

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 6, NO. 9

50 CENTS

OCTOBER 25, 2002

Emergency Services Test Exercise at High School Sunday

Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Zushma would like to remind the residents of South Plainfield that a test exercise will be held at the high school this Sunday, Oct. 27. Residents should be aware that this exercise is taking place so that they do not become alarmed when they see emergency personnel swarming around the high school.

The exercise will include homicide crime scene processing, transporting victims to the hospital, counselors to assist uninjured students and parents, the need for stress sessions and handling of public information.

The drill will be observed by the State Police.

Traffic, Taxes and New Roads Covered During Wednesday's Candidate Debate

Wednesday night's Candidates Debate for November's election, sponsored by the South Plainfield Business Association, was the only time during this election that the candidates from both parties met in a public forum to debate the issues. The gym at Roosevelt School was filled with residents who wanted to hear the candidates views on various issues.

The evening began with the candidates for council, Democratic incumbents Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral, and Republicans Marge Reedy and Geoff Champion providing opening statements, followed by a question and answer period.

The issue of Borough traffic was brought up quite a few times and the Helen Street project was a hot topic of debate. Saying the worst of our traf-

fic problems are caused by trucks, Champion unveiled a map of South Plainfield and a proposal to extend Ryan St. to Metuchen Ave. in order to alleviate some of the Borough's truck traffic.

Kubala and Vokral responded that the Helen St. project, which is near the halfway point, will also connect to Ryan St. They further explained that because it is Federally funded project, the improvements would be done at no cost to the taxpayers.

A question on prohibiting bowling alleys brought a response from Vokral that the recently enacted ordinance does not prohibit them, but instead

Vote

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

requires those intending to open a bowling alley to go before the Board of Adjustment for a variance. Champion said he did not think a bowling alley would be a problem, since it is also used by children for recreation.

The mayoral debate between Dan Gallagher and Jake Cataldo brought a few interesting answers. When asked on what board or commissions he has or served on in the four years since he last ran for mayor, Cataldo responded that he believed it was impossible to be appointed to anything by an all-Democratic council. He added, "I am retired and work on improving my home and playing golf. Mayor Gallagher responded to that by stat-

ing, "Marge Reedy, Republican council candidate, asked to be and was appointed to the Cultural Arts Commission and that the Planning Board and former Board of Adjustment presidents are just a few of the Republicans who asked and served as volunteers."

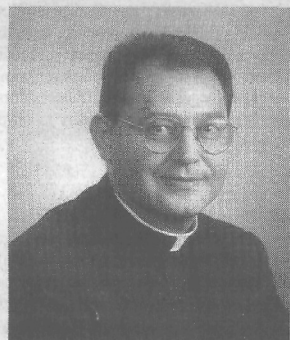
A question concerning the fire at the Traditions complex was also raised. Gallagher was asked if there were firewalls at the complex and were they up to code. He replied that, indeed, there were firewalls and they were installed to code and properly inspected. He added, "Even though I wish there were stricter codes, the Borough cannot pass legislation that exceeds what the state has in place." Cataldo disagreed saying, "If I become mayor, I will require cinder block walls in every housing project. I think if Traditions had cinder block walls, the fire would not have been as devastating. I would stiffen up the building code for apartments."

Cataldo expanded on extending Ryan St. out to Metuchen Rd., which includes building a bridge, to relieve truck traffic. He added that in his first 100 days he would begin work on extending Ryan St. He did not offer a cost estimate for completion. He added that there is no guarantee that Helen St. will ever be built. Gallagher's responded to Cataldo, asking "Where is the money was coming from?" He added that before building or extending any road, numerous studies on aviation, fish, game and wildlife must be completed, and state and federal approval must be obtained. "Cataldo has no idea what is involved and is just saying what people want to hear," said the Mayor.

Cataldo also added that the Helen

Continued on page 7

Father Melaniuk Named Pastor at Our Lady of Czestochowa



Father Maciej Melaniuk

Father Maciej Melaniuk was installed as the new pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa on Wednesday evening.

Father Melaniuk believes that the statement which best defines his priesthood was engraved on the holy card given to him on his ordination day - *Officium meum est pontificium* - "My office is to build bridges."

His ordination on May 31, 1986

as a diocesan priest by Theodore Cardinal McCarrick in St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral, in Metuchen, did not come easily. It was necessary for him to build many "bridges" over multiple obstacles in order to reach his goal.

Born March 25, 1951 in Suwalki, Poland to the late Krystyna and Stanislaw Melaniuk, Father Melaniuk's first recollection of a priestly vocation came through the invitation of his parish priest to become an altar boy, a ministry that he continued while attending high school in Suwalki.

When he asked to attend the seminary upon graduation in 1969, Father Melaniuk's family was adamantly opposed, saying his uncle, a military general and member of the Communist Party, would lose his job if his nephew did so. With great reluctance and sadness, he decided not to enter the seminary for his family's sake.

Gifted in math and physics, Father Melaniuk earned a physics degree at the University of Wroclaw in lieu of attending the seminary.

Inwardly, he recalls being surprised by hearing the words very clearly, "Why are you not saying the Mass? Why are you not a priest?" And that was the beginning of his long journey to Sts. Cyril at Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, Michigan.

Because problems still existed in becoming a priest in Poland, he was even forced to spend one night sleeping on the street in Arlington, Va. until he contacted Polish Americans connected with the radio station, Voice of America in Washington, D.C. They helped him make connections and provided for his basic needs until he was able to go to the seminary.

Because Father Melaniuk was without funds to pay for a seminary education, he was required to work as a laborer on the grounds until he made

enough money and he had to find a sponsoring bishop. When permission from Poland finally arrived, Father Melaniuk was conditionally accepted for the first semester, and then accepted summer work with Msgr. Joseph M. Kryzstofik in Sacred Heart Parish in Manville. It was there that he met then Bishop McCarrick, who asked if he would consider becoming a priest for the Diocese of Metuchen. He was finally on his way to his dream.

After ordination, Father Melaniuk served as associate pastor in Sacred Heart in South Plainfield, St. Joseph in North Plainfield, St. Stephen in Perth Amboy, Our Lady of Victories in Sayreville, St. Mary of Ostrabrama in South River and St. Bernard in Bridgewater. We will have full coverage in next week's *Observer*.

Mayor Sets Halloween Curfew

Mayor Dan Gallagher has issued a proclamation declaring curfew hours for Mischief Night and the hours for trick or treating.

A curfew of 6 p.m. will be imposed and strictly enforced for all minor residents of South Plainfield on "Mischief Night," Wednesday, Oct. 30.

On Thursday, Oct. 31, "Trick or Treat Day," all trick or treat activities will be conducted between the hours of 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The mayor is also requesting young children be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Also all householders can indicate their willingness to welcome children by keeping their porch or exterior lights on. Youngsters should only call on homes with their lights on.

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



New street signs were presented to the families of the 28 servicemen who died in the line of duty. Duplicates of these signs will replace the present street signs. We will have a full story in our Nov. 8 issue.

IN YOUR OPINION

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Letters may be submitted to our office: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email at our website at spobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Please limit letters to no more than 500 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. We reserve the right to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher.

While the Observer is a strong proponent of our readers' rights to express their opinions through submission of letters to the editor, we will not publish letters which accuse anyone of violating the law unless substantiated by a police report. Although it is political season in South Plainfield, and every individual has both the right and responsibility to support a candidate, the Observer will not be the vehicle through which rumors are perpetuated.

To the Editor:

Last weekend, South Plainfield recognized a very special man, Tulio "Cappy" Capparelli. On behalf of the family, I would like to extend a sincere "thank you" to all who are responsible for bestowing such a great honor. The ceremonial affair was both touching and memorable. You did a terrific job!

In addition, I would also like to extend a "special thank you" to all of the people who attended. Your presence meant the most to the family. No matter how significant the honor of this award, it could never mean more than the love and support of his friends.

THE CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN OF TULIO "CAPPY" CAPPARELLI

To the Editor:

As a Board member I believe it is my responsibility to ask the questions any parent would ask before I cast my

vote. I believe it is the Superintendent's responsibility or his designee to provide the Board with all information supporting the recommendation placed before us. It is then the board member's responsibility to be sure all questions have been answered before casting his or her vote.

As stated in my previous letter to the editor, the board was being asked to vote to appoint an uncertified candidate as a substitute teacher to an open Physical Education/Health position at our high school. This person served in a substitute capacity for an entire school year during the 2001-02 school year. During many personnel meetings, it was discussed and objected to once the committee found out certification was not pending and, in fact, this candidate did not meet the current State requirements for certification as a teacher in New Jersey.

This requirement had been in place since January 5, 2000, so this was not a new regulation. I would expect anyone making recommendations to the Board of Education to be fully aware of all New Jersey Department of Education regulations, after all it is part of the job to know the rules. It wasn't until January 7, 2002 the Licensing and Professional Development Discussion paper was published as a preproposal addressing critical issues in the review of certification regulations. The State Board of Education will consider this proposal during their November meeting and this will include public comment.

This candidate had already been serving as a Physical Education/Health teacher since September 2001. During the month of February when this was reported to the personnel committee, we directed a certified individual be recommended for this position. We asked again in June. During this time this position was re-posted and advertised, yielding in total 133 responses to the open Physical Education/Health position at the High School, yet this candidate was continually placed before the committee, although he did not possess the necessary certification. This was not a matter of certification pending, in which the board could expect this certification to come at a later date; this was a matter of this individual being unable to obtain certification. Although Ms. Joffe would like the public to believe it was a witch hunt which led me to ask the questions about pending certification, I will say that I take my responsibilities seriously. Why should any child have to have an individual as a teacher who is unable to meet the State certification requirements? I believe it is my responsibility to ask those questions before I vote.

On Sept. 17 this individual was placed before the Board in a modified version, in that the board was asked to approve this appointment for 20 days. Despite the answers to the pointed questions posed about State regulations ignored and the more than 100 qualified candidates for the position, the Board voted to appoint this person again in a vote six for and Frank Mikorski, Tim Morgan and myself against. This allowed an uncertified candidate to continue in this position for an entire school year (2001-02) and now to begin again for another 20 days.

It was with great satisfaction I received a copy of a communication from the State of NJ Department of Education's county offices, reprimanding the district of South Plainfield "involving improper employment practices," with regard to this individual. This letter went on to state, "There is no provision which would allow a Board of Education to appoint a substitute in lieu of a certified individual." The South Plainfield Board of Education could not make employment decisions based on the hope that the State Board will act on the proposed changes to the GPA requirement. It states further in answer to Mr. Bohn's proposal of sidestepping the regulation by having this person take a day off after 19 days and start over again for 19 until the State makes their decision, that "this is contrary to the intent of the

regulation and will not be sanctioned" and such practices would compromise South Plainfield during monitoring this Spring and we would receive an unacceptable rating indicator 6.1." The letter ends with "given the substantial pool of qualified candidates for Health and Physical Education teachers, waiver of certification will not be entertained."

Although some might call this a "witch hunt" and state in their letter that this had already been rectified and I was making a big noise about nothing, our county superintendent does not believe it has been rectified. I feel it is very important that the teachers placed before our children are the very best qualified candidates available. I call this being a responsible Board member, and despite the SPEA smoke that was blown in the eyes of the central administrators and Board members, I commend Mr. Mikorski and Mr. Morgan for acting responsibly for the children and taxpayers of South Plainfield. You can count on my diligence and those questions that annoy some throughout the remainder of my term. In advance I apologize if this is considered another poorly written letter, as with the first I didn't realize I was being graded.

**SINCERELY,
DAWN JEFFERYS**

To the Editor:

I have a question.....what are the Republicans running for office in South Plainfield for? We've heard ad nauseum what they don't like... but we haven't heard a thing about what they want to do to improve the quality of life in our borough.

We know they are not happy with getting 117 miles of street paving done in conjunction with the county for a much reduced cost; we know they are unhappy because nine million dollars of Republican debt has been paid off; we know they don't like the idea of acres of open spaces being kept that way; or that our children are getting the schools they need for the money we already approved.

So again I ask... what are the Republicans FOR? What positive things do they force? Where do they want to take South Plainfield in the next four years?

The Democrats: Dan Gallagher, Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral have proven their worth to us. They have clear and concise plans for the future. They have brought us a long way from the troubled years of Republican rule. They deserve our vote on November 5 and they certainly have mine.

CAROL M. BYRNE

To the Editor:

The South Plainfield Football Eagles are pleased to acknowledge Unitemp as an outstanding supporter of the youth of South Plainfield.

Unitemp has supported our Pop Warner organization for many years. This year the South Plainfield Football Eagles in conjunction with Unitemp declared Oct. 13 as Unitemp Day.

The South Plainfield Football Eagles hosted the Somerville Pop Warner Rams. Unitemp graciously donated a free hot dog to every attendee 12 and under.

The South Plainfield Football Eagles held a half-time presentation at 1 p.m. to thank Unitemp for their support and dedication of the youth of South Plainfield. President Doreen Darr presented General Manager Phil Masters and Bill Lake with a plaque of recognition for support of our young athletes and the South Plainfield Pop Warner organization.

The South Plainfield Football Eagles would like to personally thank Phil Masters, VP and General Manager and Bill Lake for their donation of parts and labor to our clubhouse heating and cooling unit. Without the support of corporations and individuals like Unitemp our organization would not be successful.

It was with great appreciation we honored Unitemp on Oct. 13 and 507

children enjoyed a free hot dog compliments of Unitemp.

THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD FOOTBALL EAGLES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To the Editor:

As chairman of the South Plainfield Republicans, it disappointed me that your paper printed a one-sided story about taxes last week. Our party supplied the Observer with a letter from the Middlesex County Tax Board certifying the tax rates since 1993. Nevertheless, you chose not to print it (even though you asked us for it originally). Instead, the paper printed figures provided by two Democratic appointees, the Borough C.E.O. and the Borough Clerk (also a former Democratic councilman).

Using information from these sources is akin to getting it straight from the Democratic party. The Observer might just as well have let Democratic Party Boss Patrick Diegnan fax it over. It's a shame the paper chose to use the biased source rather than the official one. The tax board is a credible source, and in fact, it's controlled by Democrats.

As you know, we dispute the figure the Democrats supplied for 2003. It's a guess. Another tax-board letter supplied to you by us says the 2003 tax rate has yet to be determined. The county, not the Democratic party, strikes the tax rate.

It's also frustrating to know your paper thwarted the public's right to know about the systematic lies Democrats have told about taxes beginning as far back as 1995. We had someone extensively research these claims in the Observer and other sources. It's amazing how many claims made by Gallagher and his party are untrue. In fact, most of these deceptions were printed in the Observer. The paper could have easily compared some of them to the chart supplied by the Democrats. This would have shown, using their own figures, the claims are dishonest.

I understand the Gallagher campaign thinks it can get away with this type of deceit, but I would hope that a newspaper - relied upon by Democrats, Republicans and independents - would take the opportunity to set the record straight.

DAVID GUOTH

Dear Editor:

As a result of redistricting last year, South Plainfield became part of the 18th Legislative District. Over the past twelve months we have established a good working relationship with Mayor Daniel Gallagher and the South Plainfield Borough Council. We are particularly impressed with Mayor Gallagher's fiscally conservative approach to government. Under his leadership, with the support of Council President Jim Vokral and Budget Chairman Ed Kubala, South Plainfield's taxes have remained flat three of the last five years, and its municipal debt has been reduced by about \$10 million. At the same time, senior housing has been built and the borough's parks and recreation facilities have been upgraded.

In short, Dan Gallagher, Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral have a record to be proud of and we urge all South Plainfield residents to vote for them on Nov. 5.

**SINCERELY,
SENATOR BARBARA BUONO
ASSEMBLYMAN PETER J. BARNES, JR.**

Dear Editor:

When the campaign season started, my running mates and I asked the mayor to join us in conducting an issue-oriented campaign. We wanted to tackle the issues: taxes, crime, overgrowth, and traffic congestion. I hope people can see that we've been doing that. We've been highlighting our positions on these issues, and we've tried to show where the Democrats are missing the boat. Yes, we've stated our positions forcefully, but we've never

(Continued on page 9)

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, November 4 Thursday, November 7

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (NJSA 10A: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
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
Nov. 14, Nov. 21, Dec. 5, Dec. 19

board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted
Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. - Nov. 12, Dec. 10, Jan. 14, 2003, Feb. 11, March 11, April 1.
Regular Board Mtg., held Tuesdays, at 8 p.m. - Nov. 19, Dec. 17, Jan. 21, 2003, Feb. 18, March 18, April 8.

South Plainfield Observer

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in 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 Mohr's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at spobserver.com or ggnan@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email 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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Cub Scouts Red Ribbon Week

The Cub Scouts of Wolf Den 9, Riley School wanted to do something special to show their support for Red Ribbon Week, and their support to be drug, alcohol, tobacco and violence free.

These second grade boys wanted to do something for the community and came up with the following idea: Why not tie Red Ribbons around town to show our support? And that is what

they did.

Red Ribbons were tied around trees at their elementary school, John E. Riley, as well as the Municipal Complex, fire and recreation departments.

The scouts who participated in this Den 9 event were Anthony Austin, Brian Lopez, Cesar Fernandez, and Christopher Markey. Den Leader Marie Markey, Co-Leader, Elizabeth Austin.

Help Xtreme Car Wash Make a Wish Come True

As the holiday season approaches, individuals and organizations often look for ways to give back to their communities.

On Nov. 2, professional carwashes across the country will join together to implement "Wash U.S.A.," an event to benefit the Make A Wish Foundation.

Locally, Xtreme Clean Car Wash is excited to be participating in this exceptional event. On Saturday, Nov. 2, the car wash facility will contribute one dollar to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Elks Are Selling Entertainment Books for 2003

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the Entertainment book for \$30.

Contact Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.

donation for every car they wash. They have set a goal of raising \$350 for the foundation, and they encourage the residents of South Plainfield to visit them on Nov. 2 to help them achieve their goal.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation is a nonprofit organization that grants the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses. The foundation has been making children's dreams come true for more than 20 years. Xtreme Car Wash hopes to help them create more moments of magic for a very special child in the South Plainfield area and across the country.

Anyone outside of the South Plainfield area can find a participating car wash near them by calling 1-800-WASH-USA or visiting the foundation's website at www.wishesforwishes.org. More information about the Make-A-Wish Foundation is available by calling 1-800-722-WISH or visiting the foundation's web site at www.wish.org.

Resident to Participate in Leukemia Fundraiser

On Nov. 17, area women Diane Kaczowski of South Plainfield, Kathi Gladis of Edison, Debi Weiss of Westfield and Carolyn McNulty of Middlesex will participate in the Bermuda Walk Marathon, a 26.2-mile walk to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

In order to participate in this event each woman must raise a minimum of \$3500, for a total of \$14,000. In order to meet this goal, these four women have been sponsoring fundraising events in the area, including a Spin Marathon at The Club at Riccochet, located on St. Nicholas Ave. in the spring and a multi-family garage sale last month. The women have also asked their family and friends to open their hearts and make a donation to the cause.

On Wednesday, Oct. 23, they held a fundraiser to benefit the cause at Flanagan's Restaurant & Pub, located at 2501 Plainfield Ave. If you were unable to attend, but would like to make a donation, please call Kathi Gladis at (732) 572-1488.

Subscribe to Observer and Help DARE

The South Plainfield Police Department DARE Program is running a fundraiser in order to purchase a photo ID card machine. The machine will be used to make photo ID cards for the children of South Plainfield.

In order to aid in this fundraiser, the *Observer* will contribute \$5 for every new subscription received during the Month of November.

Any businesses that would like to make a contribution should call (908) 226-7688. All donations should be made out to the South Plainfield DARE Program.

Senior Center Membership Growing

Councilman Ray Petronko reported that over 400 seniors have signed up at the new Senior Center. Activities there have been well attended.

Senior meetings are open to the public. The next meeting will be held on Nov. 4 at 4:30 p.m.

Curbside Recycling On Schedule

The South Plainfield Recycling Program brochure that was mailed to all borough residences last January contained an error in the curbside collection schedule. Oct. 31 was accidentally left out of the schedule.

Recyclables will be collected on Oct. 31 in the Thursday section and on Nov. 1 in the Friday section.

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



Mohr's
Flowers & Fancy Foods
Gourmet Gift Baskets
Teleflora.



All-Star players Jackie Miller, Rachel Senz and Anyssa Sutherland receive the donation from VFW Post Commander Julius Peterson and former Post Commander Rudy Poczak.

VFW Makes Generous Donation To Ponytail Parent's Association

The South Plainfield Parents' Ponytail Association (SPPPA) would like to take this opportunity to extend a sincere thank you to a group of local heroes; the members of the VFW Memorial Post 6763 located in South Plainfield, for their generosity and continued support of Ponytail Softball. We are extremely grateful for their thoughtfulness in providing our organization with a very generous financial donation.

The SPPPA is a non-profit organization that works in conjunction with the Recreation Department to provide a top quality softball program to South Plainfield girls, ages eight to 14. The program encourages

healthy competition, good sportsmanship, teamwork, skill development and fun. This past year there were over 230 girls who participated in the softball program.

This donation has enabled us to purchase our first electronic scoreboard, which will be erected on the 14&U field at Pitt Street Park.. The scoreboard will be used by the recreation softball teams as well as the summer All-Star team.

To the VFW veterans, again we thank you, and very much appreciate your support. You are true heroes to everyone in our community, but especially to our youth.

2002 Middlesex County Transit Guide Available

Keep Middlesex Moving Inc. (KMM), Middlesex County's non profit transportation management association, has announced the availability of the 2002 Middlesex County Transit Guide. The comprehensive guide provides information on how to travel in and around Middlesex County using public transportation.

Since the last edition was published in 1999, Middlesex County's public transit system has undergone many changes. For example, for the purpose of statewide standardization, NJ Transit changed all "M" bus route num-

bers into the "800" routes. The guide also provides information on NJ Transit. Bus pass and rail ticket fare options, bus ticket agents, transit service and all points served in Middlesex County.

Funded by NJ Transit, the map was designed by Michael Hertz Associates under the supervision of KMM and Middlesex County Planning Board. For a free copy of this guide, call KMM (732-745-2326) or email (kmm@kmm.org). Be sure to include your mailing address and the number of guides you would like.

Candidate Open House

Come Meet Republican Candidates
Jake Cataldo • Marge Reedy • Geoff Champion

Date: Friday, October 25 at 7:00 P.M.
American Legion, Oak Tree Road, South Plainfield

• Free Food, Beer & Soda • Bring the Entire Family
Tell the Candidates your ideas • Ask the Candidates Questions



Come see the
Happy Tones Band



Paid for by the South Plainfield Republican Org., Ed Lyons Treasurer

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123 Maple Avenue
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(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

Pop-Warner Football Eagles Bon-Fire

October 26

Come join the fun on Saturday, Oct. 26, starting at 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Pop-Warner football field. We will have cheering, music, food and awards, all preceding the bon-fire. Don't forget to bring your chairs!

Garage Sale to Benefit Football/Cheerleaders

October 26

The SPHS Football and Cheerleading Parents will hold a Garage Sale on Saturday, Oct. 26, on the South Plainfield Middle School lawn on Plainfield Ave., 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The sale will benefit SPHS Football and Cheerleading Squads.

St. Stephen's Fifth Annual Oktoberfest

October 26

On Saturday, Oct. 26, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church will celebrate its fifth annual Oktoberfest with authentic German food. There will be two seatings, one from 5 until 6:30 p.m., and a second from 6:30 until 8 p.m.

Purchase tickets in advance at the church office. Prices are adults, 13; children 5-12, \$6. Seniors are \$11. Reservations are encouraged.

For further information, call the Church office at (908) 757-4474.

Takeout dinners will be available. All proceeds to go to charity.

American Legion Pancake Breakfast

October 27

Come enjoy eggs, sausage and bacon with the American Legion Post 243 at their Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 27, 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Post Home at 243 Oak Tree Ave.

Tickets for adults are \$5, children are 3. Under 6 are free.

For info, call (908) 668-9414.

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.

Halloween Party At Polish Home

November 2

The Polish National Home will be holding a Halloween Party on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

The cost is \$25 and includes an open bar, buffet and prizes. Costumes preferred, so dress to impress.

St. Stephen's Choir Concert

November 2

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, located at 3145 Park Avenue, will be holding a choir concert on Saturday, Nov. 2, at 7:30 p.m. The director of the choir is Thomas Baker, and he will be accompanied by guest pianist Kenneth Forziati, and guest guitarist Robert Freda. Donations will be accepted to benefit the organ fund.

SPHS Music Boosters Bake Sale

November 2

The South Plainfield High School Music Boosters are holding a Fall Fundraiser and Bake Sale on Saturday, Nov. 2, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

Avoid the holiday rush and shop early. Craft items from local boutiques

Events

What's happening in OCTOBER

Senior Center EVENTS

Daily Events
 9-11 AM Coffee & Cake
 9 AM-4 PM Cards & Pool
 (908) 754-1047
 The Senior Citizen's Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
NOW OPEN SATURDAYS 8:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Line Dancing Begins Wednesday, Oct. 30 at 10 AM			24 Shopping at Pathmark 9AM Practical Crafting 10-11AM	25 Bingo 10AM-2PM Pizza Lunch 11:30 AM
28 Walking Club 8:45 Adult Crafts 10:30-11:30 Yoga 10:30-11:30AM	29 Bingo 10AM-2PM	30 Walking Club 8:45 Movie 11:30 AARP Crafts 1 PM AARP Bd Meeting 2PM	31 Shopping at Pathmark 9AM Practical Crafting Pizza Lunch 11:30 AM	1

TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.

and vendors, including Tupperware, Discovery Toys, Pampered Chef and many other home party demonstrations.

For information, call (908) 791-0294.

Rescue Squad Plans Fun Night

November 2

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad Ladies Auxiliary is sponsoring another night at the races. The event takes place on Saturday, Nov. 2 at the Holiday Inn on Stelton Rd. Fun Night begins at 7 p.m.

Cost is \$20 per person. Refreshments include hot dogs, tacos, ice cream, soda, chips. Plenty of fun will be provided from the horseracing, raffles and door prizes.

All proceeds benefit the South Plainfield Rescue Squad. For tickets call Joan (732) 424-3661.

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 the DARE program Walk-A-Thon a Success!

Seniors Going to Taj Mahal

November 6

It's time to win some money at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. Join the bus trip to the Taj Mahal on Nov. 6. The bus leaves the senior center at 9 a.m. and returns at 7 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person. Sign up at the PAL.

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.

Polish Home Sponsors Atlantic City Trip

November 10

The Polish Home on New Market Ave. is sponsoring a trip to Atlantic City Caesar's Palace on Sunday, Nov. 10. Bus leaves the parking lot at 11 a.m. and returns at 8 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person with a \$13 coin return.

Chaumont Post 243 Bus Trip to Resorts

November 17

On Sunday, Nov. 17, Chaumont Post 243 will sponsor a trip to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City.

Bus leaves the Post at 9 a.m. sharp. The cost is \$20 with \$13 back from the casino.

Beer, soda, sandwiches, prizes.

Knights of Columbus Open House

November 19

Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes of South Plainfield Council #6203 cordially invite you to an Open House on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Knights of Columbus Hall located just off Hamilton Blvd. (across from Pizza Stop) 1 block from New Market Ave.

We are looking for families for membership in the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. Have fun, make friends and support your church and community. What could be more rewarding? Refreshments will be served.

For more info, please call Zig Sutor at (908) 755-9708.

Sacred Heart Advent Wreath Workshop

November 22

The Sacred Heart HSA invites all students and families of our school and parish to come and begin their holiday by making an advent wreath for the coming christmas season on Nov. 22, 7-8:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart School cafeteria. The cost is \$15 per wreath (all supplies included).

Christmas ornament kits will also be available at a cost of \$1 each (please bring smock, paint will be used).

SPHS Class of 71 Reunion

November 29

The South Plainfield High School Class of '71 thirty-something reunion will be held on Friday, Nov. 29, at the Willows Restaurant in Green Brook. If you have not received an invite, we couldn't locate you.

Please call Linda at (908) 561-7209 or Pat at (908) 580-9196 immediately as space is running out. There will be no tickets available at the door.

The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea

December 1

Sacred Heart Church Rosary Altar Society proudly presents the internationally acclaimed, "The Orchestra of St. Peter By The Sea." Christmas Concert conducted by Rev. Alphonse Stephenson on Sunday, Dec. 1, at Sacred Heart Church.

Tickets for General Admission are \$25, Seniors and Students are \$20.

For information, call (908) 756-0632, ext. 10 or (908) 755-6416.

Christmas Show at Hunterdon Playhouse

December 23

The Senior Center is sponsoring a trip to the Hunterdon Playhouse's Christmas Show.

The cost is \$50 per person. Bus leaves the Senior Center at 10 a.m. Register at the PAL.

— Out of Town —

Middlesex County 4-H Teen Council Haunted House

October 25-26

If you're looking for a good scare this Halloween season, the 4-H Teen Council will be sponsoring a Haunted House on Oct. 25 and 26 from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Willing participants should visit the Middlesex County Fairgrounds (next to the 4-H Center) on Cranbury Rd in East Brunswick and be prepared to scream.

The Haunted House is a fund raising event and the \$1 admission fee

will go toward 4-H's Project G.I.E.T. This annual event is held in December and is a free day of holiday shopping for 100 Middlesex County families in need.

For directions visit www.co.middlesex.nj.us/extensionservices/4hclubs.asp

Barefoot in the Park at Union Catholic

Oct. 25-26

Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains, will present *Barefoot in the Park*, Neil Simon's Tony Award-nominated comedy on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25 and 26 at 8 p.m. at the school.

Tickets are \$7 (\$5 for students and senior citizens) and all seats are reserved. For ticket sales, call (908) 889-1600. Union Catholic is located at 1600 Martine Ave. in Scotch Plains.

Fall Into Fun Crop

October 26

Please join us for Crop & Shop's 3rd Annual "Fall Into Fun Crop" on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen at 270 Woodbridge Avenue in Metuchen.

This event will benefit Teddy Bears For Tykes, an organization run by Firemen Ministries. This organization helps children who have been hurt, lost family members in fires and other tragic events. Please bring Teddy Bears and craft/scrapbook supplies to be donated to these children. Donate a Teddy Bear and receive a ticket entering you in a drawing for a beautiful basket of scrapbook/crafting supplies.

The cost for this great day of scrap- ping, food and fun is \$45. Admission includes lunch, dinner and a Scrap- book class. Advance registration is necessary. To do so, please call Crop & Shop at (732) 744-9494.

CHATS Adoption Support Meeting

October 28

CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support), will meet 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 28, at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave., North Plainfield. Speaker will be Betty Allen, PhD., adoption therapist, and author of *Mother, Can You Hear Me?* Open sharing of adoption-related stories and light refreshments.

Call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 or <http://communitynj.com/cc/chats> for information.

Depressive/Bipolar Patients Discuss Struggles & Successes

October 30

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (formerly First New Jersey Depressive and Manic Depressive Support Group) monthly lecture meeting on Oct. 30 will feature a panel of depressive and bipolar patients who will discuss their struggles and successes.

The monthly educational meetings take place on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Morris- town Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd. (about one block east of the Morris Museum) in Morristown. Meetings are open to the public; a nominal donation is requested from non-members. Free literature is available and there is a lending library of educational audiotapes for members.

Visit their website <http://communitynj.com/cc/1stnjdmisg> to learn more about the chapter and to view links to other sources of helpful information. For further info, call (973) 994-1143 or New Jersey Self-Help Clearing House at (800) 367-6274.

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.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD'S FINANCES ARE THE BEST IN NEW JERSEY!



❖ **Reduced Borough Debt By 50%!**

❖ **No Municipal Tax Increase 3 Of The Last 5 Years!**

❖ **Put A Cap On Spending!**

❖ **"Pay As You Go" Government!**

Mayor
Gallagher

Council
Kubala-Vokral

southplainfieldpeople Milestone

Joseph A. Harrah Appointed to Presidential Business Commission

Congressman Tom DeLay of Texas announced that Joseph A. Harrah of South Plainfield has been selected to serve the State of New Jersey on the new Presidential Business Commission.

The Presidential Business Commission (PBC) is an elite group of leading business and professional people and political strategists who will be advising the Republican leadership on how to protect the President's Majority in the House in the upcoming elections. Mr. Harrah was selected based on outstanding contributions as an honorary chairman of the party's business advisory council, a position Harrah still holds. On the Presidential Business

Commission, Harrah is expected to play a key role in helping the party craft their strategy in the important closing weeks of the campaign.

Commenting on Harrah's selection, Congressman DeLay said, "The 2002 election will be critical in determining the course of our nation, particularly in terms of tax relief and national defense. I am thrilled to have Harrah's expertise and input as a resource in the final weeks." Harrah will also be invited to attend high level meetings in Washington, and is expected to receive a special thank you picture of the President.

Sylvan Learning Center Honors Kendra McLeod at Conference

Sylvan Learning Center recently hosted its 19th annual conference. The four-day conference focused on educating franchise owners and employees about new Sylvan Learning Center services and celebrating center successes.

This year, a variety of awards were presented to centers, directors, owners and teachers in recognition of their continued dedication to the success of Sylvan Learning Center and the communities of which they are a part.

South Plainfield Kendra McLeod received an award for Marketing Ex-

cellence. The award recognizes Sylvan Learning Center owners who develop and implement outstanding marketing programs that promote Sylvan within their communities.

"The annual Sylvan Learning Center conference provides a wonderful venue to honor the commitment and dedication of their franchisees and center staff for their accomplishments in the areas of education, marketing, operations, and community outreach," said Mary Foster, president of Sylvan Learning Center.

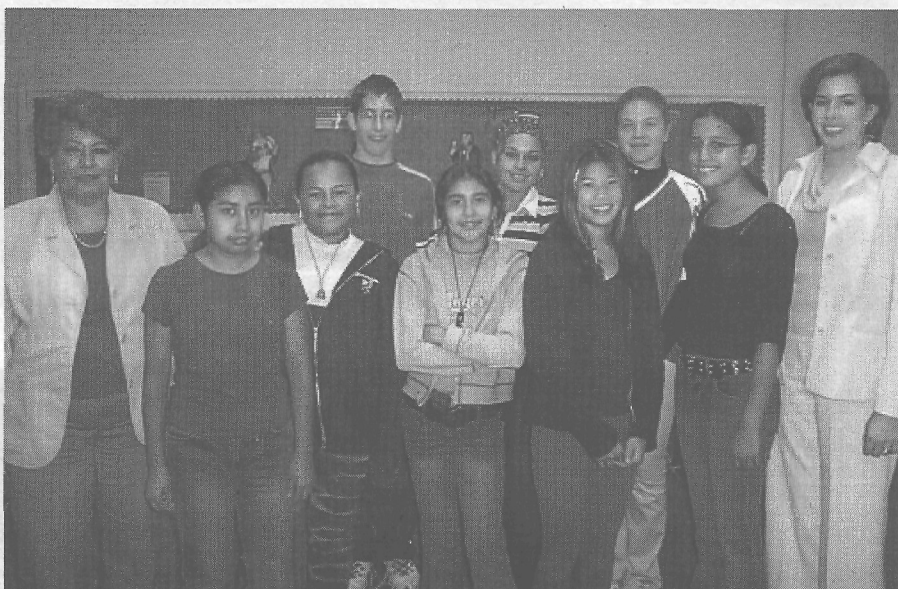
Tawanna Nichols Awarded Select Scholarship at Cittone Institute

Tawanna Nichols of South Plainfield, has begun her studies at The Cittone Institute in Edison under \$1,000 Select Scholarships awarded by the school.

A graduate of South Plainfield High School, Ms. Nichols is enrolled in the computer programming with web technology curriculum.

The Edison campus, located on Oak Tree Rd., is one of 23 schools operated nationally by Lincoln Educational

Services, which has been providing career education for more than a half century. Open for day and evening sessions, the school also offers programs for medical administrative assistant, help desk analyst, software applications specialist, network systems professional, network systems administrator, and business administration specialist. The Cittone Institute is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools/Colleges of Technology.



Pictured are bottom (l to r) Samia Guirguis, Yasmin Munoz, Carolay Lopez, Vanessa Ducuara and Karla Dubon. Top (l to r) Shannon Sullivan, Brittanie Wong, Daniel Becker, Luisa Medina and Jackie Miller.

Middle School Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

By Jane Dornick

The students at South Plainfield Middle School participated in a two week celebration in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month beginning on Sept. 16.

Miss Sullivan's eighth grade Spanish II classes joined together with Mrs.

Guirguis' English as a Second Language classes and presented interesting facts and information about Hispanic culture.

Each day began with another Hispanic fact read during the schools morning announcements.

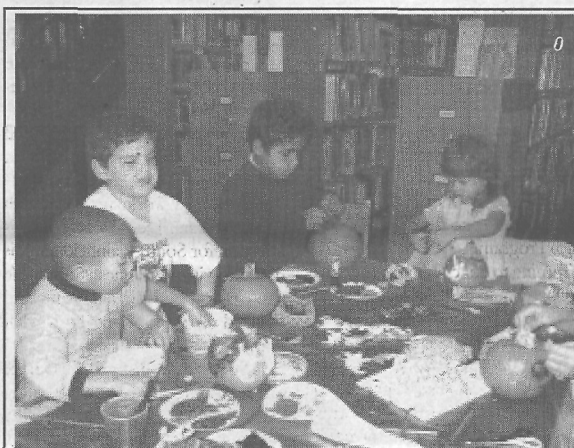
Luisa Velez and Carolay Lopez, ESL students of Hispanic origin, explained

that "Quinceanera" is the fifteenth birth celebration for teenagers in Latin America.

Dan Becker and Lauren Fry, Spanish II students, shared some facts about the similarities between the Spanish and English languages.

The students concluded their presentation by stating that there are 26 million Hispanics living in the US.

The program was created by the teachers to promote cultural awareness and understanding among the students.



It was Pumpkin Decorating Day at the South Plainfield Library last Saturday. No one went home disappointed. Each pumpkin was created by the children and all were unique. Photo by Marie Markey

Riley Cub Pack #224 'Scouting For Food'

Each year South Plainfield's Boy and Cub Scouts participate in Scouting for Food. The scouts participate by going in groups with their parents and distributing bags for collection of nonperishable foods, and collect the bags the following week. Each pack is assigned to a designated area for distribution and for pick up.

This year the bag distribution for Riley School Pack #224 will be on Saturday, Nov. 2, and the pick up will be on Saturday, Nov. 16.

We look forward to your kind donations and your contribution will make this program a success. The food collected is distributed in South Plainfield, so this program has a local impact.

On behalf of the Scouts, we thank you in advance for your participation.

Free Poetry Contest Open to So. Plfd. Residents

The International Library of Poetry has announced that \$58,000 in prizes will be awarded this year in the International Open Poetry Contest. Poets from the South Plainfield area, particularly beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of over 250 prizes. The deadline for the contest is Dec. 31, 2002. The contest is open to everyone and entry is FREE.

"Any poet, whether previously published or not, can be a winner," stated Christina Baylon, Contest Director. "When people learn about our free poetry contest, they suddenly realize that their own poetic works of art can win cash prizes, as well as gain national recognition," continued Baylon.

To enter, send ONE original poem, any subject and any style to: The International Library of Poetry, Suite 19915, 1 Poetry Plaza, Owings Mills, Md. 21117. The poem should be 20 lines or less, and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked

or sent via the Internet by Dec. 31. You may also enter online at www.poetry.com

The International Library of Poetry, founded in 1982, is the largest poetry organization in the world.

Register for Youth Wrestling

The South Plainfield Recreation 2002 Youth Wrestling Program will be holding registrations on Saturday, November 2, 2002. Participants will be able to register between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at the PAL. Registration is open

to all children in South Plainfield between ages 5 and 11. The fee is \$25 per participant, no refunds will be available. In order to register, a birth certificate and proof of residency is required, and a parent must be present.

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in the

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RESERVE A SPACE NOW!

We Specialize in
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We'll personalize for your child!

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decorations in
store now!

Walk-ins always welcome!

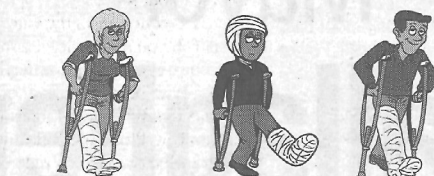
GIRL SCOUTS AND BOY SCOUTS!
We have outlined ceramic & craft lesson plans that meet requirements for badges.

**24 South Plainfield
Ave. South Plainfield
(908) 755-5060**

**Elks Are Selling
Entertainment
Books for 2003**

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the Entertainment book for \$30.

Contact Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.



On the Road to Recovery?
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Physical Therapy Center
of South Plainfield & Woodbridge
1110 Hamilton Blvd. • South Plainfield



Eighth Grade Middle School Students Get a Tough Lesson

By Jane Dornick

Family Court Attorney and South Plainfield resident James Moloughney gave Ms. Slinger's eighth grade Middle School Health classes a tough lesson on juvenile issues and penalties recently.

Current headlines about teen violence, drugs, drunk driving and other

issues that are facing teens were discussed, as well as the consequences the students may suffer for their actions.

Moloughney also explained how having a juvenile record could have repercussions for them when they enter the adult job world. In fact, certain crimes might even prolong the time it takes them in getting their driver's license.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Ken Morgan

Well, you've only got another few days to get your costume ready, put up the cobwebs and buy a truckload of candy. But, we're sure you can take a few moments to check on news from the South Plainfield Library:

Tomorrow is the last day to borrow items from this month's group of Circuit videos. Titles this month include *Shadow of the Vampire*, *Don't Drink the Water*, *October Sky*, *Disney's The Kid*, *When We Were Kings* and, on DVD, *Don't Say a Word*. Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days. Meanwhile, the latest group from the Audiobook Circuit is now available. Titles in this group include *The Nanny Diaries* by Emma McLaughlin, *The Last Precinct* by Patricia Cornwell, *Celebrations at Thrush Green* by Miss Read, *Undaunted Courage* by the late Stephen Ambrose, and, on CD, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling. Audiobooks may be borrowed, four at a time, for two weeks.

Don't forget about our antiques appraisal program this Sunday after-

noon. Veteran appraiser Alan G. Snyder will be available from 2-4 p.m. Participants are limited to two items; appraisals will be done on a "first come, first serve" basis.

Monday will be the last day you can see *Silent Victims*, the special display on domestic violence. This display has been provided by the South Plainfield Domestic Violence Educational Outreach Program.

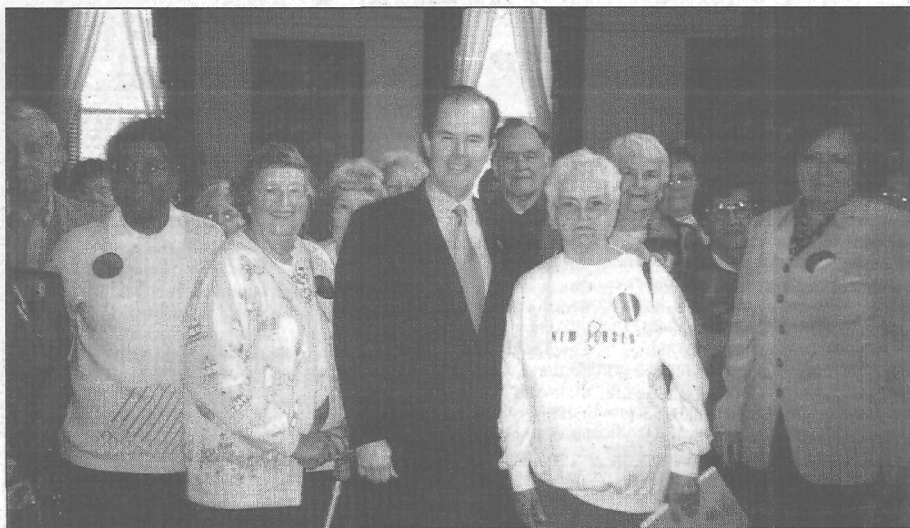
Turning to our children's programs, we have a special Halloween Kidcraft program scheduled for Monday evening at 6:30. It's for children ages six and over; pre-registration is requested. We also have our usual schedule of children's Storytime programs. They're for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. The programs are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. For more information, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

We've got another special program coming soon. On Sunday, Nov. 3, at 2 p.m., we'll host a program on Seeing Eye dogs. Janet Keller, a volunteer with The Seeing Eye, Inc., will lead this hands-on program about service dogs and how they're trained. Everyone is welcome to attend this program.

We also have an advance word on some real bargains you can find here at the Library. For the month of November, prices have been marked down for the ongoing Friends of the Library Book Sale. Sale books can go for the low, low prices of 15 cents each, 2 for 25 cents, or 10 for \$1. Also, videos will go for 50 cents each. Be sure to take advantage of this sale before we come to our senses.

Here's a request from the Circulation staff: If you need to leave a message for us on our phone answering system, please be sure to leave your name and, if possible, your Library barcode number. Please speak clearly; if you have what could be considered a complicated last name, you might want to spell it out. If you want to renew items, please tell us which items you want renewed. Finally, please leave your phone number so, if there's a problem, we can get back to you. All of these tips should help us all avoid any unnecessary hassles.

That's all for now. See you next Friday, have a happy Halloween, and please take great care with your kids when they go trick-or-treating.



Assemblyman Pat Diegnan Invites South Plainfield Seniors to Tour the State House

On Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2002, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan invited dozens of South Plainfield senior citizens to the New Jersey State Capitol. The bus left from the senior citizen center, escorted by Assemblyman Diegnan's Chief of Staff Addie Levine, Legislative Aide Beverly Passantino and Office Manager Evelyn Gorman. The bus was provided by the South Plainfield Recreation Department. Assemblyman Diegnan met the seniors as they arrived and welcomed them to the newly renovated State House. They visited the two chambers of legislative power in the state—the Assembly and the Senate—and toured the Office of the Governor. Governor James McGreevey took time out of his busy workday to visit with all the seniors. He talked about his affection for South Plainfield and his desire to visit in the near future. He took pictures with everyone and thanked all for stopping by to chat with him.

A State House Historian guided the group from room to room, pointing out special items and explaining why things were placed in the Capitol Building. The seniors learned a lot about the early beginnings of New

Jersey and how the democratic process works in our State Government today. Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan treated the group to lunch. After a very enjoyable meal, the seniors were escorted up to the conference room of the Speaker of the Assembly, Albert Soires. The Speaker explained how a law was passed in the Assembly and what it took to get the State Senate to agree to the law's passage.

The Seniors were then invited to the visitor's chairs above the Assembly Chambers. After the meeting was called to order, Assemblyman Diegnan was recognized by the Speaker to speak to the entire Assembly. Diegnan stood up and asked the members of the Assembly to welcome the "Best Senior Citizen Group in the State of New Jersey — the South Plainfield Senior Citizen Group." A round of applause could be heard throughout the chambers.

The Assembly then went about the business of the state — discussing the passage of several new laws. The dialogue was intense and genuine. The seniors learned first hand how an idea could become a law and how the impact of the new law could affect residents of our state.

Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan escorted everyone back to the bus, thanked them for coming, and wished them a safe ride home. On the way back to South Plainfield, the seniors were entertained with material provided by Chief of Staff Addie Levine. Everyone agreed it was a great trip and they were very thankful to Assemblyman Diegnan, his staff, and the Recreation Department for such an enlightening, entertaining day.

SDW Selling Tickets to "Evening of Giving"

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop is selling tickets to Menlo Park Mall's "Evening of Giving" on Sunday, Nov. 24.

This event features special sales and other events at the mall, including performances by the Summer Drama Workshop and other groups. This is a fundraiser for the SPSPDW and the Simon Foundation, with each group benefiting from portions of the ticket sales. For tickets or more information, please call (908) 756-6461.

Candidates Debate

Continued from page 1

St. project has gone on since 1981 and if the Borough had put aside \$300,000 per year, it would have had enough to pay for the road. Gallagher said that \$300,000 per year would have to come from somewhere and the town does not have that much money in the budget.

The readiness of our emergency services after September 11 was questioned. Gallagher said, "I am confident that our police, fire and emergency management employees are well equipped to handle emergencies and the governing body has given them everything they need to be prepared." Cataldo agreed that our emergency services are well trained, but added, "What about the homeowners in case of a nuclear attack? What is our plan for escape, what course of action do we take? Where do the children go? Do we have a plan for this?"

Everyone attending agreed that the night was a complete success. Those who had just come to listen and not ask questions said it helped in deciding how they will vote.



Liquid ASSETS

GENTLEMAN'S CLUB

"Party with the Spirits" 🦇

HALLOWEEN "TERRORTHON"

THURS. THRU SAT., OCT 31 THROUGH

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"As seen in the Sept. 27 issue of the Observer"

Cash prize each night for

BEST COSTUME

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Draft Specials! • Drink Specials!

.....

Shot Specials!

.....



SPECIAL APPEARANCE

BY RENOWNED

Psychic & Ghost Hunter

Jane Doherty

on Halloween night

Ghost tours starting at 10 p.m.

118 NEW MARKET AVE. SOUTH PLAINFIELD

From the Republicans

County Tax Board
Figures Contradict
Democrats' Tax Claims

Republican candidates Jake Cataldo, Marge Reedy, and Geoff Champion received a letter from the Middlesex County Board of Taxation that finally settles the questions voters have about tax increases. As pointed out by Cataldo, "the letter shows Democrats have been feeding South Plainfield voters false claims year after year."

"People ask me why their tax bills get bigger even though Democrats advertise 'no tax increase' every year," said Reedy. "We now have the proof—municipal taxes are skyrocketing." Here's what the official tax-rate records show since 1995:

Year	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Rate	.59	.66	.72	.76	.75	.80	.861	.861

In 1995 an average home appraised at \$117,000 paid taxes totaling \$690.30. In 2002 the same homeowner will pay \$1,007.37. "That's a huge increase," noted Champion. "It's even bigger if your home's value is more than the average."

"I can't understand how the Democrats can say year after year they haven't raised taxes," added Reedy. "For example, in January 2001 Mayor Gallagher said his party hadn't raised taxes in 'four out of the last five years.' (*Observer* 1/12/01). It wasn't true. He made a similar claim in January this year. He said there was no municipal tax increase 'three out of the last five years.' (*Observer* 1/11/02). Look at the chart—that claim's false too."

"Now the Democrats want us to believe they won't raise taxes for 2003. In fact, there was an article in last week's paper that included a 2003 rate supplied by the Borough's C.E.O., a Democratic appointee, and the Borough Clerk, a former Democratic councilman. But this is the same Democratic councilman who said in 1999 that taxes were .753 for three years in a row. (*Observer* 9/24/99). He was wrong then, so why should we believe him now," said Cataldo.

According to Champion: "The county tax board strikes the tax rate after each municipality adopts a final budget and after the ratables in each town are certified. Before this happens, municipal officials can only guess what the rate will be. That's why even though the Democrats say there will be no tax increase for 2003, it's only a prediction." Here's a few more phony tax claims:

- October 1998 – Billboards and mailers supporting Gallagher, Cerami, and Pinto say "No tax increase this year and next year."

- October 15, 1999 *Observer* – Democrats Kubala and Vokral say taxes are the same rate as in 1997.

- January 7, 2000 *Observer* – Mayor Gallagher says there had been no tax increase "two years in a row."

"These claims are bogus too," said Champion. "The figures from the county prove it." "What's scary is that even using the tax rates supplied by Democrats in last week's paper you can see some of their statements aren't true," Reedy added.

"It's hard to imagine how the Democrats think they can get away with these shenanigans. They must have little regard for the intelligence of the voters," said Cataldo. "One thing is clear: This must come to an end. Candidates from both parties need to be honest with the voters, because winning does not justify sacrificing the truth. I call upon the mayor to apologize on behalf of his party to the people of South Plainfield. If both sides conduct honest campaigns, the people of South Plainfield can make informed choices, and we'll all be winners."

From the Democrats

Road Projects Will
Address Traffic Concerns

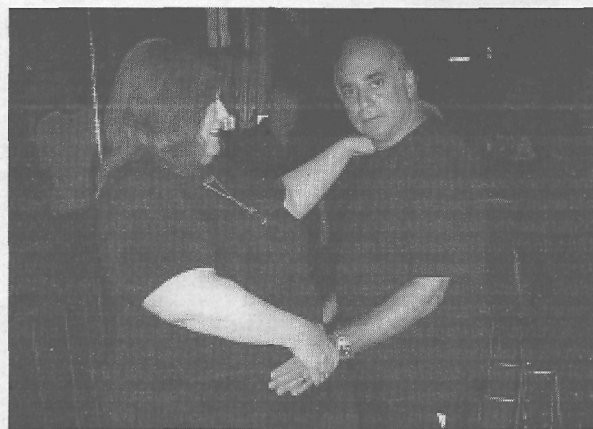
Mayor Dan Gallagher and his running mates, Councilpersons Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral, made the following comments on traffic congestion in the borough. The mayor said, "South Plainfield regrettably suffers from the same traffic congestion as virtually every town in Central New Jersey. We all wish we could just do away with traffic but this is the area of our state where most people live and work. Over the last eight years the governing body has worked to move traffic through the various intersections within the borough. Turning lanes and traffic lights have been installed at the intersections of New Durham and Durham Ave., Maple Ave. and Front St., Maple Ave. and Park Ave. and Park Ave. and Oak Tree Rd. In addition, intersection improvements were made to Front Street and Oak Tree Rd., Lakeview Ave. and Maple Ave. and an additional lane installed on Durham Ave. Although these projects have helped, they clearly have not alleviated traffic on our borough streets. Two projects which are being developed, which will dramatically reduce traffic on our residential streets are the total reconstruction of Hamilton Blvd. and the Helen Street Project."

Councilperson Ed Kubala expanded on Mayor Gallagher's comments, "I live on Hamilton Boulevard. No one has to tell me what a traffic nightmare is. Right now, the Borough and County engineers are finalizing the design of a total reconstruction of Hamilton Blvd. all the way from the overpass on New Market Ave. right up to the Home Depot on Hamilton Blvd. A turning lane will be installed at the intersection of New Market Ave. and Hamilton Blvd. along with a new staged traffic light. Traffic lights will also be installed at St. Nicholas Ave. and Hamilton Blvd., Hollywood and Hamilton and South Clinton and Hamilton. Hamilton Blvd. will be widened to four lanes from the Valley National Bank all the way to Stetson Rd. and there will be new sidewalks, curbs and drainage throughout the project. This is a complicated project with many required acquisitions and permits but, if all goes well, construction will be under way within 12 to 18 months. We will also be making Durham Ave. four lanes all the way from Hamilton Boulevard to Route

287. This project will really move traffic along the boulevard. However, the project which will take traffic off the residential streets is Helen Street."

Council President Jim Vokral explained the status of Helen Street. "Councilperson Charlie Butrico has done a terrific job to get the Helen Street project moving. Charlie gave a report at our last council meeting confirming that the environmental evaluation is just about completed and the design stage will start next year. After that comes land acquisition, contract preparation and award. Ground breaking for Helen St. should start in the later part of 2005. That may sound like a long time but the road will cross the railroad tracks and a brook and borders the former landfill. It will cost in excess of \$12 million, totally funded by the federal government. When Helen St. is completed it will eliminate truck traffic from a major portion of the borough. I want to congratulate Councilperson Butrico for his hard work to date and his continuing dedication to the project."

Mayor Gallagher summed up the Democrats position on traffic. "It's easy to complain about traffic congestion. I am proud that this mayor and council have done something to try to alleviate it. You have our commitment that working together with Middlesex County and the federal government, the Hamilton Boulevard and Helen Street projects will be completed at no cost to South Plainfield residents. Addressing traffic congestion will continue to be one of our top priorities. When you look at the record and our plans for the future, I believe that the Democratic slate of Dan Gallagher, Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral are the best team for the future of South Plainfield."



Liquid Assets owner John Colasanti and ghost investigator Jane Doherty.

More Strange Sightings
Occur in South Plainfield

By Jane Dornick

Since our original story about an apparent ghost sighting at Liquid Assets which appeared in September, the story seems to have generated a lot of excitement and interest among our readers. Our story has even caught the attention of several newspapers and television stations. We thought it would be appropriate to continue to share our journey with ghost investigator Jane Doherty.

Back in August, during our first daytime visit to the establishment with Jane Doherty, she pointed out quite a few characters who's presence she felt might be among us. Doherty senses a spirit through an unexplained phenomenon which causes a small portion of her stomach area to expand and contract. This happens each time a presence is felt as she walks through a haunted area. Everyone present was in awe of how you could actually see and feel her stomach move. According to Doherty, she has been to many doctors and they have no medical explanation for this occurrence.

While walking past the ladies room, Doherty felt the spirit of a former dancer. Owner John Colasanti told us that shortly after he took over the bar several years ago a dancer was killed in a car accident.

In another area of the bar she sensed a man coming in through an outside door, possibly a former owner in the 1920's or 30's, who is dressed in overalls and went up a set of stairs. His wife also came into the bar looking for him. The building was said to have been an inn with rooms above years ago, which would explain the front entrance which no longer exists.

A "humorous" man's spirit also like's to play in the bar and look at the dancers. Another spirit apparently died at the bar and stories have been related about a man who was dared to drink Vodka and perished there. Among the ensemble are two other male spirits, former patrons, who like to sit at the bar and enjoy themselves.

Since ghosts are more active during the evening hours, Doherty again vis-

ited the bar late last Saturday night accompanied by colleague John Cifarelli, co-founder of the NJ Paranormal Society. Cifarelli brought along an infrared camera to see if he could capture any image. As of presstime there was no word of what the pictures revealed.

A mini-seance was held, which included Liquid Assets junior partner Rich Parachini. Doherty was excited to tell us that they were successful in contacting the spirit of first owner of the building. Apparently she felt that he had been operating the bar illegally during prohibition and he likes to hide throughout the building. Doherty feels that he is the visual image that was caught on the security camera tape outside of the building.

At one point during the seance, Parachini felt like he was touched, others felt like someone was sitting on their laps. An orb was also spotted and vibrations were felt at the bar.

The most eerie and captivating part of the evening was when the phone rang at 3:30 a.m. Parachini answered the phone and no one was there. They checked the answering machine and nothing was there. The phones even went dead for a short period of time. Finally they were able to dial *69 to get a return caller. The call came from the cell phone number of Parachini, who's phone was locked in his car and turned off at the time.

After the excitement, they noticed that all the clocks were an hour behind. Parachini explained that every night he has to fix the clocks as they lose time. Maybe the ghosts don't want the party to be over?

Since July, strange ghostly images have been captured on tape outside the club on four separate occasions. Doherty says that she is "thrilled that this is all happening in her hometown" and intends to put this on her website and even try get this strange appearance on the TV show *Unsolved Mysteries*.

For all you ghost fans, Doherty will be making a personal appearance at Liquid Assets next Thursday, Halloween night at 10 p.m. She plans to give ghost tours inside the building.

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IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

attacked anyone personally.

The same is not true for the Gallagher campaign. In a mailer, the mayor challenged my commitment to this town. In doing so, he libeled me and tried to mislead the voters. Despite knowing about my background, he suggested I've never served my fellow citizens. That's a lie.

The filth in the mayor's campaign literature does, however, contain one truth. I haven't served on any municipal boards during his tenure in office. Yet I've remained active in other South Plainfield endeavors. Does he really expect people to believe he would have appointed me to the planning board or zoning board? He won't even speak to his rivals in a civil tone, let alone appoint one.

I won't re-list my entire background, but I will list a few highlights. I was a member of the Recreation Commission and served as its president. I coached little league for 17 years. I helped construct the P.A.L. building and served that organization for years. For my career I chose to serve the people of South Plainfield as a police officer. I am a veteran and member of the American Legion. Suffice it to say, I've been involved in town most of my life. Unlike the mayor, I've done more than be a politician.

I'd like to end this letter with a message to Mayor Gallagher. Mr. Mayor, unlike you I don't spend all my time boasting. Some people aren't always desperate to steal the limelight. They aren't so drunk with power they think they are the end all and be all of our town. Some people don't engage in self-serving rhetoric guided by an inflated ego. They realize South Plainfield was here long before them and will be here long after them. I'd ask you to stop spewing your smut, but I doubt you'd even acknowledge what you're doing, let alone take heed.

I debated whether to write this letter, and I apologize to the voters for letting the mayor distract me from the issues this week. But sometimes politicians forget people are on the other end of their attacks.

JAKE CATALDO

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support of South Plainfield Mayor Dan Gallagher. Dan has worked as a public servant in his borough for nearly twenty years. He is a "hands on" official who can be seen at almost every town event. Mayor Gallagher understands the town of South Plainfield and possesses the vision and talent to handle the challenges that come with the office of mayor.

Experience, intelligence and integrity make Dan Gallagher the best choice for mayor of South Plainfield.

**SINCERELY,
ROBERT C. DIEHL
SPHS TEACHER
COUNCILMAN EDISON TWNSP.**

To the Editor,

One of the things people ask me when I campaign is what the mayor and council can do to improve safety for our residents. They point to the recent fire at Traditions as an example and say if we had better building standards the fire would not have spread so quickly.

They're right. If elected, I would call for revamping and updating our building codes for large-scale construction. It's amazing how these codes drive homeowners crazy when they add a deck or room to their house, but at the same time, they let builders get away with slipshod construction.

From what I read in the paper, the builder who slapped together the Traditions townhouses met all building codes and passed inspection. This shows our fire inspectors were doing their jobs: the building was to code.

The problem is that we need to look at the building codes. Meeting state standards is not good enough. We need to see where higher standards make sense. Maybe we need better firewalls

between units—even in the attics. Maybe we need to require better sprinkler systems. I am not a fire-prevention expert, nor are the current members of the council, but it can't hurt to consult with experts and see if there is more we can do to protect homeowners and their families.

In fact, there's no reason to wait. The mayor and council should start this review immediately. In the meantime, I hope I've answered those of you who are asking this question. It's too late to be proactive, but we can at least react to what happened and not let it happen again.

**GEOFF CHAMPION
CANDIDATE FOR BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

Dear Editor,

As you may know, I am the liaison to Public Safety on the South Plainfield Council. The Public Safety Committee is responsible for our Police Department, Fire Department, Rescue Squad and Emergency Management Department. I am proud to say that we have by far the best Public Safety departments in the state.

Mayor Dan Gallagher has always made our Police Department, Fire Department, Rescue Squad and Emergency Management departments a top priority during his 19 years of service, first on the council and then as mayor of our borough. Council President Jim Vokral and Budget Chairperson Ed Kubala have also been champions of Public Safety during their nine years on the council. While taxes have been flat for three of the five last years and our municipal debt has been slashed by over \$10 million, the needs of these departments have never been sacrificed.

Here is just a partial list of what has been accomplished with the leadership of Mayor Dan Gallagher, Councilperson Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral:

Police: Maintain 56 sworn officers; 20 new hires due to Officers with 25 years or more retiring; State-of-the-art 911 system; bike patrols initiated; lease purchase program for vehicles "three police vehicles per year;" computer forensic lab (drug forfeiture money); detective and prison transport vehicles; video cameras in police vehicles; radar trailer; live scan electronic fingerprinting system; Community Policing "Dare" on New Market Ave.; Special Problems Unit; Domestic Violence Intervention Program; new identification card system; Crime Tip Hotline re-instituted; emergency response van (transferred from Fire Dept.); new fire truck (pumper); new Rescue truck; thermal imaging camera; overhang exhaust system; jaws of life and extrication equipment, LOSAP (Length of Service Award Program)

Rescue Squad: One new ambulance in 2001; bids are out for a 2002 ambulance; life insurance policy; LOSAP (Length of Service Award Program); \$25,000 annual increase in municipal contributions.

OEM: new office/building (old senior center location); OEM vehicle - Suburban; OEM vehicle - Dodge Ram P/U; generators/pumps.

When you look at the facts, the choice is an easy one on Election Day. Dan Gallagher Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral have earned our trust. Support them so they can continue to work to keep South Plainfield one of the safest towns in Middlesex County.

**SINCERELY,
DENNIS CERAMI, COMMISSIONER,
POLICE, FIRE, RESCUE AND OEM**

To the Editor,

South Plainfield needs two-party government again. The Democrats refuse to answer legitimate questions. Instead, they hurl insults at their rivals and boast about themselves as if they built our town from the ground up. In reality they have a great deal to account for. Mr. Mayor, answer these questions:

Why did you and the council wait until the media came to town to close the park even though you knew about possible toxic contamination for over a year?

Why did you promise a tax cut this year and then break your promise?

Why did you ignore Jake Cataldo's suggestion to limit campaign spending? Is it because you'd have to give back thousands of dollars to your builder friends?

Why did your party break its pledge to have Helen Street and the reconstruction of Hamilton Boulevard done by now?

Why do you say you're not responsible for the school-tax increase when your party allowed all the building in town to take place?

Why did you say in January 2001 that we hadn't had a tax increase in four out of the last five years when it wasn't true even using your own figures?

Why are you bullying business owners that support Cataldo, Reedy and Champion?

Why are you libeling Jake Cataldo in your mailers? Do you really expect us to believe you would have appointed him to the planning or zoning board?

Before attacking others, Mr. Mayor, answer these questions.

ROBERT JONES, JR.

To the Editor,

I have been honored to serve as your councilperson for five years. Although it is a "part time job," if you want to do the job right you must work at it every day. It is almost impossible to make all the meetings, answer all of the mail, and respond to the needs of your committee assignments. However, Mayor Dan Gallagher is always there. His knowledge of every detail of the borough is amazing. Whether an emergency call at night, attending an Eagle Scout awards ceremony, official holidays, wherever and whenever he can help, our Mayor is there.

Councilmen Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral are also incredibly dedicated to our borough and its residents. Just look at what has been accomplished over the last few years.... All our parks upgraded, a new skating park and roller hockey facility behind Borough Hall, the new senior recreation center on Lakeview Ave., the senior housing on Morris Ave, doubling the size of the PAL and all of this while cutting the

Borough debt in half and keeping taxes and spending under control.

Nobody deserves to be an elected official. You have to earn it through lots of hard work and from that work you gain knowledge. Dan, Ed and Jim have worked hard to earn the respect of all the residents of South Plainfield.

I am only asking that you, as a voter, look at the facts and when you do, your decision will be clear. A vote for Mayor Dan Gallagher, Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral for council is a vote for South Plainfield's future.

**THANK YOU,
COUNCIL RAYMOND PETRONKO**

To the Editor,

I will not vote for Mayor Gallagher and his pals this year. It's amazing what these people will do and say to get elected. Then, once they get in office, they forget everything they promised.

Helen Street is a prime example. They've been promising this for years, and now they say it won't be done until 2005. We've been putting up with traffic nightmares in the meantime, and now they tell us to wait some more. Why didn't they make other plans? Why didn't they look into alternatives? What happens if we finally get Helen Street finished and we find out it didn't solve the problems?

Taxes are another broken promise. I knew the mayor promised a tax cut this year, because I remember reading it somewhere. The Republicans last week quoted the mayor, and yes, he did promise to reduce our taxes. He said he could and would reduce taxes this year. So much for his word.

The Democrats say they've been holding taxes down, but my bill keeps going up. Consider this false claim along with their broken promises, and one thing is clear. They've got to go.

ED LYONS

To the Editor,

As you probably know, I am a corrections supervisor at the county jail. Law enforcement has always been my primary concern.

The most recent Uniform Crime Statistics by the Federal Government

show that South Plainfield's crime rate went down by about 25% last year. One of the things I'm most proud of is our Mayor and Council's commitment to keep South Plainfield one of the safest communities in Middlesex County.

Dan Gallagher, Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral have worked hard to keep our police department at full strength and to give them the tools they need to keep our residents safe. They have accomplished this while keeping taxes under control and reducing our Borough debt by \$10 million.

I really think the choice is easy in this year's election. Dan Gallagher, Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral have a record to be proud of and I urge that you join me in voting for them on Nov. 5.

**VERY TRULY YOURS,
COUNCILMAN BOB CUSICK**

To the Editor:

On Nov. 5 South Plainfield has the chance to elect a new mayor and two new council members. We shouldn't pass it up.

The current administration brought us soaring taxes, traffic nightmares, higher crime, and more construction than we've ever seen. They ignore the real problems that we face everyday. We asked them to solve the traffic problems almost a decade ago, and they promises they would. Taxes are rising.

We need people to watch over the Democrats. At least with a Republican mayor and two Republicans on the council, someone will be watching over their shoulders. Bring back two-party government. Vote for Cataldo, Reedy and Champion.

BILL SEESSELBERG

To the Editor

South Plainfield is once again faced with a very important election on Nov. 5. We have been very fortunate over the last eight years under the leadership of Mayor Dan Gallagher to have our community flourish. From the addition of our PAL building for our youth, the new Senior Center, to our new Senior facility, the leadership of Mayor Gallagher, Councilperson Ed Kubala and Councilperson Jim Vokral

(Continued on page 10)

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IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 9)

have enriched the lives of everyone in our community.

When you look around at our road improvements, our open space programs, South Plainfield has come a long way from the days of the borrow and spend mentality of their opponents. Their opponents want you to forget about the \$40 million they borrowed to balance the budget. Not a single dime went to capital improvements. Under Mayor Gallagher we are about to finally pay off the debt that has taken close to over ten years to pay off.

Let us continue the course that has brought no tax increases, fiscal responsibility and a plan that will continue to make South Plainfield a great place to live. With the Mayor's aggressive open space program that will preserve over 50 acres of land, to the Helen Street extension program that will alleviate commercial traffic on our streets, the future for South Plainfield continues to shine.

The team of Mayor Dan Gallagher, Councilpersons Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral deserve your support to ensure South Plainfield stays on the right track for the future. Let's not get fooled again by their opponents. Let the real winners will be the residents of our borough. Vote Gallagher, Kubala and Vokral on Nov. 5.

**JOHN A. PULOMEIA
FREEHOLDER, MIDDLESEX COUNTY**

Dear Editor,

I am not in the habit of writing letters to the editor, but the recent letter from Margaret Stashak was off the wall. Her statement "the truth is that the municipal taxes have not gone up while the Democrats have been in office" is just plain wrong. She is either misinformed, can't read a tax bill or just enjoys spreading false information. Anyone who doubts this can contact the Middlesex Board of Taxation, the agency responsible for certifying tax rates. They will tell you the local rate for South Plainfield was .59 in 1995, the year Gallagher took office as Mayor. The local rate for 2002 is .861. If that's not an increase I don't know what is. I don't know where Stashak gets her tax bills from, but it sure can't be South Plainfield.

Her remarks as to Marjorie Reedy and the school taxes are also far fetched. As a school board member, Reedy helped to prepare school budgets which by law are then submitted to the voters for approval or rejection. If rejected, the school budgets then go to the Mayor and Council who have the option of cutting them or letting them stand as submitted. So to suggest Reedy could have prevented school taxes from increasing is ridiculous. If she wants to blame Reedy then she should also blame the mayor and council.

Furthermore, if she is so concerned about school taxes she might ask her Democrat friends why they let builders construct so many new apartments and homes, which in turn generate more pupils for our school system, resulting in higher school taxes.

She dreads to think what will happen if the Republicans get in. Well I dread the thought of the Democrats staying in. Vote Republican, they will not lie to about your taxes.

ANITA HOGAN

To the Editor,

On Election Day, you only have to look around to see why you should vote for Dan Gallagher and the Democrats. First, look at the tax bill. No municipal tax increase this year. When you consider the lack of state aid and just the normal cost increases because of inflation, this is truly a great achievement. Next, look at the new senior recreation center that was built at no cost to the taxpayers. Next, look at the new senior housing on Morris Ave. Next, look at all of the roads being paved. Next,

look at the big addition to the PAL. One look around South Plainfield will tell you why Dan Gallagher, Jim Vokral and Ed Kubala deserve to be re-elected.

GARY L. VESCE

To the Editor,

All we get are broken promises from our mayor and council. They promised Helen Street would be complete by the end of 2002. It's not even started. They promised to reconstruct Hamilton Blvd. by the end of 2001, and they went back on their word. They promised us a tax cut this year. And yes, they broke that promise too.

I'm tired of all the broken promises. I know the Democrats will still be in charge no matter who gets elected this year, but I want to send them a message. I'm voting for Marge Reedy, Geoff Champion and Jake Cataldo. We need a change.

JOAN ELLIOTT

Dear Editor

As someone who was born and raised in South Plainfield, I can attest to what a great place this is to live in and raise a family. Everyone here really cares about each other and tries to support each other.

After coming to the United States from Ireland, my parents moved to South Plainfield with my six brothers and sisters just before I was born. My father was always interested in politics and he served as a Democratic committeeman for years. I can still remember him taking me with him to election headquarters when I was just a child. He always taught us that the political process was an essential part of our democracy and that everyone should be involved. As a result, I have known every mayor of South Plainfield from Pete Kaymowicz through our present mayor, Dan Gallagher.

Whether Democrat or Republican, I believe every one of these men tried their hardest to do what was best for the residents of our borough. Dan and Marion Gallagher are my wife's, Anita, and my closest friends. They are two of the finest people you could ever come to know. The two of them work tirelessly to help others. In my mind, Dan Gallagher is the most outstanding mayor South Plainfield has ever had. The progress that has been achieved during his tenure in office is incomparable. Simply stated, Dan deserves to be reelected.

Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral are men of character, dedication and ability. They have worked with Mayor Gallagher to make South Plainfield a model of good government. They also deserve reelection. South Plainfield's government is in good hands. We should keep it that way. On Election Day, Nov. 5, I ask all of our residents to vote for Dan Gallagher for Mayor and Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral for Borough Council.

PATRICK J. DIEGMAN, JR.

Dear Editor,

The mayor and his friends are totally out of touch. The Republicans are not criticizing South Plainfield. They are criticizing the Gallagher administration. The Democrats' egos are so bloated they don't know the difference between the two.

MARILYN LEVINE

To the Editor:

In 1991 with the start of the Persian Gulf War, America felt a renewed sense of patriotism. That patriotism was again renewed with the tragic events of Sept. 11 and leading into the war in Afghanistan.

By most accounts the recent display of patriotism has not been greater since World War II. While most of us go about our daily lives and daily grinds we tend to forget about the many sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, mothers and fathers

who are and who have served our country, protected our freedom and have made the ultimate sacrifice with their lives.

There has been no better way to show our patriotism than to "honor and respect" those who made that ultimate sacrifice and bestowing that respect to the families left behind.

Not long after the end of World War II, the governing forefathers of South Plainfield decided to show "honor and respect" by naming streets after our borough residents killed in World War II. This was later amended to include Korea, Vietnam and other conflicts.

"Honor and respect," not hard for a person, community or organization to show or maintain. Is it?

You see, it's disgraceful enough that World War II ended 57 years ago, not to mention the many roads built in South Plainfield since then, that it took 55 years for an administration Republican or Democrat to finally "honor" those killed in World War II. But worse yet, the sign to "honor" Sgt. Edward Gruszynski has never been erected and his name is misspelled on borough maps. One and half years have lapsed since borough officials were advised. "Honor & Respect?"

On Oct. 19, 2002 the mayor and council along with the VFW Post #6763 and the American Legion Post #243 conducted a ceremony, "a celebration to remember our heroes." This to dedicate new street signs in honor of those killed. At the ceremony booklets containing pictures and brief biographies of those killed were provided. The bio of PFC. Carl Wenzel caught my attention as it listed Carl serving and being killed in Korea. My thoughts were of anger and disgust. You see, PFC. Carl Wenzel served in the Pacific and was killed in World War II. This is much more than typographical errors, as during a previous dedication of a plaque a few years ago the commanders of both the American Legion (where the plaque rests) and the VFW were advised of the error. The response was less than favorable and the plaque never corrected. Again this past Saturday the error was brought to their attention by the family of PFC. Wenzel.

As I stated before "honor and respect," is not hard for a person, community or organization to show or maintain, and although there may be those are who thinking that at least the effort was made; it is my belief that if we are going to make that effort, let's get it right out of respect for those who died and those left behind.

JEFF SEIDER

Dear Editor:

This is a very important election coming up. New Jersey is one of several states which may decide control of the United States Senate. If Republicans pick up one seat, they will control the Presidency and both the Senate and the House for the first time since 1954 except for a few weeks last year.

The main issue in this election is not eliminating abortion rights or cutting senior's social security checks since no one is proposing either. The main issue is Lawsuit Reform. Republicans want to cap pain and suffering damages which is awarded beyond the original damages while Democrats and their special interest the Trial Lawyers Assoc. are against any caps.

Lawsuit fraud or frivolous lawsuits are costing our economy much more than corporate fraud. Doctor's are closing down their practice. Many expectant mother's cannot find a doctor to help deliver their baby. Companies are moving off shore, cutting back on full-time employees and benefits or going bankrupt which causes retiree's to lose health insurance and retirement benefits.

In addition the original lawyers in the cases involving asbestos, breast implants and Phen-phen are asking the courts to stop payments from the settlement because of the fraudulent claims of healthy people which is reducing the payment to their sick clients. Asbestos fraud alone costs an estimated 250 billion dollars and close to one million jobs. Twenty two companies have gone bankrupt with the big three automakers on the brink.

Currently the debate is terror insurance. In case of terrorist attacks Republicans want to protect businesses by limiting their exposure to being sued while Democrats want no caps. This debate has delayed 15 billion dollars in real estate projects or 300,000 jobs as banks refuse to provide commercial loans without terror insurance while insurance companies refuse to provide coverage without caps. It is also hurting airline employees as they are laid off because of rising insurance costs due to terror insurance.

The Republicans don't want to deny the right to sue. They just want to clamp down on the McDonald's made me fat lawsuits. Mayor Bloomberg of NYC just spoke about the millions people receive from juries because they jumped in front of a subway. It is costing his city 5,000 employees who could be teachers, firefighters or police personnel.

Trial lawyers claim they present the facts and the people decide. They don't tell you they manipulate where the suit is filed. They pick areas where juries ignore the facts of the case in order to correct perceived social injustices and give favorable verdicts and awards which can effect the rest of the country. Jefferson County, Mississippi with a population of 9,600 has had approx. 22,000 lawsuits filed in the past few years with awards totaling approx. 2 billion dollars. Mississippi has lost 750,000 jobs and Doctors and companies are leaving in droves.

So please consider lawsuit reform when deciding who to vote for as U. S. Senator from New Jersey.

JOSEPH SCALERA

Dear Editor:

I was born in New Jersey and lived there for 50 years. It saddened me to find out how Bob Torricelli badly corrupted the Senate seat that the people of New Jersey entrusted to him. But it angered me to learn that Torricelli denied the good people of New Jersey the opportunity to do what the leadership of the Senate didn't have the backbone to do—kick him out of the Senate.

The Democrats went too far this time. They corrupted the Senate seat that belongs to the people of my home state... and they continue to play games with it. If I were still living in New Jersey, I would vote to

give the seat to the Republicans. It's time for a change!

**SINCERELY,
JANE SALEK KENNY
RETIRED, JACKSONVILLE, FL**

Dear Editor,

Last week I received a letter asking me to attend a meeting at J.F. Kennedy Elementary School to discuss my third grader's low math scores. I was curious, as I didn't know of any testing, except for his weekly classroom tests.

Apparently all third graders were given a computerized test to see what their skill level was. It seems our "district" is not happy with our children's test scores and wants them brought up significantly.

As I sat listening to what the "district" expected of our children, teachers and parents, I closed my eyes and remembered I heard the same story from my seventh grader's teachers on back to school night.

The "district's" solution is to offer extra help to every elementary student that falls below their expectations. My son has been offered extra help every morning a half hour before school starts with a program called Success Maker. He will have his own program specifically for him to help bring his test grades up.

I have a couple of problems with this whole ordeal. First of all, as of this date, Success Maker is not up and running in any of the elementary schools. It was promised to be up and running in September and it still has not made its debut.

Second, there were parents at this meeting that felt their children didn't belong in extra help. Their children's math or reading tests taken in the classrooms were all A's and B's. When I received my own son's mid-term grades this past Friday, his math grade stands at a B right now! Did the district forget that there are many children (just like adults) that are not very good standardized test takers? Shouldn't the work done in the classroom determine what the child is capable of?

Thirdly, I feel the district only cares that our test scores, being they be the ESPA, Terra-Nova, GEPA, or the SATs, are the highest in the county, state or nation! I am so tired of hearing the test scores are low. Did anyone ever stop to really think why? Did they ever think we are pushing our children to the point they can't absorb all this work at once? Let's be real. We all realize our children's curriculum surpasses what we learn at their ages by at least two years.

My seventh grader is learning eighth grade geometry because the eighth grade GEPA test last year was low. Well I wonder why. First of all, not that it matters that I didn't have geometry till I was a junior in high school, they have started work in

(Continued on page 11)

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IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 10)

middle of the geometry book! What happened to all the information in the first part of the book? Aren't they supposed to know that to be able to do what's in the middle of the book?

Please don't I am ungrateful for the extra help being offered. I embrace it with open arms, because I have to hire a tutor to help my seventh grader with her geometry. I am not worried about her GEPA test scores in the least. I am worried that she will fail her math class and if she does not get the concept of geometry now, how is she going to understand it in the higher grades?

Have we as a district lost the concept of what a childhood should be? Because of the world we live in today, our children are not allowed to just walk out the door and play. Everything is organized for them from play dates, to sports, to church. Now their homework is being organized for them so they can pass the standardized tests.

I see the look in my seventh grader's eyes when I pick her up from school. Ninety-nine percent of the time it's the look of at least two and a half hours of homework. Doesn't it make you stop and think why some of our children really rebel more than others? Why they do things that are out of character for them?

I feel we put too much pressure on them from the get. If they don't get straight A's, if they are not in the honors class, even if they can't keep up by running the half mile, they are considered below the norm.

Secretively, we all wish our children are the smartest in the class. But let's be realistic. Not all our children have the same learning ability. They all have their own personalities. Not all our children will want, need or be able to go on to college. Shock of all shocks!

Though we hope that our children will be able to do better than us, it's not always the way. What is wrong with a child going to a vocational school or going to a business school? Are we so naïve that we aren't going to need carpenters, seamstresses, electricians, beauticians, homemakers, or people to even work at McDonald's? Is there only room for scientists, doctors, lawyers, etc. in our world? We need to realize not every child is going to be the next rocket scientist, or the next Thomas Edison, or even the next President.

While I really do believe no child should be left behind, I also believe we have to accept our children for who and what they are, and teach them as much as they can possibly retain without taxing them. I think if possible, a child should go on to higher education after high school, but not so our district's rate of college bound students are at the top of the state's list in some newspaper.

At this point our children's memories of the school days are going to be blurred by the amount of homework they had to do, not by any of the fun they were able to have. What unhappy memories to have! I hate to admit it, but there are some other things in our lives that are just as important as school, if not more important at certain times.

It's time for this district to take a good look at themselves. We can start by looking into hiring a new superintendent that lives, works and breathes in our own district. Someone that knows our teachers, staff, students, parents, and isn't going to leave after a year or two. We need someone that will look at the whole picture, and not just a part of it.

Last time we were looking for a new superintendent, we bypassed a gentleman that has all the qualities and is certified to be a superintendent. He is Dr. Ken May. I hope the board does not look over him this time.

Wake up South Plainfield. Our children are not being taught to learn, they are being taught to take tests.

GWENN KURILEW

To the Editor,

I am writing this letter as a very concerned and unhappy mom and taxpayer. It has come to my attention and the attention of other concerned parents that the recent issue that has been a topic of interest with the Board of Education and of high school parents regarding a particular physical education instructor. To my knowledge I have to say again that I am appalled that one "miserable" person's opinion on the board of education can have such a negative effect and/or convincing effect on their fellow board members. I have to say that I am beginning to wonder if the Board of Education is not corrupt in some way or another.

I have attended recent Board meetings and I must say that I was always under the impression that they worked for us the "taxpayers" and for what should be their most important issue and that is the children of our society that will someday shape the future of our country. To the untrained eye they, the Board of "Education" members all seem very nice to your face, but once the meeting is over they probably don't take any of our concerns to heart.

I recently had the good fortune of running into Sean Mealey and we had a wonderful conversation as usual. I asked how everything had been going for him and he simply stated, "Not well." I must say that I am very heartbroken and displeased over this situation yet again as is my

teenager daughter and many of her peers. I honestly do not think any of the so-called Board of Education members realize what a treasure we will be losing if this cannot be rectified. He is truly the meaning of a wonderful teacher. He is always concerned and conscience of his students, and most of all, respectful. Our entire school system could certainly use more teachers like him! As well as the Board of "Education." In my opinion I not only believe that a teacher like him only comes along once in a blue moon, but is very sacred to many of us. As far as this particular Board of "Education" member is concerned I would really like to not only tell them to grow up and stop using your "supposed" authority and let your kids fight

whatever battles they may encounter throughout their high school career (if there even was an "encounter") as does the rest of the entire student body. Also, this person should stop trying to corrupt the other board member with her sour attitude and she should get back to doing what she is supposed to be doing—looking out for the best interest of our children, or kindly remove yourself and your narrow mind from the Board of "Education" so the real members who understand their duty can get to work. In closing, please do the right thing for everyone and bring Mr. Sean Mealey back.

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ANGRY MOTHER

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Sports

SP Football Eagles Notes: 'A Successful Season Continues'

Another very successful SP Football Eagles Pop Warner regular season concludes this Sunday with an away game vs. West Orange for the Junior Pee Wee's, Junior Midgets and Midget squads. Both the Flag and Mighty Mite teams will not play since West Orange does not field teams at those levels. No records are kept in Flag, as it's purpose is to introduce the game of football to 5 and 6 year olds. At the next level, the Mighty Mites finished with a record of 3 wins, 3 losses and 1 tie. Congratulations to all the players and coaches for a great year.

To date, the Junior Pee Wee's have 6 wins and 1 lose. There is a very good chance that they could win the North division of the Mountain Valley Conference and have an opportunity to play for the league championship. However, several key games are be-

ing made up this week by other towns and the final results, league standings and division winners will be determined by the end of Sunday.

At the next level, the Junior Midgets picked up where they left off last year and are undefeated to date with a record of 7 wins and 0 losses. The Junior Midgets are the defending North Division Champions of the Mountain Valley Conference and have won their

division again this year. Although they lost in last years championship game vs. Bridgewater, they'll get another crack at it this year at a yet to be announced date and location. More to follow in next weeks article on the time and location of the championship game.

To continue, the Midget squad could end with a record of 3 wins and 4 losses and 1 tie with a victory on

Sunday. Hats off to all the coaches and players of the Midget team for their determination and commitment throughout the entire season.

In conclusion, congratulations to Randy Jakubik for taking first place in the sectional finals of Punt, Pass and Kick contest for 8/9 year old boys division and too both Brandy Brown for her second place finish in the girls 12/13 year old division and Otheo Muse

for his third place finish in the boys 12/13 year old division.

•Upcoming Dates and Events:

• **Saturday 10/26** - Annual 'Bon Fire' - come join the fun at 6 p.m. this Saturday night at the Pop Warner Football Field as we honor the eighth Grade Cheerleaders and Football Players and get ready to beat West Orange.

• **Sunday 10/27** - Away game vs. West Orange

Jr. Baseball Open House for Incoming Eight-Year-Olds

The public is invited to attend an open house on Tuesday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m., at the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club complex located on Kenneth Ave., near the Recycling Center.

If your child will be eligible for play at the S.P.J.B.C. next season as an eight year old come and familiarize yourself with our organization. This is a great chance to get to know the board members, and learn how the club works. Discussion will include how eight year olds play, rule modifications made just for them, pitching restrictions, etc., and what things are required of parents by way of registration fees and commitments.

Any child who will turn eight years old on or before July 31, 2003 will be considered eight, and eligible to play as such. The club also offers a one-time option for children who will turn eight between Aug 1st and Sept. 31, 2003. Instead of playing an additional year of tee-ball they may play-up as an eight year old. If parents choose this option it will mean that their child will play as an eight year old next season, as a nine year old the following year, and so on each season until his/her eligibility expires (under the present by-laws) at age 17, even though he/she may technically still be only 16. Also, each season a child will be eligible for All-Star play only with the age group he/she is playing with. Further details will be discussed on Nov. 12 as well, however, if you need more information regarding this, contact the club at 908-754-2090, or any board member. We will be happy to answer any additional questions you may have.

General registration will be Nov. 14-16, but the club will accept registrations from anyone in this group who wishes to sign-up that evening.

Although this evening is particularly geared toward the parents of incoming eight year olds, any parents of new players are welcome to attend to find out how the organization works.

We are also seeking volunteers for our first major field work detail on Saturday, Oct. 26, 8 a.m. We are looking to begin repair work on fields 1, 2 and 3 on this date, as well as winterizing the complex.

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THIS WEEKS WINE FEATURES

Fetzer "Valley Oaks" Cabernet \$6.99
750 ML
Dark purple in color with a rich nose of blackberry, spice, and vanilla aromas, the palate offers ripe blackberry, chocolate, and cinnamon. Enjoy it now with grilled or smoked lamb, veal or beef with mushrooms, olives or Balsamic vinegar. Can also age for three to five years.

Kendall Jackson "Vintner's Reserve" Chardonnay \$9.99
750 ML
Forward fruit flavors and aromas of peach, green apple, melon and tropical fruit are layered with buttery oak and oak. Lush and rich with balanced acidity, this wine is delicious as an aperitif or a complement to a wide array of dishes, including grilled fish, shellfish, roasted chicken and creamy style pastas.

Valley of the Moon Zinfandel \$9.99
750 ML
Intense aromas of raspberry and ripe strawberries couple with dried herb and currant flavors that carry beautifully through the finish. This Sonoma County specialty is best suited to Mediterranean and spicy ethnic dishes along with hearty pastas or barbecued meats. Drink now or age for three years.

Kendall Jackson Vintners Reserve Cabernet \$12.99
750 ML
Black cherry and blackberry flavors fill the mouth and are accented by subtle vanilla, spice and cedar. This medium-bodied Cabernet pairs well with savory grilled meats, hearty pastas and full-flavored cheeses.

THIS WEEKS WINE SPECIALS

Sutter Home White Zinfandel \$3.99
750 ML

Yellow Tail Shiraz \$5.99
750 ML

Concha Y Toro Fronterra All Varietal Blends \$7.99
1.5 Liter

Cockburn Ruby or Tawny Port \$9.99
750 ML

Kendall Jackson Vintner's Reserve Merlot \$12.99
750 ML

Arbor Valley Chardonnay, Merlot, White Zinfandel 1.5 Liter \$4.99

Santa Rita 120 Merlot 750 ML \$5.99

Glen Ellen Chardonnay, Cabernet, Merlot 1.5 Liter \$7.99

Almaden Chab, Burg, Rhine, Blush 5 Liter Box \$8.99

Livingston Cellars Cab, Chard, Merlot 3 Liter \$8.99

Louis Jadot Macon Villages 750 ML \$8.99

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Seagram Extra Dry Gin 1.75 Liter \$14.99

Clan MacGregor Scotch 1.75 Liter \$15.99

Christian Brothers Brandy 1.75 Liter \$16.99

Bacardi Light & Gold Rum 1.75 Liter \$17.99

Kahlua Especial 750 ML \$17.99

Courvoisier VS Cognac 750 ML \$21.99

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Dewar's White Label Scotch 1.75 Liter \$31.99

Jack Daniels Whisky 1.75 Liter \$32.99

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Busch Regular & Light 12 oz cans \$10.99
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Pilsner Urquell 12 oz NR btls \$9.99
12 Pak

New Castle Brown Ale 12 oz NR btls \$19.99
Case

Guinness 14.9 oz Pub Draught Cans \$5.99
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Natural Light & Ice 12 oz cans \$8.99
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Sharp's (Non-Alcoholic) 12 oz NR btls or cans \$11.99
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30 Pak

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SOCCER

South Plainfield Fire vs. Elizabeth Dragons

On Sunday, Oct. 20 the South Plainfield Fire engaged in a soccer battle against the Elizabeth Dragons. The game started with high tension and aggressive play on both sides. The Dragons scored the first goal on a breakaway play. That was all the Fire needed to light up.

The Fire responded with a quick goal setup, a nice cross from Bryant Vallamarin to Louis Acosta who pounded the shot into the net. Shortly after the Fire put in a second goal with a shot by Briant Vallamarin. The Defense players Scot Bishop, Kyle Pomilio, Richie Szeliga and Anthony Baldasarre regrouped and shut down any Dragon attempts at scoring a goal. The Fire put in a third goal with a beautiful cross to Douglas Porzio, who didn't waste any time putting the ball over the goalies hands and into the net. At the end of the first half the score was Fire 3, Dragons 1.



The Fire knew that they still had work to do. They came out at the start of the second half on fire. A quick fourth goal was shot in by Johnathan Llerena. Now it was time for the middle fielders Justin De Oliveira, Logan Green, and Gregory Herberster to control the mid-field of play.

They did a fantastic job by keeping possession of the ball. The Dragons responded with some very physical play drawing a foul. The referee awarded the Fire a direct kick from the penalty infraction. Anthony Baldasarre took the shot from about 30 yards out and made a beautiful shot into the top corner off the goalies fingertips. The Dragons responded with

a quick goal. The Fires goal tender Derek Wilhelm, dug his heels in and decided that would be the Dragons last goal. He did a great job stopping shots all game long. The Fires offense Louis Acosta, Mat Santos, and Joao Rafael Simoes decided they needed to keep their attack alive. On a beautiful pass from across the field to Joao Rafael, who ended the attack with a hard shot into the net.

The game ended with the score South Plainfield Fire 6, Elizabeth Dragons 2. The Fire are currently undefeated on their new home field. Congratulations on a job well done!

Submitted by the Coaches, Scot Bishop, Byron Llerena, and Paul Baldasarre.

Sonics
Remain
Undefeated

The South Plainfield Sonics U-10 traveling soccer team played home on Sunday, Oct. 20 and took on the South Brunswick Asteroids. In the first quarter, the Asteroids scored quickly. It would be their last lead, as the Sonics came back with five unanswered goals. In the second quarter, Ryan Billich scored with an assist by Dana Hunt to even the score 1-1 at the half.

The Sonics dominated the rest of the game. The second half saw strong defenders Shaun Alers, Lucas Goitiandia, Will Mott, Nick Ross and Danny Strico play with skill. The defense along with midfielders Ryan Billich, Charlie Huber, Danny Hunt, Nick Okoszko and Nick Tuyp, stopped the Asteroids scoring cold. The few shots on goal that South Brunswick had were nabbed by keepers Danny Hunt, Will Mott, Nick Ross and Nick Tuyp.

Forwards Mike Dispenziere, Dana Hunt and Steven Lanza kept up the pressure on South Brunswick by scoring four more goals. Danny Hunt assisted Dana Hunt on both of her goals and assisted Steve Lanza with one.

Steve Lanza scored again on a deflection off of an Asteriod player. The final score was Sonics 5, Asteriods 1. The Sonics remain undefeated with a record of 4-0-1.

SP Comets
Gain Their
Independence

In their first victory of the season, the Comets beat the Edison United Independence 5-1.

In the first half of the game, the offense was strong and swift with Katie Baldasarre, Clare Kelly, Brooke DeNitzio, Brittany Halpin, Stephanie Szeliga, Victoria Plasse and Stephanie Lanza. Clare Kelly was able to shoot the first goal with an assist from Stephanie Szeliga.

The defense held strong against the Independence with Rachel Senz, Courtney Wilhelm, Alyssa Sutherland, Allison Whitefleet, Liz Diamont and Kate Reichert. Victoria Plasse scored the second goal with an assist from Stephanie Lanza. The Comets were winning 3-0 after Katie Baldasarre came down the right line to score a goal before the end of the first half.

In the second half, the Comets remained strong as Brittany Halpin scored to make the score 4-0. The Edison United Independence fought back but were only able to score one goal. Victoria Plasse scored again with an assist from Katie Baldasarre to make the final score 5-1.

Michael Jankoski Records
Hole-In-One

Michael Jankoski, a member of the South Plainfield High School Golf Team, landed a "Hole-In-One" at Eagle's Landing Golf Course while on vacation in Ocean City, Maryland.

Michael used his pitching wedge on Hole No. 5 at 143 yards. His father Michael Jankoski Sr., Robert Campbell and Ronald Gond Jr., who made up the foursome, witnessed this. Eagle's Landing presented Michael with a plaque that displayed a picture of Hole No. 5 and denoting the statistics.



SPHS FIELD HOCKEY

By Sharon Miller



Week of October 27—This year's varsity team appears to be unstoppable as their sensational record soars to a remarkable 14-0-1 (as of Oct 22) with only two games left in regular season play (as of this writing). They proudly posted wins last week against Old Bridge (2-0), Piscataway (1-0), and long time rival East Brunswick (2-1).

As the regular season comes to an end, the team must gear up now for the Greater Middlesex Conference Tournament (GMC's). They are expected to draw the top seed which means a by for the first game. The team will begin play with the semifinal round to be held on Thursday, Oct 31 at 3:15pm at home on the Carol Espinosa field. The must see game of the season, the GMC Championship game, takes place on Nov 2 at 2 p.m., also at home.

This year's team continues to be ranked as Number 1 in Middlesex County. They forge ahead as they climb this week to the seventh position in Group 3. Please come out in support of a wonderful team of players. The best of luck to both players and coaches in the GMC's and State's. Rankings are as of Oct 23.

Senior Night—The Senior Night game against Piscataway, to have been played at Jost Field last Thursday, was cancelled due to the wet condition of the field. The game was held in the afternoon at the Carol Espinosa field. Coach Flannery is currently looking into the possibility of holding another night game, so the traditional senior ceremony can be held. She will advise the team as soon as she has additional information.

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Obituaries

Anna Pellegrino, 80

Anna Pellegrino of South Plainfield died on Tuesday, Oct. 15, at Muhlenburg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Morea, Pa., she resided in Roselle Park before moving to South Plainfield 60 years ago.

Anna was a homemaker and a member of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in South Plainfield.

Her husband, John H., died in 1993; her brothers Mike and John and her sisters, Mary Starinsky, Irene Carey and Stella Lewis have predeceased her.

Surviving are three sons, John V. and his wife Lianne of North Plainfield, Jerry and his wife Melodie of South Plainfield and Richard Pellegrino of Middlesex; two sisters, Helen Megles of Roselle Park and Sue Mazzeo of Clark.

Also surviving are her grandchildren Melinda, Kelly, Allison and Jeffrey and her great grandson, Jared.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals

Margaret S. (Bliss) Breed, 57

Margaret S. (Bliss) Breed died on Wednesday, Oct. 16, at Muhlenburg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in New Jersey, she grew up in Colonia and had resided in Long Island, Scotch Plains and Dunellen before settling in South Plainfield in 1987.

Mrs. Breed was a 1964 graduate of Woodbridge High School and later became a private duty oncology nurse after receiving her LPN degree from Middlesex County Vocational School 1983.

Having a great love for animals, especially her cats and dogs, Mrs. Breed was very involved with animal rights.

Mrs. Breed is predeceased by her brother, Arthur Bliss.

She is survived by her husband, Henry; a daughter, Kimberly Schuhmann and her son, Kenneth Schuhmann, both of Riverhead, LI and a brother, Allen Bliss of Greenville, Tenn.

Also surviving are three grandchildren, Sean, Sarah and Alyssa.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to the Popcorn Park Zoo, P.O. Box 43, Humane Way, Forked River, NJ 08731.

Rosina (Carlucci) Mocerino, 71

Rosina (Carlucci) Mocerino died on Tuesday, Oct. 15, at Deborah Heart and Lung Hospital in Browns Mills, NJ.

Born in Brooklyn, she resided in New Providence and in South Plainfield for most of her life before moving to Manalapan with her daughter five years ago.

Mrs. Mocerino had been a homemaker for most of her life.

She is predeceased by her husband Leonard, her daughter Kathleen and her brother Frank Carlucci.

Surviving are a daughter, Joanne (Tony) Shallo of Manalapan; a son, Michael (Vera) Mocerino of South Plainfield and a sister, Louise Mea of New Providence.

Also surviving are her grandchildren Lisa, Michael, Paul, Jennifer and Nicolas.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Pearl M. (Ritsick) Wozniacki

Pearl M. (Ritsick) Wozniacki died on Sunday, Oct. 13, at Harris Regional Hospital in Sylva, NC while she and her husband were visiting with friends.

Born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. in 1927, she had lived in South Plainfield for 45 years before moving to Somerset 10 years ago.

She had attended Rutgers University and had been a second grade teacher for 23 years, first teaching at St. Mary's School in Bound Brook and later at St. Bartholomew School in Scotch Plains. She retired over 20 years ago.

She had formerly been a Girl Scout Leader in South Plainfield and was a member and past president of the Knights of Columbus 6203 Auxillary in South Plainfield.

She was a very devout Catholic and had been a parishioner at Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church in South Plainfield. She was a member and past vice president of the OLC Rosary Society. She also had been a member and past vice president of the St. Vincent DePaul Society at the church. She became a Eucharistic Minister in OLC. As a Eucharistic Minister, she had made visits to the Cedar Oaks Care Center in South Plainfield and for the past seven years, she continued her ministry as a very active Eucharistic Minister at St. Peter's Hospital in New Brunswick.

She also served St. Peter's Hospital as a patient representative as well as serving as a "Baby Cuddler" for orphaned newborns.

Her son, Henry P. Wozniacki, Jr., died three years ago.

Surviving are her husband of 56 years, Henry P. "Hank" Wozniacki, two daughters, Elaine A. Pierce and her husband, Bob, of Byram Twsp.

and Donna M. Thoman of Woodbridge. She also had seven grandchildren and two great grandsons.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals

Memorial donations to the St. Vincent DePaul Society at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church would be appreciated.

Mafalda A. "Dolly" (DeSepio) Masella, 89

Mafalda A. "Dolly" (DeSepio) Masella died on Friday, Oct. 18, at the Chandelor Hall Hospice in Newtown, Pa.

She was born in New York City and grew up in South Plainfield. When she married, she moved to Brooklyn, where she lived for over 20 years before moving to Warminster in 1965.

Dolly had worked for the Abington Hospital in Abington, Pa. for over 20 years. When she retired 25 years ago, she held the position of director of personnel.

She was a member of the Nativity of Our Lord Church in Warminster and she enjoyed the Atlantic City casinos.

Her husband predeceased her in 1999 and her son, James Masella, in 1986. She was also predeceased by her sister, Mary DeSepio and by her four brothers, Veneto, Nicholas, Carmen and John DeSepio.

Surviving are her daughter and son-in-law, Adrienne M. and Jimmy Schneider of W. Palm Beach, Fla.; two brothers, Fritz DeSepio of Ocean Grove and William DeSepio St. of Coral Springs, Fla. and by her four grandsons and two great grandsons.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations may be made to the Chandelor Hall Hospice, 99 Barclay St., Newtown, Pa. 18940.

Madeline M. Radeschi, 96

Madeline M. Radeschi died on Sunday, Oct. 20, at Genesis Elder Care Center the Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born in Italy, Madeline came to the U.S. in 1921, settling in Brooklyn where she spent most of her life prior to moving to South Plainfield in 1992.

Madeline was employed by the Ladies Garment Workers Union Local #62-32 of Brooklyn, working at the Winston Bra Co. for 45 years before retiring at the age of 70.

She is predeceased by her two brothers, Donato and Florindo.

Surviving are her sister, Micheline Malafronte of South Plainfield, sev-

eral nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Edna M. (Schaar) Piesche, 84

Edna M. (Schaar) Piesche died on Thursday, Oct. 17, at Muhlenberg Regional Hospital in Plainfield.

Born in Elizabeth, she was a long-time resident of Roselle before moving to Green Brook in 1996.

She had been employed at the Singer Co. of Elizabeth in their production department and later in the Coachman Inn of Cranford before her retirement in 1993.

She was a former member of the Elizabeth Lutheran Church.

Her husband, Richard, died in 1984. She is also predeceased by her sister, Elizabeth Reganthal, and her brother, Russell Schaar.

Surviving are her daughter, Dolores Chiravalle and her husband John of Stafford, AZ; a son, Richard and his wife Marie Piesche of South Plainfield and her five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Morris Wolfe Lerner, PhD, 86

Morris Wolfe Lerner, PhD died on Saturday, Oct. 19, at his home.

He was born in Springfield Mass. and has resided in South Plainfield for the last 52 years.

Dr. Lerner was a graduate of the University of Massachusetts and received his masters degree at Tufts University and his PhD from Rutgers University.

He was the chief of the Analytical Research Group at the Atomic Energy Commission Labs in New Brunswick for 30 years before retiring in 1983.

Dr. Lerner was a Navy veteran during WWII serving as a lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Jean Lerner, who died in 1980 and his daughter, Barbara Lerner Luker, who died in 1979.

He is survived by his grandchildren, Mark Luker of Seattle, Wa., Robert Luker of St. Petersburg, Fla., Terri Yohnke of San Diego, Ca., Tonni Shands of Headrick, Ok.; his son-in-law, William Luker and his wife Theresa of St. Petersburg, Fla., his companion, Clara Gale Goldbeck, and 14 great children.

Funeral arrangements were made by the James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to the American Cancer Society, 2303 Woodbridge Ave., P.O. Box 601, Edison, NJ 08818.

William O'Connell, 68

William O'Connell died on Saturday, Oct. 19, at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

He was born in Newark and had

resided in South Plainfield for many years.

Mr. O'Connell was a former administrative manager for Continental Insurance Co. in Newark.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield and a former member of the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council 6203.

He was a veteran of the US Army during the Korean War.

He was predeceased by his son Richard O'Connell, who died in 1979.

He is survived by a son, Michael O'Connell and his wife Janet; his grandchildren, Isabelle and Chole O'Connell, all of Madison and his former wife, Edith O'Connell.

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

Marie A. (Tallman) Massey, 87

Marie A. (Tallman) Massey died on Sunday, Oct. 20, at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Mrs. Massey was born in Jersey City and had lived in Bricktown before moving to South Plainfield in 1986.

She had worked as a key punch operator for the Jersey City Medical Center for 20 years before retiring in 1976.

She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

Marie liked to go shopping in the flea markets, but she especially enjoyed being with her children and grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband, Charles A. Massey, in 1997 and by her son, William H. Massey in 1987 and also by her brothers Jerome and William Tallman.

Surviving are her children, Barbara Ranalli of Jersey City, Mary and Philip Donahue of Bricktown, Florence and Al Miranda of South Plainfield, Joseph T. Massey of Whiting and Charles J. and JoElaine Massey of Neptune; her sister, Elizabeth McElroy of Jersey City and by her 16 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Stella (Wisniewski) Carlson, 80

Stella (Wisniewski) Carlson died on Sept. 30, in St. Petersburg, FL.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Mrs. Carlson had spent most of her life in South Plainfield before moving to Florida 13 years ago.

She was a communicant of the Church of the Transfiguration in St. Petersburg, FL. and a former communicant of St. Stanislaus RC Church in Plainfield.

She is predeceased by her husband, William C. who died in March of this year.

Surviving are her daughter, Karen, Scalera of Middlesex; two sons, James of Somerset and William of Raritan, her nephew, Ronald Dziglewicz of Whiting and five grandchildren and her two great nieces.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals. F

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In Memory of Earl F. Dunn 10th Anniversary 10/26/92



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policereport

• On Oct. 16 Drug Fair reported someone painted graffiti on the air conditioning unit on the side of the building.

• On Oct. 17 Abraham Martin, 35, of Plainfield was arrested at the Division of Motor Vehicles for possession of fraudulent government documents.

• A Geary Dr. resident reported the theft of a cell phone from their home.

• On Oct. 18 Nathaniel N. Edwards, 18, of Piscataway was arrested for possession of marijuana.

• A Yale Pl. resident reported that someone had been using her social security number to obtain bank loans and Verizon cellular accounts.

• A Van Fleet Ave. resident reported that the window above his front door had been broken with a rock.

• On Oct. 19 Thomas Dietz of Federal Metals and Alloy on Skyline Dr. reported that it appeared someone had tried to pry an exhaust fan away from the west side rear of the building. No access was gained.

• 7-11 reported that a white male came into the store and asked for three packs of cigarettes. When the cigarettes were put on the counter, the man picked them up, grabbed two lighters and ran out the door.

• On Oct. 20 a Robert Pl. resident reported that an inflatable

pumpkin on her lawn had been popped by a rock.

• A Second Pl. resident reported receiving harassing calls on his cell phone.

• Mayoral candidate Jake Caltado reported that between 12:30 p.m. and 6 a.m. numerous political signs had been removed from locations throughout the Borough. Shortly after the report was made, Councilman Ray Petronko reported that when he awoke, he found approximately 12 signs on his front lawn belonging to the other party. Petronko made arrangements to have the signs returned.

• On Oct. 21 a Jamesburg resident reported that his locked vehicle had been broken into while parked on Helen St. A speaker box and amplifier had been removed from the driver's side door, as well as \$50 in bills and change from the console.

• The Gulf Station on Stelton Rd. reported that a white male stated that he needed gas, but had no money. He was then told he couldn't be helped. A few minutes later the man was observed pumping his own gas and drove off.

• Vitamin World on Hadley Rd. reported that windows had been broken in the office area.

• A Harrison Ave. resident reported that someone had taken groceries from her unlocked vehicle.

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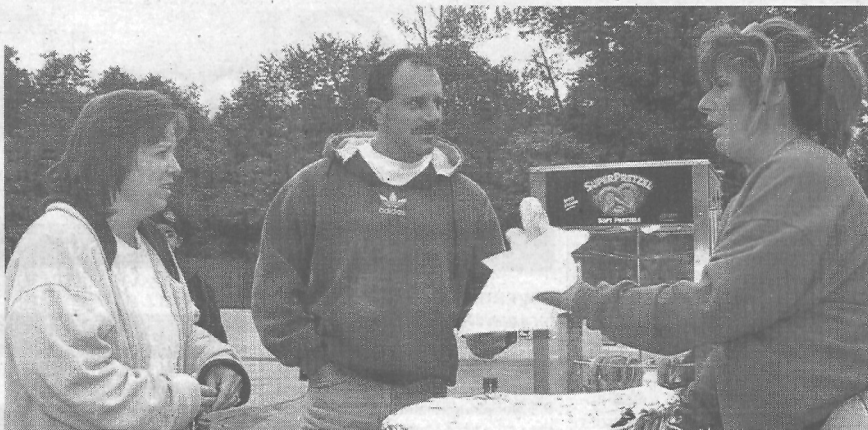
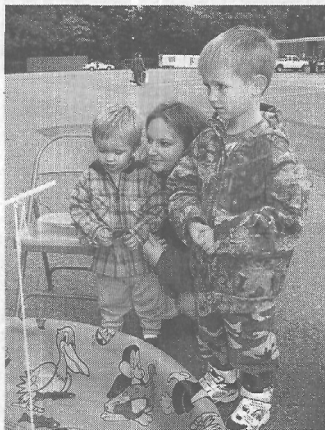
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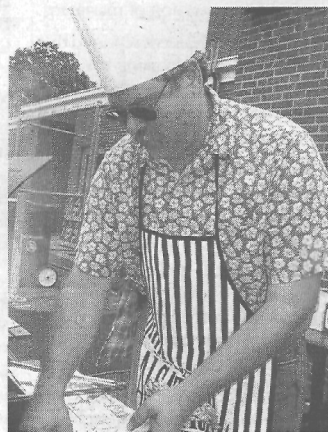
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Franklin Harvest Festival

Gray skies and a bit of drizzle didn't stop Franklin School from hosting their fourth annual Fall Harvest Festival. The family oriented outdoor event was a beehive of activity. There were games of skill and chance for kids of all ages. A moonwalk had youngsters bouncing off walls. Vendors included new and used items as well as hairbraiding and makeup. The DARE van was onhand and Police Officers Dan Noonan and Dave Franchak offered fingerprinting. ATA Karate Academy owner Tiffany Lewis distributed information and accepted sign ups for the DARE WALKATHON to be held on November 3. No Harvest Festival would be complete without food. Breakfast and lunch were available with a wide variety of hot food, hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken, pork roll, swedish meatballs, hot and cold drinks and snacks of all kinds. Mary and Bob Sacks have organized the event since it began four years ago. Along with a hard working crew of volunteers, they provided a fun-filled day for all who attended.

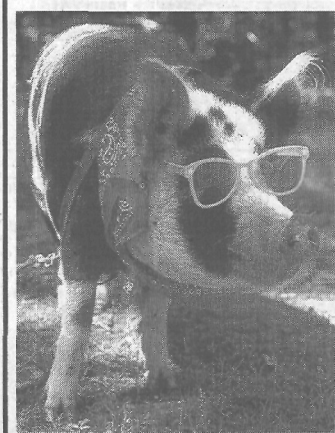


Kennedy Harvest Festival

Bountiful was definitely the word to describe the Fall Harvest Festival at Kennedy School. The fourth annual event saw a steady flow of visitors and non-stop action. For a small fee children could purchase tickets for fun-filled activities and select a pumpkin from the large patch on the school's front lawn.

The gym was filled with sweet, sticky, fun things to do including pumpkin decorating, face painting and mummy wrap. A favorite seemed to be creating edible haunted houses. Outside visitors participated in games, scarecrow stuffing, sack races and hay rides.

Sponsored by the third grade classes, the event is a fundraiser for UNICEF. Third grade teacher Mrs. Luck organized the event and kept student and parent volunteers busy throughout the day. Their contribution to UNICEF supports the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. For the second consecutive year, the United Nations Foundation is supporting the cause by contributing one dollar for every four dollars raised. The event raised approximately \$1,800.



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