

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 3, NO. 11

50 CENTS

NOVEMBER 12, 1999



Eagle Scout Eric Toth with (left to right) his brother Brian, his parents Marlene and Gary Toth.



Eagle Scout Lee Stallakis with his parents Eileen and John Stallakis.

Board of Education Plans Open House

The Board of Education will hold an open house and informal information session next Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Media Center of the high school.

All members of the South Plainfield community are invited to attend this open house. Information about the upcoming referendum will be discussed. Those available to answer any and all question will be district professionals, the architect, bond counsel, public relations representatives, administrators and board members.

Refreshments will be served in the cafeteria. Anyone who is interested in joining the communication group should contact Business Administrator Ellen B. Johnson, 305 Cromwell Place, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

The vote on the referendum is scheduled for December 14. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The public is invited to come out and get involved.

Troop 205 Awards Two Eagle Scouts

Last weekend was very special for two scouts from Troop 205. Both Eric Toth and Leonidas (Lee) Stellakis were awarded the highest honor in scouting, the Eagle Scout Badge. The ceremonies took place at Wesley Methodist Church. This marks the

22nd scout from Troop 205 to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

Ronald Schroeder, Troop 205 Scoutmaster, an Eagle Scout himself, said that while he was a member of Troop 205 he had attended all of the previous 20 Eagle Scout Awards, but this was the first time

he had the honor of awarding the Eagle Scout Badge.

Parents of each scout received a pin and tie tack with the Eagle Scout emblem. Both Eagle Scouts received commendations and letters of recognition. Mayor Dan Gallagher, along with Councilman

Jim Vokral attended both ceremonies. Vinnie Buttiglieri, Raymond Petronko, Darlene Pinto and Ed Kubala attended one or the other ceremonies. Both boys were presented with proclamations from the mayor and council.

Continued on page 5

ALERT

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Construction/installation of a sewer line has begun across Durham Ave. Traffic is being diverted into one lane alternating north and south bound.

Motorists traveling Rt. 287 north should avoid Exit 4 at Durham Ave. and proceed to Exit 5 (Stelton Rd.) Motorists traveling south on Hamilton Blvd. should utilize Stelton Rd. via New Market Ave. and New Brunswick Ave. The project should take several days to complete. Motorists are strongly advised to plan alternate routes.

Middlesex County Road Department will be milling and resurfacing at the intersection of Oak Tree Ave. at Park Ave. Nov. 9-12. Paving and striping will take place on Nov. 15. This project will begin and end, subject to availability of equipment and weather permitting.

Motorists are advised to expect delays and to plan alternate routes.

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Homecoming King and Queen Named

The votes were in and the contestants waited in anticipation for the winner to be announced. This year 24 girls and 13 boys competed to become the 1999 Homecoming King and Queen. The entire school body voted to select this year's winners who were announced at the Homecoming Pageant held last Thursday evening in a packed house in the high school auditorium.

The auditorium was filled with parents, relatives and fellow students who loudly cheered on the contestants as they were introduced by emcee, Bill Cochrane. The crowd was at times boisterous and enthusiastically applauded each student as they were formally introduced.

The students were formally dressed for the occasion, girls in evening gowns and boys in suits.

Crowned the 1999-2000 King was Mike Spangler and the Queen was LaToya Posey. First runner-ups were Dave Friedland and Theresa Vitelli; second runner-ups were Tim Goetz and Courtney English.

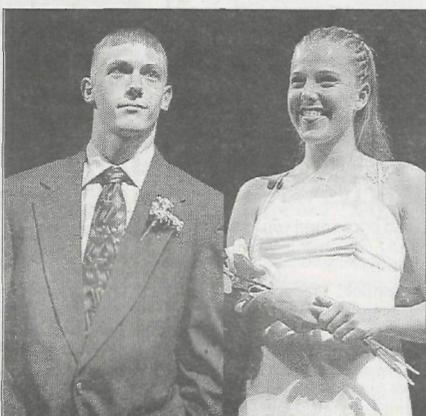
See pages 6 and 7 for all other nominees.



Homecoming king and queen, Mike Spangler and LaToya Posey



First runner-ups - Dave Friedland and Theresa Vitelli



Second runner-ups - Tim Goetz and Courtney English

Why We Celebrate Veterans Day

By Patricia Abbott

On April 6, 1917 the United States entered into World War I, a war that raged for several years. The eleventh month, eleventh day, eleventh hour of 1918 marked a major turning point, the signing of the Armistice. The treaty, signed at 5 a.m. in a railway car in France, designated the eleventh

Look for coverage of Veterans Day in the Nov. 19 issue of the *Observer*.



hour of that day as the end of the war. The appointed hour brought a strange sound to the ravaged and battle torn country, the sound of peace after four long years. Peace was a delicate issue until a final treaty agreeable to all could be reached ending the war a year later. In 1919 President Woodrow Wilson named November 11 as Armistice Day in honor of the truce that ended the war.

In 1938 Congress enacted a bill which dedicated November 11 as Veterans Day. See Veterans, page 3

In My Opinion

Letters

To the Editor,

The teachers at John E. Riley School are working together to build an inclusive school community. Currently, some multiple handicapped students have been included in regular education classes. Through having students with severe disabilities in their classes, peers without disabilities learn to develop skills in dealing with others who are different from themselves.

The Riley School third grade students in Mrs. Bishop's class are learning to relate to non-verbal students by sign language and pictures. The teachers are reinforcing the new interaction skills.

Successful integration of students with disabilities requires greater collaboration between the regular and special education teachers, the speech therapist, and the entire school personnel.

I would like to thank the entire Riley School community for

supporting integration and embracing the vision of a society that accepts and values the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of community life.

MARTHA M. KLINK
SPEECH LANGUAGE SPECIALIST

To the Friends of the Holiday Craft Fair:

This is just a little reminder that our last Craft Fair of the century will be held on Saturday, Dec. 4. I would like to end the season with thanks for all who contributed in the past, and I would personally like to invite you to participate again this year. Although we are a small group, the rewards are like ripples in the pond which keep spreading outward. As a result of the past 15 events, we have been able to donate towards much-needed work in our own building, we have fulfilled the monetary responsibilities of our Women's

Circle Mission work both home and abroad. We have helped students receive Bibles, regularly contribute to the FISH program, and have expanded our sharing of the Spirit of Christmas out to the community. (There is an on-going list of other smaller but not less significant ways we extend ourselves). The "outside" vendors who join us round out our Fair with items and ideas which we might not be able to do on our own, and usually enjoy being with us as much as we enjoy having them.

With all this in mind, I urge you to visit us on Dec. 4. in Henderson Hall at the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield, 201 Hamilton Blvd. Stop by to have lunch, visit an old friend, and SHOP—I'm sure we have SOMETHING you can't live without — and keep those ripples moving right into a new century.

Best wishes for years to come.
LINDA RANDOLPH,
CHAIRPERSON
HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Circle Mission work both home and abroad. We have helped students receive Bibles, regularly contribute to the FISH program, and have expanded our sharing of the Spirit of Christmas out to the community. (There is an on-going list of other smaller but not less significant ways we extend ourselves). The "outside" vendors who join us round out our Fair with items and ideas which we might not be able to do on our own, and usually enjoy being with us as much as we enjoy having them.

We will continue to accept your mandate to together serve the citizens of South Plainfield as well as we possibly can by trying our hardest to keep municipal expenses in check and the municipal taxes we control as flat as possible. We will continue to work with the full Council Team and Mayor Gallagher to better the quality of life in South Plainfield into the next millennium.

Thank you again for coming out on Tuesday in less than ideal voting weather to express your support of Jim and me and the policies we have helped to implement for the last six years.

GRATEFULLY
ED P. KUBALA, COUNCILPERSON

Dear Editor,

Although I have never before written a letter regarding a community issue, I feel compelled to make my first composition in support of the heroes and heroines responsible for educating and guiding the children of South Plainfield.

Until July, I spent over 15 years raising two children who attended Franklin Grammar School. Due to various school-related activities as well as my son's learning disability, we spent quite a bit of our time at Franklin School (often on consultation with various teachers and the principal). To make a long story short, the facts are that most of these dedicated professionals have made a commitment that doesn't end at 3 p.m., 4 p.m. or even 5 p.m. I know this because I've seen first hand the extra time most of these educators work. Many an evening one can find Ms. Erickson (the principal) and others attending a school related function.

Rare is the teacher who goes home without bringing several hours of additional work. It wasn't just a coincidence that the Courier-News featured one of Franklin School's teachers on the front page when school began this year.

One doesn't perfect their profession by shutting down at 3 p.m. and neither have our teachers achieved their level of excellence without putting in the time and effort that mostly goes un-

seen or unrecognized. South Plainfield is not a wealthy school district but its students fare well in comparison to similar towns with greater assets. Is it just luck or is it our unique teaching staff that makes the difference? I know from experience the answer to that riddle.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,
RICHARD A. MELEO, DDS

Dear Editor:

November 14-20 will mark the 78th annual observance of American Education Week—a time for saluting our public schools and the people who work in them.

This year's celebration is part of a long tradition that began back in 1921. Distressed that 25 percent of draftees in World War I were illiterate, and that schooling for most youngsters ended at eighth grade, the National Education Association and the American Legion created American Education Week to rally support for quality public education.

The theme of this year—"Students Today, Leaders Tomorrow"—reflects the fact that today's schools do more than teach basic skills. They nurture and inspire children. They help shape young minds and equip them with a range of skills for leadership in the 21st century.

We encourage you to visit South Plainfield's public schools during American Education Week and see today's educators and support staff in action. But remember that public education is a public enterprise. Parents, businesses, civic groups, retirees—everyone can lend a hand. It doesn't matter whether you have children of your own in school. Your time and talents are needed!

American Education Week is also a perfect time to say "thank you" to those special teachers you remember from your own school days, or to thank one of your child's teachers, via note, phone call, or visit, let them know they made a difference in your or your child's life. Gestures such as these are really appreciated.

LOUISE A. MRUZ,
PRESIDENT, SO. PLAINFIELD
EDUCATION ASSN.

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: December 14
2000: January 11, February 8, March 7, April 4

Regular Monthly Meetings

1999: 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:
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 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 (NJSA 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.



The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

G&G Graphics, Inc.
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

Web page at http://
www.sobserver.com
For subscriptions, advertising or
information, call (908) 668-0010.

The publisher is not responsible for
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We look forward to hearing from all of you and encourage you to send in your stories and photos. The South Plainfield Observer is your paper. Please let us know what you would like to see in it.

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: Editorial Department
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 sobserver.com or ggnan@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

To the Editor,

On behalf of Jim Vokral and myself, I would like to thank the voters of South Plainfield one more time for their support and vote of confidence in Tuesday's election. For the third time, you have confirmed Jim's and my belief that sound and responsible government is possible if the process of government and understands what the options are and how they are going to be paid for. When Jim and I were first elected six years ago, we committed to open the process of government, and through Democracy Day, the creation of working and effective Tax Advisory boards, an open budget, agenda, and Council meetings, we have, together with the citizens of South Plainfield, tried to make government more responsive and responsible to the people who will need the services of local government and who pay the

Submit letters to the editor to:

South Plainfield Observer,
Editorial Dept,
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B
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Letters may be submitted by email at our website at sobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819.

We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length.

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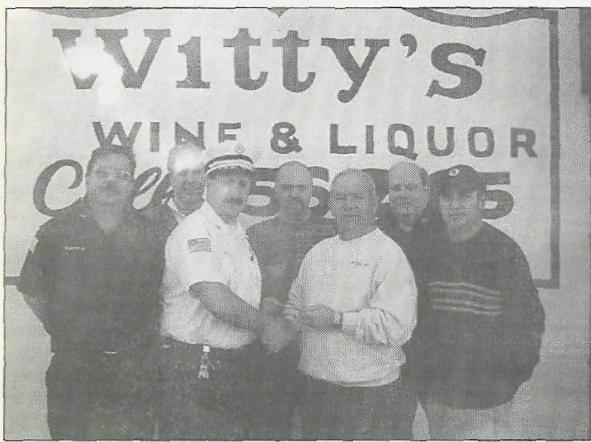
- Listening with an open mind, to their opinions of what constitutes a Full Life;
- Advising them, based on our professional experience and our evaluation of their capabilities, of what we believe is a realistic set of goals;
- Working to help them achieve the goals we have agreed on together and to minimize any constraints that prevent them from achieving their goals.

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Joe DiQuollo, owner of Witty's Liquors, presents a check for \$2000 to South Plainfield Fire Chief Joe Abbruzzese. The money was raised at a Wine and Cheese Fundraiser recently held at Witty's. Also pictured are John Hammock, Rich Bopp, John Celentano, Jr., Ed Silhanek and Ed Miller.

From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

If you can take a break from raking, piling and bagging up leaves, we've got some news from the South Plainfield Library.

We're back to our usual Storytime schedule next week. For those who have neglected to mark their calendars, the programs are held on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. All are for children ages three and over; you don't need to sign up for them. There's also another children's program next week. Next Friday, Nov. 19, we'll hold this month's children's Craft program at 3 p.m. It's for kids ages six and over. Space is limited so you have to sign up beforehand. For more information, check with Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

Here's one other kid-oriented note. Recently, we've been swamped several times by patrons wanting books for school book reports that are due in a matter of days, sometimes even hours. We try to be helpful about this, but we have limits to our resources. We usually learn about these reports at the last minute, so we're unable to stock up on books you may need. With this limitation in mind, we ask that you please try to borrow only the bare minimum number of books you might need. This will extend our resources and not leave others in a lurch. While we sometimes are forced to impose a limit on circulating items,

we'd prefer that this be done voluntarily. Thanks for your help on this.

Next Thursday, Nov. 18, don't forget about the informal Daguerreotype program from 7 to 9 p.m. Area enthusiast John Fernandez will answer questions about this early photographic process. Patron can also examine first hand some Daguerreotype equipment from his collection. This program is presented in conjunction with his display this month of early photography items.

The Friends of the Library have set up a new fundraiser. Whenever patrons purchase a half or whole ham at the HoneyBaked Ham Company Store, the company will donate \$5 to the Friends. Coupons for the offer, as well as more information, are available at the main desk. The offer is good at company stores in the tri-state area and runs until the end of the year.

Meanwhile, our own fundraising activity continues. You can still purchase South Plainfield coverlets for \$45 each. Think, "Early holiday gift shopping", folks.

We've noticed that more people are making use of Elvis, our Virtual Librarian, for renewing items. This is good, but there is one little item you may not be aware of. Elvis is extremely punctual. If you try to renew an item the day after the item is due, even by so much as a minute, you'll be charged one day's overdue fine. So, even though Elvis is there to assist you, it's best to keep track of due dates.

That's about all for this week. Thanks for reading and be sure to stop by next time. I'm sure the leaves can wait then, too.

Developers Fees Bill Scheduled For a Vote

According to the *Star Ledger*, a vote has been scheduled by the State Senate on Bill S-14, formerly known as "Bill S-60."

This bill would impose impact fees on builders, to help finance new schools, parks and playgrounds needed to serve their developments.

The vote is scheduled next Monday, the day before the annual New Jersey League of Municipalities Convention begins in Atlantic City. The league is in favor of this bill, along with local government officials, school boards and environmental groups. Builders and realtor groups oppose the bill and have been lobbying strongly against it. They claim it will raise the price of homes by \$25,000-\$35,000.

This 'impact fee' bill has been delayed and tabled several times in the last few years.

You can still contact Senator Donald T. DiFrancesco and ask him to support this bill. He can be reached at 908-322-5500 or faxes at 908-322-9347. His address is 1816 Front St., Scotch Plains, NJ 07076-1103.

Veterans Day

Continued from page 1
nually to world peace, and Armistice Day became a Federal Holiday.

Irving Berlin's song "God Bless America" was performed for the first time by Kate Smith. When World War II began the day began to lose meaning to many people and by the end of the war there were many more veterans. As veterans organizations were being formed, they wanted a day to honor all those who had fought in American wars.

In 1954, Congress changed the name to Veteran's Day to honor all U.S. soldiers of any war. This tradition is not limited to the United States, but encompasses France, England and Canada.

From 1971 through 1977 Veteran's Day was celebrated on the fourth Monday of October. Thereafter, it was returned to its original date.

For many, history is something we read about in books or learn about in school. History to a veteran includes actually living and creating some of those pages we sometimes skip through, pages that speak of hard won freedom.

To quote a vet, "Value Liberty? Thank a Vet!"



Franklin School students enjoyed a special treat on Thursday, Nov. 5 when the Catskill Puppet Theater returned to the school with a presentation of "The Lion's Whiskers." Two shows were presented for the student body.



MILESTONES

Engagement

Judith Levine and Christopher Czuba Announce Engagement

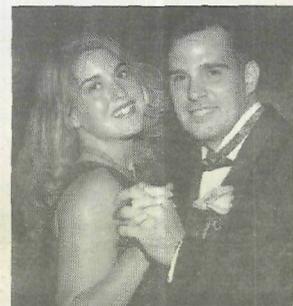
Judith Melissa Levine and Christopher Czuba have announced their engagement.

The wedding ceremony will take place on September 15, 2000 at Bayonne's St. Andrews Church.

Judith Levine is the daughter of Richard and Joanne Levine of South Plainfield. She is a graduate of Middlesex County College and has been employed at IBM in Cranford for over three years.

Christopher Czuba is the son of Adam and the late Rosita Czuba of Bayonne. He is currently enrolled at Union County College and works as a firefighter in Bayonne.

The wedding party consists of six couples, all family and friends



Judith Levine and Christopher Czuba of the bride and groom. Christine DeHart will be the Maid of Honor and the Best Man will be the groom's brother, Jeff Czuba.

Honeymoon plans have not yet been set.

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AROUND TOWN

EVENTS

AARP Chapter 4144 Meeting to be Held

The November meeting of AARP Chapter 4144 will be held Nov. 19, at the PAL Building on Maple Ave. Sherry Moccia from the Essex County Mental Association will be the speaker. Sherry will speak about an experimental program that pairs seniors with elementary students. The program is called "Listen to the Children." As always, the time of the meeting is at 12:30 p.m.

A trip to Bucks County Playhouse will be on the 28th of Nov. Browse the many beautiful shops of New Hope and have lunch at the quaint Logan Inn which is located across the street from the Playhouse, \$49 covers transportation, luncheon and the show. Call Lee at (732)968-6613 or Mary at (732) 752-3764. Be prepared to leave a message.

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Annual Bake Sale

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church is having its Annual Bake Sale on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, Nov. 20. All items are home baked and delicious. Available will be: pies, cakes, cupcakes, khrusciki, brownies, breads and much more!

The sale will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and purchase some baked goods for Thanksgiving.

The Church is located in South Plainfield at the corner of Belmont and Delmore avenues.

Holiday Craft Fair at First Baptist Church

Our last craft fair of the century, the 16th Annual Holiday Craft Fair, will be held Saturday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield located at 201 Hamilton Blvd. The event is sponsored by the Women's Evening Circle, who will have baked goods and crafts, Kids Korner (no adults, please!), and hot lunch in the kitchen.

Proceeds from these areas will be distributed amongst various

Church functions and charity work for our community. The crafters joining us will be offering items which include holiday decorations, dried flowers, knitted sweaters, decorated wood, jewelry, and gifts for year-round giving. Please start your Holiday Shopping with us.

Connected Hearts Adoption Meeting

Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support (CHATS) will meet from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 22, at Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave., North Plainfield. "Growing Up With International Adoption" Pat Bennett will discuss her experiences with her two daughters, ages 20 and 13, both adopted from Colombia, one of whom may participate in the program. Pat has been active in Concerned Persons for Adoption and she is presently coordinator for this year's "Let's Talk Adoption" conference.

Open sharing of adoption-related stories and light refreshments. Call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 for information.

Chaumont Post #243 Dedication Dinner-Dance

Chaumont Post 243, of the American Legion, will be holding a Dedication Dinner Dance on Saturday, Nov. 13. It will take place at the Post Home at 243 Oak Tree Ave. between the hours of 6 and 11 p.m. The Post's large hall will be dedicated in honor of Donald "Doc" Austin, a Past Commander of the Post, who has had a key role in the resurgence and beautification of the Post.

The Dedication Dinner Dance will feature a catered buffet and entertainment provided by a DJ with music of the 20's, 30's, and 40's. Tickets may be purchased at the Post for \$15 each. Proceeds will benefit Chaumont Post 243 Scholarship Fund. Gentlemen—jackets and ties please.

Breakfast with Santa

On Sunday, Dec. 12, Sacred Heart HSA will host a "Break-

fast with Santa." This catered event will be held in the school cafeteria from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. The cost will be \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$5 for children ages 5-12. Children under five will be admitted free.

This buffet breakfast will include eggs, french toast, hashbrowns, bacon, sausage, croissants, juice, milk, coffee and tea. Santa will be available during breakfast and there will be entertainment for the children.

If you would like to be included in the fun, call Wanda at (732) 752-2624. Reservations would be appreciated.

Columbiettes Upcoming Events

The South Plainfield Columbiettes are sponsoring a trip to see "The Miracle of Christmas" at the Millennium Theatre in Lancaster, Pa. 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 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.

Red Cross Blood Drives Scheduled

Blood drives sponsored by American Red Cross and New Jersey Blood Services will be held around the area in December. For information, call (908) 353-2500, (908) 756-6414, (800)-933-2566 or (800) 403-7879.

There is a need to improve the number of blood donors. Only 2% of the general population

gave blood. Last year the Red Cross services provided 14,000 units of blood to Union County hospitals, yet they only collected 10,000 units of blood from county residents. The following is a list of blood drives:

- Tuesday, Nov. 14 at South Plainfield High School located on Lake St.

- Thursday, Nov. 23 at Holy Cross Episcopal Church at 40 Mercer Ave. in North Plainfield from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, Nov. 28 at the Edison Firehouse, 850 New Dover Rd., Edison, 2 to 7 p.m.

UNICO Will Hold Annual Pig Roast

The Plainfield Chapter of UNICO will be holding its Annual Pig Roast on Friday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Scotch Plains Italian American Hall on Valley Ave. in Scotch Plains.

The donation is \$30 per person. For more information or tickets call Michael Cortese at 561-1539.

Roosevelt PTA Sponsoring Bus Trip

The Roosevelt School PTA will sponsor a bus trip to Caesar's in Atlantic City on Friday, Nov. 19. The bus will leave Roosevelt School at 6 p.m. sharp. The cost is \$20 with a return bonus of \$19.

Call Michele at 908-753-0124 to reserve a seat or for info.

Athletic Booster Club Plans Sport Raffle Auction

The South Plainfield Booster Club will be holding a Sport Raffle Auction on Dec. 11. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the raffle will begin at 7 p.m.

Holiday Craft Show At John E. Riley

John E. Riley School will be

hosting a holiday craft show on Friday, Dec. 3. Show hours will be from 5 to 9 p.m.

The show will feature new and handcrafted merchandise. Refreshments will be available. Come do your holiday shopping at Riley School.

For vendor information, call (908) 668-8252.

Tourette Syndrome Support Meeting

The next meeting of the Tourette Syndrome Association Family Support Group of Middlesex County will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 9, from 7 to 9 p.m. at JFK Hospital located on James St. in Edison, in the Neuroscience Institute Department.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Michael Selbst. The topic, "Behavior Therapy," will be discussed.

Future meetings will be held on Jan. 11, March 14 and May 9, 2000.

For more information, contact Debbie at 732-283-1439 or www.tsanj.org.

SPHSP Athletic Booster Club Plans Sport Raffle Auction

The South Plainfield Booster Club will be holding a Sport Raffle Auction on Dec. 11. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the raffle will begin at 7 p.m.

SPHS Class of 1979 Planning Reunion

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.

For more information log on to <http://idt.net/~abbottk/SPHS1979.HTML>.



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Eric Toth with grandmothers Mildred Toth and Julie Cwieks and great-grandmother Edna Facde.

Troop 25 Awards Two Eagle Scouts

Continued from page 1
Eric Toth

On Friday night ceremonies were held for Eric Toth. Parents Marlene and Gary were present, along with his brother, Brian, who also has earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Brian presented Eric with the Eagle Patch, a tradition which began with the troop's first Eagle Scout Robert Price. The patch is held by the last scout who makes

has been a member of Troop since 1995 and served as assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, senior patrol leader and participated in the Washington Crossing Historical Trail, Mile Swim, was a BSA Lifeguard, received the Chi-Rho Religious Award and Project C.O.P.E.

Other achievements include: John Hopkins University Mathematics and Verbal Talent Search,



Mayor Dan Gallagher with Lee Councilman Jim Vokral and Ed Kubala

Eagle Scout who then passes it on to the next scout to earn the award.

Also attending the ceremonies were Eric's grandparents, Raymond and Mildred Toth; his grandmother, Julia Cwieka and his 97-year-old great-great grandmother, Edna Facde.

Eric is a senior at South Plainfield High School. A member of Troop 205 since 1993, he served as assistant patrol leader, patrol leader and assistant senior patrol leader. He also participated in the Gettysburg Historical Trail and Monmouth Historical Trail. In South Plainfield he is an active member of the Rescue Squad, the SPHS Marching Band, the SPHS Jazz Band, the SPHS Concert Band, Jerseyan Historical Club and the National Honor Society.

Eric received letters of commendation from Pope John Paul II, President Bill Clinton, Congressman Bob Franks, Senator Frank Lautenberg, Senator Robert Torricelli, Governor Christina Todd Whitman, Senator John Lynch, Assemblyman Bob Smith, Assemblyman, Gerald Green and Commander J.S. Rustchak, U.S. Navy.

Certificates of Recognition were received from Flint and Steel Association, United States Navy, Jewish War Veterans of the USA, Sons of the American Revolution, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Mayor and Council of South Plainfield, South Plainfield Elks, Knights of Columbus and Blue Mountain Valley Scout Executive.

On Sunday afternoon Troop 205 held the ceremonies for Lee Stellakis. Present were his parents, Eileen and John, brothers Victor and Stanley, sisters Vassie and Stephanie and his grandmother, Celia Planas.

Lee is a sophomore at Delbarton School in Morristown. He

Presidents Award for Academic Excellence, Headmasters List for Highest Honors, Varsity Track Team, Model United Nations (Harvard Conference) and Delbarton Religious Retreat Team Leader.

Letters of commendation were received from President Bill Clinton, Senator Frank Lautenberg, Senator Torricelli, Governor Christine Todd Whitman, Senator John Lynch, Assemblyman Gerald Green, Assemblyman Bob Smith, Congressman Bob Franks, Mayor Dan Gallagher and Rev. Dr. Henry Leono from Wesley Methodist Church.

Certificates of recognition came from The Borough of South Plainfield, Knights of Columbus, South Plainfield Elks, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Sons of the American Revolution, Jewish War Veterans of the United States and Apostolic Nunciature.

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Middle School Students Take the Pledge

By Patricia Abbott

Taunting and teasing of peers is an age-old problem. It causes fear and low self esteem. Few students will report these incidents for fear of reprisal. Educators, parents and others talk to the students, and explain why this behavior is harmful to fellow students. Administrators can offer directives that this is offensive behavior. In the long run children are more likely to listen to their peers.

On Thursday, Oct. 28, the Middle School Human Relations Commission held an assembly program for sixth grade students. The program, "One World, A Celebration of Fall Cultural Holidays and Acknowledgements" explained and celebrated various aspects of Rosh Hashanah, Native American Month, Hispanic American Month, German American Day and Columbus Day through song, dance and speeches.

Student Council President Jessa Jones opened the program with a short speech. William Weaver and Alexa Reha spoke about September's Native American Month. Columbus Day was celebrated with an Italian Wedding dance. The Middle School String Ensemble performed the Star Spangled Banner as well as an aria from Rigoletto. Latin American Month was noted with a speech by Melissa Silva and a dance, the Meringue, performed by Carlos Aguilar and Krystal Morales. German American Day, October 5, was also celebrated with a dance performed by the German Dance Guild. Jason Lowe spoke about Rosh Hashanah and Brett Morris about Yom Kippur.

Students Danny Ramos, Allia



The "No Taunt" Pledge

- I will pledge to be part of the solution.
- I will eliminate taunting from my own behavior.
- I will encourage others to do the same.
- I will do my part to make the community a safe place by being more sensitive to others.
- I will set the example of a caring individual.
- I will eliminate profanity towards others from my language.
- I will not let my words or actions hurt others.
- I pledge to instill love, understanding, and peace and to eliminate prejudice, hate, and violence within the school community.
- I will start to make America and the world a place where justice, freedom, equality, and peace will flourish.
- And if others won't become part of the solution, I will.

Ghanim, Danielle Arndt, Shannon Rivers, Jessica Miller, Jackie DeLillo, Allyce Rettberg, Katie Mott, Erika Blazsak, Mike Williams, Delvin Colon, Jeremy Rodas, Phi Lai, Viet Vo and Michael Capella danced in one or both of the dance numbers.

The SPMS Human Relations Commission also pledged their commitment to harmony between all people as it addressed the "No

Taunt" Pledge. On Nov. 5 the student body had a chance to join in by taking the pledge and signing their names.

Assistant Principal Phyllis Savage, the administrator for the Human Relations Commission, sent the pledge to the grade schools and is currently awaiting their reply. She also commended the students on the commission for their hard work.



In touch with Nature

Recently, a group of cub scouts from Pack 205 made a visit to the Highland Ave. Woods Reserve.

Pictured with volunteer tour guide, Mrs. Meile are (left to right), Robert Pasternak, Philip Longo, Dillon Medice, Chris Gualano, Lee Stranzemback, David Stogoski and Tommy Loablo.

The boys learned about the many species of plant and animal life that are living right here in South Plainfield. Thank you, Mrs. Meile, for giving your time and helping us learn about the Highland Park Woods Reserve.

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Runners-Up and Nominees for 1999-2000 Homecoming Queen

DIANE ALGOO is active in RARE, VOICES, varsity soccer, winter track, peer leadership, environmental science, Spanish club and the *Tiger Times*.

MELINDA AGOSTINO is a color guard captain, Jerseyan Club and SADD, Future Leaders of America, the business club and concert band.

MELISSA ANDERSON is active in the Jerseyan Club, marching band, SADD, winter guard and E.L.A. and Project Graduation.

KRISSY BROOKS is active in student council, freshman class president, French Honor Society, National Honor Society, French Club, Jerseyan Club and SADD.

AMANDA BERTRAND is secretary for VOICES, a member of the Jerseyan Club, math team, FLA, SADD, Student Council.

SHERYL CWIEKALO is vice president of the senior class, active in basketball, track and field, a SADD, Jerseyan Club and VOICES.

MEG DEROSA is a member of

the National Art Society, Jerseyan Club, student council and the yearbook. She also participated in colorguard, winterguard, softball, environmental science and SADD.

DINA MARIE DIAZ is an honor roll student and selected by Who's Who Among American High School Students. She is a member of the Drama

Club and editor for the *Tiger Times*.

KRISTA GUNDERSEN is active in field hockey team, captain of the field hockey team, president of the Algonquin Square Book Club, French Club and an editor for the *Tiger Times*.

HEATHER HEARNE has been a varsity cheerleader for basketball, wrestling and football, was captain of the gymnastics team her freshman year.

BECKY PEREZ is president of the drama club, active in the Jerseyan Club and a student council representative. She has been inducted into the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society.

JENNIFER INFANTE has been a student council representative and a member of the softball, soccer and gymnastics teams, cheerleading squad, environmental science club.

JENNIE RAYHO is the founder/captain of the SPHS dance team, active in student council, SADD, Jerseyan club, Algonquin book club and National Honor Society, and *Tiger Times*.

ROBIN STAYVAS is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, a cheerleader, Jerseyan Club and VOICES, French Club, SADD, Business Club, Math Team.

ASHLEY RETTBURG is a member of the Jerseyan Club, VOICES, SADD, Art Honor Society, math team, Student Council, FLA, RARE and a student representative to the Board of Education.

SHAWN KENNY is a member of the baseball team, varsity football, marching band, concert band and jazz band, Student Council, Jerseyan Club, SADD and the Environmental Science Club.

AMANDA STERLING has participated in the colorguard, Jerseyan Club, SADD, FLA and the Business Club. She has been dancing for 12 years at Joann's Dance Studio.

MONICA VASQUEZ is involved in RARE, is a peer mediator, soccer, French Club and statistician for the wrestling team. She has also participated as a Student Council representative.

LAURA WALTER is captain/choreographer for the SPHS Dance Team, a member of chorus, Emeralds, Drama Club, softball team, inducted into the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society.

KIMBERLY WATON has been a football and basketball cheerleader, currently cheerleading captain for the varsity football squad. She played varsity soccer and is a member of the Business Club.

NICHOLE WRUBLEVSKI is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor, has been on the varsity soccer, a member of the Jerseyan club, math team., FLA, basketball and the Juniors.



Dina Diaz



Meg DeRosa



Krista Gundersen



Jen Infante



Sheryl Cwiekalo



Diana Algoo



Melinda Agostino



Ashley Retberg



Heather Hearne



Amanda Bertrand



Jennie Rayho



Robin Stayvas



Amanda Stirling



Laura Walter



Monica Vasquez



Nicole Wrublevski



Kim Waton



Melissa Anderson



Becky Perez



Krissy Brooks



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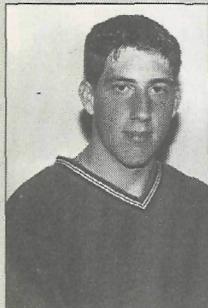
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Runners-Up and Nominees for 1999-2000 Homecoming King



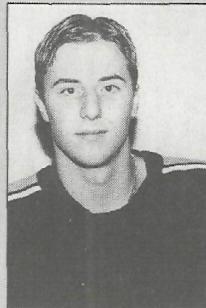
Shawn Kenny



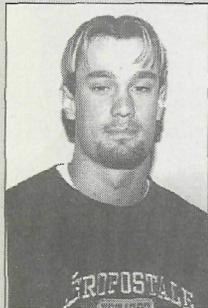
Brian Donelly



Brad Tierney



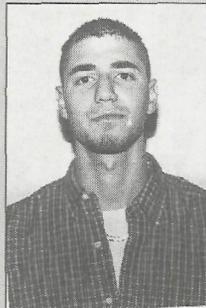
Ryan Reviello



Mike Dematos



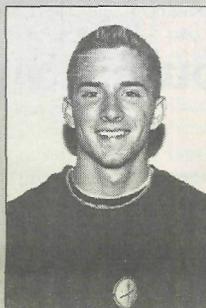
Dave Johnston



Paul Israel



Eric Johnson



Matt Kravetsky



Brian Dziomba

MICHAEL DEMATOS is involved in VOICES, Jerseyan Club, academic team, book club, track and is a NJ Governor's Scholar.

BRIAN DZIOMBA plays soccer, is active in SADD, the Jerseyan Club and the book club and senior class treasurer.

BRIAN DONNELLY is secretary of the senior class, football, wrestling, plays tuba in the marching band, SADD, Jerseyan Club, VOICES and vice president of the book club.

PAUL ISREAL is vice president of the Jerseyan Club and has also participated in soccer, track and field and the business club.

ERIC JOHNSON has been in cross country track, winter and spring track, appeared in the production of *Godspell*, a chorus member and the traveling choir as well.

DAVID JOHNSON is a mem-

ber of the French Club, SADD, Jerseyan Club, football, baseball and student council. He is currently a Cadet with the South Plainfield Rescue Squad.

MATT KRAVETSKY has been a member of SADD, Business Club, VOICES and Jerseyan Club, tennis team, manager of girls varsity soccer team and on the yearbook staff.

RYAN REVIELLO was on the baseball team, the auto club, a drummer in performance band, jazz band and marching band. Ryan has a 3.0

PGA and honor roll status.

BRADFORD JAMES THADDEUS TIERNEY is President of the Student Council Executive Board, is on the soccer team, tennis team, a member of the Jerseyan Club, SADD, math team, academic team, Jades and traveling choir.

The Winners and Runners-Up

LATOYA POSEY (queen) is a member of the business club, Spanish club and RARE, involved in chorus, orchestra. She holds a black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

MICHAEL SPANGLER (king) has participated in baseball and basketball, maintains a 3.0 GPA, is involved in RARE, SADD, SAFTE and the auto club.

THERESA VITALE (1st runner-up) is a member of RARE, SADD, the gymnastics team, French Club and winter track. She has been in the Somerset County Vo-Tech gifted and talented dance program.

DAVID FRIEDLAND (1st runner-up) is on the football team and is this year's captain. He is also a member of the track team, weightlifting club and environmental science club.

TIM GOETZ (2nd runner-up) is involved in the Jerseyan Club and R.A.R.E., president of the Cabinet Making and Manufacturing class and a gymnast who has spent the last seven years competing.

CORTNEY ENGLISH (2nd runner-up) is active in varsity soccer, a cheerleader, environmental science club, Project Graduation's Scoop Dinner, softball, student council, business club and Jerseyan club.

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The Alternative View

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



Dear Dr. DeCosta:

My sister was telling me that her chiropractor says that just because a person does not have any symptoms, it does not mean they are healthy or that they do not need an adjustment. I don't understand how that can be. Is my sister's chiropractor correct? - P. T.

Dear P.T.:

I totally agree with your sister's chiropractor. Somewhere during the ages of mankind's existence, we have been taught that we can gauge how good our health is by how we feel. This is one of the most dangerous misconceptions mankind has learned to accept.

Aches, pains and symptoms in general are not a definite indication of an unhealthy body, nor is the lack of such, an accurate indication of a healthy body. For example, let us suppose you stop at a restaurant and order a hamburger. The meat in the burger happens to be spoiled. On your way home, you begin to vomit. You may barely make it home and you begin to experience diarrhea. You say you are sick (unhealthy) and must somehow stop the vomiting and diarrhea.

In the above situation, are you actually unhealthy? The answer is no! If your body is healthy, it should clear out the poison (spoiled meat) from your system as quickly as possible. It would be unhealthy if your body could not clear out these toxins by vomiting, diarrhea, or running a fever. Then the poison would attack some other part of your body and cause even more problems.

On the other side of the situation, let's take a person who is subluxated. Remember, a subluxation is a bone of the spine which has slipped from its normal position and is interfering with the Innate Intelligence (Life Force) of the body. Innate Intelligence is responsible for running all the body's functions. Therefore, a subluxation keeps the life force from being transmitted over the nerve system as it should. As a result of the subluxation, that person's entire body will suffer.

The person who is walking around with a subluxation is being robbed of their vital Innate Intelligence! This could result in the body functioning poorly and becoming weak. The weakness and improper function happens so subtly that the person is very often unaware that it is happening. In this common situation, the subluxation has existed, weakening and hindering the body functions for months, or often-times years. When the body can no longer control the weakened parts on its own, it begins to give off symptoms or warning signs.

For example, take the person who has just been to the hospital for a complete check-up and was pronounced healthy. On the way home, he runs out of gas a half block away from the gas station. He pushes his car to the gas pump and while standing there catching his breath, he falls over dead with a heart attack. He had no symptoms but was definitely unhealthy for a long period of time in order for his heart to get so weak that it stopped working when put under a strain.

The above analogies are but a few of the many I could share with you. I hope this helps you understand why chiropractors refer to subluxations as the "silent killer."

The point is vital and must be made clear. Symptoms are a very dangerous way of deciding whether or not you are in good health! Symptoms, or lack of symptoms, are an even poorer way of determining if a chiropractic adjustment is needed or not.

There is only one way to know if you need to be adjusted or not and that is to be checked on a regular basis by the person trained in the science and art of locating, analyzing and correcting vertebral subluxations—your chiropractor.

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.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town on a Fire Engine

In order to raise money for their upcoming 100th Anniversary (May 2007) and Firemen's Memorial, the members of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company will have Santa deliver Christmas presents by fire engine. Can you imagine how excited your children would be to have Santa bring them a present on a fire engine! This fundraiser was a big hit last year. So make sure you get in on it early.

Here's how it will work—The cost is a \$15 donation from each family who would like Santa to deliver their presents. A \$15 check should be made payable to the SPVFC 100th Anniversary. All of the \$15 will go directly to 100th Anniversary fund. You are also asked to wrap a small gift for Santa to give to your child. Small presents are all that is necessary. Gifts should cost no more than \$20. Please do not give expensive gifts. After you wrap the gift, please put your child's name and address securely on the gift. Firefighters will visit every block in the borough to deliver the gifts. They will sound their sirens and activate their lights. The children can then come to the engine and receive their gift from Santa and his elves. All you need is a camera.

Please fill out the form below completely. Drop the check, the form and the gift(s) off at Fire Headquarters from November 29 and December 3, between the hours of 6 to 9 p.m. If you are unable to make these dates or times, please call the Activities Hotline and special arrangements will be made.

Santa will be delivering presents on December 13, 14, 15, 16, December 17 will be used as an overflow day. This is a huge undertaking by the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company so it is very important that we have the proper information for each gift so that no child is disappointed.

You can call the SPVFC Activities Hotline 908-412-8868 and leave a message should you have questions and they will get back to you.

Please print

Family Name: _____

Names of Child or Children Receiving Gifts: _____

Age of Child or Children: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of Gifts: _____

School District: _____

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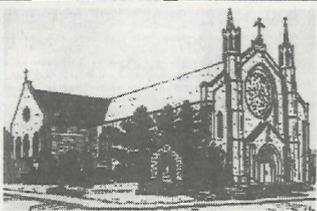
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Mass Schedule:

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.
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Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 11 a.m.- 12 noon, 5:15 -5:45 p.m.
and after 5:45 p.m. Vigil Mass



SPORTS



Pictured are members of the Pop Warner Mighty Mites Cheerleaders at a competition held in Hillsborough.

Tigers Trounce South Amboy 46-0

By Brian Cochran

The South Plainfield Tiger Football Team finished out their 1999 schedule with a convincing home victory over St. Mary's of South Amboy 46-0. Once again Lamaar Grier took the reigns and led the Tiger offense to their biggest output of the year, scoring on the third play from scrimmage from 26 yards out. Three plays later Lamaar picked off an Eagle pass and returned it 45 yards to put the Tigers up 14-0 just five minutes into the game.

Using a good mix of Grier and Chris Francis on the ground, South Plainfield seemed to drive downfield at will with the Tiger offensive line constantly opening up huge holes for our running backs. Lamaar closed out the first quarter by taking a halfback counter 25 yards to pay dirt for a 20-0 lead.

The second quarter was Chris Francis time, as he took every hand off on the drive and finally punched it in from 12 yards out to extend the lead to 27.

The Tiger defense was equally

impressive as they held So. Amboy to a total of 3 first downs all game with all three coming on the Eagles final drive. Senior linebacker Kenny Baker got the Tiger defense on the scoreboard again with a 26-yard interception return for a touchdown just before the half ended.

The South Plainfield dominance continued as they opened the second half with a five minute 55 yard drive capped off by Lamaar Grier's 13 yard touchdown through a gapping

hole in the middle of the Eagle defense. Sophomore fullback, Andrew Fyffe, rounded out the nights scoring with a 45 yard dash to the end zone with 3:08 to go in the game. South Plainfield finished the regular season schedule with a 4-5 record but as we go to press, word has it the Tigers have picked up another game that may be played this weekend. A Tiger win will put them at the .500 mark in what has been an exciting football season.

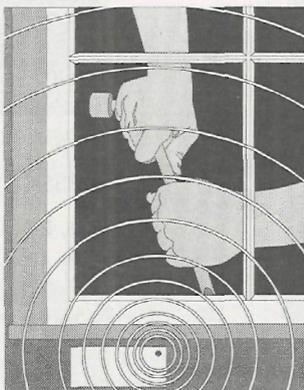
Elks Entertainment Coupon Books Support Our Veterans

Once again the Entertainment coupon books are available offering great discounts and shopping bargains. The books sell for \$30 and may be purchased from many sources! This year, you are invited and encouraged to buy the Entertainment books from the South Plainfield Elks Veterans Service Committee. (Lou Peralta, Chrmn. 908-756-6406). If you are going

to buy one anyway, please take a moment to call Lou, and buy one through the Veterans Committee.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) do more to support and care for our veterans than any other group outside of the US Government! The ELKS need your help, as they are taking up the slack in the face of Veteran government's cutbacks.

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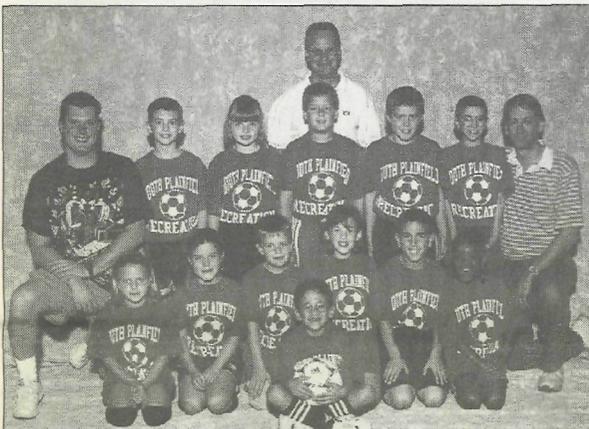
SPORTS

Recreation Soccer Teams

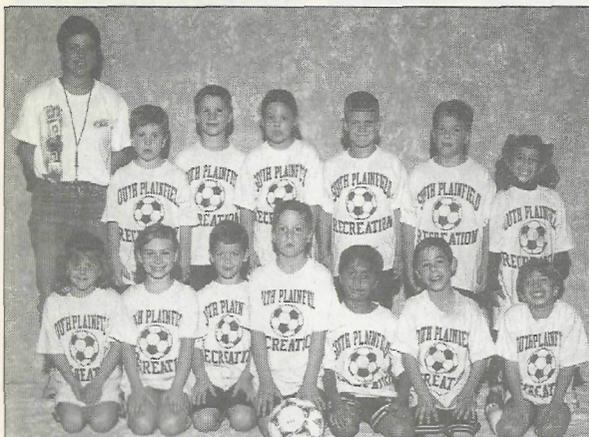
NOTE: In the last issue of the Observer, we had a picture of the C League Galaxy's and identified them as the D League Lions. We are running both team pictures and names correctly this week!



Team : D League Lions—Coach: John Krylowski—Players: Brandon Staynings, Brenden Berry, Adam Buck, Ryan Billich, Ryan Lind, Jeffrey Gillen, Cassandra Vazquez, Ryan Hutchinson, Kyle O'Keefe and Idris Sadiq.



Team : C League Galaxies—Coach: Keith Heckel—Players: Jenna Heckel, Erik White, J.P Barry, Scot Bishop, Ray Coletta, Kristie Crilley, Elizabeth Fasullo, Steven Grzenda, Richard Harzula, Joseph Mennuit, Tim Moskal, Joanna Nastarowicz, Matthew Praul and Bria Edmonds.



Team : C League Dolphins—Coach: Eleanor Soisson—Players: Nicole Soisson, Jimmy Bijlani, Joey Cenentano, Stephen Coppi, Michael Dezmin, Jason Gray, Daniel Hansen, Joseph Lacerda, Amber Miller, Andrew Muhlgeier, Matthew Nidgro, Brian Pullen, Nicole Rann and Lisa Anna Migliore.



Pictured above is a team photo taken at the recent Alumni Soccer Game. The team featured some of the past stars of the high school soccer program over the past 30 years.

Junior Baseball Club Notes

By Frank Hanley

2000 Season Registration

January Registration for the 2000 season will be held from 6 - 9 p.m Thursday and Friday, Jan. 13 and 14 and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15. Registration fees are \$55 for one player, \$85 for two players, and \$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 8 years old before August 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 available and may be purchased at the monthly meetings.

Parent Involvement

Parents are encouraged to get involved in the many club committees. Any parent interested in being a team manager or coach, or umpire can sign up at registration or at the regular monthly

meeting.

Monthly 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 meeting is held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse.

Woman's Auxiliary

NEW.. NEW ... !!! Custom SPJBC outdoor flags are now being offered. The flags are two by three feet, white, black and green, with the new SPJBC logo. The cost is \$21 per flag. Contact Carolyn White at 561-8723 for more information.

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 offered at a cost of \$5.50 per jar (cash & carry). For more information, contact Cindy

Eichler at 769-4047.

Contact the SPJBC. clubhouse at (908)754-2090 or email SPJBC99@aol.com; Web Site members.aol.com/spjbc/spjbc.html.

Events at a Glance

Woman's Holiday Party - Friday Dec 3 at 6:30 at Flanagan's; *Men's Monthly Meeting* - Monday Dec. 6 at 7:30 at the clubhouse; *Registration* - January 13, 14, 15 at the clubhouse; *Tryouts* - Saturday March 4 at the PAL and *Opening Day* - Saturday April 15

Santa's Coming to the PAL

Santa Claus will be at the PAL Building on Saturday, Dec. 18 at 2 p.m. Children from new borns to age ten are invited, but must be accompanied with their parents. There will be movies, gifts, pictures with Santa.

Register at the PAL by Dec. 3. Registration is \$5 per child.

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



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Obituaries

Mary Walsh Wingren, 86

Mary Walsh Wingren died on Wednesday, Nov. 3, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born in Lancaster County, England, and came to the United States in 1924, settling in Boston. She had resided in Vandergrift, Pa. and in Newark and Hillside before moving to South Plainfield in 1973.

She had worked for a few years in the housekeeping department of Muhlenberg Hospital in Plainfield and later worked as a waitress for many years in various restaurants in Newark before retiring in 1972.

Her husband, William Wingren,

died in 1973.

She is survived by four daughters, Lavina and Henry Stepple of Stirling, Patricia Bravo of Asbury (NJ), Deborah and Dave Fisher of Avonmore, Pa. and Cynthia and Edward Cassidy of Coconut Creek, Fla.; three sons, William and Patricia Wingren of White Meadow Lakes (NJ), James K. Wingren and Walter T. Wingren, both of South Plainfield; a sister, Jesie Froncek of Janesville, Wisconsin; a brother-in-law, Leonard Wingren of Jackson and by her 14 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Victor Rosanio, 84

Victor Rosanio died on Thursday, Nov. 4, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Philadelphia, Pa., Mr. Rosanio had resided in South Plainfield for many years.

He was a World War II veteran of the United States Army, where he served as a truck mechanic in the 41st Infantry Division, serving in the South Pacific and was awarded a Silver Star, the American Defense Service Medal, the good Conduct Medal and the Philippines Liberation Ribbon with Bronze Star.

Mr. Rosanio was an iron worker with local #480 of Elizabeth and prior to that with Local #405 of Philadelphia for 35 years before his retirement in 1984.

He was a member of the South Plainfield Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post #6763 and the American Legion Chaumont Post #243 of South Plainfield.

Mr. Rosanio had attended Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in South Plainfield.

He is predeceased by his wife, Sofia Rosanio, who died on June 20, 1986 and five brothers and sisters.

Surviving are a daughter, Dolores, and son-in-law Peter Namotka of South Plainfield and a son, Joseph Rosanio of Pa. Also surviving are seven grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and one great-great granddaughter.

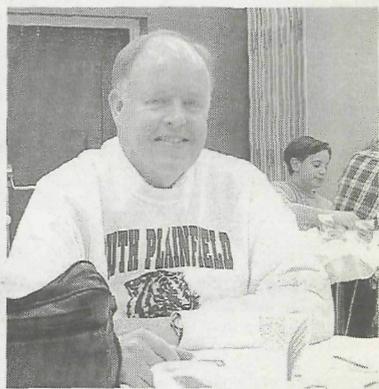
Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the American Cancer N.J. Division, 846 Main Street, Fords, NJ 08818.



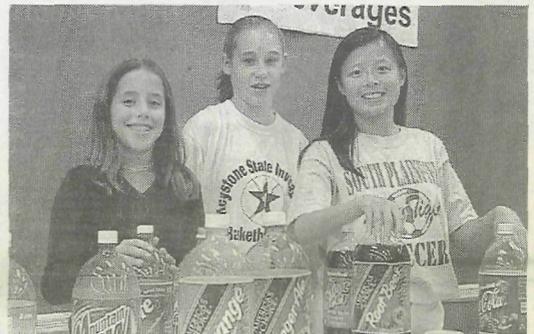
SACRED HEART SCHOOL - Halloween Parade!

Sacred Heart school held its annual "Halloween Parade" on Friday, Oct. 29. All of the children from grades Pre-K through 8 were able to proudly display their costumes for the onlookers on the school playground. It was an exciting day for all! Sister Cornelia Ramirez, RVM and Rev. Thomas Ganley joined in the fun as well!



Scoop Dinner Benefits Project Graduation

South Plainfield High School Project Graduation was held at South Plainfield High School Cafeteria on Thursday, Nov. 4. All proceeds benefit Project Graduation, a celebration for all graduating seniors on graduation night. Thanks to all who attended. You are helping to keep graduation safe and drug-free.



Because We Care



by Robert Hunter

REACHING BEYOND ONESELF

While there are those who think that there are goals and actions beyond their capabilities, others place little or no limitation on their potential. They see beyond themselves, to a world that invites attempts to succeed that are tempered with failure. They are not derailed by setbacks because their goal is simply to strive to see how much they can gain in personal attainment, in the spiritual as well as material sense. As David Hume once said, "Among the other excellencies of man, this is one, that he can form the image of perfection much beyond what he has experience of in himself, and is not limited in his conception of wisdom and virtue."

Rightfully proud of our ability to manifest our dreams, we so often fail to take into account those who have prepared the way for our success. Only in moments of quiet reflection do the memories of those who silently struggled and gave of themselves that others might succeed enter our minds and hearts. The staff at the JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME, located at 2456 Plainfield Avenue in South Plainfield, can assist you in paying final tribute to the silent heroes and heroines in your life. To schedule a consultation, call 756-2800. Cremation services available.

"This is the very perfection of man, to find out his own perfection."

- Augustine of Hippo

By Cyrus n Moon

Weekly Horoscope 11/12-11/18

SCORPIO 10/23-11/21 You have an opportunity to bring about more satisfactory family relationships, a change for the better in your home environment. Also, you can make improvements in a family business, and a chance to sell or restore homes. And if you can, make that relationship with your mom better. SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21 The path to attaining the object of your heart's desires is littered with one obstacle or another during this period. No matter what the situation, the best advice is not to let your emotions go overboard. Keep going and you will achieve whatever your aims are in the near future. CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19 This is a time when you need to get your partner into a stable relationship. Do not let your partner lean on you too much, for the relationship may be based on dependency rather than love, which will not serve either of you well. And as you get older, the years will smile on you. AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18 This is a time for change! You can have problems with any relationship that is holding you down. Relationships may break up now, but not to those who are open to new and challenging experiences. The break up will happen to those who have a rigid and routine relationship.

Pisces 2/19-3/20 This week some mystery or confusion regarding your family or background may emerge. Be careful of a flood in your home or a gas leak. Keep a close eye on your possessions since there is increased potential to lose them through carelessness or theft. Think positive. ARIES 3/21-4/19 Your feelings run strong this week, and they are likely to rule your actions. But this can be controlled and even used to advantage, so long as you are aware of it. So speak up for your views without being nasty. Also a heart-to-heart talk will help make a friendship a lot stronger. TAURUS 4/20-5/20 Tension could result this week as your outer self (public, professional life, perhaps) comes into conflict with your inner emotional needs. Try to bring them into balance. Think how you want to handle a situation instead of shooting from the hip. Take a walk and think. GEMINI 5/21-6/20 If you've been needing to have a good talk with someone you love, go for it, but be flexible. You may not agree, and will need to compromise, but your ability to express yourself is better than usual. Also, a letter you've been thinking about writing, "write it." And do a little shopping! CANCER 6/21-7/22 At this time be care-

ful with commitment in a love relationship, you can walk into this without really watching where you are going. Look for someone who has both feet on the ground, a trustworthy person whose advice you can listen and adhere to. And you know who you are out there. LEO 7/23-8/22 This is the perfect beginning! Starting this weekend a transit, moon sextiles sun, you will be able to take stock of yourself and not be caught up in the turmoil and rush of events. You can have breathing space from a relationship. Get together with friends as they can unexpectedly improve your life in small ways. VIRGO 8/23-9/22 This is a time when you have the chance to take physical action of some kind. Your ideas become physical realities, such as the purchase of a car and learning how to handle it. A sports car maybe? So you do have the capabilities to accomplish work and physical tasks more efficiently. LIBRA 9/22-10/22 It's time for you to let that person you love know how you feel. Even if you do not have the knack of writing, a venus sextiles mercury gives you the opportunity to express to your love how you feel. A poem should be quite easy for you at this time to write. There are business opportunities out there also. QUOTE: Funny how life passes so quickly while growing old, And how slow time goes by when you not here.

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POLICE REPORT

• Police responded to a call of vehicle flipped over behind Maxim's, Oak Tree Rd. A motorist from Newark was trapped half-way out of his pickup truck, which was lying on its roof. The victim works for a cleaning company that cleans the parking lot. He stated that he left the parking lot eastbound on Oak Tree Road when a blue Chevy Blazer came up behind him. He said the truck was carrying four men wearing red shirts with red bandanas on their heads. He made a right turn onto Park Ave. and the truck continued to follow him. He drove back into the parking lot behind Maxim's and the truck rammed his pickup causing it to flip over. He believes the suspects are members of a street gang known as the Bloods and he felt that they were out to get him because he was wearing a blue shirt, which is the symbol of the street gang, the Crips. The fire dept. and rescue squad extricated the victim. Witnesses reported seeing the victim cleaning the parking lot but did not see the blue Blazer. Fur-

ther investigation showed no signs of the pick up being rammed by another vehicle.

• A May Ave. resident reported equipment stolen from the rear of his employer's vehicle while it was parked in his driveway.

• Safeguard Security, New York reported the theft of a security vehicle from the parking lot of Oak Park Commons. The vehicle was left with a dead battery. Another security guard was patrolling the lot and saw a man in a red car jump start the security truck and drive away. The security guard on patrol stated that she had overheard a supervisor say that he had given the keys to a mechanic who took the truck to an undisclosed location due to a mechanics lien.

• Robert Smith of Broadheads-ville, Pa. was arrested for shoplifting \$30.46 worth of merchandise from Kmart, Hadley Road.

• An Arlington Ave. resident reported the left rear tire removed from his vehicle while it was

parked in his driveway. The vehicle was left propped on a wooden block.

• A Bolliger Way resident reported her car, a 1990 Dodge Dynasty, stolen from her driveway.

• A Pulaski St. resident reported the passenger side rear window of her vehicle had been smashed. Nothing was removed from the car.

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Celebrating 50 Years of Service

James W. Conroy Funeral Home

Over the last fifty years, the James W. Conroy Funeral Home has been helping the myriad of families that have passed through their doors, not only by extending their professional services, but by offering the caring, personal touches which help ease the burden of those they serve.

For owner-manager Robert Hunter, the funeral home's Golden Anniversary marks a continuing tradition of excellence in service which his father-in-law, the late James W. Conroy, began so many years ago in the close-knit South Plainfield community. Opening on October 27, 1949, the funeral home is still located at an historic Plainfield Avenue residence which dates back to the early 1900's and was originally owned by the Truesdale family. "Back then Jimmy operated out of three small rooms in the front of the original house," Mr. Hunter said.

Over the years, the funeral home has grown along with the community and in 1955, the building's first addition was underway. Mr. Hunter said a much larger expansion was added in the 1960's to further accommodate families more comfortably. From the start, Jimmy Conroy quickly became an integral part of the South Plainfield community. He worked tirelessly to serve his families and donated his time to many service organizations within the borough. He married the former Loretta DeFilipo, a life-long South Plainfield resident and together they raised two children, Roberta, wife of Mr. Hunter and Jim who also resides in South Plainfield with his wife Karen and their three sons, Jimmy, Jonathan and Jeffrey.

After Mr. Conroy's untimely death in 1973, his wife Loretta took over until 1983 when the family business was passed on to the Hunters. "I first started working at Conroy's in 1970 when I was a senior at South Plainfield High School," Mr. Hunter said. From college, he went on to graduate from the American Academy - McAllister Institute of Funeral Service in New York. He obtained his state and national licenses there and advanced to the position of manager at Conroy's in 1979.

Under the direction of Bob and Roberta Hunter, the home has continued to flourish. It has been redecorated and refurbished to maintain its classic comfort and beauty. "We re-decorated in 1990 and recently added some traditional Victorian moldings and shingles to the exterior of the building," Mr. Hunter said. New landscaping has also added to the pristine look of this classic building.

Of particular interest are the unique oil paintings that adorn the interior walls of the funeral home. Portraits of South Plainfield's old buildings and churches are all creations of the noted New Jersey artist Charles Sivco, who was a good friend of Jimmy's at Bound Brook High School. "Fortunately for South Plainfield, Mr. Conroy had the foresight to preserve the town's



history. Most of the buildings depicted in this unparalleled collection have since been remodeled or demolished," Mr. Hunter said.

The oldest among the portraits is a rendering of South Plainfield's old railroad station. The razed building formerly stood on Hamilton Boulevard in the center of town. There is also a portrait of the original Sacred Heart Church and one of Wesley Methodist Church which is a recent addition to the collection. Mr. Sivco also painted the funeral home as it looks today as well as a portrait of James W. Conroy which graces the entrance foyer of the home.

How have the workings of the funeral home changed in the last fifty years since it began? Mr. Hunter said today they are very involved in pre-planning. "We're one of the top Fore-Thought Funeral Planning establishments in the state. Many people take advantage of this service and pre-arrange and pay for their funerals now. Payments go into an interest bearing insurance plan and product lines are guaranteed." Will packages are also provided in conjunction with the pre-planning service. "If logistically possible, we also do arrangements, whether traditional or pre-planning, in the comfort of your home."

Moving into a new era, the James W. Conroy Funeral Home continues to be more than a business for Bob and Roberta. It is also a family legacy which may one day be passed on to their own children, Ryan, Colin, Caitlin and Patrick. "Our oldest son Ryan is in college and Colin is a senior at South Plainfield High School. Both boys help out in the business, but it's too early to say if they will make it their future," Mr. Hunter said.

For now, the Hunters remain devoted to their business and their hometown of South Plainfield. To give back to the community, they volunteer many hours on a number of civic and cultural organizations which have included the Rotary Club, the Knights of Columbus, Pop Warner Football, the South Plainfield Wrestling Club and more. Bob is also a former Vice-president and current charter member of the South Plainfield Education Foundation's Vision 2001 which provides scholarship funds for deserving South Plainfield High School graduating seniors.

In recognition for his time and generous contributions, Bob was inducted into the South Plainfield High School Hall of Fame in 1998.



James W. Conroy

Bob recently looked back through the endless stream of personal thank you notes that have been received over the years and reflected on the funeral home's growth, progress and fifty year milestone. "We believe each family we care for is an extension of our own. Families are touched by the sincere caring and compassionate service we provide. They also appreciate the extra time we give to their loved ones—presenting them as they actually looked is something we pride ourselves on. One note we received thanked us for making their mother as beautiful on the outside as she was on the inside. Giving that little bit extra of yourself is what people remember most. It is the key to our success, and we extend our thanks and gratitude to all of our "families" whom we have provided for over the past fifty years. It is our hope and commitment to serve you as we always have, with caring compassion and professional excellence far into the new millennium."

A Golden Anniversary Celebration is currently being planned for the spring of 2000. Please check local papers for an announcement.

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