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South Plainfield Observer

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JANUARY 7, 2000

Developer to Donate New Senior Center

During his annual message at the reorganization meeting, Mayor Dan Gallagher announced that Jack Morris, who will be developing the former Coppola Farm site into townhouses and condominiums, will build a new

10,000 square foot Senior Center at no charge to the Borough.

The mayor said that the borough is in the process of acquiring the property to build the center on the site of the former Shell Gas station, located at the intersection of Maple and Lakeview Avenues. He said the location is ideal as it is situated behind Veterans Park and close to shopping. The Senior Center will be built by developer Jack Morris at no cost to the taxpayers of South Plainfield. The mayor said if the borough would want to build it, it would cost over \$1 million.

Last month the Planning Board granted preliminary approval to Morris to build 103 townhouses and 252 condominiums on the property that is now Coppola's Farm on New Durham Ave. The townhouses will sell for approximately \$160,000 to \$170,000 and the condominiums will cost about \$120,000. This is one of the Mount Laurel sites approved last year by the New Jersey Superior Court.

\$10,000 Donation Received for Putnam Park

The mayor announced during the reorganization meeting that he received a check in the amount of \$10,000 from Robert Baker, from National Realty and Development to be used towards the renovations at Putnam Park.

Putnam Park has been the site of new playground equipment, trees and upgrades in the past few years.



South Plainfield's Mayor and Council take their seats at the 2000 reorganization meeting. Pictured are (standing) Councilmembers Dennis Cerami, Darlene Pinto, Vinnie Buttiglieri, Raymond Petronko; (sitting) Ed Kubala, Mayor Dan Gallagher and Council President Jim Vokral.

Mayor's Annual Message Upbeat for Year 2000

The annual reorganization meeting held last Sunday at Borough Hall drew a large crowd as

it does every year. Dignitaries attending included Freeholder and former South Plainfield Councilman John Pulomena, Jim Polis, Jeff Golkin and former Councilwoman Mary Kochut.

The oath of office was given to Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral, who were both sworn in for a third three-year-term.

Councilman Ed Kubala reflected on the council's accomplishments during the past year, such as keeping the budget under control. He thanked everyone for electing both he and Jim Vokral this past election. He said South Plainfield is prepared for the challenges of the 21st Century,

man), Vincent Buttiglieri and Raymond Petronko; *Recreation* – Raymond Petronko (chairman), Dennis Cerami and Ed Kubala.

Board of Education Member Frank Mikorski presented council members and the mayor with Certificates of Appreciation from Vision 2001 for their support during the past few years. Vision 2001 provides scholarships and financial aid to high school students in South Plainfield.

This year the mayor's annual message was very upbeat. He announced that builder Jack Morris will be constructing a new senior center on the site at no cost to the taxpayers. He also asked that the property on the corner of New Market and Hamilton Blvd. be condemned and demolished to make room for a turning lane at that intersection. He warned property owners in that area to clean up their properties or they will be issued a summons.

Also appointed by the governing body were: Patrick Diegnan-Borough Attorney, Ronald Zilinski-Tax Search Officer, Edward Santoro-Public Defender, Mary Blue-Public Agency Compliance Officer, Thomas Lanza-Municipal Prosecutor.

For a complete list of appointees to boards and commissions, see page 6.

See page 7 for the Mayor's Annual Message

yet still endeavors to maintain a "small town" way of life. Kubala said he will also be working with the council and the seniors to see that senior housing and a senior center will be built.

Jim Vokral was elected by the council to again serve as council president. Committee assignments were announced as follows: *Administration, Finance & Public Information* – Ed Kubala (chairman), Darlene Pinto and James Vokral; *Public Works* – Vincent Buttiglieri (chairman), Dennis Cerami and Darlene Pinto; *Economic Development* – Darlene Pinto (chairwoman), Ed Kubala and James Vokral; *Health, Welfare & Environment* – James Vokral (chairman), Raymond Petronko and Vincent Buttiglieri; *Public Safety* – Dennis Cerami (chair-



Borough Clerk Jim Eckert swears in Councilmen Ed Kubala (left) and Jim Vokral (below) to a third consecutive three-year term at last Sunday's reorganization meeting. Holding the bible for Ed Kubala is his sister Judy Saraka and husband John. Jim Vokral took the oath surrounded by his wife, Debbie, children and grandchildren.



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No Y2K Bugs Here.....

The Samptown Ave. gargoyle is set to scare away millennium glitches.

Red Cross Still Needs Blood Donors

The American Red Cross and the New Jersey Blood Services will be holding several Blood Drives during January.

The drives are part of an effort to increase the number of blood donors. Only 2% of the general population gives blood. Last year the Red Cross provided 14,000 units of blood to county hospitals, yet only collected 10,000 units of blood from County residents.

To qualify as a blood donor a person must:

- Be between the ages of 17 and 75 (in New Jersey, seventeen-year-olds must have written permission from their parents or guardians.

People over 75 can donate blood with a physician's consent).

- be in general good health.
- weight at least 110 pounds.
- not have donated whole blood within the last 56 days.

The schedule for blood drives for January is:

- Jan. 8 at the First Unitarian Society, 724 Park Ave. in Plainfield from 8:45 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.
- Jan. 16 at Our Lady of the Mount, 167 Mt. Bethel Rod in Warren, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For further information call, (908) 353-2500, (908) 756-4142 (800) 933-2566.

CORRECTION

FLO'S—Last week we incorrectly listed the names of those who won awards at Flos's Piano recital. After the concert Flo presented Joseph Regan of Nordstrom's with the 'Solid Rock Award' and Freda Jones with the 'Diamond Award'. Receiving both the 'Meridith Marie Brown Piano Award' and 'Gold Piano Award of Excellence' were Andre Michael Boomer, Kimberly Ann Galinsky and Britney Denielle Hollaway. Receiving the 'Gold Piano Award of Excellence' were Cionna McCalman-Forsythe and Kaija Helene Hunter.

South Plainfield Observer

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

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.

In My Opinion

Letters Letters Letters

To the "South Plainfield Observer":

Let's review:

State of New Jersey	South Plainfield High School
Mean SAT score (combined)	
1016	988
Average Teacher's Salary	
\$51,500	\$55,500

Conclusion: The South Plainfield Educational Association, being a professional organization, takes full credit for the result of their work. In order to stay competitive, they should be asking the Board of Education negotiating committee to decrease their salaries in order to reflect the quality of their product.

**SINCERELY,
BOGDAN FRYSZCZYN**

To the Editor,

In a recent letter to the editor, Gary Bersin suggested that developers should be required to pay for the impact their housing units have on the school district. He is absolutely right. They should pay for each unit and every school board member agrees.

However, there is no law that requires this payment. During one of the Planning Board meetings, when one of the developers appeared, school board members from your district made an appeal to the developer. When he was asked to make a contribution towards the impact on schools, he in effect said he didn't have to and he wouldn't. When a suggestion was made that a contribution could be made to the Education Foundation so he could get a tax deduction, the answer again was no.

Mr. Bersin, this board has supported legislation for Senate Bill S-60, which would require developers to pay an education impact fee. Resolutions were passed, telephone calls and letters were sent to the sponsors, Senator Schluter and Senator President DiFrancesco.

The called Bill S-60 passed in the State Senator by a vote of 29 to 6 in December of 1999. The bill called A-494, was then introduced in the Assembly by Assemblyman Leonard Lanse. However, Assembly Speaker Jack Collins has refused thus far to post the bill for a vote. If he does not do so by January 10, 2000, the bill will have to be resubmitted to the new Legislature and the new session. The Speaker has

been contacted by school board members and many newspapers have written editorials supporting education impact fees, but obviously developers who do not want this legislation passed have been able to deny its passage.

It has been suggest that if the public were to contact Speaker Jack Collins and your Assembly Representatives Robert Smith and Gerald Green, we would get a vote before the deadline date of January 10.

**FRANK MIKORSKI
BOE MEMBER**

Dear Editor,

I read in last week's *Observer* of my so called letter from Dan Smith. I told of the high salaries of teachers, clerks and anyone else connected to this system, which is called the Board of Education!

I was told by a member of the Board of Education that the blame was on the mayor and council for allowing all the new homes to be built!

It was voted down, because the taxpayers voted, not just the parents of these poor children who are packed 17-19 per class!

Referring to a woman's claim that it is very stressful to work all day with 17-19 students—I thought we were over crowded? To put that a school needs heat on a ballot is very poor. What was done with the surplus money from the year before? Do we go out shopping for stars for the students' papers? Or do we spend it on anything that the Board of Education decides to use it on!

If the money was managed better, they would have had extra money to repair the heat in the Middle School. And why do we need all of this administrative space? What corporation are we running? I am retired from the Federal Government at CECOM, Fort Monmouth, where we had 6,000 working people under one roof!

As the early retirements were offered, many of us took it, and we were not replaced by people at our salary but by contractors at a quarter of the cost!

Do you know how much the teachers and clerks get paid for doing nothing in South Plainfield? What percentage, Mr. Smith, of the teachers live in South Plainfield? Were they going to pay the tax increase of only \$136. per year, when in fact it would have been over \$200. dol-

lars per year? And again the taxpayers voted, not just the parents! Why couldn't they rent trailers to use at Roosevelt School until the school was brought up to code? No, they need more administrative space again! What was wrong with Grant School and Cedarcroft School? We need to house more waste of salary people!

Plus, the most important thing is that the education the children are receiving is below what the other schools in Middlesex County are getting, as South Plainfield is next to last in sending students to college.

Mr. Smith, this is not my own opinion. What about that girl who wrote to the *Observer* and is having a problem in college because of the poor teaching in English she had in South Plainfield? Was that my opinion also?

What happens when all these homes are built? Is each family bringing in seven or eight children? How many of what age group, was that ever thought of? What family has more then one or two children today? We are not talking about the 1950's or earlier!

Mr. Smith, go look up the facts. South Plainfield spends more money then any other town in Middlesex County for a poor education. The parents should sue the Board of Education in South Plainfield for not giving their children the education set by government standards!

Let's face facts Mr. Smith, I wrote my letter on true facts. You are trying to smoke screen your failed attempt at taking more from the taxpayers in this town.

Again, if a police officer has to be from South Plainfield to get on the force, why shouldn't a teacher? Rather, they live in cheaper areas and use the tax dollars the poor people in South Plainfield throw at them for nothing.

Just remember Mr. Smith, in 1966 my mom could have had a new school built for 2.3 million dollars! With your plan, you are taking away another school and then complaining about incoming students but now it is out that some classes only have 17-19 students in them. They made it sound like they had 50!

Sorry, Mr. Smith, the Board of Education needs a overhaul and I hope my letter to the governor's office sends a auditor to see where my money is going.

TONY PISANIELLO

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.

Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer.

The South Plainfield Health Department
Is Conducting Its Annual

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At the

South Plainfield Borough Garage

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Dog and Cat Owners are urged to bring their pets for inoculation.



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Dates:

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Saturday, January 15, 2000 • 9 am-12 noon



For More Information Please Call

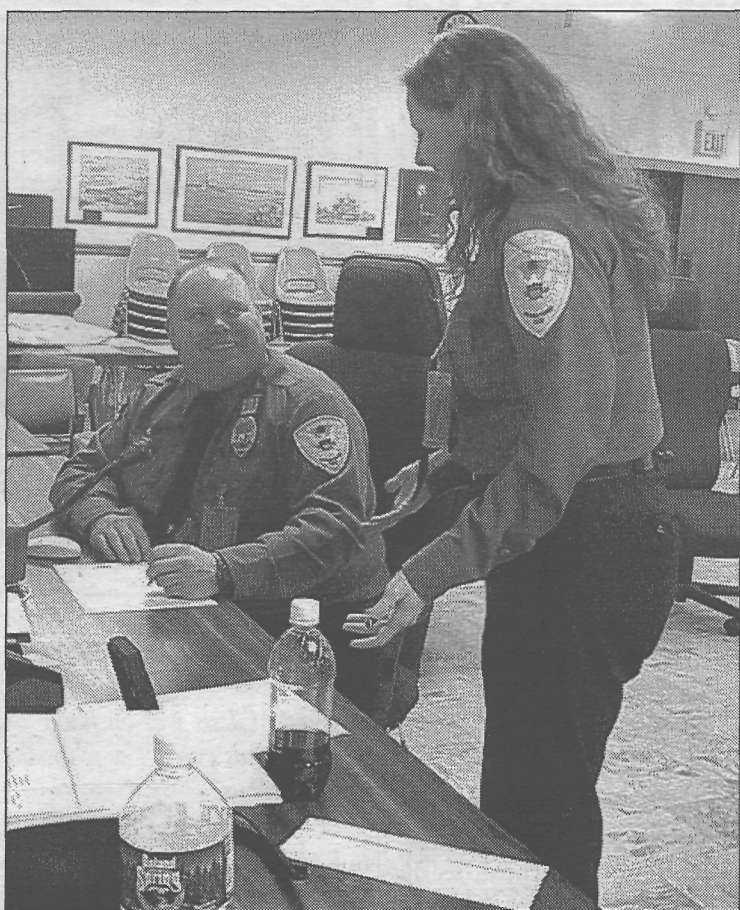
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Y2K!

By Patricia Abbott

The much-talked about over-analyzed, oft dreaded, yet long anticipated day had arrived, January 31, 1999. As evening approached many readied for merry-making while others readied for mayhem. For weeks procrastinators frantically checked every computer and date-oriented electronic device in their homes. Stores sold record amounts of batteries, flashlights, canned goods and bottled water along with an assortment of other "Y2K necessities". Gas tanks were filled, fireplaces stocked with wood and wallets were filled with cash. Others relaxed as they had stocked up months before and were prepared for whatever disaster the new millennium might bring. "First Night" parties were held throughout the country attended by those who wanted to greet a new year, and new millennium. Still others seemed eager for complications if only to prove themselves right.

The State of New Jersey mandated that each town have an Emergency Management crew in place in case of problems. Middlesex County set up a hotline to handle Y2K rumors and problems. Across the country precautions were taken including the shut down of plants that deal or manufacture hazardous materials.



South Plainfield Police dispatchers wait for the Y2K problems that never arose.

Railroad crossings were another source of worry – would the guardrails lower, or would all come to a stand still? Who could imagine that two simple "00"s would throw the world into a panic?

Two teams of Emergency Management staff worked extra shifts. South Plainfield was ready and waiting for the year 2000 to kick in. As the clock slowly ticked towards midnight, members of South Plainfield's Emergency Management Team sat in the command center set up in the

courtroom. They were ready for anything. Then it happened. The final 10 seconds of the 1900s counted down and the clock stuck 12. The new century rolled in, and life went on with no greater problems than perhaps boredom for those whose job it was to handle disaster, relief for those who expected it and another Happy New Years Eve for all.

Welcome to 2000 South Plainfield!

Firm Hired to Search for Borough Administrator

At a special council meeting called last week, Mayor Gallagher along with the council hired the firm of Jersey Professional Management to search for a candidate to fill the vacancy created when John Corica resigned to become Borough Administrator in Florham Park.

Until the position is filled, members of the council will be dividing up the responsibilities of the borough administrator.

Council President Jim Vokral said that our town needs a professional to run it. By hiring a specialized recruiting firm, only the most qualified candidates will be considered and the position will be filled in a non-political, non-partisan way.

Jersey Professional Management President Daniel Mason gave a presentation on how his company recruits candidates, and how the anticipated 100-plus applications are broken down and ultimately narrowed to finalists to be considered

by the mayor and council. Jersey Professional Management specializes in municipal recruiting, shared services and temporary municipal employees.

Mason will be working with a search committee named during last week's meeting. The committee consists of three members of the council: Jim Vokral, Ed Kubala and Darlene Pinto along with Mayor Dan Gallagher. The cost to the borough for this service will be \$9500, which is to be paid in increments as the search progresses.

Applicants will be recruited for both a borough administrator and or a borough administrator/CFO. Resumes will be accepted from borough employees as well as residents, but any and all will go through Jersey Professional Management, who will narrow down the candidates to the most qualified.

Community Pool Taking Applications for 2000 Season

Residents will be receiving a South Plainfield Community Pool Brochure with their next tax bills. It contains the fees, discounts, hours of operation, guest fees and information about lessons and recreation programs offered this coming summer. If you do not receive one and need more information, call the Recreation office at 226-7713.

The community pool will be opening on part-time basis starting on June 3. Summer hours will be starting on June 25.

This year members will receive 10 free passes with their membership. Guest pass books which contain 10 daily passes may be purchased by members at \$50 per book. There is a limit of one book per month.

Membership Fees for 2000

	On or before April 16	After 4/15
Family	\$250 plus 10 Free Passes	\$280
Family w/full time child care	\$305 plus 10 Free Passes	\$335
Husband & Wife	\$195 plus 10 Free Passes	\$225
Individuals	\$140 plus 10 Free Passes	\$170
Individual w/family	\$ 70	\$100
Single Parent Family	\$220 plus 10 Free Passes	\$250
Senior Citizen	\$ 50 plus 10 Free Passes	\$ 60
Family, Nonresident	\$470 plus 10 Free Passes	\$470
Individual, Nonresident	\$250 plus 10 Free Passes	\$250

Fees are not refundable

Daily Admission Passes

General daily admissions are permitted into the pool. Everyone must provide proper identification. 2000 fees are as follows:

	Mon-Fri	Weekdays/Holidays
All Ages - Nonresident	\$ 8	\$10
All Ages - Resident	\$10	\$12
Groups - 20 or more*	\$ 5	\$ 5

* Picnic Area Only. Must be preregistered.

Recreation Commission Meets To Discuss PAL Expansion Bids

The Recreation Commission held their monthly meeting on Monday evening. Mike English reported that community pool brochures, which include prices and pool information, will be mailed to residents with their tax bills. Residents can sign-up for pool membership now at the PAL building. He also reported that the new inline skating league has become very popular and the kids are really enjoying it.

Councilman Ray Petronko, liaison to the Recreation Commission, and architect Joe DeAndrea also attended the meeting to discuss the future of the PAL building expansion.

Mayor Dan Gallagher had asked that the commissioners, along with Councilman Petronko and Joe DeAndrea, take another look at the PAL building plans to see if the structure could be redesigned to save money.

Architect Joe DeAndrea presented several options which could eliminate a portion of the planned addition. The commissioners felt that eliminating the multipurpose room would defeat the whole expansion plan. They discussed the possibility of area businesses donating some of the materials towards the expansion, but according to Petronko and DeAndrea, those

bidding will probably not be receptive to that option nor guarantee any work done with donated materials.

The commissioners were in agreement that they would cut as much as they could before the plans went out for a second bid and asked Councilman Petronko to go back to the council and see if they could help with raising the \$400,000 necessary to move forward with the project.

Petronko said that the council is in favor of the expansion and will be trying to find funding in the budget without raising taxes.

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AROUND TOWN

EVENTS

Columbiettes Sponsoring Roast Beef Dinner

The Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes are sponsoring a Roast Beef Dinner on Saturday, Jan. 29. The dinner will be held at the K of C Hall on Hamilton Blvd. from 4 to 8 p.m.

Prices for the dinner are \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$7 for children ages three to 12.

Advance tickets will be available at a savings of \$1 per person.

The menu will consist of roast beef, potatoes, vegetables, salad, dessert and coffee, tea and milk or juice for the children.

For additional information and advance tickets, call Mary Ann at 908-226-1222.

Adult School Senior Group Meeting

The Adult School Senior Group will hold their monthly meeting on Jan. 7 at 10 a.m. in the Administration Building on Cromwell Place. After the general meeting, Lee Goodman will be the speaker.

Call 754-1047 for transportation.

Ponytail Association Meeting

The South Plainfield Parent/Ponytail Association will hold its next monthly meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield Middle School Library.

Historical Society To Meet

The regular meeting of the South Plainfield Historical Society will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 11, at the library in South Plainfield High School.

The Historical Society is planning to catalog all of their pictures and artifacts, by listing what they are and where they came from. If you are interested in helping, come to the meeting next Tuesday.

Country Breakfast at VFW Post 6763

VFW Post 6763 at 155 Front St. will host a Country Breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 9, from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. The donation is \$4.

The breakfast is sponsored by Pup Tent 41, Military Order of the Cootie.

For more information, call (908) 668-9751.

Music Boosters Paper Drive Moved

The South Plainfield High School Music Boosters Paper Drive will be held on Jan. 8 this month due to New Year's Day falling on the first Saturday of the month.

Our Lady of Czestochowa to Hold Wafer Supper

Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish's Annual Wafer Supper will take place on Sunday, Jan. 9, 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.

HS Orientation Program for Eighth Grade Parents

Middle School eighth grade parents are invited to attend a high school orientation program on Jan. 13.

The program will be held in the high school cafeteria at 7:30 p.m. Visitors will be given an overview of the programs and activities at South Plainfield High School. The scheduling process will also be addressed as well as the extra and co-curricular activities available to students.

Recreation Plans Ski Trip to Montage

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

Participants must be at least 14 years old. Fee for bus and lift only is \$45; bus, lift and rental is \$59 and bus; 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.

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 Jan. 12, 19 and 26.

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

For information, 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.



Santa Claus was on hand at Keystone Community Residence Christmas Party. The celebration was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Okay, people! The calendar has turned and it's now 2000 AD. Computers still work and civilization hasn't utterly collapsed. It's time to push aside your Y2K worries and focus on the really important things, like news from the South Plainfield Library:

Next week's children's Storytime programs have been cancelled. The hiatus will continue until Tuesday, Jan. 18. The programs will be back at their usual times.

On Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m., the Library Board of Trustees will meet. Among other items, they'll be attending to their annual reorganization. The public is both invited and encouraged to attend this important meeting.

The January group of Circuit videos is now ready for check-out. Titles in this group include "City Hall", "Wrongfully Accused", "Gattaca", "Some Like it Hot" and "Air Bud". These tapes will be available until Jan. 24.

In addition to shredded wrapping paper and perhaps a used pine tree, one of the remnants of your holiday season is probably a bunch of used candles. Rather than toss them in the trash, you might consider bringing them to us. The Friends of the Library collect used candles for recycling. You'll find the collection box next to the door to our Children's room.

We've got an advisory for you. Sometimes, parents decide to leave their children at the library for a while so they can attend to other matters. This really isn't advisable. We aren't a day care center, nor are we equipped to give your children the attention they need. While we do have some extra supervision during

children's programs, it's really no substitute for a parent. We'd appreciate it if you'd stick around and stay with your children when they're here. It's for the best in the long run.

As previously noted, we've just passed through the holiday season. Some people, though, figure that tomorrow should be added to that roster. Jan. 8 marks the anniversary of the birth of Elvis Presley (you've heard of him, right?). Our audio/visual collection features a lot of material from the career of the King of Rock and Roll. Our CD collection features multi-disc sets of his music from the 1950's and 1960's, as well as discs devoted to his biggest hits. In the video section, we have a tape with vintage performance footage in the non-fiction section, while the fiction section has his first film appearance in "Love Me Tender". We also have a number of books about Elvis of varying viewpoints. If you're interested, stop by and ask at the main desk. However, our collection only goes so far. We don't have any of those velvet paintings on display, nor do we stock supermarket tabloids claiming to have tracked him down.

In closing, we'd like to thank everyone who contributed to the charity drives that were recently based at the library. The sponsors of those drives appreciate your generosity. We'd also like to thank the kind souls who brought the staff all sorts of treats for the holidays. You've blown a number of diets, but we're not complaining.

That's all for this week. We'll be back next time with more. Until then, we hope you'll continue to adjust to the year 2000. It may not look like an episode of "The Jetsons," but give it time.

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.

Fr. John invites you to worship with him at

Our Lady of Czestochowa R.C. Church

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Sunday mornings 8:00 and 11:00 am

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South Plainfield High School Honor Roll

The South Plainfield High School Guidance Department is proud to announce that the following students were named to the Honor Roll for the first marking period.

9th Grade

Christopher M. Advensky, Joseph Adorna, Ahsley M. Allocco, Alain Amazan, Annette Anderson, Okle M. Annum, Ariel Avalos, Heather A. Barrett, Jason A. Basile, Christine Benak, Quien T. Bowe, Tiffany A. Boyle, Eric S. Brandes, Milton Bravo Jr., Lauren M. Brobeck, Jessie E. Brown Jr., Jenny Y. Cai, Jody L. Chepulis, Michael Chrysanthopoulos, Meredith R. Cooper, Gary C. Curcio Jr., James V. Curcio, Jr., Jay Cushner, Kristina M. Cwickalo, Kristina M. De Lillo, Nadia Deba, Christina Dematos, Jenna M. Desimone, Martin J. Diamant, Denise M. DiMeglio, Kimberly R. Dziomba.

Nicole M. Esposito, Christina M. Ettore, Kelly M. Eustice, Abbalonia A. Falato, Cathleen A. Fodor, Kristen R. Fredericks, Christina L. Furka, David J. Garatino, Amanda L. George, Nybil Ghanem, Jamie Glowacki, Dale Goberdhan, Shelly Graziano, Nicholas F. Green, Francisco J. Guevara, Kristen N. Gumina, Melissa M. Harrah, Thomas C. Haus, Marianne F. Hebreo, Amanda K. Hermann, Nadisha Hosein, Alexander Huynh, Kim Houng Huynh.

Apprameya Km Iyengar, Stephen Janiszak, Michael A. Jankoski Jr., Steven A. Johnston, Lauren C. Kaczka, Amit K. Kalia, Michael J. Kasmer, Vickram Kissoon, Elizabeth Kitteli, Michelle L. Kravetsky, Danielle H. Larisch, Brandon, P. Lindgren, Nathalie Londono, Michael J. Martinez, Sejal D. Mehia, Daniel J. Melick, Jamie E. Morris, Harry J. Mowrey Jr., Richard M. Muglia, Sherin Navasca, Tai Thanh Nguyen, Kristen Nietzer, Jaclyn J. Noonan, Kristina R. Ogonowski, Ellery N. Pagala, Laura N. Painton, Terry L. Paschall II, Avinash Patel, Chirag B. Patel, Herry H. Patel, Kamlesh D. Patel, Rupel C. Patel, Gabriela N. Pineda, Antoneth S. Porter, Cynthia A. Prybella, Brian E. Publik, Megan A. Pulomena, John M. Rayho, Joseph R. Reach, Edison R. Refe, Eva L. Rodriguez, Elayne M. Russell.

Meaghan P. Schweers, Danielle M. Skoba, Joseph W. Smalley, Steven Sobel, David E. Spader II, Allison I. Stoloff, Stephanie L. Swierc, Justin Toth, Janine M. Turrise, Philip J. Veinott, Denise M. Vita, Ryan A. Vroom, Craig W. Warren, Matthew R. Wells, John F. Wiczowski, Michael P. Wiczorek, Frank J. Wrublewski III, Victoria Zappi.

10th Grade

Malika Aaron, Mohammed Alli, Kathy F. Almnzar, Puja Amin, Brielle K. Anderson, Matthew J. Anderson, Marc Arancio, Matthew W. Bizup, Cassie M. Bosse, Michael D. Brooks, Dana M. Butrico, Jennifer Butrico, Shakina Carroll, Christopher Catalfamo, Pamela L. Cianfrocca, Kamel Conde, Stephen Copeland, Christopher Cornish, Jaclyn Cox, Gina M. D'Urso, Shannon Dabrio, Jen-evieve DeLossantos, Brian D. DeVito, Joseph J. Dezmin Jr., Luis W. Dimacje, Scott C. Doerr, Tamara Dombrowski, Meghan M. Elsmann, Jonathan Fredericks,

Rodney Gateau, Justin T. Gaynor, Ryan L. Gianneschi, Jennifer Gold, Alan D. Graziano, Norma Guevara, Michael J. Hamm, Colombino A. Headley, Cheryl A. Hoh, Jessica P. Honeywell, William G. Humber, Violet Huynh, Jessica A. Irbner, Elliot J. Kaplan, Antonia P. Katsantonis, Janelle I. Kenny, Daniel M. Lahey, Amy M. Leso, Tamika A. Limerick, Danielle N. Lytwyn, Kristin M. Mazellan, Jeffrey M. McKnight, Robert K. Merkler Jr., Kareem Mohareem, Gregory L. Moore, Timothy I. Morgan Jr., James D. Nguyen, Joanne T. Nguyen, Matthew R. Noll, Michelle E. Oppelt, Mary E. Otlowski.

Erica L. Parks, Matthew J. Peloquin, Kevin T. Petrocelli, Kimberly A. Pfeifer, Victor A. Pichardo, Allison Provaire, Richard Ringel, Billie Jean Sarullo, Danielle M. Schweers, Martin G. Seiz, Sally A. Serago, Laura Sharbash, Joseph A. Sierzega Jr., Thomas J. Sniscak, Michelle Socha, Paul Spisso, Reginald D. Thompson, Thomas Troia, Stephanie Veerasammy, Charmaine A. Wakefield, Dwyane D.W. Walker, Jacqueline S. Wong

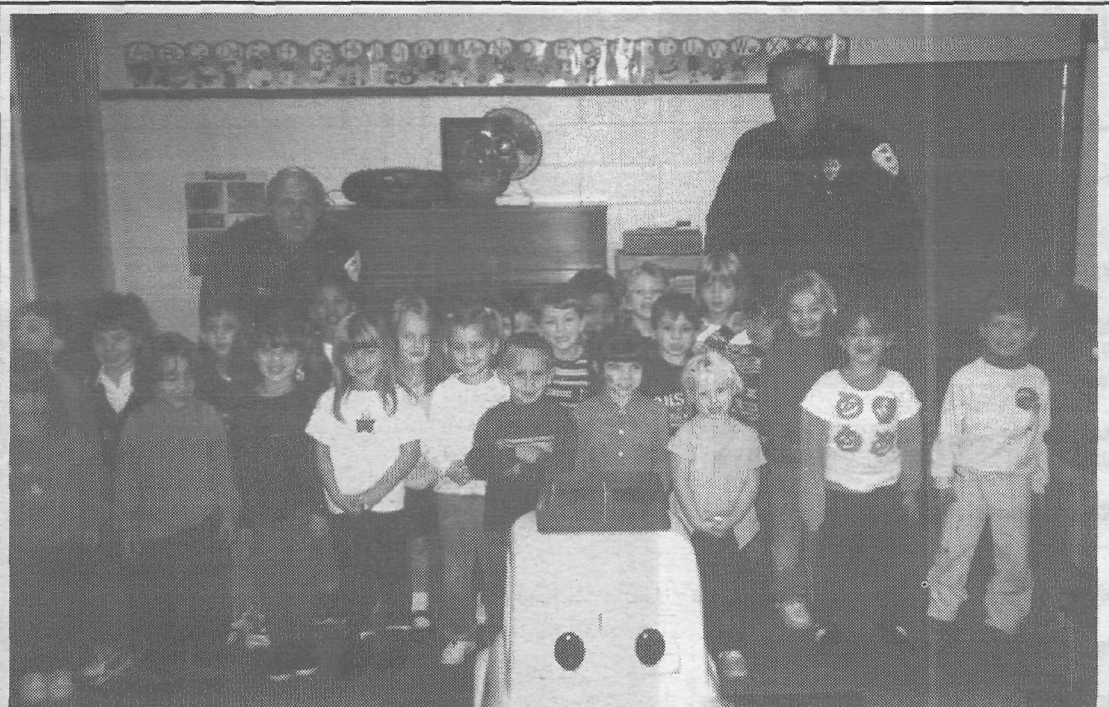
Grade 11

Nicole Adorna, Lindsey M. Aiello, Stephen Allara, Eric Ambielli, Kristin Anderson, Jessica L. Arndt, Jason Bataille, Kimberly N. Benson, Shannon Bishop, Nicholas J. Bloodgood, John R. Bosse, Kyan Bowman, Rosemarie Brizak, David Butrico, Johanna Camino, Michael Cardona, Kristyn Ciarlariello, David Cupo.

Kayo N. Daimo, Thomas J. Daly, Jacquelyn DeAngelis, Michelle Dietzold, Mark W. Dimacje, Michael Edgecomb, Joshua P. English, Lisa M. Evans, Rachel Feller, John Foscolo, Robert J. Freeman, Emma Fulton, Shail N. Gala, Angelique Ganiaris, Richard Gebauer, Antonio Gigante, Alissa N. Gittens, Janet Gollon, Scott Gundersen, Shannon Hecht, Thanh Kim Huynh, Amanda Kress.

Maria Antonell Leonardis, Nicole C. Luthman, Erin Mackey, Joseph A. Maglaque, Sara Manfredi, Megan Melanson, Joanne Michalski, Sabina Montanro, Margaret Morales, Andrienne Nagy, Joseph Nappe, Armi Navasca, Huy Nguyen, Huyen Thi Nguyen, Lam D. Nguyen, Daniel Novajosky, Gregory Ogonowski, Sara Oppelt, Jenni-

Continued on page 12



Community Policing Officers Joseph Papa and Alan LaMonda recently visited Pilgrim Covenant Church Learning Center. The officers brought along "TC" the car, which is used to help children learn about the various safety issues that may arise in their lives. The car is remote-controlled so that the children only see the car move and hear it talk and do not see the officer working the controls. It has become a very valuable tool in teaching the children how to react in different situations. The students felt very comfortable with "TC" and were amazed at the blinking lights and moving hood when it talked.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program

By Carrie Reilly,
From the SPHS Tiger Times

What is the epitome of a "perfect school?" To SPHS Vice Principal Dr. Kenneth May, getting nominated for the prestigious *Blue Ribbon Schools Program* might qualify as coming pretty close.

"Being able to apply for nomination is a big honor in itself, but actually receiving it would be the pinnacle of success," said May, coordinator of the project.

The general purpose of this program, which was started in 1982 by the Secretary of Education, is to identify and give public recognition to outstanding public and private schools across the United States. These schools are nominated once they have passed through several rigorous points of criteria.

The criteria used in the *Blue Ribbon Schools Program* include the following categories, which help to further provide a better view of the school to the nomination committee: the students' focus on education, the school's culture, curriculum, the community that surrounds the school, the partnerships between the school and community and the indication of success a school may have received in the past.

There have been many years of the special program to recognize schools that have achieved excellence. May has seen

ing sure every area of information that was dictated during these meetings was written and typed into a report form. This information is very crucial in preparing the school self-assessment report which is sent to the nomination panel.

SPHS has applied for nomination for the 1999-2000 school year nomination, and the 1999-2000 Ceremony is to be held in the Fall of 2000. Schools receiving the award for the 2000 school year will be notified by May 24, 2000.

Senior Brad Tierney said, "Being a part of this committee gave me a great opportunity to work on something that would voice my opinion. Having a say in something as important as the *Blue Ribbon Schools Program* furthered my involvement, not only with the welfare of my community, but also my involvement in SPHS. I feel as if I were a spokesperson for the student body of

SPHS, and that I represented them in a dignified fashion.

Representatives involved in preparations include social studies teacher William Helmstetter, Cooperative Education Coordinator Deidre Falato, English teacher Rita Marcocci, science teacher Thomas Seiz, physical education teacher Bettianne Meeker, guidance counselor Eileen Boettger, music teacher Bruce Mikolon, art teacher Denise Timinski, coordinator of mathematics and computer technology Frederick Oberkehr, math teacher Lois Crespy, Spanish teacher Barbara Boyer, Staff Developer Mary Ellen Martko, Student Assistance Counselor Thomas Baker, Coordinator of Discipline Brian Bilal, Athletic Director Michael Bugey, Supervisor of Student Services Richard Flamini, community member Michael English, and seniors Brad Tierney and Jane Nguyen.

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Many Volunteers Appointed at Reorganization Mtg.

The following were nominated by James Vokral and approved by majority vote of the Borough Council:

- Ronald Nobile Business Advisory Group
Frank Criscola Business Advisory Group
Robert Longo Business Advisory Group
- Darlene Pinto Greenbrook Flood Comm.
Alice Tempel Greenbrook Flood Comm.
- Richard Naberezny ... Greenbrook Flood Comm.
..... -Alternate-II
- Ed Kubala HCD Council Representative
- Darlene Pinto Planning Board-Class III
- Nancy Zmuda Taxpayer's Advisory Group
Harry Kuhn Taxpayer's Advisory Group
Richard Petrone Taxpayer's Advisory Group
Theodore Rubino Taxpayer's Advisory Group



The following appointments were made by Mayor Dan Gallagher:

NAME	BOARD
Larry Randolph	Environmental Comm.-Chairman
Richard Levine	Environmental Comm.
Jay Scovronek	Environmental Comm.
Gary Rohrer	Environmental Comm.
Robert Cusick	Environmental Comm.
.....	Plannng Bd Liaison
Borough Administor/ Mayor's Designee	HCD Representative
Wayne Grennier	Planning Board-Class IV
John Allen	Planning Board-Class II
Robert Cusick	Planning Board-Alternate I
William Miller	Planning Board-Alternate II
Joseph DeAndrea, Jr.	Property Mnt. Bd of Appeals
Dominick Demico	Property Mnt. Bd of Appeals
Joseph Padula	Property Mnt. Bd of Appeals
William Cochrane	Recreation Commission
Dennis Cerami	Traffic Safety Advisory Committee- Council Liaison

The following nominees were approved and appointed by a majority vote of the Borough Council:

NAME	BOARD
Virginia Popik	Library Board
Eleanore Haines	Library Board
Barbare Ware	Library Board
Guy Ferri	Library Board-Superintendent of Schools 2000
Alice Temple	Recycling Commission-Environmental Specialist
Joseph Glowacki	Recycling Commission
Vincent Buttiglieri	Recycling Commission-Council Liaison
Raymond Petronko	Senior Citizen Advisory- Commission Council Liaison
Loretta Conroy	Senior Citizen Advisory- Commission Liaison to Recreation
Susan Mischka	Senior Citizen Advisory Committee-Coordinator
William Bori	Traffic Safety Advisory Committee
Joseph Glowacki	Traffic Safety Advisory Com.-DPW Representative
Karl Scheutz	Traffic Safety Advisory Com.-Police Representative
Frank Mikorski	Traffic Safety Advisory Com.-Bd of Ed Rep.
Dennis Cerami	Youth Guidance Council-Council Liaison
Gary Kline	Youth Guidance Council
Victor Stellakas	Zoning Board of Adjustment
William Nagy	Zoning Board of Adjustment
Joseph Abate	Zoning Board of Adjustment-Alternate I
Richard McCrisken	Zoning Board of Adjustment-Alternate II
Joseph DeAndrea, Jr.	Construction Bd of Appeals
Dominick Demico	Construction Bd of Appeals
Joseph Padula	Construction Bd of Appeals
Joseph Abbruzzese	Construction Bd of Appeals-Alternate-Fire
Steven Druga	Construction Bd of Appeals-Alternate-Architect
James Franchetti	Construction Bd of Appeals-Alternate-Plumbing
Errol Bailey	Cultural Arts Commission
Terrence Julien	Cultural Arts Commission
Gordon Fladger	Cultural Arts Commission
Anita Lepelstat	Cultural Arts Commission
Dennis O'Neill	Cultural Arts Commission
Sherri Pugh	Cultural Arts Commission



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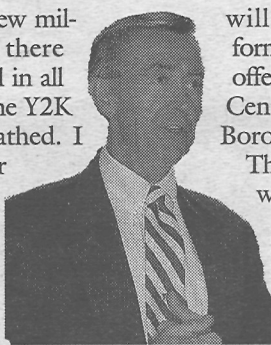
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Thursday 8:30-8:00
Saturday 9:00-12:00

Message from Mayor Dan Gallagher

**"Always Listen and Always Ask One Simple Question—
What is Best for the Citizens of South Plainfield?"**

"Welcome to the new millennium. Although there were a few hitches, all in all we made it through the Y2K crisis relatively unscathed. I want to thank our Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Zushma, Police Chief Steve Merkler, Fire Chief Joe Abbruzzese, the members of the Rescue Squad, our Public Works Department and all of our employees for a job well done. Your preparedness for New Year's Day was outstanding.



Congratulations to councilpeople Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral on the commencement of their third term on the Borough Council. I know I don't have to remind any member of this governing body that no elected official should ever become too content or satisfied with their performance. Remember we are all representatives of the people. In a democracy, the people are the boss and there are always new challenges to be met. Let us today continue our pledge to always listen, and to always ask one simple question ... What is best for the citizens of South Plainfield?

January 2, 2000.... We are blessed to live in such exciting times. Never in the history of civilization has there been such an era of possibilities. Today we can instantly communicate on our personal computers with people living anywhere on earth. Diseases which have plagued man from the beginning of recorded history will be obliterated in our life time. There are young people in this room today who may well live to be 150 or even 200 years old.

As we enter this age of possibilities, we must not lose hold of what got us here. We must commit ourselves to continue the practices which have led to our success.

Over the last six years, your mayor and council have committed themselves to changing the way government works in South Plainfield. When the phrase "Pay as You Go" was first mentioned on January 1, 1994, some snickered, some scratched their heads, some said, "I'll believe it when I see it." Today everyone knows that "Pay as You Go" is standard operating procedure in South Plainfield. Seventy roads have been repaved, the library renovated, the municipal building upgraded, our parks improved, our new hockey rink constructed, our new DARE building completed and technology improved All on a "Pay as You Go" basis.

That policy will continue this year. Let me give two examples ... The borough is now in the process of acquiring the property where the former Shell gas station was located at the intersection of Maple and Lakeview avenues as the site for our new Senior Center. When that property is attached to the Borough owned property behind it, it will stretch from Lakeview Ave., all the way to Veterans' Park. This will give access to the park to our seniors for events and for overflow parking. This is a much superior location than the original site across the street from Borough Hall. This change has delayed the project one year, but it has been worth the wait. At the December Planning Board Meeting, Jack Morris, who

will be developing the former Coppola Farm site, offered to build our Senior Center at no cost to the Borough.

Therefore, this year we will have a beautiful, state-of-the-art 10,000 square foot senior center at no cost to our taxpayers. If the borough built it, it would cost over \$1 million. This is just one more example of the way government can get things done without raising taxes or borrowing money.

As you know, the proposed addition to the PAL came in approximately \$400,000. higher than anticipated. We must ask the question, what should the mayor and council do? Scrap the addition and short change our recreation program? Borrow the money and ultimately increase taxes? Downsize the addition so that it's nothing more than a stop gap measure rather than a real improvement. I believe we have an obligation to our children to give them a Recreation Program that works. Our kids are our future, we can't turn our backs on them. I am asking Councilperson Petronko, who is liaison to the Recreation Commission to sit with the architect and Recreation Director Michael English to see if the structure can be redesigned to save money. After that review is completed, we will then go out for one last round of bids. Hopefully the project can come in within budget, but if it can't we must find the additional money from a current revenue source. We will start construction on the P.A.L. addition this year without borrowing additional money.

There will be other improvements in South Plainfield this year which will also be accomplished on a "Pay as You Go" basis. Eighteen roads will be repaved and our parks and infrastructure will be upgraded. Councilperson Vincent Buttiglieri and Freeholder John Pulomena are working with County Engineer John Reiser and Superintendent of Roads, Alan Haag to totally reconstruct Hamilton Boulevard from the Lakeview Avenue overpass to the overpass at Valley Bank. As part of this project new curbs will be installed and trees will be planted along the entire length. Every effort is being made to complete

the project this year. If not this year it will be done in 2001. I will also ask for the council's support to condemn and demolish the building at the intersection of New Market Ave. and Hamilton Blvd. across from our new D.A.R.E. building. We can then install a turning lane at that intersection. When taken together with the new D.A.R.E. building the intersection of New Market Avenue and Hamilton Boulevard will be greatly improved. Let me put the other property owners in that area on notice. Do the right thing—clean up your properties. If you don't, our code enforcement officer will see that our property maintenance ordinance is followed. New Market Ave. and Hamilton Blvd. is one of the most heavily trafficked areas in our borough. Let's make it attractive and functional.

As you know, South Plainfield's operating expenses are virtually the same today as they were in 1993. For two years in a row, there has been no municipal tax increase in South Plainfield. This doesn't just happen, we have worked hard to eliminate and consolidate duplicate positions and partnered with Middlesex County to improve services while reducing the cost to our taxpayers. Rather than being rewarded for our efforts, the governor has continually cut South Plainfield's annual aid from a high of \$500,000 to zero last year. \$500,000 equals four tax points. In other words, we were penalized for putting South Plainfield's financial house in order. It's tough to meet increased fixed costs while your state aid is being cut. But we will try. I'm directing the council to sharpen their pencils a little better this year and don't be afraid to use the eraser. Let's work extra hard to keep taxes under control. South Plainfield is a great place to live but we must live within our means.

In closing I want to thank all of you for coming today. Reorganization day is always special. It gives us the opportunity to gauge how far we've come while looking forward to where we want to go. As long as we all continue to work together we cannot fail.

I thank god for the blessings he has bestowed upon us and I ask for his guidance as we go forward into the new century.

Thank you.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY, THAT: the following dates be approved as meeting dates for the Mayor and Council:

Mayor and Council Reorganization Meeting will be held Sunday, January 2, 2000 at 1 p.m.

AGENDA MEETINGS

Monday, January 10	Thursday, January 13
Monday, January 24	Thursday, January 27
Monday, February 7	Thursday, February 10
Tuesday, February 22	Thursday, February 24
Monday, March 6	Thursday, March 9
Monday, March 20	Thursday, March 23
Monday, April 10	Thursday, April 13
Monday, April 24	Thursday, April 27
Monday, May 8	Thursday, May 11
Monday, May 22	Thursday, May 25
Monday, June 5	Thursday, June 8
Monday, June 19	Thursday, June 22
Monday, July 10	Thursday, July 13
Monday, August 14	Thursday, August 17
Monday, September 11	Thursday, September 14
Monday, September 25	Thursday, September 28
Tuesday, October 10	Thursday, October 12
Monday, October 23	Thursday, October 26
Monday, November 13	Monday, November 20
Monday, December 11	Thursday, December 14

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

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SPORTS



Sacred Heart's fifth and sixth grade Lady Hawks took third place in the Msgr. Perini 1999 Girls Junior Varsity Basketball Tournament. The tournament, sponsored by Saint Helena's, was held in November. Pictured from left to right are (top row) Asst. Coach Lenny Cathcart, Asst. Coach Fred Boosman and Head Coach Joe Dolse; (second row) Jennifer Yeung, Julia Dougherty, Samantha Moctezuma, Christine Murry, Maria Lipnick, Sumayyah Cathcart and Dominique Roberson; (third row) Niya Santiago, Qaadira Ishann, Caitlin Monroe, Kim Arki and Octavia Knight; (front row) Lisa Del Negro, Tiffany Smith and Erin Boosmann.

Girls Basketball Team Wins Bound Brook Tournament

By Brian Cochran

The South Plainfield Girls Basketball Team upped their record to 3-1 last Wednesday by beating Mt. St. Marys' 48-30 and capturing first place in the annual Bound Brook tournament.

Sophomore guard, Kelly Ritchey, scored a career high 26 points to pace the Tigers in a game Mt. St. Marys was never in. Coming out of the locker room with a 20 point halftime

lead the Tigers never let up as Kelly proceeded to hit two of her five three point baskets in the third quarter en route to a 21 point lead with just a quarter to play.

Kristina Cwickalo, who seemed to be the target of most of St. Marys fouls, scored nine points of her own as Cathy Nguyen netted six. Kelly was also named tournament MVP and next suits up tonight (Jan. 6) against Perth Amboy.

Boys Team Places Second

The South Plainfield Boys Basketball Team also went to the finals in the tournament, but were defeated by a bigger Somerville team 50-46.

The Tigers were able to hang tough, going into the break tied at 21. That's when Pioneer Mike Goia got hot pouring in 15 of his game high 21 points in the

second half.

Senior guard, Dominique Pender, led the Tigers with 17 followed by Clint Robinson's eight as Paul Gross and Joshua English each tallied six. The Tigers fell to 2-4 as they embark on a three game road trip and return home next Friday (January 14) to face South River.

Junior Baseball Club Notes

By Frank Hanley

2000 Season Registration is Next Week

Registration for the 2000 season will be held next week. Registration will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 13 and Friday, Jan. 14, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 15. Registration fees are \$55 for one player, \$85 for two players, and \$105 for three or more players (all per family). Registration is open to all South Plainfield residents ages eight through 16. New players must turn eight years old before August 1, 2000, and must present a copy of the child's birth certificate. Late registration fees are \$60 per player with no discounts.

Each player will receive a new hat, shirt and pair of pants, which they keep at season's end. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at time of registration.

The Woman's Auxiliary will be on hand to take orders for jackets, shirts and other SPJBC clothing and logoed items.

2000 Membership

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

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.

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.

Woman's Auxiliary

The next Woman's Auxiliary meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 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. Full payment is required when placing an order. 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

Woman's Meeting - Wednesday, January 12, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse.

Registration - January 13, 14, 15 at the clubhouse.

Tryouts - Saturday March 4 at the PAL.

Opening Day - Saturday April 15.

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.

NOTE: These games were previously cancelled and played on Dec. 23 and 30. Next week we will have the full league scores.

A LEAGUE STANDINGS

Spurs	4	0
Cavaliers	3	1
Grizzlies	3	1
Bucks	3	1
Rockets	1	3
Warriors	1	3
Supersonics	1	3
Nuggets	0	4

A LEAGUE SCORES-DEC 30

Spurs	62
Nuggets	28

High scorers—Spurs: Mike Wieczorek-19, Nick Green-17, Jim Bataille-8, Mike Allocco-8; **Nuggets:** Ryan Decker-11, Amanda Fugate-4, Steven Mincevich-4.

Rockets	18
Bucks	35

B LEAGUE STANDINGS

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

B LEAGUE RESULTS DEC. 30

Magic	24
Knicks	17

High scorers—Magic: Ryan Taylor-6, Nick Curcio-6, Mike Richard-6, Chris McKnight-4; **Keith Dezmin-4, Billy Daly-4, Phu Huynh-6.**

Jazz	40
Cavaliers	20

High scorers—Chris Bakazan-14, Dan

Pinowar-14, Dip Petel-4; Cavaliers: Dane Miyastato-7, Robert Strani-4, Charles George-4.

Raptors	20
Bulls	26

High scorers—Raptors: Kyle Lendach-9, Mike Williams-5, Joey Jaghab-4; **Bulls:** Danielle Arndt-12, Vincent Velez-10, Bryan Wagner-4.

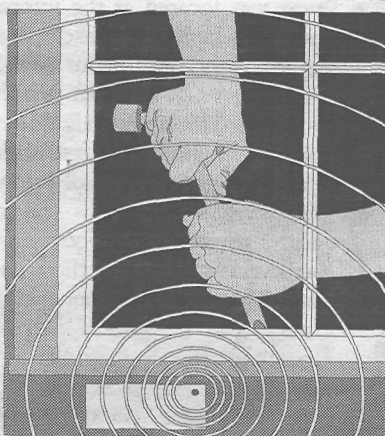
Pistons	12
Nets	33

High scorers—Pistons: Lacey Santone-6, Matthew Fabino-4, **Nets:** Mike Downes-10, Dan Ramos-5, Nick Jeffreys-4, Matt Doell-4, Melissa Hansen-4.

Athletic Boosters Monthly Meeting To be Held

The South Plainfield Athletic Boosters will hold their monthly meeting next Tuesday, Jan. 11 at the high school cafeteria at 7 p.m.

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SPORTS

Tiger Wrestlers Take Opener Over Rivals J.P. Stevens

By Bob Hunter

The South Plainfield High School wrestling team opened its dual meet season with a 58-9 victory over Red Division rivals J.P. Stevens High School.

It didn't take long for the Tigers to get on the score board with Matt Anderson (103) pinning Joe Scerbo just 19 seconds into the second period for the early lead. Rich Gebauer (112) found himself down 5-0 early in the first period, but battled back to take a 10-7 decision over Jim Georgallis.

The Tigers continued to roll when Roberto Ramos (119) pinned Adam Rosen at 1:39 to give the Tigers a 15-0 lead after three bouts. Dave Butrico (125) taking the early lead over Gene Lanetti who got a late reversal to tie the score, sending the match into overtime, where Lanetti got the tie breaking point for a 3-2 victory.

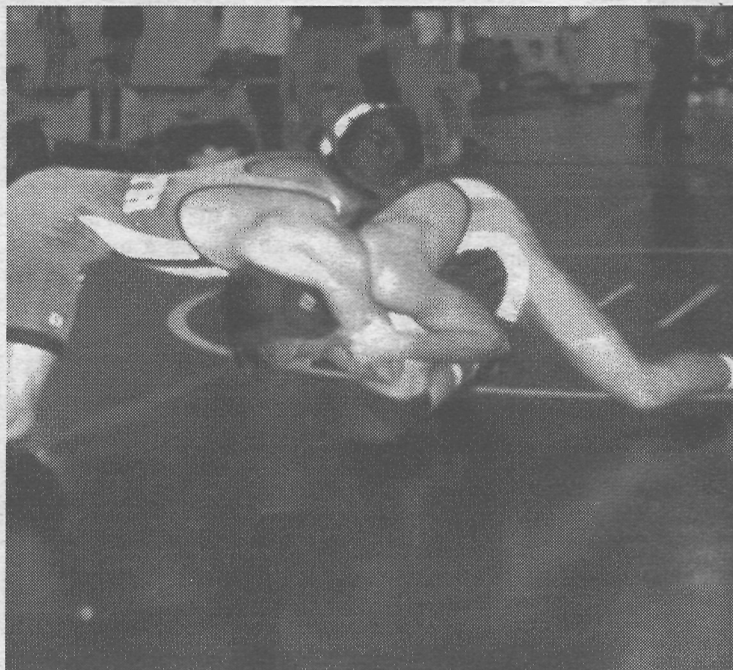
Senior Dave Stoeckel (130) wasted little time pinning Ron Cordero in just 0:59 seconds.

Glenn Gross (135), a freshmen wrestling in his first varsity match, went on to score a major decision over Rob Zisman 13-5. Scott Doerr (140) came out fast securing the pin at 0:59 over Kyle Womer. Matt Gatti (145) faced Chris Riolo and took early control before scoring the fall at 2:19.

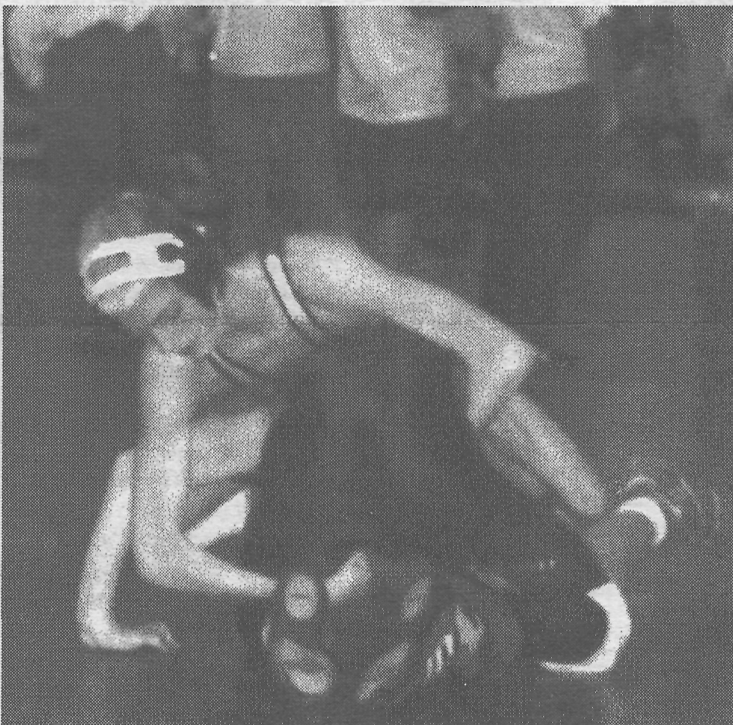
Dave Fiore (152) kept the Tiger machine rolling when he took the early lead, before scoring the fall at 3:19 over Mike Rocco. Mike Buteas (160) was in a seesaw match with Martin Pino before he took control and pinned him at 5:52. There was no match at 171.

In the most exciting match of the night, Dan Kunst (189) faced Dewitt Giles. With the match going back and forth, Kunst finally pulled it out in overtime taking a 8-7 decision. John Foscolo (215) went right to work taking control over Tim Karmazin and scoring the fall at 0:42. To round out the scoring.

The Tigers forfeited the heavy-weight match.



Pictured are Dave Butrico (above) and Matt Anderson (below) at the Hunterdon Central Tournament.



Tigers Crown Two Champions at Hunterdon Central Tournament

By Bob Hunter

The South Plainfield High Wrestling Team had a good showing at the annual Hunterdon Central Wrestling Tournament and crown two champions, five second place finishers, a third and two fourth place finishes.

The Tiger's wrestled in a twelve team tournament which included Manalapan, Hunterdon Central, Lenape, Old Bridge, Jefferson, East Brunswick, Bensalem, Pa., Buena, Hanover Park, Notre Dame and Hamilton West.

Matt Anderson (103) claimed the first Tiger championship when he pinned Mike Cassiliano at the 3:59 mark. Next up was Rich Gebauer (112), who wrestled Dan Khitrik of Hanover Park and won by a 6-5 decision for the second Tiger title.

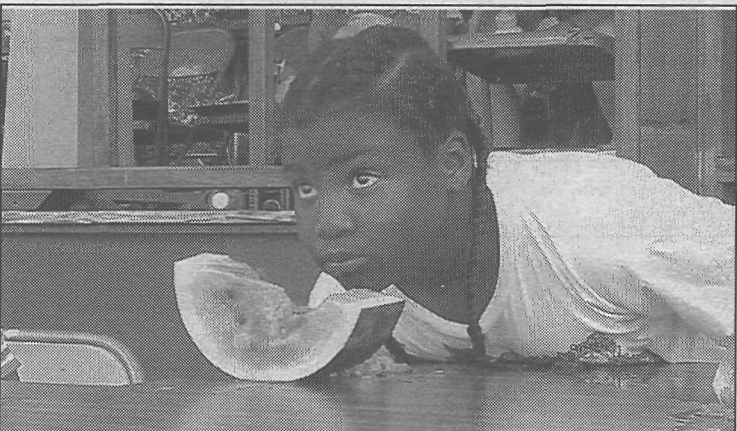
But that was all the Tigers were going to get in this tough field.

Roberto Ramos came up short losing a close 7-5 decision to Frank Page of Hamilton West, Dave Butrico (125) came up short in his final against Mike Paglinoc. With the match close, Butrico got caught and was pinned at 3:54.

In the 130 pound final, Dave Stoeckel lost by the score of 11-5 to Levi Miller of Hunterdon Central. The next shot at a title came with Dave Fiore (152) when he squared off with Dwayne Williams of Bensalem, Pa. with Fiore dropping a 5 -3 decision. Chris Francis (171) came up short against Tom Corio of East Brunswick in a close battle losing 6-5.

Third place went to Glenn Gross (135) when he pinned Brian Loneran of Bensalem, Pa. at 0:50. Fourth place went to Scot Doerr and Danny Kunst.

Next up for the Tigers will be at East Brunswick High School on Jan. 7 at 7:30 p.m.



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

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Middle School Wrestlers Win Two in Randolph

By George D'Alessandro

The South Plainfield Middle School Wrestling team traveled to Randolph to take on both Randolph and Hillsborough on Saturday, Dec. 18. The boys came away victorious twice, beating Randolph 48-20 and Hillsborough by a score of 40-29.

Leading the way for South Plainfield with two wins were Jim Conroy, Dan Bayak, Anthony Costante, Danny DeAndrea, Rob Mastickie, Guy Severini and Joe DeBiasi.

Also winning matches on the day were Billy Weaver, Peter DeAndrea, Kyle Bostick, and Frank Demarest. Also wrestling for the middle school were Matt D'Alessandro, Paul Ritchie and Kevin Crilley.

Ponytail Association Meeting

The South Plainfield Parent/Ponytail Association will be holding their monthly meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 25, at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting will take place in the South Plainfield Middle School library.

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Obituaries

George P. Ashmead, 70

George P. Ashmead died on Thursday, Dec. 30, at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

He was born in Perth Amboy and had resided most of his life in South Plainfield and Manville since this past September.

Mr. Ashmead had worked for 35 years at the Tingley Rubber Co. in South Plainfield. He started with the company as a pressman and at his retirement, eight years ago, he was a production inspector.

He was a communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church in South Plainfield.

For many years he enjoyed camping at the Delaware Family Campground in Delaware, NJ.

He had served in the U.S. Army during the Post WW II era.

His wife, Virginia Pellegrino Ashmead, died in 1998.

Surviving are his daughter, Patricia Lake of Somerset; two sons, George of Toms River and Robert of Manville; a sister, Ethel Von Speckelsen of Washington State and a brother, William Ashmead of Michigan. He is also survived by his 10 grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Mereta E. (Hoffman) Sofield, 88

Mereta E. (Hoffman) Sofield 88, died on Sunday, Jan. 2, at the Claremont Care Center in Point Pleasant.

She was born in Califon, N.J. and had resided in Plainfield and in South Plainfield before moving to Piscataway in 1981. She resided there until the death of her husband, Norman "Nip" Sofield in 1997, when she moved to Brick.

She was a member of the New Market Baptist church in Piscataway.

Surviving are her sons, Robert Soper of Middlesex, Peter Soper and John Sofield, both of Brick. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and nine great

grandchildren.

Private Arrangements are by the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Walter (Whitey) S. Bozek, 86

Walter (Whitey) S. Bozek of Plainfield died on Sunday, Jan. 2, at the Robert Wood Johnson Jr. Health Care Center in Plainfield.

He was born and raised in South Plainfield and was a former 23 year resident of Scotch Plains before moving to Plainfield three years ago.

Mr. Bozek was a printer for Boise's Printing in Plainfield for 50 years before retiring in 1978.

He was a charter and life member of the South Plainfield Polish National Home and was a former pitcher for the Polish National Home softball team.

He was a former member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens and an avid bowler participating in many bowling leagues throughout the area.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Anna Mieszkalski Bozek; a brother in-law and sister in-law Stanley and Eleanor Kaufman of North Plainfield and many nieces and nephews.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the South Plainfield Polish National Home Scholarship Fund, c/o 312 New Market Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080

John A. Campanelli, 75

John A. Campanelli died on Sunday, January 2, at Beth Israel Medical Center in Newark.

Born in South Plainfield, Mr. Campanelli was a life long resident.

He was a World War II Veteran of the United States Air Force where he served as a bombardier with the 385th Bomb Group stationed in England from 1943-1944.

He was employed as a printer for the *Courier News* Newspaper in Bridgewater by the Communications Workers of America Local #2 of Philadelphia before

his retirement in 1987.

Mr. Campanelli was a Founding and Life Member of the South Plainfield Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post #6763. He was a former member of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company and a Life Member of the South Plainfield Exempt Firemen's Association, the N.J. State Exempt Fireman's Association, and the N.J. State Firemen's Association.

Mr. Campanelli was an active communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church in South Plainfield. He was a member of the church's Holy Name Society and active with its Feast of St. Anthony.

He is predeceased by his mother and father, Frank and Mary Campanelli; two sisters, Rose Siracusa and Philomena Tedesco and a brother, Thomas Campanelli.

Surviving are his wife, Ann Campanelli; daughters, Linda and her husband Archie Dean of South Plainfield, Janie King of Flemington and Patricia and her husband Scott Waters of South Plainfield; two sisters Mary Orloff of North Plainfield and Barbara Zolnowski of Ringos; two brothers, Neil Campanelli of Long Beach, Calif. and Frank Campanelli of Media, Pa. and by seven grandchildren, Kelly Dunn, Lee Dean, Jon Dean, Robyn King, Jessica King, Ashley King and Matthew Waters.

Funeral Services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Pauline (Castello) Truono, 91

Pauline (Castello) Truono died on Saturday, Jan. 1, at Point Pleasant Hospital in Point Pleasant.

Born in Newark, she had resided in New York City and the Central New Jersey Area, including Westfield, Garwood, Scotch Plains and South Plainfield, before moving to Brick in 1970.

Mrs. Truono was a homemaker.

She is predeceased by her husband, Anthony Truono, who died in 1968; a granddaughter, Crystal Wissell, who died in 1994; a brother, Salvatore and a sister, Dorothy Didio.

Surviving are two daughters, Rosemarie J. Gargano of Lehigh, Florida and Nancy and her husband Joseph Linfante of Brick, N.J.; two sons, Anthony F. Truono of South Plainfield and Joseph J. and his wife Anita Truono of South Plainfield.

Also surviving are 13 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

By Cyrus N. Moon

Weekly Horoscope 1/7-1/13

CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19 Now is the time to take the opportunity to clear out elements of your life that are not working. Any changes that you fail to make now will cause greater trouble in about seven years, when Saturn next opposes or conjoins your natal Uranus. When tensions rise take a walk and calm down.

AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18 Exciting week for you! You may want to seek out stimulating friends, avoiding anyone who might bore you. You have the opportunity to attract new friends or even a love interest. If this relationship lasts more than a short time it can revolutionize your life. But remember freedom is a must as trust.

PISCES 2/19-3/20 You have your escape mode in gear. There may be an ongoing situation that you want to get away from. One way is to perhaps curl up with a good book and some soft music or write poetry. In a couple of days look at it in a new perspective. The fog may clear on a deception.

ARIES 3/21-4/19 Good time to carefully plan and execute projects that require great diligence and patience. This is the time to work for more for tomorrow than today. With your concerns being practical, you will see the benefits in the future. Also take any advantage that your position at work affords.

TAURUS 4/20-5/20 Hi again Lady Bull, was it a piercing new year for you yet. Notify me for your chart. Now! Forced by circumstances you may be taking full charge of social events. This is a period for the use of strategy in manipulating the control and outcome of situations. You're a charmer.

GEMINI 5/21-6/20 Your mind will be clearer than usual, and you will feel more alert and mentally sharp. Just be careful that you aren't taking over the whole conversation; let others have some input. Need to make an impression? It will work for you! And if you have the urge to travel, just do it.

CANCER 6/21-7/22 Catch up week

for you all. Make the calls you've been meaning to make, letters that need answering, the paperwork that needs to be cleared up. It is also a favorable week for meetings, discussions and study's. When planning ahead have an appointment book handy.

LEO 7/23-8/22 Competitive or confrontational situations could arise this week. Ego conflicts are likely, nothing wrong with this, but be careful what you say or you can be regretting this later. Try to curb impatience, and steer clear of anger, a compromise is possible. Lose your aggression through physical activities.

VIRGO 8/23-9/22 Though no fault of your own there is likely to be some problem or frustration in connection with information, ideas, or communications. Don't be offended to what you would consider as form of criticism it may have not been directed to you. Let go of stubbornness.

LIBRA 9/23-10/22 Business transactions that involve your home, real-estate property, and domestic items are favored. Your personal requests at this time will be honored by family and friends. But just the same you will have to fulfill their request they make. This will help each party tremendously.

SCORPIO 10/23-11/21 You can be confronted with a mini-crisis. Anything from pressure from the boss to a machine that breaks, forcing you to stop and fix it. Be ready to defend your ideas or your past actions on a job. The root of this problem can involve time management.

SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21 This week information and ideas have to be gathered, methods discussed, and choices made. Be careful, details can easily slip away or be neglected. The thing here is that you can become involved with so many details that the bigger picture can be missed.

Quote:

The time behind us will never change, The time in front of us is ours to control.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Whereas, there exists a need for certain legal services for the Borough of South Plainfield, and

Whereas, the Local Public Contracts Law (NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq) required that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids must be publicly advertised.

Now therefore be it resolved by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Patrick Diegnan, Esq.
2. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" under the provisions of the Local Public Contract Law because the services rendered are professional services of a recognized profession whose practice is regulated by law.
3. Health benefits will not be provided as part of the compensation for the position of Borough Attorney.
4. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten days of its passage.

Approved 1/2/00

Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor

ATTEST:
James Eckert/Municipal Clerk
\$24.50

1T January 7, 2000

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Whereas, there exists a need for the services of a Registered Municipal Accountant to conduct an audit of the Borough of South Plainfield, and

Whereas, the Local Public Contracts Law (NJSA 40A: 11-1 et seq) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contract for Professional Services without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised.

Now therefore be it resolved by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Andrew Hodulik, of the firm of Hodulik and Morrison, PA.
2. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a Professional Service under the provisions of the Local Public Contract Law because the services rendered are professional services of a recognized profession whose practice is regulated by law.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten days of its passage.

Approved 1/2/00

Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor

ATTEST:
James Eckert/Municipal Clerk
\$23.50

1T January 7, 2000

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POLICE REPORT

• An Edison woman had her purse stolen from her cart while she shopped at ACME on Park Ave. The suspect distracted the victim, drawing her attention to the shelves then grabbed the purse and left the store. The security video shows the suspect passing the victim's cart about 4 times prior to the theft.

• A Wells Drive resident reported the theft of items from his car. The victim parked in the CVS lot on Plainfield Ave. near the Bagel Pantry. He alarmed the vehicle but the doors remained unlocked. The victim walked towards Quick Chek behind Witty's. Before he reached Quick Chek he heard his car alarm sound. He returned to the car and found the driver's door partially open. A radar detector, personal check and \$1,500 in cash were missing.

• Bhooshan M. Patel of Edison was arrested while on South Plainfield Ave. for DWI, careless driving and for possession of an open container.

• A Cumberland Ave. resident reported the theft of a bike from his garage. Entry was gained by opening a side window on the garage.

• A Piscataway resident reported the theft of her purse from the desk area of Days Inn, New World way. She left the purse by the side of the desk and left to get a soda. When she returned the purse was gone. She noted that two women who live at the hotel were sitting in the lobby at the time of the theft.

• A Sterns employee reported the theft

of a radio and camera from his vehicle. The vehicle had been parked behind Sterns, Hadley Rd. The car was parked within range of the security camera and mall security will provide the tape to police.

• Bruce Arthur Mortiz of Metuchen reported the theft of a radio was smashed while parked at The Home Depot. Removed from the car were a portable radio, a duffel bag of clothes, shopping bag of baby clothes and a Winnie the Pooh bear. There are no witnesses or suspects.

• Chitai Huang of Morganville reported a theft from his car. A black male had been punched in the passenger side door under the lock. Removed were a Nikon camera and an unknown amount of coins.

• A Cedar Oaks employee reported an attempted car theft from the parking lot. The witness saw a tan Lexus parked behind an employee's car. A black male was observed trying to gain entry to the car. When the suspect spotted the witness through a window the suspect got into a car with two other suspects and left. The witness could not get a plate number because the back plate had been removed.

• An employee of Regal Cinema reported that he was checking tickets at the movie theater when a suspect in line punched him in the stomach and fled the premises.

• Woodland Manor on Calderone St. reported that unknown suspects had broken into two windows. On the first floor, the screen was ripped in half and the window lock had

been opened. Inside police found cigarette butts, soda bottles and two opened Christmas cards on the floor. The second floor window was pried open. The suspects used the bathroom then exited the building. The superintendent had asked four suspects to leave the playground and said they left in the direction of the crime scene. The building was a storage area and unoccupied. Nothing was removed.

• A Somerset resident reported her car had been broken into while parked at Regal Cinema. Removed were two pair of glasses. Entry was gained by prying a hole into the driver's door below the lock.

• An Edison resident reported his car was broken into while parked at The Home Depot, Hamilton Blvd. The passenger window was smashed. A new phone was removed along with a book and some papers. The suspects tried to remove the radio but failed.

• A Plainfield Ave. resident reported that someone had obtained their credit card number and had made numerous unauthorized purchases, the most recent at Red Lobster. The card has been cancelled.

• A Perth Amboy resident reported responding to his car alarm and witnessed a black male with dreadlocks using a slim jim on the driver's side door of his vehicle. The suspect left in a car believed to have So. Carolina plates. The victim can identify the suspect who had the pry tool, but not the two additional suspects in the car.

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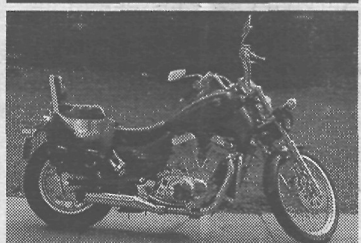
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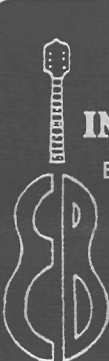
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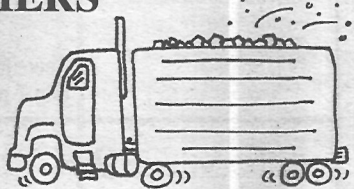
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Secret Santa Remembers Needy Kids

By Patricia Abbott

The Secret Santa Society was born four years ago by Mary and Bob Sacks. Secret Santa is a group of elves that pull all they have together for children in need at Christmas, under the leadership of Bob and Mary, along with Mary's lifetime friend Allison Scavone Axelson. The idea behind it is simple, provide gifts for local children whose families may be going through a rough time financially.

Secret Santa got off to a late start this year, but that didn't stop Mary and her elves from providing gifts for about 20 children and picked up a few new elves. Officer Alan Lamonda aka Santa, Karen Ciampi aka Mrs. Claus and Joel Burton aka Rudolph. The children attended a party and Santa was on hand with a stack of gifts for each child. The kids enjoy pizza donated by Dominos, along with a lot of other goodies. Some names were provided by Mrs. Stark, Franklin School nurse.

The Secret Santa Society is made up of many "elves" such as Debra Kravit, Nancy Wagner, Patty Porzio and Sharon Snogans, who provided a mountain bike and helped wrap gifts. Also making donations were Vinne and Maria Butrico, Susan Butrico, along with the children of the CCD classes at OLC, the Mais-tickles, the Hubers, the Seiders, Mrs. Tressie, the Stillmans, the Cargills, the Luckeys, and Diane Leary. The Ebbes made a donation of several bikes. Chris, owner of Dominos, has provided pizza for the past four years. The Gaughans continued to donate until the last child's wish was complete. Jim Conroy, manager of Pathmark and the Gallaghers also contributed. Mark Axelson spent many an evenings putting bike together. Laura and Karen



Butrico, Ashley and Bobby Sacks are little elves who helped with the wrapping.

Mary Sacks said, "This year was smaller than usual, however

the wishes made by the children were filled. They received gifts such as bikes, roller blades and cd player thanks to all the secret Santa that participated."

High School Honor Roll

Continued from page 5

fer Pagala, Julie Palmer, Annette Papa, Jessica Pasco, Millie Patel, Heather Pedersen, David Pen-yak, Jessica Persa, Anthony F. Pipolo, Steven A. Popp, Stephanie Prybella.

James Reedy, Caroline Reilly, Jennifer Reynolds, Lauren A. Richardson, Pamela A. Russo, Christopher Sangster, Evan J. Sims, Jessie Spayder, Jason Stokes, Christopher Thalheimer, Alison Tietjen, Andrea Tolentino, Anh L. Trinh, Lacey Walter, Brian Wilson, Justin Woo, Eman Younes, Veronica Zappi, Qui Ping Zhang.

12th Grade

Melinda Agostino, David Alles, Johanna Alzate, Melissa Anderson, Veliana Baratta, Glen Barlics, Alison Barrett, Adrian Berberabe, Amada Bertrand, Roseanne Bottone, Krissy Brooks, Matthew Brooks, Kimberly Bulla, Christine Buteas, Laura Butrico, Cindy

Carlson, Tamala Carter, Shannon Cassidy, Laura Colicchio, Matthew Colquhoun, Meredith Cuthbert, Sheryl Cwiekalo, Daniel Czaplinski, Nicole Anne DeBiase, Margaret DeRosa, Dina Diaz, Kelly Doerr, Brian Donnelly, Patrick J. Draper, Richard Drum-bore, Brian Dziomba.

Pamela Eng, Courtney L. English, John E. Espin, Christopher J. Frances, Melissa Garatino, Julian A. Garcia, Serena Garcia, Dirk C. Goberdhan, Timothy Goetz, Beth Gold, Jessica Graisser, Michael Grasso, Krista Gundersen, Alisha Harracksingh, Andre Harry-Penn, Heather Hearne, Lynda Hepburn, Jacquie Herzog, Carolyn Hoffman, Rebecca Horn, Kerri Howells, Maria A. Hudak, Eric Jackson, Eric H. Johnson, David Johnston, Michelle King, Natalie Kipila, Katie Kittell, Jason Kolarik, Kim Lien Lam, Theresa M. Lamastro, Jesse Larsen, Douglas Lauckhardt, Paul Lee, Douglas E.

INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

The e-commerce reports are

in and this was another year of outrageous online sales for Christmas Holidays. Lots of interesting things to note, the most significant of which is that old lessons are being learned all over again. The marketplace hasn't changed at all in its most important area, customer satisfaction. You just have to have it or you're on a rough road until you do.

This is not a prelude to a story of gloom, but rather a cautionary sign to the obvious derailment up ahead. The feed back from another successful selling season is filled this time with tales of delayed and protracted

By Briggs Longbothum

deliveries (often covering for lack of inventory),

horribly mismanaged privacy issues, and mediocre customer support. The last issue is, of course, the most important! How could this be, you have to wonder. Well, It seems, too many retailers have become "etailers" by simply throwing up a website and thinking the rest will just happen. It almost sounds reasonable. That is until you realize that online shoppers are not like your brick and mortar store traffic. They're smarter and can go elsewhere at the twitch of a finger.

There's not much a store site can do when they're sold out of Pokemon stuff as was case with Toys R Us. But when it comes to the simple things like deliveries and returns, they have to be fair, prompt, and very courteous. Just like in the real world. This is where many merchants suffered and fell short of continuing sales. Online shopping was and will continue to be new to many people, while repeat sales will likewise be the lifeblood of surviving online merchants. This is a new retail arena and customers wield significant power in this new marketplace. Take the time to provide feedback, tell the sites you buy from what you like and what you dislike. They will be listening and taking action because they do want to see you again. They are intimately aware how quickly you can ditch them for another site on the net.

I'd like to hear from readers who've had a good or bad online shopping experience. How do you feel about sharing information online? See you next time. - Briggs Longbothum, ed. (Brug-go@home.com).

January 2000

Meetings & Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Editorial copy deadline: Friday, 5 pm Advertising copy deadline: Monday, 5 pm	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Recreation Comm. Mtg 7 pm PAL	Board of Adjustment 8 pm	Business Advisory Group 5:30 pm Court 9:30 am	Taxpayers Advisory Group 8 pm	Publication of So. Plfd.Observer	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Borough Council Agenda Mtg 8 pm	HS Boosters 7 p.m. High School Cafeteria Library Board 7:30 pm Planning Board Mtg 8 pm	Environmental Comm. 8 p.m. Cultural Arts Comm. 8 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	Borough Council Mtg 8 pm	Publication of So. Plfd.Observer	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Land Management Advisory Comm. 7:30 pm	Board of Adjustment 8 pm Board of Health 7:30 p.m.	Court 9:30 am & 7 pm		Publication of So. Plfd.Observer	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Borough Council Agenda Mtg 8 pm	Planning Board Mtg 8 pm Recycling Comm. 8 pm	Traffic Safety Adv Comm. 7 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	Borough Council Meeting 8 pm Recycling Commission meeting 8 pm	Publication of So. Plfd.Observer	

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