



South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 5, NO. 9

50 CENTS

OCTOBER 26, 2001

Two Die In Auto Accidents; Both Drivers Charged

In the span of one week, South Plainfield volunteer fire and rescue squad members were called out in the middle of the night to respond to two fatal accidents. Both accidents were caused by intoxicated drivers.

The first accident took place on Saturday, Oct. 13 at approximately 1:30 a.m. A pickup truck, driven by Clyde McRae, 53, of Plainfield, was traveling north on Clinton Ave. and hit a parked van. The truck then hit a telephone pole and went up on to the front lawn of a residence, knocking over a tree and damaging the lawn. The house was not damaged, but the homeowners were pretty shaken. They woke up to the sound of a large crash and their house shaking and when they looked out of their front window, they saw two cars on their front lawn. They quickly called 911 and evacuated the house fearing the cars were going to explode.

Police, fire and rescue squad members responded to the scene. A passenger in the truck, Arthur Henry, 49, of Monroe Place in Plainfield, was apparently killed on impact and pronounced dead at the scene. The rescue squad and fire department had to extricate Henry from the car.

McRae was transported to the Middlesex County Correction Center in lieu of \$200,000 bail, with no 10 percent.

According to Middlesex County Prosecutor Nicholas Sewitch, McRae was charged with vehicular homicide. Because the accident occurred within 10,000 feet of Franklin School, the charge becomes a first degree offense, subject to 10-12 years in prison. He was also charged with reckless driving and driving while intoxicated. McRae is being held at the Middlesex County Adult Correctional facility.

The second fatal accident occurred last Friday morning at about 3 a.m. at the intersection of Hamilton Blvd. and New Market Ave. Morning rush hour traffic all over town was affected, because the intersection remained closed during the accident investiga-



Members from both the South Plainfield Fire Department and Rescue Squad work together to extricate a victim at the accident that occurred on Clinton Ave. on Oct. 13.

tion.

George Lopez, 39, of Perth Amboy, who was driving a Ford Explorer south on Hamilton Blvd., failed to stop for the red light on New Market Ave. Richard Spence, 50, of Cranford was turning left from New Market on to Hamilton Blvd. Lopez's Explorer slammed into the driver's side of Spence's 2000 Nissan Sentra.

Along with police, members of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad and Fire Department, once again responded to the scene of the accident.

Spence was taken to Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center where he was pronounced dead at 4:31 a.m.

Nelson Torres, 26, a passenger in Lopez's car, suffered minor injuries in the accident. He was treated and released from the hospital.

Middlesex County Prosecutor Nicholas Sewitch said that Lopez has been charged with vehicular homicide, punishable by 5-10 years in prison. Lopez has also been charged with reckless driving, having an open container in the car, failure to observe traffic signals and driving an uninspected vehicle.



An additional charge of criminal mischief were tacked on for damaging the video cameras in the holding cell while he was being held in South Plainfield.

His bail was set at \$200,000 with no 10 percent. He has also been ordered not to drive a car.

Lopez is still being held in the Middlesex County Adult Correctional Facility

Seniors Housing Applications Available

Adults 55 and older who meet designated income guidelines will now have an affordable housing alternative in South Plainfield.

Applications are being accepted for South Plainfield Senior Residence, a 100-unit building of one- and two-bedroom apartments under construction at 151 Morris Ave. (between Cedarbrook Ave. and Chambers St.).

Amenities in the new Senior Residence include a computer center with high speed Internet access, fully equipped exercise room, library, laundry facilities on three floors and a large activity room with kitchen on the first floor.

This project has a long history and is on track to reaching its goal through a unique partnership of Middlesex County, the Borough of South Plainfield, private developer Samuel Bitonti of Philadelphia and Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey (LSM/NJ), a statewide non-profit agency experienced in affordable family and senior housing, as well as a variety of social service programs and nursing homes.

Rents will be \$525 and \$545 per month for one bedroom units and \$595 for two bedrooms. Residents will pay for utilities in the energy-efficiently-designed complex. Gas heat and central air conditioning will be individually controlled. Seniors will be able to take advantage of South Plainfield's active Senior Citizens program, which offers transportation services, daily activities and referral to area social services.

Applications can be picked up at the PAL Building on 1250 Maple Ave. or the Municipal Building on Plainfield Ave. If you have any questions, contact Ilona from the Lutheran Social Ministries at (609) 386-7171. There is also a hotline setup with voice mail at (908) 910-0136. Completion is scheduled for March, 2002.

Because this project is being built using Low Income Housing Tax Credits, prospective residents must meet specific income guidelines.

Mayor Sets Halloween Curfew

Mayor Dan Gallagher has issued a proclamation declaring curfew hours for Halloween and Mischief Night.

A curfew of 6 p.m. will be imposed and enforced for all minor residents of South Plainfield on "Mischief Night," Tuesday, Oct. 30. On Wednesday, Oct. 31, "Trick or Treat Day," all trick or treat activities will be conducted between the hours of 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The mayor is also requesting young children be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult and that

householders indicate their willingness to welcome children by keeping their porch or exterior lights on. Youngsters should only call on homes with their lights on.

Gallagher is also asking that parents carefully examine any food and candy the children receive and make sure that it has not been tampered with. Parents should follow the rule "if in doubt-throw it out" when any evidence of tampering with packaging or surfaces of consumable products is noticed.

THISWEEKEND

SATURDAY

Fine Art Auction at Wesley Methodist

Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave., will hold an Art Auction of Fine Art on Saturday. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. to preview artwork. Auction begins at 7:30 p.m.

Art selections include works from Wooster Scott, Wyeth, McKnight, Tarkay and many more. All artwork is custom framed and matted. Opening bids are up to 50% less than tradi-

tional framed gallery prices.

Hors d'oeuvres, coffee, punch and desserts will be served. All proceeds benefit the Church's World Service Benevolence. Admission is \$5.

For ticket information, please call (908) 755-3850.



Harvest Fest

John F. Kennedy School third grade classes will host their annual Harvest Fest from 1-4 p.m. Festivities in-

clude games, food, raffles, pumpkin painting, arts and crafts, a hay maze, hayrides and face painting. The third grade will also be presenting a medley of patriotic songs. Activity ticket prices, \$2 (for 3), \$4 (for 5) and \$6 (for 10), can only be purchased the day of the event. Raindate is Sunday, Oct. 28.

Come enjoy the afternoon and help out a worthy cause. All proceeds will be donated to UNICEF and the American Red Cross.

Note: Last week's issue indicated the Harvest Fest was scheduled for last Saturday. We regret the error.

Mark your calendars

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest
meeting agenda

council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Thursday.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-754-9000

AGENDA MEETING **PUBLIC MEETING**
Thursday, November 1 (*note change) Thursday, November 8

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

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
Nov. 13, Nov. 27, Dec. 11, Dec. 25 (no meeting).

zoning board of adjustment

Meets first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
Oct 30, Nov. 6 (no meeting), Nov. 20, Dec. 4, Dec. 18.

taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at Borough Hall at 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m.

site plan sub-committee

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:
Nov. 22 (no meeting), Dec. 27

recreation commission

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716
Nov. 6, Dec. 4

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-561-8280
Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, 2002

board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted
Committee of the Whole, Nov. 13, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m.
Regular Board Mtg., Nov. 20, Dec. 18 at 8 p.m.

business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

traffic safety advisory commission

Meetings, held at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room, Borough Hall
Nov. 28, Dec. 26.

IN MY OPINION



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

To the Editor:

At this time, it seems almost frivolous to be talking politics. However, life will go on and if we don't pay attention we will all be victims of something worse than any terrorist can inflict. We will end up victims of our own apathy.

As our great President has urged us to do, we must continue on with our lives. We must endeavor to put fear in its rightful place. And paramount to that thought is we must get out to exercise one of our most precious freedoms – the freedom to vote.

On Tuesday, Nov. 6 we have an opportunity to move back to the center in South Plainfield. For far too long now we have endured a Borough Council comprised of one party.

I won't belabor the ills of one party dominance now. Lord knows they should be self-evident by this time. Higher Local Use tax rates; less services as more and more borough functions are being centralized under the rule of the New Brunswick democrats; decreased employee morale; increased traffic on our roads; overdevelopment and the loss of industrial ratables (look at the for sale signs on the south side).

Suffice it to say the election of Marge Reedy and Jerry Harris to the Borough Council won't stem all the ills as a result of over five years of one party democrat rule. It sure will give us a good start to restoring balance.

When Brett Schundler gets elected Governor we may need the parkway toll booths he eliminates on Hamilton Boulevard to get to New Brunswick to see our tax dollars at work.

Please join me in voting for republicans Marge Reedy and Jerry Harris for Borough Council on Tuesday, November 6.

JIM ECKERT

To The Editor:

My dad, Dennis Cerami, has been a South Plainfield Councilman for the past six years and he makes me prouder and prouder everyday. He takes his position very seriously and is eager to lend a hand or offer help at anytime. He is the liaison to public safety, the police department, office of emergency management, fire department, rescue squad, and domestic violence team and they are very close to my father's heart. You will undoubtedly find him at the scene of structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, floods, blizzards . . . I could go on and on. Whether he is answering phones in the command center during a natural disaster or helping to remove an injured person from a mangled car – my dad is there. He even became certified as a Red Cross First Responder so he has enough training to help the volunteers on emergency calls. And when he doesn't have the medical or fire background to offer that type of assistance, he keeps bystanders at a safe distance and briefs the press so that emergency workers can do their job. It is very important to my dad that the police officers, emergency management personnel and volunteers have only the best training and equipment to provide for their safety and, most importantly, the community. I know all of this first hand as a South Plainfield volunteer emergency medical technician.

To: Creative Kids Academy, Roosevelt School Staff, Sodexho, and The South Plainfield Rescue Squad

The DeAndrea family would like to express our deepest gratitude to Creative Kids Academy director, Sue Ashnault, staff, parents and children, Roosevelt School Staff, Sodexho, and the South Plainfield Rescue Squad for their kindness and concern during our time of loss. We appreciate all you have done and thank each and every one of you.

SINCERELY,

ANGELO DE ANDREA, ANNMARIE & ANGELO BUTRICO, ANGELA & LOU DICELLIS AND CARL DE ANDREA

My dad is not a "politician." He is a dedicated, passionate man who is trying to keep South Plainfield the great town it is. He is concerned primarily with the well-being of the people who call it home. The most important thing to my dad is his family. As a councilman, his family extends outside our door to encompass all of South Plainfield. He is always willing to help his family. Please vote for my dad, Dennis Cerami, and his good friend, Charlie Butrico on Nov. 6. Why vote for balance when DEMOCRACY WORKS?

SINCERELY,
JESSICA CERAMI

To the Editor,

As an Edison resident, I was pleased to hear that the NJ Environmental Federation's bipartisan political arm, the Vote Environment Committee (VEC), announced Democratic Assemblywoman Barbara Buono as part of its 2001 Green Team.

Her environmental voting record is one of the best in the state since her election to the Assembly in a 1994 special election. Her environmental leadership is unquestioned within her caucus, as shown when she secured the Democratic votes needed to pass the Republican-sponsored 1998 open

space constitutional amendment.

Her vision for New Jersey's future is just as clear as her past record. Buono is a prime sponsor of legislation requiring integrated pest management for public schools and parental notification prior to any use of pesticides on school grounds.

Further she's been an outspoken advocate for strict compliance with state law to reduce arsenic levels in drinking water. She has also co-sponsored other pending legislation to clean up our air and water, and ensure that renewable energy sources can compete with dirty power plants.

Barbara Buono's record and vision make her the environmental candidate to represent the 18th legislative district as their new State Senator – the Assembly's loss will be the Senate's gain. And that's why I urge you vote environment this November 6 and vote for Buono for State Senate.

JEREMY SINGER

To the Editor:

I wanted to write to the papers to let people know about Majorie Reedy and Jerry Harris. I have known these two people for a while now. They are caring, involved individuals in our community, and I know that they will do their best to do what is right for our community.

Jerry Harris owns his own business in town, Jer-Tex. He wants to make sure that this community remains a safe place to raise his children. He is active with Pop Warner. While he has not had any government experience, he will do his best to do what is right for South Plainfield.

Majorie Reedy works for a company here in town. She has been an active member of the community for

Continued on page 12

SEND YOUR LETTERS/OPINIONS TO:

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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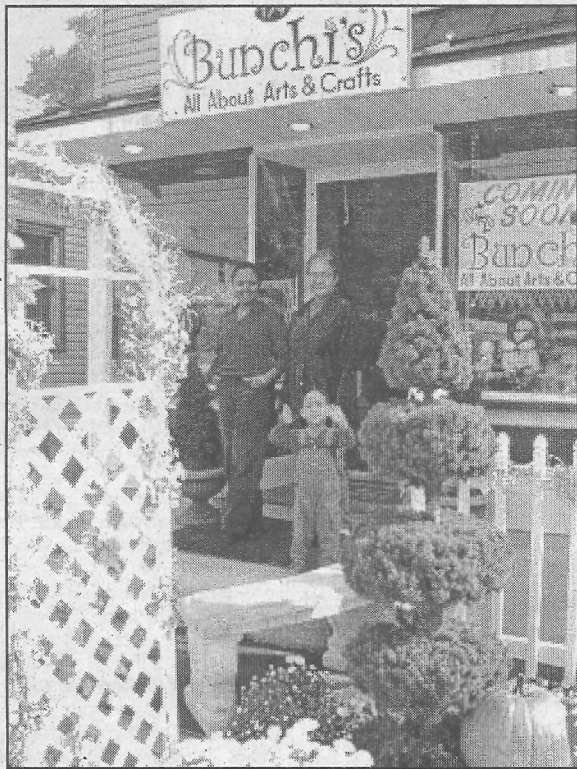
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southplainfieldbusiness

New in Town



"Bunchies" Is More Than Just an 'Arts & Crafts Store'

By Jane Dornick

This Saturday was the grand opening of "Bunchies", located at 179 Front St. in South Plainfield. After walking in, you realize that this store has much more to offer than just handmade crafts.

Owner, Yorka Ralwins has tried to blend her own culture from the Dominican Republic with current trends



in home decor. Her goal is to bring other local, as well as international artists to a hometown shop.

Yorka is an artist in her own right and has been making and selling craft items from her home in South Plainfield and at craft shows in the area. Aside from your usual handmade crafts, you can find beautiful clay and polymer figures which come from the Dominican Republic, children's hand painted sweatshirts and her own handmade "candy folks." The "candy folks" are handsewn animals stuffed with candy in reusable bags. She also provides help in designing home interiors, such as customized fabric work, which is done by her mother. Personalized children's books are also one of her specialties.

She is currently looking for artists to consign their work at her shop and also plans to start teaching group art lessons beginning in December.

If you are looking for unique ideas for decorating your home, this is definitely the first place to look. The store is open Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m. til 7 p.m. and Sun. from 11 a.m. til 4 p.m.

You can reach Yorka at (908) 755-4049 for more information.

First Teen Night is a Huge Success

Last Saturday was the first Teen Night held this season and it was a huge success.

According to Recreation Director Mike English, Teen Night had its largest attendance ever, with over 238 teens from both the middle and high school.

It was also a special night because two live bands performed at the opening night celebration.

Teens paid a one time \$5 admission which was donated to the White House "Children of Afghanistan Fund." The teens raised \$940.

Teen Night will be held every Saturday night at the PAL. Students from both the middle and high school are welcome to attend. Admission is free.

Suburban Woman's Club Meeting

The program for the meeting of the Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield will focus on "Organizing your photos: Creating a keepsake album." The speaker will be Joanne Murset from Somerset.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, Nov. 1 at 2 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Rd.

Club members will be collecting and donating canned goods and other foods during November for baskets to be distributed at Thanksgiving.

Free Flu Shots Available at Borough Hall

The Middlesex County Public Health Department will be administering flu vaccines in South Plainfield at Borough Hall on Monday, Oct. 29, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers. Shots are free and will be given to all residents 18 and older.

These vaccines will be provided free of charge, however, Medicare will be billed where applicable. Residents are advised to bring their Medicare cards to the clinic.

Knights of Columbus Looking For New Members

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus is looking for new members.

If anyone is interested in joining, please call 908-755-6203 or email Joe Scudato at jascudato@att.com for more details.

Agenda Meeting Date Changed

The Agenda Meeting of the South Plainfield Mayor and Council, originally scheduled for Monday, Nov. 5 at 8 p.m. has been rescheduled to Thursday, Nov. 1 at 8 p.m.



Pat Garhart Butynski's work is on display at the South Plainfield Library.

Local Artist's Work is on Display at the Library

Pat Garhart Butynski's art is being featured this month at the South Plainfield Library. The sampling of watercolors will be on display through the month of October. Her art reflects what she considers "learning how to paint again."

Pat Garhart Butynski resides in South Plainfield with her husband and two children. She is the sole proprietor of Pat Garhart Design Works, a small graphic design firm in town, which she started 14 years ago. Pat has been art directing, designing and illustrating professionally for corporate clients for over 20 years.

Currently, Pat has returned to her roots. Fine art. After taking a sabbatical from the intense world of business and deadlines this past winter, Pat pulled out her old brushes and started painting "any available subject, within reach"... as well as taking ad-

vantage of the "Friday flower specials" at local stores. Due to the encouragement of family and friends, she decided to share her personal collection.

Pat is a graduate of Middlesex County College in Edison. She has also studied by invitation with designer Milton Glaser at The School of Visual Arts and illustrator Jim Spanfeller at Parsons School of Design, both in NYC.

She is currently studying watercolor at the DuCret School of Art in Plainfield with Patricia Brentano Bramlick and hopes the experience will bring depth and maturity to her work.

Also included in the exhibit showcases, are samples of Pat's Award Winning graphic design work, which reflects unique, colorful visual communications. Pat designs, illustrates, writes and produces this work at her studio here in town.

All About Arts & Crafts

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BUNCHI'S BULLETIN
"Craft Projects" and "Art Lessons" will begin first week of December. Registration is now open, but seating is extremely limited. Call and ask for Mrs. Ralwins.

Log on to the

**Borough of South Plainfield's
official web site at
southplainfieldnj.com**

Visit your community web site for the latest local news on

- Mayor and Council
- Planning Board & Board of Adjustment Agendas
- Police - Fire - Rescue Squad
- Recreation
- Youth Activities
- Senior Corner
- Professional & Business Directory
- Community Bulletin Board
- Civic Organizations
- Election Results
- and more

Advertise your business and support
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For rates or information email at: southplainfieldnj.com
Or call 908-226-7656

Around Town

Variety 2001 Show at Kennedy School

November 2

John F. Kennedy School will be hosting its annual "Variety 2001" show on Friday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the All Purpose Room. There will be special appearances by Mr. Czech, teachers and special friends.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Don't miss out. Call Kennedy School to order your tickets now!

St. Stephens to Hold Annual Oktoberfest

November 3

St. Stephens Lutheran Church, 3145 Park Ave., will celebrate their fourth annual Oktoberfest on Saturday, Nov. 3. There will be two seatings: 5-6:30 and 6:30-8 p.m. Authentic German food will be served.

Advanced ticket prices are: adults \$12; children 5-12, \$6. Tickets are available at the Church office on Park Ave. Reservations are encouraged. Takeout dinners will be available. For information, call 908-757-4474.

Rescue Squad to Hold Fun Night 2001

November 3

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad will hold *Fun Night 2001*, sponsored by the Rescue Squad Ladies Auxiliary on Saturday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. at Holiday Inn in South Plainfield. A donation of \$20 includes food and beverage. There will be a cash bar.

For tickets or information, call (732) 424-3661 or (732) 764-0620.

Columbiettes Announce Fall Trips

November 3 & 25

The Columbiettes' annual shopping trip to Reading, Pa. will be held on Saturday, Nov. 3. The bus will leave at 8 a.m. from the Knights of Columbus Hall on Hamilton Blvd. and return at about 7 p.m. \$18 includes a free lunch coupon and discount book. Dinner is on your own at the Cracker Barrel. Deadline: Oct. 26.

On Sunday, Nov. 25, the group will go see the Christmas Show at the Spinning Wheel Inn in Connecticut. Bus leaves from the K of C Hall at 9 a.m.; returns at 5 p.m. \$65. Cost in-

cludes the show and a four course meal, which is served in between acts. Deadline is Oct. 26.

For tickets and information, call Mary Ann at (908) 226-1222.

Republican Org. to Hold Pre-election Cocktail Party

November 4

The South Plainfield Republican Organization will be holding a pre-election cocktail party honoring candidates Marge Reedy and Jerry Harris on Sunday, Nov. 4, at the American Legion, located on Oak Tree Rd. from 1 to 4 p.m. Guest speaker will be Congressman Mike Ferguson who represents the 7th congressional district. Tickets are \$50 per person. If interested, call 561-7209.

Elks Sponsor Comedy Show

November 17

The South Plainfield Elks will hold a Comedy Show on Saturday, Nov. 17, from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Elks Club on New Market Ave. Admission is \$40 per person which includes food and drinks. For tickets, call Lisa at (908) 668-9750.

Athletic Boosters Hosts Auction

November 17

The SPHS Athletic Booster Club is holding a Sports Auction on Saturday, Nov. 17. Doors open at 6 p.m. Auction starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door, which includes 25 auction tickets.

Some of the prizes being auctioned are Devils tickets, autographed balls, sports theme baskets, Rutgers tickets, a bicycle and a television.

For info call the Keller's at (908) 753-1341, the Celentano's at (908) 757-5691 or the PAL.

SPHS Class of 1976 25th Reunion

November 10

Attention all classmates! South Plainfield Class of 1976 will hold its 25th reunion on Saturday, Nov. 10 at the Clarion-Windsor Ballroom. For more information, please e-mail Debra (Hays) Bishop at sphs1976@hotmail.com.

Menlo Park Mall "Evening of Thanksgiving"

November 18

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop has tickets available for the "Evening of Thanksgiving," an event that includes entertainment and shopping, with part of the proceeds going to worthy causes.

The event will be held Sunday night, Nov. 18, at Menlo Park Mall. Many of the stores in the mall will be offering special sales, and many groups, including the Summer Drama Workshop will provide entertainment. They will perform on one of the stages in the mall that evening. There will also be prize drawings and other activities.

Tickets, which are required to attend this special evening, are available by calling South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop at (908) 561-5255. A portion of the ticket price will benefit the Summer Drama Workshop, with the rest of the proceeds being distributed to the Simon Youth Foundation.

SPHS Class of 1981 20th Reunion

November 23

Attention classmates! South Plainfield High School Class of 1981 will hold its 20th reunion on Friday, Nov. 23 at Madeline's in Bound Brook.

For more info, call Jane (Lacey) O'Dowd at (908) 479-1684 or Gina (Rosania) Capizola at (908) 526-3262.

Recreation Sponsoring Trip to Broadway

December 16

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip is on Dec. 16 to see the classic Radio City Music Hall Christmas Show. Tickets are \$75 per person.

The bus will leave the PAL Building at 1:30 p.m. and allows time to shop and dine before the show.

Purchase tickets at the PAL building on Maple Ave., weekdays.

— Out of Town —

The Rainmaker at Villagers Theater

October 26

The Villagers Theater in Somerset, is excited to announce the premier openings of the ever popular and well known classic *The Rainmaker*.

The Rainmaker will be showing Fridays and Saturdays, Oct. 26-Nov. 17 at 8 p.m. and Sundays Oct. 26, Nov. 4, at 2 p.m.

For ticket information, call the box office at 732-873-2710 or visit their website: www.villagerstheatre.com.

Halloween Events at Chelsea Assisted Living

October 29-31

The Chelsea at Fanwood invites the community to join in Halloween fun! The Chelsea at Fanwood Assisted Living Residence invites local children to join them in two events celebrating Halloween.

On Monday, Oct. 29 at 3:30 p.m., join us for our Community Pumpkin Painting hour. Be as creative as you like. Paint a pumpkin and take it home for display. Refreshments will be served.

On Wednesday, Oct. 31 from noon to 5 p.m. there will be a Halloween Open House. Show up in your costume and get a treat at 2 p.m. Join us for an hour of Halloween tales and fun with Storyteller and Performer Linda Howe. RSVP by Oct. 26 for either event at 908-654-5200.

Further information regarding Castle Senior Living or any of their communities can be obtained by calling their toll-free number, 1-877-CHELSEA or visiting our web site at www.ChelseaAL.com.

Highland Park to Show "La Ciudad"

November 7

"La Ciudad," David Riker's highly-acclaimed video film about the Latino immigrant experience in New York City, will be shown to the public at the Highland Park Senior/Recreation Center on South Sixth Ave. in Highland Park on Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. Admission is free. Refreshments and discussion round out the evening. The showings are sponsored by the Highland Park Human Rights Commission. For additional information, contact Stanley Habib at (732) 545-2006.

Women To Gather For Transformation

October 27

The YWCA of Plainfield is offering woman a unique opportunity to not only go forward with their lives but to change the hole that has been created by circumstances to a whole transformational experience. Women will gather to renew, revitalize and recognize to make the positive changes that are necessary to go forward with confidence.

Authors Patti Comforti and Doreen Carrie will facilitate a one day workshop in Celebration of Women and Their Spirit on Saturday, Oct. 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the YWCA in Plainfield. The program not only teaches methods that empower your life but provide the

opportunity to experience healthy alternatives to old beliefs that have limited and held you back from a fuller and more meaningful life.

Ann of Green Gables At St. Ann's Theatre

November 2-10

The St. Ann's Theatre Group's next production is *Ann of Green Gables*, running Friday and Saturday Nov. 2, 3, 9, and 10.

All shows start at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$8, children 5 and under free. The theatre is located at St. Ann's School, 2nd. Ave., Raritan.

Seating will be assigned with the remaining seats being sold at the door. Tickets may be reserved by phone at 908-253-3250 or by email RutgersMB@aol.com. Tickets are on a first come first serve basis.

St. Ann's Theatre group was established in 1997 with the purpose of enriching the community and parish through its theatrical production. Although based out of St. Ann's School, we encourage anyone with an interest in community theatre to join our group. Each season includes three performances. Exclusively volunteers staff our company. However, many of our musicians and technical staff are professionals lending their time and talents to make St. Ann's Theatre happen. We take pride in the number of people given the their first opportunity to appear on stage.

Koinonia Academy Hosts Tricky Tray Auction

November 2

The Koinonia Academy located at 1040 Plainfield Ave. in Plainfield is sponsoring a Tricky Tray Auction on Friday, Nov. 2 at 6:30 p.m. The Admission fee of \$8 includes a sheet of tickets, desserts and beverages and much more. For reservations call (908) 508-0181. Tickets will also be sold at the door on a first come first serve basis. Koinonia Academy is on the border of South Plainfield.

Tourette Syndrome Assoc. of NJ Mtg.

November 8

The Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey-Middlesex/Union County Family Support Group and the Somerset/Hunterdon County Chapter will meet on Nov. 8 from 7-9 p.m. They will meet in the Neuroscience Institute of JFK Medical Center, 65 James St., Edison. For info, call Marilyn, (908) 757-5074 or after 6 p.m., Debbie at (732) 283-1439.

Terra Nova Garden Club To Celebrate 50th Anniversary

November 15

The Terra Nova Garden Club is turning 50! Come and celebrate with them at their 50th Anniversary Luncheon, to be held on Tuesday, Nov. 15 at the Metuchen Golf & Country Club, on Plainfield Rd. in Edison, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Featured guests will be noted floral designer Winifred Applegate and pianist James Nuzzo.

For reservation or more info, call Kay McCormack, (732) 548-1976.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

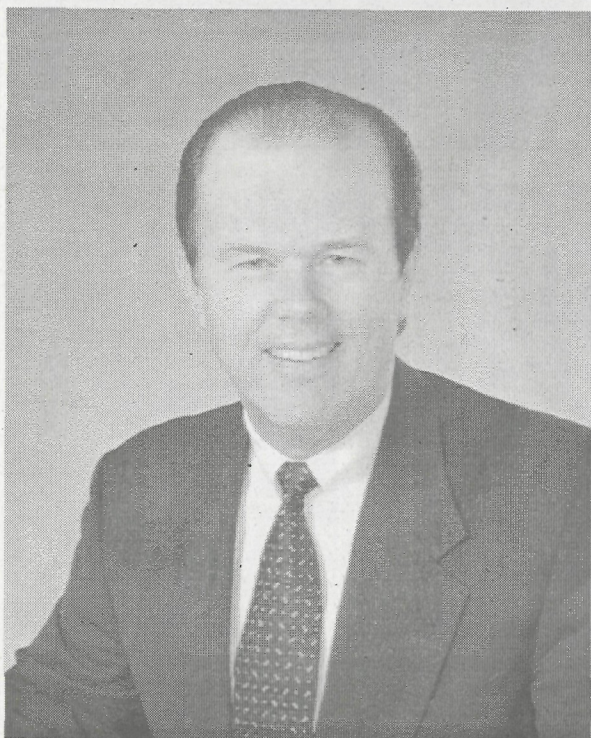
SUBSCRIBE. It's \$25. (in town) for one year!!

DEMOCRACY WORKS IN SOUTH PLAINFIELD....

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&
Charlie Butrico
For Borough Council**



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IN TRENTON!***



Patrick Diegnan
**Will Be South Plainfield's
First Assemblyman**

Barbara Buono
Senate

Peter Barnes
Assembly

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

The cobwebs and bats are up, the candy's been bought, monster movies are on TV and your costume's ready. Now that you're ready for Halloween on Wednesday, here's news from the South Plainfield Library:

We're going to follow a shortened schedule of children's Storytimes next week. We'll be holding our usual programs on Tuesday morning at 10:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. Those programs last about an hour, feature stories and a craft activity, and are for children ages three and over. You don't need to register in advance. The program normally set for Wednesday evening has been cancelled next week. For the more information on our children's programs, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Linda Hansen, the Children's Librarian.

Tomorrow is the last day of availability for October's group of Circuit videos. Titles this month include, *Free Willy 2*, *Dead Man Walking*, three episodes of *Family Towers*, *Mission: Impossible 2*, *Casper* and, on DVD, *Billy Elliot*. If you'd like to take out these or other titles in this group, you'd better hurry. Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days. Elsewhere in Circuit news, we're between groups on the CD Circuit. A new selection of Circuit CDs will be available in a few weeks.

Don't forget about our program on Elder Law regarding Health Care. Attorney Harold L. Grodberg will be leading the program, which will address subjects including health care costs, patient's rights and facts about Medicaid benefits. The program is

scheduled for Sunday afternoon at 2. Everyone is invited to attend.

At this writing, there's still space available for our class on Advanced Internet Searching. This class, part of our ongoing series of computer instructional classes, is set for Monday morning at 10:30. Reference Librarian Allan Kleiman will be leading the class. Space is limited for this program, so you must sign up in advance.

This note is for parents and students. At times, when your child is doing homework, you may need to look up some bit of information. Unfortunately, the Library may be closed when you need help. In these cases, we've set up a solution. Our website has a section called, "Homework Links". They can patch you into a variety of sites that should give you at least some of the information you need. They cover subjects including government, the arts, biography and social studies. If you still need help, you can try the New Jersey Nightline number; that's 1 (800) 922-2233.

Finally, a serious reminder for parents. We know that kids like to push the button that activates our main doors and we don't have much of a problem with that. But we strongly urge parents to keep a close eye on their children when they're near the doors. Those things are very heavy and the motors that operate them mean business. It is very easy for a careless child to get hurt by those doors and our staff can't watch out for them alone. We really appreciate your assistance on this.

That's all for now; thanks for reading. And please have your children take care when trick-or-treating; feel free to ask us for tips on this.

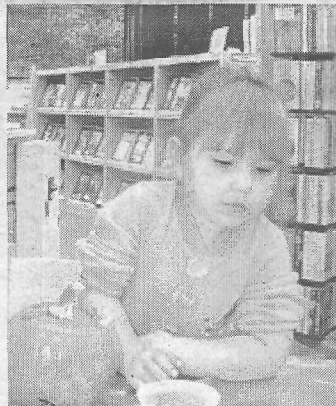
It's Pumpkin Decorating Time at the Library

Last Saturday morning kids of all ages arrived at the South Plainfield library to decorate a pumpkin for Halloween.

Moms and dads, sisters and brothers and even a few grandmoms were all busy creating their own unique looking pumpkins. The pumpkins were supplied by Spring Lake Florists.

The library supplied paint, buttons, wool strips, angel hair, foam in various shapes, glitter, glue and pins. The rest was up to the pumpkin decorators—and they used everything available and created some of the cutest pumpkins in South Plainfield.

Originally about 70 kids had signed up to decorate the pumpkins. Saturday brought out many who had not signed up and a quick call was made to order more pumpkins. The plastic covered tables were filled, but everyone was accommodated and brought home a decorated pumpkin.



The NJ State AFL-CIO Endorses Patrick Diegnan

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO, the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers AFL-CIO and the Communication Workers of America AFL-CIO have all announced their endorsement for the candidacy of Patrick Diegnan for the NJ General Assembly in the 18th District.

"I am extremely proud and grateful to receive the endorsements of these three organizations which represent the outstanding labor force of New Jersey," Diegnan said. "Their members are part of the state's thousands of hard working families that

work in the many industries that supply New Jersey residents with the goods and the services they need for their families."

Diegnan, who is South Plainfield Township's attorney, is running on the Democratic ticket with Peter Barnes, also a candidate for an Assembly seat in the 18th district and with Barbara Buono, who is running for the State Senate.

Mr. Diegnan, a lifelong resident of South Plainfield would be the first resident from the borough elected to the State Assembly.

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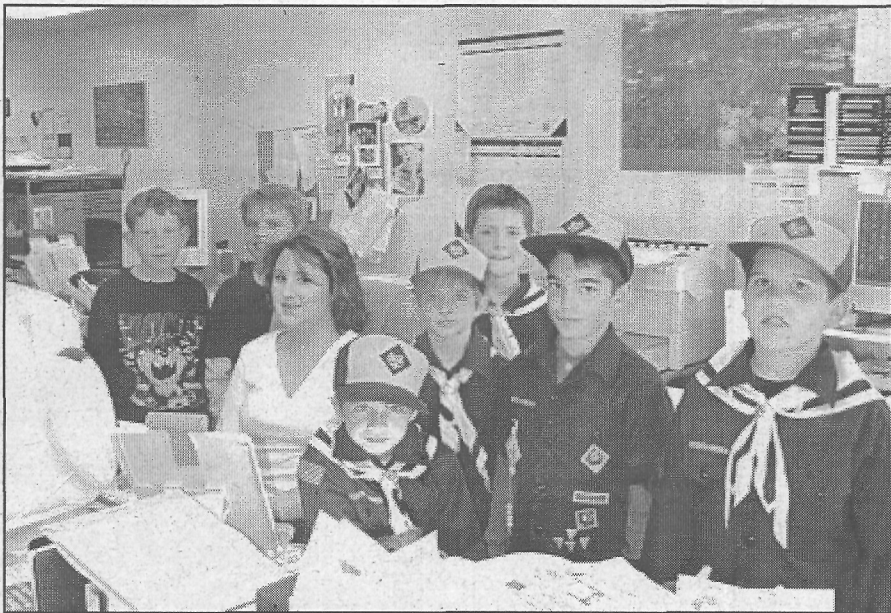
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Boy Scout Troop #324 from Kennedy School visited the South Plainfield Observer last Friday to see how the Observer is produced. Jena DeLosSantos is shown demonstrating how we put this picture in the paper. Troop 324 members are Michael Eosso, Edward and James Setnick, Daniel Reno, Griffin Lynch, Sean McDede and Patrick O'Connor. Cut Scout Leader is Barbira McDede, not pictured.



South Plainfield Middle School students are working diligently to solve contemporary problems in Physical Science. In Mr. Cousin's eighth grade class, students Alicia Montanaro, Sondya Dowlat and Therese D'Addezzio are solving the density of a liquid.

Happy Trails Farm Visits Future Star Kids



The children at the Future Stars Preschool were treated this fall to a visit from Happy Trails Farm, in Old Bridge.

Children squealed with delight as they enjoyed Oreo, the pot belly pig who did tricks and played the piano.

The animals included, ducks, chicks and chickens, roosters, goats, sheep, donkeys, ferrets, chinchilla's and many

more. All of the children got to take turns petting and brushing the animals.

As you can see the teachers enjoyed the animals, just as much as the children. This program was presented to the students, through the efforts of the parents group and our parents.

Submitted By Marie Markey, Parents Group Secretary



southplainfieldbusiness

New in Town



Matix Hair & Nails Welcomes Your Business

By Jane Dornick

Tot Iran, the owner of Matrix Hair & Nails at 154 Maple Ave. has been at this location for nearly a year now. He opened the shop with eight years of hair styling under his belt and brought along his brother, Danny, who is a nail technician.

He employs four hair stylists and two nail technicians and is anxious for you to try his shop. Matrix carries a full line of Mizani hair products,

which are hard to find, such as relaxers for people of ethnic background. He encourages people of all hair types to come in and try his products and his talents.

Hair cuts start at \$13 and children under 12 years of age are \$12. Basic manicures are \$10.

The great thing about this shop is that it is open six days a week, including Monday, when shops are normally closed.

Twin City Pharmacy Will be Giving Flu Shots

Twin City Pharmacy, located on Park Ave. announced that Quaker State Medical Services will be giving flu shots on Saturday, Nov. 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The cost is \$15. If Medicare Part B is your primary insurance, Twin City

will bill Medicare.

The recommended time to get your flu shot is between September and December. A new shot is needed every year.

Anyone with questions can call Twin City at 908-755-7696.

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Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

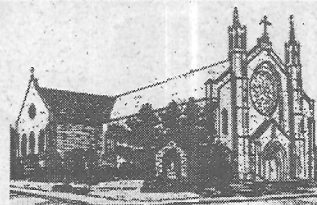
Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)

Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

Holy Days 7 p.m. (Vigil); 7 and 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 11 a.m.- 12 noon, 4:15-4:45 p.m.
and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass



Sports

By Kevin Lykes

juniorbaseballclubnotes

COME OUT TO REGISTER FOR NEXT SEASON AND PURCHASE A PIN TO SUPPORT OUR COUNTRY!

South Plainfield registration for the 2002 season will be held at the complex Thursday, Oct. 24, and Friday Oct. 25, from 6 to 9 p.m.; also on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All new registrants should bring their birth certificate.

All children who will be eight-years-old or older by July 31, 2002 are eligible to play. In addition, any seven-year-olds who will turn eight during August or September, 2002 will have a one time option to select to "play up" as an eight year old. Registration will be held at the complex on Kenneth Ave., (before the Eagles football fields and the recycle center).

Call the club's number at (908) 754-2090 and leave a message if you require additional information.

The club will be sponsoring a fund raiser featuring tradition American Flag lapel pins and Stars and Stripes ribbon lapel pins for \$3.00 each. 100% of the proceeds of the sale will be donated to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

IMPORTANT DATE!

At the regular monthly meeting to be held on Monday, Nov. 5, all proposed by-laws changes will be voted on — voting members should please make every effort to attend.

Fall Training Clinic At Wardlaw Hartridge a Success

The latest in a series of training clinics got underway on Sunday, Sept. 30 at Wardlaw Hartridge High School. Mike "Shotman" Lanza, and Wardlaw Hartridge Head Coach, Rich Fonti have come together to help boys and girls in grades 4 to 12.

We are happy to report that the camp has been a tremendous success with several dozen kids attending from all over the Central Jersey region. It has been the most successful training series yet for Shotman at

Wardlaw since starting them this past summer.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of those at Wardlaw Hartridge High School, including Coach Rich Fonti, for their assistance and hospitality. In addition, we'd like to thank the folks at active.com for their assistance. We had quite a few kids register for the clinic online, which has the folks at Shotman quite excited about the future.



Pictured are first graders who play in the South Plainfield Recreational Youth Soccer league.

Typhoons Win Third Straight

The South Plainfield Boys U-12 Typhoons (3-2-1) won their third straight game by avenging an earlier loss to South Brunswick, 2-1.

Grey Coppi continued his exceptional play in the goal for the Typhoons as he turned away shot after shot throughout the game. In addition, strong defensive efforts by J.R. Licato, Chris Pennisi and John Polizzano helped to slow down and thwart the opponents on numerous occasions.

But the Typhoons had to battle hard late in the game to salvage this victory. After holding a slim 1-0 lead for most of the game, South Brunswick took advantage of a break in the defense to tie it up with less than 10 minutes left in the game.

Brendan O'Shea had given South Plainfield the lead midway through

the first half when he took a throw-in deep in the zone and drilled a left-footer into the heart of the net. Now with under 5 minutes remaining, the Typhoons would look for O'Shea again as he found his way clear down the left side and took advantage of an off-balance goalie with a low rolling ball that just made it into the corner

of the net.

The final minutes turned into a frenzy of shots for South Brunswick only to have them all stopped and time run out. The boys will travel to play a tough Perth Amboy team this Sunday, as they will try to get revenge again of an earlier loss this season.

Hotspurs Play To A Tie

The South Plainfield Boys U-8 Hotspurs broke their losing streak with an exciting 1-1 tie on Saturday against the North Brunswick Eagles.

The Hotspurs took a 1-0 lead midway through the second quarter when Ryan Marcoux put himself in great position in front of the net to receive a perfect pass from Eric LaVerne and his first goal of the year.

The Hotspurs had been putting a lot of pressure on the Eagles prior to the score as Marcoux had three shots turned away and Zachary Noll made a great run at the net only to have his

shot blocked by the goalie. In addition, Quinn Bolivar and Taylor Born were key players in advancing the ball forward through much of the game.

Aside from a lone goal by North Brunswick in the 3rd quarter, goalie Daniel Lyew along with fullbacks Albert Vill and A.J. Celentano did a fantastic job of slowing down and stopping numerous opportunities for the Eagles.

Still in search of the first victory, the Hotspurs will travel to North Hunterdon next Saturday afternoon.

Comets "Set-up" Linden

The South Plainfield Soccer Club's U12 Girls notched another win on Sunday in a hard fought 2-1 victory over Linden, sweeping the season series. The Comets' offense came up big early in the contest with a blast off the foot of Claire Kelly. Later in the first half, Stephanie Szeliga, positioned herself perfectly, to put in the ricochet off of Linden's goalie after Maria Lipnick's laser shot was deflected, giving the Comets a 2-0 half-time lead.

In the second half, the most physi-

cal of the season, Kate Reichert, Brooke DeNitzio, Jacqueline Bosse, Stephanie Lanza, Megan McHugh and Victoria Plasse kept the offensive pressure on Linden.

However, the Comets defense led by Rachel Senz, Chelsea Moubarak, Diana Naser rose to the occasion turning back Linden on several scoring opportunities. Goalie Katie Baldassarre made several clutch saves down the stretch and played an exemplary game. Other defensive standouts on this day were Lindsay Fredericks, Alyssa Sutherland, Courtney Wilhelm and Allison Whitefleet.

Key to the Comets victory was the strategic substitutions by coaches Jennifer Baldassarre and Rich Lipnick, keeping the Comets fresh to ward off Linden's late run.

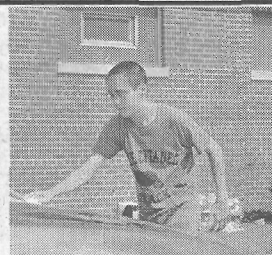
Submitted by Thom Lanza

Seniors Invited to Join PAL Walking Club

South Plainfield seniors who want to get out of the house and move those muscles, should come out and walk with the Walking Club at the PAL.

The club walks every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 to 10 a.m. at the PAL.

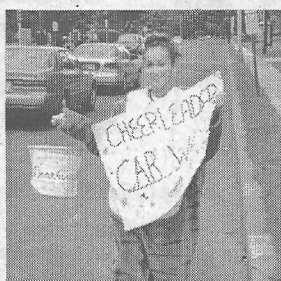
For more information call 226-7713.



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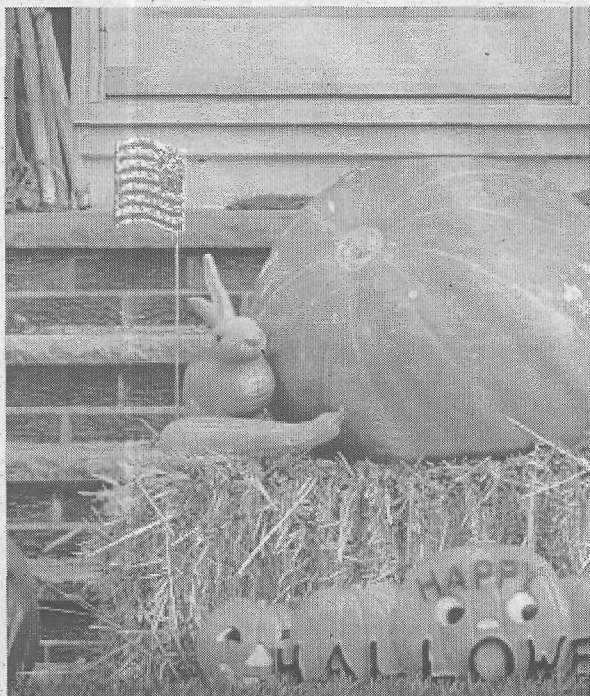
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Copy deadline for the Observer is Monday, 5 p.m. for the following Friday's publication.

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

Halloween Decorations Around South Plainfield

If you take a drive around town, you will see the ingenious decorations our residents have put up this year. Great job! Don't forget to put on your porch light on to welcome our Trick or Treaters.



Members of the South Plainfield Elks Club recently held a fundraising dinner which resulted in donations to several organizations. They were able to donate \$600 to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, \$450 to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, \$390 to Camp Fatima of Warren, \$250 each to the Elks Lodge and Youth Activities of the South Plainfield Elks. Organizers were Sal Esposito, Phil Provenzano, Lou Caruso, Mike Ditchko, Pete Smith and Leon Shatkin.

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\$16⁹⁹
1.75 LITER

JIM BEAM BOURBON
\$19⁹⁹
1.75 LITER

TANQUERAY TEN
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750 ML

GLEN ELLEN WHITE ZIN
\$3⁹⁹
750 ML

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THIS WEEK'S BEER SPECIALS

MICHAEL SHEA'S AMBER OR BLACK & TAN 12 OZ NR BTLS 4 ⁹⁹ PK	LABATTS BLUE OR LABATTS BLUE LIGHT 12 OZ NR BTLS 15 ⁹⁹ PK
LONG TRAIL ALE AND ALL TYPES 12 OZ NR BTLS 6 ⁹⁹ PK	HEINEKEN OR HEINEKEN DARK 12 OZ NR BTLS 19 ⁹⁹ PK
BUSCH OR BUSCH LIGHT 12 OZ CANS 10 ⁹⁹ PK	MIKE'S HARD LEMONADE 12 OZ NR BTLS 19 ⁹⁹ PK
O'DOULS (NON-ALCOHOLIC LAGER OR AMBER) 12 OZ NR BTLS 11 ⁹⁹ PK	HACKER-PSCHORR OKTOBERFEST 12 OZ NR BTLS \$8 MFG REBATE 22 ⁹⁹ PK
BALLANTINE ALE 12 OZ NR BTLS OR CANS 11 ⁹⁹ PK	

THIS WEEK'S SPIRITS & CORDIAL SPECIALS

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS BRANDY 750 ML 7 ⁹⁹	OLD SMUGGLER 1.75 LITER 17 ⁹⁹
MAJORSKA VODKA 1.75 LITER 11 ⁹⁹	THE GLENLIVET SINGLE MALT SCOTCH 750 ML 26 ⁹⁹
WINDSOR CANADIAN 1.75 LITER \$3 MFG REBATE 12 ⁹⁹	ABSOLUT 80 PROOF VODKA 1.75 LITER 27 ⁹⁹
RON CASTILLO SILVER OR GOLD RUM 1.75 LITER 12 ⁹⁹	REMY MARTIN VSOP COGNAC 750 ML 30 ⁹⁹
GORDONS GIN 1.75 LITER 14 ⁹⁹	DEWARS 1.75 LITER 31 ⁹⁹
AMARETTO DI SARONNO 750 ML 16 ⁹⁹	

THIS WEEK'S WINE SPECIALS

ARBOR VALLEY WHITE ZIN 1.5 LITER 4 ⁹⁹	FOLONARI SOAVE OR VALPO 1.5 LITER 7 ⁹⁹
WILD VINES ALL TYPES 1.5 LITER 5 ⁹⁹	MOUTON CADET RED OR WHITE 750 ML 7 ⁹⁹
M&R SWEET OR DRY VERMOUTH 1 LITER 5 ⁹⁹	ALMADEN CHAB, BLUSH, BURG, RHINE 5 LITER BOX 8 ⁹⁹
CORBETT CANYON CHARDONNAY 1.5 LITER 5 ⁹⁹	BERINGER FOUNDER'S MERLOT 750 ML 8 ⁹⁹
ARBOR VALLEY CHAB, BURG, ROSE 4 LITER 6 ⁹⁹	GEORGES DUBOEUFX CAB SAUV OR CHARD 1.5 LITER 8 ⁹⁹
TALUS CAB SAUV 750 ML 6 ⁹⁹	CASILLERO DEL DIABLO ALL VARIETAL TYPES 750 ML 8 ⁹⁹
MELINI BORCHI D'ELSA CHIANTI 750 ML 6 ⁹⁹	HARVEY'S BRISTOL CREAM 750 ML 8 ⁹⁹
NANDO ASTI OR FRAGOLINO 750 ML 6 ⁹⁹	WALNUT CREST MERLOT 1.5 LITER 9 ⁹⁹
CARLO ROSSI WHITE GREN, CHIANTI, CHABLIS, SANGRIA, BURG 4 LITER 7 ⁹⁹	FRANZIA CHARD, MERLOT, WHITE ZIN 5 LITER BOX 10 ⁹⁹
BY COASTAL CHARDONNAY 750 ML 7 ⁹⁹	FONSECA BIN 27 750-ML 12 ⁹⁹
	VEUVE CLICQUOT BRUT NV YELLOW LABEL 750 ML 29 ⁹⁹

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COLUMBIA CREST GRAND ESTATE CAB SAUV 750 ML \$9⁹⁹
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MILWAUKEES BEST REG., LIGHT OR ICE 12 OZ CANS \$8⁹⁹ 30 PAK

AMSTEL LIGHT 12 OZ NR BTLS 4/6 PAK CASE \$19⁹⁹ CASE

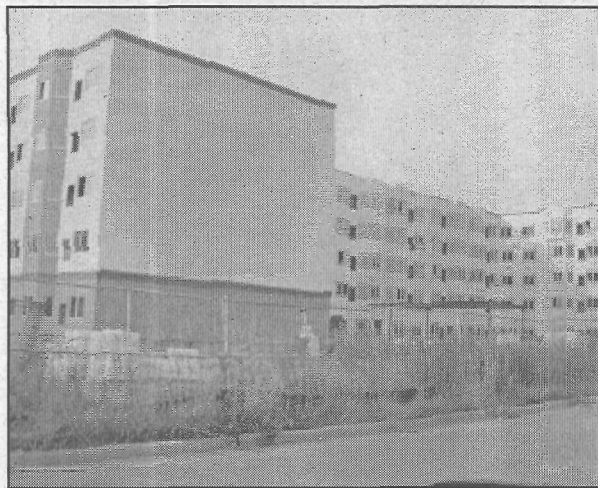
PILSNER URQUELL 12 OZ NR BTLS 2/12 PAK CASE \$19⁹⁹ CASE

DOMAINE ST. GEORGE CAB SAUV, CHARD, MERLOT \$8⁹⁹ 1.5 LITER

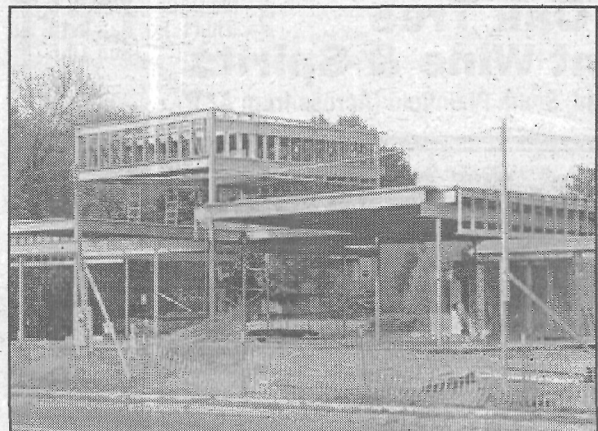
WOODBRIDGE CAB SAUV \$11⁹⁹ 1.5 LITER

ROSEMOUNT SHIRAZ \$9⁹⁹ 750 ML

Building Progress Report....



The Senior Citizen housing apartments, on Morris Ave. are expected to be completed in March of 2002. Applications are now being accepted. Story on page 1.



Commerce Bank construction on Plainfield Ave. across from Borough Hall is expected to be completed later this year.



The future Senior Citizen Center located on the corner of Lakeview and Maple avenues is progressing.

Legal Notices

NEW JERSEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority will hold a public hearing at its regular meeting on November 13, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. at its offices at 36 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey to discuss and take action with respect to various applications for private activity bond financing, including, but not limited to, the following application:

Project Applicant (& Address): Middlesex Water Company
1500 Ronsom Road
Iselin, NJ 08830-0452

Operator of Project (& Address): N/A

Project Address: Borough of Carteret, Township of Edison, Borough of Highland Park, Borough of Metuchen, City of New Brunswick, Township of Old Bridge, Borough of Sayreville, Borough of South Plainfield, Township of Woodbridge, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Maximum Amount of Issue Requested: Not exceeding \$6,000,000

Description of Project: Financing is sought for the refinancing of the Authority's 1991 Water Facilities Revenue Bonds which were used for the construction and installation of water and functionally related equipment, distribution, storage facilities and emission main facilities and the expansion of existing water treatment facilities, all for the purpose of supplying water to various municipalities located within the County of Middlesex, New Jersey.

At the meeting, members of the public may appear in person or by attorney to express their views, which may either be provided orally or may be submitted in writing at the Authority's address above, concerning the proposed issuance of bonds and the location and nature of the Project to be financed thereby.

PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND FINANCINGS OF THE NEW JERSEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ARE NOT OBLIGATIONS OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, NOR ANY COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY THEREOF.

Funding for such financings are secured privately through conventional lending sources.

This notice is published in accordance with the public notice requirements of Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

\$99.00

1T October 26, 2001

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
ORDINANCE #1579

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

Ordinance No. 1579 entitled: A CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$85,500.00 FOR THE REVIEW OF THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM USERS, BILLING AND COLLECTION IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, October 26, 2001 and that a public hearing be held at 8:00 PM on Thursday, November 8, 2001 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1579

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$85,500.00 FROM THE SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEW AND STUDY OF THE BOROUGH'S SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM, USERS BILLING AND COLLECTIONS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY as follows:

Section 1. The purpose hereby authorized is to review all commercial and industrial sewer rates being charged by the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey.

Section 2. That the improvement described in Section 1 hereof shall be authorized as Sewer Utility Capital Improvement for the Borough of South Plainfield in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey.

Section 3. It is hereby determined and declared by this Mayor and Borough Council as follows:

- A. That the maximum estimated amount of money to be raised from all sources for the purpose stated in Section 1, hereof, is \$65,500.00.
- B. That the cost of said project shall be financed by funds from the Capital Improvement Fund in the Sewer Utility Capital Fund, which said sum is available for said purpose.

Section 4. That no bonds or notes are to be issued or indebtedness incurred for this purpose.

Section 5. This law shall take effect after final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Approved October 18, 2001

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk
\$70.00 October 26, 2001

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
ORDINANCE #1570A

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

Ordinance No. 1570A entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #1570 APPROPRIATING AN ADDITIONAL \$100,000.00 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SIDEWALKS ALONG BELMONT AVENUE IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, October 26, 2001 and that a public hearing be held at 8:00 PM on Thursday, November 8, 2001 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1570A

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #1570 APPROPRIATING AN ADDITIONAL \$100,000.00 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SIDEWALKS ALONG BELMONT AVENUE WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY as follows:

Section 1. That there is hereby authorized pursuant to applicable statutes of the State of New Jersey, as a general improvement, the construction of sidewalks along Belmont Avenue in the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, New Jersey.

Section 2. That the improvement described in Section 1 hereof shall be authorized as general capital improvement for the Borough of South Plainfield in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey.

Section 3. It is hereby determined and declared by this Mayor and Borough Council as follows:

- A. That the maximum estimated amount of money to be raised from all sources for the purpose stated in Section 1, hereof, is \$172,000.00.
- B. That the cost of said project shall be financed by a grant received from the Local Pedestrian Safety Program portion of the Transportation Aid Fund of the State of New Jersey in the amount of \$100,000.00, which said sum is available for said purpose.

C. The estimated useful life of said improvement is hereby determined to be fifteen (15) years.

Section 4. That the total amount of the appropriation to be expended for architectural and inspection costs, legal costs, advertisement of ordinance and other expenses as provided in Section 48-2-20 of the Revised Statutes, is not to exceed \$5,000.00.

Section 5. This law shall take effect after final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Approved October 18, 2001

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk
\$78.75 October 26, 2001

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
ORDINANCE #1578

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

Ordinance No. 1578 entitled: A CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$174,610.50 FOR THE REPAVING OF KENNETH AVENUE, WALNUT STREET AND WOODLAND AVENUE IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, October 26, 2001 and that a public hearing be held at 8:00 PM on Thursday, November 8, 2001 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1578

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$174,610.50 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MORE SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPAVING KENNETH AVENUE, WALNUT STREET AND WOODLAND AVENUE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY as follows:

Section 1. That there is hereby authorized pursuant to applicable statutes of the State of New Jersey, as a general

improvement, the repaving of Kenneth Avenue, Walnut Street and Woodland Avenue in the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, New Jersey.

Section 2. That the improvement described in Section 1 hereof shall be authorized as general capital improvement for the Borough of South Plainfield in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey.

Section 3. It is hereby determined and declared by this Mayor and Borough Council as follows:

- A. That the maximum estimated amount of money to be raised from all sources for the purpose stated in Section 1, hereof, is \$181,610.50.
- B. That the cost of said project shall be financed by a grant received from the Transportation Aid Fund, State of New Jersey in the amount of \$174,610.50, and \$7,000.00 from the Engineering Departments O & E budget which said sums are available for said purpose.
- C. The estimated useful life of said improvement is hereby determined to be fifteen (15) years.

Section 4. That the total amount of the appropriation to be expended for architectural and inspection costs, legal costs, advertisement of ordinance and other expenses as provided in Section 48-2-20 of the Revised Statutes, is not to exceed \$5,000.00.

Section 5. This law shall take effect after final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Approved October 18, 2001

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk
\$82.25 October 26, 2001

NOTICE

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

TAKE NOTICE that Madison Inn, LLC trading as the Ramada Limited has applied to the Clerk of the Borough of South Plainfield for a new license for premises situated at 2069 Hamilton Boulevard, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

The person(s) who will hold an interest in the license is/are:

Bruce Matzel, residing at 2 Evergreen Lane, Colts Neck, NJ 07722; Geraldine Matzel, residing at 2 Evergreen Lane, Colts Neck, NJ 07722.

Objections, if any, should be made immediately in writing to:

Vincent Buttiglieri,
Borough Clerk
Borough of South Plainfield
2480 Plainfield Avenue
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
\$64.00 October 19 & October 26, 2001

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Mark and Mary Ann Rennie requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the existing 14' x 20' wood deck, 8' side yard required and 5' exist, and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 138, Lot 26 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on November 20, 2001 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00 1T October 26, 2001

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Raymond and Janet Jenkins requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to applicant's proposed 10' x 10' wood shed and a 6' fence along front property line of Clinton Ave. Proposed shed lacks required a 30' front setback from Clinton Ave., 5' being proposed and fence exceeds the maximum 4' height for front line along Clinton Ave., 6' exists; and other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 3 Lot 41.01 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on November 20, 2001 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00 1T October 26, 2001

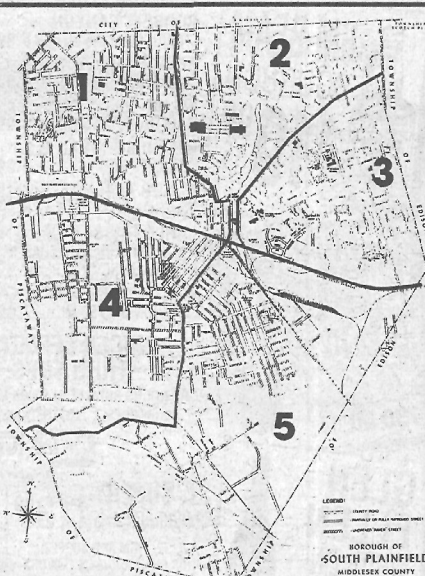
2001
Leaf Pick Up Program

- Section 1 Week of Oct. 29
- Section 2 Week of Nov. 5
- Section 3 Week of Nov. 12
- Section 4 Week of Nov. 19
- Section 5 Week of Nov. 26

Twenty free biodegradable papers bags are available at the Public Works Garage starting on Oct. 22 through Nov. 16. Residents must present a coupon, which is mailed directly to each home, in order to obtain the bags. Along with the coupon is a map showing which week each section of town is scheduled for leaf pick-up.

All bags must be left at the curb. Residents wishing to purchase additional bags may do so at local hardware stores. With mother nature being unpredictable, please do not call the Public Works Office for leaf pick-ups, as trucks will be returning to all sections throughout the leaf program.

The Road Dept. will be taking biodegradable paper bags only during the 2001 residential leaf bag program. For your convenience the compost area only will be open Mon. through Sat., 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Oct. 29 through Dec. 1.



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Seniors Treated to Lunch by High School FLA Members



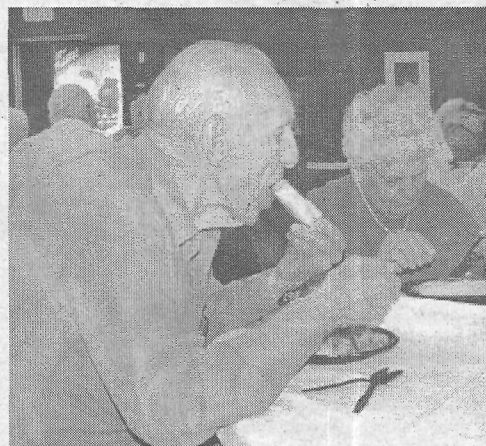
The SPHS Future Leaders of America (FLA) held their Eighth Annual Senior Citizen Luncheon in the high school cafeteria last week.

Students in Mrs. Janet Flannigan-Wurtz and Ms. Loretta Tansey's FLA organized and served a meal to the South Plainfield Senior Citizens. Before lunch was served, they were treated to a concert featuring the concert and jazz bands, the orchestra and the chorus as well as a number of solo vocals.

The students could not set up for the luncheon until the last school lunch period was over and the room and tables were cleaned. Tablecloths, napkins, utensils, salad and condiments for over 90 guests were set up in 10 quick minutes.

The food was cooked by Marriott and the dessert, apple crisp, was made by the Food and You classes. The students, wearing aprons of red, white or blue, lined up to greet the seniors. As soon as their guests were seated, the students served salad, bread, sausage and peppers and pasta, quickly and efficiently. Coffee, tea and dessert followed the meal.

The club focuses on community service and life skills and currently there are over 40 students in the FLA.



South Plainfield Police Officer's Joe Papa and Dave Franchak were at Home Depot recently, promoting our Community Policing program. Pictured above with Officer Papa is Idris Joyner, who is getting his fingerprints taken. Officer Franchak had his bicycle on hand which he uses to patrol shopping centers and parks.



Class Reunion Helps Launch Music Career

Former North Plainfield high school classmates, Barbara Harley and Jeff Austin, met up at their high school class reunion last May. When they asked each other what they've been doing, they first talked about their "day jobs." Barbara is a music teacher at the J.F. Kennedy Elementary School in South Plainfield. Jeff is a paramedic and the Advance Life Support Education Coordinator for Atlantic Health System. Through their conversations, they found out both had "other" jobs. Harley is an accomplished country songwriter and performing artist. Austin doubles as DJ at WCTO, "Cat Country" 96.3 FM radio station broadcasting out of Allentown, Pa. and as a "Dance DJ" on Wednesday nights at the popular country dance club, The Colorado Cafe, located on Bonnie Burn Rd. in Watchung.

Because of their common love for country music, Harley and Austin have remained in contact with each other. This renewed friendship has led to some very exciting happenings. Harley recently recorded her debut CD *First Glance*, at the Bayou Studio in Nashville. Austin surpassed Harley by showing up at a reception in Nashville to celebrate the recording. He walked in the door wearing his Cat Country t-shirt and holding his motorcycle helmet. He and a friend rode down to Nashville just to join Harley's celebration! Not long afterwards, Harley and some friends went to the Colorado Cafe to see Austin and to get his thoughts about *First Glance*. To her surprise and delight, she found the dance floor full of country dancers learning "The Shadow" dance steps to her first single, *She's Got Mail*.

"I couldn't believe my ears when I heard my song being played and seeing the huge dance floor filled with country line dancers, learning a dance to my song! That was probably one of the greatest moments that's happened to me so far," exclaimed Harley. "*First Glance* has been my heart and

soul for the past year. It's been a huge undertaking. To have a friend like Jeff Austin become such an important part of making this dream come true has just been great. I'm really glad I went to my class reunion. Jeff has a huge following at the Colorado Cafe. It's a very enthusiastic dance crowd. I was recently given the opportunity to sing a few songs from *First Glance* at the club. Seeing so many people dancing and singing along with me was just incredible!" Harley said.

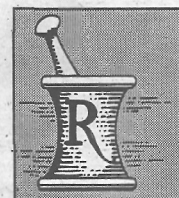
Along with playing cuts from *First Glance*, Austin has additional plans for Harley's new CD. He will be the master of ceremonies at her upcoming CD release party on Wednesday, Oct. 24, at the Colorado Cafe. Austin is very impressed with the songs, which were penned by Harley and co-writers, Al Lind of Hunterdon County and Kim

Jakubicki of Mercer County.

When asked why he has taken such an interest in helping his former classmate with her new CD, Austin had this to say: "I'm helping Barbara because I think that her music is great. The songs are great, the musicianship is great, and I'm glad to share it with my listeners and friends. I'm a DJ, so music is what I'm all about."

Oh, and don't throw away those class reunion invitations — you never know what might happen if you attend!

For information about Jeff Austin's career as a DJ at Cat Country, visit www.catcountry96.com. For more information about Barbara Harley, visit her website at www.Harleytunes.com and sign up for her free e-newsletter at oursongs@Harleytunes.com or stanleyhabib@col.com.



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IN MY OPINION

Continued from page 2

several years. She has served on the Board of Education for nine years, where she has constantly watched out for the children of our community. As a member of the Borough Council, she will continue to watch out for the youth of our community, as well as all members of our community.

I believe that these two will bring a refreshing change to our town. Please join me in voting for them on November 6th.

**THANK YOU,
KAY SEESSELBERG**

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter to express my feelings in the 18th Legislative District.

Assemblywoman Barbara Bono is currently running for the State Senate seat and has an impressive seven year track record in the General Assembly. As the ranking Democrat on Assembly Budget Committee, she is well versed in the economic challenges ahead. Barbara has authorized laws requiring criminal background checks of child care workers, the Safe Schools and Communities Violence Prevention and Response Plan Act and has worked to protect children on the internet.

Similarly, Assemblyman Peter J. Barnes, Jr. has also represented this community well in the Assembly for the last six years and is seeking re-election. Peter's experience as a retired FBI Special Agent and former Police Director in Edison and East Brunswick, has placed him at the forefront of working to improve law enforcement and helps him serve on the Law and Public Safety Committee. He has strived to protect senior citizens from crime, sponsored laws to keep drunk drivers off the road and worked for gun safety measures.

Accompanying Barnes as a candidate for the Assembly is Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr., the Municipal Attorney and the Democratic Municipal Chairman in his hometown of South Plainfield. Patrick brings with him fresh ideas to instill fiscal restraint and encourage the reduction of the state debt. He will also work for continued open-space preservation, conservation of resources as well as supporting higher education and our public schools.

Please help elect Barbara Buono to

the State Senate and Peter Barnes and Patrick Diegnan to the State Assembly.

**SINCERELY,
WILLIAM B. HEGEDUS**

Dear Editor:

On Oct. 3rd, the New Jersey State Legislature held a special session to rapidly address the problems created by the September 11th terrorist attacks. Legislation was passed to deal with both the residual effects of this incident as well as to craft methods that will deal with unforeseeable future emergencies.

One of the bills signed into law, Assembly bill 3727, co-sponsored by all members of the Assembly, added New Jersey to the list of 41 other states who are part of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). The purpose of EMAC is to provide mutual assistance between cooperating states who may experience emergencies or disasters and require aid in handling the situation. Such emergent events include natural or man-made disasters, resource shortages, technological hazards, community disorders, insurgency, or enemy attacks.

When the rescue and recovery mission began after September 11th, firefighters, police officers and emergency management workers from many states, including New Jersey, traveled to the devastated areas offering assistance. Volunteers from states not in the EMAC needed to take the extra step of being sworn into office and given the appropriate authoritative powers to perform their respective duties. Those people from EMAC member states could continue to carry authorized weapons and performed the duties under which they were licensed without retaking an oath of office. All, however, that were not from the requesting state do not have arrest powers.

EMAC approaches these emergencies with the theory that an attack on one is an attack on all. Like in a family with many children, whenever one is in danger, all will come to the rescue. During these times of crisis, we must all stand together regardless of state boundaries or other prohibitive barriers. These are not times where minutes and hours can be lost to addressing technicalities.

By entering into this agreement, we

affirm our faith and trust in one another to carry us through some of the most trying times. EMAC aims at saving lives, limbs and our lands when every moment is of the essence and expertise is of the utmost necessity. Being a member of EMAC, will serve New Jersey well in it's times of troubles and will fortify our bonds with our fellow United States of America.

**SINCERELY,
PETER J. BARNES**

To the Editor:

As a District 18 resident, I am especially pleased this year that our current representatives in the New Jersey Legislature have chosen to run for re-election. In my view, both Assemblywoman Barbara Buono, now running for the NJ Senate, and Assemblyman Peter Barnes, have served us with an extraordinary talent for working on meaningful statewide issues, while still being proactively helpful with local problems and concerns.

On a statewide basis, I have particularly appreciated their steady efforts and their offering of possible practical remedies on matters that affect our daily life. These include concerns such as the ever-increasing home owners' burden of property taxes, open space preservation programs, funds for towns to achieve their own improvements, etc. The constancy of focus and the offering of solutions by Ms. Buono and Mr. Barnes are, for me, in great contrast to those legislators whose only contribution to a public problem is a news release. In addition, I have seen Buono and Barnes try hard to change priorities for the uses of State resources, in order to advance problem solutions without requiring more total funds, i.e. higher taxes.

On local concerns, I have been repeatedly amazed by the interest, time and actions which they and their office associates have taken on our behalf. Just in my small town of Metuchen, in recent years, they have reinforced our town efforts on such matters as securing a suitable new traffic bridge and light, getting a deteriorated railroad underpass repaired, progressing the acquisition of a greenway for open space, obtaining a 150 foot pedestrian bridge much needed for safety and to reduce traffic, etc. Once again, Buono and Barnes worked at

it, sometimes for several years. They sent letters on our behalf, made telephone calls to State agencies, attended meetings and were always accessible to discuss plans. On the pedestrian bridge, they even introduced funding bills in the Assembly both for our bridge and for studies of the broader need for such bridges throughout the State. You can just imagine what they have done for our larger towns.

Please vote them back into State office. And to provide them with needed support in the Assembly, I also recommend a vote for their fine running mate, Patrick Diegnan.

**SINCERELY,
DONALD J. KAHN**

To The Editor:

I am a sophomore at Villanova University in Pennsylvania. My mom mails me *The Observer* each week so I can stay "updated" on what is going on in South Plainfield. The recent series of letters about Judy Blume and *Tale of a Fourth Grade Nothing* have compelled me to write expressing my opinion.

I commend the South Plainfield Elementary Schools for their choice in literature. Judy Blume is one of the best children's writers of our time and her books are more than praiseworthy. It is authors like Judy Blume and books like *Tale of a Fourth Grade Nothing* that made me want to pick up a book as a child and instilled in me a love of reading. I am positive that I am in the majority. I encourage parents to pick up one of her books (my personal favorites are *It's Not the End of the World* and *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret.*) and read them WITH your children. When a controversial issue comes up, you have two choices: one, take this opportunity to discuss your morals and values with your children and help them to understand right from wrong or two, ignore it, leaving your children either confused or unexposed to life's realities. Banning books is NOT the answer! It is quite obvious that ignorance is NOT bliss. I also encourage people who have never read Judy Blume to stop by the library and check out one of her books. I think you will find that she is an incredible author. You will wish that your children were asked to read *Tale of a Fourth Grade Nothing* in elementary school. Form your own opinion once you've read one of her books - not because someone wrote a convincing letter.

**SINCERELY,
JESSICA CERAMI**

To the Editor:

I have been well informed on what the SPLFD DEMS prides themselves on. TEAM WORK, there has been nearly a decade of improvements within the borough. They talk about open government, have you ever been to a council meeting? Go and see for yourself, it's a pleasure to be there. They actually ask you if anyone has any concerns and how do you think things are going in SPLFD. Toward the end of the meeting, the Mayor would ask each councilperson to give a report. You will hear, first hand, what's going on or what has occurred in town.

Just a few weeks ago, Councilman Cerami, gave a detailed report on the water main break on Park Ave. It was impressive to hear about the emergency response and how the Public Works employees, the Fire Dept., Emergency Management and Police coordinated their efforts to save the homes and Kennedy School from flooding waters. At every meeting Dennis Cerami gives a great report on what's going on in the Fire Dept. and

the Rescue Squad. Each month he gives a detailed report on how many calls the Vol. Fire Fighters and Vol. Rescue Squad respond to.

Sometimes, he will speak about the incident first hand, because he responds to the more serious incidents and accidents. Bottom line, he seems to know what is going on when it comes to the public's safety.

I don't know Charlie Butrico personally, however, I read his name in the program for the Summer Drama play ever year at the high school. It's always a wonderful play and it's nice to know that he cares about these teenagers.

I also see him at council meetings; this leads me to believe that he really cares about what happens in South Plainfield.

I wrote this letter because I care about where I live. If you care about South Plainfield, you need to vote on November 6 for Dennis Cerami and Charlie Butrico because they care about you.

**THANK YOU,
WILLIAM A. NAGY, JR.**

To the Editor,

I am writing this letter to support both Dennis Cerami and Charlie Butrico as Councilmen for the Borough of South Plainfield. As members of the democratic team that has done a great job of straightening out our Borough's finances and working to improve our quality of life. Dennis is completing his second term on the Council, and he has just as strong a responsibility toward the citizens of South Plainfield as ever. Knowing Dennis as I have, I am constantly reassured by his never ending commitment to doing a wholehearted job as a Councilman who focuses on improving the quality of life of the people of the Borough and his work with the Council in holding down both municipal expenses and municipal property taxes.

Dennis has been active with many projects in town. He was heavily involved with the PAL building and its related senior center. He has worked with the fire, police, EMT and first aid departments and has focused on fixing over 100 roads in town without bonding to accomplish that important Borough need.

Charlie Butrico's ties to South Plainfield come not only from his family, his growing up in town, his attitudes, but can be seen in his activities as an adult. As many of you know, Charlie's parents and brothers and their families have all been involved members of our community for as long as I can remember. As a long standing member of our community from a long active South Plainfield family, Charlie has been active in community affairs for a long time. He has been active in school affairs through his children and in working with the PTA, he has coached, is on the board of the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop and in a host of other less visible activities with his wife and children, as well as other family members, he has demonstrated his deep and personal commitment to the Borough. He will be a key part of the Democratic team in South Plainfield.

Over the last years, all citizens of South Plainfield have seen that Democracy Works. The people of South Plainfield have made our voices heard and we like the changes. Dennis Cerami and Charlie Butrico will keep those good things happening. I strongly ask everyone in South Plainfield to vote for Dennis Cerami and Charlie Butrico and the rest of the "Democracy Works" team.

**SINCERELY YOURS,
PAT GUARRACI**

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South Plainfield Observer

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IN MY OPINION



Editor,

Over the past six years, Dennis Cerami has worked countless hours to make South Plainfield a better and safer place to live and we need his energy and wisdom on the Borough Council to continue our growth. Dennis's running mate is Charlie Butrico, who may be new to politics, but not to South Plainfield. Charlie Butrico has been involved with the community for many years.

South Plainfield needs council members who watch for mismanagement and who are not afraid to say no.

Charlie Butrico and Dennis Cerami are two that are not afraid to say no. So please get out to vote on election day for Charlie and Dennis.

GARY ROHRER

Letter to the Editor,

It is a pleasure to see what has been happening in South Plainfield these past few years; new roads, sidewalks, expansion of our parks, more open space free from development, new P.A.L., senior recreation center, senior housing, open government with elected officials who listen to the residents.

Dennis Cerami has been a vital part of the governing body that made all of these things happen. He has worked tirelessly, meeting the needs of our residents. He has earned our trust and support.

Dennis's choice of Charlie Butrico as a running mate assures me that good government and progress will continue in South Plainfield.

On election day, I will be voting for Dennis Cerami and Charlie Butrico and I urge you to do the same.

PETER MCCORMACK

To the Editor,

I have lived in South Plainfield most of my adult life, therefore I have a good point of reference when it comes to grading our elected officials. Without question, Dennis Cerami is one of the finest Councilman ever to serve our town.

Take a look around...preserving open space, improving our parks for our youth, the addition to the P.A.L., the upkeep of our roads, new equipment for our volunteer firefighters and rescue workers, just to name a few.

This year's choice on Election Day is easy. Dennis Cerami and his running mate Charlie Butrico deserve your support for South Plainfield Council.

PHOEBE ANDERS

Dear Editor,

Since Sept. 11, all I have heard is America is the land of the free and the home of the brave. I don't believe those words are true in the towns of Edison, Piscataway, Readington and North Brunswick.

There is a law that allows the government to take someone's property for fair market value if they need the

property. This has usually been done to obtain land for schools, airports and highways. The mayor's of those towns believe it can be used for other reasons, such as correcting their mistakes in not preserving open space or removing something they don't like.

Edison wants to take someone's home to build a Walgreens. North Brunswick wants to take someone's farm for open space and pay them six million when they were offered 10 million. Piscataway also wants to take someone's farm for open space, even though they don't want to sell. Readington wants to take the private airport, despite the fact that the airport was there long before the developments came and does not want to sell.

The brave are not the residents of those towns who keep silent while their fellow residents have to fight to keep their property. The brave are not those who will step on another's rights in order to keep up property values.

Some say "so what," they are paid market value. Market value does not cover the emotional memories one has invested in a property or the trauma of having to relocate and maybe look for another job.

I hope whomever wins this upcoming election in this town doesn't just say those words, but truly believes in them. For if they do, this town will never sink to the level of those four towns and we will be a town that we can continue to be proud of.

JOE SCALERA

Dear Editor,

I was born and raised in South Plainfield, went to school here and was educated in our school system. I just completed college and will be starting work next year as a teacher. I know first hand what a great town South Plainfield is and how nice it is to live here.

Patrick Diegnan was also born and raised in South Plainfield, he also graduated from South Plainfield High School. As our Borough attorney, he has been involved in most of the decisions which have made our town a model for other towns to follow. If you look at all the progress that has gone on in our town over the last eight years, Pat Diegnan has been a part of that. Let's now give him the opportunity to serve us in Trenton.

On Election Day, Nov. 6 go out and vote for Pat Diegnan, our favorite son, for NJ Assembly. You should also vote for his running mates, Peter Barnes and Barbara Buono.

HEATHER GUARRACI

To the Editor,

Based upon the recent tragedy that has occurred in this country, I believe it is imperative that we exercise our right and privilege to vote on Election Day, which this year will be held on Nov. 6. We must not let the horrific actions of a few diminish what has made this country the envy of so many others. We have an obligation to the many who lost their lives on

Sept. 11, 2001 to continue to do our part to help this country move forward and prosper in the wake of this cowardly act.

We, the residents of the 18th Legislative District, must come out strong to see that we elect those individuals who will fight for all people. We have an individual running for General Assembly in the 18th District who has worked for years to see that the privileges we enjoy as Americans continue. His name is Patrick Diegnan.

As the Borough Attorney in South Plainfield for a number of years, Patrick has helped spearhead the revival of this municipality. He, through his daily work with Borough officials, has helped institute many innovative programs that have benefited the residents of this borough.

When Patrick Diegnan took over as Borough Attorney in 1994, South Plainfield was in the midst of financial ruin. The debt had been increased to over 40 million dollars by the prior Republican administration. Through his leadership and guidance, South Plainfield's debt has been decreased by millions. He has helped institute what is now referred to as "pay as you go" government, where you do not rely on borrowed money to pay for improvements or services. Based upon the actions of the Whitman administration, this will be a refreshing and much needed change in Trenton.

This is the first time in the 75 year history of the Borough of South Plainfield that we have one of our own running for state office. I know first hand that our "favorite son" will continue to serve the borough well as a member of the General Assembly and it will be especially gratifying to see him work day in and day out for all the residents of the 18th Legislative District.

We could not ask for a more qualified representative in Trenton. I urge all resident of the 18th, especially those hailing from the Borough of South Plainfield, show your pride in this country, state and municipality by electing Patrick Diegnan to the General Assembly. I would also ask for your support for Patrick's running mates Peter Barnes for General Assembly and Barbara Buono for State Senator.

RAY JEAN BUTTIGLIERI

Dear Editor:

Each October, I see signs along the road and letters in your paper patting the mayor and council on the back for the job they are doing managing the town. Yet, all I see - at best - is praise for mediocrity. In fact, mediocrity exaggerates their accomplishments. South Plainfield's elected leaders have grown complacent. And while they continue to applaud themselves for doing their job (i.e., paving roads and providing local services), taxes are increasing, crime is rising, and traffic is mounting.

Taxes are skyrocketing. Since I received my first tax bill in 1999, the municipal tax rate rose almost 15% - from .75 to .861. And if I compare taxes in 2001 to 1993, I see an almost 80% increase (despite a booming economy and new tax rates). While our town leaders tout their management ability, they fail to control costs and manage wisely. Yes, they pay lip service to these concepts, but the proof is in the numbers.

Crime is also up. Our mayor and council's most important job is to provide the police with the resources they need to protect the community. But according to the August 31 *Star-Ledger*, South Plainfield has the fourth highest crime rate out of Middlesex County's 25 municipalities. In addition, while most communities decreased their crime rate slightly in

2000, South Plainfield's increased. The police are doing their job, but they need better resources. Police protection should be a budget priority. It's not.

Like taxes and crime, traffic is also increasing. It can take 10 to 15 minutes to get from the Home Depot to the light on Stelton Rd. Exiting Rte. 287 is not much better. Rather than manage growth, the current administration lets growth manage it. Growth is good; unbridled growth is not.

The local politicians say democracy works. I agree. It works when there is two-party government and healthy competition of ideas. We need balance in South Plainfield, and we need to elect leaders who will focus on the town's needs. Because of this, I will vote Republican on November 6.

Very truly yours,
ROBERT J. JONES, JR.

Dear Editor,

I read Mr. Harris's letter in last week's paper and he is right. The Democrats flood the papers with nonsense letters and flood the town with their signs, "Democracy Works." It should say "Democratic Monarchy." It is about time we return to the two party system. Will Rogers used to say, "One party politics is the closest you will ever get to Communism!" I am voting for Bret Shundler for Governor and the Republican candidates across the board as they promote the better candidates.

I don't vote, because I saw such and such kids grow up or how great a neighbor this guy was or her? That is hogwash! This town is a wreck. I also read last week that Mr. Cerami said most of the crime in South Plainfield is repeat? When last month the Police published an article on how the crime rate has risen in South Plainfield! Also, if anyone has a problem in South Plainfield, you just better save your time by just calling the County, or better yet the State of New Jersey! Time to go back to the two party system in South Plainfield and elect real people to office and vote Republican across the board.

We need a strong governor in Trenton. So vote for Bret Shundler! We don't need another Jim Florio who taxed toilet paper as McGreevey, who will follow in his foot steps and tax us more and of course spend more on nonsense.

Why in South Plainfield when it snows do we have to hire contractors to plow the roads? Where are all of our trucks, machines and plows? For the amount of taxes we should have at least that much. No we had to worry about our train car, and redoing the center of town, which we have no more center of town!

I have lived here nearly 50 years, and this council doesn't have a clue on what it was really like to live in a good town. Now it is just an extension of Plainfield, but they get better services. What is going to become of

the old Bradlees center? Drag races on weekends as it was once used for! Remember guys!

Also parents, Mrs. Reedy got the schools upgraded for your children. She deserves your vote now! Vote, Harris and Reedy!

TONY PISANIELLO

Letter to the Editor

South Plainfield is fortunate to have a great Mayor in Dan Gallagher. We also have a great guy looking out for Up County level in, Freeholder John Pulomena. We now have the chance to have a voice in Trenton.

I urge all of our residents to vote for life long South Plainfield resident, Patrick Diegnan for Assemblyman. Everyone knows South Plainfield is a great place to live and has excellent elected officials representing us. It is time we put some of that South Plainfield common sense in Trenton.

Vote for Patrick Diegnan, Democrat for Assembly.

CHARLES HASSELGREN

To The Editor,

I have lived in South Plainfield for over 30 years. The thing that makes this town special is the people who live here. You can't go to the Drug Fair or the A&P or the ice cream store without running into someone you know. We really are a community, which is great.

Patrick Diegnan has been a part of South Plainfield his entire life. He was born here, went to school here and opened his law office here. He is part of the fabric of our great town and he shares our values and our small town common sense.

Let's all show how proud we are of our Borough by voting Patrick Diegnan for NJ Assembly. I think it would be great for everybody to support him whether you are a Republican, Democrat or Independent. When you vote on November 6 think of it as voting for South Plainfield.

CATHERINE OBERLANDER

Dear Editor:

In South Plainfield everybody knows each other and is friendly to each other. We really act like a small town is supposed to. We care about each other and support each other.

Patrick Diegnan also loves South Plainfield. He is one of the people who works every day to keep our Borough the great place it is. When I found out Patrick was running for State Assembly, I was thrilled. It will be nice to have a part of South Plainfield working for us in Trenton.

Show the whole State of New Jersey how we in South Plainfield support each other. On Election Day vote for South Plainfield's favorite son, Patrick Diegnan for Assembly.

VERY TRULY YOURS,
KIM WALSH

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Volunteers are busy serving breakfast last Sunday at the Ammerican Legion. A steady crowd of people kept the volunteers busy throughout the morning.

Newly Formed High School College Club Meetings Set

By Patricia Abbott

Once a student enters high school, it is never too early to begin thinking about college and career planning. The task can be a daunting one. South Plainfield High School has formed a new club that assists students in taking that first step towards planning their future.

The College Club is open to students in grades 9-12. They meet in the cafeteria after school on the first and third Thursday of each month. Here students can begin to learn more about colleges and the college planning process. Advisor Nadine Knight said, "Students will have the opportunity to share ideas and discuss information while exploring what ca-

reers specific college majors may offer."

Seniors will be able to participate in a college placement test taking skills workshop through Middlesex County College. The workshop will be held locally in the high school.

Tentatively scheduled for November is a tour of Kean University. Admissions counselors will talk to students about the college admissions process at Kean and similar schools. Representatives will meet with parents in the evening to accommodate their work schedules. The club hopes to visit other campuses and host additional guest speakers over the coming year as well.

For more information contact Ms. Knight in the SPHS Guidance office.

MENSA is A Multifaceted Society

Without a doubt, American Mensa serves a different function for each of its 45,000 members. Some enjoy Mensa's mental stimulation, others its social interaction, and for others it has other benefits.

To qualify for Mensa, you must have scored in the top 2% of the general population on a standardized intelligence test. Five million Americans are eligible for membership.

Mensans come from all walks of life. They range from three to nearly 100 years old. They represent both sexes, all races, various professions and many beliefs. However, they share one trait: high intelligence.

There are three main purposes of Mensa: 1) identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity. 2) encourage research in the nature, characteristics and uses of intelligence. 3) provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for member.

Activities are scheduled almost daily on the Mensa calendar. Locally, these range from meetings to guest speakers to parties. Members can also attend regional and national gatherings providing opportunities to meet other Mensans.

You'll find a good "mental workout" in the Mensa Bulletin, the national magazine. In newsletters published by each of our 138 chapters,

you can share your opinions as well as read other points of view. Meetings and gatherings provide many opportunities for intellectual stimulation.

Mensa Education and Research Foundation sponsors scholarships, participates in research, rewards excellence in gifted research, and publishes the Mensa Research Journal.

Gifted Children Resource Program provides information for gifted children. Project Inkslinger gives books to libraries that have experienced a natural disaster. Local groups volunteer for community-oriented activities.

At the present time, there are more than 130 national Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that range from Chocoholics to Monty Python and from SCUBA to X-Files. These groups are started by members who share a common interest. Groups communicate regularly via newsletters and other forums.

Along with the intellectual and social activities for Mensans, members receive other special benefits. These are programs which offer special discounts to Mensa members. We are always looking into new areas to provide extra "value" for Mensa membership.

For more information please call 1-800-66-MENSA or visit their website at www.us.mensa.org.

Copy deadline for the Observer is Monday, 5 p.m. for the following Friday's publication.

Please mail, fax or email your copy, (preferably typed in upper and lower case and double spaced). Send to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Fax to (908) 668-8819, email us on our web page at spobserver.com.

Obituaries

Anna E. (Burnett) Van Winkle, 77

Anna E. (Burnett) Van Winkle died on Sunday, Oct. 21 at the JFK Medical Center Haven Hospice in Edison.

Mrs. Van Winkle was born in Liberty Corner and grew up there. She had resided in North Plainfield before moving to South Plainfield over 50 years ago. She also maintained a second residence in Lady Lake, Fla. for the past 10 years.

During WWII, she served in the US Navy as a radio operator. She had been stationed stateside at various bases. After her service, she worked, for a brief time as a secretary for the former Diehl Mfg. Co. of South Plainfield.

Anna had been active in the South Plainfield community, having served on the Recreation Commission and on the Community Pool Development Committee. She was also an active member of the South Plainfield Republican Club.

She had been an avid golfer and an outdoor enthusiast for many years.

Her husband, Albert Van Winkle, died in 1996.

Surviving are her daughter, Donna Stern of South Plainfield; four sons, Albert Van Winkle of Pascagola, Miss., Randy Van Winkle and his wife, Linda, of Bonne Terre, Missouri, Brian Van Winkle of Plainfield and Brett Van Winkle of South Plainfield; two sisters, Margaret Wetherington of Tampa, Fla. and Lois Gauss of Harnich Port, Ma.; a brother David Burnett of Blairsville, Ga. and five grandchildren Aislynn, Ashley, Matthew, Alyce and Randy.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Jersey in 1983 after graduating from college. She resided in Plainsboro and Dayton until 1997, when she married and settled in Somerset.

She began her employment with Rhone-Poulenc of Cranbury in their financial department as a treasury analysis for several years. She continued to advance in her field when she accepted a job with NUI - Elizabethtown Gas Co., as a senior treasury analysis. Lastly becoming the senior cash manager of Siemens Capital Corporation in Bridgewater.

Kathleen was an active member of the Mt. Pisgah AME Church in Princeton where she served as a steward. She later transferred her membership to Faith Fellowship Ministries of Sayreville where she has been an active member assisting with the Children's Ministry and the Hospitality Committee. Kathryn has also attended Faith Fellowship's CTP (Christian Training Program) where she successfully completed levels one and two.

Surviving are her husband, Kenneth; a son, Isaiah; a stepson, Kenneth, Jr.; her parents, Ray E. & Louise (Mister) Gray of Milwaukee, Wisc. and a sister, Cynthia Gray of Dallas Texas.

Funeral services were held in the Faith Fellowship Ministries Chapel in Sayreville, under the direction of McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Jennie Muglia, 93

Jennie Muglia died on Friday, Oct. 19 at the Cedar Oaks Care Center in South Plainfield.

She was born in Brooklyn, NY. Her family moved to South Plainfield when she was a young girl and she has resided here ever since.

Miss Muglia had worked as a seamstress with the former Bruno Dress Co. and the former Roth Dress Co. Both were located in South Plainfield many years ago.

She was predeceased by her sisters Edith Guarraci, Antoinette Bengivena and brothers Carl, Jasper A. and Joseph Muglia.

Surviving are her brothers Alfred J. of Virginia, Ernest J. of Athol,

Mass. and Victor A. of South Plainfield and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Ernest R. Seiz, 90

Ernest R. Seiz died on Friday, Oct. 19 at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, Mr. Seiz had resided in the Possumtown section of Piscataway from May of 1920 until he settled in South Plainfield in 1947.

Mr. Seiz was a veteran of WWII where he served in the Army as a staff sergeant in the 870th Ordinance Division as a mechanic. He was stationed in New Zealand, Australia and Iran before being discharged in Oct. of 1945.

He was employed as a machinist in the tool room of the former Hyatt Bearing Co. in Clark for 27 years before his retirement in 1974. Previously he had been employed by the former Cornell Dubilier of South Plainfield.

He was a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens and a communicant of Sacred Heart R.C. Church in South Plainfield.

Mr. Seiz was also an amateur harmonica player who played at various nursing homes in the Pennington area, the South Plainfield First Baptist Church Coffee Houses as well as all family events. He enjoyed playing "Name That Tune" with his audience.

Surviving are his daughter Mary Ellen Carterton of Annapolis, Maryland; his two sons and daughters in law Thomas M. and Linda Seiz of South Plainfield and Robert W. and Robin Seiz of Pennington; a sister Elsie Ruddiman of Piscataway and a brother William of Pa.

He is also survived by eight grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals. Donations may be made to the American Diabetes Asso., 200 Cottontail Ln., Somerset, NJ 08873.

Hildegonde J. Winter, 71

Hildegonde J. Winter, died on Friday, Oct. 19, at her home.

Born in Paramaribo, Suriname, she came to the United States in 1955 and resided in New York for many years before moving to South Plainfield in 1973.

Mrs. Winter was a homemaker. Surviving are her husband, Klans E. Winter; a daughter, Deborah S. Winter of South Plainfield; a son and daughter-in-law, Robert K. and Debra A. Winter of Manchester; two brothers, Gustav DeJong of Roselle and Albert DeJong of Suriname.

Funeral Services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Kathryn Gray-McRae, 39

Kathryn Gray-McRae of Somerset, died on Sunday, Oct. 21 at St. Peter's University Medical Center in New Brunswick.

Born in Milwaukee, Wisc. to Ray and Louise, Kathryn was raised and grew up at 4114 North 12th Street, where she also attended school.

Mrs. Gray-McRae moved to New

Consideration

It is far easier for the family if a family plot is arranged prior to need. The considerate staff at Hillside Cemetery will assist your selection. All lots are in fully developed areas and include perpetual care. Located on Woodland Avenue in Scotch Plains, a non-profit organization. 908.756.1729

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police report

• Police and hazmet officials in South Plainfield were called out more than a dozen times during the past week to investigate suspicious looking letters and packages. No evidence of any hazardous material has been identified.

• On Oct. 16, a Metuchen resident was arrested at K-Mart for shoplifting a Panasonic DVD player worth \$189.96.

• An employee of Hollywood Tans on Oak Tree Rd. reported receiving sexually harassing calls at work.

• A Morton Ave. resident reported that when she had returned home at 6:30 p.m., her house had been ransacked. A Sony Handycam camcorder and a laptop computer were missing.

• KLM Trucking on Ryan St. reported that a customer had paid for goods with a check and the check had been returned for "cannot locate account."

• On Oct. 17, a Gaithersburg, Fla. resident reported that his GMC van had been stolen from the parking lot of the Ramada Inn.

• On Saturday, a Michael St. resident reported the theft of some jewelry, possibly by her brother who had resided at the house for three months.

• On Sunday, a Scalera Ave. resident reported that his rear driver's side window had been smashed out on his Chevy Ventura.

• On Monday, a Hamilton Blvd. resident reported that his cousin had stolen his snow plow.

• A Plainfield resident reported that someone had stolen her purse while in the bathroom at the Regal Cinema.

To place an ad call 908-668-0010, Deadline: 5 p.m. on Monday.

Classifieds

Rates -- 3 line minimum-\$11, \$1 ea. additional line.

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PRE-1900 VICTORIAN Antique dresser w/mirror. Handcrafted woodworking details this exquisite piece. Dusty rose marble top, original hardware, tilt mirror. Excellent cond. \$450 Call 732-786-1306.

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Garage Sale

203 Amboy Ave
(Off Hamilton Blvd.)

Saturday, Oct. 27
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Brand New Clothing, (tags still on), couch and more

GARAGE SALE

Garage Sale

431 Delmore Ave
(Off Belmont)

Sunday, October 28
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Various
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HOUSE SALE

House Sale

114 Cedarbrook Ave.
Sat., October 27
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Featuring bedroom set,
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RAIN OR SHINE

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Skills Tutor – An “A+” for Borough Students

by Patricia Abbott

A simple click of a computer mouse button has put a powerful educational tool in the hands of South Plainfield school district students. Much like that one small step onto the moon decades ago, the small click represents giant leaps forward in both technology and student learning. This technology, SkillsTutor, offers major changes in the way children learn and their opportunities to learn. In the early 1800's only the brightest and best had the opportunity to continue their education. Those that could not keep up were often destined to spend their lives in unskilled labor. Education's mission statement today is a far cry from that of 100 years ago.

The Mission Statement of the South Plainfield Public Schools is: To ensure that all students are equipped with the essential skills necessary to acquire a common body of knowledge and understanding.

Superintendent Dr. John Krewer said "SkillsTutor will help all students learn well. It creates an environment of 'anywhere, anytime learning' —all a student needs is access to an on-line computer."

Simply stated, SkillsTutor is a private tutor for each and every student. The difference between this online resource and a private tutor is the availability, range as well as the price. SkillsTutor has 700 lessons in 11 areas; Reading, Writing, Language, Basic and Intermediate Mathematics,

study and job skills, Algebra 1, Science 1 and 2 and Middle Level Reading. It correlates to the Elementary School Proficiency Assessment (ESPA) test, the Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment (GEPA) test and High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA).

South Plainfield students in grades three through 12 can access SkillsTutor anytime night or day. Students who do not have access to a home computer will be offered computer lab time before and after school. The program allows students to work at their own pace in a subject they are weak in or one they enjoy. Once they log on to the SkillsTutor homepage the child will enter their username and password (their student ID number). Students then choose a subject. The

first activity is always a pretest. After this pretest the child is provided an on-line tutorial that reinforces the skill and/or concept. The students are shown their results and review errors. It is a "state of the art" approach to individualized instruction.

SkillsTutor is a big plus for teachers as well as students. In a classroom a teacher has the difficult task of tailoring lessons to many different skill levels. SkillsTutor can help a child who is experiencing difficulty to "catch up". Other students can advance their skills more quickly. Those with learning difficulties will benefit from the one on one approach. Highly motivated students will be able to bypass areas where they excel and move on to additional curricular areas. This fall, all of the

South Plainfield district teachers in Math, Language Arts/English and Guidance will be trained on SkillsTutor. Teachers can check the progress of an individual student or an entire class. The program allows the district to see overall strengths and weaknesses, providing the power to customize learning experiences that best match student's needs.

The program was introduced to parents at each school's Back to School Nights. Dr. Krewer gave a presentation detailing the need to ensure that all children learn well. District Director of Technology Russ Mattoon, demonstrated how the program functions. Each parent was provided with their child's password.

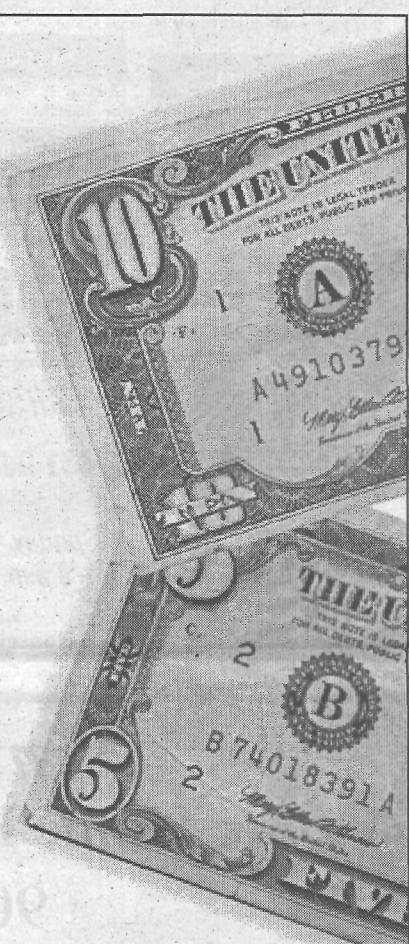
Taryn Billich, a Grant Central student said, "I think that SkillsTutor can help kids a lot. It helps to better understand things that we learn in school. It can also help with homework. You can go online, choose a subject, level, and then take a quiz on it. You can print out a report that shows how well you did. I think that all kids should know about this site, and if they have the Internet, they should check it out." Her mother Michele said, "Taryn was excited to go online and try it out. She took the tests to determine her weaknesses and reviewed her results. She was enthusiastic about moving on to the drills that were selected for her ability. She went back to review any mistakes to understand how they were made. I think it's great that kids are able to go online, which they want to do all the time anyway, and find something educational, something which directly affects their schoolwork. They are able to work at their own pace and be critical of themselves without having an adult telling them what they've done wrong. All in all, I think it's positive!"

A mother of middle and high school students was thrilled with the program saying, "SkillsTutor web-site is absolutely wonderful. I was overjoyed to find out that two of my daughter's teachers from the Middle School said they were watching the results. My daughter started to put more of an effort into it." She noted that while they started with 20 minutes a day they wanted to spend more time working with the program. She said, "Even my high school student loves working online with the program. I found him testing, and talking on the web and phone with his friends about the lessons, questions, and percentage received. As a parent I rather them spend time and energy talking about this than all the other things teenagers do that have no value. I thank God for SkillsTutor and Dr. Krewer for caring!"

Middle School student Gina Buttrico said, "I think it is going to be a very big help to someone like me who has a really busy schedule. A lot of times I can't go to extra help after school. With SkillsTutor I can sign on anytime to get a little extra help."

Robert Doggett, Principal of the Grant Central Sixth is quite pleased with the program. He told the Observer, "Recognizing that nothing can replace the teacher, I am nevertheless impressed with SkillsTutor because of the manner in which it enriches daily instruction. Teachers can assign skills and monitor progress in a matter of minutes. Moreover, the instruction is private—there is no chance of embarrassment because one does not know 'the answer.' Still another benefit is that parents can see assignments and growth firsthand. Our students will benefit from SkillsTutor. The time on task, communication between parents and teachers, secure home environment, and unique tutoring format are all contributors to self-confidence and improved test scores. This is a can't miss formula for our school."

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