

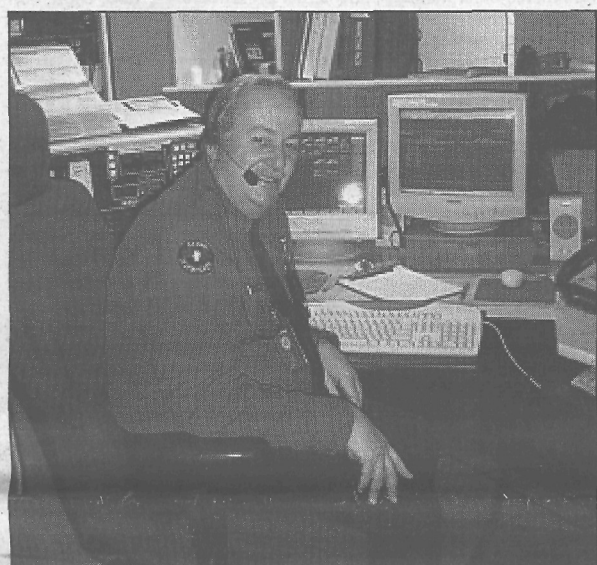
South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 5, NO. 20

50 CENTS

JANUARY 18, 2002

Dispatcher Bill "Chappy" Chapman Retires from PD



South Plainfield Police Dispatcher Bill "Chappy" Chapman at his desk at police headquarters. Chapman retired after nine years with the department.

By Jane Dornick

Dispatcher Bill Chapman, better known as "Chappy," retired last Friday after nine years of service with the South Plainfield Police Dept.

Many of his fellow employees, the mayor, police chief, fire chief, council members, members of the fire department and rescue squad and employees at Borough Hall were all on hand last Friday to say goodbye at a farewell party. Chapman was presented with a plaque, a huge basket of his favorite snacks (he is known for his constant munching), and a beautiful clock, presented by former Police Chief Tulio Capparelli. Most



Tulio Capparelli presents a special clock to Chapman.

guests at the party were close to tears when saying goodbye to Chappy. He was loved and respected by everyone

who knew and worked with him.

Chappy started his career in 1978 after completing the Police and Fire Science program at Middlesex County College. He was a police dispatcher in Bridgewater for seven years prior to being hired in South Plainfield in 1992.

He and his wife, Mary, have lived in South Plainfield for 25 years. Mary was the head nurse at South Plainfield High School before retiring 10 year ago. She is currently a member of the Borough Health Advisory Council.

Chappy is a volunteer on the South Plainfield Emergency Management Team and a Life Member of the South Amboy First Aid Squad. He is an honorary member of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad and his wife is still currently a member.

He has also coordinated the flood light trucks for the South Plainfield Labor Day fireworks for 15 years.

Chapman has also been the NJ State Coordinator of Emergency Management for 15 years. He has been in charge of such events as the World Soccer Cup, Op Sail and the Pope's visit to this country.

Chappy had many interesting stories to talk about, like being on duty the night of Tropical Storm Floyd and the night of the gas explosion at a Chinese restaurant on Park Ave. back in 1996.

"Chappy" has no immediate plans for the future other than spending some much needed time with his wife. He has been offered several consulting jobs, but is unsure what he plans to do in his retirement. However he is sure to be sorely missed by all in the police department.

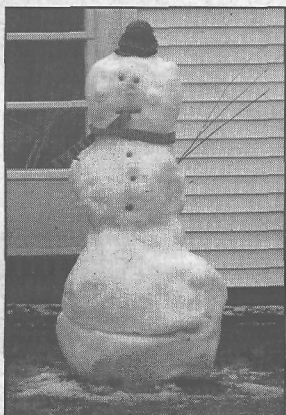
A Snowman in South Plainfield? Yes!

By Patricia Abbott

A five foot tall snowman appeared on the Sutton family's lawn on Clifford Street and Kenyon Avenue. It caused more than one passerby to look twice because there has been no significant snowfall in South Plainfield this winter. The winter visitor has since been reduced to a few flakes, but he will stay in the memory of five year old Gregory Sutton for a long time.

Gregory couldn't wait for the first snowfall of the season. According to his father, Jeff, when the weatherman predicted snow Gregory made endless trips to the window in anticipation of those first flakes. The next morning he was disappointed to find only a light dusting of snow.

"While sitting at work that day I couldn't stop thinking about how it felt as a child to wake up to such a disappointment," said Gregory's father. So he decided to do something



about it. He made calls to family and friends, and a relative in Millington, who reported they had nearly five inches of snow.

Sutton then surprised his son with a spur of the moment trip. They drove to Millington to enjoy the winter won-

derland. To Gregory's delight, a light snow fell almost the whole time. They spent about two hours sledding and building a snowman before it was time to head home.

Gregory was sad to say goodbye to "Frosty," so Jeff loaded the snowman into the truck and brought him back to South Plainfield. Once back home they reassembled the snowman and supplied him with a hat and scarf.

"My wife thought I was nuts and so did the neighbors. One of them was on my front lawn early the next morning touching the snowman to see if it was real," Sutton said. "I must admit it was strange to see a five foot snowman when there is no other snow in sight, but it was a great way to end the day!"

Needless to say, Gregory was very excited about the trip and is looking forward to more snow. Jeff's simple gesture to please his son is sure to be remembered for a long time.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Patrick Diegnan takes the oath of office of State Assemblyman in Trenton while his wife, Anita and daughters Heather and Tara watch. See page 6.



Rescue Squad Captain Ron Sward presents the Captains Award to Joe Abbruzzese. See page 12.



Police Officer Al LaMonda gives the first 9-1-1 cell phone to Charles Koestner, while Police Chief Bob Merkler and Senior Coordinator Sue Mishka look on. See page 3.

Sacred Heart School Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week is being held this year from Jan. 27 through Feb. 1. The following activities will be held throughout the week at Sacred Heart School.

- **Sunday, Jan. 27:** Catholic Schools Week Local Celebration; 11:30 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Church.
- **Monday, Jan. 28:** Breakfast for Teachers and Staff. Display of posters, essays, thank you notes for parents.
- **Tuesday, Jan. 29:** breakfast in classrooms for family and friends. Open House (9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.) DARE Graduation (12 noon).
- **Wednesday, Jan. 30:** Tag Day (Food for the Poor); Basketball Game at 7 p.m. (with SHS Cheerleaders) Faculty vs. Students.
- **Thursday, Jan. 31:** Open House (9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.); Arithmetics (sponsored by HSA).
- **Friday, Feb. 1:** First Friday Mass (sponsored by 4A and 4B); Candy Bar Bingo after lunch.

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, 7 p.m. (New Time) • Questions? 908-226-7605

AGENDA MEETING	PUBLIC MEETING
Monday, February 4	Thursday, February 7
Tuesday, February 19	Thursday, February 21
Monday, March 4	Thursday, March 7
Monday, March 18	Thursday, March 21

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

Feb. 12, Feb. 26, March 12, March 26, April 8, April 23, May 14, May 28, June 1, June 25

zoning board of adjustment

Meets first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month

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

January 30, February 5, February 19, March 5, March 19

taxpayers advisory group

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

site place sub-committee

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

January 24, February 21, March 21

recreation commission

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

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

Feb. 15, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 12 and Dec. 3

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

Feb. 13, March 13, April 10, and May 8

board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole meets, Tuesdays, Feb. 12, March 12 and April 2 at 7 p.m.

Regular Board Mtg., held on Tuesdays, Feb. 19, March 19 and April 9 at 8 p.m.

Curriculum/Technology/Student Activities Committee, Wednesday, Feb. 6, March 6 and March 27

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

Jan. 23, Feb. 27, March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, July 24, (Aug. no meeting), Sept. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 27 and Dec. 18

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 spobserver.com or gggnan@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email at our website at spobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer. Letters must be submitted with name and phone number, even if they request name their name be omitted when published.

Free Rabies Clinic Set for Next Saturday Animal Licenses Will Also be Available

The South Plainfield Health Department will be holding their annual Rabies Clinic on Saturday, Jan. 26 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Borough Garage, located on the corner of Spicer and Belmont Avenues.

The rabies clinic is open to both cats and dogs. Residents are urged to bring their pets for inoculation.

Dog and cat licenses can also be purchased at the clinic. Cost of dog or cat license is \$8 if spayed/neutered and \$11 if not. A \$1 per month late fee is incurred after Jan. 31. Cats must be brought in a carrier.

For further information, call 226-7631.



Commerce Bank Manager Eric Reidel presents Ron Sward, captain of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad with a donation for the squad during their grand opening celebration.

IN MY OPINION

To the Editor,

I would like to thank ALL of those involved with the Santa Mail Box at the post office. Both of my children look forward to making their annual trip to the post office to mail their letter. Jamie, age five, wanted to mail himself to Santa, but he could not fit in the box. And Chris, age seven, knew this was the only way to get his letter to Santa.

When the boys received their letters from Santa, they were so excited. The personalization made it a special touch. This has been a tradition in our family and we thank you for making it possible.

MARIE AND DAVID MARKEY

To the Editor:

In last week's paper, there appeared a letter which was written to our Kennedy School parents. I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to our Board of Education and community if this offended you in any way.

I had sent this letter to our parents appraising them of the final outcome of our playground situation. I, in no way, was blaming anyone for the loss of our equipment. I wanted our parents to know that we would be facing a new challenge in trying to raise enough money to replace our equipment. The parents of Kennedy School have always been supportive of our children and all I wanted them to be aware of was the economic challenge that we face in the replacing of this equipment.

This is a Kennedy School issue and in no way were we trying to hurt our Board or the other schools in our district.

SINCERELY,
ALLEN R. CZECH,
PRINCIPAL,
J.F. KENNEDY SCHOOL

To The Editor:

I would like to take a moment to commend Al Mitchell of 200 Ritter Ave. Many of you may know his residence as "The Christmas House" in town. As many of you know, every year Al decorates his house with hundreds of lawn decorations, lights, moving figurines, etc. He has set aside one night during the Christmas season every year as "Santa Night." He hands out fliers inviting everyone to come to his home to visit with Santa, as well as receive toys, cookies and hot chocolate. This year on Santa night, it was raining and Al had not

planned to go ahead with the festivities, (because they take place outside and he didn't think anyone would come in the rain). To his surprise, at 5 p.m. families started showing up in the rain to see Santa. Al quickly decided that the festivities had to go on as planned and with the help of his wife Pat Stilo-Mitchell and some other friends and family, things were set up quickly, and the night was a huge success.

This year, while taking down his outdoor decorations, Al sustained an injury to his eye. He was trying to remove a stake in the ground that was holding one of his lawn decorations in place and it flew up and hit him in the eye. He spent three hours in the emergency room at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, he was in severe pain and scared that he had badly injured his eye. He is feeling better now and is still under treatment for his eye, but is expected to make a full recovery.

I would like to take this time to thank Al, for everything that he does to make the Holiday Season so special for the residents of South Plainfield, as well as for his family and friends.

SINCERELY,
MELISSA SANTORA

Observer Will Donate to JF Kennedy Playground Fundraiser

As we reported in last week's *Observer*, we want to help raise funds for playground equipment at JF Kennedy School. We will be donating \$5 to the playground fund for every new subscription we receive in January.

The playground was inspected last year and found to be unsafe and no longer in compliance. The board ordered that it be torn down when a second inspection found it could not be brought up to code. Parents, teachers and students were devastated to lose this popular playground and want to replace the equipment as soon as possible.

If you read the *Observer* regularly, this is the perfect time to subscribe and help raise money for this cause. Just fill out the subscription form on page 9 and mail it to us at 1110 Hamilton Blvd. This offer is good only until the end of January.

You can also visit our office or log on to our webpage: spobserver.com.

For more information, call (908) 668-0010.

Excellent!

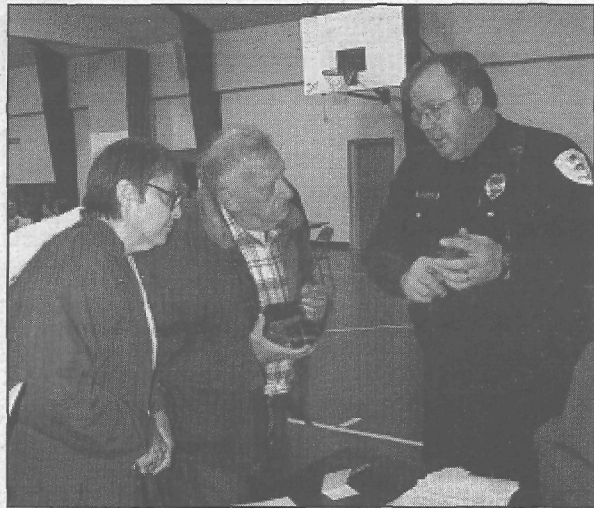
Subscribe to the *Observer* during the month of January and we will donate \$5 to the JF Kennedy School Playground Fund.

We like to have fun too!



Call 908-668-0010, mail in subscription form on page 9, or email your request to gggnan@aol.com.

New subscriptions only—hurry, offer ends January 31, 2002.



South Plainfield Police Officer Al LaMonda demonstrate how the special 9-1-1 phones are used.

Police Distribute 9-1-1 Phones to Local Seniors

After almost a year in the planning, the South Plainfield Police Department handed out 9-1-1 phones to seniors on Tuesday.

The 9-1-1 project started almost a year ago when residents were asked to donate their old cell phones to the police department. The idea was to recondition them and give them to seniors to use only in an emergency.

Officer Al LaMonda had no trouble collecting the phones, but when it came time to having them reconditioned, he hit a snag. He couldn't find anyone who still reconditioned phones. LaMonda contacted several other police departments that had run similar programs, but was told their contacts no longer worked on the phones. LaMonda finally

found a company in Edison called Wireless Communications and they agreed to connect the phones. They also agreed to do the job at no charge.

Tuesday morning, the police department was at the PAL and handed out all 41 phones. They were 10-15 phones short but promised they would be back with the remainder soon.

The seniors were told that the phones were to be used only for an emergency. If anyone misused them, they would lose them. Before handing them out, all phones were tested. Each phone came with a charger. All the seniors had to do was take them home and charge them and they were ready to go.

The phones cannot receive any outside calls and are only capable of calling 9-1-1.

Seniors were told they should always be aware of where they are when calling 9-1-1. Police will not be able to tell the location of a caller on a cell phone. All cell phone calls for 9-1-1 go directly to the state police and are then transferred to the appropriate police department, so it is imperative to give your location when calling.

"If just one person is helped by having these phones, it will be worth all the work," explained LaMonda.

Affordable Housing Agency Meeting

A public meeting has been called by the Affordable Housing Agency of the Borough of South Plainfield to discuss the Affordable Housing Program. The meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 21 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield.

Almost Famous Players Perform at the Library



The Almost Famous Players, a troupe of teenagers from the Summer Drama Workshop and other theater groups, recently gave a second performance at the South Plainfield Library.

It didn't take long for the audience to start chuckling, then laughing, as the cast tried to act out the words as they were read by the storyteller. The stage expanded as the cast used the second story of the library with reindeer looking down at Santa.

The group presented their youthful audience with a live version of *The Night Before Christmas*, complete with Santa, reindeer, snow and even a mouse or two. They also performed the New Jersey Renaissance Kingdom's hysterical mime version of *Cinderella*.

This original rendition gave a few twists to the classic fairy tale. Work weary Cinderella was portrayed by Shannen Rivers, the mean stepmother was brought to life by Katie Mott. The stepsisters named Tiffany and Babs, were played by Joe Rodriguez and Chris Abbott. The handsome prince, seeking the love of his life was played by Chris Imbrosciano and the ditzzy fairy godmother was Pam Cianfrocca.

Both stories were narrated by Almost Famous founder, Patricia Abbott. Mrs. Maureen Rivers assisted with props.

Additional performers included: Heather Crisitello, Jessica Crisitello, Susan Mott and Gina Butrico. Almost Famous has been teaching theater arts to grade school children for ten years, five at Franklin School and five at Roosevelt School.

Most of Today's Almost Famous members were students in those drama clubs. Almost Famous Players will present *Dragon Heart* at the SP Library in late February.

From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Here's the latest news from the South Plainfield Library:

The Library will be closed on Sunday and Monday in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Turning to our children's programs, you can still sign your kids up for this afternoon's Kidcraft program. It's for children ages six and older, and starts at 4 p.m. All craft materials are provided by the Library. Next week, we've got our usual schedule of Storytime programs. Those programs are for children ages three and older; no pre-registration is required. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. They're held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. If you'd like more information about any of our children's programs, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

Don't forget about the special programs we're hosting. Tomorrow morning at 11, there's "Introduction to Scrapbooking", led by Dayel Giammarino. This program is open to adults and children ages eight and older. There's no charge, but pre-registration is required. Also tomorrow, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Miss Linda will be setting up a "Valentines for Veterans" activity. During that time, adults and children can come in and make a valentine; those valentines will then be sent to the Lyons VA hospital. Then, Tuesday evening at 7, there's the program on "Self-Healing and Stress Relief," led by massage therapist Judy England-McCarthy. This program is free of charge and no pre-registration is required. Participants are asked to wear comfortable clothing.

The next class from our Job Information Center, "Resumes and Cover Letters," is scheduled for Thursday morning at 10:30. Space is limited for the program, so please call to reserve a spot.

It looks like it's time for another reminder regarding the parking situation. Now, we realize that, at times, there can be a real lack of parking spaces at the Municipal Complex, particularly when Court is in session. But we ask you to remember that those parking spaces marked, "Library Staff

Only," mean just that. When the Library is open, we get first crack at those spots. Make no mistake; if unauthorized vehicles are parked in our spots, we will call the Police and they will get ticketed. We're not kidding.

Right about this time of year, the chances of the Library having to close due to the weather increase substantially. If it looks like we'll have to shut down due to ice/snow/etc., we'll put the word out via radio stations WCTC (1450 AM) and WAWZ (99.1 FM). (Sighs of relief from staff members are also a pretty good sign.)

Finally, a word about signing up for programs and classes. Or, rather, about un-signing up. Frequently, there's a waiting list for programs with limited space; they're listed in case a spot opens up. So, if you find you can't make it to something you've signed up for, please call us and cancel. This will give someone on the waiting list a chance. As always, thanks for your consideration.

That'll do it for this week. See you next Friday.

Terra Nova Garden Club News

The January meeting of the Terra Nova Garden Club will be held on Wednesday Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. at the North Edison Library, 777 Grove Ave. in Edison.

Guest speaker for the evening will be Sue Day, whose presentation is entitled "The Earth Watch Experience." Sue is an avid environmentalist who has experienced Earth Watch and will share these experiences with a lecture and slide presentation.

New members are always welcome.

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Events

Project Graduation Spaghetti Dinner

January 18

Project Graduation Committee will be holding a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Jan. 18 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria A/B. There is also a wrestling tournament that night, so plan on eating out if you are attending the tournament.

The menu will be spaghetti, meatballs, bread, salad, coffee, tea and dessert. All food will be donated by Cafe Piancone and Roma Foods in Piscataway, Marriott Services and Haisch's Bakery.

If you buy a spaghetti dinner, you will get into the wrestling match free. The cost is \$5 per person and \$4 for seniors. All proceeds benefit project graduation.

AARP Meeting to Have Guest Speaker

January 18

AARP Chapter 4144 will meet on Friday, Jan. 18 at 12:30 p.m. at the PAL on Maple Ave. The speaker will be Allison Carter, who will speak on the accomplishments of Martin Luther King. Mrs. Carter specializes in Minority Affairs and will also show Historical Sculptures.

VFW To Hold Chicken Dinner

January 18

The VFW Post 6763 located at 155 Front St. will be holding a chicken dinner on Friday, Jan. 18 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The annual Voice of Democracy and Youth Essay Awards will be presented during this dinner. The donation is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. For more information, call (908) 668-9571 after 3 p.m. daily and after 12 noon on weekends.

Valentines for Veterans at Library

January 19

Also tomorrow, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Miss Linda will be setting up a "Valentines for Veterans" activity. During that time, adults and children can come in and make a valentine; those valentines will then be sent to the Lyons VA hospital.

Christian Unity Week

January 19-25

The South Plainfield Clergy Group invites you to join in this year's Week of Christian Unity, January 19-25.

There are several opportunities to join in worship and pray with one another. All are welcome to these three services; come to one, come to all! Prayer services are as follows: Monday, Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Wor-

ship Service House of Prayer, 1921 Roosevelt Ave., 754-2544; Wednesday, Jan. 23, 10 a.m. at the Prayer Service at First Baptist Church, 201 Hamilton Blvd.; 753-2382; Friday, Jan. 25 at 3 p.m. at the Prayer Service at Pilgrim Covenant Church, 1321 Park Ave.; 756-2474.

For more information on any particular service, call the corresponding number listed.

Republican Org. Special Meeting

January 23

The South Plainfield Republican Organization will be holding a special meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 8:00 p.m. at the American Legion on Oak Tree Road.

All members of the South Plainfield Republican Club are invited to attend.

SPHS Guidance Dept. Financial Aid Workshop

January 24, 2002

The South Plainfield High School Guidance Department will host a Financial Aid Workshop on Thursday, Jan. 24 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the cafeteria. A representative from Elmira College will make the presentation for parents of SPHS seniors. Topics covered include information on filing the FAFSA form, differences between scholarships, grants and loans, financing, work-study programs, and how to recognize financial aid scams. After the presentation, there will be a question and answer period.

If you have any questions regarding the evening's program, please call the high school guidance office, (908) 754-4620, ext. 298.

Elks To Host Spaghetti Dinner

January 26

The South Plainfield Elks Lodge will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, Jan. 26 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The menu is all you can eat and includes salad, pasta, meatballs, sausage, Italian bread, soda, coffee and tea.

Donations are \$8 for adults; \$5 for senior citizens and \$4 for children under 12 years old.

SDW Selling Tickets To Titanic

January 26

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop still has tickets available for the musical "Titanic," to be performed at the State Theatre in New Brunswick on Saturday, Jan. 26, at 3 p.m.

Throughout the year, the SPSW plans for its annual production, and promotes the performing arts. This Tony-award winning musical is great family entertainment. If you would like tickets or more information, call (908) 561-5255.

Adult School Trip Info Meeting

January 30

The adult school will be holding a trip information night on Wednesday, Jan. 30, in the High School Information Center at 7 p.m.

Bring your friends for a good time. There will be door prizes and refreshments will be served.

Please call in advance to tell whether

you plan to attend, either one or both of the meetings. Call the office at 908-754-4620, ext. 217, 213 or 214.

Rainbow Academy Open House

February 2

The new Rainbow Academy Child Care Center at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., located on the Edison border, is having an Open House on Saturday, Feb. 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Everyone who registers will receive a free photo sitting with proofs taken by Reminiscent Photography. In addition, you will receive one free month of ParentWatch, an internet viewing service. For a demo of their video services, visit their website at www.parent-watch.com.

For directions and information visit their website at www.rainbow-academy.com.

Friends of the Library Special Program

February 3

The Friends of the South Plainfield Free Public Library invites you to attend a special program "Dr. Franklin, I Presume" on Feb. 3, at 2 p.m. at the South Plainfield Public Library.

Dr. Benjamin Franklin talks about his youth, his inventions, and his family. This presentation also focuses on Dr. Franklin's relationship with his son, William who became Royal Governor of New Jersey and the affect his appointment had on Franklin.

This program is made possible through grants from the NJ Council for the Humanities, a State Partner of the National Endowment for the humanities.

Recreation Winter Dinner Show

February 7

The South Plainfield Recreation Department will be sponsoring a trip to a Winter Dinner Show at the Hunterdon Playhouse on Feb. 7. The bus leaves from the PAL Building at 10 a.m. The fee is \$45 per person and includes dinner and the show.

Tickets can be purchased at the PAL, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Polish Home Bus Trip To Atlantic City

February 10

The Polish National Home, located at 312 New Market Ave., will be sponsoring a bus trip to Atlantic City and Taj Mahal on Sunday, Feb. 10. The bus leaves from the Polish home at 11 a.m. and will return at 9 p.m. Cost is \$17 with a return in coins of \$13. For reservations, call Ann at (908) 561-6551 or Millie at (908) 757-3928.

PAL Sponsoring Trip to See Oklahoma!

(New Date!) March 28

The PAL of South Plainfield is sponsoring a trip to see *Oklahoma!* on Broadway on Saturday, March 28. Bus leaves the PAL at 4 p.m. There will be plenty of time for dinner before the play. Orchestra ticket price is \$90 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the PAL, located Maple Ave., weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. There are only 45 tickets available so get yours soon.

AARP Plans Bus Trip To New Orleans

April 20-28

AARP Chapter 4144 is planning a bus trip to New Orleans from April 20-28 (9 days/8 nights). The trip includes deluxe motor coach transportation, hotels, tours in New Orleans, riverboat jazz cruise, dinner party, Bellin Garden and cruise in Alabama, Stone Mountain Park in Georgia and much more. Price is \$655 for double occupancy and \$855 for single occupancy.

For reservations and information, call Lee at (732) 968-6613 or Mary at (732) 752-3764.

Rec Offering Trip To Virginia Beach

September 8-12

South Plainfield Recreation, along with White Star Tours, is offering a trip to Virginia Beach, VA, featuring a ghost tour of Williamsburg. The trip will take place from Sept. 8-12.

Features include four nights accommodations at one of Virginia Beach's finest motels; a tour of the Norfolk Naval Base, Arthur Memorial in Norfolk, Waterside Complex, four breakfasts, four dinners, including Spirit of Norfolk Dinner Cruise and evening entertainment.

The cost is only \$350 per person. Only one bus is available for this trip, no extra buses will be added, so make your reservations early.

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

SPHS Class of 1982 Plans Reunion

November 9

South Plainfield High School Class of 1982 announced that plans underway for their 20 year reunion. The date has been set for Saturday, Nov. 9. If you have a new address or know of other classmates' whereabouts, please contact Rosanne Demico-Ilardo at (732) 878-9877. Please log onto www.classmates.com for more reunion information.

— Out of Town —

Bickford Theatre Holding Open Call

January 19

The Bickford Theatre is holding an open call on Saturday, Jan. 19 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. for the comedy *Sylvia* by A.R. Gurney. The call will take place at The Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Rd., Morristown. Production runs Feb. 14 through March 10. All roles are open. Rehearsals begin Jan. 28 with cold readings. The director is David Christopher. For directions or info, call (973) 971-3706.

CHATS Adoption Support Meeting

January 28

Adoption Support. CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support), will meet 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 28, at the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave., North Plainfield.

"Found and Lost" will be the topic of Linda Bokor who grew up in a family where the "A" word wasn't mentioned much and after giving birth to her son, she searched for her birth family "because there were so many un-

answered questions in my life."

Open sharing of adoption-related stories and light refreshments. Call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 or <http://communitynj.com/cc/chats> for information.

Symposium at Brass Lantern

February 2

On Saturday, Feb. 2, Nancy Rosin, a long time collector of Victorian Valentines, will be conducting a symposium at the Brass Lantern in Metuchen, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., along with a Valentine Tea. Most recently Nancy has released a new video entitled "the Valentine and Expressions of Love" which is getting rave reviews. Don't miss this very special event at The Brass Lantern.

Villagers Theater Show Opening

January 11-February 2

Villagers Theater of Somerset has announced the opening of "The Importance of Being Ernest," by Oscar Wilde. The show will be directed by Jerry Marino.

Filled with wit and wisdom, it tells the tale of Jack Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff. Both young men have taken to bending the truth in order to add a dash of excitement to their lives. Jack has invented an imaginary brother, Ernest, whom he uses as an excuse to escape from his dull home in the country and frolic in town. Algernon uses a similar technique, only in reverse: his imaginary friend,

Held at the Villagers Theater, 475 DeMott Lane in Somerset, the show will run Fridays and Saturdays, Jan. 11 through Feb. 2 and Sundays, Jan. 20 and 27. Evening performances will take place at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Ticket prices are \$14, with student and senior prices of \$12 on Fridays and Sundays only. For more info, call the number listed below.

Villagers Theater Announces Auditions

February 11 and 14

The Villagers Theater of Somerset has announced the auditions for *Closer*, by Patrick Marber. The play will be directed by Michael Driscoll. Dates of the audition are Monday, Feb. 11 and Thursday, Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m. The director is looking for two females, in their 20's to 30's and two males in their 30's. There will be readings from the script. British accents are required. The show will run April 5 through April 20. *Closer*, with a scalpel-sharp script, takes us under the skin of a stripper, dermatologist, a photographer and an obituarist. (For Mature Audiences Only). For information, call the number listed below.

Villagers Theater Announces Opening

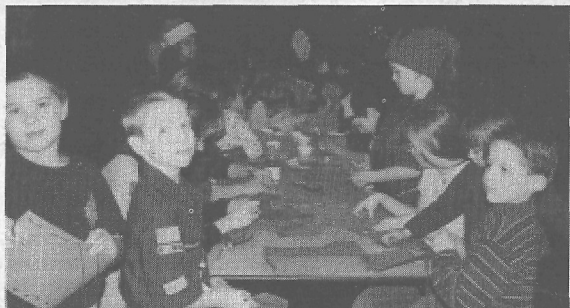
February 15, 16, 17, 22, 23; March 1, 2

The Villagers Theater of Somerset has announced the opening of *Fuddy Meers*, by David Lindsay-Abaire. The show will be directed by Stuart Herschkowitz. It will run Fridays and Saturdays, Feb. 15, 16, 22, 23, March 1 and 2, and Sunday, Feb. 17. Showtimes are evenings at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. All tickets are \$10.

For tickets and information, please call the Villagers Box Office at (732) 873-2710 or visit www.villagerstheatre.com.

Send Us Your Events:

Mail or drop off stories and photos to
South Plainfield Observer,
1110 Hamilton Blvd.
Suite 1B,
South Plainfield, NJ 07080,
fax (908) 668-8819; or
email to ggnan@aol.com.



Riley School Cub Scout Den 224's Christmas Party. Every pack provided activities, and the boys enjoyed a night of crafts and fun at different stations. Thanks to all who made the evening a success.

Recycling Drop-Off Center Closed on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

The Recycling Center on Kenneth Ave. will be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 22. It will be open instead on Wednesday, Jan. 23, from noon till 7 p.m. Regular hours will resume Friday, Jan. 25.

Regular hours at recycling are: Tuesdays 12 noon to 7 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Yard Waste Site, at the end of Kenneth Ave., is open every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will not be affected by the holiday.

The Recycling Center will be accepting used paint on the third Saturday of each month. This month the date is Jan. 19. Bring in your old paint cans to be recycled.

For updates or information, call the Recycling Hotline at (908) 226-7620.

southplainfieldpeople Milestones



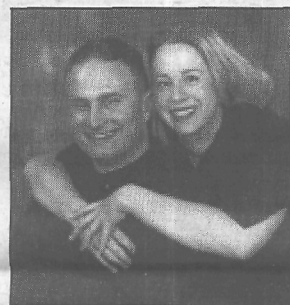
Three birthdays were celebrated this week at the PAL senior meeting on Tuesday. They were Betty Bilewicz (left), who celebrated her 90th birthday, and Fran DeSorti (right), who celebrated her 74th. Betty's future grandson, Bill Kay, brought cupcakes, fruit and birthday decorations to the party. Also celebrating her birthday was Loraine Buttwal, not pictured.

Shannon McGrath, Christopher Colucci Announce Engagement

Peter J. and Linda M. McGrath have announced the engagement of their daughter, Shannon A. McGrath to Christopher R. Colucci, son of Nicholas S. and June E. Colucci.

The future bride is a graduate of South Plainfield High School and Rutgers University, where she earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in criminal justice and psychology. She is an instructional support aide at Riley Elementary School and is pursuing a Master's Degree in elementary education at Kean University.

Her fiancé, also a graduate of South Plainfield High School, is a Gulf War veteran and a former Federal Officer. He is employed as a police officer with the South



Shannon McGrath and Christopher Colucci

Plainfield Police Department.

A February wedding will be held in Watchung.

High School First Marking Period Honor Roll

Grade 9

Peter DeAnrea (omitted last week).

Grade 11

Christopher Addvensky, Joseph Adorna, Ashley Allocco, Alain Amazan, Kimberly Arend, Christopher Baron, Heather Barrett, Jason Basile, Rebecca Bianchi, Christopher Bojarski, Tiffany Boyle, Milton Bravo, Jr., Jenny Cai, Jody Chepulis, Meredith Cooper, Gary Curcio, Jr., James Curcio, Jr., Jay Cushner, Nadia Deba, Christina DeMaros, Martin Diamant, Denise DiMeglio, Kelly Eustice, Abbalonia Falato, Kristen Fredericks, Christina Furka, David Garatino, Hollie Gaster, Amanda George, Jamie Glowacki, Dale Goberdhan, Shelly Graziano, Kristen Gumina, Amanda Hermann, Christopher Hewitt, Nadisha Hosein, Alexander Huynh, Kim Huong Huynh, Apprameya Iyengar, David Jacobs, Tiffany Johnson, Lauren Kaczka, Amit Kalia, Michael Kasmer, Jillian Kelley, Nicole Little, Nathalie Londono, Christina Lorance, Sejal Mehta, Daniel Melick, Alexis Montanaro, Jamie Morris, Harry Mowrey, Richard Muglia, Sherin Navasca, Kristen Nietzer, Kristina Ogonowski, Ellery Pagala, Laura Painton, Terry Paschall, Chirag Patel,

Dipika Patel, Herry Patel, Rupel Patel, Kristin Pozarycki, Cynthia Prybella, Brian Publik, Megan Pulomena, John Rayho, Joseph Reach, Eva Rodriguez, Elayne Russell, Meaghan Schweers, Rachel Shah, Danielle Skoba, Allison Stolloff, Stephanie Tackach, Justin Toth, Janine Turrisse, Denise Vita, Ryan Vroom, Craig Warren, Matthew Wells, Ervin Williams, Frank Wrublevski, Victoria Zappi

Grade 12

Malika Aaron, Amy Alles, Mohammed Ali, Kathy Almanzar, Puja Amin, Brielle Anderson, Matthew Anderson, Kimberly Bishop, Matthew Bizup, Jennifer Bodyl, Cassie Bosse, Taneil Britton, Michael Buteas, Dana Butrico, Jennifer Butrico, Christopher Caltafamo, Pamela Cianfrocca, Christopher Cornish, Jaclyn Cox, Gina D'Urso, Daniel DeFalco, Philip DeGennaro, Jenevieve DeLosSantos, George Demarest, Joseph Dezmin, Jr., Luis Dimacje, Scott Doer, Tamara Dombrowski, Edward Donnelly II, Allison Dressler, Meghan Elsmann, Andrew Falocco, Christopher Fortunka, David Francis, Jonathan Fredericks, Andrew Fyffe, Rodney Gateau, Liane Gawroriski, Justin Gaynor, Alan Graziano, Christopher Grevious, Sean Grevious,

Norma Guevara, Kandice Heffernan, Cheryl Hoh, Jessica Honeywell, William Humber, Caitlin Hunter, Violet Huynh, Jason Jackson, Tory Joe, Jacqueline Jones, Peter Judd, Rula Kanj, Elliot Kaplan, Kathryn Katsiaticas, Valerie Katsonis, Daniel Lahey, Tamika Limerick, Danielle Lytwyn, Jennifer McDougall, Kristen Mazellan, Krystal McCullen, Tykeia McDaniel, Jeffrey McKnight, Robert Merkle, Sarah Miele, Timothy Morgan, James Nguyen, Joanne Nguyen, William Olson, Michelle Oppelt, Erica Parks, Jigar Patel, Michelle Paterek, Matthew Peloquin, Kelly Pennisi, Kevin Petrocelli, Kimberly Pfeifer, Nicholas Piazza, Victor Pichardo, Alicia Pompey, Vuk Popovic, Allison Provaire, Richard Ringel, Kelly Ritchey, Thomas Rutter, Billie Jean Sarullo, Danielle Schweers, Martin Seiz, Danielle Servedio, Joseph Sierze-ga Jr., Maria Sivo, Michele Smith, Thomas Sniscak, Michelle Socha, Paul Spisso, Derek Staats, Kyle Stoeckel, Dattesh Suthar, Catherine Sylvester, Rebecca Thalheimer, Philip Thomas, Fidelia Uko, Matthew Vance, Stephanie Veerasammy, Dwayne Walker, Lorianne Waton, Jacqueline Wong.

SPJBC Announces Little Miss Baseball Contest

Once again, it's time to crown Little Miss Baseball 2002.

We will be accepting nominations for Little Miss Baseball 2002 from February 11 through February 25. Girls must be between the ages of 8 and 11 old and be South Plainfield residents. Finalists will be phoned on Feb. 26. Little Miss Baseball 2002 will be chosen by the "penny-a-vote" system. Boxes (with finalists' pictures) will be placed in Cicco's, Quick Chek and B&C Deli starting March 2 and will remain there until April 5. They will then be removed and counted for

the announcement of the winner on Opening Day, April 13.

We ask that all girls nominated march with the Baseball Club in our parade on April 13. The parade ends up at the Baseball Complex and during Opening Day Festivities we will announce Little Miss Baseball. The winner must be present to be crowned. If she is not there, the next runner up will be crowned Little Miss Baseball.

Get out and vote for our 2002 Little Miss Baseball. If you have any questions or want to nominate someone, please call Stacey Lake at (908) 757-9531.

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- Weekly Trips for 6-10 yr olds

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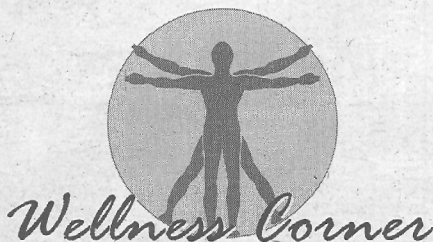
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By Dr. Patrick M. Aiello D.C.

Slipped Discs, Pulled Muscles and Back Pain...

Ok, last time we were discussing lower back pain and the problems associated with it. If you recall, one of the items that bears mentioning again is having the patient develop an understanding of the reasons back problems develop in the first place. With that in mind, patient education is of utmost importance. Again, we don't want to send the patient back into the same environment or conditions, which caused the problem to develop in the first place.



Dr. Patrick Aiello, DC

with lower backs is when the spinal bones lose their normal alignment or position to each other. They can also become 'locked up' or fixated. When either of these problems happens, a vertebral subluxation complex is said to exist. That's where chiropractic comes into the picture. But we'll save that one for the third part of this series.

Some Helpful Tips.....

- Keeping the above in mind, here are some tips to help you avoid getting back pain, and specifically lower back pain/problems from beginning in the first place.

- When lifting, keep your shoulders in line with your hips. This will help to avoid putting excess stress on your lower back.

- Make sure the ground/area you are lifting in and around is clean, not slippery and well lit. Sometimes when we make adaptations as we are lifting due to unsafe conditions is when an injury can sneak up on us.

- Get help in lifting. If something is too heavy, too bulky or just beyond your capabilities, then acknowledge that. Check your testosterone at the door and get help.

- When doing repetitive tasks, make sure to take frequent breaks.

I hope this was helpful and useful in your understanding of your back and how to help avoid problems from happening in the first place. Unfortunately, accidents/injuries happen sometimes. But with proper conditioning and stretching along with an awareness of the activities we are doing, hopefully, we can lessen the odds of a problem happening to us.

The next article in this series will deal with treatment options for lower back and spinal disc conditions.

Spinal Anatomy

When you consider there are 24 movable spinal bones, each separated by a soft, hockey puck shaped structure called a spinal disc. The spinal disc is a gelatinous, cushy part of the spinal system, which allows for movement of the spinal bones. The disc can also act as a shock absorber. Now, before we get into the problems with overworking, or overloading the spinal discs. We need to look at the electrical wiring of the body. Meaning, how the brain communicates with the rest of the body. Through the nervous system.

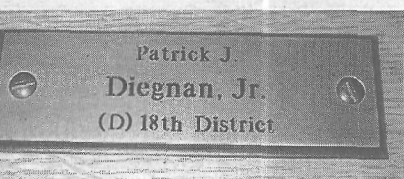
The spinal cord, which starts at the brain and runs most of the length of the spine, gives root to branches. These branches are called spinal nerve roots and they exit the spine throughout the entire length of the spine. For example, sciatica is a painful problem caused by irritation to the sciatic nerve. The sciatic nerve is composed of branches of nerves from the lumbar and sacral spinal regions.

Now, back to the discs. Too much stress from lifting of excessive weights. Excessive turning or rotation of the spine. Doing repetitive tasks over and over again fatiguing the body. These are some of the ways the spinal discs can become injured.

Another common problem seen



Patrick Diegnan (left), South Plainfield Borough Attorney and 18th District Assemblyman is interviewed by TV newsman Michael Aaron in Trenton. Pictured above are Diegnan with family and friends who traveled with him to the State Capitol for the swearing in ceremony. The plaque below identifies Diegnan's seat in the Assembly chamber.



Diegnan is Sworn in as State Assemblyman

The day began at Uncle Pat's house with a small breakfast of donuts and coffee, at about 8:30 a.m. We boarded the bus around 9 a.m. and arrived in Trenton at the War Memorial Building a little after 10 a.m., where Jim McGreevey would also be taking his oath of office.

There we attended a breakfast reception where all the "VIP's" and families had a "meet and greet." At the breakfast, we chatted with Albio Sires, the new Speaker of the Assembly, Congressman Frank Pallone, Joe Roberts, and various other members of the Assembly.

After breakfast, we proceeded to the main hall for the official swearing in ceremony. The new class of the Assembly were led in by the State Police Honor Guard, along with bagpipers, and drums. Attorney General John Farmer addressed the crowd. Each new Assembly member was sworn in on stage with their immediate family present. After the proceedings, Albio Sires delivered a very emotional speech that really came from the heart. He spoke of how he came to the U.S.

from Cuba with his parents in 1961 in search of the American dream, not being able to speak the language and getting teased in school. He looked around and said, "Look where I am today." Everyone was choked up, including Sires himself.

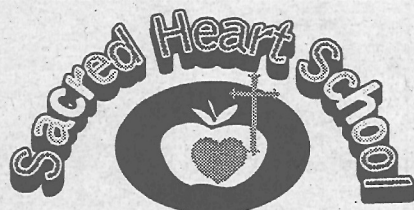
After the ceremony we all walked over to the Capital for a tour/lunch, while Patrick attended the State of the State address. The tour consisted of several highlights, including the rotunda, State Senate chambers, various meeting rooms and ended in the Office of the Governor. From there several of us, Jules Rydarowski, Maureen Rydarowski, Joe Diegnan, Joe Rydarowski, and Rich Diegnan, (yet another one of the brothers), listened from the Assembly chambers to the State of the State. We were lucky to find a few seats in the back of the room, several rows behind the "official seats" of Pat Diegnan and Peter

Barnes. It was a great feeling to see my uncle sitting there, and to see his name on the official board that hangs over the chamber reflecting each Assembly members name. The purpose of the board is for voting purposes, a red and green light next to each name reflects how that individual voted on a particular piece of legislation during a normal Assembly proceeding.

After the State of the State, Patrick was interviewed by New Jersey Network, and asked his opinion on the State of the State. His "take" was aired later in the evening.

The day concluded back in South Plainfield with a dinner at Michael Anthony's. Many who could not attend the swearing in ceremony, attended the dinner. All in all, we all had a great day!

Story and photos were submitted by Joseph Rydarowski, Patrick Diegnan's nephew.



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Convent (908) 756-0631
Parish Center (908) 756-0633 ext. 10

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Free Tax Preparation For Seniors

All South Plainfield seniors interested in having their tax forms prepared for mailing by April 15 should come to the PAL Building, located on Maple Ave., on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, starting Feb. 14.

Bring all information that will be required to complete the forms, i.e. a copy of last year's returns, all forms of income (such as 1099s, CDs, bank interest, stock dividends, capital gains or losses), a copy of last year's property tax bill or the green post card giving the total real estate taxes paid in 2001.

Assistance and information will be available for help with other senior benefit forms such as PAAD, PTR, Lifeline, Homestead Rebate, NJ Savers, and Property Tax Deduction/Credit.

Back Pain?

Edison, NJ - Most people have no idea what to do when they experience back pain; they use heat, ice, sleep on the floor, even take pain pills hoping their pain will go away. The more you don't know, the more likely you may experience serious disc or nerve injury. If you are tired of suffering and don't know what to do about it, there is a Free Eye Opening Report that has just been released. For your free copy, call toll-free 1-888-568-8424, 24 Hrs. Recorded Message.

The South Plainfield Health Department
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Saturday, January 26, 2002
9:00 am-12:00 noon

For More Information Please Call

226-7631



South Plainfield Students Test Scores are Released

The New Jersey Department of Education released the test scores taken by our fourth, eighth and 11th graders.

All grades in the school were tested in the same subjects, language, math and science. In both the fourth and eighth grades the highest possible score was 300, with the passing grade being 200. Students scoring above 250 are considered "advanced." Be-

cause of a change in the way the tests were scored this year, the fourth grade (ESPA) scores could not be compared to the previous years testing.

In high school scoring, the highest possible score was 500, the lowest 100. To pass the High School Proficiency Test (HSPT) students must score at least 300 on each section. This is a requirement for graduation in New Jersey.

HSPT (High School Proficiency Test) South Plainfield High School Average Scores

Reading	Math	Writing	Percent that passed in 2000 - 76.7
368	392	364	Percent that passed in 1999 - 81.0

Fourth Grade Testing - ESPA (Elementary School Proficiency Assessment)

School	Language	Math	Science	Prof. all 3	Adv. All 3
Franklin	221	218	237	69.8	1.9
John E. Riley	229	231	250	80.0	6.2
John F. Kennedy	229	229	248	85.2	4.9
Roosevelt	224	215	240	67.1	5.7

Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment - South Plainfield Middle School

Language	Math	Science	Prof. 2001	Prof. 2000
216	216	231	61.5	62.2

New 2002 Yard Waste Stickers are Available

The new 2002 yard waste stickers are available for pickup by residents at the clerk's office in Borough Hall.

Borough Clerk Vinnie Buttiglieri said that last year's stickers will be allowed for a short time, but ultimately everyone will need a new sticker or their car will be turned away.

According to Councilman Bob Cusick, the borough saved \$37,240 last year. He attributed the savings to the new stickers that were issued last year to residents only and the presence of a police officer at the yard waste site checking to make sure only residents were using the facility.

This year the rules are the same as last year, every resident must get a new window sticker, which is available at the Borough Clerk's Office. It's the only way you'll be allowed to use the yard waste site. Your car will be turned

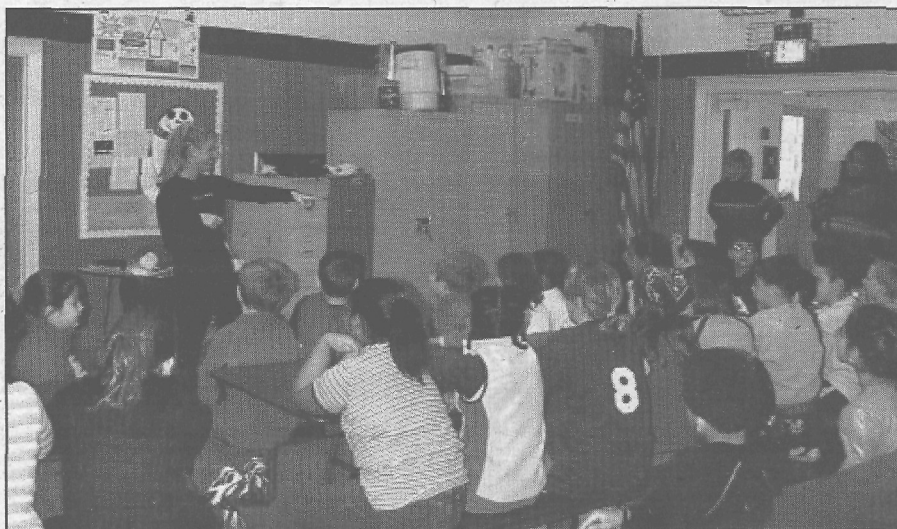
away if you have an old sticker; no exceptions.

To be eligible for a sticker, you must show proof that you are a South Plainfield homeowner, occupant or renter and you must bring your yard waste in a private, non-commercial vehicle. No commercial firm or landscaper is allowed to use the facility.

If you are not using your own vehicle or have a vehicle with commercial plates, you must obtain a one day pass from the Borough Clerk's Office in order to utilize the yard waste site.

Borough Ordinance #1563, which is up for a final vote at next week's council meeting, imposes fines of up to \$1,500 for violators.

The clerk's office is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you need more information or have any questions, call 226-7606.



Roosevelt Students Learn About Drugs

Last week fourth grade Roosevelt students participated in a drug awareness program sponsored by the Middlesex Health Department.

Danielle Toth, M.A., a Middlesex County health educator of alcohol, tobacco and other drug programs was at the school talking about good drugs and bad drugs. Toth visits schools all over Middlesex County bringing her message of drug awareness to the youngsters.

Toth talked about the many different kinds of bad drugs there are and quizzed the students on how many they could name — she found that the fourth graders knew the names of many bad drugs, as well as good drugs. A few lucky students were given t-shirts and prizes for answering questions correctly.

Fourth grade teacher Christina Papi coordinated Toth's visit to the school.

Toth will be at the Middle School all day today working with the students on smoking, a bad drug.



More Than Just Flowers for Valentine's Day at Mohn's

Want to sweep your sweetheart off their feet this upcoming February 14? Do it with more than just the typical dozen roses and box of chocolates.

This Valentine's Day, Mohn's Flowers is offering an out-of-the-ordinary approach to finding a gift. Along with flowers and balloons, this year stuffed animals are also available. Teddy bears, gorillas, lions, tigers and a singing cowgirl are among the variety of talking and singing stuffed toys. The

stuffed animals come with a pre-recorded song, including *I Will, Love Will Keep Us Together, Ch-Ch-Chains, Chains of Love, Wind Beneath My Wings, I'm Wild About You*, and *Hey, Good Lookin'*. Also featured are Record-A-Bears, which are bears that allow you to record your own personalized message. To see for yourself, stop by Mohn's for a gift that will truly impress your special someone this Valentine's Day.

COMFORT & CHEER

If you know of someone who is ill or recuperating and in need of some cheer, or someone who is celebrating a birthday or promotion, etc., send in your good or get well wishes and we will extend your greeting each week in this column.

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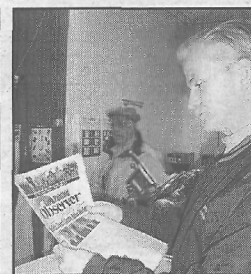
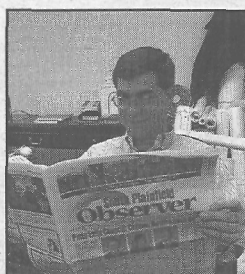
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Sports

By Kevin Lykes

juniorbaseballclubnotes

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES TO TAKE NOTE OF:

Monday, Feb 4: 7:30 p.m. General Meeting.
Tuesday, Feb 12: 7:30 p.m. Coaches Clinic, topic TBD.
Monday, Feb 25: 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: 7:30 General Meeting.
Tuesday, March 12: 7:30 p.m. Coaches Clinic, at SPHS practice, site to be determined.
Saturday, March 16: 9:30 a.m., "C" League Orientation, Field 1.
Monday, April 1: 7:30 General Meeting.
Saturday, April 13: OPENING DAY!

Our Website spjbc.com is up and running. Check our website to stay updated on club activities, (coaches clinics, meetings, umpire training classes, tryouts, etc.) Also once the season is gear, schedules, rosters and standings. You can participate in trivia contests and see our complex from an aerial view.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY MEETING—The monthly meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary will be held on Thursday, Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the SPJBS Complex on Kenneth Ave.

South Plainfield Recreation Offering Discounted Ski Tickets

The South Plainfield Rec Department is offering ski tickets for the 2002 season at discounted prices. Tickets can be purchased at the PAL, 1250 Maple Ave., Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and also on every first and third Monday, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Camelback Weekend/Holiday	\$43
Camelback Midweek All Day	\$30
Camelback Night	\$22
Shawnee Weekend/Holiday	\$36
Shawnee Midweek All Day/Night	\$28
Shawnee Skiers Choice Package	\$57
JFBB Weekend/Holiday All Day	\$40
JFBB Midweek All Day	\$32
JFBB Night	\$23
JFBB Discovery Package	\$47
JFBB All Area Ski/Snowboard	\$57
Blue Mountain Weekend All Day	\$40
Blue Mountain Weekday All Day	\$33
Mountain Creek Weekend/Holiday All Day	\$40
Montage Weekend/Holiday	\$36
Montage Weekday	\$30
Montage Midweek/Day Pass	\$29

Cat Adoption Events



People for Animals, a non-profit animal welfare organization serving New Jersey, will sponsor pet adoption events on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 26 and 27, from noon until 4 p.m. at two PETSMART stores: in Bridgewater at the Promenade Mall at the intersection of Route 28 and Route 287 and in Watchung at the Watchung Square Mall at 1515 Route 22 West.

Among the many pets for adoption will be Sandy, who is a petite 4 year old brown tabby. She is spayed, current with her vaccinations and tested FIV and feline leukemia negative. Sandy's owner passed away, now Sandy plus several other

cats from the household need new homes. She is friendly, gentle and good with other cats. To adopt or for other information, call (908) 668-1073 and press 8 for cat adoption or 1 for dog adoption. Other pets for adoption can be seen on the internet at www.pfa.petfinder.org.

Stop the cycle of homeless pets now! Alter your pets or any outside cats that you may be feeding. For low cost spay/neuter information please call the People for Animals Clinic at (908) 964-6887. Spay/neuter surgery costs range from \$35 to \$55 and include rabies and distemper vaccinations.

BOWLING

By Ralph Fech

Victoria Boley (555), Kim Gaub (513) Qualify For GMC Individual Finals

Out of a field of approximately 175 girls, the South Plainfield Tiger girls placed two of their own in the GMC Individual Bowling Finals, which will be held next Wednesday at Carolier Lanes.

Freshman Kim Gaub rolled games of 180-184-149 for a 513 set, which

placed her in the 20th qualifying position in the tournament.

Teammate sophomore Vicky Boley fired games of 204-167-184 for a 555 set and ninth place in the tournament.

Only the top 20 girls qualify for an additional three games after which

the top ten are medal winners. The top five girls continue on in a stepladder head to head elimination round to determine who wins the individual championship.

Last year's champion was South Plainfield's Melissa Jamieson, who took home the gold.

Girls Bowling Team Drops Three

The girls bowling team were upset by perennial nemesis Mother Seton Regional as the Terriers won all three games and put a damper on the Tiger's chances to repeat as Division champions.

Vicky Boley fired games of 170-180-190 to lead all scorers. Chipping in were Meredith Cooper 171 and Danielle Larish 152 as the Tigers struggled through out the match and saw their record drop to 8 and 4.

Mother Seton 755-751-785—2296
 SPHS 677-704-719—2100

The girls bowling team threw everything they had at the league leading state ranked Carteret squad, but came up short each time.

Kim Gaub rolled the high game of 199 and 491 set. Vicky Boley added games of 184 and 182 for a 502 set, Alexis Montanaro 184 and Danielle Larish turned in solid performances for the spirited Tigers.

SPHS 737-842-781—2360
 Carteret 890-899-844—2633

The girls were bumped by a strong Bishop Ahr contingent who swept all three games from the Tigers. Vicky Boley's 211 game and 543 set paced the green and white who also received a solid performance from Danielle Larish's 183 game and 472 set. Kim Gaub chipped in with a 176.

SPHS 758-739-746—2243
 Bishop Ahr 814-840-887—2541

Matt Boley (200.1 avg/45 games) Leads Tigers Over Bishop Ahr, But Fall to Carteret

The hot shooting Ramblers of Carteret held off a fierce rally by the boys bowling team as they avenged an earlier season loss to the Tigers. Leading all scorers was Matt Boley who fired games of 256-183-252 for a booming 691 set. Solid team efforts were turned in by fellow freshman Shawn Ferguson, George Kleinknecht

and Nick Grego as the boys record dipped to 3-6-2.

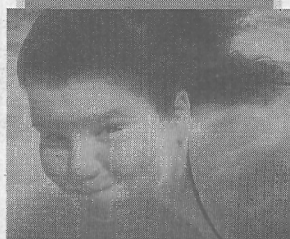
SPHS 846-820-881—2547
 Carteret 912-841-854—2607

The boys bowling team trailed by 45 pins after the opening game but settled down and rallied to win the next two games to win a 3-1 decision

over the Trojans. Matt Boley's 188-189-215 led the Tigers with backup help from Jon Jeglinski 172, Nick Grego 171 and steady play from Shawn Ferguson. The boys improved to 4-6-2.

SPHS 760-781-874—2415
 Bishop Ahr .. 805-742-830—2377

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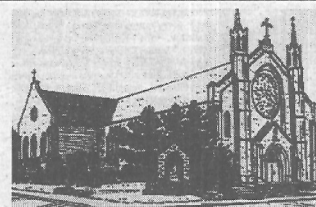
Rev. John Paul
 Alvarado, Pastor

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.
 Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)
 Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.
 Holy Days 7 p.m. (Vigil); 7 and 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 11 a.m. - 12 noon, 4:15-4:45 p.m.
 and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass



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**Borough of South Plainfield's
official web site at
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Visit your community web site for the latest local news on

- Mayor and Council
- Planning Board & Board of Adjustment Agendas
- Police - Fire - Rescue Squad
- Recreation
- Youth Activities
- Senior Corner
- Professional & Business Directory
- Community Bulletin Board
- Civic Organizations
- Election Results
- and more

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Sports

WRESTLING

By Bob Hunter

Middle School Wrestlers Win Big at Tri-Match

The South Plainfield Middle School wrestling team continued their winning ways this past weekend by beating Randolph and Watchung Hills in a tri-match that was held at the PAL.

The Tigers recorded their first shut-out of the season when they beat Randolph 80-0 in the first match of the day, and dominated Watchung 57-24 in the second match.

Patrick Hunter 75, got the Tigers off to a good start when he won by forfeit, but wrestled an exhibition match, winning by tech fall 15-0. Bill Ashnault 80, won by major decision 10-2. Jimmy Conroy 85, won by fall at 0:45. Nick Dorey 90, then followed with a pin at 1:15.

Mike Jakubik 95, won by fall at 1:18. Mark Wagner 100, followed with a fall at 1:20. Sam Martin 107, gave up the first takedown, but got the reversal then the fall at 1:20.

Anthony Niemczyk 112, recorded another pin in 1:00. Greg Yefko 117, took an 8-1 lead before getting the pin at 2:43. Anthony Nguyen 124,

wasted little time scoring the fall off the takedown at 0:45. Opie Muse 132, then scored a major decision 12-0.

Anthony Feirro 140, got the quickest pin of the day in just 23 seconds. Justin Huffsmith 150, won by forfeit and Kevin Criley 175, won by fall at 0:27.

Robert Gentile 70, got the Tigers going against Watchung Hills with a pin at 0:40. Patrick Hunter 75, increased the Tiger lead with a fall at 4:47. Billy Ashnault 80, won by forfeit. Jimmy Conroy 85, scored eight quick points, before getting a pin at 2:43.

Nick Dorey 90, went right to work and scored a tech fall 15-0. Mike Jakubik 95, then won by major decision 17-6. Mark Wagner 100, then followed with a fall at 2:32. Greg Yefko 117, hit the headlock and got the fall at 0:25. Opie Muse 132, got the fall off the takedown at 0:34. Kevin Criley 175, won by forfeit.

Also wrestling were Sam Martin 107, Anthony Niemczyk 112, Tony Nguyen 124, Anthony Feirro 140 and Justin Huffsmith 150.

Wrestlers Have Good Day at Roselle Park Tournament

Recreation and Middle School wrestlers had a good showing at the Roselle Park Dad's Club Wrestling Tournament this past weekend.

Winning medals for the Rec team were Anthony Ashnault 50, who came home with a first place finish. Jeffrey Conroy 53, finished third, while his brother Jonathan Conroy also finish in third place.

The Middle School wrestlers also

had a good day in the Junior Division with Billy Ashnault 80, and Nick Dorey 90, claiming titles.

Nick Dorey who had three falls on the day won Outstanding Wrestler for the tournament. Mark Wagner 102, also won a title defeating teammate Danny Pompilio in the finals.

Opie Muse 135, won his first title of the year with two falls. Rocco Petriello Super Hwt. won his title by decision.

In the Intermediate division, Jimmy Conroy 85, faced John Trumbetti in the finals, a wrestler who he had never beaten. Conroy took the early lead and got the fall at 2:28. Kevin Criley Hwt. won his title by decision. Robert Gentile came up short his 65 pound final for second place. Nick Pauls, also 65 finished in third place.

Winning consolation finals were Patrick Hunter 73, Bryan Hunt 90, Anthony Niemczyk 102, Sam Martin 108, and Anthony Feirro 140. Travis Knoll 114, finished in fourth place.

South Plainfield Middle School Basketball Team



Kneeling left to right are: Jen Yeung, Carlie Kazimir, Nicole Cortese, Dorian Bishop, Kim Arki, Carolina Guardado, Brandee Brown, Amanda Smalley, Megan Boyle, Kelly Downes, Lindsey Loiacono, Stephanie Hansen. Standing left to right are: Coach Dana Curcio, Darice Bishop, Lauren Fry, Courtney Eustice, Amber Hartman, Amanda Veinott, Samantha Horvath, Shaunique Cisson, Asia Hollis, Donna Garcia, Krystal Williams, Lacy Santone, Bobbi VanFleet, Coach Maureen Barnett.

Registration for 2002 Ponytail Softball Underway

Registration for the 2002 Ponytail Softball season is open to all South Plainfield resident girls, ages 8-13. The league is sponsored by the South Plainfield Recreation Department. All games are played at Pitt Street Park.

Fees are \$35 per person before March 8; \$40 after March 8. Place-

ment on a team is not guaranteed after March 8. No special team placement will be permitted. No refunds will be given.

Birth certificates are required at registration for anyone who has not participated in a recreation-sponsored youth league during the past year.

Register at the PAL building, 1250 Maple Ave. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Checks can be made payable to "SPREC."

For more information, please call (908) 226-7714.

Ponytail Softball Association Meeting

The South Plainfield Ponytail Parents' Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, Jan 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield Middle School library.

If you are interested in becoming a member and becoming involved in girl's Ponytail softball, please join us on Jan. 22. New members are always welcomed.

Community Pool Memberships Rates Remain the Same in 2002

Early Specials Until April 15

Rates at the South Plainfield Community Pool will remain the same in 2002 as last year.

Once again this year there will be early bird rates in effect until April 15.

Group	On or before 4/15	After 4/15
Family	\$250 plus 10 free passes	\$280
Family/FT child care	\$305 plus 10 free passes	\$335
Husband and Wife	\$195 plus 10 free passes	\$225
Individual	\$140 plus 10 free passes	\$170
Individual/family	\$ 70	\$100
Single Parent Family	\$220 plus 10 free passes	\$250
Senior Citizen	\$ 50 plus 10 free passes	\$ 60
Family/nonresident	\$470 plus 10 free passes	\$470
Individual/nonresident	\$240 plus 10 free passes	\$240

Sign up for the Community Pool at the PAL Building on Maple Ave. Residents should have received a brochure in the mail with their tax bill explaining all requirements and information.

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PHONE NUMBER

Obituaries

M. Theresa "Terry" Caslow, 86

M. Theresa "Terry" Caslow died on Saturday, Jan. 12 at the Cedar Oaks Care Center in South Plainfield.

Mrs. Caslow was born in Manhattan and educated in New York City schools. She then attended Rutgers School of Journalism. During WWII, she had worked for the U.S. War Dept. in Labor Management, Procurement for Defense, Procurement for Lend Lease Countries and Civil Defense.

After WWII, she had worked as the purchasing agent and assistant to director of purchases for the former Cornell Dublier Electronics home office in South Plainfield and for the company's 11 plants throughout the U.S. While with the company, she had organized and played in the CD bowling league, organized and was a player manager of the Union County girls softball league, which defeated the WAC's of Fort Dix for the State Championship.

Later she worked as the sales manager for Royal Apex Mfg. Co. of Plainfield for 25 years before retiring in 1991.

She had resided in South Plainfield for over 60 years and had been a very active member of the community by serving many years on the Board of Health and as the Board President. She was a longtime member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and held the position of chairman. She was also a member and chairman of the South Plainfield Sewer Authority and was a prime mover to dissolve the authority and placing it under the mayor and council.

At the age of 77, she ran and won a term serving on the Board of Education.

She was also a parishioner of Sacred Heart RC Church and belonged to the Rosary Altar Society.

She held various memberships, through the years, with various organizations including the National Association of Purchasing Agents, NJ Industrial Editor's Association and the NJ School Boards Association. She also belonged to the Friends of the Library, the Historical Society and served on the Mayor's Advisory Committee, all in South Plainfield.

Her husband, Joseph Caslow, died in 1980. She was also predeceased by her brother, Anthony Ferrante.

Surviving are her brothers, F. Pat Ferrante and Theodore Ferrante, both of South Plainfield, and Nicholas Ferrante of Bedminster. Also surviving are several nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Joseph E. Simpson Jr., 69

Joseph E. Simpson Jr. died on Friday, Jan. 11 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Atlantic City, Joseph had

resided in Philadelphia, Willingboro, California and Absecon before settling in South Plainfield 18 years ago.

He owned and operated Joey K. J. Inc., an automotive shop supplier. Previously he had been employed with Cheateu Chantclair for 15 years as a bartender.

Joseph served with the US Air Force during the Korean era and was stationed in England. He enjoyed cooking, entertaining and was an avid Oakland Raiders football fan.

Joseph was a great father and an extremely friendly person who loved everyone.

He is predeceased by his wife, Sheila I.; his son, Shawn and his parents, Joseph E. Sr. and Mary C.

Surviving are a daughter, Kathy Jo Simpson-Donahue and her fiancé Nicholas Daddio of Hunlock Creek, Pa.; a son, Brian of Trenton; a sister, Mary C. of Egg Harbor; two brothers, Edward of Absecon and Eugene of Bethlehem, Pa. and three grandchildren, Amanda Marie, Karissa Irene and Edward Shawn Joseph.

He is also survived by Doreen Marquez, a woman he thought and cared for as a daughter, as well as many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Albert J. Caradonio, 77

Albert J. Caradonio of Edison died on Thursday, Jan. 10 at the JFK Medical Center in Edison.

He was born in Newark and was a former resident of South Plainfield, Somerset and Deland, Florida before moving to Edison three years ago.

Mr. Caradonio was a manager in the corporate services division of Prudential Life Insurance Company in Newark for 40 years before retiring in 1982.

Albert's favorite pastime was golf. He loved the game and played at all the golf courses in the area.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Rose Don Diego Caradonio, who died in 1976.

Surviving are his wife, Barbara Castiglia Caradonio; a son and stepson, Albert J. Jr. and his wife Marianne of Wall and Douglas Breen and his wife Irma of Murieta, Calif., and a daughter and stepdaughter, Donna Bialek and her husband Jake of Somerset and Cheryl Feeley of Edison.

Also surviving are seven grandchildren.

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

Ralph "Wes" Rodgers, 74

Ralph "Wes" Rodgers died on Friday, Jan. 11 at the VA Medical Center in Lyons.

He was born in Hartford, Conn., where he grew up. Ralph entered the U.S. Navy and after serving three

years, he finished high school and then graduated from The Ward School of Electronics in Hartford.

He moved to Newark and later lived in Nutley and New Milford, before moving to South Plainfield 42 years ago.

He had worked as a first piece inspector for the former CML Co. in Plainfield and later was with Pitney Boxes in South Plainfield for 12 years before his retirement in 1987.

Mr. Rodgers was a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 in South Plainfield and during the mid-1990's he delivered the Meals on Wheels program in South Plainfield. He was a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield.

He was predeceased by a sister, Clara Albrecht.

Surviving are his wife, Patricia J. (Stockman) Rodgers; two daughters, Debra Witkowski of Westfield and Ellen Rodgers of Toms River; and a son, Douglas R. Rodgers and his wife, Patricia of Andover Twp.

Also surviving are four grandchildren, Christopher, Robert, Kimberly and Laura.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Rosemary Brennan Smith, 82

Rosemary Brennan Smith died on Thursday, Jan. 10 at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Mrs. Smith was born on July 8, 1919 in Plainfield and was the daughter of Thomas J. and Cecilia McCaffrey Brennan. She was baptized by Rev. John Baldwin, the first pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in South Plainfield, in July of 1919 in the original little church, which was located at the site of the present building.

After graduating from North Plainfield High School in 1936, Mrs. Smith was employed at NJ Bell Telephone Co. and Public Service and Gas Co. in Plainfield. She married Cornelius E. "Neil" Smith in St. Mary's Church in Plainfield on May 17, 1947 and moved to South Plainfield with her husband in 1950.

During WWII, she was employed by the Army Corps of Engineers at Camp Kilmer and by the Belle Mead Army Depot. She served with the Red Cross as a Gray Lady. She also was the editor of a family newsletter "Dear Cousin" which was mailed monthly to twenty-six cousins of the McCaffrey family who were serving in all four branches of the U.S. Armed Services.

Mrs. Smith was employed for many years in the Career Development Center at Douglass College, Rutgers University and retired in 1980. After retirement, Mrs. Smith was active in local organizations and spent time visiting with her children and grandchildren.

Mrs. Smith was a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield, where she was a member of the Altar Rosary Society. She was a charter member and former officer of AARP 4144 of South Plainfield, the Friends of the Library and the Silver Knights of Rutgers University. She also served for six years as a volunteer

with Hospice of Muhlenberg Hospital, visiting many patients and relieving their caregivers.

Mrs. Smith is predeceased by her daughter, Janice Mary, in 1982, her husband Neil, in 1983 and her granddaughter, Amy Smith in 1998.

Surviving are a daughter, Karen Smith Thiel of Bethesda; four sons, Neil Robert Smith of Old Bridge, Richard Dale Smith of Beachwood, Thomas Earl Smith and Robert Leo Smith, both of South Plainfield; a sister, Cecilia Metro; and two daughters-in-law, Janis Machos Smith and Mary Thul Smith.

Also surviving are 13 beloved grandchildren, Mindy Hope, Graham Smith and Shannon Janice-Rose Thiel of Bethesda, MD; Jenny Brennan Smith and Crystal, John and Charles Soriano of Old Bridge; Steven Thomas and Kayla Noelle Smith of Beachwood; Jeffrey Robert and Drew Michael Smith of South Plainfield; and Brandon Robert and Heather Nicole Smith of Colonia. Mrs. Smith also leaves many nieces, cousins and dear friends.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Mary Elsbach

Mary Elsbach, died on Wednesday, Jan. 9 at home.

Born in Staten Island, N.Y. where she resided for 87 years. She moved to South Plainfield in 1996.

Mrs. Elsbach was employed as a production supervisor for National Biscuit Company in Fairlawn for 45 years, before retiring in early 1960's. She was a member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield and a former member of Mt. Carmel Church in Staten Island.

Her husband Herman Elsbach died in 1950.

Surviving are a sister, Victoria Tavis of South Plainfield; two brothers, Anthony Czarniak of Sanford, Va., and Simon Czarniak of Spring Hill, Fla.

Also surviving are many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Roger M. Laanui, 59

Roger M. Laanui of South Plainfield died on Sunday, Jan. 13 at his home.

He was born in Iahaina, Hawaii and was a former resident of Brooklyn before moving to South Plainfield 28 years ago.

Mr. Laanui was a truck driver for the former Ritter Transportation in Rahway for 18 years.

Surviving is his wife, Francine Ancona Laanui; two sons, Stephen and Travis Laanui, both of South Plainfield; a daughter, Christine Laanui of South Plainfield; two brothers, Roland of Honolulu, Ha-

waii and Dwayne Laanui of Tottenham, Ontario Canada and two sisters, Cheryl Creacy of Makawao, Hawaii and Charlene Laanui of Reno, Nevada.

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

Delia T. Wierdo, 85

Delia T. Wierdo died on Tuesday, Jan. 15 at the JFK Medical Center.

Born in Ballyhaunis, Ireland, she came to the United States in 1947. Mrs. Wierdo resided in Bronx, NY, East Orange and Orange before moving to South Plainfield in 1957.

She was employed as a waitress for the Schackamaxon Country Club in Scotch Plains for 20 years before retiring in 1981.

She was a member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield, where she was also a member of the church's Senior Citizens Club. Mrs. Wierdo was also a member of Our Lady of Fatima Church Senior Citizens Club in Piscataway.

She was predeceased by her husband, Louis R., Jr. who died in 1998; two sisters, Mary Kenny and Margaret Healy and also by her three brothers; Patrick, Mike and Francis Burke.

Surviving are her son, James J. Wierdo of South Plainfield and his fiancé, Joy Mott of Winfield Park; a sister, Kathleen Burke of England, and a brother, James Burke of Ireland.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

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

Please mail, fax or email your copy, (preferably typed in upper and lower case and double spaced). Send to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Fax to (908) 668-8819, email us on our web page at spobserver.com.

Legal Notices

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Elaine Belz requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the erection of an 11' x 23' wood deck, proposed deck lacks required 20' rear setback, 11' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 249 Lot 6.04 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 February 5, 2002 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 January 18, 2002



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Beavers Will Be Staying in South Plainfield

The beavers that have been building dams in the Dismal Swamp, near the South Plainfield-Edison-Metuchen border will be not be moving, at least for now.

South Plainfield has been having a problem with the spot the beavers chose to build a dam. They selected two-four foot pipes and when blocked, water floods the road.

So far, the barrier put up by the road department has been effective.

When South Plainfield approached the Division of Fish and Wildlife to move the beavers, they were told they couldn't be successfully relocated during the winter and if they had to trap them, they would have to be destroyed.

South Plainfield said they never wanted to kill the animals and put up a barrier so they couldn't block the pipe they were building their dam around. So far the barriers seem to be working and both the beavers and the borough are happy.

Meanwhile, Patricia Abbot and her son Christopher ventured out last week at night to see the beavers in action. They were able to snap the pictures on the right.



policereport

• On January 10 a Pomponio Ave. resident reported that one of his vehicle's license plates was either lost or stolen.

• On Saturday a Clark Ln. resident reported that eggs had been thrown at her house and car.

• An Armstead Ct. resident reported that the glass in the front light panel had been smashed out and their rear patio door had been smashed. The bedroom had been ransacked. The owner was unsure at the time what had been taken.

• A Jankoski Ct. resident reported that their front door was pried open and the narrow view

window along the side of the front door was also smashed. Nothing was missing.

• Another Jankoski Ct. resident had reported on the same date that their dining room window was open and muddy foot prints were on the carpet. Nothing was missing from the house.

• A Staten Island resident reported that a fireplace mantel he had just purchased was stolen from his carriage, which he left unattended next to his car at Home Depot.

• On Sunday a Piscataway resident reported that while shopping at the A & P, she must have misplaced her purse. Af-

ter leaving the store, she called the credit card companies to report them stolen and found someone had made two purchases on her American Express card.

• The gates at the rear of the High School on the Lake St. side had been damaged. It appeared a vehicle was driven through them. The parking lot side gate was also damaged.

• On Tuesday the Amoco on Durham Ave. reported that two males and a female pulled up and asked for \$2 worth of gas. When trying to collect the money, the passenger said they didn't have any and fled.

Classifieds

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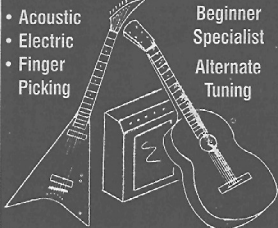
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Rescue Squad Holds Installation Dinner

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad held their 2002 Installation Dinner at the Holiday Inn on Saturday, Jan. 5.

Rescue Squad and Woman's Auxiliary relatives, friends and special guests were all on hand to show their support to South Plainfield's all volunteer rescue squad members and their newly elected officers.

The evening included entertainment by a comedian and dinner and dancing to music provided by Fine Tuning.

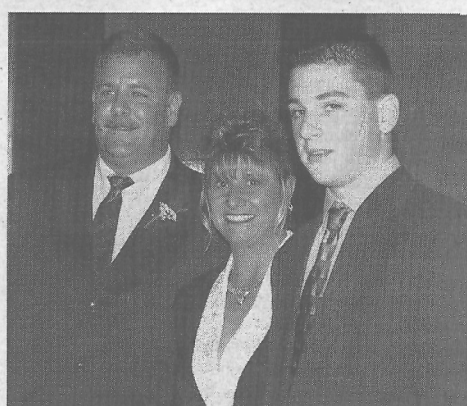
Rescue Squad officers installed for the year 2002 are as follows: President, Michael Zushma; Vice President, Rich Hamilton; Corresponding Secretary, Joan Cantamessa; Recording Secretary, Heidi Quinn; Treasurer, Glen Ewing; Captain, Ron Sward; First Lieutenant, Gary Toth; Second Lieutenant, Pete Magnani; Night Sergeant, Greg Rowlands; Day Sergeant, Jill Tener; Chaplain, Anthony Otolowski; Delegates, Mary Chapman, Glen Ewing, Rich Hamilton; Alternate Delegates, Peter Magnani, Jill Tener, Jose Heavens; Trustees, Gary Toth, Brian Anderson, Jim Wallace; Executive Board, Glen Ewing, Ron Sward, Heidi Quinn, Bill Fekete; Historian, Keely Heyman.

Ladies Auxiliary officers for 2002 are: President, Darla Woodel; Vice President, Tracy Smizaski; Corresponding Secretary, Kathy Simpson; Recording Secretary, Tracy Gilbert; Treasurer, Denise Neto; Historian, Rose Penkunas.

Members of the Cadet Corps are: President, Kimberly Pfeifer; Vice President/Secretary and Treasurer, Carly Yulick.

Service Awards for the Rescue Squad were given to the following for years of service: James Wallace, 20 years; Glen Ewing and Richard Hamilton, 10 years and past president; Keely Heyman; and Brian Anderson, five years.

The following Service Awards were presented by the Ladies Auxiliary: 25 Year Awards to Ethel Buscato and Doris Tripet; 20 Year Awards to Nancy Colvard, Joanne Eroglu and Dianne Mills; Five Year Awards to Sandra Donnelly, Tracy Smizaski and Kathy Smolinski; and past president Joanne Eroglu was recognized for her work.



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