

# South Plainfield Observer

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VOL. 6, NO. 15

50 CENTS

DECEMBER 13, 2002

## Two Clash in Road Rage on New Durham Ave.

Last Friday afternoon William Collins, 35, of Edison and John Sherry, 22, of Piscataway became involved in a road rage dispute after each man refused to yield to the other at the intersection of Durham Ave. and New Durham Ave.

Collins and Sherry were both traveling westbound on New Durham and had stopped side by side for the red light. As they proceeded through the intersection where two lanes merged,

neither would yield to the other. Collins struck Sherry's vehicle with a Gatorade bottle and exited his car to confront him. Sherry claimed that as Collins took off, he was struck in the hand by Collins' door and his foot was run over.

According to Collins, he did throw a bottle at Sherry's car; however, Sherry struck his car with his fist as he drove off.

Neither was treated for injuries and no complaints were filed.



Last week's snowfall left approximately eight inches on the ground. This led to an early closing of all schools and most businesses, kept the road department hustling til the early hours of Friday morning and brought joy to children of all ages who rushed to the West Nine Golf Course to enjoy perfect sledding conditions.  
-Photo courtesy of Marie Markey

## McCriskin's Tree Lighting Saturday

The lighting of the huge fir tree in front of McCriskin's Home for Funerals will take place at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14. The boots, rifle and cap pictured were placed last year in front of the plaque honoring the men of the 101st Airborne who lost their lives in an air crash in Newfoundland, Canada in 1985. The annual event is sponsored by McCriskin's and the 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles and General Anthony C. McAuliffe chapter. The public is invited to attend.



## Two Arrested on Identity Theft Charges

On Dec. 9 the South Plainfield Police Department, in conjunction with the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, arrested two New York City residents at the intersection of Helen St. and Durham Ave.

The arrests were a culmination of a week-long investigation into identity theft. Davaughn C. Moorer, 23, and Damte B. Zebulun, 34, were arrested

after attempting to obtain bank account numbers and other related records from a local bank.

They were charged with Conspiracy to Commit Identity Theft and were transported to Middlesex County Correctional Facility. Both were held in lieu of \$20,000 bail. No additional details regarding this investigation were released at this time.

## Arrest Made In M&V Tobacco Outlet Robbery

M&V Tobacco Outlet on Park Ave. experienced an early morning robbery last July, involving the theft of several of cartons of cigarettes.

According to the South Plainfield P.D., the suspect's car had been found abandoned at the scene of an accident in Plainfield shortly after the robbery.

Leads developed by the South Plainfield Police Detective Bureau led to the arrest of Andre M. Thompson, 35, of Plainfield on Dec. 3. He was picked up in Union County and arrested here on burglary and theft charges and is currently being held on \$30,000 bail.

## Fire Dept. Gets Three Firefighters And Welcomes New Trainees

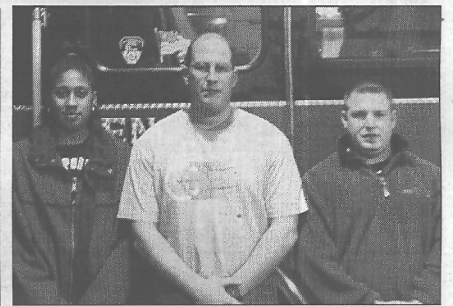
Ken Seidel, Larry McGuiness and Mike Mazelli recently joined the ranks of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company. These three men have completed their training and probationary

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department congratulates Ken Seidel, Larry McGuiness and Mike Mazelli on the completion of the training and probationary period, and also wishes the

by the Borough at no cost to new members. The Fire Department also has a Junior Fire Department program for members between the ages of 15 and 18 years old. These members do



Pictured left are South Plainfield Firefighters Ken Seidel, Larry McGuiness and Mike Mazelli. The new members are pictured on the right (left to right): Keisha Carol, Vito Venetucci and Archie Dean.



period during and can now perform all the duties of firefighters. During the training and probationary period, firefighters are limited by law, on the functions that they can perform and actual firefighting only takes place in controlled training situations. Once this period is completed, firefighters can perform all aspects of firefighting.

Ken is a past captain and an active member of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad. Larry is employed as a member of the Fire Patrol in New York City. Mike was a former member of the Iselin Fire Department before relocating to South Plainfield.

In November, three new members were sworn in. Keisha Carol, Vito Venetucci and Archie Dean will attend the Middlesex County Fire Academy in February to begin their training. Keisha's father and brother were firefighters. Vito was a firefighter in a heavy rescue company in North Jersey before relocating to South Plainfield. Archie's brother, Jon, is presently a firefighter in South Plainfield.

best of luck to Keisha Carol, Vito Venetucci and Archie Dean in their upcoming classes at the Fire Academy.

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department is accepting applications for new members. The firefighting equipment and training are supplied

not engage in actual firefighting, but are instructed in all aspects of the fire service. Anyone looking to join or obtain information, should come to Fire Headquarters on Maple Ave. any Monday night and someone will help them.

-Submitted by Chief Lawrence Del Negro

## Santa's Coming to Town... On a Fire Engine

To help raise money for their upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (May 2007) and the Firemen's Memorial, members of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company will have Santa delivering 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 request 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, all of which goes directly

to 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fund. We also ask that you wrap a small gift for Santa to give 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. (See Registration Form on page 12.)

### OBSERVERINSIDE

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Historical Society's New Website -- See Page 3



## Scouts Say Thanks For Helping 'Scouting For Food' Program

Cub Scout Pack 224 from John E. Riley Elementary School would like to thank all of the town residents who participated in their 'Scouting for Food' program and helped it become a success.

Because of your assistance and kind generosity, many families had a Thanksgiving dinner this year. The food collected was distributed in town, so this program has a local impact. On behalf of the scouts, pack and their families, we thank everyone for their participation. The pack also thanks the scouting families who took the children around. Without family support, Pack 224 could not have succeeded. *Submitted by Marie Markey*



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## 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 [sposerver.com](mailto:sposerver.com) or [ggan@aol.com](mailto:ggan@aol.com) or [ngrannie@ix.netcom.com](mailto:ngrannie@ix.netcom.com). Include your name, address, telephone number.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

## IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

For the past three years I, along with a wonderful group of parents, have had the pleasure to serve Thursday night dinner or Saturday morning breakfast to the South Plainfield High School varsity football team before each game. Getting to know the football players has been a great experience. They are the most polite and gracious group of young men I have ever met and I will miss them all.

Boys, you should all be very proud and hold your heads high. You worked hard all season, always gave 100 percent, played as a team and kept your sense of humor. I know the seniors will be missed. They were a motivating force and made the team a place where everyone fit in.

Football has been an important part of my son's high school experience. We have watched him grow to become a fine young man. Thank you Coach McGuane and your staff, for your caring leadership. You have always had the respect of my son and he was motivated to give his all so that he might earn yours. Your dedication, hard work and genuine interest has made an immeasurable impact on him.

Best wishes to all the seniors. Remember what you learned in football. Continue to work hard. Give 100 percent in all you endeavors and you will be successful. You had a great four years, but it's just the beginning.

Next year I know good things are going to happen for the underclassmen waiting their turn. And, you can bet I'll be in the stands cheering you on. Go Tigers!!

SINCERELY,  
 ROBIN PRENDERGAST

Dear Valued Imperial Deli Customers,

On behalf of the Tufaro family, we would like to thank you for your patronage. Our first responsibility has always been to you, our customers and you have been loyal and gracious to support us through the years. Imperial Deli has grown to be the place you go when you need quality cold cuts, homemade salads, fresh baked goods and friendly family service.

The business interruption we experienced was a difficult period for our family. We struggled to rebuild the Imperial Deli and you returned to help rebuild our business again. When Chops passed away in 1998, once again you, our customers, embraced our family and played an important role in our continuing success after our heartbreaking loss. You helped the Tufaro children take over where their Dad left off. It was important to them to do this and we thank you for help-

### 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 [sposerver.com](http://sposerver.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.

ing make their efforts a success.

Now that the Tufaro family has decided to sell our business, we write to personally thank you for your loyalty and support throughout the years. You've shared in our lives and we've shared in yours, not just because we've catered an occasion, but because we've become friends and you've become part of our family — The Imperial Family. The Imperial Deli has been a source of pride for us. A business based on work and dedication. Our mission was good customer service and products of highest quality. We will always remember our association with you with appreciation and fondness.

As of Jan. 1, 2003, although the owners will change, the quality and service will remain the same.

Best wishes for many, many successful years in the future at Imperial Deli.

SINCERELY,  
 THE TUFARO FAMILY, DEANNA,  
 CHRISTINA, CLAUDIA, AND  
 MICHAEL

Dear Editor,

I am a ninth grade student at South Plainfield High School, and a member of the SPHS Color Guard. I attended last month's Board of Education meeting in support of the Winter Guard program and its advisors at South Plainfield High School.

The Winter Guard program consists of about 20 members who twirl flags, swords and sabers to a choreographed routine. The hours of practice are long and hard, but the results are well worth it. Last year the guard won their Chapter and finished third

on the East Coast in their division. The guard is under the direction of Kathy Petrocelli, Mark Tweed and Kara Georgio. These people are more than guard advisors to the girls, they become trusted friends. They give 110 percent of their time and effort to the guard without any compensation. It's time that they get the compensation that they so justly deserve. Why is it that other activities get funding for their advisors? It seems that Marching Band and Color Guard are always discriminated against. Our program is not an after school activity. We put in more time than any other activity at SPHS. Yet, we go unnoticed. At any competition you never see any administrative personnel there, but go to a sporting event, and they'll be present.

I would have liked to have spoken up at the Board of Education meeting on behalf of the Winter Guard program, but the people who are supposed to have our best interests at heart, are also very intimidating. They really are not interested in what we have to say. It appears their minds were already made up before the meeting even began. It is very unfortunate that because of this situation, Winter Guard will no longer exist at South Plainfield High School. Other freshman and I were looking forward to becoming members of the Winter Guard, but this will never happen.

I only wish the Board of Education could see what really matters to the students. While having construction and upgrades done at our schools is undoubtedly important, so are keeping programs alive that teach values and responsibility. Without these things we will never succeed in life. Sometimes the really important things

*Continued on page 10*

### Board of Adjustment Meeting Rescheduled

Last week's Zoning Board Meeting, which was cancelled due to inclement weather, has been rescheduled for Monday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. This is a special date and time.

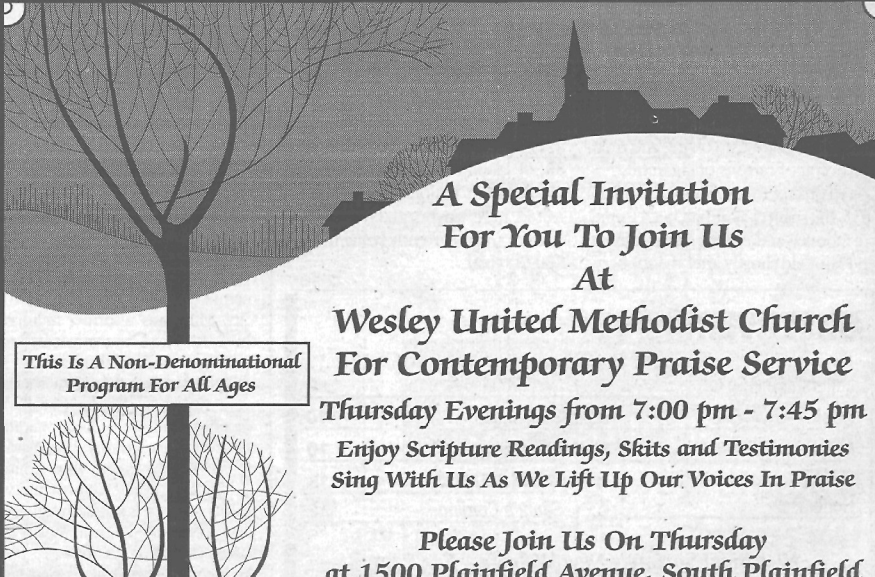
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## Cub Scout Pack 224, Home Depot Renew Adopt-a-Spot Contracts

Two members of the South Plainfield Clean Business Association have renewed their agreements to clean litter from stretches of Borough roadside for the coming year.

Cub Scout Pack 224 has adopted the Cedarbrook Ave. stream crossing since 1995, but have actually been working there much longer. Each spring during Volunteer Litter Cleanup Week, the Pack would tackle this road and the adjacent wooded area, just down the road from the Riley School. Since their formal adoption, they have increased their cleanup frequency from once a year to once a month. This year, the various dens will take turns working at the site to pick up litter, sweep the sidewalk and rake the grassed area.

The Home Depot Northeast Division corporate office has renewed its contract for the portion of Hamilton Blvd. which runs along their frontage and beyond to the corner of South Clinton Ave. Plastic bags, advertising fliers and packaging from The Home Depot parking lot blow across the road and accumulate with the usual roadside litter along the Rt. 287 fence. Up to ten people from the corporate office will remove the litter every other month. This commitment is one of many undertaken by The Home Depot, which supports numerous community projects.

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



**A FARM WEDDING**—Old photos, like this, the 1915 wedding of Everett Manning of South Plainfield to Wilhelmina Heiter at the Manning Family farm on Hamilton Blvd., can be found on the South Plainfield Historical Society's new webpage.

## New Historical Society Webpage And Electronic Newsletter

If you liked what you saw in the new Arcadia Press publication, *Images of America — South Plainfield*, by Dr. Richard E. Veit, there are more seldom-before-seen photos on the new webpage of the South Plainfield Historical Society. They will be periodically changed, so visit the site often.

The website can be accessed in two ways: directly with the web address <http://community.nj.com/cc/sphis> or through the Borough's website at [www.southplainfieldnj.com](http://www.southplainfieldnj.com) and clicking on "Civic Groups."

Residents are asked to e-mail the Society at [SPHistoricalSoc@cs.com](mailto:SPHistoricalSoc@cs.com) if they recognize any familiar but unidentified faces. Most of the photos in the

Historical Society files are neither dated nor identify individuals. Have an interesting old photo to lend or donate? The Society is always seeking photos for the permanent files. Donations of originals or copies are gratefully accepted. Eventually all of them will be put on CD's for easy access by the public and publishers.

Some other features on the website include information about new family programming, up-to-date news, meeting dates and membership info. Memberships start at \$2 for senior citizens and students, \$5 for individuals, and \$8 for families. Members will receive quarterly newsletters and other perks. Like to volunteer to work on a committee? There are many choices including historic preservation, programs, fundraising, parade, publicity, scholarship and several more.

Another new feature is an electronic mailing that brings quick reminders of impending programs and meetings. To be on this list, simply e-mail the Historical Society at [SPHistoricalSoc@cs.com](mailto:SPHistoricalSoc@cs.com) with your request. Your e-mail address will not be shared with any other group or service.

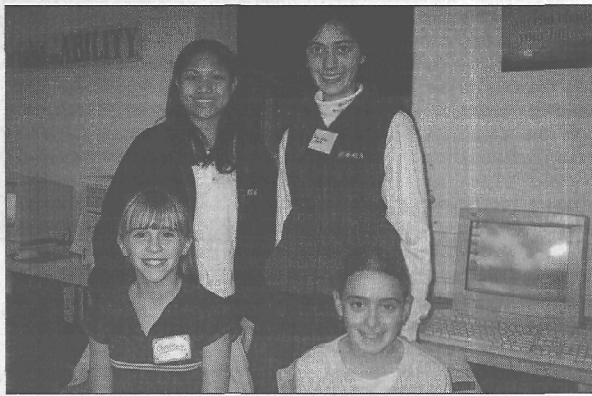
## Mount Saint Mary Academy Welcomes Girl Scouts

Mount Saint Mary Academy's computer lab, in conjunction with Washington Rock Girl Scout Council, is helping local scouts earn their computer badges. Troops sign up with Carolyn Parisi of South Plainfield, technology teacher at Mount St. Mary, for the afternoon program that runs from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Scouts are assisted by Mount St. Mary students who help them complete five merit badge requirements. Scouts complete the badge requirements using Microsoft Office Suite. This includes creating stories in Word, creating story illustrations in PowerPoint and putting their stories into a newsletter via Publisher. They also use Excel to create a camping shopping list. They visit the Girl Scout website and play some of the online games found there.

Lisa, if I could start an afternoon club and have Mount students work with the scouts. I was a scout in the Washington Rock Council so that connection came naturally. I've had a positive response from troop leaders when they sign up, as well as those who attend the program. I only wish I had more than two hours to work with the girls."

The program stresses online privacy and safety issues through the Online Safety Pledge and the "How to Stay Safe" chapter of the Junior Girl Scout Handbook. At the end of the program the Scouts view the merged PowerPoint presentation created by their troop. Last month girls from Junior Girl Scout troop 228 in South Plainfield participated in the program.

Paula Ansari, one of the Mount tu-



**Junior Girl Scouts (L to R) Christine Snogans and Michelle Arancio of South Plainfield (front row); Mount Saint Mary Academy students, 10<sup>th</sup> grader Grace DeLuna of Edison and 11<sup>th</sup> grader Paula Ansari of Plainfield (back row).**

Parisi said she became interested in giving this service when she saw the badge requirements for her Brownie daughter. "I saw there was a need for a computer lab and asked Mount Saint Mary Academy's principal, Sr.

tors, is also a member of the Senior Girl Scout Troop 561 of Scotch Plains/Fanwood. Paula said, "I like helping the girls earn their badges because I know how much I enjoyed getting my badges."

## Class of 1989 Looking for Classmates

The South Plainfield High School class of 1989 reunion committee is in the process of planning the 15-year reunion. The projected date is Nov. 27, 2004. If you are interested, contact the committee via email at [sphsclass-of89@yahoo.com](mailto:sphsclass-of89@yahoo.com), or contact the South Plainfield Middle School at (908) 754-4620, ext. 307 to give your current contact information.

## Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.  
South Plainfield, NJ

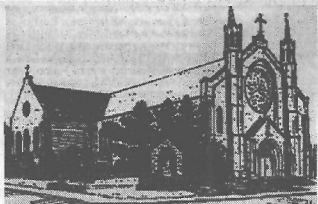
Rev. John Paul  
Alvarado, Pastor

### Mass Schedule:

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

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10-11 a.m., 4-4:45 p.m.  
and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass



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Fri 10-6, Sat 10-4, Sun by appt.

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## Do you have ARTHRITIS OF THE KNEE?

Anderson & Collins Clinical Research, Inc. is conducting a research study in men and women with osteoarthritis of the knee. Qualified patients will receive a physical exam, assessment and investigational medication at no charge. If you are 40 years or older and have knee problems you may qualify.

We are also recruiting for the following studies:

**INSOMNIA (ages 65-80)**  
**Diabetes & High Cholesterol**  
**Rheumatoid Arthritis or Osteoarthritis**

For further information contact:

**Anderson & Collins Clinical Research, Inc.**  
**908 Oak Tree Road, Suite H**  
**South Plainfield, NJ 07080**  
**(908) 561-5445**

# Send Your Events to:

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

# events Around Town

## SPHS Presents Messiah

December 12

On Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. the South Plainfield High School Combined Chorus and Orchestra will present selections from George Frideric Handel's *Messiah*, an oratorio for a four-part chorus of mixed voices featuring soprano, alto, tenor and bass soli. Orchestra director Bruce Mikolon will conduct the performance, which takes place at the Joseph A. Mondoro Auditorium in the high school.

Admission is adults \$3, students and senior citizens are \$2. SPHS Gold Card holders are free. The chorus and orchestra present the selections from *Messiah* as their Christmas Concert every four years.

## Tree Lighting at McCriskin's

December 14

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.

## 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.

## 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.**

## Senior Center EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Friday, Dec. 13 • Girl Scout Tree Trimming Party • 3 PM</b> <b>Saturday, Dec. 19 • Holiday Concert &amp; Luncheon, SPHS</b> <b>Dec. 23 - Christmas Show at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse-Tickets Avail.</b>				
<b>EVENTS</b> Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30AM 16 Yoga 10:30-11 AM AARP Holiday Meeting	Bingo 10AM-2PM 17	Exercise & Walking Club 8:45-9:45 18 AARP Crafts 1pm	Shopping at Pathmark 9 AM Practical Crafting 10-11AM 19 Shopping at Pathmark 9 AM Practical Crafting 10-11AM Holiday Luncheon 12PM SPHS	Listening to Children 9:30-12:30 13 Bingo 10AM-2PM Pizza Lunch 11:30 AM Girl Scouts Tree Trimming 3PM Bingo 10AM-1PM 20 Pizza Lunch 11:30AM CENTER CLOSES AT 2PM
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.				

## Parish Mission at Sacred Heart Church

December 15-18

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 re-energize your spirit through him.

## Morris Ave. Senior Tenants Assoc. Meeting

December 16

The newly formed Tenants Association at the Morris Ave. Senior Residence will be holding a meeting on Monday, Dec. 16 starting at 7 p.m. to elect a slate of officers. The meeting will take place in the conference room.

## VFW Plans Roast Pork Dinner

December 20

VFW Post #6763, located at 155 Front St., will hold a Roast Pork Dinner on Friday, Dec. 20, 5 to 8 p.m. Donation is \$7. A children's menu is available. Takeout is 25 cents extra.

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

## Roosevelt Blood Drive Planned

January 4

Roosevelt School will be holding their Second Annual Blood Drive for the NJ Blood Bank on Saturday, Jan.

4, 2003 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the gym.

After the Holiday Season, blood is desperately in need. We hope we can count on your support

Anyone interested in giving blood should contact Terese Montuori at (908) 769-5270.

## — Out of Town —

## 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.

SEE PAGE 5 FOR  
Holiday Events



# Santa's on his Way

on Saturday, December 21

He's Taking Time off from His Busy Schedule to Visit Us Here, 7-10 pm at

## Cafe Everest Diner!


See Next Week's Issue for Details About our

### New Year's Eve Family Night!

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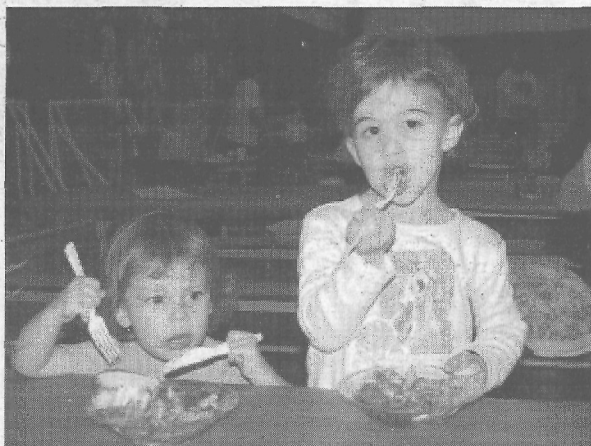
## Good Eats at Kennedy School's Pasta Night

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

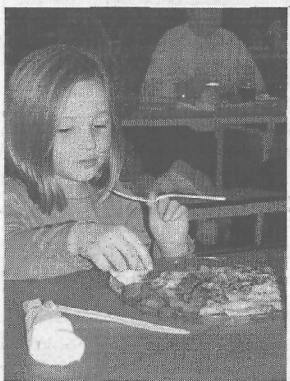
Hot food on a cold night is always a good bet. Kennedy School's fund-raising pasta dinner with all the trimmings filled the bill and the pockets of the Kennedy School fourth grade class. The goal is a trip to Stokes State Forest.

The move to the new school in September leaves South Plainfield's fourth grade class in a limbo state. Kennedy parents decided the fourth graders would not miss a beat, despite the upheaval of two classes leaving the school at the same time.

The dinner was chaired by Lisa Roibal and Sue Murtagh. Kennedy alumni from sixth through eighth grades were on hand to help set up, serve and clean up. They had fun while fulfilling community service hours. Over 200 people enjoyed hot pasta,



Ken Bloch and Rilie Campagna enjoy their meal at Kennedy School's Pasta Night. Food was donated by area businesses. The trip is scheduled for June 2003.



(From left) Charlotte Machin and Brian Pullen dig in to raise money for a Stokes State Forest trip. A youngster, right, waits patiently for the go ahead to indulge in some cookies.



## Plainfield YWCA Celebrates a Week Without Violence

The YWCA of Plainfield/North Plainfield held its eighth annual "Week Without Violence" campaign recently. The week started with a Prayer Breakfast and concluded with a "Walk for Peace."

During the Week Without Violence, the YWCA displayed its rotunda T-shirts from The National Network of The Clothesline Project (CLP). "The Clothesline Project was started on Cape Cod in 1990 to address the issue of violence against women," said Dorothy Marie Rizzo, YWCA Board President. "CLP is used as a vehicle for women to express their emotions by decorating a T-shirt. They then hang the shirt on a clothesline to be viewed by others as a testimony to the problem of violence against women," Rizzo continued.

The "Walk for Peace" started at the YWCA building on East Front St. and headed to City Hall, then up to North Plainfield Municipal Building and back to the YWCA. The two-mile walk supported replacing violence with recreation, sports and fun.

Plainfield Mayor Al McWilliams joined in the walk in a show of support for the YWCA's efforts. "The 'Walk for Peace' is a demonstration of our city's commitment to elimi-



nating violence in our community," said the Mayor.

"The Week Without Violence is a National YWCA Campaign against violence. People all over the United States struggle with violence in their communities, not just Plainfield," Rizzo added. "Each year we try reaching out to families that have been affected by violence. We want them to know that a community that stands together against violence can one day eliminate it," said Rizzo.

The YWCA's mission is to empower women and girls and to eliminate racism wherever it exists. For more information about the Week Without Violence or any other YWCA program, please call (908) 756-3500.

## HOLIDAY events

**Elks Breakfast With Santa**—The Elks on New Market Ave. will hold their annual 'Breakfast with Santa' on **Sunday, Dec. 15, 8 a.m.** until noon. Cost for adults is \$6, children 5-12 are \$4 and children under five are free. Menu includes, pancakes, French toast, eggs to order, bacon, sausage, coffee, tea and juice.

**Christmas in the City & A Play**—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. Cost is \$70 per person. Purchase tickets at the PAL on Maple Ave. Bus leaves at 10 a.m. and returns around 5:30 p.m.

**AARP Chapter 4144 Christmas Luncheon**—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.

**Holiday Sing-a-Long Program**—at the Library featuring Mr. Kurt on **Monday, Dec. 16** at 6:30 p.m.. Sign up in advance. Call (908) 754-7885 for information and ask for Miss Linda.

**Business Association Holiday Luncheon**—The South Plainfield Business Association will hold their Annual Holiday Luncheon on **Thursday, Dec. 19** at Sherban's Dinner 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.

**Santa Claus Coming to the PAL**—The South Plainfield Recreation is again sponsoring a visit with Santa! It will take place on **Saturday, Dec. 21** from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the PAL. Children between the ages of one and 10 may attend. Pictures with Santa will be taken and gifts will be given to all as well. The fee is \$5 per child. Register at the PAL, located at 1250 Maple Ave. The PAL is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Santa Will Visit Cafe Everest**—Santa is taking time out of his busy schedule to visit the children at Cafe Everest. Santa will be at the Cafe on **Saturday, Dec. 21** from 7 to 10 p.m. Come by and have dinner and/or your picture taken with Santa. For info, call (908) 755-2811.

**Annual Night of Caroling at the Gazebo**—Get into the holiday spirit at the South Plainfield Recreation-sponsored night of holiday singing on **Sunday, Dec. 22** at the gazebo in Spring Lake Park. Come out, bring the whole family and join the SPHS Choir and Band. Caroling begins at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be served at the Senior Center following the event. The South Plainfield Girl Scouts will be assisting in the setup and refreshments.

**Christmas Show at Hunterdon Playhouse**—The Senior Center is sponsoring a trip to the Hunterdon Playhouse's Christmas Show on **Monday, Dec. 23**. Cost is \$50 per person. Bus leaves the Senior Center at 10 a.m. Register at the PAL.

**Family New Year's Eve Party**—Bring the whole family to Cafe Everest Diner for a Pre-New Year's Eve Celebration on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 5-8 p.m. Enjoy a warm up countdown at 7 p.m., sparkling cider champagne, balloon animals, streamers, party hats, and much more. Price for adults is \$13.95, children \$7.95, which includes complete dinner.

### Out of Town

**Bethlehem's Treasure at Alliance Bible**—A Live Nativity will be presented at Alliance Bible Church in Warren, 52 Mt. Horeb Rd., on **Dec. 13, 8 p.m.** and **Dec. 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. Refreshments will be served immediately following each presentation. For additional info or directions, contact the church office at (732) 469-1425.

**Santa Train Ride Planned**—The Neighborhood House Association, 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. Purchase tickets, \$6, in advance at Neighborhood House or Dairy Queen on 1367 South Ave. For info, contact Carol Presley at (908) 757-7100.

**Concert at Mount St. Mary Academy**—Mount Saint Mary Academy, Rt. 22W at Terrill Road in Watchung, will hold a Christmas Concert on **Sunday, Dec. 15** at 3 p.m. in the Chapel. Concert includes presentations by the orchestra, chorale and hand bells. Free-will offering will be accepted. Refreshments will follow in the Mount Foyer.

**Christmas Party at Howell Lanes**—Enjoy an afternoon with Santa, Mrs. Claus and PBA Player of the Year, Parker Bohn III on **Sunday, Dec. 22** at a Christmas Party filled with fun, entertainment, games and prizes. Children will have their picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Bowling will be included all afternoon. A snack will be served to all attending. Parents are welcome to leave their child or stay and enjoy the festivities. \$25 for three hours. Children of all ages are welcome. Register early at (732) 780-1147. All proceeds will benefit the children's Tournament of Champions.

Happy Holidays

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# southplainfieldpeople Milestones

## Marching Band Pit Crew Are "Hometown Heros"



The South Plainfield High School Marching Band Pit crew

The South Plainfield High School Marching Band Pit Crew are valuable members of the award winning organization, The South Plainfield High School Tiger Marching Band. They devote countless hours of their personal

time to helping the band load and unload equipment (more than 100 instruments, props and several hundred pounds of percussion equipment), for their performances and competitions. They are all volunteers who are com-

mitted to helping their children in the demanding youth activity known as Marching Band.

Members of the band work tremendously hard to achieve their goals, but without the help and support of these dedicated parents, they would not have gotten as far as they have, competing in the Atlantic Coast Championships in Scranton, Pennsylvania. The members of the pit crew were recognized for their work by winning the coveted Golden Tractor Award, for their efficiency, speed, and excellence in bringing equipment on and off the field. The members of the pit crew pictured left are left to right, top to bottom, Don Fodor, Charlie Bubnick, Mike Reedy, Dave Basile, Greg Kuhn, Rich Reach, Al Carmon, Ed Figler and Mike Lammi. Missing from the picture are Tom Boyle and Bob Garbowsky.

The band pit crew was nominated by Pat Publik, Publicity Chairman for S.P.H.S. Music Boosters.



Lawrence Dowdy

## Dowdy Gets "Hero of the Month" Recognition

Lawrence Dowdy, chosen as Hero of the Month at Hometown Heros, was nominated by his daughter Beth.

In the letter she wrote to Hometown Heros she spoke of him as the greatest father, worker and boss. The letter nominating him read, "I choose him as my hero because he has done so much for me and everyone else over the years. He has owned a landscaping business for 25 years, called Blue Ridge Landscaping. All he does is work and he does it for a good reason. He helps put food on the table, keeps a roof over our heads and does this all by himself. He is great to his workers. I think he deserves to be a hero because no one has really given him anything back yet and I thought with this I can give him back a lot."

Dowdy wins a catered lunch for six courtesy of Hometown Heros. If you would like to nominate a person, student or business, stop by Hometown Heros, or send your nomination in writing to Hometown Heros, 340 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.



C.R. Bard Foundation, Inc. Nursing Scholarship Recipient Janet Kanaley (right) pictured with Bronwen Kelly, Vice President, Human Resources at C.R. Bard, Inc.

## Kanaley Receives C.R. Bard Nursing Scholarship

The College of Saint Elizabeth recently announced that Nursing Program student Janet Kanaley, R.N., Class of 2003, is the recipient of a C.R. Bard Foundation, Inc. Nursing Scholarship.

Kanaley has more than 21 years of nursing experience and is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nursing. She is an active member of several South Plainfield community service projects including the Boosters of Musical Arts Association; Junior Baseball Club; Parent Teacher Student Organization of John F. Kennedy Elementary School; Middle School Parent Teacher Association and she has served as a troop leader for the South Plainfield Daisy and Brownie Troop

#323.

Undergraduate students compete for the annual \$2,000 awards, which support students who are pursuing their baccalaureate degrees in Nursing and are planning a career in health services. Applications for the scholarship program are submitted by member institutions of the Independent College Fund of New Jersey (ICFJ) that offer nursing programs including Bloomfield College, College of Saint Elizabeth, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Felician College, Monmouth University, Saint Peter's College, and Seton Hall University. Award recipients are selected on the basis of strong academic performance, extracurricular involvement, leadership, and financial need.

## KMM Offers Emergency Traffic Network By Email

Keep Middlesex Moving, Inc. (KMM), the Transportation Management Association for Middlesex County, has announced that the Emergency Traffic Network (ETN) is being offered through email and is FREE to all participants.

If an emergency road condition occurs in Middlesex or Monmouth County during normal business hours, participants will receive an alert via email with a short description of the situation including date, time, location, estimated duration, contact name and phone number. Along with the emergency traffic alerts, KMM also sends a weekly report through the ETN alerting its participants of on-going construction projects in Middlesex and Monmouth County for the week to come. Prepare for your commute and weekend trips by joining the Emergency Traffic Network.

If you are interested in receiving the ETN alerts, please call the KMM offices at (732) 745-5903 or email us at [kmm@kmm.org](mailto:kmm@kmm.org).

For more information about this program, please call Cristina C. Fowler at (732) 745-4318.



## Get 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!

**Send Us Your Milestones:** 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Include a photo if possible.

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## House Decorating Contest

**Have You Got What It Takes?**

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Enter your house or nominate another. Entries must be received by December 24. Prizes will be announced in Dec. 20 issue of the Observer. Winners will be announced in the Jan. 3 issue. Include photo of house, if possible. Entries must be postmarked by Dec. 24 and sent to: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Boulevard, Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Get in the spirit of the season.

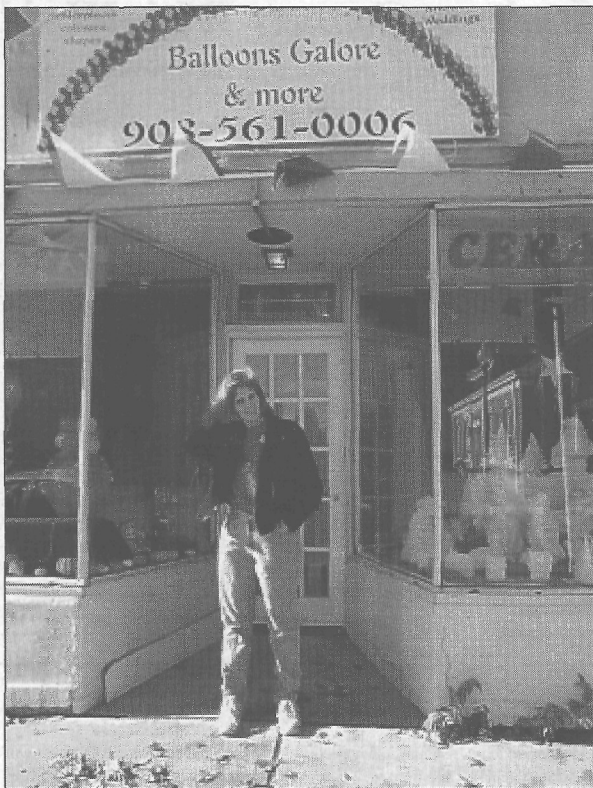
See next week's Observer for more prize details.

First place winnerhouse will be pictured on the front page of the Observer.

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS OF HOUSE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_



Balloons Galore &amp; More owner Raven Swartz

## Balloons Galore & More is Just That

Piscataway resident Raven Swartz has taken her home-based businesses and moved them to a new store in South Plainfield. Balloons Galore & More held a grand opening last weekend.

Swartz has combined her party-decorating business along with her love for ceramics. The new store, located at 228 Hamilton Blvd., is downtown across the street from the old Senior Center.

For 20 years Swartz has specialized in theme party decorating for all occasions—from favors and bouquets to unique larger-than-life balloon arches and characters. She will customize any party to suit your imagination. Balloons Galore & More also has a wide

array of party supplies, such as pinatas and invitations.

The rear of Balloons Galore & More houses an area for walk-in ceramic workshops. Swartz has tens of thousands of molds to choose from and she has a large assortment of ready to paint items. You can purchase a ceramic piece to go or Swartz will assist you on your piece from start to finish.

Stop in and check out this unique store. Hours are Mondays, 12 to 6 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday by appointment only.

For more information call (908) 561-0006.

## Middle School Announces Honor Roll

### High Honor Roll

**Eighth Grade**—Nicole Benak, Julianne Bosse, Kiran Budhan, Christopher Burke, Ying Chen, Zakiya Clarke, Kelly Downes, Kathleen Eder, Samantha Granski, Amanda Harzula, Brittany Hollis, A Phi Nguyen, Trevor Rastelli and Michael Stallone.

**Seventh Grade**—Francis Alfano, Nicole Brooks, Paolo Cantarella, Brooke Denitzio, Christopher Deoliveira, Theresa Huber, Przemyslaw Lasota and Raymond Lee, Erica Linick, Lauren O'Day, Michael Oprysk, Kristen Partesi, Christopher Pennisi, Anthony Simone, Chelsea Soisson, Stephanie Szeliga.

### Honor Roll

**Eighth Grade**—Michelle Alcantara, Kimberly Arki, Nicholas Baldassarre, Jake Bayak, Daniel Becker, Tina Bijlani, Dorian Bishop, Caitlyn Brindley, Melissa Budhan, Dana Cacciatore, John Carigma, Amit Chandler, Ashleyanne Chosney, Samantha Cihanowycz, Charles Clark, Kyle Corrado, Jessica Crisitello, Joseph Cupo, Kristina Cursi, Nicholas De Simone, Jenna Delillo, Tina Destefano, Harrison Donahue, Matthew Fabino, Robert Fallet, Alexandra Fodor, Melissa Franzson, Kimberly Galinsky, Jennifer Garzon, Ashleigh Gaspari, Jerald Greczy, Michael A. George, Michael J. George, Nicholas Ginnakis, Garrett Gianneschi, Matthew Gigantino, Katie Hardy, Meghan Hartmann, Christopher Herberster, Jennifer Herrera, Cassandra Hoffman, Sara Holbrook, Asia Hollis,

Brianne Howarth, Daniel Hubner, Trucly Huynh, Lalchan Jainarine, Briana Jennings, Barney Johnson, Gauri Joshi, Wael Kanj, Christine Lanza, Sebastian Lasota, Phuong Le, Ashley Little, Jennifer Little, Charles Loiacono, Maria Lopez, Nicole Mathew, DariaMc Call, Daniel Mc Creesh, Michael Mc Lean, Tricia Merryman, Nicole Miglis, Jacquelyn Miller, Chintan Mody, Anthony Moretti, Susan Mott, Kathryn Noonan, Lelosa Ogbevoen, Jennifer Okuski, Ryan Olexson, Stephen Parello, Nicholas Pasquale, Aarti Patel, Meshva Patel, Justin Pauls, Kelly Piwowar, Christopher Pollin, Jessica Pryor, Thomas Pryor, Leslie Quichua, Selene Rayho, Kate Reichert, Karla Reyes, James Rivas, Jessica Ross, Kimberly Russell, Joseph Scarpitto, Abdussami Sheikh, Maria Soto, Christopher Stallone, Lauren Stoeckel, Geovana Toca, Michael Troia, Jessica Vasquez, Alexandra Viscosi, Brian Wiczkowski, Ashlee Williams, Timothy Williams, Brittanee Wong, Luigi Zeccardo.

**Seventh Grade**—Peter Adorna, Dana Alexa, Ashley Alvarado, Kristin Billich, Taryn Billich, Brittney Bishara, Elizabeth Blackford, Lillian Blanco, Rebecca Bosse, Erica Bowden, Dontae Brooks, Brianna Calderone, Vanessa Castellanico, John Christ, Grey Coppi, Nicole Cosma, James Cox, Jonathan Cursi, Kyle Czarnik, Joseph Dacchille, Christopher Delancy, Danielle Dembia, Karan Desai, Elizabeth Diamant, Christopher Duquette, Kaitlin Egan, Andres Erazo, Daniel

## Teacher Attends Former Student's Broadway Performance

In November of 1985, Larry Street was seated in Ann Brown's eleventh grade English class and, on Nov. 16, 2002, Ann Brown sat in the audience of the Tony Award Winning Musical *Urinetown*, watching her former student, Larry Street perform on the Broadway stage.

What made this event so special was the fact that Brown was selected to participate in Washington Mutual's program entitled, "Spotlight on Teachers, Send Your Teacher to Broadway." Brown, who was nominated by sophomore Heather Cristello, joined teachers from across the tri-state area and became Broadway bound.

Each teacher selected to participate in this program was given a choice of which play they wanted to see. "There was no doubt in my mind which play would be my first choice. I definitely wanted to see Larry in his Broadway debut," said Brown. "I always knew Larry would be famous someday. In high school Larry was the all around, almost perfect kid," Brown recalls. "In addition to being an honors student, Larry had a magnificent tenor voice and was very active in our theatre and music departments."

After graduating from South Plainfield High School, Larry received a B.A. from Carnegie Mellon University and a Master's degree in music from the University of Akron. His recent credits include *The Radio City Christmas Spectacular* and the role of Mingo in *Porgy and Bess* at London's Royal Festival Hall. When Larry returned home to South Plainfield in the spring of 2001 to care for his aging father, it was no surprise that he found his way back to his alma mater, to assist the current drama teacher Gloria Naso as vocal director for *Damn Yankees*. In fact, it was during the final weeks of rehearsal for *Damn Yankees* that Larry received word that he was cast for the part of Billy Boy Bill in the then Off-Broadway run of *Urinetown*.



SPHS eleventh grade English teacher Ann Brown with Larry Street

On the day of the performance, teacher Ann Brown gave one of the stage hands a message before the show to take back to Larry, she was told that Larry is now known as 'Lawrence.' From all of us in South Plainfield, break a leg Lawrence E. Street! We are so proud of you.

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**South Plainfield  
Observer**

From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Right in the middle of the Holiday season, we've come upon the dreaded date of Friday the 13. Those of you afflicted with triskadeophobia may be wondering if it's OK to shop for presents, put up decorations, etc. But, we figure it's safe for you to read the latest news from South Plainfield Library:

Turning to our Children's programs, there's still time to sign up for this afternoon's Kidcraft program. It's scheduled to start at 4 p.m. and is for children ages six and over, or children who are able to use scissors. We've also got our Holiday Sing-a-Long Program featuring Mr. Kurt on Monday evening at 6:30. We ask that you sign up in advance, so we have some idea of how many kids to expect. Finally, we've got our usual schedule of children's Storytime programs. They're for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. The programs are held on 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. For more information, please call (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

The Library is now participating in another Holiday charity drive. Local Eagle Scout candidate Prasanna Sridharan has organized a drive to collect new and "gently used" coats for those less fortunate. All sizes, for both adults and children, are needed; the coats will be distributed through the non-profit Jersey Cares organization. Also, you can still donate to both Books to Keep and to the toy drive organized by local Eagle Scout candidate Joseph J. Helgesen. And, of course, we're still a collection point for the Lion's Club drive for eyeglasses and hearing aids. Please give what you can to these efforts.

Don't forget about the special of-

fer from Zany Brainy in Bridgewater. From Monday through Thursday, when patrons shop there and present a special coupon at that store, 10 percent of their total sales price will be donated to the Library. Coupons are available at the Circulation Desk.

There have been several new additions to our video and DVD collections. In our General section, we now have VHS copies of *A Walk to Remember*, *Left Behind II: Tribulation Force* and the classic musical *Oklahoma*. New DVDs include *Dinotopia*, the summer hit *Spiderman*, *Training Day* and *Star Wars: Episode II-Attack of the Clones*. Over in the Juvenile section, new VHS tapes include *When in Rome* with the Olsen Twins, *Tarzan & Jane* and tapes featuring *SpongeBob Squarepants*, *Arthui*, and *Barbie*, respectively. New Juvenile DVDs include *Monsters, Inc.*, both the original and special editions of *E.T.*, *Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron*, and *The Powerpuff Girls Movie*. Some titles are available in both formats. Also, more new additions are on the way, so keep your eyes open for them.

In case you're stuck for a gift for someone, the Library is still offering Library tote bags for \$10 each, and Library sweatshirts for \$15 each. The tote bags are in stock right now, but the sweatshirts must be pre-ordered, so please take that into account. Details are available at the Circulation Desk. Also, the special November sale prices at the Friends of the Library Book Sale will continue throughout December. Be sure to stop by and see what's available.

Finally, we have another display for December. It's a variety of moose-related items provided by our Library Director, Sundra Fenn. This display will be here until the end of the month.

That's about all for now. See you next Friday, which will be the less fear-inspiring Dec. 20.

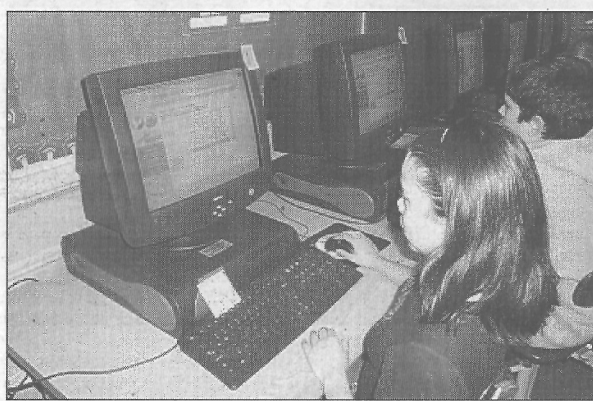
## Middle School Students Connect With World

Middle School seventh grade World Geography students had the unique opportunity to be one of the few schools in the United States to participate in program entitled "Conflict and Conflict Resolution." The program allows student to have an on-line computer chat with students in Armenia.

Mrs. McDonough's classes, along with 17 other schools from the U.S. and Armenia, discussed world topics, as well as personal topics and then brought their thoughts to a one-day five chat held simultaneously around the world.

Project Harmony allows students to explore a mass problem solving exercise, as opposed to just reading about world conflicts in the news or on the internet.

Through Project Harmony, students learn to understand that the causes of conflicts worldwide are quite similar and they can ponder how they,



themselves might help solve them.

South Plainfield students learned that what happened in Sept. 11 had a greater impact on their lives than the rest of the country or on the people in Armenia. Armenian children also felt

difficultly about problems with their Russian neighbors than they did about the people in the United States.

Students also had the opportunity to ask more personal questions of their newly acquired friends on the internet.

## Tri County American Red Cross Holds Introduction To Disaster Course

The American Red Cross Tri-County Chapter is holding an Introduction to Disaster Course on Friday, Dec. 27 at 1 p.m. This free course will be held at the Elizabeth Chapter office at 203 West Jersey St. in Elizabeth. Introduction to Disaster is a prerequisite for all American Red Cross volunteers dealing with disasters. If you are interested in assisting your neighbors by responding to fires, offering mental health counseling, serving food to families and emergency service workers or helping manage a shelter, then we want you to volunteer for our Chapter. Information on volunteer opportunities and the programs available at the Tri-County Chapter will be discussed. Volunteers are also needed at Blood Drives and in Health and Safety Services. The Tri-County Chapter serves towns in Union, Somerset and Middlesex counties. There are offices in Elizabeth and Plainfield. If you are interested in attending the orientation, call Victor Webb Jr. at (908) 756-6414.

## Ho! Ho! Ho! The Christmas Spirit Is Alive and Well on Ritter Ave.

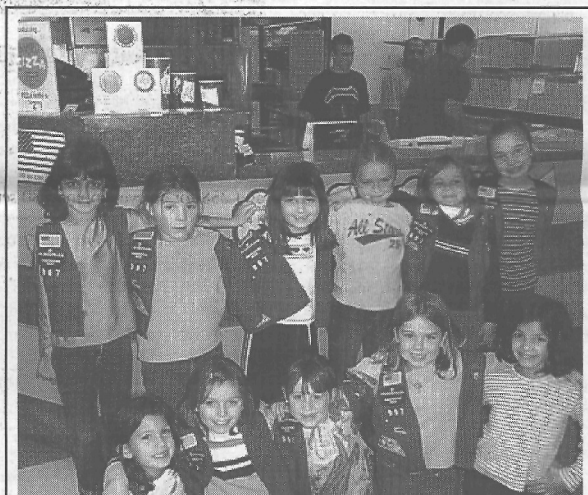
For more than 16 years, Al Mitchell and his wife Pat Stilo-Mitchell have decorated their house on Ritter Ave. for Christmas with hundreds of lights, lots of figures and decorations and they also host an open house to the public.

Every night, cars loaded with children can be seen driving by the house to see this Christmas spectacular.

Once again this year, Al and Pat will hold their annual "Santa Night" on Dec. 16 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Santa (Al) will spend quality time listening to each child. Pat will offer hot chocolate and cookies to visitors. This year there is a rain date, Dec. 18.

Come and visit Santa, where the Spirit of Christmas is alive and well!



Kennedy School Brownie Troop #997 recently spent the afternoon earning their Career Badge by learning to make pizza at Bruno's Pizzeria on Park Ave. The girls who attended were Malina Mohtadi, Stephanie Rocco, Laura Boyce, Angela Cardone, Courtney Allocco, Annie Pezzolla, Kate McLaughlin, Brianna Swenson, Brooke Penik, Monica Spooner and Maggie Quintanilla.

## Riley School Announces 2002-2003 Student Council

Riley School would like to introduce their 2002-2003 Student Council Reps. President is Matthew Galinsky, Vice President is Ryan Flanagan and Secretary is Bissy Martin.

Each class has representatives as well. They are:

Third grade-Erica Fisher, Emily Sella, Brooke Marker, Luke Sprenger, Stephen Lanza, Casey Buttrick, Katie O'Brien and Amanda Tjong.

Fourth Grade-Michael Krushinowski, Dominique Cassavetis, Danny Hunt, Jennifer Martinez, Tayllor Adorna, Kenny Calderoni, Danna Hunt and Jeremy Strausser.

Fifth Grade-Bissy Martin, Matthew Galinsky, Ryan Flanagan, John Wylam, Richie Szeliga, Jake Butynski, Alex Horn, Zack Bushara and Lucy Roscoe.

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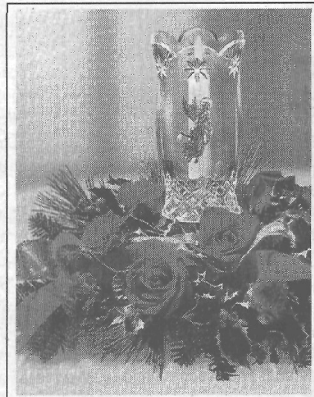
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**Enter!** Enter the Observer's Holiday House Decorating Contest-See page 6.

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# Sports

## juniorbaseballclubnotes

By Kevin Lykes

If you have been following my messages over the past several weeks you know that a number of proposals were on the table to be decided at the Dec. 2 meeting. After great debate and careful review of numerous different propositions, the general membership voted to leave our league structures as they are. This means: C league will remain an 8-9 year old league; B league 10-11 years old; A League 11-12 years old. Much the same, Pony B will remain a 13 year old league; and Pony A a 14-17 year old league with 17 year olds not being eligible to pitch. In addition, metal spikes will now be allowed at the Pony levels.

Also approved was a proposal to adopt and adhere to Title 5, Chapter 17 of the New Jersey Athletic Code of Conduct for Youth Sports Events. This will be a code of acceptable and non-acceptable behavior, and will apply to all managers, coaches, players, officials, and spectators. South Plainfield's version is currently being written.

The ban on high school, AAU or other outside pitchers pitching here has been lifted. Of course we expect to honor the high school's request not to use their pitchers while the high school season is in progress, afterward they will be able to pitch here. We also expect parents to keep our coaches informed if a player has pitched recently in another league to ensure arms don't become overused.

League directors may now coach a team in the league they are directing. This will broaden the possibilities for potential league directors and enable us to select directors who are more familiar with the talent in their respective leagues. Hopefully this will be one means of distributing teams evenly.

Our post season double elimination playoff tournament, which includes all teams in each league, will remain the same as over the past several seasons.

Due to insurance reasons and the risk of injury to other players, no one will be permitted to participate in any game if they are wearing a cast or splint.

I think I've covered all the issues that are of interest to most of you. If

you have a question about something I haven't mentioned, please give us a call at the clubhouse.

**SPECIAL NOTE!**—Registrations are being accepted for the 2003 season. Winter rates are now in effect; \$95 for a single player; \$125 for two players; \$145 for three or more players. The formal registration dates are set for Thursday and Friday, Jan. 16-17 from 6-9 p.m. at the clubhouse. Also Saturday, Jan. 18 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Birth certificates are required for all players new to the league. Registrations are also being accepted by mail. To register by mail go to our website at [www.splibc.com](http://www.splibc.com), print out a copy of our registration form, (you will need one per player), fill it out, sign it, and return with check and copy of birth certificate to S.P.J.B.C., PO Box 166, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

**NOTE!**—some problems have been experienced in trying to access the registration form. It is important to include the "www" portion of the address when you log on. After Jan. 31, late registration fees will go into effect and all multiple player discounts will expire.

### BOWLING

## Matt Boley Explodes For 730 Set in Holiday Classic

Congratulations to sophomore Matt Boley, who was the silver medalist this past weekend in the Bishop Alr Holiday Classic, which hosted 39 teams. Matt stroked games of 227-245 and 258 for an eye-popping 730 set.

Vicki Boley's 223 game and 549 set, coupled with freshman Beverly Jamieson's solid 5001 set led the girls bowling team to a 15<sup>th</sup> place finish in the 26 team field.

**Boley's 670, 657 Sparks Boys**  
So. Plainfield 954-939-1008 2901  
Woodbridge 1010-1032-999 3041

The Boys Bowling Team made its debut in the tough Red Division of the GMC and after dropping the first two games to powerhouse Woodbridge, the Tigers rebounded to beat the Barons in the third game, however suffering a 3-1 setback.

High scoring honors in the match went to the Tigers' Matt Boley, who sizzled with games of 244-203-223 for a booming 670 set. Shawn Ferguson was solid with 575. Also chipping in were Jon Jeglinski 213-201, George Kleinknecht 233 and Anthony Ingerto 196.

South Plainfield 838-863-879 2580  
JP Stevens 893-1071-1093 3057

Despite Matt Boley's 266 high game

### SOCCER

## U-13 Typhoons Take 15 Place

Congratulations go out to the South Plainfield Boys U-13 Typhoons Soccer team for being crowned Flight Co-Champions for the fall 2002 season. This marks the third time in six seasons that the team has finished on top of their respective flight, which places them as one of the most solid teams to represent the South Plainfield Soccer Club since its inception. Head Coach Pio Pennisi and coaches Kurt Ullom and Keith Heckel along with UK Elite trainer "Coach Rich" Cosgrove have once again put together a combination of speed, defense and ball-handling that led to a 7-1-2 record.

The season began a little sluggishly as the Typhoons stumbled out of the gate with a 2-2 tie against Hunterdon. The next three games would set them in the right direction with successive wins against Flemington, Piscataway and St. John Vianney followed by another tie to end the first half at 3-0-2 and a share of first place.

Game six was a rematch of the opener, which allowed the Typhoons to avenge the tie with a convincing



3-0 win at Hunterdon. Week seven at Piscataway truly displayed all of the talents this team possesses as they played through tough field conditions and an aggressive opponent to post a 7-1 victory. Following their only loss of the year to Flemington 1-0, the boys went out and dismantled the once

dominating club from St. John Vianney 11-0 and finished the season with a decisive performance over Hopewell 6-2 thus assuring them a share of the Flight Crown.

Led by the speed and offensive production of strikers Brendan O'Shea, Brandon Ullom and Brian Fabino, the Typhoons outscored opponents 44-13. While the midfielders Danny Pompilio, Vinnie Padula, John Pollizano, Jonathan Marcoux and Steven Guevara provided both scoring and defensive help at the center of play. But a season isn't won by scoring alone as Goalie Grey Coppi's play in the net anchored a solid defense led by fullback Chris Pennisi and a backfield of Greg Watts, Keith Heckel, Matt Helgesen and J.R. Licato.

Since this group was formed five years ago, they have continued to improve their skills and succeed not only as individuals but also as a team working together towards one goal. The coaching staff and players should all be commended for their hard work and dedication to the roles they play on this team and the sportsmanship they display on the field.

solid 564 set. Also chipping in were Kim Gaub 179-169-178 for a 526 set, Meredith Cooper 181 and Alexis Montanaro 171 game.

South Plainfield 788-833-707 2328  
J.P. Stevens 643-729-616 1988

The girls bowling team evened its record at 1-1 as they bolted out of the gate and never looked back, coasting to a 4-0 whitewash of J.P. Stevens. Vicki Boley fired games of 213 and 205 for a big 603 set. Meredith Cooper 169, Alexis Montanaro 165, Kim Gaub 164 and Beverly Jamieson 163 aided in the victory.

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# IN YOUR OPINION

Continued from page 2

we learn in life don't come from textbooks.

Maybe it's time the Board of Education put education first. After all, isn't that what they are there for?

**SINCERELY,  
KRISTEN GUALANO,  
STUDENT AT SPHS**

## To the South Plainfield Board of Education:

Once again we are in search of a new superintendent. Over roughly the past ten years, we have had three different superintendents. That kind of turnover is not only unusual, it is disruptive to the entire school district. While change is good...too much change in too short of a time can produce chaos. In your quest for the best superintendent, you appear to have developed a belief that you need to look outside South Plainfield in order to find the best candidates. I base my statement on the fact that our last three superintendents were all from outside districts. All three obviously possessed the credentials you desired. All three came here with their own very different styles, theories and plans for our school district. They quite understandably drew on their experiences from

their previous districts for implementation here. In my opinion, however, none seemed to possess or acquire a true understanding of our district. Now that you are in the midst of yet another superintendent search, it might be appropriate to seriously consider the merits of hiring a candidate from within our own district.

As a teacher in this district, I want a superintendent who is an educator with current in-school experience, not an idealist with only a vague memory of the true nature of a school environment. It is important to have a superintendent with a realistic and practical understanding of today's classroom issues. I'd much rather have a superintendent whose most recent experience occurred in a school's halls as opposed to the journals in research halls. A successful superintendent recognizes and treats his teachers and administrators as professional colleagues, not as antagonized opponents. I'd welcome a superintendent who has more concern about truly educating our students instead of being focused on programming and pressuring them to be successful "test-takers." I'd like to see a return to viewing our students as kids rather than yearly test result figures. I want a superintendent I can respect as a leader and who, in turn, will respect

me as a teacher.

As a taxpayer, I want a superintendent of integrity, who is loyal to and cares about our district. We need someone who knows the composition of our community, not a person who treats our suburban issues with, for example, an urban mentality. It would be nice to have a superintendent who speaks from the heart with intelligence and understanding, not someone who merely delivers well-scripted sound bites. We need a strong individual who is willing to take a stand and perhaps even a little heat, for doing what is right for our district. We deserve a superintendent who is well educated, articulate, and presents a dignified and professional demeanor of leadership.

We have South Plainfield educators who have applied to be our superintendent of schools. These candidates meet every professional qualification for the position. They also fulfill the criteria I've outlined above. These people are right here, under your noses, and have been for years. They won't need the yearlong "honeymoon" period of becoming acquainted with our district before getting down to work. These South Plainfield educators are not only professionally qualified, they have valuable "inside knowledge." They already know our strengths

and our weaknesses. They already know the staff and have earned our respect. They understand and care about our kids. These are people who have years invested here. They plan to stay. They are not interested in using us as stepping-stones to other positions. They haven't flitted from district to district seeking either acclaim or refuge. These South Plainfield educators have established their loyalties, priorities, and dedication to this district. While they may lack a particular title you may be seeking, that is a technicality due to their decisions to remain within our district. It is not due to lack of qualifications. These fine educators could have easily left in order to accept titles such as principal, director, or superintendent in other districts. In fact, your last three superintendents did precisely that to their former districts. Our South Plainfield candidates chose to remain here and dedicate their talents and expertise to our students. A candidate's current position and/or title should not be a primary factor in your decision...of much more importance is his certification, education, and possession of "the right stuff" to be the superintendent of this district.

You know, it took "Dorothy" only one encounter with a lot of wind, strangers and a bumpy road to finally appreciate what she had all along in her own backyard. How about skipping the twister this fourth time around and taking a good long look at what you already have in your own backyard?

**SINCERELY,  
MARGIE GUMINA**

Dear Editor,

Despite the valiant efforts of law enforcement and organizations like Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), drunk driving related deaths continue to rise.

There is no more important responsibility of government than the protection of its citizens and by introducing legislation to help keep drunk drivers off the road, it is my hope that those numbers, as alarming as they are, will drop substantially.

John's Law—which has been signed

into law in New Jersey and is being considered in other states—requires police to impound, for as long as 12 hours, the vehicle of a person charged with driving while intoxicated.

Drunk drivers should not be allowed to simply return to their cars after they are released from police custody. And those who pick up a drunk driver from the local police station, must be made aware of what will happen to them should they allow a person under the influence to again get behind the wheel.

The time has come for a nationwide standard of John's Law to be adopted. Last year, I introduced a measure (S.2805) in the U.S. Senate that would mirror the New Jersey version of John's Law—but with one sticking point. Any state refusing to adopt the measure on a national level would lose federal highway funding for local transportation projects.

John's Law was named after Navy Ensign John Elliott, a 22-year old from Atlantic County who was driving home from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis for his mother's birthday on July 22, 2000 when he was killed in a head-on collision by a drunk driver who had been arrested hours earlier for driving while under the influence and was released into the custody of a friend. If we are to win the war against drunk driving, we need to keep drunk drivers off the road.

We must do everything in our power to ensure that John Elliott did not die in vain. A nationwide standard would serve to ensure that the memory of John Elliott lives on by protecting the lives of those who might fall victim to drunken drivers.

According to the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration, there were 17,448 drunken driving deaths in 2001—up from 16,792 in 2000.

Drunk drivers have torn the fabric of far too many families. By making John's Law a national mandate we help protect families from having to go through the terrible loss of losing a loved one to a drunk driver.

**SINCERELY,  
JON S. CORZINE, U.S. SENATOR  
NEW JERSEY**

## Obituaries

### Nancy Santy Senia, 61

Nancy Santy Senia died on Thursday, Dec. 5 at the Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

She was born in East Orange and had resided in South Plainfield her whole life.

Nancy was a bookkeeper in the credit and collection department of EZ-Way Mobil Storage Company in South Plainfield for the last two years.

Nancy was the first drum majorette for the South Plainfield High School Marching Band in 1957. Her favorite pastime was spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her father, Michael Santy, who died in 1967 and her mother Lillian Huley who died in 1989.

She is survived by a son, Anthony Senia Jr. of South Plainfield; two daughters, Lori Ann Jankoski and JoAnn Smith both of South Plainfield; her stepfather, Nicholas Huley and her stepmother, Lee Santy, both of South Plainfield; a brother, Michael Santy of South Plainfield and her beloved grandchildren, Michael, Taylor, Brittany and Kayla.

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

### Claire E. Billian, 58

Claire E. Billian died on Friday, Dec. 6 at her home.

Born in Orange, she grew up in Union Beach and was a 1962 gradu-

ate of Keyport High School. She has resided in South Plainfield for the past 30 years.

Claire had a 30 year career with the phone company, beginning with NJ Bell as an operator working in Perth Amboy. She was later transferred to AT&T, working in Piscataway as a data storage technician. She retired two years ago.

She was a long time member of the Hydewood Park Baptist Church in North Plainfield and she very much enjoyed photography.

Surviving are two daughters, Lanni McCall and her husband Sam, of Somerville and Lauren Billian of South Plainfield; a son, Michael D. Billian, Jr. of South Plainfield; three sisters, Alice Dimech of Ansonia, Conn., Mary Levine of Hazlet and Peggy Lauro of Union Beach. She is also survived by two grandchildren, Michele D'Angelo and Tyler Boyd-Billian.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations to the American Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family.

### Pauline J. Palka, 84,

Pauline J. Palka of Edison entered into eternal rest.

She was born in Plainfield and had resided in Edison her entire life.

She was the daughter of the late Stephen and Theresa Palka.

Pauline was an administrative assistant in the personal department at

Mack Trucks in Plainfield and Bridgewater for 45 years, before retiring in 1985.

She is survived by her sister-in-law and a niece and a nephew.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, Dec. 13 at 11 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church. Burial will follow at Holy Redeemer Cemetery in South Plainfield. Relatives and friends may call at the James W. Conroy Funeral Home between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. on Friday.

### Michael Sarullo, 50,

Michael Sarullo of North Brunswick died on Saturday, Dec. 7 at the Raritan Bay Medical Center in Old Bridge.

He was born in Elizabeth and was a former resident of Spotswood before moving to North Brunswick two months ago.

Michael was the owner and operator of Sarullo Auto Repair in Helmetta for the last 15 years. Prior to that he was a printing foreman for Webcraft in North Brunswick.

He was predeceased by his father, Pasquale Sarullo, who died in September of 2002.

He is survived by two sons, Michael and his wife Jennifer Sarullo of Somerset and Nicholas Sarullo of Spotswood; a daughter, Michelle Sarullo of North Brunswick; his mother, Georgia Manos Sarullo of North Brunswick; a brother, Patrick Sarullo and his wife Billie Jean Sarullo of South Plainfield; a nephew, Patrick Sarullo Jr. and a niece, Billie Jean Sarullo, both of South Plainfield.

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

## policereport

- On Dec. 2 Michael Joseph Guaraci, 30, of Lavelette was arrested on Brennan Ct. for harassment.
- An employee of Active Concepts on St. Nicholas Ave. reported that the headlights on her car had been stolen.
- A Roselle Park resident reported that the drivers side window of her vehicle was smashed and an Aïwa car stereo and Fendi pocketbook were stolen.
- On Dec. 4 Usha A. Amin, 47, of Piscataway was arrested at Macys for shoplifting. She had purchased some items and then attempted to take another \$120 worth of clothing.
- On Dec. 5 Ryan J. Moore, 25, of Newtonville, NY was arrested for driving while intoxicated and driving on a suspended license at a motor vehicle stop.
- An A&P employee reported the theft of \$1,268.50 from her pocketbook which was in a locked locker in the cafeteria.
- On Dec. 6 Cinthia Veronica Gomero, 19 and Katia Lorena Sanchez, 21, both of Piscataway, were arrested at Macys. Gomero had shoplifted \$126 worth of woman's clothing and Sanchez \$76 worth of clothing.
- On Dec. 8 a Plainfield resident reported the theft of a trunk emblem from her 1994 Toyota Camry in the

Golden Acres Shopping Center.

- Speedwash on Maple Ave. reported the theft of \$40 from an unlocked cash box in the office.
- A Cherry St. resident reported that his house had been broken into overnight. A small window in the front door had been broken and the door unlocked. A bedroom was ransacked and a five gallon pail of state quarters valued at between \$300 and \$400 was removed.



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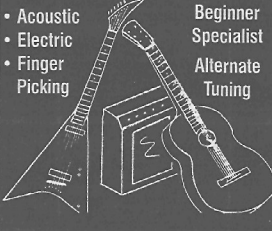
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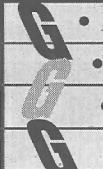
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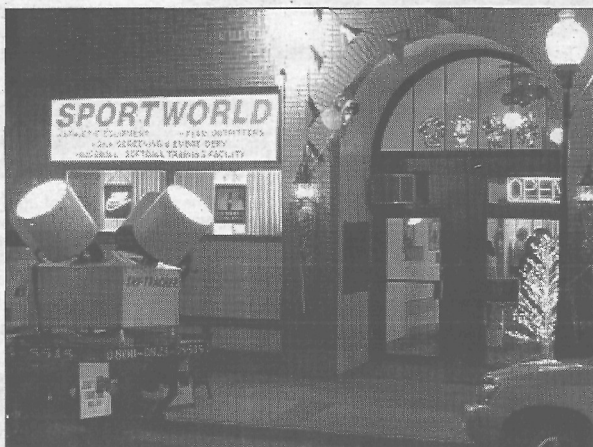
Advertise your business for \$15 a week. Call 908-668-0010 for details.

# Spotlight was on Sportworld For Grand Opening

By Patricia Abbott

From pint-sized pitchers to high school varsity teams and area sports leagues, Sportworld is "the" place in South Plainfield for athletic attire and equipment. The store offers a wide variety of sports equipment and apparel, as well as footwear. Owners Kevin Brown and Tom Kiczula recently celebrated their 25th anniversary with a move to a new location. Sportworld is now open at 17 South Plainfield Ave. in a building that once housed a movie theater. They held a grand opening on the evening of Nov. 28.

The South Plainfield High School Jazz Band, seated on the balcony overlooking the store, added a touch of class to the gala event. Volunteers served hors d'oeuvres; there were free drinks and popcorn. Kevin and Tom handed out free Sportworld tee shirts as well. Activities included vintage sports clips shown on a screen set up at the back of the store. There was a steady flow of guests throughout the evening. Kids of all ages flocked to



Sportworld has moved into the site which once housed the old movie theater on South Plainfield Ave.

nient new services to the store. Sportworld now offers on-site silk screening and embroidery. Another exciting new feature is the Sportworld Baseball/Softball Indoor Training Facility—a second floor training area that

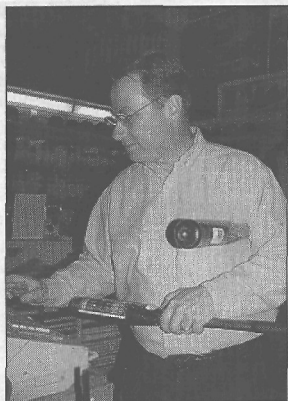
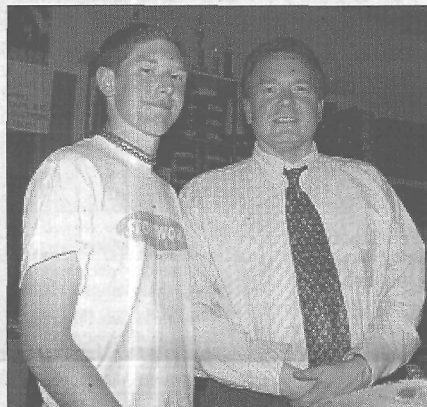
features two batting cages, two pitching tunnels, baseball instruction, softball instruction and hitting leagues. A Little League size pitching tunnel has an official Little League mound. It is 6' high x 7' wide x 9' long, and 35' Fast Pitch Softball pitching lane. The High School size tunnel has an offi-

cial NCAA mound. This tunnel is 10' high x 7' wide x 9' long and a 40' Fast Pitch Softball pitching lane. Both are completely covered in genuine baseball Astroturf. Pitching tunnel rental is \$22 per hour and \$12 per half hour.

One batting cage has an Iron Mike Pitching Machine by Master. The machine holds up to 300 baseballs. The second cage has a single wheel jugs machine for baseball or softball. This machine must be hand fed. Batting cage rentals are; \$40 per hour, \$25 per half hour and \$15 per quarter-hour. Memberships are available. Either cage can also be used with a live pitcher and there are protective screens for both cages. The cages offer a little something extra for the owners too. Tom said, "It always gives me a great feeling to help a kid choose the proper bat or glove and now I can actually watch him use it and watch his game improve as he uses our cages, and to see that look of pride in his face when he sends a rope to the deepest part of the cage."

A Hitting League will begin at the Sportworld Training Facility on Jan. 3 and run for six weeks. Age groups are 10 and under, 13 and under, 17 and under and 18 and over. There are four players per team with three alternates. Lessons are available in baseball and softball pitching, batting, fielding and catching. For more information call 753-5403 or check out Sportworld's Website at [www.SPORTWORLD.net](http://www.SPORTWORLD.net).

Sportworld's new home has a fascinating history that dates back to the days of the depression and silent films. The *Observer* will feature those early years in next week's issue.



Pictured above left are Sportworld owners Tom Kiczula with son Tom and Kevin Brown (above).

the store. The calendar may have read "November," but that didn't stop youngsters and the young-at-heart from thinking about "next season." With the gift-giving season just around the corner they eyed soccer balls, baseball bats and more.

Over 200 people attended the opening. Minutes before closing guests were still arriving to check out the new store. Tom and Kevin shared their thoughts on the successful opening party. "Whenever you plan an event like this, you worry that no one will show up. Well, that was not the case—the turnout was fantastic. We tried to make it a gala party atmosphere and everyone had a great time."

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