

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 9, NO. 7

50 CENTS

OCTOBER 14, 2005

## Police Ask for Help in Locating Missing Resident

South Plainfield Police are requesting information regarding resident Tania Silva, age 35, of 171 Robert Place, South Plainfield, who was reported missing on Oct. 7. Silva, an employee of JP Morgan-Chase in Iselin, was last seen by her boyfriend, Paul Cibelli, at 1:30 a.m. on Friday at their residence. When he awoke later in the morning, she was missing from the house. Left behind were all her personal belongings including her ve-

hicle, purse and cell phone. There has been no contact with Silva since that time. Friends and family report that this is highly unusual as she normally speaks with her family daily.

Silva is described as a Hispanic female, age 35, height 5'4", weight 105 lbs., black hair and brown eyes.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the South Plainfield Tip Line at (908)226-7675. All calls will be kept confidential.



Columbus Day ceremonies included the tradition of hoisting the Italian Flag.

## UNICO Hosts Columbus Day Ceremonies

The Plainfield Chapter of UNICO hosted the annual Columbus Day ceremonies on Monday morning and, as tradition, raised the Italian Flag along with the American Flag in front of Borough Hall.

This year's ceremonies were attended by municipal and state dignitaries, the South Plainfield Marching Band, as well as many members of UNICO from all over the state.

The ceremony began in front of Borough Hall with Dr. John Farewell, chairperson of the Columbus Day Committee, Robert Bengivenga, Jr., co-chair and Dr. M. Ann Walko, president, Plainfields' Unico, welcoming those attending. Master of Ceremonies was Renato Biribin. The invocation was read by Deacon Robert Gurske of St. Bartholomew the Apostle. The SPHS Marching Band, under the direction of Roger Vroom, played *The Star Spangled Banner*.

The ceremonies then moved

inside Borough Hall, where many dignitaries spoke about the importance of Columbus Day. Speakers were Mayor Dan Gallagher, North Plainfield Councilman Daniel Glicklich, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado, American Legion Commander Joe Penyak, Unico District Governor Joseph Tirano, South Plainfield Councilmen Ray Petronko and Ed Kubala, Councilwoman Kathy Thomas and Police Chief John Ferraro.

Keynote speaker Dr. Walko, professor at Kean University, brought along five students, J.P. Christiani, Lisa Cirone, Carmen Guerra, Jackie Muniz and Catherine Young, who challenged the audience with a quiz. After giving several hints about Italians who were dreamers and visionaries, as Christopher Columbus most certainly was, the members of the audience were challenged to name the person in question.

## Massaro Receives Fond Farewell

By Patricia Abbott

Assistant Superintendent Tony Massaro's last day working in the district was concluded by a boisterous goodbye. The mini farewell took place in front of the high school at the end of the school day and included a red carpet and marching band as well as cheerleaders, faculty, students and friends. The band played *Eye of the Tiger* in his honor. After his parting words a long line assembled so all could offer a hand shake or a hug and their personal good bye.

Principal Dr. Ken May said, "I talked to Tony about what he was doing for his last day. He replied that nothing was planned. I told him that I could not allow him to leave without a small thanks and so long. I didn't want a respected veteran to leave without someone saying thank you for a job well done."



Assistant Superintendent Tony Massaro receives a farewell handshake from South Plainfield High School Principal Dr. Ken May.

## Middle School Elects Student Council Officers

By Jane Dornick

Nearly 600 students at the Middle School elected their Student Council officers in an election held recently. An assembly was held where students heard the candidates' speeches and then voted by ballot. This year the results were tabulated in only 10 minutes due to a new voting system called "Scan Charm," a computerized counter.

As a result, the new president for the 2005-2006 school year is Elizabeth Martin, vice president is Victoria Esposito and the treasurer is Andrew Nguyen. Some of the plans discussed by the new officers for the year were a Green and White Day to be held once a month, several dances, a lollipop fundraiser for hurricane victims, decorating the cafeteria for

the different seasons and a Halloween dress-up day, which will include prizes for the best costumes. Above all, they want to establish the four "A's," athletics, academics, activities and arts, a concept where every student will be encouraged to take advantage of the resources available at the school. This

is a concept which Principal Steve Novak also strongly believes in.

President Elizabeth Martin said, "Students can always ask us any kind of question about anything." Elections for Student Council representatives took place later in the week.



Newly elected Middle School Student Council eighth grade members (l to r) Treasurer Andrew Nguyen, President Elizabeth Martin and Vice President Victoria Esposito discuss some of their plans for the upcoming year.

## SPHS to Host 24th Annual Band Festival



On Saturday, Oct. 15 the High School Marching Band will host the 24th annual festival and USSBA competition at Jost Field. That evening the students will have the opportunity to host several other high school marching bands on their home turf.

It is a huge collaborative effort, not only for the Booster parents, but for the whole town. Many local businesses make generous contributions for which students and parents are most grateful. Many parents spend hours plan-

ning and preparing for this event. The students have been rehearsing since the summer to perfect their performances.

When the SPHS Marching Band leads our Labor Day Parade each year, there is no denying the tremendous sense of pride felt among the young and old. Come and join us on Saturday night and once again show your continued support for these dedicated young men and ladies. There is nothing like some home-grown applause.

-Submitted by Nancy Hoffman



# IN YOUR OPINION

## To the Editor,

A few days ago I had need of contacting Governor Codey by mail. I reached for our area phone book, but was unable to find the Governor's address in the Blue Pages, Yellow Pages, nor White Pages. I happened to look at the front page, and on its reverse is a list of telephone help lines. Set off from the list is "First Call For Help (908) 253-6500." I called; a brief taped response said, "Push one or wait on the line." I waited a few seconds and was greeted by a real, live person. "Two-one-one help line; this is Scott." Scott related the needed address to me very quickly. I then asked him to explain his opening words.

The United Way, through contributions, supports this help line. People in need of assistance with any problem merely have to dial 2-1-1 in order to get help. This is a statewide, and soon to be nationwide, call system, much like 9-1-1 and 4-1-1. "2-1-1 First Call For Help" can assist a caller who needs to find counseling, financial, educational, medical or informational support services. It does not provide the services, but directs the caller to community agencies that can serve the needs required. All of this is a free service through our United Way.

Because I never heard of this, nor saw any media advertising this free service, I thought I would share my personal experience. This is only one indicator of the need for us to support our community services.

MARIA LA SALVIA - SELIGA

## To the Editor,

This is directed to all the Grant and Middle School parents who send their kids to the Friday night football games and have no idea what they are doing during the game. At the last home game, we had a couple of instances where the police were called in. One 13-year-old did something really stupid and was escorted out by police. Later, at least four or five kids were thrown out by the police.

The police and the board of education are not your babysitters. You probably think that for \$2 it's a good deal. These students have no idea there is a football game going on. It is just a big social event with no chaperones. Instead, this is a high school athletic event

where they should be cheering on the home team from the bleachers.

A few things to consider before you drop them off for this week's game: there are no bicycles or skateboards allowed inside the complex. There are no animals allowed on school property as well. There is a "No Re-entry" policy which means once you leave the complex you must pay to go back in. These students have no idea what that means. Please enlighten them!

The board of education should enforce (and I hope they do), the policy that is stated on the signs on the light poles that read "all spectators must be seated".

Parents—ask your student what game was played Friday night and who did we play? Better yet, come to the game and see what really goes on.

See you there!

NORM LOENSER

## Dear Editor,

Due to the legal action that the South Plainfield Republican Organization has decided to take against the South Plainfield Borough Council, we regretfully must resign our positions as South Plainfield Republican Organization District 10 committee representatives. We do not agree with the organization's decision to take this action and will not be made a part of it.

DAVID AND LINDA GUOTH

## To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in support of the re-election of Councilwoman Kathy Thomas. Over the past 25 years. I have had the opportunity to work, on a daily basis, with elected officials at all levels of government. I would be hard pressed to find one who is more compassionate, dedicated and intelligent than Kathy.

As president of the Library Board of Trustees, I have had the pleasure of working closely with Kathy during the past year on the development of a preliminary design for the new library. During this time, it has become clear that Kathy's sole focus has been on what is best for the residents of South Plainfield. She has made sure that the planning and presentation before the Planning Board has been one of inclusion, rather than exclusion. It is obvious to anyone who has participated in any of the meetings and discussions

concerning the new library, that Kathy has a firm grasp of all the issues, no matter how small or technical in nature and that she has no personal agenda to promote. The collaborative nature of the relationship between the Borough and the Library Board, due in large part to Kathy's efforts, could serve as a model for other governing bodies throughout the state.

Now that the preliminary design phase is, essentially, complete, I believe that I speak on behalf of the entire Library Board when I say that we all are looking forward to working with Kathy on the final design and construction phases of this project, which we are confident, will give South Plainfield one of the finest public libraries in the state of New Jersey and one which our residents clearly deserve and, of which, they can be proud.

I urge all residents to re-elect Councilwoman Kathy Thomas.

ERIC M. ARONOWITZ, PRESIDENT  
LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## Dear Editor,

I see the signs all over South Plainfield, and they say "Fresh Leadership for South Plainfield." Well, it can't come too soon.

We need new leadership in our town, and as a result, I'm voting for Rob Bengivenga and Matt Anesh.

Anesh and Bengivenga not only have great backgrounds, they've been offering some super ideas for making South Plainfield a better place. Both the Anesh and Bengivenga names are well known around town, as both families have been active in the community for decades.

Rob Bengivenga represents all the good things about our town. For example, he's active in service organizations like UNICO, the Cultural Arts Commission, and the Historical Society. He's also been a volunteer working to restore the Edison Valley Playhouse, and he's helped those less fortunate by working with Habitat for Humanity.

Also, it's nice to see young people who grew up in town come back and settle here to raise their families. Matt Anesh did just that. Matt and his wife Kimberly (also an S.P.H.S. graduate) are raising their twin boys in the same hometown they grew up in.

These two candidates have just the right blend of youth and experience that we need on the council. Fresh Leadership for South Plainfield. I couldn't have said it better. Make it Anesh and Bengivenga on Election Day.

GINA MCCONVILLE

## To the Editor,

I am proud of what I have been able to accomplish for my hometown of

## From the Publisher

Publishing a paper every week is not an easy task! Publishing a paper during the *holy season* can be a nightmare.

Events which occurred during the past week, which I will explain fully after the election, have led me to make an agonizing decision. The *Observer* will no longer accept any letters, copy or comments from GOP Chairman Bob Jones or Dawn Fredericks.

So that my readers have the opportunity to continue to hear from both parties in the upcoming election, I have asked that Mr. Jones appoint someone to be his liaison, to submit the GOP column, letters and comments.

Furthermore, I will not accept any letters on this subject, either pro or con.

NANCY GRENNIER, PUBLISHER

South Plainfield during my four years in the New Jersey Assembly. As an advocate for our great Borough my colleagues Senator Barbara Buono and Assemblyman Peter Barnes and I have been able to pass legislation and receive millions of dollars in state aid for the deserving needs of our residents. I was able to secure over \$200,000 to upgrade our police communication system. The recently completed curbs and sidewalks on Maple Ave. were funded by a state transportation grant. The decorative lights and signage on Hamilton Blvd. and the bridge to bring together our veterans and firefighter's memorials across from Spring Lake Park will be paid largely for with grants received from the Department of Community Affairs.

South Plainfield has received over a half million dollars in extraordinary aid to offset municipal taxes over the last four years. We received zero aid prior to my election. I was honored when our superintendent of schools complemented me for doing what he called 'the impossible' by receiving over \$200,000 in past reimbursements from the Department of Education. There are numerous other examples, but what I am most proud of is the law, which I authored to save our Future Stars preschool program. As you may recall, the program was about to be terminated before my law was signed by the Governor.

Regardless of your political affiliation, I hope you agree that it is a great asset for a resident of South Plainfield to be representing us in the State Legislature. I ask that you support my running mate, Peter Barnes and me on Election Day, Nov. 8. Pete is a great assemblyman and most importantly a great person. Nothing that has been accomplished for our town could have been done without his support. If anyone is interested in helping in the campaign or wants a Barnes/Diegnan lawn sign, please give me a call at (908) 753-7200. Thank you for your consideration.

ASSEMBLYMAN PATRICK J.  
DIEGNAN, JR.

## To the Editor,

How to lose an election and still win! Frequently the media conducts surveys on to why voter turnout is so poor

## 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 refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and to limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject.

in the election. When asked why they do not vote, individuals answer why bother, my vote does not count, because they will do what they want to do anyway. Well, this is certainly true with the South Plainfield Board of Education.

The April 2005 school board election resulted in the defeat of two incumbents: Dan Smith and Ken LaFreniere. Carol Byrne and Jeff Seider were elected to replace them and Tim Morgan was re-elected. The next highest vote received was John Markham, who at one time had served on the Board.

In August 2005, Mike English, then president of the school board, submitted his resignation which left a vacancy on the nine member board. The Board then had the opportunity to appoint a replacement. The Board requested that interested candidates submit résumés for consideration. A total of six candidates applied, John Markham, the two defeated incumbents Dan Smith and Ken LaFreniere and three others. The Board decided not to interview candidates, but instead opted to accept nominations from the seated board members at their Sept. 20, meeting. Nominations were opened and Pio Pennisi nominated Dan Smith and it was seconded by Sue Peck. Another nomination was made by Jeff Seider who commented that he believed the next highest vote getter in the April election should be appointed. There was no second and the nominated was not accepted. The Board voted yes to appoint Smith. Those voting yes were Pennisi, Peck, Terry Alexa, Morgan and Steve Bohn. Jeff Seider voted no. Carol Byrne and Pat Kelly were absent. Smith was sworn in to complete the English unexpired term which ends April, 2006.

(Continued on page 12)

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(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

NANCY GRENNIER  
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

Web page:  
www.spobserver.com  
For subscriptions, advertising or  
information, call (908) 668-0010.

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: spobserver@comcast.net or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the *Observer*. All letters must be submitted with name and phone number, for verification.



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Tom and Marie Perry, center, new owners of the Corner Deli with daughter Debra, left, niece Jennifer Ferarro and granddaughter, Brook.

## New Corner Deli Owners Say Store Will Stay Family Friendly

By Patricia Abbott

The Corner Deli, located at 1200 Hamilton Blvd., is a throw back to the old-fashioned Mom and Pop stores that once thrived in South Plainfield. The small, but popular deli, was owned by Ruth "Cookie" Ferraro and her sister Doreen Bolesta and their husbands Frank and Butch. In late August, after almost 32 years, they sold the business.

It was purchased by Tom and Maria Perry, insuring customers that the deli will remain a family friendly place. The Perrys who live in the neighborhood, have been regular customers at the Corner Deli over the years. Their oldest daughter Michelle remembers her first visit to the store when as a five year old she could not see over the counter.

The deli is being managed by the Perry's daughter Debra and their niece Jennifer Ferraro assists. The family are firm believers in home cooking and this is reflected in their menu which includes; Italian meatballs, sausage and peppers, chicken Parmesan, home made meatloaf and a wide variety of homemade salads. They also plan to expand the menu. Their first catering job brought high praise especially for the sausage and peppers. Tom has worked in the food industry full time for the past 27 years. His experience brings additional knowledge of what people want to the business.

Family and community are important to the Perry's. Tom and Maria have been married for 32 years and have resided in South Plainfield for 26 years. The family includes daughter Michelle Larsen, son in law Darin Larsen, new grandson Darin John, daughters Debra, Angela and Lauren, and granddaughter Brooke. Daughters and mom Maria are all graduates of SPHS. Maria is the Membership Director for the Washington Rock Girl Scout Council. Tom has been a Parade Marshal for the Labor Day parade for the past 20 plus years.

Tom said, "One of our goals is to make the eating experience a tasty one." With their dedication and the strength of their convictions, The Corner Deli will continue to prosper with the Perry family at the helm.

Former owners Cookie and Frank, Doreen and Butch put the "family" in the family business. The Ferraro children, sons Anthony and Frank and daughter Allison, along with the Bolesta's children, sons Stephen and Ricky and daughter Christine all worked at the store while growing up. Cookie and Doreen's parents Ruth and Sam Testa, sister Judy Krempa and Butch's brother Phil Dudak have also assisted with the daily duties of running the busy store. Cookie recalled

their first week of operation in 1973 and the ominous omens. They dealt with a hurricane, a family car smashed under a fallen tree and a motorcycle accident in front of the store. The success of the Corner Deli over past 32 years has more than negated those omens. Cookie and Doreen reminisced, "The deli has served as a meeting place for family and friends, a drop off point where connections have been made for us, family and customers. Our customers have become our friends. We've watched their children grow up. We've shared in their joys and their problems as they have shared in ours."

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## NOTES FROM The Senior Center

by Joann Graf, Director of Office on Aging

The Middlesex County Health Department will be at the South Plainfield Senior Center located on Maple Avenue on Friday, Oct. 28 to administer flu shots from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

If you cannot make that date, you can also call the visiting nurses association at 732-224-6868 to make an appointment.

• The Senior Center will be running a trip to the Claridge Hotel & Casino on Thursday, Oct. 20 and to Taj Mahal on Wednesday, Nov. 2. Bus departs the Senior Center at 9 a.m. and returns around 7 p.m. The cost is \$18 which is returned in a voucher by the casino on arrival.

• The Senior Center has a trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse planned for Thursday, Dec. 15 to see the annual Christmas Show. The cost is \$58 per person and includes transportation, a luncheon with a lavish dessert buffet and the show.

For reservations, please stop in at the Senior Center, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This trip is a sell out every year, so make your reservation early!

Beginning Jan. 1, 2006, new Medicare prescription drug plans will be available to people with Medicare. The Medicare drug benefit offers help to beneficiaries with rising out-of-pocket drug costs, especially those with low incomes. Insurance companies and other private companies will work with Medicare to offer these drug plans.

Beneficiary education and counseling will be critical for people to make

an informed decision and a smooth transition as the new drug benefit is implemented. Are you prepared to make this decision? Do you know how to choose and join a drug plan that best meets your needs?

In an effort to assist our local residents, we will be having several seminars to provide the latest information available. The first program will be held on Thursday, September 8, at 1 p.m. at the Senior Center. Our SHIP (State Health Insurance Program) counselor, Joe Zekas, will be our guest speaker and provide all the latest information. Then, on Monday, Oct. 24, at 1 p.m., the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services will conduct a free in-depth seminar hosted by Debbie Breslin, Director of the State Senior Health Insurance Program.

Please mark your calendar and make in a point to attend these seminars. It is vitally important that you have the information you need to make the best decisions for your medical coverage.

## Kennedy School Trunk-R-Treating, Haunted School

Kennedy School PTSO is hosting a Trunk-R-Treating fundraiser on Friday, Oct. 28 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the school parking lot. Families can decorate the trunk of their vehicles and win prizes. Decorating time is from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Children can trick-or-treat in their costumes from trunk to trunk from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and visit the "haunted school." Admission is \$10 per family for candy and haunted school regardless of whether you enter a vehicle or not. Food and drinks will be sold. There will also be games, raffles, a 50/50, pictures and crafts.

For more information contact Barbara Bythell at (908) 754-9629.

## Truck Spills Olives on Roadway

Early morning last Wednesday morning, a tractor trailer owned by Angel Callejas of North Plainfield was traveling west on Hamilton Blvd. towards Home Depot when it overturned on its right side. The vehicle, leased to K&G Delivery in South Plainfield, was carrying 41,000 pounds of olives.

The South Plainfield Fire Dept. and Rescue Squad responded to the scene, as well as Middlesex County Hazmat, due the large amount of fuel spillage. The driver of the truck, Cesar Leiva-Ramirez, 23, of Plainfield received injuries to his head, arms and legs, but refused any medical treatment at the scene.

The truck knocked down two telephone poles in front of Binder Machinery and caused a power outage at the Ramada Inn, which was evacuated, and Tempil Co. on Hamilton Blvd. was closed between South Clinton and Durham avenues for almost 12 hours.

The driver received a summons for careless driving and having no insurance.

Anyone who has any information on the accident is asked to contact Lt. Kevin Murtagh of the Traffic Safety Division at (908) 226-7679.

## SPHS Class of 1980 Looking for Classmates For Reunion

The 25th Reunion Committee is seeking classmates. If you know of anyone that has recently moved, married or otherwise be difficult to contact please call Jackie Vill at (908) 757-0204 or Andrea/Ken Pesta at (908) 595-1994.

The reunion will be held on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2005. Watch the Observer for more information.

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# Around Town

## Troop 207 Car Wash

October 15

Boy Scout Troop 15 (Knights of Columbus) will be holding a car wash on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the South Plainfield Middle School. Cost is \$5 per car and \$7 per SUV/pickup trucks. Raindate will be Saturday, Oct. 22. Proceeds go towards their Washington, DC trip.

## Kennedy Harvest Fest

October 15

The Kennedy School third graders and Student Council will be hosting a Harvest Fest on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 1 to 4 p.m. Plenty of music, games, food, raffles, pumpkin painting, arts and crafts, hayrides and face painting.

Bring the family and at the same time benefit UNICEF and the Red Cross. Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 16.

## 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 offers a variety of programs to fit your child's needs, from ages six weeks to eight years. Tour the facility, talk with their professional staff and learn about ParentView, their secure Internet video system.

For information, call (908) 769-3224 or visit: [www.rainbowacademy.com](http://www.rainbowacademy.com).

## Republican Meeting

October 19

The regular monthly meeting of the SP Republican Organization will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 19, at 8 p.m. at Sherban's Restaurant. All borough residents are welcome to meet council candidates Matt Anesh and Robert Bengivenga and hear their ideas and plans for the borough. Residents will also be offered the opportunity to discuss their concerns with the candidates.

## AARP 4144 Meeting

October 20

AARP Chapter 4144's next meeting will be held at the Senior Center, on Maple Ave. on Thursday Oct. 20 at 12:30 p.m. The program will include a slide show by Bill Hannah, entitled "Sixty and Counting." Samples of Bill's handywork will be on display.

Needle-crafters meet on Wednesday from 1 to 3 p.m. They knit for DYFS and Muhlenberg Hospital. To join call Jean at (732) 752-0358.

## Pierogi Sale

October 20

A pierogi sale will be held on Thursday, Oct. 20 at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Church on Delmore Ave.

## What's happening in OCTOBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>				
Country Hoedown Dinner Dance—Oct. 15				
Woodloch Pines Pocono Resort Oct. 31-Nov. 4 Info at Senior Center				
Speaker Program 1 PM "Medicare Prescription Plan D"				
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am 17 Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11am Hunterdon Hills Playhouse 10am	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am Lunch Available 18	Exercise 8:30am Line Dancing 10am Computer Class 10am, 11:30am & 1pm AARP Crafts Group 1pm Tai Chi Class 2 pm 19	Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Exercise Class 1:15pm Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm Atlantic City Trip 9am 20	Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available 14 Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available 21
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

(corner of Belmont and Delmore).

The pierogi are \$4 a dozen. They are handmade and freshly cooked to order by parish Sisterhood and Brotherhood members. There is the choice of potato with cheese pierogi or sauerkraut pierogi.

Please order no later than 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17 for pickup on Thursday, Oct. 20. To order, or for information, call (908) 561-6366 and leave your name, phone number, and order. For more information or questions contact Dorothy at 908-756-7223.

## ProCare Free Events

October 20 & 27

In celebration of National Physical Therapy Month, ProCare Physical Therapy is sponsoring the following FREE events: Thursday Oct. 20 at 6:30 p.m.—Weight Loss—an informative talk on weight loss by Dr. Smitha Manoj, a board certified internist and on Thursday, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m.—Try PT First Seminar and Open House. Come join us to learn if physical therapy can help YOU! All attendees receive a coupon for a free screening.

Both events will be held at: ProCare Physical Therapy, 4500 New Brunswick Ave., Suite 101 in Piscataway.

For information, call ProCare Physical Therapy (732) 926-9250.

## VFW Dinner

October 21

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

## St. Stephen's Oktoberfest

October 22

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church on Park Ave., will hold their Eighth An-

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

## Senior Center EVENTS

nual Oktoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 22 from 5 to 7 p.m. with all you can eat authentic German food.

Advance tickets: adults-\$10, children 5-12-\$5 and seniors-\$8. Takeout dinners available.

Tickets available from the church office by calling (908) 757-4474.

## Trip to Resorts Casino

Sunday, Oct. 23

Recreation is sponsoring a trip to Atlantic City Resorts Casino on Sunday, Oct. 23. Bus leaves the PAL at 10:30 a.m. and returns at 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person with \$22 in slot credits. Only 43 tickets are available.

Tickets can be purchased at the PAL weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Columbiettes Plan Trip to Reading

November 5

The Columbiettes will sponsor a trip to the outlets at Vanity Fair in Reading, Pa. Saturday, Nov. 5. Bus leaves the Knights of Columbus Hall on Hamilton Blvd. at 7:45 a.m. and returns approximately 7 p.m.

Cost of trip is \$25 and includes the bus, driver's tip, coupon book, shopping bag and lunch voucher. A stop will be made at the Cracker Barrel on the return trip, with dinner on your own.

For reservations call Kathy at (908) 756-3772. Space is limited.

## VFW Breakfast

November 6

The VFW, located on Front St., will be holding a breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 6 from 8 to 11 a.m. The public is invited. Proceeds to benefit Lyons VA Hospital.

## Hawaii, San Francisco and Las Vegas Trip

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is planning a 10-day, 9-night vacation trip for July of 2006.

The trip includes two days in San Francisco, five days in Hawaii and two days in Las Vegas.

Price is \$1995 per person, double occupancy and is limited to only 40 people.

For more detailed information, contact with Mike English at (908) 226-7714 or Joann Graff at (908) 754-1047.

on Rahway on Woodbridge. Cost is \$8. Live music and refreshments. Call (732) 209-1775.

## Willow Grove Storytime

October 19

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

"Tales" will be held the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7 p.m. and is geared for children ages 2½-6.

For information, call (908) 232-5678, e-mail: [wilgry@netzero.com](mailto:wilgry@netzero.com).

## Chats Meeting

October 24

CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support) will meet on Monday, Oct. 24 from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church in North Plainfield. Open sharing of adoption-related stories; light refreshments. Check out [www.chatsnj.com](http://www.chatsnj.com) or call (732) 227-0607.

## Woodbridge WOWs

October 30

The Woodbridge Widows or Widowers (WOWs) will hold a fundraiser Halloween Dance on Sunday, Oct. 30 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the Elks' Hall on Rahway Ave., in Woodbridge. Costumes optional for prizes. All welcome. Call (732) 297-1775.

## Financial Seminar

October 26

A seminar on investing for fixed income will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 26 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in Centennial Hall at Muhlenburg Regional Medical Center on Park Ave. in Plainfield.

## 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 [amfips831@aol.com](mailto:amfips831@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.

## — Out of Town —

### Middlesex East WOWs

October 14

The Middlesex East WOWs will hold a dance on Friday, Oct. 14 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at St. Demetrius Community Center on Roosevelt Ave. in Carteret. Live music and refreshments. All are welcome. \$8 for member and \$9 for guests.

For more information, call (732) 541-2174 or (908) 757-0515.

### Life Issues Conference

October 15

The Diocese of Metuchen will host its annual Critical Life Issues Conference, Saturday, Oct. 15 from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the John Neumann Conference Center on Metlars Ln. in Piscataway. Cost of \$30 includes lunch. For information, call (732) 562-1990, ext. 1629.

### Woodbridge WOWs

October 16

The Woodbridge Area Chapter of WOWs will hold a member/guest dance-social on Sunday, Oct. 16 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the Elks' Hall

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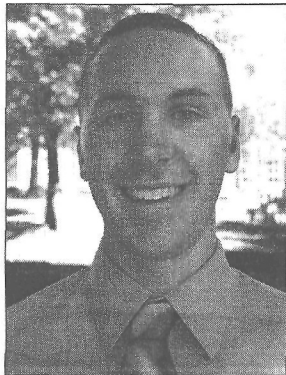
## southplainfieldpeople Milestones



Jim and Julie Wallace recently celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary with their children and grandchildren. They were married on April 1, 1945. Congratulations!

### Matt Peloquin, One of Six Seniors Nominated for King at MC

Senior Matt Peloquin of South Plainfield is one of six king candidates



Matt Peloquin

for Homecoming 2005 at Marietta College.

Peloquin, son of Thomas and Linda Peloquin of South Plainfield,

was nominated by the Society of Petroleum Engineers. Peloquin, who is majoring in petroleum engineering, is treasurer emeritus for Society of Petroleum Engineers, social chair of Lambda Chi Alpha, president of Pi Epsilon Tau (petroleum engineering honorary). Peloquin is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta (freshman honorary) and Kappa Mu Epsilon.

His escort is Stephanie Esparza and alumni escort is Nicole Peloquin.

The queen and king will be announced at halftime of the Pioneers' football game with Muskingum on Saturday, Oct. 22. Kickoff is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. at Don Drumm Stadium.

Located in Marietta, Ohio, at the confluence of the Muskingum and Ohio rivers, Marietta College is a four-year liberal arts college that serves a body of 1,300 full-time students.

### Schuetz's Celebrate 25th Anniversary

Audrey and Karl Schuetz recently celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

Audrey and Karl were married on July 7, 1980. Their family gave them a surprise party at Carpaccio's Restaurant in Middlesex, attended by their family and friends.

Audrey and Karl have five children,

Karl J., Michael, Christina, Michele and Kimberly.

Audrey and Karl also are planning a cruise at a later date.

### Haunted Woods Tour Tickets on Sale

Tickets are on sale for the Almost Famous Players Third Annual Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour. Reservations are strongly recommended.

Join Investigators Lewis and Clark for a frighteningly fun Halloween show and have fun being scared silly. Show dates are Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday, Oct. 27, 28, 29 and 31. The Thursday, Friday and Saturday shows begin with a twilight tour at about 6:15 p.m., still some daylight for those "afraid of the dark!"

Tours start approximately every 25 minutes until 10:15 p.m. Tickets for adults are \$6 and children accompanied by adult are \$4. On Halloween, Monday, Oct. 31, the first tour begins at 5:10 p.m. and tours run until 9:30 p.m.

Tickets for adults are \$7 and children accompanied by adult are \$5. Reservations are required for groups of six or more.

Call (908) 756-8011 for advance tickets/info.

## Town History Day to Feature NJ's First Governor, Artifacts, Civil War Room

The Third Annual South Plainfield Town History Day will be held on Sunday, Oct. 30 from 1-4 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center, located at 90 Maple Ave. Admission and light refreshments are free.

Guest speaker will be Gov. William Livingston, New Jersey's first governor, as interpreted by the distinguished American Historical Theater of Philadelphia. (See sidebar.) Gov. Livingston takes the stage promptly at 1:45 p.m. following a short entertainment program beginning at 1 p.m.

Dr. Richard F. Veit, a teacher in the Department of History and Anthropology at Monmouth University, will present a new, half-hour slide program on local history following Governor Livingston (approximately 2:35 p.m.). Dr. Veit, who was born and raised in South Plainfield, is a trained archaeologist. He has researched, excavated and written about numerous historic sites in New Jersey and elsewhere. Dr. Veit is the author of Images of America, South Plainfield. A graduate of South Plainfield High School, he was inducted into its Hall of Fame.

Displays will feature the South Plainfield Historical Society's large collection of photographs, maps,



The year is 1925 and Maple Avenue is a dirt road. This couple were visitors at the Setteducati home at #706. To the left is a glimpse of really old history-Tappan's barn. The photograph graces the cover of the Historical Society's 2006 keepsake calendar.

newspaper clippings and miscellaneous material. Also on display: artifacts donated by local residents; and an extensive collection of antique hats, shoes and dresses spanning the years 1845-1960s. A special Civil War Room courtesy of the Sons of the Union Veterans, Custer Camp #17, will feature a breathtaking display of guns, swords, medals and memorabilia. An interesting assortment of vid-

eos will feature Hadley Airport, the 1951 South Plainfield parade marking the town's 25th anniversary, and a video tour of Hillside Cemetery of Samptown. Parked outside the front entrance will be an array of antique autos for public inspection.

School and scout groups are encouraged to attend. For information, call Dorothy Miele at (908) 754-3073 or Kathy Horvath at (908) 754-7268.

### NJ's First Governor Portrayed at Town History Day

The speaker at South Plainfield's Town History Day will be a reenactor from the American Historical Theatre of Philadelphia. Christian Johnson will bring his interpretation of New Jersey's first Governor, William Livingston, to the Senior Center on Sunday, Oct. 30 at 1:45 p.m. In its third year, Town History Day has been organized by the South Plainfield Historical Society.

William Livingston was born in 1723 in Albany, NY and educated at Yale. He pursued a career in law rather than following his families' wishes to enter the fur trade or mercantile business. Early on, Livingston established a reputation as a supporter of popular causes. After several years in NY politics, he and his wife, Susanna, moved to Elizabethtown, NJ where they built an estate called Liberty Hall in 1772 and he lived the life of a gentleman farmer and raised 13 children.

The Revolutionary fervor, however, brought him out of retirement. Soon he would become a representative in the First Continental Congress, then a delegate to the Second Continental Congress. He left Congress in June of 1776 to command the NJ militia as a brigadier gen-

eral, holding the post until he was elected New Jersey's first governor under the 1776 constitution. Livingston would hold that position for 14 consecutive years until his death in 1790.

During his tenure as governor, he saw the government organized, the war son and New Jersey develop as a sovereign state. Livingston was active in the anti-slavery movement.

Christian Johnson trained as an actor at New York's Neighborhood Playhouse. His interest in history has led to his research and portrayal of other notable Americans including William Penn, Abraham Lincoln, Patrick Henry and artist Charles Willson Peale. Johnson has received rave reviews for his convincing interpretations.

The Oct. 30 program is offered through the Horizons Speakers Bureau of the NJ Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Social studies students and teachers are encouraged to attend the program and visit the displays of local and state history at Town History Day from 1 to 4 p.m.



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FROM THE  
Senior Men's  
**FORUM**

## Goals and Objectives

Our Forum members have met each month for the past 30 months and our discussion agendas have included many interesting topics and invited speakers. Peter J. Barnes, Jr., Marjority-Whip of the New Jersey Legislature spoke at our August meeting. Since we are approaching our third year, our Steering Committee has prepared a new list of goals and objectives that we believe have a bearing on common civic matters concerning our Borough. These are the goals selected:

1. To assure protection of occupants, especially senior citizens, we will follow new building projects, residential, commercial, and industrial, to ascertain that construction methods and procedures meet the specs included in the Uniform Construction Code of N.J.

2. We will follow the Board of Education's plans and procedures to assure the expenditures are kept within budgetary limits and are appropriately maintained.

3. We will make effort to determine that right and proper dealings are conducted whenever major and minor projects are instituted and acted upon regardless of party affiliations.

4. We will keep abreast of proposed bills adjudicated in the New Jersey Legislature particularly those affecting seniors' taxes and medical procedures and practices.

5. We will be alert to Borough changes and new procedures and functions that we feel have improper or inappropriate effects on our residents, especially seniors.

In order to provide our residents with an accountability of these commit-

ments we will refer our findings and actions to the *Observer* for publication and distribution.

It is hoped that our membership will substantially increase during months ahead in order to aid in the accomplishment of our goals. Included in our Creed is the following:

"...discussions are intended as a bonding measure to facilitate good fellowship to one and all...to have a positive effect on civic service beyond the walls of the meeting place. Thus it shall be a primary goal of each and every member to provide favorable deeds and works to the general public at large. ...Forum shall adhere to democratic principles and procedures recognizing no affiliations to political parties. Only that which is good and beneficial to the Borough of South Plainfield shall be vigorously pursued.

We invite all senior men to attend our meetings. Membership requirements are basic and no dues are collected. If you are interested in free and open discussion and care to express your views, we invite you to come and join with us - first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

-Walter J. Pasacrita, Chairman

Editors Note: *Walter Pasacrita is chairman of the Senior Men's Forum of South Plainfield. The forum will periodically submit columns on their views and opinions. If you would like to know more about the group, you are invited to attend one of their meetings held on the first Tuesday of the month at the Senior Center, 1:30 p.m.*



The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 Council Officers for 2005-2006.

## Knights of Columbus Install Officers

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 held their installation of officers ceremony on Sept. 17 to install the incoming 2005-2006 Council officers. The ceremony was held at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church followed by a reception at the Knights hall.

The 2005-2006 Council Officers are: Chaplin-Father John Paul Alvarado, Grand Knight-Joe Scudato, Deputy Grand Knight-Tony Moskal, Chancellor-Steve Belanger, Recorder-Gene Buldowski, Financial Secretary-John Weakley, Treasurer-Bill Hartmann, Lecturers-Fred Brisebois and Robert Smith, Advocate-Gene Baker, Warden-John LoBosco, Inside Guards-Mike Butrico and Bill Kelly, Outside Guards-Mostiole Garcia and Brian Cargill, One Year Trustee-Lenny Kleczkowski, Two Year Trustee-Jim Vokral and Three Year Trustee-Bob Walker.

The 2005-2006 4th Degree Officers are as follows:

Friar- Father J. Maciej Melaniuk, Navigator-Gene Buldowski, Captain-Tom Elko, Pilot-Joe Scudato, Admiral-Tony Moskal, Scribe-Steve Belanger, Purser-Gene Baker, Comptroller-

Larry Makoski, Inside Sentinels-Fred Brisebois and Jerry Douglas, Outside Sentinels-Andrew Provenza and Bob Walker, One Year Trustee-Lenny Kleczkowski, Two Year Trustee-Frank Dominguez and Third Year Trustee-Jim Vokral.

## Long Term Care Facility to be Built Next to Roosevelt Care Center

Freeholder Director David B. Crabel has announced a conceptual plan for the construction of a new 120 bed long-term care facility adjacent to the historic Roosevelt Care Center building at Roosevelt Park in Edison. He said under this new plan the aging historic building will be renovated to provide for senior housing with on-site health care facilities.

Crabel said the new plan is "exciting" and that it meets the changing

needs of the senior population in the county.

Crabel has appointed a 10 member review committee to carefully consider the conceptual plan and to advise the Freeholders regarding community health needs, funding sources and economic viability of the new construction plan. He said county engineer John Reiser will chair the review committee which he asked to report to the Freeholders by December 15.

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# School District Printer Al Rue Retires

By Libby Barsky

After 34 years as printer for The Board of Education, Al Rue is ending his first full time job.

Superintendent of School Leonard Tobias hired 21-year-old Rue on Aug. 6, 1971 as a district printer. A 1969 graduate of Scotch Plains/Fanwood High School, Rue took printing classes at the former Union County Technical School and worked part time in printing jobs before applying to the Board of Education for the printing position.

Parents have seen his work in the many notices, forms, newsletters and tests that their children bring home as well as the agendas picked up at Board of Education meetings.

"I've been printing a good 90 percent of what is printed in the district. The teachers do run off some of their pages but most of the stuff we take care off. We do all the exams for high school and middle school as well as the for the Board of Education (agendas, minutes, curriculum studies, etc.). We also do some work for the Police Department. For instance, once a year I print up their policy book and some of their forms," said Rue.

During his 34 years Rue said his job hasn't changed, but his physical location has. "I started in the Administration Building on Foster Ave. in 1971. When the new high school opened up, I was located in the graphic arts department there from 1974 to 1980. In 1980 when Grant School was opened as "The Board of Education Administration Building" I was given a wing of the school and was there for 23 years, until Grant was transformed into an elementary school and the old Roosevelt School became the administration building. My location now is the former principal's office in Roosevelt School."

At his retirement dinner on Sept. 23, which was attended by many teachers and former administrators, including Tobias and former assistant superintendent Mario Barbieri, Rue told Barbieri would no longer recognize his office. "I'm sitting right in your of-

fice," Rue told Barbieri.

The biggest thing that changed was technology," said Rue. "We started out with printing presses over the years then phased them out because they weren't time efficient. The presses did one page at a time. In the mid 1980's, we switched over to Xerox copiers that have been upgraded over the past 20 years. The volume has increased over the years and we have to keep up with the increase over the years," explained Rue.

Although Rue hasn't seen computers make much of a dent in the amount of printing done on paper, he believes that might change. "I think there will be less paper because they will be putting things on computers disk so there will be more storage space. Before every thing was on a piece of paper and kept in a file. Now it's on disk. Now information can be stored on CD and perhaps not use as much paper or space," he said. "But I don't see that this is a job that will become obsolete. People still need printing. It's needed on a day to day basis for teachers so they can teach."

For the past 34 years, Rue has been a 'one man staff' in the district. With Rue about to retire, during the last seven weeks, he has been training Rick Mowrey, a former South Plainfield High School student. "I hope he can work here for 35 years. I'm planning to come to his retirement dinner," said Rue. "My wife and I have been working on planning for retirement for the past 10 years. We are moving to Spring Hill, Florida—45 miles north of Tampa Bay, where we have built a house. My wife can't stand the cold weather. We visited Florida two years ago and we found we liked it there. Now our three grandchildren are looking forward to visiting us there," said Rue.

"The time went by so fast - three decades. I've always enjoyed this job. I found that I work best under pressure and thrive on it. I've also learned to be nice to people, especially the teachers, because they are so important. The teachers do a very important job so I wanted to help them succeed in what they are doing," Rue said.



Hometown Heroes owner Charlie Kurland (left) kicks off the beginning of the third year of the Junior Journalist Contest by presenting Roosevelt School Principal Charles Ford (center) with complimentary sandwiches to encourage the school's continued participation in the program. Also pictured is third grade teacher Mike Bertram (right), who proudly displays all of the schools past winners on a wall in his classroom.

## SPHS Grad Jay Boxwell Seeks Freeholder Slot

Near the top of this November's ballot will be a name familiar to many South Plainfield residents. That name is Jay Boxwell. Boxwell, who was raised in town and graduated South Plainfield High School, was tapped in June to run for a spot on the Middlesex County Board of Chosen

Freeholders.

Boxwell, who now lives in Edison, grew up on Franklin Avenue, where his parents still reside. After graduating from SPHS, he quickly decided to make public service his life's work and joined the Navy, where he served as a corpsman in places like central

America and the middle east—some of the world's most dangerous hot spots.

Along with Boxwell on the Republican ticket is fellow freeholder candidate Andrew Tidd of Helmetta and county clerk candidate Joe Sinagra, also of Helmetta.

## Crop Walk This Saturday

The Association of South Plainfield Churches is holding the Annual Crop Walk on Saturday, Oct. 15, from 9 a.m. until noon. The walk begins at the Wesley United Methodist Church, proceeds down Plainfield Ave., through the center, and up South Plainfield Ave., ending at the Pilgrim Covenant Church on Park Ave.

Members of the Association are: Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church; Wesley United Methodist Church; St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran

Church; the Pilgrim Covenant Church; the Rescue House of Prayer; and the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield.

More information can be obtained by calling (908) 753-2382 or (908) 757-2068. CROP is a program of Church World Service, and the funds raised are to combat hunger and raise awareness of this issue. Funds from this year's walk will primarily be dedicated to the victims of the recent hurricanes that hit the Gulf Coast.

## You're Invited

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus & Columbiettes Council #6203 cordially invite you to an open house at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 334 Hamilton Blvd., (across from Pizza Stop), on Monday, Oct. 24 at 8 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

We are looking for families for membership in the world's largest Catholic Fraternal Service Organization. Have fun, make friends and support your church and community. What could be more rewarding? Make your family a part of ours!

For information, call Brian Cargill at (908) 755-9717.



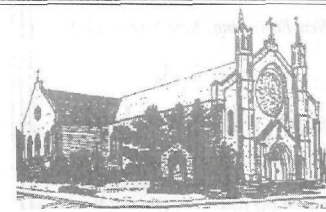
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Holy Days 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

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# Sports



The new complete deck at the Ponytail Softball complex.

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The Ponytail Association would like to recognize all the hard work and support in making Pitt Street Field a more impressive and desirable place to play softball. Thanks to Mike English and NAVKA Constructions from Newark, we now have an extension to the snack stand. In addition to the playgrounds and picnic area, the monies received from the county grants, we now have a beautiful brand new deck for all to enjoy. Come take a walk on the new deck and enjoy sitting on the brand new benches while watching some exciting softball games.

Currently, we have "Fall Ball" taking place with girls ranging from 11 years old to 16 years old. The girls, coaches and parents have been working hard as well as playing hard all season. Come show your support. Enjoy some snacks and refreshments on our new deck and see new beginnings within the Ponytail Association. Play Ball!!

*New Beginning, New Faces - That*

## Rutgers Fall Hoop Basketball

Rutger's Fall Hoop Festival will be held on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 10 and 11 at the RAC in Piscataway. Boys and girls in grades two through eight are invited to the clinic which will include drills, lectures, motivation, academics, games, and individual instruction. The two-day program will cost \$85, which also includes a Fall Hoop Festival T-Shirt and tickets for the Dec. 9 and Dec. 17 Rutgers Basketball games.

For more information, call 732-445-4291 or 732-445-4251.

By Glen Cullen

## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club will be holding its 2006 baseball registrations on Thursday, Oct. 10 from 6-9 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 10 from 6-9 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration is \$95 per child with discounts for those families that have more than one child playing baseball. Also, this year there is a \$75 bond required for each child. This bond will be refunded at the end of the season, or it can be rolled over into the following year.



## Youth Wrestling Sign-ups

The South Plainfield Recreation 2005 Youth Wrestling Program will hold their registration on Saturday, Oct. 22 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the PAL Complex.

Registration is open to all South Plainfield children ages 5-11 (as of Oct. 1, 2005). Fee is \$35 per participant. No refunds. Parent must accompany children to registration. Birth certificate required for first time sign-ups. Proof of residency is required.

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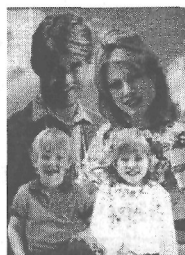
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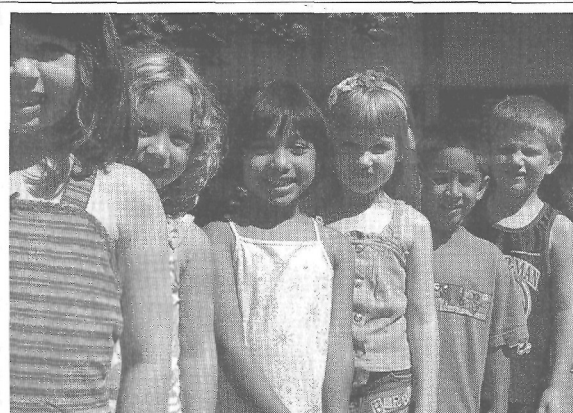
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## Franklin Walk Helps Hurricane Victims

On Sept. 16 the students of Franklin School set out to do their part to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The student council chose to hold a walkathon and collect pledges. The students, each class carrying a U.S. flag, made the trek from Franklin School to Plainfield Ave. and back. The 355 youths and their teachers raised \$7,000. They hope to have a representative from the American Red Cross visit the school to officially accept the donation. The event was coordinated by Miss Louise Mruz, Student Council Advisor.

## South Plainfield Adult School Trips

The South Plainfield Adult School is continuing their very popular series of informative tours of various districts of New York City led by Tony Grifa, licensed tour guide of "I'll Take Manhattan Tours." On Sunday, Oct. 23 the bus will leave South Plainfield High School for a visit to the Lower East Side, America's first melting pot and shopping on Orchard and Delancy streets. This trip is a leisurely walking tour of the multicultural neighborhood. The price is \$40. The 2005 series of walks concludes on Nov. 5 with the Manhattan Hi-Lights Tour, which includes admission to St. John's the Devine, the World's Largest Gothic Cathedral and visits Grand Central Terminal and Sakura Park among many interesting places. Cost is \$46.

There are still tickets available for the Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall on Sunday, Dec. 4 (matinee) and Tuesday, Dec. 6 (evening performance.)

The ever popular trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show is selling out fast. The theme for this year's show is "Enchanted Spring." The bus leaves at 7 a.m. on Sunday, March 5. The \$50 admission includes the bus.

The 2006 series of walking tours will begin on Sunday, April 2 with a Manhattan Sampler on Saturday, May 20, the Millionaire's Mile and on Sunday, June 11, the Charms of Chelsea.

To sign up for any of these trips or for additional information, call the Adult School at (908) 754-4620 ext. 213.

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## policereport

- On Sept. 27 James Stan Miller, 42, of Plainfield was arrested for exhibiting a fraudulent insurance card, no insurance and speeding at a motor vehicle stop.
- Tarajean Alicea, 29, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving on an expired license and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.
- A Faulks Pl. resident reported that her cell phone had been taken from her front porch.
- Razors Edge, on South Plainfield Ave., reported that a rock had been thrown through their front window.
- An Etters, Pa. resident reported the theft of a digital camera and cash from vehicle that was parked at the Holiday Inn.
- Canada Dry on new Durham Rd. reported the theft of a radiator and four batteries from a truck that needed repair.
- On Sept. 28 Donald S. Benito, 38, of Somerset was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.
- William D. Pagano, 52, of Morrisville, Pa. was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving and driving on a suspended license at a motor vehicle stop.
- On Sept. 29 Natalie A. Basnial, 28, of Scotch Plains was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving at a motor vehicle accident.
- Garry Frazer, 34, of Plainfield was arrested for theft of aluminum plates used to make CD and video cassette recording cases from Reed Presentations Inc. on Wade Ave. and selling them at Federal Metals on Skyline Dr. for cash.
- Robert Glenn Hoffman, 48, of Scotch Plains was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving and refusal to give breath samples at a motor vehicle accident.
- Sean E. Stephens, 22, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, no insurance and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle

stop.

- An employee of Motorola on Durham Ave. reported the theft of a wallet from her purse that was in her desk.

- On Sept. 30 an Oak Tree Ave. resident reported that the letters "OGLOC" had been spray painted in their driveway.

- On Oct. 1 Juan A. Baez-Perez, 21, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, speeding and four outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

- James Bailey, 49, of Montclair was arrested for driving on a suspended license and two outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

- A South Plainfield resident reported the theft of a Transcraft trailer worth \$18,000 that was parked in the Harris Steel parking lot.

- A Sampton Ave. resident reported the theft of the glass in the drivers side mirrors of two of their vehicles.

- On Oct. 2 Sean Alphonso Lawson, 31, of Highland Park was arrested for driving while intoxicated, speeding and reckless driving at a motor vehicle stop.

- Vanessa Stevens, 36, of Staten Island, NY was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving at a motor vehicle accident.

- A Montrose Ave. resident reported that someone had entered their vacant home that was for sale and put a garden hose from the front door and flooded the home.

- A South Plainfield resident reported the theft of a cell phone that was left on the bar at KC's Corner on Oak Tree Ave.

- On Oct. 4 Omarr Stanley McAfee, 32, of Hillside was arrested for driving an unregistered vehicle and two outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

- Latoya L. Bradley, 22, of Edison was arrested for driving on a suspended license and hindering apprehension at a motor vehicle stop.

## Trains Entertain Nursing Home Patients

By Jane Dornick

Model train enthusiast and long-time South Plainfield resident Gene Boehm took his traveling show on the road and entertained patients at the Cedar Oaks Care Center on Durham Ave. on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 17 and 18.

Trains have been a hobby of Boehm's since he was a little boy. He still has his first model railroad. It has been a hobby for him over the years. He's always been interested in trains and enjoys building them, but model trains have come a long way since the days of flipping switches by hand and operating engines with electronic boxes.

Boehm built what are now called modules, wooden tables with boxes four feet long by 30 inches wide that can be easily moved. He operates his "O" gauge trains with a digital remote control that sends signals to the train on the tracks and can send smoke out of the stack or make train sounds.

"It is a hobby I like to share with kids, older folks and everyone in between," said Boehm who belongs to



Gene Boehm sets up his extensive collection of trains at Cedar Oaks Care Center.

several train clubs in Central Jersey and travels around the tri-state area displaying his handywork to veterans and other organizations.

He has a relative staying at Cedar Oaks and thought it would be enjoyable for the patients there to see his

trains. The show ran for two days.

Boehm commented, "I got so much enjoyment seeing the faces of the older people as they listened to the bells and whistles and saw the smoke. Their faces just lit up."

## Obituaries

### Luigi Esposito, 76

Luigi Esposito died on Friday, October 7 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Sarno, Italy, he came to the United States in 1966, settling in South Plainfield.

He was employed as a grounds keeper for the Plainfield Country Club for the past 18 years and was a member of Sacred Heart Church in South

Plainfield.

Luigi was a loving family man and friend and will be missed by all, especially his grandchildren whom he adored.

Surviving are his wife, Saveria Esposito; a son and daughter-in-law, Anthony and Debrah Esposito of South Plainfield, a sister, Esterrina Esposito of Salerno, Italy and a brother, Antoni Esposito also of Salerno, Italy.

Also surviving are his grandchildren,

Christopher, Louis and Alyssa Marie.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### William H. Clift, 76

William H. Clift died on Thursday, Oct. 6 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Chicago, Ill., he grew up in Wisconsin and after military service lived in Bloomfield before settling in South Plainfield 25 years ago.

He was a veteran of the US Navy, serving as a communications technician first class from Sept. 1946 to Feb. 1955. He served in the Illusion Islands, Germany and in Washington, DC, before his discharge.

After completing his military duties, he returned home to school where he attended Seron Hall University at night to earn his BS in accounting. He was employed as a CPA by Wausau Insurance Co. in West Orange and later for Selective Insurance in Branchville before his retirement in 1992. Bill continued to work part time as a sales clerk for JC Penney, Walmart and most recently Drug Fair in South Plainfield.

An active communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield, he loved to spend his spare time reading, watching movies and the NY Mets.

He is predeceased by his brother, Rev. James Clift, who died in 2004.

Surviving are his wife, Josephine L. (Hippeli) Clift and a daughter, Anne Marie Clift of Randolph.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Alzheimers Assn. of Greater NJ, 400 Morris Ave. Suite 251, Denville, NJ 07834.

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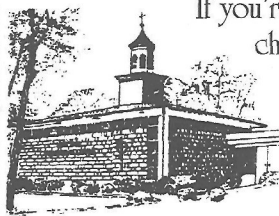
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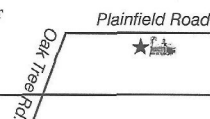
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# Anesh & Bengivenga Offer Ideas to Make Residents' Lives Easier

Initiatives improve quality of life but don't break the bank



designed to make life easier for South Plainfield residents in the coming years. These ideas, while improving quality of life, are also low-cost, something vital in light of the rising taxes and skyrocketing costs we experienced this year under the Democrats.

"The other side has come up with some great ways to spend our tax money," explained Anesh. "But Rob and I are trying to be more fiscally responsible—offering ideas that won't break the bank."

"Matt and I believe making our town more affordable should be our top priority," added Bengivenga. "But at the same time, we want to move South Plainfield forward. That's why we need to watch our wallet when proposing plans for the town's future. Initially we're announcing four proposals."

**1. Let Residents Make Tax and Sewer Payments Via the Internet**—So many businesses are adding this option, and so should the town. In fact, lots of residents pay their bills this way, so it would not be something we have to market to people; it's something that would take off immediately.

**2. Open the Compost Area for a Few Hours on Sundays**—This is not a new idea. The Republican candidates running last year originally proposed it. So many families, especially ones with kids, rush through the weekend. This option would make the weekend a little less hectic for so many people.

"It's really a no-brainer," Anesh explained. "While our opponents have criticized this idea, I can't understand their negative reaction. It's in-

expensive, and it would make life easier for lots of people."

**3. Make Borough Hall More User-Friendly**—Right now, going into Borough Hall is not a fun experience. One way to remedy this is to station an employee in the hallway at a reception area to act as an information person—tell people where to go for the services they need. We could use an existing employee or rotate employees different days of the week. Or even better, once we start the volunteer corps, we can solicit volunteers to help. Some of our seniors might be willing to pitch in for a few hours a week.

We should also let residents request public records on the town's website. Right now, getting documents often involves two trips: one to place the order and one to pick it up. This would cut one trip. And if we can start offering payment over the Internet, we can cut all the trips out and simply mail the documents to the person making the request.

**4. Make the Compactor Hours Convenient**—Like opening the compost area on Sundays, making the hours for the compactor more convenient would be a big plus for residents, especially families.

"These are some great, yet low-cost, ways to improve quality of life," said Bengivenga. "Unfortunately, after twelve years in office, the other side has stopped coming up with fresh ideas, other than ways to spend lots of our tax dollars. In fact, from the way they talk in their press releases, they must still think it's 1993, because all they do is criticize their opponents from more than a decade ago. That election's over. Let's look to the future."

"New ideas come with fresh leadership," added Anesh. "We are not only the candidates to vote for if you want better quality of life, we are also the ones to choose if you want progress that is fiscally responsible. A vote for Rob and me is a vote for progress."

# Kubala and Thomas Proud of Democrats' Record on Finances



Councilpersons Ed Kubala and Kathy Thomas this week commented on the outstanding record of South Plainfield's Democratic Mayor and Council in keeping municipal taxes under control for more than a decade. Councilwoman Thomas said, "We are proud that South Plainfield's financial record is the best in Middlesex County and one of the best in the State of New Jersey. The Borough of South Plainfield is the only municipality in Middlesex County that has had a flat municipal tax rate in 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003 and 2004. This financial stability is no accident. It is a result of planning, hard work, and thinking outside the box."

Ed Kubala expanded on his running mates' comments: "When I first ran for council 12 years ago, I vowed to make fiscal responsibility a priority. It's taken a lot of discipline and planning on the part of the Mayor and Council to put South Plainfield in the sound financial position it is today. Our Borough's operating expenses are actually less today than they were under the last year of Republican control, ten years ago. In addition, we actually have less people on the Borough payroll today than in 1993, but have enhanced services with things such as the twice yearly curbside bulk pick-up. Borough debt has been reduced by eight million dollars and we have continued "Pay as You Go Government" which has resulted in 130 roads being paved and all of our recreational facilities being upgraded without borrowing one penny to do them. The actions taken by the Democrats to keep the budget under control recently led to South Plainfield being the only town in the entire state to have their bond rating upgraded by Standard and Poors. We saved almost \$500,000 in finance costs because of this upgrade."

Kathy Thomas added, "The Democratic council members are always looking for cost saving measures to reduce expenses. One of the innovative fiscal approaches we have adopted is to partner with other municipalities, the

county, or the state to cut costs. For example, our health department is a shared service with Middlesex County. This partnership has resulted in reduced costs as well as increased efficiency. Another example of cost savings is our road resurfacing program. By partnering with the county road department, we have been able to save a tremendous amount of money on paving. We also enter into purchasing agreements with the state and county for items such as gasoline, road salt, and office supplies."

Councilman Kubala continued the theme saying, "The Borough Council has also been aggressive in seeking grant funding. Over the last three years, South Plainfield has secured in excess of \$4,500,000 in grant money. Working with our Hometown Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, we have received state grant money to offset municipal taxes, enhance our Police and Emergency Management departments, finance numerous road projects, and improve the quality of life of our residents. Our Hometown Freerholder John Pulomena has worked with the Borough Council to obtain county open space funds and grants for improving our parks and recreational facilities. All of our department heads regularly submit grant applications for their departments and they have been very successful in finding funding sources."

Councilperson Thomas summed up, "We are proud of what has been accomplished in South Plainfield. Other towns look to us as a model of fiscal responsibility. If the Democratic team of Kubala and Thomas are re-elected, we will continue to use our ingenuity and experience to keep South Plainfield's finance a good news story. The residents of South Plainfield are hard working people and we will do whatever we can to make finances easier for the families of our Borough."

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## IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

The Board, by its action, ignored the results of the election. This practice makes one wonder why have an election at all in my opinion. Just as in other district, the next highest vote getter in this case, Markham, who had previous board experience and the next highest vote getter should have been appointed. It was obvious by their vote that the community did not wish to have the two incumbents continue to serve.

FRANK A. MIKORSKI

Dear Editor,

Although I do not get a chance to attend many Borough Council meetings, I pride myself on keeping up on what's going on in our Borough through the local newspaper. One section I always read is the "Borough Notes" section.

I am amazed at all the projects Ed Kubala, Kathy Thomas and the rest of the Democratic Mayor and Council have been able to accomplish. I just noticed that the Borough was able to secure \$540,000 in grants to build both a police detective facility and a walkway and foot bridge connecting the Municipal Complex with Monument, the Firemen's Memorial and finally over to the Senior Citizen building. What a wonderful idea. As someone who visits Monument Park with my grandchildren, this addition will be great.

I commend Ed, Kathy, the Mayor and the entire council for continuing to honor those who have given so much to the freedom we all enjoy.

Please join me in supporting Ed Kubala and Kathy Thomas for Borough Council. They have worked hard to make South Plainfield the envy of so many other towns and they deserve our support.

ANAKALY NASSER

Dear Editor:

After voting Democratic for many years, I've decided to support Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivena for council this year. I've been following the council campaign, and these two, in my mind, are the best candidates I've seen in a long time.

We need to get South Plainfield government back on track, and having both parties representing us would be a step in the right direction. Right now, it's like the fox guarding the henhouse. In other words, one party has absolute power, and nobody is watching over their shoulder. Electing these two will bring back the checks and balances that are missing.

This election is not about being a Republican, a Democrat or an independent. It's about finding the best people to represent us at city hall. Those two people are Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivena.

TOM GUARRACI

To the Editor:

I really have to compliment the Mayor and Borough Council for the great job they have been doing on the borough's recreational facilities.

First the expansion of the PAL with the weight room and the wrestling room for our first class recreational wrestling program, the improvements at the Community Pool, the fantastic improvements to Putnam Park, the lighting at the soccer complex and now the plans to expand the PAL by enclosing the courtyard to add new lockers and a juice bar. These are great improvements for our kids and families and we should support the people who are supporting our families by voting for Ed Kubala and Kathy Thomas for Borough Council on Election Day. The

(Continued on page 12)

# Classifieds

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## IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

team of Ed Kubala and Kathy Thomas are clearly committed to building a better South Plainfield for all of us.

**CHERYL NAGEL-SMILEY**

Dear Editor,

It's time to thank the Mayor and Council for the bulk pickup program. The program, which was adopted last year, is so simple that it's brilliant; two bulk pickups each year just like the leaf pickup program. The schedule for each neighborhood is known weeks in advance so that you have plenty of time to clean out your garage, attic and basement. The old system did not work well because it would take weeks or months to get a scheduled pickup. Sometimes people would have junk sitting by the curb for weeks because the pickup would occur weeks after you cleaned up the house. This new program is just the type of creativity that our elected leaders need in order to allow our borough government to provide top rate services to the resident.

We need elected leaders who have new ideas on how to spend our tax dollars wisely in order to provide needed services to South Plainfield's residents. That's why I'll be voting on Election Day for Ed Kubala and Kathy Thomas for the Borough Council.

**AL MUSMANNO**

Dear Editor,

In last week's paper, the Democratic candidates for Borough Council told readers they've kept all their promises. I must respectfully disagree. And I know, because I ran against them for the last two years.

Broken Promise #1—Helen Street will be complete by 1998, 2002, 2004, 2005. The Helen St. promises are almost too many to count. Hmmm. I wonder why they left this one out of their article?

Broken Promise #2—"There will always be a Democracy Day" For the past 12 years Ed Kubala has said that if you elect him there would always be a Democracy Day.

Broken Promise #3—"pocket park" across from Quick Chek on Sampton Ave. They probably thought we forgot this one. We didn't.

Broken Promise #4—Hamilton Boulevard would be done in 1991. Yes, this is actually in the works. But again, completion was promised years ago. Also, why do they keep stealing credit for the county's repaving? It's a county road being paved by the county.

Broken Promise #5—Library construction would start in fall 2005. One only need drive down Plainfield Ave. to see that this didn't happen on time either. In fact, they've yet to even say how we're going to fund the new library, let alone start construction.

There's more I could add, but let's just say that despite their claims, Kubala, Thomas and the Democrats

don't keep all their promises. They must think nobody's paying attention.

They're wrong.  
**RAY RUSNAK**

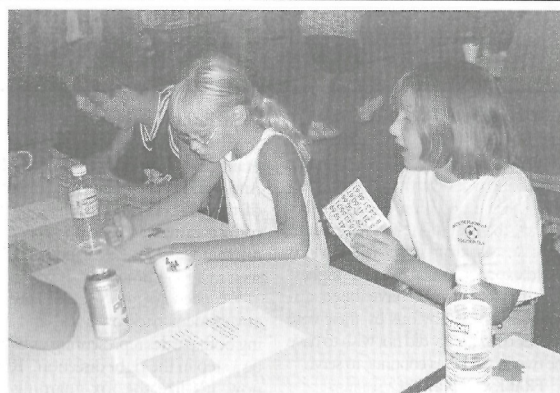
To the Editor:

Ed Kubala and Kathy Thomas deserve to be reelected to the Borough Council. They have delivered on their promises to the residents of South Plainfield. They promised to preserve open space against unnecessary development and they delivered by preserving over 150 acres of open space. In fact, they are expanding Putnam Park again with the purchase of another house on Park Ave. They promised to complete the senior housing project and build a new senior recreation center and they accomplished both

projects. They promised to make significant improvements to the borough and they delivered with things like the expansion and renovation of Putnam Park, the expansion to the PAL building, improvements to the girl's softball complex, improvements to the community pool, improvements to the soccer complex, the new curbs and paving on Maple Ave. and the reconstruction of Hamilton Blvd. They have done all of these things while keeping our municipal tax rate one of the lowest in Middlesex County.

On Election Day, vote for Ed Kubala and Kathy Thomas for Borough Council because they have demonstrated that they keep their promises to the people of South Plainfield.

**AL SEMITSCHW**



Kennedy Elementary School held a Candy Bar Bingo fundraiser on the evening of Sept. 23. Nearly 60 adults and children participated in a family night of fun and games. Bingo numbers were called by Yvonne Davison and delighted children couldn't wait to verify their winning cards and receive two candy bars of their choice. Snacks and drinks were provided by the PTSO and several baskets were also raffled off.



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### LEGAL NOTICE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

Take notice that application has been made to the Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, of 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 to transfer to South Plainfield Hotel, L.L.C. trading as Holiday Inn for premises located at 4701 Stelton Road, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 the Plenary Retail Consumption License #1222-33-015-001 heretofore issued to Hi-South Plainfield L.L.C. trading as Holiday Inn for premises located at 4701 Stelton Road, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

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