

# South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

OCTOBER 22, 2004



South Plainfield Firefighter Bobby Capparelli demonstrates fire equipment at Sacred Heart School as part of Fire Prevention Month. See page 9 for story and additional photos.

## Candidates' Debates Set For Monday

Six Borough Council candidates—three Democrats and three Republicans—will participate in Monday night's debate, which will be held at the senior center at 7:30 p.m.

On the local level, South Plainfield voters will choose between Republican candidates Marge Reedy and Ray Rusnick, and Democratic incumbents Dennis Cerami and Charles Butrico running for three-year terms, and Democrat Kathy Thomas and Republican Bob Jones, who are each running for a one-year term.

This debate, co-sponsored by the South Plainfield Business Association and the *Observer*, may be

**2004  
VOTE**

the only opportunity to hear the candidates speak on the same subject and in front of each other. Letters, signs and campaign literature only tell one side of the story. Don't miss this opportunity to see the candidates face each other and discuss the issues.

The rules for the debate have been set. The debate starts at 7:30 p.m. and will run about an hour and a half.

All candidates will open and end with a two-minute statement.

The public will be allowed to submit questions on index cards. Both parties will also submit five topics they would like to discuss. Audience

questions will get priority. Only issue oriented questions will be accepted and no personal attacks on any candidate will be allowed. Members of the Business Association will screen all questions before they are handed to the moderator.

Each party will alternate answering questions. Candidates will have two minutes to respond to a question and their opponent will be allowed a one minute rebuttal.

The event promises to be an informative evening for all residents. Please plan on coming out, ask a question and get both sides of the story directly from the candidates.

Need a ride or information? Call the *Observer* at (908) 668-0010.

## More Belt Tightening By School Board

Monday night's Board of Education meeting revealed several cost cutting measures by the board, but left unanswered questions about a \$750,000 liability owed to Sodexo.

According to BOE member Terry Alexa, the finance committee has instructed Shoor DePalma to halt all current projects, including the upgrading of school parking lots. In order to save on overtime pay, the grade schools will not be open on weekends unless groups are willing to pay the cost of overtime. Elementary schools will remain open on weeknights, and Sodexo will reschedule their employees' hours in order to save on overtime costs.

When the *Observer* asked for an explanation of the \$750,000 liability to Sodexo, which was mentioned in the finance committee report, we were told the board could not discuss any particulars since the matter was

in litigation.

Sodexo has been engaged on a month to month basis for the past few months, providing janitorial and maintenance services at the schools. School Superintendent Dr. Rosado did say that the board would be going out to bid shortly for janitorial services. Last month 11 Sodexo employees were laid off due to the board's budget problems.

The board did approve a food service contract with Sodexo for next year at Monday's meeting.

Meanwhile, former BOE member Frank Mikorski, who was asked by auditors from Hodulik & Morrison to make an appointment to respond to his many questions, has not been able to set up an appointment with them. Mikorski has questions regarding the company's last audit.

See next week's *Observer* for Board of Education meeting updates.



Middle School eighth graders pack boxes with baby items for the victims of the recent hurricanes. Pictured are Willfredo Rosado, Spencer Stubbs, Anthony Salerno, Jonathon Schurr, Nelson Soriano and Kunj Patel.

## Middle School Students Reach Out to Hurricane Victims

South Plainfield Middle School students in Barbara A. Pinelli-McDonough's U.S. History class are working together to be part of Make a Difference Day.

The students found out that because of the rash of storms that oc-

curred during the past few months, there is a real need for donations for disaster relief for the millions of victims.

The Middle School students have created their own project, collecting baby items and called it "Children Helping Children." With help and suggestions from the Tri-County Services of the Red Cross, they have collected diapers, bottles, toys, baby wipes, rattles, teething rings, pacifiers, receiving blankets, socks and baby food. All items are new and in their original packaging.

Approximately 40 to 50 students participated in the project, collecting baby items and donations. Last week after school, more than 20 boxes were packed for shipment to disaster areas for distribution. The students also enclosed personal notes and cards.

## Charlie Decker to Receive Cappy Award

South Plainfield will be honoring Charlie Decker on Saturday, Nov. 6 at a dinner at the Senior Center. Decker will be receiving the Cappy Award. The award is given to someone who has devoted countless hours to the community of South Plainfield, specifically its youth.

Charlie came to South

Plainfield 43 years ago. He and his wife Lois have three children, John, Charles Jr. and Ellen. Charlie served in the Pacific during World War II and played semi-pro fast pitch softball in Pennsylvania.



Charles Decker

He has been actively involved in the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club, South Plainfield High School sports, the South Plainfield Athletic Booster Club, South Plainfield Ponytail Softball League and the

South Plainfield Pop Warner Football League.

Charlie has been recognized for his commitment to the children of our town with the following awards: Life Member, Commissioner's Award—South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club; Life Member—South Plainfield

(Continued on page 8)



## HAUNTED WOODS TOUR OPENS FRIDAY!

The Almost Famous Players second annual Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour opens this weekend. Be among the first in town to see this Halloween spectacular. Join Professor Irena and Egor in old Transylvania, where danger lurks around each bend. Witness werewolves, vampires and a slew of zombies. Watch out for rats and bats and other creatures of the night. Witness the mad doctor as he prepares to perform yet another experiment on an innocent victim.

Watch for a bevy of beautiful thieves, a demented granny, rats, bats, a wailing entity from beyond the grave, and the most evil of them all, the Count! Bear in mind that the cast is ready for election season with an assortment of good-natured pokes at the world of politics. The 40-plus cast and crew members are anxiously awaiting the opportunity to make you laugh and scare you silly.

This weekend's shows are: Fri., Sat. and Sun., Oct. 22, 23 and 24,

6:30-10 p.m. Next weekend's shows are Thurs. and Fri., Oct. 28 and 29, 6:30-10 p.m. Tickets for adults are \$6 and kids accompanied by an adult are \$4. The Halloween show on Oct. 31 is by reservation only and runs from 5 until about 9:30 p.m. Adults are \$7 and kids accompanied by an adult are \$5. Reservations are strongly recommended for all shows, but not necessary. The performance is suggested for ages eight and up.

(Continued on page 8)



# Vote

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2  
*Your Vote Counts!*

## 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, November 8	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 (N.J.S.A. 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  
Nov. 2 and Dec. 7

### planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641  
Oct. 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. 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.—Nov. 9, Dec. 14,  
Jan. 11, 2005, Feb. 8, March 8 and April 5  
Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m.—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 plans sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.  
November 16 and December 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  
Nov. 2 and Dec. 7

### environmental commission

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

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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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### Submit Letters to the Editor:

This issue is the last opportunity for readers to submit political letters regarding the Nov. 2 election. Any political letters published in the Oct. 29 issue will be in response to previously published letters. Please note: negative letters will not be accepted for that issue. (If you have nothing nice to say, don't submit your letter.) Deadline for submission is Monday, 5 p.m.

### To the Editor,

On Tuesday, Oct. 12, our family suffered a devastating loss when our home on E. Fairview Avenue caught fire. Had it not been for the quick actions of several of our neighbors who noticed smoke coming from our house and immediately called 911, we might have lost everything.

The quick response by the South Plainfield Fire Department and Police Department, and the nature in which members of the fire department treated our belongings, overwhelmed us. Items which were not very expensive, but had extreme sentimental value to us, were treated with care and consideration. After the fire was out, members of the fire department held stuffed animals up to the windows so they could be "rescued" from further smoke and water damage.

Our children suffered the loss of their beloved pet, Bunny, but within one day of the fire, several members of the fire and police departments presented Felicia and Vincent with a brand new baby bunny they named Sparky. I can't tell you how much that helped to ease the pain of losing Bunny. It helped so much to take the focus away from what had been lost, and gave our children something to look forward to each day after school.

There are so many people to thank: Mayor Dan Gallagher for his presence at the scene; the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department for their compassion; the South Plainfield Police Department and Officer Wayne Diana, who offered us assistance in any way; neighbors who withdrew money from their bank accounts and handed it to my mother; the PTOs from Kennedy School, Grant School and the Middle School, who sent over monetary donations; the faculties from all those schools who took up a collection for us; neighbors and friends and other people we did not know who donated money, clothing and other items; neighbors and friends who took the bag loads of smoky, wet clothes we salvaged from the house and washed them; Sacred Heart Church, which brought storage bins and emotional support; neighbors who brought food so we wouldn't have to leave the scene; Julie from Commerce Bank, who set up an account to receive donations; the South Plainfield Observer for their story about the fire and information regarding where to send donations; and most importantly, our families, who have spent countless hours helping us sort through our belongings, who have given us emotional support and encouragement, and a place to live

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## IN YOUR OPINION

while we deal with this temporary setback.

Thank you all! We are truly overwhelmed by the compassionate response of everyone in our community!  
**DON AND SANDY MULHEARN**

### Dear Editor,

Last week the Democrats asked for something "positive" from their opponents. Apparently they've been asleep again and missed the last two months of this newspaper. By my count, Marge Reedy, Ray Rusnak and Bob Jones have set out a whole laundry list of things they want to accomplish if elected.

1. The Republicans want to extend Hollywood Avenue to get truck traffic away from Roosevelt School.

2. The Republicans want to enact ethics reform (i.e., no more no-bid contracts and no more dual office holding).

3. The Republicans want to open the compost area on Sundays.

4. The Republicans want to update the zoning ordinance to control runaway building.

5. The Republicans want to ensure adequate senior housing in locations that are right for our seniors.

6. The Republicans want to make the compactor hours more convenient.

7. The Republicans want to rebuild the public works department.

8. The Republicans want to eliminate secret meetings, like the ones the Democrats hold.

9. The Republicans want to stop selling borough-owned land to builders.

10. The Republicans want to be honest with voters and not feed them fairytales like "no tax increase" or "pay-as-you-go government."

I'm sure I missed some, but these are just the things I remember from Marge, Ray and Bob's letters and columns. But if we want to talk about "positive," let's see what I'm positive about with the Democrats:

1. I'm positive the Democrats raised the sewer tax 25 percent.

2. I'm positive the Democrats are selling borough-owned land to builders.

3. I'm positive the Democrats give no-bid contracts to their big-money campaign contributors. (In fact, they had a \$250-a-plate cocktail party last week where they got more money

from these people!)

4. I'm positive the Democrats are in bed with Jack Morris and will give him whatever he wants—like senior housing at Tingley Rubber.

5. I'm positive the Democrats have held secret closed-door meetings to discuss public business.

6. I'm positive the Democrats have given us traffic and runaway building.

7. I'm positive the Democrats gave cushy jobs and big raises to their cronies.

8. I'm positive the Democrats are stealing credit for projects paid for with our County tax money.

9. I'm positive the Democrats are not running a "pay-as-you-go" government.

10. I'm positive the Democrats put us in debt until 2012 after squandering the sewer surplus.

The Democrats wanted something positive, and now they have it. I'm positively not voting for them.

**GEOFF CHAMPION**

### Dear Editor,

As an outsider looking in and as a former employee of the South Plainfield Board of Education (I was one of the first to be laid off), I do not see how anyone could vote for Marge Reedy in this year's election for borough council. At one time, Marge boasted about her involvement with the Board of Education—I don't think "Board of Education" is in her vocabulary today.

With the Republicans having Marge Reedy and Dawn Jefferys (who resigned during the audit of the Board of Education and manages the Republican Party) as two of their key players, both former Board of Education members; who in their right mind could vote Republican this year? Look at the financial disaster of the South Plainfield Board of Education—do you want this to happen to your borough? With Marge on council and Dawn right behind her, it's a great possibility.

I see the Republican signs around town and cringe. If I were a resident of South Plainfield, I could never in good conscience support a former Board of Education member for borough council.

**SINCERELY,  
MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ**

(Continued on page 10)

## Slim and Tone

### 30 Minute Workout for Women

#### To our friends in South Plainfield,

Thank you for your business. Slim and Tone has had a great first year anniversary and I am anticipating a wonderful second year. The most successful members in our Slim and Tone club are those that understand that exercise must become a way of life. Unfortunately, we live in a sedentary society which makes it essential to exercise on a daily basis. We encourage each of our members to come in as often as possible.

The 2004 presidential candidates will have much to say about health care. I believe that the best health insurance plan is the one you rarely have to use. We all need health insurance but we have more control over our wellness than we realize. Our pledge at Slim and Tone is to "Exercise more, Eat right, and Celebrate life". Exercise determines our quality of life as we age.

**PS: Take charge of your life—your family will love you for it!**  
Rosemary Holt, Owner



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AND  
TONE

30-Minute Workout  
for Women

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(Between Home Depot & Durham Ave.)



## Red Cross Seeks Youth Members

The American Red Cross Tri-County Chapter is reorganizing its Youth Council. The American Red Cross Tri-County Youth Council is a governing body of high school students in grades nine through 12. These students help build relationships with other service organizations and share Red Cross information as a liaison for their respective high schools. Red Cross staff offer advice and direction and support to student driven projects. Student leaders become involved in their community and help coordinate volunteer opportunities through the Red Cross. Leadership training, peer to peer education programs and health and safety programs will also be sponsored through the Youth Council.

We hope to have representation on the council from high school students throughout our Middlesex, Somerset and Union County service areas.

Students may also be nominated for council positions by teachers, principals and other school staff.

For information, call Victor Webb, Jr. at (908) 756-6414 ext. 21 or email [webbv@usa.redcross.org](mailto:webbv@usa.redcross.org).

## Halloween Magic Show

The library will host a Halloween magic show for children on Wednesday, Oct. 27 at 6:30 p.m.

The program will include a performance by magician/ventriloquist Brian Eslick, which is geared for children up to age seven; children are free to come in costume. Admission is free. Pre-registration is requested, but not required.

For information, call the library at (908) 754-7885.

## Pumpkin Painting Program Saturday

The library will host a pumpkin painting program for children on Saturday, Oct. 23, at 10 a.m.

The program is for children of all ages. All materials will be provided by the Library. There is a materials charge of \$1 per person. Preregistration is required for this program.

Visit the Library's website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).



James Gustafson (left) and Richard McCriskin II (right) from McCriskin Funeral Home presented a 48" television to the Morris Ave. Tenant Association (MTA). Accepting were President Dominick DiNardo, Vice President Cricket Craig and Treasurer Marie Schoen. DiNardo suggested the purchase of the television when he was asked what the senior residence needed. The television has been placed in the residences big room for all to enjoy.

## Pilgrim Covenant Renews Cedarbrook Ave. Adoption

Myra Stillman, Chairwoman of the Deaconate Board of the Pilgrim Covenant Church, has signed a new contract with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association to readopt the Cedarbrook Avenue stream crossing. Pilgrim Covenant has completed one year in the Adopt-A-Spot program. The confirmation class of seventh and eighth graders works with adult church members to form a litter crew of fifteen to twenty people. Their monthly cleanups include picking up litter and trash, and raking debris out of the brush at the edge of the woods along Cedarbrook and up Morris Avenue to the edge of the Senior Residence property.

Pilgrim Covenant joined the Adopt-A-Spot program as a community service. They hope to set a good example and encourage other groups to join in to keep the Borough clean. The CBA is looking for more adopters, as many spots in town would benefit from regular maintenance. Hamilton Boulevard, Church Street, South Plainfield Avenue and Oak Tree Avenue are all subject to littering. Plainfield Avenue between the Middle School and the intersection with Sampton is another area in need of maintenance. Joe Diegnan, CBA President, believes that

if enough people commit to keeping short stretches of roadside clean, these efforts will add up to a better quality life in South Plainfield.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact the Clean Communities Coordinator at (908) 226-7621.

## Kids Halloween Flower Arranging

Georgeann DiGrazi of Mohn's Florist will be holding a special class for children to learn how to make an original Halloween arrangement. There is still time to sign up for the Saturday, Oct. 23 class.

Each child who participates in the class will be given a Halloween cup, which they can take home. They will be taught how to make a Halloween type arrangement with flowers and decorations.

Class size is limited. Cost for materials is \$10 per child. All children must be preregistered and prepaid and be over five years old.

You can register in person at Mohn's Flowers, located at 2325 Plainfield. If you have questions, call (908) 561-2808.

## Historial Society Will Host Annual Town History Day

The South Plainfield Historical Society will present their second annual Town History Day, celebrating the history and heritage of the community, on Sunday, Nov. 7 at the South Plainfield Senior Center.

The event kicks off at 1 p.m. with the presentation of colors, followed by a short program of singing and dancing by local high school and dance studio students. A Hungarian folk dance group will provide some exciting color and flavor to the opening festivities.

Afterwards, guests are invited to browse the Historical Society Collections, view special exhibits and listen to the presentations of guest speakers.

Framed and mounted displays in the exhibit hall will highlight the growth and development of the Borough and the people and circumstances that influenced it. The Reading Room will be the place to find scrapbooks, oral history transcriptions, photograph reference binders and many other books of interest. The Hall of Antique Fashions will illustrate the advancement of style and sewing techniques. The Civil War Room will be dedicated to memorabilia presented by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Custer Camp Number 17. Outdoors will be a display of antique cars. Several eight

and 16 mm films of "old" South Plainfield have been transferred to video and will be shown throughout the day.

Three guest speakers, all from South Plainfield, will do short presentations on appropriate subjects. Dr. Richard Veit of Monmouth University, author of *Images of America: South Plainfield*, as well as several archaeological works, presents a slid presentation on town history. Larry Randolph, chairman of the South Plainfield Environmental Commission and expert on local history, will give insight on the community's early local industry—specifically the grist mill on Spring Lake. Frank McGonigal, member of the Sons of Union Veterans, will address the five men from "New Brooklyn" who fought and died during the Civil War and enlistment practices.

Several local groups plan table displays, including the Suburban Woman's Club, the VFW, the South Plainfield Elks and the Friends of the Woods at Highland Woods Environmental Education Reserve.

Admission and refreshments are free. Plan to spend an enjoyable and informative day celebrating the life and times of South Plainfield. Questions can be emailed to [SPHistoricalSoc@cs.com](mailto:SPHistoricalSoc@cs.com).

## Election Day Transportation for Seniors, Residents with Disabilities

Middlesex County residents over the age of 60 and those with disabilities may receive free transportation to their polling places on Election Day.

Buses and vans from the County's Area Wide Transportation System (AWTS) will pick up residents at their homes and bring them to their polling places from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nov. 2.

"We recognize that many of our senior residents and those with disabili-

ties may not be able to get out to vote on their own," said Freeholder Jane Z. Brady, chairwoman of the county's Human Services Committee.

Those interested must register and reserve a spot by Oct. 22. Call (800) 221-3520, then option 1 and then menu option 2 to register.

Callers must provide the exact street address of the polling place and its zip code.

## Friends Plan Autumn Splendor Walk

Friends of the Woods invites community members to enjoy the fall foliage and late-season wildflowers at South Plainfield's nature reserve, Highland Woods. Walkers will meet at the Sylvania Place gate (off South Clinton Ave.) at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 23. The Borough's Environmental Specialist, Dr. Alice Temple, will lead the walk. After several

drought years, the Reserve has enjoyed a summer of adequate rainfall, and it is lush with plants and the animals that eat them (and the animals that eat the animals that eat them...)

FOW suggests comfortable walking shoes, hand lenses, cameras, or binoculars for bird watching.

For more information, call FOW at (908) 226-7621.

**Opportunity's Knocking.... Are you ready?**

**THE BIG EVENT**

The South Plainfield Observer November 19th issue will be mailed to every home in South Plainfield.

**Don't miss this opportunity!**

**RESERVE YOUR SPACE NOW  
908-668-0010**

The South Plainfield  
Business Association and the  
South Plainfield Observer  
cordially invite the public  
to attend the

**2004 Borough Council  
Candidates' Debate**

Monday, October 25, 7:30 p.m.

**Don't Miss this Event!** at the South Plainfield  
Senior Citizens Center  
Maple Avenue

Light refreshments will be served.

**2004  
VOTE**

**Your Vote Counts!**  
Get Out and Vote  
November 2, 2004



# Events

## SP Fire Dept. Bingo

October 22

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department will be honoring all its members by constructing a Firefighters Memorial. They will be holding a bingo to help support the construction of the memorial on Friday, Oct. 22 at 7:30 p.m. Food and drinks will be available. Prices are reduced from the last bingo and are as follows: \$1 (Packet 2 face); Extra packets- 4 face (\$2), 6 face (\$3); 50/50 Bingo games- 4 face \$1 a sheet.

The Bingo takes place at the Sacred Heart School on South Plainfield Ave.

## Sexual Harassment, Assault, Rape Seminar

October 22

Woman's S.H.A.R.P. (Sexual Harassment Assault Rape Protection) Seminar will be held at the South Plainfield Senior Center on Friday, Oct. 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. The mini-course will deal with the psychology of predators and victims, safety awareness and effective defensive skills. The course will be presented by the ATA Black Belt Academy. Speakers include the South Plainfield Police, Crime Prevention Officers, Gail Dougherty, LCSW of Domestic Violence Intervention Team and Master Tom Guerin (S.H.A.R.P. certified). Donation of \$20 goes to Women Aware, the South Plainfield Team. To register, contact the ATA Black Belt Academy at (908) 755-5440.

## Main Street Brass Quintet to Perform

October 24

The Mainstreet Brass Quintet will perform a concert at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, Oct. 24 at 3 p.m. Tickets are adults \$10, seniors \$8. To purchase tickets, call (908) 756-0632 ext 10.

## Cranberry Program at the Library

October 24

To learn more about the history of the cranberry, its importance and New Jersey's contribution to its cultivation, please join the South Plainfield Historical Society on Sunday, Oct. 24 at 2 p.m. at the South Plainfield Public Library when it hosts the program "The New Jersey Cranberry" as presented by Judith Krall-Russo. She will

## What's happening in OCTOBER

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

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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>ATTENTION: Flu Shots Have Been Cancelled</b> <b>Candidates Debate</b> <b>Monday, Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m.</b>				
<b>EVENTS</b> Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am <b>25</b> Yoga 10:30-11:30am Drawing Class 11:30am Council Candidates Debate 7:30pm	Bingo 10am-2pm <b>26</b> Ladies Social 10am	Exercise 8:30am <b>27</b> Line Dancing 10am Computer Classes 10, 11:30 AARP Crafts 1pm Speaker: Mayor and Councilman Petronko 1pm	Weekly Shopping <b>28</b> Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10-11am Computer Class 11 & 1pm Fall Concert at High School	Bingo 10am-2pm <b>29</b> Pizza lunch available Womens Self Defense Course 6-8pm
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

be sharing her vast knowledge of the cranberry, including Early American recipes and providing samples for her guests to nibble.

This program is free and open to the public. No pre-registering is required. The South Plainfield Public Library is located at 2484 Plainfield Ave., next to the Municipal Building. For more programming information, email [SPHistoricalSoc@cs.com](mailto:SPHistoricalSoc@cs.com).

## Marine Corps League Meeting

October 25

The J.J. Gardner Detachment of the Marine Corps League is saying "we want you." The League includes veterans of all wars—men, women, young and old—officers and privates. We all speak the same language. We're Marines.

The league meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 8 p.m. in the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Ave. Please join us at any of our meetings to see and meet our group, no obligations, just share an evening with us. If you have any questions, call Paul Conly, Adjutant, at (908) 755-2515 or Jack Billerman, (732) 356-7611.

## Troop 207 Car Wash

October 30

Boy Scout Troop 207 will be hold their Fall Car Wash Fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 30 at Sacred Heart Church, located on South Plainfield

Ave., during the hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church parking lot. The cost is \$5 per car. This fundraiser will benefit the scouts to help purchase needed supplies and sponsor upcoming scouting events. We welcome your support and hope to see you there.

Don't forget! Our upcoming All You Can Eat Chili Dinner is scheduled for March of 2005. Further details will follow. Troop 207 thanks you for your continued support.

## Knights of Columbus Halloween Party

October 30

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes will be having their annual Halloween party on Saturday, Oct. 30 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Church cafeteria.

There will be pizza, drinks and other treats for the kids. There is no charge for this event. They will be also having a best costume contest and games for the kids to play. Parents can also dress up in costumes.

## Longaberger Basket Bingo/Raffle

November 2

The Sacred Heart Home School Association is sponsoring a Longaberger® Basket Bingo/Raffle on Saturday, Nov. 20. Doors open at 6 p.m. and games begin at 7 p.m. Admission is \$20 (\$5 for admission and \$15 for Bingo sheets). Extra boards will 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, please call Kathy Thomas at (908) 755-0891 or Sacred Heart School at (908) 756-0632.

## Lord of the Dance Trip

November 4

The Senior Center is sponsoring a theatre trip to see the theatrical spectacle, Michael Flatley's *Lord of the Dance* on Thursday, Nov. 4. A mesmerizing blend of traditional and modern Celtic music and dance, features more than 40 performers and is played out on a grand scale with precision dancing, dramatic music and vibrant costumes. The cost is \$50 a person, including transportation. For reservations, please call the Senior Center at (908) 756-4135 or stop in.

## Senior Center EVENTS

## Elks Spaghetti Dinner

November 6

The South Plainfield Elks, located on New Market Ave. will be holding a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Nov. 6 from 4 to 9 p.m. Dinner includes spaghetti, meatballs, sausage, salad, garlic bread, cake, coffee and tea.

Cost is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and children ages five to 12 are \$5. Children under five are free. Tickets are available at the door.

## VFW Breakfast to Benefit Veterans Hospital

November 7

The VFW Post 155, located at 155 Front St., will be holding a breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 7 from 8 to 11 a.m.

The cost is \$5 per person and all proceeds will benefit the Lyons Veterans Hospital. For more information, please call (908) 668-9751

## Class of 1979 Reunion

November 13

A gala reunion is currently being organized for the South Plainfield High School Class of 1979 for Nov. 13. If you are a member of this class, please write to Reunions Unlimited, Inc., P.O. Box 150, Englishtown, NJ 07726 or call (732) 617-1000.

## VFW Country Western/50's Dance

November 13

The VFW Post 6763, located at 155 Front St., will be holding a Country Western/50's Dance on Saturday, Nov. 13 from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. There will be a cash bar and light refreshments. For more information, call (908) 668-9751.

## Send Us Your Around Town Events

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

## — Out of Town —

## Jane Doherty Tours at Proprietary House

October 22, 23, 29 & 30

The Proprietary House Association announced its third annual Colonial and Halloween Ghost Tours with renowned psychic Jane Doherty. Widely recognized and respected for her extraordinary skill and sensitivity, she has been featured on the FOX network news, CNN, *The Today Show*, *Sightings*, WB 11 and numerous publications, including *The New York Times*. She is the author of a new book, "Awakening the Mystic Gift," copies of which will be available for the first time. The Colonial tours will be given on Friday, Oct. 22 and Saturday, Oct. 23. The Halloween tours will be given on Friday, Oct. 29 and Saturday, Oct. 30 every hour on the hour between 5 and 9 p.m. There is a \$10 per person donation for adults and children over 12 years of age. Anyone attending in a Colonial Period costume or Halloween costume will receive a complementary cup of hot cider.

For directions call (732) 826-5527 or visit <http://www.proprietaryhouse.org/>.

## Girl Scouts Octoberfest

October 22-24

A weekend of fun and relaxation awaits you at Octoberfest 2004, sponsored by the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council, Oct. 22-24 at Camp Lou Henry Hoover in Middleville. Register for two days of fun, relaxation and refreshment in beautiful Sussex County.

The theme of the weekend "Where Women Can Be Girls" will offer a host of selections for workshops that are relaxing, rejuvenating and refreshing. Full weekend is \$50 and includes housing, four meals, snacks, four workshops and a patch. Saturday is \$30 and includes meals and workshops, plus \$10 if you want to stay the night. Workshop supplies are additional.

Contact the Camp Hoover director Deb Hooker at (908) 232-3236 ext. 1266 or Carol Chu at ext. 1212.

## True Love Waits Seminars

October 23

LIFENET is sponsoring a *True Love Waits* Adult Training Seminars on Saturday, Oct. 23 at the College of St. Elizabeth in Morristown. The program runs from 8:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The training prepares adults to present the *True Love Waits* program to teens in their home churches. True Love Waits encourages and equips middle and high school students to make a decision to chose sexual abstinence until marriage.

To register or for information, call Chris Flaherty at (973) 509-8123.

## CPR Rally Offered

October 23

The American Red Cross Tri-County Chapter will be offering an Adult CPR Rally on Saturday, Oct. 23 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Rally will be held at the Community Center at 250 Second St. in Elizabeth. Cost is \$15 per person and includes all materials and CPR certificate. The goal of the rally is to train over 100 people at a reasonable cost in the life-saving techniques of CPR, rescue breathing and how to help a person who is choking.

(Continued on next page)

## Mark Your Calendars!

## 2004 Borough Council Candidates' Debate

Monday, October 25, 7:30 p.m.  
Senior Citizens Center  
Maple Avenue

2004  
VOTE

Your Vote Counts!  
Get Out and Vote  
November 2, 2004

Light refreshments will be served.



# Around Town

(Continued from previous page)

Community members are asked to register in advance for this four-and-a-half hour course and upon successful completion, will receive a certificate in Adult CPR. Individuals may register by calling (908) 756-6414 ext. 10 or 27.

## Harvest of Poetry

October 24

The Edison Arts Society is proud to present our Harvest of Poetry, a free reception and reading celebrating the third issue of the Edison Literary Review on Sunday, Oct. 24 from 3-5 p.m. at the Sheraton Edison Hotel at Raritan Center. The Sheraton, located at 125 Raritan Center Parkway, provides refreshments for this event and a cash bar is available.

If you would like more information on the Harvest of Poetry or would like to purchase the third edition of the Edison Literary Review for \$5, please call the Edison Arts Society at (908) 753-2787.

## CHATS Adoption Support

October 25

CHATS (Connected Hearts Through Adoption Triad Support), will hold an adoption support on Monday, Oct. 25 from 7:15-9:15 p.m. at Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave., North Plainfield. Dr. Jane Aronson, known internationally as the Orphan Doctor, will speak on "Life in the Orphanage and How it Shapes the Lives of Orphans." Open sharing of adoption-related stories are welcome. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 for information, or visit their website at [www.chatsnj.com](http://www.chatsnj.com).

## Terra Nova Garden Club Oct. Meeting

October 27

The Terra Nova Garden Club will hold its October monthly meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 27 at 6:45 p.m. at the North Edison Library, 777 Grove Ave., Edison. We will have a speaker, Raul Rodriguez and he will give a presentation on "Creating Art by Carving Fruits and Vegetables." Come join us; new members are always welcome.

## Depression/Bipolar Alliance Meeting

October 27

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA Morristown Area) on Wednesday evening, Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m., will feature Ivan Goldberg, M.D., who is a noted psychopharmacologist with an active private practice in New York City. The mini-topic for his talk is "Anger and Irritability," followed by Dr. Goldberg's treasured "Ask the Doctor" program in which he answers questions about every aspect of mood disorders.

Visit the website of the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance/Morristown Area at <http://bsanewjersey.org/morristownarea> to learn more about the chapter and to view links to other sources of helpful information. For local information, call (973) 994-1143 or the New Jersey Self-Help Clearing House at (800) 367-6274.

## "That All May Worship" Interfaith Program

October 28

"That All May Worship," an interfaith program for clergy of all faiths, lay religious leaders, their families, individuals with disabilities and their families and provider agencies will be held on Thursday, Oct. 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Congregation Neve Shalom, 250 Grove St. in Metuchen.

The keynote speaker will be Ginny Thornburgh, Director of Religion and Disability Program of the National Organization on Disability (NOD), Washington, D.C.

The cost of admission is \$10 per person and includes a copy of "That All May Worship" guide. Scholarships are available. For more information, call Helene Lenci at (732) 777-1940 ext. 141. Full wheelchair access is provided at the conference site. A continental breakfast will be served.

## 2004 NJ Ski Council Jamboree

October 29

Mid Jersey Ski Club, Clark; Trailside SC, Clark and Jersey Ski & Sport, Newark; in conjunction with NJ Ski Council (NJSC) present the 2004 NJ Ski Council Jamboree, to be held on Friday, Oct. 29 from 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2 Harmon Plaza, Secaucus, (201) 348-6900. Free admission, free parking, cash bar, DJ music and door prizes are just some of the highlights of the night. This ski season kick off function features informative displays by local and national ski resorts, equipment vendors and information regarding joining a ski club in your local area.

This year will feature a Halloween theme, a costume contest, a Chinese Auction and Silent Auction, with the proceeds going to Jimmie Heuga Center for MS. For more details about the NJSC, visit our website at [www.NewJerseySkiCouncil.org](http://www.NewJerseySkiCouncil.org).

## Edison Arts Concert

October 30

The Edison Arts Society is proudly presenting the Ann Jillian Concert with the Edison Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. This concert will be held at the State Theatre in New Brunswick and all proceeds will benefit the Breast Center at JFK Medical Center in Edison. Underwriting opportunities are available for this event, call EAS at (908) 753-ARTS for more information.

Tickets for this concert cost \$150 for Gold Circle Seating, which includes a post-concert reception with Ms. Jillian, \$45, \$35 and \$25. Black tie is optional. Call the State Theatre now at (732) 246-7469 or toll free at 877-STATE11. Visit the Edison Symphony Orchestra website at [www.edisonsymphony.com](http://www.edisonsymphony.com) or the State Theatre website at [www.statetheatre.nj.org](http://www.statetheatre.nj.org) for more information on this event.

## Just4Pooches Howl-o-Ween Contest

October 30

Just4Pooches, the unique pet boutique in downtown Cranford, announced its first annual Halloween pet costume contest. The contest will be held on Saturday, Oct. 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the store located on North Union Ave.

Parents are encouraged to bring their pets to the store to show off their Halloween costumes and to mingle with other pet parents. All pets in costume will receive a Halloween goody bag filled with treats and will have their photo taken for the contest.

Winners will be announced in the store at 4:30 p.m. Saturday and on the company's web site at [just4pooches.com](http://just4pooches.com).

## Pro Wrestling Monster Mash

October 30

All roads lead to the historic Manville VFW Post 2290, New Jersey's largest VFW Hall, when national Wrestling Superstars bring their brand of family-themed pro wrestling extravaganzas to this Central Jersey based area.

Appearing on Oct. 30 will be former WWE superstar Justin Credible, who will take the place of the recently injured Gangrel in this Halloween "Monster Mash Showdown."

Tickets are available locally at Midtown Deli, 111 S. Main St., Manville; Krauszer's in Manville or the Body Shop Total Fitness in Hillsborough. You can also call (908) 722-3717. To charge tickets, call (732) 888-1704.

## "Halloween Hair Raiser"

October 30

Circle Players, the community theater of Piscataway, presents "Halloween Hair Raiser"-featuring four short plays of thrills and chills-one night only on Saturday, Oct. 30 at 8 p.m.

Featured that evening will be *The Tell Tale Heart* by Edgar Allan Poe, *The Seer on East 7th* by Gordon Wiener (Edison resident), *The Specter* by Don Nigro and *Cannibal Masque* by Ronald Ribman. Following the show, join the cast for a Halloween Party with free food and drink.

Pricing for this event is \$10. Any patrons showing up in costume will receive \$1 off the ticket price. Circle Players is located on 416 Victoria Ave., Piscataway. Reservations are now being accepted for this event by calling (732) 968-7555. Please note that this event is not recommended for young children.



Front row, from left seated: Timothy McGeehan, Linda McGeehan holding Nicholas McGeehan, Jennie Amaino and Christopher Scherer. Rosemarie Santacross, Edward Lopez sitting on Jeff Lackey's lap, Grayson Lackey and Martin Shaw. Standing from left: Harry Foulds, Joseph McGeehan holding his son, Joseph McGeehan, Rae McGeehan, Lisa Scherer, Charles Scherer, Carolyn McCann with Brian McCann, Randall McCann, Claudia Mandes, Michael Mandes and Oscar Mandes.

## Franklin Students Celebrate Grandparents' Day

The children in Mrs. Stemmie and Mrs. Furka's class, along with teaching intern, Miss Vail, recently honored their grandparents for Grandparents' Day. As a means of getting acquainted for the new school year, other family members were also invited. Miss Erickson, the principal and other Franklin School faculty members were also in attendance.

The parents and grandparents described school life when they were children. Some said that the classrooms looked very different and even had desks and chairs bolted to the floors. Others told of teachers hitting them on the hand with a ruler as a form of discipline. All agreed that today's technology is the biggest change they can see in our schools.

## Metuchen Edison Women's Club Meeting

Please join the Metuchen-Edison Women's Club, an organization dedicated to benefiting our community since 1961, for our monthly membership meeting. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 Oak Ave. (on the corner of Route 27) in Metuchen.

The Nov. meeting will include a Tastefully Simple Taste Testing by our club member, Cassie Dutka. This will be a great opportunity to taste some scrumptious food, get ideas for easy

to prepare meals and treats and do some holiday shopping. We will also discuss upcoming events, such as the Metuchen-Edison Holiday Charity Auction, which is being held on Nov. 19, with a preview at 6:30 p.m. and the auction at 7:30 p.m. to benefit Amandla's Crossing. Please come join us and see what our club is about.

For more information about the Metuchen-Edison Women's Club meetings and membership, please call Cassie Dutka at (732) 985-7583.

## Orson Wells War of the Worlds Recalled

The special program, "The Night that Shocked America," will be presented at South Plainfield Free Public Library on Friday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m.

Hosted by Henry Morse, "The Old Time Radio Man," the program will focus on the infamous "War of the Worlds" broadcast of Oct. 30, 1938, when Orson Welles' adaptation of H.G. Wells' novel caused widespread panic. In addition to a presentation of a recording of the broadcast, there will be a discussion of the events before and after the event. The program is being presented free of charge by the

Friends of South Plainfield Library.

South Plainfield Free Public Library is located in the South Plainfield Municipal Complex. For more information, please call the library at (908) 754-7885 or visit their website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

### From the Tax Collector's Office:

Residents are advised that the South Plainfield Tax Office has mailed out Added Assessment bills to residents who have made improvements to their homes. Payment is due no later than 11/30/04.

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

### SACRED HEART CHURCH

Our Celebration Will Feature A Concert  
By The Mainstreet Brass Quintet


The Mainstreet Brass has proven itself on the concert stage as a dedicated ambassador to brass music, original or transcribed. Their experience in the field of concert performance and music education makes this a very flexible form of chamber music, versatile in repertoire from Bach to Bernstein. This energetic, dynamic ensemble would be an asset to any chamber music ensemble format...

Jeffrey Cumow, associate principal trumpet,  
Philadelphia Orchestra. Formerly of Empire Brass

**Sunday, October 24, 2004 • 3:00 PM**  
**Sacred Heart Church**  
**149 S. Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield**

**Mainstreet**  
BRASS QUINTET

Adults \$10, Seniors/Students \$8. For tickets call 908.756.0632 x10



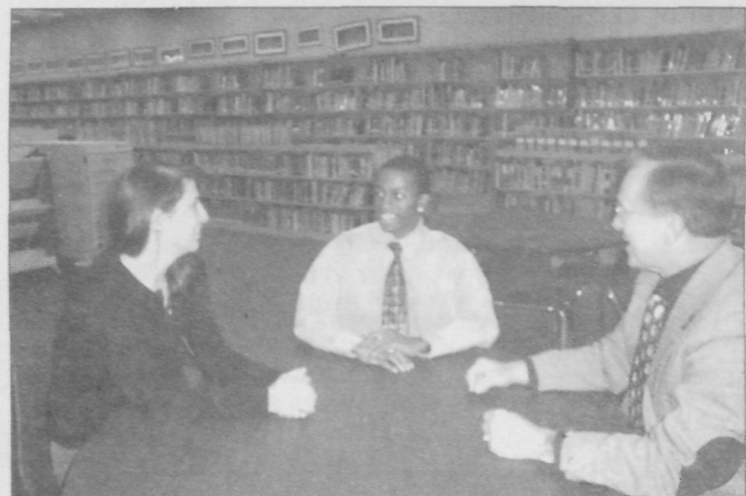
The Big One

Reach all the households in the borough in the Observer's November 19 issue. Call 908-668-0010 for details!



# southplainfieldpeople

## Milestones



Storm McDonald (center) with Assistant Principals Kelly Panuzzo (left) and Steve Novak.

### SPHS Senior Attends Leaders of Tomorrow Conference

Storm McDonald, a senior at South Plainfield High School, was one of 11 students selected from New Jersey to attend a five day Leaders of Tomorrow conference in Houston, Texas on Sept. 15.

The Leaders of Tomorrow (LOT) program is designed to increase the number of graduating high school students to pursue a college education or alternative training opportunities. The program is sponsored by the New Jersey chapter of the National Black MBA Asso. The conference holds professional development workshops, networking events, career fairs, award and recognition banquets and membership meetings. Each year the nations largest minority recruiting and networking event invites 140 students from 20 cities to participate in the events of the conference along with 11,000

business professionals.

During his stay in Houston, Storm was able to hear inspirational talks by black celebrities, motivational speakers and business professionals. He was even selected by the leader of the New Jersey chapter to help operate a booth at the career fair sponsored by Roche Pharmaceutical Co.

When asked about his experience Storm replied, "I think this conference was exciting, inspirational and educational, that not only select students should have the opportunity to partake in. From this conference I have learned the magnitude of honesty, the value of networking and the significance of self esteem and most importantly I have learned to never give up, and that no matter what your goals and dreams are, with the right amount of effort and hard work, they can be

### Jones Named Middlesex County Library Employee of the Year

Judi Jones, a 21-year employee of the South Plainfield Public Library, was named one of two "Library Employees of the Year" for Middlesex County at a ceremony on Oct. 4. Libraries of Middlesex, which has member libraries in all 25 towns in the county, presented the award at its 25th annual Library Awards Reception held at the Victorian Manner in Edison.

During the presentation, Library Director Sunnie Randolph complimented Jones for her outstanding work at the library and said how much she and the staff would miss her. Jones is retiring in November. Joining in the presentation was librarian Marcia Lubansky, who told the crowd how much she enjoyed working with Jones. Lubansky also commented on her knowledge of the library and her ability to tackle large projects.

Libraries of Middlesex selected Jones her "for her knowledge, skill and versatility; for her courteous and prompt customer service; for her meticulous attention to detail in her technical services work; and for her willingness to tackle new projects."

Jones resides on Florence Place with her husband Bob. She grew up in Plainfield and moved to South Plainfield in 1965. Before joining the staff at the library she volunteered her



Middlesex County Library Employee of the Year Judi Jones (far right) is joined by library employees (clockwise starting in front) Michelle Lavoie, Marcia Lubansky, Millie Condon, Linda Hansen, and sons Bob Jones and Stephen Jones. Not pictured are her husband Bob and family members Gregg and Christine Jones, Glenn Jones and Michelle Jones.

time at the Franklin School library and was the P.T.A. coordinator for the Library Committee. In that position she recruited and trained other parents to help out in the library and thereby free up the librarian to spend more time with students.

Selection for the award began when the South Plainfield Public Library nominated Jones several months ago. The nominations were then screened, and the screening committee selected two recipients. Libraries of Middlesex also presented several other awards,

including public official of the year, library trustee of the year, library corporate partner of the year, and outstanding friend of the library.

In addition to her award, Jones received a joint resolution from the New Jersey State Assembly and Senate congratulating her for her achievement. Joining her at the ceremony were several members of the Library Board of Trustees, including its president, several friends of the library, many of her co-employees, and her family.

### SPHS Graduate Awarded Presidential Freedom Scholarship

Jaclene Prongay has been awarded a \$500 Presidential Freedom Scholarship from the Corporation for National and Community Service and the South Plainfield Rescue Squad in acknowledgement of her outstanding commitment to public service. Jaclene

presently is a freshman at Raritan Valley College and is a member of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad.

The Presidential Freedom Scholarship is a national initiative that promotes the young people's leadership in community service. The Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees the Presidential Freedom Scholarship, provides recipients with a \$500 scholarship. Over 31,000 scholarships have been awarded since the program's inception.

"The Presidential Freedom Scholarships are designed to help communities recognize the outstanding service-related achievements of their young people, while encouraging others to get involved in service and volunteering," explained David Eisner, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. "Communi-

nity service is an integral part of what it means to be an American citizen and the Presidential Freedom Scholarship program is an excellent way to recognize young adults who are exercising their duty with distinction. We're proud to be able to offer these scholarships, which build community partnerships and make it easier for thousands to attend college."

The Corporation for National and Community Service provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities and country through three programs: Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America. Together with the USA Freedom Corps, the corporation is working to build a culture of citizenship service and responsibility in America. For information, visit [www.nationalservice.org](http://www.nationalservice.org).

### Local Teen Set to Explore Role in U.S. National Security

Kristy Glavasich was recently selected to participate in the National Youth Leadership Forum on Defense, Intelligence and Diplomacy (NYLF/DID) from Nov. 2-7 in Washington, D.C. Having demonstrated academic achievement and an interest in a career related to national security, Glavasich will join approximately 400 outstanding high school juniors and seniors from across the United States at the forum.

"Imagine being 16- or 17-years-old and the responsibility of securing the United States at home and abroad rests on your shoulders. Through specialized simulations, the National Youth Leadership Forum on Defense, Intelligence and Diplo-

macy strives to put students like Kristy Glavasich in the driver's seat of building a strategy that will uphold our national security," said Donna Snyder, executive director of NYLF. "The combination of interacting with professionals and with other students in this setting ensures that leaders are being developed so the future of our country will remain very bright."

The curriculum for the Forum on Defense, Intelligence and Diplomacy is based on actual world events, allowing participants to learn from the examples set by previous generations of leaders and encouraging them to develop a perspective and tenacity unique to upcoming generations of

leaders. Throughout the forum, students will examine how the US plans for peace and prepares for crisis. Students will meet with leaders from key agencies and institutions.

In the past, NYLF/DID has visited several government institutions and military installations, including the US Department of State, the US Marine Corps Combat Development Command at Quantico, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the US Naval Academy, a variety of embassies and many others.

NYLF is a nonprofit, educational organization committed to empowering young people to make well-informed career choices. For additional information, visit us at [www.nylf.org](http://www.nylf.org).

### 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SACRED HEART CHURCH

#### Our Celebration Will Feature A Concert By The Mainstreet Brass Quintet

The Mainstreet Brass has proven itself on the concert stage as a dedicated ambassador to brass music, original or transcribed. Their experience in the field of concert performance and music education makes this a very flexible form of chamber music, versatile in repertoire from Bach to Bernstein. This energetic, dynamic ensemble would be an asset to any chamber music ensemble format...

Jeffrey Cumow, associate principal trumpet,  
Philadelphia Orchestra. Formerly of Empire Brass

Sunday, October 24, 2004 • 3:00 PM  
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149 S. Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield



Adults \$10, Seniors/Students \$8. For tickets call 908.756.0632 x10



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## From the Republicans

## Reedy, Rusnak, Jones: South Plainfield, Not Politics, Must be Council's Priority



It's time to put South Plainfield before politics. That's the message Marge Reedy, Ray Rusnak and Bob Jones want voters to hear. The three candidates are committed to putting our town first if elected.

"Our opponents make politics and the Democratic Party, not South Plainfield, their priority," said Reedy. "We need to get back to putting the town first."

Jones offered an example: "If the Democrats were putting South Plainfield before their party, they wouldn't be giving no-bid contracts to their campaign contributors. Instead, they'd be getting competitive quotes and saving taxpayer money. Our plan is to get competitive quotes for these contracts if elected. Let's put the town first."

Rusnak said another example of putting politics before the town is senior housing. "Rather than putting senior housing on an abandoned industrial site where mega-contributor Jack Morris wants it," he said, "our opponents should be trying to put it where seniors want it, close to the services they need." "Unlike the Democrats," Jones explained, "we want senior housing where it benefits the seniors and our community. We won't put it where it only benefits Morris."

A third example is fiscal policy, according to Reedy. "If they put South Plainfield first, would they have squandered the sewer surplus when they knew we had a multi-million-dollar dispute with the sewer authority? Or would they have saved the money and avoided putting us into debt when the dispute settled? We want to bring back fiscal responsibility so the town benefits."

"Another problem is that our opponents don't know that South Plainfield's resources are not their personal resources to be used for the Democratic reelection campaign," said Jones. "The shenanigans never end. A good example is how they're spending taxpayer money to put up signs around town for projects that aren't even off the drawing board yet. For instance, we don't have any funding for a new library yet, but there's a huge sign up. Was the sign put up because South Plainfield needed it, or was it put up for political purposes? And if the latter, why were taxpayer funds used?"

"It's unconscionable how the Democrats use our tax dollars to fund their campaign," said Jones. "More examples of this are the new signs on the county-purchased open space. Charles Butrico had the gall to say at a council meeting that he was having the signs purchased because people have been requesting them. Come on Charlie-

let's be real. People are coming up to you and asking you to erect signs on open space?"

As taxpayers, every time you see those signs, you should think of Butrico and how he raised your taxes, in part, so he could pay for them, and in turn, help his political campaign.

According to Rusnak, what's going on is apparent. "Electioneering is part of everything the Democrats do," he said. "For example, last year when Robert Cusick was running for re-election he was supposedly in charge of plans for the new library. Now Kathy Thomas is in charge and Cusick's nowhere to be found. I guess we're not supposed to realize the change was made because Thomas is running this year."

"These things are not a coincidence. The Democrats are clearly playing politics in how they are running the town and they are using taxpayer money for electioneering," Jones said. "In fact, I was given a copy of an e-mail containing the Democrats' 2002 campaign plan. In it they talk about using borough resources as part of their election strategy."

He went on to give some examples. "Their 'campaign plan' included having borough contractors make special drawings of upcoming projects to go on display in Borough Hall. If the displays were part of a campaign plan, shouldn't the Democrats have paid for them? And why were campaign materials being displayed in Borough Hall? Even worse is how the campaign plan discusses whether open space should be purchased. Since when are open space determinations made as part of the Democratic campaign plan?" (To see a copy of the e-mail go to [www.spgop.com](http://www.spgop.com)).

Rusnak took things a step further: "It's amazing how they are mobilizing the borough's resources to get themselves reelected. One can only wonder what the 2004 Democratic campaign plan says. How much of our money are they spending so they can get reelected? We don't know, but however much it is, it's too much, and it should stop. I can guarantee that we have never and will never use taxpayer money for our political campaign."

In summing up her team's position, Marge Reedy said it best. "It's time to stop putting politics before our town. As candidates, we pledge to stop these practices if elected. Decisions should conform to a single standard; that is, will what we do be the best thing for the town? Whether it's good for our party is secondary and should not be part of the equation. This is how we will run things when we 'Take Back South Plainfield.'"

## From the Democrats

## Public Safety a Top Priority to Butrico, Cerami and Thomas



Council members Charlie Butrico, Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas this week reconfirmed their commitment to keeping public safety the number one priority in South Plainfield. Council Member Kathy Thomas articulated the Democrats' position saying, "The world will never be the same as it was before Sept. 11, 2001. Every level of government must be vigilant and prepared to protect the safety of its citizens. We in South Plainfield are blessed to have a police department, fire department, rescue squad and emergency management department of the highest caliber in the State of New Jersey. Your mayor and council believe that it is our duty to give these departments what they need to keep South Plainfield safe and secure. As the liaison to Public Safety, Council President Dennis Cerami keeps in regular contact with the chief of police, fire chief, captain of the rescue squad and emergency management coordinator to determine their needs. Dennis in turn informs the governing body and without exception we support their requests. The members of our public safety departments literally dedicate their lives to keep us all safe and we can do nothing less than to give them the support they need."

Council President Dennis Cerami expanded upon his running mates' comments, "I have been honored to serve as the council liaison to public safety for eight years. I can unequivocally say that the members of our police department, fire department, rescue squad and emergency management department are as dedicated as any in the entire country. We have

committed over \$2M towards purchasing the equipment these men and women need to carry out their jobs. These include two state-of-the-art ambulances, police vehicles with the best computers available, police communication system, two new fire vehicles including an incident command vehicle and, of course, the new hub of our emergency services located in the former senior center in the center of town. South Plainfield has one of the most respected public safety teams in the state. That is why we have been chosen as the only town to conduct an all inclusive drill from Dec. 2 through Dec. 5 which will test the efficiency and responsiveness of opening and staffing a mass prophylaxis clinic to dispense antibiotics to the community in the event of a biological exposure. Over 200 volunteers will be participating and over 50 agencies from throughout the state will attend to observe these exercises."

Council member Charlie Butrico summed up the Democrats' position concerning public safety. "South Plainfield has always been recognized as a safe town to live in and raise a family. There are new demands on our public safety departments as a result of the terrorist threat facing our country. Everyone knows that Mayor Gallagher and the Democratic team are committed to fiscal responsibility. However, we will always give our police, fire personnel, rescue squad members and emergency management workers what they need to keep South Plainfield safe and secure. With Dennis Cerami, Kathy Thomas and Charlie Butrico on the borough council, support for public safety will always be our top priority."

*When the votes are tallied... will you say you did everything you could to influence your local, county and national government?*

**2004  
VOTE**

**Get Out & VOTE ON NOVEMBER 2!**

## Board of Elections Alerts Newly Registered Voters to Bring ID to the Polls in November

Newly registered voters who mailed in a registration application on or after Jan. 1, 2003 and had not provided proof of identification, such as a driver's license number or the last four digits of your social security number, will be required to produce an ID at the polls in the Nov. 2 Presidential Election. According to the County Board of Elections, this is required as a result of the national and state requirements mandated by the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002. The requirements also apply to those who registered after moving to Middlesex County from another

county or state after Jan. 1, 2003.

Voters who cannot produce the documentation can still vote by provisional ballot, a paper ballot completed at the polling site. Provisional ballots for these voters are opened and counted only if the voter provides a valid form of identification to the County Board of Elections by the close of business on Thursday after the election. Each voter who uses a provisional ballot will be provided with an informational sheet at the polls explaining exactly what they need to do and where they can bring an ID.

Acceptable forms of ID include any

valid and current photo identification which has a photo and name or other document like a utility bill that has your name and address on it.

The Board of Elections sends notices explaining the requirement to all new voters who mailed in their application but had not provided ID, hoping to eliminate the need for them to produce an ID on Election Day. In addition, The State must verify the driver's license number or the four digits of the Social Security number that were submitted. If the verification was not completed in time for the printing of the poll books, the voter

will still be required to show ID. Of the approximately 400,000 registered voters in Middlesex County, it is estimated that about 30,000 voters may need to provide ID at the polls. Questions can be addressed to the County Board of Elections at (732) 745-3471 or to your local municipal clerk.

Acceptable forms of ID include any valid and current photo identification such as a photo driver's license, student or job ID, store membership, military, or government ID, store membership card, or any current document that has your name and address on it, including but not lim-

ited to: a bank statement, car registration, government check or document, non-photo driver's license, paycheck, rent receipt, sample ballot or utility bill.

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From the South Plainfield Library

# Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Well, you've still got another week to stock up on candy, put up the cobwebs and bats, and see if you can still pick up a costume that won't make you look too outlandish. So, you should be able to spare a moment for news from South Plainfield Library:

Don't forget about tonight's special program at 7 p.m., featuring Henry Morse, "The Old Time Radio Man". He'll be talking about Orson Welles' infamous "War of the Worlds" broadcast from 1938, as well as playing a recording of the original show. The program is being presented free of charge by the Friends of the Library, and everyone is welcome to attend. Visitors from Grovers Mill are especially welcome.

We have another special program set for Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. Culinary historian Judith Krall-Russo will talk about "The New Jersey Cranberry", its history and New Jersey's contribution to its cultivation. She'll also share cranberry recipes. The program is being presented by the South Plainfield Historical Society.

Turning to our children's programs, we'll host a pumpkin painting program tomorrow morning at 10:00. It's for children of all ages. There's a materials charge of \$1.00 and pre-registration is required. Meanwhile, we'll follow an abbreviated schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. For the absent-minded amongst you, they're held on Tuesday morning at 10:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. Those programs are for children ages three and over; each one lasts about an hour and includes stories and a craft activity. Our usual Wednesday Storytime will be replaced next week by a Halloween magic show, featuring magician/ventriloquist Brian Eslick at 6:30 p.m. This program is for children up to seven years old. Kids are free to come in costume; pre-registration is requested, but not required.

For kids under three, there's our Books-N-Babies program this morning and next Friday morning at 10:30. You don't have to register for the story programs. For more information, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda. Tuesday will be the last day of availability for this month's group of Circuit videos. This month's titles include "We Were Soldiers", "Rugrats in Paris", "21 Grams", "Almost Famous" and, on DVD, "The Italian Job". Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days. Meanwhile, we've added a new group from the Audiobook Circuit. Available titles include "The Cat Who Robbed a Bank" by Lillian Jackson Braun, "Leap of Faith" by Danielle Steel, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" by J.K. Rowling, "Our Man in Havana" by Graham Greene, and, on CD, "The Dangerous Hour" by Marcia Muller. Audiobooks may be borrowed, four at a time, for two

weeks.

This is a pretty good time to once again clear up a common misconception. On the applications for juvenile Library cards, there's a question regarding "Audio/Visual Permission". What we're asking in that spot is whether or not a parent/guardian wants to give their kids permission to borrow A/V items *on their (the kids') own, without an adult being present*. We ask this because we believe parents are the best authority on deciding what kids should or shouldn't borrow, and we know some patrons prefer to keep a tighter rein on what their children check out. Since our A/V collection includes items (like R-rated movies) that may be considered inappropriate for youngsters, we give parents this option. If permission is not granted, children may still borrow A/V items, provided they're being accompanied by an adult. Also, parents may grant or revoke this permission whenever they wish. We hope this clears up the situation for you.

That's about all for now. We'll have more news next week.

# HAUNTED WOODS TOUR OPENS FRIDAY!

(Continued from page 1)

If you know your child scares easily, this show is not for them. There will be no refunds after the tour has begun.

Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan is among those who attended the 2003 Haunted Tour, and said, "I had a terrific time last year and you can count on me being frightened again this year. Based on last year's presentation, The Almost Famous Players won't remain that way for long. The Halloween show was first class. Everyone involved should be congratulated. It once again shows the talent, dedication and community spirit of South Plainfield."

Celebrate Halloween with us and come in costume. Refreshments will be sold. There will be games, face painting and more for the younger set. Call (908) 756-8011 for advance tickets/info. Reservations are required for groups of six or more. Pay in advance, and every sixth ticket is free. Putnam Park is located on Oak Tree Ave. across from the former Bradlees. Proceeds will benefit the South Plainfield Fire Department and Rescue Squad.

The group is still in dire need of adult volunteers and vendors. Please call the number above for more information.



## Charlie Decker to Receive Cappie Award

(Continued from page 1)

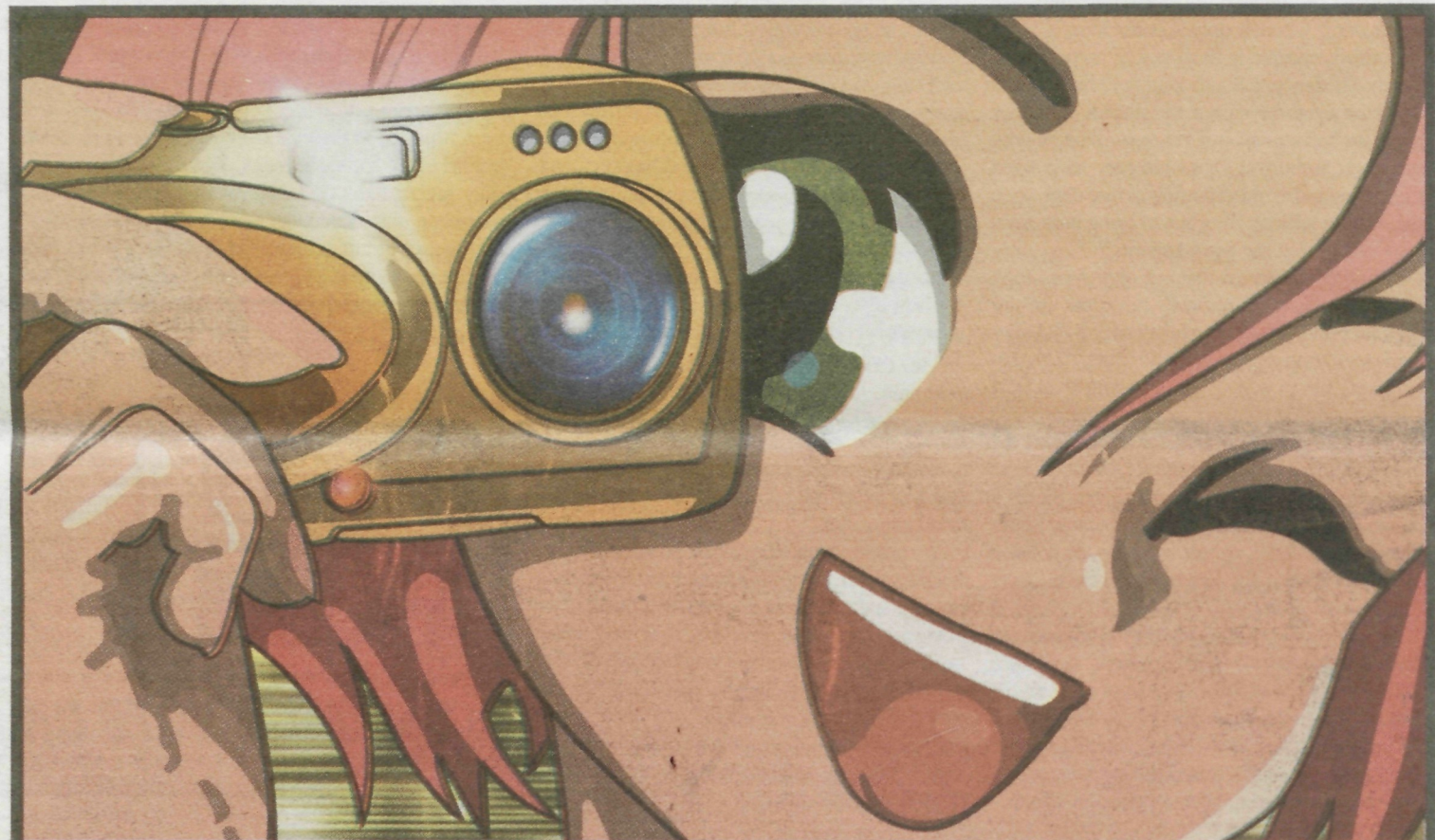
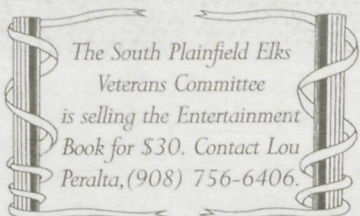
Athletic Booster Club; Honorary Grand Marshal of the 2000 Labor Day Parade and Lifetime Member—South Plainfield Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The South Plainfield Recreation Department and the Police Athletic League want thank Charles Decker for his devotion, his dedication and his commitment to the children of our town and they do so by awarding him the annual "Cappy Award."

They will be honoring Charlie Decker on Saturday, Nov. 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Tickets can

be purchased at the PAL Recreation Complex for \$10 a person.

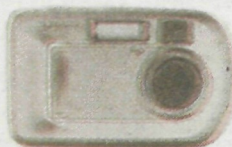
Charles Decker, Sr., is a familiar face to every athlete who has played baseball, softball, football and/or basketball in South Plainfield at any level for the past 35 years. Charlie has volunteered his time to show the children of our town what it means to be a good sport and a better athlete. He always wears a smile, which is infectious; he always has a word of kindness for those who need it and always helps without being asked to. Charlie is someone who everyone wants to be.



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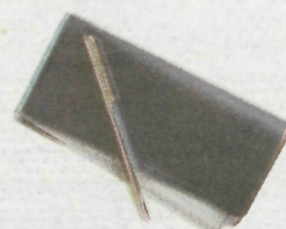
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## Fire Department Open House Highlights Fire Prevention Month

### *Ceremony Honoring Fallen Firefighters and Visits to Local Schools Headline Activities*

The South Plainfield Fire Department culminated Fire Prevention Week last Saturday with their annual open house, as they have for more than 40 years.

The day began at 10 a.m. with Rev. Charles Mingle, Fire Department Chaplain, delivering a prayer and a blessing of the new Rescue 1 firetruck dedicated to the memory of fallen firefighters. A wreath was placed in front of the fire department in commemoration of local fallen heroes. The ceremony was attended by Mayor Dan Gallagher, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, councilmembers and Police Captain John Ferraro.

Noontime was the official start of the open house. Fire trucks and equipment were on display for adults and children to climb into and fire personnel were available to answer questions. There was a 50/50 raffle, free balloons, frisbees, water bottles and trick or treat bags. Kids were able to dress up in firefighter gear and play with large puzzles. Sparky was on hand to meet and greet everyone. Hot dogs and hamburgers were grilled up by Fire Inspector Eddie LaFerrera, along with freshly made popcorn and soda; all for a donation.

The Middlesex County Fire Safety trailer made an appearance later in the day. Inside

the trailer was a model kitchen where fireman explain to children the hazards that may be found there and how to prevent fires. A room was filled with fake smoke and the youth were shown the proper way to escape a fire through a window with a ladder. A fire ignited in a contained part of the trailer demonstrated how fast a fire can burn and spread.

Throughout this month, Fire Prevention Month, the fire department will visit local elementary and pre-schools to give children hands on fire prevention lessons and tours of the equipment.





## Blessing of the Animals At Wesley Methodist Church



Rev. Thompson, Laura Boyce, Malina Mohtadi, Andrei Ciuparu and Bootsie

A Blessing of the Animals was held on Sunday, Oct. 3, at Wesley United Methodist Church on Plainfield Ave. Proud owners

brought their pets to be blessed by the Reverend Nehemiah Thompson, pastor of the church. There were 20 animals blessed including cats, dogs

and one rabbit.

Representatives from St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center of North Branch were on hand to answer any questions about adoptions, animal care, foster care, dog training and volunteer programs.

It was a beautiful day, the animals were all on their best behavior, as were their owners. This is the first time that Wesley United Methodist Church has done this and they hope to make it an annual event.

—Submitted by Patricia Boyce



Rev. Thompson with his daughter Nisha and Paco

## County Expands After-School Programs for Middle School Students

Following its successful debut last year in two school districts, Middlesex County has expanded its after-school care program for middle school students to include five sites this year.

The Board of Chosen Freeholders will sponsor programs at South Plainfield Middle School, Memorial Middle School in Spotswood, Linwood Middle School in North Brunswick, Highland Park High School/Middle School and the County Vocational-Technical School in Piscataway. The total allocation is \$56,000.

"We need to keep our children safe," said Freeholder Jane Z. Brady, chairwoman of the county's Human Services committee, which oversees the program. "Most programs are held for children younger than fifth grade. It's still very important to have activities for older children, who otherwise may be home alone while their parents work."

Fifth through seventh graders will take part in the program, which offers arts and crafts, open recreation, skills classes and homework and tutoring sessions at their local schools.

The curriculum in North Brunswick also includes drug and alcohol prevention education. The Municipal Alliance Fund for Middlesex County allocated \$6,000 for this program.

For the first time, the Piscataway campus of the county's Vocational-Technical High School is welcoming middle school students from Highland Park, South Plainfield and New Brunswick to its building to attend Career Explorations. This program introduces the students to trades, such as auto mechanics, automated office technology, baking, culinary arts, hotel/motel services, landscaping, horticulture, building trades, carpentry, sales occupations and supermarket careers.

Last year, the county, through the Division of Children's Services within the Human Service Department, allocated \$25,000 for each of the middle school after-school programs in Highland Park and South Plainfield.

"We hope to go even further next year," Brady said. "It's a program that works for the children, the parents and our residents at large."

## IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

Dear Editor,

What planet are the Democratic council candidates living on? Each week they ignore the issues that define this election. They still haven't talked about the sewer-tax hike, nor have they talked about senior housing on Jack Morris's Tingley Rubber site. They've also closed their eyes to the ethical lapses of their administration. Well, if they won't comment on these things, I will.

First, my taxes went up this year, and it drives me crazy to see signs around town saying they didn't. The sewer tax, which is set by the mayor and council, went up 25 percent.

Second, the sewer fiasco that was described in last week's paper is unbelievable. How dare Democrats Cerami, Butrico and Thomas put us in debt until 2012 to pay off bills incurred from 1996 to 2003. We're now indebted for \$1.6 million until 2012 because of their recklessness and mis-

management.

Third, why in the world would they want to let over 400 housing units go up on the Tingley Rubber site? The seniors voted, and they don't want housing on an industrial tract by truck terminals, train tracks, and Route 287.

As the *Star Ledger* noted, the site is also near the pipeline that exploded in 1992 decimating part of Durham Woods. And traffic there is atrocious already. Is that the right place to put over 800 seniors?

Finally, doesn't our town have any ethical rules? The Democrats are giving huge no-bid contracts to campaign contributors. Democratic councilmen and members of their families are taking jobs working for the town, the county and the state, even though they campaigned against these types of abuses, and the mayor was just hired by the Turnpike Commission so he could bulk up his pension.

It gets worse. Big raises and new job titles are going to Democratic cro-

To the South Plainfield Fire and Police Department,

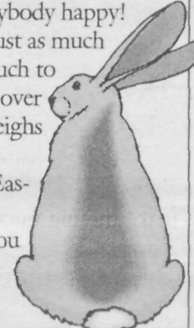
Thank you so much for the new bunny! She is so cute! School goes much faster knowing we will be coming home to Sparky! She is such a sweetheart. Everybody loves her. She's a shining star, she makes everybody happy!

Since the fire, she has been making everybody shine just as much as she does. The other day we bought her a couch, a pouch to carry her in, food, snacks and tons of toys. I can't get over how small she is. We took her to the vet and she only weighs a half a pound and she is completely healthy.

I will keep updating you with pictures (Christmas, Easter, etc.).

You guys were right! Sparky did help us all. Thank you so much, you have no clue how happy you've made us!

SINCERELY, FELICIA AND VINCENT MULHEARN



EUGENE W. KATHRYNIAK

Dear Editor,

'Tis the silly season, but it is our privilege to get out and vote for those that we think can best serve the people and carve a future for our town. I will be showing my support to Bob Jones, Marge Reedy and Ray Rusnak.

Bob is an experienced lawyer and has experience in zoning and planning. He will add his vast knowledge of the law and be an excellent and diligent councilperson.

Marge has been involved with the town for more years than most of us are aware of. She works endlessly for the youth of our town. She has put in countless hours on the Board of Education and is one of the driving forces with the Education Foundation.

Ray is a financial specialist and in today's day and age we definitely need someone who can keep the checks in balance. Ray is our man. Please take the time and join me on Nov. 2 to take

back South Plainfield and elect Jones, Reedy and Rusnak to council!

RENEE CALAVETTA

Dear Editor,

On Election Day, I will be voting for Dennis Cerami, Kathy Thomas and Charlie Butrico for South Plainfield Borough Council. Their financial policies have kept our tax rate as one of the lowest in Middlesex County (no municipal tax increase in five of the last seven years) and have dramatically cut the Borough's debt.

Even with this tight financial policy, they have been able to make some quality improvements to South Plainfield, such as the preservation of 100 acres of open space, the improvements to Putnam Park, the skateboard park, the Senior Recreation Center, the senior housing on Morris Ave. and improvements to the Community Pool. These improvements have made South Plainfield better for every resident.

Their plans for the future include reconstruction of Hamilton Blvd., a new curbside collection program and a new library for our kids. Dennis Cerami, Kathy Thomas and Charlie Butrico are working hard to make South Plainfield better and they should be reelected to the Borough Council.

JENNIE DALY

Dear Editor,

I'm glad to see that Bob Jones is running for office in town, and I hope that he becomes one of our council members. He and his three brothers

Continued on next page

The South Plainfield  
Business Association and the  
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cordially invite the public  
to attend the

2004 Borough Council  
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Monday, October 25, 7:30 p.m.  
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2004  
**VOTE**

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November 2, 2004

To the Editor.

I want to thank the Mayor and Council for the new bulk pick-up program. The new program is so simple that it's brilliant—two bulk pick-ups each year, just like the leaf pick-up program. The schedule for each neighborhood is known weeks in advance, so that you have plenty of time to clean out your garage, attic and basement.

The old system did not work well because it would take weeks or months to get a scheduled pick-up when you called Public Works. Sometimes, people would have junk sitting by the curb for weeks because the pick-up would occur weeks after you cleaned up the house. This new program is just the type of creativity that our elected leaders need in order to allow our borough government to provide top rate services to the residents. In this difficult economy, we need elected leaders who have new ideas on how to spend our tax dollars wisely in order to provide needed services to South Plainfield's residents.

That's why I'll be voting on Election Day for Charlie Butrico, Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas for the Borough Council.

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## Soccer Club Annual Picnic—A Feast for Families, a Celebration of Volunteers



On Sept. 19, the South Plainfield Soccer Club held their annual family picnic at Veterans Park. It was a glorious fall day. The day began with grills fired up and volunteers Tom Lanza, Tom Hardy, Anthony Pompilio, Jackie

Vill and Paul Baldassarre became chefs for a day. Families feasted on sausage and peppers, crab cakes, BBQ chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs and plenty of side dishes, snacks and desserts.

The opening ceremonies included



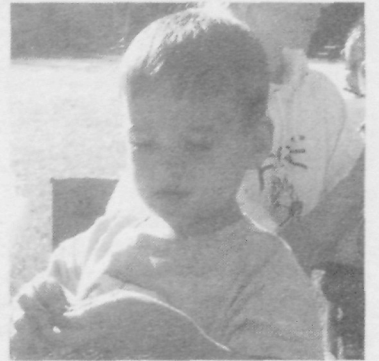
President Al Vill thanking Past President Pete Kelly for all his years of hard work, support, positive attitude and dedication for the kids. He was presented with a plaque of appreciation. Al also made a special dedication to the Boyle family and Roma Foods in appreciation for all their support and generosity they have shown the soccer club over the years.

The day was full of activities. Picnic goers of all ages participated in the



three-legged races, the sack races and limbo contests. There was a lot of excitement during the water balloon toss and scavenger hunt. Jenifer Baldassarre lent her talents to face painting and the line was continuous throughout the day.

Fun was had by all who attended and the day could not have been made possible without the help of all the numerous volunteers. It was a great way to kick off our season.



## IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from previous page)

are products of the South Plainfield schools, which in my mind is a plus. Growing up in town and going through our school system gives someone a unique perspective.

In addition, I think he'll be the type of hard-working person who can get things done. It impressed me to see that he went through law school at night while working full time. He's obviously a hard worker.

I also saw on his bio that he volunteered for the Ronald McDonald House. Anytime someone has a commitment like that to children with cancer, it's commendable.

I wish Bob the best of luck in the election. We need someone like him.

**KATHY OLPINSKI**

Dear Editor,

I think the idea of a new library is great. The present library has served the town for almost 40 years, but it's just too small when you think about the population of South Plainfield and the need for any modern library to have plenty of computers available for research purposes. A new library will be a great place for students to do reports and research papers. It will have a large children's area, dedicated study rooms for group study, a large meeting room and a computer lab and training room. The new library will be a centerpiece in South Plainfield for many years to come.

Councilperson Kathy Thomas has been leading the charge to get the new library built. She has helped move this project from idea to reality by spearheading the purchase of property on Plainfield Ave. that will be the site of the library and working with the library board on the proposed design of the new building.

On Election Day, please vote for Kathy Thomas, Dennis Cerami and Charlie Butrico for Borough Council. They are doing a great job and deserve reelection.

**LINDA PASKO**

Dear Editor,

For the past six years, we have to look at the same old signs in town, "No New Taxes." Who is kidding who? I think that everyone will agree that our tax bill is higher every year, including the sewer tax.

I have heard it said that it isn't the municipal tax that increases, but the school tax. This may be so, but the reason for the increase in school tax is the increase in enrollment due to the building boom that has been going on

over the years. More and more condos and apartments, plus more homes on smaller lots make it necessary to build schools and increase the number of employees, including a top heavy administration department. This increase in building must have had the approval of the Council and evidently the increase in tax revenue isn't enough to offset the cost.

If we must have all this new housing, why isn't the contractors who make the big bucks from doing the building also be responsible to provide assistance with the extra facilities needed?

One last comment: We are constantly reminded of the great job being done by the administration by paving our streets. Please, save some of the left over Macadam to, at least, fix the pot holes going into the landfill. That road has been a mess for years. Thank you.

**TED KELLER**

Dear Editor,

In early January this year, I first became aware of the Edgewood Properties proposal for the Senior Community Housing on the Tingley Rubber property. On a wall in the Senior Citizen Center was posted an architect's drawing showing what was planned for the site. The drawing showed 11 four-story buildings with 56-units per building, for a total of 616 units. Tingley had purchased 16 acres from the borough in the early 1960's. On inquiring, I learned that they had purchased additional acreage, bringing their size to approximately 27 acres. I felt 616 units on 27 acres was pretty dense coverage.

Later in January, at a meeting of the mayor and council, a proposal was presented by Senator Robert Smith, attorney representing Edgewood, stating that the project for senior housing addressed the needs of our borough. Also at this meeting, the total number of units was set at 484—11 buildings—44 dwellings per unit. Because this is an industrial zone, the applicant was informed that they had to acquire a recommendation to rezone to residential from the South Plainfield Planning Board before any action could be taken by the Mayor and Council. In early April, the Planning Board heard and voted for a proposal to amend the zoning ordinance so this industrial site be rezoned residential and used for "age-restricted housing."

In early June, after necessary hearings and advertisements, this action became official and the recommendation


probably sent to the mayor and council, who could have taken action at that time. For some reason nothing has been done with this matter. Whatever the reason is, four months have passed with no action, while at the site some activity is observed, including repaving a portion of South Ave. in front of the property.

I feel that the South Plainfield Planning Board has performed a gross injustice on the taxpayers of our borough by their action. Other industrial sites in the borough, many of which are more suitable for residential use than this one, could be rezoned using this case as a precedent. Although we have not seen any plans, from information that is available, it appears that the 27 acres will not all be utilized for building. A portion of this property will be dedicated to "green acres" or open space. From what a person could judge from the information presented, only two-thirds of the total area is suitable for building, or approximately 18 acres. That would give you 484 units on 18 acres, or about 26 units per acre. This coverage is unheard of in suburban housing and reminds one of the tenement housing or walk-up flats popular in big cities about 100 years ago. If this coverage would be allowed on the industrial land still available, then we could have not hundreds, but thousands of dwellings in South Plainfield.

There are many reasons why this proposal should not be allowed. As mentioned, the zoning is wrong, location and surrounding area is best suited for industry. Safety is also an important concern. This project will add a huge amount of traffic to already heavily traveled roads. The roads in the immediate area are few and in poor condition. Four-story buildings without elevators certainly are not meant for seniors. This proposal in itself would create a tremendous burden on the services of our borough. Schools, sewer, police and fire would become so overloaded that increased taxes could not possibly maintain our present mode of suburban living.

I have suggested to some borough officials that our building codes be amended to require more effective firewalls between units in multiple family dwellings. Also, sprinkler systems should be required in these buildings. These suggestions are not a burden on the builder as the costs are passed on to the buyer who gets the added protection.

The bottom line and the most important factor in this issue is that there



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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

is no need for a project of this type or size. I don't believe that there are many, if any, local seniors who would be interested in buying into a development such as this. There is a need for some honest senior housing in South Plainfield, but this proposal is not the answer.

The handling of this issue is typical of the single-minded approach that our borough officials take in the conduct of borough business. They all seem to follow along a single path with no input from the other side of the issue and allow only a minimum amount of information to be given out to the public.

I think it is time to end single-party rule and elect others to office so that healthy informative discussions could be had on all issues.

**ANTHONY MONDORO**

Dear Editor,

Everyone should support Dennis Cerami, Charlie Butrico and Kathy Thomas for Borough Council on Election Day. They have done a great job without increasing the municipal tax rate.

Under the leadership of Dennis Cerami, South Plainfield now has 100 acres of open space preserved. Under the leadership of Charlie Butrico, Hamilton Blvd. will be reconstructed and traffic will be dramatically improved with the completion of the Helen St. extension. Under the leadership of Kathy Thomas, we will have a beautiful new library on Plainfield Ave. All of these improvements are amazing when you consider that the borough has a very conservative financial policy as can be seen with another year with no municipal tax increase.

On Election Day, please support the candidates who are true leaders with accomplishments in the past and a vision for the future—Dennis Cerami, Charlie Butrico and Kathy Thomas.

**THOMAS MUSOLINO**

Dear Editor,

The Democratic team of Kathy Thomas, Dennis Cerami and Charlie Butrico have many exciting and appealing ideas for the future of South Plainfield. This is what we should be looking for in our elected leaders. We don't need whiners. We need people

of ideas and action.

The plans of the Thomas-Cerami-Butrico team include improving traffic by completing the Helen St. extension, reconstruction of Hamilton Blvd., a curb restoration program along Maple Ave. and a beautiful new library. These are proposals that will make South Plainfield even better.

Let's elect the team that has great ideas for the future and has a great track record of accomplishment. It's the only logical choice. Elect Kathy Thomas, Dennis Cerami and Charlie Butrico to the Borough Council on Election Day.

**WILLIAM STANKAN**

Dear Editor,

I am supporting Dennis Cerami, Charlie Butrico and Kathy Thomas for Borough Council on Election Day. As members of the Borough Council, they have done a wonderful job enhancing the recreation facilities in South Plainfield for our children and grandchildren.

First, the PAL building was doubled in size, including a new weight room and wrestling room. Then the Community Pool was improved, including a much needed liner. Then Putnam Park was expanded, including a new jogging trail. Then the roller hockey rink and skateboard park was built behind Borough Hall. Then lights were installed at the Ponytail Softball fields, the Pop Warner fields and the soccer fields. This is a record that every voter should know.

These candidates are working hard to give our children better recreation facilities and they deserve your vote on Election Day. Please vote for Dennis Cerami, Charlie Butrico and Kathy Thomas for the Borough Council.

**RICHARD LEVINE**

(Continued on page 14)

### Submit Letters to the Editor:

*This issue is the last opportunity for readers to submit negative political letters regarding the Nov. 2 election. Any political letters published in the Oct. 29 issue will be in response to this week's letters. Please note: negative letters will not be accepted for that issue. (If you have nothing nice to say, don't submit your letter.) Deadline for submission is Monday, 5 p.m.*



# Sports

## South Plainfield Soccer Club Weekly Roundup



Ryan Walsh, 50, (above) took second place in the Bantam Division of the South Plainfield Pre Season Fall Classic Wrestling Tournament. The tournament, held at the PAL on Oct. 9, is a fundraiser for the SPHS wrestling team. Below, wrestlers battle it out for individual titles.



### SOUTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

## Field Hockey Corner

By Sharon Miller

### Ranking

This truly amazing team is ranked No. 1 in Middlesex County and has advanced to take the No. 6 spot in the state Group III rankings (as of 10/13)!

### Weekly Wrap-up

Congratulations to the varsity team as they add four more wins to bring their sensational record to 11-0-1 after defeating Piscataway (3-0), Old Bridge (3-2), South Brunswick (5-0) and Sayreville (2-1).

### Game Schedule

### Week of October 17

Friday, Oct. 22-Away game against Piscataway at 3:45.... this is the makeup game from Sept. 23.

### Week of October 24

Must see games of the week. Congratulations are again in order as the team has gained the top seed for the Greater Middlesex Conference Tournament (GMC's). The first two games will be played on Tuesday, Oct. 26 and Thursday, Oct. 28. Both games will

be played at home on the Carol Espinosa Field. The championship game will be played on Saturday, Oct. 30 and will be played on a neutral field.

### Week of October 31

Monday, Nov. 1-Home game against Johnson Reg-Clark at 3:45 p.m.

### Special Events

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

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

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

**U-8 Storm**-The Storm had a busy weekend. On Oct. 16, the Storm defeated the Berkley Heights Bucks 6-3. The next day the Storm defeated Branchburg Black Bears by a margin of 7-1, improving the Storms record to 5-1-0. Next up: Watchung Hills Tornados on 10/23 at Watchung Hills.

**U-9 Thunder**-Lost 7-2 to West Windsor-Plainsboro on Oct. 17. The Thunder play the Branchburg Crushers on Sunday, Oct. 24 at 1:30 p.m. at Kenneth Ave. Field 2.

**U-9 Rockets**-Lost to the Watchung Hills Titans 6-1. Next up: Greater Flemington Vipers on Oct. 24 at 11:30 a.m. at Kenneth Ave. Field 2.

**U-10 Hotspurs**-Shut out Edison United 2-0 on Oct. 17. Next up: Princeton AC Milan at Kenneth Ave. Field at 3:30 p.m. on Oct. 17.

**U-11 Bullets**-The Bullets played the Millburn Gunners to a 1-1 tie on Oct. 17. Next up: Westfield Racing

Club on this Friday at Kenneth Ave. Field 1 at 8:30 p.m.

**U-12 Power (Girls)**-Played the Piscataway Stars on Oct. 17. Game results were not available at the time this article was written. Next up: Princeton Flame on Oct. 24 at Kenneth Ave. Field 1.

**U-12 Spirit**-Lost to the Roselle Park Inter 5-1 on Oct. 17. The Spirit will host the Carteret Youth Soccer Club Ramblers on Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. at Kenneth Ave Field 1.

**U-12 Sonics**-Played Berkley Heights Black Hawks to a 1-1 tie on Oct. 17. The Sonics host the Monroe Twp. Soccer Club Storm on Oct. 24 at Kenneth Ave. Field 1 at 1:30 p.m.

**U-13 Fire**-Lost to Player Dev Academy NB Titans 7-6 on Oct. 17. The Fire will compete against the Bridgewater Soccer Association Fire at Bridgewater's Crim Field on Oct. 24 at 3 p.m.

**U-13 Ice**-Hosted the Piscataway Lightning. Game results not available at presstime. The next match for the Ice will be on Oct. 24 when the Montclair United Mustangs host the Ice in Montclair.

**U-14 Blast**-Traveled to compete against the Central Jersey Silver Bullet Fire. Game results not available at presstime. Next up: the Blast will host the Greater Flemington Phantoms at Kenneth Ave Field 1 at 1:30 p.m.

These players play great games that are always entertaining. So please come out and support them at any of their future games. If you are interested in seeing how our club functions, our next general meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 28 at the South Plainfield VFW Hall. For more information on the South Plainfield Soccer Club, please visit our web site at: <http://www.soplfdsoccerclub.com>.



Field House  
753-6344  
[www.speagles.com](http://www.speagles.com)

## South Plainfield Football Eagles

The Eagles Flag team has shown great improvement and good sportsmanship throughout the season.

Zachery Franchak, Brenden Gamble, Zack Gorman, Dillon Harris and Michael Lampasona did a great job playing defense, while Kyle Davisson, Dion Pender, River Dress, Justin Counts and Matthew Dolan provided great offense.

The Mitey Mites played a very good game against Washington Rock. Kyle Brady had a strong game at quarterback. Joey Pellegrino had two nice runs for touchdowns, with Scott Whalen running an excellent reverse to score the extra point. Jeffrey Pellegrino caught a fine pass from Kyle Brady to score the extra point. James Agee had another good game making several nice tackles. Jared Boyce played well on both sides of the field making several fine blocks and tackles. Ryan Harris had a nice run from the offensive side of the ball. Malik Cisson had several nice carries to move the ball down the field. All Mitey Mites players played a real nice game and the coaches are proud of them all.

Our Junior Pee Wee Eagles faced the tough Washington Rock Rangers that resulted in a 18-6 loss.

The Eagle offense was led by Troy Heilmann and Mark Tomei. Troy Heilmann ran for a total of 55 yards

including a 23 yard run that set up their only touchdown with a quarterback keeper from the two yard line. Also, helping the Eagles move the ball down field were Jordan Gamble, Mike Molinaro, Tyler Hunt and Mark Tomei.

The defense was led by Raymonderez and Anthony Torchia when they came up with backfield tackles while Eric Burnham and Troy Heilmann sacked the Rangers' quarterback. The Eagles came up with fumble recoveries by Jordan Gamble and Stephen Petriello. There was some last minute hope by the Eagles when Stephen Petriello intercepted with 10 seconds left of the fourth quarter, but the Eagles

ran out of time before they could get down the field.

Other defensive efforts came from Dylan Dorey and Cory Stasencko.

The Junior Midgets played an exciting game against Washing Rock ending with the Eagles loss 12-6. Tareek Wakins had an excellent game with numerous saving tackles, a fumble recovery and an 18 yard run for touchdown. Anthony Cianfrocca played tough defense making several saving tackles. Nick Heilmann, Mike Wagner, John Wylam and Kyle Hughes played well on the offensive. Jimmy Gorman, Shawn Gorman, Matt Quadrell and Mike Farrell supplied great defense.

## Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.  
South Plainfield, NJ

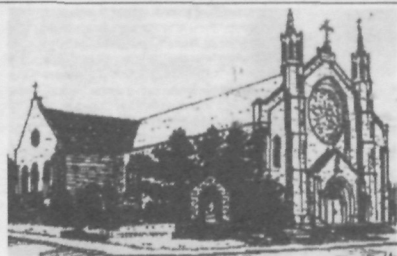
Rev. John Paul  
Alvarado, Pastor

### 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.



## Tryouts for Girls' Basketball

Central Jersey Hawks AAU Basketball will be holding tryouts for U14 girls team. Girls need to be born in the year 1990. We are the four-time New Jersey State Champs 2001-2004. Twice ranked in the top 20 Nationally.

Tryouts will be held on Saturday, Oct. 30 at 12:30 p.m. at the Satz School in Holmdel.

Contact Tom Moreno at (212) 675-7555 ([cjhawkoach@aol.com](mailto:cjhawkoach@aol.com)) or Jimmy Danella at (732) 577-1972 ([edudylrah@aol.com](mailto:edudylrah@aol.com)) for the further information.

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## KMM Empty Seat Subsidy For Vanpools!

Keep Middlesex Moving, Inc. (KMM), Middlesex County's Transportation Management Association, is pleased to announce its newest program, the Vanpool Empty Seat Subsidy. This groundbreaking program is an incentive that promotes ridesharing and helps commuter vanpools stay on the road.

The Empty Seat Subsidy is available to third-party vanpool groups—those who lease vans from one of three approved vendors and whose riders share monthly commuting costs. The subsidy assists vans with 20 percent or more empty seats, including new groups and existing groups who have lost members. KMM's program affords commuter groups a \$125 monthly subsidy for up to three months, depending on terms of eligibility and the availability of funding. The three-month supplement allows them to receive financial support while searching for new riders. KMM sends the amount directly to the vanpool leasing company, to help defray the participating commuters' monthly costs.

Timothy Dacey, Chairman of Keep Middlesex Moving's Board of Trustees, explains: "Throughout the years, KMM has seen many commuter vanpool groups come and go due to financial instability and job turnover. Now, KMM offers commuters the support they need to make vanpooling a lasting alternative to driving alone."

KMM is proud to offer this program as part of its continuing efforts to provide commuters with ridesharing benefits, making carpooling and vanpooling attractive alternatives to traveling alone. The new Empty Seat Subsidy is a partner program to KMM's Emergency Ride Home program, which provides a backup ride home up to three times a year to those who carpool, vanpool, or take transit. These programs allow commuters to rideshare with ease and leave their cars at home—benefiting their budget, their stress level and the environment.

For more information about the Empty Seat Subsidy or commuting by vanpool, call KMM at (732) 745-4465 or visit [www.kmm.org](http://www.kmm.org).



The South Plainfield Football Eagles Might Mite, Junior Pee Wee, Junior Midget and Midget Cheerleaders.

## Pop Warner Cheerleaders Compete

The South Plainfield Football Eagles Might Mite, Junior Pee Wee, Junior Midget and Midget Cheerleaders participated in the Mountain Valley Conference Cheerleading Competition at Bridgewater-Raritan High School on Oct. 10. All the squads did a great job performing their routines! Congratulations to all the cheerleaders and coaches on a job well done!

The Junior Midget Cheerleading squad took home first place in the

Large Novice Division at this competition! They will advance to the State Qualifiers on Oct. 31 at Sovereign Bank Arena. This would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of these cheerleaders, their parents and coaches. Special thanks to the High School Student Demonstrators, Dana Alexa, Mallory Christ, Danielle Heilmann, Lauren Primavera and Lisa Primavera for their assistance throughout the season. Thank you to

the South Plainfield Football Eagles Board for their continued support of the cheerleading program and the constant encouragement and guidance of Cheerleading Commissioner Cathy Scarpitto and Assistant Cheerleading Trustee Abra Hodge. A special thank you to Michael English, Al Czech and Jacqueline Keogh for all of their cooperation with the use of the PAL and school facilities. Congratulations and good luck to all the cheerleaders!

## CJSO Receives Grant from Target Stores

The Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra (CJSO) has announced it is a recipient of a \$2000 grant from Target Stores in support of its "Keeping the Music Alive" series.

In its 35th season, the CJSO brings the finest works of the masters to the residents of Central New Jersey. Its objective is to fulfill its goal of enriching the cultural life of the community through performances of symphonic music at the highest artistic level. Performances are held at the Somerset County VoTech High School Theater in Bridgewater. "This grant is more than monetary; it is a great encouragement to us as we strive to offer the community the best in classical music through the dedication of the CJSO musicians and volunteers," says Dorothy Turse, Secretary on the Board.

Target Stores, along with parent

company Target Corporation, has a strong tradition of giving back to the communities where it does business and this year that giving will amount to over \$2 million a week. That commitment is reflected in Target Stores' grantmaking program, which supports projects that promote education, the

arts and family violence prevention. "At Target we feel it is not only our responsibility to give back to the community, we feel it is our privilege," says Laysha Ward, Vice President of Community Relations. "The Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra is doing great work to help strengthen our communities."

## Call for Youth Award Nominations

People for Animals, a nonprofit animal welfare organization serving New Jersey, is seeking nominations for its annual Youth Award. Any young person or group, 16 or younger, who is active in animal welfare is eligible. The Award will be presented on Nov. 7 at the People for Animals annual Volunteer Recognition Open House. Past winners include young people who volunteer their time with animal wel-

fare groups, school clubs dedicated to animal welfare and young people who on their own help animals. Nominations must be submitted in writing to: Youth Award, People for Animals Inc., 433 Hillside Ave., Hillside, NJ 07205-1120. The deadline is Oct. 31, 2004.

This year's Youth Award is in honor of Joanne Verderese, a teacher of home economics for 25 years at the Mount Vernon Avenue School in Irvington.

## BoroughNotes

### COUNCIL NEWS

■ According to Councilwoman Kathy Thomas, there is still no word of when or if flu shots will be available. To inquire on locations where flu shots may be available, residents can call (866) 234-0964.

■ Maple Ave. will be getting new sidewalks, curbs and resurfacing.

■ Andrew Kolenski has been appointed to the fire department.

■ Shanna Woodel has been promoted to the position of senior police records clerk.

■ A professional service contract was awarded to Remington Vernich & Vena Engineers to perform surveying services on the site of the new library at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.

■ Michael Kurilew has been hired as an omnibus operator/recreation attendant.

■ Cathy Feeney has been appointed to the Traffic Advisory commission. She will replace Paul Grzenda, who has resigned.

■ The council authorized the purchase of an ambulance for the rescue squad at a cost of \$143,202.

■ The police department will lease three vehicles for a period of three years through the Union Country Co-Op Program at a cost not to exceed \$95,476.

■ Design Cleaning Services has been awarded a contract to perform janitorial services.

■ The council voted to accept the Phase I plans to the Hamilton Blvd. improvement project.

■ Taralyn Bullock Young resigned as a police officer effective immediately.

■ Stephanie Miszczenski has resigned as a public safety telecommunicator.

■ The council authorized a maintenance contract with Ques Enforth Development (QED) for the emergency dispatch system at a cost not to exceed \$15,190.

■ Linda D. Fiore was hired as a part-time Meals on Wheels driver.

■ A professional service contract has been awarded to CME Associates for additional work on Durham Ave. road improvements project.

■ Bridget Nelson, Danielle Bonaventure and Mary Nelson were hired as part-time telecommunicators.

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# IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 11)

Dear Editor,

My good friend Ray Rusnak is running for council. If there's anyone I'd like to see win a seat on the council, it's Ray.

Ray and I play softball together. While that may not sound like something that would give you an idea of how a person would perform on the town council, you'd be surprised what you learn about someone when you're on a team with them. I had a chance to see first-hand the type of excellent leadership and teamwork skills Ray has. What's more, he's the type to go out of his way for others.

Ray also has a successful career in banking and finance. Those skills would be a valuable addition to the council. This is especially true when you think about what's been going on in this town lately.

Another good thing about Ray is that he speaks his mind. He's not the type to go along with things just because everyone else is. In fact, I'm sure he'd be the first person to buck his own party if they weren't doing what was best for the town. He's not a yes-man.

Ray Rusnak's got my vote.

BOB BORS

Dear Editor,

As the weather is changing it is clearly a time for another change in South Plainfield. We are in need of different representatives of the people. This year we have three excellent candidates representing the Republican party: Marge Reedy, who has proven for many years her dedication to our town and especially our children; Ray Rusnak, who comes from an impeccable business and financial background and last, but not least, Bob Jones, who was raised in South Plainfield and is a lawyer.

These three have a diverse sense of knowledge and expertise which will only enhance our town and the people of South Plainfield. I urge everyone to get out to vote on November 2 and make a difference, and let that difference be Reedy, Rusnak and Jones!

SINCERELY,  
KAREN MAGNER

Dear Editor,

On Election Day, please re-elect Charlie Butrico, Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas to the Borough Council. The Democrats promised that there would be no municipal tax increase and they have delivered, with

no increase in five of the last seven years. They have reduced borrowing by 50 percent over the last 10 years. They have repaved over 130 roads without borrowing a dime. The Democrats have run our borough's finances so well that South Plainfield has one of the best credit ratings with Standards and Poor's of any municipality in the state. Under Kathy Thomas' leadership, a beautiful new library will be built over the next year.

The Democratic team has many ideas for the future, such as improving traffic on Hamilton Blvd. by completing the Helen St. extension, a curb restoration program, upgrades to our parks and lights at the youth soccer and football fields. They will do these things while continuing their Pay-As-You-Go financial strategy that has kept our municipal property taxes as one of the lowest in Middlesex County. On Election Day, reelect Charlie Butrico, Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas to the Borough Council.

RODERICK M. CHIRUMBOLO

Dear Editor,

Last week we reported in this paper about the \$1.6M debt the Democrats incurred as a result of the sewer

fiasco. I thought it was important to add this short letter to what we said last week, because I find the conduct of the all-Democratic mayor and council to be unconscionable.

Let there be no mistake. The dispute with the sewer authority has nothing to do with the outrage voters should feel over what the council did. If the town believed it was being overbilled between 1996 and 2003, it of course should have disputed the billing. But to spend the sewer surplus during the dispute and as a result put us in debt until 2012, was reckless and irresponsible.

I'm sure the Democrats will try to distort the facts in some manner and then attack the distortion. That's been their tactic all along. But the basic facts are undeniable. They knew they had a multi-million-dollar dispute. They spent the surplus anyway. And they put us in debt for \$1.6M, a debt that we won't finish paying until 2012. They can't deny these facts.

If you'd like to see the settlement, just go to [www.spgop.com](http://www.spgop.com). You can look at the evidence and judge for yourself. The Democrats claim to be fiscally responsible. After looking at the facts I'm certain you'll reach the opposite conclusion.

BOB JONES, COUNCIL CANDIDATE

Dear Editor,

No matter how much the Republican candidates complain, everyone has to admit that the Pay-As-You-Go financial policy adopted by the Democrats really has worked. Remember when the Republicans used to borrow to pay everyday expenses.

The Democrats' Pay-As-You-Go policy has kept our tax rate as one of the lowest in Middlesex County and cut the Borough's debt dramatically over the past few years. But this strict financial policy has not stopped the Borough from making some excellent improvements to South Plainfield, such as the preservation of 100 acres of open space, the improvements to the Community Pool, the improvements to Putnam Park, the expansion of the PAL, the skateboard park and the senior recreation center. Everyone should vote for the people who have made these improvements happen and have kept our taxes down.

A vote for Charlie Butrico, Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas will ensure that the borough's finances are kept in good hands. Please elect them to the Borough Council on Election Day.

JOSEPH S. RYDAROWSKI

## LEGAL NOTICES

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD Public Notice

#### RETURN OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE

To TONSAR, Inc. for public improvements at Arlington Avenue in South Plainfield, Block 8.01, Lot 341.

A public meeting has been scheduled by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield to hear objections, if any, to the release of a Performance Guarantee posted by Tonsar, Inc. for public improvements at Arlington Ave. in South Plainfield known as Lot 8.01, Block 341 listed on the official tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, November 8, 2004 in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Applicant: Tonsar, Inc.

John Sullivan, Jr. Attorney for Applicant  
495 Union Avenue, Suite 2D  
Middlesex, NJ 08846

\$35.00

October 22, 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 NOVEMBER 4, 2004 at \*\*\*10 a.m.\*\*\* prevailing time in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey at which time and place bids will be opened and read in public for:

#### CONCESSION STAND AND COMFORT STATION CONSTRUCTION

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 percent 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

Vincent Buttiglieri, Administrator/Clerk

\$35.00

October 22, 2004

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

October 15, 2004

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on October 14, 2004.

A. Case #28-04—Salson's Wholesale Bakers, Block 472; Lot 3; 4315 New Brunswick Ave. The applicant's request for a use variance, continuation of the existing non-conforming front yard setback, the full and partial waivers previously granted and preliminary and final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED with conditions.

B. Case #35-04—Willard Dunham Construction Co. Block 467.01; Lot 33; 85 Tyler Ave. The applicant's request for preliminary and final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED with conditions.

C. Case #42-04/S/D—Plaza Billiards Club, Inc. Block 254; Lot 2.02; Oak Tree Rd. and Park Ave. The applicant's request to withdraw this application without prejudice was hereby GRANTED.

D. Case #60-04—Adrian Richard, Block 313; Lot 18; 448 Carmine Ave. The applicant's request for front and side yard setback variances to erect a porch with roof and no walls was hereby GRANTED with conditions.

E. Case #61-04—Honorio Jacalan, Block 202; Lot 37; 177 Ten Eyck Street. The applicant's request for a front yard setback variance to construct a bump out with a 26.3 ft. front yard setback was hereby GRANTED.

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

\$35.00

October 22, 2004

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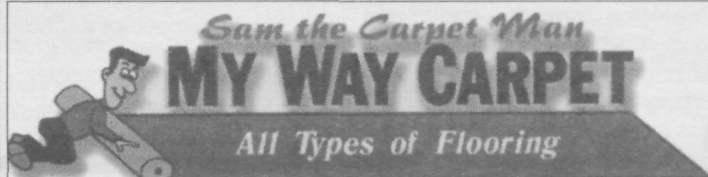
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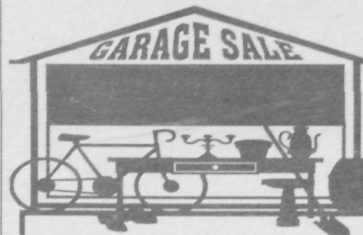
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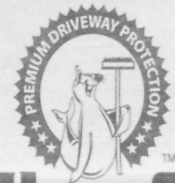
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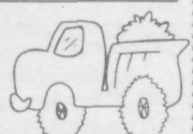
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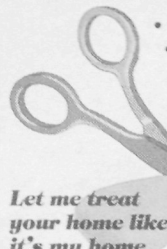
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Council members Bob Cusick, Dennis Cerami, Kathy Thomas and Charlie Butirco and Mayor Dan Gallagher in front of one of the parcels of land recently purchased for open space preservation.

## South Plainfield Acquires Additional Open Space

South Plainfield has added more land to its open space preservation program, started in 1995. A grant for \$1.6M from the Middlesex County Open Space fund, has been used to purchase an additional 23 acres to South Plainfield's Open Space Inventory.

The total land permanently preserved from development during the last decade now totals 150 acres. Using a standard calculation of four homes per acre, South Plainfield's land preservation program has prevented a minimal of 600 additional homes from being built. Actually, the number is probably closer to 1,000 homes, because of the nature of some of the parcels which have been preserved. Two of the open space pieces had been proposed for high density housing. The property on Park Ave. next to the A&P Shopping Center was actually planned for a 100-unit apartment complex and the owner of the property at the intersection of Tompkins and Clinton avenues was about to apply for a 40-unit town home development when the borough acquired the land. The property on Belmont Ave., which backs all the way up to Smith St., could generate 28 single family homes alone. We are also preserving two acres on the other side of Belmont Ave. and an additional six acres of Garfield Ave. In addition, as a result of this funding, we are preserving a six-acre piece of New Market Ave. on which a 20,000-square-foot industrial use was proposed. That piece is particularly important because it borders the flood plain on New Market Ave. The proposed industrial use would cause additional runoff, which could only make the flooding in that area even worse than it already is. The council would like to add an additional 10 to 20 acres of open space every year.

The total space preserved since 1995 when added to our parks and sports complexes, is approximately 225 acres. They include: the Highland Ave. En-

vironmental Preserve, Putnam Park Open Space Acquisition, Park Ave. Open Space acquisition, Tompkins and Clinton Ave. acquisition, Soccer Complex Open Space Preserve and the Belmont Ave., Garfield Ave., New Market Ave. acquisitions.

## policereport

• On Oct. 13 a Voorhees resident reported that his car window had been smashed and a briefcase taken while parked in the Holiday Inn lot.

• An Elkton, Md. resident reported that his car window had been smashed and a briefcase was taken while parked in the Holiday Inn lot. The briefcase was found damaged in bushes, but nothing was taken.

• A Charlottesville, Va. resident reported that his car window had been smashed and a briefcase taken while parked in the Ramada Inn lot.

• A Philadelphia, Pa. resident reported that his car window had been smashed while parked in the Ramada Inn lot. Nothing was taken.

• Maintanico Inc. on Kennedy Rd. reported the theft of five wooden pallets from the side of the building.

• Canada Dry on New Durham Rd. reported the theft of 50-75 wooden pallets from the outside of the building.

• A Florence Pl. resident reported that the driver side tail light and front head light had been spray painted.

• Flavor Dynamics on Montrose

Ave. reported the theft of poison from eighteen rat and mice traps on the outside of the building.

• On Oct. 14 Arcenio Morente, 22, of Plainfield was arrested for exhibiting fraudulent government documents as identification, failure to turn and being an unlicensed driver at a motor vehicle stop.

• Kellie Lucretia Walker, 39, of Piscataway was arrested for possession of a weapon and driving on a revoked license at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Calderone Ct. resident reported that the word "bitch" had been scratched on the hood of their vehicle.

• On Oct. 15 China Buffet on Park Ave. reported the theft of two vending machines from their rear parking lot.

• Bravo Supermarket on W. 7th St. reported receiving a counterfeit \$100 bill from a customer who tried to pay for soda with it and then left.

• On Oct. 16 Michael John Callan, 26, of North Plainfield was arrested for speeding, driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and failure to observe signal at a motor vehicle stop.

• Patel C. Manish, 39, of Dayton was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving at a motor vehicle accident.

• Jersey Oil on Park Ave. reported that a customer had left without paying for \$15 worth of gas.

• On Oct. 17 Jeffrey A. Bellon, 25, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, speeding and careless driving at a motor vehicle stop.

• Calvin Beale, 23, of Piscataway was arrested for obstruction of justice and Curt Martin Robley, 23, of Rockaway, NY was arrested for disorderly conduct after a fight in the Holiday Inn parking lot.

• On Oct. 18 Jammie Jordan, 24, of Plainfield was arrested for exhibiting a fraudulent insurance card at a motor vehicle stop. Passenger Morgann Cotten, 19, of Plainfield was also arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

• An employee of PSE&G on Hadley Rd. reported the theft of his Alpine AM/FM/CD player from his vehicle that was parked in the lot.

## Obituaries

### George Lytle, 70

George Lytle died on Wednesday, Oct. 13 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born and raised in Kutztown, Pa., George resided in Plainfield for more than 40 years.

A "jack of all trades," George was a handyman to many of his friends and relatives. He was a ham operator in Plainfield, where he was a part of the Emergency Response Team.

He is predeceased by his wife, Janet, who died in 1982 and three brothers, Clyde Jr., Fenner and Roane.

Surviving is a brother, Richard and his wife, Shirley of Arkansas and a nephew, Brooke Lytle of Butler.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Nick Mielnikiewicz, 82

Nick Mielnikiewicz died on Monday, Oct. 11 at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

Nick was born in Poland and came to the United States in 1958, settling in South Plainfield, where he had lived for the past 47 years.

Nick was a welder for Harris Structural Steel Company in South Plainfield for 30 years before retiring in 1987. He was a member of the United Steel Workers Union of America.

He was a life member of the South Plainfield Polish National Home.

Nick was predeceased by two

daughters, Angel Mielnikiewicz, who died in 1945 and Irene Kendzulak, who died in 2003.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years, Clara Mielnikiewicz; two sons, Pedro Mielnikiewicz of Middlesex and Leon and his wife, Lisa Mielnikiewicz of Middletown; two daughters, Elizabeth and her husband, Carmen Annunziata of Piscataway and Helen Tyminski of Green Brook and his six grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

### Stanley A. Margulski, 85

Stanley A. Margulski died on Tuesday, Oct. 12 in his home.

Born in Newark, he resided in Irvington for eight years before moving to South Plainfield in 1995.

Mr. Margulski was employed as a Chemical Operator for the former McKesson Environmental System of Newark for 25 years, retiring in 1983.

He was a member and past governor of the Moose Lodge, Newark Chapter #237 and was a member of Moose Legion #2 of Northern New Jersey. Stanley had served in the United States Army during WWII and

was a member of the Michael Kelly VFW Post #2433 of Union.

His wife, Stephanie, died in 1995 and two brothers, Louis and Frank Margulski, have also predeceased him.

Surviving are three daughters, Helen Margulski of South Plainfield, Patricia Ossowski and her husband, Richard of Jackson and Diane Stayvas and her husband, Walter of South Plainfield and a sister, Stephanie Forfa of Newark.

Also surviving are four grandchildren, David, Michael, Scott and Robin and a great granddaughter, Ava.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center, 65 James St., Edison, NJ 08818 or Sacred Heart Church, 537 Grove St., Irvington, NJ 07111.

### Mary Jo (Slover) Bishop, 53

Mary Jo (Slover) Bishop (nee Slover) died on Sunday, Oct. 17 at JFK Medical Center in Atlantis, Fla.

Born and raised in South Plainfield, Mary Jo moved to Lake Worth, Fla. in 1990. A graduate of Immaculata High School in Somerville, she worked for Larson Mortgage in Plainfield and the North Plainfield Board of Ed prior to her employment with Harbor House Condo Association in Palm Beach, Fla.

She is predeceased by her father, Joseph H. Slover, who died in 1997.

Surviving are her husband of 31 years, Bob of Lake Worth; four children, Kristen Ortiz of Green Acres, Fla. and Carolyn, James and Scott, all of Lake Worth; her mother, Mary Slover of South Plainfield; a sister, Jane DeRose and her husband, Joe of Scotch Plains; two brothers, Joseph E. Slover of Colonia and Michael Slover of South Plainfield and two grandchildren, Shyann and Brianna.

Funeral services will be held on Friday at 9:15 a.m. in the McCriskin Home For Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Ave., followed by a 10 a.m. funeral mass at St. Mary's RC Church, Plainfield.

Interment will follow in Holy Redeemer Cemetery.

Visitation will be held on Thursday from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m.

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