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# South Plainfield Observer

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VOL. 6, NO. 18

50 CENTS

JAN 06

JANUARY 3, 2005

## Chicago Bulls Guard Jay Williams Gives Students a Day to Remember

## Borough Reorganization Sunday

### Mayor, Councilmen Take Oath of Office

The Annual Reorganization meeting of the South Plainfield Governing Body will be held on Sunday, Jan. 5, at 1 p.m. in the Court Room at the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Ave.

Mayor Daniel J. Gallagher, Councilman Jim Vokral and Councilman Ed Kubala will be sworn in.

Mayor Gallagher will begin serving his fourth four-year term; Councilmen Kubala and Vokral were both re-elected to a third term. All three are Democrats.

In addition to the mayor and council, the names of those who will serve on the many Borough boards and commissions will be announced, and all will be sworn in.

The public is invited to attend.



Dan Gallagher



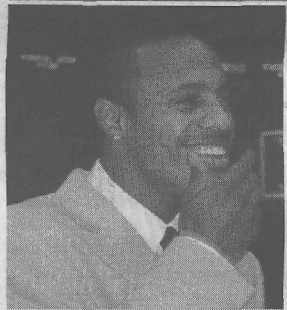
Ed Kubala



Jim Vokral



Former Sacred Heart School student Chicago Bulls Guard Jay Williams along with Sacred Heart School Varsity Co-Ed Basketball team, cheerleaders and coaches at the Continental Arena. Williams is also pictured at left.



*"Dreams can come true. I am living my dream right here, right now."*

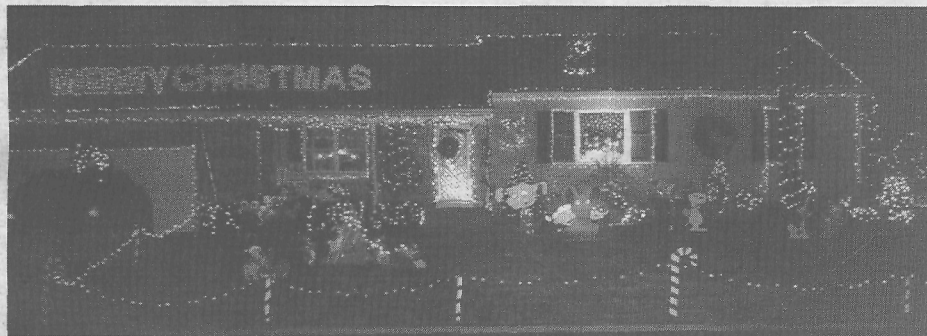
-JAY WILLIAMS

Sacred Heart School varsity basketball players and cheerleaders listened intently as Chicago Bulls guard Jay Williams addressed them on the court of the Continental Arena prior to the Dec. 23 face-off between the NJ Nets and Chicago Bulls. While Williams was referring to playing for the first time as a professional basketball player here in his home state, the Sac-

red Heart athletes were also living a dream — the opportunity to shake hands with Williams and then cheer for their school's most famous graduate.

Keeping with a time honored Sacred Heart tradition, the varsity athletes play one game on the floor of the Continental Arena. Rather than meeting a rival team, (Continued on page 8)

## Holiday House Decorating Contest Winner Announced



First place winner (left) in the *Observer's* Holiday House Decorating Contest is located on Day St. The theme is mostly cartoon characters, and the roof has a large Merry Christmas greeting. Al and Pat Stilo-Mitchell's house (right) on Ritter Ave. is a landmark. They take Christmas decorating to another level every year. The countless decorations cover the lawn and the sides of the house. Santa and his sleigh span the top of the roof and their garage holds an entire lighted village.



The winner of the *Observer's* first annual "House Decorating Contest" has been chosen. A group of judges visited each house and then voted on their selection. It was not an easy task to pick a winner from among all the beautifully decorated homes.

The winner is the Lampasona house on Day St. Runners-up were Al and Pat Stilo-Mitchell on Ritter Ave., Ann and Dominic Demico on Norwood Ave. and Cindy Piazza's house on Maple Ave.

We encourage everyone to get into their cars, take a ride, see all of these beautiful homes and enjoy all of the work that went into each one.



Piazza's home (left) on Maple Ave. reflects a quaint country theme. Ann and Dominic Demico on Norwood Ave. (right) decorated their home in patriotic red, white and blue.





# Mark your calendars

Log on to [southplainfieldnj.com](http://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**  
**Sunday, Jan 5 (Reorganization Meeting) Public Invited**

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

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

### planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

### zoning board of adjustment

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

### board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted  
Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.  
Jan. 14, 2003, Feb. 11, March 11, April 1.  
Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m. - Jan. 21, 2003, Feb. 18, March 18, April 8.

### taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-668-0538

### siteplace 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

### 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,

This letter is in response to last week's article "Sledders Stay Home." I have to admit that if I had a home in the area around the West Nine Golf Course, I would more than likely be upset when it snowed and people didn't respect my property. I do think something should be done to limit parking on those streets to make it safe for cars to easily pass there.

However, I do have a problem with Mayor Gallagher's response to asking people not to go there and of him contacting the owner of the golf course. I've lived in this town since I was a kid and some of my best memories about winters growing up is going to the golf course when it snowed to enjoy sleigh riding, and I hope I can continue to go there with my children, so they can also enjoy the same. The mayor also stated his concern about the liability and the risk of someone sledding onto Woodland Ave. In the 30 or so years I've sledded there, I've never heard or seen anyone end up on Woodland Ave.

In my opinion, instead of Mayor Gallagher worrying about the liability which occurs in another town, he should worry more about his own town. This past snow fall, which he talks about, also brought eight or more inches of snow to our town. Well, my children and every other child had to walk down streets covered in snow because the sidewalks around the schools weren't shoveled and the streets were a mess from the snow plows, which I didn't see in my neighborhood until later that night. I drove through three or four other neighboring towns throughout that day and saw they had their plows working all day to keep up with the heavy snow. Many parents at our child's school could not believe the town would allow schools to open the following day with the condition the streets and sidewalks were in.

Since my childhood, I've seen a big difference in the amount of snowfall we get each year and the amount of time there is actually snow on the ground. I think the mayor shouldn't worry so much about what happens in Edison or any other town and let our kids enjoy what little snow we get anymore.

SINCERELY,  
JEFF PRAUL

### Dear Editor:

Many families are busy taking care of their own families this time of year. Other families could use some help! There are some South Plainfield families that found out that they could count on the good will of others to carry them through the holiday season.

A special thank you to Officer David Franchak and Officer Allen La Monda, The Spisso Luncheonette and the South Plainfield Senior Center and some very generous families. With their help, Roosevelt School was able to help some of their own families.

Thank you and happy holidays to all!  
SECRET SANTAS

### To the Editor,

On behalf of Shirley Affinito and myself, as Chairpersons of the Riley

School Breakfast with Santa 2002, we would like to thank the following persons whose diligence and hard work made our breakfast, holiday booklet and placemats a huge success: Tom Lanza, for your major part in fundraising and obtaining food donations; Rich Little for tree donations and Tom and Rich for setting up your fabulous cooking; Laura Timmerman, Kelly Butrico, Ann Schiavo for all your craft ideas and obtaining and running the craft tables; Beth Bors; Kearen Kozak and Shirley Affinito (egg cookers); Dian Heilman, Michelle Biggs, Diane and Amanda Hunterton, Joan Stasio, Kathy Skwait, Kathy Flanagan for working the breakfast; Maggie and Jeff Temple for doing the shopping and

Mrs. Grennier for always being there with the camera; Sal "Ho Ho" Severini for that great big smile; Megan, Mikey and Patrick Boyle and Joey Affinito as our elves; Al Rue and Mike "Shotman" Lanza for all our printing; Mr. Bill and Mr. Artie for all your help and Mr. Artie for opening the school at 5:30 a.m. and closing 12 noon and for your invaluable knowledge; Bob Boyle V.P. Roma Foods for your generous donations as always; A&P, Haisch's, Sherban's, The Home Depot, Bagel Pantry for your donations and to all the booklet and pamphlet supporters. Without the above mentioned "peeps" this breakfast would not have been possible. Happy Healthy New Year 2003.

DEBBIE BOYLE,  
CHAIRPERSON BREAKFAST

## Winter Guard Students Ask Board for Advisors

Last month's Board of Education Meeting brought out the entire Winter Guard Group, along with their parents and advisors. They attended the meeting asking that paid advisors be appointed this season. There was confusion as to why funding was not included for the group in this year's budget. The groups advisor thought the paperwork had followed the proper channels, but Board members say they never saw any requests asking for funding to appoint advisors. Each member of the Winter Guard brought a written statement they planned to make, and all had signed a petition asking the Board for their help. Below are excerpts of several of the students speeches:

"My name is Kristen Gualano and I'm a freshman at South Plainfield High School. I am a member of the Color Guard and I was also looking forward to becoming a member of the Winter Guard. Unfortunately it appears as though this might not happen. As of now Winter Guard is in jeopardy of no longer being at SPHS. We cannot let this happen. The Color Guard/Winter Guard program is important to us. Like the sports programs at SPHS, the guard program requires dedication and discipline. In return it teaches us responsibility, accountability and loyalty. These things will prove to be extremely valuable later on in our college years and well beyond. Our advisors are some of the nicest people I know. They are willing to give their time and effort to help us accomplish our goals. Mrs. Petrocelli not only spends countless hours as one of our advisors, but she sews our uniforms and many of the flags we use in a season. If the Board of Education is really here for the benefit of the students then my fellow guard members and I ask you now, please help us keep the Winter Guard program alive at S.P.H.S. We stand to gain so much from such a valuable program. Please support our advisors and our program. We can promise you that we will do our best to make South Plainfield High School and the community of South Plainfield proud."

"My name is Claire Dolling. I'm a junior at SPHS and have been involved in Color Guard for three years. Many of you may not be aware of how important this program is to all those involved. We, meaning my fellow classmates, spend many painstaking hours creating a show that must be performed by the best of our abilities. We, meaning those girls, continuously perfect our show and determine what changes need to be made in order to win a championship. We, meaning our small staff and all, put everything into a show. Now as the indoor guard season begins, we've come to believe that our beloved program may be in jeopardy."

"My name is Jenny Cal, and I am currently a senior at South Plainfield High School. I am ranked fifth in my class and I am a proud member of the Winter Guard. This year, much to my surprise, the stipends that were asked of the Board of Education were not approved. Thus, our advisors could not continue their involvement with our Winter Guard. Our talent, our desire, and our passion for guard have led us to succeed and we could not be more proud. Not only have we committed countless number of hours to perfecting a show, we have obtained important values of life. Our advisors have volunteered and dedicated their time to our purpose. They have been there through the thick and the thin, and our success would never have occurred if it had not been for them. They deserve much of our gratitude, and I do believe we have given that to them. All they ask for is their well-deserved monetary reward from the Board of Education. It is also time for us to compete at the same level as our competitors. Some guards have several paid instructors, while we have none. They also have new uniforms every year, while we had to buy our own with our hard earned money. I would like to ask you, the Board of Education, to reconsider their stipends."

Shortly after the meeting, the Winter Guard advisors met with Assistant Superintendent Mario Barbieri to see if something could be worked out. Meanwhile, the girls have started to practice regularly and plan to compete this season.

**South Plainfield Observer**

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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

Remember Your Special Someone

Valentine's Day Weekend

Fri. 14, Sat. 15 & Sun. 16

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Catering On & Off Premises





South Plainfield Police Officer Dave Franchak (left) joins Bob and Fran Yurgel in their annual delivery of gifts and gladness to families in South Plainfield.

*Tis the Season...*

## How One South Plainfield Family Celebrates the Spirit of Christmas

Many of us are so busy during the Christmas season, trying to find that perfect present and decorating the house, that the real meaning and spirit of Christmas sometimes gets lost in the rush.

On Christmas Eve, we met a South Plainfield couple who have found the real spirit of the holiday. Each year for the past 20 years, Bob and Fran Yurgel

spend Christmas Eve driving around South Plainfield, handing out toys and gifts to six or seven families who may not be as fortunate as the rest of us. Preparing for months, they find out who needs help and then purchase the toys and gifts each family requests, wraps and delivers them personally to each family.

This year the Yurgels had the help of Officer Dave Franchak, who got special permission from Chief Bob Merkler to use the police DARE van to deliver all of the gifts.

Bob and Fran, who have raised five children, one of them a priest, collect money throughout the year. If they are short on funds to purchase the gifts, they use their own money. They get the names of several families from Social Services and then call each one to see what they need and if there is something specific their children are asking for.

The Yurgels say this is their favorite time of the year, and it is evident by the smiles on their faces when they prepare to load up and deliver their gifts. Bags of wrapped presents, fruit baskets and food for Christmas dinner nearly filled the van.

On Christmas Eve, Bob wears his Santa suit and Fran wears her Santa hat. With the help of Officer Franchak they take off just about the same time as Santa begins to make his rounds.

Many businesses and individuals support the Yurgel's efforts in many

ways. Some donate gifts, some money, but the end result brought smiles to six families this year. Someone donated not only money, but hats, scarfs and mittens for each one on this year's list.

Some of those who donated this year were Coopers Office Furniture, Charlie Decosta, G&G Custom Design, Colors By Design, Lynn's Cozy Kitchen, Bartell's Landscaping, Roth Brothers, Gilda Amate, Andy Pinto, Officer Dave Franchak, Yurgel Seamless Gutters, Christie's Inc., Hair & Nail Body Salon and Ferraros Restaurant.

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## School Board Candidacy Information Available

Edward F. Izbicki, Sr., South Plainfield's Business Administrator, recently announced that the deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the South Plainfield Board of Education is 4 p.m., Monday, Feb. 24. The election is scheduled for Tuesday, Apr. 15.

Prospective school board candidates can obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" at the school district office, located at 305 Cromwell Pl., between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily. Published by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the School Board Candidate Kit includes information about legal qualifications for school

board candidates campaign procedures and the role of the school board member. Information about the New Jersey School Ethics Act, important dates in the school election process and briefing sessions for school board candidates are also included in the kit.

"School board membership is a meaningful way to make a contribution to your community and its schools," said Glenn B. Ewan, NJSBA president. "I urge all qualified citizens to consider board of education membership. The most important attribute a candidate can bring to office is a sincere interest in the community, its children and their education."



Despite the temporarily posted signs indicating "no parking," sledders return to West Nine Golf Course to enjoy the winter pastime.

## Sled Riders Return to West Nine

Last week's Christmas snowfall once again brought out many sledders, both young and old, to the hills of the West Nine Golf Course, despite Mayor Gallagher's request that residents not sleigh ride there.

Police posted emergency "no parking" signs along the side streets in the area, but that didn't seem to stop people from parking. However, we did not observe anyone parked in front of the

driveways, nor did we see any of the streets blocked so that cars or trucks could not get down them. Police did issue about a dozen tickets mostly for parking too close to a corner, etc.

The West Nine has been a popular spot for sledders for many years. Residents along the side streets off Woodland Ave. have complained about cars parking all along the streets and sometimes blocking their driveways.

## Images of America: South Plainfield Author to Speak at Library

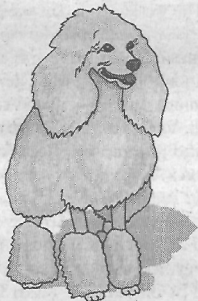
Dr. Richard Veit, author of *Digging New Jersey's Past* and *Images of America: South Plainfield*, will speak at the South Plainfield Free Public Library on Sunday, Jan. 5, at 2 p.m.

Dr. Veit is an assistant professor in the Department of History and Anthropology at Monmouth University, and is the director of the University's

Center for New Jersey History. This program is presented free of charge by the Library; no pre-registration is required.

South Plainfield Free Public Library is located at 2484 Plainfield Ave. in the South Plainfield Municipal Complex. For more information or directions, please call (908) 754-7885.

### All dressed up



### & need some place to go?

How about coming to the meeting of the South Plainfield Historical Society, Tuesday night, Jan. 14, at the South Plainfield High School Library.

**NEW YEAR Greetings**

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Fax 769-4167

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Min. purchase \$10

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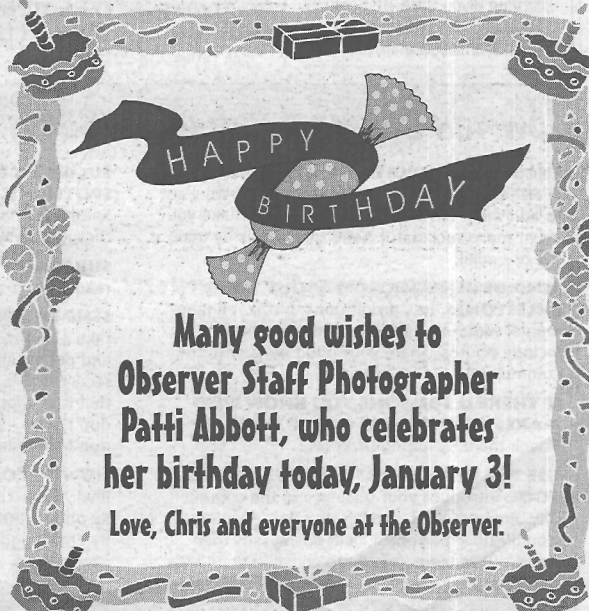
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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Many good wishes to  
**Observer Staff Photographer  
Patti Abbott, who celebrates  
her birthday today, January 3!**

Love, Chris and everyone at the Observer.



# Around Town

## Roosevelt Blood Drive Planned

January 4

Roosevelt School will be holding their Second Annual Blood Drive for the NJ Blood Bank on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2003 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the gym.

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

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

## VFW Country Breakfast

January 5

A Country Breakfast will be held at VFW Post #6763, 155 Front St. on Sunday, Jan. 5 from 8 to 11 a.m. The menu will be varied. Donation is \$5, children are \$2.50.

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

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## Annual Borough Reorganization Mtg.

January 5

The Annual Reorganization Meeting will be held in Borough Hall on Sunday, January 5, 2003 at 1 p.m. Tak-

## What's happening in JANUARY

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

## Senior Center EVENTS

The Senior Citizen's Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
NOW OPEN SATURDAYS 8:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Line Dancing Class begins Jan. 16/ Thursdays at 11 AM Tickets on sale for matinee performance of "Some Like It Hot," Feb. 6 at NJ PAC. Cost \$40				
Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30AM Yoga 10:30-11:30AM AARP Board Meeting 2:30 Senior Advisory Council Meeting 4:30PM	Bingo 10-2 PM	Exercise & Walking Club 8:45-9:45AM Movie 11:30 AM	Shopping at Pathmark 9AM Practical Crafting 10-11AM	Bingo 10-1PM
6	7	8	9	10
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.				

ing the oath of office will be Mayor Dan Gallagher and Councilmen Jim Yokral and Ed Kubala. Appointments will be announced for various boards and commissions.

The public is invited to attend.

## Suburban Woman's Club January Mtg.

January 9

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

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

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

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

New members are always welcomed.

For further information call 754-7410.

## OLC Plans Wafer Supper

January 12

Our Lady of Czestochowa is planning a Wafer Supper on Sunday, Jan. 12 from 4 to 8 p.m. Entertainment will be Frank Sendzik and his band "The Happy Tones." Cost is \$15 per person and \$6 for children under 12. Call (908) 755-2516 for tickets.

## 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.

## — Out of Town —

## Middlesex East WOWs

January 10

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

## Robert Klein Concert

January 18

Camden County Board of Freeholders and Collingswood Borough will present the timeless influential comedy of Robert Klein at the Scottish 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.

When Robert isn't making a movie, filming a one-man concert, performing on Broadway, at the White House, or hosting a television show, he relaxes by regularly traveling the country appearing at hundreds of colleges, universities, and theatres, or in Atlantic City performing his brilliant comedy for sold-out houses.

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.

## Starting Self-Help Groups Free Workshop

January 25, 2003

The New Jersey Self-Help Group

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

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

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

## Music/Movement And Art Program For Children With Autism

February 8-April 12

Classes for the Parent/Child Workshops in Music/Movement and Art for Children with Autism or Autistic Behaviors will resume in February. Workshops will be held on Saturdays, Feb. 8-Apr. 12, in New Brunswick, Morristown and Waldwick. The program, now in its nineteenth year, is sponsored by VSA arts of New Jersey (VSA/NJ), a nonprofit statewide organization dedicated to providing accessible arts opportunities to children and adults with disabilities. These workshops are offered free of charge.

The weekly Saturday sessions will provide young people with experiences in music and art, serving as an introduction to the arts, while developing communication, social and cognitive skills. Young people ages three to 17 are invited to participate. Registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

At Rutgers University, in cooperation with the Visual Arts Department and at the ELKS Lodge in New Brunswick, music and art workshops will be offered. The Karen Hess art workshops will be offered at the Forum School in Waldwick, and art will also be offered at the College of Saint Elizabeth in Morristown.

For information and registration applications, contact Karen Singer at VSA arts of New Jersey, 703 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, (732) 745-3885, 745-5935, 745-3913 (TTY), info@vsanjanj.org. Application deadline is Jan. 22.

## Send Your Events to:

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

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### Keystone Community Gets a Visit from Santa

The Knights of Columbus held their annual Holiday Dinner for the Keystone Community last Friday. The evening was complete with a visit from Santa, Knight Bill Thomas, who brought a gift for everyone in attendance. The event was organized by Knight's members Joe Scrudato and Mike Mannix. Helping out were members and family; John Weakley, Grand Knight Pat Bonaventura, Jim Shea, Bill Hartman, Ed Koznowicz Sr., Steve Belanger, Jill Mannix, Zig Sutor, Jim Vokral, Bob Walker, Rachel Scrudato, Jenna Pein and Nick Baldassarre.

## Century 21 Moretti Realty Welcomes Real Estate Veterans Tom and Sally Curtis

Century 21 Moretti Realty is pleased to announce Tom and Sally Curtis have joined its firm. They specialize in both residential and commercial sales in the Central Jersey region.

Tom and Sally are experienced real estate veterans with nine years of experience in the industry. They have been recognized by the Somerset County Board of Realtors and by their previous company for superior sales productivity, while maintaining a high level of quality service. The Curtis' utilize unique marketing programs, including the Talking House and the Proctor Marketing Plan. Both tools are designed to minimize time on the

market, as well as, maximize the selling price for homeowners. Currently, Tom and Sally reside in Central Jersey with their three children.

"We are thrilled to have Tom and Sally join our team," said Guy Moretti, Broker of Century 21 Moretti Realty, "It's an exciting time to be with Century 21 Moretti Realty as we increase our presence in Central Jersey."

"Tom and Sally, also known as the Curtis Team, are leaders and innovators in delivering powerful home choices to their clients. They know the neighborhoods they serve and lead these communities with their real estate expertise," said managing broker,

Guy Moretti. "Tom and Sally have the competitive intelligence, professionalism and dedication necessary to be a valued and trusted real estate partner for the Middlesex/Somerset community, as well as, a major contributor to the overall success of Century 21 Moretti Realty."

*Century 21 Real Estate Corporation is the franchisor of the world's largest real estate brokerage system, with more than 6,300 independently owned and operated franchised broker offices in more than 20 countries and territories worldwide. Century 21 Real Estate Corporation is a subsidiary of Cendant Corporation (NYSE: CD)*

## People for Animals Pet Adoption this Weekend

People for Animals, a nonprofit animal welfare organization serving New Jersey, will sponsor cat adoption events on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 4 and 5 from noon until 4 p.m. at the PETSMART store in the Watchung Square Mall on Rt. 22 and in Bridgewater's Promenade Mall, intersection of Rt. 28 and Rt. 287. Cats and kittens will be available both days at both stores. Dogs will be available only on Sunday at the Watchung store from 10:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Among the many pets for adoption will be Patsie, a small five-year-old terrier and English bulldog mix. Patsie looks like a terrier but his legs and body look like a miniature bulldog. This cute 20-pound dog has a white coat with tan markings. He has a lot of personality, is housebroken and very friendly. He was rescued from a shelter, was found as a stray and never claimed. To adopt or for other information, call 908 688-1073 and leave a message. Press 1 for dog

adoption or 8 for cat adoption. Other pets for adoption can be seen on the Internet at [www.nfa.neffinder.oro](http://www.nfa.neffinder.oro).

Stop the cycle of homeless pets now! Alter your pets and any outside cats that you may be feeding. For low cost spay/neuter information, call the People for Animals Clinic at (908) 964-4887. Spay/neuter surgery costs range from \$35 to \$55 and include rabies and distemper vaccinations.

## From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Belated Happy New Year! And, to further celebrate 2003, here's the latest news from the South Plainfield Library:

Don't forget about the special program coming up this Sunday. Dr. Richard F. Veit, author of "Digging New Jersey's Past", will be speaking at the Library from 2-4 p.m. This program is presented free of charge and no pre-registration is required.

Following a brief hiatus, our children's Storytime programs return next week. Each program is for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. The programs are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. If you'd like more information, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

The latest group from the Video Circuit should be available by early next week. We don't have a title list available at press time. Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days. This group will be available until January 28. Meanwhile, today is the last day you can borrow from our present group of Circuit Audiobooks. Titles in this period include *Eleventh Hour* by Catherine Coulter, *Dearest Friend* by Lynne Withey, *The Final Deduction* by Rex Stout, *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen Ambrose, and, on CD, *Safe Harbor* by Luanne Rice. Audiobooks may be borrowed, also four at a time, for two weeks. In addition, we've added a new group from the Large Print Circuit. This month's titles include *The Cat Who Went Up the Creek*

by Lillian Jackson Braun, *Lucky Man* by Michael J. Fox, *Mount Vernon Love Story* by Mary Higgins Clark, *Soft Focus* by Jayne Ann Krentz, and *My Losing Season* by Pat Conroy. LPC books may be borrowed for two weeks.

Over the last couple of weeks, members of the public have been very generous in providing the Library staff with all manner of Holiday treats. We'd like to express our thanks to them for their hospitality, and we promise not to send them the bills for dental treatments or weight-loss clinics.

We have a couple of reminders that are rather appropriate for this time of year. First, for those of you who can't make it to the Library due to age or infirmity, we have our Homebound program. We will deliver items checked out to you, and pick them up again when you're finished. For details, please call us and ask for our director, Mrs. Fenn. Second, while there's still no telling how severe the rest of the winter will be, it's very possible that the Library may have to close early or not open at all due to inclement weather. If this should happen, we cannot guarantee that a public announcement will be made, though we have asked WCTC-AM to make such an announcement in the past. It's best in those situations to simply call us and check. We'll give you the latest information regarding any change in our hours. If you reach our answering machine, it's a pretty safe assumption that we're not open. And if you're thinking about returning your items when we're in the middle of a blizzard, don't worry. We'll take the storm into account when you manage to get here.

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

## Fiction Writing Course Offered at Adult School

Author Richard R. Karlen is offering a course in "Fiction Writing, Short Story, Novel and Memoir" at the South Plainfield Adult School. The course begins on Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. There will be five sessions. The cost is \$50.

"This course is designed for the would-be writer of the great American short story or novel who needs encouragement and to learn a few of the tools of the craft to make his/her dream become a reality," said Karlen, author of four novels. His next book of short stories, "Saturday Lunch and the Kitchen Sink" will be published in March, 2003.

For additional information or to register call (908) 754-4620, ext. 213.

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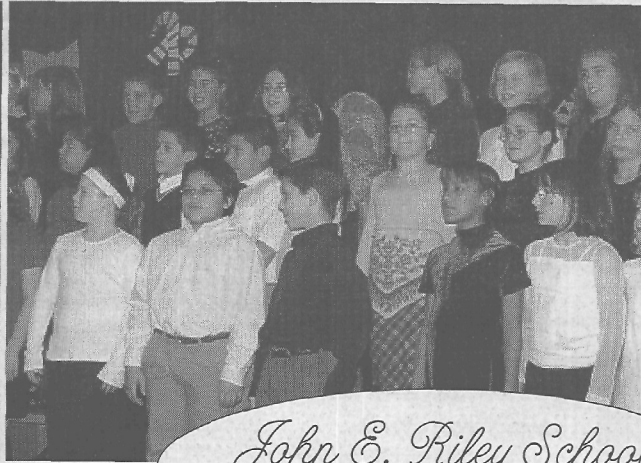
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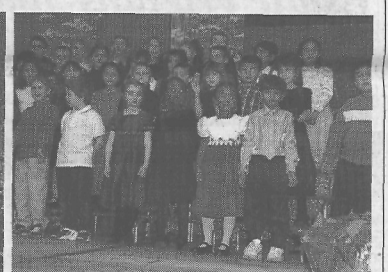
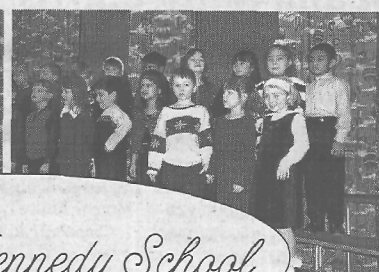
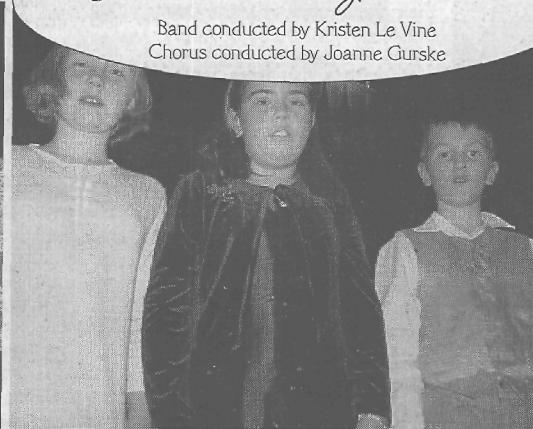


*Elementary School Students  
Spread Holiday Cheer through Music*

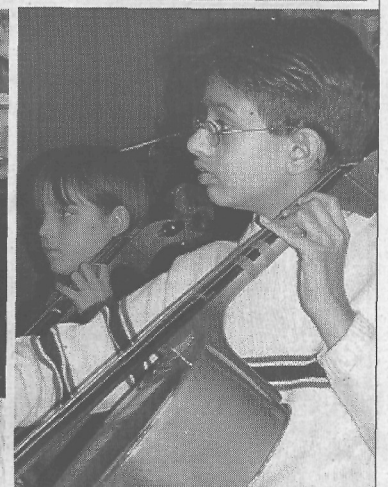
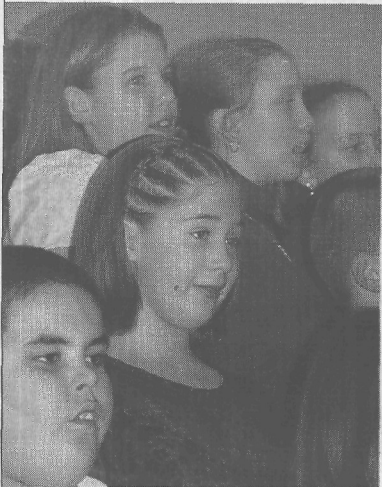
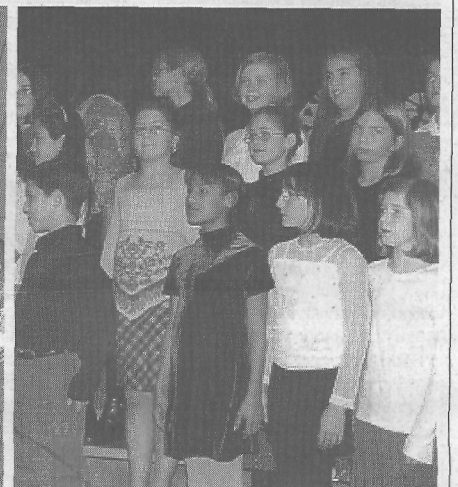


*John E. Riley School*

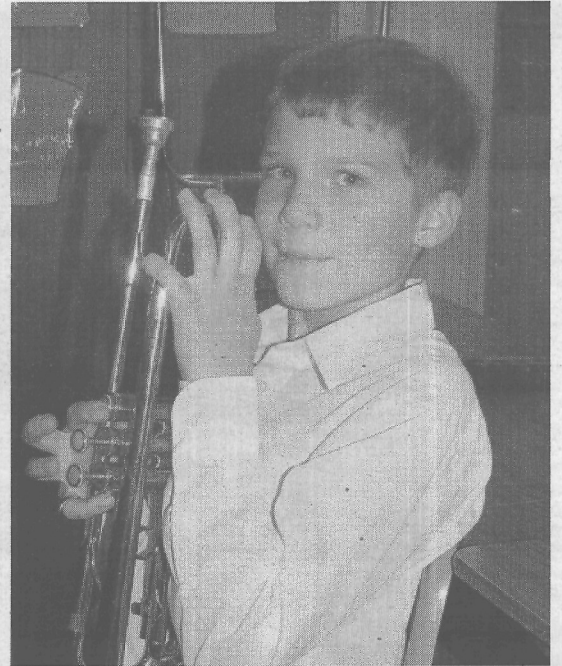
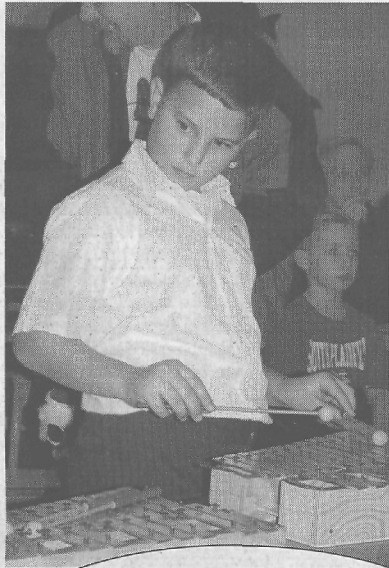
Band conducted by Kristen Le Vine  
Chorus conducted by Joanne Gurske



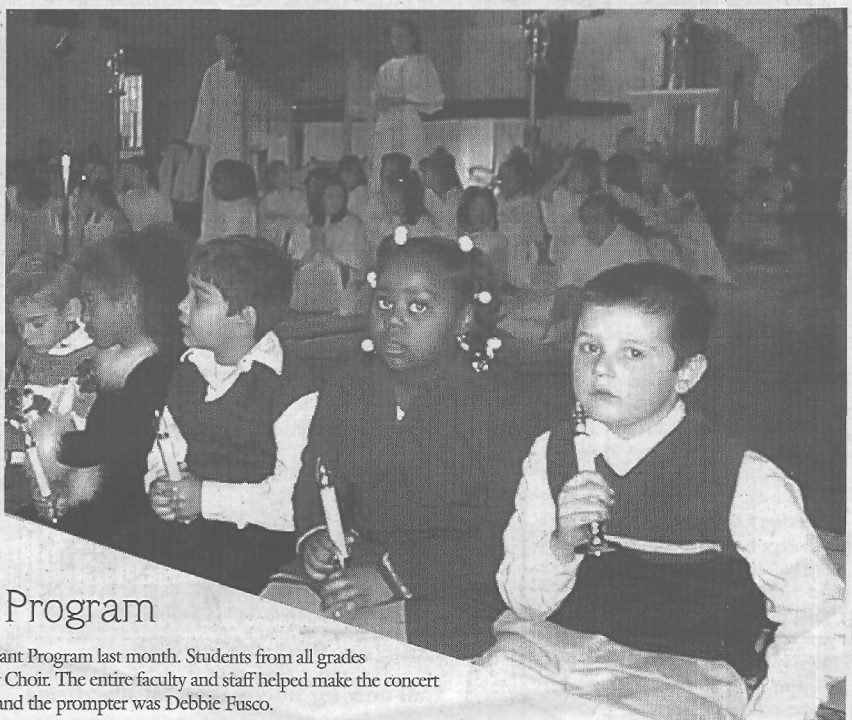
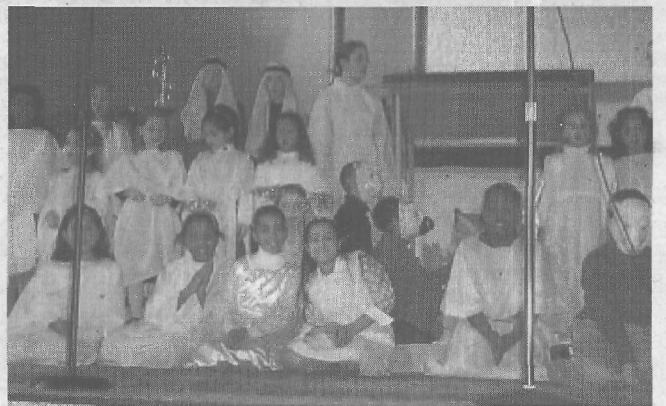
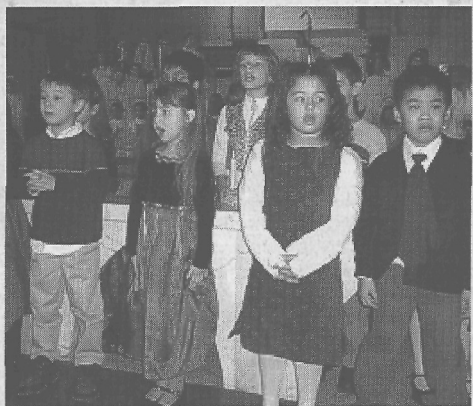
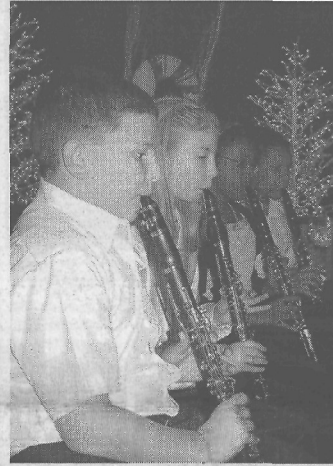
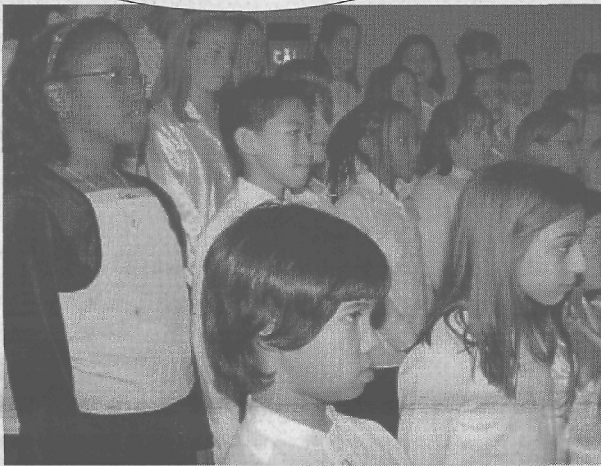
*John F. Kennedy School*







*Franklin School.*  
 Franklin School Band was conducted by Kristen LeVine, the Orchestra by Bruce Mikolon and the Chorus by Glenn Parisi.



 Sacred Heart School Students Shine Like Stars in Christmas Program

The students at Sacred Heart School presented their Christmas Pageant Program last month. Students from all grades participated, including the Pre-K students and the Sacred Heart Junior Choir. The entire faculty and staff helped make the concert a success. Costumes were created by Mrs. Eke and Madelaine Glaken and the prompter was Debbie Fusco.



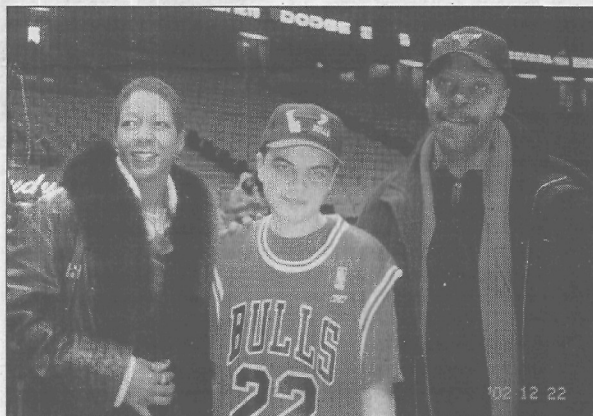


**A Savior is Born...**

The children at Child's Play Christian Day Care, located on Plainfield Ave., performed a Christmas Nativity Play, much to the delight of their parents. The cast included Aliyah Wimberly as Mary, Michael Ortega as Joseph, Aja'e Alvarez and Arian Morgan as Angels and McKensie Serrano, Nathan Manshah and Joseph Fantuzzi played the wisemen. The reindeer were played by Sheilah Sarpons, Damani Nelson, Wade Jackson, Alyah Wimberly and Joseph Fantuzzi. Afterward the children visited with Santa who helped distribute gifts.



**Jay Williams Remembers His Roots**



16 year-old SPHS student Alex Barletta with Jay Williams' parents

By Jane Dornick

Also attending Continental Arena, was 16 year-old South Plainfield High School student Alex Barletta, who re-

The special day at Continental Arena, attended by the Sacred Heart basketball players and cheerleaders, was arranged by South Plainfield resident Pete Smith, who has been a special friend of Jay Williams since his youth.

Smith has been involved in the athletic department at Sacred Heart for many years, during which time he saw Williams play and has followed his career ever since. In 1999 Williams was honored by Sacred Heart School when the school retired his number 32 basketball jersey.

Williams, 22, graduated in three years from Duke University and was picked by the Chicago Bulls in the first round of the 2002 draft. He grew up in Plainfield where his parents still reside.

Smith will be staying with the William's family in Chicago to see the Bulls take on Michael Jordan and the Washington Wizards on January 24.

cently underwent brain surgery. Barletta has been a big fan of Jay Williams. Williams corresponds regularly with Alex, checking on how he's doing and trying to cheering him up.

**Chicago Bulls Guard Gives Students a Day to Remember**

(Continued from page 1)

in a competition that might exclude some of the players, the coaches of the varsity girls and boys divided their teams into two coed squads who challenged each other in a fun spirited game, while the cheerleaders and fans from school supported all of the players on the court. The date for this year's game was scheduled to coincide with Williams' professional debut at Continental Arena. Over 200 Sacred Heart fans put Christmas shopping on hold to be on hand to watch Jay Williams play basketball as an NBA player.

This loyal following is well earned. Throughout his phenomenal basketball career at St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen followed by his meteoric rise in college basketball at Duke University, Williams has never forgotten Sacred Heart School. Throughout the years, he has frequently visited his grammar school, greeting his old teachers warmly, talking to kids about working hard to meet academic and athletic goals, and good naturedly shooting hoops with novice basketball players.

All of the varsity athletes who participated in the pre-game competition had the opportunity to purchase a Chicago Bulls replica jersey that had been autographed by Jay Williams. The jerseys were personalized to Sacred Heart School and then signed by Williams.

Sections 205 and 206 of the Arena

were glowing red by Sacred Heart athletes proudly wearing their autographed jerseys. It is a sure bet that these jerseys will be cherished and securely preserved at home until it's time to wear them again ... whenever Jay Williams comes back to New Jersey.

-Courtesy of Mary Holmer

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**South Plainfield Weather Report...**

**White Christmas May Only Be A Sign Of What's To Come**

By Greg Machos

Last week South Plainfield, as well as a number of other communities throughout the Northeast, experienced its first white Christmas in several decades, as a major winter storm dumped anywhere from several inches to several feet in locations ranging from Pennsylvania all the way into New England. While the Central Jersey area did not receive the full brunt of the storm in terms of snowfall, it did receive gusty winds and heavy rains as the area of low pressure responsible for the wintry weather caused the barometer to drop to 28.88 inches, which is the lowest pressure ever recorded at the Machos Weather Station in South Plainfield.

The Christmas snowstorm was the second snow event during the month of December, 2002, which was the first time in a number of years that South Plainfield has seen two snowstorms during the month of December. The early snowstorms have come about due to a persistent weather trend in the Eastern United States this fall and early winter. There have been numerous coastal storms that have come up the eastern seaboard as the weather in the East has been dominated by a series of

troughs, which have resulted in cooler and wetter weather for the Northeast, including Central Jersey.

El Nino is also partly to blame as well. The phenomenon, which causes higher than normal sea surface temperatures in the Pacific, has been stronger than forecasted and El Nino years usually result in stormy weather for the Southeast. The combination of the stronger El Nino, and persistent troughs in the Eastern United States, have resulted in a stormy pattern for the Northeast, including Central Jersey. If this continues, we could be in for a very wintry season, and perhaps the snowiest season since 1996, when a paralyzing blizzard hit Central Jersey as well as much of the New York City Metro Area in January of that year.

The Christmas snowstorm was the second snow event during the month of December, 2002, which was the first time in a number of years that South Plainfield has seen two snowstorms during the month of December. The early snowstorms have come about due to a persistent weather trend in the Eastern United States this fall and early winter. There have been numerous coastal storms that have come up the eastern seaboard as the weather in the East has been dominated by a series of

**Youth Summit is Planned**

As a result of the centennial Conversations on Youth Development, New Jersey participants identified a need to share the youth programming that is happening around the state. They also recognized the need for youth serving organizations and agencies to communicate and cooperate on a regular basis to better serve New Jersey's youth. The Youth Summit, to be held March 29, is the first step in addressing these needs.

**Youth Summit Goal**

The goal of the Youth Summit is to improve the future for youth in New Jersey by bringing together teens and adults to:

- discuss solutions to issues facing today's youth;
- share youth programs that work;
- learn skills to improve youth serving organizations;
- be inspired to make New Jersey a better place for youth!

**Youth Summit Format**

There will be round table discussion groups where adults and teens from all over New Jersey will discuss and propose solutions to the problems and issues faced by youth. At fun and in-

formative workshops, teens and adults will gain skills to help them strengthen the youth serving organizations they work with and share the programs that have worked for their organization. The Youth Summit will be a time to network with others from youth serving organizations, schools and agencies. Finally, the Youth Summit will be a place to inspire us to continue to make our state a better place for our youth.

**Participating in the Youth Summit**

All New Jersey youth (grade five and older) and adults are invited to participate in the Youth Summit. The cost of the Youth Summit is \$35. If you would like to receive registration materials for the Youth Summit, please e-mail your name and address to devitt@rcc.rutgers.edu. Registration materials will be sent by the end of January 2003.

If you would like more information about the Youth Summit go to [www.nj4h.rutgers.edu/leadership/youthsummit.html](http://www.nj4h.rutgers.edu/leadership/youthsummit.html)

4-H offers educational programs to all youth, grades K through 13 on an age appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

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# Sports

## BASKETBALL

## BASKETBALL

### Tigers Win First Three and Capture Rahway Basketball Tournament

By Greg Machos

Prior to the start of scrimmages, things looked good for the Tigers with a solid showing in the fall season at the Woodbridge based Hawks-Basketball Fall-Ball Classic. However, after struggling through several scrimmages, there was some doubt as to whether or not South Plainfield would have a great season. While there was a lot of good talent, it was still somewhat young, and that showed in the scrimmages.

Nevertheless, once the regular season started, the South Plainfield Tigers got their act together. On opening night, senior forward Mike Allocco came up big with 13 points and seven blocked shots to help South Plainfield defeat new White Division foe, Carteret by the score of 60-49 at the Anthony J. Cotoia Gymnasium. For the Tigers, it was an important victory since it is always good to start the season with a win.

Junior center, Ian Robinson led the balanced attack against the Ramblers with 14 points, while Corey Gilmore helped out with nine and Darren Smith and Phil Veinott also chipped in with eight points. Veinott had two threes on the night as well. The turning point of the game was in the third

quarter. With the Tigers trailing at halftime 22-21, South Plainfield went on a 28-11 surge in the third period to take a 49-33 lead. The Tigers would have to hold on though as Carteret tried to make it close in the fourth quarter, but came up short.

The Tigers, who raised their overall and White Division record to 1-0 on the season, moved on to the Rahway Tournament, where it took on the host school, the Rahway Indians in the tournament's semifinal round. Rahway won the first round game against Cranford easily by the score of 72-53. They have a team that looks to be very good this year in Union County and Mountain Valley Conference. During the summer, the Indians competed in the J.P. Stevens Summer League along with South Plainfield and reached the finals before losing to Piscataway.

The Tigers were trailing after three quarters to Rahway by the score of 30-28, when guard Jason Johnson knocked in 23 points for the Indians. However, South Plainfield rallied in the fourth quarter to outscore Rahway, 25-16 as senior forward, Phil Veinott scored nine of his 14 points in the final period. On the night, Veinott had four three-pointers, while sophomore guard Marquis Jones led the Tigers

with 15 points. Corey Gilmore (eight points) and Ian Robinson (six points), came up big down the stretch with four free throws a piece to seal the victory.

In the final, South Plainfield was matched up against a Warchung Conference school, Westfield, which knocked off J.P. Stevens in the other semifinal by the score of 48-47 in overtime. Guard Eric Hayes hit a three-pointer with under a minute left for the win. The Tigers struggled early in the game, committing seven turnovers in the first quarter alone and nine in the first half. Then, after having only one field goal until the 3:21 mark of the second quarter, South Plainfield went on an 11-0 run to take a 17-14 halftime lead.

Gary Houston sparked the Tigers in a late second quarter surge. Coming off the bench, Houston scored six points in the final 3:21, while Robinson had five points and Marquis Jones (10 points, five rebounds, four assists and two steals) had four points in the half. The Tigers were able to stay in the game prior to the run with good foul shooting, going seven for eight at the free throw line. The game stayed nip and tuck through the third quarter. South Plainfield ended the final period with a 6-0 run to take a 29-26 lead.

In the fourth, Westfield chipped away once again at the Tiger lead, getting it down to one point, 33-32, with about six minutes to go, before Ian Robinson (15 points and five rebounds), took over the game with a personal 8-2 run, giving the Tigers a 41-34 lead with 3:23 left. However, the Tigers couldn't put the game away down the stretch, turnovers coupled with Westfield's free throws cut the lead to 43-40 with under a minute left. Then, Mike Allocco put the game away, hitting one of two free throws to pull the game out.

### JCC Blue Dolphins Surge Into All Star Break

The Edison JCC- Blue Dolphins opened the 2002/2003 swim season by beating JCC Bergen, North Jersey and Central Jersey (Scotch Plains). The Blue Dolphins' 3-0 start follows an undefeated 2001/2002 season, where the Blue Dolphins won the State conference championship.

The Blue Dolphins have in excess of 100 team members. Thirty of the swimmers are South Plainfield residents. Below is a listing of the swim results of South Plainfield residents competing at the Blue Dolphins first swim meet.

#### JCC Edison vs Bergen

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

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

**In the girls 7-8 year-old Events**—Gracie Piekarski placed first in the free-style and third in the breaststroke. Kate O'Brien placed first in the breaststroke and Maggie Valentino placed first in the individual medley and third in the butterfly.

**In the Boys 7-8 Events**—David Brzozowski placed first in the backstroke and Liam McDermott placed second in the breaststroke.

**In the 9-10 girls**—Chelsea Cullen placed first in the butterfly and second in the breaststroke. Emily Piekarski placed first in the individual medley and first in the free-style.

**In the 9-10 Boys**—Dylan McDermott placed second in the individual medley and first in the breaststroke.

**In the 11-12 Girls Events**—Abby Petritsch placed second in the backstroke and third in the individual medley. Joanna Luzny placed second in the individual medley.

**In the 13-14 Girls Events**—Kristen Dabrio placed second in the individual medley and second in the breaststroke.

**In the Boys 13-14 Events**—Philip Luzny placed first in the individual medley and first in the butterfly. Emmett Marsili placed second in the free-style and first in the backstroke.

**In the 15-18 Girls Events**—Nina Byard placed first in the individual medley and first in the free-style. Becky Brzozowski placed first in the breaststroke and second in the individual medley, and Allison Banas placed second in the free-style and second in the breaststroke.

**In the 15-18 Boys Events**—CalvinJohn Smiley placed first in the individual medley.

#### First Three Meets

South Plainfield relay team winners were Kelly O'Brien, Joey Valentino, Kate McLaughlin, Sean Cullen, Aidan McDermott, Patrick Boyle, Liam McDermott, Charlie Butrico, Kelly McLaughlin, Maggie Valentino, David Brzozowski, Kate O'Brien, Michelle O'Sullivan, Gracie Piekarski, Ryan Lind, Elizabeth Rue, Dylan McDermott, Emily Piekarski, Chelsea Cullen, Michael Boyle, Amanda Ray, Abby Petritsch, Debbie Brzozowski, Megan Boyle, Emmett Marsili, Kristen Dabrio, Becky Brzozowski, Allison Banas and CalvinJohn Smiley.

The results from the first two meets are forthcoming.

Submitted by Glenn Cullen

### Ponytail Softball Registration Begins

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. All games are played at Pitt Street Park.

The fee is \$35 per participant and there are no refunds.

Birth certificates are required at registration. New participants to the program must also bring proof of residency. All coaches will be fingerprinted and must attend a safety clinic as well as a coaches instructional clinic.

Register at the PAL Building, located at 1250 Maple Ave. The PAL is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 5 p.m. Also, on the first and third Monday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m.

For further information call the PAL at 226-7714.

By Kevin Lykes

## juniorbaseballclubnotes

**PLEASE NOTE!**—Registrations are being accepted for the 2003 season. Winter rates are now in effect; \$95 for a single player; \$125 for two players; \$145 for three or more players. The formal registration dates are set for Thursday and Friday, Jan. 16-17 from 6-9 p.m. at the clubhouse. Also Saturday, Jan. 18 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Birth certificates are required for all players new to the league. Registrations are also being accepted by mail. To register by mail go to our website

at [www.spjbc.com](http://www.spjbc.com), print out a copy of our registration form, (you will need one per player), fill it out, sign it, and return with check and copy of birth certificate to S.P.J.B.C., PO Box 166, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

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

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# South Plainfield High School Announces First Period Honor Roll

## Grade 12

Christopher Addvensky, Joseph Adoma, Christopher Baron, Heather Barrett, Jason Basile, Leslie Boles, Tiffany Boyle, Eric Brandes, Milton Bravo, Jenny Cai, Jody Chepulis, Michael Chrysanthopoulos, Meredith Cooper, Gary Curcio, James Curcio, Ariel Curtis, Kristina Cwiekalo, Christina Dematos, Brian Destefano, Denise DiMeglio, Andrea Doell, Kimberly Dziomba, Abbalonia Falato, Cathleen Fodor, Christina Frick, Christina Furka, Jennifer GaNun, David Garatino, Janara

Garcia and Amanda George.

Jamie Glowacki, Dale Goberdhan, Steven Gopal, Shelly Graziano, Melissa Harrah, Thomas Hauts, James Hearne, Amanda Hermann, Alexander Huynh, Kim Huynh, Apprameya Iyengar, David Jacobs, Tiffany Johnson, Steven Johnston, Rodney Jones, Lauren Kaczka, Amit Kalia, Meredith Kalman, Michael Kasmer, Michelle Kravetsky, Stacy Lamonda, Danielle Larisch, Nicole Little, Nathalie Londono, Ashley Madalone, Michael Martinez, Daniel Melick, Meghan Mercurio,

David Micabalo, Alexis Montanaro and Harry Mowrey.

Richard Muglia, Sherin Navasca, Tai Nguyen, Kristen Neitzer, Jaclyn Noonan, Daniel Occhipinti, Ellery Pagala, Avinash Patel, Chirag Patel, Dipika Patel, Henry Patel, Kamlesh Patel, Rupel Patel, Jennifer Perez, Gabriela Pineda, Jennifer Piwowar, Kyle Prendergast, Cynthia Prybella, Megan Pulomena, Priscilla Quevedo, John Rayho, Joseph Reach, Brittany Regan, Eva Rodriguez, Elayne Russell, Elizabeth Sabosik, Yamara Salazar, Meaghan Schweers, Nora Seay, Rachel Shah, Wei Shang and Jennifer Silhanek.

Danielle Skoba, Joseph Smalley, Steven Sobel, David Spayder, Frank Stahlin, Allison Stuloff, Stephanie Swiere, Janine Turrise, Denise Vita, Ryan Vroom, Craig Warren, Matthew Wells, Michael Wiczorek, Ervin Williams, Jeffrey Williams, Nicole Woo, Frank Wrublevski and Victoria Zappi.

raeke, John Okuszki, Ankit Patel, Anuj Patel, Ravi Patel, Natalie Picciottoli, Gregory Publik, Amanda Rastelli, Ashley Ritchey, Jessica Rodger, Jonathan Rodger, Josef Rodriguez, Michael Salerno, Matthew Santone, Andre Scott, Daniel Sierczega, Susan Smela, Derek Smith, Jenna Smith, Carly Stoeckel, Alexander Tierney, Chiara Tomei, Adam Toth, Stephen Turrise, Gerber Vasquez, Chrisann Zushma and Robin Zushma.

## Grade 10

Darshan Amin, Shakellah Amini, Peter Aquino, Felicia Bacchus, Christopher Bakazan, Michael Benak, Dawn Besser, Shakera Beverley, Erika Blaszk, Christopher Bojarski, Matthew Boley, Vijay Budhan, Justin Buendia, Gerry Butrico, Nina Byard, Pasquale Cantarella, Kristina Carigma, Fabian Castebianco, Nicholas Cesare, Timothy Cheng, Mallory Christ, Lauren Ciandella, Toni Ciccia, Janine Clemente, Kristin Coffey, Paul Corrado, Rachel Cupido, Nicholas Curcio, Leonard Cursi, Cassandra D'Urso and Alissa Davis.

Peter Deandrea, Louana Delossantos, Aimee Demegillo, Allison DiMeglio, Stacey Diana, Kaitlynn Disch, Jonathan Donahue, Michael Downes, Michael Duquette, Caitlin English, Karen Estonactoc, Heather Flood-Crisitello, Melanic Foscolo, Kimberly Gaub, Keenan Gaynor, Allia Ghanim, Kendall Green, Nicholas Grego, Jeffrey Grubesch, Erin Gyuris, Melissa Hansen, Michele Hardgrove, Lauren Haus, Joseph Helgesen, Phu Huynh, Jamie Jakubik, Latoya Johnson, Colleen Kamen, Peter Kelly and Thomas Kiczula.

Jessica Kizmann, Craig Kulick, Linda Lee, Johnathan Lopez, Jason Lowe, Kurtis Maglaque, Aimee Maiorino, Alyssa Maiorino, Krista Malecki, Jessica Manning, Christina Martin, Allan Mazurak, Christopher McKnight, William Merkler, Jayne Merlo, Andrew Miller, Stefanie Miller, William Moates, Rosanna Mootoo, Krystal Morales, Kathleen Morgan, Brian Murtagh, Huan Nguyen, Jesse Nietzer, William Padula, Jean Pagdonsolan, Eigil

Pantaleon, Valerie Pasquarelia and Deep Patel.

Dhruti Patel, Daniel Piwowar, Lisa Primavera, Amanda Prybella, Patrick Pryor, Dwight Quichua, Justin Reid, Michael Richard, Jeremy Rodas, Khemraj Sami, Ana Santiago, Jessica Senz, Jaret Shelton, Erin Sikanowicz, Melissa Silva, Darren Smith, Trevor Smith, Melissa Sticco, Sara Sukenik, Darshan Sutnar, Nicole Sutherland, Joseph Teller, Kelly Thomas, Ashlen Udell, Jennifer Vasquez, Coral Willis, Philip Zazzara and Brian Zielinski.

## Grade 9

Daniel Agostino, Nicole Aiello, Jason Alves, Gaelle Amazan, Alyssa Babinetz, Darice Bishop, Ashley Bodner, Ashley Britton, Andrew Brown, Terrence Brown, Eileen Cameron, Jenny Cheng, Dana Chepulis, Shaunique Cisson, James Conroy, Jeffrey Cupo, Kristen Dabrio, Kazuki Daimo, Amanda Deba, Samantha Deffler, Joseph Denitzio, Keith Dezmin, Sandya Dowlat, Sandia Dundi, Breanne Fore, Gabrielle Franco, Brittany Frazer, Dunia Galarza, Kristine Gawrorisik, Zachary Gray, Kristen Gualano and Jonathan Guirguis.

David Hackett, Scott Hartje, Julianne Hudak, Beverly Jamieson, Ramit Kalia, Binh Lam, Kristi Lombardi, Bryan Millicia, Rebekah Moore, Samuel Mootoo, Alexander Nau, Tony Nguyen, Joshua O'Neal, Ryan O'Shea, Kelly Orlandini, Heather Palitto, Bhavesh Patel, Harshel Patel, Satyam Patel, Thomas Pederson, Kairlyn Pollock, Alishah Rahemtulla, Eric Reiner, Anthony Romano, Diane Romano, Angelique Rualo, Nicole Sacci, Courtney Sacco, Lauren Santillo, Denise Scavone, Brian Schulte, Jessica Schwartz and Jeffrey Scesselberg.

Gina Severini, Devancee Sewdat, Anthony Sheedy, Kevin Siedenburg, Ryan Smith, Laurie Sobel, Joseph Stasio, Melissa Szeliga, Lee Tetreault, Heather Thompson, Steven Tietjen, Stephanie Troia, Amanda Veinott, Jesse Ventura, Christopher Weakley, Stefanie Wiewkowski, Krystal Williams, Megan Wilson, Keith Winsmann, Nadine Yon, Carla Zappi and Matthew Zebrowski.



The children at Pilgrim Covenant Learning Center presented their annual Christmas program, narrated by Chris Sienkelewski.



## Grade 11

Christopher Abbott, Elaine Alexander, Regina Alin, David Allara, Jamael Allen, Sandra Amaya, Arti Amin, Almaza Amini, Jacqueline Arango, Nathanael Archbold, Danielle Aronowitz, Robert Barone, Victoria Boley, Shannon Boyles, Jonathan Buggay, Kaitlin Bundy, Kristie Butrico, Tarryn Carlton, Michael Carmon, Jonathan Chiang, Jeanine Christopher, Christopher Czaplinski, Jason DeSantis, Ryan Decker, Kevin Demarest, Brittany Denitzio, Elvis Diaz, Christopher Dickerson and Frank Dietzold.

Shannon Dillon, Claire Dolling, Jenee Douras, Derek Dundi, Brian Edwards, Chelsea Falato, Catherine Flannery, Arielle Fumosa, Matina Ganiaris, Gregory Garbowski, Miguel Garcia, Corey Gilmore, Jacquelyn Graisser, Sarah Green, Vincent Gulino, Johanna Hedler, Robert Hoffman, Thomas Holowka, Christopher Horn, Jamie Irber, Tara Israel, Katherine Kaczka, Wajdi Kanj, Kyle Kazimir, Wendy Kollarik, Kristina Latorio, Brittany Lee, Pauline Lee, Heather Loenser, Jordan Lynch and Charlyn Magat.

Michael Maher, Earl Marcelo, Jennifer Martinez, David Miglis, Tristan More, Danielle Nobile, Ngozi Opa-

## Obituaries

### Anthony P. Molinaro, 62

Anthony P. Molinaro died on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2002 in Beth Israel Hospital in Newark.

Born in Newark, Anthony had resided in Irvington and East Orange prior to settling in South Plainfield in 1967.

He was a partner with his son in the White Rose Limousine Service in South Plainfield. Mr. Molinaro was involved with the South Plainfield Pop Warner Football and South Plainfield Jr. Baseball organizations.

He was also a member of the South

Plainfield BPO Elks lodge #2298 and an avid fisherman.

Surviving are his wife, Marilyn A. (Trexler); two sons, Seaside Heights Police Officer Anthony Molinaro and his wife Laurie of Toms River and South Plainfield Police Officer Michael Molinaro and his wife Kathy of South Plainfield; a sister, Maryann McLaughlin of Edison; a brother, Robert of Barnegat and his brother-in-law, Richard Trexler and his wife Carol of South Plainfield. Also surviving are two grandchildren, Nicole and Michael.

Funeral Services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

## policereport

• On Dec. 23 Canada Dry on New Durham Ave. reported that two locks and doors on the east side of the building were damaged.

• On Dec. 24 Ahjahnia J. Hall, 25, of Plainfield was arrested for forgery and two warrants. He was attempting to use a stolen check at Burlington Coat Factory.

• On Dec. 26 Richard Louis Young, 55, of Bound Brook was arrested at Dunkin Donuts for a theft of service warrant out of Morristown and a disorderly conduct warrant out of Dunellen.

• A Plainfield resident reported that she left her paycheck and license in the tube at the drive-up window at Unity Bank after hours. When she returned the next day her check and license could not be found.

• A Fairmount Ave. resident reported receiving harassing phone calls.

• On Dec. 27 Jeffrey M. Holsworth, 37, of Parlin was arrested

for driving while intoxicated at a motor vehicle stop.

• A New Market Ave. resident reported that several registered guns were missing from his locked gun cabinet.

• Sacred Heart Church reported the theft of a baby Jesus statue from the display on the front lawn of the church.

• An employee of Innovative Carton on Durham Ave. reported that his vehicle's window and doors had been scratched.

• A Bennigan's employee reported the theft of her credit card.

• J & H Berge Inc. on So. Clinton Ave. reported receiving a bomb threat.

• An Arlington Ave. resident reported the theft of some Christmas decorations.

• On Dec. 28 Herman Burn Green, 50, of South Plainfield was arrested for possession of cocaine, driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and failure to stay right at a motor vehicle stop.

• Sam Goody on Hadley Rd. reported that two white males with dark hair and medium builds entered the store and grabbed five MP3 players and ran out with them.

• A Kenwood Ave. resident reported receiving sexually harassing phone calls.

• On Dec. 29 Steven R. Barth, 42, of Edison was arrested for driving while intoxicated and a contempt of court order at a motor vehicle stop.

• An employee of Cedar Oaks Nursing Home reported that her vehicle had been damaged.

• On Dec. 30 a Somerset St. resident reported that two panels of his vinyl fence were broken.

• A Lexington Ave. resident reported that someone had removed several blank checks from her checkbook.

• On Dec. 31 Peter R. Costigan, 27, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated, failure to stop and an unsafe lane change at a motor vehicle stop.

• A receptionist at the Holiday Inn reported receiving harassing phone calls from a patron's husband.

• An O'Keefe Lane resident reported that her front storm door had been kicked in.



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# Photos and Stories of Early Railroads Of New Jersey Captured in Book

The Central Railroad of New Jersey, which operated between 1836 and 1976 served all of New Jersey, except Bergen and Passaic Counties, as well as the Pennsylvania coal fields in the Lehigh and Wyoming Valleys, has been captured in photos and several first hand account stories by former railroad employees in a book that has just been published by the Central RR of NJ Historical Society. Much of the Central Railroad is now part of NJ Transit's Raritan Valley Line and North Jersey Coast Line. Large portions beyond those lines

have been abandoned.

The book chronicles the exciting development and operations of the railroad in text and photos; from its modest beginning in 1836 in downtown Elizabeth through the westward expansion to Plainfield in 1839, Somerville in 1842, Phillipsburg in 1852, through the coal fields of Pennsylvania to Jim Thorpe, Wilkes-Barre and Scranton in 1871 and in the same year to Bridgeton, NJ.

Most of the book has been written by former Central Railroad employees and officials, which gives a unique

behind the scenes account of railroad-ing in New Jersey and northeastern Pennsylvania.

The book is 64 pages and it's size is 8 1/2 x 11 inches. The price is \$17.35, which includes first class mailing. A limited number of 200 deluxe, library quality, hard cover editions are available for \$25.25 each.

To get your copy of this book send your check payable to the CNJ Historical Society to: CNJ Historical Society; c/o Thomas Gallo; 55-A Fulton St.; Keyport, NJ 07735-1907.

## South Plainfield Book Available

A new book, "Images of America-South Plainfield," has just been released. The book, written by Richard Veit, was compiled with the help of many residents.

The cost of the book is \$19.99 and is available at the *Observer* on Hamilton Blvd., Twin City Pharmacy on Park Ave., Custom Creations on South Plainfield Ave. and Nischwitz on Front St. All proceeds from the sale at the *Observer* will go to local organizations.



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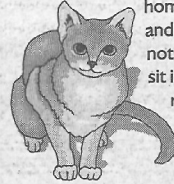
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## LEGAL NOTICE

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD**  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

December 19, 2002

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

A. Case #26-02/S/A—Home Depot USA, Inc. Block 472; Lot 36; 3096 Hamilton Blvd. Applicant's request for the relocation of an outdoor storage area and the storage of bulk materials; April 1-July 31 each year was hereby GRANTED with voluntary conditions.

B. Case #7-02—Nunzio Construction, Block 313; Lot 6; Elsie Avenue. Applicant's request for the elimination of the requirement for a sidewalk was hereby GRANTED.

C. Case #49-02/S—Majestic Towing and Transport, Block 522; Lot 1; 132 South Avenue. Applicant's request for a use variance to continue the towing business with limitations, restrictions and voluntary conditions was hereby GRANTED with preliminary and final site plan approval.

D. Case #68-02—Mary Ann Robinson, Block 10; Lot 12; 03; 138 Mahar Avenue. Applicant's request for an additional side yard setback variance to erect a metal shed with dimensions previously described and with an 8 ft. side yard setback was hereby GRANTED subject to voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Beth Khidir  
Secretary-Zoning Board of Adjustment  
\$40.00 January 3, 2003

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD**  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Roland Parker requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the construction of an 864 sq. ft. two-car garage. The size of the garage constitutes a second principal structure. Height exceeds 15' maximum allowable height, proposed height is 15' 6 1/2"; and other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 249, Lot 33C on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 23, 2003 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00 1T January 3, 2003

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