

FILE

It's All Magic at the South Plainfield Library -- See page 7

NOV 17 2003

S PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
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S PLAINFIELD NJ 07080

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 8, NO. 14

50 CENTS

NOVEMBER 14, 2003

Toddler Struck and Killed By Bus



Abigail Kuberiet

Abigail Kuberiet, who would have been two next month, died in a tragic accident last Wednesday in front of her home on Windrew Ave.

Authorities are still investigating the circumstances of how the accident occurred. Abigail's mom, Lisa, had just put her five-year-old son on the school bus and apparently did not know that the toddler had followed her out of the house.

Bus driver John Mazzeo of South Plainfield was unaware that he had struck the toddler until police stopped the bus and informed him.

According to Middlesex County Prosecutor Nicholas Sewitch there is no evidence of carelessness, no alcohol or drugs were involved, and it appears that this was a tragic accident.

Abigail is the daughter of Christopher Kuberiet, assistant Middlesex County prosecutor.

For Abigail's obituary, see page 10.

Veterans Honored at Post

Veterans Day, originally known as Armistice Day and signifying the end of World War I (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month), officially became a holiday in the United States in 1926, and a national holiday 12 years later. In 1954, the name was changed to Veterans Day to honor all U.S. Veterans.

VFW Post 6763 held their annual Veterans Day ceremonies on Tuesday to honor and remember those veterans who have served our country before a larger than usual crowd.

Commander Harold Evegan and Woman's Auxiliary President Marianne Cortese placed a wreath at the

flag poles recently installed at Monument Park. He also recognized Phil Cortese, who was also greatly involved in the planning and construction of Monument Park. In honor of Veterans Day, flags were flying at Monument Park on Tuesday.

"In South Plainfield we remember our Veterans everyday through the efforts of the American Legion, the VFW, street signs with flags and gold stars named after veterans, the renaming of Borough Park to Veterans Park and the beautiful Monument Park under construction right now," explained Mayor Gallagher.

"If I could make any demand of my government, it is to give veterans the care and respect from our government that they deserve. They have been the keepers of peace and freedom and we can never do enough for them," concluded Commander Evegan.

The tables and walls of the VFW were filled with cards made by the



monument in front of the VFW after Chaplain Michael Panca opened the ceremonies with a prayer. Taps were played by Steve Janizak.

The event continued inside the VFW, where special guests conveyed what Veterans Day meant to them. Speakers included Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Mayor Dan Gallagher, Councilmen Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick and South Plainfield Police Chief Robert Merkler. Commander Evegan presented a check for \$5,000 to Chief Merkler for the cost of the

seventh grade Middle School students from Barbara McDonough's Social Studies class. Each was an original thank you card to the veterans. The ceremonies ended with Pam Janizak singing the "Lords Prayer."

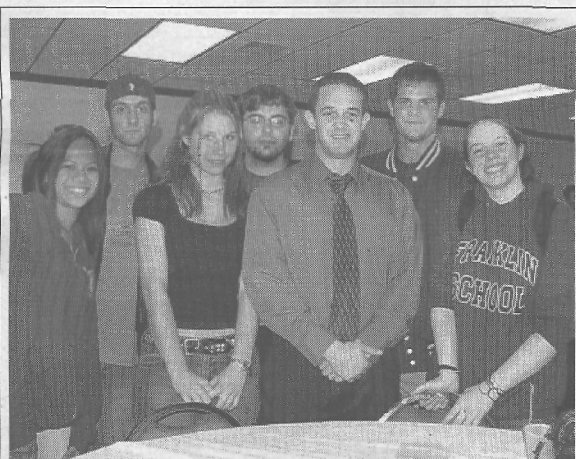
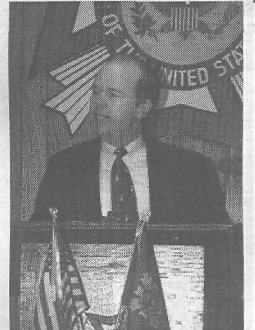
Veterans Day ceremonies were also held at Franklin School. See next week's *Observer* for coverage of the event.



VFW Post 6763 Commander Commander Harold Evegan sets out a wreath to honor South Plainfield veterans.

**"Without asking why,
tell us where we have to go,
let us do our job,
let us protect America."**

Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan (right) speaks at Veterans Day services about the dedication of our servicemen and women.



Future Leaders

On election night South Plainfield High School U.S. Government students traveled to the Republican and Democratic headquarters with their teacher, Shane Kagan, to witness the votes counting. Students who attended will receive extra credit. Pictured above are students Masichris Maullon, Rob Hoffman, Valerie Pasquarella, Chris Egan, high school teacher Shane Kagan, Ian Levine and Kaitlin Bundy.

-Photo by Patricia Abbott

Bonding OK'd for Boulevard Expansion

The long-awaited expansion of Hamilton Blvd. is one step closer to its beginning. Last Thursday, the council passed a bond ordinance which allows the Borough to acquire approximately 62 parcels of property along Hamilton Blvd. The total bond amount is \$1.76M, but that exact amount may not be needed since the final cost has yet to be determined.

The entire length of Hamilton Blvd., from Stelton Rd. to New Market Ave., will undergo reconstruction next year. The section from Stelton Rd. to Durham Ave. will be expanded to four lanes and sidewalks and curbs installed. The intersections at Ryan St. and St. Nicholas Ave. will be revamped and a traffic light will be installed. The light and intersection at New Market Ave. will also be expanded to improve traffic flow.

Property will be purchased from businesses and homeowners along the expansion and thus the need for bonding. Two residents who have lived in South Plainfield their entire

lives are making special requests. Both are elderly women and are asking the borough to maintain their sidewalks in the winter months. Presently, there are no sidewalks in front

of the homes, and due to their ages, they won't be able to shovel the snow and keep the sidewalks clean.

The acquisition of land is a prerequisite to the project moving forward.



Father Ray is "Mitred" - Left to right is Father Ray's wife Dorothy (back turned), Archbishop Antony, Fr. Ray, Reader David Masroberte, Father Michael Hontaruk, Rev. Charles Mingle and Acolyte Christopher Slaby. See Milestones, page 5, for Father Ray's 25th anniversary celebration.



Want to Reach the Borough?

Call 908-754-9000

Mark your calendars

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest
meeting agenda

council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Thursday.

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

AGENDA MEETING **PUBLIC MEETING**

Monday, December 8 Thursday, November 13

Thursday, December 11

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

November 25, December 9, December 23

zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month

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

November 20, December 4, December 18

board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.: December 9

Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m.: November 18, December 16

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? 908-769-0786.

site plan sub-committee

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

November 18, December 16.

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

December 2.

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

Meets once a month (fourth Wednesday) 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: South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Department, 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 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: ggnan@aol.com or fax 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. All letters must be submitted with name and phone number, for verification.

IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor:

I want to thank the residents of the 18th District for re-electing me to the New Jersey Assembly last Tuesday. It has been an honor to serve East Brunswick, Edison, Helmetta, Metuchen, South Plainfield, South River and Spotswood for the last two years and I am humbled by your continuing support. I am particularly proud of the campaign conducted by Senator Barbara Buono, Assemblyman Peter Barnes and me. We ran on our records and on our vision for the State of New Jersey. Never once did we call into question the character or motives of our political opponents. In this era of negative campaigning, where the political experts say you can't win without throwing mud at the other side, the voters confirmed that a positive platform is more powerful than a nasty charge.

I commit myself to continuing to work as hard as I can to address the issues that affect each of our daily lives. If there is any issue or concern that you want to talk to me about, don't hesitate to contact my legislative office, which is located at 908 Oak Tree Ave., Unit P in South Plainfield. My telephone number is (908) 757-1677. My email address is AsmDiegnan@njleg.org.

VERY TRULY YOURS,
PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

To the Editor,

I would like to thank all of the residents of South Plainfield for giving me the opportunity to serve them for three more years. The first three years went by very fast.

I will continue to work hard for the residents during my next term, just as I did in my first term.

ONCE AGAIN THANK YOU,
BOB CUSICK

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to the South Plainfield High School Marching Band in making it to the Atlantic Coast Championships that were held Saturday, Nov. 8 in Scranton, Pa.

For those who might not be aware, there are 192 participating high school marching bands in the Atlantic Coast Region. These bands are divided into four groups and only the top 25 bands in each of these four groups have the opportunity to compete in the Atlantic Coast Championships. So let's all give our marching band a big cheer for their great achievement. Their dedication, hard work and long hours have certainly paid off. With every weekly competition, their performance has improved to where they are now a class act and their scores reflect just that.

On Oct. 11, the SPHS Tigers achieved a first place finish at a competition in Williamstown with a score of 79.60.

On Oct. 25, the SPHS Marching

Band performed in Old Bridge, where they won second place with a score of 84.25 and also received an award for Best Percussion. On Nov. 1 at the Tournament of Bands Chapter X Championships in East Brunswick, the SPHS Marching Band placed third with a score of 86.55. The Tigers placed 23rd at the Atlantic Coast Championships.

Congratulations to the Tiger Marching Band for their great performance and achievement at the Atlantic Coast Championships!

MARIA KRUPIT

To the Editor,

Wow, that was some letter Mr. Zykliński. I can only hope that you are not as angry and bitter in real life as you come across in your letter of last week.

On your first point, the Board of Education is made up of people who spend long hours doing more or less a thankless job of trying to make sure that the children of South Plainfield receive the best education possible. Is the Board of Ed as efficient with the taxpayers money as it could be? I don't really have an informed enough opinion to offer one here, but I am certain that the Board members have the best interests of the students at heart and harbor no secret agenda to "squeeze retired people out of South Plainfield so that this will be a town for the rich."

On your second point, I am almost at a loss for words. How you get from the "removal of the Ten Commandments from public view" to "Socialism" is a staggering leap in logic. Christians in this country are being "forced into hiding?" Where, exactly, is that happening? The A.C.L.U., Americans United for the Separation of Church and State and other like organizations are simply trying to maintain the "wall of separation between church and state" that Thomas Jefferson wrote of. No one is trying to keep you from practicing your religion. We would just prefer you do it on your own time, not the government's. Put your ten commandment plaques and statues up on your own property and your churches, mosques or synagogues and no one will bother you. Why do you feel compelled to force it into the public square? I am not interested in subsidizing your proselytizing.

And as for your question, "Where is the voice of Christians?" I was not aware that the Observer excluded letters to the editor based on the writers religious affiliation. If that really is the case, perhaps you should contact the A.C.L.U. I am certain they would be very interested in representing you.

RANDALL MCCANN

Dear Editor,

I want to thank everyone that made this year's election possible. I am very fortunate to once again have the opportunity to serve our Borough. It has

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 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 400 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.

been almost six years since I was first elected and I still consider myself just as motivated as the first day in office. There are many people that support my job as a Councilperson and deserve recognition. The Director and members of the Recreation Commission; they support the interest of our children. The Director and Senior Advisory Committee; they dedicate themselves to the needs of our seniors. The Mayor and Council who campaigned with me and when I want support on a project they never say no! The committee people that supply important community feedback. But, the most important people I want to thank are the folks that answer the door when I knocked during the campaign. I appreciate their input on how it is to live here and what can be done to make it better. This door-to-door dialogue makes my job look easy.

On a municipal level, there are many projects in the works. I am looking forward to completing those projects. The Helen Street expansion is making great progress and its timely completion is very important to our Borough. The reconstruction of Hamilton Blvd. will not only improve traffic flow, but will become an attractive entrance roadway into our town.

The future looks bright with the lighting of many ball fields and soccer fields. The Highlands Preserve will get a building with classrooms. Not since the construction of the New Senior Center have I been this excited about a project, as I am about to plan the building of a new library. This mayor and council will not only build a new library, but apply for every possible grant to build that library, without a large taxpayer expense.

The tone of this year's Republican campaign was disappointing; however, it motivated me even more. I feel that one of my greatest assets is my honesty and my ability to complete projects. For me, the position of councilperson is the most difficult job I have ever done. The job has no start or end time. Meetings seem to happen all the time and there are an endless amounts of events to attend. Sometimes my friends would rather discuss how to run the borough than talk sports. No downtime, but I still love the job!

Thank you, South Plainfield and thank you very much to the mayor and council.

SINCERELY,
RAYMOND S. PETRONKO

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Community Invited to Thanksgiving Service

The South Plainfield Clergy Group is proud to announce the annual Community-Wide Thanksgiving Worship Service. Each year we come together to celebrate and give thanks for all that God has done for us and for all that God is doing in our community.

This year's worship service will be hosted by Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave. Rever-

end Dr. Nehemiah Thompson, pastor at Wesley UMC will be our preacher. Worship begins at 7:30 a.m., with light refreshments following. A combined choir, under the leadership of Jim Horvath and Tom Baker, will bless us with music. There will also be a youth choir from The Rescue House of Prayer. As an expression of our thanksgiving, an offering will be taken

to benefit FISH Ministries.

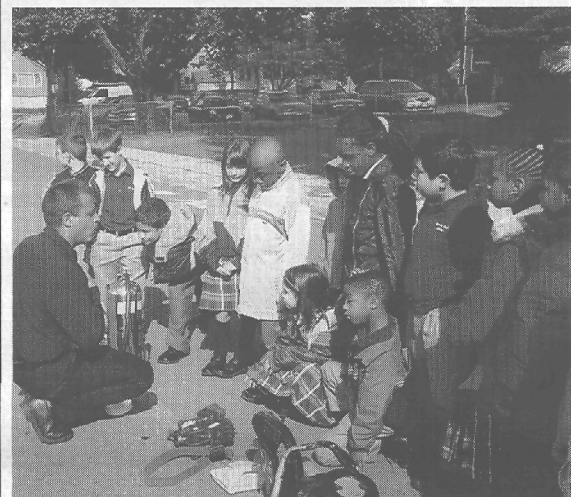
You are also encouraged to bring non-perishable food to be distributed to those in need. As always, everyone is welcome to this Service of Thanksgiving.

Motorola Volunteers Plant Trees

Volunteers from Motorola planted trees at the Oak Tree Open Space Parcel, a reforestation project, recently. Bill Kruse, who is the Assistant Planning Director with the Middlesex County Department of Planning, was on hand to help and take photos.

Bill is Secretary to the MC Urban Forestry Advisory Committee and he attended this event in part to represent the Freeholders, in part because the MCUFAC has given us two grants in the past to reforest this site and partly because he likes to plant trees.

In addition to the Motorola volunteers, led by Eileen Hogan, the Community Connections coordinator, several Friends of the Woods/Environmental Commission members came to plant. They were Jim Schmidt, Dot Miele and Lisa Roseco.



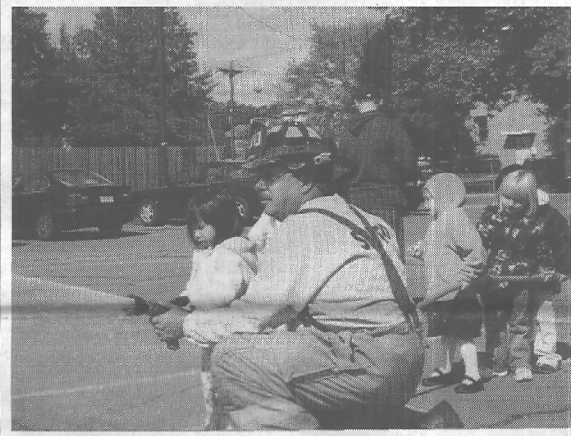
Fire Department Pays a Visit To Sacred Heart School

On Monday, Oct. 6 the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department visited Sacred Heart School to provide children instruction on what to do in the event of a fire.

The safety lessons they learned were immediately put to the test as a car in the parking lot (a demonstration) began to fill with smoke!

As soon as quick-thinking students dialed 9-1-1, a fire engine with firefighters in full gear arrived to douse the blaze.

Once again, the students of Sacred Heart School would like to thank our brave fire department for another wonderful and exciting demonstration of fire safety.



VFW Post 6763 Commander Harold Evgan presents a check for \$5,000 to Police Chief Robert Merkler for the new flag poles at Memorial Park.

Library Program Explores Plymouth Colony Settlement

The Friends of the Library will sponsor a special dramatic performance on Sunday, Nov. 16 at South Plainfield Library. The program, entitled "Stranger Among Saints" (formerly en-

members of the Plymouth Colony on Cape Cod. Hopkins was no saint, but his previous experience in the New World made him a useful and respected member of the group of New English settlers, popularly known as the "Pilgrims." Find out about the politics, religion, economics, Native American relations and social life of the first permanent settlement from his unique perspective.

In character, Emerson will talk about the experience of traveling to America on board the "Mayflower" and establishing the settlement.

The public is invited to attend this program for all ages. No pre-registration is required.

Emerson has appeared at many museums and traditional festivals throughout the Northeast. His stories are appropriate for adults, teens and adolescents. History on the Hoof (David Emerson and Stacy Roth) is a company specializing in unique presentations on themes in American History from two veteran historical interpreters who combine scholarship with

a variety of interpretive techniques, including storytelling, songs, demonstration and drama.

The program has been sponsored by the Friends of South Plainfield Library, in association with the NJ Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

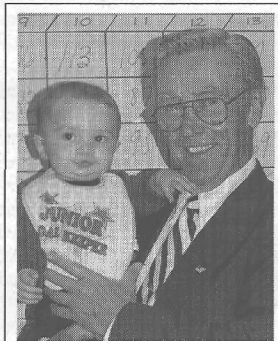
South Plainfield Free Public Library is located in the South Plainfield Municipal Complex at 2484 Plainfield Ave. For information, call (908) 754-7885 or visit the library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.



David Emerson as Stephen Hopkins in "Stranger Among Saints."

titled "We Came Over on the Mayflower"), will take place at 2 p.m.

David Emerson will appear as Stephen Hopkins, one of the original



Registered Voter?

Although he couldn't vote in this election, Brian Patrick, grandson of Mayor Dan Gallagher, joins his grandfather at the vote counting last Tuesday. The mayor hopes to consider Brian the newest member of the Democratic Party.

Pilgrim Covenant Church Adopts Cedarbrook Avenue

Donna Jackson, Deacon at Pilgrim Covenant Church, has signed an Adopt-A-Spot agreement with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association for the coming year. The adopted spot covers the stream crossing on Cedarbrook Ave. and wraps around the corner of Morris Ave. up to the Senior Citizen residence. At this location, Cedarbrook Ave. runs between Spring Lake Park and Middlesex Water Company's wellfield. The Water Company land is mostly wooded and seems to invite litter and illegal dumping. Morris Ave. runs past open fields that border on the woods. The Borough of South Plainfield owns these fields. Pilgrim Covenant Church

has agreed to pick up litter in the fields as well as along the roadsides.

Adults from the church body will join the confirmation class of twelve seventh and eighth graders to form a litter crew of about twenty people every month. The church is located at 3121 Park Ave., on an attractive, well-kept property shaded by mature trees. Jackson hopes that Pilgrim Covenant will be setting an example for the community that will encourage other groups to pitch in and clean up the town.

The Clean Business Association has been seeking more adopters. There are many other spots in the Borough that would benefit from regular maintenance. CBA President Joe Diegnan believes that if enough people commit to keeping short stretches of road clean, these efforts will add up to a better quality of life in South Plainfield.

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

Red Cross Seeks Donations for "Thanksgiving Food Baskets"

The Tri-County Chapter is seeking donations of turkeys and non-perishable foods at the Plainfield Chapter house, 332 W. Front St., Plainfield. Non-perishable items will be accepted

Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Turkeys can only be accepted on Saturday, Nov. 25.

Please call (908) 756-6414 to adopt a local family.

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Must commit to 10 weeks.

Events

Knights of Columbus Trip to Army Game

November 15

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a bus trip to West Point to see Army play Houston University on Nov. 15. Game time is 1 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person and the bus price will be \$25 per person.

If you would like tickets or need more details, please call Tony Moskal at (732) 727-4841 or Joe Scudato at (908) 754-0869.

The bus will leave from the Knights of Columbus on Hamilton Ave.

Wine Tasting at Embassy Suites

November 15

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department invites you to attend a wine tasting, sponsored by Oak Tree Buy-Rite Liquors, located at Embassy Suites, Piscataway on Saturday, Nov. 15, from 6 to 11 p.m.

Tickets are \$40 per person. Price includes the wine tasting reception from 6-9 p.m. and a cash bar, DJ and dancing from 9-11 p.m.

For tickets, contact Mike Gallagher, (908) 755-9874; John Celentano, (908) 757-5691 or Buy-Rite Liquors, (908) 561-0051.

St. Stephen's Annual Gift Raffle Auction

November 15

St. Stephen's Orthodox Church, 609 Lane Ave., will hold its second annual Gift Raffle Auction on Nov. 15. This event will be held at the Middle School on Plainfield Ave. Doors will open at 6 p.m. for browsing and the auction calling will begin precisely at 7:30 p.m.

Admission of \$6 includes complimentary coffee and tea. Pizza, soda and dessert will be available for purchase.

Join us for a fun evening and shop for your holiday gifts as well. There will be beautiful theme baskets, small appliances, jewelry, toys, bed and bath items, door prizes and a 50/50 chance drawing.

For more information, call (973) 635-2797 or (908) 754-4813.

SPHS Athletic Boosters Sports Auction/Raffle

November 15

The South Plainfield High School Athletic Booster Club will hold their annual Sports Auction-Raffle on Saturday, Nov. 15. Doors open at 6 p.m. The auction starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets in advance are \$7 or \$10 at the door. Admission includes 25 auction tickets. Prizes include Giants tickets, autographed balls, sports theme baskets, Rutgers tickets, a DVD player and a television.

For tickets or information, call The George's at (908) 755-4633, or the Keller's at (908) 763-1341.

Recreation Plans Trip to Atlantic City

November 16

It's time to "Go for the Gold." The South Plainfield Recreation is planning a trip to the Atlantic City Resort Hotel on Sunday, Nov. 16. The bus leaves from the PAL at 10:30 a.m. and returns about 8:30 p.m.

The cost is \$15 per person. Participants receive \$13 back in coins. Sign up for the trip at the PAL Building.

What's happening in NOVEMBER

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 9:00 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<div> <div>EVENTS</div> <div>Thursday, November 20</div> <div>Thanksgiving Luncheon 12 Noon</div> </div>				
Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Drawing Class 11:30am-12:30pm	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am Computer Classes 10-11am or 2-3pm	Exercise 8:45-9:45 Line Dancing 10-11:30 Movie Time 11:30am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 1-2pm	Shopping Day 9am-11am Practical Crafts 10-11am Computer Class 1-2pm	Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch 10am-11am Computer Class 10-11am Men's Forum Steering Committee Mtg. 1:30PM
17	18	19	20	21
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.				

Library Job Information Programs

November 19

The South Plainfield Library is planning the following program for November, as part of the library's Job Information Center.

Is your resume not getting you the results you want? **Resume and Cover Letters for Beginners** on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 7:15-8:45 a.m. will provide some of the answers. The program is free. Space is limited; reservations are required. For information, call (908) 754-7885 or visit southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

Wesley Methodist Pre-Thanksgiving Program

November 20

Wesley United Methodist Church would like to invite you to a very special pre-Thanksgiving event on Thursday, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. in our beautiful sanctuary.

The Hard But Right Way—A Pilgrim's Journey by Jim Winder of Bridgewater. A wonderfully contemplative service of music and story as told in Jim's interpretation of the classic "Pilgrim's Progress" by John Bunyan.

Appropriate for adults and young people alike, "A Pilgrim's Journey" will start off the holiday season with "music that penetrates and enriches the soul."

Wesley United Methodist Church, is located at 1500 Plainfield Ave. Call (908) 757-2838 for details or visit www.thehardbutrightway.com. Free will offering. Refreshments and CDs will be available for purchase.

VFW Ham Dinner

November 21

The VFW Post 6763 will host a ham dinner on Friday, Nov. 21 at the VFW, 155 Front Street, from 5 to 8 p.m. The donation is \$7. The dinner is complete with three vegetables, salad, cake, coffee and tea. A children's menu is available for \$4.

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

Sacred Heart to Hold Basket Bingo

November 22

Sacred Heart School Home School Association will sponsor a Longaberger Basket Bingo and Raffle on Satur-

day, Nov. 22 in the school cafeteria. Funds raised from this event will be used to build a playground for the children. Tickets are \$20 each, which includes admission and boards. Join us for an evening of fun and excitement. To purchase tickets or for additional information, call Kathy Thomas at (908) 755-0891.

Suburban Woman's Club Presents Musical

November 23

The Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield will sponsor a wonderful theatrical experience to benefit their annual scholarship fund on Sunday, Nov. 23 at 3 p.m. The play is "Jane Eyre, the Musical." Charlotte Bronte's classical story is now set to music and will be presented by the Circle Playhouse in Piscataway.

Ticket cost is \$16. All proceeds to benefit the annual scholarship fund. The award to be given to a graduating SPHS senior. Complimentary refreshments will be served during intermission and door prizes will be awarded. Circle Playhouse is located at 416 Victoria Ave. in Piscataway, just a few blocks from 7th St. and Washington Ave.

For ticket information and reservations, call (908) 6163 or (908) 757-3680.

Class of 1989 Plans 15-Year Reunion

November 27

The South Plainfield High School Class of 1989 is planning their 15th reunion to be held in Edison at the Sheraton in Raritan Center on Nov. 27, 2004. Price is \$80.

Contact SPHSclassof89@yahoo.com with address information.

Jr. Baseball Women's Auxiliary Holiday Party

December 3

The South Plainfield Jr. Baseball Club Women's Auxiliary will hold their annual Holiday Party at Flanagan's on Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m. All women are welcome to attend.

\$25 admission includes dinner, desert, beer and wine. A wrapped gift exchange item (\$10 value) is all you need to bring! Please join us to "kick off" the holidays.

Call Cindy Eichler (908) 769-4047 or Stacy Lake (908) 757-9531 for your reservation.

Senior Center EVENTS

(732) 968-7555.

Middlesex WOWs Dance

November 14

The Middlesex East Widows or Widowers Carter Chapter will hold a dance for widows and widowers on Friday, Nov. 14 at St. Demetrius Community Center, 681-691 Roosevelt Ave. in Carteret. Admission is \$8. Entertainment and refreshments will be provided. The dance will be from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. For more information, call (732) 969-1123 or (908) 757-0515.

Union Catholic to Host Casino Night

November 14

On Friday, Nov. 14 Union Catholic High School of Scotch Plains is hosting a Casino Night at the Gran Centurions, 440 Madison Hill Rd., Clark.

Guests will purchase a "money card," which will be exchanged for chips at the gaming tables. A variety of games including poker, caribbean polder, blackjack, roulette and a big six wheel will be open to players. Ticket price of \$35 covers admission, hot and cold food stations, hot hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks, coffee, tea and dessert. Cash bar will be available.

The evening begins at 7 p.m. and at 7:30 games will officially begin.

To purchase tickets, contact Anne Wischusen at (908) 889-1600 x 316.

Reducing or Eliminating Menopausal Symptoms

November 15 and 17

There are a lot of things women can do to alleviate or prevent menopausal symptoms. Join licensed acupuncturist Carole Bishop for a free workshop on Saturday, Nov. 15 at 3 p.m. or on Monday, Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Fitness by Design, 120 Centennial Ave. in Piscataway on "Healing Foods and Lifestyle Changes to Reduce or Eliminate the Discomfort of Menopause." The workshop is free to the public. Reservations are required. Call (732) 885-1200 to reserve your place.

Touchstone's Holiday Show Announced

Nov. 15-16-19, Dec. 7 & 14

Touchstone Theatre will open its perennial holiday favorite, "Christmas City Follies," on Nov. 15. This inspired vaudeville-styled romp celebrates the holidays with laughter, live music, warmth and spunk.

There will be two Family Matinees on Saturday, Nov. 15 and Sunday, Nov. 16 at 2 p.m. Main Stage production opens on Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 8 pm. Christmas City Follies runs Thursdays through Saturdays through December 20, with two Sunday matinees on Dec. 7 and 14 at 4 p.m. Performances are at 8 Thursdays through Saturdays. Opening Night for the Main Stage production costs \$25 and includes the reception following the performance. Tickets for Thursdays and Sunday matinees are \$16 and Friday and Saturday night tickets are \$20. Family Matinees, prior to Opening, are \$8. For tickets and information, call (610) 867-1689. Touchstone Theatre is located at 321 E. 4th St. in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

(Continued on next page)

Craft Show at John E. Riley

December 5

John E. Riley Elementary School, located on Morris Ave., will hold their Annual Craft/Vendor Night on Friday, Dec. 5 from 5 to 9 p.m. Both new and handcrafted merchandise will be available.

For vendor information, call (908) 561-2530.

Holiday Bazaar at Cedar Oaks

December 5

Cedar Oaks Care Center is holding a Holiday Bazaar on Friday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Cedar Oaks Care Center, 1311 Durham Ave. There will be vendors, crafts, costume jewelry and more! Crafters are wanted!

Call Patty Tirse at (732) 287-9555 ext. 139 for more information.

— Out of Town —

Comedy Show at Wardlaw-Hartridge

November 13-15

The Wardlaw-Hartridge School, an independent school in Edison, will present Woody Allen's comedy "Don't Drink the Water" on Thursday-Saturday nights, Nov. 13-15.

One of the leads in the show is Melissa Dupont of South Plainfield.

The 7:30 p.m. play is open to the public. Although there is no admission charge, donations for the drama department will be accepted at the door. For further information about the show, call the school during hours at (908) 754-1882, ext. 106.

Circle Players Present Jane Eyre Musical

November 14-22

"Jane Eyre: The Musical" is a timeless tale of a young woman's search for liberty and love during a time in which women had little freedom and love was an accident of marriage, not its catalyst. The show can be seen at Circle Players Nov. 14, 21 and Saturday, Nov. 15 and 22 at 2 p.m. Sunday matinee is Nov. 16 at 3 p.m.

Tickets for performances are \$15. Seniors and students receive \$1 off, with I.D., on Sunday matinees.

Circle Players is located at 416 Victoria Ave., Piscataway.

For tickets and information, call

even

(Continued from previous page)

Central Jersey Symphony Concert

November 16

The Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of its Music Director Roger Briscoe, will begin its 34th season with a concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 16, at Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools Theatre, North Bridge St. and Vogt Dr. in Bridgewater. General admission is \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for students. Tickets can be purchased via credit card on the CJSO website (www.cjsso.org), or at the box office.

For tickets, call Lou Davelman, (908) 359-0906 or email information@cjsso.org.

Woodbridge WOWs Holding Fundraiser

November 16

The Woodbridge area Widows or Widowers (WOWs) is holding a fundraiser dance on Sunday, Nov. 16 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. All are welcome. The price is \$8 per person. Entertainment will be provided by "Sentimental Journey" and refreshments will be available. The dance will be held at the Elks Hall at 665 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. For more information, call (732) 297-1775.

Middlesex Bar Assoc. Symposium

November 19

The Middlesex County Bar Association announced that their symposium, "Sex: Women, Ethics and Professionalism," will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 19, at The Pines Manor, on Route 27 in Edison.

Registration begins at 3:30 p.m. and symposium begins at 4 p.m. A cocktail hour will precede the formal dinner beginning at 6:45 p.m. and the dinner program will begin at 7:30

p.m. The cost for the program and dinner is \$59 for members of the Middlesex County Bar Association and \$79 for non-members.

For more information, contact Jonathan Cowles at (732) 828-3433, fax, (732) 828-5862, or email jcowles@mcba-law.com.

Metuchen-Edison Women's Club Auction

November 21

Please join the Metuchen-Edison Women's Club for our 31st Annual Charity Auction. All funds raised will be donated to the ARC of Middlesex County. The ARC serves developmentally disabled children, adults and their families.

This event, including an open bid auction of beautiful gifts, a 50/50 raffle, door prizes and a theater and dinner raffle, promises a fun evening for all. The auction will be held on Friday, Nov. 21 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 Oak Ave., (on the corner of Rt. 27) in Metuchen. Preview begins at 6:30 p.m.; bidding at 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. No admittance fee will be charged.

For more information about the action, call Janet Panella at (908) 561-6755. For more information about meetings and membership, call Diana Dognan at (732) 548-0925.

Scandinavian Christmas Bazaar

November 22, 23

Sons of Norway Noreg Lodge of Marlboro is sponsoring their annual Scandinavian Christmas Bazaar. This event will be held at the Old Bridge Community Center, 1 Old Bridge Plaza, Old Bridge on Nov. 22 and 23. The bazaar will be open to the public between 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. Come join us for an afternoon in "Scandinavia" and enjoy one of the largest Scandinavian bazaars on the east coast.

Noreg Lodge is a non-profit fraternal organization and offers its members classes in rosemaking, sewing, embroidery, knitting, carving, music and folk dancing, plus language classes and the opportunity to learn the bag pipe. These classes are also offered to the public. Anyone interested in joining a class or for membership, contact Carl Johnson at (732) 946-8336.

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

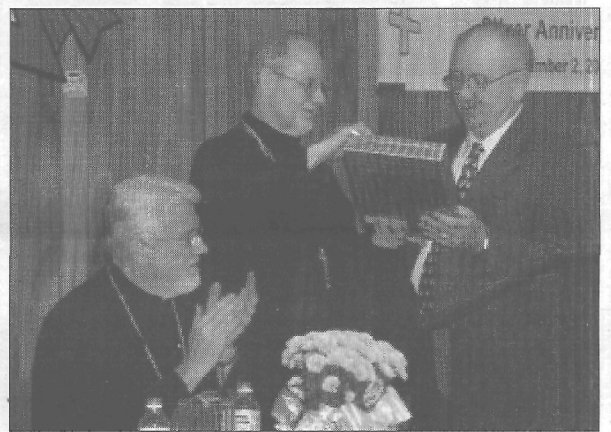
Father Raymond E. Sundland Celebrates 25 Years as Pastor of the Blessed Virgin Church

A beautiful autumn day greeted parishioners, relatives, friends and guests as they gathered to celebrate and honor the Very Reverend Father Raymond E. Sundland and his wife, Dorothy on the occasion of his 25th anniversary as pastor of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Ukrainian Orthodox Church in South Plainfield. The day was made more joyous by the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

Father Ray, as he is known to his parishioners, is originally from Blue Island, Ill. He is a 1971 graduate of the University of Montana with a degree in Russian Studies. He taught junior high school in Illinois prior to his ordination in 1977. The following year he was assigned to Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Ukrainian Orthodox church and has been there ever since. Over the years, his unstinting dedication, guidance and caring for this small parish have set an example of Christian love for his flock who feel blessed to have him as their pastor.

On this particular Sunday, Divine Liturgy was co-celebrated by His Eminence Archbishop Antony, Father Raymond and Father Michael (Hontaruk) of St. Andrew's. They were assisted by Sub-deacon Vasil Sendeha, Reader David Mastroberte and Acolyte Christopher Slaby. The choir was under the skillful direction of Mr. Raymond Mastroberte, adding to the joyfulness of this special day. Toward the end of the service, His Eminence delivered a very touching sermon emphasizing the need for Orthodox Christians to be Christ-like in their lives and in dealing with others. He stressed the awesome responsibility that a priest assumes with respect to shepherding his parish flock. The Archbishop also spoke of Father Raymond's calling to the priesthood and the love and devotion which he has shown toward his parish in assuming this responsibility and the fact that this love and devotion are reciprocated by his parishioners. In a special ceremony, Archbishop Antony conferred upon Fr. Raymond the right to wear a Mitre. The Mitre (crown) is normally worn only by bishops and in rare instances by priests who have distinguished themselves in their service to the church. A great honor indeed.

Following Divine Liturgy, a festive celebration was held in the VFW hall. The luncheon was presided over by Parish Council president, Andrew Olear and attended by over 100 friends, parishioners and family. Members of Father Ray's family came from as far as Florida, Montana, Illinois and Idaho



Father Ray Sundland receives a plaque commemorating his 25th anniversary from Parish Council President Andy Olear. Also pictured is Archbishop Antony.

to participate in this event. Also attending were members of local clergy including Fr. Yuri Siwko and family, pastor of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church; Fr. and Mrs. Stephen Tewfik, pastor of St. Stephen's Antiochian Orthodox Church; the Rev. and Mrs. Clark David Callender, a retired Methodist minister; the Rev. and Mrs. Charles R. Mingle, a retired Lutheran minister and the Rev. and Mrs. Rich-

ard Kiesling, pastor of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. The buffet-style luncheon was followed by several brief speeches recounting warm memories of friendship, presentation of awards and many gifts from his loving parishioners and friends. The celebration concluded with the singing of the traditional Ukrainian "Mnohoye Lita." (God Grant Him Many Years).

David Hnatiuk and Danielle Datz are Married in Newton

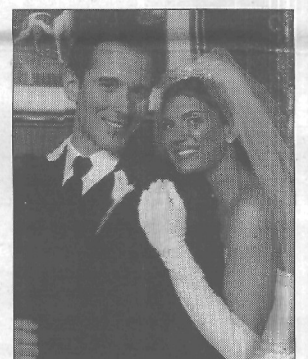
St. Andrew Church in Newton provided the setting for the wedding of Danielle Datz, daughter of Linda and Theodore Rakawski of Holland and Alan and Alyson Datz of Warrington, to David Hnatiuk of South Plainfield.

The Rev. Joseph Accardi officiated. A reception was held at Pen Ryn Mansion, Bensalem, following the ceremony.

The maid of honor was Elke Schweikert. Matrons of honors were the bride's sisters, Michele Krause and Nicole Blatstein. Bridesmaids were Liz Stewart, Pamela Helbling, Polly Wiik-Tedesco, Erica Kupferschmidt and Laurie Hnatiuk.

Jeffrey Hnatiuk was best man for his brother. Ushers were Jack Wagner, David Rundella, William McLaughlin, Brian Arnstein, Sean Sasiak, Scott Blatstein and Todd Krause.

The bride graduated from Council Rock High School and Towson State University in Maryland with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Care Management. Hnatiuk is a graduate of St. Joseph's Academy in Metuchen and



Mr. and Mrs. David Hnatiuk

Monmouth University, Long Branch. He graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications and Television Broadcast. He is a freelance music supervisor for MTV, ABC and NBC in New York and a professor in the New York University (NYU) music department.

The couple honeymooned at Playa Del Carmen, Mexico. They plan to reside in Hoboken.

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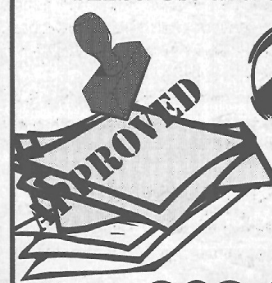
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The Palace of Jaipur, a new restaurant featuring Northern Indian Cuisine, has opened at the site of the former Cafe Pinncone Restaurant. The Palace of Jaipur has a wide variety menu. Co-owners Vijai Patel and Pradeep Kwatra have been in the restaurant business for over 15 years, with sites in Bridgewater and Somerset. Banquet and bar facilities are available for up to 300 people and catering is also available. The Palace of Jaipur is located at 2991 Hamilton Blvd. Hours are 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 5 to 10:30 p.m. for buffet lunch or dinner.

Brownies, Daisy Scouts Honor Their Leader

By Patricia Abbott

Earlier this month, South Plainfield Brownie and Daisy Scouts honored Girl Scout Founder Juliette Low by celebrating her birthday. The party, held at Riley School, was attended by over 40 girls from six troops. Senior Troop 117 assisted with the party.

The girls had pizza for lunch. Each troop brought a baked good to share for dessert. The girls played games and made Girl Scout Law bracelets. Each different colored bead represented a different part of their Law. Following lunch, the girls enjoyed entertainment by storyteller Cathy Ann Adams. Each girl was given a balloon puppy.

Low had been an avid animal lover. With this in mind, the girls brought gifts of cat and dog food which was donated to People for Animals in Hillside. The food will be used by the foster families who take animals into their homes until they can be adopted.

The fun-filled afternoon was closed with the traditional Girl Scout friendship circle. The friendship circle symbolizes an unbroken chain of friendship. The girls and leaders gathered in a circle, crossing their right arm over their left and holding hands with the girls on either side. One girl starts the friendship squeeze which is passed from hand-to-hand around the circle until it comes back to the girl who started it.

Low was born in Savannah, Georgia on Oct. 31, 1860. She started the first Girl Scout troop in this country on March 12, 1912. Over 90 years have passed since that first meeting. Scouting has come a long way over the de-

cares. It continues to grow as more and more young girls begin their scouting adventure as five-year-old Daisy Scouts and continue on to Senior Girl Scouts. Around the world there are over 10 million Girl Scouts and Girl Guides in 144 member nations. Registration is ongoing throughout the year.

For more information on volunteering or joining a troop call (908) 756-4530.

Residents' Artwork on Display at United Family

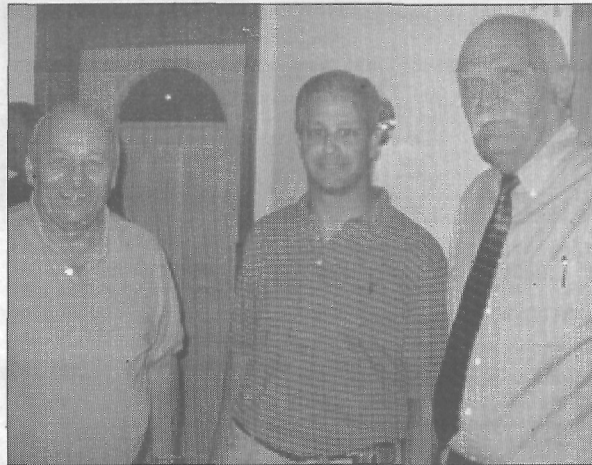
Art work, including water colors and paintings, completed by residents of the Park Hotel will be on display at United Family & Children's Society in Plainfield on Friday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This Fifth Annual Art Exhibit will feature various original works painted by the residents under the instruction of local artist Fermin Martinez. United Family & Children's Society, a non-profit family services agency, provides counseling, advocacy, recreational, social and support services to residents of the Park Hotel, a licensed residential health care facility for adults located in Plainfield, under a grant from the NJ Division of Mental Health Services.

According to Tom Reedy, LCSW, agency executive director, the first four years of the art show were very successful and the artists have been preparing for the event for the past 12 months.

The public is invited to visit the display and light refreshments will be served.

United Family is located at 305 West Seventh St. in Plainfield. The agency also provides licensed professional counseling, outpatient mental health services for children, adolescents and families, programs for pregnant teens and infant foster care.

United Family is a member agency of the United Way and is a NJ licensed adoption agency. Call (908) 755-3636 for directions or more information.



Larry Massaro, left, and Hank Grabarz, right, welcome Vinnie Butiglieri, as the newest member of the South Plainfield Lions Club during their monthly meeting.

Local Student Explores Future Career in National Security

Roy Sorenson of South Plainfield attended the National Youth Leadership Forum on Defense, Intelligence and Diplomacy (NYLF/DID) in Washington, D.C.

Having demonstrated academic achievement and an interest in a career related to national security, Sorenson joined nearly 400 outstanding high school juniors and seniors from across the United States at the forum. Students learned first-hand from individual leaders in national security, diplomacy and global defense systems.

"While leaders from countries around the world are addressing situations in Iraq and the War on Terrorism, so too are students like Roy Sorenson," said Donna Snyder, executive director of NYLF. "We place these students in the driver's seat by providing simulations where they experience the pace, decision making process and urgency behind effective international relations."

In addition to experiencing how the U.S. plans for peace and prepares for crisis, Sorenson also met with leaders from key agencies and institutions.



Roy Sorenson

Students had opportunity to visit several military installations and agencies, such as Central Intelligence Agency, Gettysburg National Military Park, The Pentagon and the U.S. Department of State, as well as several embassies, among other sites.

NYLF is a nonprofit, educational organization committed to empowering young people with the confidence to make well-informed career choices. For additional information, visit us at www.nylf.org.

SCHOOL BOARD Briefs

- The following staff members were recommended to receive tenure: Linda Giannakis (middle school) and Janice Early (Spanish education teacher).
- The Board of Education approved the appointment of Laura Pellegrino as Grant School Special Education Teacher (replacement for Lauren McGrath who resigned).
- The Board of Education approved the appointment of Rebecca Gross as Grant School Elementary (fifth/sixth grade) teacher.
- The Board of Education approved the appointment of Cathy Pompilio as Grant School Elementary (fifth/sixth grade) teacher.
- The Board of Education approved the appointment of Barbara Jewkes as Middle School Special Education Teacher (replacement for Christina Shpunder who resigned), effective Dec. 22.
- The Board of Education approved the appointment of Al Czech as High School Assistant Basketball Coach for the 2003 Winter Coaching Season.
- The Board of Education accepted the resignation for retirement of Catherine Oberlander as High School Duty Aide, effective July 1, 2003.
- The Board of Education accepted the resignation of Glenn Cullen as Treasurer of School Monies, effective July 1, 2003.
- The Board of Education approved the appointment of Jay Reba as Treasurer of School Monies, effective for the 2002/03 school year at the prior approved rate; be it further resolved, that the Board of Education also approve the short term appointment of Mr. Reba as Treasurer of School Monies, retroactive to July 1, 2003 until a permanent replacement is hired. (Temporary replacement for Glenn Cullen who resigned).

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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.

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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 via mail. 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!!

Terra Nova Garden Club News

The November monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 6:45 p.m. at the North Edison Library, 777 Grove Ave. in Edison.

The meeting will feature guest speaker Merl Pilattier of The Nature Conservatory. The topic is "New Jersey's Natural Preserves." The meeting is free and open to the public. Persons interested in gardening,

flower crafts and the environment are welcome to attend the meeting and join the club.

Terra Nova's community service group, Garden Therapy, will also meet at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 19 at the Muhlenberg Adultcare Facility in Plainfield. The floral design is "Peace and Plenty," featuring fruits and vegetables.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Joan Delman

Ever wonder what your neighbors are reading? In an effort to better serve our patrons, the South Plainfield Public Library conducted a survey during the month of September to find out what books our adult readers want to find in the library's book collection. The following is a summary of what we learned:

Not surprisingly, mysteries and bestsellers topped the list for fiction. Other favorites in fiction were thrillers and spy novels; action and adventure; humor and satire; historical novels; and romance.

In nonfiction, history was the number one category. Also popular were cookbooks; health, fitness and diet books; crafts; humor; self-help/psychology; do-it-yourself manuals and home decorating/home improvement books.

Most respondents said they read primarily fiction, or both fiction and nonfiction; a smaller group read mostly nonfiction.

Readers preferred hardcover books more than two-to-one over paperbacks.

A total of 84 surveys were returned to us. In addition to answering the survey questions, some patrons wrote in their own comments and suggestions. Thanks to all who filled out the survey form; you're helping to make your library better! Your preferences, as well as recommendations for improvements, will be carefully considered in our future plans. Also, thanks for the many compliments we received on the library's collection, staff and ser-

vices.

If you didn't get a chance to fill out a survey, remember there is a suggestion box in the library near the photocopier, or you can give your recommendations to anyone on the library staff. We want to hear from you!

THIS WEEK AT THE LIBRARY:

ADULT PROGRAMS: Historical program on the Mayflower, sponsored by Friends of the Library. Sunday, Nov. 16 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Resumes and Cover Letters for Beginners, Wednesday, Nov. 19, 7:15-8:45 p.m. This workshop will help you put together a resume that gets results. Participants can bring their completed resumes to be discussed. Free, but advanced registration required.

Drop-in computer and Internet training, Monday, Nov. 10, 7:15-8:45 p.m. Stop by to speak to our librarian on duty with questions about using a computer, learning how to use a mouse or just how to gain confidence on the Internet.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:

Storytime and craft for ages three and up: Thursday, Nov. 13 and Tuesday, Nov. 18, 1:15-2 p.m.; Wednesday, Nov. 19, 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Join Miss Linda for stories and a fun craft.

Books-n-Babies for ages up to three: Friday, Nov. 14, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Join Miss Linda for nursery rhymes & simple songs.

REMINDER: The Library will be closed Thursday Nov. 27 and Sunday Nov. 30 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

VISIT US ON THE WEB: www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us

It's All Magic at the SP Library

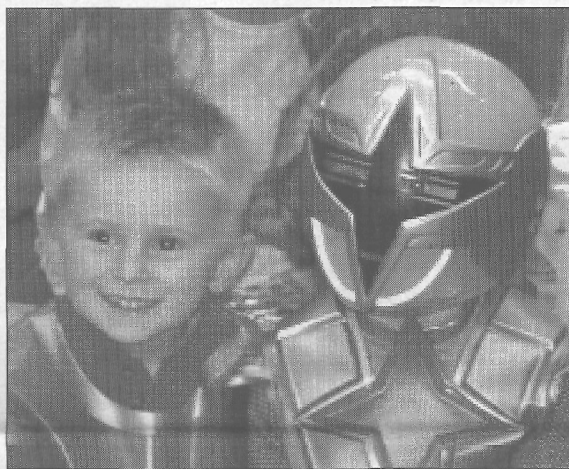


The South Plainfield Library's Halloween Party theme this year was magic. Children of all ages and their parents, dressed in a wide variety of costumes, filled the library to capacity to watch Joe Fischer perform his very popular magic show.

Fischer performs his many magic tricks and takes the time to explain to the audience how the tricks are done, usually making the tricks even more mysterious and even invites children from the audience to be a part of the magic show.

Fischer's fast-paced show was a perfect blend of magic, audience participation, comedy and excitement. He has the audience laughing and applauding every move he made.

The evening was a complete success and the overflow crowd enjoyed every minute of the show.



Calling All Student Writers! Observer and Hometown Heros to Sponsor Junior Journalist Writing Contest

The South Plainfield Observer and Hometown Heros is co-sponsoring a writing program entitled "The Junior Journalist Corner." The program will encourage students to write and then reward them for their efforts.

The program will be coordinated and promoted in all South Plainfield schools. Students will be able to submit their own original poetry, article, opinion piece or essay.

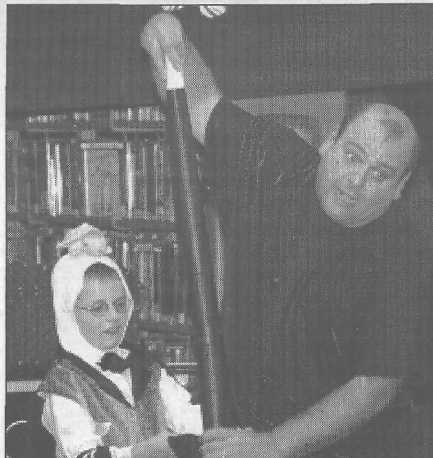
Teachers in all of the schools have agreed to help with and to submit, the students' original writings to Hometown Heros and the Observer. After reading and judging students' works, a winner will be selected and his or her article will be published in the Observer with a byline each week. Watch upcoming issues for winners and published works.

Students whose articles are selected will win a catered dinner for their families from Hometown Heros, which will be delivered to their homes.

At the end of the school year, winning students and their parents will be treated to a banquet and each will receive a certificate of achievement for their journalistic efforts.

All students are encouraged to submit their essays, poems, opinion pieces or articles to their teachers. Each school has already been notified about the rules on submissions.

For more information on the contest, or if you would like the name of your school contact, call the Observer at (908) 668-0010, or stop by Hometown Heros, located at 340 Hamilton Blvd. or call them at (908) 755-4376.



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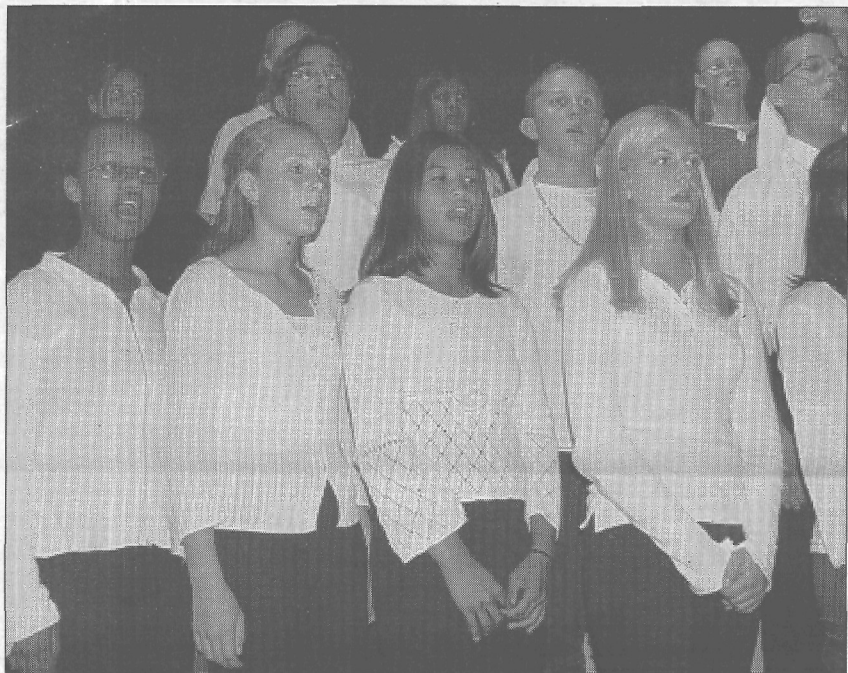
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SPHS Chorus provides musical entertainment to members of the South Plainfield Senior Citizen Center.

Seniors Enjoy Lunch and Entertainment at High School

By Patricia Abbott

Members of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens Center recently enjoyed a preview of the upcoming SPHS holiday concert, as well as a luncheon sponsored by the school's FCCLA (Family, Career, Community Leaders of America) Club. More than 110 seniors were entertained by the SPHS orchestra, led by Bruce Mickolon, the chorus led by Tracy Murray and band under the direction of Mark Tweed.

While the entertainment was in progress, FCCLA students and their advisors Loretta Tansey and Janet Flannagan-Wurtz were busy making last minute preparations. Once the room was cleared and readied, the youths set up the tables. When the concerts ended, senior citizens filed in the cafeteria, where they were greeted by club members and seated. The seniors were welcomed by Assistant Principal Steven Katz.

Students were kept busy serving a meal of baked pasta with sausage and peppers, garlic bread and hot coffee and tea. The food was prepared by the Marriott/Sodexo staff. Dessert, fresh made apple crisp, was prepared by members of the FCCLA and students in the first year food course, "Food and You." The luncheon was underwritten by Principal Anthony Massaro.

The FCCLA is a nationwide vo-



cational student organization that focuses on leadership development of its members in their schools, communities and the world at large. The

SPHS branch prefers to focus on the South Plainfield community. The club consists of 30 members, 21 participated in the luncheon.



NOTES FROM The Senior Center

by Joann Graf, Director of Office on Aging

Support Groups Are Essential To Caregiver Well-being

Are you a caregiver? If you are helping an older adult on a day-to-day basis, then you are a caregiver. Sooner or later, everyone will be caring in some way for an older adult. If could be your spouse or a parent or your neighbor. Often, people are thrown into the role of caregiver suddenly and find themselves without time to prepare or learn what to do and how to handle it. Caring for someone can sometimes become overwhelming. As you may well know, it can be physically demanding, emotionally draining and cause stress and conflict when combined with other major responsibilities. The Office on Aging recognizes the difficulty of your situation and wants to help.

In an effort to assist those of you who are currently active caregivers and

facing the myriad of issues a caregiver has to deal with, the Office on Aging is forming a Caregivers Support Group at the Senior Center. This is an opportunity for you to share information and feel connected to others who are providing care, just like you. The support group offers a venue in which you can share your problems or concerns and receive emotional support in a safe and sustaining environment. We also hope to help you develop skills and provide other support resources to assist you in your responsibilities.

Presently, we are asking any South Plainfield resident who would be interested in joining a weekly Caregivers Support Group to contact the Office on Aging at (908) 754-1047. All information provided is strictly confidential.

South Plainfield Scouting

Local Boys "Scouting for Food"

Reminder that boy scouts will be around to collect bags this Saturday the 15th. Please have food in bags and place on porches before 9 a.m. The bags say 10 a.m. however, if the food

is out by 9 a.m. that would be helpful as many of the boys also have soccer on Saturday mornings. You may also drop you bag off at the Borough Hall up until noon on Saturday.

policereport

- On Nov. 3 Donald W. Fitz, 30, of Plainfield was arrested for hindering apprehension by giving a false name, no drivers license and operating an unregistered vehicle at a motor vehicle stop.

- On Nov. 4 Kleber Emilson Fajardo, 38, of Plainfield was arrested for exhibiting a false drivers license, driving while suspended and being an unlicensed driver at a motor vehicle stop.

- Kimberly S. Alston, 21, of Plainfield was arrested at Rockaway Bedding on Oak Tree Rd. for using two fraudulent checks and a fraudulent drivers license.

- A Montgomery, Ala. resident reported the theft of his computer while staying at the Best Western Motel on New World Way.

- A W. Fairview Ave. resident reported the theft of a reflective driveway marker from his front yard.

- A Fifth St. resident reported that her garage door had been opened and their dirt bike was found on the ground in the rear yard and their Mongoose bicycle was in the driveway.

- Sam Goody on Hadley Rd. reported that someone had walked out of the store with a DVD under their shirt.

- On Nov. 5 Aisha Lynn Williams, 31, of Plainfield was arrested for hindering apprehension by giving a false name and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

- A resident on Sampton Ave. reported that several youths were riding dirt bikes on his property.

- On Nov. 7 a Zwolak Ct. resident reported the theft of a Pacific Nemesis bike from the bicycle rack at the PAL. The bike was not locked.

- On Nov. 6 Catherine I. Williams, 46, of East Orange was arrested hindering apprehension by giving a false name and two outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

- An employee of Home Depot reported confronting a shoplifter who took a pair of mechanics gloves and then shoved him, while entering his vehicle and threw the gloves at him.

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Sports

By Lee Flanagan

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

The Junior Baseball Club registration from now to Jan. 1 is \$75. However, there are only a few dates left to catch this early discount. The dates are Monday, Nov. 17, 6-7 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 1, 6-7 p.m. and Monday, Dec. 15, 6-7 p.m.

After those three dates, the registration will increase to \$95. There will be no exceptions. This will give parents seven opportunities to sign up their son or daughter before the first of the year. We are also selling SPJBC club members cards for \$10. A manager and/or coach will not be allowed on the field without a club member's card. Buddy Hutchison is asking all managers to return your equipment bags prior to the club members meeting in December. We still have nine equipment bags out there from the spring season.

The Junior Baseball Club is running a trip to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. Yes, the Baseball Hall of Fame. On Monday, Dec. 29 we will be leaving at 6 a.m. by bus to arrive in Cooperstown at 11:30 a.m. and take the complete tour of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

We will leave Cooperstown and stop at the Old Country Buffet on the way home. This will be a great trip. Total



cost for the whole trip is \$65 per person; this includes transportation, entrance to the Hall of Fame and the buffet style dinner on the way home. We would like to start registering parents and kids for this trip. It is very im-

portant to register early so you are not left out.

The Women's Auxiliary will be conducting, once again, "Night of Holiday Shopping." This event will take place at the Menlo Park Mall on Sunday, Nov. 23 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Ticket price is \$8. This is a night of special shopping discounts, entertainment and events. For more information, call Stacy Lake at (908) 757-9531 or Betsy Spayder at (908) 757-8928.

The SPJBC is always based on volunteer efforts by parents, grandparents and friends. Any help you can give to us is always appreciated. This past Saturday, November volunteers came out to work on field four. Gentlemen, recognize yourself as unique and valuable. Thank you very much for your time and effort. "It is a new beginning."

Anyone interested in sponsoring a sign at the baseball club, please call Bill Cochran at (908) 561-6574 or the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090.

Rec Wrestling Sign-Ups Extended

It's not too late to sign up for the most successful recreation program in the borough. You can still sign your son or daughter up for the wrestling program anytime at the PAL, Monday through Friday during normal business hours.

This program not only develops skills needed for wrestling, but skills they will use throughout their lives. It teaches sportsmanship, dedication, commitment, responsibility and team work: all the necessary qualities needed in life. The recreation program has been invaluable to the success to the middle school and the high school programs.

The Rec wrestling program has won the Central Jersey Midget Wrestling League championship six of the last seven years, while the middle school has won the NJ Grade School League championship the last two years. The high school team has captured two state titles and four sectional titles and seven of the last nine Red Division GMC titles.

These accomplishments are the direct results of the recreation wrestling program, so if you want your child to be part of a winning tradition, sign them up at the PAL.

Science Students Learn About Cleaning Up Our Waterways

By Jane Dornick

While studying the environment, Mr. Cefalo's seventh grade Middle School Science classes recently had a guest speaker, who happened to be their classmates father. John Quail is the director of commercial programs for Tetra Tech in Morris Plains and the father of seventh grader, Kyle Quail. Tetra Tech works with companies to clean-up contaminated waterways all over the world.

Quail explained to the students the procedures involved in cleaning up contamination and how waters become polluted in the first place.

One example was an old steel mill in Trenton that had been dumping hazardous waste into the river and surrounding area. The chemicals causing the contamination were identified and the ground cleared of the hazard. Fill



John Quail, father of Middle School seventh grader Kyle Quail, presents a program on environmental cleanup.

was used and a baseball stadium, home to the minor league team, the Trenton Thunder, was built on the site.

The program ended with an oral quiz and the students passed with flying colors.

Teen Night at the PAL is Back!

It's time to let everyone know that Teen Nite is back! Open to all South Plainfield children from seventh to twelfth grade, Teen Nites are held on Saturday nights from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the PAL Recreation Complex be-

ginning Saturday, Nov. 22.

Teens must have a PAL card or a student I.D. to get in and you cannot leave without signing out.

Register at the PAL from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.



The Almost Famous Players' Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour was a resounding success. The group, whose performances benefited the South Plainfield Lions Club, plans an encore for next year.

Donations are still being accepted. Make checks payable to "Almost Famous Players" and mail to 2 Page Court, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or call (908) 756-8011 or (908) 346-2290.

Due to overwhelming amount of response and donations, see the November 21 issue for coverage of the tour.

CROSS COUNTRY

Middle School Cross Country Finishes 17-1

The Middle School Cross Country team, only in its second year of existence, had a banner year, finishing the season at 17-1 and a second place finish in the Middle School Greater Middlesex Conference County Meet. The Tigers, who lost their first meet of the season to undefeated South Brunswick, 33-22, went on to win their next 17 straight meets.

The Tigers defeated two tough teams from Old Bridge, one of New Jersey's premiere Cross Country programs. They defeated Salk, 22-39 and

Sandberg, 22-33, which proved the Tigers were that good.

The top five runners for the Tigers were Tramane Miller, who won every race this season, including a first place finish at the counties, Joey Lacerda, Patrick Hunter, Steve Guevara and Cris Kedmenec. Team members include Christian Barrientos, Taylor Curtis, Jared Czech, Mike Dezmin, Steve Guevara, Rob Hoffman, Patrick Hunter, Cris Kedmenec, Garrett Kelly, Joey Lacerda, Chris Lesniak, Tramane Miller, Dominic Papa, Nick Pauls, Sal

Soto, Erik White and Steve Wiczorek and the team was lead by head coach Kevin McCann. With only two eighth graders on the team, the Tigers should again be a force next year. Congratulations to Coach McCann and the SPMS Cross Country Team!

-Submitted by Bob Hunter

JUST, CELEBRATE!

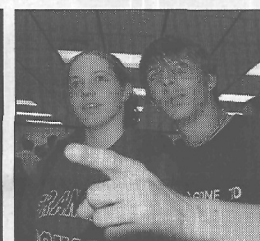
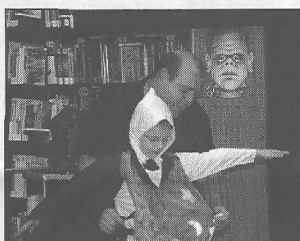
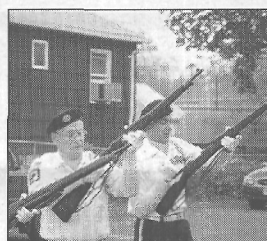
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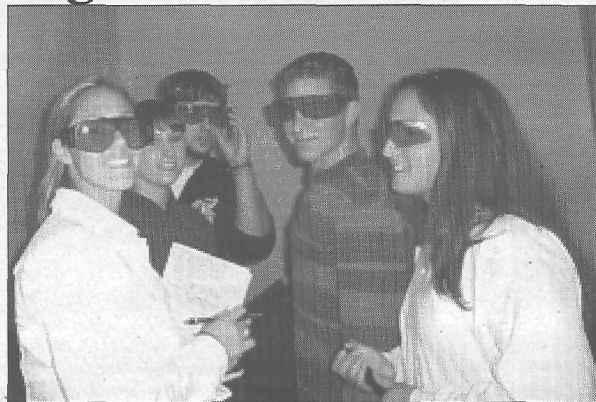
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High School Seniors Get Their Own CSI Class



Students Amanda Rastelli, Brittany Hartman, Chris Egan, Guy Severini and Dani Jo DiMaria checkout the crime scene.

By Jane Dornick

South Plainfield Police Detectives put together a crime scene investigation demonstration at police headquarters for the high school seniors forensic class recently.

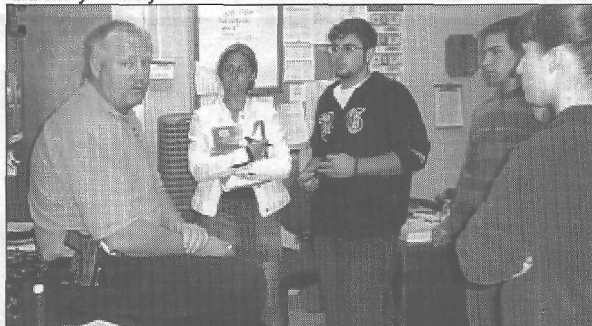
The detectives set up a phoney crime scene and asked students to take notes on what they found. They were then given an Alternate Light Source, which is a florescent light and special

goggles to illuminate what could not be seen with the naked eye. Det. Gene Bataille also went over with the class how evidence is collected. He also explained his role in helping to redesign the Alternate Light Source for the manufacturer, which is now used by most police departments.

Students were also taken through the station and shown the arrest procedure, fingerprinting, the jail cells and making reports.



Guidance Counselor Cheryl Fox, Katie Scialabba, Teacher Patti Parzio and Kerry Mackey.



Det. Gene Bataille with students who participated in the demonstration.

Obituaries

Abigail M. Kuberiet

Funeral services for Abigail M. Kuberiet, who died tragically in a motor vehicle accident on Wednesday, Nov. 5, were held last Saturday.

Abbie was born in Somerset Medical Center in Somerville on Dec. 18, 2001 to Christopher L. and Lisa M. (Kochon) Kuberiet of South Plainfield.

She was predeceased by her paternal grandparents, Kurt and Judith Kuberiet.

In addition to her parents, surviving are her two brothers, Christopher L., Jr. and Caleb J. Kuberiet, both at home; her maternal grandparents, Doris and Leonard Kochon of Reading, Pa. and by several aunts and uncles.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the family have been requested.

William Kerencev, Jr., 32

William Kerencev, Jr., died on Friday, Nov. 2 in Piscataway.

William was born in Plainfield and was a former resident of Duncellen and Plainfield before moving to Piscataway one year ago.

William was a mason for Assured Water Proofing in South Plainfield for the last 12 years.

He was an avid fisherman and could be found fishing at his favorite spot at the New Market Pond in Piscataway throughout the year.

He was predeceased by his parents, William Sr. and Helen Douglas Kerencev.

He is survived by his loving fiancé, Dian Kelley of Piscataway; a daughter, Nicole Diane Kelly at home; a step son, Robert Eric Kelley at home; an uncle, John and his wife, Valerie Kerencev of Jackson; two aunts, Anne DeMars of Myrtle Beach and Katherine Randevere of Keansburg and his many cousins.

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

John A. Allara, 76

John A. Allara died on Sunday, Nov. 9 in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Plainfield.

Born in Vineland, he resided in Plainfield before moving to South Plainfield 54 years ago.

John was employed as a meat merchandiser for the A&P Tea Co. and would supervise many stores throughout the state of New Jersey. He retired

after 38 years of service in 1986. During his retirement years, he worked for Union County College as a grounds-keeper.

He is predeceased by his parents, Attilio and Elisa Allara and two sisters, Jean Nelson-Eshbach and Gloria Allara.

Surviving are his wife, Beatrice M. Allara; four sons, Darryl and his companion, Ken Freehill of Dallas, Texas,

John and his wife, Patrice of South Plainfield, Robert and his wife, Anya of Warren and Keith and his wife, Diane of South Plainfield; two sisters, Marie Bradley of Green Brook and Elizabeth Church of South Plainfield; two grandchildren, Stephen and David and many nieces, nephews, grand nieces, grand nephews and friends.

Funeral services were at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE No. 1637

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

Ordinance #1637 entitled: A BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS EASEMENTS AND RIGHT-OF-WAYS FOR THE HAMILTON BOULEVARD ROAD PROJECT was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield at 5:00 p.m. on November 6, 2003 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

BOND ORDINANCE STATEMENT AND SUMMARY

The bond ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, has been finally adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey on November 6, 2003 and the twenty (20) day period of limitation within which a suit, action or proceeding questioning the validity of such ordinance can be commenced, as provided in the Local Bond Law, has begun to run from the date of the first publication of this statement. Copies of the full ordinance are available at no cost and during regular business hours, at the Clerk's office for members of the general public who request the same. The summary of the terms of such bond ordinance follows:

Title: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS EASEMENTS AND RIGHT OF WAYS FOR THE HAMILTON BOULEVARD ROAD PROJECT, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$1,850,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,757,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Purpose: The acquisition of land and certain lesser interests in land consisting of temporary construction easements and permanent right of ways along portions of Hamilton Boulevard within the Borough by the Borough in conjunction with the reconstruction of such roadway by the County of Middlesex.

Appropriation: \$1,850,000

Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$1,757,500

Section 20 Costs: \$400,000

Useful Life: 38.84 years

VINCENT BUTTIGIERI,
Clerk of the Borough of South Plainfield

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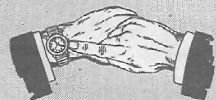
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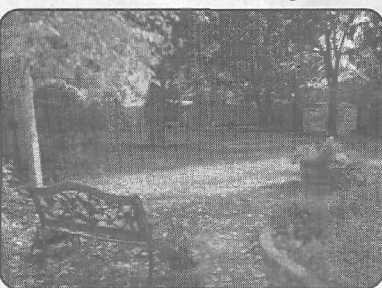
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Move-in condition. Three bedrooms, 1.5 baths. Formal dining room with French doors to yard, living room, large country kitchen w/stainless convection oven, dishwasher and range hood with exhaust. Hardwood floors. Newly painted. Walk-out basement, walk-up attic. Quarter acre lot with 50x90 fully fenced park-like backyard w/patio, wooden swing set, shed and dog run. KENNEDY SCHOOL DISTRICT! Walk to: NYC trans, Spring Lake Park & shopping. **Owner being transferred.** Priced for IMMEDIATE SALE: \$249,000. OPEN HOUSE SUN. NOV. 16 from 1-4 at 1008 Maple Ave. Or call Owen Kelly at (908) 755-5300 for apt. MLS #1639199.

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9 am-3 pm

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Cahal Dunne

"Wonderful World of Christmas" at Sacred Heart to Feature Cahal Dunne

The Sacred Heart Rosary Altar Society will present Cahal Dunne's "Wonderful World of Christmas" at Sacred

Heart Church. Cahal Dunne is a singer, songwriter, comedian, pianist and star of Cahal Dunne's "Thank You America" seen nationally on PBS! The show will take place on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 3 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church. Admission is \$20 and \$15 for seniors and students. For ticket info, call

(908) 756-0632, ext. 10, (908) 755-6416 or (732) 549-9633.

Cahal Dunne possesses that certain quality that entertainers rarely have. He transcends talent and training and has something that comes deep within a great entertainer and washes over an audience, captivating them.

Dunne's first album in America was in 1982, followed by a nationwide tour. He then became a permanent resident of the U.S. and wrote many songs including "Life The First Time," "Peace In My Land," "Take My Hand," "The Journey" and "Angel for Sarah."

As a composer, pianist, comedian and story-teller, he combines his talents to bring an atmosphere of audience participation and laughter. He can sing an Irish ballad, go to a Billy Joel song and then to a Mozart concerto. Cahal Dunne is an entertainer extraordinaire.

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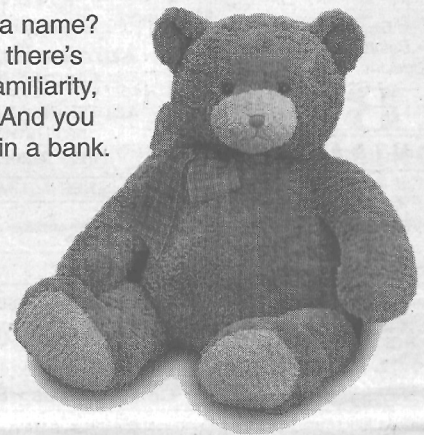
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