

# South Plainfield Observer

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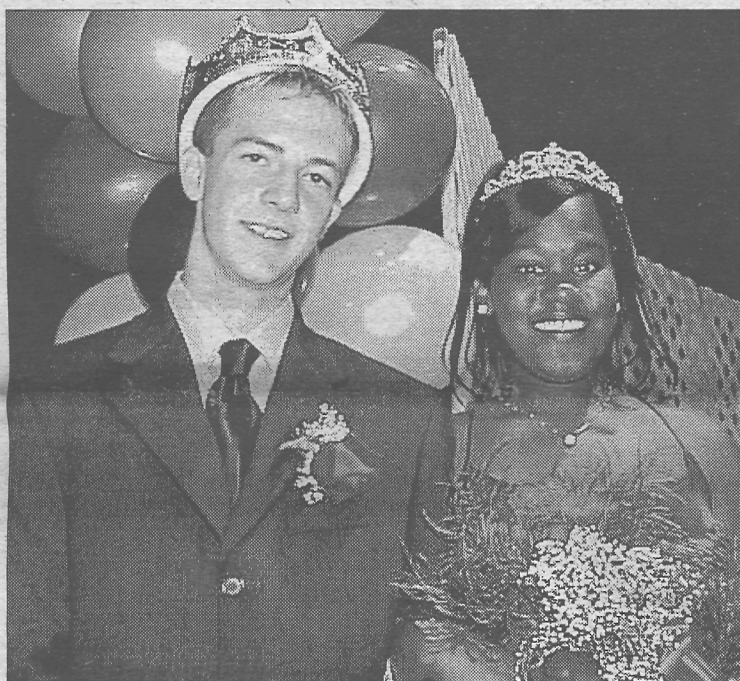
VOL. 4, NO. 8

50 CENTS

OCTOBER 20, 2000

## "Spirit Week" at SPHS Culminates In Homecoming Crowning

### Pageant, Pep Rally Highlight Week-long Festivities



SPHS Homecoming King and Queen Tommy Doyon and Alissa Gittens.

Story/pictures by Patricia Abbott

Thirty-six seniors each had their moment in the spotlight before a large crowd of parents, friends and teachers at South Plainfield High School's annual Homecoming Pageant last Thursday evening. Emcee

Bill Cochrane read the bios each contestant had written about their activities. Cochrane noted that although he had the names of the winners in his pocket, he did not look at them prior to the announcement of the winners.

Escorts for the nominees, mem-

bers of the junior class, were introduced at the beginning of the event as follows: Jen Butrico, Tammy Dombrowski, Gina D'Urso, Billie Jean Sarullo, Brielle Anderson, Allison Vaughn, Michelle Socha, Matt Peloquin, Andy Falocco, Bobby Merkler, Jonathan Fredericks, Frank Salerno and Matt Anderson. Music was provided by the SPHS Stage Band. The auditorium held a full house and as each student was escorted to center stage, friends and family cheered them on. Some of the male candidates provided a touch of comic relief, striking various poses or putting on a pair of sunglasses. Once all the nominees were seated, the audience was given a chance to come forward to take pictures. The room was filled with strobe-like flashes as parents surged forward.

A hush fell over the crowd and the stage was filled with silent emotion as the runners-up were named. Escorts presented each runner-up with a flower. Second runners-up for Homecoming Queen and King were Kayo Daimo and Mike Cardona; first runners-up were Kristen Anderson and Joe Nicolay. The 2000 Homecoming Queen and



SPHS Cheerleaders perform at last week's pep rally.

King as named by the student body were Alissa Gittens and Tommy Doyon. Alissa was given a tiara and Tommy was presented with a crown and both were presented with a single rose. Mike Spangler, last

year's King, was on-hand to present the crown to Tommy. The room burst with motion as family and friends rushed to congratulate the winners. The stage was filled with smiling people.

## Police Trading Card Signing Ends Program

The South Plainfield Police Trading Card Program will conclude on Tuesday, Oct. 24.

Police Trading Card signings have been scheduled for Friday, Oct. 20, from 3-4 p.m. and Tuesday, Oct. 24, from 3-4 p.m. Both signings will take

place at the South Plainfield Library, located on Plainfield Ave.

These signings will give children an opportunity to obtain cards to complete their sets and to meet officers and obtain their signatures.

Prizes will be given to those who

collected the full sets and additional prizes will be given to those who have collected complete sets with signatures. Any questions regarding the program or signings may be directed to Lt. John Ferraro at (908) 226-7681 or 7822.

## Local Quadruplets Celebrate 2nd Birthday



South Plainfield Lacasale quadruplets celebrate their second birthday.

The Lacasale quadruplets, born to Joseph and Danielle on Oct. 20, 1998, will celebrate their second birthday this Friday.

The two boys, Anthony Patrick and Joseph Frank III, and two girls, Patricia Loretta and Stephanie Theresa, are the only known quadruplets born to South Plainfield residents.

Life has been hectic at the Lacasale household since the birth of the babies.

On May 16 of this year, Danielle gave birth to her fifth child, Christopher, adding to the busy schedule they already have.

## HONG KONG SUPERMARKET

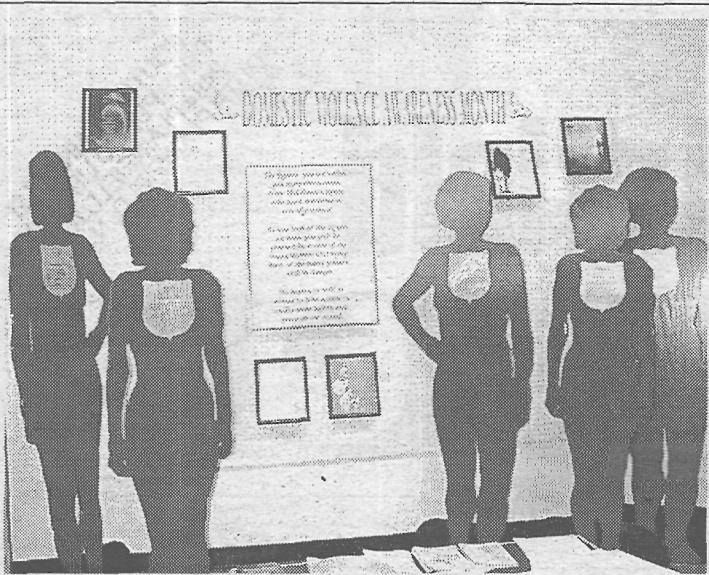


### Local Officials Welcome New Business to Borough

The newly opened Hong Kong Supermarket, located on the corner of Park and Oak Tree avenues, held their ribbon cutting ceremony last Saturday. Welcoming the store to South Plainfield are council candidate Robert Cusick, Councilwoman Darlene Pinto, Mayor Dan Gallagher, Hong Kong General Manager Bobby Wu and Councilman Ray Petronko. See story and photo on page 5.

Photo by William Tuthill





## Library Display Depicts Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a silent epidemic that knows no boundaries. This month the South Plainfield library has set up a display which speaks volumes. Life-size female silhouettes stand inside the library, depicting domestic violence victims who died at the hands of an abuser. Each silent witness has a plaque bearing their first name, age and sharing their sad stories.

Domestic violence is a hidden problem which very often occurs in the privacy of a home. It come in many forms; physical, sexual, psychological, social, or economic. The abuse of a spouse or partner usually affects the entire family. Children are as much victims as the abused person. Fear or lack of support prevent many victims from seeking help and often those involved refuse to talk or even recognize that there is a problem.

A member of Women Aware Inc. or the DVCIT will be on hand on Wednesday evenings, 7-9 p.m. during October to answer questions and provide help or referrals.

Most people think of Domestic Violence as abuse women suffer at the hands of their male partners. While the majority of cases are assaults on women, the term "domestic violence" covers a broad range including dating violence as well as abuse against men and children.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month throughout the country. There are a number of organizations available to help. In an emergency dial 9-1-1. The Domestic Violence Crisis Intervention Team can be reached at 755-0700. Woman Aware Outreach 732-937-9525. The domestic violence hotline number is 1-800-572-SAFE.

## In My Opinion

To the Editor,

Last year the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was holding hearings on Foreign Policy matters in Washington, D.C. The main discussion was about the U.N. dues the United States owes. If the United States did not pay its share, it could lose its voting rights.

*The holdup on the use of money for Family Planning overseas included women's right to choose, hunger, health care and abuse of women but did not seem important.*

A group of congresswomen tried to voice their opinions on social issues, but their opinions were not listened to.

Help send Mary Ann Connelly to Congress, to fight for Social Issues.

On Nov. 7th, vote for Mary Ann Connelly in the 7th Congressional District. Please come out and vote.

**WALTER KALMAN**

To the Editor,

As election day approaches, I feel it is imperative that we elect the Democratic team of Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick to the borough council. They are two extremely competent and energetic individuals who will continue to work hard to make South Plainfield the greatest town possible.

I first got to know Ray back in 1977 when we ran together in that November's council election. From the first moment we met, I knew Ray was exactly the type of councilperson South Plainfield needed. His "never say die" attitude and his determination has certainly paid huge dividends to all the residents of our borough, especially our youth and seniors. Ray's hard work and determination have been the driving force behind the expansion of our PAL, the building of our senior citizen recreation center and at no cost to our taxpayers and the building of South Plainfield's first senior citizen residence. I couldn't be prouder of what Ray has been able to accomplish in his three years as a councilman and I am extremely proud and honored to call him my friend. He certainly has earned our support and vote on election day.

Bob is a very energetic man who has been actively involved

in our community for a number of years. He is very similar to Ray in that he just wants to make our borough the best it can be. But to those of us who know Bob wouldn't expect anything else from him. He never looks for any glory or praise. He is only concerned that the outcome is beneficial to South Plainfield. He will be a tremendous council person.

On November 7th, let's do our part to "KEEP A GOOD THING GOING" and make sure that South Plainfield is led by the most qualified individuals possible. I urge everyone to go to the polls and elect Councilman Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick to the borough council.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
VINNIE BUTTIGLIERI**

To the Editor

I am writing to urge the public to support the re-election of Ray Petronko and the election of Bob Cusick as a member of the Borough Council of South Plainfield.

As an active member of the Borough Council, Ray has been the liaison to the recreation department and in the last three years has been instrumental in upgrading Putnam, Pitt Street and Shadyside parks. Ray was the driving force in obtaining a million dollar grant from County Freeholders to insure the enjoyment of the open space afforded by the expansion of Putnam Park. As a strong advocate for open space, Ray has worked to add to our wildlife preserve and obtain another grant to purchase another nine acres of open space on Foster and Grant avenues. With his wife Patty and their three children, Ray knows how important our Borough's parks are and he was able to obtain expert assistance in turf management to revitalize all the ballfields in town (a project that our children will benefit from next year and into the future). His work with the Recreation Department in setting up leagues in various sports for the children, young adults, adults and seniors of the borough has been outstanding. Ray has also worked to revamp and revitalize the Borough's pool programs and has been instrumental in finalizing plans for the new senior recreation center which is now being constructed on the site of the old Shell station across from Spring Lake Park. Ray was also able to work to get all the computers donated for the D.A.R.E. program in its new building.

A dedicated family man with his wife, Monica, and four children, Bob Cusick is committed

to making a difference in our Borough. He has been an active member of the Planning Board, and since deciding to run for Borough Council, has taken the time to attend every council meeting. In my seven years on the council, I have rarely seen candidates for public office spend their time, as has Bob, at every Council meeting and at every community function that I have attended this year. Not only has he shown me that he is a quick learner, but this commitment has shown him to be someone, along with Ray, who will be a great member of the democratic council team, and help us "Keep A Good Thing Going".

On November 7, I urge you to support Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick for South Plainfield Borough Council.

**ED P. KUBALA**

Dear Editor,

Today's senior citizens are the ones who deserve the credit for making our country as great as it is. They paid their dues fighting for their country and making it a better place for their children and grandchildren.

They deserve security in their golden years. It's nice to see that South Plainfield has finally stepped up to the table by building senior housing and a senior rec center and the most amazing thing of all is they are being built without raising taxes to do them.

The democrats deserve all the credit for these projects. I don't know about you, but that's why I'm voting for Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick for Borough Council on November 7, 2000.

**MARY LISO**

To the Editor

Usually political slogans are useless and don't give us much insight into the candidates platform. That is not the case with the Democratic slogan this year.

"KEEP A GOOD THING GOING" certainly is fitting. I have noticed all the good things going on since the democrats took over our borough government. Ray Petronko, who was first elected in 1997, has been a big part of the success. He chairs our recreation and senior citizen departments and has done a remarkable job. After many years of inactivity, senior citizen housing is now a reality and now a state-of-the-art senior recreation center is a reality. Just today, I saw the demolition of the old Shell gas station beginning, so our senior center construction can't be too far behind. He has also spearheaded

*Continued on page 10*

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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email at our website at spobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer.

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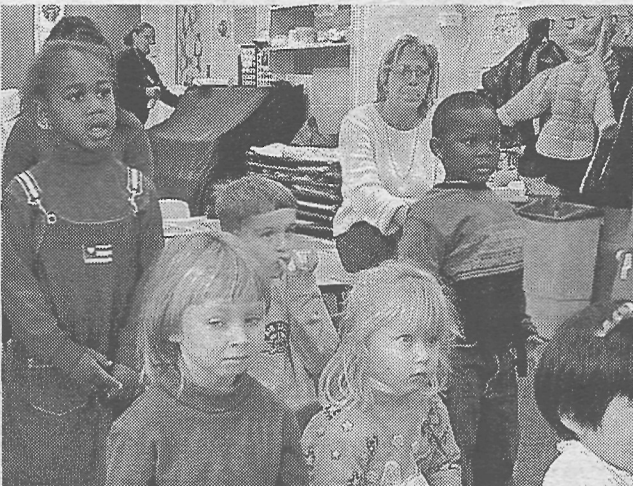




## Open Your Heart Foundation Raises \$5K



Pictured above (L to R): Mary Ann Lisewski, Foundation member; Sherry San Fillippo, marketing chairperson; Ann Udomsaph, Guy Moretti, vice president; Jesse Lacerda, treasurer; Kathy Olpinski, publicity chairperson; Anthony Pascasio, immediate past president of the board of directors for the Institute; Evelyn Sherwood, secretary; David Zullo, president of the board of directors for the Institute; Anne Lane, president of the Foundation and Arthur Schwartz, vice-president of the board of directors for the Institute.



## Preschool Kids Learn Stranger Danger

By Patricia Abbott

The students at YMCA Kids Place school received a visit from D.A.R.E. Officers Allen LaMonda and Joe Papa recently. Also on hand was PC, a pint-sized police car that talks to the children.

The officers and PC discussed "Stranger Danger" with the youths. PC reminded the children never to go with a stranger no matter how nice

they may seem.

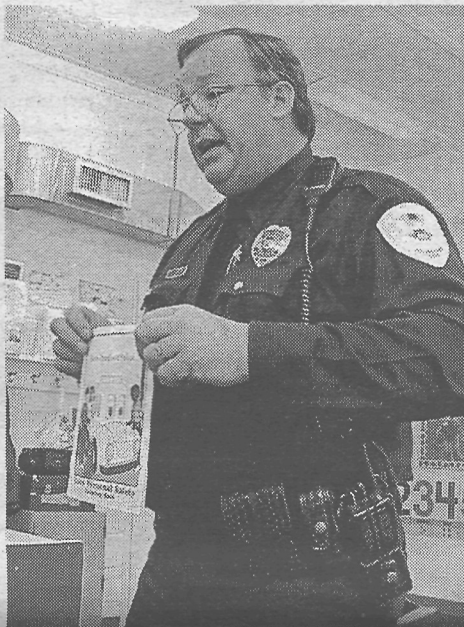
Officer LaMonda talked to the children about *code words*, which are secret words that only the child and safe adults know. The children agreed they should never go with anyone that didn't know their code word.

The officers also talked about Halloween safety. They stressed the need to be seen by wearing a light colored costume and the importance of not eating any candy until an adult in-

spects it.

PC batted his big eyes and entertained the children as he drove around in circles. Each child was given a coloring book that covered the things the officers had talked about. They were reminded to show their parents the books and talk to them about strangers.

The children then had an opportunity to see PC up close and have their picture taken with him.



The Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc. raised \$5,000 from its first annual dinner cruise benefit aboard the Cornucopia Princess on Sept. 22. The funds raised will go to The Institute for Children with Cancer and Blood Disorders for the "Our House Project" which will provide a "home away from home" for families of the children undergoing the painful rigors of cancer treatment.

One hundred guests enjoyed the three-hour cruise around the Raritan Bay with dancing, hors d'oeuvres compliments of the Cornucopia and an elegant dinner. The starlit night and breeze made it a perfect evening to take a stroll on the deck and mingle with friends

and family. The evening concluded with dessert and several door prizes, donated by local businesses.

On behalf of the Institute for Children, the Open Your Heart Foundation and Century 21 Moretti Realty, we thank the participants and contributors to this worthy cause. We couldn't have done it without your support and we look forward to seeing you next year.

The Open Your Heart Foundation will continue to raise funds by offering the 2001 Entertainment Book for sale at Century 21 Moretti Realty, located on Maple Ave. The cost of each book is \$30.

For more information on this and upcoming events, call 908-755-5051 ext. 406.

### From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Hello, again. And here's some more news from South Plainfield Library:

We'll start off by looking at our children's programs. This month's Kidcraft program is set for this afternoon at 4. At this writing, there's still space available for this program, but be sure to call to reserve a spot. The program is for children ages six and over. Next, there's our special Halloween program, "Tricks for Tiny Tots." The program will take place on Tuesday night at 6:30; it's for children of all ages. There's no space limit, but we'd still like you to sign up in advance so we know how many to expect. Youngsters can come in costume, as can adults so inclined. Thirdly, there's our usual schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. Each program lasts about an hour and is for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is necessary. The programs are held on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. For more information, check with us at (908) 754-7885. Ask for Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

This month's Homeschoolers meeting is scheduled for next Friday morning at 10:30. Parents who homeschool their children or are interested in doing so are invited to attend.

Never let it be said that we don't try to let you know what's going on around here. Now, in addition to this newspaper column and our monthly calendar, we've just restarted our official newsletter. Featuring news and interesting items,

copies are available at the main desk.

We're between groups on the CD Circuit. The next group will be available in November. We'll keep you informed of when they're ready.

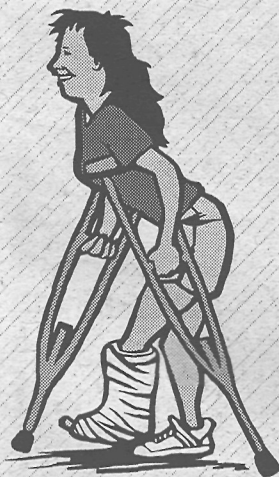
And the library continues its inexorable march into the age of high technology. Our long awaited website is now up and running. Through it, you can use your home computer to patch into our catalog, place or cancel reserves, list the items you've checked out (as well as they're due dates) and check out our Homework Helper links. The website address is [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us); let us know what you think of it. Or, if you prefer, you can still stop by and use our computers to check on all this stuff, with our staff members nearby to assist you.

We have a request in regard to your personal communications technology. Specifically, we mean those of you who carry pagers and/or cell phones. We have no problem with you having them with you in the library. But, out of respect for our other patrons, we ask that you please turn down the volume on them so you won't disturb anyone. Also, if you have to make a cell phone call, please take it outside or, at least, into the vestibule. We really appreciate your help on this.

Looks like that's about it for this week. Thanks for reading, and we'll have more next time.

If you have news about South Plainfield people or events, send us a note or give us a call (908) 668-0010. We would like to include your story in the paper.

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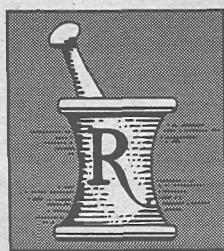
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# Events Around Town

## AARP Dinner Theatre

**October 20**

The AARP Chapter 4144 will hold a program at their Oct. 20 meeting. The event will be a slide show and talk about a trip to Wales by Dorothy and Henry Meriwether of South Plainfield. Featured will be Conway and Caernarfon castles, Bodnant Gardens, Tenby and Pembrokeshire Coastal Path. New members and guests are welcome.

## Korean War Commemorative Dinner-Dance

**October 20**

The 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemorative Dinner Dance, sponsored by the Middlesex Chapter Korean War Veterans Association, will be held on Friday, Oct. 20 at VFW Post #6763, 155 Front St. from 7 p.m. to midnight. Cost of \$15 includes catered buffet, beverages and music by "Show-Offs."

For information, call (908) 668-9751, or stop by the VFW on Front St. after 3 p.m. daily and after 12 noon on weekends.

## Kids' Fall Festival

**October 21**

On Saturday, Oct. 21, the Friends of the Woods and the South Plainfield Environmental Commission will be sponsoring a Kids' Fall Festival, held at Highland Avenue Woods Environmental Education Reserve, on Sylvania Place (off South Clinton Ave.)

The festival will be held from 1-3 p.m. and will feature live music by Tim Lawlor, fall crafts and nature walks. This event is free and no registration is required. There is no raindate planned, therefore, in case of rain, the event is canceled.

For more information, call (908) 226-7621 or visit the Friends of the Woods website at <http://community.nj.com/cc/friendsofthewoods>.

## Teen Nite at the PAL

**October 21**

The Rec Dept. and So. Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness are sponsoring Teen Nite at the PAL beginning Oct. 21, 7 to 10 p.m.

Games, sports, movies and more. Open to all students in the Middle School and the high school.

## GFWC Woman's Club Plans Oct. Garage Sale

**October 21**

The GFWC Suburban Woman's Club will hold its annual fall garage sale on Saturday, Oct. 21 at 233 Fifth St., South Plainfield, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Raindate is Sunday, Oct. 22.

Club members will also be selling hot and cold beverages and light desserts during the sale. For further information, call 756-7071. Proceeds from sale and fund raisers will benefit the club's scholarship fund as well as other local and state charities.

Other programs, fundraisers and planned speakers are planned for the remaining months of the year and also during spring 2001.

## So. Plainfield Curling Club Hosts Open House Week

**October 22**

The Curling Club of South Plainfield will be hosting its Annual Open

House Week from Oct. 22 through Oct. 26.

If you'd like more information about our local club—the Garden State's only curling facility since 1963—please visit our web site at [www.njcurling.org](http://www.njcurling.org) or drop me an e-mail for more information, drop by or call, Paul Graebener, at the Plainfield Curling Club, (908)-725-7800 ext. 157.

## Music Booster Festival

**October 22**

On Oct. 22, you are invited to come hear wonderful music provided by the South Plainfield High School Marching Band and Chorus under the direction of Mark Tweed, Tracy Murray, Kathy Petrocelli and Angela Gallagher.

You will be amazed and dazzled by what our students can achieve! There will also be good food and fun!! You will be treated to some wonderful sounds and sights as Marching Bands from around the state perform at our festival. Hope to see you there.

## Rescue Squad Ladies Auxiliary Fashion Show

**October 22**

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting their annual Fashion Show/Brunch on Sunday, Oct. 22, at the Italian American Club, Somerset St., North Plainfield, at 12 noon.

Fashions will be presented by Dress Barn and Fashion Bug, and the Answer Store in Menlo Park. Come out and join your friends and neighbors for an afternoon of food, fun and fashions. Raffles include our traditional holiday baskets, a weekend at the Doubletree Suites, luggage and more exciting prizes.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased from any auxiliary member or by calling Joan at (908) 754-8275. Tickets won't be sold at the door.

## Polish Home Trip to Atlantic City

**October 22**

The Polish National Home, 312 New Market Ave., will be sponsoring a bus trip to Show Boat Casino in Atlantic City on Sunday, Oct. 22.

Tickets are \$18 and \$20 with coin return. The bus will leave the Polish

## Take a DARE on Halloween

Visit the Community Policing Building on the corner of Hamilton Blvd and New Market Ave. From 3-7 p.m. on Halloween, Oct. 31.

DARE officers Alan LaMonda and Joe Papa will be on hand to meet with children and parents and offer Halloween treats. Canine crimefighter McGruff will also make an appearance to talk to children about Halloween safety and other issues.



Home parking lot at 12 noon.

For reservations and info, call (908) 757-3428.

## Pack 207 Family Fun Night at Friendly's

**October 25**

Franklin Elementary School will hold a Family Fun Night at Friendly's on on Stelton Rd. in Piscataway on Wednesday, Oct. 25 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Come for dinner! Come for dessert! Proceeds will benefit the Pack 207 Scholarship Fund.

## Celebrate Halloween at the Polish Home

**October 27**

Come out and celebrate Halloween in the public bar at the Polish Home, 312 New Market Ave, South Plainfield, NJ, on Friday, Oct. 27 from 7-9 p.m. \$5 includes a buffet and one free draft beer.

Call (908) 668-9442 for more information.

## 3rd Annual Octoberfest At St. Stephen's Church

**October 28**

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church 3rd Annual Octoberfest will be held on Saturday, Oct. 28. Two sittings at 5 and 6:30 p.m. will feature all-you-can-eat authentic German food. Tickets are adults, \$11; children 5-12, \$6. Take out will be available.

Call (908) 757-4474 for tickets. Reservations are encouraged. Proceeds will benefit local charities.

## 2000 Youth Wrestling Program

**Register November 4**

South Plainfield Recreation Dept. is sponsoring a Youth Wrestling Program. Registration is Saturday, Nov. 4, 1-3 p.m. at the PAL.

Registration is open to all South Plainfield children ages 5-11 (as of 10/1/00). The fee is \$25 per participant. Parent must accompany child to registration.

## Columbiettes Sponsoring Events

South Plainfield Columbiettes are sponsoring the following events:

- Shopping trip to Reading, Pa. on Nov. 4. Cost is \$18.

- Country Western Dinner Dance on Nov. 18 at Bobby & Mary's in Piscataway.

- Christmas Show and Dinner at the Spinning Wheel in Conn. on Dec. 2. Cost is \$50.

Events are open to the public. For info, call (908) 226-1222.

## McCriskin's to Sponsor Balloon Release for National War Memorial

**November 11**

Hundreds of red, white and blue balloons will be released over South Plainfield on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. The event is being coordinated by McCriskin Home For Funerals. A nationwide release will occur at the same time (2 p.m. EST) as a part of a nationwide effort to raise money to build a National World War II Memorial in Washington D.C.

You can sponsor a memorial gift of at least \$10 in exchange for a biodegradable helium balloon. Then join in at the simultaneous nationwide balloon.

McCriskin is encouraging family members and friends to release the \$10 sponsored balloons in the name of a veteran or home front worker. The person's name can be written on the balloon before it is released. All donations will go help to build the memorial.

Individuals or organizations interest in sponsoring a balloon or who would like further information should contact McCriskin Home For Funerals at (908) 561-8000.

## Recreation Dept. Sponsors HS Basketball League

**Starting November 21**

The Rec Dept. is sponsoring a high school basketball league. Join as an individual or a team, ten member roster. Games begin on Nov. 21. The times are 6, 7, 8 and 9 p.m. The fee is \$40 per person. Participants must be high school students living in South Plainfield.

Register until Nov. 2 at the PAL. Questions? Call 226-7714.

## SPHS Class of 1980 Reunion Stated for Nov.

**November 25**

South Plainfield High School Class of 1980 will hold a 20 year reunion on Sat., Nov. 25 at 7 p.m. at The Martinsville Inn in Martinsville.

Contact Jim Insel at (908) 713-0193 or Susan Graves Metz at [susanmetz@worldnet.att.net](mailto:susanmetz@worldnet.att.net).

## Rec Sponsors Trip to Riverdance

**February 8, 2000**

The South Plainfield Recreation Dept. is sponsoring a trip to Broadway to see the best show on Broadway today, "Riverdance," on Thursday, Feb. 8, 2001. Orchestra seats are \$65 per person. Bus leaves the PAL at 4:30 p.m. Only 45 tickets are available. Tickets are available at the PAL between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

## Events In Surrounding Towns

### Brass Lantern Events

The Brass Lantern, located on Main Street in Metuchen, will hold the following event in October.

- Victorian Santa signing with Old World Christmas on Oct. 29 from 2 to 5 p.m.

## Reunion Planned for Crew of Seven Ships

**October 19-22**

A reunion is being planned in Newport News, Virginia, for Oct. 19-22, for the former crew members of the seven ships of the DeSoto/Suffolk County Class LSTs. The

# Join Us for The Home Depot's Weekend Project



## Don't Miss the #20 Home Depot Race Car! A Day of Fun for the Whole Family!

Activities will include:

- Vendor Giveaways • Working Displays • Kids Workshop • Kid Care ID's • Pumpkin Painting
- Costume Contest at 1pm • Fire Prevention Tips

Appearing at The Home Depot on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 9am-4pm in

South Plainfield, NJ

3100 Hamilton Blvd., (732) 752-5900

Just off Stelton Road (Route 529), next to Interstate 287



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## Submit your Events for Around Town:

South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax (908)668-8819; email [ggnan@aol.com](mailto:ggnan@aol.com) or [ngrennie@ix.netcom.net](mailto:ngrennie@ix.netcom.net)



# ever

Suffolk County Class LSTs. The ships are the USS DeSoto County, LST-1171, USS Suffolk County, LST-1173, USS Grant County, LST-1174, USS York County, LST-1175, USS Graham County, LST-1176, USS Lorain County, LST-1177, and the USS Wood County, LST-1178.

An effort is underway to acquire the USS Lorain County as a memorial by the Ohio War Memorial, Inc. of Lorain, Ohio. For further information contact: Charles C. Patton, Ohio War Memorial, Inc., P.O. Box 307, Lorain, Ohio 44052. (440) 284-2621 or OWMI\_@excite.com.

## Adoption Support (CHATS)

October 23

Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support (CHATS) will meet 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 23, at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave., North Plainfield. "I'm Fine, and I'm Certainly Not Angry!" Joe Soll, adoptee and New York psychotherapist, will be our special guest. He has appeared on TV, written a book and is the founder and director of the Council for Equal Rights in Adoption (CERA) and Adoption Crossroads, a New York-based support group. Open sharing of adoption-related stories and light refreshments. Call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 or <http://community.nj.com/cc/chats> for information.

## Family Fun Day Planned

October 28

The Hydewood Park Baptist Church on the corner of Manning and Norwood Aves. in North Plainfield will hold a Family Fun Day on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 1-5 p.m., rain or shine. Admission is free.

There will be games, prizes, music, moonwalk, clown, magic show,

car wash, face painting, refreshments, crafts, kids' fingerprinting and ID cards, bike inspections, blood pressure check, prayer table and more. For more info, call (908) 754-6363.

## Woodbridge WOWS Halloween Dance

October 29

The Woodbridge Chapter of Widows Or Widowers (WOWS), a non-sectarian group sponsored by the Family Life Services of the Diocese of Metuchen, is sponsoring an open fundraising Halloween Dance. Held in the Elks Lodge, 665 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge, the festivities will be on Sunday, Oct. 29 from 7:30 to 11:30.

Admission is \$7 and light refreshments will be served. Costumes are encouraged but not mandatory. Prizes will be awarded.

Socials are held the third Sunday of each month at the Woodbridge Elks. An open fundraiser dance is held on the fifth Sunday, whenever one occurs. At this time all are welcomed to join the group for fun, dancing and fellowship.

For information, call Dot M. (732) 634-0059 or (732) 634-0297.

## Koinonia Academy Plans Tricky Tray Auction

November 3

The Koinonia Academy, located on 1040 Plainfield Ave. in Plainfield is sponsoring a Tricky Tray Auction on Friday, Nov. 3 at 6 p.m. Koinonia is right on the border of South Plainfield.

The admission is \$8 and includes a sheet of tickets, desserts and beverages and a chance for valuable door prizes.

For reservations, call (908) 464-1389. Tickets will be sold at the door on a first come, first serve basis.

## Hong Kong Supermarket Holds Grand Opening

By William Tuthill

Last Saturday, the Hong Kong Supermarket, located in the Golden Acres Shopping Center, on the corner of Park and Oak Tree avenues held its grand opening. This was a "grand opening" in a real sense of the word, complete with a ribbon cutting and dragons.

Mayor Dan Gallagher, Borough Council members Darlene Pinto, Ray Petronko and candidate Bob Cusick were on hand to give a big welcome to the new store. People were started arriving about 9 a.m. to get their first peek at this newly renovated store.

After the cutting of a long red ribbon, a youth dance group from Chinatown in New York City performed a "Dragon Dance" wearing colorful costumes. They performed outside the store and then headed inside to dance up and down the aisles. Many people were delighted and surprised to see a dragon coming towards them.

The new market replaces the former Maxim's store in the Golden Acres Shopping Center. The store measures 65,000 square feet, which



Photo by Bill Tuthill

At Hong Kong Supermarket choose a fish from their large fish tank and have it cooked to order, eat it in or take it home.

includes a large food court as well as a wide selection of foreign and domestic fruits and vegetables, both fresh and frozen.

It also features a live fish department, where you can choose your fish, have it cleaned and cooked for you and then either eat it right in the store in their 150-seat food court or take it home with you.

The Hong Kong Supermarket has been completely renovated from ceiling to floor, complete with new lighting. Located at the corner of Park and Oak Tree avenues, the hours are Sunday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information about this new store in South Plainfield, call (908) 668-8862.

## From the Democrats

## Petronko/Cusick Committed To "Pay As You Go"

Democratic Councilperson Ray Petronko commented this week on the Democrats approach to government spending. "No single issue better shows the difference between the Democrats and Republicans in South Plainfield than "Pay As You Go" government. When the new Democratic majority took control on January 1, 1994, we announced that the days of borrow, tax and spend were at an end in South Plainfield. The Republicans actually laughed at us and said that you couldn't have pay as you go government. Boy have we proved them wrong."

Bob Cusick agreed with his running mate saying, "In the last six years over 80 roads have been repaved, our

municipal building and library totally renovated, our public works building improved, a new communication system installed in our Police Department, a new hockey rink installed behind Borough Hall, all of our parks improved and our community pool repaired. All on a pay as you go basis."

Ray Petronko expanded upon the Democrat's position. "No single year in the Borough history compares with this year. Within a four-week period, we had the groundbreaking for 100 units of senior housing, the addition to the PAL, which will double its size, the new 10,000 state-of-the-art senior

rec center and the open space acquisition at the intersection of Park Avenue and Oak Tree Avenue which will double the size of Putnam Park. More good things are taking place in South Plainfield right now than during the past 20 years put together."

Bob Cusick summed up the Democrats' position. "You can control government spending, borrowing and taxes while at the same time improving the quality of life for our citizens. We have proved it right here in South Plainfield. On November 7th, vote to Keep A Good Thing Going. Vote for Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick for Borough Council."

**2000  
ELECTION**

# HONG KONG Supermarket



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- Japanese
- Chinese
- Phillipino
- Thai
- Spanish



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## Home Depot Expo Day To Feature Race Car

Home Depot is planning a huge expo at its South Plainfield store located on Hamilton Blvd. The expo will include activities for the entire family, young and old. Also on display all day will be Home Depot's own stock car, Home Depot Race Car #20.

Officers Joe Papa and Allen LaMonda, from the community policing, will be handing out Kid Care ID's. Several members of the South Plainfield department will be on hand with fire prevention tips. Children will be able to paint their own pumpkin with pumpkins supplied by Home

Depot.

A Halloween costume contest is also scheduled for 1 p.m.

Other activities include vendors giveaways, working displays and a special kids workshop. The kids workshop promises to be very interesting. They will be building either a replica of the Home Depot Race Car and of a fire department truck.

Plan on attending the expo and bring the whole family. Don't forget to bring the kids in costume.

The event takes place next Saturday, October 28 at Home Depot from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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# HOMECOMING

## The 2000 Nominees...

Sam Alexander  
Eric Ambielli  
Jason Bataille  
Leo Campos  
Mike Cardona  
Tommy Doyon  
Josh English  
John Foscolo  
Rich Gebauer  
Joe Nicolay  
Danny Novajosky  
Steve Popp  
Matt Pulomena  
Mark Skrzypczak  
Justin Woo

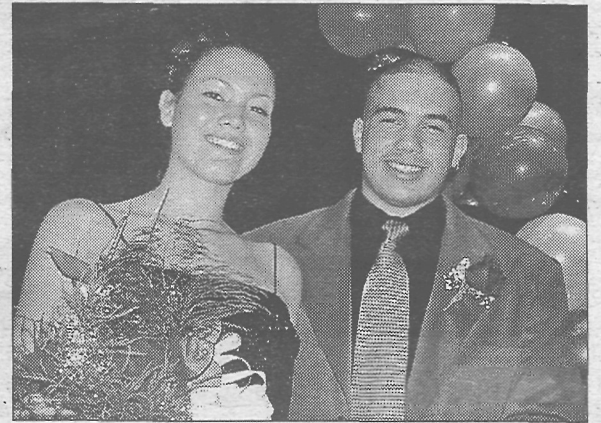
Kristin Anderson  
Kyan Bowman  
Kristyn Ciarlariello  
Kayo Daimo  
Emma Fulton  
Angelique Ganaris  
Alissa Gittens  
Janet Golon  
Amanda Kress  
Nicole Luthman  
Joanne Michalski  
Adrienne Nagy  
Annette Papa  
Heather Pedersen  
Christina Raimondi

Jennifer Reynolds  
Pamela Russo  
Jessie Spayder

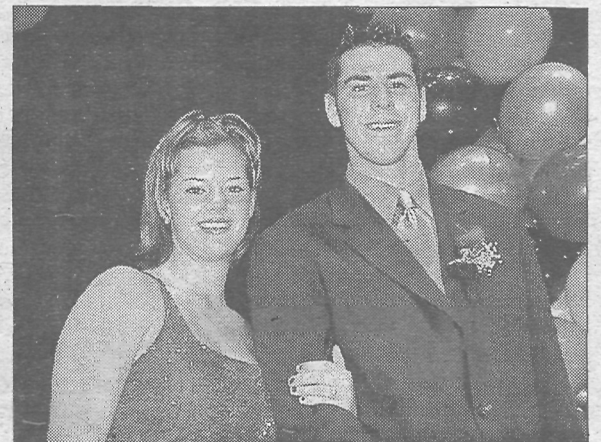
Alison Tietjen  
Kristin Turner  
Veronica Zappi



King and Queen Tommy Doyon and Alissa Gittens



Second Runners-Up Kayo Daimo and Mike Cardona

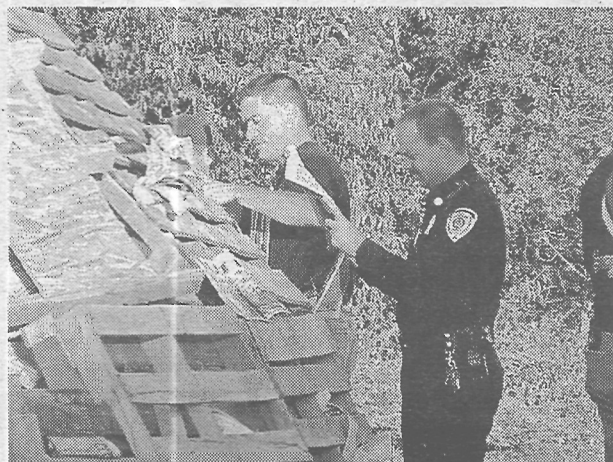


First Runners-Up Kristen Anderson and Joe Nicolay

## AND the WINNERS Are...



The fire department was on hand to prepare for the bonfire held at SPHS last Friday in honor of "Spirit Week."



## Spirit Week Brings Students Together



Brian Bilal

The week leading up to Homecoming-School Spirit Week-passed in a rush of activities including Hat Day, Twin Day, a Pep Rally and a Hall Decorating Contest. The Junior Class was declared winners of the hall decorating competition.

The Homecoming Pep Rally, once an annual tradition, has taken a back seat to other activities. This year the South Plainfield Tigers Homecoming Pep Rally was back with a roar. Some of the changes are the inclusion of all fall sports, from football and soccer, to field hockey, tennis and cross country. Each of the sports teams were recognized by their respective coaches. The spotlight was on the Tigers Football Team and the homecoming game against Monroe. The rally featured the cheerleaders, the color guard, dance team and the Tiger Marching Band.

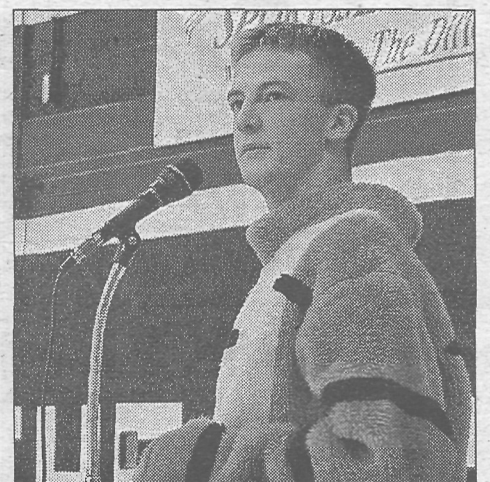
During the Pep Rally, Principal Tony Massaro noted that it was the last day for Brian Bilal, school disciplinarian, the man responsible for handing out in-school and out-of-school suspensions and handling other student indiscretions. Without a moment's pause, the students gave him a standing ovation. It was easy to see he was a well-liked and respected staff member. Assistant Principal Helen Gottlieb noted that he was highly successful in his position. He was respectful of the students and treated them fairly. She stated the students had the utmost respect for him and were truly sorry to see him leave SPHS.

The students left the rally in high spirits. Athletic Director Mike Buggy announced that anyone who marched with the team from the bonfire to the game would receive free admission. The bonfire was held in the field behind the high school.

The school was rewarded for their display of unity and spirit with a win at the Homecoming game against Monroe.



Class Vocalist Kristyn Ciarlariello



Executive Board President Tommy Doyon

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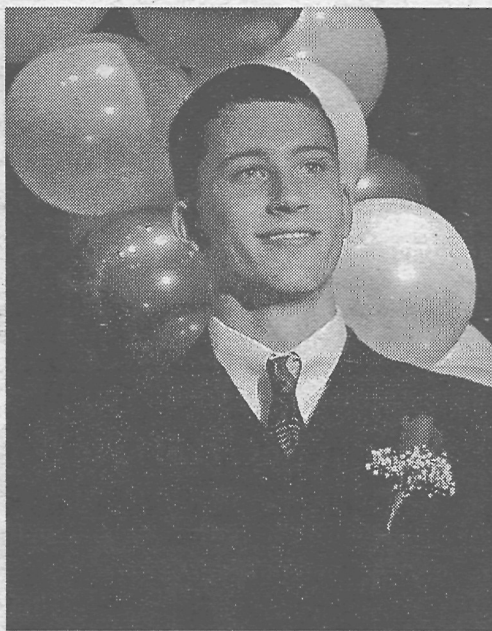
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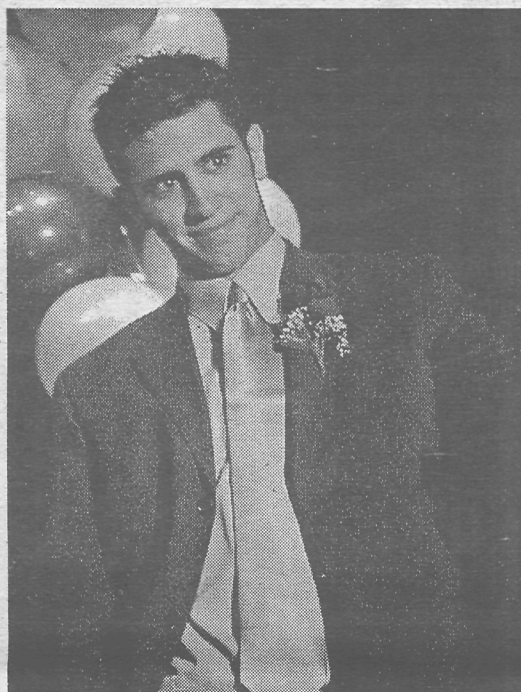
(l-r) Alissa Gittens, Janet Golon, Amanda Kress



Steven Popp



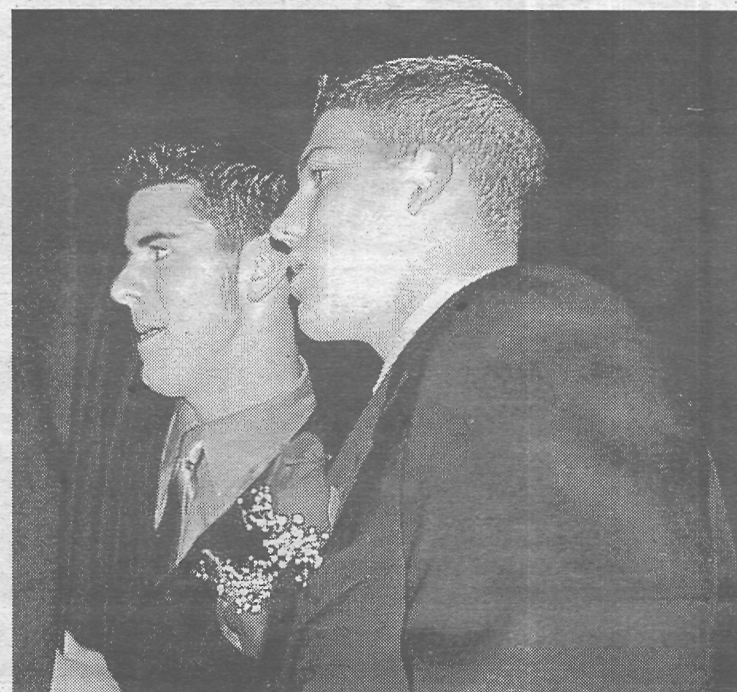
Pamela Russo



Matt Pulomena



Joanne Michalski



(l-r) Joe Nicolay, Josh English

Photos by Patricia Abbott

As parents, friends and family sat in the audience on Oct. 12 awaiting the start of the 2000 Homecoming, some reminisced about the Homecoming events of their South Plainfield High School days. Whether it was a few years ago, or the early days of SPHS, the Homecoming Pageant is still a strong tradition. The young people chosen as Homecoming Queen and King represent their school, the students, the town and alumni. The occasion will, hopefully, provide them with rich and plentiful memories.

The forty-four years since SPHS crowned its first homecoming queen have brought many changes. For most, homecoming was a season more than a single event. Originally, homecoming was scheduled close to the annual homecoming football game, the Thanksgiving Day game played against North Plainfield. Homecoming meant not only a pageant but a dance, pep rally and bonfire. The first big dance of the school year, The Grid Iron Hop, was held in the cafeteria of the old high school immediately after the pageant. As years past, events were spread out over the week. Many remember the evening pep rally held the day before the big game. The rally was concluded with a huge bonfire in the field behind the old high school. With the fire department nearby, students circled the bonfire and cheered on the SPHS Tigers. The heat from the flames provided warmth on cold autumn evenings as well as an intense feeling of school spirit.

Sandy Spisso Connelly, Class of '69, recalls, "There were between five to seven girls chosen for this event. After the girls were nominated, they picked their escorts, usually a football player who was either a boyfriend or a good friend. We had a dance which was called the Kick Off Dance. The queen was crowned on the Friday night before the game. The game was on Saturday, because we didn't have lights on the field back then."

Betty Fisher Kaminski, Class of 1965, told about her experience. "I was crowned Football Queen in 1964. The name was 'Football Queen' because the football team made the nominations and selected the queen. But reaching back into my memory bank, I believe the year I was queen was the first year that they changed the process. That year the team nominated five seniors and for the first time grades 9 through 12 voted. It was done the same way the following

year when I returned to crown the 1965 Queen, Terry Constantine.

My escort for the crowning was my special friend Monico Piro, a senior. My boyfriend, Macky Vail, was in college. He had been a football player the previous year. I was a cheerleader. The ceremony was held in the high school gym. Each nominee was introduced, walked down a ramp off the stage, were seated and waited to find out the winner. I was very nervous and very surprised to win. The 1963 queen, Peggy Benner, was there to crown me. After the crowning, the Gridiron Hop was held in the cafeteria. The queen and her court started the first dance with all those handsome football players.

The escorts were all football players. They wore suits and the nominees wore long evening gowns. I remember my mother and I shopping together and she said I should wear a white dress. She felt queens should wear white. The dress turned out to be white, with a pink cummerbund and pink train down the back.

On Thanksgiving Day there was always a traditional game between South Plainfield and North Plainfield. As queen, I was escorted by the team football captains to midfield for the opening coin toss to determine who kicked off."

Betty, an accountant for the state of Nevada Gaming Control Board for the past 20 years, lives in Minden, Nevada in the valley near Lake Tahoe. She has been married to her second hus-

band for 23 years and has two sons, Michael, 25 and Tom, 27.

1972 graduate and current SPHS teacher Gina Calabrese Baker has many memories about winning the crown. The Homecoming pageant was held the day before Thanksgiving. One of 12 girls, Gina was nominated by senior Chris Casserly. She remembers most of the nominees were cheerleaders who were dating football players. She was flabbergasted to be nominated as she was not a cheerleader. A few of her best friends were among the nominees and she wanted one of them to win. "My older sister helped me pick out my dress. It was a big deal, like the prom. The dress was



1964 Football Queen Betty Fisher Kaminski

a velvet gown, purple, my favorite color!" She recalls being surprised at winning. "I was presented with a crown of flowers, a cape and a football signed by all the players. I remember the throne. It was an old chair with a big hole in it. It looked like something from a Lily Tomlin skit. The homecoming game was an away game at North Plainfield. The cape was the only thing that kept me warm that day."

Gina proudly noted that her daughter, Jennifer Baker, was named Homecoming Queen in 1995. During Gina's reign the process of selecting nominees remained fairly consistent with previous decades. A grade point average was not a requirement, nor was sports participation.

## HOMECOMING Looking Back...

By Patricia Abbott

A 1972 football player who saw himself as being a little on the shy side with girls offered this humorous insight. "I remember one day after practice being told about a meeting. The senior class officers asked each of us to nominate a senior girl. Those with a girlfriend nominated them, those of us not dating a senior were given a nominee. I was persuaded to nominate a very attractive senior. It was the worst date I had in four years of high school! I was so nervous!"

The queen's title has also undergone a number of changes, from Homecoming Queen to Football Queen to Fall Sports Queen, to the current Homecoming Queen and King. The changes reflect the addition of all sports. Diane DiLeo Glassett, Class of '76, was one of the nominees for the 1975 pageant. She remembers, "Most of the girls who were nominated were dating their escorts. If you were dating a senior football player, you were sure to be nominated. The players nominations were announced in school. The girls pictures were posted on the trophy case for the students to view. Ballots were passed out on Friday and the winners were announced the evening of the pageant." Diane has fond memories of the night she was presented with the Miss Congeniality Award. "I remember waiting behind the curtain, nervous and excited all at once, then that huge curtain opened up and my heart started pounding! All I could see were my parents waving from the back. I remember feeling so embarrassed, yet I knew they were proud of me. Winning that award on top of it all really made me feel very flattered. It was a wonderful experience and one that I was glad to be a part of."

Diane DiLeo ended her brief journey into the past with these words, "I still have the Miss Congeniality plaque, along with the program, sitting in a long forgotten box in my garage with the rest of my high school memories. Whenever I have a garage sale, I always open up that box wondering what's inside that I can get rid of, but as soon as I see it, it just gets pushed aside once again, but with a smile across my face and a quick walk down memory lane."

Class of '64 Queen Betty Fisher Kaminski offers this thought to the 2000 Homecoming Queen. "I hope the new Queen will continue to have as many good memories of high school as I have had through the years."



# Sports

## South Plainfield Recreation Soccer League



### ◀ D-League Crew

Zachary Noll, Ryan Bors, Emily Sella, Amylin DiDario, Nicole Vill, Rachel Sutherland, Connor McCarthy, Justin Phillips, Samantha DeVico, Jack Green, Joey Skwiat, Chris Pornovets, Bill Hafner

### D-League Mutineers ▶

Kathrine Podlovitz, Stephanie Assad, Daniel Lyew, Alyssa Ragno, Nick Pleeter, Angela Mazzei, Eric LaVerne, Nick Kukuch, Chris Kukuch, Steven Janowicz, Jessica Gomes, Tracey Cihanowyz

### ◀ D-League Hawks

Christine Geczy, Katie Staynings, Ryan Marcoux, Andrew Sanchez, Jennifer Tercek, Jake Dingler, Tyler Clinedinst, Jamie Quail, Ryan Riccardi, Mark Tomei, Allison White, David Battison

### D-League Raiders ▶

Shane McCoid, Michael Szeman, Matthew Manning, Kate O'Brien, Austin Jenkin, Luke Sprenger, Albert Vill, Laura Biggs, Kevin Flanagan, Allison Wagner, Cameron Izzi, Steven Bichler, Pete Hemming

### ◀ D-League Lions

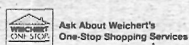
Joseph Miller, Frankie Malecki, Antonio Spallieri, Kelly Walsh, Anthony Quadrel, Jamie Glavasich, Christina Butrico, Margaret Valentino, Kenny Crilley, Michael Grzenda, Aubrey Nastarowicz, Sam Butler

### D-League Tigers ▶

Jennifer Barone, Rachel Krause, Isaac Blanco, Chris Siederburg, Stephen Slatky, Daniel Snogans, Emily Willard, Juan Moreno, Paul Seyffart, Nicholas DeMarco, Joseph Krawiec, Marissa Smith



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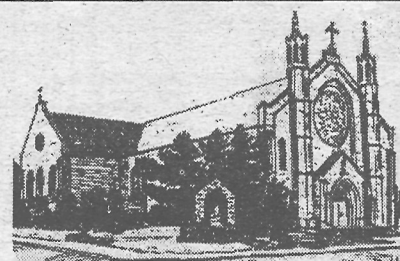


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Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)

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

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

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and after 5:45 p.m. Vigil Mass

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# Sports

## Soccer

### Blaze U-12 Girls Tame Wildcats

So. Plfd Blaze vs. New Providence Wildcats

The South Plainfield Blaze U-12 girls traveling soccer team continued their winning streak beating New Providence Wildcats this past Sunday. With half the season over, Blaze finds themselves in first place with a 4-0-1 record, with four of the five games by shutout.

In continuing defensive strategy wing fullbacks Ashleigh Gaspari, Tiffany Smith, Megan Boyle and Katelyn Conrad, sweeper Elizabeth Flannery, Jackie Miller and stopper Jenna DeLillo did a great job shutting down the Wildcats' attack. Keeper Becky Keller preserved her shutout streak with a couple of very impressive saves.

Halfbacks Ashley Little, Jennifer Copeland, Lauren Fry and Dorian Bishop all fought hard to win possession of loose balls in the middle, setting up what would turn out to be the only strike of

the game.

In the 32nd minute of the first half, talented Dorian Bishop blasted in a shot from top of the eighteen, recording her first goal of the season. Halftime score 1-0.

Opening up the second half with a relentless attack, forwards Kate Hardy and Joy Maszczak had numerous shots on goal all stopped by a much revitalized Wildcat defense.

Final Score Blaze 1, Wildcats 0. Great job girls! Next match up will be at home this Sunday, Oct. 22 at 11:30 a.m. at the high school JV field. Immediately following the game the South Plainfield Comets U-11 girls team will battle Westfield Fury.

Come out and support girl's soccer in South Plainfield! Visit the South Plainfield Soccer Club web site at [www.soplfdsoccerclub.com](http://www.soplfdsoccerclub.com).

—Submitted by Tom Hardy

### United Pummels East Brunswick

On what turned out to be a summer weekend that was perfect, the team headed south on Rt. 18 for their weekly game.

The game started a little on the sluggish side which was probably due to the week off. The team found themselves in a very unusual situation halfway through the first half, down 1-0, but they took that as a wake-up call and the East Brunswick lead lasted only two minutes. That is when they knotted the score on a right cross by wing Chris Herbster and an easy tap in by John Lopez, followed by a left footed blast by newcomer Jared Jones, assisted by midfielder Vinny Padula.

The third goal came just before the first half whistle as defender Nick Baldassarre worked the ball out of his own zone to midfielder Kevin Bolivar, who beat three East Brunswick defenders and unselfishly fed Lopez for the easy score. As usual the defense cannot go unnoticed once again led by goalkeeper Anthony Moretti and centerback Trevor Rastelli, who has taken leadership in the back.

A huge congratulations to the team as a whole as well as the 4-0 record.

The boys will host Westfield on Saturday, Oct. 21 and North Hunterdon on Sunday, Oct. 22 at Riley School.

### Soccer U13 Lightning Goes 2 Up

South Plainfield U13 Lightning posted its second win of the season defeating the New Providence Cheetahs 2-0 in New Providence last Sunday.

With this win the Lightning improved their record to 2-1-1. Michael Hanley scored in the 20th minute, fighting off a defender and sending a solid shot high into the net. Hanley scored again in the 25th minute, pushing a loose ball into the goal after it was misplayed by the New Providence defense.

The Lightning held off several attacks with a solid defensive

game played by Matt Gross, Travis Noll, Ike Ejiochi, Steve Lingrin and anchored by Chris Weakley. Goalkeeper Nick Kratz was only challenged twice, saving both shots on goal. Matt Doell, Scott Rann and Matt Jeglinski controlled most of the midfield play.

The Lightning just missed on several other scoring opportunities as Brian Kelly, Brian Spisso, Ryan O'Shea and Brian Guevara kept the New Providence defense busy.

The Lightning is host to the Monroe Wave this Sunday at 11:30 at Riley School.

### Typhoons Fall at North Hunterdon

The U11 Typhoons lost for only the second time as the North Hunterdon Thunder came from behind to win 3-2. With the temperature hitting almost 80 degrees, the two teams played an aggressive and exhausting game that was close throughout, with each team taking the lead at one time during the contest.

After falling behind to an early goal in the first half, Brendan O'Shea eluded two defenders, took a pass from Steven Guevara and found the far corner of the net to tie the game 1-1. Shortly before halftime, off a Brandon Ullom throw in, O'Shea once again sent a rocket off his left foot to put the Typhoons ahead with a

2-1 lead.

Throughout the match, goalie Grey Coppi and fullbacks J.R. Licato, Matt Helgeson, Keith Heckel, Greg Watts and Chris Pennisi worked hard to keep the Thunder out of the goal. But with fatigue setting in on this warm day, they scored two quick goals midway through the second half. And not even some late game pressure supplied by Jonathan Marcoux and John Christ was enough to tie up the game and avoid the loss.

All in all, it was a very hard fought game against a physical team that we'll face again at the end of the season on our field.

—Submitted by Jeff Marcoux

## Football

### Tigers Beat Monroe For First Win

By Brian Cochrane

The South Plainfield Tiger football team won its first game of the season last Friday, defeating Monroe Township 25-13 in front of a sparse Tiger home crowd.

Once again the Tigers struck first. This time it was Senior Captain Scott Gundersen providing the fireworks by running off tackle 40 yards for his first touchdown of the season and a 7-0 South Plainfield lead.

Monroe wasted no time in getting themselves on the board as they took the ensuing kickoff 86 yards for a touchdown, but failed to convert the extra point to leave it at 7-6. The Tigers struck again later in the quarter as backup quarterback Matt Rennie hooked up with sophomore Jamaal McClintock on a 46 yard scoring strike to make it 13-6.

Once again Monroe answered back with a four-yard plunge and an extra point to tie the score at 13. The first quarter barrage was not over yet as South Plainfield struck yet again when Andrew Fyffe rumbled in from 20 yards out to put South Plainfield up for good 19-13. Fyffe, who ended the day with 111 yards rushing on 15 carries, added one for good measure as he ran 33 yards to paydirt just after halftime to finish out the nights scoring.

Next up....a Saturday matinee at Delaware Valley.

By Tony Cassano

## juniorbaseballclubnotes

• **FALL CLEAN UP—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SATURDAY, 10/28, 7:30 AM—A** final clean up will be done on Saturday, Oct. 28 at the complex. Volunteers are needed. Please lend a hand for a few hours and help close up the complex for the winter. (Breakfast will be served).

• **ATTENTION ALL PARENTS AND SPJBC CLUB MEMBERS—Effective 12/1** the current Executive Board of the Woman's Auxiliary Club will be stepping down. I regret to report that as of now we do not have any volunteers who have stepped forward to run that group. If that continues, the SPJBC will have no choice but to disband the Woman Auxiliary club. If that should happen, the children of the club would be adversely effected. Please consider joining and volunteering your time for a very valuable part of our club. If interested, please inquire at the Fall Registration.

• **NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MONTHLY MEETING - MONDAY, NOV. 6, 7:30 PM—Our** next regularly scheduled monthly meeting will be held on Monday 11/6 at 7:30 p.m. Voting will be conducted on any changes and/or proposals for Rules and By-Laws discussed at the Oct. meeting for the 2001 season. Volunteers are still needed for several committees for the upcoming year. New members are welcome.

• **FIRST COACHES CLINIC SET FOR TUESDAY, NOV. 14, 7:30 P.M.—The SPJBC** will be offering 'free' monthly Coaches Clinics starting in November. We've scheduled the second Tuesday of each month from November through March. More details to follow in coming articles. Pick up additional information at next weeks registration or call club for details. SPJBC Coaches for all leagues are welcome.

## Baseball Registration Starts Oct. 26

South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club will hold 2001 registration beginning Thursday, Oct. 26 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Baseball Complex. Other dates are Friday, Oct. 27, 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

South Plainfield residents who are eight years of age or older (before August 1, 2001) are eligible to play. New players must bring birth certificates. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at registration.

October Early Registration discounts are \$50 for one player, \$80 for two and \$100 for three. Players will receive a new hat, shirt and pair of pants to keep.

The Women's auxiliary will be selling SPJBC jackets and clothing. Full payment is required at order placement.

## Alumni Soccer Game at SP High School

The Annual SPHS Alumni Soccer game will be held on Friday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m. at Frank Jost Field. This year marks the 4th game. According to one of the alumni players, about 26-30 former SPHS team members have participated, ranging in age from about 21 to 45. Many players have attended from throughout the state to be a part of the Alumni game. More participants are expected as word of the event is spread and a database is built.



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## Obituaries

### John J. "Jack" Diemer, 64

John J. "Jack" Diemer died on Thursday, Oct. 12, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Philadelphia, Pa., he had resided in Piscataway for most of his life.

He had retired 3½ years ago from PNC Bank in Edison as a body guard and chauffeur after 11 years of service. Previously, he had been employed as a driver by Hiemelski Trucking of South Plainfield for 17 years and also was employed by Nucar Carrier of Metuchen in the same capacity.

He had served in the United States Navy during the 1950's and had been a member of the International American Legion.

Mr. Diemer was a member of Teamsters Union Local #469 Hazlet and a communicant of Our Lady of Fatima RC Church in Piscataway.

He and his wife were avid R.V. enthusiasts and had traveled many parts of the country for the past five years. He was also a member of the Family Motor Coach Association, (FMCA) and the Good Sam R.V. Associates.

Surviving are his wife, Diane (Colucci) Diemer; his son and daughter-in-law; Michael J. and Kimberly Diemer of Bridgewater; four sisters, Virginia Cassidy of Folcroft, Pa., Barbara Cassidy of Drexell Hill, Pa., June Knoll of Collingdale, Pa., and Agnes Penock of Folcroft, Pa.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center Building Fund, c/o Park Ave. & Randolph Rd., Plainfield, NJ 07061.

### Anna (Grossman) Rizzo, 89

Anna (Grossman) Rizzo died on Saturday, Oct. 14, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Czechoslovakia, she had come to the United States in 1922 and settled in Garwood for seven years. She had resided in South Plainfield for more than 65 years.

Mrs. Rizzo was a homemaker and a member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

Her husband, Gaetano, died in 1983.

Surviving are her two daughters and sons-in-laws, Theresa and Thomas Smith and Gail and Robert Golas, both all of South Plainfield; her son and daughter-in-law, Frank and Josephine Rizzo, of Barnegat.

Also surviving are 10 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.



## Future Stars Receive Contributions

The Future Stars Parents Group held a Parents Tea on Thursday, September 21. During the meeting, Diane Zekas, president of the Future Stars Parents Group, presented a check for \$1,000 to Mrs. Ewing, Future Stars teacher and liaison to the Parents Group. The donation will help to fund various supplies. The contribution was raised through fundraising efforts during the school year by the Future Stars Parents Group. Also present were (left to right): Donna Siepmann, treasurer; Marie Markey, secretary; Dottie Ewing, Diane Zekas, Jill Quadrel, vice president and James Lenox, Adult School director.

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## In My Opinion

*Continued from page 2*

the renovation and expansion of our PAL building. What a tremendous facility that's going to be.

Let's not forget that Ray Petronko was instrumental in getting us seniors a new, handicapped accessible transportation van. Thanks Ray!

Although I really do not know Ray's running mate Bob Cusick that well, if Ray Petronko likes him, then so do I. Bob must be cut from the same cloth as Ray. He appears to be a hard working family man. That's good enough for me.

On election day, I will be doing my part to "KEEP A GOOD THING GOING." I will be voting for the Democratic team of Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick for borough council. Please do your part and vote for Ray and Bob too!

**CHERYL NAGEL-SMILEY**

### Beauty

Hillside Cemetery's gentle slopes are dotted with stately trees and evergreens. Flowering trees and bushes accent the grounds. The serene landscape is meticulously attended and renowned for its care and upkeep. All lots are fully developed areas and include perpetual care. Located on Woodland Avenue in Scotch Plains, a non-profit organization. 908.756.1729

**Hillside Cemetery**

www.hillsidecemetery.com

Dear Editor,

So many times we go to the voting booth at an election to vote for a change. Not this time. This year I will be going out to vote for the democratic team of Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick. Their slogan this year says it all, "Keep a Good Thing Going." Boy is that appropriate. I certainly have noticed all the progress that has been made since the democrats took control of the borough council. Over the past seven years, over 90 roads have been repaved, improvements have been made to our public library and municipal building, our parks have been upgraded to insure the safety of our children, a new fire truck and ambulance are on order and they have been able to preserve over 20 acres of land for open space. The democrats have even managed to get our financial house in order and stop relying on borrowed money to pay for the day to day expenses of our borough. Phenomenal accomplishments!

But we can't get complacent on Election Day. If you are like I am and want to "Keep a Good Thing Going," then let's all get out on November 7, 2000 and vote for the democratic team of Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

Ordinance #1548 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE EXCHANGE OF LANDS BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND LAWRENCE J. MASSARO, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF NEW JERSEY STATUTE 40A:12-16 et seq.** was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Borough Council on Thursday, October 12, 2000 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

/s/Mary G. Blue, RMC  
Deputy Municipal Clerk

\$19.50

1T October 20, 2000

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

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

Ordinance #1552 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE MAKING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBTITLE ONE OF TITLE 39 WITH VARIOUS TRAFFIC REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE VILLAGES AT SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND REGULATING USE OF SAID ROADWAYS, STREETS, DRIVEWAYS AND PARKING LOTS BY MOTOR VEHICLES** be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, October 20, 2000 and that a public hearing be held Monday, November 20, 2000 at 8:00 PM in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

### ORDINANCE #1552

**AN ORDINANCE MAKING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBTITLE ONE OF TITLE 39 WITH VARIOUS TRAFFIC REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE VILLAGES AT SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND REGULATING USE OF SAID ROADWAYS, STREETS, DRIVEWAYS AND PARKING LOTS BY MOTOR VEHICLES.**

NOW THEREFORE BE ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD THAT The Villages at South Plainfield, L.L.C. has filed a written consent with the Borough of South Plainfield that the provisions of Subtitle One of Title 39 of the revised statutes of New Jersey be made applicable to the semi-public roads, streets, driveways and parking lots at The Villages at South Plainfield located in the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, and the following regulations shall be enforceable.

### Regulation(s):

#### 1. General Parking:

- All vehicles must park in designated areas and between the lines provided.
- No person shall stop or stand a vehicle upon any of the streets or parts of streets described below:

Name of Street	Sides	Hours	Location
All Road & Aisles	Both	All	Entire Length

#### C. Handicapped Parking

All Stalls shall be 12 foot wide as shown on the attached site plan and signed with the R7-8 and R7-8P (Reserved Parking Sign & Penalty Plate), in the designated parking areas for persons who have been issued the Handicapped Parking Permits by the Division of Motor Vehicles.

#### 2. Through Streets and Stop Intersections

##### A. Through Streets

The following streets or parts of streets are hereby designated as Through Streets. Stop signs shall be installed on the near right side of each street intersecting the Through Street except where Yield signs are provided for in the designation.

Name of Street	Limits
1. Cook Lane	Entire Length
2. Kissam Court	Entire Length

##### B. Stop Intersections

The following described intersections are hereby designated as Stop Intersections. Stop signs shall be installed as provided therein.

Intersections	Stop Sign(s) On:
1. Cook Lane & Bushwick Ave.	Cook Lane
2. Aisle "A" & Barnosky Court	Aisle "A"
3. Aisle "B" & Wetzel Court	Aisle "B"
4. Aisle "I" & Aisle "K"	Aisle "I"

#### 3. Speed Limits

- The speed limit for both directions of traffic in the parking lot(s) shall be 15 MPH.
- The speed limit for both directions of travel on the following roadways are:

Name of Roadway	MPH	LIMITS
All Road	15	Entire Length

- Regulatory and warning signs shall be erected and maintained to effect the above designated speed limits authorized by the Department of Transportation.

#### 4. Tow Away Zones

Any vehicle parked or standing as to obstruct or impede a normal flow of traffic block entrances or exit ways, loading zones, oil fills, any grassy area pedestrian walkway, or present in any way a safety of traffic hazard may be removed by towing the vehicle at the owners or operator's expense.

#### 5. Loading Zone(s)

The locations described are hereby designated as Loading Zones. No person shall park a vehicle in said location during the times indicated other than for the loading or unloading of goods and materials.

Name of Street	Time	Location
All Dumpster Enclosures	All	As shown on enclosed site plan

All signs, posts or other necessary materials be installed and paid for by the applicant. All signing shall conform to the current Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:4-198 and N.J.S.A. 39:4-183.27.

Unless another penalty is expressly provided for by the New Jersey Statute, every person convicted of a violation of this ordinance or any supplement thereto shall be liable to a penalty of not more than \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 15 days or both.

If any part of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of the Ordinance.

This ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor

ATTEST:  
Mary Blue/Deputy Municipal Clerk

\$160.00

October 20, 2000

*Because  
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by Robert Hunter

### ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS

The renowned expert on death and dying, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, categorizes the coping mechanism of death as a series of five distinct stages: denial and isolation, anger, bargaining, depression, and, finally, acceptance. Although each grieving individual may pass through these stages in different sequences and spend different amounts of time in each stage, most grieving individuals react similarly. There is, initially, a sense of shock and denial, followed by a longer stage of psychic pain. After the initial shock has worn off and emotions have diminished, the bereaved enters an adjustment phase. Usually, with the absence of the deceased comes a change of routine. While it may seem that death is an ending, it is a beginning for the survivor.

While the seasons themselves remind us that death is a natural and inescapable part of our cycle, all of us fear the pain of loss that accompanies death. Coming together to share our grief and our strength with family and friends is the essence of a memorial service, and it plays an important role in acknowledging and healing bereavement. At the JAMES CONROY FUNERAL HOME, we offer a wide range of affordable end-of-life-services. To schedule a private consultation at our facilities, located 2456 Plainfield Avenue in South Plainfield, please call 756-2800.

*"For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow."*

— Ecclesiastes 1:18



## policereport

• A Perth Amboy resident reported the passenger side window of his vehicle was smashed while parked at his place of employment, 125 Helen St.

• The owner of Quality Glass, So. Clinton Ave., reported someone had broken out a window of a car and removed property. It was uncertain what was taken.

• Home Depot reported a man fraudulently applied for a Home Depot loan using the name of Green Bay Packers Quarterback, Daniel Wuerffel. All personal information on the athlete proved to be accurate but the phone numbers for references were not valid. A phone number came back as a cell phone and Home Depot was told they had no knowledge of the loan/name. The driver's license information confirmed it was Wuerffel. According to the store's loss prevention manager, Home Depot had previously been taken for \$30,000 by another person using the ID of a famous athlete.

• A Dey St. resident reported the theft of a Sony portable CD player and a spotlight from her unlocked vehicle. The vehicle was parked at the victim's home.

• A Wooden Ave. resident reported her son had stolen \$160 cash and a cell phone from her purse, which was in her locked vehicle. There were no signs of forced entry. The victim stated that her son is a drug addict and she doesn't know where he lives. She assumes the suspect is her son as he had been at her home earlier asking for money. She refused and an argument followed.

• Sam Goody, Hadley Rd. reported a black male in his 20's, 6 ft., 190 lbs. wearing a bright orange Hawaiian shirt, stole about 15-20 DVDs, mostly Disney items. He placed them in pink shopping bag and fled the store. Employees saw him get into a hatchback-type car. They got a partial plate number, JHL. The DVDs were newly stocked and valued at about \$30 each.

• An Oak Manor Parkway resident reported someone has punched a hole next to the keyhole on the passenger side door of his car. A few days earlier, the driver's door and window had been spray painted with gray paint.

• A Diana Dr. resident was arrested for DWI. The suspect was spotted by a passerby who called the police. The suspect was found by police passed out behind the wheel with the car running at the corner of Oak Tree and Diana Dr.

• The SP Board of Education reported the gate between the high school and Grant 6th grade had been snapped off by unknown person(s). The gate had been in an upright position at the time.

• Piscataway resident Kenneth Tracey reported the theft of a wet/dry vacuum from his unlocked car. The car had been parked at Home Depot. Two employees saw an individual remove the vacuum. The suspect had just returned an item for a refund and the employee felt that the ID was counterfeit but the manager OK'd the refund. The driver's license came up as female while the suspect was a male.

• An investigator for Delux Paint Center, Cleveland, Ohio reported that a former employee, a resident of Hopkinson St. who had been a sales rep owes the company \$4,000. The Investigator showed police a signed statement from the suspect, admitting he had lied on expense reports for personal gain.

• A Hamilton Blvd. resident reported the theft of a bike from the back yard.

• Noville Co. on Case Dr. reported 30-40 paint balls had been fired at the building.

• A Hogan Dr. resident reported finding his shed door completely ripped off. Nothing was missing from the shed.

• A Calderone St. resident was arrested for theft by deception / welfare fraud.

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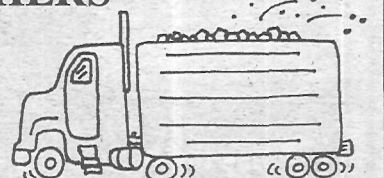
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# BACKTOSCHOOLNIGHT

## at South Plainfield High School

The South Plainfield High School Back to School Night was very well attended, according to Assistant Principal Helen Gottlieb. The evening was reminiscent of the student's first

day of school. Parents wandered the hallways with maps in hand and bewildered looks as they sought various classrooms. The parents followed an abbreviated 10-minute

session of their child's class. During this time, the teachers presented the curriculum. They also showed parents some of the materials used and also answered questions.

In addition to visiting the classrooms, a number of other activities took place. The PTA enrolled new members. In the cafeteria, Project Graduation had a video of the previous year's events running throughout the evening. They kept busy signing up volunteers for various committees as well as running a Christmas wreath fundraiser. The French Club sponsored a bake sale with tables in two hallways.

Photos by Patricia Abbott



## Tigers March at Old Bridge Festival

Last Saturday, the South Plainfield High School Marching Tigers placed third in their Group II division at the Old Bridge High School Marching Band Festival. Their enthusiastic 10-minute performance of *Gladiator* won them a score of 81.85, losing out to second place by West Essex, who scored 81.95. This performance score gives them a 19 point increase over their first competition of the season.

The Tigers compete in the Tournament of Bands (TOB), one of the largest competitive band organizations in the country, with a membership of 66 bands in New Jersey alone. Bands in the TOB are judged on marching execution, music execution,

music analysis, general effect visual and general effect music.

Other schools competing were Pompton Lakes, Roselle Park, Governor Livingston, Matawan, Jefferson Twp. and Shore Regional. Winner of the Group I division was Matawan Twp. Winner of the Group II division was Governor Livingston and winner of the Group III division was Jefferson Twp.

The Tigers compete next Saturday at Governor Livingston and will perform an exhibition at their own marching band festival on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 1 p.m. at Frank R. Jost Field.

Bands scheduled to perform on

Oct. 22 at the 19th Annual South Plainfield High School Marching Band Festival held at Frank R. Jost Field on Maple Ave. located (behind the PAL) are:

- 1:00 Dunellen High School
- 1:15 Harrison High School
- 1:30 Bloomfield High School
- 1:45 Warren Hills Regional High School
- 2:30 Watchung Hills Regional High School
- 2:45 J.F.K. High School (Iselin)
- 3:00 Lakeland Regional High School
- 3:15 Nottingham High School
- 4:00 Exhibition only - South Plainfield High School



## Tigers Marching Band Festival This Sunday

Sunday, October 22, the South Plainfield High School Marching Band will hold their 19th Annual Marching Band Festival at 1 p.m. at the Frank R. Jost Memorial Field in South Plainfield.

The Marching Tigers will play host to nine bands in competition in the Group I, II and III categories. Bands attending are: Dunellen, J.F. Kennedy, Bloomfield, Watchung Hills Regional, Warren Hills Regional, Harrison High, Lakeland Regional and Nottingham High School.

Also, the South Plainfield Marching Tigers will perform an exhibition as the finale for the day, march-

ing to the music of the box office hit *Gladiator*.

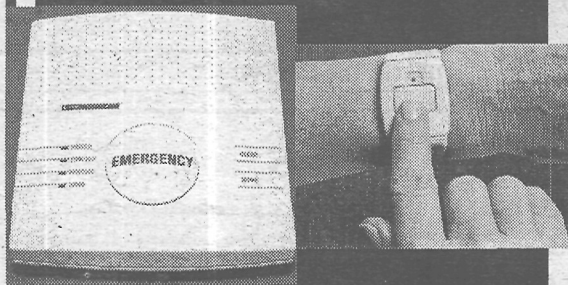
For an afternoon of excellent musical arrangements and performances, delicious refreshments and crafts for purchase, come out to the marching festival.

Admission to the festival is \$6 for adults, \$4 for senior citizens and children. Proceeds from the day go towards the high school music boosters and scholarships for senior students. Anyone interested in helping out at the festival, call Carol Provara at 561-9855. Rain date for the festival is Oct. 29.

—Submitted by Patricia Publik, Chairman of the H.S. Music Boosters

PERS-2400

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