



Labor Day Parade Coverage Continues... see pages 8 & 9

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 9, NO. 3

50 CENTS

SEPTEMBER 16, 2005



Police Officer Wayne Diana recites the Policemen's Prayer.

Remembering
September 11
2001



Joann Graff begins the 9-11 ceremonies with an opening prayer.

Service Pays Homage To 911 Victims

South Plainfield paid tribute to all who died on September 11, 2001 by holding solemn ceremonies at the Firemen's Memorial.



Mario Abbruzzese places a flag at the Firemen's Memorial.

The ceremonies were led by Joann Graf, director of the Senior Center. She began by recalling a small portion of the events that took place on that fateful morning, resulting in the deaths of more than 3,000 people.

In attendance were Assemblyman Pat Diegnan, Mayor Dan Gallagher, members of the council, fire and police departments and rescue squad, as well as many South Plainfield residents.

Chief John Cotone read the Firemen's Prayer and Police Officer Wayne Diana read the Policemen's Prayer. Also reading prayers were Assemblyman Diegnan, Mayor Gallagher and Vinnie Buttiglieri.

At the close of the ceremony Fireman Mario Abbruzzese placed a special flag on the fireman's statue in memory of all who died on September 11.

Borough Dedicates D'Amico Dr.

The family of Major Marcel D'Amico proudly watched as D'Amico Drive was dedicated in his name last Saturday morning. The D'Amico family includes members of the Butrico and Panzarella families, most of whom were in attendance.

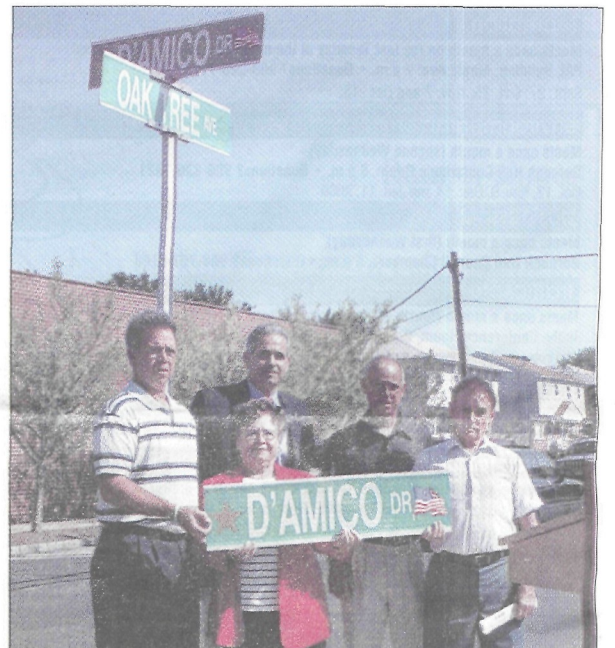
On hand were Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, one of many who helped make the day possible, Mayor Dan Gallagher, Councilwoman Kathy Thomas, councilmen Ed Kubala, Charlie Butrico and Bob Cusick, along with Police Chief John Ferraro and members of the American Legion, VFW and U.S. Marines.

Mike Santoro gave a brief history of D'Amico's service record and spoke about the duties of the Air Force during the war.

Speaking of the love of a sister for a brother, Diegnan commended Micki Panzarella for her determination and dedication in getting a street named after Marcel. She never gave up!

John D'Amico, Marcel's brother, explained how big the naming of the street was for the entire family saying, "Freedom is not free. There is always a cost to be paid for our freedom."

D'Amico, who was killed in an air crash on Dec. 16, 1958 at Tampa Florida Air Force Base, served in



Holding the D'Amico Drive sign are Dan, Patrick, Donald and Paul D'Amico and Micki Panzarella.

World War II. He earned the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with four Bronze Service Stars, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Philippine Liberation Rib-

bon with one Bronze Service Star, Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation Emblem and the Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

D'Amico Drive is located off Oak Tree Ave., at the driveway entrance to the post office.

\$540K Appropriated for Footbridge, Forensic Lab

By Libby Barsky

The Borough Council formally approved the use of \$540,000 for a Monument Park footbridge and the Police Department's Detective Facility and Forensic Lab during their Sept. 6 meeting.

All of the approved funding comes

from grants from various sources. Installing the proposed Monument Park footbridge and pathway designed by engineer Rob Russo of CME will cost \$230,000. An estimated 700 square yards of cement will be needed to build the footbridge which will connect Borough Hall to the Senior Center, stretch

(Continued on page 10)

Update on Borough Construction

Construction work will continue on Hamilton Blvd. between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. At the present time, the work is being done on Hamilton Blvd. around Montrose Ave., where PSE&G is installing a new gas line.

American Water Co. has resumed work along Hamilton Blvd. between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. Local businesses on Hamilton Blvd. will remain open during the construction period.

Construction will begin on Church

St. on or about Sept. 12. The roadway will be closed between Lakeview Ave. and Hamilton Blvd. for 30 days once work has started.

If you have any questions call Borough Administrator Vincent Buttiglieri at (908) 226-7606 or Construction Coordinator Michael Zushma at (908) 753-3775.

You can also logon to the Borough's website: southplainfieldnj.com.

PBA 100 Donates One Hundred Cases of Water

McCriskin's water drive for victims of Hurricane Katrina can only be described as a huge success. Due to the great response to their request for water, they have been driving back and forth to the Armory in Woodbridge with trucks full of cases of water.

This week, PBA Local 100 donated a total of 100 cases to the cause. Intended to end on Tuesday, the McCriskin family said they will extend it through this weekend. The donated water is being delivered to New Hampshire and sent directly to the Katrina area with no administrative costs for executives of any organization!

Residents can drop cases of water at McCriskin's through this weekend or go directly to the National Guard in either Woodbridge or Somerset.



Bill McCriskin accepts water for Hurricane Katrina victims from police officers Matthew Mahoney and Kevin Lomonte from PBA 100, which donated 100 cases of water.

Mark Your Calendars

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest meeting agenda

councilmeetings

Borough Hall Council Chambers

Meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday

Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

Date	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
September 20	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
October 4	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
October 18	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.

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

planningboard

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, *except where noted.

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

Sept. 27, Oct. 11, Oct. 25, Nov. 29*, Dec. 13, Dec. 27.

zoningboardofadjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, *except where noted.

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

Sept. 22, Oct. 13, Oct. 27, Nov. 10*, Dec. 8, Dec. 22.

boardofeducationmeetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted
Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13, Jan. 10, 2006, Feb. 14, March 14 and March 28.

Regular Board Meeting Tuesdays at 8 p.m.

Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20, Jan. 17, 2006, Feb. 21, March 21 and April 4.

taxpayersadvisorygroup

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.

siteplansub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.

Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20.

recreationcommission

Meets once a month on the last Tuesday of the month, except July and August

PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716

Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 7 and Dec. 13.

environmentalcommission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621

Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14 and Jan. 11, 2006

businessadvisorygroup

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

trafficsafetyadvisorycommission

Meets once a month (fourth Wednesday) at 7 p.m.

in the Conference Room, Borough Hall (No Meeting in August)

boardofeducationcurriculum/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.

Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, Dec. 19, Jan. 23, Feb. and March 20.

boardofeducationcurriculum/technology meetings

Meets once a month on Mondays, (except where noted) at 6:30 p.m. at Roosevelt

Administration Building on Jackson Ave. Work session. No public comment

Tuesday, Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5, Jan. 2, Feb. 6, March 6 and April 3.

If you'd like to subscribe, call 908-668-0010.

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 sposerver@comcast.net. Include your name, address, telephone number. You can subscribe or contact us at: sposerver.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: sposerver@comcast.net or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer. All letters must be submitted with name and phone number, for verification.

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IN YOUR OPINION

To the Editor,

On behalf of the Cub Scout Packs of Franklin, Kennedy and Riley schools, I would like to thank Hall's Trucking for providing our float once again. Every year Joe Tomei of Hall's very generously provides the truck for our float and donates his time on the Saturday before the parade to let us decorate the float. I would also like to thank our driver, Dave, who donated his time the morning of the parade to drive for us. Your time and efforts are very much appreciated!

NANCY PAULS

Dear Editor,

The last two weeks this country has once again found strength to join forces and help the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

I am proud of the South Plainfield citizens and the coverage your paper has given to the relief efforts. I don't believe anyone can imagine the devastation or the hopelessness and despair that these evacuees are suffering.

While some have said to build "tin" roof shelters, or pick up a shovel, broom or wheelbarrow and start cleaning up, no one would know how we would handle the situation if we were faced with the circumstances these people now face. Crying is very important. As a matter of fact, we all should be crying for these people and how the entire situation has been handled.

Instead of telling these unfortunate people that they shouldn't be getting things they didn't have before, let's ask our higher power who we may believe in to look down and help all of our country to heal from this tragic event.

CHERYL NAGEL-SMILEY

Dear Editor,

Two candidates running for town council this year have really gotten my attention. They are Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga.

Anesh and Bengivenga want to provide fresh leadership for our town, and, in my opinion, they are the perfect pair to provide that leadership. For too long things have been going in the wrong direction. I, for one, am glad they're focusing on controlling spending. And they're right on the mark when they say we've got to make South Plainfield more affordable for families and seniors.

As the campaign season unfolds, these are definitely the two to watch. I'll be pulling the lever for Anesh and Bengivenga this year.

TIM MCCONVILLE

To the Editor,

I am outraged that my son's first trip home from kindergarten was a nightmare, not only for him, but also for us. I am so very disturbed on how it was handled that I want the world to know, especially those in South Plainfield. I can only hope that this will never happen to anyone else.

The most upsetting thing happened when my husband questioned the bus driver, asking where his son was, and the bus driver answered that he didn't know. My husband proceeded to get on the bus, which the bus driver said was not allowed. My husband was worried that he may have fallen asleep

or fell under the seat, but there was no Joseph. He then proceeded to panic and asked the driver if he had a list. The driver answered that he did not have a list of children, only a list of stops! My neighbor told my husband in his panic to go home and get the phone, while she waited. Then the bus driver, knowing that there was a missing five-year-old child, proceeded to drive away. By the time I talked to transportation 30 minutes later, she blamed the kindergarten teacher and praised the bus driver who went out of her way to bring him home.

I know from experience that the drivers have radios and can communicate with one another, or at least transportation, but this bus driver never reported the incident. How can this happen? I am still very upset. Transportation told me that they would deal with it tomorrow. Thank God my child did not get off on the wrong stop. What would have happened if

he had? He is only five. They also informed me that they are not responsible for checking afternoon bus passes; it was the teacher's responsibility. Who may I ask is responsible for making sure the children are let off on the right stop (especially the one's who do not know their exact address?) or let's say the right person? He could have been taken by a stranger.

This is unacceptable in my eyes and I think this should be investigated to the fullest extent. I feel this bus driver should not be driving my child to or from school. My son also has a cold, or nervous, induced asthma. He was so very lucky my son kept his cool, and the second bus driver was so kind!

In addition to my writing this letter and contacting school officials, I am forwarding this letter to other channels, since I have little faith in the bussing of my child. I want other parents to be aware.

THANK YOU,
MAUREEN VENITELLI

4-H Open House 2005

If you've ever wanted to learn more about, or get involved with the local 4-H program, here is your chance. The Middlesex County 4-H Open House will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 2 in the 4-H Center, where attendees can visit displays that explain each club involved in Middlesex County's 4-H program.

So come out to the 4-H Center on the corner of Cranbury and Fern roads in East Brunswick. Adults and kids alike can learn about 4-H and the clubs of Middlesex Co., meet 4-H members and volunteer leaders, enjoy petting zoos, demonstrations or even join a

4-H club. 4-H offers learning and fun for youth in a variety of project areas from animals, to dance, to leadership. The 4-H program is centered on experience. It is education for life. 4-H gives youth an opportunity to experience a sense of accomplishment and success, key ingredients to gaining a sense of self-esteem.

If you'd like more information on the Open House, please contact the Middlesex County 4-H office at (732) 398-5261.

For directions to the 4-H Center visit <http://co.middlesex.nj.us/extensionservices/4hclubs>.



Divine Mercy Healing Mass

September 18

Father Tom Ganley will be offer a Divine Mercy Healing Mass on Sunday, Sept. 18
3 to 5:30 p.m., Sacred Heart Church

Music by Celebrate... "Jesus I Trust You."

For details call (732) 545-6549.



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Beauty Salon

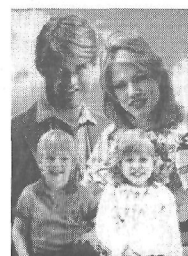
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Correction

One missing line means a lot!

In a letter from Bill Tuhill in last week's *Observer*, a line was left out which described the destruction he saw in the village of Omura, Japan, not Oppama. Omura and Oppama are two different islands, about 300 miles apart.

We regret the error.



The Monday morning demolition of this building is a sure sign that improvements are underway at the intersection of New Market Avenue and Hamilton Blvd.

Silent Witness Exhibit Raising Domestic Violence Awareness

For the ninth consecutive year victims and survivors of domestic violence will be honored and remembered at the annual Silent Witness Exhibit. The exhibit will be on display from Monday, Sept. 26 through Wednesday, Sept. 28 at the Rutgers Student Center on College Ave., New Brunswick.

The Silent Witness Program is a national Forum dedicated to the eradication of domestic violence through increasing awareness and education. Each Silent Witness is a life-sized silhouette representing a person whose life ended violently at the hands of a partner or acquaintance. On the silhouette is the victim's name and a brief description of the violent act that silenced the victim forever.

The Silent Witness Exhibit features life-sized silhouettes, each representing a domestic violence murder victim in Middlesex County since 1990, and two silhouettes representing all other Garden State victims of domestic violence.

The chest plate on each silhouette holds a brief description of each victim and the circumstances of death. The ninth annual event will also feature a series of educational programs and the Clothesline Project, an international grassroots initiative that uses T-shirt on a clothesline to explore the tragedy of violent relationships. The Clothesline Project will be available for display and creative participation throughout the exhibit. The Exhibit will be on display from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day.

Other highlights include:
Sept. 26 - The program opens with remarks by Ruth Anne Koenick, Director of Rutgers Office of Sexual Assault Services and Crime Victim Assistance (SAS/CVA), Members of SCREAM Theater (Students Challenging Realities and Educating Against Myths), an interactive student theater group at Rutgers will perform skits on relationship violence and will

(Continued on page 11)

Middlesex County Firefighters are Heading To Gulf Coast for Recovery Effort

Fifteen volunteer firefighters and a Middlesex County fire coordinator will be heading to Louisiana to assist in relief and recovery efforts in the hurricane-ravaged region. The Middlesex County Fire Marshal's Office is coordinating the County's response. The group has been ready to move, they are just waiting for final approval from FEMA authorities.

The municipalities of East Brunswick, South Amboy and South Plainfield are each sending four firefighters and an officer for a 10 to 14 day deployment in Louisiana as part of a statewide convoy. East Brunswick is sending a ladder truck and South Amboy and South Plainfield are each sending a pump engine.

In addition, the Edison, Carteret and New Brunswick fire departments answered a request from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and each department has sent a two-person team to Atlanta to receive FEMA training. They will be on duty in the Gulf Coast region for 30 days.

The volunteers participating in the New Jersey convoy will work 12-hour shifts, helping to battle any structure fires that should occur. They will re-

port to County Fire Coordinator Jack Kramer, who will report to the New Jersey State Fire Marshal's Office.

"I believe we were all moved to help as we heard the stories and saw the photos of Hurricane Katrina's devastation," said Middlesex County Fireholder Director David B. Gabriel. "The County is proud to participate in the state's operation and to help in any way to bring order to the chaos the Gulf Coast region is experiencing. I commend all the volunteers who will travel to the area and wish them luck in their effort."

"Our emergency service workers are always ready in an instant to help their friends and neighbors," said Fireholder Christopher D. Rafano, chair of the County's Law and Public Safety Committee. "Reaching out to help our fellow Americans in Louisiana is a natural extension of their local mission and we're proud that these selfless volunteers call Middlesex County home."

Each firefighter is required to be self-sufficient for food and water for 72 hours. Various stores in Middlesex County have donated the necessary goods for the Middlesex County delegation.

In all, New Jersey is deploying 64 personnel, eight pump engines and four ladder trucks as part of its operation. The drive to and from the area, which is scheduled to take 24 hours each way, will include stops and points at which the New Jersey volunteers will rendezvous with volunteers from other states.

As of now, the State has sought deployment of emergency medical technicians or police officers to the Gulf Coast. If that should happen, the County will send representatives from the Office of Emergency Management and Prosecutor's Office. Five local police departments also are ready to send two officers each, and Sayreville said it would send four police officers if the call comes.

State officials have set up New Jersey operation headquarters at a park in Louisiana, where all volunteers would be housed. More firefighter deployments may be needed as relief operations continue.

"Our volunteer and paid emergency workers are incredibly dedicated, and I have no doubt that if they are needed, they will raise their hands to help those in need," Rafano said.

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September 17th: 11 am to 3 pm
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Walk in - Dance-Out!

Around Town

Wesley Methodist BBQ Fun Fest

September 17

Wesley Methodist will hold a fundraising BBQ Fun Fest on Saturday, Sept. 17 (rain or shine) from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. In addition to the BBQ, there will be hamburgers, hot dogs and much more. Along with the great food there will be amusements for the whole family to enjoy.

Troop 207 Car Wash

September 17

Knights of Columbus Boy Scout Troop 207 will hold a car wash on Saturday, Sept. 17 from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at the Middle School. Cost is \$5 for cars and \$7 for SUV/pick up trucks. Rain date is Saturday, Sept. 24. All proceeds will go towards their Washington, DC trip. Please come out and support the boys.

ATA Walk-a-thon for Katrina Victims

September 17

ATA Blackbelt Academy, located on Maple Ave., will hold a walk-a-thon in Spring Lake Park on Saturday, Sept. 17 starting at 2 p.m. Proceeds will go to help the victims of the Hurricane Katrina. The public is invited to join. For information, call (908) 755-5440.

Divine Mercy Healing Mass

September 18

Father Tom Ganley will offer a Divine Mercy Healing Mass on Sunday, Sept. 18 from 3 to 5:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church. Music by Celebrate... "Jesus I Trust You." For details call (732) 545-6549.

GOP Meeting

September 21

The regular monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held Wednesday, Sept. 21, at 8 p.m. at Sherban's Restaurant on Front St. All are invited to meet council candidates Matt Anesh and Robert Bengivena and discuss any topics that may concern the residents of South Plainfield.

Trip to Lancaster Includes Theatre

September 21-22

The Senior Center is sponsoring an overnight trip to Lancaster, Pa. on Sept. 21 and 22. Trip includes transportation, accommodations at Best Inn, tickets to *The Story of Ruth* at the

What's happening in SEPTEMBER

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
UPCOMING EVENTS	Trip to Lancaster, PA & Sight & Sound Theater – September 21-22 Hunterdon Hills—October 17 Weekend Comedy with Jamie Farr Country Hoedown Dinner Dance—Oct. 15		Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm AC Trip to Claridge 9am	Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Drawing Class 11am	19 Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available	20 Exercise 8:30am Line Dancing 10am Computer Class 10am, 11:30am & 1pm AARP Crafts Group 1pm Lancaster PA trip 8am	21 Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm	22 Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available
				23

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

Millennium Sight and Sound Theatre, dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord, breakfast, and more. Cost is \$179 per person double occupancy.
For reservations, call (908) 754-1047.

Pierogi Sale at Blessed Virgin

September 22

Fresh, homemade potato pierogi will be for sale to the public by the Brotherhood and Sisterhood of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church on Thursday, Sept. 22. The price is \$4 per dozen (12) pierogi.

To order, call (908) 561-6366 by 4 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 19. Leave your name, daytime phone number and order on the answering machine. The pierogi will be made and available for pickup on Sept. 22 at the Church, located on Delmore Ave., the corner of Belmont and Delmore avenues. Use the parking lot entrance. You will be called when the pierogi are ready for pickup.

For information or questions, please call Dorothy at (908) 756-7223.

Sacred Heart Adult Choir Rehearsals

September 22

The Sacred Heart Adult Choir will resume rehearsals on Thursday, Sept. 22 promptly at 7:45 p.m. Anyone from high school age up is welcome. No previous experience needed.

Contact Dan Mahoney at Dan410@aol.com or call (908) 756-0633 ext. 39.

VFW Dinner

September 23

South Plainfield VFW Memorial

Post #6763, located on 155 Front Street, will host their monthly dinner on Friday, Sept. 23 from 5-7 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Call (908) 668-9751 for more information.

OLC Spaghetti Dinner

September 24

Our Lady of Czestochowa plans to hold a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Sept. 24 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the OLC Parish Hall on Hamilton Blvd. Cost for adults is \$7, seniors \$6 and children from 5 to 12 are \$3.50. Children under five are free.

OLC Blood Drive

September 30

Our Lady of Czestochowa is having its Annual Blood drive on Friday, Sept. 30 at the Parish Hall, located at 807 Hamilton Boulevard. For information call Mary at (908) 757-4490.

VFW Breakfast

October 2

South Plainfield VFW Post #6763, located on Front Street, will hold a breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 2 from 8 to 11 a.m., for all to enjoy. For information call (908) 668-9751.

South Plainfield Buddy Walk

October 8

The Second Annual South Plainfield Buddy Walk will be held in Spring Lake Park on Oct. 8. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. and the walk will follow at 1 p.m.

The Buddy Walk is a one-mile walk in which anyone can participate with-

out special training. After the walk you and your family will enjoy entertainment for everyone, including face painting, games, music and much more.

— Out of Town —

Walk for Polycystic Kidney Research

September 17

Join the PKD Foundation for Research in Polycystic Kidney Disease on Sept. 17 as they hold a walk for PKD at North Street and Boardwalk in Seaside Park. Registration at 9 a.m. Walk starts at 10 a.m. You can register online at www.pkdcure.org or call (732) 269-0403 for more information.

All-American Fast Pitch

September 17-18

The All-American Classic Fast Pitch of New Jersey is now registering teams for our upcoming "The Jersey Classic Fast Pitch Tournament."

For information visit www.league-lineup.com/americanclassic or call (732) 382-4610 or e-mail us at john.gsbl@aol.com.

Woodbridge WOWs Dance-Social

September 18

The Woodbridge Area Chapter Of Widows Or Widowers (WOWs) will hold an open, fundraiser dance-social on Sunday, Sept. 18 7:30-11:30 p.m. at the Elks Hall, 665 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. Live music by the Blue Notes. Admission is \$8. Homebaked refreshments. All are welcome! For more info, call (732) 297-1775.

Parker's Garden Fall Kid's Club

September 20

Join us as we plant our Fall Kid's Club Garden at Parker Gardens in Scotch Plains on Tuesday, Sept. 20 at 4 p.m. Kids ages four to 10 are eligible to participate. Don't forget to bring your gardening gloves and spades. Pre-registration is required. Please call (908) 322-5555 ext 204 to register. Visit www.parkergardens.com and look under the Events and News section for more information.

CHATS Meeting

September 26

CHATS, Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support, will be meeting at 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Sept.

26, at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church on Watchung Ave. in North Plainfield. "A Story of Adoption: A birth mother's retrospective" will be led by author Lynn Franklin. Open sharing of adoption-related stories; light refreshments. Check our website at www.chatnj.com or call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 for more information.

Blue Mass Honoring Law Enforcement

September 20

On Tuesday, Sept. 20, 10:30 a.m., the Diocese of Metuchen will celebrate its Fourth Annual Blue Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Virgin Church, 600 Harris Ave. in Middlesex.

Procession into the church will begin at 10:30 a.m. Bishop Paul G. Boockoski will be the chief celebrant and homilist at the Mass.

Expected in attendance will be representatives from police departments of four counties—Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset and Warren.

For more information, visit www.diometuchen.org or call (732) 562-2461.

Journey Through Grief Bereavement

September 20

Center for Hope Hospice & Palliative Care will offer a four-week lecture series titled "Journey Through Grief" each Tuesday night Sept. 20 through Oct. 11 from 7 to 9 p.m. This non-denominational lecture series is designed to assist those adults who have experienced the death of a loved one. It will be held at the Center For Hope's Administrative & Information Center on Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains. The series is opened to the public and free. Pre-registration not required.

For further information or directions, call Center For Hope Hospice & Palliative Care at (908) 889-7780.

Parker Gardens Fall Planting Seminar

September 24

Join us at Parker Gardens on Terrill Rd. in Scotch Plains on Saturday, Sept. 24 at 1 p.m. for our Fall is for Planting seminar! Janine of Parker Gardens will discuss what you can plant during the Fall season. Learn about ornamental cabbage and kale, ProvenWinners Fall Magic Line and beautiful pansies. Pre-registration is not required but is appreciated. Call (908) 322-5555 ext. 204 for more information.

Blackrose to Perform

September 24

Blackrose, a band specializing in classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will perform at the Bound Brook Hotel, located on Main St. in Bound Brook on Saturday, Sept. 24.

Concert at Commerce Ball Park

September 24

Macy Gray and Ruben Studdard will appear in concert at Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater on Saturday, Sept. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets will go on sale Saturday, July 9 at 9 a.m. Buy in person at the Somerset Patriots Box Office at Commerce Bank Ballpark, online at www.ticketweb.com or by calling TicketWeb toll-free at (866) 468-7619. Beginning Monday, July 11, tickets may be purchased over the phone at the ballpark box office at (908) 252-0700.

For Your Information...

ENCOURAGE YOUR ORGANIZATION TO SEND US THEIR UPCOMING EVENTS. Make your event more successful by publicizing it in AROUND TOWN.

SEND US YOUR MILESTONES. Share your good news with the community, i.e. promotions, births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, graduations. Include photos if you like.

IS THERE IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN SOUTH PLAINFIELD? Let us know.

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SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR to allow readers to discuss and react to issues.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS. If you have an event, take a photo, write a caption identifying the event and people and send it to us. The best photos record action and don't include so many people that it's impossible to identify anyone. Please don't send us photocopies or laser prints. They don't reproduce well. Digital photos should be 150 dpi or higher.

HOW TO CONTACT US. 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; phone: 908-668-0010; fax: 908-668-8819 or email: spobservers@comcast.net.

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GOP OPENS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS—Council candidates Rob Bengivenga (l) and Matt Anesh (r) recently opened their party's 2005 campaign headquarters at 119 Hamilton Blvd. (next to My Way Carpet). About 30 guests attended the grand opening. This is the first time in decades that either party has had a headquarters, and according to GOP Chair Bob Jones, it fits right in with the candidate's grassroots campaign. "Both Rob and Matt are eager to talk to voters one on one. They've gotten a head start by beginning to knock on voters' doors long before Labor Day. In addition, voters can contact them in person, by phone or by e-mail. These are probably the two most accessible candidates I've ever seen. The new headquarters will be a great place for volunteers to help out the campaign and for Rob and Matt to meet with voters and discuss ways to improve South Plainfield and make it more affordable."

Antiques Appraisal Back by Popular Demand

Once again, an antiques appraisal program will be offered at South Plainfield Public Library on Sunday, Oct. 16, from 2-4 p.m. Back by popular demand, Watchung-based appraiser Allan G. Snyder will conduct the program. He will offer brief appraisals of antiques and collectibles brought by members of the public. Participants are limited to two items each. Appraisals will be conducted on a "first come, first

serve" basis. There is no charge for this program and pre-registration is not required. Past interest in these programs has been high, so participants are advised to come early. The library is located in the South Plainfield Municipal Complex on Plainfield Ave. For more information, please call (908) 754-7885 or visit the Library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

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From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Time for more news from the South Plainfield Library: We've now restarted our Sunday operating hours (that's 1:30-5 p.m.). We'll be open most Sundays until next summer. Keep an eye on this column for Sunday closings. Hey, while we're at it, let's review our hours for the rest of the week: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday and Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. It's still a little over a week before our Storytime programs return. However, one program for young people is still available: Our Chess Club is now meeting on Friday afternoons at 3:30. The Club is for both beginning and advanced players. You're free to bring in your own chess set.

On the A/V front, we've just gotten in a number of new DVD titles. They include *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, *Because of Winn-Dixie*, *Lilo & Stitch 2*, the complete first season of *Lost*, the 1953 version of *War of the Worlds* and several Anime titles. At this writing, they're being processed and should be available very soon.

Here's a word for students: Remember that scene in *Dracula* when Renfield visits the Count at his castle in Transylvania? It's a memorable scene in the movie with Bela Lugosi, but if you include it in your book report, you're going to get tagged. Why? Because it doesn't happen in the book; they made it up for the movie. Now, we at the Library realize that some of the books you get assigned for reports and such can be pretty long, or maybe they just don't appeal to you. But simply watching a movie or TV version of the story isn't the answer. Not only is it a bit of a cheat, but you frequently end up with the wrong information, since movies always embellish the book's story one way or another. (The Minneapolis speech in *Jaws*? The "atomic device" in *Goldfinger*? Abbott & Costello meeting Jekyll & Hyde? Made up for the movies, folks.) So, for your own academic good, read the books and read them early, before everyone else

in class is clamoring for them. Then, after the report is written and handed in, feel free to borrow the movie, when you can watch it for fun, rather than work.

We've got room this week for another word about our computers: Many patrons prefer to use the computers reserved for our Job Information area (the ones just off the Circulation Desk), usually because they allow for the use of both the Internet and the computer disc drives. However, please be advised that those computers are mainly for use by those seeking job information or some other serious purpose; they're not meant for casual web-surfers. Also, those computers are assigned to users at the discretion of a librarian; you can't just walk over and log on. Finally, be advised that during some Library programs (mainly children's Storytimes), we may ask patrons to stop using them for a while, so they don't get underfoot. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

That's just about it for this week. We'll have more news next time.

Almost Famous Players Still Need Items

The Almost Famous Players are seeking a number of items for their upcoming 2005 Haunted Woods Tour. Needed are an old wedding dress and tux jacket, chef's hat, meat cleaver, lab coats and items that might be found in a laboratory.

We are also seeking donations of building supplies for our sets as well as adult volunteers to serve as tour assistants and security.

There is an opening for a male lead, 18 or over to play the lead villain on Halloween night. Theater and combat experience required.

If you would like more information about AFP check out their website at www.devoted.to/almostfamous-players or call (908) 346-2290.

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Annual Knights Mum Sale

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus will be holding their annual mum sale at the South Plainfield Rescue Squad the next two weekends: Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 17 and 18 and Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 24 and 25, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All of the proceeds from this fundraiser will go toward two Knights of Columbus scholarships presented to local high school seniors going on to college and to eighth grade students, who continue their education at a Catholic High School.

Online Passport Application Saves Time and Errors

Middlesex County Clerk Elaine M. Flynn said the online passport application now available will save time.

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs has introduced a new online passport application, which eliminates the need for applicants to have to hand write their data and may reduce mistakes, Flynn said.

Applicants may fill out the DS-11 form online, print it out and bring it to the County's Passport Office for acceptance.

"The security feature is that once the application form is printed, the data provided to generate the form is automatically deleted," Flynn said. "Using the new form also will eliminate the actual 'in office time' an applicant spends to fill out the form."

However, she said, applicants must not sign the printed out form until they arrive in the Passport Office. An applicant must sign in front of an acceptance agent.

The online form is available at <http://travel.state.gov/passport>. Blank passport application forms may also be downloaded from that website.

For passport information, call (732) 745-3404. Applicants may bring completed application into the Middlesex County Clerk's Passport Office, located on the fourth floor of the Middlesex County Administration Building in New Brunswick.

Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 8 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. Tuesdays.

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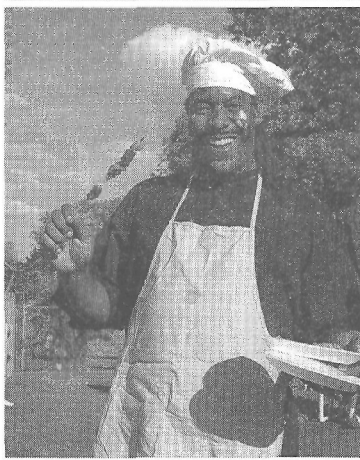
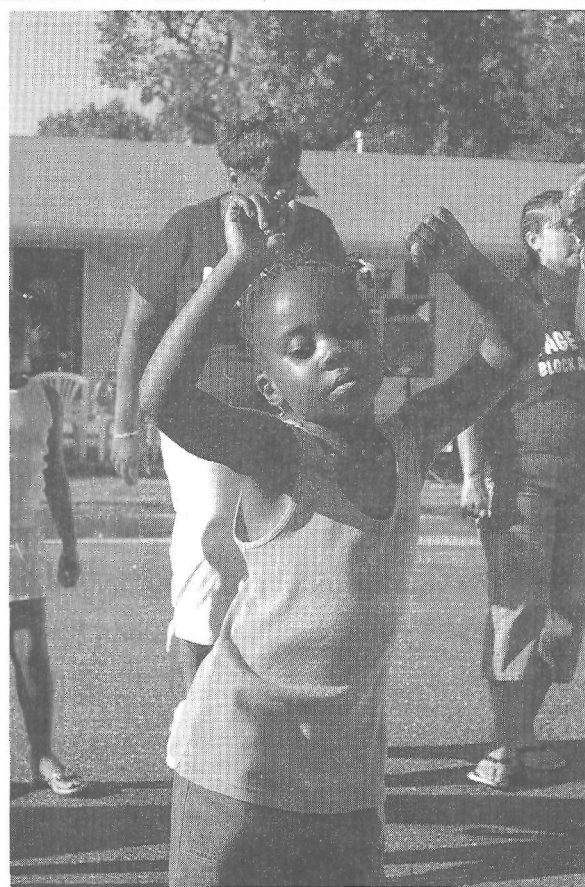
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Page Court Holds Holiday Block Party

On Saturday, Sept. 3, residents of Page Court helped celebrate the long holiday weekend with a block party. Their second annual event was filled with non-stop food, fun and music. Almost Famous Players added to the fun with face painting, pie throwing and entertainment.

—Photos by Patricia Abbott

Knights of Columbus Seeks New Members

The Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes of South Plainfield, Council #6203 are looking for new members. If you are interested in joining the world's largest Catholic Fraternal Service Organization, you will have fun, make friends, support your church and community. What could be more rewarding? Make your family a part of ours.

For more information, contact Brian Cargill at (908) 755-9717 or Grand Knight Joe Scrudato at (908) 754-0869.

Practical Crafting At Public Library

The latest in a series of "Practical Crafting" programs will be held at South Plainfield Free Public Library on Monday, Oct. 3.

"Practical Crafting" instructor Ronda Wisniewski will lead participants in making pouch cards. There will be two sessions for the program: 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.. Participants are requested to bring a pair of scissors and a glue stick. Space is limited, so pre-registration is required. There's a \$2 materials fee, payable upon registration.

For information, call (908) 754-7885 or visit the Library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

Edison Rotary Collects Goods For Hurricane Katrina Victims

On Wednesday, Sept. 14, the Edison Rotary Club loaded a truck full of necessary supplies for the victims of Hurricane Katrina in the flood ravaged South. Edison Rotary Club meets weekly at Edison Job Corps Academy and regularly involves students in volunteer activities.

A recent activity was Operation Shoebox, whereby goods for the military men and women overseas were bought with funds that the Rotary donated and students voted on and chose items that they thought the soldiers would appreciate most from a list of

suggested products.

This time, Edison Rotarian Sanjeev Anuja of Ontrack Realty is covering the costs of taking a truck down to the affected area. He is collecting goods which will be of use to the victims. With approximately \$400 of Rotary funds, Edison Job Corps Academy students purchased toiletries, hygiene products and other necessities to aid the people who have been affected by the flooding.

At the store, the Job Corps students selected items such as children's and adult undergarments and socks, baby

formula, diapers, and wipes to name a few things. They checked the costs per unit of each item to find the best deals and bought sale items to get the best value for the victims. They kept a running total so that they would be able to use every dollar.

When they realized that they were a few dollars under, one student, Fadil Jacobs from South Jersey spotted the cereal aisle just next to the register and said, "Let's get some cereal for them since they can just eat it out of the box." Another student, Tiarra Lynch from Jersey City noted that \$400 really doesn't buy that much when diapers are fifteen or twenty dollars for a value pack. On the drive back to Job Corps, the students were happy knowing that they were doing something good for the people who had been so tragically affected

by Mother Nature. On the Job Corps campus, the students then assembled school kits from items purchased so that each child will receive pencils, folders, erasers, rulers, sharpeners, colored pencils, paper, notebooks and folders.

Anuja will be collecting goods through Sept. 20 at Ontrack Realty located on Rt. 27 if anyone would like to contribute. Suggested items include: school supplies, toothbrushes and pastes, diapers, formula, socks, underwear, snacks that can be eaten out of the box, shavers, water, aspirin, Band Aids, papers towels, tissue paper and hygiene products.

For more information, contact Job Corps Business Community Liaison and Edison Rotary member Barbara Czarnecki (732) 777-7419 or Czarnecki.barbara@jobcorps.org.

Class of 1980 Plans 25th Reunion

St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Edison will hold their 25th reunion on Nov. 25 at the Double Tree Hotel in Somerset. There will be an open bar, cocktail hour, dinner and dancing as well as a block of rooms at discounted rate. Call the hotel at (732) 469-2600 to reserve a room. A webpage has been set up for fellow alumni, an invitation to the private web page is required for access. Email amf831@aol.com to receive an invitation.

For information, call Ann Marie Ferrante at (908) 756-6218 during the day and (908) 756-7543 in the evening. You may also contact Rich Fuentes at RichKofC@aol.com spread the word and save the date!!

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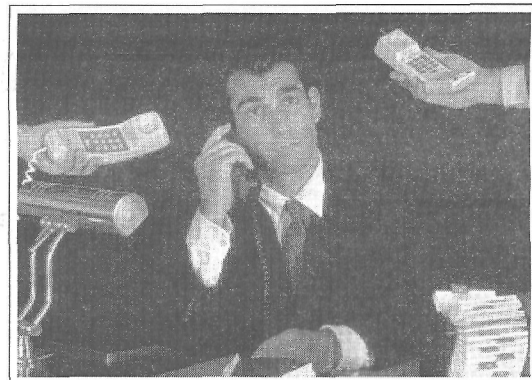
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"Memorial Walk" Shows Borough's Pride in True "American Heroes"



Councilpersons Ed Kubala and Kathy Thomas are committed to

completing the new Memorial Walk across from Spring Lake Park by next spring. Ed Kubala commented, "How appropriate it will be to honor our veterans next Memorial Day by conducting services along the walk. There are certain things that are bigger than all of us and the tradition of service to our country is at the top of the list. The walk will connect the beautiful and moving Veteran's Memorial with the breathtaking Firefighter's Memorial. We will also relocate the memorial, which is presently located next to the ball fields in Veteran's Park, to the entrance of the park directly behind the Senior Citizen's Center. A footbridge will be installed over the brook. In addition a walkway will be built with benches and landscaping between the three memorials. I can just visualize a grandparent taking their grandchildren for an afternoon of reflection on South Plainfield's Memorial Walk."

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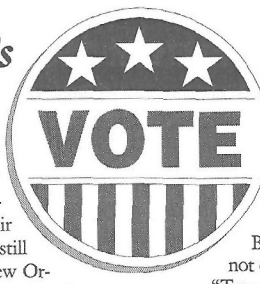
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Councilperson Kathy Thomas agreed with her running mate "We just once again remembered those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, while we are still dealing with the tragedy in New Orleans and Mississippi and supporting those young men and woman fighting for freedom in Iraq. This Memorial Walk will tangibly tie together all of those heroes who willingly put their lives on the line for their fellow citizens every day. Firefighters, police and emergency personnel are the first line of defense from both natural and man made disasters while our military provides continuing protection from threats at home and abroad. I can think of no other location where the service of both will be literally connected in a continuous memorial. There are still real heroes in America and many of them have lived or still do live among us. This is South Plainfield's small way of saying thank you."

Ed Kubala commented, "Space does not allow Kathy and I to list all of the volunteers who worked on the Veteran's Memorial and Firefighter's Memorial. Not one tax dollar was spent on either one. South Plainfield has the most dedicated volunteers in the world and these monuments once again prove that their hearts are in the right place. The Mayor and Council came up with the idea of the walk after these volunteers completed their beautiful tributes."

Kathy Thomas summed up the Democrats thoughts saying: "The entire cost of the Memorial Walk is being funded by State and County grants arranged by our hometown Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan and hometown Frecholder John Pulomena. It's great that we were all able to work together to give recognition to those who have given so much for all Americans. It is our hope that this memorial will be a source of inspiration and will remind us all on a daily basis that freedom is not free."



Anesh and Bengivenga Announce Four-Point Reform Plan

As part of their plan to control spending and make South Plainfield more affordable, council candidates Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga believe ethics reform is not only necessary, it's vital.

"Taxpayers get hurt when elected officials put their own needs or their party's needs before the public's," Bengivenga explained. "For example, hiring and contracting should be based on who is best for the job. When that doesn't happen, it's the taxpayer who loses out. Ethics reform is not only right, it's fiscally prudent."

"Rob and I have a four-point plan for ethics reform," Anesh added. "Our goal is to eliminate waste and abuse, as well as to make sure South Plainfield government is functioning efficiently, always with the taxpayer in mind. We've got to make sure residents come first." The four elements of the plan are straight forward:

1. Ban Pay to Play - As explained by Common Cause-New Jersey, "Pay to Play" is the commonly used term for the trading of campaign contributions for lucrative professional contracts. We-the taxpayers-end up covering the inflated costs of these contracts. South Plainfield, unfortunately, is one of the leading pay-to-play towns in New Jersey, and that needs to change. More than 100 towns have passed this legislation. South Plainfield should too.

2. Enact "Developer Disclosure" Requirements - As part of their building applications, developers should disclose their donations to political parties or candidates. Too often, developers seeking approvals for big projects in South Plainfield have made political contributions right before or right after they submit their application. We need to shine some light on this practice so we can make sure the interests of the public come first. In addition, officials involved in the zoning and inspection process (for example, building inspection, code enforcement, zoning board members) should be barred from soliciting political contributions.

Again, measures like this are being considered across the state and serve to foster confidence in our elected officials.

3. Prohibit Hiring of Council Members for Two Years After Leaving Office - There shouldn't be a revolving door between the council and paid positions at Borough Hall. All hiring decisions should be based upon a single standard: Who is best for the job.

4. Ban Dual Office Holding and Nepotism - Family members of council members and other officials should not be given municipal jobs. In addition, council members should not be able to award no-bid contracts when they have a current or recent business relationship with the person or business seeking the contract. Finally, we should prohibit the conflicts of interest that arise when officials hold multiple jobs with the town, county and state.

According to Bengivenga, the Democrats themselves have in the past recognized that these types of reforms are necessary. "Twelve years ago, when our opponents were in the minority on the council, they pledged during their election campaign to end these types of abuses. They did for a short time. But now things are worse than ever. That's why we need to not only say we're going to reform things, we need to enact ordinances that put some teeth behind what we say."

"We need high standards," Anesh explained. "If elected, voters can count on Rob and I to push for these reforms and in the process make sure that the taxpayers come first. Along with making our community more affordable, ethics reform is an important part of the fresh leadership we want to provide for South Plainfield."

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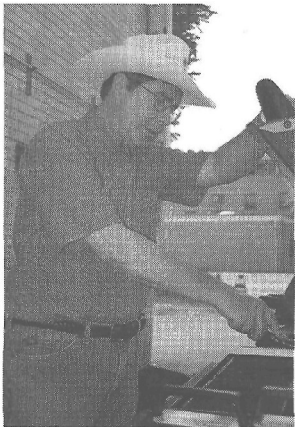
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Sacred Heart Family Fun Picnic Enjoyed by Young and Old

Hundreds of parishioners gathered together at the annual Family Fun Picnic held at Sacred Heart Church last Sunday. The event was preceded by a 9-11 memorial prayer. Afterwards, there was plenty of delicious food, a bicycle raffle, music, pony rides for the kids and a clown who charmed not only the kids, but the adults as well, all free of charge. Parishioners just had to bring a beverage and dessert to share with others.



Council Purchases Home, Vacates Streets and Sells Lot

By Libby Barsky

During the Sept. 6 Borough Council meeting the council authorized a Capital Budget Amendment in the amount of \$278,000 to purchase property at 3424 Park Ave. The house and property is the last private parcel of land behind the Putnam Park complex.

According to Mayor Daniel Gallagher, the initial price asked by the owner of the property was too high when plans to expand Putnam Park were made. The borough received a grant of \$1 million in 2002 from Middlesex County to purchase six acres for additional open space. The purchase of the property for open space by the Borough Council prevented a proposed Walgreen's from being built on the site.

When the houses at the park site were demolished, a retention basin and large paved parking area were located within the park, as well as new playground equipment, a jogging path and fencing. Recent improvements to the park include installing bathrooms and adding exercise stations along the jogging path and tennis courts. Future plans call for the resurfacing of the basketball and handball courts. Funds for this last additional property came from a \$245,000 grant from the Middlesex County Open Space, Recreation and Farmland Historic Preservation Trust and \$30,000 from Off Tract Improvements.

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club and Pop Warner Football will have a bit more space due to an ordinance approved by the council to vacate a portion of Kenneth Ave. and several paper streets, all of them were initially designated as paper streets and drawn on the map of South Plainfield as striped areas, where paved streets were planned if developed.

A municipal lot on Dover Pl. (off New Market Ave.) not needed for borough purposes was sold to Peter

Ganiaris the owner of a contiguous parcel for \$40,000. The enlarged parcel can not be subdivided.

Other actions taken by the council include:

- Mayor Daniel Gallagher's proclamation of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month for Sept. 2005.

- Authorizing the purchase of two vehicles for the Bureau of Fire Prevention for \$54,536; purchasing a computer for the Police Department Computer Forensic Lab for \$8,453.98 with funds from the Middlesex County Homeland Security Fund.

- Approving a maintenance contract for a police mobile data system from G.T.B.M. for \$9,041.66; authorizing a contract with National Water Main Cleaning Co. to remove the grounding rod located in the sewer running from the Municipal Building for \$4,250 and authorizing Pumping Services, Inc. to replace two inlet check valves at north side pumping station for \$4,000.

- Purchasing new carpeting from Floors Plus for the court room and court offices for \$4,912.60.

- Authorizing CME Associates to petition the New Jersey Department of Transportation to approve the widening of the intersection of Belmont Ave. and Metuchen Rd., as well as replacement of the railroad warning beacons.

- Hiring George DeLuca as temporary part-time building inspector for no more than three months and 19 hours a week at \$25 per hour.

- Hiring of Michelle Yulick as senior clerk typist in the police department.

- Hiring Mary Beth Khidre as secretary boards/commissions in the Planning and Zoning Departments.

- The council accepted the resignation of Jay Kartagener as Class IV member of Planning Board effective August 31.

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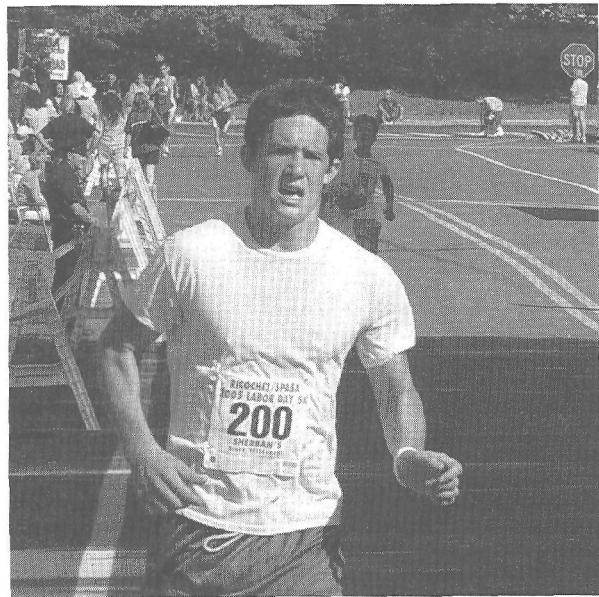
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221 Blew Court
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Runners and Walkers Kick Off Labor Day Festivities



From SPASA Coordinator William Beegle

On a bright, beautiful, sunny day in South Plainfield, over 220 runners lined up to take part in the 15th Annual Ricochet/SPSA Labor Day 5K race. Starting at Frank Jost Field and running the parade route and returning to the football field, the runners enjoyed the support and encouragement of the spectators getting ready to watch the annual Labor Day Parade. Many high school and middle school students participated, including field hockey team members, girls' soccer and cross-country teams. Over 30 walkers also completed the 1.5 fitness walk.

Michael Loenser of South Plainfield was the top overall male with a 5:05 pace per mile while Jennifer Serra of Port Murray finished first at a 6:23 pace. Some other South Plainfield finishers were Joseph Lacerda, first male, and Brittany Okosko, second female, in the 14 and under age group; Nicole Miglis, first, and Stephanie Szeliga, second female, in the 15-19 age group; Mike Panzarella, second male, and Jennifer Arozamena, first female, in the 20-29 age group; Ramon Berino, second male, and Lori-Ann White, second female, in the 30-39 age group and Rich Gebauer, first male, in the 50-59 age group.

There were many sponsors for this race as noted by the several articles published by the *Observer*. Many thanks to the *Observer* for pre-race day coverage. Kudos to Rudy Willenssen and the staff from the Club at Ricochet for supplying the shirts for each runner/walker as well as second place awards of a free month's membership. A special thanks to Joe Romer Trophies for donating all the trophies for the first and second place male and female finishers in each category. Home Depot and Sportworld donated \$50 gift certificates for first place winners in each category. Again, the support from the Bagel Pantry and Oak Tree Farms for bagels and oranges is appreciated. The Middle School Graphic Arts Department, under the direction of teacher Jeff Spezio, helped design the race application and art work for the t-shirt. Aiello Chiropractic Services provided pre and post race massages, and Sherban's Diner and Restaurant donated funding to print each runner's bib number. It takes a

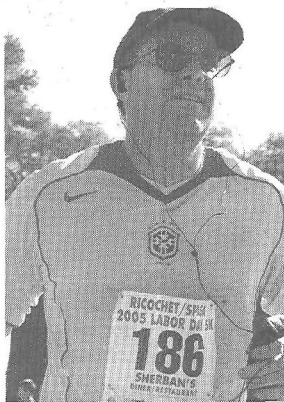
community to develop a successful race. Thanks.

Lastly, as the Labor Day Parade celebrated volunteerism, there were many who helped make this 15th annual event a success. The South Plainfield Education Foundation was a big help in assisting runners and walkers register for the race. Thanks to Myra Stillman, Marjorie Reedy, Jack Pederson, Frank Mikorski, Rich Regan, Eric Radell and Fred Oberkehr. A special thanks to the many steady volunteers who have helped throughout the years to make this a successful race; they are Kevin Beegle, Dana Mosloski, Kathe Beegle, Eric Beegle, Allyson (Timinski) Beegle, Tom Cassio, Nancy Erickson, Robert Hunter and Russ Mattoon. Their time and dedicated support is appreciated.

Additionally, the rescue squad and police department are steady supporters of the 5K race year after year. Their time and support are also recognized.

It is important to note that all proceeds from the race go to support the activities of the South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness. Each runner receives anti-smoking literature along with a pamphlet outlining the dangers of using performance enhancing steroids. A flyer outlining support against domestic violence and the activities of South Plainfield's Women Aware program was also distributed to each runner.

Again, many thanks to all the participants of the race. By the looks of things everyone seemed to have a great time on a beautiful Labor Day in South Plainfield.



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Our thoughts and prayers go out to Kevin Conroy, who is recovering from a recent surgery.

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Sports



Photo courtesy of Brian Cole

Tigers enter the stadium for the 2005 season home opener against Bishop Ahr High School.

SPHS Tigers Defeat Bishop Ahr 14-7

The South Plainfield High School Tigers kicked off the 2005 football season with a big win against Bishop Ahr last Friday night at Jost Field.

The Tigers scored two impressive touchdowns in the second quarter and

then held off Bishop Ahr to only one touchdown during an aggressive fourth quarter with some great defense. The Tigers were held to only 24 yards in the second half.

In the second quarter, running back

Opie Muse, who ran for a total of 65 yards, scored a touchdown on a 42 yard run. Then a 36 yard pass from quarterback Derrick Eatman to Alan Maglaque brought the score to 14-0. The score didn't change until the fourth quarter when Bishop Ahr scored their only touchdown.

The South Plainfield High School Tigers next opponent is Carteret. The game will be played at home at Jost Field and starts at 7 p.m. The Junior Varsity team will also play Carteret, but on Monday, Sept. 19 at Carteret starting at 4:34 p.m.



The Junior Varsity Soccer Team lost a close one, 2-1, to JP Stevens at home last Saturday.

Knights of Columbus Annual Soccer Challenge

All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2005 Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge.

Registration and contest for this event will be held on Saturday, Oct. 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the South Plainfield Soccer Field, located on Kenneth Ave. The competition will start at 10:30 a.m. for boys and girls

ages 10 and 11 and at 11 a.m. for boys and girls ages 12, 13 and 14.

All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in the event. Participants are required to furnish proof of age (copy of birth certificate) and written parental consent. Registration begins at 10 a.m.

For any additional information please contact John LoBosco at (908) 755-4914.

Observer is Looking for Sports Writer

The South Plainfield Observer is looking for someone to cover and report on high school sports.

This is a great opportunity for a

high school student who likes to write and enjoys sports. If interested, contact Nancy at the Observer (908) 668-0010.

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Percival and Rhonda Prince requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit an existing 6' high fence in secondary front setback in violation of section 508; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 1821 Bellow Place on Block 22, Lot 9.01 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 13, 2005 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00 September 16, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on September 8, 2005.

A. Case # 10-05 - Attilio, Ernesto & Antonio Grasso, Block 4.02; Lot 5; Perth Place. The applicant's request for a use variance to construct a (2) family dwelling in a (1) family zone was hereby GRANTED subject to voluntary conditions.

B. Case # 35-05 - Bett-A-Way, Block 308; Lots 35.01 & 38; Sylvania Place. The applicant's request for a reverse minor subdivision, amended preliminary & final site plan approval, waivers and a front yard setback variance from Anderson Street was hereby GRANTED subject to voluntary conditions.

C. Case # 54-05 - Beverly & Isaac Blanco, Block 152; Lot 64; 1602 Frase Street. The applicant's request for a lot coverage variance to erect a wood shed was hereby GRANTED subject to voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Knier
Secretary/Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$35.00 September 16, 2005

Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul
Alvarado, Pastor

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10-11:30 a.m. and by appointment

Mass Schedule:

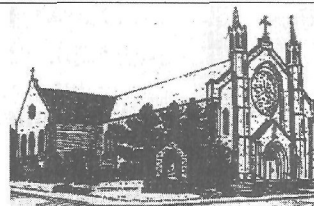
Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Weekdays Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9 am; Mon. and Thurs. 7 p.m.

Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

Holy Days 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.



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Visit your community web site for the latest local news on

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- Planning Board & Board of Adjustment Agendas
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- Recreation
- Youth Activities
- Senior Corner
- Professional & Business Directory
- Community Bulletin Board
- Civic Organizations
- Election Results and more

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For rates or information email at: southplainfieldnj.com
Or call 908-226-7656

Middlesex Co. Mayors to Aid Hurricane Katrina Victims

The Mayors of Middlesex County held a Press Conference on Thursday, September 8 at 3 p.m. in the Middlesex County Administration Building, 75 Bayard Street, New Brunswick, in the Freeholders' Meeting Room, 1st Floor, to announce coordinated plans for residents of each community in Middlesex County who may wish to donate specific items for the victims impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

The Mayors will be working in coordination with the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, an organization under the umbrella of American's Second Harvest, the nation's food bank network, founded in 1979. Over 2.5 million pounds of food were distributed to a network of 13 food banks in its first year of operation. Today, the

national network secures and distributes nearly two billion pounds of food and grocery products to more than 200 regional food banks and food-rescue organizations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

For this particular project specific items have been suggested to be collected for the Hurricane Katrina victims. They include: canned beef stew, canned chili, canned pasta, peanut butter, disposal diapers and energy bars.

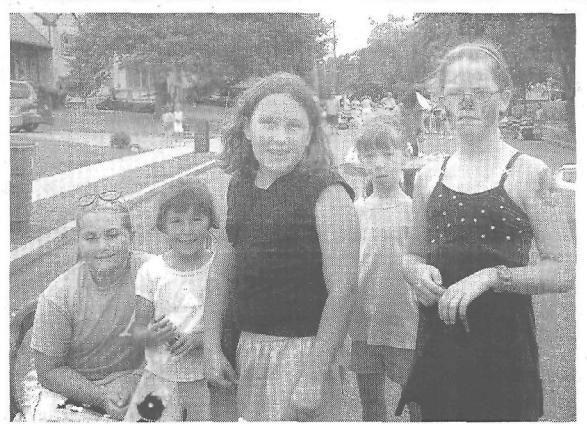
Residents of South Plainfield are asked to drop off donations at Borough Hall 2480 Plainfield Ave. on Friday Sept. 9 and Friday, Sept. 16 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

New Church Service Brings New Hope to Area Residents

Most Middlesex County residents believe in God but avoid church, thinking it money grubbing, hypocritical and irrelevant to their everyday needs. These are some of the findings of New Hope 4U, a newly forming church service in Piscataway, which is conducting an online survey to discover the beliefs, worries and needs of our community. New Hope 4U is using the results to tailor a service that will be relevant to people who don't attend

church regularly. Services began on Sunday, Sept. 11, at 9:30 a.m. in building #2 of Timothy Christian School on Ethel Road. In order to take the survey, view the daily updated results, or find out more about the church, go to www.NewHope4U.net, or contact David Butler at (732) 406-7821.

So far, a random sampling of more than 100 respondents reveals that the top worries of people in our area are bills, the kids and relationships.



Ledden Terrace Residents Go Back in Time

Ledden Terrace held their first annual 1950's theme block party on Aug 27. More than a 100 partygoers attended the event. The day was filled with 1950's music by Dave (Mendez) the DJ. The kids played lots of games, including a hula hoop contest, water balloon toss, sponge game, twister, toss it, decorating of sun visors, tattoos and face painting. Prizes, including fuzzy dice, cool sunglasses, blow up guitars and microphones, were awarded. Folks were dressed in the 1950's style, including the Pinky Girls. As dusk approached, the crew set up their own drive-in movie screen (made by Herb White) and all enjoyed watching the movie, *Grease*. And, what's a drive-in movie without real popcorn from a popcorn machine! The Ledden Terrace Gang outdid themselves again!



Obituaries

William "Bill" R. McCriskin, 78

William "Bill" R. McCriskin died on Friday, Sept. 9, at the Deborah Heart and Lung Center in Browns Mills.

Born in Irvington, he grew up in Maplewood and the Vailsburg Section of Newark before moving to South Plainfield in 1950, where he lived for 42 years before moving to Bayville 13 years ago.

On his seventeenth birthday, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was so very proud to serve during WWII. He had been stationed in the Pacific.

Upon his discharge from the Navy, he married the former Patricia J. Kreger and began his career as a stereotyper with the former Art Color Printing Co. in Dunellen, where he worked for 23 years. He later worked for 10 years through the Stereotypers Union of Irvington for various newspapers including the *Courier News*, *Star Ledger*, *Home News*, *News Tribune*, *Asbury Park Press* and the *Newark News*.

Prior to his retirement in 1989, he had worked for 12 years as a batch mixer for the Northeastern Products in South Plainfield.

Bill was a life member of the VFW Memorial Post #6763 in South Plainfield and during the 1960's he had coached and managed at the Jr. Baseball Club in South Plainfield. He was a member of the St. Barnabas Parish in Bayville and a former long-time parishioner of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

He was predeceased by his daughter in law, Kathleen B. McCriskin.

In addition his wife of 54 years, Patricia J., also surviving are his daughter and son-in-law, Mary Ellen and Charles Jones of Bayville; three sons and daughters-in-law, Richard W. and Dee McCriskin of South Plainfield, Dr. James W. and Nancy McCriskin of Hudson, III and William C. and Patricia McCriskin of South Plainfield and eight grandchildren and a great grandson.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

The family would appreciate me-

morial donations be made to the Deborah Foundation, PO Box 820, Brown Mills, NJ 08015.

Carl E. Madsen, 88

Carl E. Madsen, a long time Green Brook resident died on Saturday Sept. 10 at Cedar Oaks Care Center.

Born in Plainfield, Carl grew up in South Plainfield and has been a long time Green Brook resident. He was a member of the Green Brook School Board and served on the Township Committee. He was also a Green Brook Volunteer Fireman, serving as chief for five years and a member of their exempt firemen's association. In addition, he is also a former member of the local Elks and Lions clubs.

He held the position of chief engineer for the Somerset County Administration Complex, the former Raritan Valley Hospital and Somerset County College.

Carl also served on the Election Board of Somerset County and was an avid auto racing fan.

He leaves behind his former wives; Ruth of Sarasota Fla., Helen of Whiting and Norma of Middlesex; seven

children and step-children, Eric of Texas, Chris of Florida, Sandra of Kentucky, Caroline and Jill of Whiting, Norma of Middlesex and Donna of London, England. Also surviving are many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Private services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in his memory may be made to a Hospice of your choice.

Carl R. Ramskow, Sr., 88

Carl R. Ramskow died suddenly on Thursday Sept. 8 at his son's home in Dover, Pa.

Born and raised in Plainfield, he has resided in North Plainfield for many years before settling to Dover, Pa. in July 2005.

Mr. Ramskow was employed with the U.S. Postal Service in Scotch Plains for 24 years before his retirement.

He enjoyed spending time oil painting and watching golf.

ing and watching golf.

His beloved wife, Madeline Ramskow, died a month ago. He is also predeceased by two brothers.

Surviving is his daughter, Karen Marion and her husband Wayne of South Plainfield; a son, Carl Jr. and his wife JoAnn of Dover, Pa., his four grandchildren and a great grandchild.

Funeral Services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers donation in his memory may be made to the VNA Hospice Services 218 E. Market St. York, PA, 17403.

Richard J. Krempa, 61

Richard J. Krempa died Friday, Sept. 9 at Cedar Oaks Care Center in South Plainfield.

Mr. Krempa has resided in South Plainfield for the past 40 years. He is predeceased by his wife Judith Krempa.

Surviving are his son John Krempa and a host of family and friends.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

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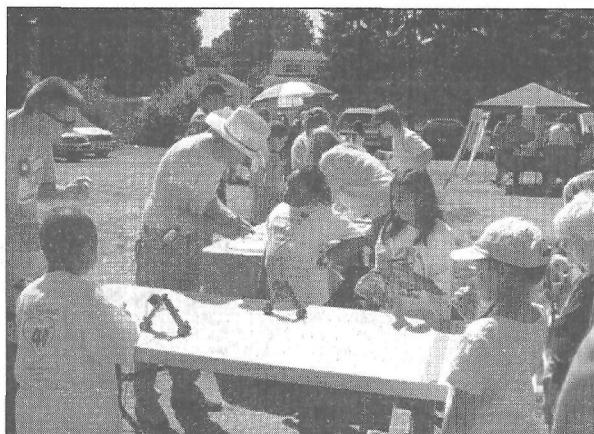
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Children's Technology Workshop at PAL Was a Hit

The Children's Technology Workshop Inchworm Races were a huge success with 73 children registered for the event and upwards of one hundred who actually participated throughout the course of the day. All who participated had a great time and many came back for second and third heats.

Twenty-one children walked away with tournament champion Children's Technology Workshop t-shirts,

the balance of racers received stickers, and all of them gained the experience of converting the mechanical energy that they provided into electrical energy to operate the device!

Many parents who asked for their child to be photographed will be receiving an email soon with instructions on how to download their child's picture in a commemorative backdrop from www.ctworshop.com.

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE

Take notice that the undersigned shall expose for sale, in accordance with R.S. 39:10A-1, at public auction on Sept. 30, 2005 at 10 am at 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ, the below described motor vehicles which came into the possession of the South Plainfield Police Department through abandonment or failure of owners to claim same. The motor vehicles may be examined at: contact Traffic Safety.

South Plainfield Police Department
Officer Karl Schuetz
Traffic Safety Officer

YEAR	MAKE	VIN #	STATUS	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
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1999	MERCURY	12WHT61L6X5633971	RESALE	COUGAR	\$6,000.00
1992	CADILLAC	1G6CD5389N4297543	RESALE	DEVILLE	\$2,300.00
1988	NISSAN	JN1HTZ1S9JT129525	RESALE	STANZA	\$1,200.00
1995	HYUNDAI	KMHUF33M5SU937744	RESALE	ELANTRA	\$1,500.00
1992	BUICK	3G4AG54N1NS601805	RESALE	CENTURY	\$1,200.00

\$49.00

September 16, 2005

police report

• On Aug. 30 John Duarte-Ortiz, 27, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, no tail lights and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Van Fleet Ave. resident reported that the drivers side mirror was removed and the windshield on his vehicle had been cracked.

• A Wooden Ave. resident reported that the rear window and the rear left side window of his vehicle had been smashed in.

• On Aug. 31 a Piscataway resident reported the theft of his wallet and cell phone that he had left on the counter at the Gulf gas station on Stelton Rd.

• On Sept. 1 Robert Patrick Shea, 26, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, failure to observe a traffic signal and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• Craig Lamar Mayo, 23, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, driving without a seatbelt and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Colonia resident reported leaving his wallet in the waiting room at Concentra Health Service on Corporate Blvd. and when he returned it was gone.

• A Chestnut St. resident reported the theft of numerous prescription medications that were in a bag in his unlocked car while he was in Quick Check on Sampton Ave.

• A Mamaroneck, NY resident reported the theft of two rear tires and rims from his vehicle that was parked at the Holiday Inn on Stelton Rd.

• On Sept. 3 Anthony Dagostino, 40, of Brooklyn was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving at a motor vehicle stop.

• John Seringa, 41, of New Mar-

ket Ave. was arrested for driving while intoxicated, aggravated assault, resisting arrest and throwing bodily fluids on a law enforcement officer in front of his home.

• Jaikishen Mohan, 40, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Hillside resident reported the theft of her wallet that was left on a counter at Macy's.

• An employee at Liquid Assets reported the theft of her wallet from behind the bar. The wallet was found in the ladies' room, but was missing \$200 in cash.

• On Sept. 5 Brian E. Ferry, 25, of Edison was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving and driving on a suspended license in the White Castle parking lot.

• A Plainfield resident reported that juveniles had thrown a piece of wood at their car while driving down New Market Ave. damaging the passenger side door.

• On Sept. 6 Michael Jones, 49, of Boynton, Va. was arrested for driving on a suspended license and two outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Plainfield resident reported that her personal information had been used to open a Hollywood Video account.

• ANS Consultants Inc. on So. Clinton Ave. reported that an unlocked company van had been stolen from the rear of their parking lot.

• An employee of Flavor Dynamics on Montrose Ave. reported the plastic downspouts on the outside of the building had been damaged by fireworks.

• On Sept. 7 Allateef D. Farmer, 27, of Plainfield was arrested for driv-

ing on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Spicer Ave. resident reported that the drivers side of her vehicle had been scratched.

• On Sept. 8 James Culver, 33, of Piscataway was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• A W. Crescent Parkway resident reported that his vehicle had been splashed with white paint.

• On Sept. 9 a Flemington resident reported that she believes her wallet had been stolen by a suspect who had bumped into her at Burlington Coat Factory.

• A subcontractor for Yurgel Siding Inc. reported the theft of three pump jacks worth \$2,250 and sheet metal worth \$1,000 for a construction site on Woodland Ave.

• On Sept. 10 Richard James Farkas, 40, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving, driving on a suspended license, refusal to take a breathalyzer test, no insurance and two outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle accident.

• Julio C. Pereira, 44, of Middlesex was arrested for aggravated assault after a motor vehicle accident.

• On Sept. 11 Nicole L. Fullop, 30, of Plainfield was arrested for failure to stop at a stop sign and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• Bradley Cintron, 35, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving at a motor vehicle stop.

• A So. Plainfield Ave. resident reported the theft of an unlocked bike from under a stairway underneath the building.

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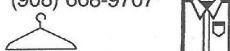
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