



2004 Deadline to register to vote is Monday, Oct. 4. Borough Hall will be open until 9 pm.

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 8, NO. 5

50 CENTS

OCTOBER 1, 2004

## WHERE'S THE MONEY?

### School Board Finances Face Scrutiny; Spending Halted

Residents attending last week's BOE meeting came with many questions and left with few answers.

A statement read by Board President Pio Pennisi, intended to explain the unexpected resignation of Board Administrator Edward Izbicki, didn't adequately address those questions.

In the question and answer portion of the meeting, most were responded to by Andy Hodulik, representing Hodulik and Morrison, PA, the BOE auditors. They have been auditing past school board budgets at the request of the Board after uncovering numerous errors in accounting practices.

Former Board member Frank Mikorski had so many questions, he was asked to make an appointment. "I just want to know what the prob-

lems are, what happened, and what is going to be done to correct them," Mikorski said.

Pennisi has also asked Hodulik and Morrison to audit the Capital Projects Account, which includes the \$19.2M the voters approved in the 2001 bond referendum. The \$19.2M approved included \$6.6M in state aid which was used to build a new Roosevelt School and upgrade other district schools. When the project was completed Turner Construction, who headed the project, gave Board members a final accounting of estimated, and actual, costs. That audit will determine how much money was spent on the project, how much is left, and if the \$6.6M in state aid was paid to the district as promised. Until all of

the figures are checked and audited, no one is sure just how much money is left in the account.

During the last few months, line item transfers have been on the increase. In June there were 247 transfers, moving some funds from the capital account into the current expense account. During the past five months there have been at least 920 line item transfers. January saw

262, February 105, March 197 and May 109. These were some of the warning signs that alerted Board members there may be a problem. Nothing was said in public until the June meeting, when the Buildings and Grounds Committee submitted a list of repairs and upgrades totaling over \$19M to the board for review. They added that there was no money to pay for the projects,

and the Board may have to ask for a bond referendum, which would need voter approval.

Until accurate information is available from the auditors on the finances of the district, spending has been halted. The Board has announced a special meeting for Monday, Oct. 4 at 8 p.m. at which time they may hire an Interim Business Administrator.

## Caring Mom Organizes Local "Buddy Walk"

By Patricia Abbott

In recognition of National Down Syndrome Awareness Month, a "Buddy Walk" will be held at Spring Lake Park this Saturday. The one-

born. Michele describes Kyle as a happy baby with no major health concerns. She also has a four-year-old son, Patrick. The Buddy Walk of South Plainfield is supported by the South Plainfield Rescue Squad/



Michele Both (left) and Heather Olson with Kyle Both, 20 months, Patrick Both 4, Ryan Olson 3, Ashley Olson, 3. —Photo by Patricia Abbott

mile advocacy walk is designed to promote acceptance and awareness of individuals with Down Syndrome. It was organized by South Plainfield resident Michele Both. The event begins by the playground at the back of Spring Lake Park. Registration starts at 11:30 a.m.; the walk begins at 1 p.m. There will be refreshments, music and a visit from Sparky, the Somerset Patriots mascot. Over 100 people have already registered for the walk and Both expects that number to increase.

Michele's 20-month-old son Kyle was diagnosed with Down Syndrome a week after he was

Auxiliary. Michele hopes the walk will draw support for the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS), as well as increased awareness. Proceeds from the event will go to the NDSS, South Plainfield Rescue Squad and The Buddy Walk of South Plainfield. The \$5 registration fee includes a t-shirt. Registration and pledge forms are available on their website at [www.buddywalkofsouthplainfield.com](http://www.buddywalkofsouthplainfield.com). Michele said, "Your support will help all people with Down Syndrome take steps for a brighter tomorrow."

For information or register for the walk, call Michele Both at (908)



Youngsters enjoy face painting at Sacred Heart Church's annual picnic. Pony rides and plenty of good food were also a part of the day. For story and additional photos, see page 3.

## SPHS Marching Band to Host Festival

The South Plainfield High School Marching Band will host the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Marching Band Festival on Sunday, Oct. 17 at 1 p.m.

The bands attending the festival so far are Dunellen High School, Warren Hills Regional High School, JFK Memorial High School, Kearny High School and Nottingham High School.

Following this year's theme, "Support Our Troops," the organization is excited to present a special performance by the 105-piece Annapolis Naval Academy Marching Band. In addition, the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Marines will be attending to present their flags.

The show will be held at the Frank R. Jost Memorial Field, Maple Ave. (behind PAL building). Ticket prices are \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and students, and children ages 10 and under are free.

SPHS Booster parents will sell various food and craft items. Flower-

Grams, CandyGrams and AirGrams will also be available. All proceeds will be given to the SPHS Music Boosters and scholarships to graduating high school seniors in June.

Come out and support these dedicated and talented high school

students. Enjoy a day of beautiful music and patriotic enthusiasm as they proudly march for their schools and communities.

Any questions may be directed to Nanette Babinetz at (908) 753-9181 or [SPHSfestival@hotmail.com](mailto:SPHSfestival@hotmail.com).



An early morning rush hour accident at Park and Maple avenues snarled traffic for over an hour on Tuesday. A Sprague Ave. resident heading south on Park Ave. struck a Lexus turning on to Maple Ave. No one was injured.

# IN YOUR OPINION

## My fellow residents,

A Board of Education member's job is to oversee how the school district operates and set the policy by which it is run. People seek election to these positions in order to give something back to their communities and to try and make a difference. It is a non-paid, part-time, volunteer position.

Recently, a lot has come to light regarding the financial state of the district and what transpired in order to contribute to that situation. The district has many professionals that we rely upon to do what they are paid to do, whether it be the superintendent, charged with actually managing the district's affairs, down to the custodian, whose job it is to make sure the schools remain presentable. In addition, we have business office personnel responsible for managing the district's money and making sure our financial affairs are kept in order. Board of Education members, to the extent possible, are given information by these individuals from which they draw conclusions and make decisions.

Over the course of the past couple of years, it was clear that there were a number of troubling issues that were beginning to surface. Time and time again, extremely pointed questions were asked, and the answers that were provided assured all of us that things were okay. As we continued to dig

into the matter, it became clear that those assurances were unfounded and in fact, that the Board had been misled.

The Board took the first step in order to straighten things out; we are currently in the process of restructuring the operations of the business office. We will now take the steps to continue to better understand our predicament and what will need to be done to set our situation right.

There are those who have taken the opportunity to be highly critical of the Board's action on these matters and while I could spend the upcoming days, weeks and months playing the blame game and consume myself with finger pointing, I prefer to go forward with a solution-based approach and work to solve the problem. Let me assure you neither I, nor any of the other currently seated Board members plan on quitting and shirking responsibilities and obligations we were entrusted with when our fellow residents elected us to our positions.

I'm not going to say that some sacrifices might not have to be made. However, when I consider the staff we have in South Plainfield: the administrators, teachers and support personnel, along with reforms that have been made in the area of curriculum, I can assure you that going forward we will continue to have increases in our test scores, continue to have improved student achievement

and continue to ensure that South Plainfield's schools are a place where all children can learn.

I truly believe that our community, with its strong sense of family, is too fine a community to have this temporary setback end up being anything more than that.

**DANIEL SMITH  
MEMBER OF THE SOUTH  
PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## Dear Editor,

As someone who always votes for the person, not the party, I've made my choice for this year's council race. Marge Reedy, Ray Rusnak and Bob Jones are clearly that choice.

These three candidates offer sound ideas for improving our town. More important though, they will provide oversight that is sorely lacking. One-party control, especially for a decade, is not a good thing.

Marge, Ray and Bob will make us proud. Good luck guys.

**JERRY HARRIS**

*(The following was read at last week's Board of Education Meeting)*

Hello. My name is Marquis Jones and I am a senior at South Plainfield High School. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to be here tonight to let you know what South Plainfield means to me and what it means for my future. I am a student-athlete who decided to concentrate on one sport: basketball. I had the privilege of being on a championship, record-setting team. I have made friends for life from both my team and the teams I played against. In the first years of my high school career, I did not do that well with my academics and now I am suffering those consequences.

My goal now is to help the freshmen and sophomores on the basketball team and other teams to make them understand that academic achievement is the most important thing. If students combine academics with other activities, they will get into the college of their choice and will have successful careers. South Plainfield High School gave me that chance and hopefully I can turn it around in my senior year and others might learn from my mistakes.

During this period I never realized that by being a student-athlete, student always comes before athlete. I should have realized that academics were number one and that the other three important things were: athletics, arts and activities to go along with it. My teachers, coaches and administrators tried to explain this to me, but I did not always listen. But I have to admit they did not give up on me. SPHS provides plenty of opportunities for students to excel. They offer help from teachers, administrators, counselors and even peer groups. Together, this support makes being a student and a teenager a much less intimidating process. I would like to thank all of you who have helped me on my journey and I hope to be able to help someone else realize his or her own goals.

**MARQUIS JONES  
SPHS SENIOR**

## Dear Editor,

After reading the letters and stories in the paper the past few weeks, I checked my sewer-tax bill, and it has indeed gone up 25%. It's not even debatable.

Why then, are the Democrats saying they did not raise taxes? I could respect them if they told the truth. But to put up advertisements with these false statements on them is reprehensible. They will not get my vote this year.

**JOAN ELLIOT**

## Dear Editor,

The South Plainfield High School Girls Soccer Team would like to thank Coach and Mrs. Hunt for the BBQ lunch and the Labor Day Breakfast that you hosted at your home! What a great way to start the season! We all appreciate your hospitality!

**SINCERELY,  
THE SPHS GIRLS SOCCER TEAM**

## Dear Editor,

I was driving home yesterday and after getting off the Helen Street Bridge, I made a right turn onto the newly reconstructed, four-lane Hamilton Blvd. It was traffic-free, and I got to my doorstep in minutes.

After arriving home, I looked at my mail and in it was the bill for the sewer tax. I was happy to see no tax increase. I opened the rest of my mail and saw the ballot for Democracy Day, you know the program where residents vote on large-scale projects where the Borough borrows money. I sent it right in.

The sun was shining and the birds were singing. All was well in South Plainfield now that we had a governing body that respected the voters and taxpayers. No more nepotism or cronyism, and the Mayor and members of the council worked for us, not the enrichment of themselves or their families. Things couldn't be better.

Then I woke up. I'd been dreaming. And my dream was about all the things the Democrats promised and failed to deliver upon. It was then I realized that we need a change. It's time to once again 'Take Back South Plainfield.'

**SILVANA GOVER**

## To the Editor,

On Election Day, please vote for Charlie Butrico, Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas for the Borough Council. As members of the council, they have worked hard to make South Plainfield better for everybody. They are first rate leaders who have great plans for the future, like a new library, preserving more open space and improvements to our parks. I urge every voter in South Plainfield to elect Charlie

Butrico, Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas to the Borough Council.

**MARY LESO**

## Letter to the Editor:

I see that the Mayor and Borough Council have again brought in a budget with no tax increase—for the fifth time in the last seven years. This is an amazing accomplishment when you consider the budget problems all over the country. This shows that the Democrats' strategy of "Pay As You Go" may sound corny, but it sure does work. The borough should operate like any household in South Plainfield—within a strict budget. Our borough leaders should not be writing checks on the backs of our children and grandchildren by borrowing wildly, and the Democrats have gotten us back on sound fiscal ground by cutting the borough's debt by 50 percent over the last 10 years. This conservative financial policy is also amazing when you consider all of the improvements in South Plainfield over the past few years, such as the improvements to Putnam Park, the improvements to the girls' softball complex, the paving of the parking areas at the junior baseball complex, the new lighting at the soccer and Pop Warner fields, the addition at the PAL, the senior recreation center and the senior housing complex. Clearly, the Democrats are doing something right and they deserve the chance to keep doing it. Please re-elect Kathy Thomas, Dennis Cerami and Charlie Butrico to the Borough Council on Election Day.

**FRANK FURINO**

## Dear Editor,

The South Plainfield High School Girls Field Hockey Team would like to thank Patricia DeSantis for the wonderful pasta dinner with all the trimmings on Sunday, Sept. 26 and extending the use of your home. We truly appreciate your hospitality.

**SINCERELY,  
THE SPHS GIRLS  
FIELD HOCKEY TEAM**

## To the Editor,

There is a clear-cut choice in this year's election for Borough Council. The record of achievement by Dennis Cerami, Charlie Butrico and Kathy Thomas is outstanding. These are people who bring energy and ideas to our borough government. Dennis, Charlie and Kathy know that the Borough Council has to effectively plan for the future even during difficult economic times. Just consider all of the improvements that have occurred in South Plainfield over the past few years—over 130 roads

*(Continued on page 12)*

## Mark Your Calendars

Log on to  
southplainfieldnj.com  
for the latest meeting agenda

### council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third 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.

### 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

**Deadline for October 8 issue  
is Monday, October 4 at 5 p.m.**

## South Plainfield Observer

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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Department, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave., fax us at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at spobserver@comcast.net. Include your name, address, telephone number. You can subscribe or contact us at: 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 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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## NOTES FROM The Senior Center

by Joann Graf, Director of Office on Aging

The coming weeks have many interesting and informative programs planned, so mark your calendars and plan to join us.

**NUTRITION FOR SENIORS**—On Thursday, Oct. 7, we have Dr. Michael Shea from St. Peter's University Hospital scheduled to give a presentation on Nutrition for Seniors.

During the "golden years," good nutrition is just as important as ever, but many older adults become malnourished for a variety of reasons. You may think you are eating healthy when you are not. Adequate nutrition is critical to health, functioning and the quality of life. Good nutrition gives your body the energy you need to stay active and do the things you want to do. And, should you need medical care, good nutrition speeds healing and helps prevent complications. So please plan to join us for this important topic.

**FLU SHOTS**—As Flu season fast approaches, we are pleased to announce that we will be offering flu shots at the Senior Center on Wednesday, Oct. 20, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and again on Thursday, Nov. 4, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The flu shots are being administered by the Middlesex County Public Health Department. Pneumonia vaccines will also be available, but you must make a reservation

in advance for this shot. If you are 65 years of age or older and have not previously received the pneumonia vaccine, please call the County Health Dept. at between 2 and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at (732) 745-3100.

**LORD OF THE DANCE**—We still have eight tickets left for our Nov. 4 trip to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center to see Michael Flatley's *Lord of the Dance*. The trip is open to the public. The cost is \$50 and includes transportation. The bus departs the Senior Center at 10 a.m. For reservations, please call the Senior Center at (908) 756-4135 or stop in.

**SELF DEFENSE CLASS FOR WOMEN**—We are pleased to announce that we will be offering a two hour self-defense class for women ages 14 and up on Friday, Oct. 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. The program will be given by Tom Guerin of ATA Black Belt Academy and will include speakers from our police department, crime prevention and Gail Dougherty from the Domestic Violence Intervention team. Any women interested in attending the class should call the Senior Center at (908) 756-4135 to register. We are asking for a donation of \$20, which will be donated to the Women Aware—South Plainfield team.

## Knights of Columbus Looking for Members

The Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes of South Plainfield, Council #6203 are looking for new members. If you are interested in joining the world's largest Catholic Fraternal Service Organization, you will have fun, make friends and support

your church and community. What could be more rewarding? Make your family a part of ours.

For more info, please contact Zig Sutor at (908) 755-9708 or Grand Knight Joe Scrudato at (908) 754-0869.



## Sacred Heart Parishioners Enjoy Annual Picnic

By Jane Dornick

It was a picture perfect day for Sacred Heart Church's annual Parish Picnic on Sept. 12. The great weather and complimentary food helped fill the school yard with parishioners.

There were pony rides for the kids, and several young ladies volunteered their artistic skills doing face painting. Youngsters also participated in an egg toss and water balloon contests.

Lots of yummy food, including

grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, were prepared by volunteer parishioners. Everyone seemed to enjoy the buffet set up in the school cafeteria, all free of charge.

During the afternoon, two children's bikes were raffled off, as well as gift baskets and a 50/50 drawing. Virginia Palmer won the boys' bike, Dottie Waskiewicz won the girls' bike, Barbara Murphy, Joyce Sillum and Tracy Novak took home gift baskets and Helen Ward won the 50/50 raffle.

## Suburban Woman's Club News

"Baseball Legends" is the program planned for GFWC South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club on husband/guest night, Friday Oct. 8.

Bobby Thomson and Sparky Lyle will be on hand to share thoughts of their baseball experiences. The program will be held at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Ave., beginning with cocktails at 6:30 p.m., and followed by a buffet dinner at 7 p.m.

Bobby Thomson hit what is perhaps the most famous home run in baseball history. His dramatic "shot heard round the world" on Oct. 3, 1951 capped the Giants' historic comeback to win the National League pennant that year.

He was later named to the Giants all-time outfield, along with Mel Ott and Willie Mays.

Bobby Thomson currently lives in Watchung and stays active golfing at local courses. He volunteers for community and charity activities that benefit children.

Sparky Lyle was one of the American League's best relievers for over a decade. He played for the Red Sox and the Yankees, and led the league in saves in 1972 and 1976. In 1977 he became the first reliever to win the Cy Young Award. He was a wise cracking, left hander with an excellent slider and a good fast ball. He currently lives in Voorhees and is now manager of the local Somerset Patriots.

He has led that team to two league championships. When not on the ball field, he can also be found on local golf courses. Lyle also donates his time to countless charities through out the country.

It is anticipated that a question and answer period will follow the program.

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**BULB SEMINAR**

Oct. 2 • from 10 am - 3 pm

Bill Friedman of Simple Pleasures will discuss techniques of planting and designing with bulbs this Fall to provide a "Spring Explosion of Color" next year!

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## Sacred Heart to Hold Annual Blessing of Animals

Sacred Heart Church will hold its annual Blessing of the Animals ceremony on Sunday, Oct. 3 at 3 p.m. All pets and their human companions are welcome.

Volunteers from the Plainfield Area Humane Society will be on hand immediately following their "Pet Alumni Day" at Spring Lake Park.

Other activities will include a Parade of Pets and Dog training information by Melodie Petrone of "Ruff Around the Edges." Girl Scout Troops #232 and #431 will hold a raffle and sell homemade doggy biscuits. The girls will also be collecting new or gently used blankets, towels and assorted paper products.

Orders will be taken for homemade crate comforters and pet toys. Proceeds and donations will benefit

the Plainfield Area Humane Society. Come join us for an afternoon of fun and prayer.

## Almost Famous Players Seeking Volunteers and Vendors

The *Almost Famous Players*, the volunteer performers who brought South Plainfield the Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour last year, are looking for assistance from the community in order to present another successful show this season.

Their main generator is not functioning and they need the loan of a large generator or a few smaller generators. They are also looking for do-

nations for the purchase of props, costumes and sets.

They are also looking for vendors for the event. The vendors must be local, non-profit organizations. *Almost Famous* will be selling glow sticks, soda and water, and the SPHS Class of 2005 will offer face painting.

Contact [almostfamousplyrs@aol.com](mailto:almostfamousplyrs@aol.com) or [angelonly@aol.com](mailto:angelonly@aol.com) or call (908) 346-2290.

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# Around Town

## 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.buddywalksouthplainfield.com](http://www.buddywalksouthplainfield.com).

## SPHS Jerseyan History Club Car Wash

October 2

Splish, splash, does your car need a bath? If so, please support the South Plainfield High School Jerseyan History Club Car Wash be held on Saturday, Oct. 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Middle School parking lot. The cost is \$5 per car and \$7 per truck. The rain date is Oct. 3.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will help club members continue to explore the history of our great country through special events and trips. Thank you in advance for your support.

## 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).

## VFW Country Breakfast

October 3

VFW Memorial Post 6763 will hold a country breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 3 from 8 to 11 a.m. There will be a varied menu. Donation is \$5 a person.

## Longaberger Basket Bingo/Raffle

November 2

The Sacred Heart Home School Association is sponsoring a Longaberger® Basket Bingo/Raffle on Saturday, Nov. 20. The doors will open at 6 p.m. and the games will begin at 7 p.m. Admission is \$20 (\$5 for admission and \$15 for Bingo sheets). Extra boards will also be sold. In addition to the Bingo prizes, Longaberger® baskets will also be raffled. Basket raffle tickets will be sold for three/\$5 or grand prize tickets for \$5 each. Space is limited.

To reserve tickets or for more information, call Kathy Thomas at (908) 755-0891 or Sacred Heart School at (908) 756-0632.

## What's happening in SEPT/OCT

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**

| MONDAY                                                                                                 | TUESDAY                                                     | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                            | THURSDAY                                                                                  | FRIDAY                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>Oct. 20—Flu Shots 9am-11:30am</b><br><b>Nov. 1—Flu Shots 5-7:30pm</b><br><b>Nov. 2—Election Day</b> |                                                             |                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                           |                                           |
| <b>EVENTS</b><br>Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am<br>Yoga 10:30-11:30am<br>Drawing Class 11:30am       | Bingo 10am-2pm<br>Ladies Social 10am<br>Red Hat Society 2pm | Exercise 8:30am<br>Line Dancing 10am<br>Movie Time 11:30am<br>AARP Crafts 1pm<br>Computer Class 10 & 11:30<br>Atlantic City Trip 9am | Weekly Shopping 30<br>Pathmark 9am<br>Practical Crafts 10-11am<br>Computer Class 11 & 1pm | Bingo 10am-2pm<br>Pizza lunch available 1 |
| 4                                                                                                      | 5                                                           | 6                                                                                                                                    | 7                                                                                         | 8                                         |
| TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.                            |                                                             |                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                           |                                           |

Children 12 and under are \$3. Proceeds benefit the VA Hospital at Lyons.

For information, call (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and after 12 noon weekends.

## 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 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, make sure your dog or cat is leashed or crated. Bring your furry, finned or feathered friends. St. Huberts Animal Welfare Center of North Branch will be on hand 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

A "Make 'n Take" craft program for adults will be held at South Plainfield 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. Participants must register in advance. There is a \$1 materials charge.

For more info, call (908) 754-7885 or visit [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

## VFW Flea Market

October 9

The VFW Post 6763 will hold a Flea Market on Saturday, Oct. 9 from 9

a.m. to 2 p.m. at the VFW Post, 155 Front St. Vendors are wanted. Information can be obtained by calling (908) 668-9751.

## 1974 Class Reunion

October 9

We are looking for classmates!! Our 30-year reunion will be held at The Clarion Hotel in Edison (across from the Pines Manor).

Contact Rich D'Urso (908) 753-7629 or Ginny Butrico at (908) 392-0538. Pricing will follow soon.

## Rec Going to Fiddler on the Roof

October 10

The Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip to Broadway to see the musical revival "Fiddler on the Roof" on Sunday, Oct. 10. Bus leaves the PAL at 11 a.m. The performance starts at 3 p.m. and we will arrive back at the PAL at 6:30 p.m. Price is \$95 a person. Purchase tickets at the PAL.

## Annual Columbus Day Ceremony

October 11

On Monday, Oct. 11 at 9 a.m., the Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO National will host the Annual Columbus Day Ceremony at the South Plainfield Municipal Building, located at 2480 Plainfield Ave.

Speaking will be dignitaries representing the state and local governing bodies commemorating this National Holiday. A wreath in honor of the occasion and a flag-raising ceremony honoring the discovery of America will also be held. Refreshments will be served following the festivities. An invitation is extended to everyone to be present for this brief exercise marking the event which has charted the course for the entire civilized world.

## Sacred Heart Holding A Chef's Night

October 11

A Chef's Night is planned for Monday, Oct. 11 featuring Chef Mavid Martone, CCP from Classic Thyme Cooking School in Westfield.

The evening promises to be fun for all attending and you get to enjoy the great food prepared that evening. The cost is \$35 per person. BYOB if desired. Seating is limited. For tickets or information call Sandi Severini at (908) 757-9358.

## — Out of Town —

## 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.co.middlesex.nj.us/extensionservices/4hclubs.asp](http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us/extensionservices/4hclubs.asp).

## Eugenides to Read at Stockton College

October 4

On Monday, Oct. 4 at 8 p.m. in the Lakeside Center, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey Campus, Pulitzer Prize winner Jeffrey Eugenides will read from his acclaimed book, *Middlesex*. The reading is free and open to the public.

## Women's Club Membership Meeting

October 6

Please join the Metuchen-Edison Women's Club, an organization dedicated to benefiting our communities

## Send Your Events to:

South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
or fax (908) 668-8819  
email: [spobservers@comcast.net](mailto:spobservers@comcast.net)

since 1961, for our monthly membership meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m., St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 Oak Ave. 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.

## Art Auction to Help Homeless Families

October 7

FISH Hospitality Program, a faith-based organization aiding homeless families, will host a fundraising art auction on Thursday, Oct. 7 at Our Lady of Mount Virgin at 600 Harris Ave., Middlesex.

The evening will begin at 7 p.m. with a preview of the artpieces. The live auction will begin at 8 p.m. The price per person is \$10 or \$15 per couple. Major credit cards will be accepted for purchases. For tickets, call Cynthia Garrett at (732) 463-9214. The auction will be conducted by Ross Galleries and samples of their art can be viewed [www.rossgalleries.com](http://www.rossgalleries.com).

## Tables and Shelves, Needle and Thread

October 9-November 8

"Tables and Shelves, Needle and Thread," an exhibition of three-dimensional still life by potter/painter Judy Keenan and hand-stitched fibre art by Pat Klein, will be on view from October 9-November 8 at the Riverrun Gallery at the Laceworks, 287 S. Main St., Lambertville. The gallery is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sundays, 12 Noon to 5 p.m. The gallery is closed on Tuesdays. For information, call (609) 397-3349.

## Kaitlyn's Walk for Diabetes

October 10

This year, Fitness by Design will be taking part in our first walk to help find a cure for Diabetes. Here is your chance to join our team and come out for a beautiful day at the Somerset Patriots Ballpark on Sunday, Oct. 10 at 8:30 a.m. in Bridgewater.

Kaitlyn, a six-year-old, was diagnosed with Type I Diabetes, a life threatening disease that could kill her any day without warning.

To register to walk with Fitness by Design or to make a donation, call Norma or Amie at (732) 885-1200.

## 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, Harmonytrix 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.

## From the Republicans

## Democrats Trying to Give the Truth an Extreme Makeover



With the election just about a month away, Republican candidates Marge Reedy, Ray Rusnak, and Bob Jones are calling upon their opponents to level with voters. According to the three candidates, the Democrats are trying to give reality an extreme makeover.

"What they say in their advertising doesn't jive with reality," said Jones. "For example, their signs say there was no tax increase. But we all know they increased the sewer tax 25 percent. And they've been using sewer money to prop up the regular budget (go to [www.spgop.com](http://www.spgop.com) to see where). They should level with people. There was a tax increase."

Reedy offered another example of less-than-accurate advertising. "Our opponents keep talking about pay-as-you-go government. But the town's debt increased over \$800,000 last year. In addition, they're paying almost \$400,000 in equipment leases. We all know leasing is a long-term debt even though it doesn't show on the books that way."

"Another attempt to makeover reality is their claim about open space and park upgrades," added Rusnak. "That's Middlesex County money. The county has a special tax for that. It's on your tax bill. We've put millions of dollars into that fund, so of course we should get some of it back to buy open space and upgrade parks. But the council has nothing to do with it. They're taking the credit for a program funded by county money."

Jones explained that all towns in Middlesex County benefit from the special county tax for open space and parks. "Presumably, we would get that money for parks and open space no matter who controlled the governing body, that is unless the Democrats are saying the Freeholder

Board gives out the money based on partisan politics. I hope that's not the case. Rather, we're just getting what we're entitled to. And I'm sure we would have gotten the same park upgrades and open space purchases if Republicans had been in charge."

Roads are another area where reality and Democratic spin don't coincide. According to Rusnak, the Democrats haven't lived up to their claims about paving roads. Last year they said they would pave 11 roads this year. But they ran out of money and never finished the job. "Plus, you'd think South Plainfield was the only town in the state with paved roads from the way they talk," he added. "If the town isn't using our tax dollars to pave the roads, what are they using them for?"

"And while they're now touting an allegedly new curb-restoration program," added Jones, "they're the ones who halted the program when they took control. In the meantime they've failed to keep up the curbs and in some areas of town they're literally crumbling away. We need some long-term planning, not another advertising gimmick around election time."

Reedy explained how she and her running mates want to be honest with voters. "So much of what gets in the paper is Democratic spin. Nobody hears the other side and the paper simply prints the PR the Democrats spew at council meetings. That's why we need two parties. Somebody has to represent the other side."

All three candidates agreed that one-party control hurts South Plainfield and that no party should have absolute power. In fact, for Marge Reedy, Ray Rusnak and Bob Jones, restoring two-party government is a key part of their platform. For more information on the candidates and their plans, go to [www.spgop.com](http://www.spgop.com).

## From the Democrats

## Open Space a Top Priority to Democrats Butrico, Cerami & Thomas



Democratic Council members Charlie Butrico, Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas this week stressed the importance of open space preservation in South Plainfield. Council President Dennis

Cerami commented: "When the new Democratic team became the majority in 1994, they committed themselves to permanently protecting crucial parcels from development. As amazing as it may seem, when the Republicans were in control they didn't protect

one inch of open space. In fact they used the Land Management Committee as a mechanism to sell land in order to finance their out of control

spending. One of the first things Democratic Council President Jim Vokral recommended was taking away the power of the land management committee to recklessly sell land. The results speak for themselves. Council member Charlie Butrico has expanded upon Jim Vokral's commitment. As a result, almost 150 acres of land will never be developed. Hundreds of homes with the resulting impact on our schools and municipal services will never be built because of our proactive approach to open space."

Council member Charlie Butrico expanded upon his running mate's comments. "Remember when a developer wanted to put a drug store at the corner of Oak Tree Ave. and Park Avenue rather than the beautiful expansion of Putnam Park? Over 100 apartments were proposed for the open space site that runs from Park Avenue to Woodland Ave. next to the A&P shopping center. Forty homes were planned for the open

space piece at the intersection of Tompkins and Clinton avenues. South Plainfield has won numerous awards and been spotlighted on *NBC News* for our beautiful environmental preserve. Our soccer complex would be a housing development if not for the foresight of our Mayor and Council. Just last week I made a presentation to the Middlesex County Open Space Committee to preserve an additional 25 acres of open space this year. As a result of that meeting, we will receive over \$1.5 million in county funding this year. Our local Freeholder, John Pulomena, deserves all of our thanks for the almost \$4 million in open space money which we have now received from Middlesex County."

Council member Kathy Thomas summed up the Democrats commitment to open space. "Charlie Butrico has done a tremendous job in taking the lead on preserving open space. Within the next couple of weeks signs will be going up all over town, identifying the numerous areas that will forever be protected from development. The county open space money will be used to preserve 15 acres along Belmont Avenue including the big piece across from the new Roosevelt school. We will also be acquiring eight acres on New Market Ave. that was in the process of being developed and six acres on Garfield, which will soon be designated as permanent passive open space. Mayor Dan Gallagher and the Democrats on the council have a record that is second to none in preserving open space while at the same time keeping taxes and spending under control. You have our commitment to continue to increase our open space inventory every year. When it comes to open space, the choice on election day is clear...a vote for Charlie Butrico, Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas is a vote for Open Space in South Plainfield."

# 2004 VOTE

## The Wall That Heals Coming to Middlesex County

Families of the 98 county residents killed in Southeast Asia are being sought for an Oct. 14 ceremony.

August 20, 2004, may have gone by as just another day for most people in Middlesex County, but for the family of Michael James Coyle of Camp Kilmer, it will be a day of remembrance and loss. On that day in 1964, the 25-year-old Army captain became Middlesex County's first casualty in Vietnam. The first of 98 young men from all over the county who proudly served and made the ultimate sacrifice

for their country—14 from the Brunswicks, nine from Edison. The roll of cities includes Kendall Park, Metuchen, Old Bridge, Sewaren, Jamesburg and Dayton. The last was Air Force Major Andrew Ivan, Jr., of South River on Aug. 23, 1978.

To remember these heroes, recognize their sacrifice and their families' loss and to educate children about the Vietnam War, the Middlesex County Veterans' Advisory Council and Board of Chosen Freeholders will host "The Wall That Heals," a half-scale replica

of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, from Oct. 14 through 17 at Roosevelt Park in Edison. The Wall That Heals will be open 24-hours a day; there is no charge for admission. This traveling exhibit features a 250-foot replica of the memorial, as well as an information center and museum displaying memorabilia left at The Wall in Washington, DC.

"Visiting the memorial is a profound experience," said Jane Brady, freeholder and advisory council member. "We will be honoring the Vietnam veterans and their families during opening ceremonies on Thursday, Oct. 14 at 11 a.m. We ask that any family members of those 98 men killed in Vietnam to please contact Carl Asszony, county veterans service officer, at (732) 745-4051, as soon as possible. That list of names is on the Middlesex County web site. This is a ceremony for those families." A Massing of Colors of veterans groups, scouts, police and fire companies will take place on Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. A candlelight ceremony on Sunday, Oct. 17 at 5:30 p.m. will close the display. The list of county Southeast Asian casualties may be found at [www.co.middlesex.nj.us](http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us). Go to Human Services Department and click on the yellow, green and red "Middlesex County Members Vietnam" logo.

The Moving Wall was the inspiration of John Devitt, a former helicopter door gunner and Army veteran, when he attended the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in

Washington, DC, in 1982. "The memorial is a visual experience that words cannot describe. As you approach the Wall and the words inscribed come into focus, you're reveted and the emotions just pour forth," he said. That is what inspired Devitt to dedicate his life to giving people all across the nation a chance to experience a similar catharsis.

With the help of a few friends and the support of many businesses, The Moving Wall became a reality. The first was built of Plexiglas, with each name silk-screened onto the panels, and ap-

peared for the first time in 1984 at the Tyler Rose Festival in Texas. In its present form, the third generation, the wall is made of aluminum panels.

The Veterans' Council is seeking local sponsorship to offset the costs of bringing the display to the area. Corporations, groups and individuals wishing to donate should contact Carl Asszony, veterans service officer, at (732) 745-4051, or at [carl.asszony@co.middlesex.nj.us](mailto:carl.asszony@co.middlesex.nj.us). Volunteers are also needed as soon as possible. To volunteer, contact Ken Holman, volunteer coordinator, at (732) 247-3727.

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## southplainfieldpeople

# Milestones

### Jasen Ortiz Graduates From Marine Corps Recruit Depot

PFC Jasen Ortiz, son of Madelyn and Sam Ortiz of South Plainfield, graduated from Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island, SC on Sept. 17 as a US Marine.

PFC Ortiz has always had a childhood dream of being in the military and he accomplished that on Sept. 16, when he received his eagle, globe and anchor emblem. He graduated in the 10 top of his platoon and carried the title of Squad Leader and Fire Team Leader. He has already earned his first stripe.

Jasen graduated from South Plainfield High School on June 17 with a scholarship from the Teterboro School of Aeronautics, but turned down the scholarship to pursue a military career and left for Parris Island on June 21, just days after graduating from SPHS.

PFC Ortiz will be home until Oct. 11 recruiting, then he leaves for Camp Lejeune, NC for further training in infantry. When asked what was the



PFC Jasen Ortiz

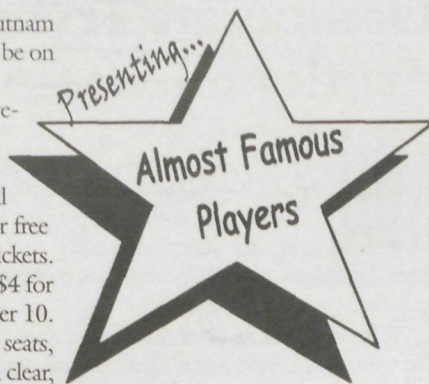
hardest part of his 13-week training, he replied, "Being away from family with the only contact being letters. The physical training wasn't a problem; it was the mental part that was the hardest."

## AFP Gearing Up for Second Coffeehouse

Almost Famous Players will present South Plainfield with their second AFP Coffeehouse on Oct. 16 at the Senior Citizens Center from 7 until 10 p.m. They have an exciting list of performers, who are all residents of South Plainfield: Bernie Brausewetter of BB and the Stingers, Justina, Eva and Tim Barkalow, Chris Abbott and Dave Garatino and Cassandra Krajcik. A few more are expected to join the line up. There may be a surprise preview of the Halloween show, but the details are still in the works.

Advance sale tickets for the Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour will be on sale as well.

The evening will include refreshments for sale—coffee, tea, soda, water, baked good, pretzels and more. Every patron will receive a ticket for a drawing for free Putnam Park Haunted Tour tickets. Coffeehouse tickets are \$5 and \$4 for senior citizens and children under 10. Seating is limited. For reserved seats, call (908) 756-8011 and leave a clear, precise message.



## East Jersey Olde Towne Celebrates Founders Day

The Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the East Jersey Olde Towne Village, located on River Road in Piscataway, has planned many events for October. Free of charge, they are open to the public. Funding is provided in part by Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission, Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders and NJ Historical Commission, a Division of Cultural Affairs, in the Department of State.

**Founder's Day—Sunday, Oct. 3, at 2 p.m.**—Join us as we honor the non-profit East Jersey Olde Towne Inc. and

the founders of the Village. Special opening remarks by Anne Gordon, president of East Jersey Olde Towne Inc.; and featuring storytelling by former first lady, Abigail Smith Adams, as portrayed by the American Historical Theatre. Join us as Mrs. Adams recounts her life and experi-

ences during the American Revolution, on diplomatic post with her husband, John Adams, in France and Britain, and her days in the White House as first lady. Refreshments will be served after the presentation.

See upcoming issues for more events.

## County 4-H Invites You to Their House of Horrors

If you're looking for a good scare this Halloween season, the 4-H Teen Council invites you to their Haunted House every Friday and Saturday in October through the 30th. The haunting lasts from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. each night.

Willing participants should visit the Middlesex County 4-H Center, on the corner of Cranbury and Fern Rd. in East Brunswick, and be prepared to scream. Parking is located near the adjacent Fern Rd. entrance. The Haunted House is a fund-raising event and the \$2 admission fee will go toward 4-H's Project GIFT. That annual

event, held in December, is a free day of Holiday shopping for Middlesex County families in need.

For more information, please contact the 4-H Teen Council by email at [teencouncil04@yahoo.com](mailto:teencouncil04@yahoo.com) or for directions to the Haunted House and 4-H Center, check the county website at [www.co.middlesex.nj.us/extensionservices/4Hclubs.aspx](http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us/extensionservices/4Hclubs.aspx).

4-H offers educational programs to all youth, grades K through 13 on an age appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

## FEMA Asks for Local CERT Volunteers

With the massive devastation in Florida and surrounding areas from the numerous hurricanes, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) has reached out as far as South Plainfield for volunteers.

After receiving the FEMA request, Emergency Management Coordina-

tor Mike Zushma contacted CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team) volunteers, who have been trained for just such emergencies.

FEMA requested that CERT volunteers commit to two weeks of their time to help evaluate and assist those affected by the hurricanes. The names

were submitted to FEMA. If chosen they will be flown to Atlanta for training, then on to Florida or any area needed for disaster assistance.

Locally, five have volunteered and are on standby: Betsy Coyne, Mary Esposito, Mary Beth Khidre, William Hartman, Sal Severini Jr. and Andrew Yon, Sr.

## Revere Road Residents Court Annual Tradition with Block Party

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

The residents of Revere Rd. enjoyed crisp autumn-like weather for their annual Labor Day Block Party held on Sunday, Sept. 5. The end-of-summer party was started by the original residents when the street was new. The 100 plus guests included adult children and grandchildren returning home for the party.

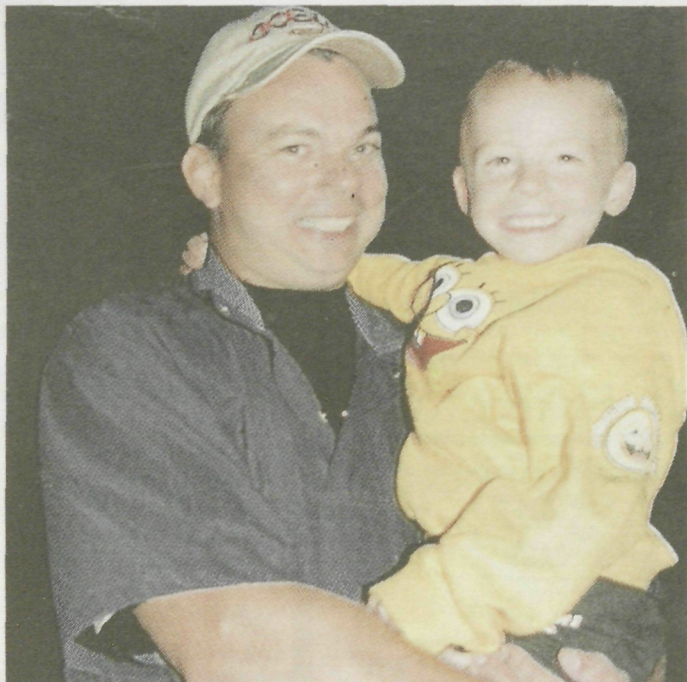
Tables and chairs filled the street. In addition to hot dogs and hamburgers, a vast variety of hot and cold food, salads and desserts lined banquet tables set up along the curb. A DJ provided dance music for everyone. There are numerous games for the kids and adults. This year there was fierce competition at two ping pong tables. Children raced along the street on foot, bikes, skateboards and more.

When darkness fell garage lights pointed toward the street, candles were lit and the party began to mellow just a little. A second round of cooking began and tantalizing aromas filled the air as sausage sandwiches and cheesesteaks were made.

Revere Rd. has been holding a block party for approximately 50 consecutive years, the exact number though is fodder for serious debate amongst the older residents.



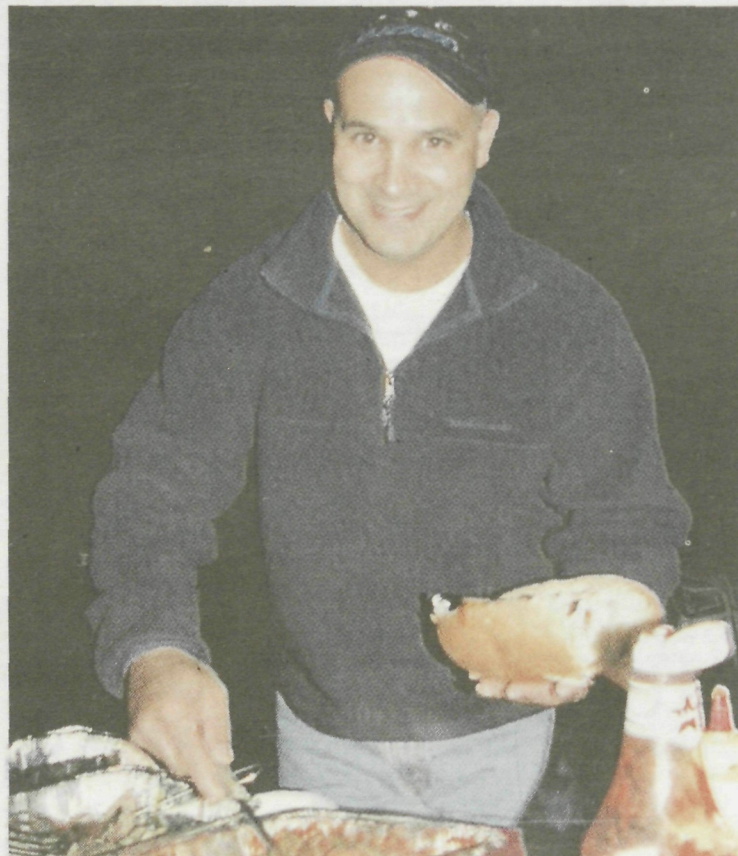
Dan Nigro



Mike Behr and son, Mike Jr.



Linda Smith and Gloria Weber



Tom Bartolotta



## Page Court Hosts a South Plainfield Tradition at their First Block Party

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

The residents of Page Court had a great time at their first-ever block party on Labor Day. The event was coordinated by Gary and Yvette Farmer. Over a dozen families participated and there were over 100 in attendance.

Food offered something for everyone including: Pan-Zit (Philepean), shish kabobs, crabs, fried fish, baked ziti, hot dogs, hamburgers, barbecue ribs and chicken, fried rice, African and Spanish style rice.

There were plenty of games for both the kids and adults and Music by D.J. Kaos.

Yvette Farmer commented on the party, "The residents of Page Court really came together and worked very hard. The event was highly successful. We plan to have the block party annually. Every one had a wonderful time."



## Greenwich St. Block Party Commemorates Fifty Years

1954-2004

A block party with over 50 people was held on Greenwich St. on Saturday, Sept. 18 from 2-8 p.m. The first nine houses built and occupied were in the first block off Franklin Ave. The continuation of the street was only fields. Franklin Ave. was a dirt road beyond Greenwich St.

Occupants of these houses throughout these years were contacted and invited to the celebration. We learned some are deceased and others could not be located. Some of the former residents sent letters of memories and pictures. Several of the old residents were here to remember and tell stories of the happenings on the block.

## police report

• On Sept. 21 Hamzah Ahmed Al-Thamin, 43, of Teaneck was arrested for having a cracked windshield, an uninsured vehicle and exhibiting a fraudulent insurance card at a motor vehicle stop.

• The Middle School reported the theft of an A/V cart along with a 27" Sharp color TV and VCR worth \$680.

• On Sept. 22 Heber Cardona, 23, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving on a revoked license and outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• On Sept. 23 Jose Vidal Caballero, 30, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• Luz M. Soto, 26, of Newark was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Delanco, NJ resident reported the theft of a 2000 Jeep Cherokee from the parking lot of his employment at 1 Cragwood Rd.

• A Mellon St. resident reported giving a contractor money to do a job, but he has not finished, nor will he return phone calls.

• On Sept. 24 Jonathan J. Bloodgood, 21, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving at a motor vehicle stop.

• SPHS reported that a \$100 bill

plus several checks made out to a charity were missing from an unlocked desk drawer.

• A Berlin resident reported the theft of his vehicle's license plates which was parked at Swift Trucking on Kennedy Rd. for three years.

• An Irving St. resident reported

the theft of antique furniture which had been left in the driveway.

• On Sept. 25 Justine Lynne Quarataro, 29, of Westfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, having an uninsured vehicle, leaving the scene of an accident and reckless driving.

• On Sept. 26 Errol E. Parkes, 48,

of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a revoked license and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• Richard Herman, 37, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while suspended and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• On Sept. 27 John Russel

Robinson, 27, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a revoked license and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Dey St. resident reported receiving a collection notice for an outstanding account at Home Depot which she had never opened.

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# Sports

## SOUTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

### Field Hockey Corner

By Sharon Miller

**Rankings**—The magic of this team is just beginning as they are ranked number one in Middlesex County and number 10 in the state Group III rankings! (Rankings as of Sept. 15.)

**Weekly Wrap-up**—Congratulations to the team as they are 3-0 after two big wins this past week against Bridgewater and East Brunswick.

The team faced a strong and aggressive Bridgewater opponent defeating them 3-1. Kelly Thomas started the scoring on a pass from Jackie Muglia. In the second half of the game, Jesse Manning added another goal with the assist again coming from Muglia. Suddenly, the game got tight when Bridgewater scored. Jess Miller then came through and scored the third and final goal assisted by Stefanie Miller.

The next game was another victory for the team as they beat East

Brunswick 3-0. Off of a pass from Jesse Manning, Kelly Thomas scored the first goal. Jackie Muglia knocked in the second goal with Manning again providing the assist. In the second half of the game, Megan Wilson added the third and last goal unassisted.

#### Game Schedule

**Week of Sept. 27**—Fri. Oct. 1-Home game against Sayreville at 7 p.m. at Jost Field. This is the must-see game of the week. It is also Senior Night.

**Week of Oct. 3**—Mon. Oct. 4-Away game against Monroe at 3:45 p.m.

Wed. Oct. 6-Away game against Metuchen at 3:45 p.m.

Fri. Oct. 8-Away game against East Brunswick at 3:45 p.m. Must-see game of the week.

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.

**HS Field Hockey Parents**—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 freshman away games have all been filled. You do not need to attend to away games in order to provide the snack. You can contact Coach Haus or myself to sign up.

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



## High School Field Hockey Team Continues Their Impressive Streak

By Michael Duquette

South Plainfield High School's Girls Varsity Field Hockey team added more impressive victories to their season totals last week. This brings the current record to 4-0.

The Lady Tigers started last week off with a victory over Bridgewater on Monday. Just minutes into the first half, senior Kelly Thomas scored a point against the opposition, with an assist by fellow senior Jackie Muglia. During the second half, South Plainfield countered Bridgewater's goal

with two more of their own. Senior captain Jesse Manning, with another assist by Jackie Muglia, scored the second goal of the game; senior Jessica Miller with assistance by Stef Miller scored the third. At the game's end, SPSHS stood strong with a final tally of 3-1.

The team fared even better the next day, shutting out East Brunswick at home. Kelly Thomas scored the first goal less than seven minutes into the game, with Jesse Manning and Lauren Haus adding a double assist. The second point was shot down the field by

Jesse Manning down to Stef Miller, who in turn deflected the ball to Jackie Muglia for a goal. Megan Wilson scored the third and final point to bring South Plainfield a victory over East Brunswick, 3-0.

The Lady Tigers' Head Coach, Fran Flannery, is extremely proud of the recent winning streak. More importantly, the team has proven to play exceptionally well. She pointed out specific players' contributions to the current success: namely, "brilliant" senior sweeper Cassie D'Urso, who "inspires confidence in the rest of the team;" Melissa Szeliga, who has done well moving from starting midfielder to starting forward; and the three captains: Haus, Miller and Manning. Flannery says that they encourage the "controlled, powerful, [and] fast" style that will undoubtedly carry the team to greatness in the season to come.

The South Plainfield Lady Tigers will surely shine in their next game to be played against Sayreville on Friday at 7 p.m. at Jost Field. Don't miss what promises to be an important game and a spectacular match-up!

## Aerobics Sign-Up Underway

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for its Karate classes. All boys and girls ages seven and up are eligible. The fee is \$35 a sessions on Tuesday nights. Each session runs for two months.

You may choose between sessions in Jan. and Feb., March and April, May and June, July and Aug., Sept. and Oct. and Nov. and Dec.

You can register at the PAL, 1250 Maple Ave. First time registrants must have birth certificate.

## Register for Rec Wrestling

South Plainfield Recreation will hold registration for the 2004 Youth Wrestling Program on Saturday, Oct. 30, 1 to 3 p.m. at the PAL.

Registration is open to all South Plainfield children ages five to 11 (as of Oct. 1, 2004). The fee is \$30 per

participant and there are no refunds. A parent must accompany their child to registration. A birth certificate is needed for first time sign-ups, as well as proof of residency. Register at the PAL, 1250 Maple Ave., Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Varsity Gymnastics Preview

By Tim Morgan

This year, the South Plainfield High School Varsity Gymnastics team welcomed Meredith Garofalo as their new head coach. In bringing in her knowledge and passion for the sport, Garofalo, along with first year Assistant Coach Vicki Uniacke, should be able to help restore some of the program's solidity.

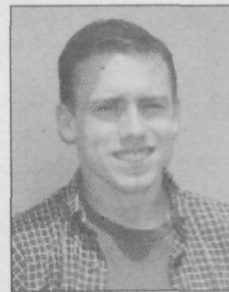
Garofalo, a health and physical education major at Kean University, has been exposed to gymnastics since shortly after she was able to start walking and competed from when she was ten all through high school. Having been a United States Gymnastics Federation Level Seven Champion in vaulting and placing third in the GMCs, she hopes to pass on her skills to the aspiring Lady Tigers.

"Gymnastics is a sport that's in my blood and I missed it, so I wanted to return to it as a coach," said Garofalo, also noting her fondness for the competition, routine, camaraderie and dedication required of the sport. Having ingrained these qualities from her time participating in gymnastics, she feels comfortable in alleging, "It was a good tool for the life I lead now."

She wants three main things out of the Lady Tigers this season: to improve their routines on a day by day basis, to increase their score for every meet and to qualify for the State Sectionals.

"So far, we're growing and getting better. The season looks positive; however, there is some great competition out there," she said. "We're just trying to do our best at every meet."

Gymnastics in team competition is



Tim Morgan, Jr.

almost always a tight-knit sport. This year's squad consists of eleven members. Senior captains Lauren Darr and Kayleigh McGovern will both compete on the vault, bar and, probably, the beam. Juniors are Beverley Jamieson, who will be an all-around competitor

(meaning she will do all four events), and Guliana Kay, who will compete on the beam, floor, and vault.

Sophomores Sarah Brooks and Heather Ray will both be all-around athletes. Freshmen are Gabriela Abon, Jennifer Arentes, Jasmine Silas, Gina Siringo, and Julia Zappi.

"I was very pleased with the way they were welcoming and helpful," Garofalo said. "They're a great group of girls, and they work very well together."

The coaches will work as equally as possible to create routines for the freshmen, who are all new to the sport, while working with the others, who are all returning letterwinners that have more experience, on a more individual basis to hone their abilities. In doing this, they hope to build the most successful season possible.

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# Sports

By Lee Flanagan



The season may have been a bit of a washout, but it was a beautiful day for the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club's annual picnic at the complex. Volunteers grilled up hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken along with refreshments for members and their families. Trophies were awarded and the kids spent the afternoon playing whiffle ball and enjoying each others company.

## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

By Lee Flanagan

For those kids that could not attend our annual picnic day 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 to your players.

Bob Bors, director of buildings and grounds, called a fall work detail for last Saturday. I would like to thank all the volunteers that came out and worked on Fields #1 and 2. Those individuals that volunteer their time now will be given first consideration when selecting managers and coaches for the 2005 season. Volunteering now when you are not assigned a work detail really shows your interest in the SPJBC. We are here to make things better for

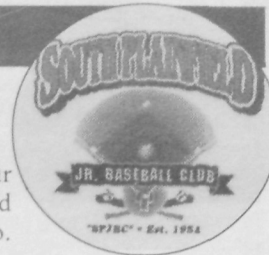
the kids. Again, this Saturday, Oct. 2, we are seeking volunteers again from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. There are families that did not complete their obligation to the SPJBC in the spring and summer so now is that time to fulfill that obligation. There are many tasks that need to be completed. See you on Saturday, if not, then Saturday, Oct. 9.

The SPJBC Art Auction is set for this 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. You can also sign up to manage/coach and umpire at this time. Opening Day for 2005 is April 9.

This fall we will be revisiting the SPJBC Rules and Bylaws. Any recommended changes must be submitted by Nov. 1, 2004. 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.



## SOCCER

## South Plainfield Soccer Club Weekly Roundup

**U-8 Storm** -Improved their record to 1-1-0 by defeating Branchburg Black Bears on Saturday Sept. 25. The storm is scheduled to play the North Hunterdon Gunners on Saturday, Oct. 2 at South Plainfield's Kenneth Ave. Field 2 at 11:30 a.m.

**U-9 Thunder** -Thunder vs. Middlesex Hornets was held on Sunday, Sept. 26. The next game is against the Cranbury Force on Sunday Oct. 3 at Kenneth Ave. Field 2 at 11:30 a.m.

**U-9 Rockets** -Lost a heart breaker to Westfield Atlas 4-1. The Rockets played a tight game until the end of the second half when Westfield scored three unanswered goals. The Rockets next game is on Sunday, Oct. 3 against the North Hunterdon Grizzlies at Hunts Mills Park in Clinton Township at 1 p.m.

**U-10 Hotspurs** -Lost a close game by a score of 3-2 to Somerset Hills Fire on Sunday, Sept. 26. Next game is Hotspurs vs. the North Brunswick Patriots at the North Brunswick Work

House Fields 1:45 p.m.

**U-11 Bullets** -Won a hard fought contest with the Hillsborough Crossfire 4-3. The Bullets play Montgomery Mach IV on Saturday night 7 p.m. at South Plainfield's Kenneth Ave. Field.

**U-12 Power** (Girls) -Played the Greater Flemington Force on Sept. 26. The next game for the power is on Sunday Oct. 3 at Watchung Hills against the Watchung Hills Rockets.

**U-12 Spirit** -The Spirit played the Woodbridge Wizards on Sept. 26. The next game for the Spirit is on Sunday Oct. 3 against the New Providence Rowdies at South Plainfield's Kenneth Ave. Field at 11:30 a.m.

**U-12 Sonics** -Defeated the South Brunswick Titans 3-1 on Sept. 26. The Sonics play Somerset Hills Hurricanes on Oct. 3 at the Hurricanes field

**U-13 Fire** -Lost to the Monroe Extreme on Sept. 26. Next game for the Fire is against the Hunterdon Rovers at Dear Path Park in White House.

**U-13 Ice** -Won against South Brunswick Cosmos on Sept. 26. Next game for the Ice is against the Central Jersey Silver Bullet Wolfpack.

**U-14 Blast** -Played the West Windsor-Plainsboro Titans on Sept.

26. The Blast will play the Scotch Plains Blue Thunder at South Plainfield's Kenneth Ave. Field at 1:30 p.m.

Win or lose, the girls and boys who play on the teams representing South Plainfield play a skillful game of soc-

cer that is complete with emotion, energy and heart, so please come out to the fields and support them. For more information on the South Plainfield Soccer Club please visit our web site at: [www.sopfldsoccerclub.com](http://www.sopfldsoccerclub.com).

## SP Blast 14-Year-Olds Record Win and Tie

Despite a fighting effort, the Blast lost their opening game of the season against the West Windsor-Plainsboro Titans by two goals. The final score was 3-1. South Plainfield's only goal was scored by Christian Barrientos. The Blast's goalkeeper, Nick Jeglinski, played an excellent first half and was able to hold the Titans from scoring until the last minute of the first half. Strong field support by team captain's Kevin Veliz and John Cursi kept the game close in the second half.

The following week saw the Blast rebound from their opening weeks loss by toughing out a hard fought 3-3 tie

against the Perth Amboy Alianza team. The Blast spent the first half of the game in the offensive zone, peppering Perth Amboy's goalie with shots by Jose Fernandez, Max Cordova and Jonathan Cursi. The Blast had several opportunities to score, but couldn't convert any shots into goals.

Meanwhile, Perth Amboy scored on a breakaway to make it 1-0. Perth Amboy then followed up just before half time with another goal, taking a 2-0 lead. The first half also saw good defensive plays by Ian Collins and Joey Lacerda.

The Blast opened the second half

scoring with a goal on a penalty kick converted by Kevin Veliz. Minutes later they tied the score on a goal from Christian Barrientos.

The rest of the game was a defensive battle. Perth Amboy scored a go-ahead goal, making it a 3-2 game. However, great defensive plays by Kenny Breslau, Emma Gambini and Joseph Gonzalez and a game saving stop by goalie Jared Christopher kept the game close.

With minutes ticking away, Nick Pauls scored the tying goal for the Blast to finish the game with a 3-3 tie.

*Submitted by Jim Christopher*

## LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### LEGAL NOTICE

September 24, 2004

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on September 23, 2004.

A. Case #51-02/S—American-Redi Mix Concrete Co. Inc. Block 388; Lot 10; 438 Hollywood Ave. The applicant's request for an expanded height variance to permit the existing silo to remain and to permit housing over the area was hereby GRANTED with conditions.

B. Case #52-04—Scotchbrook Associate. Block 97; Lot 1; 1600-1604 Park Ave. The applicant's decision to appeal the Administrative Officer's interpretation was hereby DENIED and upheld by the Board of Adjustment.

C. Case #59-04—John and Michelle Biggs. Block 196; Lot 2; 901 Maple Ave. The applicant's request for two front yard setback variances from Maple Place to erect a one story addition and landing was hereby GRANTED.

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

\$35.00 October 1, 2004

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Dominick Scarpati requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a two story addition w/basement. Proposed two story addition w/basement lacks required 8' side setback, 4.93' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 1139 Clinton Terr. on Block 138, Lot 24 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 14, 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 p.m.

\$35.00 October 1, 2004

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Chanda Cassett requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit an addition. Proposed addition and Bilco door exceeds lot coverage by 128.5 sq. ft. or 1.9%; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 123 Baker Ave. on Block 16, Lot 26 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on 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 October 1, 2004

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Ron Beresford II requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit an a 15'6" x 6' front porch. Proposed porch lacks a 30' front setback, 26.35 being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 119 Fred Allen Drive. on Block 395A, Lot 56 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 14, 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 October 1, 2004

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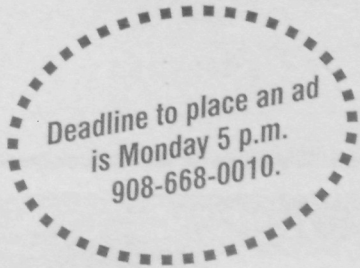
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## Obituaries

### Peter DeLasso, 81

Peter DeLasso died on Thursday, Sept. 23 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in Brooklyn, Peter was raised in Berkley Heights and had resided in Bridgewater for more than 40 years.

An avid camper, Peter enjoyed fishing, gardening, watching baseball and he also loved his pets. He was a decorated Army Veteran who served during World War II.

He is predeceased by his wife, Lillian, who died in 2001.

Surviving are a daughter, Susan DeLasso and her husband, Tony Raba of Milltown; two sisters, Millie Monsioppa of Berkley Heights and Jean Truippi of Connecticut and two grandchildren, Peter and Joseph Adamski.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Tracey M. Peardon, 44

Tracey M. Peardon died on Monday, Sept. 27 at Muhlenberg Regional

Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in New Brunswick, Tracey spent her early years living in Piscataway and had resided in Hunterdon County, as well as Madison, before moving to California. Tracey returned to New Jersey in late 2001.

Ms. Peardon had volunteered for the Veterans Administration Hospital in California and was a person who was more concerned about others than herself. In addition, she loved her family, music and bingo.

She is predeceased by her dad, Charles DeWolf and sister, Debbie Sabik.

Surviving is her mother, Marlene Caswell DeWolf; six sisters, Margaret White of Honesdale, Pa., Cyndi Adamczyk of Belvidere, Sharon Pellerano of North Plainfield, Denise Lamb of Lathrop, Calif., Cheryl Griffin of West Palm Beach, Fla. and Kathleen Sheedy of South Plainfield and two brothers, Bobby Peardon and Chuck DeWolf, both of Belvidere.

Also surviving are 22 nieces and nephews; 26 great nieces and nephews and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Norwood Care Center in Plainfield or Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center ICU Unit in Plainfield.

### Loretta "Lottie" Szwast, 63

Loretta "Lottie" Szwast died on Friday, Sept. 24 at Cedar Oaks Nursing Home in South Plainfield.

Born in Elizabeth, Loretta attended the Elizabeth schools. She had resided in Elizabeth before settling in South Plainfield in 1978.

She was employed with Sears Roebuck and Company in their corporate office in Elizabeth as a computer clerk for many years before her retirement in 1991.

Loretta is predeceased by three brothers, Frank, Edward and Alphonse Szwast, Sr.

She is survived by a brother, John Szwast of Ft. Myers, Fla.; four nieces, Carolann, Sharon, Gina and Mary; three nephews, Edward, Alphonse and Leon; three sister-in-laws, Eleanor, Stella and Sheila and eight great nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in her memory may be made to Alzheimer's Association, N.J. Chapter, 400 Morris Ave., Denville, NJ 07834.

### Anne Maurer (Signorello), 78

Anne Maurer (Signorello) died on Tuesday, Sept. 21 at her home in South Plainfield.

Born in Newark, she lived in Union and Iselin before moving to South Plainfield 33 years ago. A graduate of Westside High School, she also attended Middlesex County College. Anne worked as a supervisor for Macy's before her retirement. She is also a former employee of Western Electric and Lionel. She served as president and Life Member of the PTA, as well as Girl Scout leader.

Surviving are her husband, Herman of 48 years; a daughter, Cynthia Maurer Hart; a son, Wayne Maurer and a brother, Peter Signorello.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

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# IN YOUR OPINION

Continued from page 2

repared, the expanded PAL, a new skateboard park, improvements to the community pool, a new fire truck, a new ambulance, over 100 acres of open space preserved and the new senior recreation center. They now have plans for a brand new library to better serve our community.

This impressive list demonstrates that Dennis Cerami, Charlie Buttrico and Kathy Thomas understand that the primary obligation of our elected officials is to improve the quality of life for the residents of So. Plainfield. Vote for Dennis Cerami, Charlie Buttrico and Kathy Thomas on Election Day because they have earned it.

**CHRISTINE BUTEAS**

To the Editor,

I hope everyone in South Plainfield has noticed that the house next to Unity Bank of Plainfield Ave. has been demolished to make way for our new public library. I think the plan that the Mayor and Borough Council have for building a new library on Plainfield Ave. is excellent. I worked for our public library for many years and while I have many great memories and am very proud of the job that we did for our residents, it is time that we brought our library into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is simply not big enough to meet the future needs of our residents. A brand new library with 15,000 square feet of space is more than double the space of the current library. The new library will have expanded computer labs, additional space for children activities and a large meeting room for community programs. It will be a great benefit to our town, especially for all of our children. It is projects like these that will improve

South Plainfield for years to come.

Please support the candidates for Borough Council who are making the new library a reality—Kathy Thomas, Dennis Cerami and Charlie Buttrico.

**ELEANOR HAINES**

Dear Editor,

It was only a matter of time, but it has begun.

The South Plainfield Council Election 2004, where both political parties agreed to keep the tone civil and to the point, once again has the Republicans asking the Democrats to explain their actions and the Democrats accusing their rivals of negative campaigning.

The questioning of our elected officials is not negative campaigning. It is merely the right of every citizen to hold their governing body accountable for their actions. All this talk about negative campaigning is equal to a child saying "Stop picking on me!" It is time for the candidates from both parties to keep focused on the issues and stop worrying about the negative tone being conveyed by the op-

position. "It's politics, get used to it."

I would also like to state that this letter has not been written or pre-approved by any political organization. This is my opinion and an opinion that I believe is shared by many other residents in South Plainfield.

**SINCERELY,  
DAVID GUOTH**

Dear Editor,

I must comment on local Republican Chairman and council candidate Robert Jones' letter in last week's paper. It appears that Mr. Jones is either embarrassed by his own involvement in the failed policies of the prior Republican administration or he is attempting to rewrite history. Back in the spring, when Mr. Jones announced he was running for council, he bragged that he was a member of the Land Management Committee during the decade of the 1980's. I even forced myself to check the Republican website where the same boast is part of Mr. Jones' official candidate biography.

The 1980's were the time when the

Republicans first started using land sales to pay off their bloated budgets every year. At the same time, they borrowed almost \$20 million and raised taxes through the roof. In fact, during the last three years of Republican control, they sold over \$1 million of land every year and every one of those sales were recommended by the land management committee. It's bad enough the Republicans sold the land, but the taxpayers had nothing to show for it. No roads were repaved. Senior housing wasn't built and the borough infrastructure was ignored.

In his letter last week, Mr. Jones claimed he was just a kid going to school and didn't even know the Republican mayor. Well then, how did Mr. Jones get on the Land Management Committee that sold all that land? Why does he boast in his resume and political releases that he was a driving force in those land sales and now denies it was him? We Democrats are proud of our record. We don't need to rewrite history to try and convince the residents of South Plainfield to support us. The Republican Chairman and Council candidate should

just admit his role in the Republican establishment was a mistake. That would be a good start.

**SINCERELY,  
ROBERT CUSICK**

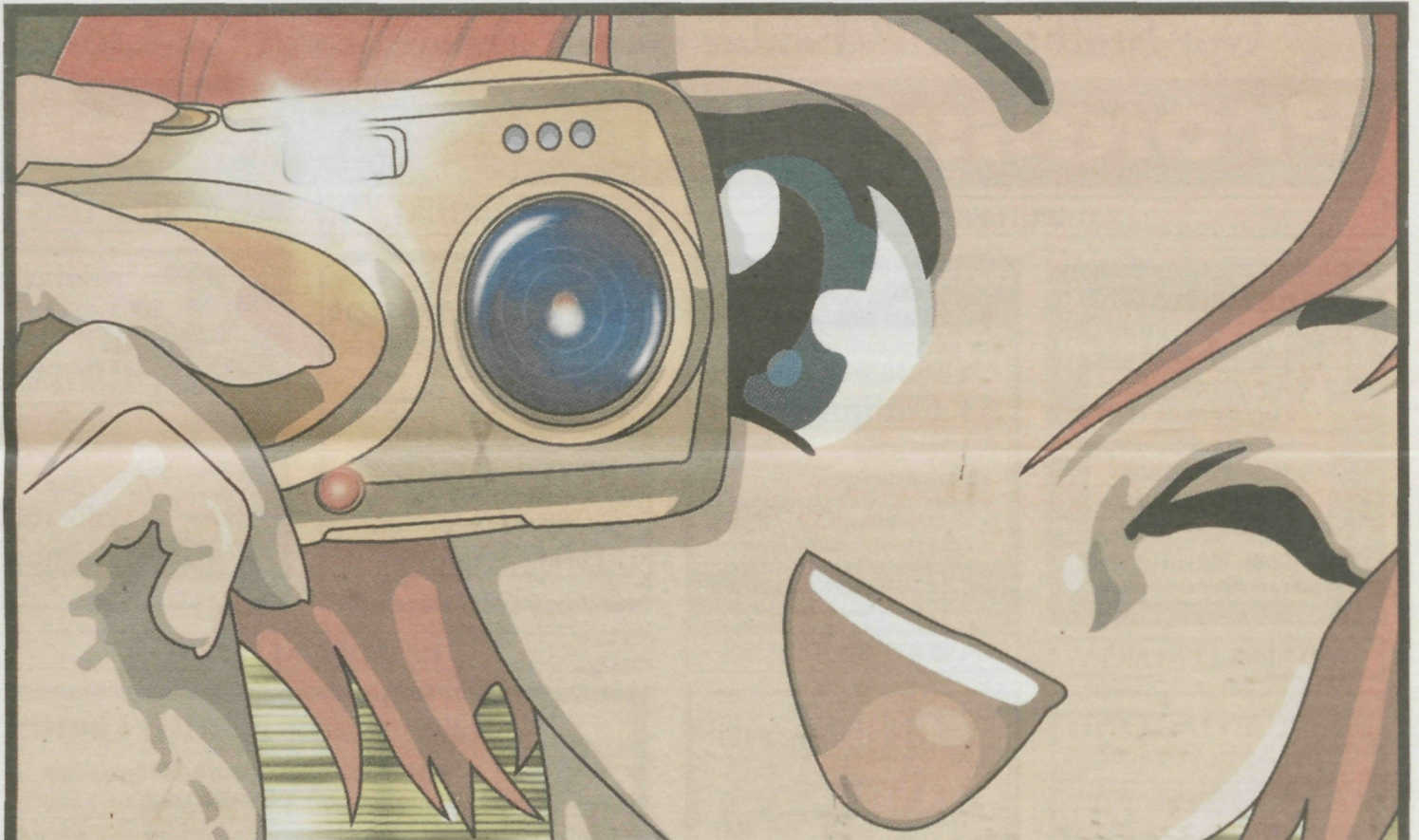
Dear Editor,

The Boyle Memorial Foundation would like to commend Christine Dispenziere, her family and team for the tremendous undertaking of walking with hundreds of women in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer to help someday eradicate this devastating disease from our children's lives.

The Boyle Memorial Foundation's contribution to Christine Dispenziere and her team, who needed to raise \$1,800 per participant, also commends Donna Burnham and Katie McConnell, rough survivors of this disease.

Christine, your dedication to your team and training by walking 30-50 miles a week just to complete your walk is truly an inspiration to all of us. Best wishes on your long, hard fight. God bless you all.

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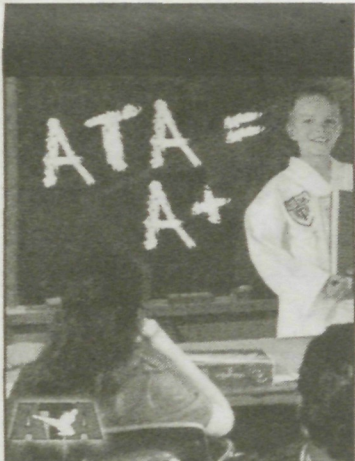
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