

SOUTH PLAINFIELD
FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
2484 PLAINFIELD AVE
SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080

SPFLD PUBLIC LIBRARY
2484 PLAINFIELD AVE
South Plainfield NJ 07080

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 3, NO. 14

50 CENTS

DECEMBER 10, 1999

McCriskin's Annual Tree Lighting Honors American Serviceman

On Dec. 12, 1985, a plane carrying servicemen, members of the 101st Airborne Division, The Screaming Eagles, crashed in Newfoundland, Canada. Two hundred and forty eight aboard were killed. Each year the McCriskin Family, with ties to the military and a deep respect for military tradition, have transformed the decorating of a tree into a living memorial for those who lost their lives in the plane crash. A plaque set beneath the tree is dedicated to the memory of those American servicemen.

The towering tree, bearing 13,000 white lights will be lit on Saturday, Dec. 11. A memorial service will held on the lawn of McCriskin's prior to the lighting. The ceremony brings veterans and their families to the site, often in bitter cold, to honor the fallen Eagles.

Attending will be members of the 101st Airborne Division Association and members of General



Anthony C. McAuliffe, New York/New Jersey chapter.

The 13,000 lights become a beacon in the dark. Visible for quite a distance, the tiny lights shine like stars, each twinkling in

memory of the 101st Airborne-Screaming Eagles.

The public is invited to join in the ceremonies which start at 11 a.m. in front of McCriskin Home for Funerals on Plainfield Ave.

Vision 2001 Celebrates Fifth Year

For the past five years Vision 2001 has been supporting students in South Plainfield through scholarships, endowment programs, academic incentive programs and school equipment.

At ceremonies held last week at South Plainfield High School, Vision 2001 recognized many of those who have helped support them during the past five years.

Emil Leporino thanked everyone in South Plainfield who has supported Vision 2001 fundraising

events and the hundreds who have annually purchased 50/50 tickets.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the following businesses and supporters of Vision 2001: Steven Crisculo of Innovative Folding Carton, Bobbie Dowling and Ron Nobile of Dugusssa/Hüls Corp., Bill and Bruce Jayne of Hall's Warehouse Corp., Antoinette Tamburro and Antoinette Lynch of United National Bank, Board of Education member Frank Mikorski, Bob Cirafesi of Wilentz Group, Carolyn Allen of Columbia Savings Bank, Wallace Giakas of Planet Entertainment, Scott Prisco and Dawn Dicroce of Prisco and Edwards, Rob Stoffel of Doyle

Consulting, Mary Calvin of Xerox Corporation, Sara Chrysanthopoulos of VA Designs Inc., Nancy Grennier of the South Plainfield Observer, Tom and Faith Gaul of Services Plus, Nancy Regan of the SPSHS PTA, Robert Hunter of James W. Conroy Funeral Home, Andrew and Darlene Pinto of Pinto Brothers Disposal, Linda Duquette from the Franklin School PTA, Manny Vargis, Richard Doerr, William Dowdall of Sodexo Marriott Services Dan Radokovich, Dr. Alice Tempel, Richard DePinto of Presto Printing, Cheryl Griffith of Summit Bank, John Robustelli of Jesco, Inc., South Plainfield Reporter, Dawn Wallis and Kathy Petrocelli.

Fire Dept. Accepting Reservations For Santa on Fire Engine

The fire department is still accepting applications to their Santa Claus is Coming on a Fire Engine program.

For a \$15 donation from each family, Santa will come in a fire truck and present a gift to their child. To register, make out a check payable to SPVFC 100th Anniversary and bring it to the fire department, along with a wrapped gift Santa can give to your child. Be sure to put your child's name on the gift. The gift should not cost more \$20. For more information, call the Activities Hotline at 908-412-8868.



Over a dozen Public Service Electric & Gas Co. trucks converged in South Plainfield in the Sampton Ave. vicinity. According to reports pressure in the gas lines was reduced dramatically. As pressure was restored each resident was visited by the utility company to make sure pilot lights were lit and gas pressure was sufficient.

School Board Referendum Vote Next Tuesday

Next Tuesday the voters of South Plainfield will have the opportunity to vote for or against the \$22.5 million bond referendum. Superintendent of Schools Guy Ferri has been speaking at school functions and various meetings in town explaining the details of the referendum and the consequences if it fails.

The \$22.5 million bond referendum covers construction of a new Roosevelt School, Grant School renovations and the conversion of the old Roosevelt School for use as the school board administration offices. After renovations Grant School will have 28 additional classrooms.

Included in the bond referendum 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 the schools.

The proposed Roosevelt School includes 28 classrooms, six smaller classrooms, two spe-

cial education rooms, a media center, electronic library, multipurpose room and a gym. The new classrooms will be 800 square feet.

The bond will be paid for over a 20-year period and the average cost per taxpayer will be approximately \$12.50 per month.

The need for additional classrooms is due to the construction which is now taking place on the south side of town—an apartment complex on Durham Ave. which will accommodate over 350 units. In addition, the Planning Board recently approved the construction of 355 units consisting of townhouses and condominiums on Coppola's property on New Durham Ave. A recent study reported that over 851 students will be enrolling our school district during the next few years.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Be sure you do your civic duty and vote. Letters for and against the bond referendum can be read on pages 2, 3 and 7.

Borough News

■ The 2000 Reorganization meeting by the mayor and council will be held on Sunday, Jan. 2, 2000.

■ The council has authorized \$17,775.36 to purchase computers and software for 18 workstations in Borough Hall from Gateway. This amount will also be used to update the present computers.

■ The Borough has again entered into an Inter-Local Service Agreement (ILSA) with the Middlesex County Improvement Authority (MCIA) to host a county-wide paint recycling/drop-off site in 2000. The paint recycling site is located at the Borough Recycling Center and will be open on the third Saturday of each month.

■ Councilwoman Darlene Pinto announced that William Miller is resigning from the Land Management Advisory Committee.

■ The State of New Jersey plans to replace and widen the bridge on Park Ave. over the Lehigh Valley Rail Road.



In My Opinion

To the Observer:

On Wednesday, Nov. 24, I received the *Community Contact*—the Newsletter of the South Plainfield Board of Education (BOE) which provided a clear and comprehensive picture of the current state of negotiations between the Board and South Plainfield Education Association (SPEA). The November and December issues of the *South Plainfield Observer* contained multiple letters pertaining to the whole subject. The first one, by Ms. L. A. Mruz, President of the SPEA, was supposedly written to "correct many misleading statements that Frank Mikorski, a member of the BOE's negotiating team, has been making concerning the current contract negotiations. Mr. Mikorski has chosen to alarm the public into believing that the teachers want double digit salary increases and free medical benefits. At the same time he has neglected to say that the board's original proposals included zero percent increases for the new contract."

According to the *Community Contact*, initially the SPEA proposed to increase aide's salaries by 59% over three years. The BOE initially proposed no wage increase for aides. But this was in April, 1999. Now, at the end of November, 1999, the SPEA still proposes a wage increase for aides of 40.5% over the next three years, while the BOE proposes a 7.7% increase over this same period. You are, of course, aware of that Ms. Mruz. So who is misleading the public?

Your letter, Ms. Mruz, also carries such statements as, "while school time is approximately 35 hours, Mr. Mikorski and the public know that teachers work many additional hours beyond the school day—before and after school, at home at night, on weekends and even during vacation periods."

In the Nov. 16 issue of the other local weekly, there is a story of a teacher who just obtained tenure in a South Plainfield school. She is, of course, a member of the SPEA. She states, "When I first started teaching, I wanted to be home when my kids were and wanted the summers off to be with my own children."

Reading Mr. Mikorski's letter, he wrote "The average teacher's salary is approximately \$55,500. Secretaries get \$36,000 for a 35 hour work week." Notice the punctuation and sentence structure. How did you, Ms. Mruz, get the idea that 35 hours refers to teachers?

At the end of Ms. Mruz letter, there is another gripe often raised by the Teacher's Union: "Mr. Mikorski reminds the associate that 'we're living in the real world.' Well, in the real world, new college graduates in professions other than education often not only get high starting salaries, but also opportunities for stock options, bonuses, expense accounts and other fringe benefits. (Educators don't expect these kinds of perks.)"

The starting salary for teachers in South Plainfield is \$33,000 for 10 months with automatic increases not related to performance. The average salary is above mentioned, \$55,500 for 10 months. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average salary in the USA of people with four or more years of college education is approximately \$35,000 for 12 months with raises based on performance.

From the book "The Conspiracy of Ignorance—The Failure of American Public Schools" by Martin L. Gross: "The State of Pennsylvania studied 91 teacher training programs and their student populations and came up with highly discouraging findings. . . . Few teacher education programs had meaningful admission standards. Most undergraduate programs, at best, required prospective students to have a 2.5 grade point average prior to majoring in education—85 Students with a C+ average in high school can hardly serve as effective teachers. The U.S. Department of Education confirms the Pennsylvania study: 'Too many teachers are being drawn from the bottom quarter and third of the graduating high school and college students.' In 1997 the average combined verbal and math SAT score for all American (high school) students was 1016. The average combined SAT score for those who intended to enter educa-

tional schools was 964, far below average."

From the same source: "Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is taken by college seniors who intended to do graduate work in one of the eight fields: business, engineering, health sciences, humanities, life sciences, social sciences, physical sciences, and education. How did teachers do in all three areas of the GRE tests, verbal, quantitative, and analytical? Overall, the combined average score for 1.1 million test-takers was 1,577. The teachers came in last with 1,477, while the physical scientists were at the top with 1,779, followed by engineers, with 1,762. (Incidentally, the scientists also topped the educators on the verbal score.)"

Is your comparison of salaries still applicable, Ms. Mruz?

As far as a letter by Mr. R. Gumina is concerned, he is complaining that his wife "after working in this school system for seven years, earns slightly more than \$40,000 a year." If his wife would have been admitted to one of the U.S. engineering schools and studied differential equations instead of "History of Mathematics" or "Art and Science of Teaching", maybe she could have become, say, a mechanical engineer.

After 20 years of work, she would be making the average U.S. salary for mechanical engineers of \$41,000 per 12 months of work. Instead of having job for life, as a teacher, and automatic raises independent of effort, her work as mechanical engineer will be evaluated and judged daily.

If Mr. Gumina would like to claim that tenure, as it is practice in New Jersey, does not mean a job for life or discuss health insurance and guaranteed pension of South Plainfield teachers versus the U.S. college educated population, it can be done. But it has to be based on facts, not on New Jersey Education Association commercials.

SINCERELY,
BOGDAN FRYSZCZYN

To the Editor,

If we ignore history it tends to repeat itself.

To Wit:

The year was 1970. We are dealing with an egotistical Board of Education looking for something new to give to the district of South Plainfield. Aha—what about an Open Space High School? Do we need an Open space High School?

Who cares it's something catchy,

let's do it. How much do you think it will cost? Who cares. Let's start with \$10 million to build the school, another 7/8 million for a twenty year bond.

How big should we make this new school? Let's look at the enrollment figures for the 60's. Gee they're going down—forget it. We'll make the new school big enough to accommodate 2,600 students—that a nice number. A basketball court to seat 2,200—not bad. An auditorium to seat 1,100, big stage, music room labs, etc. You get the idea, BIG.

A short time after the new school is built, we knew it did not work. What to do! Put up walls. You're making me laugh.

How many students are there in the OPEN—now closed high school? Don't laugh—900 is the magic number. We missed the estimate by 1,700 students.

All buildings should be used for students. Rent a construction trailer and put all administrative personnel in said trailer—superintendent, assistant superintendent, business secretary, etc. By the way, this district does not need an asst. superintendent, there's hardly enough work for a full-time superintendent.

I'm surprised that the BOE member Mr. Mikorski, who I think is a very smart man, goes along with this \$23 million joke. To ask the town to come up with \$23 million more for unneeded space—"school rooms" is criminal.

At one time we had 5,300 students and the same number of buildings we have at the present time. If we had seats for 5,300 students, we certainly can find seats for three or four thousand students. Who the heck are we kidding? If you can't find seats for 3,000 plus students—get off the Board. We don't need another white elephant. Shame on you!

I believe that the tax structure in this town is controlled by 900 special interests votes on election day for the BOE.

The town fathers can put up all the signs they want "NO TAX INCREASE," but the 900 special interest votes will control our tax rate.

If you care about your taxes, then vote down this \$23 million "Boon Doggle." Get a friend out to vote this Bond Down—Help yourself.

PATRICK CRILLEY
FORMER BOE MEMBER

To the Editor,

I would like to encourage South Plainfield voters of all ages to support the School Board Referendum on Dec. 14.

Much has been made about new housing in South Plainfield, which will bring more children into the school system. Whether you the ac-

Submit letters to the editor to:

South Plainfield Observer,
Editorial Dept.,
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B
South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

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.

cept the predictions or not, the time has come to replace a building that was built in 1928 with a modern facility.

The students attending Roosevelt School and the future children and grandchildren deserve an educational complex equal to their peers attending Franklin, Kennedy and Riley schools.

The students from the Roosevelt area have waited long enough to enjoy the benefits of a building that would provide an environment and atmosphere are more comfortable and conducive to learning.

I would especially appeal to the parents, grandparents and seniors who do not have children in school any more to remember their parents, grandparents and seniors who voted to build new facilities for them to attend as far back as 1956 through the 1970's.

One thing I will always be proud of in my 40 years of living and teaching in South Plainfield, is that through all of those growing years the citizens of South Plainfield tightened their belts and voted "YES" to build six facilities because we needed them. It is our turn now to do the same.

What a perfect way to enter the new millennium with a commitment to the future students of Roosevelt School.

ANTHONY P. SINCAVAGE
FORMER PRINCIPAL OF
JOHN E. RILEY SCHOOL

To the Editor,

Here we go again! Teachers crying for more money! It seems to be very convenient for the Education Associations and the NJEA to conveniently omit some very important pieces to this entire teacher salary picture every time contract negotiations come into view.

One very big eye-opener for the homeowner, the major source of Education Association employees' salaries, benefits, etc., came in the November, 1999, issue of *New Jersey Monthly Magazine*, in an article written by Robert Hennelly titled "The Earning Curve." New Jersey teachers are the second highest paid in the nation. Are we missing something here?

It would be wise to do some old
Continued on page 3

South Plainfield
Observer

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.spobserver.com>
For subscriptions, advertising or information, call (908) 668-0010.

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

NANCY GRENNIER
Publisher/Editor

WAYNE GRENNIER
Associate Publisher

SUSAN KANEPS
Art Director/Associate Editor

PATRICIA ABBOTT
Staff Writer

BRIAN COCHRANE
Sports Writer

BRIGGS LONGBOTHUM
KENNETH MORGAN
Correspondents

ROXANNE CORTESE
USA FOTI

WILLIAM TUTHILL
Advertising Sales

The South Plainfield Observer () is published weekly, except Thanksgiving week, by G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Periodical postage pending at South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080-9998. POSTMASTER Forward change of address orders to G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004.

SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, 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 spobserver.com or ggnan@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

Letters

KACEY'S
"BODACIOUS"
BOUTIQUE'S
"Special Shopping
Nights"—Men Only
Thurs. and Fri.
Dec. 9th & 10th
10% Off All Purchases
Special Hours 6-10 pm
Coffee and cake while you shop
Hours: Wed-Fri 11-3 & 6-8
Saturday 10-3
* CRAFTS * ANTIQUES
* COLLECTIBLES
* CONSIGNMENTS
* GIFTS (wrapped in balloons)
179 Front St. So. Pfd.
(908) 756-7004

**WE CARE
MEDICAL SUPPLIES, INC.**

2325 Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

24 Hr. Emergency Service

(908) 757-7733
Fax (908) 757-7561
Senior Discount

Monday-Friday: 8:30-5:30
Thursday 8:30-8:00
Saturday 9:00-12:00

Letters

Continued from page 2

fashioned math where these so-called terrible salaries are concerned. According to Mr. Mruz, an average salary for a South Plainfield teacher is \$55,500, add to that the \$9,000 for a family health plan and any stipends received for any extracurricular work, and that \$55,500 is now well over \$60,000. It seems to me that earning that kind of salary for working not more than 196 days or 39 weeks a year isn't too shabby. A person in industry with the same average salary of \$55,500, isn't always in a position to have an expense account, or travel expenses, must contribute to the cost of a family health plan and works at least 50 weeks a year, and more than likely is a salaried employee so, in all likelihood, works a lot more than 35-1/2 hours a week, doesn't receive any snow days, doesn't receive any time off for any type of religious holidays, doesn't receive any time off for company conventions, unless involved. As for college degrees, how many companies pay for employees to get their Masters Degree, etc., not too many; however, most of the teachers in this state have obtained their Masters plus degrees paid for by boards of education.

Where do these people think these monies come from when they start their whining and crying about how much money they do not make? When people in industry get so-called "big bucks" in salary increases or perks or whatever, they are gotten on merit, not because of having tenure. Right? Can I choose not to pay my property tax increases when the Education Association is granted outrageous raises?

Once again, I applaud the South Plainfield Board of Education for its efforts on behalf of the taxpayers of South Plainfield. We must take this seriously or else we will be looking at big property tax increases. Teacher salaries is not the only issue coming up. How about the proposed \$2.5 million dollars for school renovations and new buildings. Where does this money come from? You got it, the homeowner!

Hopefully, the salary dispute will be settled in a fair and realistic manner to the benefit of both parties. Wonder how we would do not to renew an Education Association contract?

PATRICIA MCDONOUGH

To The Observer,

For many years Riley School teachers and parents have enjoyed a special family-like relationship. We both realize that it takes a partnership of home and school in order to successfully teach a child. Unfor-

tunately in our fast paced world we sometimes forget to thank the very people who are always there for us. As teachers we'd like to take this opportunity to publicly extend our thanks to the Riley School parents for the continued support you have shown us.

Teaching is not the easiest profession, but in our opinion, it is perhaps one of the most rewarding. As teachers we have the privilege and the responsibility of literally touching the future. While we are working with your children today, we are well aware that they will be the leaders of tomorrow. We take great pride in helping them develop into those future leaders and take this responsibility seriously.

We know that you have heard and read many different stories and opinions regarding our current contract negotiation with the Board of Education. While it's true that we are in the midst of an unresolved conflict with our employer, many of the other circulating stories and printed communications are inaccurate and misleading. We'd like you to know that the quality of your child's education has not changed. We remain as committed to each of our students as we have always been.

"Hand in hand" the Riley School family has accomplished much over the years and will continue to do so. In all families unwavering support and trust is important, especially through difficult times. We're here for you and your kids. Thanks for being here for us!

SINCERELY,
THE RILEY SCHOOL TEACHERS

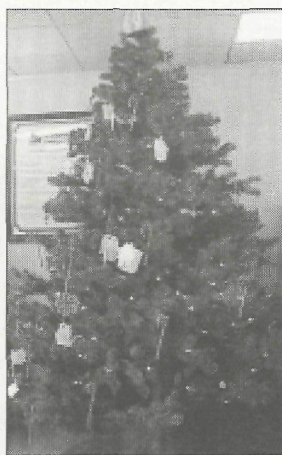
To Chief Merkle,

I'm writing you in praise of Officer Mark DeLair. On Sunday, Nov. 21, I went to the Italian-American Club located off Hamilton Blvd. on the south side of town to watch some of the football games on television. Officer Mark DeLair was also at the club, off duty, and as it turns out it was very fortunate for me that he was.

A group of us were eating an antipasto salad and I started choking on a piece of meat. Nobody knew that I was choking, because for at least a minute I was trying to work the food out with my tongue and drink. Finally, it was too much of a chore and I was completely out of breath. I started pounding the bar and ran over to Officer DeLair and smacked him in the back. I motioned to him that I was choking and he jumped out of his chair and immediately began giving me the Heimlich maneuver.

Needless to say it worked, or I wouldn't be able to write you this

Continued on page 7



Wishing Tree at Columbia Savings and Library

The GFWC Junior Woman's Club of South Plainfield is sponsoring a Wish Tree to benefit the residents of Woodbridge Developmental Center. The purpose of the project is to collect small gifts to add to the holiday joy of the 600 developmentally disabled residents of the center. Holiday trees are decorated with hand-crafted ornaments that have a tag with a list of gift suggestions attached. Individuals are invited to take an ornament and return a wrapped gift in its place, indicating on the package what the gift is.

Wish trees can be found at The South Plainfield Public Library on Plainfield Ave. and Columbia Savings Bank on Oak Tree Ave. Gifts will be collected until December 13.

Santa's Looking for Your Letters

Once again this Christmas season the South Plainfield Post Office will have a special mail box for children to tell Santa what they want for Christmas.

Mail your letters at the South Plainfield Post Office in Santa's Special Mail Box. All letters must be mailed by Saturday, December 18.

S.P. United Way Sponsors Holiday Poinsettia Card

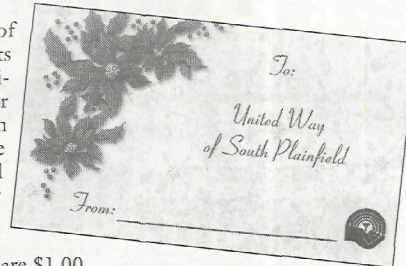
The United Way of South Plainfield wants to help make the holiday season brighter for the neediest families in South Plainfield. Once again this year they will be conducting their annual holiday poinsettia card sale.

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

The Human Service Agencies benefit South Plainfield residents in some of the following services: Homeless Prevention, Visiting Nurse/Home Care Services, Hot Line Services, Boy Scouts, People With Disabili-

ties, Family Counseling and Girl Scouts.

The goal is to raise \$5,000 with all proceeds earmarked for South Plainfield's neediest. Many companies and businesses will be asked to participate. If your company or business would like to participate, please call Jim Lenox at 754-4620 Ext. 217 or call the The Observer at 668-0010.



Pilgrim Covenant Church Learning Center students celebrated a Thanksgiving Feast which included all the traditional trimmings, along with song and dance. Some students made placemats showing what they were thankful for, while others told of what they were thankful for. Their sayings were placed around the room for parents to read. Their lessons included events of the original Thanksgiving and how food may have been prepared.

Next week: PAL - An Historical Recollection

Improve
Your
Computer
Skills
Today!

Enroll Today
Prepare for Tomorrow

www.cecny.com

Call us TODAY to reserve your seat!

908-757-9085

Daytime &
Evening
Classes
Available

Give the Gift of
Learning this
Holiday Season

Enroll Now and Bring
A Friend For Free!

Learn Windows95/98,
Office, Plus Much More!

1110 Hamilton Blvd. So. Plainfield, NJ 07080

COMPUTER EDUCATION
CENTER

Spread some holiday

Let Mofn's
Flowers create a

custom Gourmet Gift Basket for the
special person on your list

~ Gourmet Cheese & Crackers ~

Mofn's Flowers

2325 Plainfield Avenue
So. Plainfield
(908) 561-2808



AROUND TOWN

EVENTS

Elks Plan Annual Christmas Pancake Breakfast

Mark Sunday, Dec. 12 on your calendar! Join us at the Elks for our annual cooked-to-order pancake breakfast celebrating the Christmas season! All are invited to bring family and friends for our ever-popular Christmas time event. In our freshly restored Lodgeroom, we will be serving french toast, pancakes, homefries, eggs any style, bacon and sausage, and toast along with juice, coffee, tea and milk.

Be sure to bring the kids and have their picture taken with Santa Claus (kids, bring you wish list to tell Santa!).

Hours are 8 a.m.-noon. For information, call 668-9750.

Athletic Booster Club Plans Sport Raffle Auction

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

Prizes include an autographed Washington Redskins NFL football, NJ Devils tickets, autographed puzzle postcard of Thurman Thomas, assorted golf apparel, girls and boys bikes.

Santa's Coming To the PAL

Santa Claus will be at the PAL Building on Saturday, Dec. 18 at 2 p.m. Children aged newborn to ten are invited, but must be accompanied by their parents. There will be movies, gifts and pictures with Santa. Register at the PAL by Dec. 3. Registration is \$5 per child.

Breakfast with Santa At Sacred Heart

On Sunday, Dec. 12, Sacred Heart HSA will host a "Breakfast with Santa." This catered event will be held in the school cafeteria from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. The cost is \$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, hash-browns, 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.

UNICO Hosting Holiday Party for Keystone Residents

Plainfield's UNICO will be holding their Annual Holiday Party on Saturday, Dec. 11 at Sacred Heart School at 12 p.m.

Keystone residents will be served lunch by the South Plainfield Girl Scouts. Santa will come and hand out presents from the personalized wish list submitted



The First Baptist Church held their annual holiday Craft Fair last Saturday. Proceeds from the event went to church functions and charity work for the community. The event was sponsored by the Women's Evening Circle.

to UNICO.

Area businesses have donated additional presents that go into individual Christmas bags which will be given to each resident.

If you are interested in donating a personalized present from the Keystone wish list, please call Frank Licato at 757-5500 by December 7.

Columbiettes Upcoming Events

The South Plainfield Columbiettes are 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. Bus will leave the Knights of Columbus Hall at 6 p.m.

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

Polish Home New Year's Eve 2000 Party

South Plainfield Polish Home on New Market Ave. will hold a New Year's Eve Party. A grand buffet, music, special drinks, snacks and giveaways are planned. 10 p.m.-4 a.m., \$5 admission. For information call 668-9442.

Historical Society Monthly Meeting

The next meeting of the South Plainfield Historical Society will be held on Dec. 14 at 7:30 in the high school library.

Members are asked to bring an exchange gift of not over \$2 to the meeting.

Caroling in the Park

Come join the South Plainfield H.S. Chorus, Cultural Arts Commission and South Plainfield Recreation for Caroling at the Gazebo in the Park on Sunday, Dec. 19 at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Senior Line Dancing At PAL Building

Seniors aged 55 and older are invited to join the fun of Line

Dancing on Wednesdays from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. The scheduled dates are Dec. 15 and 29 and Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26.

Line Dance instructors will be Sandy Smehil and Lois Desoto. The fee is \$15 for residents and \$25 for nonresidents. Social and country western dancing will be included. This class will be teaching all the great, popular lines. Sign up at the PAL Building located on Maple Ave.

For info, call the Recreation Department at (908) 226-7714.

Terra Nova Garden Club News

Members of the Terra Nova Garden Club Garden Therapy Committee are continuing their monthly visits to the Muhlenberg Hospital Adultcare Center, as well as quarterly flower arranging at the Lyons V.A. Hospital. The club was again awarded a silver trophy for this program during the past year. Chairman Virginia Nuzzo said,

"We benefit from this program as much as the clients. They are always happy to see us."

The Muhlenberg Adultcare staff held an appreciation dinner for all volunteers to their department recently. Hospital Director John Kpoicki also expressed thanks from the Muhlenberg employees.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Ever hear of the Sports Overlap, when several different sports are all in play. It seems now we're in the Holiday Overlap. Hanukkah and Ramadan are both being observed today, Christmas is in two weeks, Kwanzaa and New Years follow soon after. While you try and get your observances straight, here's news from the South Plainfield Library:

Here's a late word: This month's Children's Craft program is scheduled for this afternoon at 4. It's for children ages six and over. As of this writing, there are still spots available, so call us to reserve your space.

As readers found out last week, this weekend will feature two special events. Tomorrow and Sunday, Sheila Eichenblatt, New Jersey Artist in Residence, will appear at the Library. You can see her from Noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday and 1:30 to 4 p.m. on Sunday. She'll paint watercolors and answer any questions you have. Many of her finished works are already on display here. And on Saturday, we'll hold our all-day salute to longtime employee Eleanor Haines. We'll be serving refreshments from 2 to 4 p.m. Please stop by and wish her well.

Next week, we'll only be holding our Tuesday and Thursday Children's Storytime programs. Each is for children ages three and over. They're held at 10:30 a.m. (Tuesday) and 1:15 p.m. (Thursday). No registration is needed. The Wednesday program

has been replaced next week with our special Holiday Sing-Along program with Mr. Kurt. This program is for children ages 2-8. We'd like you to please pre-register for it, so we can have a good idea on how many kids will be attending. For more information about any of our children's programs, ask Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

The December meeting of the Library Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served.

The Library is still hosting a couple of charity drives. The Friends of the Library are collecting gloves, hats and scarves for the needy until December 18. The collection basket is on the main desk. The items will be distributed by FISH, Inc. We're also collecting for Books to Keep, which provides books for needy children. You can donate new books, or make a monetary donation, at the main desk.

This leads us to an unfortunate subject. Recently, someone stole some items from the Friends' glove donation basket. Also, someone recently stole money from a collection jar for our Children's Room. Needless to say, we're not at all pleased by such acts. Stealing from a charity drive is a particularly low and selfish thing to do. Any further act of this kind won't be tolerated. If we catch someone doing this, we will call the police and file the appropriate charges.

We'll finish up today's column with a tip. We certainly hope you're in the process of mailing out your holiday cards and gifts. We can't help you as far as delivering your items, but in one way, we can cut down on the time spent in line at the Post Office. We sell stamps at our main desk for 33 cents per stamp, \$6.60 per booklet. We hope this'll ease some of your holiday burdens.

That's all for this week. We'll be back with more next time. We hope you're enjoying whatever Holiday you're observing or plan to observe.

FREE CELLULAR PHONES

MCI WORLDCOM

FREE Digital Phone
FREE Activation
FREE Nights & Weekends/6 mos.
FREE 200 Minutes = \$29⁹⁹
FREE 500 Minutes = \$49⁹⁹
FREE 1000 Minutes = \$89⁹⁹

OMNIPOINT

FREE Digital Phone
FREE Activation
FREE WEEKENDS ALL YEAR
FREE 40 Minutes = \$19⁹⁹
FREE 250 Minutes = \$29⁹⁹
FREE 500 Minutes = \$49⁹⁹
FREE 700 Minutes = \$69⁹⁹

CELLULAR ONE

NEW CUSTOMER PROMOTION
\$30 = 400 minutes monthly (NY/NJ local calling area)
\$50 = 500 minutes monthly (FREE EXTENDED CALLING AREA)
NIGHTS & WEEKENDS AVAILABLE

HOLIDAY BLOWOUT

AFFORDABLE PAGERS

FREE Activation w/this ad only
Turn on your own pager—
Only \$5⁹⁹/mo. or
Get a pager w/a year of service and SAVE!

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

CELLULAR ACCESSORIES

- HANDS-FREE Ear Phones
- HANDS-FREE Car Cords
- Car Chargers / Leather Cases
- Phone Holders
- Color Face Plates
- Batteries
- Antennas

911 EMERGENCY PHONES

- No Credit Check
- No Contracts
- Call 911 For Free
- Call Collect
- Use Calling Card
- Use Credit Card

*** GREAT GIFT IDEA ***

908-668-6844 **INDEPENDENT CELLULAR** Gift Certificates Available

Fax (908) 668-4775 18 SOUTH PLAINFIELD AVE. SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ

Junioresses Hold "Operation Christmas Child"

On Nov. 20, the South Plainfield Junioresses completed "Operation Christmas Child." In support of the Samaritans Purse organization, shoe boxes wrapped for the holiday were filled with gifts for children and delivered world wide. The Junioresses, along with a number of Girl Scout troops, friends and families, were able to deliver about 30 boxes filled with simple toys and goodies that to impoverished children.

The Junioresses delivered the boxes to a Baptist church in Hasbrouck Heights. A dedication prayer service was held and the following day the tractor trailers were loaded with the boxes. These trucks delivered the gifts to the organizations at the home base in North Carolina and then shipped out to locations all over the world.

The Junioresses' contribution is only a small part of the work done by the organization that heads this project, Samaritan's Purse. Last year the organization collected 1.5 million boxes within the United States. This year they anticipate collecting over three million.

Another project currently underway is one in which the Junioresses delighted last year—dressing teddy bears for the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army provides the bears. The girls work hard to create eye-catching outfits for each bear. The bears are returned to the Salvation Army for distribution to needy children.

The Junioresses is open to girls in middle and high school. Girls interested in joining should contact any member or one of the advisors: Kathy Raiti, Patti Tabor or Kathy Winner.

The Junioresses, a community service group, are a youth branch of the Junior Woman's Club.



President Theodore Roosevelt as portrayed by Keith McGough with John E. Riley School students (l-r) Alex Frank, Kristina Jewkes and Ellen Zinsky.

"...There are two kinds of people. The first are those who let things be and the others strive for significance and to make a difference."

Theodore Roosevelt Visits Riley School

In October, Keith McGough brought President Theodore Roosevelt to life for John E. Riley students. This Cultural Arts Program was very informative. The children learned important facts about our 26th President and how his early years prepared him for his job as President of the United States.

The students heard the story of how the Teddy Bear was named after Roosevelt. They learned how important his family was to him. Young Roosevelt was very sickly as a child with asthma and couldn't attend school. He had teachers come to his home. His parents encouraged him to overcome this disability by building up his physical strength. He did this by lifting weights and spending time in the country. Roosevelt eventually became a boxer and lived a rugged outdoors life as a cowboy, a hunter, an explorer and a Rough Rider.

"Teddy Roosevelt" (Keith McGough) implored to the students not to live a lukewarm life. He said, "Be hot. Be cold. Be something! Strive for the mighty things." He also said

that there are two kinds of people, those who let things be and others who strive for significance and to make a difference. As we enter the 21st century, he encouraged them to have a sense of duty, courage and persistence so that they may help to keep our country great.

There are two historic homes for Teddy Roosevelt in New York. His boyhood home is in Manhattan and the home he built for his family is in Oyster Bay. Theodore Roosevelt is quite a fascinating historical person. He is a worthy role model for all generations. He stood for values like optimism, courage, persistence, responsibility, leadership and vision for the future.

After the performances, McGough was invited by Miss Lepore's first grade class to see the drawings they had made about what they had learned. Some students drew the White House. Some drew Roosevelt on horseback and others drew the story of the teddy bear. They all learned something about this great President.

—Ann Delaney, Cultural Arts Chairperson

Community Banking at its Best!

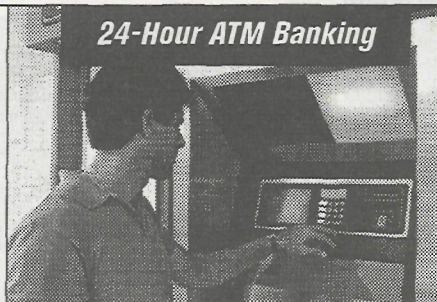
Columbia is Changing to Meet Your Needs.

With Convenient Services You Can Count On!

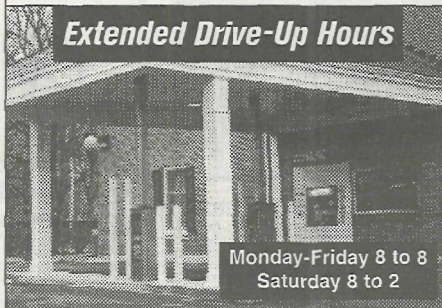
**Phone
Link**

**24-Hour Telephone
Banking Service**

24-Hour ATM Banking



Extended Drive-Up Hours



Monday-Friday 8 to 8
Saturday 8 to 2

columbiasb.com

**Visit our
Web Site**

**to see
what's happening at
Columbia Savings Bank!**

**ABOUT US
ONLINE
BANKING
PRODUCTS
& SERVICES**

And More!

As a community bank, Columbia is ever changing to meet personal and business banking needs with added convenience and enhanced services. We've extended hours in many of our branches and at our drive-ups, while adding exciting new products like Totally Free Advantage Checking. *Around the corner and across the state, we're as close as a bank can be...with more changes on the way!*

**Columbia
Savings Bank**

1-800-522-4167

www.columbiasb.com

620 Oak Tree Avenue and Case Drive
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
(908) 757-1055

Convenient Offices Throughout New Jersey
Count on Columbia.

Member FDIC



**Do you want to
be seen in
South
Plainfield?**

**Advertise in the
OBSERVER**

**For Rates and
Information, call
908-668-0100**

**WE WANT
YOUR NEWS!**

If you have news about South Plainfield people or events, send us a note or fax us at (908) 668-8819. We would like to include your story in the paper.

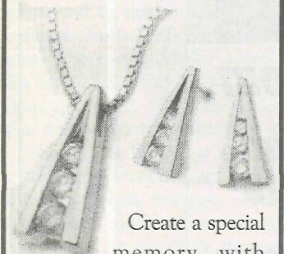


Santa Sightings in South Plainfield...

...If you haven't yet caught up with Santa, look for him in the following places: Elks Annual Christmas Breakfast, Breakfast with Santa at Sacred Heart or Caroling in the Park. See *Around Town* on page 4 for details.



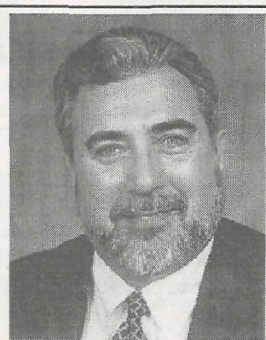
Create a Memory...



Create a special memory with the gift of a Diamond Pendant or Earring set. Crafted in yellow gold and channel set with three beautiful diamonds, these will certainly make any moment one to celebrate.

CINDY MICHAELS
Jewelers & Gemologists

176 Front St.
South Plainfield
(908) 769-4264



OFFICE: 908-757-7780
EVENING: 908-753-9799
PAGER: 732-569-4879

Serving Middlesex, Essex, Union, Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties

Proudly
- Living
- Marketing
- Selling Homes
in South Plainfield
for many years.

Bob Kupcho
MILLION DOLLAR SALES CLUB

**Weichert,
Realtors®**

(908) 769-5622
Fax (908) 769-5620

CHINA BUFFET

2000 Park Avenue • South Plainfield

Featuring over 100 items including Chinese, Japanese, American cuisine...

Eight New Dishes Every Week
Four New Dishes Every Day
Spring Young chicken, Chifu Vinegar Fish, Nanjin Duck, Pineapple Ham Duck, Garlic Chinese Vegetables, Dong Bo Pork, Foo Young Shrimp

Banquet Room
Accommodates 35-180 guests
• Catering •
• Business Meetings •
• Holidays • Parties
OPEN 7 DAYS
Karaoke Available

Fri-Sat Dinner & All Day Sunday we offer Seafood Specials
(Including lobster & crab legs)

10% Off CHINA BUFFET
2000 Park Ave., So. Plainfield
10% Off for Senior Citizens at all times. No coupon needed. Exp. 12/31/99
Mon.-Thurs, 11 AM-9:30 PM • Fri. & Sat. 11 AM-11 PM • Sun. 12 Noon-9:30 PM

ADULTS LUNCH, 11 AM-3:30 PM		
\$5.35	\$6.75	
Monday-Friday	Saturday	
DINNER 4:30-9:30 PM		
\$8.49	\$10.99	
Mon-Thurs. Fri. & Sat. All Day Sun.		
CHILDREN (2-10) LUNCH 11:30-3:30 PM		
\$3.99	\$4.29	\$5.59
Mon-Fri.	Sat.	Sun. All Day
DINNER 4:30-9:30 PM		
\$4.99	\$5.59	\$5.59
Mon-Thurs. Friday	Saturday	Sun. All Day

In My Opinion

Letters

Continued from page 3

letter. I'm a Pop-Warner and Junior Baseball coach here in town and my family and I have been lifelong residents of South Plainfield. We're very grateful that there are people like Officer DeLair serving and protecting our town.

Officer DeLair saved my life and I'll forever be indebted to him for his heroic act. I felt that one possible way of repaying him for what he did was to contact his chief and let him know what he had done for my family.

Thank you for helping me out and I hope that Officer DeLair receives his just-due for his actions. My family and I are eternally grateful for his actions.

SINCERELY,
MICHAEL TORTORELLI

To The Editor,

I so strongly disagree with Judy Kleinman's letter of 12/3/99. The board of education-issued *Community Contact* was NOT more than I needed to know. In fact it was exactly what I and many other residents needed to know!

As a parent of school aged children my recollection of the chain of events is: the SPEA contract expired on June 30, 1999, our educators did not work during July and August and according to the newsletter all benefits of employment remained intact.

Yet when our children returned to school in September, our educators had already begun assembling at Back to School nights and wearing SPEA shirts, handing out flyers telling us how much they do beyond their contracted obligations. During that month also, President Mruz had already begun her newspaper articles about how much our teachers do and announced the SPEA was at impasse with the board; that the board was unwilling to bargain in good faith and wanted to treat one group of the association unfairly.

By October things were really heating up. Our teachers were assembling before school with signs and shirts and buttons proclaiming they were: "working without a contract," "settle now," and "I live here, I work here, I vote here," and refused to enter the building until five minutes before school started and refused to stay after school to help the children.

At the end of October our educators refused to participate in the Halloween celebration and wore their union garb instead. At each Board of Education meeting they, who never attend these meetings, attended in mass, demonstrated prior to the meeting, and on two occasions, forced the board to move the meeting because of such high attendance, which would not have been a complaint but they rudely spoke throughout the entire meeting, disrupted the public areas by conversing and walking in and out of the room and prevented those who came to hear the business from doing so. By the end of the meeting, during public discussion, the number of SPEA members had dramatically decreased.

Our educators have communicated to our children and their parents their dissatisfaction with the current state of negotiations and they have communicated it loud and clear. I question how many actually knew what the leadership was really asking for and what the board's response really was instead of the association's version they were being fed on a regular basis.

I for one am glad to finally hear the other side, this newsletter was not in anyway disrespectful, it merely stated the facts. I want to express that I am not for or against either "side", however facts speak for themselves. Our teachers are a necessity and do (as other professions do) sometimes go above and beyond the call of duty. I have experienced that and have never questioned that. It seems to me the members of the association are blindly following their leadership, who from what I can see and hear, have not represented their concerns. Most educators would be happy to keep the prime benefit package and a realistic increase of pay, most want to be there at the close of the school day to help our children but claim "their leadership will not allow it." Most claim to hate wearing SPEA T-shirts and in fact do not wear such casual dress under normal circumstances but say they are harassed by leadership when they do not follow the directives issued by the association.

To Ms. Kleinman's point of the board using their power to put the other on the defensive, again who really started this? I personally have voted in BOE elections to elect those board members to represent

my children, (you know the ones who have nothing to do with, nor any understanding of what a contract even is), and to represent me the taxpayer, (you know the one who will pay the bill when this is all over). I applaud the board of education members for doing what many recently promised, to keep us informed. After all, isn't the board's business my business when my tax dollars foot the bill?

As for complaining about the way the Board chose to do this and the costs involved, I say it was money well spent! I now have an understanding of why some of our educators are behaving so poorly and again applaud the board for their stance. It has been my impression that the association started this, they just didn't expect our board members to fight back. To the point of the costs, I'm not sure but I believe non profit organizations receive bulk mailing rates, they employ a printer within, and how is this any different from the other newsletters we receive keeping us informed and district calendars received each school year? I do not recall any complaints. Whatever my share of that bill was I gladly pay. I now believe those I've voted for are doing exactly what we've elected them to do, represent us!

Perhaps negotiations would be win/win if the association would come back down to earth and ask for realistic salary increases, for one can not support increases of 12%, 7.5% and 6% increases per year and prime benefit packages. This community simply can not afford it.

Our police officers are not receiving those numbers and they have worked without a contract for a long time. I, for one, didn't notice any change of service from the SP Police Department, nor did they demonstrate, write letters and treat the people they serve any differently. Maybe the SPEA should take a lesson from them!

Those who truly feel they are being treated unfairly and not compensated properly should do what the residents of this community do, look for another job. If you believe you can do better elsewhere, good luck to you and thank you for the years you served.

I am also a lifelong resident, Ms. Kleinman, and I can't agree with your letter except that we have never seen anything like this. That statement is true, but I say it is about time!! Thank you South Plainfield Board of Education. Keep up the good work and keep us informed.

We will be watching closely.

CINDY EICHLER

To The Editor,

As a former member of the South Plainfield Board of Education, I find it incomprehensible that the superintendent would ask the public to vote on a new facilities referendum before he has settled negotiations with his staff. It is, quite frankly, putting "the cart before the horse." I am also surprised that some members of the board would support such a recommendation. Personally, I would like to know what the tax impact of a new contract is before I consider monies for new facilities. After all, you can't have the buildings without the staff!

I read the newsletter regarding the board's position on negotiations and I must express my disappointment. The board's offer, coupled with payment participation for ben-

efit increases, has the potential for a net loss. Who in their right mind would sit at a table with people proposing this? Unlike employees of large corporations, teachers do not have stock options, matching savings plans, or other professional offerings. If teachers are seeking eight per cent, then the compromise should be more than obvious.

As a community, we endeavor to hire only the best teachers who will do more than simply occupy a classroom. We hold them to higher standards and look to them to set a shining example for our children. What kind of example is being set for the staff? We elect members to the board to represent us well, not to publicly berate and badger our employees. I urge the board to settle negotiations and then let's take a look at improving the facilities. Until then, I'm voting no.

ALBERT E. MILLER

Dear Editor,

I just read the sad story about a man wrote about the teachers in South Plainfield who have to buy the stars and decorations that the children get on their papers, and that they deserve all the money they get plus more.

Hogwash! South Plainfield, has the lowest rating out of any school system in Middlesex County. I am voting NO for the school and other money that they want!

Most of the teachers in the South Plainfield School System don't even live in South Plainfield, just take the money and live in a cheaper area. In 1966 my Mother Connie Pisaniello went to the State of New Jersey in Trenton to get money to build a new school as the land around Roosevelt School was set aside for a new school. Now the town sells off all the land to pay bills, and forgets that it will bring in more children, and we will need more school space, and then more police officers, road workers, and firemen and equipment. In 1966 a new Roosevelt School would have cost 2.3 million and we could have gotten the money as she got plenty for the teachers back then because the PTA was stronger then it is now. The union runs the education system with high priced teachers who are teaching these children nothing! I witnessed a child on my street that has missed more school time then being there and he has been promoted all the way up the grades. I am sure the teachers are worried about this child when and if he finishes high school, which I bet he doesn't. South Plainfield High School sends less students to college than any other high school in the county. I believe it is time to break the union! If the government can let people go and hire cheaper workers in contractors, and also down size our military, South Plainfield can do without these high priced teachers, who have to buy stars out of their own pockets to put on students papers.

What school in this area pays what South Plainfield does? I have a cousin in Florida who is a teacher in a very poor area and she makes \$25,000. per year, and everyday on the way to school she stops and buys juice and cookies to feed her students as most don't eat because they are so poor.

In South Plainfield we are worrying about the teachers buying stars for the students' papers?

Why did they ever close Grant

School? That school is better then Roosevelt School and I remember as a child the library was in the basement of Grant School and they had a stage, etc. My Mother got the money to build the gym on to Roosevelt School as her Father dug the foundation of it by hand! He also got an old stage coach and went around town and picked up children to take them to school FREE, which is a bad word in South Plainfield! He wanted his children and other children to get a chance to attend school that he never had. Inside Roosevelt School they have a plaque of PTA presidents, and my Mom was president in 1966 and in 1973 when she didn't even have children in the school system.

I know a teacher in Roosevelt School who can testify to this, as my Mother did plenty to help out the teachers back then. What does the PTA or parents do today to help the situation, just go ahead and vote to spend more tax dollars? When these 801 new children go through the school system and there is no more children, what do we do with the open space, sell it off like we did Grant School?

The tax base in South Plainfield is very low. What brings up the taxes is the board of education, and the high salaries we pay these teachers to buy stars!

If this country can fire all of its air traffic controllers and hire new ones at a lower salary why can't South Plainfield break up this union and let these teachers go and hire ones who are interested in teaching and living in South Plainfield?

The superintendent of schools in Middletown, who has two high schools and more grammar schools, makes less than the superintendent in South Plainfield. And Middletown, like most of Monmouth County Schools, sends more students to college then anywhere else! South Plainfield is at the bottom when it comes to sending students to college; the only town lower is Perth Amboy.

Are we to be proud of this? What makes us want to keep these teachers? I say dump the union, hire teachers at fair market salaries and save the taxpayers money!

What happens if all this housing coming to South Plainfield doesn't bring in these 801 projected students? Can Grant School be bought back to use as a school again?

The board of education should see how many teachers live in South Plainfield and how many live elsewhere. Most live out of South Plainfield and they come here just to earn the big dollars that are thrown at them.

I do not pity any teachers in South Plainfield. I pity the students who are not getting a top notch education and the poor taxpayers who are getting raped!

If I made any mistakes in my grammar I am sorry, I only went to grammar school in South Plainfield and went to a private high school, where students were years ahead of me.

TONY PISANIELLO

PS: If anyone is wondering why East Brunswick School System sends more students to college than any other high school in Middlesex County at a 97% rate, we should look at the bright side of this—South Plainfield is only next to the bottom in Middlesex County in Education, we could be last?

Log on to the

**Borough of South Plainfield's
official web site at
southplainfieldnj.com**

Visit your community web site for the latest local news on

- Mayor and Council
- Planning Board & Board of Adjustment Agendas
- Police - Fire - Rescue Squad
- Recreation
- Youth Activities
- Senior Corner
- Professional & Business Directory
- Community Bulletin Board
- Civic Organizations
- Election Results
- and more

Advertise your business and support
South Plainfield's own web site

For rates or information email at: southplainfieldnj.com
Or call 908-226-7656

Junior Baseball Club Notes

By Frank Hanley

December Meeting Notes

The membership voted to switch this year and attend a Somerset Patriot Game. In the past, the club had traveled to see the Trenton Thunder. The club's baseball outing to see the Somerset Patriots is planned for Friday May 26, 2000 subject to ticket availability. More to follow....

Work continues on the new Pony field building. The new building will house a snack stand, bathrooms, and equipment storage. Discussion continues on the installation of a new sprinkler system on the four main fields. Research is still being done on the cost of installing lights on Field 1. The Board expressed it's thanks to everyone who helped out at the Fall Cleanup held on Nov. 6.

2000 Season Registration

Registration for the 2000 season will be held in January. Registration will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 13 and Friday, Jan. 4 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on 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 eight thru 16. New players must turn eight 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.

Monthly Meetings

The Men's meeting is held on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. Starting in January 2000, the Woman's meeting will be held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse.

Parents are encouraged to get involved with one of 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.

Woman's Auxiliary

The Woman's holiday party and installment dinner was held last Friday, Dec. 3 at Flanagan's.

The next Woman's Auxiliary meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. The meeting has been moved to the second Wednesday of the month due to conflicts with other group meetings.

Now in stock are the new Custom SPJBC outdoor flags. The flags are two feet 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.

Contact the SPJBC—clubhouse phone: (908) 754-2090 ... email: SPJBC99@aol.com ... Web Site: members.aol.com/spjbc/spjbc.html

COMING NEXT ISSUE

PAL

Police Athletic League

An historical recollection and a vision of the future.

observerspecialsupplement

Be a part of history.

High School Bowlers Off to a Perfect Start

In their season opener, the girls bowling team registered a victory at the expense of the Blue Jays of Middlesex. The Tigers were led by Melissa Jamieson's games of 180 and 203 and a 540 high set. Sabina Montenegro bowled a 161 game.

In week two, the girls recorded their second shutout raising their record to 2-0. They swept three close games from the Rams of South River, winning by a 124 pin total. High scorers for SPSHS were Kristen Herzog with a 198, Meredith Cooper with a 175 and a pair of 165's by Melissa Jamieson.

In the boys first week of bowling, the team dropped the first game by only four pins to the Blue Jays of Middlesex. South Plainfield then got rid of their first game jitters and came back to win the next two games and winning total pins by 162. Leading the comeback was Matt Square with a 214 game and a 564 high set. Capt. Doug Lauckhardt bowled a 218 and Ray Tomei bowled a 211.

In their second week of competition, the boy's bowling team won again. They dehorned the South River Rams by 302 pins, winning all three games to record a 4-0 shutout. Leading the Tiger scoring were Matt Square 216-214 for a 625 set and Ray Tomei with 215-201 and a 611 set. Capt. Dough Lauckhardt helped out with a 204 game.

High School Boys & Girls Dec. Bowling Schedule

Wed. Dec. 1	Middlesex
Thurs. Dec. 2	South River
Tues. Dec. 7	Bishop Ahr
Wed. Dec. 8	J.F. Kennedy
Thurs. Dec. 9	Carteret
Sat. Dec. 11	Bishop Ahr Holiday Classic
Tues. Dec. 14	Colonia
Thurs. Dec. 16	Monroe Township
Mon. Dec. 20	Woodbridge
Tues. Dec. 21	St. Mary

SPORTS

High School Junior Varsity and Varsity Boys Basketball

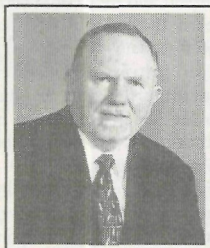
Sat. Dec. 4	South Brunswick (scrimmage)	Away	10:30
Thurs. Dec. 9	Edison (scrimmage)	Home	3:45
Sat. Dec. 11	North Plainfield/Highland Park	Home	10:00
Mon. Dec. 13	J. P. Stevens (scrimmage)	Away	3:45
Tues. Dec. 14	St. Mary (scrimmage)	Home	3:30
Sat. Dec. 18	Carteret	Home	11:30/1
Mon. Dec. 20	J. F. Kennedy	Away	5:30/7:00
Wed. Dec. 22	Middlesex	Home	5:30/7:00
Tues. Dec. 28	Bound Brook Tournament		
Wed. Dec. 29	Bound Brook Tournament		
Mon. Jan. 3	Spotswood	Away	5:30/7:00
Wed. Jan. 5	Metuchen	Away	6:00/7:30
Mon. Jan. 10	Highland Park	Away	5:30/7:00
Fri. Jan. 14	South River	Home	5:30/7:00
Tues. Jan. 18	New Brunswick	Home	5:30/7:00
Thurs. Jan. 20	Carteret	Away	5:30/7:00
Mon. Jan. 24	J. F. Kennedy	Home	5:30/7:00
Wed. Jan. 26	Middlesex	Away	5:30/7:00
Fri. Jan. 28	Spotswood	Home	5:30/7:00
Tues. Feb. 1	Metuchen	Home	5:30/7:00
Thurs. Feb. 3	Monroe Township	Home	5:30/7:00
Sat. Feb. 5	Highland Park	Home	11:30/1:00
Mon. Feb. 7	South River	Away	5:30/7:00
Wed. Feb. 9	New Brunswick	Away	5:30/7:00
Mon. Feb. 14	Cranford	Home	5:30/7:00
Wed. Feb. 16	GMC Tournament		
Thurs. Feb. 24	Piscataway Vo-Tech State-Tournament	Away	5:30/7:00

High School Junior Varsity & Varsity Girls Basketball

Tues. Dec. 14	St. Mary (scrimmage)	Away	3:30
Fri. Dec. 17	Bishop Ahr	Away	5:15/7:00
Mon. Dec. 20	North Bergen	Home	5:30/7:00
Tues. Dec. 28	Bound Brook Tournament		
Wed. Dec. 29	Bound Brook Tournament		
Tues. Jan. 4	Sayreville	Home	5:30/7:00
Thurs. Jan. 6	Perth Amboy	Home	5:30/7:00
Tues. Jan. 11	Monroe Township	Home	5:30/7:00
Thurs., Jan. 13	Piscataway	Home	5:30/7:00
Fri. Jan. 14	North Brunswick	Away	5:30/7:00
Thurs. Jan. 20	Colonia	Away	5:30/7:00
Sat. Jan. 2	Bishop Ahr	Home	11:30/1:00
Thurs. Jan. 27	Sayreville	Away	5:30/7:00
Sat. Jan. 29	Cranford	Away	12:30/2:00
Mon. Jan. 31	Perth Amboy	Away	5:30/7:00
Thurs. Feb. 3	Monroe Township	Away	3:45/5:30
Tues. Feb. 8	North Brunswick	Home	5:30/7:00
Thurs. Feb. 10	Colonia	Home	5:30/7:00
Mon. Feb. 14	East Brunswick	Away	5:30/7:00
Thurs. Feb. 17	GMC Tournament State Tournament		

Boys and Girls Winter Track

Tues. Jan. 4	Carteret	Home	3:45
Sat. Jan. 8	GMC Relays		9:00 am
Sat. Jan. 15	State Relays at Princeton		
Tues. Jan. 18	Metuchen	Away	3:45
Tues. Jan. 25	Spotswood	Home	3:45
Sun. Jan. 30	GMC Meet		10:00 am
Tues. Feb. 1	New Brunswick	Home	3:45
Sun. Feb. 6	Sectionals at Princeton		
Tues. Feb. 8	Highland Park	Home	3:45
Tues. Feb. 15	Monroe Township	Home	3:45
Sun. Feb. 20	Championships at Princeton		



Wayne Grennier
SALES REPRESENTATIVE
Resident of South Plainfield
For Over 30 Years

A real estate professional can determine the value of your home so it sells when **you** want it to.

An informed seller is a satisfied seller.

Before you sell, compare.

Weichert Realtors



We Sell More
Because We Do More

METUCHEN OFFICE
640 Middlesex Ave.,
Metuchen, NJ 08840



For a complimentary market analysis,
call Wayne Grennier at 732-906-8200.

Eves: (908) 755-8565 • Pager: 888-346-1314 • FAX: (732) 906-8109



Fr. John invites you
to worship with him at

*Our Lady of
Czestochowa R.C. Church*

807 Hamilton Blvd.,
South Plainfield

Masses Daily at 8 AM
Saturday evenings 5:30 PM
Sunday mornings 8:00 and 11:00 am

SPORTS

High School Junior Varsity & Varsity Wrestling

Sat., Dec. 18	Morris Knolls Tournament	Home	9:00 am
Wed. Dec. 22	J. P. Stevens	Away	5:30/7:00
Wed. Dec. 29	Hunterdon Central Tournament		
Fri. Jan. 7	East Brunswick	Away	5:30/7:00
Sat. Jan. 8	High Point	Away	5:30/7:00
Wed. Jan. 12	Edison	Home	6:00/7:30
Sat. Jan. 15	Woodbridge	Home	5:30/7:00
Wed. Jan. 19	South Brunswick	Home	6:00/7:30
Fri. Jan. 21	Old Bridge	Home	6:00/7:30
Sat. Jan. 22	Livingston	Away	5:30/7:00
Tues. Jan. 25	South River	Home	6:00/7:30
Fri. Jan. 28	Piscataway	Away	5:30/7:00
Sat. Jan. 29	Belvidere	Home	5:30/7:00
Fri. Feb. 4	GMC Tournament @ Piscataway	6:00	
Sat. Feb. 5	GMC Tournament @ Piscataway	10:00 am	
Wed., Feb. 9	Brick Memorial	Away	5:30/7:00
Sat. Feb. 12	Elizabeth/Bishop Ahr	Away	6:00
Tues. Feb. 15	Team Sectionals		
Thurs. Feb. 17	Team Sectionals		
Fri. Feb. 25	Districts	Home	6:00
Sat. Feb. 26	Districts	Home	10:00 am
Tues. Feb. 29	Regions	Away	

Middle School—Wrestling Schedule

Nov. 28	Randolph Team Tournament	Away	9 am
Dec 5	Washington	Away	1 pm
Dec 12	At Rahway, No. Hunterdon, Kittantiny	Away	1 pm
Dec 18	At Randolph, Hillsborough	Away	1:30 pm
Jan. 8	Hopatcong and Phillipsburg	Home	TBA
Jan 15 noon	At Delaware Valley, Voorhees	Away	1 2
Jan. 16	Roselle Park Dad's Club Classic	Away	9 am
Jan. 22	Flemington	Home	TBA
Feb. 5	League Tournament (at Kittantiny)	Away	9 am
Feb 19 & 20	South Plainfield Invitational Tourn.	Home	8:30 am

* Schedule is subject to change and add-ons

Recreation Wrestling Schedule

Date	Opponents(s)	H/W	Weight-ins
Dec 12	North Hunterdon	Home	3 pm
Dec. 19	Middlesex Christmas Tourn.	Away	see application
Jan. 8	Westfield	Home	8:30 am
Jan. 12	Rahway	Away	6:30 pm
Jan. 15	Roselle Park Tournament (Bantams & Midgets)	Away	1/14/00 5:30-8:30pm
Jan. 16	Roselle Park Tournament	Away	1/14/00
Jan. 19	North Plainfield	Away	6:30 pm
Jan. 22	Scotch Plains	Home	8:30 am
Jan. 25	Voorhees	Away	6:30 pm
Jan. 29	Flemington, Middlesex, Bridgewater	Home	8:30 am
Feb. 3	Union	Away	6:30 pm
Feb. 8	Kenilworth	Away	6:30 pm
Feb. 19	South Plainfield Tourn. (Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget)	Home (HS)	2/18/00 5-8 pm (PAL)
Feb. 20	South Plainfield Tourn. (Juniors)	Home (HS)	2-8 pm (PAL)
Feb. 26	Delaware Valley, Roselle Park	Home	8:30 am
Mar. 5	Central Jersey Midget Wrestling League Tournament	Home (HS)	3/4/00 from

*Schedules are subject to change

Tigers Show Strength in Toms River

By Bob Hunter

The South Plainfield Recreation Wrestlers continued with a strong performance at the Toms River Midget Wrestling Tournament held this past weekend. South Plainfield entered twenty two wrestlers and came home with thirteen medals. In the pre-preliminary round South Plainfield advance all its wrestlers to the next round.

In the Bantam Division, Corey Hay, 55-pounds, pinned Jake Vescovi of Brick. He then pinned Mike Cassidy of Toms River and won his semi-final match 7-5 over Cody Spatz of Burlington Twp. He lost his final to Dylan Maresca of Middletown for second place. Mike Wagner, Bantam 70-pounds, won his first match 4-2 over Tim Moore of Lanoka Harbor and lost his final for second place.

Claiming third place medals were Ryan Sacco, Bantam 50-pounds. He won his opening round match 6-5 over Josh Cambria of Bayville, lost his semi-final match 6-4 and won his consolation match 9-0 over Chris Rumper of Berkeley.

Nick Hellmann, 55-pounds, defeated former South Plainfield resident Mike Barone 6-5 and then pinned Matt Bascha of Jackson. He lost his semi-final match, but came back strong to win his consolation match 5-4 over Cody Spatz.

Nick Vallone, Bantam 65, won by a fall over Joey Tenpenney of Bayville in his consolation match for third place. Winning opening round matches were Kyle Hughes, 55-pounds; Jonathan Conroy, Elizabeth Martin and John

Wylam, all 60-pounds.

In the Midget division, Billy Ashnault, 70-pounds, pinned Tom McGregor of Pascack Hills and then defeated Jamie Perry of Pascack Hills 12-0 and defeated Joey Penna of Toms River by fall. In the finals he lost to Rob Berichde 5-2 for second place. Brad Martin came up short in his final, but defeated Randy Boyle of Hazlet 4-0 and Glenn Carson of Lacy Twp. 7-4 for second place. Rocco Petrillo, wrestling heavyweight, lost his final to Ryan Giglio of Forked River for second place.

Third place medals went to Robert Gentile, 55-pounds wrestling in a round robin, won his first match 4-0. Mark Wagner, 80-pounds, won his first by fall and won his consolation match 10-5

over Bobby Mathews of Pompton Lakes. Fourth place medals went to Mike Jakubik, 75-pounds, and Danny Pompillo, 80-pounds.

Also winning opening round matches were, Nicks Pauls 55-pounds, Patrick Hunter 60-pounds, Tim Gaughan 70-pounds and Nick Dorey, 75-pounds.

In the Junior division 65-pound weight class, Jimmy Conroy won his first match by fall over A.J. Maresca of Middletown 0:33 and pinned Matt Morganstern of Pascack Hills at 1:22. In the finals Conroy faced last years state title holder in Nick Trumbetti of Pascack Hills and lost a close 2-0 decision.

Conroy was the third place winner in last year's state tournament. Billy Daly won his opening 110 pound match, but did not place.

Recreation Basketball Results

The Ed Niemczyk's Youth Basketball League started play with 430 girls and boys participating. The program will run for 12 week's with 24 games played each Saturday at both the Middle School and the PAL Building.

A League Results

Cavaliers over Supersonics, 60-15; Rockets over Nuggets, 43-18; Spurs over Grizzlies, 35-32 and Bucks over Warriors, 48-42.

B League Results

Hornets over Raptors 26-23; Lakers over Piston, 46-11; Nets over Knicks 35-24; Heat over Cavaliers 40-22; Magic over Bulls 26-25 and Jazz over Timberwolves, 30-25.

C League Results

Grizzlies over Bucks in overtime, 25-23; Hawks over Nuggets, 20-6; Warriors over Suns, 28-12; Cavaliers over Kings 30-20; Mavericks over Spurs 16-16; Wizzards over Trailblazers 22-8; and Rockets over Supersonics 35-12.

D League Results

Jazz over the Celtics 16-14; Knicks over Nets 22-10; Heat over Bulls, 18-16; Lakers over Hornets 22-18; Timberwolves over Pistons 24-18; Cavaliers over 76ers, 36-6 and Raptors over Magic 24-122.

NOTE: Our next issue will have more scores, standings and highlights of games played.



...The South Plainfield Observer

Include your name and we'll enclose a gift note with your personal message.

Subscribe

Please send home delivery of the South Plainfield Observer to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

Y2K TEST

Are You Ready?

BEFORE Y2K TEST ? ? ? NOW? AFTER NEW YEAR

Is Your Computer Y2K Compatible?

Why Worry About It?
Simply Give Yourself Peace Of Mind.

We Can Test Your Computer and Do The Fix
In One Visit To Your Office or Home.

CALL US

908-755-9700

Obituaries

Patrick J. Tozzi, 77

Patrick J. Tozzi of Edison died on Friday, Dec. 3, at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

He was born in Plainfield and was a former 42 year resident of South Plainfield before moving to Edison five years ago.

Mr. Tozzi was a painter for the International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades Union Local 1005 in Plainfield for 25 years before retiring in 1989.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He then served in the Naval Reserves for 36 years, retiring as a Master Chief Petty Officer. He was a former member of the VFW Memorial Post 6763 in South Plainfield.

His wife, Margaret Gutowski Tozzi, died in 1988.

He is survived by two sons, Bruce R. Tozzi of South Plainfield and Gary Tozzi; a daughter, Patricia Alligier of South Plainfield; a brother, Jerome Tozzi of Ridgefield; his companion, Dorothy Kollien of Edison and three grandsons.

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

Clifford E. Colfax, 78

Clifford E. Colfax died on Saturday, Dec. 4, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born at his parents home in Plainfield in 1921, Mr. Colfax had resided in North Plainfield before settling in South Plainfield many years ago.

Mr. Colfax was an Army Veteran of World War II, serving as a Private First Class in the 158th Infantry, serving in Australia and New Guinea from in March of 1940 until October of 1944. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific, the American Theater, American Defense and the Good Conduct Medals.

He was employed by PSE&G of Plainfield from May 2, 1946 until his retirement on Sept. 26 1980. He worked with the gas lines and gas crews.

He is predeceased by his mother, Lillian M. Jack, who died in September of 1992.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Mary Tempesti Colfax; his daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Don Wnek of Middlesex; two brothers, Charles Ehrenfeld of Parsippany and Roger Ehrenfeld of Nova Scotia, Canada and a granddaughter, Amy Wnek.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

William A. Robertson, 78

William A. Robertson died on Friday, Dec. 3, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Harrison, New Jersey, he had resided in South Plainfield for the past 50 years.

He was employed by the South Plainfield Board of Education as head custodian of Franklin School for 10 years before his retirement in 1985.

Previously he had been employed as the supervisor of the enameling department for W. B. Driver Co. of Newark for 34 years.

He is predeceased by his brother, John and his sister, Agnes Johnson.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years on this past Nov. 6, 1999, Olga (Nering) Robertson; three daughters, Nancy and son-in-law John Shearn of Toms River, Judy and son-in-law Ted Klein of Westfield and Willa Robertson of South Plainfield. Also surviving are his two granddaughters, Nancy and husband Jason LeDue of Toms River and Erin Klein of Westfield, as well as two great grandsons, Ryan and Michael LeDue.

A memorial service will be held at a later time to be announced by the family.

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

Memorial donations in his memory may be made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ. 07080.

Matilda Mae Veloskey Healslip, 81

Matilda Mae Veloskey Healslip of South Plainfield died on Sunday, Dec. 5, at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born in Mahanoy City, Pa. and was a former resident of Middlesex before moving to South Plainfield 50 years ago.

Mrs. Healslip was a floor foreman for Temple Industries in South Plainfield for 25 years before retiring in 1988.

She is survived by two sons, Robert and Richard Healslip, both of South Plainfield; two daughters, Leanna Monticchio of South Plainfield and Elaine Lorentzen of Sequim, Washington and eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

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

By Cyrus n Moon

Weekly Horoscope 12/10-12/16

SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21 At this time you will need to have a very open and generous point of view in order to clear up any conflicts that occur. Friends are in need of your help as you may see them getting the short end of the stick. But do this in a way as to not coming off as self-righteous.

CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19 This is a time for you to express your emotions, to get what you want, and to follow your heart. With a Jupiter/Moon sextile you are given a chance to grow and expand in one form or another. What are your desires? Money? Love? Knowledge? This is a time to make dreams come true.

AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18 Be ready for change! Current activities can come to a halt and new endeavors can unexpectedly begin. Physical actions are highly charged and unpredictable and this energy can be used in ways not anticipated. For this reason there is a potential for accidents, be careful.

PISCES 2/19-3/20 Be watchful this week. Your relationships at this time can be dubious. You are very likely to misinterpret someone or be misinterpreted, which may lead to thinking about a situation very unrealistically. So needless to say communication is difficult at this time.

ARIES 3/21-4/19 If you can control yourself, you will be able to take initiatives that would be difficult at other times. What seems like foolhardiness can be bravery: it is a matter of control. You have the will and the strength now to break down otherwise formidable barriers. Just watch your cool at this time.

TAURUS 4/20-5/20 This is not a favorable time to ask others for their opinions, cooperation, or assistance. Go it alone. Do not take unnecessary risks of any kind because Lady Luck is not on your side. The key here is that you can gain a certain amount of respect for yourself knowing you have self-discipline.

GEMINI 5/21-6/20 Now is the time to take advantage of information and ideas that come your way this week, you may profit from the sale or purchase of footwear, boats and marine equipment, photographic equipment, or seafood. There is also the possibility to travel on or over water.

CANCER 6/20-7/22 Look for others to help you accomplish tasks. Something or someone can create an emotional high for you, which in turn makes you feel physically more vital. Opportunities exist with regard to women, infants, home, and do-

INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

"Attention By Briggs Longbothum and in a few days Internet shop- receive your new card for much less than what your pers!" These certainly are words renewal rate was quoted to be. ring loudly these days. But who Sounds good huh? The future is wants to hear them? Not anyone I now! I think I also said that guys know, and that's fine. Where this might even start to like shopping! was K-Mart's opening greeting for Who'd a thunk it?

some special going on in some aisle,

today's e-shopping specials are being announced to shopping agents or "bots" which search the Internet for you. These helpful virtual shoppers search out the best deals for your items and buy them for you.

We're already seeing the emergence too of Vendor's bots, which go out onto the web looking for buyers. In no small way, online commerce is approaching the real time auction model for just about everything. I'm not sure where all this is going, but I am real sure of one thing; the brick and mortar shopping malls are taking notice of the competition in a big way. I said in a recent column that I doubt the grocery shopping model that companies like Priceline are advancing will appeal to a large slice of that market. I, for one, still like to feel and pick my produce, but this is different. When you can enter a list of items you're looking for, and have someone or something else go out and negotiate the best deal for you, and then have that item delivered, I think we're onto something big, really big!

Imagine just keying the requirements for your new auto insurance,

TIP: To help keep your computer running fast, limit your disk cache to no more than 10% of your hard disk size, and your memory cache to 10% of your RAM size. To see what is presently in your cache, enter "about:cache" in the location bar of Netscape. By entering "about:memory-cache" you'll see what is in your memory cache. ((don't enter the quotation marks)).

I recently enjoyed (not) an email experience that is one of those things that shouldn't happen, but sometimes does. All of a sudden when you're downloading your email, you notice that you have an unusually large number of emails and they are all from 1) people you don't know, and 2) everyone is screaming "what the &#*% is going on" and "get me off this list." Simply put, an email administrator has lost control of his program and emails are flying out like bats from a cave. DO NOT RESPOND! Just ignore it and it will go away by itself. Yes, it's annoying as heck, but for every "reply" that is sent in, the list replicates it to everyone. Just don't join the mess. Soon enough, the list administrator will get a grip and stop it. Strange stuff happens on the net. Be advised!

Enjoy your Holiday shopping, whether it be Christmas, Chanuka, Kwanzaa, or Festivus (for the rest of us). See you next issue.

Briggs Longbothum, ed. (bruggo@home.com)

Recycling Center and Yard Waste Site Starting Winter Hours

The Yard Waste Site on Kenneth Avenue will be on fall hours through Dec. 15. They will be open Tuesdays from 12 to 7 p.m. and on Fridays and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Residents may bring leaves, loose or in biodegradable paper bags.

Beginning Dec. 16, Yard Waste will go on winter hours. They will be open Saturdays only from 8 a.m. to p.m.

The Recycling Center winter schedule is Tuesdays 12-7 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Both the Recycling Center and the Yard Waste Site will be closed on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 24 and 25, for Christmas.

For updates, call the Recycling Hotline at (908) 226-7620.



James W. Conroy Funeral Home

Serving the Area Since 1949

"Because We Care"

- Forethought Funeral Planning
- N.J.D.A. Choices
- Complete Care Financing
- Serving All Faiths
- Cremation Services
- Pre Arrangement Specialists

"Consult the Families We Serve"

ROBERT HUNTER JR.
Owner-Manager
756-2800
2456 Plainfield Ave.,
South Plainfield



McCriskin

HOME FOR FUNERALS

(908) 561-8000

RICHARD W. MCCRISKIN, Pres., Mgr.
William C. McCriskin, V. Pres., Dir.
James A. Gustafson, Dir.
James F. Connaughton, Assoc. Dir.

2425 PLAINFIELD AVENUE
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
FAX (908) 561-6744

AREA CHURCH HOLIDAY SCHEDULES

We would like to publish your church's holiday schedule.

Just drop your schedule in the mail to: 1110 Hamilton Blvd.
South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004
or fax it to us at 908-668-8819. You can also e-mail us at GGNAN@aol.

Pampered Chef Kitchen Consultant Helping Seniors

Pampered Chef Independent Kitchen Consultant Marie Markey of South Plainfield held a life cooking seminar at Evergreen Senior Center this holiday season. The focus of the seminar was Rate Your Plate for the Holidays. Marie demonstrated a Quick Apple Crisp and a Cool Vegetable Pizza in the shape of a tree. All shared ideas for healthy cooking as well as holiday entertaining tips. Pictured from Left to right: Marie Markey, Esta Fischer, Tek Farina, Beatrice Palmer, and Marie Miragliotta.



POLICE REPORT

- Coca Cola bottling company of Newark reported a vending machine located at 2300 So. Clinton Ave. was damaged. The lock appeared to have been punched out with a chisel or screwdriver. All cash was removed. All soda stock was also removed. Damage cash and soda totaled approximately \$2,000.
- An Arlington Ave. resident reported his home was burglarized. An unknown suspect entered through an unlocked kitchen window in the rear of the house then ransacked the master bedroom and one across from it. Cash, jewelry and misc. items were removed.
- The owner of Giakas Cleaners, Plainfield Ave. reported a burglary. suspect broke a 2x1 pane of glass to gain entry. The cash register was knocked to the floor and then pried open. About \$20 in cash was removed.
- A Greenwich Street resident reported the wires cut on Christmas lights hung near her garage. It is the third time the lights were damaged in several weeks.
- An Edison resident reported the theft of four hubcaps from his vehicle while it was parked at Flex Pac, Hadley Rd. There are no security cameras on the building.
- A Grant Ave. resident reported her car 'keyed' while parked in her driveway.

- An Edison resident arrested for shoplifting \$61.84 worth of meat.
- Ronald Ernest Rivers of Plainfield was arrested for shoplifting a diamond ring valued at \$339.99 from Bradlees.
- A Piscataway resident reported the rear window of her car smashed while it was parked at Super Seal, Helen Street. A spark plug was found on the rear seat. Videotape from a security camera shows a male throwing an object in the direction of the victim's car then pulling forward in the lot. A witness saw a vehicle fitting the description parked in the same area, the witness can identify the suspect as a co-worker.
- A Schillaci Lane resident reported the theft of his cell phone from Shop Fair, Clinton Ave. He had placed the phone on a shelf behind the cash register.
- Cona Pasquale of Brooklyn NY was arrested for shoplifting \$45 worth of lighting merchandise from Home Depot.
- Sylvania Adolfsen of Sucasuna, NJ was robbed of her wallet outside of Taco Bell. The suspect had been in line next to her inside the restaurant. The victim reported that when she exited Taco Bell, a white male grabbed her and wrestled her to the ground while a second suspect watched. The suspect allegedly pushed her head into the ground numerous times, as he tried to steal her wallet. The victim resisted at first then finally let go of the wallet. The victim described her attacker as a white male, approximately 18, wearing a baggy waist length hooded coat dark. He had a scarf was wrapped around his head. The second suspect, a black male, also wore a baggy, dark hooded coat. A witness noted seeing both suspects in the parking lot but did not find them suspicious until he heard a female scream. When he approached the black male turned around and the witness saw what he thought was a black gun. The suspects ran behind Kmart. Videotape from the Taco Bell security monitor was secured as evidence.
- A Dumont St. resident reported her car 'keyed' while parked in her driveway.
- A Beverly Ave. resident reported a bike stolen from the garage. The garage has no lock and was found open in the morning. The victim's daughter noted that the garage door was undisturbed at midnight when she arrived home.

ous times, as he tried to steal her wallet. The victim resisted at first then finally let go of the wallet. The victim described her attacker as a white male, approximately 18, wearing a baggy waist length hooded coat dark. He had a scarf was wrapped around his head. The second suspect, a black male, also wore a baggy, dark hooded coat. A witness noted seeing both suspects in the parking lot but did not find them suspicious until he heard a female scream. When he approached the black male turned around and the witness saw what he thought was a black gun. The suspects ran behind Kmart. Videotape from the Taco Bell security monitor was secured as evidence.

Tell Our Advertisers
You Saw Their Ad in
The Observer

South Plainfield Observer CLASSIFIEDS

Call 908-668-0010 or fax to 908-668-8819 to place an ad.
Rates are 3 line minimum for \$10, \$1 per ea. additional line.

FOR SALE

BABY FURNITURE AND ACCESSORIES. Crib, changing table and much more. Call 908-754-5707.

CEMETERY PLOTS

FOUR PLOTS, LAKE NELSON, in Piscataway. \$1,000 ea. Sold individually or together. 561-1073

AUTO FOR SALE

1992 MAZDA PROTEGE, 5SPD, NEW BRAKES, COMPLETELY NEW EXHAUST SYSTEM, NEW RADIATOR, MOST RELIABLE CAR I'VE EVER OWNED. Owner buying a truck. \$3800. 732-545-3132.

Help Wanted

ATTENTION MOMS!!!!

Looking for P/T work while your kids are in school? The *Observer* is seeking ADVERTISING SALES-PEOPLE. Set your own hours. Experience not necessary.

Call 668-0010.

MOTORCYCLE FOR SALE



MOTORCYCLE FOR SALE 1994 SUZUKI INTRUDER 800.

With Saddle Bags and pouch. Under 1500 miles. Mint condition. Must see. \$4100.

LAND FOR SALE

100X200 BLDG. LOT/SOMERSET. \$69,900. Residential neighborhood. Ask for Susan. Call Prudential Golden Key Realty 732-560-0665.

PHOTOGRAPHY

COPIES OF OBSERVER PHOTOS for sale. Call Pattie Abbott at 756-8011 or the *Observer* at 908-668-0010.

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

If so, there's a good chance you can purchase a copy of your photo. Call 756-8011 (leave message) to make an appointment to select your photo from our book of photo proofs. There are many photos available, including those not published.

To Advertise your Garage Sale, Call 908-668-0010.

ROOFERS

J.T. PENYAK ROOFING CO.

COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL
RESIDENTIAL

908-753-4222

FAX 908-753-4763

124 CAMDEN AVE.
SO. PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080

VIDEOS

HOLLY PARK VIDEO

Movie Sales, Rental & Accessories
(908) 561-7227

DVD-3 Day Rental-\$3.49

Fresh Complimentary Popcorn on
Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday
with rental

1615 Park Avenue
South Plainfield, NJ

HOLISTIC HEALING

A Holistic Center for Prevention and Healing

Stop Smoking * Weight Loss * Childbirth
Stress Management * Fears * Phobias
ADD/ADHD * Study Habits * Sports
Pain Control * Preparing for Surgery

MIND WAVES

Roxanne Cortese C.Hy. C.H.P.
"Using A Natural Approach"

Reiki * Hypnosis * Reflexology
(908) 561-1511 2701 Park Ave.
(908) 757-2330 2325 Plainfield Ave.

Magnet Products and TPR Cream Available

NUTRITION

Miriam Handler

Nutritional and Wellness Consultant

- Learn about proper nutrition
- Minerals and vitamins for health
- Lose weight with balanced foods
- Improve your immune system
- Educational classes

"Bring Your Body Into Balance"
Call for a "FREE" Consultation

(732) 549-8688

Piscataway Area

CONTRACTORS

BUILDER & GENERAL CONTRACTOR

NJ DCA LIC #019771
Since 1981

Lordina Builders
908-753-3850

ADDITIONS-KITCHENS -
BATHROOMS -
Office Renovations

FREE ESTIMATES

SNOW REMOVAL/SALT

Call
KLK Trucking for:

Sand/Salt Mixture, Bulk
Rock Salt, Ice Control Sand

Sanding * Salting * Snowplowing
Pick up or Deliv., Mon. thru Sat

908-757-4434

265 Ryan Street
South Plainfield

GARBAGE DISPOSAL

PINTO BROTHERS DISPOSAL

Andrew & Matthew Pinto

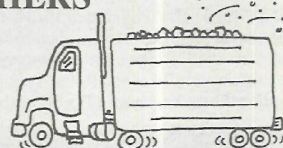
P.O. Box 263
So. Plainfield, NJ 07080

Phone 908-561-8231

Fax 908-561-9889

CONTAINERS FROM 1 to 40 YARDS

Residential, Commercial & Industrial Service



"Still a Family Owned &
Operated Business"

CLEANING SERVICES

Tabco

► Real Clean Maintenance

Residential • Commercial
Office Cleaning

South Plainfield, NJ

(908) 791-9869

Fax: (908) 757-4818

You Don't Have to Fuss -
Leave the Cleaning to Us

Owner Operated TABCOMAINTENANCE@aol.com



AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

BUCEY'S

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE CENTER

Complete Foreign and Domestic Auto Repair

(908) 753-9555

700 Hamilton Blvd. South Plainfield

Bring in this ad to receive \$5.00 off any repair over \$25.00

To place an ad in the *Observer*, call 908-668-0010.

NEED HELP?

Find what you're
looking for in the
**BUSINESS &
PROFESSIONAL
SECTION.**

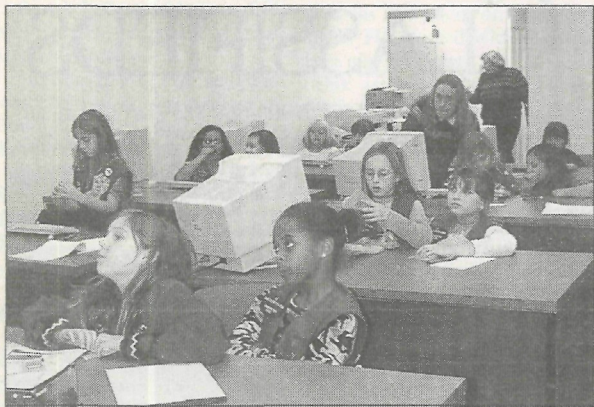
To advertise, call
908-668-0010.

ADVERTISE
YOUR
BUSINESS
IN THIS SPACE
FOR \$15.
PER ISSUE.

**BUSINESS &
PROFESSIONAL**

For info, call
908-668-0010

Brownie Troop 311 Earns Their Computer Badge

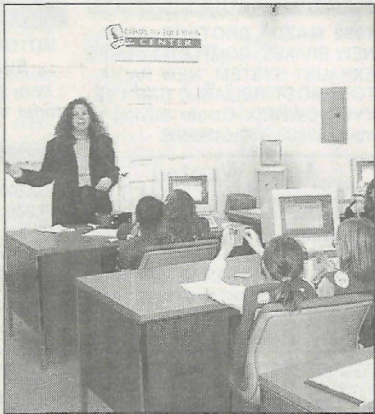


Brownie Troop 311, consisting of third graders from both Roosevelt and Riley Schools, attended computer classes compliments of the Computer Education Center (CEC) located on Hamilton Blvd.

The Brownies were taught basic computer skills to meet the requirements of the "Point, Click and Go" Badge. The brownies were taught how to open programs, save data on floppy disks and other basic computer skills by CEC instructors, Marie Veglia and Kimberly Deo.

Brownies that participated in the lessons were: Cori Black, Allison Clawans, Sara Frazzano, Maricela Gonzalez, Ashleigh Gray, Jessica Handwerger, Brittani Janowicz, Jaclyn Kukuch, Jackie LaVerne, Lyndsey Murtagh, Brittany Musolino, Emily Orlandini, Shana Pascalli, Jackie Rogozinski, Jessica Rosocha and Heather Stoloff. Troop 311 Brownie leaders are Ann Kukuch, Chris Clawans and Rosemary Orlandini.

Computer Education Center donated their time and offices as a community service when asked to teach this class. If you have a scout troop and would like earn your badge contact the Computer Education Center at them at 757-9085.

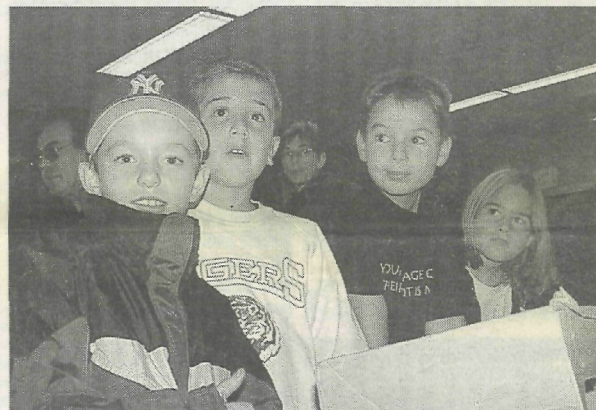
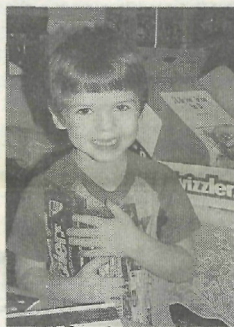


Riley School Craft Show Draws a Crowd

Story & Photos by Patricia Abbott

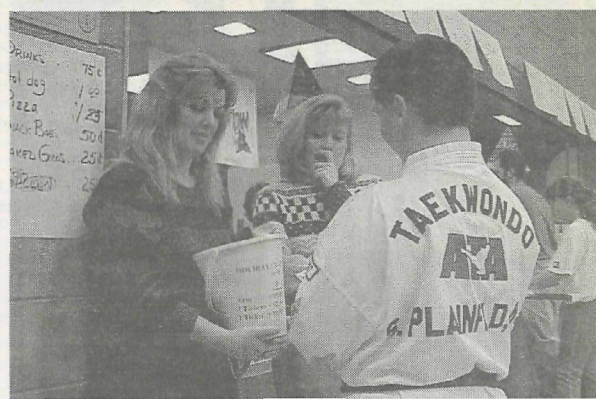
Last Friday, Riley School's filled parking lot only hinted at the crowd inside. The event was a craft show sponsored by the fifth grade class to benefit the trip to Stokes State Forest. Forty-five vendors filled the gym, lobby and a hallway. There was something for everyone with a price range to suit even the smallest allowance. Merchandise ranged from a Pokemon grab bag, magic tricks and lolly pops to hand-decorated sweatshirts, candles and elegant stained glass wall hangings. Young and old alike traversed each aisle in search of that perfect gift.

Fifth grade students could be found working hard from set up to clean up. The students assisted vendors by carting in supplies and delivering food orders to their tables once the evening was in progress. Fifth grade parents staffed the kitchen selling a variety of goodies to hungry shoppers. Parents also assisted by directing vendors to their tables, selling 50/50s and donating baked goods. The craft show raised nearly \$1,700 towards the Stokes trip. Deana Fredericks, chairperson of the Stoke Committee, noted that fifth grade parents Noelle Haupt and Karen Gross co-chaired the event and deserve the credit for



its tremendous success.

The cost per student to attend the Stokes trip is \$136. Each fundraising event reduces the cost per student. The Riley School PTSO makes a class trip contribution towards the cost and the rest is up to the class. This year's fifth grade class has been hard at work since last school year raising funds for the trip. They held a craft show in the spring just before Mother's Day, a car wash, raffles for Beanie Babies and a spaghetti dinner. The hard work has paid off and the cost per student has been reduced to less than \$10 each.



SPHS Class of '78 and '79 Hold Reunions

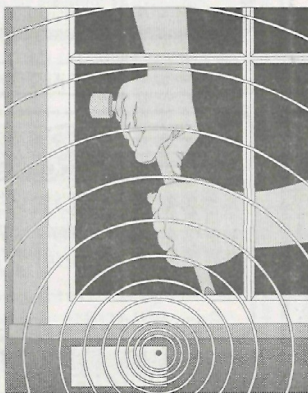


CLASS OF 1978—The SPHS class of 1978 had a slight delay in their 20 year reunion, but made up for it with a show of unity wearing T-shirts that read, "We're Still Great, Class of 1978." The event was organized by Darleen (Zazzara) Albinio and was held on June 26 at the Italian American Club in North Plainfield. Total attending the reunion were 177; 127 of those were 1978 graduates.



CLASS OF 1979—The SPHS class of 1979 may be 20 years older, but the merry making at their recent 20 year reunion made it clear that they still know how to have a good time! The reunion was held at the Pines Manor on Rt. 27 in Edison. Class President Ken Abbott and Vice President Laura Atcachunas organized the event with help from Stacey (Minarck) DeCellis. Approximately 100 people attended; 75 were graduates of the class of '79.

SECURITY CONCEPTS OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY



Feel Secure
About Your Home
While You Are Away

- RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL ALARMS
- CENTRAL STATION MONITORING ONLY \$16.60/MO.

Call Today for a Free Estimate

908-757-7344

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED