

The South Plainfield BOE cordially invites the public to an informal gathering to welcome the newly appointed Superintendent of Schools, Jose R. Negron, on Wednesday, October 3, 7-9 p.m. in the South Plainfield High School cafeteria.

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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 11, NO. 5

50 CENTS

SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

Council Cuts Tax Rate Tax Bills to Reflect Municipal Rate Decrease

By Jane Dornick

The public hearing of the Borough of South Plainfield's SFY 2008 Municipal Budget covering the period of July 2007 through June 2008 was held at last Tuesday evening's Borough Council meeting.

The budget total—\$25,655,983.06—is up three percent from last year. The increase was due largely to state mandated pension and library contributions that are required to be paid. Without these two items the overall budget would have been up just shy of one percent.

In spite of the budget increase, the municipal tax rate for the average homeowner will decrease from 1.002 to .99. The rate is based on the borough's budgeted taxes divided by the rateable base, or the amount that homeowners and businesses pay in taxes. The borough's rateable base this year is \$1,435,804,761—up \$16,852,798 from last year due to the increased number of new businesses

near Hadley Road. An individual tax rate is calculated by multiplying the assessed value of a home by the tax rate .99 (or 99 cents on the dollar). The average borough home assessment is \$120,408; therefore, homeowners will pay approximately \$1,206.48 a year—a savings of \$14.50 over last year.

"One of the key drivers of the municipal budget was the actual decline in health benefit costs," said Chief Financial Officer Glenn Cullen. "Municipalities and businesses are experiencing double digit increases in their healthcare costs. Last year the borough had a 13% decrease in paid claims over the year before. These savings are the result of a change that was made in the borough's benefit structure about four years ago. It took time for the borough to experience the savings, but sure enough, the changes paid off in the long run. As a matter of fact, the borough's health insurance has increased at a rate of

(Continued on page 12)



Police Chief John Ferraro gives Congressman Mike Ferguson a look at the borough's new police car. Also pictured are Mayor Charles Butrico, Councilwoman Kathy Thomas and Councilman Matthew Anesh.

House OKs Ferguson 100K Bid for SPPD

Joined by South Plainfield police officers and local officials, congressman Mike Ferguson, R-N.J., announced on Monday that the House has approved his request for \$100,000 to improve public safety and enhance communications among first responders in the borough.

While visiting South Plainfield, Ferguson toured the police 911 dispatch center and viewed one of the department's new police cars.

If that funding level makes it through Congress this year, borough officials said they would purchase a 24-hour video surveillance system for the municipal complex and 40 portable police radios.

"Enhanced communications capabilities for South Plainfield police will make response times quicker during emergencies and help to make our community safer," Ferguson said during a news conference in South Plainfield to announce the congressional action. "I'm pleased to have secured initial congressional approval of these important Federal funds for South Plainfield. The funding isn't a done deal yet, but house approval is a big first step, I will remain a strong

advocate for the South Plainfield Police Department receiving the funding it needs and deserves to protect our community."

Police Chief John Ferraro said upgraded communications equipment will increase the efficiency and reliability of day-to-day operations, as well as the response to critical incidents.

"These important funds will help our department achieve many of our critical long-term goals," Ferraro said

at the news conference. "For instance, the funds will help us install a security system at the municipal complex to enhance public safety, purchase radios to enhance communications and help us establish a communications system to rapidly notify the public of emergencies or enlist their help in solving crimes in our community."

Charles Butrico said the funding would protect borough residents.

"South Plainfield is grateful for Con-

(Continued on page 12)

Michele Leavy Gets a Rose on "The Bachelor"

Realtor Michele Leavy appeared Monday night on the premier of the 11th season of "The Bachelor" on ABC. Leavy, along with 25 other single women, were looking for "Mr. Right," as they were introduced to bachelor Brad Womack.

Leavy, a resident of South Plainfield, grew up in South Brunswick. She is a realtor at Century 21 Moretti on Maple Avenue, where she is a member of the Lacerda Team. Team leader Andrea Lacerda



Michele Leavy

gladly gave Leavy a six week leave of absence after learning she was chosen to appear on the show. Her co-workers were sworn to secrecy during the time she was

taping until the time the show aired.

Leavy applied to be on the show on line along with thousands of women. After the casting directors reviewed almost 600 audition videos, Leavy was one of the 25 chosen to appear. On Monday night's show, 10 women were sent home. Michele received a rose from Womack, which meant that she will return next week.

Leavy is not allowed to be interviewed until she has either won or is eliminated.

Student Hurt in Truck Accident

A 14 year-old South Plainfield High School student was seriously injured on Monday when he was struck by a 1998 Western Star Dump Truck, owned and operated by Michael Balah, 44, of Hillsborough.

The student was riding his bicycle northbound on Hamilton Boulevard near New Market Avenue at 7:45 a.m. when he collided with the dump truck, which was exiting a driveway at 333 Hamilton Blvd., the Cornell-Dubilier site. He was traveling to the South Plainfield High School, where he is a freshman.

The boy was treated at the scene by the paramedics from Mercy 6 from Muhlenberg Hospital and transported to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. He was admitted with serious injuries to his head and right leg.

The investigation is being conducted by the Traffic Safety Unit. Anyone with information is asked to contact Lt. Kevin Murtagh at (908) 226-7679.

No charges have been filed at this time as the accident is still under investigation.

Local Business, Residents Tapped for Independent Film Fixation Films, Red Line Studios Shoot Scenes for "Rachel Marks" at Adelines Restaurant



Producer Matt Pellowski reviews a scene with local residents Maggie Temple (L), Holly Cordoma and Lisa Austin at Adelines Restaurant.

"I am really grateful for the experience and I've really enjoyed working behind the scenes."

Kristen Salvatore, South Plainfield resident and Rider University Junior

By Jean Fultz

When Red Line Studios Senior Producer Matt Pellowski wanted to find a location for the bar scenes in "Rachel Marks," the independent thriller being filmed locally, he walked into Adelines Restaurant on Hamilton Boulevard. "I remembered eating there years ago and thought it would be perfect," said Pellowski, on the set of "Rachel Marks" at Adelines Restaurant last Sunday. Three weeks

after taking some interior shots of the bar, co-producer Billy Mulligan not only made arrangements to utilize the restaurant for the shoot on September 23, he also hired Adelines to cater lunch and dinner for the cast and crew while on location in New Jersey.

"The restaurant is about 32 seconds away from the crew house [at the Highlands]," said Mulligan, in between introducing himself to the extras seated inside the restaurant.

"We were told the food was excellent," added Pellowski, who graduated from Hillsborough High School in 1997 and has "strange" ties to the local South Plainfield area.

As a matter of fact, the whole production has been like "Six De-

grees of..." Red Line Studios is producing the original screenplay, "Rachel Marks," which was written by writer/director Jake Cashill whose mother lives in Plainfield. Their Web site, www.redlinestudios.net, was designed by South Plainfield resident Jim Doherty. Doherty's mother, Jane, is the famous local psychic who contacted "ghosts" several years ago at Liquid Assets on New Market Avenue. Red Line Studios later produced a DVD series called "Jane Doherty Investigates." Liquid Assets, billed as "the only haunted gentlemen's club in New Jersey," occupies a building that was formerly owned by Anthony and Michael Pellegrino. Michael Pel-

(Continued on page 12)

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN

FROM A BUSY BUSY MOM *jd*

The middle school activity fee of \$30 per child is still anticipated by the PTA for school programs. Checks should be made out to the Middle School PTA. There will be a Yankee candle fundraiser during the month of October. The money raised will be used for eighth grade trips. The school will also have a used clothing drive fundraiser on February 23, 2008.

Grant Elementary School is also asking for a \$30 activity fee for PTO sponsored programs for the students. Orders will be taken starting next week for the yearbook. The price until November 30 is \$17 and \$23 after that date.

The high school swim team is continuing their fundraising efforts to help offset the cost of \$9,600 for the team. The community pool Tiger Shark swim team has pledged money and there will be a canning drive and swim-a-thon in October to raise money.

The borough council meetings can be seen on Mondays at 8 p.m. on Comcast Channel 74. DVD copies of the meetings can be obtained for \$12, which goes to the SPHS Graphic Arts Dept. which produces them. The meetings are not edited for content or time. To purchase a DVD, please contact the *Observer* or Debbie Boyle at (908) 791-9439.

TBSA Announces Free Saturday Night Dances

If your children are looking for something to do on a Friday or Saturday night, why not look to TBSA for some relaxation, entertainment and fun! Why not try some of the terrific things going on at TBSA! Saturday night dances! Friday pre-teen and teen nights! Recreation camps when school is not in session! Summer camps!

On Saturday, Sept. 22, at 7 p.m. TBSA Sports Academy at 76 Carter Drive in Edison turns into a dance club for all middle and intermediate school aged children in the area. Mike Allocco of TBSA invites all children from the Middlesex County area to come and see what a great time they will have at the Saturday night dances. Our dance parties are chaperoned with security and adult supervision and children are kept inside the building after they enter until someone of responsibility picks them up. Dances will be held every Saturday night at TBSA. On alternating Saturday nights, a dance will be held for intermediate and middle school children and the next week will be for high school students. On Saturday, Sept. 29 there will be a free high school dance for students under 18 only; valid school ID required. "We want everyone to be able to have a good time at the TBSA dances and

enjoy safe and comfortable surroundings. We have made a portion of our facility in to an area that is converted on Saturday nights to a club type atmosphere with appropriate music for the children who attend. "I am doing everything that I can to provide a safe alternative to children hanging out on the streets or going to the mall and I, and my staff, are desperately trying to keep our children, and yours, out of harms way," states Allocco, who has a 12 year-old daughter, Courtney, who attends Grant School in South Plainfield.

Mike also says, "Another of the services we provide is all-day recreation style camps whenever children are not in school. This is a great thing for parents who need to find activities for their kids when they (parents) have to be at work."

Future events will be a festive Halloween party and costume contest and a New Years Eve party for kids! TBSA also invites PTSO parents to inquire about the possibilities of holding fundraisers at the Academy.

For more information about TBSA and their events and services, visit www.tbsan.com, or call Mike Allocco or his staff directly at (732) 650-1224.

To the Editor,

The Almost Famous Players (AFP) are desperately in need of funds to purchase generators and other essential equipment. Our resident tech director is unable to assist this year due to work commitments and without him we have no show! The cast has been working very hard over the past weeks perfecting this fifth anniversary show. Instead of a program, we would like to place the names of our benefactors on flags and banners throughout the ticket and concession area for all to see. Family and friends are welcome to support their favorite actors with flags as well. We are trying not to raise the admission fee of \$6 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. Where else can a family of four enjoy a Halloween extravaganza for just \$20?

A bit of background on the group and myself—I am Patricia Abbott, founder of the Almost Famous Players. I have over 30 years of theater experience ranging from acting and scripting to directing. When asked to run my son's grade school drama club I willingly volunteered time to share their knowledge and love of theater with the younger students. The excitement of both the teenagers and younger students could only be described as "explosive!" and Almost Famous Players was born.

AFP's goal is to continue to give back to the community by performing throughout the area. Our biggest hit to date is the Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour, which began in 2003. That first show was an experiment which proved to be wildly successful. Over 1,000 people visited the park during the six day run. The show offered scares with a huge slice of humor. We continue to have the support of the mayor and council and other organizations in town.

For more information on purchasing a flag/banner, please call (908) 756-8011.

PATRICIA ABBOTT, AFP FOUNDER

To the Editor:

I would like to make the following comments in response to the comments made by James J. Wierdo in the September 21 issue of the *Observer*.

First, James stated: "Thank goodness the trucks have been routed through our industrial area rather than next to homes and schools." I would like to inform James that I live on

IN MY OPINION

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

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.

New Market Avenue and several hundred trucks pass my house every day and night! Trucks have not been removed from passing homes in South Plainfield, they have just been routed to pass different homes (instead of the Hamilton Boulevard homes they now pass New Market Avenue homes) and yes, there are dozens of homes that the trucks pass daily!

Second, James stated that the bus lot property on New Market Avenue had been purchased and will be used for recreational use. While I agree that is a good thing, I wonder if James is aware that this new recreational piece of property is located on the same New Market Avenue, where hundreds of trucks pass every single day?

Lastly, James stated how we are getting a municipal tax cut. Is this tax cut going to be more than the tax increase we had in January—you know, the one we were told during the last election that there wouldn't be? If it isn't, could it really be called a tax cut?

MICHELLE COLLINS

Dear Editor:

I have always been proud to be part of the Democratic team in South Plainfield. We don't slander people. We don't try to win elections by making things up. We know that the residents of our town are smart and are not distracted from the truth by mud throwers. My pride reached a new height at last week's council meeting when our Council President, Dennis Cerami, refused to allow the former Republican candidate for mayor to disparage our police department. That individual had previously made wild accusations about the police not properly responding to incidents in a neigh-

borhood off of Park Avenue.

Council President Cerami went out and walked the area and knocked on the resident's doors to find out the truth. As you might expect, the entire episode was a cheap shot at South Plainfield's finest. You will be happy to know that Council President Cerami set the record straight at the council meeting. It was gratifying to hear him say, "I am the council representative for Public Safety and I am never going to sit by silently and let people insult the men and women who keep South Plainfield safe and secure."

As a volunteer firefighter, I know we appreciate the support, and I can guarantee you the police feel the same. Thank you Council President Cerami for having the guts to do the right thing!

**COUNCILMEMBER
RAYMOND S. PETRONKO**

Dear Editor,

It was disappointing to read the Democrats' last campaign statement. Every year about this time they pull out the same tired statement they've been using for the last 10 years, doctor it up, and send it to the *Observer*. It's always the same: a "challenge" to the Republicans to offer a "positive" agenda.

They're right to a degree. Candidates for office have an obligation to offer a blueprint for the future. For example, in 2003 Democrats promised to build a new library by 2005. A year later Kathy Thomas promised a new library by 2006. She reiterated that earlier this year when she promised a groundbreaking by August. Now she's promising completion in 2008.

I'm sure everyone can agree that an agenda is important, as is accountability for getting it done. What I think the Democrats fail to recognize is that Republicans offer an outstanding blueprint for South Plainfield. For example, when I ran for council I suggested a volunteer program to help seniors maintain their homes. That program is a reality under Joann Graf's brilliant leadership.

No to be outdone, Republican Councilman Matt Anesh has focused

(Continued on page 10)

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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The former Suburban Bus Company buildings were demolished last week. The property has been purchased with Middlesex County Open Space Funds and will be used for recreation in conjunction with Pitt Street Park, which is the home of the Girls Ponytail Softball League.

BOE Presents Plaques to Rosado and Crown

By Libby Barsky

The South Plainfield Board of Education awarded individual plaques to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado and Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Kaye Crown at their September 19 meeting.

Both Crown and Rosado are retiring from the district. The two administrators were praised for their accomplishment in raising the district's test scores during a time when resources were strained and 31 positions were eliminated.

"The kids now have recorded outstanding academic achievement and that's my biggest joy. It's what the board asked me to do when they hired me. I leave the district in a much better place than what I inherited it. The scores bear it out. I think it's a tribute to the staff here because they are really an outstanding group of teachers and administrators. I think they responded well to direction and provided a lot of impetus themselves. They are a pretty well motivated group right now," Rosado said adding, "When [you] have a good staff, good administrative staff and a supportive board, it makes the task of getting the scores up a little bit easier."

Rosado is beginning a new career as director of field-based education at Caldwell College, overseeing teacher placement and education. Although he started the new position this month, he is still in the district and will remain until December 31 according to his contract.

State law dictates a 30-day wait for the title of Superintendent of Schools to be transferred. The district can't have two superintendents at the same time so the board appointed Jose Negrón, the incoming superintendent, to the temporary position of director of operations from September 19 until October 17. On October 15, Negrón will assume the title of superintendent of schools and Dr. Rosado will be



Retiring Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado and Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Kaye Crown receive plaques from the Board of Education in appreciation of their efforts in improving the district's educational achievement during their tenure.

deputy superintendent. Until the title change, Negrón will be assigned by Rosado and be involved with the day-to-day administration of the district. Negrón is also interviewing the candidates for Crown's position.

Crown said she is looking forward to her upcoming retirement. Her husband, Walter Crown, associate dean of academic affairs at Rutgers Graduate School of Education in New Brunswick, will be retiring in June 2008. Crown left her job as principal of Crim Elementary School in Bridgewater after four years to become South Plainfield's director of curriculum in 2003. She had returned to South Plainfield after teaching here 24 years earlier. "I loved being principal of Crim—the children, teachers and the

parents—but I didn't like the commute on Rt. 287 from Metuchen," she said.

Due to a budget crunch in 2005, the position of director of curriculum officially ended. Crown became assistant superintendent of instruction after the retirement of Anthony Massaro as assistant superintendent. Although Massaro returned last month as assistant to the superintendent, his duties ended September 21.

The public is invited to an informal gathering to welcome the newly appointed Superintendent of Schools, Jose R. Negrón, on Wednesday, October 3, from 7-9 p.m. in the South Plainfield High School cafeteria.

Library Foundation Announces Benefit Bash Fundraiser

Residents can shop all day while supporting the library on Wednesday, Oct. 10 from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Lord & Taylor will be hosting the Benefit Bash, an exclusive day filled with special events and savings at the Bridgewater Commons Mall. As part of the celebration, Lord & Taylor is giving the South Plainfield Public Library Foundation an opportunity to raise thousands of dollars.

The Library Foundation is one of several non-profit groups participating in the sale of \$5 admission tickets to the Benefit Bash. The library will retain all the proceeds from the ticket sales. With your support, the library can also be one of the organizations to receive one of two bonus checks Lord & Taylor is donating for highest ticket sales (first-\$2,000, second-\$1,500), or for highest attendance (first-\$2,000, second-\$1,500). The more tickets sold, the more money raised!

The Benefit Bash offers:

- **Coupon**—20% off one sale and regular priced special item (with few exclusions); Savings Pass—15% off cosmetics and fragrances, men's regular and sale priced items all day long.

- An opportunity to win fabulous prizes and a day filled with exciting events. Open an LT charge account and get an additional 15% off all your days' purchases in addition to the coupon/savings pass plus get a \$15 gift card.

- **Pre-Sale**—starting Saturday, Oct. 6, shop early and pick-up on Charity Day October 10.

Tickets can be purchased at the library or by contacting Kathy Thomas at (908) 561-3247.

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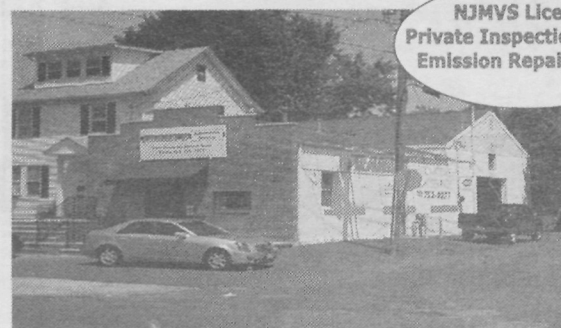
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Around Town

Knights Selling Mums, Mums, Mums

Sept. 29, 30, Oct. 6 and 7

The Knights of Columbus are conducting their fourth annual mum's sale on the weekends of September 29-30 and October 6-7. Mums in various colors will be on sale at the rescue squad building at a cost of \$7 for 8" pots with beautiful blooms. This fundraiser supports various charitable works. Thank you for your support!

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.

Stroke/Osteoporosis Screening

September 28

Residents in South Plainfield 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 on New Market Avenue on Friday, Sept. 28. Appointments begin at 9 a.m. Call 877-237-1344 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration required.

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, com-

What's happening at the
South Plainfield **SENIOR CENTER**

SEPT/OCT

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>UPCOMING EVENTS</p> <p><i>Dance Party, Saturday, Sept. 29</i> 7 to 11 p.m. Cost \$5</p> <p>...</p> <p><i>Icabod Crane Program by Historical Society</i> October 14, 2 p.m.</p>				
<p>Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am</p>	<p>Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am</p>	<p>Aerobics 8:30 am Line Dancing 10am Computer Classes 10am, 11:20am, 1pm Crocheting 1pm Tai Chi 2pm Taj Mahal trip 9am</p>	<p>Pathmark Shopping 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 10am 11:30am, 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm</p>	<p>Bingo 10am-2pm</p>

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

memorative golf shirt and goodie bag. The day concludes with an awards banquet at The Polish Home on New Market Avenue.

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

SPHS Music Boosters Meeting

October 3

The SPHS Music Boosters will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. in the high school chorus room. All band, chorus, color guard and orchestra parents are welcome to attend. We will be discussing plans for the 26th annual Marching Band Festival to be held on Saturday, Oct. 20 at 6 p.m. at Jost Field. Over 10 bands are scheduled to perform and we are in need of volunteers.

Blackrose to Perform

October 6

Blackrose, a band performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will perform at Tim Kerwins Pub on Rt. 28 in Middlesex on Saturday, Oct. 6 at 9:30 p.m. No cover charge.

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, located on Oak Tree Avenue. Cost per space is \$15.

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

Fundraiser to Benefit Scholarship Fund

October 13

Shield of Faith Ministries of South Plainfield, located at 728 Clinton Ave., is sponsoring a Gospel Music & Fashion Show as a fundraiser for the Willie Esaw Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund

on Saturday, Oct. 13 from 6 to 11 p.m. The scholarship will benefit youth in grades K-12. The event will be held at the Black United Fund, 403 West 7th Street in Plainfield. Tickets are \$20, VIP seating \$50, advanced sales only.

To purchase tickets, contact Joann Esaw at (908) 499-0176.

Columbiettes Fall Fashion Show

October 14

The South Plainfield Columbiettes will host their annual luncheon and fall fashion show Sunday, Oct. 14 at the Spain Inn in Piscataway. Proceeds go toward local community charities.

The women will be modeling fall styles from Dress Barn and Dress Barn Women located in South Plainfield.

Doors will open at 12:30 p.m. Cost of \$35 includes an all-you-can-eat buffet of salads, meats, seafood and more.

For reservations and information, contact either Emma at (732) 287-2346 or Kathy at (908) 756-3772.

— Out of Town —

Singles Dinner

September 28

NJ Single Professionals is holding a dinner on Friday, Sept. 28 at 6 p.m. at Grasshopper off the Green, 41-43 Morris St. in Morristown. Cost is what you order, plus tax and tip. RSVP is required by 9/28 noontime to AngelButterfly37@aol.com or (732) 764-9073.

E-mail Your Events to:
spobserver@comcast.net
Fax: 908-668-8819

Jersey Beer Fest

September 29

The Central Jersey Beer Fest will be held on Saturday, Sept. 29 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Parker Press Park in Woodbridge.

Tickets are \$20 for drinking adults and \$10 for non-drinkers. Admission includes a souvenir sampling glass and a day of tasting different varieties of brewery beer. Call (732) 634-2929 for more information.

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.

Single Professionals Game Night/Dinner

September 29

Single Professionals 20s/30s is holding a game night and dinner on Saturday, Sept. 29 at 6 p.m. at The Office Bar and Grill in Bound Brook. Cost is what you order, plus tax and tip. RSVP is required by September 28 noontime to MistyAngel22@aol.com or (732) 764-9073.

Landscape Painting Demonstration

September 29

A free outdoor landscape painting demonstration will be held on Saturday, Sept. 29 at The Arts Guild of Rahway, 1670 Irving St., Rahway from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Reservations required.

To reserve your space call (732) 381-7511 or E-mail us at artsguild1670@verizon.net.

Quilting Show

September 29 and 30

The Garden State Quilters Guild will hold a quilt show at the Westfield Armory in Westfield on Sept. 29 and 30.

WOW's Open Dance

September 30

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will hold an open dance on Sunday, Sept. 30 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at The Elks Hall in Woodbridge. Music by Jimmy Ray. Refreshments. Admission \$8 members, \$10 guests. All are welcome. For more information,

HOME TIP:

Remove valuables from view when preparing your home to sell. Buyers may be opening closets and drawers while looking at your property. My goal is to help you understand your options so you feel confident you're making the right move. Call me!

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Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor

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

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

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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.

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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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southplainfieldpeople Milestones

contact Phyllis at (732) 381-3255 or Lois at 908-757-0515.

NAMI-Middlesex

October 1

NAMI-Middlesex is holding a general membership meeting and speaker series on Monday, Oct. 1 at University Behavioral HealthCare, 671 Hoes Lane, Rm. D201/203 in Piscataway, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

For information, call (732) 985-3834 or E-mail philippa0@verizon.net.

Metuchen-Edison Women's Club

October 3

The Metuchen-Edison Women's Club will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 3 at 7:30 p.m. at The Heritage at Clara Barton in Edison. The program will feature "A Touch of Everything" presented by Shelley Mengo and Kris Higginson. The club will also have a booth at the Metuchen Fair, held on Oct. 6 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stop in and visit us. Guests are welcome and light refreshments will be served.

For additional information please contact Mary at (732) 494-5649.

First Annual Bob Ross Golf Classic

October 4

Hawk Pointe Golf Club is hosting the first annual Bob Ross Golf Classic on Thursday, Oct. 4 at Hawk Pointe Golf Club in Washington Township to benefit Warren County Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Crisis Center.

For sponsorship and registration information, visit www.hawkpointefoundation.org or call Kristen Pollock at (908) 689-1500.

Blessing of Animals

October 6

St. Francis Episcopal Church in Dunellen will hold the annual Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, Oct. 6 at 11 a.m. Meet on the church lawn, weather permitting, or in Milbank Hall if inclement weather. All caged or leashed pets are welcome!

Call the church at (732) 968-6781 for directions or information.

Cadwalader Heights's House Tour

October 6

Cadwalader Heights in Trenton will celebrate its 100 year anniversary by opening the doors to more than 20 homes on Saturday, Oct. 6 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Discounted advance tickets are \$20 and available online at www.cadwaladerheights.com. Group discounts available; day of tour tickets are \$25 and available at Ellarslie, the Museum of the City of Trenton. This event will benefit Habitat for Humanity of Trenton and is organized by the Cadwalader Heights Civic Assoc.

For more information, call Ann Christiano at (609) 647-3876.

Homecoming Weekend at Stockton

October 6-7

Richard Stockton College has announced an action-packed homecoming weekend for Saturday and Sunday, October 6-7. On Saturday, an alumni soccer game will take place along with many activities. Sunday includes a 5K run as well as a car show.

For more information, call Tara Septynski at (609) 626-3565 or log on to www.stockton.edu/alumni.



Sr. Nadine and Fr. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor of Sacred Heart Church.

Sr. Mary Nadine Boyle, RSM Honored for 50 Years of Service

Sr. Mary Nadine Boyle, RSM celebrated 50 years as a religious Sister of Mercy this past Sunday at a special Mass at the Parish of Sacred Heart Church.

Sr. Nadine renewed her vows before those assembled at the Mass, accompanied by family members, many whom she has worked with throughout her years as a nun, and 12 of her religious sisters who took their

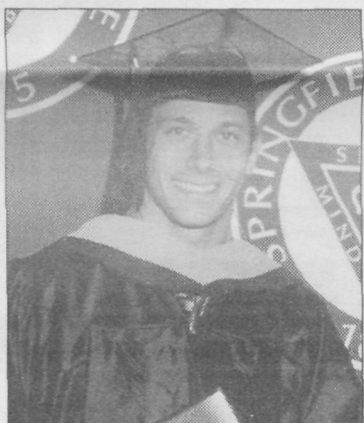
vows the same day.

Special music, an honor guard from the local Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart students serving as ushers and a reception following the Mass, all helped to convey the parish's gratitude and best wishes for Sr. Nadine for achieving this distinguished milestone.

Sr. Nadine is the principal at Sacred Heart School.

Congratulations, Sister Nadine!

Timothy Robert Goetz Earns Masters Degree from Springfield College



Timothy Robert Goetz

Timothy Robert Goetz graduated on May 13 from Springfield College, Springfield, Mass. Tim received a Masters of Education in athletic counseling. In 2004, he received his Bachelor

of Science in Psychology and a minor in rehabilitation and disabilities studies, also from Springfield College.

Throughout his four years at Springfield, Tim was a member of the college's men's gymnastics team. He is a 2004 National Vaulting Champion and five-time All-American. As a freshman he earned the Maroon Club Athlete and Rookie Athlete of the Week awards.

While in the graduate program, Tim was an assistant coach for the women's gymnastics team, where he received the 2005 ECAC Assistant Coach of the Year award.

Tim is a 2000 graduate of South Plainfield High School and attended Feigley's School of Gymnastics. He is the son of Linda and Larry Goetz of South Plainfield.

SCHOOL BOARD Notes

Grant Elementary School received a grant for an outside classroom.

The Building and Grounds Committee is looking at chimney repair proposals for six schools.

Eileen Kurtz was appointed as a part-time physical therapist

Marie Stemmle was appointed as a home speech therapist.

A Corrective Action Plan for the No Child Left Behind Title I Grant

Audit was approved.

Jose Negron was appointed to the temporary position of director of operations.

Interviews were held for the position of facilities director.

The board will be putting out a newsletter in October with a message from Dr. Robert Rosado, police information on absenteeism and tardiness and a profile of newly hired employees.

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Dr. DeCosta Celebrates Thirtieth Anniversary

Dr. Anthony J. DeCosta, located at 129 South Plainfield Ave., is pleased to announce the celebration of the start of his thirtieth year in practice.

Dr. DeCosta is a family chiropractor. He treats patients of all ages, from infants to the elderly. During his career, Dr. DeCosta has delivered over 250,000 spinal adjustments.

A biology graduate of Kean University of New Jersey where he was on the Dean's list, Dr. DeCosta graduated from the New York Chiropractic College where he received the B.J. Palmer Memorial Award. He is a Diplomate of the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners. He has been in practice since 1978.

Dr. DeCosta is a member of the International Chiropractors Association, the Association of New Jersey Chiro-

practors, and the Council of New Jersey Chiropractors. He is also a member of the International Chiropractic Pediatric Association and is certified in the Webster Technique. He is licensed to practice in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

Dr. DeCosta has been president and chairman of the board of the Garden State Chiropractic Society. He currently serves as an advisor to the Council of New Jersey Chiropractors and was the recipient of their Outstanding Service Award for 2000.

Dr. DeCosta is a Chiropractic author, lecturer and teacher. He is actively involved in educating the public about chiropractic.

You can reach Dr. DeCosta at (908) 755-1117 or visit his Web site at www.drdecosta.com.

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- Matt Pellowski, Senior Producer Red Line Studios

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This past spring Boy Scout Troop 309 participated in an Aviation Merit Badge. The scouts went to Sky Manor Airport in Pittstown and spent the day learning about aviation. The highlight of the day was when each scout got to take a flight in a Cessna airplane. They were also entered into the Young Eagle's association and received a certificate signed by Harrison Ford. Pictured (L-R): Kevin Belanger, Chris Markey, Brian McCarthy, Logan Green, Troy Kurilew, Brandon Pauls, Ray Coletta and Chris Duffy.

High School to Establish Swim Team

By Libby Barsky

South Plainfield High School is known for its award winning sports teams. Now the school will also offer swimming as a team sport.

At a meeting planned just after press-time this week students and their parents were scheduled to attend the inaugural meeting of the new swim team at South Plainfield High School to review procedures and learn the location of the eight meets scheduled for the team. Also to be discussed is how the team will be supported this year through fundraising efforts. The team will have to raise \$9,000 by November 1 to fund expenses. The Tiger Shark organization has pledged \$2,000 toward the team's goal accord-

ing to BOE member Debbie Boyle.

The ability to swim as a member of South Plainfield High School team is a goal many students and their parents have hoped to realize.

During the summer many local youth are members of the Tiger Shark Swim Team (the resident team of the South Plainfield Community Swimming Pool). They represent South Plainfield to compete against other area swim clubs where they show their ability and often win individual and team events.

Even without an official high school swim team, the experience of being a member of the Tiger Sharks has enabled members to compete and win against students throughout Middlesex County at the Greater Middlesex County Conference held at the end of the winter season.

The establishment of a school team will allow South Plainfield students to participate in all GMC swim events. A few years ago, four members of the South Plainfield relay team, made up of members of the Tiger Sharks, won the event. The GMC subsequently changed its rules, allowing only school teams to compete in relay events.

Competing in individual events last February, Emily Piekarski and Matt Moats received recognition for their

event at the GMC meet held at Princeton University.

The BOE recognized the accomplishments of seven students participating in February's GMC with certificates, and those swimmers were awarded SPHS athletic letters for the first time. The students train at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Edison with swim coach Laurie Post and members of the Tiger Sharks. Post continues coaching the swimmers as members of the Blue Dolphins for the JCC after the summer season.

The Tiger Sharks are known in the community and regularly have a float in the annual Labor Day parade. This year the Tiger Sharks Swim and Dive Team float, with a larger than life-sized shark, won the Honorary Grand Marshal Trophy for best overall entry presented by parade Grand Marshal Owen Kelly.

"Having an official swim team at the high school will keep our students in the district. Students have enrolled in private high schools so that they could continue swimming on a high school team," said Boyle.

A canning fundraiser is planned in the near future in front of the local stores.

To support the team's fundraising efforts, send a check with "SPHS Swim Team" written on it to: Boyle Memorial Foundation, 209 Van Fleet Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

Great news! Miss Linda and Miss Mija are starting their programs the first week in October. Beginning Tuesday, Oct. 2, storytime/craft time for three-year-olds and up will be on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 1:15 p.m. Time for 2's & 3's are Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and Books & Babies, a program for infants and toddlers, is held every Friday at 10:30 a.m. Programs run roughly one hour. Pre-registration is not required. Just show up on time and Miss Linda and Miss Mija will be here to introduce your child to stories, songs and crafts.

Furthermore, October is packed with other special events. We will again have pumpkin painting at the library on a Saturday (date to be announced). We will have a special children's program on Wednesday, Oct. 24 by Brian Eslick. Plus Alan Snyder, the antique appraiser, will be back on Sunday, Oct. 28 from 2 to 4 p.m. Again, we request that you only bring two items for him to appraise, and as usual, it will be first come, first served.

With fall here, the weather turning cool and the new season of television shows beginning, we have received the following on DVD: "Heroes"-the first season, "Bones"-season one and two, "Scrubs"-season one through five, "Nip/Tuck"-seasons one through four, the first seasons of "30 Rock," "Brothers and Sisters," "Ugly Betty," "Friday Night Lights," "Two and a Half Men"

and more. We have also received new movies, including "Premonition," "The Last Mimosas," "Perfect Stranger," with Bruce Willis and Halle Berry, "Vancancy," "Disturbia," "Blades of Glory" and more.

Please don't forget we are a library with books. We have the latest from Danielle Steel, James Patterson, Tess Gerritsen, John Grisham and the new non-fiction books by Bill Clinton and the one by Alan Greenspan, "The Age of Turbulence," which has caused such an uproar in the press. His reminiscences on Bush's tax cuts are similar to Paul Bremer's in his book, "My Year in Iraq," or George Tenet's, "My Year at the Center of the Storm." So we trust that we can meet most of your entertainment needs, be they print, audio or visual.

Finally, remember the South Plainfield Public Library is available 24/7 through our Web site (www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us). You can renew items, request items through interlibrary loan, put holds on materials we own, and access most of the subscription databases to which we subscribe that range from legal forms to car repair to genealogical to antique pricing databases. And you can still download audio books and videos as well as find similar items in your favorite genres.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the library at (908) 754-7885 and talk to one of our helpful staff members.

Student Writes Scotch Plains Music is Her Favorite Place

Caroline Ringel's third grade class was given an assignment to write about their favorite place in Scotch Plains, take a photo of themselves and tell why they like it. This is what Caroline wrote:

"The place I chose was the Scotch Plains Music Center. I take piano lessons there. They also give lessons in guitar, trumpet, sax, flute and many other instruments. You can buy music sets, books and pieces of your instruments. They have a grand piano in the front window. Every June they have a recital for the students who learn there. There are about a dozen



Third grader Caroline Ringel

teachers who teach there.

"The reason I picked this place is because I love to play the piano. The music center has great service and it is easy to get there from my home. We admire the people who work there."

Holiday Boutique Crafters Needed

Crafters are needed for a holiday boutique to be held on Saturday, Nov. 17 at Wesley Methodist Church. Boutique hours are 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Cost for an 8 ft. by 4.5 ft. space is \$20 if you supply table; \$25 if we supply it. Call Connie, (908) 755-3850, for registration form or information.

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The opinions expressed here are those of the organizations submitting the stories. They do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher, nor do we attest to their accuracy.

McConville and Rusnak Look to Revitalize Park Avenue Business District

Republican council candidates Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak are interested in developing a plan to help local business owners and attract new ones to the Park Avenue area.

McConville and Rusnak this week announced the fundamentals for a plan that would seek to revitalize a gateway to the borough as well as increase tax property tax receipts.

"It's happening slowly but surely" said McConville, a resident of nearby Eleanor Street. "With additional assistance, business and property owners can ensure that residents of the borough as well as the surrounding areas continue to patronize the many fine establishments along Park Avenue."

"During the hot months of summer, it's hard to imagine life without fine businesses such as Rita's Italian Ice," commented Rusnak. "It's also encouraging to see the work that's already been done to transform the area."

"I had real concerns when the Acme Markets closed several years ago," explained McConville. "Many of my neighbors also worried that the site would remain desolate for some time, so it was comforting to see Aldi's join the South Plainfield business community."

"I applaud Dunkin' Donuts efforts to improve both the look and functionality of their operation on Park Avenue," noted Rusnak. "It's unfortunate that the Board of Adjustments believes a drive-thru would be a burden to the residents of the borough." Rusnak was referring to comments made by Board of Adjustment Chair William Thomas who questioned the franchise owners request for a use variance during a recent board meeting. "We need to act in partnership with the business community," commented McConville. "When the best plans fail, most business owners will seek to remedy a situation for the benefit of their consumers and the community. For instance, McDonalds recently completely renovated their Oak Tree Avenue location largely due to the inefficient operation of

the traffic flow plan."

McConville and Rusnak believe there are several factors that will contribute to a successful business revitalization effort:

- Have the Economic Development Committee play a

more active role in planning and maintaining our business centers—The Borough Council's Economic Development Committee should not only meet to discuss land sale requests, they should play an active role in ensuring that the borough has the right mix of retail and commercial business.

- **Assist small business owners with obtaining the financing they require**—We've seen how the borough can assist our senior citizens utilize all of the programs and benefits they are entitled to under the leadership of Joann Graf," noted Rusnak. "Working in the banking industry, I know first hand that many small business owners are not aware of programs such as low interest business financing that can help them transform their business."

- **Enforce existing codes to ensure compliance with standards currently in effect**—Residents and business owners are expected to maintain their property. Failure to maintain these basic standards can have a negative impact, even on nearby businesses and residents.

- **Recognize business and property owners who make us proud to be South Plainfield residents**—Many business owners take great care and pride in maintaining their property. We need to ensure that we recognize their efforts through awards such as the "Glitter Bugs" as well as financially by patronizing these fine establishments.

Business, community and government partnership is just one element in the GOP plan for a better South Plainfield, according to McConville and Rusnak.

Cerami and Thomas are Proud of Dems' Record of Preserving Open Space

Council members Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas are committed to continue the Democrats Open Space Program in South Plainfield. Council member Kathy Thomas commented "As hard as it

is to believe, when the Republicans were in control of the borough council there was no open space plan in South Plainfield. By comparison, almost 200 acres have been permanently preserved from development under Democratic leadership. I ask everyone to drive around town and see the results. Our beautiful Putnam Park would now be a Walgreens Drug Store if we didn't have the foresight to acquire the houses on the corner of Park and Oak Tree avenues and stop the proposed development dead in its tracks. The open space piece next to the A&P Shopping Center was slated for a three building apartment complex. The property at the corner of Tompkins and Clinton was destined to be a condo complex. In each case the property acquisitions were financed through the county open space fund at no cost to our local taxpayers. This is just another example of how good things can be accomplished while still keeping property taxes under control."

Council President Dennis Cerami expanded upon his running mates comments, "As tremendous as our open space program has been, nothing can compare with what we have accomplished over the last 18 months. In that short

period of time we have added almost 100 acres to our open space inventory. The next time you drive down Oak Tree Avenue look at the large parcel next to Hall's Trucking. That was originally targeted for a 20-

unit condo development. When that proposal was turned down by our Board of Adjustment, the property was purchased by Hall's for future expansion of their trucking facility. Those seven acres will now be permanently preserved from development. Also take a drive down New Market Avenue and note that the former bus lot which was an eye sore has been demolished. Another bus company or other industrial use could have reopened there at any time. That will never happen because the borough had the foresight to acquire it. The open space grand prize for this year is the acquisition of almost 70 acres near Metuchen Road from Duke Energy. That parcel could have been developed as a large housing complex. Instead of traffic and additional school children, we will now be able to enjoy open space and beautiful wild life."

Kathy Thomas summed up the Democrats position saying "Dennis and I, along with Mayor Butrico and Council members Petronko and Scudato will always make open space a top priority in South Plainfield. A vote for the team of Cerami and Thomas is a vote for open space preservation"

Brenda Vallecilla, Esq.

Attorney at Law

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Sports

SOCCER

Submitted By Chris Paez

Arsenal Beats Aberdeen/Matawan

You couldn't have asked for a nicer day to watch the U-9 boys traveling soccer team take on the Sharks from Aberdeen. The boys started out full of energy and took a 3-0 lead by the end of the first quarter, with goals scored by Jared Marks and Jake Hoffman.

The second quarter was just as exciting. After giving up a goal to their opponents, Arsenal scored two more goals, taking a 5-1 lead. These goals were scored by Jake Giordano and

Ricky Pellegrino. The last goal of the game was scored again by Jake Hoffman.

The rest of the game was dominated by Arsenal, because their offensive and defensive players stayed on top of their game. These players were Tyler Curtis, Jake Smith, Nicholas Plate, Alec Paez, Nicholas Pezzolla, Samardhi Jeedigunta, Jason Cieszkiewicz and Jose Arrubla.

Come out and support the traveling soccer club.

Bullets Dominate Rockets

Another great game of soccer was played by the South Plainfield boys U-14 traveling team, the Rockets. They played strong and competitive by controlling the game and keeping the ball away from their opponent.

There were many shots on goal, which were either topped by the opposing goalie or forced into a different direction with the wind. The score was 1-0 at the end of the first half, with the lone goal being scored by Toni Franczak.

During the second half, the players kept the pressure on the opposition

and won the game by a score of 2-1. The last goal was scored by Jimmy Gerber.

Great goal tending was played by Joe Krawiec and David Forero. The offense and defense players consist of Shaun Alers, Anthony Quadrel, Marc Paez, Kevin Flanagan, Jelani, Prah, Edgar Callegas, Ryan Marcoux, Ryan Riccardi, Alex Valladares and Zach Noll.

The Bullets' next game is at the Kenneth Avenue soccer field on Sunday, Sept. 30 at 11 a.m. Come out and show your support.

Seven Move On in Elks Soccer Shoot

The South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298 hosted their annual Soccer Shoot for the youth of the community on August 25. Over 20 boys and girls participated. Winners from the soccer shoot will go on to compete at the District Soccer Shoot scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 13 at the South Plainfield Soccer Club field. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

The winners of the 2007 South Plainfield Elks Soccer Shoot are (7 and under) Allison Graves, Benjamin Sanko, (8-9) Sarah Walsh, (10-12 youth) Allison Tuyp, Kevin Shulea, (13-14) Marissa Smith and James Lee Gerber.

The Elks recognize that the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. Young people are subjected to a variety of influences—some of which are negative. One of the most important contributions the Elks make is to provide positive experiences for our youth.

The Youth Activities Committee promotes numerous programs. Some of these include scholarships for graduating high school seniors, Legacy Award scholarships for children/grandchildren of Elks members, the Antlers Program (Junior Elks), Boy and Girl Scouting, Hoop Shoot Free



The Elks Lodge hosted their annual Soccer Shoot.

Throw Competition, National Youth Week, Peer Leadership Conferences and the Soccer Shoot program. To date, the Elks are the largest supplier of United States scholarships in the country. We are dedicated to the youth of today—our future leaders of tomorrow!

If you are interested in becoming involved with our organization, please contact us at (908) 668-9750. Become involved and help to continue our legacy of Elks care—Elks share.

—Submitted by Exalted Ruler, Debra Czech

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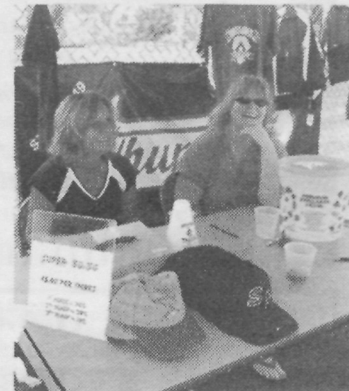
Junior Baseball Club Celebrates Successful Season

By Jane Dornick

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club held its annual picnic with lots of food and fun at the club earlier this month. Parent volunteers made the day special cooking hamburgers and hot dogs or serving ice cream and drinks at the snack stand.

Players entertained themselves with games of baseball and football. The woman's auxiliary organized egg and water balloon toss games and a whiffle ball game. The club raised \$1,200 when it pulled a lucky super 50/50 raffle winner.

Registration for the 2008 season is currently underway.



For more information, call the club at (908) 754-2090 or log on to their Web site at www.league lineup.com/spjbc.

By Gary Lampasona

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

Fall Baseball: Fall baseball is underway with rousing success so far. All team rosters are full and the "summerlike" weather has provided a great backdrop for fun and competitive baseball.

Thanks to all those that have volunteered their time and hard work to make it happen. Please keep up the good work for field duty and snack stand. It doesn't happen without you.

Registration: We have scheduled our first registration for next year's Spring season. Visit the clubhouse on Friday, Oct. 19, from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 20, from 9 a.m. to 3

p.m.
It's important that you register early so we can plan for the season's activities. Sign up to manage, coach, umpire or be part of a committee at that time, too. Visit our Web site at www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc for more details.

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Sports



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Eagles Season Opener a Huge Success

The South Plainfield Eagles Football and Cheer held the season's first two home games on Sept. 9 at the Eagles field located on Kenneth Avenue.

On Sept. 23 the Eagles played against the Bridgewater Panthers. The Pee Wee boys were triumphant, winning 26-6. Joey Pellegrino was on fire, with over 80 yards resulting in two touchdowns. A nice halfback pass from Pellegrino to Anthony Ashnault resulted in a touchdown by Pellegrino. Joe Jakubik had great defensive effort with an interception. Scott Whalen also had a great day with a fake punt, which resulted in the third touchdown of the day for the Eagles. Whalen also kicked the extra point. James Agee had a good defensive tackle on the backfield which resulted in a loss. The Pee Wee team has a record of three wins and one loss for the season.

It was a disappointing day for the Junior Pee Wee boys, who were unsuccessful against Bridgewater, losing 21-0. This was despite a great attempt by Chris Graves, who stripped the ball from an opponent forcing a turnover for the Eagles. Another great play was a nice kick return by Kyle Dickerson which gained the team 45 yards. The Junior Pee Wee team has a record of two wins and two losses so far for this season.

The Mitey Mite football team defeated Bridgewater 18-14 in a close, exciting game. Kevin Jacobs had a 30 yard, a 45 yard and a 26 yard run for the teams three touchdowns. Also adding to the day's offensive yardage were Zachary Severini and Brian Scipio. Danny Hedden put in good quarterbacking effort helping out the offense.

Our Flag football team, comprised of five to seven year olds also played, but since this team is considered instructional, no scores were kept. The team looked impressive as they displayed their growing knowledge of the game.

The cheerleading squads all did a great job rallying the fans and keeping the players motivated. All five cheer squads looked awesome during their half-time routines, which are a combination of cheer, dance and gymnastics.

The Junior Midget Cheer squad are



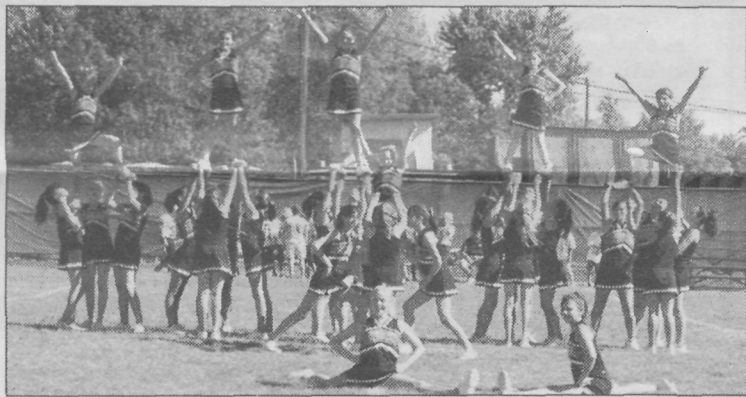
two-time state champions performing at the intermediate level. Their half-time routine includes high-level lifts, stunting and back handsprings performed to a mix of 80's rock, such as Bon Jovi and Quiet Riot.

The Pee Wee Cheer squad performed to a mix of music from Aerosmith, Cyndi Lauper, Twisted Sister and Christina Aguilera. Their performance includes "show and go's," pyramids and tumbling.

The Junior Pee Wee Cheer squad also gave an excellent half-time routine. Performed to a mix of music including artists Guns'n Roses, AC/DC and Madonna, their routine includes stunting, lifts, rolls and splits.

The Mighty Mite cheer squad performed to a mix of music, including Smokey Robinson, Duran Duran and Aretha Franklin. These girls had some very impressive moves and stunts for

(Continued on page 12)



Prayer of the Blessed Virgin

(never known to fail)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that you can withstand your power. O, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine.

Prayer must be said for three consecutive days. When request is granted, this prayer should be published. Thank you Blessed Mother.

- MM -

Obituaries

John F. Olimpio, Sr., 82

John F. Olimpio Sr. died on Saturday, Sept. 1 at home in Cranford.

Born in Elizabeth, John was raised in South Amboy and lived in South Plainfield for 45 years before moving to Cranford three years ago.

Mr. Olimpio worked as a dispatch supervisor with PSE&G in Plainfield for 25 years. He served with the U.S. Marine Corps during WWII, earning the rank of corporal before his honorable discharge in 1946.

An avid coin collector, John enjoyed gardening, working with model cars, and he loved the N.Y. Yankees.

He was a former member of the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 and a former member of Sacred Heart RC Church, also in South Plainfield.

Mr. Olimpio is pre-deceased by his wife, Marie, a sister and three brothers.

Surviving are his three children, Anna Maria Maucione and her husband Charles of Cranford, Nancy Wike of Forest Hill, Md. and by John E Jr. of Washington, N.J. Also surviving are four grandchildren, Nicole Marie and Billy Wike and Katie and Carly Maucione.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in John's name to the Atlantic Hospice, C/O Overlook Hospital, 99 Beauvoir Ave., Summit, N.J. 07902.

Margaret A. Klausman, 76

Margaret A. Klausman passed away on Monday, Sept. 12 at West Virginia University Hospital in Morgantown, W. Va.

Mrs. Klausman was born in Scotch Plains and resided in Edison and South Plainfield until recently moving to Morgantown.

Margaret was predeceased by her husband of 24 years, J. Glenn Klausman; a granddaughter, Layne Baniowski and a sister, Clara Bray.

She is survived by four daughters,

Jayne Knutsen, Bonnie Klausman, Glendora Orlowicz and Karen Klausman; a brother, Arthur N. Apgar; a sister, Evelyn Bergen; five grandchildren, Eric Knutsen, Leigh DeYoung, Christian Knutsen, Peter Orlowicz and Noelle Baniowski and two great-grandchildren, Abigail DeYoung and Steven DeYoung.

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

In lieu of flowers the family kindly requests that memorial contributions be made in Mrs. Klausman's name to The Ronald McDonald Charities, One Kroc Drive, Oak Brook, Ill. 60523.

Louis R. Cerillo, 79

Louis R. Cerillo of Plantation, Fla., formerly of South Plainfield, passed away on Thursday, Sept. 13 in Florida.

Lou was known in South Plainfield for his stockcar racing. He was the owner of service stations on the corner of New Market and Hamilton Boulevard and Stelton Road.

He was a veteran of the United States Navy.

Lou was preceded in death by a son, Richard "Ricky" Cerillo, in 1980.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Loraine; a daughter, Lori of Sunrise, Fla.; a son, Michael of Plantation; five grandchildren, Jessica and Samantha Mundy of Sunrise, Michael and Anthony Cerillo of Plantation and Quinn Falsano of Edison; a great-grandchild, Kassandra Falsano of Edison and a sister, Patricia Sraga of Severn, Md. Also surviving are numerous neeces and nephews. He will be sadly missed by all his friends and loved ones.

Arlene Pope, 52

Arlene Pope died on Sunday, Sept. 16 in Virginia.

Born in New Brunswick, Arlene resided in Milltown for many years before moving to Christiansburg, Va. 17 years ago.

She enjoyed photography, arts and crafts and spending time at home.

Arlene is survived by a daughter, Jessica Bellino and husband Jason of Fort Mill, S.C.; her mother, Gloria Dreher of Spotswood; her former husband, Mark Pope of Tennessee and by a dear uncle, John Freiss of Spotswood.

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

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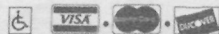
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Sacred Heart School teacher Linda Goetz and fifth grade students enjoy a visit with Cpl. Jasen Ortiz, former student at the school. Jasen is awaiting re-deployment back to Iraq.

policereport

- On Sept. 18, Aqua Health System on South Clinton Avenue reported that a golf ball had damaged a window on the side of their building.
- A Hill Hollow Road resident reported the theft of a 2007 Suzuki motorcycle from where it was parked on Hamilton Boulevard.
- On Sept. 20, John Jeglinski, 49, of South Plainfield was arrested for

- driving while intoxicated, careless driving, open bottle of alcohol and reckless driving.
- A Geary Drive resident reported that the bottom portion of their aluminum storm door had been dented.
- On Sept. 22, a Franklin Avenue resident reported that their aluminum screen door had been kicked.

IN MY OPINION

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

(Continued from page 2)

on children's health by putting together an innovative smoke-free parks program. It passed unanimously.

Matt and I have also worked with Congressman Mike Ferguson, who recently announced a \$100,000 grant that will buy turnout gear for our fire department and a first-of-its-kind communications grant for our police department.

Last year Republicans proposed rejuvenating playgrounds at Walnut Street Park, Cotton Street Park and Shadyside Park. Apparently these weren't bad ideas either, because the council approved two of the three not long after we suggested them. All these things were done with a Republican minority.

But it gets better. We've also proposed ideas for controlling costs. Things like getting competitive quotes for contracts and making our staffing more efficient will provide true tax relief.

We also envision a more family-friendly South Plainfield. For example, we suggested making the compactor and compost areas more convenient by offering better hours. Kathy Tho-

mas opposes this. Apparently she doesn't understand the obstacles working parents face trying to fit everything into a weekend. Why not offer families options?

A better lifestyle for residents is also the goal behind our proposal to add a jogging/fitness trail to the Tompkins Avenue open-space preserve and to add two dog parks.

These are not new proposals. The Democrats know about them but would rather go back to their old standby line about the GOP having no "positive" ideas. In reality, it is Republicans who have a plan for a better South Plainfield. That's why we need Ray Rusnak and Tim McConville on the council.

COUNCILMAN ROB BENGIVENGA

Dear Editor,

As the recently deceased New York Yankee shortstop Phil Rizzuto used to say, "holy cow!" I could not believe my ears when I heard that under the leadership of Councilwoman Kathy Thomas, South Plainfield was going to have its first ever tax decrease. In today's day and age, when other town's budgets are skyrocketing, it's

great to see leaders who aren't afraid to run government like they do their own homes and not on the backs of the taxpayers. Obviously, Kathy and the Democratic majority on the borough council really do care about the hard working families in our borough.

I urge all voters to support the tax-cutting team of Councilwoman Kathy Thomas and Council President Dennis Cerami. If there are two people who deserve to be reelected, they are Kathy and Dennis. I will be voting for the team of Cerami and Thomas, please do the same.

**SINCERELY,
MARY LESO**

To the Editor:

A good thing happened today at Aristacare at Cedar Oaks. Morris Wies, administrator of the facility, was pleased to write a check payable to Feed The Children, going to feed hungry children in Appalachia. Checks can be sent to Feed The Children, Box 36, Oklahoma City, OK. Due to the kindness and generosity of residents, staff and friends of Aristacare, this was possible.

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Local Business, Residents Tapped for Independent Film

(Continued from page 1)
legrino is the owner of Adelines Restaurant.

"It's just ironic; everything about this production so far has been really strange," Pellowski said. The house in Scotch Plains where a lot of the filming has taken place is owned by a woman Pellowski met years ago while producing a travel series on DVD. The house was perfect, Pellowski said, except for the bedroom floor. They needed a carpeted room and there was no carpet. "Our production designer, Nancy Alexander, called My Way Carpet on Hamilton Boulevard because we like to do things locally. And when Sam, The Carpet Man walked in, I realized I knew him from years ago also," he laughed. "We need another house location to shoot at, so we may film at Sam's house."

Several years ago, Red Line Studios co-produced fundraising films for both JFK Hospital in Edison and Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield. "This area is a great place for film production," states Pellowski. "It is filled with accommodating people, businesses and beautiful locations."

Among the many South Plainfield residents hired to work on the film is Kristen Salvatore, whose mother, Sally,

Tax Rate Cut

(Continued from page 1)
only 3.5% over the past five years. I do not know of any other organization that can make such a claim."

Cullen continued, "The other driver in the budget was an increase in municipal miscellaneous revenues. These items consisted of unspent health insurance costs reserved from the last fiscal year and the sale of certain municipal assets." These items combined increased miscellaneous revenues to \$508,729. There was also an increase in overall surplus used in the budget by \$261,000 due to a large delinquent lien that was paid in the prior year. The decrease in property tax means the borough is not eligible for Extraordinary Aid from the state, which last year totaled \$150,000 last year.

The chart below shows the fiscal year tax rate compared to the calendar year.

Year	Fiscal	Calendar
2003	.861	.861
2004	.861	.861
2005	.861	.909
2006	.941	.903
2007	1.002	.890
2008	.990	N/A

This years total tax bill also included an increase in the 2007/2008 school budget of approximately \$212.16 on a home assessed at \$120,700.

The municipal budget is currently being reviewed by the State for final approval before the council can formally adopt it.

Ferguson Bid

(Continued from page 1)
gressmen Mike Ferguson's efforts on our behalf," Buttrico said. "It's important that our law enforcement men and women have the necessary resources they need to keep our citizens safe and carry out their important jobs."

South Plainfield Councilman Rob Bengivenga thanked Ferguson for advocating for federal funding for the borough's first responders. "Earlier this year Councilman Anesh and I asked Congressman Ferguson to help, and he delivered," Bengivenga said. "With our local budget already stretched thin, this additional help couldn't have come at a better time."

The South Plainfield funding was included in the annual appropriations bill for the Justice Department and other Federal agencies. The House bill must still be reconciled with the Senate's version of the legislation before a final measure—not expected before this fall—could be sent to the White House.

is a waitress at Adelines. "This experience has really been eye-opening for me. I love being on the movie set," Kristen said after returning from a trip to the Metro Park train station where she picked up the lead actors. A junior at Rider University, Kristen is studying communications/TV and radio track as well as film and media. She was hired as a production assistant (PA), doing everything from buying wine glasses at Target for prop manager Kate Barton, to changing the number on the "clapper" between takes. "I am really grateful for the experience and I've really enjoyed working behind the scenes."

Another South Plainfield resident hired as a PA was Grace Subervi, a professional photographer who also acts and directs at The Cabaret Theatre at Rutgers University. During pre-production location scouting, the producers approached her in the parking lot of Sherban's after overhearing a conversation she was having with a friend about filmmaking.

Brandon Kay, a student at Union County College in Cranford and a waiter at Adelines, plans to transfer to NYU film school and pursue a career in filmmaking. "This is a dream come true. I was able to go out and get coffee and donuts for Billy this morning, which was the best errand I've ever

had to run in my life!" he said. "It is all very exciting."

South Plainfield resident and first-time extra Maggie Temple, a recreation therapist at RWJ University Hospital, and Holly Cordoma, a legal secretary who was also an extra on the movie "Gracie" partially filmed here last year, were both contacted by Mulligan after responding to an ad on Craigslist. Lisa Austin was searching the Internet for part-time work having previous experience doing background work in films. She was also contacted by the produc-

ers and hired as an extra for the "bar scene." Sonja Barnes, desktop publisher and resident of Piscataway, and her sister Erika Braxton, who works for a pharmaceutical company, also spent their Sunday anxiously awaiting the director's call for "action!"

James Shafie, first year student at the NY Film Academy and the son of Adelines Chef Nouri, was also hired as a PA. "There are many local people we have met who have worked on this film that we definitely plan on rehiring for future work and mak-

ing a part of our regular crew if they are interested," Pellowski said.

The production van that pulled into Adelines parking lot around noontime on Sunday had packed up and left by 3 a.m. Monday morning, but the experience for the South Plainfield residents and film career hopefuls who worked on this film will certainly last a lifetime.

Next week: Jake Cashill, writer/director of "Rachel Marks," comments on his original screenplay, plus more on Red Line Studios.

Sports Eagles Season Opener a Huge Success



New Image Landscaping donated a digital scale to the Eagles.

(Continued from page 9)
and prep-level stunts and backwalkovers. We expect to see a lot from this squad as they move up.

The Flag cheer squad performed to

music by Black Eyed Peas and Rhianna. Although too young for lifts of any kind, the girls displayed a bouncy mix of cheer moves using their pom-poms, and their routine includes cartwheels, rolls and back walkovers.

The South Plainfield Pop Warner Football and Cheer program is comprised of over 250 boys and girls, ages 5-13. These athletes practice several nights a week in order to perfect their plays and half-time shows. The athletes are backed by a dedicated group of hard-working parents who work long hours to keep the fields, fieldhouse and snackstand in great shape. Thanks to all the parents and

coaches who volunteer their time to keep the organization running.

The Eagles would also like to thank New Image Landscaping for their donation of our new digital scale, as well as a generous donation towards the end of the year party. Thank you New Image Landscaping!

Our next home games are Oct. 6 and 14 at the Eagles Field on Kenneth Avenue. Come on down and watch some great football by South Plainfield's up and coming football stars. And make sure you stay for the half-time shows to see some truly impressive cheer routines. Go Eagles!

Submitted by Terry Housel

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