

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 6, NO. 5

50 CENTS

SEPTEMBER 27, 2002

Candidates Debate Set For October 23

The South Business Association's scheduled debate between the candidates for council and mayor has been moved to Roosevelt School. Last week we announced that the debates would be held at the American Legion. Because of the anticipated large crowds expected that night, a larger site had to be found.

This election has become a very contested even. At stake are two seats on the Borough council and a mayoral election. Judging by letters the *Observer* has been publishing, it promises to be very interesting evening.

The public is encouraged to attend. Both the Republican and Democratic candidates for council and mayor have

agreed to attend.

The moderator for the evening will be a member of the League of Women Voters and she will be in charge of the questions asked that night and making sure everyone answers in the time allotted. If for some reason you cannot attend, you can submit your questions ahead of time. None of the candidates will be allowed to see them ahead of time.

If you would like to suggest questions, you can do so by faxing to (908) 668-8819, mailing or bringing them to the *Observer* office at 1110 Hamilton Blvd. in South Plainfield or you can email us at ggman@aol.com.

South Plainfield Hire Second Female Cop



Taralyn Bullock is sworn in by Councilman Dennis Cerami, while her mother Rosaline Keilty and Mayor Dan Gallagher look on. Holding the bible is her eight-year-old son, Koty.

Taralyn Bullock was sworn in Thursday night making her South Plainfield's second female police officer. Dozens of South Plainfield Police Officers attended her swearing in ceremony to show their support.

Following a familiar tradition in South Plainfield, Bullock is the daughter of Lt. Thomas R. Bullock, retired, and the sister of Police Officer

Mark Bullock. South Plainfield has several police officers who have fathers, sons or brothers in uniform.

Taralyn has been serving in the Air Force for nearly 10 years at various military bases in the United States.

She is married and has an eight-year-old son, Koty.

Officer Bullock is already attending the Trenton Police Academy.

Flu Shots Available

Flu shots will be available the South Plainfield Senior Center on Maple Ave. on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and November 12, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Only Middlesex County residents 50 years of age or older or those have chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems and those with chronic metabolic diseases including diabetes mellitus, renal dysfunction, hemoglobinopathies or immuno-suppression may obtain a vaccine on Oct. 15.

The second clinic on Nov. 12 will offer flu vaccines to any Middlesex County resident age 18 or over. No one under the age of 18 will be vaccinated and proof of age will be required.

Pneumococcal vaccines will be given at both clinics by appointment only and are available only to those residents 65 years of age or older who have not previously received this vaccine.

Please bring you Medicare card to the clinic.



Van Plows into Home on Hamilton Blvd.—Tuesday evening, a 1995 Dodge Van, driven by Michael Chichanowski, 41, of South River, struck a home at 418 Hamilton Blvd., causing extensive damage to the house. Chichanowski said he experienced a severe coughing episode, which caused him to veer off the roadway. He declined medical attention. The house, owned by Max and Jason Lee, was declared unsound by the building department. No one was home at the time of the accident. Chichanowski was charged with careless driving.

Police Seek Info on Holiday Inn Robbery

Early Wednesday morning, police responded to the Holiday Inn Hotel, located on Stelton Rd., on a report of a robbery which had just occurred. Witnesses described three suspects. One suspect was armed with a silver handgun with wooden grips. He entered through the front doors, jumped over the counter and announced a robbery. He then removed an undetermined amount of cash from the night desk clerk, a 31-year-old Irvington resident. A second suspect jumped over the counter armed with a six-inch hunt-

ing knife. He ordered the night clerk onto the ground and removed an unknown amount of cash from the register. There was an unarmed security guard on duty at the time. One of the suspects put a gun to the side of his neck, ordered him to the ground and repeatedly kicked him while he was on the ground. Before the suspects left the area, the guard was again beaten with the butt of a shotgun. The security guard, a 58-year-old Avenel resident, was taken to Muhlenberg Regional Hospital where he was treated and released.

Police say this robbery appears to be similar to other robberies in nearby area towns.

All suspects were described as black males, approximately 19 years of age, approximately 150 lbs. and 5'5" to 5'6". One suspect was wearing a green bandana pulled up above his nose and gray pants.

The public is asked to contact the South Plainfield Police Department Detective Bureau if they can provide additional information or if they possibly witnessed the suspects leaving the area.

S.P.H.S. Marching Tigers Place First

The South Plainfield High School Marching Band had an outstanding victory at their first competition Saturday night in Emmaus, Pa. They received an all time first high score of 77.75. The Tigers beat out West Essex and Parkland High Schools in their Group III Division competition.

The 95 member marching Tigers also proudly placed second overall for the night, beating 10 other bands and losing to Deptford Township High School by 2.40 points.

In addition, the percussion section of the band won the coveted "High Percussion" award in their division, placing a 16.7, losing by .1 to be the overall Percussion group of the night. The percussion section, which includes the drum line, marimba players, xylophone, chimes, bells and marching cymbals, is under the direction of Bob Publik, Charlie Bubnick, Scott Carey and Maggie Temple.

The Marching Tigers played an exciting show to the music of Frank Wildhorn's "The Civil War," which included the songs, *By the Sword*, *How Many Devils*, and *For the Glory*.

(Continued on page 12)



IN YOUR OPINION

To the Editor:

I feel that I have to respond to the letter in this week's paper regarding my time as a School Board member. I was a member of the school board for a total of nine years. My term ended April, 2001. For five of those nine years, I am proud to say that the school portion of the tax rate was definitely held stable at 2.03. I urge everyone to take a real close look at your tax bills over the last 10 years. As a member of the school board, we gave direction to our Administrators to keep costs down. We were able to keep the health benefit costs down, as well as all other areas. However, this past year, the school tax rate did go up. The reason is simple. Because of all the building that is taking place in town, there are more students to educate. This means more teachers, more supplies, more room. We went to the voters for a referendum three times. The third time the voters in this community saw the need and approved the referendum. The school board is not responsible for the building in town; it is their responsibility to see that all students that come into town because of that building boom are educated. We have an excellent school system,

and that is why people choose to move into South Plainfield.

The community has a right to take part in discussions for the school board budget every March. The community also has a right to vote on the budget for the school district. I was a member of the school board several times when the budget was defeated and we sat with the mayor and council to discuss cuts to the school budget. The only disheartening thing is that during the budget hearings, the mayor and council members didn't attend those hearings. I have to admit, I have been remiss in attending council budget hearings. I did attend one this year and I attended this week's council meeting, where Mr. Cullen did a terrific job in presenting the budget for the municipality to the community. It's a shame more people didn't come out to listen to the presentation. The only thing is, the community doesn't have the right to vote on the municipal budget.

I have been reading and listening to the rhetoric regarding Republicans from the past. I feel that you cannot put all people of an organization into one pool and say that they are all the same. That is simply not true. I am a

Submit Letters to the Editor:

South Plainfield Observer
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Letters may be submitted by email at our website at spobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. We reserve the right to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. *Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher.*

taxpayer also, and I will do all I can to see that taxes are held down. The "pay as you go" system is a good thing. The debt service for the town is down, due to several reasons. One reason is the fact that vehicles are now leased, instead of purchased. It doesn't mean that the municipality is spending less, just in a different form.

I can defend anything I did while a member of the school board. My primary focus was the students and faculty of the district, as well as the taxpayers of the community. If elected as a member of the council, I will continue to watch out for all community members. We truly have a wonderful community. When any tragedy happens, the community opens its hearts and hands and helps wherever possible. It is not just one party or another. Everyone must work together to keep this community as strong as it is today.

SINCERELY,
MARJORIE M. REEDY, REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL

To the Editor,

I just received an invitation to an Art Auction, addressed to the parent of a "South Plainfield Ponytail player." I no longer fit in that category!

Take me off your mailing list immediately! Do not send anymore information to my house!

Apparently you (the author) are not aware that Veronica was booted (in a cowardly fashion) from the 10 and under all-star team thanks to Steve Senz, Mark Sutherland and Mike English, simply because her parents are divorced. I feel I have also been persecuted unjustly.

Veronica has played recreation softball in town for four years and I coached for three and was asked to be the head coach of a B league team and head coach of the all-star next year by Mark Sutherland.

I had asked Steve to call and get a ruling from Joe Hulnick (Parkway Association), regarding Veronica being eligible. This was never done! Subsequently, I called and was told that Veronica had every right to play in South Plainfield.

Veronica and I have been injured to the extent that we no longer wish to

participate in any recreation activities in South Plainfield.

Congratulations, you have permanently scarred a sweet little 10-year-old girl who worked her heart out to make the team and be the best she could possibly be!

What you have done is biased, prejudicial and downright SHAMEFUL, and I sincerely hope that your children never have to experience the pain and suffering Veronica has gone through.

REGRETFULLY,
GLEN ETTMAN

To the Editor

I think instead of calling this the "silly season," we should rename it to "the season for ridiculous and libelous letters from the Republican party." We have a letter from Mr. Romano attacking our police department....we have one of the finest police departments within the state and Mr. Romano thinks all they do is "joy ride and waste tax dollars!" Not only do our men in blue keep our streets safe, many volunteer their time to our youth in town through various sports and activities.

Next Mr. Romano and Mr. Haus have personally attacked me. Mr. Romano, you asked in your letter "Who is Darlene Pinto telling a person he should be allowed to run for office or not?" Maybe you and the rest of your party should reread my letter....what I did say is that after Mr. Caltado lost his bid for Mayor the first time, what has he done during that year span to get involved within the community. What bonds, agencies, community groups has he been actively involved with to acquaint himself with South Plainfield as it is TODAY, not as it was when he was growing up. Has he regularly attended council, zoning, planning, environmental... any meetings to keep abreast of the issues, so when he did decide to resurface he had facts?

Mr. Romano stated I owned "a junk store" before I ran for office. First of all, Twice is Nice was a consignment store, if you don't know the difference I suggest you research and get the facts. My consignment store helped many in our community help put clothes on their children's backs that they could not afford at the big store prices. I also donated many clothes to abused women and their children. Most of my profits were spent on a regular basis to feed and help many needy people, not just during "holidays," everyday!!!

Prior to running for office I was a member of the Planning Board and attended most council meetings. I have always attended open houses for the rescue squad and fire department. I was treasurer of my children's school HSA and with the help of some other dedicated volunteers, ran one of the most successful fundraisers for that school. I have been involved with any organization my children have been involved with prior, during and after my term. I have also been involved with the Business Group and the Public Celebrations Committee for many years.

Mr. Haus, while you are correct I was not born and raised in South Plainfield, I have worked in South Plainfield since 1980. You may recall

this since you and I worked quite well together when you were the tax collector and I the Assistant Manager at the local bank, the Borough did business with. I have worked in town for 22 years and have lived in South Plainfield 17 of those years... so I am not a newcomer to town!!!

Shame on you all for these personal attacks and attempting to trash borough employees, our police department and now a person who had a consignment shop that helped those less fortunate than ourselves!!!

Mr. Caltado, Ms. Reedy and Mr. Champion....these letters attacking people dedicated to our town are a reflection of all of you, since you are allowing these attacks to continue week after week. Now your party is conducting your hostile letter campaign against borough employees and now entrepreneurs is so disgraceful!

Dan Gallagher, Jim Vokral, Ed Kubala and the entire Democratic team would never allow attacks to our police department, borough employees and to citizens who constantly volunteer their time and give back to this fine community we live in.

DARLENE M. PINTO

Due to an error, the following letter was not printed in its entirety last week. We apologize for the error.

Dear Editor:

On the anniversary of September 11, our family community in South Plainfield joined people from all over our powerful nation in a memorial candlelight service. Spending the first anniversary with our South Plainfield family, friends and neighbors was truly healing. This day's event would not have happened without the hard work and dedication of Chief Robert Merkle, Emergency Management Coordinator Michael Zushma and Sgt. Kevin Murtagh. Thank God for these men.

Thank you to the South Plainfield Marching Band, Color Guard, Chorus, South Plainfield Police Honor Guard, Mayor and Council, clergy and bagpiper. This night would not have been complete without our own fire, rescue squad and police departments.

Thank you all and of course thank you to my friends who I can always count on. That night the stars were out. These stars were the souls of the victims of 2001 looking down on South Plainfield and saying thank you South Plainfield for remembering us.

May God Bless all of you and God Bless America.

MARION GALLAGHER

Dear Editor,

I just read the letter from a lady who seems to feel that the school tax increase should be blamed on one person, Mrs. Marjorie Reedy. That was a real joke!

You are misleading the taxpayers. Our taxes didn't go up just a few dollars as you stated, my taxes went up \$300 dollars. You failed to mention that a new school is being built on the South Side, along with numerous updates and repairs to all schools. A few years ago, the taxpayers voted against the new school, however after a few times the taxpayers voted in favor of the new school and updates to other schools.

(Continued on page 6)

Mark your calendars

council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Thursday.

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

AGENDA MEETING **PUBLIC MEETING**

Monday, October 7 Thursday, October 10

Monday, October 21 Thursday, October 24

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

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

Oct. 8, Oct. 22, Nov. 12, Nov. 26, Dec. 10, Dec. 24 (no meeting)

zoning board of adjustment

Meets on Thursdays

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

Oct. 3, Oct. 17, Nov. 14, Nov. 21, Dec. 5, Dec. 19

South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

G&G Graphics, Inc.
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

Web page:
www.spobserver.com

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

NANCY GRENNIER
Publisher/Editor

WAYNE GRENNIER
Associate Publisher

SUSAN KANEPS
Art Director/Associate Editor

PATRICIA ABBOTT
Staff Writer/Photographer

TIM MORGAN
Sports Writer

CAROL GRENNIER
Editorial Assistant

CATHLEEN FODOR
Production Assistant

BOBBY HUNTER
Sports Writer

KENNETH MORGAN
Correspondent

ROXANNE CORTESE
JANE DORNICK, WILLIAM TUTHILL

Advertising Sales

The South Plainfield Observer (U.S.P.S. 018253) is published weekly, except Thanksgiving week, by G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Second class postage paid at South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080-9998. POSTMASTER: Forward change of address orders to G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Subscription rates \$25 per year in South Plainfield; \$30 per year out of town. To subscribe: 908-668-0010.

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 at spobserver.com or ggan@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 their name be omitted when published.

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On Monday, Sept. 23 L.A. Dreyfus Co., located on Park Ave. donated \$600 to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad to be used toward the purchase of a new computer. Lt. Peter Magnani, representing the rescue squad, accepted the check from Tung Tran, a South Plainfield resident. He is the Group Leader-Production for the second shift.

Public Invited to Superintendent Search Critical Input Session

South Plainfield School District is holding a Superintendent Search-Community Input Session on Tuesday, Oct. 8, from 7 to 8 p.m. at Grant School Gym on Cromwell Place.

The Board of Education invites you to attend this critical issues input session to garner information to be used to set criteria for the background, training and experience necessary for the new superintendent of schools. Our search consultant, *Carole Preen*, New Jersey School Boards Association, will explain the search procedure, the roles played by the Board, the staff and the public in the process, and the calendar for the actual search. Discussion will center on the strengths, concerns, on-going issues and future initiatives that will face the new superintendent. Information gathered, together with input from other focus groups, will be used to shape a variety of candidate review

documents and the interview questions.

Please plan to attend this important meeting. For more information, please call the Board office at (908) 754-4620.

Winter Hours At Yard Waste Site Start October 1

The South Plainfield Recycling Center and the Yard Waste Site on Kenneth Ave. will be on their winter schedule beginning Oct. 1.

The regular winter schedule at the Recycling Center is: Tuesdays 12 noon to 7 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The regular winter Yard Waste Site schedule is Saturdays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

Local Author's Book Signing at Brush Stop

By Patricia Abbott

Catherine Dixon Leigh grew up on Norwood Ave. in South Plainfield and as she grew, so did her dreams of becoming a writer. As a child she spent hours writing poetry and short stories, longing for the day when she could call herself an author. Her dream became a reality with her first book *Lost In the Flood*. The debut novelist will host a book signing for the suspenseful page-turner on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 2-5 p.m. at The Brush Stop at 132 South Plainfield Avenue (next door to Drug Fair).

Lost in the Flood is a tragic tale of two families struggling to survive in a chaotic world plagued by self destruction and turmoil. It spans the mid-sixties through the seventies offering the reader a nostalgic look into the past while exploring issues of domestic violence, racism, the torment of suicide as well as the hope of healing. It presents the reader with a diverse cast of characters, each one unique yet tied together by tragedy and the hope of one day overcoming a troubled past.

The story begins in 1965, the conflict in Vietnam escalates into war; the youth of our nation are protesting for peace, and in West Grove, NJ the lives of the Vista family and O'Neill family are as turbulent as the nation's political climate. With both family units deteriorating, the children are left as victims, lost in a dysfunctional world.

Lost In The Flood was published in June of this year by iUniverse. The print-on-demand company is the largest independent publisher in the U.S. with more than 5,000 new titles per year. Their publishing programs are endorsed by organizations such as the Authors Guild, ASJA, and the Mystery Writers of America. The company's major investors include Warburg Pincus and Barnes & Noble. *Lost in the Flood* was recently ranked number three on iUniverse's best-sellers list. Considering their list of 10,000 titles, Catherine can be proud of her ranking.

In July, Catherine appeared on

New Jersey's News 12, *Jersey's Talking* with Lee Leonard to promote the book. She has a book signing at Barnes & Noble in Eatontown scheduled for Nov. 29.

Catherine attended Sacred Heart School in South Plainfield, before moving on to Thomas Aquinas High School (Bishop Ahr High School) in Edison. Despite her interest in writing she was more involved in sports throughout her school years. She started several novels, but the time constraints and challenging pace of college prevented them from coming to fruition. She graduated from Seton Hall University in 1985 and moved quickly into the business world, leaving her dreams at a stand still.

Ten years flew by before she realized she had yet to fulfill her life-long dream. Setting her sights on attaining her goal, she began an outline for the book in late 1995. By spring of 1996 details for the book consumed her every waking moment. She took the next frightening step and cashed

in everything she owned and quit her job and began seriously work on the book. She spent 10-12 hours a day sometimes seven days a week writing. Her social life became a thing of the past. Describing the process of creating her book as a 'journey', she said "It was absolutely amazing, painful, joyous, scary...you name the emotion I felt it and lived it. Writing a book is intense hard work. I sacrificed everything to pursue my dream. I have never done anything so difficult yet so rewarding in my life."

She returned to work while the lengthy editing process began. She then reached another stumbling block; searching for an agent or publisher to take on her novel and became familiar with a writer's arch enemy; rejection. She said, "I learned that agents and editors are not very receptive to new unknown writers. I learned to realize that rejection was subjective on their parts although very hard to take. I read everything and anything I could about how to get

Continued on page 12

GOP to Honor Cataldo, Reedy, Champion, and Little

South Plainfield's Republican Organization will host a reception for mayoral candidate Jake Cataldo and council candidates Marge Reedy and Geoff Champion at Flannigan's Restaurant & Pub on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 2 to 4 p.m.

In addition to honoring Cataldo, Reedy and Champion, the GOP will present a special award to South Plainfield's favorite son, Dennis Little. Little, who is well known in town, has served as the local GOP's chairman for many years and he then went on to chair the Middlesex County Republican Organization for more than a decade.

Little is currently a state official, and served on the South Plainfield Borough Council in the 1980's. He then went on to become the county clerk for Middlesex County beginning in 1994. After serving for years as the

county chairman for the county GOP, Little retired from the job in June. He continues to support the county organization, as well as serve as a county committee person in South Plainfield.

Tickets for the event, which include food and an open bar, can be purchased from GOP Chair David Guoth (908) 705-0068. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Domestic Violence Exhibit at Library

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The South Plainfield Library will have an exhibit on display during the month of October during regular library hours. A team member will be at the library to answer any questions on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 p.m.

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Events

Wesley Methodist to Hold Open House

Month of September

Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave. would like to welcome everyone to "Open House Month" for September.

These special Sundays include our Coffee Hour, fellowship time and a tour through a church that has been serving the South Plainfield area for over 100 years.

Ecumenical Praise Service has resumed at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

For more information, call Pastor Leono at (908) 757-2838.

Czestochowa Plans Spaghetti Supper

September 28

The Rosary Society at Our Lady of Czestochowa will be holding a spaghetti supper in the Parish Hall, located at 907 Hamilton Blvd., on Saturday, September 28 from 4 to 8 p.m.

Cost for adults is \$7, senior citizens are \$6, children 5-12 are \$3.50 and under five are free.

Ponytail Softball Mtg. Date Change

New Date-Sept 30

The South Plainfield Parents' Association will hold their next meeting on Monday Sept. 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the SP Middle School library. If you are interested in becoming a member and being involved in girl's Ponytail Softball, please join us on Sept. 30. We welcome new members.

SPHS Music Boosters Club Meeting

October 2

The SPHS Music Booster Club meeting will be held on Oct. 2, at 7 p.m. in the band/chorus room. All parents of music students are encouraged and invited to attend. We will be discussing our Band Festival to be held on Oct. 20. We need many hands to help with this event. We will also be discussing fundraisers and paper drive. Please plan to attend. Any

What's happening in SEPTEMBER

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

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

Senior Center EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
EVENTS Line Dancing Begins Oct. 30 • 10 am Flu Shots Oct. 15, 10 am				
Walking Club 9 AM 30 Adult Crafts 10:30-11:30 Yoga 10:30-11:30 AM	Bingo 10AM-2PM 1	Atlantic City 9 AM 2 Walking Club 9AM Movie 11:30 AARP Crafts 1 PM AARP Board Mtg. 2PM	Shopping at Pathmark 9AM Practical Crafting 10-11AM 3	Walking Club 9 AM 27 Bingo 10 AM-2 PM Pizza 11:30 AM (\$2) 4
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.				

questions, please call Marge Reedy at (908) 561-3951.

Senior Center Trip To Taj Mahal

October 2

Let's win some money at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City on Wednesday, Oct. 2!

The Senior Center is sponsoring the trip. The cost is \$15 per person. Bus leaves the center at 9 a.m. and returns at 7 p.m.

Non-members are also welcome. Register at the PAL on Maple Ave.

Open Your Heart to Cruise on Cornucopia

October 4

A benefit for children battling cancer and blood disorders will be held Friday, Oct. 4, aboard the Cornucopia Princess, out of Perth Amboy.

The Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, a non-profit organization, formed by a group of Realtor-Associates at Century 21 Moretti Realty, is accepting requests for seating reservations aboard the Cornucopia.

Tickets can be purchased at \$100

per person, which includes dinner and dancing on two private decks aboard the Cornucopia Princess and a silent auction. Seating is limited, so reserve your seats by calling (908) 755-5051, ext. 406.

Many businesses offer a Matching Gifts Program; check with your company to see if they have this program. Monetary pledges will also be accepted for this worthwhile cause. To find out more about how you can help, call (908) 755-5051.

Ponytail Parents to Hold Art Auction

October 4

The Ponytail Parents Association will hold an Art Auction on Friday, Oct. 4, a variety of artwork, including sports memorabilia will be available for purchase. The preview is from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Auction begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person. Soft drinks, finger sandwiches and desserts will be available. MasterCard, Visa, Discover and American Express will be accepted.

For ticket information call (908) 791-9439 or (908) 756-2823.

Columbiettes Holding Charity Fashion Show

October 6

The South Plainfield Columbiettes will hold a charity fashion show and luncheon on Sunday, Oct. 6 at the Knights of Columbus Hall located at 334 Hamilton Blvd. Doors open at 12:30 p.m.

Cost is \$20 and includes a family-style luncheon, catered by Flanagan's and a fall fashion show for misses and women's sizes, provided by Dress Barn and Dress Barn Woman of South Plainfield. Door prizes will be drawn. Proceeds from the event will go to support local charities in the area.

Space is limited, tickets must be purchased by Oct. 2. For tickets or information, contact Geraldine Diegnan at (908) 753-2032.

Roosevelt Plans Penny Sale/Auction

October 12

The Roosevelt School P.T.A. will conduct a "Penny Sale/Auction" on Oct. 12 at the South Plainfield Middle School.

Their goal is to raise \$12,000 for the fifth grade's two day class trip to Stokes State Forest in Montague in November of 2002. This amount,

large as it appears, will cover meals, lodging, transportation and special educational programs for the 90 students projected to attend.

For tickets or information, please call Cindy at (732) 248-1596.

Rainbow Academy Open House

October 12

Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an Open House on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

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

Dinner to Honor Former Police Deputy Chief

October 12

Tulio Caparelli, former South Plainfield deputy chief of the police department will be honored at a dinner on Saturday, Oct. 12 at the Senior Citizens Center, for his dedication to the youth of South Plainfield.

Cost of the dinner is \$15. Anyone interested in attending, please visit the PAL Building on Maple Ave. to purchase a ticket.

SPHS Classes of 1972-73 Reunion

October 12

A joint reunion of the South Plainfield High School classes of 1972 and

1973 will be held on Oct. 12, at the Clarion Hotel and Towers Windsor Ballroom on Rte. 27, Edison.

If you are a member of either class, contact the organizers listed below.

For information, call the Clarion, (732) 287-3500; JoAnne Kaschak Catelli, (732) 286-4310; or Carol Garrubbo Boyer, (908) 771-0901.

Trip to Broadway's 'Movin' Out' PRICE REDUCED

October 16

On Oct. 16, the South Plainfield Recreation will sponsor a trip to see Billy Joel's new hit musical, *Moving Out*. The cost is \$75 and includes transportation and orchestra seat tickets. Leave from PAL at 4 p.m.

For info, call the PAL at (908) 226-7713.

Sen. Ctr. to Sponsor Dinner Theatre Trips

October 17 & December 23

The South Plainfield Senior Citizen Center will be sponsoring two dinner theatre trips.

The first trip is Oct. 17 to the Lafayette House, featuring the Ragtime Grannies. Cost is \$40 per person. The second is on Dec. 23 to the Hunterdon Playhouse for their "Christmas Show." Cost is \$50 per person.

For information and registration contact the PAL at (908) 226-7713.

Seniors' Trip to the Woodlock Pines

Oct. 28-Nov. 1

South Plainfield Senior Citizens are planning a trip to Woodlock Pines from Oct. 28 through Nov. 1.

If you are interested or have questions, call Leader Mikie Panzarella at (908) 755-2487.

DARE Walk-A-Thon Planned

November 3

The first annual DARE Walk-A-Thon is planned on Nov. 3 at Spring Lake Park. Ceremonies begin at 11 a.m. All children in South Plainfield will benefit from this program.

If anyone is interested in walking and/or donating, please contact ATA Blackbelt Academy's Tiffany Lewis at (908) 755-5440.

Help make our DARE program Walk-A-Thon a Success!

SPHS Class of 1982 Reunion

November 9

South Plainfield High School Class of 1982 announced that plans are underway for their 20 year reunion. The date is Saturday, Nov. 9.

If you have a new address or know of other classmates' whereabouts, contact Rosanne Demico-Ilardo at (732) 878-9877. Please log onto www.classmates.com for more reunion information.

South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department

123 Maple Avenue
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080
(908) 756-4701

WINE TASTING

Sponsored by Oak Tree Discount Wines & Spirits

Saturday, November 9, 2002
6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Embassy Suites, Piscataway, NJ

Tickets - \$40 per person

Ticket price includes:

Wine Tasting Reception 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Cash Bar, DJ and Dancing 9 p.m. - 11 p.m.

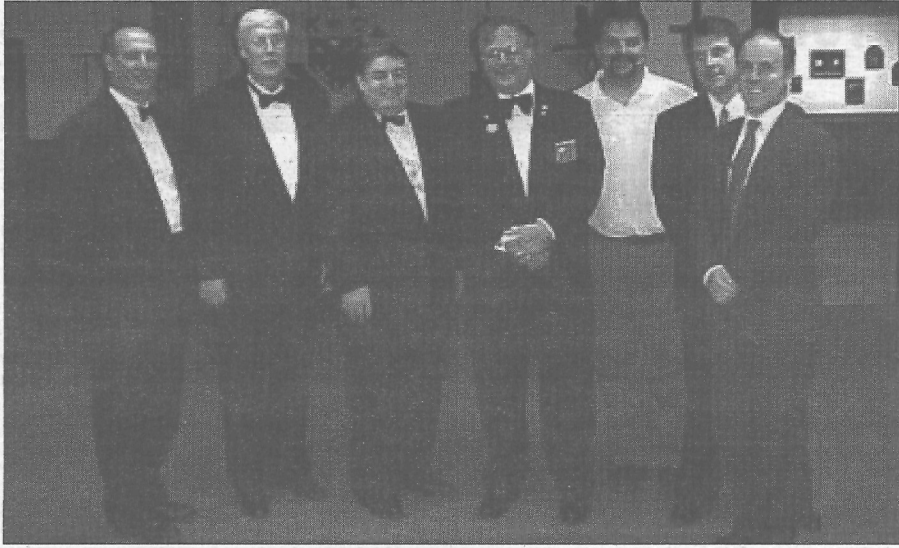
Special Hotel Room Rates Available for Overnight Stay

For Tickets or More Information

Please Contact:
Mike Gallagher (908) 755-9874

Send Your Events to:

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



Knights of Columbus Installs 2002-03 Officers

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus held their installation of officers ceremony on Sept. 21 to install the incoming Knights 2002-2003 Officers. The ceremony was held at Sacred Heart church, followed by a dinner at the Knights Hall.

The 2002-2003 Officers are as follows:

3rd Degree Officers are: *Chaplin*-Father John Paul Alvarado, *Grand Knight*-Pat Bonaventura, *Deputy Grand Knight*-Jim Shea, *Chancellor*-Joe Scudato, *Recorder*-Larry Makoski, *Financial Secretary*-Greg Lewis, *Treasurer*-Steve Belinger, *Lecturers*-Mike Mannix and Mark O'Brien, *Advocate*-Gene Baker, *War-*

den-Greg Rhein, *Inside Guard*-Bill Hartmann, *Inside Guard*-Dave Fraser, *Outside Guard*-Frank Dominguez, *Outside Guard*-Jim Vokral, *1-year Trustee*-Lenny Kleczkowski, *2-year Trustee*-Paul Grzenda, *3-year Trustee*-John Weakley.

4th Degree Officers are: *Friar*-Father John Paul Alvarado, *Navigator*-Pat Bonaventura, *Captain*-Bob Walker, *Pilot*-Joe Scudato, *Admiral*-Don Baymen, *Scribe*-Larry Makoski, *Purser*-Gene Baker, *Comptroller*-Frank Dominguez, *Inside Sentinel*-Al Nelson, *Outside Sentinel*-Vacant, *1-year Trustee*-Paul Grzenda, *2-year Trustee*-Lenny Kleczkowski, *3-year Trustee*-Al Musmanno.

southplainfield people Milestones



Colin Michael Farrell

Farrells Welcome Birth of Son

Erin and Chris Farrell are proud to announce the birth of a son, Colin Michael Farrell, who was born on July 25 at 2:53 p.m. at St. Peter's Hospital in New Brunswick. Colin weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces and was 19½ inches long.

Share Your Good News!

Send your milestones to the Observer at 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or email: ggnan@aol.com

Believe It or Not? Strange Sightings in South Plainfield

By Jane Dornick

The Observer received a call from Liquid Assets owner John Colasanti, this past July. He explained that his security camera had captured some unusual images in his New Market Ave. parking lot late one night and thought we might be interested in sharing his story. Little did we realize how interesting and mysterious this tale would become.

According to Colasanti, a ghost-like image was recorded on a security tape late one night when the parking lot was empty. Thinking there was something wrong with the video, he asked a specialist from Freedom Security Systems, who supplied the software, to check out the video. They studied the recording, tried several different ways to recreate the image, but could not. They summed up by saying they were not sure what it was—or wasn't.

That is when the Observer decided to look at the video and see if there was a story. All were skeptical—but intrigued—and thought at the least it could make for good reading!

Several days later Colasanti brought a copy of the video to the Observer and it was viewed by our staff and several

other visitors in our office. All were in awe of the indescribable image that looked as if it were dancing across the screen. A "non-believer" chose to explain away the image, saying it might have been caused by a flashing light. But the majority of those gathered had no reasonable explanation and thought that it might actually be one of those inexplicable things that happens now and then.

Over the next few weeks, news spread of the video and people came in to see it for themselves. Each time someone looked at the video, we received the same comments, that it was worth looking into. No one could offer an explanation as to the image on the video.

Shortly after viewing the video, this reporter went back to talk to Colasanti who reiterated tales he had heard about tragedies which had occurred on the property many years ago. Several people who viewed the video also added their own stories about the area around the bar.

One story was of small children and their mother perishing in a house fire many years ago. Another was of a man who, after visiting the bar, was later found dead next to the railroad tracks after being struck by a train. A neighbor in the area claims his dog barks at the same time every night and is spooked when taken on evening walks. Employees of the bar related strange experiences during working



Liquid Assets catches an unexplained image on videotape. Pictured below is Jane Doherty, psychic consultant, during her visit.



hours, some of them prior to the image being caught on tape.

After all the stories and our continued curiosity we sought out someone with knowledge of the supernatural. A referral led us to psychic consultant and Plainfield resident Jane Doherty. Doherty, a former high school English

teacher, now spends most of her time as a lecturer and teaching courses in the paranormal.

As a young girl, Doherty said she knew she had some sort of gift. She would stare trance-like out her bedroom window, envisioning past and future images, but an out-of-body experience later in life convinced her to begin looking into the phenomena more seriously. Through hypnosis she was able to go into a deep trance and discovered that she was not only clairvoyant, but could see and hear spirits.

As a ghost investigator, Doherty has been the subject of numerous articles in publications such as the *New York Times* and has made appearances on NBC's *Today Show* and the TV series *Sightings*. Currently she is a radio personality on two bi-weekly psychic call-in shows on WCTC 1450AM and WJHR 1040AM. Doherty has also been called by the Plainfield Police Department to help in investigations.

After contacting Doherty, she agreed to come in and view the video. When she saw the image, she immediately felt there was definitely some kind of spirit haunting the building.

Doherty asked to meet with the property's owner and take a walk through the building to see what ghosts she might conjure up. This reporter joined Doherty on her investigation. We visited Liquid Assets midday, and afterwards Doherty surmised that there were at least four ghosts present there. She also questioned the owner about how the building appeared years ago, which we will discuss in future stories.

Since the original sighting on July 12, there have been two similar mysterious images captured on tape. Some time in the next few weeks, we intend to go back at night because Doherty believes that "spirits are more active late in the evening."

Find out more about Jane Doherty by logging on to JaneDoherty.com.

Watch upcoming issues for our continuing story of "Strange Sightings in South Plainfield."

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You're Invited....

Local Author

Catherine Dixon Leigh

will host a Book Signing
of her recently published novel
"Lost in the Flood"

on September 28 between 2-5 p.m.



The event will take place at
The Brush Stop
located at 132 South Plainfield Ave.
(next to the Drug Fair)

Don't Miss
This Unique
Opportunity!

Light hors'douevres will be served, so
bring your book or buy one there and
show your support for a local writer.

IN YOUR OPINION

Continued from page 2

Voters were promised by Frank Mikorski, president of the Board of Education, that most of the money would come from the State of New Jersey Educational System, but now Democratic Governor McGreevy cut the educational budget and now again the taxpayers must pay! Our Democratic Mayor and Council approved the apartment complex off Montrose Ave., "affordable housing" was built on Durham Ave. and Rt. 287 numerous single family homes are being built and more are proposed, all on the south side. They also approved the 300 condo units built on New Durham Ave. Now they are going to build 800 more units of housing on the old Tingley Rubber Site, which was kept SECRET! The Board of Education felt a need for a new school with a large amount of children anticipated, but guess what? It didn't happen. Most of your Board of Education members are Democrats and got what they wanted as they knew about the increase in housing without telling the taxpayers! So, before you go blaming one person, start from the leader on down, the Democratic Mayor and Council, it was their idea to build and build and build with no regard to taxpayers.

ANDREW MCCUMBER
SOUTH PLAINFIELD

To the Editor,

The Mayor's been snoozing instead of paying attention again. In his letter to the paper last week, he asked me to support our police department. I've been. Either he hasn't read what I've written, or he's becoming forgetful.

This is what I said in the papers just two weeks ago: "But let me be perfectly clear: I support our hard-working police officers. I was one of them, and I know they face a difficult task." In fact, in the same issue as Gallagher's insult, I also publicly thanked our police department for its work at the Traditions fire. The mayor is simply trying once again to deflect honest criticism of his administration by distorting the criticism and then attacking the distortion.

The mayor did bring up a legitimate

point when he said that two recent letters—authored by people unassociated with my campaign—made unfair comments about the police. Frankly, when I read the letters it hurt me to think people might associate me with that criticism. As a retired police officer and former PBA president, it offends me when people say things about my friends on the force.

So I answer the Mayor's question: Yes, I support our police—wholeheartedly. That does not mean, however, that I will stand for a high crime rate if I get elected. We should be in the bottom half of the list, not the top half. More importantly, we should recognize a problem when we have one. The Mayor's rose-colored glasses are so dark he is unable to see through them.

The Democrats in their news release last week said the total crime rate is unimportant because it includes petty offenses like shoplifting. That's their opinion. The new crime statistics for 2001-2002 came out last week. The figures show that violent crime remained the same, but that so-called "petty offenses like shoplifting" went down significantly. While the Democrats may not think this is important, I congratulate our hard-working police officers for this accomplishment. Even a reduction in shoplifting is noteworthy.

Also, if I get elected, I hope to work with our police chief and his department to bring down violent crime. While the Democrats say we have "one of the lowest violent crime statistics in the county," we are actually eighth-highest out of the 25 towns. That's not one of the lowest. In fact, since 1999, violent crime has gone up. The Democrats are right when they say that violent crime is the most important statistic. We need to get to work on that, and that will be one of my goals if elected.

I've now answered the Mayor's question with an unmistakable yes: I support our police. Maybe now he will honor my request. Stop trying to drive a wedge between me and the hard-working people who serve our town. I am sticking to the issues. Please do the same.

JAKE CATALDO, CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR

To the Editor,

The signs for the Democrats in South Plainfield read, "No New Taxes, Again, Again and Again." What town are they living in? The taxes have risen steadily again, again and again (except for the year the Democrats were elected). Strange, isn't it? Jake Cataldo, Marge Reedy and Geoff Champion are addressing the issues.

I live in South Plainfield and commute to Rutgers University in Piscataway. I have to go all the way around to Talmadge Road in Edison to get to work. I cannot go on Hamilton Boulevard. I would never get to work on time.

What about the sewer taxes? They went from \$75 a year to \$200 a year. The sewers are old and decaying. I recently had to replace my entire sewer line. What are we still paying for? Was the Sewer Authority any help to me? NO.

This Election Day, November 5, vote for Jake Cataldo, Marge Reedy and Geoff Champion as their signs say, "We Win, You Win" and we need to win!!

JOAN ELLIOTT

To the Editor:

Tax rates are certified annually for each municipality by the Middlesex Board of Taxation. There appears to be a deference of opinion between the political parties in South Plainfield as to whether the local tax rate has gone up or down or remained flat during Mr. Gallagher's tenure as mayor. The Democrats are running on platform of no tax increases. One of their candidates, Mr. Kubala, claims "our local taxes have remained flat three of the last five years."

The following are the actual annual local tax rates as certified by the Middlesex Board of Taxation, beginning with 1995 which is the year Mr. Gallagher took office: 1995-.59; 1996-.66; 1997-.72; 1998-.76; 1999-.75; 2000-.801; 2001-.861 and 2002-.861.

The tax rate determines how much you pay in taxes. You be the judge. Did your taxes go up or down during Mr. Gallagher's tenure? Did your taxes "remain flat" three of the last five years? You can contact the Middlesex Board

of Taxation at (732) 745-3350 to verify these rates. Who can you believe on this issue? The answer seems pretty obvious and it's not the Democrats.

CHARLES C. HAUS

Dear Editor,

As I read the letters to the editor placed by the Republican candidates and their supporters, I said to myself there must be a word for what they are trying to do. Even though there has been no municipal tax increase in three of the last five years, they say it isn't so. Even though the borough debt has been reduced by almost \$10 million dollars, they say there isn't "pay as you go" government. Even though the most recent crime statistics show South Plainfield's crime rate has gone down every year and is one of the lowest, they call us a crime-ridden town.

So again I said to myself there must be a word for this. What is it called when somebody purposely tries to confuse things? What is the word for wanting to avoid the facts? Well low and behold, I found two words in the dictionary that describe the Republican letter writers. One is "Obfuscate" which means, "to confuse, perplex or bewilder." Obfuscate is a verb. Lets put it in sentence. Jake Cataldo wants to obfuscate the facts about South Plainfield's tax rate. The second word is "Obscurant" which means "one who obscures by hindering educational progress." A good use of that word in a sentence would be: The Republican campaign is being managed by an obscurant. Just think we have all learned two new words that we otherwise would have never heard of. Political campaigns can be educational after all!

COUNCILMAN RAYMOND PETRONKO

Dear Editor,

In last weeks paper Dan Gallagher really went too far. He had no right degrading Mr. Cataldo for letters sent to the paper about the police. The situation they were referring to was about one police officer, not the entire police department. If he actually read all of the letters as I have been. Then he went on to include 9/11/01 which had absolutely nothing to do with the subject of the letters.

The fact of the matter is, South Plainfield had a police officer involved in an accident and convicted of DWI and you even commented publicly in the newspaper, so you can't deny even saying it. To make matters worse in Friday's Courier News, Sept. 20, 2002 edition, a man from Plainfield named Jeff Satkin told of his bad experience with the South Plainfield police.

It seems every time anyone says anything good about Mr. Cataldo and bad about you or any situation in town that they are totally disgusted with, you reply with incorrect, off the wall re-

marks and distort what is actually said.
RICHARD J. MARTINI

Letter to the Editor:

What's the difference between \$40 million dollars, \$30 million dollars and \$20 million dollars?

Obviously whatever suits your politically expedient needs is the answer.

These are numbers that Mayor Gallagher and his political machine have recklessly been throwing around for most of their nine year reign over South Plainfield government. Depending on the winds of any given campaign, the number becomes a movable target.

The Democrats have attacked the Republican Party and me, as an advisor, for borrowing a sum of money that changes from year to year to accommodate their political agenda, (letter to the editor from Councilman Kubala 9/30 edition of the Observer). It has become their mantra.

Before Mayor Gallagher can deceitfully manipulate another four year term as mayor, I feel a need to set the record straight. The amount of the borrowing done in 1993 by the Republican majority was \$10 million. Of course \$10 million is no small pittance, but it pales in comparison with the \$40, \$30 or even \$20 million the democrats have used as their campaign hallmark in recent years.

It is well past time to give Mr. Kubala and friends a South Plainfield history lesson.

The borrowing of \$10 million in 1993 was in no small part the result the choices of Mr. Gallagher, a Councilman at that time and fellow councilmember Mr. Pulomena. They opted to take the political low road when faced with the choice of paying for court ordered tax refunds by refinancing or raising the money through an oppressive tax increase. Of course they voted for the tax increase. They were in the minority on the governing body and could lay the blame on the Republicans. Damned were the taxpayers who had to pay for their political agenda.

Now the untold story is that the \$10 million borrowed by the Republicans was, in today's parlance "a refinancing." A refinancing which gave the Democrats a healthy surplus to create their "pay as you go" philosophy. That money was borrowed in part for the settlement of a major sewer dispute with the city of Plainfield, the reconstruction of Hadley Road, a 10 year road improvement program, the construction of Senior Housing and not the least of all a surplus to defray tax increases in the succeeding 10 years.

Guess what? Now the Democrats take credit for all those accomplishments and in yesterday's parlance call it "pay as you go."

Enough already! South Plainfield needs a change!

JIM ECKERT

Dear Editor,
Attacks, Attacks, Attacks, that is all I am reading from the Republican party. Where are facts? Why are they running for office to attack citizens that have served and continue to serve South Plainfield? Ms. Pinto wrote a letter asking what Mr. Cataldo has done since he last ran for office, well many are curious...what have you done Mr. Cataldo? Is that an unfair question to someone who wants to be Mayor of South Plainfield. It doesn't matter what you did when you were
Continued on next page

The Community of
South Plainfield
is invited to a

**Mayor and Borough Council
Candidates' Debate**

on Wednesday, October 23
at Roosevelt School, Hamilton Blvd.
7:30 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served

**2002
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Your Vote Counts!
Get Out and Vote
November 5, 2002

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President
908-822-0090
2325 Plainfield Ave. Suite 2E South Plainfield, NJ

WANTED: PIANO STOOL

The Senior Center is very grateful for the donation of a piano, but we are now in need of a piano stool. If you can help, please call Sue Mischka at 908-754-1047.

IN YOUR OPINION

Continued from page 6

17-years-old. What have you done in the last four years to better position yourself to be Mayor? To gain the voters confidence?

So far all you have done is attack a former councilwoman who always volunteers her time to South Plainfield. Your party attacks her small business that served a need for many in our town. The only "junk" in South Plainfield are the letters from the Republican party.

So is it the position of the Republican party if you are not born and raised in this town, you can serve no purpose in town. The majority of the population of South Plainfield are not born and raised...so your party is against them as well? Your party is against law enforcers...your party has stated they are constantly joy riding and wasting tax dollars. Another member of your party attacked the downtown area, does anyone in your party realize the times we are in right now? Small businesses are closing because of the times not because the beautification of the downtown didn't help their business. The benches, lights, roadways were accomplished with grant monies, not taxpayer's dollars, so one could interpret your party is against using grant money as well. If South Plainfield didn't use that grant money for the downtown it would of just went to the next town that was willing to use it.

Mr. Cataldo you stated you wanted an issue-oriented campaign and you and your party have done just the opposite. You have attacked people who are dedicated to this town, men and women who provide safety to our town, a Mayor and Council who have found innovative ways of improving our town without tax dollars.

I think your party should rethink before they write...remember the old adage if you have nothing nice to say don't say it.

Many people are curious, can you answer a question without personally attacking...What have you done Mr. Cataldo for the last four years for South Plainfield? What committees have you been involved with? Is this the type of Mayor you will be to attack people when questioned? Are you against using grant money to beautify the downtown or other areas of South Plainfield? Are you against small businesses that serve our community? I think these letters you authorize in the paper speak for themselves.

The Democrats have done a great job in South Plainfield, encouraged all types of businesses and for all people to volunteer their time without ridicule or attacks. There should not be a

question in anyone's mind after reading these letters submitted from the Republican party...VOTE DEMOCRAT ALL THE WAY!!!!

SINCERELY,
MARY VAN NEST

To the Editor,

I am a Sergeant for the Corrections Department. Every day I see how crime ruins lives. Crime statistics are nothing to joke about or bandy around for political gain. Week after week Mr. Cataldo and his Republican supporters continue to run down South Plainfield and claim that crime is on the increase in our borough.

Thankfully the Official Uniform Crime Report was issued by the Federal government this week. I hope everyone had a chance to look at the chart in the Sunday newspapers. Right there in black and white is the official statistics that confirm, South Plainfield's crime rate decreased from 31.5 per thousand residents in the year 2000 to 24.9 per thousand in 2001. That is almost a 25 percent decrease in crime. In fact South Plainfield had the largest decrease of any town in Middlesex County. Everyone knows South Plainfield is a safe town and everyone knows we have a great police department that will keep it that way. As a law enforcement officer, I only ask one thing of Mr. Cataldo, Mrs. Reedy and Mr. Champion. Stick to the facts!!! It's too important to our borough and its residents.

COUNCILMAN BOB CUSICK

To the Editor,

Why is it that the Republican candidates for Mayor and Borough Council have not offered one new idea on how to improve South Plainfield? They sure have complained enough! They have complained about our police department, our borough employees and now the volunteers of our town.

When you are down to complaining about people that volunteer their time, it's time to face the fact that your campaign has no new ideas to offer the residents of South Plainfield.

The Democrats have promised improvements to our town and they delivered with more road improvements, more open space and new facilities, such as the PAL addition. On Reorganization Day in January 2002, Mayor Gallagher promised to deliver a budget with no municipal tax increase and he has delivered. On election day, the choice is clear. You can vote for people who criticize those that volunteer their time to make South Plainfield the great town we live in or vote for people who encourage people to get involved and

make promises and keep them.

I am also one who volunteers my time for South Plainfield, if people would volunteer instead of sitting home attacking other citizens, we would be a better town!

Re-elect Dan Gallagher as Mayor and Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral to the Borough Council.

JOHN SORRENTINO

To the Editor,

Every time I read the *Observer* I get upset. The Republican running for mayor has no idea of what the Democrats have accomplished. Believe me when I say that this guy doesn't have the knowledge or desire to serve as mayor. For what its worth, some of the characters signing the letters don't have a clue about South Plainfield. You don't see or hear from ANY of them year after year, except at election time. Not one of them has the foresight to contribute anything that would benefit the taxpayers of this great borough.

Every Republican candidate, whether they be past or present, realistically they are repeat contenders, have never spoken, written, or provided in any way, any factual information and are constantly throwing mud at innocent people and those that have done great things for our town. They continue to outright lie and try their best to instill fear in the residents, with the hope of getting a vote. They are of offering nothing positive or have anything positive to say about our fine town and those that make it a fine place to live in. If you are enjoying the quality of life that you and your family and friends deserve, you will pay no mind to these negative remarks, attacks on innocent people and you wholeheartedly will show your support for Mayor Dan Gallagher, Councilman James Vokral and Councilman Ed Kubala by voting Democrat.

SINCERELY,
BRIAN DICK

Letter to the Editor,

Here in South Plainfield, we have been fortunate to have a Mayor and Council who are dedicated to the residents of our town and have faced several challenges over the years. They have demonstrated their capabilities by the many projects that are being done, such as paving roads, the senior citizen center, senior housing, PAL expansion, etc. This would not have been possible without people like Dan Gallagher, Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral. They are working and dedicated to doing the right thing for our residents. They have shown true interest and desire to help our town become the best in Middlesex County. As a matter of fact, our tax rate is one of the lowest in Middlesex County and there is no municipal tax increase this year either!

One last thought... all of these people make a great team, they work together and have no hidden agenda. It shows that Democracy Works! They have worked hard to earn your trust and would again seek your support so they can continue to improve our town.

Please vote Election Day for the Democratic team of Dan Gallagher for Mayor and Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral for Council.

WILLIAM A. NAGY, JR.

Share Your
Good News
With the
Community!

Send your milestones to the
Observer at 1110 Hamilton
Blvd., Suite 1B, South
Plainfield, NJ 07080 or email:
ggnan@aol.com

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

We've got time for one more column this month from the South Plainfield Library.

We're between groups on the Video Circuit today. The next group will be available early next week.

We'll feature our usual schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. The programs are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. No pre-registration is required. For more information, please call (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

We'll continue to offer classes in both basic computer usage and job searching throughout October. Please call us for scheduling and registration details.

On Sunday, Oct. 6 at 2 p.m., we'll host a program called "Getting Published." The speaker for the program will be author and entrepreneur Mark D. Csordos. He'll address subjects including self-marketing and the need for an agent. There's no charge for the program, and no pre-registration is required.

In recent days, there have been some delays regarding Inter-Library loan items that some of our patrons have ordered. Please be aware that we are aware of the problem. We hope to have the shipping situation remedied very soon.

We've added a new feature to our roster of computerized resources. For those of you who feel that just looking

out the window isn't enough, the Library's home page now features the local weather conditions and a link to the Weather Channel for area forecasts. The Library's website address is www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

Recently, we received several binders full of information regarding the Cornell Dubilier Superfund site. That information has been added to the collection and is fully available to the public. It'll be kept in our Reference section; a Reference librarian can help you find it.

Recently, due to space considerations and the need to maintain up-to-date information, we've been forced to weed out a number of books from our juvenile non-fiction and adult fiction collections, and several tapes from our adult non-fiction area. These items are now available for purchase via the ongoing Friends of the Library Book Sale. Prices are as marked; ask at the Circulation Desk if you're not sure how much an item costs.

Finally, a word regarding our Notary service. Please be aware that our Notary Public is NOT an attorney or legal expert. His primary job is to verify the identity of someone signing a document and witnessing said signature. Complex questions regarding immigration, taxation, liability, etc. should be referred to a lawyer or government representative. That way you get accurate information and our Notary doesn't get into trouble.

That's all for this week and this month. See you the first Friday in October.

Woman's Club to Hold Guest Night

The South Plainfield's Suburban and Woman's Club announces that their annual Husbands/Guests night will be held Thursday, Oct. 3, at the VFW Hall on Oak Tree Rd.

The beguns with cocktails at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will follow at 7 p.m., with club members providing their favorite covered dishes and casseroles.

The evening's program, according to Vice President Dorothy Berney, program chairperson, will be "An Inside look at Saudi Arabia". The presenters are Peggy and Art Folli who have spent eight years in Saudi Arabia. They were there prior to,

during and the post "the cold war" period.

Women interested in joining the club can call (908) 754-7410.

Borough Receives AAA Rating

According to CFO Glen Cullen, Standard and Poors recently finished reviewing the finances of the Borough of South Plainfield's. They have given South Plainfield a AAA debt rating, saying that the borough seems to have a stable outlook.

Opening October 1st! The Painting Station Pottery Studio

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Painting pottery is a fun, productive way to spend an afternoon, rainy day, or girls night out. We have daily specials, as well as free painting for children. Come visit us and let us make it a fun place for the whole family!



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Wednesday-Friday 3:30-9:30
Saturday 11am-10pm Sunday 12-5
Extended Hours Coming in November!

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Call (908) 668-0010 to find out how.

*Restrictions Apply.



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of South Plainfield & Woodbridge
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South Plainfield Police Dept. Commendations Awarded



(Continued from last week's Observer)

Due to the inclement weather on Labor Day, this year's Police Department annual dress inspection was held indoors at the Rescue Squad.

The following police officers received recognition:

Off. Vincent Campagna was awarded a *Letter Of Commendation*—On two different occasions in May 2002, Off. Campagna, working on extra-duty details, observed the distribution of CD's, DVD's and video tapes taking place at the Clinton Corners Mall. Suspicious of the legality of the items being sold, he initiated an investigation that ultimately led to the arrest of three suspects for the illegal distribution of pirated items. Due to Campagna's self-initiated action, a large quantity of illegally reproduced CD's, DVD's and video tapes valued at nearly \$10,000 were removed from the streets and arrests were made.

Off. Joseph Papa was awarded a *Letter Of Commendation*—During the past six years, Off. Papa has served as a DARE Off. with the South Plainfield Police Department. During

this assignment, he has helped shape the attitudes of the young people of South Plainfield and taught them the pitfalls of using illegal substances and has contributed to building a foundation in which they can make intelligent decisions when they are confronted with the opportunity to use such substances. Because of Papa's devotion and commitment to this program, future generations now have the knowledge and ability to refuse to participate in using illegal substances and he has projected a positive image for the South Plainfield Police Department.

Off. Mark Hollain and **Det. Garrett Cassio** were awarded the *Lifesaving Medal*—On July 16, 2002 Off. Hollain responded to a report of an unconscious man at the corner of Maple and Murray avenues. Upon arrival, he found the victim to be unresponsive, not breathing and having no pulse. Hollain along with Det. Cassio, who took the initiative to respond in case assistance was needed, utilized the AED to administer shocks to the patient and initiated CPR. As a

result of their actions, the patient was revived.

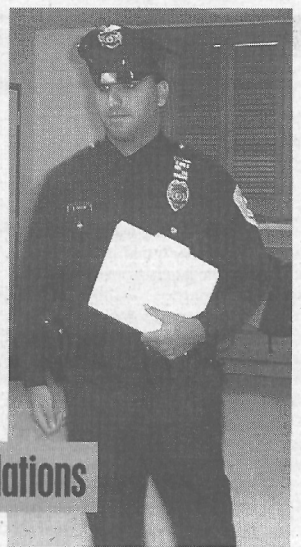
Off. Kevin LoMonte and **Off. Robert Rogers** were awarded the *Lifesaving Medal*—On Nov. 4, 2001, Officers LoMonte and Rogers responded to a report of an unconscious female on Harvard Ave. Upon arrival, they found the victim to be unresponsive, not breathing and having no pulse. LoMonte and Rogers immediately initiated CPR and as a result of their actions, the patient was revived.

Sgt. Peter Arancio and **Off. Mark Bullock** were awarded the *Lifesaving Medal*—On July 31, 2002, Sgt. Arancio and Off. Bullock responded to Wooden Ave. on a report of a female having difficulty breathing. Upon arrival, they found the victim had stopped breathing and did not have a pulse. Sergeant Arancio and Off. Bullock immediately initiated CPR and as a result of their actions, the patient was revived.

Officers LoMonte, Redden, Franchak and **DeLair** were awarded *Letters Of Commendation*—On Aug. 14, 2002 two all-terrain vehicles were stolen from an establishment on Park Ave. Through investigation, Officers Redden and David DeLair were able to determine that the suspects fled into

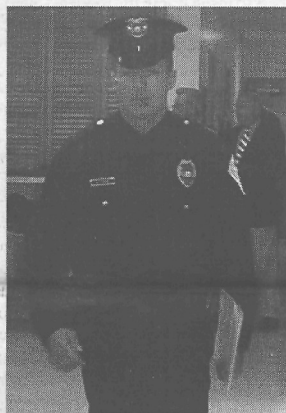
Off. Wayne Diana, Det. Gene Baraille, Off. Kevin LoMonte, Off. Brian Iarrapino, Off. Daniel Noonan, Det. Garrett Cassio, Off. Chris Colucci, Off. Sherlyn Courtney, Off. Michael Hoppe, Off. Wendell Born, Off. Daryl Strother, Off. Matthew Mahoney.

On September 11, 2001, the deadliest attack ever to take place on American soil was launched by international terrorists who hijacked civilian passenger jets and slammed them into both towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon building in Washing-



Police Chief Robert Merkler holds a special awards ceremony each year, which is attended by Rev. Mingle, Mayor Gallagher and members of the Borough Council, to honor those officers who have performed exceptionally in the line of duty. Twenty-two officers were also publicly recognized for having a perfect attendance record for the year 2001.

2001 Commendations



ton, D.C. If not for the heroics of passengers on a fourth hijacked plane who thwarted the efforts of hijackers, the devastation would have been greater.

This coordinated assault on the American way of life resulted in approximately 3,000 deaths and countless injuries. The magnitude of the subsequent search, rescue and recovery efforts, like the attack, has never been equaled in US history. In order to accomplish this task, massive amounts of volunteers were needed from the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area.

Without hesitation, officers from the South Plainfield Police Department stepped forward to offer assistance in any manner needed for this effort. From the officers who were detailed to "ground zero"

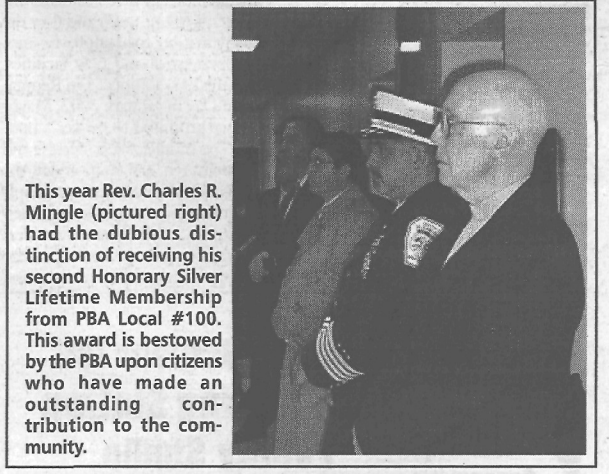
on 9-11 to assist in the search for survivors to those officers who volunteered over a period of months to respond to Staten Island to assist in the painstaking task of sifting through the debris field in order to locate evidence, body parts and personal affects, your dedication and commitment is highly commendable.

You should take solace in knowing that through your efforts, surviving family members may have obtained some closure as a result of their losses and you proved to the world that Americans in general and law enforcement in particular will rise up and overcome any adversity that confronts them.

Job well done!
Sincerely,
Robert K. Merkler, Chief of Police

a nearby wooded area. They responded to the area and were able to track the movement of the ATV's and communicate this information to Officers LoMonte and David Franchak, who had responded to assist. The suspects, upon seeing the police officers in the area, attempted to flee on foot and were quickly apprehended. As a result of a coordinated effort of the officers involved, three suspects were apprehended and the ATV's were recovered and returned to the owner.

This letter was issued to each Off. involved, as well as placed in their personnel file: Capt. John Ferraro, Lt. Robert Barone, Sgt. Peter Arancio, Sgt. Matthew Koep, Sgt. Charles Siedenburt, Off. Robert Rogers, Off. Raymond Jazikoff, Off. Joseph Papa,



This year Rev. Charles R. Mingle (pictured right) had the dubious distinction of receiving his second Honorary Silver Lifetime Membership from PBA Local #100. This award is bestowed by the PBA upon citizens who have made an outstanding contribution to the community.

OPPORTUNITY Awaits

There are 21,000 good reasons why you should advertise your business in the Observer...

Here are a just a couple of them.

South Plainfield Observer

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Have You Purchased Your Brick Yet?

Please show your support for our local volunteers!

Show your support for our local firemen. Your purchase of a brick will help fund the South Plainfield Firemen's Memorial to be built next to the Senior Citizen Center. Your brick will be engraved with the name of your choice and placed on the path to the memorial. Bricks can be purchased for only \$75 for individuals or \$175 for businesses.

CALL JOHN COTONE AT 908-756-4761 TO PURCHASE YOUR BRICK

Sports

SOCCER

Blaze U-14 Burns Mashers

The South Plainfield Blaze U-14 Girls traveling soccer team beat old time rival Middlesex Mashers 4-3 in spectacular style this past Sunday.

Although the season is early and with moving up two flights from last year, the Blaze clearly proved they can compete in flight three with a decisive win at home and last week's 0-0 tie in Cranford.

First half domination from our explosive offense came from our talented midfield halfbacks Joy Maszczak, Ashley Little, Lauren Fry and Elizabeth Flannery. Dominating the center midposition with sheer determination and desire Jenna DeLillo was dynamic. Defensively fullbacks Ashleigh Gaspari, Kim Marin and Allison Harty did a great job turning balls wide, while sweeper Jackie Miller and stopper Megan Boyle shut down the middle attack. Numerous saves in spectacular style by our very talented goalkeeper Becky Keller, who had an outstanding game inside the net.

Tallying our first score of the game in the sixth minute, striker Katie Hardy found the back of the net on a crossing feed from midfielder Joy Maszczak. Our second score came in the 22nd minute, when striker Jennifer Copeland took a breakaway ball from the center-line and rolled it in for a score. Setting up our third goal in the 62nd minute and on some great ball control striker Dorian Bishop made a beautiful pass to striker Katie Hardy who slipped it in for the score. Putting the game out of reach for Middlesex and in the 73rd minute striker Jennifer Copeland again took a breakaway ball and blasted in the net.

This win exemplifies how hard work and desire are key factors in getting you on the right track to achieving your goals.

Congratulations girls and well done! Visit the South Plainfield Soccer Club's web site at www.sopfldsoccerclub.com

-Submitted by Coach Hardy

BULLETS Improve to 2-0 !!

On Sunday, Sept. 22, the South Plainfield Soccer Club Bullets U-9 boy's team defeated the North Brunswick Avalanche 4-0 to remain undefeated on the year.

After a scoreless first half, Ryan Marcoux put the Bullets on the scoreboard with his sixth goal of the season, a 30 yard blast from left wing. For the remainder of the game the Bullets kept the pressure on the Avalanche goalie, with Daniel Lyew and Daniel Zwatschka adding hard fought goals. Steven Bichler led numerous charges on goal and provided key passing in an outstanding effort. Albert Vill closed out the scoring with

a header from seven yards out.

Tony Franczak provided another superb performance in goal for the Bullets, turning away eight shots, several from point-blank range. Aiding Tony was the strong defense of Nick Pleter, Nicko Rivera, Zachary Noll, Kevin Flanagan, and Albert Vill. Moving from offense to defense for the second half, Steven Bichler made some key plays in helping preserve the shutout.

The Bullets return home to Kenneth Field on Sunday, Sept. 29 for a 1 p.m. match against the Metuchen Wizards.

-Submitted by Albert Vill

Sonics U-10 Team Go 2-0

The Sonics U-10 Traveling Soccer team traveled to Edison on Sunday, Sep. 22 to play the Metro Stars.

A terrific team effort had the Sonics scoring within the first few minutes of the game. Mike Dispenziere scored with an assist from Danny Hunt.

In the second quarter, Danny Hunt knocked one in assisted by Steve Lanza to make it Sonics 2 Metro Stars 0 at the half.

In spite of the heat, defenders Shaun Alers, Luke Goititandia, Danny Sticco and Nick Tuyp played a great game. Steve Lanza scored a

hustle goal unassisted in the third quarter for the final goal of the day for the Sonics. Attackers for the game were Ryan Billich, Mike Dispenziere, Charlie Huber, Dana Hunt, Steve Lanza and Nick Okosko.

Goal keepers were executing outstanding saves throughout the game. The duties were shared by Nick Ross, Will Mott and Danny Hunt. The only score for Edison was late in the fourth quarter on a penalty kick. Final score was 3-1 in favor of the Sonics for a second win in as many games.

Keep up the team work Sonics!

Girls U-10 Power South Plainfield Soccer Team

The girls U-10 soccer team looked fantastic this past Sunday at our new home fields. We had a game against Montgomery and it looked as though we were going to have our work cut out for us.

Our first goal came from Jasmine Serano, followed by two more goals by Jasmine later in the game. Nice hat trick Jasmine. Our other goals were scored by Karla, Sam and Kerry.

The defense did not take a back seat either as our goal keepers T.T. Jasmine, Sam and Vanessa all defended the goal only letting in two goals from Montgomery.

The remainder of the team cannot go unnoticed either as they all pitched in to either play defense or offense and they did a great job at it. Great game girls!!!

Sign-up Now for Youth Basketball League

Sign-ups for the Ed Niemczyk Youth Basketball League are now underway. The league is open to all South Plainfield youth ages 7 to 14 (as of Oct. 1, 2002.) The fee is \$35 per child. There are no refunds. Registration ends Oct. 21. Bring a birth certificate and proof of residency when registering at PAL.



Monday and Tuesday Night Golf League's Hold Benefit Match

This year's golf challenge match between the Italian-American League of Monday night and the South Plainfield Golf League of Tuesday night was held at the Plainfield West 9 Golf Course on Sept. 9 and 10. The two day format consisted of a two-man alternate shot and singles stroke play.

The proceeds of this annual benefit match were donated to the Rally For Riley Fund. Forty golfers from each league entered the match and raised \$1,200.

The South Plainfield Golf League were the overall winners with a total of 29½ points. Low gross score was posted by Al Szumski of the South Plainfield Golf League with a score of 33. Closest to the pin winners were Bob MacDonald, Jay Chabrar and Jim Cox, both from the Italian-American League.

Special thanks go to course Manager Kumi Fuji and her staff. Also Buckhead Beef Northeast Division and Coca-Cola New York Division for their generous donations and the DiCindio family.

SPHS FIELD HOCKEY

By Sharon Miller

Week of Sept 22-The varsity team is having a spectacular start to their season with a 4-0 record. The Friday, Sept. 27 game is one not to be missed as the team faces a strong competitor, Piscataway in Piscataway at 3:45 p.m.

Week of Sept 29-The first game of the week takes place on Monday, Sept. 30 at 4 p.m. against Lawrenceville Prep in Lawrenceville. The must see game of the week takes place on Tuesday, Oct. 1 as the team faces their top competitor, East Brunswick at home on the Carol Espinosa Field at 3:45 p.m. The final game of the week is against Metuchen also at home at 3:45 p.m. This year's team was listed in the *Star-Ledger* as one of the Group

3 Field Hockey teams to watch. Please come out in support of a wonderful team of players and coaches for a great season.

KidStuff Fundraiser-The varsity and JV teams are selling the KidStuff coupon savings book as this year's fundraiser. The book offers hundreds of coupons for clothing, shoes, toys, and sporting goods stores as well as food, recreational, educational and cubical activities. The book is being sold for \$25. This fundraiser ends Sept. 30. Please support this year's field hockey team by contacting any member of the team to purchase a book.



Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller

Date Change-Ponytail Softball Association Meeting

New Date Sept. 30-The South Plainfield Parents' Association will hold their next meeting on Monday, Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. in South Plainfield Middle School. If you are interested in becoming a member and being involved in girl's Ponytail softball, join us on Sept. 30. New members are always welcome. Please note date change to Sept 30.

Art Auction: October 4-Friday, Oct. 4, the SPPPA will host an art auction presented by Ross Galleries in SP High School library. Preview is from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Auction begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, \$5/person, can be purchased at the door or in advance by calling 908-791-9439, 908-756-2823 or by contacting any member of the Parents' Association.

Attention SPPPA members-The fundraising committee is looking for volunteers to help out during the auction. If you are able to assist in any way, please contact Debbie Boyle, Pat DeSantis or Mark Sutherland.

Ponytail Softball Website

Visit Ponytail Softball online anytime at our website... SPONYTAIL.com. You will find the latest news/events, team rosters/schedules, game highlights/pictures, information on the Parents' Association and All-Star teams. Feel free to contact me by keying in the email link Webmasters pponytail.com found on our home page.

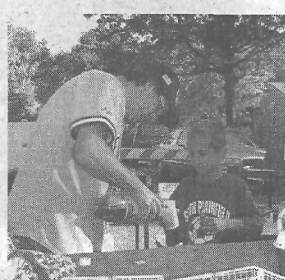
Sign up for High School-Age Basketball League

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is sponsoring a high school age basketball league.

All games will be played on Tuesday, nights at the PAL starting Dec. 3. All teams must have 10 players. Entrance fee is \$400 per team.

Register at the PAL Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Don't Miss Another Issue of the South Plainfield Observer!!



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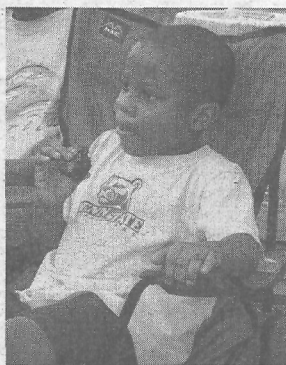
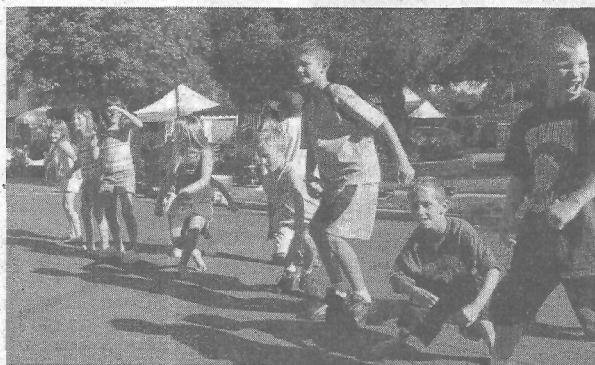
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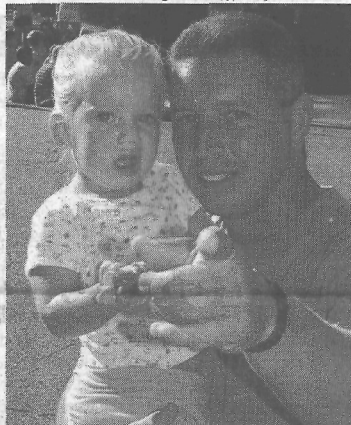
PHONE NUMBER _____



West Elmwood Block Party A Success

A sunny Saturday with friends, food and fun were the elements that combined to make West Elmwood's block party a success. Activities included a visit from a fire truck, sidewalk chalk, ice cream truck, and a flashlight candy hunt. Music N' Motion and DJ Mike Malone kept the party hopping. There were contests and games for everyone. The children learned to do the hand jive, and danced disco style to Stayin' Alive. The adults joined in many of the dances.

The following families participated in the event: Molinaro, Colicchio, Sacco, Miniere, Montwid, Dryden, Crist, Newman, Ganthier, Spooner, Farnella, Cendara, Strassburger, DeVera, Houlihan, Clarke and Gwiazda.



Photos by Patricia Abbott

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE 1605

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

Ordinance No. 1605 entitled: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 705 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED "OBC3 REGIONAL BUSINESS" be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, September 27, 2002 and that a public hearing be held at 7:00PM on Thursday, October 10, 2002 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1605
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

The Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield be amended as follows:

Section 705 entitled "OBC3 Regional Business" is amended as follows:

Section 705.1, D will be revised to read:
Assembly Halls, Movies or Legitimate Theaters, provided the same are housed in an enclosed building or buildings

Section 716 entitled "OBC-4 Special Business Zone" is amended as follows:

Section 716.4, D will be revised to read:
Assembly Halls, Movies or Legitimate Theaters, provided the same are housed in an enclosed building or buildings.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to remove bowling alleys as a permitted use.

All other provisions of the Zoning Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon publication and adoption in accordance with New Jersey Law.

Mayor Daniel J. Gallagher

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk
\$59.50 September 27, 2002

Beauty

Hillside Cemetery's gentle slopes are dotted with stately trees and evergreens. The serene landscape is meticulously attended and renowned for its care and upkeep. 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

Hillside Cemetery
www.hillsidecemetery.com

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RICHARD W. McCRISKIN, Pres., Mgr.
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Obituaries

Assunta "Sue" Crino, 89

Assunta "Sue" Crino died on Sept. 23, at Genesis Elder Care in Plainfield. Born in Naples, Mrs. Crino came to the United States in 1915. She settled in Brooklyn where she had spent most of her life. She relocated to Bridgewater in the Center Bridge #2 housing development in 1994.

She had been a homemaker and a member of the Bridgewater Senior Citizens group.

She is predeceased by her husband, Humberto "Al" who died in 1977; a sister, Mary; two brothers, John and Louis Balas; two sons, Thomas Crino and his wife Diane of South Plainfield and George Crino of Washington; grandchildren Thomas and his wife Kara, Marion, Michael, Andrea and Alex and great granddaughter Hailey.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, Sept. 26, at 9:15 a.m. in McCriskin Home For Funerals, Plainfield Ave., followed by a funeral Mass at 10 a.m. in Sacred Heart Church, South Plainfield. Entombment will follow in Holy Redeemer Cemetery Mausoleum.

Barbara L. Nelson, 66

Barbara L. Nelson died on Friday, Sept. 20, at John F. Kennedy's Haven Hospice in Edison.

Mrs. Nelson was born and raised in Mt. Holly and attended the Palmyra Schools. She settled in South Plainfield 46 years ago.

She stayed home to raise her children and in addition had been a foster mother to many children for the past 20 years. Mrs. Nelson is a member of the South Plainfield Columbianettes Council #6203 and had recently received an awarded for her perfect attendance to their meetings.

She is also a communicant of our Lady of Czestochowa Church in South Plainfield and their Alter Rosary Society. She had also been first grade CCD teacher for the past 20 years.

She is predeceased by her first husband, Philip Rotola, who died in 1983.

Surviving are her husband of 17 years Al; daughters Michele Griffen of Piscataway and Diane Hill of Easton, NY; sons Nicholas DeCarolis of Bethlehem, Pa. and Robert Rotola of South Plainfield; sister Valire Peirce of Palmira and a brother, Ronnie West of Cinnaminson and a grandson, Wesley.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Alice Kathryn "Juva" Blaszcak, 79

Alice Kathryn "Juva" Blaszcak died on Thursday, Sept. 19, at the Forest Manor Nursing Home in Hope, NJ.

Mrs. Blaszcak was born in Brooklyn and had resided in Mansfield Twp. for the past 15 years, before then she lived in South Plainfield for 65 years.

She was a receptionist at Sait Opticians in South Plainfield, before retiring in 1987.

Mrs. Blaszcak loved to cook and had the talents of a chef. She enjoyed sewing and bingo. She also loved her dogs.

She is predeceased by her husband of 43 years, Chester J. Blaszcak Sr., who died in 1992 and two sisters, Estelle Sabino and Adele Simpson and a brother Frank Juva.

Surviving are a son, Chester J. Blaszcak Jr. and his wife Donna of Mansfield; daughter Deborah Shoremount and her husband Robert of Mansfield; two brothers, Stanley Juva of South Plainfield and John Juva of Edison; two sisters, Celia Konkowski of South Plainfield and Victoria Evans of South Plainfield; grandchildren, Amy Kathryn Shoremount and Michael Stepen. Also grand dogs, Jodi, Jamie and Gennie.

Funeral services were held at Warren Hills/Ford Memorial Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Mount Bethel Fire Dept., 342 James Chapel Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863.

Get up early
this weekend
for the best
bargains
in town!

To place an ad
for your garage/
yard sale ad, call
908-668-0010.

GARAGE SALE

Multi-Family Sale
163 Nassau Ave.
(Off Park Avenue)

Saturday,
September 28
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Rain Date: Sun., Sept. 29

GARAGE SALE

Huge Garage Sale
200 Smith Street
(Off Hamilton Blvd.)

Saturday & Sunday
September 28 & 29
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Household Items—Bring \$\$\$!!

SOUTH PLAINFIELD GARAGE SALES

GARAGE SALE

2-Family Sale
119 Muglia Place

Saturday & Sunday
September 28 & 29
9am-3pm

Lots of Clothes & Kids Stuff

GARAGE SALE

BLOCK SALE
Fairmount Ave.

Saturday & Sunday
September 28 & 29
9am-5pm
Raindate: Oct. 5-6

16 Families Combined

YARD SALE

Multi-Family Sale
271 Pearl Place
(Off Lane Avenue)

Friday & Saturday
September 27 & 28
10am-3pm
Raindate: Oct. 4 & 5

**Furniture, clothing, Avon,
toys and new & used items**

Police Announce Arrest of Regal Cinema Burglars

Regal Cinema, located on Corporate Ct., was burglarized on Sunday, Sept. 15 at about 3 a.m. The suspects entered the cinema, disabled the alarm, opened the safe and removed a substantial amount of cash.

An investigation, headed by South Plainfield Det. Lt. Michael Lane, determined that suspects in the case had been given the keys for the location, the alarm code and the combination for the safe. A total of five search warrants were executed, which resulted in the arrest of five individuals and the recovery of the stolen cash.

Arrested were:

Bryan P. Changaris Jr., a 20-year-old Piscataway resident, who had previously been employed by Regal Cinema. He was charged with burglary and theft and released on \$10,000 bail. A search warrant at his residence yielded a large sum of stolen cash and marijuana. The drug charges are being pursued in Piscataway. The Piscataway Police Department Detective Bureau and Patrol Section assisted in the search warrant at the Piscataway location.

Michael Mancuso, a 20-year-old Colonia resident, who was charged with burglary and theft after he turned over a large sum of stolen cash. He was remanded to the Middlesex County Adult Correction Facility in lieu of \$10,000 bail.

Jessica A. Flanigan, an 18-year-old Dunellen resident, was charged with conspiracy to commit burglary and theft. She was released on \$3,000 bail. She was employed by Regal Cinema as a manager.

A 16-year-old female juvenile from South Plainfield was charged with burglary and theft. A search warrant was executed at her residence and on her person, resulting in the recovery of a large sum of stolen cash. She was released to a parent.

A 17-year-old female juvenile from South Plainfield was charged with receiving stolen property after a search warrant resulted in the recovery of stolen cash at her residence. A search warrant was also executed on her person. She is also a Regal Cinema employee.

On the night of the burglary, Mancuso reportedly drove Changaris and the 16-year-old to the theater and dropped them off. They entered the building, disabled the alarm and removed the cash from the safe. Mancuso then returned to pick them up. The proceeds were then split between those involved.

The money has been returned to Regal Cinema. Lt. Lane was assisted by the Piscataway Police Department and South Plainfield detectives and patrol officers.

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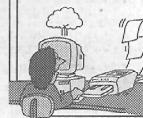
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From the Republicans

New Crime Stats Show Some Progress and Some Continuing Problems

"Last week the New Jersey State Police released the 2001-2002 crime statistics," South Plainfield mayoral candidate Jake Cataldo announced on Sunday. "I want to be the first to congratulate our police department for bringing us from fourth place in Middlesex County to eighth place. While we are still near the top of the list and have a lot of work to do, we need to acknowledge progress when it takes place. When I see something wrong I am the first to say so, and when I see something good, I want to do the same."

"I agree," said running mate Marge Reedy. "Crimes like shoplifting are down significantly, and while violent crime did not improve, that's an area where we can focus

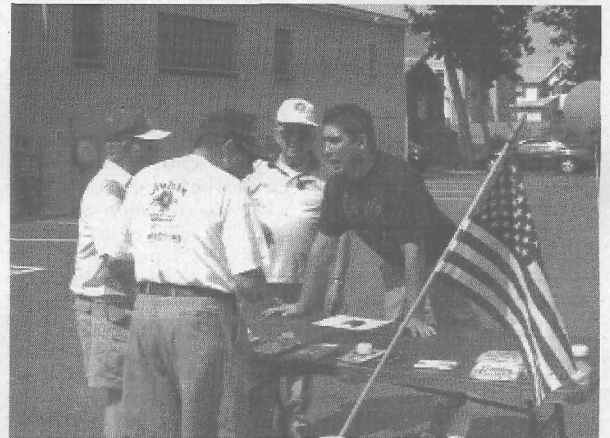
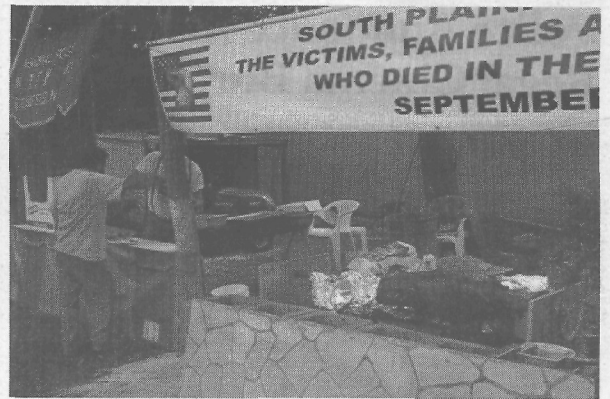
From the Democrats

South Plainfield's Incredibly Shrinking Debt

Mayor Daniel Gallagher and his running mates Council people Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral commented on the incredible reduction of the borough debt since 1994. Mayor Gallagher said, "As most of our residents know, Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral inherited a financial mess when they came to office on January 1, 1994. The prior Republican Administration borrowed almost \$14 million dollars in 1993 alone, raising the total debt to over \$20 million, not counting interest! The first thing that the New Democratic majority did was to commit to 'pay as you go' government. The Republicans ridiculed that commitment and were actually quoted in the paper saying you can't have 'pay as you go.' Well we have proved them wrong. At last Thursday's council meeting, the Borough's Chief Financial Officer reported that South Plainfield's debt has been reduced by \$9.7 million over the last nine years and, if we stay the course, it will be reduced by another \$5 million over the next three years. In other words our borough debt will have gone down from over \$20 million to \$5 million!"

Councilman Ed Kubala expanded on the Mayor's comments "I have been honored to serve as Chairperson of the Finance and Administration Committee for the last four years. It is heart warming to be able to submit budgets that do not include a tax increase but it is amazing to prepare budgets that year after year pay off the borough debt. No other town in the state of New Jersey can come close to South Plainfield's commitment to 'pay as you go government.' If the New Democratic majority's conservative fiscal policies remain in place, our annual debt service will be reduced by over \$1 million per year starting in 2006. Think about it...that's almost 10 tax points every year! It's no wonder that Standard and Poors have given South Plainfield a AAA rating."

Council President Jim Vokral joined with the Mayor and Councilperson Kubala saying, "I know its campaign time and sometimes candidates feel an obligation to disagree with those who they are running against. However I was really concerned when I read the letters to the editor by Republican supporters making fun of 'pay as you go government'. They dismiss the over 100 roads that have been rebuilt, the renovations to borough hall and the library and public works complex, the new senior rec building and senior housing complex and doubling of the P.A.L., the new skate park behind borough hall, the upgrading of every park in South Plainfield and the new jogging trail and recreational facilities which are about to begin at Putnam Park...all while our borough debt was being reduced by almost \$10 million! Dan and Ed and I ask that the Republican candidates also commit themselves to 'pay as you go government' and continued reduction of the borough debt. Everyone should be able to agree that the financial state of South Plainfield has never been more sound. We can then go forward during the remaining weeks of the campaign to discuss any new proposals or plans for the future of our borough."



VFW Annual Picnic Enjoys Good Weather and Food

The Annual VFW Picnic held recently enjoyed not only good weather, but great food and lots of people attending. They enjoyed all the food, including roast pig and live music. The kids were kept entertained with a moon walk and pony rides. Unity Bank, who helped sponsor the picnic, was on hand to greet those attending.



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our efforts. Furthermore, if Jake is mayor, that's a place where his expertise will come in handy. I'm sure he can work hand-in-hand with the leaders of the police department to bring down violent crime."

Council candidate Geoff Champion expanded on this, "Last week the Democrats said the total crime rate was unimportant because it was mostly made up of 'petty offense, like shoplifting.' They'll probably change their tune now and start trying to take credit for something they just last week ridiculed. But that's fine. Even if it's late and insincere, it's better than nothing."

"We still need to reduce violent crime," added Cataldo. "That should be our main goal. Since 1999, under Mayor Gallagher's watch, violent crime went up. And while the Democrats in last week's paper said we have 'one of the lowest violent crime statistics in the county,' we are actually eighth highest out of the 25 towns according to the new report. Violent crime is an area that needs work, because it includes the types of offenses people fear most."

Champion agreed: "We showed no improvement this year with the violent-crime rate. And while overall crime went down because of the reduction in shoplifting, it's gone up and down before. In 1998 we were in seventh place, in 1999 and 2000 we were in fourth place, and we are now in eighth place. We also have the second-highest rate out of the suburban communities. It's one thing to compare us to New Brunswick, but it's another to compare us to the other small suburban towns."

"That's true," Cataldo added. "But let's not take our focus off the progress our officers have made in turning around the shoplifting problem. Again, while the Democrats may think a reduction like this is trivial, I don't. Our police officers deserve kudos for a job well done."

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Local Author's Book Signing at Brush Stop

Continued from page 3
published, but kept hitting brick walls."

The turning point came when she attended the Maui Writer's Conference in Hawaii, one of the most prestigious in the nation. While at the conference she discovered iUniverse. After submitting her manuscript to iUniverse for editor's review, she was soon placed into their program for publishing. The book went through numerous edits before the June, 2002 release.

Catherine hopes to land a book deal and create a trilogy writing two sequels to her novel. The sweet smell of success is a heady feeling. "I feel fortunate that I have had so many family and friends who have supported me throughout this journey. I believe that hard work pays off somehow, someday. If your passion is great enough, anything can happen, including fulfilling one's dream. I feel humbled in many ways. Yet ultimately, I am grateful that I acted on my passion. This feels great!" Catherine commented.

The book retails for \$17.95. Readers can buy *Lost in the Flood* online from iuniverse.com, bn.com, amazon.com or order it from any bookstore.

The Brush Stop book signing runs

from 2-5 p.m. Champagne and light hors d'oeuvres will be served. Guests are invited to come and meet Catherine, bring their book or purchase one at the Brush Stop.

S.P.H.S. Marching Tigers Place First

The victorious band is under the direction of Mark S. Tweed, assisted by Color Guard Advisors Kathy Petrocelli, Angela Gallagher and Kara Georgio. Marching Tech's are Kevin Adams and Brian Toth. Music arranger and drill designer is Brian Sleeper. Student leaders for the band are drum majors Chris Baron and Brian Publik; Color Guard Captains are Jackie Noonan, Tiffany Boyle, Jamie Glowacki, Drum Line Captain is Danny Lammi. The weapons coordinator is Wendy Kollarik.

The Tigers next competition is Saturday, Sept. 28 at Triton High School in South Jersey. The Tigers also perform their show at all home football games at halftime. Their next performance is Friday night at the Frank Jost Field.

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AGENDA
OCTOBER 17, 2002

NOTICE OF THIS MEETING BEING CANCELLED

THE FOLLOWING CASES SCHEDULED FOR THIS MEETING WILL BE CARRIED TO THE MEETING OF THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2002 AT 8:00 PM IN THE COURT ROOM:

1. Hearings:

- Case #26-02/S-HOME DEPOT USA, INC.; Block 472; Lot 36; OBC-3 Zone; 309 Hamilton Blvd. Applicant is proposing to move the outside fenced area, previously approved by this Board for the annual temporary storage of goods, to a different location to the rear of the building behind the lumber department.
- Case #46-00/S-JA/JM ASSOCIATES, LLC; 1/4 Interstate Caterers; 2101 Parker Avenue; Block 298; Lot 1; M-3 Zone. Applicant is requesting a use variance and preliminary and final site plan approval, with waivers and variances.
- Case #59-01/S-ROTH BROTHERS, INC.; Block 401; Lot 3.01; M-3 & R1-2 Zones; 2225 Hamilton Blvd. Applicant is requesting a use variance, along with preliminary and final site plan approval, to operate a public garage in a newly constructed addition. Applicant received a temporary use variance on January 15, 2002 to operate his business.
- Case #14-02/S-BRUCE DRUCKENMILLER; Block 308, Lots 11 & 12; R1-2 Zone; 1213 New Market Avenue. Applicant is requesting a use variance and site plan approval to construct a warehouse for the warehousing of light industrial machinery sales, which is an M-3 use in an R1-2 Zone, a use not permitted.