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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 4, NO. 17

50 CENTS

DECEMBER 29, 2000



South Plainfield Fire Chief Joe Abbruzzese presents the 'Fire Chiefs Award' to fireman George Hogan at the fire department's annual dinner held on Saturday, Dec. 16.

Toddler Struck by Car On Christmas Eve Dies

Christmas Eve turned into a nightmare for one family in South Plainfield. Jessica Guzenski and Mehendra Singh lost their three-year-old son, Anthony, who was hit by a car on New Market Ave.

The family attended a family reunion at the Polish Home on New Market Ave. on Christmas Eve. During the party Anthony received a special gift, a new motorized Harley-Davidson tricycle. Everyone had a great time and the party broke up shortly after 10 p.m.

Anthony's mother drove the car home, while his father accompanied Anthony—who was riding his new tricycle—to their house, just a short block away on the other side of New Market Ave.

According to Singh, as they were crossing New Market Ave., the boy was struck by a car, throwing him almost a block away. The South Plainfield Rescue Squad was called to the scene and the boy was transported to Robert

Wood Johnson University Hospital. He died early Christmas morning. An autopsy is planned to determine the exact cause of death.

The driver of the car that hit Anthony was Xiu Chen, a 22-year-old woman who also lives on New Market Ave.

According to Assistant Middlesex County Prosecutor Nicholas Sewitch, the boy was riding the motorized bike in the middle of the westbound lane when the

car, also traveling westbound, struck him. His father was on his left, but received no injuries.

The driver of the car and Anthony's father voluntarily gave blood samples to help in the investigation.

Police are asking any witnesses to the accident to call county investigator Dave Corey of the fatal accident unit at (732) 745-3735.

As of presstime, the investigation is still underway and no charges have been filed.

Billboard Hearings to Continue on January 2

A continuation of the hearing on whether to allow billboards in South Plainfield will be held by the Board of Adjustment on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2001. The public is invited to attend.

A total of three billboards are proposed along the portion of Rt. 287 which passes through South Plainfield. Two of the three billboards are being proposed by Carole Media. AMI, LLC is proposing the third billboard.

Local Kids Perform at Foster Parent Association

Eight *Almost Famous Players*/Summer Drama students recently took time out from their busy rehearsal schedule to appear at the Middlesex County Foster Parent Association's Annual Holiday Party, held on Saturday, Dec. 16. A call looking for entertainment was received on Friday by their director, Patricia Abbott.

The entertainment dilemma was presented to the students during their afternoon rehearsal. With almost no notice, it was a tough choice. Would their parents let them perform, given such short notice, and what would they do to entertain the children? On Saturday morning they arrived for their final rehearsal for a performance at the library, not knowing if they would be going to the Foster Parent party. A number of the students had prior commitments, but eight said they were ready and willing to perform.

On Saturday afternoon, Janis Nietzer, who had contacted them initially, was called to say that eight performers in full reindeer and elf garb had volunteered to perform. After a grueling two and a half hour rehearsal for their children's show at the library, the eight youths unanimously decided to

appear at the party, despite their lack of preparation. Attending the event were high school freshmen Chris Abbott and Samantha Gentile, eighth grade middle school students Heather Crisitello and Katie Mott, Grant School students Jessica Crisitello, Susan Mott, Gina Butrico and Riley School fifth grader John Crisitello.

The party was held at Kamp Kiddie Keep Well in Edison. Songs were organized and rehearsed during the short ride there. Thirty-five foster families attended the party. There were approximately 100 children, ranging in ages from two months up to 18 years. Upon their arrival, the South Plainfield contingent was dispersed to distribute candy canes among the special guests. They quickly accepted an offer of pizza as they had rehearsed through lunch. After a quick break they regrouped, sang Christmas carols and improvised a humorous skit around the juggling skills of *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*, played by Chris Abbott.

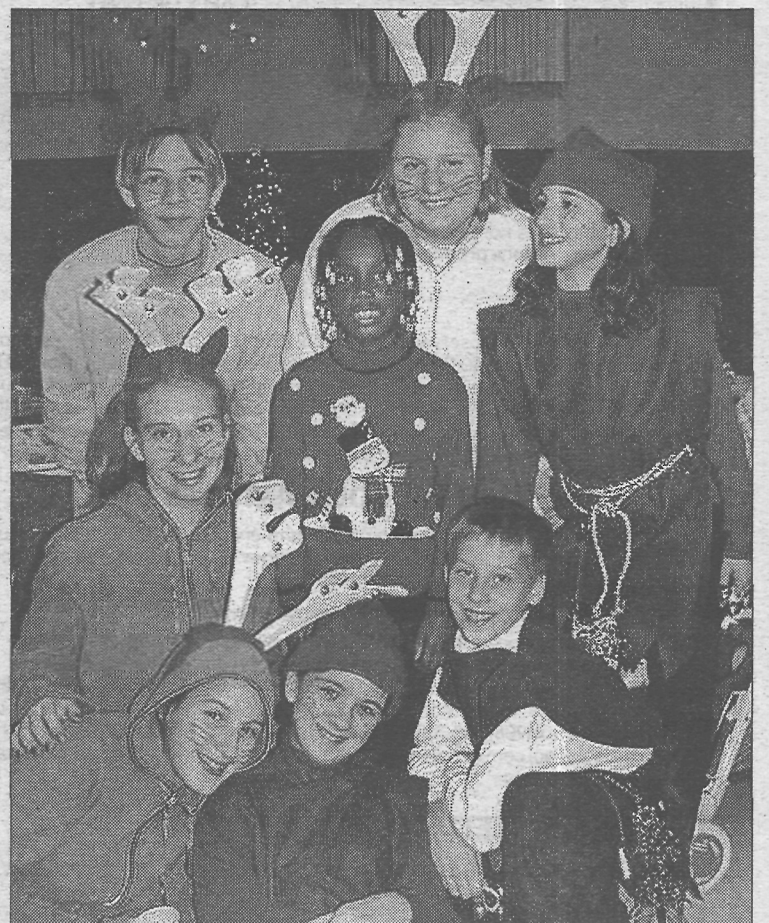
The idea was to keep the children entertained while Santa saw each child individually. With Santa nearby, it was hard to keep the

guests occupied until their age group was called. Moving around the room the young performers sang and chatted with the youths and their families. The guests were delighted to be invited to come up and sing with the group. The South Plainfield performers discovered they had newfound fans who followed them around the room asking for more songs.

Seven-year-old Kyesha Nietzer was a happy participant, anxiously awaiting her chance to talk to Santa. Kyesha is the adopted daughter of the Nietzer family of South Plainfield. She had been a foster child with the family for many years. This is her first Christmas as 'Kyesha Nietzer' and from the smile on her face as she posed with the reindeer and elves, this day will always be a very special time to remember. The last-minute improvised performance was one that the South Plainfield players will also never forget.

It was a hard to decide who got more out of the day, the foster families or the thespians.

Despite the gloomy weather, smiles and enthusiasm, as well as tentative plans for other performances, were the order of the day on the trip home.



Pictured are the *Almost Famous Players*/Summer Drama students. Top row: Chris Abbott, Jessica Crisitello, Susan Mott; middle row: Heather Crisitello, Kyesha Nietzer and bottom row: Katie Mott, Samantha Gentile, John Crisitello. Missing from photo is Gina Butrico.

mark your calendars

council meetings

**Annual Reorganization Meeting
will be held on Sunday, January 7, 2001
at 1 p.m. The public is invited.**

Meets twice a month

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

AGENDA MEETING **PUBLIC MEETING**
Monday, January 8 Thursday, January 11

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

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

Special meeting on Thursday, Dec. 28, 8 p.m.

zoning board of adjustment

Meets first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

January 2, 2001

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:

December (No Meeting)

recycling commission

Meets Thursday, once a month

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

Jan. 25, 2001.

recreation commission

Meets once a month

PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716

2001 Scheduled to be announced

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

board of education meetings

Board Conference Room at Administration Building, on Cromwell Place

Committee of the Whole, Jan. 9, 7 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg., Jan. 16, 8 p.m.

Committee of the Whole, Feb. 13, 8 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg., Feb. 19, 8 p.m.

Committee of the Whole, Mar. 13, 8 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg., Mar. 20, 8 p.m.

Committee of the Whole, Apr. 3, 8 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg., Apr. 10, 8 p.m.

South Plainfield Observer

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

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

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.

In My Opinion

Dear Editor:

The Middlesex County Foster Parent Association recently held a Holiday Party for our foster families. We would like to thank the eight elves and reindeer who came to entertain the children. South Plainfield students Chris Abbott, Gina Buttrico; Heather, Jessica and John Chrisitello; Samantha Gentile and Katie and Susan Mott amused the children with holiday songs, brief skits, juggling and posing for pictures. A hearty thank you to Patti Abbott and the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop/ *Almost Famous Players* for providing these student volunteers.

**MARJORIE WALZ,
PRESIDENT
JANIS NIETZER, MIDDLESEX
COUNTY FOSTER PARENT
ASSOC.**

To Bill and Rich
McCriskin,

We want to express our utmost gratitude and sincere thanks to you and your staff for the manner in which you conducted Bill's services.

We were so touched by your sorrow and compassion. You are all to be commended for helping to soften our family's grief.

**THE FAMILY OF
WILLIAM H. MACK**

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of myself and my husband, we would like to take a moment to commend the following people: Kenny Siedel, Jose Havens, Brian Anderson, all of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad and Officer Vince Capagna of the South Plainfield Police Department.

On Dec. 9, the police and rescue squad were called to our home because of an emergency with our eight-month-old son. Not only were they prompt, knowledgeable and professional, they also showed great care and courtesy towards ourselves and our children.

**WITH GRATITUDE,
JOEY AND DENISE PENYAK**

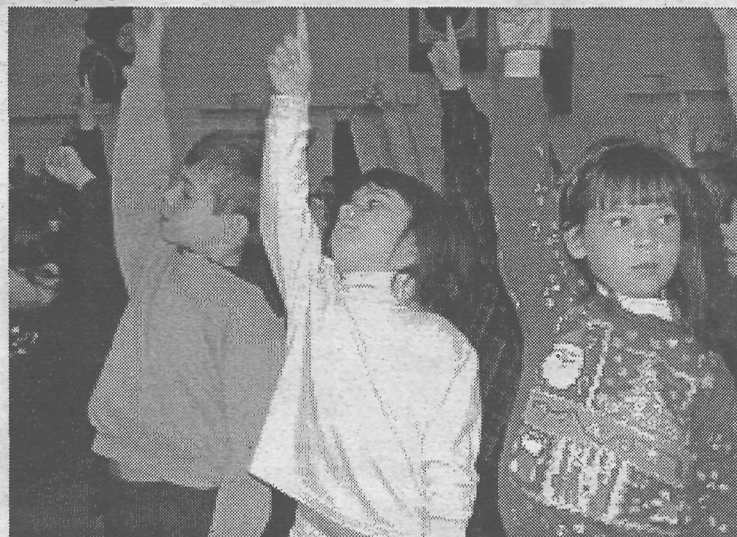
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Franklin School students learn hands-on about mobility through Liberty Science Center program.



Liberty Science Center Comes to Franklin School

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

Liberty Science Center (LSC) recently provided Franklin School students with a unique look at the world inside their bodies—the skeletal system of the human body.

The program, "City Inside," is an interactive assembly program presented by LSC's resident dance company, Rhombus Dance. The show began with a lesson on joints, learning how and why bodies bend and the important body parts that enable us to have mobility.

The Rhombus Dancers, featuring Chris, Melanie and Eric, thrilled the younger students with simple dance moves. Each move was a symbol of a typical body's functions. Chris brought out a skeleton which helped the children visualize the body parts be-

ing discussed. During the course of the performance the students learned that vertebrae enable them to stand erect and to move.

A number of student volunteers learned that balance is an important part of things they often take for granted, such as balance dancing. The giant "joints" had the children taking a look at their elbows as they absorbed the data, "This is MY elbow!" They tried to shake hands without moving their elbow and tried to jog in place without moving their knees, and found it impossible. Suddenly, the importance of their joints, arms and legs came into focus.

The music, dance and props provided a stimulating combination to enhance the lessons that included science, dance and fitness.

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southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Baby New Year to Celebrate First Birthday

Baby New Year 2000, Eric Alois Schuhrer II who was born on January 1, 2000, turns one year old this New Year's Day.

Mom and Dad, Jeanie (formerly of South Plainfield) and Eric Schuhrer (formerly of Edison), are very proud of their beautiful boy.

The family now resides in Piscataway.



From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Just before the Year 2000 slips into history (and how many of you thought you'd see the day when that happens?), here's some news from the South Plainfield Library:

The library will be open regular hours on Saturday. We'll be closed on Sunday and Monday in observance of New Year's Day.

The next meeting of the Friends of the Library is scheduled for Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. Members and non-members are welcome to attend.

The year may be new, but we'll stay with our usual Storytime schedule next week. The programs last about an hour and are for children ages three and over. No pre-registration is required. The programs are held on Tuesday mornings at 10:30, Wednesday evenings at 6:30 and Thursday afternoons at 1:15. However, Storytimes will be cancelled for the following week. If you'd like more information, check with Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

We're between groups on the Video Circuit today. The group for January will be in place next week. As for the Audiobook Circuit, Tuesday is the last day of availability for the present group. On the other hand, the new batch of Large Print Circuit books is now available. Titles in this group include *A Golfer's Life* by Arnold Palmer, *Second Wind* by Dick Francis, *Black Market* by James Patterson, *The Testament* by John Grisham and *The Last World* by

Michael Crichton.

At the last meeting of the Library Board of Trustees, it was announced that Kris Bobowsky, the board's long-serving recording secretary, will be leaving her position. We'd like to express our thanks for her excellent work. If you'd be interested in succeeding her, please give us a call at (908) 754-7885 and ask our director, Sundra Fenn, for details. Also, if you'd like to read the minutes of any Board of Trustees meeting, you may obtain a copy at the main desk as soon as they're available.

In the past, we've noted that free notary services are available at the library. All you need is valid proof of identity. And all we need is some advance word. Gladys, our notary, has other duties, so it's best to let us know approximately when you'll be coming in so she can make sure she's available for you.

Every now and then in this column, we review our operating hours. As we prepare for the New Year, it seems like this is a good time to do that (since we hope those preparations include library patronage). We're open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 10 a.m.- 9 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday 10 a.m.- 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. and Sunday 1:30 to 5 p.m. For advance word on any schedule changes, watch for our monthly calendar and updates in this column.

That'll just about wrap it up for today. Thanks for your attention, see you next year and please drive carefully on New Year's Eve. We fully expect to see you in 2001.

Board Hires Administrative Assistant

The BOE voted to appoint Frances Sills as Interim Human Resources and Operations Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent at the most recent meeting.

Sills will be paid at a rate of \$500 per diem, without benefits, beginning Jan. 2, 2001.

BOE members Sue Peck and Dan Smith objected to paying \$500 a day for this temporary position. They both felt it would be better to hire an assistant superintendent, a position that has been vacant for the last year. The vote was 6-3 in favor of hiring Sills.

Other board members felt that because Superintendent of Schools Guy Ferri will be retiring in June, the new superintendent of schools should have the opportunity to participate in choosing a new assistant superintendent.

The search for a new superintendent of schools is underway.

Well Baby Clinic Jan. 4

The Middlesex County Health Department will be sponsoring a Well Baby Clinic Thursday, Jan. 4, at the PAL Building at 10 a.m.

This program gives parents of preschool age children who do not have insurance or whose insurance does not cover well visits an opportunity to have their children receive a physical exam and if needed, inoculations.

Both a doctor and a nurse will be on hand to give children complete physicals and make sure they are up to date with their shots.

The Well Baby Clinic program is open to all children from the age of two months to preschool.

The program is sponsored by the Middlesex Public County Health Department.



Julie Stilo and Bobby and Kathie Purch enjoy the Mitchell's fourteen-year-old tradition of "Santa Night" with hot chocolate and Christmas wishes.

Christmas Spirit on Ritter St.

For more than 14 years Al Mitchell and his wife Pat Stilo-Mitchell have bedecked their house on Ritter St. for Christmas with hundreds of lights and lots of figures and decorations and offered an open house to the public.

Every night, cars loaded with children can be seen driving by the house to see this Christmas spectacular.

Last week Al and Pat hosted their annual "Santa Night." Santa (Al) makes sure he spends quality time listening to each child and they each receive a gift from Santa. Meanwhile, Pat hands out hot chocolate and cookies. This

year kids and parents were lined up the entire evening enjoying the spirit of the event.

Aside from the many decorations on the lawn, house and roof, the garage contains a lighted village and Christmas music plays in the background.

This year was a little touch and go when two damaging wind storms struck just before Santa Night. The Mitchells spent the entire day and night getting the decorations back in place. Decorations on the lawn blew over and those on the house were ripped off. Al managed to get everything back up and looking great just in time for Santa.



Substitute Teachers to Get Pay Raise

The rates paid to substitute teachers has been adjusted to reflect rates of other nearby school districts. In addition, the pay periods and pay dates have been clearly defined. Other surrounding districts have raised their rates for substitute teachers.

Deanna Fredericks, who is a substitute teacher in our district, had appealed to the board during a recent BOE meeting. She explained that the pay rate paid by South Plainfield had fallen behind other nearby school districts and

this made attracting substitutes very difficult. She also explained that getting paid in a timely matter and at the correct rate was becoming difficult and frustrating.

Superintendent Guy Ferri and members of the board studied the matter and proposed an increase in the substitute pay rate. In addition, the pay periods have been clearly defined and substitutes will be paid on a regular schedule.

The per diem rate will be raised from \$60 to \$75 for those

with county certificates and from \$65 to \$80 with state certificates. Substitute nurses will receive \$100, payable in half day increments. Long term substitutes will receive \$110 (previously \$100) for periods exceeding 20 consecutive work days.

Paychecks for the first half of the month will be issued no later than the 31st of that month. Those work in the second half of the month will be paid no later than the 15th of the subsequent month.



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Notice

Please be advised of the following Special Public Meeting of the Board of Education on Tuesday, January 16, 2001 at 7 p.m. for Student/Staff Recognition Awards.

This meeting will take place in the Grant School gymnasium on Cromwell Place.

Elks Selling

Entertainment Books

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the Entertainment Book for \$30.

To order your book, call Lou Peralta at 908-756-6406.

Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

Very Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:45 p.m.

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

Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)

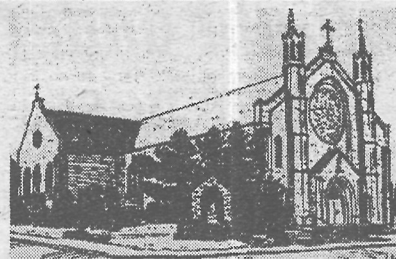
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 11 a.m.- 12 noon, 5:15 -5:45 p.m.

and after 5:45 p.m. Vigil Mass



Start the New Year with home delivery of the Observer... 908-668-0010

Around Town

Senior Citizens Trip to Taj Mahal

January 3, 2001

The Senior Citizens Club is running a trip to the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2001. Cost \$14.

If interested, contact Dolores Zekas, 757-2575 or Agnes Ficorilli, 757-3318.

Rec Sponsors Trip to Riverdance

February 8, 2001

The South Plainfield Recreation Dept. is sponsoring a trip 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.

AARP Meeting and Events

January 19 & February

AARP Chapter 4144 will meet on Jan. 19, 12:30 p.m., at the PAL. A slide-lecture called, "The New Jersey Trivia," will be presented by Professor William E. Dunscombe, and deals with New Jersey history, standards, symbols and natural history. The lecture will end by having a sing-along. All are welcome.

AARP will also sponsor an overnight trip to Atlantic City and the Three Little Bakers Theater on Feb. 21 and 22, 2001. Transportation, admission, show and lunch at Baker's, lodging in Atlantic City with continental breakfast, \$20 casino bonus, beef and seafood dinner are included. Hotel and restaurant gratuities included. Double occupancy is \$155, single is \$185.

For reservations, call Mary at (732) 752-3764.

Rec Sponsoring Trip to See The Lion King

July 5, 2001

The Rec Department is sponsoring a trip to Broadway to see

The Lion King on July 5, 2001.

The cost is \$95 per person and includes your ticket and the bus. Purchase your ticket at the PAL. The bus leaves at 4 p.m.

The PAL is open weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

PAL Trip to Cape Cod, Massachusetts Offered

September 10-14, 2001

The PAL is sponsoring a 5-day, 4-night trip to Cape Cod, with a visit to Foxwoods Casino, Sept. 1-14, 2001.

The trip package includes 4 nights accommodations, 4 breakfasts, 4 dinners, including a lobster bake, fully escorted tours of the Hyannis area, the historic Massachusetts towns of Sandwich, Boston, Quincy Market, Plymouth and Provincetown; and the Hyannis Harbor Cruise.

A visit to Foxwoods Casino enroute home, an evening of entertainment, a welcome reception, baggage handling, all taxes and standard gratuities and motorcoach transportation will all also be included in this trip.

Prices are \$325 per person double, triple and quad occupancy. Single supplement is \$78.

For more information and reservations, contact Mike English at (908) 226-7714.

Multi-Class Reunion Planned

An invitation has been extended to all SPSHS graduates from Sandi Spisso Connelly and Bobby Cobb, SPSHS Class of 1969.

The 1969 alumni are planning a special "Golden 50th Birthday" Class Reunion for May of 2001, to be held as an all day outdoor event at Forest Lodge in Warren. Many people from a diverse range of graduating classes find the idea of a *multi-class* reunion appealing. It offers an excellent way to renew old friendships. Some classes lack reunion coordinators, sufficient number of alumni or both.

In view of this interest, we, of the Class of 1969, have opened the invitation for the event to *all* SPSHS alumni. The 60's Boardwalk theme will celebrate all those who once walked the halls of South Plainfield High School.

Pass the word to all alumni you have contact with. If they have an interest, contact either Sandy Spisso Connelly or Bobby Cobb at the following email addresses: spdcon@aol.com or racobb@epix.net

Events In Surrounding Towns

KISMET Events

January 13 and 18

"Culinary Seductions" Full Participation Cooking Class for singles will take place on Saturday, Jan. 13, from 7-11 p.m. at Classic Thyme Cooking School, 161 East Broad St. in Westfield. Cost is \$65 at the door and includes class and four course meal.

"The Basics of Investing: Surviving Market Volatility" will take place on Thursday, Jan. 18, 7:30-10 p.m. at 109 North Ave., Second Floor, Westfield.

There will be ample parking. Cost of \$10 at the door includes presentation and refreshments.

For info, call (908) 232-8827 or contact www.thatskismet.com



Project Santa 2000

The SP Volunteer Fire Department organizes the hundreds of gifts for their "Santas" in the annual "Project Santa." The fundraising project, now in its fourth year, delivers gifts to over 400 children from three Santas in three trucks for five nights the week before Christmas.



Singing Valentines

Send a musical Valentine that will impress your Sweetheart forever.

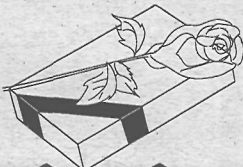
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Two songs at your Valentine's location* AND candy, a flower and a photograph for \$50 on **Wednesday, February 14**
By appointment only

Call to book your quartet today at:
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reserve by Monday,
Feb. 12 - 12 Noon

*within the South Plainfield area



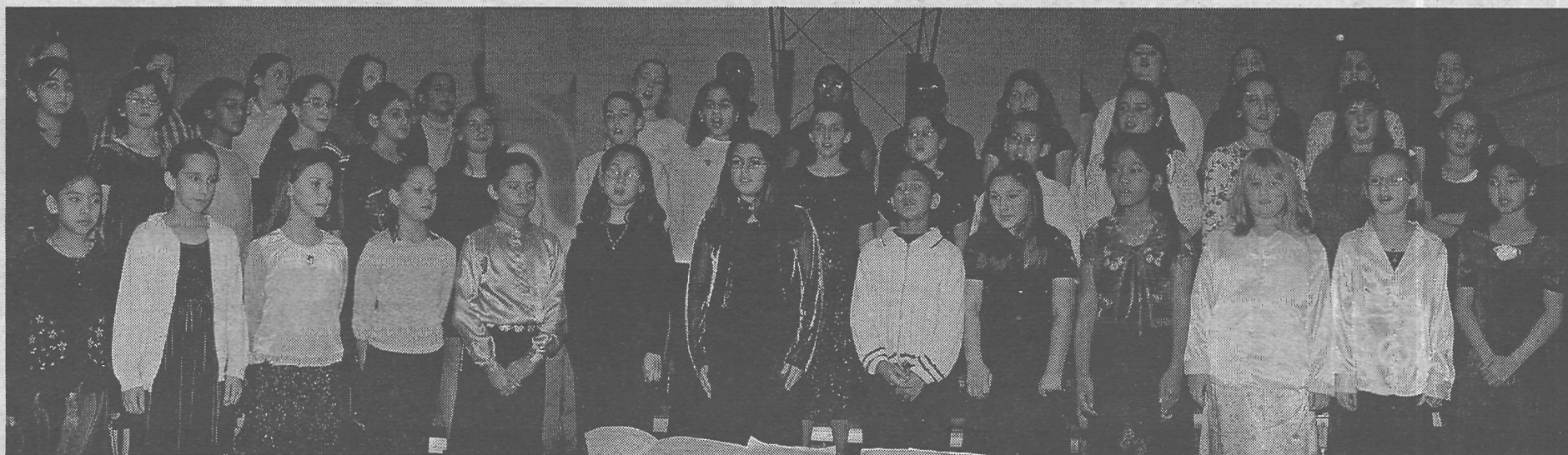
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Roosevelt Holiday Concert Features String Ensemble

The Roosevelt School Holiday Concert included a wonderful selection of music for their audience. The String Ensemble, conducted by Mr. Bruce Mikolon, began the annual holiday music program.

The excited children mounted the stage with their instruments. The three numbers they presented showcased the talents of the more experienced students as well as beginners. The Roosevelt school band conducted by Mr. Tobie Baldwin featured only fifth grade students. The students presented the audience with three numbers that displayed their hard work. A request for no flash photos caused the audience to pause before sneaking in a few precious mementos.

The chorus, which con-

sisted of fourth and fifth grade students under the direction of Miss Sharon Perez, offered a brief but wonderful and diversified choice of songs. They closed the program with "Holly Jolly Holiday," a medley of well-known songs. The evening concluded with gifts for the directors. Students and parents alike enjoyed refreshments provided by the PTA before leaving for the evening.

String members are: Andrea Lozarito, Alison Smith, Allison

Huffsmith, Tiani Allen-Lightfoot, Ashley Avarado, Jeannine DeAndrea, Ashleigh Gray, Alexa Kunch, Alexa Sambat, Pauline Eskander, Jasper Dimayuga, Rosamaria Farfan, Alana Franco, Carrie Friday, Keddy Gonzalez, Jamie Handwerger and Brittani Janowicz.

Beginners were Brittany Alvarado, Angela Ang, Laurie Ascencio, Harley Bottigliere, Cassie Capperelli, Lusie Cepeda, Kelly Kline, Chelsea McCook, Dylan Medici, Christina Montalvo,

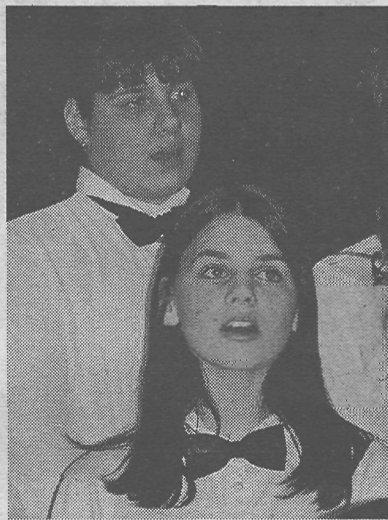
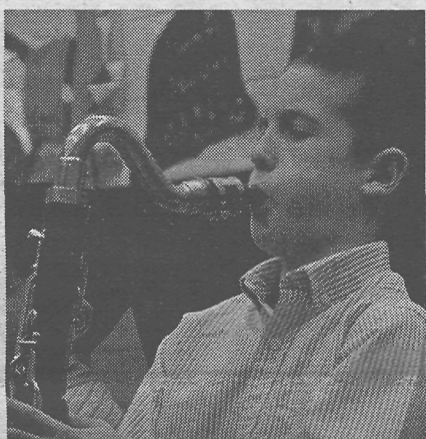
Nicole Montuori, Katelynn Morgan, Kishan Patel, Amanda Plum, Alyssa Scrudato, and David Stogski.

The chorus featured: Dana Alexa, Christian Barrientos, Cori Black, Erica Bowden, Gillian Capella, Jennifer Capperelli, Audrey Cupo, Jeannine DeAndrea, Brooke DeNitizio, Gloria Esaw, Pauline Eskander, Christopher Esposito, Jessica Handwerger, Amy Hayes,

Danielle Heilmann, Natia Katsantonis, Christopher Kedmenc, Nabia Khan, Gina Lampasona, Jacqueline LaVerne, Andrea Lozarito, Lyndsey Murtagh, Brittany Musolino, Diana Naser, Lauren O'Day, Emily Orlandini, Shana Pascalli, Shivani Patel, Rocco Petriello, Alexandra Petronko, Rachel Pinto, Sandra Pleeter, Andreanna Powell, Alison Refe, Omar Rodriguez, Jessica Rosocha, Alex Sambat, Rachel Senz, Gina Stringo, Alison Smith, Heather Stoloff, Phuong Trinh

and Brandon Ullom.

The Roosevelt Band consisted of Lauren O'Day, Gina Lampasona, Katie Jean Zacek, Jennifer Capperelli, Kellie McLean, Brooke DeNitizio, Rachel Senz, Christopher Smith, Michael Ascencio, Dana Alexa, Erica Bowden, Danielle Hielmann, Brandon Ullom, Joseph DelGenio, Joseph Daccille, Michael Sopko, Christian Cole, John Mills III, Christopher Steger, and Jason Dowlat.



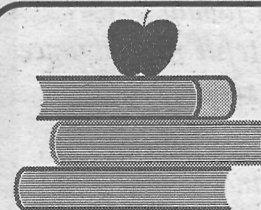
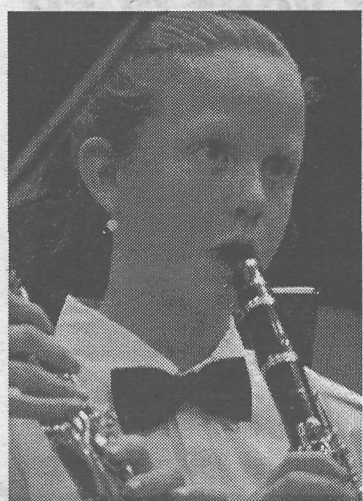
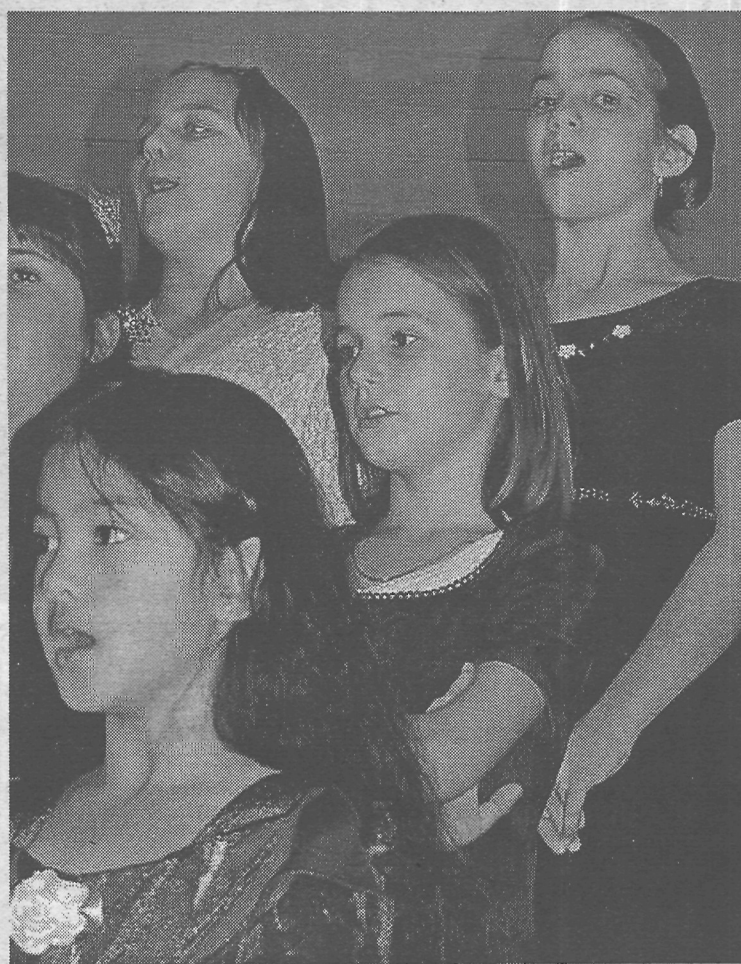
Holiday Concert at Middle School

On Friday, Dec. 15, the Middle School added their voices to the chorus of school holiday vocal and instrumental concerts. The elite girl's ensemble, the Gems, opened the evening with "The Star-Spangled Banner." Next up was the Middle School Orchestra, conducted by Mrs.

Carleen Tedeschi. Mallory Christ, student conductor, finished the set with "Santa at the Symphony." The Gems, accompanied by Jennifer Bao, performed four selections. The concert choir joined them and filled the air with songs that celebrated several holidays. The Hand-

chime choir added a special charm to the evening and received accolades from conductor Doris Younken.

The concert band, conducted by Mr. Andrew Veis, concluded the evening with varied and unique selections that included "Hava Negila."



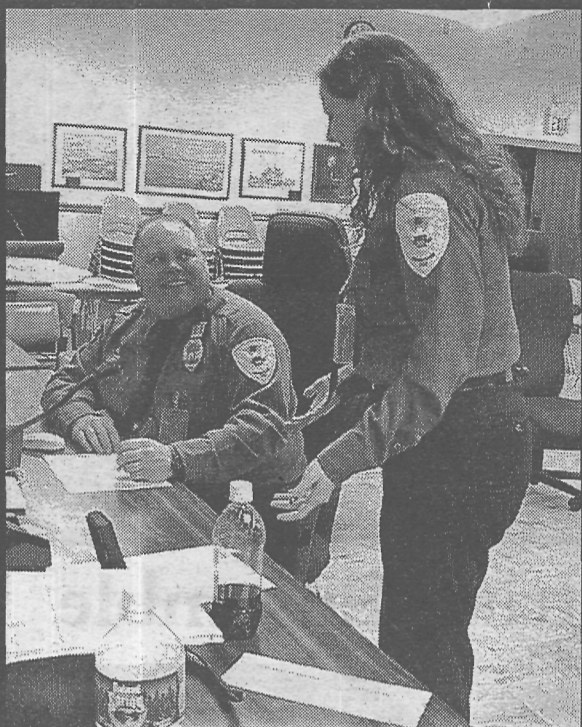
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2000 Looking Back...The



Y2 OK! South Plainfield Police dispatchers wait on New Year's Eve for Y2K problems that never arose.



Wrestlers Win State Championship! The South Plainfield High School Wrestling Team took the State Championship Title.

Vision 2001 Names Art Auction Chair

Georgeann DiGrazia of Mohn's Flowers and Fancy Foods was named chairperson of Vision 2001's annual art auction.

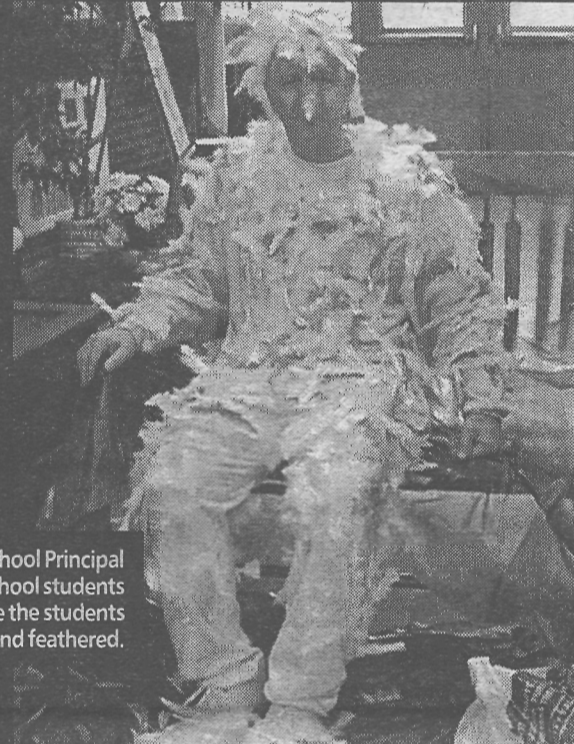


Chris Peel checks out the entries prior to voting for the design awards at Cub Pack 224's Pinewood Derby.

Jim Eckert Retires After 14 Years as Borough Clerk



In celebration of Read Across America, Kennedy School Principal Al Czech, nicknamed "Mr. Chick" challenged school students to read at least 21,000 books. Because the students exceeded the challenge Czech was tarred and feathered.



TEACHERS MARKED ABSENT

"....The South Plainfield High School Class of 2000 graduated and once again were the victims of the ongoing dispute between the teachers union and the board of education. At the last minute high school teachers boycotted the ceremonies because of a disagreement with the school board...."

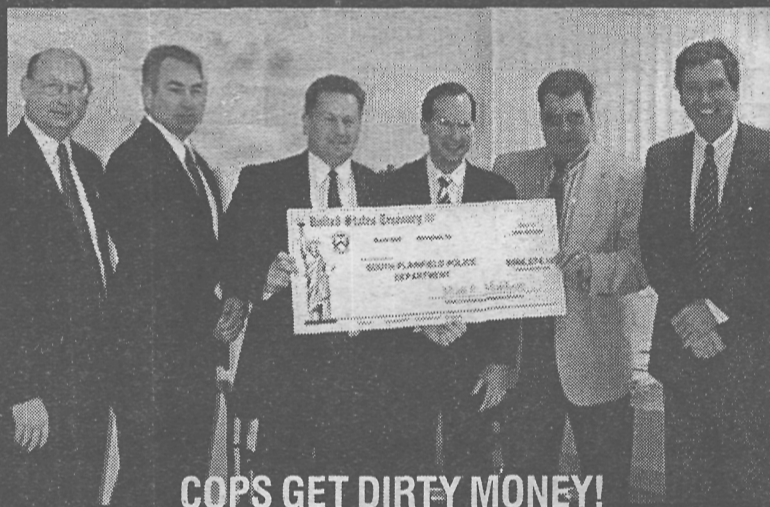


Middle School student Christopher Abbott is congratulated by Board of Ed member Ken LaFreniere at graduation ceremonies.



GIRLS SOFTBALL WOWS!

The 2000 Group II State Champions pose with their trophy. First row, Coach Laurie Matticola, Shannon Bishop, Coach Don Panzarella, Kerri Howells, Coach Leanne Roudi and Denise DiMeglio; second row, Kim Wilcox, Alison Barrett, Danielle Schweers, Kim Bishop, Christine Strani, Melissa Scotto, Alison Tietjen, Meaghan Schweers and Kelly Ritchey; third row, Laura Watlter, Mindy Kavacs and Heather Roth.



COPS GET DIRTY MONEY!

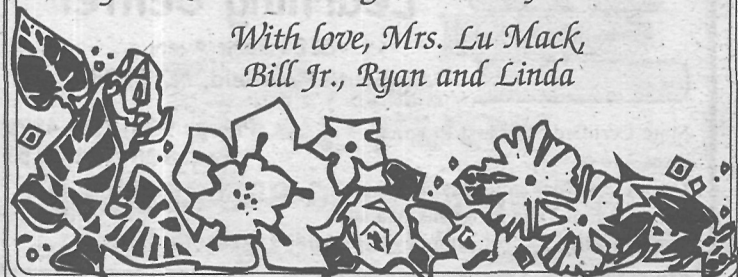
South Plainfield Police Department was awarded \$566,574 in confiscated drug money. Pictured left to right are Dan Whitten, Acting Director of Investigations, Northeast Region, Criminal Investigation Washington, D.C.; SP Police Captain Robert Merkler; SP Police Chief Steven Merkler; Stuart Rabner, First Assistant United States Attorney, Judicial District of New Jersey; Retired SP Police Detective George Green and Frank Nixon, Internal Revenue Service District Director, New Jersey District.

To Our Dear Friends,
We can't begin to thank you
for no words could ever start,
To share those special feelings
That are deep within our hearts...

We can't begin to thank you,
but we hope that you can see,
What your thoughtfulness and prayers
have meant to our family.

We will always hold in grateful remembrance
your kindness during our time of sorrow.

With love, Mrs. Lu Mack,
Bill Jr., Ryan and Linda



AIDA SANTOS

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
BRANCH MANAGER

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Ups & Downs



Demolition Paves Way For New Senior Center

South Plainfield seniors join Borough Council members Dennis Cerami, Ed Kubala and Ray Petronko and Borough Administrator Frank DeRosa, Director of Recreation Mike English and the new center's developer Jack Morris at the demolition of the former Shell Gas station.



South Plainfield Bids Farewell to Police Officer Mark DeLair



Ellis Williams Marks His 95th Birthday

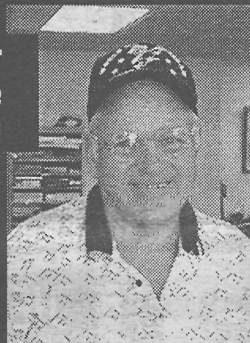
Former well-known SPHS teacher Ellis Downing Williams celebrated his 95th birthday. Williams was chairman of the Math-Science area from 1956 until 1973, until he retired.



SPHS Homecoming King and Queen Tommy Doyon and Alissa Gittens.

Pageant, Pep Rally Highlight Week-long Festivities

Charles Decker Named Parade Grand Marshal



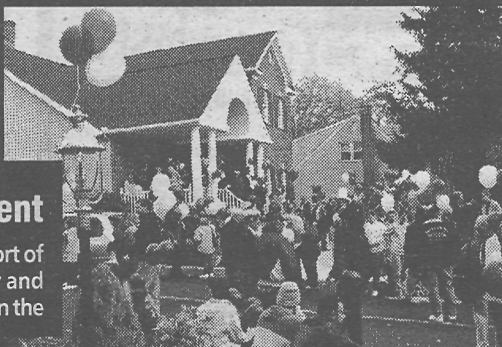
Senior Housing Becomes a Reality

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the South Plainfield Senior Residence were attended by many dignitaries. Pictured are Councilwoman Darlene Pinto, Freeholder John Pulomena, Councilman Vinne Buttiglieri, Freeholders Jane Brady, Chris Rafano and Dave Crabel, Councilman Ed Kubala, Rev. Roger Amholt, Mayor Dan Gallagher and Councilman Ray Petronko.



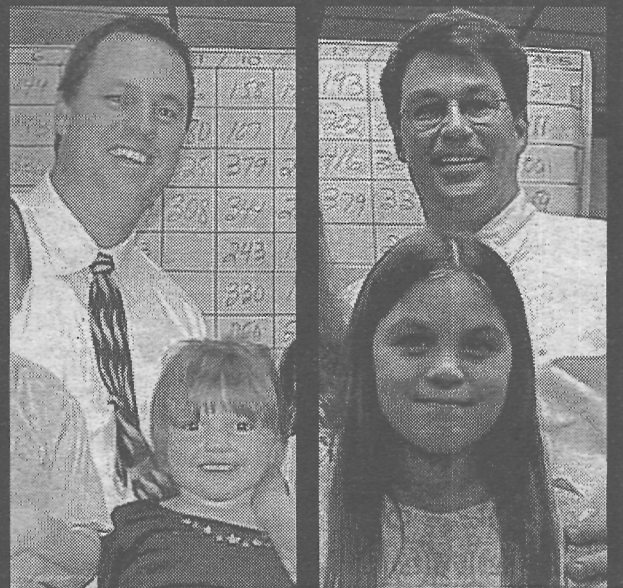
Balloons Soar to Support World War II Monument

McCriskin Funeral Home was the sight of the release 800 balloons in support of the future World War II Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Family and friends of World War veterans and homefront workers were remembered in the massive release.



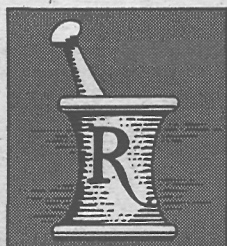
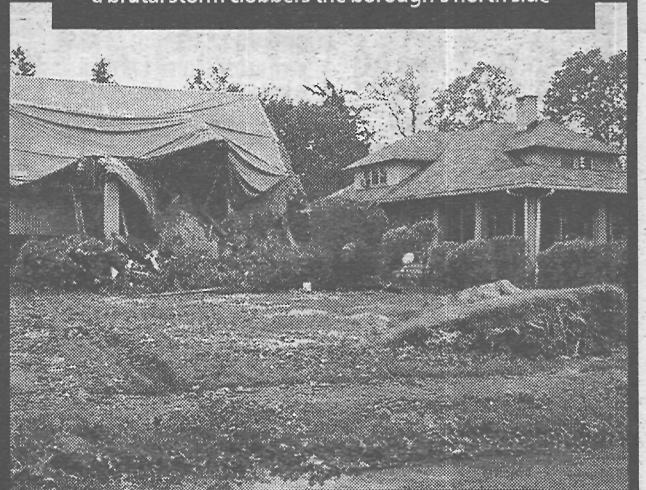
LOCAL DEMS WIN BIG

Bob Cusick (left) and incumbent Ray Petronko (right) are elected to Borough Council.



SLAMMED AGAIN!

After suffering the affects of Hurricane Floyd, a brutal storm clobbers the borough's north side



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Sports

BOWLING

Tiger Bowlers Keep Rolling to Victory

Tigers Sweep South Amboy; Girls Record Sixth Straight Shutout

On Dec. 18 the Tigers met South Amboy in non-conference competition. The boys and girls swept three games and registered all shutouts over the Governors of South Amboy. Paul Larisch bowled three solid games of 200, 203 and 187 for a 590 set. Joe Adorna chipped in with a 182

game.

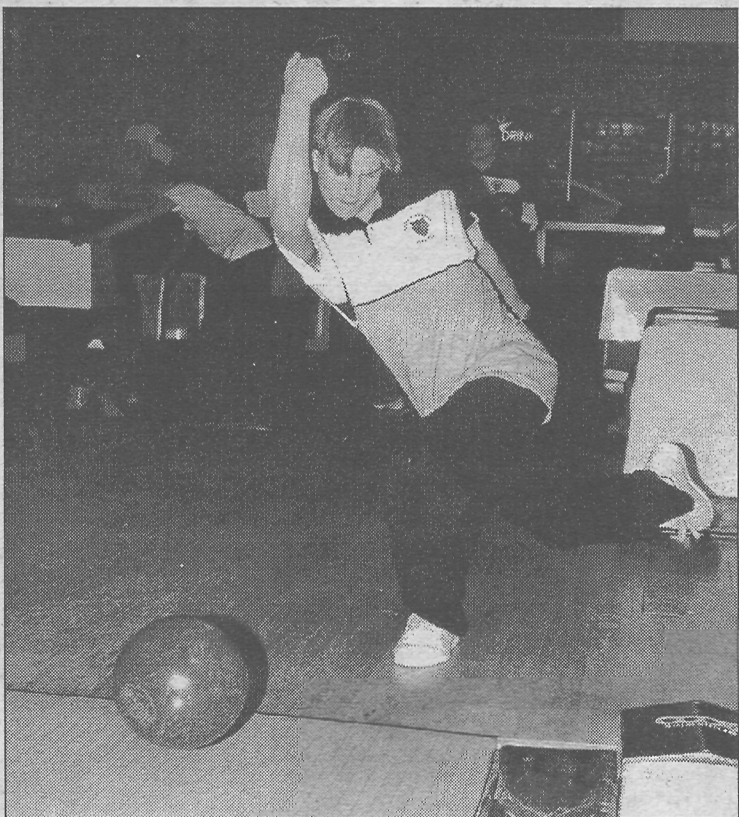
Melissa Jamieson sparked with a high game of 246 and added games of 222 and 216 for a 684 set. Meredith Cooper helped out with a 199 game and a 479 set. This was the sixth straight shutout for the Lady Tigers.

Boys Surprise Mustangs with Shutout Victory

Last Tuesday the boys bowling

team shot out of the gates with a big 1,000+ game and stunned the Mustangs of JF Kennedy, recording a 4-0 shutout victory. The Tigers were led by Erich Gaub's a 233 high game, a 205 game and a 629 high set along with Ray Tomei's games of 220 and 215 and 615 set. Jeff Smith bowled a 202 and 198 and Joe Adorna's 211 also aided in the close victory.

The boys stand at 6-1, atop the



Senior Paul Larisch holds second highest team average at 186.

White Division, tied with Colonia who is ranked #1 in the state.

Lady Tigers Knock Off JFS

The Lady Tigers also knocked off JF Kennedy in their competition. The girls team had its shutout streak broken, but they had enough to pull out a 3-1 victory over an always tough JF Kennedy team. Melissa Jamieson's games of 210, 183 and 203 led the Tigers in a relatively low scoring day. The Tigers led the White Division and have posted a 7-0-1 record.

Tigers Fall to #1 Ranked Colonia, 4-0

On Wednesday, the Tigers played a much anticipated match against Colonia, the top ranked team in the state.

In a showdown for first place in the White Division, the boys team was defeated by a Colonia squad that displayed too much firepower and backed up its number one state ranking.

Jeff Smith topped the upset minded Tigers with games of 230 and 193 and a solid 593 set. Chipping in were Paul Larisch with games of 185 and 201 and Ray Tomei with games of 197 and 203, as the Tigers dropped to 6 and 2.

Favorite Colonia Falls to Underdog Tigers 3-1

The girls bowling team pulled off the upset and remain undefeated with five starters turning in a solid team effort. The Patriots were no match for the hot shooting Tigers. Melissa Jamieson had a game of 214 and a 611 high set, combined with Kristen Herzog's games of 216, 172, 177 and 565 set, lead the scoring parade. Chipping in were Sabina Montanaro with a 198, Rachel Feller with a 178 and Vicky Boley with a 174.

Tigers Give Middlesex First Loss

After dropping the first game to a pesky Middlesex team by only six pins, the boys bowling team

roared back and knocked the Blue Jays from the ranks of the unbeaten. Ray Tomei had games of 181, 216 and 203 and a 600 set and Paul Larisch bowled games of 194, 203 for a 575 set and led the comeback. Eric Gaub chipped in with a 214 game as the Tigers improved to 6 and 2.

Girls Romp to Easy Win Over Middlesex

The girls bowling team caged the Blue Jays by over 700 pins as they rang up their eighth shutout. Melissa Jamieson crushed the pins, bowling 192, 230 and 215 for 637 set. Kristen Herzog bowled a 189, Sabina Montanaro bowled a 166, Rachel Feller recorded a 166, and Danielle Larisch, 150, joined in the scoring parade as the division leading Lady Tigers upped their record to 9-0-1.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BOWLING STANDINGS

Greater Middlesex Conference WHITE DIVISION

TEAM	W	L	T	PTS
Colonia	6	0	2	14
Bishop Ahr	6	1	1	13
South Plainfield	6	2	0	12
Middlesex	5	1	2	12
John F. Kennedy	4	3	1	9
South River	2	5	1	5
Monroe	2	6	0	4
Carteret	1	6	1	3
St. Mary	0	8	0	0

GIRLS BOWLING STANDINGS

Greater Middlesex Conference WHITE DIVISION

TEAM	W	L	T	PTS
South Plainfield	8	0	1	17
Carteret	7	0	2	16
Colonia	6	2	1	13
Mother Seton	6	3	0	12
John F. Kennedy	5	2	2	12
St. Mary	4	5	0	8
Bishop Ahr	3	6	0	6
South River	2	7	0	4
Monroe	1	8	0	2
Middlesex	0	9	0	0

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Sun 10-6

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THIS WEEK'S BEER SPECIALS

NATURAL LIGHT OR ICE 12 OZ CANS	7.99 CASE
SHARPS (NON-ALCOHOLIC) 12 OZ NR BTLs OR CANS	9.99 CASE
GENESSEE CREAM ALE AND ALL TYPES 12 OZ CANS	9.99 30 PAK
MILLER HIGH LIFE OR HIGH LIFE LIGHT 12 OZ CANS	10.99 30 PAK
MILLER LITE OR GENUINE DRAFT 12 OZ NR BTLs OR CANS	12.99 CASE
ROLLING ROCK PREMIUM AND LIGHT 12 OZ NR BTLs 2/12 PAK CASE	13.99 CASE
MOLSON GOLDEN, ICE LIGHT OR CANADIAN 12 OZ NR BTLs 2/12 PAK CASE	15.99 CASE
SARANAC ALL YEAR ROUND STYLES 12 OZ NR BTLs	17.99 CASE
DAB ORIGINAL OR DARK 12 OZ NR BTLs	17.99 CASE
GROLSCH LAGER OR AMBER 12 OZ NR BTLs	19.99 CASE

THIS WEEK'S SPIRITS & CORDIAL SPECIALS

E&J BRANDY 750 ML	7.99	KAHLUA 750 ML	15.99
ST. BRENDANS IRISH CREAM 750 ML	10.99	CANADIAN CLUB WHISKEY 1.75 LITER	18.99
FLEISCHMANN GIN 1.75 LITER \$3 MFG REBATE	11.99	ADMIRAL NELSON SPICED RUM \$3 MFG REBATE 1.75 LITER	18.99
RON CASTILLO SILVER, GOLD RUM 1.75 LITER	11.99	SKYY VODKA 1.75 LITER	21.99
FLEISCHMANN PREFERRED BLENDED WHISKEY 1.75 LITER \$3 MFG REBATE	12.99	HENNESSEY VS COGNAC 750 ML	22.99
HEAVEN HILL 1.75 LITER	12.99	GLENFIDDICH SINGLE MALT SCOTCH 750 ML	25.99
INVER HOUSE SCOTCH 1.75 LITER \$3 MFG REBATE	14.99	BOMBAY GIN 1.75 LITER	27.99
MARGARITAVILLE GOLD TEQUILA 750 ML	14.99	CABO WABO BLANCO TEQUILA 750 ML	28.99

THIS WEEK'S WINE SPECIALS

ANDRE ALL TYPES 750 ML	3.99	PETER VELLA CHAB, BLUSH, WH, GREN, DEL RED, BURG 5 LITER BOX	7.99
FOXHORN WHITE ZINFANDEL 1.5 LITER	4.99	ESTATE CELLARS CAB SAUV 1.5 LITER	7.99
WILD VINES ALL TYPES 1.5 LITER	5.99	BERINGER FOUNDERS MERLOT 750 ML	7.99
NOILLY PRAT SWEET OR DRY VERMOUTH 1 LITER	5.99	FOLONARI SOAVE, VALPO 1.5 LITER	7.99
TURNING LEAF CAB SAUV 750 ML	5.99	GOSSAMER BAY MERLOT OR PINOT GRIGIO 1.5 LITER	8.99
STRACCALI CHIANTI 750 ML	5.99	FRANZIA WHITE ZIN, MERLOT, CHARD 5 LITER BOX	9.99
ARBOR VALLEY CHAB, BURG, ROSE 4 LITER	6.99	ST. FRANCIS CHARDONNAY 750 ML	9.99
COLUMBIA CREST CHARDONNAY 750 ML	6.99	WOODBIDGE CHARDONNAY 1.5 LITER	11.99
CASARSA PINOT GRIGIO 1.5 LITER	6.99	FONCESA BIN 27 PORT 750 ML	12.99
CASARSA MERLOT 1.5 LITER	6.99	GEORGES DUBOUFE BEAUJOLAIS VILLAGES 1.5 LITER	13.99
BULLETIN PLACE CHARDONNAY 750 ML	6.99	JOSEPH DROUHIN POUILLY-FUISSE 750 ML	14.99
CONCHA Y TORO XPLORADOR ALL TYPES 750 ML	6.99	PIPER HEIDSEICK BRUT OR EXTRA DRY CHAMPAGNE 750 ML	23.99
MCGUIGAN BLACK LABEL SHIRAZ/GRENACHE 750 ML	6.99		

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750 ML

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\$18.99
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\$27.99
1.75 LITER

JOHNNIE WALKER RED SCOTCH
\$30.99
1.75 LITER

GLEN ELLEN WHITE ZINFANDEL
\$3.99
750 ML

RANCHO ZABACO CHARDONNAY 750 ML
\$10.99
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GOOD INTENSITY TO THE FLAVORS OF HERBS, SOUR CHERRIES AND COFFEE WITH DRY TANNINS. WINE SPECTATOR RATING - 87

BALLATORE GRAN SPUMANTE
\$5.99
750 ML

BUDWEISER, BUD LIGHT, BUD ICE, BUD ICE LIGHT 12 OZ CANS
\$14.99
30 PAK

TGI FRIDAYS BLENDERS ALL TYPES
\$12.99
1.75 LITER

KORBEL BRUT OR EXTRA DRY CHAMPAGNE
\$9.99
750 ML

Sports

By Tony Cassano

juniorbaseballclubnotes

HAPPY NEW YEAR—ONLY 100 DAYS TO OPENING DAY 2001—It's hard to believe but yet its true, baseball and spring time is just around the corner. Before you know it, Opening Day (April 7) will be here and our kids will be playing ball again at the SPJBC. As Commissioner, I look forward to the New Year and the upcoming season at the club. January and the ensuing months will be very busy as we prepare for next season. As a reminder, our next Monthly Meeting is set for Monday, Jan. 8, and our Winter Registration is scheduled for Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Jan. 11-13 (see notes below for more details). Many projects are currently underway as we work towards improving the complex and volunteers are still needed for several key committees necessary to make the 2001 season a success. My Executive Board and I all look forward to your continued support.

In closing, as we say good bye to the year 2000 and the season that has passed, I again wish to thank all those individuals that gave so much of their personal time and effort to help make my first year as commissioner of the SPJBC a very rewarding one at that.

Our success is a partnership that is on-going and one that helps to continue to build the future of youth baseball in South Plainfield.

Many thanks again to those before us that started the tradition and history of the SPJBC to those ahead of us that will lead us through the 21st century.

Happy New Year to all and I look forward to seeing you at the SPJBC in 2001.

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MONTHLY MEETING - MONDAY, JAN. 8, 7:30 PM—As previously mentioned, our next regularly scheduled monthly meeting will be held on the second Monday of January (Jan. 8) at 7:30 p.m. Volunteers are still needed for several committees for the upcoming year. As always, new members are welcomed and we encourage you to attend. Your participation will help shape the club for the upcoming season.

WINTER REGISTRATION SET FOR JAN. 11, 12 and 13—Our next scheduled registration is set for Thursday, Jan. 11 (6 to 9 p.m.), Friday, Jan. 12 (6 to 9 p.m.) and Saturday, Jan. 13 (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) at the Clubhouse. Costs are per family: \$55 for one child, \$85 for two, and \$105 for three or more children.

As an additional reminder, SPJBC flyers will be sent home from school in early January. For any further details or information, please call the club at (908) 754-2090. SPJBC clothing will be sold at registration by the 'new'

Women's Auxiliary.

FYI - NEW RULE - AGE ELIGIBILITY CHANGE FOR 8's & 17's—Starting with the 2001 season, any child who turns eight between Aug. 1 and Sept. 30 is eligible to sign up and play as an eight-year-old. Previously, players had to be eight by July 31. In addition, 17-year-olds will be eligible to play in Pony A, but will not be allowed to pitch.

16-18 Year Old Independent Baseball Club Forming

The Blaze Baseball Club is looking for serious ballplayers to tryout for the Blaze Baseball Club. You must have a sincere commitment to the team and learning.

The club is looking to compete in some national tournament showcases for the 2001 season. Tryouts will be held on Saturday mornings at TABS from 9 to 11:30 a.m. starting the first Sunday after New Years day.

If interested, please call Jeff at (908) 903-0297 or check out our website leaguelineup.com/blaze.



"'Tis the Season" at John E. Riley School

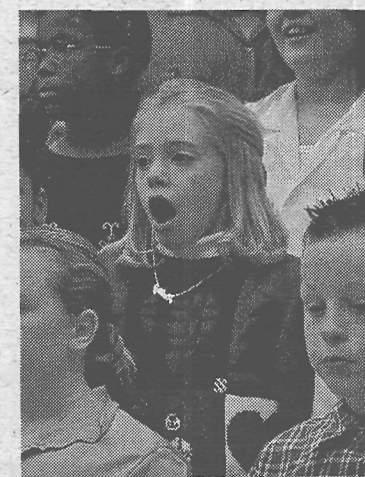
John E. Riley School recently held their annual holiday concert. This year's performance was entitled "'Tis the Season." The show featured the string ensemble, band and chorus.

The String Ensemble, conducted by Carleen Tedeschi, is Robert Moreira, Stephanie Seliga, Katherine Gorman, Elan Sims, Justin Ditmars, Christopher Seesselberg, Jennifer Tedeschi, Stephanie Milicia, Catherine Natareno, Briana Alexander, Kimberly Pham, Matthew Ortiz, Timothy Ratti, Ryan Bunting and Maxwell Butler.

The Band, directed by Jessica Schimpf, is: Brittney Bishara, Briana Calderone, Melissa Fisher, Clare Kelly, Stephanie Kelly, Chelsea Van Ess, Kaitlin Egan, Jessica Gray, Taylor Harris, Jaclyn MacDougall, Alyssa Roibal, Amanda Thorn, Marcel Graham, Christopher Delaney, Daniel Flynn, Stanley Stellakis, Jessica Adams, Nicole Cosma, Juliann Garbowski, Robert Harrington, John Mocharski and Matthew Seider.

The Chorus, directed by Joanne Gurske, is Jessica Adams, Briana Alexander, Samantha Barthel, Brittney Bishara, Danielle Blackford, Daniel Bosse, Jacqueline Bosse, Michael Boyle, Danielle Butrico, Nicole Cosma, Lauren Diana, Steven Diaz, Sherrie-Lynne Donato, Kaitlin Egan,

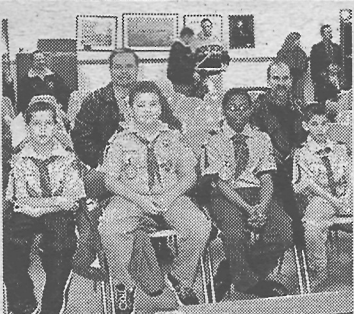
Rachel Esteves, Michael Eustice, Melissa Fisher, Ashley Galan, Mark Garcia, Marcel Graham, Jessica Grey, Ashely Hawkins,



Amanda Hunterton, Deunca Jones, Shakera Jones, Clare Kelly, Stephen Kelly, Michelle Kobilis, Stephanie Lanza, Kimberly Le, Jaclyn MacDougall, Colleen Mackenzie, Stephanie Milicia, Robert Moreira, Anthony Moscato, Catherine Natareno, Matthew Ortiz, Ashley Peterson, Kayla Quadrel, Patricia Robles, Rhiana Ruzicki-DiPaolo, Christopher Seesselberg, Matthew Seider, Savador Soto, Stevie Start, Vincent Start, Nora Stasio, Stanley Stellakis, Stephanie Szeliga, Kara Thomas, Meghan Toolan and Chelsea VanEss.



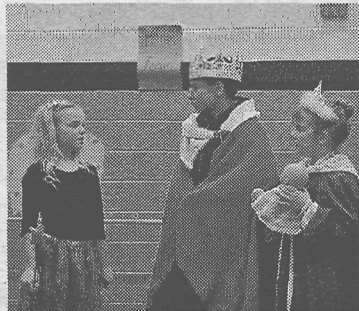
There's a lot going on...



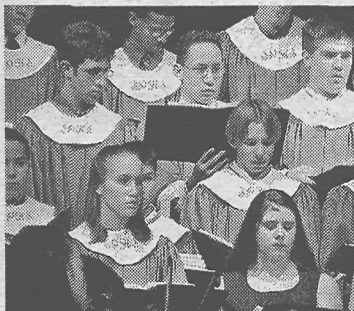
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Obituaries

Alexander V. Tedesco, 74

Alexander V. Tedesco of South Plainfield died on Monday, Dec. 18, at his home.

He was born and raised in Plainfield before moving to South Plainfield 41 years ago.

Mr. Tedesco was a truck driver for the South Plainfield Department of Public Works for 25 years before retiring in 1987.

He was a member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield and the South Plainfield Senior Citizens.

He was a life member of the Italian American Progressive League in South Plainfield and a member of the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge 988 in Bound Brook.

He was a veteran of WWII, serving in the United States Navy and was a member of the VFW Memorial Post 6763 in South Plainfield.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Tina Stanislaw Tedesco; a son, Joseph E. Tedesco of Kendall Park; a brother, Angelo Tedesco of Slidell, La.; a sister, Virginia Robertson of Lakehurst and his grandchildren, Heather E. and Brandon J. Tedesco.

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

Dominick Arancio, 88

Dominick Arancio died on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at Hunterdon Medical Center in Flemington.

Mr. Arancio was born in Newark and had resided in North Arlington and Kearny for many years. He resided in South Plainfield for 15 years and in Seaside Park for 13 years, before moving to Glen Gardner in 1996.

He had worked for Texize Chemical Co. of Piscataway for 15 years before his retirement 23 years ago. He was an Army veteran of WWII and had served in the European Theater.

Surviving are his wife Martha E. (Martello) Arancio; a daughter, Elizabeth "Beth Ann" Arancio of Booton; two sons and daughters-in-law, Joseph D. and Kathy Arancio of Annandale and Peter and Cathy Arancio of South Plainfield; a sister, Josephine Sperduto of North Arlington and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCrisky Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations may be made to the ICU Unit in Hunterdon Medical Center.

Marie J. (Golder) Bannon, 80

Marie J. (Golder) Bannon died on Wednesday, Dec. 20, in John E. Runnels Hospital in Berkeley Heights.

Born in Jersey City, Mrs.

Bannon had resided there for many years before moving to Millard, Pa. in the 1980's. She relocated back to New Jersey in 1996 and settled in South Plainfield three years ago.

She was a homemaker for most of her life and a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield. She had been an active member of St. John Neumann RC Church in Lord's Valley, Pa.

She is predeceased by her husband, Joseph E. Bannon, who died in February of 1996. She is also predeceased by eight brothers and sisters.

Surviving are her daughter and son-in-law, Judith and Robert Rowlands of South Plainfield and her son and daughter-in-law, Joseph E. Jr. and Patricia Cannon of Point Pleasant and a sister, Angela Tobin of Jersey City. Also surviving are five grandchildren and a great granddaughter.

Funeral services were held at McCrisky Home For Funerals.

Anthony E. Singh, 3

Anthony E. Singh, 3, died on Monday, Dec. 25 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in Edison, he had resided in South Plainfield.

He is survived by his parents, Jessica Guzinski and Mehendra "Gary" Singh; his maternal grandparents, Edward and Roberta Guzinski; his paternal grandparents, Sunita and RK Singh and his maternal great-grandparents, Helen and Edward Guzinski and Gus and Theresa Spohn. Also surviving are numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, Dec. 29 at 11 a.m. at McCrisky Home For Funerals. Internment will follow in Hillside Cemetery in Scotch Plains.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the family would be greatly appreciated, c/o 2425 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Margaret (Buksar) Woskey, 68

Margaret (Buksar) Woskey died on Sunday, Dec. 24, at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

She was born on July 1, 1932 in Old Forge, Pa., the ninth of ten children born to George and Anna Buksar. She moved to Newark and in 1950 graduated from South Side High School.

Margaret married Norman J. Woskey on March 31, 1951 at St. George Greek Catholic Church in Newark. They moved to South Plainfield in 1953 and were blessed with three children, a son, Michael, the former Mayor of South Plainfield, now

residing in Bridgewater and two daughters, Diane and Debra, both of South Plainfield. She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield. She enjoyed spending her time with her family and grandchildren.

She is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 49 years, Norman J.; her son, Michael and daughter-in-law, Kathy (Kennedy) Woskey of Bridgewater, her daughter Diane and son-in-law Keith Allara of South Plainfield, her daughter Debra and son-in-law Leonard Cursi of South Plainfield; three brothers, Steven Buksar of North Carolina, John Buksar of Keyport and Joseph Buksar of South Plainfield and her sister Irene Cochran of South Plainfield.

She is also survived by 10 grandchildren, Tara, Heather, Michael and Matthew Woskey of Bridgewater, Stephen and David Allara of South Plainfield and Lee, Nicole, Kristina and Jonathan Cursi of South Plainfield.

Funeral services were held at McCrisky Home For Funerals.

Eleanor Uken, 78

Eleanor Uken died on Sunday, Dec. 24, at Cedar Oaks Care Center in South Plainfield.

Mr. Uken was born in New York City and had resided in Florida and Forked River before moving to Piscataway three years ago.

Her husband, Harry Uken, died in 1991.

Surviving are a son, Donald Uken of Piscataway; a son and daughter-in-law, Daniel and Eileen Uken of South Plainfield and eight grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCrisky Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the American Cancer Society, 846 Main St., Woodbridge, NJ would be appreciated.

Anthony B. DeFillipo, 83

Anthony B. DeFillipo of Somers Point, formerly of South Plainfield, died on Thursday, Dec. 21 at Shore Memorial Hospital.

He was born and raised in South Plainfield and was a former resident of Iselin, Bayville and Egg Harbor City before moving to Somers Point 18 months ago.

He was a machine operator for the former Hyatt Roller Bearing Company in Clark for two years before retiring in 1981.

He was a veteran of WWII, serving in the medical detachment 1261st-unit of the US Army. He was a member of the Men's Senior Club of Berkeley.

He was predeceased by his brother, Angelo DeFillipo.

He is survived by his wife, Helen Scripko DeFillipo; a daughter, Linda Brangenberg of Northfield; his grandchildren, Anna Jean and Deana Lyon Brangenberg; four brothers, Louis of Jackson, Miss., Paul of

Point St. Lucie, Fla., Eugene and Edward DeFillipo, both of Plainfield; three sisters, Virginia Bianculi and Barbara Bartlett, both of South Plainfield and Jeanette Modola of Stewart, Fla.

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

Alene McDonough, 87

Alene McDonough died on Friday, Dec. 22, in her home.

Born in Plainfield, Mrs. McDonough had resided there until 1965, before moving to Hagerstown, Md. She moved to Brick in 1993.

Mrs. McDonough was a homemaker.

Her husband, John O. McDonough, died in 1992 and her son, John R. "Jack" McDonough, died in 1996. She is also predeceased by two brothers, Frank and Robert DeRoner.

Surviving are three sisters, Marion McDonough of Altoona, Pa., Dorothy Cooper of Brielle and Helen Viohl of Virginia Beach, Va. and her sister-in-law, Catherine McDonough of Brick. Also surviving are her grandchildren, Jeff and Jacki McDonough and Jill Caravello.

Funeral services were held at McCrisky Home For Funerals.

Valerie (Adler) Magura, 90

Valerie (Adler) Magura died on Sunday, Dec. 24, in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick.

Born in Lodz, Poland, she had resided in North Brunswick for 20 years and previously Queens, NY and Plainfield.

She had been employed as a waitress for the former Bamberger's Department Store in Plainfield for over 10 years.

Surviving are her son and daughter-in-law, Stephen and Lucille Magura of South Plainfield; a granddaughter, Stephanie and a grandson, Evan.

Funeral services were held at McCrisky Home For Funerals.

Memorial contributions in her memory may be made to the North Brunswick First Aid and Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 7043, North Brunswick, NJ 08902.

Jane E. Stark, 76

Jane E. Stark of South Plainfield, died on Sunday, Dec. 24 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Rochester, NY, she had resided in Plainfield before settling in South Plainfield 45 years ago.

She was a housewife and mother for most of her life. Mrs. Stark was an avid animal lover who often assisted with donations and different contributions to the

Plainfield Area Humane Society in Plainfield.

She is predeceased by her husband, Edward, who died in 1994 and two sisters.

Surviving are two sons and their wives, Edward and Cynthia Stark of Holden, Mass. and Robert and Deborah Stark of Hubbardston, Mass.

Funeral services were held at McCrisky Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations in her memory may be made to the Hemo Dialysis Unit at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Park and Randolph Ave. Plainfield, NJ. 07060

Fernando Santiago, 39

Fernando Santiago of South Plainfield, died on Wednesday, Dec. 20 at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

He was born in Elizabeth and was a former resident of Linden, before moving to South Plainfield last year.

Mr. Santiago was a 1986 graduate of Monmouth University, receiving his BA in accounting. From 1993 to 1995 he was a computer applications instructor at Middlesex County College in Edison, where he still served as an adjunct.

He was a pilot for Island Express in Albany for the last six months and was a flight instructor for Century Flight Academy in Morristown.

He is survived by his brother, Victor Santiago of Treetop; an aunt, Grace Rosado of Elizabeth and many other relatives and dear friends.

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

Lois Jean (Gray) Rennie, 74

Lois Jean (Gray) Rennie of South Plainfield, died on Sunday, Dec. 24, at home.

She was born in Plainfield and resided in South Plainfield for 44 years. She moved to Clermont, Fla. for six years, returning to South Plainfield in June.

She was a supervisor for Answerphone of Plainfield for 15 years, before retiring in 1981. She was a former member of the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club Women's Auxiliary and the Rebecca Lodge in Plainfield.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, James Rennie; two daughters, Karen Mathis of Clermont, Fla. and Lori Black of South Plainfield; three sons, James C. Rennie of Rahway, Mark Rennie of South Plainfield and Keith Rennie of Linden; a sister Shirley Barrett of Castro Valley, Calif. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

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



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policereport

• A Perry Street resident was arrested for a possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance after an officer witnessed what he suspected was a drug transaction. The resident, a white male, was seen riding a bike on Clinton Ave. He wore no coat despite 25-degree temperatures. He was observed by a patrol officer heading towards Seventh St. When the suspect spotted another patrol car in the parking lot of Clinton Plaza, he quickly headed in another direction. A black male in a long dark jacket was seen in the area, he also left upon observing the patrol car. Shortly afterward the two men were seen together standing on the corner of Sixth and Clinton in Plainfield. When the male on the bike re-entered the borough, he was asked to pull over by an officer. He explained he had been to a Christmas party and was out for a bike ride as he had been drinking. When asked if he had any drugs in his possession, he admitted he had. Officers found he had a white rock substance believed to be crack in his front pant's pocket. Four more individually wrapped packages were found in his possession. The suspect claimed he had bought the drugs for \$40.

• Maria C. Rodriguez of Piscataway was arrested for shoplifting a black leather wallet, women's perfume and men's underwear, totaling 105.50 from Sterns on Hadley Rd.

• Jason Branagan, manager of Regal Cinema, Corporate Ct. contacted police after experiencing a problem with a former employee. After he fired employee Steven Rivera of Piscataway, the suspect left the building then returned a few minutes later and proceeded to walk around the entire cinema. The manager followed him and the suspect then entered the main stairwell. Before the manger could enter he heard a loud noise. As he entered the stairwell, he observed a large hole in the wall of the stairwell in between the first and second flight of stairs. When he asked the suspect why he had hit the wall, the suspect replied "It was either the wall or you." When the manager told the suspect he was going to call the police, the suspect left the building. The manager signed a complaint.

• Police responded to 1004 Pitt St. for a structural fire. A detached garage was

found on fire in the area of the chimney. The fire was called in by a passing motorist. George Jacobi of Princeton, owns the residence. The home and garage are rented to two different individuals. A Daniel St. resident who rents the garage reported he had left after cleaning some tools and believed that he had extinguished the fire in the wood burning store prior to leaving.

• Sherwin Williams reported the theft of heating oil on Monday, Dec. 12. Manager Mike Denney reported that Art Taylor of the Heating Oil company came to service the heating system and discovered the rear tank located on the north side of the building was empty. The tank had been filled on Dec. 12 with 363 gallons of oil worth \$599.12. Mr. Denney stated that a tank of oil usually lasts about a month. A manager at BP gas station, which is adjacent to the tank, did not see anyone pumping oil out of the tank. The tank has no lock. There was no evidence recovered, no oil found spilled or leaking.

• A North Plainfield man riding a bike on Clinton Ave. reported being assaulted after a verbal argument with a motorist. The motorist got out of his car and pushed the victim off the bike across a lane of traffic. The bike struck a parked car causing damage to the driver's side. A witness, a resident of Clinton Ave., reported seeing a man dressed in a fire department uniform get out of a black Blazer and push the victim off his bike. The suspect then got back into the vehicle and drove down Elizabethtown Ct. The witness noted he did not see the vehicle exit the dead end street. The

suspect's vehicle was not located.

• George Helfrich, owner of J&L Auto Center on Durham Ave., reported that someone had removed a 1998 Jeep from his business. When workers arrived in the morning, they noticed the yard gate was open but did not notice anything amiss. It wasn't until later in the day that they noticed the Jeep that had been there for repair was missing. The chain, which secured the gate, was found cut. The keys were found in the office. It is unknown if the Jeep had been locked.

• Police responded to a 911 call from a W. Crescent Pkwy resident. She reported someone had tried to gain access to her home. When she returned home she found the air conditioner in the bedroom had been pushed to the side slightly and the blinds were lying on the floor. The headboard had prevented the air conditioner from being moved further. The air conditioner was dusted for fingerprints but none were found. A neighbor noted that he had been home most of the day and did not hear or see anything.

• A Kmart security man spotted a Metuchen man as he shoplifted an \$89 sonic tooth brush. The suspect attempted to exit store without paying. The suspect refused to stop when confronted and pushed/punched security manager John Ravaloli. The store manager did not want to sign a complaint.

Please note: Police reports are a matter of public record.

LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
RETURN OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE
TO HARRY POPIK
FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AT
219 Warren St., South Plainfield, NJ 07080;
Lot#: 23.01, Block 107

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 Harry Popik for public improvements at 219 Warren St., South Plainfield, New Jersey known as Lot #23.01, in Block #107 listed on the official tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held 8:00 P.M. Thursday, January 11, 2001 in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

\$35.00 1T 12/29/00

PUBLIC NOTICE
RETURN OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE
TO WILKINS BUILDING INC.
FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AT
Pershing & Bullard, South Plainfield,
New Jersey 07080;
Lots#: 8.01, 8.02, 8.03, Block 25

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 Wilkins Building Inc. for public improvements at Pershing and Bullard, South Plainfield, New Jersey known as Lots #8.01, 8.02 and 8.03, in Block #25 listed on the official tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held 8:00 P.M. Thursday, January 11, 2001 in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

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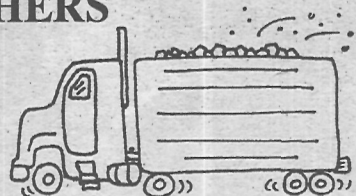
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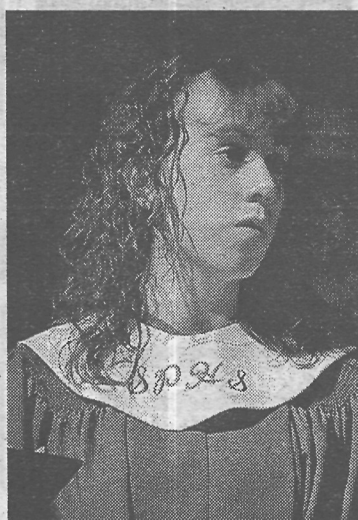
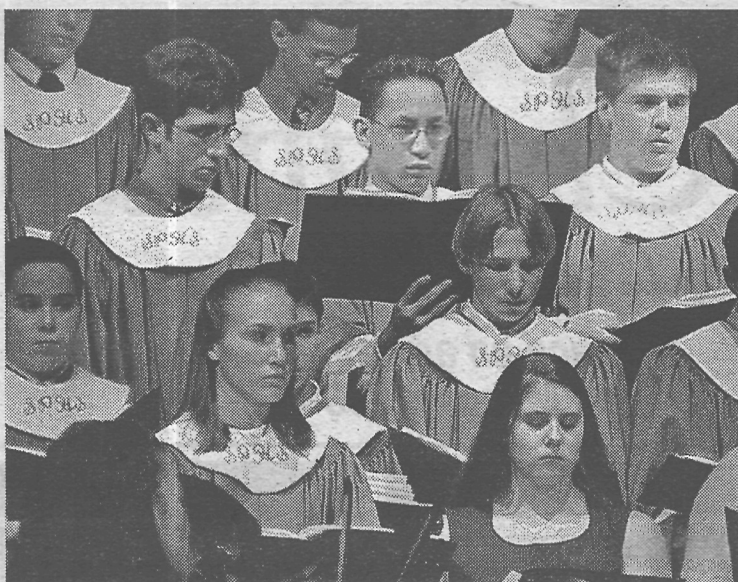
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Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Photos by Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield High School Choral and Orchestra Holiday Concert was held on Dec. 14. The annual event featured the orchestra conducted by Bruce Mikolon, the Emeralds and chorus directed by Tracy Murray. The evening ended with the combined efforts of the chorus and orchestra in Handel's "Hallelujah" from Messiah. As is tradition, chorus alumni mounted the stage to join in this final number.

The SPHS Band Concert finished out a month of school concerts on Dec. 21. The evening offered the extensive talents of the Jazz and Concert bands, conducted by Mark Tweed. The featured soloists drew much additional applause. The Traveling Choir, directed by Murray, also performed.

The traveling choir recently produced a CD featuring their efforts. The CDs were offered for sale at the door before and after the evening's performance. All available CDs were sold by the end of the evening, according to an ecstatic Tracy Murray. Plans are in the works to produce additional copies of the much sought after CD.

