

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 5, NO. 13

50 CENTS

NOVEMBER 30, 2001

Help to Create a Historical Book of South Plainfield

Submit Your Old Photographs

Opportunity has knocked, and the door is opening. Family gatherings during the holiday season usually include reminiscing of times past. This season when the old photo album comes out, keep this thought in mind. The Borough of South Plainfield is the subject of a pictorial book to be printed by Arcadia Press. You, a relative or friend may have a photograph or two that is just perfect to help tell the story of our town's residents, its character and development.

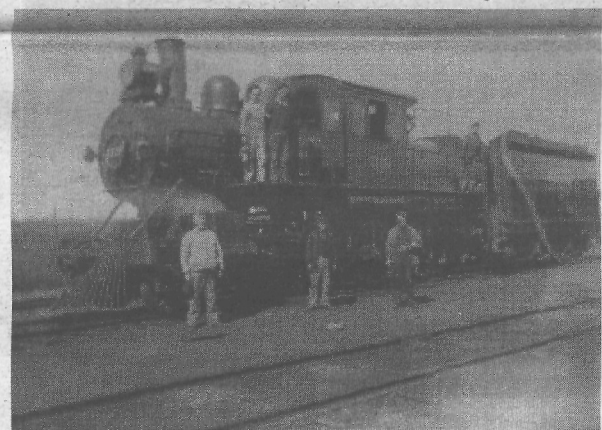
The South Plainfield Historical Society is inviting the public to submit old photographs of South Plainfield and its residents for inclusion in Arcadia Press' book series called Images of America. These popular volumes can be found in local book-

stores. Historical pictorials of many New Jersey towns including Edison, Woodbridge, Dunellen, Metuchen, Perth Amboy, Rahway and North Plainfield are now in print.

The public is invited to bring individual or even their shoeboxes of photos to meet with Dr. Veit on Tuesday, Jan. 8. Photos accepted for publication will be considered on loan, and will be returned. However, the South Plainfield Historical Society will gladly accept donations, or reprints of photos for their files for use in future publications. There are several in the works. Written information (date of photo, place or address of site, names of those in photo) should be included with each submission.

The Jan. 8 meeting starts at 7:30

ating *summa cum laude*. Dr. Veit obtained his doctorate in anthropology from Penn State. He also directs Monmouth University's summer archaeological field school.



Pictured are some of the pictures that are being considered. Top photo, John Maguire, Claire Thornton Graf's grandfather is pictured on the left. Below the Baptist Church and Parsonage on Hamilton Boulevard.



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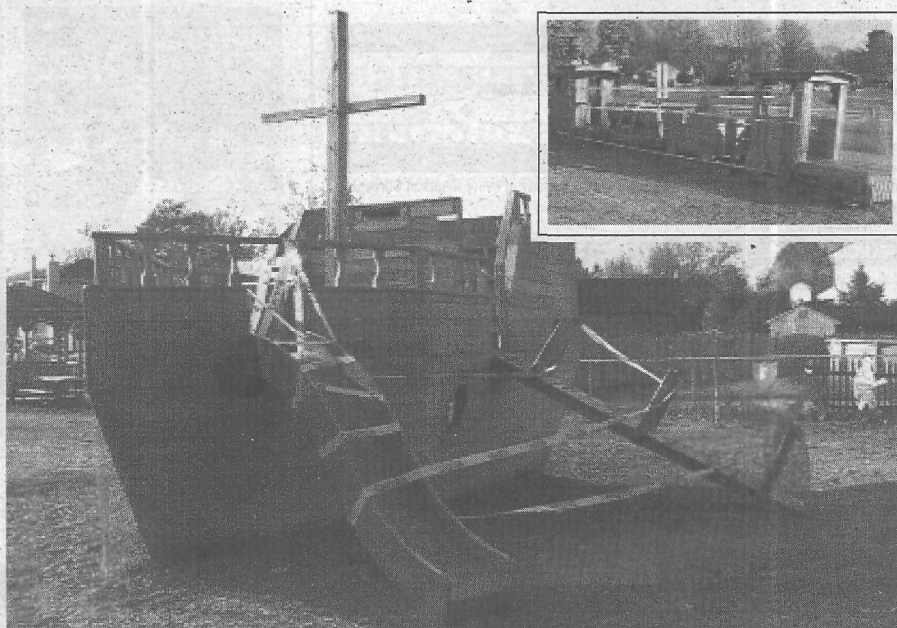
The publication of a book on the Borough would be a first. Images of South Plainfield have been included in other publications, but our town has never been a subject of a book.

The book editor is Richard P. Veit, Jr., an assistant professor of anthropology at Monmouth University, and Director of the Center for New Jersey History. He grew up in South Plainfield, graduated from SPHS, and attended Drew University, gradu-

p.m. in the South Plainfield High School cafeteria. The school's Jersey-an Club, under the direction of Ms. Fran Flannery and Mr. Barka, are providing delicious refreshments and assistance. Please come and enjoy this evening with friends, family and neighbors, and contribute your lasting memories to the first book on South Plainfield's history.

For further information, please contact Dorothy Miele at (908) 754-3073. If you are unable to attend the meeting, arrangements can be made to view picture submissions at more convenient times and places.

-Submitted By Dorothy Miele



Kennedy School playground equipment is off limits until it can be brought up to code.

Kennedy Playground Demolition Gets Temporary Reprieve

Parents, teachers and students at Kennedy School were devastated a few weeks ago when they discovered that several pieces of their popular playground equipment had been roped off. A notice sent home to parents explained that most of the playground equipment would be torn down because it was deemed unsafe.

According to the letter from Board of Education Business Administrator Ellen Johnson, the roped off pieces were found to no longer be in compliance with current safety codes. Even though they were thought to be safe and usable at the time of purchase, safety standards have changed and unfortunately, the older pieces were not grandfathered.

The following Kennedy playground items were deemed non-compliant by a NJ State-certified Playground Inspector and with the Board's approval were scheduled for removal: ship, castle, orange climber, flagship, A-Frame climber, metal slide and wood train.

An inspection at Riley School also showed non-compliance in the

wooden composite structure and the metal fire engine. Roosevelt School was inspected last year and their playground equipment was removed over the summer and no new equipment has been installed.

Some of the equipment was donated to Kennedy School, making the decision to take it down more difficult to accept.

However, both Kennedy and Riley schools have been given more time

to see if the playground equipment can be brought up to code. Kennedy PTO President Sue Barry met with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Krewer and School Board Administrator Ellen Johnson last week. Corby Associates will inspect the equipment on Friday and advise if it can be brought up to code and if so, what is needed. In the mean time, the playground equipment is not being used by the school children.

Donations Needed for "Christmas Project"

This holiday season brings a somewhat different attitude toward our fellow citizens. We have all been touched by the terrible tragedy of Sept. 11, some more than others.

In South Plainfield, many families have been affected in different ways, such as layoffs and cutbacks in their employment. We have all been asked to give in so many ways over the last few months and maybe we can't do anymore.

Every year the Social Services Dept. in the Borough of South Plainfield

organizes a holiday project that includes food and gifts for the working families of our community who are having a difficult year. This year the need is greater than ever. If you can give either by adopting a family or a single child, or by checking in with the Social Services Dept. to see what items are most needed, it would be greatly appreciated. If you think you can help us this year, please call Margaret Ackerman, director of Social Services, (908) 226-7625 or stop by the Municipal Building.

Borough Seeks Board, Agency, Committee And Commission Members for 2002

The Mayor and Council are accepting Letters of Interest and resumes from anyone interested in serving on a Borough board, agency, committee or commission for the calendar year 2002.

The following boards, agencies, committees and commissions are looking for members.

- **Business Advisory Group** (business owners only) meets first Wednesday of month, 5 p.m.

- **Cultural Arts Commission** meets second Wednesday of month, 8 p.m.

- **Environmental Commission** meets second Wednesday of month, 8 p.m.

- **Health Advisory Board** meets second Tuesday of month, 7:30 p.m.

- **Planning Board** meets second and fourth Tuesday of month, 8 p.m.

- **Public Celebration Committee** meets first Wednesday of month,

8 p.m.

- **Recreation Commission** meets at the PAL Bldg. on first Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.

- **Taxpayers Advisory Group** meets fourth Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.

Please forward your resume along with the board(s) you wish to serve to Mayor Daniel J. Gallagher or Council President James Vokral at 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield 07080.

Mark your calendars

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest
meeting agenda

council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Thursday.

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

AGENDA MEETING PUBLIC MEETING

Monday, December 3 Thursday, December 6, 2001

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

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

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

Dec. 11, Dec. 25 (no meeting).

zoning board of adjustment

Meets first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month

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

Dec. 4, Dec. 18.

taxpayers advisory group

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

site place sub-committee

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

Dec. 27

recreation commission

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August

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

Dec. 4

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

Dec. 12, Jan. 9, 2002

board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. (in High School Cafeteria)

Regular Board Mtg. Dec. 18 at 8 p.m.

business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

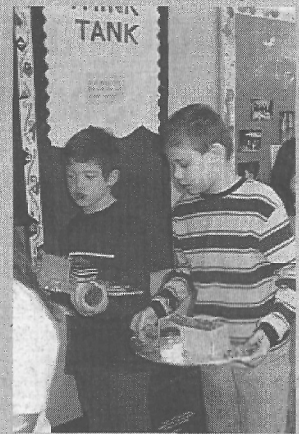
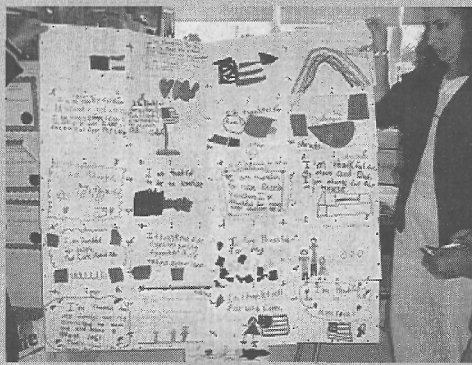
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

Traffic safety advisory commission

Meetings, held at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

Nov. 28, Dec. 26.

THANKSGIVING CELEBRATED IN OUR SCHOOLS



IN MY OPINION

Dear Editor,

I would like to acknowledge and thank the following South Plainfield Parent/Teacher groups for donating a cumulative amount of \$1,437 in a joint effort to The Disaster Fund of Children of NJ: Franklin School PTA, Future Stars Parent Group, John E. Riley PTSO, Franklin School PTA and the High School PTA. These monies will go the NJ children that have been affected by the Sept. 11 tragedy.

Significant interest is behind this donation due to the fact that all the contributing groups are concerned with children.

JANET MILLER

Dear Editor,

The South Plainfield Jr. Midgents football team had a great season. There were a total of eight games in all, nine including the playoffs. They

SEND YOUR LETTERS/OPINIONS TO:

The South Plainfield Observer,
1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
fax: 908-668-8819
email: ggnan@aol.com

won seven games and lost two. One was in the playoffs. In the playoffs they were defeated by Bridgewater-Raritan. The boys played rough. The team stayed together.

The Eagles were coached well. There were many good games. I think the toughest game was Hunterdon Hills. Their team beat the Eagles by one point.

At the end of this exciting football season, there was a pizza party. Each player received a trophy.

After the boys won their last game, they were so pumped up about going to the playoffs! I think these boys played hard in good times.

LINDSAY BARTON
POP WARNER CHEERLEADER

Just A Reminder

Borough Council Meeting Executive Session

The Mayor and Council will hold a closed executive session meeting at 7 p.m. on Dec. 3. The regular agenda meeting will follow at 8 p.m. as originally scheduled.

South Plainfield Observer

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

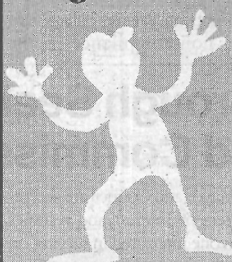
To get an article published in *South Plainfield Observer*:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: Editorial Department
South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us on our web page at sposerver.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 sposerver.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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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. Rawlins.

Giving Trees are Up in Unity Bank Branches

Benefits NJ's Foster and Adopted Children

Unity Bank has a "Giving Tree" in each of its twelve branch offices. The trees are part of a holiday program that benefits foster and adoptive children statewide.

Dozens of paper ornaments, each listing the approximate age of a child, decorate the *Giving Trees*. Staff, customers and visitors are asked to take an ornament off the tree and return it attached to an appropriate, unwrapped gift. Unity Bank will collect gifts for three weeks, until Friday, Dec. 7. On Dec. 8, the Bank will deliver the gifts to Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS), a nonprofit organization. Bank personnel will also help FAFS wrap the gifts.

Kelly Stashko, Unity Bank's Senior Vice President Marketing, commented, "Unity Bank prides itself on its community involvement and

neighborliness. We are delighted to be involved with FAFS this year. Several of our staff have already donated time and effort and we know that the drive will be successful."

Gifts collected by Unity Bank will go to children living in Hunterdon and Middlesex Counties. Charlene Edwards, Support Specialist for FAFS, explained that her organization attempts to reach all 6,500 children in the state's foster and adoptive care system with one or more gifts.

Unity Bank is also participating in other charitable efforts in December. When the FAFS drive concludes, the Bank will collect toys on behalf of the Marines' Toys for Tots program. The Bank is also actively fundraising for the World Trade Center victims.

Unity Bank's South Plainfield branch is located on Plainfield Ave.



Unity Bank's Assistant Manager Tino Fontes and Kimberly Dornick.

Home Depot Readopts Hamilton Blvd.

The Home Depot has renewed its Adopt-A-Spot agreement with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association for the coming year. Lisa Granskie, Office Manager for the Home Depot Northeast Support Center, signed up for their seventh year in the program. With help from the Home Depot store employees, the corporate office sends out litter crews every other week to clean their Hamilton Boulevard frontage. They maintain both sides of the road, from AJV Auto to South Clinton Avenue. The crews pick up the plastic bags, advertising fliers and packaging that accumulate against the I-287 fence.

The Home Depot won the CBA's

Glitter Award in 1992, for doing litter clean-ups even before the CBA started its Adopt-A-Spot program. Renewing their adoption is one of many examples of the Home Depot's commitment to their host community and their concern for the environment. Home Depot is a national sponsor of America Recycles Day, and had a booth at the South Plainfield store on November 17. It featured school poster contests, recycling give-aways, information and a list of Home Depot products that are made from recycled materials.

For information about the Adopt-A-Spot program, call Clean Communities Coordinator at (908) 226-7621.



Herald Biblical Theatre Group
under the direction of JoAnn Havrilko
presents

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



Sunday, December 8 at 8 p.m.

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, So. Plainfield
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



Community Thanksgiving Services Honor Uniformed Service Volunteers

Last Tuesday evening churches throughout South Plainfield gathered at Wesley Methodist Church to join in a Community Thanksgiving Service and to honor our uniformed service volunteers from the police, fire and rescue squad.

Volunteers from each volunteer group was on hand to join the community in a Thanksgiving prayer. During the service several members of the volunteer fire department had to leave and answer a fire call, but all returned to the church services. This is another example of how much these volunteers are called upon.

The church was filled with parishioners from our area churches, giving thanks in prayer and songs. Musical directors Tom Baker, Cathy Davidson, Jim Horvath and Tony Orlowski prepared the music and choirs. They did not disappoint—they were spectacular. Erin Leigh Van Orden played trumpet and Jennifer Catherine Ludlow played horn. One of the highlights of the evening was the Bell Anthem "Peals of Praise" performed by the "Wesley Ringers."

When Rev. Charles Mingle asked the volunteers from the fire, police and rescue squad to stand, the entire church stood and gave them a five-minute standing ovation. The annual Thanksgiving offering was given to these uniformed service agencies.

Clergy who participated were Rev. Henry Leono-Wesley Methodist Church, Rev. Irene Campbell-Rescue

House of Prayer, Rev. Father John Alvarado-Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Pastor Michele Lewkow and Pastor Dennis O'Neill-First Baptist, Rev. Charles Mingle-Uniformed Services Chaplin, Rev. James Stanley-Erickson and Rev. Catherine Stanley-Erickson-Pilgrim Covenant Church, Rev. Richard Kiesling-St. Stephen Lutheran Church.

Hey De Falco, Lost Hat is Your Gain


Hometown Heros will be opening in the near future, and in keeping with our theme, we are going to name three local Heros per month, recognizing them for achievement. We will name a Working Hero, a Volunteer Hero and a Student Hero each month with the winners receiving a free catered luncheon for six. The winners will also have their pictures posted on the wall with a story describing their achievement for all to see. New winners will be selected each month by members of the community dropping their hero's name and number into several "voting boxes" located in the store and

other locations in the community.

However, for our first student winner we decided to turn a loss into a gain. Our first student winner lost his hat in our parking lot and we found it. The hat belongs to a SPSHS student who plays for the football team. The wool hat has the number 59 on it along with his position, RB, and his name, De Falco.

Mr. De Falco, "YOU WON!" All you have to do is contact Nancy at the *South Plainfield Observer* at 908-668-0010. She has your hat and will put you in contact with us at Hometown Heros. Congratulations!

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Around Town

VFW Country Breakfast Sunday

December 2

A Country Breakfast will be held on Sunday, Dec. 2 at the VFW Post #6763, located at 155 Front St. from 8 to 11 a.m. A varied menu is available.

The breakfast is sponsored by Pup Tent #41 Military Order of the Coote. Proceeds go toward parties at Lyons VAMC.

For more information, phone (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and after 12 noon on weekends.

Rev. Stephenson & St. Peter by the Sea At Sacred Heart

December 2

The Sacred Heart Rosary Altar Society has announced that Father Alphonse Stephenson and his 45-member symphony orchestra, *St. Peter by the Sea*, will be returning to Sacred Heart Church and performing a Christmas concert on Sunday, Dec. 2. Rev. Stephenson and his orchestra performed last Sept. to a sell-out crowd.

St. Peter by the Sea consists of 45 members who have 750 years of study and performed over 57,000 concerts and recitals.

The Dec. 2 performance takes place at 3 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church. The concert promises to be another big hit; get your tickets now.

General admission is \$25; students and seniors are \$20. Ticket information can be obtained by calling either (908) 756-0632, ext. 10, (908) 755-6416, or (732) 549-9633.

South Plainfield/Edison Rotary Clubs Wine Tasting

December 3

The South Plainfield/Edison Rotary Clubs will hold their Annual Wine Tasting night on Monday, Dec. 3. The event, which runs from 6 to 9 p.m. and is hosted by The Clarion Hotel and Towers, located on Highway 27 & Talmadge Road in Edison, also includes micro brewed beers.

Contribution is \$20; 24-hour advance ticket purchase is required; no tickets will be available at the door. Purchase tickets at Oak Tree Dis-

count Wines and Spirits at 902 Oak Tree Rd.

Suburban Woman's Club Meeting

December 6

The monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club will be held Thursday, Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Road. The program speaker will be Kathy Ponti of Pontia's Petal. Her topic will be "Christmas at Home." A Christmas party will follow with refreshments and members exchanging gifts.

New members are always welcomed. Please call 561-1908 for further membership information.

Holiday Craft Show at John E. Riley School

December 7

The John E. Riley School Stokes Committee will be hosting a Holiday Craft Show on Friday, Dec. 7. Show hours will be from 5 to 9 p.m. The show will feature new and handcrafted merchandise. Refreshments will be available. Come do your shopping at Riley School!

For vendor information, please call (908) 755-4349 or (908) 668-8252.

Knights of Columbus Breakfast With Santa

December 8

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus are having a Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 9 am to 12 noon. The prices are \$5 for an adult, \$3 for a child and \$15 for the whole family.

Please call Steve at 908-541-6204 for more details and reservations. Advance reservations are required.

PAL Planning Trip to Atlantic City

December 9

The Recreation Department will be taking a trip to Atlantic City on Sunday, Dec. 9, 2001; leaving at 11 a.m. Come enjoy the casinos and have fun at the Resorts with a free \$13 worth of coins. Register at the PAL. Only 45 tickets will be sold. The fee is \$10 per person.

Recreation Sponsoring Trip to Broadway

December 16

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip is 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.

Santa to Visit the PAL

December 22

Santa will be coming to the PAL on Saturday, Dec. 22 and he would like to meet with as many South Plainfield children as possible.

Pre-registration (at the PAL) is required. The fee is \$5 per child.

Rec Going to See 'Naked Boys Singing'

February 3

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is planning a trip to Broadway to see "Naked Boys Singing."

The trip takes place on Sunday, Feb. 3 and costs \$45 per person. Bus leaves the PAL at 11 a.m. Register at the PAL, Monday through Friday.

— Out of Town —

Entertainers Theatre to Present More Than Meets the Eye

November 30 through December 9

Entertainers Theatre will present *More Than Meets the Eye*, a hilarious comedy by Fred Carmichael, weekends beginning Friday, Nov. 30, and continuing through Sunday, Dec. 9. The curtain rises at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and Dec. 2 and 9 Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m.

Local talent starring in the play include Christopher Massimine of Somerset; Linda Morton of Plainfield; Christy Trainer of Milford; and Blaire Wagner of Hillsborough. Other members of the cast include Robin Attaway of Bridgewater; Lori

Dahlberg of Basking Ridge; Philip Hochman of Plainfield; Sarah Levy of Warren Township; and Marion Saunders of Belle Mead.

The Entertainers Theatre performs at the Edward A. Chandler Theater, located in the People Care Center, at the intersection of Findernie Ave. and Route 28, Bridgewater.

Tickets are \$10 for all performances; seniors at matinees are \$5.

For information, directions, or reservations, call (732) 846-5032.

Middlesex WOWs Holding Welcome Dance

November 30

Middlesex East WOWs Carteret Chapter, will hold an All Welcome Dance on Friday, Nov. 30, at St. Demetrius Community Center, located at 681-691 Roosevelt Ave. in Carteret. Admission is \$7. Live music and refreshments from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.

For more information, call 732-1123 or 908-757-0515.

Children's show at Dunellen Theatre

December 1

The newly-restored Dunellen Theater will hold a live Children's Theatre!! - A Fun-Filled Holiday Magic Show! - on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 1 p.m. Cost is \$8 per person.

Holiday Magic, presented by TheatreworksUSA, is a holiday-themed magic show that will thrill and amaze all ages. Eyes will fill with wonder as the show is presented by master magician Tim Balster, along with everyone's favorite...Rudolph. Upbeat holiday music, toy soldiers, holly wreaths and magically-appearing snow white doves all add to the season's wonder and fantasy.

For reservations or information call 1-732-968-9010 or www.jerseycentraltheatre.com. The Dunellen Theater is located at 458 North Ave. (Rt. 28), Dunellen, NJ 08812.

Residents' Artwork At United Family

December 7

Art work, including water colors and paintings completed by residents of the Park Hotel will be on display at United Family and Children's Society in Plainfield on Friday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. This third annual art exhibit will feature various original works painted by the residents under the instruction of local artist Fermin Martinez.

According to Tom Reedy, agency executive director, the first two years of the art show were very successful and the artists have been preparing for the event for the past twelve months. All are welcome to visit the display and light refreshments will be served. United Family is located at 305 West Seventh St. in Plainfield. The agency also provides professional counseling, outpatient mental health services for children, adolescents and families, programs for pregnant teens and infant foster care.

United Family is a member of the United Way and is a NJ licensed adoption agency. Call (908) 755-3636 for directions or more information.

Alliance Church to Perform Bethlehem's Treasure-A Live Nativity

Dec. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15 & 16

Bethlehem's Treasure-A Live Nativity will be performed at Alliance Bible Church in Warren on Dec. 7 and 14 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 8, 9, 15 and 16 at both 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Admission is free.

This is the third year that Alliance Bible Church has produced the live nativity. Last years' production was played (in the rain) to over 900 community residents. Because *Bethlehem's Treasure* is fast becoming a Christmas tradition with many area families, the two Friday night performances were added.

From parking lot attendants dressed in full shepherd costume to home baked cookies at the cafe, months of preparation have gone into the production.

Six new musical arrangements will be used to enhance this year's production of *Bethlehem's Treasure-A Live Nativity*. A thirty voice Angel Choir, directed by Viva Wallace will be featured singing "Gloria-Angels We Have Heard On High" by Michael W. Smith.

The church is located at 52 Mount Horeb Rd. in Warren, just minutes off Interstate 78. Take exit 33 off I-78 and proceed toward Martinsville. Travel three miles and turn left onto Mount Horeb Rd. The church is one mile on the right.

For additional information or directions, contact the church office at (732) 469-1425.

Old-Fashioned Christmas Planned

Dec. 8

"An Old-Fashioned Christmas," a free holiday program for the whole family will be held on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Dunellen Theater on North Ave.

The community festivities will feature an hour of holiday music, including a hand bell choir and audience sing-alongs of traditional Christmas Carols and other winter favorites of both adults and children. Special guest appearance by "Harold the Angel," who will share his unique perspective on the Christmas story. Everyone will receive a small free gift and a special memory of Christmas, 2001.

"Many people seem to agree that we've lost the true meaning of Christmas," explained Pastor Jeff Wildrick of the First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen. "This program is our gift to the community. *An Old-Fashioned Christmas* brings to mind images of sleigh bells ringing, homemade cookies, stories of angels and shepherds told around the Christmas tree, laughter, and singing.

First Presbyterian Church is developing a tradition of providing free acts of service to the community. Among these have been free car washes, a free lunch, and "Praise in the Park." According to Pastor Wildrick, these activities are the church's way of showing God's love in practical ways, with no strings attached.

For information, contact First Presbyterian Church at (732) 968-3844.

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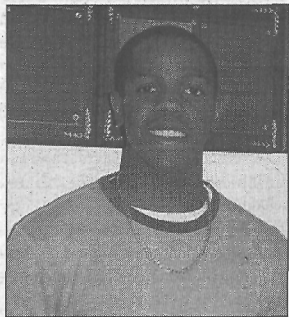
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Milestones

Rodney Gateau Named 'Commended Student'



Rodney Gateau

South Plainfield High School Senior Rodney Gateau has been named a Commended Student in the 2002 National Merit Scholarship Program.

He will receive a letter of Commendation from the school and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. There are only about 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation. They are among the top five percent of more than one million students who take the PSAT.

Rodney is an Honor Roll student and Gold Card recipient. He is listed in the Who's Who Among American High School Students. His diversified extracurricular activities range from academic to athletic. He has been a member of the Business Club since 1998 and the French Club since 2000. He currently serves as secretary for both clubs. He also belongs to S.A.D.D., E.C.C.L.A., and is a mem-

ber of the yearbook staff. In the past he has participated in VOICES, ran track and played football.

"The young men and woman named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding academic potential by their performance in our very competitive Merit Program," commented a spokesperson for National Merit Scholarship Corp. "In a nation that values excellence, it is important to publicly honor scholastically talented youth and acknowledge the role schools play in nurturing their development. We hope this recognition will augment the educational opportunities of Commended Students and encourage all students to strive to realize their potential."



Pictured left are Janice and Emil Leporino on their wedding day, Oct. 21, 1961 and today (right).

Janice and Emil Leporino Celebrate 40-year Anniversary

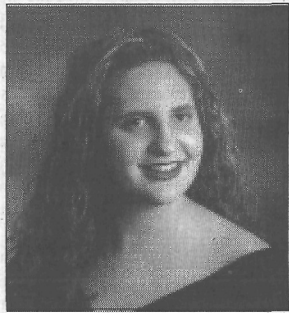
Janice (Wirtz) and Emil Leporino, Jr. recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. They were married on Oct. 21, 1961 at St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church in Kenilworth.

The Leporinos have resided in South Plainfield for 32 years. They have four children, Debra Ann, Patricia, Tina and Paul and six grandchildren, Andrew, Danielle, Branden, Christopher, Kimberly and Matthew.

Janice is presently working in the radiology department

at Muhlenberg Hospital, where she has worked for the past 25 years. Emil is self-employed. He has been an active member of our community, volunteering on many committees and boards. He was a Board of Education member for two terms (one as vice president) and was National Director of the JC's. He is active in Vision 2001 Educational Foundation, the Environmental Commission, the Business Advisory Committee, the So. Plainfield Business Assoc. and has been active in the Downtown Restoration.

Sarah Miele Receives 'Prudential Community Award'



SPHS Senior Sarah Miele

Community service isn't something SPHS Senior Sarah Miele consciously thinks about. It's something she just 'does.' Sarah explained, "The work I do is fun and personally rewarding. I love birding, botany, bugs and teaching kids. It just so happens that what I do is seen as community service."

Sarah's many years of volunteering at the Highland Avenue Woods Environmental Education Reserve has resulted in her being named a local recipient of the 2002 Prudential Spirit of Community Award. Sarah noted, "I am very honored to represent South Plainfield High School at the state-level competition. My volunteer work at Highland Avenue Woods Environmental Education Reserve reaches many members of the community. Our Walks 'n' Talks hands-on environmental education programs fill a void in the school curriculum." The next step for Sarah is the State Competition. State winners go on to national level.

Sarah's involvement in environmental activities began at age nine. She joined a group of volunteers who took

on a tremendous challenge, to turn a 35-acre patch of woods into a nature preserve. The outcome of the combined efforts is South Plainfield's Highland Ave. Woods Environmental Education Reserve. With increased awareness of the environment, Sarah did a lot of independent study. Sarah credits Dr. Emile DeVito, a conservation biologist with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, with further inspiration when he invited her to speak at the reserve's public education programs. "I became a member of the regular teaching team at age 12. Over the last five years I have taught preschoolers, garden club members, scouts, district school students, people young and old. The best part is meeting some terrific young people — like the fifteen Roosevelt School fifth graders who recently visited the Reserve.

It is a lot of fun enlightening curious minds."

Sarah wears multiple hats in her work with the reserve. She is an educator, program coordinator, researcher, trail maintenance worker, and Webmaster of the reserve's webpage. She is also a liaison between the high school Environmental Club, of which she is President, and the SP Environmental Commission, of which she is an associate member. She describes her parents as supportive and proud of her. Her mother is a member of the Reserve's teaching team and her father has contributed to trail maintenance. It is obvious this family believes in giving back to the community.

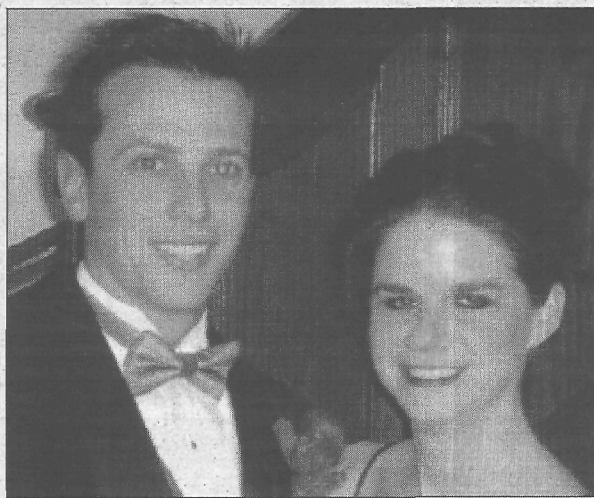
The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, created in 1995, recognizes middle/high school students who demonstrate exemplary community service.

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Michael A. Kober and Maureen Santoro

Santoro, Kober Announce Engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Louis R. Santoro, Jr. of South Plainfield, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Maureen, to Michael A. Kober, son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Walker of Oradell, NJ.

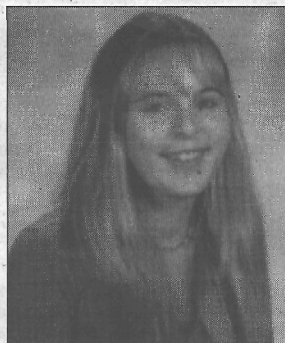
The bride-to-be is a graduate of South Plainfield High School, Trenton State College and Stevens Institute of Technology, where she earned a Masters Degree in Chemical Engineering. She is employed by Aroma-

Tech in Branchburg as an account executive.

Her fiancé is a graduate of River Dell High School, the University of Rhode Island and is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Exercise Science from Montclair University. He is a personal trainer/nutritionist with The Training Zone in Englewood Cliffs.

A September 13, 2002 wedding is planned.

Tiffany Boyle Participates in National Young Leaders Conference



Tiffany Boyle

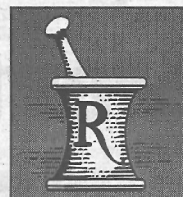
South Plainfield High School junior Tiffany Boyle recently participated in the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C. During the week long activity, Tiffany was elected Minority Whip by the students and led many of the political organizing activities for her group, which was the Democrats.

Tiffany was nominated for the National Young Leaders Conference by her honors chemistry teacher Mrs. Lehman. She would like to thank her history teacher Mr. Novak for briefing her before the trip.

Tiffany is a member of the Marching Band Color Guard, orchestra, Winter Indoor Guard, Jersey Club, French Club, SADD and Student Council.

Said Tiffany, "It was an exhilarating experience interacting with exceptional students from around the nation. Interacting with over 250 fellow high school students from around the nation broaden my understanding of democracy and the meaning of 'United We Stand'."

Tiffany's mother is a second grade teacher at Kennedy School in South Plainfield and her father is the superintendent of schools for the Somerset County Educational Services Commission in Bridgewater.



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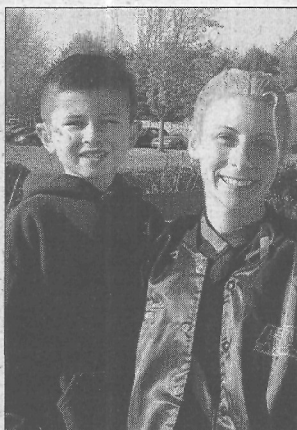
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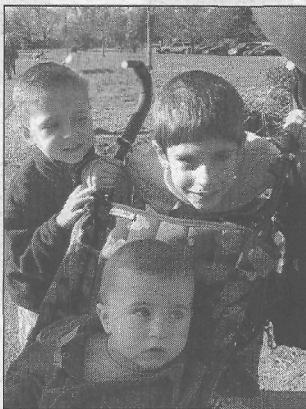
Pictured left is Academy student Cody Cifrodelli, age 6 and ATA Black Belt Academy Owner, Tiffany Lewis. Pictured right are Gale Scialabba, Tammy Cassano, Geraldine D'Adezzio and Amanda Harzula.

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

"Walk for a Miracle" a Walk-a-thon sponsored by ATA Black Belt Academy, located on Maple Ave. had students kicking in to do their part for the National Kidney Foundation.

The fundraiser was organized by Tiffany Lewis, owner of the school. She explained, "We are raising money for the National Kidney Foundation. One of my students, a five-year-old, is in need of a kidney transplant." The foundation will in turn help the child and family. Lewis noted that the child is a normal active five-year-old, who has been taking classes at the school for almost a year. The mission of the National Kidney Foundation is "To prevent kidney and urinary tract diseases, improve the health and well-being of individuals and families affected by these diseases, and increase the availability of all organs for transplantation."

The event took place in Spring Lake Park with 100 walkers participating. The National Anthem started off the day on the right note. Trumpeters were Joshua Jackson, Wajidi Kanj, Danny Sierzeza and Adam Toth, all sophomores at South Plainfield High School and Wael Kanj, a sev-



Front, Spencer Cifrodelli, (l-r) Johnny DiDolce, Shayne Cifrodelli.

enth grade student at the Middle School. Each walker received a purple ribbon showing support for the National Kidney Foundation.

The walk began at the gazebo, amidst a blaze of purple balloons. Academy students, wearing jackets bearing the school's name, parents, youngsters in strollers and even a furry four-legged friend or two, all joined together to benefit the National Kidney Foundation. The route took them around Spring Lake, each lap mark-

ing one mile. Coca Cola and Frito-Lay companies generously contributed to the cause, donating drinks and snacks.

Lewis called out to students, encouraging them each time they passed the mile point. Participants paid a registration fee and sought flat donations from friends and area businesses. The National Kidney Foundation provided frisbees, t-shirts and other goodies for participants. At the end of the day, the purple balloons were released, each bearing a note of hope from the academy's students.

The child, who is on a donor waiting list is tentatively scheduled for a full kidney transplant. The family, who wishes to remain anonymous, expressed their gratitude to Lewis and the academy for their support. Total raised was \$1,000. Another walk-a-thon is planned for next year.

Donations to the National Kidney Foundation are being accepted at the ATA Black Belt Academy, Maple Ave. Contact Tiffany Lewis at 755-5440 for more information.

From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Ken Morgan

Here's a last bit of November news from the South Plainfield Library:

For those of you who aren't aware of it, our long-time account clerk, Gladys Hector, is leaving the Library. Sadly, her last day on the job is today. Please be sure to stop by and wish her well.

Due to Gladys' departure, the Library will not be offering notary service for the foreseeable future. We'll let you know if the situation changes.

We're between groups on the Video Circuit today. The December group should be available by Monday.

Next week, we'll have our normal schedule of children's Storytime programs. For those of you asking, "And what schedule would that be?", here it is again: Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. The programs feature stories and a craft activity, last about an hour, and are for children ages three and older. You don't need to sign up in advance. Also, we've got a special program coming up. On Wednesday, Dec. 19, we'll be hosting a Holiday sing-along featuring Mr. Kurt. It starts at 6:30 p.m.; there's no attendance limit, but we'd like you to sign up in advance so we know how many people to expect. If you'd like more information, call (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

Monday, Dec. 3 there will be two meetings at the library. At 2 p.m. the Friends of the Library will meet and at 7:30 p.m. local Homeschooling parents will meet. Call the library for further details.

We're still collecting here at the Library for two charity drives. There's Books to Keep, which provides books

for needy children. You can donate new children's books or make a monetary contribution. The collection box and further details are found next to the door to the Children's Room. We're also collecting hats, gloves, scarves and mittens for those in need this winter. The Friends of the Library are running this drive; FISH, Inc. will handle the distribution. The collection basket is on the Circulation Desk. Both drives will be active until mid-December.

Once again, the Library is the place to go for Holiday gifts at bargain prices. We're offering Library tote bags for \$10 each and Library sweatshirts for \$15 each. The sweatshirts are available in all sizes; when you place your order, please leave a deposit of at least \$7.50. Be advised that there are no refunds or exchanges for the sweatshirts, so make certain you're ordering the correct size. Mention that you saw this column and we'll compliment you on your good taste in periodicals.

Here's a reminder about our drop boxes. Please don't try to return items in them when the Library is open. The simple reason for this is because you won't be able to; the boxes are locked when the Library is open. Item put in the drops (after we're closed, of course) are removed at the start of the next working day; they are counted as having been returned on the previous day. If there is a fine involved, a record is kept of the amount and the patron is notified the next time they come in. (On the other hand, if the fine or charge is unusually high, a bill will be mailed out to the patron.) Any questions? As always, don't hesitate to ask.

That's about all for this week. See you next time.

News from Grant Sixth Graders...

Student Activities at Grant Sixth

By Rachel Senz and Kallie McClean

We've had a very busy couple of months at the Grant Central Sixth Elementary School. The members of the Grant Central Sixth student council are: Peter Adorna, Ashley Alvarado, Elizabeth Diamant, Bobby Harrington, Taylor Harris, Samantha Hogan, James Howard, Allison Huffsmith, Jordan Leporino, Johnathan Marcoux, Brad Martin, Kelly Mclean, Diana Naser, Chris Pennisi, Malini Permaul, Rocco Petriello, Danny Pompilio, Kayla Quadrel, David Quiroga, Omar

Rodriguez, Rachel Senz, Ginarose Siringo, Mike Sopko, Melissa Thibault, Brandon Ullom, and Shirley Vasquez. These students have been working very hard and have accomplished many things.

First, we want to say thank you to our PTO. We had an assembly called *Lights, Camera, Action* recently. All the students were filmed, whether we were in front of the camera or in the audience. We learned how to do special effects and how television works. All in all, the assembly was a hit with the students.

After the Sept. 11 tragedy, Grant students pitched in to help in whatever way they could. For 'Back to School' night, the student council made patriotic posters and displayed them around school. Kids at Grant are so proud to be Americans. We made an American flag on the bulletin board outside the office stating just that. We also collected money for the Red Cross. The Student Council planned on a one-day collection of spare change. There was such overwhelming participation that it was extended for three days. We collected a total of \$300 from the sixth graders alone.

On Oct. 12, students across the United States of America all stood up at 2 p.m. to say the Pledge of Allegiance. Grant School joined the rest of the country. We continue to pray for the victims of the Sept. 11 tragedy and their families.

The week of Oct. 22-26 was Red Ribbon Week, which says that we don't need drugs to be cool. We all decorated a bulletin board with 'Reasons Why We Shouldn't Get High.'

We also showed our unity in the fight against drugs by having dress up days all week. On Monday, students and staff were given red ribbons to wear all week, as well as pencils that stated 'Too Cool To Do Drugs.' Tuesday was 'Team Up Against Drugs Day.' Everyone wore his or her favorite sport's team's jersey or t-shirt. Wednesday was 'Wear Red Day.' Every one wore as much red as possible. Thursday was 'Drugs and Me Don't Mix Day.' Everyone mismatched clothes.

Finally, Friday was 'Hats Off to Me, I'm Drug Free Day.' Everyone was allowed to wear a hat to school. Each day teachers tallied how many students participated in their homerooms. Whichever homeroom had the most students for the week received a prize. The homeroom with the most participation was Mrs. Florio's. We would like to thank our wonderful PTO for providing the red ribbons and pencils as well as the Halloween decorations.

On Oct. 26 we had our first dance of the year. Our Halloween dance was from 7 to 9 p.m. and everyone who attended had a great time. The student council arrived early to decorate and create our 'Haunted Gym.'

So far, we have done so much in so very little time. Who knows what will happen next? We'll all just have to wait and find out.

Editor's Note: We would like to invite any student from South Plainfield to write us about their school activities. We will be glad to publish it. Just send it to us at 1110 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080, fax it to 668-8819 or email us at GGNAN@aol.com

Want to Sponsor a Welcome Sign?

The South Plainfield Business Association is looking for local businesses to sponsor "Welcome" signs. Like many communities in the area, South Plainfield has signs on roads entering the borough welcoming motorists. Currently there are only five signs. We are looking to install additional signs, and have selected 12 locations.

The signs will be the same design as the existing signs, but will be offered in three different sizes to accom-

modate the various locations. The small, medium & large signs will cost \$700, \$1,100 & \$1,225 each respectively. The price includes the sponsor name on the plaque in text only. Your company logo is \$50 extra.

A photograph of one of the existing signs can be seen on the borough's web site, www.southplainfieldnj.com

For additional information, please contact Emil Leporino at (908) 756-8038 or ERLLTD@bellatlantic.net.

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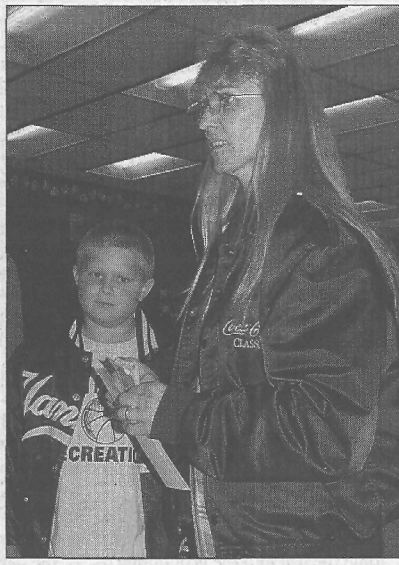
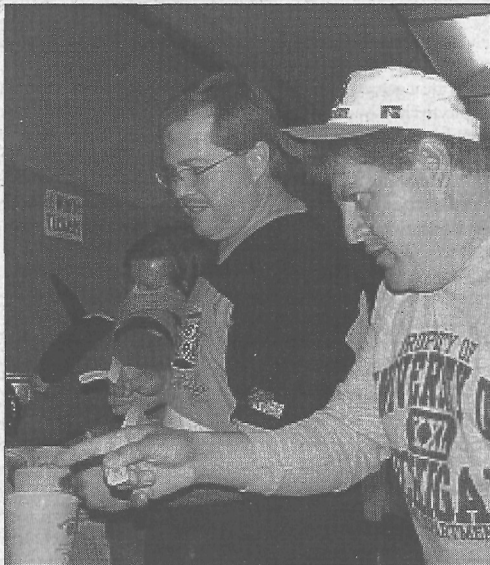
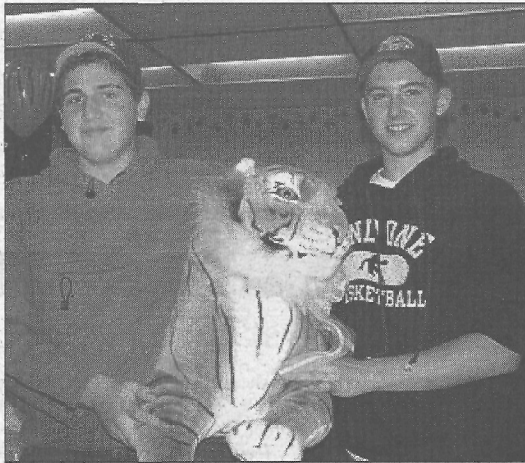
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A Christmas Celebration at Our Lady of Czestochova

The Herald Christian Theatre Co., under the direction of JoAnn Havrilko, will be presenting a celebration of Christmas at Our Lady of Czestochova Church on Saturday, Dec. 8 at 8 p.m.

The Musical reaches back in time to the Old Testament, when the Prophets of old declared the coming of the Messiah. It looks at the reality of God's promise and the revelation of the incarnation through a virgin named Mary.

The cast reminds us that God's

grace was not only for a people and time long ago, but also for mankind everywhere through all the ages past and to come. The celebration continues as we are reminded of the greatest promise of all, "For God so loves the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes on him, shall have eternal life."

Come join Herald as they joyfully tell the Christmas story. Everyone is invited to enjoy and live this eternal hope at Our Lady of Czestochova Church on Saturday, Dec. 8, at 8 p.m.

High School Auction Brings Out 240 Enthusiastic Sports Fans

By Patricia Abbott

The competition was fierce and it was every man for himself. Pom-poms and victory cheers mingled with sighs as 240 South Plainfield High School sports fans recently traded sports action for a different kind of excitement. The Fourth Annual SPHS Athletic Boosters Club Sports Auction was the name of the game.

The line of ticketholders snaked in

one door and out the other. Their destination was a room crammed full of prizes. Each SPHS sports team donated a theme basket. There were also numerous donations from South Plainfield businesses, organizations and parents. The wide range of prizes ran from a patriotic neck tie to a DVD player, television and bicycles. Once tickets were deposited with the prize of choice the fun began. Participants settled in for the drawings at gaily

decorated tables. The more experienced auction attendees were armed with coolers of cold drinks, gourmet goodies and deli platters. Coffee, tea, soda and a huge assortment of baked goods were offered for sale as well.

The Sports Auction Committee kept the evening moving at a fast pace. Smaller items were drawn first leading up to the most coveted prizes. Some of the big winners were: Mike Zushma - Loaded golf bag from the SPHS Golf Team, Vinny Genova - two Giants Tickets from The Bugey Family, Lee Dombrowski - television, Debbie Strani - DVD player donated by ProCare Physical Therapy, Joann Kratz won both the men's and ladies' bicycles. The 50- 50 was won by Susan Barry.

All proceeds benefit the South Plainfield High School Athletes. Co-chairs for the auction were Margaret Celentano and Cathie Keller, assisted by Mickey Wrublewski. Mickey also called the ticket numbers the entire evening. The 2000 Sports Auction had 120 guests, this year that number doubled. The event may be held in the gym next year to accommodate the growing popularity of the fundraiser. The biggest winners were not the people gathered for an evening of fun but the athletes of South Plainfield High School who will benefit from the funds raised by the winning team—The SPHS Athletic Boosters Club.

High School's Annual Telethon Takes Place Next Week

The High School Cooperative Education Students, the National Honor Society and the Student Council, along with Vision 2001 Education Foundation, Inc. will be sponsoring their Annual Telethon on Dec. 3, 4, and 5.

You can choose to donate to any of the various programs which Vision 2001 Sponsors. They include the Stokes Forest Trip, Sixth Grade Tiger

Gold, Middle School Tiger Gold, Project Graduation, Gold Card, Fine/Industrial Arts, Special Education, Athletics, Scholarships and more.

The telethon will take place Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evening. Volunteers will be calling from the guidance office of the high school. Please help our South Plainfield students by giving when you are contacted.



"Do YOU Remember....?"

By William Tuthill

On Tuesday, Nov. 13 an old group of friends met at the China Buffet on Park Ave.

That may not seem too unusual, but this group of friends dates back to when they were teenagers in the 1940's.

The group consists of former members of the Sodality of St. Bernard's Church of Plainfield. They spent part of their time reminiscing about old times—when they went on trips with a new young priest, Fr. Joseph Driscoll and also about the good times they had rehearsing and presenting their annual minstrel shows.

Many old photos of their trips and shows were passed around and they had a few good laughs about the clothing styles and hairdos of the time, also the dress sizes then and now. Of course there were the usual counting of grand children and great-grand children.

dren.

Of the 19 remaining members only nine were able to attend this year. Many have moved out of state.

Those attending were Bernice (Lewis) Balzer, Anna (Vuolde) Bilgrav, Florence, Commune, Ellen (Cecere) Cuifo, Ann (Mastroianni) Marrone, Marie (Vuolde) Martucci, Marguite (Russo) Riccardi, Elaine (Croat) Tuthill and Mary (Arico) Wojno.

Board of Ed. Meeting Location Changed

The Committee of the Whole Meeting, originally scheduled for Dec. 11, in the Grant School gymnasium, has been changed to the High School Cafeteria at 7:00 p.m.

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Sports

By Kevin Lykes



juniorbaseballclubnotes

OUR COACHES CLINICS HAVE BEGUN—The first were held last week and featured SPHS JV coach Tim Gallagher talking about infield and practice routines. If you haven't attended any coaches clinics recently, you should consider it. The guest speakers offer valuable insight on practice organization and drills. As always attendance at these clinics will be factored in when selecting managers and assistant coaches. This is particularly true with new coaches at the younger levels. Future coaching clinics include former Chicago White Sox pitcher Bill Leahman, discussing pitching and practice, in January and participating in a South Plainfield High School practice with coaches and players, site to be determined. See below for clinic dates.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Monday, Dec 3 at 7:30 p.m. General Meeting.

Tuesday, Dec 11 at 7:30 p.m. Coaches Clinic, speaker and topic TBD.

Monday, Jan 7 at 7:30 p.m. General Meeting.

Tuesday, Jan 8 at 7:30 p.m. Coaches Clinic, featuring former major leaguer Bill Leahman discussing pitching and practice organization.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Jan 10, 11, 12, Winter Registration. Times are Thurs. and Fri., 6 to 9 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (tentative). This is also registration for managers, assistant coaches and NEW umpires.

Monday, Feb 4 at 7:30 p.m. General Meeting.

Tuesday, Feb 12 at 7:30 p.m. Coaches Clinic, topic TBD.

Monday, Feb 25 at 6:45 p.m. Rutgers Certification course, (Certification Required for all Managers and Assistant Coaches).

Week of Feb 26 to March 1, League Manager meetings.

Saturday, March 2, tryouts at PAL, (Small Fry only).

Week of March 4, Draft nights/player notification.

Monday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m. General Meeting

Tuesday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m. Coaches Clinic, at SPHS practice, site to be determined.

Saturday, March 16 at 9:30 a.m., "C" League Orientation, Field 1.

Monday, April 1 at 7:30 General Meeting.

Thurs, Fri, Sat, April 4-6, Booster Weekend (All Small Fry players).

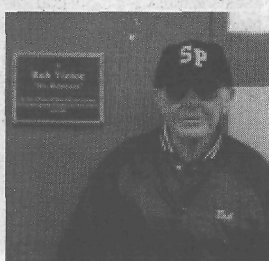
Saturday, April 13, OPENING DAY!

As we are a volunteer organization, we are still looking for some people to help assist committee heads with Scholarship Awards, Booster Weekend, Raffles, Snack Stand, Tournament and The Sign Committee. See any Board member or call the clubhouse and leave a message for more information.

Robert Victor Will be Missed by All

Last, but not least, we were all saddened to hear of the passing of one of our longest and oldest club members; Robert Victor. Most of you at the Pony level will remember him as the older gentleman, in the lawn chair, sitting right outside the first base gate. He often kept pitching records for our umpires during the tournament season. Bob served as Umpire in Chief at the SPJBC for many years, and was deemed by many in the SPJBC to be the most knowledgeable person around when it came to knowing baseball rules. In fact "Mr. Rulebook" was engraved on the plaque when the umpires room, near the clubhouse entrance, was dedicated in his honor in 2001. He was also honored last season as Grand Marshall in our Opening Day Parade.

Speaking for all of our umpires and the SPJBC Board members, I can say that Bob's absence will be enormous.



Robert Victor, "Mr. Rulebook"

SOCCER

Hotspurs U-8 Boys Notch First Win

The South Plainfield Boys U-8 Hotspurs got their first victory of the year Saturday with a solid 3-1 win over the Tewksbury Pumas.

South Plainfield jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the second quarter when Eric LaVerne took the ball right up the middle of the field and blasted it passed the goalie and into the net for his fourth goal of the year.

Throughout the game, goalie Daniel Lyew and fullbacks Albert Vill, Zachary Noll, A.J. Celentano and Paul Seyffart did an excellent job leading the defensive effort as they consistently held the Pumas attacks to a minimum and only yielded a

lone second half score. Lyew appeared to get stronger as the game wore on as he made a number of key stops late in the game. Vill as well seemed to be in the right place on many occasions as he slowed down the attackers and keenly advanced the ball up field. Strikers Quinn Bolivar and Taylor Born also had great games, as they were able to effectively advance the ball forward and help maintain the much-needed offensive pressure to break down the Tewksbury defense.

But for the Hotspurs to gain their first win, they would have to score in the second half as well. In the third quarter, Ryan Marcoux did just that

when he took a great corner kick from LaVerne and put it into the near corner for a 2-0 lead. Following a Tewksbury goal to cut the lead to 2-1, Marcoux brought the ball down the far side of the field to point blank range and drilled it deep in the net for the final score of 3-1.

When the final whistle blew, the parents went nuts as the boys were finally rewarded for their hard work with a win in this inaugural season. They will try to make it two in a row in their final game next Saturday at home against the Middlesex Youth Rockets.

Typhoons Survive Scorpions Sting

The South Plainfield Boys U-12 Typhoons (6-3-1) completed their season Sunday with a hard fought battle over the Piscataway Scorpions 1-0, giving them their sixth win in seven contests.

Matt Helgesen would provide the only score of the day, as he was able to forge the ball into the goal during a mad scramble in front of the net. The ball was initially sent in by Steven Guevara and was kicked around a few times before Helgesen found the opening he needed to put it away for his third of the year.

As both defenses held their own, the game's outcome would be decided by one play. And for the second straight week, it would fall on the shoulders of goalie Grey Coppi. Hold-

ing the slim 1-0 lead, Piscataway would get a chance to tie it as a foul was called in the goalie box leading to a penalty kick. With a diving stab to his right, Coppi knocked the ball to the side and was able to gather it up before a second attempt was made and the Scorpions most serious threat of the day vanished and the victory preserved.

In a season that brought the Typhoons up two flights and competing against tougher competition, the boys responded with a solid third place finish (1 point behind) and tied for most wins in their league with six. The offense consisting of strikers Brian Fabino, Matt Helgesen, Brendan O'Shea and Jonathan Marcoux along with midfielders Brandon Ul-

lom and Steven Guevara produced a second best 26 goals led by O'Shea's 16.

Goalie Grey Coppi anchored a solid and dependable defense that only allowed more than two goals once and only gave up more than one goal twice. Chris Pennisi, J. R. Licato, Greg Watts, Keith Heckel, John Polizzano and Dan Pompilio provided great protection and every week gave the team an opportunity to win.

Coaches' Pio Pennisi, Kurt Ullom, Keith Heckel and Tony Pompilio once again gave of themselves and provided the kids with great preparation and guidance. Their time and dedication is very much appreciated by all the parent's as we will look forward to improving on our finish in the spring. CONGRATULATIONS!

Blaze U-13 Girls Beat Branchburg 1-nil

Blaze vs. Branchburg Strykers

Coming off a win in Westfield last week and losing to Branchburg Strykers earlier in the season. South Plainfield Blaze U-13 girls traveling soccer team finished their season on a high note beating Branchburg Strykers 1-nil. Blaze ended their flight four-fall season at 2-5-3 record winning the last two and clearly improving with each game.

Defensively Blaze dominated the game. Leading our defense keeper Tiffany Roth produced her second shutout in a row with some exciting saves. Shutting down attacks wide and in the middle fullbacks Megan Boyle, Tiffany Smith, Elizabeth Flannery, stopper Jackie Miller and sweeper Joy Mszczak all played one of their best games defensively.

Commanding performances from our halfbacks Lauren Fry, Ashley

Little and Kim Marin took control of the outside wing positions. Supporting both defense and offense all season our talented center midfielders Jennifer Copeland, Dorian Bishop and Jenna DeLillo were outstanding.

Our attack was relentless with the versatile and gifted left striker Becky Keller keeping the defense off guard while the only score of the game came in the 60th minute off an assist from Jennifer Copeland to right striker Kate Hardy who rolled in a shot that found the back of the net.

Resting an injury our tough right fullback Ashleigh Gaspari did a great job supporting her team from the bench. Blaze holds on to win 1-nil. Well done ladies! In a challenging season that had it's ups and downs I can't tell you how proud I am of the dedication and desire that this team has. Having known these girls for a couple

of seasons and having said this before I truly consider it a pleasure and privilege to know and coach these young ladies. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank coaches Jose Lopez, Joe Miller and our parents for their overwhelming support from week to week.

Enjoy the off season everyone! Visit the South Plainfield Soccer Club web site at www.sopfldsoccerclub.com.

Submitted by Coach Hardy

Sonics Pound Panthers

On Sunday Nov. 18 the U-9 Sonics traveled to Manville to take on the Panthers. Shortly after the opening kickoff, the Panthers scored. The Sonics responded with six unanswered goals. Scoring the first three goals for our boys was Anthony Cardoso.

Also recording scores for our boys were Steven Lanza, Danny Hunt and Marc Paez. Goal keeping duties for the Sonics were shared by Steven Lanza, Michael Dispenziere, William Mott and Jeff Gillen. Dynamite midfield defensive duties were performed by Danny Hunt, Shaun Alers, Danny Sticco, Daniel Peel and Nick Okoszko.

Outstanding offense and overall team play was done by Marc Paez, who scored his first goal of the season, Anthony Cardoso, with a hat trick, Steven Lanza and Jeffrey Gillen. Final score Sonics 6 - Panthers 1.

This is the final game for the fall season. The Sonics record is 7-2-1. Fantastic job boys!

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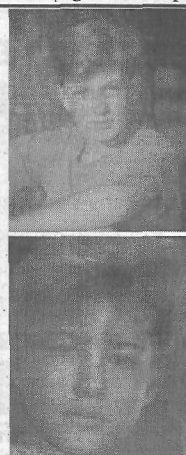
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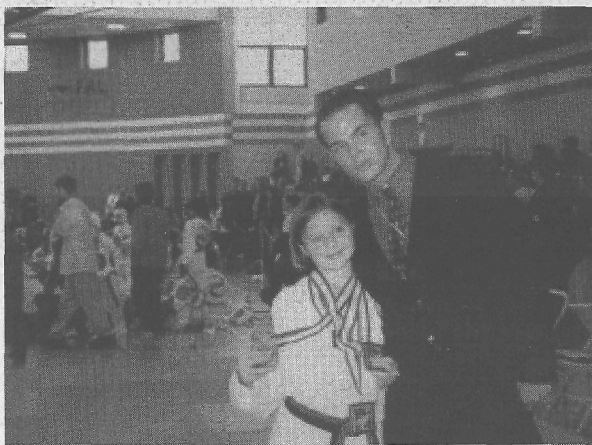
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Ashley Zeccardo proudly displays her medals at the Garden State Championship with instructor Master Kevin Vigneri.

A Clean Sweep for American Martial Arts

You heard it once in March when American Martial Arts was named the Best Tae Kwon Do School in NJ at the New Jersey State Championship. You heard it again in June when they were named the Best Tae Kwon Do School on the East Coast at the Big East Championship. And here they are again, with another 8-foot trophy for Best School at the 2001 Tae Kwon Do Garden State Cup Championship.

American Martial Arts is wiping the mats clean competition after competition. On Sunday, Nov. 11,

the students of AMA brought home 12-gold medals, five-silver, and five-bronze. Although these medalists, ranging from three to 45 years of age make winning look easy, each student displayed true dedication to the sport while training under the instruction of five time National Champion, 5th Degree Black Belt, Master Kevin Vigneri. Master Vigneri, owner and head instructor of American Martial Arts located next to Fleet Bank on Oak Tree Road in South Plainfield, with a 252-2 record, knows the skills needed to win.

Holiday Gift Certificates Available for the PAL

What a holiday gift! You get your loved one in shape and they will get a membership to the best kept secret in town. The South Plainfield PAL weightroom. Come check out all of the equipment they have.

The weightroom is open weekdays from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays

from 1-5 p.m.

Memberships are available for three months at \$30, six months at \$60 and 12 months at \$100.

You can purchase a gift certificate at the PAL office, which is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call 226-7713.

KMM To Present 'Walking Through the Years'

Keep Middlesex Moving, Inc. (KMM), the Transportation Management Association for Middlesex County, will be presenting *Walking Through the Years - Children Pedestrian Safety Program* at South Brunswick's Public Library on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 11:30 a.m. The safety program is sponsored by NJ Department of Transportation and geared for children. Through a short video and exciting interaction with KMM staff members, participants are able to gain a better understanding of their responsibilities as pedestrians as well

as learn the multitude of health benefits associated with walking.

The program is free of cost due to the funding provided by the NJ Department of Transportation. The videos and materials used for the program were created and developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

For more information about this program, please call Cristina C. Fowler at (732) 745-1318.

To register for this program, contact the South Brunswick Public Library at (732) 329-4000 ext. 5.

WRESTLING

By Bob Hunter

Easton Tournament Results

South Plainfield wrestlers traveled to Easton Pa. for the 23rd Annual Turkey Day Tournament. In the Bantam division, Anthony Ashnault was the lone champion. In the Midget division, Mike Wagner finished in second place while Nick Heilmann finished in third. In the Junior, division Billy Ashnault finished in second place and Mark Wagner and Brad Martin finished third and fourth place. In the Intermediate division, Jimmy Conroy claimed his second consecutive title, while Bryan Hunt and Sam Martin each finished in third place. Also winning matches but not placing were Randy Jakubik, Corey Hay, Robert Gentile, Patrick Hunter and Mike Jakubik.

Hunt Bantam (54lbs). Third place winner was Mike Wagner Midget (82lbs.). Fifth place went to Corey Hay and Ryan Billick. Also winning matches but not placing were Troy Heilmann, Randy Jakubik, Nick Pauls and Jonathan Conroy.

Randolph Tournament

The South Plainfield Middle School had a great showing at the Randolph Middle School Team Tournament this past weekend finishing third out of the 16 team field. The Tigers opened with Hopatchong. After losing their first five matches the Tigers came roaring back with six big wins by fall, before coasting to a 60-39 victory. In the

quarter final round they faced league rival Del Val. With the lead going back and forth, the Tigers trailed 40-39 going into the heavyweight match. That left it to Kevin Criley, who scored the fall giving the Tigers a 45-40 victory. In the semi-final round the Tigers faced Toms River Allstar team, but came up short losing a nail bitter 46-45. In the consolation round the Tigers faced another league rival in Kittatinny who they have never beaten, until that day, when the Tigers prevailed with a 46-36 victory and third place. Leading the way with four wins were Jimmy Conroy and Billy Ashnault. Kevin Criley had three big wins on the day.

Van Doren Tournament

South Plainfield wrestling got underway this past weekend at the Scott Van Doren Memorial Wrestling Tournament at North Hunterdon High School. South Plainfield entered 16 wrestlers and had 13 place winners and three finishing in sixth place.

Winning titles in the Midget division was John Wylam (71lbs.) In the Junior division was Mark Wagner (100lbs.). In the Intermediate division was Jimmy Conroy (87lbs.). Second place medals went to Robert Gentile (65lbs.), Billy Ashnault (80lbs.), Brad Martin (100lbs.), Kevin Criley (168lbs.).

Voorhees Tournament

South Plainfield Rec wrestlers who competed this past weekend at the annual Voorhees Turkey Day Wrestling Tournament had a great day. Winning titles for the Tigers in the Bantam division Anthony (Firecracker) Ashnault (45lbs) defeated Marcus Winsham of Piscataway 2-1. In the Midget division Nick Heilmann (65lbs) defeated Henry Garlon of Rickville Va. 4-2 for the second title of the day. Second place went to Tyler

Summer Drama Workshop Awarded Arts Grant

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop has been awarded a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission. These funds will be used to cover some of the planned expenses for their 2002 production of "Footloose."

Each year the Cultural and Heritage Commission invites county arts organizations to apply for funding. These groups supply applications and other support material that is considered by the commission and other review groups. Some of this funding comes through the county from the New Jersey State Council of the Arts.

While the grant process is highly competitive, the Summer Drama Workshop was recognized for "the artistic merit evident" in its grant proposal.

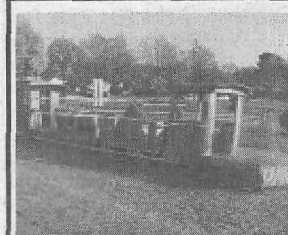
The Summer Drama Workshop is an annual arts education program that presents a musical production each August. Entering its 31st year, the Summer Drama Workshop is open to all South Plainfield students from

those completing the sixth grade through those finishing their first year after high school. The program is managed by a producing board, and each production is assisted by the invaluable help of parents and others throughout the summer. This grant will supplement the other revenue sources for the program, such as registration, program advertising, ticket sales, donations and other fundraising events.

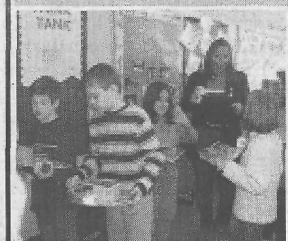
If you would like more information on the Summer Drama Workshop, please call (908) 561-5255.

Elks Selling Entertainment Books

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the Entertainment Book for \$30. Please contact Lou Peralta 756-6406.



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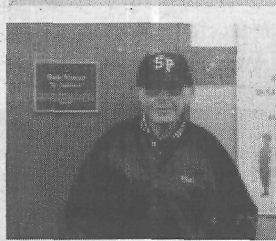
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Obituaries

Brendan A. Ward J.D., 72

Brendan A. Ward J.D. of Morristown, formerly of South Plainfield, died on Thursday, Nov. 15 at the Morristown Memorial Hospital in Morristown.

He was born in Brooklyn, NY and was a former 20 year resident of South Plainfield and a five year resident of Hazlet, before moving to Morristown 15 years ago.

Brendan was a patent attorney for AT&T in Murray Hill for 29 years, before retiring in 1986.

Brendan was a 1959 graduate of Seton Hall University, receiving his B.S. in Mathematics. In 1965 he graduated from the Seton Hall Law School and in 1968 he received his Jurist Doctorate also from Seton Hall. In 1965 he was admitted to practice law before the New Jersey Supreme Court, the courts of Washington D.C. and the United States District Court of New Jersey. He was registered as a patent attorney in the United States and Canada.

He was a member of the New Jersey Bar Association, the Middlesex County Bar Association and the Plainfield Bar Association and a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee.

He was assistant Borough Attorney for the Borough of South Plainfield from 1965 to 1971. He served on the Board of Adjustment, Planning Board, the Sewerage Authority, Redevelopment Agency, the Board of Health, Building Department and served as Municipal Court Prosecutor.

Brendan served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War as a Corporal. He was a member of the American Legion Post 100 in Trenton.

He was predeceased by his son, Brendan A. Ward, Jr., who died in 1998.

He is survived by his wife, Kay Philhower; three daughters, Diane Koch and her husband John of Jacksonville, Fla., Irene Harrah and her husband Joseph of South Plainfield and Margaret Simmons and her husband Robert of South Plainfield; a son, Patrick Ward and his wife Sally of Wauconda, Ill.; a brother, Walter Ward of East

Brunswick; 12 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

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

Edna M. Thomas Faede, 99

Edna M. Thomas Faede of South Plainfield, died on Monday, Nov. 12 at the Greenbrook Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Green Brook.

She was born in Jersey City and was a former resident of Clark and Arcadia, Calif. before moving to South Plainfield 17 years ago.

Edna was a waitress for F.W. Woolworth in Elizabeth for 20 years, before retiring in 1975.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church in South Plainfield.

Edna was a former member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens, Care and Share and the Eastern Star in Arcadia, Calif.

She was predeceased by her husband's, Joseph Toth, who died in 1931 and Ernst Faede, who died in 1984.

Surviving are a son, Raymond J. Toth of South Plainfield; two sisters Dorothy Seeland of Barneget and Agnes Halleran of Raleigh, NC; three grandchildren, five great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren.

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

Salvatore Manello, 83

Salvatore Manello died on Friday, Nov. 16 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in South Plainfield, Mr. Manello had resided in South Plainfield his entire life.

He was employed as a trucking mechanic foreman for 20 years with the former Colonial and later Bond Trucking Companies, retiring 14 years ago. He was a member of the Teamsters Local #469 of Hazlet.

Mr. Manello was a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield.

He is predeceased by his wife, Ann (Bushman) Manello, who died in June of 1989. He is also predeceased by two sisters, Mary Indiviglia and Fannie Eskesen.

Surviving are a daughter, Linda and her husband Brewer of Pomona, Missouri and a son, James and his wife Winona T. Manello of Somerville.

Also surviving are four grandchildren, Jessie and Hattie Brewer, Tanya Miller and Heather Manello and three great grandchildren, Tala, Noni and Shane.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Roman Gryszel, 76

Roman Gryszel died on Thursday, Nov. 15 at his home.

Born in Poland, Mr. Gryszel had resided in England before coming to the US in 1952 and settling in Plainfield.

He was a member of the Polish branch of the Royal Air Force serving during WWII.

Mr. Gryszel was a self employed electrical engineer in the Central Jersey area retiring in 1989.

He is survived by his wife, Krystyna (Rozner) Gryszel; three daughters, Krystyna Barnes of Hillsborough, Lillian Rowe of Anderson, SC and Barbara (Rollison) Masgula of Plainfield; two sons, Richard of Anderson, SC and Chris of Plainfield. Also surviving are eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Johnnie Mae Martin-Seon, 56

Johnnie Mae Martin-Seon died on Saturday, Nov. 17 in Union Hospital in Union.

Born in Valdosta, Ga., Mrs. Seon resided in Detroit, Mich. before moving to Newark 33 years ago.

She was employed as a secretary for Magellan Behavioral Health Center in Parsippany for the past two years.

Mrs. Seon was an active member of the Adams Memorial Baptist Church in East Orange, where she was serving as the church's secretary.

She was also an avid reader, bingo player and loved to do her arts and crafts.

Surviving are her husband, Cornelius Seon; a daughter and son-in-law, Tara and Courtney Bradley of South Plainfield; a son, Derrick Martin of Atlanta, Ga.; an aunt, Ardie Pearson of East Orange; two sisters, Annette Cosby of Irvington and Karen Rows of Newark; two brothers, John Martin of South Hill, Va. and Tony Martin of Iselin.

Also surviving are two grandchildren, Jabriel Derrick Martin and Marquise A. Bradley and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements were made by McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Diane Caruso, 46

Diane Caruso died on Monday, Nov. 19 at her home in South Plainfield.

She was born in Plainfield and had resided her entire life in South Plainfield. Diane was educated in the South Plainfield school system and graduated high school in 1973.

She was a licensed realtor and had

formerly been affiliated with Weichert Realtors, working in the company's Watchung office.

Diane was an animal lover and was especially fond of her Himalayan cat "BoBo"

Surviving are her mother, Ruth (Lang) Caruso of South Plainfield; a brother and sister-in-law James D. and Peggy Caruso of Howell Twp. and three nieces, Megan, Sarah and Abigail.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Plainfield Humane Society would be appreciated.

George J. Decker, III, 47

George J. Decker, III died Thursday, Nov. 22 at home.

Mr. Decker was an avid motorcyclist.

Surviving are his daughter, Jessica Decker of South Plainfield; two sons, Jeffrey Decker of Piscataway and George J. IV of New Egypt; four sisters, Valerie Giuliano of South Plainfield, Deborah Silvo of Piscataway, Josephine Perron of Florida and Stephanie Trumbauer of Whiting and a brother, Joseph Decker of Sparta.

Also surviving are two grandchildren, George V. and Jake Decker.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Helen V. Salsavage, 70

Helen V. Salsavage died on Thursday, Nov. 22 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Helen was born in Plainfield and had lived her entire life in South Plainfield.

In her younger years she worked as a machine operator for the former Revelle Model Co. of South Plainfield and later with Parkway Plastics Co. in Piscataway.

She was a former member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 in South Plainfield.

Surviving are her husband, William J. Salsavage and her son and daughter-in-law, William J. and Jana Salsavage, Jr. of Edison.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Irene T. Cannizzaro, 77

Irene T. Cannizzaro died on Thursday, Nov. 22 in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Perth Amboy, she resided in Avenel before moving to South Plainfield in 1960.

Mrs. Cannizzaro was employed in the personnel department for Roosevelt Hospital in Edison for 10 years before retiring in 1994.

She was a member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

Surviving are her husband, James J. Cannizzaro; a daughter, Joan M. Stuart of Clinton; two sons, James J. Cannizzaro of Union and John and his wife Elizabeth Cannizzaro of Flemington; two sisters, Dorothy Papierowicz of Fords and Josephine Kowalczyk of North Branch; a brother, Martin Bisaha of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Also surviving are two grandchildren, Shannon and Michael Cannizzaro.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Evelyn M. (Swartout) Bryant, 72

Evelyn M. (Swartout) Bryant of South Plainfield died on Wednesday, Nov. 21 at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born in Brooklyn, NY and was a former resident of Newark before moving to South Plainfield eight years ago.

She was predeceased by her husband, Burgess A. Bryant, who died in 1993.

She is survived by a son, Richard G. Bryant of Doylestown, Pa.; four daughters, Darlene Bryant of South Plainfield, Debra J. Marquette of Elizabeth City, NC, Kathleen M. Medina of Tully Town, Pa. and Cynthia Demmer of Nutley; a brother, Edward Swartout of Little Rock, Ark. and 12 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at the James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

Legal Notice

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Maria Barca requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the erection of a 24'x26' detached garage, proposed garage constitutes a second principle structure and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 184, Lot 9 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 December 18, 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 1T November 30, 2001

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

November 27, 2001

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on November 20, 2001.

A. Case #58-01—Joseph Adoma—Block 179; Lot 1; 325 Spring Ave.—Applicant's request for a 23' front setback from Triangle Place to erect a 16' x 19' wood deck, was hereby GRANTED.

B. Case #61-01—Howard & Patricia Boyce—Block 235; Lot 18; 105 Cybowski Court—Applicant's request for a front setback of no closer than 23.8' for a 9' x 28' ground level concrete patio with roof, was hereby GRANTED.

C. Case #31-01/S—Hamilton Gas, Inc.—Block 327, Lot 3; OBC-1 Zone; Hamilton Blvd.—Applicant's request for final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED.

D. Case #30-94/A—Berliner Communications for Nextel—Block 450; Lot 2; M-3 Zone; Jersey Street—Applicants request for final amended site plan approval to lower their present twelve antennas from 180' to 120', was hereby GRANTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Muccilli
Secretary/Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$30.00 November 30, 2001

Copy deadline for the Observer is Monday, 5 p.m. for the following Friday's publication.

Consideration

It is far easier for the family if a family plot is arranged prior to need. The considerate staff at Hillside Cemetery will assist your selection. All lots are in fully developed areas and include perpetual care. Located on Woodland Avenue in Scotch Plains, a non-profit organization. 908.756.1729

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

police report

• On Nov. 14, a South Plainfield Ave. resident reported that her son had left his unlocked bike outside of Drug Fair and when he came out, it was missing.

• L.A. Dryfus Co. on South Clinton Ave. reported that the lock on the front gate to the storage yard had been cut and a walk behind Bobcat lawn mower was missing

• On Nov. 15, a Piscataway resident reported that when he was in the DMV, he put down his purse and left the area for a short period of time. When he returned the purse was gone.

• On Nov. 17, a Jersey City resident reported that someone had spray painted both sides of his vehicle with graffiti while at work at Regal Cinema.

• On Nov. 19, Barlette Tree Service on So. Clinton Ave. reported that \$1,200 worth of equipment was taken from a parked truck. Two former employees are suspects.

• On Nov. 20, Ryder Truck Rental on New Brunswick Ave. reported the theft of a Tandem Axle Sleeper trailer valued at \$25,000 from their yard.

• Barbara Mague of Fourth M.P.P.L. Realty Co. on Kenneth Ave. reported the theft of eight 2' x 4's from their property.

• An employee of Bakers Express on Helen St. reported that someone had removed the Cadillac emblems off of his car and the car had also been scratched.

• On Nov. 22, an alarm went off at K B Toy Works on Stelton Rd. and when police arrived they found the front door had been smashed and seven Sony Playstation 2 games had been taken.

• On Friday, a Plainfield woman was arrested at Macy's for shoplifting \$903.91 worth of merchandise by changing the price tags.

• A Plainfield man was arrested at Acme for concealing \$58.23 worth of meats on his person.

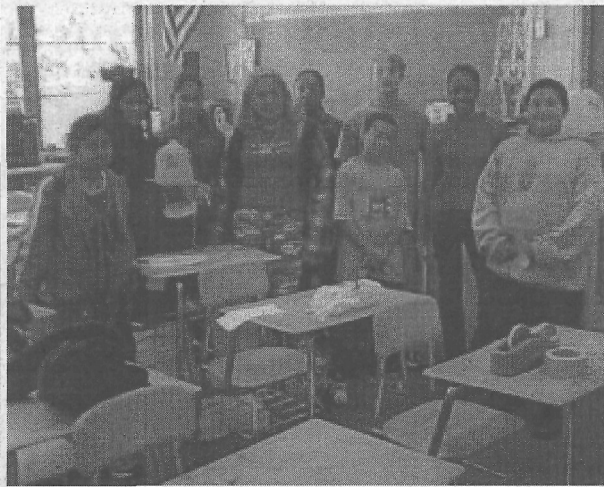
• George Conover, owner of All About Tile in Marlboro reported the theft of three pallets of tile, a wet saw and other tools. They were removed from an apartment under construction at Traditions Apartment Complex.

• On Saturday, an employee of Radio Shack reported the theft of his unsecured bike at the rear of the store.

• An Oak Tree Ave. resident reported the theft of a Yamaha all terrain vehicle from the rear patio of the residence. The vehicle had a disc lock which would have had to be removed to roll the vehicle.

Police Statistic

So far this year, 39 residents have requested identification applications for gun permits. This is up from only five last year.



These Middle School students are building bird feeders in Mr. Cefalo's period 7/8 Science Class. All seventh grade students will be observing birds that visit these feeders in the school's courtyard. The bird watching is part of Mr. Cefalo's "Feederwatch" program. This program, which observes bird behavior, simulates and eventually, will connect to Cornell University's lab on Ornithology. Also, the program tracks regional birds and provides valuable data to researchers at the lab located in Ithaca, New York. Happy birdwatching seventh grade students!

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Color Photos Still Available—Limited Time Only

Color photos taken by Observer photographer Patricia Abbott are available for sale including, many photos not published. Photos from the following events will be permanently deleted as of Dec. 31. If interested in a photo call Pattie at 756-8011 or email angelonly@aol.com.

To be deleted—all graduations/ promotions 2000 & 2001; Father/Daughter dances/ Riley & Kennedy 2000 & 2001; Mother/Son Dance Kennedy 2001; Project Graduation Auction 2000 & 2001; Story Teller at Riley; Roosevelt School plays; Dragon Heart (1999); Rerun Run Around (2000); Pirates & the Princess (2001); VFW picnic 2000 & 2001; Fire Dept Open House 2000; Riley Chili Fest; Sphs Homecoming 2000; Franklin Block Party 2000 & 2001; Franklin Beach Party 2000 & 2001; ALL grade school DARE promotions; DARE Picnic; 8th Grade Dinner Dance 2001; Library Mr. Kurt, Mr. Tim; SPSHS Band Fest 2000; Kennedy Carnival; 2001 Jr. Prom; 2000 Senior Prom; Sacred Heart Fair 2000 & 2001; OLC Feast of St Anthony 2000 & 2001; Bike Rodeo 2001; Grant 6th play School House Rock and all school concerts/ chorus/ band 2001 school yr (some from 2000).

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Summer Drama Workshop Performs at Menlo Mall

By Patricia Abbott

Menlo Park Mall's "An Evening of Giving" gave South Plainfield Summer Drama students a chance to give something back to the communities that support them. Decked in elf garb and Santa hats, the students handed out candy canes throughout the evening and performed holiday songs in the Nordstrom court for a crowd of enthusiastic onlookers.

Summer Drama is just one of 46 non-profit organizations which benefited from the fundraiser. The mall closed at 5 p.m. and reopened at 6 for ticket holders.

Menlo Park Mall was transformed into one huge holiday celebration. It was a renewed sense of caring and sharing that filled the mall with holiday revelers. For the price of a ticket shoppers were offered a private evening of shopping with discounts and promotions from the many participating retailers as well as give-a-ways, free samples and non-stop entertainment. The purchase of a ticket also made a charitable donation to the organization of their choice, as well as to the Simon Youth Foundation. Easter Seals NJ, Hyacinth AIDS Foundation, Make A Wish Foundation and Salvation Army are just few of the organizations that will benefit from the fundraiser. The Simon Youth Foundation is a nonprofit organization committed to fostering economic and career development through educational initiatives and programs.

Emcees for the evening were Dennis Malloy and Judi Franco from New Jersey 101.5. The duo signed autographs, posed for photos and chatted with shoppers. Entertainment included autographs and photos with Ivette Sosa of TV's "Popstars," Eden's Crush, soap opera stars Teri Conn (Kate), "As The World Turns," and Brandon Routh (Seth), "All My Children" and the cast from the Off-Broadway show, "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare-Abridged." Also appearing were The Tim Janis En-

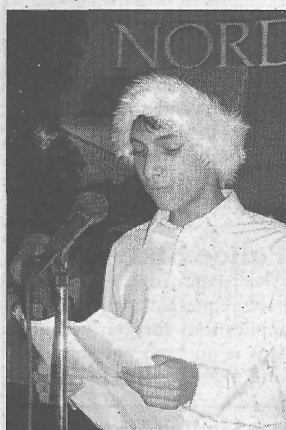


Chris Abbott, Pam Cianfrocca with NJ 101.5 DJ's Judi Franco & Dennis Malloy.

semble and performers from Cavalier Arts.

The event offered something for everyone. Children of all ages enjoyed balloon art, a magician and jugglers,

free popcorn and cotton candy. The main attraction for the younger set was not the spectacular line up of celebrities and activities, but the chance to present their wish list to Santa.



The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop recently celebrated their 30th season. The youth theater group will present "Footloose" as their 2002 production.

Santa Claus Is Coming To Town... on a Fire Engine



To help raise money for our upcoming 100th Anniversary (May 2007) and Firemen's Memorial, the members of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company will again ask Santa to deliver Christmas presents by fire engine. Can you imagine how excited your children will be to have Santa bring them a present on a fire engine!

Here's how it works. The fire department is asking that you donate \$20 for each family you would like Santa to deliver presents. The \$20 should be a check made payable to the SPVFC 100th Anniversary. 100% of the \$20 goes directly to 100th Anniversary fund.

Then you must wrap a small gift for Santa to present to your child. A small present is all that is necessary. Gifts should cost no more than \$30. Please do not give expensive gifts. After you wrap the gift, put your child's name and address securely on the gift.

South Plainfield Firefighters will visit every block in the Borough to deliver all of the gifts. They will sound their sirens and activate their lights. The children can then come to the engine and receive their gift from Santa and his elves. All you need is a camera.

Pick up forms at Fire House.

Library's Job Information Center December Workshops

Thinking of looking for a new job in 2002. Don't know where to begin? Then the schedule of workshops at the South Plainfield Public Library in December is just what your looking for.

The Job Information Center, South Plainfield Public Library has the following programs scheduled for December:

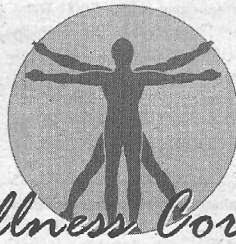
- Thursday, Dec. 6, 10:30 a.m., "Job Searching on the Internet"
- Thursday, Dec. 13, 10:30 a.m., "Resumes and Cover Letters for Beginners"

ginnners"

- Thursday, Dec. 30, 10:30 a.m., "Interviewing 101"

Workshops are free, space is limited and reservations are required. For further information and to register call the library at (908) 754-7885. Details about the program can also be found on the library's web site: www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

This program is made possible by the Special Populations Grant, New Jersey State Library.



Wellness Corner

Slipped Discs, Pulled Muscles and Back Pain...

By Dr. Patrick M. Aiello D.C.

With back pain being so prevalent, it's not uncommon for us to know someone who has had or is currently experiencing problems with their back. For all too many, the problems become lifetime problems. What's worse, is that back pain and disability can also effect so many other aspects of a person's life. From a person's ability to earn a living, support a family to also interacting with their family as well as having a complete and full lifestyle, back pain can be a detriment to all of that and more.

Given what we know about other health issues (heart disease, diabetes, etc), it's a wonder the medical community hasn't come up with a better



Dr. Patrick Aiello, DC

treatment path for lower back pain. The traditional trio of medication, rest and surgery isn't correcting the problem. Only adding to the costs of an already burdened healthcare system.

In the February 1, 2001 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, the authors (Deyo et al) admitted that there is "excessive imaging and surgery for low back pain in the United States." Considering that "Low back pain affects men and women equally, with onset most often between the ages of 30 and 50 years. It is the most common cause of work-related disability in people under 45 years of age and the most expensive cause of work-related disability, in terms of workers' compensation and medical expenses."

Then the next question is what's the answer? How do we deal with such a problem and what is the next step to undertake. Well, having been in practice nearly ten years and having seen many cases of lower back pain, I don't think the answer is nearly as simple as

a one step approach.

Personally, I think education is a big part of dealing with lower back problems and treatment. In fact, I think it should be the first step in patient care for this disorder. Without patient's realizing how their body works, what stresses it and aggravates it along with how to treat it if the body is over-worked or stressed too far, then any treatment plan that patient's undergo, is doomed to failure or relapse. Patients need to be made aware of this and acknowledge this. There is no magical pill. And even if a patient has underwent extensive rehab/physical therapy, or surgery, it's even more important to place him back into the same environment or conditions which led to the breakdown in his back to come on in the first place.

Over the next few articles, we're going to take a look at lower back pain; it's causes, the reason's behind the pain and different treatment plans and goals. Hopefully, reading this will stimulate you to think about how we treat our backs on a daily basis. That way we might be able to avoid a problem from happening in the first place. Not such a bad idea at that!

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