

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 6, NO. 14

50 CENTS

DECEMBER 6, 2002

## Thanksgiving Day Fight Ends In Injuries

Early Thanksgiving morning, the South Plainfield Police Department responded to a call that two men were involved in a fist fight and one was armed with a handgun.

Police arrived to find two elderly men fighting in the bushes near the front door of a Brick Rd. residence. The men were identified as Paul E. Pellegrino, 72, of Brick Rd. and Salvatore J. Prestipino, 65, of Aberdeen.

Police said that Prestipino had arrived at Pellegrino's home and confronted him with the fact that he was dating his ex-girlfriend, a 55-year-old South Plainfield resident.

According to police, Prestipino walked up to the front door of Pellegrino's residence holding an unloaded handgun and warned him to stay away from his ex-girlfriend. Pellegrino then grabbed the gun from Prestipino and struck him in the head several times and they both fell to the ground. Prestipino wrestled the gun from Pellegrino and struck him numerous times in both the head and face. Both men stated that they stopped fighting due to exhaustion.

Pellegrino was transported to Muhlenburg Hospital and later released. Both men sustained cuts and abrasions to their head and face.

Prestipino was charged with aggravated assault, possession of a weapon and possession of a weapon for unlawful purpose and transported to the Middlesex County Jail and held on \$20,000 bail. He was released later that evening after posting bail.

## Tigers Fall to Canucks

*Homecoming Dance, Pep Rally, Bonfire Fail to Secure Tigers Victory*



Members of the fire department prepare for pep rally bonfire last week

The revival of the South Plainfield vs. North Plainfield Thanksgiving Day football game turned the tide towards the return of many exciting past tradi-

tions. No matter how the Tigers fared over the months since school began, the outcome of this game always seemed to determine the success of the

season. The winners of this game were the champs.

The excitement began Friday night with the Homecoming dance and continued Wednesday night with a Pep Rally, attended by over 300 people who were on hand to cheer on the team and to witness the crowning of the 2002 Homecoming King and Queen. The front of the gym held an evergreen tree which represented the rival team, the North Plainfield High School Canucks.

Football players and cheerleaders were introduced to the crowd. Cheerleaders, Color Guard and the SPHS Band kept the evening lively. Homecoming Court members anxiously awaited the final results. Finally, with a lot of fanfare, Victoria Zappi and Jim Curcio were named second runners up, Nathalie Londono and Chris Baron became first runners up and Crystal Soto and Jeff Williams were named 2002 SPHS Homecoming King and Queen.

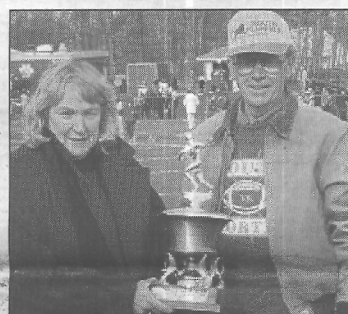
The winners were congratulated by the 2001 Queen and King Billie Jean Sarullo and Rafael Diaz. After the crowning, the crowd headed out of the gym to the huge bonfire, another tradition making its return.

With the South Plainfield Fire Department on hand to monitor the 20 foot flames, students, alumni, teachers, coaches, administrators and residents watched the fire burn brightly. The pyre, fast and furious, represented their hopes of returning home victo-

rious on Thanksgiving Day.

Thursday's cold weather and high winds didn't stop the crowds from turning out on Thanksgiving Day. The stands on both side of Jost Field were nearly filled. The crowd cheered wildly when South Plainfield scored the game's first points, but North Plainfield came back and won easily.

Confident that the South Plainfield



South Plainfield Mayor Dan Gallagher hands the trophy to North Plainfield Mayor Janice Allen after the Canucks beat the Tigers on Thanksgiving Day.

Tigers had what it takes to win, numerous bets were made on the outcome. Mayor Dan Gallagher and North Plainfield Mayor Janice Allen had a dinner for two riding on the final score, with loser buying dinner for the victor. One bet was not enough, South Plainfield's Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Thomas S. Butler and North Plainfield Superintendent Marilyn Birnbaum, as well as Jack Pedersen, president of the South

(Continued on page 7)

## Middle School Wrestlers Capture Randolph Duals Title

By Bob Hunter

The South Plainfield Middle School Wrestling team kicked off their season in impressive fashion by winning the Randolph Team Duals Tournament this past weekend.

This is the first time since they started competing in this tournament twelve years ago that the Tigers have ever won it all. Last year they finished third out of a field of sixteen teams. This year the Tigers with first year Head Coach Kevin Hajduk at the helm, combined with the help of five recreation wrestlers, to go 4-0 and claim the championship.

In the first match of the day the Tigers defeated North Warren 74-31. Then they defeated Lenape Valley 79-23 and in the semi-final round, they defeated a tough Kittatiny team 58-32.

In the Championship match, the Tigers defeated the Hackettstown Tigers 51-41, for their first ever duals title.

The North Warren match winners were Anthony Ashnault, Tyler Hunt, Ryan Sacco, Nick Pauls, Robert Gentile, Patrick Hunter, Mike Wagner,

Billy Ashnault, Bryan Hunt, Nick Dorey, Mike Jakubik, Sam Martin, Mark Wagner, Rocco Petriello. Also wrestling were Joseph Jakubik, Danny Pompillo, Brad Martin, Travis Noll and Mike Dandola.

Lenape Valley match winners were: Joseph Jakubik, Ryan Sacco, Nick Pauls, Patrick Hunter, Billy Ashnault, Bryan Hunt, Danny Pompillo, Nick Dorey, Mike Jakubik, Sam Martin, Mark Wagner, Brad Martin, Rocco

Petriello and Mike Dandola. Also wrestling were Anthony Ashnault, Tyler Hunt, Robert Gentile, Mike Wagner and Travis Noll.

Kittatiny winners were: Anthony Ashnault, Tyler Hunt, Ryan Sacco,

Robert Gentile, Patrick Hunter, Billy Ashnault, Mike Jakubik, Mark Wagner, Brad Martin, Travis Noll, Rocco Petriello and Mike Dandola. Also wrestling were Joseph Jakubik, Nick Pauls, Mike Wagner, Bryan Hunt, Danny Pompillo, Nick Dorey and Sam Martin.

Winners in the Hackettstown Championship match were Joseph Jakubik, Tyler Hunt, Ryan Sacco, Robert Gentile, Patrick Hunter, Billy Ashnault, Danny Pompillo, Nick Dorey, Sam Martin and Rocco Petriello. Also wrestling were Anthony Ashnault, Nick Pauls, Mike Wagner, Bryan Hunt, Mike Jakubik, Mark Wagner, Brad Martin and Travis Noll.

Here's a first in South Plainfield wrestling five sets of brothers wrestling on the same team at the same time. Anthony and Billy Ashnault, Tyler and Bryan Hunt, Joseph and Mike Jakubik, Mike and Mark Wagner and Sam and Brad Martin. Three Tiger wrestlers went undefeated for the day, Patrick Hunter two pins and two major decisions, Billy Ashnault four pins and Ryan Sacco three pins and one major decision.



Middle School and Recreation wrestlers with the first place trophy they won at the Randolph Team Duals Tournament. Congratulations!



# 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, December 9 ..... Thursday, December 12

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

## planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

Dec. 10, Dec. 24 (no meeting)

## zoning board of adjustment

Meets on Thursdays

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

Dec. 5, Dec. 19

## board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. - Dec. 10,

Jan. 14, 2003, Feb. 11, March 11, April 1.

Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m. - Dec. 17,

Jan. 21, 2003, Feb. 18, March 18, April 8.

## taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-668-0538

## site place sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.

## 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

## environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday except August)

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621

Dec. 11

## 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  
Dec. 18

# IN YOUR OPINION

## To the Editor,

We attended the Board of Education meeting last night. South Plainfield High School has had a wonderful program the past several years with the Winter Guard. This program is an extension of the Color Guard during the Marching Band season. The Winter Guard performs during the winter months from January through the Atlantic Coast Championships in May. Last year the Winter Guard placed third overall at the championships out of 39 guards on the east coast. Quite an accomplishment!

This year the program is in jeopardy because there has been no stipend approved for the directors. We compete against guards that have one director, an assistant director and a choreographer. We are asking for these positions to be approved by both the Union and the Board of Education. When asked in the past, we have been given the runaround regarding how to do this. The principal at the High School, Anthony Massaro, is in full support of this program and we understand he has put through the paperwork requesting the positions. What will it take to get these approved so that we may have the program this current school year? Since the program will have to start the first of the year, time is of the essence. We are asking that the parties involved get together and get this program underway NOW!

Along those same lines, we had an indoor Drum Line last year. This was the first time we had this and they took first place in both the Chapter Championships and the Atlantic Coast Championships in their division. Another great accomplishment! Volunteers did this last year. This year, they are also asking for stipend positions for this. What we need is a director, percussion instructor, an instructor for the drill and someone to write the music. Again, we are going up against Drum Lines that have that and much more - imagine what we can accomplish if we have these positions filled! We were in the novice division last year and the judges told us that our students were too good to be in that division and they should move up to the next division.

These programs are highly competitive and our students are able to compete and win again this year. All we are asking is for the people involved in directing these students to be paid for the many hours they dedicate to the programs.

I hope that this doesn't fall on deaf ears. The parents and the high school administration are in full support of these two programs. Please help us achieve our goals this year and allow the students to compete on an even level with all the other guards and drum lines.

SINCERELY,  
MARJORIE M. REEDY, PRESIDENT -  
SPHS MUSIC BOOSTERS

## Submit Letters to the Editor:

Letters may be submitted to our office: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email at our website at spobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Please limit letters to no more than 500 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. We reserve the right to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher.

## Dear Editor,

I would like to commend South Plainfield's Mayor and Borough Council for honoring twenty-nine residents who died in World War II and Korea. There is no better way to honor those heroes who are no longer with us than to make them a permanent part of South Plainfield by dedicating streets in their names. The recent gesture to adorn these street signs with a flag and gold star only makes the honor more apparent, as it should be. The memory of these twenty-nine men can now serve as a special inspiration to South Plainfield residents, and all others who pass through town, that some of the best of America's came from South Plainfield.

This honor is especially important to the families of these veterans. In many of these cases, the family member never received the remains of their loved ones to help with closure. Honors like this dedication can go a long way toward making their son or daughter's death meaningful. In addition, placing the family's name on the signs acknowledges that the men did not die in vain. At this distant point in time, memories may have dimmed regarding the impact these veterans had, but the truth is that they have played an enormous role in making the world a safer place. Gestures like these reinforce that truth to all of us, but especially to the families of those veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice.

YOUR SENATOR,  
BARBARA BUONO

# Write Your Letter to Santa



It's that time of year again! Everyone is talking about writing a letter to Santa for their Holiday wishes. A special mailbox has been placed in front of the South Plainfield Post Office, located on Oak Tree Ave. All letters should be mailed by Dec. 15 and include a return address inside. Have a happy, healthy holiday season!

# Cub Pack 224 Needs Your Help

John E. Riley School, Cub Scout Pack 224 needs your help! They are asking for your help in donating items to help orphaned and homeless pets through - A Lifeline For Animals or ALFA.

Their wish list includes: canned cat food, dry cat food; Neutro and Science Diet, litter, litter boxes, litter scoop, catnip, catnip toys, toy mice; office supplies: pens, envelopes, thank-you cards, stamps, clean pillow cases and towels for bedding

If you would like to help these animals, there is a donation box in the lobby at Riley School outside the front office. The box will be there until their Pack Meeting Dec. 12.

Thanks for your help.

# Business Assoc. and United Trust Host Evening of Networking

The South Plainfield Business Association and United Trust Bank will be co-hosting an "Evening of Networking" on Wednesday, Dec. 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at United Trust Bank, located on 111 St. Nicholas Ave.

The public is invited to attend and should bring along plenty of business cards. Refreshments will be served.

# 'First Day' Book Signing at Waldenbooks

This is one *Magical* book-signing event you don't want to miss! Waldenbooks Bookstore, located in the Middlesex Mall is hosting a booksigning for *First Day: Heroes Start As Kids* the latest from author John Cooper of *A Dewey Does Book*, on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. A free gift will be given out to everyone who attends (while supplies last).

*First Day* promotes self-esteem, courage and confidence, a love for reading and much more seen through the eyes of a nine-year old boy, named Dewey Does. The author will not only personally sign your book, but will also conduct a reading from 3-3:30 p.m.

Bret Amazing from High Energy Entertainment will perform walk around magic followed by a show. This is a friend and family event; bring someone you know for an inspiring and fun-filled time.

For more information, visit their website at [www.deweydoes.com](http://www.deweydoes.com) or call 888-433-6371.

# 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 the 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 at [spobserver.com](mailto:spobserver.com) or [ggnan@aol.com](mailto:ggnan@aol.com) or [ngrennie@ix.netcom.com](mailto: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](http://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 their name be omitted when published.

There's so much going on in South Plainfield!  
Don't miss any of it!

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page 9

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## Get Involved! Mayor Seeking Resumes

Mayor Gallagher is asking any resident who would like to serve on a Board or Commission in South Plainfield to submit their resume.

At the reorganization meeting held in January, 2003 more than 75 new appointments will be announced.

There are openings on most boards. For a list of all the boards and commissions stop in to the Borough Clerk's office and pick up a Municipal

Directory. The directory contains not only the boards and commission, but when they meet, council members, the mayor's phone number and the direct dial phone numbers of the offices in Borough Hall. It is a must-have for all residents.

Residents should send their resumes to Mayor Dan Gallagher, c/o Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

## Job Search Club Programs For December at Library

The South Plainfield Free Public Library, located at 2484 Plainfield Ave. (adjacent to the Municipal Building), has planned the following program schedule for December 2002:

- Saturday, Dec. 7, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, Resumes and Cover letters
- Tuesday, Dec. 10, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, Job Searching on the Internet

All programs are FREE! Space is

limited and reservations are required.

For more information, call the library's Reference desk at (908) 754-7885 or visit the library web site at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

The library's Job Information Center provides free classes for job seekers, computer programs, books/materials on interviewing and resumes and fee services such as fax and notary public.



The Roosevelt School PTA recently accepted a check for \$799 from the South Plainfield Elks to be used toward a drug awareness and bike safety program. An assembly will be held in May with bicycle stunt show performers Diamondback Perfection on Wheels. Pictured from left to right are Leading Knight Nick Chupko, Loyal Knight Pete Smith, Roosevelt School Principal Jacqueline Keogh, Exalted Ruler Richard Burns, PTA President Therese Montouri and Program Coordinator Kathy Horvath.

## Standing Room Only Crowd Attends Lenape Program



Ninety-plus adults and children celebrated Native American Indian month by attending a Lenape program sponsored in part by the South Plainfield Historical Society.

Beverly A. Friend, a full-blooded Cherokee, presented a program on the Lenape, the native culture that inhabited the Borough prior to the coming of the Europeans in the mid-seventeenth century. Friend was

a protege of the late James "Lone Bear" Revey, who worked towards the establishment of the Indian Council of New Jersey.

With rapt attention, the standing room only crowd listened as she spoke of Lenape culture and the traditions that her grandparents taught. Citing the Lenape's ecological virtues and respect for nature, Friend drove home the point that the natives did not waste

anything. "The deer has given us so many things," she said. For instance, slain deer meant more than meals. Deer provided hides for clothing, bones for scrapers and antlers for hoes and rakes. Hooves were used for decorations such as necklaces and sewing thread called sinew was derived from dried ligaments.

Of course, it wasn't just the deer for which the Lenape found many uses. Turtle shells became scoops, bowls for preparing food or carrying water, and drinking cups. Once the corn was removed from cobs, they were dried and used to make baskets and dolls. Husks were used for bandages. Dried, hollowed-out gourds became vessels for liquid and other dried food substances.

Coordinator for the program was Kathy Horvath, who secured it through the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. She has scheduled the next program, the "Big Band Era," for Jan. 26, 2003 at 2 p.m. at the South Plainfield Library. It is also free to the public. Programs will be announced in the *Observer* a month in advance, or, log on to the Historical Society's new website at: <http://community.nj.com/cc/sphistoricalsociety> for

up-to-the-minute information on programs and news.

The Historical Society programs are supported through yearly membership fees. Memberships start at \$2 for seniors and students, \$5 individual and \$8 family. If you wish to join the organization, send a check, payable to the South Plainfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 11, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. —Submitted by Dorothy Miele

### Correction

Victoria Tran and Max Butler were mistakenly omitted from the Grant Central Sixth Grade Honor Roll list in the Nov. 22 issue. We apologize for the omission.

**Baseball Pitching**  
**Clinic-Sun. Dec. 8**  
With former Chicago White Sox Pitcher Bill Lehman at  
**SPORTWORLD**  
17 South Plainfield Avenue  
1-3PM • Ages 8-12 • Cost: \$30  
**(908) 753-5403**  
Lessons Available

### Elks Are Selling Entertainment Books

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the Entertainment book for \$30.  
Contact Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.

## Happy Holidays!

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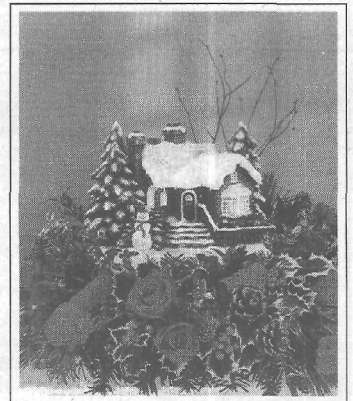
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## Make it a Kinkadee Christmas.

### Teleflora's Village Christmas Bouquet

Thomas Kinkadee's charming work of art comes to life in this beautiful, hand-painted cottage. The golden light shining from within and the lovely bouquet of winter flowers and greens make it a perfect holiday gift.

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1B, South Plainfield, NJ  
07080; fax (908) 668-8819;  
or email ggnan@aol.com.

# Around Town

## VFW to Hold Pearl Harbor Ceremonies

December 7

The VFW has announced that Pearl Harbor Anniversary ceremonies will take place on Dec. 7 at 1 p.m. at VFW Post #6763, located at 155 Front St. The public is invited to attend.

## Knights Plan Breakfast with Santa

December 7

A Breakfast with Santa will be held at the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus hall, located at 334 Hamilton Blvd. on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children, or a \$15 limit per family.

To reserve your tickets or for more information call Steve at (908) 791-0640 after 6 p.m.

## Elks Sponsoring Annual Hoop Shoot

December 8

Elks will be holding their 'Annual Hoop Shoot' on Sunday, Dec 8 at 1:30 p.m. at the Riley School Gym. Registration starts at 1:30 p.m.

The Hoop Shoot is open to girls and boys, ages 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13. A copy of the participants birth certificate must be present at registration.

Trophies will be awarded to first and second place finishers in each age and gender group. First place finishers will also move onto the District Hoop Shoot Challenge.

Any questions, call Pete Smith (908) 656-4011.

## Junior Baseball Club Ladies Holiday Party

December 11

Attention All Ladies! It's time for the Annual South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club Women's Auxiliary Holiday Party, to be held on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Flanagans. The

## Mark Your Calendar

The lighting of the huge fir tree that sits in front of McCriskin's Home for Funerals will take place on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 11 a.m.

The annual event is sponsored by McCriskin's and the 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles and General Anthony C. McAuliffe chapter. The ceremony is to honor the memory of the men and women killed in an air crash in Newfoundland, Canada. The public is invited to attend.

## What's happening in DECEMBER

Daily Events  
9-11 AM Coffee & Cake  
9 AM-4 PM Cards & Pool  
(908) 754-1047

The Senior Citizen's Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**NOW OPEN SATURDAYS 8:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Dec. 23 - Openings Available</b> <b>Christmas Show</b> Hunterdon Hills Playhouse				
<b>EVENTS</b> Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30AM Yoga 10:30-11 AM	Bingo 10AM-2PM	Exercise & Walking Club 8:45-9:45 Movie 11:30 AARP Crafts 1 PM	Shopping at Pathmark 9 AM Practical Crafting 10-11AM	Bingo 10AM-2PM Pizza Lunch 11:30 AM
9	10	11	12	13
<b>TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.</b>				

cost is \$25 per person. You are also asked to bring a \$15 "grab bag" gift.

Call either Stacy Lake 757-9531 or Cindy Eichler 769-4047 for information or to confirm your attendance.

## Elks Breakfast With Santa Coming

December 15

The Elks, located on New Market Ave. will be holding their annual 'Breakfast with Santa' on Sunday, Dec. 15 from 8 a.m. till noon. The cost for adults is \$6 and children 5-12 are \$4 and children under five are free.

The menu includes, pancakes, French Toast, eggs to order, bacon, sausage, coffee, tea and juice.

## American Legion Pancake Breakfast

December 15

The American Legion, located at 243 Oak Tree Ave. will be holding a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 15 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Cost is \$5 and it's all you can eat.

## Christmas in the City and a Play

December 15

South Plainfield Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip to New York City on Sunday, Dec. 15 to see the Broadway show "Chicago." There will also be time to shop in the city.

The cost is \$70 per person. Purchase your tickets at the PAL located on Maple Ave. The bus leaves at 10 a.m. and returns around 5:30 p.m.

## Historical Society Monthly Meeting

December 10

The monthly meeting of the south Plainfield Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the High School library. A slide show will be presented. The public is invited.

For further information, log on to their webpage at: [community.nj.com/cc/sphistoricalsociety](http://community.nj.com/cc/sphistoricalsociety), or you get to it through the Borough's webpage at: [southplainfieldnj.com](http://southplainfieldnj.com).

## AARP Chapter 4144 Christmas Luncheon

December 16

AARP Chapter #4144 of South Plainfield will meet on Monday, Dec. 16 at 12 noon at the Willow Restaurant on Washington Ave. in Greenbrook to celebrate their Christmas Luncheon. Charlie Reed will provide the entertainment, singing and playing the keyboard.

## Business Association Holiday Luncheon

December 19

The South Plainfield Business Association will be holding their Annual Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, Dec. 19 at Sherbans starting at 12 noon.

All members of the Business Association and anyone else interested in joining the group are invited to attend this annual event. The event takes place in the downstairs area of Sherbans.

For further information, call (908) 757-8811.

## Senior Center EVENTS

psychopharmacologist for children and adolescents.

The organization's educational meetings take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd. in Morristown. Meetings are open to the public; a nominal donation is requested from non-members.

For further local information, call (973) 994-1143 or the New Jersey Self-Help Clearing House at (800) 367-6274.

## Santa Train Ride Planned

December 14

The Neighborhood House Association, located at 644 West Fourth St. in Plainfield, will sponsor a Santa Train Ride on Saturday, Dec. 14. The train will depart from the Netherwood Station at 10 a.m. and from the Plainfield station at 10:20 a.m. Tickets are \$6 and must be purchased in advance at the Neighborhood House or at Dairy Queen located on 1367 South Ave.

For questions, contact Carol Presley, Executive Director Neighborhood House, (908) 757-7100.

## WOWs to Hold Dance/Social

December 15

Woodbridge area Widows Or Widowers (WOWs) will hold a Dance/Social Sunday, Dec. 15 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. with a live band and refreshments at the Elk's Hall, 665 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge. The cost is \$8. For further information, call (732) 297-1775.

## Edison Arts Society Plans Concert

December 15

The Edison Arts Society will present the Edison Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert to be held on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Middlesex County College Theater. The 66 piece orchestra will entertain, along with Betty Zhou, James Valenti and Nina Hand. The J.P. Stevens and the Edison High School Chorus will also perform holiday selections.

Reserved tickets for the Holiday Concert cost \$25 for adults and \$20 for students and can be purchased by calling the Edison Arts Society at (908) 753-2787.

## — Out of Town —

## Bethlehem's Treasure at Alliance Bible

Dec. 6, 7, 8, 14, 15

A Live Nativity, will be presented at Alliance Bible Church in Warren on Dec. 6 and 13 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 7, 8, 14 and 15 at both 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Admission is free. This 45 minute musical adaptation of the Christmas story will be presented outdoors on the lawn of the church.

This is the fourth year that Alliance Bible Church has produced the live nativity. The production generally lasts 45 minutes to one hour. Immediately following each presentation, refreshments will be served at a Christmas Cafe inside the church.

The church is located at 52 Mount Horeb Rd., in Warren, just minutes off Interstate 78. For additional information or directions, contact the church office at (732) 469-1425.

## Discussion in Childrens Diagnostics

December 11

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (formerly First New Jersey Depressive and Manic Depressive Support Group) monthly lecture meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 11, will feature Ted Lipman, M.D., who is a noted

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SUBSCRIBE.** It's \$25. (in town) for one year!!



## southplainfieldpeople Milestones



Mr. &amp; Mrs. Matthew Dabrowski

### Therese Schoen, Matthew Dabrowski Are Married

Theresa Schoen of South Plainfield, daughter of Bernard Schoen Jr. of South Plainfield and Annette Roos of Wyoming, DE, was married on Nov. 29 to Matthew Dabrowski of South Plainfield, son of Tad and Marian Dabrowski of South Plainfield.

Tara Dabrowski, sister of the groom, was maid of honor. Zeb Schoen, brother of the bride, was best man.

### Cassandra Allen Re-Enlists in US Navy

The parents of Cassandra Allen of South Plainfield are pleased to announce her re-enlistment in the US Navy. Cassandra is a lifelong resident of South Plainfield, attended Riley Elementary School and graduated SPSHS in 1995.

She enlisted in the US Navy in 1998 as a seaman. With her re-enlistment Cassandra has been promoted to an AT2, Aviation Electronics Second Class Petty Officer. She has been stationed in Lemoore, Calif. for the past four years since her graduation from boot camp in Great Lakes, Illinois. She will remain out there for a period of time for more training and schooling then will be transferred to San Diego. She is assigned to the USS Abraham Lincoln, which has been out in the Gulf since August and will remain until late January/early February. Cassandra is a member of the Stingers Squad-



Cassandra Allen

ron, VFA 113 that manages the EA-18 planes.

If any residents, schools or organizations would like to reach out to the

ship during the holiday season, it would be greatly appreciated. Cards, candies, cookies, trailmix or little gifts can be distributed to members of the ship and will be greatly appreciated. Anything sent has to be done through the post office using a customs form. It can be sent to: Allen, Cassandra AT2, VFA-113, FPO-AP 96601-6227.

These military personnel have been out at sea since the second week in August, working seven days a week, 12 hours on, 12 hours off, with collectively three days on land, and aren't due to return until next year. Care packages, letters or cards from anyone showing they care about what our military is sacrificing and doing to insure our freedom is a small sacrifice. May all of us here on land in America show them how much we care and how proud we are!

### Frank Salerno Graduates Navy Basic Training in Great Lakes

Frank Salerno, son of John and April Salerno of South Plainfield, graduated Navy Basic Training in Great Lakes, Ill. on Nov. 15.

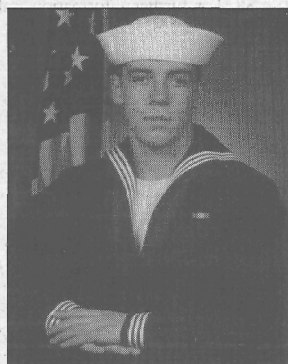
Frank is a 2002 graduate of South Plainfield High School.

He joined the Navy in March 2002 in a delayed entry program.

On Sept. 3 he started boot camp in Great Lakes. He served as squad

leader for his division. He ranked seventh in his division in test scores and third in the physical test.

Frank has been assigned to job training on ship for six months. He will be training in Master of Arms, Military Police and in September will start school in San Antonio, Texas for 18 months for Master of Arms, Military Police.



Frank Salerno

### Sacred Heart School Honor Roll

#### Principal's List

5A—Jillanne Gulotta, Adrienne Novak and Aaron Pinkard

5B—Alfonse Muglia, Kaitlin Muglia, Ryan Ricarte and Zachary Sikanowicz

6A—Jacqueline Dougherty and Allyson Paterek.

6B—Daphne Aguinaldo, Brianna Bicho, Sara Crane, Ashley Forbes,

Ryan Hohner, Michael Muglia, Kathryn Paterek and Kaitlyn Salvatore.

7B—Elix Colon

8A—Samantha Crane, Amanda Iavarone, Erica Paima and Anthony Pelle.

8B—Adam Barletta and Daniel Schiavo.

#### Honor List

5A—Edward Amirault, Alexandra Fee, Victoria Gaydos, Michael McHugh, Nicholas Montuori and Jessica Napolitano.

5B—Noelle Brooks, Joshua Howard, Nicole McDonough, Richard Orregon, Sean Piersanti, Gerianna Pinto, Alexandra Santos and Crystal Williams.

6A—Corey Chambliss, David Ervin, Alexandra Grant, Amaral Joseph-Dullon and Walter Rodriguez.

6B—Arturo Arce, Acedan Bayona, Ian Collins, Kiara Cooper, Khaliyah Douglas and Warren Roberts.

7A—Devin Clark, Joseph D'Adario, Kadem Gilbert, Danielle Johnson, Rita Landry, Jordan Madson, Siebidi Mills, Jennifer Napolitano and Camille Romano.

7B—Jonathon Abel, Olivia Gerlitz, Megan McHugh, Erick Paley and Allison Whitefleet.

8A—Kristen Ciandella, Stephen Dvorak, Darren Kaczowski and Tiffany Smith.

8B—Cathryn Avery, Joseph Casey, Marie Cunicella, Rana Moses and Alicia Presley.

### Suburban Woman's Club Dec. Mtg.

"History of Christmas Carols" will be presented at the South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club December meeting on Thursday, Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Rd. Guest speaker will be Joan Biel, Minister of Music at Trinity Reform Church in North Plainfield.

A Christmas party will follow the program, including dessert and gift exchange. Members are donating canned goods and other foods for Christmas baskets which will be distributed to the needy by the Social Service Chairperson, Jeanine Kimmel.

The club is planning a number of fundraising events, including a theatre party in the spring. Proceeds will go to local and state charities, plus a scholarship to a graduating SPSHS senior.

New members are always welcomed. For further information call 754-7410.

### Parish Mission Planned at Sacred Heart Church

If the thought of another holiday season has your head spinning, then take a deep breath and come to "A Time of Grace," a Sacred Heart Parish mission. All are welcome to attend this Advent experience.

Sessions run from Sunday, Dec. 15 to Wednesday, Dec. 18 and start at 7:30 p.m. There will also be reflections at the 9 a.m. daily mass. Sessions take place at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, located at 149 So. Plainfield Ave.

The themes included are *Called to Be Born Again and Empowered by the Spirit*, *Called to Healing and Wholeness*,

*Called to Fidelity and Commitment* and *Called to Be One Bread- One Body*.

The mission director will be Rev. Michael Patrick Sullivan, who is known for his engaging presentations, which combine humor, drama and common sense. The objective of this Mission is to lead us to "A Time Of Grace," personal reflection and spiritual nourishment. Sullivan holds the attention of teens and adults alike in a way that will bring you back each day.

Plan to come with an open mind and heart and to allow the Lord to reenergize your spirit through him.

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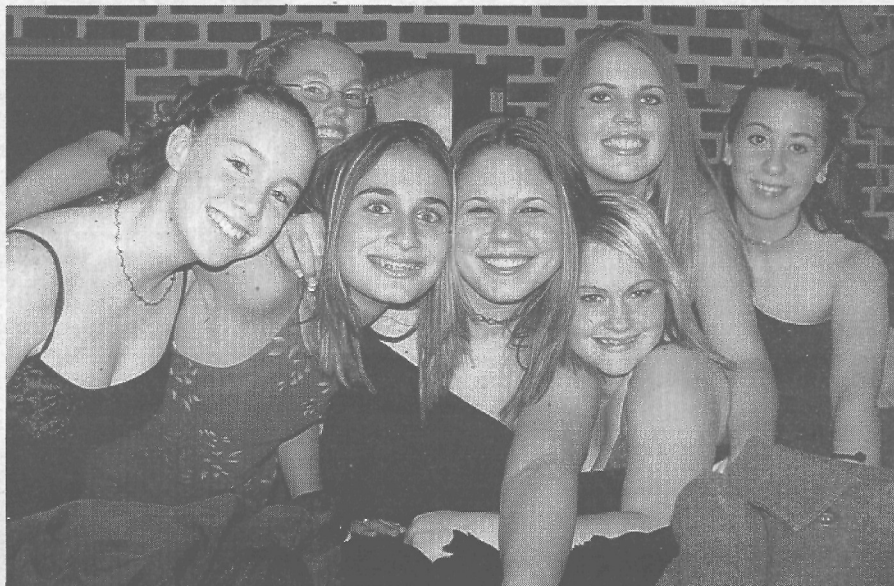
# Homecoming Dance Brings Back Past Traditions

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield High School Homecoming dance was a landmark event in SPHS history, chalking up the return of two traditions. The recent semi-formal dance was the first held in the school in well over 30 years. Those in attendance can boast they played a part in the return to SPHS traditions. The only exception would be the class of 2002's very formal Junior Prom. That extravagant Hollywood premiere theme will be very hard, if not impossible, to top.

Dances at SPHS had become a thing of the past. Live bands with huge crowds gave way to DJs. In time only a handful of students attended the dying activity. The social event known as a 'dance' slipped away entirely before Disco hit the airwaves.

This year's Homecoming Dance brought about a complete turn around, with over 300 students arriving at the school. The darkened gym had been decorated by the Student Council and a DJ, hidden behind a screen, had the teens dancing from the very first number. The majority of students remained true to the semi-for-



mal theme and arrived dressed to the nines. Only a handful of youths opted for sneakers and jeans.

The highlight of the evening was the selection of the twelve semi-final-

ists for Homecoming Queen and King. Nominees included 28 senior girls and 15 senior boys. Nominees were led to a white archway festooned with green and white balloons. Amidst

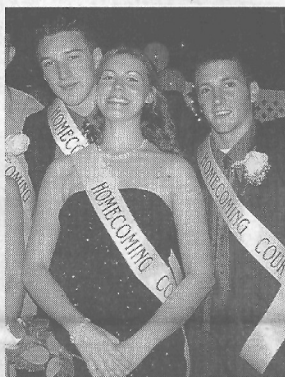
cheers and multiple camera flashes, each nominee had a few moments in the spotlight while a brief biography was read to the crowd.

The six finalists for Homecoming



Queen were: Ariel Curtis, Victoria Zappi, Amanda George, Crystal Soto, Nicole Woo and Nathalie Londono. Finalists for King were: Jeff Williams, Steve Johnson, Chris Baron, Jim Curcio, Kyle Prendergast and Gary Curcio. The finalists were narrowed down to just six in a student vote taken the following week.

The runners up and the King and Queen were officially announced at the Wednesday pep rally and bonfire.



## Over 300 Gather for Alumni Pizza Party



By Patricia Abbott

On the night before the Big Game, alumni of South and North Plainfield High Schools met for a pizza party at the Italian American Club in North Plainfield. Former football players, coaches, cheerleaders and friends gathered to celebrate the return of the South vs. North Thanksgiving Day game.

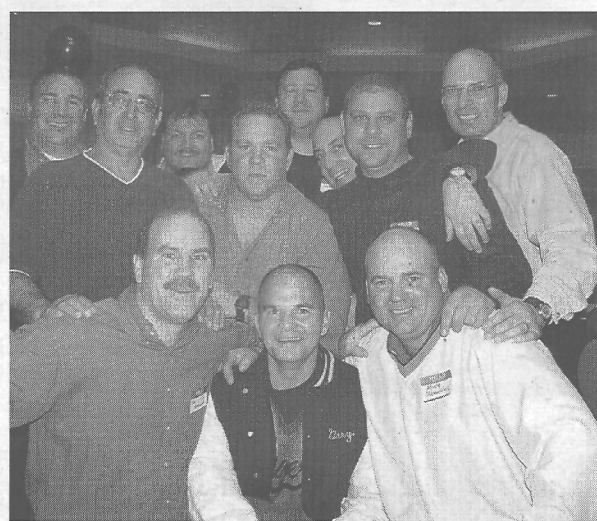


The event was organized by Steve Novak and Mike English, former mayors at the time the rivalry ended. Novak and SPHS Graphic Arts teacher Rich D'Urso put together a short video showing highlights of past games, players and coaches.

Over 300 people spent the evening reminiscing about days of pep rallies, bonfires and, of course, winning the "Big Game." There were varsity jack-

ets sporting years of graduation dating back to well before the year the current players were born. On hand for the party were several former SPHS coaches: Hal Wycoff, first SPHS coach; Anthony Cotoia, Joe Matticola and Phil Graham. Graham, 83, traveled from Florida for the reunion. These Tigers and Canucks might be a little older than your average team member but the school spirit of their respective teams lives on.

Over 300 people spent the evening reminiscing about days of pep rallies, bonfires and, of course, winning the "Big Game."



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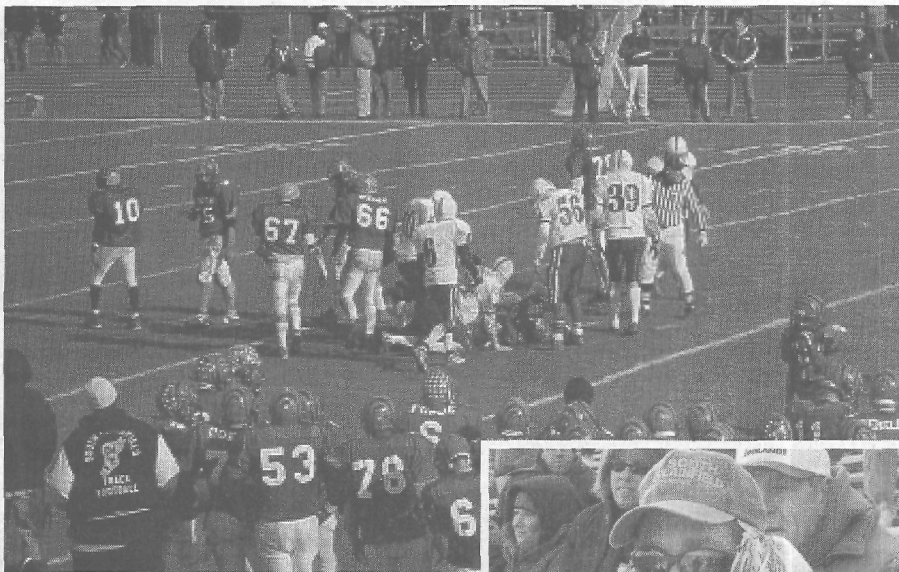
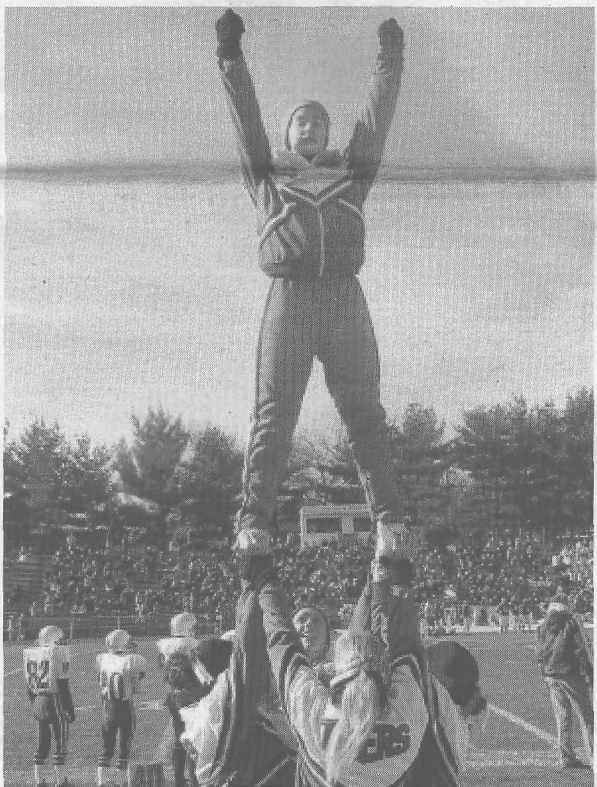
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Students Get Fired Up at Friday Night Bonfire

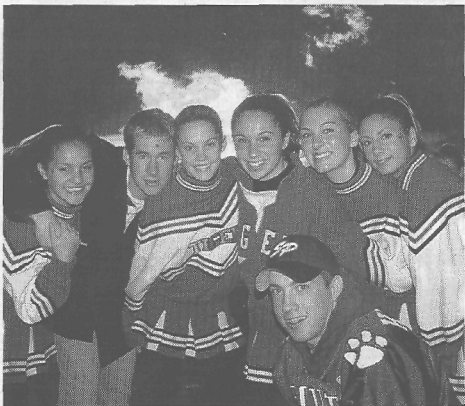
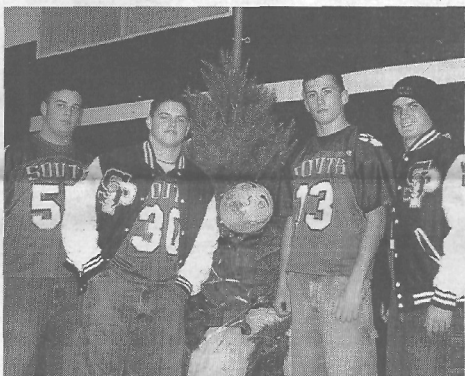
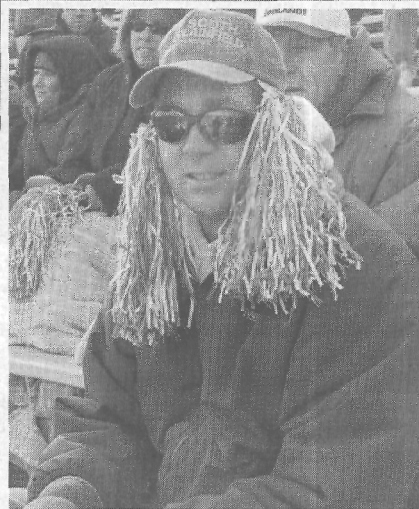


## Tigers Fall to No. Plainfield

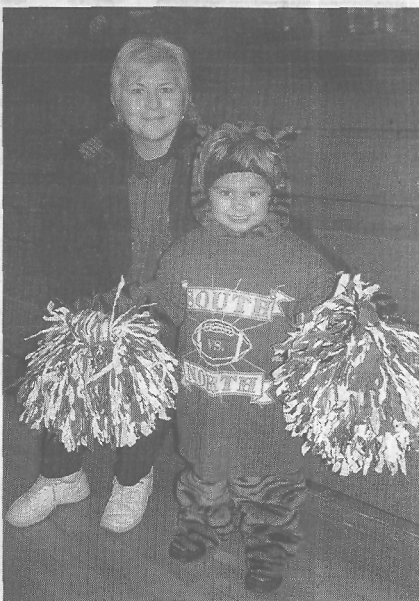
(Continued from page 1)

Plainfield Business Association and Pete Eddy president of the North Plainfield Business Association also wagered for their home team to come out on top.

Over 2,000 people bundled up against the cold and enjoyed an exciting game. Bringing back the South Plainfield vs. North Plainfield game and all the events associated with it was truly a step in the right direction. Students and alumni have already been heard uttering the words "Next year..." Despite the 47-25 loss to North Plainfield, the Tiger Spirit lives on! When Mayor Gallagher presented the trophy to North Plainfield Mayor Janice Allen, he said that he planned to get it back next year.



## SPHS Cheerleaders, Team, Students, Faculty Gear Up In Pre-Game Pep Rally



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From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Well, the Holiday season is now in full swing. You're probably extremely busy preparing for and/or observing one or more of those Holidays. But, let's take a few moments to check on the latest news from South Plainfield Library:

At this writing, there's still space available for tomorrow's Job Information Center class on "Resumes and Cover Letters", and for Tuesday's JIC class on "Job Searching on the Internet". These classes are presented free of charge; both classes will start at 10:30 a.m. Space is limited, so you must register in advance. Please call us at (908) 754-7885 for more details or to sign up.

Turning to our children's programs, we've got our normal schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. Those programs are for children age 3 and over; no pre-registration is needed. The programs are scheduled for Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. There's also a special Holiday Kidcraft program set for Friday, Dec. 13, at 4 p.m. It's for children age 6 and over, or children who are able to use scissors. We ask that you sign your children up in advance for this program. And, we've got a special Holiday Sing-A-Long, featuring the ever-popular Mr. Kurt, scheduled for Monday, Dec. 16, at 6:30 p.m. Pre-registration is requested for this program, as well. To find out

more details, please call us and ask for Miss Linda.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday evening at 7:30. The public is invited to attend to learn more about the Library's present and future plans. Refreshments will be served.

Once again, the Library is getting some help from Zany Brainy. If you shop at their store in Bridgewater from Monday, Dec. 16 and Thursday, Dec. 19, and present a special coupon, Zany Brainy will donate 10% of the total sales price to the Library. Coupons are available at the Circulation Desk.

This month's group of Circuit videos is now ready for borrowing. Titles this month include "Snow Day", "Mulholland Drive", "The Man Who Knew Too Little", "Vertical Limit", "The Sixth Sense" and, on DVD, the Beatles in "A Hard Day's Night". Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days. This group will be available until Friday, Dec. 27.

We're still collecting for two charity drives. You can still donate to Books to Keep, which provides books for disadvantaged children, and to toy drive organized by South Plainfield Eagle Scout candidate Joseph J. Helgesen. If you'd like to contribute, please do so right away.

Finally, our display wall now features a variety of artwork by South Plainfield artist Ginger Pierce. You can see it here throughout the month.

That's about all for now. We'll be back next Friday with more news. See you then.

## Honey Bees Sweeten Students' Science Lesson

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

It was a honey of a day for "Dancin' with the Honeybees." Roosevelt School students recently visited with master beekeeper Cliff Wright-Sunflower. Each group enjoyed two sessions with Wright. First the children learned about the beekeeper and how he goes about tending his bees and collecting their honey. A student volunteer donned each piece of a beekeeper's equipment as its use was explained.

Next, the many different kinds of bees and their various duties were brought to life. Students became the bees, acting out their roles within the colony. Within a short time the entire group was working in unison, recreating an active beehive. In a second session the youths learned that the production of honey is not the most important job of the bees. They learned words such as pollination and discovered that without bees there would be



no fruit, nor flowers. The session included a lot of hands-on fun.

The students also got a chance to try on the veil and gloves, view different types of nests, such as that of a wasp. They felt the weight of a full honeycomb versus an empty one and had a chance to taste different kinds of honey. Each child was given a piece of beeswax and a wick. Under the direction of Wright, they made their own beeswax candles.

The display that captured the most attention was the observation hive, which held thousands of bees. The children could readily see the differences in the bees. They found the queen surrounded by her attendants and picked out the drones and the workers.

Second grader Kira Schoen toured each of the tables but for one, the observation hive. She shyly approached Wright and told him she was afraid of bees. After a brief discussion she took his hand and allowed him to lead her to the hive and leaning down to her



eye level, they studied the hive while he explained everything that was going on. Kira and those around her listened intently. The program ended with a review of everything they had learned. Using simple story like phrases that the children eagerly repeated, Wright summed up the entire day's discoveries. Little did the students know but their busy-as-a-bee afternoon had actually been an in-depth science and ecology lessons.

Wright is an environmental educator with 20 years of experience as a beekeeper. Parents who were on hand to assist, found the educational program as fascinating as the children did. The Dancin' with the Honeybees program was sponsored by the PTA. The visit to Roosevelt was a repeat performance for Wright, the first was about four years ago. Dancin' with the Hon-

eybees and Wright's Earth's Journey program have been presented at several other South Plainfield grade schools as well as schools throughout the area.



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

### PROJECT SANTA 2002

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



Here's how it works: We are requesting a \$20 donation from each family who would like Santa to deliver their presents. The \$20 should be a check made payable to the SPVFC 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. 100% of the \$20 goes directly to 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fund. We also ask that you wrap a small gift for Santa to give to your child. Small presents are all that is necessary. Gifts should cost no more than \$30. Please no expensive gifts. After you wrap the gift, please put your child's name and address securely on the gift. Firefighters will visit every block in the Borough to deliver 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.

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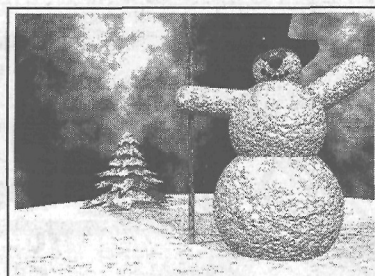
## Have You Got What It Takes?

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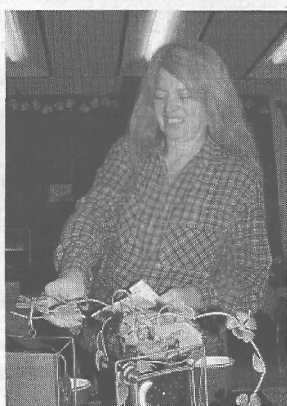
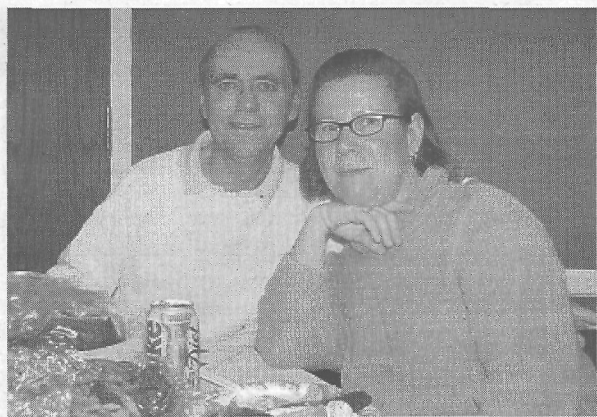
## FIRST ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST

Get in the spirit of the season.

See next week's Observer for contest details.







## Sports Auction Another Successful Fundraiser

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

The Fourth Annual Sports Auction brought a steady stream of people to the high school on a wet and windy night. This auction had all the action of a superbowl tail gate party. Food ranged from simple chips and soda to sparkling water and gourmet meals.

The first hour allowed the guests to purchase tickets and preview the hundreds of items available. Once tickets were deposited with the prize of their

choice, the guests settled in and waited to win.

The evening began with the smaller items being awarded and progressed to more valuable pieces, such as bikes and TVs. Theme baskets were made up for each sport. New this year were monthly theme baskets. Many area businesses donated items to the auction as well.

The highly successful event was sponsored by the South Plainfield High School's Athletic Booster Club.

# Sports

## Twin City Pharmacy/SPASA Announce Annual Holiday Basketball Tournament

The South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness and Twin City Pharmacy will hold their 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Twin City Pharmacy/SPASA Holiday Basketball tournament for grades 7-8. The purpose of this tournament is to heighten the awareness of the dangers of substance abuse, as well as promote

a positive healthy attitude toward participation in athletics and not the use of substance by athletes.

Again this year, both boys and girls tournaments will be featured, with a preliminary and a final round for each of the boys and girls teams.

The girls preliminaries are on Mon-

day, Dec. 9. South Plainfield and Sacred Heart play at 4 p.m. and Dunellen and East Brunswick play at 5:30 p.m.

The boys preliminaries are on Tuesday, Dec. 10. Dunellen and East Brunswick play at 4 p.m. and South Plainfield and Sacred Heart play at 5:30 p.m.

The finals for both girls and boys takes place on Thursday, Dec. 12. The boys game at 4 p.m. and the girls game at 5:30 p.m. Both the prelims and finals take place at the South Plainfield Middle School Gymnasium.

First and Second Place team trophies will be given out at the finals, as well as 25 individual awards for coaches, managers and players of the winning teams. Teams should arrive one hour prior to the preliminary games for a substance awareness video and discussion.

The sponsors for this event are Twin City Pharmacy, South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness, Joe Romer Trophies, D & D Graphics, South Plainfield Athletic Department and South Plainfield Middle School Graphics Department.

For further information, contact William Beagle, SPASA Chairperson, at (908) 754-4620, ext. 345 at Riley School, or (732) 873-1019 at home.

## Tigers Wrestlers Have Good Showing at Turkey Day Tournament

By Bob Hunter

South Plainfield Recreation Wrestlers had a good day at the Annual Turkey Day Tournament at Voorhees High School. South Plainfield had 17 wrestlers competing and won eight medals overall.

Troy Heilmann was the lone Tiger Champion, winning the Bantam 55 pound title over Dillon Rolnick of Westfield, winning by fall. Also placing in the Bantam Division were Bobby Kolvites (44), Scott Whalen (51) and Corey Stasenke (55), all winning third place. Also winning matches but not placing were Kyle Brady (48).

In the Midget Division, placing third for the Tigers was Jeffrey Conroy (61) and Ryan Billich (76). Also wrestling but not placing were Chris Sloan (57), Dillon Dorey (66), Stephen Petriello (72) and Eric Niemeyer (94).

In the Junior Division, Nick Heilmann (69) and Corey Hay (75) each won their consolation finals for third place honors. Also wrestling were Richie Szeliga (65), Kevin Smith (65), Frank DeBiase (65) and Kyle Hughes (74).

In other tournament news, at the Holmdel Tournament were Anthony Ashnault and Mike Wagner, taking home first place honors. Finishing in second place were Kyle Brady, Corey Stasenke and Scott Whalen and third place went to Corey Hay. Middle

School wrestlers had Sam Martin as the lone champion, while second place went to Billy Ashnault, Mike Jakubik and Patrick Hunter. Nick Dorey and Mark Wagner finished in third, while Jake Smithline and Brad Martin finished in fourth place.

At the Bethlehem Pa. Tournament, Patrick Hunter finished second and Jake Smithline and Sam Martin finished in fourth place. At the Easton Turkey Day Tournament, claiming titles were Anthony Ashnault and Sam Martin, second place went to Patrick Hunter and third place honors went to Robert Gentile and Billy Ashnault. Jake Smithline finished in fourth place.

## Sonics Down Black Hawks

For their last game of the fall season, the Sonics U-10 Soccer team traveled to Berkley Heights to take on the Black Hawks. Although scoreless after the first quarter, the Sonics turned up the heat. Shaun Alers scored unassisted twice, followed by Will Mott who also scored unassisted making the half time score Sonics 3, Black Hawks 0.

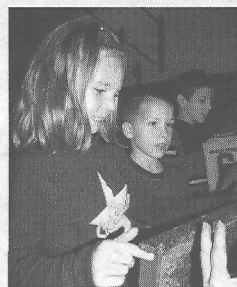
Shaun Alers completed his hat trick by scoring from right defender during the start of the third quarter. Luke Goitandia assisted Danny Hunt who scored the fifth goal for the Sonics. Outstanding defense was played by Shaun Alers, Lucas Goitandia and

Danny Sticco. Midfield duties were shared by Ryan Billich, Danny Hunt and Will Mott. The attacking forwards for the game were Mike Dispenziere, Dana Hunt, Steve Lanza and Nick Okosko.

The final goal for the Sonics was scored by Ryan Billich who was assisted by Dana Hunt during the fourth quarter. The Sonics played tough to the end. Keepers Nick Tuyp and Danny Hunt stopped the Black Hawks cold. Final score of the shut out was Sonics 6, Black Hawks 0. The Sonics fall record is 8-1-1.

Outstanding job Sonics!

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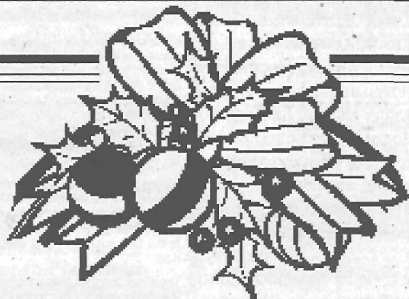
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## Obituaries

### Lena Sinisgalli Mattei, 88,

Lena Sinisgalli Mattei of Bayville, died on Tuesday, Nov. 19 at the Community Medical Center in Toms River.

Born in New York City, she was a former resident of South Plainfield and Scotch Plains before moving to Bayville 32 years ago.

Lena was a reproduction clerk at the Raritan Arsenal in Edison for 27 years, before retiring in 1968.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Gay Mattei, who died in 1987.

She is survived by a sister, Katherine Sinisgalli and a brother, James D. Sinisgalli, both of Bayville.

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

### Thomas McWilliams, 78,

Thomas McWilliams died on Saturday, Nov. 23.

Tom was born in Harrison, NJ and had moved to Europe with his family, growing up in Scotland.

During WWII, he served with the Royal British Marines and had seen combat in various battles throughout Europe.

After WWII he came back to the United States, settling in Newark and then resided in Kearny, before moving to South Plainfield in 1962.

He had been a carpenter all of his life and worked for over 40 years from the Carpenters Union Local #1342 of Edison.

He was a 32nd degree Mason of the Masonic Temple Lodge #108 of Kearny.

He was predeceased by his three sisters and his brother.

Surviving are his wife, Matilda "Tillie" (Day) McWilliams, his children, Mabel and James McCourt of St. Petersburg, Fla., June Sinkiewicz of Aurora, Ill., Elizabeth Linczyk of South Plainfield, Lynne and Steven Danik of Alexandria Twp. and Thomas and JoAnn McWilliams of Brielle. Also surviving are two grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Funeral Services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations in his memory may be made to the JFK Haven Hospice c/o 65 James St., Edison, NJ 08818.

### Nicolina DeSantis, 80

Nicolina DeSantis of Plainfield, died on Wednesday, Nov. 20 in her home.

Born in Italy, she came to the United

States in 1974, settling in Plainfield for the past 28 years.

Nicolina was a self-employed seamstress in Italy for many years.

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

Her husband, Mario DeSantis, died in 1999 and her two brothers, Giovanni and Antonio Laudato have predeceased her.

Surviving are a daughter, Maria Perrucet and her husband Felix of Kennesaw, Ga.; three sons, Mariano DeSantis and his wife Christina of Plainfield, Sabatino DeSantis and his wife Sandra of Washington, N.J. and Nicola DeSantis of Plainfield and a sister, Maria Insogna of Italy. She is also survived by 10 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Haven Hospice, at JFK Medical Center, 65 James St., Edison, N.J. 08820.

### Lloyd E. Newland Jr 68

Lloyd E. Newland Jr. of South Plainfield, died on Wednesday, Nov. 20 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Born in Somerville, Lloyd grew up in Plainfield and attended Plainfield High School where he was a graduate of the class of 1952. He settled in South Plainfield in 1965, where he lived for most of his life before settling in Middlesex a few years ago.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict from 1954 to 1956.

Lloyd was employed by the former Lockheed Electronics Corp. of Waching in their distribution department, before his retirement in 1988.

He had been a member of the South Plainfield Volunteer Rescue Squad during the 1960's, as well as the Lockheed Stardusters (a retired workers group) and actively involved in the Reunion Committee for the class of 1952.

He is predeceased by his wife, Virginia, who died in 1988, a sister, Beverly Hopeke and his mother, Goldie Newland.

Surviving are his children, Donna L. Beleski and her husband, Billie of Piscataway and Richard A. and his wife Debbie of Florida; four grandchildren, Rachel, Heather, Christopher and Sarah and his dear friend, Sandra Howell.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### William J. Weishaar, 78,

William J. Weishaar died on Monday, Dec. 2 at the Lehigh Valley Medical Center, in Allentown, Pa., following injuries he sustained in an auto accident.

He was born in New York City and has resided in South Plainfield since 1970.

Bill had a career of over 30 years as a pipe designer and draftsman. During his career, he had worked for numerous engineering firms in New York

City and in New Jersey, retiring 13 years ago.

He is survived by his wife, Mary E. Phin Weishaar and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations to the First Baptist Church would be appreciated.

### Myrtle B. (Fritz) Slaten, 73

Myrtle B. (Fritz) Slaten died on Tuesday, Nov. 26 at her home.

Mrs. Slaten was born in Newark, where she grew up attending Newark Schools. After high school, she enrolled in the nursing school at Beth Israel Medical Center in Newark and became a licensed practical nurse. During her many years as a nurse, she mostly did private duty nursing throughout the entire state of New Jersey, before retiring just a few months ago.

She had been a resident of Plainfield since 1960, where she was a communicant of St. Bernard's RC Church.

Her husband, Melvin Slaten, died in 1958.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Cheryl S. and William Quince of Plainfield and Diane S. and David Scott of South Plainfield; a sister, Melquida B. Mills of Winter Park, Fla.; four grandchildren, Stephanie Quince, Tova Scott, Steven Quake and Andre Scott and a great grandson, Omar Quince.

Funeral Services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations may be made to Overlook Hospital, c/o Celeste Rand, 3AB Oncology, 99 Beauvoir Ave., Summit, NJ 07901.

### Mary "DeeDee" (Smith) Cowling, 88,

Mary "DeeDee" (Smith) Cowling died on Sunday, Dec. 1 at the Francis E. Parker Memorial Home in Piscataway.

Born in Port Deposit, Md., Mrs. Cowling had resided in Maine and then in Plainfield and South Plainfield for most of her life, before recently entering the Parker Home.

She had been a homemaker and a talented seamstress, enjoying embroidery and crocheting. She had artistic talents, loved to spend time watching old movies, doing puzzles, playing scrabble and other board games with her family.

She is predeceased by her husband, Irving, who died in 1992, her daughter, Beverly Lang, who died in January of this year and two brothers and four sisters.

Surviving are two daughters, Jo-Ann Boehm of Flemington and Sandra Dougherty of South Plainfield; a sister, Phyllis Monier of Florida and eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations in her memory may be made to Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, P.O. Box 650309, Dallas, Tx. 75265.

### Dorothy J. (Peersen) Timari, 70,

Dorothy J. (Peersen) Timari died on Sunday, Dec. 1 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Tottenville, Staten Island, Mrs. Timari settled in Edison 44 years ago. She had worked as a secretary for Bethlehem Steel and Sears & Roebuck Co. during the 1950's.

Mrs. Timari has also been a mem-

ber of the New Durham Chapel in Piscataway for over 30 years.

She is predeceased by her husband, John and her eldest son, Randy.

Surviving are her youngest son, Jeff and his wife Cecile and her two grandchildren, Lindsay and Ashley. She is also survived by two brothers, Dan and Art and two sisters Muriel and Joyce.

Funeral services were handled by the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations in her memory may be made to the Mission Fund at the chapel.

### Eugene J. Egan, Sr. 74,

Eugene J. Egan, Sr. died on Friday, Nov. 29 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in New Haven, Conn., Mr. Egan had resided in Collingswood from 1954 to 1965 and in Elizabeth for three years, before settling in South Plainfield 34 years ago.

He had served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict.

Mr. Egan was employed as an exterminator for many years, last being employed by Viking Pest Control, before retiring in 1997.

He and his late wife where frequent bowlers. Mr. Egan had bowled in the Sunday and Wednesday leagues at Clark Lanes. He enjoyed his time outdoors on the golf course and also had a great interest and love for collecting stamps.

Mr. Egan is predeceased by his wife, Janet (Perkins), who died in September of 2000.

He is survived by three daughters, Ellen Schaffer of New Haven Conn., Arlene Egan of Railway, Deborah Egan-O'Rourke of South Plainfield; a son, Eugene J. Egan, Jr. of South Plainfield; a brother, Jack of New London, Conn., and five grandchildren, Brienne, Ryan, Brandon, Kellsey Schaffer and Kaitlin Mary O'Rourke.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Homes For Funerals.

### Robert Pizzolato, 63

Robert Pizzolato died on Wednesday, Nov. 27 at his home.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, Bob moved to Plainfield where he grew up. He attended Scotch Plains high school and settled in South Plainfield, where he spent most of his life. He recently semi-retired and settled in Edison.

Bob also maintained a second residence in Ortle Beach, where from childhood to this day, he spent his weekends and the summer months. He had been a lifeguard on the beach during the summer and still had a great love for being at the house and all the Jersey shore has to offer, including its beaches, boating and kayaking.

Bob had been a master plumber and had operated Bob Pizzolato Plumbing, Heating & Cooling for 35 years. He learned the trade by apprenticing under his late father, starting his own business and continuing his fathers legacy. He only recently semi-retired, but failed to stop working completely.

Bob thoroughly loved to help people and especially enjoyed all the contacts and relationships he has built over the years, along with his business.

He is predeceased by his parents, Leonard and Elizabeth (Lange) Pizzolato and his brother, Leonard.

Surviving are his wife, Corinne (Chiavacci); a daughter, Andrina of Brooklyn; a sister, Lorraine Scozzari of Manchester Twp. and two brothers, Phillip of South Plainfield and Donald of Annandale. Also surviving are a host of nieces and nephew and extended family members.

Funeral service were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memory donations may be made to the JFK Haven Hospice, c/o 65 James Street, Edison, NJ 08818.

### Herta A. Berlinghof, 96

Herta A. Berlinghof died on Wednesday, Nov. 27 in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Ludwighafen, Germany, she came to the United States in 1952, residing in Plainfield. Herta has resided in South Plainfield since 1958.

She was a homemaker and a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens.

Her husband, George Berlinghof, died in 1968.

Surviving are her son and daughter-in-law, Walter and Emma Berlinghof of North Smithfield, Rhode Island. Also surviving are three grandchildren, Ronald, Nancy and Lisa and four great grandchildren, Meaghan, Pamela, Jayson and Joyce.

Funeral services were at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

## LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY

November 27, 2002

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on November 26, 2002.

A. Case #659/V-Marinoware, Inc.—Block 255; Lot 9; 400 Metuchen Rd. Applicant's request for variances and on-site parking and preliminary and final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED with conditions.

B. Case #661/V—Thomas J. Cassio; Block 97; Lot 4; 1708 Park Ave. Applicant's request for preliminary site plan approval with a variance was hereby GRANTED with conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Beth Khidre,  
Recording Secretary-Planning Board

\$23.00

December 6, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Keith W. Soper requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a garage addition, proposed garage addition lacks the required 30' front setback from Linden Ave., 10.4' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 76 Lot 1 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 Thursday, December 19, 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.

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1T December 6, 2002

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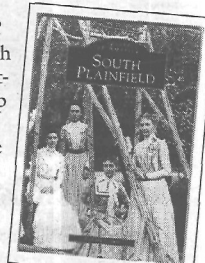
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## South Plainfield Book Available

A new book, "Images of America-South Plainfield," has just been released. The book, written by Richard Veit, was compiled with the help of many residents.

The cost of the book is \$19.99 and is available at the *Observer* on Hamilton Blvd., Twin City Pharmacy on Park Ave. and at Custom Creations on South Plainfield Ave. All proceeds from the sale at the *Observer* will go to local organizations.



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Scouts participating were Christopher Markey, Anthony Austin, Brian Lopez, Joshua Siepmann and Cesar Fernandez as well as, Leader Marie Markey and Assistant Leader Elizabeth Austin.

## Scouts Celebrate South Plainfield Recycles Day!

Scouts do make a difference! Mayor Dan Gallagher proclaimed Nov. 23 as South Plainfield Recycles Day in conjunction with America Recycles Day. In recognition of this event, Wolf Cub Scouts of Pack 224, Den 9 from John E. Riley Elementary School sponsored a "Thank You for Recycling Day" on Saturday, Nov. 23, at the South

Plainfield Recycling Center on Kenneth Ave. The scouts were on hand with refreshments, recycling information and gifts. Game and a craft tables were setup for children to make recycled-product crafts. Middlesex County's M.C. Blue was also present. M.C. Blue is the nation's first fully recyclable recycling robot. He explains the impor-

ance of recycling through songs and audience participation.

The entire event was put together by five second grade boys, Christopher Markey, Anthony Austin, Brian Lopez, Joshua Siepmann and Cesar Fernandez, with the assistance of their leaders, Marie Markey and Elizabeth Austin. The boys made every game and came up with the craft idea. Their den even made a Mascot Cubby. Cubby is a tin Cub Scout made out of tin cans.

"This was a wonderful experience," said Marie Markey. "Not only did the boys learn more about conservation, they learned teamwork as they put each project together. This event was not put together without thought. Every aspect corresponded with their objectives in their Boy Scouts of America Wolfbook, from games, to posters, to first aid emergency kits made out of Fuji film containers that they distributed. They found a creative way to accomplish all of the goals in their book, while at the same time serving the community where they live. Their goal was to bring recycling awareness to the community."

*Submitted by Marie Markey*

## Plainfield Animal Hospital Accepting Donations

The Plainfield Animal Hospital is now accepting pet food donations to be distributed to needy pets for the holiday season. Please bring canned or dry pet food to the drop-off box at the animal hospital, 2201 Park Ave. between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

on Saturdays.

This year they will also be accepting monetary donations for the New Jersey Veterinary Foundation. Monies collected will be used towards the spay/neutering of stray or abandoned animals, abandoned animal care and scholarships.

Food will be distributed to "People For Animals" a local non-profit organization. For more information call (908) 755-2428 or visit our website at [www.plainfieldanimalhosp.com](http://www.plainfieldanimalhosp.com).

Donations will be accepted until December 24.

**Holiday Craft Fair at  
John E Riley Elementary School  
Friday, December 6  
5 to 9 pm  
Morris Ave.**

## policereport

• On Nov. 20 Holiday Inn on Stelton Rd. reported that a suspicious package had been left by an unidentified person. The package was opened and contained three brown glass bottles with pellets inside.

• On Nov. 22 a Field Ave. resident reported that the window of his car had been smashed and the car was ransacked. Nothing was taken.

• Fleet Bank on Oak Tree Rd. reported that someone had attempted to cash a fake check.

• On Nov. 24 a member at the Club at Ricochet on St. Nicholas Ave. reported that after returning to his locked locker, it would not open. An employee cut the lock off and \$109 was missing from his wallet. His original lock was found cut on top of the lockers.

• An employee of Buy Rite Liquor on Oak Tree Rd. reported that his vehicle had been scratched in the parking lot.

• On Nov. 25 Eroy Sweet, 64, of Plainfield was arrested on three felony warrants out of Georgia, driving on a suspended license, driving while intoxicated and three NJ warrants.

• A Plainfield Ave. resident reported that his work van had been stolen from his driveway.

• H K Truck Services on Hamilton Blvd. reported that a hole had been cut in a fence and three ladders were removed from a truck parked in the lot.

• Canada Dry Beverage on New Durham Rd. reported that someone had smashed through a gate to gain access to delivery trucks.

• On Nov. 27 an employee of A&P reported that his tire had been punctured. The same thing happened to three other co-workers.

• A Hancock St. resident reported that his garage door window had been shattered. Nothing was taken.

• Hometown Heros on Hamilton Blvd. reported someone had attempted to gain entry to their store. There were

scratches on the door lock which were not there before.

• Xtreme Clean Car Wash on New Market reported that \$350 was missing from their safe.

• On Nov. 28 a North Plainfield resident reported the theft of her pocketbook from the bleachers at Jost Field.

• On Nov. 29 Darnell Steven Bradley, 33, of Piscataway was arrested for violation of probation.

• An Edison resident reported the theft of his 2000 Nissan Altima from the parking lot at Red Lobster.

• On Nov. 30 Juan Mendoza, 38, of Plainfield was arrested at K-Mart for shoplifting \$80 worth of clothing.

• A Field Ave. resident reported the theft of two packs of cigarettes and house keys from her unlocked vehicle.

• A Ten Eyck St. resident reported the theft of approximately \$11,500 in jewelry from her dresser. There was no forced entry.

• A Clark Ln. resident reported that some lawn ornaments had been damaged.



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