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VOL. 8, NO. 11

50 CENTS

OCTOBER 24, 2003

Teachers Contract OKd; Board Member Resigns

Jeffreys Resigns BOE, Sites Fiscal Concerns

Dawn Jeffreys, a member of the Board of Education for more than six years, surprised everyone at Tuesday night's Board of Ed meeting by resigning her seat on the board.

Jeffrey's frustration could be heard as she read her statement before a

vote was taken on the newly negotiated three-year teacher contract. She said that since April she has been asking specific questions about the Board's financial condition and if, in fact, there was enough money to

(Continued on page 12)

Contract Gives Teachers 13.9% Pay Increase Over Three Years

Members of the Board of Education voted to approve the negotiated teacher's agreement and salary guides for the years 2003 through 2006 during Tuesday night's meeting.

After Board Member Dawn Jeffreys read a letter stating her reasons

for resigning, the remaining board members voted unanimously to approve the agreement. The board also approved the contract agreement with the secretaries and school aids.

The contract calls for an increase of 4.9 percent during the 2003/2004 school year, 4.5 percent in 2004/2005 and 4.45 percent in 2005/2006. All teachers hired before July 1, 2003 will receive the full family health care coverage of their choice. Previously they had to wait three years. Any new teachers hired since July 2003 will get HMO coverage. According to board member Mike English, there will be an immediate savings of \$51,000 and a projected savings hundreds of thousands. The teachers also gave back two days of service. The *Observer* did attempt to obtain a copy of the agreement, but has been told it is not yet available.

According to English, the salary raises are on average for Middlesex County, "Not above it or below it. I believe that this contract is an agreement of mutual respect, between the Board of Education and South

Plainfield Education Association (SPEA)," English explained. "And I do believe that for the first time, the Board of Education and SPEA have mutually agreed to finally put a control on the health benefit costs."

(Continued on page 12)

Massaro Named Asst. Superintendent

South Plainfield High School Principal Anthony Massaro was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction at Tuesday night's BOE meeting.

A very popular choice for the position, Massaro has been SPHS principal since 1994 and has worked in the South Plainfield district since 1985, serving as assistant high school principal, middle school principal, Roosevelt School principal and as a social studies teacher at SPHS.

Massaro will start on Jan. 1, 2004 at a salary of \$123,014. The board will now begin the process of selecting a principal for the high school.



Residents don vintage attire for the Town History Day fashion show. See page 12 for additional photos.

Borough Explores Its Roots at History Day

by Patricia Abbott

Last Sunday's first annual Town History Day received raves from all who attended. The event, sponsored by the South Plainfield Historical Society and held at the Senior Center, saw a non-stop flow of guests throughout the day. Dr. Richard

Veit's lecture and the 1951 home movie of the 25th anniversary parade had standing room only. The visitors ranged in age from youths to senior citizens. From entertainment to antique cars and rare photographs, there was something for everyone.

Each room in the center represented

a well-known South Plainfield business from the past, including "The Favorite Spot," "Hollywood Gardens" and "Mrs. Phillips Candy Store." Numerous community groups featured displays. The dozens of photographs and newspaper clippings led many on a stroll down memory lane.

The event, conceived by Kathy Horvath, Lynn Fasolo and Dorothy Meile, was inspired by a trip to the Metuchen History Day. Meile noted she likes to quote Larry Randolph to describe the Historical Society's objective: "Preservation brings out the soul of the community and shows that it has a sense of pride and self awareness."

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," Thursday, Oct. 30.

On Friday, 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 households can indicate their willingness to welcome children by keeping their porch or exterior lights on. Young-

sters 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.



Visit the Haunted Woods Tour at Putnam Park next Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Proceeds benefit South Plainfield Lions Club.

Haunted Woods Tour at Putnam Park

The Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour cast is hard at work gearing up to garner gasps and giggles. The South Plainfield Almost Famous Players show opens on Tuesday, Oct. 28 and runs Wednesday, Oct. 29 and Halloween, Oct. 31. The show has the support of Mayor Gallagher and the Borough Council.

The mini tour will circle the newly renovated Putnam Park jogging trail utilizing sections of the wooded areas. Audience members will assist brave tour guides in ridding the park of the "Evil One," a sorceress who has found a way to turn fiction and fantasy into reality. Creatures of

the night will be lurking in shadows throughout the park.

The show features over 30 performers of all ages, including residents Lory and Bob Alcaro, Allison Katla, Kristen Nietzer, Keisha Nietzer, Leo Campos, Justina Carubia, Katie Mott, Jake Levine, Kaitlin Bundy, Shannen Rivers, Christina Martin, Chris Abbott, Matt Nigro, Samantha Horvath, Alexa Kunch, Marissa Klein and many more. Joining Almost Famous Players for the first time are Jackie and Jessica Ostrowski of Bound Brook and Jonathan, Rori and Matt Bergman of Hillsborough.

The evening will include a face painting booth to benefit the SPHS Class of 2004, balloon sculptures for the emergency services-fire and rescue, refreshments, card readings and more.

Staff members are Patricia Abbott-director/scriptor; Dan Dvorak-production manager, Lory Alcaro-finance, Debi Espisito-printing, Jake Levine, Chris Abbott-combat choreographers and Jonathan Bergman-stage manager. Come out and support this new South Plainfield Halloween show.

Almost Famous Players goal is (Continued on page 12)

Mark your calendars

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest
meeting agenda

council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Thursday.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. (New Time) • Questions? 908-226-7605

AGENDA MEETING **PUBLIC MEETING**
Thursday, October 23
Monday, November 10 Thursday, November 13
Monday, December 8 Thursday, December 11
All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
Oct. 28, Nov. 11 (no meeting) Nov. 25, Dec. 9, Dec 23.

zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 20, Dec. 4, Dec. 18.

board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted
Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.: Nov. 11, Dec 9
Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m.: Nov. 18, Dec 16

taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at
Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-769-0786.

site plan sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.
Nov. 18, Dec. 16.

recreation commission

Meets once a month on the first Tuesday of the month, except July and August
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716
November 11 (Nov. 4 is Election Day) and December 2.

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621

business advisory group

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

traffic safety advisory commission

Meets once a month (fourth Wednesday) at 7 p.m.
in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

South Plainfield Observer

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Department, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at spobserver.com or 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: ggnan@aol.com or fax 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. All letters must be submitted with name and phone number, for verification.

IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

To all of our neighbors and friends (both old and new), thank you all so much for your wonderful support during our daughter Olivia's recent accident. Olivia was riding her bike a few weeks ago when she was struck by a car. Thankfully, she was wearing her helmet and her injuries weren't severe. It was a very traumatic event, not just for our family but for many. She was not in our neighborhood when the accident occurred. Among her injuries, she sustained a concussion and was very disoriented which intensified the trauma because nobody knew her. Thank you, thank you, to our new friends on South Central Ave., especially the Rochotte and Howard families, for your immediate action and response to help Olivia. You are a blessing. And to everyone who called, wrote, sent cards, best wishes, gifts and meals, we are thankful and grateful for your care and support. Olivia has gone back to school and continues to do well.

This paper recently printed a letter to the editor from someone who lives in that area expressing concern with the busy intersection where the accident took place. Cars do rush up and down South Central going to and from the schools. Additionally, many children coming from Grant, the middle school and the high school cross this area every day and must contend with the traffic. I believe that a four-way stop at the intersection of South Central and Conklin would greatly benefit the community's safety. The Traffic Safety Advisory Council meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Borough Hall conference room. Let's all work with the commission to make this happen.

Finally, please, everyone take the opportunity to once more express to your child the importance of wearing a helmet at all times. Not just biking but skateboarding, rollerskating and on the scooter, too. It saved Olivia from much more severe trauma that day. It may have even saved her life.

SINCERELY,
THE BUTLER FAMILY

Dear Editor,

On Oct. 9, the mayor and council recognized members of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad and the South Plainfield Fire Department, along with paramedics from Muhlenburg Hospital for their response and efforts in tending to a severely injured driver impaled in her vehicle. Mary Weishaar's vehicle exited the roadway and struck a chain link fence on Oak Tree Ave. The impact with the fence caused a metal pipe to be driven through the windshield of her vehicle and into her body, causing serious injuries to the victim.

I would like to recognize several others who played a vital role that morning. When an emergency call is phoned in through the police department or through the "911" system, civilian police department employees answer the phone, dispatch the proper emergency services and give directions on assisting victims to callers over the phone. Police officers, sometimes referred to as "first responders," are dispatched and usually arrive prior to the rescue and fire personnel.

Communications officers this day consisted of Timothy Kelly and Stephen Perhach. These members of the police department handled phone calls and dispatched fire, rescue and paramedics to the scene.

Also dispatched were members of the South Plainfield Police Department. The first people to arrive on the scene were police officers Richard Rogers and Sherlyn Courtney, who assessed the scene and began rendering first aid to the victim.

Police officer Tara Bullock, along with other members of the "Bravo Shift," also responded that morning to divert traffic off the roadway and clear the way for emergency vehicles to respond.

All members of the aforementioned services deserve the praise of the mayor, council and public at large for the outstanding duties that they perform, both

this and every day. As a friend and colleague, I want to express my thanks to the members of the South Plainfield Police Department who assisted Mary Weishaar on June 12. Thank you!
BRIAN K. IARRAPINO, STATE DELEGATE, P.B.A. LOCAL 100

To the Editor;

Many residents were looking forward to a debate where the council candidates would talk about their plans for the Borough directly and not through weekly press releases, letters and photo ops.

The South Plainfield Business Association had the date, the time, the place and the Republican Candidates—but the Democratic Candidates could not find the time to come talk to the people who they expect to re-elect them. They either have something to hide, do not want to answer to the people who have been affected by their mismanagement, back-door deals and fiscal hocus-pocus, or they take the voters for granted and see no reason to stand up and explain their statements.

They only want to hear from you on Election Day. Well, let's send them a message.

Elect Republicans Marge Reedy and Ray Rusnak to the Borough Council. They will work for you and talk to you. Call Marge (908) 561-3951 or Ray (908) 561-7076 and ask the questions you wanted to have answered at the debate.

SINCERELY,
BILL SEESSELBERG

Letter to the Editor:

I see that the Mayor and Borough Council have again brought in a budget with no tax increase—for the fourth time in the last six years. This is an amazing accomplishment when you consider the budget problems all over the country. This shows that the Democrats' strategy of Pay As You Go may sound corny, but it sure does work. The Borough should operate like any household in South Plainfield—with a strict budget. Our borough leaders should not be writing checks on the backs of our children and grandchildren by borrowing wildly and the Democrats have gotten us back on sound fiscal ground by cutting the Borough's debt by 50% over the last ten years. This conservative financial policy is also amazing when you consider all of the improvements in South Plainfield over the past few years, such as the improvements to Putnam Park, the improvements to the girls' softball complex, the paving of the parking areas at the junior baseball complex, the addition at the PAL, the new senior recreation center and the new senior housing complex. Quite clearly, the Democrats are doing something right and they deserve the chance to keep doing it. Please re-elect Bob Cusick and Ray Petronko to the Borough Council on Election Day.
JOSEPHINE BALKO

To the Editor:

In a time when violence is so prevalent in our society and our schools, I would have hoped that the South Plainfield Democratic Organization

Submit Letters to the Editor:

The October 24 issue is the last opportunity for readers to submit political letters regarding the Nov. 4 election. Any political letters published in the Oct. 31 issue will be in response to previously published letters. Deadline for submission is Monday, 5 p.m., no exceptions.

would have used better judgement in their political ad depicting a gun-toting individual seeking budgetary assistance.

KATHLEEN A. DIMEGLIO

To the Editor:

As a longtime resident of South Plainfield, I have seen many people get elected to the Borough Council, they serve their terms and they go by the wayside. When you look back, you can't identify one accomplishment they had. That's certainly not the case with Councilman Ray Petronko. Ray is a truly remarkable man. Ray has spearheaded the building of our senior citizen recreation center, the expansion of the PAL, the installation of slides at the community pool, improvements to Putnam Park as well as improvements to every other park in town. In his spare time, Ray also is the secretary of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department. The valuable contribution Ray has made to South Plainfield are unparalleled. Ray deserves to be re-elected on Election Day. Please vote for Ray Petronko and his running mate, Bob Cusick, for Borough Council.
GARY VESCE

Dear Editor:

Last week I was on the couch watching late-night TV and David Letterman was doing his top-ten list. Maybe I'm mistaken, but I could swear this is what I heard:

Top Ten Reasons Why it's Fun to be South Plainfield's All-Democratic Mayor and Council:

10. We can repay our campaign contributors by giving them millions in no-bid contracts.
9. We can give carte blanche to our rich builder friends.
8. We can hold secret council meetings in our homes.
7. We can get our chums jobs running Borough Hall.
6. If we want to add a deck, we can simply change the zoning ordinance.

(Continued on page 7)

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American Gymnastics owners Mary Marino, recreational director and Jason Bauer, team director.

American Gymnastics Academy Opens in South Plainfield

By Jane Dornick

American Gymnastics Academy, formerly Feigley's School of Gymnastics, located at 4475 South Clinton Ave., has new owners, new management and new ideas.

Owners Mary Marino, Jason and Sarah Bauer recently took over the large facility and have literally revamped the place. With a fresh coat of paint and new state-of-the-art equipment, they hope to make this a premier facility for children from ages three to 18. They are also simultaneously opening another facility in

Flemington.

This is their first endeavor together and between Mary and Jason they have over 40 years combined experience in the field of gymnastics. Both are former gymnasts, coaches and officials. The school's goal is to build self-confidence through fitness and fun. They offer preschool and recreational classes, cheer, dance and gymnastic competitive teams. Birthday parties are also available.

For more information, you can contact American Gymnastics at (908) 753-2421 or info@americangymnastics.org.

Explosives Found After Car Fire

On Oct. 13, officers responded to 2500 Hamilton Blvd. on a report of a motor vehicle fire. Upon arrival, the officers observed a 2002 black Acura SUV owned by Precision Automotive, Atlantic Beach, New York,

engulfed in flames. The vehicle was located on the east side of the building in the parking lot.

The South Plainfield Fire Department and Fire Inspector responded to the scene. A strong odor of gaso-

Man Robbed, Auto Stolen

On Oct. 16 Tulio Coral, a 61 year-old resident of Bronx, New York was approached in the parking lot of Fiserv, 40 Craigwood Rd. by a dark skinned Hispanic male, approximately 6'2", with short, dark hair, wearing a beige shirt and dark pants. He had a small handgun in his right hand and stated in Spanish, "If you scream I'll shoot you."

The victim was instructed to get out

of his car and the suspect then drove off with his vehicle, a white 1995 Chevy Van. An older model, a maroon four-door vehicle followed that car out of the parking lot.

The victim's car was later located by Det. Gary Kline at the rear of 901 Hadley Rd. Missing were 14 brown bags containing cancelled checks from Banco Popular, which the victim was delivering to Fiserv.

ALERT

attention all voters

Please be advised that all voters who used to vote at the old Roosevelt School (Districts 4, 10 & 15) will now be required to vote in the information center (room #53) located in the new Roosevelt School.

If anyone has any questions, please contact the Municipal Clerk's Office at (908) 226-7606.

Two Burned In Chemical Accident

Two employees of Recycle Inc., located on Harmich Rd., were burned by acid last Wednesday when a liquid leaked from a broken hose.

Greg Alexander, 36, of Woodbridge was processing a barrel for recycling when a hose containing acid broke and sprayed him. He sustained burns to the face and mouth. Another employee, Pedro Caetano, 33, of Newark came to his aid and received burns on his arms. Both were taken by the South Plainfield Rescue Squad to Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

Recycle Inc. employees were evacuated for a brief time and Middlesex County HAZMAT was also called to the scene. The plant is responsible for cleaning and recycling barrels that contain hazardous materials.



Freeholder John Pulomena, left, presents the \$1M check from the Middlesex County Freeholders to Mayor Dan Gallagher, right, and Councilmen Bob Cusick and Ray Petronko, center. The grant will be used to upgrade the parks and recreation areas in South Plainfield.

South Plainfield Receives \$200,000 Extraordinary Aid

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs announced that the Borough of South Plainfield has received \$200,000 in Extraordinary Aid for 2004, which will help offset municipal tax increases.

"In recognition of South Plainfield's need for this additional revenue due to unforeseen expenses, we have worked tirelessly with the State to take that added tax burden off of local residents," said Senator Barbara Buono.

Eligibility requirements for Extraordinary Aid were determined primarily on the need to offset municipal tax increases resulting from circumstances beyond the control of the local government, according to the Division of Local Government Services within DCA.

In response to the 9-11 terror attacks, South Plainfield continued necessary upgrades to the Police Department's 911 response systems. In addition, the municipality also increased staffing to police, fire, and emergency services departments.

"Due to the increased financial demands placed on South Plainfield, this added source of revenue was needed

in order to help keep taxes stable for our residents," said Assemblyman Patrick Diegman.

Aside from public safety funding, the municipality also incurred moderately higher employee health benefit costs. Changes in insurance providers also created higher co-payments for some employees.

"With town employees already paying a higher cost for their health coverage, it was critical the State cleared this Extraordinary Aid funding to offset increases in municipal property taxes," said Assemblyman Peter J. Barnes, Jr.

AIDA SANTOS

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Win a Quilt!

The Friends of the South Plainfield Public Library are raffling off a beautiful handmade quilt. Stop by the library anytime and purchase your tickets at the Circulation Desk or from a Friend of the Library. The cost is \$1 for each ticket or a book of ten for \$10.

You must be 18 years or older to buy tickets. Please make check/money order payable to the Friends of the South Plainfield Public Library, 2484 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Elks Selling Entertainment Books

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the 2004 Entertainment Book for \$30 each. For more information, please call Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.

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Events

Ed Niemczyk to be Honored at Dinner

October 25

The South Plainfield Police Athletic League and the South Plainfield Recreation Commission will honor Edward Niemczyk as the first recipient of the "Cappy" Award at a dinner on Saturday, Oct. 25. This award is given to someone who has devoted countless hours to the community of South Plainfield, especially to its youth.

The event will be held at the Senior Citizens Center at 6:30 p.m. Entertainment will also be provided. Tickets are available at the PAL for \$15 per person. For more information, call the PAL at (908) 226-7713.

Cheerleaders, Football Players Plan Flea Market

October 25

The South Plainfield High School cheerleaders and football players will be holding a Flea Market on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. rain or shine. The flea market will be held in the cafeteria if it rains.

Come out and support our SPHS cheerleaders and football players.

Roosevelt 1st Annual October Festival

October 25

Roosevelt Elementary School invites you to attend its First Annual October Festival on Saturday, Oct. 25 at the new Roosevelt School from 12-3 p.m.

There will be hayrides, carnival rides, games, miniature golf, cotton candy, popcorn and a whole lot of fun!

Hope to see you there!

Jane Doherty Ghost Tour at Liquid Assets

Sunday, Oct. 26 & Nov. 2

Ghost hunter Jane Doherty will be hosting a ghost tour of Liquid Assets at 118 New Market Ave. on Sunday, Oct. 26 and Sunday, Nov. 2 every hour starting at 2 to 5 p.m. The bar will be closed until the 5 p.m. tour. No reservations are necessary. Tickets are \$10. For more information contact Jane at

SEND YOUR EVENTS TO:

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

THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

invites you to attend a

Wine Tasting

sponsored by Oak Tree Buy-Rite Liquors

**Saturday, Nov. 15, 6 to 11 p.m.
at Embassy Suites, Piscataway**

**Tickets, \$40, include the wine tasting reception
from 6-9 p.m. and a cash bar,
DJ and dancing from 9-11 p.m.**

**There are special rate hotel rooms
available for overnight stay.**

**For tickets or more information, contact:
Mike Gallagher (908) 755-9874
John Celentano (908) 757-5691 or
Buy-Rite Liquor (908) 561-0051**

What's happening in OCTOBER

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 9:00 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Flu Shots November 10 5:30-7:30pm				
Halloween Dance Nov. 1, 7-11pm Wear a costume and join in the fun!				
EVENTS Caring and Sharing 10am Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Drawing Class 11:30-1	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am Computer Classes 10-11am or 2-3pm	Exercise 8:45-9:45 Line Dancing 10-11:30 Movie Time 11:30am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 1-2pm	Shopping Day 9am Video Exercise Class 9:30-10:30AM Practical Crafts 10-11am Computer Class 1-2pm Decorative Painting 2:30-3:30pm	Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch Computer Class 10am-11am
27	28	29	30	31
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.				

(908) 757-2508 or visit www.jane-doherty.com.

Ponytail Softball Association Meeting

October 28

The South Plainfield Ponytail Parents' Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield Middle School Library.

If you are interested in becoming a member and being involved in girl's Ponytail softball, please join us on Oct. 28. New members are always welcome. Officers will be elected for the 2004 season.

Polish Home Plans Halloween Party

November 1

The Polish Home, located on New Market Ave. is planning a Halloween Party on Saturday, Nov. 1 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. The cost of \$25 per person includes open bar, food, music and prizes. For further information, call (908) 668-9442.

Rainbow Academy Plans Open House

November 8

Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an Open House on Saturday, Nov.

8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Annual Election Day Supper at OLC

November 4

The Annual Election Day Supper sponsored by Our Lady of Czestochowa Rosary Society will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 4 at the OLC Parish Hall on Hamilton Blvd. from 4 to 7 p.m.

For information, call Ann at (908) 757-4192. For take-out-orders call OLC Hall on Nov. 4 after 3 p.m. at (908) 575-4192.

Senior Center Atlantic City Trips

November 5

The South Plainfield Senior Center will sponsor two trips to Atlantic City on Nov. 5. The bus will depart from the Senior Center at 9 a.m. for the Taj Mahal. The cost is \$15 per person and you get \$13 back from the hotel. Stop by the Senior Center at 90 Maple Ave. to make your seat reservation. Reservations open up 30 days prior to the trip date.

For more information, call Joann at the Senior Center at (908) 756-4135.

Wine Tasting at Embassy Suites

November 15

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department invites you to attend a wine tasting, sponsored by Oak Tree Buy-Rite Liquors, located at Embassy Suites, Piscataway on Saturday, Nov. 15, from 6 to 11 p.m.

Tickets are \$40 per person. Price includes the wine tasting reception from 6-9 p.m. and a cash bar, DJ and dancing from 9-11 p.m.

There are special rate hotel rooms available for overnight stay.

For tickets or information, contact Mike Gallagher, (908) 755-9874; John Celentano, (908) 757-5691 or Buy-Rite Liquor, (908) 561-0051.

St. Stephen's Annual Gift Raffle Auction

November 15

St. Stephen's Orthodox Church, 609

Senior Center EVENTS

18 is permitted. Proceeds go to fund 4-H youth scholarships.

For more information, call (732) 254-8385.

SingleFaces Events

October 25, 26 and 31

Island Parties...

• **Saturday, Oct. 25** at the Victorian Manor, 2863 Woodbridge Ave. in Edison at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12.

• **Sunday, Oct. 26** at the Historic Ol Bermuda Inn, 2512 Arthur Kill Rd. in Staten Island, 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. Cost is \$12.

• **Friday, Oct. 31** at the Shadowbrook, Rt. 35 in Shrewsbury at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12. Halloween Costume Party.

Lindamood-Bell to Host an Open House

October 25

Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes, an internationally-renowned leader in educational instruction and research, will host an open house at its Morristown Learning Center on Saturday, Oct. 25, 10 a.m.-noon.

The event is open to the public and refreshments will be served. Please call Lindamood-Bell at (800) 300-1818 to RSVP for this special open house.

Edison Symphony Presents Concert

October 25

The Edison Symphony Orchestra, featuring 70 professional musicians, conducted by Judith Morse, will be presenting its Season Premiere Concert on Saturday, Oct. 25 starting at 8 p.m. at the Middlesex County College Performing Arts Center.

Tickets for the Season Premiere cost \$30 for adults and \$25 for students, with season subscriptions for all three concerts available for \$75. Group rates are available and Visa and MasterCard are gladly accepted. Please call the Edison Arts Society at (908) 753-ARTS for reserved tickets, Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

CHATS Adoption Support Meeting

October 27

CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support) will meet from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 27 at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave. in North Plainfield.

Catherine McKinley, author of *The Book of Sarahs*, will share her experiences as the bi-racial daughter of a white couple living in a small, predominantly white New England town and of her reunion with her birth family. Check our website at <http://communitynj.com/cc/chats> or call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 for more information.

Alliance Church "Extraordinary Woman"

November 1

The Women's Ministry of Alliance Bible Church, in conjunction with Church Communications Network, will present a live simulcast of "Extraordinary Woman" at Alliance Bible Church in Warren on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 11:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m.

Registration is \$15, which includes lunch. Registration at the door is \$20. You can also register by calling (732) 469-1425. Child care is not provided.

Lane Ave., will hold its second annual Gift Raffle Auction on Nov. 15. This event will be held at the South Plainfield Middle School, Plainfield Ave. Doors will open at 6 p.m. for browsing and the auction calling will begin precisely at 7:30 p.m.

Admission charge will be \$6, which includes complimentary coffee and tea. Pizza, soda and dessert will be available for purchase.

Join us for a fun evening and shop for your holiday gifts, as well. There will be beautiful theme baskets, small appliances, jewelry, toys, bed and bath items, door prizes and a 50/50 chance drawing. For more information, call (973) 635-2797 or (908) 754-4813.

Recreation Plans Trip to Atlantic City

November 16

It's time to "Go for the Gold." The South Plainfield Recreation is planning a trip to the Atlantic City Resort Hotel on Sunday, Nov. 16. The bus leaves from the PAL at 10:30 a.m. and returns about 8:30 p.m.

The cost is \$15 per person—you get back \$13 in coins. Sign up for the trip at the PAL Building.

— Out of Town —

4-H to Host Haunted House

Weekends through Oct. 31

If you're looking for a good scare this Halloween season, the 4-H Teen Council will sponsor a Haunted House every Friday and Saturday in October through the 31st. The haunting lasts from 7 to 10 p.m. each night.

Visit the Middlesex County 4-H Center on the corner of Cranbury and Fern Rd. in East Brunswick and be prepared to scream. Parking is located near the adjacent Fern Rd. entrance.

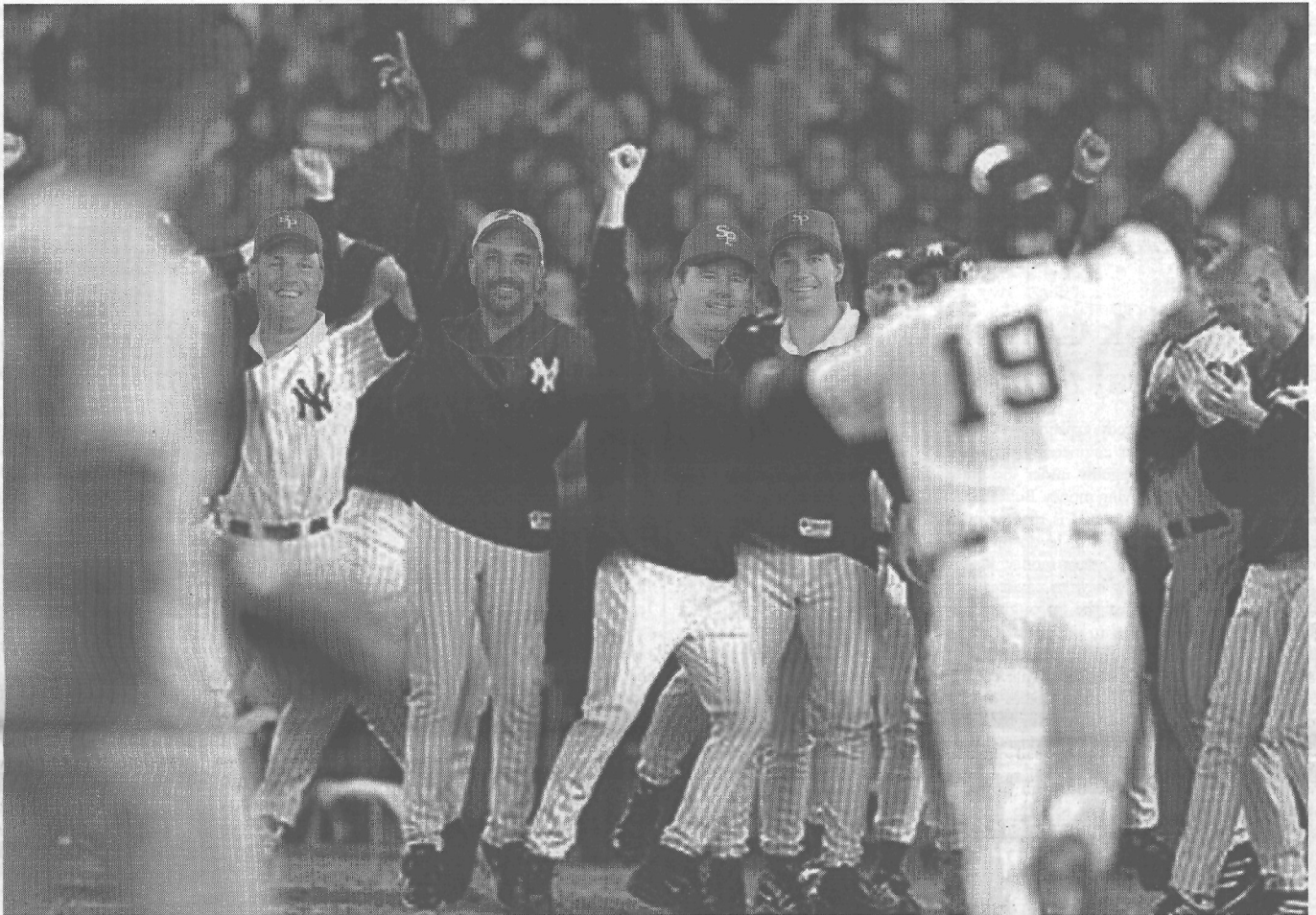
For more information, contact the Middlesex County 4-H office at (732) 745-3446.

Tricky Tray at 4-H

October 24

The Middlesex County 4-H Leaders will hold their sixth annual Tricky Tray on Friday, Oct. 24, at the 4-H Center, 645 Cranbury Rd. (the Log Cabin), East Brunswick. Doors open at 6 p.m.; first call is at 7:30. Advance admission is \$3, at the door \$4, which includes refreshments. There will be over 200 table prizes, specials, baskets, 50-50s and door prizes. No one under

AS GOOD AS A BOONE HOME RUN!



SOUTH PLAINFIELD'S HOME TEAM

Tuesday, November 4th is Election Day. For the first time ever, we get to show off our South Plainfield pride by voting for our hometown Assemblyman, Patrick Diegnan; our hometown Freeholder, John Pulomena; and our own Council People, Bob Cusick and Ray Petronko.

Patrick Diegnan and John Pulomena have brought South Plainfield Millions of Dollars in State and County grants. Bob Cusick and Ray Petronko have been an integral part of the Democrats' plan to cut our debt by \$10 Million Dollars and brought you No Municipal Tax Increase in 4 of the past 6 years.

BUONO ✦ BARNES ✦ DIEGNAN

Democrats for Senate & Assembly

POLOS ✦ PULOMENA

Democrats for Freeholder

CUSICK ✦ PETRONKO

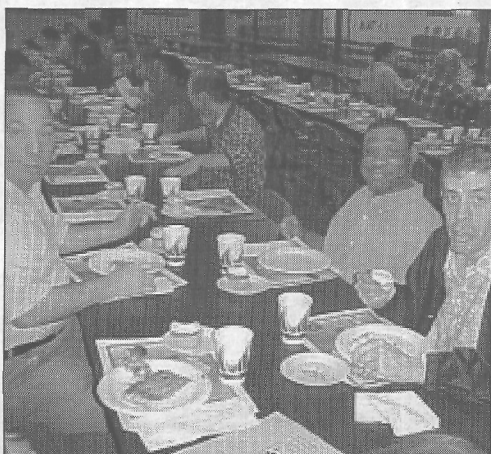
Democrats for Borough Council

Knights of Columbus Host Lunch for Keystone Community

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus held their 10th Annual Children's Liturgy Lunch for the Keystone Community at Sacred Heart Church on Saturday, Oct. 11.

A mass was held at the church, followed by a lunch in the cafeteria, served by members of the Knights. Pumpkin's and other gifts were handed out to all of the Keystone Community members. A grand time was had by everyone attending.

The following Knights helped out in the event, Joe Scudato, Steve Belenger, Tom Elko, Jim Shea, Jim Vokral, Lou DeFillipo, Lenny Kleczkowski and Bob Walker. The organizer for the Knights of Columbus for this event was John Weakley.



Members of the Knights of Columbus hosted a luncheon for the Keystone Community. This is the 10th year the Knights have hosted this event.

From the Republicans

Reedy, Rusnak Call on Council To End Ethical Abuses



In light of the horrific ethical lapses exposed by the recent Gannett newspaper series, *Profiting from Public Service*, candidates Marge Reedy and Ray Rusnak are calling upon the Borough Council to adopt tougher ethical standards, and more importantly, begin adhering to state open-government laws.

"The Democrats have made South Plainfield one of the state's leading 'pay to play' towns, with over a million dollars in no-bid contracts going to their contributors. We need to stop this by adopting an ordinance limiting contributions by contractors doing business with the borough, like the one proposed by Common Cause," said Reedy.

"Unfortunately, the Democratic candidates will not address this issue. We don't know where they stand. They apparently have no problem taking all this money," Rusnak said. "These contributions to the Democratic Party come with a price though, because the businesses have to charge the town more to make up the cost of the contributions, and because there is no price competition."

"Engineering services are a good example of pay to play,"

Reedy explained. "We closed our engineering department, allegedly under the guise of saving money. But what really happened is that we hired a contractor to do the job. We didn't save money. Residents now have to pay fees for services the borough engineer used to perform for free. But the Democrats now have a revenue source. That contractor gives them oodles of money. We need to bring back this department and start saving money."

The Borough Council has also got to stop the secret, closed-door meetings, according to Rusnak. "They have been holding these meetings and ignoring the Sunshine Law. The Democrats haven't denied it and they can't. It comes from a former Democratic council member who has firsthand knowledge."

"The Democrats promised open government," Reedy explained. "Sure, it's open to the campaign contributors, the lawyers who want to get projects through the big-money builders and anyone else with enough dough, but no one else. The Democrats have taken us back to when government was run in smoke-filled backrooms."

"Nepotism and cronyism must also end," said Rusnak.

"Hiring must be based on what you know, not who you know. This is another reform we should adopt immediately."

According to Reedy, the Democrats have ducked these issues: "The Democratic candidates have not said one word about reforming pay to play or ending secret meetings. If they have nothing to be ashamed of, they should tell us their positions. Instead, just like with traffic, overbuilding and other issues, they remain silent. A debate would have been a great place to talk about this, but they were afraid to debate."

The problems stem from one-party rule, Rusnak explained. "It stifles debate. At council meetings no one discusses anything. It's all pre-planned, like they're reading from scripts. The council members just say 'yes' to whatever they are told to vote on. We could easily replace the council with six Yankee Bobble Head dolls, and the meetings would not change a bit."

Reedy summed up the position of both candidates: "We need to end one-party rule so we can stop the abuses by this administration. We need reform. We need respect for the public. And most importantly, we need two parties. I hope people will consider this when they vote on November 4."

Unity Bancorp Declares Cash Dividend

Unity Bancorp, Inc (NASDAQ: UNTY), parent company of Unity Bank, announces that its Board of Directors has declared a cash dividend of \$0.03 per common share. Such dividend is payable on Oct. 31, 2003, to shareholders of record as of Oct. 15, 2003.

"As we have continued to improve on the core earnings of the Bank, it is now time to resume the payment of a cash dividend," said Unity President and Chief Executive Officer, Anthony J. Ferraro. "The Board will consider future dividends on a regular and recurring basis as earnings growth continues."

Unity Bancorp, Inc. is a financial service organization headquartered in Clinton, with \$460 million in assets and \$400

million in deposits. Unity Bank provides financial services to retail, corporate and small business customers through 12 retail service centers located in Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somers

set and Union counties in New Jersey.

For additional information about Unity visit our website at www.unitybank.com or call 800 618-BANK.

Mayor Proclaims October Domestic Violence Awareness Month

In a proclamation Mayor Dan Gallagher has officially named the month of October Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

In it he recognized the important work done by domestic violence programs and urged all residents to participate in the scheduled activities and programs to work toward improving victim safety and holding perpetrators accountable for their actions.

Domestic violence includes the physical, emotional, sexual, psychological and economic control and abuse includes children and the elderly. It violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security and humanity and knows no economic, racial or social barriers.

Please visit the South Plainfield Public Libraries Domestic Violence Exhibit during the month of October.

From the Democrats

Democrats Cusick And Petronko Highlight Planned Road Improvements



Democratic Council members Bob Cusick and Ray Petronko highlighted planned road improvement projects for South Plainfield. Bob Cusick said, "Central New Jersey is one of the most congested areas in the country. It's nice to live in a vibrant area, but that doesn't make you feel any better when you are stuck in traffic. Mayor Gallagher and the borough council have been

and storm drainage will be installed and there will be decorative paving and lighting from St. Nicholas Avenue to New Market Avenue. In 2005, another lane will be constructed on Durham Avenue, from Helen Street, by the Quick Check to Hamilton Blvd. This will eliminate the bottleneck that now exists from 287 to the Hamilton Boulevard traffic light by Valley National Bank."

Ray Petronko continued his running mates comments. "The most important part of our road improvement plan is the completion of Helen St. which will connect Durham Ave. with Metuchen Road.

Councilperson Charlie Buttrico has done a terrific job in taking over that project and keeping on top of it every day. Charlie recently reported that the environmental phase is over and the design stage has started. Property acquisition will take place in 2004/2005 after which contracts will be awarded and construction will commence in 2005/2006. I laugh when the Republican candidates complain about how long Helen St. is taking. This is

a project that will cost upwards of \$20 million and is being totally paid for by the federal government. Heck, their campaign manager was the project liaison for three years. Do they really think that anyone would drag their feet on it?

The completion of Hamilton Boulevard in 2004, Durham Ave. in 2005, and Helen St. in 2006 will dramatically improve the traffic flow and, more importantly, the quality of life in the borough, particularly on the South Side. When these three projects are complete, we will be able to direct all truck traffic off Hamilton Boulevard which will in turn change it to a beautiful gateway to the residential area of South Plainfield."

Bob Cusick summed up the Democrats approach. "We are committed to both long term and short term solutions to improve our infrastructure. In addition to these three large projects, we will repave 12 more streets next year and expand our curb restoration program. All of these will be done on a 'pay as you go' basis and best of all if we stay the course, there will be no municipal tax increase next year too."

2003 VOTE

hard at work developing plans to improve the situation. Next year Hamilton Boulevard will be totally reconstructed all the way from New Market Ave. to Stelton Rd. with the portion from Durham Ave., at the Valley National Bank, to Stelton Rd. widened to four lanes. New turning lanes will be built at New Market Ave. and St. Nicholas Ave. and new traffic signals will be installed at St. Nicholas, Hollywood and South Clinton avenues. In addition to the traffic improvements, new curbs, sidewalks

➡ Mark Your Calendars

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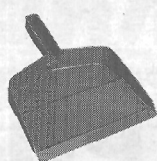
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IN YOUR OPINION

Continued from page 2

5. We can brag about paving roads even though that's what towns do.

4. When no one's looking, we can sell off the town's land to prop up the budget.

3. We can blame the school board for the tax increase when the town needs a new school because of all the building we allowed.

2. We can spend millions on our projects and then bash the Republicans for suggesting even the most minimal improvement, like opening the compost area for a few hours extra on Sundays.

1. We can make promises about Hamilton Boulevard and Helen Street again...and again...and again.

If it wasn't Letterman, it must have been a dream—maybe even a nightmare—because nobody could get away with all this in real life—or could they?

BOB JONES, JR.

To the Editor,

As Election Day approaches, I think it's important that we look at the facts before we vote. During the time Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick have been on the Council, the Borough has acquired over 100 acres of open space, our borough debt has been significantly reduced, a new emergency management center has been built, a new senior recreation center built, our PAL expanded, improvements have occurred at the community pool and most importantly, they have approved a budget that has not had a municipal tax increase in four out of the last six years. If you have been reading the papers lately, you will know that what these leaders have been able to accomplish is amazing. We deserve leaders who deliver and don't just make empty promises. We deserve a leader like Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick. Please do your part to make sure that they will be elected again on Election Day.

TOM MUSOLINO

To the Editor:

If you want to see the real difference between the Democratic and Republican candidates for Borough Council, you don't have to look any further than the releases each party submits to the paper each week. While the Democratic team of Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick talk about their accomplishments and their plans for the future, the Republican candidates do nothing but complain. Where is the vision for the future? Well, based upon the published words of the candidates themselves, only Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick have a vision of the things that can be accomplished to improve the lives of the residents of So. Plainfield. Let's take a look at what the Democratic team has

accomplished in the past few years: over 100 acres of open space preserved, over 130 roads repaved, the improvements to Putnam Park, a new Senior Recreation Center, the expanded PAL with its great new weight room and the facilities for our excellent wrestling programs, a new skateboard park, a new fire truck, a new ambulance and a new communications center for our police department. All of this has been done while maintaining a stable tax rate with no increase in four out of the last six years and a significant reduction in borrowing. The Petronko/Cusick team has significant plans for the future, including a new library, the reconstruction of Hamilton Boulevard and finishing the Helen Street extension project. So, Plainfield needs leaders who have a vision of how to improve our Borough. On Election Day, vote for Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick for Borough Council.

FRANK FURINO

To the Editor,

All we get are broken promises from the South Plainfield 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 Boulevard by the end of 2001 and they went back on their word. They promised open government and they gave us secret, closed-door meetings.

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 and Ray Rusnak. We need a change.

ED LYONS

Dear Editor,

Marge Reedy and Ray Rusnak are the best choice in this year's election for Borough Council. I've been reading their articles and in this paper each week, and they know the direction we need to go in.

They're right on all the issues: things like stopping overdevelopment, ending "pay to play" no-bid contracts, and restoring cuts in services. Most important to me, however, is bringing back two-party government. With all the ethical problems of the current administration, we're seeing the importance of having two parties.

I'm voting Reedy-Rusnak.

ANITA HOGAN

Dear Editor,

I see in the paper that the Democrats are complaining about so-called negative campaigning. I guess that's what politicians do when they want to duck the issues. They try to throw mud

at the people bringing the issues up.

Mr. Cusick and Mr. Petronko, please address the issues. In next week's paper, please answer the following questions so people know where you stand:

1. Did you hold secret, closed-door meetings at the homes of council members? If so, why?

2. Why are you taking money from campaign contributors and then giving these same people no-bid contracts?

3. Why have you let so much development go on in town?

4. Other than the Helen Street Project, what are you doing to solve traffic? And why did you let it get so bad to begin with?

5. Why did you promise the last time you ran that the Helen Street Project would be done by 2002? Why in 1996 did your fellow Democrats promise it would be done by 1997?

6. Why are you telling us you're reducing debt, when in fact you're leasing and still obligating us to pay long-term obligations?

7. Why did you party promise during last year's election that by this year it would reconstruct Hamilton Boulevard? Why did they promise the same thing the year before? Do you just make these promises thinking that people won't remember?

If you don't answer these questions next week, you don't deserve to be running. Let alone deserve to be re-elected.

GEOFFREY CHAMPION

Dear Editor:

With heightened fear of terrorist attacks, increasing violence in public schools and the easy access to dangerous weapons, New Jersey residents are in dire need of statewide elected officials who are knowledgeable in the area of public safety. To that end, I support the re-elections efforts of Assemblyman Peter J. Barnes, Jr.

Prior to his entrance to the New Jersey General Assembly, Peter Barnes had a distinguished 26-year career as a Special Agent for the FBI and served as the Public Safety Director in Edison and East Brunswick. His experiences in these challenging positions have enabled him to formulate educated pieces of legislation to combat security threats to our state.

For example, Barnes sponsored the "Anti-Terrorism Act of 2001," which defined terrorism as a first-degree crime and established severe penalties for terror-related offenses. In recognition of such worthwhile and substantive legislation, former Republican Governor Donald DiFrancesco addressed the legislation in response to the 9/11 terror attacks and applauded Assemblyman Barnes for his knowledgeable and bipartisan efforts.

In addition to his anti-terrorism efforts, Barnes has also sponsored legislation, increasing the necessary requirements to purchase a firearm and put forth a strong effort to curb violence in schools by requiring short-term custody and evaluation for a student who brings a gun to school.

Homeland security remains a looming concern to many New Jersey residents; therefore, we need to make sure to re-elect Assemblyman Peter Barnes to the NJ Legislature on Nov. 4.

ANTHONY CALAMANERI

Dear Editor:

As an expectant mother, I am concerned with taking every precaution necessary to make sure my child will be born in good health. Sometimes, however, the necessary medical information regarding potential health risks for pregnant women is unavailable. Therefore, it was with great delight that I became

aware of one legislator's crusade to ensure that all pregnant women are given proper information regarding the health risks associated with mercury contamination in freshwater fish. It is refreshing to know that Senator Buono is so intimately concerned with the well-being of expectant mothers and on Nov. 4 I will cast my vote in her favor.

Given her vast experiences as the mother of six children, Senator Buono is acutely aware of the issues facing women entering motherhood and family life. Consequently, she has championed many initiatives affecting this segment of the population. For example, she has sponsored legislation requiring that mercury health advisories be posted at places of maternal and child health treatment centers.

As further proof of her commitment to supporting stable and health families, she also sponsored legislation that would require employers to provide notice to pregnant women that they are entitled to the temporary disability insurance program. Under this program, pregnant women will be able to take a paid leave of absence one month prior to their due date and return eight weeks after delivery.

For her supreme efforts and advocacy of women's rights and family-related issues, I urge others to support her re-election bid to the New Jersey State Senate.

SONAL PATEL

To the Editor:

This year the choice for Borough Council is easy. Marge Reedy and Ray Rusnak are working hard to bring back two-party government to South Plainfield. Marge knows this town and has the good judgment to make hard choices. Her running mate brings something else to the table: a business background our borough government is sorely lacking.

Please join me in voting for Marge Reedy and Ray Rusnak on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

SILVANA GOVER

Dear Editor,

Recently the *Home News Tribune* did a series entitled "Profiting from Public Service: How many New Jersey legislators exploit the system." Low and behold, who did the newspaper feature

on day one? Unfortunately, South Plainfield Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan.

It's shameful how many hats this man wears. He's South Plainfield's Democratic chairman, borough attorney, assemblyman and attorney for Helmetta. His Democratic pals also handed him a job as attorney for the Middlesex County Improvement Authority. He's literally raking in hundreds of thousands by feeding at the public trough.

On top of this, he's giving jobs to his family and friends. His wife and daughter worked on the public payroll at his Assembly office and his wife and brother-in-law work for the county, another all-Democratic body controlled by his "team." He even gave tax dollars to Mayor Daniel Gallagher, who the article said worked in his Assembly office. Isn't that a conflict of interest? Diegnan works for him Borough Hall and he works for Diegnan in the Assembly office?

Nepotism and cronyism should have died long ago. But for Diegnan it's a way of life. Send a message this year. Vote for Republicans Jasal Amin and Bob Thuring for Assembly.

JANET BROWN

To the Voters of South Plainfield:

South Plainfield's mayor, borough attorney and some members of the council are being sued for sexual discrimination.

These arrogant men met in closed-door meetings and decided that a divorced woman of independent means, regardless of her qualifications, would not be suitable as a borough employee because of her dedication to her children and their health.


Evidently, this wasn't a concern for all the mothers currently employed by the borough who are supporters of the Democrats and their one-party rule.

Here's another item that illustrates the Democrats' indifference to the law—last week's *Observer* ad, featuring the governor-elect of California, used a copyrighted movie still that was used without permission or compensation. It seems right and wrong have no meaning to them, as long as their purposes are served.

This council needs the oversight and conscience a two-party government can provide.

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Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.
Weekdays 6:30 a.m. (except Monday) 9:00 a.m. (church)
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.
Holy Days 7 p.m. (Vigil); 7 and 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10-11 a.m., 4-4:45 p.m.
and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Marcia Lubansky

TAKE IN!—Take in all the opportunities for free programs here at the Library. There is something for everyone. On Sunday, Oct. 26, from 2 to 4 p.m. join local food historian and certified tea expert, Judith Krall-Russo, for the "Mad Hatter Tea Party". She will discuss the finer points of the Victorian era tea party. Each guest will have a chance to taste different kinds of teas. Everyone is asked to wear a hat; there will be a prize for the prettiest, the most unusual and the funniest hat. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, the program is free. We ask that you register by calling the Library at (908) 754-7885. The winner of our quilt raffle will also be chosen at the Mad Hatter Tea Party. This beautiful handmade, twin-sized quilt is on display at the Library. Tickets are still available at \$1 per chance and can be purchased at the Circulation Desk. You do not need to be present to win.

On Saturday, Nov. 1, from 10:30 to 12 noon, learn the ancient art of Mehndi from Manisha. Mehndi is a natural, temporary dye. Besides its decorative value, it has a cooling effect on the body in the summer. The design holds its peak beauty for about 2-3 days, after which it loses its color very quickly. In this class, you will learn what mehndi looks like from powder form to final effect, see some mehndi designs and apply mehndi to your own hands. Space is limited to 20. Please register.

TAKE OUT!—Take out something new that you've never read, seen or heard before. We have anywhere from 300 to 500 new items every month! We even have a new arrival of books in Vietnamese. For lists of new videos, new CDs, books on tape, DVDs, and new fiction and nonfiction titles, go to our online catalog at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. Select

"Library Catalog", then "Search", then click on "Bestsellers". These lists include much more than the New York Times Bestsellers. The lists provide a handy update on all the new titles in the Library. If you find something interesting, and want to read more about the book, click on "Show details." The next screen often provides book reviews, a summary, chapter excerpts and an image of the dust jacket.

KIDS ONLY!—Our regular story times for children three and up are Tuesday, Oct. 28 at 10:30 a.m. and Thursday, Oct. 30 at 1:15 p.m. Joe Fischer will present a Halloween Magic Show on Wednesday, Oct. 29 at 6:30 p.m. This fast-paced show has the perfect blend of magic, audience participation, comedy, and excitement. All kids are welcome, but call us to register. If you forget to register, don't worry; we'll make room for you. Wear your costume!

NEW BOOKS FOR ONE BOOK NEW JERSEY!—One Book New Jersey is happy to announce the selection of all four books for the 2004 program. One Book New Jersey is a statewide reading program aimed at bringing people together by encouraging them to read the same book, and then participate in book discussions and other events. "The Pine Barrens" by New Jersey's own John McPhee is the main selection. Other selections include "The Body of Christopher Creed", for young adults, "Because of Winn Dixie" for middle readers and "How the Grinch Swallowed Thunder" for toddlers. This is the second year of the program, which is sponsored by the New Jersey Library Association and the New Jersey State Library. For more information, visit www.onebooknewjersey.org.

No boundaries. No limits. Know your library.

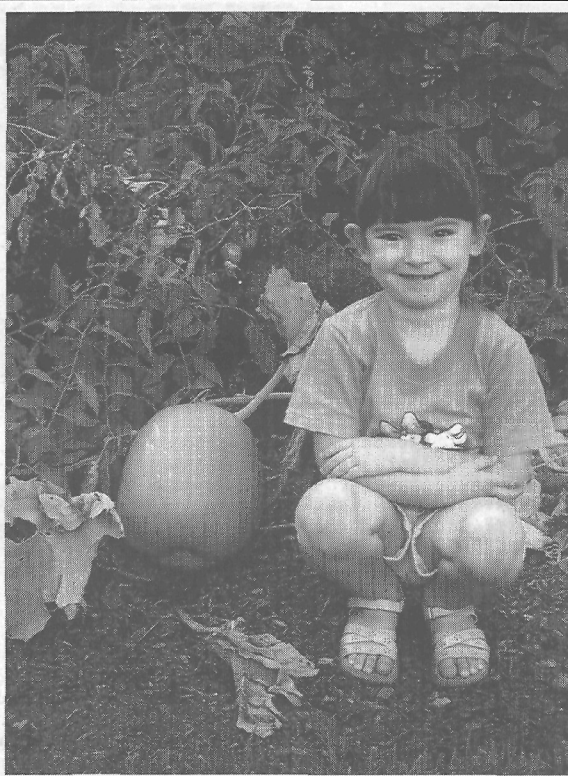
Beware of Business Card Chain Mail Scam

A local business recently received a letter from what appeared to be the Make a Wish Foundation. Apparently a seven year-old boy named Craig Sheppard wants to have the largest collection of business cards in order to be entered into the Guinness Book of World Records. The letter requested that besides sending them a business card you were to retype the letter and send it to 20 other companies.

After doing some research through the Better Business Bureau and the Make a Wish Foundation, it was discovered that the letter was a hoax. Evidently similar letters with slightly dif-

ferent names have been circulating for years. Back in 1989 there actually was a request made by a nine year-old boy named Craig Shergold who wanted to be in the Guinness Book for receiving the most greeting cards and his wish was fulfilled.

The Make a Wish Foundation advises that if you receive a letter like this to reply to the sender and inform them that they do not participate in these kinds of wishes. Also, refer the sender to their website at www.wish.org/home/chainletters.htm and do not forward the chain letter yourself.



Just in time for fall, 4½-year-old Emily Mazellan picked a pumpkin which she started from a seed this spring. Her parents were very proud of the interest and appreciation Emily has for nature. She was so excited at having grown several tomatoes and two pumpkins this season and she is looking forward to starting the fall planting. The Mazellans live on Day St. in South Plainfield.

Scouting, Why Not?

Looking for something fun to do? Think Scouting! Many of the area Scout Groups are just starting their program for the 2003-2004 school year. Don't miss out on the fun.

Cub Scouts do fun things with other kids! You get to wear a cool uniform, go places and see things. You get to play all kinds of sports and build things, like race cars and bird houses. Want to learn a secret code? Want to learn about wild animals? If you're a boy in the first through fifth grades (ages 7 to 10), go Cub Scouting!

Boy Scouts get to do it all! You get

to camp, hike and fish in the great outdoors. You get to meet in troops and try new adventures and experiences. Boy Scouts is for boys in 6th-12th grade (ages 11 to 18).

Venturing is open to all men and women who are 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) through 20 years of age. Venturers acquire skills in high adventure, sports, arts and hobbies, youth ministries and Sea Scouting.

For additional information, please call Marie Markey at (908) 755-3213

Middlesex Co. Weapons Surrender Program

Middlesex County has announced that they will be accepting weapons and ammunition, except explosives, with no questions asked.

They will pay \$500 for assault weapons in generally operable condition. Other weapons or ammunition will be accepted with no compensation. Everyone is welcome to bring in their weapons, but no compensation will be paid to firearm dealers. No one will be arrested for turning in a weapon. Firearms or weapons should be unloaded and wrapped, tied and taped and put in a box, bag or case.

Weapons can be turned in on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Piscataway Police Dept., located on Sidney Rd. in Piscataway or on Sunday, Dec. 14 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Old Bridge Police Dept., located at 1 Old Bridge Plaza in Old Bridge.

For further information, contact the Middlesex County Prosecutors Office at (732) 745-3300.

Wardlaw-Hartridge Offers New Programs

Wardlaw-Hartridge School has announced the approval of a pre-kindergarten age three program to kick off in September of 2004.

Regina Bassoul-Restivo, Head of the independent Lower School in Edison, said she was delighted with the decision to move in this direction. "Three year olds are developmentally ready for group activity that is learning based," she explained.

Admission screening for program readiness takes place in January. Interested parties are encouraged to call (908) 754-1882, ext. 156 and speak with Associate Director Hagan.

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Sports

By Lee Flanagan

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES



Registration for the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club was held at the baseball club on Oct. 16, 17, and 18. We registered over 200 kids for our 2004 season. The registration fee now through Jan. 1 is \$75. However, there are only a few dates left to catch this early discount. The dates are: Nov. 3 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Nov. 17 from 6 to 7 p.m.; Dec. 1 from 6 to 7 p.m. and Dec. 15 from 6 to 7 p.m.

After those four dates, the registration will increase to \$95. There will be no exceptions. This will give parents seven opportunities to sign up their son or daughter before the fourth of the year. We are also selling SPJBC club members cards for \$10. A manager and or coach will not be allowed on the field without a club member's card. Buddy Hutchison is asking all managers to return their equipment bags prior to the club members meetings in November or December if they still have them from spring season. According to our records, there are several equipment bags still outstanding.

For the first time the SPJBC will be conducting a flea market on this Saturday, Oct. 25. All types of vendors are welcome; the cost is \$15 for a spot. Food and refreshments will be available at our snack stand. The flea market will run from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you would like to reserve a spot for this event, please call the baseball club at (908) 254-2090 and leave your name and telephone number.

The Junior Baseball Club is running a trip to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. Yes, the Baseball Hall of Fame. On Monday, Dec. 29, we will leave at 6 a.m. in the morning by bus and arrive in Cooperstown at 11:30 a.m. and take the complete tour of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

We will leave Cooperstown and stop at the Old Country Buffet on the way home. This will be a great trip. Total cost for the trip is \$65 per person; this includes transportation, entrance to the Hall of Fame, and buffet style dinner. We would like to start registering parents and kids for this trip.

The Women's Auxiliary will once again be conducting "Night of Holiday Shopping." The event will take place at the Menlo Park Mall on Nov. 23 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Ticket price is \$8. This is a night of special shopping discounts, entertainment and events. For more information, call Stacy Lake at (908) 252-9531 or Betsy Spayder at (908) 252-8928.

Our Fall Baseball Program comes to an end Friday night, Oct. 24. So if you are at the complex, please look for our blue donation jug around the snack stand area. We are collecting for our new scoreboard fund. Any amount will help us in this endeavor.

Thank you to the volunteers on Sunday, Oct. 12, especially Bob Pasternak, Pat Muglia and Mike Salici, who aerated and seeded all our fields. Great job people! Also a big thanks to Dominic Papa for fixing numerous lights that were out around the complex. Special thanks again to Mike Salici and his wife for taking on the endeavor of ordering and selling car window decals. These decals look great on your vehicle. More details to follow on how to purchase these beautiful window decals. There is always much to be done in preparation for the kid's baseball season. The SPJBC is always based on volunteer efforts by parents, grandparents and friends, any help you can give to us is always appreciated. The one thing everyone needs to remember is we are here for the kids. This is our 50th Anniversary season, and "So years from now it will not matter what our bank account was, nor the sort of house we lived in, or the kind of car we drove—but the world may be different because we were important in the life of a child at the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club." Come on down and give us a hand. It will be time well spent. "It is a new beginning."

SOUTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL From Sharon Miller

Field Hockey Corner Weekly Wrap-Up



Weekly Wrap-up—This year's varsity team added two more wins this week to bring their sensational record to 13-2-1 after defeating long time rivals Piscataway (5-0) and East Brunswick (3-1) for the second time this season.

Congratulations to the team as they continue to be ranked as Number 1 in Middlesex County. They have advanced in the state Group 3 rankings to take the number 8 position this week. (rankings as of 10/23).

Week of October 26—As the regular season comes to an end (there is only one game remaining as of this writing), the team must gear up for the Greater Middlesex Conference Tournament (GMC's). The first two games will be played on 10-23 (Tues.) and 10/30 (Thurs).

Special Events—The must see game of the season, takes place on Nov. 1 (Sat.) at 2:00 pm on the Carol Espinosa field as South Plainfield once again hosts the GMC Championship game.

The team will be competing in the state sectionals for North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3. Schedules for these games are not yet available.

Please come out and support a wonderful team of players. There are only a few games remaining and you don't want to miss seeing this team play.

The best of luck to players and coaches in the GMC's. Go Tigers!

Weight Room Accepting Members

The PAL is accepting members to join and use their weight room. Fees are \$60 for six months or \$100 for one year. The weight room's hours are weekdays, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1

p.m. to 5 p.m. All members must bring a towel and their ID cards at all times. For information on the weight room, call (908) 226-7713. To tour the weight room, you can come to the PAL Building on Maple Ave.

Calls for "Little Miss Baseball" Contestants

It's time to crown Little Miss Baseball 2004. We ask that all the girls nominated march with the club in our parade on April 3, after which at Opening Day Festivities we will announce Little Miss Baseball 2004. The winner must be present to be crowned. If not, the next runner up will be crowned Little Miss Baseball.

We will accept nominations for Little Miss Baseball now through Jan. 1, 2004. Nominees must be South Plainfield residents between the ages of 7 and 11 years old. To nominate someone, call Stacy Lake at 757-9531. Finalists will be phoned on Jan. 2.

Little Miss Baseball 2004 will be chosen by the "penny-a-vote" system. (Boxes with finalists' pictures will be placed in various locations throughout the borough, including Quick Check and B & C Deli starting Jan. 5. They will remain there until March 31. The votes will then be tallied and the winner announced on Opening Day, April 3.



SPHS Freshman Football Team Remains Undefeated

The South Plainfield freshman football team remains undefeated after beating an undefeated Colonia team 18-13 this past Friday. Their toughest competition so far was a southern team from Vineland and that game ended in a 6-6 tie. The freshman team has had an exciting season out scoring their opponents 149 to 19.

The Tigers will take on North Brunswick on Friday, Oct. 24 at North Brunswick. They win return home for their final two games.

They will face Bishop Ahr on Halloween at 3:45 and win end their season on Nov. 17 against North Plainfield. Please come out and support them!

Sonics Soccer Team Split Two Games

The Sonics traveled to Berkeley Heights to take on the Boomers. Early in the game, the Boomers scored to lead 1-0. Midway through the first half, Danny Hunt eluded several defenders and passed to Shane O'Connor who slipped the ball right by the keeper. The tie game continued until Shaun Alers blasted one passed the Berkeley Heights keeper, who did not even have time to react. The Sonics had many nice ideas but, unlucky bounces of the ball and a few calls against the Sonics enabled the Boomers to score twice late in the game to steal the lead. With the Sonics in Boomer territory ready to shoot, the final whistle blew with the

score Boomers 3-Sonics 2.

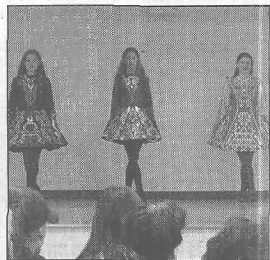
A home game against the Readington Stars, found the Sonics aggressive and ready to play. Within minutes, Danny Hunt moved down the field and scored unassisted to put the Sonics on the score board. During the early part of the first half the Stars tied the game.

Unfortunately, the Stars took advantage of two defensive errors and scored twice to take the lead 3-1. Then, the Sonics went into action. Shane O'Connor blasted one over the head of the keeper and shortly after that Dana Hunt slipped another one by to knot the score at 3-3 and end the half.

The Sonics dominated the second half keeping the ball from going over the half way mark only twice. Mike Zelasko passed to Danny Hunt who zipped the ball in to break the tie and give the Sonics back the lead. With a few minutes left in the game Mike Dispenziere crossed to Nick Okoszko who added to the Sonics lead when he flipped the ball over the goal. Final score was Sonics 5 Stars 3. Goalkeepers for both games were Nick Tuyp and Nick Ross. The split makes the Sonics record 4-2.

Our next game is home on Sunday Oct. 26 when we take on the North Hunterdon Invaders.

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Obituaries

Susan Joan Gochal, 81



Susan Joan Gochal

Susan J. Gochal died on Sunday, Oct. 5 at Muhlenberg Regional Center in Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield on Jan. 8, 1922, she was the daughter of Michael I. And Anna M. Prohaska. She had resided in South Plainfield for the last 46 years.

A 1940 Dunellen High School graduate, Susan was married to George S. Gochal on April 15, 1944 in Riverside, California. She was a retired office manager for Kleiner Metal Specialties in South Plainfield. Susan was active in Tri-County Senior Citizens, arranging many of the trips, both domestic and foreign for many years. She was a founding member of the Traveling Seniors and current member of South Plainfield Senior Citizens. She was an active bowler and a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

Susan was predeceased by her husband, George, who died in 1981; two brothers, Henry and Michael and two sisters, Emily Chabok and Anne Stepnowski.

She is survived by her daughter, Georgia and son-in-law, Ernie Temple of South Plainfield; a son, Gary Gochal and daughter-in-law, Nancy of North Brunswick; a sister, Minnie Gyrusin of South Plainfield; five grandchildren, Jeffrey and Maggie Temple, Sean Temple and Jacquelyn Gochal and Scott Gochal; four cherished great grandchildren, Ryan and Brett Temple and Dylan and Delaney Temple and her dear friend and companion, Tony Abbruzzese of Fanwood.

Funeral services were held at Sheenan Funeral Home.

Robert J. "Bob" Perrucci, Jr., 55

Robert J. "Bob" Perrucci, Jr. died suddenly on Thursday, Oct. 16 at Rahway Hospital in Rahway.

At the time of his birth in Plainfield, his family had lived in Westfield. He grew up in South Plainfield and had lived here most of his life. He went through the

South Plainfield School System and was a graduate of the class of 1966. After high school, he entered the U.S. Marine Corps. and was sent to Vietnam, where he had been in combat. He was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon and the RVN MUG Gallantry Cross.

Upon his discharge from the Marine Corps., he went to Middlesex County College, where he had earned an Associate Degree in Business Management.

Bob held the position of Director of Purchasing with the Frigidaire Co. of Edison for 28 years before he retired two years ago. For the past three years, he had owned and operated ABS Enterprises of South Plainfield.

His son, Steven J. Perrucci, died in 1998 and his father, Robert J. Perrucci, Sr., died two years ago.

Surviving are his fiancé, Joan M. Buyacheck of Piscataway; a daughter, Andrea J. Perrucci of South Plainfield; a son and his fiancé, Robert N. Perrucci and Bridget Talmadge of Port Jervis, NY; his mother, Rosemary (Hoffman) Perrucci of South Plainfield; a brother and his companion, John C. Perrucci and Glen Banta of Bayonne; a sister, Georgia Bartz of Vero Beach, FL; longtime close family friend, Barbara Della Sala of South Plainfield and by his grandson, Anthony S. Perrucci.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the National Veteran's Services Fund, Inc., P.O. Box 2465, Darien, CT 06820-0465.

Mary E. Weishaar, 77

Mary E. Weishaar died on Sunday, Oct. 12 at the JFK Medical Center in Edison. Her passing was not a

direct result of the accident she was involved in on June 12 on Oak Tree Ave.

Born in Denmark, South Carolina, she lived in New York City before moving to South Plainfield, where she has lived since 1970.

Mary was a longtime member of the First Baptist Church in South Plainfield, where she had served as a Deaconess of the Church.

Her husband, William Weishaar, died this past December.

She is survived by her sister, Miriam Walsh; a niece and a nephew.

Funeral services were held at the First Baptist Church in South Plainfield.

The family has requested that donations be made in Mary's memory to the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield, 201 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

James (Jim) Frederick Kennedy, 52

James (Jim) Frederick Kennedy passed away on Sunday, Oct. 12.

Born in Newark, he was raised in South Plainfield. He graduated from South Plainfield High School in 1969 and received his Bachelor's Degree from Boston University. He resided in Tampa, Florida with his wife, Angela Marchitto Kennedy.

He was predeceased by his mother, Bethea (Betty) Kennedy in 1998.

He is survived by his loving wife, Angela; three children, Jesse, Jacob and Rebecca; their mother, Bentley Kennedy; two step-children, Rebecca Lynn and Samuel Whitehurst; his father, Frederick James Kennedy; two

sisters, Carol Smith and Joyce Walton and his niece and nephews.

He was a loving husband, father, son and brother and will be missed by all.

Andrew Brandsberg, 90

Andrew Brandsberg died on Tuesday, Oct. 14 at Muhlenburg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Norway, Andrew resided there until he was 16 years old before coming to the United States and settling in South Plainfield. A resident of the borough for over 70 years, Andrew was the caretaker of the Longwood Estate, which was owned by the Steele Family for over 35 years. An avid gardener, Andrew was a member of the Hyewood Park Baptist Church in North Plainfield, where he served as an usher for 40 years. He also served with the army during World War II, serving time in Italy where he received two purple hearts.

He is predeceased by his wife, Elsie (nee Goodwin), who died in 1987.

Surviving are a daughter, Andrea and her husband, Jim of South Plainfield; two sons, Timothy and his wife, Norma of Goode, Va. and Steven and his wife, Jeanne of Canyon Lake, Ca.; three brothers, Thorlief, Birger and Reider, all of Norway; six grandchildren, Jennifer, Erik, Susan, James, Kristofer and Andrew and one great grandson, Max.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

policereport

• On October 14 Daryl Lashun Hathorne, 33, of Plainfield was arrested for having an unregistered vehicle and two outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

• On October 15 a transit bus driver reported that a passenger was refusing to get off at a designated bus stop. Every day, the woman demands to be dropped off in front of the Best Western Motel where she resides.

• A Sherman Ave. resident reported that his vehicles were damaged after being struck by a portion of his neighbor's tree.

• On October 17 an Ivy St. resident reported receiving harassing phone calls.

• An Avenel resident reported that a rock was used to smash the passenger side front window of his vehicle and his wallet was taken while parked on Kentile Rd.

• A Woodland Ave. resident reported that an old credit card had been used to purchase \$940 worth of items in Saudi Arabia.

• On October 18 an Orchard Dr. resident reported that the window

of his 1998 Ford F150 had been smashed.

• On October 19 Michael Stephen Holowka, 25, of Scotch Plains turned himself in and was arrested on six outstanding warrants totalling \$28,140.

• A Hillside Ave. resident reported that the windshield of her 2001 Plymouth Neon was broken.

• A Plainfield resident reported that the passenger window of her friend's vehicle was smashed and a CD case containing approximately 35 CDs was taken while parked at China Buffet on Park Ave.

• On October 20 Moises F. Aguirre, 33, of Plainfield was arrested for an unregistered vehicle and fictitious plates at a motor vehicle stop. Passenger Hector Raymond Miranda, 29, of Perth Amboy was also arrested on an outstanding warrant.

• On October 21 a Somerset Ave. resident reported that the rear window of his 1996 Ford Windstar was smashed out.

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY

October 17, 2003

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on October 16, 2003.

Case #58-03-Emanuel Paguntalan. Block 262; Lot 4; 124 Lakeview Avenue. The applicant's request for a front yard setback to allow an existing 16 foot by 20 foot first floor wood deck to remain on the lot as existing, with a 13 foot front yard setback from Elm Street subject to voluntary conditions was hereby GRANTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary-Zoning Board of Adjustment

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October 24, 2003

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GARAGE SALES

GARAGE SALES

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GARAGE SALES

GARAGE SALES

GARAGE SALE

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(Off Plainfield Ave.)

Saturday, Oct. 25
(Raindate: Sun., Oct. 26)
9 am-3 pm

Clothing, furniture, electronics equipment, toys & misc.

GARAGE SALE

1118 Worth Dr.
(Franklin to Greenwich to Worth)

Friday & Saturday
October 24 & 25
9 am-2:30 pm Friday and 9-3 Saturday

Household, kids stuff and more

GARAGE SALE

1301 Cherry Street
(Off Central Avenue)

Saturday, October 25
9 am-3 pm

Two parrot-sized bird cages, exercise bike, household items, clothes & more
RAIN OR SHINE

GARAGE SALE

137 Duffy Place
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Friday & Saturday,
October 24 & 25
8 am-11 am

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GARAGE SALE

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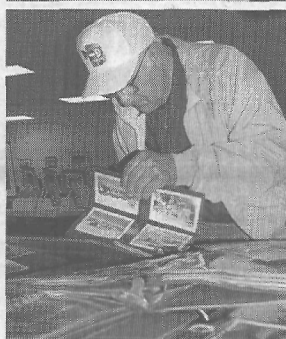
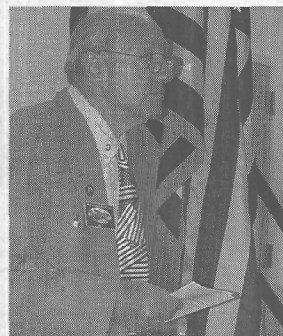
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Town History Day Revisits South Plainfield Roots

South Plainfield's first Town History Day offered residents an opportunity to go back in time and explore the history of the borough. The event featured photographs, memorabilia, programs and displays by local community groups. Marge Reedy (below at left) gave the Historical Society the original copy of her ancestor, Bethune D. Dunham's, certificate from the Post Office Department officially appointing him postmaster of South Plainfield in November of 1887. The postmaster general at the time was William F. Vilas. Jake Cataldo gave the Historical Society a framed picture of the house where he grew up, which at one time served as the post office. It was once the J. Manning General Store at 130 Front St. Both gifts were accepted by Historical Society Past Presidents Mary Mazepa and Bill Tuthill on behalf of the society. Mayor Gallagher presented a framed official Mayoral Proclamation of Town History Day to Dorothy Miele. Entertainment and refreshments were also part of the festivities of the day.



Jeffreys Resigns from BOE

(Continued from page one)

cover the new three-year contract. The increase in salary cost alone is 13.9 percent over the three years of the contract.

After Jeffreys left the meeting, Board President Pio Pennisi directed the question to Dr. Edward Izbicki, Sr. Business Administrator/Board Secretary, if there was enough money to cover the cost of the salary increases. Dr. Izbicki said yes, there was enough money to cover the costs.

During September's BOE meeting, Jeffreys planned to vote "no" on the Board's finance report. However, after being advised by Board Attorney Dr. Nicholas Celso that a "no" vote would initiate an investigation of the district's finances, Jeffreys was convinced to abstain instead.

One of Jeffreys' most important questions was the current balance of the budget surplus. The board has committed to \$1.2M in this year's budget. When Jeffreys questioned the auditors, they could not answer that question nor several others she had submitted.

Several costs of the new contract

include not only the 13.9 percent increase in salary, but the current cost of healthcare, its projected costs, as well changes in the compensation of six period coverage, raises in the stipend positions and three additional holidays for school aides.

Jeffreys stressed that even though she was not opposed to some of the changes in contract, without an accurate cost analysis (along with her own uncertainty of the board's financial status), it was impossible for her to cast a vote on the contract.

Jeffreys finished by saying that when she conveyed her concerns to Board President Pio Pennisi, he told her that "only five other residents would be concerned about her doubts," according to Jeffreys. She ended her statement saying that she hoped that Pennisi was wrong. "Here at this table, children should rule, not politics," Jeffreys concluded.

The board then voted to accept Jeffreys resignation, with Ken LaFreniere and Timothy Morgan voting no.

The board will appoint a replacement for Jeffreys at a future meeting.

SPHS Students Named AP Scholars

Eight former students at South Plainfield High School have earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement (AP) Exams.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school and to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP exams. Almost 15 percent of the more than one million high school students in more than 14,000 secondary schools worldwide took the AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to meet the recognition of AP Scholars.

Students took the AP exams in May after completing challenging college-level courses at their high schools. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement, based on the number of yearlong courses and exams (or their equivalent semester-long courses and exams).

At South Plainfield High School, six students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP examinations, with grades of three or higher. The AP Scholars are Heather Barrett, Jenny Cai, Alexander Huynh, Lauren Kaczka, Kristina Ogonowski and John Rayho. Two students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and grades of three or higher on four

or more of these exams. These students are Christina Furka and Elayne Russell.

Most of the nation's colleges and universities award credit, advanced placement, or both based on successful performance on the AP exams. More than 1,400 institutions award a full year's credit (sophomore standing) to students presenting a sufficient number of qualifying grades. Thirty-four AP exams are offered in a wide variety of subject areas, each consisting of multiple choice and free response (essay or problem solving) questions (except for the Studio Art exam, which evaluates students' original artwork).

The College Board is a national nonprofit membership association whose mission is to prepare, inspire and connect students to college and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the association is composed of more than 4,300 schools, colleges, universities and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves over three million students their parents, 23,000 high schools and 3,500 colleges through major programs and services in college admissions, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment and teaching and learning. Among its best-known programs are the SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT and the Advanced Placement (AP) Program. The College Board is committed to the principles of equity and excellence and the commitment is embodied in all of its programs, services, activities and concerns.

Use Care When Seeking Help from Credit Counseling Organizations

The Internal Revenue Service, the Federal Trade Commission and state regulators issued a consumer alert for those seeking assistance from tax-exempt credit counseling organizations.

Many credit counseling organizations provide valuable advice, education and assistance to those seeking to better manage their debt. But an increasing number of complaints to federal and state agencies indicates that some organizations are engaging in questionable activities.

Federal and state regulators are concerned that some credit counseling organizations using questionable practices may seek tax-exempt status in

order to circumvent state and federal consumer protection laws. State and federal statutes regulating credit counseling agencies often do not apply to Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations.

Consumers can help protect themselves from deceptive credit counseling practices by following these tips:

- Check that the organization will help you manage your finances better through counseling and education. Carefully read through any written agreement that a credit counseling organization offers. It should describe in detail the services to be performed, the payment terms for these services,

including their total cost, how long it will take to achieve results, any guarantees offered and the organization's business name and address.

- Beware of high fees or required "voluntary contributions" that, with high monthly service charges, may add to your debt and defeat your efforts to pay your bills. It is illegal to represent that negative information, such as bankruptcy, can be removed from your credit report. Promises to "help you get out of debt easily" are a red flag.

- Make sure that your creditors are willing to work with the agency you choose. If they are, follow up with those creditors regularly to make sure your debt is being paid off.

- Check with state agencies and your local Better Business Bureau to find out about a specific credit counseling organization's record. Here are some helpful web sites:

- www.ftc.gov-Become familiar with the latest scam alerts

- www.irs.gov/charities-Determine whether the organization is tax-exempt and what an organization must do to maintain that status

- www.nasconet.org-Obtain a list of state charity official offices

- www.treas.gov/financialeducation.gov-To find more information on federal financial education programs and resources

Consumers who believe they've been victims should file a complaint with the FTC. Call toll free: 1-877-FTC-HELP or online at www.ftc.gov.

Haunted Woods at Putnam Park

(Continued from page one)

Almost Famous thanks Dun-Ley Productions for the loan of costumes for the Haunted Woods Tour. Visit their Haunted Village Oct. 24, 26, 30 and 31 from 7-10 p.m. at the Turtle Back Zoo in West Orange. For more info and directions go to www.njkingdom.com or call (732) 271-1119.

Advanced ticket reservations are suggested as tours are limited to about 20 people per. Reservations should include date and time of tour. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$2 for children accompanied by an adult. Recommended age is eight and up, parental discretion advised-no refunds. For ticket info, call (908) 756-8011. Leave a message with name and number.

Teachers Contract

(Continued from page 1)

"I think this contract is a fair settlement. Both sides walked away from the table feeling they gave up something and they won something," said Board President Pennisi. "The key is that we treat each other as professionals and walk away as professionals."

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Lions Club

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For info or reservations, call (908) 756-8011.