

# South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

SEPTEMBER 24, 2004

## BOE Administrator Quits Amid Financial Woes

At the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday evening, the resignation of Business Administrator/Board Secretary Edward Izbicki, Sr. was accepted by board members. The effective date of September 15 comes just after last week's controversial board meeting.

Although Izbicki's resignation is related to the board's financial problems, Board President Pio Pennisi said there's no evidence of criminal wrongdoing, but rather a pattern of carelessness in financial matters.

Izbicki was hired in May of 2002

when five year Business Administrator Ellen Johnson announced her retirement due to back surgery complications.

The BOE has appointed Donna Tolley Acting Business Administrator/Board Secretary until a replacement is found.

## School Board President Seeks to Set the Record Straight on Budget Mishandling

At Tuesday night's BOE meeting School Board President Pio Pennisi issued the following statement regarding the current state of the Board's finances:

**"The responsible parties will be held accountable."**

—Pio Pennisi, School Board President

"I have prepared the following statement to provide a clear picture of the Board's finances over the past four years and to dispel any myths and rumors regarding financial practices by the Board of Education.

When the last audit was handed to the Board this past December, it brought to light a number of items that the Board was not aware of regarding our financial practices. The record keeping in the Business Office from the 2000-2001 school year forward was in a state of non-compliance and disarray. For example, purchase orders from the 2001-2002 school year totaling \$410,000 had not been accounted for on our system and were owed to vendors. In fact, our auditors have remarked that they have rarely seen financial records that were so improperly kept.

In the midst of this inaccuracy regarding our financial status, the Board changed Business Administrators as well as Assistant Business Administrators a number of times. The Board was not aware of the disastrous nature of our records. We began to uncover this information in April of 2003. At that time, with the budget for the 2003-2004 school year going to the voters, we identified 21 staff positions that were not included in the 2003-2004 budget. As a result, these positions had a \$1.3 million impact on the budget that was just closed. Moving forward into the summer as we continued to investigate financial practices, we found that FICA contributions were not handled properly, and as a result, the Board's fund balance was actually \$220,000 less than anticipated because we had missed the filing deadline to recover this portion of those funds from the State.

Additionally, in the course of the prior year's audit, the Board had returned \$330,000 that was supposedly excess fund balance above the State limit. This was also inaccurate. Those funds should have been applied to offset the \$410,000 deficit to keep our financial picture in proper balance, but was not.

Therefore, the 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 budgets had several glaring inaccuracies that impacted on the preparation of the 2003-2004 budget. In fact, the 2003-2004 budget was significantly under funded. For example, aside from the 21 teachers that were missing, we also discovered that the budget presented, which we thought was sufficiently under cap

to provide for capital projects was in fact, a budget that did not come close to accurately representing the needs of the district in terms of staffing, and many other critical line item costs.

The 2003-2004 budget did not have sufficient funding for capital projects and should have been capped to simply cover the remaining operational expenses of the district. The information presented to the Board on the other hand, painted this budget as one that had more than sufficient funds to allow for this capital project.

Over the past six months, the Board has been watching the line item transfers with the auditors help, and have ascertained that figures presented to the Board still remain inaccurate and have only recently, as we examine our process, found that fund balances projected for 2003-2004 budget were inaccurate.

I should point out that information put in the newspapers by various individuals has not been accurate. For example, at the time of our last audit, to our auditor's knowledge and ours, no amount of money in excess of \$410,000 had not been encumbered. Additionally, as our auditors pointed out at the December meeting, money that is encumbered in a prior year that is not expended must go forward into the next year's budget, which ultimately gives the appearance that your budget is higher than it should be. However, encumbrances that are accrued in your prior year, according to law, must be carried in your current year's budget until all obligations are satisfied.

Lastly, we are making a change in our Business Office and are seeking a new Business Administrator as soon as possible. In light of the Board's discovering that information on our financial position was misleading, we have made many changes in our practices over the past six months, and will continue to work with our auditors to insure that future data presented to the Board will not contain the inaccuracies and misleading information of the prior four years. I have also instructed our auditor to audit our referendum budget to insure funds were properly allotted and that monies are available to complete additional projects outlined in the referendum.

If it is determined that any inappropriate handling of those monies has occurred, you can be assured the responsible parties will be held accountable and face resulting consequences. As any new information is obtained, we will immediately disclose it to the public as we have in the past."



The newest members of the CERT are: Marvin Bronstein, Michelle Cerami, Betsy Coyne, Mary Esposito, Henry Grabarz, Mary Beth Khidre, Mark Markowski and Thomas Walsh. Not pictured is Dave Housel.

## Second CERT Class Graduates

Last week, nine volunteers were recognized after finishing the nine week course to join the Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT). The graduates received their diplomas and were congratulated by the Mayor and Council during last week's regular council meeting. These nine join the 19 residents who graduated in April.

CERT, run locally by the South Plainfield Office of Emergency Management, is under the direction of Mike Zushma. The CERT program came about after the events of Sept. 11 and is part of the Homeland Security Program.

During the nine week course volunteers learned many aspects they will need to know during an emergency. In case of an emergency, these volunteers will be expected to assist various agencies and trained personnel where needed.

Class instructors were Mike Zushma, Michael Grennier, Charles Siedenburgh, Linda Zushma, Larry DelNegro and Gail Dougherty.

Several CERT members have already volunteered when they helped out at this year's Labor Day Parade. According to Mike Zushma, all of the CERT members will participate in an upcoming drill which will take place in December. Drills are held periodically to evaluate response to an emergency and if changes are needed in training.

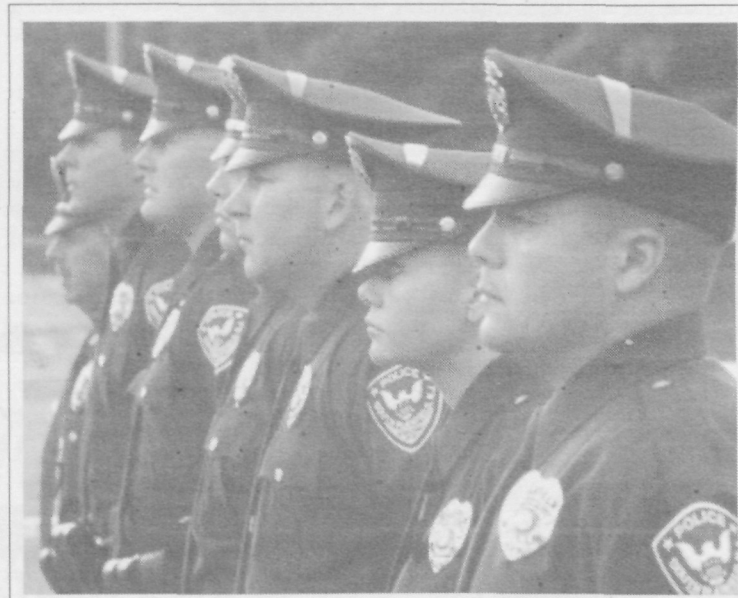
Graduating from the second class were Marvin Bronstein, Michelle Cerami, Betsy Coyne, Mary Esposito,

Hank Grabarz, Dave Housel, Mary Beth Khidre, Mark Makowski and Thomas Walsh.

All volunteers received CERT ID cards and a duffle bag containing a vest, helmet, first aid kit and other emergency items. ID cards are worn

so that the volunteers can be identified by other emergency personnel.

A new class will be forming in the spring. If you would like more information on the CERT program, call (908) 226-7718 or email [mzushma@southplainfieldnj.com](mailto:mzushma@southplainfieldnj.com).



Police Department honors their own with annual awards ceremony. See page 5.

## Domestic Violence Exhibit at Library

In recognition that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the South Plainfield Domestic Violence Educational Outreach Program will conduct a Domestic Violence Exhibit from Oct. 1-28 at the South

Plainfield Library.

The exhibit will be available during regular library hours. A team member will be at the library to answer any questions on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m.



**Deadline for October 1 issue  
is Monday, September 27 at 5 p.m.**

## Mark Your Calendars

Log on to  
[southplainfieldnj.com](http://southplainfieldnj.com)  
for the latest meeting agenda

### council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Monday.  
Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
Monday, October 4,	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.

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

### planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641  
Oct. 12 and 26, Nov. 16 and 30 and Dec. 14 and 28

### zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641  
Oct. 14 and 28, Nov. 4 and 18 and Dec. 2 and 16

### board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted  
Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.—Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14,  
Jan. 11, 2005, Feb. 8, March 8 and April 5  
Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m.—Oct. 18, Nov. 16, Dec. 21, Jan. 18 2005, Feb. 15,  
March 15 and April 12

### 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.  
Oct. 19, Nov. 16 and Dec. 21

### 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  
Oct. 5, Nov. 2 and Dec. 7

### environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)  
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621  
October 13, November 10, December 8 and January 12, 2005

### 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 (No Meeting in August)

### board of education curriculum/technology meetings

Meets once a month on Mondays, (except where noted) at 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.  
(No meeting in October), November 15, December 13,  
January 31, 2005, (No meeting February) and March 21

## South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is  
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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., fax us at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at [spobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net). Include your name, address, telephone number. You can subscribe or contact us at: [spobserver.com](mailto:spobserver.com).

### 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: [spobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net) 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.

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## IN YOUR OPINION

To the Editor,

As they typically do during the third week of the campaign season, the Democrats last week distorted every single position taken by their opponents and then attacked the distortion.

They're good at it. They use lots of angry rhetoric. Their best trick is to charge "negative" campaigning whenever we bring up an issue they don't like. For example, if we question outrageous spending for a public job, they accuse us of "attacking" the person who holds the job. Apparently they also have a contest between themselves to see who can squeeze the word "attack" into their letters the most and to see who can rant and rave the most.

My running mates and I concede defeat in the ranting contest—a contest we never entered. Instead of responding in kind, we'll continue to talk about issues, as unpleasant as that may be for the Democrats.

I do want to clear a few things up though. First, while I appreciate the compliment, I've never held an elected position before in this town. But I hope to. If I did all the things the Democrats accused me of last week, I would have been the most powerful 25-year-old kid in the state, maybe even the country. Candor, however, requires me to say that I merely sat on an advisory board (run by a Democrat no less) for about a year and a half in the mid-'80s.

Similarly, while the Dems said I had some type of high-level position 10 years ago in the Woskey administration, they're again mistaken. I think Mike Woskey would be astonished to learn I was secretly running his administration. Newsflash Mr. Butrico: I had no role whatsoever in the Woskey administration. I was working full time and attending law school four nights a week when Mike was mayor. I had no time for a personal life, let alone politics.

Rather than talking about ancient history, let's talk about today. Let's talk about why there's no plan to combat overdevelopment. Let's talk about why Helen Street is nine years behind schedule and why Hamilton Boulevard reconstruction is four years behind schedule.

Let's talk about why the all-Democratic council is giving no-bid contracts to campaign contributors. Let's talk about why services are being cut to the bone while Democratic appointees get big raises. And finally, let's talk about why Jack Morris gets to build what he wants where he wants, even if it means putting senior housing in a high-traffic industrial area.

Voters want us to talk about these issues. We have. As far as a response, we're still waiting.

**BOB JONES  
BOROUGH COUNCIL CANDIDATE**

To the Editor,

It is quite amazing to me that it took so long. Eighteen months ago, I complained that the Board of Education members were given inaccurate financial reports, or in some cases, no reports at all!

I refused to vote on finance issues

causing votes to be postponed. I initiated conversations with the business administrator, the superintendent, the Board president, auditors who admitted my prediction of a shortfall was probably much higher than my estimate, and finally, with the entire Board addressing my concerns of the financial status of the South Plainfield Board of Education and its inaccurate financial reports. I contacted NJ School Boards Association and asked for advice. I urged Board members to postpone their vote on the negotiated agreement until an accurate cost analysis was provided to the Board members as the negotiating committee confessed they did not cost out the agreement during negotiations. If an agreement is not costed out, there is no way to know how much will be spent in the salary lines. Consequently, there should not be a vote unless Board members knew the exact amount of money—including benefit changes—they would pay to teachers and their associated groups. This request was met with an inaccurate analysis provided the evening before the vote was to take place, which did not accurately depict the actual impact financially.

I resigned at the meeting that agreement was ratified by the Board of Education, stating that the board did not have the appropriate or accurate information on the contract. I stated publicly that the Board did not have an accurate picture of ANY of the district's finances, and I resigned rather than continue to mislead the public that all was well in South Plainfield Public Schools. I followed my public resignation with a letter to acting Middlesex County Superintendent Dr. Piegari and Commissioner of Education urging oversight in South Plainfield's financial practices. I was assured by followup letter from Dr. Piegari's office that South Plainfield would be watched closely during its upcoming budget preparation. I would say it is pretty obvious that the local, county and state officials failed to follow through and closely monitor South Plainfield's budget preparation.

I continued to attend Board of Education meetings, and when the Board changed its practice of holding all action items to the Regular Board meeting and instead started voting on finance matters at COW (Committee of the Whole) meetings, I asked that all line item transfers be included in the agenda of the Regular Public Board of Education meeting. For your information, the COW meeting has traditionally been where the agenda for the regular meeting was set. No action was taken at these meetings, because previous boards refused to "slip through" anything that even remotely looked like something was being hidden from public view. I attended the budget preparation meeting and pointed out the glaring deficiencies in the areas of Capital Outlay, Maintenance of Buildings and

### Submit Letters to the Editor:

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Grounds and Transportation line items.

My attendance at these meetings stopped when Board of Education members treated me, and former Board of Education member Frank Mikorski, with such disrespect and disdain, with eye rolling and sighing, whenever asked about finance. It became painfully obvious that our questions were neither needed nor wanted. I have to credit Frank Mikorski for hanging in there, continuing to attend and never letting go despite the lack of answers, blank stares and disrespect. On the plus side though, I have lost count of the number of positive calls I received from district residents who appreciated and agree with me on points stated throughout this letter. I also listened to comments that were repeated as coming from current Board of Education members that we were wrong and did not know what we were talking about.

Today I read in the *NJ Star Ledger* that Board President Pennisi said, "We felt we didn't have the correct information for a long time and possibly previous boards didn't either."

Yet this Board voted to increase the Superintendent's salary by 10 percent and extend his contract to 2009, after one year of service! Was this costed out? The buck stops where? The Superintendent is the chief school administrator; he is responsible for all below him and he was warned repeatedly that something was wrong, by me and monthly by Frank Mikorski! It will be interesting to watch closely from this point forward. I wonder who the designated scapegoat will be.

Frank Mikorski has attended every meeting, telling the Board they were overspending in line items. He did this every month, but our esteemed Board of Education members are claiming they just realized this! If you believe this I have some swamp land to sell you! It is certainly time to pay attention, as I wrote in October when explaining my resignation to this community. Salary and benefits are paid first, the necessary cuts affect our children, their programs and supplies. Our building administrators were told all spending is frozen in August 2004. The new budget began in July 1, 2004 and the schools doors were not even open yet! That leads me to believe that perhaps money allocated to the 2004-2005 budget was being used to pay unpaid invoices from the

(Continued on page x)

## HOMETOWN HEROS

*South Plainfield's Sub Shop*

- Italian Subs • Sloppy Joes • Ranch Wraps • Turkey Subs
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- Roast Beef Subs • Tuna Salad • BLT Wraps

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Valid thru 10/2/04







Front row (left to right): Dorothy Ewing, Kathy Fredericks, Cindy GaNun, Melissa O'Connor, April Wasnick and Rosemary Holt. Back row (left to right): Madelyn Ortiz, Janice Gray, Michelle Ritter, Amy Omelio, JoAnn Stogoski, Christine Ritter, Cathy Reilly. Not pictured are Connie Leso, Carlene Allocco, Robyn Stoeckel, Sue Ifrach, Nina Zeccardo and Lori Lionetti.

## Slim and Tone Celebrates First Anniversary

More than 100 joined owners Dan and Rosie Holt at Slim and Tone last week to help them celebrate their first anniversary.

Equipment was moved out of the way for the evening to make room for tables decorated with balloons and confetti. Everyone enjoyed the cham-

pagne and hot and cold hors'doeuvres, while they compared how many inches and weight they had lost in the last year. New equipment, including the butt buster, was on display.

Certificates and tee shirts were given to recognize several women who recorded extraordinary results. The "Top

Weight Loss Award 2003-2004" went to April Wasnick.

Geri McKnight won the door prize, a two-night trip to Washington DC.

The evening ceremonies ended with the cutting of a cake, followed by dancing. The Hols would like to thank everyone who came out to join in their celebration.

## 2005 Pictorial Keepsake Calendar Available

Images of South Plainfield from the early 1900s to the 1950s are featured in the South Plainfield Historical Society inaugural 2005 Keepsake Calendar. Proceeds of the sale are designated for a number of Society projects currently underway. Those projects include preservation of photographs, High School Senior Scholarship Award, Town History Day, a proposed Civil War Memorial and other public

programming.

Many of the photographs in the wall-size calendar include comments by people who lived in the borough or those familiar with the subject matter. A young Edward Niemczyk, for example, experienced many cowboy and Indian battles—though imaginary—on the carousel at Holly Park, the small 1920s amusement park on Maple Avenue. While no photos have

yet been found of the merry-go-round, his words highlight a rare 1906 photo of the property's owner, Milton Mendel, paddling his sister in a canoe on the nine-acre Holly Pond, the centerpiece of Holly Park.

Ninety-year-old Anthony Abbruzzese grew up on Church Street close to the Lehigh Valley Railroad. He reminisces about the night the first Police Chief, Cornelius J. McCarthy, collared a bank robber at the Valley Lunch, an eatery across the tracks on Hamilton Boulevard. His comments accompany a photograph of a large gathering of South Plainfielders honoring the sometimes controversial chief at a Testimonial Dinner in 1936.

The men behind the scenes at Hadley Airport—the airport operator Tom Robertson, the mechanics, and a daredevil parachutist—are rarely, if ever, published. Ed Meehan, now 89 and a retired TWA pilot who got his wings at Hadley in the 1930s, comments on his flying experiences.

Other monthly images, some published for the first time, bring to life a time-gone-by when the town's population was small, everyone knew your name, and rapid transit still included horse-drawn wagons. This is a limited edition calendar and a keepsake for your family to treasure. Each year a new limited edition will be published, commemorating the history and heritage of our community. The 2005 Keepsake Calendar was made possible through the advertising support of several South Plainfield businesses, including Nicastro's Garage, Oak Tree Farms, Cindy Michaels Jewelers & Gemologists, Salerno Pizza Ristorante, Marsh Associates, Sportworld, Sherbans Diner, John Cecchetti Insurance Agency and Spotlight on Dance.

The black and white calendar with color advertising sells for \$8. Mail orders will be taken by sending a check for \$8 plus \$1 for mailing (total of \$9) to South Plainfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 11, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Delivery takes approximately two weeks.

Calendars will also be on sale at the Senior Center on Maple Ave. and Oak Tree Farms on Oak Tree Ave. across from the South Plainfield Post Office.

Additional information may be attained by e-mailing [SPHistoricalSoc@cs.com](mailto:SPHistoricalSoc@cs.com).

## Plays-in-the-Park Gears Up for Fall, Holiday Shows

Coming off another successful Plays-in-the-Park season, the Middlesex County Department of Parks and Recreation announces ticket sales for performances of its Children's Theater event and "Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" performances.

"We had another great year for our Plays-in-the-Park performances, despite rainy weather," said Freeholder Deputy Director Stephen J. "Pete" Dalina, chairman of the county's Parks and Recreation Committee. "Tens of thousands of people came out to see the plays. But the end of summer doesn't mean the end of fun. Our fall and holiday shows are extremely popular, too."

Tickets for this year's Children's Theater offering, "The Reluctant Dragon," are on sale now. Performances run from Oct. 9 through Oct. 24.

Plays-in-the-Park Producer Gary Cohen wrote the book and lyrics for that musical, which is the story of a young boy whose lifelong ambition is to meet a real dragon. When the mythical village of Tea'N'Crumpet learns that there's a dragon running amok in the countryside, they hire a dragon-slayer to take care of the prob-

lem—but Joey intends to get there first.

Tickets may be purchased in person at the Plays-in-the-Park production office at the back of Stephen J. Capestro Theater from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays. Adults are \$3, children are \$2. Cash or checks, made payable to the Treasurer, Middlesex County, are accepted.

Tickets also are available through the mail. Go to the Plays-in-the-Park website at [www.playsinthepark.com](http://www.playsinthepark.com) and download a ticket request form at "The Reluctant Dragon" page. Send the form, payment and a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Children's Show Tickets, C/O Plays-in-the-Park, P.O. Box 661, New Brunswick, NJ 08903.

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" will be held at the State Theatre in New Brunswick from Dec. 26-28.

Tickets will go on sale Nov. 15 through the State Theatre Box Office. Call (732) 246-7469 for tickets and information.

For more information on all upcoming performances, visit the Plays-in-the-Park website or call the Middlesex County Parks and Recreation Department at (732) 548-2884.



Mr. and Mrs. Luis Di Pelaez of North Plainfield held an affair for 200 people at the Polish National Home in South Plainfield for their daughter Denise's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. Cadet uniforms were specially purchased from Mexico for several dances the escorts and their daughter, Denise, performed for the guests.

## Free Photography Contest

The International Library of Photography is pleased to announce that over \$60,000 in prizes will be awarded this year in the International Open Amateur Photography Contest. Photographers from the South Plainfield area, particularly beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of over 1,300 prizes. The deadline for the contest is Nov. 30, 2004. The contest is open to everyone and entry is free.

"Everyone has at least one memorable photo that captures a special moment in time," stated Christina Baylon, Contest Director. "When people learn about our free photogra-

phy contest, they suddenly realize that their own favorite photos can win cash prizes, as well as gain national exposure," continued Baylon.

To enter, send one photograph in only one of the following categories: people, travel, pets, children, sports, nature, action, humor, portraiture, or other. The photo must be a color or black-and-white print (unmounted), 8"x10" or smaller. All entries must include the photographer's name and address on the back, as well as the category and the title of the photo. Photographs should be sent to: The International Library of Photography, Suite 101-3941, 3600 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Entries must be postmarked by Nov. 30. You may also submit your photo directly online at [www.picture.com](http://www.picture.com).

The International Library of Photography is an organization dedicated to bringing the work of amateur photographers to the public's attention. You can view the work of over 1.1 million amateur photographers at their website, [www.picture.com](http://www.picture.com).

## Elks Selling Entertainment Books

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the 2005 Entertainment Book for \$30. It can be used immediately. Please call (908) 756-6406.

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## Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.  
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul  
Alvarado, Pastor

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

### Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

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); 6:30 and 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.





# Around Town

## OLC Spaghetti Supper

September 25

Our Lady of Czestochowa Rosary Society will hold a spaghetti supper on Sept. 25, 4 to 8 p.m. in the parish hall. Cost for adults is \$7, seniors are \$6, children 5-12 are \$3.50 and children under five are free.

## Wesley Methodist Open House Spaghetti Dinner

September 25

Wesley United Methodist Church, at 1500 Plainfield Ave., is holding a community Spaghetti Dinner Open House on Saturday, Sept. 25, 5-7 p.m. Price per person is \$7 for adults and children (12 years and under) are \$3.

Great food, great music and great company! Come see what Wesley United Methodist Church is all about. Come on in...We love visitors!

## Installation of Pastor at First Baptist Church

September 26

First Baptist Church of South Plainfield, 201 Hamilton Blvd., will install as its new pastor, the Rev. D. Gordon Braun, Jr., on Sunday, Sept. 26 at 3 p.m., followed by a dinner reception. He comes to us from his most recent pastorate at Demarest Baptist Church and a prior pastorate in Pedricktown. We joyously welcome Rev. Braun and his wife, Claire and their young daughter. For more information regarding the installation service or general information, call (908) 753-2382 or visit our website at [www.fbcssouthplainfield.com](http://www.fbcssouthplainfield.com).

## Trip to Dover Raceway

September 26

The Polish National Home is sponsoring a trip to Dover Raceway Sept. 26 for the Nascar race. For information and to sign up, call (908) 668-9442 and speak to a bartender.

## Sons of American Legion Golf Outing

September 29

The Sons of the American Legion Chaumont Squadron 243, located at 243 Oak Tree Ave. are hosting their Second Annual Golf Outing at Bunkerhill Golf Course in Princeton on Wednesday, Sept. 29.

Golfing is \$85 per person and includes green fees, cart, prizes, breakfast, lunch, drinks and buffet dinner at Chaumont Post 243.

If you would like to participate in the tournament or be a sponsor, call Mark Zelf at (908) 755-5914.

## Diabetes Program at Senior Center

September 29

The South Plainfield Office on Aging is pleased to offer an important program on Diabetes on Wednesday, Sept. 29 at 1 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center. Ann Newswanger, RD, CDE, from the Diabetes Center at Muhlenberg and JFK Hospitals will be the guest speaker. The program will begin with a comprehensive presentation about the disease that will be followed by an introduction to a nine-hour individualized Diabetes Class, which will be offered at the Senior Center in the weeks that follow the presentation. For more information, call the South Plainfield Office on Aging at (908) 754-1047.

## What's happening in SEPT/OCT

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Oct. 20—Flu Shots 9am-11:30am</b> <b>Nov. 1—Flu Shots 5-7:30pm</b> <b>Nov. 2—Election Day</b>			<b>23</b> Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10-11am	<b>24</b> Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza lunch available
<b>27</b> Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Drawing Class 11:30am	<b>28</b> Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am	<b>29</b> Exercise 8:30am Line Dancing 10am Movie Time 11:30am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 10 & 11:30 Diabetes Program 1pm	<b>30</b> Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11&1pm	<b>1</b> Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch available

TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.

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

## Senior Center EVENTS

The Senior Citizen's Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**NOW OPEN SATURDAYS 9:00 AM-12:30 PM—CREATIVE PAINTING 10AM**

## Washington, DC Trip

October 1 & 2

The Senior Center is sponsoring an overnight trip to Washington, DC on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 1 and 2. The trip's sightseeing highlights include a visit to the new World War II Memorial, the Vietnam and Korean War Memorials, Arlington National Cemetery and a tour of Washington at night. The trip includes accommodations in suburban Washington, dinner on Friday evening, breakfast at hotel, transportation and sight-seeing. The cost is \$159 per person double and \$209 single. For reservations, call the Senior Center at (908) 756-4135 or stop in.

## Rainbow Academy Plans Open House

October 2

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

Rainbow Academy offers a variety of programs to fit your child's needs, from ages six weeks to eight years. There is limited space available for the infant, nursery, pre-kindergarten programs. Everyone who registers will receive one free month of ParentWatch, an internet viewing service.

For more information, visit website [www.rainbowacademy.com](http://www.rainbowacademy.com).

## Buddy Walk for Down Syndrome

October 2

Individuals with Down Syndrome, their friends, family and many other supporters will march in full force on Oct. 2 for the first annual Buddy Walk, organized by the Buddy Walk of South Plainfield, the national Down Syndrome Society and the South Plainfield Rescue Squad. The walk begins at 1 p.m. at Spring Lake Park; registration starts at 11:30 a.m.

All funds raised will support the National Down Syndrome Society's education, research and advocacy efforts along with The Buddy Walk of South Plainfield and the South Plainfield Rescue Squad.

Call Michele Both at (908) 531-5100 for more information or any questions. Visit our website at [www.buddywalkofsouthplainfield.com](http://www.buddywalkofsouthplainfield.com).

## VFW Holds Breakfast

October 3

The VFW Post 6763 will hold a

breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 3 from 8 to 11 a.m. at the VFW Post, 155 Front St. Tickets are \$5 and proceeds benefit the VA Hospital at Lyons. For more info, call (908) 668-9751.

## Alumni Day & Dog Walk!

October 3

Join us once again for our Annual Alumni Day at Spring Lake Park in South Plainfield. Meet and greet the Plainfield Animal Hospital staff and volunteers, mingle with alumni of the shelter, enjoy an afternoon of fun and games and participate in our dog walk. Donation of \$10 is requested. All proceeds will benefit the animals at the shelter.

Dog walk is 12 to 1 p.m., Somerset County 4-H Dog Club's obedience/agility demo, featuring rescued dogs-1 to 1:30 p.m.; Pawlympic Games-1:30 to 2:30 p.m. and Blessing of the animals at Sacred Heart Church at 3 p.m. (within walking distance).

## Blessing Of Animals At Wesley Church

October 3

Wesley Church will host a Blessing of Animals outdoors on Sunday, Oct. 3 at 3 p.m. We invite the community to join us as our beloved pets are blessed by Reverend Thompson. All animals and their owners are welcome.

To avoid any possible injuries please make sure your dog or cat is leashed or crated. Bring your furry, finned or feathered friends. On site will be St. Huberts Animal Welfare Center of North Branch to answer any questions you may have on adoption, animal care, foster care, dog training, and volunteer programs.

Rev. Thompson may be reached at (908) 757-2838. Wesley Church is located at 1500 Plainfield Ave.

## Make 'n Take Crafts

October 4

There will be a "Make 'n Take" craft program for adults at South Plainfield Free Public Library on Monday, Oct. 4, at 10:30 a.m.

"Practical Crafting" instructor Ronda Wisniewski will lead participants in making a "memory box" using collage art. Due to limited space, participants must register in advance. There is a \$1 materials charge.

The Public Library is located in the South Plainfield Municipal Complex. For more info, call (908) 754-7885 or visit [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

## — Out of Town —

## CHATS Adoption Support Meeting

September 27

CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support) will hold an adoption support on Monday, Sept. 27 from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. at Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave., North Plainfield. There will be open sharing of adoption-related stories and light refreshments will be served. For more information, call Alyce at (732) 227-0607.

## Ninth Annual MCIA Charity Golf Classic

September 29

The Ninth Annual MCIA Charity Golf Classic will take place on Sept. 29 at Tamarack Golf Course in E. Brunswick. The event, sponsored by 1st Constitution Bank, benefits the Cerebral Palsy Association of Middlesex County and Roosevelt Care Center.

A few golfing spots remain for the 2004 outing. A \$175 donation pays for golf, continental breakfast, cocktail reception, buffet dinner and door prizes. Tickets for the buffet dinner only are \$75.

Prizes will be given for the longest drive, team low score and closest to the pin, plus two automobile prizes, courtesy of Audi of Mendham for one hole-in-one opportunity on each 18-hole course.

For more information or to play or donate, call Jennifer Apostol, MCIA Project Manager, at (609) 655-5141.

## Depression/Bipolar Disorders Seminar

September 29

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) will present its monthly educational meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 29. The public is cordially invited. It will feature David Chowes, professor in the Department of Psychology at Baruch College of the City University of New York.

The organization's educational meetings take place on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd. (about one block east of the Morris Museum) in Morristown. Meetings are open to the public; a nominal donation is requested from non-members. Free lit-

erature is available to all attendees. There is an extensive lending library of educational audiotapes and videotapes.

For further local information, call (973) 994-1143 or the NJ Self-Help Clearing House at (800) 367-6274.

## Barbara Harley Benefit Concert

October 1

A concert featuring country artist and songwriter Barbara Harley to benefit the Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children will be held at the Watchung Arts Center, 18 Stirling Rd., on the Circle in Watchung on Friday, Oct. 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are Adults-\$17, children-\$7. Tickets at the door are an additional \$3 per person. For tickets, call Tierney O'Donnell, (908) 526-6605. Cash, check, credit cards accepted.

## 4-H Open House 2004

October 3

If you've ever wanted to learn more about, or get involved with the local 4-H program, here is your chance. The Middlesex County 4-H Open House will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 3 in the 4-H Center, where attendees can visit displays and booths that explain the focus of each club involved in 4-H.

Come out to the 4-H Center on the corner of Cranbury and Fern roads in East Brunswick. For more information, contact the Middlesex County 4-H office, (732) 745-3446. For directions to the 4-H Center, visit [www.middlesex.nj.us/extensionservices/4clubs.asp](http://www.middlesex.nj.us/extensionservices/4clubs.asp)

## Women's Club Membership Meeting

October 6

Please join the Metuchen-Edison Women's Club, an organization dedicated to benefiting our communities since 1961, for our monthly membership meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m., St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 Oak Ave. (on the corner of Route 27) in Metuchen.

The meeting will include a high fashion jewelry demonstration by Susan Lewis of Premier Designs. We will also discuss upcoming projects. Light refreshments will be served.

For info about club meetings and membership, call Diana Degnan, VP, membership, (732) 548-0925.

## Women Aware Fundraiser

October 9

Women Aware is holding a fund raiser, an Amazing Acappella Amalgamation Concert at the Crossroads Theatre in New Brunswick. The date of the event is Oct. 9 at 8 p.m.

Performing will be Key of Sher, Pieces of 8, Vox Bob, Harmontryx and Mystery Group.

Adults are \$20 and seniors are \$15. Ticket cost and donations are tax deductible.

To purchase tickets call (732) 249-4242 or Crossroads box office at (732) 246-7469. Mail donations to: Women Aware, P.O. Box 7565, North Brunswick, NJ 08902.



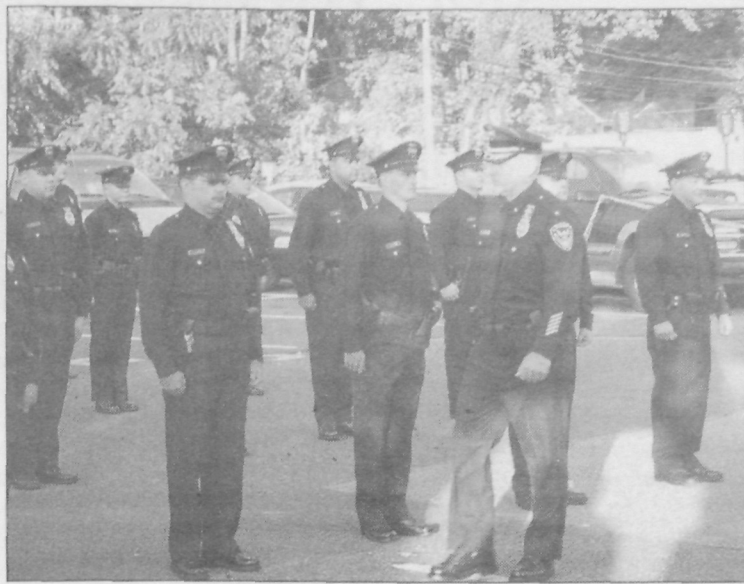
# Borough Officers Recognized at Annual Ceremony

Several South Plainfield Police Officers were recognized at a special ceremony this past Labor Day in the early morning hours prior to the kick off of the day's events.

This year's ceremonies were unique for Police Chief Robert Merkler who recently announced his retirement—it will be the last time he will preside over the ceremony.

Eighteen years ago, the South Plainfield Police Department initiated a program to recognize those officers who maintained a perfect attendance record for each year of service to the Borough.

The following 17 officers were recognized for perfect attendance in 2003: Capt. John Ferraro, Capt. George Albertocki, Lt. Michael Lane, Lt. Michael Grennier, Sgt. Kevin Murtagh, Sgt. Charles Siedenburg, Sgt. James Parker, Det. Gary Kline, Det. James Darby, Det. Wendell Born, Officers Richard Rogers, Robert Rogers, Daniel Noonan, Daryl Strother, David DeLair, Mark Bullock and James McConville.



Borough police officers assemble for dress inspection.

Sgt. Peter Arancio, Officers Raymond Jazikoff, Vincent Campagna, John McConville, David Franchak, Michael Hoppe and Mark Bullock were awarded the Honorable Service Medal for their actions—On Dec. 22, 2003, at approximately 7:30 p.m., Sgt. Peter Arancio and Officers Raymond

and took him into custody. Further investigation revealed that a handgun had been taken from the apartment. This information was broadcast to other police units. A search of parked vehicles in the area was initiated and the handgun in question was recovered.

The fact that these officers acted as a team with a single purpose, resulted in the apprehension of two burglary suspects and the recovery of proceeds from the burglary (handgun).

Officers John McConville and Michael Hoppe are hereby awarded Life Saving Commendations for their actions.—On June 8, 2004, Officers John McConville and Michael Hoppe responded to 621 Brennan Ct. on a report of a natural gas leak in the building. When they arrived, they immediately entered the building in question and began evacuation procedures. When they entered the apartment where the gas leak emanated, they encountered a resident who appeared to be in the beginning stages of being overcome by the gas and who resisted their orders to evacuate. They remained in the apartment and eventually forced this resident to evacuate to safety. Despite the risks involved, these officers took the necessary actions to ensure the safety of residents of the Borough.

Officer Wayne Diana was awarded the Medal of Honor, Sgt. Peter Arancio, Officers John Petriello and Mark Bullock were awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and Sgt. Charles Siedenburg is hereby awarded an Honorable Service Medal.—On March 3, 2004, a phone call was received at the South Plainfield Emergency Communications Center from a resident who just returned home and discovered a suicide note written by her adult son. Sgt. Peter Arancio, Officers Wayne Diana, John Petriello and

Mark Bullock responded to investigate. During a search of the home, the distraught individual was confronted in the basement of the home, holding a rifle with his finger on the trigger and the muzzle of the gun pointed at the base of his chin. The officers immediately took cover and began negotiating with the suspect. Because the suspect was in a small room, police personnel had no alternative but to conduct the negotiation session in that same room. Even though at times, it looked like the suspect was either going to commit suicide or point his weapon at the officers to initiate a "suicide by cop" scenario, the officers remained behind cover within the room, despite the obvious risk to their own safety. Siedenburg, who is a certified hostage negotiator, arrived within

Finally, after a 90-minute ordeal, the suspect voluntarily relinquished his loaded weapon and was taken into custody without incident. He was then transported to a medical facility for psychological evaluation. It should be noted that Officer Wayne Diana had known the suspect his entire life, had a rapport with him and despite the risk, conducted the face-to-face negotiations with him. While this was occurring, Officers John Petriello and Mark Bullock provided cover in case the suspect decided to direct his weapon at any of the officers and Sgt. Peter Arancio remained in the room to supervise the operation.

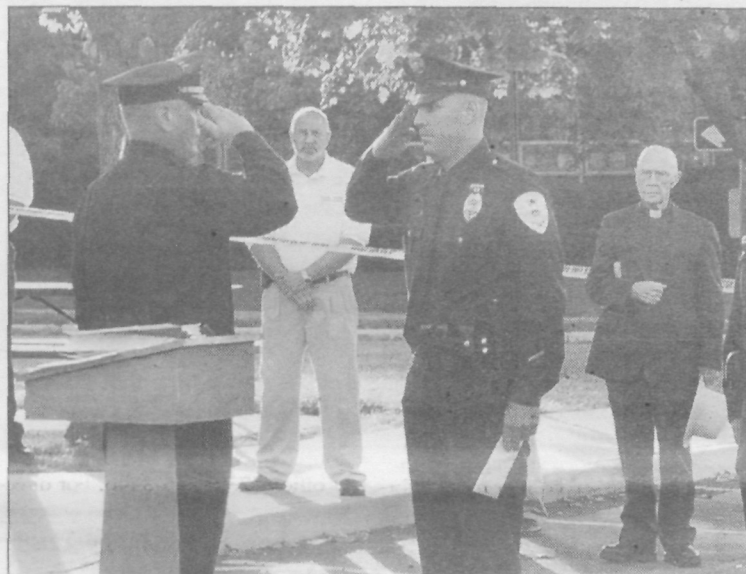
As a direct result of the professionalism displayed by these officers and their desire to have the scene come to a peaceful conclusion, a potential



Police Chief Robert Merkler addresses the honorees.

minutes and provided technical guidance and tactical suggestions to the officers during these tense moments.

tragic event was averted and a resident in distress received the help he needed.



John McConville salutes Police Chief Robert Merkler after receiving an Honorable Service Medal.

Sgt. James Parker, Officers Wayne Diana, Matthew Mahoney and Shaun Clifford were awarded Exceptional Duty Medals for their actions.—On February 3, 2004, information was received about a vehicle being driven through South Plainfield, possibly transporting a large quantity of illegal drugs. Off. Matthew Mahoney noticed the vehicle as it was about to enter Rt. 287 and immediately initiated a motor vehicle stop. The vehicle was occupied by three male suspects. Sgt. James Parker and Officers Wayne Diana and Shaun Clifford were nearby and quickly supplied backup. Police noticed the suspected narcotics in plain-view and removed the suspects from the vehicle. A search of one of the suspects revealed that he was armed with a fully loaded .357 magnum handgun, which had been reported stolen out of North Carolina. A search of a second suspect revealed that he was armed with a fully loaded .9mm handgun. A search of the vehicle resulted in the seizure of four kilos of cocaine. As a direct result of the actions of these officers, a large quantity of dangerous drugs and two handguns were taken off the streets and three suspects were arrested.

Jazikoff, Vincent Campagna, John McConville, David Franchak, Michael Hoppe and Mark Bullock responded to a third story apartment at 736 Lucy Ct. on a report of a burglary in progress. They arrived and were in the process of entering the apartment in question when both suspects vaulted from the balcony of the apartment. In his attempt to elude the officers, one of the suspects jumped to the balcony of a second floor apartment and gained entry in that apartment. Officers quickly forced entry into this apartment and took the suspect into custody. The second suspect jumped from the third story apartment all the way to the ground and tried to flee from the scene on foot. After a brief chase, officers apprehended him

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## From the Democrats

# Butrico, Cerami and Thomas Tout New Library



Democratic Council members Charlie Butrico, Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas are enthusiastic about the new library to be constructed on Plainfield Avenue. Council member Kathy Thomas is coordinating the library construction on behalf of the Mayor and Council. Kathy said, "I hope everyone noticed that the old house on Plainfield Avenue next to Unity Bank was demolished this week. Therefore the library project is officially underway. The borough now owns all of the property between Conroy's Funeral Home and the bank, which will more than adequately accommodate the two-story, 15,000-square-foot library. We plan on putting up a building that will assimilate with the neighborhood. There have been outreach sessions with a variety of groups within South Plainfield over the last several months to get their input on the design and functions of the new library. We will be selecting an architect by the end of October. If all goes as planned, there will be a groundbreaking ceremony sometime next fall. I couldn't be more excited for the residents of our borough. This new facility will have almost double the space for children's activities, it will incorporate a computer lab and training room with more public access computers, a large meeting room, quiet study areas and a technology center. We are even planning a drive-up window and book drop off. In addition, we will keep our commitment to the South Plainfield Historical Society to finally provide a home for the historical artifacts and memorabilia of South Plainfield. This will be an outstanding facility."

Council President Dennis Cerami complemented Kathy Thomas for her work on the project. "This is just another example of how your Mayor and Council are always trying to improve the quality of life in South Plainfield. Kathy Thomas has only been a member of the

borough council for eight months and in that short time she has tied together one of the most complicated projects you could imagine. I know firsthand what an asset our library is. People from other towns regularly compliment our library staff and the programs that are offered. This new facility will make a terrific library even better. Since I was first elected to the council nine years ago, we have completed some incredible projects: the 100 unit senior housing facility across from Riley School, the expansion of the PAL, improvements to the community pool, construction of our state-of-the-art senior center, improvements to all of our parks, the permanent preservation of 130 acres of open space, lights and other improvements at our baseball and soccer complexes, the new skate park, the jogging trail at Putnam Park and on and on and on. This new library will be another jewel for our beautiful borough."

Council member Charlie Butrico summed up the Democrats' thoughts. "We just didn't say let's build a library. We reached out to all interested groups throughout the borough to get their input. Kathy Thomas and the library board visited as many new libraries as possible to get different ideas and approaches. Most importantly, they figured out how to pay for it without busting the borough budget. With the help of local Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, a major portion of the estimated \$3 million cost will be paid for with a state grant. In addition, a charitable foundation is being formed to help with fundraising. Its really amazing what this Mayor and Council have been able to achieve while keeping municipal property taxes flat five of the last seven years and reducing the borough debt. I am honored to be a part of this team and to be running with Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas. You have our commitment to continue to work as hard as we can to keep South Plainfield a great town in which to live and raise a family."

## From the Republicans

# GOP: "Lets Take Back So. Plainfield from Democratic Abuse and Mismanagement"



Calling the current all-Democratic administration's mismanagement and abuse a grave problem, Marge Reedy, Ray Rusnak and Bob Jones this week explained why they want to bring back two-party government and stop one-party control.

"We want to 'Take Back South Plainfield,'" said Jones. "Ed Kubala was partly right last week when he said Democrats used the same slogan in '93. But he missed the point. The current administration suffers from the same ills he and his party campaigned against 10 years ago. They're breaking nearly every promise they made."

Reedy offered an example. "When the Democrats ran for office they promised to end nepotism, and they said neither they nor their family members would take government jobs. At the time, one Republican had a job with the County. Now, the Mayor and half the council are on the public dole. That doesn't even count the many family members they've gotten jobs for."

"They also said they were 'committed to stopping the good-old-boy patronage network,'" Jones added. "But now South Plainfield is one of the leading pay-to-play towns in the state. Last year the Democrat Party spent about \$63,000. Where did it come from? Much of it came from people to whom they gave no-bid contracts (the lawyers, engineers, appraisers, architects, etc.). So much for ending patronage. As part of our 'Blueprint for South Plainfield' we want to get competitive quotes for these contracts. In addition to restoring some ethical integrity to the contracting process, we'll save money for the taxpayers."

"The Democrats also campaigned on fiscal responsibility and said they would not sell Borough-owned land," said Rusnak. "But now they're selling off borough land to prop up the budget every time you turn around, and we're at a near-crisis level financially. They promised last year to pave 11 roads but ran out of money to complete them. They've cut the public works department to the bone and slashed the bulk-pickup program."

The Democrats also promised open government, but nothing could be further from the truth, according to Jones. "Whatever happened to Democracy Day? They told us there would always be a Democracy Day if they were in control. Now, nobody gets to give input when the town borrows money."

Jones also wants to improve participation at council meetings. "Nobody goes because they are a waste of time. The council takes ten minutes to do business and then spends the rest of the meeting doing a PR session where they pat each other on the back and tell each other what a 'great' job they're doing. In all the time I've attended council meetings, I've never seen a single 'no' vote. The council just does what the mayor and the town attorney tell them. There's no discussion; they never listen to what the public says."

"Ray, Bob and I offer an alternative," explained Reedy. "By bringing back two-party government, there will be some discussion. It won't be one or two people in a back room at a secret meeting making all the decisions. And while we would be the minority party, there would at least be someone to watch out for the residents."

In addition to bringing back two-party government, Reedy, Rusnak and Jones are especially proud of their ideas to improve the town, including their "Blueprint for South Plainfield." To see it voters can go to [www.spgop.com](http://www.spgop.com).

## Ladies Workout Express Promotes Active Aging Week

The International Council on Active Aging (ICAA), with the support of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, will join forces with Ladies Workout Express to bring free fitness memberships, classes and health information to older adults for the second annual Active Aging Week from Sept. 27 to Oct. 3. Millions of older adults suffer from chronic illness that can be prevented or improved through regular exercise, yet more than

a third of adults over age 65 remain inactive. This month, Ladies Workout Express joins an alliance of wellness organizations that are setting out to change that fact by reaching more than one million senior citizens.

"As people get older, they're frequently told what they can't do. But the truth is, you're never too old to become physically active," says Scott Breault, spokesman for Lady of

America/Ladies Workout Express. "Often, the physical frailty attributed to aging results from under use, rather than wear and tear. Our goal is to help people understand the advantages of regular exercise and provide fun and simple ways for them to get active and stay active."

Apart from increasing energy, strength and self-esteem, regular exercise also helps to maintain mental capacity and aid in the management of debilitating conditions such as arthritis, high blood pressure, diabetes and osteoporosis. For older adults in particular, this translates into increased independence, with exercise helping to increase strength and flexibility and lower risk for disease.

According to the Dept. of Health and Human Services Administration on Aging, by 2030 the number of older Americans is expected to double from 35 million to 70 million, placing increased demand on the public health system. Statistics also indicate health care expenditures for people aged 65 and older are currently quadruple those for 40-year-olds, and those numbers are expected to rise. For Josefina G. Carbonell, Assistant Secretary for Aging, Active Aging Week presents an opportunity to address these challenges. Carbonell will meet with 50 key ICAA members in Washington to kick off the campaign.

"We're hoping our efforts will conquer the health challenges associated with inactivity and poor nutrition among older Americans," Carbonell says. "Active Aging Week allows us to celebrate and recognize those people who are embracing a healthier lifestyle, while encouraging health and fitness professionals to continue to provide even more opportunities to help older adults become more active."

For more information visit or call Ladies Workout Express, 902 Oak Tree Rd. (908) 756-9911.

## Register for Fall Soccer

The United Soccer Academy and South Plainfield Soccer Club will again be hosting the popular Soccer Squirts programs. These development programs will run seven consecutive Saturdays beginning Sept. 18 and end on Oct. 30. All sessions will be held at the Kenneth Ave. soccer fields, located just before the South Plainfield recycling center on the right.

Junior Squirts, ages 3, 4, 5 from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. and 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Senior Squirts, ages 6, 7, 8 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Fee for either program is \$89. Register in person Wed., Sept. 8, 7-9 p.m. at the PAL, online at [www.unitedsocceracademy.com](http://www.unitedsocceracademy.com), or call (908) 823-0130.

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From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Catherine Fryszczyn

All around the country, children are beginning a new school year. Teachers are sending out their lists of required readings, and parents are beginning to gather books. In some cases, classics like "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," "The Catcher in the Rye" and "To Kill a Mocking Bird," may not be included in curriculum or available in the school library due to challenges made by parents or administrators.

Since 1990, the American Library Association's (ALA) Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) has recorded more than 7,800 book challenges, including 458 in 2003. A challenge is a formal, written complaint requesting a book be removed from library shelves or school curriculum. About three out of four of all challenges are to material in schools or school libraries, and one in four are to material in public libraries. OIF estimates that less than one-quarter of challenges are reported and recorded.

It is thanks to the commitment of librarians, teachers, parents and students that most challenges are unsuccessful and books like "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," "Slaughterhouse Five," the Harry Potter series and Phyllis Reynolds Naylor's Alice series, which topped OIF's most challenged list in 2003 and ended the four-year reign of J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter books, remain available.

The most challenged and/or restricted reading materials have been books for children. However, challenges are not simply an expression of a point of view; on the contrary, they are an attempt to remove materials from public use, thereby restricting the access of others. Even if the motivation to ban or challenge a book is well intentioned, the outcome is detrimental. Censorship denies our freedom as individuals to choose and think for ourselves. For children, decisions about what books to read should be made by the people who know them best—their parents!

In support of the right to choose books freely for ourselves, the ALA

and South Plainfield Public Library are sponsoring Banned Books Week (Sept. 25-Oct. 2), an annual celebration of our right to access books without censorship. This year's observance is themed "Elect to Read a Banned Book," and commemorates the most basic freedom in a democratic society—the freedom to read freely—and encourages us not to take this freedom for granted.

Since its inception in 1982, Banned Books Week has reminded us that while not every book is intended for every reader, each of us has the right to decide for ourselves what to read, listen to or view. South Plainfield Public Library and thousands of libraries and bookstores across the country will celebrate the freedom to read by participating in special events, exhibits and read-outs that showcase books that have been banned or threatened.

Banned Books Week is sponsored by The American Booksellers Association, the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression; the ALA; the American Society of Journalists and Authors; the Association of American Publishers; and the National Association of College Stores. (The Library of Congress Center for the Book endorses the observance.)

American libraries are the cornerstones of our democracy. Libraries are for everyone, everywhere. Because libraries provide free access to a world of information, they bring opportunity to all people. Now, more than ever, celebrate the freedom to read at your library! Elect to read an old favorite or a new banned book this week.

The following links deal with issues relating to either to Banned Books Week or censorship in general; and are highly recommended. <http://www.ala.org/bbw>; <http://www.englishjournal.colostate.edu/censorship.htm> <http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/banned-books.html>



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## southplainfieldpeople Milestones

### Former Resident Captures State Chess Championship

Todd Lunna, formerly of South Plainfield, and stepson Tom Bartell of Colts Neck captured the state chess championship over Labor Day weekend at the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset by scoring five of six points.

At a meeting on Sept. 11, the New Jersey State Chess Federation awarded the titles of NJ State Chess Co-Champions. The win marked the first state championship title for both players. Lunna and Bartell both drew former state chess champion International Master Dean Ippolito. Lunna placed 23<sup>rd</sup> in the country in the 1996 Grand Prix, a year-long competition. Bartell won the U.S. Amateur East title in 2000 and the Denker Tournament of Champions in 2001.

Bartell will represent NJ in an online competition against all the other state chess champions. Bartell scored better tie breaks in the New Jersey Open to earn this opportunity.



Chess champions Todd Lunna (left) and Tom Bartell

### Municipal Clerk Honored by International Association

Vincent Buttiglieri, CMC, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of South Plainfield, has been awarded the prestigious designation of "Certified Municipal Clerk" (CMC) from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) for achieving its high education, experience and service requirements.

Buttiglieri, who has been employed with the Borough of South Plainfield since March 2001, attained his designation as Certified Municipal Clerk through the combination of attending the IIMC-approved Municipal Clerks Institute and completion of the educational requirements needed for the State of New Jersey Registered Municipal Clerk designation. Both programs are conducted by the Center for Government Services, Rutgers–The State University of New Jersey. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Seton Hall University. He has attended courses and seminars sponsored by the Municipal Clerks Association of New Jersey and has completed other courses, seminars and conferences relating to local government.

Active in professional affiliations, he is a member of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks and Municipal Clerks Association of New Jersey.

Buttiglieri has been a member of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks since July 2001. He joins 136 active municipal clerks from the State of New Jersey who currently hold the designation of "Certified Municipal Clerk."

The unique Certification Program

### Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Everitt Horner Grzan and Horner are Wed

Stephanie Irene Grzan, daughter of Rose and Anthony Grzan of South Plainfield, was married to Wayne Everitt Horner, son of Sally and Charles Horner of Stockton, on May 21.

The Rev. John Alvarado officiated at the ceremony held in Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield and a reception followed at the Primavera Regency in Stirling.

The bride graduated from Bishop Ahr High School, Edison and from Katherine Gibbs School in Piscataway. She is a customer service representative with Oticon, Inc. in Somerset.

The bridegroom graduated from South Hunterdon High School in Lambertville and attended Penn State University in University Park. He is a network administrator with Oticon, Inc., in Somerset.

The couple reside in Franklin Park.

### LaSalvia-Seliga Becomes English Professor

Maria La Salvia-Seliga was recently named to the faculty of Assumption College as a professor of English, teaching composition, public speaking and research writing. Assumption College, located on a pastoral campus in Mendham, is a private, Catholic institution offering degrees in liberal arts and theology.

In 2000, she had retired as an English teacher from the South Plainfield

Middle School after 30 years of service. During the past four years, La Salvia-Seliga was a staff development specialist for both Middlesex County's and Mercer County's Educational Technology Training Centers, divisions of the New Jersey State Department of Education.

During her career in public education, Maria served as the president of (See page 14 for more Milestones)

of the IIMC was launched in 1970, climaxing a decade of planning. The program aids municipal clerks and deputy clerks in improving job performance and recognizes the professionalization of the Municipal Clerk's office. Completion of a recognized career development institute or a baccalaureate degree in public administration or related field, responsible experience in local government and participation in conferences, meetings and educational seminars are required to earn this prestigious Certified Municipal Clerk designation. Qualifications of applicants are reviewed and approved by the IIMC Program and Review Committee.



Kimberly Catherine Janus and Joseph Anthony Damiano

### Janus, Damiano Announce Engagement

Diane and Ronald Janus of South Plainfield have announced the engagement of their daughter, Kimberly Catherine Janus, to Joseph Anthony Damiano of Morristown, son of Roseanne and Salvatore Damiano of Staten Island, New York.

The future bride is a Senior Tax Accountant with J.H. Cohn, LLP. She graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison, with a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree, both in accounting.

Her fiancé is a Certified Public Accountant and partner with Sax, Macy, Fromm & Co., PC. He graduated from Iona College, New Rochelle, NY, with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Accounting.

An August 2005 wedding is being planned.

**Share Your Good News...**  
**Send us your news,**  
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## Labor Day Tradition Continues in South Plainfield







See  
you  
next  
year.....



## Obituaries



Eugene P. Bataille

### Eugene "Gene" P. Bataille, Sr.

Eugene "Gene" P. Bataille, Sr., died on Saturday, Sept. 18 at the JFK Haven Hospice in Edison, following a long illness.

Born in Orange, he grew up in Springfield and for a brief time, he lived in Garwood before moving to South Plainfield over 40 years ago.

His career with Johnson & Johnson's Ethicon Division in Somerville spanned over 35 years, beginning as a tool and dye maker. He was a founder and 30-year member of Ethicon's Fire Brigade, eventually being appointed chief of the brigade. His later career duties with Ethicon changed as he developed fire safety practices at the facility. During the last few years of his tenure with Johnson & Johnson, Gene became the Fire Safety Coordinator for all of Johnson & Johnson's facilities in the region. He retired 11 years ago.

During the Korean War, he served in the US Marine Corps and was a member of the National American Legion Post 1000. He had formerly been a member and was past president of the Pop Warner Eagles Football program in South Plainfield and he also had bowled in the Fire Dept. league at Edison Lanes.

He was also a member of the BPO Elks Lodge 2298 in South Plainfield and had served for many years as the chairman of the Handicapped Children's Committee.

Gene was a member of the So. Plfd. Vol. Fire Dept. since 1963 and had served as the Fire Dept.'s presi-

dent from 1972 through 1975. He was a Life Member of the So. Plfd. Exempt Firemen's Assoc. and had served as president from 1980 through 1982. He was also a Life Member of the NJ State Firemen's Assoc. He also had served as a Commissioner of the Industry Division of the NJ Fire Safety Regulatory Commission and he had been a member of the NJ State Industrial Fire Chief's Association.

After his retirement, Gene loved following his two grandsons' various sports events. He helped the teams and their coaches whenever and wherever he could.

He was predeceased by a sister, Ruth Kolb and by two brothers, Gilbert and Joseph.

Surviving are his wife of 52 years, Julia B. (McCaskill) Bataille; a son and daughter-in-law, Eugene P. and Michele Bataille, Jr.; a sister, Virginia O'Brien; a brother, Jame Bataille of Whiting and by two grandsons, Jason and James Bataille, all of South Plainfield.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name to The Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center, 65 James St., Edison, NJ 08818 would be appreciated.

### Ralph Bove, 79

Ralph Bove died on Friday, Sept. 17.

He was born in Newark. He lived in South Plainfield until moving to Lady Lake, Fla. in 1992.

Ralph was a retired custodian for the Borough of South Plainfield.

He was a parishioner of St. Timothy Catholic Church in Lady Lake, Fla. Ralph was also a member of the National Rifle Association.

He is survived by his wife, Anna Bove of Lady Lake, Fla.; a daughter, Maria Perry of South Plainfield; two sisters, Mary Coppola and Maggie Bove, both of Woodbridge; four grandchildren and one great grandchild.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Ralph was held at on Thursday, Sept. 23 at St. Timothy Catholic Church, Lady Lake, Fla. with Father Gerard Cunningham, Celebrant.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Edmondite Missions,

1428 Broad St., Selma, AL 36701.

### Ann M. (Maletz) Stavish, 89

Ann M. (Maletz) Stavish died on Friday, Sept. 17 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

The daughter of Stanley and Mary (Weich) Maletz, she was born and raised in Bound Brook. Ann moved to Scotch Plains in 1947 where she raised her family of seven children. In 1984, she moved to Toms River and resided there until entering the Ayalon Assisted Living Center in Bridgewater in February of 2003.

Mrs. Stavish was a former long time parishioner of St. Bartholomew RC Church in Scotch Plains.

A homemaker, Ann enjoyed her large family and as it grew, she was especially fond of her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Her husband, Thomas Stavish, died in 1988 and a son, John Stavish, died in 2002. She was also predeceased by a sister, Jean Colaillo and by two brothers, Henry and Stanley Maletz.

Surviving are five daughters and sons-in-law, Helen and Paul Scavuzzo of Toms River, Kathryn and Joseph Santoro of South Plainfield, Mary Ann and the late William H. Gazi of Middlesex, Joan Stavish of New Providence and Margaret and the late A. Michael Franco of Hillsborough; a son and daughter-in-law, Thomas and Veronica Stavish of Mendon, Mass.; a sister, Helen Gessner of Middlesex; a brother, Francis Maletz of Bridgewater and by her 15 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Robert Skerlanitz, 65

Robert Skerlanitz died on Saturday, Sept. 18 in his home.

Born in Plainfield, he resided in South Plainfield before moving to Piscataway in 1965.

Bob was the owner of the Circle Café in Paterson for 20 years before retiring in 1998.

He was an avid fisherman and hunter.

Surviving are his wife, Joyce E. (Colburn) Skerlanitz; two sons and daughters-in-law, Brian and Karen Skerlanitz of Basking Ridge and Douglas and Nancy Skerlanitz of Old Bridge; a brother, James Skerlanitz of Newport, North Carolina and four grandchildren, Amber, Teal, Frankie and Hunter.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial contributions in his memory may be made to Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center, 65 James St., Edison, NJ 08818.



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### Home Demolished to Make Way for New Library

Members of the South Plainfield Borough Council and the Public Library attended the demolition of a home next to Unity Bank on Plainfield Ave. to make way for the future site of the new library. Architects will begin drawing up plans shortly and the public is encouraged to offer input as to what they would like to see done with the new facility. Pictured left to right are Councilmen Charlie Butrico, Bob Cusick, Mayor Dan Gallagher, Library Board of Directors President Eric Aronowitz, Councilwoman Kathy Thomas, Library Director Sunny Randolph, Board of Directors Secretary Virginia Popik and Vice President and Trustee Barbara Ware.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
RESOLUTION TO AMEND BUDGET

WHEREAS, the State Fiscal Year 2005 Budget was approved on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2004, and

WHEREAS, the public hearing on said budget has been held as advertised, and

WHEREAS, it is desired to amend said approved budget.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, that the following amendments to the approved State Fiscal Year 2005 Budget be made:

Ayes	Nays	Abstained
(	(	(
(	(	(
(	(	(
Recorded Vote	(	
(Insert last names)	(	Absent
(		
(		
(		
(		

### SWIMMING POOL UTILITY FUND BUDGET

	From	To
Appropriations		
Operating		
Other Expenses	71,066.98	69,566.98
Deferred Charges:		
Emergency Authorizations	5,000.00	6,500.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two (2) certified copies of this resolution be filed forthwith in the Office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for certification of the State Fiscal Year 2005 budget so amended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this complete amendment, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-9, be published in the Observer in the issue of September 24, 2004, and that said publication contain notice of public hearing on said amendment to be held at Borough Hall on October 4, 2004 at 8:00 p.m.

It is hereby certified that this is a true copy of a resolution amending the budget, adopted by the governing body on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2004

Certified by me  
Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk  
September 21, 2004  
\$115.50

September 24, 2004

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# IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 1)

previous year. Start paying attention to the retainer for services with no work done to show for it, such as the "for the health and safety" parking lot improvements which were approved by the voters to the tune of \$900,000 over a year ago. WHERE IS THAT MONEY? How about the referendum monies, which were earmarked to supply this district with a fiber optic connection? WHERE IS THAT MONEY? When you start noticing maintenance and grounds problems do not blame Sodexo, remember they reduced their budget significantly and are asking them to do more with less, a lot less! The contracted services always paid on a yearly basis are now being performed and paid on a month-by-month basis. That makes one wonder how long will it be until the district's system is in such disrepair that the good people of the district will never again enjoy the first class facilities we were always so proud.

I am so sorry to say I told you so, because I have children in our schools too. BUT I TOLD YOU SO!

**DAWN JEFFERYS**

Dear Editor,

I'm writing this letter in hopes that at least one person will pick up on what I have to say. A little common courtesy in our town would be nice. I live off Park Ave. and quite often go for walks/bike rides with my children and dog. It sometimes takes us 10 minutes to cross Park Ave., but it's not just Park Ave. It's Maple Ave., Oak Tree Rd., etc. When I'm driving and if I see an adult or child trying to cross the roadway I immediately yield to the pedestrian, whether they are at a walkway or not. Are we all that much in a rush that we cannot take one minute out of our time to stop so someone can safely cross the road or are we that inconsiderate? So, please, the next time you're driving and see someone trying to cross, take the time and stop.

**LORI PAUL**

Dear Editor,

I don't have time. I have to work late. Can't find a babysitter. It doesn't matter if I do or not... these are just a few of the excuses made on why someone doesn't exercise their right to vote. Of all these reasons, the one that distresses me the most is the last one—"It doesn't matter."

If the founding fathers had said, "it doesn't matter" over two-hundred years ago, the United States would never have been born. Voting is the most sacred right that an American citizen is endowed with. It enables an individual to initiate change. And it is sad that more people do not execute this right. Freedom does not come easy. And it also does not come without sacrifice. For hundreds of years, both men and women have given the ultimate sacrifice to secure the rights that many of us take for granted. Voting is one of these rights. And in my opinion, if a person does not use this right which has been entrusted to them as an American, then that person should not have any reason to complain when our elected officials enact a policy that they disagree with.

Voting is not just a right. As citizens of the United States of America, it is our responsibility to use our vote to initiate change. This is the only way that change can and will happen. I am a registered Republican, but my letter is not being written as one. It was written as an American! Voting is too important a subject to have any type of partisanship associated with it. If you decide to vote your party's entire line or split your vote, just vote.

It's that important!

From now until Election Day, I am asking you to please join me by questioning our elected officials. Hold them accountable for their actions. Ask them why they put into place the policies they do. Also, ask the candidates seeking election into those offices what they would do differently. And why they deserve our vote. As I have said before, it is not just a right. It is a responsibility. AND IT DOES MATTER.

**DAVID J. GUOTH**

To the Editor,

Here we go again! The silly season is in full swing. The Democrats are accusing the Republican party of all the problems that the town is currently facing. Were the Republicans in charge when the Traditions, the Durham Ave. apartments and the Pomponio apartments were built? I don't think so. There had been a sewer moratorium in place 10 years ago, prohibiting any new building in town at that time. Are the Republicans responsible for building current homes on postage stamp size lots? I don't think so. The Mayor and Council set the zoning laws and the lot size requirements for all building being done in town.

To attack one of our candidates, Bob Jones, of being responsible for all the building going on in town is ridiculous. And as far as the sewer monies being transferred to the current budget—just go to the Borough Clerk's office and ask for a copy of past years' budgets. You can see for yourself where monies were transferred from one account to another.

Another area where we are being accused of something that is entirely false is the supposed attack on Vinnie Buttiglieri—the Borough Clerk. In our opinion, Vinnie is doing a wonderful job as Borough Clerk. We have no issue with him. Our issue is with another position that was created that he was given in addition to his regular duties. We don't feel the position itself is necessary. We are not in "slash and burn mode" as Mr. Petronko stated in his letter this week.

In Mr. Kubala's letter, he accuses the current candidates of borrowing \$20 million in one year, not repairing roads, etc. We were not the ones involved all those years ago. We are different people from the ones that were on the council way back when. We are not the ones that laughed at you Ed, or Jim Vokral regarding your ideas when you ran years ago. Again, he attacks Bob Jones. Bob was in law school and didn't live in town during most of the Republican administration from the last time. He was not a leader of policies that led to fiscal irresponsibility and over development. Maybe both you and Mr. Petronko and Mr. Butrico should do more homework before you start accusing the three of us for issues that we were not a party to during the previous Republican administration here in South Plainfield. And with all the issues that are facing South Plainfield, you are all making up stories? Get real!

I encourage all voters to educate themselves in this year's election. Don't believe everything you may read in the papers. We have asked for a debate again this year; however the Democrats are not in agreement with any date given to them. I propose that we are available any date from here until the election to openly debate them. Name the place and time—we will be there.

I also encourage all residents to get registered to vote this year. You have until October 3 to register to vote for this election year.

**MARJORIE M. REEDY**

To the Editor,

It been a while since the last update on Helen Street and I wanted to update everyone on the current status. The last six months have seen a number of issues arise with the project. Back in February, a public meeting was held so that anyone who had issues with the project could come forward and speak. Unfortunately, a few environmental groups raised concerns about the environmental impact of extending Helen Street through the Dismal Swamp. In addition, a number of government agencies had issues with putting a road on the fringe of the swamp. For those who don't know, the Dismal Swamp is a Federally Protected wetland and any project that impacts it in any way must go through extensive review by both Federal and State agencies. These agencies include USEPA, NJEPA, Fish & Wildlife, NJDOT, NJDEP, NJTPA and FWA just to name a few. Through the summer, I attended a number of meetings and telephone conference calls to keep focus on the project and to answer the agencies' concerns. I conveyed to them the traffic issues faced by the residents on the South Side as well as the safety concerns of our children. The good news is that at our last meeting in August, the dozen or so agencies that attended all felt our plan to extend Helen Street offered the least impact to the Dismal Swamp while offering the relief South Plainfield needed from truck traffic. They agreed that a full Environment Impact Statement (EIS) would not be needed which could have taken an additional one to three years to complete. Based on the feedback we have received, I am confident that the Environmental Assessment document that we have been working so hard to complete will be approved sometime before the end of the year. Once we have the Environmental Assessment completed, we can begin the process of getting the roadway designed. I will continue to keep you up-to-date as the project progresses.

**CHARLIE BUTRICO  
COUNCILMAN**

To the Editor:

This year the choice for Borough Council is easy. Marge Reedy, Ray Rusnak and Bob Jones are working hard to bring back two-party government to South Plainfield. They are people of integrity and they have great ideas how to improve our town.

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. Bob was raised in town and has a perfect background for being on the council.

Please join me in voting for Marge Reedy, Ray Rusnak and Bob Jones in November.

**ANITA HOGAN**

Dear Editor,

Last week's paper contained lots of accusations by the Democrats. If these people stuck to the facts instead of engaging in outright falsehoods and trickery, maybe they'd have some credibility left. In fact, maybe they wouldn't have to outspend their opponents seven to one in an attempt to buy reelection rather than earn it. I'd like to comment on what they wrote. Let's look at the facts:

Cerami, Butrico and Thomas raised the sewer tax 25% in one year alone. And contrary to what Charles Butrico said last week, the Democrats have indeed been taking money from the sewer budget and putting it into

the regular budget. Thus, the sewer-tax increase is really a municipal-tax increase in disguise.

One only need look at last year's budget to see this. Last year \$330,000 from the prior year's sewer budget was used in the regular budget. That was just one year. If the council had saved that money (especially when it knew it had a multi-million-dollar dispute with our processor that it was hiding from the public) there would be no need for a sewer-tax increase for residents.

It's laughable that Butrico is blaming an administration from 10 years ago for the tax increase. Wake up! It's 2004. You and your buddies have been in charge for a decade. It's your fiscal mismanagement, not someone else's.

Another fact: The Democrats are not running a pay-as-you-go government. They're leasing, borrowing and selling land to prop up the budget.

There is no pay-as-you-go government. It's more like a payoff-as-you-go government. Every builder who wants to do a major project figures out they have to contribute to the Democratic Party first. If you don't believe me, simply look at the campaign finance reports on the Internet. Am I supposed to believe it's a coincidence that these big-time developers are giving money to the Democrats either right before or right after they have a major building application?

And let's not forget who promised us Helen Street and is now nine years behind schedule. That's another fact.

Speaking of promises, what about when the Democrats promised they wouldn't enrich themselves or their families if elected? What about their promise to not engage in nepotism?

Here's a direct quote from the newspaper *The Reporter*: "Neither we nor any member of our families will ever profit directly or indirectly from our position of councilman."

Did they live up to their promise? Well, James Vokral, one of the people quoted, vacated his council seat to take an executive job with the county. Dennis Cerami is now working for the county and got his son a job working for the town over the summer (as did another councilman). Cerami allegedly tried to get his wife a job too, but that fell through and the town is being sued because of his antics.

The mayor is now working for the Turnpike Authority and his son has a job with the county. Another councilman, Bob Cusick, just got a big promotion from the county. Ray Petronko works for the state.

And let's not overlook the Borough Attorney/Democratic Chairman/Assemblyman/Helmetta Borough Attorney. Besides the many conflicting positions he holds, his family members work for the County and who knows where else.

These people have gall. What happened to the promise of not enriching themselves and their families?

If the Democrats want to talk about 10 years ago, let's talk about what THEY said 10 years ago. They promised open government; we got secret meetings. They promised ethical reform; we got pay-to-play. They promised traffic relief; we got gray hair waiting.

It boils down to this. When we vote we can either believe the sugar-coated dribble the Dems are pandering, or we can look at facts. I'll stick with the facts.

**JAKE CATALDO**

Dear Editor:

I've never written a letter to the editor before, and I never thought I would, even though I knew my

brother, Bob Jones, would be running for Borough Council. When Bob told me he was running I knew I'd be reading things in the paper I wouldn't like. Unfortunately, that's the nature of politics.

Despite knowing this, I didn't expect two elected officials, Charles Butrico and Edward Kubala, to make things up about him. They apparently didn't care whether their letters were factual or fictional. Some of the things those two said were pretty funny. What's sad, however, is that if they made up facts about my brother, I can only imagine how untrue the rest of their letters are. Let me set the record straight.

First, my brother had no part, much less an "integral" part, in the Woskey administration or any other administration, unless you count delivering campaign flyers door-to-door in the mid-1980s. Later, when Woskey was mayor, Bob was attending law school at night and working full time during the day. I guess Kubala and Butrico think he was running the town between 6 and 9 p.m. on Fridays, since he studied on weekends.

Second, Bob was not on the Land Management Commission for a "decade," that is, unless the Democrats think a year and a half is a decade. In fact, during the decade mudslinger Kubala refers to, Bob wasn't even living in town much of the time because of school and work.

I asked my brother about his short stint on the Land Management Commission (more than 15 years ago) and he told me that a Democratic chairman ran things. He also explained that the committee had no power. It was advisory only.

I've heard some tall tales before, but for a 10-year-old, all-Democratic administration to blame someone else for its fiscal foul-ups and for its failed land-use policies boggles my mind.

Also, just for the record, I want to get some facts straight ahead of time. Bob was in grammar school during Vietnam, so please Mr. Kubala, don't write any letters challenging whether he fulfilled his service in the National Guard. You've gotten things so wrong already, who knows what you'll say next. You've lost all credibility and it's best if you keep quiet from now on.

**GREGG JONES**

To the Editor,

The State of New Jersey has finally admitted that some of the toll plazas on the Garden State Parkway should come down. Last week, the northbound Raritan toll plaza and the southbound Asbury toll plaza were deactivated. Drivers must now pay 70 cents, which is double the normal toll amount, when traveling southbound at the Raritan toll plaza and northbound at the Asbury toll plaza. The same arrangement will be put in place at the Union toll plaza next spring. In addition, the exit toll at Exit 105 in Tinton Falls will be eliminated and the entrance toll will be doubled.

Any plan that removes toll plazas is an improvement, but this plan does not meet the goal of removing all of the toll plazas to enhance safety and better move traffic on the Parkway. We don't need to commission a study to know that the toll barriers cause tremendous traffic congestion and extremely dangerous traffic patterns. Every driver has experienced the chaos of attempting to identify the correct lane to drive in for either exact change or E-Z Pass. How many hours are wasted by those commuting to the shore in the summer or going to work every day because of traffic congestion at the toll plazas?

(Continued on page 16)



## Win a Mercedes in the Junior Baseball Club Raffle!



Junior Baseball Commissioner Lee Flanagan promotes the club's raffle which will take place September 2005.

On Sept. 11, the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club launched a raffle that will run through September 2005.

Prizes include a brand new Mercedes-Benz C-Class, a trip for two worth \$2,000, a 36" flat screen TV and a set of golf irons. The car will be available to be seen in March at tryouts at the PAL, on Opening Day, at the Memorial Day Tournament and on All-Star Sunday at the baseball field.

Tickets, \$100, are on sale now until September 2005. Only 500 tickets will be sold. Please help support the Baseball Club. Proceeds go to our children. If you are interested in buying a ticket, contact Nancy Salici, (908) 754-2090 or any board member.

## Calling All Student Writers!

### Observer and Hometown Heros Resume Junior Journalist Writing Contest

The South Plainfield *Observer* and Hometown Heros will once again co-sponsor "The Junior Journalist Corner." Last year's writing program was very successful; the *Observer* published more than 20 essays, poems and stories by students throughout the district. The program encouraged students to write and then rewarded writers for their efforts.

At the end of the year, the winners and their families were recognized at a banquet courtesy of Hometown Heros. The smiles of the students and their proud parents were all of the encouragement needed to repeat the program again this school year.

The rules are the same as last year:

Students should submit their original poetry, article, opinion piece or essay to their English teachers.

School teachers have agreed to help with and to submit the students' original works to Hometown Heros and the *Observer*. After judging students' works, a winner will be selected, and his or her article will be published in the *Observer* each week along with a byline. Watch upcoming issues for winners and published works.

Students whose articles are selected will win a catered dinner for their families from Hometown Heros, which will be delivered to their homes.

At the end of the school year, winning students and their parents will be treated to a banquet and each will receive a certificate of achievement for their journalistic efforts.

All students are encouraged to submit their essays, poems, opinion pieces or articles to their teachers. Every school has been notified about the rules on submissions.

For more information on the contest, or if you would like the name of your school contact, call the *Observer* at (908) 668-0010, or stop by Hometown Heros, located at 340 Hamilton Blvd. or call them at (908) 755-4376.

## Edison Art Society Offering Adult Art Classes

The Edison Arts Society is pleased to announce the offering of its daytime Adult Art Classes for Fall 2004. Classes include Botanical Watercolor Techniques, Basic Realistic Drawing and Oil Painting 101. Location varies based on course selection.

Botanical Watercolor Techniques by fine artist and natural science illustrator Linda Trella will begin the week of Oct. 7 on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and continue for a six-week period through Nov. 18 (no class on Veteran's Day), meeting at the Edison Main Branch Library on Plainfield Rd. The cost for this course is \$140.

Artist Ray Skibinski will offer Basic Realistic Drawing on Tuesdays from noon-2:30 p.m. for a six-week period starting Oct. 5 through Nov. 23 (no class on Election Day) at the North Edison Branch Library on Grove Ave. The cost for this class is \$120.

Oil Painting 101 is being offered by fine artist Cathy Zoeller with classes starting on Oct. 6 every Wednesday from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for a seven-week long period at our beautiful Woodland Ave. office location in Edison. The cost for this class is \$130. All art classes offer a 15% discount for senior citizens and/or Edison Arts Society members. Students must bring their own supplies for classes.

Contact the Edison Arts Society if you would like to register or for more information, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at (908) 753-ARTS.

# Sports

## Varsity Girls Tennis Preview

By Tim Morgan

Tennis is one of the few sports in South Plainfield that is not greatly exposed to kids before the high school level. There is a summer program for youths up to age nine, and that is it. Beyond that, if you're interested in the sport, you're left to seek it out on your own outside the town or school programs. This is something that hurts the high school program, because it does not provide prospective members with experience or raise the sport's appeal to potential players.

Considering this, the South Plainfield High School Varsity Girls' Tennis team has fared pretty well in its recent history. In 2001, they went from a .500 record to becoming White Division Champions. They tied for second the following year, but then they lost a lot of their players. Despite their inexperience, the girls still managed to pull a respectable 12-8 record last year.

Thus far, this year has been a problem with numbers. Although the Lady Tigers have four returning Varsity letterwinners instead of one with last year's squad, the rest are all freshmen newcomers.

One thing that can be attributed to this is the same problem that the girls' cross country team faces, the overwhelming popularity of competing fall sports (as well as the addition of a new one—"girls" volleyball). This is not to say that the girls participating in these sports would definitely turn over to tennis if the girls' fall sports were more limited, but it does make it harder to recruit a team that is small to begin with.

We're hoping to gain back our stability [this year]," said twenty-first



Tim Morgan, Jr.

year Head Coach Maureen Barnett.

To do this, she wants primarily to "reinforce individual development" as the season progresses, with the experienced girls honing their skills and the newcomers continuing to learn the ropes of the game. Another key aspect to turning in a respectable season will be the girls developing cohesion with each other, considering that more than half of them are participating for the first time.

Despite admitting, "It's going to be a trying year," Barnett contends, "The small number that I have are very dedicated."

One thing that earmarked this season was having to replace three girls who would have been Varsity players who decided not to return this season. Barnett did indeed find other girls that were interested in the game though and said that they are determined to improve day by day. The newly channeled assemblage is now in position to look for "individual improvement and team progress," according to Barnett.

All the members of the singles squad face their opponents with the backing of last year's experience. Junior Amanda Smalley covers first single, junior Laurie Sobel second single, and junior Carlie Kazimir third single. Leading doubles competition is senior Melissa Hansen on the first doubles team, who takes freshman Kristen Billich under her wing. On second doubles will be freshman Julie Garbowski. Freshmen Kim Le, Alicia Middleton and Chelsey Soissons will all likely see Varsity time by being rotated into play.

## SOUTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

### Field Hockey Corner



HS Field Hockey Parents—The SPFHA thanks all of the parents who helped out at the Scrimmage Workshop and the alumni game. Without your help these two events would not have been as successful as they were.

We still have three unfilled openings for healthy snacks for the JV/V games and are looking for parents of sophomores or juniors to help out. Snack openings for the freshmen away games have all been filled. You do not need to attend the away games in order to provide a snack. You can contact Coach Haus or myself to sign up.

#### Game Schedule—Week of September 26

09/27 Mon – Home game against Old Bridge at 3:45 p.m.

09/29 Wed – Away game against South Brunswick at 3:45 p.m.

10/01 Fri – Home game against Sayreville at 7 p.m. at Jost Field..... This is the must see game of the week.....Senior Night

Please come out and support a wonderful team of players.

#### Special Events

October 1—Senior Night takes place on Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. at the Frank Jost Field. The team will face Sayreville for the first time this season. In addition to an exciting game, this night is a memorable one for seniors as they are honored in a special ceremony. Congratulations to a wonderful group of seniors. The best of luck in all of your future endeavors. You will all definitely be missed next year.

The best of luck to players and coaches for a great season. Go Tigers!

Submitted By: Sharon Miller

## Knights of Columbus Mum Sale

The Knights of Columbus will sell mums again this weekend, Sept. 25 and 26, at the South Plainfield Rescue Squad. Mums are 3/\$10 or 1/\$4. Come pick up some beautiful fall flowers and support the Knights.



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# Sports

## South Plainfield Football Eagles



Due to a change in Mountain Valley Conference scheduling, The Eagle's season began on Aug. 29, cutting our practice and conditioning month of August short by one week. This was a big adjustment for players, cheerleaders and coaches, also to the families who had to adjust vacation plans to meet the new schedule.

Nevertheless, our season began without a hitch on a very warm Aug. 29 against Maplewood.

The Eagles Flag team is coached by John Skelly with assistants Brian Csohor, Dave Franchak, Bill Stankan, Mike Lampasona, Mike Gamble, Joe Pezzolla, Jeff Fritze, George Cone and Jim Handwerger. Our youngest Eagles learn the fundamentals of football without contact. Using flags, our coaches have spent each practice teaching five- through seven-year-old boys basic offense and defense.

Showing great progress are Zaire Cone, Justin Counts, Brian Csohor, Kyle Davisson, Matthew Dolan and Zachary Franchak.

Our Mitey Mites are coached by John Pellegrino and assisted by Jack Brady, John DiDolce, Jerry Harris, Chris Hurst, Glen Graves, Charles Gruver and Mike Pellegrino. Mitey Mites is also an instructional league using full equipment and contact. Although score is not kept at this level, our Mitey Mites are showing great progress and promise as a strong competitive team.

Against Maplewood, Scott Whalen had several key tackles to keep Maplewood out of the end zone. Joey Pellegrino had a nice interception. Kyle Brady had a strong game at quarterback. Chris Graves played very well at center. Jeffrey Pellegrino had a fumble recovery on the offensive side of the ball. Jose Torres played strong at guard position.

Our Junior PeeWee Eagles are coached by Mike Molinaro who is assisted by Bob Bors, Tracey Glover, Nick Heilmann, Larry Hughes, John Petriello and Kyle Prendergast. Team Commissioners are Bob Dolan and Mel Tomei. The Junior PeeWees were defeated by Maplewood 14-0. Stephen Petriello had a great tackle resulting in a loss of five yards and another good hit in the third quarter resulting in a loss of yardage. Mark Tomei had a terrific game with many open field tackles and touchdown saving tackles. Mike Molinaro had a great catch and ran the ball 75 yards. Dylan Dorey provided good penetration of the line and many tackles. Providing good defense were Tyler Hunt, Troy Heilmann and Ryan Hughes. Offensive leaders were led by Troy Heilmann as quarterback.

Our Junior Midgets are coached by Paul Wylam, who is assisted by Mike Downes, Al Jefferys and Mark Wagner. Team Commissioners are Al Lisewski and Frank Malecki.

The Junior Midgets against Maplewood ended in a tie 6-6. Providing great defense were Corey Hay, John Wylam, Pat Milard and Matt Cooper. Playing on offense, led by Brandon Downes as quarterback, were Charles Gruver, Mike Jefferys, Frank Malecki and Alex Lisewski. Mike Wagner had a terrific game on both offense and defense, bringing in the only Eagles' touchdown of the game. Kyle Hughes recovered a fumble, and Nick Heilmann sacked the Maplewood quarterback in the backfield.

On what was a "bye" week for the Eagles, our Flag and Mitey Mites had a pick up game with Watchung Hills as their opponent; West Orange does not have a Flag or Mitey Mite team.

The Eagles Flag Team welcomed the additional game to practice their new skills. Showing great progress and good sportsmanship were Auston Fritze, Matthew Gallant, Brenden Gamble, Anthony Gray, Zack Gorman and Jorden Handwerger.

Our Mitey Mites are continuing to show great progress. Erik Elsmann had a strong game on the defensive line. James Agee played well as linebacker with many key tackles. Ryan Walsh played a strong game as lineman. Matthew Hurst had a quarterback sack from the defensive line. Joey Pellegrino had a nice run for a touchdown with Kyle Brady scoring the extra point. Brandon Rickert played well at the positions of offensive and defensive lineman.

On Sept. 19 the South Plainfield Eagles hosted Somerset Hills.

The Eagles Flag Team played well

against Somerset with Dillon Harris, Andrew Kopchak, Caleb Kuberiet, Michael Lampasona and Benjamin Lundy showing great progress and good sportsmanship.

The Mitey Mites played well against Somerset. Malik Cisson had several nice plays for positive yardage. Nick Brinks filled in for injured quarterback and led the offense down the field. Jared Boyce, along with Nick Graves, had several key tackles on the defensive side of the ball. Tommy Heim blocked well on offense, while LJ Scarpitto had several good carries as running back. Scott Whalen had an impressive run for a touchdown.

The Junior PeeWee team against Somerset ended in an Eagles win of 13-12. It was an exciting game for the Jr. PeeWees, with Stephen Petriello leading the offense as quarterback, and the extra point by Tyler Hunt put the Eagles over for the win. Providing great defense for the Eagles and keeping Somerset away from the end zone were Mike Dolan, Jorden Gamble, Anthony Torchia and Raymond Perez.

Playing on the offensive side of the ball were Claude Payne, Justin Glover, Tory Russell and Cory Stasenko.

The Junior Midgets were defeated by Somerset 18-8. Kyle Hughes led the offense with a nice pass to Mike Wagner for large gain in yardage, setting up the Eagles for their only touchdown of the game. Mike Wagner ran the ball for the touchdown and followed with the kick for the extra point. Brandon Downes had some nice runs, gaining yardage for the Eagles, while Matt Cooper pressured Somerset throughout the game taking down plays in the backfield. Jarrell Wakins provided pressure on the Somerset offense and Alex Lisewski broke up the Somerset pass play. Tarek Wakins was robbed of a possible touchdown with an inadvertent whistle from the official, which caused the play called back to be replayed.

During the weekend of September 9-11 the Football Eagles held their annual Tag Day weekend. We would like to thank our local businesses for allowing our football players and cheerleaders to can in front of their businesses, and their good customers and our residents for supporting us with donations. It is through your goodwill we are able to purchase equipment and uniforms, and provide an affordable program for boys and girls ages five through 13.

### Sign Up for Basketball Through Oct. 18

The South Plainfield Rec Department is now accepting registrations for the 2004 Ed Niemczyk Youth Basketball League. Register now through Oct. 18. The league is open to all South Plainfield youth ages 7-14 (as

of Oct. 1). Fee is \$35 a child (no refunds). Register at the PAL on Maple Ave., Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. First time registrants must have birth certificate. Everyone must show proof of residency.

By Lee Flanagan

## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

Sept. 11 was our annual end-of-the-year picnic day. Thank you to all of those individuals who helped make it a great day for our kids and families. For those kids that could not attend and were to receive an award, we have them at the clubhouse. I am encouraging all managers to pick them up and to distribute them accordingly.

Bob Bors, Director of Buildings and Grounds for the SPJBC, announced that there will be Fall work details beginning this Saturday, Sept. 25 from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. Volunteers are needed, along with those families that did not complete their obligation to the SPJBC in the spring and summer. There are many tasks that need to be completed. See you this Saturday, if not, then on Saturday, Oct. 2.

The SPJBC Art Auction is set for Friday, Oct. 1 at the South Plainfield High School. Admission is \$5 per person. Preview of all fine art begins at 6:30 p.m., with the auction starting at 7:30 p.m. There will be door prizes, along with refreshments. All proceeds benefit the SPJBC.

The registration fee for the 2005 season will be \$95. Our next registration dates are Oct. 14, 15 and 16. This is our early bird sign up. If you wait until Jan. 2005, then it will be \$20 more. Come on out and get your child registered for our new and exciting season. Opening Day for 2005 is Apr. 9.

This fall we will be revisiting the SPJBC Rules and Bylaws. Any recommended changes must be submitted by Nov. 1. If you have a recommendation to the Rules and Bylaws Committee, please visit our website at [www.spjbc.com](http://www.spjbc.com). Charlie Huber is the chairperson of the committee. He is looking for two other individuals to serve on the committee.

On Saturday, Sept. 11, the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club launched a raffle. The raffle will run until Sept. 2005. Prizes include a

brand new Mercedes-Benz C-Class, a trip for two worth \$2,000, a 36" flat screen TV and a set of golf irons. The car will be available to see in March at tryouts at the PAL building and also on Opening Day, Memorial Day Tournament, All-Star Sunday at the baseball field. Tickets are on sale now until Sept. 2005. Tickets are \$100 with only

500 tickets being sold. Please help support the Baseball Club. All proceeds are going to our children.

If you are interested in buying a ticket, please contact Nancy Salici at (908) 754-2090 or any board member.



## Varsity Field Hockey Opens With Win Over Metuchen

By Michael Duquette

The SPHS Varsity Field Hockey team began what promises to be another impressive season at home last Tuesday. The Lady Tigers' excellent teamwork carried them to a 2-1 win over Metuchen.

The girls scored their first goal early on in the first half. Junior Melissa Szeliga, with assistance by senior midfielder Jesse Manning, established a lead of 1-0 before the half was called. Metuchen, after an impressive goal, tied the score in the second half; however, Szeliga, assisted by senior Stefanie Miller, scored another goal to win the first game of the season for the Lady Tigers.

The team's Head Coach, Fran Flannery, was proud of the team despite the fact that they "had a lot of scoring opportunities [they] didn't capitalize on." She specifically pointed out the "amazing, amazing, amazing" offensive and defensive maneuvering of junior Courtney Eustice. "Courtney played an awesome game," she said proudly.

The Lady Tigers' next game will be played against Old Bridge at 3:45 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 27 at the South Plainfield Middle School field. Come out and see another winning season in the making!

Share Your Good News...  
Send us your news,  
milestones & sport results!

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## southplainfieldpeople Milestones

### La Salvia-Seliga Becomes Professor

(Continued from page 7)

the South Plainfield and the Middlesex County Education Associations and had been employed as a consultant for the New Jersey and National Education Associations. She has been honored at various times as a Citizen of the Year in Middlesex County, a Walter Reuther Scholar through Rutgers University, a member of the Academy of the New Jersey Commissioner of Education, a Governor's Recognition recipient, and as a member of Kappa Delta Pi, the academic honor society in education.

Maria and her husband, Robert Seliga, have resided in South Plainfield for sixteen years.

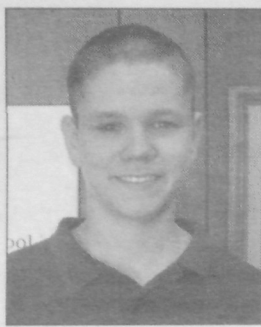
### Thomas Eck Scores 1600 on SAT

Thomas Eck, a senior at Timothy Christian School in Piscataway, took the SAT twice last year. In January 2004 he scored 1540 and in March 2004 he scored 1600.

In June 2004 Tom took three "SAT 2" tests. He scored 750 in Writing, 800 in Math IIC, and 800 in World History.

Tom has attended Timothy Christian School since Kindergarten. Enrollment at the school is 639 (K-12) this school year.

Tom lives with his family in Frank-



Thomas Eck

lin Township. His parents are physicians in private practice in Piscataway. The Ecks also founded and donate their time to the Zephath Health Center, which provides primary care for the uninsured. Tom volunteered there all throughout Summer 2004.

On April 28, 2004, Mrs. Eck testified in Washington, D.C. before a Congressional committee concerning the state of health care in our country.

Tom has visited several colleges and wants to go to medical school. There are some seven-year programs he is considering. He could attend The College of New Jersey and then attend UMDNJ for four years. With his SAT score, and the fact that he finished in the top five percent of his class last year, he will most likely be provided a full scholarship.

### police report

• On Sept. 13 a Conklin St. resident reported someone had taken out a cell phone in her name and had received a collection notice from the phone service provider.

• On Sept. 14 a black 2004 box trailer was reported removed from the front lot of 100 Wade Ave.

• A Sprague Ave. resident reported receiving a call from the Quebec Police Dept. saying she had won a Canadian lottery and needed to send \$10,000 to receive the money. They also called again and asked that an additional \$3,000 and \$2,000 be wired to them until the victim became suspicious.

• A West Ave. resident reported that the rear window of her vehicle had been broken.

• On Sept. 15 Linda Susan Gitto, 51, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, having no insurance, an unregistered vehicle and four outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

• Jose Emigio Velez Carrera, 28, of Plainfield was arrested at the DMV for wrongful impersonation.

• A Universal Ave. resident reported a Citibank account had been opened in his name at a different address.

• On Sept. 16 Holly Park Mower Shop on Park Ave. reported a customer's wood chipper had been taken from their lot while it was being repaired.

• Raceway Gas on W. 7th St. reported that a man pulled away without paying for \$35 worth of gas.

• Harris Steel on New Market Ave. reported the theft of 8,490 pounds of aluminum beams from a storage area over the past two months.

• On Sept. 17 a Second Pl. resident reported that her passenger side tires had been slashed.

• A Robert Pl. resident reported all tires of their vehicle had been slashed.

• Two Sears Hardware employees reported that their vehicles had been damaged in the parking lot.

• On Sept. 18 Richard Herman, 37, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

• Thomas V. Radice, 53, of Edison was arrested for burglary after breaking into a tool box in a pickup truck on Oak Tree Ave.

• On Sept. 20 Desidoro Ramirez-Gonzalez, 25, of Plainfield was arrested for possession of an altered temporary registration and four outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

• Richard Samuel Robinson, 57, of Plainfield was arrested at Bravo Supermarket on W. 7th St. for robbery. He took \$4 worth of biscuits and pushed an employee into a display shelf.

• A Tompkins Ave. resident reported that the passenger side door window had been smashed and a portable CD

play and various CDs were taken.

• On Sept. 21 Stephen Balogh, 55, of Iselin was arrested for possession of a controlled substance at motor vehicle stop.

# Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

**OMNIBUS OPERATOR/RECREATION Leader**—Borough of South Plainfield, Middlesex County—Applicant must possess valid Commercial Driver's License; responsible for providing transportation for seniors citizens to doctors, shopping etc.; must have a clean driving record; must have knowledge of Borough; may be asked to perform setup and take down of tables and chairs. Pleasant disposition a requirement. Full-time, full benefits, Salary \$20,700 annually. Please forward your resume and salary requirements to Vincent Buttiglieri, Administrator, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080 or e-mail to: vbuttiglieri@southplainfieldnj.com. EOE. Resumes must be received by October 8, 2004.

**HOUSEHOLD HELPER FOR HANDICAPPED woman.** Must be reliable, reasonable rates and own transportation. Start immediately. (908) 756-9629.

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**LUNCH COOK, M-F, 9-3. CALL** John at Flanagan's at (908) 757-1818.

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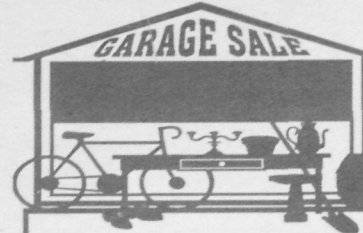
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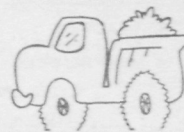
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South Plainfield



NOTES FROM The Senior Center

by Joann Graf, Director of Office on Aging

New Service Available At Senior Center

The South Plainfield Office on Aging is pleased to announce the establishment of a new service for our seniors in the area of Medicare and health insurance. Joe Zekas, Steve Machat and Office on Aging Director Joann Graf recently completed a five week training program conducted by the New Jersey State Health Insurance Program (SHIP). These three newly trained SHIP Counselors are available to assist our seniors with

Medicare and Supplemental insurance issues. Medicare beneficiaries frequently have questions about benefits and claims, supplement policies, and long-term care insurance. Our SHIP counselors, trained in areas of health insurance coverage and benefits which affect Medicare beneficiaries, can provide information and assistance for dealing with claims and in evaluating health insurance needs.

The State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) provides free help to New Jersey Medicare beneficiaries who have problems with, or questions about their health insurance. SHIP is a statewide program sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services with major funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Our counselors do not provide legal

advice, sell, recommend or endorse any specific insurance product, agent, insurance company, Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) or Point-of-Service (POS) plan. They provide information and assistance so that you can make your own decisions. Counseling is free of charge. Simply call the Office on Aging at (908) 754-1047 to make an appointment for a private counseling session.

SPHS Back-to-School Night Next Thursday

South Plainfield High School annual Back-to-School Night will be held on Thursday, Sept. 30. The evening will begin with a PTA meeting from 6-6:30 p.m. in the auditorium. The schedule is as follows:

Period 1	6:30-6:40
Period 2	6:45-6:55
Period 3	7-7:10
Period 4/5, 5/6	7:15-7:25
Period 6/7, 7/8	7:30-7:40
Period 9	7:45-7:55
Period 10	8-8:10

IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 11)  
Under the plan that is now in effect, there are different toll charges at different locations. Common sense tells us that will lead to even more confusion and an even more dangerous situation than presently exists. I urge the Governor to immediately rescind the double tolls at the four identified locations and remove the deactivated toll plazas as quickly as possible. In addition there should be a definite commitment to remove all of the Parkway tolls as soon as possible.  
I have long been an advocate of removing the Parkway tolls. Now is the time to do it. The state plans to spend as much as \$100 million to upgrade the toll plazas for high speed E-Z Pass. I submit that this is not only a waste of money but may actually make the toll plazas more dangerous. Imagine vehicles traveling at high speed merging with other drivers searching for exact change lanes.  
Before last week's action, there were 11 toll plazas and 21 exit/entrance ramp toll barriers. That has now been reduced to nine toll plazas and 20 exit/entrance toll barriers. I have introduced legislation in the General Assembly (Assembly bill A2609) which will result in the removal of all Parkway tolls. To date, only one other member, Assemblyman Upendra Chivakula (D, 17<sup>th</sup> District), has signed on with me. I urge all of those who agree with me to contact their

Assemblyperson, State Senator and the Governor's Office and encourage them to join me in adopting a plan to take down the dangerous Parkway tolls. The time for action is now.  
**ASSEMBLYMAN  
PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.**

Dear Editor,  
Under normal circumstances, I wouldn't dignify last week's letter by Joe Citizen with a response. Unfortunately, he seems to be attempting to slander our police, so I feel compelled to respond.  
It's unfortunate Joe Citizen failed to mention the reason the unhitched trailer is parked on Garden Dr. Six months ago, we started extensive remodeling on our home, that I feel enhances the beauty of our neighborhood. We've had several dumpsters in our driveway and there's a borough ordinance that prohibits dumpsters in the street. Now that remodeling is almost complete, the trailer can go back in our driveway.  
Maybe the reason my neighbor hasn't said anything about our unhitched trailer is because he's being a kind and understanding neighbor while we're under construction. That trailer is here because it takes two jobs for us to live here. My husband is a police officer and an insured contractor. It is under that business that the trailer is registered. We have used all the tools in the trailer for our addition.

tion.  
So, Joe Citizen, we are by no means above the law. We're just a young family trying to make it. Since I am extremely busy raising three young children, I'd appreciate if you would contact our brave men and women in blue the next time you have a parking complaint. They will assist you 24/7, including ALL holidays. Unlike you, I'll sign my name.  
**T. BULLARD**

To the Editor:  
On Election Day, the residents of South Plainfield should consider a few simple facts to see why Charlie Butrico, Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas deserve to be re-elected to the Borough Council. For the fifth time in the last seven years under the leadership of the Democrats, there has been no increase in the municipal tax rate. The fiscal management by the Democrats has kept our tax rate as one of the lowest in Middlesex County. It has also cut South Plainfield's debt by over \$10 million. This is a huge change in the way our borough government is run when you consider that the previous Republican administration borrowed millions of dollars for everyday expenses. These prudent fiscal policies demonstrate that government can provide excellent services without mortgaging our children's future. Just look at all of the improvements around town that have been accom-

plished without massive borrowing—new senior housing, a new senior recreation center, the expansion of the PAL, the new skate park and improvements to all of our parks. The Democratic team is also looking to the future with the state of the new library on Plainfield Ave. The Democrats also preserved over 100 acres of land as open space—again without putting us in debt.  
This record of accomplishment demonstrates that Charlie, Dennis and Kathy have the creativity to allow our borough government to provide top rate services on a lean budget. They have also shown the courage to make the tough decisions on cutting the budget. In short, they have earned your vote through years of selfless and tireless work. On Election Day, look at the record and vote for Charlie Butrico, Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas for Borough Council.  
**CAROL BYRNE**

Dear Editor:  
I'm writing in support of Councilman Charlie Butrico for re-election to Borough Council. I've known Charlie for many years. Charlie is a lifelong resident of the Borough and much of his family still resides here. He is the embodiment of what makes South Plainfield so great—commitment to family, friends and community.  
Not only has Charlie volunteered his time to many activities and organizations throughout the Borough, but he decided to make the ultimate commitment by running for the Borough Council in 2002 and has served admirably for the past three years. Charlie Butrico has spear-headed the total reconstruction of the Hamilton Blvd. Road Project, which will include new drainage, new curbing, decorative lighting and the installation of pavers between the curb and sidewalks. This is going to be a magnificent site when it is completed in the spring. I can't wait! Charlie Butrico has also been instrumental in bringing the Helen Street Project forward. Under his leadership and unwavering commitment to this project, the Environmental Assessment portion of this project is nearing completion and the design phase is about to begin. All I can say is thank goodness for Councilman Charlie Butrico!

**Letter to the Editor:**  
The Muccigrossi Family would like to thank everyone including the businesses and the law enforcement agencies that donated their time and money to the Gary Muccigrossi Benefit Softball game and the Somerset Patriots Benefit Baseball Game. Words alone cannot express our gratitude.  
Thank you for all of your effort and support during our time of need. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.  
**SINCERELY,  
THE MUCCIGROSSI FAMILY**

cilman Charlie Butrico!  
On Election Day, please join me in voting for Councilman Charlie Butrico and his running mates, Council President Dennis Cerami and Councilwoman Kathy Thomas. They deserve our support.  
**MARY AGUSTA**

Dear Editor:  
Although Election Day seems very far away, it will be here before we know it. We will be casting our votes for three seats on the Borough Council. I will certainly be voting for Councilwoman Kathy Thomas, as well as her running mates, Charlie Butrico and Dennis Cerami.  
Kathy Thomas has proven to be an effective leader. She has overseen the purchase of the property on Plainfield Ave. that will be the location of the new state-of-the-art South Plainfield Public Library. This new facility will be the envy of many other towns. She, along with the Library Board of Trustees and Friends of the Library, has visited many other newly constructed libraries to get ideas for what amenities our library should contain. Councilwoman Thomas is worthy of re-election to the Borough Council.  
Please go out and vote for Councilwoman Kathy Thomas and her running mates, Councilman Charlie Butrico and Council President Dennis Cerami for the South Plainfield Borough Council. They have earned our votes.  
**CHERYL NAGEL-SMILEY**

LEGAL NOTICES

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey on **OCTOBER 1, 2004 at \*\*\*10 a.m.\*\*\*** prevailing time in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Ave., New Jersey at which time and place bids will be opened and read in public for:

**JANITORIAL SERVICES**

Specifications and other bid information may be obtained at the Municipal Clerk's office in the Municipal Building at the above address during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Only bidders who have picked up specifications will be allowed to submit bids. All bids must be submitted on the Proposal Forms furnished by the Borough. A bid bond in the form of a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond payable to the **BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD** in the amount equal to 10% of the highest bid amount, including alternates, if any, but not to exceed \$20,000 and a duly executed Consent of Surety. Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c.127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq.), the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.25, Employment on Public Works N.J.S.A. 10:2. EOE, ADA

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$35.00                      September 24, 2004

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**ORDINANCE 1678**

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

Ord. 1678 entitled: **"AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #717 ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE REGULATING PARKING ON VARIOUS STREETS IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY"** was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 21, 2004 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$24.50                      September 24, 2004

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**ORDINANCE 1679**

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

Ord. 1679 entitled: **"AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE VII ENTITLED: "REGIONAL HOSPITALITY DISTRICT" AND ARTICLE VIII, CHAPTER 801 ENTITLED: "SIGNS" OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD"** was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 21, 2004 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$24.50                      September 24, 2004

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey on **OCTOBER 5, 2004 at \*\*\*10 a.m.\*\*\*** prevailing time in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Ave., New Jersey at which time and place bids will be opened and read in public for:

**RESCUE SQUAD AMBULANCE**

Specifications and other bid information may be obtained at the Municipal Clerk's office in the Municipal Building at the above address during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Only bidders who have picked up specifications will be allowed to submit bids. All bids must be submitted on the Proposal Forms furnished by the Borough. A bid bond in the form of a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond payable to the **BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD** in the amount equal to 10% of the highest bid amount, including alternates, if any, but not to exceed \$20,000 and a duly executed Consent of Surety. Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c.127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq.), the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.25, Employment on Public Works N.J.S.A. 10:2. EOE, ADA

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$36.75                      September 24, 2004

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

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

WHEREAS the following SFY 2004 Current Fund budget appropriation balances remain unexpended:

Account	Account #	Amount
Health Insurance	4-01-23-220-000-621	\$2,500
Local Match	4-01-41-700-000-301	2,500
Streets and Roads	4-01-44-901-001-226	135,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$140,000</b>

WHEREAS it is necessary to formally cancel said balances so that the unexpended balances may be credited to surplus:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that the above listed unexpended balances in the Sewer and Pool Utilities be cancelled.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

#04-187

\$35.00                      September 24, 2004

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

An appeal has been filed by Michael Secula requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a second floor addition with 2' rear cantilever. Proposed addition and cantilever lacks 8' required side setback, 5'8" being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 142 S. Madison Drive on Block 127, Lot 13 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 28, 2004 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00                      September 24, 2004

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