

South Plainfield Observer

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VOL. 6, NO. 20

50 CENTS

JANUARY 17, 2003

School Fire Sends Students, Teacher To the Hospital

By Patricia Abbott

A science experiment, involving adding sodium to water, went haywire last week at South Plainfield High School, and sent sparks flying into a nearby trash can setting off an unfortunate chain of events. The anticipated result of the experiment was sparks, however, the resulting flames were not part of the lesson plan.

Quick thinking by Science teacher Gene Kearns averted what could have become a more serious situation. He attempted to extinguish the fire by stomping on the flames in the can. An ignited paper towel escaped and landed on the floor. A dry chemical extinguisher was used, but the fire alarm was triggered and the building evacuated.

The incident occurred at 12:15 p.m. The 12:20 alarm brought the South Plainfield Fire Department, Rescue Squad, Mike Zushma from the Office of Emergency Management, as well as Mayor Gallagher and Councilman Cerami. The rescue squad quickly evaluated students who were present during the fire. Several students complained of headache and eye irritations, which were possibly caused by chemicals in the fire extinguisher.

Squad Captain Ron Sward declared a "Mass Casualty Incident" and began a triage, which was set up in the art room. Responding to the squad's call for help were three units from Edison, two from Plainfield and one unit from Muhlenburg's Regional Medical Center Mobile Intensive Care. Of the 25

people who were examined, 17 were transported to area hospitals. Kearns and nine students were sent to Muhlenburg in Plainfield. Seven others went to John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison. At the hospitals, students who were all accompanied by school personnel, were showered, treated, and all were released by 4:45 p.m., including Kearns.

The fire department cleared the students' return to the building at 12:45. The second floor hallway of the school where the fire occurred was ventilated, but remained closed until the following day. Second floor classes were directed to the media center and the back of the auditorium.

High School Principal Tony Masaro was pleased with the fast and efficient response of school personnel as they followed directives in their Crisis Management Handbook. He was extremely pleased by the quick and efficient response by fire, police and rescue squad personnel.

Rescue Squad Captain Sward said, "The annual MCI drill conducted at the high school just a few months ago was extremely useful. Large scale incidents are not common, but are always practiced in the event something like this does occur."



Police Chief Bob Merkler, left, and Mayor Dan Gallagher, right, with Police Officer John McConville, center, who will be going to Kuwait.

Local Police Officer's Marine Unit Called to Duty; Heading to Kuwait

Police Officer John McConville, a seven year veteran on the South Plainfield Police Department will be heading to Kuwait in the next few days. McConville has been in the Marines since 1988. He was in the Marines on active duty until 1992 and since then served in the reserves.

During his years in the Marines he served in the Gulf War in the artillery division and was awarded the South-west Asian Ribbon, Combat Action

Ribbon and Kuwait Liberation Medal.

McConville said he wasn't surprised when he was called up. The tensions with Iraq are well publicized and continuing to escalate; most reserve units have already been called up. He will be spending the next two weeks in Red Bank and then ship out to California for training and then onto Kuwait. He is unsure of how long he will be there.

Chief Merkler said his position on

the police force will remain open until he returns. It is treated as a leave of absence. McConville has received many commendations as a South Plainfield Police Officer. His brother, James, is also a South Plainfield Police Officer.

When McConville's departure was announced, Mayor Dan Gallagher and all of the members of the council wished him well and to stay safe and return as soon as possible.

House Decorating Contestants Receive Awards

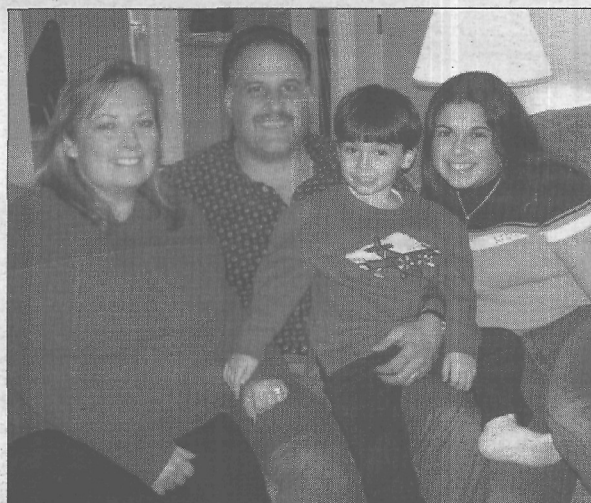
The winners of the *Observer's* first Holiday House Decorating Contest have been awarded their prizes. Greg and Sheryl Lampasona of 149 Day St. won a \$50 gift certificate to Sport-

world, a year's subscription to the *Observer* and a book on the history of South Plainfield.

All three runners up, Pat and Al Stilo-Mitchell of Ritter Ave., Cindy and Butch Piazza of Maple Ave. and Ann and Dominic Demico of Norwood Ave. will receive a year's subscription to the *Observer* and the South Plainfield history book.

We would like to thank all who participated in the contest. Also thanks to the judges who helped make the difficult choice of picking a winner; it was no easy task. The judges were Lynn Sward, Matthew Sward, Carol Grenier and Sue Kaneps. For those of you who didn't enter (we saw a lot of beautiful homes that didn't), we encourage you to enter next year. Only those who entered were judged.

The Lampasonas say they started decorating their home in 1979 while they were still living in Iselin, using cartoon characters as their theme. When they moved to South Plainfield 16 years ago, they just continued with the same theme, adding characters during the years. The Lampasonas say the tradition of decorating the house is in the family. Greg says his inspiration came from his father-in-law, Richard, who



House Decorating Contest winners Sheryl, Greg, Michael and Gina Lampasona.

lives in Iselin and has won numerous trophies and awards in Iselin's house decorating contests.

Greg says he loves the holidays and enjoys decorating and tries to add something new every few years. Cartoon characters, such as Snoopy, Garfield and Rugrats fill the lawn. On the

porch sits a doll house, complete with a tree and lights. On the roof "Merry Christmas" is spelled out in lights.

The Lampasonas have two children, Michael, a Future Stars student and Gina, who attends the Middle School. Gina already helps out with the decorating and Michael will soon be doing the same.

Former Science Teacher Dies



Ellis Williams

Ellis Downing Williams, 97 died on Jan. 8.

Williams taught math and science grades seven through 12 in Clarks Summit, Pa., during his early career and

also taught physics to the U.S. Navy during World War II. He taught in North Plainfield High School from 1953 to 1957 and began teaching in South Plainfield High School in 1957. In addition to his teaching duties, he created the school's math and science department, retiring as its head in 1974.

See complete obituary on page 10.

Tigers Wrestlers Win 400!

The 2002-2003 South Plainfield High School Wrestling Team has achieved what no other sports team of the school has accomplished—400 wins!

The Tigers did just that Friday night when they defeated the Piscataway Chiefs, 43-23. They got all the help they needed from Paul Ritchey, 140 fall and Joe DeBiase wrestling at 215, fall and senior Glenn Gross, 160 tech-fall, each recording bonus points to secure

the win.

Congratulations to all the wrestlers who, over the years, contributed to reach this monumental milestone in Tiger wrestling.

Let us not forget the coaches who also contributed, Al Ranger, Tom Baker, Mike Buggey and Bill Pavlak, along with new head coach Kevin McCann. See page 8 for more wrestling results.

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
Thursday, January 16	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.
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 places 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

IN YOUR OPINION

To the Editor,

The Senior Citizen Center and the Keep Middlesex Moving group need your help! Several of the orange crossing flags at the intersection of Maple and Plainfield Ave. in front of the South Plainfield Senior Center have been stolen from their holders and the seniors want them returned. Mischief makers may think that a prank like stealing a few flags is harmless fun and no big deal, but, in fact, those flags help keep our seniors out of harm's way as they try to cross a very busy and hazardous intersection.

So, if you took the flags or you know who did, please bring them back...no questions asked. Just place them back in their holders. We know that it didn't cross your mind that our flags are valuable to us and are a matter of safety. To you, they are just flags. On behalf of our seniors and other pedestrians who face crossing this intersection, we would really appreciate it if you would do the right thing and bring back our flags.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
JOANN GRAF, SENIOR CITIZEN
COORDINATOR**

To the Editor:

Once again I would like to thank the various organizations in South Plainfield for their generous donations to me and my family during this holiday season.

The Elks Club, for the abundance of food they delivered to my door for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Grace Bertucci of the St. Vincent DePaul Society, for the gifts for my children for Christmas and her many phone calls throughout the year to check on us. The Board of Social Services, for the overwhelming amount of Christmas gifts for my children, which helped to supplement what little I was able to give them myself. And to Kennedy Elementary School for their gift cards for the kids.

A special thanks to the residents of South Plainfield. If it weren't for your donations of food, toys and clothes, these organizations wouldn't have anything to brighten someone's holidays.
A VERY GREATFUL NEIGHBOR

To the Editor,

I read the letter from Jeff Praul last week about the previous weeks article "Sleds stay home." And I have to

agree with much of what he wrote.

I, too, agree that the Mayor should not worry so much about what is going on in other towns and he should be concentrating more on what's going on in our town. Yes, first and foremost it is imperative that emergency vehicles can get through the streets surrounding the golf course. And also, that our neighbors should not have to worry about damage to their property.

Mr. Praul was right on about the condition of our streets when a snow-storm strikes. I have been living here for a number of years now and very rarely is my street ever plowed. (with the exception of the first snow of this season). My street was plowed, but it was so bad that it should have been sanded or salted. It's funny (or should I say ironic) that on Tuesday morning (after a night of snow and ice) I was thinking of Mr. Praul's comment about how bad our streets are after a storm. The reason I was thinking of it was because I was slipping and sliding my way to work. A lot of (but not all) the streets were a sheet of ice.

As I was thinking of writing to the Mayor and Council about how bad it was, low and behold I had an accident on Helen Street. Thank God everyone was all right and no one was hurt. But as soon as I pulled over to wait for a police officer, more cars came down the road slipping and sliding. I understand there were a lot of accidents happening that day. I know the town doesn't want to spend overtime for the plowing, sanding and salting, but as a taxpayer I would like some of my hard earned money to go to these services. I'm sure I'm not the only towns person to feel this way. The roads were very dangerous that day, and I think safety for the people should come first.

**SINCERELY,
SHARON MITCHELL**

Letter to the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank several people. First, I would like to thank the South Plainfield Business Association for their generous donation to the South Plainfield Education Foundation of \$2,000 in

Submit Letters to the Editor:

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

memory of Emil Leporino. Emil gave so much of himself to the students of South Plainfield. He was instrumental in beginning the Education Foundation and we are continuing to do the work that he put into place from the beginning. The money will be used for scholarships in his name.

One of the other programs Emil started was the phone-a-thon. We continued with that this year the first week of December. What a success! Thank you to all the residents of South Plainfield for your generous donations. For those that don't know what this is all about - We have had a pledge drive for the last two years now. The students from the High School make the pledge calls and follow up with a letter to the people that they talked to on the phone. Residents can pledge any dollar amount they want to the Education Foundation to be used in various areas (scholarships, stokes trips for the elementary schools, gold card, and so much more). This year was a banner year with pledges of over \$6,000. We are still receiving pledge money now. This money will be used wherever you have instructed us to use it. Thank you again to everyone for all your support of the Education Foundation over the years. We are continuing to follow in Emil's footsteps and strive to do the best for our students here in South Plainfield.

**SINCERELY,
MARJORIE M. REEDY
PRESIDENT - SOUTH PLAINFIELD
EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

South Plainfield Observer

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(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

NANCY GRENNIER
Publisher/Editor

Web page:
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For subscriptions, advertising or information, call (908) 668-0010.

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Associate Publisher
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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

We look forward to hearing from all of you and encourage you to send in your stories and photos. The South Plainfield Observer is your paper. Please let us know what you would like to see in it.

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: Editorial Department
South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at spobserver.com or ggann@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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The South Plainfield Health Department
Is Conducting Its Annual

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Dog and Cat Owners are urged to bring their pets for inoculation.



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Saturday, January 25, 2003
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Recreation Adopts 'Sport Parent Code of Conduct'

Beginning this year all parents who enroll their children in any sport sponsored by the Recreation Department will be asked to sign a "Sport Code of Conduct" pledge.

Each coach has been directed to ask parents to read the code and then sign it, thus agreeing to all of the rules. If they refuse to sign it or do not follow the rules set down, they will not be able to attend their children's games. The code stresses ethics in sports, sportsmanship, responsibility and good citizenship.

Recreation Director Mike English said that we have been very fortunate that we have not had many problems with parents misbehaving while watching their children play, but just in case we do have a parent who is abusive, we will forbid them from attending their games, even if we need to call the police.

A law which was recently enacted by the State Senate and Assembly allows municipalities to enact their own code and to use the local police, if the necessary, to keep parents away from their child's games.

This code covers to anyone playing in any Recreation sponsored program, but independent sport groups such as Junior Baseball, Pop Warner and Traveling Soccer are not covered. These individual groups will need introduce their own code during the upcoming season.

Affordable Housing Agency Public Hearing

A public meeting has been called by the Affordable Housing Agency of the Borough of South Plainfield to discuss the Affordable Housing Program. The meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield.

Recycling Center Hours Revised For King Holiday

The South Plainfield Recycling Center on Kenneth Ave. will be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 21, because of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday. It will be open instead on Wednesday, Jan. 22, from 12 Noon to 7 p.m..

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

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

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



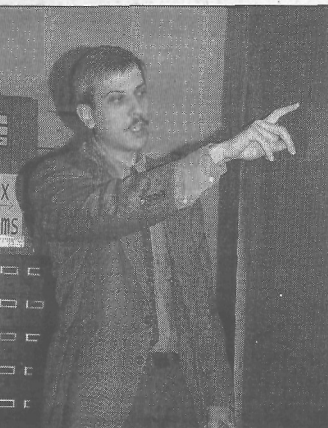
Author of South Plainfield Book Speaks In-Depth on Borough at Library Program

Photos/story By Patricia Abbott

Dr. Richard Veit, author of the newly published book *Images of America-South Plainfield* recently presented an in depth look at South Plainfield during a talk at the South Plainfield Library. Visual enhancements included a chronologically arranged slide-illustrated tour of South Plainfield's historic houses and sites.

Veit opened with a brief look at an early map of an area that was first settled by Native Americans. The simplistic and sparse hand drawn map showed the wide-open spaces of Samptown, New Brooklyn and part of Piscataway—an area that would later become South Plainfield.

Approximately 50 people attended the event seeking a more detailed glimpse of early South Plainfield. Photos ranged from old shots of well-known homes coupled with how they appear today, to fragile aging tombstones in the Baptist and Jewish Cemeteries on New Market Ave. The slide show took the audience through many decades ending with the South Plainfield of the 1970s. Some of the photos shown were from the book



Dr. Richard Veit, author of *Images of America-South Plainfield*.

and others have not yet been published.

Lynn Fasolo, recording secretary for the South Plainfield Historical Society thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. She said, "He answered questions that could not be answered by simply reading the book. He really made the book come to life! I look forward to more in depth intense focus on some of the homes. I would like to see a walking tour of homes at holiday time." Myra Stillman and her family have always

been interested in history and often attend historical programs. She found the talk and slide presentation fascinating, she said, "I didn't realize how many 18th century homes were in South Plainfield." Myra also expressed a desire to see an organized tour of the older homes and historical sites in town.

Many brought their copies of *Images of America-South Plainfield* for Veit to sign; others purchased the book at the library. Veit hopes to publish a second book depicting our town in the future. Veit, who teaches in the Department of History and Anthropology at Monmouth University, is a 1986 graduate of SPHS. He noted History/Social Studies teachers Mr. Clark, Mrs. Chen and Mr. Radich as having an influence on his choice of career. He also credited Mr. Tenore, band director and Mr. Richard, German teacher with influencing him and providing great role models. He was named to the South Plainfield High School Wall of Fame in 2002.

Copies of Veit's book are available at Twin City Pharmacy, Nischwitz, Walden Books and the *South Plainfield Observer* office.

Library to Host "Big Band" Era Program

The South Plainfield Free Public Library will host a special program, "The Big Band Era," on Sunday, Jan. 26, at 2 p.m. The audio/visual presentation will feature the music of such swing era icons as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Harry James and the "king of swing" clarinet maestro Benny Goodman.

The speaker for the program will be Dr. Stephen F. Marcone. Dr. Marcone is a former professional trumpet player and is currently Graduate Studies Coordinator Program Director of the Music Management Program at William Paterson University. He'll be speaking on the stylistic differences of the great American jazz bands of the 1930's to mid 1940's. "Swing" became the popular name of this music after Ellington's 1932 composition, "It Don't Mean a Thing if It Ain't Got That Swing."

Prior to 1936, racial segregation was instrumental in curbing the advancement of jazz and in particular, black musicians. Goodman changed all that. He was the first white bandleader to feature black and white musicians playing together in public performances, notably featuring the great pianist Teddy Wilson and vibraphonist Lionel Hampton.

The Basie band with the Count at the piano, developed its own swing style that featured extended solo improvisations. Ellington, based at the Cotton Club in Harlem, became the most significant composer in jazz.

This audio/visual program is presented by the South Plainfield Historical Society, and is made possible through funding from the NJ Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The program is presented free of charge and all are welcome.

Please join us for an afternoon of musical memories on Jan. 26 at 2 p.m. in the South Plainfield Library, located at 2484 Plainfield Ave. in the South Plainfield Municipal Complex. For more information or directions, please call (908) 754-7885.

Log on to: <http://community.nj.com/cc/sphistorical> for more information on this and future programming.

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.

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs Accepting Applications

ASSE International Student Exchange is now accepting applications from host families for the 2003/2004 academic year. By hosting a foreign exchange student from Europe, Asia, North and South America, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, you provide a rewarding opportunity to a special teenager. These personable and academically selected exchange students are bright, curious and anxious to learn about this country through living as part of a family, attending high school and sharing their own culture and language with their newly adopted host family. All students are well screened, insured, speak English and come with their own spending

money. The students arrive from their home country shortly before school begins and return at the end of the school year.

Host families provide room and board and guidance for their new son or daughter while experiencing the joy of watching a child grow academically and culturally. Each exchange student expects to bear his or her share of the household responsibilities as well as be included in normal family activities. When sharing your home with a student from another culture, your lives are enriched forever by your new lifelong friendship!

For additional information about hosting an ASSE exchange student

call Tonya Clark at (724) 238-3435 or 1-800-677-2773. Visit our website at www.asse.com.

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Events

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.

VFW Voice of Democracy Essay Awards to be Presented

January 17

A Beef Stroganoff Dinner will be held on Friday, Jan. 17 at VFW Post, 6763 on Front Street from 5 to 8 p.m. Donation \$7, children \$3.50.

Awards will be presented to the winners of the Voice of Democracy and the Patriot's Pen Essay contests at 7 p.m. The public is invited.

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

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.

Terra Nova Garden Club Meetings

January 20 & 22

The Terra Nova Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. at the North Edison Library, 777 Grove Ave. in Edison. The evening's program is "Silk Flower Design, The Tricks of the Trade," a special presentation by Barbara Hartman. Ms. Hartman, a board member of the GCNJ, will demonstrate how to create a variety of floral designs, drawing on her many years of experience in business. Anyone interested in flower design, gardening or flower crafts is welcome at any meeting.

Garden Therapy, the service project of Terra Nova GC, will take place at 1 p.m. on January 20 at the Muhlenberg Adultcare Facility in Plainfield. The theme for January is winter spirits.

Students New Year Dance at Sacred Heart

January 24

A New Year Dance for all students in grades 7, 8, 9 and 10 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.

Send Your Events to:

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

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 began 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 AARP Meeting Noon	20 Bingo 10-2 PM	21 Exercise & Walking Club 8:45-9:45AM Movie 11:30 AM AARP Crafts 1 PM	22 Shopping at Pathmark 9AM Practical Crafting 10-11AM Line Dancing 11AM-Noon Pool Match 10:30 @ Pisc.	23 Bingo 10-2PM
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.				

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

Debbie Boehm Will Speak at Child's Play

January 24

The Starlight Supplement Presentation by Debbie Boehm planned for Child's Play Day Care Center in December, which had to be rescheduled due to a holiday snowstorm, will now be held on Friday, Jan. 24 at 6 p.m.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit the day care center. The public is welcome to attend.

Rainbow Academy Plans Open House

February 22

Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an Open House on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rainbow Academy offers a variety of programs to fit your child's needs, from ages six weeks to 10 years. There is limited space available for the infant, nursery and pre-kindergarten programs. Everyone who registers will receive one free month of ParentWatch, an internet viewing service. For a demo of their video services, visit their website at www.parentwatch.com.

In addition to the Open House, you are invited to visit the center for a tour during normal operating hours (7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). For directions and additional information, visit their website at www.rainbowacademy.com.

— Out of Town —

Robert Klein Concert

January 18

Camden County Board of Freeholders 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.

WOWS Holding Dance

January 19

Woodbridge Area Widows or Widowers (WOWS) is holding a dance/social at Elk's Hall, 665 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge on Sunday, Jan. 19 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. There will be a live band along with refreshments.

Admission is \$8. For more information call (732) 297-1775 and make sure you're there.

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.

Starting Self-Help Groups Free Workshop

January 25

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

The workshop will be held Saturday, Jan. 25, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Saint Clare's Health System Behav-

ioral Health, located on Powerville Rd. in Boonton.

If you are interested in registering, would like information, contact the New Jersey Self-Help Group Clearinghouse at 1-800-367-6274, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CHATS Adoption Support Meeting

January 27

CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support), will meet 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 27, at Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave. in North Plainfield.

"Loss and Grieving in the Adoption Triad" by Barbara A. Rall, LCSW, adoptive mother and Senior Social Worker and Adoption Coordinator for Jewish Family Services of Central New Jersey. Open sharing of adoption-related stories and light refreshments. Check our Website at <http://communitynj.com/cc/chats> or call Alyce at (732) 277-0607 for information.

Annual Antique Bottle Club Show

February 2

The New Jersey Antique Bottle Club (NJABC) will host its seventh annual show and sale on Sunday, Feb. 2 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 88 Jackson St., South River, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is \$2 for adults and children under 12 are free. Home cooked food will be sold by The Saint Mary of Ostrabrama Seniors. For information contact NJABC, 24 Charles St., South River, NJ 08882-1603 (732) 519-2804 botdman@aol.com or (732) 868-0510 ajdsrev@aol.com.

Soprano Lynn Norris To Perform

February 2

The Monmouth Symphony Orchestra will present a concert on Feb. 2 at 3 p.m. in the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank. Soprano Lynn Norris will be featured in Mozart's Exultate Jubilate. In addition, Steven A. Gosewisch will conduct the "Semiramide" Overture by Rossini and the Symphony in C Major by Bizet. Reserved seat tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors (age 60 and over), and \$5 for college students. School-age children accompanied by an adult may obtain free tickets. For reservations, please call the theatre box office at (732) 842-9000.

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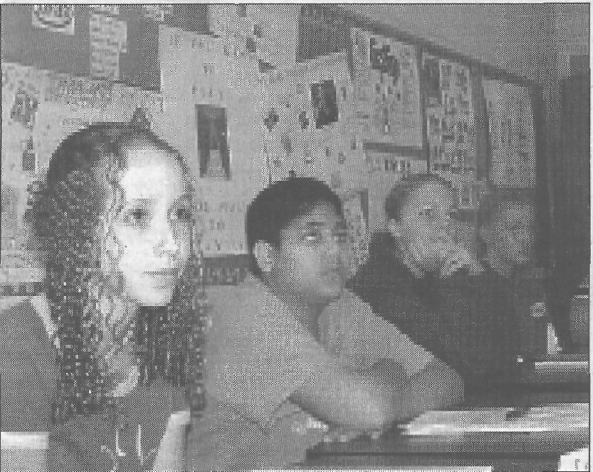
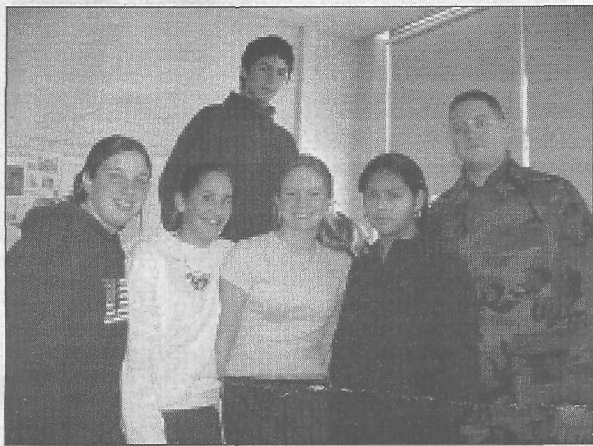
SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR to allow readers to discuss and react to issues.

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

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

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Speakers Spice Up Learning in Middle School Health Class



more student involvement. Without speakers who have current information, students might be just using an outdated textbook and worksheets. I try to make the classes more involved, up-to-date and game situations work very well."

Guests visiting Slinger's class this school year include: The American Cancer Society and Laryngectomies; cancer survivors who have lost their voice box to the disease. Planned Parenthood speaking on harassment and decision making, Middlesex County Health Department on tobacco, anorexia and bulimia, South Plainfield High School Peer Leaders, who spoke on multiple topics such as learning to say "No!" James Moloughney, parent of a middle school student and an attorney, spoke about teens and the law.

Health class topics run the gamut from first aid, safety and substance abuse to communicable diseases, making the right decisions and self esteem. Slinger said, "The focus of this program is choosing a healthy life style." The First Aid course teaches students the correct way to perform the Heimlich Maneuver using a rubber figure aptly named Choking Charlie. They learn to rescue a choking infant or child with a Rugrats Tommy doll and baby dolls. Safety covers the importance of wearing protective gear while roller blading, skateboarding or bike riding. Safety includes; handling home emer-



gencies such as fire or electric shock as well as Internet use. Drug awareness includes everything from seemingly innocent over the counter medications to designer and club drugs. The dangers of alcohol and tobacco are also discussed in depth.

A favorite among the youths is the New Jersey National Guard Drug Reduction Program and the Drug Jeopardy game. SPC Ruzicka and SSGT Keuscher spoke frankly to the youths about the dangers of substance abuse. The class watched a film covering dangerous substances and substance abuse. The class was split into three teams. In turn they chose from topics such as

Inhalants, Alcohol, Tobacco, Marijuana, Club Drugs and Miscellaneous. A correct answer, in the form of a question earned them another shot at the board.

The many speakers—NJ National Guard, parents, lawyers, health professionals and educators, anorexic/bulimic patients and others—teach the students about the many dangers in their every day lives and how to avoid them. Their goal is to guide the youths towards making the right choices. Susan Slinger's program allows the youths to speak and listen to real people and see first hand the results of bad decisions, something no textbook could ever do.

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

There's no snoozing behind textbooks in Susan Slinger's Middle School Health class. Speakers on a wide array of health related topics replace the drudgery of page turning. Middle School students switch out of

gym for Health class once a year. Slinger has just five and a half weeks to cover a lot of material. She has found a way to ensure her students get the most out of those few weeks.

Slinger said, "I created a program of speakers to make the classes more realistic, more interesting and provide

Slinger's Teaching Gets Parents Approval

by Patricia Abbott

Parents and students alike seem to more than approve of Middle School Health teacher Susan Slinger's innovative approach to teaching. In mid November Slinger held a tea for parents before starting her seventh grade Sex Education program. The tea, held in the chorus room, was to introduce the parents to Slinger and inform them about her program. The evening consisted of refreshments, a detailed talk about the content of the class as well as a question and answer period. Over fifty parents attended. Slinger said all were enthusiastic about the program and appreciated knowing ex-

actly what their child would be learning. Slinger noted many of them thanked her for the program and the chance to learn about it.

Slinger felt introducing herself and educating the parents about the course was important. She said "I held the tea because I felt if I were a parent of a seventh grader and human sexuality was going to be taught I would want to know who the person is that is teaching them. I'd want to know how they are teaching them, and what methods and materials or resources they are using because its a very important topic between parents, their children and the educator."

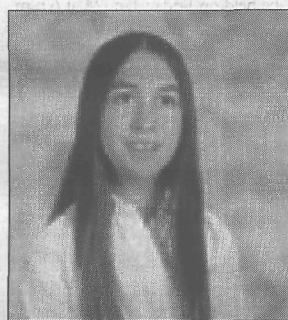
southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Davonna Approvato Named NJ Student Ambassador Program

Twelve-year-old South Plainfield resident Davonna Approvato has been selected to participate as a 2003 New Jersey Ambassador with the People to People Program.

The People to People Program was founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956 in an effort to bring citizens around the world together to work toward world peace. Through the program, students travel abroad to meet with peers in other countries, participate in homestays and experience the diverse cultures and history of the destinations visited.

Davonna is a seventh grade student at Sacred Heart School in South Plainfield. She is active as a vocalist and has served as a cantor with the Sacred



Davonna Approvato

Heart Children's Choir and a member of the Diocesan Youth Choir. She is a member of the Sacred Heart Varsity Cheerleading squad, Girl Scout Troop

#463 and has participated in the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop.

Davonna is the daughter of David and Donna Approvato and granddaughter of Clement and Dorothy Approvato of South Plainfield.

Davonna will travel to Italy, France and Spain this summer for a 28-day Mediterranean program as a member of a delegation of 40 junior high and high school students from the state led by selected educators. She is currently seeking assistance in the form of sponsorships from local businesses and also any organizations that would be willing to allow her to set up a fundraising table at any of their upcoming events. Call the *Observer* at (908) 668-0010 if you would like to jhelp.

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**South Plainfield
Observer**

Lori Kuchert Receives Degree

The University of Alabama awarded 1,352 degrees at their fall commencement ceremony held on the Tuscaloosa campus. Among the students listed as candidates to receive degrees was Lori

Lynn Kochut of South Plainfield.

Brandt Ayers, editor and publisher of *The Anniston Star*, gave the commencement address and received the Henry and Julia Tutwiler Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his exceptional service to the people of Alabama as well as to the University.

With this graduating class, UA has awarded more than 183,000 degrees since its founding in 1831 as the state's first public university.

Class of 1989 Seeks Classmates

The South Plainfield High School class of 1989 reunion committee is in the process of planning their 15-year reunion.

The projected date for the reunion will be the night of Nov. 27, 2004. If you are interested or know someone who may be interested, please contact the committee via email at sphsclassof89@yahoo.com, or contact the South Plainfield Middle School at (908) 754-4620, ext. 307 to give your current contact information.

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Mayor Dan Gallagher welcomes the newly elected members of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad.

South Plainfield Rescue Squad Holds Their Annual Installation Dinner

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad held their 2003 Installation Dinner at the Holiday Inn on Saturday, Jan. 4.

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

Rescue Squad officers installed for the year 2003 are as follows: President Brian Anderson, Vice President Steven Keleman, Corresponding Secretary Carol Grennier, Recording Secretary Heidi Quinn, Treasurer Glen Ewing, Captain Ron Sward, First Lieutenant Pete Magnani, Second Lieuten-

ant Greg Rowlands, Night Sergeant Ed LaFerrera, Chaplain Rich Hamilton. Delegates are Rich Hamilton, Pete Magnani, Glen Ewing. Alternate Delegates are Steven Keleman, Katie Baron, Bill Fekete. Trustees are Jose Heavens, Brian Anderson, Jim Wallace; Executive Board, Carol Grennier, Bill Fekete, Ron Sward, Pete Magnani, Heidi Quinn; historian is Keely Heyman.

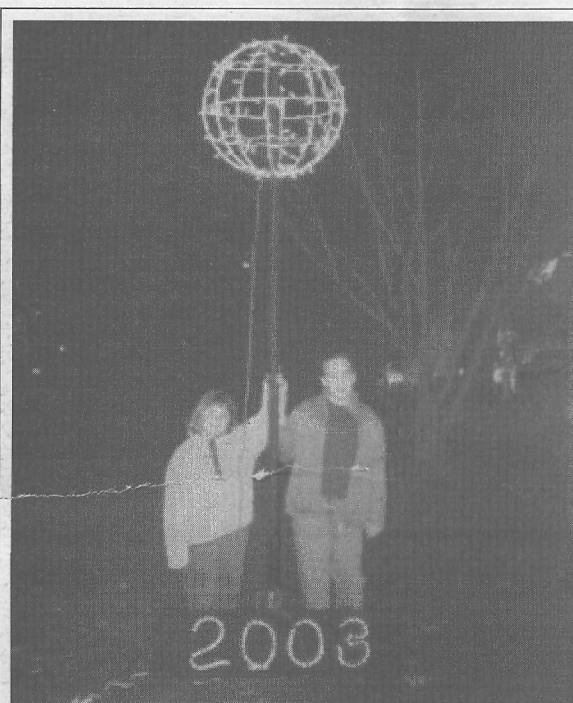
Ladies Auxiliary for 2003 are President Darla Woodel, Vice President Kathy Smolinski, Corresponding Secretary Denise Neto, Recording Secretary Tracy Miller, Treasurer Joanne Eroglu and Historian Pat Fizur.

Members of the Cadet Corps are President Randy Gemenden, Vice President Kristen Fredericks and Treasurer Kristen Fredericks.

Service Awards for the Rescue Squad were given to the following for years of service: Michael Zushma, 20 years; Linda Zushma, 15 years; Ed LaFerrera, Greg Rowlands, Robert Dolan, 5 years; Past President, Michael Zushma.

The following Service Awards were presented by the Ladies Auxiliary: 20 Year Awards to Pat Fizur, Marion Gallagher and Joan "Dolly" Curcio.

The evening included entertainment and dancing to music by *Fine Timing*.



Times Square Replica Appears in South Plainfield

The White family wanted to make their annual New Year's Eve party extra special this year. Herb White designed and created a New Year's Eve ball for their front yard, to be lowered at midnight.

Allyson White was in charge of lowering the ball and Kaleigh White

had the honor of switching the lighted 2003 sign. The event was witnessed and enjoyed by the Ledden Terrace neighborhood, family and friends.

The White family is going to make this their new "Times Square South" tradition.

Tax Assistance Program for Seniors Will be Offered

AARP and the IRS will again be offering their income tax assistance program to the senior population. The Tax Consultants for the Elderly (TCE) are getting ready for the new season, reviewing and updating their information for the 2002 tax year. The program will run from Feb. 11 to April 15 and is open to all area residents.

Anyone interested in getting their tax forms prepared can come to the South Plainfield Senior Center located at 90 Maple Ave. on Tuesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon. Service will be on a first come/first serve basis with priority to the elderly.

Please bring all information that is required to complete tax forms such as a copy of last year's tax return, all forms of income such as W2s, CD and bank and bond interest, stock dividends, capital gains/losses, a copy of 2002 real estate tax, etc. If itemizing, please bring all receipts or accounting of medical, dental, prescriptions, charitable contributions and other deductible expenses.

Assistance will also be available to those residents who do their own tax returns but would like consultants to check them over or have any questions. Additionally, assistance will be available to seniors needing help with other forms such as PAAD, PRT, Lifeline, Homestead Rebate, Heap and NJ Saver.

For further information, contact Joann Graf at the So. Plainfield Senior Center at (908) 754-1047.

Vendors Needed

Roosevelt School is sponsoring a Vendor's Day on Saturday, Feb. 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For further information, please contact Therese Montouri at (908) 769-5270.

All requests must be made no later than Wednesday, Jan. 29 in order to secure a spot.



Art on Display in Main Office at Riley School

January 2003 began with a display of the fourth installation of "Art for the Main Office" at Riley School.

Barbara Harris, art teacher at Riley, is the exhibit's organizer.

The student artists, all fourth graders, are Diana Aguilar, Jonathan

Ditmars, Nicole Heilman and Carlos Silva.

The art works are still life reliefs created with pastels and Elmer's glue. These art projects grew out of a unit on Impressionism which all the Riley students have been studying under the

direction of Harris. The students learned that the 19th century Impressionists utilized newly developed art materials, including pastels.

The fourth graders also viewed still lifes by Monet, Degas and Renoir to help inspire their images.

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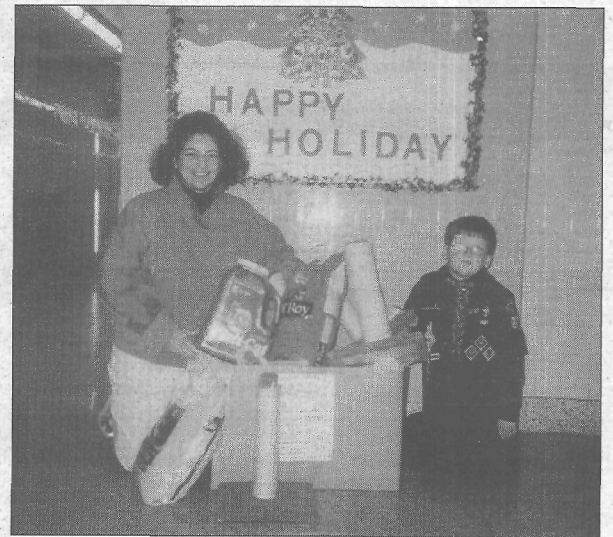
Brownie Troops 830 and 428 Make A Joyful Sound

On Dec. 20, Roosevelt School's first grade Brownie Troop #830 and third grade Troop #428 caroled their way into the Cedar Oaks Care Center on Durham Ave.

The Brownies filled the halls with joyful sounds of Christmas!! After they caroled on each floor, they performed in the lounge.

The girls each brought two dozen homemade cookies to accompany the hot cocoa that they helped serve and share with the residents there!! They also took great pride in presenting the residents with handpainted penguin cookie can table ornaments, that they did as a recycling project!!

The "joy" that they gave this holiday season will be long remembered by both the brownies and the residents there. Pictured here from Troop #830 are: Nina Bavosa, Nikole Desclafani, Taylor Jankoski, Lauryn Loalbo, Joanna Marston, Meghan Skelly and Kristen Wong. Pictured here from Troop #428 are: Miranda Black, Cheyenne Bloodgood, Amanda Boronkas, Amber Kato, Melissa Pasternak, Kimberley Petronko, Alyssa Ragno, Jessica Rapatski, Rachel Scrudato and Tyler Stranzenbach.



Cub Pack 224 Collect Food and Toys for Pets

Fourth grader Willie Hartmann wanted to make a difference this year at Christmas for some special homeless pets. He approached an animal rescue group called A Lifeline for Animals (ALFA).

Willie spoke to Marie at Petsmart in Watchung and she was more than happy to lend her assistance. Willie then spoke to his Cub Scout Pack 224 and enlisted their help, inviting Marie to come to their November Pack meeting.

Marie gave Willie and Pack 224 a

wish list from the pets. She also brought some pets with her to show the boys. The boys collected pet food and toys for the pets. Willie and his Cub Scout Den also made scratching posts for cats.

Willie even enlisted the help of the Riley School students by putting a flyer out asking the students to donate to his cause. It was a great success. The pets had a great Christmas thanks to Riley school students, Cub Scout Pack 224 and the kindhearted child Willie Hartmann.



Cub Pack 423 Hosts Annual Dinner Gala



The South Plainfield Cub Scout Pack 324 hosted its annual December Dinner "Gala" in mid-December at Kennedy School.

This much anticipated event allows the whole family to come together with all the Dens within the Pack, allowing the scouts and their family to enjoy an evening of fun together.

As always, Santa dropped in to get the dinner party energized!

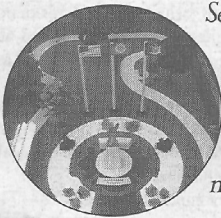
Holiday cards were made for distribution to a local senior citizen center.

The event ended with all the scouts and their siblings, exchanging two dozen cookies from a wide variety of tastes and selections.

Have You Purchased Your Brick Yet?

Show your support for our local firemen. Your purchase of a brick will help fund the South Plainfield Firemen's Memorial to be built next to the

Senior Citizen Center. Your brick will be engraved with the name of your choice and placed on the path to the memorial. Bricks can be purchased for only \$75 for individuals or \$175 for businesses.



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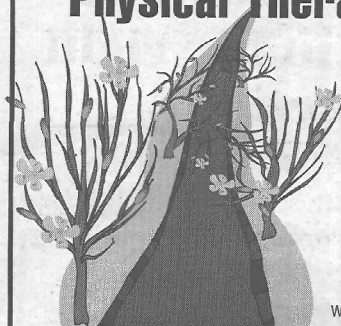
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Sports

WRESTLING

By Bob Hunter

Tigers Strong At Roselle Park Tournament

Tigers wrestlers competing in the annual Roselle Park Dad's Club Wrestling Tournament did a great job this past weekend. This two day event was a good one for the Tigers who crowned seven individual champions with seventeen other wrestlers placing in the top four.

The action opened on Saturday for the Bantam and Midget wrestlers and on Sunday for the Junior and Intermediate wrestlers. The Tigers went right to work in the Bantam division with Anthony Ashnault, 50, winning his first three matches by fall, Ashnault then won his final by major decision 11-2 over Luke Graboyes of Watchung Hills. Scott Whalen, 57, kept things going winning his first three matches and went on to score a major decision over Alenick Richardson of Pascack

Hills 11-0 in the finals. Alex Lundy (Hwt.) won two major decisions and won a close 4-2 decision to reach the finals where he won a 4-2 decision over Jason Simms of Iselin.

Kyle Brady, 53, won his semi final match 9-5, but lost in the finals for second place. Stephen Petriello, 70, also came up short in his final but won three matches on the day and second place. Third place went to Joseph Jakubik, 50, when he defeated Phil Woods, 5-3.

Also winning matches at Bantam were Bobby Kolvites, 50; Andrew Sanchez, 57; Troy Heilmann, 60; Cory Stasenka, 60 and Shawn Gorman (Hwt.).

In the Midget division Ryan Sacco, 67, won his first three matches to reach the finals. He then pinned Steve Kalkadis of Roselle Park at 1:22 for first

place. John Wylam, 85, won his semi-final match by major decision and his final by fall over TJ Disney of Clark.

Mike Wagner came home with second place honors losing a 7-6 decision in the finals. Fourth place went to Randy Jakubik, 70, and William Whitefleet (Hwt.). Also winning matches but not placing were Kevin Smith, 67; Rich Szeliga, 67; Mike Molinaro, 70; Kyle Hughes, 77; Corey Hay, 80; Ryan Billich, 85 and Zach Mitchell, 102.

In the Junior division Patrick Hunter, 80, won his first three matches by major decision, tech-fall and fall before posting a 6-2 decision over Taylor Trumbetti of Pascack Hills for first place. Rocco Petriello (Hwt.) won his final by fall at 0:52 over Joe Karni of Pascack Hills. Third place honors went to Nick Vetusch, 85, winning by decision 10-5 over Rich West and Mike Dandola Hwt. Fourth place went to Jonathan Conroy, 110. Also winning matches where Nick Heilmann, 73; Nick Pauls, 73; Joe Gonzales, 77; Joey Vetusch, 83; Jake Smithline, 95; Justin Smith, 95; Nick Vallone, 102; Danny Pompilio, 102; Umit Cayli, 121 and Brad Martin, 121.

In the Intermediate division Robert Gentile, 75, came up short in his final losing by decision to Dan White of South Brunswick for second place. Sam Martin, 129, won his first to matches to reach the finals but lost a close 8-4 decision to Nick Murray of Bound Brook for second place. Third place went to An Vo, 85; Billy Ashnault, 90-95; Nick Dorey, 108; Mike Jakubik, 114 and Mark Wagner, 121. Fourth place went to Jacob Roscoha, 85; Jack Doong, 114 and Travis Noll, 145.

SWIMMING

JCC Blue Dolphins Shine During All-Star Meet

The JCC Blue Dolphins participated in the State All-Star Invitational last month. The All-star meet consisted of hundreds of athletes throughout New Jersey and New York. South Plainfield had a number of residents that participated in the event. Results from the All-star Invitational by age group are listed below.

All-star Invitational

The 6+ Under Girls—Kate McLaughlin placed first in both the free-style and backstroke.

The 6+ Under Boys—Sean Cullen placed first in the breaststroke and second in the free-style. Joey Valentino placed second in the backstroke and third in the free-style. Aidan McDermott placed first in the free-style.

In the girls 7-8-year-old events—Kate O'Brien placed first in the breaststroke and fourth in the IM. Maggie Valentino placed second in the IM, third in the backstroke and fifth in the butterfly. Kelly McLaughlin placed third in the breaststroke; Gracie Piekarski placed fourth in the breaststroke.

In the 7-8 boys events—David Brzozowski took third in backstroke.

In the 9-10 girls events—Emily Piekarski placed second in the IM, second in the free-style and sixth in the breaststroke. Chelsea Cullen placed sixth in

the IM, fifth in the breaststroke and third in the butterfly. In the boys events Dylan McDermott placed second in the IM, first in the free-style and second in the breaststroke.

In the 13-14 boys events—Philip Luzny placed first in the free-style, breaststroke and in butterfly. Emmett Marsili placed sixth in the IM and second in the backstroke.

In the 15-18 girls events—Nina Byard placed first in the IM, free-style and backstroke. Becky Brzozowski placed third in the IM, fifth in the backstroke and second in the breaststroke. Allison Banas placed sixth in the Free-style, fourth in backstroke and in breaststroke. In the Boys 15-18 events Calvin John Smiley placed first in the IM, first in the free-style and in backstroke.

Nina Byard, Philip Luzny, Calvin John Smiley and Kate McLaughlin placed first in all events that they competed. Other All-stars from South Plainfield that participated were: Abby Petrisch, Liam McDermott, Elizabeth Rue, Joanna Luzny, Amanda Ray, Debbie Brzozowski and Michelle O'Sullivan. The Blue Dolphin season resumed on Jan. 12. The JCC Blue Dolphin's will be attempting to complete another undefeated season.

—Submitted by Glenn Cullen

Tigers Defeat Del Val 36-30

After the recording their 400th win on Friday night, the Tigers didn't have much time to celebrate, because they traveled to Delaware Valley to face their long time rival.

The match started with 103 pound Jimmy Conroy who got the Tigers off to an early 6-0 lead, pinning Scott Fulton at 1:16. The Tigers then dropped the next four bouts and were trailing 21-6 heading into the 135 pound match. Peter DeAndrea 135, got the Tigers back on track with a 15-3 major decision over Matt Carr. Paul Ritchey 140, also won by major decision 11-3 over Mike Spadone. After forfeiting 145, the Tigers trailed 27-14 at the halfway point.

That's when the Tigers made their come back. Guy Severini 152, won a 9-7 decision over Keith Markus.

Glenn Gross 160, then scored another major decision 21-11 over Chris Ferry. The Tigers were only down by six when senior Co-Captain Steve Johnson 71 took the mat. Johnson tied the score when he recorded the fall at 5:25 over Dave Butler. But it wasn't over yet, junior Joe DeBiase 189, was tied at 1-1 with Frank Kurtz heading into overtime. DeBiase wasted little time scoring the takedown, securing a 3-1 victory.

Rob Maistickle 215, only need a win to put it away. But it was not meant to be when he dropped a 11-10 OT decision to George Peterson. With the score now 30-30, it was up to Ryan Elliot heavyweight, however Del Val could not answer the call and had to forfeit the heavyweight match, giving the Tigers a 36-30 win.

Knights are Holding Free Throw Championships

All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2003 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship.

Competition will start on Saturday, Feb. 1 at the Riley School gymnasium on Morris Ave.

Boys and girls ages 12, 13 and 14

will start at 10 a.m. Boys and girls ages 10 and 11 will start at 11 a.m.

All participants are required to furnish proof of age (birth certificate) and written parental consent.

For more information, contact John Salerno at (908) 755-1425 or come to Riley School on Feb. 1 at 9 a.m. to register.

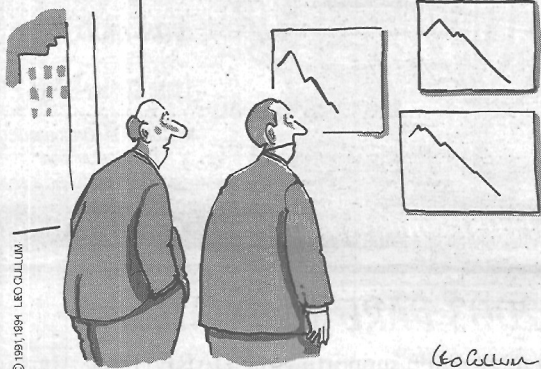
Winners go to the Continental Arena for the championship which will be held at a later date.

Registration Set for Pop-Warner Football/Cheerleading

Registration will be held on Friday, Feb. 7 at the P.A.L. building from 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 8 at the P.A.L. building, 10 a.m. to Noon.

Visit us at our Web-site at www.ETEAMS.COM/SPEAGLES for further information.

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Ponytail Softball Registration Starts Jan. 26

Registration for Ponytail Softball starts on Jan. 26 and runs until March 3. Ponytail Softball is open to all South Plainfield resident girls, ages 8 to 13 as of Oct. 1, 2002. Games are played at Pitt Street Park. The fee is \$35 per participant; there are no refunds. Birth certificates are required at registration. New participants to the program

should bring proof of residency. Coaches will be fingerprinted and must attend a safety clinic as well as a coaches instructional clinic.

Register at the PAL, Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 5 p.m., and on the first and third Monday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m.

For info, call the PAL at 226-7714.

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Sports

Preview



High School Sports

by Tim Morgan

Boys' and Girls' Varsity Basketball

The South Plainfield High School Boys' Varsity Basketball Team was off to an auspicious start at the beginning of the season, winning the Tri-County Christmas Tournament, held at Rahway High School. They advanced past Rahway in the semi-final round, and stole the title from Westfield in the final.

Last year, the Tigers posted a 13-11 record and were fourth in the White Division.

Head Coach Jeff Lubreski, who is currently leading his 17th season, said, "Thus far, our inexperience has shown. However, our talent has shown as well. Hopefully, as the season progresses and we gain experience, we will garner a few more wins." He believes that last year's team did have more experience, but that this year's team has more raw talent.

Three key seniors have departed from last year's starting lineup, but that does not mean Coach Lubreski has been unable to devise new lineups. Last year's team had one major lineup; this year's has several. Lubreski has been alternating his athletes in various orders to be able to see which players feed off of each other's talents the most. Presumably, his strategy is to utilize all of his player's talents and to see which group jells the most. Seniors Mike Allocco and Phil Veinott (both forwards); juniors Jon Buggey (guard), Corey Gilmore (guard), and Ian Robinson (forward); and sophomores Marquis Jones and Darren Smith (both guards) have all seen playing time in the starting Varsity lineups. Junior guard Ryan Decker and sophomore forward Mike Richard both capably lend support as reserves.

A statistic worth mentioning is that Jones is accomplishing the double-double act. He is averaging over 11 points and ten rebounds per game.

Gilmore and Jones are the team captains.

Lubreski said that two of his team's goals are to finish the season in the upper half of the White Division (third or above) and to advance at least another round in both the GMC and State Tournament.

The Tigers were eliminated in the first round of the Sectionals last year, but advanced to the second round (past the preliminary round) of the GMC

Tournament before being beaten. Lubreski feels that his team has a realistic chance of making it at least to the second round of the former and quarter-final round of the latter, because the speed of his athletes will be "...a difficult match-up."

Also, Coach Lubreski attributes the conditioning and speed combination that his team works on in practice to their performance. The stamina of the players is one of their stronger points.

Two teams in the White Division the athletes are particularly motivated against are Colonia and Bishop Ahr.

The Tigers have had four home games so far and are encouraged by the attendance.

Assistant coaches include Mike Allocco as a Varsity Assistant, Bob Jones as the Junior Varsity Coach, and Tim Serbe as the Freshman Coach, all of whom work with Lubreski to build a stronger Varsity team now and for the future.

The South Plainfield High School Girls' Varsity Basketball Team has also performed promisingly so far. They placed second overall in their opening tournament, the Perth Amboy Invitational. Their current record is a propitious 6-1, and as of January 10, they were first in the White Division. Their sole loss was to Perth Amboy by five points.

The Lady Tigers have "a good returning group," according to 19th year Head Coach Willard Schulte. They only had one key loss from last year. The fact that the squad has so many returning starters is a key factor in their success so far.

Seniors Kristina Cwickalo (center) and Kelly Eustice (forward), juniors Johanna Hedler (point guard) and Jessa Jones (guard), and sophomore Danielle Arndt (guard) constitute the starting lineup. Also, junior Ngozi Okparaekwe will see some Varsity time when she returns to action. Senior guards Melissa Scotto and Judy Ringel and junior guards Shade Coleman and Chiara Tomei (also a forward) ably lend their assistance as substitutes.

Cwickalo, Eustice, Jones, and Ringel are the team captains.

Last year's team placed second in the White Division with a respectable 16-10 record and also qualified for the final eight (semi-finals) in the GMC

Tournament and the Sectional finals in the State Tournament. This year's team is looking to advance to the final four (finals) in the GMC Tournament, to do well in the State Tournament, and to win the White Division. Those goals are plausible because the Lady Tigers have a better defense and more team-oriented offense which makes them much more well-rounded (than last year), according to Schulte. The squad has three different lead scorers, because they no longer have the graduated Kelly Ritchey to rely on this time around. It is also worth noting that they are averaging 15 more points per game than last year and are having less turnovers.

"I'm really proud of these kids and the hard work they've put in, which I really think has made a difference," said Schulte. Some of that productive hard work includes strength training and conditioning.

Some of the team's main rivals are North Brunswick, Bishop Ahr, and especially Perth Amboy, whose close victory over the Lady Tigers has given them even more initiative in the White Division battle.

Karen Decker (Junior Varsity) and John Greco (Freshmen) are the Assistant Coaches. They work together with Schulte for the benefit of the Varsity team.

Schulte believes the team has a very good outlook. He said, "We are better now than I thought we would be in this stage."

BOWLING

By Ralph Fech

Boley Medalist in GMC Qualifying Round; Jamieson in GMC Finals

The Greater Middlesex Conference held its Individual Qualifying Bowling Tournament recently at Carolier Lanes with approximately 400 bowlers competing.

Congratulations to freshman Beverly Jamieson (pictured far left) who rolled games of 169-245-146 for a 560 set and junior Vicki Boley (pictured at right) who topped all individual scoring as she fired games of 205-258-194 for a superb 657 set and top spot in the qualifying round. Both girls will compete in the finals next Wednesday.

Sophomore Shawn Ferguson rolled 222-204-197 for a 623 set but despite the effort, missed qualifying by a mere seven pins as the cut off score was 630.

Nice bowling Tigers.



Beverly Jamieson and Vicki Boley

Girls Rip North Brunswick, But Fall To Colonia

SPHS 787-765-778-2330

No. Brunswick 745-642-641-2028

The Girls Bowling Team swept all three games and ran away with the North Brunswick Raiders. Vicki Boley topped individual scoring with games of 170-192-185 for a 547 set. Kim Gaub fired 170-175 and 494 set. The girls record stands at 7-4-1.

SPHS 849-776-767-2372

Colonia 846-948-997-2791

The Girls Bowling Team fell to a tough Colonia squad as the Tigers split the first two games, but were overwhelmed in the crucial finale. Junior Vicki Boley stroked games of 209-179-190 for a 576 set and teammate Meredith Cooper rolled a 184 and 485 set. The girls record stands at 7-5-1.

Boys Drop Matches to 'Powerful St. Joseph's and Sizzling Colonia

SPHS 886-818-802-2506

St. Joseph's 991-963-975-2929

The Boys Bowling Team could not keep up the pace with St. Joseph's and dropped all three games to the ranked Falcons.

Matt Boley took bowling honors for the Tigers with games of 213-182 while teammate Anthony Ingerto contributed games of 183-205. George Kleinknecht chipped in with a 191 game.

SPHS 979-834-838-2651

Colonia 1030-1078-980-3088

The Boys Bowling Team hung in there against state finalist Colonia in the first game but could not keep up the pace as the hot shooting Patriots coasted to a 4-0 triumph. High scores for South Plainfield were sophomore George Kleinknecht who fired games of 184-202-178 for a 564 set, fellow sophomore Jon Jeglinski who trailed with a 214-563 set and Shawn Ferguson 222 and 182 games. Nick Grego chipped in with a 200 game.

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Obituaries

Ellis Downing Williams, 97

Ellis Downing Williams of North Plainfield died Wednesday, Jan. 8 at Somerset Medical Center, Somerville.



Mr. Williams was born in Lathrop Township, Pa., now Nickolson, Pa. He has lived in North Plainfield since 1953. He graduated from Nickolson High School, class of 1923. He received a teaching degree from Mansfield Normal School in Mansfield, Pa. and a master's degree in physics from Duke University in 1937. He had often mentioned that he was in the same class at Duke with Richard M. Nixon. Although he didn't know Mr. Nixon at Duke, he did meet the former president some years later during a campaign stop in Plainfield.

Mr. Williams taught math and science grades seven through 12 in Clarks Summit, Pa., during his early career and also taught physics to the U.S. Navy during World War II. He taught in North Plainfield High School from 1953 to 1957 and began teaching in South Plainfield High School in 1957. In addition to his teaching duties, he created the school's math and science department, retiring as its head in 1974.

Mr. Williams had reminisced that he started out with only eight teachers and 17 years later when he retired, there were 24. He was also a part-time school photographer and had taken pictures for the yearbooks, as well as many other sports and school-related activities.

His wife, Dorothy Killian Williams, died in 1992.

Surviving is his daughter, Hazeymaye Higgins of Hampton.

Funeral services were held at Higgins Home For Funerals.

Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to North Plainfield Rescue Squad, 263 Somerset St., North Plainfield, NJ 07060.

John W. Calvey Sr., 70

John W. Calvey Sr. died on Sunday, Jan. 12 at home.

Born in Newark, Mr. Calvey had resided in Bloomfield before settling in South Plainfield in 1983.

He is a WWII Veteran of the United States Army, serving during the Ko-

rean Conflict. He was awarded the Korean Service Medal with Five Bronze Service Stars, the Distinguished Unit Citation and the Presidential Unit Citation.

He was predeceased by his wife, Carolyn Calvey, who died in July of 2002.

Surviving are three daughters and sons-in-law, Patricia and Paul Celenzano, Susan and Michael Miller all of South Plainfield, Geraldine and Eric Mueller of Union Beach and a son, John and Janine Calvey of South Plainfield. Also surviving are his seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in his memory may be made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Nancy J. (Ingraham) Goglas, 63

Nancy J. (Ingraham) Goglas died on Sunday, Jan. 12 in the Haven Hospice at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, she resided in Warren Township before moving to South Plainfield 41 years ago.

Nancy was a homemaker.

Surviving are her husband, John E. Goglas; three daughters, Debra Brewer of Piscataway, Nancy Chinery of Browns Mills and Susan Knowles of Piscataway; two brothers, Ned Ingraham of Warren and Peter Ingraham of South Plainfield.

Also surviving are eight grandchildren and one great grandson.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Mid NJ Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, 246 Monmouth Rd., Oakhurst, NJ 07755.

Emanuel P. Ardis, 87

Emanuel P. Ardis of South Plainfield died on Wednesday, Jan. 8 at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

He was born in New York City and was a former long time resident of Yonkers NY before moving to South Plainfield four years ago.

Emanuel was a supervisor in the International Wire Room at Merrill Lynch in Manhattan for 41 years before retiring in 1985.

He was a former member of the Italian American Club in Yonkers.

He was a veteran of WWII, serving his country in the US Army.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Florence Lopilato Ardis, who died in 1999.

He is survived by two sons, Robert and his wife Adele Ardis of South Plainfield and Dennis Ardis of Houston, Texas; two brothers Rizzo of Bronx, NY and Salvatore of NY; a sister, Connie Cefola of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. and seven grandchildren and one

great grandson.

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

Mary (Sicieluk) Harrison, 94

Mary (Sicieluk) Harrison died on Thursday, Jan. 9 in Haven Hospice at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Mrs. Harrison was born in Radichow, Poland came to the US in 1925 and settled in Newark, where she had resided for most of her life. Mrs. Harrison had also resided in Union City, Bogota, Queens, NY and lastly Roselle for eight years before entering the Greenbrook Manor in 2000.

She had worked as an assembler for 20 years with the RCA Corp. of Harrison, before her retirement in 1972.

She was member of St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark and was a former member of the Vailsburg Senior Citizens.

Surviving are her son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Janet Harrison of South Plainfield and three grandchildren, Theodore, Andrew and Gregory.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Elvira (Rossi) Perrino, 90

Elvira (Rossi) Perrino of Lakewood, formerly of South Plainfield, died on Sunday, Jan. 12 at the Paul Kimble Medical Center in Lakewood.

She was born in Bronx, NY and was a former 50 year resident of South Plainfield before moving to Lakewood three years ago.

Elvira was sales clerk for S.S. Kresge Department Store, now known as K-Mart in Plainfield, for 15 years before retiring in 1975. Prior to that she was a telephone operator for the New York Telephone Company in Manhattan for 20 years.

She was a former member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW Memorial Post 6763 in South Plainfield and a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Robert R. Perrino, who died in 1959.

She is survived by three sons, Robert of Arlington, Va.; Ralph and his wife Denise Perrino of Falls Church, Va. and Clifford and his wife Robert Perrino of South Plainfield; a daughter, Virginia Aumack of Lakewood; a sister, Lucy DeMartino of Clearwater, Fla. and her beloved grandchildren, Matthew Aumack, Kristine Stever, Gregory Perrino, Pietro Perrino and Christian Perrino; her great grandson Aaron Stever.

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

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD LEGAL NOTICE

Take Notice that Harry Popik has applied to the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Borough of South Plainfield for approval of a Use Variance Application to permit the construction of a two family dwelling on the property located at Block 409, Lot 2 on Somerset Street at the intersection of 2nd place.

Said application requests a variance from the South Plainfield Borough Zoning Code as follows:

VARIANCE	REQUIRED	PROPOSED
710.1E	M-3 District	Permitted Uses
		Two family dwelling

and such other variances and/or waivers as may be deemed necessary or appropriate by the Board.

A hearing on said application will be held on February 13, 2003 at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, at which time any interested person may be heard concerning said application.

A copy of the proposed plans are on file in the office of the Building Inspector for public inspection Monday through Thursday, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

JAMES M. CAHILL, ESQ.
Attorney of Applicant
Harry Popik

\$35.00

January 17, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the services of a Registered Municipal Auditor to conduct an audit of the Borough of South Plainfield; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et. seq) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts as "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute all agreement with Andrew Hodulik of the firm Hodulik & Morrison, PA.
2. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because services rendered are professional services of a recognized profession whose practice is regulated by law.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$40.25

January 17, 2003

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS, there exists a need for certain legal services for the Borough of South Plainfield; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contract Law (N.J.S.A. 40:11 et seq) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr., Esq.
2. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Services" under the provisions of the Local Public Contract Laws because the service rendered are professional services of a recognize profession whose practice is regulated by law.
3. Wealth Benefits will not be provided as part of the compensation for the position of Borough copy of this resolution, shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten days of its passage.
4. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten days of its passage.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$45.50

January 17, 2003

policereport

Two Gas Stations Robbed on Stelton Rd.

Last Saturday at approximately 6 a.m., a strong arm robbery occurred at the Matthews Mobil Service Station on Stelton Rd.

An employee reported that a white male entered the store lobby, pushed the victim in the chest and walked behind the counter. The suspect then removed several cartons of cigarettes and then left, walking south. He entered an older model full-sized Blazer of Bronco bearing a NJ license plate on the front and no plate on the back. The suspect reportedly had been in the store approximately 20 minutes earlier, but had not purchased anything, nor spoke to the victim. The victim was not injured. The suspect is described as a white male, 30-35 years old, brown shoulder length hair, long brown beard, 6 feet tall, weighing about 225 lbs. and wearing a black cloth jacket and blue jeans.

In a separate unrelated incident that night at around 11:21 p.m. an attempted armed robbery occurred at the Stelton Gulf Gas Station on Stelton Rd.

There were two male attendants working at the time, both Piscataway residents, ages 19 and 48. Two suspects entered the station office, one armed with a ten inch kitchen knife. One suspect demanded money from one of the employees. The other employee behind the counter observed what was happening and picked up the phone to call 911. One of the suspects held a knife to the employee ordering him to hang up the phone. The employee refused and dialed 911. At this time, both suspects fled on foot without any money. The suspects were both described as males, 5'10" to 6', thin builds, late teens to early 20's, wearing black scarves with white dots that were pulled over their faces, black coats and blue jeans. It is unknown

what race the suspects were. Neither employee was injured. This was the second robbery at this location in the past two weeks.

Anyone who may have been a witness or could provide additional information please contact Det. James Parker at (908) 226-7661.

Other Police News

• On Jan. 8 an employee of Med Tech on Century Rd. reported that the rear window of her vehicle had been broken. Nothing was missing.

• On Jan. 9 Harikiran V. Ganti, 27, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated, speeding, no insurance and careless driving at a motor vehicle stop.

• An employee of Penske Truck Rental Co. on So. Clinton Ave. reported that the back left passenger window had been broken on his vehicle. Nothing was missing.

• Timi, Inc. reported the theft of a lap top computer off a desk.

• N-B Rex Transport reported the theft of an Alpine AM/FM cassette stereo with a CD changer, a Movado watch and a wallet from a tractor trailer parked at a Roosevelt Ave. storage yard. A small passenger side window was pried open and the door unlocked.

• On Jan. 10 a Newark resident reported that one of two stolen checks from her checkbook had been cashed at the A&P.

• A Lakeview Ave. resident reported the theft of her purse from her unlocked vehicle in her driveway.

• On Jan. 12 Pathmark reported that two white males had grabbed Tylenol tablets and gel caps from a display and fled the store.

• On Jan. 13 Schneider Electric on New Market Rd. reported that four vehicles had windows smashed out. One vehicle had the steering column broken apart and the ignition smashed. Nothing was taken.

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LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

January 14, 2003

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on January 9, 2003.

A. Case #93-02—Keith W. Soper; Block 76; Lot 1; 2504 Maple Avenue—The applicant's request for the construction of one story addition measuring 10 ft. in width by 22 ft. in depth and maintaining a minimum 20 ft. front yard setback from Linden Ave. was hereby GRANTED.

B. Case #84-02—Real Estate Builders & Investors, Block 254; Lot 10; 117 Teeple Place—The applicant's request for lot area, lot width and front yard setback variances was hereby GRANTED with voluntary conditions.

C. Case #90-02—John Modrzejewski—Block 314; Lot 11; 408 Anthony Avenue—The applicant's request for the construction of a 15 ft. x 25 ft. deck, which dimensions include an access platform of 4 ft. by 4 ft. was hereby GRANTED with voluntary conditions.

D. Case #32-02/S—Genuine Parts Company, Block

528; Lot 48; 1770 New Durham Road—The applicant's request for the expansion of a non-conforming use, a separate use variance to allow retail sales, the front yard setback variance to permit the addition to maintain a 60.2 ft. front yard setback from New Durham Rd. was hereby GRANTED with preliminary and final site plan approval and voluntary and additional conditions.

E. Case #51-02—American Redi-Mix Concrete Co. Inc., Block 388; Lot 10; Hollywood Avenue—The applicant's request for a use variance, height variances, a continuation of the non-conforming front yard setback was hereby GRANTED with preliminary and final site plan approval and waivers.

F. Case #6-02—Dennis Hado, Jr. Inc., Block 284; Lot 25; Dover Place—The applicant's request for a use variance for a contractor's storage yard and office storage building, as well as bulk variances relating to lot area, lot depth and rear yard setback was hereby GRANTED with preliminary and final site plan approval and waivers.

G. Case #32-96/S—Balaji, Inc., Block 290; Lot 3 & 4; 2105 New Brunswick Avenue—The applicant's request to reaffirm the previously granted use variance, bulk variances and preliminary and final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED with voluntary conditions.

H. Case #91-02—Rodney and Danielle Jackson, Block 282; Lot 25; 123 Ten Eyck Street—The applicant's request for the construction of a second floor addition to their home with a 17.76 ft. front yard setback, was hereby GRANTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Both Knidre,
Secretary, Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$70.00 January 17, 2003

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Here's more news from the South Plainfield Library:

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

Don't forget about our "Valentines for Veterans" program tomorrow. You can stop in any time during the day and make a valentine for a vet. We'll provide all of the materials, and we'll make sure they arrive in time for Valentine's Day.

Turning to our children's programs, we've got our usual schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. These 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 1:00. Each program features stories and a craft activity. Also, Miss Linda is encouraging parents to make a craft with their children this month, and then bring the projects to the library. We'll put them on display in February. If you have any questions about our children's programs, just call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

We've got another special program coming up. On Sunday, Jan. 26, we'll host the program "The Big Band Era." Dr. Stephen F. Marcone of William Paterson University will discuss American jazz bands of the 1930s through a special audio/visual presentation. The program starts at 2 p.m. and is presented free of charge. It's presented by the South Plainfield Historical Society and is made possible through funding from the NJ Council for the Humanities. And don't worry; it won't conflict with the Super Bowl.

We have a couple of new displays in place. Our large display cabinet features memorabilia, provided by Reference Librarian Allan Kleiman, about England's Royal Family. Our display wall has a selection of books relating to Chinese New Year. The books may be checked out by the public; Miss Linda put together the display.

February has been deemed "Romance Month" at the library. In recognition of this, we've put together the "Bundle of Love" contest. To enter, just write your name on a slip of paper and put it into our contest jar found at the Circulation Desk. Each Friday in February, we'll draw two names from the jar; winners will receive a bundle of 12 paperback romance novels. Entries will be accepted from Jan. 21 through Feb. 27. No purchase is necessary (but if you want to get something from the Book Sale, we have no objection).

Here's a reminder to those using our periodicals. Even though an issue may be days, months or even years old, we need those issues intact. If you find an article, column or item you're interested in, do *not* attempt to tear or cut it out. Not only does that deprive other patrons from seeing that item, it is a criminal offense (destruction of public property). If you want to hang onto an item, please make use of our photocopier at the non-expensive price of 10 cents a copy. Or, ask at the Reference Desk for assistance. Or splurge and buy your own copy of the periodical. And make no mistake; we will deal harshly with those who break this rule.

Finally, a brief note: Those of you wishing to contact our director may find themselves connected to a "Ms. Randolph." Do not be alarmed; different name, same director.

That's all for this week. See you next Friday.

Webelos Visit Rutgers Geology Museum

The South Plainfield second year Webelos from Cub Scout Pack 324, Den 5, visited the Rutgers University Geology Museum recently to earn the Geology Activity badge. The scouts were given a private tour after closing hours and were thrilled to find several artifacts and fossils from New Jersey. They also enjoyed learning geological and mineral information, such as what causes an earthquake, how mountains are formed and what type of minerals are used in home building materials.

The museum, located at the Rutgers University campus in New Brunswick, also displayed a "Mummy," dinosaur bones and a variety of interesting exhibits.



Scouts pictured in the front row from left to right are Mathew Santos, Harrison Lee, Jimmy Bijlani, Logan Green, Kevin Simms, Ray Coletta, Steve Grzenia and John Bullock. In the back row from left to right are Vijay Bijlani, Den 5 Leader and Bill Selden, museum curator.

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