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South Plainfield Observer

JAN 05 2001

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JANUARY 5, 2001

Residents Surprised by School Closing

By Patricia Abbott

Many residents were more than a little surprised to find out that South Plainfield schools would be closed last Tuesday morning. The South Plainfield school district was one of only three district closings in the entire state.

Mayor Dan Gallagher said that he was not contacted about the school closing nor any report of uncleared sidewalks or roads. He felt the decision to close the schools was made in haste. "It was their (the school district's) choice to make this decision. I heard about the closing when my wife, who is a duty-aide at the high school, received a call from the phone chain. She was told to notify several other school employees that the school would be closed because the borough had not cleared secondary roads and some sidewalks," he said.

Gallagher noted that he is never personally contacted by the BOE about school closings. He said that he spoke to Superintendent Guy Ferri on Tuesday afternoon regarding the school closing. "Ferri told me he had spoken with Code Enforcement Officer Mike Zushma about the condition of sidewalks. I spoke with Zushma later in the day and he said he had not been contacted by Ferri," Gallagher said.

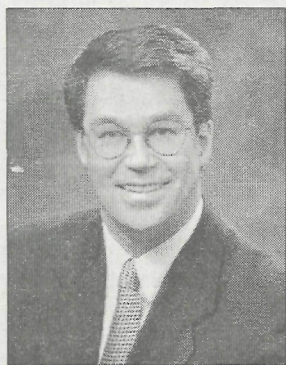
The area of concern is the half-mile walkways surrounding the schools. Mike Zushma spent Tuesday canvassing those areas and locating impassible sidewalks. He either spoke to the residents or left a notice. They were given 24 hours to clear the walk or receive a summons. The snow removal law on the books states that "five hours after the snow has stopped falling borough sidewalks must be cleared."

Gallagher explained that he has never enforced the law, saying that most people must go to work or are senior citizens and that makes clearing the walks in a timely manner difficult. He said that in addition to the BOE complaint, which was not made directly to him, he only received two calls about borough streets during the aftermath of the storm. Those calls came from Foster Terrace and Meister Street. "Now that we have this complaint from the BOE, we will have to begin enforcing the snow removal law," he added.

Gallagher also pointed out a conflict with the BOE complaint, "I visited the Middle School and

Continued on page 10

Borough Council to Reorganize



Ray Petronko



Bob Cusick

Petronko, Cusick To be Sworn In

This Sunday marks the annual reorganization meeting of the South Plainfield Borough Council. Ray Petronko, re-elected to a second term, and Bob Cusick, the newest member of the Borough Council, will be sworn in and Vinnie Buttiglieri, who has served two three-year terms, will be leaving his position.

Along with the two councilmen, new and incumbent members of various boards and commissions will be also be sworn in. The meeting will take place at 1 p.m. in Borough Hall.

Petronko Starts 2nd Term

Councilman Ray Petronko will begin his second term on Jan. 7. His first step into South Plainfield politics was his appointment to the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, where he served for eight years. "This board was an opportunity for me to serve my community," Ray said.

After seven years on the committee Petronko was approached by members of the Borough Council and asked to run for an open council seat. "It was an

Continued on page 12

Cusick Joins Council

When Bob Cusick is sworn in on Jan. 7, it won't be his first experience in borough government. Cusick has served on the Planning Board for past two years and was a member of the Environmental Commission for one year. Cusick said that his only regret in becoming a councilman will be that he has to give up his seat on both the Planning Board and the Environmental Commission.

When asked about his new position, Cusick answered, "I

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Buttiglieri Relinquishes Two-Term Council Seat

Vinnie Buttiglieri is proud of his service to South Plainfield and he is enthusiastic about the future of our town and believes he is ready to move on with his own future.

After six years of serving South Plainfield on the borough council, Buttiglieri said it was difficult deciding not to run for another term. His desire to spend more time with his wife, Ray Jean, helped him make the decision easier. Because of additional duties at work, he felt he might not be able to devote the time needed to being a councilman.

His political career took root in late 1993, when he filled out a questionnaire to become a member of the Taxpayers Advisory Group. His name was pulled in a random drawing and once on the committee, other members selected him as chairman. In early 1994, he learned of two council seats up for election and expressed an interest in screening with the committee. He was selected to run along with then Council President Dan Gallagher and Mary Anne Kochut.

When asked what he felt was his greatest accomplishment and what he was most proud of during his two terms on the council, Buttiglieri replied, "I believe that I have played a part in many great things over the years. I certainly don't believe that I have been able to accomplish any-



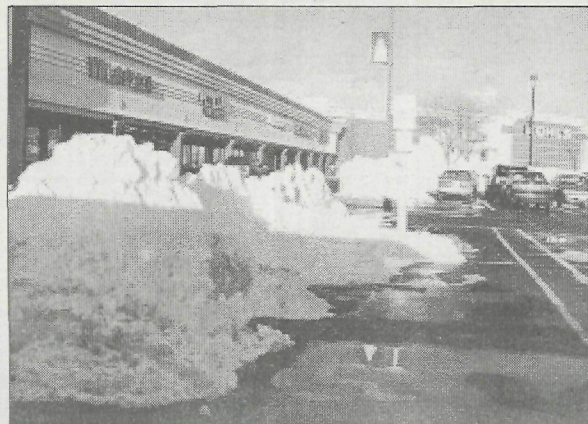
Vinnie Buttiglieri

thing alone. It has truly been a team effort the entire six years that I have been fortunate enough to serve on the governing body. We each brought differing opinions to the table and we have worked extremely hard to come to a consensus on what would best serve the residents, employees and businesses of the town. I think we have been able to do a pretty good job at that. I am very proud that I was part of the implementation and continuation of Democracy Day which has been great for our borough. Also, our infrastructure has been greatly improved and finally the senior citizen housing project is underway, as well as the PAL expansion and the building of a senior citizen center. If I had to pick one thing I am most proud of, it would be the number of roads that have been repaved or constructed, without borrowing money to pay for them."

When asked for some parting words on the mayor and council and South Plainfield in general, Buttiglieri enthusiastically replied, "I am in awe whenever I think of the many hours that the mayor and council have devoted to the citizens. I have been constantly amazed that the members of the governing body, all of whom come from such diverse backgrounds, can work so well together for the common good of the borough. Never once can I recall members thinking of themselves first. It was always, 'what's best for the citizens.' That really is a credit to all of them. I think the 2001 mayor and council will continue to work hard to keep our finances under control, to continue to improve our infrastructures, maintain the best volunteer services and to improve

Continued on page 8

2000 Goes, But Not Quietly



Snow piled up at Hadley Mall still blocks a handicap parking space on Tuesday.

The first snowfall of this season was also the last snowfall in 2000. Forecasters had called for 12 to 18 inches, and unofficially

the storm dumped in excess of 18 inches on South Plainfield. The road department was prepared for the snow. This year they hired six

independent contractors to help with snow removal. According to Joe Glowacki, Public Works superintendent, the department contracted outside help because some of their trucks were not in operating order and they felt they needed the additional help to remove the snow. The plows were on the streets starting early Saturday morning and continued throughout the day and into Sunday. They took a break on New Year's Day, but were back cleaning the streets on Tuesday.

Police, fire and rescue squad personnel were able to get around town with little difficulty thanks to the road department, which kept the main roads clear.

Fortunately, the storm arrived on a Saturday. Most people remained indoors, waiting until their streets were plowed.

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**
Thursday, January 11 Thursday, January 18

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

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

TBA

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.

site places sub-committee

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

TBA

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

TBA

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted
Committee of the Whole, Jan. 16, 7 p.m. Grant School gymnasium;
Special Public Meeting for Student/Staff Commendations, Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2001 at 7 p.m.
Regular Board Mtg., Jan. 23, 8 p.m. Grant School gymnasium
Committee of the Whole, Feb. 13, 8 p.m., Regular Board Mtg., Feb. 19, 8 p.m.

South Plainfield Observer

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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 ggna@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.

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest
meeting agenda

In My Opinion

To The Editor:

I recently attended a special Board of Adjustment meeting at Borough Hall.

This meeting was to hear lawyers and their experts with plans from a billboard company who wants to install three signs along 1.8 miles of Rt. 287 in South Plainfield. The Department of Transportation (DOT) has already issued permits for these said signs.

For forty years Rt. 287 has been clear of signs and now they want to place billboards to ugly up our area and environment.

The mayor and council passed an ordinance against billboards being erected in our community. Our records show that councilman Ed Kubala was the only member who voted against the billboard ordinance. He also stated that in the future, the Borough of South Plainfield will have a legal fight on its hands.

It appears that Mr. Kubala, a retired New Jersey State employee, may have had some inside information that the rest of us had no knowledge of.

As I quote the expert that testified, one sign will be erected at the end of Easton Blvd., closest to Rt. 287, and will be 50 feet high. It will have five halogen lights on each side that will be well-lit from dusk to dawn, seven days a week. A driver will be able to see the sign from about 1,500 feet away, with no back drop to shield the sign from residents or businesses in the area.

One local resident stated that the back of the sign will be at his neighbor's front door and the other neighbor's house will be at the front of the sign. The expert stated that you will not be able to see the sign from Hamilton Blvd.

The State of New Jersey Advertising Act has a section on protecting the environment, which the expert agreed (but never mentioned) how they will maintain the environment in the area—nor did he mention how to protect the residents and businesses in the area. I heard no one speak about any maintenance procedures they plan to follow.

At this meeting, I did see a lot of money being spent on layouts, on plans, more lawyers and lots of experts. How can someone be an expert on billboards? They are all ugly and do nothing for environment or scenery. Does that

mean you're an expert on ugly?

Being a lifelong resident of South Plainfield, it seems like another out-of-towner is going to tell us what they are going to do with our environment and there is nothing we can do about it. I have traveled this country from one side to the other and also been to Europe, where many countries don't allow billboards.

My observation on billboards is that they are ugly and unsightly obstacles. After a period of time, no one looks at them.

If the billboard company wants to spend money for lawyers and experts so they can erect three signs in South Plainfield, then in my opinion South Plainfield should impose a city tax on all billboards on a monthly basis. If we have to look at ugly, then ugly should help us pay for education and other vital projects. God knows we can use the financial support—a city tax on all billboards!

JAKE CATALDO

To the Editor,

We would like to thank the Lions Club of South Plainfield for their financial support in the purchase of hearing aids for our hearing impaired son. They assisted us when no one else would.

When we bought our son's first hearing aids in 1994, we thought that they would last indefinitely if we took care of them. But hearing aids, like any other electronic equipment, wear out and must be replaced every few years. Hearing aids are a tremendous expense that insurance companies will not cover because they do not consider them a medical device. It amazed us as parents to discover that these mega companies considered the need for a child to hear was considered a luxury.

So when our insurance company refused to help us, The Lions Club came to our aid and offered us the financial support to buy the new hearing aids. There have been significant advances in hearing aid technology, and our son's new aids have made a tremendous difference for him—in school as well as at home—and we are extremely grateful to the South Plainfield Lions Club, an organization dedicated to helping the visually and hearing impaired, as well as other charitable endeavors.

We encourage everyone to support their efforts locally as they make a difference in so many lives.

**SINCERELY,
GRATEFUL PARENTS OF A
HEARING IMPAIRED CHILD**

BOE Meeting Date Changes

The Board of Education has announced the following meeting date changes.

• **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**, originally scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2001 at 7 p.m., has been changed to **Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2001 at 7 p.m.** in the Grant School gymnasium.

• **SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING FOR STUDENT/STAFF COMMENDATIONS**, originally scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2001, has been changed to **Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2001, at 7 p.m.** in the Grant School gymnasium.

• **REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING**, originally scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2001, has been changed to **Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2001 at 8 p.m.** in the Grant School gymnasium.

Please be advised of the following meetings of the South Plainfield Board of Education. These meetings will be held in the Media Center, Grant School, on Cromwell Place. **SPECIAL CLOSED SESSION MEETINGS** will be held on **January 8, 10, 11, 17 and 18, 2001 at 7 p.m.**, to conduct interviews for the position of Superintendent of Schools.

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

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Milestones

Kaplan, Soos Announce Engagement



Kristen Kaplan and Brian Soos

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Kaplan wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristen Kaplan, to Brian Soos, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Soos, Sr. of Kenilworth.

Kristen is a graduate of South Plainfield High School, Class of 1991. She graduated from the University of Scranton in 1995 with a degree in psychology and then went on to graduate from Bucknell University in 1997 with a Master's degree in Education. Kristen is currently employed as an elementary student assistance counselor by the South Plainfield school district.

Brian graduated from Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark in 1994 and attended Union County College where he studied fire science. He is a Lieutenant on the Kenilworth Volunteer Fire Department where he has served for six years. Brian currently works as a project manager for So Deep Inc., a civil engineering company in Rahway.

A September 2001 wedding is planned at Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

Suburban Transit Vacates New Market Location



Only one bus remains on the lot where Suburban Transit formerly stored and maintained their buses. The company has relocated their buses to another site.

Suburban Transit, which has occupied space on New Market Ave. for decades, has moved out, leaving the bus depot vacant.

Disgruntled neighboring residents attended at least six Board of Adjustment meetings since August of 1999, objecting to the bus company's request to expand their facilities. Suburban also requested a variance to construct a 10,000 diesel fuel tank, which they had already erected. One of the reasons they were before the board was because they had not applied for either a permit or a variance for the tank.

Neighbors also objected to Suburban running their bus engines all night, cutting down trees that were used as a buffer

between the company and residents and to the constant noise and emissions buses were making right behind their homes. They also objected to buses parking on side streets and blocking the road. Suburban has occupied this space for decades, expanding several times, apparently without any permits.

The 20+ surrounding neighbors never missed a meeting, keeping the pressure on the board and the bus company.

Finally, in June of 2000, the Board of Adjustment voted to deny all of the variances requested by Suburban Transit.

As of Dec. 31, the company moved all of their buses out of the depot, leaving it vacant.

Commerce Bank Gets Preliminary Building Approval

At a special Planning Board meeting held last Thursday night, Commerce Bank was given preliminary approval to construct a new bank directly across from Borough Hall.

The property, about 1.27 acres, is located on the corner of Lane and Plainfield Avenues. Presently there are two houses on the lots, which will be demolished to make way for the new bank. The lots are in the OBC-1 Zone, which is a permitted use for a bank.

Plans call for 31 parking places, a four-car drive-through and entrances on both Plainfield and Lane Avenues. A two-sided monument sign, eight feet tall, will be placed in front of the bank.

Lighting the bank area was a concern to board members, because there are four houses located directly behind the bank. Commerce Bank plans to place shields on the lights in the rear of the property where the houses are located.

A 29-foot buffer of trees, bushes and a wooden fence will also be placed at the rear of the property near the homes. A retention basin is also planned, but the board asked if the plans could be changed to have them placed underground for safety reasons.

Two driveways will be on Plainfield, one will be an exit only for cars leaving the drive-through, the other will be close to the corner. Left turns from Plainfield Ave. entering the bank will be prohibited, left turns exiting the bank will be allowed. Lane Ave. will be unrestricted and turns both left and right will be allowed.

The board issued only a preliminary approval. Commerce will have to return to the board with updated plans for several of the changes and permits that were not available at Thursday's meeting.

One of the residents located behind the bank asked that a study be done on the environmental impact of having 14 or more cars using the drive-thru, with motors running, near their houses. He also questions the lighting and the buffer. Planning Board Chairman Bob Ackerman said he would ask Alice Tempel to check on the environmental issues.



Photos by Pattie Abbott

Director Paul McCullen, Scott Hansen Daniel LaSpata, Kelly Stenson, Gabriel Olochwoszcz, Dave Rattner and Jennifer Ludlow serenade South Plainfield.

Brass Carolers Serenade Residents

In past years it was traditional to see and hear Christmas carolers traveling along the streets, offering their gift of song during the weeks before Christmas. This year the tradition was carried on this year by the South Plainfield Brass Carolers, a unique instrumental group founded in 1994 by South Plainfield resident Paul McCullen.

The idea began with the plan to play at McCullen's church before Christmas. Paul and his group decided to take to the streets with their music, as a way to bring back some spirit to Christmas.

What began as a one time deal has become a new South Plainfield tradition. The Brass Carolers roam the streets of town looking for open doors and brightly-lit homes, where they stop and play. They offer a wide range of songs from "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" to "Jolly Old St. Nick." Over the years the group has changed members several times.

McCullen had this to say about The SP Brass Carolers, "I would like to thank the original members for their time and dedication to the cause and those who are still with the group today: Kevin and Kurt Adams and Adam and Daniel LaSpata. The time that all present and past members have put forth has been greatly appreciated by the people we have played for these past years. So if next year you hear something that sounds like Christmas, it's not the

radio, the TV, or the computer, but a group of people outside your home trying to spread a little Christmas cheer."

South Plainfield Observer reporter Pattie Abbott's chance encounter with the Brass Carolers was a startling one. The musicians



were walking along the dark sidewalk and her headlights reflected off their instruments. At first glance the instruments were all that could be seen, appearing to bob along by themselves. A figure with a trombone crossing the street convinced Pattie that something wonderful was just a block away. She quickly turned around and found Paul McCullen and his group carrying their instruments between homes.

It was a cold night and they had been out for some time, but they quickly assembled and began to play for her as she grabbed for the camera.

Their music is a gift to the town that brings back memories of long-forgotten Christmas traditions. The group truly represents the spirit of Christmas.

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Around Town

VFW Plans Country Breakfast

January 7

The VFW Post 6763 at 155 Front St. will hold a country breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 7 from 8 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$5.

For more information, call 908-668-9751.

Historical Society Monthly Meeting

January 9

The Historical Society will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 9. Slated for discussion is plans for 2001.

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

Tourette Syndrome Meetings

Jan. 11, March 8, May 10

The Tourette Syndrome Association of Middlesex/Union County Family Support Group meetings have been scheduled for the following dates, Thursday, Jan. 11, March 8 and May 10. The meetings are held at JFK Medical Center in Edison, in the Neuroscience Institute Department, from 7 to 9 p.m. Please note that the meeting night is different.

For more information, call 732-283-1439 after 6 p.m. or contact www.tsanj.org.

KISMET Events

January 13, 18 and 27

"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

What Would You Do For Romance? A full participation game show for singles will be held on Saturday, Jan. 27 from 8:30 to 11 p.m. at the Bravo Center located at 1100 South Ave.—upper level in Westfield. The cost is \$30 at the door and includes game show, refreshments and prizes.

For further information on any of these events, contact KISMET at (908) 232-8827 or visit www.thatskismet.com



Wellness Corner

Kids, Sports & Chiropractic...

Dr. Patrick M. Aiello, D.C.

Why does the modern teen athlete seek out regular adjustments?

Is there a reason they so value chiropractic care?

Well, perhaps it's the support shown for its principles in the professional ranks. Athletes like Emmitt Smith of the Dallas Cowboys, John Smoltz of the Atlanta Braves, and Olympic Gold Medalist (and "World's Greatest Athlete") Dan O'Brien employ—and enjoy—regular chiropractic care.

Chiropractic helps improve performance, speed healing, increase flexibility and augment stamina. Let's take a look at each:

1. Improve Performance

If you had a stock car, would you make sure its front end was properly aligned before a big race? Of course, because you know that when your car is aligned properly it'll run faster, more efficiently and with less strain on its structure. Chiropractic relates to your body and athletics in the same way. To perform at all, your body receives signals from your brain, which in turn needs feedback from your body; and these messages must be clear. Have you ever been on a static-filled cell phone? It's annoying, and not always helpful in getting your point across. Interference over nerve pathways has the same effect; it reduces communication between your brain and body, and thus affects performance.

Chiropractic care helps remove this problem and often prevents its return.

No wonder Dan O'Brien credits chiropractic for helping him win the Olympic Gold Medal.

2. Speed Healing

People recover from injuries, sickness and anything else that goes wrong if they have a good nerve signal supply from their

brain to their body, and back again. There have been many occasions documented wherein athletes have limped into

chiropractic offices with a sports- or athletics-related injury, and leaped out to participate in their activity the very next day. While not every person who goes to a chiropractor has this kind of experience—

it often depends on the severity of the injury—many people certainly do.

Why do you think chiropractic has been one of the fastest growing health professions over the last decade? Because it works.

3. Increase Flexibility and Augment Stamina

One particular study tested two groups of athletes in training, both very interested in improving their performance. The first group trained without receiving chiropractic care. The second group, though, trained and received the benefits of chiropractic as well.

As one would expect, both groups improved. After 12 weeks, however, there was a big difference in just how much. The athletes that weren't under chiropractic care showed a 4.5% improvement, while those utilizing chiropractic showed one of 16+%.

No wonder Evander Holyfield gets regular chiropractic care during his training, both before and after his fights.

If you're involved in sports or are just into improving your physical fitness, don't you think it's time you were examined chiropractically to see if it could make a difference for you?

For more information on chiropractic, or to schedule an evaluation, please call us at (908) 755-2289 or e-mail us at SoPlfdDoc@aol.com.



Dr. Patrick Aiello, DC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPHS Student Council Serves Up Lunch to Seniors



The SPHS student council recently sponsored their annual Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon on Friday, Dec. 15, at South Plainfield High School.

The senior citizens were first treated to several performances by the SPHS Band, Chorus and Orchestra, under the direction of Mark Tweed, Tracy Murray, and Bruce Mikolon followed by a delightful lunch, served by SPHS' very own senior Student Council members and representatives, as well as by members of FLA.

After the concert the seniors moved into the cafeteria. The festive tables sported green tablecloths. Student Council members greeted the seniors as they entered the room.

After the guests were settled, Principal Tony Massaro presented a welcome. He asked the guests to stop and look at the students who were serving them. He asked them to remember all the negative things they ever heard about today's teenag-

ers, suggesting they take the time to really look at the kids in front of them, ask about their school activities and their future plans.

After the welcome concluded a delicious meal of turkey, with all the trimmings, was served quickly and efficiently.

The meal was prepared by the members of Marriott Services. The students dashed back and forth from the kitchen to the tables, rushing the hot food to each guest, always asking if anything more was needed.

The teens involved all displayed great enthusiasm for the event. They chatted and laughed with the guests, more than a few whom were relatives. After dessert and coffee were served, the guests began to leave while the students continued working, clearing the tables and restoring order to the cafeteria.

Those who participated can be proud of their efforts. They are all an asset to their school and to the community.

Photos by Pattie Abbott



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South Plainfield

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Sunday mornings 8 & 11 AM

St. Joseph HS Unveils Plans for the 21st Century

Brother Joseph Holthaus, president of St. Joseph High School in Metuchen, has announced plans for a comprehensive \$6.5 million building program that includes major improvements in the areas of academics, sports and extracurricular activities.

The ambitious plan to expand and enhance the physical plant represents the first major building project in the school's history. It is designed to position the school for a continuance of academic excellence well into the new century.

The project calls for the creation of three new science laboratories along with two new demonstration/lecture classrooms, each featuring state-of-the-art equipment, technology and facilities.

In addition, the plan encompasses a new athletic center complex with a seating capacity of 1,000, along with a dedicated weight room and training room. The design is larger and more flexible than the current gymnasium, which will be re-configured for use as a multipurpose facility supporting drama productions, liturgies and a student gathering area.

Finally, a new library and media center will be created. It will have sufficient area to house additional books and reference materials, provide more study space, and offer the latest in sophisticated computer technology. The old library will yield additional classroom space.

Brother Joseph said the project addresses an aging physical plant and growing scarcity of space necessary to maintain and enhance the high educational, ex-

tracurricular and athletic standards that make St. Joseph High School unique.

"Completion of the project is essential to maintaining a school facility that meets our proven standards for current students while helping us to attract the best students in the future," said Brother Joseph. "It will guarantee students in the new century a physical environment where they can learn and grow to achieve to their fullest potential."

The project is the outgrowth of a Strategic Planning Study completed by the school, which was comprehensive in nature for building, academics and faculty/staff considerations.

Steven Pozyski, a 1969 graduate, Chief Executive Officer of SJP Properties, and Chairman of the school's Capital Campaign Planning Committee, said the project responds to a new era in education, and will make it possible for St. Joseph High School to build

on its tradition of offering high quality instruction and training to thousands of young men from middle class families.

Brother Joseph said the school is currently presenting its plans to various state and municipal agencies in order to secure the necessary permits to begin construction. Contingent upon receiving the required approvals, he indicated that groundbreaking for the project would take place in late April 2001.

St. Joseph High School is operated by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, a Catholic religious order of men with schools around the world. The brothers began their ministry in the Metuchen area in 1901 and founded St. Joseph High School at its current site in 1961. The school provides college preparatory, value-based education in the Catholic tradition to young men in central New Jersey. It presently has a student body of 775.

Council Revises Meeting Dates

For many years, the Borough Council has been meeting on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. Starting in 2001, the meetings will be moved to the first and third Thursday of the month. The agenda meetings will be held on the Monday before a council meeting, unless otherwise noted. The reason for the change is due to scheduling conflicts.

The official vote to change the dates will be taken at the annual

reorganization meeting on Sunday, Jan. 7.

During the month of January the council will hold just one meeting because of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. The agenda meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan. 11 and the regular council meeting will be held the following Thursday, Jan. 18.

A complete schedule of meetings for the entire year will be published next week, along with board and commission meetings.



Youth Basketball League



A League Nuggets

Erik Vesper, Andrew Miller, Nicholas Doell, Christopher Bojarski, Vincent Donato, Darshan Amin, John Okuszki, Matt Zebrowski



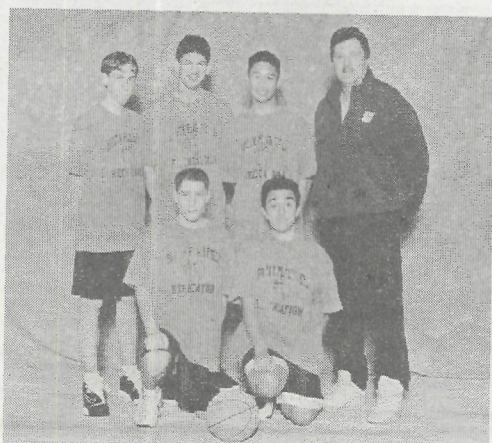
A League Rockets

Lisa Sniscak, Eileen Milcarek, Allan Mazurak, Brian Murtagh, Gregory Garbowski, Nathaniel Archbold, Adam Bianchi, Sarah Green, Darshan Suthar



A League 76ers

Jeffrey Pollin, Danny Piwowar, Nicholas Cesare, Michael Richard, Kathleen Morgan, Preet Dhaliwal, Robert Yuill, Tommy Manolio



A League Cavaliers

Kyle Kazimir, Jason Cosma, Chris Horn, Jonathan Chiang, Doug Dietzold, Coral Willis, Jaclene Prongray, Tom Holowka



A League Bulls

Mike Downes, Nicholas Jeffreys, Ankit Patel, Galen Johnson, Nick Grego, Michael Capella, Phu Huynh, DJ Miglis



A League Knicks

Chris McKnight, Rachel Cupido, Danielle Arndt, Dane Miyasato, Joey Jaghab, Melissa Hansen, Andrew Cupido, Lindsay Loiacono



A League Jazz

Chris Bakazan, Michael Benak, Vincent Velez, David Acevedo, Dip Patel, Kevin Graham, Joseph Teller, Michael Fry



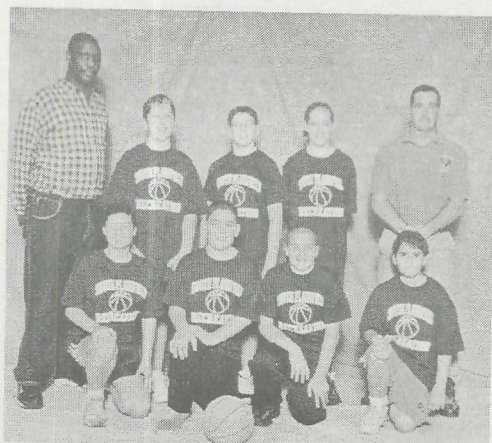
B League Magic

Christopher Pollin, Michael Stallone, Christopher Stallone, Brett Morris, Nicholas Kratz, Ryan Smith, John Mocharski, Chintan Mody



B League Raptors

Brittanni Kennedy, Mike Piazza, Samantha Horvath, Nicholas DeSimone, Stephen Dvorak, Vicente Sanchez, Eric Reiner, Jesse Butynski



B League Supersonics

Anthony Petriello, Bennie Gibson, Joseph DeNitzio, Elizabeth Flannery, Nicole Cortese, Gary Smith, Kyle Smith, David Cook



B League Heat

Courtney Eustice, Zachary Gray, Stephen Richard, Justin Carpena, Stephanie Hansen, Rebecca Dacchille, Matthew Emery, Barney Johnson



B League Hornets

Danny McCreesh, Ryan Curtis, Kyle Mathews, Vincent Genova, Tom Pryor, Charlie George, Michael George, Kyle Lykes

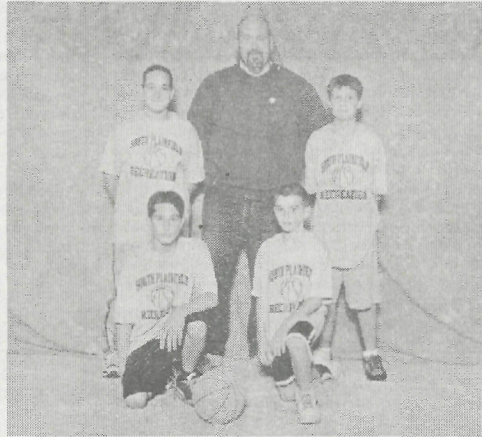


Youth Basketball League



B League Celtics

Joseph Stasio, Joseph DeFalco, Becky Keller,
Andrew Roibal, Tiffany Roth, Lelosa Ogkevoen,
Nicole Miglis, Christopher Stoeckel



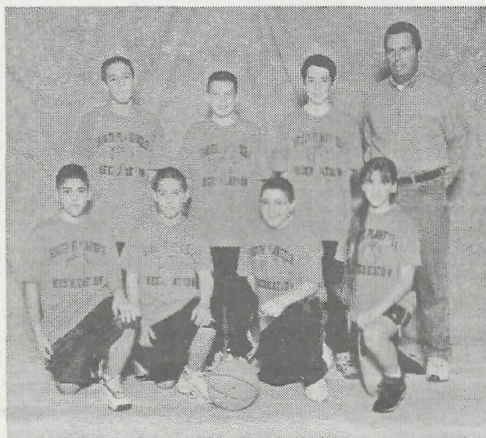
B League Timberwolves

Stephanie Mazurak, Tommy Smith, Donna Garcia,
Charles Loiacono, Scott Hartje, Zach Olim,
Alexander Nau, Allysa DaCosta



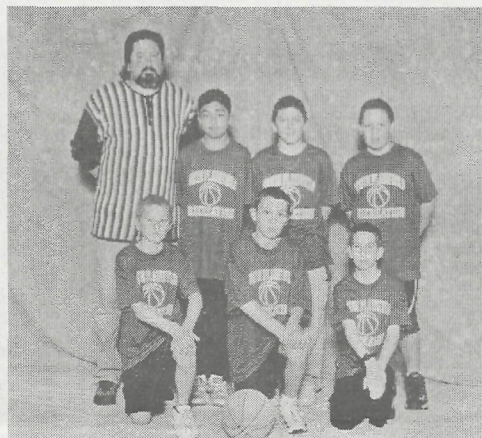
B League Nets

Carlle Kazimir, Kevin Siedenburg, Chris Weakley,
Trevor Rastelli, Taylor Mandel, Amanda Smalley,
Daryl Valerio, Kamal Darji



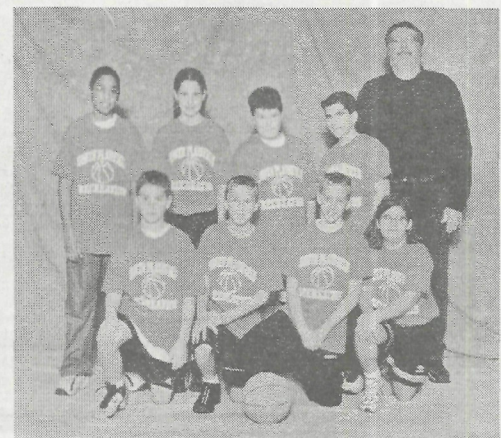
B League Cavaliers

Anthony Cassano, Justin Basilone, Peter Peregrin,
Mark Warness, Lauren Fry, Megan Boyle,
Daniel Ramos, Anthony Ettore



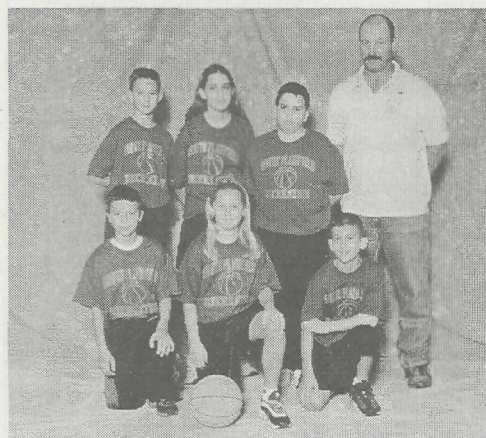
B League Lakers

Matt Jeglinski, Robbie Strani, Matthew Fabino, Justin Kelly,
Nicholas Giannakis, Sean Battison, Brandon Madalone,
Gary Stark



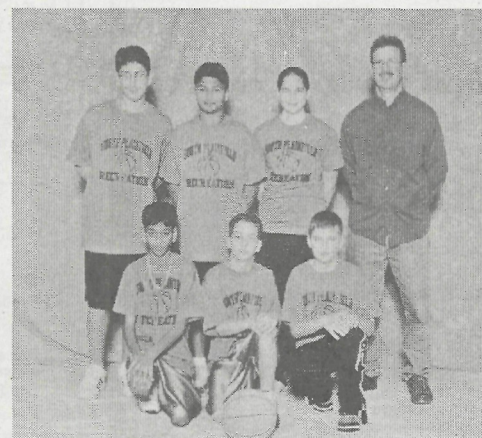
B League Bulls

Timothy Keane, Garrett Lake, Amber Hartman,
Brian Wieckowski, Benjamin Milcarek, Dale McCook,
Justin Panzarella, Stacie Carrasca



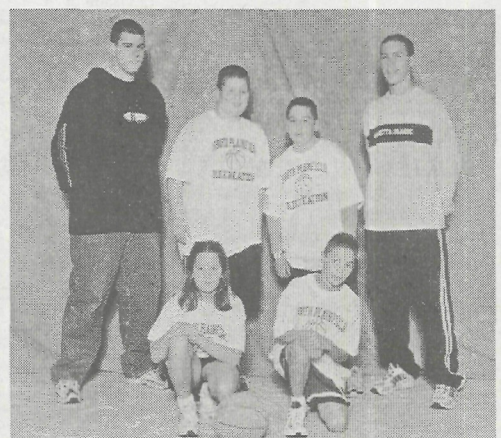
B League Knicks

Kelly Downes, Lacey Santone, Danny Hubner,
Joey Turrisse, Robert Mathis, Charlie Decker,
Nicholas Haupt, Michael Oprysk



B League Pistons

Kyle Lendach, Andrew Pinto, Bryan Wagner, Harshel Patel,
Billy Hodge, Denise Scavone, Dipal Patel, Andy Keraga



B League Jazz

Keith Dezmin, AJ Romano, Erika Blasak, Nicholas Baldassarre,
Scott Hunterton, Daniel Sambat, Katelyn Conrad,
Steven Tangorra



C League Raptors

Tim Moskal, Micheal Dezmin, Kyle McMahon, Kyle Quail,
Patrick Nolty, Daren Campbell, Timothy Durnak,
Teddy Skwiat, Sara Johnson



C League Heat

Keith Heckel, Brian Fabino, Dominic Papa, Douglas Avery,
Jonathan Marcoux, John Peregrin, Jamie Okoszko,
Brittany Okoszko, Danny Espin



C League Celtics

David Alston, Jonathan Cursi, Jeff Pagdonsolan, Michael Boyle,
Erik White, Jordan Leporino, Alex Cihanowyz, Peter Adorna

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

An appeal has been filed by Helen Spisso requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a 10' x 10' shed, proposed shed needs a front setback variance, 30' required and 22' being proposed from W. Crescent and 20.3' being required and 8.92' being proposed; and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 219, Lot 16 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, March 6, 2001, 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 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

\$35.00 1T 1/5/01

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

That the undersigned has made application to the Borough of South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment seeking a preliminary and final site plan approval, with a use variance, to locate a child care center on property known as One Cragwood Road, South Plainfield, New Jersey (block 528.01, Lot 45.08), located in the M-2 Zone.

The application includes a request for preliminary and final site plan approval, together with the following variances:

- 1) Borough Ordinance prohibits outdoor recreation equipment in the M-2 Zone and the applicant seeks to construct an outdoor playground in conjunction with the child care center.
- 2) Any other variances the applicant may require for approval of the proposed site plan.

Said property is within 200 feet of property owned by you or you are otherwise required by law to be noticed of hearing.

A Public Hearing has been ordered for January 16, 2001 at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, at which time you may appear and participate in the hearing in accordance with the Rules of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. This notice is sent to you on behalf of the applicant, by order of the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Information, maps, site plans and the application are available for your inspection in the Office of the Borough Clerk at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, and may be reviewed Monday through Friday, 9:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Very truly yours,
Lindabury, McCormick & Estabrook
53 Cardinal Drive, P.O. Box 2369
Tel. (908) 233-6800

Attorneys for Applicant,
Bright Horizons Family Services

By: Stephen A. Santola, Esq.

\$57.00 1T 1/5/01

Buttiglieri Relinquishes Council Seat

Continued from page 1

our recreational and senior facilities. Many great things are on the horizon for our borough. I believe we are quickly approaching a time when we can hold our heads up and proudly say, 'I'm from South Plainfield.'

Buttiglieri had some sound words of advice for new councilman Bob Cusick. "Work hard everyday, listen to the concerns of the residents, employees and businesses of the borough and be honest with them. Do whatever is in your power to help them. That's what you're there for. I think Bob Cusick is going to be a tremendous councilperson," he said. Buttiglieri will be at the reorganization meeting on Sunday, waiting to offer his congratulations when Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick are sworn in.

Buttiglieri is a ten-year resident of South Plainfield. He has been employed by the New Jersey Highway Authority as a cost and budget accountant for eleven years. He and wife Ray Jean live on North Madison Dr.

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NOTICE TO PERSONS DESIRING CIVILIAN ABSENTEE BALLOTS

If you are a qualified and registered voter of the State who expects to be absent outside the State on March 6, 2001 or a qualified and registered voter who will be within the State on March 6, 2001, but because of permanent and total disability, or because of illness or temporary physical disability, or because of the observance of a religious holiday pursuant to the tenets of your religion, or because of resident attendance at a school, college, or university, or because of the nature and hours of employment, will be unable to cast your ballot at the polling place in your district on said date, and you desire to vote in the Special School Election in South Plainfield, to be held on March 6, 2001, kindly complete the application form below and send to the undersigned, or write or apply in person to the undersigned at once requesting that a civilian absentee ballot be forwarded to you. Such request must state your home address, and the address to which said ballot should be sent, and must be signed with your signature, and state the reason why you will not be able to vote at your usual polling place. No civilian absentee ballot will be furnished or forwarded to any applicant unless request therefore is received not less than 7 days prior to the election, and contains the foregoing information.

VOTERS WHO ARE PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED SHALL, AFTER THEIR INITIAL REQUEST AND WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION ON THEIR PART BE FORWARDED AN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION BY THE COUNTY CLERK FOR ALL FUTURE ELECTIONS IN WHICH THEY ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE. APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED BY APPLYING TO THE UNDERSIGNED EITHER IN WRITING OR BY TELEPHONE, OR THE APPLICATION FORM PROVIDED BELOW MAY BE COMPLETED AND FORWARDED TO THE UNDERSIGNED.

Forms of application other than federal postcard application forms can be obtained from the undersigned.

DATE: January 5, 2001

MARY G. BLUE, RMC
DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK
2480 PLAINFIELD AVE.
SOUTH PLAINFIELD, N.J. 07080
(908) 226-7606
TDD(732)246-5553

A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY HAS THE RIGHT TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT OR TO BE ASSISTED AT THE POLLS BY TWO ELECTION CLERKS, ONE FROM EACH PARTY, OR BY A PERSON CHOSEN BY THE VOTER OTHER THAN THE VOTER'S EMPLOYER OR AGENT OF THAT EMPLOYER, OR OFFICER OR AGENT OF THE VOTER'S UNION. VOTING LOCATIONS MUST BE ACCESSIBLE AND ACCESSIBLE PARKING WITH PROPER SIGNAGE MUST BE PROVIDED. DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED VOTERS CAN ACCESS THE FOLLOWING TDD NUMBER: (732) 937-8364. INSTRUCTIONS PRINTED IN LARGE TYPE MUST BE CONSPICUOUSLY DISPLAYED AT EACH PERMANENT REGISTRATION FACILITY AND POLLING PLACE. VIOLATIONS OF THE ABOVE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS: (732) 745-3471.

☐ Marque aqui si usted desea recibir sus materiales electorales en Español. **CIVILIAN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION**
You must apply for an Absentee Ballot for each Election. I hereby apply for an absentee ballot for the (Check one)
☐ Primary ☐ General ☐ Municipal ☐ Special
☐ School
☐ Local ☐ Regional

☐ Other _____ To be held on _____ DATE
SPECIFY

CHECK AND COMPLETE

I live in the ☐ City ☐ Town ☐ Township ☐ Borough
☐ Village of _____
My legal residence address including Street Number and/or R.D. Number and Box Number is as follows:

STREET ADDRESS

MUNICIPALITY ZIP CODE PHONE

Mail my ballot to the following address:

STREET ADDRESS

MUNICIPALITY STATE ZIP CODE

CHECK REASON FOR BALLOT

I am unable to vote at my regular polling place on election day because:
☐ I expect to be absent from the State of New Jersey on election day.

(DATE OF DEPARTURE)

☐ Of illness or physical disability including blindness or pregnancy I will be unable to vote at my polling place on election day.
☐ I am permanently and totally disabled.

State reason _____

☐ Observance of a religious holiday on election day.
☐ Resident attendance at a school, college or University on election day.

☐ Of nature and hours of my employment on election day.

Under penalty of Law, I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true and correct.

➔ SIGN YOUR NAME AS IT APPEARS IN REGISTRY BOOK

PRINT OR TYPE YOUR NAME

• If sick or confined a voter may apply for an absentee ballot by authorize messenger.

• I designate _____ to be my authorized messenger. (NAME OF MESSENGER)

• _____ (SIGNATURE OF VOTER)

• Authorized messenger must sign application only in presence of county clerk or county clerk designee.

• _____ (SIGNATURE OF MESSENGER)

• _____ (STREET ADDRESS)

• _____ (MUNICIPALITY) _____ (ZIP CODE)

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Rev. 8/91
1T-1/5/01

AVISO PARA LAS PERSONAS QUE DESEEN PAPELETAS DE CIVIL AUSENTE

Si usted es un elector del Estado calificado y registrado, pero espera estar ausente del mismo en March 6 de 2001, o va a estar en el Estado en March 6 de 2001, pero no va a poder ir a votar a su lugar de votación debido a las siguientes razones: incapacidad permanente o temporaria; por enfermedad o incapacidad física temporaria; por causas religiosas; por asistir a la escuela, colegio o universidad; o por horario o tipo de trabajo. Si usted desea votar en la Elección Especial Escolar de South Plainfield, en March 6 de 2001, por favor llene la solicitud de abajo y envíela a la dirección indicada; o escriba, o solicite personalmente en la dirección de abajo, para que le envíen una papeleta por correo. Su solicitud debe incluir: su dirección residencial y la dirección a la cual se le enviara la papeleta; su firma y la razón por la cual no podrá votar en su lugar de votación. No se le enviara, o proveera papeletas de civil ausente a nadie a menos que la solicitud sea recibida por lo menos 7 días antes de la elección y contenga la información requerida.

ELECTORES QUE SON PERMANENTEMENTE Y TOTALMENTE INCAPACITADOS DEBEN, AUTOMATICAMENTE DESPUES DE SU SOLICITUD INICIAL, RECIBIR UNA PAPELETA DE ELECTOR AUSENTE DEL SECRETARIO DEL CONDADO PARA TODAS LAS FUTURAS ELECCIONES EN LAS CUALES SEAN ELEGIBLES. SOLICITUDES PUEDEN SER OBTENIDAS ESCRIBIENDO O LLAMANDO AL MENCIONADO, O PUEDE ENVIAR LA SOLICITUD INCLUIDA ABAJO AL MISMO.

Las solicitudes, excepto la solicitud postal federal, pueden ser obtenidas en la siguiente dirección:

FECHA: ENERO 6, 2001

MARY G. BLUE, RMC
DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK
2480 PLAINFIELD AVE.
SOUTH PLAINFIELD, N.J. 07080
(908) 226-7606

UNA PERSONA INCAPACITADA TIENE EL DERECHO A VOTAR CON PAPELETA DE AUSENTE O A SER ASISTIDA EN LAS URNAS POR DOS OFICIALES DE ELECCIONES, UNO DE CADA PARTIDO, O POR UNA PERSONA ELEGIDA POR EL VOTANTE QUE NO SEA SU JEFE, O EL AGENTE DE ESE JEFE, U OFICIAL O AGENTE DE SU UNION. LUGARES DE VOTACIÓN; DEBEN SER ACCESIBLES Y ESTACIONAMIENTO ACCESIBLE CON SEÑALES APROPIADAS DEBE SER PROVEÍDO. VOTANTES CON SORDERA O POCA AUDICIÓN PUEDEN CONTACTAR EL SIGUIENTE NÚMERO TDD: (732) 937-8364. INSTRUCCIONES IMPRESAS EN LETRA GRANDE DEBERAN SER CLARAMENTE EXHIBIDAS EN CADA LUGAR PERMANENTE DE REGISTRACIÓN O VOTACIÓN. VIOLACIONES A LO DE ARRIBA DEBERAN SER REFERIDAS A LA JUNTA DE ELECCIONES DEL CONDADO DE MIDDLESEX: (732) 745-3471.

SOLICITUD DE VOTO DE ELECTOR CIVIL AUSENTE

Usted debe solicitar un voto de ausente para cada elección. Por el presente solicito un voto de ausente para la elección (indique una)
☐ Primaria ☐ General ☐ Municipal ☐ Especial
☐ Local ☐ Regional ☐ Técnica De artes y oficios

☐ Otra _____ que se realizará el _____ FECHA
ESPECIFIQUE

LLENE LAS CASILLAS Y ESPACIOS EN BLANCO

Vivo en ☐ la ciudad ☐ el pueblo ☐ el municipio ☐ el barrio
☐ la aldea de _____
Mi residencia legal, incluyendo el número de la calle, el de la ruta o ambos y el apartado, es la siguiente:

DIRECCIÓN DE LA CALLE

MUNICIPIO ZONA POSTAL TELEFONO

Envíen mi voto a la siguiente dirección:

DIRECCIÓN DE LA CALLE

MUNICIPIO ESTADO ZONA POSTAL

INDIQUE LA RAZON DEL VOTO

El día de elecciones no podré votar en mi urna regular debido a que:
☐ Espero encontrarme ausente del estado de Nueva Jersey el día de la elección (FECHA DE LA PARTIDA)

☐ Una enfermedad o incapacidad física, incluyendo la ceguera y el embarazo, me impedirán votar en mi urna el día de la elección.
☐ Sufro de invalidez permanente y total.

Expresar la razón _____

☐ El día de la elección deberé observar un feriado religioso.

☐ El día de la elección estaré asistiendo como residente a una escuela, escuela superior o universidad.

☐ La naturaleza de mi trabajo y su horario, el día de la elección.

So pena de incurrir en las sanciones legales, certifico que las anteriores manifestaciones hechas por mí son veraces y correctas.

➔ FIRME CON SU NOMBRE COMO APARECE EN EL LIBRO DEL REGISTRO

ESCRIBA SU NOMBRE EN LETRA DE MOLDE O MECANOGRAFIA

• Si el votante se encuentra enfermo o recluso, puede solicitar un voto de ausente por intermedio de un mensajero autorizado.

Nombre a _____ mi mensajero autorizado. (NOMBRE DEL MENSAJERO)

• _____ (FIRMA DEL VOTANTE)

• El mensajero autorizado debe firmar las solicitudes únicamente ante el Secretario del Condado o su delegado.

• _____ (FIRMA DEL MENSAJERO)

• _____ (DIRECCIÓN DE LA CALLE)

• _____ (MUNICIPIO) _____ (ZONA POSTAL)

USO DE OFICINA SOLAMENTE

VOTER NUMBER PARTY WARD DISTRICT

APPROVED DISAPPROVED REMARKS

APPROVED DISAPPROVED REMARKS

\$375.00

1T-1/5/01

Sports

Ed Niemczyk's Youth Basketball League

Over 400 boys and girls, ages 7-14 in four groups, participate in this Recreation Youth Basketball Leagues. Forty-eight teams play every Saturday in the Middle School and PAL building, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Results from December 16 Competition

A LEAGUE	RECORD	TEAM'S HIGH SCORER
Jazz	4-0	Michael Benak
76ers	3-1	Danny Pinowar
Cavaliers	2-2	Jason Cosma/Kyle Kazimir
Spurs	2-2	Gary Houston
Bulls	2-2	Mike Downes
Nuggets	1-3	Vincent Donato
Rockets	1-3	Adam Bianchi
Knicks	1-3	Andrew Cupido/Joey Jaghab

B LEAGUE	RECORD	TEAM'S HIGH SCORER
Jazz	4-0	Keith Dezmin
Magic	4-0	Chris Stallone/Brett Morris
Pistons	4-0	Kyle Lendach
Nets	4-0	Chris Weakley/Kevin Siedenburb
Hornets	3-1	Ryan Curtis
Cavaliers	3-1	Mark Warness
Lakers	2-2	Matt Jaglinski
Heat	2-2	Zachary Gray
Bulls	1-3	Garrett Lake
Raptors	1-3	Stephen Dvorak/Mike Piazza
Supersonics	1-3	Anthony Petriello
Timberwolves	0-4	Tommy Smith
Knicks	0-4	Joey Turrise
Celtics	0-4	Joseph Defalco

C LEAGUE	RECORD	TEAM'S HIGH SCORER
Magic	4-0	Scott Barton
Knicks	3-1	Allen Garcia/Jalil Williams
Pistons	3-1	Blaire Houston
Heat	3-1	Danny Espin
Timberwolves	3-1	Chris Deoliveira
Lakers	3-1	Matt Seider
Bulls	2-2	Greg Watts
Celtics	2-2	Davis Alston
Nets	2-2	Brad Martin
Jazz	1-2	John Polizzano
Raptors	1-3	Timothy Durnak
Cavaliers	0-3	Andrew Gray
76ers	0-4	Julie Barbowsky/Bobby Harrington
Hornets	0-4	Jeffrey Pryor/Taylor Curtis

D LEAGUE	RECORD	TEAM'S HIGH SCORER
Nuggets	4-0	Ryan Harrington
Jazz	4-0	Gaganjot Dhaliwal
Bulls	3-1	Alex Horn/Jason Pattison
		Michael Jefferys/Kyle Kaczki
Timberwolves	2-2	Matthew Cesare
Hornets	2-2	Michael Prior
Nets	2-2	Michael Romano
Magic	2-2	Daniel Sticco/Steven Grzenda
Pistons	2-2	Brandon Downes
Spurs	1-3	Mathew Miceli
Heat	1-3	Mathew Santos
Lakers	1-3	Kyle Freuler
Cavaliers	0-4	

THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD OBSERVER IS SEEKING A STUDENT OR PARENT TO SUBMIT SPORTS INFORMATION TO THE PAPER. IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL 908-668-0010.

What you're
looking for.....

**IT'S IN THE
CLASSIFIEDS**

Call 908-668-0010 to
place a classified ad.

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 leagueup.com/blaze.

By Tony Cassano



juniorbaseballclubnotes

• 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.

2001 Baseball Registration Dates Set

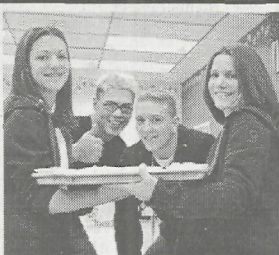
The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club (SPJBC) has announced its registration information for the 2001 season. Registration is open to South Plainfield residents only.

The registration will take place at the Baseball Complex, on Thursday, Jan. 11 & Friday, Jan. 12, from 6-9 p.m., and on Saturday, Jan. 13 from 9 a.m.

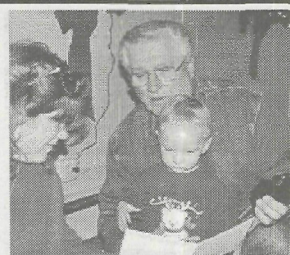
to 3 p.m. New players must bring birth certificate or copy, and children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at time of registration. Registration fees are \$55 for one player, \$85 for two players and \$105 for three or more players. All fees include uniforms as well. Sign ups for managers, coaches and umpires will be held at this registration

as well.

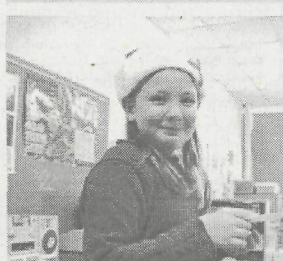
This year a new eligibility policy has been introduced. Any seven year old whose birthday falls between August 1-September 30 may elect to play up as an eight year old. Also, 17 year olds will now be eligible for play in the Pony A Division; however, they will not be eligible to pitch.



There's
a lot
going on...



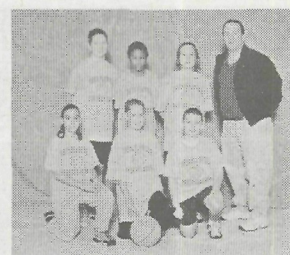
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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____



Five year old Riley School student Christopher Markey mails a holiday wish letter to Santa Claus at the post office.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Well, we didn't get a white Christmas, but we did get a white New Year's. A pretty dramatic way to end the year 2000, actually. So, now that you've finished digging out the sidewalk and driveway, here's news from South Plainfield Library:

Our children's Storytime programs have been cancelled next week. They'll be back the following week.

The Library Board of Trustees will hold their next meeting on Tuesday night at 7:30. Members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend and find out more about the library's present and future plans.

The new group from the Video Circuit is now in place and ready for borrowing. Titles in this group include "Chill Factor," "Bowfinger," "Scream," "The Indian in the Cupboard" and "The Last Waltz." Videos can be borrowed, four at a time, for two days. On the other hand, we're between groups on the Audio-book circuit. The next group will be available later in January.

These days, it seems like you've got to fill out a mountain of paperwork for just about anything. There is a very strong temptation to just sign anything without even reading it. We suggest, however, that you take the

time to read our Internet-A/V form when you sign it. These forms feature a list of our policies in both areas, as well as statements saying that the undersigned understand these policies and their responsibilities pertaining to them. If you take the time to read all this stuff, it answers your questions and saves time all around. Besides, it's a good idea not to sign anything without reading it; you never know when they'll sneak in something about turning over the ownership of your car.

While we're not exactly overstocked at our book sale area, we do have a pretty big inventory at present. We're particularly well stocked with paperbacks at the moment. Feel free to stop by and check out what's available. And, while you're at it, why not see what's available for borrowing?

Here at the library, we're always interested in your comments, opinions, questions, complaints or whatever else you want to say to us. Feel free to contact us by phone, letter, note in our suggestion box, or by just walking up to the desk and asking. We'll pay attention and try and respond ASAP.

With that, we'll close things out for this week. We'll be back next time with more news. Thanks for reading.

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South Plainfield

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School Closing

Continued from page 1

Roosevelt School on the morning after the closing had been announced. I found that the sidewalks on the school property had not been cleared. Ferri informed me that they had work crews at the school by 2 p.m."

BOE member Frank Mirkorski said he personally drove around town to check the roads and found some were not completely cleared. He also added that the overpass on Hamilton Blvd. was not cleared. Many students walk to the high school and use the overpass.

As of Wednesday morning, the sidewalks right next to Roosevelt School on Hamilton Blvd. were still not cleared. Children crossing Belmont Ave. had no cleared path to walk unless they walked on Hamilton Blvd., which is a very heavily traveled road.

Residents are asked to clear their sidewalks as soon as possible after a snow storm so our children do not have to walk along the roadways. Drivers should also be aware that children may be walking along the edge of the roadways in South Plainfield until the snow is removed.

Police Charge Suspect with Three Counts

On Monday, Jan. 1, Police Officer Gary Cassio observed an unoccupied car with its engine running and lights on in front of 26 South Plainfield Ave.

A check of the registration revealed the vehicle had been reported stolen in Jackson, NJ. After a brief surveillance, a white male was observed entering the car and attempted to drive away. Officer Cassio conducted a motor vehicle stop and arrested the driver, Thomas Barry of Keyport.

The vehicle had been stolen from a burglary scene in Jackson. Barry was charged with receiving stolen property, possession of a controlled dangerous substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Bail was set at \$3,000, with no 10% option.

There were also active warrants for Mr. Barry from Monmouth County for Aggravated Assault on a Police Officer (\$15,000 bail), and from Jackson Twp. Police Department for burglary, theft and violation of a Final Restraining Order (\$35,079 bail).

ARMPCO Robbed Last Friday

On Friday, Dec. 29, at approximately 1 p.m., four fax machines and related equipment valued at more than \$8,500 were stolen from a loading dock of the ARMPCO Co. located at 900 Corporate Ct.

A Hispanic male was observed on the loading dock at the time of occurrence. This suspect, 5'8" to 5'10" tall, 180 lbs., 30-35 years of age, was observed entering an early 1980's dull dark blue Ford Econoline van occupied by another Hispanic male and fleeing the scene. Anyone with information regarding this case should contact Det. James Darby at (908) 226-7668.

AVISO PARA ELECTORES EN EL SERVICIO MILITAR, SUS PARIENTES Y AMIGOS

Si usted se encuentra en el servicio militar; es esposo(a) ó dependiente de alguien en el servicio; es paciente en un hospital para veteranos; es un civil adjunto a, ó sirve con, las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos, fuera del Estado de Nueva Jersey; es esposo(a) ó dependiente de un civil adjunto a, ó que sirve con, las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos. Si usted tiene estas características y desea votar, ó es un familiar ó amigo de alguien que las tenga y que usted crea que quiera votar, en la Elección Especial Escolar de South Plainfield de March 6 de 2001. Escriba a la dirección de abajo para solicitar la papeleta del servicio militar, para votar en dicha elección. Si usted esta en el servicio incluya su nombre, edad, número de serie, dirección residencial y la dirección de su base ó donde se le pueda localizar. Si desea la papeleta para un pariente ó amigo, haga la petición bajo juramento, declarando que la persona es mayor de dieciocho años, su nombre, su número de serie si esta en el servicio militar, dirección residencial y dirección de su base ó de donde pueda ser localizado.

Electores del servicio militar pueden solicitar la papeleta de voto militar enviando una solicitud federal en forma de tarjeta postal al Secretario del Condado.

En la solicitud para la papeleta del servicio militar, electores del servicio militar pueden requerir que una papeleta del servicio militar les sea enviada para las demás elecciones que se lleven a cabo este año.

(NOTA: EL ELECTOR MILITAR QUE DECLARE SU ESTACION MILITAR COMO DOMICILIO PARA VOTAR NO PUEDE USAR LA PAPELETA DE MILITAR AUSENTE A MENOS QUE ESTE REGISTRADO PARA VOTAR EN EL MUNICIPIO DONDE DICHA ESTACION ESTA LOCALIZADA.)

Las solicitudes, excepto la solicitud postal federal, pueden ser obtenidas en la siguiente dirección:

FECHA: ENRO 5, 2001

MARY G. BLUE, RMC
DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK
2480 PLAINFIELD AVE.
SOUTH PLAINFIELD, N.J. 07080

\$130.00

1T 1/5/01

NOTICE TO MILITARY SERVICE VOTERS AND TO THEIR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

If you are in the military service, or the spouse or dependent of a person in military service or a patient in a veterans' hospital or a civilian attached to or serving with the Armed Forces of the United States without the State of New Jersey, or the spouse and dependent of and accompanying or residing with a civilian attached to or serving with the Armed Forces of the United States, and desire to vote, or if you are a relative or friend of any such person who, you believe, will desire to vote in the Special School Election in South Plainfield to be held on March 6, 2001, kindly write to the undersigned at once making application for a military service ballot to be voted in said election to be forwarded to you, stating your name, age, serial number if you are in military service, home address and the address at which you are stationed or can be found, or if you desire the military service ballot for a relative or friend then make application under oath for a military service ballot to be forwarded to him, stating in your application that he is over the age of 18 years and stating his name, serial number if he is in military service, home address and the address at which he is stationed or can be found. Military service voters may also apply for a military service ballot by sending a federal postcard application form to the undersigned.

On the application for a military service ballot, military service voters may request that a military service ballot be sent for all subsequent elections held during this calendar year.

(NOTE: MILITARY SERVICE VOTER CLAIMING MILITARY STATION AS HOME ADDRESS FOR VOTING PURPOSES MAY NOT USE MILITARY ABSENTEE BALLOT UNLESS REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THE MUNICIPALITY WHERE SUCH STATION IS LOCATED.)

Forms of application other than federal postcard application forms can be obtained from the undersigned.

DATE: January 5, 2001

MARY G. BLUE, RMC
DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK
2480 PLAINFIELD AVE.
SOUTH PLAINFIELD, N.J. 07080

\$130.00

1T-1/5/01

Spread the Word!

Submit your events for the AROUND TOWN column. Mail or drop off your stories and photos: The South Plainfield OBSERVER, 1100 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Fax (908) 668-8819
email ggman@aol.com.

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James A. Gustafson, Dir.
James F. Connaughton, Assoc. Dir.

policereport

• A Gubernat Dr. resident was arrested for shoplifting at Bradlees. He was followed on foot through Putnam St. Park woods before being apprehended by officers. A Whispering Hills Rd. resident was arrested for shoplifting at Bradlees at the same time. He was observed attempting to return stolen bed sheets worth \$75 for cash. When he was approached he left the scene, but was apprehended by police.

• The owner of Majestic Automotive, South Ave., reported the theft of items from his '97 Ford pickup truck while it was parked in his towing lot, which is next to 2005 Parker Ave. The items stolen were \$525 worth of tools from the back compartment. There are no witnesses or suspects.

• Shaun R. Dalton of Metuchen reported he found two scratches on his car which had been parked in the lot at 911 Oak Tree Rd. They appeared to be key scratches.

• Albert and Krystle McGrane of Fords reported the theft of their vehicle from Grant Ave. While visiting friends on Grant Ave., the resident started the car to let it warm up. Five minutes later the victim came out and the car was gone.

• Police received a call from Monmouth County Communications that they had received a call from an unidentified male. The suspect stated that there was a bomb in the dairy section of Pathmark, Hadley Rd. The call had been made from a cell phone and the caller gave no other information. Police responded to Pathmark

and, along with the store manager, searched the entire store for an explosive device or suspicious packages. None were found. The manager declined to evacuate the store. The information provided by MCC was turned over to a detective who will investigate.

• A Clinton Ave. resident responded to HQ to report being assaulted by her husband. She claimed he had bent her fingers backward to take car keys from her. She did not want to sign complaint but wanted the incident to be a matter of record.

• A resident of Cabray Ct. reported the theft of the contents of her purse and wallet. She believes the theft occurred after she left the check out area of A&P, Stetson Rd.

• A Joan St. resident reported that someone had entered her home and stole two watches that had been gift wrapped and under the tree. Twenty three larger packages were not touched. There were no signs of forced entry. The snow on the ground outside windows showed no tracks. Police found two empty Marlboro cigarette packs in rear yard. The victim said her son used to live with them, but was asked to leave. He lives in a shelter in Plainfield and may have a drug problem. The home has been burglarized in the past.

• A Diana Dr. resident reported someone had damaged the drivers side door handle of her car in a possible attempt to gain entry. The car was parked in the driveway of the residence.

• A South 9th St. resident reported criminal mischief to police. He stated he that rents the rear detached apartment to a married couple. He stated that the wife had recently vandalized the apartment. The front door was destroyed, bathroom tile had been ripped off the wall, faucet knobs for the shower were broken and there was a large hole in the bedroom wall. The apartment was in very poor condition and he stated it had not been like that prior to the rental. The resident feels that the wife caused the damage because of marital problems.

• A Kissam Ct. resident was pulled over for tailgating and running a red light. The driver presented police with a fake driver's license. A check on the ID revealed him to be a fugitive from justice. The State of Florida had active warrants on him and will extradite. Police responded to the report of a fight on the third floor of the Ramada Inn, Hamilton Blvd. There were 25-30 people from four rooms involved. Hotel property had been broken and thrown throughout the hallway. Anthony Lynn Moore of Plainfield and Laquan Darnell Rhodes of Piscataway were arrested for possession of CDS.

• Fyre Technology of Hollywood Ct. reported the theft of heating oil worth \$320. The oil had been removed from unlocked tanks. A witness reported seeing a red Ford pickup with a plow and 'bladder' tank in its bed around time of the incident of the missing oil.

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

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To place an ad call, call by 5 p.m. on Monday, 908-668-0010.

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HELP WANTED FOR OFFICE Cleaning. Night hours. Call 908-604-9074.

DAYS INN, HILLSBOROUGH, HAS Full and P/T front desk positions avail. Also, P/T housekeeping supervisor. Contact Michael Little, GM, (908) 685-9000 or fax resume (908) 685-0601.

P/T GRAPHIC ARTIST TO

WORK on Observer newspaper. PageMaker efficiency, accuracy and proofreading skills a must. Fax resume to 908-668-8819, mail to The Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or email ggman@aol.com.

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SWPM-SEEKING A 2-BEDROOM apartment, for immediate occupancy in South Plainfield. Pls. call 732-248-4360 or 732-794-4898 Ref. Avail.

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Andrew & Matthew Pinto

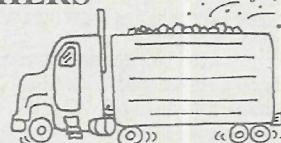
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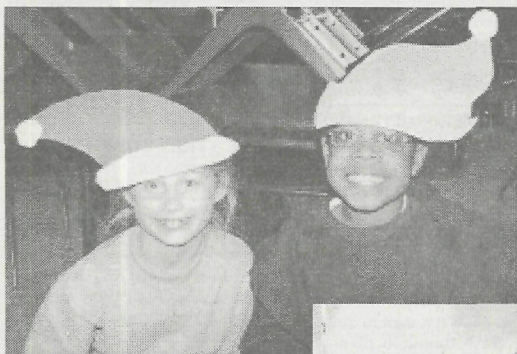
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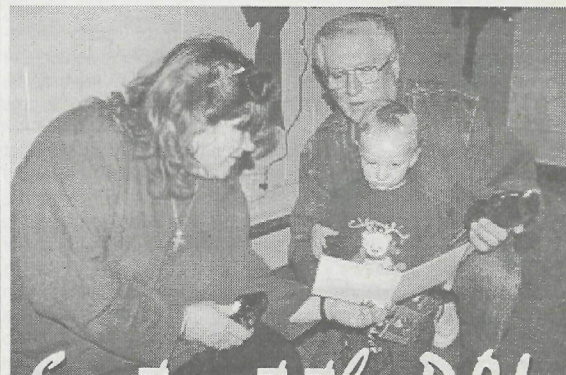
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Franklin School Spreads Holiday Cheer at School-Wide Party



Santa at the PAL

Local children kids gathered on Dec. 23 with their parents to visit Santa at the PAL. Children enjoyed movies, gifts and photos with Santa.



Kennedy Kindergarten Entertain

Kennedy School's kindergarten classes hosted a holiday concert for parents.

Photo by Jane Dornick

Petronko Starts 2nd Term

Continued from page 1
honor to have been chosen to run for public office and it has been a rewarding experience to serve as a councilperson," he said.

While serving as council liaison to Recreation Commission and the Senior Advisory Committee Petronko has seen much progress on both committees. He proudly noted that the PAL Recreation Center is doubling in size, three parks have been upgraded and the plans are being finalized for the construction of a 10,000 sq. ft. senior recreation center.

"The mayor and council have been very supportive of this construction and fiscally sound in their quest for a 'pay as you go government,'" Petronko said.

As for future plans, Petronko says it is critical that the construction of the PAL and the Senior Recreation Center be com-

pleted within a reasonable time frame. He hopes to see all the parks upgraded and maintained on a regular basis.

"What I really do enjoy is always being available to the community and I hope to continue to give the residents what they expect from the members of our government," he added.

When asked if there was anything he was especially proud of, he said, "I must admit, the construction of the PAL is something that is very gratifying to me. When I drive by it every day, my thoughts reflect on how proud I am of the mayor and council and their hard work and cooperation. The perseverance of the Recreation Commission are key to the growth of our expansion and programs."

"I think Bob [Cusick] will be an excellent addition to our borough council. He is a hard worker and takes his responsi-

bilities seriously."

As for Vinnie Buttiglieri, he noted, "I can't say enough about Vinnie. I had no political experience when I ran for office. He explained the job, its responsibilities and offered encouragement. He was the first one I would call when I was in doubt, and he was the voice of reason and knowledge. I will miss him a lot, and want to wish him well."

Petronko is a 14-year South Plainfield resident. He and wife Patricia have been married 19 years and have three children, Randall, 17; Alexandra, 10 and Kimberly, 5.

Ray went to school in Midletown, NJ where he studied electronics and computer science. He is employed by the NJ Department of Education in Trenton, managing their computer system and applications.

Cusick Joins Council

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wanted to get more involved in the borough and also give something back to the town I live in. I have been interested in politics for sometime, but felt I was not quite ready to serve. I now feel that I have the time to devote myself 100% to South Plainfield. I plan to listen to the needs people and the borough."

Referring to his experience during the campaign Cusick said, "While walking with my runningmate Ray Petronko, I found the people of South Plainfield to be very friendly and supportive. In all we visited 13 out of 15 districts and I enjoyed every minute of it."

One of the first things Cusick would like to see accomplished is the completion of the Helen Street Expansion Project. He said that traffic on Durham Ave. and Hamilton Blvd. must be improved and that rerouting the

trucks onto Helen St. would be a big help.

Cusick is a 14-year-resident of South Plainfield. His wife Monica is a life long resident. They have four children Robert, Jr. 14; Shane, 6; Garrett, 5 and Gabriella, 3.

Bob is a graduate of Cedar Ridge High School in Old Bridge. He has been employed for the past 14 years as a corrections officer with the Middlesex County Adult Correction Facilities.

Cusick attended nearly every agenda and regular meeting of the Borough Council held last year as well as many functions during the course of the year, both political and ceremonial.

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