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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 3, NO. 24

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FEBRUARY 18, 2000

Police Officer Killed in Single Car Crash

Police Department, Borough Mourn Tragic Loss of Officer Mark DeLair

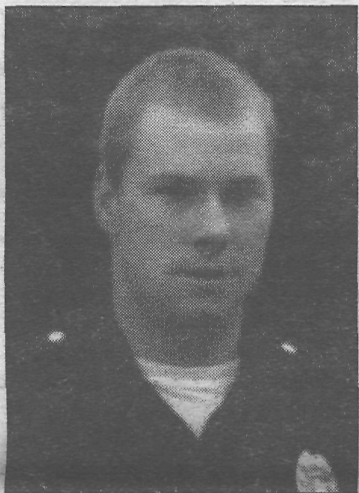
South Plainfield Police Officer Mark DeLair, 29, was killed in a motor vehicle accident early Wednesday morning. The accident occurred at approximately 2:45 a.m. in South Plainfield on Park Ave. near Morril Drive. According to reports, he was killed instantly.

DeLair, who was off duty at the time of the accident, was driving a Jeep Wrangler and traveling south on Park Ave. His automobile sideswiped a New Jersey Transit bus stop sign, hit a pedestrian crossing sign, and came to rest after striking a tree.

Both the South Plainfield Rescue Squad and Mercy 6 responded to the scene and transported DeLair to Muhlenberg Regional Medical Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 3:27 a.m.

Police reported that no alcohol appeared to be involved. DeLair was not wearing a seat belt. An autopsy was being performed but no results were released at presstime. A police investigation is still ongoing. Police are asking anyone who may have witnessed the accident or have any information to call them at 226-7678.

DeLair has been an officer since September, 1997. He graduated with the 197th Basic Police Class



Police Officer Mark DeLair

at the N.J. State Police Academy. Prior to serving as a police officer, he had served as a South Plainfield 911 communications officer for five years.

DeLair had been commended last year for his off duty action of saving the life of a choking victim at the Italian-American Club by using the Heimlich maneuver.

Flags are at half-mast at Borough Hall and the shields worn by police officers are covered in black. Employees at borough hall and the police department were all in shock after hearing of the death of DeLair.

Mayor Dan Gallagher related how Chief Steve Merkler called both himself and Councilman Dennis Cerami with the tragic news at 5 a.m. on Tuesday morning. Gallagher said, "It is a very sad day and is a terrible loss." Dan said he visited with Mark's family to offer his condolences.

Councilman Dennis Cerami, Chairperson of Public Safety, said, "I was in shock when I heard the news. Mark's dream was to become a cop. He worked hard at the academy. Mark was a very personable, likable guy. He was a community oriented officer who was an asset to our community. This is a big loss for South Plainfield."

The tree at the scene of the accident has become a shrine, covered with flowers and notes. One note reads, "Each life is a miracle that changes the world... and leaves it a better place than it was before."

DeLair is a life-long resident of South Plainfield, and a graduate of South Plainfield High School. He is survived by his parents, Robert and Linda of South Plainfield and three brothers, David and Andrew of South Plainfield, and John of Piscataway.



Flowers, poems, notes and balloons adorn the tree where South Plainfield Police Officer Mark DeLair suffered a fatal auto accident early Tuesday morning.

Funeral services are scheduled for Friday morning at 9 a.m. at McCriskin's Home For Funerals and a mass at Sacred Heart Church at 10 a.m. He will be buried in Rosedale Cemetery in Linden.

The family is asking that me-

morial donations in his memory be made to the South Plainfield PBA Local #100, c/o South Plainfield Police Department, 2480 Plainfield Ave, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

See page 12 for DeLair's complete obituary.

Board of Education Meeting Cut Short After Teachers Cause Disruption

The regular meeting of the Board of Education ended abruptly on Tuesday when SPEA teachers union members refused to sit down and be quiet during the public session. The teachers, all wearing SPEA shirts, marched into the meeting hall chanting "Settle Now" to a drum beat provided by a fellow teacher.

During the public session, Louise Mruz, president of the SPEA, read a statement about the stalled contract negotiations. All the teachers stood during her statement. At the end of the her statement, Mruz walked out of the room and the rest of the teachers lined up to speak as they too prepared to walk out of the meeting. Board President Doris Haley tried to get the teachers to sit down and allow the meeting to proceed, but they wouldn't listen. A few minutes of chaos ensued, along with some shout-

ing. The board then voted to adjourn the meeting.

Members of the audience attending the meeting to discuss school issues, including the bond referendum, were very upset. They felt they were being punished because of the teachers'

behavior. Many were angry at the teachers, saying that if their children had acted like that, they would have been punished.

The atmosphere between the teachers and the board has been deteriorating lately, with accusa-

Continued on page 12

Snow Must be Removed from Sidewalks--It's the Law!

Residents are reminded, for safety reasons, to clear their sidewalks of snow. At last week's council meeting, Code Enforcement Officer Mike Zushma said he has been going non-stop, issuing summons to residents and businesses who have not cleared their walks. He said either he or the police department can issue a summons and will be doing so if walks are not cleared.

Residents have complained that

after shoveling plows come down the street and push the snow back on to their property. Mayor Gallagher said he, too, has had to deal with this problem, but the walks must be cleared.

If anyone who is unable to shovel snow because of health or age, they can call the Recreation Department. There are local youth who are willing to shovel snow as part of community service projects at their churches or schools.



Serenades for Sweethearts

Preschool children and teachers at the administration building are treated to Valentine's songs by *In Concert*, a barbershop quartet. The quartet, consisting of Bill Samson, Clayton Echan, Bill Ross and Andy Harris, performed at more than 16 area businesses last Monday. The lucky recipients of the Valentine's Day surprise were treated to a love song and presented with candy and a flower. In all, the quartet raised \$870 dollars for the United Way of South Plainfield. The quartet performs professionally around the area and donated their time for the benefit of the United Way.

In My Opinion

Letter

To the Editor,

I am a parent of a student at South Plainfield Middle School and I just wanted to say how disappointed I was in the school's lack of acknowledgment of the children who participated in the "Annual Battle of the Classes."

All the children involved (who I might add did a wonderful job and showed excellent sportsmanship) walked away with nothing to show for it except a program of the events.

Last year the children received ribbons of achievement, which meant a lot! What was the reason for them not getting one this year?

DEBBIE FERRER

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

Letters may be submitted by email at our website at spobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. 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.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETINGS

Board of Ed Special Business Meeting

The Board of Education will hold a Special Business Meeting on Thursday, March 2, at 8 p.m. to adopt a tentative budget. Formal action will be taken.

On March 29 at 8 p.m. a formal public hearing on the 2000/2001 budget will take place. The board will adopt a final budget.

Student/Staff Commendations

The Special Public Meeting for Student/Staff Commendations, originally scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 15 has been changed to Tuesday, March 14 at 7 p.m. in the Board Conference Room.

Borough Council Special Meeting

A public meeting has been called by the Affordable Housing Agency of the Borough of South Plainfield to discuss affordable housing. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 1, 2000 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave.



Seniors Treated to Valentine's Luncheon

Local seniors were treated to a Valentine's Day lunch last Thursday at the PAL building.

The lunch was catered by Flanagan's Restaurant on Plainfield Ave. High school students from the Future Leaders Club helped decorate the tables, serve the lunch and then spent the afternoon line dancing with the seniors.

Councilman Ray Petronko attended and promised the seniors they will soon be getting a senior center. The seniors all seemed to have a great time. Even those who didn't get up and dance enjoyed watching the line dancing.

High school volunteers who helped serve lunch were Norma Guevara, Jessica Arndt, Nicole

Luthman, Kathy Skoba, LeeAnn Gronski, Stephanie Prybella, Nicole Adorna, Alison Barrett, Carol Serago, Sally Serago, Pam Eng, Eric Jackson, Jennie Rayho, Marilyn Millard, Joanne Michalski, Angeliq Ganiaras and Adrienne Nagy. Student advisors are Loretta Tansey and Janet Flanagan-Wartz.



Mark Your Calendars -- Feb., March

BOROUGH MEETING DATES

Council Meetings

AGENDA MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 22 Thursday, February 24
Monday, March 6 Thursday, March 9
Monday, March 20 Thursday, March 23

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Planning Board

Second and fourth Tuesday of the month, as follows:
February 22 (No Meeting), March 14, March 28,

Zoning Board of Adjustment

First, third and fourth Tuesday of the month, as follows:
February 29, March 7, March 21

Site Place Sub-Committee

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:
February 24, March 23, April 27,

Log on to southplainfieldnj.com for the latest meeting agenda.

South Plainfield Observer

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

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South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or Twice Is Nice, Front St. or fax us at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us on our web page at spobserver.com or ggnan@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

HS Class of '85 Seeking Class Member Info

The South Plainfield High School Class of 1985 is planning a reunion and have received many positive responses from class members. However, they are in need of addresses of the following classmates:

Ian Ali, Girt Allerton, Lori Androwski, Connie Ardowski, Linda Baker, Suzanne Baker, Jay Bendesky, Scott Beyer, Jacqueline Bolton, James Bowser, James Boxwell, Richard Baughman, Keith Bruno, Kimberly Celentano, Linda Chicarelli.

Kenneth Craig, Belinda Craighead, Pamela DeMaio, Leslie DeSouza, Hector Diaz, William Dicindio, Ruth Anne Drexinger, Annette Eliassen, Donna Faison,

Jill Fedorchak, June Fedorchak, David Fetz, Chris Fraser, Jeff Ferraer.

Mary Gaydos, Pamela Glosick, Russell Grata, Daniel Hare, Heidi Herman, Robert Higgins, Rhoda Johnson, Jeff Knemoller, Patti Knowlton, Donald Knutson, Robert Komanitsky, Bonnie Lepelstat, Bryan Lynch, Rita Macellara, Tammy McCulley, Shombai McGlown, Anthony McNeil, David Malina, Joseph Mammano, Tracey Martin, Kimberly Matwijcow, Lisa Meikle Busichio, Paulette Miltner Katz, Richard Nagel, Rose Niesylski, Pyong Pak, Kelly Penypacker, Wes Perrine, Anthony Peters, Neil Pfeffer, Stephanie

Pryor, Patti Puha, Natasha Rampersad, Lisa Redden, Jerry Roemer, Danny Ross, John Ruhnke, Catherine Sarullo, Russell Schroeder, Steven Sidel, Roger Simanski.

Bernard "Jay" Sinkiewicz, Brian Sipko, Daniel Slatterback, Christopher Smith, Timothy Smith, Charlene Sottolare, Patty Steele, Tammy Syers, Jeffrey Temple, Sally Thrasher, James Travers, Julie Willard, Beverly Witmer, James Wentworth, Joseph Young.

Please email Mark Oppel@oppal@millburn.org or Kathy O'Brien@KOB67@hotmail.com or phone Lisa Baunach at 732-836-9235.

Seniors Offered Help With Snow Removal

Any senior citizen who needs help with snow removal should call the PAL Building.

According to Recreation Director Mike English, several churches in the area have students who are willing to help out the seniors. These kids have to do community service in order to receive a sacrament or an award they may be working towards.

This service is free. Call Recreation at 226-7713.

Fr. John invites you
to worship with him at

*Our Lady of
Czestochowa R.C. Church*

807 Hamilton Blvd.,
South Plainfield

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

MILESTONES

Dean's List

Stephanie Stahlin on the Dean's List

The School of Health Sciences at Quinnipiac College in Hamden, Connecticut has placed **Stephanie Ann Stahlin** on the Dean's list for the 1999 Fall Semester. She is a sophomore majoring in Respiratory Therapy.

Birthday

Johanna Skotarczak Celebrates 80th

Congratulations to South Plainfield resident **Johanna Skotarczak**, who is celebrating her 80th birthday on February 17. Her family had this to say:



Johanna Skotarczak

*Born in Berlin, just 80 years ago,
Johanna Mondwurf didn't even
know... That someday she'd meet
Gerhard and be,
the center of our family.
She'll make you laugh,
That's just her way.
A memory made
From an ordinary day.
She's so special to you and me
She's shown we create our destiny.
So congratulations on doubling 40,
You're loved so much.
And that's our story.*

Achievement

Daniel Joseph Lammi Excels in Music

Danny Lammi is an eighth grade honor roll student from South Plainfield Middle School. He also attends the Jersey Drum School in Edison. His social activities include playing the drums, listening to Metallica and he also enjoys art.

Danny's constant dedication has earned him *First Seat* in the South Plainfield Jazz Band, the Seventh and Eighth Grade Band and the Orchestra. His most recent accomplishment is acceptance in the 2000 Central Jersey Region II Band, where he recently auditioned.



Last month 19 brownies from J.F. Kennedy School Troop #14 visited the Limited Too in Menlo Park Mall to earn their fashion badge. The girls had a tour of the store, learned about how the store is run and got to have their own fashion show. Everyone had a great time!

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

As we enter another holiday weekend honoring another great president, here's news from the South Plainfield Library:

The library will be closed on Sunday and Monday in observance of President's Day.

We'll hold our regular Story-time programs 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. They're all for children ages three and over; no registration is required. Miss Linda, our children's librarian, can provide more information.

Don't forget about the Home-schoolers' meeting next Friday morning at 10:30 in our Children's Room. Parents who either home school their kids or are considering it are welcome to attend.

Here's more information about the Black History program set for Sunday, Feb. 27, at 1:30 p.m. The program will focus on the Underground Railroad, both nationally and in New Jersey. The speaker will be Mr. G. Wright, the Director of African-American History with the State Historical Commission. He'll have a slide show and answer questions. Plainfield vocalist Bill Weston will also appear. There no pre-registration needed for this program.

We've added another display. For the rest of the month, the Barile family (who provided last month's well-received local artifact display) has provided a display of railroad memorabilia, including currency and other items. You can see these items in both our display cases.

Here's another word about tax forms. Or, rather, the lack thereof. It seems that we'll put a bunch of tax forms and schedules out on display and within minutes, they're all gone. The problem seems to be that people are taking heaping handfuls of

tax forms of all types. This isn't a good thing to do because, a) it isn't necessary, and b) it deprives others. We can try to order more tax forms, but there's no concrete idea of when they'll arrive. Beyond that, we have a binder of reproducible forms that you can copy for 10 cents a page. Basically, we're asking that you be conscious of the needs of other taxpayers and try to limit your self to taking only what you need.

And here's an advisory about videos—not our videos, someone else's videos. Sometimes, patrons feel that one video drop is as good as another. As a result, they've been dropping off tapes from their local video rental place with us. Please understand that this is a major hassle for all concerned. The video place is deprived of its tapes, you could end up owing them a late return fee and we have to find out just where the tapes have to end up. Also, while we will try to make sure everything gets where it's supposed to go, we are under no obligation to return your tapes for you. So, please make sure whose videos go where.

Speaking of going, it's time we were going. Thanks for reading; we'll be back next week.

Calling All Republican Candidates

The South Plainfield Republican organization is currently seeking candidates for the upcoming primary election in June. The candidates will represent the party in November's general election.

Anyone interested should call Municipal Chairwoman Linda Dashuta at 756-6519. Screening for candidates will be held in March.

Children's Poet to Appear at Suburban Woman's Mtg.

The Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield will host their annual joint meeting with the Junior Woman's Club of South Plainfield on March 2 at 8 p.m. at the American Legion Hall located on Oak Tree Ave.

Guest speakers will be children's poet Diane Stelling, who has been entertaining, educating and motivating students in grades K-8 for many years with her classroom poetry readings. She is the author of two self-published anthologies, *The Giant and the Mouse* and *One Little Voice*. Ms. Stelling's classroom visits have been chronicled in the *Star Ledger*, *The Record* (Bergen & Passaic editions), *Suburban Trend*, etc. In April, 1999, she was featured on a *News 12 N.J.* cable television segment for her work with students in the state. Ms. Stelling has been guest lecturer at graduate courses for teachers at William Patterson and Rutgers Universities.

She was a software engineer at I.B.M. for ten years and a technical consultant for three years.

Ms. Stelling is a long-time advocate for better education,



Children's Poet Diane Stelling

serving in various positions. She was president of Apsawa Elementary School P.T.A. and president of the Coalition of P.T.A. Presidents.

From the South Plainfield Board of Education

SOUTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION VS. COPING MEASURES

The following chart lists the benefits that will accrue in accommodating explosive enrollment growth as a result of an approved school construction referendum. It also lists the various coping measures and liabilities our district will face in the event the March 14 referendum is not approved.

APPROVED REFERENDUM	DEFEATED REFERENDUM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM FACILITIES New Roosevelt School Renovated Grant School Ten Classroom Grant Addition • SIX ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS instead of Four Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENROLLMENT CAPS & EQUITABLE TRANSFER of new students to all district elementary schools • SUSPENDED SELECTIVE OPEN ENROLLMENT district-wide • LOST ENRICHMENT & TECHNOLOGY programs to create academic classroom space. • OVERCROWDED ENROLLMENT beyond caps in all schools (30+ students/class) • SPLIT SESSIONS in any or all elementary schools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-6 REORGANIZATION for all six elementary schools, providing Middle School enrollment relief 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OVERCROWDED CLASSES at Middle School • RENOVATION of only SEVEN GRANT CLASSROOMS (from annual budget) for student use • TRANSFER OF SOME 6TH GRADERS from Middle School to converted Grant classrooms • SPLIT SESSIONS for some or all Middle grades
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELECTRICAL UPGRADES in all schools • INSTALLATION of TECHNOLOGY INFRA-STRUCTURE in all schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INADEQUATE ELECTRICAL WIRING incapable of handling current, much less projected needs, in all schools • STALLED TECHNOLOGY CURRICULUM • TECHNOLOGY INSTRUCTION LAG, depriving students of competitive edge in education and future workplace ability • NON-COMPLIANCE with SDOE TECHNOLOGY GUIDE LINES ISOLATION, resulting from INABILITY TO NETWORK TECHNOLOGY with and among schools and agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BOILER REPLACEMENT at the MIDDLE SCHOOL, including asbestos abatement and disposition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIDELY FLUCTUATING Heat at the MIDDLE SCHOOL • Classes that are TOO HOT OR TOO COLD for learning • EXPENSIVE RECURRING REPAIR COSTS to maintain undependable Middle School heating plant • INCREASED COSTS to replace boilers one-at-a-time over several years, subject to annual budget approval • CONSTANT MONITORING and REPAIRS to ensure heat delivery and maintain SAFETY CONDITIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, permitting Grant School to come on-line for student use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EXPENSIVE RENTAL & DUPLICATED RELOCATION COSTS to be funded from regular annual budget • INCREASED TAXES in annual budget(s) to renovate 7 Grant classrooms and fund administrative rent and relocation • SHIFT of annual budget funds FROM DIRECT STUDENT SERVICE to pay for rent and relocation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REPLACEMENT OF THE JOST FIELD TRACK with a new track 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EXPENSIVE RECURRING PATCHWORK REPAIRS to permit minimal use of track • A CURTAILED TRACK athletic program • CONDEMNATION & ABANDONMENT of Jost Track

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AROUND TOWN

EVENTS

VFW Chicken Dinner

The VFW Post 6763 on Front St. will hold a Chicken Dinner on Friday, Feb. 18 from 5 to 8 p.m. Donation is \$6.

We look forward to seeing you all!

Girl Scouts Hold Blood Drive

South Plainfield Girl Scouts Troop 318 will sponsor a blood drive at Sacred Heart School Cafeteria on Saturday, Feb. 26, between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Donors must be between 17 and 75 years old, weigh at least 110 lbs., be in good health, and have not donated blood in the last 56 days.

For more information, call (908) 757-5785 or (908) 756-1791.

Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support (CHATS) Meeting

Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support (CHATS) will meet from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 28 at the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave., North Plainfield.

Dr. Paula Kaplan-Reiss, licensed psychologist specializing in the areas of adoption and infertility and serving as support services coordinator of RESOLVE, will speak on "The Legacy of Infertility." Dr. Kaplan-Reiss has a 9-year-old adopted son, as well as two other sons to whom she gave birth. Open sharing of adoption-related stories and light refreshments. Call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 or <http://community.nj.com/cc/chats> for information.

Riley Plans 'Smart Discipline' Seminar

Parents are invited to attend a seminar entitled "Smart Discipline" presented by Molly McCloskey, Miss Molly of Romper Room.

"Smart Discipline" is a fun-filled seminar packed with great ideas about discipline and self-esteem and a positive system which gets kids self-motivated to follow the rules.

The seminar will be held at Riley School on Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information or to register, call Janice at (908) 754-7524.

Rescue Squad Auxiliary Plans Evening at Races

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad will hold an "Evening at the Races" on Saturday, Feb. 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the Arbor Firehouse in Piscataway.

The event is a fundraiser for the rescue squad. For info, call 732-393-1887 or 908-757-7399.

Juniorettes Sponsoring Prom Fashion Show

The South Plainfield Juniorettes invite you to enjoy an entertaining evening while supporting Project Graduation. The Juniorettes, a community service organization, will sponsor a prom fashion show, *Now and Forever* on Friday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the South Plainfield High School.

All proceeds will benefit Project Graduation. Formal wear fashions from Bezee's and Duccoffs Formal Wear will be featured at in the show. The opening act is Newworld. Music will be provided by DJ Breeze & DJ Cream. Advanced tickets may

be purchased at the high school by calling Mrs. Gottlieb (high school vice principal) at 754-4620. Tickets are \$5 for students and senior citizens and \$7 for adults. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

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; bus and adult learn to ski is \$47.

AARP Chapter 4144 Meeting

AARP Chapter 4144 will meet on Feb. 18 at the PAL Building on Maple Ave. at 12:30 p.m. Bob Desch, CHT, a certified hypnotherapist, will be the speaker at the February meeting. He has taught hypnotherapy classes at over 35 adult schools and companies in the New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania area. His talk will cover the many ways hypnotherapy benefits the mind, as well as the physical problems of aging.

A trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse is planned on March 30 to see the play *Blythe Spirit*. Ticket includes lunch, show and transportation. For more information call Lee at (732) 968-6613 or Mary at (732) 968-3764.

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.



Dave Street entertains while he teaches Franklin School children about weather.

Franklin School Kids Gear Up for All Kinds of Weather

By Patricia Abbott

Students at Franklin School recently experienced changing weather *inside* the school. They experienced high and low pressure areas and tornado funnels. They even saw the eye of a hurricane from the viewpoint of a space satellite. *The Weather Show* was brought to them by South Plainfield entertainer Dave Street. Dave, a graduate of Franklin School, holds a special place for the school in his memories.

The weather show is the newest of his traveling educational shows which he began performing locally ten years ago. Dave explained where the show took root. Two and a half years ago he had attended an environmental conference in Pennsylvania where he met several parents from the PTA of Uclide Hills School.

A few weeks after the conference he received a call from them saying they needed a show about weather. They said, "If anyone can write one for us, you can!"

Street immediately set to work and created the show. A former teacher from the Plainfield School District, Dave offered this new show to Plainfield grade schools at a reduced rate to gain exposure. Like his environmental show, *Habits That Save the Habitat*, the show became a hit. Dave also performs a show on anger management.

Street's research for the weather show has made him a real weather buff. He believes that the young generation of grade school children are the answer. He believes if they learn the real science of weather now, in future years they will find ways to almost control the weather of the planet much the same way we control the weather in our homes. He believes that the kids of today can grow up

to learn how to stop a hurricane and gather electrical power from a storm. "I am trying to give them enough science that they can go forward and develop their own ideas." Dave noted that most scientists may not agree with his theory that our future science and weather experts may eventually harness the weather.

The show begins with the fundamentals of why the weather is the way it is. His opening deals with something they are very familiar with—air. Their hands go up and down and shake as they represent how air moves. From here, he expands on various concepts, how clouds form and how they turn into storms. They discuss tornadoes, hurricanes and more. The show held the children's attention with Dave's array of media, theatrics and humor, all geared to the weather.

The audience was broken down into two shows, grades 3-5 and K-2. The children viewed slides of clouds ready to produce rain, dangerous tornado funnels and aerial views of storms. When asked what the various photos might be, the responses were incredibly creative, such as one youngster's enthusiastic reply, "It's Jupiter!"

Simple cardboard boxes held by three students became atoms; white trash bags filled with paper became storm clouds that ran circles around Dave Street.

Dave Street has made an art out of inspiring young minds to think about the weather, the environment and the future. Younger students repeated with him, "Cumulus nimbus!" as he spoke about clouds.

Will these children be among the first to harness weather? Dave's simple theory boasts his belief in the young minds that will help guide our future. Dave said, "I believe that human genius can do anything!"

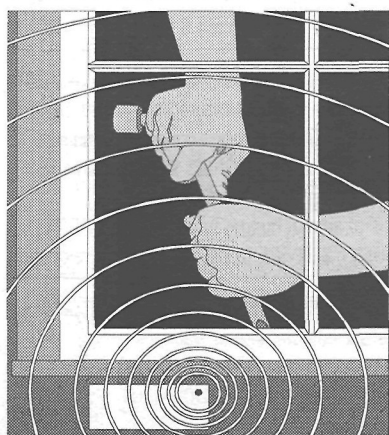
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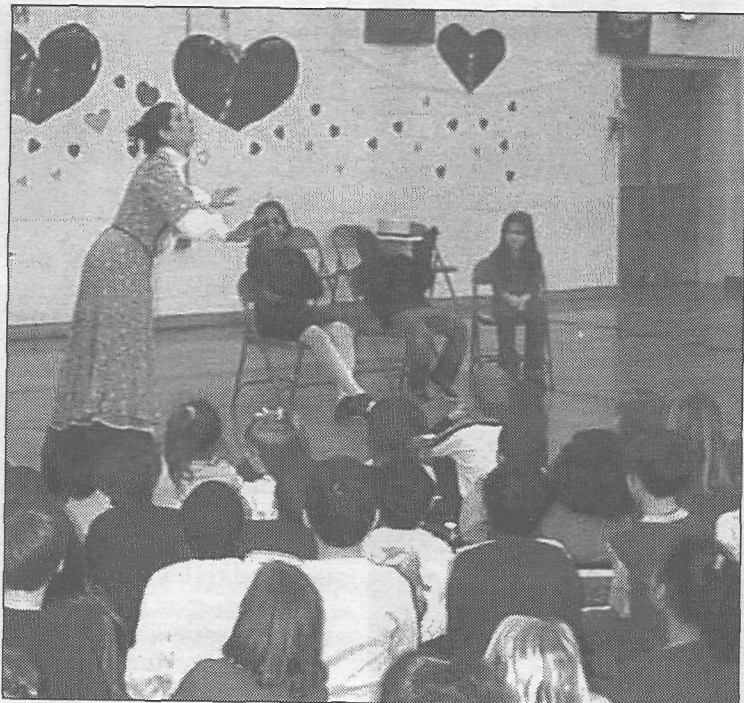
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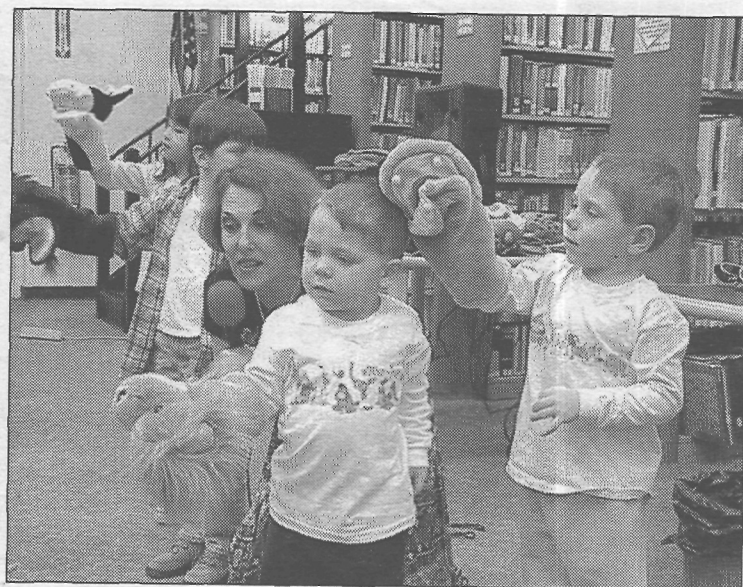


Kids Join in at Library Puppet Show

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield Library recently played host to a unique 'puppet' show, *The Musical Faces of Magical Places*. Educator/Entertainer Dayle Freidman arrived to a room full of children anxiously awaiting the performance. As she set up the puppets, children watched in awe. More than a dozen marionettes were laid across a table. Large hand puppets filled several chairs and the floor beneath. A huge bin of hand puppets was placed nearby, the children wondered how she could possibly use so many puppets. The answer was simple. Each child would get the chance to work one of the puppets and be a part of the show. After choosing four youngsters, Dayle broke into a familiar song. Soon all the children were singing Disney songs and other youth favorites. They shook hands with a monkey puppet and tried their hands at marionettes and the many other puppets. The parents had as much fun as the kids as they joined in the songs and enthusiastically waved to their young puppeteers. True to her word, each child was brought up at least once to sing and work a puppet.

Dayle Freidman is an Educator/Entertainer who has been presenting special musical programs since 1974. She has



worked extensively in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, as well as cities nationwide. Internationally she has performed in Jerusalem. Dayle said, "Music is a universal language. I use my music to reach out and touch audiences from preschoolers to seniors, from the physically challenged to musical 'gourmets,'

and those in pursuit of entertainment or just plain enjoyment—music is a gift. It helps to express our hopes, dreams, aspirations, joys and sorrows. It can teach us and it can delight us, by invoking the best spiritual medicine of: Faith and Laughter—I'm the Johnny Appleseed of song."



Pasquale Opens the Eyes Of Franklin School Students

Last week the students of Franklin school were treated to a visit by Anne Pasquale and Collin Tabor from the Young Audience of N.Y. Group.

Anne Pasquale visited the school portraying Ann Sullivan, Helen Keller's teacher. Helen Keller was both deaf and blind. Through Sullivan's dedication, she overcame her overwhelming disability and not only learned to read and write but to become a spokesperson for the disabled.

Pasquale told the students about Sullivan's life; how she too was born blind. Sullivan and her younger brother were sent to a poor house when their mother died. During those years her brother was her eyes, helping her go from place to place. When her brother died, she had to learn to find her own way and was fortunate to be sent to a special school, learning both braille and signing. Through several operations she was also able to get her sight back.

She demonstrated how a blind person uses their other senses,

such feel, smell and touch to compensate for their disabilities.

Ann Sullivan was hired to teach Helen Keller when she was a young girl. Keller could not communicate in any way with another person and was allowed to do anything she wanted because of her disability. Sullivan taught Keller through discipline and by using hand signing.

The Franklin Cultural Arts program and the Franklin School P.T.A. sponsored the program.



Union Veterans of the Civil War Plan GAR Winfield Scott Memorial Restoration

Custer Camp No. 17, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is part of the oldest fraternal organization approved by an act of Congress. The organization was founded in 1881 as the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Most members are direct

descendants of Civil War Veterans, but associate membership is also available for enthusiasts without a direct Civil War ancestor.

The purpose and objectives of the organization are to perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and the men whose sacrifices during 1861 to 1865 preserved the Union. It is not a Re-enactment Group or Roundtable. The organization is involved in the preservation of cannons and Civil War Monuments and Memorial Sites around the state and in the location and preservation of the records of the various GAR Posts that existed in the state.

The camp is presently engaged

in the restoration of the GAR Winfield Scott Post No. 73 Memorial and is appealing for donations for this local project. Tax deductible contributions may be sent to the Custer Camp No. 17 Memorial Fund, 98 New Monmouth Road, Middletown, NJ 07748.

The organization meets about seven times annually in Westfield and Middletown. New members are always welcome. For additional information about the organization, visit our website at www.SUVCW.org and for further membership information contact Clark McCullough, Camp Commander at (732)671-1108 or e-mail CLARKCW@aol.com.

GEPA Preparation Program

On March 6, 7, 8 and 9, eighth grade students in the middle school will be taking the state mandated test, Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment. The test will consist of three sections, science, mathematics and language arts literacy.

The New Jersey Department of Education has published *A Parent's Guide to the New Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment*. This document is intended to serve as a guide to parents to explain the purpose of the GEPA, interpret the results of the assessment and offer suggestions on how to help your child achieve academic success.

On Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 2:30 p.m. eighth-grade counselor Mr. Robert Hoesly will distribute this guide and provide an orientation to its contents.

Additionally, Assistant Principal Bill Beegle will present a similar program at 7 p.m. Both programs will be held in the middle school's George Fallis Information Center. Parents of eighth grade students are welcome to attend.

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DINNER 4:30-9:30 PM			
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Mon-Thurs. Friday	Saturday	Sun. All Day	

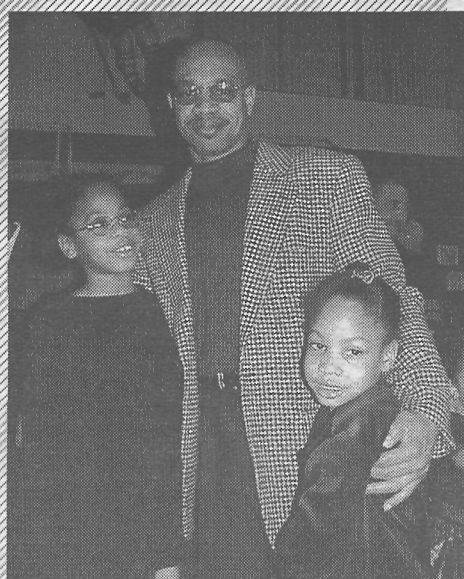
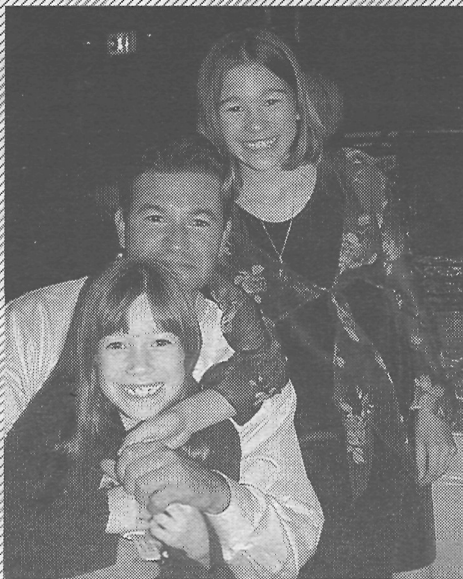
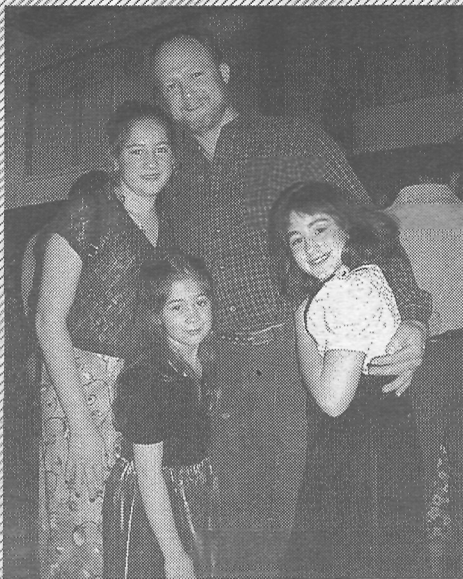
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Each dad brought a "date" beyond adorable!

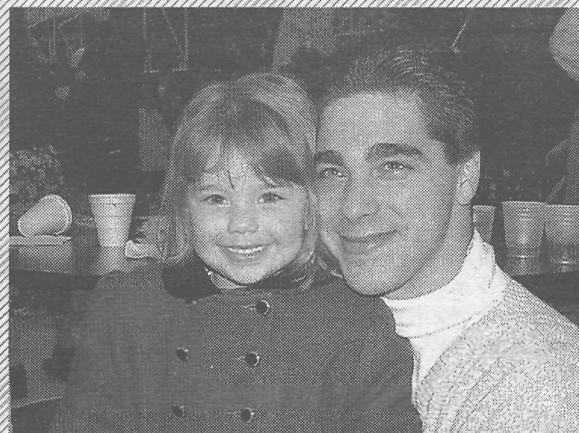
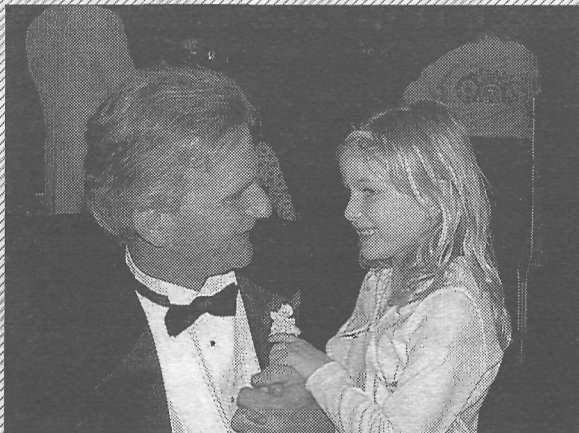
Many envious moms sent their young ladies off on their "first dates" at Riley and Kennedy schools' Father/Daughter Valentine's Day dances last Friday night. The young ladies, attired in their finest including stockings, makeup, fancy dresses and high heels, posed for polaroids with their dads. Some wore wrist corsages, others carried flowers.

The dads spent much of their time on the sidelines, watching their giggling daughters, kindergarten to fifth grade, do the 'girl thing'. The young ladies in their finest dresses and hair styles gathered with friends to giggle, gossip, gasp, munch, mingle and dance-heavy on the dance! Who knew that the late 90's generation would swoon to songs from "Grease" or that these little girls, many of whom probably still tune into *Sesame Street*, have perfected the Electric Slide.

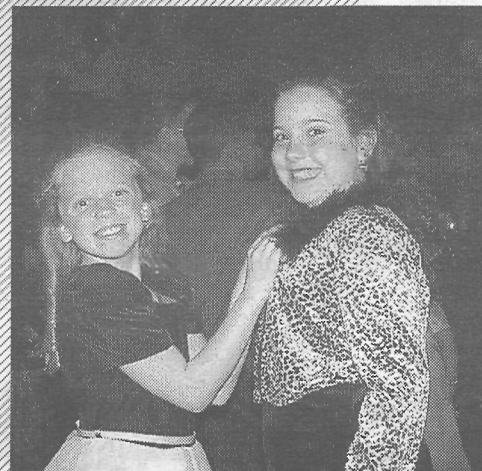
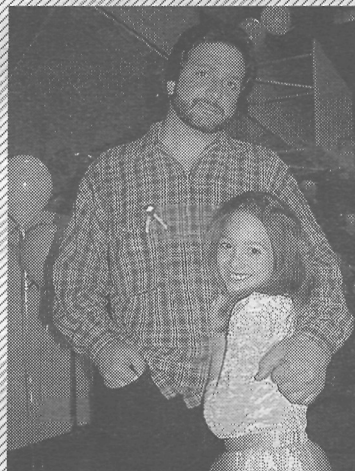
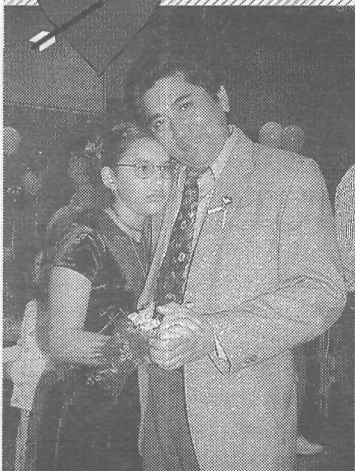
Both schools were decorated with red hearts and balloons. Refreshments, including punch with sherbert and a variety of snacks, were available for the hungry dancers.

The *Observer* watched as more than one grade school angel tried to talk dad into a dance contest. How many melted under those pleading eyes? At least two brave dads at Kennedy School were seen doing the electric slide. The slow dances were the favorites with the doting daddies. More than one dad had his hands full with two or three daughters all gathered to dance with 'daddy'. The evening ended with a lot of happy young ladies heading home with their best guy-daddy.

As a writer there are many wonderful events in South Plainfield schools that provide a smile, a laugh and insight into young minds. But there are few events that bring such joy as the father/daughter dances at Riley and Kennedy schools. Watching the dads was as much fun as watching the young ladies.



Daughters and "Dates" Dance the Night Away at Valentine's Day Celebrations



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Cub Scout Pack 207, Den 3 collected baskets for Manville flood victims. Left to right are Andrew Staynings, Gilbert McKimm, Daren Campbell, Vinnie Albenese, Chris Fulton, Anthony Albuno and Peter Salib. The den leader is David Albunio.

INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

By Briggs Longbothum

Greetings again, but this time from far away. Your trusty computer correspondent for the last three and a half years has relocated himself out of NJ to Ft. Wayne, Indiana. For the record, a former South Plainfielder, close friend and fellow Elk has successfully recruited me to join his growing firm in Hoosierland. (Somebody help me here, what's a "hoosier" anyway?) He came to me and directly asked for my help...I couldn't refuse. So here I am writing to you from there. I promised the OBSERVER to do my best to keep up with this column, so it will become one of my links back to South Plainfield. (Joanne, you still owe me a cuppacawfee so "I'll be back!")

I've mentioned computer security several times, and it sure has been in the news lately. A well remembered computer hacker was recently released from prison with all kinds of restrictions on his rehab behavior. Things like staying away from computers and networks, etc. I don't know if they'll even let him use a touch-tone phone any more. The very recent "denial of service" attacks on numerous websites has also been in the news, and our government is scrambling to nail somebody with just about anything to demonstrate that they have at least the vaguest grip on "cyber terrorists" and hackers. The US Attorney General's Office and the FBI are in maximum scramble mode to produce a perpetrator fast, and this is making for tense times in Cyberland. Folks, this is real fear motivation at work here, and I'm waving the warning flag for encroachments and restrictions aimed at our Bill of Rights. The Fed wants everyone to believe that the Internet is safe and secure for everyone, but in their zeal mistakes will be made and the fallout is going to hurt. Watch out for our First Amendment, the erosive waves of governmental control are lapping at our Country's founding principals!

It is interesting to pay attention to what and who these "hackers" are, and that they are not all bad and ill minded. The term "hacker" is ambiguous, but suffice to say that professional hackers are everywhere, though they are usually known by more euphemistic labels such as "security analyst" or even "network administrator." Part of their job to ensure security by attempting access "by other means," thus finding and closing the holes. The bad guys are the ones who gain or attempt access and do harm, or exploit the "booty" purloined from others.

But what about those in the middle? The amateurs who gain access yet do no harm or gain no advantage. The ones who just show up and (sometimes) leave proof of their visit? They serve an end too, even though it is indirect. They are the white hats in the often murky world of hackers. Though they act without portfolio, they're at it just the same. At worst, they only embarrass (read: annoy) network administrators by their intrusions, but they do no real harm. By their illumination of security loopholes, they catalyze improvements to security systems and motivate its evolution. That's a good thing. Call them devil's advocates, call them hackers, but they do benefit us in the long run. When harm is done or data is misappropriated, a crime exists, but just entry without motive for wrongdoing isn't necessarily criminal in my book. This is making for some real touchy legal interpretation and argument. How do you feel about this? What is your attitude or feeling toward such uninvited guests? Are they criminals, and how should such persons be treated if caught? If one morning you opened up your branch of the ShinySecure National Bank and found someone standing there, what would you do? Me, I think I'd hire him as security manager (and pay him well too!).

Keep your ears open for the news of the search for the current hacker(s) and how they are found. I will caution anyone who has a curious thought for this sort of activity: While the Internet provides access to the scripts and tools for doing much harm in cyberspace, unless you are absolute expert in their use, you should leave them well enough alone. Security tensions run very high in Cyberspace, and big hammers are going to fall in example and precedent. A word to the wise.

Stay in touch with me too! My email is the same (Bruggo@home.com). Briggs Longbothum, ed.

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Crime Tips/C.O.P.S.

Recently, we have been experiencing an increase in the theft of cell phones, radio face plates and lap top computers from parked vehicles. Since it is a crime of opportunity, it can be greatly reduced by simply removing the temptation. You can reduce the risk by following these tips when parking your vehicle at work or home.

• **Lock Your Vehicle.** A large number of theft complaints involve items taken from an unsecured vehicle. Even if leaving your vehicle unattended for just a short time to run into a store, make a delivery, even if it is your own house, you can increase the risk of theft.

• **Move Items From Plain View.** Items left in plain view are potential targets for would-be thieves looking for easy pickings. Cell phones or lap tops left on the seat or on center console plugged into a charger are an open invitation for a thief to smash a window and grab the item. It only takes seconds. Briefcases and purses left in plain view are usually perceived to contain something of value that can be sold for quick money. Laptop computers, valued in the

Belongings In Vehicle

The South Plainfield Police Department-Community Oriented Policing Unit has issued this Crime Tip in an effort to reduce thefts from motor vehicles in the Corporate and Hadley Road areas. With businesses working together with the police department crime can be reduced, and we will have increased in safety for everyone involved. Even though our effort is to reduce thefts in one area, this tip applies to all areas of the borough.

Businesses owners should provide a copy of this tip to each of their employees and ask them to report any suspicious activities to the South Plainfield Police Department. For suspicious activity, call (908) 755-0700; for information about services provided by the COPS unit call (908) 226-7716.

thousands of dollars, are left on the seat of the car. Would you leave \$3,000 on the seat and hope that it's not taken? All of these items should be secured in a locked trunk or at least removed from plain view and put under a seat, in a glove box or

under a cover in the back of a hatchback. Another popular temptation to thieves are radio face plates. If your radio has a removable face plate, remove it and secure it out of site.

• Park in Open Well-Lit Area

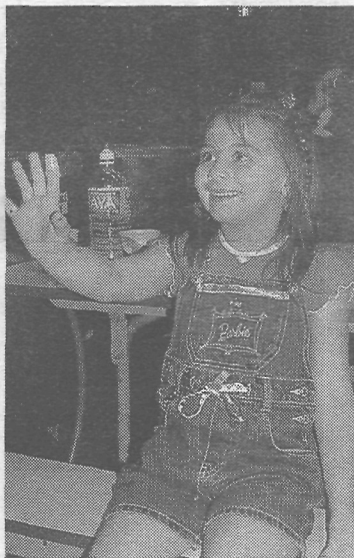
Always try to park your car in a well-lit area to help insure your personnel safety when entering and leaving your car.

• Call the Police to Report Suspicious Activity.

If you see someone that does not belong in the area or seems suspicious, call the police. Do not use 9-1-1, but call the South Plainfield Police at (908) 755-0700 and press 0 to speak to a communications operator. A thief knows when residents or businesses are calling in suspicious activity and they tend to avoid those areas.

A little time and thought goes a long way toward the prevention of theft. Next time you leave your car, take a few moments to protect your personal property or the property of your employers by securing the belongings in your truck.

Provided as a service by South Plainfield Police Department.



Beating the Winter Blues at Franklin Beach Party

By Patricia Abbott

Last Friday evening Franklin School took a respite from old man winter. They had had enough of hats and mittens, of snow and slush and frigid temperatures. Students and their families donned summer garb—shorts, tee shirts and bathing suits—and set out for

an evening at the beach. The destination had no annoying sand, but almost all the fun. Hot dogs, fresh off the outdoor grill, were served along with pizza, cold drinks, ice pops and other necessary summer snacks such as chips. The kids had a blast with hula hoops, jump ropes and an assortment of soft balls. A DJ served up all the best summer songs. The sunshine came in the form of smiles and giggles.

The annual event is sponsored by the PTA for fun. The packed gym proved that the recent snow storms have many dreaming of the warmer days of summer. Parents

lounge in beach chairs with cold drinks in hand watching youngsters re-live warm summer days. Parents gathered to watch dance contests held at the far end of the gym by DJ Detective Kevin Murtagh. All seemed pleased with the break from the winter blues.

Despite the almost unseasonable temperatures, it still is winter, and hats and coats were needed to cover up the brief summer clothing for the trip home.

The only complaint noted was the absence of teachers. One person quipped, "Well after all, it is summer!"



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SPORTS

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	9	1
Grizzlies	8	2
Spurs	7	3
Bucks	6	4
Supersonics	4	6
Rockets	3	7
Warriors	3	7
Nuggets	0	10

A LEAGUE SCORES-FEB. 12

Warriors 30
Grizzlies 69
High scorers—Warriors: Jessa Jones-15, Alexander Ferraris-5, Brian Edwards-4, Jonathan Chiang-4; Grizzlies: Kyle Predergast-20, Chris Sanchez-19, Danny Pollin-15, Mike Chrysanthop-7, Ryan Mack-6.

Nuggets 40
Supersonics 44
High scorers—Nuggets: Amanda Fugate-14, Jason Grieb-9, Ryan Decker-8, Dani-Jo Dimaria-7; Supersonics: Matt Wells-17, Mike Alvarez-15, Danny Melick-6.

Cavaliers 43
Bucks 24
High scorers—Cavaliers: Andrew Cupido-16, Justin Toth-8, Jon Buggey-6, Chris Horn-6, Jason Cosma-3; Bucks: Philip Derosa-9, Garry Houston-6, Michael Salerno-3.

Spurs 45
Rockets 38
High scorers—Spurs: Nick Green-16, Steve Janiszak-13, Mike Wiczorek-12; Rockets: Jaclene Prongay-10, Chris Czaplinski-10, Mike Allocco-10, Danny Sierzega-6.

B LEAGUE STANDINGS

Jazz	9	1
Magic	8	2
Heat	8	2
Bulls	6	4
Raptors	6	4
Nets	6	4
Timberwolves	5	5
Cavaliers	4	6
Lakers	3	7
Knicks	3	7
Hornets	2	8
Pistons	0	10

B LEAGUE SCORES-FEB. 12

Pistons 15
Timberwolves 21

High scorers—Pistons: Caitlin English-5, Lacey Santone-4; Timberwolves: Matt Jeglinski-6, Brian Murtagh-5, Adam Bianchi-4.

Nets 24
Raptors 33
High scorers—Nets: Michael Downes-15, Melissa Hansen-5, Nick Jefferys-3; Raptors: Mike Williams-12, Zack Gray-10, Kyle Lendach-4, Preet Dhaliwal-4.

Heat 32
Lakers 26
High scorers—Heat: Nick Cesare-13, Andrew Miller-8, Peter Peregrin-7, Lakers: Jeffrey Pollin-8, Allan Mazurak-5, Mike Hanley-5, Kathleen Morgan-4, Nicole Cortese-4.

Cavaliers 28
Knicks 21
High scorers—Cavaliers: Robert Strani-15, Erik Vesper-8, Robert Mathis-3; Knicks: Anthony Romano-7, Keith Dezmin-5, Billy Daly-4, Erika Blazak-3.

Bulls 21
Jazz 31
High scorers—Bulls: Vincent Velez-7, Danielle Arndt-6, Michale Benak-4; Jazz: Chris Bakasan-24, Daniel Piwawar-5.

Hornets 28
Magic 38
High scorers—Hornets: Justin Baslone-12, Jonathon Lazar-10, Chris Weakly-4; Magic: Chris McKnight-18, Nick Curcio-8, Ryan Taylor-6, Mike Richard-6.

C LEAGUE STANDINGS

Wizards	10	0
Warriors	9	1
Grizzlies	8	2
Cavaliers	8	2
Rockets	8	2
Trailblazers	5	5
Kings	5	5
Hawks	5	5
Suns	3	7
Supersonics	3	7
Bucks	3	7
Nuggets	1	9
Spurs	1	9
Mavericks	1	9

C LEAGUE SCORES-FEB. 12

Mavericks 13
Bucks 45
High scorers—Mavericks: Scott Hunteerton-7, Chris Pennisi-6; Bucks: Anthony Cassano-16, Andrew Gray-7, Scott Barton-6, Kyle Darr-6, Tim Durnak-4.

Rockets 33
Hawks 17

High scorers—Rockets: Tom Smith-11, Joey Turris-10; Hawks: Danny McCreesh-7, Stephen Richard-4, Nick Desimon-4.

Wizards 36
Kings 24
High scorers—Wizards: Chris Pollin-14, Garrett Lake-14, Denise Lopez-4; Kings: Vinnie Padula-12, Blare Houston-10.

Trailblazers 12
Grizzlies 14
High scorers—Trailblazers: Brendon O'Shea-8; Grizzlies: David Alston-6, Timothy Williams-4.

Warriors 27
Nuggets 12
High scorers—Warriors: Chris Stallone-12, Mike Stallone-8, Brandon Ullom-3; Nuggets: John Crist-6, Matthew Ramos-6.

Supersonics 26
Spurs 11
High scorers—Supersonics: Brian Fabino-16, Brad Martin-6; Spurs: Troy Russel-8, Chuckie Decker-3.

Suns 8
Cavaliers 32
High scorers—Suns: Julie Garbowski-4, Cavaliers: Ryan Curtis-14, Bennie Gibson-8.

D LEAGUE STANDINGS

Raptors	10	0
Cavaliers	9	1
Knicks	9	1
Lakers	8	2
76ers	6	4
Nets	6	4
Heat	6	4
Magic	5	5
Hornets	4	5
Bulls	3	7
Timberwolves	2	8
Celtics	1	9
Jazz	1	9
Pistons	0	10

D LEAGUE SCORES-FEB. 12

Hornets 27
76ers 36
High scorers—Hornets: Mike Muglia-8, Steve Wiczorek-7, Alfonse Muglia-6; 76ers: Kyle Quail-8, Dominic Papa-4, Allen Garcia-4, Brian Pullen-4.

Nets 23
Lakers 24
High scorers—Nets: Dontae Johnson-8, Kelvin Randolph-5, Elizabeth Martin-4, Rickey Sierzega-4; Lakers: Jordan Petriello-14, Danny Maistickie-8.

Magic 44
Bulls 25
High scorers—Magic: Tramane Miller-24; Riley Hubner-16; Bulls: Timothy Yuill-8, Ryan Harrington-6, Justin Ditmars-5, Scot Bishop-4.

Timberwolves 18
Heat 31
High scorers—Timberwolves: Steven Coppi-8, Ian Collins-6, Gerry Pinto-4; Heat: Matt Cesare-12, Mark Benak-5, Dylan Papa-14.

Raptors 27
Jazz 8
High scorers—Raptors: Jahil Williams-14, Mark Brindley-5, Bobby Sacks-4, Tim Oppelt-4; Jazz: Chris Fulton-6.

Pistons 10
Cavaliers 34
High scorers—Pistons: Zachary Haupt-6; Cavaliers: Ken Breslau-12, Rick Jeglinski-6, Taylor Curtis-6, Justin Deolivier-6, Chris Ascencio-4.

Knicks 28
Celtics 18
High scorers—Knicks: Matt Galinski-10, Gaganjot Dhaliwa-7, Anthony Salerno-7, Daniel Hansen-4; Celtics: Daniel Smith-4, Alan Kasmer-4, Chris Hartje-4, Stephen Wagner-4.

Tiger Recreation Wrestlers Up Their Record to 10-0

By Bob Hunter

The South Plainfield Recreation Wrestling Team posted two big wins against their league rivals, Union and Kenilworth. The Tigers now at 10-1, had little trouble with each team, posting a 56-12 win over Union and a 59-15 victory over Kenilworth.

Ryan Sacco (50) got the Tigers going with a 11-0 major decision over Joe Petrucelli. Robert Gentile followed at (53) with a fall over Chris Petrucelli in 0:19.

Patrick Hunter (57) kept the momentum going with a fall over Matt Sulkowski in just 0:16.

With the score tied after regulation, Nick Heilman (60) went on

to score a takedown over John Simpson for a 4-2 win. Jimmy Conroy (67) scored a fall over Matt Lautermann at 1:30.

Billy Ashnault (70) won a 6-0 decision over Jim Melody.

Bryan Hunt (73) followed with a 6-0 decision over Tim Loessel.

After taking a 6-0 lead, Mark Wagner (80) went on to pin Josh Nazario at 1:23. Danny Pompilio (102) went ahead 10-0, before scoring a pin over Mike Lentini.

Billy Daly (110) needed only 56 seconds to pin Anthony Lentini and Kevin Crilley (hwt) needed on 43 seconds to pin Chris Abbonte.

Also wrestling for the Tigers were Elizabeth Martin (63), Brad Martin (85) and Danny Bayak (80).

Kenilworth No Match for Tigers

In the Kenilworth match, the Tibers coasted to a 59-15 win.

Ryan Sacco (50) won the opening match by decision 5-1 over Alan Philips. Robert Gentile (53) wasted no time scoring the fall over Mike Cereste.

Patrick Hunter (57) found himself down 3-0 in the third period and scored an escape and takedown to tie the score at the end of regulation 3-3. In the overtime period, Hunter got the takedown and a 5-3 win.

Jimmy Conroy gave the Tigers their next win in the 67 pound class with a fall over Chris Laidati at 0:32. Billy Ashnault (70) went right to work and scored a tech fall

15-0 over Tom Mannix.

Bryan Hunt (73) won by a decision 7-0 over Travis Dilts.

Nick Dorey (77) followed with a 6-0 decision over Joe Marz.

Danny Bayak (80) needed only 20 seconds to pin Tom Eskin.

Mark Wagner (85) won a decision over Anthony Evans 4-0. Sam Martin (90) won by forfeit. Brad Martin (95) followed with a fall at 1:45 over Daryl Brown. Billy Daly (110) won a 1-5 decision over Eric Sandler. Kevin Crilley won by a fall over Jessie Boyden at 2:55.

Also wrestling for the Tigers were Nick Heilmann (60), Elizabeth Martin (63) and Anthony Niemczyk (102).

High School BOWLING

Colonial Rallies Past Tigers in Playoffs

The Tigers and Colonia squared off in the GMC semifinal playoffs. With each team having just one loss during the entire season, the Patriots squeezed out a victory by taking the decisive third game after the teams split the first two games of the match.

Junior Paul Larisch turned in a sparking 659 high set by chalking up games of 231 and a booming 256. Matt Square was solid with 202 and 238. Chipping in with solid sets were Eric Gaub and Ray Tomei. The Tigers can win the White Division crown with a win over Monroe

Matt Square's 653 Qualifies for State Finals

The Boys Bowling Team finished eight in a strong field of 32 teams vying for the Central Jersey Sectional title. Lacking one explosive game, the Tigers put together a respectable 2825 series.

Senior Matt Square turned in games of 218-210-215 for a 653 high set. The trio of Eric Gaub

211, Doug Lauckhardt 215, and Danny Wallis 212 also bowled solid sets. Only the top three teams qualify for the state team finals.

Matt Square's 653 set earned him a bronze third place medal and a spot in the NJSIAA Individual Tournament next Saturday. Congratulations Matt.

Boys Team Wins White Division Crown

The Girls Bowling Team blasted Monroe by almost 500 pins and improved their White Division record to 12-2-2. Melissa Jamieson took scoring honors with games of 187-172-175 for a 534 high set. Chipping in were Jacquie Herzog with games of 173 and 165 and Amanda Smith had a 169 game. Their overall record is 14-4-2.

Congratulations to the Boys Bowling Team as they trampled Monroe in a match where they hit the over 3,000 pin barrier. Senior Matt Square turned in a brilliant games of 245-205-210 for a great

660 set. Other high scoring Tigers were Eric Gaub with 223 and 203 games, Paul Larisch with games of 201-203, Doug Lauckhardt with a 221 game, Danny Wallis a 208 game and Ray Tomei with a 201 game. The boys division record is 15-1 and their overall record is 19-2. (The two losses were to number ranked Colonia.)

NOTE: Since the Tigers and Colonia split their (2) matches, they both share the White Division title with identical 15-1 records in division play.

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SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

By Brian Cochran

Tiger Girls and Boys Open GMC Tournament With Wins

The South Plainfield girls and boys high school basketball teams wasted no time in making their presence felt in this seasons Greater Middlesex Conference Tournament with a pair of first round wins.

On the boys side, the 11th seeded Tigers hosted the 22nd seeded Bishop Ahr team from Edison on Monday night, the first such match up between the two teams this season. South Plainfield, which was clearly the bigger team, exploited the Trojans lack of size brilliantly by continuously going to the low post. This enabled junior center Paul Gross to have his best game of the year by hitting for 15 points and grabbing an additional 16 rebounds, to card his first double-double of the season also. Once again the consistency of our leading scorer Dominique

Pender jump started the Tiger offense on the way to an eight point half time lead. The Tigers were never threatened again as Dominique's game high 21 points, along with Clint dog Robinsons 16, brought home the 72-64 victory. This is only the

fourth time this year the boys have reached the 70 point plateau and they may need to reach it again in their second round match up with sixth seeded Sayerville (yesterday, Wednesday) because the Bombers are rather prolific scorers themselves.

The ninth seeded Tiger girls basketball team had a less difficult time in their contest with 24th seeded Sayerville earlier that evening. The girls had already pummeled the Bombers twice this season, so this 57-33 first round win was more or less a tune-up for round two. During the game the Tigers employed a balanced attack with four different girls reaching the double digit mark. Kelly Ritchey was game high with 16 points (8 in the 4th quarter), Christine Strani added 10 and the Cwiekalo sisters also netted 10 points apiece. The second round pits the Tigers against a very talented Highland Park team whose record sits at 18-3 on the season. The eighth seeded Owls and ninth seeded Tigers square off tonight (Thursday) in Highland Park.



Members of the Middle School Cheerleading Squad are: Captain Marissa Judd, Co-captains Kristie Butrico and Kelly Butrico, Elaine Alexander, Vanessa Cassano, Mallory Christ, Jacklyn Dellilo, Melanie Fascolo, Arielle Fumosa, Allia Ghanim, Eva Humber, Destiny Jazikoff, Margaret Lay, Kristina Lopez, Charlyn Magat, Jacqueline Muglia, Jean Pagdonsolon, Yorka Ralwins, Allyce Rettberg, Shari-Liane Sangster, Gina Severini and Deana Spisso. Kaitlyn Bundy and Alisha Stasenka are team mascots.

Middle School Cheerleading Squad Places Second in First Competition

The South Plainfield Middle School Cheerleading team participated in their first competition at Bishop Ahr in Edison on Sat., Feb. 3 and placed second in their division. Team Captain Marissa Judd competed in the "Miss Yell" competition and placed second.

For the first time, the high school and middle school have combined their cheerleading programs into one. Because the high school competition squad places in every competition, they were able to help the middle school girls learn what it takes to win.

The Middle School cheerleaders extend a special thank you to both high school Coach Larson and Coach Rodi for their support as well as to the

entire high school cheerleading team. The Middle School is looking forward to making their cheerleading program grow to great heights.

Pop Warner Football and Cheerleading Registration

Registration for Pop Warner Football and Cheerleading will be taking place at the Eagles fieldhouse on Kenneth Ave. (across from the recycling area) Roster sizes are limited! Register early, there will be no waiting list.

New coaches are welcome. Pop Warner is open to all South Plainfield children ages 5-14 by August 1.

Register on Friday, Feb. 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 26 from 10 to 12 noon. A registration fee is due at sign up.

Junior Baseball Club Notes

By Frank Hanley

Tryouts—Tryouts are just TWO WEEKS away. Tryouts will be held on Saturday March 4 at the PAL Building on Maple Av. All registered players will receive notification by mail indicating their try-out time. Players... remember to wear sneakers and bring your glove.

SPJBC Scholarship—The club is taking applications for its annual college scholarship. Applications are available at the High School Guidance Department or contact the club. Each year the club offers up to two \$1000 scholarships. Applicants must be residents of South Plainfield graduating this June and have participated at the SPJBC for a minimum of five years. The filing date for applications is April 1, 2000.

Registration—There are currently 462 players registered to play in the 2000 season. Anyone interested in playing should contact the club ASAP, as there are only a few openings remaining.

Umpire Classes—The next group of umpire classes will be held as follows ...First and Second Year Umpires on Tuesday, Feb. 22 and Thursday, Feb. 24 at 6:45 p.m. Third year and up on Sunday, Feb. 20 at 1:30 p.m.

Somerset Patriots—This year, the club is offering tickets to see the Somerset Patriots. The club has reserved 300 tickets for the game scheduled on Friday night May 26. The tickets are \$8 each and are being sold on a first come-first serve basis. Contact John Rayho at 754-8904 for more information.

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 Feb. 29 will be entitled to a discount.

Woman's Auxiliary—The Woman's Auxiliary is sponsoring the annual Little Miss Baseball contest. Contact Cindy Eichler at 769-4047 for more information. The Woman are once again holding their Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale. This is a major fund raising event held by the Women 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 have received a brochure.

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

Events at a Glance

Umpire Classes - Monday 2/22 and Thursday 2/24 at 6:45 at the clubhouse.

Tryouts - Saturday March 4 at the PAL

Scholarship Application Deadline - April 1

Opening Day - Saturday April 15

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Obituaries

Joanne S. Bradley, 43

Joanne S. Bradley of South Plainfield, loving wife and dedicated mother, died on Wednesday, Feb. 9, in her home after a prolonged illness.

Born in Staten Island, N.Y., she resided in Plainfield four years before moving to South Plainfield in 1986.

She had been employed as a physician answering service operator with Somerset Medical Center in Somerville for the past few years.

Mrs. Bradley, a 1973 graduate of Tottenville High School in Staten Island, had received her Bachelors of Science Degree in Mathematics from the college of Staten Island in 1977.

She was a member of a community band in Staten Island, "The South Shore Band," for 24 years and played in the percussion section. She also enjoyed needle point and crocheting and was active with creative arts.

Her father, John Sprague, died in 1969 and her brother, John, died in 1977.

Surviving are her husband, Herbert E. Bradley, a daughter, Ellen T. Bradley; a son, Robert A. Bradley, both at home; her mother, Helen Sprague and a brother, Charles Sprague of Staten Island, N.Y.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Feb. 26 at 1 p.m. in St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7558 Amboy Road, Staten Island, N.Y.

A second memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 18 at 1 p.m. in Wesley Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield.

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

Jean Cybowski Sternador, 84

Jean Cybowski Sternador of South Plainfield died on Wednesday, Feb. 8, at Bridgewater Care Center in Bridgewater.

She was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. and has resided in South Plainfield for the last 76 years. She was the founder and operator of Sternador's Florist in South Plainfield for 42 years before retiring in 1987. She was a member of the N.J. State Florist Association.

She was a member of Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church and was one of the first original parishioners. She was a member of the Polish National Home and the Professional Women's Club of South Plainfield.

Mrs. Sternador was an avid traveler visiting thirty-five European countries as well as all of the fifty U.S. States and a cross country trip through Canada.

She was predeceased by her son, Paul Sternador, who died in 1963.

She is survived by a daughter, Madlyn DeStafano of South Bound Brook; a son, Louis P. Sternador of South Plainfield; a brother, Adolph Cybowski of South Plainfield; two sisters, Lucille Rogers of LaVergne, Texas and Estelle Cybowski of South Plainfield; three

grandchildren, James Manley, Christopher and Michelle Sternador and three great-grandchildren and her long-time friend, Floyd Auston of South Plainfield.

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

Susan (Schulte) Swahla, 51

Susan (Schulte) Swahla of South Plainfield died on Wednesday, Feb. 9, in Livingston from injuries sustained from an automobile accident.

She was born in Newark and has resided in South Plainfield for the last 50 years.

She was an artist for A.M. Best & Company for 12 years before her marriage to her beloved husband, John.

She was a member of the Wesley United Methodist Church in South Plainfield. She was a member and past Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star Lydia Chapter 41 of Plainfield. She was a member of the woman's singing group, the Sweet Adeline's of Bridgewater.

She is survived by her husband, John Swahla and a sister, Nancy Sayedid of South Plainfield.

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

Sadie Borowski Jacques, 80

Sadie Borowski Jacques died on Monday, Feb. 14, in the Bee Lee Nursing Home in Toms River.

Born in Newark, she had resided in Long Branch before moving to South Plainfield, where she had lived for 30 years before she entered the nursing home in 1998.

Mrs. Jacques had worked as a bookkeeper for the Grand Union food stores and had traveled to all of the company's locations throughout her 16 year career with the company. After her retirement from Grand Union, Mrs. Jacques had worked part time for the South Plainfield Board of Health for two years.

She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

Her husband, George F. Jacques, died in 1989 and her son, George R. Jacques, died in 1999.

Surviving are a son, Robert J. Jacques of South Plainfield; a sister, Adele Hill of Toms River; three grandchildren, Christina, Theresa and Robert Jacques, Jr. and a great granddaughter, Melissa Jacques.

Funeral arrangements were by McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Thomas F. Woodland, 86

Thomas F. Woodland died on Thursday, Feb. 10, at Integrated Heath Services in Bound Brook. Mr. Woodland was born in Plainfield and had resided there for 50 years before moving to South Plainfield in 1962.

He was a resident of Valley View Health Center in Frenchtown for the last two years of his life. He was employed as a machinist for 40 years

for Wood Newspaper Machinery Corp. and had retired in 1975. He was an active member of the Wesley United Methodist Church in South Plainfield for 80 years. Mr. Woodland served the church in many capacities and was very active in the United Methodist Mens Group. Tom was active in the Boy Scouts of America as a youth, and became a Boy Scout leader as an adult.

He was a devoted son to his parents, the late George and Bessie (Flannery) Woodland.

Surviving are a brother, George Woodland of Scots Run, Pa.; his nieces, Sally Creswell of Frenchtown, Linda Woodland of Lower Gwynedd, Pa. and Nancy Smith of Palo Alto, Ca. Also surviving is a nephew, George Woodland of Scots Run, Pa. He was predeceased in death by a brother, H. David Woodland and two nephews.

Funeral arrangements were by McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Peter J. Giovino, 93

Peter J. Giovino died on Thursday, Feb. 10, at the Barbara E. Chung Hospice Center in Edison.

Born in Peapack-Gladstone, Mr. Giovino had resided in South Plainfield for most of his life.

He had been employed by the South Plainfield Board of Education as a custodian in the school system for 16 years, retiring in November of 1973.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church.

His wife, Mary (Laquino) Giovino, died in October of 1981.

Surviving are many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Memorial donations in his memory made to the Alzheimer's Association, northern Chapter 299, Cherry Hill Rd., Suite 201, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

William N. Mannello, 64

William N. Mannello of Piscataway died on Sunday, Feb. 13, at his home.

He was born in South Plainfield and has resided there for 61 years, before moving to Piscataway three years ago.

He had worked in the shipping department of the Hoechst Corporation in Warren for 15 years before his illness.

He was a member of Lake Nelson Seventh Day Adventist Church in Piscataway.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Veronica Ortiz Mannello; a step-daughter, Andrea Ramirez of Piscataway; three sisters, Tina Mazzeo of South Plainfield, Mary Gunn of Warren and Gloria App of Boca Raton, Fla.

Funeral services were by James W. Conroy Funeral Home

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

February 9, 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 February 8, 2000.

Case No. 623/V — JSM @New Durham, LLC — Block 528; Lot 43; 1626 Durham Avenue — Applicant's request for final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

Case No. 99-12 — Borough of South Plainfield — Block 308; Lot 28; M-3 Zone — Applicant's request for a minor two-lot subdivision was hereby GRANTED.

Case No. 613 — Boro Auto Wrecking Company, Inc. — Block 390; Lot 1 & 2; M-3 Zone; 2271 Hamilton Blvd. — Applicant's request for final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

The Appointment of CME Associates as outside engineer for the Planning Board, was hereby GRANTED.

The Appointment of THP, Inc. as Borough Planner, was hereby GRANTED.

The Appointment of John A. Jorgensen, Esq. as Planning Board Attorney, was hereby GRANTED.

The Appointment of Janice J. Muccilli as Planning Board Recording Secretary, was hereby GRANTED.

Janice Muccilli
Recording Secretary Planning Board

\$21.00 1T February 18, 2000

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

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

Whereas, there exists a need for bid preparation for bulky waste collection services in the Borough of South Plainfield, and

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

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

1. The cost of said bid preparation shall not exceed \$10,000.00.
2. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with The Alaimo Group.
3. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a Professional Service under the provisions of the Local Public Contract Law because the services rendered are professional services of a recognized profession whose practice is regulated by law.
4. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten days of its passage.

ATTEST:
James V. Eckert, Municipal Clerk

\$22.00 1T February 18, 2000

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

Ordinance #1526 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOROUGH ZONING ORDINANCE ARTICLE IX, SECTION 902 ENTITLED "OUTDOOR STORAGE"** was presented and adopted after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Borough Council on Thursday, February 10, 2000 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:
James V. Eckert, Municipal Clerk

\$9.00 1T February 18, 2000

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

Ordinance #1527 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD IN PARTICULAR CHAPTER 157, ENTITLED "SEWERS"** was presented and adopted after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Borough Council on Thursday, February 10, 2000 in the Municipal Building South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:
James V. Eckert, Municipal Clerk

\$9.00 1T February 18, 2000

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

Ordinance #1528 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE EXCHANGE OF LANDS BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND AA&G BUILDERS, INC. PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF NEW JERSEY STATUTE 40a:12-16 ET SEQ.** was presented and adopted after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Borough Council on Thursday, February 10, 2000 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:
James V. Eckert, Municipal Clerk

\$9.00 1T February 18, 2000

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

Ordinance #1529 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE EXCHANGE OF LANDS BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND NEW ERA DEVELOPMENT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF NEW JERSEY STATUTE 40a:12-16 ET SEQ.** was presented and adopted after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Borough Council on Thursday, February 10, 2000 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:
James V. Eckert, Municipal Clerk

\$9.00 1T February 18, 2000

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

Ordinance #1440L entitled: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #1440 ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION FOR THE YEAR 2000** was presented and adopted after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Borough Council on Thursday, February 10, 2000 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:
James V. Eckert, Municipal Clerk

\$10.00 1T February 18, 2000

NOTICE

Alcoholic Beverage Control

Take notice that application has been made to the Municipal Clerk of the Borough of South Plainfield to transfer Alcoholic Beverage Plenary Retail Consumption License #1222-33-017-002 T/A Flanagan's Restaurant & Pub, with the premises located at 2501 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, heretofore issued to the MHB Corp. to ZZZ Inc., T/A Flanagan's Restaurant & Pub.

The person who will hold principle interest in this license is John Ziminski, 513 Runyon Avenue, Piscataway, NJ.

Objections to this transfer, if any, should be made in writing immediately to either the Director, Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, Trenton, NJ or to Municipal Clerk James V. Eckert, Borough of South Plainfield, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

John Ziminski
513 Runyon Avenue
Piscataway, NJ 08854

\$70.00 2T February 18, 25

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL

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Crafters Wanted

The 15th Annual Autumn Craft Festival will be held at Hillsborough Presbyterian Church, Route 206 and Homestead Rd. on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. We are trying to get crafters from areas outside Hillsborough as well as from Hillsborough itself.

Last year's success allowed us to donate, as a church, \$2156 to Habitat for Humanity and we are hoping to be able to support another charity again this year.

For more information, call Kelly at (908) 281-5320 or Nancy at (908) 369-7918.

OBSERVER PHOTOS STILL AVAILABLE

OBSERVER photos from the following events are still available for purchase: Riley School Play '99, *The Dragon Heart* play at Roosevelt and Franklin schools, Riley teachers learn the internet, bike rodeo, Spring Into Dance '99, Babysitting Course, Reading Program and Halloween at library, Project Graduation Scoop Dinner, Roosevelt Craft Show, Roosevelt Thanksgiving Dinner, Pop Warner end of season party, Multi-cultural Program/Middle School, high school bomb scare, Future Stars graduation '99, eight pages of Labor Day Parade '99, Recreation field day and party/Franklin School, Franklin DECADES program '99, Franklin Block party, Veteran's Day, Harvest Fest '99, Kennedy & Riley Scoop dinners and many more!

Call for more information, 756-8011.

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HOUSE SALE

Feb. 19 & 20
117 Grove St. (off Maple)
So. Plainfield 9AM-4PM

All items must go: lamps, end tables, recliner, sofa bed, computer desk, stereo enter. ctr., clothes (men, women, infant, toddler), infant car seat, bathtubs, high chairs, monitors, picture frames, candles, wall hangings and misc. items for year round use. (Baby items less than 18 mo.) Also selling five new a/cwindow units (less than six months of use).

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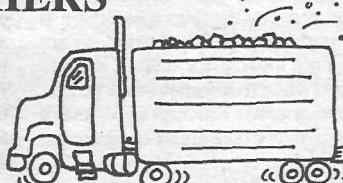
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Borough Notes

Council News

- The council has entered into a lease agreement with Winner Ford for three police patrol cars at a total cost of \$27,173.14.
- Councilman Dennis Cerami reported that the Rescue Squad vehicles are becoming very old, need frequent repairs and will ultimately have to be replaced.
- Richard McCrisky is resigning as Alternate II Member, Board of Adjustments. Also resigning are William Bori from the Traffic Safety Commission and Gary McKnight from the Environmental Commission.
- Linda Zushma has been appointed Housing Assistance Specialist at an annual salary of \$5,000.
- Jim's On Time Towing has been added to the police department towing rotation list. The chief of police reviewed the application and recommended that the applicant should be added to the list.
- Alaimo Group has been awarded the contract to prepare bid specification for bulky waste collection services. This contract will be awarded without competitive bidding as a Profession Services Agreement for not more than \$10,000.
- There are two vacancies as P/T Communications Operators with the resignation of Jennifer Cortone and Julie Magnani.

Planning Board

- Degussa-Hul Metal Division on South Clinton Ave. was granted a variance for parking spaces to install a thermal oxidizer to eliminate potential air pollutants.
- Lawrence Massaro was granted a minor two lot subdivision on his property on Spicer Ave.
- David DeLuccia is requesting a variance for lot area to build a retail shopping center (Durham Plaza) on Durham Ave. The center will have approximately 16 stores varying in size from 1100 sq. ft. to 2400 sq. ft. This case has been carried until the March 28th meeting when a traffic consultant will be called to explain to the board the planned traffic pattern onto Durham Ave.

Board of Adjustment

- Victor Huljack was granted a front yard variance to build a second story addition.
- The Board appointed James Clarkin III, Esq. as attorney and Janice Muccilli as secretary to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.
- Oak Tree Associates came before to ask for an interpretation of the approved use variance and site plan approval with regard to restaurants. The board determined that 20% of the retail space was allowed for a restaurant.
- Sprint Spectrum is asking for a variance to construct and operate a 147½' high monopole with an additional 5' tall lightning rod. Sprint testified that they had approached Cellular One to share their tower which is located approximately 500 feet from their proposed site and were turned down. This case will be continued until the March 21 meeting.

Congratulations

Happy Birthday Joan Abbott –
Feb. 21... With love,
Pattie, Ken & Kathy, Alan and
grand kids, Chris, Joanie and Sarah



By Cyrus N. Moon

Weekly Horoscope 2/18-2/24

PISCES 2/19-3/20 Happy birthday to everyone who shares my astrological sign! The ruling planet for Pisces is Neptune, ancient god of the sea. Neptune represents glamour, mystery, illusion and deception. The stone is an Aquamarine; it brings serenity of the mind and protection when traveling on water. Your lucky day is Friday. Your colors are pale green and turquoise. Plant a willow tree in your yard and be sure to give it water, for you will see yourself. Pisces is the end of the circle, the sign of eternity, reincarnation and spiritual rebirth. Many astrologers say that Pisces is a link to the spirit world and you who are born under this sign are old souls, for they believe Pisceans to have experienced other lives in the past. Now for your write up: Take a camera with you, pictures you take this week will be the kind you will look at for the rest of your life and want to share. This is a good time to express your freedom of imagination and disguise, but you may find it a bit difficult to get one plus one to equal two. You might find others hard to pin down but this is ok. Some of those matters will work out fine.

ARIES 3/21-4/19 Watch for opportunities that expand your spiritual and artistic awareness. The kind of people you may want to hang out with this week are perhaps people to go out and have a seafood dinner with and dancing later on. Success in areas of work and play can happen.

TAURUS 4/20-5/20 Daydreaming will

be a high priority for you this week. It can be fun and harmless, only be aware that you are not in a practical frame of mind and should postpone anything that requires good judgment in relationships or finances. Selflessness will be appreciated by those you love.

GEMINI 5/21-6/20 Try to reach a medium. You can very well be met with much disagreement, conflict, and perhaps some turmoil. Maybe someone younger than you at the job or at home is not interested in hearing what you have to say. I cannot tell you not to say something, so keep it short when you do!

LEO 7/23-8/22 You have a Sun squares Pluto transit: this is a good time to make radical changes in areas of your life that are not working well. It can become a more difficult situation if you do not change! A positive outlook is likely. You can also reap the benefit from feeling something has been purged.

VIRGO 8/23-9/22 You may take things a bit too seriously this week. Do not try to read between the lines when there is really nothing to find. Likewise, do not waste time looking for hidden motives in others when their actions may be perfectly innocent. Furthermore, make sure you do not take credit for someone else's idea!

LIBRA 9/23-10/22 You may have the opportunity to make a relationship you've been working on happen. Keep in mind, this is just an opportunity and not a sure one. You must be willing to take advantage of the situation and ag-

gressively follow though. Success can happen in legal matters and joint matters.

SCORPIO 10/23-11/21 This could be a follow-up to last week! You get the answers you seek with the help of the intense energy that surrounds you (Mars trines Pluto). You have all the control you need if you do not take it for granted and you recognize how to apply its subtle but deadly-accurate force.

SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21 Be ready to expand your intellectual horizons because success involves learning, as well as demonstrating your knowledge or expertise. Children are also favored with opportunities for higher education, so make sure you take advantage. You may even enhance your influence or status.

CAPRICORN 12/22-1/129 Start "psyching yourself out." This time is favored for work projects that call for discipline, attention to detail and persistence. You may think, "What's the use?" However, you will be better off ensuring that you finish it. The reward won't be an immediate payoff until later.

AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18 This will kind of be a week of misses. Maybe you need to reach someone or visa versa, but neither one is where you are supposed to be. Some may take what you say as personal without intent on your part. Make clear what you meant. The key words are discussion and clarity.

QUOTE:

Like natives of other water signs, you have the ability to see deeply.

Obituary



The flag flies at half mast in front of Borough Hall in memory of SP Officer Mark DeLair.

Mark A. DeLair, 29

Mark A. DeLair, of South Plainfield died on Tuesday, Feb. 15, in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Plainfield, from injuries he sustained in a automobile accident.

A lifelong resident of South Plainfield, Mark was born in Plainfield and was a 1989 graduate of South Plainfield High School and had attended Middlesex County College.

He had been a dispatcher for the South Plainfield Police Department for five years and joined the South Plainfield Police Department as a police officer in 1997.

Mark was a coach of the South Plainfield Jr. Baseball Little League and was a member of Sacred Heart R.C. Church in South Plainfield.

His maternal grandmother, Hedwig "Betty" (Hamill), died in 1997. Surviving are his parents, Robert and Linda (Hamill) DeLair of South Plainfield; three brothers, David and Andrew DeLair, both of South Plainfield and John DeLair of Piscataway; two nieces Sarah and Holly DeLair and a nephew, Jonathan DeLair.

Funeral services will be held on Friday at 9 a.m. in McCrisky Home For Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Ave., followed by a mass of Christian burial at 10 a.m. in Sacred Heart Church. Internment will follow in Rosedale Cemetery, Linden. Relatives and friends may call at the funeral home, Thursday, 2-4 and 7-9 p.m.

Memorial donations in his memory may be made to the South Plainfield PBA Local #100, c/o SP Police Dept., 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

NJ All-State Opera Festival

On Saturday, March 4, South Plainfield High School will be hosting New Jersey All-State Opera Festival sponsored by the New Jersey Music Educators Association (NJMEA). All school choruses in the state are invited to participate. A workshop is held during the day for the students. This is an excellent opportunity to see our talented New Jersey young people singing excerpts from Faust and other great opera works.

South Plainfield High School and Metuchen High School Or-

chestra will jointly perform selections from different operas. A guest performer will be at the concert for the students and audience to enjoy, but the majority of the performance will be by the students.

The performance is open to the public, and will take place at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Ticket price is \$5. Please call the chorus director of South Plainfield High School, Tracey Murray at 908-754-4620 during regular school hours if more information is needed.

Library Board of Trustees Meeting Date/Elected Officers

At the Jan. meeting of the South Plainfield Library Board of Trustees, the following officers were elected: Eric Arronowitz, president; Dorothy Berney, vice president; Stephen Magura, treasurer.

Returning trustee is Peter Calderone. Newly appointed trustees are Eleanor Haines, Barbara Ware and Virginia Popik.

Reappointed as mayor's alternate was Catherine Cavaliere and as liaison to schools was Patricia Massey.

Board of trustee meetings are held in the library located at 2484 Plainfield Ave. on the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

School Board Meeting Cut Short

Continued from page 1

tions passing between them by way of letters and written statements. The negotiations between the board and the SPEA are proceeding with a state-appointed mediator. The teachers have been working without a contract since July of 1999.

With the school bond referendum vote only a month away, the board is making plans if the voters pass the referendum. They are also looking at alternative plans if the bond is voted down. One of their first moves made Tuesday night was to impose a cap on class sizes.

During a special information meeting held last week to answer questions, the board handed out literature explaining different aspects of the proposed bond referendum. They also released a chart explaining what will happen if the March 14 referendum is approved and the repercussions if it is defeated. The chart can be found on page 3 of the *Observer*.

Other contingency plans discussed include busing children from schools that have reached capacity to schools that have vacancies in their classes, the possibility of split sessions when a grades become filled and taking

back classrooms that are used for art, music and computer education. School Board Vice President Ken LaFreniere told the audience, "It's not about dollars, but about space....If we increase the student population by 25%, we must find more space."

If the referendum passes, all six of the grade schools will be reorganized and house K-6 grades. The middle school, which is very overcrowded, will house seventh and eighth graders. A parent asked if the eighth would be moved to the high school, but board members all shot down that idea.

The school referendum vote will be held on Tuesday, March 14. Voters will be asked to vote yes to a \$22.6 million bond, which includes constructing a new Roosevelt School, upgrading electrical systems and installing technology infrastructures in all the schools, building a new track at Jost Field, replacing the boiler in the middle school and building anew administration building allowing Grant School to become a grade school.

Last December, voters rejected a similar plan. However only 2,000 voters cast their ballots. The board is asking every voter to cast their vote in the upcoming referendum.

POLICE REPORT

- Home Depot's Loss Prevention manager reported Augusto Pego of North Plainfield had issued the store a bad check. Numerous calls and letters including a certified letter have been unheeded.
- A Geary Drive resident reported a motorized dirt bike stolen from an unlocked shed in his back yard.
- An Edison man was arrested for shoplifting at Sterns, Hadley Rd. The suspect concealed jewelry, socks, men's pants and a shirt in a plastic bag.
- A Toms River resident was arrested for shoplifting \$250 worth of tools from Home Depot. The items were concealed in his coat.
- The manager of Drug Fair reported an attempted shoplifting. The alarm went off and a heavyset black male in early to mid 30's was seen attempting to leave the store. When the suspect realized he had been seen he dropped the merchandise and left

the parking lot in an early 80's gray GM vehicle.

- A Baker St. resident reported to police that he found the side door of his house open. A CD player with 2 CD's in it was removed from just inside the door. A vehicle parked at the residence had also been entered but nothing was removed.
- Airborne Express, New Durham Rd. reported video games and movies removed from the premises before they were shipped.
- Two guests at Days Inn reported the following items missing from their rooms while they went for dinner with their spouses: a ring and necklace valued at \$325, a CD radio, wine, candy, a gift basket, boxer shorts and lingerie missing. Both stated that the doors were locked and there was no sign of forced entry. Both recalled that a room cleaner entered their rooms to inquire if they needed anything just before the four left for dinner.

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