

South Plainfield Observer



VOL. 3, NO. 16

50 CENTS

DECEMBER 24, 1999



South Plainfield was buzzing with cheer last week. Santa Claus and the fire department delivered gifts all over town. Santa also visited the PAL and listened to children's Christmas wishes. Carolers entertained in Spring Lake Park. Santa was also at a home on Ritter Street talking to children. See pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

Borough Administrator John Corica Resigns

Business Administrator John Corica called a special meeting last Friday to announce he will be resigning his post. His last day on the job will be Jan. 7.

Corica has accepted a job in Morris County as Florham Park administrator. He has been the South Plainfield Business Administrator since March of 1996.

While Corica has been administrator here, South Plainfield has seen many changes in and around borough hall, such as the updating of the computer systems, the police department's new communications room, a new heating system and numerous road improvements around town.

When asked why he was leaving, Corica commented that it the move will be an opportunity for growth and is closer to home. He added that the staff at Borough Hall was good to work with. "This was a very professional department with many dedicated people. I've met a lot of new friends and I'll miss them when I leave," he added.

OK FOR Y2K, BUT...

Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Zushma held a special meeting last month with the heads of all borough departments to make plans for any emergency that might occur on New Year's Eve. Attending the meeting were the mayor and members of the council, and representatives from the police department, fire department, rescue squad and public works department.

According to Zushma, South Plainfield is prepared for any emergency that may arise. The State of New Jersey has mandated that every town operate under emergency status, with evacuation and emergency contingency plans as the year 2000 begins. Y2K problems that were discussed included such things as possible terrorism attacks, lim-

ited shutdown of utilities, spotty power failures and even the failure of railroad crossing signs either not going down or not coming back up.

The office of emergency management will be in Borough Hall manning the phones to handle any emergency or Y2K problem that may arise, from 12 noon on Dec. 31 until 12 noon Jan. 1. Two crews from both the rescue squad and the fire department will also be available the entire night, and all members will be on alert. Public works will also have at least two workers on call for the night.

Middlesex County plans to set up a rumor hotline whereby callers can get information on rumors or problems that might arise. The rumor hotline number will be

available in next issue. Middlesex County will have at least 80 officers on standby at the Middlesex County Fire Headquarters.

Several manufacturers in town that process chemicals or dangerous materials will be shutting down or limiting production on New Year's Eve.

Zushma would like residents of South Plainfield to know, "We don't expect any real problems, but we plan to be ready if any arise."

If any resident wants to report a problem or needs assistance on New Year's Eve, they should call the police department at 755-0700. Do not call 9-1-1 unless it is a real emergency. The emergency management team will be available all night to help with any problems that may arise.

Bridgettes Take State Team Gymnastics Championship

The Bridgettes Level Five Gymnastics Team competed in the New Jersey State Championships recently. The team consists of girls ages 9-11 who train at Feigley's School of Gymnastics in South Plainfield.

Nine-year-old Jahni Stasil from Warren Township took the Gold Medal on floor with a 9.3, on bars with a 9.625 and on vault with a 9.3, and the Silver Metal on beam with a score of 8.85. She also won the all-around championship title with a total score of 37.125, more than a full point ahead of her closest competitor.

Eleven-year-old Guiliana Kay of South Plainfield took the State Champion Title in her age division, with an all-around score of 36.15. In addition, she finished first on beam with a score of 9.1. Along with two championship titles, she placed third on vault with a 8.9, third on bars with a 9.1 and fourth on floor with a 9.1.

Claire McDonald, 10, from Westfield, missed a portion of her competitive season due to a knee injury. Despite the missed time, she competed effectively, earning second on the beam with a 9.05, sixth on bars with a 9.2, tenth on floor with 8.925 and fourth all-around with a 35.675.

Jenna Hamer, 11, from North Plainfield, had an impressive finish at her first ever state competition. She earned fourth on the vault with a 8.9, sixth on bars with a 8.85, seventh on floor with a 8.95 and fourth all-around with a 35.4



The Bridgettes Gymnastics Team, which trains at Feigley's Gymnastics, became New Jersey State Gymnastics Champions.

Eleven-year-old Kaitlyn McGirl from South Bound Brook had her personal best meet of the season, placing seventh on beam with a 8.45, ninth on floor with a 8.75, tenth on bars with a 8.5 and eleventh at all-around with a 33.9.

This was also the first state championships for Amanda Monahan, 11, from Milltown and Sarah Brooks, 10, from South Plainfield. Amanda scored an 8.45 to earn her a thirteenth place finish. In addition, she also placed on all other events, including eleventh on bars with a 8.4, thirteenth on floor and beam with 8.575 and 8.3,

respectively, and twelfth in all-around with a 33.725. Sarah earned her highest score all year, an impressive 8.95, to receive tenth. Sarah also earned fifteenth on floor with a 8.575 and fifteenth in all-around with a 33.575.

The seven member Bridgettes Team defeated 23 other teams to gain the title of New Jersey State Team Champions. "The girls worked hard all year and they just kept getting better and better," said Bridgettes Coach Valarie Bartus. "By the time states came they were ready and they hit every routine. We couldn't be prouder."

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Happy Holidays!

As 1999 draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the *Observer* staff and myself to express our heartfelt thanks for your continued support over the last two and one-half years.

Our mission has been to ensure that every event, story and photograph that we publish is about South Plainfield. Our children are our greatest asset and coverage of their schools and activities, as well as those behind the scenes, deserves as much attention as we can provide.

Our neighbors and friends who serve on the various public safety departments—fire, police and rescue squad—all deserve our thanks, and we will continue to make sure you are kept informed of all they are doing. Our governing body, along with borough boards and committees, also needs our support, regardless of party affiliation. We will continue to cover those meetings and keep our readers informed.

During the year of 2000 the *Observer* will continue to strive to be "South Plainfield's Hometown Local Paper." I realize, only with your support, will that happen!

Have a happy holiday,

Nancy Grennier

Pat DeSantis Resigns from BOE Negotiating Committee

Board of Education member Pat DeSantis has resigned from the Negotiating Committee. During the BOE meeting held Tuesday night, she stated she felt that her lack of experience is not helping with the negotiations and someone with more expertise would be more beneficial to the committee.

The BOE has been negotiating a new contract with the teachers' union for months. The negotiations are now in mediation. When questioned about progress, Board Presidents Doris Haley said she could not comment since the talks are ongoing.

The meeting was attended by over 100 members of the teachers' union, who wore SPEA t-shirts. Some were carrying signs saying, "Settle Now" and some wore pins saying, "Work Without a Contract."

The BOE plans to meet Thursday afternoon to discuss what the board will do next after last week's rejection of the school referendum. Doris Haley said, "At this point, we don't have any answers."

Superintendent Guy Ferri commented on the published test scores in last week's *Star Ledger*. The state mandated tests were administered school-wide last year and the results were published before the school board received them, which he felt that was unfair. Ferri said the tests obviously don't align with our curriculum and he will be calling a special curriculum meeting to find out the reasons why the test scores were so low and what the BOE will be doing to raise them. "I consider these test scores as a wake-up call," he said.

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.

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. Subscription rates \$25 per year in South Plainfield; \$45 per year out of town.

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.

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

LISA FOTI

WILLIAM TUTHILL

Advertising Sales

In My Opinion

Letters Letters Letters

To the Editor,

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad wishes to thank everyone who contributed to our fall fund drive and our Thanksgiving Weekend "coin-toss" fundraiser at the corner of Park and Oak Tree avenues.

The generosity of the borough's home and business owners and the motorists who donated to our volunteer organization enables us to continue serving the community 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week.

Because our members are volunteers, they individually donate hundreds of hours each year in addition to family, work, school and other community responsibilities. They also spend quite a few hours keeping current with training and certification requirements.

Every dollar you contribute allows us to focus less on the funding we need to equip our vehicles and emergency medical technicians and concentrate our efforts where they belong—on proper training and staffing to provide patients with the best possible care.

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad is fortunate to have such a supportive community base. We appreciate your help and plan to continue serving the community for years to come.

PETER J. MCGRATH

CAPTAIN, SP RESCUE SQUAD

Dear Editor,

I am so glad the people of South Plainfield voted the correct way on Dec 14—"No" to the ideas of the Board of Education and raising our taxes higher.

They want more classroom space without knowing if we are going to need it or not and more administrative office space.

What ever happened to Cedarcroft School? Why did we sell Grant School?

In 1970 when space was not available for 5,600 students, we went into double sessions which then was found unnecessary. Now they give us the same line about needing more space and blame the mayor and council for allowing homes to be built and bringing in more children?

What happens if the new homes don't bring in any children of that age group or no children at all. Each year they move up because with the poor education the children of South Plainfield receive nobody ever gets left back.

Why can't we do away with the superintendent of schools and the



Dear Editor,

The South Plainfield Recreation Commission would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who made this holiday season a very special one for the children of our town. Several events sponsored by the commission, *Come Meet Santa*, *Caroling in the Park*, *The Holidays with Santa*, and *Letters To Santa* were successful because of their actions.

A child's smile is the best picture any one needs to see. The following helpers brought a smile to every child who participated in the programs: Dana Curcio, Amy Curcio, Kelly Richie, Eileen Milcarek, Lisa Sniscak, Janice Wilson, Peggy Devlin, Peter Rachwal, Brownie Troop 309, Tracy Murray and the South Plainfield High School Chorus, South Plainfield Rescue Squad, Diane Manhattan, Tom Elf, Ginny Petrillo, MaryAnn Schnyderite, Frank Curtis and a special thanks to Santa, Ed Kubala.

The Commission wishes everyone a healthy, happy, and fulfilling New Year.

SINCERELY,

MIKE ENGLISH, DIRECTOR OF RECREATION

rest of the board to whom we pay these extremely high salaries?

I think the mayor and council should run the schools or pick parents to work on boards from various schools.

The first thing they should do is get rid of the union, break that and then sit down with each teacher and tell them this is your new salary! Take it or leave it, or go teach where you live.

We have school clerks in our school system who get paid more than teachers do in other states. Why do we need that; let them go also and hire temps, or part time workers. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to answer a telephone or wipe a nine year old's nose to be making that type of money!

The tax base is very low in South Plainfield. What drives up the taxes not only in South Plainfield, but in New Jersey as a whole, is boards of education!

South Plainfield hands out money like it is candy. South Plainfield is next to last in Middlesex County. How can you say the children are getting the best education; they are not. If I had children they would be in

a private school.

No family is going to move to South Plainfield because of the education system that it has!

So, how could they say the new homes are going to add to the student enrollment? Maybe the town should have sold the land to farmers without children!

Now watch what moves the board of education will use next to get what they want. I say fire them all now! Clean house and start fresh!

TONY PISANIELLO

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I had recently attended a two-day fifth grade class trip to Stokes State Forest with Roosevelt School. The team building, communication and conservation education was an exceptional experience for the children who attended. My real applause goes out to the teachers, Ms. McGrath, Ms. Martin, Ms. Decker-Fredrickson and Mr. Addison Williams, who went far beyond what is expected in their job description. These professionals gave up the comforts of home for two days, living in barrack-style conditions, so the children of Roosevelt School could experience this unique and worthwhile educational experience. This extra effort given by these individuals is what makes our school system strong. Teachers and administrators who make this kind effort and sacrifice for our children should be rewarded and recognized. Many thanks go out to Mr. Mario Barbieri, principal of Roosevelt School, for making this trip for 20+ collective years.

Thank you to Mario and the caring teaching staff and support team for all their efforts; they are appreciated.

VERY TRULY YOURS,
GUY MORETTI

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



Renato Biribin, Frank Licato Sr., Michael Cortese and Richard McNally

Robot Giveaway

Through the efforts of the Plainfields Unico Chapter, arrangements were made with Inrange Technologies Corp. of Mt. Laurel, NJ, who donated 1,000 toy red robots for distribution to underprivileged children. Richard McNally, who chaired this project for the Plainfields' Chapter, was able to pick up the toy robots through the efforts of his wife who works for Inrange Technologies Corp. The robots were given to eight local chapters of Unico, Lions and Rotary Clubs for distribution at their discretion to needy recipients.

From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Okay, let's go through the checklist. Presents wrapped, tree decorated, stockings hung, chimney clean, fireplace unlit. Now that that's done, time for news from the South Plainfield Library.

We'll start off with thanks to everyone who came to our recent slate of special programs. We had a good crowd on Dec. 11 for the tribute to Eleanor Haines who's retiring from the Library staff at the end of the year. Attendees included Mayor Gallagher and the borough council. We also had several people interested in the simultaneous appearance by NJ Artist in Residence Sheila Eichenblatt. And, on Dec. 15, there was a good turnout of both adults and kids (mainly kids) for the Holiday Sing-Along with Mr. Kurt. The program was enjoyed by all. Special thanks to Carol Hagy, who provided the refreshments.

As promised, here's the latest on our holiday schedule. We're closed today, tomorrow and Sunday in observance of Christmas. Next week, we'll close at 1:30 p.m. on Friday for New Year's Eve. Then, we'll be closed on Saturday, Sunday and Monday for New Year's. We'll re-open on Tuesday, January 4. Unless, of course, the Y2K crisis causes

civilization to grind to a halt. Let's keep a good thought, shall we?

Our Storytime programs have been cancelled for the next few weeks. They'll return on January 18.

There are some changes going on, Circuit-wise. We're between groups on the Large Print Circuit; the next group will be ready ASAP. Also, Monday is the last day of availability for the Video Circuit. Titles in this group include: *When We Were Kings*, *What Dreams May Come*, *Beloved*, *D2-The Mighty Ducks* and *Casper*.

While we're talking about videos, we've decided to bow to several patron requests. We've put together a printed list of our video collections, both juvenile and adult. The list is further divided into fiction and non-fiction titles. The list can be found at the main desk. Unfortunately, the high cost of paper and toner prevents us from making multiple, free copies of the list for the public. You can, however, borrow the list overnight, or run copies from it.

And, speaking of patron requests, here's word about word processing. Several people, usually students with term papers due, have asked when we'll be offering it on our computer terminals. Unfortunately, this isn't as easy to do as you might think. In addition to the basic word processing program, we also have to install improved anti-virus software. There are also procedural questions to deal with, like, "Can patron use their own discs?" As we've said before, we will definitely offer word processing to the public in the future. It's just going to take a while to get it set up. We'll let you as soon as everything is set.

That'll just about do it for this week. We wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas. See you on New Year's Eve.

Cornerstone Architectural Group Receives Certificate of Appreciation

The architectural design firm of Cornerstone Architectural Group, LLC, located at 202 Hamilton Blvd., has been honored by the New Jersey Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA NJ). A certificate of appreciation was presented to the firm principals, Robert E. Barranger, AIA; Robert M. Longo, AIA and Michael G. Soriano, AIA at a ceremony during the December AIA NJ Board of Trustees meeting. The award recognizes the distinguished service of the firm in furthering the ideals of the profession and for its leadership service to the AIA. All of the firm principals and employees are AIA members who volunteer their time to actively participate in AIA events.

Mr. Barranger is the 1999-2000 Chairperson of the Public Awareness Committee and an Alternate Trustee of the AIA NJ Board. Mr. Soriano is the 1999-2000 Chairperson of the Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee, a Trustee of the AIA NJ Board and the Liaison to the New Jersey State Board of Ar-

chitects. Mr. Longo is the immediate past president of the AIA Central New Jersey Section and a trustee of the AIA NJ Board.

Mr. Barranger was also recently honored as AIA NJ's Young Architect of the Year for 1999. This award is bestowed on an AIA NJ member who has been registered in the practice of architecture for more than ten

years, and recognizes Mr. Barranger's achievements in the profession at an early point in his career.

The firm's current design projects include an office expansion for G & W Laboratories, South Plainfield, school renovations for the Carteret Board of Education and the recently dedicated South Plainfield Community Policing Building.

MILESTONES

Howard Fidler, Receives Young Chiropractor of the Year Award

Dr. Howard Fidler, a St. Louis Park Chiropractor, was recently named Minnesota Young Chiropractor of the Year. Dr. Fidler is being honored for his dedicated and loyal service which promotes the growth and development of the chiropractic profession. Dr. Fidler is actively involved in the Minnesota Chiropractic Association. The award was announced at the annual convention of the Minnesota Chiropractic Association meeting in Duluth.

Dr. Fidler is the son of Barry and Michele Fidler of South Plainfield. He is a 1997 graduate of Cleveland Chiropractic College in Kansas City and currently practices at Davis Chiropractic in St. Louis Park.

The Minnesota Chiropractic Association is a private professional association representing more than 1,900 Minnesota doctors in active private practice.

Engagement

Daniels, Cochrane Plan 2000 Wedding

Bernice Daniels of South Plainfield is proud to announce the engagement of her daughter Laurian Daniels to Brian Cochrane, the son of William and Lorraine Cochrane, also of South Plainfield.

The future bride is a receptionist at Strato, Inc. in Piscataway. Brian, an employee of the Boro of North Plainfield, is a contributing sportswriter for the *Observer*.

A Dec. 1, 2000 wedding is planned.



Laurian Daniels and Brian Cochrane

Promotions

Fessock Promoted to First Lieutenant

Robert Joseph Fessock, a 1999 graduate of South Plainfield High School and 1998 graduate of Towson University, Towson, Maryland has been promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant in the United States Army effective Dec. 8, 1999. He is the son of Paul and Leonor Fessock

of South Plainfield.

Lieutenant Fessock recently returned from Germany in support of Operation Joint Guardian "Kosovo" and is currently stationed at Fort Lewis, Seattle, Wash., serving in the 170th Military Company, 504th Military Police Battalion.

We thank you for your
support and wish you
a Happy New Year!

Happy Holidays

1110 Hamilton Blvd. So. Plainfield, NJ 07080

COMPUTER EDUCATION

CENTER

908-757-9085

www.cecnj.com

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.

AROUND TOWN

EVENTS

Our Lady of Czeszochowa to Hold Annual Wafer Supper

Our Lady of Czeszochowa Parish's Annual Wafer Supper will take place on Sunday, Jan. 9, 2000 at 4 p.m. at the Church Hall on Hamilton Blvd. Donation is \$12 per person; \$5 each for children 12 and under. Music will be provided by Frank Sendzik and "The Happy Tones." For reservations, contact Marie Monticchio at (908) 755-7328 or Carolyn Yankoski at (908) 755-2516.

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.

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

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. 29 and Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26.

Line Dance instructors will be Sandy Snehil 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.



Riley School held their Annual Holiday Concert on Monday, Dec. 13.

Next week the Observer will have pictures from other school concerts.

Don't Let The Grinch Ruin Your Holiday Cooking

By Marie Markey

The holidays seem to be a time of baking, cooking and get-togethers. In many families, the festivities center around the kitchen table. So be sure to bring your merriment into your kitchen as well and don't let the Grinch ruin your holidays, take special care with food safety. These tips from the USDA Department of Agriculture will help.

Failing to refrigerate perishable, prepared or leftover foods within two hours can carry them into the "Danger Zone." A temperature zone of 40-140 F is a breeding ground for bacteria. Take special care with cream cheese, deli meats, block cheese, mayonnaise and sour cream.

Cross contamination is also a factor. The following tips will assist you in safe food preparation:

- Use one cutting board for meats and another for fruits and vegetables.
- Wash your hands and tools that have come in contact with raw meat thoroughly before touching other foods.
- After handling raw meat, sanitize your workspace using a light solution of bleach and water; use 2-3 teaspoons of household bleach to one quart of water. For ease of use put the solution in your labeled kitchen spritzer.
- Use separate plates for raw and cooked meats.
- NEVER reuse a marinade to baste cooked meats after it has

been used to marinate raw meats.

- Take internal temperatures of meats using a pocket thermometer.

- Don't thaw food on the counter; bacteria grow quickly at room temperature. Thaw food in the refrigerator or in the microwave just before cooking food.

For specific food safety ques-

tions, contact the USDA's Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555.

Ideas like these are shared at cooking classes offered by Marie Markey Independent Kitchen Consultant for the Pampered Chef. For additional information contact Marie Markey 908-755-3213 or MMPmPrChf@aol.com.

Spread the Word!

Submit your events for the AROUND TOWN page. Mail or drop off your stories and photos: The South Plainfield OBSERVER, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Fax (908) 668-8819 • email GGNAN@aol.com.

First impressions are everything.

Resumes • Display Advertising • Newsletters
• Catalogs • High Quality Imaging Output
Printing & Design Services

SPECIALIZING IN NEWSPAPER PRODUCTION

put your best face forward.

G&G Graphics, inc.

1100 Hamilton Blvd. South Plainfield . 908.668.0010
• fax 908.668.8819 • email ggnan@aol.com



Celebrate Christmas with Father John at Our Lady of Czeszochowa R.C. Church

807 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve
5:30 p.m. - Childrens Christmas Mass with Santa
10:30 p.m. - Special Carol Program with OLC Sr. Choir
11 p.m. - Christmas Eve Night Mass (formerly Midnight)

Dec. 25, Christmas Day
8 a.m. - Shepherds Mass
11 a.m. - Christmas High Mass with OLC Sr. Choir
(No 12:15 p.m. Mass on Christmas this year!)

Dec. 26 - Feast of the Holy Family
Mass at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Dec. 27 - Feast of St. John
Mass at 9 a.m. (Blessing of wine—bring in your wine to be blessed)

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve - Mass at 7 p.m.
New Year's Eve Parish Celebration in Parish Hall at 8 p.m.
Holy Hour & Benediction at 11 p.m. to welcome in the New Millennium

Jan. 1, 2000 - New Year's Day - Mass at 9 a.m. (No 5:30 p.m. Mass)

Jan. 2, 2000 - Epiphany - Mass at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.

For additional information, call the rectory at (908) 756-1333.

"We Wish You a Merry Christmas"— SPHS Traveling Choir is Back

By Carrie Reilly, Tiger Times

Picture this: It's around Christmas time and you are walking around Menlo Park Mall finishing up your holiday shopping. As you approach the entrance to Macy's, you see a group of smiling teens wearing Santa hats, belting out a melody of Christmas songs that echoes throughout the mall.

For the SPHS Traveling Choir, this scenario is just one of the fun-filled caroling trips they participate in throughout the holiday season.

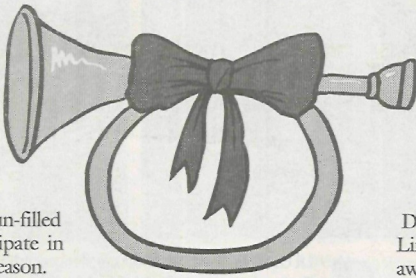
If you are not familiar with the SPHS Choir, you should know that the repertoire of music performed at their concerts is varied. In past years, Handel's Messiah and Mozart's Requiem were performed, as well as numerous operas. Needless to say, the cheerful holiday music sung in Traveling Choir is a breath of fresh air.

Junior Emma Fulton said, "Singing all this cheerful holiday music is a lot of fun. I loved Messiah and Requiem, but this is so much easier to learn."

The Traveling Choir is a select choral group that performs strictly holiday music. In order to be a part of this group, you must be a part of the SPHS Choir and audi-

tion with choral director Tracy Murray.

Rehearsals for the ensemble were held every Monday and Wednesday night. This extracurricular group requires hard work and dedication to music. Unfor-



tunately, these requirements were not met last year, which was one of the reasons that the Traveling Choir was not held.

In addition to caroling in the malls, this year the Traveling Choir is bringing something back to the elementary schools where the interest in vocal music was first spurred.

A 25-minute version of Charlie Brown's Christmas will be performed at each of the four elementary schools, complete with homemade costumes and props.

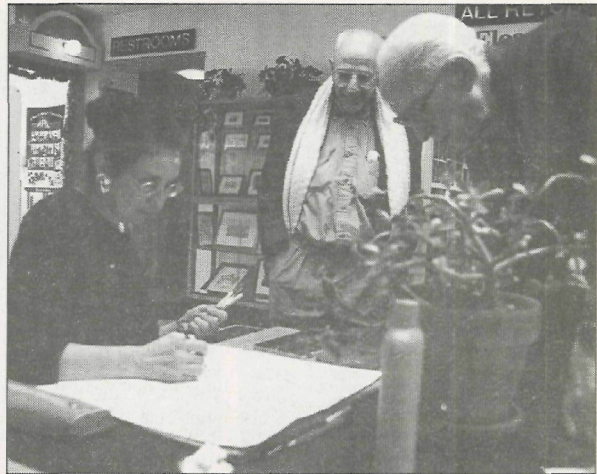
The cast for this production is as follows: Charlie Brown-senior Jason Kollarik; Lucy-junior Alison Buttrick; Pig Pen-senior Brad

Tierney; Linus-senior Eric Johnson; Schroeder-junior Leo Campos; Patty-junior Sara Denno; Sally-sophomore Cassie Bosse; Freida-sophomore Christine Martinez; Snoopy-sophomore Andy Falocco. The parts of the Snowman and Christmas Tree will be played by juniors Joey Nicolay and Carrie Reilly.

Another exciting event for the Traveling Choir this year is the opportunity to perform at Lincoln Center in New York City.

Sophomore member Jena DeLossantos said, "Going to Lincoln Center to perform will be awesome. I'm excited that we will be on that stage singing."

This year, the Traveling Choir has 30 members, including seniors Jessica Ardis, Cindy Carlson, Melissa Garantino, Becky Horn, Eric Johnson, Jason Kollarik, Mike Loenser, Lisa Mocerino, Lauren Perry, Nicole Scavone, Brad Tierney; juniors Alison Buttrick, Leo Campos, Sara Denno, Emma Fulton, Erin Mackey, Joey Nicolay, Julie Palmer, Jessica Pasco, Matt Pulomena, Carrie Reilly; sophomores Malika Aaron, Cassie Bosse, Jena DeLossantos, Andy Falocco, Christine Martinez, Kim Pfeiffer; freshmen Chris Baron, Jesse Brown, and Chris Imbrosciano.



New Jersey artist Sheila Eichenblatt demonstrates her art at the South Plainfield Public Library.

Sheila Eichenblatt Demonstrates Watercolors at the Library

Sheila Eichenblatt, who has had a number of watercolors on display at the South Plainfield Public Library, demonstrated watercolor painting recently at the library.

Sheila painted several scenes and stills using water color paints. Watercolor painting differs from oils because once the colors are put on paper or canvas they can seldom be changed, since they dry almost on contact.

Sheila Eichenblatt is a New Jersey artist and poet. She earned her B.S. in art education at NYU, attending on a School Art League/NYU scholarship. She also studied at Pratt Institute and The Brooklyn Museum Art School. She is a New York City art teacher and has been a

member of The Freehold Art Society and Composers, Authors & Artists.

Ms. Eichenblatt's poetry has been published in the *Journal of New Jersey Poets*. She has read her poetry as part of the Coffee-house series in Metuchen and has appeared on "Off The Page," Metuchen access TV.

Ms. Eichenblatt's work is represented in many private collections throughout New Jersey. This past summer, she was commissioned by The Edison Wetlands Association to paint a series of twelve watercolors depicting ecologically fragile areas.

Ms. Eichenblatt resides in Edison with her husband and two children.

Computers Updated in SPHS Info Center

By Dina Diaz, Tiger Times

Trying to find information in the South Plainfield High School Information Center hasn't always been easy. Typing in information and then receiving information that had nothing to do with your topic was just the beginning. Well, this process has become so much easier for students.

In September, a new Windows-based program, M3 Online Public Access Computer, also known as the M3-OPAC, was installed. This program was released by the same company as SIRS and is a catalog for everything in the Information Cen-

ter. The librarians also went through training for the program in September.

Librarian Pat Massey said, "This program is a lot easier to use. The old program was very limited. You couldn't customize a search and search for multiple subjects at one time. With this one, you are able to do so."

The old program was a DOS-based program in which only the keyboard could be used. The mouse could not be used and students could not print.

With the M3-OPAC, many things that could not be done before are now possible. Articles can be selected, and items can be cho-

sen to be printed. In addition, a list of titles can be created and put aside in a "student bookbag."

Massey said, "Rob Carlson, a student that graduated several years ago, was a great resource in creating our student files for the middle school and high school. All students' names had to be converted to the new program, and he helped make that possible."

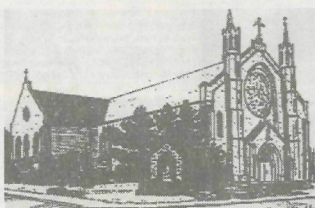
This program is available throughout the South Plainfield school district, including the high school, middle school, and the four elementary schools.



Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

Very Rev. Michael A. McGuire, Pastor



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve
Friday, December 24 • 5 p.m. and 12 Midnight
Carols begin at 11:30 p.m.

Christmas Day
Saturday December 25
7:45 a.m. - 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. and 12 Noon
NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Confessions for New Year's
Tuesday, December 28 • 6 p.m.

New Year's Mass Schedule
New Year's Eve
Friday, December 31 • 7 p.m.

New Year's Day
January 1, 2000 • 7 a.m. and 9 a.m.
NO EVENING MASS ON NEW YEAR'S Day

FREE CELLULAR PHONES

MCI WORLDCOM

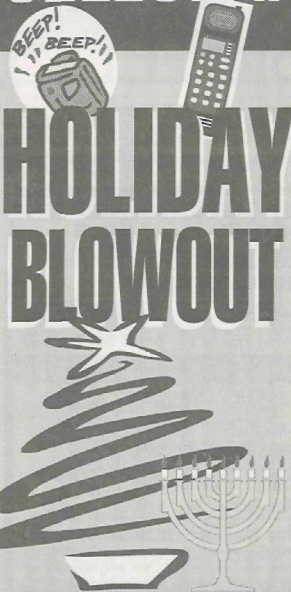
FREE Digital Phone
FREE Activation
FREE Nights & Weekends/6 mos.
FREE 200 Minutes = \$29⁹⁹
FREE 500 Minutes = \$49⁹⁹
FREE 1000 Minutes = \$89⁹⁹

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



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
Fax (908) 668-4775

18 SOUTH PLAINFIELD AVE. SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ

Gift Certificates
Available

Reorganization Meeting To be Held January 2

The Borough's 2000 reorganization meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 2 in Borough Hall at 1 p.m.

Councilmen Ed Kubula and Jim Vokral, reelected this past November, will be sworn in for a

three-year term.

Assignments of committees for members of the council will also be announced, along with appointments to various boards and committees for the year 2000.

The public is invited.

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. 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.

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.

Rescue Squad Answers 168 Nov. Calls

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad logged 168 calls in November. They included: 128 medical assistance, 19 motor vehicle accidents, 10 community service requests, three mutual-aid requests, two transportations and

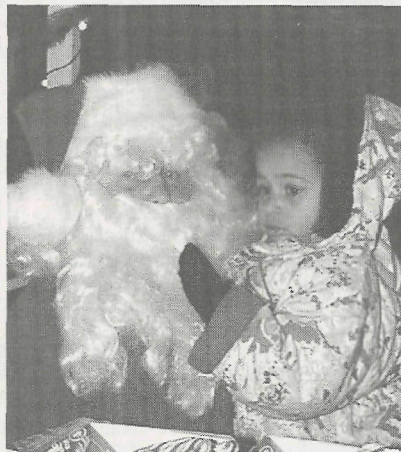
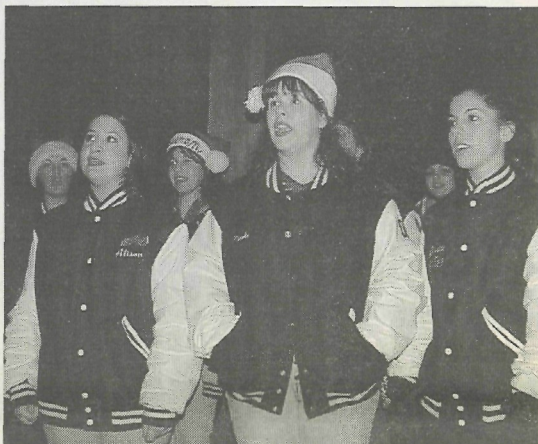
six maintenance runs.

The squad's volunteers spend 3,999 crew hours answering the November calls. From January through November, 1999, the squad has responded to 1,600 calls.

Caroling in Spring Lake Park



Lit candles and Christmas carolers could be seen and heard around the Spring Lake Park gazebo last Sunday evening. The South Plainfield Recreation Department sponsored this event. Carolers from the South Plainfield High School Traveling Choir, under the direction of Tracy Murray, led the crowd in song. Over 100 residents enjoyed this festive holiday tradition. Santa and his elves also attended and handed out candy canes. After caroling, the group proceeded to the rescue squad building and enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate.



Christmas Spirit! Each year Al Mitchell and his wife Pat Stilo-Mitchell decorate their house on Ritter Street with hundreds of Christmas lights and lots of Christmas figures and decorations. The house is visited by many residents throughout the holiday season. Last week Al and Pat hosted their annual Santa night. Santa (Al) was on hand to talk to each child. Each child received a gift from Santa while Pat, assisted by Jaime and Melissa Santora, handed out hot chocolate and cookies. Besides the many decorations, the garage contains a lighted village and Christmas music is played near the choir figures. The house is also decorated at Easter with hundreds of figures and Easter eggs.



(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, Chili
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)

ADULTS LUNCH, 11 AM-3:30 PM	
Monday-Friday \$5.35	Saturday \$6.75
DINNER 4:30-9:30 PM	
Monday-Friday \$8.49	Saturday \$10.99
Mon-Thurs. Fri. & Sat. All Day Sun.	
CHILDREN (2-10) LUNCH 11-3:30 PM	
Monday-Fri. \$3.39	Sat. \$4.29
DINNER 4:30-9:30 PM	
Monday-Fri. \$4.99	Sat. \$5.59
Sun. All Day \$5.59	
Mon-Thurs. Friday Saturday Sun. All Day	

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

South Plainfield Middle School Honor Roll Marking Period #1

High Honor Roll

Grade 6—Darice Bishop, Ashley Bodner, Jeffrey Cupo, Kazuki Daimo, Samantha Deffler, Joseph DeNitizio, Zachary Gray, Ramit Kalia, Ariana Makoski, Bryan Milicia, Lihn Nguyen, Eric Reiner, Courtney Sacco, Jessica Schwartz, Gina Severini, Kevin Siedenburger, Stephanie Troia and Krystal Williams.

Grade 7—Michael Benak, Fabian Castebianco, Nicholas Curcio, Peter DeAndrea, Allison DiMeglio, Keenan Gaynor, Lauren Haus, Alyssa Maiorino, Jessica Manning, Jayne Merlo, Stefanie Miller, Kathleen Morgan, Valerie Pasquarella, Stephanie Stellakis, Sara Sukenik and MaryBeth Tran.

Grade 8—Elaine Alexander, Victoria Boley, Taryn Carlton, Michael Carmon, Lori Cushner, Ryan Decker, Brittany DeNitizio, Martina Ganiaris, Tara Israel, Katherine Kaczka, Kyle Kazimir, Wendy Kollarik, Pauline Lee, Anuj Patel, Michelle Puskas, Jessica Rodger, Michael Salerno, Matthew Santone, Daniel Sierzega, Carly Stoeckel, Alexander Tierney, Adam Toth and Katherine Whalen.

Honor Roll

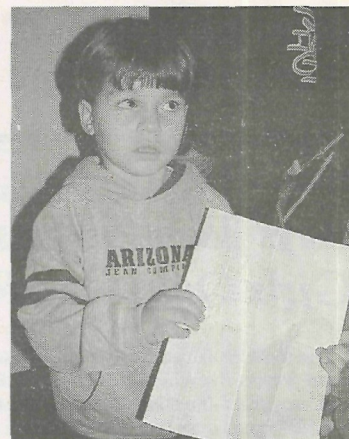
Grade 6—Hamed Ahmed, Nicole Aiello, Brandon Alpert, Courtney Alston, Gaelle Amazan, Gabriel Avalos, Alyssa Babinetz, Kristen Boyle, Ashley Britton, Anjelica Brooks, Terrence Brown, Cynthia Chang, Jenny Cheng, Dana Chepulis, Jennifer Chiang, Heather Chillemi, Shaunique Cisson, James Conroy, Mallory Cooper, Joel Cortese, Kevin Crilly, Kristen Dabrio, William Daly, Amanda Deba, Nicholas DeCellis, Keith Dezmin, Brittny Dostal, Sandya Dowlat, Patrick Driscoll, Sandia Dundi, Cassandra Elkasim, Daniel Erhardt, Zachariah Famula, Breanne Fore, Gabrielle Franco, Dunia Galarza, Charles George, Jane Gomez, Aisha Gray, Kristen Gualano, Ingrid Guardado, David Hackett, Scott Hartje, Julianne Hudak, Justin Huffsmith, Lindsay Hunsicker, Beverly Jamieson, Jonathan Jarema, Giuliana Kay, Carlie Kazimir, Kathryn Koury, Cassandra Krajcik, Nicholas Kratz, Alyssa Kurilew, Binh Lam, Jonathan Lazar, Kyle Lendach, Stephen Lindgren, Toni-Lynn Maiorino, Samuel Mootoo, Tony Nguyen, Anthony Niemczyk, Kelly Orlandini, Ryan O'Shea, Heather Palitto, Harshel Patel, Kevin Pereira, Anthony Petriello, Jeffrey Pham, Andrew Pinto, Kaitlyn Pollock, Sergio Ramirez, Ashley Rivera, Andrew

Roibal, Anthony Romano, Angeli Rualo, Nicole Sacci, Lauren Santillo, Lacey Santone, Peter Schirripa, Jeffrey Sesselberg, Devance Sewdat, Ravin Shivraj, Michael Sivo, Amanda Smith, Ryan Smith, Laurie Sobel, Joseph Stasio and Melissa Szeliga.

Natalie Tamzoke, Lee Tetreault, Shanaye Thomas, Heather Thompson, Steven Tietjen, Daryl Valerio, Amanda Veinott, Bryan Wagner, Morgan Walter, Rebecca Watts, Christopher Weakley, John Weiser, Stephanie Wieckowski, Megan Wilson, Keith Winsmann, Nadine Yon, Carla Zappi and Matthew Zebrowski.

Grade 7—Shakellah Amini, Peter Aquino, Bliss Armstrong, Christopher Bakazan, Dawn Besser, Shaker Beverley, Erika Blaszk, Christopher Bojarski, Kyle Bostick, Alyssa Bubnick, Vijay Budhan, Justin Buendia, Gerry Butrico, Nina Byard, Pasquale Cantarella, Nicholas Cesare, Timothy Cheng, Mallory Christ, Janine Clemente, Paul Corrado, Jessica Dabrio, Seiichi Daimo, Lauren Darr, Louana DeLosSantos, Stacey Diana, Christina DiFrancesco, Kaitlyn Disch, Jonathan Donahue, Vincent Donato, Michael Downs, Michael Duquette, Cassandra D'Urso, Jeffrey Eng, Caitlin English, Karen Estonactoc, Shawn Ferguson, Melanie Foscolo, Kimberly Gaub, Grant Gianneschi, Carolina Gomez, Kendall Green, Sara Grillo, Melissa Hansen, Emily Harkins, Jamie Jakubik, Latoya Johnson, Colleen Kamen, Elyse Kanaley, Katherine Kelliher, Peter Kelly, Ryan Kenny, Thomas Kiczula, Jessica Kizmann, Veronica Konya, Kevin Lahey, Linda Lee, Jonathan Liebl, Qiana Lightner, Jonathan Lopez, Kurtis Maglaque, Aimee Maiorino, Robert Maistick, Krista Malecki, Erica Mapa, Ashley Martin, David Martinez, Allan Mazurak, Christopher McKnight, Andrew Miller, James Milliron, William Moates, Rosanna Mootoo, Krystal Morales, Jacqueline Muglia, Brian Murtagh, Cynthia Nguyen, Huan Nguyen, William Padula, Abby Pappa, Puray Patel, Daniel Piwowar, Amanda Prybella, Dwight Quichua, Alexandria Ramos, Alexa Reha, Shannen Rivers, Alison Schmidt, Jamie Schmidt, Jessica Senz, Jarret Shelton, Justin Shelton, Rutva Shukla, Lesley Sideck, Derek Smith, Alisha Stasenko, Melissa Stico, Darshan Suthar, Kelly Thomas, Ashlen Udell, Vincent Velez, Erik Vesper, Amber Walden, Phillip Zazzara and Brian Zielenski.

Grade 8—David Allara, Michael Alvarez, Jonathan Alves, Arti Amin, Almasa Amini, David Amini, Danielle Aronowitz, Robert Barone, James Bataille, Jonathan Bugey, Kaitlin Bundy, Kristie Butrico, Jason Cosma, Justin Czarnik, Joseph DeBiase, Jason DeSantis, Frank Dietzold, Clare Dolling, Jenee Douras, Julian East, Brian Edwards, Catherine Flannery, Miguel Garcia, Jamie Gaughan, Adriana Gonzalez, Sarah Green and Vincent Gulino. Christine Helbo, Christopher Horn, Jamie Irber, Joshua Jackson, Kristen Kunie, Daniel Lammi, Brittany Lee, Hong Lin, Heather Loenser, Jordan Lynch, Ryan Mack, Charlyn Magat, Earl-Joseph Marcelo, David Miglis, Tristan More, Ankit Patel, Natalie Picciottoli, Jaclene Prongay, Gregory Publik, Amanda Rastelli, Ashley Ritchey, Jonathan Rodger, Josef Rodriguez, Rachel Schwartz, Andre Scott, Guy Severini, Susan Smela, Jenna Smith, Lisa Sniscak, Renee Stopherd, Rachel Tambone, Jermaine Thomas, Ray Truitt, Stephen Turrisi, Shawn Welch and Chrisann Zushima.



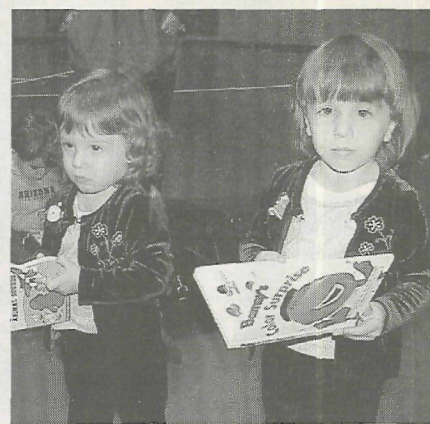
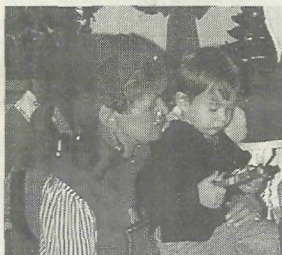
Santa Visits the PAL

By Patricia Abbott

Seventy-eight pairs of eyes lit up last Saturday as Santa's beckoned them forward when the Recreation Department hosted their annual visit from Santa with an eye-catching display that included an old fashioned street lamp, snow, mechanical figures caroling and roasting chestnuts and, of course, a Christmas tree. After a visit on Santa's lap to tell him what was on their wish list, each child received a gift.

Santa had two elves at his side encouraging those children who were a bit overwhelmed. Councilman Ed Kubula returned for his second year as Santa, along with elves Diane Manhattan and Tom Moscato, who also made a return visit. In addition to the elves, Santa was assisted by teen volunteers Amy Curcio, Dana Curcio, Kelly Richie, Lisa Sniscak, and Eileen Milcaock, also helping were Janice Wilson, Peter Rachwal and Peggy Devlin.

The annual event is a favorite with parents and children alike. Recreation Director Mike English has plans to bring back a number of recreation activities such as the Halloween parade and contest, the fishing derby at Spring Lake Park and window painting at Halloween and Christmas.





KACEY'S
"BODACIOUS"
BOUTIQUE'S

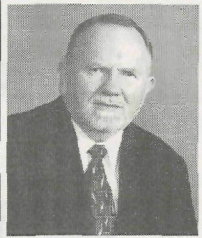
**10% OFF ALL
CHRISTMAS
ITEMS**

**15% WITH
THIS AD**

Hours: Wed-Fri 11-3 & 6-8
Saturday 10-3

* CRAFTS * ANTIQUES
* COLLECTIBLES
* CONSIGNMENTS
* GIFTS (wrapped in balloons)

179 Front St. So. Plfd.
(908) 756-7004



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**

METUCHEN OFFICE
640 Middlesex Ave.,
Metuchen, NJ 08840

*We Sell More
Because We Do More*

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

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

SPORTS

High School Bowling...

Boys Team in First Place; Girls Only One Point Out

The SPHS Boys Bowling Team, leading the White Division with a perfect 7-0 record, blasted Monroe last Thursday by 540 pins. Leading the Tigers were Matt Square with games of 235-245 for a 617 set, Ray Tomei bowled 210-220, for 612 set, Eric Gaub rolled 207-204 games. Doug Lauckhardt bowled a 236 and Paul Larisch rolled 205 game. Jeff Smith bowled a 218 game in the JV match.

The girls team improved their record to 5-1-1 as they bombarded Monroe for their fifth shutout by a whooping 644 pin margin. Melissa Jamieson stroked a solid 193-189 for a 558 high set and Sabina Montenegro a booming 239 high game. Jacquie Herzog chipped in with a 162 game and the girls moved to within one point of first place.

The results of the bowling teams past matches are as follows:

December 7 vs. Bishop Ahr—The girls team swept all three games and they recorded a third straight shutout by trouncing the Trojans of Bishop Ahr by 146 pins. Jacquie Herzog rolled the high game of 191 for the Tigers. Meredith Cooper chipped in with a 177 game and a solid 475 set.

The boys team crushed upset minded Bishop Ahr and swept all three games, shutting out the high scoring Trojans by a whooping margin of 452 pins. Senior Danny Wallis bowled a brilliant 259-226 for a 646 high set. Capt. Doug Lauckhardt cranked a 235 game and a 617 set and Eric Gaub broke out with 204-222 and a 613 set. Also chipping in was Matt Square, with a trio of 190 plus games for a solid 581 set.

December 8 vs. J.E. Kennedy—The girls remained undefeated as they beat the powerful Mustangs of J.E. Kennedy, recording their fourth straight shutout, posting a 197 pin victory. Leading SPHS were Jacquie Herzog with 172-184 games and 502 high set. Also contributing with solid sets were Melissa Jamieson posting a 183 game and Amanda Smith with a 186.

In a nip and tuck high scoring match, the boys chalked up another win, a 128 pin triumph, taking the deciding third game after the teams split the first two games. Putting the pressure on the Mustangs were Capt. Doug Lauckhardt with a booming 257 game and a 633 high set. Contributing to the team effort were Eric Gaub's 199-200, Matt Square 211 and Paul Larisch with a big 238 game.

December 9 vs. Carteret—With their victory over the Ramblers of Carteret, the boys took over sole possession of first place in the White Division of the GMC. The undefeated Tigers swept all three games by a 396 pin margin. Junior Paul Larisch's 212 game and 550 high set led all Tiger bowlers. Solid efforts were also turned in by Matt Square with a 202, Danny Wallis with a 201, in addition to Ray Tomei and Doug Lauckhardt.

The girls suffered their first defeat letting the Ramblers off the

hook. They couldn't deliver the knockout punch, after splitting the first two games. Melissa Jamieson's 188, Amanada Smith's 171 and Meredith Cooper's 164 were the bright spots for the Tigers.

December 14 vs. Colonia—In a crucial White Division showdown, the boys faced the defending champions undefeated Colonia and the Tigers were looking for an upset. The boys pounded the Patriots by 357 pins, sweeping all three games and racking up a 4-0 shutout. The solid team effort was led by Doug Lauckhardt 231 for a 574 high set and Matt Square's 210 and 565 set. Also helping out were Paul Larisch with a 192 and Danny Wallis with a 191.

The girls team also faced undefeated Colonia and after dropping their first game, they rebounded to take the lead in the second, but fell nine pins short in the decisive third game. They still had enough pins to settle for a 2-2 tie against the heavily favored Patriots. Kristen Herzog led all scorers with a 192 game and Alexis Montenegro bowled a 165 game.

The Tigers next face state powerhouse Woodbridge in a cross over match.

Tigers Compete in Bowling Holiday Classic

The boys bowling team, undefeated with a record of 5-0, were looking to continue their success into the next millennium and it looked Y2K compatible when they bolted out in the first game of the Bishop Ahr Holiday Classic with a big 1,014 game and led all teams in the 42 team field.

A trio of SPHS bowlers set an incredible pace in the statewide tournament, led by Doug Lauckhardt's 200-205 and 590 set, Matt Square's 223-213 and 590 set and Ray Tomei's 213-205 and 595 high set. Danny Wallis chipped in with a 217 game. The Tigers settled for a fourth place Bronze finish in the 42 team field.

The girls bowling team shot two big games in the 30 team field and finished a respectable 13th place in the statewide event. Amanda Smith led all scorers with a big 220 game. Other Tiger performers were Melissa Jamieson with a 186, Rachel Feller with a 181, Kristen Herzog with a 177, Jacquie Herzog with 167 and Sabina Montenegro with a 163.

New Weights Purchased at PAL

The South Plainfield Recreation is proud to announce the addition of a new set of free weights to their weight room. The weights are two pounds to 1000 pounds.

The PAL Building houses a weight room combination of aerobic equipment, free weights and universal equipment.

Membership fees are \$30 for three months, \$60 for six months and \$100 per year. Sign-up at the PAL from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Gift certificates are available.

Middle School Wrestlers Win Opener, Take Two Out of Three in Rahway

By George D'Alessandro

The Middle School wrestling team opened its regular season on Sunday, Dec. 5 in Warren Hills against Washington Middle School and came away with their first victory by a score of 53-29. Leading the way for South Plainfield with pins were, Matt D'Alessandro, Danny DeAndrea, Guy Severini and Joe DeBiase. Also winning matches were Danny Bayak, Paul Ritchie, Kyle Bostic, Rob Mastickle and Frank Demarest.

Also wrestling for South Plainfield were, Billy Weaver, Delvin Colon, Peter DeAndrea, Raj

Jainarine and Jason LaFontaine.

On Dec. 12 the Middle School wrestlers took on three opponents and came away with two victories. They lost their first match to a rugged Kittatiny squad 45-27. Danny DeAndrea, Kyle Bostic, Guy Severini, Joe DeBiase and Frank Demarest were winners in the match.

In the second match, they rebounded nicely, beating North Hunterdon 45-1. Leading the way with victories were Jimmy Conroy, Matt D'Alessandro, Danny Bayak, Danny DeAndrea, Peter DeAndrea, Rob Mastickle, Guy Severini, Joe DeBiase and Frank Demarest.

In the final match of the day the wrestlers won a hard fought decision over the host team, Rahway, by a score of 45-26. This match was closer than the score indicated and featured many exciting bouts. Leading the way for the Middle School wrestlers were Danny Bayak, Danny DeAndrea, Peter DeAndrea, Rob Mastickle, Guy Severini, Joe DeBiase, Frank Demarest and Ryan Elliot.

Also wrestling for the Middle School throughout the day were, Billy Weaver, Anthony Costante, Paul Ritchie, Raj Jainarine and Kevin Crilly.

High School Wrestler's Win Morris Knolls Tournament; Claim Five Titles, Send 10 to Finals

By Bob Hunter

The South Plainfield Wrestling Team opened its 1999-2000 season with a 52 point advantage over second place Cherry Hill West. The Tigers with 211 total points, closed the door early with 12 of 13 wrestlers advancing to the next round. The team continued to roll with all twelve wrestlers reaching the medal rounds and ten wrestlers reaching the finals.

Matt Anderson (103) got the Tigers rolling when he pinned James McNabb of Montville at 3:59 for the first championship of the day. Rich Gebauer (112) faced John Mankovich of Wallkill Valley, last year's 103-pound champion and dropped a 7-3 decision for second place.

Roberto Ramos (119) failed to get the Tigers back on track. He dropped his final to Charles Pinto of Wallkill Valley 5-1. Dave Butrico (125) came out strong and took control before pinning Eric Valdez with one second left, claiming the second Tiger championship.

Senior Dave Stoeckel (130) had an impressive tournament by winning the third Tiger title with a fall over Joe Duronio of Bogota at 1:09. Scott Doerr (135) took early control over Sean Flynn of Morris Knolls and fought off a late rally for a 4-3 decision for the fourth Tiger title.

Chris Francis (171) faced a tough Chris Skretkiewicz, defending champion of Wallkill Valley and lost by decision 8-3.

Dan Kunst (189) faced another defending champion in Ed Redmond of Morris Hills. In a classic battle, Kunst trailing late in the third period had Redmond on his back, but it wasn't enough. Kunst ended up with a 9-7 loss for second place.

John Foscolo (215) faced defending champion Uri-Boyd Atkins of Cherry Hill West. After giving up two quick points, Foscolo went on to score a tech fall 18-5 for the fifth Tiger title.

In the consolation round, fresh-

man, Steve Johnston (145), came home with a third place finish with a 3-1 decision over Chris Rosenberg of Cherry Hill West. Glen Barlies (152) came up short in his consolation match for fourth place.

Tiger head coach, Bill Pavlak, noted "The team had a good overall performance and made a good showing, and we came out healthy. Now we'll go back to work to prepare for the J. P. Stevens match and the Hunterdon Central Tournament.

The Tigers will be competing at the Hunterdon Central Tournament on Dec. 29, at the field house in Flemington.

Junior Tigers Claim Five Medals

Nine South Plainfield wrestlers competed in the Middlesex Christmas Tournament held last weekend at Middlesex High School and claimed five overall medals.

In the Bantam division, Mike Wagner came home with a third place finish in the 70-pound weight class.

In the Midget division, Robert Gentile 53-pounds, won his opening round match over Mike Bandiero of Edison 15-3. He won his consolation match by a technical fall over Andrew Hewitt of Franklin for third place.

Mark Wagner 80-pounds, defeated Wayne Hampton of

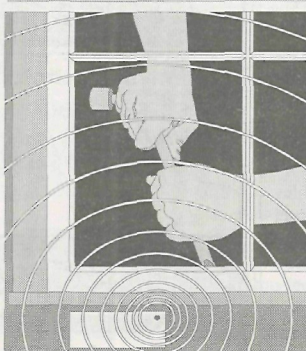
Bridgewater 5-2 in the opening round and won his consolation match 6-0 over Tom Tuminellu of the Central Jersey Wrestling Club for third place.

Brad Martin 90-pounds, won his first match by a fall over Patrick Minco of Scotch Plains. Then he won by decision 6-2 over Jonathan Becker of Rahway. In the finals, Martin lost by decision to David Newman for second place.

Rocco Petriello finished in third place in the heavyweight division.

Also winning match's but not placing were Elizabeth Martin 60, Tim Gaughan 70, Jimmy Conroy 69 and Sam Martin 85.

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

SPORTS

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	1
Grizzlies	3	1
Bucks	2	1
Rockets	1	2
Warriors	1	3
Supersonics	1	3
Nuggets	0	3

A LEAGUE SCORES-DEC. 18

Grizzlies 36
Cavaliers 32
High scorers—Grizzlies: Chris Sanchez-14, Mike Chysanthop-8, Kyle Pendergast-4, Danny Pollin-4; Cavaliers: Chris Horn-10, Jason Cosma-6, Jon Buggey-5, Sean Keane-5, Andy Cupido-3.
Rockets vs. Bucks—will be played 12/30
Nuggets vs. Spurs—will be played 12/30
Supersonics vs. Warriors Cancelled

B LEAGUE STANDINGS

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

B LEAGUE RESULTS DEC. 18

Timberwolves 19
Lakers 18
High scorers—Timberwolves: Adam Bianchi-11, Brian Murtagh-4, Brett Morris-4; Lakers: Allan Mazurak-6, Mike Hanley-4, Kathleen Morgan-6.
Hornets 15
Heat 44
High scorers—Hornets: Justin Basilone-8, Kevin Siedenburg-3; Heat: Nick Cesare-12, Andy Miller-12, Harshel Patel-6, Jonathan Liebl-6, Coral Willis-4, Pete Peregrin-4.
Magic vs. Knicks—will be played 12/23
Jazz vs. Cavaliers—will be played 12/23
Raptors vs. Bulls—will be played 12/23
Pistons vs. Nets—will be played 12/30

C LEAGUE STANDINGS

Grizzlies	4	0
Wizards	4	0
Cavaliers	3	1
Rockets	3	1
Trailblazers	3	1
Kings	3	1
Warriors	3	1

Hawks	2	2
Suns	1	3
Spurs	1	3
Bucks	1	3
Supersonics	0	4
Nuggets	0	4
Mavericks	0	4

C LEAGUE RESULTS DEC. 18

Hawks 22
Wizards 45
High scorers—Hawks: Dammy McCreesh-10, Nick Desimone-6; Wizards: Chris Pollin-16, Garrett Lake-10, Tim Keane-6, Dale McCook-4, Ryan Bunting-4.
Grizzlies 27
Supersonics 23
High scorers—Grizzlies: Danny Espinoza-12, David Alston-7, Tim Williams-4, Peter Adorna-4; Supersonics: Thomas Payor-6, Jeff Pryor-4, Brian Fabiko, Brad Martin-4.
Mavericks 9
Trailblazers 32
High scorers—Mavericks: Scott Hunterton-5, Chris Pennisi-4; Trailblazers: Brendan O'Shea-8, Anthony Simone-8, Grey Coppi-6, Bobby Harington-4.
Cavaliers 20
Warriors 24
High scorers—Cavaliers: Bennie Gibson-8, Ryan Curtis-8, Amber Hartman-4; Warriors: Chris Stallone-10, Jonathan Cursi-7, Mike Stallone-5.

Nuggets 7
Bucks 30
High scorers—Nuggets: Brittanni Kennedy-2, John Christ-2, Matt Ramos-2; Bucks: Anthony Cassano 12, Andrew Gray-6, Greg Watts-4, Kyle Darr-4.
Rockets 24
Suns 17
High scorers—Rockets: Nick Giannakis-6, Charles Loiacono-6, Kelly Downes-4, Joey Turris-4; Suns: Matt Seider-6, Jose Chameco-3.
Kings 34
Spurs 13
High scorers—Kings: Blare Houston-24, Vinnie Padula-10; Spurs: Chuckie Decker-4, Trevor Rastelli-4, Troy Risseli-3.

C LEAGUE STANDINGS

Lakers	4	0
Raptors	4	0
Cavaliers	4	0
Knicks	4	0
Heat	2	1
76ers	2	2
Nets	2	2
Timberwolves	2	2
Hornets	1	2
Magic	1	3
Jazz	1	3
Bulls	0	4
Pistons	0	4
Celtics	0	4

D LEAGUE RESULTS DEC. 18

Celtics 20
Timberwolves 22
High scorers—Celtics: Steve Wagner-8, Nick Jankoski-6; Timberwolves: Matt Miceli-10, Steve Coppi-6, Anthony Nowicki-4.
Heat 18
Lakers 20
High scorers—Heat: Matt Cesare-6, Dylan Papa-6; Lakers: Jordan Petriello-12, Ryan Smith-4.
Bulls 10
Raptors 32
High scorers—Bulls: Tim Yuill-6; Raptors: Jalil Williams-18, Mark Brindley-4, Bobby Sacks-4, Tim Oppelt-4.
Jazz 12
76ers 36
High scorers—Jazz: Chris Lesniak-8; 76ers: Dominic Papa-14, Kyle Quail-8, Tim Moskel-6, Allen Garcia-4.
Hornets 28
Pistons 6
High scorers—Hornets: Mike Muglie-16, Kaitlin Muglia-4, Steve Wiecek-4.
Knicks 28
Magic 8
High scorers—Knicks: Gaganjot Dhalwa-10, Tony Salerno-6, Mike Dezmin-4, Matt Galinsky-4; Magic: Riley Hubner-4.
Cavaliers 26
Nets 8
High scorers—Cavaliers: Taylor Curtis-10, Nick Jeglinski, Ken Brewlaw-4; Nets: Dante Johnson.

Junior Baseball Club Notes

By Frank Hanley

Happy Holidays to all.

2000 Season Registration—Registration for the 2000 season will be held in January. Registration will be held from 6 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 8 through 16. New players must turn eight years old before Aug. 1, 2000 and must present a copy of a birth certificate. Late registration fees are \$60 per player with no discounts.

2000 Membership—Membership cards for the 2000 season are 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 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

Events at a Glance—Men's Meeting on Monday, Jan. 3, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse; Woman's Meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. Registration on Jan. 13, 14, 15 at the clubhouse. Tryouts on Saturday, March 4 at the PAL. Opening Day on Saturday, April 15.

Lady Tigers Win Basketball Home Opener

By Brian Cochrane

The South Plainfield Girls Basketball Team evened their record to 1-1 with an exciting 53-48 victory over the North Bergen Bruins. Starters Kim Wilcox, Sheryl Cwiekalo, Kelly Ritchie, Shannon Bishop and Crissy Buteas turned it up a notch by taking an early lead and keeping it until late in the fourth quarter.

The Tigers came out at half time

with a six point lead and kept that cushion through the third period and into the fourth. In that fourth period the foul troubles began to mount. Coach Schulte had no problem going to his bench as Kristina Cwiekalo came in and added five points and a bunch of key rebounds as teammate Cathy Nguyen came in and played a stellar defense while adding four points of her own.

The Bruins grabbed their first lead

with four minutes to go in the game. That's when leading scorer Cheryl Cwiekalo (17) scored the next six points of the game and then watched Crissy Buteas put the icing on it with a put back at the 11 second mark to seal it. Sophomore Kelly Ritchey poured in 10 points and senior Kim Wilcox added nine. The girls travel to Bound Brook for their annual tournament and then return home on Jan. 4 against Sayerville.

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

Read the Observer.

To start home delivery, enclose your check or money order for \$25. for 52 issues (out of Town-\$45) payable to: South Plainfield Observer.
Mail to South Plainfield Observer, G&G Graphics, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Or order your subscription via email at nancyg@spobserver.com and send your check to the mailing address above.

South
Plainfield's
Official NEWS
Source

South Plainfield Observer

Please send me home delivery of
the South Plainfield Observer.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

Subscribe

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

Obituaries

Walter G. Konops, Jr. 52

Walter G. Konops, Jr. of South Plainfield died on Wednesday, Dec. 15, at the Hackensack Medical Center in Hackensack.

He was born in Plainfield and had resided in South Plainfield for most of his life.

Mr. Konops was a licensed mortgage banker and was vice president of Great American Mortgage Services in Lawrenceville for the last three years. Mr. Konops was serving on the Middlesex County Bar Association's Ethics Committee and was a member of the Watchung Amateur Ski Club.

He is survived by his wife, Kathleen Ference Konops; a son, Walter G. Konops, III of South Plainfield; his parents, Walter G. Sr. and Frances Pickett Konops of South Plainfield; two brothers, Robert Konops of South Plainfield and Kenneth Konops of Las Vegas Nevada and four nieces and nephews.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Northern New Jersey Cancer Center, 20 Prospect Ave., Suite 400, Hackensack, N.J. 07601.

Jeanne DiCanto, 53

Jeanne DiCanto died on Tuesday, Dec. 14, after a long illness, at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in New Brunswick, Ms. DiCanto had resided in Brooklyn before settling in South Plainfield in 1961.

She was a 1963 graduate of South Plainfield High School and had attended Middlesex County College and Rutgers University. She was a member of the Mensa Organization.

Ms. DiCanto was employed by the United States Postal Service as a letter carrier and clerk in Plainfield's Watchung Ave. facility.

She is predeceased by her brother, John, who died in 1993.

Surviving are a daughter, Anne Elfiki of Tannersville, Pa.; three sisters, Patricia Stroessner of Brooklyn, Maryanne Zetterstrom of Berkley Heights and Nanette Shaw of South Plainfield and her brother, Joseph DiCanto of South Plainfield. Also surviving are three grandchildren, Sheryl, Richard and Peter.

Funerals services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Elsie F. (Puchalek) Staats, 85

Elsie F. (Puchalek) Staats, died on Friday, Dec. 17, at her home here.

Born in Bound Brook, Mrs. Staats had resided in Endicott, New York for many years and South Plainfield for some time, Rahway for 15 years, Long Beach Island in the early 1970's as well as Somerville for 10 years, back to Rahway from 1992 to 1996, before settling in Jackson in 1997.

Mrs. Staats was the cook for the Sacred Heart Church while residing here and the cook for Immaculate Conception Church in Somerville for 11 years, while residing there from 1981-1992. She was employed as a waitress for the Lido Diner in Springfield while residing in Rahway and had been a caregiver for the elderly while residing in Long Beach Island.

She was a member of the South Plainfield Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post #6763 Ladies Auxiliary and a member of the Ocean County Federation of Republican Women.

Surviving are a daughter, Linda C. Gargiulo of Jackson; two sons, Donald Staats of Highlands, California and John W. Staats of Keyport; a sister, Mary Arick of Theresa, New York; a brother, Joseph Puchalek of Bound Brook and 10 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in her memory may be made to National Kidney Foundation of New York/New Jersey, 1250 Broadway, Suite 2001, NY, NY 10001.

Ralph A. Mondoro, 81

Ralph A. Mondoro of Belle Mead, died on Friday, Dec. 17, at his home.

He was born in South Plainfield and was a former resident of Plainfield before moving to Belle Mead 16 years ago.

Mr. Mondoro was a lieutenant for the Plainfield Police Department for 34 years before retiring in 1976. He was a life member of the PBA Local 19 in Plainfield. He served as treasurer for the Police and Fireman's Credit Union in Plainfield from 1951 until 1993.

He was a Life Member of the Italian American Club in North Plainfield and served as treasurer for many years. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII.

He was predeceased by his brothers, Joseph and Henry Mondoro and a sister, Carmella Crowley.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Alice Snyder Mondoro; a daughter, Nancy Mondoro of Jonesboro, Ga.; three sons, Tim J. Mondoro of Belle Meade, John P. Mondoro of Manchester and Dennis J. Mondoro of Belle Mead; three brothers, Frank of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Anthony of South Plainfield and Daniel Mondoro of Watchung; two sisters, Elizabeth DeLisi of Plainfield and Delores Langlois of Blairsville, Ga. He is also survived by eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Lupus Foundation, c/o PO Box 320, Elmwood Park, NJ 07407.

INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

By Briggs Longbothum

Well, here we are with the last column before Christmas (nothing till the next millennium either!). I've been here right along trying to make a small racket about technology, the Internet, and such for the last several years since the SOUTH PLAINFIELD OBSERVER brought our town back onto the newsstands, and I do know that I am somewhat jaded over all this silicon spawned tech stuff. But Jeez, shouldn't some of this stuff be mainstream by now?

Yep, you guessed it. I'm about to complain about something, and here it comes. This morning I joined my brother and sister to meet with a realtor to list a family owned property here in NJ. The listing agent is very experienced, knowledgeable, and very active in the area of the property we listed. We will be paying just a hair under \$12K in commissions for listing and selling this property—no problem with that. But shouldn't we, in this day and age, expect our real estate agents to be computer literate and functional with the basics of email, and database systems? Shouldn't sellers be able to track and gauge market interest and responses to the properties they list? Pardon me, but for that kind of money, I think the answer should be "absolutely!"

Such sales are commission based, therefore nobody makes any money until it is sold. I have to believe therefore, that our agent and/or his office will be generating lots of data recording every inbound phone call and inquiry about this property, as well as making note of potential buyer feedback and other remarks (more data). To enter this data promptly into a database for continuous lead profiling and market feedback is just plain basic and simple (to me anyway). But guess what, our guy doesn't even check his email (only "occasionally" he

says), but he doesn't list it on his business card! This is his business going into the next millennium? Hellooooo! Is anybody home?

I am going to send this guy a suggestion or two. I think he should have a website where his clients (in this case my family and I) can access sales status updates on our property as listed, as well as maybe some personal information about himself, impressively presented and illuminating reasons why I might want to refer others to him?). Who knows, maybe I can make a few bucks back from him? Frankly, I thought this would have been old hat by now, but it does seem to me that all realtors should be up to speed and handy with the modern tools that are available to them. There are many analogies in other fields of employment, but none so critical as in sales. Am I just off on a tangent or do you agree with me. I'd like to hear from you, and if you are in a sales position, what tech tools do you use and what is your view of them? Please RSVP.

Let me close my last column of the century by wishing all you a very warm and wonderful holiday season, and may you all find true prosperity and happiness in the New Year. Briggs Longbothum, ed. (Bruggo@home.com)

PS: Thanks for helping to vote down the excesses of our recent school district bond issue. Keep your eyes open, they'll try it again soon.

Classified Advertising Works.

Three line minimum—\$10, \$1 each additional line. Send check or money order to the Observer, 530 Union Ave., Ste. Middlesex, NJ 08846. To place an ad, call the Observer at (732) 469-4380.

By Cyrus N. Moon

Weekly Horoscope 12/24-12/30

CAPRICORN 12/23-1/19 **HAPPY BIRTHDAY CAPPIE'S** This can be a lucky time for you! An unexpected piece of good luck can come your way, or even if not, more than likely more beneficial times are coming your way. This is a period to use the maturity and experience you have developed to decide present actions and plan for the future. Supervisors, authority figures and those more mature and experienced may be the means of your good fortune through their assistance or advice.

AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18 Your emotional life may be greatly improved in unexpected and unpredictable ways during this period. You might even notice that you are attracted to what is new or unique. Your domestic environment is apt to change and this can somehow involve children.

PISCES 2/19-3/20 Matters of spirit-

ality, idealism and faith are highlighted during this week. And you may perceive them as especially beautiful. Take time out to do some creative work of beauty. Your intuition is heightened; this will give you the ability to lend a compassionate ear to those who need to talk.

ARIES 3/21-4/19 Present circumstances bring an opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge or expertise. These areas are especially affected: advancement in your professional status, success in sports and the realization of political ambitions. These opportunities may involve your father or his status.

TAURUS 4/20-5/20 This week your competitive spirits are high. And as long as you do not become overly aggressive or let others assume that role over you, the potential for excitement is high. For those of you who are single, seek out stimulating conversation with

the opposite sex. Do not let unmeaningful insults drag you down.

GEMINI 5/21-6/20 Well it's the holiday season and this week there is a possibility of the purchase of an automobile, or perhaps you are selling one. Maybe you're buying some machinery or learning how to operate it. The fact is, you can make your ideas become physical realities.

CANCER 6/21-7/2 During the holiday week your energy flow will be met with little if any resistance. You have the capability if you choose to take the lead in activities that interest your own ideals as well as the groups. A marriage will be especially harmonious now. Build new bonds onto the old.

LEO 7/23-8/22 Listen to your intuition, it will be higher than normal. Also, your empathy and compassion will increase. You may find great satisfaction this week in helping others. You could give a hand, or a compassionate ear, to those close to you in the family or a good friend. Take a break from the

"normal."

VIRGO 8/23-9/22 This can be a time of psychological and emotional readjustment. Someone you know may feel compelled to express his or her problems with you. You will not like what you hear, but try to remember that this can be a good time when tensions can end!!! And if you do not listen then it will be your loss.

LIBRA 9/23-10/22 If you are looking for love (and aren't we all), this week is heightened for you. Any opportunity you have to go out, whether an after work get together or luncheon you are bound to meet someone interesting. I will say try not to be passive, if you make the approach a smile can be bigger.

SCORPIO 10/23-11/21 Now is the time

to lead your family into the next level of bliss. Members of the family can rally around a business or have a chance to sell or restore homes. Also at this time your relationship with your mother or other important female figures will play an importance immediately.

SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21 Keep an eye out for letters, an ear listening to the phone or e-mail coming your way because all these forms of communication are apt to contain an opportunity related to higher education, or long-distance travel. Expect to hear news about relatives, in particular your father or your in-laws.

QUOTE: A fish I am passing to your left. A fish you are passing to my right. Thanks to the moon for the light to see.



(908) 561-8000

McCriskin
HOME FOR FUNERALS

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

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

Mohn's Flowers
Always Caring

2325 Plainfield Ave.
So. Plainfield, NJ
(908) 561-2808



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

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

"Consult the Families We Serve"

Traveling Soccer Seeking Players

South Plainfield Traveling Soccer is looking for a few more players for their spring season. If you are born between Aug. 1, 1991 to July 31, 1993 and want to play, call Nick at 908-755-8835 before Dec. 31, 1999.

Senior Citizens Club Holds Elections

On Dec. 14, the South Plainfield Senior Citizen's Club held their election of officers for the year 2000. The following officers were reelected: Joseph Zekas, president; Frances Strobeck, vice president; Gloria Corio, second vice president; Alice Caulfield, treasurer; Gloria Haropa, secretary and Dolores Zekas, assistant secretary. Officers will be sworn

in at the January meeting.

The club meets every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the PAL building located on Maple Ave. South Plainfield residents 55 and over are welcome to join. Annual dues are \$6.

Activities include bingo, card games, trips and friendly conversation. Coffee is served, bring a lunch.

POLICE REPORT

• Audio Energy, Davis Ave., reported receiving terroristic threats via their answering machine. An employee arrived at work to find a message on the machine. It was a male voice and the employee could only understand the name Tyrone. The suspect said he had ordered batteries from the company two or three weeks earlier and had not received them. He was extremely irate using obscene language. He threatened to come to the business with handguns and other weapons if he did not receive his order within in 24 hours. The employee did not recognize caller's voice or name.

• A North Arlington Ave. resident reported unknown suspects had tried to gain entry to his vehicle while it was parked at Micro Computer Rental, Corporate Blvd. The passenger side lock had been pried out but entry was not made.

• Eric Y. Chan of Piscataway was arrested for shoplifting a men's coat valued at \$135 from Sterns, Middlesex Mall.

• Unknown suspects pried out the frame around an air conditioning unit at Durham Deli, Durham Ave. The unit is located on the side of the building. Tip money was taken from the counter near the register

and from the microwave cart. Also removed were approximately 200 packages of cigarettes and \$125 in rolled coins. The entire deli was ransacked. The perpetrators removed food from the deli case and threw it on the floor, snack stands were knocked over, meat from the freezer was dumped on the floor, and shelves of paperwork and other items were strewn throughout the deli. The screen door was pulled off in an attempt to find another way out but the door was locked.

• James E. Toy of Plainfield allegedly used bogus checks to purchase gift cards at Home Depot. The gift cards in the amount of \$300 were purchased over a two-day period. A check showed the account not valid and employees noted that his license appeared to have been altered. He was turned away the third time.

• Stern's security cameras caught on videotape removing security tags off of baby clothes before stuffing them into a bag. The suspect left via the front door and drove away in a red Chevy Blazer. The plate number showed the vehicle registered to someone in East Orange.

• A Plainfield man used his cell

phone to report an auto theft in progress. The victim had left his car running in front of 1639 Park Ave. A witness followed the vehicle into Plainfield where it was stopped at the intersection of Park and Randolph. Police arrived to apprehend the suspect.

• An Adeline Ave. resident returned home to find her back porch door open. Thinking she had left it open, she went inside and found the bedroom ransacked. Ten boxes of jewelry, four pairs of black leather gloves and a check out of check book were removed. Entry was gained through a basement window.

• First Class Shipping, Hamilton Blvd., reported receiving terroristic threats via fax from a customer in Ontario, Canada.

• A Fairmount Ave. resident reported a burglary in her home. The perpetrator pried open the rear storm door, then broke a door window to gain entry. A flood light near the door was found unscrewed. Cash and jewelry were removed. A pillow case removed from the bed was used to carry the items. Everything was put back as it had been and the victim did not notice anything missing until later.

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.

HELP WANTED

SOUTH PLAINFIELD MUNICIPAL COURT has opening for a Docket Clerk, full time. Seeking ambitious, bright, self-starter for data entry and general clerical. Good office and computer skills required. ATS/ACS experience a plus. Very busy office. Hours 9am-5pm, evening court session every Wed. Salary \$19034+ benefits. Contact Pat Vargo, Court Adm. 908-226-7651.

P/T MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST, 5 days/wk-no wknds. Exp. preferred but will train. Call Randi 908-756-5908. Leave message.

THE OBSERVER IS SEEKING ADVERTISING SALESPERSONS. SET YOUR OWN HOURS. EXP. PREFERRED, BUT NOT NECESSARY. CALL 668-0010.

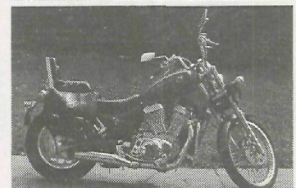
APARTMENT FOR RENT

Two bedrooms, newly renovated. One of a kind—too much to list—must see. \$950. Ref. required. Call 908-693-5101 or 732-9283.

AUTOS FOR SALE

1992 MAZDA PROTEGE, 4/DR, 5/SPD, NEW BRAKES, COMPLETELY NEW EXHAUST SYSTEM, NEW RADIATOR, MOST RELIABLE CAR I'VE EVER OWNED. Owner buying a truck. \$3800. 732-545-3132.

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. Call 732-545-3132.

PHOTOGRAPHY

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

NEED HELP?

Find what you're looking for in the **BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL SECTION.** To advertise, call 908-668-0010.

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

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.

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

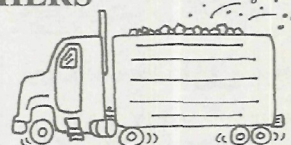
Call **KLK Trucking** for:
Sand/Salt Mixture, Bulk
Rock Salt, Ice Control Sand
Sanding • Salting • Snowplowing
Pick up or Deliv., Mon. thru Sat
908-757-4434
265 Ryan Street
South Plainfield

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"

ROOFERS

J.T. PENYAK ROOFING CO.

COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL
RESIDENTIAL

908-753-4222

FAX 908-753-4763

124 CAMDEN AVE.
SO. PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080

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.

HOME REMODELING

RONZO REMODELING

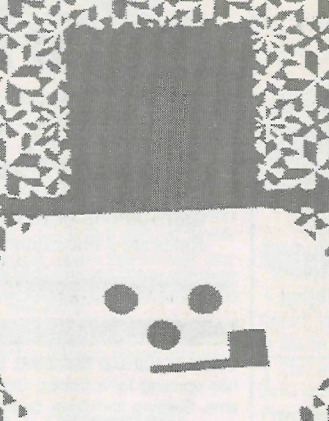
HOME IMPROVEMENTS • BATHROOMS
KITCHENS • CERAMIC TILE
WINDOWS • DOORS • DECKS
(908) 668-0662

CUSTOM
INSTALLATION
AVAILABLE
JOE RONZO

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

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL

For info, call
908-668-0010



**The
South Plainfield
Observer Staff,
Contributors and
Advertisers
Wish All Our Readers...**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*We would like to thank our
Friends, Family, Clients
and Patrons for supporting
our business this year.*

**Merry
Christmas
& Happy
New Year**

*The Steele Family
Scott & Keith*

**POWER
SOLUTIONS**
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS
230B ST. NICHOLAS AVE.
SOUTH PLAINFIELD
908-668-4344

CBF Products, Inc

**WHY PAY
STORE PRICES**

We Carry Supplies for All
Makes and Models of Printers,
Fax Machines and Copiers
Discount Inkjets
Toner Cartridges

Epson Jet Cartridges
as little as \$7.50 ea.
Can BCI-21L...\$5.25 ea.
BCI 21...\$8.50 ea.

**Tel: 908-769-7273
Fax: 908-769-7473**

www.Cbfproducts.com
E-Mail:
Cbfprod@webspan.net

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY NEW YEAR**

from Ida Santos

VALLEY NATIONAL BANK
100 Durham Avenue, South Plainfield
908-757-5868

Happy Holidays

ART MUGLIA

Muglia Enterprises
908 757-8100

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

*We would like to thank all of the loyal families who have placed
their Trust and Confidence in Us over the past 50 years.
Thank you for your Trust.*

Bob & Roberta Hunter

James W. Conroy Funeral Home

2456 Plainfield Avenue • South Plainfield, New Jersey
908 756-2800

Happy Holidays

Patrick Diegnan, Jr.

Attorney at Law

2443 Plainfield Ave.
908-753-7200

*We would like to thank our friends, family &
clients for supporting our business this year.*

THE RAZOR'S EDGE

25 South Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield
(908) 769-8330

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

*We would like to thank
our Friends, Family,
Clients and Patrons
for supporting our
practice this year.*

**Merry
Christmas
& Happy
New Year**

From the
Doctors & Staff of
**PLAINFIELD
ANIMAL
HOSPITAL**
2201 Park Avenue
908-755-2428

**MILLENNIUM
MOVE**

For Your Insurance &
Mortgage Services that will
Still Provide You with
Professional Services
With a Personal Touch

**LEPORINO
INSURANCE LTD**

Formerly located in the old Pick-A-Toy Bldg.
Will have a new address located
next door over the Bagel Stop

**33 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ 07080**

908-756-8038
908-756-8759 (Pager)
1-800-386-6396

McCriskin
Home For Funerals

2425 Plainfield Avenue • South Plainfield
908 561-8000

**Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year**