

OCT 27 2006

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 10, NO. 9

50 CENTS

OCTOBER 27, 2006

BOE Speaks Out in SPEA Negotiations

By Libby Barsky

Board of Education member Carol Byrne read a statement at the board's Oct. 18 meeting. The statement was in response to a letter published in the *Observer* from Louise Mruz and Diana Joffe, president and vice president, respectively, of the South Plainfield Education Association (SPEA), "hoping that the BOE will agree to a new contract before our first session with a mediator slated for Dec. 20."

Byrne said she was reading the statement to clear up some "misinformation" about the progress in negotiations with teachers' contracts.

On the evening of Aug. 16, Joffe declared that the SPEA negotiations with the BOE were at impasse and the SPEA could not reach a settlement with the professional negotiator, Dr. King. When at impasse, negotiations go to another level where a mediator is called in. That night, Joffe requested that the two-board negotiating team members, Carol Byrne and Tim Morgan, meet and continue negotiations while a mediator was being selected.

"We have never felt that we [the board] were at impasse," Byrne said on Aug. 16 and repeated again on

Oct. 18. "The negotiating team of the board agreed to continue meeting with the union, even agreeing to a Saturday session when no weekday was possible," Byrne added.

"We have provided information requested [by SPEA] concerning healthcare costs and services, including having our insurance broker attend the Sept. 26 session to explain coverages and answer whatever questions the union team had. At the Oct. 10 session, that information was given to the union in exactly the form presented to us by the broker. Also within that packet were explanations of why certain information couldn't be presented in the form requested. This was rejected [by SPEA officials] as inadequate," said Byrne.

Stating that healthcare was one of the major issues, Morgan took up the microphone to present the "facts to everyone."

"The board provides medical, dental and prescription policies at the present time at no charge to the employee. All employees hired after July 1, 2003 were given Point of Service (POS) policies," said Morgan. A POS policy is essentially an HMO policy where the applicant chooses a primary doctor (from a roster of

(Continued on page 10)



Violinist and soprano, Cassandra Lambos, will perform Sunday at the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission concert.

Cultural Arts Presents Annual Classical Concert

The public is invited to the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission's Annual Classical Concert on Sunday, Oct. 29, at 4 p.m. This year's exciting program features a young and brilliant violinist and soprano, Cassandra Lambos, performing the works of Beethoven, Paganini, Mozart, Johann Strauss, Dvorak, Kreisler and de Falla.

Lambos graduated summa cum laude from the Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University with a BM in violin performance. She has performed with the Rutgers Sinfonia

and the Westfield Concerto Orchestras and at the National Arts Club, New York City. Cassandra has also been soloist with the First Presbyterian Church, Elizabeth.

Lambos will be accompanied by Beverley Weber, a graduate of the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University, whose artistic sensitivity has made her a much sought after accompanist.

The concert will take place at Wesley United Methodist Church on Plainfield Ave. Admission is free. Refreshments will be served.

Sunday is Annual Town History Day

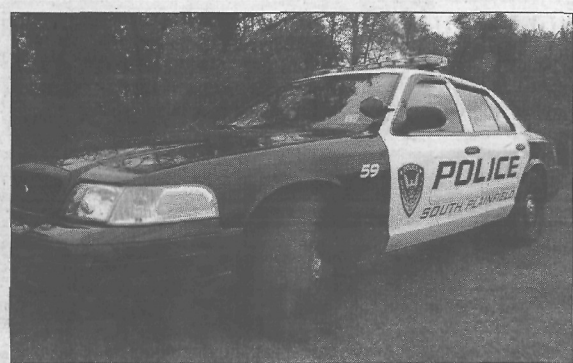
The South Plainfield Historical Society will hold its Fourth Annual Town History Day on Sunday, Oct. 29 from 1-4 p.m. at its headquarters in the Roosevelt Administration Building (old Roosevelt Elementary School), 125 Jackson Ave.

This year's event honors the memory of five local men who perished in the Civil War.

Inside, 10 tables of authentic Union and Confederate Civil War artifacts presented by Custer Camp #17 will include an array of carbines, rifles, swords, knives, tin types, currency, letters and stamps, posters, portraits, newspapers, books, uniforms, hats and shoes, coins, cannon shot and shells, autographs, medals and buckles and an original newspaper announcing the assassination of President Lincoln. In addition, visitors can review the History Center's archives of photographs, memorabilia, artifacts, vintage clothing, newspapers, books and so much more.

Outside, Civil War actors will set up camp along Jackson Ave. and Hamilton Blvd. and answers questions about their units. Eleven vintage cars will be displayed in the Jackson Ave. parking lot, and a refreshment tent at the building's entrance will provide free snacks and drinks.

For more information, contact SPHistoricalSoc@cs.com or log on to: <http://geocities.com/sphistoricalsoc>.



A police department patrol vehicle outfitted with new signage.

New Design on Patrol Cars To Provide Added Visibility

The South Plainfield Police Department unveiled a new marking design for its patrol vehicles. The new design combines the traditional black and white color scheme with modern lettering and a decal of the department's arm patch. The cars are also more identifiable as South Plainfield cars and are more visible at night due to the new reflective decals. The newer cars in the fleet will be re-marked. The department is expecting the delivery of four new patrol cars within the next two months that will also be marked with the new design.

The design was created with

the assistance of Classic Signs on South Clinton Ave. The decals are being manufactured and applied by Graphix One on Hamilton Blvd. The decals for the existing fleet are being paid for with forfeiture funds. These are monies confiscated during criminal investigations or are the proceeds from illegal activity. One of the four new patrol vehicles is also being paid for with forfeiture funds.

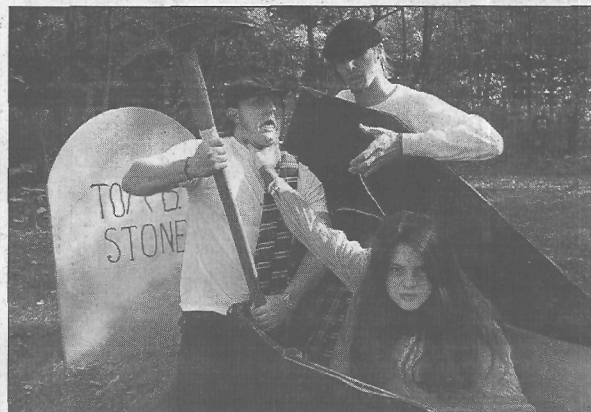
Utilization of forfeiture funds is strictly regulated by a New Jersey State statute and cannot be used for normally budgeted items or salaries.

Haunted Woods Tour Offers Wit And Willies

It's here! The 2006 Almost Famous Players Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour! This year's show takes visitors to the Pine Barrens where anything can happen and almost always does. There are still plenty of tickets left for the show. The tour runs Thursday, Oct. 26 through Saturday, Oct. 28. Tours begin at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children.

The show depicts legends of the Pine Barrens as well as pokes fun at the upcoming election. An interesting change of pace for this year offers the audience two different sets of tour guides to choose from or they can just take the tour twice!

Playing tour guides Gail and Connie are Jessica Musolino, a two-year member of AFP and student at Middlesex County College majoring in theater, and Brittany Penevolpe, a three-year AFP member and a junior at SPHS. The other set of guides are Conner and Gallagher, Scottish exchange students. Conner is played



Almost Famous Players rehearse for this year's Haunted Woods tour. A portion of the proceeds from the tour will benefit the rescue squad and fire department.

by Darren Kaczowski, two-year AFP member and senior at SPHS who has appeared in many shows. Gallagher is portrayed by Chris Abbott, a lifelong member of AFP and a student at MCC, majoring in theater.

Other actors include Marissa Kline, Ian McGregor, Meghan Hartman, Eric Nuber, Rocco Severini, Tim Ratti, Shannen Rivers, Lisa Flammer, Angelica Keller, Patricia Abbott, Ken and Audrey Reisch, Morgan Davison and Jackie and Jesse Ostrowski of Bound Brook, plus many others providing scares along the trail. Lighting and sets were designed by the AFP tech genius Danny Nigro. Danny has an awesome running crew that keeps the show on track.

There will be refreshments, crafts, face painting and novelties for sale. Reservations are recommended, but not necessary.

Call (908) 346-2290 for tickets, which are \$6 for adults and \$4 for 11 and under. Buy five tickets in advance and receive a sixth (lowest priced) ticket free.

Mayor Issues Proclamation for Halloween and Mischief Night

Office of the Mayor

PROCLAMATION

Mischief Night and Halloween

WHEREAS the children of the Borough of South Plainfield are entitled to the fun and festivity associated with the observance of the Halloween "Trick or Treat" custom, that is going from door to door in the immediate neighborhoods, displaying their costumes and requesting "treats"; and

WHEREAS the increasing possibility of accidents is an ever present threat; and

WHEREAS the night before Halloween, Monday, October 30, 2006 is known as "Mischief Night" and has been traditionally a night when childish pranks have been played, some of said pranks have resulted in physical harm to others as well as damage to automobiles and properties of innocent owners.

NOW THEREFORE I, Daniel J. Gallagher, Mayor of the Borough of South Plainfield, do hereby proclaim that a curfew of 7:00 PM on Mischief Night, Monday, October 30, 2006, be imposed and enforced for all minor residents of the Borough to protect residents and their properties; and

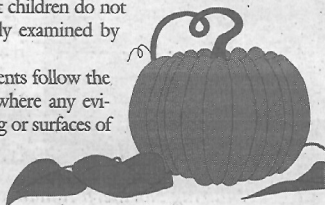
I further proclaim Tuesday, October 31, 2006 as "Trick or Treat Day" in the Borough with all trick or treat activities to be conducted between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

I also ask that young children be accompanied by parents or other responsible adults. I further request that households indicate their willingness to welcome children by keeping their porch or exterior lights on and that youngsters only call on homes so lighted. I encourage the cooperation of all citizens, young and old, in making this a happy and safe occasion for children.

I further request because there have been, in recent years, incidents of children receiving and consuming articles of food or candy that have been tampered with by the inclusion of dangerous items, controlled dangerous substances and poison and these incidents have been highly publicized when discovered, it is the recommendation of this office that parental supervision be extended to include insistence that children do not consume any "treats" until closely examined by their parents.

It is further advised that all parents follow the rule "if in doubt, throw it out" where any evidence of tampering with packaging or surfaces of consumable product exists.

- Daniel J. Gallagher, Mayor -



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council meetings

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

Date	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
Monday, November 13	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 5	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. 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

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

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Web page:
www.spobserver.com
(under construction)

For subscriptions, advertising or information, call (908) 668-0010.

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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

SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

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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IN YOUR OPINION

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

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the South Plainfield High School Athletic Booster Club, we would like to thank the Vision 2000 committee for their generous donation to help offset the cost of rebuilding the ticket booth at Jost Field.

Representatives of the Booster Club have been at our home football games selling our Super 50/50's and the response has been very positive from our community—thank you! Just a reminder, the first drawing will be held at Jost Field during the Thanksgiving Day game. Please note that the winner does not need to be present. The Super 50/50 jackpot continues to grow. Please stop by Jost Field to see where the jackpot is. We will have a thermometer posted with the current amount!

We would like to announce that the sports auction slated for this November has been canceled. Please look for information on this event next year. Thank you for your continued support! Go Tigers!!!

SINCERELY,
KURT ULLOM & TERI PILEGGI,
CO-PRESIDENTS, SPHS ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

To the Editor,

My father, William Boronkas, is 68. He has worked for Quick Chek for the last 17 years. He stocks shelves, serves customers, makes subs, cleans floors and supports the store wherever needed. He is dedicated to a position that is not desired by most. He's had various roles within the company, starting as assistant manager, then working his way to manager. He's worked different shifts, but mostly late nights, even lately. He's been transferred numerous times and missed countless holidays to fill in for co-workers.

His customers love him, joke with him when he's there, and ask for him when he's not around. His coworkers, many of whom I've met over the years, have felt the same about him. My father loves people and found a way to stay with his company for years longer than most employees make it in the current retail environment.

Last Friday he was fired for taking a denton card of cat food and a damaged bag of dog treats to feed stray animals. Both items were no longer in sellable condition and were on their way to the dumpster. His action, according to store policy, was punishable and after 17 years of long hours, late nights, missing out on Christmas—he was told to leave without severance pay.

I understand that policy must be enforced to prevent loss; there is a bottom-line after all. However, the company's bottom-line should also include treating employees with the dignity and respect they deserve. Every case is not the same; my father should have been reprimanded for his actions, given a warning. However, a flat out firing after 17 years of service in good standing is unreasonable. Quick Chek needs to overhaul their policies or go for an all out regime change.

Unlike his company, my father believes in people, in creating relationships, which can be seen in the loyalty of his customers and the respect he received from coworkers. To them he was "Quick Chek Bill;" to Quick Chek, he was expendable.

THANK YOU,
MELISSA M. BORONKAS

Dear Residents of South Plainfield,

The Borough of South Plainfield is at a crossroad. During my 23 years of service to our residents, working with council members, we have stabilized municipal taxes, repaired over 140 roads, provided senior housing, a senior recreation center, doubled the size of our P.A.L. building, built soccer fields, improved all recreation facilities

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.

ties and parks and provided the needed equipment for our emergency services—all within our ability to pay.

The challenge, to stop the borrow, spend and tax policy of the Republican administration and pay down the horrific debt they caused was met and today our finances are in excellent shape.

My concern, or fear, is that newcomers to borough government may return to those failed and expensive methods of making themselves look good and pass the long term cost to us. We cannot return to borrow, spend and tax.

We have come a long way in providing for quality of life issues, youth and senior services, our police, fire and medical personnel; our beautiful memorial park and the firefighter's memorial. Our borough is on strong, sound financial footing. We must keep these procedures in place and not allow a return to increased debt and a neglected infrastructure.

South Plainfield has a proven record of success which did not just happen. Dedicated, qualified and experienced people made it happen. Keep South Plainfield moving in the right direction. Please join with me on Election Day and vote for Charlie Butrico for mayor and Ray Petronko and Joe Scrudato for council.

AGAIN, I THANK YOU,
DAN GALLAGHER

Dear Editor,

It's important to me to elect people who will make controlling taxes and spending a priority. As a result, I'll be voting for Bengivenga, Barletta and Sesok this year, and I'll tell you why.

These three candidates have solid ideas for saving money. I'm especially happy to see Robert Bengivenga pushing for a comprehensive shared-services program with the schools. That helps in two ways. It helps control school costs, and it helps control municipal costs.

Since 1999, spending by the mayor and Borough Council has gone up \$7,000,000, almost twice the rate of inflation.

A shared-services program will help save money for both the schools and the town, and at the same time, it won't hurt our municipal services or take away from the children.

In my opinion, Bengivenga, Barletta and Sesok have the right ideas for controlling spending, and they'll have my vote on Election Day.

CINDY PUKASH

To the Editor:

On Election Day, please elect Charlie Butrico for mayor and Ray Petronko and Joe Scrudato to the Borough Council. The Democrats promised to make improvements to South Plainfield and they have delivered with the

(Continued on page 10)

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Borough Councilmen Raymond Petronko and Charles Butrico, council candidate Joseph Scudato and SPHS staff members Joseph Cirigliano, Brandon Crosby, Ralph Errico.

Borough Council Candidates Talk to High School Students

By Libby Barsky

The three Democratic candidates running for mayor and Borough Council spoke on a variety of subjects to students in the SPHS Law and Government classes of Brandon Crosby and Joseph Cirigliano on Tuesday, Oct. 17.

Charlie Butrico, a two-term councilman running for mayor, spoke on the importance of looking at the person and not the party label. "It's important to take a hard look at people running for office and learn what they represent, what they are trying to do and what their agenda is. I've heard people say to me, 'I'm a Republican, I can't vote for you.' That may be so on the federal level, but this is the borough and it's about people who want to do something right," Butrico noted his 23 years of experience of being a manager on his job.

To get truck traffic off the main roads, Butrico has been involved with constructing a road through Helen Street. "It's still going on. Edison is blocking the construction by bringing up environmental concerns. But when it finally goes through, as it will, the Federal government will spend \$40 million and won't cost the borough a penny."

Joe Scudato, first time candidate for council, spoke about campaigning door to door since September. "Our aim is to knock on every door in the borough. So far we've gone to 5,000 homes and it's been an experience to hear what people are concerned about—taxes and speeding. I've had grandmothers ask me in for cookies and milk—and there have been people who slam the door on us. But it's been a good experience, because it allows us to interact with people," added Scudato. Later, Scudato spoke about his plan to work together with members of the Board of Education. "I once ran for the Board of Education. We have to work together. It isn't us versus them," Scudato said.

"We try to make ourselves accessible. That is why our home numbers are listed and we can be found on the

Internet," added Butrico. For Butrico, it was a way to meet people and learn about their concerns.

Ray Petronko, who is seeking his fourth term for borough council, is chairperson of recreation. He spoke of the importance of listening to others and that's exactly what he did when he went to Traffic Safety meetings. "I sat and listened. In attending sessions with the Recreation Commission, I have no agenda. I want to learn and get feedback," he said.

To a student who asked about having a place to play hockey, Ray urged that student to write a letter or attend a recreation meeting.

From the Suburban Woman's Club

Autumn is here, and after having enjoyed our Husband/Guest Night Dinner and a successful yard sale on the lawn of the American Legion, we are ready to get to work on raising money for two of our goals for this year—scholarship funds and help for local charities.

This year we will be making "Blue Bears" again. They will be donated to our local rescue squad and police department. These bears are given to children to provide a bit of comfort when they find themselves in an emergency situation.

Some of our members, Beverly Montwid, Marge Reidy, Frieda Walker and Mary Ann Iannitto, who will be hostess, will attend a past presidents luncheon at the Victorian Manor in Edison on Oct. 25.

On Oct. 23 the fall conference of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs will be held at the Bridgewater Marriott in Bridgewater. The conference chairman is Ora Kokol of Woodstown. President Mary Pat Marcello of Middletown will preside at the event.

Mary Ann Iannitto, president of the South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club, Marge Reidy, vice president and members Frieda Walker, Ginger Pierce, Renee Pasacrita and Natalie Bergen will attend this meeting in order to bring back many good ideas from the

many workshops that will be held.

Nov. 2 will be our next general meeting at the American Legion on Oak Tree Ave. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Farrukh Nizam, a neurologist who will speak about stroke preven-

tion. Dr. Nizam is affiliated with the Somerset Medical Group. The meeting will be held at 2 p.m. All are invited. Cake and coffee or tea will be served after Dr. Nizam's talk.

Submitted by Gloria Bruning

Time for a Medicare Part D Coverage Checkup

Medicare's open enrollment starts Nov. 15. Now is the time to evaluate your current plan—has it met your needs this year? Medicare recommends taking this quick Rx Enrollment Checkup. If you are satisfied with your plan, you do not have to do anything to re-enroll. Take a few minutes now and ask yourself these three questions:

COST: Will your premium and costs change in 2007?

COVERAGE: Do you need more coverage in 2007? Will the prescription drugs you take be covered by your plan in 2007?

CUSTOMER SERVICE: Are you satisfied with your plan's service?

There are three important dates relating to enrollment which you need to be aware of.

Nov. 15—Open Enrollment Begins; Dec. 31—Open Enrollment

Ends; and Jan. 1—Coverage begins once the enrollment window closes.

The South Plainfield Office on Aging is here to assist seniors with health insurance issues. If you would like help in deciding what to do with Medicare coverage, please call the Senior Center at (908) 754-1047 to make an appointment for a consultation.

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Borough Seeks Snow Plowing Contractors

The Borough of South Plainfield is accepting proposals from contractors for snow plowing for the period commencing Dec. 1, 2006 and ending May 1, 2007. Trucks utilized must be at least 1995 or newer and have a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight of at least 15,000 pounds. Those interested may pick up a proposal package from the Clerk's Office, 2480 Plainfield Ave. between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Completed packages must be submitted no later than Nov. 25. Any questions, contact Joseph Glowacki, Public Works superintendent, at (908) 755-2187 between 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Around Town

Trunk-R-Treating

October 27

Kennedy School Trunk-R-Treating will be held on Friday, Oct. 27 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the parking lot. Prizes for the best decorated vehicles. Fee is \$10 per family. Food, drinks, games, raffle, 50/50. For information call Barbara Bythell at (908) 754-9629.

Vendors Night at Sacred Heart

October 27

A Ladies' Night Out Vendors Night will be held at Sacred Heart School on Friday, Oct. 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. Free admission. Over 15 vendors, including Longaberger Baskets, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Discover Toys, Tastefully Yours and many more. Proceeds benefit the Sacred Heart School HSA.

Anointing of the Sick at Sacred Heart

October 28

Sacred Heart Church will celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, within the context of the Mass, on Oct. 28 at 1:30 p.m. Individuals preparing for surgery, who have a serious, chronic or terminal illness and seeking the healing comfort are invited. Transportation not available. The church is handicapped accessible. Any questions, contact Sr. Kathleen at (908) 756-0633 ext. 42.

Trip to Woodloch Pines

October 30

Two rooms have become available for the annual Pocono Resort vacation to Woodloch Pines. Dates are Oct. 30 to Nov. 3. Cost is \$505 per person based on double occupancy and includes round trip motor coach, hotel, breakfast, lunch and dinner, daytime activities, nightly entertainment, taxes and gratuities. Call the Senior Center at (908) 754-1047 for tickets.

Kennedy Vendor Night

November 3

Do your holiday shopping at Kennedy School's Vendor Night on Friday, Nov. 3 from 6 to 9 p.m. Home Interiors, Southern Living, Tastefully

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Flu Shots Available on Nov. 1 at the Senior Center - Noon to 3 p.m.

Atlantic City Trip to the Taj Mahal Wednesday, Nov. 1

Knitting/Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am
Yoga 10:30-11:30am
Art Class 11:30am

30

Bingo 10am-2pm
Ladies Social Group 10am

31

Trip to Taj Mahal 9am
Exercise Class 8:45am
Line Dancing 10am
Computer Classes 10am
11:30am & 1pm
Tai Chi Class 2pm
Flu Shots noon to 3 p.m.

1

Pathmark Shopping 9am
Practical Crafts 10am
Computer Class 11am & 1pm
Exercise Class 1:15pm

2

Bingo 10am-2pm
Lunch Available

3

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

Simple, Italian Charms, Tupperware, Party Lite and more. Vendor Night organizers are looking for vendors to participate. If you are interested or would like more information, please call Jill Quadrel at (908) 769-7456.

SP Columbiettes Shopping Trip

November 4

The South Plainfield Columbiettes will sponsor their annual shopping trip to the outlets in Reading, Pa., on Saturday, Nov. 4. Bus leaves Sacred Heart Church at 8 a.m.

Cost of the trip is \$25 and includes the bus driver's tip. At Reading, you will receive a shopping bag, coupon book and a ticket for a free lunch.

Bus will stop at the Cracker Barrel for additional shopping and dinner, and returns at approximately 7 p.m.

To reserve a seat or for information, contact Kathy at (908) 756-3772.

American Legion Woman's Auxiliary Mtg.

November 6

Do you have a family member who is or was serving in the military? If so, please join us for an introductory meeting on Monday, Nov. 6 at 8 p.m.

at the American Legion Post 243 on Oak Tree Ave. Representatives from the state and county woman's auxiliary will be present. Coffee, tea and cake will be served. Please come and meet other like-minded women.

Vision Screening at Senior Center

November 9

There will be a Vision Screening program at the Senior Center on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 2:30 p.m., sponsored by State Senator Barbara Buono and conducted by Dr. Bruce Kastner of Iselin. There will also be a question and answer period for any seniors with specific concerns about vision issues.

All local seniors are invited. For information, call (908) 754-1047.

AARP Driving Class

November 9 & 16

A defensive driving class will be held on two Thursdays, Nov. 9 and 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at South Plainfield Senior Center. Cost is \$10. You must attend both sessions to receive a three year discount on auto insurance. Registration required.

Call Mary at (732) 752-3764.

Cappy Award Dinner

November 11

This year's 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 Award is presented by the South Plainfield Police Athletic League and Recreation Department.

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

Pancake Breakfast

November 19

The American Legion Chaumont Post 243 on Oak Tree Ave. will hold a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 19 from 8 a.m. until noon. Adults \$5, children \$3, children under six are free. Profits go to our scholarship fund.

Orchestra of St. Peter By the Sea Concert

November 26

Sacred Heart Church presents The Orchestra of Saint Peter by the Sea, The Reverend Alphonse Stephenson-Conductor on Sunday, Nov. 26 at 3 p.m. at the church. General admission is \$25; seniors and students \$20.

For tickets call (908) 756-0632, ext. 10, (908) 755-6416 or (732) 549-9633.

What's happening in

OCT/NOV

Halloween Dance Woodbridge WOWs

October 29

Woodbridge Widows or Widowers will hold a Halloween dance on Sunday, Oct. 29 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the Elks Hall, 665 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge. Music by Jimmy Ray. Refreshments. Everyone is welcome. Costumes are optional. Admission \$8 members, \$9 guests.

For more information call (732) 381-7239 or (908) 757-0515.

Metuchen Edison Women's Club Mtg.

November 1

The Metuchen Edison Women's Club will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m., at The Heritage at Clara Barton, 1015 Amboy Ave. in Edison. The program will feature Lonnie Gietter from Raymond James Associates, who will speak on identity theft. Guests are welcome and light refreshments will be served.

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

Plainfield HS Class of 1966 Reunion

November 4

The 40th Reunion of the Class of 1966 from Plainfield High School will be held on Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Sheraton Woodbridge Place, Rt. 1 South in Iselin from 7 p.m. to midnight. Committee members are seeking the whereabouts of former classmates. Classmates may log on to www.greatreunions.com to update their contact information and share information about the whereabouts of former classmates.

Please contact David Littman at (908) 925-6343 for further details.

Caribbean Night

November 4

St. Francis Episcopal Church, located on New Market Rd. in Dunellen, will hold a Caribbean Night on Saturday, Nov. 4. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner served at 6 p.m. Cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children.

For information call (732) 968-6781 or (732) 752-5608.

Classical Music Series

November 5

The Classical Music Series at The Arts Guild of Rahway presents Fourtissimo, performing an all-Mozart program on Sunday, Nov. 5, 2 p.m.

Advance tickets are \$12 and available at The Arts Guild of Rahway, 1670 Irving St., Rahway weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; \$15 at the door. Call (732) 381-7511 or e-mail artsguild1670@earthlink.net.

Monday Afternoon Club Meeting

November 6

The Monday Afternoon Club of Plainfield monthly meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 6 at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Ave. in Plainfield at 2 p.m. An hour long program of skits and music will be presented by "The Golden Lights." Refreshments will be served following the entertainment. All are invited to attend.

For more information call Millie Colley at (908) 756-3476.

— Out of Town —

Rocky Horror Show

October 27-November 18

Saint Genesius Players, Inc. and Rutgers Cabaret Theatre will present The Rocky Horror Picture Show at the Main Street Theatre at Garden Friends on Bordentown Rd. in Parlin Friday, Oct. 27 at 8 p.m., Oct. 28 at 8 p.m. and midnight, Halloween performance Oct. 31 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 3 and 4 at 8 p.m. Also at the Cabaret Theatre in New Brunswick on Thursday, Nov. 9 and 10 at 8 p.m., Nov. 11 at 8 p.m. and midnight, Nov. 16 at 8 p.m., Nov. 17 at 8 p.m. and midnight and Nov. 18 at 8 p.m. Tickets \$14 adults, \$10 students/seniors and \$7 with a valid Rutgers ID.

Call (732) 744-6653 or visit us on the web at www.saintgenesiusplayers.org, www.cabarettheatre.org.

Celtic All-Stars To Perform

October 27

L.E. McCullough's Celtic All-Stars celebrate the Celtic holiday of Halloween with a lively mix of Irish dance tunes, haunting slow airs and boisterous ballads Oct. 27 at 8 p.m. at the Barron Arts Center on Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge. Concert is free, but call (732) 634-0413 for reservations.

The concert is sponsored by the Woodbridge Township Cultural Arts Commission.

First Presbyterian Mission Event

October 28

The First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen invites you to a Mission Event on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 4 to 8 p.m. Delicious fine cuts of meat grilled Argentinian style, will be served. Profits will be used to sponsor a Mission trip to North Africa.

Willow Grove Festival

October 29

Willow Grove Church in Scotch Plains will hold a fall festival on Sunday, Oct. 29 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Games, cookies to make, arts and crafts, tattoos and storytelling for everyone to enjoy.

For more information, call the church office at (908) 232-5678.

Oldtimers Motorcycle Run to be aired on Comcast Channel 74 on Saturday, Oct. 28 and Thursday, Nov. 2 at 8 p.m.



Our Lady Of Czestochowa R.C. Church
807 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield
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 noon
Weekend Schedule: Saturday evenings 5:30pm
Sunday mornings 8am and 11am



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			Cable TV	✓	-

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Sports

SOCCER

U-9 Mustangs Remain Undefeated

The U-9 Mustangs won on Sunday 3-0 over the Metuchen Rockets to improve their record to 5-0.

The team was held scoreless in the first half until Patrick Waldrop scored twice and Nick Polizzano added another for the win. Richard Marcovechio, Ryan Duhamel, Nick Difrancesco, Christian Gonzalez and Joseph McGeehan played aggressively, as all the players rotated between offense and defense. Goal keepers Matt Lind and Kyle Delapoli combined for the shutout. The Mustangs continue to win and improve each week as each player develops their skills and knowledge of the game. The Mustangs next game is Sunday Oct. 29 at 2:30 against the Livingston Lightning at home.

Arsenal Ties Berkeley Hts. Bears 1-1

What better way to spend a chilly October afternoon than watching two perfectly matched teams play a game of soccer. The dedication by the boys U-8 team really showed through. The players proved once again that teamwork makes all the difference.

The players included Jose Arrubla, Tyler Curtis, Jake Giordano, Jake Hoffman, Alec Paez, Nicholas Plate, Ricky Pellegrino, Jake Smith and Jason Cieszkiewicz who scored the goal to tie the game. The boys determination was great to watch. Again the team would like to thank coaches Rich Paez, Greg Hoffman and David Cieszkiewicz. Arsenal's next game is away on Oct. 29 against the West Orange Hot-spurs.

For information about joining the boys U-8 traveling soccer team, please call (908) 756-7012.

It's That Time Of Year Again...

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop is selling tickets for Simon's Evening of Giving at the Menlo Park Mall on Sunday, Nov. 19 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

You will receive discounts from participating stores with your ticket. Evening highlights will include WPLJ radio personalities, entertainment from Broadway's "Spamalot," TV/Soap Personality from "One Life to Live," putt to win, food sampling, chocolate dipping fountain, children's entertainment, Santa and Mrs. Claus and much more.

If you are interested in purchasing tickets call (908) 561-5255.

All proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop.

"If Walls Could Talk"- A New Season on HGTV

"If Walls Could Talk" a weekly series on HGTV, is coming to South Plainfield and surrounding areas to film homes with intriguing pasts and unusual stories. Now in production on its eighth season, the series kicks off with new homeowners who make surprising historical discoveries about their homes as they explore and restore them. A lucky few will be amazed to learn that the historic artifacts they've discovered are worth a fortune when the "If Walls Could Talk" appraiser drops by for a look.

Each half-hour episode features homeowners from across the country who share their amazing discoveries.

The series, which premiered in September of 1998, has aired over 200 episodes—each filmed in historic neighborhoods throughout the country.

"If Walls Could Talk" is produced for HGTV by High Noon Entertainment.

Homeowners who would like to be considered for the program should contact Keri Grogan at (303) 712-3302 or email kgrogan@highnoonentertainment.com.

Help Keep Our Kids Warm

The McCrisky Home For Funerals is asking for your participation in their coat drive called "Keep Our Kids Warm." We are asking for coats to be donated for children between the age of five to 17 years old. We can only accept coats that are cleaned and/or dry cleaned. No other clothing material will be accepted.

This project is being run in accordance with our borough's Director of Social Services Marge Ackerman. The coats that are donated will be distributed to underprivileged children throughout the community for this upcoming winter season.

Coats will be accepted in the main entrance of the funeral home on Saturday, Nov. 4 and Sunday, Nov. 5 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Your cooperation is greatly needed

and appreciated. And remember, a coat will help!

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to call the funeral home at (908) 561-8000.

Dentist Sponsoring A Candy Buy Back

A candy buy back event is being initiated by Dr. Sinha to stress the point that sugar only hurts a child's teeth and can put on unwanted body weight, it also adds to the possibility of making a child hyperactive. The program rewards children by letting them turn trick or treating into a profitable event.

Dr. Sinha is located at 650 Easton Ave. in Somerset. Any questions, call (732) 249-5500.

The South Plainfield Health Department Is Conducting Its Annual

RABIES CLINIC

At the South Plainfield Borough Garage (corner of Spicer and Belmont Ave.) Dog and Cat Owners are urged to bring their pets for inoculation.

Only 2005 Dog & Cat Licenses Will Be Available

Please Note: Cats must be in a carrier

DATE:

Saturday, November 4, 2006 9:00 am-12:00 noon

For More Information Please Call

226-7631

2006 JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Monisha Smith, pictured here with mom, Kelly, and friend, CC.

CONGRATS!

2006 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

A Ghost in Thought

By Tony Le

BOO! A creature at glance.
Maybe I should go in this eye balling house.
"Creak!" The door shouted.
The glance still shivered like a cold shower.
STOMP!
The eye balling monster is here!
He glanced with bloodshot eyes.
While more monsters came.
"Who might be? Who might it be?" I said nervously.
Suddenly it stopped my heartbeat beating like a drum.
SURPRISE!
It was a Halloween party for me.

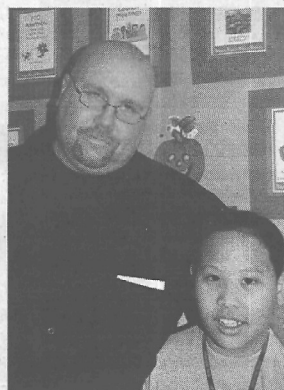
Tony Le Named Junior Journalist

Tony Le, third grader at Roosevelt School, is this week's winner in the 2006-07 Junior Journalist program. His poem, "A Ghost in Thought," 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.



Third grader Tony Le with Roosevelt School teacher Michael Bertram.

CONSTRUCTION SALE!

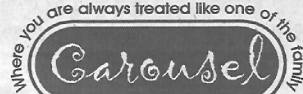
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Longtime Resident to Travel to India for Habitat for Humanity

Former longtime South Plainfield resident Rosemary Niemczyk Swier and husband Donald, Habitat for Humanity volunteers now living in Ludington Mich., are in a village near Lonavala, India until Nov. 5. They will work alongside former U.S. President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn. The Swiers will join more than 4,000 volunteers in building 100 homes as part of Habitat's 23rd annual Jimmy Carter Work Project (JCWP).

The Habitat for Humanity homes will be built in partnership with low-income families who currently live in dilapidated and temporary housing. In rural areas of India, houses are often poor quality, made of mud, grass, leaves, reeds and bamboo. In contrast, typical Habitat for Humanity constructed houses in India are made of climate-appropriate and sustainable materials, with most houses ranging in size from 240 to 360 square feet with a living room, veranda, kitchen and toilet.

The need for housing in India is dire since nearly a quarter of its 1.1 billion population live on less than U.S. \$1 per day. Habitat for Humanity has been at work in India since 1983 building nearly 12,000 homes, making it one of the home building organization's largest country programs.

"Habitat for Humanity volunteers are at work around the world helping provide simple, decent housing in partnership with families in need," said Don and Rosemary. "It's an honor to build with the former president and first lady, fellow volunteers and new homeowners families. This build in

India will be an experience of a lifetime."

The Swiers have volunteered with Jimmy Carter in four JCWPs: 2002 in South Africa, 2003 in Valdosta Georgia, 2004 in Puebla Mexico and 2005 in Benton Harbor, Mich. Don is on the board of Ludington's Habitat for Humanity of Mason County affiliate and the Swiers volunteer during their winter stay in Florida with Habitat for Humanity of East Polk County-Winter Haven.

The Carters are Habitat for Humanity's most famous volunteers. Each year since 1984, they have given one week of their time to build homes and raise awareness about the need for simple, decent and affordable housing. Previous JCWP events have been held in New York City, Georgia, Michigan, the Philippines, Hungary, South Korea and South Africa. For more information about Habitat for Humanity's Jimmy Carter Work Project, visit www.habitat.org/jcwp/2006.

Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical Christian ministry that welcomes all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing.

For information, visit www.habitat.org.



(L to R) Debbie Boyle, Grant Elementary School Principal Leo Whalen, A-Tech Landscape owner John Dean, Four Seasons Landscaping owner Doug Bell and Tom Walsh show off the newly decorated entrance to Grant School.

Grant Elementary Entrance Spruced Up

By Jane Dornick

Grant Elementary School PTO Co-President Debbie Boyle decided that the entrance to the school needed some help. Tom Walsh, operations manager at Parker Gardens in Scotch

Plains, whose son William attends the school, was asked to help design a new landscape. Four Seasons Nursery & Landscape Design Center on Hamilton Blvd. donated all of the new plants and shrubs.

Walsh brought in A-Tech Land-

scaping of South Plainfield, that donated their time pruning and planting.

The Grant School PTO greatly appreciates the donation of time and effort of these people to improve the look of the school.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
Public Notice

RETURN OF PERFORMANCE BOND

To Grasso Site Plan for public improvements at 403 Harvard Avenue in South Plainfield, Block 347, Lot 2 and 3.

A public meeting has been scheduled by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield to hear objections, if any, to the release of a Performance Bond posted by

Grasso Site Plan for public improvements at 403 Harvard Avenue in South Plainfield known as Lot 347, Block 2 and 3 listed on the official tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held on Monday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Michael Grasso
1033 New Market Ave.
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

\$38.50 October 27, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Laura O'Shaughnessy requesting a variance or other relief from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a front porch. Front porch requires a front yard variance 30' required; 24.8 proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 2130 Orchard Dr. on Block 157, Lot 29 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, November 9 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.

\$38.50 October 27, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Keith W. Soper requesting a variance or other relief from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit (1) front porch which lacks 30' front setback; 25' proposed; and (2) Addition lacks 30' front setback; 20' proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 2504 Maple Ave. on Block 76, Lot 1 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, November 9, 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.

\$38.50 October 27, 2006

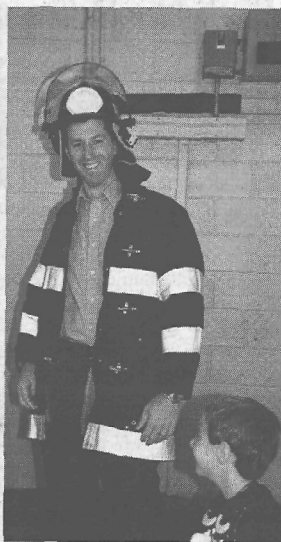
In their advertising mailer last weekend,
Butrico, Scrudato and Petronko launched personal attacks
on Robert Bengivenga's family.

When has it
become acceptable
to attack an opposing
candidate's family?

Mr. Butrico, Mr. Petronko, and Mr. Scrudato:
Please stop attacking families
and start talking about the issues.

The Democrats' attack ad is also false and misleading.
To find out the truth go to www.spgop.com.

Educational Entertainment Highlights SPFD Annual Open House

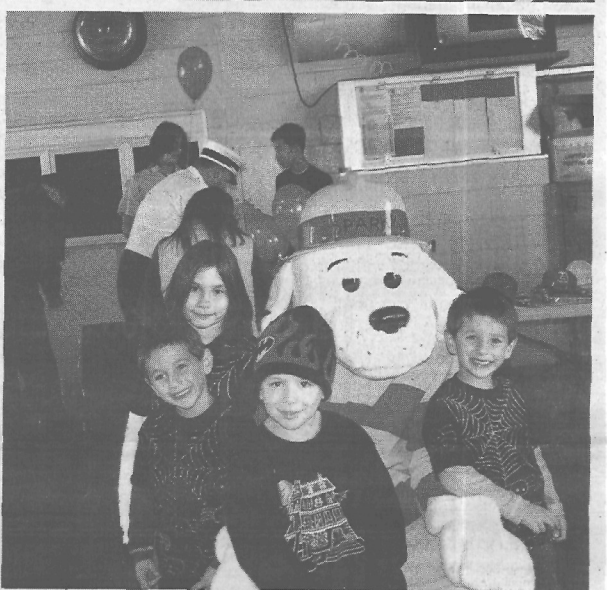
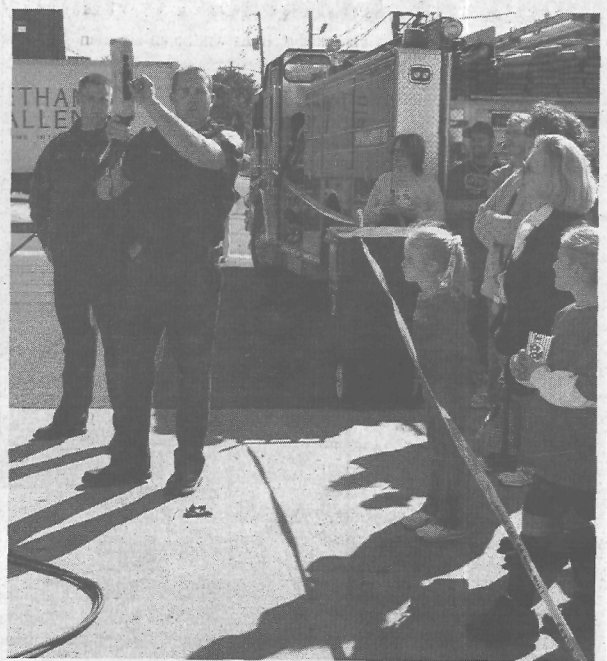


Local children had the opportunity to learn fire safety at the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department's annual open house on Oct. 14.

Department members offered visitors information on fire safety, demonstrated an extrication on a vehicle, gave kids the opportunity to climb on the equipment, try on gear, and have their photos taken with the department's mascot, Sparky. Children also received goodie bags.

Visitors to the event were also treated to hamburgers, hot dogs and popcorn, courtesy of the department.

Thanks to the fire department for providing kids fire safety education in an entertaining atmosphere.



HOME TIP:

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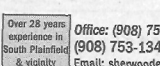
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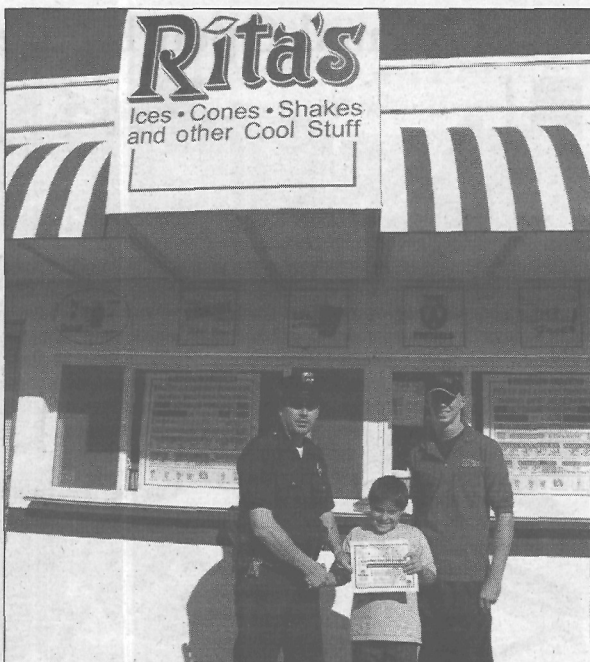
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Expires 12-3-06.

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& Pedicure
\$30**

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with any other offers.
Expires 12-3-06.



Traffic Safety Police Officer Vincent Campagna congratulates Joshua Persaud, who won a \$250 gift certificate for a bike, along with sponsor Rita's Italian Ice manager, Jon Jerema.

Kids Rewarded for Safety

The South Plainfield Police Dept., in conjunction with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital's Safe Kids Middlesex County (SKMC), held a summer long program called Wheels Under Your Feet, Helmet on Your Head! program. Children in South Plainfield were rewarded with a free Rita's Italian Ice certification "summons" if they were "caught" by police officers wearing a safety helmet while bicycling, skateboarding or rollerskating. The youngsters' names were also entered into a drawing on Labor Day for a \$250 gift certificate for a new bicycle from Kim's Bike Shop in New Brunswick.

Diana Starace, injury prevention coordinator for SKMC said, "Numerous summonses were issued in all of the towns that participated in the program and many children are riding safer than before." According to South Plainfield Traffic Safety Police Officer Vincent Campagna, 31 helmets were given out and a study performed showed a 30 percent increase in helmet usage during the program. One hundred and nine "summons" were given out with 50 percent of them being "repeat offenders." Starace, along with the police department, are looking forward to continuing the helmet program next summer.

Shred It on October 28

Recycle your old documents and confidential files safely and securely on Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Metuchen Recycling Center, 44 Jersey Ave. (off Durham Avenue). Come to the mobile shredding event from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Bring old files, receipts, bills, financial statements, or any document that you have not recycled due to a confidentiality concern. There's no need to remove paper clips, staples or

binder covers. Do not bring books, magazines or newspapers. This free service is sponsored by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders in conjunction with the Borough of Metuchen.

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Butrico, Petronko and Scrudato Agree: "Our Hometown Freeholder Pulomena Has Earned South Plainfield's Support"

This week local Democratic candidates Charlie Butrico, Ray Petronko and Joe Scrudato reminded all South



Plainfield residents of the importance of re-electing our hometown Freeholder, John Pulomena. Mayoral Candidate Charlie Butrico pointed out how much John Pulomena has accomplished for his hometown. "All you have to do is drive around town to see how much John has accomplished. The county has dedicated over \$15 million to totally reconstruct Hamilton Blvd., which will soon be one of the nicest roadways in New Jersey. People don't realize what bad shape Hamilton Blvd. was in. The storm sewer system was simply not functioning and the roadway was disintegrating. John Pulomena convinced the Freeholder board to make Hamilton Blvd. its top local road priority. As a result, we now have new traffic signals at Ryan Street and St. Nicholas Ave. and a safe turning lane at New Market Ave. Phase II will begin in the spring which will widen Hamilton Blvd. to four lanes all the way from Durham Ave. to Stelton Rd. with a new traffic light at South Clinton Ave. and Hamilton Blvd. But Hamilton Blvd. is just a small portion of what John Pulomena has accom-

plished for South Plainfield."

Ray Petronko expanded upon Freeholder Pulomena's accomplishments saying, "The thing that is closest to my heart is recreation. Kids have always been South Plainfield's most important asset, and because of John Pulomena every facet of our recreation program has been improved to better serve our children. We have improved the girls and boys softball and baseball complexes, the soccer complex and the Pop Warner fields, restored and improved the community pool, doubled the size of the P.A.L. and added a weight room, expanded and improved Putnam Park and installed state-of-the-art childproof playground equipment in every one of our parks with the help of funding from the county freeholders. In fact, South Plainfield has received over \$2 million in county grants to upgrade our recreation facilities. These are county tax dollars which would have been directed elsewhere if John Pulomena wasn't on the lookout for South Plainfield."

Joe Scrudato summed up the Democrats' appreciation saying, "Its impossible to list all of the projects that John Pulomena has been helpful in. The curbs, sidewalks and decora-

tive lights in the center of town, the funding for the property for our beautiful senior rec center, the new classroom at the Highland Avenue Woods and, of course, the beautiful footbridge and walk at Memorial Park are just some of them. But I must say the thing that I am most appreciative of is the nearly 50 additional acres of open space, which have been funded by the Middlesex County open space fund. As most residents know there would be a Walgreens at the corner of Park Ave. and Oak Tree Ave. and 20 condos at the corner of Tompkins and Clinton Ave. if not for John Pulomena. We are right now in the process of acquiring the old bus lot on New Market Ave. and approximately six acres across from the Elks Lodge, which will be permanently protected from development. South Plainfield has a great record on preserving land from development and John Pulomena is one of the main reasons why. He has earned our support. Regardless of political affiliation, every resident of South Plainfield should cast their vote on election day for John Pulomena and his running mate Jim Polos."

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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Case

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Bengivenga, Barletta and Sesok Push For Higher Ethics Standards

GOP Candidates Robert Bengivenga, Alex Barletta, and Dave Sesok this week announced several initiatives to raise ethical standards at Borough Hall:

1. Set Higher Standards for Conflicts of Interest

"Councilman Bengivenga has already set a higher standard. While the law allows officials to vote on issues that may affect their families indirectly, Bengivenga has abstained from votes where his family might be even remotely involved," explained council candidate Alex Barletta. "He goes beyond what is required by the law, and he sets an example for the entire council."

"A perfect example occurred recently," added Sesok. "An ordinance involving the center of town was on the agenda. Robert's father owns several buildings, including Curves, so Robert abstained from the vote. That was the right thing to do, even though it was not required."

"Charlie Butrico's family also owns a building there. But Butrico voted on the change anyhow—even though the parcel could easily be converted into a large housing project."

Bengivenga pledged to continue living up to a higher standard: "If any issue will have even an indirect effect on my family, I will abstain and will not try to affect the outcome in any manner. In fact, if anyone can point to a single vote where I fail to live up to this higher standard, I will not run."

Learn Sign Language & Braille

"Communication Sensation" is welcoming new members who would like to Learn American Sign Language (ASL) or Braille. The 4-H Club meets most Tuesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in East Brunswick at the club leader's home. Learning Braille and or sign language is fun and makes interaction between sighted/hearing people and blind or deaf people more comfortable. And, it could lead to a rewarding career. During the year we will teach the basic skills of Braille and sign language as well as have blind and deaf speakers visit. The club is open to sighted/hearing children as well as deaf/hearing impaired and blind/visually impaired children. We will have a community service project during the second half of the year.

We are meeting people of diverse cultures, religions, talents, abilities/disabilities and other attributes in school and at work. Movies and television, in recent years, have depicted people who are deaf or blind in more realistic roles than ever before. The more we all know about each other, and can communicate with each other, the better we will all get along and enjoy life together.

Parents' full participation in meetings and activities is welcome. There are few organized activities that provide an opportunity for parents and children to work together on a project of interest to both.

To be a part of this club, call Joyce Pacholok at (732) 246-4775 and leave a message. For more information on this or any 4-H Club in Middlesex County, visit <http://co.middlesex.nj.us/extensionservices/4hclubs.asp> or call the Middlesex County 4-H office at (732) 398 5251.

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for re-election."

Another conflict is hiring the Democratic chairman as borough attorney. The positions are incompat-

ible, because the best interests of the town are not always the best interests of the Democratic Party.

"In addition, they are paying the borough attorney an outrageous amount," explained Barletta. "According to Sunday's *Star-Ledger*, he was paid almost \$200,000 for a part-time job."

"We've told the Republican chairman, who is also an attorney, that we will not consider him for borough attorney," said Bengivenga. "Under no circumstances will we hire him, even if he steps down as chairman."

2. Cut the Influence of Big Developers

"Big developers, like Jack Morris, have way too much influence," explained Sesok. "Our developer disclosure ordinance will help even the playing field for residents."

According to Sesok, a good example is the Tingly Rubber development. "Morris, who is a huge Democratic contributor, was given every-

thing he wanted. The council even changed the zoning ordinance to meet his every whim."

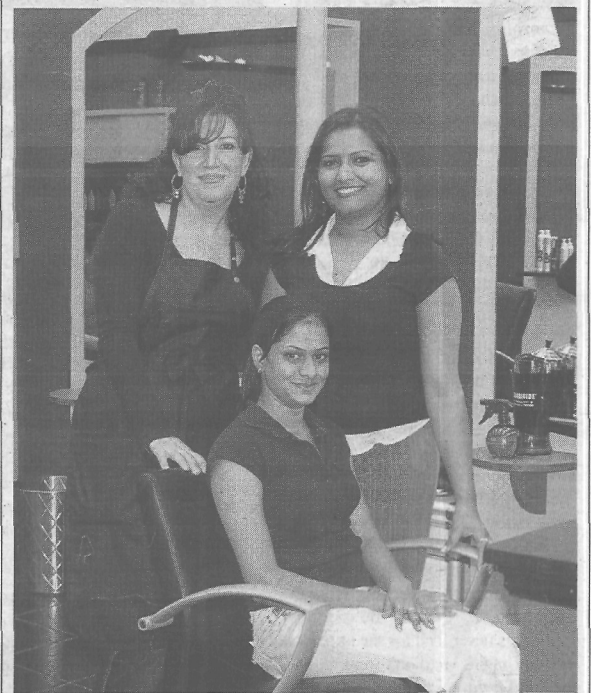
"Unfortunately, Butrico and Petronko voted in favor of Jack Morris despite resident protests. That needs to stop. We've never taken a contribution from Morris, and we never will," said Barletta.

3. Eliminate Nepotism and Cronyism

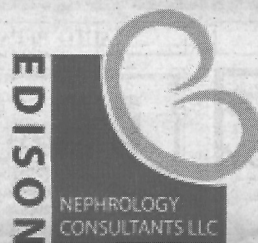
Contracts and jobs should not be given to close family members, whether it's legal work, a job at public works, or a landscaping contract. Under a Republican administration, parents, children and brothers/sisters of members of the governing body will be ineligible for jobs and no-bid contracts. In addition, there will be a ban on hiring former council members for two years after their terms expire.

Bengivenga summed up the GOP platform on good government: "We need open government and higher ethical standards. If you elect, the Republican team, that is exactly what you'll get."

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



Lalli Salon, a new upscale, multi-cultural salon located at 122 Durham Ave. in the new Durham Plaza, specializes in hair, nails and skin care at affordable prices. Redken hair care products and Pevonia skin care products are used exclusively. Pictured above is (L to R) Lama Rahal, Meghna Parikh, owner, and Parita Patel.



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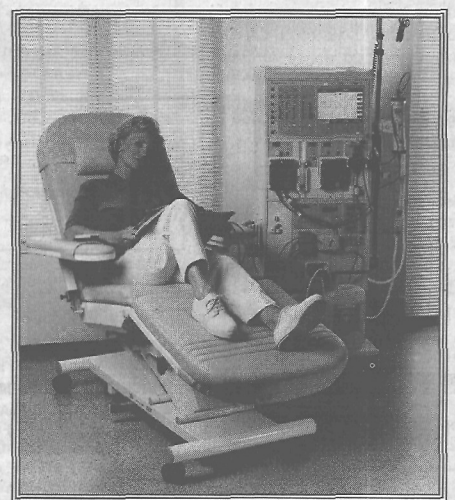
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BOE Contract

(Continued from page 1)

doctors) who provides referrals to other doctors for additional services. Those teachers who were hired before July 1, 2003 had the option to go into a plan with traditional service or choose point of service at no cost to the employee.

After reading aloud the rates for single and family policies for 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and the projected rates for 2007-2008 for both types of coverage (a 15% increase raising the cost to \$20,512 for family coverage in 2007-2008), Morgan stated the cost of healthcare coverage being discussed in teacher negotiations would be \$4.3 million. "The board is asking all employees, those with traditional coverage, to move into the POS system which could save the board approximately \$350,000," Morgan said.

At this, an outraged Joffe shouted, "What are you doing? You can't do that!" After the outbreak, Morgan continued, "As Carol Byrne said, this board has never filed for the impasse; the union did. We didn't want to, we will sit down anytime, any day and negotiate. The next negotiation scheduled is for Dec. 20 when the mediator will come and join us."

IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

reconstruction of Hamilton Blvd. and the curbs and resurfacing on Maple Ave. Under the leadership of Charlie Butrico and Ray Petronko, beautiful improvements have been made to Putnam Park, including a walking path, fitness stations and rest rooms. Improvements have also been made to the community pool and the PAL building. The Democratic team has many ideas for the future, such as building a state-of-the-art library on Plainfield Ave. and improving traffic by rerouting truck traffic off of Hamilton Boulevard and creating a truck route through the industrial site. They have done all these things while still preserving over 100 acres of open space. They have also accomplished these improvements while keeping taxes down. There has been no municipal tax increase in three of the last five years. These are the types of things that the Democratic team is doing to make South Plainfield better for everyone.

On Election Day, elect Charlie Butrico as the next mayor of South Plainfield and elect Ray Petronko and Joe Scrudato to Borough Council.

**JOSEPH ZEKAS,
INDEPENDENT VOTER**

Dear Editor,

I can't wait to cast my vote for Dave Sesok for Borough Council. Granted, I'm a little biased, because Dave is my grandson, but I know that he wants only the best for our town and will work hard on our behalf.

I'm also proud of Dave for choosing to run with two excellent running mates. Both Alex Barletta and Robert Bengivenga grew up in town and know the importance of preserving our small-town atmosphere. Like Dave, they have the sincerity and integrity to make a difference.

The three are also right on the issues. They know we need to control overdevelopment and traffic, and they want to make controlling taxes and spending a priority. Yet at the same time, they have some great low-cost ideas for improving quality of life. These include upgrading playgrounds, adding a dog park, and putting in a walking/jogging trail at the Tompkins Open Space Preserve.

Dave obviously has my vote. I didn't know Robert and Alex before the campaign began, but they've earned my vote. Their slogan could not be more true. They have the "new leadership" and "new solutions" South Plainfield needs.

SAM TORSKY

FROM THE DESK OF DEBBIE BOYLE

Residents have asked for the DEP address to write letters voicing their opinion on rerouting truck traffic away from main roads in town for the safety of their's and their children's lives. Do we have to breathe the residue from fuel truck engines, especially when the children are outside at Roosevelt School? The DEP's address is NJ DEP Commission, Lisa Jackson, Commissioner, 401 E. State St., 7th Floor, East Wing, P.O. Box 402, Trenton, NJ 08625-0402 or e-mail Jackson at www.state.nj.us/DEP, then click on "Office of the Commissioner." Jane Dornick and I also have hundreds of form letters signed by residents, along with a copy of a BOE resolution supporting the Helen Street Project. They have been mailed in bulk. Forms can be obtained at the Senior Center or the Observer office. The proposed plans and maps can be viewed on spdemns.org.

A big thank you to the SPSHS Peer to Peer Leadership program under the leadership of Mrs. Martko, Mr. Baker, Ms. Vandemark, Ms. Zurka, Mr. Encinas and Mr. Hajduk, the Student Council and Grant Elementary PTO for the donation of Target and Stop N' Shop gift cards for the families who lost their homes in the recent fire. We

commend you all for your gallant efforts to those in need, along with the police, fire and emergency management personnel. Thank you to Piscataway Stop N' Shop for working with us. Unfortunately, Wachovia Bank on Plainfield Ave. gave us a hard time with the Special Activities Account from the SPSHS fundraising. I asked them to contact the principal and staff development and they refused.

Middle School parents, please remember to send in your child's activity fee to the new PTO. The activity fee offsets activities planned for cultural arts, picnics and dances. Send them to the Middle School PTO/Activity fee. Reminder: we need the activity fee for Grant School also.

"A Night of Giving" will take place at Menlo Park Mall benefiting the 2007 Stokes trip for Grant Elementary on Sunday, Nov. 19 from 6:30 until 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person. An exciting night has been planned by Menlo Park Mall. Start your holiday shopping early by participating in the fundraiser.

All parents and students who took pictures at the recent Stokes trip can submit them for the yearbook. The best idea is to put them on CD and

submit to Jane Dornick. A great time was enjoyed by all students and parents that attended the Halloween skating party at United Skates, sponsored by the Grant Elementary PTO. Once again, the children should be proud of the way they presented themselves, so much so that the managers commented in their behalf. Thank you also to Principal Whalen and Asst. Principal Richkus.

Congratulations to our own Michelle DeSantis at Becker College for being awarded 2006-2007 NAC Player of the Week for Oct. 16 for field hockey. Michelle, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May your recent injuries heal with Godspeed.

Residents, please begin early to familiarize yourselves with the upcoming Board of Education 2007-2008 budget proposal when it is presented to the public. The residents were very unhappy with the defeated budget and the cuts that were made. Plan to attend at least one of the budget hearings that Dr. Rosado will present and ask questions. Remember, it is not the Board of Education that defeats the proposed budget, it is the people who came out to vote. There are approximately 11,000 registered voters and

only a 1,600 voter turnout. Please note that you do not vote on the teachers' contracts by voting for or against the budget.

Another HOT topic continues on the "Pay to Participate" for school clubs and sports in many surrounding towns. There is also a senator that has a proposed bill to ban "pay to participate." Extra curricular activities are a vital part of education, "as important as English, math and science" as quoted in the *Courier News* online. Also, during all the fundraising events that I have been involved in over the past eight years, I have never heard one BOE member ask what was in it for them, but they do support all our fundraising events. Thank you BOE.

Wayne Grennier, please continue to heal. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Lynn Gaspari, our thoughts and prayers are with you also.

Congratulations to the SPSHS Gymnastic Team on your placement in the GMCs.

Congratulations to the New Jersey Red Raiders 12-U AAU baseball team on your Delaware Tournament win. Two South Plainfield students play with the Red Raiders. We wish you continued success.

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policereport

• On Oct. 17 an Elliott Pl. resident reported the rear window of their 2001 Dodge Durango had been broken.

• On Oct. 18 an Edison resident reported the attempted theft of a Pioneer car radio from their unlocked vehicle parked on Tompkins Ave. The radio was cracked and partially removed from the dashboard.

• On Oct. 19 William T. Stamper, 50, of Bridgewater was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

• On Oct. 21 Andres S. Brown, 29, of Wilmington, Del. was arrested for speeding and four outstanding warrants.

• A Piscataway resident reported that while shopping at Bravo Supermarket the passenger side window of their vehicle was smashed and a wallet taken from the glove compartment.

• On Oct. 22 a Chamber St. resident reported the rear windshield of their vehicle had been kicked in while parked at Regal Cinema.

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Obituaries

Mary (Braco) Lemmo, 82

Mary (Braco) Lemmo died on Monday, Oct. 23, at JFK Medical Center in Edison. Born in Plainfield, Mrs. Lemmo was a lifelong resident of South Plainfield.

For over 40 years Mary was the co-owner, along with her late husband Joseph Sr., of Edison Disposal until her retirement in 1993. During World War II she worked as a welder for Harris Steel in South Plainfield.

A longtime communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield, Mrs. Lemmo was an avid bingo player, playing in several bingo halls throughout the area.

She was an avid bowler who bowled for nearly 50 years and over the past few years, Mary bowled at Stelton Lanes in Piscataway. Mrs. Lemmo was also a longtime South Plainfield High School wrestling fan.

In addition to her late husband, Joseph Sr., who died in 1991, Mary is predeceased by two sisters, Emma "Betty" Campanella and Katherine "GiGi" Veltre and a brother, Joe Braco.

Surviving are two sons, Joseph Jr. and wife Diane of Watchung and Nicholas and wife Nancy of South Plainfield; a sister, Pauline "Dolly" Winkelholz of South Plainfield. Also surviving is a granddaughter, Alexis Lemmo.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Mary's memory can be made to the American Kidney Fund, 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 1010, Rockville, Md. 20852.

Stefanos Ganiaris, 82

Stefanos Ganiaris died on Wednesday, Oct. 18, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born Oct. 19, 1923 in Kallimassia-Hios, Greece, Stefanos came to the United States in 1966 and lived in Woodbridge until 1999 when he

moved to South Plainfield with his son.

Working as a butcher for most of his life, he originally operated his own butcher shop in Greece and later worked for Sherban's Diner before retiring four years ago.

Stefanos was a loving father and dear grandfather who was a familiar face to many at Sherban's Diner. He could easily be found sitting at the counter or in a booth any time of day. He will be sadly missed by all those who knew him and especially by his Sunday card playing friends and most importantly, by his children, his grandchildren and his family.

His wife, Kalliope, died in 1999. Surviving are his dear children, Irene and husband Gus Kokodis of Colonia, Peter and wife Kateina Ganiaris of South Plainfield; a brother, Pavlo of Greece and two nephews, Kosta and Speros.

Also surviving are five beloved grandchildren, Alice and husband Mihali Bletsis, Kali Kokodis, Stephen, Angelique and Matina Ganiaris and twin great-grandchildren, Constantine and Emilia.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to St. Demetrios Church.

Krystyna (Gryszel) Barnes, 56

Krystyna (Gryszel) Barnes died on Wednesday, Oct. 18, at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in England, Krystyna came to the United States in 1952 and had resided in Plainfield. She married Mack D. Barnes on July 22, 1968 and they had resided in Bridgewater before settling in Hillsborough in 1988.

Employed by Captive Plastic in Piscataway, she was the production manager for 23 years.

Krystyna enjoyed volunteering for the Clover Hill Reformed Church in Hillsborough, as well as spending time

fishing.

She is predeceased by her father, Roman.

In addition to her husband Mach, she is survived by a daughter Chrystal of New York; her mother, Krystyna; two sisters, Lillian Row and Barbara Masgula; two brothers, Richard and Christopher Gryszel and a beloved grandson, James.

Funeral services were held at the Clover Hill Reformed Church in Hillsborough.

Ann (Mehalechko) Petras, 83

Ann (Mehalechko) Petras died on Tuesday, Oct. 17, at the Runnells Specialized Hospital in Berkeley Heights.

Born and raised in Oneida, Pa., Ann, along with her family, moved when she was 14 years old to Newark. She lived in Hillside and moved to South Plainfield, where she had resided for the past 32 years.

Ann was employed by Bristol Myers Squibb Company, working on the production lines for 19 years, before retiring in 1989.

As a long time devoted communicant of St. George's Byzantine Catholic Church in Newark for the past 60 years, Ann was an avid member of the church community, participating in the annual holiday baking, specializing in pirogi and nut rolls with the Lady's Guild. She also helped in the Lady's Guild of St. Nicholas Byzantine Church in Dunellen engaging in the same type of holiday baking.

She is predeceased by her husband, Edward Petras in 1977.

Surviving are three grandchildren, Carole Tortorello and husband Frank Sr. of Bridgewater, Barbara Trella of Las Vegas and Edward of South Plainfield; a sister, Julia Koochis and husband Peter of Mountaintop; a brother, George Mehalesko of Union; three grandchildren, Frank Jr., Christopher, and Melissa and three great-grandchildren, Hailey, Emily and Samantha.

Funeral services were held at St. George's Byzantine Catholic Church in Newark.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

William (Buster) Moses Jackson, 83

William (Buster) Moses Jackson died on Friday, Oct. 13.

He was born in Sumter, S.C. and resided in South Plainfield.

William was a veteran of World War II.

He was the son of the late Jobe and Rosa L. Jackson.

He is survived by his former wife, Georgia Ree Jackson; a nephew, Karl Jackson of South Plainfield; two sisters, Mary M. Hicks of Newark and the late Lucille Jackson.

Funeral arrangements were by Whigham Funeral Home.

Alan J. Harkey, 54

Alan J. Harkey died on Tuesday, Oct. 17, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Newark, Alan was a lifelong resident of South Plainfield.

A 1971 graduate of South Plainfield High School, Alan loved to fish. For the past 18 years he was employed by ShopRite, working mainly in Edison and, more recently, in North Brunswick.

An avid musician, Alan played the keyboard in the former bands, Beautiful Zelds and Black Rose.

He is predeceased by his father, William, who died in 1997 and his only sibling, William A., who died in 2000.

Surviving are three daughters, Tracey Harkey of South Amboy, Amy Chatel and husband David and Cheryl Harkey; his mother, Isabella (Broad-

foot), all of South Plainfield and three grandchildren, Tyler James, David and Ashleigh Chatel. Also surviving are his girlfriend, Patricia, and her daughter, Chelsea of Kearny.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Marlene (Zielinski) Riccardi, 76

Marlene (Zielinski) Riccardi died on Saturday, Oct. 21, at home.

Born in Throop, Pa., Marlene had resided in South Plainfield for most of her life.

Employed at the former Arthur's Jewelry Store in the Middlesex Mall, Marlene worked for 15 years prior to the mall's closing.

She was a former member of the South Plainfield Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post #6763 Ladies Auxiliary and Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

Her husband, Leonard J. Sr., died in 1996.

She is survived by four sons, Robert and wife Christine of Cortland, Ohio, Leonard J. Jr. of Atlanta, Ga., Richard and wife Anna of Washington and Michael and wife Judith of Tuckerton; a brother, Gene Zielinski and wife Barb of Fords and seven grandchildren, Christopher, Leonard J. III, Ricky, Michael, Vincent, Matthew and Amanda.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Betty M. Tominovich, 78

Betty M. Tominovich of Doylestown, died on Wednesday, Oct. 18, at Heritage Towers.

Born in Wellington, New Zealand, she was the daughter of the late William and May (Scaton) Hunt.

Betty was a longtime resident of South Plainfield, before moving to Doylestown. She was an avid tennis player and enjoyed sewing and crafts, but most of all she was a loving mother and grandmother who loved being surrounded by her family, especially her grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Giuseppe Tominovich, of Doylestown; a daughter, Marina D. Bloomfield and husband John of Doylestown and two grandchildren, Morgan and Taylor Bloomfield.

Funeral services were held at Thomas Funeral Home in Doylestown.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Assoc., Delaware Valley Chapter, 100 N. 17th St., 2nd Floor, Phila., Pa. 19103, in loving memory of Mrs. Tominovich.

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