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DEC 17 1999

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 3, NO. 15

50 CENTS

DECEMBER 17, 1999



Pictured above, Lieutenant Robert Merkler is sworn in by Borough Clerk Jim Eckert as wife Doreen and sons Bobby Jr. and Billy look on. Merkler was promoted to the rank of captain. Pictured below left to right, first row are Patrolman Michael Hoppe and Wendell Born; second row, Michael Lane and George Albertocki; and third row, Peter Arancio and Matthew Koep.

## Officers' Swearing In, Promotions Mark Last Council Meeting of Year

The final council meeting of the year brought out the largest crowd of the year. The council wasn't raising taxes, they were promoting five officers and hiring two new recruits. The crowd of supporters filled the council room and the hall outside the chambers.

Parents, wives, children, co-workers and friends were on hand as the new recruits were sworn in

and the five officers were promoted.

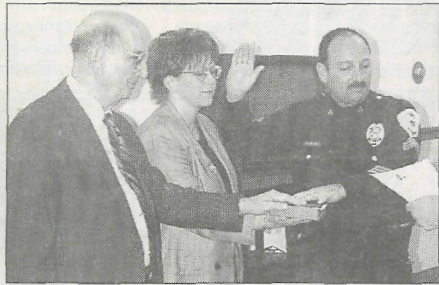
New hires were Patrolman Michael Hoppe and Wendell Born. They will be starting their academy training the first of the year.

Promoted to the rank of captain was Robert Merkler.

Both Michael Lane and George Albertocki were promoted to lieutenant and Peter Arancio and

Matthew Koep were promoted to sergeant.

Promotions in the police department come through a civil service process. The police officers are required to take a civil service test. All officers studied for the exams and were placed on a list according to how they scored on the test. Officers are only promoted through this civil service process.



## Voters Reject School Bond Proposal

Voters turned down the proposed \$22.5 million bond school referendum by a vote of 1,224-952. Only 18 percent of the 11,848 eligible voters in South Plainfield turned out Tuesday to vote on the referendum.

With this defeat, the Board of Education must now go back to the drawing board and decide what action to take next. Another referendum cannot take place until March or April of next year. This defeat means no new Roosevelt School, no track at the Jost Athletic Field and no boilers in the middle school, nor any of the pro-

posed upgrades to electrical systems in all the schools.

Superintendent of Schools Guy Ferri said he and the Board were very disappointed in the outcome of the vote. He said the Board will do some homework and then meet to figure out why the referendum was defeated and address those issues before the referendum is put to the voters again.

Construction on the south side of town will bring additional families to South Plainfield. It is projected there will be an increase of more than 850 students in the schools in the next few years.

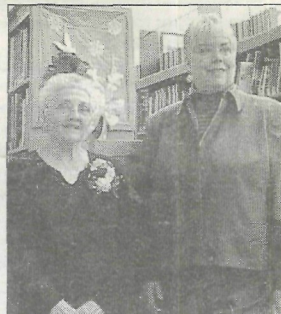
## SP Library Declares Eleanor Haines Day

By Patricia Abbot

Saturday, Dec. 11 was a busy day at the South Plainfield Library. A banner over the desk proclaimed the day to be *Eleanor Haines Day*. At the end of this month Eleanor will retire from her 20 plus years with the library, and many friends and family were on hand to wish her well. A smiling Eleanor greeted each old friend and asked them to sign a guest book the library had provided. A photo album filled with memories traced her years at the library and VFW.

The room was filled with familiar faces—Marion and Dan Gallagher, Mike and Linda Zushma, as well as the entire borough council (pictured below). Library Trustee Eric Aronowitz presented Eleanor with a gift from the trustees. People arrived with cards and gifts. Children came with their parents to congratulate her then dashed off to the children's room.

Mayor Gallagher presented Eleanor with a certificate of appreciation for her years with the



Eleanor Haines (left) and SP Library Director Sundra Fenn

library. VFW member Otto Sodoma delivered a special gift to the library, a book, *VFW: Our First Century* by Herbert Molloy Mason Jr. The thick volume holds the following inscription, "To our South Plainfield Library, (In honor of our Past President Eleanor Haines on her retirement from the South Plainfield Library) VFW Post 6763, Phil Cortese, Commander". A book dedicated in her name seems the perfect way to honor her retirement.





## In My Opinion

## Letters to the Editor

## To the Editor,

As a parent of a child in the South Plainfield Schools, I am upset by the Board of Education's vote to attempt to return Grant School to an elementary school by Sept. 2000. First of all, it appears this was brought up at the Nov. 16 meeting without proper procedure. Secondly, I found it offensive the way it was presented as "administration and ancillary programs." Those so-called ancillary programs service many children and families in our community including the Future Stars Preschool, Sunshine Preschool, Kindergarten Enrichment and Latch Key. These are vital programs needed in our district and to slight them by simply saying they can find another place by September is insulting.

In addition, it is going to cost the taxpayer additional money to house these programs for several years. The referendum has not even been voted through yet. Last, but not least, I find it highly unlikely that Grant School can be brought up to code and made suitable to be an elementary school building by September. It will be costly and difficult to do

this safely while children are still using the building. Personally, I would not allow my child to attend the Grant School building as an elementary school until major work has been done on the building. If you doubt my word, go look for yourself.

**SINCERELY,  
AN OFFENDED PARENT**

## Dear Editor,

It was indeed a pleasure meeting with my daughter's teacher this morning to discuss her progress. A teacher's dedication and commitment to her students is quite evident and very much appreciated. It is an unfortunate situation that the teachers have been placed in, due to the Board's reluctance to recognize the value of our teachers. The role of teachers in molding and framing our youth and ultimately our society's future is often times down played, but must be recognized and equitably rewarded.

It is difficult to quantify the value of our educators, as the true measure is in the quality of their work.

As a ten year resident of South Plainfield, I trust our elected Board of Education officials will realize the benefits of a quality education through quality educators and quickly resolve this outstanding contractual issue for the current and future benefits of our children.

**SINCERELY,  
KIMBERLY AND LAWRENCE  
BETHEA**

## Dear Editor,

I have been reading about the current "Board-Teacher" struggle in South Plainfield and there are a lot of numbers being thrown around. Numbers as everyone knows can be manipulated to one's advantage. Let us not talk about numbers, but about people, about the teachers and the board members.

I feel that there is only one major issue. Is the board going to adequately compensate the teachers for their services? If the board judges that the teachers do not deserve adequate compensation then they should say it and be done with it.

The board should not say that they do not have money or that teachers make enough money already or that they, the board, are looking out for the taxpayers. These are not the issues. The teachers are responsible for educating children and the board is responsible for making sure that they hire and retain competent teachers. The board's other responsibility is to compensate these teachers.

If there are incompetent teachers in the system the board must deal with them. Dealing with them does not mean withholding adequate compensation from all teachers. Adequate compensation also implies some percentage of raise. People who are deserving should get raises. It seems to be the right thing to do.

**SINCERELY,  
JOSEPH W. KOPACSI**

*PS: This whole fudgeral is probably an eventual 2.4 to 4.4 percent raise for teachers. If you need to talk about numbers let us suppose that the average teacher "really" works about an average 8.5 hours a day, including after school hours and summer vacation time. This comes to about 1,550 hours per year. A 3.4% salary increase for a \$40,000 teacher would come to about a \$0.88 raise per hour. Merry Xmas.*

## Letter to the Editor:

On Sunday, Nov. 28, the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission presented a wonderful concert at the Wesley United Methodist Church. Our town is lucky to have individuals who are interested enough to go through all the work involved in getting a concert like this together. Perhaps it is not publicized enough, but the attendance left many empty seats. Those of us who attended were very pleased and enthused and look forward to their

future presentations.

There is such a variety of music and musicians everyone can find something to enjoy. I hope in the future these endeavors will be supported by the population of South Plainfield and surrounding towns. The concert is free, so money is not the concern here. Let's support our town and its efforts!

**YOURS TRULY,  
MARTHA SABO**

## To the Editor,

After reading all the bickering in past issues of the local papers over teachers' salaries and the proposed referendum, I finally had to write a letter. It is not the size of the school or the teacher's salary that makes learning take place, it's what goes on in the classroom. The Board of Education and our teachers need to work together and focus on the children and the issue of improving the education they provide.

I am a graduate of the South Plainfield School system and I am ashamed to say that I was just informed by my professor at Kean University that if I plan on getting a Bachelor's Degree where writing is emphasized, I need to take a remedial writing course. I was told that I don't write at college level. I was fortunate enough to be gifted in science and obtained a nursing degree from a county college, but now that I am continuing my education, I am struggling. My husband (not from South Plainfield) is amazed that I can't write a decent business letter. He is a Rutgers graduate, a school I couldn't get into with a combined SAT score of 800. It's not that I didn't go to class or pay attention. I graduated from South Plainfield with honors!

All I know is I am happy my children are in Sacred Heart School, getting an outstanding education. They are proficient in reading, writing, science and math, as well as religion. My daughter is doing work in science that I didn't see until college. We know that Sacred Heart does not have the same funds as public schools, but the children are not shortchanged. They manage their money better. They don't have the most modern equipment, they do regular calisthenics and the teachers aren't paid extra to coach sports. It's the parents who volunteer to coach and support the children. They aren't bused to events, we carpool them. Money for "extras" is raised by a dedicated Home School Association. I don't know the salaries of the teachers at Sacred Heart, but I'm sure it does not compare to that of the public school, yet I have never seen a more dedicated, committed group of educators. The school is like an extended family, always available and willing to help, unconditionally. It's a shame that the parent/teacher conferences were postponed in the public schools because of the current contract dis-

## 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](mailto:spobserver.com) or faxed to 908-668-8819. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length.

pute. Isn't it the children who are ultimately suffering because of this?

As adults and parents it is our responsibility to make sure the children are learning the right lessons to succeed in the world today. A new school and higher salaries don't make a better system. If the high school was built to house more than the 1,000 students it has, why not put the eighth graders there? We moved the sixth graders to the Middle School. An article in the *Sunday Star Ledger* dated 12/12/99 shows South Plainfield had only an eight percent increase of students in five years? Where do we get the estimate of 851 with new housing? What if it's not that many?

Teachers are not the only profession today that aren't getting significant raises. Look at healthcare, nurses salaries haven't changed much either. We don't get free medical and dental coverage, we pay a portion of it.

Nursing, like teaching is a profession you enter to make a difference in a person's life, not for your weekly paycheck. If all nurses cared about were their salaries, there wouldn't be any nurses. And for the teacher who buys her own stars and decorations, I put out money constantly for health education material and

*Continued on page 12*

PUBLISHER'S  
NOTE

This issue of the *Observer* contains a special four-page section explaining how the PAL (Police Athletic League) Building came to be built. We were planning to have this issue coincide with the groundbreaking of the expansion to the PAL Building. Sometimes the best laid plans don't work out.

The first bids received for the proposed expansion came back much higher than expected, so the bids were sent out a second time. This time they came back even higher. The money budgeted for the expansion is approximately \$500,000 and the low bid was for \$950,000. The PAL expansion is now on hold until either additional monies can be raised or plans for renovation can be downsized.

The special PAL supplement portrays the history of how and why the PAL Building was built. The pictures we used are fantastic, showing the early days of the PAL. We weren't able to identify all of the kids but look for current Recreation Director Mike English in one of them, as well as some others who are now grown up. We would like to identify everyone and are asking any who may know who they are to help identify them. Just jot down the names and mail them to our office.

We must also give a special thank you to the South Plainfield Police Department who worked very hard gathering these pictures. Capt. Robert Merkler wrote the story on the history and Tulio Capparelli came to our office to help identify some of them.

After reading the story and seeing the photos we hope you will share our appreciation for this building and realize what a great asset it is to South Plainfield.

South Plainfield  
Observer

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## SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

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South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohr'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](mailto:spobserver.com) or [ggnan@aol.com](mailto:ggnan@aol.com) or [ngrennie@ix.netcom.com](mailto:ngrennie@ix.netcom.com). Include your name, address, telephone number.

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by Robert Hunter

FINDING THE  
WORDS

Those who go to funerals and pay condolence calls are often at a loss to find the "right" words to say to grieving family and friends of the deceased. Grief counselors advise well-intentioned visitors to avoid giving advice. The offering of sympathies should also avoid any mention of knowing how the grieving person feels. Awkward moments may also be averted if visitors refrain from making vague offers to do anything if needed. Instead, it is more constructive to share a personal memory of the deceased or to tell of the impact that the departed person had upon the lives that he or she touched. These are offerings that will likely be well-received because they involve personal feelings and experiences.

And if your offering of sympathy is not acknowledged or even rebuffed, don't take offense. Grief and loss are overwhelming emotions, and the recipient is often oblivious to the kind wishes of others. Keep in touch, your constancy will be much appreciated in the months that follow. This information is brought to you as a public service by the JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME. We offer a wide range of end-of-line services and a professional courteous staff. To schedule a consultation, call 756-2800. Our facilities are located at 2456 Plainfield Avenue in South Plainfield.

"Can I see another's grief  
and not seek for kind relief?"

-Blake



## From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Yes, we know there are still gifts to buy and wrap, cards to be mailed and ornaments to be gotten out of the attic. But how about taking time for news from the South Plainfield Library?

First of all, the two charity drives based here at the Library will be finishing up tomorrow. You still have time to donate hats, gloves and scarves to the *Friends of the Library*, or new children's books to *Books to Keep*. Items will be distributed to the needy this holiday season. Please drop off your donations at the main desk.

On the other hand, the Friends own fundraiser will continue until December 31. The Honey-Baked Ham Company will donate \$5 to the Friends for every half or whole ham bought at one of their company stores. You'll find more information and the necessary coupon at the main desk.

Next week, we'll only have one Children's Storytime program, instead of the usual three. The program, for children ages three and over, is on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. Afterwards, we'll be taking a break from Storytimes, as Children's Librarian Linda Hansen gets set up for next year's activities. The programs will return on January 18.

Here's some advance word on another schedule change: the Library will be closed next Friday, Christmas Eve. Check next week's column for more information on our Holiday schedule.

On weekday afternoons and on the weekend our computer ter-

minals get filled up real fast. At the moment, we only have four, so some people are left without. Here's a tip: if you're waiting for a computer, let us know. We'll keep an eye open for the next person who finishes their allotted 30 minutes and then hold the terminal for you. This will help us see to it that everyone gets a shot.

So, you've spent a hard day shopping, wrapping and preparing for the holidays. You want to relax in front of the TV but nothing that great is on. We can help. We have a wide selection of Christmas tapes, in both adult and juvenile sections. The adult selections range from perennial favorites like the Alistair Sim version of *A Christmas Carol* and the oft repeated *It's a Wonderful Life*, to more recent offerings like a Christmas tape from *Touched by an Angel* and *The Merry Mishaps of Mr. Bean*. The adult non-fiction area includes performances of *The Nutcracker* and *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, as well as two holiday-themed episodes from *The Jack Benny Program*. Our juvenile section features a number of holiday tapes, featuring characters like Charlie Brown, Mickey Mouse, the Simpsons and the Muppets. A new arrival for this year is the well-regarded Mr. Magoo version of *A Christmas Carol*. All in all, you should find something for your holiday viewing pleasure. Videos are loaned out for two days, four tapes per card.

With that, we'll close out this week's column. We'll see you next Friday. Just try to find time for us amidst the last minute preparations.

## In-Line Skating Begins at Willow Park

Last Wednesday evening Mayor Dan Gallagher, along with members of the borough council, the Police Athletic League (PAL), the Junior Woman's Club and lots of anxious kids, officially cut the ribbon at the newly renovated rink in Willow Park.

The old tennis courts behind Borough Hall have been converted into in-line hockey rinks; new fencing was put up and electronic scoreboards, donated by the Junior Woman's Club and the PAL members, are in place.

The In-Line Hockey league is run by the Recreation Depart-



ment and they already are over 40 kids anxious to play.

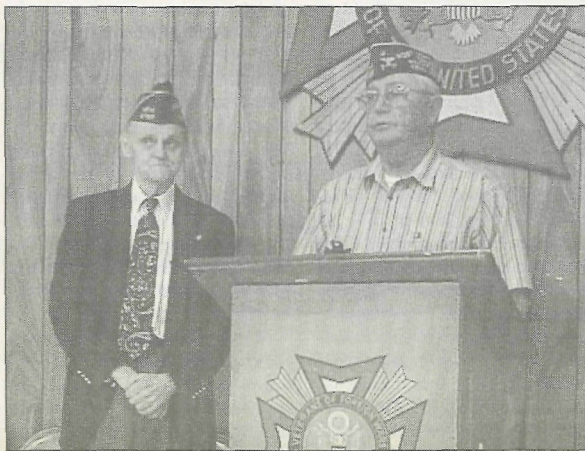
The nearby building previously used by PBA Local 100 will be renovated and be used as a locker room in the coming months.

PBA Local 100 held a fundraiser in the spring to raise money for in-line hockey rink. They also received many dona-

tions from businesses in town. The Junior Woman's Club also made donations to help complete the renovations.

Kids can still register at the PAL Building to join the league. All games will be supervised and proper equipment is mandatory.

For more information, call 226-7713.



## VFW Remembers Pearl Harbor With Ceremonies

Members of VFW Post 6763 held ceremonies to pay tribute to those Americans who fought and died during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. After the attack, 1,178 Ameri-

cans lay wounded and 2,403 lay dead or dying. Most of the U.S. Pacific Fleet was in shambles. Nearly 30,000 men and women were killed during World War II. As living veterans of foreign

wars, members of VFW Post 6763 held this Pearl Harbor Memorial to remind everyone of the price that was paid for the freedom every American enjoys today.

## CORRECTION

Brownie Troop 314, consisting of third graders from both Roosevelt and Riley schools, attended computer classes at the Computer Education Center recently. In last week's issue, we incorrectly reported troop number. We regret the error.



## Aiello

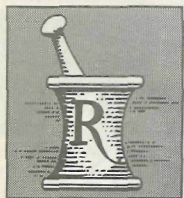
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## Clean Business Assoc. Holds Ninth Annual Glitter Awards Breakfast

Local business people and borough officials met last week at Sherban's Diner to recognize and honor the Clean Business Association's (CBA) 1999 Glitter Award winners and Adopt-A-Spot participants.

Emil Leporino, Chairman of the South Plainfield Clean Communities Advisory Board, welcomed the group and discussed the status of the Borough's Clean Communities Program. Over \$287,000 in grants have been received from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for litter control projects since 1988, including \$30,679 received in 1999.

Mayor Dan Gallagher honored the following 1999 Glitter Award winners: Frank Licato for his newly renovated dental office on Plainfield Ave.; Dale Jayne for Hall's Warehouse expansion on Kentile Rd.; Jon

Dean and Andy Juttner from the Volunteer Fire Company for the new landscaping at the firehouse on Maple Avenue; Joseph DiPaola (not present) for the well-kept Park Ave. Exxon at the corner of Park and Maple Ave. and Michael Huber of Michael Anthony's Restaurant on Hamilton Blvd.

The mayor, along with CBA President Joe Diegnan, recognized those businesses and groups that participated in the Adopt-A-Spot program in 1999. Previously adopted spots that were readopted this year are: a stretch of Hamilton Blvd. by the Spisso Family; the entire length of Front St. by Keystone Community Residence; the Belmont Ave. stream crossing by Federal Metals and Alloys; the Clinton Ave. Ext. stream crossing by Timber Creek Landscaping; the Durham Ave. overpass by Blue Ridge Landscaping; the Cedar-

brook Ave. stream crossing by Cub Scout Pack 224; and Hamilton Blvd. along Rte. 287 by The Home Depot store and Northeast Division Corporate Office. Two new spots were adopted in 1999: a stretch of Metuchen Road between the Conrail yard and Iran by the Przewoznik family; and the stretch of South Clinton Ave. between Synergy Gas and Hamilton Blvd. by Clear Technologies.

Mayor Gallagher thanked all for their commitment to a better looking South Plainfield. He suggested the CBA also survey the Borough's residential areas this month and recognize those houses that are best dressed for the holiday season.

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

Anyone interested in joining the Clean Business Association or in learning more about the Clean Communities Advisory Board's programs can call the Clean Communities Coordinator, Alice Tempel, at (906) 226-7621.

forcement activities. The South Plainfield Police Department will conduct saturation patrols on Dec. 17, 18 and 19. The patrol areas and times will vary.

The national campaign will serve as a comprehensive tool for states and communities to use as we all work together to save lives and reach the national goal of reducing the number of alcohol-related traffic fatalities.

## Campaign Seeks to Curb Alcohol Related Accidents

The South Plainfield Police Department will be participating in the National Impaired Driving Campaign, "You Drink & Drive, You Lose." The December campaign is the first of a series of mobilizations scheduled to occur twice annually, coinciding with the July 4th and December holidays. The mobilization's goal is to have enhanced impaired driving en-

### Spread the Word!

Submit your events for the AROUND TOWN page. Mail or drop off your stories and photos: The South Plainfield OBSERVER, 1100 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Fax (908) 668-8819 • email GGNAN@aol.com.

### Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.  
South Plainfield, NJ

Very Rev. Michael A. McGuire, Pastor

#### Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:45 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:15 a.m.

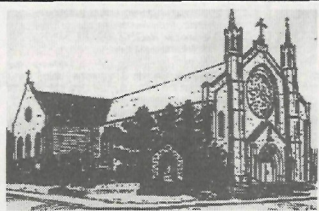
Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)

Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

Holy Days 7 p.m. (Vigil); 7 and 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m.

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

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



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# AROUND TOWN

## EVENTS

### Recreation Plans Trip To Footloose on Broadway

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip to see the Broadway musical *Footloose* on Sunday, Feb. 27. The bus will leave from the PAL Building at 12 noon.

The price is \$55 per person. Register at the PAL on Maple Ave. Only 49 tickets are available, so reserve early.

### VFW Post 6763 Spaghetti Dinner

The VFW on Front Street is holding a Spaghetti and Meatball (or sausage) Dinner on Friday, Dec. 17, from 5-8 p.m. The price is \$6. A children's menu will be available.

For information call 908-668-9751.

### Recreation Plans Ski Trip to Montage

The South Plainfield Recreation Department invites you to ski Montage on Monday, Jan. 21, 2000.

You must be at least 14 years old to participate. Fee for bus and lift only is \$45; bus, lift and rental is \$59 and bus and adult learn to ski is \$47.

Register at the PAL by Jan. 14.

### 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

The South Plainfield Polish Home on New Market Ave. will hold a New Year's Eve Party. A grand buffet, music, special

### 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.



drinks, snacks and giveaways are planned. 10 p.m.-4 a.m.; \$5 admission. For information call 668-9442.

### 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 afterwards at the Rescue Squad building.

### 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.

### Tourette Syndrome Support Meeting

The Tourette Syndrome Association Family Support Group of Middlesex County will meet on the following dates: Jan. 11, March 14 and May 9, 2000.

For more information, contact Debbie at 732-283-1439 or [www.tsanj.org](http://www.tsanj.org).

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## The Alternative View

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

Dear Dr. DeCosta:

I read your very informative article on the U.S. Surgeon General calling for a moratorium on mandatory hepatitis B vaccinations for schoolchildren due to concerns about dangerous side effects of that vaccine. I have just recently read that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has just recently pulled the plug on the rotavirus vaccine. I am very fearful for my children and would like to know what's going on here. Do you have any information on this latest vaccine problem? - P.L.

Dear P.L.:

You are not alone in your fears as a concerned parent. According to a 8/3/99 USA Today article entitled, "Are vaccines safe for our kids? Now parents fear shots," Never have American children received so many vaccinations: Most of the 11,000 babies born each day in the USA will get at least 21 vaccinations before they start first grade—more than twice as many as a decade ago.

Never have questions about vaccines been so pointed.

According to Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., chair of a hearing on vaccine policy, "There have been an increasing number of reports of safety concerns with vaccines. When some parents are more afraid of the vaccine than they are of the vaccine-preventable disease, it is imperative that we fully examine this issue."

Concerning the rotavirus vaccine, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has withdrawn its recommendation that infants receive a vaccine to protect them from rotavirus, a disease that causes severe diarrhea and vomiting, citing concerns that the vaccine may cause a rare and potentially fatal side effect in children.

The committee released a statement saying that it "no longer recommends immunization of infants" with the rotavirus vaccine and voted unanimously to withdraw its recommendation that it be given to infants at two, four and six months of age. Their decision came a week after American Home Products, the manufacturer of the vaccine (marketed under the name "RotaShield"), voluntarily pulled its product from the market.

The announcement also came nearly four months to the day after the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommended a halt to further vaccinations due to a possible association between the vaccine and an intestinal disorder called intussusception.

Intussusception occurs when one part of the bowel folds or telescopes into another. It occurs most commonly in infants and small children. The disorder causes vomiting, bloody stools and bowel obstructions leading to severe abdominal pain that can require surgery; if left untreated, the condition can be fatal.

In a press release issued on Oct. 16, American Home Products said that it had evaluated cases of intussusception reported to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System, as well as preliminary data from studies currently being conducted by the CDC. Based on those findings, "These data continue to suggest a temporal association between the use of RotaShield and the development of intussusception."

Even as American Home Products announced a recall of the vaccine, the number of intussusception cases continued to mount. According to Dr. John Livengood, director of epidemiology and surveillance at the CDC's National Immunization Program, when the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices finally released their decision on Oct. 22, a total of 102 cases of intussusception had been reported among infants who were vaccinated, between eight and nine times the number of cases the committee had expected to see.

I share your fear and concern concerning infants and children receiving these vaccinations. I strongly urge all concerned parents to investigate these vaccine issues.

For more information on vaccine related issues, I suggest you contact: The National Vaccine Information Center, 512 W. Maple Ave., Suite 206, Vienna, Va. 22180, 1-888-909-SHOT, <http://www.909shot.com>

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



Members of the 101st Airborne held their annual ceremony at McCriskin's Home for Funerals last Saturday, remembering the 248 servicemen, members of the 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles, who died in the Newfoundland, Canada, plane crash in 1985.

Each year the 101st Airborne lays a wreath at the memorial beneath the tree and officially lights the huge tree on the front lawn. The tree has over 13,000 lights and can be seen from miles around.



## Yoga Health Center Opens at the Elks

Healthy By Design, professional YOGA fitness classes, which are open to the public, will meet on Tuesdays in the Elk's newly restored meeting room.

Cristine Iannitto, certified personal fitness instructor and certified yoga instructor with over ten years of advanced study and teaching experience, has relocated her growing practice to the newly restored Elks Lodge facility on New Market Ave. Ms. Iannitto has maintained her professional practice in South Plainfield for many years and she is widely known for her on-site classes in many of Central New Jersey's corporate campuses. Yoga instruction, fitness classes, and personal nutritional counseling have been widely endorsed in New Jersey's high energy and high profile corporate world for its undisputed and well-known benefit in stress reduction, relaxation and men-

tal-physical conditioning. Cristine points out that the tools and methods for yoga are simple, yet very ancient.

The practice of yoga can be a very effective tool to help you put yourself back in control of life's big and little situations which may have gotten away from you.

A growing number of physicians and chiropractors are recommending yoga to their patients for primary and complementary care because it is safe. It works for men as well as for women and is good for people of all ages. You are not too young or too old to start. In fact, many persons of advanced years, even sports injured persons, have realized increased range of motion in their limbs, added mo-

bility and vigor long since thought gone forever.

A somewhat confusing feature of yoga for the beginner is that there are many of forms of yoga. They all share common elements, but while some focus more on breathing and postures, others focus more on spiritual aspects (not to be confused with religion). Ms. Iannitto teaches "Hatha" yoga, which is a basic form focusing on breathing, postures and stretching.

The classes are open to all, but advanced registration is required to insure proper classroom arrangements. For additional information call (908) 757-5594. Classes will meet weekly on Tuesdays from 7-8:15 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 1254 New Market Ave.

## Recycling Center, Yard Waste Site Closed for Christmas and New Years

The Christmas Holiday schedule at the South Plainfield Recycling Center and at the Yard Waste Site on Kenneth Ave. is as follows: open on Thursday, Dec. 23 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and closed on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 24 and 25.

The Recycling Center will be open on Tuesday, Dec. 28 from 12 to 7 p.m.

The Recycling Center and the Yard Waste Site will be open Fri-

day, Dec. 31 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Both facilities will be closed on Saturday, Jan. 1.

Regular winter hours will resume Tuesday, Jan. 4. The Recycling Center hours are Tuesdays noon to 7 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The hours at the Yard Waste site are Saturdays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

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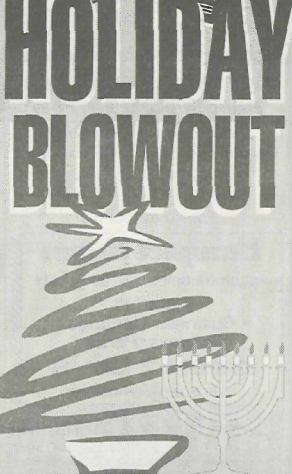
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## Police Department Accepting Applications

The South Plainfield Police Department is accepting applications for the examination for the position of Police Officer. The application is published by and must be returned to the N.J. Department of Personnel. Specific instructions regarding application fees, eligibility requirements and veterans preference are delineated in the application. The announcement and application is also available on the Internet at [www.state.nj.us/personnel](http://www.state.nj.us/personnel). Applications also may be obtained any time of the day at the South Plainfield Police Department Communications Center.

The filing deadline is Feb. 25, 2000. Candidate must be a resident of South Plainfield as of the closing date for filing the application and must maintain residency up to and including the date of appointment. Other requirements are listed in the application.

The starting salary is \$34,787. A summary of duties and benefits is posted at the police station.

If you have any questions, contact P.O. Gary T. Muccigrossi at (908) 226-7674. The Borough of South Plainfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## Donations Sought for Hurricane Floyd Pet Victims

The Plainfield Animal Hospital is accepting donations of pet food and pet supplies to help those pets left homeless as a result of Hurricane Floyd. Please bring donations to drop off box at the animal hospital, 2201 Park Ave. from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

The food and supplies will be distributed to Lorraine Zdeb, owner of "Love Your Pet" pet sitters in Millstone, who has generously used her property as a temporary shelter for these animals.

For more information, call the Plainfield Animal Hospital at (908) 755-2428, or log on to [www.plainfieldanimalhosp.com](http://www.plainfieldanimalhosp.com).

## Santa's Looking for Your Letters

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

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

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## 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.

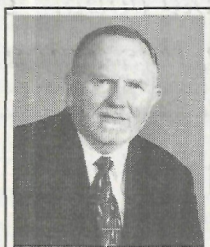
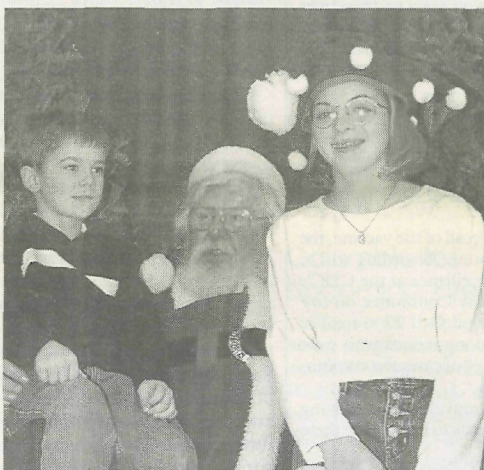
The poinsettia cards are \$1.00 each and each participant will place their name on a card to be used as a festive decoration at one of a number of South Plainfield businesses and companies.

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 Disabilities, Family Counseling and Girl Scouts.

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

## Santa Sightings in South Plainfield...

...If you haven't yet caught up with Santa, look for him in the following places: PAL Building on Saturday and Carolling in Spring Lake Park on Sunday.



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| CHILDREN (2-10) LUNCH 11-3:30 PM |                       |
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# POLICE PAL ATHLETIC LEAGUE

The Andrew J. Phillips P.A.L. Recreation Center

## A Vision for the Future

**W**henever a new resident moves into South Plainfield, they often ask questions regarding the location of the important services: police station, the various schools, the post office, etc. In addition to these important questions is the question about recreation in the borough. The most common response of existing borough residents is: "Go to the PAL!" Whether it is referred to as the P.A.L. or just "the PAL," this building has become synonymous with recreation and sport activities in our community. Before long, these same new residents who didn't know where anything

*Continued on next page*



*In 1963, through the dedication of numerous police officers, businesses, residents and volunteers this dream, this vision, became a reality as the PAL Recreation Center opened for business.*

**A true community-wide effort**

## Building on a rich history



# POLICE PAL ATHLETIC LEAGUE

## The vision....

*Continued from front page*

was in town quickly became acquainted with all of the activities associated with the recreation center and often relied on this site as a haven for their children's involvement with recreational sports, as well as their own.

However, one thing many of these residents, as well as the younger generation, were not aware of was the rich history of this building. The hard work and sweat of many police officers and resident volunteers were responsible for the construction of the original recreation facility and gave us a foundation to expand the facility and meet our current needs, as well as those of future generations.

### A Need Arises

In 1958, the South Plainfield Police Chief was Andrew J. Phillips. As chief of police, he was responsible for directing a 23-man force which dealt with the crime problems prevalent during that particular time. Like many municipalities of that era, juvenile related offenses were responsible for a large percentage of the workload for the police department. When the juveniles congregated in large numbers in street settings, they often became rowdy and disorderly, resulting in complaints to the police department from citizens. When police officers were dispatched to the scene and directed these same kids to leave the area, the question the kids most often posed to police officers was: 'Where do we have to go?'

Chief Phillips and his men heard this message loud and clear. Chief Phillips



*Groundbreaking ceremony, 1963, pictured left to right are Police Chief Andrew Phillips, Major Bob Baldwin, Sam Grunther, NY Yankees Phil Rizuto and Cincinnati Reds Dutch Mele.*

and his men realized the kids needed activities to divert them from "hanging out." They felt that organized youth activities would have a substantial impact upon juvenile related offenses. They had a vision of a building where the youth of South Plainfield could go and participate in police supervised athletic activities and social functions. At the same time, it was believed that these activities would create a positive atmosphere for the juveniles and the police.

officers to get to know each other in a more informal, less adversarial atmosphere. The answer was simple: construct a building large enough to host athletic activities as well as social functions, such as dances; i.e., a recreation center.

Recognition of the problem and developing a solution was the easy part. The difficult tasks involved obtaining property and funding to build a recreation center. Elected officials agreed to the concept and made available a parcel of property on Maple Avenue that was of apparent little value at that time. It was in a low-lying area and was home to a small pond. However, the location was ideal, as it was centrally located (at that time, the north side consisted mostly of residential neighborhoods, while the south side of town consisted primarily of farms and industry), was on a main thoroughfare, and best of all, it was free.

The next task was to find a way to fund the construction of a building that would be large enough to

address not only the immediate needs of the Borough, but also future needs, as more and more homes were being built and the population was growing. Because the kind of money needed to hire a contractor to build such a building was not available from the Borough, Chief Phillips and his men had to come up with an alternative plan. Enlisting the support of the rank and file within the police department, positive things start-





**T**oday the PAL serves as home for the South Plainfield Recreation Department. When it was originally built in 1963 it was used primarily for basketball. Times have changed and the PAL has grown to offer over 40 programs, with a total of 5,654 participants. Programs include a variety of sports offerings: Intramural Wrestling, Men's Intramural Basketball, Mens Softball, Wrestling Camp, Youth Hockey, Co-ed Volleyball, Men's Basketball, Pitch Softball, and Women's Softball.

Summer programs for youth include Junior Golf and Youth Tennis Programs. Summer camps for youth include Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball, Wrestling and Field Hockey, as well as SafetyTown.

Additionally, the PAL hosts senior luncheons and picnics, theater trips, aerobics and senior line dancing. Junior Bowling, Ponytail Softball, T-Ball, Teener Ball, Winter Soccer, Youth Basketball, Soccer and Wrestling are also very popular programs.

Members of the PAL Gym and weight room had the opportunity to use the facility for 320 days in 1999.

The PAL's Community Pool kept 2,373 members cool this summer, including 486 family memberships, 22 husband and wife memberships, 96 individual, 179 senior citizen, 39 single parent memberships and 1,680 daily passes.

The PAL serves over 700 people per week, 52 weeks a year. As many as 282,240 people could have used the PAL facility this year. The building has not seen any structural improvements in 30 years. As the community has increased over this period, so have the demands on this building. We look forward to PAL expansion to meet the needs of the community in the 21st century.

— Recreation Director Michael English

tive things started to happen. Officers spent countless hours of their own time seeking donations from local businesses and hosting fundraising activities. Donation cans were placed in stores; dances were held; bus trips and sporting activities were sponsored. While some businesses donated money, others donated building materials. During this time, South Plainfield was primarily made up of blue-collar workers and industry. There were many companies that manufactured construction materials and many residents worked in construction related trades. These companies, tradesmen, residents and police officers

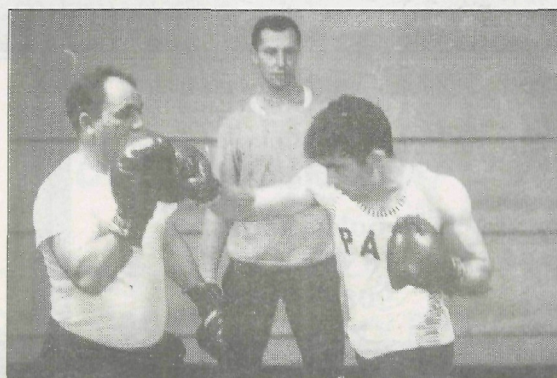
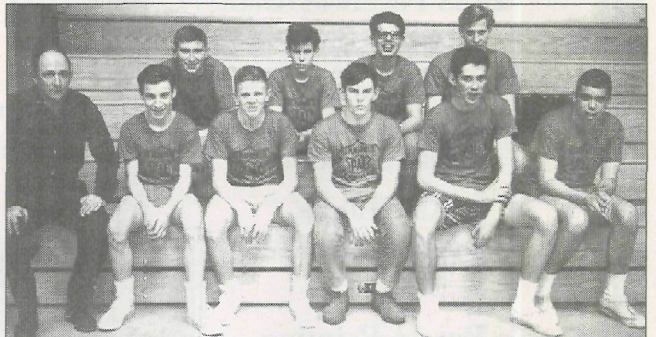
joined forces and became instrumental in making this vision a reality. Companies such as Harris Structural Steel donated all of the steel framework for the building; a number of local cinder block companies donated the blocks for the walls; tradesmen donated their time in laying the brick, running electrical wire, doing plumbing work, etc. Police officers spent countless hours in fundraising activities and participated firsthand in the actual construction of the building as many of the police officers of that era were tradesmen prior to becoming police officers. This became a true community-wide effort.

In 1963, through the efforts of many police officers, businesses, residents and volunteers, this dream, this vision, became a reality as the PAL Recreation Center opened for business. Originally, the recreation facility and all activities were supervised by police officers assigned to this post.

In 1981, the center was renamed the "Chief Andrew J. Phillips" PAL Recreation Center in recognition for Chief Phillips' vision, efforts and devotion to the youth of South Plainfield.

Nearly 40 years in existence, the South Plainfield PAL has been the home away from home for many generations of our youth. While

*(Below) Yankee sportscaster Mel Allen (fourth from left) visits the PAL to assist in fundraising. Also pictured left to right are Bill Mantell, (second gentleman not identified), Bob Stonehan, Mel Allen, "Little Joe", Russ Gratta, Major Bob Baldwin, Len Riccardi and Mr. Stillo.*



Looking  
ahead....





From previous page  
some of the "graduates" of the PAL, sometimes known as "PAL rats" have moved on, others have chosen to either maintain their hometown roots or have returned to South Plainfield to raise their families and allow their children to experience the fun associated with the PAL.

Over the years, we have seen the PAL itself go through many changes. While many police officers are still involved in the coaching of youth athletics at this facility, a police officer is no longer assigned specifically to the management of the PAL or recreation activities. The building itself has also had its ups and downs. Like any 40-year-old building, there are times large scale remodeling and upgrading is needed. We have seen some of this remodeling in the recent past, such as new multi-purpose flooring; new basketball backboards, a new ceiling in the gym, a new roof, and renovation of the exercise room. New equipment has been purchased for the weight room consisting of not only free weights but also state of the art aerobic equipment. However, as the Borough continues to grow and the recreation needs of our residents become more diverse and demanding, the need for upgrading and expansion of the facility becomes of paramount importance. This need has been recognized and action will

soon be taking place. In the PAL spirit, various groups have worked together and a "second vision" will soon become a reality. This "second vision" consists of a large addition and modernization of the current building that will address many recreation needs well into the next millennium. This is a coordinated effort between the South Plainfield Police Athletic League, the Recreation Commission and the Wrestling Club, as well as the elected officials.

The next time you are at the PAL building, take a moment of your time to read the plaques mounted on the wall in the gymnasium. These plaques identify some of the many police officers, companies and residents who donated time, money and effort into what we too often take for granite. While none of these individuals originally became involved in order to gain personal recognition, we need to take the time to remember them for what they did, for if it wasn't for their original vision, personal sacrifice, dedication to community and hard work, the potential of expanding upon this original concept would never have a chance of becoming a reality.

We ask that you join with us and support the vision that we have of a recreation center that will serve all residents of all ages within our community both now in the future.

*The PAL Executive Board*



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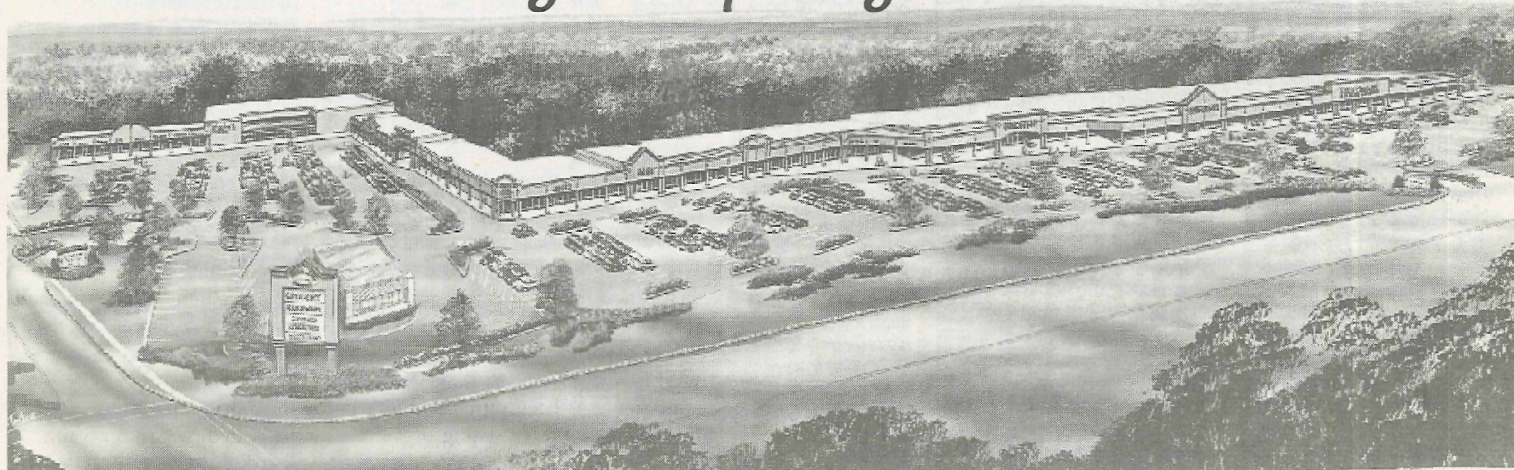
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*Wish you a  
Joyous Holiday  
and a  
Happy New Year*



# SPORTS

## Twin City Pharmacy/SPASA Holiday Basketball Tournament Results

The Twin City Pharmacy/South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness Holiday Basketball Tournament was a great success against his year. This eighth annual event featured boys and girls teams from Dunellen, East Brunswick, Sacred Heart and South Plainfield. The purpose of the tournament was two fold: provide a quality, healthy, athletic event and to disseminate information regarding the dangers of smoking, drinking, the use of controlled dangerous substances and steroids. Tom Baker, high school student assistance counselor, Kristen Kaplan, elementary student assistance counselor, and Bill Beegle, middle school assistant principal, presented a video on substance awareness and led a discussion on the dangers of student athletes abusing drugs and smoking. One fact Mr. Baker stressed was that nicotine in cigarettes is ten times more addicting than cocaine. He indicated, "The best thing to do about smoking is don't start."

Volunteers and Alliance Board of Directors who helped make the tournament a success were Tom Cassio, owner of Twin City Pharmacy; DARE Officers, Al LaMonda and Joe Pappa; and South Plainfield resident Joann Missimer. A special thanks to Nate Penny, Bill Cochrane

and Dennis O'Neill for volunteering their time to officiate some of the basketball games.

Joe Romer, a resident of South Plainfield and owner of Joe Romer Trophy Shop of Woodbridge, donated the team trophies and individual awards for each of the winning team players. Joe has been doing this for eight years and his support is greatly appreciated. Shirts with an antidrug message were also given to each player, coach and manager along with substance awareness information. Jeff Spezio, graphics teacher, and the middle school graphic arts program designed the artwork for the shirts, Lisa Campoli, Student Assistance Counselor, engaged the Peer Mentorship Club in preparing packets for the tournament.

The preliminary games for the girls had Dunellen defeating East Brunswick 27-20 and South Plainfield defeating Sacred Heart in a close game 43-41. Similarly in the boys' contest South Plainfield won over Sacred Heart by a score of 49-39 as did East Brunswick over Dunellen 53-27.

The finals were held last Friday with the East Brunswick boys defeating South Plainfield by a score of 55-34 and the girls' from South Plainfield defeating Dunellen 51-22.

## Ed Niemczyk's Youth Basketball League Scores

The Ed Niemczyk's Basketball League consists of 420 boys and girls who play 24 games each Saturday at both the Middle School and the PAL Building.

### A LEAGUE STANDINGS

|             |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|
| Spurs       | 3 | 0 |
| Cavaliers   | 3 | 0 |
| Grizzlies   | 2 | 1 |
| Bucks       | 2 | 1 |
| Rockets     | 1 | 2 |
| Warriors    | 1 | 2 |
| Supersonics | 0 | 3 |
| Nuggets     | 0 | 3 |

### A LEAGUE SCORES-DEC 11

**Grizzlies 45**  
**Supersonics 39**  
**High scorers**—Grizzlies: Danny Pollin-14, Mike Chrysanthopoulos-8 and Chris Sanchez-7; Supersonics: Mike Espin-18, Danny Melick-12, Mike Alvarez-5 and Steven Sobel-4.

**Cavaliers 45**  
**Rockets 26**  
**High scorers**—Cavaliers: Jon Buggey-13, Justin Toth-12, Jason Cosma-6, Chris Horn-4 and Sean Keane-4; Rockets: Christine Strani-12 and Tommy Haus-8.

**Bucks 31**  
**Nuggets 15**  
**High scorers**—Bucks: Mike Salerno-4, Alan Dummert-8, Philip Derosa-6, Mathew Finn-6 and Ankit Patel-5; Nuggets: Alain Amazon-6, Amanda Fugate-4 and Ryan Decker-4.

**Warriors 37**  
**Spurs 42**  
**High scorers**—Warriors: Jessa Jones-15, Francisco Gueva-6, Brian Acin-6 and Brain Edwards-4; Spurs: Mike Wiczorek-16, Mike Allocco-12, Steven Janiszak-6 and Chris Czaplinski-4.

### B LEAGUE STANDINGS

|              |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|
| Jazz         | 3 | 0 |
| Magic        | 3 | 0 |
| Hornets      | 2 | 1 |
| Nets         | 2 | 1 |
| Heat         | 2 | 1 |
| Bulls        | 1 | 2 |
| Timberwolves | 1 | 2 |
| Raptors      | 1 | 2 |
| Lakers       | 1 | 2 |
| Knicks       | 1 | 2 |
| Cavaliers    | 1 | 2 |
| Pistons      | 0 | 3 |

### B LEAGUE RESULTS DEC. 11

**Cavaliers 31**  
**Pistons 11**  
**High scorers**—Cavaliers: Nick Grego-10, Dane Miyasto-6, Erik Vesper-5, Bob Strani-4, Joe DeNizio-4; Pistons: Caitlin English-13.

**Bulls 43**  
**Timberwolves 22**  
**High scorers**—Bulls: Vincent Velez-14, Danielle Arndt-12, Michael Benak-11, Brian Wagner-4; Timberwolves: Adam

Bianchi-8, Brian Murtagh-6, Matt Jeglinski-4.

**Lakers 26**  
**Jazz 40**

**High scorers**—Lakers: Allan Mazurak-7, Chris Bojarski-7, Jeff Pollin-6, Michael Hanley-4; Jazz: Chris Bakazan-21, Roseller Lapintan-7, Anthony Petriello-6, Daniel Pinowar.

**Heat 27**  
**Nets 29**

**High scorers**—Heat: Nick Cesare-11, Andrew Miller-8, Jonathan Lieol-4; Nets: Mike Downs-17, Melissa Hansen-6, Paul Ritchey-4.

**Raptors 17**  
**Magic 20**

**High scorers**—Raptors: Kyle Lendach-4, Michael Williams-4, Vin Genova-3, Preet Dhaliwal-3; Magic: Chris McKnight-10, Doug Dietzold-4, Michael Richard-4.

**Knicks 18**  
**Hornets 22**

**High scorers**—Knicks: Erika Blaszk-5, Phu Huynh-4, Keith Dezmin-3; Hornets: Jonathon Lazar-10, Justin Basilone-6, Kevin Siedenburgh-4.

### C LEAGUE STANDINGS

|              |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|
| Grizzlies    | 3 | 0 |
| Cavaliers    | 3 | 0 |
| Wizards      | 3 | 0 |
| Rockets      | 2 | 1 |
| Trailblazers | 2 | 1 |
| Kings        | 2 | 1 |
| Warriors     | 2 | 1 |
| Hawks        | 2 | 1 |
| Suns         | 1 | 2 |
| Spurs        | 1 | 2 |
| Supersonics  | 0 | 3 |
| Nuggets      | 0 | 3 |
| Bucks        | 0 | 3 |
| Mavericks    | 0 | 3 |

### C LEAGUE RESULTS DEC. 11

**Spurs 5**  
**Cavaliers 24**  
**High scorers**—Spurs: Scott McDede-5, Kevin Revillo-2; Cavaliers: Ryan Curtis-10, Bennie Gibson-8.

**Supersonics 20**  
**Hawks 33**  
**High scorers**—Supersonics: Jonathan Marcoux-6, Brad Martin-5, Keith Heckel-4; Hawks: Nick Desimone-13, Danny McCreesh-12, Chintan Mody-4.

**Bucks 23**  
**Kings 27**

**High scorers**—Bucks: Anthony Cassano-13, Tim Dumak-8; Kings: Blair Houston-14, Vinnie Padula-8, Jeff Pagdonsolan-5.

**Warriors 50**  
**Mavericks 14**

**High scorers**—Warriors: Zach Olim-6, Mike Stallone-12, Chris Stallone-10, Robert Hoffman-6, Chris Deoliveria-6; Mavericks: Scott Hunterton-6, Chris Pennisi-4, Vincente Sanchez-4.

**Wizards 21**

**Rockets 11**

**High scorers**—Wizards: Danny Hubner-8, Chris Pollin-6, Garrett Lake-6; Rockets: Joey Turris-4.

**Trailblazers 17**  
**Suns 8**

**High scorers**—Trailblazers: Bobby Harrington-8, Brendan O'Shea-4; Suns: Michael George-4.

**Nuggets 14**  
**Grizzlies 46**

**High scorers**—Matthew Ramos-10; Grizzlies: Danny Espin-16, Jake Bayak-8, Tim Williams-8.

### D LEAGUE STANDINGS

|              |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|
| Lakers       | 3 | 0 |
| Raptors      | 3 | 0 |
| Cavaliers    | 3 | 0 |
| Knicks       | 3 | 0 |
| Heat         | 2 | 0 |
| Nets         | 2 | 1 |
| Magic        | 1 | 2 |
| 76ers        | 1 | 2 |
| Timberwolves | 1 | 2 |
| Jazz         | 1 | 2 |
| Hornets      | 0 | 2 |
| Bulls        | 0 | 3 |
| Pistons      | 0 | 3 |
| Celtics      | 0 | 3 |

### D LEAGUE RESULTS DEC. 11

**Jazz 2**  
**Cavaliers 28**  
**High scorers**—Jazz: Chris Lesniak-2; Cavaliers: Joe Lacerda-12, Nick Jeglinski-10, Taylor Curtis-4.

**Raptors 24**  
**Hornets 22**

**High scorers**—Raptors: Jali Williams-24; Hornets: Cassie Prendergast-18, Steven Wiczorek-4.

**Timberwolves 4**  
**Knicks 40**

**High scorers**—Timberwolves: Ian Collins-2, Matthew Miceli-2; Knicks: Matt Galinsky-12, Mike Dezmin-10, Gaganjot Dhaliwa-8, Toney Salerno-4, Vincent Starr-4.

**Pistons 13**  
**Magic 26**

**High scorers**—Pistons: Mikey Pryor-6, Magic: Tramane Miller-22, Riley Hubner-4.

**Nets 24**  
**Celtics 10**

**High scorers**—Nets: Dontae Johnson-8, Elizabeth Martin-8, Ricky Sierzega-6; Stephen Wagner-6, Chris Hartje-4.

**Lakers 16**  
**Bulls 14**

**High scorers**—Lakers: Jordan Petriello-6, Garrett Kelly-4, Ryan Smith-4; Bulls: Justin Dittmars-8, Greg herbster-4.

**76ers 14**  
**Heat 28**

**High scorers**—Dominic Papa-6, Kyle Quail-4; Heat: Matt Cesare-16, Mark Benak-6.

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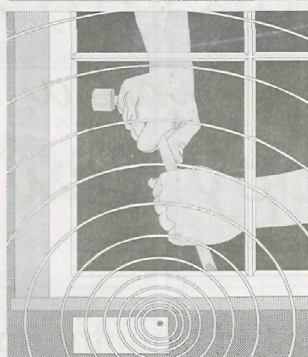
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# SPORTS

## Tigers to Open Their Season at Morris Knolls Tournament

By Bobby Hunter

The South Plainfield High School wrestling team will make its debut this Saturday at the Morris Knolls Tournament, at Morris Knolls High School. Teams participating are Cherry Hill West, Morris Hills, Montville, Wallkill Valley and North Plainfield.

The Tigers, ranked ninth in the *Trentonian* preseason state rankings, come into this tournament with a balanced and experienced team.

Tiger head coach, Bill Palvak, noted that this is not the biggest or toughest opening tournament

but it gives us the opportunity to wrestle teams from other area's. It also helps the freshmen that make the line up to get adjusted. We usually come into this tournament a little banged up. This year we have everyone ready to go except heavyweight Colin Hunter. Other than him we are full strength. We have done every realistically possible to get them ready. We have to wait and see how meet the challenge.

The Tigers have upgraded their schedule this year by adding powerhouse Brick Memorial and Belvidere. By adding state ranked teams, it gives the team a chance

of getting the top seed for the sectional playoffs. For the Tigers to achieve that Coach Pavlak will have to rely on his senior wrestlers Glen Barlicks, Chris Francis, Colin Hunter, Dan Kunst and David Stoeckel. Of the five seniors, four are three-year letter winners and have wrestled on two GMC title teams, two Sectional title teams and three District Title teams. In three years they have lost a total of four dual meets, three in the Sectionals and one to South River, when they were freshmen. These five guys know how to win and their experience and leadership will help the

younger wrestlers step it up.

Glenn Barlicks (145-152), 2-2 last year, has been working hard and has progressed nicely and will help us this year.

Chris Francis (171), 19-4 last year, is the returning District Champion and a GMC Tournament runner up. He has been a solid performer and we expect big things from him.

Colin Hunter (Hwt), 26-4 last year, was Morris Knolls Champion, Hunterdon Central Champion, two time GMC Tournament Champion, District runner up and third place finisher at the Regional Tournament. Colin will be out for Morris Knolls, but should be ready for J.E. Stevens and the Hunterdon Central Tournament. He should have a good year. He has to continue to work hard and stay healthy.

Dan Kunst (189), 19-6 last year, was injured last year but came on strong to claim a District and Region title. Dan had a strong showing in the NJ State Tournament with a 7/8 finish. If Dan stays healthy, he can go a long way.

Dave Stoeckel (130), 22-6 last year, was a GMC Tournament

Champion, a District Champion and a Regional runner up. Dave is a solid wrestler with a good work ethic and should have a great year.

Probable starters for South Plainfield include Matt Anderson (24-3) returning at 103. Rich Gebauer (7-0) will wrestle at 112 and Roberto Ramos (18-7) wrestling at 119. Dave Butrico (3-3) will wrestle at 125 and David Stoeckel at 130 pounds. The 135 pound weight class has Scott Doerr (13-12) and at 140 Matt Gatti (10-11). Freshmen Steve Johnston 145 or 152 or Glenn Barlicks. Mike Butcas (2-3) at 160 pounds. Chris Francis at 171, Dan Kunst at 189 pounds, John Foscolo (18-8) at 215 and at Heavyweight, Colin Hunter.

One thing that is missing this year is the smiling face of retired long-time assistant Coach Gene Claplis, who retired after a long and successful coaching career. He will spend the holidays with his family in Bermuda. We usually find him in the wrestling room this time of year. The coaches and the wrestlers wanted to remind coach Claplis not to get to sunburned.

## Recreation Wrestlers Crush North Hunterdon 64-6

The South Plainfield Recreation wrestling got underway last Sunday, when the Tigers hosted league rival North Hunterdon at the PAL. The Tigers were hungry this year after losing the opener last year to North by the score of 49-22.

Well, let me say that they were ready and it started with Ryan Sacco wrestling in the 50-pound weight class. Sacco went right on the attack and scored the early takedown for a 2-0 lead going into the final period. When it looked like Sacco was going to his back, he reversed Kyle Wall for the 4-0 decision and a 3-0 Tiger lead.

Robert Gentile up next at 53-pounds wasted little time with Kevin Catullo getting the takedown and fall at 0:20 to give the Tigers a 9-0 lead.

Patrick Hunter, wrestling at 57-pounds, faced Billy Loftus in a close match tied 2-2 in the third period. Loftus had control with 10 seconds left when Hunter reversed him and won by decision 4-2.

With the 12-0 lead the Tigers continued the assault with Nick Hielman, wrestling at 60-pounds, came on late to beat Tony Fusco 3-2 in a very close match to give

the Tigers a 15-0 lead.

Elizabeth Martin was next at 65-pounds and took early control over Jimmy Moore and went on to post a 6-0 decision and increased the lead to 18-0.

Jimmy Conroy at 67-pounds went right to work on Andrew Boyle, scoring five quick points before winning by major decision 9-0 and gave the team a 22-0 lead.

Bill Ashnault, wrestling at 70-pounds, got the early takedown and back points to take 5-2 lead going into the third period. Ashnault again went on the attack and scored a reversal and back points to win the match 9-2 over Phil Cpyhers.

In the 73-pound weight class, Bryon Hunt won by forfeit to give the Tigers the lead 31-0.

In the 77-pound weight class, North Hunterdon finally got on the score board. Nick Dorey, winning in the match 6-0 over C.J. Wagner, got caught and was pinned with one second left on the clock to make the score 31-6.

But the Tigers came roaring back with Danny Bayak, 80-pounds, taking early control over Rich McGuire and scoring the fall at 0:50.

Mark Wagner, wrestling in his first varsity 85-pound match, went right to work on Chris Huschke, scoring on a five point move. Wagner went on to post a 8-1 victory.

Brad Martin, wrestling at 90-pounds, got an early scare from Joe Shust, who took him down. Martin appeared to be in trouble, but he reversed Shust and pinned him at the 0:55 mark for the win.

Danny Pompilio at 95-pounds, Anthony Niemczyk 100-pounds and Billy Daly at 110-pounds all won by forfeit to round out the scoring.

### JV Wrestlers Looking Good

North Hunterdon did not have a lot of JV wrestlers, so they wrestled with some of the varsity team and did a great job winning 7 of 12 matches.

Nick Pauls started it off at 52-pounds by beating Kyle Walls 9-4. At 61-pounds Jonathan Conroy defeated Kyle Cpyhers 5-0. John Wylam, 62-pounds, won by major decision over Owen Boyle 9-0. Nick Valone, 65-pounds, pinned Jimmy Moore. Mike Wagner at 67-pounds defeated Ty Farly 4-0. Anthony Neimczyk, 102, pinned Nick Smith and Kevin Crilley and Rocco Petriello pinned Russell Korbul at heavy-weight.

Also wrestling tough were Tim Gaughan, Mike Jakubik, Ryan Szumski and Frank DeBiasse.

## Middle School Wrestlers Win Three in Randolph

By Sue D'Alessandro

The Middle School Wrestling Team had a great season opener on Sunday, Nov. 28 in Randolph. The tournament, consisting of 12 middle school teams, was a welcome back for the returning veterans of the team. They were also the first Middle School matches for the sixth graders and the first ever matches for six new first time wrestlers.

The middle school team, coached by Shane Kagan and Bill Ashnault, wrestled four rounds. The first victory came against Lenape Valley, with a win by a score of 58-31. Next came the only loss of the day to Pascack Hills, 51-45. The third round brought yet another win, over Livingston 60-33. The final winning score of the day was 45-44,

at the expense of Roxbury.

South Plainfield had three middle school wrestlers who walked away undefeated. They were Danny DeAndrea 103, Guy Severini 131, and Joe DeBiase 148. Other winning wrestlers were Jim Conroy, Matt D'Alessandro, Mike Williams, Danny Bayak, Billy Weaver, Delvin Colon, Peter DeAndrea, Rob Mastick, Kevin Crilley, Raj Jainarine, Frank Demarest, Carlos Pineda, Ryan Elliot and Jason LaFontaine. Also wrestling for the middle school were Anthony Costante and Paul Ritchie.

Congratulations to the wrestlers who stepped up to round off the team in the lower weights. At 56-pounds, Robert Gentile finished the day at 3-1. Bissy Martin was 1-3 at 61-pounds. Billy Ashnault in the 66-pound slot posted four wins and went home undefeated.

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# Girls Scouts Prepare Thanksgiving Dinner For Homeless-Few Attend Festivities



The girls of Senior Girl Scout troop 259 have been working towards the Gold Award, the highest award a girl can earn in scouting. As part of the requirements they must do a service project to benefit someone in their community, they thought it would be nice to host a Thanksgiving Day Dinner at Trinity Reformed Church in North Plainfield. Invitations went out to any person who receives meals on wheels as well as all persons within the homeless program.

The scouts put out flyers to the girl scout community requesting

donations of items to help with their dinner as well as monetary donations to help purchase all other items and perishables. The outpouring of help was tremendous and the positive feedback made the task seem all that more positive. There were so many items the girls couldn't use so they turned them over to the troop doing the Christmas Baskets for our town's needy. The girls received 25 responses to their dinner.

The girls spent the week and a half before Thanksgiving getting ready. Day one, the girls spent

sorting and repacking all items as well as making a shopping list. Day two, they went shopping and transported all of the items to the church where the dinner was to take place. Day three, (the night before Thanksgiving) was spent doing all the baking of homemade cakes and pies. Finally it was Thanksgiving and the girls got there at 8 a.m. to start getting ready for their 25 plus guest. The girls cooked and carved four 20-pound turkeys, stuffing, potatoes, vegetables, sweet potato pies and all the fixings. The tables were set with table cloths, center pieces, candles and dinner music played. At 12:30 when the guests were to arrive, the girls were shocked to see only two people arrive, they were devastated!

The girls served their two guests and cleaned up the kitchen, but because they didn't want to waste all that food, they brought it to Bound Brook where there was another dinner going on.

The girls of troop 259 are grateful for all the help they received and also for the two guests that came. The requirements for the service project were completed, but the feelings they wanted to fulfill of the heart were not.

From Gina Zarra, troop leader



Pictured are Mike Cortese, Frank Licato Sr., Mike Walko, Lou De Fillipo, Sal Boffa, Joe Cappuccio, John Farinella, Renato Biribin (Missing from photo is Mike Walko, Jr.)

## Annual Pig Roast at Unico

The Plainfields' Unico Chapter held its annual Pig Roast at the Italian American Club in Scotch Plains. This festive "all you can eat" dinner was a great success.

The co-chairmen for the dinner were Frank Licato Sr. and Renato Biribin. Renato said, "We usually have approximately 130 people for the dinner, but this year we had 190. Frank Licato

and his kitchen crew were busy from 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., preparing the roast pigs and other side dishes.

Mike Cortese, chapter president said, "This is one of our best fund raisers. The profit from the dinner is used for another charitable function, our Annual Holiday Party for the handicapped and local Keystone residents."

By Cyrus N. Moon

## Weekly Horoscope 12/17-12/23

**SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21** This is a week to feel good, also you will be able to also succeed in any ventures that you get involved in. If you are planning ahead chose a day to schedule a family celebration, throw a party, or make a business presentation. How about beginning a vacation soon?

**CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19** This is not the time to evade responsibility, serious pressure may come from others from work or at home. With some hard work, changes that need to be made can be at this time. A great deal can be accomplished when you take the lead in changing what you know that needs it.

**AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18** Regard the status of relationships, emotional commitments, domestic arrangements, and the place where you reside, as you are vulnerable to sudden or unexpected changes. The action of others can intrude on you and a separation from a woman can possibly happen.

**PISCES 2/19-3/20** Obstacles may keep tripping you up this week with you trying to obtain your heart's desire. When you get what you want at this time it's possible that it was not what you expected. Do not make any promises at this time; they will be tough to keep. And then your loyalty will be in question.

**ARIES 3/21-4/19** This can be a stimulating week for you. Physical activities and interaction are at a peak. You have a variety of activities that will work—cooperative efforts, romantic adventures, and legal matters. But the endeavors will not proceed altogether smoothly without work from you.

**TAURUS 4/20-5/20** Others are apt to find you attractive and interesting, and you can succeed because of your uniqueness, if you want it to. An example of this is you may be at a social event this week and your style of dress is what will make you stand out from the others. Interactions of all kinds will work!

**GEMINI 5/21-6/20** This week information, ideas and activities in which you are involved may relate directly to you gaining personal power. Information is out there to help you with these goals and travel is possible to help with this info. If you are in the finance or investment field all the better.

**CANCER 6/21-7/22** Do you need to get some things done? Well this week you are able to relate your own interests to the interests of any group you are working with, so that everyone will gain from what you do. And on that level you will come out ahead. A marriage now will be especially harmonious.

**LEO 7/23-8/22** If you have any plans this week you are unlikely to be able to control your life's circumstances when a *Sun squares Uranus* transit happens. Your normal schedule or plans you have made may be disrupted by bad weather, accidents on the highway, or other forces in your outer environment.

**VIRGO 8/23-9/22** Keep your mind alert! You will have the opportunity to demonstrate or to acquire some unique or special talent or knowledge. Also other things that can happen is travel in some unusual capacity or to an unusual place. Finances can also be involved or you taking the lead on a newsletter.

**LIBRA 9/23-10/22** This is an excellent period to dine socially with others. Also if you ever wanted to take a chance on something, now is the time. Trust your instincts and intuition, they can lead to some fortunate situations. If you are having trouble in a relationship that also can be improved.

**SCORPIO 10/23-11/21** This is a period when you may be propelled by an urge to get to the bottom of motivations. You will be strong-willed, and a formidable person in getting your own way. Circumstances may provoke you to resent others who are manipulative or who have more power than you do.

**QUOTE:** *Destiny's gate is the path you travel, Life's lesson is the key that opens it.*

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## POLICE REPORT

• A Somerset resident, Michael Elliot Bright, was arrested for shoplifting at Sterns.

• Troy C McMillon of Edison signed a complaint against a Hamilton Blvd. resident. The victim claims that the suspect bumped him during a heated verbal dispute about service to the victim's car.

• A Wadsworth Ave. resident contacted police after hearing a noise outside the front door. She saw the shadow of a suspect. The victim yelled and pounded on a wall scaring off the intruder. Police arrived to find a walker underneath a front window. The walker was probably used to gain entrance. The victim stated that the walker had been in an unsecured rear porch. The area was searched with negative results.

• A borough employee reported damage and graffiti to the Senior Citizen bus and another borough vehicles. "TY 77 '99" had been written on one vehicle and "solo 99" on another. Several vehicles had broken mirrors as well. There are no suspects.

• An unknown suspect left Sterns, Hadley Road with a perfume set valued at \$57. Security followed the suspect to her car and confronted her. The suspect handed back the merchandise, said her son was in the car

and attempted to exit the parking lot. The open car door hit the Stern's security guard when the suspect tried to leave. The guard then stood behind car to prevent the suspect from leaving but had to jump out of way as the suspect backed out. Police have a video tape of the suspect leaving the store with the merchandise.

• A Flemington resident reported his laptop computer stolen from his car while parked at Holiday Inn. The car had been locked, there was no sign of forced entry.

• An Elm St. resident reported being assaulted by an acquaintance. The victim had been at 7-11 and saw the suspect in the parking lot. The victim reported that she left and went home to avoid a confrontation. The victim had arrived home and was

removing her 1½ year old son from her car when the suspect pulled into her driveway. The suspect exited her vehicle and struck the victim. It was reported that the victim and suspect had been friends before a falling out.

• A glass door on the Municipal Building was kicked out by the boyfriend of a woman brought to headquarters on a disorderly conduct arrest.

• An Edison resident was arrested after attempting to leave Kmart with four pairs of glasses concealed in coat pocket.

• Police were summoned to a car fire on Coolidge Ave. There were no plates on the car. A VIN number was obtained and the car had not been reported stolen. A partially melted gas nozzle was found near the vehicle. Arson is suspected.

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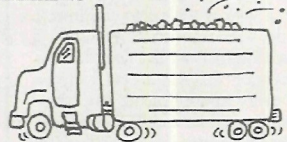
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## Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 2

other supplies, it goes with the job and if it helps me do my job a little better than it's well worth it.

Reading Shakespeare every year in high school was O.K., but I wish my teachers had made sure I could write well enough to get through a four-year college. I have learned writing is very important to succeed in today's world and have vowed to improve mine.

Maybe the Board of Education should call Sacred Heart for some advice!

**NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST**

### To the Editor,

This week as I received my mail I was surprised to find, along with the PSE&G bill, the Bell Atlantic bill and the various personal mail, there numerous Christmas cards from SPEA members.

Ten members wrote, "The Holiday season is a time for serenity and peace; a fair settlement would make that a reality in all of our lives."

Five members wrote: "Tis the season for reflection and counting blessings. Realize how our community is blessed by dedicated staff members and reflect on your own motives for denigrating us so much."

Four members penned, "There can be no rejoicing when the profession I value so highly has so little value to you. Realize the potential which will not be fulfilled without an equitable settlement."

And the originals, sent by one member: "Please help us negotiate a fair and equitable contract on Dec. 20, so we can all have a great holiday."

"Haven't you raised your children to respect teachers; how can you justify your own lack of respect? Where will our social values be if you cannot value those who mold the future of our society? How can you profess to represent the public when your own ideals are so hypocritical?"

You have stepped over the line, your assessment of the way I raise my children is frankly none of your business, but what do you suppose my children are thinking of you and your behavior? I do not accept this type of disrespect from my children nor do I accept it from you.

"As we enter into the new millennium, may we settle instead of mettle with the contract."

I couldn't agree more!! Instruct your representatives to come to the table ready to settle. You read the newsletter, do you honestly believe we are being presented with reasonable settlement requests? As an elected member of your Board of Education, I and the other eight members of this board dedicate immeasurable volunteer hours to our community. We have each taken an oath of office and are doing exactly what we have been elected to do, represent the children and taxpayers of this community.

Another "Put yourself in my place. I am a widow with two children. I am the sole support of my family. I want a fair increase like the administrators got. Teachers are on the front line every minute of the day. They spend more time with these children than some of their parents. Treat us like the professionals we are."

We would be happy to settle as we did with the administrators, initial proposals from both sides were reasonable and close to the final settlement, with an "attitude of mutual respect and collegiality that provided the foundation for settlement." Are you willing to do the same?

And finally the vice president-Diana Joffe sent the following greeting, "The educators in South Plainfield are your greatest asset-don't throw it all away. Let's settle a fair contract."

To the members of the SPEA, I extend my holiday greetings to each. I and the members of your Board of Education would like nothing more than to settle a fair and equitable contract. I have never questioned

the dedication of our staff and to imply I have is inaccurate, those who know me will confirm. I do not believe your Board of Education is being unreasonable and frankly the threats do nothing to change my mind. On those who would like to take this to a personal level and speak to me about how I am raising my children, I say reflect on your own motives and look within, my children and my family have nothing to do with your unreasonable demands.

I hope as you all send me your Holiday greetings, you are also sending the same to your representatives. You assume the unreasonable party is the BOE. I suggest you re-read our newsletter; these are the facts. I suggest you ask the same of those who are involved representing you. It takes the cooperation of each side to reach an agreement, we would all like our salaries raised by exorbitant amounts, but do we really believe that is going to happen?

Let us see how much you all care about our children and our community. Instruct your representatives to come to the table on Dec. 20 with a reasonable open mind. To quote again, one SPEA member, "As we enter the new millennium, may we settle instead of mettle with the contract."

**DAWN JEFFERYS**

## Sacred Heart School First Marking Period Principal's List and Honor Roll Students

### Grade 1

Emily Garcia, Shaun Bandrowski, Jennifer Villacres, Shannon Bell, Sabrina Douge, Shelece Counts, Ivonne Martinez, Joseph Landry, Javon Fatliff, Alexander Liszewski, Kristin Treslar, Kelly Pauls and Angelica Sajonas.

### Grade 2

Jason Bolton, Isaac Irving, Amanda Bowker, Nicole McDonough, Alexandra Fee, Nicholas Montori, Michael McHugh, Jessica Napolitano, Alfonse Muglia, Sean Piersanti, Kaitlin Muglia, Aaron Pinkard, Ryan Ricarte, Sarah Rusk, Zachary Sikanowicz and Nicholas Tubens.

### Grade 3

James Abney, Samantha Argueta, Daphne Aguinaldo, Brianna Bicho, Aedan Bayona, Sara Crane, Taylor Boosmann, Alexandra Grant, Ian Collins, Alice Hsieh, Lauren David, Michael Muglia, Jackie Dougherty, Rachel Pinto, Ashley Forbes, Ryan Hohner, Gloria Lobato, Allyson Paterek, Kathryn Paterek, Walter

Rodriguez and Kaitlyn Salvatore, Melissa Santiago and Javier Obode.

### Grade 4

Jonathan Abel, Celina Campos-Marqueti, Kristen Partesi, Elix Colon, Kevin Peterson, Rita Landry, Yusuf Leary, Megan McHugh, Reginald Myers, Jennifer Napolitano, Skylar Randolph, Luis Reynoso, Camille Romano and Allison Whitefleet.

### Grade 5

Kristen Ciandella, Adam Barletta, Samantha Crane, Erin Boosman, Lisa DelNegro, Joseph Campanaro, Alexandra Durning, Joseph Casey, Amanda Iavarone, Ryan Cullen, Erica Palma, Jared Garaci, Anthony Pelle, Amy Hsieh, Daniel Schiavo, Amanda Jenkin, Maria Lipnick, Alicia Presley, Tiffany Smith, Kiersten Whitaker, Cassandra Wilkowski, Andrea Wright and Peter Yeung.

### Grade 6

Juliet Fryszyzyn, Kristin Barko, Roseller Lapitan, William

Boturla, Diane Romano, Michael Clore, Lauren Sportt, Julia Dougherty, Robyn Douglas, Britany Frazer, William McCall, Adam Pruss, Paigja Spruill, Jamie Williams and Jennifer Yeung.

### Grade 7


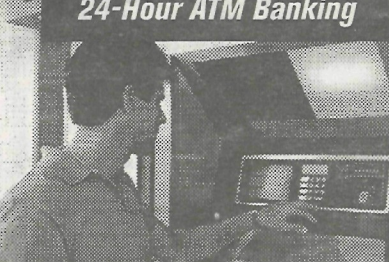


Courteney Ervin, Kenneth Abel, Jenna Zielinski, Michelle Arango, Frank Blahuta, Zaida Castillo, Kevin Ciampi, Lauren Ciandella, Courtney Cullen, Nicole Cunicella, Alexandria Gamboa, Kristin Gilormini, Kristy Glavasich, Kevin Hohner, Sarah Kulihin, Mary Lillis, Marichris Maullon, Monea Nash, Kate Polifka, Matthew Revolinski, Kristen Salvatore and Erin Sikanowicz.

### Grade 8

Kristina Latonio, Kimberly Brana, Marsia Palma, Danielle Counts, Valerie Rojas, Angela Garzon, Calvin-John Smiley, Kaitlyn Gregory, Nicole Gutierrez, Michelle Musoke, Saniqua Pitt, Megan Polifka and Linh Tran.

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