

AN 10 2003

South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

JANUARY 10, 2003



Photos courtesy of Joanne Ottolowski and Josephine D'Alessio

The original owners of Park Theater, Anthony and Emma DeSabato.

A Slice of American Pie

Park Theater, Town's Main Attraction in Its Heyday



Park Theatre showed a free movie before Christmas for local children.

By Patricia Abbott

How many retail stores can boast of high cathedral-like ceilings with elaborate detailing, arched doorways, a lobby and a balcony? Only those housed in former movie theaters, like South Plainfield's own Sportworld. The store is now located at 117 South Plainfield Ave. in the building that once was the town's only movie theater, the Park Theater.

Today's movie theaters typically contain multiple screens showing numerous films simultaneously, seating hun-

dreds of people per film. In the early days of South Plainfield, unless you traveled outside of town, there was the Park Theater. The tall brick building is located in the geographic center of town, once an essential and busy hub of day to day life. The Sons of Italy built the structure in 1922 and held their meetings in a room on the upper floor. The theater portion was managed by the Liberty Theater in the nearby bustling town of Plainfield.

South Plainfield residents Josephine D'Alessio and her daughter Joanne Ottolowski were more than a little fa-

miliar with the old theater. Josephine's parents owned the theater, and she spent much time there as a young girl. Daughter Joanne also spent many memorable hours there with her grandparents. Josephine and Joanne were happy to supply the *Observer* with a partial history of the Park Theater.

In the late 1920's when the Depression hit and settled in for the long haul, employment was hard to find. Those with large families such as Italian immigrant Anthony DeSabato, were hardest hit. DeSabato, a member of the Sons of Italy, had been out of work for over two years. He and wife Emma struggled to raise four children; William, Joseph, Josephine and Marie.

Despite the Depression, which seemed to put so much of life on hold, technology continued to move forward. The silent films were slowly edged out to make way for the new-fangled talkies. Many doubted the success of movies with sound. The Liberty withdrew from managing the Park Theater and it remained closed for several years.

In 1932, The Sons of Italy threw DeSabato a lifeline by offering him the chance to run the theater with the new talking films. A grateful DeSabato grabbed the opportunity to provide for

Continued on page

Senator Jon Corzine Lends Support to Helen Street Project

United States Senator Jon Corzine met this past Sunday, Jan. 5 with South Plainfield Mayor Daniel Gallagher, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan and Councilman Charles Butrico, to offer his assistance in expediting the funding for the proposed Helen Street Project.

Mayor Gallagher commented, "Senator Corzine's responsiveness is amazing. We contacted his office on Friday and he traveled to meet us at Borough Hall on Sunday morning. The Senator personifies the definition of a true public servant."

Councilman Butrico, who is the council liaison for the Helen Street Project, explained that the plans are actually ahead of the scheduled disbursement date. Since the project is totally funded by federal highway funds, South Plainfield would have to wait until next January to receive the next disbursement. "Senator Corzine offered his assistance to have the next installment disbursed ahead of schedule. By doing so, we can cut one full year off the project. The environmental evaluation is just about complete. We can now go forward with the design and property acquisition stage. With Senator Corzine's help, Helen Street will be under construction in 2005."



Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Mayor Dan Gallagher, Senator Jon Corzine and Councilman Charlie Butrico review the Helen Street Project.

After reviewing the engineering plan, Senator Corzine wholeheartedly endorsed the concept, saying he was more than happy to assist the residents of South Plainfield in advancing this project, which will dramatically reduce truck traffic on residential streets within

the borough. Assemblyman Diegnan summed up the feelings of all who attended the meeting saying, "We are fortunate to be represented in the United States Senate by an individual who cares for the people like Senator Jon Corzine."



The 2003 South Plainfield Borough Council left to right (rear) Charles Butrico, Dennis Cerami, Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick. Front row is Ed Kubala, Mayor Dan Gallagher and Jim Vokral.

Helen St., Hamilton Blvd., Fiscal Duty 2003 Focus

Gallagher, Vokral, Kubala Sworn in at Reorganization

The Annual Reorganization meeting of the South Plainfield Governing Body was held on Sunday. Mayor Daniel J. Gallagher began his fourth four-year term, Councilman Jim Vokral and Councilman Ed Kubala started their third three-year term.

The council chamber was once again filled with family members and well wishers. Appointments to the numerous boards and commissions were announced and they were sworn in.

Mayor Gallagher in his address to the community covered what occurred in the past year and what he hopes to accomplish this year.

He announced that the Helen Street Project funding will be helped along by Senator Jon Corzine. He also reported that Hamilton Blvd. reconstruction will be delayed a year.

The mayors complete speech, a list of appointments and a Republican message is on pages 6-7.

Mark your calendars

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest
meeting agenda

council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Thursday.

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

AGENDA MEETING	PUBLIC MEETING
Monday, January 13	Thursday, January 16
Monday, February 3	Thursday, February 6
Monday, February 18	Thursday, February 20
Monday, March 3	Thursday, March 6
Monday, March 17	Thursday, March 20
Monday, April 7	Thursday, April 10

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

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

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

zoning board of adjustment

Meets on Thursdays

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

board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

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

Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m. - Jan. 21, 2003, Feb. 18, March 18, April 8.

taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at

Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-668-0538

site plan sub-committee

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

recreation commission

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

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

February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, September 2, October 7, November 11 (November 4 is Election Day) and December 2.

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday except August)

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

business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

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

traffic safety advisory commission

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

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 spsobserver.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 spsobserver.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

IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

As a resident of South Plainfield living near the West Nine Golf course, I would like to tell the readers what my neighbors and I must experience when the snow comes. First of all, I do not want to stop anyone from enjoying their afternoon of snow activities, but only want the public to be aware of what we go through during the snowy days.

If there is a significant snowfall, the snow plows are unable to get down our streets because I have seen cars park as early as 7 a.m. to go sledding. If snowplows are able to get down the streets, the snow can be pushed only so far off the street. This leaves a narrower path for cars to travel. When cars park on both sides of the street, it is impossible for any emergency vehicle to get down the street. Children as well as elderly live in the area.

You never know when an emergency vehicle is needed to save someone's life or property. The emergency "no parking signs" are being placed only when there is snow. This is for your protection as well. With icy streets and children walking on them and less room for cars to travel, parking on one side may prevent a vehicular accident involving a child or damage to another vehicle while trying to maneuver down streets that are almost impassable.

After the snows have melted, my neighbors and I have found Dunkin Donut cups, dirty baby diapers, soda bottles, beer bottles, broken sleds, etc. They were discarded and thrown into the snow on our front lawns. Then there was the time late one evening an intoxicated sledder decided to urinate on my neighbor's front lawn.

We would only ask the public to respect our property and not infringe upon our daily routines. Park legally, enjoy the sleigh riding, take your garbage with you and treat our streets like you would want others to treat yours.

CHERYL NAGEL-SMILEY

Dear Editor,

Mayor Gallagher and his colleagues showed their true colors this week. They passed up an opportunity for purely political reasons to appoint to the Planning Board or Zoning Board one of the most qualified applicants in years. In doing this, they showed the insincerity of everything they said during last year's campaign.

I should probably start from the beginning. When I ran for mayor, the Democrats attacked my record by claiming I hadn't served recently on any boards, specifically the Planning and Zoning boards. During the debate, I expressed my doubts about whether Mayor Gallagher would have ap-

pointed me to either board had I applied. The mayor responded by preaching about how he makes his appointments without regard to political affiliation. He then mentioned two or three token Republican appointments made over the course of his eight-year reign.

Well, the mayor had his chance to prove how nonpartisan he could be. And he failed the test. Bob Jones, a stellar candidate, volunteered to serve on either board and sent the mayor a resume. Bob grew up in town, graduated from South Plainfield High School, and then went on to graduate with honors from Rutgers College.

Bob also graduated from Rutgers Law School, where his course work included zoning and planning law. In fact, even before starting law school he showed his interest in these types of issues by serving on South Plainfield's Land Management Commission. As an attorney, Bob has experience challenging and defending grants and denials of variances. He's also challenged and defended zoning ordinances. He has a wealth of experience dealing with the types of issues both boards consider. In addition, he teaches law at Fairleigh Dickinson University and is on the advisory board of the school's Paralegal Studies Program.

Unfortunately, Bob is also a Republican. This is apparently a fatal flaw in the eyes of the mayor and council, despite his reputation for working well with members of both parties. Last year the Republicans asked Bob to serve as their representative on the Business Association's debate committee. I'm proud to say he received accolades—even from Democrats—for working in a bipartisan manner.

There's more I could add, but suffice it to say that I can't imagine a finer candidate for either board. This is someone who would have been an effective member from day one. He knows the town well, puts South Plainfield first, and has the perfect background for the job. Unfortunately, the mayor and council refused to appoint Bob to either board, despite vacancies. So much for putting South Plainfield first... and so much for believing what the Democrats say during a campaign. The lesson from this is that petty politics trumps what's best for our town. The all-Democratic Mayor and Council say whatever it takes to get elected and then do the opposite when in office. It's shameful.

JAKE CATALDO

To the Editor,

On behalf of the South Plainfield Business Association's (SPBA) members and invited guests, I would like to thank Sherban's Diner for once

again hosting and sponsoring our annual holiday luncheon. Owners Peter and John have hosted our meetings and luncheon since the SPBA was first formed and because of the generosity of people like John and Peter, we are able to offer more value to our members and community.

Members of the SPBA enjoyed the fine food and hospitality in the Banquet Room at Sherban's. Invited guests included Mayor Dan Gallagher, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, members of the Borough Council, Police Chief Bob Merkler and several department heads from Borough Hall. Vision 2001 President Marge Reedy was on hand to accept the SPBA's \$2,000 donation towards the Emil Leporino Scholarship Fund.

Thanks to all who attended this event, as well as those who attended our previous meetings and events in 2002 and again, a special thanks to our hosts and friends at Sherban's Diner.

On behalf of the SPBA, I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

SINCERELY,
JACK PEDERSEN, SPBA PRESIDENT

To The Editor,

It has been nearly three months since the newly designed street signs dedicated to South Plainfield Veterans who died serving our country were completed. Ceremonies were held in Borough Hall to present relatives with duplicate signs.

Where are these new signs? I have driven all over town looking to see if any are up. I only found two signs, (one of which is crooked). I realize that the public works employees have other duties, but during the past three months they should have found time to install more than two signs!

RUDY POCZAK, VFW

To the Editor,

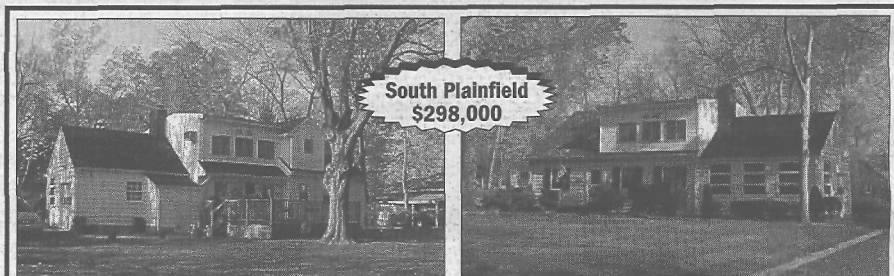
After reading the Observer three or four weeks ago, I marked the calendar. It was to remind me of the blood drive at Roosevelt School on Saturday, Jan. 4, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. I did go about 10:20 a.m. and found no blood drive, no notice of cancellation, no nothing; the school was deserted.

Upon coming home, I found the blood drive notice was still in the Jan. 3 issue of the Observer.

Is it possible someone dropped the ball? I wonder how many other donors were surprised?

THANK YOU,
JOSEPH WALKO

Editor's Note: The Roosevelt School blood drive was cancelled on Friday, Jan. 3, two days after the Observer went to press. We were, therefore, unable to publish notice of the cancellation.



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New Year's Eve Family Celebration at Cafe Everest



The Pre-New Year's Eve celebration was a night to remember for all parents who dined with their children at Cafe Everest on Park Ave.

The filled-to-capacity crowd enjoyed a special menu for the early evening celebration. New Year's hats and noisemakers were distributed to youngsters so they could experience the annual late night New Year's Eve celebration, and it was timed to take place before their bedtime.

A crystal ball pinata was hung and slowly lowered to simulate a countdown. Of course there was a mad scramble by the children to pick up as much candy as they could hold.

The evening was a complete success, much to the delight of owner Chris Kousouris, who said he wanted to find a way to celebrate New Year's Eve with his own children without keeping them up to the wee hours of the morning.



Winners of Trenton Thunder Contest Named

Natalia Tamzoke, ninth grader at South Plainfield High School and her school "hero," Dale Salisbury, eighth grade Language Arts teacher at the Middle School, were honored as winners of the "Eighth Annual NJEA-Trenton Thunder Essay Contest." Natalia, the winner in the high school category, was among several hundred students across New Jersey who participated in the contest. She submitted an essay on the topic "My Hero Works at School."

Natalia states, "I love this town with all of my heart. Representing it by writing about one of the many wonderful teachers in South Plainfield was

my way of expressing the deep pride that I have for this town."

Presently Natalia is a member of Emeralds, the school newspaper, student council and is freshman class vice president. She hopes to soon join other co-curricular activities, such as the debate team, drama club and peer leadership. Last summer she participated in the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop, playing the role of Vi Moore in *Footloose*. Her future goals include a career in the field of teaching or science. She also hopes to dedicate time to community service.

Natalia first met Salisbury as her teacher, but really got to know him as advisor to New Jersey Peer to Peer and as director of Drama Club. Natalia considers Salisbury a mentor. In her winning essay she wrote, "I began to see how much of a hard worker he was. I have stayed as late as 7 o'clock in school for activities, but I've never seen him leave! He practically lives there..." Salisbury also earned Natalia's respect by speaking to the students about his outside interests. Natalia wrote that "when a teacher can reveal themselves to the students, it really makes a huge difference. It's nice to know that there is a teacher

you can have normal conversations with, and that is what truly makes him my hero."

Dale E. Salisbury is a relatively new addition to the South Plainfield faculty, currently in his third year at South Plainfield Middle School. During his nine years as an educator, Salisbury has taught second, fifth grades, seventh grade reading and all subjects. He received his undergraduate in English from Fort Hays State University in Kansas. He is currently pursuing a graduate degree in Instruction and Curriculum from Kean University, with 32 credits earned.

Salisbury is listed in "Who's Who in American Teachers 2000" and is a member of National Council of Teachers of English. In addition to Drama Club and NJ Peer to Peer, he acts as advisor to Middle School Boys Soccer. As an advocate for animal rights, he works with the Marine Mammal Stranding Center, supports World Wildlife Federation and is a member of Dalmation Overland Transport System (DOTS). Salisbury also enjoys drawing.

Salisbury was extremely honored to have been selected as a school hero by Tamzoke.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Here's more news from the South Plainfield Library:

We'll follow our normal schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. The programs are 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. Speaking of crafts, here's a request from Miss Linda: Parents are invited to make a craft project with their child and bring it in to the Library. The crafts will be placed on display in February. Also, we've got a special craft program coming up. On Saturday, Jan. 18, we'll be holding a "Valentines for Veterans" program. You can stop in any time that day and make a valentine for a vet; we'll make sure that they're delivered in time for Valentine's Day. For more information about these or any children's program, please call us at (908) 754-7885.

The Library Board of Trustees will hold their next meeting on Tuesday evening at 7:30. The public is invited to attend and learn more about the Library's present and future plans.

We're between groups on the Audiobooks Circuit today. The next group will be available later on this month.

One of the time-honored ways of starting a new year is, of course, receiving State and Federal tax forms for the previous year. We've received several of these forms; they are on display on the reference shelf next to the fire door. Be advised, though, that there are several forms and booklets that haven't come in yet. We expect them to arrive in the next few weeks; we'll make them available to you as

soon as we can.

We have a new display in place for January. It's an assortment of items featuring rubber-stamping. The display has been provided by South Plainfield resident Sharon D'Amico and will be here throughout the month.

Here's a computer note: In addition to our regular Internet computers, we also have three other computers that are Internet-connected. Specifically, they're the Job Information Center computers, and the computer donated to us by Comcast cable. Normally, these are reserved for use in special programs (like the JIC classes) or by students doing research. On occasion (if there is an overflow of patrons at the Internet computers, for example), we'll allow patrons to use these terminals on their own. However, this is only done at the discretion of the Reference Librarian. Even if the computers have been switched on, you must request permission from the librarian before using them. Otherwise, you'll be asked to move along and, in cases of repeated violations, your Internet privileges may be cancelled. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

That's about it for this week. As always, we appreciate your comments. See you next week.

Special Executive Council Session

A closed Executive session meeting of the South Plainfield Governing Body will be held on Monday, January 13, at 6 p.m. to discuss a matter of contract.

Name the New School!

Anyone who would like to suggest a name for the new school under construction at the Roosevelt School site on Hamilton Blvd. should submit their suggestion in writing.

Submit your name by Jan. 31 to Dr. Thomas Butler, Interim Superintendent, South Plainfield Board of Education, 305 Cromwell Place, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

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Events

Suburban Woman's Club January Mtg.

January 9

The program for the January meeting of the South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club (a member of G.E.W.C.) will focus on "Interiors Unlimited." The speaker will be Jim Kavanagh, an interior decorator.

The meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 9 at 2 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Rd.

The club is planning a number of fundraising events, including a theatre party in the spring.

Proceeds from the fundraisers will go to local and state charities plus a scholarship to a graduating South Plainfield high school senior.

New members are always welcomed. For info, call 754-7410.

Fibromyalgia Support Group Meeting

January 14

Do you suffer from "Fibromyalgia Syndrome?" If so, come join others who experience FMA as well as our FMA Support Group at Pilgrim Covenant Church. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 14 from 7-8:30 p.m.

For further information, contact Pastor Cathy Stanley-Erickson at (908) 756-2474.

Historical Society Mtg. Place Changed

January 14

Anyone who is planning to attend the next meeting of the Historical Society on Tuesday, Jan. 14, is asked to park in the high school student lot at the end of Lane Ave. and enter through the main doors. You will be directed to the new classroom that will be assigned that evening.

The agenda for the Jan. 14 meeting includes election of officers for 2003, committee designations and a slide show of older houses in town, some now demolished. The public can log on to the Historical Society website at: <http://community.nj.com/cc/sphistoricalsociety> for more information on this and other programming.

Athletic Booster Club Meeting

January 14

The next meeting of the Athletic Booster Club will be held on Jan. 14 at our new time of 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. We will be discussing upcoming events, requests from coaches and snack stand help. Come join us - all are welcome!

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.

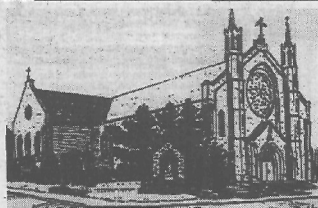
Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)

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



What's happening in JANUARY

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
Line Dancing Class begins Jan. 16/ Thursdays at 11 AM Tickets on sale for matinee performance of "Some Like It Hot," Feb. 6 at NJ PAC. Cost \$40				
Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30AM Yoga 10:30-11:30AM	Bingo 10-2 PM	Exercise & Walking Club 8:45-9:45AM Movie 11:30 AM AARP Crafts 1 PM	Shopping at Pathmark 9 AM Practical Crafting 10-11AM	Bingo 10-2PM
13	14	15	16	17
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.				

Monthly Republican Organization Mtg.

January 15

The first regular meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization for 2003 will be held Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 8 p.m. at the American Legion hall on Oak Tree Rd.

All committee members are urged to attend this important meeting. Any resident who would like to become involved with the organization, or have concerns about the borough that should be addressed, are also invited to attend.

OLC Plans Wafer Supper

January 12

Our Lady of Czestochowa is planning a Wafer Supper on Sunday, Jan. 12 from 4 to 8 p.m. Entertainment will be Frank Sendzik and his band 'The Happy Tones.' Cost is \$15 per person and \$6 for children under 12.

Call (908) 755-2516 for tickets.

Business Association Meeting

January 16

The January meeting of the South Plainfield Business Association will hold their next meeting on Thursday, Jan. 16, at Sherban's Diner at 9 a.m.

Members and non-members are invited to attend.

AARP Chapter 4144 Meeting

January 20

AARP Chapter 4144 of South Plainfield will meet on Jan. 20, in the

Senior Citizen Center, located at 90 Maple Ave. South Plainfield at 12:30. Nancy Connor, a designer of custom floral designs and decor decorating of Interior Accents and Gifts will be the guest speaker. It will not only be interesting but fun also. Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

New Year Students Dance at Sacred Heart

January 24

A New Year Dance for all students in grades 7, 8, 9 and 10 is will be held on Friday, Jan. 24, in the Sacred Heart Cafeteria. The dance runs from 7 to 11 p.m. (Lock down from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.)

Music will be presented by 'Soundz Good Entertainment.' The cost is \$5, which includes soda and chips.

For additional information, call Ginny O'Brien at 757-6057 or (908) 756-0633 ext. 10 or 12.

— Out of Town —

Middlesex East WOWs

January 10

Middlesex East WOWs Carteret Chapter will hold a dance for widows and widowers on Friday, Jan. 10, at St. Demetrius Community Center, 681-691 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret. Admission is \$8. Live music and refreshments. 7:30 11:30 p.m. For more information, call (732) 969-1123 or (908) 757-0515.

Live Rock this Friday in New Brunswick

January 10

Your weekend plans start now kids. That's right, you can catch Bongo Dave as he kicks the kit with AKASA on Friday, Jan. 10 at 10 p.m. with the Crayons and the Happy Accidents. They will be appearing at the Court Tavern, 124 Church St. in New Brunswick.

For more information call (732) 545-7265 or log on to their website at www.courtavern.net. You can check out the band online at www.akasamusic.com, www.mp3.com/akasa or www.cdbaby.com/akasamusic.

Level Zero to Appear at Birch Hill

January 10

Local band Level Zero is scheduled to appear at the Birch Hill Entertainment Complex Friday, Jan. 10. Band members include: Josh Jackson, Danny Lammi, Ryan Cornell and Greg Gafrowsky. The show will include five other bands from the area.

Ticket prices are \$10 each. All ages are welcome and doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are available through any Level Zero Band member or by contacting Josh Jackson at (908) 753-9269. Birch Hill Entertainment Complex is located on Route 9 in Old Bridge.

Robert Klein Concert

January 18

Camden County Board of Free-

holders and Collingswood Borough will present the timeless influential comedy of Robert Klein at the Scottishe Rite Auditorium, 5315 White Horse Pike in Collingswood. The concert will be held Saturday, Jan. 18 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and \$28. Tickets are on sale now.

Probably no single event is more indicative of Robert Klein's success than his first sold-out concert at Carnegie Hall in 1973, "The First Annual Robert Klein Reunion." For nearly two hours, Klein knocked out his audience with his high-energy comedy and comment. The critics raved, and Klein affirmed his place as a major personality in contemporary entertainment and as an influence on a whole generation of comedians.

Tickets available at all County stores: Echelon Mall, Winslow Service Center and Cherry Hill Mall; Collingswood Borough Hall, all Ticketmaster locations, charge by phone at (856) 338-9000 or (215) 336-2000, and at www.ticketmaster.com. For more information call the concert hotline at (856) 216-2170. Two dollars from each ticket is directed toward theatre restoration.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunrise Breakfast

January 20

In celebration of the life and the impact to diversity by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Somerset County Cultural Diversity Coalition announces its First Annual Sunrise Breakfast scheduled for Monday, Jan. 20, from 8 to 10 a.m. to be held at the Somerset Medical Center, Fuld Auditorium, marking what would have been Dr. King's 74th birthday.

Mr. Lawrence Hamm, Chairman of the People's Organization for Progress (P.O.P.) of Newark is scheduled as the keynote speaker. Mr. Hamm, a distinguished advocate for both domestic and international human rights was the youngest person ever to be appointed to the Newark Board of Education, at the age of seventeen. A Princeton graduate, Mr. Hamm brings a true passion for causes of importance to all humans, regardless of race, alike.

Donation is \$5 at the door, which includes a scrumptious buffet. For reservations, contact Ms. Kay Hurd at 908-285-2960 or khurd@somersethealthcare.com. For future information about the Coalition, call (908) 927-0618.

How You Can Be a Part of the South Plainfield Observer.

ENCOURAGE YOUR ORGANIZATION TO SEND US THEIR UPCOMING EVENTS. We want to add them to AROUND TOWN. It can make your event more successful. Send them to us by mail, fax or e-mail.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Pictured at their first regular meeting in December are (seated L to R) Dr. Mosty Garcia, Tonette Pagdonsolan, Dr. Penny Montana, IPRC Bert V. Latonio, CC/PPD Joe Bocklage, CS/PP Dottie Bocklage, and PDM Linda Mayo. Standing L to R: Lolit Garcia, Cherry Perez, Rosario Agbanlog, Carla Plaza, Rebecca Robak, Josie Paunte, Pat Lapitan, Roseller Lapitan, Gilbert De la Cruz, Glenn Castillo, Emma Latonio, Carmen Patena, David Aguinaldo, Myra Talavera, and Erwin Talavera.

Lions Charter a New Club in South Plainfield

A new Lions Club is coming to South Plainfield on March 22, 2003 when 46 men and women celebrate the formation of the South Plainfield FIL-AM Lions Club at the Sheraton Hotel in Iselin at 7:30 p.m.



Left to right: CC/PPD Joe Bocklage, CS/PP Dottie Bocklage and IPRC Bert V. Latonio.

During the ceremony, Lions Clubs International District 16-D Governor John Dutkowski, the Guiding Lions Council Chairman/PPD Joseph Bocklage and District 16-D Cabinet Secretary/PP Dorothy Bocklage will present the members of the new club with their official charter. Members of the Franklin Township (SC) Lions Club, who sponsored the formation of the South Plainfield FIL-AM Lions Club, will also be on hand to congratulate the new Lions.

"I am extremely proud and honored to welcome these fine men and women as fellow charter Lions," said the elected Charter President Bert Latonio. He

added, "I have confidence with these new Lions' capabilities and qualities and we will work together in harmony and demonstrate the true meaning of the lions motto: We Serve. I believe, that South Plainfield will also be proud to

Club plans to become involved with the Lions' local, district and state projects. To name a few: The Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley, NJ Blind Athletes Association, Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, Inc., St Joseph's School for the Blind, NJ Eye-glass Recycling Center, District 16-D Audio-Visual Screening Foundation (Eye-mobile), District 16-D Eye and Ear Foundation, Middlesex County Blind Association, Camp Neveda and more.

Internationally, the Lions primary activity is assistance to the blind and visually impaired. They are also very involved with many youth initiatives. Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization with more than 1.4 million members in more than 188 countries.

The charter members' list are as follows: Rosario Agbanlog, David Aguinaldo, Himelda Alba, Rose Aquino, Estela Bacarro, Lebe Besa, Celso Carbonell, Glenn Castillo, Corazon Castillo, Gilbert De la Cruz, Robert Denosta, Teresa Denosta, Maribel Diaz, Remigio Diaz, Dr. Mostiolo Garcia, Lolita Garcia, Willy Gonzales, Ludi de Asis Hughes, Andy Kehr, Kate Kehr, Roseller Lapitan, Pat Lapitan, Bert V. Latonio, Emma Latonio, Butch Lontoc, Belinda Lontoc, Ruben Malamog, MacArthur Maramba, Rubelita Maramba, Linda Mayo, Dr. Josephine Montana, Tonette Pagdonsolan, Jerry Pagdonsolan, Carmen Patena, Josie Paunte, Cherry Perez, Carla Plaza, Rebecca Robak, Renato Rosales, Lucito Salapare, Erwin Talavera, Myra Talavera, Wilson Verzosca, Rosalie Vilar, Jeana Villajin, and Dr. Edmundo Vitug.

The South Plainfield FIL-AM Lions

have such a fine group serving the community."

The elected Charter Officers are: President Bert V. Latonio, PE, IPRC, First Vice President Remigio Diaz, CPA, PP, Second Vice President Dr. Josephine Montana, Third Vice President Rubelita Maramba, Secretary Dr. Mostiolo Garcia, Treasurer Tonette Pagdonsolan, RN, Tail Twister Rebecca Robak, RN, Lion Tamer Emma H. Latonio, RN, Membership Director Roseller Lapitan, One Directors Linda Mayo, PDM (JC) and Gilbert De La Cruz and Two-Year Directors David Aguinaldo and Josie Paunte, RN.

The South Plainfield FIL-AM Lions

southplainfieldpeople

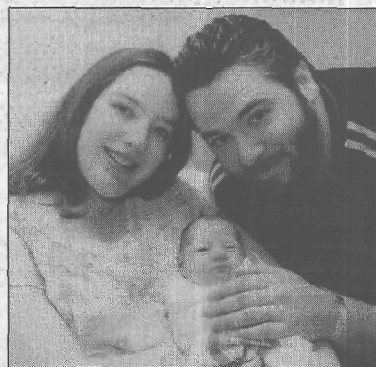
Milestones

Eggerts Welcome New Year Baby

Tina and Keith Eggert are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Rachel Jean Eggert on Jan. 1, 2003 at 10:24 a.m. Rachel was the first baby to be born at Somerset Hospital on New Year's Day, weighing in at 7lbs 14oz.

Waiting at home in South Plainfield are her brother Tyler and sister Gabriella, six aunts, two uncles, and 10 cousins. Female cousins were overjoyed to hear of Rachel's birth—bringing the out numbered girls to five with the boys still holding at eight.

Both Keith and Tina's parents are very involved with their grandchildren and would like to say congratulations!



Tina and Keith Eggert with Rachel Jean

Adam Toth Nominated to Attend Youth Leadership Forum

Adam Toth has received confirmation of his nomination to attend a session of the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine, to be held during the summer of 2003.

The decision to nominate Adam was based on a scholastic recommendation by his A.P. biology teacher. He will be attending the forum in Philadelphia, Pa., from June 22 to July 1.

Adam will be joining 350 other students from across America.

The Forum is an exceptional educational experience that will allow him to study and learn from some of the nation's most distinguished medical leaders, researchers and practitioners whose dedication and ability have brought them to the top of their profession.

Summer Drama Workshop Selects 2003 Show

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop has selected the musical *Crazy for You* as their production for 2003.

Crazy for You features the music of George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin, and has plenty of opportunities for the cast to do what they love—sing, dance, and put on a great show.

The performance dates will be July

31, Aug. 1, 2 and 3. Audition dates will be in early June. Watch the *Observer* for more information, or check out our website www.spsdw.com.

The SPSDW was awarded a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission. This is the second consecutive year the group has received a grant from the commission.

See page 12 for related article.

Students Offered a Look at Art Careers

On Thursday and Friday, January 9 and 10, Middle School Art Teacher Diane Kardos' classes will host several guest speakers.

The speakers, local residents working in various art fields, will offer students a chance to explore different art career options.

South Plainfield residents and sisters Linda Stockman Berkowitz and Karen Kunch will visit the

school on Thursday morning.

Linda, a student at duCret School of Art, will discuss her work in art production and oil painting. Karen will introduce students to the field of fashion design.

On Friday, North Plainfield resident Mark Romanofski, fantasy illustrator and instructor at duCret, will speak about his work.

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Annual Art Auction Returns To Pilgrim Covenant Church

The Learning Center and Church Council at Pilgrim Covenant Church, 3121 Park Ave, are pleased to announce the return of their Annual Art Auction on Friday, Jan. 10.

Presented by Ross Galleries of New York, the custom framed and matted art work can be previewed beginning at 7 p.m. in the church basement where finger foods and beverages will be available. The Auction itself begins at 8 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

A variety of contemporary artists including Kinkade, Rockwell, Boulanger, Delacroix, Wyeth and Moses will be represented.

Tickets, which include a free entry for the door prize, are available at the door for \$9 per couple or \$5 per single. Observers are welcome; however, if you are tempted, payment for the art work may be made by MasterCard, Visa, Discover and AmExp.

A major fundraiser for the church, proceeds are designated for facility improvements. For tickets or information please call 908-756-4879.

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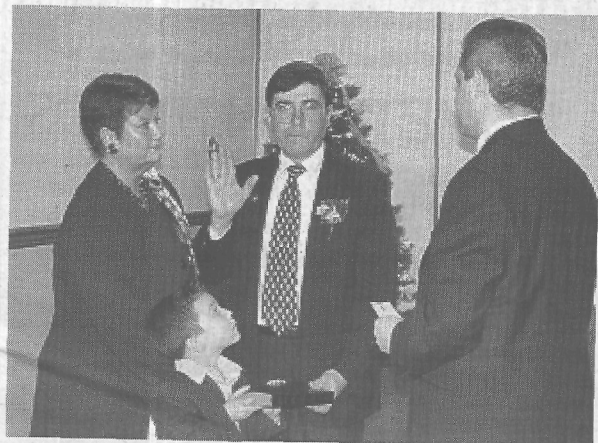
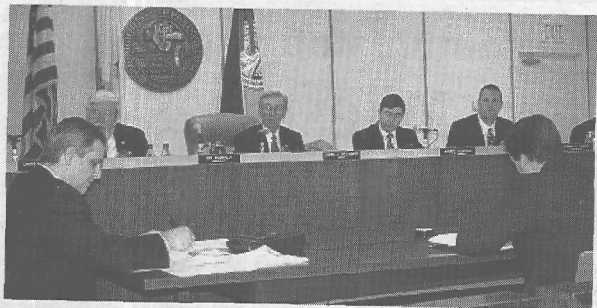
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BY VIRTUE OF THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, AND PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE #728 AND N.J.S.A.40:55D, I, DANIEL J. GALLAGHER, DO HEREBY APPOINT

NAME	BOARD	EXPIRATION
Dorothy Miele	Environmental Commission	December 31, 2005
Planning Board Rep.	Environmental Commission	December 31, 2003
Sarah Miele	Environmental Commission	December 31, 2005
Larry Randolph	Environmental Commission - Chair	December 31, 2003
John Koelble	Environmental Commission	December 31, 2003
Cheryl Nagel-Smiley	Mayor's Rep - Library Board of Trustees	December 31, 2003
Raymond Petronko	Mayor's HCD Representative	December 31, 2003
John Pabst	Planning Board- Class II	December 31, 2003
Robert Ackerman	Planning Board- Class IV	December 31, 2006
Christopher Politi	Planning Board- Alternate I	December 31, 2006
Jay Kartegener	Planning Board-Alternate II	December 31, 2005
Jack Pedersen	Planning Board- Class IV	December 31, 2004
Kathleen Thomas	Planning Board- Class IV	December 31, 2004
Joseph DeAndrea	Property Board of Appeals	December 31, 2005
Joseph Padula	Property Board of Appeals	December 31, 2005
Dominick Demico	Property Board of Appeals	December 31, 2005
Michael Alvarez	Recreation Commission	December 31, 2007
Calvin Gross	Recreation Commission	December 31, 2007
Dennis Cerami	Council Liaison to Traffic Safety	December 31, 2003
Vincent Buttiglieri	Mayor's Rep- Middlesex County Transportation Coord. Committee	December 31, 2003

I, DANIEL J. GALLAGHER, MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, PUT FORTH THE FOLLOWING NOMINEES FOR APPOINTMENT TO BE APPROVED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL:

NAME	BOARD	EXPIRATION
Joseph DeAndrea	Construction Board of Appeals- Architect	December 31, 2005
Joseph Padula	Construction Board of Appeals- Electric	December 31, 2005
Dominick Demico, Jr.	Construction Board of Appeals- Plumbing	December 31, 2005
Larry Del Negro	Construction Board of Appeals- Fire	December 31, 2005
George DeLuca	Construction Board of Appeals- Alt. Bldg	December 31, 2005
Marjorie Reedy	Cultural Arts Commission	December 31, 2005
Myra Stillman	Cultural Arts Commission	December 31, 2005
Fred Toth	Health Advisory Board	December 31, 2005
Natalie Bergen	Health Advisory Board	December 31, 2005
Patricia Parente	Health Advisory Board	December 31, 2004
Eric Aronowitz	Library Board of Trustees	December 31, 2007
Peter Calderone	Library Board of Trustees	December 31, 2007
Thomas Butler	Library Board of Trustees- Board of Ed	December 31, 2003
Patricia Guarraci	Taxpayers Advisory Group	December 31, 2005
Richard Petronie	Taxpayers Advisory Group	December 31, 2005
Harry Kuhn	Taxpayers Advisory Group	December 31, 2005
April Wasnick	Taxpayers Advisory Group	December 31, 2005
Craig McKenzie	Taxpayers Advisory Group	December 31, 2005
Kidambi Raghunathan	Taxpayers Advisory Group	December 31, 2005
Frank Mikorski	Traffic Safety Advisory Commission	December 31, 2003
Kevin Murtagh	-Board of Ed Representative Traffic Safety Advisory Commission	December 31, 2003
Kathleen Dimeglio	Traffic Safety Advisory Commission	December 31, 2005
Joseph Glowacki	Traffic Safety Advisory Commission -DPW Representative	December 31, 2003
Dennis Cerami	Youth Guidance- Council Liaison	December 31, 2003
Gary Kline	Youth Guidance- Police Representative	December 31, 2003
Karen Blackford	Zoning Board of Adjustment	December 31, 2006
Maria Campagna	Zoning Board of Adjustment	December 31, 2006
Victor Stillakis	Zoning Board of Adjustment-Alternate I	December 31, 2004
Frank Furino	Zoning Board of Adjustment-Alternate II	December 31, 2003

AS COUNCIL PRESIDENT, I, JAMES VOKRAL, PUT FORTH THE FOLLOWING NOMINEES FOR APPOINTMENT TO BE APPROVED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL:

NAME	BOARD	EXPIRATION
Anthony Giammarino	Business Advisory Group	December 31, 2005
John Pabst	Business Advisory Group	December 31, 2003
David J. Samuel	Business Advisory Group	December 31, 2003
Robert Longo	Business Advisory Group	December 31, 2005
Jack Pedersen	Business Advisory Group	December 31, 2003
Ed Kubala	Council's HCD Representative	December 31, 2003
Alice Tempel	Greenbrook Flood Control	December 31, 2003
Charles Butrico	Greenbrook Flood Control- Alternate I	December 31, 2003
David J. Samuel	Greenbrook Flood Control- Alternate II	December 31, 2003
Charles Butrico	Planning Board- Class III	December 31, 2003
Joann Graf	Senior Citizen Advisory Committee	December 31, 2003
Raymond Petronko	-Coordinator Senior Citizen Advisory Committee	December 31, 2003
	-Council Liaison	

THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS ARE HEREBY PASSED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD:

Resolution	Name	Position	Term Expires
10-1	Vincent Buttiglieri	Public Agency Compliance Officer	December 31, 2003
10-2	Andrew Hodulik	Borough Auditor	December 31, 2003
10-3	Thomas Lanza	Borough Prosecutor	December 31, 2003
10-4	Edward Santoro	Public Defender	December 31, 2003
10-5	Richard Lorenzen	Tax Search Officer	December 31, 2003



Mayor Daniel Gallagher's South Plainfield Reorganization Address

Once again we gather to celebrate our most basic right as citizens of the United States, the right to elect our representatives. As Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral start their tenth year as members of the borough council and I commence my fourth term as your Mayor, I can assure you that the meaning of this day is no less significant to us than the day we took our first oath of office. As young men and women in our military are poised half a world away to once again wage battle to protect our inalienable rights, let none of us ever take for granted our American freedom. With full appreciation of that knowledge, it is my honor to once again report on the state of our borough and to set forth this governing body's goals for the year ahead.

2002 was a year like no other in the history of South Plainfield. The dreams of decades came to reality in one grand 12-month period. We cut the ribbon on one of the finest senior housing projects in the state of New Jersey, the most modern, state-of-the-art senior recreation center and we doubled the size of our P.A.L. On top of all of that, we purchased needed equipment for our fire, police and rescue squad, began refurbishing the former senior rec center as the hub of our emergency management department, repaved another sixteen roads, paved the parking areas to our soccer fields, Pop Warner fields and girls baseball complex, and are about to complete a new jogging/walking trail around Putnam Park. What may be the most amazing aspect of all of these projects is that they were all done "pay as you go" and they were all completed without raising municipal taxes. In fact, our municipal debt went down again last year, for the eighth year in a row. I've said it before and I'll say it again, "Let those who think government can't be run efficiently and cost effectively come to South Plainfield...we'll be glad to give them a lesson on how it can be done."

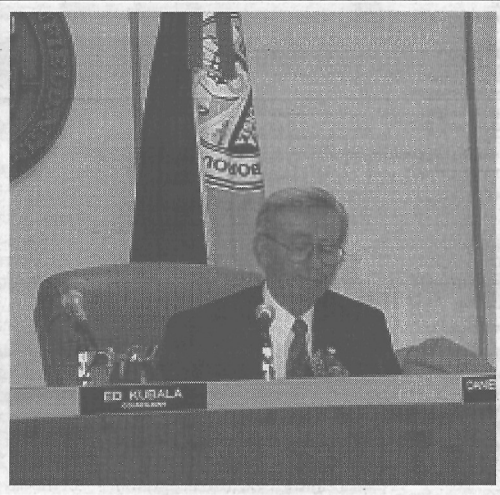
No year can top 2002, but this mayor and council are committed to keeping South Plainfield as the model of open, responsive and fiscally conservative government. Here is a partial list of the areas that I want the members of the borough council to concentrate on this year:

- Councilmember Charlie Butrico has done an outstanding job of taking control of the Helen Street project. Just last month councilmember Butrico reported that the environmental assessment stage is close to completion and

the project is ready for the property acquisition and design stage. All we need is approval from the Federal government to fund those items ahead of the scheduled disbursement date. I am pleased to announce that our United States Senator Jon Corzine is working with us to expedite the project. In fact, Senator Corzine met with Council member Butrico, Assemblyman Diegnan and I this morning right here at Borough Hall to go over the project with us. I cannot thank Senator Corzine enough for helping South Plainfield with this project. The senator is a model of a dedicated and responsive public servant. If the Federal Government cooperates as we hope, we will see ground broken for Helen Street either late next year or in the early part of 2005. Thank you, Charlie, for getting this project organized. I know you will continue to work hard to advance its completion. There is no single project which is more important to the quality of life in South Plainfield than the completion of Helen Street from Durham Ave. to Metuchen Rd.

- Council member Butrico has also taken responsibility for the Hamilton Blvd. reconstruction project, which will be funded by Middlesex County. Our freeholder, John Pulomena, deserves all of our thanks for making this project a priority for the county. Hamilton Blvd. will be totally reconstructed, including drainage, curbs and sidewalks all the way from New Market Ave. to Valley Bank at Durham Ave. From Valley Bank to Stelton Rd., Hamilton Blvd. will be widened to four lanes. Traffic signals will also be installed at St. Nicholas Ave., Hollywood Ave. and South Clinton Ave. This is an extensive project and requires approximately 100 property acquisitions and Department of Transportation review and approval. Although every effort was made to begin construction this spring, it must be delayed until spring of 2004. However, it will be worth the wait to improve this main thoroughfare of our borough.

- As chairperson of Public Works, Council member Bob Cusick will once again coordinate the road reconstruction projects in our borough. This year



Mayor Daniel Gallagher

12 more roads will be repaved, including Ten Eyck, Banta, Clinton Terrace, Ivy, Yale, Clark, Caffrey and portions of Oxford, Clarke Ave. and Field Ave. In addition, we have applied for a state grant to widen Durham Ave. to four lanes, all the way from its intersection with Hamilton Blvd. to the entrance of Route 287. With the completion of the Hamilton Blvd. reconstruction, the widening of Durham Ave. and the completion of Helen St., there is finally light at the end of the tunnel to address the terrible traffic congestion in the borough. In addition, Council member Cusick has promised Council member Petronko that the parking areas of the junior baseball complex will also be paved this year. Thank you, Bob, for doing an outstanding job as the liaison to Public Works.

- No council member has the energy and enthusiasm of Raymond Petronko. Under Ray's leadership, every park in South Plainfield has been completely refurbished. Of course, the highlight of his tenure was the completion of the P.A.L. and senior rec center this year. But Ray isn't finished yet. The beautiful new jogging trail at Putnam Park will be enhanced this year with additional parking and bathroom facilities. Then a new soccer field will be installed. In addition, our community pool activities will be expanded to include miniature golf, and new programs will be added to the senior center. It's no wonder that South Plainfield is always complemented for its recreational programs for all age groups. Keep up the good work Raymond. You are a tremendous asset for the residents of our borough.

- Council President Jim Vokral has taken the lead on two crucial projects affecting the health and safety of our citizens. The manner in which Jim has dealt with the possible contamination at Veterans Park is a model of leadership. Within days of the receipt of the report, the park was properly secured and tests were conducted on all suspected locations of contamination. A meeting was arranged with the Department of Environmental Protection and a clean up plan is right now being reviewed by the D.E.P. The work will be completed by late spring. Before the end of summer, Veterans Park will once again be a beautiful and safe place for our children to play. In addition, our council president is coordinating the redevelopment of the Hamilton Blvd. Industrial Site at the intersection of the boulevard and New Market Ave. A redevelopment agency has already been formed and Jim will be meeting with Congressman Ferguson to expedite EPA review. Under Jim Vokral's leadership, the contaminated and unattractive site will be replaced with good clean uses within the next two years. Thank you, Jim, for your dedication to these projects and to the health, safety and welfare of our residents.

- Council member Dennis Cerami has become synonymous with public safety in South Plainfield. The members of our police department, fire department, rescue squad and emergency management department know that he will always work to give them what they need to do their jobs protecting the health and safety of our residents. In the wake of 9/11, we are fortunate to have someone like Dennis serving on the borough council. Over the last several years we have budgeted in excess of \$1 million dollars to purchase the necessary state-of-the-art equipment to keep our emergency services the best in New Jersey. This year our new emergency management command center will be completed and our police department will be equipped with a new state-of-the-art Computer Assisted Dispatch System. I was informed last Friday that the C.A.D. system will be paid for by a \$200,000 grant

received through the State Emergency Preparedness fund. Our Assemblyman, Patrick Diegnan, secured this grant on behalf of the borough. South Plainfield is fortunate to have one of our own serving in the state legislature. Thank you, Patrick, for your work on behalf of your home town and thank you Council member Cerami for working every day to keep South Plainfield a safe place to live and work and raise a family.

- The most thankless job goes to Council member Ed Kubala. As chairperson of Administration and Finance Committee, Ed is responsible for our borough's finances. His committee has worked to keep borough expenses flat over the last nine years, resulting in no municipal tax increase in three of the last five years. By now everyone knows that our economy is not in good shape. As a result of decreased tax receipts, our governor has already alerted municipalities that state aid will remain flat this year. I know under Ed's leadership we will be able to once again cut borough expenses. The particular challenge to this year's budget concerns increased pension costs and health insurance costs. Our Chief Financial Officer Glenn Cullen estimates that those costs will increase between \$750,000 and one million dollars this year. That equates to between six and nine tax points. This mayor and council are committed to continuing to keep taxes under control. Thank you, Ed, for your hard work in the past and I know that you will make the hard decisions which are necessary to continue to keep South Plainfield's municipal taxes one of the lowest in Middlesex County.

In 2001, this country was attacked for only the second time in our history. That tragic event forced us all to reexamine what we, as a people, are all about. In 2002 we gave the answer to the world and, more importantly, to each other. We are a strong and caring nation. We may on occasion bend, but we will never break. With that certainty in mind, let us all go forward and embrace the new year as another opportunity to do new and exciting things and renew our commitment to the principles upon which the United States of America was founded. As your mayor, and on behalf of your council, you have our word that we will work as hard as we can to keep South Plainfield a great borough.

Thank you for coming today and God's blessings to you and your families and God Bless America.

Republican Response to Mayor Gallagher's Annual Message

The beginning of a new year is a time for optimism. It's a time to reflect on the gains of the past and a time to envision what we can strive for in the days to come. It's a time to celebrate victories and learn from defeats.

Yet reality must temper optimism. In celebrating what is good, we must not lose sight of what needs mending. The South Plainfield Republicans join the Mayor and Council in celebrating all that makes South Plainfield a special place: its sense of community, its fine schools and its abundant tireless volunteers. South Plainfield has much to be proud of.

But at the same time, we should not overlook our challenges. The Republican Party serves a vital purpose in keeping a one-party Mayor and Council focused on serving the residents. We pledge to be vigilant in this endeavor. We must not overlook problems like overdevelopment, increasing traffic, mounting expenses and higher taxes. In their zeal to celebrate their victories, the Mayor and members of the

Council must not lose sight of these problems and the need to attend to them.

Overdevelopment is the single biggest problem we face. South Plainfield needs a plan to combat the building tidal wave that is engulfing our small community. We are not alone in facing this problem. Many suburban towns face a similar threat. Nevertheless, we need to recognize this crisis and take the needed steps to combat it.

Unfortunately, the Mayor and Council have not yet offered a plan to attack overdevelopment. Nor have they recognized that it is indeed a problem. The Republican Party calls upon them to present a plan to slow the Borough's expansion – not stop it, but slow it to a reasonable pace. To that end, we stand ready to assist, and we offer our support. For example, in last year's campaign the Republican candidates suggested a temporary moratorium on selling borough-owned land to builders. This is one way the Mayor and Council can slow growth, at least temporarily.

We need not sell big builders land upon which to build. If we do, it's akin to selling spray paint to a child and then complaining about the graffiti.

We also suggest that an ad-hoc committee – composed of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents – be formed to investigate other methods for slowing things down. We should look to other towns to see what's worked for them. In addition, bills in the Legislature would allow municipalities to enact timed-growth ordinances and assess impact fees on large developments. Of course, the big builders oppose these measures. We should be encouraging them, and if enacted, taking advantage of them.

Overdevelopment is the chief culprit for the problems we face. Yet it would be foolish to assume our other problems will vanish by simply getting a handle on the building boom after much of the damage is done. We need to face certain difficulties head on. For example, we need to work to solve the traffic tie-ups that choke our main ar-

teries. We should not be putting all our eggs in one basket (i.e., the Helen Street project) when that basket that won't even be weaved for at least three or four more years. Residents, like those living on or near Maple Avenue, Durham Avenue, and Hamilton Boulevard, face these problems today, and we need to act with a sense of urgency.

In the same vein, we need to look at the budget and the services we provide our residents. Have our attempts to shift responsibilities to the County and independent contractors yielded the results we'd hoped for? Is contracting with an engineering firm saving us money or should we go back to having a borough engineer? Are we providing the right staffing and equipment to our public works department? Is it properly equipped to handle services like snow plowing and leaf collection? As the town grows, is there a need for more police on the streets to fight crime? If not, what can be done to make South Plainfield safer? Can we cut overhead at Borough Hall by com-

binning or eliminating unnecessary administrative positions? What can be done to accelerate the remediation of Veterans' Park? The Mayor's address lacks answers to many of these questions.

Republicans, just like Democrats, don't have all the answers. But we hope the Mayor and Council will not ignore our ideas, critiques, and suggestions just because they come from the opposition party. Remember, both parties seek to build a better South Plainfield.

In closing, the South Plainfield Republican Party pledges to support our Mayor and Council when they are right and to staunchly oppose them when they are wrong. We will do our best to keep the absolute power of the Democratic Party in check and will continually remind them they serve the residents of South Plainfield first and foremost. We hope that by serving as watchdogs we can challenge the Mayor and Council to better serve us all. These are our goals for 2003.

Sports

WRESTLING

By Bob Hunter

Middle School Wrestlers 11-0

The South Plainfield Middle School wrestling team is now 11-0 on the season after posting two big wins over league rivals North Warren 66-24 and Voorhees 46-27 at a tri match on Saturday at the PAL.

In the Voorhees match, the Tigers got going when Robert Gentile won a 4-0 decision over Mike Hafke. Patrick Hunter posted a big win when he pinned state place winner, Chris Bisbee at 4:10. Billy Ashnault followed with a major decision over Chad Mazurek. Bryan Hunt also won by decision over Henry Knabe. Danny Pompillio followed with a fall over Nick Myers at 1:30. Nick Dorey scored a major decision over Charlie Wascavage. Mike Jakubik waste little time pinning Dusrin Fletcher at 0:46. Mark Wagner followed with a fifty second pin over Fred Risen. Sam Martin won by fall over Greg Durrea at 3:20. Travis Noll, who continues to improve, won a tough 4-1 decision over Travis Hoffman. Also wrestling where An Vo, Brad Marin, Swadik Pathlic and Rocco Petriello.

In the North Warren match the Tigers picked up where they left off. After Robert Gentile won by forfeit, Patrick Hunter followed with a fall over Corey Jensen at 0:55. An Vo then pinned Mike Dilley in thirty two seconds. Billy Ashnault kept things going with another pin over Brant Simmons at 1:41. Bryan Hunt also won by fall over Brandon Kroehlich at 0:40. Nick Dorey faced Luke Stefanacci and won by fall at 1:29. Mike Jakubik took early control and then pinned Dan Lasso at 1:33. Mark Wagner followed with a pin

over Kyle Lurz at 1:39. Sam Martin had the quickest fall of the day when he pinned Frank Fox in 27 seconds. Travis Noll kept his win streak going when he pinned Mike Suk at 1:17. Rocco Petriello closed the scoring with a fall over Mike Whitehead at 2:34. Also wrestling where Danny Pompillio, Brad Martin, Swadik Pathlic. South Plainfield forfeited the heavyweight match.

In Other League Action

The Tigers beat Watchung 59-10 and Randolph 61-24 and Bridgewater 66-6.

In the Watchung match, winning for the Tigers were, Patrick Hunter by fall, Billy Ashnault by fall, Bryon Hunt by fall, Danny Pompillio by fall, Mike Jakubik by decision 10-8, Brad Martin decision 3-2, Sam Martin by fall and Travis Noll by fall. Winning by forfeit was Robert Gentile.

Winning matches in Randolph were Robert Gentile by forfeit, Patrick Hunter by fall, Billy Ashnault by fall, Bryan Hunt by forfeit, Danny Pompillio by forfeit, Nick Dorey major decision 11-0, Mike Jakubik by fall, Mark Wagner by forfeit, Brad Martin by decision 8-1, Sam Martin by forfeit and Travis Noll by fall.

Winners in Bridgewater were, Patrick Hunter by fall, Nick Vetusch by forfeit, Billy Ashnault by fall, Bryan Hunt and Danny Pompillio by forfeit, Nick Dorey major decision 11-1, Mike Jakubik by forfeit, Mark Wagner by decision 4-3, Sam Martin by fall and Travis Noll by tech fall 15-0.

Rec Wrestlers Open Season With A Win

The South Plainfield Recreation wrestling team opened there 2002-2003 season with a big win over league rival North Hunterdon 41-22. The Junior Tigers are the four time defending Central Jersey Midget Wrestling League and Tournament champions and looked good in the opener.

Anthony Ashnault wasted little time scoring a fall at 0:39 over Shane Brown to give the Tigers an early lead, but the Tigers loss the next three matches and trailed 10-6 going into the 63 pound match, when Jeffrey Conroy won a 3-0 decision over Tyler Vitelli. Ryan Sacco, followed with a 5-0 decision over Kyle Wall to regain the lead.

Randy Jakubik came thru with a big pin at 1:46 over Russell Parsons and Nick Heilmann followed with a 41-second pin of Pat Boyle to give the Tigers a 14 point lead. But North Hunterdon came right back winning the next two matches to cut the lead to eight. Then came John Wylam, who got the Tigers on the winning track with a 4-2 decision over Zach Fisher. Mike Wagner added to the Tiger lead with a 8-5 decision over Brian Wall. Justin Smith, wrestling in his first varsity match came through with a big pin at 1:14. Nick Vallone went right to work scoring a tech fall 1:26 over Paul Ragsdale 15-0. Also wrestling were Joe Jakubik, Scott Whalen, Tyler Hunt, Corey Hey and Kyle Hughes.

Tigers Win Big At Kittatiny

South Plainfield wrestlers traveled to Kittatiny this past weekend and came home with five individual champions and four second place finishes. The Tigers with twenty seven wrestlers entered came home with sixteen place winners.

Anthony Ashnault Bantam got the Tigers rolling claiming the first title of the day when he pinned Curtis Hewitt of Red Hawk in the second period. Mike Wagner kept things going when he scored a tech fall 16-0 over Andrew Wilson of Hampton.

Patrick Hunter claimed the third title of the day when he won a major decision 9-0 over Nick Pastore of Hopatcong. Danny Pompillio won his title defeating fellow team mate Nick Vallone by decision 8-2 for the fourth title of the day. Billy Ashnault ended the title run when he won a 7-0 decision over Paul Grogan of Lenape.

Finishing in second place were Tyler Hunt, Corey Hay, Nick Vallone and Mike Jakubik. Third place winners were Nick Heilmann, Nick Dorey, Mark Wagne. Fourth place went to Troy Heilmann, Nick Pauls, Jonathan Conroy Midget and Brad Martin. Also winning matches, but not placing were Jeff Conroy, Dylan Dorey, Kevin Smith, Ryan Sacco, Richie Szeliga, Nick Vetusch, Jake Smithline, Justin Smith, Robert Gentile, Bryan Hunt, Sam Martin and Umir Cayli.

Morris Knolls Championship

The South Plainfield High School varsity wrestling team opened their season with an impressive showing at the Morris Knolls Tournament defending their title with a 173½ points to second place Morris Knolls 161. Montville was third with 107 and Cherry Hill West fourth

with 104½. The Tigers claimed six individual titles, two third place finishes and one fourth place finish.

Freshmen Jim Conroy 103, got the Tigers going in the championship round when he scored a tech fall over Craig Silverstein of Cherry Hill West, 19-2. The next Tiger title came at 152 when Guy Severini won a 5-4 decision over Keith Deter of Morris Knolls. Senior Glen Gross 160 followed with a 6-1 decision over Steve Senichka of Morris Knolls for the third title of the day. Steve Johnston 171, continued the run with a fall over Mike Caruso of Cherry Hill West at 1:40 for the fourth title of the day. Joe DeBiase 189, kept things moving when he pinned Mike Curley of Morris Hills at 1:52. Heavyweight Ryan Elliott pinned Vinnie Lusardi of Morris Hills at 1:56 to close the tournament and securing the team victory. Finishing in third place were Peter DeAndrea 135, with a 7-3 decision over Cory Quinn of Wallkill Valley 7-3 and Rob Maistickle 215, pinned Kelvin Figueroa of Morris Hills at 1:24. Viet Vo 112, finished in fourth place.

Tournament News

In recent tournament competition, South Plainfield wrestlers made their mark at the Monroe Twp. Holiday Wrestling Tournament in Williams-town, NJ. Tiger wrestlers had 10 wrestlers competing in three divisions.

In the Bantam division Anthony Ashnault, got the ball rolling when he won his opening match by tech fall 15-0. In his semi final match, Ashnault won by fall and claimed the first championship of the day winning by decision 6-0.

In the Junior division, Ryan Sacco won his opening match by fall and won his semi final match by decision 6-1. In the finals Sacco scored an escape in the second period and held on for a 1-0 decision for the second title of the day. Nick Heilmann won his semi-fi-

Continued on page 10

Kasza Memorial Tournament Results

Tiger wrestlers traveled to Belvidere for the annual Kasza Memorial Wrestling Tournament, winning five medals with seven wrestlers competing. Winning titles for South Plainfield were Anthony Ashnault, who won his first three matches to reach the finals and won by decision. Scott Whalen won his first three matches, two by fall and his final by decision. He was named

Most Outstanding Wrestler for the tournament. Ryan Billich had a great tournament, winning his first two matches by major decision 14-1 and 14-3.

In the finals, Billich dropped a close 6-3 decision for second place. Fourth place went to Kyle Brady and Stephen Petriello. Also winning matches but not placing where Ryan Sacco and Jeffrey Conroy.

Livingston Tournament Results

Recreations wrestlers did a nice job at the Livingston Tournament capturing two titles and five overall medals. This was a qualifying tournament for the Tournament of Champions which will be held in Ohio later in the year. Qualifying in the Junior division was Nick Heilmann with a first place finish. He defeated Andrew Kratsch of West Caldwell by fall at 2:25. Corey Hay defeated fellow teammate Kyle Hughes in the consolation finals by fall 1:45 for third place with Hughes finishing in fourth place. In the Novice division Bobby Kolvites won his first two matches by fall but lost a tough 7-6 decision to Jan Rosenberg of Denville for second place. Richie Szeliga had a great tournament winning his first two matches by major decision and his fi-

nal by decision 9-4 over Derek Musciano of Boonton Twp. Also winning matches but not placing where Kyle Brady, Andrew Sanchez, Scott Whalen, Corey Stasenko, Stephen Petriello and Mike Wagner.

High School Tigers Crown Two Champions at Red Devil Classic

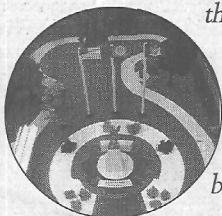
The High School Wrestling Team competed at the Red Devil Classic wrestling tournament and came home with two individual champions and three third place winners.

Claiming titles for South Plainfield were Senior Co-Captain Glenn Gross, and Junior Heavyweight Ryan Elliot.

Gross won his title by major decision over Anthony Pentoriero of Toms River East. Ryan Elliot won his title by decision over Matt Lamela of Old Bridge. Placing third for the Tigers where Jim Conroy, Guy Severini and Rob Maistickle. Steve Johnston finished in fourth place.

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Sports

Preview

High School Sports by Tim Morgan



Boys' and Girls' Varsity Bowling

Hello to all Observer readers. I am currently on winter break from St. Thomas Aquinas College, having just completed my first semester. As I did in the fall, I will submit write-ups of the season's sports. I will try to be as in depth, objective, and accurate as possible. I have a great appreciation for all sports, because I believe that they are motivating, character-building, challenging, and enjoyable. I hope that you all take interest in and enjoy reading my articles.

Both the South Plainfield High School Boys' and Girls' Varsity Bowling Teams encountered an unexpected obstacle when North Brunswick failed to submit their application for participation in this and next season. In doing so, the division status of some teams in the GMC was compromised. There are normally three divisions (Red, White, and Blue), each with seven teams. The absence of North Brunswick caused the Blue Division to be eliminated (thus bumping up the tally to ten teams per division) and the formerly White Division South Plainfield teams to be moved into the more demanding Red Division, which has considerable depth.

With a current record of 0-11, the boys are struggling with the move to the more competitive Red Division. 29th year Head Coach Ralph Fech called this season "unusual." By any standard, a winless record for the SPSHS Boys Varsity Bowling Team is a deviation from the normal. It also does not accurately reflect the current talent, especially considering that their five man Varsity average has improved roughly 100 pins since last season (that season ended in a 6-13-2 record).

One thing you can credit Coach Fech with is being optimistic. "I'm not complaining," he said, referring to the move. The team has nothing to lose, according to Fech, who also said, "We're going for the upset." He added, "The pressure is on the other team (to win)."

The girls are holding their own and are faring better with a 6-4-1 current record. They are about on track with last year, when they posted a 15-8 record. They have also improved their five person Varsity average, by roughly 75 pins. Fech said that their team goal was "to be competitive in our division." He noted that winning the divi-

sion would be rather tough, but they hope to do well in upcoming tournaments.

Both teams are young and hopeful. Neither suffered any key losses from last year.

To offer a quick explanation of scoring in high school competition for the game of bowling, six are played in each game, and the lowest score is dropped. Three games are played, and substitutes (essentially, the sixth bowler) are allowed to be switched each game. The collective score for each team per game and the total team score at the end of the three games are each worth one point. The team with more points wins or a tie can result.

The starting boys' team is comprised entirely of sophomores, ensuring further improvement for the next few seasons. The top five are Matt Boley, Shawn Ferguson, Jon Jeglinski, George Kleinknecht, and Nick Grego. Seniors Anthony Ingerto and newcomer Mike Espin and freshman Matt Zebrowski are the most reliable substitutes.

On the girls' side, junior Vicki Boley leads the pack, with seniors Meredith Cooper and Alexis Montanaro, sophomore Kim Gaub (last year's Rookie of the Year), and freshman Beverly Jamieson rounding out the top five. Sophomore Shannen Rivers and freshmen Angelique Rualo and Lindsay Hunsicker lend solid support as the substitutes.

Vicki and Matt Boley were both the MVPs last year and had banner seasons. Vicki averaged 184 per game, placed sixth in the State Finals, and was an All GMC Team selection last year. Matt averaged 200 per game as a freshman (an SPSHS school record) and was also an All GMC Team selection last year. The two have already had considerable achievement and make for a potent sibling combination for South Plainfield Varsity Bowling. Matt was also the Rookie of the Year last year.

Woodbridge and Edison are the teams to beat in both boys' and girls' competition. They are top ranked both at the GMC and state level. East Brunswick and South Brunswick will also pose a threat to the Tigers.

Coming up for the Tigers are the GMC Individuals, the GMC Playoffs, the Joe Romer Memorial Tournament

XXVII, the prestigious Central Jersey Winter Classic XXII (which they will host), the Lakewood Scotch Doubles Tournament (in which a male will be paired with a female for competition), the State Sectionals, and the States Finals (if any individuals advance from the Sectionals). All matches are held at Carolier Lanes.

Coach Fech said, "Both teams have definitely improved, and it will show in the playoffs." He emphasizes this because the total pins factor does not come into play for scoring in playoff competition, which is usually an area of weakness for the Tigers. The first team to win two games (out of the three) will win. Coach Fech believes that the Any Given Sunday philosophy for football will apply to bowling in the finals, saying, "We're eager to knock off the top seeds." In relevance to this, he commented that both the boys and girls have significantly improved in scoring average per game.

Fech believes that Matt, Vicki, and Kim all have a chance to qualify for the State Finals and can do some damage in the GMC Individuals.

Admittedly, bowling is not a renowned or hugely popular sport in high school competition, but it is a sport. There are bowlers as passionate about bowling just as athletes are with other sports. And Mr. Fech is certainly a fervent coach. Perhaps the lack of attention the bowlers get only makes them more determined. However, that lack of coverage will not come from this writer. Their competition is a lot tougher than last year and regardless of circumstances, the Tigers will keep shooting for their strikes and spares.

BOWLING

Girl Bowlers Rolling at 6-4-1 Pace

SPHS 635-619-705-1959
Edison 861-845-860-2566

The Tigers, who bowled Edison tough in an earlier season matchup, were never in contention this time around. The Eagles easily swept all three games and posted a 4-0 shutout. Sophomore Kim Gaub led the green and white with games of 160-170 and 474 set. Freshman Lindsay Hunsicker rolled a 179 game. Vicki Boley and Beverly Jamieson were missing from the Tiger lineup due to illness.

SPHS 844-810-749-2403
New Brunswick 364-442-446-1252

The Tigers were running on all cylinders in spite of Vicki Boley who was still sidelined.

Kim Gaub stroked games of 190-175-169 for a high 534 set and teammate Alexis Montanaro posted games of 178 and 177.

Chipping in were a trio of Freshman; Beverly Jamieson 177, Lindsay Hunsicker 150-167 and Angelique Rualo 160.

Boys Fall to Edison & New Brunswick

SPHS 906-894-902-2712
Edison 1068-1045-989-3102

The Boys Bowling team bowled well, averaging over 180 per man, but were no match for the hot shooting Edison squad. The Eagles were sizzling as they averaged 207 per man for the fifteen games which compromised the match. Sophomore Matt Boley rolled 224-193-185 for a 602 set to lead the Tigers. Chipping in were Sophomore Shawn Ferguson 206, sophomore Jon Jeglinski a solid 535 set, Mike Espin 179, Nick Grego 174 and freshman Matt Zebrowski who cracked the starting lineup games of 185-167-186 for a 538 set.

SPHS 548-571-647-1766
New Brunswick 716-660-622-1998

With the Tigers looking for their first victory of the season against newcomer New Brunswick, it just wasn't meant to be as the Tiger team was decimated by illness. The Tigers lost the heart of their lineup to a stomach virus and a school related shop mishap which kept six bowlers from playing.

The only bright spot for SP in the match was Shawn Ferguson who fired games of 163-203-193 for a 559 set as the Tigers were forced to play the match with one player short.

By Kevin Lykes

juniorbaseballclubnotes

Winter Registration Jan. 16-18

Our next formal registration period will be held Thursday and Friday, Jan. 16-17 from 6 to 9 p.m. Also Saturday, Jan. 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the clubhouse on Kenneth Ave.

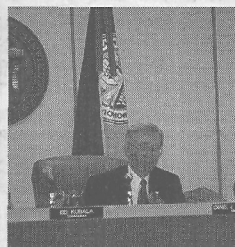
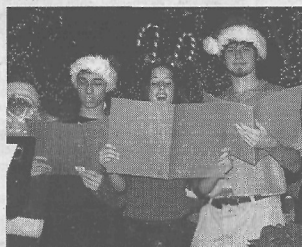
Winter rates are now in effect; \$95 for a single player; \$125 for two players; \$145 for three or more players. Birth certificates are required for all players new to this league.

Registrations are also being accepted by mail through Jan. 31. 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.P.J.B.C., PO Box 166, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

NOTE-some problems have been experienced trying to access the registration form. It is important to include the "www" portion of the address when you log on. This will most likely be our last scheduled registration for the 2003 season. After Jan. 31, a flat \$100 late registration fee will be in effect and all multiple player discounts will expire, so please come out and register now for the upcoming season.

All those interested in becoming umpires or coaches can sign up at this registration as well. Potential managers and coaches should consider attending our monthly meetings held on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. Attendance and involvement in club activities is a consideration when selecting coaches and managers.

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Wrestling Tournament Results

Continued from page 8

nal match by fall and in the final's Heilmann lost a tough 4-1 decision for second place.

Patrick Hunter won his opening match by major decision 8-0 and his semi-final match by major decision 12-0. In the finals with the score tied 2-2 at the end of the match, Hunter went on to win the match in double overtime by a ride-out for the third title of the day.

In the Intermediate division Billy Ashnault won his semi-final match by

fall. In the finals Ashnault lost a tough hard fought overtime decision to Bobby Shea of Buena 5-3 for second place. Bryan Hunt won his semi final match by fall and won the fourth title of the day with another fall. Mike Jakubik won his opening match by decision and his semi final match in overtime 7-5. In the finals Jakubik won a 7-1 decision over Anthony Smith of Buena for the fifth title of the day. Sam Martin won his semi final match by decision 5-0.

In the final Martin won on the at-

tack scoring five quick points before pinning Jeff Walton of Voorhees Twp. for the sixth and final title of the day. Also winning matches but not placing were Jake Smithline and Mark Wagner.

At the Upper Township Annual Holiday Tournament in Tuckahoe, Scott Whalen, Midget division took home first place honors winning four matches by tech fall 21-4 by decision 8-4 and a close 6-4 decision in the semi finals.

In the finals Whalen won by fall over Jason Reed of Washington Twp.

Middle School Wrestlers Defeat Rahway and Belvidere

Middle School wrestling team continued their winning ways by posting two wins in league action with wins over Rahway 66-24 and Belvidere 72-12. In the Rahway match Robert Gentile got the Tigers going with a fall 1:41. Patrick Hunter wasted little time scoring the fall at 0:21. Billy Ashnault took his down straight his back and scored the fall in 14 seconds. Bryan Hunt won by fall at 1:22. Danny Pompilio also won by fall at 0:45.

Nick Dorey won by fall 0:24 as did Mike Jakubik in 0:24. Mark Wagner took early control before scoring the fall at 1:10. Brad Martin countered a headlock and pinned at 1:28. Sam Martin not to out done by his brother Brad pinned his man in 0:51. Rocco Petriello closed the scoring with a fall at 0:38. Also wrestling were Nick Vetuschi, Travis Noll and Mike Dandola Heavyweight.

In the Belvidere match the Tigers

wasted little time with Nick Pauls scoring a first period fall. Robert Gentile won major decision 12-1. Patrick Hunter won by fall at 0:51. Nick Vetuschi also won by fall at 3:02. Billy Ashnault pinned his man at 0:42. Bryan Hunt won by major decision 11-0. Nick Vallone won by fall at 0:41. Nick Dorey and Mike Jakubik won by forfeit. Mark Wagner won by decision 6-0. Brad Martin, Sam Martin and Mike Dandola heavyweight all won by forfeit.



Plainfield Animal Hospital's Pet Food Drive Huge Success

The Plainfield Animal Hospital collected hundreds of pounds of food and various toys and pet related items during their annual holiday needy pet food drive.

Pictured above is Dr. Scott Linick, hospital director and Diane Kiesel, a

volunteer and director of People For Animals. Scott and Karen Linick and the employees of the Plainfield Animal Hospital would like to thank their of our clients and friends for their very generous donations, making this years drive a huge success.

Obituaries

Thomas W. Pierce, 75

Thomas W. Pierce died on Tuesday, Dec. 31 in the Haven Hospice at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

He was born in Newark, where he grew up and had lived in various of sections of the city. He moved to South Plainfield 31 years ago.

A Navy veteran of WWII, he had been assigned to the Seabees and was attached to the 20th Battalion Company "A" and had seen battle action with his unit in the Battle of Okinawa.

Tom worked as a steamfitter for the Housing Authority for the City of Newark for 25 years, before he retired 20 years ago.

His passion was photography and along with his wife, had displayed his works at various exhibitions in the Union and Middlesex County Areas.

He was a member of the Steam Fitters Local 475 of Warren and a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield.

A loving husband, father and grandfather, he is survived by his wife of 54 years, Virginia "Ginger" Pierce; two daughters, Virginia M. Pierce of Scottsdale, Arizona and Jennifer Donohue and her husband, Scott, of Carlsband, Calif.; three sons and daughters-in-law, Thomas J. and Laurie Pierce of Belle Meade, Robert C. and Elaine Pierce of Byram Twp. and John H. and Renee Pierce of Mesa, Arizona; two sisters, Carol Danker of Colonia and Judy Ciesla of Orlando, Fla. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that memorial donations be made to a Disabled American Veterans Chapter.

Walter A. Brophy, 86

Walter A. Brophy of South Plainfield died on Thursday, Jan. 2, at Hartwick Nursing Home in Plainfield.

He was born in Trenton and was a former resident of East Orange before moving to South Plainfield 45 years ago.

Walter was a purchasing agent for the P. Balantine Brewery in Newark for 25 years, before retiring in 1972.

Walter especially enjoyed his stamp and coin collection. He collected and traded stamps and coins for many years.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Elizabeth Ruykowski Brophy, who died in 1998.

He is survived by two sisters-in-law, Rosemary Brodde of Florham Park and Jean Rutledge of Green Brook and several nieces and nephews.

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

Frances (Bjorklund) Huffsmith, 78

Frances (Bjorklund) Huffsmith died on Friday, Jan. 3 at the Haven Hospice in JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in New York, Frances had lived in various areas of Warren and Watchung before moving to South Plainfield 58 years ago where she made a home for her family. She was a mem-

ber of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Plainfield.

Her husband, Roy A. Huffsmith, died in 1998.

Surviving are her daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Dave Bickunas of South Plainfield; her son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Mary Huffsmith of South Plainfield and her son, Roy A. Huffsmith of Strattington, Pa. Also surviving are her sister, Dorothy Schroeder of No. Carolina and her brother Rudolph Bjorklund of Fla. She is also survived by her five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the American Cancer Society would be appreciated.

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey on **JANUARY 22, 2003 at 10:00AM** prevailing time in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at which time and place bids will be opened and read in public for

5-7 YARD DUMP TRUCK WITH SALTER AND PLOW

Specifications and other bid information may be obtained at the Municipal Clerk's office in the municipal building at the above address, during regular business hours 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Only bidders who have picked up specifications will be allowed to submit bids. All bids must be submitted on the Proposal Forms furnished by the Borough. A bid bond in the form of a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond payable to the **BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD** in the amount equal to 10% of the highest bid amount, including alternates, if any, but not to exceed \$20,000 and a duly executed Consent of Surety. Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c.127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq.), the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11 56.25, Employment on Public Works N.J.S.A. 10:2 EOE, ADA.

Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk

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January 10, 2003

LEGAL NOTICE

I, Mrs. Jashandeep Kaur Jawandha, D.O.B. 16th April, 1972, d/o of Dr. Harjit Singh and Manjit Kaur, an Indian National presently residing at 366 Arlene Street, Staten Island, NY 10314, have changed my name to Jashandeep Kaur, subject to approval of the Indian Embassy at U.S.A.

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BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

An appeal has been filed by JWV, Inc., 219 Scotland Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ, requesting a use variance and other variances as may be required from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a retail establishment of approximately 15,500 sq. ft. The premises is located in the R-10 Zone, adjacent to an existing retail/commercial building. The applicant is also seeking site plan approval. Said property being located on Block 78, Lot 4 on the tax map of the Borough of South Plainfield.

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, Jan. 23, 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 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

David Weinberg
Attorney for Applicant

\$35.00

January 10, 2003

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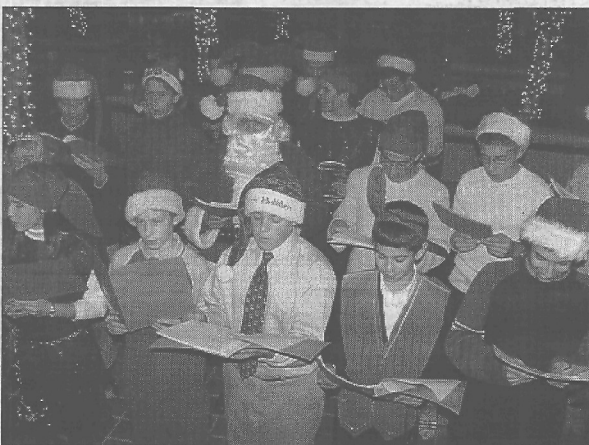
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An annual tubafest on Rockefeller Center ice rink is held every December in NYC. With host to somewhere over 400 tuba and baritone players, audiences listened to warm sounds of Christmas tunes played by a large group of musicians. This past Dec. 8 was the 29th year of Tubafest. Five students from South Plainfield attended: Adam Toth, Wajdi Kanj, Wael Kanj, Danny Sierzega and Jordan Lynch. There were between 400 and 500 low brass players in total this year. The ages ranged from nine years all the way up to 83.

Summer Drama Youth Perform at Menlo Park



Story/photo by Patricia Abbott

In the weeks leading up to the holidays, South Plainfield Summer

Drama Workshop (SDW) participated in Menlo Park Mall's Evening of Giving. Dressed in festive holiday clothes and ready to entertain, fifty

students of the youth theater program gathered in a raised area of the food court.

Under the direction of Summer Drama Production Board member Lory Alcaro, they performed an original skit and sang holiday songs to an appreciative audience of shoppers and family members.

The annual fundraiser event, which helps both Middlesex County non-profit organizations and the mall's Simon Foundation, offered an evening of fun and sales for ticketholders only. A portion of each ticket sale by the group went to the Simon Foundation; the majority of the funds went to Summer Drama Workshop. A smaller group of students returned to the mall the following week to entertain once again. This event marked SDW's third year participating in the Evening of Giving.

A Slice of American Pie

(Continued from page 1)

his family. He rented, then later purchased the theater. The business was not a novelty for the DeSabato children, it was a means of living. Chores extended to maintaining the theater.

Josephine, second youngest of the four DeSabato children, recalls how the owner of the Dunellen Theater helped get her father started—teaching him the ropes, where to go in New York City to get the films, and other details necessary to run a successful movie theater. While unsure of her correct name, she believes it was a Mr. Fervente. One of her earliest memories is of a piano that sat near the screen. The piano once supplied the only sound in the heyday of the theater.

The Park was a 'second run' theater, films arrived after they had finished playing in Plainfield. The financially strapped residents were patient and waited for the movies to come to South Plainfield. Ticket prices were 25 and 50 cents. During World War II special news reels played before the cartoons and main feature. Josephine recalls mail from the war front was slow to reach the states and the reels brought in people looking for the faces of family and friends.

Remembering the layout of the theater Joanne said, "The ticket booth was outside on the left facing the front of the theater. Inside the lobby was the

candy booth on the right lengthwise. They sold Cracker Jacks, M&M's, 3 Musketeers and Mars Bars. The ticket taker stood in the center just before the doors into the main section to view the movie. A narrow set went to the projection booth while. A larger set led to a dress maker shop upstairs. The first movies I can remember were produced by Walt Disney—Cinderella, Snow White. I also remember Judy Garland and Andy Rooney, *Two Coins in a Fountain*, and a re-release of *The Wizard of Oz*." Joanne occasionally watched the films from the projection booth and remembers a lot of lights, switches and wheels as the projectionist threaded the film. She added that back then there was no balcony in the theater.

Her other memories include a special Christmas showing that was sponsored by the VFW. The 430 seat theater filled to capacity to enjoy a free movie and a visit from Santa Claus played by then police Captain Dominic Spinelli.

In the late 1950's DeSabato sold the business to Abe Fein, who continued to operate the theater for several years. Over time, the former theater housed several businesses. The most well-known was Pik-A-Toy, a wholesale party supply store. The theater briefly held, a cross-stitch business and was home to an antique business for a short time before Sportworld became the proud

new tenants.

The sloped floors and screen are gone, as is the marquee, yet there is no mistaking the building as a former theater. The busy sporting goods store has settled into an 80-year-old building, serving the community in much the way the old Park Theater did so many years ago.

Note: The details in this story are fragments of memories shared by South Plainfield residents seeking to unveil the history of the Park Theater. Anyone with accurate dates and/or other information is welcome to send it to the Observer.

DeSabatos Need Your Help!

When the cross stitch business moved into the site of the theater, Joanne's uncle, William DeSabato loaned the owners several old photographs depicting the building when it was an operational theater. Unfortunately, these family heirloom, one-of-a-kind photos were among the contents of the building, which were confiscated by the government, when the theater was closed. The family is eager to have them returned and is seeking any information residents may have regarding location of the photos.

Liquid Assets' Famous Ghosts Goes International

By Jane Dornick

Since our last reporting on South Plainfield's "ghost" in November, South Plainfield's infamous invisible residents have sparked a frenzy in the national and international news media. The ghost-like video images, witness testimony and psychic interpretation have put our small town on the map, or should we say globe.

Articles about the "extra assets" at the gentlemen's club Liquid Assets on New Market Ave. have appeared in *The Star Ledger*, and even a front page exposé in the *Courier News*. *The New York Post* picked up the story, which was also discussed and joked about on many local radio stations on the morning the article hit the newsstands. The Fox News Channel whisked club owner John Colasanti and psychic Jane Doherty off by limousine to their studio in New York to do an interview for a live afternoon broadcast.

After reading the article in *The New York Post*, a German news correspondent from PR07 TV in Munich paid a visit to the club. He filmed an interview for a segment on a prime-time TV magazine show in Europe called "TAFF."

And yes, believe or not, London based Reuters Media, the world's largest news and television agency, sent out two freelance journalists to do a story on the ghosts. Reuters distributes their

stories to major news agencies on six continents.

The ghosts still remain active. In December a new image of streaking light was captured on a motion sensitive video camera inside the bar after hours and another "blob" was seen early last Friday morning.

Doherty also spent another night in the bar last month trying to conjure up more information about the ghostly inhabitants she is up against before she holds another seance. With her son armed with a video camera, and DJ Sergio on hand, they were all locked inside after closing until morning. According to Doherty, since it was a rainy night, the spirits didn't come through as readily. However, they did record a door slamming when no doors were left open. She was able to make some contact with the spirits and felt as if several hands were running their fingers through her hair.

For those women interested in meeting Doherty and taking one of her ghost tours, she will make a special appearance at the club for a "ladies night" with male dancers on Jan. 17 from 8-10 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Don't miss this opportunity to see for yourself what everyone is talking about. Just watching Doherty's stomach go in and out when she senses a ghost presence is enough to make you believe!

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