

SPFLD PUBLIC LIBRARY  
2484 PLAINFIELD AVE  
S. Plainfield NJ 07080

SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
2484 PLAINFIELD AVE  
SPFLD PUBLIC LIBRARY  
07080 N.J.

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 3, NO. 21

50 CENTS

JANUARY 28, 2000

## Are the Contract Disputes Affecting Our Children?

By Patricia Abbott

At a recent Board of Education meeting, a frustrated Franklin School parent voiced concerns about how the ongoing teachers contract dispute is affecting students. In this parent's opinion the children seem to have taken a back seat while teachers and the administration go back and forth with contract issues, conflicts and talks of benefits. She felt the contract negotiations should remain between the Board of Education and the teachers union, not the students. While each side in the dispute bombards the other with facts and

reasons, it seems the student are a forgotten party in this conflict.

This parent came forward because she felt that the problem is affecting her children. She explained that not one teacher attended the recent Scoop Dinner at Franklin School. She said she has a problem explaining this to her children. The dinner was a fundraiser for the children and had nothing to do with the teachers' contract. She added that children who need extra help aren't getting it because teachers won't or can't stay past 3:15.

We decided to ask a simple question of the teachers, parents and students: 'Is the contract dis-

pute affecting the students?' Many of those we contacted were hesitant to speak to us in fear of retribution they might suffer in one form or another. Therefore, the *Observer* will not identify those who offered us their views.

Several high school teachers spoke to the *Observer* and their replies were fairly consistent. One teacher offered these thoughts, "A lot of the extra curricular clubs that teachers advise without any additional pay are at a stand still. There are clubs that are functioning as normal, but those advisors receive a stipend. Compared to other professions, we are pretty treated

much less than professionals. People act as if we are undeserving of the benefits other professionals get. Yet we are still expected to go above and beyond our job description. I think teachers are being treated like dirt. The Board of Education seems to think we are greedy and not worth what we get now."

Another high school teacher said, "In some respects the dispute has affected the kids if the teachers keep to the contract. Teachers spend an awful lot of time outside of the written contract. As teachers, we understand that we are going to have to spend some of our own time

in order to do a good job. The role we have in society is a very important one, people don't realize that. We are asked to provide basics and fundamentals in the upbringing of our youth, yet we are given very few tools to work with and in many respects very little support from parents, administration and society in general."

Parents were at odds with the question we asked. Some felt the kids were not getting all the attention they should, others saw no ill-effects. More than one parent complained about the teachers' lack of participation. They pointed out that most

*Continued on page 6*

## SPHS Wrestlers Win Three Decisive Matches

By Bob Hunter

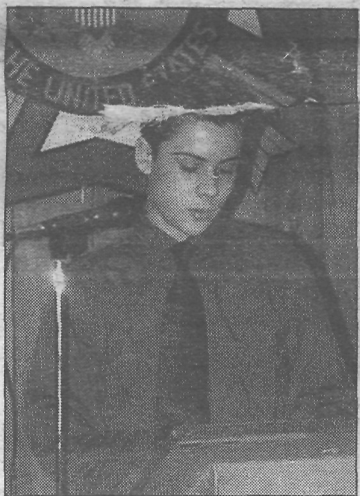
The South Plainfield High School Tiger Wrestling Team posted three major wins in last week's competition.

They posted their sixth straight win by defeating county rival South Brunswick by a score of 44-16. South Brunswick, who is the 8th ranked team in New Jersey, was the first real test the Tigers faced this season and they had little trouble in beating the team.

The Tiger wrestlers then went on to make it two-in-a-row by knocking off the 17th ranked Old Bridge Knights by a score of 37-13. More than 1,500 attended the match played last Friday night at the high school.

South Plainfield also had little trouble with Livingston, defeating them by a score of 64-12 in a non-conference match.

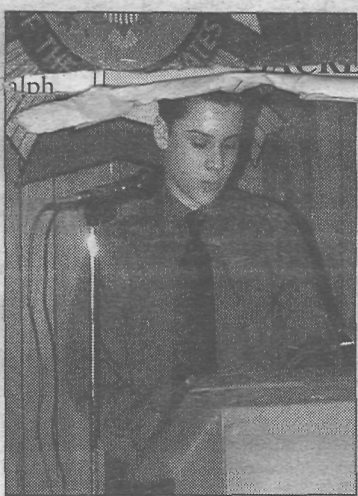
Detailed stories on these three tournaments, as well as Junior Recreation and novice wrestling results, can be found on pages 8 and 9.



High School freshman Brandon Lindgren



Middle School 7th grader Cassie D'Urso



Sacred Heart 8th grader Christina Latonio

## VFW Awards \$1575 in Essay Contest

Members of VFW Post #6763 judged over 300 essays written by seventh and eighth grade students from South Plainfield Middle School, Sacred Heart and South Plainfield High School for the annual Voice of Democracy Essay Contest.

Post Chairman Rudy Poczak and his wife, Auxiliary Chairman Marlene Poczak, read each of the 300 essay entries. Rudy explained that this is one VFW job he always enjoys. He also said that a lot of good ideas were suggested by the students, including keeping school open on Veteran's Day so students can hear from veterans and veterans groups, having a dinner at the White House for veterans, giving veterans free insurance, food and cars, and the creation of a \$15 bill honoring veterans.

The essay theme this year for seventh and eighth graders was "What America Should Do for Its Veterans."

Three winners were chosen from both the Middle School and Sacred Heart. Winners in all groups received a \$200 first

place prize, \$175 for second place, and \$150 for third place. The first place winners were entered into a district competition. If they were successful there, they advanced to the state

and national contests.

Middle School essay winners were: in first place, seventh grader Cassie D'Urso, in second place, eighth grader Timothy

*Continued on page 3*

## Giakas Donates \$10K to Schools

Two years ago South Plainfield resident Wallace Giakas donated a very generous gift of stocks to Vision 2001. The stocks were cashed and Vision 2001 placed the funds in an account to be distributed. Mr. Giakas directs where the money goes. This year the music departments in both the high school and middle school as well as a donation to Kennedy School will benefit from this incredible gift.

The high school is set to receive \$6,000 in funds and the Middle School and Kennedy will share \$4,000. Last spring \$10,000 was also directed to special education projects. Giakas has also supported Vision 2001 with generous funds for scholarships. Wallace Giakas's is the owner of Planet Entertainment.



A surprise snowstorm blasted Central New Jersey on Tuesday, dropping over six inches of snow, forcing school and business closings. Borough Hall remained open during the storm, but many meetings were cancelled. The road department was out plowing the roads all day and throughout the night. Wednesday morning most every road in town was in good condition. *Great job!*

### Please Note

Due to this week's inclement weather, we do not have a police report in this issue. Also the high school basketball results will be reported in next week's issue.



In My Opinion

## Letter

Dear Editor,

As my term as a trustee on the South Plainfield Free Public Library ends, I wanted to thank all those people who made this time possible. The library has

changed dramatically since I started on the board and I hope my years of service on the board have benefited the Borough of South Plainfield and the library community.

There are many fond memories of the things that have been accomplished at the South Plainfield Library and the library associations in general, and only one sad memory. I hope those that succeed me on the Library Board and on the other boards and agencies of South Plainfield have as much fun and gain a sense of service as I did from my time. Thank you.

SINCERELY  
ROBERT W. NEUMANN

### 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](http://spobserver.com) or faxed to 908-668-8819. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. We reserve the right to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject we will publish.

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

## Mark Your Calendars

### BOROUGH MEETING DATES

#### Council Meetings

AGENDA MEETINGS	PUBLIC 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

#### Planning Board

Second and fourth Tuesday of the month, as follows:

January 11, January 25, February 8, February 22 (No Meeting)  
March 14, March 28, April 11, April 25, May 9, May 23  
June 13, June 27, July 11, July 25, August 8, August 22  
September 12, September 26, October 10 (No Meeting) October 24  
November 14, November 28, December 12, December 26

#### Zoning Board of Adjusting

First, third and fourth Tuesday of the month, as follows:

January 4, January 18, February 1, February 15, February 29  
March 7, March 21, April 4, April 18, May 2, May 16, May 30  
June 6, June 20, July 4 (No Meeting), July 18  
August 1, August 15, August 29, September 5, September 19  
October 3, October 17, October 31, November 8 (Thursday),  
November 21, December 5, December 19

#### Site Place Sub-Committee

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

January 27, February 24, March 23, April 27, May 25  
June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26  
November (No Meeting) December (No Meeting)

Log on to [southplainfieldnj.com](http://southplainfieldnj.com) for the latest meeting agenda.

# South Plainfield High School Students Take on 'The Rocker'

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield High School handles it once again! Members of the high school's R.A.R.E. (Respect All Races Everywhere) and their efforts in a letter writing campaign against Atlanta Braves Pitcher John Rocker seem to be 'write' on target.

Letters have begun pouring in from the students. The letters reflect not only diversity, but young people united. The students do not hesitate to profess their beliefs. They state point blank, in their own words, their opinions of Rocker. They point out their disappointment in Rocker as only teenagers can, with an open honest candor. They see themselves as voices for the future.

The following letters are from Mr. Horowitz's English Classes.

Rocker,

Your comments in this month's *Sports Illustrated* show just how small minded and immature you are. How could you possibly make comments like that when some of your own teammates are of different racial backgrounds than you? You basically just put down half of your own team and half of the major leagues. I myself happen to be Spanish and I am offended to hear that you feel this way. But I couldn't care less what you say and I am not going to stoop down to your level. I just can't wait to see how people react and how stupid you will feel for making these comments.

Rafael Diaz

Dear John Rocker:

I just recently finished reading an article about you and was completely disturbed and outraged. The comments about different races and cultures of people made my stomach turn. I am embarrassed for you.

In your article you make yourself out to be superior to anyone other than your "American" stereotype. That is the most ridicu-

lous thing I have ever heard. An American is an American, whether he meets your 'qualification' or not.

You should be ashamed of yourself! What was said was said, and you can't take it back. May you live with regret for the rest of your life.

I am both a student and female athlete in my high school and you have left a disturbing image in my mind about professional players. It's a shame that because of one person acting as a child, others should be looked upon differently. Major league baseball should take action and prosecute you severely.

In this instance you have conducted yourself in a horrible manner. I hope that you can open your eyes and see what a cruel man you are.

Danielle Schweers

John Rocker,

I cannot believe the words that came out of your mouth in the latest edition of *Sports Illustrated*. How can you possess so much hate? Does it really bother you that New York is so much of a melting pot of different ethnic backgrounds? These people have done absolutely nothing to you, but you still manage to direct hate towards them. Your comments are an embarrassment to your family, your organization, baseball, the nation and even the world. In our school, we have quite a few races and everyone manages to get along and enjoy everyone's company.

We are taught to be against hate and maybe you should take a lesson in this. Your comments are sickening to every human's ear. You should never be able to walk on this earth again until you have learned to respect everyone and everything no matter how different in color, size or shape.

What do kids that look up to you think now? You, their hero and role model, are bad-mouthing races which they might be or that their friends may be. Maybe

you should have thought of the consequences before you spoke your disturbing words.

Bob Merkler

Dear Mr. Rocker,

I am writing you this letter in response to your racially biased comments in this month's *Sports Illustrated*. I am a 26-year-old high school English teacher, coach and avid baseball fan. I grew up emulating such players as George Brett, Mike Schmidt and Don Mattingly. I am sorry to say that this is a very sad day for major league baseball.

In the past thirty years our country has made significant leaps to overcome the problematic issue of racial intolerance. I am constantly trying to instill the concepts of sportsmanship, teamwork and social acceptance to my students as well as my athletes. What really irks me is that you are not just a ball player, but a "professional". I am always trying to explain to my young, "impressionable" students that accepting one another for "who" or "what" they are is a part of life. Your recent comments didn't hurt New York baseball fans, it hurt people. It is an outrage that in this day and age you are given a forum to express these xenophobic ideas. Aren't you aware that children today emulate athletes? Maybe the New York kids have a pre-disposed bias toward you, but what about the kids in Atlanta? I assume that you are looked upon as a superior athlete, perhaps even a role model? Do you not understand that as an athlete you have a responsibility to conduct yourself as a civil human being? I really think you do not realize the severity of your comments and the repercussions that must follow. I do thank you for providing my students and myself with a perfect example of how not to conduct yourself as an athlete, student, person and an American.

Scott Horowitz  
English Teacher

## South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

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

(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

NANCY GRENNIER  
Publisher/Editor

WAYNE GRENNIER  
Associate Publisher

SUSAN KANEPS  
Art Director/Associate Editor

PATRICIA ABBOTT  
Staff Writer

BRIAN COCHRANE  
Sports Writer

BRIGGS LONGBOTHUM  
KENNETH MORGAN  
Correspondents

ROXANNE CORTESE  
LISA FOTI

WILLIAM TUTHILL  
Advertising Sales

The South Plainfield Observer (U.S.P.S. 018253) is published weekly, except Thanksgiving week, by G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Second class postage paid 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. To subscribe: 908-668-0010.

### 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](http://spobserver.com) or [ggnan@aol.com](mailto:ggnan@aol.com) or [nrgrennie@ix.netcom.com](mailto:nrgrennie@ix.netcom.com). Include your name, address, telephone number.

### Specialty Gift Baskets

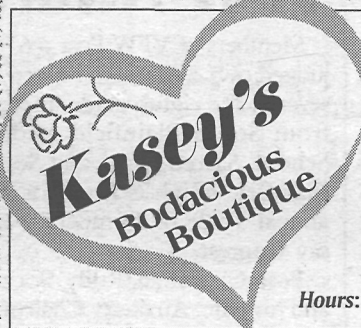
Gourmet coffee, tea, popcorn, crackers and cheeses.

**Mohn's**  
Flowers & Fancy Foods

2325 Plainfield Ave.  
So. Plainfield, NJ (908) 561-2808  
Corporate Accounts Welcome.  
Major Credit Cards

ASE  
CERTIFIED

**Starr Radiator Service**  
"SAME LOCATION SINCE 1971"  
700 Hamilton Blvd. • So. Plainfield  
**561-6263**  
Auto • Truck • Industrial Parts & Service • Radiators • Heaters  
Air Conditioner Service  
Gas Tanks • Aluminum & Plastic Repairs & Replacements

**Kasey's**  
Bodacious  
Boutique

**Unique Gifts  
For Everyone!**  
  
179 Front St.  
South Plainfield, NJ  
(908) 756-7004  
  
Hours: Mon-Fri 11-3 & 6-8 • Sat. 10-2

**JANUARY SPECIAL**  
  
\*\*\*\*New Client Special\*\*\*\*  
  
**FREE**  
Blow  
Dry or  
Set  
  
With  
Every Hair  
Cut,  
Reg. \$24,  
Now \$12  
With this ad

**Carousel**  
Hair Salon  
  
The Family Place  
  
908-668-8397  
  
Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri  
8am-4pm  
Sat 6:45 am-3 pm  
Closed Sundays & Mondays  
  
307 Oak Tree Avenue,  
South Plainfield, NJ



## School Parents are Urged To Register to Vote

Members of the Board of Education are asking parents of children in the school system to be sure they are registered to vote.

The board voted last week to schedule a second referendum on March 14 asking voters to approve a \$22.6 million school bond. The bond includes \$11.7 million to build a new Roosevelt School and a new building behind Grant School to house administration offices. Also included in the referendum are the costs for a new boiler for the Middle School, a new track for Jost Field, technology infrastructure and electrical upgrades at the other grade schools.

With ongoing construction of new homes and apartments in the borough, the Board feels a new Roosevelt School is necessary to meet the increasing student enrollments.

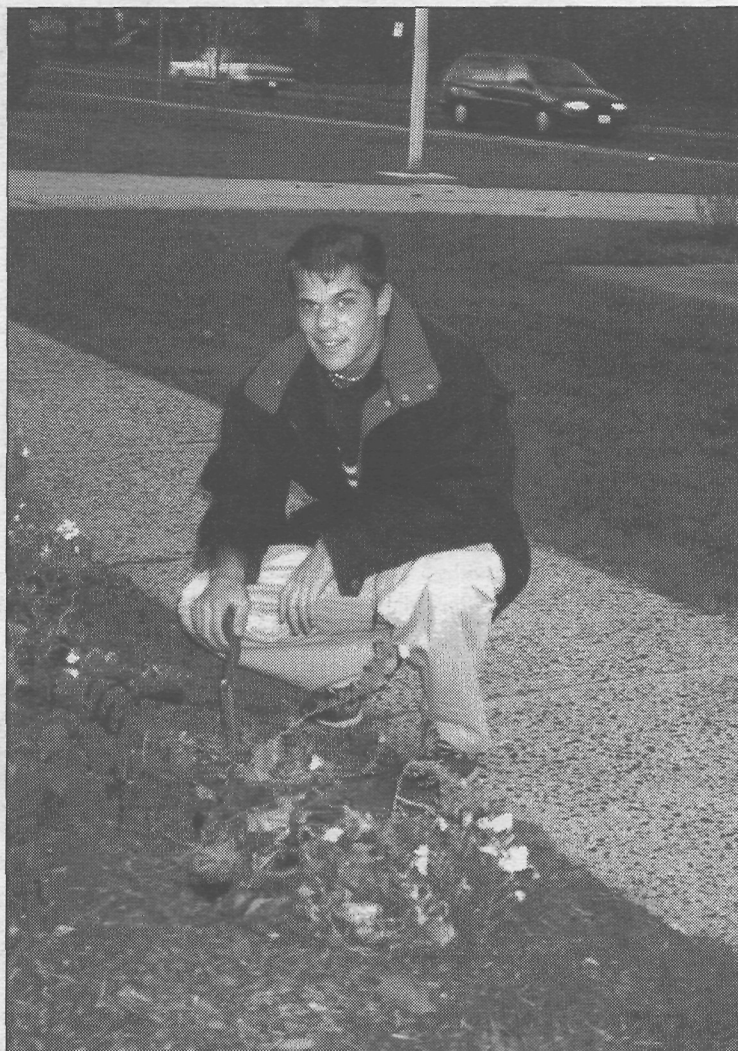
Other grade schools have also seen an increase in their enrollments as empty nesters are selling their homes to younger fami-

lies with school-age children.

At last week's BOE meeting, board members reported that many parents aren't registered to vote. The first priority in getting residents to the polls is to make sure they are registered. Board members are going to contact parents and encourage them to register. They plan to go door to door, if necessary.

Voter registration is an easy process. Pick up a form at any New Jersey agency, such as the Division of Motor Vehicles located in the Middlesex Mall or the post office on Oak Tree Avenue. Forms are also available at the clerk's office in Borough Hall. Fill out the form and mail it in back in the self-addresses envelope. You don't even need a stamp. To participate in the referendum election, voters must be registered by Feb. 14.

A special meeting to discuss the referendum is planned on Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Administration Building on Cromwell Place. The public is invited to attend.



Boy Scout Ian Levine weeds flower beds in front of Borough Hall as part of his efforts to earn the Eagle Scout Award.

## School Board Notes

### School Hours May Change to Accommodate Bus Schedule

The Board of Education is contemplating a change in school hours to accommodate a three-tier bus schedule. The board discussed the possibilities during the meeting of the Transportation Committee. The hours of the high school will be affected.

### Jerseyan Club Trip

The Jerseyan Club will be traveling to Boston from May 18 to 20. The work they miss will be made up and the trip is at no cost to the board of education.

### SPHS Marching Band Trip

The high school band will be traveling to Atlanta from May 25 to May 30. The trip is at no cost to the BOE.

### Retirements

Maria LaSalvia-Seliga, Middle School language arts teacher, will be retiring effective March 1. Thomas Baker, Adult High School health teacher, retired effective January 11.

## Where Have All the Flowers Gone?

The flowers are gone for the winter from the beds in front of the South Plainfield Municipal Building, but will they be replanted again in the spring by the Terra Nova Garden Club Civic Beautification Committee.

The Terra Nova Garden Club wishes to thank the Department of Public Works for their help in soil preparation and Ralph, the custodian at Borough Hall, for turning the sprinklers on to

water the beds during the drought last summer.

Thanks also to Ian Levine, for helping with the weeding. Ian is working on his Eagle Scout Award and his efforts have been a great service to the garden club.

## Little Miss Baseball Contest Begins

Once again its time to crown 'Little Miss Baseball 2000'. This year there is a change in how the winner will be notified and announced. This year's winner will not be notified in advance, but will be announced at Opening Day Ceremonies.

All girls nominated will march with the Baseball Club in the opening day parade to be held on Apr. 15.

The winner must be present to be crowned. If she is not there, the next runner up will be crowned Little Miss Baseball.

Nominations will be accepted Feb. 14-28. Girls must be between the ages of eight and 11 years old and be South Plainfield residents.

To nominate someone, call 754-2090 and leave the nominee's name, phone number and age on the answering machine.

Finalists will be phoned on Feb. 29. The winner will be chosen by the "penny-a-vote" system. Boxes (with finalists pictures) will be placed in Ciccio's, Quick Chek and B & C Deli starting Mar. 4. They will remain there until Mar. 31. The boxes will then be removed and counted.

Get out and vote for our '2000 Little Miss Baseball'. If you have any questions, please call Cindy Eichler at 769-4047.

- Submitted by Cindy Eichler

## SACRED HEART SCHOOL

South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Pre-School - Grade 8

Accredited by Middle States Association of Colleges & Schools

### Open House

Tuesday, February 1, 2000 • 9-10:30 a.m.

Thursday, February 2, 2000 • 9-10:30 a.m.

Registration starts on Tuesday, Feb. 1

Age Req.: Kindergarten, Age 5 by Oct. 1 • First Grade: Age 6 by Oct. 1

### Program includes:

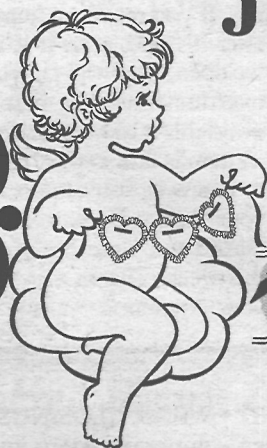
- Pre-K age 4 (full-time & part-time)
- After School Care (2-6 p.m.)
- Counseling Services
- Instrumental Music
- Physical Education
- Cheerleading (Grades K-8)
- Basketball (Grades 3-8)
- Compensatory & Supplemental Services
- Full Day Kindergarten
- Monthly Liturgies
- Hot Lunch Program
- Art
- Library
- Track (K-8)
- Girls Softball (Grades 5-8)
- DARE Program (Grade 5)

For further information: School (908) 756-0632  
Convent (908) 756-0631  
Parish Center (908) 756-0633

Tell your love  
the secrets of your heart.

Shout it, whisper it, write it....

Just say you're...



My favorite  
VALENTINE

In a special Observer

Valentine's Day ad.

We will publish your Valentine's Day message in the Feb. 11 issue for \$10. Say it in 20 words or less and we'll enclose it in Valentine's Day border.

Mail, fax, or email your ad to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; fax 908-668-8819; email ggnan@aol.



Twin City  
Pharmacy  
755-7696

1708 Park Ave., South Plainfield (Next to ACME)

COMPLETE  
LINE OF

VITAMINS &  
MINERAL SUPPLEMENTS  
Featuring Solgar and Hudson

Today's modern pharmacy with old fashioned values

- Free Delivery
- We Accept Most Major Medical Plans
- Hospice Care & Home Healthcare Needs
- Diabetic Counseling & Supplies
- Direct Medicare billing for medical goods and equipment.
- Hallmark Cards and Gifts

Avoid the Flu -  
Take your  
vitamins!

Come and See for Yourself!



# AROUND TOWN

## EVENTS

### Ponytail Association Meeting Rescheduled

The South Plainfield Parent/Ponytail Association meeting was cancelled Tuesday, due to the snowstorm.

The meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 1, at 7:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield Middle School Library. All are welcome to attend.

### Auditions to be held for 2000 New Jersey Renaissance Kingdom

Versatile men and woman ages 16 to 70 are needed to play a variety of roles for the New Jersey Renaissance Kingdom. They are seeking people to portray "royalty to grace our court and interact with patrons," fighters, scurvy pirates, bawdy wenches (over age 21), jugglers, acrobats and puppeteers. Comedic roles are available in the Fairy Tale Troupe and Bard Company. The Kingdom is also seeking musicians who play flute and percussion.

Auditions for the storyline, comedies, fighters and villagers will be held on Friday, Jan. 28 from 7:30 to 10 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 29 from 1 to 5 p.m. Callbacks are on Sunday, Jan 30 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Archery auditions will be held in March. Those wishing to volunteer for non-performing jobs at gaming booths, refreshment stands, etc. can call the number below. All auditions will be held at the Hampton Inn on Davidson Ave. in Somerset, NJ. For directions to the Hampton or other information, call (732) 271-1119 or at ARee@erols.com.

### Footloose Tickets Still Available

Tickets are still available for the Broadway musical "Footloose" on Sunday, Feb. 27. The bus leaves at 11 a.m. from the PAL. The cost is \$55 per person. Tickets may be purchased at the PAL on Maple Ave. For information call 226-7713.

### Rec Sponsors Trip to "The King and I"

The Recreation Dept. is sponsoring a trip to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center to see "The King And I" on Thursday, March 23. Senior Citizens only. Bus leaves at 12 noon from the PAL. The cost is \$25 per person. Sign up at the PAL Building on Maple Ave.

### 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.

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.

### Recreation Plans Ski Trip to Montage

The Recreation Department invites you to ski Montage on Monday, Feb. 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 and adult learn to ski is \$47.

Register at the PAL by Feb. 14.

### Tourette Syndrome Support Meeting

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

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

### Seniors — Come Dance With the Pros

Are you starting to feel your arteries clog up? Your waist becoming a past memory?

It's time for a change. Seniors, are invited to come and dance with the pros every Wednesday, 1:15 to 2:15 p.m.

The fee is \$15 per person. Register at the PAL, or call 226-7713 for more information.

### Seniors Valentine's Day Luncheon

The PAL is sponsoring a Valentine's Day Senior Citizens Luncheon on Thursday, Feb. 10.

The fee is \$5 per person. Register at the PAL weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

For more information call 226-7713

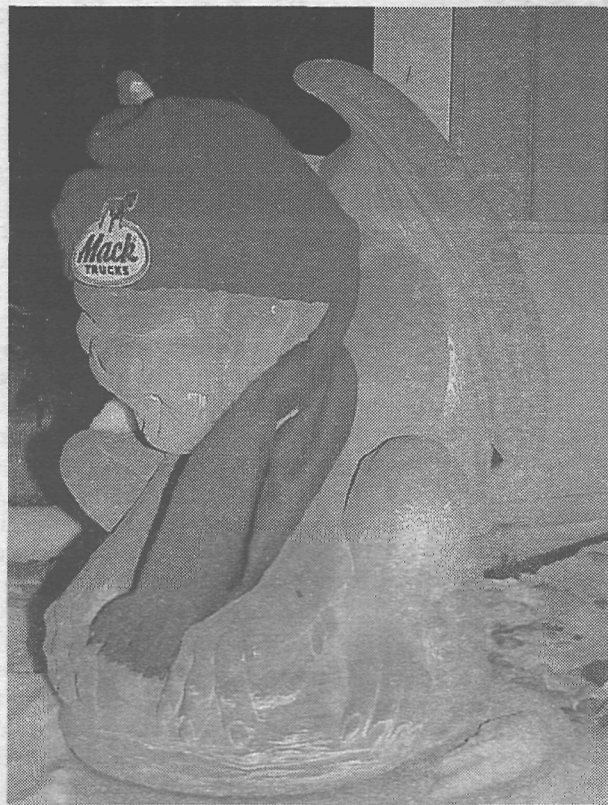
## Spread the Word!

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.



The Sampton Avenue gargoyle bundles up against the cold and the snow this past week.

### From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

We've got time for one last column from the South Plainfield Library before the end of January.

This morning is the last scheduled day you can see our January acclaimed displays. The display wall features photographs and mementos from retired local teacher Ellis Williams. The display cabinets have historical artifacts from the collection of the Barile family. And if you're interested in putting up a display here, just give us a call at (908) 754-7885. Ask for Mildred Condon, who coordinates the displays.

This afternoon, we've got this month's Kidcraft program at 4 p.m. It's for children ages six and over. As of this writing, there's still space available, but you might want to call ahead to make sure. Meanwhile, we'll follow our usual Storytime program schedule next week. The programs are held on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. Each program is for children ages three and over. For more information, check with Linda Hansen, the Children's Librarian.

The next meeting of the Friends of the Library is scheduled for Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

The Circuit videos are between groups today. The next group will be in place early next week.

There were a number of developments at the last meeting of our Library Board of Trustees.

Among them, the Library received a very generous donation from George and Edith Goodrich, local residents and Library patrons. They gave the Library 200 shares of stock in Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., valued in excess of \$13,000. Part of the donation will be used towards a community benefit program that we're developing. (We'll have more on that later.) We'd like to express our thanks to the Goodrich's for their generosity.

Here's an update about our tax form situation. We've now got most of the basic Federal tax forms, as well as the resident and non-resident NJ State tax forms. However, we're still waiting for some of the more specific tax forms and publications. If you don't see what you're looking for, ask at Reference for more information.

Once again, we'd like to clarify one particular aspect of our Elvis system. In one respect, we can be charitable when it comes to due dates. As long as an item is in the Library or in our bookdrop by the time we open the day after it's due, we're OK. Elvis, though, being a computer, isn't so forgiving. If you renew an item the day after it's due, even if it is before we open, Elvis will tag you for an overdue fine. The best way to avoid this is to keep track of when an item is due so that, if you need to renew it, you can do so before your time expires.

And our time has expired for this week. Thanks very much for your attention.

## Aiello

Chiropractic Center, P.C.

Your hometown source for quick pain relief

2201 South Clinton Avenue, Suite H  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080-1471

On the corner of New Market and South Clinton

755-2289

## How You Can Be a Part of the South Plainfield Observer.

**ENCOURAGE YOUR ORGANIZATION TO SEND US THEIR UPCOMING EVENTS.** We want to add them to AROUND TOWN. It can make your event more successful. Send them to us by mail, fax or e-mail.

**SEND US INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MILESTONES,** i.e., promotions, births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, graduations. Include photos. Share your good news with the community!

**IF THERE IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE** in South Plainfield? Thank them by letting us know.

**USE THE OBSERVER AS AN ADVERTISING TOOL.** Introduce your business to the community. Promote your specials or sales. Residents would rather patronize local businesses than travel out of town. It is more convenient and it's good for the local economy.

**SUGGEST A BUSINESS FOR US TO SPOTLIGHT.** If you have had great service in South Plainfield, share it with your neighbors through the newspaper.

**SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** to allow readers to discuss and react to issues.

**SEND US YOUR PHOTOS.** If you have an event, take a photo, write a caption identifying the event and people and send it to us via mail. The best photos record action and don't include so many people that it is impossible to identify anyone. Please don't send us photocopies or laser prints. They don't reproduce well.

**HOW TO CONTACT US.** By mail: 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; By phone: 908-668-0010; By fax: 908-668-8819; By email: ggnan@aol.

**SUBSCRIBE.** It's \$25. per year for 52 issues!!

TAX RETURNS PREPARED • WILLS, CLOSINGS  
INDIVIDUAL AND BUSINESS • PERSONAL INJURY  
WORKERS COMPENSATION

PAUL W. GRZENDA  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

HOUSE CALLS AVAILABLE

SO. PLAINFIELD OFFICE Tel.: (908) 769-8602





## The Alternative View

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

**Dear Dr. DeCosta:** My cousin is very much into alternative health. She told me of a recent study which said that medical errors are now the eighth leading cause of death in this country. Do you know anything about the study she refers to? - C.N.

**Dear C.N.:**

I believe the study your cousin is referring to was published in late November of 1999 by the Institute of Medicine (IOM). This study found that medical errors kill more Americans than traffic accidents, breast cancer or AIDS. The study also called for a sweeping "systems" approach to make medicine safer.

The institute's report, *To Err is Human*, said that, "These horrific cases that make the headlines are just the tip of the iceberg. Estimates range from 44,000 to 98,000 deaths a year attributed to medical mistakes, making it the eighth leading cause of death."

The errors include giving the wrong drug to incorrect diagnoses. The report estimates that such errors cost the nation \$8.8 billion a year.

Dr. Christopher Kent, D.C., FCCI, cites a recent series in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* that focused on medical mistakes. The series is noteworthy not only because it contains information every medical patient deserves to know but, more significantly, these articles disclose two important cultural trends. They are: 1) the end of an era marked by uncritical idolization of medical practice and 2) widespread availability of health information once restricted to medical professionals only. The positioning of the lead article on the Sunday front page speaks to the perceived importance of the issue of medical error, and the "culture of denial" surrounding it.

According to Dr. Kent, the first article in the series notes that the estimated deaths due to medical error during hospital treatment amount to 120,000 per year in the United States alone. That is nearly three times the 43,000 people killed each year in automobile accidents. The claim that such mistakes are routine and commonplace is alarming.

Unfortunately, the figures cited in the article may be low. Dr. David Lawrence, chief executive of Kaiser-Permanente, told the National Press Club that "medical accidents and mistakes kill 400,000 people a year, ranking behind only heart disease and cancer as the leading cause of death...Mistakes alone killing more people each year than tobacco, alcohol, firearms or automobiles."

In Dr. Kent's opinion, professional publications, rarely read by patients, are even more candid. According to FDA estimates, only about one percent of adverse events are ever reported. In a call for action on drug safety issues, the authors noted that each year prescription drugs injure 1.5 million people so severely they require hospitalization, and 51% of approved drugs have serious adverse effects not detected prior to approval.

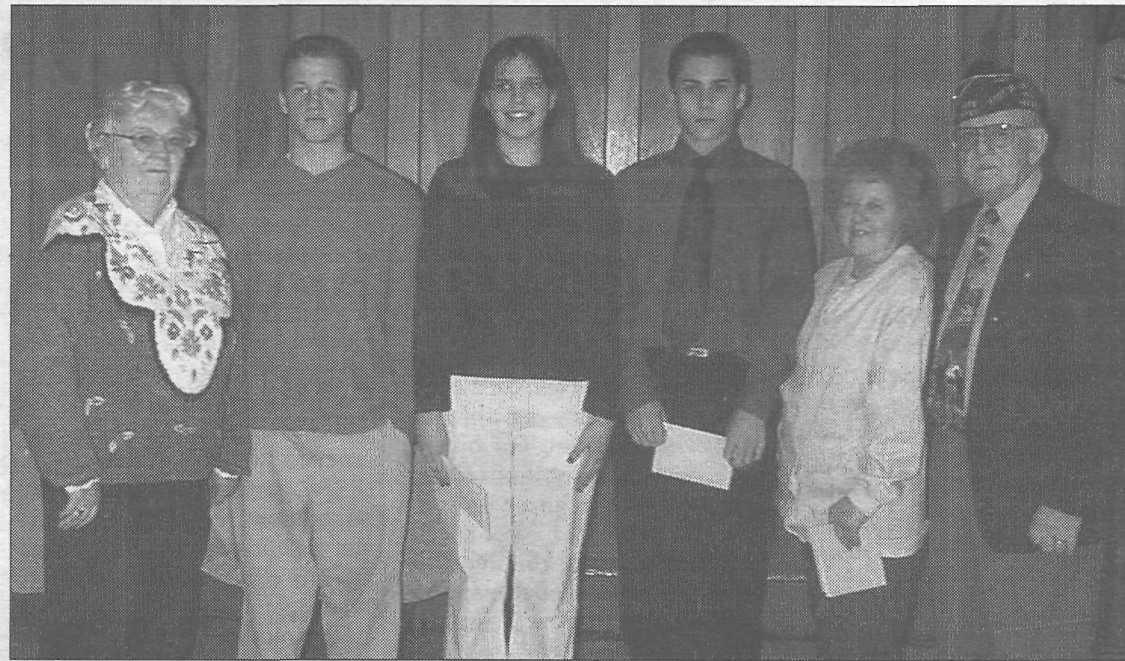
Dr. Kent cites another *Philadelphia Inquirer* article that reports that 76% of medical residents said they withheld information about errors from patients and their families. This contradicts the ethics code of the American Medical Association which states, "Situations occasionally occur in which a patient suffers significant medical complications that may have resulted from the physician's mistake or judgement. In these situations, the physician is ethically required to inform the patient of all facts necessary to ensure understanding of what has occurred."

Dr. Kent feels this "culture of denial" is indicative of the sorry state of medical ethics and technology. As Kaiser's Dr. David Lawrence stated, patients "continue to believe in the myth of Marcus Welby, the unbridled benefits of technology and the assumption that competence and safety are spread evenly and consistently throughout the health care system...If passengers were asked to fly with a commercial airline organized like most health care, they wouldn't get on the plane."

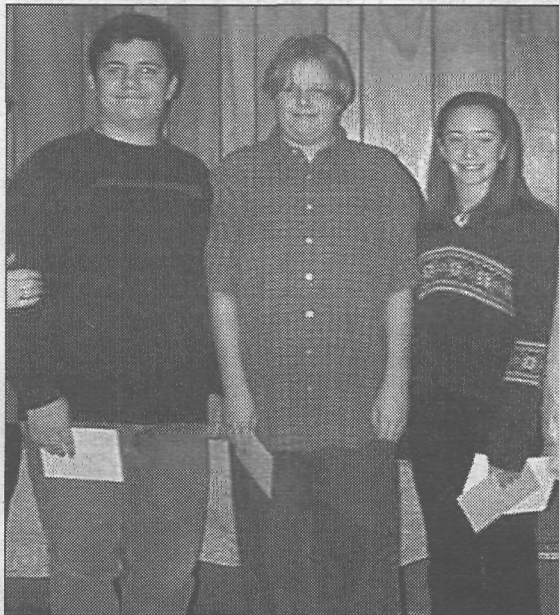
Questions for *The Alternative View* should be addressed to: *The Alternative View*, c/o Dr. Anthony J. DeCosta, D.C., 129 South Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Visit *The Alternative View* on the web at [www.usalternativemedicine.com](http://www.usalternativemedicine.com).

## School Board Candidacy Info Available at Local District Office

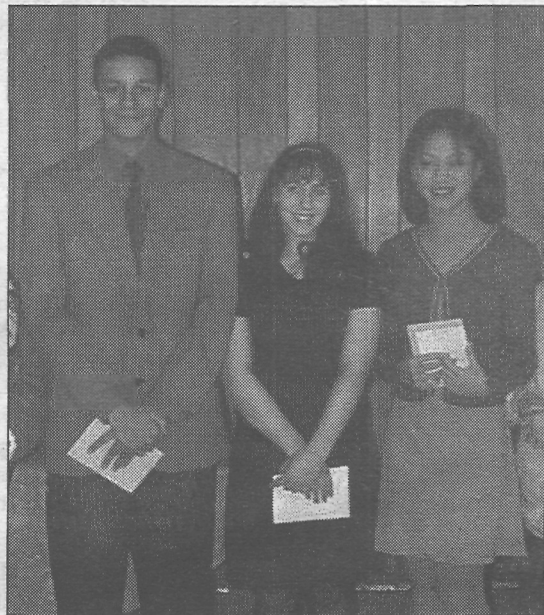
South Plainfield's Business Administrator Ellen B. Johnson has announced that the deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the South Plainfield Board of Education is 4 p.m., Monday, Feb. 28. The elec-



Voice of Democracy award winners from SPSHS are: (second from left) Ryan Harty, Katie Lawrence, Brandon Lindgren. They are joined by VFW Memorial Post 6763 Auxiliary President Alice McHugh (far left) and (far right) Rudy Poczak.



Voice of Democracy award winners from South Plainfield Middle School are: (above, left to right) Adam Bianchi, Timothy Barkalow and Cassie D'Urso. Winners from Sacred Heart School (above right, left to right) are Calvin Smiley, Megan Polifka and Christina Latonio.



## VFW Awards \$1575 in Annual Essay Contest

*Continued from page 1*

Barkalow; and in third place, seventh grader Adam Bianchi. Last year Adam's sister won this competition.

Sacred Heart School winners were: in first place, Christina Latonio, who also placed second in the District Competition Finals; in second place, Megan Polifka; and in third place, Calvin Smiley. All Sacred Heart School winners are eighth grade students.

The theme of the high school essay contest was "America's Role for the Next Century."

First place winner was freshman

Brandon Lindgren; second place, freshman Katie Lawrence and in third place, junior Ryan Harty.

This annual VFW contest was created to demonstrate to the youth of our country how much they are valued. The awards were presented last Friday night at the VFW at a dinner held in honor of

the winners.

Otto Sodoma stood in for Commander Philip Cortese, who was unable to attend due to illness. The Women's Auxiliary, under president Alice McHugh, served dinner. The auxiliary was very helpful, holding fundraising activities, to help fund the awards.

## Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.  
South Plainfield, NJ

Very Rev. Michael A. McGuire, Pastor

### Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:45 p.m.

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

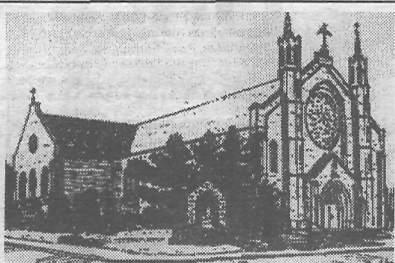
Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)

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

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

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

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



tion is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18.

Prospective school board candidates can obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" at the local school district office, located at 305 Cromwell Place, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily. Published by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the School Board Candidate Kit includes information about legal qualifications for school board candidacy, campaign procedures and the role of the school board member. Information about the New Jersey School Ethics Act, important dates in the school election process, and briefing sessions for school board candidates are also included in the kit.

"You don't have to be an education expert to serve on your local school board," said Charles V. Reilly, NJSBA president. "What counts most is a sincere interest in children and their education."

(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, Chiu Chow  
Vinegar Fish, Nanlin 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

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

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

**10% Off CHINA BUFFET**

2000 Park Ave., So. Plainfield

10% Off for Senior Citizens at all times. No coupon needed. Exp. 2/29/00

Mon.-Thurs, 11 AM-9:30 PM • Fri. & Sat. 11 AM-11 PM • Sun. 12 Noon-9:30 PM



## Cooking From The Heart This Valentine's Day

*Valentine's Day is a day to make someone feel special, so why not let the meal you prepare reflect this feeling as well. Listed are some quick and easy Valentine Cooking Ideas, that are offered this season at home show cooking classes by Marie Markey, Independent Kitchen Consultant for the Pampered Chef. For additional cooking tips, holiday ideas, or free cooking product information, call 908-755-3213 or email mmpm-prchf@aol.com*



Immediately place an unwrapped candy hug in the middle of each cookie.

### SHAPED BISCUITS OR COOKIES

Shape your biscuits or cookies into a heart. Roll dough into a tube and cut the tube into 22 slices. Lay out using the following diagram. For biscuits you need 3 packages of refrigerated biscuit dough or only for cookies only one. For a special breakfast treat, use cinnamon biscuits following manufactures direction and prepare using diagram.

### STRAWBERRY FANS

Leaving stem on, slice strawberries 3/4 of the way from the pointed end towards stem using the wires of an egg slicer. Then with your fingers, twist the strawberry to spread out the slices to make a fan. Use as garnish on favorite dessert or to make any plate special.

### HEAVENLY CRANBERRY CHICKEN

Place a large package of chicken wings or drumettes in 9 x 13 stoneware baker. Top with a can of whole cranberry sauce. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Zest orange with zester and sprinkle on chicken. Bake at 400 degrees for one hour.

### HEART SANDWICHES

Make heart shaped bread using a heart bread tube following directions on tube or slice soft white bread using heart shaped cookie cutter. Cut lunch meat with edge of a cookie cutter as well assemble. Other ideas include, rice crispy treat bars, rolled sugar cookies and brownies.

### LUV PIZZA

Take a loaf of thawed frozen bread dough and shape into a "v." Roll it out with the roller to create a heart shaped crust. Using a pastry brush, brush on olive oil and garlic that you pressed through a garlic press. Spread Alfredo sauce on top of crust (available as jarred sauce in supermarket). Evenly coat with approximately one cup. Top with sliced pepper and sliced pepperoni. Grate and top with freshly grated Parmesan cheese. Bake at 350 for 35 minutes.

### SUGAR KISSES

Using a small scoop, drop refrigerated sugar cookie dough onto a baking stone. Bake following manufacturer directions. As soon as they come out of the oven, place a chocolate kiss in the middle of each cookie. Sprinkle with red sprinkles if desired. Remove from stone and let cool on cooling rack.

### CHOCOLATE HUGS

Using a small scoop, spoon refrigerated chocolate cookie dough into a greased mini-muffin pan. Bake at 350 for 15-18 minutes.

## Contract Disputes Affecting Our Children?

*Continued from page 1*

teachers did not wear costumes at Halloween, which disappointed many children. Another area that upset grade school parents was the noticeable absence of teachers at the holiday concerts and other events. The general consensus is that the dispute has gone on long enough. Parents who were not overly concerned at first and had not taken sides are becoming more irritated with the teachers.

The mother of a high school sophomore replied that she did not see the contract dispute having any effect on the high school students.

The mother of both an eighth grader and a high school junior said, "If the kids want to stay for extra help after school, it could be a problem." She noted that her older daughter's clubs all had paid advisors. This parent was unaware of any issues at the Middle School. Her eighth grade daughter said that she feels that the teachers are trying to be cooperative, helping the kids when they can. She said she has not seen her teachers all leaving at exactly 3:15.

A Roosevelt School parent noted that she hadn't noticed any negative effects on the children.

A fifth grade student from Franklin School was less than pleased with the entire dispute. The student simply said, "All they want is money!" The student's mother was in agreement with her ten year old.

Several eighth grade students were concerned about their class trip to Washington D.C. They heard that the teachers will not go as chaperones if the contract is not settled. Some students pointed out that parents could go as chaperones, but the teachers

would be better because they have done it before. They "know the ropes" of the trip.

Those who seemed most upset over the dispute were high school students. A 17-year-old senior spoke at length about the issue, "I think the student body has been greatly affected by the contract negotiations. All of the students, from freshmen to seniors, are suffering. Many extracurricular activities have been postponed, which is unfair to everyone, especially the seniors. When filling out college applications, it may appear that a student did not participate in activities. It makes us look bad and it is not our fault. I sympathize with the teachers; but when I can't come after school for extra help because the teachers are gone and I may be in danger of not graduating because of low grades, I can't help but feel cheated. I think everyone just wishes the board would settle and we can get the education our parents pay tax dollars for and that the students deserve."

Another 17-year-old senior said, "Green sweatshirts and pins—that's all I've seen this year! We are told 'No, there won't be any clubs. No, you can't stay after for extra help.' That is all I have heard this year! It has been affecting the students at SPHS. It's one thing when the teachers have issues involving their contract, it's another thing when it involves other people. We are being deprived of our after-school activities and our extra help. We have done nothing to deserve this."

A senior offered this view, "I feel that the teachers are in a saw-saw of patterns. Some act as if there isn't a problem. They are just more laid back, there's less tension, class is more relaxed."

A junior remarked, "I believe that the teacher/Board of Education 'conflict' that is happening is a real waste of time. The board should just settle the contract and give the teachers what they want. It's obvious the teachers aren't giving up. All the 'conflict' is doing is creating a disservice to us, the students."

A junior echoed many of the other complaints about extra help and activities, but she added that the junior trip was cancelled because of the contract problem.

Another common reply was a negative view of the never-ending green tee shirts and buttons and the letter recently sent by the SPEA to each parent. One par-

ent said she threw out the construction paper hearts sent in the letter.

"Are they trying to use both the parents and the upcoming St. Valentine's Day as vehicle of some sort? The red hearts on my windows have nothing to do with the contract dispute! Many people will have red hearts in their windows but it doesn't mean they were placed there with any thought of the contract dispute. Maybe I should put up green hearts!"

Many teachers want the school day to get back to normal. They want to offer the students all the help they can, but they fear the union's reaction. A number of teachers declined to reply to our questions, saying only that it was a very sensitive issue.

One grade school teacher spoke from the heart saying, "I can only speak on my own behalf. As a professional, I don't let anything or anyone affect the job I do in my classroom. Not one thing has changed; not one child has been neglected; not one parent has been ignored. It upsets me that people would think otherwise. On average I spend about 10 hours per week past 3:15 at school. I support fundraisers, the arts, athletic programs and all sorts of extracurricular events. In no way am I complaining about the 'extras' that I do—on the contrary, I consider most of it part of my job—if I want to do my job well. I just resent people thinking teachers as a whole are complaining about what we do. We just want to be validated—to be given some kind of credit. Being a parent is hard work. I consider myself to be a "parent" to each and every student that walks into my room. And I work hard at making sure they leave with the best possible education that I can give them. I hear parents complain about too much homework or that the work we are doing in class is too difficult and then I read articles saying that the teachers aren't providing a good education. So which is it? It certainly can't be both! I love my profession, but I am becoming increasingly discouraged when I see the paper and read the bitter comments that I can't help but take it personally. I do want to say thank you to those who have taken the time to show their appreciation of the work that I do. Thanks also to those who offer their support, respect and encouragement."

## Singing Valentines

Send a musical  
Valentine that  
will impress your  
Sweetheart forever.

(Benefits South Plainfield United Way)

Two songs by a quartet at your  
Valentine's location\* AND candy, a  
flower and a picture for \$50 on  
Friday, February 12 -- By appointment only

Call for your quartet appointment today at:  
(908) 753-2200; ask for Marge

Please make your reservation by  
Thursday, Feb. 11-12 Noon

\*within the South Plainfield area



Join the team that delivers.

**South Plainfield  
Observer**

The Observer, South Plainfield's official  
weekly newspaper, is seeking an advertising  
rep. Unlimited earning potential.

Friendly work environment.

Set your own hours.

Exp. preferred, but not necessary.

Join the team.

**South Plainfield  
Observer**

Call 908-668-0010.



# Ed Niemczyk Youth Basketball League Scores

The Ed Niemczyk 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

Cavaliers	6	1
Grizzlies	6	1
Spurs	5	2
Bucks	4	3
Rockets	2	4
Supersonics	2	5
Warriors	1	5
Nuggets	0	5

## A LEAGUE SCORES-JAN 22

Nuggets Canceled  
Rockets Play Feb. 3

Warriors 26  
Bucks 28

**High scorers**—Warriors: Jessa Jones-15, Jonathan Chiang-7, Brian Acrin-4; Bucks: Ankit Patel-10, Philip DeRosa-8, Gary Houston-6, Michael Salerno-3.

Supersonics 18  
Cavaliers 45

**High scorers**—Supersonics: Michael Espin-6, Danny Melick-6, Michael Alvarez-4; Cavaliers: Andrew Cupido-16, Chris Horn-10, Jon Buggy-9, Kyle Kazimir-4, Justin Toth-4.

Spurs 31  
Grizzlies 35

**High scorers**—Spurs: Michael Allocco-13, Steve Janiszak-6, Nick Green-5, Michael Wiczorek-5; Grizzlies: Chris Sanchez-9, David Acevedo-8, Danny Pollin-6, Tim Keller-6.

## B LEAGUE STANDINGS

Jazz	6	1
Heat	6	1
Magic	5	2
Nets	5	2
Bulls	4	3
Timberwolves	4	3
Raptors	4	3
Hornets	2	5
Lakers	2	5

Cavaliers	2	5
Knicks	1	5
Pistons	0	6

## B LEAGUE SCORES-JAN 22

Nets 35  
Bulls 37

**High scorers**—Nets: Nick Jefferys-20, Mike Downes-7, Paul Ritchey-4; Bulls: Vincent Velez-21, Danielle Arndt-7, Michael Benak-5.

Hornets 13  
Cavaliers 26

**High scorers**—Hornets: Kevin Siedenburger-8; Cavaliers: Robert Stanli-10, Joseph Denitzio-6, Erik Vesper-4, Robert Mathis-3.

Magic 30  
Lakers 25

**High scorers**—Magic: Chris McKnight-15, Ryan Taylor-9, Doug Dietzold-4; Lakers: Chris Bojarski-8, Michael Hanley-8, Jeffrey Pollin-5, Kathleen Morgan-4.

Pistons 12  
Heat 44

**High scorers**—Pistons: Lacey Santone-6; Heat: Peter Peregrin-12, Andrew Miller-10, Coral Willis-9, Nick Cesare-5, Harshell Patel-4.

Jazz 40  
Knicks 31

**High scorers**—Jazz: Chris Bakazan-12, Daniel Piwowar-12, Kevin Graham-8, Anthony Petriello-4, Matt Zebrowski-4.

Timberwolves 21  
Raptors 37

**High scorers**—Timberwolves: Adam Bianchi-9, Donna Garcia-4, Andrew Roibal-4; Raptors: Joey Jaghab-10, Michael Williams-10, Zack Gray-8, Kyle Lendach-7.

## C LEAGUE STANDINGS

Wizards	7	0
Grizzlies	6	1
Cavaliers	6	1
Warriors	6	1
Rockets	5	2
Trailblazers	5	2
Hawks	4	3
Kings	3	4
Suns	2	5
Supersonics	2	5
Spurs	1	6
Bucks	1	6
Mavericks	1	6
Nuggets	0	7

## C LEAGUE SCORES-JAN 22

Bucks 28  
Trailblazers 32

**High scorers**—Bucks: Anthony Cassano-12, Scott Barton-10, Andrew Gray-4, Trailblazers: Brendan O'Shea-17, Bobby Harrington-7, Grey Coppi-4, Nicole Miglis-4.

Mavericks 18  
Supersonics 42

**High scorers**—Mavericks: Scott Hunterton-10, Vincent Sanchez-9; Supersonics: Brian Fabino-16, Brad Martin-8, Jeff Pryor-6, Thomas Pryor-4, Megan Boyle-4.

Suns 4  
Wizards 33

**High scorers**—Wizards: Garrett Lake-16, Chris Pollin-14, Tim Keane-3.

Grizzlies 27  
Kings 25

**High scorers**—Grizzlies: Danny Espin-12, Peter Adoma-5, David Alston-4, Tim Williams-4; Kings: Vinnie Padula-15, Blair Houston-10.

Rockets 32  
Warriors 35

**High scorers**—Rockets: Charles Loiacono-3, Joe Turris-10, Stephanie Hansen-6, Billy Hodge-4, Kelly Downs-3; Warriors: Mike Stallone-14, Chris Deoliveria-10, Chris Stallone-5.

Hawks 26  
Spurs 17

**High scorers**—Hawks: Nick Desimone-10, Danny McCreesh-4, Brian Hanley-4, Ashley Sacks-4; Spurs: Chuckie Decker-6, Andy Keraga-4, Troy Russell-4.

Cavaliers 29  
Nuggets 16

**High scorers**—Cavaliers: Bennie Gibson-14, Ryan Curtis-7; Nuggets: John Christ-6, Matthew Ramos-6.

## C LEAGUE STANDINGS

Raptors	7	0
Cavaliers	7	0
Lakers	6	1
Knicks	6	1
Magic	4	3
76ers	4	3
Nets	4	3
Heat	3	3
Hornets	2	4
Bulls	2	5
Timberwolves	2	5
Jazz	1	6
Pistons	0	7
Celtics	0	7

## D LEAGUE SCORES-JAN 22

Magic 32  
Timberwolves 10

**High scorers**—Magic: Tramane Miller-18, Riley Hubner-10, Logan Green-4; Timberwolves: Ian Collins-4, Matthew Miceli-4.

Knicks 16  
Raptors 18

**High scorers**—Kings: Vincent Stark-6, Mike Dezmin-4, Ganjot Dnaliwa-4; Raptors: Jall Williams-14, Bobby Sacks-4.

Hornets 22  
Nets 36

**High scorers**—Hornets: Steve Wiczorek-12, Kyle Kaczka-4, Alfonso Muglia-4; Nets: Dontae Johnson-12, Kelvin Randolph-12, Richard Harzula-6, Ricky Sierzega-6.

Bulls 20  
Jazz 12

**High scorers**—Bulls: Scott Bishop-12, Nick Lanzo-4, Ryan Harrington-4; Jazz: Chris Lesniak-4, Steve Grzenda-4.

Cavaliers 15  
Heat 13

**High scorers**—Cavaliers: Ken Breslau-6, Taylor Curtis-4, Nick Jeglinski-3; Heat: Matt Cesare-7, Mark Benak-4.

Celtics 8  
Lakers 40

**High scorers**—Lakers: Jordan Petriello-8, Garrett Kelly-8, Shawn Mack-6, Ryan Smith-4, Kyle Freuler-4.

76ers 35  
Pistons 16

**High scorers**—76ers: Dominic Papa-12, Allen Garcia-12, Tim Moskel-6, Danielle Butricio-4; Pistons: Zachary Haupt-12.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to the three high school Tiger bowlers who took part in the GMC Bowling finals which attracted approximately 400 students.

**Junior Melissa Jamieson**  
Placed 16th in the Girls Division

**Junior Paul Larisch**  
Placed 14th in the Boys Standing

**Senior Doug Lauckhardt**  
Won a Bronze Medal in a  
Solid Eighth Place Finish.

## Boys Bowling Team Records First Loss This Year; Girls Lose Close Game

The high school boys bowling team, needing a victory or a tie to clinch the division title over Colonia, fell victim to lady luck and a hot shooting Patriot team.

The Tigers won the first game but could not survive the charge of the Colonials. Solid sets were turned in by Dough Lauckhardt and Matt Square. Danny Wallis chipped in with a 235, Eric Gaub with a 191 and Paul Larisch with a 196. The Tigers suffered their first defeat after posting 14 straight wins.

The girls bowling team lost the first game, then jolted Colonia with a big second game, but could not keep up the torrid pace and lost to a tough state ranked Patriot squad. Melissa Jamieson turned in a good performance with a solid 202 game and a 521 set. Chipping in were Rebecca Horn with a 178, Amanda Smith with a 167, Sabina Montenegro with a 167, and Rachel Feller with a 165.

The girls stand at 11-3-1.

Alexis Montenegro bowled a 193 in the junior varsity match.

The South Plainfield High School Boys Bowling Team has been ranked number 12 by the *Star Ledger* as of Jan. 24.

### Start Ledger State Rating Boys Bowling Top 20

- 1-Point Pleasant
- 2-Passaic Tech
- 3-Jackson
- 4-Hammonton
- 5-Nutley
- 6-Passaic
- 7-Linden
- 8-St. Joseph's (Met.)
- 9-Pascack Valley
- 10-Livingston
- 11-Ridgefield Park
- 12-South Plainfield
- 13-West Orange
- 14-Toms River South
- 15-St. Joseph (Mont.)
- 16-Hackensack
- 17-Madison
- 18-Colonia
- 19-Shawnee
- 20-Bergen Catholic

## 2000 T-Ball and Teener Ball Registration Underway

Registration is open to all South Plainfield resident boys and girls, in grades K-2 for both T-Ball and Teener Ball.

T-Ball is open to children who were five as of Oct. 1, 1999; Teener Ball is open to children who were 6-7 as of Oct. 1, 1999 and are sponsored by South Plainfield Recreation Department. Birth certificates are required for registrants who have not participated in a recreation sponsored Youth League in the past year.

Teener Ball has two divisions, girls pay softball and boys play baseball. The fee is \$15 per participant before April 3, 2000 and \$20 after that date.

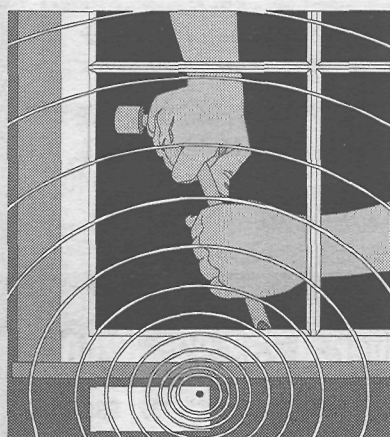
Register at the Recreation office located in the PAL Building on Maple Ave., Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registration will be taken January 7 to March 6. The Recreation Office will also be open from 6-8 p.m. on the first and third Monday of the month.

## Pop Warner Football and Cheerleaders Registration

Pop Warner will be holding registration for football and cheerleading at the Eagles Fieldhouse on Kenneth Ave. (across from the recycling area) on Friday, Jan. 28 from 6 to 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 29 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and on Friday, Feb. 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 26 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Registration is open to all South Plainfield children ages five to 14 (by 8/1). Coaches are welcome. Roster sizes are limited. Register early. A registration fee is due at sign-up.

## SECURITY CONCEPTS OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY



**We Watch Your Home  
Even When You're Away**

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

**Call Today for a Free Estimate**

**908-757-7344**

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

**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](mailto:southplainfieldnj.com)  
Or call 908-226-7656



# SPORTS

## High School Wrestlers Win Three Big Matches

### • Tigers Defeat South Brunswick 44-16

The South Plainfield High School Wrestling Team posted their sixth straight win last week over county rival, South Brunswick, by a score of 44-16. South Brunswick, the 8th ranked team in New Jersey, was the first real test the Tigers faced this season and they had little trouble posting a win.

Matt Anderson (103), got the Tigers going with a fall over Paul Stringkowski in 0:49.

Rick Gebauer (112), went to work and scored 14 unanswered points over Mike Dougherty to win by a major decision.

Roberto Romos (119), posted a 7-4 decision over Jad Duca giving the Tigers a 13 point lead.

Dave Butrico (125), scored a major decision over Mike Fidacaro, 13-03 to up the Tiger lead to 17-0.

Dave Stoeckel (130), was tied

1-1 with 14 seconds left in the match and gave up a takedown and back points, losing 6-1 to Kyle Nasdeo.

Glenn Gross lost by major decision to Anthony Fidarcaro 14-4.

Matt Gatti (140), was pinned at 4:53 in the third period by Kevin Fox which cut the Tiger lead to 17-13.

The Tigers bounced right back with Scott Doerr (145), winning a 6-5 decision over Titus Neilson, to give the Tigers a seven point lead.

Dave Fiore (152), came on late with a takedown with 0:38 seconds left and won a 4-3 decision over Eric Albert putting the Tigers up by 10.

Mike Buteas (160), got caught early and fought off his back to drop a 11-4 decision to Peter Gibb.

Chris Francis (171), put on a takedown lesson on Blake Sfraneli, winning by a 21-10 decision.

John Foscolo (189), dominated Chris Watson, scoring a technical fall 18-1.

Dan Kunst (215), went right on the attack and scored a fall over Mark Tainow at 1:37.

Colin Hunter (Hwt), won by forfeit to finish the match.

### • Tigers Crush Livingston 64-12

South Plainfield, 8-0, had little trouble with Livingston defeating them by a score of 64-12 in a none conference match.

Winning by fall for the Tigers were Matt Anderson (103), Dave Stoeckel (130), Glen Gross (135), Dave Fiore (152) and Colin Hunter heavyweight. Winning by tech fall was Roberto Romas (119).

Winning by major decision were Rich Gebauer (112), Joe Blondet (125). Winners by forfeit were Scott Doerr (140), Matt Gatti (145), John Foscolo (189). Dan Kunst (215) won by decision.

### Novice Wrestlers Claim Metals

South Plainfield novice wrestlers (first and second year wrestlers) claimed five medals the Middlesex Novice Wrestling Tournament.

In the Pee Wee Division wrestling at 42-pounds, Jeffrey Conroy finished with a fifth place medal while Randy Jakubik (49) claimed the title by winning all his matches by fall. Jeremy Strausser (52) also claimed a fifth place medal.

Also wrestling were Andrew Sanchez (40) and Patrick O'Connor (48).

In the Batam division, Kyle Hughes (56) won three matches for the second Tiger title, Jake Smithline Midget (62) finished with a fifth place finish. Also wrestling midget was Sal Soto (84.)

## Junior Tigers Register 10 Pins in 76-12 Victory Over No. Plfd Canuck's

By Bob Hunter

The South Plainfield Recreation Wrestling Team posted a 76-12 win over the North Plainfield Canuck's. The Junior Tigers are now 4-0 in league action.

Ryan Sacco (50), got the Tigers off to a good start when he took an early lead and pinned Jordan Suris at 1:18.

Robert Gentile (53), continued the attack by pinning Zack Myer in 0:28, after jumping out to a 5-0 lead. Patrick Hunter (57), took an early lead 13-0 before pinning Tyron Corray at 2:38 for the third consecutive fall.

Nick Heilman (60), who missed the Roselle Park Tournament because his mom, Pam, gave birth to a baby boy, Joseph Patrick Heilman, dedicated this match to his baby brother and posted a 7-2 decision over Steve Harmond.

Jimmy Conroy (67), took a 10-0 lead before he pinned Joe McAuley at 1:30. Billy Ashnault (70), wasted little time against John Lastrange, pinning him in 0:44.

Bryan Hunt (73), got the takedown and fall in 25 seconds to give the Tigers a 39-6 lead. Nick Doery (77), scored five quick points before pinning Mike Commadini at 1:31.

Danny Bayak (80), took an early 4-3 lead and went on to win with a 14-3 decision. Mark Wagner (85), won by forfeit. Brad Martin (95), got the takedown and scored 14 unanswered points to win by major decision 14-5 over Mike Cassidy. Billy Daly (110), wasted little time getting the quick takedown and the fall at 0:55.

Kevin Crilley (hwt), closed the match with a fall over Chris Wilson in 0:58. Also wrestling for the Tigers were Elizabeth Martin (63) and Sam Martin (90).

## Junior Tiger Wrestlers Beat Cranford and Scotch Plains

The Recreation Wrestling Team posted two more wins last weekend. The Tigers defeated Cranford 87-9 and Scotch Plains 72-8.

Winning by fall for the Tigers against Cranford were Robert Gentile (53), Patrick Hunter (57), Bryan Hunt (73), Nick Dorey (77), Danny Bayak (80), Mark Wagner (85), Brad Martin (95) and Billy Daly (110).

Also winning matches were Ryan Sacco (50) by forfeit, Elizabeth Martin (63), Jimmy Conroy (67) by forfeit, Billy Ashnault (70) by a major decision, Danny Pompilio (102) by forfeit and Kevin Crilley by a decision.

Against Scotch Plains, the Tiger winners were Ryan Sacco, (50) by fall, Robert Gentile (53) by fall, Patrick Hunter (57) by major decision, Jimmy Conroy (67) by fall, Billy Ashnault (70) by a major decision, Bryan Hunt (73) by major decision, Nick Dorey (77) by a technical fall, Danny Bayak (80) by a decision, Mark Wagner (85) by a fall, Sam Martin (90) by a fall, Brad Martin (95) by a fall, Danny Pompilio (102) by a forfeit, Billy Daly (110) by forfeit and Kevin Crilley (115) by a major decision.

**Improve  
Your  
Computer  
Skills  
Today!**

**Enroll Today  
Prepare for Tomorrow**

**www.cecnj.com**

Learn how to  
navigate through  
the  
**Information  
Super  
Highway!**



Daytime & Evening  
Classes Available!

**Learn Windows95/98,  
Office, Plus Much More!**

Call us TODAY to reserve your seat!

**908-757-9085**

1110 Hamilton Blvd. So. Plainfield, NJ 07080

**COMPUTER EDUCATION**

**CENTER**

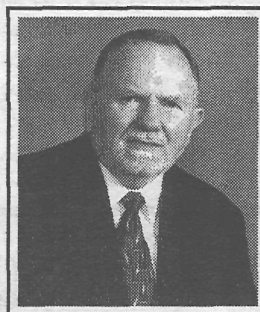
**Before you  
sell, compare.**

*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.**

**Weichert,  
Realtors**

*We Sell More  
Because We Do More*



**Wayne Grennier**  
SALES REPRESENTATIVE  
*Resident of  
South Plainfield  
for over 30 Years*

**METUCHEN OFFICE**  
640 Middlesex Ave.,  
Metuchen, NJ 08840

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

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



# SPORTS

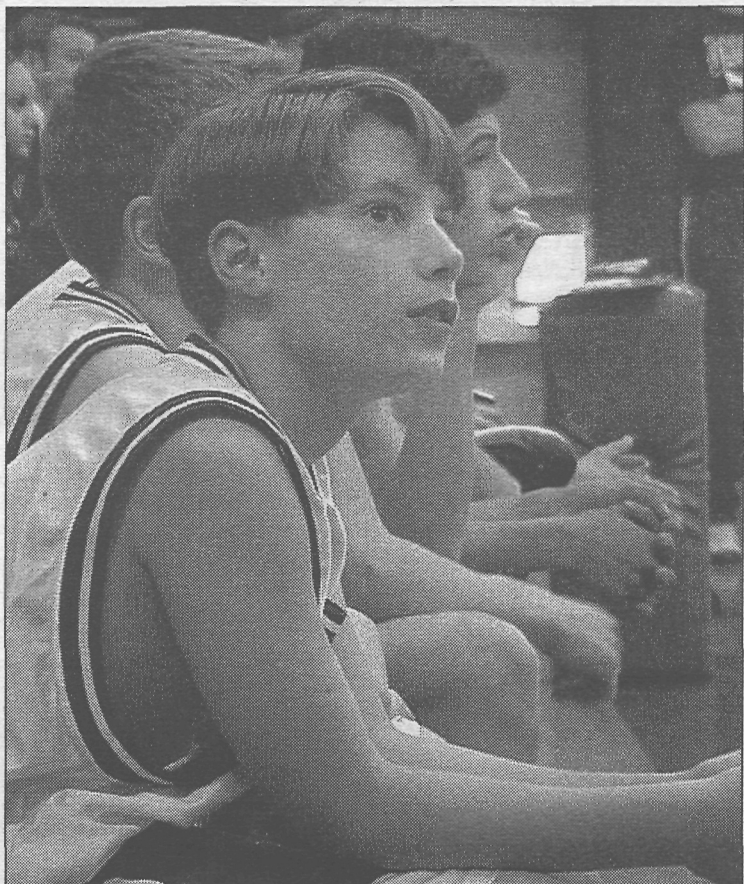
## U.S. Hoops Holds Benefit Basketball Tournament

By Patricia Abbott

U.S. Hoops recently held a benefit basketball tournament at SPHS. Winter Classic, the three day event was open to eighth graders and under. Four teams from the South Plainfield Middle School participated in the event. Boys seventh and eighth grade teams as well as two teams of 7-8th grade girls. The tournament was a benefit for the American Youth Education & Sports Foundation (AYES). U.S. Hoops is a fledgling non-profit foundation dedicated to enhancing the educational and athletic skills of disadvantaged children in the metropolitan tri-state region. The program will provide athletic training and academic tutorials to these children.

Sixteen teams from the area participated in the event held over three days. Each team was guaranteed three games. A carnival atmosphere reigned during the course of the tournament and a band played between quarters and games. Clowns offered balloon sculptures and face painting to children in attendance. A wide variety of food was available for purchase throughout the day. Domino's of South Plainfield, donated pizzas.

U.S. Hoops is currently sponsoring basketball clinics in South Plainfield. The clinics are held at SPHS and are half price for South Plainfield residents. The



Kyle Kazimir, an eighth grader, watches the game at U.S. Hoops Tournament.

clinics run until Feb. 27. For information call 732-634-4770 or go to ushoops.com on the web. Both individual skills and phase clinics are available. A flex schedule is also available.

U.S. Hoops is a unique learning center for basketball. They offer general and specialty clinics

and camps, leagues crafted to include team clinic instruction and game competition, tournaments, exposure opportunities and more. They offer the opportunity for youths to grow as a player and as a person and promote trust, communication and selflessness.

## Junior Baseball Club Notes

By Frank Hanley

**Tryouts**—Tryouts will be held on Saturday, March 4, at the PAL Building on Maple Ave. All registered players will receive notification by mail indicating their try-out time. Players should remember to wear sneakers and bring their gloves.

**Umpire Classes**—Classes for umpires will be forming soon. Details will be published when they become available. Anyone interested in attending the classes should contact the clubhouse.

**Sign Sponsors**—The Sign Sponsor program is again being offered to local businesses. This program provides businesses with advertising space at the complex. Businesses interested in becoming or continuing as a sponsor or should contact the club as soon as possible. Businesses that renew their sponsorship by February 29 will be entitled to a discount.

**Woman's Auxiliary**—The Woman are once again holding their Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale. This is a major fund raising event held each year. Proceeds from this candy sale are put right back into the club in form of equipment for the players and improvements to the complex. All registered players should be receiving a brochure shortly. The Woman's Auxiliary is sponsoring the annual Little Miss Baseball contest. Details of the contest are on page 3. There are still some of the new Custom SPJBC outdoor flags left. The flags are 2 feet by 3 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.

**Web Site**—The SPJBC web site is down for maintenance. It should be back soon.

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

### Events at a Glance

*Monthly Meeting* – Monday Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse

*Woman's Auxiliary Meeting* – Wednesday Feb. 9, 7:30 pm at the clubhouse

*Tryouts* – Saturday, March 4 at the PAL

*Opening Day* – Saturday, April 15

## Wrestlers Claim Six Titles at Roselle Park Tournament

During the second day of competition at the Roselle Park Tournament the Middle School and some of the recreation wrestlers continued their competition and claimed six first place titles. Last week we reported on Saturday's competition at this tournament. The competition continued on Sunday for individual titles. In all, six individual titles were won, along with two second, two third and two fourth place finishes.

Jimmy Conroy (65), got the Tigers rolling with a fall over Tony Dispenziere of Middlesex in just 23 seconds in the semi-finals. In the finals, Conroy won by a technical fall 16-0 over Dom Natoli of Middlesex.

Next up was Peter DeAndrea, (102), who won his quarter-final round 7-5 over Matt Campanella of Middlesex and pinned Joe Corea of Westfield in just 23 seconds in the semifinals. In the finals, after taking a 4-0 lead, DeAndrea won by a default when Tom Humphreys of North Hunderdon was unable to continue.

Dan DeAndrea (95), was the next Tiger to claim a title. As the

number one seed, DeAndrea won his semifinal round match by a technical fall, 15-0, over James Arwest of Boonton. In the finals DeAndrea won by a 6-1 decision over Evan Tinelli of Milburn for the third Tiger title.

Guy Severini (129), went right to work winning by a fall over Tom Heteji at 2:30 and Lee Tomasso of Westfield at 2:29. In the finals Severini faced Nick Duida of DeVal and won by decision 3-1. Severini was also named as Outstanding Wrestler in the intermediate division.

Joe DeBiase (145), won his semi-final match by a fall over Mike Walker of Scotch Plains at 0:42. In the finals DeBiase faced Matt Voliva of Piscataway and posted a major decision victory 9-0 for the fifth Tiger title.

Ryan Elliott, intermediate hwt., won his first two matches by a

fall over Luis Paymondi at 1:437 and Roger Bryden at 0:27. In the finals, with the lead going back and forth, Elliott was able to get the win in OT by a score of 8-6 over Ryan Burns of Bernards.

Second place honors went to Kevin Crilley, junior (118), who won his first match by fall and

lost a close 4-2 decision to Lloyd Dargon of Bridgewater.

Billy Weaver (85), came home with a second place medal winning his opening match by a fall and losing by a decision in the finals.

Taking third place honors were Billy Ashnault and Kyle Bostick.

A fourth place medal went to Frank Demarest and Sam Martin.

Also winning matches, but not placing, were Bryan Hunt, Matt D'Alessandro, Danny Bayak, Anthony Costante, Anthony Niemczyk, Delvin Colon, Paul Tirchi, Billy Daley and Rob Mastickle.

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

Subscribe

Please send me home delivery of  
the South Plainfield Observer.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Beautiful Selection of Discount Lingerie

Teddies, robes, men's, plus sizes, and more

Shop in the privacy of your own home

Available on-line at [www.lingerieforlove.com](http://www.lingerieforlove.com)

Or call toll free for complete catalog and price list.

1-877-731-5683

Free gift with every order.

We accept Visa, MC  
AMEX, personal checks.

Lingerie parties are also available!!



## Obituaries

### Rose M. Piccolo, 83

Rose M. Piccolo of South Plainfield, died on Friday, Jan. 21, at Cedar Oaks Care Center in South Plainfield.

She was born in Brooklyn, and lived there for 80 years before moving to South Plainfield three years ago.

Miss Piccolo was a seamstress for the Harnel Garment Company in New York City for thirty years before retiring in 1981. She was a member of the International Garment Workers Union and the Association of Rain Apparel in New York.

She was predeceased by her sisters, Frances Vukson and Catherine Stabile, and brothers Vincent, Joseph, Thomas and Anthony Piccolo.

She is survived by a brother, Peter Piccolo of Manalapan, 14 nieces and nephews and 24 great nieces and nephews.

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

### Genevieve (Jean) Kalli Pesaniello, 87

Genevieve (Jean) Kalli Pesaniello of South Plainfield, died on Saturday, Jan. 22, at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

She was born and raised in New Brunswick and moved to South Plainfield 53 years ago.

Mrs. Pesaniello was the manager of the kitchen services of Norman's Bar in Grill in South

Plainfield for 20 years before retiring. Prior to that she worked at the Guilbenkian Carpet Company in New Brunswick for 20 years.

She was a communicant of Our Lady Czestochowa R.C. Church. She served on the South Plainfield Board of Elections for 30 years and was a member of the South Plainfield Republican Organization.

She was predeceased by her husband, Attilio Pesaniello, who died in 1989 and her brothers, George and Theodore Kalli.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Robert A. and Dorothy J. Pesaniello of Washington Twp.; three brothers, Edward L. of New Brunswick, Louis F. of Tampa, Fla. and John E. Kalli of Milltown; two sisters, Evelyn Wager of North Brunswick and Julia McGregor of New Brunswick. She is also survived by two granddaughters, Tricia Vought and Lori Bach and a great grandson, Ryan J. Vought.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2526 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

### Helen N. Niemczyk, 79

Helen M. Niemczyk died on Sunday, Jan. 16, in the Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hospital in Wellsboro, Pa.

Born in Plains, Pa., she had resided in South Plainfield for 10 years, and Bound Brook for 30 years. She also resided in Forked River and Clinton before moving to Mansfield, Pa. 10 years ago.

Mrs. Niemczyk worked for One Hour Martinizing Cleaners in Bound Brook for many years, before retiring in the early 1970's.

She was the past president of St. Mary's School PTA in Bound Brook and a former member of St. Mary's Altar Rosary Society. She was a member of Our Lady of Czestochowa R.C. Church in South Plainfield and a former member of the church's Altar Rosary Society.

Her husband, Leon Niemczyk, died in 1974.

Surviving are a daughter, Kathleen Crisafulli of Freehold; two sons, Kenneth Niemczyk of Woodstock, Vt. and Richard Niemczyk of Mansfield, Pa.; and a sister, Mary Malecki of South Plainfield. Also surviving are six grandchildren, Christopher, Jason, Kenneth, Megan, Katherine and Erin.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Alfred A. Indico, 77

Alfred A. Indico died on Wednesday, Jan. 19, in Greenbrook Manor Nursing Home in Greenbrook.

Born in Plainfield, he had resided there for most of his life before moving to South Plainfield in 1981.

He had been employed as a supervisor of assembly for the Cozzoli Machine Co. of Plainfield for the past 40 years.

Mr. Indico had served in the United States Army during WWII and had been a communicant of Sacred Heart Church, South Plainfield.

His wife, Vivian V. Indico, died in 1991; a brother, Joseph Indico, died in 1994 and a sister, Edith Hawkins, died in 1997.

Surviving are a brother, Anthony Indico of South Plainfield; three sisters, Mary Ruffina of Stirling, Margie Nigro of Berkeley Heights and Julia Golden of South Plainfield. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### William A. Robertson, 78

William A. Robertson, who died on Friday, Dec. 3, in Plainfield had a memorial service in his memory held on Saturday, Jan. 22, at the First Baptist Church of Westfield.

He was the husband of Olga and the father of Nancy Shearn, Judy Klein and Will Robertson; and the grandfather of two granddaughters and two great grandsons.

Local arrangements were by McCriskin Home For Funerals.

By Cyrus N. Moon

## Weekly Horoscope 1/28-2/3

**AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18** This week you're likely to be restless and bored with routine, in a hurry, and feeling more impulsive than usual. Seek out some adventure this week, if you can, or at least do something to break out of the norm. An unexpected meeting with others could be stimulating, be open.

**PISCES 2/19-3/20** Your capacity for thought is flooded with signals from the imagination. This can be wonderful if you're writing poetry or music, or need to come up with creative new ideas and approaches. Write down your wonderful thoughts! Intellect blends effectively with intuition.

**ARIES 3/21-4/19** Is something on your mind? You'll say it—and probably in no uncertain terms! Careful! Presenting your point of view skillfully in a debate is favored. Arguments, in irritated, or defensive mode, could get you in trouble. Intellectual work is favored and you will have the energy to do it.

**TAURUS 4/20-5/20** Romance, partnerships, female relationships, and joint ventures are high on the agenda this week. If a marriage, romance, a business partnership, or a friendship starts on a Saturn trines Venus transit, it has an excellent chance for longevity and fruitful consequences.

**GEMINI 5/21-6/20** Current conditions bring opportunities that involve education by going back to school. You will not have to finish the class to feel the positive outcome, but be sure to finish the class and continue. The research field is also high! Gemini, along with computers, you're unstoppable.

**CANCER 6/21-7/22** This week, exercise care. Emotional clashes and disputes are possible, or suppressed tensions can be the cause of small accidents. If you can be clear about your own feelings, and you are willing to consider the other person, you should be able to clear the air.

**LEO 7/23-8/22** This is a good time to bolster your self-confidence. You will be likely to encounter more than a few obstacles in your path, if you expect to easily gain anything as ego-satisfying success. Some frustrations that test you will be authority figures, and delays. Avoid arrogance or anger and listen to what may be good advice.

**VIRGO 8/23-9/22** Try to slow down a bit this week. You may be impatient, eager to get things done and wanting your way in any proceedings going on.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### Borough of South Plainfield

January 24, 2000

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Planning Board of the Borough of South Plainfield at its meeting held on January 11, 2000.

Case No. 623/V-JSM @New Durham, LLC-Block 528, Lot 43, 1626 New Durham Ave.-Applicant's request for preliminary site plan with variances and waivers, was hereby GRANTED.

Case No. 628-200 Helen Street, LLC-Block 480; Lot 1; M-3 Zone.-Applicant's request for preliminary and final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED with conditions.

NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD—Please take notice that the Borough of South Plainfield Planning Board, South Plainfield, NJ has awarded contracts without competitive bidding as a professional service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1) (a). These contracts and the resolutions authorizing them are available for public inspection in the office of the Board Secretary. A contract was awarded to John A. Jorgensen, Esq. for legal services for 2000, to THP, Inc. for professional planning services for 2000, and to CME Associates for outside

professional engineering services for 2000.

Janice Muccilli

Recording Secretary Planning Board

\$19.25 1T 1/28/2000

### Borough of South Plainfield

January 25, 2000

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Borough of South Plainfield at its meeting held on January 18, 2000.

Case No. 50-99/I-The First Baptist Church of South Plainfield-Block 285; Lot 4; New Market Ave.-Applicant's request for a variance and waiver of site plan, for the expansion of a 9' x 11' expansion to a pre-existing, valid non-conforming cemetery use, is hereby GRANTED.

Case No. 3-95-Comcast Cellular Communications, Inc.-Block 486; Lot 9; 313 Durham Ave.-Applicant's request for preliminary and final site plan is hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

Janice Muccilli

Secretary Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$13.00 1T 1/28/2000

## Who is Cyrus N. Moon?

During the past couple months, many inquiries have been made to the *Observer* regarding the identity of our in-house astrologist Cyrus N. Moon. Although Cyrus chooses to remain anonymous for now, we were still able to sit down and talk to him and gain a little insight into who this person really is and where he comes from.

Cyrus is a local resident in his early 40's who moved to South Plainfield in 1968 after a three year stint in the Marine Corps. He's a *Pisces* on the cusp of *Aquarius* and, like most people, has a moderate interest in astrology. Whether it was beginning the day with a quick peek at the horoscopes in the *Courier News* or just glancing at the back page of the TV guide, he always "had to know".

This deep interest in astrology didn't begin until 1995 on

a monthly trip to Barnes & Noble. With light and sweet in hand, Cyrus began to browse and eventually stumbled upon "transits."

"Transits are like fingerprints at birth—no two people share the same one," says Cyrus.

"This truly amazed me, and from then on I've tried to master this art and communicate it to others, via as many avenues as possible."

One of those avenues has been the *Observer* and Cyrus plans to continue sharing his knowledge with his readers each issue. As far as the continued use of his pen name, Cyrus would like to stay somewhat anonymous for now, but that will change in the near future. If you would like to chat with Cyrus, or perhaps obtain a personal transit reading, you can visit him at [CyrusNmoon@aol](mailto:CyrusNmoon@aol).



Because  
We  
Care



by Robert Hunter

### SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT

It is well known that people who have some sort of religious connection are happier than those who do not worship as a group. According to a poll recently conducted by the National Opinion Research Center in Chicago, 45 percent of those who attended religious services several times a week described themselves as being "very happy." On the other hand, only 25 percent who attended less than once a month considered themselves to be happy. Believing and praying together in a supportive atmosphere helps to foster a timeless perspective on life. As James Baldwin noted, "I am certainly convinced that it is one of the greatest impulses of mankind to arrive at something higher than a natural state."

Jehovah, Yahweh, Buddha, Allah, a higher power, or nature; there are innumerable points of focus for our spiritual needs, and we, at the JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME, are committed to serving members of all faiths and beliefs with courtesy and respect. We offer a wide range of affordable end-of-life services, including cremation services, and will assist you in creating a memorial ceremony which accords with your wishes, down to the last detail. To schedule a consultation at our facilities, located at 2456 Plainfield Avenue in South Plainfield, please call 756-2800.

"If I had two loaves of bread, I would sell one and buy hyacinths, for they feed my soul."

— The Qur'an



(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.



# 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

Retail

## Get ready New Jersey for **KOHL'S** DEPARTMENT STORE!

Kohl's is one of America's fastest-growing department store chains, specializing in name brand merchandise at value prices. Right now, we have a number of openings for full-time supervisors, as well as a variety of part-time positions at our store located in S. Plainfield, including:

- Department Supervisors
- Register Operators
- Department Sales Associates
- Receiving Associates
- Customer Service Representatives
- Loss Prevention Experts
- Housekeeping/Maintenance
- Overnight Stock Team (additional shift premium!)

In addition to flexible hours, we offer a friendly work environment, immediate store discounts, an employee stock ownership plan and more.

Apply now.  
Call 1-800-NEW-KOHL'S  
( 1 - 8 0 0 - 6 3 9 - 5 6 4 5 )

Ext. XBV-LWP - S. Plainfield

Must be 18 years or older to apply.  
www.kohls.com

**KOHL'S**

*That's more like it.*

EOE - A Drug Screening Company

## HELP WANTED

The Observer is seeking ADVERTISING SALESPERSONS. Set your own hours. Exp. preferred, but not necessary. Call 668-0010.

## WEIGHT LOSS

**Lose Weight Fast For The New Millennium!!!**  
100% Natural, Guaranteed,  
Dr. Recommended. Call or shop  
hassle free on line! 888-450-8896  
www.get-healthy-fast.com

## AUTO

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



**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.  
\$62,900. Residential neighborhood. Corner lot. Call Susan at Prudential Golden Key Realty, ext. 30. 732-560-0665.

## TIRES FOR SALE

Winter Radial Snow Tires, P205/70/14 on Rims. \$75. 732-545-3132.

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

## WOMEN'S CAREER DAY

Are you tired of the dead-end J-O-B? Attracted to the flexibility and freedom of being your own boss?

Attend the Women's Career Day and find out how you can begin a business without high start-up fees and without quitting your full-time job!

Feb 7, 2000  
8:00 p.m.  
77 Central Ave. Suite 200  
Clark, NJ 07066

We offer full-time and part-time opportunities for women who want to build a business they can own.

To reserve a seat, contact

Kimberly Sivori  
77 Central Ave, Suite 200  
Clark, NJ 07066

Or call  
732-843-7326

**PRIMERICA**  
A member of Citicorp

## PHOTOGRAPHY

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

To place a  
classified  
ad,  
call  
668-0010.

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

## BAGELS

**The Bagel Stop** "the best bagel in town"  
908-561-5808  
23 South Plainfield Ave.  
South Plainfield  
Monday-Friday 5am-1pm  
Saturday/Sunday 6am-12pm

## ROOFERS

**J.T. PENYAK  
ROOFING CO.**  
COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL  
RESIDENTIAL  
908-753-4222  
FAX 908-753-4763  
124 CAMDEN AVE.  
SO. PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080

## PLUMBING, HEAT & COOL

**Holly Park**  
PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING  
Sales & Service  
BOILERS/FURNACES  
AIR CONDITIONING  
RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL,  
INDUSTRIAL  
908/755-6409  
Serving So. Plainfield N.J. Lic. 7051

## HOME REMODELING

**RONZO REMODELING**  
HOME IMPROVEMENTS • BATHROOMS  
KITCHENS • CERAMIC TILE  
WINDOWS • DOORS • DECKS  
(908) 668-0662  
CUSTOM  
INSTALLATION  
AVAILABLE  
JOE RONZO

## CONTRACTORS

**BUILDER &  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR**  
NJ DCA LIC #019771  
Since 1981  
**Lordina Builders**  
908-753-3850  
ADDITIONS-KITCHENS-  
BATHROOMS-  
Office Renovations  
FREE ESTIMATES

## CHIROPRACTIC

Sick & tired of  
being sick & tired?  
...TRY  
**CHIROPRACTIC!!**  
The drug-free alternative to better health.  
**Dr. Anthony J. DeCosta**  
Family Practice of Chiropractic  
129 South Plainfield Avenue  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
(908) 755-1117  
Serving the area for over 22 years.

## 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**  
Nutrition Consultant  
Sunrider Whole Foods  
**Reverse the ageing  
process naturally.**  
Concentrated Whole Foods,  
Herbal Nutrition  
Call for free consultation  
(732) 549-8688

## VIDEOS

**HOLLY PARK  
VIDEO**  
Movie Sales, Rental & Accessories  
(908) 561-7227  
DVD-2 Day Rental-\$1.99 PLUS TAX  
All New Releases-2 Day Rental-\$1.99 PLUS TAX  
Playstation or  
Nintendo 64 Games \$1.99 + tax  
1615 Park Avenue  
South Plainfield, NJ

## 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"

## SPIRITS

1645 Park Avenue,  
South Plainfield  
791-9463  
**Sal's Spirit Shoppe**  
Cavit (1.5 liter)  
Pinot Grigio ..... \$9.99 Mon.-Sat.  
Estate Cellars 9am-1am  
White Zinfandel Sundays  
(750ml) ..... \$3.49 1am-7pm  
(1.5 liter) ..... \$5.49  
Bring in this ad for 10% on wines

**BUSINESS &  
PROFESSIONAL**  
For info, call  
908-668-0010



# Resident Asks for Help in Saving Historical Landmark

**South Plainfield Residents,**

I'm writing to you and enclosing the accompanying photos to make an appeal to the town regarding the saving of an historic home next to Roosevelt School. Having been raised in South Plainfield, I have seen many of South Plainfield's historic homes fall victim to the developer's bulldozer. Over the last eleven years I have moved in and out of state several times and recently moved back a year-and-a-half ago, only to see other homes facing a similar fate. Since having moved back, I have been greatly saddened to see more homes disappear.

Recently, I noticed a very old house that is vacant. The house I am referring to is the yellow one next to Roosevelt School on Hamilton Blvd. My concern is to avoid the obvious repeating of a scene which is all too familiar - a vacant home, vandals having broken some windows and a good size piece of property on a main road — all pointing to a probable negative future for another historic home, unless there is intervention.

This home, as I recall (having discussed with a friend in the Historical Society years ago), is well over 200 years old. It may even date back before the Revolution. It was at one-time a farm. I have looked up this house on very old maps from the 1870's and 1850's of Piscataway (which South Plainfield was once part of), and have seen this house shown as being the "Boice" residence. These old maps I'm referring to show not only the roads, but also the location of every home and the names of the residents living there at the time.

Mary Mazepa, a life-long resident, informed me that this house was known as the "Smith" farm and that she and her fam-



ily would go there to buy pears. This house is symbolic of what South Plainfield once was — a rural farming community. It is a legacy of South Plainfield's wonderful past. It would be a tragedy to see this historic house go the way of so many others, which once graced our community.

This home would be a great place to house a museum for the Historical Society. Let me explain. Not only is this a very old

home, which makes it of historic value, but it is perfectly located so that: 1) it is very visible from the main roads, which makes it easy to view and easily accessible to visit; 2) it has a parking lot behind it (the school parking lot) for ample parking; 3) it's just a short walk from the school, which would be ideal for the students to visit and experience their local history firsthand; and 4) it is just the right size to house

a museum. I'm a fifth grade American History teacher, believe me, I know that this would be a great thing!

Eleven years ago, I was once an active member with the Historical Society. Back then, we tried to save a house that was over 150 years old. Sadly, we couldn't get the support we needed and that too went the way of the bulldozer. Today, I see a great opportunity for South

Plainfield to do something to save one of its few remaining historic homes.

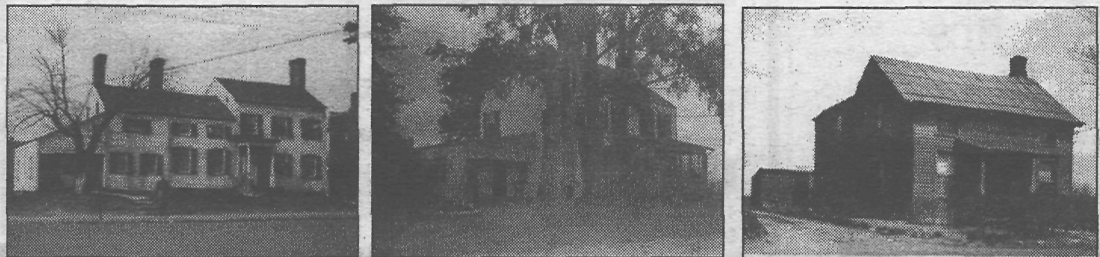
I have several suggestions to save the house. The town could annex the property to the school grounds and turn it into a museum., or maybe there is a chance of getting a state or federal grant to help purchase and restore the house and property (this is something I'm looking into), or a local company, or companies, could help the town and Historical Society turn it into a museum.

Maybe readers can offer suggestions as to how to go about to rescue this home. Whatever is done, I believe it will have to be done quickly. If you have any suggestions or want to help contact the *Observer* at 668-0010 .

Below are some photographs of historic homes that once stood in town, but have since fallen prey to the developers' bulldozers. An insurance agent, Mr. Grimstead, who lived in Metuchen, took the photos taken in the 1930's. Mr. Grimstead went all over Metuchen, Edison, South Plainfield, Woodbridge, Piscataway, and other towns, taking photographs of historic homes back in the 1930's. Thank God that he had the foresight to do so. Had he not done so, we wouldn't even know what many of the historic homes we once had in our town looked like. These photos are only a few representatives of the dozens (and I mean dozens) of historic homes that once stood in South Plainfield.

My hope and prayer is that the *Observer* will run some these photos in their paper, with the accompanying article in order to help stir up some interest and awareness.

**SINCERELY,  
SCOTT CULVER**



These are a few historical houses that once graced South Plainfield. Left is the Lew Ryno house, which stood where the present Senior Citizen's Center is, on the corner of South Plainfield Ave. and Hamilton Blvd. It was torn down around 1963. If it was still standing it would be 200 years old. The house pictured in the middle once stood on the corner of Sampton Ave. and Plainfield Ave., where the QuikChek is today. It was torn down in 1973 and was once a turkey farm and may date back to the Revolutionary War. On the left is a house that stood next to the Drake-Wesley house on Sampton Ave. It was torn down in 1945 due to dry rot. This house was built before the American Revolution.

## February 2000 & Meetings & Events

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

Want to know what's going on in South Plainfield? Get home delivery of The Observer. Subscription form on page 9.