

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 9, NO. 5

50 CENTS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2005



Flames erupt from the home of John and Katherine Tanzola at 912 Maple Ave. Tuesday afternoon. Two residents were home at the time the blaze broke out. The single family home was deemed uninhabitable. The cause is under investigation. Two firefighters sustained minor injuries and were treated at the scene. Maple Ave. was shut down in both directions for several hours during rush hour.

Smith Named to Vacant BOE Seat

By Libby Barsky

Dan Smith was sworn in as a member of the Board of Education by board attorney Nicolas Celso at the Sept. 20 meeting. Smith, a chief lineman for PSE&G, had served two terms as a board member and served as board vice president and chaired the Personnel and Negotiations Committee the last year of his term in 2003-2004. He was not re-elected in last year's election, placing fifth out of six candidates. He replaces Board President Michael English, who resigned in August citing his need for more family time.

Before the vote for a replacement took place, board member Jeff Seider

made a motion to include former board member John Markham as a replacement candidate, stating that in the last school board election Markham was the next highest vote getter, receiving 1,321 votes to Smith's 1,299, however no board member supported Seider's motion and it failed to be seconded.

During public address, Markham recalled that in November 2003 when Dawn Jefferys resigned from the board, he and former board president Marge Reedy submitted their resumes to the board to be reviewed as Jefferys' replacement. "What disturbed me was that the board would have held interviews with the applicants,

(Continued on page 11)

Republican Org. Files Lawsuit To Make Settlement Public

The South Plainfield Republicans are asking a Superior Court Judge to make public the contents of a lawsuit between Darlene Pinto and the Borough, which was settled out of court in March.

GOP Republican Chairman Bob Jones is seeking the records from the settlement under the Open Public Records Act (OPRA). Jones has been attempting to get the records since March without success and is now going to court to have them released.

Borough Clerk Vinnie Buttiglieri explained that he asked Jones for time to research the request, including asking for direction from the Government Records Council on whether the documents should be released, but never received an answer. He added

that any costs of the settlement would have come from a joint insurance fund that is shared with other members in Middlesex County, not the borough.

Jones received a letter from Buttiglieri saying the items he requested were not subject to release under OPRA and the borough would comply if required by court order.

Jones is asking to inspect and copy the settlement and a copy of the transcripts of the deposition of Ed Kubala and James Vokral.

Darlene Pinto filed suit in 2003 saying that she was denied employment because of discrimination. She claimed she was encouraged to apply for the job and then was not hired because she was a single mother. She also charged that the council met to

discuss hiring her at a meeting which violated the Sunshine Law.

Since all parties in the settlement signed a confidentiality agreement, Pinto's accusations are just that, accusation. All parties are under court order not to discuss the settlement.

Jones said he attempted to find out the settlement amount from Pinto, but she was unable to discuss the matter, apparently because of the confidentiality clause. Jones then requested a copy of the settlement under OPRA.

"The public has a right to know [if] their tax dollars are being spent to pay for the governing body's misdeeds," Jones said.

As of presstime, the borough has not been served with any papers.



Michele Both and her son Kyle receive a copy of the Buddy Walk Proclamation from Councilman Ed Kubala.

Mayor Proclaims Buddy Walk Day for October 8

Mayor Gallagher has proclaimed Oct. 8 Down Syndrome Buddy Walk Day in the borough and invited all citizens to take due note of the observance. The one-mile walk is to raise awareness of those with Down Syndrome, a chromosomal abnormality affecting more than 350,000 people in the U.S., and is supported by the South Plainfield Rescue Squad

Auxiliary. Proceeds from the walk will be used to fund Down Syndrome programs and issues regarding education, support, advocacy and awareness. The funds will also be used for a scholarship program for young adults for post-high school training and a grant program.

To pre-register by Oct. 3, call Michele at (908) 531-5100.

Update on CAUTION: Borough Construction

Construction work will continue on Hamilton Blvd. between the hours of 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The American Water Co. has completed installing the main water line and work will begin on service lines.

Construction will continue on Maple Ave. Sept. 28 through Sept. 30 where the roadway will be milled. On Oct. 3 through Oct. 7 the road will be paved. Traffic will flow in both directions during this construction at all

times. The curb and sidewalk replacement program has been completed.

The construction has started on Church St. and the road between Lakeview Ave. and Hamilton Blvd. will be closed for 30 days.

Work is still ongoing by Elizabethtown Water at night and on the underground gas lines and above ground telephone poles, some at night and some during the day. Occasionally one

(Continued on page 11)



POLICE HONORED FOR VALOR AND DUTY—The South Plainfield Police recognized their own at the department's annual Departmental Inspection and Awards Ceremony on Labor Day. For story and photos, see pages 6 and 7.

To subscribe, call 908-668-0010.

Mark Your Calendars

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest meeting agenda

council meetings

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
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.

planning board

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

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

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

zoning board of adjustment

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

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

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

board of education meetings

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.

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

taxpayers advisory group

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

site plan sub-committee

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

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

recreation commission

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.

environmental commission

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

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.

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

board of education curriculum/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.

South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

G&G Graphics, Inc.
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

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www.spobserver.com

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The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

The South Plainfield Observer (U.S.P.S. 018253) is published weekly, except Thanksgiving week, by G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Second class postage paid at South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080-9998. POSTMASTER: Forward change of address orders to G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Subscription rates \$25 per year in South Plainfield; \$30 per year out of town. To subscribe: 908-668-0010.

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.

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Please be advised that the Observer will no longer publish anonymous letters. Any letter received without identification will be discarded.

Letters may be submitted to the Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax 908-668-8819 or by email: spobserver@comcast.net. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Limit letters to no more than 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length or to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject.

To the Editor,

The Historical Society's 2006 Keepsake Calendar was a very popular item at their booth on Labor Day, many people took one home with them that day.

The Historical Society would like to thank the following businesses and people for supporting this calendar: Miele Art Studio, McCriscin's Home For Funerals, Sportworld, Oak Tree Farms, South Plainfield Funeral Home, Park Avenue Barber Shop, Nicastro's Garage, John Cecchetti Insurance, Twin City Pharmacy, The Observer, Physical Therapy Center of South Plainfield, Tony's Pizza, Ladies Workout Express, The Razor's Edge, M & V Tobacco, Cornerstone Architectural Group, Buy-Rite Auto Parts, Curves, Paul's Stationary, Suzanne Lyte of Lyte & Associates, Fyre Technology, Custom Creations, Rich's Pharmacy, LLG Architect, Century 21 Apex Properties, CMF Business Supplies, Inc., My Way Carpet, Ciccio's Pizza, The Pizza Stop, Sensations Saloon, Sherban's Diner, Alexandria's Shoes, Cindy Michael's Jewelers, Hometown Heroes, The Bagel Pantry, Giakas Cleaners, Anthony J. Cotoia and Dr. Allen Levine, D.M.D., R.A. Family Dentistry.

Without their support, this calendar would not have been possible. Proceeds from sales of the calendar go back to the people of South Plainfield through programing, special events like Town History Day, and a scholarship to a high school senior living in South Plainfield.

Calendars are available at Oak Tree Farms and from any Historical Society member at a cost of \$10 each. To reach the Historical Society, e-mail us at sphistoricalsoc@cs.com or P.O. Box 11, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Once again thank you for your support.

THE CALENDAR COMMITTEE

To the Editor:

It's always about the kids, even the South Plainfield Pop Warner coaches and staff have collared shirts that state "Kids First", but is it really all about the kids? If the "kids" are causing issues then they need to be dealt with.

The South Plainfield Pop Warner Jr. Midgets Football Team had a game against the Hunterdon Huskies in High Bridge on Sunday, Sept. 18. During the game, one of the Huskies' coaches called time, ran out onto the field and began loudly yelling and screaming at his team and then lurched

IN YOUR OPINION

forward and open-handedly slapped the side of this player's helmet and rocked the child's head to the side. This was not a pat on the top of the helmet, but a slap on the ear side of the helmet, which caused the spectators to respond with an "oooh." One of the South Plainfield coaches ran to the sideline and informed the referee of what just took place, which was witnessed by myself and others. The referee's response was "they" have nothing to do with the situation, "to tell" the Mountain Valley commissioner from the Huskies' team. I jumped up and said that I would go find the commissioner. I went to a woman who was grilling by the snack stand and relayed the incident. The woman stated that she got chills when I told her what took place and she brought me over to the Huskies' commissioner. I repeated the incident again to him and he asked me who the coach was and I pointed him out. I told the commissioner that it was a disgrace to watch what happened, that something needed to be done about the incident, and that I would be writing a letter to the Mountain Valley Conference informing them of the incident. In the Code of Ethics for the Mountain Valley Conference it states that a coach shall not reprimand a player in front of spectators.

At the completion of the game, the commissioner for the Huskies approached me along with the South Plainfield commissioner. The South Plainfield commissioner informed me that the Huskies' commissioner would take care of the situation and that if I wrote a letter to the Mountain Valley Conference they would ignore my letter because the "chain of command" was not followed. I told him that I did follow the "chain of command" because I went right to the "chain of command" Huskies' commissioner. Since when does abuse have a "chain of command?" The coach for the 11/12 year-old Huskies' team is a disgrace to the uniform. He performed an act of child abuse. This country tries to protect its' citizens from terrorists. Who is protecting the children of this country from the big, bad wolf? How dare this man of 200 lbs. plus strike an 11 year-old child and for everyone

to witness. I have seen coaches with the patience of a saint work with children and encourage them. I have heard coaches yell and scream out of frustration at children, but I have never witnessed a coach lunge at a child and strike them. So, I have sent my letter e-mail to the Mountain Valley Conference, which they have received and sent the letter R.R.R. to them and I have also sent the letter to the Mayor of High Bridge so that he is aware of who is coaching in his town. As one parent states, this is football. No sir, this is not football, this action is abuse. If they review the video tape they can witness this inexcusable act also.

Then low and behold on Sept. 22 the South Plainfield High School Varsity Girls Soccer Team played the Woodbridge High School Varsity Girls Soccer Team. During the first half of the game, the Woodbridge coach screamed and yelled at his team, making belittling comments for everyone to hear. When the first half of the game ended, he screamed for his team to run and sit in front of the goal. He came over and screamed in their faces that they made him sick to his stomach, each and everyone of them. I stood up and yelled, "Oh, isn't that wonderful." The Woodbridge parents told me that's the way he always yells at them, but that he was voted best dressed. They said that they were winning, imagine if Woodbridge was losing? I said that it was a disgrace. I am definitely not down with that and neither should the spectators, parents and other coaches. I will never sit idly by and let it happen without speaking out. I'm always on the bleachers, so bring it!

DEBBIE BOYLE

To the Editor:

Election Day this year will be on Nov. 8. As we see our service men and women fighting to bring democracy to Iraq and other parts not as fortunate as the United States, we should not take our right to vote lightly. Nor should we take who we vote for lightly. I am voting for Ed Kubala and Kathy Thomas for South Plainfield Borough Council.

Both people have a proven record

(Continued on page 12)

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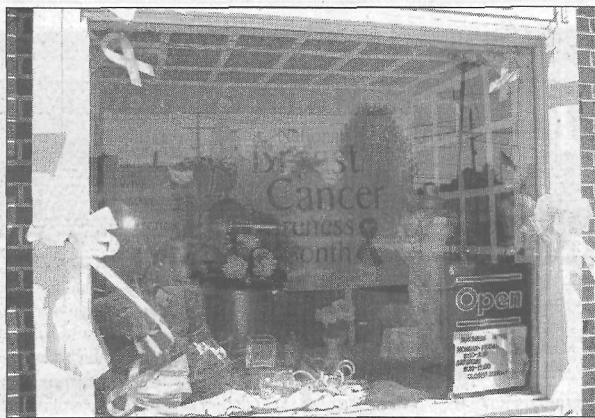
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Corporate Accounts Welcome



Mohn's Flowers and Fancy Foods is taking a role in raising breast cancer awareness. Their window display, decorated all in pink, encourages passersby to stop in during October to get two free carnations with the purchase of one.

Mohn's Carnation Sales Raises Breast Cancer Awareness

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Mohn's Fancy Flowers and Foods would like the public to join in the fight against the deadly disease by raising awareness and encouraging preventive testing. Buy one pink carnation for \$1.50 during the entire month of October and receive two more at no additional charge. All

proceeds for the sale will be donated to the American Cancer Society.

Mohn's Flowers is located on Plainfield Ave. a few doors from Wachovia Bank. Drop by and support research to find a cure for breast cancer.

Mohn's Flowers and Fancy Foods can be reached at (908) 561-2808.

Borough Holds Public Hearing on 2006 Municipal Budget

School Budget, Municipal Taxes on the Rise

A public hearing was held on the 2006 Municipal Budget last week, which will result in an increase in municipal taxes of approximately \$60 per year (5 1/2%) on a home assessed at \$127,000. School board taxes also rose this year by approximately \$281.

GOP Chairman Bob Jones asked the council if there would be an increase in the amount allotted for fuel. CFO Glenn Cullen answered yes, saying the budget would be amended at a later date to show the increase in fuel costs.

The 2006 municipal budget shows an increase in spending of about \$1.29M from last year. According to the third and fourth quarter tax bills residents received a few weeks ago, the increase in the municipal tax rate is .04 points; last year's tax rate was .861 and this year's is .909.

The council is currently working with department heads to reduce the budget as much as possible, and does not yet know the amount of NJ State discretionary aid it will receive. Last year that amount was \$200,000.

County Opens Prescription Program to All Residents

All county residents are now eligible to participate in the highly successful Middlesex County RX Program, a discount prescription program that promises participants a 10 to 50 percent discount on the cost of name brand and generic prescriptions.

Freeholder H. James Polos, who first established the program in 2002 for the county's senior citizens, said the success of the program convinced county officials to expand the program to include all residents who have no other government- or employer-sponsored prescription plan. He said there are no income limits for eligibility.

Polos said the program's 547 participants saved \$33,329 in August when filling 2,073 prescriptions.

"Our participants are realizing substantial savings," Polos said. "We're very excited to be able now to extend those savings to all our residents."

"The Middlesex RX program is a great example of county government having a very positive and direct effect on our residents," said Freeholder Blanka B. Valenti, chair of the county's Human Services Committee. "We look forward to welcoming many more residents to this program and are confident they will benefit greatly from it."

The program is free to participants, and the county incurs no cost to offer the program, Polos said. All administration costs are paid by the Garden State Pharmacy Owners Providers Services (GS POPS), a group of 1,500 independent and chain pharmacies throughout the state. The group also includes about 50,000

drug stores nationwide.

The savings are derived from discounts passed onto participants from pharmacist rebates for drug use.

Margaret Chester, executive director of the Middlesex County Office on Aging, said the initial program served the senior citizen participants well and will continue to aid senior citizens who do not qualify for Medicare.

She said her office is also investigating whether the program could supplement the new Medicare drug program that goes into effect in January.

"We were far ahead of the curve, and senior citizens in Middlesex really had an advantage over seniors throughout the country because of this program," Chester said. "I'm ex-

Curbside Pickups Announced

The borough's annual curbside pickup will begin in October. Residents now have two opportunities to get rid of their bulk waste, in April and October.

In the past, residents were required to call for a curbside pickup and sometimes waited weeks for the scheduled pickup. With the fall and spring curbside pickup, residents know exactly when their bulk waste pickup is scheduled. All residents should have received an orange flyer in the mail listing the scheduled pickup and a map of five districts.

The first pickup will start the first week of October in district 1 and continue throughout the month.

Any large household items, excluding concrete, recyclable items, yard debris and automotive items are acceptable. Debris should be placed at the curb on the Sunday night prior to the week in which the collection is to occur. If possible, items should be either tied or boxed and be neatly placed at the curb. The amount of waste cannot exceed 12 ft. x 3 ft by 3 ft.

The curbside pickup program is separate from the leaf pickup program which begins Nov. 14. That schedule also was included in the mailed flyer, along with coupons for leaf bags. Bags can be picked up at the Department of Public Works, Monday through Friday beginning Oct. 17 and ending Nov. 18. Public Works will also be open for your convenience on Saturday, Nov. 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Apartments and condominium/townhouse complexes are not included in the program.

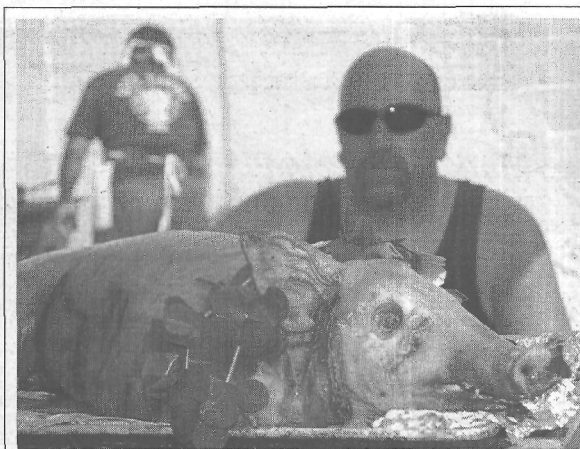
The existing compactor and yard waste facilities will remain available for residential use. Compactor coupons and yard waste decals are available at the Municipal Clerk's office on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 1 and 5 p.m. and Tuesdays and Fridays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

cited about the program being opened up to all residents."

Middlesex County was the first governmental entity of New Jersey to offer the discount prescription program, Polos said. Now 14 counties and more than 100 municipalities offer it.

"It makes perfect sense for the county to use this program to fill the needs of our residents who do not have access to a discount prescription plan," Polos said. "We hope Middlesex R will help make the skyrocketing cost of prescription medications more manageable for our residents."

For more information and to apply for Middlesex RX, call (800) 778-8089.



Elks Picnic Features Hawaiian Theme

The South Plainfield Elks brought paradise a little closer to home on Sept. 18. Their annual picnic boasted an Hawaiian theme featuring palm trees, grass skirts and colorful leis. Guests enjoyed a wide variety of food and cold beverages. Kids enjoyed a moonwalk, spin art, cotton candy, tattoos, bubbles and face painting. A DJ provided music throughout the afternoon. They also held a horseshoe contest and an egg toss. One highlight of the event was a Hawaiian dancer who explained a little about the dance form and taught several dances to a group of volunteers.

Recycling Center Starts Winter Schedule

The South Plainfield Recycling Complex on Kenneth Avenue will start fall/winter hours on Oct. 1.

The Yard Waste Site, at the end of Kenneth Ave., will be open for brush, leaves and grass clippings from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

Recycling drop-off center hours are 12 noon to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Satur-

days.

2005 Yard Waste Decals are available in the Municipal Clerk's office in Borough Hall. Bring the registration of the vehicle you will be using.

Leaves will be collected at the curb beginning Nov. 14. Leaf bags will be available at the Borough Garage starting Oct. 17.

For updates, call (908) 226-7620.

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Title 1
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 070870: NJ Lic. 1682: 908-753-1800.

Around Town

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.

Spaghetti Dinner at Elks

October 1

The Elks will hold a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Oct. 1 from 4 to 8 p.m. sponsored by National Foundation. Menu includes spaghetti, meatballs, sausage, salad, garlic bread, cake, coffee and tea. Cost is \$8 per person, children under five are free.

Pilgrim Covenant Parking Lot Sale

October 1

Pilgrim Covenant Church, 3121 Park Avenue, South Plainfield, will be holding its annual Parking Lot Sale on Saturday, Oct. 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (rain date is Oct. 15) To reserve a vendor space, please call (908) 753-9585.

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.

Conquer Clutter and Chaos Program

October 2

The library will host "Conquer Clutter and Chaos for Good" on Sunday, Oct. 2 at 2 p.m.

Author/HGTV host Jamie Novak will show attendees her three-step technique for better organizing your home and dealing with excess clutter. She will answer questions and be available to sign copies of her new book

What's happening in SEPT/OCT

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
UPCOMING EVENTS Hunterdon Hills—October 17 Weekend Comedy with Jamie Farr Country Hoedown Dinner Dance—Oct. 15 Woodloch Pines Pocono Resort Oct. 31-Nov. 4 Info at Senior Center				
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11am	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am Lunch Available Red Hat Society 2 pm	Exercise 8:30am Line Dancing 10am Computer Class 10am, 11:30am & 1pm AARP Crafts Group 1pm Atlantic City Trip 9am Tai Chi Class 2 pm	Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm	Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available
3	4	5	6	7

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

1,000 Quick and Easy Organizing Secrets. The program is free of charge; no pre-registration is required.

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

Practical Crafting Program at Library

October 3

The latest in a series of "Practical Crafting" will be held at library on Monday, Oct. 3.

"Practical Crafting" instructor Ronda Wisniewski will lead participants in making pouch cards. There are two sessions: 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.

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

South Plainfield Buddy Walk Returns

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 without special training. After the walk you and your family will enjoy entertainment for everyone, including face painting, games, music and much more.

Columbus Day Ceremonies

October 10

On Monday, October 10 at 9 a.m. the Plainfield's Chapter UNICO National will host the Annual Columbus Day Ceremony at the South Plainfield Municipal Building.

The ceremony will include remarks by dignitaries representing state and local governing bodies commemorating this national holiday, the presentation of a wreath in honor of the occasion and a flag-raising ceremony honoring the discovery of America. Refreshments will be served following the festivities for all who attend.

Everyone is invited to attend this brief exercise marking an event which charted the course for the entire civilized world.

Rainbow Academy Open House

October 15

Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an Open House on Saturday, Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rainbow Academy offers a variety of programs to fit your child's needs, from ages six weeks to eight years. You are invited to tour the facility and talk with their professional staff. Also learn about ParentView, their secure internet video system.

For more information, call (908) 769-3224 or visit them on the web at www.rainbowacademy.com.

VFW Dinner

October 21

The South Plainfield VFW Memorial Post No. 6763, located at 155 Front Street, will be holding a dinner for all to attend on Friday, October 21 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Senior Center EVENTS

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

Club, an organization dedicated to benefiting the areas communities since 1961, will hold its monthly membership meeting at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 5 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church Hall, 17 Oak Ave. (Rt 27) in Metuchen.

Clothes to You will present a fashion show by Sue Dreifus. The store is located on Main St. in Metuchen. Guests are welcome. The meeting is free and light refreshments will be served. For addition information please contact Diana at (732) 54-0925 or our website at metuchen-edison-womensclub.org.

Willow Grove Storytime

October 5 and 19

Get into your pj's, grab your pillow and blanket and come listen to some of their favorite stories at Tales in the Grove in Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains on Oct. 5 and 19.

"Tales" will be held the first and third Wednesdays of every month at 7 p.m., will last 45-60 minutes, and is currently geared towards children ages 2½-6.

For information, call (908) 232-5678, e-mail us at wilgrv@netzero.com or check our website at www.scotchplains.com/wgpc.

Singles Beer Tasting Social

October 12

Starlight Socials For Christian Professionals in their 30's and 40's will hold a Beer Tasting Social on Wednesday, Oct. 12, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Cricket Hill Brewery in Fairfield. Cost of \$3 includes beer tasting and entrance fee.

RSVP recommended by Oct. 12 noon to AngelButterfly37@aol.com or (732) 764-9073.

Class of 1980 Reunion

November 25

St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Edison will hold their 25th reunion on Nov. 25 at the Double Tree Hotel in Somerset. A web page has been set up for fellow alumni.

Email amfps831@aol.com to receive an invitation. For info, 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.

Food, drinks, entertainment included. Members \$25, non-members \$30, at door \$35.

— Out of Town —

Edison Valley Playhouse Reopens with "Barrymore"

October 1

Edison Valley Playhouse 2196 Oak Tree Road will reopen on Saturday, Oct. 1 at 8 p.m. with a performance of "Barrymore" starring David Christopher as the famous actor in the final years of his life. There will also be a performance at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 2.

For more information, contact 908-755-4654 or www.evplayhouse.com.

Monday After Club Meeting

October 3

The Monday Afternoon Club will hold its fall meeting and luncheon on Oct. 3 at 1 p.m. at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield. The new president, Margaret Messmer, will preside. Nancy Scharff, a wonderful musician, singer and guitarist will present a program of show tunes.

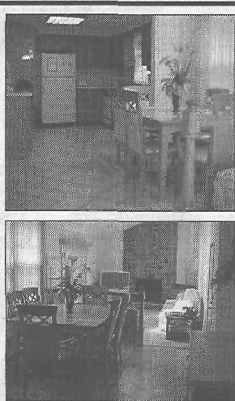
Metuchen-Edison Woman's Club Membership Mtg.

October 5

The Metuchen-Edison Women's

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From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Well, it's been about a week since autumn began and you'll soon have to break out the rakes and leaf bags. But, before you get started on all that yard work, let's pause for news from the South Plainfield Library:

Don't forget about two special programs next week. On Sunday, there's the lecture, "Conquer Clutter & Chaos for Good," featuring author/TV host Jamie Novak. That program starts at 2 p.m.; no pre-registration is required. Then, on Monday, there's another "Practical Crafting" program. Instructor Ronda Wisniewski will lead participants in making pouch cards. There will be two sessions for this class: 10:30 a.m. or 7 p.m. You must pre-register for this program; there's a \$2 materials fee, payable upon registration.

Turning to our children's programs, there's our usual slate of Storytime programs for children ages three and over on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. "Time for 2's & 3's," our program for children ages two and three, is held on Wednesday mornings at 10:30, while "Books-N-Babies," for children under age three, is held today and next Friday morning at 10:30. The young people's Chess Club, for both beginning and advanced players, is held on Friday afternoons at 3:30. You don't have to register for these programs. Finally, next Friday afternoon at 3:30, we'll hold a fall craft program for children ages three and over. Pre-registration is requested for this program.

We're between groups on both the Video and Large Print Circuits today. New items from the Video Circuit will be available early next week, while the Large Print Circuit will return later in October. Meanwhile, today is the last day of availability for the current group from the Audiobook Circuit.

We've got some other events coming soon. First, we'll be having an overstock book sale on Saturday, Oct. 15, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A variety of items will be available, including a lot of children's books. That same day, we'll host a pumpkin painting program from 10 a.m. to noon. It's for children of all ages; pre-registration is required, along with a \$1 materials fee. The next day (Sunday, Oct. 16), antiques-appraiser Allan G. Snyder will conduct another program at the library. Participants may bring in two items each for appraisal, on a "first come, first serve" basis. Pre-registration is not required.

Here's a word for computer users: our computers are fairly high-tech pieces of equipment, particularly the keyboards. There's really no need to hammer on the keys, as though you were using an old manual typewriter. A light touch is all that's needed; the computer will be able to tell what you're typing. Besides, bashing on the keys can cause damage to the device, which costs money to repair, which means less cash for system upgrades or new items for the collection. Get the picture?

Finally, we at the library are always interested in your comments, questions or suggestions, be they related to our collection ("Why don't you have this video?") or our policies ("Why can't I do this?"). You can leave a note in our suggestion box (back by the public photocopier), give us a call at (908) 754-7885, write us a letter (the address is 2484 Plainfield Ave. in South Plainfield), or speak to a staff member directly. (As yet, we don't have an e-mail address of our own.) We'll give your views all due concern and, if you wish, respond to your comments as soon as possible. Let's keep those lines of communication open, folks.

That's about all for now. See you next Friday for more.



The South Plainfield High School Tiger Marching Band perform at Hunterdon High School's USSBA Competition.

Tigers Steal the Show at Hunterdon HS

The South Plainfield High School Tiger Marching Band marched their way into first place victory on Sept. 17 at Hunterdon High School's USSBA Competition in Flemington.

Drum majors Scott Rann, pictured left, and Taylor Mandel, pictured right, led the band in a jazz inspired show. Color Guard captains Nadine

Yon, second left, and Kristen Gulano, second right, have been hard at work choreographing the show with dance and flags. Eric Reiner (center), drum line captain, is continuing his recruitment efforts while leading the drum line to percussion perfection.

The talented musicians and color guard performed their show "Sum-

merlime" and "Take 5 A La Turk" with such enthusiasm, it earned them first place honors in Best Marching, Best Auxiliary, Best Percussion and Best Music.

Obtaining the honored spot on the 50 yard line is a special tribute to their beloved Mr. Tweed who is now teaching Band at Grant Elementary.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Mayor Dan Gallagher proclaimed that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month at last week's borough council meeting.

"The problems of domestic violence are not confined to any group of people, but cuts across all economic, racial and societal barriers, and are supported by societal indifference and the impact of domestic violence

is wide ranging, directly affecting individuals and society as a whole, here in this community, throughout the United States and the world," said Gallagher.

He urged all residents to actively participate in the scheduled activities and programs to work toward improving victim safety and holding perpetrators of domestic abuse ac-

countable for their actions against individual victims and society as a whole.

Residents are invited to visit the Domestic Violence Exhibit at the South Plainfield Public Library during the month of October.

Don't miss a thing in South Plainfield...Subscribe!!

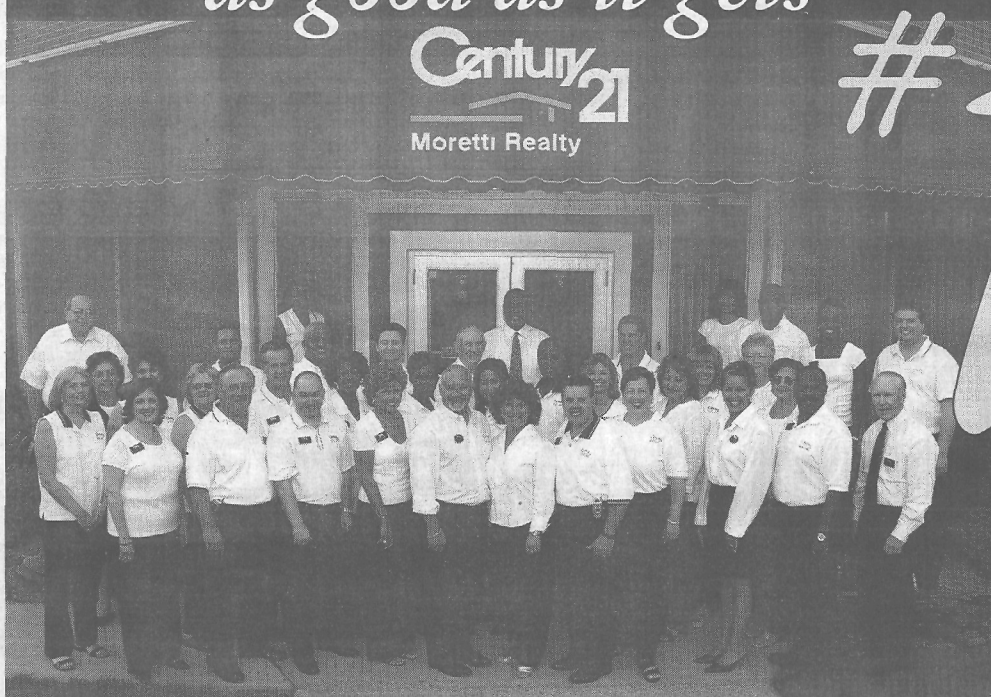
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Police Department Recognizes Officers for Service,

The South Plainfield Police Dept. holds its annual Departmental Inspection and Awards Ceremony early Labor Day morning at Borough Hall. This year, the new Chief of Police, John Ferraro, had the honor of addressing his fellow officers as well as Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Mayor Dan Gallagher, Council President Dennis Cerami, Councilmen Ed Kubala, Ray Petronko, Bob Cusick, Charlie Butrico and Kathy Thomas and Police Chaplain Reverend Charles Mingle who also attended.

"These awards are a highlight of the past year's performances. The underlying theme is that these officers were met with challenges, rose to the occasion and met these challenges head on. Whether it was their initiative or their training, they performed to the highest levels," said Chief Ferraro in his address. "But, keep in mind that their accomplishments were achievable as a result of team work. Those that I have previously introduced to you, Assemblyman Diegnan, Chaplain Mingle and our Mayor and Council help to complete our team, each member providing the resources, support or guidance, when needed. We answer their com-



a better community in which to live. We, as a police department, will continue our commitment to provide a safe community and environment for our residents. This begins with the officer on the road. Many people will encounter a police officer once in their lifetime. That one contact may be you,

keep in mind is that when you leave this job you will be remembered for your work ethic, your compassion and dedication to your career.

"I commend each and every one of you for an outstanding job performed to the highest degree of professionalism. I thank you for your dedication. And to our distinguished guest, we thank you for your support."

The following officers received awards.

Capt. Michael Grennier *Awarded the Honorable Service Medal*

On Feb. 14, 2005 Capt. Michael Grennier responded to the area of West Ave. in response to a barricaded suspect. He established communication with the individual and was subsequently able to speak to his sister, who provided him with invaluable intelligence on the suspect. Capt. Grennier negotiated the suspect's surrender that lasted 45 minutes. Even though the individual chose to be arrested forcefully, if it was not for Capt. Grennier's patience and negotiating skills, the incident could have exposed everyone involved to a higher degree of danger.

Capt. Grennier's patience and negotiating skills helped bring the incident to a successful conclusion.

Lt. Charles Siedenburg *Awarded the Honorable Service Medal*

On Feb. 14, 2005 Lt. Charles Siedenburg responded to the area of West Ave. in response to a barricaded suspect. He assessed the situation and orchestrated the arrest of the suspect. Lt. Siedenburg was able to organize the available manpower and plan the eventual forcible entry into the residence, knowing that negotiations had failed and that the individual was wanted and possibly armed.

Lt. Siedenburg's leadership and tactical skills led to the entry and successful arrest of the suspect, who was reported to have been armed.

Sgt. Raymond Jazikoff, Officer Wayne Diana, Det. Christopher Colucci and Det. Wendell Born Commended

On Feb. 14, 2005 officers responded to the area of a residence on West Ave. Officer Diana observed an individual who was wanted for a parole violation. The suspect had a reputation for fleeing from the police and was believed to be armed. A short foot pursuit ensued and the individual reached to his waistband, gesturing he had a weapon. He then fled to his residence, locking himself inside. Sgt. Jazikoff, Det. Colucci and Det. Born responded and established a perimeter. Under Lt. Siedenburg's command, the residence was forcibly entered and the suspect was encountered hiding under a stairwell. He was forcibly removed and after a struggle, taken into custody.

Sgt. Jazikoff, Officer Diana and Detectives Colucci and Born are to be commended for their restraint, profes-

sionalism and tactical skills which led to the successful arrest of the suspect.

Officer Richard Rogers *Awarded the Life Saving Medal*

On April 18, 2005, Officer Rogers was dispatched on a rescue squad call to a reported heart attack victim. The victim was found to be unresponsive and without a pulse. Officer Rogers performed CPR and utilized the AED on the patient. Shortly thereafter, the patient was revived at the scene.

Officer Rogers is awarded the Life Saving Medal for his efforts.

Officer Peter Papa *Commended*

On Oct. 28, 2004 Officer Papa observed a red Hyundai vehicle bearing a Pennsylvania registration. He recognized the passenger as a wanted person. He executed a motor vehicle stop. Officer Papa's subsequent investigation and search led to the seizure of a large amount of crack cocaine, packaging materials, a scale and other items used in the distribution of narcotics.

As a result of Officer Papa's diligence and initiative, two drug dealers were arrested and more importantly, the crack cocaine was removed from our streets.

Officer Michael Hoppe *Commended*

On March 6, 2005 at 3:20 a.m., Officer Hoppe was dispatched to the area of Plainfield Ave. on a report of an erratic driver. He located the vehicle in question and conducted a motor vehicle stop. His preliminary investigation revealed that the driver was intoxicated and then subsequently placed him under arrest. Upon further investigation, Officer Hoppe recovered a loaded .38 caliber revolver from under the vehicle's seat. The driver, along with two additional passengers



Officer Mark Bullock *Commended*

Showing a high degree of initiative and self-motivation by seeking out drivers who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, for having the most DWI arrests and convictions in the department and recognizing the danger that these drivers are to the public.

Officer Michael Molinaro *Commended*

On May 29, 2005 showed a high degree of initiative in conducting a thorough investigation during a mo-

were placed under arrest.

Officer Hoppe's observations and sound tactics resulted in the removal of an intoxicated driver from our streets along with a loaded firearm.

Officer Lloyd McNelly *Commended*

On April 16, 2005 Officer McNelly responded to 6001 Hadley Rd. on a report that fraudulent traveler's checks had been passed. After the initial report, Officer McNelly displayed a high degree of initiative and checked several businesses within the mall at

(Continued on next page)



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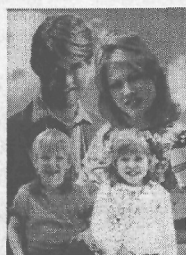
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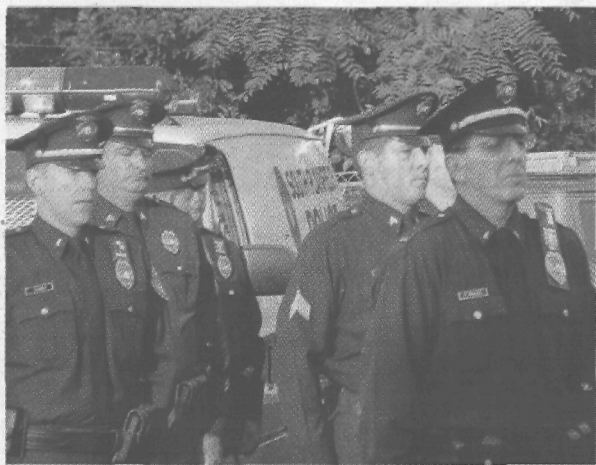
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Hadley Center. He obtained a video tape which appeared to be that of the suspects. He further gathered information on the suspect vehicle and their identification. The investigation led to multiple jurisdictions.

Officer McNelly's perseverance and initiative resulted in the arrest of three Pennsylvania residents and successfully closed the investigation that involved Pennsylvania Police Depts., NJ State Police, Jackson Police Dept. and Piscataway Police Dept.

Det. Garrett Cassio Commended

Between January 1 and July 31, 2005, Det. Gary Cassio was temporarily assigned to the Middlesex County Narcotics Task Force. During his seven months at the Task force, he was responsible for over 40 search warrants, which resulted in the seizure of narcotics, guns and numerous arrests. Even though specific details of his assignments are not being released, Det. Cassio has proven to be a valuable asset to the Task Force during his tenure.

As a result of Det. Cassio's dedication and commitment to the Task Force and the war on drugs, he helped to make the streets of South Plainfield safer for our citizens.

Officer Antonio Grasso Awarded the Honorable Service Medal

Between February and April 2005, Officer Grasso acted in an undercover capacity in conjunction with the Detective Bureau. During this investigation, Officer Grasso posed as a seller of fraudulent NJ driver's licenses. His duties included negotiating with individuals wishing to purchase fraudulent licenses, meeting with the individuals and being present during their eventual arrests. As the operation progressed and more arrests were made, the level of danger increased due to the suspects' ability to contact other would-be targets. Officer Grasso continued to volunteer for this assign-

ment, well aware that his personal safety may have been compromised. The three month operation culminated with the arrest of eight individuals, the seizure of three motor vehicles and \$10,000 cash.

As a result of Officer Grasso's undercover capabilities and resourcefulness, the supply of fraudulent documents was prevented.



Officer Peter Papa Commended

On March 2, 2005, Officer Papa conducted a motor vehicle stop on New Brunswick Ave. and Jersey St. Subsequent investigation revealed a partially burnt marijuana cigarette in the vehicle, along with a large quantity of empty clear plastic bags believed to be narcotic paraphernalia. Officer Papa detected a strong odor of raw marijuana emanating from the rear passenger seat area of the vehicle. He conducted a more thorough search and located a semi-automatic handgun. He also located two bags of marijuana in one of the suspect's boots.

As a result of Officer Pap's actions, one drug dealer was arrested and more importantly, a handgun was removed from our streets.

Officer Roberto Vega Officer John Petriello Awarded the Life Saving Medal

On April 5, 2005 at 1:54 a.m., Officer Petriello and Officer Vega were dispatched to a residence on Sussex St. on a report of a person with difficulty breathing. Upon arrival, officers found a 49 year-old victim not breathing and without a pulse. After several minutes of performing CPR on him, the officers were able to revive him.

Officer Petriello and Officer Vega are awarded the Life Saving Medal for their efforts.

Officer Bradford Bullard Awarded the Life Saving Medal

On June 11, 2005 at 12:50 a.m., Officer Bullard responded to O'Donahue Ave. on a report of a house fire. Upon his arrival, he observed the rear of the dwelling engulfed in flames. Neighbors advised him that the residents were still inside the home. Finding the door locked, Officer Bullard kicked it in and entered the smoke filled residence. He located the 30 year-old resident sleeping in a rear bedroom, unaware that the house was on fire. He removed her from the house to safety.

Officer Bullard is awarded the Life

Saving Medal for risking his own life to save that of another. On that June night, Officer Bullard performed his duties with great courage and valor.

Det. Garrett Cassio Det. Christopher Colucci Presented the Chief's Award

During the past four years, Det. Cassio and Det. Colucci have organized annual softball tournaments which benefitted Borough residents in their times of need. Both volunteered countless hours in the preparation of and the participation for these successful events. Their actions and compassion has brought honor to our department. These events brought together local businesses, Borough residents, softball teams from throughout the State and our police department to share in a common goal, and that is to help provide financial assistance to a deserving individual. Over \$120,000 has been raised and distributed.

Bishop Bootkoski to Participate In Worldwide Event

The Blue Army, USA is on a global mission - get 100 million people to pray on Sunday, Oct. 2 in support of the Sanctity of Life. If the mission is achieved, it will be the largest prayer event that the world has ever witnessed.

The Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen and spiritual advisor to the Blue Army USA, will participate in the Sanctity of Life Day to be observed locally at the Blue Army Shrine on 674 Mountain View Rd. in Washington.

Together with over 40 other member nations of the World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF), the Blue Army USA is sponsoring the Sanct-

ity of Life Day to spread Our Lady of Fatima's message to pray...and pray often to resolve the problems confronting today's society.

Individuals who wish to participate in the Sanctity of Life Day are encouraged to register their pledge to pray the Rosary or pray to God according to their faith, on Worldwide Fatima Sanctity of Life Day at www.bluearmy.com.

Participants who register will be remembered in a Holy Mass at the Blue Army National Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Washington, NJ and in Fatima, Portugal. Each participant's name will also be placed in Fatima at the site where the Apparitions took place.

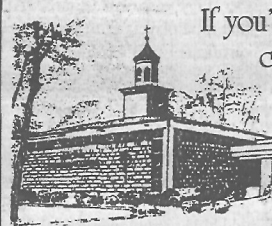
Dog Microchip Clinic and Pet Adoption on October 1

People for Animals will conduct a low cost Dog Microchip Clinic on Saturday, Oct. 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at PetsMart in Watchung Square Mall, 1515 Rte. 22 West. Dogs of all ages and size are invited. Fee for microchip implantation and your dog's registration in a nationwide dog identifica-

tion databank is \$30. The microchip implantation will be performed on a first come first served basis by a licensed veterinarian. No appointment necessary.

For info, call (908) 964-6887, ext. 306 (dogs) and 307 (cats) and leave a message.

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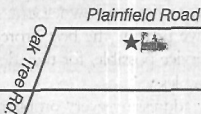
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Sports

Recreation Fall Sports Programs Underway

The following sports are now open for Recreation:

- **Fall Wrestling** sessions began at the PAL on Sept. 12 and run through Nov. 3.

Both residents and non-residents of South Plainfield, grades four through 12, are eligible. Sessions will be held on Monday and Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. Free to all existing 2005 members and \$100 for new 2005 non-residents.

Sessions are held in a 8,000-sq.-ft. area containing four mats and consist of instruction, drilling and live wrestling, organized by invited coaches.

All coaches, wrestlers and visitors must be registered and approved by the South Plainfield Wrestling Club. Those who are not registered and approved will not be permitted to stay in the wrestling room during sessions.

New members register at the door.

For more information on sessions, call (all 908) Joe DiBiase 766-4197, Jim Conroy 754-6489, Bill Ashnault 269-3067, Jim Sacco 757-1073 or Jack Brady 769-0232.

- **High School Co-Ed Basketball League** is open to all South Plainfield youth currently in high school who are not on a high school basketball

team. The fee for this league is \$400 per team (no refunds available). Every team must have an adult coach. Register at the PAL, located on Maple Ave., open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. First timers must have birth certificates. All must show proof of residency. Registration began Sept. 12 and ends on Oct. 8.

- **Karate**—The South Plainfield Recreation Department is now offering karate to all boys and girls ages seven and up. Fee is \$35/session. Classes are held on Tuesday nights. Sessions run for two months. Register at the PAL on Maple Ave. All first timers must present a birth certificate.

- **Aerobics**—Sessions run every two months. Cost is \$35/session. Available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9-10 a.m. Register at the PAL.

- **Ed Niemczyk 2005 Youth Baseball League**—All South Plainfield children between the ages seven-14 are welcome to join. You must be seven by Oct. 1, 2005. The fee is \$35/participant; no refunds will be available. Registration is underway and ends on Oct. 17. Please register at the PAL. All first time players must present a birth certificate upon registration.

Kobilis Leads Lady Tiger Gymnasts

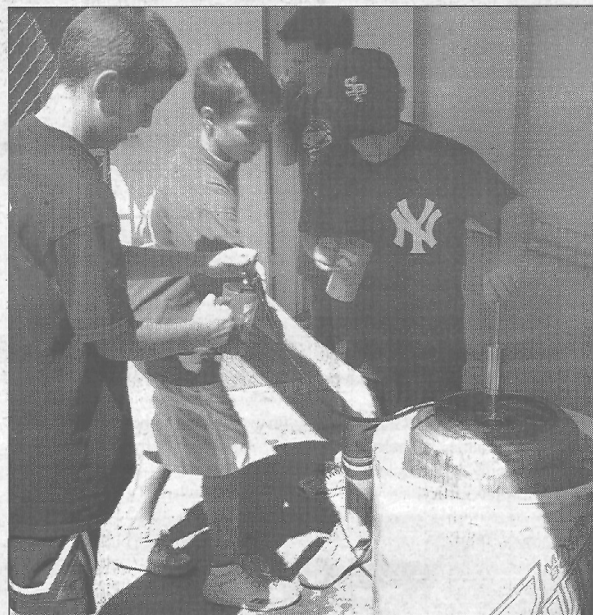
The South Plainfield High School Girls Gymnastics Team has upped its record to 2-1 with a victory over both Middlesex and Piscataway in a three

team meet at the High School last Thursday.

Freshman Michelle Kobilis continued to impress everyone by finishing first in all four events including a 9.2 on the balance beam and scoring 35.5 in the all-around.

Kobilis' efforts were supported by strong performances by Heather Ray and Danielle Butrico, who both placed in two events.

Family Fun at the Baseball Club Picnic



Kids enjoy pumping birch beer at the Junior Baseball annual picnic.

By Jane Dornick

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club enjoyed beautiful weather at the annual baseball picnic on Sept. 10.

Players and their families spent the afternoon enjoying barbecued hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, ice cream and steamed clams on the grill. Kids of all ages played baseball and football and other organized games, including a home run derby, water balloon toss and a dizzy bat race. Trophies and awards were handed out.

Tickets (\$100) are still available for the club's benefit raffle. Drawing will be held in November. Call Nancy Salici at (908) 510-3196.

By Glen Cullen

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

The club will hold its monthly meeting on Oct. 3, 7:30pm. Membership renewals and new club memberships can be purchased at the meeting at a cost of \$10. Memberships can be renewed by mailing a check to the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club, P.O. Box 166, South Plainfield NJ 07080. Sign ups for 2006 coaching in 2006 are now taking place. To be eligible, make sure your membership is current, and the requirements for participation at the meetings have been met.

The SPJBC will hold its 2006 baseball registrations on Oct. 20, 6-9 p.m. Oct. 21, 6-9 p.m. and Oct. 22, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Registration is \$95 per child with discounts for families with more than one child playing. There is also a \$75 bond required for each child, which will be refunded at the end of the season, or it can be rolled over into the following year.

U13 Spirit Gets Rowdy

This past Sunday, the U13 Spirit traveled to New Providence to face off against the New Providence Rowdies. After playing this team for three consecutive seasons, the boys were prepared for the competition.

Scoring began well into the first half, with Ryan Billich and Mike Dispenziere capturing one goal each. This was quickly followed by the play of the game, with an amazing save by goaltender, Nicholas Turp. Spirit maintained control of the ball throughout the remainder of the game, with Matias Palma assisted by

Daniel Zwatschka, scoring an additional point for the team. The final score was 3-0. All of the boys proved that working together as a team certainly pays off. Doing an outstanding job covering the field were the remaining Spirit players: Jesse Allen, Edgar Callejas, Ryan Hutchison, Joe Krawiec, Cory Limone, Ryan Lind, Edwin Molina, Marc Paez, Jason Pattison, Andrew Sanchez, Brandon Staynings. The next game is scheduled for Oct. 2 at the Kenneth Avenue Soccer fields. Good luck Spirit!

—Submitted by Michele Billich

Like Sports? The Observer is looking for a reporter to cover and report on high school sports. This is a great opportunity for a high school student who likes to write. Contact Nancy at the Observer (908) 668-0010.

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police report

On Sept. 19 a Perry St. resident reported the theft of a girls Gian21 sped bike from the side of the house.

An employee of Marino Ware on Metuchen Rd. reported the theft of a camcorder from a locked office.

A Meadow Terr. reported that there were several transactions on a credit card that he never recieved.

A Hamilton Blvd. resident reported the theft of a 1996 Chevy Impala from his unlocked garage. The vehicle had no plates and the keys were in the car.

On Sept. 20 Cherry St. resident reports that there was a wallet on her front steps. The wallet belonged to an Orchard Dr. resident who had lost it in a driveway. The wallet was missing two credit card.

Dessau Brass Inc. on Helen St. reported that a panel had been removed from a bay door in the rear of the building. Nothing was taken.

On Sept. 21 an employee of Radian Systems on Corporate Blvd. reported the theft of his wallet from his

office.

On Sept. 22 a Joan St. resident reported that 12 sections of vinyl stockade fence had been removed from their front yard.

On Sept. 24 Gladys O. Quintanilla, 44, of Plainfield was arrested for speeding and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

A So. 9th St. resident reported the theft of a girls Mongoose BMX bike from outside the house.

On Sept. 25 Gordon L. Dabney, 30, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, driving on an expired license, no insurance and two outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

Nicholett Ann Cook, 22, of Monmouth Junction was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving at a motor vehicle accident.

Raceway Gas on W. 7th St. reported that a driver had received \$8 worth of gas, paid and then reached out grabbed the money back and drove away.

Borough Now Accepting Proposals For Snow Plowing

The Borough of South Plainfield is accepting proposals for snow plowing services for the period beginning Nov. 1, 2005 through May 31, 2006. Those contractors interested in being considered should pick up the Proposal for Snow Plowing Services from

the Borough Clerk's Office, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Completed proposals should be returned to the Borough Clerk's Office, no later than October 28, 2005.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

PLEASE TAKE NOTE that the Applicant, American Foods at South Plainfield, has applied to the Mayor and Borough Council of South Plainfield and the State of New Jersey, Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control for a transfer of liquor licence #1222-33-013-001. The license will be used at a portion of Block 528.01, Lot 46, Hadley Road, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

The Application is now on the Borough Council calendar and a Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at 8:00 P.M. in Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, at which time you may appear in person or through an attorney and present any objections you may have to the granting of the relief sought in this application.

All documents relating to this Application are on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk and may be inspected by the public Monday through Friday at the Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

This notice is being given by the Application by the direction of the Mayor and Borough Council and pursuant to Municipal Ordinance.

DOMINIC J. CERMINARO, ESQ.
Attorney for Applicant
707 Raritan Avenue
P.O. Box 1433
Highland Park, New Jersey 08904
Dated: September 15, 2005

\$80.00 Sept. 23, 2005 and Sept. 30, 2005

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

PLEASE TAKE NOTE that the Applicant, American Foods at South Plainfield, has applied to the Mayor and Borough Council of South Plainfield for a waiver of 2000 feet location restriction (Municipal Ordinance No. 67-6). The license will be used at a portion of Block 528.01, Lot 46, Hadley Road, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

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BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey on OCTOBER 13, 2005 at *** 10:00AM *** prevailing time in the council Chambers of the municipal building 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at which time and place bids will be opened and read in public for:

JANITORIAL SERVICES

Specifications and other bid information may be obtained at the Municipal Clerk's office in the municipal building at the above address during regular business hours 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Only bidders who have picked up specifications will be allowed to submit bids. All bids must be submitted on the Proposal Forms furnished by the Borough. A bid bond in the form of a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond payable to the **BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD** in the amount equal to 10% of the highest bid amount, including alternates, if any, but not to exceed \$20,000 and a duly executed Consent of Surety. Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c.127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq.), the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.25, Employment on Public Works N.J.S.A. 10:2. EOE, ADA.

A FEE OF \$25.00 MADE PAYABLE TO THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR REQUEST FOR A BID PACKAGE.

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Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

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You are entitled to appear and be heard on this application. All maps and other documents for which approval is sought are available for inspection by the public in the Zoning/Planning Office of the Municipal Building at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey on any weekday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Anthony J. Marra, Jr.
P.O. Box 355
1901 Highway 27
Edison, N.J. 08818
\$57.75 September 30, 2005



Take Me Out to the Ball Game...to Work? The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus #6203 recently ran a fundraiser at the Somerset Patriots Ballpark in Bridgewater. Over 25 members of the Knights plus members from their sister organization, the South Plainfield Columbiettes, ran the first base concession stand during the ball game. All profits from this event goes toward the council scholarship fund given to members' children and grandchildren who graduate eighth grade and plan to attend a Catholic high school, and one graduating high school senior continuing his or her education in college. Co-chairs for the event were Mike Butrico and Joe Scrudato.

Obituaries

Mary T. Meidhof, 88

Mary T. Meidhof died on Friday, Sept. 23 at her home.

Born in Frackville, Pa., she had resided in New Brunswick before moving to South Plainfield five years ago.

Mary was employed with the Housing Department of Rutgers University in New Brunswick for 16 years before her retirement.

She was a member of the BPO Elks Lodge Ladies Auxiliary of Metuchen and a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

Her son, William Zeh, and her step-son, Herbert Meidhof have both pre-deceased her.

She is survived by her husband, Herbert Meidhof, two daughters, Marilyn Zeh Griffiths and her husband Rev. Owen Griffiths of Mt. Laurel, Carol. Zeh-Shibe of Dobson, North Carolina; a son, Edward Zeh and his wife Denise of Shawnee, Kansas; three step-daughters, Rusty Engel of Old Town, Fla., Nancy Meidhof of St. Petersburg, Fla. and Joy Ashton of Orlando, Fla. a sister, Kay Watters of Somerset, Fla. and two brothers, Frank Lucid of Milltown and Joe Lucid of Bordentown.

Also surviving are 13 grandchildren and two great grand children.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 400 Morris Ave., Suite 251, Denville, NJ 07834.

Candida "Ann" A. (Fittipaldi) Risoli, 85

Candida "Ann" A. (Fittipaldi) Risoli died on Friday, Sept., 23 at home in South Plainfield.

Born in South Plainfield, Ann has been a lifelong resident of the borough.

A member of Sacred Heart RC Church for her entire life, she participated in the Sacred Heart Funival

for many years. She was affiliated with the South Plainfield VFW Post #6763, the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Dept., the Plainfields' Unico Chapter, Watchung Council Knights of Columbus 4th degree and the American Ex-prisoner of War Garden State Chapter 1.

In 1983 Ann, along with her husband, the late Nicola P. who died in 1996, served as co-grand marshals in the South Plainfield Labor Day Parade. Mrs. Risoli worked for the Middlesex Dress Co. in South Plainfield for 55 years as a seamstress and became a member of ILGWU (International Ladies Garment Workers Union) and she enjoyed spending time with her family.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Risoli is pre-deceased by two sisters,

Philomena "Minnie" Fasano and Nancy Domenichini and three brothers, Joseph, John and Anthony Fittipaldi.

Surviving is a son, Anthony N. and his wife Bonnie of Hillsborough and Forked River; a sister, Rose Santoro and her husband Mike of South Plainfield and three grandchildren, Jason, Craig and Danae.

Also surviving are many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Ann's memory to the Plainfields' Unico Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 437, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or to a local Veterans Administration of your choice.

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Anesh & Bengivenga Announce Plans To Help South Plainfield Seniors



Council candidates Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga this week announced plans to help South Plainfield senior citizens, many of whom are struggling to maintain their homes and pay huge property tax increases. The plan's centerpiece is formation of the "South Plainfield Volunteer Corps," an all-volunteer group that would help those seniors who are having a hard time maintaining their homes and properties.

"When going door to door, we've heard from many seniors who are struggling," explained Anesh. "The biggest concern is of course property taxes, but many are also having a hard time maintaining their homes and properties. We've listened to these concerns and have some ideas that can make a difference." Phase one of the plan includes three initiatives:

1. **Spearhead the South Plainfield Volunteer Corps**—Volunteers built South Plainfield, and now when these same people need our help, it's time to repay those efforts," Bengivenga explained. The South Plainfield Volunteer Corps would do just that. The town would initially organize the group, but eventually, if successful, it would become a separate organization.

Members of the corps would volunteer time to help seniors who need help with small projects around the yard or home. For example, volunteers might help a senior who has trouble climbing stairs move a table or bed to a lower floor. Or they might help rake leaves in the fall or fix a broken fence. Other residents might volunteer an evening to drive someone to the library or even to a friend's home.

Other towns have similar programs, so we're not reinventing the wheel. The idea is to encourage volunteerism and then match willing volunteers with worthy projects. We could even invite volunteer organizations from around town to get involved. And while initially the corps would help our seniors only, it could take on other volunteer projects in town, like sprucing up our parks or pitching in to help others in need, if the program takes off.

2. **Provide Senior Housing Options in the Right Locations**—Providing seniors with housing options close to the center of town, the senior center, and medical providers should be a town priority according to Anesh. While a giant project on Jack Morris's Tingley Rubber site is in the works, many seniors would opt for something smaller and cozier—akin to the apartments near Riley School. A committee of taxpayers, business leaders and, of course, seniors should be immediately formed to get this off the ground. The committee would be charged with soliciting input from the community, recommending zoning changes, investigating options, and encouraging private development.

3. **Make South Plainfield More Affordable**—Probably the best thing we can do for our seniors is make our town more affordable. We've already announced several initiatives that will help reduce costs (eliminating no-bid contracts, cutting several newly created administrative posts, etc.), and we will be announcing several more over the next few weeks. For seniors who are having a hard time paying their property taxes, controlling spending is vital.

"Right now, too many seniors are being forced to leave their home town, even though they want to stay," said Bengivenga. "These proposals are a first step toward helping our seniors stay in South Plainfield."

"We want to stress that these ideas are just a start," Anesh added. "With fresh leadership on the council, we can work to make our town more 'senior friendly' in many more ways. But we have to take the first step. These plans do just that."

Democrats Update Residents On Extensive Road Projects



Democratic council members Ed Kubala and Kathy Thomas updated borough residents on the extensive road and curb projects currently going on in South Plainfield. Councilwoman Thomas said, "As we have been going door to door and talking with residents, there has been a lot of excitement about all of the road construction taking place in the borough. People can see things happening and they have been asking about the details of the plans so this week we will be commenting on these projects."

Councilman Kubala explained, "When I first ran for the borough council 12 years ago, the prior Republican administration had been neglecting South Plainfield's infrastructure. Money was borrowed to pay everyday expenses leaving no funds available for capital projects. When the new Democratic majority took office they worked hard to find a fiscally responsible way to pay for those needed improvements and the results have been terrific. The Democrats entered into a partnership with Middlesex County Road Department and as a result over 130 roads have been repaved without borrowing a penny to do them. In addition, we are now addressing some major infrastructure projects."

Councilwoman Thomas expanded on her running mate's comments, "The curbs and sidewalks on Maple Ave. have been completed. The project consisted of 7,800 linear feet of curbing, 34,000 square feet of sidewalks and new storm sewer inlets. The roadway should be milled the week of Sept. 26 and paved the week of Oct. 3. This project was financed in part by a \$200,000 grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation. The construction on Church St. began on Sept. 19 and is expected to last approximately 30 days. This project will completely replace the existing culvert that is quite old. Once the culvert is replaced, the curbs and sidewalks will be replaced on the south side of the road. The total costs of this project are \$170,000 with \$118,000 being funded by grants."

Councilman Kubala commented on the Hamilton Blvd. project. "This is one of the most ambitious projects in South Plainfield's history. Hamilton Blvd. is pretty much the same road as it was when it was first paved decades ago. There are virtually no storm or drainage sewers from New York Ave. near the Corner Store, all the way to St. Nicholas Ave. When this project is completed, there will be 106 new drainage inlets installed, approximately 20 existing drainage inlets from New Market Ave. to New York Ave. reconstructed, and approximately 10,600 linear feet of storm sewers lines installed where there were previously nearly no storm sewer lines at all. The work on the storm sewers and the traffic signals continues at the intersection of Ryan St. and St. Nicholas Ave. The plan is to have this work completed in the next 6 to 8 weeks and get the signals operational. Once the signals are working, St. Nicholas Ave. will be utilized as part of the detour route. The house on the corner of New Market Ave. was demolished and work will begin to widen that intersection soon. That will allow truck traffic to make the right hand turn much easier while traffic is detoured. The water company is working between Belmont Ave. and New Market Ave. and the gas company is finishing up the connections between Ryan St. and Belmont Ave. The costs of Phase I of the Hamilton Boulevard reconstruction project are over \$10 million, of which 75% is being paid by Middlesex County and another portion is being paid by a state grant obtained by our hometown Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan."

Councilwoman Thomas described some of the infrastructure projects planned for the future, "When Phase I of Hamilton Blvd. is complete, Durham Ave. will be widened from Route 287 to Helen St. to alleviate some of the traffic congestion at peak hours. The Mayor and Council have already secured a \$170,000 transportation grant to help fund this project. We also plan to address the lack of adequate storm sewers in the Woodland Ave. area near East Hendricks Ave."

(Continued on page 12)

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Dan Smith Named to BOE

(Continued from page 1)

but they didn't. They appointed Terri Alexis (who had lost in an earlier election), because "They were looking for someone new." What's more disturbing is there were six applicants then, and once again there were six seeking English's seat, and they were not given the courtesy of interviews. How could you have based your decision?" Markham asked.

Former board member Frank Mikorski also supported the voters previous election vote as the method of choosing board replacements.

"People rejected two of the incumbents, Dan Smith and Ken LaFreniere,

in the last election. The next highest vote getter should have been appointed. You're showing that the vote doesn't count, violating the trust of the community."

According to board attorney Celso, there are no laws regarding how a board member replacement is chosen and each board determines how they will make their decision.

Before the close of the meeting, Board President Steve Bohn revealed the names of the six people who submitted resumes for replacement position. They were Mr. Abood, Vincent Fucci, Ken LaFreniere, John Markham, Dan Smith and John L. Stasi.

Update on Borough Construction

(Continued from page 1)

utility is waiting for another utility to finish their work before they can begin their jobs.

Most of the construction work is taking place near Ryan St. and St. Nicholas Ave., where sewers and underground work is ongoing. Completion of the installation of lights at that intersection is estimated for the end of October.

Police are putting together a detour plan to alleviate some of the truck traffic on Hamilton Blvd. to relieve traf-

fic congestion in construction areas. The detour will direct trucks over to South Clinton Ave.

The house on the corner of New Market and Hamilton Blvd. has been demolished and the installation of curbing to widen the intersection will begin shortly to aid trucks in making the turn onto Hamilton Blvd. from New Market.

A sign will be placed on Rt. 287 at Exit 4 (Durham Ave.) to alert travelers of the ongoing construction and to recommend that traffic use Exit 6. The Ryan St. area will be affected next month when Boro Recycling begins trucking out contaminated soil. Plans call for 40 trucks a day to enter the site, fill up and haul away the soil to a destination in Ohio. Expect delays. This cleanup will take place Oct. 1 through Jan. 1.

Traffic updates are available at the borough's website: southplainfieldnj.com.

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BEDROOM SET—SLEIGH BED, TRIPLE dresser w/mirror, chest & nite stand. New in box, value \$2400, sell \$995, can deliver. (732) 259-6690.

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IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 1)

of dedication to the residents of our borough. Ed has not only been on the Borough Council for many years, but he has given his time and energy to the Feast of St. Anthony held at OLC Church. Ed is also a trustee at OLC. Anyone who knows Ed Kubala knows that there has never been a more loyal friend and I'm proud to call him my friend. All you have to do is call Ed with a problem or question. He is never too busy to help you or relieve your concerns. He is one in a million and we are lucky to have him in South Plainfield.

Kathy Thomas has served on the Borough Council for the past two years, replacing former Council President Jim Vokral. Kathy has certainly done a herculean job, along with the members of the Library Board of Trustees, to design a new library for the borough residents. In addition to her responsibilities as a councilwoman, Kathy has been involved in Girl Scouting for a number of years. She also served, along with her husband Bill, on the Centennial Committee for Sacred Heart Church. Kathy, like Ed, is never too busy to lend her hand to making South Plainfield the best in Middlesex County.

When we put our heads on the pillow at night, there are so many things we should all be grateful for. We live in a free society where WE elect people to represent us and our viewpoints. We should also be thankful for people like Ed Kubala and Kathy Thomas who work hard in so many different venues to make a positive contribution to our borough. We need to elect Ed Kubala and Kathy Thomas to the Borough Council for another three year term. South Plainfield will be so much better with both of them serving us.

HENRY KOCHUT

To the Editor:

On Election Day, I think everyone should come out and support the Democratic team of Ed Kubala and Kathy Thomas for Borough Council. They have adopted sound financial policies that have kept our municipal tax rate as one of the lowest in Middlesex County and cut the Borough's debt dramatically. Even with this tight financial policy, they have been able to make some major improvements to South Plainfield, such as the preservation of 150 acres of open space, the improvements to Putnam Park, the senior recreation center, the senior housing on Morris Ave., the new concession stands at the youth football and soccer complex and the new classroom to be built at the Highland Ave. nature preserve. These improvements will make South Plainfield better for every resident for years to come. Another great thing is that many of these improvements are being made with grant funding by the State and County. It's great to see taxpayers getting back some of the hard earned tax dollars that they pay.

Ed Kubala and Kathy Thomas are working hard to make South Plainfield better and they have earned re-election to the Borough Council. Please join me on Tuesday, Nov. 8 in voting for these two fine public servants.

ROBERT KUCHERA

Editor,

I've known Rob Bengivenga for years, and I can't be more excited that he's chosen to run for Borough Council. Having known him so long, I can say that without a doubt he will be a top-notch councilman.

Rob sincerely wants to make South Plainfield a better place. In addition, he has the drive and the enthusiasm to get the job done. What's more, he listens to people, whereas most politicians are too busy talking to listen to the voters.

We need Rob, and his running mate Matt Anesh representing us and listening to our voices.

They've got my vote!
MARK MAKOWSKI

Dear Editor,

I've read the articles featuring Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga in the last few issues of the Observer, and I'm happy to see that they are focusing on plans to make South Plainfield more affordable.

Spending is up \$1.2 million over last year, and we need some new blood (or as they call it "fresh leadership") on the council to get spending back in line. Matt and Rob have some solid ideas for controlling costs, and I'm sure they'll be able to find even more ways to save our tax dollars when they are elected.

It's time for change in South Plainfield. Vote Anesh and Bengivenga.

LINDA R. MACKENZIE

Democrats Update Residents On Road Projects

(Continued from page 10)

and Selene Ave. The project calls for the construction of multiple inlets in Woodland Ave. area on streets such as East Hendricks Ave., Selene Ave., Linden Ave. and Oxford Ave. We have already secured a \$170,000 grant to start this project. We are committed to improving So. Plainfield's infrastructure, both short term and long term. Residents can be assured that the team of Ed Kubala and Kathy Thomas are working hard to improve the quality of life in South Plainfield."

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South Plainfield, NJ

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Alvarado, Pastor

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Mass Schedule:

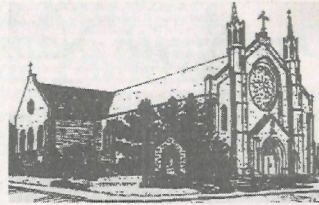
Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

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.

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