

South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

OCTOBER 30, 1997

-BOROUGH HALL NOTES-

Council Notes

At the Council Agenda meeting held Monday, Oct. 20, Darlene Pinto and Bob Longo, representing the Street Scape Committee, presented plans for the installation of benches and planters proposed for the downtown area. The Council approved the plans and the Committee was asked to return with a cost for the plan.

■ Oct. 18 was the first paint recycling day. It proved to be a great success. Over 700 paints and stains were brought to the recycling center. The next paint recycling day is Nov. 15.

■ The Borough is working on estimates for the second public works garage in need of repair.

■ Crosswalks have been painted and new reflective tape is being used as an experiment to see if it has more visibility.

■ A leak has been found in one of the pool pipes. Plans are in the works to dig and see if this is the main leak. A camera will be put into the pipes to look for cracks. No cost estimates has yet been done.

■ All residents have received a yellow flier in the mail regarding the Health Fair to be held Nov. 9-12. Please read the notice and note that some of the tests require advance reservations.

■ The budget meetings are still ongoing within the departments. Pulomena reported State aid to South Plainfield will be cut next year by almost \$200,000.

■ The Council hired five new dispatchers, one full-time and four part-time employees, at the Police Department.

■ Nov. 15 has been proclaimed South Plainfield Recycles Day as part of the America Recycles Day celebration.

■ **Oops**—Last issue, *The Observer* incorrectly reported HK Trucking donated \$1,500 to

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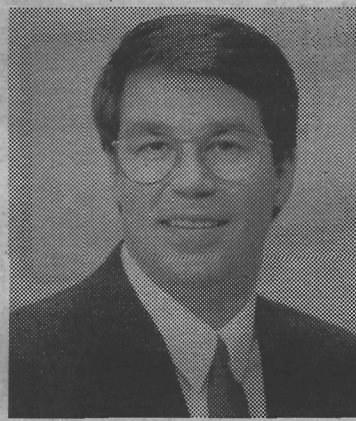
Debates Define '97 Council Race



Frank Hanley



Daniel Kenny



Ray Petronko



Vinnie Buttiglieri

Residents of South Plainfield came out to the political debate, held on Oct 16 at S.P. High School, fully expecting to discover the differences in the platforms of the candidates running for council seats. After nearly two hours of discussion, there was a definite battle line formed, but not a lot of new ideas.

The debate was sponsored by the South Plainfield Business Association. The organization has sponsored this event for the past four years. Dr. DeCosta, a member of the S.P. Business Association, was the moderator for the evening. As Dr. DeCosta accepted questions from the audience, the candidates took turns answering them with a rebuttal given by an opposing candidate.

The many shopping centers currently under construction in town was a hot topic. Republican candidate Frank Hanley said that it was too late to do anything about the ones already started. He suggested that in the future we look more closely at the impact these malls have on local traffic and the environment. In rebuttal Democratic candidate Vinnie Buttiglieri stated that the council recently tried to oppose the center planned on Oak Tree Rd. and Park Ave. They only gave in when the lawyers told the coun-

cil that it was too expensive and they would not win the case in court.

The long talked-about Senior Citizen apartments was the next issue brought forth by the audience. Both Hanley and his running mate Daniel Kenney said the Senior Citizens and the proposed Senior housing had been ignored too long. They believe the Seniors shouldn't have to wait any longer for a housing center. The Republican candidates pointed out that there are approximately 6,000 seniors living in town. He remarked that if they left it would be much

more expensive for the town to have those homes filled with families with school age children. Hanley said, "We have heard the Democrats promises

over and over again." In response, Buttiglieri said that after the voters turned down Senior Citizen housing, the Lutheran Ministry stepped forward and is now planning to build the housing. He is in agreement that the Seniors have waited too long for housing.

Democratic candidate Ray Pentronko explained that his background was in computing

and proposed upgrading the computer system in town so that all the departments could communicate with each other. He said the town should be on the web. He said, "People could find out the minutes of the meetings at Borough Hall, what the roads department was doing and any information that would help inform the public." In the rebuttal, Kenny said he also had a background in computing and couldn't see how that would help cut expenses, which is what he would like to see the done.

The subject of property taxes brought a few sparks to the meeting. The Democrats said the tax increase was due to a shortfall in the amount of money from the state and that the mu-

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'97
campaign

School Playground Subject of Controversy

By Patricia Abbott

A gift from the Riley School PTSO (Parent Teacher Student Organization) to Riley School and the school community has created a controversy with the Board of Education over the issue of liability. A proposal outlining the project was delivered to the Board of Education on Oct. 10.

Riley's PTSO Playground Committee has raised \$10,000

through the efforts of parents and students alike through various projects. The committee, chaired by Deanna Fredericks, decided how best to use the funds to benefit all the children in the school. They hoped to donate a new state-of-the-art, safety compliant piece of playground equipment to be erected on the school grounds. At an Oct. 13 Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting Chairperson Deanna Fredericks was informed by Board Member Mrya Stillman that the volunteers would not be permitted to install the equipment in order to avoid liability issues. Four playground manufacturers have been contacted about the proposed design for Riley School. Each stressed that the equipment could be easily assembled by volunteers or installed for an additional fee of \$4,500. Riley school has secured a number of volunteers for the project, among them many professionals such as construction workers, carpenters and general contractors. The volunteer parents would be supervised by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector who is employed by the manufacturer. Ms. Fredericks pointed out that many school playgrounds simi-

lar to this were installed by volunteers both in Middlesex County and around the country. She also has a Certificate of Liability.

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Not Business As Usual for Downtown Merchants

The street renovations have begun on the downtown area. The construction trucks and signs are up and the new curbing is started. The downtown area is sure to be improved after the work is completed, but area merchants are concerned.

Because the signs posted on South Plainfield Ave. say parking is not allowed on the street during the construction, people are driving by and avoiding the area completely. The downtown merchants are all still open for business. There are plenty of parking spaces in the parking lots located behind the stores on both sides of the street. Some of the stores have a rear entrances. Please continue to support local businesses and don't avoid the area because of the construction.

Mayor Issues Halloween Policy

The Mayor and Council has issued a proclamation in keeping with the Halloween celebrations.

The night before Halloween, "mischief night," has traditionally been a night when childish pranks are played. Some of these pranks have resulted in physical harm to others as well as damage to automobiles and properties of innocent owners.

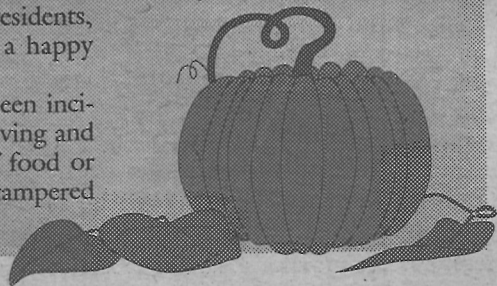
A curfew will be imposed on mischief night, Thursday, Oct. 30, at 7:00 p.m. and enforced for all minor residents of the Borough. On Friday, Oct. 31, "Trick or Treat Day" in the

Borough, all trick or treat activities are to be conducted between the hours of 3 and 7 p.m.

Young children should be accompanied by parents or other responsible adults. Householders can indicate their willingness to welcome children by keeping their porch or exterior lights on and youngsters should only call on homes with the lights on. We hope all residents, young and old, have a happy and safe Halloween.

Because there has been incidents of children receiving and consuming articles of food or candy that have been tampered

with by the inclusion of dangerous items, controlled dangerous substances and poison, and these incidents have been highly publicized when discovered, it is the recommended that parental supervision be extended to include insistence that children do not consume any "treats" until closely examined by their parents.



Letters to the Editor

To the Editor,

I would like to take a few moments to say thank you to a couple of our finest officers, Wayne Diana and Raymond Jazikoff. About a week ago, I was picking up my oldest son from the Creative Kids Academy (nursery). When I arrived, Sue Ashnault, the director, was already outside with my son. When I got out of the car, I left my two year old son in the car with the keys in the ignition.

Needless to say, when I came back to the car, the door was locked and I yelled over to Sue, in a panic, "I locked Daniel in." Sue very calmly said, "No problem, I'll get help." She went over to another car and out came Officer Raymond Jazikoff, off duty. As he walked over to the car, he was on his phone asking for help. Both Sue and Jazikoff came over to the car and assessed the situation. I was very upset. We had only been in the neighborhood two weeks and were already in a panicky situation. Officer Jazikoff and Sue were quite comforting to me while we waited for help.

Within minutes Officer Wayne Diana pulled up. He, too, was very warm and friendly and very sensitive to my child, as well as reassuring to me. He worked diligently with several tools to get the door open. Officer Jazikoff continued to try and talk my son into opening the door from the inside. Within minutes the door was opened. My eyes were so full of tears of relief that I didn't really let the Officers know just how much I appreciated what they had done.

The entire time my child remained in good spirits, mainly because the angels the Lord had sent were some of his finest. I can't begin to express my gratitude for the speedy assistance I received. What a great impression the South Plainfield Police Department has made upon my family. It's wonderful to know

that such fine people are over-seeing our community!

I want to again thank Officer Wayne Diana for such a fine job. Keep up the great work! Also, many thanks to Officer Raymond Jazikoff. To me, these two Officers are true heroes.

ELAINE COOPER & FAMILY

Letter to the Editor:

On behalf of the South Plainfield Historical Society, I wish to extend heartfelt thanks to Charles Butrico and his sons for responding to a request for help on very short notice. They met with Historical Society President Bill Tuthill at the Railroad car and transferred equipment from the car to the storage shed located at the site in preparation for the cleaning of the car the next day. Despite all the changes, South Plainfield is still a borough of people willing to give of themselves when needed. Thanks guys!

MARY MAZEPA

SO. PLAINFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

To the Editor,

I've lived in South Plainfield for one year, and will soon be moving. I will miss this town a lot — mainly because of my wonderful neighbors — Marty and Joe Papa.

Being a single mother in a new area can be rough. From day one, Marty's been there for me. From picking up my baby at the sitter when I'm running late, to the hot dinners waiting for me, to the helpful hints on bringing up a baby, I couldn't have asked for a better support system. My son Ian and I have been welcomed into the Papa family, and I feel more comfortable at their home than my own.

Marty taught me how to be a better mother and a better person. She has taken Ian overnight so I could get some sleep, has helped me through some rough times, and is even coordinating

my move to New York. But best of all, she and Joe are warm and loving to my son. There are many things I will miss about this town — peaceful walks at Spring Lake Park, my son's wonderful babysitter (Omie), the rush of the railroad passing through — but most of all, I will miss Marty and Joe. Rest assured, Ian and I will be making frequent road trips back.

HOPE TERA

Students Deserve Praise

My wife and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the South Plainfield High School students and faculty who were involved in the Senior Citizen Luncheon Program at the High School on October 16.

I would like to thank the musical directors for the outstanding job they did preparing the children in the orchestra, chorus and bands. The show they presented for the seniors was outstanding. We also want to thank the teachers of the students prepared and served the food to the seniors. The students were cheerful, friendly and courteous.

I feel I speak for all the seniors in attendance when I say we had a wonderful time and that the parents and teachers of those students should be commended for the wonderful children they are. We always read and hear about the bad children in our community and never about all the good things they do. We should always speak out when children do something outstanding in our community.

JOSEPH G. ZEKAS

To the Editor,

I would like your paper to bring to the attention of the citizens of South Plainfield a very dangerous pedestrian area in this town, Oaktree Ave. and the U.S. Post Office.

A sign installed in this area reads, "Cars to Yield to Pedestrians." This sign was installed on the west bound side of Oaktree Avenue near the entrance of the post office. No other sign was installed on the opposite direction of this road. The cross walk paint is not visible to pedestrians, nor the operator of a motor vehicle.

I was on the Drug Fair side of Oaktree Avenue, and started to cross to the Post Office. The cars going west bound stopped for me as they could see the "Yield to Pedestrian Sign." As I got to the middle of the road, a car coming from the opposite direction would have run me down if I hadn't insisted that I had the right of way.

If the town of South Plainfield had its citizens welfare in mind, they would have installed signs in both directions, and clearly repainted the crosswalk and marked "PED XING" like all the other towns in Middlesex County. Councilman Vinnie Buttiglieri visited my front door a month ago. We had a conversation about this dangerous problem. He mentioned that he was the one who was responsible for getting the sign installed. He promised me he would correct the cross walk at the post office. To date, over a month later, it is still not corrected. You wonder why citizens do not trust the politicians.

MR. PETER P. PRESTO



Bill Bortula had a "hair-raising" encounter with static electricity created by a Van de Graf generator during the Franklin Institute Science Show at Sacred Heart School.

Science Show Gives Sacred Heart School "A Charge"

The Franklin Institute, a "hands on" science museum in Philadelphia, PA, sends out "Traveling Science Shows" on eight different subjects to schools all over the Mid-Atlantic region. On Oct. 16, Melanie McMaster brought the traveling Science Show on Electricity to Sacred Heart School. The show began with the basics of electricity and slowly built concepts together. In a series of "kid friendly" demonstrations, and with the help of several student volunteers, the students learned about static and current electricity, inventors, batteries, magnets, circuits, generators, the difference between incandescent and fluorescent light bulbs, and

much, more. Mr. Robert Harrison, eighth grade teacher, got a gold star for knowing that Alessandro Volta was the inventor of the battery, which according to Ms. McMaster, was the first time this question was answered correctly. The highlight of the show was the Van De Graf generator, which literally makes the hair of a brave volunteer stand on end. The show made electricity not only interesting and informative, but a lot of fun. The Franklin Institute's other traveling shows include Chemistry, Light & Color; Flight, Hot & Cold; Motion & Machines; Communications and Structures. Both the students and teachers are looking forward to the next show.

The next issue of *The South Plainfield Observer* is **NOVEMBER 20**. The deadline for copy is **November 13**.

We apologize to our subscribers for the delay in mailing due to an error at the mailer. Subscriptions will all be extended by one issue.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM LOCATED ON PAGE 8

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Marty Papa of Carousel Beauty Shop, a Cut Above the Rest

The Carousel Beauty Shop, located on 307 Oak Tree Road, has been a landmark hair salon for 22 years. Owned and operated by Marty Pappa, the shop is well-known in the community for its family-like atmosphere.

Located adjacent to Pappa's home, Carousel Beauty Parlor has just the right touch, such as coffee and cake in the back room, which makes going to Carousel seem like a visit to a friend's house. Of course, Marty is the perfect hostess because everyone who enters her shop is greeted like an old friend. She is professional, courteous and always greets you with a smile. Her customers say she cuts, perms and colors with a flare all her own.

She was recently awarded the "Spirit of Excellence Award" from St. Barnabas Medical Hospital. The "Spirit of Excellence Award" is presented to an individual in the community "who goes above and beyond the call

S.P. Recycling Center & Yard Site Veterans Day Holiday Schedule

The Recycling Center and the Yard Waste Site on Kenneth Ave. will be closed on Tuesday, Nov. 11, for Veterans Day, but will be open on Wednesday, Nov. 12 from noon to 7:00 p.m.

The normal fall schedule will resume Friday, Nov. 14th. Regular fall hours are Tuesdays, noon

of duty" in delivering quality customer service. She was nominated by Lisa Fuglaar of St. Barnabas Medical Center, be-

cause of that some extra Marty- always seems to be doing for everyone else, such as accommodating her customers by

opening her shop just for them, or staying late because someone couldn't get there at any other time.

Through Marty's creativity, the Carousel sponsored a cut-a-thon in March, and presented a check for \$1,600 to the Suburban Women's Club to go toward high school scholarship programs.

Marty has been married to her husband, Joe, for 24 years. Joe is also a well-known police officer in town. He works in the crime prevention unit and the DARE program. They have two children, Peter, 14; and Annette, 14.

Marty has over 28 years experience in the business and comes from a family of hairdressers.

to 7:00 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at both the Recycling Center and the Yard Waste Site. This schedule will continue through Dec. 15, except for holiday closings.

For updates call the hotline: 226-7620.

Merchant in the Spotlight

events around town

VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting

The Ladies Auxiliary will be holding a meeting on Nov. 5 at the VFW Post 6763 on Front St. All members are invited to join them.

The auxiliary will be raffling off a gingerbread house on Dec. 14. Tickets are \$1.00 and go on sale Nov. 5.

Czestochowa Rosary Society to Hold Supper

On Tuesday, Nov. 4, the OLC Rosary-Altar Society is sponsoring an Election Day supper from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm in Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish Hall on Hamilton Boulevard. The cost of the dinner is \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12. There will be a choice of three entrees: stuffed cabbage, mashed potatoes, and green beans; or stuffed cabbage and pierogies; or kielbasa, sauerkraut and mashed potatoes. Dessert will be served along with choice of coffee, tea, or milk. For pick-up orders, please call the parish hall on Nov. 4 at 753-4077.

On Nov. 16, the OLC Rosary-Altar Society will sponsor a bus trip to the Wild, Wild West Casino. Tickets are \$17 each. For reservations, call Linda Dean at 668-7895.

Columbiettes to Hold Country Western Dance

The South Plainfield Columbiettes will host a country western dance, Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Polish Home, New Market Ave. Doors will open at 8 p.m.

Dance lessons will be given by Boot Scootin' Slim and Pam. Cost is \$10 per person. Coffee, cake and snacks will be provided and a cash bar will be available.

Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to support the various charities supported by the Columbiettes. For tickets or further information, call Helen Tennenbaum at 757-8332.

SCOOP Dinner To be Held

Want to get out of your kitchen? Come to the SCOOP Dinner in the South Plainfield High School Cafeteria on Thursday, Nov. 6. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m. for senior citizens and 5:00 p.m. for general admission. Get a delicious meal for 25 cents a plate, plus just 26 cents a scoop.

All proceeds will benefit Project Graduation, which provides the graduating class of South Plainfield High School with an alcohol and drug free celebration.

Nature Craft Show to be Held

A "Gifts from Nature" craft workshop and sale will be held on Thursday, Nov. 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield High School Media Center. Participants will learn how to make inexpensive gifts and decorations from natural materials.

The workshop will be led by Mary Mazepa, a member of the Terra Nova Garden Club, South Plainfield Historical Society, and an Associate Member of the South Plainfield Environmental Commission. This event is sponsored by the Walks 'N Talks Program of the South Plainfield Environmental Commission. For information, call 226-7621. There is no registration or fee.

AARP to Meet

The next meeting of AARP Chapter #4144 will be held at the P.A.L. Building, on Maple Ave. at 12:30 p.m. on Nov. 21.

The 55 *Alive Mature Drivers Course* will be Nov. 12 and 13. Reservations are required. Call Mary at (732) 752-3764.

On Nov. 21, Dr. Robert Weiss of the Urology Dept. at the Robert Wood Johnson Hospital will be the guest speaker at the membership meeting. Dr. Weiss will speak about prostate problems and solutions.

IN 1994 YOU VOTED OUT THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD REPUBLICANS BECAUSE THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN TO YOU.

HERE'S WHAT YOU GOT IN RETURN...

- ★ Borough expenses are lower today than in 1994!
- ★ Borough debt has been reduced by \$4.1 Million!
- ★ 32 Roads have been repaved on a "Pay As You Go" basis!
- ★ **You** get to say how your Tax Dollars are spent on "Democracy Day"!

Vinnie Buttiglieri



&



Ray Petronko

We Hear You!

CAMPAIGN '97 — LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, Nov. 4 in South Plainfield, you will cast your vote to elect your representatives to the Borough Council.

After the debates, news articles, comments and opinions have all been exhausted you must make a choice. I ask that you make that choice based on facts. Council Member Vinnie Buttiglieri, who chairs the Public Works Department, is responsible for the tremendous undertaking of refurbishing over 33 Borough roads, complete renovation of Borough Hall and Democracy Day in South Plainfield. Our Borough budget has not increased one dollar in five years and expenses are two hundred thousand dollars less than when Vinnie took office in 1994.

Vinnie has earned your trust, proving himself truly a man for the people of South Plainfield.

Ray Petronko is a young energetic man who has served our Borough for over eight years on our Traffic Safety Committee and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in computer programming and networking, which, when applied in our Borough, will reduce operating expenses.

I know both of these gentlemen and believe they will serve South Plainfield well. I ask for your support in electing Vinnie Buttiglieri and Ray Petronko to our Borough Council.

MAYOR DAN GALLAGHER

To the Editor,

I want to thank the people of South Plainfield in advance for their consideration next Tuesday. I having knocked on approximately 5,000 doors during the last eight weeks. I realize what a truly phenomenal town we live in.

If you honor me next Tuesday by re-electing me to the Borough Council, I promise to continue to work as hard as I can to make our borough the best it can possibly be. Over the last three years significant progress has been made in our town. Our

roads and buildings are no longer being neglected; our Borough is now operating on a "pay as you go" philosophy and not the borrow, spend and tax mentality which was rampant during the prior Republican regime. Democracy Day has become a reality in South Plainfield and it is now the envy of many towns in New Jersey.

Even with all this progress, we cannot rest on our laurels. Ray and I have outlined our plan for South Plainfield's future. While walking through our borough and talking to many of you, we have identified eight borough roads that will be repaved during 1998. Putnam Park will be upgraded, borough facilities will be computerized and a web page will be established to enable our residents to have access to important information.

This year's election is very important and I ask for your support so that Ray Petronko and I can continue to work for the betterment of the entire community. Remember, WE HEAR YOU!

**VINNIE BUTTIGLIERI,
COUNCILMAN**

Letter to the Editor,

Ray Petronko is a friend of mine. When he first told me he wanted to run for Borough Council I thought he was crazy. But then I thought about Ray's work on the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the New Jersey Network Telethon and South Plainfield Traffic Safety Board and I said, this guy is exactly what South Plainfield needs. He doesn't want glory or headline. He just wants to help others. On election day I'm voting for someone who cares, Ray Petronko, for Borough Council.

**DON AND TERRY ALEXA
HOPKINSON STREET**

To the Editor,

I was elected as a member of the Borough Council in 1995. I know firsthand what a difference the new Democratic majority has

made in South Plainfield. Everyone knows the financial chaos our town was put in during the years of Republican control. Expenses increased one million dollars per year from twelve to seventeen million dollars, debt doubled, the sewer tax increased 50% and our roads were falling apart and municipal buildings were crumbling before our very eyes. Now, four years later our finances are in order, borrowing has stopped and more roads have been repaved than at any time in our history.

That record of accomplishments is no coincidence. For the last three years Vinnie Buttiglieri has been the councilperson assigned to Public Works, which means roads, buildings and grounds. Under his leadership 36 roads have been repaved. Borough Hall and the library have been renovated, the public works garage repaired, all on a pay as you go basis.

That record alone is enough to support Vinnie's reelection, but he isn't finished yet. He has already submitted a list of twelve roads for next year along with Putnam Park.

Vinnie's running mate is Ray Petronko. He is as intelligent, energetic and focused a young man as I have ever met. His background is in computers and he has personal daily responsibility for over 1,000 network users. What an asset that expertise will be to our borough departments.

This election day, the choice is easy. Join me in voting for Vinnie Buttiglieri and Ray Petronko, Democrats for South Plainfield Council.

**DENNIS CERAMI,
COUNCILMAN**

To the Editor,

Have you driven around town lately? Boy, its annoying isn't it? Roads everywhere are under construction. What's going on here? Why are so many roads being rebuilt/reconstructed in South Plainfield and no where else? When it seems like nothing is going on in other towns, finally after 80 years the center of town is actually being rebuilt, Oak Tree Road is being redone, Sampton Avenue just finished, Madison and North Madison Avenue, the Durham Avenue/287 interchange. There is a reason so much is happening in South Plainfield. It's because we have leaders who listen to the people and work to get things done.

Vinnie Buttiglieri is one of those leaders. Every time you see a sign that says there is a new road project think of Vinnie Buttiglieri. It's because of his hard work that about 40 roads have been done in South Plainfield in the last few years and not one penny has been borrowed to do them. He deserves to be re-elected.

On Election Day drive on one of these nice, newly reconstructed roadways directly to your voting booth and vote for Vinnie Buttiglieri and Ray Petronko for Borough Council.

**WALTER KALMAN
MERCHANTS AVENUE**

To the Editor,

I have the pleasure of saying Vinnie Buttiglieri is a friend of mine. He is as nice a person as anyone could ever know. As a Borough councilperson, he works everyday to make things better in South Plainfield. Any-

one who is reading this letter today probably drove on at least one road that has been repaved during the last three years. As the councilperson assigned to the Road Department, Vinnie Buttiglieri started the program where about 10 roads each year are repaved without borrowing money.

Vinnie also was one of the first people to support Democracy Day.

Vinnie is an accountant who knows budgets inside and out. He is a terrific asset to South Plainfield and deserves to be re-elected. Although I don't know his running mate as well, I am very impressed by Ray Petronko who is also an intelligent, hard working young man who I am told is a computer whiz.

Join with me on election day and vote for Vinnie Buttiglieri and Ray Petronko for Council.

**CREIGHTON PFIEFER
FRANKLIN AVENUE**

Letter to the Editor,

The other day candidates for Borough Council knocked on my door and I asked them some questions about South Plainfield. In general I know our town, but even I was very pleased by what I heard. Over the last four years 36 roads have been reconstructed without borrowing one penny to do them. Borough expenses are the same today as they were five years ago. (Compare that with a one million dollar per year increase under Mayor Waskey and the Republican control). Borough debt today is actually \$4.1 million less than it was three years ago. Every year we get to have our voice heard on Democracy Day.

When you think about it, it's unbelievable. We should all be proud of what has been done in our little town in the last four years. No one person can take credit, but one person who definitely is entitled to appreciation is Councilman Vinnie Buttiglieri. I urge everybody to vote for him and his running mate, Ray Petronko, on Nov. 4.

**CHERYL NAGEL-SMILEY
EAST GOLF AVENUE**

To the Editor,

Ray Petronko is my neighbor. I know first hand what a terrific husband and father he is. I am very aware of his volunteer work for South Plainfield. Ray Petronko will make a terrific councilman. His energy is endless. He is intelligent and hard working. On election day, join me in voting for Ray Petronko for Borough Council.

**CORNELIUS KING
PITT STREET**

To the Editor,

If you want your opinion to count in South Plainfield, vote for Vince Buttiglieri and Ray Petronko for Borough Council on Election Day. They have encouraged the maximum involvement of the residents in the governing process. The Democrats have opened up borough government and given a voice to the residents. The Democrats have spearheaded the establishment of a Taxpayers Advisory Group and a Businesspersons Advisory Group. They started Democracy Day and gave us a chance to voice our concerns on major spending items.

On the other hand, the Republicans have openly criticized each of these attempts to increase the participation of the residents in

deciding how their tax dollars are spent. This country was founded on the idea of a participatory democracy and I am thankful that the Democrats have given me increased opportunities to have my voice heard. Vince Buttiglieri and Ray Petronko care about what residents have to say and they deserve your support on Election Day.

**WILLIAM A. NAGY, JR.
CHERRY STREET**

To the Editor,

South Plainfield finally has a Borough Council that listens to the people. Residents wanted to open up the process of government and the Democrats started a Taxpayer's Advisory Group and Democracy Day. The Democracy Day idea of letting residents vote on large capital budget items is being copied by other towns all over New Jersey. People wanted the Borough to cut spending and the Democrats have lowered the Borough's expenses in each of the last four years. In the five prior years under Republican control, the Borough's expenses went up \$5 million. The voters also wanted the Borough to stop the needless borrowing and the Democrats put the Borough on a pay-as-you-go plan. In the past four years, the Democrats have paved countless roads in town, renovated Borough Hall and the Library without wasteful borrowing. It's time to elect the people who listen to the residents. Re-elect Vinnie Buttiglieri and elect Ray Petronko to the Borough Council on election day.

**MARY LESO
FOSTER AVENUE**

To The Editor:

Everyone knows the enormous respect which I have for all of the members of the South Plainfield Borough Council and our Mayor, Dan Gallagher. Your Mayor and Council have worked together as a team over the last four years and the results have been terrific and always with your benefit in mind.

South Plainfield is the only town in the State of New Jersey where expenses haven't increased over the last four years and municipal debt has been reduced by \$4.1 million.

An essential member of the new Democratic team is Councilperson Vinnie Buttiglieri. Vinnie is the mover behind the pay-as-you-go road projects under which almost 40 roads have been repaved without borrowing one penny to do them.

The thing that Vinnie Buttiglieri is most rightfully proud of is Democracy Day, when residents have a say in how tax dollars are spent.

Vinnie Buttiglieri is a terrific, caring councilperson dedicated to making South Plainfield the best it can be. He represents the best South Plainfield has to offer. His running mate, Ray Petronko, is cut from the same cloth. Ray is an exceptional individual who will apply his computer knowledge to Borough operations.

When you look at their accomplishments, their backgrounds, their integrity and their plans for South Plainfield's future, it's obvious Vinnie Buttiglieri and Ray Petronko are the best choices for our town.

**ED P. KUBALA
COUNCILMAN**

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CAMPAIGN '97 — LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,

It's hard to believe that election day is next Tuesday. It literally seems like yesterday that I was nominated by the South Plainfield Democratic party to run for Borough Council.

The last six months have been a terrific experience for me and my family. As a council candidate I have had the opportunity to meet most of our residents, either door to door or at various events around the Borough. I always knew South Plainfield was a nice town, but walking around during the campaign has given me a greater appreciation of what a great town this really is. You can feel the pride as you walk through our neighborhood.

I make one simple promise. If you elect me to the Borough Council, I will always work my hardest to do what's best for this great town of ours.

One additional benefit of running for Council has been the opportunity to become a friend of Vinnie Buttiglieri. Vinnie is just a terrific person and an outstanding councilperson. He deserves to be reelected.

Thank you for all your kind thoughts and wishes and remember to vote on Nov. 4.

RAY PETRONKO

Letter to the Editor

I notice that the Republican slogan this year is "Protect Your Interest." When you think of it, that's quite appropriate. When you take out a loan you have to pay back a lot of interest. In fact, every taxpayer in South Plainfield will be paying interest for the next 20 years on the forty million dollar Republican debt.

So the Republicans not only protected their interest, they increased it during their borrow, tax, and spend five years in office.

I like the Democratic slogan better. Vinnie Buttiglieri and Ray Petronko say, "We Hear You" and they do. That's why no money has been borrowed, expenses are flat and pay as you go is the rule in South Plainfield.

On Nov. 4 tell the Republican candidates you have no interest in their approach to government. Vote for Vinnie Buttiglieri and Ray Petronko, Democrats for Borough Council.

**LOUISE J. SALAGAJ
DEFILIPPO DRIVE**

To The Editor,

I usually don't get involved in politics and I'm not a letter writer, but I would feel guilty if I didn't write in support of Vinnie Buttiglieri for Borough Council. Vinnie is a terrific young man with a heart of gold. There is nothing he wouldn't do to help someone in need. As a Councilperson, he watches every tax dollar like his own. Not only because he is an accountant but also because he cares.

I read that Vinnie is responsible for 30 and 40 roads being repaved in the last three years. I'm not surprised. You give him a job to do, you know he'll do it first class. It would be a shame if Vinnie Buttiglieri were not reelected. I hope everyone will vote for him, not because he is a nice guy but because he works hard to help the people of our community.

**JOSEPH ABATE
FRANKLIN AVENUE**

Letter to the Editor

I notice that the South Plainfield Republicans are at it again. They've been quoted as saying they don't think the results of Democracy Day are "binding" on the Mayor and Council. Will the Republicans ever get it? When an elected official gives his or her word on something, if it's not binding then they should be voted out of office. If the Republicans need a law to keep their word then they don't deserve to be elected.

Vinnie Buttiglieri and Ray Petronko know how important it is to honor your word. They will fight any Republican effort to take away Democracy Day. As long as Vinnie and Ray are on the Council every resident of South Plainfield will get to vote on how their tax dollars are spent.

Don't be fooled by Republican double talk. Vote for the candidates who hear what we have to say. Vote for Vinnie Buttiglieri and Ray Petronko, Democrats for Borough Council.

**ISABELLE MASCARITOLLO
SOUTH PLAINFIELD AVENUE**

Dear Editor,

I have had the honor of serving on the South Plainfield Borough Council with Councilman Vinnie Buttiglieri for the past three years. Vinnie is a vigorous, intelligent leader who really makes a difference in Borough government. In working closely with him over the last three years, I have seen the kind of work he does. Remember what Hadley Road used to be like? Have you driven on it lately? It's beautiful isn't it? Thank Vinnie.

Vinnie was instrumental in the creation of the first Democracy Day in which the people of South Plainfield had a voice in how their tax dollars should be spent. Hadley Road is one example of how Democracy Day works. The people voted "yes" to reconstruct Hadley Road on that first Democracy Day. Vinnie will insure that Democracy Day remains a tradition in South Plainfield.

As the Chairperson of the Public Works Department, Vinnie was responsible for the repaving thirty-six roads in town, all on a pay-as-you-go basis — without borrowing a cent!!

Vinnie also spearheaded the remodeling of Borough Hall, the Police Communications and Records Departments and replacing the roof on the Public Works garage by using Public Works employees. This saved the Borough thousands in tax dollars. Vinnie deserves to be reelected and the Borough needs his expertise and continued diligence in working on the Borough Council.

I also had the privilege of working with Ray Petronko for two years on the Traffic Safety Committee. Ray is a highly competent, energetic person who has the intelligence, dedication and leadership abilities to help shape South Plainfield's future. From the time I have known Ray, I have found him to be a dedicated professional who is committed to whatever projects he has been involved in.

He believes in strong family values and lives those values in his family life. He is committed to his family and is concerned about the welfare and safety for children in the community.

Ray has been a member of the

Traffic Safety Committee for more than eight years. It was there he saw first-hand the dedication of the people and their commitment to the people of South Plainfield. He brings his professional experience to the Council. Ray believes in open and honest communication and in getting new and fresh ideas on the table. He will make sure that everyone who wants to be heard is heard.

Ray will be an excellent councilman. Teaming with Councilman Vinnie Buttiglieri is an excellent combination. We need leaders who have the courage and conviction to make tough decisions—like cutting expenses—but who also have the compassion and sensitivity to listen to the concerns and needs of the residents.

Vinnie and Ray have a well-thought-out plan of action for South Plainfield. They support Democracy Day every spring so the citizens get a chance to say what they think. They support pay-as-you-go government and they are not afraid to cut expenses. South Plainfield deserves the best, and Vinnie and Ray are the best. South Plainfield needs leaders who will make the hard decisions. Vinnie Buttiglieri and Ray Petronko are these type of leaders and they deserve your vote on Election Day.

**MARY ANNE KOCHUT,
COUNCILWOMAN**

To the Editor,

Sometimes elections are hard, sometimes elections are easy. As the expression goes, this year's election in South Plainfield is a "No Brainer." Vinnie Buttiglieri and Ray Petronko are by far the most qualified candidates for Council. Just look at what has been accomplished in South Plainfield in the last four years—all the new roads that have been fixed without borrowing money to do it, cutting expenses, reducing borrowing. South Plainfield is a well-run town and it's not a mistake.

Vinnie Buttiglieri has done a terrific job as a Councilman and Ray Petronko is a intelligent overall terrific young man who will do nothing but help all the people of South Plainfield.

On Nov. 4th, vote for the people who will make South Plainfield even better than it already is, Vinnie Buttiglieri and Ray Petronko.

**MARY AGISTO
BERGEN STREET**

To the Editor,

I read the Republican political flyer the other day and I laughed out loud. It said the Republicans want to reduce debt. These are the same guys who put South Plainfield in a \$40 million dollar hole. Heck, they borrowed \$15 million dollars in just one year alone.

These are the same Republicans who say you can't have "pay as you go" government even though they didn't repave one road with their borrowed money.

Don't waste your vote. Join with me in supporting Vinnie Buttiglieri and Ray Petronko for Council. Vinnie is the councilperson who has repaved over 30 roads without borrowing money to do them. Ray is a computer genius who will bring technology to our town so that we'll get greater efficiency for our tax dollars.

Remember, Buttiglieri + Petronko = Pay As You Go Government.

**E.W. KATAZYNAK
NEW YORK AVENUE**

Letter to the Editor:

On November 4, we will have the opportunity to make a difference in the future of South Plainfield. And that difference can be heard in the Democratic voice. Clearly, there is a fundamental distinction between the Democratic party's vision for the future as compared to the Republican party. Sadly, a past practice of the Republican party was to make decisions behind closed doors. Our citizens deserve better. The Democratic vision is to continue to enhance participatory government to ensure the people of our community have a voice in the decision-making process. Unfortunately, the Republican party has previously relied upon the "borrow and spend" mentality. In 1993, they put this Borough on a collision course with financial disaster when they borrowed \$15 dollars to pay day to day expenses. Fortunately, the Democrats support a "Pay as You Go" approach in managing the finances of our Borough. Not a single penny has been borrowed to pay day to day expenses. Furthermore, Borough expenses have remained flat since 1993. In the previous five years under Republican control expenses increased an average of \$1 million a year. Our residents need Democrats representing them who will contribute not only their time and dedication to improving our community, but ones who will listen to the people. Our residents need Vinnie Buttiglieri and Ray Petronko.

Vinnie Buttiglieri has served on the Borough Council for the last three years. Vinnie has done a remarkable job in helping bring our financial house in order and creating a government that listens to the people. As the liaison to our Public Works Department, Vinnie led the effort to repave over 30 roads that were badly in need of repair.

Ray Petronko, our newest can-

The Observer has published every Letter to the Editor received that pertains to the upcoming election. All opinions expressed are from the writers themselves.

didate, is energetic and enthusiastic. He is an excellent choice for councilperson because he possesses a strong sense of commitment and dedication to our community. Ray's computer experience and expertise will bring greater efficiency to the Borough as we continue to move forward in the field of technology and information systems.

On November 4, you will also have the opportunity to vote for Freeholder of Middlesex County. As a candidate for this position, I will bring the same drive, determination and commitment with which I serve on the Borough Council. I ask for your support, along with my running mate, Jim Polos, Mayor of Highland Park. Jim and I are committed to continue the Democratic Freeholder record of reducing the county property tax levy for four consecutive years. We are pledged to preserve as much open space as possible for future generations and will work hard to ensure that we continue to enhance the quality of life in Middlesex County.

Give South Plainfield the opportunity to continue to move forward. The choice is clear. Nov. 4, vote Buttiglieri and Petronko for Council and Pulomena and Polos for Freeholder. Your vote makes all the difference.

**JOHN PULOMENA,
COUNCILMAN**

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What's New and Happening in Our Schools?

From Anthony Massaro, S.P. H.S. Principal

Letter to the Editor:

On Oct. 21, the South Plainfield school district adopted a set of goals for school year 1997-98. Two of these goals directly affect South Plainfield High School. The purpose of this letter is to inform you about these goals and to ask for your help in achieving them.

It will be difficult to measure up to the expectations of these goals. However, when these goals are viewed in context with our record of working together (parents/students/school); they are, indeed, possible. At South Plainfield High School, we have always worked together to achieve excellence in the arts, athletics, and academics. Some recent highlights include the following items:

(1) Our Respect All Races Everywhere (R.A.R.E.) program is now in its fifth year and is functioning successfully. It was recognized by the New Jersey State Department of Education as a Best Practice in the state for promoting citizenship. This program has played a key role in producing a positive learning environment.

(2) Our Gold Card Program continues to recognize positive student achievement. The requirements are a 3.0 GPA, extra and co-curricular involvement, and a positive attendance record. It is possible for every student here to achieve a Gold Card with proper planning and effort.

(3) Our Project Acceleration program is continuing into its second year. This program provides an opportunity for juniors and seniors to earn college credits for taking advanced placement courses at South Plainfield High School. When this program was initiated, it distinguished us as the first public high school in Middlesex County to have such an offering.

(4) Our Cooperative Education Program continues to serve our students well. It is consistently referred to by outside authorities as a model program.

(5) Our level of student achievement on the Scholastic Aptitude Test has shown continuous improvement. As of this writing, our most recent final results are not yet available. However, our average score for the class of 1996 was a combined 1020. Our average score for the class of 1997 was 1040. And the comparative number shown in a recent *Star-Ledger* article was a combined 1133.

(6) We have done extremely well on the HSPT-11. In prior years, we gave this test to sophomores—one year ahead of schedule. Tenth grade student results on the HSPT-11 were used as a district goal. We have done so well with that goal that the Middlesex County Superintendent of schools has asked us to move on to another goal.

While we are not perfect, progress is being made. There is, however, room for improvement, with your continued help and support, we will meet the challenges which follow.

A. 1997-98 Objective (Challenge Objective)

By June, 1997, 85% of the students enrolled in the high school Social Studies courses will achieve a passing score of "B" or better on a test of geography wherein they are required to label blank maps, identifying the location of continents, countries' major bodies of water, and each of the states in the USA as measured by an appropriate locally devised test.

You can help us to achieve this goal by talking to your sons and daughters about it. Ask them how they are progressing. Please reinforce our efforts.

B. 1997-98 Objective (Challenge Objective)

Three-Year-Attendance Improvement Project

The High school annual percentage of student attendance will improve by three percent from our consistent base of 90% to 93% by the 1999-2000 school year. Benchmark objectives will be 91% for 1997-98 and 92% for 1998-99.

Viewed historically and in context, this is quite possibly the most difficult challenge. Since 1971, the yearly rate of student attendance at SPHS has only met or surpassed the rate of 91% five times. Clearly, we have a large task ahead of us.

While the challenge is formidable, I do believe that the achievement of this goal will help us in many other ways. Our purpose is to teach. One factor in teaching our students "more" is to have them attend school "more often."

You can help us in many ways. I urge you to talk to your sons and daughters about the need for regular and consistent attendance. Please make every reasonable effort to avoid planning family trips during the days when school is in session. Please do not accept or assist in promoting excuses for lateness or absence by your son or daughter. Please support us in promoting regular and consistent attendance by our students.

My lifetime of experience has shown me that together we can succeed. Our goals are worthwhile. Working together, we will be successful for the noblest purpose of all — a better education for your sons and daughters!

SINCERELY,
ANTHONY F. MASSARO, HIGH SCHOOL

In Need of a Family...

SPHS Exchange Student Needs Foster Home

By Desha Abe,
Student SP High School

Going to school in Tokyo is much different than going to high school here in South Plainfield. If you don't believe it, just ask Keiko Kameda, the Japanese exchange student living with a host family in town.

"In my old school, 91 students in class sat in one room, and the teachers were the ones who switched rooms. I went to an all-girls' high school and about 45 of us were in the same room all day," said Kameda.

Kameda enrolled in SPHS at the beginning of the school year through Youth For Understanding, the international exchange student program.

The original plan was for Kameda to stay at SPHS for the full school year, graduate with the senior class, and then go back to Japan for college.

Unfortunately, because of an emergency situation in her host family, Kameda must leave the family she is staying with and find a new one. She is allowed to finish the month of October here, and then, if she doesn't have a new host family, she will have to switch schools. Kameda likes South Plainfield and hopes she will be able to stay. "The people in South Plainfield are friendly and kind," she said.

Kameda needs a host family immediately—by the end of October. The following outlines what the family must be able to provide:

1. Part of a room or her own room with bed, desk, closet and dresser.
2. Three meals a day (or lunch money if lunch is purchased at school).
3. Involvement in family life, activities and chores.
4. A supportive family, interested in learning about Japanese culture and another part of the world.

The fate of Kameda depends upon the kindness of South

Student Council Elections Held At John E. Riley

Riley School Student Council elections were held on Oct. 8. There were three candidates from each fifth grade class representing the offices of President, Vice President and Secretary.

The nine candidates each prepared, wrote and presented their campaign speeches during an assembly prior to the election. They also had fun designing posters, buttons, and banners urging their fellow students to vote.

The candidates who won the election are President, Christina DeFrancesco; Vice-President, Nicole Randazzo; and Secretary, Stefanie Mille.

Riley School Student Council, under the guidance of Advisor Mrs. Susan Mariani, takes an active role in providing activities and programs to help make their school a safe and fun place to learn.



Keiko Kameda

Plainfield citizens. "I really like South Plainfield, and I don't want to leave. I have made so many friends I like my classes, and I love the Tigers," she said.

If you are interested in having Keiko Kameda become a part of your family, call Janet Flanagan-Wurtz at 754-4620 ext 266, or Jim and Ellie Kullman at 233-8042.

Students Participate in Energy Study

Sixth, seventh and eighth graders from South Plainfield Middle School are studying their personal and household energy use as part of a new program. "In concert With The Environment" is a course sponsored by Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) to teach students how their personal energy consumption affects the environment. Students learn about their household's energy use by completing a comprehensive home energy survey. They enter their data into "In Concert With The Environment" computers provided by PSE&G. The result is a report that shows ways students and their households can save money and energy, and benefit the environment by using energy wisely.

The program also helps schools integrate environmental education into their curriculum. In turn, it benefits PSE&G by reducing the need to build more power plants and controlling peak demand items that cost the company and its customers money.

Anyone seeking additional information regarding this program which will be conducted Nov. 19 through Dec. 5 can contact Middle School Assistant Principal, William Beegle, or co-coordinator, Mickey Kayka, Science Chairperson at 754-4620, ext. 310.

Advanced Placement Scholar Awards

Three students at South Plainfield High School have been named AP Scholars by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations. Approximately ten percent of America's graduating seniors have taken one or more AP Examinations. Only about 13 percent of the more than 581,000 students who took AP Examinations in May 1997 performed at a sufficiently high level to merit such recognition.

The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on the number of year-long courses and exams. Sonali Shah qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award with an average exam grade of at least 3.25. Carlos Romas-cindo and Jane Wang qualified for the AP Scholar Award by receiving grades of three or higher on three or more AP Examinations.

Veterans Invited to Franklin School

On Friday, Nov. 7, Franklin School will pay tribute to American Veterans in an assembly program at 1:45 p.m. The children have been busy preparing songs and presentations. The purpose of the program is not only to provide the opportunity for our students to understand the meaning of Veterans' Day, but also to honor our local Veterans.

If you are a Veteran and plan to attend, kindly RSVP.

Fire Prevention Week Observed

In conjunction with Fire Prevention Week, fourth grade students at John E. Riley School welcomed a visit from the S.P. Volunteer Fire Department.

Fire Inspector Edward LaFerrera and volunteer fire-fighters, John Celentano and Mario Abbruzzese, shared their knowledge of fire safety procedures with the students and their teachers, Mrs. Bonanno, Mrs. Devlin and Miss Dress. They also displayed equipment used to prevent and contain fires.

Children tried on coats, boots, and helmets and also toured the fire trucks. The "high" light of the visit occurred when Miss Dress donned fire-fighting gear and was taken 95 feet above Riley School in the ladder truck bucket.

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What's New and Happening in Our Schools?

United Nations Day Celebrated at John E. Riley School



Third graders, Kenya, with teacher Mrs. Zablocki and student teacher Miss Lori Finnerty.



Third graders, Italy, with teacher Miss Jane Bishop and student teacher Miss Pamela Lefsky.

On Friday Oct. 24, John E. Riley School celebrated United Nations Day, the culmination of weeks of preparation.

The kindergarten classes studied Japan and Australia. Parents and visitors were welcomed to share in the day's festivities.

First graders learned about families and how they are alike and different. They have also been studying cultural diversity. Visitors witnessed a display of ethnic artifacts, such as books, posters, pictures, flags, and costumes. All artifacts and foods, prepared by our first grade parents, teachers, and children were labeled according to country.

Grade two studied Switzerland, Poland and Spain. Their goal was to transform their classroom into the countries selected for study. They were busy at work writing letters to literary characters from their replicated countries. The children have borrowed and displayed the countries' posters, pictures, postcards, currency, maps, costumes, and flags. Traditional goods were also sampled.



Third grade, France, with teacher Mrs. Marge Gumina and Stephanie Gutentah.

The intermediate children in Grades 3, 4, and 5 adopted countries for their national representations. Intermediate classrooms and hallways were decorated to represent either an entire country or some aspect of a country. Intermediate grade-level students studied the geography and history of their selected countries for adoption, focusing on flag making, national colors, music, games, folk tales, costumes and tourist attractions.

While the third grade studied Italy, France, Kenya, and Egypt; fourth grade students adopted Scotland, Ireland, and England; and fifth graders selected United States for study.

The fifth-grade students reviewed periods of Art History that they have studied since first grade. They learned about mu-

seums by setting up their own mini-museums.

Primary and intermediate classrooms, hallways, and display bulletin boards were representative of United Nations. They were created by classroom teachers and students, depicting what they studied and what they learned.

Advanced Placement Scholar Awards

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The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on the number of year-long courses and exams. Sonali Shah qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by receiving grades of three or higher on four or more AP Examinations, with an average exam grade of at least 3.25. Carlos Romascindo and Jane Wang qualified for the AP Scholar Award by receiving grades of three or higher on three or more AP Examinations.

True Blue Hero.....

Coach Paviak Wins Crayola's Contest

By LeeAnn Errico,
Student, SP High School

On October 7, Coach Bill Paviak was inducted into the Crayola Hall of Fame, based on a letter written by Brad Johnson, a first grade student. Paviak received the honor of being named a "True Blue Hero".

Paviak and Johnson won an all-expense-paid trip to the Crayola factory in Easton, PA. When they were inducted into the Hall of Fame both their names were printed on a blue-black crayon in a special Crayola Crayon 9 Count Limited Edition Tin (which can be found at most local stores for \$4.25).

Paviak and Johnson will then choose a permanent color for the crayon with final approval from Binney & Smith, the makers of Crayola. They have narrowed

their color choices down to Cyberspace, Outerspace, Whale Blue, and Storm Cloud.

The winners were chosen because of the honesty and sincerity of each student.

Brad said, "I think Mr. Paviak is a hero because he never lies, never yells, and explains what the kids did wrong. My dad knew him, and he [Paviak] let me go to his wrestling camp. We practiced drills and learned wrestling holds."

Brad's mother is very pleased with Brad's accomplishments. "Mr. Paviak is a good role model. He took time out and made Brad feel really good about himself," said Ms. Johnson.

Paviak was surprised to hear of his honor. He did not realize the strong impact that he had on Brad.

"A lot of coaches do things you

would not want students to do. I try to do things I would want the kids to do. You have to give a correct image when in front of people," said Paviak.

Paviak was chosen along with seven others. A father, a teacher, a mother, a special education teacher, a woman who instructs people in wheelchairs, and a fifteen-year-old girl who makes 600 lunches a week for the homeless were all inducted.

The ultimate hero was the fifteen-year-old girl. She received the honor of having two crayons named after her and was given \$5,000 donated to her favorite charity. The seven other winners will each receive \$1,000 toward a charity.

Paviak is planning to donate his \$1,000 to a local community charity. He said that he believes it was just luck that he received this honor and gives more credit to Brad for his honesty in his letter than to himself. His humility and integrity make him a true hero.

A Princess Visits South Plainfield

Thursday, Oct. 16, Franklin school had a visit from a real live princess, Potri Ranka Manis is the daughter of a Sultan from the Southern Philippines. She performs the classical and tribal dances of the Mindanao, and other Filipino dances, solo and with her dance company "Kinding Sindaw." She has performed throughout the Philippines, Middle East, Hong Kong and the U.S. and is also an award winning poet and playwright. Through storytelling, music, and dance, Potri shared the rich culture of her people with the students from Kindergarten through fifth grades, involving them in dance numbers and song.

These dances reflect the natural environment of her homeland.

Loan Bear of the Lenape Nations Visits Franklin School

Franklin School kicked off its Cultural Arts programs with a visit from James Lone Bear Revey — a New Jersey resident and a Lenape.

Attired in full Lenape Delaware regalia, Long Bear presented the fourth and fifth grade students, who were studying the Lenape, with a workshop.

Because of the small numbers of Lenape remaining in the state, Mr. Revey has devoted much of his time to the preservation of his culture. He is a professional artist who has created traditional artifacts of the Lenape for museums, as well as for the educational outreach programs sponsored by the Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission. In conjunction with this workshop, the Franklin School fourth graders were

bused to the commission's Village at East Jersey Old Town in September, where the students took part in a Folklife Program entitled "pueblos, Wik-a-wans and Longhouses." In attendance at the full day of workshops were Powhatan Swift Eagle and Mataaka Little Eagle of the Chickahoming and Tewa people, Helen Rende of the Iroquois nations, and James Lone Bear Revey.

Long Bear brought with him to Franklin School artifacts handmade by his mother and father, as well as his grandparents. In the display and explanation of each piece, he shared a bit of the Lenape culture with the children. The workshop ended with the students dancing traditional Lenape dances to the rhythmic drumming of Lone Bear.

Franklin holds UN Celebration

Franklin School honored the 52nd anniversary of the United Nations during the week of Oct. 20, with the theme "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." Each morning began with thoughts and poems for the day describing the history and purpose of the United Nations with emphasis on the resolution of



Conflict Managers, Paul Canleretta, Verne Johnson, Jennifer Braco and Kevin Carney.

conflicts through peaceable means and treating others with kindness and understanding. Throughout the week, teams of fifth grade students presented Peer Conflict Resolution strategies and procedures to every class underscoring the importance of using the program as a means of settling differences among students before they become problems. All children were invited to submit their poems, essays and drawings in response to the topic, "imagine you are a delegate in the United Nations assigned to keep peace between the nations. In an essay, poem or drawing using what you know about keeping friendly relations, describe what you would do to maintain international peace and security in the world. How would you like the people of the world to be treating each other?"

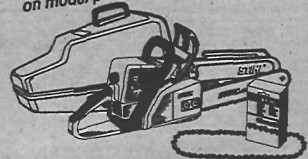
A \$50 United States Savings Bond was awarded to third grader Gina Butrico and fifth grader, Allison DiMeglio, for their wonderful poems. Other students honored for their entries include third grader, Megan McCue; fourth grader, Alexander Brown and fifth grader, Nick Curcio.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Hello again. It looks like we have time for one last library column before October is over.

The library will be closed on Tuesday, Nov. 4, for Election Day and on Tuesday, Nov. 11 in honor of Veterans Day.

The Friends of the Library will meet on Tuesday Nov. 4, at 7:30 p.m. in the teacher's lounge at the High School. Everyone is invited.

There's been a change of venue for our storytime programs. Until further notice, they'll be held at the library. This includes the daytime programs in spite of the fact that the library itself will be closed. The programs for children ages 3-6 are held on Monday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:30 p.m. respectively. The program for children ages 18 months-3 years is held on Thursday at 11 a.m. No registration is needed for these programs. However, since the library is still being renovated, parents should remain with their children.

There's also been a change of venue for a lot of other programs inside our building. Due to the ongoing, and believe or not, progressing renovations, we've had to move a lot of things around, like videos and magazines. Be prepared to hunt for what you want. We'll be glad to assist you in your search.

On the subject of Election Day, we at the library urge you

to cast an informed vote at the polls. Please stop in and make use of our resources to find out about the candidates and the issues. If you need help looking, check with one of our reference people. Once you step into that booth, though, you're on your own.

On the subject of tomorrow's observance of Halloween, our video collection offers a number of scary flicks for the day, from "Nosferatu" to "The Shinning." However, I recommend "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein." This combination of frights and laughs has the comedy duo meeting up with the Frankenstein Monster (Glenn Strange), Dracula (Bella Lugosa), and the Wolf Man (Lon Chaney, Jr.). It seems that Dracula wants the Monster to have an obedient, pliable, and stupid new brain. Guess whose brain fits that description! It's a lot of fun and it's available. As a side note, those who wonder where Boris Karloff is during the film shouldn't worry. He meets up with Abbot and Costello in "Abbott and Costello Meet Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." This is also available. While you're at it, have a happy and safe Halloween.

We're just about out of time for this column. If you have any questions, please stop by or give us a call.

See you in November.

Final Views from the Candidates

Vinnie Buttiglieri and Ray Petronko

Democratic Councilperson Vinnie Buttiglieri and Council Candidate Ray Petronko reflected on the candidate debates held by the South Plainfield Business Association and Senior Citizens recently.

"I really enjoyed discussing the challenges facing South Plainfield with the Republican candidates," Councilperson Buttiglieri said. "It's nice that in South Plainfield over the last few years the campaigns have been decided on differences in philosophy rather than mud slinging."

The Republican candidates want what's best for South Plainfield just as Ray and I do. We just disagree on the approach. Ray Petronko and I are committed to keeping expenses under control and "pay as you go" government. We are particularly committed to expanding the concept of Democracy Day where the citizens of South Plainfield get to vote on how their tax dollars are spent. The Republicans have a different approach, which we respectfully disagree with."

Ray Petronko agreed with his running mate saying, "When I hear the Republican candidates, I wonder if we live in the same town. They are really down on South Plainfield. I see a town on the move that's alive with progress. Heck, just look at what's going on right now. The center of town is being revitalized after 30 years of talk, roads all over town are being repaved on a pay-as-you-go basis. The hockey rink behind Borough Hall is almost finished; the library renovations are complete and some of the most beautiful homes in Middlesex County are being built. The Highland Woods Nature Preserve was highlighted on Channel 4 as a model for other towns. The design of the Helen Street extension are ready to go out to bid and on and on. Progress is everywhere you turn in South Plainfield."

Vinnie Buttiglieri summed up the Democratic position, "Ray Petronko and I are proud of what South Plainfield has been able to accomplish over the last four years. We are proud to run on the record of the new Democratic majority. We think the Borough is moving in the right direction. South Plainfield's best days are still to come!"

Frank Hanley and Daniel Kenny

Republican Council Candidates Frank Hanley and Daniel Kenny present their final thoughts on campaign issues. There has been no mention of the sewer debt. \$6.2 million was paid to Plainfield. Bonding has

been deferred through short term notes. By the end of 1998, the Borough will have paid over \$810,000 in interest. Not a penny has been paid on the principal. The sewer agreement has a huge impact.

The Borough lost control to developers. When the Council opposed, the builders took the Borough to court and won. There will soon be a large apartment complex built near Route 287. Can Roosevelt School handle more children?

Both candidates feel that the lack of planning will have a negative long-term impact on the Borough. "We must step back and take a good, hard look at the direction the Borough is heading. Do we like where we are going, and if not, is there still time to change?" said Hanley. "Our biggest issue right now is the need to restore two-party government. This will guarantee constructive, open debate at meetings and provide a clear view of all sides of an issue. The Borough will benefit from this," said Kenney.

"There are crowding conditions in our schools because of new home development and new malls being built on any available corner. How much council debate was there over these decisions," said Kenney. Regarding the road program the Republican candidates feel that although 32 roads have been resurfaced they would prefer to see a detailed plan developed and implemented. Many roads need to be reconstructed while milling and topping is only a temporary fix. They feel that the roads are being chosen arbitrarily. All of the roads should be evaluated, and a priority list prepared.

As a final thought, the voters need to look at the core of our community. We have many seniors on fixed incomes, and young families struggling to make ends meet. The constant increase in taxes and the decline of property values continues to hurt these homeowners. It costs more per year to educate a child than we collect in taxes from the average home. We need to put a halt on new home development to give us a chance to 'catch our breath.'

New Senior Citizens Center Plans Unveiled

By Joseph G. Zekas,
Senior Action Committee

At an Oct. 20, meeting with S.P. Mayor Daniel Gallagher, the Senior Citizen Action Committee and a group of over two dozen seniors, seniors were told their quest for a senior center is over.

The Mayor said the town plans to build the center across the street from the Borough Hall. The Borough is negotiating to swap land with the owner of that property. The property owner has expressed interest in acquiring a parcel of Borough-owned property through a swap. The Mayor said that the 26,500 sq. ft. parcel is large enough to accommodate a 10,000-sq. ft. senior center. The Borough also plans to begin negotiations with

two other owners of rental homes, one that is on the corner of Plainfield and Lane Avenues. The two properties would provide more than 48,000 square feet, which would allow for additional parking space and room for growth.

The Mayor stated this meets all the necessary requirements. He said the center can be developed without cost to the taxpayers. Developers who propose projects in the Borough will be asked to contribute to the cost of building the center. He also stated that the current center could be sold and it would also offset the cost of the project.

Those who have pleaded for a center applauded the plans. "If they can accommodate what they

say they will, it sounds good," said Agnes Ficorilli, a member of the Action Committee. "I also think that's a very good location."

The seniors have complained that the present center is too small and not enough parking. There are few activities offered and there is no coordinator to set up or organize activities. The current coordinator works only 20 hours a week. The Mayor said the Borough will increase the hours to 25 a week. The Mayor said it would be impossible to provide complete staff coverage for seniors' activities until they are held in a common site. The Mayor promised to keep the seniors informed during the planning stages and progression of the new senior center.

John Pulomena Runs for Freeholder

John Pulomena, a resident of South Plainfield, is running for Middlesex County Freeholder. Pulomena, 42, lives at 5 Holly Park Ave., is married and has two children, Matthew and Megan. He is a parishioner at Sacred Heart Church. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from City University, NY, with a major in Computer Science/Mathematics. John has been a member of the Junior Baseball Club where he has coached for five years.

Pulomena has a strong business and professional background. He is presently employed by AT&T. As Division Manager, he has operational responsibility for the Customer Care Centers. In his previous assignment with AT&T, John was the Chief Financial Officer in the Network Services Division with responsibility for a \$13 Billion dollar annual budget. During his 21 years with AT&T, he has gained experience in Marketing Services, Government Affairs and Bell Laboratories Computer Software Development.

John is presently serving his third term as a Councilperson in South Plainfield and his third year as Council President. In addition, he is the Chairperson of the Middlesex County Planning Board.

When asked why he is running for Middlesex County Freeholder John said, "As a member of the Middlesex County Freeholder Board, I will work hard to ensure that South Plainfield has a strong voice in county government. I have worked hard to bring greater efficiency and accountability in serving the residents of South Plainfield and I will apply that commitment to Middlesex County. I am a strong advocate of participatory government and I believe that the involvement and input of the people is necessary before decisions are made by the governing body. I want to incorporate this same approach in Middlesex County."

His vision for the future of Middlesex County is to continue to enhance the quality of life for all residents, enhancing educational programs at the vocational schools and the County College, and to ensure a safe, healthy and prosperous environment for the children. While campaigning he has emphasized major three issues:

The Tax Climate—"We must no longer allow the policies of the Whitman Administration to continually drive up our property taxes. Democratic Freeholders have reduced the county property tax levy for four consecutive years. I am committed to continue that record."

Open Space—"We all have a tremendous responsibility to protect and care for our environment. This commitment will enable our children and grandchildren to enjoy the beauty of the land as we have. I am pledged to work aggressively to preserve as much open space as possible for future generations."

Quality of Life—"I will work hard to ensure that the quality of life increases significantly, focusing on the safety of our neighborhoods, caring for and providing opportunities for our Senior Citizens, making improvements to our parks and playgrounds and continuing to enhance our county educational program."

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our Council President,
JOHN PULOMENA
Democrat for
Middlesex County Freeholder.**

Debate Winds Up 1997 Council Campaign

Continued from page one

municipal operating budget has been at the same rate each year, with no raise in spending, which includes paying off the debt the former Republican administration borrowed at the rate of \$1 million a year. The Republicans disagreed, saying it was due to the loss of ratables. "The town needs to be cleaned up to attract new business. We need to attract the right kind of businesses, to increase our ratables," said Hanley. "The issue of borrowing of money is just a scare tactic. We were not here when the money was borrowed and we're tired of hearing about it. It has nothing to do with us."

A question of whether the Borough Administrator deserved a raise and whether we even needed someone in this position was another topic of discussion. Frank Hanley said that if the Borough Administrator brought grants to the town and saved the town as much money as his salary, then he should stay. He also said that a raise could be given, but it should be no more than was given to all borough employees last year. Vinnie Buttiglieri said the Administrator was hired two years ago at a lower rate than the other towns pay, that he had proved his worth with his expertise on grant money and he

deserved a raise.

Democratic candidate Vinnie Buttiglieri, the only incumbent in the race and Ray Pentronko, his running mate, said that their theme, "We Hear You," has been successful during the past years of Democratic rule. They asked the voters to let them continue the programs they implemented in the last few years, such as the Taxpayers Advisory Board and the Business Association Advisory Board and Democracy Day, which gives the voters a voice in how the council makes decisions.

Republican candidates, Frank Hanley and Daniel Kenney, spoke about their theme, "Protect Your Interest." They felt that the one party rule does not give the residents an equal voice in making decisions. Both candidates said they are running because they don't like some of things happening to our town. Hanley accused the Democrats of using Democracy Day as an easy way to bury the senior citizens housing project as well as other projects. The evening ended with each candidate asking for the support of the community. Both parties stressed that each vote does count. Do your part as a citizen of South Plainfield and come out and vote on November 4th.

School Playground Subject of Controversy

Continued from page one

ity insurance in the amount of one million dollars, held by one of the manufacturers being considered for the project. If the PTSO is allowed to install the playground utilizing their volunteers, they will receive 25% more equipment for their money. However, if they must pay the installation fee it will reduce the play space considerably. A decision must be reached soon if the work is to be done this year.

Ms. Fredericks questioned the Board of Education on a contradiction in procedures. Ms. Fredericks said that the Board chastised her for not following "proper procedures." She claims that she followed procedures as they were defined to her when she began researching how to provide Riley students with a safer and better playground. Recently the current wooden structure had been repaired improperly and created several safety hazards. Ms. Fredericks said this was corrected only after considerable pressure from parents. When the PTSO questioned why the Building and Grounds Committee was unaware of unsafe conditions at Riley School, they were told that the playground

and equipment are not inspected on a regular basis. The PTSO committee was also reminded that it was football and soccer season which keeps the Buildings and Grounds Committee very busy.

An additional piece of equipment, known as a "transfer platform," will satisfy the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act). The adaptive equipment allows a physically challenged child with upper body strength to transfer from a wheelchair or assisted walking device to the platform and from there along the deck of the unit. Minimum ADA requirements state that 25% of the play structure must be accessible to physically challenged children. Riley has two such students who are among those who helped raise the money for the playground.

The transfer platform costs approximately \$2,500. Riley has requested that the Board of Education fund this additional expense so that physically challenged youths may play alongside their peers. No decision has been reached on this matter.

The *Observer* tried to contact Myra Stillman for a comment but she did not return our calls.

BOROUGH HALL NOTES

Continued from page one

wards the new hockey rink. The donation was to be used for Teen Night.

Planning Board

Richard Valvano of Morris Ave. was granted approval for an eight-foot rear yard setback variance and for exceeding lot coverage by 4.2%.

Reid General Contractor, Hamilton Blvd., was granted approval for construction of an accessory structure and storage yard extension.

Stinky Stuff Update

Residents from Edison were in attendance at the Borough Council meeting for the second time regarding the offensive odors emanating from Recycling Inc. At least 20 residents from South Plainfield and Edison complained that their quality of life is deteriorating.

Judy Pender said her husband has been under medical care for respiratory distress. They live with their windows shut and need an air purifier or air conditioning on all the time. Other people from the group took turns to stating their complaints and asked that the Mayor help them. The Mayor said he has requested the DEP to step in, but they are not always swift in answering. He said he would put some pressure on them. He also said that two summonses were issued to Recycling Inc., and they will appear in Court on Oct. 29. The Mayor said that to his knowledge the smell is not toxic. Regarding the residents' complaints about noise, the Mayor will ask Mr. Bonk, Health Officer, to take a sound level reading near the site.

The Elks Tale



Through the Youth Activities Committee, the South Plainfield Elks are proud to recognize and honor four exceptional young men from our town. Kristofer Nagy, Christopher Santoro, Ryan Steigelmayer, and Christopher Suieski of Boy Scout Troop 324 have distinguished themselves by earning the Boy Scouts of America's highest rank, the EAGLE. The ELK's EAGLE award certificate will be presented to them by Fred Napoliello, Chairman of the Youth Activities Committee of the South Plainfield ELKS. "As ELKS, we take great pride in the achievements of the young people in our community." With these certificates, we congratulate and honor these young men for their hard work. We truly believe that their example in attaining this rank will serve to motivate others to themselves stand out and be counted among the finest of our town's future leaders.

Aid to the Needy

Canned and dry food donations for the ELK's Community Welfare "aid to the needy" Thanksgiving distribution are being accepted at the ELK's lodge, 1254 New Market Avenue, after 12:00 noon daily. Call for information 668-9750. Your generous gifts of food will be warmly received by the town's needy.

Obituaries

Jean M. (Schadt) Glass

Jean M. (Schadt) Glass, 60, of South Plainfield died on Tuesday, Oct. 21, at the Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Glass was born in Irvington and was a former resident of Linden, before moving to South Plainfield 32 years ago.

Mrs. Glass was a telephone coordinator for National Comptel Systems at the Somerset Medical Center in Somerville for the last five years.

Mrs. Glass was a member and past president and secretary for the J.J. Gardner Unit of the Ladies Auxiliary in South Plainfield and was a former Trustee and Secretary for the New Jersey Unit of J.J. Gardner Ladies Auxiliary.

She is survived by her husband William C. Glass; a son, William N. Glass of Brick; two daughters, Debbie Perrette of South Plainfield and Victoria Chobotor of So. Bound Brook; three sisters, Trudy Karousatof of Hillsborough, Rosemarie O'Neill of Milford and Carol Costello of Winter Haven, FL; a brother, Henry Schadt of Clark, and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Friday, Oct. 24, at James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

Memorial donations may be made to the Home Care Service, c/o Somerset Medical Center, 110 Rehill Ave, Somerville, NJ 08876.

William Karpowicz, Jr.

William Karpowicz Jr., 46, of Forked River, formerly of South Plainfield, died on Saturday Oct. 18 at his home.

He was born in Plainfield and was a former resident of South Plainfield before moving to Forked River twelve years ago.

Mr. Karpowicz was an able-bodied seaman for the Delaware River and Bay Authority working on the Cape May-Lewes Perry for the last four years. Prior to that he worked as an able-bodied seaman on the Brandon Tug Boat for Brouhard Transportation Company in Philadelphia for fourteen years.

He was a member of the U.S. Merchant Marines and a member of the International Union

of Operative Engineers Local 25 and the United Marine Division of the International Longshoremen's Association A.F.L.-C.I.O. Local 333 in Staten Island. He was a member of the Lacey B.P.O. Elks 2518.

He was predeceased by his son William Karpowicz, III who died in January; his father, William Karpowicz, Sr. who died in May; and his mother, Mary LaRocco Karpowicz, who died in 1975.

He is survived by one sister, Billie Jean Sarullo of South Plainfield; his maternal grandmother, Antoinette Hodge of Keansburg; his aunt, Antoinette Karpavage of Keansburg; one nephew, Patrick Sarullo and one niece Billie Jean Sarullo, both of South Plainfield.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 21, under the direction of James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

Prospero (Pat) Strani

Prospero (Pat) Strani, 95 of South Plainfield, died on Monday Oct. 13, at his home.

He was born in Italy and came to the United States in 1925, settling in New York City. He was a former resident of Plainfield, before moving to South Plainfield four years ago.

Mr. Strani was a master chef for 55 years. He was the owner of several restaurants and diners throughout Central Jersey and retired from Medici's Restaurant in 1982.

He was predeceased by his wife, Greta M. Strani, who died in 1976 and his son, Paul Strani, Sr., who died in 1960.

He is survived by two grandsons, Paul Jr. and Robert Strani, both of South Plainfield; two granddaughters, Jeanette Lesinski of Bridgewater and Laura Tuma of Milltown, and six great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, Oct. 16, under the direction of James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

Police Auction

The So. Pfd. Police Dept. will hold a bicycle/property auction on Saturday, Nov. 15 at the Department of Public Works on Spicer Ave. Viewing is at 9:30 a.m. and the auction starts at 10:30 a.m. All Sales are cash!

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By Briggs Longbothum
and Eric Tillman



Oh my gosh! There are Luddites (good dictionary word) among us. A friend called the other day to ask about the internet. She admitted that she was fearful of her children's exposure to "all the filth, porn, and slimeballs" that lurk on the net. She didn't think that it was a good idea to buy a modem for the family's computer, thus enabling digital communications throughout cyberspace. Oh well, I thought, I'm not on a mission to change anyone's mind. But I am on a course to help educate by presenting facts and clarifying every side of an argument.

I played my cards close to my vest this time by agreeing with her one hundred percent! That threw her off balance, as I knew she wanted a fight. I casually mentioned that if this was a concern to her now, it was safe to assume that it has been a similar concern to many more like her for a long time already! And that these same concerns have already been handled. Very clever and intelligent people have already made this a moot point. There are effective tracking and blocking programs available so you can know who's been doing what and where, and

you can prevent them from doing it again. I didn't touch at all on "freedom of speech" issues or mention that if her kids were clever and intelligent enough themselves to be able to defeat these measures that they could already be earning over \$30,000 per year regardless of age! Plenty of job openings for such skill sets. But I did question the wisdom in keeping a youngster from accessing the world's knowledge base out of fear. The internet is a good thing, but like everything else, it too can be abused. So much for philosophy and argument, availability of computer education and training both locally and over the internet. Try this:

TIP: Join a computer users group or club. This is a very good and friendly way to learn from others in a relaxing and casual environment. I highly recommend the ACGNJ or Amateur Computer Group of NJ. Contact the club's President, Bill Farrell at (908) 572-3481. This club meets about 14 times a month in one form or other! There's the main meeting and various SIGS (special interest groups). Meetings are usually in the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad building and they are always welcoming newcomers. I can't emphasize what a good idea it is to be around people who know more about subjects than you do. That's a great way to learn. Check out their meetings, lots of laughs too! Several members live in South Plainfield and we're all nice people.

We've been asked about websites to visit and sure, we've got a huge list to share with you. But that's for a future issue. We still need to know who reads this column so we don't outrun anyone. Remember, this is for beginners and we want to hear from you. We are moving along toward an internet pow-wow of sorts so we need to know who's on board. Very soon, we'll need to assume that you're internet-ready so we can move forward. Right now, we want to know that you've got a basic computer system and know a little about how to use it. Don't be afraid to call and ask our thoughts on upgrades, etc. We're here to help.

TIP: Somewhere, you should have a written inventory of your computer, accessories, printers, etc. Include the settings on your system so you can reconstruct your present system configuration should there be a catastrophic loss of data or system crash. Once these items are written down, you can tape this list on the inside of your computer's removable case. Question: does anyone know to copy down the system BIOS settings in case of need? Do it! Next issue, we'll cover how to do this and prepare an emergency startup kit. Best wishes till then.

Fall Baseball League Continues Winning

The Tigers' Fall Baseball Team concluded regular season play by splitting their last two games. They defeated Roselle Park, 5-0, behind Pat Sarrullo, who notched his third victory. Chris Atcachunas, Steve Bucchigano, and Mike Kapsch all tripled against the Terriers!

The team lost 5-4 against a tough Perth Amboy Squad. Kapsch went three for three with an rbi. Bucchigano was two for three in the losing effort. South then began play in the single elimination tournament held by the Merrill-Park/Fords Senior League. They visited Merrill-Park and beat the home team 6-1. Sarrullo picked up his fourth win and helped his own cause with a two for three day at the plate. "Buc" continued his torrid hitting going three for four with 2 rbis. "Ack" contributed by going two for four and scoring two runs. Chris Malecki was also two for four with an rbi. The Tiger record now stands at an impressive 12-2-2. At press-time, the team will have played in the semifinals. The finals will be held this Saturday with a noontime start at Linden High School. Those results and a season recap will be in the next edition.

Gymnastic Team Sets New Record

By Al Hook, Head Coach,
Girls Gymnastics Team

The South Plainfield High School Girls Gymnastics Team successes just keep paying off with the hard work the girls have been doing. For the third time in as many weeks, a record has been broken, this time at the County G.M.C. Gymnastics Championship Tournament in Old Bridge on Thursday, Oct. 23, with a record setting score of 97.3 points. Outstanding routines and performances by all of the girls helped to set the new record. Team members were able to improve their personal scores, contributing to the new record. The Girls Gymnastics Team had a great tournament, not only setting a new record but also qualifying two more finalists for the state tournament.

Freshman Lacey Walter won the fifth place medal in the County Tournament on vault with a score of 8.9. Junior Rachel Denno scored 8.4 in the vault making this her second qualifying state score to enter the State tournament. Sophomore Theresa Vitelli, scoring 8.2 and 8.5, respectively, on the balance beam and floor exercise, also qualified to enter into the state tournament. Freshman Veronica Zappi scored 8.05 on the uneven bars picking up one of the necessary scores for states. She still needs one more state score to qualify.

Additional fine performances were turned in by Junior Tanya Altomare, Freshman Justina Carubia, and Freshman Nielissa Jamieson helping to set the new South Plainfield High School record. Thanks to Julia Kourdriavtseva for her help and encouragement throughout the meet.

To date Lacey Walter, Rachel Denno and Theresa Vitelli have now qualified for the State Sectional Tournament which will be held on Saturday, Nov. 8 at Hunterdon High School.



Pictured above are Jane and Jim Curcio holding the plaques presented to Jim in recognition of his seventeen years as Commissioner and President of South Plainfield Football.

South Plainfield Football Eagles Play Flemington

Flag Football

The Flag Eagles continued their good time with a single game against the young Falcons. Turning in fine performances were Richard Harzula, Tim Lester and Joe Laceria.

Mighty Mites

The Eagles had their hands full with the Hillsborough Dukes. Flemington does not have a Mighty Mite Team. Joe Turrise opened the Eagles scoring with a run off the right end. AJ Barylsky provided the blocking. Late in the third period Nick Dorey recovered a fumble. This led to an Eagles drive where Chris Pollin ran it in for the score. Providing the blocking were Rocco Petriello, Jeff Cianfranca and Chris Spayder. The Eagles ended up losing 28-12.

Junior Pee Wee

The Eagles started the scoring with Steve Turrise taking a 65 yard pass for the score. The defense held the entire game with fine play by Fernando Sandoval and Kevin Criley. With the opening of the fourth quarter, Dwayne LaMont ran the ball 50 yards for the second Eagles score. Steve Turrise added the extra point. Blocking for the scores were Ryan Kenny and Nick Grego. Later in the period Mike Downes ran the ball off tackle for the Eagles score. The final score was a 20 yard interception score by Steve Turrise.

Junior Midgets

With first place on the line, the Eagles kicked off to the Falcons where Steven Johnston recovered a fumble. But from there the Falcons took over and dominated the game with a 21-6 victory. The highlight of the game

was Sean Grevious taking a hand off from Nick Ronzo and ran off tackle for the score. Blocking for the score were Mike Towers and Kyle Prendergast.

Midgets

With a heavy rain falling, the senior Eagles hung in there with a 22-6 loss. Tommy Toolan took a pass from Andrew Fyffe for the lone Eagles score to end the game. Rafael Diaz and the Demarest brothers had good games.

The Eagles are away at Hillsborough, for the final game of the season. The Eagles will have uniform collection for Midgets and Junior Midget football and cheerleading on Thursday, Nov. 6 from 6-7:00 p.m. Junior Pee, Mighty Mite and Flag squads can turn their uniforms in on Friday, Nov. 7 from 6-7:00 p.m. Uniforms from any squad can also be turned in on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 10-12:00 noon.

Please hand in uniforms clean. Bond money will be returned at this time. Registration for the 1998 season will also be taken. The Eagles pizza party will be held on November 8 at the PAL.

Feigley's Gymnastic Bridgettes Place 1st

The Bridgettes Gymnastic team, representing Feigley's Gymnastic School, started their season competitions. The members of the team from South Plainfield are Lauren Darr and Morgan Walters. The girls compete this year as Level 5 Opens. Their first meet was the Cameo Classic held in Marlboro. The girls placed in all four events. Their scores were high enough to help the team win the first place trophy.

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			Court 9:30 a.m. Business Advisory	Tax Payer's Advisory Group 7 p.m.	Yom Kippur	
	9	10	11	12	13	14
	School Closed Offices Open	School Closed Offices Open	School Closed Offices Open	School Closed Offices Open	School Closed Offices Open	School Closed Offices Open
	Recreation Comm. 7 p.m.	Board of Adjustment 8 p.m.	Court 9:30 a.m. Court 7 p.m.	Court 9:30 a.m. Court 7 p.m.	Council Meeting 8 p.m. Copy Deadline for So. Pfd. Observer	AARP Chapter 4144 Meeting 12:30 p.m. PAL Bldg.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
				Publication of So. Pfd. Observer		
	Land Management 7:30 p.m.	Board of Adjustment 8 p.m.	Court 9:30 a.m. Court 7 p.m.			
23/30	24	25	27	28	28	29
	Council Agenda Meeting 8 p.m. Board of Education Monthly Meeting Admin. Bldg. 8 p.m.	Planning Board 8 p.m. Recycling Commission 8:00 p.m.	Court 9:30 a.m. Court 7 p.m.	Council Meeting 8 p.m. School Closed Offices Open	School Closed Offices Open	

South Plainfield Police Report

- On Oct. 20 a resident from Cresent Pkwy. reported someone smashed the rear door, rummaged through their bedroom and stole approximately \$300 in cash. The neighbors reportedly didn't hear anything.
- Communication Construction Group, Hamilton Blvd., said nine of their trucks had the driver's side windows broken and several of them also had tools taken.
- Witty's Liquor Store reported a man dressed in dark clothing came into the store and left without paying for the merchandise. The theft was later verified by the video camera located in the store.
- There was an attempt to steal a car on Woodland Ave. on Oct. 23. The unlocked car was entered and rolled out of the driveway. Using a nail clipper, the thief tried to start it. When this failed, he abandoned the car, leaving a car phone on the front seat.
- A. Oladapowas was arrested at Caldor's for shoplifting. Sixty dollars worth of electronics equipment was found in his jacket as he tried to leave the store.
- Lynn's Cozy Kitchen reported that as they unlocked the front door,

Almasy & Almasy, Brother and Sister Team, Open Law Practice



James Almasy and Kimberley Almasy LaMountain

Kimberley Almasy LaMountain, Esq. and James M. Almasy, Esq. are the newest sister and brother team to hit South Plainfield. In June of this year they opened the doors of their newly established law firm, located at 2907 South Clinton Ave. in the Princeton Network Systems, Inc. building.

Kimberley attended Rutgers College in New Brunswick for her undergraduate degree and graduated Cum Laude from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan. While attending Thomas M. Cooley, Kimberley earned several honors, such as the American Jurisprudence Award for Trial Advocacy, and the Outstanding Senior Award from the Delta Theta Phi National Law Fraternity.

Upon graduation, Kimberley was invited by her alma mater to stay and teach first year law classes. After teaching, she returned to her home state for a clerkship with the Presiding Criminal Judge in the Middlesex County Superior Court House.

At the conclusion of her Clerkship, she worked at The Prudential Insurance Company of America in Newark, where her responsibilities included handling claims filed by clients with the individual State Departments of Insurance.

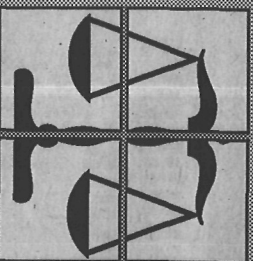
James attended Albright College in Reading, PA for his undergraduate degree and also graduated from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. While in law school, he had the opportunity to work with several different entities of the justice system such as the Attorney General's Office, Transportation Division, the Middlesex County Prosecutors Office and the District Court in Mason, Michigan.

After graduating from Thomas M. Cooley Law School, James clerked at the Middlesex County Superior Court House in both the Special Civil and Small Claims Part of the Law Division and the Family Law Division. At the conclusion of his Clerkship, James also worked at The Prudential Insurance Company of America in Newark.

Both Kimberley and James are members of the New Jersey State Bar, and are soon to be members of the New York State Bar. Kimberley is also licensed to practice law in Massachusetts. They are members of the Middlesex County Bar Association, the New Jersey State Bar Association, and are active members in the South Plainfield Small Business Association.

Kimberley and James pride themselves on being a "home-town" law firm. Their goal is to build a "neighborhood full service law firm." They focus on building a relationship with their clients so that their clients can depend on them for all of their legal needs. James explained to the *Observer*, "We feel that it is important to establish a rapport and trust with our clients, so that they are comfortable coming to us with all of their legal needs, whether it is for the preparation of a will, to help with the purchase or sale of their home, a careful review of their business lease, or a traffic violation."

Almasy & Almasy handles personal matters, such as residential real estate closings, D.W.I. matters, collections, criminal matters, matrimonial, personal injury, wills and traffic violations. They also work on business matters such as incorporations, collections, commercial real estate, sexual harassment and employee termination.



Almasy & Almasy, LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

JAMES ALMASY • KIMBERLEY ALMASY LAMOUNTAIN

Real Estate • D.W.I.
Collections • Criminal
Matrimonial • Personal Injury • Wills

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