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**LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE** for this year's General Election is **Tuesday, October 17.** The Municipal Clerk's Office will be open until 9 p.m. that evening.

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 10, NO. 7

OCT 12 2006

50 CENTS

OCTOBER 13, 2006

## Candidates Face Off at Debate

The mayoral and council candidates squared off last Wednesday evening to debate the issues. The debate, held at the Senior Center, was sponsored by the *Observer* and the South Plainfield Business Association.

A standing room only crowd of approximately 250 people were asked to write questions they would like the candidates to answer. The moderator for the evening was Michele Bobrow, a member of the League of Women Voters.

Topics discussed included speeding in residential areas around town. All candidates commended the police department on their quick response to speeding complaints. Police have installed speed signs showing how fast a vehicle is traveling to remind drivers to be aware of their speed. The Democrats have endorsed a proposal for no tolerance zones which was suggested by Police Chief John Ferraro.

The Helen Street Project was also a topic of discussion. The Republicans say it is taking too long and have proposed Hollywood Blvd. be extended to Metuchen Rd. However, no maps, plans or cost were discussed, but candidates assured the audience that it could be done. Democrats say the proposed road is just a distraction, that the road would still be going through wetlands and would have to undergo the same scrutiny as

the Helen Street Project. Democrats also asked that Helen St. not become political and asked residents to get behind it and sign the petition letters. They added that the cost of extending Hollywood Ave. would have to be paid for by the borough, unlike The Helen Street Project, which is federally funded.

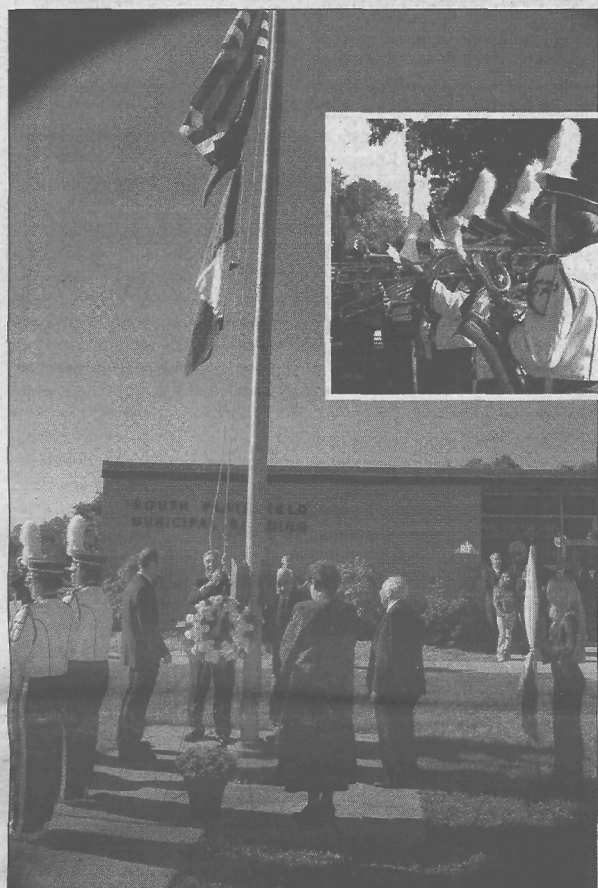
The issue of property taxes were also brought up. The Democrats say they have not raised municipal taxes in three of the last five years. Councilman Charlie Butrico, mayoral candidate, reminded everyone that the municipal portion of the budget is all the council has under their control; however, after this year's school budget was rejected by the voters, the council was able to cut \$1.2M. The Republicans responded that taxes and spending have risen considerably in

the last 10 years.

Councilman Robert Bengivena, Jr. discussed ways to cut spending. He explained that he has been working with the school board on shared services that will provide savings for both the school board and borough. Councilman Ray Petronko said the borough already shares services with the school board on many levels, and provided several instances.

Senior housing—where it should be located and who will build it—went along party lines. The Republicans don't want the age restricted housing built on the Tingley Rubber site. They say that the seniors should decide where it should be, but did not explain who will fund or build it. The Democrats say the Tingley Rubber property will never again be

(Continued on page 10)



The Italian and American flags were raised in front of Borough Hall on Monday in celebration of Columbus Day.

## UNICO Hosts Columbus Day Ceremonies

The Plainfield Chapter of UNICO hosted their 37th annual Columbus Day ceremonies on Monday morning. As they have every year the ceremony ended with the traditional raising of the Italian flag along with the American Flag in front of Borough Hall.

This year's ceremonies were attended by the mayor, members of the council, the South Plainfield High School Marching Band, as well as many members of UNICO from all over the state. This year's special guests included State Senators Tom Kean, Jr. and Barbara Buono, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Freeholder Dave Crabel, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado and Police Chief John Ferraro.

The ceremony began in front of Borough Hall with Councilman Robert Bengivena, Jr., chairperson of the Columbus Day Committee and Dr. M. Ann Walko, president, Plainfields' UNICO, welcoming those attending. Master of Ceremonies was Frank Licato, past national president, UNICO National. The SPHS Marching Band, under the direction of Roger Vroom, played *The Star Spangled Banner*.

The ceremonies then moved inside Borough Hall, where the dignitaries spoke to a standing room only audience. Speakers all discussed the importance of Columbus Day, reminding everyone that Christopher Columbus was a visionary who

followed his dream and succeeded and how important it is to remember our heritage.

The keynote speaker was attorney Renato Biribin, past national president, UNICO National, who began and ended his speech in Italian.

The ceremonies concluded with Middle School Student Council President Connie Caldrony and eighth grade representative Heather Calderone laying flowers next to a wreath placed by Ann Walko, Louis DeFillipo and Renato Biribin. The Italian flag was then raised in front of Borough Hall to be displayed for the day fol-

lowed by the SPHS high school band playing *God Bless America*. A reception followed with refreshments.

## High School Parents Want Fairer Grading System

By Libby Barsky

High school parents who attended the Oct. 4 curriculum meeting were concerned about the grading system and how the final grade average distorts the actual grade earned.

Sharon Miller explained that her daughter had received four's (4.4, 4.5, 4.6 and 4.3) in her report card

every marking period—but four was not the final grade for the semester on her transcript.

Miller requested an immediate adjustment to the present grading system to reflect the actual grade her child received. Parents contend that the present system lowers grades on the transcript which is used for college applications and parents want to have something done to remedy this problem before applications are sent to colleges for early admission.

In the current marking system, the

grade for each marking period counts 20% and the mid term and final exams each receive 10% and are averaged together when the final grade is calculated and divided by five.

"The way that grades are reported in each marking period is not consistent with the final grades which are calculated in quality points and not in scale values. The problem exists because there are too many systems merging together. There is something called a quality point

(Continued on page 10)

## Students Can Feed Body and Soul In Weekly Writing Contest

Students, did you know that writing can satisfy your hunger? Hometown Heros and the South Plainfield *Observer* are hoping to do just that.

The two businesses are collaborating in the Junior Journalist Contest to encourage writing throughout the South Plainfield school district.

Students are rewarded on a weekly basis by publication of their works and a meal for their family from Hometown Heros. Writers are also

invited to a year-end banquet, also courtesy of Hometown Heros, to celebrate their accomplishments.

Students should submit their original poetry, articles, opinion pieces or essays to their English teachers. Hometown Heros and the *Observer* are also accepting entries.

Questions? Call the *Observer* at (908) 668-0010, stop by Hometown Heros, located at 340 Hamilton Blvd. or call them at (908) 755-4376.



Hamilton Blvd. motorists will no longer have to maneuver around detours between New Market and Belmont avenues as the road was reopened to motorists on Monday. Improvements will still be made during overnight hours.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Log on to  
southplainfieldnj.com  
for the latest meeting agenda

**Note: Council meetings are broadcast on Comcast Channel 74 every Monday at 8 p.m. The debate will be shown on Thursday Oct. 19 and 26 at 8 p.m.**

### 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
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 (N.J.S.A. 10:4-8 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

### planning board

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

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

Oct. 24, Nov. 28, Dec. 12 and Dec. 26.

### zoning board of adjustment

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

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

Oct. 26, Nov. 30\* and Dec. 14.

### board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7 p.m. - Nov. 8, Dec. 13,

Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 14 and March 28.

Regular Meeting Wednesdays 8 p.m. - Oct. 18, Nov. 15,

Dec. 20, Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March and April 4.

### taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at

Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-769-0786.

### site plan sub-committee

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

Oct. 17, Nov. 21 and Dec. 19

### recreation commission

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

Nov. 14 and Dec. 12

### environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

Nov. 8, Dec. 13 and Jan. 10.

### business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

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

### traffic safety advisory commission

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

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

### board of education curriculum/technology meetings

Meets once a month on Mondays at 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at

Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.



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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: sposerver@comcast.net or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 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.

## IN YOUR OPINION

The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the publisher.

### To the Editor,

We are sending out this communication to keep you updated about some 'away from the table' issues surrounding negotiations for a new Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Recently in their 'clarification,' Dr. Rosado, on behalf of the Board of Education, misinformed the public that the SPEA had blamed the BOE for declaring impasse. As you are aware, we the SPEA forthrightly declared impasse with PERC as the next legal step in bargaining. We never, at any time, hid that reality. After 12 plus bargaining sessions and with a contract that expired June 30, 2006, we do not apologize for that action. We do, however, hope that the BOE will gain a better sense of reality and agree to a new contract before our first session with a mediator. Further, the BOE used cherry-picked information from a private SPEA membership meeting to claim that they [the Board] were wrongly accused of "going after all of our health benefits." Their intent was and is to cut anything they can. The BOE's 'spin' on this is a regrettable contract. Unfortunately, 'spin' is more a goal of the board than a new and fair contract.

This misinformation tactic can lead to no good. Be assured that we will not disclose the details of the BOE closed session—fact or fiction, which come to us.

Our next bargaining date is October 10. The slogan of the buttons proclaims "United We Bargain, Divided We Beg." Keep it in mind and... STAND UNITED.

LOUISE MRUZ, PRES. SPEA  
DIANA JOFFEE, VICE PRES. SPEA

### To the Editor,

Three candidates stood out for me at last week's debate, and they were Bengivenga, Barletta and Sesok. The best word to describe them was "impressive." Not only were they prepared, they knew the issues and they offered the best solutions for our town.

We need people who will attack the problems we face, things like rising taxes, overdevelopment and traffic. The Democrats didn't have answers, and the Republicans did.

I left the debate room knowing that Robert Bengivenga, Alex Barletta and Dave Sesok were the candidates I'd be choosing when I vote this year. I hope everyone else chooses them too.

LORI IAVARONE

### Dear Editor,

If anyone saw the candidate debate on Oct. 4, there can be only one conclusion as to who should be the next mayor of South Plainfield—Charlie Butrico.

The most shocking thing about the debate was that the organizers allowed the Republican candidate to read scripted answers to the questions out of a notebook. This shows me that Mr. Bengivenga doesn't have the ability to think on his feet or the maturity to handle tough issues that every mayor has to face. I would think that, as a sitting member of the borough council, Mr. Bengivenga would know a great deal about every major issue facing the borough. The fact that he doesn't is proof that he is too inexperienced and not prepared to be mayor.

On the other hand, Charlie Butrico answered every question in a firm, confident and friendly manner—without reading answers from a notebook. Charlie had command of the issues and the facts for every question. Charlie is the only logical choice for mayor. Mr. Bengivenga may be a nice kid, but his performance at the debate showed that he is not mayor material.

Elect Charlie Butrico as the next mayor of South Plainfield.

ANTONIA KATSANTONIS

### Dear Editor,

The proposed truck route changes are estimated to cost the taxpayers a lot of money. When I hear that the state and federal government are working with some of the projects planned, it doesn't make me feel any better. It will still affect all of us.

My husband is a professional truck driver and he suggests the truck traffic not be permitted to exit Route 287 onto Durham Ave., but to exit on Stelton Rd., turn right and continue on as it becomes Washington Ave., then turn right onto New Market Ave. This is an existing truck route.

This plan will offer the following results: no additional cost to taxpayers; three less difficult turns for truck drivers; no need for more construction to widen the intersection at South Clinton Ave. and New Market Rd. (this turn is eliminated); elimination of the traffic around the Roosevelt School district and prevention of traffic from being redirected into a long existing residential area.

These are already existing truck routes. We need to think about the needs of the entire town, not just one area. Change does not have to lead to spending more money.

JUDY FEELY

### Dear Editor,

The other day I was visited by the Democratic candidates. I saw them walking through my neighborhood and I have to admit I was not really interested in speaking with them. I was busy and figured that they would only be giving me some speech about why I should vote for them, the same stuff that is in the newspapers. Well I have to tell you that I was pleasantly surprised.

Charlie Butrico, Ray Petronko and Joe Scudato were very personable yet professional and they were more interested in what I thought than promoting their own agenda. We talked for a few minutes and they listened to my concerns about my neighborhood and the town as well.

This is the kind of leadership South Plainfield needs. We need leaders who are aware that they represent the townspeople and keep that in mind when they make decisions. Please take

### 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: sposerver@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.

a few minutes to speak to these individuals when they knock on your door. When you do I am sure that you will be voting for Charlie Butrico for Mayor and Ray Petronko and Joe Scudato for Council because they listen and they care.

JOSEPH ARCHUTOWSKI

### To the Editor,

Last week's debate proved what I knew all along. Robert Bengivenga, Alex Barletta and Dave Sesok are the best choices for South Plainfield.

I thought the Republicans did the better job, and I was really impressed by them.

Dave Sesok came across as a nice guy with a great sense of humor, and best of all, he cut through the nonsense and got right to the real issues.

I also like Alex Barletta. He's someone who will be watching spending. His background running a small business makes him ideal for the job of councilman, and he seems like someone who will be an advocate for the taxpayers.

Bengivenga put it best though. If you want the status quo, which means higher spending, Jack Morris, traffic, and overdevelopment, vote for the Democrats. If you want change and solutions to the problems the Democrats have brought us, vote Republican.

Great job Robert, Alex, and Dave!  
MARK JOHNSON

### Not Registered to Vote?

Visit the Borough Clerk's office Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to register to vote. Last chance is Tuesday, October 17 when the office will be open until 9.

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## INMYOPINION

The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the publisher.

### To the Editor,

After reading an article in the Oct. 6 *Courier News*, I find myself in the position of having to write a letter to the newspaper I work for to explain my position with the Helen Street Coalition.

I have been a resident of South Plainfield for nine years and have worked for the *Observer* for six years as a reporter and advertising sales representative, among other duties. I am also very active with the PTO groups at my children's schools.

Over the years, I have heard and read about the Helen Street Extension Project which will take truck traffic off of our residential streets. I have been told many times about the project being held up by the Dept. of Environmental Project (DEP) because of an environment group called the Edison Wetlands Association (EWA), who oppose having a road built through the Dismal Swamp area of South Plainfield. After reading about the media coverage and overwhelming response by the EWA at a meeting with the DEP at the Senior Center in February of 2004, and the lack of South Plainfield residents that attended, I decided to do some research on the project in late August. I enlisted my good friend Debbie Boyle, who is extremely involved in many aspects of the schools and sports programs in town, to ask Councilman Charlie Butrico at the Sept. 5 council meeting what, if anything, we could do to help further the project. It appeared to me that the residents of South Plainfield needed their voices to be heard by the DEP, and with the encouragement of Butrico, Debbie and I decided to start our own petition for residents to sign. Since we both attend many functions in town, we thought it would be a great opportunity to obtain signatures. We decided to call ourselves the Helen Street Coalition.

During my research, I was able to obtain an Internet document, the Department of Transportation's 2007 Transportation Capital Program. The state legislature has allocated \$2,145,000 for design drawings, but before the borough can receive approval and permits, the DEP has to sign off on numerous environmental assessments, with most being presented by the EWA. The reason why the anticipated completion date keeps being pushed up is because of the hold up with the DEP, not because of apathy by the current council.

The EWA must have gotten wind of our residents being rallied to fight for this project. An article in the *Star Ledger* on Sept. 14 quoted Robert Spiegel, head of the EWA, saying, "I am confident that the road will never be built because of the significant environmental damage that will be a result. It won't alleviate traffic on Hamilton Blvd." Shortly thereafter, a letter to the editor appeared in the *Courier News* penned by an Ed Marsh urging people to visit the EWA's website and sign a petition to the DEP to see that the project does not go through. After researching the EWA on the Internet, I came upon various

statements by the association over the years condemning the project. Therefore I felt it was necessary that our coalition, along with the help of the residents of South Plainfield, get as much media coverage in favor of the project as the EWA receives against it. I have been in contact with the *Courier News* reporter for South Plainfield who will be coming here this week to take pictures and write about our side of the story. I also intend to keep sending press releases to the local papers reporting on our progress.

Debbie and I would like to thank the 200 or more business owners and residents who have already signed our petition letters over the past couple of weeks, as well as the people who have emailed, called or stopped by the *Observer* office to picking up letters for others to sign. I also urge Hall's Warehouse and the other trucking companies to write letters in favor of the project to the Department of Environmental Transportation, Attn: Lisa Jackson, Commissioner, 401 State St., 7th Floor-East Wing, P.O. Box 402, Trenton, NJ 08625-0402. EVERYONE in this town needs to sign a letter since Spiegel has vowed to fight "every permit, every step of the way" on this project. Butrico has said that he attends regular meetings with the DEP and is in constant contact with them regarding the progress of the project, but it is obvious that the rest of our South Plainfield voices must also be heard. The aim of the coalition is to improve the safety and quality of life for all residents. This should not be a political affiliation issue. As mayoral candidate Councilman Robert Bengivenga, Jr. stated during the debate last week, "I also agree that Helen Street is the ultimate solution to getting truck traffic off all of our roads." We agree!

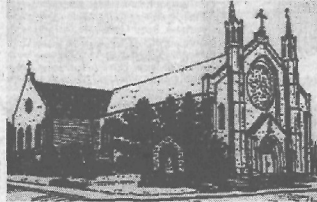
For more information or to obtain or drop off your petition letters, stop by the *Observer* at 1110 Hamilton Blvd., email spobserver@comcast.net or call (908) 668-0010.

THANK YOU,  
JANE DORNICK

### Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.  
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul  
Alvarado, Pastor



#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

#### Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.  
Weekdays Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. Mon. and Thurs. 7 p.m.  
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.  
Holy Days 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.



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Members of the Almost Famous Players Troupe are busy rehearsing for the Haunted Woods Tour.

## Get Ready for the Annual Haunted Woods Tour

It's that time of year again—time to take a visit to the Almost Famous Players Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour. This year the troupe takes you to the Pine Barrens for a hopeful glimpse of the Jersey Devil. Along the way you will encounter a variety of legends and an outrageous combination of frightening and funny characters. More than 30 people ranging in age from 13 to adult are involved in the show. There will be snacks, drinks and novelties available for purchase.

The SPHS French Club will be doing face painting on Friday and Saturday.

The show is scheduled for Thursday through Saturday, Oct. 26, 27 and 28. The Oct. 29 show has been canceled and an afternoon kids show is tentative for this date. Tours begin about 6:30 p.m. and run every 20 minutes. This show is not recommended those under nine years of age. Be aware that fog machines and strobe lights will be used. Over the past three years, the Almost Famous Players have do-

nated approximately \$2,000 to the Lions Club, Rescue Squad and Fire Department.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for kids 11 and under (must be accompanied by an adult.) Buy five tickets by Oct. 22 and receive a sixth ticket free. Free ticket must be of equal or lesser value. No refunds will be offered once the tour has started. Reservations are recommended as tours are often sold out well in advance. Call (908) 346-2290 and leave a message.

The theatre troupe, founded by Patricia Abbott over 14 years ago, started as a drama club at Franklin School. The group produced shows there for five years and four years at Roosevelt School. Many one-time students are now actors for Almost Famous. In addition to the Halloween show, they have performed at the South Plainfield Library and the Chandler Theater in Bridgewater. For the past two years they have presented shows at St. Peter's Hospital Cancer Survivors Day Picnic.



There's a New Lawyer in Town

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# Around Town

## Firefighters Memorial Service/Open House

October 14

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Dept. 2006 Annual Firefighters Memorial Service and Open House will be held on Saturday, Oct. 14. Services begin at 10 a.m. and include the dedication of the Firefighters Memorial. The open house runs from noon to 4 p.m. The event, which is held at fire headquarters, includes Sparky, the Middlesex County Burn House, apparatus and equipment display and much more. Come out and support your local fire department, rain or shine.

## St. Stephen's Raffle

October 14

St. Stephen's Women's Group is having a gift raffle auction on Saturday, Oct. 14 at 6 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church on South Plainfield Ave. For ticket information, contact Cathy Carr at (908) 806-8770. Come join us and have a night of fun!

## AMP'D At KC's Korner

October 14

It is a homecoming for locals Scott Benko and Paul Fessock of the band AMP'D, who will play rock n' roll hits from yesterday and today at KC's Korner located on the corner of Oak Tree Ave. and Front St. on Saturday, Oct. 14 at 9:30 p.m. No cover charge.

Visit the bands website at [www.ampdrocks.com](http://www.ampdrocks.com) for pictures, music and upcoming shows.

## Pumpkin Painting

October 14

There will be a pumpkin painting program at the South Plainfield Public Library on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 10 a.m. to noon.

The program is for children of all ages. Pre-registration is required for this program. There is a fee of \$1, payable upon registration, to cover the cost of materials.

For more information, please call (908) 754-7885 or visit the library's website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

## Workout for the Cure

October 15

The Club at Ricochet will be hosting

## 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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b> AARP Meeting, Monday, Oct. 16 12:30 p.m. . . . . . Atlantic City Trip, Thursday, Oct. 19 9 a.m.				
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am AARP Meeting 12:30pm Center Board Mtg 4:30pm	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am	Exercise 8:45am Computer Classes 10am, 11am & 1pm Tai Chai Class 2pm	Atlantic City Trip 9am Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm	Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available
16	17	18	19	20

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

Workout for the Cure on Sunday, Oct. 15, 8:30-2:30. The six hour fundraiser will benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation for breast cancer research and awareness. Call the Club at Ricochet at (908) 753-2300 for information.

## American Legion Breakfast

October 15

American Legion Post 243 on Oak Tree Ave. will hold a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 15 from 8 a.m. to noon. Adults \$5, children \$3, children under six are free. Proceeds benefit our scholarship fund.

## Sacred Heart Concert Series

October 15

The Sacred Heart Concert Series begins on Sunday, Oct. 15 at 3 p.m. The piano recital will be performed by our parish accompanist Jack Bender. Jack will play light piano music as well as other selections. The church is located at 149 South Plainfield Ave. Free admission. A free will offering will be accepted.

If you have any questions, call Dan Mahoney at (908) 756-0633, ext. 39.

## AARP #4144 Meeting

October 16

AARP Chapter #4144 meeting will be held at the South Plainfield Senior Center on Maple Ave. on Monday, Oct. 16 at 12:30 p.m. Program presenter is Tony Mayo, financial advisor for Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

## GOP Meeting

October 18

The regular monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 8 p.m. at Sherban's Diner. All residents are welcome to come and meet mayoral candidate Robert Bengivenga, Jr. and council candidates Alex Barletta and Dave Sesok to discuss their concerns and hear the candidates ideas for the future of South Plainfield.

## VFW Cabbage Dinner

October 20

The South Plainfield VFW will be holding a stuffed cabbage dinner on Friday, Oct. 20 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost for salad, dinner, dessert, coffee and tea is \$8. Public is welcome. For information call (908) 668-9751.

## SPHS Marching Band 25th Festival

October 21

The SPHS Marching Band and Color Guard will be hosting the 25th Annual Marching Band Festival and USSBA Competition on Saturday, Oct. 21 at Frank R. Jost Field behind the PAL. Gates open at 3 p.m.; discount tickets will be available for seniors and students.

Support your local high school! Wear your school colors and cheer them on while you enjoy a great show! Look for our surprise guest! Come hungry-hot food available.

## — Out of Town —

## MCRCC Blood Drive

October 13

Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce will hold a blood drive on Friday, Oct. 13 at the Chamber office in Monmouth Junction from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Appointment required; donors must meet certain qualifications to give blood.

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## What's happening in

## OCTOBER

a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission. 100 quality crafters, lunch counter, baked goods available. Proceeds to benefit Home and School Association.

## Blackrose to Perform

October 14

Blackrose, the band, plays classic rock and today's hits at Connie's, Rt. 35 South in Sayreville, Saturday, Oct. 14 at 9:30 p.m.

## 20/30s Bowling

October 14

Young Sierrans 20/30s will host a bowling outing on Saturday, Oct. 14 at 8 p.m. at Strike 'N Spare in Green Brook. Cost is \$5 per game, \$4.75 for shoes.

RSVP to MistyAngel22@aol.com.

## Chinese Calligraphy

October 14, 21 and 28

There are a limited number of spaces still available for the three-part series, Chinese Calligraphy and Brush Painting with Master Artist Hing Chung. Classes take place on Saturdays, Oct. 14, 21, and 28 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Plainsboro Public Library in Plainsboro.

For information, or to register, contact (732) 745-4489.

## Edison Symphony Opens 7th Season

October 15

The Edison Symphony Orchestra opens its 7th concert season on Sunday, Oct. 15, 2 p.m. at the State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave. in New Brunswick.

Tickets are \$55, \$45, \$40, \$35. Call the State Theatre at (732) 246-7469.

## All Welcome Dance

October 15

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will hold an open dance on Sunday, Oct. 15 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at The Elks Hall, 665 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. Music by Bill Gerry. Refreshments. Admission \$8 members, \$9 guests. All are welcome. For more information, call (732) 381-7239 or (908) 757-0515.

## Juried Art Show

October 15-November 10

The Merck 2006 Juried Union County Art Show, Sunday, Oct. 15. Reception 1 to 4 p.m. Admission free.

Call (732) 381-7511 for more information.

For information, call (732) 821-1700 or visit [www.mcrcc.org](http://www.mcrcc.org).

## Middlesex Wows

October 13

Middlesex East Wows, open dance will be held on Friday, Oct. 13 7:30-11:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall in Carteret. Live music, refreshments. All welcome. \$8 members, \$10 guests. For information call (732) 541-2174 or (908) 757-0515.

## People for Animals Tricky Tray

October 13

People for Animals will sponsor a Tricky Tray on Friday, Oct. 13 at the Somerville Elks Club in Bridgewater.

For more information view our website at [pfa.petfinder.com](http://pfa.petfinder.com) or call People for Animals at (908) 964-6887, ext. 312.

## Jazz Concert

October 13

The Arts Guild of Rahway, 1670 Irving St. in Rahway, Jazz concert on Friday, Oct. 13 at 8 p.m. Tickets \$14 in advance, \$16 at the door.

Call (732) 381-7511, email us at [artsguild1670@earthlink.com](mailto:artsguild1670@earthlink.com) or visit [www.rahwayartsguild.org](http://www.rahwayartsguild.org).

## Craft Show

October 14

The third annual craft show at Auten Road School in Hillsborough will be held on Saturday, Oct. 14, 9

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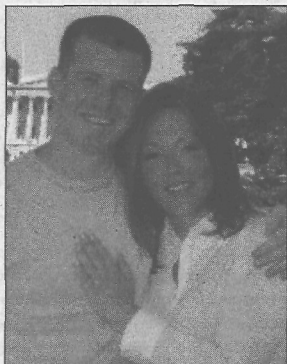
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## southplainfieldpeople Milestones



Daniel Yuill and Lindsay Guttman.

### Yuill, Guttman Are Engaged

Mr. and Mrs. John Yuill of South Plainfield announce the engagement of their son, Daniel, to Lindsay Ann Guttman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Perry Guttman of Kensington, CT.

Yuill, a 1996 SPHS graduate, holds a degree in Political Science from Rutgers University, and is a senior all-source analyst with SPADAC in Washington, DC, as well as 1LT in the Army Reserves. Ms. Guttman holds a degree in Political Science from Roger Williams University. She is currently employed by the Department of the Army at the Pentagon.

### National Hispanic Recognition Goes To Local Student

Karla A. Reyes, a member of the senior class at South Plainfield High School, has been recognized by the College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program, as announced by Principal Dr. Kenneth May.

Karla is a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. Additionally, she is a member of the Venture's Scholar Program for Hispanics and African-Americans who wish to pursue a career in areas such as engineering and medicine. This summer Karla attended Venture's Summer Conference at Illinois Wesleyan University. Also, Karla received the Volunteer Award from Sunrise Brighton Gardens of Edison and was nominated to the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine.

The National Hispanic Recognition Program, established in 1983, is a College Board program that provides national recognition of the exceptional academic achievements of Hispanic high school seniors and identifies them for postsecondary institutions.

Students enter the program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship qualifying test (PSAT/NMSQT) as high school juniors and by identifying themselves as Hispanic. This year, more than



Karla A. Reyes

175,000 PSAT/NMSQT takers nationwide identified themselves as Hispanic, and 4,700 of those students have been recognized as National Hispanic Scholars or Honorable Mention finalists based upon their PSAT/NMSQT scores and their academic achievements.

The College Board is a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the association is composed of more than 5,000 schools, colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves seven million students and their parents.

## Domestic Violence Crisis Intervention

The South Plainfield Police Department, in conjunction with Women Aware, established the South Plainfield Domestic Violence Crisis Intervention Team in 1994. The team is composed of specially trained citizen volunteers, who provide support and assistance to victims immediately following a police response to a domestic violence call. Team members are available to assist victims of domestic violence 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The services are individual and confidential.

Studies demonstrate that many victims of domestic violence will return to their abusers if they are provided with little or no support. Since individuals are more responsive to intervention in times of crisis, team members respond to the police department to provide emotional support and to increase a victim's ability to make an informed decision, by increasing the victim's awareness of legal options and community resources.

Women Aware, a Middlesex County agency for victims of domestic violence, provides a variety of services to the community. Services include a shelter in a confidential location, hotline crisis counseling, group counseling and an outreach center staffed with legal advocates. The Rape Crisis Intervention Center of Middlesex County provides comprehensive services to victims of sexual violence and their families.

Domestic violence is a crime—a crime that impacts the entire family and creates a cycle of violence. Without intervention, abuse will worsen over time. If you are a victim of do-

mestic violence, don't wait for it to happen again. You may contact a South Plainfield team member for further information or assistance by calling the South Plainfield Police Department at (908) 755-0700. Please leave your first name, phone number and a

brief message. A team member will call you back shortly. For emergencies call 9-1-1.

Throughout the month of October, the public library will host an exhibition in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Jaimie Unglaub

As the leaves begin to come down it is time for you to come to the library to check out our latest new releases! Famed author of *The Five People You Meet In Heaven*, Mitch Albom, is back with *For One More Day*, which asks the question if you had just one more day with a loved one what would happen? Suspense writer John Grisham's latest is not one of his usual fiction tales, but a true murder case entitled *The Innocent Man*. If you are planning to see the upcoming movie, *Marie Antoinette*, than you will need to read up on the history of her. The library has two new releases, *Abundance* by Sena Jeter Naslund and *Queen of Fashion* by Caroline Weber, about this fashionable historical queen.

There are several upcoming fall fun events for the whole family. This Saturday, Oct. 14 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. join Miss Linda for our annual pumpkin painting. There is a \$1 materials fee and registration is required so please sign up at the library today.

*Hocus Pocus with Joe Fisher* will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 25, from 7 to 8 p.m. This free magical program is for ages three and up with an option of wearing costumes.

For our young adult patrons there will be upcoming candy sushi, which was a big hit in the summer, and creative poetry writing programs. For more information e-mail Miss Jaimie at missjaimie@yahoo.com or ask for her at the reference desk.

Regular story hours are scheduled for this upcoming week with Miss Linda and Miss Mija. For three years and older, we have story time and crafts on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. Times for 2s and 3s is Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and Thursday at 6:30 p.m. For babies we have Books 'N' Babies on Friday morning at 10:30 a.m.

If you have any further questions about our collection or activities please ask a library staff member or visit our website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

## SPHS to Host 25th Annual Band Festival

On Saturday, Oct. 21 the SPHS Tiger Marching Band and Color Guard will host the 25th annual Marching Band Festival and USSBA competition at Jost Field, behind the PAL building. That evening 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 planning and preparing for this event. The students have been rehearsing since the summer to perfect their performances.

This year's participating bands include Manville, North Plainfield, Westfield, Dunellen, Perth Amboy, just to name a few. Support your local high school! Wear your school colors and cheer them on while you enjoy a great show! Look for a surprise guest! Come hungry; there will be plenty of hot food available.

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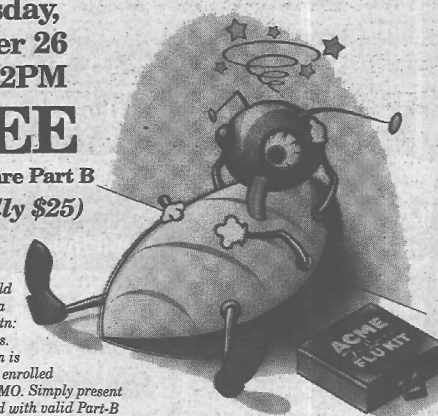
## Shoo The Flu.

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South Plainfield Fire Chief Larry DeNegro accepts a \$500 donation for the fire department from Somerset Valley Bank President Paul Stahlin and Vice President Darlene Pinto at the bank's grand opening. Also pictured are Congressman Mike Ferguson and Councilman Rob Bengivenga, Jr.

## Seven SPHS Students Earn AP® Scholar Awards

Seven students at South Plainfield High School have earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) exams.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school, and to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP exams. About 18 percent of the more than 1.3 million high school students in 16,000 secondary schools worldwide who took AP exams performed at a sufficiently high level to merit the recognition of AP Scholar.

Students took AP exams in May 2006 after completing challenging college-level courses at their high schools. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on student's performance on AP exams.

Two SPHS students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and grades of three or higher on five or

more of the exams. These students are Samantha Deffler and Ryan Smith.

Three SPHS students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and grades of three or higher on four or more of these exams. These students are Nicole Aiello, Alexander Nau and Krystal Williams.

Two SPHS students qualified for the AP Scholar Award completing three or more AP exams, with grades of three or higher. The AP Scholars are Keith Dezmin and Steve Tietjen.

Most of the nation's colleges and universities award credit, advanced placement, or both based on successful performance on the AP Exams. More than 1,400 institutions award a full year's credit (sophomore standing) to students presenting a sufficient number of qualifying grades. In 2006, 35 AP exams were offered in a wide variety of subject areas, each consisting of multiple-choice and free-response (essay or problem-solving) questions (except for the Studio Art exam which evaluates students' original artwork).

The College Board is a not-for-profit membership organization

whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the association is composed of more than 5,000 schools, colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves seven million students and their parents, 23,000 high schools and 3,500 colleges through major programs and services in college admissions, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment and teaching and learning. Among its best-known programs are the SAT®, the PSAT/NMSQT®, and the Advanced Placement Program® AP®. The College Board is committed to the principles of excellence and equity, and that commitment is embodied in all of its programs, services, activities and concerns.

### The Entertainment Books are Available!

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the Entertainment Book for \$25. Contact Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.

## Bengivenga, Barletta and Sesok See Curbing Overdevelopment as Vital

While controlling taxes and spending is the top priority for candidates Robert Bengivenga, Jr., Alex Barletta and Dave

Sesok, the three also want to curb overdevelopment, something they see as vital to preserving quality of life.

"Unless we control development," Bengivenga explained, "we can put in all the new roads in the world and it will do no good."

According to Sesok, revising the zoning ordinance is one way to start getting a handle on the problem: "Other towns are using creative zoning techniques to control overuse of property. We can't keep squeezing larger and larger homes onto post-

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2006

age-stamp-sized lots. We also should not be tearing down our older homes and replacing them with a half-dozen new small ones."

Bengivenga agrees: "I was reading an article recently where towns are using things like increased setbacks and limits on floor-area-ratio to control overbuilding. I'd like to see us do the same."

"We also can't keep converting our light industrial areas into condos," added Barletta. "A good example is the Tingley Rubber site. That should never have been converted from industrial to condos. Once the building starts, the rest of the area will fall like dominoes and we'll have thousands of

condos and apartments there."

Bengivenga would like to see the town market its industrial areas to low-traffic light industry and high tech: "Our location near Rt. 287, the Parkway, the Turnpike, and Rt. 1 makes us ideal for these types of businesses. That's why I believe strongly that an economic development commission is needed."

Bengivenga also explained why condos and apartments are not the answer: "These types of high-density housing take out up to \$1.65 in services for each dollar they pay in taxes. Our families and seniors can't afford the effect this has on their taxes. By contrast, light industry and high tech bring in tax revenue while taking out very little in services."

In addition, according to a *Trenton Times* article, large-scale senior developments like the one on Tingley Rubber don't help control taxes like the Democrats say. The reason? Seniors sell their homes in town to families with children. So while the senior complex itself does not increase school costs, the families who buy the seniors' homes do.

"That's why I'm for smaller, more centrally located senior housing," Bengivenga explained. "And most important, the seniors of our town should choose where it goes."

The GOP candidates would also like to see a developer disclosure ordinance. The ordinance would require developers to disclose campaign contributions when applying to the zoning or planning board.

"A developer disclosure ordinance would allow residents to see whether

a developer has donated to a local or county political party, or even a local assembly campaign. People have a right to know this information," Bengivenga explained.

Again, Tingley Rubber is a good example. Councilmen Butrico and Petronko voted to add 484 condos. The developer, Jack Morris, is also a big contributor to the county Democrats and has given money to the local Democrats and its party chair for campaigns. This creates a conflict of interest.

"Overdevelopment is one of the biggest problems we face as a community," Bengivenga added. "As mayor, I plan to tackle this issue head on, because if we miss this chance, we'll never have it again."

*This article was submitted by the South Plainfield Republicans and is printed in its entirety, unedited. We neither endorse nor guarantee its accuracy.*

### Not Yet Registered to Vote?

There's still time! Visit the Borough Clerk's office at Borough Hall office October 19.

## The Facts:

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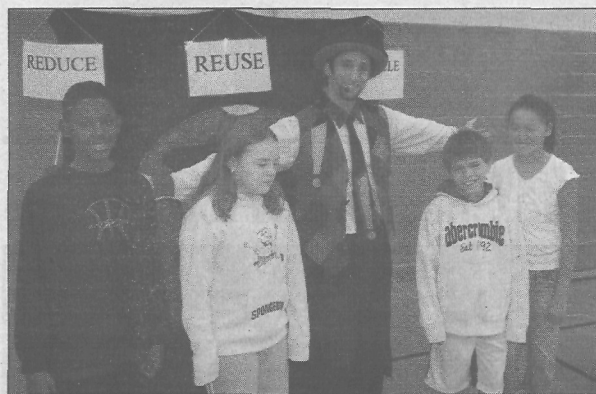
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EarthCapades performer Benjamin Lipman with Grant students (L to R) Eddie Reed, Olivia Tarnawska, Mike Olano and Kristen Wong.

## EarthCapades Teaches Grant Students About Recycling

By Jane Dornick

EarthCapades' teams of "Waste Busters," sponsored by Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste, are touring the country with a new adventure of environmental education and entertainment every school year. They recently performed at Grant Elementary School.

Entertainer Benjamin Lipman taught students simple things to reduce waste at school and at home; conserve natural resources, enjoy na-

ture and explore ways we all can live in balance with Planet Earth.

Juggling, magic, comedy, storytelling and music kept students and teachers on the edge of their seats. The audience participated throughout the show while learning the four R's: reduce the amount of trash we create and resources we use, reuse everyday products, recycle properly and respect planet Earth.

EarthCapades "Waste Reduction Production" teaches that "Saving the Planet can be Fun!"

## Edison Playhouse Sunday Matinee Added For "Art"

Edison Valley Playhouse (EVP) has added a Sunday matinee performance of its production of "Art." The added show will be on Oct. 15 at 3 p.m. Other performances will be on Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. through Oct. 28.

EVP added this performance for those who may be busy or involved with other shows on Friday and Saturday nights, may prefer not to drive a long distance after dark, are looking for a break from football, or need a destination for a beautiful fall foliage drive.

The lives of three friends are changed when a piece of art serves as a catalyst to renew and review old times and new plans, it sounds like the topic for a new play.

"Art" opened on Oct. 6 at Edison Valley Playhouse—roughly one year since the Playhouse reopened after an extensive renovation.

More information on the upcoming production can be found at [www.evplayhouse.com](http://www.evplayhouse.com). For more information, go to the website or call (908) 755-4654.

## 2006 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

W

By Jason Rambharose  
Kennedy School Fourth Grader

Wesley Walrus  
Went out of the water.

In Wisconsin.

On Wednesday.

Because he didn't want to get wet!

## Jason Rambharose Named Junior Journalist

Jason Rambharose, fourth grader at Kennedy School, is the winner in the 2006-07 Junior Journalist program. His poem, "W," has earned him dinner for his family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

Students should submit their original written works to their teachers, school principal, Hometown Heros on Hamilton Blvd. or the Observer office at 1110 Hamilton Blvd.

Winners and their families will receive a catered dinner from Hometown Heros and will be honored at a year end banquet in May of 2007.

For more information, call the Observer at (908) 668-0010 or Hometown Heros at (908) 755-4376.



Jason Rambharose with fourth grade language arts teacher, Cynthia Severino. This poem was submitted in June by Jason's teacher, Colleen Hook.

## Republican Attack On Helen Street Extension is Politics at Its Worst

Democratic Mayoral candidate Charlie Butrico and his running mates Ray Petronko and Joe Scrudato have expressed their outrage at the politically motivated attacks on the Helen Street extension by their Republican opponents.

"I have never witnessed anything more irresponsible," Councilperson Butrico said. "The Mayor and Council have been working on the Helen Street extension for nearly a decade. We have worked with the business community and all of our residents on a nonpartisan basis to navigate the frustrating bureaucracy to get the project completed. We have completed the environmental assessment and have submitted the required environmental studies. If we get approval we will proceed with design, land acquisitions and construction.

★★★★★  
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Once we get past the environmental review, its full speed ahead. If all goes well we will be cutting the ribbon on Helen Street in 2011.

The environmental view is the most difficult stage. The project does disturb wetlands, which requires Department of Environmental Protection approval. One of the essential elements of that approval is an acceptance that there are no alternative routes to take truck traffic off of our residential streets. We are being opposed by the Edison Wetlands who claim Helen Street simply isn't needed. Now out of the blue in order to gain votes the Republicans come up with a half-baked plan to extend Hollywood Avenue in what they claim will be a faster and cheaper solution than Helen Street. Why didn't they ask the borough experts

before they played this public relations game? The Hollywood Avenue proposal was considered early on and rejected because it would destroy the entire Spicer Avenue sports complex. The environmental issues of that proposed route are even greater than the present issues. More importantly we would be going back to square one and would lose federal funding for the project. To date the over \$1 million spent on the project has been fully funded by the federal government. This Republican plan is so half baked and poorly thought out that it would be funny except for the potential consequences."

Councilperson Ray Petronko echoed his running mates outrage "How can the Republicans be so reckless? Recently our residents, led by Debbie Boyle and Jane Dornick, have started a letter writing campaign to show DEP Commissioner Jackson

how essential the Helen Street project is to our borough. The Edison Wetlands Group is looking for ammunition to shoot the project down. Now the Republicans have handed them a loaded gun. What a disgrace! The Republican plan is a joke. Their proposed route snakes through the soccer and football fields through backyards of homes on Spicer Ave. and still ends up crossing wetlands. No matter how you slice it the Republican plan is political baloney, but sadly the residents of our borough may be the ones suffering the upset stomachs."

Council candidate Joe Scrudato summed up the Democrats frustration saying, "First of all the Republicans should apologize and admit their plan is a mistake. The engineering and

environmental experts working for the borough can hopefully use that information to convince the DEP that it was nothing more than political gamesmanship. If the Helen Street extension is jeopardized because of this it would qualify as one of the most outrageous political stunts since Watergate. I am proud to be part of a team that wants to do what is best for South Plainfield and not just make political points. This is just another example of why the team of Charlie Butrico for Mayor and Ray Petronko and Joe Scrudato for council will best serve the residents of our great borough."

This article was submitted by the South Plainfield Democrats and is printed in its entirety, unedited. We neither endorse nor guarantee its accuracy.

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Monday, October 16 thru Saturday, October 21

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### Sauteed Shrimp

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### Shrimp Roberto

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### Shrimp Picatta

Sautéed with capers, garlic and butter with a hint of lemon juice and parsley

Per person. Cannot be combined with any other offers or coupons.

Dinner served Mon. thru Wed., 4:30-8:30 p.m., Thurs 4:30-9 p.m., Fri & Sat. 4:30-10 p.m.

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Congratulations to Mike and Tim.





## Eagles Cheerleaders are Mountain Valley Conference Champions!!

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www.speagles.com

The South Plainfield Eagles Junior Pee Wee and Junior Midget Cheer squads took first place at the Mountain Valley Conference Cheer and Dance Competition held at Bridgewater High School on Oct. 7. The Junior Pee Wee Cheer Squad, comprised of girls ages 9-11 took first place in the Large Novice category, beating out Washington Rock to take the championship. The Junior Midget Cheer Squad, comprised of girls ages 11-13, took first place in the Large Intermediate category.

The squads are categorized based on number of girls and the level of tumbling and lifting skills. Squads with more than 19 girls are considered to be a "large" squad. Tumbling skills are broken down into categories of Novice, Intermediate and Advanced. The Intermediate category allows for more advanced tumbling skills including back and front hand-springs and high level lifts.

The 2006 Junior Pee Wee Cheer squad performance is a mix of cheerleading, dance and tumbling moves and is performed to music from the hit movie "High School Musical."

This years Junior Pee Wee squad is the first in Eagles history to take first place at the MVC Competition at the JPW level.

The 2006 Junior Midget Cheer

squad looked awesome as they displayed their signature style of perfectly timed moves and lifts. It was easy to see why these girls were State champions for the last two years.

It was a full day for all four cheer squads, as the MVC Competition allows the younger Mighty Mite squad (girls ages 7-9) and Flag squad (girls ages 5-7) to exhibit their routines as well. While these squads are not ranked,

it gives the girls an opportunity to perform at a competition level. Everyone had a fun day supporting their sister squads and cheering them on to victory!

The Junior Pee Wee and Junior Midget squads now move on to the State competition, to be held on Oct. 28 at the Sovereign Bank Arena in Trenton. Go Eagles!

*Submitted by Terry Housel*

By Glen Cullen



## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

The Junior Baseball Club (SPJBC) is holding registration for the 2007 season on Friday, Oct. 20 from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration is \$95 per child, with discounts for those families with two or more children. This upcoming year's \$75 work bond applies only to new SPJBC members and those that requested refunds in 2006.

At registration there will be managing and coaching forms available for the 2007 season, as well as umpiring

information. Also, the SPJBC is looking for snack stand captains for the 2007 season.

If anyone has any questions, contact the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090. Registration forms can also be downloaded from the SPJBC website, [www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc](http://www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc) and mailed to P.O. Box 166, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

SPJBC had a very successful 2006 season with nearly 400 children playing baseball. The upcoming 2007 season is poised to be just as exciting. Come on out and enjoy the fun at the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club.



Junior Pee Wee squad (above) performs their first place routine. Below, the Junior Midget squad performs their championship routine.



## Cappy Award Tickets on Sale

This years Cappy Award recipients, the late Armando "Artie" Fiore and Richard Curcio, will be honored at a dinner at the Senior Center on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 6:30 p.m. The Cappy Awarded is presented by the South Plainfield Police Athletic League and Recreation Department.

Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased at the PAL.

## Rec Basketball Registration

Recreation Basketball registration will end on Tuesday, Oct. 17. Register at the PAL on Maple Ave. The PAL office will be open 6-8 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 16.

## Disney on Ice Tickets Are Still Available

There are only 11 tickets left to the Nov. 22 show of Disney on Ice.

The bus leaves the PAL at 1:30 p.m. for the 3 p.m. show at Continental Airlines Area. Purchase tickets at the PAL.

For info, call (908) 226-7713.

## LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Gem Estates, Inc. requesting a variance or other relief from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit

Section 907.3 Off Street Parking and Loading Areas.

k. No paved area shall be closer to any property line than five (5) feet; however, if the zoning regulations require a greater distance from any property line such regulations shall control;

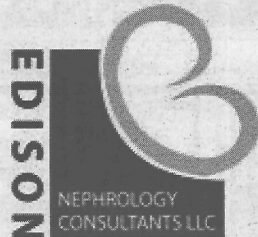
and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 9 Stacy Court on Block 77, Lot 32.01 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 26, 2006 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

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October 13, 2006



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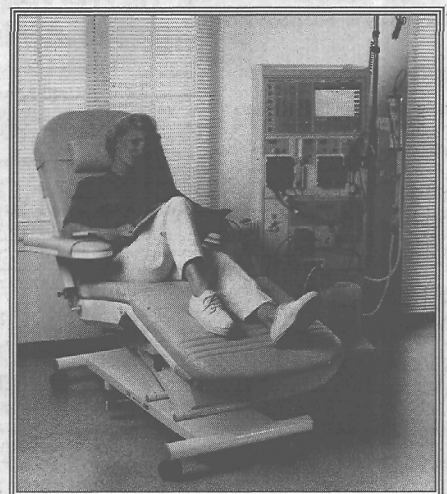
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"I cannot forget the day when Dr. Czyzewski told me that I do not need any more dialysis." —Mr. Julio Ruiz

"I thank Dr. Kim for receiving kidney transplant without going through dialysis." —Ms. Mary Fulton

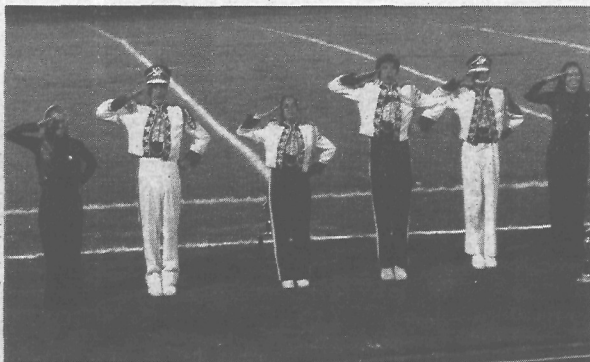


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## SPHS Marching Band, Color Guard Takes Second at So. Brunswick USSBA

The SPHS Tiger Marching Band and Color Guard competed in their second competition of the season at South Brunswick High School on Saturday, Oct. 7. The Marching Tigers took second place with a score of 75.85. They also received the Best Percussion and Best Color Guard

Awards for Group Three.

The band is under the direction of Roger A. Vroom, III and Color Guard Advisor Mary Ecklund. The band is under the field direction of Drum Majors Taylor Mandel and Alexandra Viscosi; Color Guard Captains Cassie Hoffman and Katie Eder; Student Director of Music Wael Kanj and Drum Captains Andrew Keraga and Paul Canterella.

The Marching Tigers will be hosting a competition at Jost Field on Oct. 21. Please come out and support the SPHS Marching Band and Color Guard.

## Vendors Wanted

Kennedy School has chosen Nov. 9 from 6 to 9 p.m. for its annual Vendor Night and is looking for vendors to participate. If interested, please call Jill Quadrel at (908) 769-7456.

## High School Parents Want Fairer Grading System

(Continued from page 1)

which converts all grades to a single scale," said principal Dr. Kenneth May.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado continued the discussion. "We thought we could take the average and transfer it to the new scale score. Although our program will calculate the average correctly, it won't translate into the scaled score to make the correction. Our program won't transfer it into a scaled score. We have to buy a custom program to be able to do this. The issue is how fast can it be changed by the software company. Another option for us is the numeric system—(grades given numeric value of 100) that is in the data base which the Middle School and that method of calculation is available to us now but there are problems with that system too," said Dr. Rosado.

Many of the parents believed that the discrepancy between what the student received on their transcript and what had appeared on their report cards for the four marking periods was due to the scoring of the mid term and final exam grades. Instead of taking the average of both grades together and taking 20% of that total—parents believe some of their children's teachers handled it differently with the tests

receiving more than a 20% impact in the final grade.

Dr. May noted that grades were increased two years ago for student taking honor or Advanced Placement classes as a way to establish parity with what neighboring schools were doing in order that the students can compete for scholarships. Students taking an honors course will add 1.0 to their grade (so a grade of 3.4 be-

comes 4.4 and a student in an AP class gets a 1.5 increment to their grade. The increment is only used in the GPA not in their transcript grades.

The Board of Education at its Committee of the Meeting will consider the recommendations of Dr. Rosado on course grades and how they will be calculated.

## Candidates Face Off at Debate

(Continued from page 1)

used for industrial purposes because of the economy and age restricted housing will not likely impact school taxes.

The debate will be shown on Comcast Channel 74 on Thursday, Oct. 19 and 26 at 8 p.m.

The debate would not have been possible without the help of many people. The *Observer* would like to thank Joann Graff for the use of the Senior Center. Joann also set up the tables, chairs, sound system and created a great atmosphere for the debate. She also helped throughout the evening in the kitchen and anywhere we needed her. Also thank you to Sue Kaneps for volunteering as timekeeper, to Bob Longo and Jack Peder-

sen for helping screen the questions, Jane Dornick, Jean Fultz, Barbara Smith, Debbie, Megan and Michael Boyle, Carol and Joe Grennier and Alan Kasmer and everyone who helped out in the kitchen. Thank you high school student Stephanie Walsh, who volunteered to film the debate. You all did a great job.

Finally, thank you to all who attended the debate. I hope you learned more about the candidates and are in a better position to vote in November—this evening was for you. To the candidates, thank you for participating. You all did a great job and were well prepared for any and all questions.

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## Obituaries

### Christina (Santoro) Gearino

Christina (Santoro) Gearino passed away on Monday, Oct. 2 in Hampton, Va.

She was predeceased by her husband, Daniel and parents, Theresa and John Santoro.

She is survived by two daughters, Celeste Lloyd and Theresa Wright, both of Virginia; a brother and sister-in-law, Michael and Rose Santoro of South Plainfield; a sister, Celeste Danyus; a brother-in-law, Charles Danyus of North Plainfield; five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be set at a later date.

### Robert W. Doyle, 79,

Robert W. Doyle, 79, died on Monday, Oct. 9 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in Plainfield, Bob grew up in Dunellen and has been residing in South Plainfield since the early 1960's.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Bob served as a private at the end of WWII before being honorably discharged in May of 1947.

Employed in construction most of his life, he had been employed by the Borough of South Plainfield in the Department of Public Works, most recently as a foreman, for 35 years before retiring in December of 2004.

He is a former member of the South Plainfield B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge #2298.

He is predeceased by a brother, Walter and father-in-law, Frank Bumback.

Surviving are his wife, Louise (Cotone) Doyle; six children, Frank Niedzielski and wife Jean of Colts Neck, Steve Niedzielski and wife Chris-

tina of South Plainfield, Sandra Garrity and husband Thomas of Ewing, Linda Santa Barbara and husband, Andrew of Hillsborough and Brenda Doyle of South Plainfield; two sisters, Jean McClennon and Fran Truman both of New York; his mother-in-law, Christina Bumback of South Plainfield; 10 grandchildren, Robert, James, David, Jacob, Taylor, Christopher, Morgan, Zachary, Andrew and Nicholas.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Hasbro Children's Hospital, P.O. Box H, Providence, RI 02901.

### Beverly J. Wagner, 80

Beverly J. Wagner, R.N. died on Monday, Oct. 9 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born in Nanticoke, Pa. to the late Charles and Jennie Jones. Beverly graduated from Meyers High School in Wilkes-Barre and is a graduate of Wilkes-Barre General School of Nursing Class of 1947.

She worked as an R.N. in Westchester County Hospital, Valhalla, NY, Muhlenberg Hospital, Ashbrook Nursing Home in Scotch Plains and retired in 1988 from John E. Runnell's Hospital in Berkeley Heights after 17 years.

She moved to South Plainfield in 1955 from Meriden, Conn. with her late husband, Gerald H. Wagner, also a registered nurse, who died in 1979.

She was a member of Wesley Methodist Church in South Plainfield and was a member of the Candeliers Circle.

She is survived by three sons, David C. and wife Christy of Perkasiac, Pa., Mark A. at home and Stephen G. and wife Susan of Piscataway; a daughter, Gerri Ann of Robbinsville; nine grandchildren, Colleen, Jaclyn, Suzanne, Brian, Maureen, Kelly, Andrew, Stephen and Patrick and two great-grandchildren, Emma and John.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

## FROM THE DESK OF DEBBIE BOYLE

The word "coalition" means "an alliance, or union." Jane Dornick and I have formed the Helen Street Coalition to urge other South Plainfield residents to come forward and join with us in raising our voices to the Department of Environmental Protection in support of rerouting the truck traffic away from our main thoroughfares. A plan has already been drawn up, no matter how old, and funds have been awarded for the Helen Street Project. If plans for other routes are being proposed, they would have to begin from square one—funds would have to be applied for and drawings submitted, along with new environmental studies, which may be productive but would hold up progress even further. The safety of our children and residents are still in jeopardy. Residents of South Plainfield, please continue to yell loudly and fight back by sending letters to the Department of Environmental Protection and let them know you mean business.

Thank you to Nancy Grennier, the South Plainfield Observer and staff and the Business Association for organizing the political debate between the borough council candidates and the mayoral candidates. Thank you also to SPHS graphic arts class students Stephanie Kelly, Ryan Egan, Ryan Fredericks and Angela Carney for taping the debate in its entirety,

which will be aired on Comcast Channel 74 on Oct. 19 and 26. Thank you to the South Plainfield High School Jersey History Club students Megan Boyle, Michael Boyle, Jaime Giannakis, Alan Kasmer and Joey Grennier for collecting questions to ask the candidates. Thank you to the moderator from the League of Women Voters Michele Bobrow.

The SPHS Girls' Soccer team dinner will take place on Friday, Nov. 17 at the Italian American Club on Harvard Ave. The cost of the dinner will be \$25 per person. It will be catered by Flanagan's Restaurant. Please watch for flyers which will be sent home with the soccer players.

All residents, including those who turn 18 by Oct. 17 who are not registered to vote, you have until Oct. 17 to register for the Nov. 7 election. The Borough Clerk's office will be

open until 9 p.m. on the Oct. 17. High school students can also obtain a registration form at the high school.

Thank you to Jane Dornick for stepping up as chairperson of the Cultural Arts program and yearbook chairperson for Grant Elementary. Thank you to Eileen Brady for chairing picture day at Grant along with Maureen Barnett and Bruce Hunt and all parents who volunteered their time. Volunteers are the staples of life and you are greatly appreciated.

The used clothing, bedding, shoes and accessories drive to benefit the SPHS Jost Field ticket booth and the indoor high school bleachers takes place on Saturday, Nov. 11 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. The Roma truck will be parked in the Grant School parking lot. Place all items in a tied garbage bag in the truck. We need everyone's assistance with this fundraiser, along with a future walk-a-thon fundraiser.

## Hillside Cemetery

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## policereport

• On Oct. 4 a Clinton Ave. resident reported the theft of a wallet left on the counter at CVS on Plainfield Ave.

• On Oct. 5 an employee of Verizon on Hadley Rd. reported the theft of a 1994 Acura Legend from the parking lot.

• On Oct. 6 Jean L. Coccaro, 46, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.

• Alfredo V. Sibilly, 22, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

• Christopher Gil, 20, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

• An Oak Tree Ave. resident reported that the drivers side of their vehicle had been scratched while parked at the American Legion.

• On Oct. 8 Philip W. Ackermann, 26, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving, tint on front windows and no front plate.

### 4th Anniversary in Heaven



#### Emil R. Leporino

Oct. 12, 1939  
to  
Oct. 10, 2002

It broke our hearts to lose you  
But you did not go alone  
For part of us went with you  
The day the dear Lord called you home.  
You left us precious memories  
Your love is still our guide  
And though we cannot see you  
You're always at our side.  
Our family chain is broken  
And nothing seems the same  
But as the dear Lord calls us one by one  
The chain will link again.

Sadly Missed By:  
Wife Janice; Daughters: Debra, Patricia, Christina; Son: Paul; Son-in-law Norayr;  
Grandchildren: Andrew, Brandon, Christopher, Matthew, Danielle, Kimberly

### Happy Birthday in Heaven



#### Emil R. Leporino

Oct. 12, 1939  
to  
Oct. 10, 2002

It broke our hearts to lose you  
But you did not go alone  
For part of us went with you  
The day the dear Lord called you home.  
You left us precious memories  
Your love is still our guide  
And though we cannot see you  
You're always at our side.  
Our family chain is broken  
And nothing seems the same  
But as the dear Lord calls us one by one  
The chain will link again.

Sadly Missed By:  
Wife Janice; Daughters: Debra, Patricia, Christina; Son: Paul; Son-in-law Norayr;  
Grandchildren: Andrew, Brandon, Christopher, Matthew, Danielle, Kimberly

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