Putnam Park handball court has been resurfaced.

Improvements Made at Local Parks

Recreation Department Director Mike English and Joseph Glowacki from the Public Works Department have been working hard to improve the recreational facilities at several parks around town. Shadyside Park has a refurbished basketball court and new ground covering has been placed under the playground equipment.

The handball court at Putnam Park has been resurfaced and benches and additional trash receptacles have been added. The roof on the concession stand at Pitt Street Park has been repaired.

Borough To Add Veterans' Names to Memorial

By Patricia Abbott

The time has come to add more names to the growing list to the Veterans Memorial outside Borough Hall.

The requirements are simple. A veteran must show proof that he or she was a South Plainfield resident at the time of discharge. Family members can have the

names of deceased veterans added as well. Veterans who were killed in action have a star next to their name.

Residents who lived in older sections of town formerly known as Holly Park, Oaktree and New Market are eligible as well.

Veterans who would like to be added to the memorial must submit a DD214 form.

Information should be sent to Marie Smith, c/o Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or faxed to (908) 754-9091. Please include a contact number with all inquiries.

Deadline for submitting names is Dec. 31, 1999.

For more information, contact Marie Smith at (908) 226-7604.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Right about now, adults are buying candy by the carload, kids are preparing costumes and Linus is choosing the most sincere pumpkin patch. Yes, Halloween is just around the corner. But here's something we hope won't frighten you: news from the South Plainfield Library.

We'll start off this week with a reminder about the Home Schooler's meeting this morning. It's for parents who presently home school their children and those who are interested in doing so. The meeting starts at 10:30 in the Children's Room.

Next week, we'll follow our normal schedule of children's Storytime programs. They're for children ages three and over. They're held on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. No registration is needed. If you have any questions, check with Linda Hansen, the Children's Librarian.

As you can see from the previous paragraph, the Library will be open on Tuesday, Election Day. That night, we'll host a meeting of the Friends of the Library at 7:30. Both members and non-members are welcome to attend.

At this moment, there are still spaces open for the scrapbooking program next Friday at 7 p.m.

Participants can learn how to safely and attractively store and display their photos. There's an \$8 fee for this program and pre-registration is a must. Call us at (908) 754-7885 for more details.

Two of our Circuit collections are on hiatus today. The Video Circuit will be back with a new group for November by early next

week. Meanwhile, the CD Circuit will return later on next month.

Here's a note about our A/V items. Several of them have a label that reads, "Do Not Put In Bookdrop". These labels were added when there was only one drop box and A/V stuff was returned through a slot in the door. This prevented tapes and CD's from getting squashed under some 1,000-page volume. Now, though, we have a separate drop box for A/V items. Please return them in there when we're closed. If the A/V item doesn't fit in the box's slot, go on and put it in the bookdrop. And, if it can't fit in either one, let us know and we'll make allowances.

As far as books are concerned, we're very well stocked with appropriate titles for the Halloween season. We have terror tales from classic authors like Bram Stoker (*Dracula*), Mary Shelley (*Frankenstein*) and Edgar Allen Poe (take your pick); later horror writers like Richard Matheson (*I Am Legend*) and Robert Bloch (*Psycho*); and present-day genre writers like Stephen King (*The Shining*) and Ann Rice (*Interview with the Vampire*). In order that you may more easily find your frights, the books are on display at the main desk and on the A/V shelves.

As the ancient Egyptian said while preparing a mummy, "That'll just about wrap it up for now." (I know; that was terrible.) We'll have more news next week.

Oh, this Sunday, take it easy on the candy. We're sure your dentist and gastroenterologist would approve.

By Cyrus n Moon

Weekly Horoscope 10/29-11/4

SCORPIO 10/23-11/21 Sun favorable combination to Pluto. First of all, happy birthday Scorpio's. This transit brings opportunity to use the past in some positive way. For example you can come across some valuable info by reviewing old magazines or doing research. You may even collect an old debt.

SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21 Moon/Jupiter opposition. Emotional lows are a potential. If you possess a fighting spirit, the loss of hope or promise can help you hang in there with this transit. Established relations can be pulled apart but emerge stronger as a weaker relationship can end.

CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19 Moon opposition Saturn. You may become discouraged rather quickly if there is a problem in a relationship. And if you become more distant from you partner it will become harder to heal. You should make every effort to open communication to restore your love if you want it to go on.

AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18 Sun squares Uranus. Be careful of sudden upsets or to behavior that is upsetting to others. Disruptions can come in the form of an automobile breaking down unexpectedly, a sudden argument or even a separation can happen. Also accidents can happen but by rash moves on your part.

PISCES 2/19-3/20 Moon sextiles Neptune. This is a good time to be with your friends. With this combination you feel great sympathy and compassion for those in need. How about helping those in need as some way the reward can be returned to you when you will need it most.

ARIES 3/21-4/19 Moon opposition Mars. With this transit you may be feeling irritability, tension and rashness. If you have to say something to anyone express yourself directly and frankly, but try to do in a manner that is considerate of others. Expand some of this energy through exercise.

TAURUS 4/20-5/20 Moon squares

Sun. This transit can indicate that several small areas of your life simultaneously can reach a crisis, not usually serious, but one that forces you to pay more attention to what is happening. And most likely this can happen to people you may have taken for granted.

GEMINI 5/21-6/20 Mercury in challenging aspect to Jupiter. Your ability to think quickly is an asset. Business matters, public speaking, discussions and debates are favored, as is travel. Be flexible, pay attention and be sure to listen. Get all the facts before you jump for overlooked details can cost you later.

CANCER 6/21-7/22 Moon conjuncts Venus. You may have the urge to do some shopping this week but be careful. You may spend more money than you originally intended, and if you must stay within a budget; you would be well advised to postpone shopping until later. There is a tendency towards overindulgence.

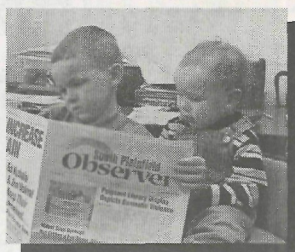
LEO 7/23-8/22 Sun cooperating aspect to Pluto. This is a week to make creative changes. If there's a sticky situation that needs to be cleared up, a relationship issue that needs to be confronted, or even a messy desk or closet that needs to be cleaned out, this is the appropriate time to do it.

VIRGO 8/23-9/22 Moon in Virgo. This is an excellent time for dealing with health and dietary concerns. Attention to details is the Virgo forte, so anything that requires painstaking attention is beneficial. Edit a completed work instead of stating something new. This is a good time for bargain-hunting shoppers.

LIBRA 9/23-10/22 Venus in cooperating aspect to Mercury. This is a good week to talk things over agreeably with just about anyone. If you've had problems with someone, this is a week when you may resolve them. This is also a time when travel matters goes smoothly. Be with friends, enjoy!

QUOTE: When standing at destiny's gate. Remember the dreams that got you there.

Take a closer at
what's going on
around you....



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South Plainfield Hosts Largest Marching Band Festival

By Patricia Abbott

The Tigers Marching Band hosted their 18th Annual Marching Band Festival at Frank R. Jost Memorial Field last Saturday.

The weather provided a perfect, if somewhat cold, day for the festival. A steady flow of people arrived throughout the day to support the 11 schools competing. Those who have experienced band festivals before came prepared with blankets for warmth from both the autumn temperature and the cold bleacher seats. Students in formal band uniforms could be seen wrapped in blankets as they watched the competition.

The Music Boosters Association, along with parent and student volunteers, had a busy day, handling security, tickets and the concession stand.

The Music Booster Association began the festival 18 years ago as the major fundraiser for the scholarship fund. The SPHS Marching Band Festival is an independent festival. Every student in the music program is eligible to apply for scholarships ranging from \$750 to \$50.

The festival has continued to grow each year. The 1999 festival is the largest to date, according to Music Booster President Carol Provaire. Booths offered a variety of ways to send a greeting or congratulations to students such as: flower grams, air grams (announcements made via the loudspeaker to individuals), candy grams, boo-grams (a Halloween specialty) and stuffed critters with personal messages. All "grams" are placed in Halloween bags and brought to each school's drum major for delivery to participating students.

In honor of Halloween many wore costumes ranging from a jack-o-lantern shirt on Carol Provaire, "crowned" color guard advisor Kathy Petrocelli, and a clown who sold tickets. A "band alumnus" sporting an inflatable saxophone sat by the gate and silently greeted visitors.

Eleven bands from all over New Jersey performed in the day long event. Burlington Township High School-Burlington, Memorial High School-West New York, Nottingham High School-Hamilton, John F. Kennedy High School-Iselin, Watchung Hills Regional High School-Warren, Lakeland Regional High School-Wanaque, Harrison High



School-Harrison, Warren Hills Regional High School-Warren, Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School-Scotch Plains, Randolph High School-Randolph and West Milford Township High School-West Milford.

Randolph High School was the overall winner taking the first place President's Trophy with a rating of "Superior." Other bands that scored a "Superior" were Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, West Milford and South Plainfield High Schools.

Other winners for Best Band in their division were: Division I (1-35 Musicians) Memorial High School; Division II (36-55 Musicians) Warren Hills Regional High School; Division III (56-80 Musicians) Lakeland Regional High School; and Division IV (81+ Musicians) Randolph High School.

Prior to the award ceremonies the audience watched the Tiger Marching Band strut their stuff to the sound of "Swing" music. As hosts, the proud green and white uniformed performers spent the entire day at the festival. They ended the musical portion of the event with a exhibition-only performance and celebrated yet another successful SPHS competition.

Look for more band photos next week.

Photos by Patricia Abbott

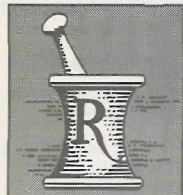


Marching Band Gives Best Performance in Boonton

Last Saturday night, the SPHS Tiger Marching Band performed in the Boonton Marching Band Competition. It proved to be their best performance of the season. They scored 83.7 points out of a possible 100 points, and moving up 5 points over their last competition performance. The Tigers marched first in their division and scored second overall. Their repertoire celebrates composer Gershwin and "swing" with performances of "I've Got Rhythm," "Cu-

ban Overture," "Fascinatin' Rhythm," "Summertime" and "Strike Up The Band".

Over the past season both the scores and size of the band have been on the rise. More than 40% of the band's membership is new. The South Plainfield High School Tiger Marching Band has a total of 80 members; 60 musicians, 18 color guard. The two drum majors are Jason Kollarik and Marco Migiliaro. The band is under the direction of Mark Tweed.



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Obituaries

Tan Thi Bui, 66

Tan Thi Bui died on Saturday, Oct. 23, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Cambodia, Mrs. Bui immigrated to the United States in August of 1991, settling in Plainfield.

Mrs. Bui had been a homemaker for most of her life.

She is survived by her husband, John Nguyen; her daughters, Kim D. Muller of California, Cuong Nguyen of North Plainfield, Suong Nguyen of North Plainfield, Kim C. Yedloutschnig of Plainfield and Tuyet Nguyen of Hillsborough; two sons, Thach Nguyen of Plainfield and Nhan Nguyen of Middlesex. Also surviving are nine grandchildren.

Funerals services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Dawn Peters of Virginia; two sons, Clifford of Bradley Beach and John of Elizabeth, and by 12 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Private services were held under the direction of the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society or to Elijah's Promises of New Brunswick.

Edward R. Davis, 90

Edward R. Davis died on Wednesday, Oct. 20, at John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Audinreid, Pa., Mr. Davis had resided in Bayonne before settling in South Plainfield 18 years ago.

He had been employed by Gulf Oil Corp. of Staten Island for 45 years as a clerk before his retirement in the mid 1970s.

Mr. Davis was an Army Veteran of World War II where he served as a supply clerk for the Supreme Head Quarter of the Allies in England, France and Germany before his discharge in October of 1945.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

He is predeceased by his wife, Margaret (Hagan) Davis, who died in July of 1993 and his son, Martin O. Trapp, who died in February of this year; a sister, Dorothy Michaels and his brother, Jack Davis.

Surviving are three daughters, Nancy E. Furka of South Plainfield, Barbara T. Loksa of Bayonne and Mary M. Bill of Edison and a sister, Anna Burns of Georgia. Also surviving are 4 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Angelina P. (Laquino), Ventriglia, 82

Angelina P. (Laquino) Ventriglia died Friday, Oct. 22, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, Mrs. Ventriglia has resided in South Plainfield for most of her life.

For most of her life she was a

homemaker, but prior to being a homemaker she worked for the former Bronsen Hat Company of Plainfield.

She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield and was also a member of their Altar Rosary Society.

Mrs. Ventriglia is survived by her devoted husband of 51 years, John "Van" Ventriglia; two beloved daughters, Gail Ring and Janice LaRusso and her sister, Loretta Quagliarello. She was also the loving grandmother of Elizabeth Ring.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals. Those planning any expression of sympathy are asked to consider contributions to So. Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ in her memory.

Frances P. (Wielkopolski) Hansen, 85

Frances P. (Wielkopolski) Hansen died on Saturday, Oct. 23, at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in Wilkes Barre, Pa., Mrs. Hansen had resided in Brooklyn and Manhattan before settling in Piscataway in 1954.

She was educated as a nurse after high school and had been employed as a nurse in Bellview and Cumberland Hospitals in New York City where she served as Head of Pediatric Nursing.

She was a veteran of the United States Army during WWII, serving in the Army Nurse Corps. She was a First Lieutenant General Duty Nurse in North Africa and was stationed in Morocco. She was later transferred to a hospital ship in the South Pacific before her discharge in December of 1945.

After her discharge from service from the United States Army she became a homemaker raising her family.

She is predeceased by six brothers and sisters.

Surviving are her husband, Richard L. Hansen; three sons, Law-

rence of Piscataway, Bruce R. of Honolulu, Hawaii and Donald R. of Belle Mead; two sisters, Jean Robinson of North Brunswick and Florence Klosko of Levittown, Pa. and a brother, Raymond Wielkopolski of Wilkes Barre, Pa. Also surviving are three grandchildren, Dennis, Kristen and Kari.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations in her memory be made to the American Cancer Society, NJ Division 846 Main Street, Fords NJ 08818.

Edward J. Berger, 84

Edward J. Berger died on Sunday, Oct. 24, at his daughter's home in Belle Mead.

Mr. Berger was born in Tamaqua, Pa. and had resided in North Plainfield and for several years in Plainfield before moving to South Plainfield in 1950.

He had been employed as a machinist by the Singer Co. of Elizabeth where he worked for over 30 years before his retirement in 1976.

Mr. Berger was pre-deceased by two sisters.

Surviving are his wife of 61 years, Helen (Cannon) Berger; daughter and son-in-law, Rita and Robert Hensperger of Bell Mead and four grandchildren, Thomas and William Hensperger, Karen Helmer and Christine Taylor and six great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations to the Community Visiting Nurse Association Hospice, 586 E. Main St., Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Get Involved With Project Graduation

Project Graduation is a nationwide effort to provide graduates with an all night post graduation celebration in a safe, alcohol- and drug-free environment. When you support Project Graduation not only are you helping our children, but you are making a statement that you want an alcohol- and drug-free environment for them.

Through the hard work, commitment and financial support of caring and generous people, Project Graduation, has become a proud tradition in our community. We are thankful and happy to report that since the inception of Project Graduation in 1989 none of our graduates have suffered injury or death in traffic related accidents and none have been involved in any drug or alcohol related violation on graduation night. Our community can take great pride in this accomplishment!

We value your support and know that you want to be a part of this ongoing tradition. We owe much to the caring people of South Plainfield. Your past generosity has helped make it possible for our children to experience the joy and reward of an alcohol- and drug-free graduation party.

On behalf of the Project Graduation Committee and the 2000 graduates we invite everyone to become involved. In the coming months we will be actively seeking cash donations to support this project.

If you have any questions contact Helen Gottlieb, assistant principal or send your tax deductible contribution to: Project Graduation, Assistant Principal Helen Gottlieb, South Plainfield High School, 200 Lake St., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

For more information call (908) 754-4620, Ext. 250.

Because We Care



by Robert Hunter

CONTEMPLATING THE FUTURE

If there is anything that each of us knows about the future, it is that death is certain. The finite nature of this knowledge is the very thing that gives our lives their sense of importance and urgency. As for the event of death itself, it is shrouded in sufficient mystery to cultivate our spiritual sides. And, life itself is riddled with enough uncertainty to make us stronger by virtue of the choices we make. As Augustine of Hippo surmised: "God will not suffer man to have a knowledge of things to come for if he had the prescience of his prosperity, he would be careless; and if understanding of his adversity, he would be despairing and senseless."

These days, it's not unusual for individuals in their twenties to be scanning the mirror each morning for signs of age and planning for their retirement. And while, in such cases, one does want to whisper "Gather ye rosebuds while ye may," there comes a time when accepting the inevitable brings a certain peace of mind. At the JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME we offer a wide range of affordable end-of-life services. To schedule a preplanning consultation, please call 756-2800. You'll find our facilities located at 2456 Plainfield Avenue in South Plainfield.

"I never think of the future. It comes soon enough."
— Albert Einstein

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Copy deadline for the Observer is Monday, 5 p.m. for the following Friday's publication.

Please mail, fax or email your copy, (preferably typed in upper and lower case and double spaced). Mail to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Fax to (908) 668-8819, or email us on our web page at spobserver.com.

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POLICE REPORT

• Theodore Shults of Scotch Plains reported his wallet was lost or stolen. He left it on the counter at D&D Auto Parts on Park Ave. When he returned it was gone.

• Home Depot security reported a woman attempting to return merchandise with a driver's license that did not match the suspect. When confronted by security the suspect ran from the store, entered a vehicle, and drove away. The merchandise was left on the ground.

• DSM Enterprise, Hamilton Blvd. reported a printer, scanner and fax machine missing from an office. An owner noticed the items missing when he entered in the morning. A roof door was found unlocked.

• A New Durham Ave. resident reported an attempted burglary at his home/office. He heard a loud crash and went to investigate and there appeared to be no damage. He observed a suspect walk down his driveway and enter a vehicle. In the morning, he noticed the front office window had been smashed with a wooden handle claw hammer that was found at the scene. He believes that when he turned on the light the suspects were scared off.

• Sal's Spirit Shoppe reported the theft of a bottle of wine. The suspect took the bottle and walked out of the store while three companions paid for cigarettes. The four entered a vehicle and left. The

license plate of the vehicle was noted by the store owner.

• A Delmore Ave. resident reported the driver's side window of her car was smashed with a rock. The car was parked in the street outside her home. Nothing was missing from the vehicle.

• A Fredericks Ave. resident was arrested for shoplifting from Pathmark, Hadley Rd.

• Dean Ansarta of Plainfield reported \$350 missing. He had the cash in his pocket while he was at Flannigans Pub. He noticed it missing when he got home. He returned to the restaurant and checked the premises and parking lot with negative results.

• An employee of Sal's Spirit Shoppe reported her purse was stolen from the store. She had left the purse on the floor in the bathroom. A witness reported seeing a female enter the bar without a bag and go to the back of the store. The suspect then exited with a bag.

• A Merchants Ave. resident reported her wallet was stolen while she was at 7-11 on Plainfield Ave.

• An Edgar Ave. resident reported cinderblocks he used as a curb line had been smashed. The blocks were placed to prevent people from driving and parking on his lawn. He noted that a neighbor often had visitors that parked on the edge of his lawn prior to his placing the cinderblocks.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SOUTH PLAINFIELD AFFORDABLE HOUSING
WOODLAND MANOR IS A PROJECT DESIGNED TO MEET SOUTH PLAINFIELD'S "FAIR SHARE" OF THE GROWING DEMAND FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN CENTRAL NEW JERSEY. RENTAL RATES ARE SUBJECT TO STATE AND FEDERAL GUIDELINES, AND APPLICANTS MUST QUALIFY ON THE BASIS OF ANNUAL INCOME AND FAMILY SIZE. SEE CHART BELOW TO SEE IF YOUR FAMILY QUALIFIES.

FAMILY SIZE	LOW INCOME	MOD. INCOME
	Maximum	Maximum
3	\$34,515.	\$55,224.
4	\$38,350.	\$61,360.
5	\$41,418.	\$66,269.
6	\$44,486.	\$71,178.

REVISED/CORRECTED RATES
(Rates advertised in 10/8/99 issue were incorrect.)

Unit Design	Rental Rates
2 Bed Room	Low Income \$700.
2 Bed Room	Mod. Income \$805.
3 Bed Room	Low Income \$970.
3 Bed Room	Mod. Income \$1,125.

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOROUGH HALL, 9AM TO 5PM MON. THRU FRI., SOUTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY MON-WED-THURS. 10AM TO 9PM; TUES. AND FRI. 10AM TO 6PM; SAT. 9AM TO 5PM AND SUN. 1:30PM TO 5PM, AND WOODLAND MANOR SALES OFFICE, MON-TUES-THURS-FRI. 10AM TO 3:30PM, SAT AND SUN 11AM TO 4PM.

FLOOR PLANS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT WOODLAND MANOR

Directions to Woodland Manor

From Points North: Take Route 287 South to Exit 5 (Stelton Road). At the end of exit ramp, turn left. Travel to second light, and make right onto Hamilton Blvd. Pass Home Depot and travel another .8 miles to first traffic light, turning left onto continuation of Hamilton Blvd. Travel 1/2 mile, turning left onto Montrose Ave. Make third right onto Kennedy Rd. to Woodland Manor straight ahead.

From Points South: Take Route 287 North to Exit 4 (Durham Ave, South Plainfield). At the end of exit ramp, turn right onto Durham Ave. At second light, turn right onto Hamilton Blvd. Turn left onto Montrose Ave. Make third right onto Kennedy Rd. to Woodland Manor straight ahead.

James E. Eckert, RMC, CMC
Municipal Clerk
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South Plainfield Observer CLASSIFIEDS

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HELP WANTED

ATTENTION MOMS!!!!

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Have you been caught in front of the South Plainfield Observer's cameras lately?

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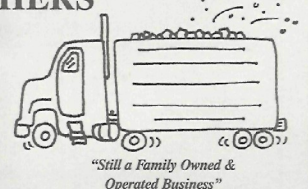
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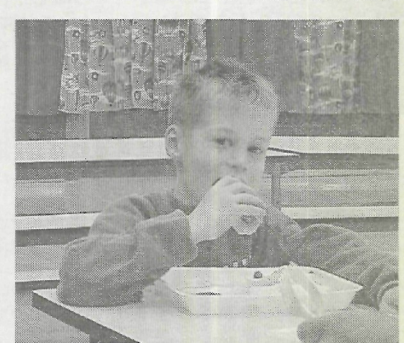
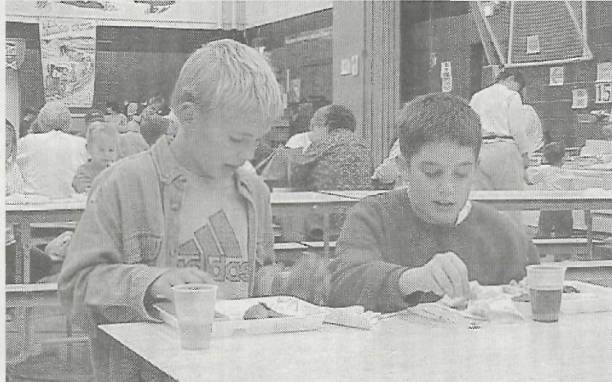


Residential, Commercial & Industrial Service

Scenes from the Kennedy School Scoop Dinner





Kennedy School held a Scoop Dinner last week. Proceeds from the dinner will go towards the 2001 Fifth Grade Stokes Trip.



October/November

& Meetings Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Editorial copy deadline: Friday, 5 pm Advertising copy deadline: Monday, 5 pm	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Borough Council Agenda Mtg 8 pm	Softball Parents Assoc. Meeting Oct. 26 8 p.m. Planning Board Mtg 8 pm Recycling Comm. 8 pm	Traffic Safety Adv Comm. 7 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	Borough Council Meeting 8 pm Recycling Commission meeting 8 pm	Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	
 31 Trick or Treat 2-6pm	Recreation Comm. Mtg 7 pm PAL Flu Shots at Borough Hall 5-7 pm NOVEMBER	1 VOTE TODAY!!! Election Day	3	4 Scoop Dinner High School 5 p.m. Board of Adjustment 8 pm Taxpayers Advisory Group 8 pm	5 Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	6
7 Flu Shots at Middle School 12:30-2:30 PM	8 Borough Council Agenda Mtg 8 pm	9 Library Board 7:30 pm Planning Board Mtg 8 pm	10 Environmental Comm. 8 p.m. Cultural Arts Comm. 8 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	11 Veteran's Day	12 Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	13
14	15 Land Management Advisory Comm. 7:30 pm	16 Board of Education Meeting 8 p.m. Board of Adjustment 8 pm Board of Health 7:30 p.m.	17 Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	18 SP Business Assoc. Mtg. at Sherbans	19 Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	20
21	22 Borough Council Mtg 8 pm	23 Recycling Comm. Mtg 8 pm	24 Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	 25	26 Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	27

Want to know what's going on in South Plainfield? Get home delivery of The Observer. Subscription form on page 12.