

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 5, NO. 10

50 CENTS

NOVEMBER 2, 2001

Dunkin Donuts Employee Charged with Murder

An argument between two employees at Dunkin Donuts ended in the stabbing death of one employee and a murder charge for another.

Police were called to Dunkin Donuts at 11:58 p.m. last Tuesday. Police Officer Daniel Noonan arrived shortly after the call and found Ahmad Elkomi, 33, standing over the victim, Abdel H. Zahir, who was lying on the floor in front of the counter.

Zahir, 33, was taken to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick and pronounced dead at 12:31 a.m.

Elkomi was taken into custody without incident. He was charged with murder, unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for unlawful purposes and two counts of aggravated assault. He was arraigned last Wednesday in State Superior Court in New Brunswick. He entered a plea of not guilty. Bail was set at \$400,000. He was remanded to the Middlesex County Correction Center.

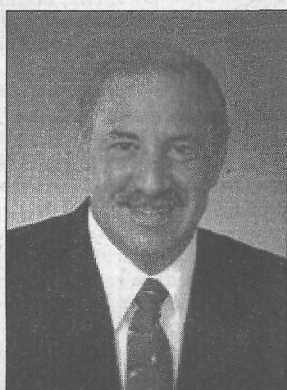
An autopsy performed by Dr. Andrew Falzone revealed that Zahir bled to death. He was stabbed 22 times in the chest and back, including six stab wounds that penetrated his heart and another that hit his aorta. He also suffered several defensive wounds to the hand and under his left arm.

Police Chief Robert Merkler said that most of the crime was actually caught on the Dunkin Donut Shop videotape.

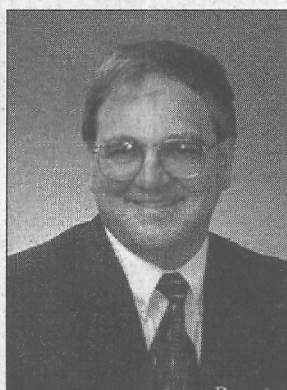
According to reports, both Zahir and Elkomi lived in separate rooms in a single-family home which was converted to a rooming house close to Dunkin Donuts.

Elkomi, an Egyptian national, worked at Dunkin Donuts for about a year. Zahir, a native of Morocco, worked there for about two years. Zahir leaves a wife and three children, who are still living in Morocco.

Officer James Foran is assisting in the investigation of the murder.



Dennis Cerami seeking re-election



Charles Butrico



Marjorie Reedy



Jerry Harris

Two Council Seats Up for Bid at Tuesday's Election; South Plainfield Could Elect First Resident to the State Assembly

Next Tuesday's election will not only fill two seats on the Borough Council, it will decide who will be our next governor and who will represent us in the New Jersey State Senate and General Assembly. Also on the ballot are three Middlesex County Freeholder seats, as well as the Middlesex County Sheriff.

Locally there are four residents running for two Borough Council seats. Democrats Dennis Cerami, seeking re-election, his running mate Charles Butrico and Republicans Marjorie Reedy and Jerry Harris.

This year there is also a local resident who is seeking to become South Plainfield's first State Assemblyman. Borough Attorney Patrick Diegnan is running for the 18th District Assembly seat with incumbent Peter Barnes, Jr.

Dennis Cerami is completing his second term on the Borough Council. He is Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, which includes the Police Department, Fire Department, Rescue Squad and Department of Emergency Management. Cerami and his wife Michelle have three children, Jessica, Joseph, and Dennis.

Charles Butrico is a lifelong resident of South Plainfield with a long history of volunteer activities. Butrico and his wife Sherry, are active in the P.T.A. He is a member of the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop Producing Board and was co-producer of the 2001 performance. He

South Plainfield Polling Places and Districts

POLLING PLACE	ADDRESS	VOTING DISTRICTS
Franklin School	1000 Franklin Ave.	Districts 1 & 7
The American Legion	243 Oak Tree Ave.	Districts 2 & 8
Riley School	100 Morris Ave.	Districts 3 & 13
Roosevelt School	125 Jackson Ave.	Districts 4, 10 & 15
The SP Middle School	2201 Plainfield Ave.	Districts 5 & 14
The SP Rescue Squad	2520 Plainfield Ave.	Districts 6 & 11
Kennedy School	2900 Norwood Ave.	Districts 9 & 12

has been a t-ball coach and an assistant coach for his daughter's softball team. Butrico and his wife, Sherry, have three daughters Dana, Kristie and Michelle.

Marjorie Reedy, who lives on Oxford Ave. is a 25 year resident of South Plainfield. She and husband Michael have three children, Sandra, James and Patrick. Reedy served as a member of the South Plainfield Board of Education from 1988-1991 and 1995-2001 and was elected as president for two years during those terms. She was a member of the Riley School PTSO and was also a member of the PTA at both the middle and high school and a member of Project Graduation. She has been a member of the South Plainfield Music Boost-

ers Club since 1995 and is currently Treasurer.

Jerry Harris has lived in South Plainfield for 10 years. He and his wife, Rachel have four children, twins Lanie and Justine, Ryan and Dillon. He has served as Republican Committeeman for district one. He has also coached little league t-ball for two years, acting as a head coach one year and an assistant this year. He received an associates degree in Computer Technology from Texas State Technical College in Waco, Texas.

If elected, Patrick Diegnan will be the first member of the New Jersey General Assembly from South Plainfield. He resides on Smith St. with his wife of 25 years, Anita and two



Patrick Diegnan

daughters, Heather and Tara. Diegnan has a private law practice in the Borough and also serves as South Plainfield Borough Attorney and the Democratic Municipal Chair.

There is only one public question on the ballot. It asks voters to approve an open space tax to preserve parklands, historical sites and farms, etc. Be sure to read a complete explanation of it on your sample ballot.

Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. See chart above for location of voting districts. The address label on your sample ballot says where you voting district is located.

For any other questions about voting, call Borough Clerk Vinnie Buttiglieri at 226-7605.

THISWEEKEND

FRIDAY

Variety 2001 Show at Kennedy School

John F. Kennedy School will be hosting its annual "Variety 2001" show on Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the All Purpose Room.

There will be special appearances by Mr. Czech, teachers and special friends.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Don't miss out. Call Kennedy School to order your tickets now!

SATURDAY

St. Stephens Annual Oktoberfest

St. Stephens Lutheran Church, 3145 Park Ave., will celebrate their fourth annual Oktoberfest on Saturday.

There will be two seatings: 5-6:30 and 6:30-8 p.m. Authentic German food will be served.

Advanced ticket prices are: adults \$12; children 5-12, \$6. Tickets are available at the Church office on Park Ave. Reservations are encouraged. Takeout

dinners will be available. For information, call 908-757-4474.

Rescue Squad Fun Night 2001

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad will hold *Fun Night 2001*, sponsored by the Rescue Squad Ladies Auxiliary on Saturday at 7 p.m. at Holiday Inn in South Plainfield. Donation of \$20 includes food and beverage. There will also be a cash bar.

For tickets or information, call (732) 424-3661 or (732) 764-0620.

SUNDAY

VFW Country Breakfast

A Country Breakfast will be held on Sunday at Memorial Post 6763 located on Front St., 8-11 a.m. Varied menu. Donation is \$5. Children's menu is available for \$2.50.

For more info: (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and after noon weekends. Breakfast is sponsored by Pup Tent 41 Military Order of the Cooties. Proceeds go toward bingo parties at Lyons VAMC.

Republican Org. Cocktail Party

The South Plainfield Republican Organization will be holding a pre-election cocktail party honoring candidates Marge Reedy and Jerry Harris on Sunday, Nov. 4, at the American Legion, located on Oak Tree Rd. from 1 to 4 p.m. Guest speaker will be Congressman Mike Ferguson who represents the 7th congressional district. Tickets are \$50 per person. If interested, call 561-7209.

IN MY OPINION

Vote

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Letter to the Editor:

As election season is thrust upon us once again, the residents of South Plainfield have a lot at stake this year. Besides the many State offices that are up for grabs on Nov. 6, we have four individuals vying for two Borough Council seats. This year's choice is a lot easier than it may appear on the surface. I happen to know the Democratic candidates, Dennis Cerami and Charlie Butrico, quite well. I can not think of two individuals who deserve to be elected to the Council more than Dennis Cerami and Charlie Butrico.

Dennis Cerami is a man I have come to respect very much because of the way he tirelessly fights for the volunteers of this borough each and every day he sits up on that dais. Whether it be a new fire truck, ambulance, emergency management vehicle, breathing apparatus for our fire department, or bullet proof vests for our men in blue, Dennis Cerami is

always willing to fight the battle to see that those who give so much to this community, have the best possible resources to work with. He certainly has earned my respect and I will venture to say that he has also earned yours. Let's do the right thing and re-elect him to the Borough Council for three more years.

Charlie Butrico, very much like Dennis Cerami, believes in giving something back to the Borough he has called home for his entire life. He has volunteered his service for many years at the Summer Drama Program and our children have certainly benefited from his leadership and sense of family. He has always been involved in his children's endeavors, never being too busy to show up at a sporting event or school function. We need individuals with these qualities representing the entire Borough. We need to elect Charlie Butrico to the Borough Council.

As I previously stated, the decision on who to elect to the Borough Council on Nov. 6 isn't as difficult as it might initially appear to be. Dennis Cerami and Charlie Butrico deserve to be elected. There are no two people who exemplify the essence of what makes South Plainfield such a wonderful community as Dennis Cerami and Charlie Butrico. Remember - Cerami and Butrico on November 6th.

RAY JEAN BUTTIGLIERI

To the Editor:

Democracy - 1) Government by the people, exercised either directly or through elected representatives. 2) A social condition of equality and respect for the individual within the community.

Yes, democracy works. That is why the people of this country are given choices as to who will represent them on a local level and at the higher levels of government.

Democracy doesn't mean just one party rule. It allows representation of all people. Jerry Harris and I are asking for just that - a chance to represent the people of South Plainfield.

We are asking for a chance to make a difference in our community. We realize that we have not had the experience on the Borough Council before, but we are willing to do what is right for our community.

We hope that on November 6, the people of South Plainfield will give us that chance.

Please go out and vote on November 6. Voting is not a God-given right. It was earned for us as a nation. Many people died so that we could have this right. This year, I encourage every registered voter to go out to the polls. There is no excuse. The polls are open from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. There should be five minutes in your day that you can go to vote.

Thank you.
SINCERELY,
MARJORIE M. REEDY

Letter To The Editor,

On November 6, I urge you to vote for Patrick Diegnan for Assembly in the 18th District. Patrick has played a critical role in creating an open and inclusive government in South Plainfield that listens to the voice of the people. As the Democratic Chairperson in his town, Patrick has provided the leadership and vision to transform local government to be responsive to the voice of the people. By bringing in new people every year to the organization, nurturing existing members, insuring that each and

It's Time to Make Up YOUR Mind and VOTE!

Since I started publishing the *Observer* five years ago, it has been my policy not to write an editorial or to endorse a candidate. So far, I have not compromised in either case.

In my judgement it would be an insult to voters for me to suggest who anyone should vote for. Your vote is a precious right, for which we have fought many wars to maintain. You alone should be the one to choose for whom you cast your vote, not an editor of a newspaper.

For the past several weeks we have been printing letters from residents were compelled to write us and took the time to do so. We hope that you have taken time to read the letters and the literature from all of the candidates. Unfortunately, there were no debates this year locally, so you really didn't have an opportunity to hear from the candidates from both parties going face to face.

The events of the past few months should impress upon every voter what a great country we live in and how we sometimes take these freedoms for granted. Right now these freedoms are being challenged! The only way to answer back is to cast your vote next Tuesday. Don't let the terrorists succeed with their intimidations. Get out and vote!

Keep in mind how important each individual vote was in the last presidential election. Local and state elections are just as important to everyone. Every vote does count!

The polls are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Nancy Grennier
Editor-in-Chief

South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

G&G Graphics, Inc.
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

Web page:
www.spobserver.com
For subscriptions, advertising or information, call (908) 668-0010.

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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Advertising Sales

The South Plainfield Observer (U.S.P.S. 018253) is published weekly, except Thanksgiving week, by G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Second class postage paid at South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080-9998. POSTMASTER: Forward change of address orders to G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Subscription rates \$25 per year in South Plainfield; \$30 per year out of town. To subscribe: 908-668-0010.

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 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. Letters must be submitted with name and phone number, even if they request name their name be omitted when published.

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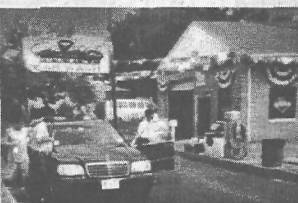
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South Plainfield Scouting



Above Webelos Matthew Little, Ryan Flanagan and Matthew Franzon of the "Eagle Patrol" cleanup a site marker, while Prudential volunteers look on

Cub Pack 224 Help in Clean Up at Cheesquake State Park

On Saturday, Oct. 20 Cub Scout Pack 224 from John E. Riley School participated in the Global Volunteer Day in conjunction with the Prudential Insurance Group. The Pack addressed concerns in Cheesquake State Park by moving site markers, doing a clean up in the park and cleaning up the site markers.

Prudential provided a sizable donation to Pack 224 for their efforts. Prudential volunteers were on hand to assist in this endeavor. Donations were also made to the World Trade Center relief effort by Prudential for all those who helped in clearing up Cheesquake State Park.



Cub Pack 224 Halloween Party

On the evening of Oct. 18, Pack 224, held its Halloween Party during their monthly pack meeting. All the scouts came in costume, every den participated with different activities for the pack members and everyone had a great time.

'Scouting For Food' Campaign

Each year South Plainfield's Cub Scouts participate in Scouting for Food. The Scouts participate by going in groups with parents distributing bags for collection of nonperishable foods, and collect the bags the following week. Each pack is assigned to a designated area for distribution and for pick up.

This year the bag distribution will

be on Saturday, Nov. 10, and the pick up will be on Saturday, Nov. 17. We look forward to your kind donations. Your contribution will make this program a success.

The food collected is distributed in town, so this program has a local impact. On behalf of the Cub Scouts, we thank you in advance for your participation.

Community-Wide Thanksgiving Worship Services Are Planned

The South Plainfield Clergy Group is proud to announce they will hold their annual Community-Wide Thanksgiving Worship Service. Each year, the clergy groups come together to celebrate and give thanks for all that God has done for us and for all that God is doing in our community and nation.

This year's worship service will be hosted by Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave. Service will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m.

As always, we will be blessed by music from our combined choirs. Our music directors, Tom Baker, Cathy Davidson, Jim Horvath and Tony Orlowski have been preparing the music and choir.

This year, we will give special thanks to our uniformed service personnel; representatives of the Fire Department, Police Department and Rescue Squad will be recognized and prayed for. The annual Thanksgiving Offering will be given to these uniformed service agencies to whom we give thanks.

All are welcome and eagerly expected to this worshipping with the rest of our community of South Plainfield.

Free Flu Shots Postponed at Borough Hall; Rescheduled

The Middlesex County Public Health Department announced over the weekend that flu vaccines scheduled to be given on Monday at Borough Hall were cancelled due to a delay in the shipping of the vaccine by the manufacturer.

The flu shots have been rescheduled for Thursday, Nov. 15 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers. Shots are free and will be given to all residents 18 and older. The vaccines are free of charge, however, Medicare will be billed where applicable.

For those who do not want to wait until Nov. 15, Twin City Pharmacy located on Park Ave. will be giving flu shots Saturday, Nov. 3 from 9 - 2 p.m. at a cost of \$15.

Agenda Meeting Date Changed

The Agenda Meeting of the South Plainfield Mayor and Council, originally scheduled for Monday, Nov. 5 at 8 p.m. has been rescheduled to Thursday, Nov. 1 at 8 p.m.

Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 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. and 7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 11 a.m.- 12 noon, 4:15-4:45 p.m.

and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass



SDW Alumni Lory Alcaro Working for Bickford Theatre

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield resident Lory Alcaro, an alumni from the early days of the Summer Drama Workshop has always longed for a job in professional theater. Her dream recently came true when she was offered a position at Bickford Theater in Morristown. With years of experience in many aspects of theater she easily stepped into the position of follow spot (light) operator for the theater's current production of *All Night Strut*. In a happy coincidence her association with the 2001 Summer Drama Workshop as stage manager led her to the job.

SDW director Eric Hafen, is the artistic director of the Bickford Theater at the Morris Museum. He was impressed with Lory's work. "Lory gives one hundred and ten percent, 100% of the time, whether she is managing the Summer Drama student crew or carefully focusing a spotlight. I look forward to introducing her to the technical end of professional theater with great enthusiasm." Eric directed Summer Drama's 30th anniversary production, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and the 2000 production of *42nd Street* and will direct SDW's *Footloose* in the summer of 2002.

The *All Night Strut* is a show the for the whole family. The lively musical takes the audience through the music of the Depression, World War II and the post war boom. The two act show revives the joys of the Charleston, Lindy Hop and the Shag. The final weekend of *The All Night*



Lory Alcaro

Strut at the Bickford is Thursday, Nov. 1. Show are 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Ticket prices are \$26 for general public, \$23 for senior citizens, \$22 Morris Museum members and \$12 for students. Call (973) 971-3706 for tickets.

Lory will be working as Assistant Stage Manager for the Bickford's next production, *First Night*. The show runs December 6 to December 31. *First Night* is a romantic comedy about dreams, life and love. It takes place on New Year's Eve as two lost souls discover and rediscover each other. Prices are the same.

Bayer Children's Theater Series will offer *The Big Adventures of Stuart Little* on Saturday, Nov. 10. The show, appropriate for ages 3-10, takes beloved characters and mixes life size puppets with live actors for a magical performance. Tickets are \$6.50, Morris Museum members, \$7.75 for non-members and \$6 for groups of 20 plus.

Police are Answering Many Suspected Anthrax Calls

Living in South Plainfield and being in close proximity to the recent Anthrax findings, we are all experiencing a heightened sense of awareness concerning our own mail. In light of this, it is necessary to make sure that we handle suspicious mail with caution - not panic.

The South Plainfield Police Department have trained individuals who can evaluate your suspicious mail and if necessary will contact the Middlesex County Hazardous Material Department. Haz Mat will take a sample and decide at that point whether it is necessary to cordon off the area and do further testing. Otherwise, the local police bag the evidence and send it to a lab for further analysis. So far no anthrax has been detected anywhere in South Plainfield.

Do Not Panic

• Anthrax organisms can cause infection in the skin, gastrointestinal system or the lungs. To do so, the organism must be rubbed into abraded skin, swallowed or inhaled as a fine, aerosolized mist. The disease can be prevented after exposure to the an-

thrax spores by early treatment with the appropriate antibiotics. Anthrax is not spread from one person to another.

• For Anthrax to be effective as a covert agent, it must be aerosolized into very small particles. This is difficult to do and requires a great deal of technical skill and special equipment. If these small particles are inhaled, life-threatening lung infection can occur, but prompt recognition and treatment are effective.

Identifying Suspicious Packages and Letters

You should be suspicious of your mail if you notice any of the following: excessive postage; handwritten or poorly typed addresses; incorrect titles; title, but no name; misspellings of common words; oily stains, discolorations or odor; no return address; excessive weight; lopsided or uneven envelope; protruding wires or aluminum foil; excessive security material such as making tape, string, etc.; visual distractions or a ticking sound. Also if mail shows a city or state in the post-

Continued on page 15

SDW Looking for Students to Perform

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop is looking for students to perform at Menlo Park Mall for their "Evening of Giving" on Nov. 18.

Past cast members who are interested should contact the SPSPDW through e-mail at www.spsdw.com, or leave a message at (908) 561-5255.

There will be two rehearsals before the event.

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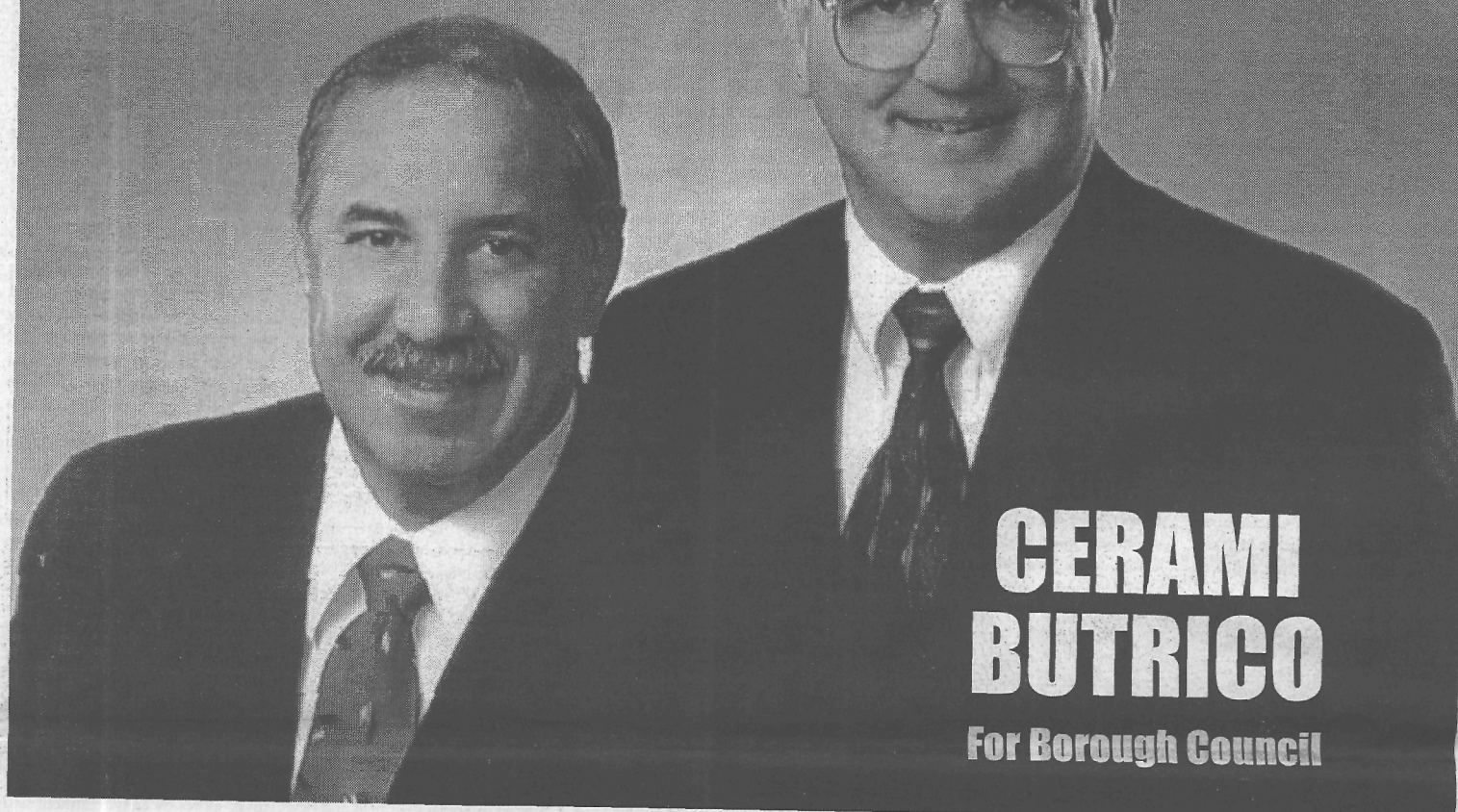
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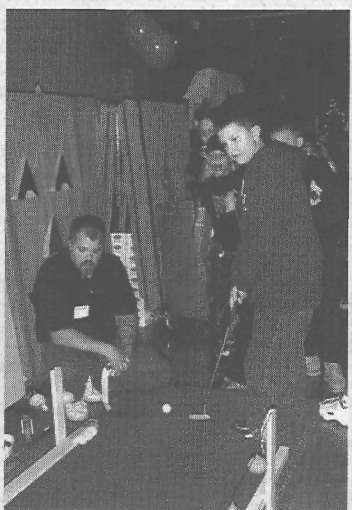
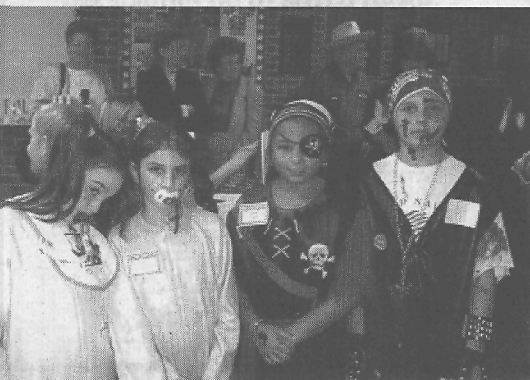
HALLOWEEN CHILLS & THRILLS AT RILEY AND ROOSEVELT



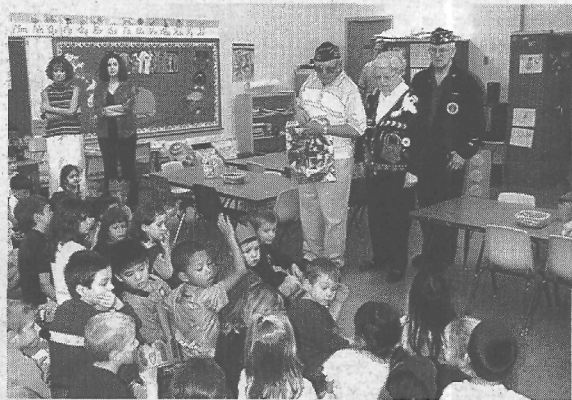
Roosevelt School celebrated Halloween with their Annual Fun Night last Friday night. Teachers and parents dressed up in costumes and kids of all ages roamed the gym playing games of every imaginable theme throughout the gym. They also made Halloween decorations. There was food of all types for everyone to enjoy. This annual event is sponsored by the Roosevelt PTO.



Riley School kids attended a Halloween dance, complete with a DJ. Games were spread out all over the gym and there was lots of food. There was even a fortune teller with a crystal ball. A long line of kids waited patiently to find out their future. There were two dance sessions, one for lower grades and later for older children. Everyone got their picture taken to take home for a souvenir. The DJ also led the dancers in several group games. Everyone attending and working wore a costume.



Commander Rudy Poczak, Meitro Kopchak and Alice McHugh, all members of VFW Post #6764, were at Franklin School to hand out Halloween candy bags to students in the first and second grade. They also handed out bags to the other elementary schools.



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BUNCHI'S BULLETIN

"Craft Projects" and "Art Lessons" will begin first week of December. Registration is now open, but seating is extremely limited. Call and ask for Mrs. Ralwins.

Around Town

Columbiettes Announce Fall Trips

November 3 & 25

The Columbiettes' annual shopping trip to Reading, Pa. will be held on Saturday, Nov. 3. The bus will leave at 8 a.m. from the Knights of Columbus Hall on Hamilton Blvd. and return at about 7 p.m. \$18 includes a free lunch coupon and discount book. Dinner is on your own at the Cracker Barrel. Deadline: Oct. 26.

On Sunday, Nov. 25, the group will go see the Christmas Show at the Spinning Wheel Inn in Connecticut. Bus leaves from the K of C Hall at 9 a.m.; returns at 5 p.m. \$65. Cost includes the show and a four course meal, which is served in between acts. Deadline is Oct. 26.

For tickets and information, call Mary Ann at (908) 226-1222.

Elks Sponsor Comedy Show

November 17

The South Plainfield Elks will hold a Comedy Show on Saturday, Nov. 17, from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Elks Club on New Market Ave. Admission is \$40 per person which includes food and drinks. For tickets, call Lisa at (908) 668-9750.

Athletic Boosters Hosts Auction

November 17

The SPHS Athletic Booster Club is holding a Sports Auction on Saturday, Nov. 17. Doors open at 6 p.m. Auction starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door, which includes 25 auction tickets.

Some of the prizes being auctioned are Devils tickets, autographed balls, sports theme baskets, Rutgers tickets, a bicycle and a television.

For info call the Keller's at (908) 753-1341, the Celentano's at (908) 757-5691 or the PAL.

SPHS Class of 1976 25th Reunion

November 10

Attention all classmates! South Plainfield Class of 1976 will hold its 25th reunion on Saturday, Nov. 10 at the Clarion-Windsor Ballroom. For more information, please e-mail Debra (Hays) Bishop at sphs1976@hotmail.com.

Menlo Park Mall "Evening of Giving"

November 18

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop has tickets available for the "Evening of Giving," an event that includes entertainment and shopping, with part of the proceeds going to worthy causes.

The event will be held Sunday night, Nov. 18, at Menlo Park Mall. Many of the stores in the mall will be offering special sales, and many groups, including the Summer Drama Workshop will provide entertainment. They will perform on one of the stages in the mall that evening. There will also be prize drawings and other activities.

Tickets, which are required to attend this special evening, are available by calling South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop at (908) 561-5255. A portion of the ticket price will benefit the Summer Drama Workshop, with the rest of the proceeds being distributed to the Simon Youth Foundation.

SPHS Class of 1981 20th Reunion

November 23

Attention classmates! South Plainfield High School Class of 1981 will hold its 20th reunion on Friday, Nov. 23 at Madeline's in Bound Brook.

For more info, call Jane (Lacey) O'Dowd at (908) 479-1684 or Gina (Rosania) Capizola at (908) 526-3262.

Recreation Sponsoring Trip to Broadway

December 16

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip on Dec. 16 to see the classic Radio City Music Hall Christmas Show. Tickets are \$75 per person.

The bus will leave the PAL Building at 1:30 p.m. and allows time to shop and dine before the show.

Purchase tickets at the PAL building on Maple Ave., weekdays.

— Out of Town —

Highland Park to Show "La Ciudad"

November 7

"La Ciudad," David Riker's highly-acclaimed video film about the Latino immigrant experience in New York City, will be shown to the public at the Highland Park Senior/Recreation Center on South Sixth Ave. in Highland Park on Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. Admission is free. Refreshments and discussion round out the evening. The showings are sponsored by the Highland Park Human Rights Commission. For additional information, contact Stanley Habib at (732) 545-2006

Ann of Green Gables At St. Ann's Theatre

November 2-10

The St. Ann's Theatre Group's

next production is *Ann of Green Gables*, running Friday and Saturday Nov. 2, 3, 9, and 10.

All shows start at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$8, children 5 and under free. The theatre is located at St. Ann's School, 2nd Ave., Raritan.

Seating will be assigned with the remaining seats being sold at the door. Tickets may be reserved by phone at 908-253-3250 or by email RutgersMB@aol.com. Tickets are on a first come first serve basis.

St. Ann's Theatre group was established in 1997 with the purpose of enriching the community and parish through its theatrical production. Although based out of St. Ann's School, we encourage anyone with an interest in community theatre to join our group. Each season includes three performances. Exclusively volunteers staff our company. However, many of our musicians and technical staff are professionals lending their time and talents to make St. Ann's Theatre happen. We take pride in the number of people given the their first opportunity to appear on stage.

Koinonia Academy Hosts Tricky Tray Auction

November 2

The Koinonia Academy located at 1040 Plainfield Ave. in Plainfield is sponsoring a Tricky Tray Auction on Friday, Nov. 2 at 6:30 p.m. The Admission fee of \$8 includes a sheet of tickets, desserts and beverages and much more. For reservations call (908) 508-0181. Tickets will also be sold at the door on a first come first serve basis. Koinonia Academy is on the border of South Plainfield.

"Understanding Your Teenager" Seminar at Alliance Bible

November 3

Is it possible for parents to influence the positive development of their children after they become adolescents? Many parents today have their doubts. But according to Dr. Jim DeRaddo, who will conduct an "Understanding Your Teenager" seminar at Alliance Bible Church in Warren on Nov. 3, the answer is a resounding yes!

Parents who understand what's going on in the lives of their chil-

dren during adolescence and who are willing to apply a few simple parenting principles, will remain the most important influence in the lives of their kids, even during the teen years.

Parents who attend "Understanding Your Teenager" will learn important principles for building good relationships with their kids during the teen years. The seminar will provide plenty of practical ideas and suggestions to help every parent navigate the rough waters of adolescence. Parents will also learn how to avoid common parenting mistakes and to do those "little things" that reap big results in the lives of teenagers.

"Understanding Your Teenager" will be presented by Alliance Bible Church, 52 Mount Horeb Rd., Warren. The seminar will begin at 9 a.m. and the cost is \$10. Call (732) 469-1425 for more information. All parents of teen and pre-teens are invited to attend.

HIV Health Services Meeting

November 7

Join us for the next monthly meeting of the HIV Health Services Planning Council of the Middlesex-Somerset-Hunterdon Eligible Metropolitan Area! Our next meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Middlesex County Board of Social Services Building, located at 181 How Lane in New Brunswick. The Planning Council consists of volunteer from Middlesex, Somerset and Hunterdon counties who make decisions regarding the needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS in our area. Orientation is provided for interested individuals. All are welcome! For more information, contact Johanna Daley, Planning Council Staff at (732) 445-0512.

Tourette Syndrome Assoc. of NJ Mtg.

November 8

The Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey-Middlesex/Union County Family Support Group and the Somerset/Hunterdon County Chapter will meet on Nov. 8 from 7-9 p.m. They will meet in the Neuroscience Institute of JFK Medical Center, 65 James St., Edison. For info, call Marilyn, (908)

757-5074 or after 6 p.m., Debbie at (732) 283-1439.

Alliance Bible To Honor Veterans

November 11

Alliance Bible Church of Warren, will once again honor U.S. Veterans in their Third Annual Veteran's Day Celebration on Sunday, Nov. 11. This year's celebration will be held at Watchung Hills Regional High School on Sterling Road in Warren. Beginning at 11 a.m., there will be a continental breakfast reception, along with the Marine Corps League Fife and Drum Corps and Color Guard, civil war reenactments, a twenty-one gun salute, Boy Scouts presenting eight flags flown over the USA, the Watchung Hills Regional High School Band, as well as many other surprises. Following the preliminary activities everyone is invited to join Washington Representatives and other special guests in a worship service designed to honor our veterans and servicemen at 12:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided for children ages three and under during the worship service.

Alliance Bible Church is committed to honoring U. S. Veterans because of the great sacrifice they have made for America. The congregation recognizes the freedom of worshiping Jesus Christ openly because of the contributions of the men and women who have served in the military. Last year's event was attended by over 500 people and was deeply moving for all.

For more information on this special service. Please call Alliance Bible Church at 732-469-1425

Terra Nova Garden Club To Celebrate 50th Anniversary

November 15

The Terra Nova Garden Club is turning 50! Come and celebrate with them at their 50th Anniversary Luncheon, to be held on Tuesday, Nov. 15 at the Metuchen Golf & Country Club, on Plainfield Rd. in Edison, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Featured guests will be noted floral designer Winifred Applegate and pianist James Nuzzo.

For reservation or more info, call Kay McCormack, (732) 548-1976.

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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 Hosts 20th Annual Band Festival



Story and photos by Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield's Jost Field was transformed from a place for the clash of high school athletes to a different kind of competition. The 20th Annual South Plainfield Marching Band Festival.

Audience members experienced a sensory shower of harmony and vibrant color as a dozen school bands competed. The recipe was simple—combine weeks of exhausting practice, a tireless band director, a few dozen musical instruments and you have the ingredients of a high school marching band. Add to the mix twelve dedicated high school bands armed with an army of extraordinary and energetic individuals commonly known as band parents. The outcome is the resplendent sound of music.

The outdoor event, always at the mercy of Mother Nature, enjoyed Indian Summer weather. Several band parents said they could remember years when snow flurries accompanied the performers on the field.

The SPHS Chorus opened the festivities with "The National Anthem." Announcers for the day were band parents Wayne and JoAnn Otowski.

During the course of the afternoon, one after another—eleven bands in all from all over New Jersey—took center stage proudly strutting their individual talents in a colorful tapestry of sound and motion. As one band performed their number, another readied to take the field. Nearby others tuned instruments, adjusted uniforms and preparing for their 15 minutes in the spotlight. More than 1,000 people attended the event.

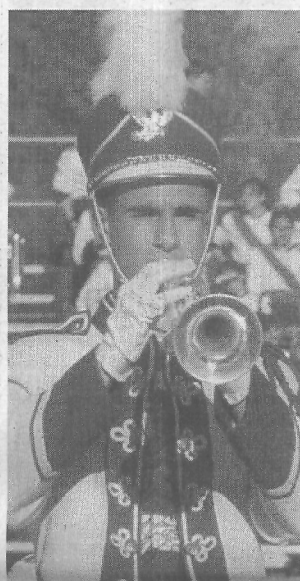
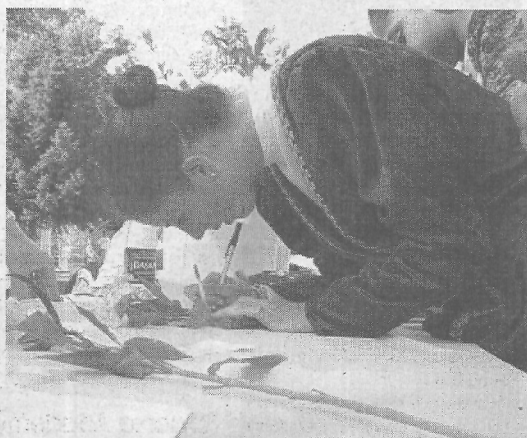
As schools range in size, so do their bands. Each band competed with others in their specific divisions. Division I ranged from one band member to 35; Division II: 36-55; Division III: 56-80; Division IV, 81 plus musicians.

Scored via ratings rather than numerical scores, each division strived for First Place or a "Superior" rating. A rating of "Excellent" takes Second Place. Placing in this year's SP Band Festival were Division III: Lakeland Regional High School, Wanaque, First Place in Best Band and Best Music. Also Nottingham High School, Hamilton: First Place in Best Front and Best Percussion.

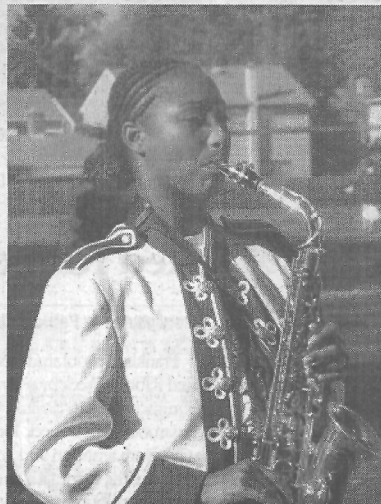
Memorial High School, West New York, NJ, the only competitors in Division I, placed first in Best Band, Front and Percussion.

Bound Brook High School, Bound Brook, the only competitors in Division IV, placed first in Best Band, Front and Percussion.

As Host Band, the South Plainfield Tiger Marching Band did not compete, although they did perform as the last band of the afternoon. Their repertoire featured music from *The Prince of Egypt*.



More than 1,000 gather to hear high school bands compete at the annual festival



Trumpet soloists were Joe Reach, Josh Jackson, Danny Sierzega and Steven Janiszak. Judges awarded the group Best Band Managers. The SPHS band is directed by Mark Tweed, along with Color Guard Coordinators Kathy Petrocelli and Angela Gallagher.

The judges were music educators, some of whom are affiliated with drum corp organizations and professional judging associations.

The recent festival was one of the largest ever, according to longtime band parent and former Music Booster President Creighton Pfeiffer, who noted that the average participation is six

to eight bands. "Everyone gets into the act," Creighton said. "The band members escort the bands onto the field and the administrators help award trophies. Even parents of graduates are on hand to help out. It's a fun day with everyone working together to benefit our kids."

The South Plainfield Music Festival was started under the direction of Joseph Tenore in 1981.

An independent festival and not affiliated with various band organizations such as Tournament of Bands, the music festival is a fundraiser for Music Boosters Senior Scholar-

ship Fund. It takes months to plan and requires at least 40 band parents to cover all the jobs and keep the day running smoothly.

In addition to soliciting program ads from local businesses, they sell food, crafts, airgrams, flowergrams and candygrams.

Participating in a high school marching band is an activity that goes far beyond "extracurricular"—extra hours, extra effort. The "extra" is obvious in the quality of the music, which is only surpassed by the quantity of smiles and band members' self-satisfaction of knowing they did their best.

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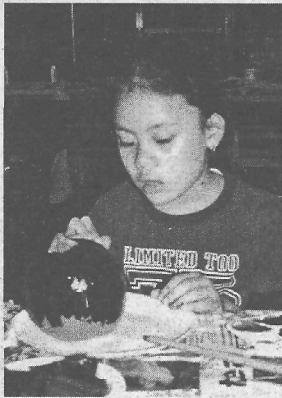
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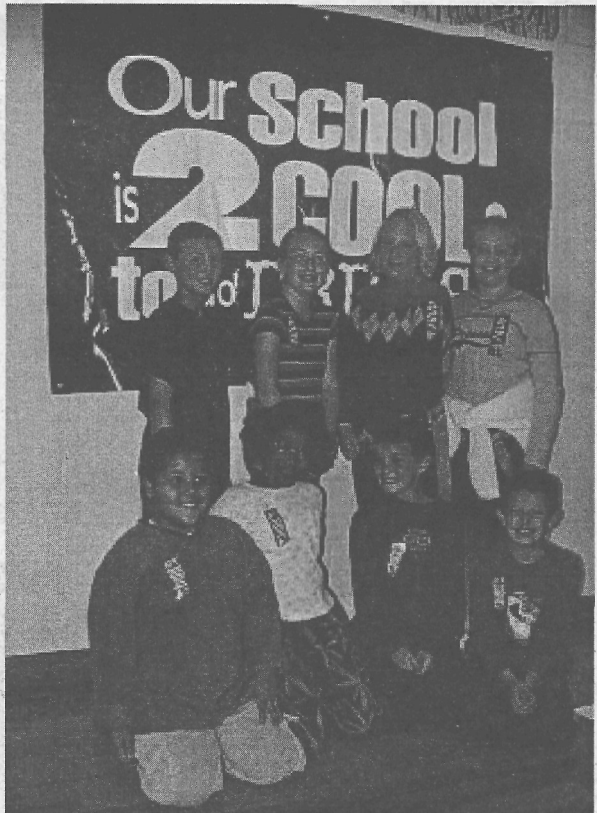
Harvest Festival at Kennedy School



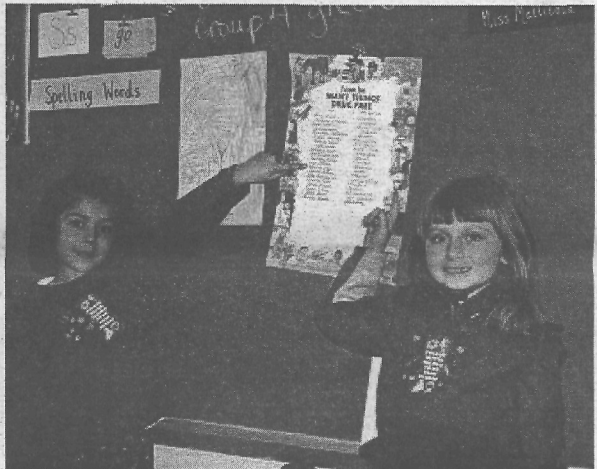
Story/pictures by Patricia Abbott

Kennedy School's Annual Harvest Festival experienced true 'harvest' weather for the first time. The chilly autumn day did not keep visitors from flocking to the event. Outside there was much to do. Games included a football toss, soccer maze, scare crow stuffing, and the ever-popular hay ride. Inside activities were warmer and a bit messier as students painted pumpkins, and built candy houses with marshmallow fluff as the 'glue.' Other activities were a mummy wrap, spider making, and face painting. A well stocked table offered a wide assortment of cookies, brownies and more.

The event is sponsored by the third grade classes. Mrs. Luck, and Mrs. Friedman, organized the event. Third grade teachers are Mrs. Luck, Mr. McCann, and Miss Adams. Students and parents volunteered time and supplies for the festival. Funds raised usually go to UNICEF, but will be split with the Red Cross this year. The children will also Trick or Treat for UNICEF.



Pictured are Cristen Donnelly, Kaitlin Herriott, Vincent Fazio, Darien Shelton, Kayla Prinz, Mark McCullen and Becky Deffler.



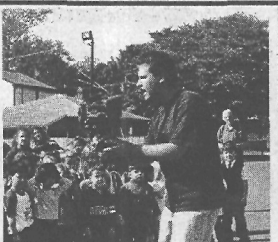
Patty Cruz and Jennifer DelBeni.



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a lot
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Red Ribbon Week at Franklin

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

Franklin School students celebrated Red Ribbon Week by wearing red ribbon stickers every day last week. Each classroom kept a week long chart of who wore a ribbon and at the end of each day the name of a student wearing their ribbon was drawn and won

a prize. A red and white banner proclaiming "Our school is 2 cool to do drugs!" Dr. Alicia Sherman, Franklin's student assistant counselor noted that the teachers spent part of each day reinforcing healthy living to the students. The children at Riley School also celebrated Red Ribbon week.

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Patrick Diegnan Will Be South Plainfield's First Assemblyman



From left, Patrick Diegnan with Senate Candidate Barbara Buono, Future Governor Jim McGreevey & Assemblyman Peter Barnes

Patrick Diegnan was born & raised in South Plainfield. He graduated from South Plainfield High School. As our town attorney, he was a part of our Downtown Revitalization, our Senior Recreation Center, PAL Expansion, Senior Housing, and Open Space Program.

Let's Put Him To Work In Trenton!

Sports

South Plainfield High School Girls Field Hockey Having Fantastic Year



2001 FIELD HOCKEY ROSTER—Seniors: Shannon Dabrio, Meghan Elsmann, Janelle Kenny, and Danielle Schweers. Juniors: Meghan Schweers, Danielle Skoba, Kristina Cwikalo, Christina Dematos, Meghan Mercurio, Michelle DeSantis, Nicole Esposito, Kristen Gumina, Marianne Hebreo, Christina Lorraine and Katherine Baldessari. Sophomores: Tarryn Carlton, Catherine Flannery, Heather Loenser, Ngozi Okparake, Amanda Rastelli, and Danielle Tonkin. Freshman: Cassandra D'Urso, Kim Gaub, Allia Ghanim, Lauren Haus, Jaime Jakubik, Katherine Kelliher, Jessica Manning, Jessica Miller, Stephanie Miller, Jacqueline Muglia, Jessica Senz, Alisha Stasenko, and Kelly Thomas. Head coach is Fran Flannery, assistant coaches are Tammy Zurka, Cheryl Hughes and Joanne Haus.

By Jenevieve DeLos Santos

South Plainfield High School's varsity Field Hockey team has been having the most successful year in a long time. In fact, not since the early nineties and late eighties, have the girl's high school hockey team had such a successful year. The team currently boasts an impressive record of 13 wins—one that hasn't been matched in over a decade.

Coached by Fran Flannery and Tammy Zurka, these hard working girls deserve a round of applause for their dedication and determination.

The team practices six times a week, with Sunday as their only break, and it's obvious that their work has been paying off. The only defeats the team experienced were from East Brunswick, a larger team with predominately upperclassmen. All were close matches stretching the final outcome into overtime.

Also for the first time in five years the team is very excited to be competitors in the State Tournament. Despite all of their remarkable achievements, what is even more noteworthy is the overwhelming show of good sportsmanship and respect this team

shows on the playing field. Coach Flannery describes her team as, "Coachable, sportsman like, positive and hard working. These girls all exhibit the best that athletics can bring out in kids." The team not only bonds playing on the field, but they work together and thoroughly enjoy each other's company. They have participated in fundraisers, pool parties, and pasta parties, all as a team. Their tight relationship pulls together both on and off the field and is a reminder of what true sportsmanship is all about; cooperation, working together and respect for one another. SPHS girl's field hockey team truly is a team that every one can be proud of.

Come out and show your support for this year's high school field hockey team next Monday, Nov. 5 and experience it for yourself!

Hotspurs Tie Up The Attack

The South Plainfield Boys U-8 Hotspurs played to their second straight tie Saturday against the North Hunterdon Attack, 1-1. Goalie Daniel Lyew and fullbacks Albert Vill, Zachary Noll and A.J. Celentano led the Hotspurs defensive effort as they held their opponents to only one first half goal. Each of them made key plays, stopping a number of threats deep in our zone.

On the offensive side, Taylor Born and Quinn Bolivar played solid up the middle, while strikers Ryan Marcoux and Eric LaVerne took control on the wings, moving the ball up field on many occasions throughout the game. Our lone goal came in the third period when Marcoux and Bolivar battled three defenders to get the ball free to LaVerne, who proceeded to drill the ball into the net for his second goal of the year and a 1-1 tie.

As this young team continues to improve from week to week, we are still hoping for that first victory of the year. With our fingers crossed, the boys will try for it this Saturday at Riley School against the Piscataway Spartans at 11:30 a.m.

By Kevin Lykes

juniorbaseballclubnotes

Our annual fall registration was held Oct 25-27, and although the turnout was slightly less than I would have like to have seen, we are well on our way to filling out all of our leagues for next year. If you missed the fall sign-up don't fret. Winter sign-ups will be held on Jan 10-12, 2002. Check here in the *Observer* and look for street signs and school flyers right after the holidays.

During last week's registration the club sponsored a fundraiser featuring traditional American Flag lapel pins and Stars and Stripes ribbon lapel pins for \$3 each. Also sold were NYPD and FDNY hats for \$10. The South Plainfield community responded to this in a very positive way. After much reconsideration and review by our Executive Board it was decided to donate all proceeds from this fund raiser to the NY Police and Fire Widows' and Children's Fund (www.nypfwc.org), which is a listed member of liberty-unites.org and not to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund as previously stated. This decision was made mainly because we discovered that The Baseball Hall of Fame Museum in Cooperstown, NY will match the Club's contribution. The Police and Fire Widows' and Children's fund was established in 1985 by former major leaguer, Rusty Staub. The fund assists the families of police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty. The fund provides immediate support to grieving families when they lose loved ones, regardless of financial need. Since it's establishment an annual distribution has been made to each widow. The SPJBC has a goal of \$2,000 which we are still working toward. Pins are still available through the club and at Sportworld in the Golden Acres Shopping Center.

IMPORTANT DATE!—Monday, Nov. 5, 2001, regular monthly meeting at which all proposed by-laws changes will be voted on - voting members should please make every effort to attend.

Note to all coaches—All baseball has concluded for 2001 and all equipment should be turned in as soon as possible.

High School Age Basketball League Starting

The South Plainfield Recreation League will be sponsoring a high school basketball league. All games will be played on Tuesday nights at

the PAL, starting Dec. 4. Team must have 10 players. The fee is \$400 per team. Limit of ten teams. Register at the PAL.

United States Postal Service			
Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation			
1. Publication Title South Plainfield Observer		2. Publication Number 0 1 8 2 5 3	
3. Filing Date 11/02/01		4. Issue Frequency Weekly except Thanksgiving	
5. Number of Issues Published Annually 51		6. Annual Subscription Price \$25	
7. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP +4) 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080			
8. Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) Nancy Grennier, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080			
Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Same as above			
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)			
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)			
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13. Publication Title South Plainfield Observer		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 11/10/00	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		2500	
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation		47	
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3) and (4))		1749	
d. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, complimentary, and other free)		500	
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carrier or other means)		500	
f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e)		1000	
g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f)		2749	
h. Copies not Distributed		251	
i. Total (Sum of 15g and 15h)		2500	
j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by 15i times 100)		70	
16. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publication required. Will be printed in the 11/02/2000 issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.			
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager or Owner			
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Legal Notices

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by YMCA Kid's Place requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the 2' x 4' x 8' sign; permanent advertising signs are not permitted in any residential zone; and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 222 Lot 7 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 November 20, 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 am and 5:00 pm.

\$35.00 17 November 2, 2001

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Rema Chepolis requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a 26'x27' add-a-level & a 8'x17' covered front porch. Proposed add-a-level lacks the required 30' front setback from Lowden Ave., 26' being proposed & the required 8' side setback, 4.18' being proposed. Proposed 8'x17' covered front porch lacks the required 30' front setback from Lowden Ave., 20' being proposed; and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 273 Lot 14 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 November 20, 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 am and 5:00 pm.

\$35.00 17 November 2, 2001

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Cesar Moreira requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit: The subdivision of Block 379, Lot 6 to create a lot having dimensions of 100 feet by 100 feet framing on Spicer Avenue.

Applicant will further seek any other variances or relief as required by the board. Subdivision/Site Plan Approval Required.

Said property being located on Block(s): 379 Lot(s): 6 on the South Plainfield Tax Map. For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing on November 27, 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 Zoning Office, South Plainfield Borough Hall, any weekday between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

\$47.00 November 2, 2001

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Leonard and Donna Rowlands requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to erect an 8'x5' front porch, proposed porch lacks the required 30' front setback, 15.03' being proposed and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 222 Lot 7 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 November 20, 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 am and 5:00 pm.

\$35.00 17 November 2, 2001

Sports

Anthony Ashnault,
Ken Chertow, and
Randy Jakubik.



SP Junior Midgets Advance To Championship Game

The South Plainfield Football Eagles Junior Midget team defeated previously undefeated and arch rival, Washington Rock Raiders 24-12 this past Sunday in South Plainfield. The Eagles with the win, finished the regular season with a record of 7-1 and will play against Bridgewater this Sunday for the Motntain Valley Championship at Watchung Hills High School. The game time has not been officially announced but most likely will be around 1:30 p.m.

The victory was hard fought and played in front of a very large home crowd. The Eagles scored first but Washington Rock came back to tie it at 6 to 6. With time running out in the second quarter, the Eagles mounted two drives before half-time and took advantage of some penalties and scored two more touchdowns to take a 18-6 half-time lead. The Raiders came back late in the third quarter and scored on a short run to close the gap to 18 to 12. The fourth quarter and the entire division championship came down to two fourth down plays.

Comets Play To a Draw

The South Plainfield U-12 Comets played to a 1-1 draw against Metuchen on Sunday. After giving up an early goal, the defense, led by Allison Whitefleet, Lindsay Fredericks, Rachel Senz and Courtney Wilhelm tightened up to turn back Metuchen for the remainder of the half. With Brooke DeNitzio, Stephanie Szeliga and Megan McHugh ruling the midfield, South Plainfield pushed the ball up for many scoring chances. Jackie Bosse, Victoria Plasse and Alyssa Sutherland kept the offensive pressure on. Just before half time Stephanie Szeliga blasted in a shot unassisted for a 1-1 first half tie.

The second half started with offensive pressure from Maria Lipnick, Clare Kelly and Katie Baldassarre. The Metuchen goalie made a great save on a Lipnick blast. Stephanie Lanza, Diana Naser and Chelsea Moubarak helped goalie Kate Reichert deny all of Metuchen's chances. When the whistle blew the Comets had a 1-1 tie.

Good Job Girls, Stay Tough.

Submitted by Marie Sutherland

Both of which will go down in Eagle history. The first one resulted in a great defensive stand whereas the Eagles stuffed the Raiders on their own 6 yard line on 4th and 1. The second took place moments later when the Eagles where faced with 4th and 6 inches from their own 19 yard line. A gutsy call resulted in an 81 yard touchdown run and a final score of 24-12. The Junior Midgets had a perfect record of 7-0 in their division with their only lost by 1 point the previous week against Hunterdon Hills.

Good luck to the Junior Midgets, their coaches and fans as they take on Bridgewater in the championship game this Sunday.

In other action, the Mighty Mites won for the seventh time to also finish at 7-1. Their only lost also came the week previously against Hunterdon Hills. No records are kept for Flag Football however a very strong nucleus will be moving up and will be the foundation for many of our future teams. The Jr. Pee Wee's had a tough year and finished at 3-5 but gained a lot of experience for next year. The Midgets fought through a tough season where injuries and small roster handicapped them. They finished at 1-7.

Congratulations to all the players and coaches for a great year. Your undivided dedication and team spirit since the 1st of August is greatly appreciated.

Last but not least, lets not forget to thank all our cheerleaders and their coaches for all their support through out the entire season and of course the South Plainfield Football Eagles Executive Board, Trustees and Commissioner for all that you've done.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tonight and Tomorrow—Equipment Return: This evening, Nov. 2, between 6 and 8 p.m. Tomorrow Saturday, Nov. 2, from 9 to 12 at the Field House.

Pizza Party—End of Season: Saturday evening, Nov. 3, at the PAL. The first session for all Flag and Mighty Mite players and cheerleaders will be between 5 and 6 p.m. The second session, for Jr. Pee Wee, Junior Midget and Midget players/cheerleaders will run from 6:30 to 7:30.

For any further information please call the Field House at 753-6344



Twenty members of the SP Wrestling Club with coaches at Ken Chertow's Camp of Champs wrestling clinic.

Champs Wrestling Clinic Event Draws 80

The newly renovated South Plainfield PAL recently played host to Ken Chertow's Camp of Champs wrestling clinic. Approximately 80 young wrestlers attended the three day event, thirty from the SP Wrestling Club.

Camp of Champs offered the youths personalized instruction. The four primary elements are technique instruction, intense drilling to perfect set-ups, timing and combinations, live wrestling and sports science. Sports science covers such topics as mental preparation, nutrition, strength training, goal setting, college scholarships and more. Check in began on Friday. Wrestlers from out of town were hosted by local families. Saturday and Sunday were spent at the PAL with Chertow and his coaches, including Olympian Gene Mills and two time Olympian Mr. Z from Bulgaria.

Ken Chertow, a 1996 Olympic Gold Medalist, participated in the 1992 Olympics as well. He was a 1989 NCAA Champion. He stresses education, "Be a Scholar Athlete, not a dumb jock!" His newsletters tout the importance of a good routine for both school and training. "You cannot wrestle forever. Education is the building block for your future! Make the most of it!"

The SP Wrestling Club (SPWC) played a large part in supporting and fundraising for the extensive work done on the PAL. The Wrestling Club, with the help of Councilman Ray Petronko, Recreation Superintendent Mike English, Jim Anderson, High/Middle School coaches, Wrestling Club coaches and parents hosted USA Olympian Ken Chertow's Camp of Champs.

SPWC is an extension of all levels of wrestling in South Plainfield, Recreation, Middle School and High School programs. Their success depends on coordination from these groups with parental support.

SPWC will continue to bring world renown coaches and clinicians at affordable prices to our wrestling youth in order to take us to the next level. With the relocation of recreation wrestling to their new home at the PAL, all wrestlers will benefit from the new facility.

SPWC hours are Monday and Tuesday, 6:30-9:45 in the off season and Sundays, 6-9 in season. Recreation signups are Saturday, Nov. 3, 1-3 p.m. at the PAL. Come be part of the South Plainfield wrestling community.



Pictured back: John Bawker Jim Conroy, Joe DeBiase, Bill Ashnault. Front: Ken Chertow, Olympian; Gene Mills, Olympian; Mr-Z, two-time Olympian from Bulgaria.



Ken Chertow, SP wrestler; Steve Johnson, SP Scott Doerr and Gene Mills.

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Vote

IN MY OPINION

Continued from page 2

which includes East Brunswick, Edison, Helmetta, Metuchen, South Plainfield, South River and Spotswood, to get out and vote for the McGreevey team of Buono, Barnes and Diegnan.

However, even if you are going to vote for the other folks, GET OUT AND VOTE....IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER!

PATRICK DIEGNAN, JR.
CANDIDATE 18TH DISTRICT
ASSEMBLY

To the Editor,

When I was a child I used to read a series of books by Judy Blume. My favorite was "The Fourth Grade Nothing." I loved these books, I must have known the difference between non-fiction and FICTION. That must have been taught to me by my parents along with morals, values, and the difference between right and wrong. The books are fun, creative and imaginative. It is fiction. Don't take the fun out of childhood!

GINA CECCHETTINI

To the Editor,

I am writing this letter in support of Dennis Cerami and Charlie Butrico in their campaign for South Plainfield Borough Council.

I have served with Dennis for two terms on the Council and have found him to be devoted and pro-active on behalf of the citizens of the Borough. He has been the liaison to the Police, Fire, First Aid and Emergency Management Services Departments and has advocated effectively on behalf of those departments, thereby working to insure the public safety of all our residents. Dennis is also a member of the committees of Public Works and Recreation and has been active in those areas as well. He is committed to the residents of South Plainfield and reveals that commitment by focusing on these areas for the benefit of all the citizens of the town. Dennis has also been heavily involved in the Senior Center and with the PAL expansion. My experience with these projects has shown me that Dennis is willing and able to focus on jobs he undertakes and will not rest until those jobs are completed.

I have known Charlie Butrico for nearly 25 years, since he was growing up in South Plainfield. Not only was he raised in South Plainfield, but many members of his immediate family have chosen to remain in town and are raising their families here. Because I have known Charlie for so long, I know that his commitment to and involvement in South Plainfield is not only his choice, but is in his very being. His dedication to the PTA, his coaching activities, the work with the board of the South Plainfield Summer Drama workshop, and in a host of other, often less visible activities with his wife and children all demonstrate that love for South Plainfield. I can not express in this letter how proud I will be to serve with Charlie on the Council, knowing full well that he will be a great asset to the Democratic Team.

We have proven that over the last eight years that "Democracy Works" in South Plainfield. Dennis Cerami and Charlie Butrico will help the Democratic team continue to prove that to the people of South Plainfield. Help us keep those good things happening by voting for Dennis Cerami and Charlie Butrico for South Plainfield Borough Council.

Patrick Deignan has worked with us as our township attorney for not only the last eight years, but in years past as well. He knows how we have tried to make this town a better place

and will continue to work hard for the people of the 18th District in the State Assembly. I urge you to vote for Pat, too, as you vote on November 6 for Jim McGreevey for Governor and the entire McGreevey team, so that they can use the common sense and responsible leadership that we have tried to apply locally in order to make the State of New Jersey a better place to live, work, and raise families.

SINCERELY,
ED P. KUBALA, COUNCILMAN

To The Editor:

This year there have been numerous letters supporting the Democrat candidates for borough council. I am sure the letter writers are well meaning and they certainly are consistent as they are the same people who write similar letters every year supporting Democrat candidates. That's fine and it is their right to do so. But since their party has been in control of the borough for at least the last eight years, I'd like these letter writers to respond to some questions regarding the record of the people they have supported.

What happened to the Helen Street project that was supposed to reduce truck traffic near Roosevelt school?

How much additional traffic will be generated if the 27 acre superfund site at the corner of New Market Ave. and Hamilton Blvd. is developed as an industrial park as proposed by the borough planner?

Three years ago we were told sidewalks would be put in on Belmont Ave. so our kids didn't have to walk in the street to get to Roosevelt school. Where are they?

We no longer have an engineer in Borough Hall. An out of town firm was hired to replace a local resident. This firm was just awarded a contract for \$63,000 to study our sewer rates. Are you ready for another increase? Did we save any money by eliminating our engineer? How much has this out of town firm contributed to the Democrat campaign?

We no longer have a local health officer. What did we save by eliminating this service? And in these times wouldn't it be comforting to have a qualified health official in Borough Hall?

Have you tried to speak to the Tax Collector? We don't have one in Borough Hall, you have to call Woodbridge. We don't have a certified municipal finance officer either. Don't you think these key financial positions should be filled by qualified people who work in Borough Hall and are available to residents?

Since the Democrats have been in control, they have relied heavily on sales of borough owned land to developers as a source of revenue for the municipal budget. This has resulted in an increased school population requiring the building of a new school at a cost of over \$20,000,000. Is this sound fiscal planning? What happens when there is no more land to sell? Do the taxpayers make up the difference?

Is it true the Bradley's Shopping Center will be replaced by more apartments after the election?

Finally, how long are the Democrats going to fool the people by claiming "NO NEW TAXES" when in fact the municipal tax rate INCREASED from .55 per \$100 of assessed value in 1994 when they took control to .861 in 2001? That represents a \$331 increase for a house assessed at \$100,000. Also, don't forget they also increased your sewer charges last year by one third from \$150 to \$200. Is this what they call no new taxes?

Clearly, the one party system has not worked. It is time to bring back a sys-

tem of checks and balances by returning to a two party system. Electing Harris and Reedy is a start. Go to the polls on November 6 and vote for the return of two party government in South Plainfield.

VERY TRULY YOURS,
JAKE CATALDO

To the editor,

This is in response to the Jerry Harris letter in October 19th Observer.

Dear Mr. Harris,

I want you to know that I "listened" to your letter in the Oct. 19 edition of the *Observer* and still cannot find any reason to vote for you.

First, since I found your language inappropriate, I would recommend you check out a thesaurus or dictionary for better words to describe your feelings better than "crap." I cannot imagine attending a council meeting and hearing that word used to describe anything someone does not like.

Second, although you have negative feelings about what the Democrats have or have not done, you offered no solution. HOW do you intend to keep the "druggies" out? Also, the local streets that were paved (including mine) were desperately in need of repaving. I have lived here for 38 years and my street had never once in those 38 years been repaved - instead the pot holes were filled in, only to need refilling in a month. It is a blessing to be able to drive down the street without having to dodge the pot holes. WHAT would you have done???

I agree it would be nice if some Republicans would write to support you, but I wonder why they don't. Perhaps it is because you have offered them nothing to support.

SINCERELY,
NANCY PAULS

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere feelings toward fellow councilperson Dennis Cerami. I met Dennis only four years ago yet our relationship is very strong because of his personality and ethics. These traits and their recognition by our residents have put him in the position of councilperson. He is the role model for all elected officials and has the humility of an everyday laborer.

Thanks to Dennis our Borough is safer and emergency services are always there in the time of need, which is a direct result of Dennis' hard work.

I consider it my duty to help in any way to get Dennis Cerami re-elected

to the position of councilperson and I hope the residents of South Plainfield will do the same.

SINCERELY,
RAYMOND S. PETRONKO

Dear Observer,

The Lions Club of South Plainfield would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in our Annual White Cain Day on Friday, Oct. 26 and Saturday, Oct. 27.

Since 1947, the Lions Club of South Plainfield has been serving the families of South Plainfield through various programs that aid and help those who are visually and hearing impaired. The money's raised by the Lions Club of South Plainfield goes to sponsor such things as: seeing eye dogs, ear and eye exams, to such educational help as scholarships.

The families of South Plainfield have always been very supportive and generous in any of our activities. Be it our Labor Day in the park cooking sausage & peppers, or our Gourmet Palm Sunday Breakfast held annually at the High School. White Cain Day allows us to go out directly to the public for their support.

With this in mind, we would like to thank the following stores for allowing us the opportunity to go out and solicit funds for our worthy cause. They are: A&P on Oak Tree Rd. and Park Ave., Drug Fair on Oak Tree Rd., The Bagel Pantry on Plainfield Ave. and Quick Check on Sampton Ave. Without the availability, and courtesy from these establishments and the people who run them, our day wouldn't have been the success that it was.

Lastly, to all of South Plainfield. You've always shown tremendous support for Lions and the activities that we do. That support is always appreciated even more so giving the events that have transpired since Sept. 11. Should anyone have any questions on Lions, please feel free to contact us at: Lions Club of South Plainfield, P.O. Box 721, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Thanks and we look forward to seeing you at our Palm Sunday Gourmet Breakfast.

DAVE DEUTSCH
WHITE CAIN DAY CHAIRMAN

Dear Editor,

God bless America and God bless all the credit card holding Americans all over the country.

We worry about the terrorist attacks, but what about the terrorism the credit card companies are using on

all credit card holders?

Since Sept. 11, 2001 ALL mail has been delayed. Planes were not permitted to carry the mail during the first week of our national tragedy. But the credit card companies keep slapping on late fees on everyone. Discover Card has harassed my twelve year old daughter three times and brought her to tears with their third degree.

I have contacted the Somerset FBI about the harassment and I was told they do not handle that type of case. On Wednesday, Oct. 24 I called the WABC radio station talk show "Rush" and spoke with Eric Schmidt who, in turn, gave me the phone number of Eric Hastings, WABC talk show's producer. Eric Hastings called me on Thursday, Oct. 25 and said this was a great subject. I informed him that I have not heard this "great subject" discussed once on any TV or radio station. The credit card companies will make thousands of dollars off the tragedy of innocent victims because of their greed.

I cannot believe that no one has come forward to complain about this terrorist attack. The President of the United States needs to come forward and put an end to this practice. We need to look no further then our own backyards for U.S. terrorism, set forth by credit card companies who are getting away with murder on our pocketbooks and the "fantastic plastic."

SINCERELY,
DEBORAH RUSSO BOYLE

To the Editor,

Thank you creep (creeps?) for again hitting my yard up at Halloween time! Aren't you getting a little old for this stealing business? Every year you find it in your heart to take something from my yard. And it seems whatever items you take are things that my children have picked out.

This year takes the cake! You waited til the bulbs on my strings of black lights were cooled down and then proceeded to unstring them from my fence. Being ever so careful not to disturb any of my flowers or shrubs, thinking I would never notice! You even took the extension cord. Then you decided the lights were not enough and proceeded to take a couple of signs and a Halloween pinwheel.

You have again caused my children to cry. They worked hard to make our yard nice for Halloween. Can you find nothing better to do with your free time? In light of all the sorrow this country has felt lately, you still find it possible to steal from someone's home

Continued on page 13

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IN MY OPINION

Vote

Continued from page 12
to make yourself happy.

I hope you never have to look into your children's faces and see the sadness and disbelief that I did. Because of you creeps, they are learning a valuable lesson about how it hurts when you steal something that doesn't belong to you.

Was it a dare that made you take our things? Or are you having a party and need some decorations. Next year buy your own by getting a job. If you happen to wander in our yard again, you better hope the dog isn't out there because then you are on your own!

So mom's and dad's, if you notice you or your child has some new lights and decorations you might want to find out exactly where they came from.

DISAPPOINTED MOM

Letter to the Editor,

On Tuesday, Nov. 6, I ask all residents to join with me in supporting the election of Dennis Cerami and Charles Butrico to the Borough Council.

One need only look at our Borough to see the progress; many new roads, expansion of our P.A.L., senior recreation center, expansion and preservation of open space, senior housing, sidewalks for our school children, downtown revitalization program, open government and so much more.

All these good programs are the result of the work of dedicated public servants such as Dennis Cerami. Charlie Butrico brings a wealth of experience and a desire to give back to South Plainfield. I urge you to support and vote for both.

For the first time in the history of our Borough, we have the opportunity to elect a state representative from South Plainfield. Patrick Diegnan is seeking our support for his election to the Assembly. There is no one more deserving or more qualified person, who will work harder than Patrick Diegnan.

South Plainfield is our home, let us make certain that those we elect will represent us. We can continue to do this by supporting Dennis Cerami, Charles Butrico and Patrick Diegnan.

DANIEL J. GALLAGHER, MAYOR

Dear Editor:

The people of the 18th legislative district are fortunate to have such fine candidates wanting to represent them. Barbara Buono and Peter Barnes have a proven record of service and although a newcomer to the ticket, Patrick Diegnan is an experienced public servant.

We have known Patrick Diegnan for over a dozen years. He is a man of integrity who cares about and listens

to the people for whom he serves. He has spearheaded the formation of a taxpayers advisory group, a businesspersons advisory group and other initiatives to give people a voice in the governing process. Patrick believes that with a little creativity and a lot of hard work much can be accomplished. His innovative ideas and hard work as municipal attorney in South Plainfield have resulted in a local government that is fiscally responsible, while continuing to improve the quality of life in the town. He has been involved with our downtown revitalization, the senior recreation center and senior housing projects, the PAL expansion, and open space program.

A South Plainfield resident has never been elected to the New Jersey Assembly. Give yourself a voice in Trenton. Vote on November 6 for Patrick Diegnan and Peter Barnes for Assembly and Barbara Buono for Senate.

BILL AND KATHY THOMAS

To The Editor,

No Tax Increase... No Tax Increase... No Tax Increase... This Year And Next...

No public works manpower to plow... No bulk item pick up until ??? No engineering department... No mention of the savings... No big surprise on political appointment to key position... No dissenting votes... No two party representation.... No check and balance system...

It's 2001 - have you seen your tax bill lately? It's almost an 80% increase since the democrats took control in 1993!

On November 6, Vote Republican. Vote for Marge Reedy and Jerry Harris for Borough Council and 'Bring Back Balance' to South Plainfield!

LINDA DASHUTA

Dear Editor,

As you know, I am running for a Borough Council seat this year in South Plainfield with Dennis Cerami. I wanted to write to you today, to convey some information about Dennis that I want to share with your readers.

I've known Dennis for the last 18 years and can tell you that he is a hardworking and dedicated individual. Everyone that knows Dennis will tell you that he is always there to help out family and friends when needed and a person you can count on. These are the same qualities he has brought to South Plainfield as a councilman.

Dennis has been a dedicated councilman for the past six years and in my opinion has made a real difference in

our community. As the chairman of the Public Safety Committee and under his leadership, he has made the police, fire and rescue departments an example that other communities want to emulate. He makes sure each department has the people and equipment they need to do their jobs effectively and to protect the citizens of South Plainfield. He leads by example and is out at many of the calls the departments get.

In addition to his involvement on the council, Dennis is also very involved with his children and has spent many days coaching and participating in the activities they are involved in. He is an avid supporter of the recreation program for children in our town.

Dennis really cares about South Plainfield and as a public servant has made some real positive changes to our community. I believe our community is a safer and better place to live than six years ago and Dennis deserves some of the credit for that change. I am proud to be running with Dennis this year and I hope you will join me in supporting him this November.

**SINCERELY,
CHARLIE BUTRICO**

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage South Plainfield residents to cast their vote for Dennis Cerami. Dennis has been the Commissioner to Public Safety for the last six years and he clearly has an unwavering commitment to South Plainfield and our residents.

I have had the privilege of serving with Dennis for the last three years and in my opinion he is a hardworking, dedicated councilperson who deserves to be re-elected. His first and foremost concern is the safety of our residents and he has a commitment to our police, fire and emergency management department to ensure they have the proper equipment and manpower to get the job done properly and effectively. Dennis has earned the respect of many because he is always willing to fight for what is right, and now he deserves the respect of the citizens of South Plainfield to be re-elected once again for the next three years.

Dennis's running mate this year is Charlie Butrico. Charlie's strong business acumen, tireless community involvement and unyielding commitment to South Plainfield make him an ideal candidate for Borough Council. I urge all of South Plainfield to support Dennis Cerami and Charlie Butrico and make a sound investment in South Plainfield's future.

**COUNCILWOMAN
DARLENE PINTO**

Letter to the Editor,

As many of you know, I'm a registered Republican. Over the years, I have voted for the best of the candidates regardless of their political party even though my husband is the Democratic Council President here in South Plainfield.

Locally the council team of Dennis Cerami and Charlie Butrico are the

best candidates for the job. The Republican candidates do not attend council or budget meetings to learn what is happening. Charlie Butrico attends all of these meetings since he is genuinely interested in learning about the town and how it works.

I also think that Patrick Diegnan will be a good addition to our State Assembly. He is a hard worker and dedicated to our residents. If he can do in the Assembly what he has done for South Plainfield, we will all benefit.

In the county, Jane Brady has demonstrated true concern for people as the Chair of Human Services. Her enthusiasm for those in need clearly demonstrates her convictions.

Concerning the Governor however, I have to say that Bret Schundler is the best candidate. I strongly believe in the right to life and think that Bret will be the best person to protect the lives of our precious unborn.

Please take the time to vote on Election Day and vote for the candidates you feel will do the best job.

DEBORAH VOKRAL

To the Editor,

I believe that I have the obligation at this time to communicate with the community that I serve. For the past six years, it certainly has been a privilege to serve in the capacity of Commissioner to Public Safety for police, fire, rescue and emergency management (OEM). More importantly it is an honor to serve the residents of this great borough.

I personally take pride in supporting the efforts of all the men and women that staff our emergency services. Not only do we have the finest Police Department and Office of Emergency Management in Middlesex County, we undoubtedly have the most professional and dedicated volunteers providing the most essential services; fire, rescue and domestic violence intervention.

These agencies are ultimately responsible for the public's safety. They are the cornerstones of a safe, secure community and directly responsible for creating an atmosphere that I, as an elected official and we, as residents want for our families and especially our children.

All too often, elected officials use the phrase "quality of life". No one elected official can improve upon the "quality of life" within a community. It is a collaborated effort of a Democracy That Works.

I wholeheartedly am asking for your vote on November 6. It's imperative that I have your support to elect my running mate Charlie Butrico, a life long resident of four generations in the borough. Together, we can assure the residents and businesses within the borough, your public safety agencies will be provided with the necessary training, education and equipment, along with the ever fast

changes in technology and resources by utilizing a variety of resources, grants, etc. to ultimately insure the safety of all those that volunteer to save lives and minimize property loss.

I am committed to serve the community in good faith and assure a safe and secure community for my extended family, the "residents of this great borough."

**THANK YOU, COUNCILMAN
DENNIS J. CERAMI**

To the Editor,

Here we are again, election time in South Plainfield. Many things have happened to us since last year. Particularly, the events of September have made us realize how very important our democratic process really is, and that the quality of our elected officials is extremely important.

Here in South Plainfield, we have been fortunate to have elected council people who are dedicated to the residents of our town and have faced several challenges over the years. They have demonstrated their capabilities by the many projects that are being done, such as paving roads, Senior Citizen Center, Senior Housing, PAL expansion, etc. This would not have been possible without people like Dennis Cerami. He is hard working and dedicated to doing the right thing for our residents.

Running with Dennis is Charlie Butrico. Charlie has shown true interest and desire to help our town become the best in Middlesex County. Together they make a great team and will surely add to our current council team.

For the county, the team of Spicuzzo, Sheriff and Brady, Dalina and Rafano for Freeholders will help us to continue to work together for the betterment of all in South Plainfield.

On the state level, we also have a great slate of candidates. In particular is our local Patrick Diegnan who is running for State Assembly. Pat has been extremely instrumental in working as the Borough Attorney for many years and has provided guidance and direction on many local projects. His common sense and foresightedness has helped shape our future, which will provide great experience for the Assembly. Together with Peter Barnes, running for Assembly and Barbara Buono, running for the Senate, they will bring common sense to Trenton.

One last thought. All these people make a great team. They work together and have no hidden agenda. It shows that Democracy Works! They have worked hard to earn your trust and would again seek your support so they can continue to improve our town, our county and our state. Please vote on Election Day for the Democratic Team!

**JIM VOKRAL
COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

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Obituaries

Louis J. Spisso, 76

Louis J. Spisso died on Saturday, Oct. 27 at home.

He was born in South Plainfield and was a life long resident of the community.

Mr. Spisso had worked for 37 years for PSE&G of New Brunswick. He started his career as a meter reader and he held various positions with the company. At the time of his retirement, he held the position of senior marketing representative.

He had served with the US Army during WWII and had seen action in the European Theater. He was a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 and a life member of the VFW Memorial Post 6763 of South Plainfield.

Mr. Spisso was a former member of the Lions Club, the Knights of Columbus and the Sons of Italy, all in South Plainfield.

His wife, Jacqueline (Smith) Spisso died in 1994.

Surviving are his two daughters Andra DeGennaro and Anita Pangborn, both of South Plainfield; five sons Louis of Md., William, Paul, Brian and Craig Spisso, all of South Plainfield; a sister, Marie McGavick of Mass., a brother, Joseph Spisso of South Plainfield and by his 20 grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Clarence H. Merkle, 84

Clarence H. Merkle died on Tuesday Oct. 30, 2001 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Hempstead, New York, Mr. Merkle had resided in Metuchen before settling in South Plainfield in 1959. He entered Cedar Oaks Care Center of South Plainfield in 1994.

For 37 years Mr. Merkle had been employed as a filter press operator for the Mobil Oil Co. in Edison, retiring in 1982.

He served in the US Army during WWII with the 505th Antiaircraft Artillery Gun Battalion, stationed in the Southern Philippines. He was awarded the American Service Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal with Bronze Arrowhead, the Good Conduct Medal, the Philippines Liberation Ribbon with two Bronze Stars and the WWII Victory Medal.

His wife, Elizabeth (Tomaszewski) Merkle, died in 1993.

Surviving are three daughters, Patricia and her husband James Maglione of Pittstown, Susan Martin of Roanoke, Va. and Elizabeth A. and her husband Mark Merkle-Scott of South Plainfield; his son Joseph C. and his wife Valerie Merkle of Floyd, Va. and a brother, Thomas Merkle of Plantation, Fla. Also surviving are nine grandchildren.

Funeral Services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donation in his memory may be made to the American Heart Association, 2550 Route #1 North, Brunswick, NJ 08902.

Lorenzo Parks, 98

Lorenzo Parks of Edison died on Saturday, Oct. 27 at the Woodlands Care Center in Plainfield.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica he was a former resident of Queens, NY before moving to Edison 20 years ago.

Mr. Parks was a construction foreman for the Abrams Construction Co. in Kingston, Jamaica for 45 years before retiring in 1962.

He is survived by his beloved wife Mary DeCambre Parks; a son Ronald Parks of Edison; a daughter Sherlon Syder of Del Rico, Fla. and six grandchildren.

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

Helen A. (Dudeck) Stolp, 82

Helen A. (Dudeck) Stolp died on Thursday, Oct. 25 at the Barbara E. Cheung Hospice in the Menlo Park Section of Edison.

Mrs. Stolp was born in W. Hazleton, Pa. and grew up there. She moved to Central Jersey and lived in Somerville, then Piscataway, where she has lived for the past 50 years.

She had started working as a kitchen aid in the Piscataway school system as part time help and over time, became a full time employee. At the time of her retirement in 1982, she held the position of Director School Food Services for the Piscataway Board of Education. She was with the Board of Ed for 15 years.

Helen was a communicant of Our Lady of Fatima RC Church in Piscataway where she was a member of the Rosary Altar Society. She was also a member of the Our Lady of Fatima and the Piscataway Senior Citizens.

Her husband, Richard Stolp, died in 1980. She was also predeceased by four sisters, Sophia Magagna, Rose Flavick, Mary Nawracay, Stella Stolp and by a brother, Edward Stolp.

Surviving are her daughter, Clare E. Wilcox of Piscataway; her sons and daughter-in-law, Richard G. and Janet Stolp and Paul R. and Linda Stolp, both of Piscataway and Mark L. and Stacy Stolp of Monroe Twp.; her sisters Sr. Mary Joanita of Reading, Pa., Verna Nawracay and Nellie Magagnan, both of W. Hazleton, Pa. Also surviving are her six grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society or to the Arthritis Foundation.

Lillian A. DeLasso, 71

Lillian A. DeLasso died on Wednesday, Oct. 24 in Somerset Medical Center, Somerville.

She was born in Plainfield, where she resided for most of her life before moving to Bridgewater 35 years ago.

Mrs. DeLasso was employed as a production worker for Ethicon of Bridgewater for 15 years before her retirement in 1993.

Her and her husband Peter were avid campers.

Surviving are her husband, Peter and her daughter Susan DeLasso of Milltown. Also surviving are her two grandsons, Joseph and Peter.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Raymond J. Schmitt Jr.

Raymond J. Schmitt Jr. of South Plainfield died on Friday, Oct. 26 at the Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

He was born in Elizabeth and has

lived in South Plainfield most of his life.

Ray was a truck driver for Di-Lex Trucking in South Plainfield for the last 10 years. He was an avid outdoors man, enjoying hunting and fishing.

He was predeceased by his mother, Alice Glester Schmitt, who died in 1985.

He is survived by a son, Raymond Schmitt III of Colonia; his father Raymond J. Schmitt of South Plainfield; his sisters Christine Leeds of Baltimore, Md. and Darcy Hunter of Jericho, Vermont.

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

Louis A. Granto, 89

Louis A. Granto of Niagara Falls, NY, passed away at home peacefully on October 17, 2001. Born on October 27, 1911 in Niagara Falls, NY.

Mr. Granto attended local schools. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II from Dec. 7, 1942 until his honorable discharge on Feb. 4, 1946. A Technician Fourth Grade with the 1286th Combat Engineering Battalion, he was stationed in England, France and Germany.

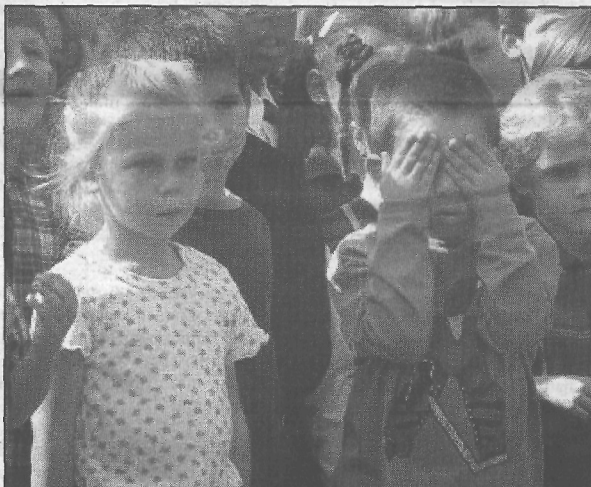
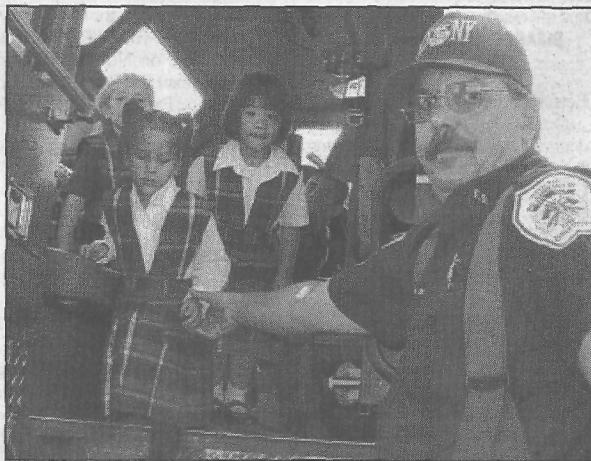
Mr. Granto was employed by the Niagara Falls Board of Education as a senior storekeeper for the 25 years until his retirement in 1976. Prior to that he worked for the former Meranto and Granto Produce, located in the City Market, Niagara Falls. He was a member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church and enjoyed spending time at his grandchildren's sports activities.

Mr. Granto was a sports enthusiast and a fan of the New York Yankees. Well-known locally as a baseball and football player during the 1930s, he played semi-professional football in Niagara Falls and baseball for the amateur Muny League.

In addition to his wife of 53 years, he is survived by one daughter, Lucille Magura of South Plainfield; two sons, Peter Granto, Sr., and Paul Granto, Sr., both of Niagara Falls; seven grandchildren, Stephanie Magura, Evan Magura, Christie Michelle Granto, Peter Granto, Nicole Lynn Granto, Paul Granto, and Marissa Granto; four great-grandchildren, Gabriel Granto, Brionna Granto, Mya Lynn and Robert Paul Schultz; one sister, Rose Catalano of Niagara Falls, NY; one brother, Gordon (Shirley) Tolomeo of Niagara Falls and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by three brothers, Carmen A. (Celia of Niagara Falls, NY) Granto, James Granto and Frank Granto.

In lieu of flowers, memorial offering may be made to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Renovation Fund, 2486 Grand Ave., Niagara Falls, NY 14301, National Parkinson Foundation Inc., 1501 NW 9 Ave., Bob Hope Rd., Miami, FL 33136-1494 or Niagara Frontier Hospice Foundation Inc., 4675 Sunset Dr., Lockport, NY 14094.

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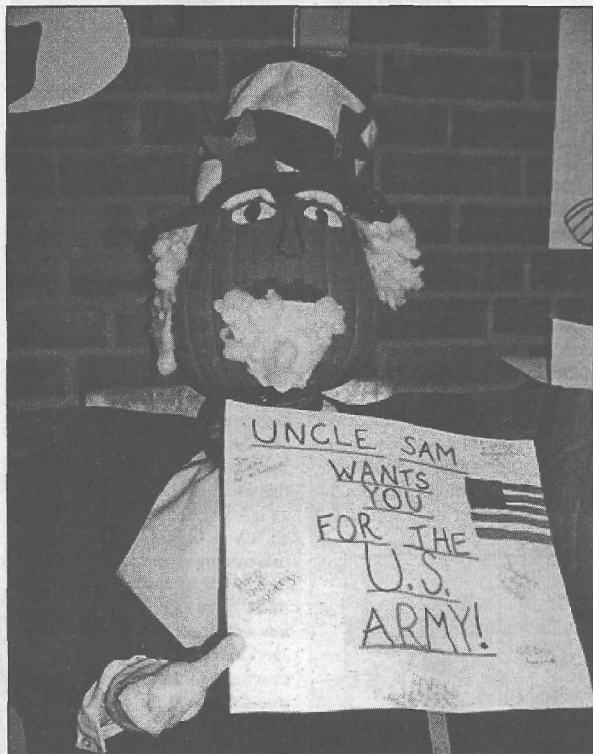
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This patriotic pumpkin, made by Mrs. Donahue from Franklin School is reminding everyone that Franklin's Veteran Day is this Friday.

Check Your Mail/Packages

Continued from page 3

mark that does not match the return address.

What to Do If Suspicious?

If you should receive suspicious letter or package do not shake or empty the contents of the package or envelope. Then do the following:

- PLACE the envelope or package in a plastic bag or some other type of container to prevent leakage of contents.

- If you do not have a container then COVER the envelope or package with anything, such as clothing, paper, trash can, etc. and don't move the cover.

- LEAVE the room and CLOSE the door to prevent others from entering.

- WASH your hands with soap and water.

- If you are at home, report the incident to the police.

- If you are at work, report the incident to local police and notify your building security official or supervisor.

- List all people who were in the room or area. Give this list to both the local public health authorities and law enforcement officials.

If you think you may be in possession of something that fits these guidelines, make sure its checked by local authorities immediately. The police department urges people NOT to bring any suspicious mail into the station. Most likely what you may have is just junk mail.

For more information on Anthrax or the Center For Disease Control you can access their website at www.cdc.com or www.state.nj.us/health.

Remember to stay calm and don't panic.

policereport

- On Oct. 13, a Woolworth Ave. resident reported that someone had damaged their light post outside the residence.

- On Oct. 23, an employee of Cusumano, Inc. in Westfield reported that while he and his co-worker were at McDonald's on Oak Tree Rd., someone stole a hammer drill and drill bit worth \$1,600 from the bed of their work truck.

- A Norwood Ave. resident re-

ported that someone had obtained a cell phone in his name and ran up a phone bill of \$4,467.

- On Friday, Hanssem Corp. on Helen St. reported that someone has been dumping large quantities of garbage into the company dumpster.

- On Saturday, a Piscataway resident reported that while driving westbound on Maple Ave., rocks had been thrown at his car and damaged the windshield and

exterior of the vehicle.

- A Hamilton Blvd. resident reported that his bike had been stolen from the front of his residence. The bike was found a few minutes later at the corner of Pershing Pl. and O'Donohue Ave.

- On Monday, a North Carolina resident reported that while parked at Days Inn his truck had been broken into and two grandfather clocks were missing.

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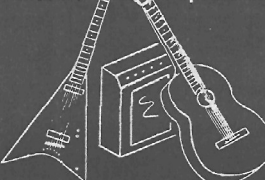
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This photo is from Nov. 1960. Text on back says it is a photo of "Children leaving Crescent Pkwy School at 2:30 p.m. Shows need for more traffic regulation and sidewalks" Do you know what school this was?

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

As we enter November 2001, and wonder where the previous ten months of the year went, here's news from the South Plainfield Library.

The Friends of the Library will hold their next meeting Monday afternoon at 1 p.m. The public, both members and non-members, is welcome to attend.

Please be aware that the Library will be open on Tuesday, Election Day. So, before you do your duty as a citizen and cast your ballot, you're welcome to stop in and get the latest information on the candidates and issues.

We'll follow our usual schedule of

children's Storytime programs next week. Each program is for children ages three and older; you don't have to register them in advance. The programs are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. They last about an hour and feature stories and a craft activity. If you'd like more information, please call us at (908) 754-7885; ask for Miss Linda.

We're between groups on the Video Circuit today. Tapes from the November group should be available on Monday.

We've got a few reminders for you this week. The first one is about damaged A/V items. When you notice that an A/V item isn't working properly, or is missing something, please notify us ASAP. Explain the problem in as much detail as possible; this will allow us to more easily assess the damage. (In the case of a video or audiocassette, a further help would be to stop the tape at the point where the problem occurs.) As far as being charged is concerned, patrons are normally not charged for damaged items if the damage is a result of an accident or normal wear-and-tear. Charges are levied, though, in cases of malicious or repeated damage. We hope this clears up the situation for you.

Next, regarding our periodicals, we're still having a problem with thoughtless, destructive patrons. With no regard for their fellow Library users, these inconsiderate people continue to tear out sections of magazines and newspapers, as well as mix up the periodical archives, causing unneeded hassles. (For example, an article on Senior ID cards was torn out of a recent local paper. I doubt this can be blamed on rambunctious children.) Once again, we ask that you show some consideration. Leave periodicals on a table, so that a staff member can correctly re-file them. And, if there's an article you want to hang onto, spring for a 10-cent photocopy or ask the Reference librarian for help. We appreciate both your help on this matter and your patience as we try to put things in order. Or, if you're one of the aforementioned inconsiderate people, don't push your luck. We'll find you and make our displeasure known, to put it mildly.

Finally, we're still accepting book donations, primarily of new or recent hardcover best sellers, or fiction paperbacks. We also accept video, audiocassette and CD donations. We do not, however, accept textbooks, encyclopedias or magazines. Also, all donations must be in good condition. If you're planning on dropping off a large selection of items, please call ahead so we can clear a spot for you.

That's about all for now. See you next week.

Knights of Columbus Seeks New Members

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus is looking for new members. If anyone is interested in joining, please call 908-755-6203 or email Joe Scrudato at jascrudato@att.com for more details.

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