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Council meeting
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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 10, NO. 3

50 CENTS

SEPTEMBER 15, 2006

Remembering
September 11
2001

Remembering Lives Lost

The Borough Honors Those Who Died on 9/11



Memorial Services honoring those who lost their lives in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks were held throughout the borough on Monday. For story and more pictures, see page 10.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest meeting agenda

council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday
Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

| Date | Agenda Meeting | Public Meeting |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| September 19 | 7:00 p.m. | 8:00 p.m. |
| October 3 | 7:00 p.m. | 8:00 p.m. |
| October 17 | 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 (NJS 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

planningboard

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
Sept. 26, Oct. 10, Oct. 24, Nov. 28, Dec. 12 and Dec. 26.

zoningboardofadjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
Sept. 28, Oct. 12, Oct. 26, Nov. 30* and Dec. 14.

boardofeducationmeetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted
Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7 p.m. - Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13,
Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 14 and March 28.
Regular Meeting Wednesdays 8 p.m. - Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15,
Dec. 20, Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March and April 4.

taxpayersadvisorygroup

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

siteplansub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.
Oct. 17, Nov. 21 and Dec. 19

recreationcommission

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716
Oct. 10, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12

environmentalcommission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621
Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13 and Jan. 10.

businessadvisorygroup

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

trafficsafetyadvisorycommission

Meets once a month (fourth Wednesday) at 7 p.m.
in the Conference Room, Borough Hall (No Meeting in August)

boardofeducationcurriculum/technology meetings

Meets once a month on Mondays at 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at
Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.

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South Plainfield Observer

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NANCY GRENNIER
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Department, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohr'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.

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 200 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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To The Editor,

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of the people of the community of South Plainfield who made my day as the Honorary Grand Marshal of the Labor Day Parade a very special one. Special thanks to Reverend and Mrs. Mingle for their kind nomination, as well as others who nominated me, whose names I am unaware of, Mayor and Mrs. Gallagher, Bill Cochran, Pattie Abbott and Nancy Grennier from the Observer, and the countless others who made me feel special on that day. It was an honor for me to serve as the Honorary Grand Marshal of the Labor Day Parade.

Of course, a special thank you to my family, both immediate and my very extended family, goes without saying. Without their support, I would not be able to accomplish all that I do on those very busy holidays. Our planning, which begins months before the winter holidays, brings my family together, and that to me is what it is all about. Family togetherness is priceless and together we are able to remember the many people who are in need.

While I have been honored for my service to others, I would like everyone to know that it is possible to make senior citizens feel special at every opportunity. A kind pat on the shoulder or hand shows the seniors of our town that they are remembered and still a special part of our town. Simple acts of kindness do not have to cost money or take a lot of time, but they go a long way.

Once again, this year I will place an ad in the Observer so that anyone who is in need will have the opportunity to contact me and be included in our holiday offerings. But I would also like to ask everyone who knows someone who is in need, or someone we can bring some holiday cheer to, to please contact the Observer or me so we can include them. Of course, for anyone who is interested in donating at that time, please feel free to contact me as well.

WITH SINCERE THANKS,
SHIRLEY THOMPSON

Dear Editor:

For the past few weeks, Alex Barletta, Dave Sesok and I have been offering our plans for South Plainfield, which so far have included ways to trim expenses and ideas to improve quality of life by upgrading our parks. We plan to continue this each week. That is, we will cover a new topic each week, setting out our plans if elected.

Unfortunately, I need to depart from that course this week. Last week it came to my attention that my op-

ponents have done something I could never imagine for a small-town election. While at Borough Hall I learned that the Democrats are investigating documents on not only me, which is fine, but my family. Through the county Democratic Party, they have requested from the borough property-tax and related documents about my father, and believe it or not, even my mother.

As a candidate for office, I understand that my life is an open book, and I accept that. Each year I am required to fill out financial disclosure forms, and I fulfilled that requirement back in February without a second thought.

But my mother and father are not running for office and they should not have to endure this type of harassment. It's despicable and I resent it.

I realize the tone of this letter is unusual for me, but quite frankly, I'm angry. How would Charlie Butrico or Ray Petronko or Joe Scrudato like it if I dragged their mothers into an election campaign by having their mothers investigated? That thought has never even crossed my mind. In fact, if someone in my campaign were even to suggest such a thing, they would be out the door no sooner than the words left their mouths.

I apologize to my family for having to go through this. I chose to run for elected office, not them. I only hope my opponents realize they've crossed the line and offer the same apology to my family.

**COUNCILMAN ROBERT
BENGIVENGA, JR., CANDIDATE
FOR MAYOR**

Dear Editor,

I have followed with interest the Democratic candidates' repeated requests to the Republican candidates for South Plainfield Borough Council to voluntarily fill out the financial disclosure form required by the state of all office holders. As a member of the Board of Adjustment, I am required to fill out this very simple form every year. It lists the sources of your income, your assets, and your investments. I'm sure that everybody would agree that it's important to disclose any potential conflicts of interest to the voters before you are elected. I am at a loss as to why the Republicans continue to stonewall this request. What are they afraid of? I believe it has been over two months since the first request was made. I hope that the Republican candidates will comply and post their financial disclosure forms on their websites just like the Democrats have done. The voters have a right to be informed. We will be watching and waiting.

FRANK FURINO

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. Please limit letters to no more than 200 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject.

To The Editor,

I enjoyed the article in last week's paper about sprucing up our parks. The ideas about adding a walking/jogging trail to the Tompkins preserve and about adding a dog park are superb. They're great ideas, but more importantly, not ones that will break the bank.

Mr. Bengivena, Mr. Barletta and Mr. Sesok are definitely going in the right direction. They are looking at quality of life, while at the same time, keeping taxpayer concerns at the forefront.

I wish these three gentlemen the best of luck as the election draws closer. We need their new ideas and we also need their leadership on the governing body.

JOHN LEONARDIS

Dear Editor,

I was very happy to see the intersection of New Market Ave. and Hamilton Blvd. open on the Friday before Labor Day, just in time for our Labor Day festivities and the opening of school. This road opening is another benchmark as we move along toward the completion of Hamilton Blvd. I am grateful that the Democrats have taken on this very important issue. They have heard the concerns of the residents of this town with regard to the traffic problem and, more importantly, have constructed detailed plans and put them into action. As an older resident of this community, I drive a little more cautiously. The large trucks are aggressive and frightening. I worry about the children walking to Roosevelt School with those big trucks so close. I fully support the plan to route the trucks through the industrial areas in town where they belong. I will be supporting the Democratic team of Butrico, Petronko and Scrudato because they have proven they can devise a plan of action and then find the way to get the job done.

MARCELLA THOMAS

To The Editor,

Kudos to our candidate for mayor, Robert Bengivena, Jr., and to Alex

(Continued on page 14)

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Filming equipment, sets and trailers filled the parking lot of the Polish Home on Tuesday while film crews were shooting scenes inside.

South Plainfield Sites Chosen to Film Movie

By Jane Dornick

Producers Lemore Syvan of Elevation Filmworks, Davis Guggenheim and brother and sister acting team Andrew and Elisabeth Shue, set their sites on South Plainfield to film scenes for their new movie, *Gracie*.

The movie recaptures the trials and tribulations of a high school freshman named Gracie, who tries out for the boys soccer team in 1978 and is loosely based on the childhood of the Shue family. Crews were shooting

scenes on a closed set inside the Polish National Home on New Market Ave. Tuesday morning. Traffic was brought to a standstill at Metuchen and Belmont while crews filmed a "driving around town" scene on Metuchen.

They will also be shooting scenes at the South Plainfield Soccer Field and a church in South Plainfield.

Watch for more photos and details on this "true Hollywood story" in upcoming issues of the *Observer*.

Candidates Debate Set For Wednesday, Oct. 4

Mark your calendar! Six candidates, four running for Borough Council and two for mayor, will be at the Senior Center ready to answer residents' questions on Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 7:30 p.m. This year, not only will residents be asked to fill two council seats, but also elect a mayor.

The council is made up of four democrats and two republicans with a democratic mayor. This election could swing control of the council back to the Republicans by winning the two council seats. If they win one council seat, it will be divided evenly and since the mayor only votes if there is a tie, control could swing in one direction or the other. This election is very important to both parties and every vote will be hotly contested.

Locally, South Plainfield voters will choose between Republican council candidates Alex Barletta and Dave Sesok and mayoral candidate Robert Bengivenga, Jr. Running on the Democratic ticket are Councilman Ray Petronko and Joe Scudato and mayoral candidate Charles Buttrico. Both candidates running for mayor are already councilmen.

The debate, sponsored by the South Plainfield *Observer*, may be the only opportunity to hear the candidates speak on the same subject and in front of each other. Letters, signs and cam-

paign literature only tell one side of a story. Don't miss this opportunity to see the candidates face each other and discuss the issues.

The rules for the debate will be announced in the *Observer* as they are made.

As in the past, the public will be asked to submit questions on index cards. Both parties will also submit five topics they would like to discuss. Audience questions will get priority.

Only issue oriented questions will be accepted and no personal attacks on any candidate will be allowed.

The event promises to be an informative evening for all residents. Please plan on coming out, ask a question and get both sides of the story directly from the candidates. The last debate was to a standing room only crowd, so come early to get a good seat.

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

One Year-Old Injured in Lawn Mower Accident

South Plainfield Police Officer Brad Bullard responded to a 911 call at the home of Luis Samayoa and Maria Veliz on Norway Ln. last Friday at around 2:30 p.m. stating that their one year-old son had been run over by a lawn mower. When the officer arrived, he saw that the child's leg was almost severed, wrapped it in a blanket and kept it elevated until the South Plainfield Rescue Squad and Mercy 6 paramedics arrived.

An attempt was made to airlift the infant via a Northstar helicopter, but

the response time would have been too long. The rescue squad along with Mercy 6 then transported the victim to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

According to Police Lt. James Parker the father had been operating a ride-on lawn mower and did not see his son as he was backing up.

As of press time, the hospital reported that the child will probably not lose his leg from the incident. No charges have been filed against Samayoa.

Edison Valley Playhouse Announces 2007 Season

Edison Valley Playhouse has announced its 2007 season, and it includes some works rarely seen on area stages.

David Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross* will open on Feb. 16 and run until March 10. *Assassins* by John Weidman and Stephen Sondheim will run May 4 to 26. *Manuscript* by Paul Grellong will run June 29 to July

21, and *The Woman in Black*, adapted by Stephen Mallatrat from the novel by Susan Hill, will be seen from Oct. 5 to 27.

The season will end with a special holiday presentation from Nov. 30 to Dec. 16.

For more information visit www.evplayhouse.com.

BOROUGH NOTES

Recent court decisions on several South Plainfield industrial property tax appeals have resulted in refund checks totaling more than \$160,000. The following refunds were made for properties at: 300-400 Corporate Ct. in the amount of \$20,071.67; 107 Corporate Blvd. in the amount of \$11,628.38; 1510 Park Ave. in the amount of \$1,293; 1550 Park Ave. in the amount of \$4008.30; 110-136 Durham Ave. in the amount of \$27,312.47; 4305 New Brunswick Ave. in the amount of \$5,872.50 and 1764 New Durham Rd. in the amount of \$90,423.

The massage parlor ordinance was not on the agenda for final passage at last week's meeting. Borough Attorney Patrick Diegnan will be making several changes to make the ordinance stronger and it will then be up for final vote at a later date.

Mayor Gallagher announced that additional speed limit signs have been placed along New Market Ave. Last month several residents complained to the council about speeders on New Market Ave. The police have also increased patrols on the road.

Block parties were approved for the following: Cristina Nieradka and Laurie Venetucci for Saturday, Oct. 7 (Oct. 8 raindate) on Conklin St. from both ends of Leeds Dr.; Virginia O'Brien for Saturday, Sept. 9 (Sept. 10 raindate) on Conklin St. from both ends of Leeds Dr. and Sal Severini for Saturday, Sept. 9 (no raindate) on Spicer Ave. between Lorraine Ave. and Green St.

Part-time clerk Deana Spisso resigned effective Sept. 5.

The council renewed the bulk waste collection contract with Pinto

Brothers Disposal Service for Aug. 1, 2006 through July 31, 2007 at a cost not to exceed \$153,400.00. This contract is being renewed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-15.

The council accepted the donation of Block 452, Lot 1 (Newark St.) from its owner, Barbara Vinch.

Joshua Thomas was hired as a part-time recycling groundskeeper effective Aug. 19 at a rate to be commensurate with the current salary ordinance.

The council approved the use of Putnam Park by the Almost Famous Players for their Annual Haunted Woods Tour, Oct. 26 to 29 from 4 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., as well as the waiving of all appropriate fees (except electrical) for this event.

The council approved the title change for Diane Janus from police records clerk to clerk typist.

William Thomas was appointed to a five year term as the Borough's representative to the Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority for the period ending January 30, 2011.

Aaron Sanchez and Lauren Bidulph were hired as public safety telecommunications trainees.

South Plainfield Library Meeting

Please note that the time of the Sept. 19 meeting of the South Plainfield Public Library Board of Trustees has been changed from 7:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the library.



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In appreciation of the response to our 1/2 price offer with Wendy and Marissa, the special promotion continues through September!

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Final Auditions

The Almost Famous Players will hold their final sign-up and auditions at the PAL on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 1-4 p.m. Those not interested in speaking roles or who want to work on the crew can sign up at that time. Ages 12 and up. Experienced preferred for actors, none necessary for scares or crew. For more info call (908) 346-2290.

Our Lady Of Czestochowa R.C. Church

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MASS SCHEDULE

Daily at 8am except Wednesdays

(908) 756-1333

Tues.-Miraculous Medal Novena followed by Mass

Thurs.-Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 10am

Weekend Schedule: Saturday evenings 5:30pm
Sunday mornings 8am and 11am

Feature Homes

Piscataway-Terrific 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo only a year old located in Maple Woods. Large living room/dining area with fireplace. Great for commuters who enjoy the city life but want to come home to comfort. Good for an investment or as a rental property. Seller is offering \$3,000 towards closing costs to qualified buyer. Don't let this pass you by. Offered at \$287,000.



North Edison-Location, location is the key to this 3 level town house. This home offers 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, new carpeting and garage. Ideal for commuters with the convenience to major areas of transportation. This home is simply a "Just Move In" and get comfortable opportunity. Don't let this one pass you by. Offered at \$314,900.



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Events

AARP Safe Driving Course

September 16 and 23

An AARP Safe Driving course will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16 and 23, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield. Both sessions must be attended to receive a three year discount on automobile insurance. Cost is \$10 to be paid upon registration with Mary at (732) 752-3764. Space is limited, so call immediately to reserve your spot.

AARP Chapter #4144 Meeting

September 18

AARP Chapter #4144 will hold its meeting on Monday, Sept. 18 at 12:30 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center. A program on hearing loss and hearing aid technology will be presented by Total Hearing Care of Watchung.

Call Jean, (732) 752-0358, for info.

Blackrose to Appear At KC's Korner

September 16

Blackrose, the band, will be performing classic rock music and today's hits at KC's Korner on Saturday, Sept. 16, 9:30 p.m. No cover charge.

Come meet the band, Brendan Hynes, Tony Decarlo, Roger Mauro and Joe Horniacek. KC's Korner is located on the corner of Oak Tree Ave. and Front St.

SPHS Wrestling Team Fundraiser

September 16

The South Plainfield Wrestling Team will hold a fundraiser event on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 5 to 10 p.m. at Gabriele's Bar & Grill on Centennial Ave. in Piscataway. A \$20 ticket

Attention: Class of 1966 Members

The South Plainfield Class of 1966 is planning a reunion on Nov. 25 and they are looking for several classmates. For more information, contact Frank Furino (908) 754-5167 or email hair2plz@comcast.net.



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South Plainfield SENIOR CENTER

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

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|---|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| SHRED IT! Program Recycle Old Documents and Confidential Papers, Sept. 16, 10am to 2pm • • • September 28 - Hunterdon Hills Playhouse "Catch Me If You Can" | | | | |
| UPCOMING EVENTS Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30am-11:30am Art Class 11:30am | Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am Lunch Available | Exercise 8:45am Computer Classes 10am, 11:30am & 1pm Tai Chi Class 2pm | Pathmark Shopping 9am Atlantic City Trip Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm | Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |

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

includes donation to the wrestling club, full course buffet and cash bar.

Knights Of Columbus Mum Sale

September 16-October 1

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 will be running their annual mum sale at the South Plainfield First Aid Squad located at 2520 Plainfield Ave. on Sept. 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 and Oct. 1. All profits go towards two council scholarships that are given to members children and grandchildren who graduate eighth grade and plan to attend a Catholic High School and a graduating high school senior continuing their education in college.

GOP Meeting

September 20

The monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 20, at 8 p.m. at Sherban's Restaurant.

All residents are invited to attend and meet candidates Rob Bengivenga, Alex Barletta and David Sesok and bring their concerns and comments for an open discussion on solutions that could benefit South Plainfield.

Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge

September 23

All boys and girls ages 10 through 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2006 Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge. Registration and contest for this event will be held on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the South Plainfield Soccer field on Kenneth Ave. The competition will start at 9 a.m. All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in the event. Participants are required to furnish proof of age (copy of birth certificate) and written parental consent.

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

SPHS Football Garage Sale

September 23

The SPHS Football Team is holding a "garage sale" on Saturday, Sept. 23 at the SP Middle School (rain or shine) from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Proceeds to benefit the Team.

SP Parents' Ponytail Meeting

September 26

The next Parents' Ponytail meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 26 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the PAL building on Maple Ave. Hope to see you there!

Antiques Appraiser at the Library

September 24

Certified antiques appraiser Alan G. Snyder will be at the library on Sunday, Sept. 24 from 2-4 p.m.

Participants are limited to two items per person. Appraisals will be given on a first come, first served basis. The program is being presented 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.

OLC Blood Drive

September 29

A blood drive will be held on Friday, Sept. 29 at OLC Hall on Hamilton Blvd. from 3 to 8 p.m.

For more information call (908) 757-4490.

Please Patronize Our Advertisers!

What's happening in

SEPT

"Stretches for Health" exercise course on Tuesday mornings starting Sept. 19 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. For information call (908) 232-5678 or email wilgiv@netzero.com.

Ostomy Association Meeting

September 19

The Ostomy Association of Somerset County will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in Conference Rooms C & D at Somerset Medical Center, Rehill Ave., in Somerville. An affiliate of the United Ostomy Associations of America, the QASC is a support group for ostomates and their families and loved ones. All are welcome to attend the meeting.

For further information, contact Ed Wheeler at (908) 534-7897.

"Godspell" at Paper Mill Playhouse

September 20-October 22

The Paper Mill Playhouse opens the 2006-2007 season with "Godspell" on Wednesday, Sept. 20 at 7:30 p.m. Opening night is Sunday, Sept. 24 at 7:30 p.m. The show runs through Sunday, Oct. 22.

Single tickets range in price from \$19 to \$68. Student rush tickets are \$16 and are available the day of the performance in person with current student ID.

Tickets may be purchased by calling (973) 376-4343, or at the Paper Mill box office on Brookside Dr. in Millburn, or online www.papermill.org.

Crystal Singles 45+

September 22

Crystal Singles 45+ dinner will be held at the Grand Buffet on Rt. 17S in Ramsey on Friday, Sept. 22 at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$17 and includes all-you-can-eat buffet, soda, tax, tips.

RSVP to (732) 764-9073.

CHATS Meeting

September 25

CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support) will meet from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m., Monday, Sept. 25, at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church in North Plainfield. "The Joys and Challenges of a Transracial Adoption" will be presented by reunited adult adoptee Amanda Powers. Open sharing of adoption-related stories; light refreshments.

For information visit our website at www.chatsnj.com or call Alyce at (732) 227-0607.

Three Exhibits Open At EdgeArt Gallery

September 28

EdgeArt Gallery will inaugurate their new galleries in Rahway's Arts District with a series of exhibitions starting Sept. 28. Exhibits run from Sept. 28 through Oct. 18.

EdgeArt Gallery is located on Irving St. in Rahway. For gallery hours call (732) 669-0112.

Raritan River Environmental Festival

September 30

The 27th Annual Raritan River Environmental Festival will be held on Saturday, Sept. 30 (rain or shine) from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Johnson Park on River Rd. in Piscataway.

For more information contact Sam Missimer at (732) 249-6242, ext. 107 or visit www.raritanriverfest.com.

— Out of Town —

Women's Club Monthly Meeting

September 13

The Metuchen-Edison Women's Club will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at The Heritage at Clara Barton, 1015 Amboy Ave. in Edison. Guests are welcome and light refreshments will be served.

For additional information please contact Diana at (732) 548-0925.

25th Anniversary Jubilee Pilgrimage

September 16

The Diocese of Metuchen is sponsoring the 25th Anniversary Jubilee Pilgrimage to the Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, Sept. 16.

For information, call (732) 562-0100 or visit www.diocetuchen.org.

Alborada Spanish Dance Theatre

September 17

The Monroe Cultural Arts Commission presents the newest production of Alborada Spanish Dance Theatre on Sunday, Sept. 17 at 3 p.m. at Richard Marasco Performing Arts Center on Perrineville Rd. in Monroe Township. Tickets are \$12 for the general public, family matinee price.

To purchase tickets call (732) 521-4400, ext. 134.

Willow Grove Offers Free Course

September 19

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains is offering a free

Dinner/Cruise to Benefit OYH

October 7

Open Your Heart To Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc. is sponsoring Cruise and Dine by Moonlight aboard the ship Commucopia on Saturday, Oct. 7. Ship will leave from Carteret at 7 p.m. and cruise to the Statue of Liberty. Individual tickets are \$150.00 per person. Contact Andrea Lacerda at (908) 755-5051, ext. 302 or stop by Century 21 Moretti Realty, 225 Maple Ave. to make your reservation, make a donation or place an ad in the journal.

Butrico, Petronko, Scrudato Proud Of Democratic Record On Cost Cutting



Mayoral Candidate Charlie Butrico and his running mates Councilperson Ray Petronko and Joe Scrudato this week focused on South Plainfield's finances. Councilperson Butrico said "There is nothing that gives me more satisfaction than the Democrats record on bringing efficiencies to the borough budget. When the Republicans were in control they doubled the borough debt in just one year. By comparison South Plainfield's debt has been cut in half since we took office. That trend will continue if Ray Petronko, Joe Scrudato and I have anything to say about it. In addition we have one of the lowest municipal tax rates in Middlesex County and there has been no increase in the municipal portion of our tax bill in three of the last five years. In point of fact, municipal operating expenses are virtually the same as they were 10 years ago. That is an incredible accomplishment. No town in our state comes close to South Plainfield's record of efficient and effective municipal government."

Ray Petronko expanded on his running mates comments: "What Charlie Butrico is talking about didn't just happen. It takes hard work to keep expenses under control. The Democratic majority has brought a business approach to our finances. For example we eliminated our local Board of Health and contracted with Middlesex County to perform the services. This has resulted in a recurring annual savings of over \$150,000 while actually improving the service to our residents. We have reduced the number of municipal employees by 20 while using technology, redirection of staff and shared services to actually enhance performance. Of course this result was only possible because of the outstanding dedicated people who work for our borough. Remember they pay taxes too and appreciate a job well

done. We also retained an expert to better design the health coverage for our employees at an annual savings of over \$200,000. Everyone is reading about the hearings in Trenton to address property taxes. Much of what they are considering has already been put in place in South Plainfield."

Joe Scrudato complemented Charlie Butrico and Ray Petronko: "I am proud to be part of a team that has such an outstanding record on keeping taxes and borrowing under control while cutting expenses. I am flabbergasted that the Republicans are actually running on a platform to increase expenses. In their ads they said they want to restore a full time engineering department, which would include four new employees. That cost alone would be close to \$400,000 every year. In 2000 and 2001, which were the last two years we had an in-house engineering department, the cost to our taxpayers was in excess of a half million dollars per year. It is estimated that the cost would be almost \$700,000 today. Compare that with the \$340,000 which was actually spent on contract engineering services in 2006. The Republican candidates also

want to replace the part time tax collector who is paid \$20,000 per year and receives no benefits, with a full time tax collector. That salary would be close to \$100,000 per year. Heck the cost of the benefits would be almost the same as we are now paying in total for the position. However, the most bizarre Republican proposal is to open the compactor on Sundays. Borough employees receive double time on Sundays. The compactor is already open on Saturdays and we now have the bi-annual bulk pickup program. We simply don't need that extra cost. By the way, don't you think Sunday's should be a day of rest? Would it be fair to force our public works people to work every Sunday?"

Charlie Butrico summed up the Democrats position saying: "By my calculation just these three Republican proposals would raise South Plainfield's budget by \$600,000 per year. Our hard working taxpayers have the right to expect us to treat the Borough budget the same way they treat their family budget. We simply can't afford half thought out proposals that are nothing more than campaign fodder. When it comes to finances the choice this Election Day is easy. Charlie Butrico for Mayor, Ray Petronko and Joe Scrudato are committed to keeping South Plainfield an affordable place to live."



Camp Hoover Enjoys Another Successful Summer

For the 53rd summer in succession, Camp Lou Henry Hoover, the summer resident camp of the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council, Inc. provided games, great experiences and great memories. This summer, nearly 1,300 camper weeks were booked as the camp was at or near its capacity during the six weeks of operation.

Campers from within GSWRC's 24-community jurisdiction and well beyond it took advantage of a multitude of programs and events. Located on 340 acres of scenic and picturesque landscape in rural Sussex County, Camp Hoover is open to all girls en-

tering grades two through 12. While the camp is active and chock full of activities during Summer Resident Camp, the action doesn't stop there as it is open year round for site rentals to Girl Scout and non-Girl Scout groups. For further information and to inquire about availability, contact Coleen Hay at (908) 232-3236, ext. 1213.

Founded in 1957, GSWRC strives to provide the optimal Girl Scout experience to nearly 11,000 girls and adults. Be sure to visit the online home of the council at www.westfield-nj.com/girlscouts.

policereport

- On Sept. 2 a Bethlehem, Pa. resident reported the theft of a license plate from their delivery truck that was parked at Freihofer's on Montrose Ave.
- On Sept. 6 Harry Lease, 26, of Metuchen and Mark A. Benitez, 46, of Sayreville were arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting \$474 worth of clothing that was concealed in a wheelchair.
- A Kenilworth resident reported that the driver side window of his vehicle had been smashed while parked on Pulaski St.
- On Sept. 7 Interstate Caterers on Parker Ave. reported one of their truck's tires had been slashed.
- On Sept. 8 Shaniqua Lafae McClenton, 23, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, no insurance and an outstanding warrant.
- On Sept. 10 an Orchard Dr. resident reported the theft of a Giant mountain bike worth \$700 from their open garage.
- On Sept. 11 Manuel Berrios, 33, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, refusal to take a breathalyzer test and careless and reckless driving.

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Fax: 908-668-8819

Come Celebrate

Overlook Hospital Family Day

Sunday
September 17, 2006
12 PM to 3 PM

Union Place, Summit

Live Music
Face Painters
Rescue Squad & Ambulance Tours
Health Screenings
Giveaways
Help Paint the Centennial Mural
Teddy Bear Clinic
Story Time
Scavenger Hunt
Traveling Museum

Local Restaurant Specials

Hollywood Avenue: South Plainfield's Real Traffic Solution



Nobody knows more about how residents need relief from traffic and overdevelopment than candidates Robert Bengivenga, Jr., Alex Barletta, and Dave Sesok. For several years now, Republican candidates for council have been pushing for the extension of Hollywood Ave. to take truck traffic off residential streets on the south side. That, they say, is the real solution for traffic.

"We can't simply push truck traffic from one residential area to another," explained Bengivenga, who is running for mayor. "My party has been talking about the need for a comprehensive traffic plan for years, and I'm glad that the Democrats have finally joined us and realized (although belatedly) that we need to do something. The problem with their plan, however, is that it pushes truck traffic onto residential streets. Our plan does not."

Council candidate Dave Sesok elaborated: "When going door to door over the summer, one woman who lives off New Market Ave. was practically in tears. The trucks pound the road by her home so hard that the walls shake and the fumes from the engines are making her yard reek of diesel fuel."

"The solution," explained Barletta, "is to extend Hollywood Ave. Trucks coming off Rt. 287 would simply

make a right onto Ryan St. and continue onto Hollywood. The road now ends just a stone's throw from the recycling area.

"If we extend Hollywood Ave.," Barletta added, "the trucks could continue to Metuchen Road without ever going near residential areas on Hamilton, Belmont, New Market, Sampton or Clinton."

"Our opponents say Hollywood Ave. can't be done," said Bengivenga. "They're wrong. It's the most direct route to Metuchen Rd. and it eliminates many of the environmental concerns posed by Helen St."

"The other side had 12 years to work on the traffic problem, but they have done nothing to ease the situation," Barletta added. "Give us a chance to show what we can do. We won't disappoint you."

Sesok also believes the Democrats' pessimism about Hollywood Ave. is misplaced. "This is the same party that promised Helen St. would be complete in 1997. They also said it would be done in 2002. In fact, when the Democratic candidate for mayor last ran he promised Helen St. would be done in 2006. Now they're saying 2011."

Extending Hollywood Ave. is just part of the solution according to Barletta. "Over the next few weeks we'll be outlining more plans to ease traffic. A key part of the solution, however, is controlling overdevelopment. We can't keep cramming more and more development onto less and less land. Condos and apartment complexes are the problem, not the solution."

The solution, says Bengivenga, is to have a sensible plan for controlling growth, and at the same time, adding alternate routes like Hollywood Ave. "That type of two-pronged approach is the only effective way to deal with traffic."

Shred it at Senior Center

On Saturday, Sept. 16, the Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management will sponsor a paper shredding event at the South Plainfield Senior Citizen Center on Maple Ave. from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A shredding truck will be parked behind the center to accept old files, receipts, bills, financial statements and any other sensitive documents from Borough residents.

Many people have records that are too old to be of any use, but which they are reluctant to set out for recycling because of privacy issues and fear of identity theft. This is an opportunity to clear out the shoe boxes in the attic without worry. Residents will be able to watch their papers being shredded. The shredded paper will be recycled.

The County will sponsor a mercury thermometer exchange at the Senior Center from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Tuesday, Sept. 26. Anyone bringing one or more mercury thermometers will receive a free digital thermometer (one per household, while supplies last). Glass thermometers with mercury are dangerous because if they break, the mercury is very difficult to clean up, and it is an environmental and health hazard.

Call the recycling coordinator at (908) 226-7621 with any questions.



Tania O'Terro places a microchip in a dog with the assistance of Amy Frankshunat during Sunday's Responsible Pet Ownership Day at Plainfield Animal Hospital. The insertion only takes a minute, is inexpensive and practically painless. The microchip helps identify your pet if it should get lost or stolen. For more information call the Plainfield Animal Hospital at (908) 755-2428.

New Jersey AMVETS Launch Operation DVD

New Jersey AMVETS Commander Dean Hetzel of Lakehurst and a member of AMVETS Post #2 in Jackson launched Operation DVD at the State House in Trenton. Assemblyman Samuel D. Thompson of the 13th Legislative District, Sergeant Joe Nyzio of the New Jersey National Guard and recipient of the Purple Heart received in combat in Iraq, Marine Lance Corporal John Barry who served in Fallujah, Iraq and twenty-nine other legislators from the Senate and the Assembly, in bipartisan manner, promised to support Operation DVD by providing locations for the collection boxes.

Operation DVD is a great program. It is an AMVETS National program to collect DVDs and CDs for our troops deployed in war zones. Any-

one can participate. Just drop new or used DVDs or CDs in a marked collection box and they will be sent to our soldiers in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere whose recreation is limited because of sniper fire and terrorists' activities. These DVDs and CDs will provide the troops with safe entertainment in their downtime and relief from the day to day stress of their mission. This is one small, but important, way to let our service men and women know that we care about them and appreciate the sacrifices they are making.

There are collection sites in Middlesex, Monmouth and surrounding counties.

Additional information about Operation DVD can be obtained on our website www.OperationDVD.us or by contacting AMVETS Program Chairman Barbara Horowitz at (609) 871-0547 or Assemblyman Thompson's district office at (732) 533-4421.

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- Baptized Catholics who seek only Confirmation
- Those who want more information about the Catholic Faith

Our Lady of Czestochowa in South Plainfield provides such a program for anyone who is no longer in grammar school. It will begin on Tuesday, September 26th at 7:30pm.

If you would like to be a part of this program, please call Fr. Maciej Melaniuk, the Pastor of OLC at 908-756-1333.

HOME TIP:

Test the auto-reverse functions on your garage door monthly. Check the balance yearly. Familiarize yourself with the door's release system in case of emergency or power failure. Please call me if I can be of service to you.



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- Special CD Rate Bonus. Receive an extra .25% on the current rate for all Certificates of Deposit. Rate subject to change, limited time offering. A penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal on Certificates of Deposit. See a Customer Service Representative for details.
- Open a new account and receive a \$10 gift certificate to Friendly's restaurant (located at 1060 Stelton Road, Piscataway, New Jersey). Limited time offer.

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South Plainfield Struts Its Stuff at 49th Annual

Labor Day Parade



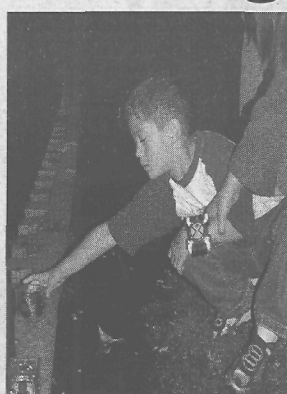


Let Us Never Forget! 9/11-A Day of Patriotism and Remembrance

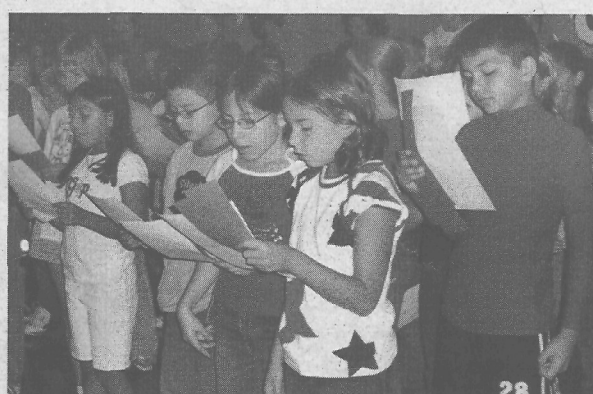
It was a crisp, clear morning on Monday, reminiscent of the same day five years ago that marked the anniversary of one of the darkest days in American history, September 11, 2001. The day was not forgotten in South Plainfield. Services were held at the Middle School, the Firemen's Memorial, Riley School and in the evening candles were placed around Spring Lake.

A crowd gathered around the newly completed Firemen's Memorial, each sharing their own personal story of where they were that day. The South Plainfield High School Marching Band played the national anthem as police, fire, rescue workers, council members, borough employees, dignitaries and clergy came together to honor and pray for those who lost their lives and pay tribute to the men and women still fighting the war against terrorism.

As church bells rang in the distance, Rev. Charles Mingle read passages from the Bible. Sacred Heart Church Pastor Father John Alvarado handed out "A Prayer for Peace" prayer cards for audience members to read along with him. "The world goes on, but something has changed enough to bring millions of people together today in prayer and remembrance," said Father John. Borough Councilmen Robert Bengivena, Jr. and Charles Buttrico



Candles were placed around Spring Lake Monday evening. Riley fourth graders present a memorial service in honor of those who lost their lives on 9/11.



also read hand written prayers. Mayor Daniel Gallagher praised members of the South Plainfield Police and Fire Departments who participated in the rescue efforts after the tragedy in New York City and asked everyone to keep in mind those 24 South Plainfield residents who were in the city that day and nearly lost their lives; lives that were changed forever. Gallagher said, "We are here in remembrance and support and we certainly will never forget." Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan said, "We should be proud of all the services that responded that day; the EMT's, police and fire." South

Plainfield resident Lt. Brian Donnelly, who had just returned from a six month tour of duty in Iraq, gave his first hand account of fighting for freedom abroad. In closing, Senior Center Director Joann Graf asked everyone to "also keep in mind all of the first responders who are now ill" due to their heroic efforts in the days that followed.

Middle School students, faculty and special guests gathered for a 9/11 ceremony hosted by members of the student council in the courtyard of the school. The 9/11 memorial, which sits in the center of the courtyard at the Middle School, was erected after the

students held several fundraisers a few years ago. They also designed and built the memorial in memory of 9/11.

Student Council President Connie Cadrony was mistress of ceremonies and Cassie Prendergast and Karly Sanko laid a wreath at the memorial. Bacilio Alvarado played the 5-5-5-5 bell code on the chimes. The code is used by the FDNY to announce the passing of members of the department. After a moment of silence, Justin Lesky played *Taps* on the trumpet, followed Glenn Doran and John Lane from the Union County and Somerset County Pipes and Drum, who played *Amazing Grace* on bagpipes.

The ceremony was attended by members of the South Plainfield Police and Fire Department, Board of Education President Jeff Seider and board member Carol Byrne, and Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Kaye Crown, as well as the entire fac-

ulty and student body at the Middle School.

In a separate ceremony, children of John E. Riley School gathered on the morning of Sept. 11 to celebrate their patriotism and also to remember the anniversary of 9/11. As part of a character education program in the school, children focus on a different character trait each month. The month of September is devoted to citizenship.

All students in the fourth grade were given several patriotic poems to share as well as the history and background of the flag and various patriotic songs. The entire student body participated in the singing of the songs which included *The Star Spangled Banner*, *America* and *America the Beautiful*. The program concluded with *You're a Grand Old Flag*.

The program was under the direction of Joanne Otlowski, librarian and Joanne Gurske, music teacher.

FROM THE DESK OF DEBBIE BOYLE

⇒ South Plainfield residents, if you are in support of the Helen Street Project that has been on the back burner for way too long, you need to write to the Department of Environmental Protection and let them know that you support this project. You can write to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commission, Lisa Jackson, Commissioner, 401 E. State St., 7th Floor, East Wing, P.O. Box 402, Trenton, NJ 08625-0402 or you can e-mail Ms. Jackson at www.state.nj.us/DEP then click on Office of the Commissioner. We need to protect the safety of our town and above all, the safety of our children. We all need to move forward with the Helen Street Project. (See story on colation forming on page 16.)

⇒ Please continue to send correspondence to Senator Barbara Buono on her proposed bill, SCR-37, and

Assemblymen Peter J. Barnes, Jr. and Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr. on their proposed bill, A-2814, all seeking re-evaluation of the Abbott Districts' funding, which affects thousands of our tax dollars. You can do so by logging on to spnetk12nj.us.

⇒ Congratulations to the South Plainfield High School Girls' Summer Monday/Wednesday Softball team, coached by Joe Matticola and Sephanie Zisch, on your undefeated season. Continue to follow through with your enthusiasm and team work.

⇒ South Plainfield High School back to school night will be held on Sept. 28.

⇒ Grant Elementary's Book Fair will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 20 at Back to School night for the adults and Thursday and Friday, Sept. 21 and 22, for children during school

hours. The kick off for the Gifts and Things fundraiser for the Grant PTO will take place on Sept. 19. Kids Stuff Books are available through Stephanie Walsh. A flyer will be forthcoming.

⇒ South Plainfield High School sports have begun. Please come out and watch all the exciting teams in action with your positive encouragement to all our children. Congratulations to our high school varsity football team, field hockey team and your coaches on your exciting wins on Friday, Sept. 9. This is one of many more to come.

⇒ Our South Plainfield High School ticket booth/bleachers super 50/50 has gotten off to a great start. Watch for our high school athletic booster club ticket sales along with our school spirit wear on sale now.

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Sports

Tiger Wrestlers Invited to The Clash

The South Plainfield High School Wrestling Team, the two time defending Group III State Wrestling Champions and the number three ranked team in the state of New Jersey, were invited to participate in "The Clash" High School National Duals, one of the toughest tournaments in the country. Thirty of the top ranked high school teams in the country square off in this two-day dual format tournament in December 2006. It is a real honor and a great opportunity for our wrestlers to test their skills against the nation's top competition. The other New Jersey team that was invited is Jackson Memorial High School, who had a second place finish in last year's tournament and also finished the year as the number one team in New Jersey. Other great teams including Carl Sandburg from Illinois, last year's champion, along with Apple Valley, a Minnesota State championship team, Sedro Woolley State champions from Washington, Skutt Catholic from Nebraska—a Class B State champion and Wisconsin Rapids DI State champions.

Participation in this tournament will add to the prestige of South Plainfield wrestling on a national scale. South Plainfield, which finished the year as the 24th ranked team in the country, will look to improve their position on a national level. Many of

the wrestlers began their careers at the age of five through the recreation program, which has had many years of success that lead to successful Middle School teams, producing four state championship teams since 2000 at the high school level. Our wrestling team has been a source of pride for South Plainfield for many years and they now need your help.

A fundraising effort has begun to raise the necessary money needed to provide our wrestlers with this outstanding opportunity. Donations from corporate and individual sponsors will be accepted. Activities will take place throughout the summer and fall to help raise the funds needed to send our wrestlers to this very tough national tournament.

Help support the South Plainfield High School Wrestling Team to compete in The Clash National Wrestling Duals in Rochester, MN at Gabriele's Bar & Grill, 1351 Centennial Ave. in Piscataway on Saturday, Sept. 16 at 5 p.m. until 10 p.m. Cost is \$20 per ticket and includes a donation to the SPHS Wrestling Team, full course buffet and cash bar. Tickets available at the door.

For more information on how you can help, go to www.spwc.com or call Bob Hunter at (908) 769-0439 or Ken Martin at (908) 769-4305.

Moates Man in Middle for Mule Defense

Sophomore William Moates, a resident of South Plainfield, has been impressive in his first two starts at nose tackle for the Muhlenberg College football team.

Moates received the "Dig In" Award from the Mule coaching staff for outstanding contribution to the season-opening 24-14 win against The College of New Jersey. He made three tackles in the game, including one for a

three-yard loss, and forced a fumble that was recovered by Muhlenberg, negating a long interception return by TCNJ. In a 24-17 defeat of William Paterson, Moates combined on one of the team's seven sacks.

Moates, who played on the junior varsity team as a freshman, is a key member of a defense that has allowed only 58 rushing yards on 64 attempts through two games.



Front Row: LJ Scarpitto, Tommy Dunn, Kyle Dickerson, Ryan Walsh, Bryan Gillen and Vincent Pellegrino; middle row: Chris Graves, Mike Olano, Marc Stasio, Joey Hart, Johnny Chillemi and Kyle Moroney. Top row: Coaches John Walsh, Jim Olano, Scott Dickerson and Manager Mike Pellegrino.

Nine Year Olds Win District 9 Championship On Their Way to the State Finals

The South Plainfield American Nine-Year-Old All-Star Baseball Team won the Cal Ripken District 9 Championship on July 17 by defeating Colonia 3-2 in dramatic fashion. The stage was set the day before when South Plainfield battled the number two seed, Monroe, to a tight 10-7 win. The semi-final victory included a two-out rally ignited by aggressive base running by Mike Olano and timely hitting by Ryan Walsh. Other highlights were; Chris Graves' bases loaded double, Kyle Dickerson's three runs scored and Johnny Chillemi knock-

ing in the last three South Plainfield runs with two hits.

The championship was a well-pitched game by both teams, with only one run scored through the first five innings. Bryan Gillen led off the game with a line drive to the right field fence and scampered to third base for a triple. Bryan scored on a sac fly by Kyle Dickerson.

Later in the game, South Plainfield tacked on two important runs in the top of the sixth, triggered by the duo of Gillen and Dickerson. South Plainfield's dominant pitching was led by Joey Hart (three scoreless innings) and Christopher Graves came in to shut the door, but not without a scare. "Gravy" as his teammates call him, retired the first two batters when things got exciting. After walking the next two batters, he surrendered a double that scored both.

It was a full-count when "Gravy" dug deep for something special and fired a fastball past the next batter. Strike three! South Plainfield wins!

South Plainfield then traveled to

Bayonne to play in the Cal Ripken State Tournament at "The Yard" at Foot Locker Stadium. The tournament was a double loss elimination.

After losing their first game to Scotch Plains, South Plainfield played "Survivor" and outplayed their opponents winning their next four games. South Plainfield put a streak together beating Mt. Olive 5-1, Manalapan 13-10 and Bridgewater 4-3.

South Plainfield then found themselves facing Scotch Plains in the finals and came home with a 13-2 win, forcing another game. The next day South Plainfield's luck ran out and lost to Scotch Plains 11-4.

The four wins featured key contributions by Vincent Pellegrino, Tommy Dunn, LJ Scarpitto, Marc Stasio and Kyle Moroney. This was the second time in the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club's 53-year history that a team played in a State finals game.

Great season boys! And thanks from all your coaches.

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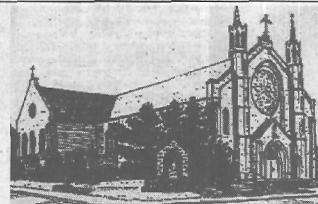
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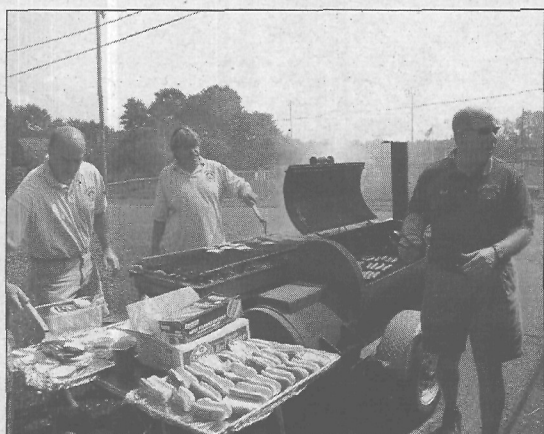
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Sports



A Season to Celebrate

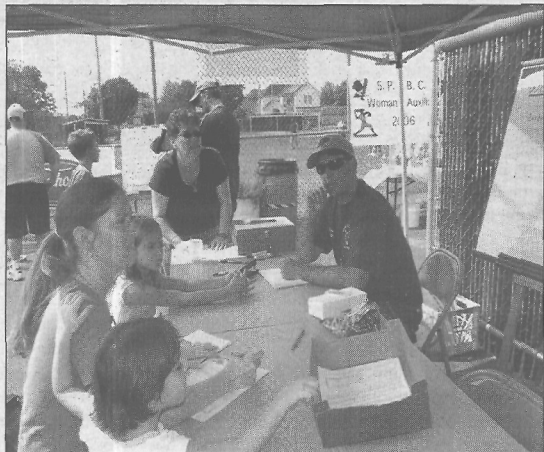
The Junior Baseball Club celebrates end of season with a barbecue

By Jane Dornick

Last Saturday was a perfect day for the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club's annual picnic. Board members and coaches cooked up hamburgers and hot dogs and served drinks and ice cream for players and their families courtesy of the baseball club. The little leaguers spent time with their friends and teammates out on the fields throwing the ball around and playing touch football.

The women's auxiliary held a drawing for their super 50/50 raffle with the top prize of \$568.75 going to Michael Townley. Second place winner, Margaret Celentano, came away with \$162.50 and third place went to Elain Kilijarski with \$81.25. A "guess the number of baseballs in the barrel" contest was held with winner David Vargas receiving a gift certification to Sports Authority for \$25.

This was also the day that early registration begins for the 2007 baseball season. Check the *Observer* for future sign-up events. Remember the registration fee increases for registration after December.



Fire Smokes the Competition to Win Fall Classic

Kudos go out to the coaches and players of South Plainfield's U-16 Traveling Soccer Team Fire. For the second year in a row they have won the Piscataway Fall Soccer Classic.

With an explosive offense and a stifling defense, which held the opposition to just one goal the entire tournament (four games in two days), the team was able to dominate.

It was a complete team effort, with everyone exceeding their own expectations. It's only fair to mention the

players along with their fine coaches, the victory was truly a total combined effort. Players are: Luis Acosta, Anthony Baldassarre, Scott Bishop, Kenny Bresleau, Steven Coppi, John Stevens Duran, Paul Figaroa, Allen Garcia, Joseph Gonzales, Nick Jeglinski, Joey Lacerda, Felipe Rodriguez, Mar Santos, James Seyffart and Bryant Villamaria. Coaches are Paul Baldassarre and Scott Bishop. Congratulations to all!

Submitted by Al Santos

5th Annual Perkins Memorial Race

The 5th Annual Ray Perkins Memorial Race will be held at Duke Island Park, Old York Rd., Bridgewater on Sept. 24. The 5K Certified Run for ages 14 to 60, and One Mile "Fun Walk/Run" will begin with registration at 8 a.m. and events at 9:30 a.m. to benefit prostate cancer outreach. Free prostate cancer screening avail-

able on site, provided by Arianna, at 10:30 a.m. by Dr. Anthony Catanese, a member of APCaP's Scientific Advisory Board.

Entry fee \$15. Participants with pledges of \$50 or more will have entry fee waived. Mail registration to APCaP, c/o Terry Roe, 12 Redwood Rd., Martinsville, NJ 08836.

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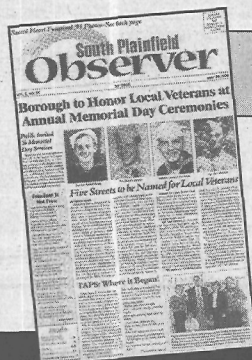
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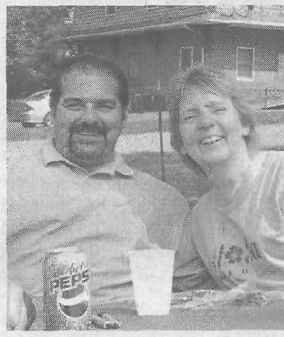
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VFW Pig Roast Offers Fun and Food

Over 100 people attended the annual VFW picnic held on Saturday, Sept. 9. They enjoyed roast pig, hamburgers, hot dogs, cold beverages and a host of other picnic fare. A DJ provided music. Kids enjoyed the moon walk and pony rides. There was a 50/50 and raffle drawings.

Photos by Patricia Abbott



First Baptist Church Prepares for Holiday Fair

The Women's Evening Circle of the First Baptist Church, 201 Hamilton Blvd., is holding a Holiday Arts and Crafts Show and Sale on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Featured at this year's event are cloth holiday items, handcrafted jewelry, handmade baskets, painted glassware, angels, gift baskets and stained glass suncatchers. Lunch and baked goods will also be available for purchase.

South Plainfielders Caryn Skolnick of Charming Creativity and Janet Tekley of Story Picture Products will be displaying gift baskets, silk flower arrangements and theme jewelry.

Children's author and songwriter Jerry Smith will be on hand to autograph copies of his book, "Captive Angel," now in its second printing.

Anyone interested in taking a table may contact Janis Nietzer at (908) 753-8224 or email Janet Tekley at jhtek5@aol.com for an application. Table donation is \$25.

Interested parties are encouraged to contact the group by Oct. 1 since space is limited.

Obituaries

Walter G. Thompson, Sr., 71

Walter G. Thompson Sr. died on Thursday, Sept. 7 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, he had resided in South Plainfield since 1962.

Walt was the owner/operator of the New Market Exxon Gas station in Piscataway for 25 years. After leaving the gas station, he was employed in the parts department for Cambria/Mack of Edison, and more recently was a driver for Circle Lighting in Raritan for three years before retiring in 2000.

Walt had served in the United States Army during WWII, was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council #6203 and Sacred Heart R.C. Church in South Plainfield.

His mother, Kathryn Flaherty died in May 2006 and his father, Raymond Thompson, died in 1971.

Surviving are his wife, Marie E.

(Ronzo) Thompson; two sons, Jeff Thompson and fiancé Michelle Ficorilli of Bell Buckle, Tenn. and Walter and wife Lisa Thompson of South Plainfield; a cousin, Miriam Warfel of Lancaster, Pa. and two grandchildren, Dylan and Shaun.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Victoria M. Tapscott, 56

Victoria M. Tapscott died on Friday, Sept. 8 in the Haven Hospital at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Queens, Victoria grew up in New York and moved to New Jersey at the age of fourteen, living in South Amboy before moving to South Plainfield over 30 years ago.

She was employed in the human resource department of Prudential Insurance Company working in Newark, South Plainfield and Somerset before retiring in the early 1980s.

Surviving are her husband, John C. Tapscott; her parents, Angie and Thomas Pytell of Old Bridge; a sister, Kathy McGovern and husband Robert of Matawan; two nieces, Regan and Amy McGovern; a nephew, Shawn McGovern and a great-niece, Hanna Clair.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Grace (Carisone) Tibaldi, 99

Grace (Carisone) Tibaldi died on Tuesday, Sept. 12 at home.

Born and raised in Plainfield, Grace

lived in South Plainfield since 1959.

She worked as a dressmaker for the former Poulskin Dress Co. in Plainfield and later for the former Mattel Toy Company in South Plainfield, retiring in 1968.

A former member of the Tri-County Senior Citizens in Piscataway, Grace was a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens. In addition, she was a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield and a member of their Sharing and Caring Organization. Most importantly was her time spent with her family.

She is predeceased by her husband,

Epifanio who died in 1960, her son Daniel who died in 1999, and by her three brothers; Sam, Frank and Pat Carisone.

Surviving is a daughter, Margaret Panzarella and husband Richard of South Plainfield, a son, Thomas and wife Josephine of Bridgewater, a daughter-in-law, Virginia of New York; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or to the South Plainfield Senior Citizens.

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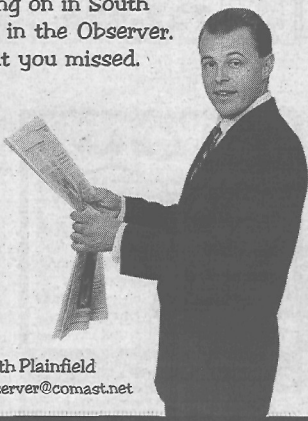
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Expanded Programming Requires More Assistance

By Dorothy Miele

Second in a series of articles on Highland Woods Reserve; its caretakers, the Friends of the Woods; and F.O.W. programming at the Nature Center.

The Friends of the Woods, established in 1997 to maintain the trails at Highland Woods Nature Reserve, has provided public education programming for nearly 10 years. Safety Town youngsters, scouts, garden club members, summer solstice revelers, students, teachers, and many others have partici-

pated in the diverse program offerings. Outdoor programs have included identifying edible plants and mushrooms, wildflower walks, birdwatching, landscape sketching, orienteering, history excursions, woods safety, nature crafting and so many more. Soon a new and challenging venture begins with the opening of the Nature Center at the reserve's Sylvania Place trail head and the expansion of indoor programming. The new Nature Center brings new challenges. The F.O.W. is seeking active members who will help at the fa-

cility, and who share the group's mission: promoting the conservation of the natural resources of Highland Woods; fostering public understanding and appreciation of Highland Woods and engaging in activities that will support environmental education.

Membership in the Friends of the Woods offers many benefits and opportunities to get involved. As a member, you can become involved as a volunteer, receive a quarterly newsletter, have opportunities to participate in special member-only events and contribute to the improvement of the Reserve.

Volunteers play a key role in helping the Friends of the Woods fulfill its mission. There are many ways to help.

• **Nature Center:** Welcome visitors, answer questions, provide information. Can you spend three hours a month on a Saturday or Sunday as a docent?

• **Special events:** Assist with evening or weekend programs—Set-up, welcoming visitors, refreshments, clean-up.

• **Go native:** Help create and maintain native plant gardens at the Nature Center.

• **Trail maintenance:** Join a work crew for Spring and Fall trail maintenance days.

• **Education:** Conduct or assist with school, scout or group tours, usually two to three hours long. Answer ques-

tions, show video programs, provide orientation to the Reserve. Must be available on weekdays.

• **Programs:** Help plan Walks 'n' Talks programs, find speakers, guest naturalists, and interesting videos.

• **Publicity:** Develop media contacts, write press releases, identify and develop other publicity avenues.

• **Publications:** Write and produce educational material, update trail guide and species list.

• **Columnist:** Write a monthly column for local newspapers on current or seasonal offerings at H.A.W.

• **Membership:** Recruit dues-paying members and provide membership services such as newsletter mailings.

• **Grant writer:** Research and write grants to help support the mission of the Friends of the Nature Reserve.

• **Art gallery:** Coordinate monthly art and photo displays.

Membership in the F.O.W. is \$10 a year per family. Learn more about the Friends of the Woods and how to join this non-profit organization at its website <http://geocities.com/friends-of-the-woods>. Contact SPNatureTrails@cs.com with questions or comments or call Dorothy Miele at (908) 754-3073.

Next: The Nature Center programming: the sky's the limit.

IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

Barletta and Dave Sesok, who are running for council.

It's nice to see people running for office on a positive platform for change. The most important issue this year is taxes, and I was pleased to see that they have ideas for getting things back in line. The waste is incredible. I'm looking forward to hearing more on this most-important issue.

I wish I could also say something positive about their opponents, but so far the Democratic campaign has been simply attack, attack, attack. I'm glad to see Bengivenga, Barletta and Sesok have not gone that route.

Keep up the great work guys.
CHRIS TAMBURRI

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Budding Young Artist Classes

Youngsters with a penchant for drawing wildlife can register for an art class at the new Nature Center at Highland Woods Reserve.

Six art classes are offered for ages 5-6 and 7-10 on alternate Tuesdays from 4-5 p.m. at a cost of \$2 per child per class. Art supplies are furnished, and class size is limited.

Animals found at Highland Woods are the subjects of the lessons. Children learn about the "Criter of the Week" at the beginning of the class, followed by a drawing lesson. Animals found in the reserve include deer, raccoons, muskrats, rabbits, box turtles, red-tailed hawks, wild turkeys, salamanders, bats,

frogs, and over 70 species of birds.

The class is taught by Dorothy Miele, a local art teacher and self-taught naturalist. The Nature Center is located at the trailhead at 115 Sylvania Pl. off South Clinton Ave.

Pre-registration and payment is required. Classes for ages 5-6 are offered on Oct. 3, 17, Nov. 7, 21, Dec. 5 and 19. Classes for ages 7-10 are offered on Sept. 19, Oct. 10, 24, Nov. 14, 28, Dec. 12 and 26.

Registration forms are available at the environmental specialist's office at Borough Hall.

For more information, contact SPNatureTrails@cs.com.

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Coalition For Helen St. Extension Forming

South Plainfield residents Debbie Boyle and Jane Dornick have announced the formation of a coalition to advance the interests of businesses and residents in South Plainfield who are not happy with the stalled Helen Street Extension Project. This project which has dragged on for too many years and has met opposition from the Edison Wetlands Association because a small part of the roadway will

go through a wetland area that is located entirely in the Borough of South Plainfield. Despite the fact that Edison has built a bridge and roadway over this same wetlands reserve, known as the Dismal Swamp, this environmental group has raised their voices of opposition louder than the resident of South Plainfield, who are all directly affected by truck traffic in our town. The coalition wants to raise

many more voices in support of the project.

The coalition is looking for volunteers from residents of the community and businesses who are affected on a daily basis by the traffic in South Plainfield and who are willing to lend their time and voices to their cause. Their objective is get some movement on this project from the DEP in Trenton where it lays stagnant. This coalition will be a non-political group which will spearhead a campaign of letter writing and phone calls to our state representatives demanding that the life of a turtle not be deemed more important than the lives of the children and residents of South Plainfield.

You can help by writing to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commission, Lisa Jackson, Commissioner, 401 E. State St., 7th Floor, East Wing, P.O. Box 402, Trenton, NJ 08625-0402 or you can e-mail Ms. Jackson at www.state.nj.us/dep, then click on Office of the Commissioner.

Call the Observer at (908) 668-0010 or send an email to spobserver@comcast.net if you are interested in joining this coalition to get some

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Chris Grippio

This week starts a new school year and makes it the ideal time to remind both parents and students of the valuable online databases that can be accessed through the South Plainfield Public Library website, www.south-plainfield.lib.nj.us. Databases that are accessible 24/7 include EbscoHost which includes many of the most important and popular magazines (such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, etc.) with full text available for many items; *Opposing Viewpoints*, which presents arguments for both sides of many current issues from abortion to gun control; *CountryWatch* which is perfect for doing term papers or if you are planning a trip, as this site not only provides maps and historical/demographic information but also often provides links to sites within the country. Those are just three of the many databases available at the library.

Moreover, to make searching easier, all you need to do is click on the logo JerseyClicks. Not only does this allow

you to search across a variety of databases grouped by subject area but it also provides access to *ReferenceUSA*, a major source of business information.

Please remember that through our library you have online access to the complete run of the *New York Times* from the first issue in 1851 and the *Star Ledger* from 1990. However, for those databases, you will need to come into the library as remote access is unavailable.

Finally, our two audiobook databases, NetLibrary and ListenNJ, also contain classic books and language learning programs (besides a wide variety of contemporary fiction and non-fiction for all ages).

All our databases contain information which is not available for free on the internet. These databases are paid for by the library and/or the State of New Jersey. To access any of these databases from home you will need to have a South Plainfield Library card. If you do not have a card, they are free and can be obtained by bringing proof of residency in South Plainfield (anything with your name and a South Plainfield address) to the library which is located at 2484 Plainfield Ave. next to Borough Hall. If you need help with accessing these databases please call the library at (908) 754-7885 and speak to one of the reference librarians.

Miss Linda is still organizing our vibrant fall children's programming so there will be no storytime/craft until the beginning of October. However our Children's Room is still open for browsing for books and reading with your child.

Mobile Passport Services Program

Middlesex County Clerk Elaine M. Flynn has announced that the County Clerk's Office is extending passport services to residents throughout Middlesex County through a program that sends staff members to a municipality requesting the service.

Individuals who avail themselves of this service will be able to apply for passports with the convenience of a trip to their local municipal building. The program is also available to schools and organizations with groups planning trips.

"When applying for a U.S. passport, the Department of State requires all applicants to appear in person," Flynn adds, "That's the beauty of this program; it's the convenience of the family getting in the car and driving to a location within their town."

In addition, according to the Department of State's new guidelines, anyone travelling to Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean (including Puerto Rico) will need a U.S. passport for re-entry purposes by Dec. 31 of this year.

The Mobile Passport Service will be in South Plainfield on Friday, Oct. 13 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the municipal court room. Applications may be downloaded from the Department of State website at www.travel.state.gov or from the Borough's Clerk's office.

For further information, please call (732) 745-3404.

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can be measured by
the difference he's made
in the lives of others.

—Anonymous

Share your wealth.
Volunteer in your
community.

Library Fundraiser Announced

The South Plainfield Public Library Foundation invites you to participate in its first major fundraising event. Lord & Taylor in Bridgewater will be hosting the Benefit Bash, an exclusive day filled with special events and savings on Oct. 10. Shop all day while supporting your community!

We are one of several non-profit groups participating in the sale of \$5 admission tickets to Lord & Taylor's Bridgewater Benefit Bash. We retain all the proceeds from our ticket sales. With your support, we can also be one of the organizations to receive one of two bonus checks Lord & Taylor is donating for the highest ticket

sales.

Your savings pass entitles you to 20% off all sale and regular priced items all day (with almost no exclusions). Cosmetics and fragrances will receive 15% off. The day will be filled with exciting events from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. which include opportunities to win fabulous prizes such as a \$2,000 Lord & Taylor wardrobe or a \$500 spa certificate.

To purchase tickets, visit the South Plainfield Public Library, Century 21 Moretti Realty or Twin City Pharmacy. You can also contact Kathy Thomas at (908) 561-3247 for tickets or more information.

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