

South Plainfield Observer

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DECEMBER 20, 2002

District Appoints Superintendent



Dr. Robert J. Rosado

At the Dec. 17 meeting, the South Plainfield Board of Education approved the appointment of Dr. Robert J. Rosado as Superintendent of Schools. Rosado, his wife and two children reside in Livingston. He will begin his service in South Plainfield in February at an annual salary of \$140,000.

For the past ten years, Dr. Rosado has served as superintendent for the Verona Public Schools. In prior years, he has worked as assistant superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for the Franklin Township Public Schools; principal and assistant principal for the Montclair Public Schools; Mathematics Department chairman for Roselle Park High School; Elementary Mathematics specialist and teacher for the East Orange Public Schools; and bilingual teacher for the New York City Schools.

Sledders 'Stay Home' Say West Nine Neighbors

Last week's snow storm was a delight to the children of South Plainfield who used the opportunity to head out to West Nine Golf Course to sled down the course's many hills.

The neighbors who surround the West Nine were not as thrilled with the winter bluster. The enthusiastic sleigh riders parked their cars on the surrounding streets without regard for residents who live near the course.

Mayor Dan Gallagher reported receiving dozens of calls from irritated homeowners. Someone went as far as to park on one of the homeowner's lawns. Roads in that area are very narrow and when cars are parked on both sides of the street, emergency vehicles are unable to pass through. Last year a fire truck had to be backed up the street because of the way the cars had parked. The neighbors asked that signs be posted around the area to deter parking while sledding.

As a result, from now on when the snow begins to fall, emergency "no parking" signs will be posted on Sprague, East Golf, Fairmont, East

Hendricks and Wexler, preventing sledders from clogging the nearby streets and causing a hazard.

The West Nine Golf Course is located in Edison and has been used for many years by kids, young and old, because the hills are ideal for sledding. Last week, after almost eight inches of snow fell, scores of sleigh riders returned again.

Mayor Gallagher said that he contacted the manager of the West Nine, who lives in South Plainfield across from the golf course, and he said he didn't realize there was a parking problem.

The Mayor is asking parents not to use the golf course for sledding and to refrain from parking on the side streets around the course. He said there is liability problem if anyone is hurt and he fears someday a child might sled onto Woodland Ave. and be seriously injured.

Signs are posted in and around the golf course prohibiting parking or sledding, but they were ignored last week.

High School Announces Edward Bloustein Distinguished Scholars



SPHS Principal Anthony Massaro with this year's Edward J. Bloustein Scholars.

This year's Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars have been announced: Chris Baron, Heather Barrett, Jenny Cai, Meredith Cooper, Denise DiMiglio, Christina Furka, Jamie Glowacki, Alex Huynn, John Rayho, Elayne Russell and Ryan Vroom.

Only the highest achieving stu-

dents are selected as Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars. These are the students who place in the top 10 percent of their classes and have a minimum combined SAT score of 1260, or are ranked first, second or third in their class, at the end of their junior year.

More than 4,800 Distinguished

Scholars received award offers for the coming academic year. For these scholars, the average SAT verbal score was 669 and the average SAT math score was 690.

Distinguished Scholars received an annual award of \$1,000 without regard to financial need.

Four Chosen for All-Area Hockey Team

Flannery Named Coach of the Year



Danielle Skoba



Kristina Cwiekalo



Meaghan Schweers



Field Hockey Coach Flannery

Four South Plainfield High School girls were chosen to be a part of the 2002 *Home News Tribune* All-Area Field Hockey Team. Their coach, Fran Flannery, has been named Coach of the Year. The four are seniors Meaghan

Schweers, Kristina Cwiekalo, Kristina Cwiekalo, Danielle Skoba and junior Ngozi Oparacke (not pictured).

Flannery, a South Plainfield graduate who still resides in town, has guided many quality teams during her

18-year coaching tenure, but this year tops them all. South Plainfield, not having won more than 16 games in a season, finished 21-1-1, won the GMC Tournament and competed in the state finals, losing to Warren Hills, 3-2.

According to Flannery, Schweers was the best all-around player she has coached in 18 years at the school. A four-year starter, Meaghan finished the season with 32 goals and 15 assists.

Cwiekalo is a four-year starter. As defender, she managed to record four goals and two assists for the Tigers. According to Flannery, Cwiekalo is looking at schools such as Montclair State, Quinnipiac, Widener, Rowan and Stockton.

With high-scoring Schweers and Oparacke on the team, Skoba's strength, speed and skill fit right in. Skoba finished with five goals and five assists.

Oparacke, a three-year starter, did it all for the Tigers. Her play helped the team achieve this year's great record. On the season, Oparacke recorded 20 goals and eight assists.

Coaches Care Makes Donation, Sets 2003 Goal



Tom McCreesh of Coaches Care and Grace Truempy present a donation to Steve Tool of JFK Medical Center's Foundation office.

Last week Coaches Care Chairman Tom McCreesh and his grandmother, Grace Truempy of South Plainfield, made a donation of \$6,905 to the Children's Fund at JFK Medical Center. The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club held a softball fundraiser and auction this past May, raising a majority of the funds. When Truempy's husband, Cliff died earlier this year, Coaches Care received over \$1,500, donated in his name. In its two years of existence, the charity donated over \$12,000 to help ensure that a child's stay in the hospital is as enjoyable as possible.

This year McCreesh hopes to expand the charity to help more children. The primary goal is to donate computers

to both JFK and Muhlenberg Hospitals' pediatric departments which would allow older children the ability to maintain as much normalcy in their hospital visit as possible. Computers will enable them to keep up with homework, utilize instant message and web capabilities, and play video games. The parameters are still being worked out, but the hospital has given Coaches Care its approval in going forward with the idea. The charity plans to donate the remaining funds to "The Rally for Riley Fund."

Anyone wishing to contribute financial or auction donations can contact the Junior Baseball Club or Tom McCreesh directly at (908) 755-8468.

IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

I recently attended a South Plainfield Board of Education Agenda Meeting on Dec. 10. Parents from the Music Boosters went to discuss the High Schools Winter Guard and Drum Line programs to see if we could have them added to next week's agenda.

These WONDERFUL programs are in jeopardy, due to the fact that the necessary advisors needed to run the programs are not being compensated as fairly as other school programs throughout the school system. Winter Guard is in need of two advisors, while Drum Line needs numerous positions to keep this program running. Last season Winter Guard took third place in Atlantic Coast Championships while our Drum Line came in FIRST. These programs are very important to our children.

We went to this meeting only to be SHUNNED by the entire Board of Education Members in attendance (Dawn Jefferys and Steve Bohn were not in attendance). Acting Superintendent Thomas Butler, noting our presence, asked Board President Frank Mikorski to allow us to be heard only to say NO, announcing executive session and walking away. SHAME ON YOU Board of Education Members. I thought children are our priority. Apparently not in this case. How RUDE of you to just ignore us. Your entire audience consisted of concerned parents, all from the Music Boosters, whose only purpose was to be heard and have our concerns placed on the agenda for the next meeting. You got what you wanted, we left UNHEARD. I'm ashamed, I voted for most of you!

A CONCERNED MUSIC BOOSTER PARENT

Dear Editor,

In this day and age when everyone, including myself, is criticizing the health insurance industry, I have a story to tell that puts a feather in their cap.

My wife recently passed away while in the hospital. (I will not mention the hospital's name.) After about a month's time I received two separate billings from the hospital. One bill was itemized for different procedures done to my wife and the other was for different tests. Both of them stated that the balance of the bill is owed by me and they, the hospital, had not received any other contact from the insurance company. The total of these bills came to over \$1,800. I immediately contacted my insurance company, which is an HMO. I was prepared to do battle with them over this issue and find out why they had not paid the balance and why I was being left holding the bag.

The insurance company explained in detail what was paid and what was not and assured me that I am not responsible for paying the balance. They told me a few things that I feel your readers should know, because they may not be aware of them. They explained that with an HMO, the hospitals and doctors have a contract with them which pays a set amount for procedures and tests. The member, who is me, is not responsible for any other balance. They also told me that the other billing I had for the tests performed, were not authorized ahead of time by them and that I am not responsible. They went one step further and sent me copies of the billing statements with the reasons why things were or were not paid. I asked the person at the insurance company how can the hospital get away with this? They told me that it is the way that the statement is written that makes you think you really owe them money. They said that this is called "over billing" and it is done quite often and most people just pay the bill because they think that they must.

I wanted your readers to be aware of this and advise them that they should question any kind of billing that they receive from a doctor or a hospital.

**THANK YOU,
HENRY J. BREED**

Dear Editor,

I attended the South Plainfield School Board meeting on Dec. 17 on behalf of the South Plainfield High School Indoor Winter Guard. My daughter, Caitly Fodor, a senior, has been a member of the Winter Guard since her freshman year. I have watched these girls go from a novice group of freshmen, barely twirling their flags to Bronze Medallists in last May's Atlantic Coast Championships. The South Plainfield "Silver Dreams" as they are known, write and choreograph their own shows, which has kept them at a disadvantage with the groups they compete with, yet because of their hard work and unlimited zeal, they were Chapter 10 Champions and ACC Bronze Medallists for the 2002 season.

I had hoped to be attending the School Board meeting to ask for funding for uniforms and equipment. In the past, we, the parents, have supplied the girls with their uniforms, something no other sport has had to do. I had also hoped to be seeking funding for a choreographer so that our girls may be able to improve their chances at competition. Most of the groups South Plainfield competes with have professional choreography. But instead I find myself asking that they exist at all. The Winter Guard is in need of two additional Color Guard advisor positions. Without approval for these positions, the Winter Guard will not be for the 2003 winter season. This would be a travesty. These girls work hard, practice hard and compete hard. They spend the winter months practicing three times a week and competing two to three weekend days a month from February to April, culminating with the Atlantic Coast Championships the first weekend in May in Wildwood. The Winter Guard is an elite group utilizing more difficult routines, skills and maneuvers than those used in the Marching Band Color Guard. Not only is this a great sport for the team members, but it also helps our Fall Marching Band program by the extra practice and the skills developed during the indoor season.

It would be a shame to deprive these students of this sport. The Color Guard advisor is already an approved position, so what I am asking the Board to do is to provide funding for two additional advisors. Do Not Deprive Our Students!!!

MARIBETH QUINN

Have You Checked Out Our Webpage Lately
Logon to spobserver.com and checkout our newly redesigned webpage, courtesy of Wayne Plughoff, who will be updating it regularly. Let us know what you think of the new look.

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.

To The Editor,

I just attended the Board of Education's C.O.W. meeting and really feel at a loss for words. Several parents and I attended this meeting in the hopes of getting a stipend for the Winter Guard advisors at SPHS put on the agenda for the regular Board of Education meeting. There was no one else in attendance at the meeting except for the parents of the students involved in this program.

However when the meeting began, Mr. Butler the Interim Superintendent, asked Frank Mikorski, the president of the board, if it would be possible that we could be heard before they adjourned for their private session. Mikorski rudely answered with a "No," and proceeded to adjourn, leaving Mr. Butler to tell us we would have to wait until they were finished and then we could be heard. This would be approximately two hours or more. I sincerely appreciated Mr. Butler's consideration for us.

I feel it was extremely unprofessional and rude of Mr. Mikorski to act the way he did. This is supposed to be a board that is interested in the welfare of the students and continually asks for parental involvement and support. Well we were there trying to look out for the welfare of our children and were involved, but we were ignored. This is not acceptable to us.

The Winter Guard program is in

danger of no longer existing at South Plainfield High School. This program is a valuable asset to the school and the least we can do is provide the necessary funds to support it.

Mr. Mikorski, this situation will not go away. We will not go away. We will continue to attend the monthly board meetings until we are heard. These are our children and what matters to them, matters to us. Maybe that should be a philosophy that the Board of Education might want to consider.

DIANE KUHN

Meeting to Discuss Winter Guard Slated

The Winter Guard was one of the hot topics at Tuesday night's Board of Education Meeting.

Students, parents and advisors had an opportunity to ask the Board for stipends to hire two advisors in order that this year's Winter Guard program will not be lost.

Members of the Board of Education pointed out that they had not rejected funding the Winter Guard, but that no request had been made for this year's budget and therefore no funding had been allotted.

The students and their advisor had been told that the paperwork was submitted, but according to every board member none was ever presented to them.

A meeting between the High School principal, sports department and Assistant Superintendent Mario Barbieri is going to take place on Wednesday morning to discuss what can be done.

Ed Izbicki, Board Administrator, told the group that he has not heard anyone in the high school say that the program has been cancelled. However, no board member would make any promises to the students as to funding.

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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 Mohr's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at spobserver.com or ggnan@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

A Happy Holiday Season and
All the Best in the New Year!



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Recreation Guide Book Coming

The South Plainfield Recreation Commission has just announced that a book containing a guide to all of the Recreation sponsored activities for 2003 will be mailed to each household in early January. Watch for the guide in the mail.

For parents, this guide will be one of the most important documents they will receive this year. Keep it in a visible and prominent place and plan on referring to the guide all year long.

Everything anyone would like to know about the many programs sponsored by the Recreation Department, including names and phone numbers, are listed in the guide.

Eligibility rules, how to sign up for programs and activities, hours of operation of the main office, weight room and community pool are all there, along with the list of programs available to the residents of South Plainfield.

Recreation programs, events and trips are available for children, adults and seniors.

Animal Hospital Accepting Donations

The Plainfield Animal Hospital is still accepting pet food donations for distribution to needy pets during 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. through 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

This year they are also accepting monetary donations for the New Jersey Veterinary Foundation. Monies collected will be used towards 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. Donations will be accepted until Dec. 24.



Troop 777 Decorates Senior Center's Christmas Tree

Last Thursday, girl scouts from Junior Troop 777 were at the Senior Citizen Recreation Center decorating their Christmas tree. This project was part of the Bronze Award which the scouts have been working on during the past year.

It was truly a South Plainfield Girl Scout Community effort. Many other troops from Daisy Girl Scouts (kindergarten) through Senior Girl Scouts (high school) created and donated the beautiful ornaments that now adorn the tree.

Members of Troop 777, Jackie Bosse, Courtney Easterday, Jennifer Gustafson, Carly Reuter, Nora Stasio and Kara Thomas, would like to thank all the troops that participated, as well as Joanne Graff for her help and cooperation.

South Plainfield Recycling Center Holiday Schedule

The South Plainfield Recycling Center on Kenneth Ave. will be open

from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 24.

Looking for a Last Minute Gift?

The South Plainfield Music Booster Club is selling the Entertainment Book for \$30 and the Kids Stuff Book for \$25. Contact any band or chorus member to purchase one, or call Vicky Kiczula at (908) 756-5631.

Proceeds will go towards the students' accounts to help offset expenses for their upcoming trip to Disney World.

The regular schedule at the Recycling Center is: Tuesdays 12 Noon - 7 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Yard Waste Site at the end of Kenneth Avenue will be on its regular winter schedule that week, open only on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For updates, call the Recycling Hotline: (908) 226-7620.

Looking Back Over the Year

It's traditional at this time of the year to look back at what took place over the prior twelve months, while at the same time look forward to what goals and challenges lie ahead.

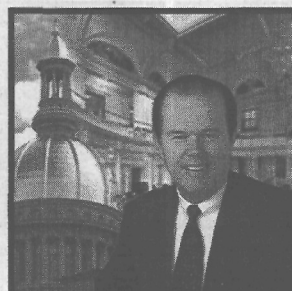
I am still humbled by the thought that I have been given the honor to serve as your Assemblyman. Everyday I remind myself that I am in Trenton to look out for the best interests of the hard working people that I am elected to serve. I really think we were able to accomplish a lot this year based on the fiscal constraints which faced state government.

I don't need to reiterate the financial mess which was left behind for us when we took office. New Jersey faced the biggest deficit in history, \$6 billion. In spite of that challenge, we managed to adopt a balanced budget without raising income taxes or sales taxes. At the same time, municipal aid and funding of local boards of education were not cut.

I was proud to be the sponsor of several bills, which were unanimously adopted by the Assembly, including one to help out the V.F.W. and American Legion by assisting them in raising money to improve their buildings and another to require mortgage companies to disclose programs to keep people out of foreclosure. Several members of our own board of education recommended that I sponsor a bill awarding attorney fees to the board for illegally enrolled students. That bill is right now moving through the committee process. The thing I'm most proud of is the new landscaping at the intersection of Durham Ave. and Hamilton Blvd., which was recently planted by the Department of Transportation.

As we look forward to 2003, I am still concerned about the economy of the state and the nation. I am sorry to say that I don't think we're out of the woods yet. Most people don't know that two thirds of the state budget goes back to the towns in municipal aid and aid for education. In other words, when people say 'cut the state budget', it could make matters even worse for property taxpayers like you and me. I can assure you that my fellow Assemblyman Peter Barnes and I, and our Senator Barbara Buono, are committed to keeping taxes under control. We have to stay the course until the economy turns around.

In spite of these challenges, we are all blessed to live in a country where we can openly discuss our differences and at the end of the day work together as one people. In this season where we honor the symbol of peace and love for our fellow man, let's all pause to thank God for all that has been given to us. I wish you and your loved ones the best of holiday seasons and a new year filled with joy, good health and peace.



News

From The State House

Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan

Board Wants Your Suggestions in Naming the New School!

The Board of Education is asking for suggestions for naming the new school, which is under construction at the Roosevelt School site on Hamilton Blvd. Residents are asked to submit their suggestion in writing no later than Dec. 30.

Just submit the name you would like the new school to be named to Dr. Thomas Butler, Interim Superintendent, South Plainfield Board of Education, 305 Cromwell Place, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Happy Holidays!

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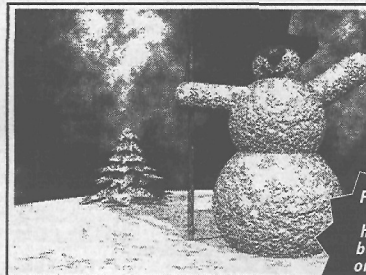
Enter the South Plainfield Observer's 1st Annual Holiday House Decorating Contest

Have You Got What It Takes?

Don't miss this chance for fame and fortune (well, maybe not, but at least you'll have fun!)

Enter your house or nominate another. Include photo of house, if possible. Entries must be received by Dec. 24. Winners will be announced in Jan. 3 issue. Grand prize: gift certificate to Sportworld plus a year's subscription to the Observer, and winner's house pictured on page one of the Jan. 3 issue. Second prize: a year's subscription to the Observer.

Winners will be announced in the Jan. 3 issue. Send entries to: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Boulevard, Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.



First place winner's house will be pictured on the front page of the Observer!

Get in the spirit of the season.

See next week's Observer for more prize details.

YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS OF HOUSE _____

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Events Around Town

What's happening in DECEMBER

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

Senior Center EVENTS

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
EVENTS				
Dec. 23 - Christmas Show at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse— TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE				
Season's Greetings to All from the Senior Center!				
Christmas Show 23 Hunterdon Hills Playhouse Bus Departs at 10AM Exercise Club 8:45-9:45AM Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30AM Yoga 10:30-11:30AM	Bingo 10-1 PM 24	Closed for Christmas 25	Pathmark 9 AM Practical Crafting 10-11AM Holiday Luncheon 12PM SPSHS 19	Bingo 10-1PM Pizza Lunch 11:30PM CENTER CLOSING AT 2PM 20
Shopping at Pathmark 9 AM Practical Crafting 10-11AM 26				Bingo 10-2PM Pizza Lunch 11:30AM 27

TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.

HOLIDAY happenings

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 Sherban's. 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. Bring the whole family and join the SPSHS Choir and Band. Caroling begins at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be served at the Senior Center following the event. South Plainfield Girl Scouts will assist in the setup and refreshments.

Cedarcroft Bible School Christmas Concert Join us at Cedarcroft Bible School at 1715 Kenyon Ave. on **Sunday, Dec. 22** at 6 p.m. for the instrumental sounds of "Jesu Bambino," featuring Joan Stasio and family. With music arrangements by Marc Stasio, you'll hear familiar Christmas classics in a contemporary setting of piano, percussion, keyboards and voices. For info, visit www.cedarcroft.org, or call (908) 756-8244

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

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.

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.

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.

Annual Borough Reorganization Mtg.

January 5

The Annual Reorganization Meeting will be held in Borough Hall on Sunday, January 5, 2003 at 1 p.m. Taking the oath of office will be Mayor Dan Gallagher and Councilmen Jim Volkel and Ed Kubala. Appointments

will be announced for various boards and commissions.

The public is invited to attend.

— Out of Town —

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.

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.

Free Workshop on Starting Self-Help Groups

January 25, 2003

The New Jersey Self-Help Group Clearinghouse is conducting a free workshop for persons interested in starting a self-help group. It will cover such topics as locating members, publicity, finding a meeting location, structuring the group, and how to conduct your first meeting.

The workshop will be held Saturday, Jan. 25, 2003, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Saint Clare's Health System Behavioral Health, located on Powerville Rd. in Boonton.

If you are interested in registering for this workshop, would like information on other workshops, or are interested in finding an existing self-help group in your area, please contact the New Jersey Self-Help Group Clearinghouse at 1-800-367-6274, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Send Your Events to:

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

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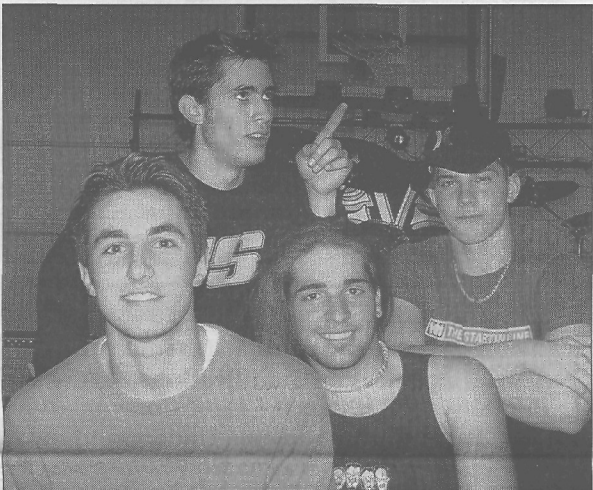
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Youth Bands Rock and Roll for Riley Hubner



Last Chance musicians Ryan Egan, Matt Madurski, Joe Scarpitto and Tom Philbin. Philbin, Joe Scarpitto's cousin, subbed as drummer for *Last Chance*.



Level Zero musicians are Ryan Cornell, Greg Garbowski, Danny Lammi and Joshua Jackson.



Kildaygo band members are Brian Edwards, Mike Fry, Jason Jackson, Amit Kalia and Chris Kelly.

Photos/story by Patricia Abbott

The "Season of Giving" arrived a little early this year for the Hubner family. Two concerts were presented by young musicians, who offered their talents to help raise money for the Riley Hubner Fund. Riley, a nine-year-old South Plainfield youth, was diagnosed with Leukemia five years ago. He attends Riley School.

Pal Teen Night Concert

Last month, rock bands *Level Zero*, *Three Legged Dog* and *Kildaygo* helped raise money for the fund by participating in a concert at a PAL Teen Night. Approximately 100 people, including many parents, attended the three-hour event, raising over \$800. *Level Zero* also donated the proceeds from the sale of their CDs.

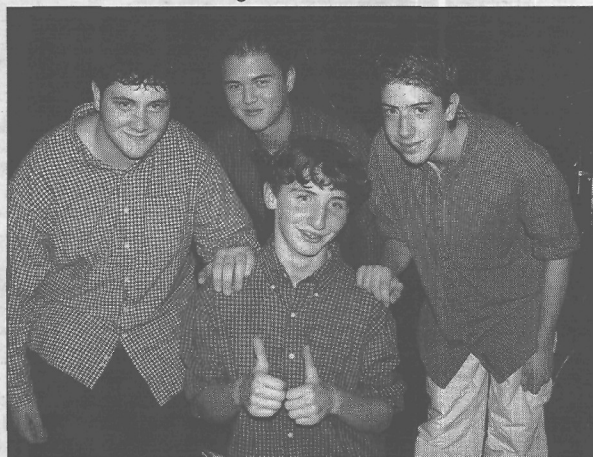
Level Zero musicians are Ryan Cornell, Greg Garbowski, Danny Lammi and Joshua Jackson. *Three Legged Dog* members are Seichi Diamo, Keenan Gaynor, Grant Gianneshi and Todd Rivers. Both bands have been together for about three years. Last year the bands were honored with commendations from the Mayor and Council for presenting a benefit for 9-11.

Kildaygo, a fairly new band, consists of Brian Edwards, Mike Fry, Jason Jackson, Amit Kalia and Chris Kelly. All are either students or graduates of South Plainfield High School.

Rock And Roll For Riley

Middle School students in the rock band *Last Chance* were looking for their first chance to perform. While searching for just the right venue, band member Joe Scarpitto came up with a winning combination—an outdoor concert. And what better place to perform for the first time than their favorite place in town, the Skate Park. The enterprising young man discussed the idea with the members of *Last Chance* and they decided to make the event a reality. Taking the next step, Joe's father contacted Director of Recreation Mike English and the Hubner Family seeking permission to hold the concert. Approval meant their dream was truly becoming a reality; finally a live show.

Their search for additional bands was so successful they had to turn down numerous area bands due to lack of time. Appearing at the outdoor music fest with *Last Chance* were *Misanthropik* and *Breed of One*, all comprised of South Plainfield students, and *How I Feel Before I Kill*, a Dunellen based band. A concert at a skate park would not have been complete without some serious skateboarding. The Scarpittos called upon the Central Jersey Skate Shop, located in Edison. The well-



Three Legged Dog members are Seichi Diamo, Keenan Gaynor, Grant Gianneshi and Todd Rivers.

known Skate Board Team was thrilled with the opportunity to return for the benefit.

An outdoor concert comes with one major potential drawback, an all-knowing overseer who determines the outcome—Mother Nature. Heavy rain the day before the event threatened cancellation. English told the anxious boys if there were any puddles on the ground in the skate park, the event would be cancelled.

Last Chance members and their friends arrived at the park early in the morning determined to have a clean and dry surface for the bands.

Saturday, Nov. 23 dawned dry, but cold. The frigid temperatures did not stop the fans from flocking to the park. Over 160 friends and family members attended the event, raising \$833 for the Hubner fund. Everyone involved was delighted with their success. Chris Egan of *Misanthropik* said, "We loved playing live—seeing the reactions from our fans and the response from the crowd just encouraged us to play better and harder. Joe Scarpitto, Sr. was very proud of his son and his fine efforts. "The boys were very excited and determined to stage this event and are looking forward to doing it again in the spring. Knowing the Hubner fam-

ily personally made it even more rewarding for them," said Scarpitto.

Last Chance musicians are Ryan Egan, South Plainfield, Matt Madurski, Rahway, Joe Scarpitto, South Plainfield and Tom Philbin of Dunellen. Philbin, Joe Scarpitto's cousin, subbed as drummer for *Last Chance*. *Misanthropik* is comprised of South Plainfield High School students Christopher Egan, Mike Martin, Tony Melendez and Dereck Smith. *Breed of One*, also all from South Plainfield, are James Alles, Jimmy Curcio, Brian Johanson, Danny Pollin and Brian Publik. *How I Feel* members are Tom Philbin of Dunellen, Josh Reifler of New Brunswick and Mike Lemongelli, also from Dunellen.

Last Chance is currently seeking a drummer. Middle and high school age youths interested in the position are encouraged to contact Joe at (908) 757-0686.

On hand for the event was Councilman Ray Petronko and his daughter Kim. When Ray chanced a brief ride on a skateboard, Kim hid her face until daddy emerged unscathed. Ray admitted it had been a while since he had mounted a skate board. A cold and relieved daughter, Kim gladly steered her father to the car after his adventure.

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Ersings Welcome Fifth Generation



Fiona Maeve Ersing

On Nov. 4 Fiona Maeve Ersing was born at 6:45 p.m. at the Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital. Fiona weighed in at 7 lbs. 10 oz. and measured 20½ inches long.

The proud parents are William and Betsy Ersing, who are living in Jacksonville, NC for a short while longer, until William completes his service in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Fiona's grandparents are Blaise and Anne Bollwage of South Plainfield. Great grandparents are William and Isabelle Bollwage of Rahway and great great grandmother is Sally McGrath of South Orange.

Julianne Hudak is a Competing Finalist in Teen Pageant

Julianne Hudak, 15, daughter of Paul and Florelyn Hudak, has been chosen as a State Finalist in the Miss New Jersey American Jr. Teen Pageant to be held July 2, 2003 at the Hilton Hotel in Parsippany. The pageant is held for girls ages 13 through 15.

The winner of the pageant will receive a \$1,000 cash award, the official crown and banner, a bouquet of roses, transportation to compete in the National Pageant at Walt Disney World in Orlando, plus a day in Disney for two. She will also have an exciting year as she represents her state making appearances, riding in parades, working with several charitable organizations, as well as the opportunity to meet the governor and many modeling and television opportunities.

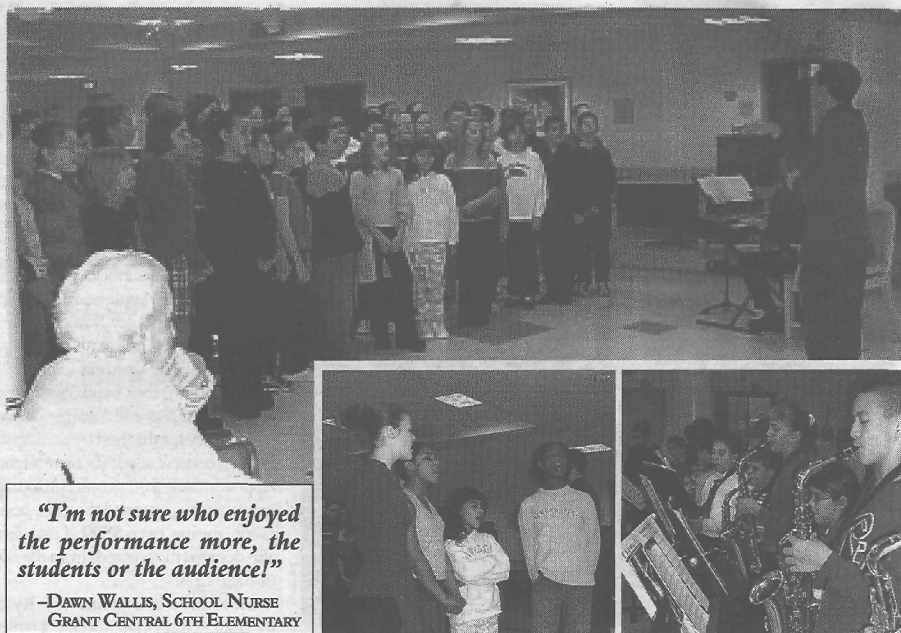
Julianne Hudak's activities include cheerleading, student council and Jersey History Club. She also enjoys singing, dancing, hanging out with friends, cheering, modeling and going to the mall and the movies.

Families interested in receiving information about the pageants may call or write American Coed Pageant "Headquarters", 11 Orchard Drive,



Julianne Hudak

Mullica Hill, NJ 08062, phone (856) 223-9711, web: www.njcoedpageants.com. The pageants are open to girls ages 3 to 21, with goals and dreams based on inner beauty, as well as poise, appearance and an "All American spirit for family, fun, and friends". Emphasis is placed on the importance of gaining self-confidence, learning new skills, learning good attitudes about competition, and setting and achieving goals.



"I'm not sure who enjoyed the performance more, the students or the audience!"

—DAWN WALLIS, SCHOOL NURSE
GRANT CENTRAL 6TH ELEMENTARY

Students Present Holiday Concert to Cedar Oaks Care Center Residents

Last Wednesday the Grant Central Sixth Elementary band and choral students presented a holiday concert for the residents of Cedar Oaks Care Center. The concert was suggested by school nurse Dawn Wallis, whose husband and aunt currently reside there. Wallis spends a lot of time at the center and thought this would definitely brighten everyone's spirits.

The chorus was led by teacher John Zazzali and the band was lead by Joan Stasio. Those students participating in the concert were Chris Fierro, Nora Stasio, Lindsay Fredericks, Jessica Handwerker, Lisa Migliore, Kara Thomas, Alexa Sambat, Katie Baldassarre, Sam Barthel, Jackie Bosse, Christina Cornelius, Cindy Garzon, Ashleigh Gray, Sara Johnson, Alan Kasmer, Alyssa McCreesh, Stephanie Milicia, Danielle Ranger, Lauren Diana, Stephanie Lanza, Emily Orlandini, Nicole Rann, Jaime Giannakis, Amanda Hunterdon and Catherine Krawiec.

Timmy Ratti, Michelle Slover, Cori Black, Rocco Severini, Maricela Gonzalez, Sheryl Lipman, Keri Gould,

Zane Lesky, Alex Vojda, Matt Carringer, Ricky Harzula, Tim Moskal, Sandra Pleeter, Jared Christopher, Audrey Cupo, Brittany Musolino, Brittany Okosko, Ashley Galant, Quinn Doan, Kaitlyn Pangborn, Carly Rueter, David Valerio, Stephen Wagner, Christian Barrientos and Eleena Gordan.

Jen Gustafson, Hannah Johnson,

Cris Kedmenec, Jackie Laverne, Lyndsey Murtagh and Gloria Esaw

Alba Hernandez, Cindy Hernandez, Kirsten Nuber, Chris Seesenberg, Michael Boyle, Rhianna DiPaolo, Aneri Sheth, Stevie Strak, Susan Tian, Gina Curcio, Chris Fulton, Eric Nuber, Nick Jeglinski, Andrea Vedutis, Joe Menutti and Ricky Sierzega.

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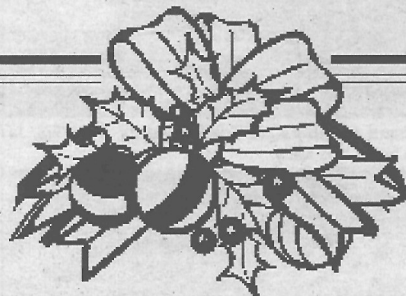


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Hundreds Attend 16-Year Santa Tradition

During the past 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. Every night a steady parade of cars filled with children drive slowly by the house to see their spectacular display.

On Monday evening the Mitchells held their annual Santa Night Open House. The cold and windy weather didn't deter the hundreds of families who showed up and stood patiently in line to see Santa, the hundreds of decorations on the lawn, the house and a holiday village display set up in their garage.

Santa took time to talk to each child and coaxed each one to tell him (Al Mitchell) what they want for Christmas.

Pat Stilo-Mitchell had the usual table filled with an assortment of cook-



ies and hot chocolate, which came in handy while standing in line. At one point the line wound around the driveway onto Ritter Ave. The evening was

a success and the Mitchells are commended for keeping the "Spirit of Christmas" alive and well in South Plainfield!

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Well, we're heading into the home stretch of both the Holiday season and the year. Please allow us to interrupt all of your frantic activity with some news from South Plainfield Library:

The Library will be closed on Sunday this week. We'll close early at 1 p.m. on Tuesday for Christmas Eve and will be closed all day on Wednesday in observance of Christmas Day.

Due to the Holiday closing, we'll only have one Storytime next week. It'll be held on Tuesday morning at 10:30. It's for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. After that, Storytimes will be cancelled until Jan. 7, to give Miss Linda a chance to set things up for 2003. If you'd like more information, please

call us at (908) 754-7885.

In spite of the fact that it's still autumn, the recent snowfall has shown that the winter weather season has arrived. While we don't know how much more snow and/or ice we'll get, it's safe to assume that cold temperatures will stick around for a while. This may cause some inconvenience for some of our patrons, who want to borrow items but are physically unable to do so due to the weather or some other problem. Fortunately, we can provide an alternative. Through our Homebound Delivery program, we offer a free delivery service of library materials, including books, videos, and other items. If you're interested in participating in the program, either as a homebound patron or as a volunteer, please give us a call. Ask for Mrs. Fenn, the Library Director.

At the risk of putting a damper on the Holiday spirit of some of our patrons, we've had some problems lately regarding the behavior of certain young people. While we have no problem with teenagers using the Library, some of them have been creating a disturbance and causing problems for other patrons. When this happens, we will attempt to peacefully and politely get the offending kids to calm down. But, make no mistake; we are prepared to evict unruly patrons from the Library when necessary. And if that should involve calling the South Plainfield Police, so be it. So, to ensure the minimum amount of unnecessary trouble, please behave yourself in the Library.

Strange as it may seem with the weather getting colder, people will come into the Library and forget their hats or gloves or even their coats. When we find that this has happened, we put the lost garments aside, hoping that their owners will claim them. So, if your coat is missing and you last had it at the Library, please stop in and see if we still have it. Be advised, though, that unclaimed items will eventually be discarded.

Finally, we'd like to thank everyone who contributed to the charity drives we've participated in this year. The toy drive, the coat drive and the Books to Keep ingathering did very well in aid of the needy this Holiday season. We greatly appreciate your generosity.

That's about all for now. Thanks for reading, and we hope you have had/are having/will have a happy and safe Holiday season.

McCriskin's Tree Lighting Services

The lighting of the huge fir tree in front of McCriskin's Home for Funerals took place last Saturday despite the rainy weather. This annual tradition, sponsored by McCriskin's and the 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles and General Anthony C. McAuliffe chapter, is held to remember the men of the 101st Airborne who lost their lives in an air crash in Newfoundland, Canada in 1985. Surviving members of the 101st Airborne attend the services each year to place a wreath below the tree next to the plaque in their honor. The tree can be seen every from miles around and stays lit during the holiday season.



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Morris Ave. Tenants Association Election Results Announced

The newly formed Morris Ave. Tenants Association elected their first slate of officers during a meeting held Monday, Dec. 16 evening.

The new officers are: President-Rose Contey, Vice President-Dom Dinardo, Secretary-Richard Brown, Sgt.-at-Arms-V. Cricket Craig and Frank Cuccia, Social Committee Chairman-Dorothy Owens and Membership Committee Chairman May Fish.

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New Year*



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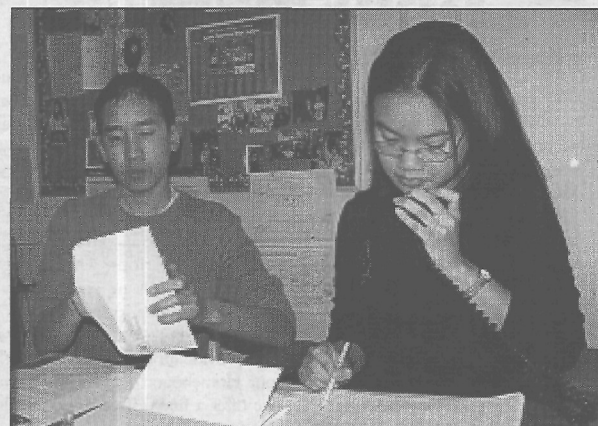
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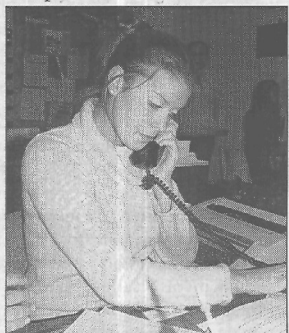
High School Students Participate in Educational Foundation "Telephon"



Alex Huynh and Jean Pagonson.

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Educational Foundation, formerly Vision 2001, recently sponsored their second "Telephon"—a telethon minus the tele-



Ariel Curtis

vision and entertainment. The very effective fundraiser consists of teens us-

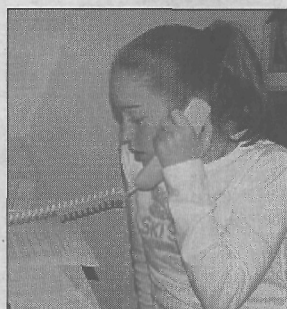
ing the telephones to contact potential donors. The event took place on three evenings last week, from 6 to 9 p.m. A fourth night was canceled due to the recent storm.

SPHS Director of Guidance Cindy Povall approached senior Amanda George to help find volunteers for the event. Amanda's involvement in many activities made it easy for her to fill the volunteer slots. The Guidance Office was transformed into a busy phone bank, with 16 teenage volunteers working in teams. Reading from a script, students phoned residents on the list. After providing a brief description of the organization, the students requested donations for the foundation. Each time a large pledge was received, cheers would erupt from the lucky phone station.

Each resident making a pledge to the foundation receives a note of thanks, which includes a brief history of the

organization. They also receive a donation form where they may designate their gift to a specific program. Donations help with a variety of programs, such as scholarships, athletics, special education, Tiger Gold, which rewards Middle School students for acts of kindness, the high school's Gold Card program, which rewards honor roll students, Business Education, industrial arts, computer tech and the elementary school's Stokes trip.

Amanda George was one of the students who worked all three nights. She had nothing but praise for the telephon and the Educational Foundation. Amanda said, "I am happy to be involved in such an event as the telephon because I love what Vision 2001 does for us. The Gold Card, for one, is amazing. I love it and it looks



Gina Severini

very impressive on a resume. Project Graduation is something that people always look forward to. From scholarships to athletics, Vision 2001 Educational Foundation is always there."

There was much praise for the stu-

dents as well, Foundation member Myra Stillman said. "The foundation members work a full day's job and then go to school wiped out from work. The minute the kids walked in, their enthusiasm and energy revitalized us. I loved meeting the kids and watching them. Most importantly, the students all understood the value of the services they were providing to the Education Foundation."

Foundation members on hand for the telephon were Eric Radell, Marge Reedy, Greg Young, SPHS Vice Principal Mr. Katz, Richard Regan, Barbara Florio, Ken LaFreniere, Frank Mikorski and Myra Stillman.

The results of the fundraiser won't be available until all pledges are returned, but members estimate the telephon will have raised over \$3,000.

Unity Bank Wins SBA Gold and Distinguished Lender Awards

Unity Bank has been awarded the prestigious Gold Award from the Small Business Administration's (SBA) New Jersey Office. The award is based on the volume of SBA loans made during the SBA's 2002 fiscal year. The recognition was made recently at a Lenders Awards Ceremony in Newark.

For excellence in the administration of the SBA program, Unity Bank also received the *SBA Distinguished Lender Award* as the Number One Lender in the Mid-Sized Bank Category in the State. This is the second year in a row that this accolade goes to Unity Bank, the second largest

SBA lender in the state.

"Unity continues to be a leader in the small business community as evidenced by our ranking," said Unity's Executive Vice President and Chief Lending Officer, Michael Downes.

Unity Bank is designated "Preferred Lender" status by the SBA in New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware as well as New Jersey. This authority, designated to only the most active and expert lenders, enables Unity Bank to provide quicker processing and approval times.

For information about Unity visit the website at <http://www.unitybank.com> or call (800) 618-BANK.

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VR
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\$7.99

Louis Jadot
Macon Villages
\$8.99

Peter Vella
Cab, Chard, Merlot
\$10.99

Robert Mondavi
Woodbridge
\$11.99

Rancho Zabaco
Dry Creek
\$10.99

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\$14.99

Coors & Coors Light
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\$15.99

Amstel Light
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\$19.99

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Blended Whisky 1.75 Liter
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\$12.99

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\$13.99

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Vodka 1.75 Liter
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Sports

SOCCER



South Plainfield's Soccer Typhoons Take First 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. 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. (Last week's Observer story incorrectly reported that the team finished 15. We regret the error.)

By Kevin Lykes

juniorbaseballclubnotes

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.spjbc.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.E.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.

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BOWLING

Boys Bowling Team Efforts Fall Short; Vicki Boley Leads Girls to Shutouts

The Boys Bowling Team jumped out to a 90 pin lead after their first game against a very good Old Bridge team, but their bid for an upset fell short to a fierce Spartan Rally.

Matt Boley again led the Tigers with games of 255-227-203 for a solid 685 set. Teammates Shawn Ferguson 196-209-211 and 616 set and Jon Jeglinski 191-193 chipped in but the Tigers fell in the total pin count.

South Plainfield 946-1049-929—2924
South Brunswick 970-933-1044—2947

The Boys Bowling Team battered South Brunswick in the second game, holding a 92 pin advantage, but could not withstand the depth of the Viking team and dropped a 3-1 decision. Matt Boley fired games of 225-219-232 for a 676 set and teammate Shawn Ferguson contributed 194-233-221 and 648 set. George Klein Knecht and Anthony Ingerto chipped in with games of 215 and 197.

South Plainfield 839-915-822—2576
Colonia 989-873-975—2837

After splitting the first two games, the Boys Bowling Team dropped the

third game and lost to Colonia by a 3-1 score. Matt Boley 224-210 and Jon Jeglinski 206 were bright spots for the young Tigers.

South Plainfield 815-846-851—2512
Piscataway 1017-1034-1034—3085

The Boys Bowling Team was left in the dust to a hot shooting Piscataway team that pinned a 4-0 shutout on the Tigers. Matt Boley, 241, Anthony Ingerto, 183 and Freshman Matt Zebrowski's 190 game and 509 set were the top scores for the Tigers.

Girls Bowling

Vicki Boley, with a 196.5 average, helped the girls team to shutouts over Old Bridge and Piscataway.

South Plainfield 852-796-730—2378
Old Bridge 790-741-658—2189

The Girls Bowling Team won their second match in a row at the expense of a spirited Old Bridge squad. Vicki Boley fired games of 217-212 and 607 set in a solid team effort. Freshman Angelique Ruald chipped in with a 155 game.

South Plainfield 825-869-810—2504
South Brunswick 870-869-832—2571

Girls Bowling lost a hard fought battle to an experienced South Brunswick squad. Vicki Boley's 188-214-212-614 set and sophomore Kim Gaub's 225 high game and 525 set made the match a toss-up until the final frame.

South Plainfield 808-756-796—2360
Colonia 716-852-758—2366

The Girls won two of three games against Colonia but had to settle for a 2-2 tie as the Tigers lost the total pin count by a scant six pins. Vicki Boley 203-204 and 590 set and Beverly Jamieson's 187 game led the team. Their record stands at 2-2-1.

South Plainfield 780-733-855—2368
Piscataway 666-717-613—1996

The Girls Bowling Team swept all three games, pulverized Piscataway and upped its record to 3-2-1. Vicki Boley's 600 set on games of 224-175-201 paced the green and white teammates Beverly Jamieson 183-483 set, Kim Gaub, 178 and Freshman Angelique Ruald, 153 aided in the Tiger whitewash.

BASKETBALL

Twin City Pharmacy/SPASA Tournament Results

The Twin City Pharmacy/South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness Holiday Basketball Tournament for grades 7-8 was a great success again this year. This Eleventh Annual event featured boys and girls teams from middle schools in Dunellen, East Brunswick, Sacred Heart and South Plainfield. The tournament's purpose is two-fold: to provide a quality, healthy, athletic event and to disseminate information regarding the dangers of smoking, drinking and the use of controlled dangerous substances and steroids.

Bill Beegle, SPASA coordinator and principal of John E. Riley School, along with Tom Baker, SPHS Student assistance counselor, presented a video, "Students Helping Students," and led a discussion on the dangers of student athletes abusing drugs and smoking. They stressed that athletic performance on the

court and the playing field is greatly diminished when athletes abuse drugs, alcohol, and smoke cigarettes.

Volunteering and serving as members of the Board of Directors for SPASA are Tom Cassio, owner of Twin City Pharmacy; Allen LaMonda and David Franchak, DARE officers; and Tom Baker, SPHS student assistance counselor. Many thanks to these individuals for their dedication in making the SPASA organization and this tournament a continued success.

Joe Romer, South Plainfield resident and owner of Joe Romer's Trophy Shop of Edison, donated the team trophies and individual awards for each of the winning team players. Joe has been donating trophies and awards for all of the 11 years of this tournament and his support is greatly appreciated.

Shirts with an anti-drug message, "Put the Jam On Drugs," were given

to each player, coach, and manager, along with substance awareness information. Jeff Spezio, Graphics Technology teacher in the Middle School, designed the artwork for the shirts.

In the preliminary games for the girls on Monday, Dec. 9, Dunellen defeated East Brunswick 33-10 and South Plainfield won over Sacred Heart, 45-33. On Tuesday, the South Plainfield boys won over Sacred Heart, 49-33 and East Brunswick rolled over Dunellen, 68-35.

The finals were held on Thursday, Dec. 12. Both South Plainfield boys and girls teams were victorious. The boys defeated East Brunswick, 45-37 and the girls outlasted Dunellen to gain the win by a score of 43-20. This was the first time in tournament history that both the boys and girls teams were champions in the same year. Congratulations!

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Obituaries

James J. Bolger, 80

James J. Bolger died on Sunday, Dec. 15 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Jersey City on Aug. 12, 1922, he resided in Jersey City before residing in Iselin from 1953 to 1972, Rahway from 1972 to 1986 and Lavallette from 1986 to 1995. He was currently residing in Brighton Gardens in Edison.

He served as a corporal in the Fourth Marine Division of the United States Marine Corps. He had served in the Asiatic Pacific Theater and received a Purple Heart for injuries sustained at Iwo Jima. He also received the Bronze Star on two other occasions for his actions.

Jim had worked for the Exxon Refinery in Linden for 30 years prior to his retiring in 1987.

Jim was an active member of the Knights of Columbus for more than 38 years. First becoming a member in St. Cecilia's Council, Iselin, then transferring to the Rev. Gebhard Braungert Council #8415, serving as past grand knight and the Right Rev. Msgr. John F. Baldwin General Assembly, Fourth Degree & its Color Guard of Seaside Heights.

He is predeceased by his wife, Ruth (Miller) Bolger, whom he was married to for 51 years; a grandson, Justin; a sister, Noreen Mara and his brother Joseph.

Surviving are two sons, James J. Jr. and his wife Roberta of Ann Arbor, Mich., Donald A. and his wife Elaine of South Plainfield; a daughter, Patricia Yardley and her husband Herbert of Stillwater, NJ; a daughter-in-law, Genevieve Krug Bolger of Chicago, Ill.; seven grandchildren, Andrea Murphy, Aileen Brunner, Christine Locklear, James E. Bolger, Donald J. Bolger, Daniel Yardley and David Yardley.

Also surviving are three great grandchildren, Cheyenne Locklear, Nicole and Ryan Murphy.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Deborah Heart & Lung, P.O. Box 820, Browns Mills, NJ or the American Parkinson Disease Association, Inc., 1250 Hylan

Boulevard, Suite 4B, Staten Island, NY 10305-1946.

Leroy John Yuill, 86

Leroy John Yuill died on Sunday, Dec. 15 in the Lyons V.A. Hospital in Lyons, NJ.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, he had resided in South Plainfield since 1949. Leroy was employed as a chemical operator for American Cyanamid, formerly of Bound Brook, for 30 years before retiring in 1977.

He served in the United States Army during WWII and was a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post #243 in South Plainfield.

Leroy was a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens and the Tri-County Senior Citizens. He and his wife were members of the Tri-County Bowling Team.

Surviving is his wife, Dorothy E. Yuill; three daughters, Patricia Blount of South Plainfield, Carolyn Gambardella of Cape Coral, Fla. and Barbara Jammal of Edison and a son, John Yuill of South Plainfield. Also surviving are 15 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, at 9:15 a.m. at McCriskin Home For Funerals followed by a funeral mass at 10 a.m. in Sacred Heart Church.

Anastasia "Nellie" DiCanto, 89

Anastasia "Nellie" DiCanto died on Sunday, Dec. 15, in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center. She was the daughter of the late Antanas and Julie Holub.

Born in Brooklyn, she had resided in South Plainfield most of her life before moving to Green Brook in 1999.

She had been employed in the laundry room of Hartwyck Nursing Home for five years before her retirement in 1972.

Her husband, Frank A. DiCanto, died in 1967 and her daughter, Lorraine Di Vanna, died in 1999.

Surviving are three daughters, Frieda Moreland of Piscataway, Frances Hansen of South Plainfield and Francine Seigler of Manville; and

a sister, Mary Uknus of Easton, Pa.

Also surviving are 10 grandchildren, four great grandchildren and one great great grandson.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Helen E. Mazurkewicz, 87

Helen E. Mazurkewicz died on Tuesday, Dec. 10, at Ephrata Hospital in Ephrata, Pa.

Born in Perth Amboy, she had resided in Garwood for nine years before settling in South Plainfield in 1949. She settled in Pennsylvania three years ago.

She had been employed by the South Plainfield Board of Education as a teachers aide at Roosevelt School.

Mrs. Mazurkewicz was a former member of Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church and the South Plainfield Polish National Home.

She is predeceased by her husband, Joseph, and her brother, Louis Volkay.

Surviving are her sons, Roger and his wife Sue of Dallas, Tex. and Bruce and his wife Rosetta of Lititz, Pa. Also surviving are four grandchildren, Laura, Melissa, Shana and Tony.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Steven Hollain, 33

Steven Hollain died on Friday, Dec. 13, in South Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, Steven had been a lifelong resident of South Plainfield.

After high school, he entered the United States Air Force where he served as a flight engineer. Steven earned the rank of Sergeant in which he served in support of Operation Desert Storm. He was awarded the Outstanding Unit Award, the Good Conduct Medal with Oak Cluster, the National Defense Medal and the Air

Force Longevity Service Ribbon.

Steven was currently attending Middlesex County College studying to become an X-Ray technician. He had also been employed in the shipping and receiving department of Auxilec Inc. in Edison.

He was an avid fisherman and sportsman.

Surviving are his parents, Gabriele and Dieter Hollain, both of South Plainfield; a sister, Denise Overland of Frazzee, Minn., a brother, Mark and his wife Toni of South Plainfield; his maternal grandmother, Johanna Skotarczak; his five nephews, Cory, Grant, Steven, Nico and Mathew; his aunt, Helga Heilemann and his two cousins, Kirsten and Nancy.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Children's Neuromuscular Research, C/O Dr. Nuzzo through the Summit Area Foundation, 99 Beauvoir Ave., Summit, NJ 07901.

Michael J. Gaydas, Jr 76

Michael J. Gaydas, Jr. died on Sunday, Dec. 15 at South Mountain Health Care Facility in Vauxhall.

He was born in New Brunswick and grew up in South Bound Brook. He has resided in Rahway since 1961.

Mike had worked as a line supervisor for the former GAF Corp. of South Bound Brook. He was with the company for over 35 years until they closed in the early 1980's. After GAF, he had worked part time with Pinkerton Security of Edison. He retired in the early 1990's.

During the 1950's and 1960's, he had been a member of the South Bound Brook Vol. Fire Dept.

His wife, Dorothy Gaydas, died in 1991.

Surviving are his sons and daugh-

ters-in-law, Michael J. and Beverly Gaydas, Jr. of South Plainfield and Edward F. and Carol Gaydas of Monroe Twp., a sister, Arlene Santini of Manchester Twp.; two brothers, William Gaydas of Spotswood and Robert Gaydas of Phoenix, AZ and three grandchildren, Craig, Edward and Lisa Gaydas.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Kenneth M. O'Brien, 75

Kenneth M. O'Brien died on Sunday, Dec. 15 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

He was born in St. Paul, Minn. and grew up in Rahway, where he lived until moving to South Plainfield in 1975.

Mr. O'Brien was a Navy Veteran of WWII and had worked as a salesman at Huffman Koos Furniture in Rahway for over 30 years before retiring 10 years ago.

Ken was a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 in South Plainfield and the UFCW Local 1262 in Rahway.

He was predeceased by his wife, Dorothy in 1985 and by a sister, Rosemary Parr.

Surviving are his children, Susan and John Ward of Orlando, Fla., Eileen E. O'Brien of Seaside Park and Shaun K. and Cheryl O'Brien of South Plainfield; two brothers, Jerry O'Brien of St. Paul, Minn and Richard O'Brien of South Plainfield and by six grandchildren, Michael Parr, Jr., Kristen Parr, C.J. Ward, Rachael O'Brien, Matthew O'Brien and Shaun O'Brien, Jr.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, Dec. 20 at 10:30 a.m. at the McCriskin Home For Funerals followed by a Funeral Mass at 11:30 a.m. in Sacred Heart Church.

Interment will follow in the Holy Redeemer Cemetery.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE NO. 1609

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ordinance No. 1609 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 106 OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED: GARBAGE, RUBBISH & REFUSE was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Thursday, December 12, 2002 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$20.00 December 20, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE NO. 1610

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ordinance No. 1610 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 184 OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED: TOWING was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Thursday, December 12, 2002 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$20.00 December 20, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

WHEREAS, certain sections of the sanitary sewer system are in need of repair, and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer, CME Associates, has identified the sewer along Murray Avenue (Carlisle Street and Maple Avenue) and the sewer along Park Avenue (between Caffrey Terrace and Oak Tree Avenue) in need of repair, and

WHEREAS, the Borough solicited a proposal from CME Associates to design said repairs and prepared bid specifications, and

WHEREAS, CME Associates has submitted a proposal for said services at a cost not to exceed \$36,000.00, and

WHEREAS, this contract is being awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Services" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a), and

WHEREAS, funds have been certified by the Chief Financial Officer and are available in the SPY 2003 Sewer Utility Capital Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield that authorization is hereby given to enter into a professional services contract with CME Associates in the amount not to exceed \$36,000.00 to design sewer repairs and prepare bid specifications for the sanitary sewer along Murray Avenue (between Carlisle Street and Maple Avenue) and along Park Avenue (between Caffrey Terrace and Oak Tree Road).

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$43.75 December 20, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Dominic and Patricia Papa requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a 28' setback of street instead of a 30' setback; and other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 74, Lot 2 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, January 9, 2003 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

The maps and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Building Inspector's Office, South Plainfield Borough Hall, Monday through Thursday, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

\$35.00 December 20, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

WHEREAS, certain areas located within the Borough, specifically New Market Avenue and the side streets in close proximity to that area, and

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to alleviate the flooding problem in that area as well as the hardship it places on the homeowners, and

WHEREAS, the Borough solicited a proposal from Remington, Vernick & Vena Engineers, who specialize in Stormwater Flooding, and

WHEREAS, Remington, Vernick & Vena submitted a proposal to perform a drainage study throughout the New Market Avenue area at a cost not to exceed \$52,500.00, and

WHEREAS, this contract is being awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Services" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a), and

WHEREAS, funds have been certified and will be made available in the SPY 2003 Engineering Budget, account #2-01-20-165-000-204.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield that authorization is hereby given to enter into a professional services contract with Remington, Vernick & Vena Engineers in the amount not to exceed \$52,500.00 to perform a drainage study for the area surrounding New Market Avenue within the Borough of South Plainfield.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$42.00 December 20, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

December 11, 2002

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on December 10, 2002.

A. Case #660-Columbia Bank, Block 254; Lot 1; 620 Oak Tree Avenue. The applicant's request for a preliminary site plan approval with a variance was hereby GRANTED with conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Recording Secretary Planning Board

\$20.00 December 20, 2002

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I see the countless Christmas trees, around the world below, with tiny lights, like Heaven's stars, reflecting in the snow. The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear, for I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year!

I hear the many Christmas songs, that people hold so dear, but the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.

I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring for it's beyond description, to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart. But I am not so far away, we really aren't apart. So be happy



for me loved ones, you know I hold you dear. And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year!

I send you each a special gift from my heavenly home above. I send you each a memory of my undying love. After all, "love" is the gift, more precious than pure gold. It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do. For I can't count the blessings or the love he has for you! So have a Merry Christmas, and wipe away that tear. Remember, I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

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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., Custom Creations on South Plainfield Ave. and Nischwitz on Front St. All proceeds from the sale at the *Observer* will go to local organizations.



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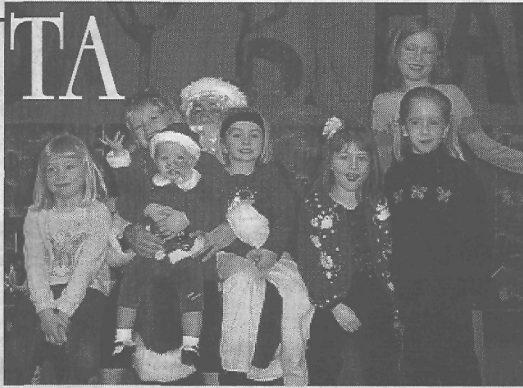
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policereport

- On Dec. 9 Tara N. Aiken, 36, of Baldwinsville, NY was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving at a motor vehicle accident on New Durham Ave.
- An Edison resident reported the theft of her pocketbook from her shopping cart while in the A & P parking lot.
- Kohl's reported that a black male and female attempted to leave the store with two leather jackets, two pair of gloves and a pair of shoes in a shopping cart. When confronted they fled with just the shoes.
- On Dec. 10 Irma Chinchilla, 38, of Plainfield was arrested for shoplifting at Macy's for concealing \$514.97 worth of clothing.
- Walter B. Molina, 23, of Newark was arrested for obstruction and an outstanding warrant while operating an extended commuter van with 16 passengers. He had no identification.
- A So. 11th St. resident reported the theft of an area rug and small refrigerator by his roommate of two years who suddenly moved out.
- A Middle School employee reported the theft of a Jaguar hood emblem from her car in the parking lot.
- Bett-A-Way on Sylvania Pl. reported the theft of \$1,320 in petty cash from an unlocked desk drawer.
- On Dec. 12 Dennis Thomas Gonzales, 21, of Elizabeth was arrested for simple assault and an outstanding warrant.
- On Dec. 13 a 33-year-old South Plainfield resident's body was found inside a burning car near Metuchen Rd.
- A Burlington Coat Factory employee confessed to shoplifting a pair of Fubu boots.
- A Victory St. resident reported

receiving harassing calls from someone named Michael who supposedly lived across the street.

- On Dec. 14 Stanley S. Chorab, 41, of South Plainfield was arrested for simple assault.
- An employee of McDonald's reported that someone had been shooting paint with a paint ball gun at the building.
- Holy Redeemer Cemetery reported the theft of two chairs from the indoor mausoleum.
- A Somerset resident reported that someone had stolen personal information about him and used it to open a bank account at Fleet Bank on Stelton Rd.
- On Dec. 15 an Edison resident reported that someone had stolen the power pump from his Myers snow plow at a parking lot on New Brunswick Ave. The wires and hoses had been cut as well as the fuel and oil lines.
- North Bergen Rex Transport of Piscataway reported the theft of a refrigeration trailer from a lot on Roosevelt Ave.



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