

Labor Day Parade, 5K Race coverage – see pages 8-9 & 11. More parade coverage next week.

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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 11, NO. 3

50 CENTS

SEPTEMBER 14, 2007



We Will Not Forget



Remembering
September 11
2001

Borough residents, officials, clergy, police, firefighters and first responders pay tribute to the victims of 9/11 at a service Tuesday when six dozen butterflies were released to signify the sixth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.



Ordinance Introduced to Acquire Land for New Market Extension

By Libby Barsky

Plans for an alternate truck route minimizing truck traffic on Hamilton Boulevard became more urgent with the possibility of the borough obtaining the property through eminent domain which is located within the Hamilton Boulevard Industrial Site Redevelopment Area.

The South Plainfield Borough Council is currently negotiating with DSC of Newark Enterprises to purchase land for the New Market Extension truck route.

During last week's council meeting an ordinance was introduced that will enable the borough to acquire the land, if necessary, through eminent domain proceedings.

The ordinance was adopted, but both Councilmen Rob Bengivena and Matthew Anesh voted against it. Councilman Joseph Scrudato wasn't present due to the death of his sister.

Bengivena questioned why he hadn't received the ordinance until the Friday before the meeting and said he did not have time to study it.

He was told that all council members received the ordinance on the Friday before the meeting.

Bengivena has been asking that the agenda session be held on a different day than the regular council meeting, so that they could fully discuss the ordinances and resolutions that would be on the regular agenda. The agenda sessions, which were held the week before the regular meeting, were dropped three years ago and are now held at 7 p.m., just prior to the regular meeting.

Trucks have been traveling on New

Market Avenue since the borough banned them from traveling on Hamilton Boulevard last fall. When they reach Hamilton Boulevard intersection, trucks must make a right and then, in less than a block, turn left onto Spicer Avenue. To eliminate this jog, the borough proposes to proceed straight ahead at that intersection. They have already purchased three properties, which are due to be torn down. This will eliminate the two narrow turns and make the intersection safer.

Before the start of the school year,

Board of Education members Jim Giannakis and Bob Jones inspected the Spicer Avenue intersection and declared it to be too dangerous for students who walk to Grant School and the middle school. After designating it a "dangerous route," the board reinstituted courtesy busing, which included adding two shuttle busses for fifth through eighth grade students.

In June, the Board had removed the courtesy bus route for students attending Roosevelt School and they are now walking to school.



Borough Council meetings air on Comcast Channel 74, Mondays at 8 p.m. (Except for Holidays)

Comcast will air two hours of a meeting. To purchase a copy of a complete council meeting, contact the *Observer*.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Log on to southplainfieldnj.com for the latest meeting agenda

councilmeetings

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

Date	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
September 18	7 p.m.	Immediately following
October 2	7 p.m.	Immediately following

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (NJSA 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

planningboard

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
Sept. 25, Oct. 9 and 23, Nov. 27 and Dec. 11.

zoningboardofadjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
Sept. 27, Oct. 11 and 25, Nov. 1 and 29 and Dec. 13.

boardofeducationmeetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted
Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7 p.m.-Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12,
Jan. 9, Feb. 13, March 12 and April 2.
Regular Meeting Wednesdays 8 p.m.-Wednesday, Sept. 19,
Oct. 17, Nov. 28, Dec. 19, Jan. 16, Feb. 20, March 19 and April 19.

taxpayersadvisorygroup

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

siteplansub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.
Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20 and Dec. 18.

recreationcommission

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716
Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

environmentalcommission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621

businessadvisorygroup

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

trafficsafetyadvisorycommission

Meets once a month (fourth Wednesday) at 7 p.m.
in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

boardofeducationcurriculum/technology meetings

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

IN MY OPINION

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

Dear Friends:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Knights of Columbus for nominating me for grand marshal of the 2007 Labor Day Parade and the parade committee for selecting me. The honor was more than I ever expected.

It was great representing South Plainfield and receiving their best wishes. Everyone connected with the parade did a fantastic job and I will forever be in their debt for the wonderful day they afforded me.

Thank you all.
**YOURS TRULY,
OWEN KELLY**

To the Editor,

The South Plainfield Soccer Club would like to thank C&R Auto, located at the corner of South Plainfield Avenue and Hamilton Boulevard and owners Tom Carney and Bill Rickert for their kindness and generosity. Last Christmas, Margaret Celentano got the name of a family in need from social services so that the Boys U12 Hot-spurs Soccer team could share in the holiday spirit by buying Christmas presents for a needy family. When we met the mother and her four children, it was apparent that they needed so much more. Since that time the South Plainfield Soccer Club has adopted this family and we have formed a soccer club charity for the needy families of South Plainfield.

We have continued helping this family by cutting their lawn, collect-

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Please be advised that the *Observer* does not publish anonymous letters.

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 to limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject.

ing donations, buying them gift cards for gas and groceries and much more. We have continued this work since Christmas 2006 and it has served as a great inspiration to all involved.

Recently, our adopted family's van needed immediate work. Having been a personal friend and a long-time customer of Billy and Tommy at C&R Auto, I called and asked if they could repair the van. The soccer club had determined that we would use the donations received to pay for the repairs. Billy and Tommy went above and beyond. They didn't just discount the bill, they did all the repairs for free. Billy and Tommy took the time to call around to auto parts stores and find a dealer that would donate the parts needed. Joy Auto Parts on Route 22 gladly donated all the parts.

On behalf of the South Plainfield Soccer Club and our adopted family we would like to thank Billy and Tommy of C&R Auto and Joy Auto Parts, and we encourage people to patronize their businesses. We are so glad

to have people like you to rely upon. Thank you!

If you are interested in donating to the South Plainfield Soccer Club charity fund for South Plainfield needy families, please send your donation to P.O. Box 543 and make your checks out to "SPSC Charity South Plainfield Needy Families Fund."

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
ANN MARIE FERRANTE-SEYFFART**

Dear Editor,

The Cerami/Thomas signs plastered all over the many lawns of our town are truly a blight on the borough and an insult to the intelligence of the residents. Are we to advertise that South Plainfield's population is so feeble that the tired phrase "Tax Cut" makes the duo worthy of a vote? Not to mention the ugliness of the sign and it's photo!

South Plainfield indeed offers a more than decent quality of life, but more effective spending of the taxes we already pay and some progressive thought and planning would be far more attractive than such oft-promised (seldom delivered) "tax cut" nonsense.

Political boys clubs hold this town back. The ongoing lack of solutions to basic problems like the truck traffic, our gross out geese drop littered Spring Lake Park and lack of interesting new businesses are daily testaments to that.

**YOURS TRULY,
CREZ CAPECI**

Middlesex County Clerk Sheds Light on Costs for Obtaining Deed Records

Middlesex County Clerk Elaine M. Flynn said obtaining a certified copy of a property deed costs as little as \$10 for certification, plus \$2 for each additional page, not the \$75 to \$80 some companies are charging to do the legwork for you.

"We have heard from a number of county clerks throughout the state and senior citizens in our own county that companies are offering to research and send you a certified copy of a property deed for \$75 to \$80," Flynn said. "It's absurd. You can obtain a certified copy of a deed through our office for as little as \$10 for certification plus \$2 for each additional page."

"It may sound like a good idea to hire someone to do the legwork for you, but in reality it is a simple, inexpensive process," Flynn said. "These

companies are looking to cash in on residents' unfamiliarity with the system."

Residents needing a certified copy of a deed can obtain one through Flynn's office. A certified copy costs \$10 for the certification and \$2 for each additional page. Residents can obtain the documents immediately if they go to the County Clerk's Office in the County Administration building in New Brunswick.

They may also mail a written request and a check for the full amount. Call (732) 745-3365 for information, including the number of pages in a specific document. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Individuals also may search the County Clerk's records online at www.mcrecords.co.middlesex.nj.us and then order certified copies via mail or in person.

South Plainfield Observer

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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 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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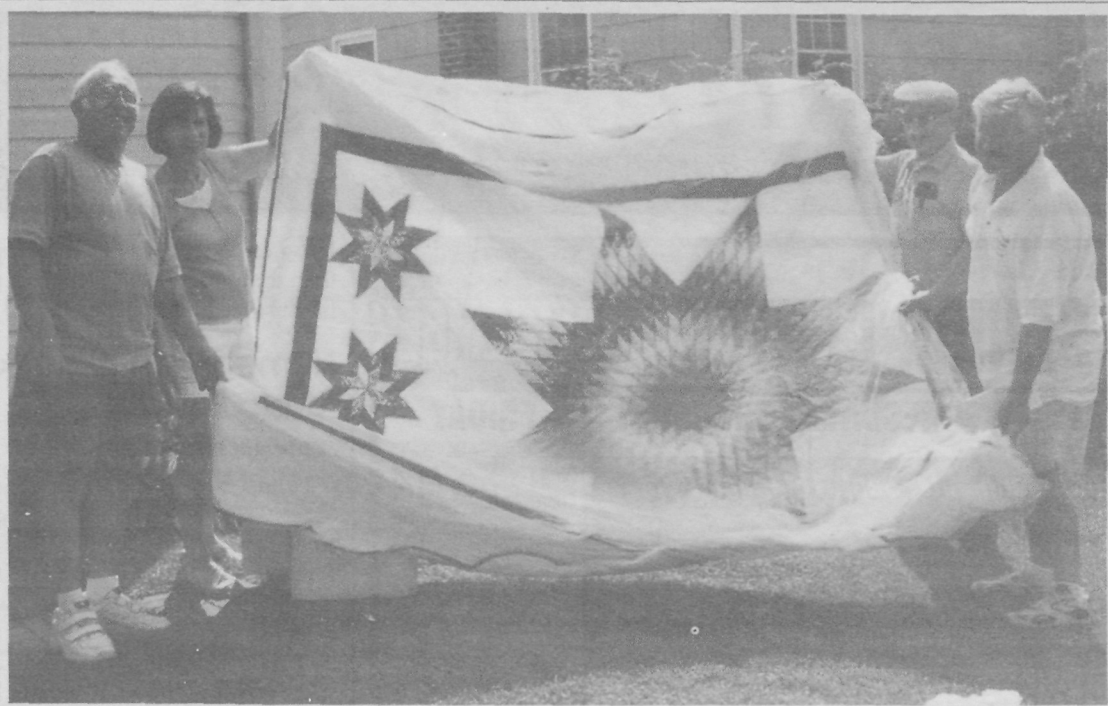
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Judy DiLeo Wins Historical Society Quilt Raffle

Bill Tuthill and Robert Bengivenga, Sr. (right) present the handmade queen size quilt raffled off by the South Plainfield Historical Society on Labor Day to winner Judy DiLeo and husband Sandy (left).

Dunkin' Donuts Applies for Drive-in Status

Forty years ago Dunkin' Donuts put up a building in the borough at 2007 Park Ave. Now they want to tear it down and replace it with a more modern building that will include a drive-thru window to accommodate their donut and coffee loving customers with faster service. A drive-in facility is not a permitted use according to the zoning code.

Tony Nader, franchise owner since 1998, went before the Zoning Board of Adjustment to request a use variance for his plans to update the existing Dunkin' Donut building. Nader stated that he is seeking the variance not only to improve the delivery of his on-the-go products, but also to

make his business more competitive with other fast food chains that have drive-in windows. "I've lost 10 percent of sales this year [at this site]," explained Nader.

Board of Adjustment Chair William Thomas asked, "How is that one of the purposes of the variance? It's not a reason for granting a variance. If this improvement doesn't increase your business, why put the burden of a drive-thru on the residents?"

Architect James Smith of West Barnstable, Mass. presented a rendering of what the building would look like with the drive-thru window. Smith noted that the Dunkin' Donuts corporation is embarking on a new store remodeling policy to establish a new image.

"I visited this site and in my judgment believed this wasn't a candidate for a remodel and that it should be

torn down and replaced with a new building," said Smith. "Forty [new buildings] have been built nationwide and I've been personally involved with 10 of them and this site is good for a drive-in," he added.

The new building would be built in the footprint of the existing 14,000 sq. ft. building. Thirty-eight square feet would be removed from the floor space on the southeast side.

"The design would be different, with more glass in the front to display more of the inside and be aesthetically pleasing," said Smith.

Parking to accommodate the drive-thru would include a total of 13 parking spaces, with the drive-thru window having room for five to six waiting cars.

There will be another hearing on the variance for Dunkin' Donuts drive-thru on Thursday, Sept. 27.

Taping of Board Meetings Temporarily on Hold

By Libby Barsky

The proposed taping of the Board of Education meetings is temporarily on hold.

When board member Debbie Boyle announced that the taping of future Board of Education public meetings would start on Wednesday, Sept. 19 during the special meeting held to announce the hiring of Superintendent Jose Negron, board members Pio Pennisi and Jim Giannakis questioned starting the taping.

Taping of the borough council meetings started over a year ago and are aired in two-hour segments on Comcast Channel 74 at 8 p.m. on Monday nights.

Pio Pennisi envisioned a lineup of 25 people coming to the podium during the public portion repeating the same thing so they could be seen on T.V. Board member Jim Giannakis expressed concern with problems of archiving the tapes and the additional work for an already overextended staff in the business office.

"Archiving the T.V. tapes is no bigger deal than archiving the audio tapes which we already do," said board member Carol Byrne. "We're not asking anyone in the business office to do anything more than they do now except add one line on to the request form," she added.

"Since I have been helping with the taping of council meetings, there have never been more than five people who come and grandstand," said Boyle.

Boyle went before the borough council on June 25, 2006 and suggested taping the meetings and using

a high school student from Rich D'Urso's Graphic Arts class. D'Urso edits the tape and makes copies, which can be ordered for \$12. The fee goes to a fund to purchase equipment for the graphic arts program.

"Every councilman voted for it and people like it because they can sit in their living rooms and watch," she said.

Boyle wants to extend the success of taping the borough council meetings to the Board of Education.

"There are so many people who pass misinformation about the board and what they do—so let's put it on tape and let the public watch and understand what goes on at a Board of Education meeting," said Boyle.

Board attorney Dr. Nicholas Celso, II told Boyle that she could tape the meeting as a private citizen, but not as a board member.

"Will I do it? I don't know," she said.

The board is planning to review the taping issue at a work session before voting on a resolution to either permit or deny it.

CORRECTION

On page 10 of the Sept. 7 issue of the *Observer*—"In My Opinion" column—in a letter from Richard Petrone, South Plainfield Senior Men's Forum, the fourth paragraph should have read: "As taxpayers we have paid \$5,931,803 in the last 10 years (1998 to 2007). In 2007 alone we paid \$1,064,214."

We apologize for the error.

Metuchen Diocese to Hold Blue Mass

The Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, Bishop of Metuchen Diocese, will be the principal celebrant at the Diocese's Sixth Annual Blue Mass honoring law enforcement officers of all faiths in Middlesex, Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren, the four counties served by the diocese. The Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 18, at St. Bernard of Clairvaux in Bridgewater.

Law enforcement officers from local, county, state and federal police, sheriff and corrections departments along with members of the Port Authority Police Department will be participating in the Blue Mass.

"Our law enforcement officers deserve our support and appreciation for protecting our communities and keeping our families and loved ones safe. They have dedicated their lives to protecting others, and in doing so are called upon to make many sacrifices, some even the ultimate sacrifice," Bishop Bootkoski said.

"We hope officers of all faiths will attend and invite the public to join us in honoring those who serve us through law enforcement," Bishop Bootkoski said.

For information, visit www.diocmetuchen.org or call (732) 562-2461.

Cub Scout Pack 324 Registration

Cub Scout Pack 324 is ready to kick-off another event filled year. Registration for new scouts will be held at Kennedy School on Thursday, Sept. 20 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Fee is \$40 for first scout and \$35 for additional siblings. Cash or check is due at sign-ups.

For information, contact Pack Master Scott Waters at (908) 754-3064 or e-mail scottw623@comcast.net.

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Around Town

Knights Selling Mums, Mums, Mums

Sept. 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30, Oct. 6 and 7

The Knights of Columbus are conducting their fourth annual mum's sale on the weekends of September 15-16, 22-23, 29-30 and October 6-7. Mums in various colors will be on sale at the South Plainfield Rescue Squad at a cost of \$7 for 8" pots with beautiful blooms. This fundraiser supports our various charitable works. Thank you for your support and we hope to see you at the sale!

AARP #4144 Meeting

September 17

The South Plainfield Chapter of AARP will resume its monthly meetings on Monday, Sept. 17 at 12:30 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center. Speaker of the day will be stamp collector Peter Cerrato.

Needlecrafters meet on Wednesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. They are currently knitting 130 lap robes for the Highlands, preemie hats for DYFS and Muhlenberg Hospital. For information call (908) 753-1996.

GOP Meeting

September 20

The regular monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held on Thursday, Sept. 20 at 8 p.m. at Sherban's Restaurant. Residents are invited to attend to meet council candidates Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak. Bring your concerns and comments for a discussion on solutions that could benefit South Plainfield.

VFW Cabbage Dinner

September 21

The South Plainfield VFW, located on Front Street, will hold a stuffed cabbage dinner on Friday, Sept. 21 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost of dinner is \$8 and includes salad, dinner, dessert and coffee. Public is welcome. For information call (908) 668-9751.



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What's happening at the South Plainfield

SENIOR CENTER

SEPTEMBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>UPCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>Shred Old Documents, Sept. 15, 9 am-1 pm</p> <p>Driver Safety Program, Sept. 24, 1 pm</p> <p>Dance Party, Saturday, Sept. 29</p>				<p>Bingo 10am-2pm</p> <p>14</p>
<p>Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am</p> <p>Yoga 10:30-11:30am</p> <p>Art Class 11:30am</p> <p>17</p>	<p>Bingo 10am-2pm</p> <p>Ladies Social Group 10am</p> <p>18</p>	<p>Aerobics 8:30 am</p> <p>Computer Classes 10am, 11:20am, 1pm</p> <p>Crocheting 1pm</p> <p>Tai Chi 2pm</p> <p>19</p>	<p>Pathmark Shopping 9am</p> <p>Practical Crafts 10am</p> <p>Computer Class 10am 11:30am, 1pm</p> <p>Exercise Class 1:15pm</p> <p>Claridge Trip 9am</p> <p>20</p>	<p>Bingo 10am-2pm</p> <p>21</p>

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

Blackrose to Perform

September 22

Blackrose, a band performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will perform at KC's Korner on Oak Tree Avenue on Saturday, Sept. 22 at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

OLC Blood Drive

September 28

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church will hold their annual blood drive on Friday, Sept. 28 from 3 to 8 p.m. at the OLC Parish Hall on Hamilton Boulevard. For information, call (908) 757-4490.

PBA Golf Tournament

October 1

PBA Local 100 is holding its 13th annual golf tournament on Monday, Oct. 1 at the Concordia Golf Club in Monroe Township. Tournament begins at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start. Cost per golfer is \$110 and includes a complimentary breakfast, lunch, commemorative golf shirt and goodie bag. The day concludes with an awards banquet at The Polish Home on New

Market Avenue. Golfers will enjoy a full buffet and open bar. Door prizes.

For more information contact Matt Koep at (908) 392-0541, Lloyd McNelly at (908) 872-5479 or Michael Grasso at (908) 510-6062.

Flea Market

October 6

The JJ Gardner Detachment Marine Corps League will sponsor a flea market on Saturday, Oct. 6 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the American Legion Chaumont Post #243, located on Oak Tree Avenue. Cost per space is \$15.

For information or reservations, call Bob Hatton at (908) 354-1640.

Vendors Wanted

October 20

Vendors are wanted for Vendor Fair on Saturday, Oct. 20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the South Plainfield Elks, 1254 New Market Ave. Spaces available indoors and out. Leave message for Sharon at (908) 791-1214.

Antiques: Trick or Treat Program

October 14

Alan Snyder, certified antiques and estate appraiser, will be at Wesley United Methodist Church on Sunday, Oct. 14 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. to appraise and talk about your antiques. Also, Lucille Hann, former South Plainfield resident, will give a presentation of antiques that will fool you. Treats will be served. Cost is \$10, which includes two appraisals. If you just want to observe, cost is \$5.

For tickets call (908) 756-8361.

— Out of Town —

Middlesex East WOWs

September 14

Middlesex East Widows Or Widowers will hold a 26th anniversary dinner dance on Friday, Sept. 14 from 6:30 to 11 p.m. at St. Demetrius Hall in Carteret. Everyone is welcome to attend. Admission is \$35 per person, includes choice of sirloin of beef or stuffed capon, beer, wine and soda.

For information and tickets, call Dorothy at (732) 541-2174.

Open House At Fabricland

September 14

The Sewing School at Fabricland, 855 Rt. 22 in North Plainfield, is holding an open house for prospective students on Friday, Sept. 14 at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served and the general public is welcome to attend.

For more information call (908) 755-4700, ext. 140 or visit www.fabricland.com.

Car Cruise, Fundraiser For Alyssa Ricciardi

September 15

A car cruise fundraiser raffle benefiting Alyssa Ricciardi will be held on Saturday, Sept. 15 at Knights of Columbus-St. Andrew's Council in Avenel from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Prizes include a Weber grill.

Bring your lawn chairs and food to munch on and see some beautiful vintage autos. A special surprise for the

kids-a car dressed up as "The King" from the movie "Cars." Please join us for this worthwhile event.

Homegrown Wine & Music Festival

September 15

HomeGrownRadioNJ and Four Sisters Winery will be hosting their second annual "HomeGrown Wine & Music Fest" in Belvidere, on Saturday, Sept. 15 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., rain or shine!

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the gate. Kids under 10 are free.

Visit their Web site: www.foursisterswinery.com for events and directions.

Somerville Sampler Day Announced

September 15

Outdoor sales, demonstrations and tastings will be featured at Downtown Somerville's Sampler Day on Saturday, Sept. 15 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Complimentary tastings will be offered by the following restaurants: Verve Restaurant, Cedars Restaurant, Venetian Grille, Scampi's Seafood Restaurant, Mannion's Pub & Restaurant, The Melting Pot, Gabriel's Authentic Portuguese Cuisine, Alfonso's Family Trattoria, What's in the Ice Box? The Sequel and Simply Incredible Deli & Catering.

For additional information, visit www.findsomerville.com.

Walk for PKD

September 15

The PKD Foundation Research of Polycystic Kidney Disease's New Jersey chapter will host its Seventh Annual Walk for PKD at the Seaside Park boardwalk on Saturday, Sept. 15 and at the Liberty State Park in Jersey City on Sunday, Sept. 16. Registration is required. For more information, email DowntheShoreWalk@pkdcure.org or JerseyCityWalk@pkdcure.org. You may also call 1-800-PKD-CURE.

Woodbridge WOWs Open Dance

September 16

The Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will hold an open dance on Sunday, Sept. 16 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the Elks Hall on Rahway Avenue in Woodbridge. Refreshments. All are welcome.

For information, call Phylis at (732) 381-3255 or Lois at (908) 757-0515.

Join us in bringing you more of South Plainfield

ENCOURAGE YOUR ORGANIZATION TO SEND US THEIR UPCOMING EVENTS. Make your event more successful by publicizing it in AROUND TOWN. Mail, fax or e-mail.

SEND US YOUR MILESTONES. Share your good news with the community, i.e. promotions, births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, graduations. Include photos if you like.

IS THERE SOMEONE YOU KNOW WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE in South Plainfield? Thank them by letting us know.

USE THE OBSERVER AS AN ADVERTISING TOOL. Introduce your business to the community. Promote your specials. Residents would rather patronize local businesses than travel out of town. It is more convenient and it's good for the local economy.

SUGGEST A BUSINESS FOR US TO SPOTLIGHT. If you have had a great retail, restaurant or service

experience in South Plainfield, share it with your neighbors through the newspaper.

SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR to allow readers to discuss and react to issues.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS. If you have an event, take a photo, write a caption identifying the event and people and send it to us. The best photos record action and don't include so many people that it is impossible to identify anyone. Please don't send us photocopies or laser prints. They don't reproduce well. Electronic photos should be 150 dpi or higher.

HOW TO CONTACT US. By mail: 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; By phone: 908-668-0010; By fax: 908-668-8819; By email: spobserver@comcast.net.

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South Plainfield
Observer

73rd Season/ Learning for Life

September 17

Registration for the 73rd season of Learning for Life will be held on Monday, Sept. 17 from 10 to 12 a.m. at the United Presbyterian Church in Plainfield. Learning for Life is a non-profit educational program offering a choice of topics presented in two, one-hour sessions on 10 successive Monday mornings from September 24 to November 26 followed by a personal bag lunch and a one hour afternoon program. A registration fee of \$15 covers cost of program.

MCRCC Largest Networking Party

September 18

The Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce's 15th Annual Largest Networking Party on the roof of the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 18.

Tickets are \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Tables are \$500 for members and \$1,000 for non-members. Special rates for non-profits are available. Tickets and tables can be purchased at www.mcrc.org or by calling (732) 821-1700 and asking for the events department.

Single Professionals Happy Hour

September 21

NJ Single Professionals is holding a happy hour on Friday, Sept. 21 at 6 p.m. at the Hilton Pyramid Hotel-Sports Edition Bar in East Brunswick. Cost is what you order, but please tip appropriately. Private group. RSVP to AngelButterfly37@aol.com or (732) 764-9073.

Fall Fashion Show

September 22

A fall fundraising fashion show will be held at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 400 New Market Rd. in Dunellen, on Saturday, Sept. 22. \$18 adult, \$35 family/4, \$45 family/6, seniors and teens 13-17 \$15, preteens \$10. For more information call (732) 979-4389.

CHATS Meeting

September 24

Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support (CHATS) meeting will be

held on Monday, Sept. 24 at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church in North Plainfield from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. Open sharing of adoption-related stories and light refreshments.

For information, call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 or visit 222.wapc.net.

Fall Art Classes

September 24

Registration is now open for kids, teens and adult art classes at The Arts Guild of Rahway, 1670 Irving St. in Rahway. Classes begin the week of Sept. 24 and run for eight weeks. Children's classes are geared for children between the ages of 7-14. Many of the adult classes are suitable for children 12 years and older.

For more information or to register call (732) 381-7511 or email us at artsguild1670@verizon.net.

Happy Days, A New Musical

September 26

The 2007-2008 season of the Paper Mill Playhouse starts with "Happy Days: A New Musical" on Wednesday, Sept. 26 at the Millburn Theater. Other productions will include "Meet Me in St. Louis," "The Miracle Worker," "Steel Magnolias," "Kiss Me," "Kate and Little Shop of Horrors."

For further information or to purchase tickets, visit www.papermill.org or call (973) 376-4343.

First Annual 5K Race for Rescue

September 29

First annual 5K "Race for Rescue" will be held rain or shine at Colonial Park, 550 Elizabeth Ave. in Somerset on Saturday, Sept. 29. Volunteer appreciation picnic afterwards. Walkers are also welcome.

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Denise DiMeglio Graduates From Villanova University

On May 20, Denise DiMeglio graduated magna cum laude from Villanova University with a B.A. in communications and a minor in business.

Denise was a member of the Phi

Kappa Phi and Lambda Pi Eta honor societies and was recently selected to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Throughout her four years at Villanova, Denise was actively in-

involved with Habitat for Humanity and the Sports Marketing Association. She has accepted a position as an account coordinator with Gregory FCA Communications in Ardmore, Pa.

South Plainfield Hampton Inn Names New General Manager

Buffalo Lodging Associates, LLC, a hotel management and development company, has promoted Miguel Marrero to the general manager position at Hampton Inn in South Plainfield, located on New World Way.

Marrero graduated from Aviation High School and attended New York University's psychology program. He began his career in the hospitality industry 11 years ago in the Newark Airport market. Prior to coming to the Hampton Inn in May 2007 as assistant general manager, he was the hotel manager at the Hilton Wood-

bridge, where he was in charge of overall operations.

Miguel resides just two miles from the hotel in Piscataway. In his spare

time, he enjoys fishing and spending time with his three children.

Hampton Inn South Plainfield opened in May 2006.

Crafters Needed for Holiday Boutique

Crafters are needed for the holiday boutique to be held on Saturday, Nov. 17 at Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave. The boutique will operate from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The cost for an 8 ft. by 4.5 ft. space is \$20 if you bring your own table; \$25 if you need us to supply the table.

Please contact Connie at (908) 755-3850 for a registration form or for more information.

— SPSHS Reunions —

1971 Class Reunion

September 14

The South Plainfield Class of 1971 will hold their reunion at the Clarion Hotel on Rt. 27 in Edison on Sept. 14 from 7 to 11 p.m. Cost is \$70. For information or reservations, visit sp71reunion@aol.com.

SPHS Class of 1977

October 27

Save the date! Our 30-year reunion is set for Saturday, Oct. 27 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Piscataway from 7 p.m. to midnight. Overnight rooms will be available at a discount rate.

Register/update your contact information with Maureen Readie at (908) 754-3455. E-mail gveinott@comcast.net, contact Francine Martinkovic

at (818) 990-6843 or E-mail kit961@earthlink.net.

1987 Class Reunion

November 23

A 20-year reunion for the SPSHS Class of 1987 has been planned for Friday, Nov. 23. The reunion committee is still in need of addresses for members of the graduating class. For information, call (908) 226-0909.

1991 Class Reunion

November 24

Invitations have gone out for the 1991 South Plainfield High School class reunion on Saturday, Nov. 24 at the Clarion Hotel in Edison. If you did not receive an invitation, contact

Kristine (Newman) Craggan at kristinecraggan@yahoo.com or call (732) 983-1100.

1982-25 Year Reunion

April 5, 2008

Save the date! Our 25-year reunion is set for Saturday, April 5, 2008 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Piscataway from 7 p.m. to midnight. Overnight rooms will be available at a discount rate. Register/update your contact information with classmates.com or contact me directly. Please make every effort to attend. The 20 year reunion was great. Details to follow.

Contact Rosanne Demico-Ilardo, 11735 Dartmoor Ct., Jacksonville, Fla. 32256, (904) 565-8334 or E-mail jrilardo@roverusa.com.

HOME TIP:

Please visit the STOP the New Jersey Home Sales Tax website at www.njhometax.com and sign the petition to protect New Jersey homeowners' equity. If you do not have access to the website, please contact me for a free brochure.



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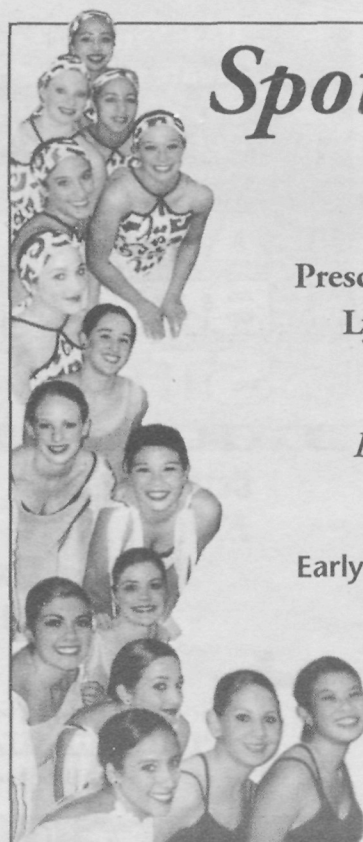
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McConville and Rusnak Look to Permanently Preserve Open Space

On the heels of the town's decision to sell open space along Harvard Avenue recently, council candidates Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak this week talked about the need to permanently preserve our town's open space.

"It's important that we permanently preserve our open space," Rusnak said. "We need to make sure the property cannot be sold. That may sound like a strange statement, but as residents learned over the summer, the council has actually sold open space in South Plainfield to developers."

"It's frustrating for residents to see a sign on property that says it's permanently preserved and then find out the property was sold to a developer," McConville added. "We need to make sure this won't happen again."

"To solve this problem, Tim and I are proposing an Open Space Registry. The registry would be adopted by ordinance, and it would designate and map out all the open space in town," McConville added. "It would include not only a listing of current open space, but it would also identify potential areas for expansion."

Currently, property can become open space through several methods. All taxpayers in Middlesex County pay a special tax dedicated for open space. This money is given back to towns in grants and the towns buy open space with it. Towns also purchase open space with their own

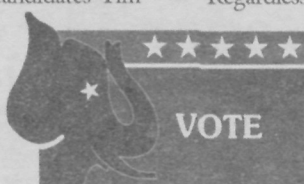
funds, or they set aside property the town already owns.

"Regardless of how property becomes open space, we need to make sure South Plainfield's leaders honor their commitment to residents. We can't put up signs saying property is open space and then sell it. Our plan sets the property aside permanently and actually maps it out," Rusnak added.

"Preserving open space is vital to maintaining the small-town lifestyle we enjoy," added McConville. "There is so much development going on that we are slowly losing what makes South Plainfield special. Our investments into open space are vital if we want to control overdevelopment and sprawl."

According to Rusnak preserving open space is just one piece of the puzzle in controlling overdevelopment: "The lack of planning over the last decade makes quick action even more necessary. Permanently preserving our open space is only part of the solution. Over the next few weeks we'll be explaining more ways South Plainfield can control the overdevelopment that's choking our town."

McConville and Rusnak are optimistic. "If we work together we can get a handle on overdevelopment," McConville explained. "I grew up in town and know the can-do spirit we all have. Planning is the key, and adopting an Open Space Registry is the first step in the much-needed planning for South Plainfield's future."



South Plainfield's Tax Cut Is a Result of Hard Work

The Democrat council team of Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas commented this week on South Plainfield's first municipal tax cut in memory. Council President Cerami said: "This result did not happen by accident.

The tax cut was achieved through the hard work of the Administration and Finance Committee which is chaired by my running mate, Kathy Thomas. Kathy is a graduate of Rutgers University where she majored in accounting. She is therefore uniquely qualified to examine budgets and look for savings. I'm sure many of our residents have read or heard about other towns in our area adopting budgets with double digit tax increases. We are the only town in Middlesex County and possibly in the entire State of New Jersey that will actually cut municipal taxes next year. This result is made all the more remarkable by the fact that, just like in every home, fixed costs have gone up. Just look at what has happened to gas and fuel costs and the cost of health benefits. The borough's share of employee pension costs alone increased over a half million dollars over last year. I simply can't compliment Kathy Thomas enough for delivering a tax cut for the hard working families of our borough."

Council member Thomas expanded upon her running mates comments saying: "I really appreciate Dennis's compliment but this tax result was a team effort. At the first council meeting in January, Mayor Butrico directed the Administration and Finance Committee to get to

work to bring in the lowest budget possible. The borough's Chief Financial Officer, Glenn Cullen and Borough Administrator Vinny Buttigliere evaluated every line item over a seven month period

and pointed out areas of potential savings. The thing I am most proud of is that we have not cut services to reach this result. Our recreation program, senior program, parks and infrastructure needs are fully funded as they should be. Most importantly the requests our police, fire, emergency management departments and rescue squad have been met. Unlike the Republican party who actually wanted to refuse to fund needed equipment for our emergency management department, public safety will never be sacrificed as long as the Democrats are the majority on the borough council."

Council President Cerami summed up the Democrats position: "Remember control of the council is up this year. Under Democratic leadership, South Plainfield has one of the lowest municipal taxes in Middlesex County. Compare that to the awful record of tax, borrow and spend when the Republicans ran South Plainfield. Kathy Thomas and I, along with the Democratic team, led by Mayor Charlie Butrico will always work to keep taxes under control."



Historic Marker Installed at Local Cemetery

Hillside Cemetery of Samptown is the first site in South Plainfield to be awarded a Historic Marker under an innovative project funded by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders. The marker was installed in July by the borough's public works department along the cemetery's boundary on New Market Avenue near the intersection of South Clinton Avenue.

Local communities in Middlesex County were encouraged to research and recommend local sites of historic interest to the project coordinator, Middlesex County Cultural and Heri-

tage Commission. The South Plainfield Historical Society, with permission from the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield, submitted a preliminary nomination for the site in October 2005. Approval was received the following March. The marker's text was written by Larry Randolph, town historian and direct descendant of early pioneers of Piscataway. The Texas-manufactured marker was formally presented to Rev. Gordon Braun of the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield and historical society members Shirley Boguski and Charles Koe-

stner at a meeting of the Assembly on Dec. 7, 2006 in New Brunswick.

Hillside Cemetery is a link in the chain that forms the Crossroads of the American Revolution and to the families that founded historic Piscataway Township in 1666. Burials at the cemetery predate the building of the local Baptist church by 100 years. There are two sections of the cemetery; the oldest section is distinguished by a rise in the topography, where burials most likely began in the 1680s. The cemetery was initially used as a public burial ground. It was a last refuge for paupers and travelers passing through the area when they died. Many of the graves were set off by simple wooden markers that eventually disintegrated. The oldest legible gravestone is that of Benjamin Hull, a judge who lived from 1693 to 1745. Among those at rest are: 39 veterans of the Revolutionary War; four from the Pennsylvania Insurrection of 1794 (Whiskey Rebellion); four from the War of 1812; 49 from the Civil War; and one from the Spanish-American War (and all wars thereafter). Notable burials include: Sgt. John LaTourette whose unit was called to active duty by President George Washington; Pvt. William Harris, a member of Capt. Carle's Troop of Light Horse, which helped to locate and secure the boats that were used by George Washington in his famous crossing of the Delaware River; Dr. Lewis Dunham, who served three tours of duty as surgeon to the Third Battalion of New Jersey Line (Rev. War) and Pvt. William Ryno who helped cover the retreat of the beaten Union Army after the first Battle of Bull Run.

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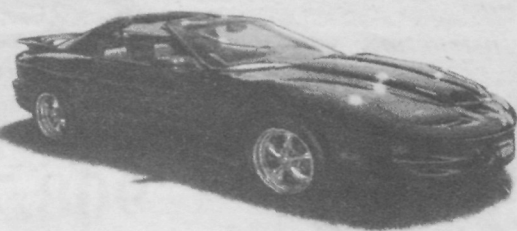
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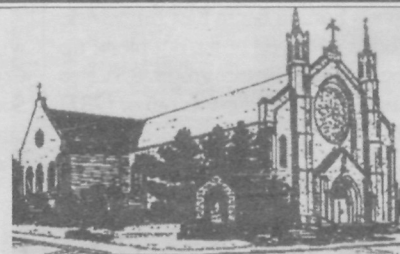
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Alvarado, Pastor



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Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

Weekdays Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9 am; Mon. and Thurs. 7 p.m.

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WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN

FROM A BUSY BUSY MOM *jd*

The South Plainfield Middle School Back to School Dance will be held on Friday, Oct. 5; chaperones are needed. Volunteers are also needed for the book fair to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 18 and 19 during school hours. Back to School Night will take place on Thursday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. Entertainment books will be sold, along with forms to order school spirit wear. An activity fee of \$30 is also requested to help with the cost of programs sponsored by the PTA.

Grant Elementary School Back to School Night will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 6 p.m. The PTO is also requesting a \$30 activity fee for programs. The first Stokes trip is slated for September 24 through September 26 and the second trip is September 26 through September 28. Please re-

member to check your child's backpack for important flyers and activity information.

Kennedy School Back To School Night will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 25; Franklin School Back to School Night is Monday, Sept. 24; Riley School Back to School Night is Monday, Sept. 17, along with a flower sale. Roosevelt School Back to School Night is Thursday, Sept. 20.

Please encourage your child to join the middle school and high school sports teams or the many after school clubs that are offered throughout the school district.

Congratulations to Tom and Stephanie Rizk on the birth of their son, Ryan Thomas and first-time grandmother, Mickey Wrublewski, who is a SPSHS athletic office secretary.

Adult School Brochures Mailed

Brochures have been sent to all area students for the upcoming fall 2007 semester of the South Plainfield Adult School. If you did not receive a brochure and would like to receive one, please call the Adult School at (908) 754-4620, ext. 213.

The Adult School offers a variety of classes including typing, computers, scrapbooking, yoga, exercise, painting, golf, as well as an extensive range of exercise and swimming classes for adults and children offered through The Club at Ricochet.

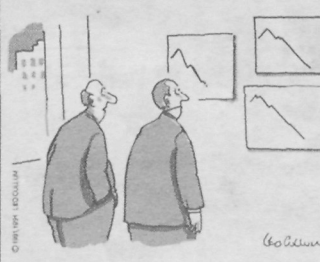
The South Plainfield Adult School is continuing their very popular series of informative tours of various districts of New York City led by Tony Grifa, a licensed tour guide of "I'll Take Manhattan Tours," on Sunday, Oct. 21. The bus will leave the South Plainfield High School for a visit to the lower east side—America's first melting pot, a walk through the bargain district and various other points of interest. This is a leisurely walking trip and will tour the multi-cultural neighborhood. The price is \$48.

The 2007 series of walks concludes on Sunday, Dec. 9, with the Christmas in New York trip. View the most popular store windows, the Park Avenue Atrium, St. Patrick's Cathedral and more. The price for this trip is \$55.

For more details on the above trips

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southplainfieldScouting

South Plainfield Girl Scouts, Family And Friends Honor Their Own

The South Plainfield Girl Scout Community sponsored a Bridging ceremony for girls who have earned the right to advance to a higher level in scouting.

At a beautiful ceremony, held in the South Plainfield High School auditorium, families and friends honored the scouts and their leaders. Many more scouts will advance in their own way over the next few months. Congratulations to all our scouts for your achievements this year! And thanks to leaders Michele Billich and Linda Kelly, Taryn Billich (Senior Troop 463) and all those who helped make this lovely ceremony a success.

Back to school means a whole lot more than just books! Our troops will be ramping up for the new program year and new troops will be forming. Join us! Registration forms will be available through all elementary schools. Look for Open Registration Night in September/October. On hand will be girls and leaders to answer questions about the South Plainfield Girl Scout Community and



its many programs and events. Come with an open mind and lots of questions. We will be registering girls and adult volunteers. Consider becoming a leader or volunteer. It's fun and rewarding!

South Plainfield is one of 25 communities proudly served by Girl Scouts

of Washington Rock Council, Inc. In the midst of celebrating its 50th anniversary, the council enthusiastically delivers the optimal Girl Scout experience to over 11,000 girls and adults.

For more information please visit www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts.

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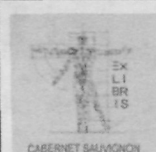
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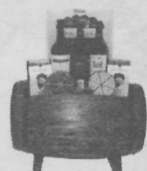


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Don't Let Heavy Backpacks Ruin Your Child's Day

The American Chiropractic Association, its Council on Occupational Health, and your local doctor of chiropractic offer the following tips to help prevent the needless pain an over stuffed backpack could cause the student in your household. And now that backpacks have begun to replace briefcases in the work place, you too, might want to follow this advice:

Make sure your child's backpack weighs no more than five to 10 percent of his or her body weight. The backpack will cause your child to begin bending forward in an attempt to support the weight on his or her back rather than on the shoulders, by the straps.

A backpack with individualized compartments will help you position the contents most effectively and ensure that your child's sandwich isn't flattened by a heavy textbook.

When packing the backpack, make sure that pointy or bulky objects are packed away from the area that will rest on the child's back. An uneven surface rubbing against your child's back could cause painful blisters.

Tell your child to use both shoulder straps, not just one. A backpack slung over one shoulder disproportionately shifts all of the weight to one side, and can cause not only neck and muscle spasms, but also low back pain.

Padded shoulder straps are very important. Not only will they be more comfortable than non-padded straps, but they will also help prevent the straps from digging into your child's shoulders.



The shoulder straps should be adjustable, so the backpack can be fitted to your child's body. Shoulder straps that are too loose can cause the backpack to dangle uncomfortably, and cause misalignment and pain.

If the backpack is still too heavy, talk with your child's teacher. It might be possible to leave the heaviest books at school and bring home only lighter handout materials or work books.

Talk to your child about the proper use of backpacks and help him or her understand why this and other ergonomic issues are important. A child who is educated early in life on these issues can apply this knowledge late in life (at home or in the office) and as a result, your child will be happier and healthier.

For more information, call Dr. William A. Carone at (908) 757-2330.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Well, I'm sure there's a veritable sea of happy smiling faces now that summer vacation season is over (yeah, right!) and that children have returned to school (the parents just started to perk up a bit). Even so, here's something to cheer you up a bit more: news from the South Plainfield Library.

First, a couple of quick reminders. (We'll have some more reminders following momentarily.) First, we've restarted our Sunday operating hours (1:30 to 5 p.m.). Second, our children's story programs have been cancelled for September, but will return in October. Feel free to stop by and see Miss Linda or Miss Mija, though.

We've got a couple of special events this weekend. First, we've got another big book sale set for tomorrow. We'll have a wide variety of books (both hardcover and paperback) and A/V items available, prices as marked. Be sure to stop by and take advantage of our staggeringly low prices. And, second, there's the appearance by local author Alpha Deanna Langlais on Sunday afternoon at 2. She'll answer questions from the audience and will be signing copies of her children's book, "Deanna's Delightful Day." This program is being presented free; pre-registration is requested.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees is set for Tuesday evening at 7:30. The public is invited to attend and learn more about our current and future plans, including important matters of library policy and the proposed new library building.

Here's a note about the parking lot. You will note that there are a number of spaces alongside the building that are marked "Library Staff Only." That means that the only ones who can park there are people who work here. Otherwise, stay out of those spots, especially during court on Wednesday, on pain of getting a ticket. Reserved parking is one of the few perks we enjoy in this profession, so we'd appreciate your cooperation. Don't force us to call the police or run outside shouting "Citizen's arrest! Citizen's arrest!"

There's still one hold-over from the summer here at the library. You can still pick up summer reading tote bags for \$5 each. We have both children's and adult styles available; get 'em while they're got-able.

We have two displays for September. Our display cabinets feature items made by crafters from the South Plainfield Senior Center. Our display wall features artwork and photographs by 16-year-old local resident Anna Petritsch. If you like more information on these displays, or on how to put up one of your own, please call and ask for Millie Condon.

A new group of Circuit DVDs is now available for borrowing. Titles in this group include "Snakes on a Plane," "Blood Diamond," "Barnyard," "Dreamgirls," "Miami Vice"

and full-season sets of "CSI: Miami," "Arrested Development" and "24." We've also added some new items to our own collection. These include a number of Anime titles, new copies of "Robocop" and "The Dark Crystal," "The Bridge to Terabithia," "Vacancy," "Music & Lyrics" (in both standard and HD formats) and sets from the TV series "Ugly Betty," "Heroes," "Friday Night Lights" and MST3K. DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days.

Finally, don't forget about the collection box for the food drive for the Middlesex County Food Organization & Outreach Distribution Services. Non-perishable food items and other necessities may be left there; check the posted list for more information.

That's about all for now. You can get more details by calling us at (908) 754-7885 or visiting our Web site at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. Catch you next Friday. Try to keep smiling until then.

Volunteers Needed for Cleanup

Residents living along the stream that runs through Walnut Street Park have been clearing the stream bed of fallen branches, trash, matted vegetation and silt that choke the stream and caused unprecedented flooding of basements and yards this past April. Anyone interested in volunteering their time to help can meet in Walnut Street Park at 9 a.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month for the next few months.

Gloves and trash bags will be provided, but volunteers should bring useful tools if they have them, such as rakes, pitchforks or pruners.

The exotic weeds that are choking the stream will be replaced by native vegetation. Volunteers will be needed then to help with the planting and follow-up maintenance.

For more information, contact R. Callanan at (908) 561-1373.

Stroke and Osteoporosis Screening

Residents living in and around the South Plainfield community can be screened to reduce their risk of having a stroke. Life Line Screening Radiology will be at the South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298, located at 1254 New Market Ave. on Friday, Sept. 28. Appointments will begin at 9 a.m.

A stroke, also known as a "brain attack," is ranked as the third leading killer in the world, and the second among women. Through preventative screenings, the risk of having a stroke can be greatly reduced.

Screenings are fast, painless and low cost. They involve the use of ultrasound technology, and scan for potential health problems related to: blacked arteries which can lead to a stroke, aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta, and hardening of the arteries in the legs, which are a strong predictor of heart disease. Also offered for men and women is a bone density screening to assess their risk for osteoporosis.

All four screenings take less than an hour to complete. The cost for a wellness package of all four screenings, including free osteoporosis screening is only \$129.

Life Line Screening Radiology LLC is a mobile vascular screening service that is dedicated to providing screening services in communities around the state of New Jersey. These non-invasive, inexpensive and painless, screenings help people identify their risk for stroke, vascular diseases or osteoporosis early enough for their physician to begin preventive procedures.

For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment, call 1-877-237-1344 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

Entertainment Books For Sale

The South Plainfield Elks veterans committee is selling the Entertainment Book for 2008. The book can be used immediately. The cost is \$25. Contact Lou Peralta at (908)756-6406.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION II INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Information Session
Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Superfund Site
South Plainfield, Middlesex County, New Jersey

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be holding a public information session to discuss the scheduled excavation of the capacitor disposal area at the Cornell-Dubilier Electronics (CDE) site in South Plainfield, Middlesex County, New Jersey. EPA representatives will be available on **September 20, 2007, between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.**, in the **South Plainfield Borough Hall located at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey** to discuss the planned excavation activities and ongoing investigations, including the fish consumption advisory for the Bound Brook. Beginning at 7:00 p.m., EPA will make a brief presentation to those in attendance. A copy of the excavation design reports and other documents for this site may be reviewed at the South Plainfield Public Library, 2484 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, and at the EPA Region II Records Center located at 290 Broadway, 18th Floor in New York City. Any comments or questions regarding the CDE site should be directed to Peter Mannino, the Remedial Project Manager, at 212-637-4395 or Pat Seppi, the Community Involvement Coordinator at 212-637-3679. For more information about the superfund process, please feel free to access our Web site at www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/cornell.

\$102.60

South Plainfield Alliance For Substance Awareness 5K Race

On a bright, beautiful, sunny day in South Plainfield, 225 runners lined up to take part in the 17th Annual Ricochet/SPASA Labor Day 5K race. The racers started at Frank Jost field and ran along the parade route, returning to the football field. The runners enjoyed the support and encouragement of the spectators, who were getting ready to watch the 50th Annual Labor Day Parade. Many high school and middle school students participated from the girl's field hockey, soccer and cross-country teams. Over 20 walkers also completed the 1.5 family fitness walk.

Michael Loenser of South Plainfield was the top overall male for the third consecutive year with a time of 15:07.7, while Kaleigh White of South Plainfield finished first overall in 20:51.4 for the women.

Other results are as follows: 14 and under males—1. Richie Szeliga-18:09.0, 2. Christopher Marrone-18:58.8.14; females 1. Miranda Garcia-23:39.2, 2. Casey Buttrick-25:14.5.

15-19 males—1. Theodore Brinkofski-15:52.1, 2. Jesse Castellanos-

16:00.0.

15-19 females—1. Kathleen Morgan-21:24.7, 2. Chelsea Cullen-22:07.5 20-29; males—1. Tim Morgan, Jr.-15:09.9, 2. Sean Fry-15:50.5.

20-29 females—1. Jennifer Arozamena-21:37.8, 2. Shannon Bishop-22:56.8.

30-39 males—1. Juan Lopez-17:47.6, 2. Scott Carey-19:59.2.

30-39 females—1. Patty Lennox-23:36.7, 2. Jen Osterberg, 24:57.3.

40-49; males—1. Kenneth Vercammen-18:06.7, 2. Eric Radell-19:50.6.

40-49 females—1. Kim Turlip-22:14.5, 2. Gertrude Hunter-26:57.0.

50-59 males—1. Stuart Bruno-21:20.3, 2. Terrence Robak-21:39.0.

50-59 females—1. Joann Coffee-22:54.3, 2. Alice Tempel-24:40.9.

60 and over males—1. Edward Wright-22:26.9, 2. Cecil Vincent-23:08.3; females—1. Matilde Chua-37:10.3.

There were many sponsors for this race as noted by the several articles published in the *Observer*. Many thanks to the *Observer* for pre-race and race day coverage. Kudos to Rudy Willem-



sen and the staff from The Club at Ricochet for supplying the t-shirts for each runner/walker as well as awards of a free month's membership. A special thanks to Joe Romer Trophies for donating all the trophies for the first and second place male and female finishers in each category. Sportworld donated \$50 gift certificates for first place winners. The Middle School Graphic Arts Department, under the direction of teacher Jeff Spezio, helped design the race application and art work for the t-shirts. Aiello Chiropractic Services provided pre- and post-race massages, and Sherban's Diner and Restaurant donated funding to print each runner's bib number. It takes a community to develop a successful race. Thanks to everyone for their contribution.

Lastly, as the Labor Day parade celebrated volunteerism, there were many who helped make this 17th annual event a success. The South Plainfield Education Foundation was a big help in registering the runners and walkers for the race. Thanks to Myra Stillman,



Marjorie Reedy, Bob Boyle, Frank Mikorski, Kelly Richkus, Shannon Jefferys, Robert Richkus and Fredrik Oberkehr.

Additionally, the rescue squad and police department are steady supporters of the 5K race year after year. Their time and support are also recognized.

It is important to note that all proceeds from the race go to support the activities of the South Plainfield Alli-

ance for Substance Awareness. Each runner received anti-smoking literature along with a pamphlet outlining the dangers of using drugs.

Again, many thanks to all the participants of the race. By the looks of things, everyone seemed to have a great time on a beautiful Labor Day in South Plainfield.

Submitted by Robert Richkus and Fredrik Oberkehr



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Sports



The 2007 Pocono "Ryder Cup" Champions (left to right) Tony Pompilio, Mike Sikanowicz, Capt. Bill Pavlak, Chip Grundman, Frank Chirichillo, Jim Flannery, George Jones, Rob Disch, Dennis Stuewe, Bill Ashnault and Jae Han. Not pictured is Richard "Soup" Campbell who is in the witness protection program.

2007 Pocono "Ryder Cup" Champions

The summer ending three-day 63-hole "Ryder Cup" tournament was played at a trio of top-notch golf courses located in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Hideaway Hills and Olde Home-

stead in the Keystone State were the sites for the first two days while Heron Glen in Flemington hosted the individual match play competition.

The defending champions over-

took the field as they came from behind, displaying an awesome array of shot-making, to post 10 wins and a tie in the deciding twelve individual match-ups, thus grinding out a 43½-37½ point victory.

Kean's Field Hockey Team Opens With Shutout Win

Kean University opened the 2007 season with a strong showing as they defeated Castleton State College, 3-0.

Both teams struggled in the early going to find consistency as the scoreless first half was marked by few offensive opportunities for either squad. Kean used a late flurry towards the end of the opening frame to fire off five shots, four of which were turned away by Castleton goalie, Trisha Clark.

The Cougars refused to go away as they opened up the second half with a goal in just over one minute. Freshman Brandee Brown of South Plainfield tallied her first collegiate goal off a penalty corner assist by Stephanie Cirino.

Kean would tack on a pair of insurance goals later in the half as Amie Hoch sent home her first collegiate goal off a Brittany Gibbs assist.

Gibbs, Kean's leading scorer from a season ago, added her first goal of the year with under four minutes remaining to put the game out of reach.

Castleton would have opportunities to salvage a goal, but Cougar goalie



Brandee Brown

Jenni Barry sealed her first shut-out of the year by stopping all four shots she faced. Clark finished the afternoon with seven saves for Castleton. Kean led the battle of penalty corners 13-5, and out-shot the home team 13-4 on the afternoon.

Swimmers Compete in Conference Championship

The New Jersey Swimming and Diving Conference held their annual championships at the beginning of August at Frog Hollow Swim Club in South Amboy. The best swimmers of the 40 teams in the "A", "B", "C", and "D" leagues competed. Swimmers who placed first through sixth were awarded medals. South Plainfield swimmers who were awarded medals were:

Emily Piekarski-fourth place in the 15-18 year-old 200m freestyle.

Kelly O'Brien-second place in the 9/10 year-old 50m fly, second in the 100m individual medley and fourth in the 100m freestyle.

Megan McDermott-third place in the eight-and-under 25m freestyle and fourth in the 25m butterfly.

Aidan McDermott-third place in

the 9/10 year-old 100m freestyle, fourth place in the 50m freestyle and sixth in the 100m individual medley.

Nicholas Gurrieri-second place in the eight-and-under 25m freestyle, second in the 25m breaststroke and second in the 25m butterfly.

Anthony Gurrieri-fourth place in the 11/12 year-old 100m freestyle and fourth in the 50m freestyle.

Marcel Green, Anthony Gurrieri, Liam McDermott and Aidan McDermott-second place in the 9-12 year-old 200m medley relay.

Thank you to all the South Plainfield Tiger Shark swimmers who gave us another exciting season. If you are interested in swimming for the Tiger Sharks, please inquire at the PAL located across the street from the pool on Maple Avenue.

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Obituaries

Rashaun "Pooh" Quincey Hollis, 33

Rashaun "Pooh" Quincey Hollis died on Sunday, Sept. 2.

Born in Plainfield, Rashaun was a lifelong resident of South Plainfield.

Pooh loved spending time with all of his family and friends. He enjoyed fishing, riding his motorcycle and often followed Seton Hall University sports.

Rashaun was employed by New England Motor Freight in South Plainfield.

He was predeceased by his father, Wallace Hollis.

Surviving are his wife, Jeanine Summers; two children, Sky and Bryce Hollis; his mother, Stephanie Hollis; a sister, Adrienne Hollis; a brother, Earl Bennett and his maternal grandmother, Katherine Moss, all of South Plainfield; his mother and father-in-law, Ann and Larry Summers; a sister-in-law, Brittany Summers and a brother-in-law, Larry Summers, all of Somerset. Also surviving are a niece, Alyia Hollis and a host of aunts, uncles and cousins.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.



Rashaun "Pooh" Quincey Hollis

Sheila M. Knemoller, 69

Sheila M. Knemoller passed away on Wednesday, Sept. 5 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Mrs. Knemoller was born in Paterson and resided in Elizabeth before moving to South Plainfield in 1961. She attended the Benedictine Academy and Gibbs Business School. Mrs. Knemoller was a long-time member of the South Plainfield High School Music Boosters and a devoted animal lover. Most recently she enjoyed doing office work for her son, Dr. Jeffrey T. Knemoller, a podiatrist in Somerset.

Mrs. Knemoller was predeceased by her parents, Edward and Lillian Kornhiser.

She is survived by her loving husband of 47 years, Thomas W. Knemoller of South Plainfield; a son and daughter-in-law, Dr. Jeffrey T. and Maria Knemoller of Staten Island; a daughter and son-in-law, Linda M. and John Skelly of Goochland, Va. and three grandchildren, Meghan, Connor and Jeffrey.

Funeral services were held at The South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Plainfield Humane Society, 75 Rock Ave.,

Plainfield or People for Animals, Union, NJ.

Robert M. O'Keefe, 37

Robert M. O'Keefe of Naples, Fla., formerly of Long Beach Island, died on Saturday, August 25.

Born in South Plainfield, he lived on LBI before moving to Naples five years ago, where he worked as the manager of Sam Sneads Restaurant. An avid golfer and humanitarian, he volunteered as general chairman of the annual golf tournament to benefit The Shelter for Abused Women and Children, Hospice of Naples and the Golf Coast Junior Tour. He will be remembered as a good friend and missed by many.

Robert is survived by his parents, Robert T. and Joan H. (Morley) O'Keefe of Barnegat; his beloved fiancée, Mary Ronquillo of Naples, Fla.; six nephews and nieces, Rev. John E. Morley, Rosemary Verbist, Daniel Morley, Catherine Morley Chaballa, Frank Rauth and Betty O'Keefe.

Funeral services were held at Barnegat Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Mary's Building Fund, P.O. Box 609, Barnegat, N.J. 08005.

Alfred S. Kravetsky Jr., 51

Alfred S. Kravetsky Jr. died suddenly on Thursday, Sept. 6 in South Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, Mr. Kravetsky resided in South Plainfield for most of his life.

Al was a mail carrier for 32 years with the South Plainfield branch of the United States Postal Service.

For several years he coached soccer, baseball and basketball for the South Plainfield Recreation Department. An avid sports fan, he followed the Yankees, Cardinals, Packers and Lakers.

He enjoyed spending time with his nephew, Glenn Edridge, as well as family and friends and was always willing to lend a hand whenever needed.

He was predeceased by his father, Alfred S. Sr., who died in 1993.

In addition to his nephew, surviving are a daughter, Allison Kravetsky; a son, Matthew Kravetsky; his mother Frances (Bulava) Kravetsky; a sister, Carolyn and husband Tom Edridge and his former wife, Janet and husband Rev. Steve Miller, all of South Plainfield.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the South Plainfield Recreation Department, 1250 Maple Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

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Former Resident in Louisiana Volunteer "Blitz Build"

Finding a way to be "part of the solution" can lead to frustration when willing volunteers can't find a way to become involved. But Ludington, Mich. residents Don and Rosemary Niemczyk Swier, who are natives of South Plainfield, have discovered a way to help those made homeless by Hurricane Katrina by participating in the 2nd annual Millard and Linda Fuller Blitz Build in Shreveport, La. For one week, September 15 through 22, these eager volunteers will work with participants from all over the United States to build 10 new homes and complete repairs on five additional homes for low-income families, many of whom were forced to relocate after the devastating hurricane.

The "blitz" is coordinated by The Fuller Center for Housing, a Christian non-profit organization committed to "promoting collaborative and innovative partnerships with individuals and organizations in an unrelenting quest to provide adequate shelter for all people in need worldwide." Houses will be built in partnership with the homeowners and sold to

them at no profit and with no interest. The families will only repay the cost of the building, making their payments affordable.

The key to producing low-cost, quality houses is the volunteer labor. The enthusiasm, skills and commitment of the volunteers build not only safe, affordable houses, but lasting partnerships and friendships. One grateful-to-be-homeowner said, "May God keep on blessing you, and give us the heart to give to the next person!"

The volunteer representatives embody that heart—they reached out to families whose lives were devastated by the hurricanes; some forced apart, living in temporary trailers or substandard housing. The revitalization of these families and neighborhoods could not be possible without the generosity of volunteers and their willingness to get involved. We should be proud of these volunteers and their partnership with The Fuller Center for Housing and the city of Shreveport. Together, they have become part of the solution.

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This week, turn to pages 12, 14 & 15!

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Two Rabid Raccoons Found in South Plainfield

Two raccoons tested positive for rabies last month in the borough; one on Walnut Street and the other on Pierce Street. Residents are warned to avoid contact with wild animals or stray pets and to immediately report any bites from a wild or domestic animal to your local health department and consult a physician as soon as possible.

Rabies is caused by a virus which can infect all warm-blooded mammals, including man. The rabies virus is found in the saliva of a rabid animal and is transmitted by a bite, or possibly by contamination of an open cut. New Jersey is enzootic for raccoon and bat variants of rabies. Bats, raccoons, skunks, groundhogs, foxes, cats, and dogs represent about

95% of animals diagnosed with rabies in the United States.

The Middlesex County Public Health Department is advising residents to follow these guidelines in order to prevent rabies from being transmitted to themselves or their pets:

- Immediately report a bite from a wild or domestic animal to your local health department. Wash animal bite wounds thoroughly with soap and water as soon as possible after the bite. Contamination of open cuts or scratches with saliva of potentially rabid animals should also be washed off immediately. Consult a physician as soon as possible.
- Immediately report any wild animal showing signs of unusual behavior.

Signs of unusual animal behavior could be that the animal may move slowly, may act as if it is tame, appear sick, have problems swallowing, have an increase of saliva, have increased drooling, act aggressive, have difficulty moving, have paralysis, bite at everything if excited. Residents should avoid any contact with the animal and call your local animal control officer or local police department.

- Be sure that all family pets are up to date on their rabies vaccination. If unsure please call your veterinarian. Call your local health department for free rabies vaccination clinic availability.
- Animal proof your home and yard. Make sure all garbage containers have tight fitting lids, do not leave pet food or water outside, do not allow rainwater to collect in outdoor containers or equipment and keep yard free of garbage and debris.
- Do not feed or handle wild animals.
- Avoid contact with stray animals or pets other than your own.
- Try to prevent your pets from coming into contact with wild animals.
- Screen off vents to attics and other areas that could provide shelter for bats.

Free Paper Shredding Event Saturday

It's time for South Plainfield residents to begin sorting through those shoeboxes in the attic. Do you really need gas station credit card receipts from 1988? Bank statements from the savings account you closed in 1995? If you have not put these at the curb for recycling because of privacy concerns, we have an event for you.

The Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management will sponsor a paper shredding event on Saturday, Sept. 15 at the South Plainfield Senior Center. Residents can bring confidential papers—old files, receipts, bills, financial statements—to be shredded for recycling. The mobile truck shreds the paper on-site, so residents

can watch their papers being destroyed.

The truck will be at the senior center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., or until it fills up. There is no need to remove staples, paper clips or paperboard binder covers.

No books, magazines or newspapers will be accepted for shredding. These should be placed at the curb in the blue mixed paper recycling box, or brought to the borough's recycling center on Kenneth Avenue.

For more information, you may contact the Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management at solidwaste@co.middlesex.nj.us or call (732) 745-4170.

police report

- On Sept. 4, Holy Redeemer Cemetery reported that several wooden slats had been damaged on their fence.
- On Sept. 5, Maria Supc-Culque, 25, of North Plainfield was arrested at Sears Essentials for shoplifting \$74 worth of clothing.
- A Fairmount Ave. resident reported that the passenger side window of their vehicle had been smashed.

- On Sept. 7, Peter X. Zoubek, 31, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving, refusal to submit to breath testing and possession of an open alcohol container in a motor vehicle.
- On Sept. 8, a So. 9th St. resident reported the theft of their Transcraft flatbed trailer worth \$5,000 from an empty lot on New Brunswick Avenue.

Knights of Columbus Fundraiser

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus #6203 recently completed their fourth fundraiser this year at the Somerset Patriots Ballpark in Bridgewater.

During each of four games played this season, more than 25 members, along with their wives and family members ran the third base concession stand.

All proceeds from the four games went towards two council scholarships. These scholarships are given to members children and grandchildren who graduate from eighth grade and plan to attend a Catholic high school and a graduating high school senior continuing his or her education in college. The chairman of the fundraiser was Joe Scrudato.

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SCHOOL BOARD Notes

A Public Hearing to discuss proposed alterations to the employment contract of the superintendent of schools, pursuant to P.L. 2007, c.53 took place at the Committee of The Whole Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 11.

At the Wednesday, Sept. 19 Board of Education Public Meeting, members will discuss recommendations for tenure; the approval of a Foodservice Biosecurity Management Plan for 2007/2008; the second reading of policy No. 6142.6 Basic Skills; the second reading of policy 3220/3230 State Funds: Federal Funds; 2007/2008 affirmative action office appointment; a 2007-2008 residency investigation consultant appointment; accept a Middlesex County Solid Waste Management Grant Award; re-bid #07/08-Quarry Products Supplier; re-bid #08-08-Irrigation Maintenance and Repair; approval of a Corrective Action Plan for the No Child Left Behind, Title I Grant Audit and payment of bills.

For many years parents and students expressed interest in a high school swim team. Many students have had to attend private schools and join the South Plainfield Community Pool Tiger Sharks and then go on to swim for college teams. SPHS will now offer its first "pay to participate" swim team for the 2007/2008 season. Most students who have participated in the Greater Middlesex Conference (GMC) competitions have won medals. SPHS students must have qualifying times in order to swim in the GMC's. A relay team from the high school took first place several years ago and since then the conference had to change their rules to allow informal teams to only participate in two individual events. This year, two high school swimmers placed in the GMC's and it was the first time that the swim team received varsity letters

The cost for a team will be approximately \$9,600. A meeting is planned for Wednesday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria for interested students and their parents. In the meantime, the team will be looking for donations and supporters. If anyone is interested in donating, please contact Business Administrator Donna Tolley at (908) 754-4620, ext. 205.

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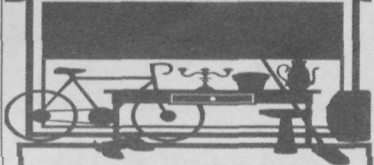
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Football tailgating packages are now available through Build a Basket in Menlo Park Mall and Wine Country, the area's leading emporium in wine, spirits, gift baskets and gourmet delights. A collection of delicious gourmet specialties, accompanied by condiments, crackers, chips and chocolates, candy and chocolate covered pretzels are packed in game bag coolers with reusable gel packs by Wine Country's tailgating experts. Additional specialty tailgating baskets and items are available at Build a Basket.

The newest Wine Country, located in the Hadley Shopping Center, is a state of the art retail destination. Unique shelf talkers guide customers to the flavor profile of each wine selection. There is a cooler dedicated to ice-cold spirits and wines and a beer box stocked with both name brand and craft styled beers. Thousands of wines are organized by taste and gourmet prepackaged foods, wine and bar accessories enhance the shopping experience.

Easy parking, convenience, make the Wine Country store in Hadley Center a great place to visit and shop. For an amazing tailgating party your friends and family will enjoy as much as the game, call Wine Country at (908) 754-0752 or order online at buildabasket.com for quick pick-up.

Additional tailgating packages and premium beers, wines and spirits are available at the Wine Country store at the Hadley Center. Visit Build a Basket's store on Rt. 10 West in East Hanover, or their boutique next to Nordstrom's on the lower level of Menlo Park Mall.

For further information on all three stores, call (973) 386-5810.



Mayor Charlie Butrico presents Keith Both and son, Kyle, with a proclamation from the Borough of South Plainfield naming October 6 as Down Syndrome Buddy Walk Day.




Organizations Partner to End Homelessness

County officials, community leaders, and volunteers are launching a new effort that will draw on the experience and the resources of governmental, non-profit and private organizations to end homelessness within the county.

"Middlesex County is blessed to be able to work with a vast network of community partners and non-profit organizations," said Freeholder Blanka B. Valenti, chair of the county's Human Services and Aging Committee. "We have worked together to provide comprehensive services to thousands of residents."

Freeholder Director David B. Crabel said the Freeholder Board recognizes "the very real need in this community for affordable, safe and clean housing. Middlesex County and the surrounding area are among the most expensive places to live in the nation," Crabel said. "Making ends meet here is a monumental task for the neediest among us and those with mental or physical disabilities or with a history of substance abuse. We must provide help."

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