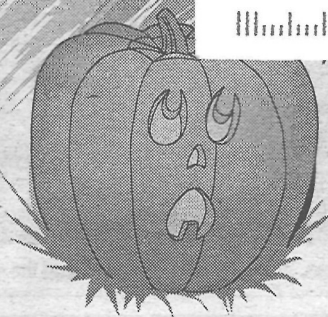


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Plainfield Observer

VOL. 4, NO. 9

50 CENTS

OCTOBER 27, 2000

BILLBOARDS? NOT AGAIN!

Last year the council passed a law prohibiting billboards in South Plainfield, unless they advertise a business that is located on that property. This could all change if applicants going before the board of adjustment have their way. Next Tuesday evening, at special meeting, the board will be asked to permit the placement of three

billboards in the areas around Route 287.

Three applicants on the schedule will ask for variances to permit outdoor advertising on property that is not occupied by the advertiser. They are also asking to erect signs larger than allowed and, in one instance, closer to Rt. 287 than allowed. The

applications are for the placement of signs on Bedford Ave., Hadley Rd. and Durham Ave.

If the board turns down the three requests, the applicants may challenge our local billboard ordinance in courts. The Board of Adjustment meets Tuesday night (Halloween) at 8 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

The passage of a billboard ordinance last year was the result of a recommendation from a special committee formed after a controversial billboard ordinance was introduced and later withdrawn. The committee studied regulations other towns have imposed and how they have withstood challenges in the courts.



Susan Slinger

Middle School Teacher Raises \$6K for Breast Cancer

By Patricia Abbott

It took Middle School Health teacher Susan Slinger three long days to get from Bear Mountain State Park to Manhattan. This was no leisurely drive in search of autumn foliage, but the annual Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk, a vast, multi-leveled fundraiser in search of a cure for breast cancer. The walk had a special meaning for Susan, it was a celebration of her tenth anniversary of cancer free living. Walkers and crew members had to raise a minimum of \$1,800. Friends and family joined her in celebrating life. Their generosity allowed Susan to initially pledge \$4,000. The final total she raised was over \$6,000. She described the three-day trek as "a tremendous commitment to a very special and powerful event in the fight against breast cancer and diseases that affect women." Her own personal commitment to it came through loud and clear with her words, "If my walking and raising funds can save one

Continued on page 16

SADD Awareness Week Observed

By Carrie Reilly

Each May, just prior to senior prom, students of SPHS attending the annual event are asked to first attend a very important assembly. While the thoughts of dressing up in tuxedos and gowns are what comes to mind, prom can also bring about more serious issues. The importance of having a fun, alcohol- and drug-free night is at the top of the list for administrators to stress.

However right now, seven months before prom, the entire town of South Plainfield is getting proactive in making drunk driving obsolete. SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving), is asking not only South Plainfield High School students to be more aware of this issue, but the residents as well. National Red Ribbon Week was started in 1998 in commemoration of the death of a DEA agent who was kidnapped and killed while researching a case in Colombia.

SADD Advisor Danielle Harris-Lacasale feels that the way to teach students about the destruction drunk driving can bring into their lives is to educate, not lecture.

"As a member of SADD when I was in high school at Bishop Ahr, I always had strong feelings on the issue of drunk driving. I decided to bring back SADD to SPHS this year as a way to give students a commitment to a drug-free lifestyle."

The week of October 23 was de-



SADD Executive Board Officers: (l-r) Steven Popp, Nicole Luthman, Jenna Ferlazzo, Advisor Danielle Harris-Lacasale, Jessica Arndt, Stephanie Prybella, Leo Campos (seated). (Pictured right) Leo Campos and Nicole Luthman.

clared National Red Ribbon Week. On Monday red ribbons were distributed in all SPHS homerooms for students and faculty member to wear in support of SADD. Ribbons were also affixed on each door in almost every hallway in the school. Students and faculty members were asked to wear their ribbons all week in support of the group.

On Wednesday, students and faculty were asked to wear red, the color

associated not only with SADD, but MADD as well, to show their support against drunk driving.

At a ceremony on Thursday Mayor Daniel Gallagher was on hand to present SADD with a proclamation, declaring National Red Ribbon Week in the town of South Plainfield.

Executive board members of SADD include President Leo Campos, Vice President Jessica Arndt, Secretary Stephanie Prybella. Steven



Popp, Jenna Ferlazzo, Nicole Luthman and Kayo Daimo serve as Public Relations officers. Advisor is Danielle Harris-Lacasale.

No Candidates' Debate

There will be no debate in the borough council election this year.

Even though the VFW agreed to host the event, the republican candidates are unable to attend because of previous commitments. We had hoped, at the least, to have the candidates meet the public, have an informal discussion on who they are, and discuss why they are running.

VFW Commander Rudy Pozak expressed his disappointment that this event will not be taking place.

Too Much Homework?

Parents Concerned With Amount of Time Students Spend on Homework

Several parents expressed concern to school board officials at last week's meeting about amount of homework elementary students receive.

Complaints came from parents of second, third and fourth graders. They asked the board for a guideline on how much time should be spent on homework assignments.

Fourth grade parents also expressed the fear and anxiety their children are being put through to pass the statewide ESPA test. Students are already

expected to attend early morning classes to prepare for these tests.

Homework should not take up a child's entire evening, exclaimed one of the parents. According to school board members there is a guideline for homework time which calls for 15 minutes in the first grade to one hour in fifth grade and two hours in high school.

Superintendent Guy Ferri said he would look into the issue and get back to the parents.

Halloween Curfew Hours Set

Mayor Dan Gallagher has issued a proclamation declaring curfew hours for Halloween and Mischief Night.

Due to the increasing possibility of accidents and the childish pranks that are played on "Mischief Night" which can result in physical harm to others as well as damage to automobiles and the property of innocent homeowners, Gallagher proclaimed a curfew, as he has in the past few years.

A curfew of 6 p.m. will be imposed and enforced for all minor residents of South Plainfield on "Mischief Night," Monday, Oct. 30. On Tuesday, Oct. 31, "Trick or Treat Day," all trick or treat activities will

be conducted between the hours of 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The mayor is also requesting young children be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult and that householders indicate their willingness to welcome children by keeping their porch or exterior lights on. Youngsters should only call on homes with their lights on.

Gallagher is also asking that parents carefully examine any food and candy the children receive and make sure that it has not been tampered with. Parents should follow the rule "if in doubt-throw it out" when any evidence of tampering with packaging or surfaces of consumable products is noticed.



mark your calendars

Log on to
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for the latest
meeting agenda

council meetings

Meets twice a month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-754-9000

AGENDA MEETING **PUBLIC MEETING**
Monday, November 13 Monday, November 20
Monday, December 11 Thursday, December 14

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

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
November 14, November 28, December 12, December 26

zoning board of adjustment

Meets first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
October 31, November 8 (Thursday),
November 21, December 5, December 19

taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at Borough Hall at 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m.

siteplace sub-committee

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

October 26, November (No Meeting), December (No Meeting)

recycling commission

Meets Thursday, once a month

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-561-8280
October 26, November (to be announced), December 28

recreation commission

Meets once a month

PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716
Mon. November 6, Mon. December 4

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-561-8280
November 8, December 13

board of education meetings

Board Conference Room at Administration Building, on Cromwell Place

Committee of the Whole, Nov. 14, 7 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg. 8 p.m., Nov. 21, 8 p.m.
Committee of the Whole, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg. 8 p.m., Dec. 19, 8 p.m.

South Plainfield Observer

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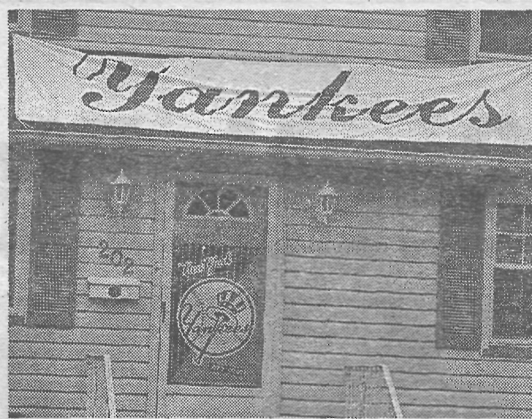
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South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or Twice Is Nice, Front St. or fax us at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us on our web page at spobserver.com or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

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.



Neighbors on Garden Drive display their choice for 2000 World Series Champions. As of presstime, Yankees lead the series 2-1.



In My Opinion

Dear Editor:

This year Kennedy School is having a Harvestfest on Saturday, Oct. 28. The money will go to UNICEF.

UNICEF collects money to help poor countries and countries at war. It is dedicated to helping children.

The third grade class and Mrs. Luck will be collecting for UNICEF on Halloween. We are hoping to collect a lot of money for UNICEF.

**SINCERELY,
ANDREW MCGEE, 3RD GRADE
KENNEDY SCHOOL**

To the Editor,

What a great campaign slogan Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick have this year. "Keep a Good Thing Going" really reflects the mood of South Plainfield. We live in a great town. In fact, I think it's the best town in Middlesex County, maybe even in the entire State of New Jersey.

I can think of no other town that has done as much as has been done here over the last few years. Our municipal building has been improved, our library has become state-of-the-art. Everywhere you turn the roads have been repaved and there are more good things going on for our kids and seniors than anybody could ever hope for. All of this has taken place while taxes and borrowing have been cut. I agree with the signs—Keep a Good Thing Going. Vote for Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick for South Plainfield Borough Council on Nov. 7.

TIMOTHY MORGAN

Dear Editor,

Ever hear the expression, "Nice things happen to nice people?" Well anybody who has ever met Ray Petronko knows what a nice person he is. But in his case, rather than nice things happening to him, he is responsible for the nice things happening for all for the citizens of South Plainfield. Ever since Ray became a councilman, he's worked hard to make our recreation facilities what they should be. He, along with Recreation Director Mike English, worked hard to put together a program to double the size of the PAL without raising taxes to do it.

He worked along with the other members of the mayor and council to get senior citizen housing underway. As a result, there will be a hundred units of housing to service our

seniors by the end of next year.

The beautiful senior rec center is now underway where the Shell station used to be. Soon we'll be jogging around a newly expanded Putnam Park. Just look at all our other parks and you'll see how hard Ray has worked to make South Plainfield a great town.

On Election Day, let a nice thing happen to this nice person, by re-electing him to the Borough Council, along with his running mate, Bob Cusick.

FRANK MALECKI

Dear Sir or Madam,

Everybody who has ever met councilmember Ray Petronko knows what a terrific guy he is. Ray is a straight talker who has an incredible intelligence and energy, which is the reason he has been such an excellent councilman. During his three years on the council, more has been done to improve our recreation programs than at any time that I can remember. Look at the addition to the PAL and the new senior rec center. Drive past Putnam Park where houses, which were acquired with a county grant, were torn down this week to double the size of the park. Drive past Shadyside Park, Pitt Street Park and all of our parks and see how they have been improved. This doesn't happen by accident. It's a result of hard work and Ray Petronko is a hard worker. I urge everybody to vote for Ray Petronko and his running mate, Bob Cusick, who are running on the Democratic lines for Borough Council.

EUGENE W. KATAZYNIAK

To the Editor

I would like to introduce myself as Councilman Dennis Cerami and share with you valuable firsthand information regarding three South Plainfield men that reside in our community.

Councilman Ray Petronko, liaison to recreation and our senior citizens, has been walking door to door seeking your support on Nov. 7. During his first three-year term, he has brought more projects to the table related to recreation and improving the quality of life for our senior citizens than any other councilperson. Working together is one thing, but when residents share their concerns and comments with Ray, the South Plainfield Democratic Team listens and the outcome is progress, progress that has made South Plainfield a better community for our children and our senior citizens. A number of our parks have been improved, made safer and more enjoyable for our children. Our seniors have been sparked with enthusiasm with a new 10,000-sq.-ft. recreation center and our youth will enjoy the PAL expansion.

Bob Cusick, a family man with young children and an active member of the Planning Board, insists on giving more back to his community. In order to do so, he is seeking our support for a seat with the finest Democratic Team in the county. He is caring, dedicated and realizes continued hard work is the only way to maintain our infrastructure and expand our open space. This is his home—he's here to stay and deserves a chance.

I've saved the best for last, Freeholder John Pulomena. I had the privilege to run with John in 1995. There is no doubt that he has his heart in this community. As council president, John kept our budget flat and turned South Plainfield around in preparation for the next millennium. As a freeholder, his continued effort to improve the quality of life for all residents is constantly being demonstrated by his dedication to the Borough of South Plainfield. The voice of our residents was heard loud and clear through

Continued on page 14

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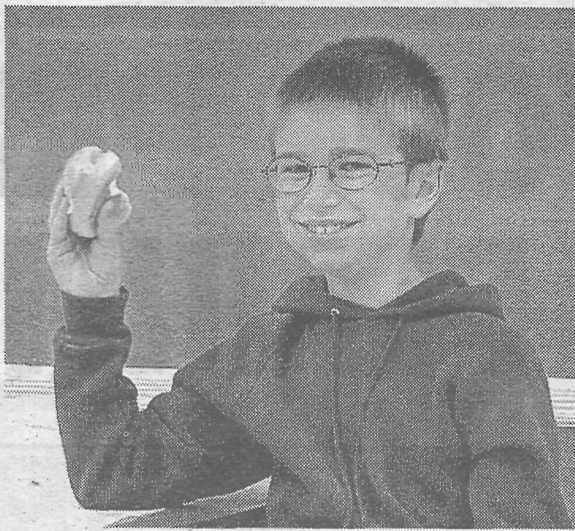


Freeholder John Pulomena pictured with Councilperson Ray Petronko, Council Candidate Bob Cusick and Future U.S. Senator Jon Corzine.

John Pulomena was a member of our Borough Council for nine years. As a resident of South Plainfield, he now represents our Borough as a Freeholder. The revitalization of our Downtown Area, our Senior Recreation Center, our Senior Housing Project, our Open Space Acquisitions, our Road Reconstruction projects wouldn't have happened without the leadership of John Pulomena.

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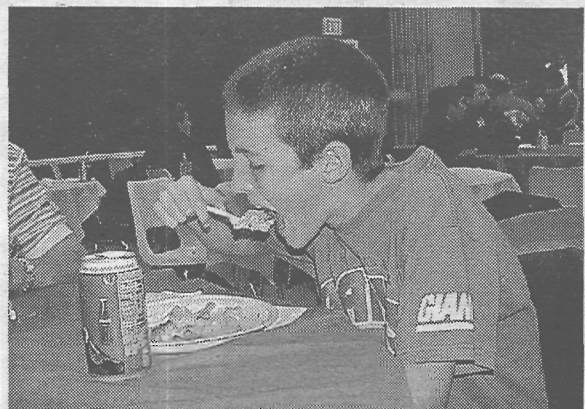
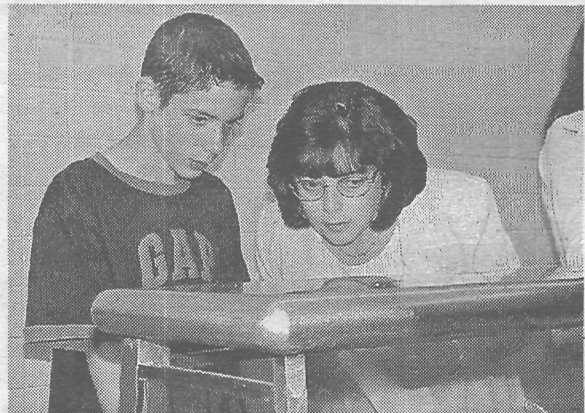
Diners Line Up to "Get the Scoop" for Project Graduation

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

The annual Project Graduation Scoop Dinner was attended by teachers, students and residents of all ages. Senior Citizens had the first opportunity to sample the wide array of offerings, with an early start time.

By 5 p.m., a crowd had already formed a line for the big event. Tables were filled and then emptied rapidly throughout the night. The constant flow of people was clearly the sign of another successful event.

Many teachers attended the Scoop Dinner, helping to setup, prepare and serve the variety of dishes.



From the Scoop Dinner Co-Chairs....

On Oct. 12, parents, teachers and students came together to help raise funds for an important event that affects everyone in South Plainfield, South Plainfield High School's Project Graduation. To some it may be just a big party, but for our community, it is a way to protect one of our most precious commodities, South Plainfield's youth. This is our answer to the old tradition of driving from party to party on graduation night — maybe drinking a little here and there, maybe drinking too much here and there, then getting behind the wheel of a car and the possibly a fatal accident. Project Graduation provides a drug- and alcohol-free, one-stop celebration, where the graduating seniors can have a really great time, and the rest of the community can rest easy.

The fundraising event that brought not only teachers, parents and students, but all generations together, from the youngest to the oldest, was the South Plainfield High School Project Graduation Scoop Dinner. Parents provided the food and helped man the cashier station, and the beverage and dessert stations. Teachers

worked in the kitchen scooping out generous portions for those who attended. Students from the cooking classes baked delicious loaves of various fruit and nut breads for dessert. Members of the girls' soccer team helped set the tables, clear the tables, and serve the beverage and desserts. The doors opened at 4:30 for senior citizens, who were our best supporters that evening.

The members of Project Graduation would like to thank everyone who graciously contributed a food item, helped set or clean up, or was present that evening helping to serve food, cashier, or sell 50/50 tickets. We would like to thank the Marriott for their food contributions, the kitchen, and custodial staff; Mrs. Gottlieb, Mrs. Malecki and the rest of the office staff for helping to organize the Scoop Dinner and distributing flyers to all the parents; the printing office for printing our flyers; Mr. Hunt and the members of the girls soccer team for all their help that evening; the culinary classes for baking the delicious breads; and all the senior citizens who came out to support this event.

Our apologies to those high school parents who would have liked to help, but did not receive a phone call. We had a staff of nine volunteers, who took on the tremendous task of trying to call every parent in the high school to ask him or her to contribute a food item for the Scoop Dinner. Each caller had two computer print-out sheets of phone numbers, which meant they had to make over one hundred phone calls each to reach everyone on their list. It was a very time consuming job and if a person was not home when the initial phone call was made, the caller may not have had time to try to get back to them. We had hoped that all parents were aware of the event through flyers that did go home to every family and would have realized that all contributions would be gratefully accepted. We are very grateful to those who took on the task of making phone calls and hope that it was somewhat rewarding to have the opportunity to make people aware of Project Graduation.

Connie Palmer and Shirley Pedersen
Co-chairs, Scoop Dinner

From the Democrats

Petronko/Cusick Give Status on Helen Street Expansion

Democratic Councilperson Ray Petronko and his running mate Bob Cusick this week discussed the status of the extension of Helen Street which will connect Metuchen Road and Durham Avenue. "No single project will have a more positive effect on relieving traffic than the Helen Street extension. As most people already know, South Plainfield was the

only town in Central New Jersey that qualified for funding from the federal government for a road project such as Helen Street. It's called a 'demonstration project'. What that means is the government is using this project to demonstrate to other communities how it can be done. Every aspect of the project, from design through completion, is paid for

with a federal grant. The project consists of five phases. We are now completing the second phase which includes the recommended route of the extension. As it is planned, we will also be able to connect Hollywood Ave. to Helen St. That means virtually all truck traffic will be eliminated from Belmont Ave. and Hamilton Boulevard."

Bob Cusick expanded upon his running mate's comments, "We are now entering a very important phase of the project. Environmental studies are being completed to assure that the project will not have a negative impact on the environment. As a member of our Environmental Commission, I want to see our environment protected. I believe that the Helen St. extension will eliminate much of the pollution caused by trucks snaking their way through the borough. Of course, it will also enhance the health and safety of our citizens. Therefore, I join with Councilperson Ray

2000 ELECTION

Petronko in enthusiastically supporting the project."

Ray Petronko summed up the status of the Helen Street Project.

"Everyone asks me what is being done and why is it taking so long. First of all, remember we're dealing with the federal government. Second, this is a very complicated project which initially included several alternate designs. Significant progress has been made. If things proceed as planned, the environmental sign-off should take place late in the spring of 2001 after which the final design specifications will be completed. The project will then go out for bid and a contract awarded. Our residents can expect construction to begin during the early part of 2002 and be completed by the end of 2002. In about two years, the traffic nightmare on Hamilton Blvd. should be addressed."

Bob Cusick concluded the democrats' remarks, "Whether it's the various open space projects which have been completed in the last year with county funds, our

Senior Rec Center that is being built at no cost to the taxpayers, or Helen St. which is being funded by a federal grant, Ray Petronko and his fellow democrats on the council have continually come up with innovative ways to accomplish tough jobs without raising taxes or borrowing money. If I am fortunate enough to be elected to the Borough Council, I promise to continue this 'pay as you go' approach to government. I want to be able to be one of the first people to drive on the new Helen St. extension. On Nov. 7 vote to keep a good thing going in South Plainfield. Vote for Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick for Borough Council."

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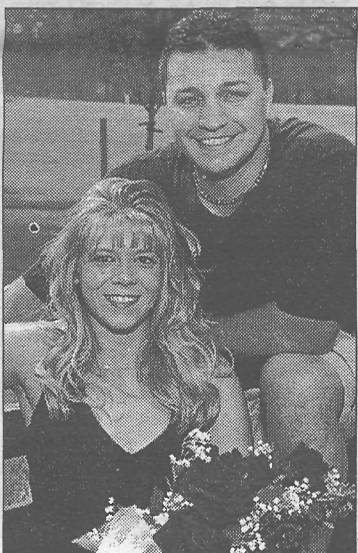


Riley Gets a Lesson from ArtsPower

Riley School students were treated to the Judy Blume play, "Otherwise Known as Shiela the Great," presented by ArtsPower, a national touring theatre. Sponsored by Riley School PTSA, the show teaches children how to face their fears and cope with them. Cast members (above) included Ken Bolander, Adrienne Daigneault, Jean McCormick and Beth Ann Vestring. Students had the opportunity to discuss the characters' fears and how they overcame them.

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Lori Goetz and Mark DeVito to Wed



Lori Goetz and Mark DeVito

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Goetz of South Plainfield are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Lori, to Mark DeVito, son of Mr. & Mrs. Richard DeVito, also of South Plainfield.

Lori is a 1995 graduate of South Plainfield High School. She graduated from Somerset Technical Institute and is currently employed at Medical Diagnostics in Berkeley Heights as a medical assistant.

Mark graduated from South Plainfield High School in 1991. He is employed as a boiler operator by Ziegler Chemical and Mineral Corporation in Piscataway.

An April 2001 wedding is planned at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in South Plainfield.

Borough Notes

Council Notes

- The South Plainfield Post Office is planning to expand their facilities on Oak Tree Ave. They will unveil their plans at the Dec. 14 council meeting. Plans call for purchasing the property next door, demolishing the building and using it for additional parking.
- The council authorized a contract to Lambardi Traffic Striping in the amount of \$1,140 for striping on Coolidge Street.
- E.J. Pendolino has been hired as a part-time motor vehicle operator/elderly and handicapped effective Oct. 18.

Board of Adjustment

- William Taber of Kenyon Ave. was granted a 15 foot front yard setback from Clifford St., with conditions, to install an inground pool.
- Robert Bengivenga, who is asking for several variances on his lot on Ralph Ave. in order to build a home, had his hearing rescheduled for Nov. 9.

Planning Board

- JWV, Inc. appeared Tuesday evening asking to build 15 houses on a nine acre lot. This property, at the intersection of Tompkins and Clinton avenues, is the same property the council is attempting to purchase through a grant from Middlesex County Open Space Recreation Trust Fund. The case has been carried to the Dec. 12 meeting.
- AA&G Builders were granted final subdivision approval with conditions, on the property on Spicer, Delmore and Wooden avenues to construct three residential homes.
- Itran Rubber Corp. located on Metuchen was granted a preliminary site plan approval with conditions to build a one story addition.

Friends of the Woods Announce Website

Residents of South Plainfield can log-on the web and take an armchair tour of nature trails in the borough.

At <http://community-nj.com/cc/friendsofthewoods>, you can take a walk through Highland Avenue Woods Environmental Education Reserve, the 35-acre borough-owned site on Sylvania Place. Fifty photos in the gallery, complete with descriptions, will take you through the upland and wetland habitats of the reserve and introduce you to the plants and animals that live here.

Other features of the site include a home page, news, important dates, who's who, how to get involved, a map and links to terrific websites.

New Jersey On-Line chose the reserve's new site as "site of the week" for Oct. 17.

The second website, for Veterans Memorial Park Nature Trail off Lakeview Avenue, can be accessed at: <http://community-nj.com/cc/veteranspark>. Over forty pictures take you through five distinct Green Acres habitats. The tour follows a self-guide booklet written by Environmental Commission member Jacob Scovronek and South Plainfield Environmental Specialist Dr. Alice Tempel.

Both sites were created and will be maintained by Friends of the Woods president Dorothy Miele and daughter Sarah, a junior at SPHS. Many of the photos were taken by C. Andrew Beagle, a local resident and the Miele's. Both webpages are linked to the borough's webpage, southplainfieldnj.com.

Also new is an email address where residents can send comments, ask questions, request tours and leave an ad-



dress for the FOW mailing list.

Modern technology allows us to venture out to new places without leaving the comforts of home. The webpages are not meant to replace a nature walk — only to enhance it. If you like what you see, self-guides are available for both nature sites. They are available free of charge (the first 10) at Borough Hall Environmental Office, 2480 Plainfield Ave., Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come out and take a walk. Enjoy the colorful autumn splendor of South Plainfield's open spaces.



Photos by Patricia Abbott

Board of Ed Plans Special Meeting Next Referendum to be Discussed

The board of education will hold a special meeting on Monday, Oct. 30 to discuss a new bond referendum.

During the past few months four citizen advisory committees: public relations, curriculum, technology and buildings have been meeting regularly. They have now completed their study and given the board their

suggestions on the future needs of the school system.

The board must now decide what suggestions they will implement. The board is planning to ask the voters to approve a new referendum some time in the beginning of the new year.

Last year, on two separate occa-

sions, voters rejected bond referendums. Since then the state passed a law which will compensate the school district by as much as 40% for new school construction costs.

The next referendum will list exactly how much the bond will cost and how much the state will contribute to the costs.

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Events

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.

Home Depot Race Car Featured at Expo Day

October 28

Home Depot is planning a huge expo at its store on Hamilton Blvd. The expo will include activities for the entire family and an appearance of the Home Depot Race Car #20.

Officers Joe Papa and Allen LaMonda, from community policing, will be handing out Kid Care ID's. Fire prevention tips will also be given out. Children will be able to paint their own pumpkin with pumpkins supplied by Home Depot. A Halloween costume contest is scheduled at 1 p.m..

Other activities include vendors giveaways, working displays and a kids workshop.

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

Future Stars Parents Meeting Notice

November 2

The Future Stars Parents Group will hold a Meeting Nov. 2, at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria of the Grant School. We urge all parents to attend. The main topic will be Breakfast with Santa. Volunteers are needed.

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

Rec Dept. Sponsoring 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 Slated for Nov.

November 25

South Plainfield High School



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 Allen 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.

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 susan.metz@worldnet.att.net.

Holiday Craft Show at John E. Riley School

December 1

The John E. Riley School Stokes Committee will host a Holiday Craft Show on Friday, Dec. 1. Hours are 5 to 9 p.m.

The show will feature new and handcrafted merchandise. Refreshments will be available. Come do your shopping at Riley School.

For vendor information, please call (908) 756-9257.

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

Christmas in North Branch

Experience the beauty and tradition of a country Christmas at the North Branch Christmas Boutique, featuring specialty Christmas gifts created by over 200 of the area's finest crafters.

"Christmas in North Branch" runs Oct. 21 through Dec. 23, Tuesday-Friday 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 12 noon-5 p.m. Closed Mondays. 1037 Rt. 28, North Branch. For information, call (908) 725-7358.

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 on Sunday, Oct. 29 from 7:30 to 11:30 in the Elks Lodge, 665 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge.

Admission is \$7. 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 info, call Dot M. (732) 634-0059 or (732) 634-0297.

Brass Lantern Events

October 29

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.

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.

Tourette Support Group Sets Meeting Dates

November 14

The Tourette Syndrome Association-Middlesex/Union County Family Support Group Meetings will be held at JFK Medical Center's Neuroscience Institute in Edison, from 7-9 p.m., on Nov. 14.

Scheduled speaker is Adam Bloom, psychologist, specializing in diagnosis and treatment of tourette syndrome and related disorders.

For more information, contact Debbie after 6 p.m. at (732) 283-1439 or www.tsanj.com

Culinary Seductions

KISMET will sponsor "Culinary Seductions" Full Participation Cooking Class for singles on Saturday, Nov. 18, 7 to 11 p.m. at Classic Thyme Cooking School, 161 East Broad St., Westfield. \$65 at the door. Contact (908) 232-8827 for information or www.thatskismet.com.

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 28th from 9am-4pm in

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Sacred Heart Pays Tribute to St. Francis



It was a beautiful and memorable celebration for those who attended the blessing of the animals on the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi.

On Oct. 4 Father John Paul Alvarado, Sister Cornelia Ramirez, Sister Josie Tanudtanud, teachers, parents, and students of Sacred Heart with their pets, gathered outside the school to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis.

Father John Paul spoke to the children about St. Francis and how he cared for all living things. Father noted that by having a pet, they were showing the same love

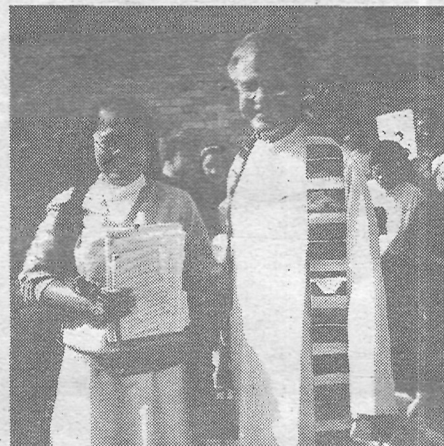
and care as St. Francis.

Father marveled at the representation of animals present that day.

There were dogs, cats, a rabbit, birds, hamsters and even a gold-fish!

Some students whose pets were not present displayed pictures of their animals so they too would be remembered.

The blessing of the animals also took place at 6:30 p.m. at the front steps of Sacred Heart Church.

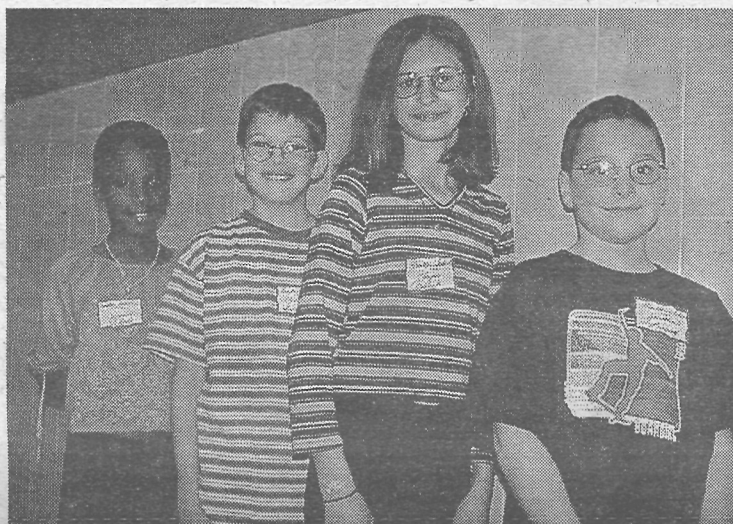


Middlesex Co. Health Dept. Offering Flu Vaccines

Flu immunizations will be provided at no cost to Middlesex County residents who are 18 years of age or older. Medicare will be billed where applicable. Please bring your medicare card if you are a Medicare recipient.

Also, pneumococcal immunizations will be provided at no cost to Middlesex County residents who are 65 years of age or older. This vaccine will only be provided if you have not previously received it. Pneumococcal immunizations are available by appointment only and can be made now by calling (732) 745-3100, Mon. to Fri., 2-4 p.m.

South Plainfield flu and pneumococcal immunizations are scheduled on Monday, Nov. 6, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the Municipal Courtroom Building, 2480 Plainfield Ave., and on Tuesday, Nov. 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the South Plainfield PAL Building, 1250 Maple Ave.



Congratulations to fifth grade Franklin School students Jasmine Silas, Anthony Simone, Taryn Billich and Jonathan Marcoux, who are finalists in the 'WCTC Spell Off.'

Four Franklin Students are Finalists in Spelling Contest

Four Franklin School students are amongst the current finalists of the WCTC "Spell Off." Fifth grade students Jasmine Silas, Anthony Simone, Taryn Billich, and Jonathan Marcoux returned to school victorious last week, after their first round in the WCTC "Spell Off." The students became finalists after correctly spelling 15 of 16 words. The word that stumped them was

"broccoli." Franklin School fifth grade teacher Nancy Donahue explained that the four students qualified via a spelling bee open to the entire fifth grade. She also noted how hard the students studied for the spell-off.

The next round of the WCTC spell off will be held on Oct. 28. Good Luck!

Spooktacular Spider Treats

By Marie Markey

Here is a quick, fun and easy Halloween recipe your little goblins will gobble up this Halloween. And why not promote family time and do this together. Cupcake spiders are kid friendly with preparation and adult supervision. Adults can do the baking and cutting in advance and children can do the assembling.

Cupcake Spiders

Cake Mix,
1 package black string licorice
Mini M&M's for eyes

Prepared Chocolate Icing

1. Bake cupcakes in the mini muffin pan following manufacturers directions on cake package. Cool on nonstick cooling rack.
2. Put prepared icing in micro cooker. Melt icing at 30 second intervals until creamy and liquid. Place mini cupcakes on fork and dip in icing to cover. Let harden on cooling rack. Place Parchment Paper under cooling rack to catch drips for easy clean up.
3. With Kitchen Shears cut black string licorice into 2 inch pieces.
4. Stick licorice pieces into mini cupcakes to make spider legs.
5. Place mini M&M's onto icing

for eyes. ENJOY!

Icing can be optional. I recommend omit the icing for preschool age children.

If you do this keep in mind you will need a dab of icing to put on M&M so eyes stick. You may want to use a icing decorating tube sold in the baking aisle of the grocery store.

Tips like these are shared at home cooking classes offered by Marie Markey, independent kitchen consultant for The Pampered Chef. For additional tips or to schedule a Holiday Cooking Class, call toll free 877-266-9394 or email MM PmPrChf@aol.com.

Crafters, Vendors, Wanted for Bazaar

Sacred Heart School is currently seeking vendors interested in participating in their Holiday Bazaar to be held at Sacred Heart School on Friday, Nov. 10 from 7 to 10 p.m.

The number of tables is limited and will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis. Sign-up deadline is Monday, Oct 30.

If you are interested in setting up a table, contact Bev Jenkin at 908-226-0222.

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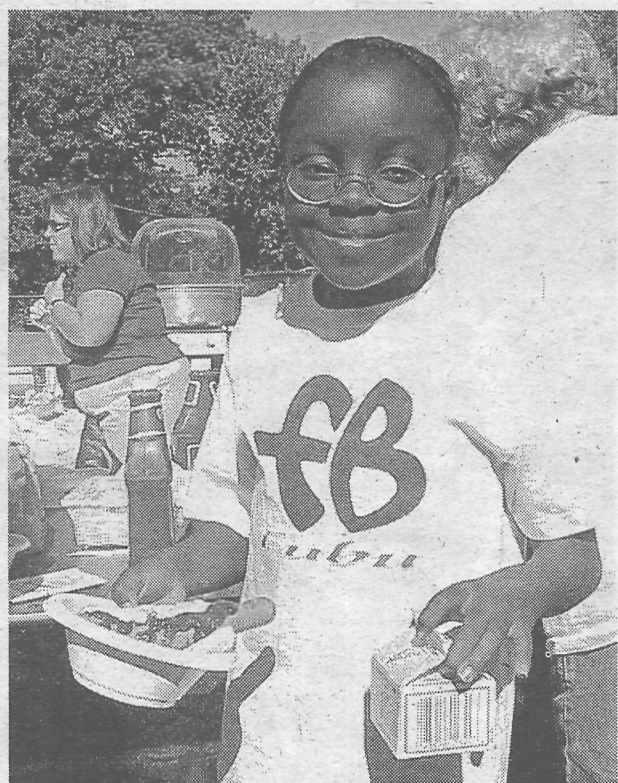
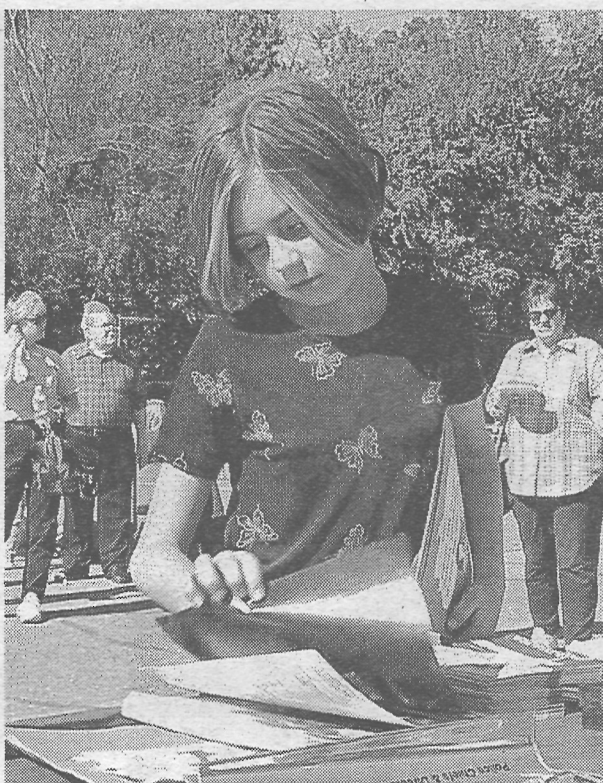
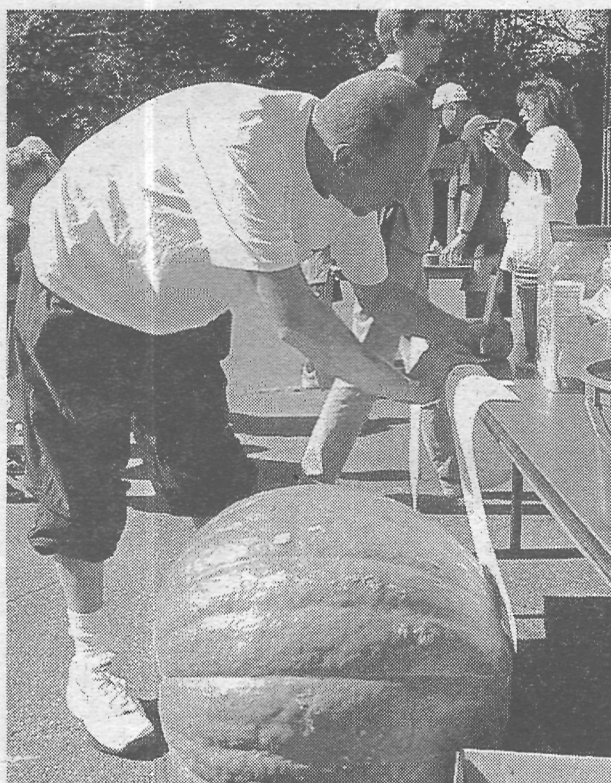
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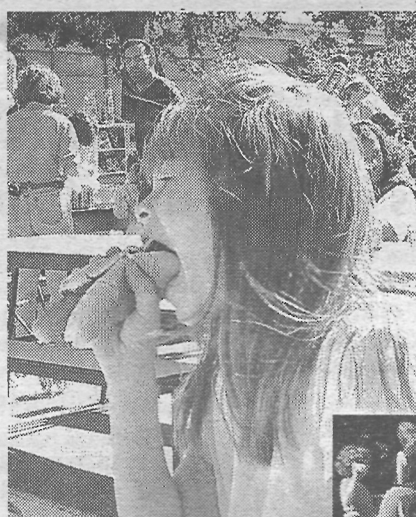
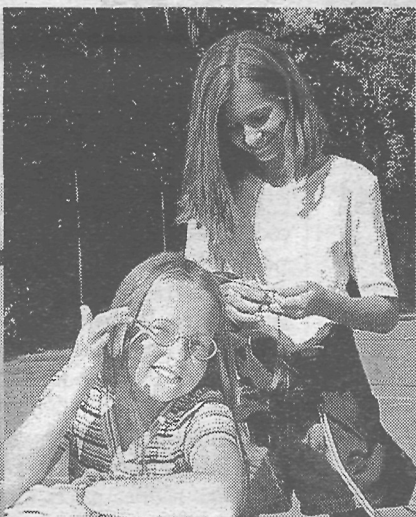


Franklin School Annual Fall Harvest Festival

Franklin School hosted their Third Annual Fall Harvest Festival recently.

The well-attended event included vendors offering hand-made crafts and flea market items. Pony rides and a moonbounce ride were very popular. A DJ provided music during the afternoon. There was also a special appearance by Barbara Habeeb Harley, a country western singer and Kennedy School teacher. DARE and the fire department were also there.

The food court had an expanded menu including bagels, donuts, pork roll and cheese, pizza, hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken wings, sloppy joes, drinks and more.



Wayne Grenier
Sales Associate



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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

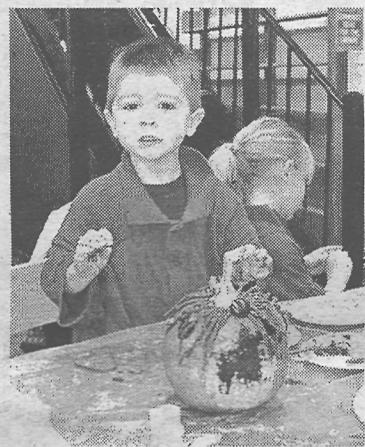


Area children (above and below) gathered along with their parents at the South Plainfield Public Library to decorate pumpkins.

Kenneth Morgan

Well, Tuesday is Halloween, a day highly regarded by candy-eating children, candy-making companies, dentists and producers of horror movies. But, while we're waiting for trick or treat to commence, here's news from the South Plainfield Library:

This month's meeting for Homeschoolers is scheduled for this morning at 10:30. It'll be held in our Children's Room. If you home school



your children, or are thinking about it, feel free to attend.

Tomorrow will be the last day you can borrow tapes from the present group of Circuit videos. Titles in this group include, *Double Jeopardy*, 2010, *Music of the Heart*, *Liar Liar* and *The Secret Garden*. The next group will be available by late next week.

Here's a temporal reminder: Daylight Savings Time ends this weekend. Don't forget to make this switch back to Standard Time by setting your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night. Then lie back and enjoy that extra hour of sleep.

Turning to our children's Storytime programs, we've got our usual schedule in place next week. That means they'll be held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. Each lasting about an hour, they're for children ages three and up; no pre-registration is required. If you'd like more information, please check with Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

Now, an advance word: We'll be hosting another Scrapbooking program, led by Dayle Giammarino, on Friday, Nov. 3, from 7 to 9 p.m. The admission/materials charge is \$8. Space is limited, so sign up ASAP.

Here's a word about our policy regarding notices. While we're still pressed for space, we've set aside several areas for the posting of notices and pamphlets. The notices, though, must be of a non-profit, public service announcement nature (sorry, nothing about garage sales) and must relate to the South Plainfield area (for example, Woodbridge notices should be posted in Woodbridge, not South Plainfield). Furthermore, our director must approve them before they go up. (Don't try to post them on your own.) Within those guidelines, we can be pretty accommodating. If you'd like to post something, leave it with us and we'll see what we can do. We'll even supply the tape and/or tacks.

We've just added several noteworthy books to our fiction collection. New titles include *The Last Precinct* by Patricia Cornwell, *Home for the Holidays* by Johanna Lindsey, *The Carousel* by Richard Paul Evans, Dick Francis' quite possibly last mystery *Shattered* and *Winter Solstice* by Rosamunde Pilcher. (That last book, by the way, is recommended by our director, Mrs. Fenn.) New books can be borrowed for two weeks. As other patrons might have reserved some of them, be prepared to wait.

Or, if you'd like to read some books suitable for Halloween, we're pretty well-stocked with the works of Stephen King, Dean R. Koontz and John Saul, as well as classic horror tales like *Psycho* by Robert Bloch, *I am Legend* by Richard Matheson, *Dracula* by Bram Stoker and the creepy stories of Edgar Allen Poe. Older books go out for four weeks. Be advised that the library cannot be held responsible for any nightmares these books might inspire.

That'll do it for this week. See you next time. The sugar buzz should've worn off by then.

New Teachers Join Local Schools

Middle School Welcomes...

Gertrude Allen will be teaching at the Middle School in a Special Education Resource Room. She graduated from Queens College, CUNY with a B.A. and holds certificates in Early Childhood/Elementary and Special Education. She taught previously at Somerville High School and Westfield Elementary School and is a member of the Orton Gillingham Association. Outside of classes, she volunteers with Homeless Family Weekend, teaching confraternity classes and ferrying her daughter to swim meet practice.

Robert Richkus calls South Plainfield his home. He graduated with the Class of 1989 and furthered his education with an Associate in Applied Science/Paralegal at Middlesex County College and earned a B.S. in Secondary Education/Social Studies at Georgia Southern University. He was on the Dean's List at both MCC

ing are activities she enjoys.

Dale Salisbury is an eighth grade Language Arts teacher at the Middle School. His B.A. degree in English was conferred at Fort Hays State University. He had been an assistant soccer coach (girls varsity) and yearbook advisor in Irvington. Dale was awarded the National Defense Medal for service during the Gulf War. He has taught second and seventh grades and seventh grade reading. His certifications are Elementary Teacher K-8 and English teacher 7-12. Soccer, photography and animal rescue take up his leisure hours.



Karen Weiner

social studies at Riley School. She has substituted in the Edison School District and been a senior camp counselor at Ricochet Health Club. She plays the flute, loves exotic animals and enjoys bike riding, hiking and cooking.

Jennifer Mack can be found in her fifth grade classroom at Riley School. She is an alumna of Cabrini College with a BSE double major in Special Education/Elementary Education and a minor in Psychology. Manalapan-Englishtown was

her previous working environment in the Middle School Resource Room and K-1 self-contained Special Education classroom. She was named to the Dean's List in 1995, 1996 and 1997 and is a member of the Education Honor Society and the Psychology Honor Society.

Her special interests include the Project Law Essay Contest of the Middlesex County Bar Association and her web site (<http://www.angel.fire.com/nj3/riley>).

Roosevelt School Welcomes...

Michael Bertram graduated cum laude from Kean College in 1994 with a double major in Early Childhood Education and Psychology. Michael taught second grade for five years in the Irvington School District. He will teach third grade at Roosevelt School this year.

His outside activities include coaching several basketball camps over the summer and settling into his new marriage.

Kevin Hajduk is a home-grown product of South Plainfield. He attended Roosevelt School and returns as a teacher in the Resource Room. Kevin received his B.A. from East Stroudsburg University with a dual major in Special Education/Elementary Education. He holds certification in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania in Special Education and Elementary Education. He was previously employed in East Stroudsburg in second and third grade learning support, third grade Resource Room and in Bushkill District Autistic Support. Kevin is a Pi Lambda Phi member and volunteers for the Special Olympics in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, when not busy wrestling as a sport.

He enjoys hiking, camping, backpacking and rooting for the Yankees and Chicago Bears.

Riley School Welcomes...

Kendall Ribar will teach Computers at Riley School. Some of her expertise was acquired at Kean University where she received her B.A. cum laude in Elementary Education. Kendall is certified as an Elementary Teacher K-8. She has taught Preschool and third grade at Sacred Heart School.

She surfs the web at home when not spending time with her two Pugs, Casey and Calvin. Marriage is on the horizon in July 2001.

Christine Dispenziere graduated from Seton Hall University with a B.S. in Education. She holds certifications in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education. Riley School is her destination, where she will be teaching fourth grade. Christine is not totally new to South Plainfield.

She previously worked as a permanent substitute teacher at Riley and has taught in private school at Kid's Campus. Fundraising and trip planning are what she enjoys doing when not involved with her two children, ages 5 and 7.

Jennifer Olsson holds a B.A. in Elementary Education with a second major in Psychology. Her certification is K-8 Elementary Education. She will be teaching fourth grade science and



Patricia Porzio

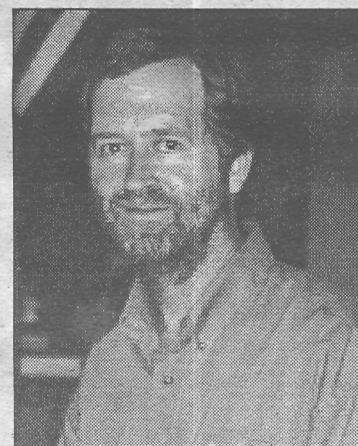
and GSU and is certified in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Stockton College. His certifications include GA: Level 4 and NJ: Advanced Standing. You will find him at the Middle School in his eighth grade history classroom. Before coming to South Plainfield, he substituted in Dunellen and Union Catholic. During his high school years, Robert served four years on Student Council, was President of Student Council, was a founding member of SADD (SPHS) and also served as its president. In his spare time he coached freshman basketball in Dunellen.

Special interests include playing three years in the Garden State Semi-Pro Division for Soccer, reading, watching the History Channel and traveling. He served eight years in South Plainfield Little League and 10 years as a member of South Plainfield Soccer Club.

Andrew J. Cefalo received his college education at Kean University graduating with a B.A. in Biology and Psychology. His assignment this year is seventh grade Life Science. He previously taught at Woodglenn Middle School in Lebanon Twp., fifth and sixth grades in Mendham Boro and Copeland Middle School, Rockaway Twp. Extracurricular time has been spent with Science Club, Science Fair, and Science Alliance/School Connection. Married and the father of three boys, he made a career change because he wanted to make a difference in the lives of children.

He coaches baseball and football at the recreation, middle and high school levels.

Kathryn Wolff, RN will be the new school nurse for the Middle School. She received her BSN from Rutgers College of Nursing and her School Nurse certification from Caldwell College. She has served as part time School Nurse in South Bound Brook and as Special Needs Nurse at the Midland School, North Branch. Her down time is spent with her husband Wayne and two sons Andrew, 14 and Adam, 12. Reading, travel and cook-



Bob Tickle

Kappa Delta Pi and the Education Honor Society. His previous assignment was at Lincoln High School in Philadelphia, where he implemented the Lincoln Internship Program (LIP) at Dorland Sweeney Jones, a medical advertising agency, to provide real world working experience to students. When not in his classroom, he enjoys scuba diving, environmental awareness, hockey, chess, bowling and reading. His marriage to wife Dena and two children, Evan, 8, and Mark, 4, keep him busy outside the classroom.

Patricia Porzio will be teaching Physical Science and General Chemistry at the high school this year. Her educational background includes an Associate in Criminal Justice degree from SUNY at Canton and a B.S. in Forensic Science, a minor in Chemistry and a concentration in Biology from the University of New Haven.

She has taught Middle School eighth grade Science and was a long-term substitute teacher here in the district groups. When not in the classroom, Patricia is kept busy being a mom to her son, golfing, sewing, reading and volunteering at Franklin School.

Natalie Rapacki earned her B.A.

Continued on page 16

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Sports

SPHS Field Hockey Team Wins in GMC Tournament

The South Plainfield High School Field Hockey Team upset Old Bridge 2-0 Tuesday in the quarterfinals at the Greater Middlesex Conference Tournament (GMC).

Led by goals by Millie Patel, who scored her ninth goal of the

season, and Meghan Schweers, the team defeated No. 3 seeded Old Bridge.

The roster of the 2000 Field Hockey Team (pictured right) is:

Seniors—Nicole Adorna, Megan Melanson, Jennifer Pagala and Millie Patel.

Juniors—Shannon Dabrio, Meghan Elsmann, Janelle Kenny and Margaret Lazar.

Sophomores—Katherine Baldessari, Kristina Cwiekalo, Christina DeMatos, Michelle DeSantis, Nicole Esposito, Kristen Gumina, Christina Lorange, Rupel Patel, Meghan Schweers, Danielle Skoba and Denise Vita.

Freshman—Nicole Carlson, Tarryn Carlton, Catherine Flannery, Heather Loenser, Ngözi Okparacke, Amanda Rastelli and Danielle Tonkin.

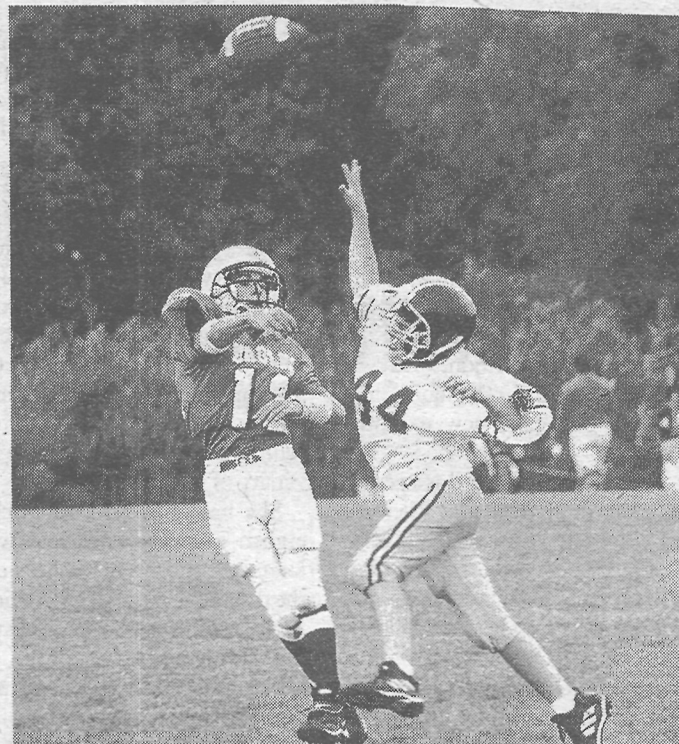
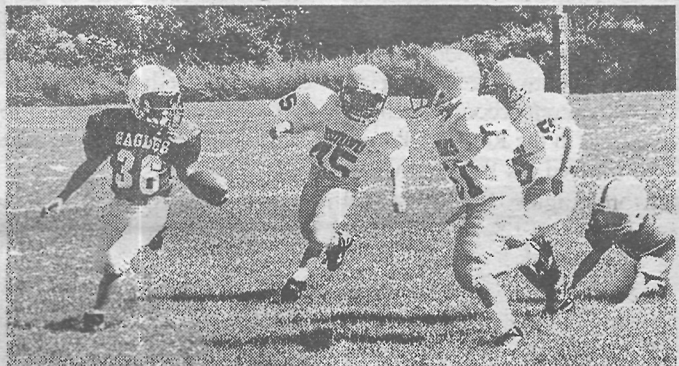
Pictured above right is the SPHS Field Hockey Team



Senior Millie Patel



Pop Warner Football



Pop Warner foot ball players in action. Pictured on are the Mighty Mites top, Flag Football (middle) and Junior Midgets (bottom).

Photos by Carolyn Parisi

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| GENESSEE CREAM ALE AND ALL TYPES 12 OZ CANS 9.99 30 PAK | HEINEKEN OR AMSTEL LIGHT 12 OZ CANS 18.99 CASE |
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| O'DOULS (NON-ALCOHOLIC LAGER OR AMBER) 12 OZ NR BTLS OR CANS 10.99 CASE | BASS ALE 12 OZ NR BTLS 4/6 PAK CASE 23.99 CASE |

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|--|---|
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| FLEISCHMANN'S VODKA 1.75 LITER 10.99 | CHIVAS REGAL SCOTCH 750 ML 23.99 |
| \$2 MFG REBATE 10.99 | DRAMBUIE LIQUEUR 750 ML 24.99 |
| HEAVEN HILL 1.75 LITER 12.99 | THE GLENLIVET SINGLE MALT SCOTCH 750 ML 26.99 |
| BLACK VELVET 1.75 LITER 12.99 | KETEL ONE VODKA 1.75 LITER 27.99 |
| INVER HOUSE SCOTCH 1.75 LITER 14.99 | CUTTY SARK SCOTCH 1.75 LITER 28.99 |
| \$3 MFG REBATE 14.99 | CABO WABO REPOSADO TEQUILA 750 ML 39.99 |
| GORDON'S GIN 1.75 LITER 14.99 | |
| BAILEYS IRISH CREAM 750 ML 15.99 | |
| ADMIRAL NELSON SPICED RUM 1.75 LITER 18.99 | |

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| | |
|---|--|
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BUDWEISER
BUD LIGHT, BUD ICE, BUD ICE LIGHT
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PINOT NOIR
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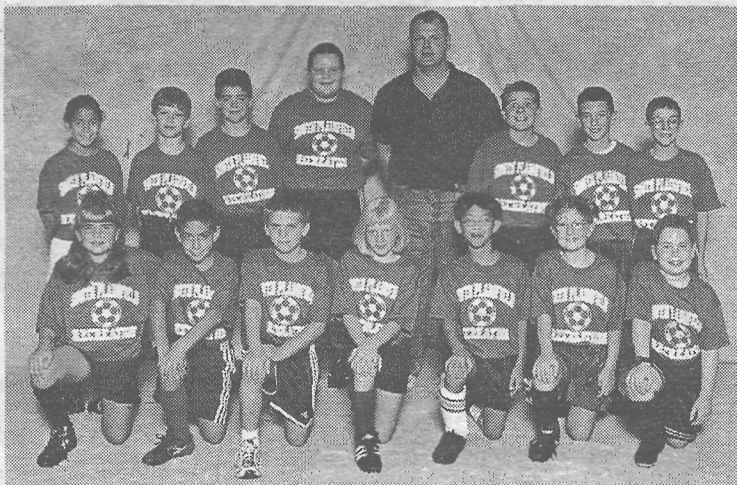
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Sports

Soccer

South Plainfield Recreation Soccer League



B-League Robins

Tara Goitiandia, Alison Case, Andrew Staynings, Raymond Lee, J.P. Barry, Curtis Wilchek, Timothy Yuill, Mark Sprenger, Lee Aboosamara, Nick Vallone, Ricky Harzula, Erik White, Catherine Cook, Jared Christopher, Michelle Pielhau, Hannah Johnson, Lyndsey Murtaugh



B-League Crows

Brian Amigroni, Kelly Remsing, Vinnie Padula, Jordan Leporino, Jonathan Cursi, Holy McDede, Amanda Ray, Michael Boyle, Nick Lanza, Kyle Quail, Ken Breslau, Renato Francia, Nelson Soriano, Jacqueline Bosse, Sean Tamzoke, Danny Maistickle, Fred Reichert

Annual SPHS Alumni Soccer Game Friday Night

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.

Blaze U-12 Girls Outshine Emeralds

So. Plfd Blaze vs. East Brunswick Emeralds

For the second time this season the South Plainfield Blaze U-12 girls traveling soccer team beat East Brunswick Emeralds 2-nil. All threats by the Emeralds were shut down by a terrific performance from our defense. In as keeper, Becky Keller's shut out streak rolls on to six behind a defense that continues to make things happen for our offense. Fullbacks Ashleigh Gaspari and Tiffany Smith did an outstanding job containing all balls wide while

in our sweeper and stopper positions Elizabeth Flannery, Jackie Miller and Jenna Delillo removed all pressure in the middle.

A relentless midfield attack was led by a stellar performance from our talented left halfback Lauren Fry. While on the right, halfbacks Megan Boyle, Ashley Little and Katelyn Conrad did a great job as well. Pressure from the middle was dominated by center midfielders Jennifer Copeland, Joy Maszczak and Dorian Bishop.

The first strike of the game came in the 38th minute when

Kate Hardy floated a cross to Denise Lopez, who blasted it in from the right side to record her first goal of the season. Ten minutes later on an assist from Jennifer Copeland, Kate Hardy tapped in a loose ball to cap our fifth win of the season and preserve our record at 5-0-1, setting the stage for next week's showdown against second place Middlesex Mashers.

Congratulations on a great win girls! Visit the South Plainfield Soccer Club web site at www.soplfd.soccerclub.com.

Submitted by Coach Hardy

Typhoons U11 Shut Out Westfield

The boys U11 Typhoons completed a season sweep of Westfield United with a 2-nil victory on Sunday afternoon. It was their third shutout in four games and improved their record to 4-2.

Ten minutes into the first half was when all the scoring needed in this match was made. The first score was given to Brian Fabino. As he was attempting a pass in front of the goal, a Westfield player inadvertently kicked it in for a 1-0 lead. Then within a minute of the first goal, Dave Alston fed the ball to Brian Fabino who found an open John Christ, for his first goal of the year and a 2-0 lead

which would stand up for the remainder of the contest.

The Typhoons took control early and never relinquished it as Westfield struggled throughout to put any consistent pressure on our defense. And the strong, aggressive

play of Matt Helgensen and Keith Heckel made sure that they wouldn't.

Next up for the Typhoons will be at first place St. John Vianey Cheetash on Sunday at 2:30.

Submitted by Jeff Marcoux

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.

NOTICE

The Nov. 3 SPHS football game originally scheduled at Bishop Ahr is now a home game.



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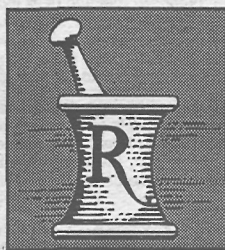
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Obituaries

Michael B. Mint, Sr., 75

Michael B. Mint, Sr., died on Thursday, Oct. 19 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in Tresckow, Pa., Mr. Mint resided in Plainfield, Piscataway and Bethlehem, Pa. before moving to Bridgewater seven years ago.

He was a graduate of West Hazelton High School.

Mr. Mint was employed by the Bloomsbury Board of Education as a custodian before retiring in 1987. Prior to his employment with the Bloomsbury Board of Education, he had also been employed by the Bound Brook Board of Education, Meade Johnson Distribution in South Plainfield and Moores Trucking in Piscataway.

Mr. Mint had served in the United States Army during WWII.

He was also a member of the Bridgewater Senior Citizens and the Manville VFW.

He is predeceased by his wife, Rose, who died in 1992.

Surviving are his daughter and son-in-law, Bella and Joe Nappe of South Plainfield; his son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Anna Mint, Jr. of North Plainfield; two sisters, Teresa Setzer of Weatherly, Pa. and Thelma Amendolaire of Manville, NJ; three brothers, Gerard Mint of Manville, Joseph Mint of Sayre, Pa. and Dominick Mente of Kutztown, Pa.

Also surviving are four grandchildren, Joseph and Anthony Nappe and Michelle and Dawn Mint.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Wallace C. Endres, 76

Wallace C. Endres died on Sunday, Oct. 22 at Genesis Eldercare, the Woodlands in Plainfield, NJ.

Born in Jersey City, Mr. Endres settled in South Plainfield 43 years ago.

He was employed as a boiler engineer with a black seal for M&T Chemicals of Rahway, before his retirement 11 years ago. He was previously employed as a draftsman for Chevron in Perth Amboy.

Mr. Endres served in the United States Coast Guard Merchant Marines from 1943 to 1945. He was awarded the Merchant Marine Combat Bar, the Atlantic War Zone Bar, the Mediterranean Middle East War Zone Bar, the Pacific War Zone Bar and the Presidential Testimonial Letter for his actions during service. He was a member of the Dennis A. Roland's New Jersey Chapter of

the AMMV (American Merchant Marine Veteran).

Surviving are his wife, Dorothy (Lemanski) Endres; his daughter and son-in-law, Beverley and Ken Bulla, of South Plainfield, and his grandchildren, Karen and her husband Michael Grab of Piscataway, and Kevin Bulla and Kimberly Bulla, both of South Plainfield.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Florence D. (DeLotis) Wood

Florence D. (DeLotis) Wood died on Sunday, Oct. 22 at Genesis Eldercare's Westfield Center.

Born in Wilkes Barre, Pa., Mrs. Wood had resided in Elizabeth, where she graduated from Battin High School. She was married and she and her husband settled in Linden where they resided for thirty years before moving to Clark, until 1984 when she settled in Seaville, where she had lived for the past 16 years.

She was employed as an assistant manager for City Federal Savings in Linden/Kenilworth for 16 years. She later worked for Wakefern Food of Elizabeth in the accounting department. Once she settled in Seaville, Mrs. Wood, again returned to work in the treasures office of Sea Isle City, NJ., part time, before she finally retired at the age of 75.

Mrs. Wood was an active member of the Mature Club of the Church of Resurrection in Marmora, NJ and was the charter member and the past president of the Widows and Widowers Group also at the church.

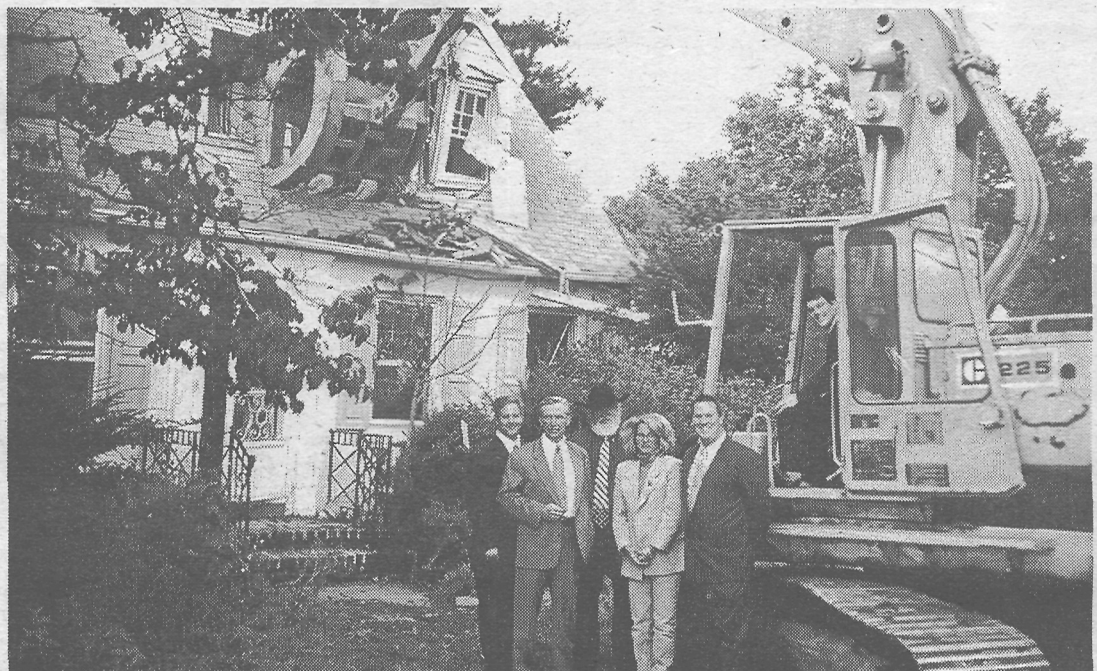
She is predeceased by her husband, Russell Wood, who died in 1979.

Surviving are her two daughters, Anita and her husband Keith Nelson of Seaville and Jane Rozek of South Plainfield; her sister, Margaret Strella of W. Virginia; three grandsons, Ian and Christopher Nelson and Nicholas Rozek; and her two great-grandsons, Keith and Scott Nelson.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in her memory may be made to the JFK Haven Hospice, c/o 65 James St., Edison, NJ 08818.

Tell Our Advertisers You Saw Their Ad in The Observer



Mayor Gallagher, Councilmen Vinnie Buttigieri and Ed Kubala, Councilwoman Darlene Pinto and Candidate Bob Cusick are on hand to watch the demolition of houses on the corner of Park Ave. and Oak Tree Rd. Councilman Ray Petronko is at the wheel.

In My Opinion

Continued from page 2

John all the way to the county. The Freeholders provided \$1,000,000 to expand Putnam Park. Most recently our voice was heard again, Middlesex County is going to acquire nine acres off Tompkins Ave. for open space.

On a personal note, I'd like to close by saying thank you on behalf of our volunteer firefighters and rescue squad members, to my friend and our Freeholder John Pulomena, for communicating our need for a new fire truck and new ambulance to Freeholder Director and Liaison to the MCIA, David B. Crabel, which provided the funding for the purchase of the emergency equipment.

Ray Petronko, Bob Cusick and John Pulomena certainly have my vote and they deserve your vote!!!

THANK YOU, DENNIS CERAMI

To the Editor,

I usually don't get excited about elections because it's the same story over and over. However, this year is different. Bob Cusick is running for Borough Council. Bob will be an excellent councilperson. He has been involved in the community for years. He has served on the Planning Board and the environmental commission. He is the type of person who really does his homework before he renders a decision. He is the type of leader we need and he will fit in very well with the mayor and council. Bob is a fair and decent man who will make us all proud.

Please join me on election day and vote for Bob Cusick for Borough Council. Also vote for Bob's running mate, Councilman Ray Petronko, who is seeking re-election to the Borough Council.

JOHN SORENTINO

To the Editor,

Well, here we are again, October, a few weeks away from the November elections for Borough Council. Now many of you I'm sure don't pay too much attention to "local politics" about now, especially when there is a presidential election and I don't blame you. Sometimes local issues may not seem very important, especially when things are "going pretty good."

As you have recently noticed three major projects have started. The PAL expansion, Senior Housing and a Senior Center are all in progress as a result of your council working to get them going. All of the newly paved roads, increased open space and improvements in the parks are also examples of programs completed. These are all "good things" that are going on in our town.

So "Let's Keep a Good Thing Going!" Please support Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick on Election Day. They are two dedicated positive individuals who are ready to keep us moving in the right

direction. Please vote and when you do, please vote for the Democratic team. Thank you!

JIM VOKRAL, BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

To the Editor,

Did you see the signs that just went up at the intersection of Oak Tree Avenue and Park Avenue? The signs read, "THIS CORNER WILL NEVER BE DEVELOPED." Because of the far-sightedness of Councilman Ray Petronko, South Plainfield avoided the mess that is going on in Edison over the Walgreen's Drug Store. Now I read that Ray Petronko and his running mate, Environmentalist Bob Cusick, have obtained a grant to keep the nine acres at the corner of Tompkins Avenue and Clinton Avenue open space.

These two projects are reason enough to vote for Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick for South Plainfield Council.

JOHN GORMAN

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

October 24, 2000

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on October 17, 2000.

Case # 43-00-William Taber-Block 40; Lot 4; R-75 Zone; 1609 Kenyon Avenue; Applicant's request for front yard setback variances for the installation of an in-ground pool, were hereby GRANTED.

Janice J. Muccilli
Secretary, Zoning Board

\$15.00

1T Oct. 27, 2000

PUBLIC NOTICE

RETURN OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE TO GEORGE VEINOTT FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AT 509 ARLINGTON AVENUE, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080 Lot #11, Block #365

A public meeting has been scheduled by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield to hear objections, if any, to the release of a Performance Guarantee posted by George Veinott for public improvements at 509 Arlington Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey known as Lot #11, in Block #365 listed on the official tax maps of the

Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held 8:00 P.M. Monday, November 13, 2000 in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

George Veinott
590 Arlington Avenue
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080
\$35.00 1T Oct. 27, 2000

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Maria Alvarez requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the erection of an 14' x 16' roof over existing deck and to have existing deck memorialized, proposed roof and deck lacks the required 30' front setback from Oxford Ave., 13'9" being proposed; and any other variances that may be needed, said property being located on Block 82, Lot 3 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, November 21, 2000, in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

The maps and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Building Inspector's Office, South Plainfield Borough Hall, Monday through Thursday, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

\$35.00 1T October 27, 2000

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Tigers Host 19th Annual Marching Band Festival



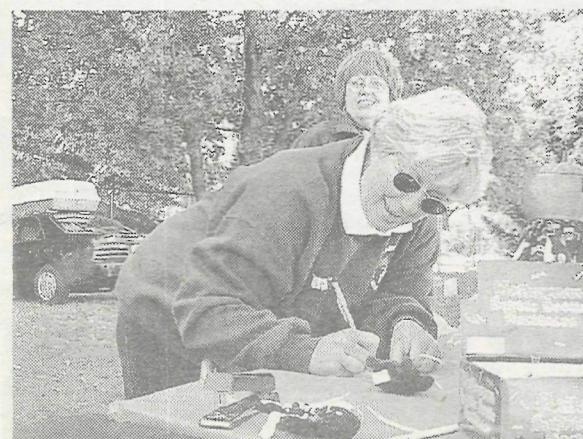
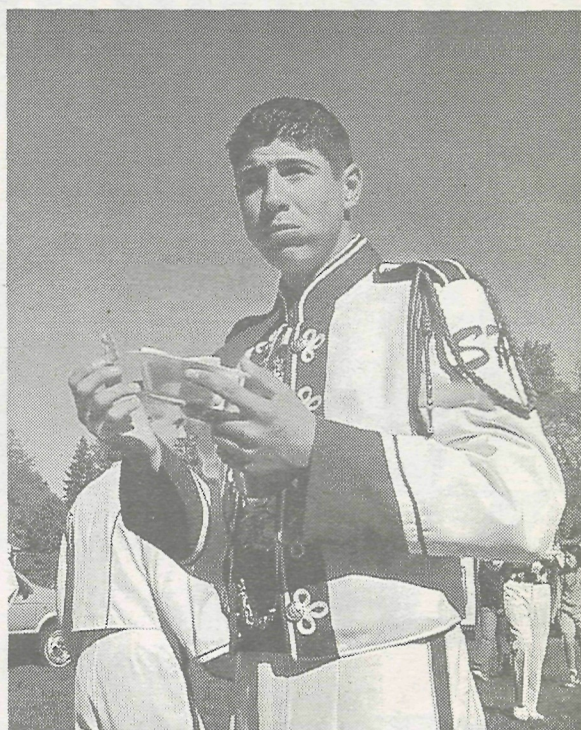
Last Sunday the South Plainfield High School Marching Band played host to nine bands competing in Divisions I, III and IV.

First place winner in Division I was Dunellen High School. First Place winner in Division III was John F. Kennedy from Iselin. First Place winner in Division IV was Bloomfield High School.



Overall winner for Best Band Front was Nottingham High School. Best Band Percussion was awarded to John F. Kennedy. Best Band Music was awarded to Bloomfield High School and the President's Trophy (Best Band Overall) was awarded to Bloomfield High School.

The Tigers travel to Governor Livingston on Sunday, Oct. 29 for their next competition. The Marching Tigers are under the direction of Mark S. Tweed and Assistant Band Director Joe Borgese.



policereport

• A Park Ave. resident reported the theft of her purse. She had placed the purse on the ground in her driveway while talking to a friend. Later she went into her home, returned a few minutes later for the purse and discovered it had been stolen.

• A Geary Drive resident was arrested for possession of marijuana. South Plainfield Police had been contacted by Plainfield Police Dept. about a hit and run accident that took place in Plainfield near Grant Ave. The plate number came back to the Geary Drive resident. Police located the vehicle in the resident's driveway. The resident told police that when she struck the other vehicle she was scared and fled the scene. When she opened the door of her van to retrieve her driver's license and registration, the officer noticed a strong odor of burnt marijuana. A search of the van turned up two small burnt marijuana cigarettes. When asked, the resident admitted she had been smoking marijuana. She was transported to police headquarters and charged with possession of a CDS (controlled dangerous substance).

• Nick R. Lombardo, Loss Prevention supervisor, Kohls Dept. Store on Stelton Rd., came to HQ to report a shoplifting that had occurred on Oct. 1. He reported he had seen Shiwani Bishnoe of Edison conceal several items from the jewelry department and attempt to leave the store. He intercepted her outside the store and brought her back in, recovered the merchandise and recorded her identification. He released her at the time because she was nine months pregnant. He signed a complaint after filing the report.

• A CVS employee was entering the store for work when a suspect carrying a hand basket full of unknown items ran past her to his car. She told him to stop but he continued toward the car and left the parking lot. A plate number was recorded and came back to Selina A. White-Smith of Piscataway.

• The owner of Child's Play Day Care on Plainfield Ave. reported being harassed by the parent of a student. The suspect entered the day care center and began a verbal argument with owner. She yelled and threatened to slap the owner. The argument started when the suspect was questioned about an overdue bill. The owner asked her to leave and suspect said, "If you did my child wrong you better pray cause I'm coming back and you'll be sorry." No complaint was signed at the time.

• R Tape Corp. reported theft of payroll checks. The PNC bank checks were cashed at various banks with forged signatures. One of the checks was made out to a former employee who may be a suspect.

• A Rush St. resident reported his front picture window had been smashed.

• An Employee of Holiday Inn reported the rear window of her car had been smashed. Her mother recalled an ex-boyfriend had threatened to 'bust' her windows three weeks earlier. There were no witnesses.

• A Hancock St. resident reported her computer was missing from her home. She believes her husband stole the computer.

Classifieds

Rates -- 3 line minimum-\$11, \$1 ea. additional line.

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ad call
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SOCIAL SERVICES. DO YOU ENJOY a variety of recreational activities and would be willing to assist me to get involved in my community in Plainfield? Then this is the job for you. A young quiet male w/a disability is looking for a full-time and/or part-time outgoing staff person to help him have an exciting life. Excellent pay. If interested, call Karen. 908-666-1559.

BOOKKEEPING-P/T. Approx. 2-2½ days/wk. Great for working mom. Some knowledge of Quick Books. 755-6019.

P/T RECYCLING GROUNDSKEEPER Operations, maintenance at So. Plfd. municipal drop-off. 7-20 hr/wk. \$7.50-\$8/hr. Front loader exper. preferred. Call Recycling Coordinator (908) 226-7621 EOE

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FRANKLIN PARK/SOCIETY HILL, 3-BDRM, spacious twnhse, EIK, large garage, formal DR, MBR w/cathedral ceiling & deck, master bath w/soaking tub. \$169,900. 732-545-3132.

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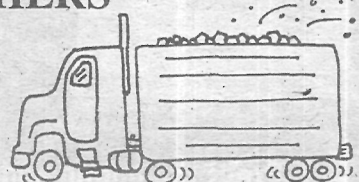
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New Teachers Join Local Schools

Continued from page 9

and M.A. in Mathematics and Education at Kean College. She will be teaching math at the high school this year. Her previous assignments were in Keyport, Old Bridge and Middlesex. Natalie also can be found behind a desk as an Adjunct Instructor at Middlesex County College. Her outside pursuits include biking and gardening.

Bob Tickle will serve as Physics teacher at the high school. He has a B.S. from Virginia Tech in Chemical Engineering and an M.S. from the University of Kentucky in Chemical Engineering. Certifications include Mathematics and Physical Science eligibility. Bob has hands-on experience with Exxon Research and Engineering as a Software Engineer for 23 years. Bob said he chose teaching as his second career because, "I wanted a profession with more community involvement." He and wife Debbie have two daughters, one in high school and one in middle school. He entertains himself with bicycling, camping and golf.

Dr. Karen Weiner holds a PhD from Albany Medical College in Biochemistry and a B.A. from Colgate University in Biology. You will find her sharing her knowledge at South Plainfield High School in A.P. Biology and Honors Biology courses. Her previous teaching assignment was in Biology at New Brunswick Health Science Technology High School where she also helped publish their yearbook. She received a certificate for excellence in teaching from Albany Medical College. She has instructed classes for medical students, graduate students and nursing students. She is the mother of three boys.

Kennedy School Welcomes...

Ambrose Fletcher is the new fourth grade teacher at Kennedy School. His alma mater is Penn State University. His major course of study was Human Resources with a minor in Business Management. While at Penn State, he did volunteer work with autistic children. Previous teaching experience was in New London, Conn., where he coached high school football. One of his goals is to coach football "in the great State of New Jersey." Since he played in the Rose Bowl and holds the record for longest kick off return, he certainly can contribute to our cause.

Grant Elementary Welcomes...

Gail Merlo is a Kean College graduate. She was granted certification in Fine Arts Education

K-12 in 1974, Pre-school certified in 1979 and earned a B.A. in Art K-12, pre-school. She was named 1999 Teacher of the Year at Grant School. In her previous district, she served also as a substitute art teacher in the high school, taught jewelry design in the Adult School and taught in our own Future Stars program from 1994 to the present. Gail is married and the mother of three children. She is entertained by museums, theater and travel.

Greg Young can be found in the Guidance office at Grant School where he will counsel central sixth grade students. Greg received his B.A. from Newark State in Elementary Education and Science Education and his M.A. from Kean College in Guidance. His certifications are Student Personnel Services, Supervisor and Elementary Education. Clark Twp. was his previous work environment, where he was Gifted Child Coordinator (4-8), Math and Science teacher and Guidance Counselor (7-8). Some of his former activities include: Past NJ State Gifted Child Coordinator for American Mensa, Past President Clark Education Association, Kappa Delta Pi National Education Honor Society, Phi Delta Kappa Professional Education Fraternity and Founder, Clark Soccer Club. He taught graduate courses in gifted education, received the Community Service Award for Greater Union County Board of Realtors and is a former soccer, lacrosse and softball coach. He lives in Fanwood with wife Michele and two Welsh Corgis. His daughter Melissa and son-in-law Anthony live in Clark.

Nancy Torok is the new Educational Media Specialist at Grant School. She received her B.A. summa cum laude from Montclair State in mathematics and Physical Science and her M.L.S. from Rutgers University. Her certifications include Educational Media Specialist and Secondary Teacher of Mathematics and Physical Science. She has served as a library media specialist in the Metuchen School System, as well as mathematics teacher (HS & MS) in Edison and East Brunswick. Girl Scouts, church school teacher, travel, cooking and reading comprise her after work activities. Nancy has worked for over 20 years in information systems. Her most recent accomplishment was as the 'Story Lady' in a summer vacation school.

Jennifer Scott is assigned to Grant School as a Pre-school Special Education teacher. She carries a B.A. in Special Education from Kean University and is

certified in grades Pre-K-12 Special Education. She taught four years at Children's Specialized Hospital and substituted in grades 2-5 in Roselle Park, Westfield and Roselle. Jennifer was a 24-hour counselor at Camp Fatima for children with Autism and various disabilities. She was on the Dean's List and Honors List at college and gained certifications through seminars in Sensory Integration and ABA Strategies. Her leisure time is spent reading and participating in yoga classes.

Lori Kowalski graces her classroom as a sixth grade teacher at Grant School. She comes to us from Rider University with a B.A. in Elementary Education and Fine Arts (Theater). Lori taught at the Middle School as a long-term substitute for the eighth grade. She is an athlete, who played field hockey and enjoys exercising, reading and traveling.

Franklin and Riley Schools Welcome...

Jessica Schimpf is assigned to teach Instrumental Music (4/5) at Franklin and Riley Schools. She is a graduate of Montclair State University with a B.A. in Music Education and holds a NJ Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing in Music. Jessica is a professional flutist with solo, chamber and orchestral engagements throughout New York and New Jersey, including several performances with the NJ Chamber Music Society as well as a performance at Carnegie Hall. She enjoys attending musical events, jogging and practicing the flute.

Teacher Raises \$6K for Breast Cancer

Continued from page 1
person's life, then it will be all worthwhile."

A week after the walk the thrill and excitement of her experience was undiminished. "The food was good and the weather was beautiful. Volunteers did everything! I met lots of wonderful people from all over the country and Canada and I'm in touch with fellow crew members... we're already planning a reunion!" On a more serious note she said, "We were given wrist bands. One for the food line and one for ID. When the event was over I couldn't part with them. It took me a week to cut them off. I will do it again next year, hopefully walking."

Arthroscopic knee surgery

months earlier could have been an end to her plans. According to her doctor the grueling hike had the potential to cause serious permanent damage to her knee. Susan saw this only a detour and opted for the next best thing. She became part of the sweep crew, teams that drove vans throughout the day. Crew members often put in more hours than the walkers. Drivers spent 15-20 hours training for safety and support. Susan noted, "Teamwork was essential!" in this position. Crew drivers began their day at 5:15 a.m. to go over their assignments. "We cruised the entire trail each day, stopping at 'pit stops' and handing out candy," she said. "We were the 'heroes' in our superman sweat-shirts, there to rescue anyone who needed us." Being part of the crew encompassed a multitude of jobs. The end of each day brought the weary walkers to "Mobile City," a vast city of tents that became home for two nights. "Mobile City" is described as a "slumber party facility for adults that moved from day to day." Susan was one of 500 crew members, who offered a variety of services, others offered something equally important—their time and energy, their strong arms and legs, their love and their support. Walkers and crew members came from all all walks of life, some were cancer survivors, others walked in remembrance of a loved one.

The walk encompassed about 60 miles over the three days, starting in Bear Mountain State Park and ending in Morningside Park, Manhattan.

Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in women in

the US, and the leading cause of death in women between the ages of 40 and 55. It's estimated that 75,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and more than 42,000 will die. The net proceeds from the Avon Breast Cancer Walk support non-profit breast health-care programs, as well as medical research. With early detection crucial to survival, the mission is to provide women, particularly those lacking in medical assistance, access to breast health education and early detection screenings at little or no cost. Since the Avon Breast Cancer Awareness Crusade began, there have been revolutionary advances and the development of sophisticated technologies that have begun to close the gap towards a cure.

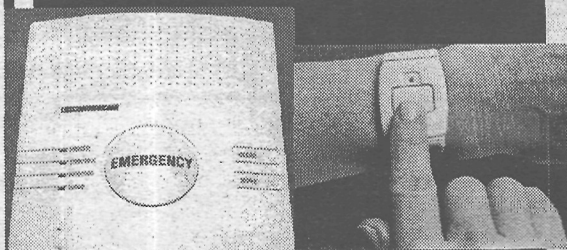
The awe in Susan's face and voice is evidenced when she talked about the walk. "This experience was so unbelievably awesome! I cried in every class as I told them of the wonderful things I had seen that weekend; courage, stamina, camaraderie, support, caring, tenderness and spirit. It was everywhere! I told my students I would not apologize for my tears for the experience was one of the most important things I've done in my lifetime. I encouraged them to, at sometime in their young lives, walk or participate in an event to raise money for a cause; be it cancer, heart disease, diabetes, something that would make you feel good on the inside. Your self-esteem will be untouchable. I'll never forget the young girl on crutches who 'walked' from Bear Mountain to Manhattan. This was an experience of a lifetime, I'll talk about this forever.



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