

South Plainfield Observer

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October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By Jane Dornick

Each year, approximately 1,400 women die as a result of domestic violence. Ninety-two percent of domestic violence victims are women. In a 1998 Uniform Crime Report, N.J. police reported 81,454 cases of domestic violence. Sixty-two people were murdered and children were present or involved in 36 percent of these incidents. All over the country, battered victims' advocates, government officials, corporations, unions, health care providers, and faith-based groups participate in activities and events during the month of October to raise national consciousness about domestic violence.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the first Day of Unity observed in October, 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV). The intent was to connect battered women's advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against

women and their children. The Day of Unity soon became a special week when a range of activities were conducted at the local, state, and national levels. These activities were as varied and diverse as the program sponsors, but had common themes: mourning those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived and connecting those who work to end violence.

In October of 1987 the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. That same year the first national toll-free hotline was begun. In 1989 the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month Commemorative Legislation was passed by the U.S. Congress. Every October since then, the issue of domestic violence has been highlighted in local and national venues all over the country.

In October of 1994 NCADV, in conjunction with Ms. Magazine, created the "Remember My Name" project, a national registry to increase public

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In conjunction with Domestic Violence Awareness Month, educators and organizers of the South Plainfield Educational Outreach Program Sandy Severini (left) and Marge Ackerman (right), tie purple ribbons on trees from Borough Hall to the middle school. Also pictured are Police Chief John Ferraro and program liaison, Capt. Paul Brembt.

Borough Officer Charged With Eluding Police

The *Observer* learned last Wednesday that the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office had charged a borough police officer with eluding police in an August car chase. The *Observer* was aware of the incident and was awaiting confirmation when the story broke.

Officer Christopher Cochran, 34, of Piscataway waived indictment and pleaded not guilty to the third-degree charge before Judge Frederick DeVesa. If convicted, he could face up to five years in prison.

The chase was brought to prosecutors' attention by South Plainfield Police Chief Ferraro immediately after he was made aware of the incident. Ferraro

said when a crime is committed by a police officer, the incident must be investigated by the prosecutor's office.

According to Middlesex County Prosecutor Ronald Abramowitz, Officer Cochran was traveling north on Durham Avenue in a BMW sedan at 4 a.m. on August 17. As Officer Cochran neared the intersection of Hamilton Boulevard, he crossed the center line and swerved toward an oncoming patrol car traveling from the opposite direction. The patrol car accelerated to avoid the BMW and the pursuit, which involved four police cruisers, was underway.

Officer Cochran led the cruisers to the P.A.L. building parking lot on Maple

Avenue where he stopped. According to Chief Ferraro, Officer Cochran rolled down his window and police officers were able to identify him before he sped off again.

An internal affairs investigation is underway to find out why police failed to arrest Officer Cochran, according to Chief Ferraro. The investigation will deal with why Officer Cochran was not arrested as a civilian would have been. Because the police did not chase him after he sped off, there was no breath-test taken to determine whether or not Cochran was intoxicated.

Chief Ferraro did not name the other officers involved, citing privacy in personnel matters. He added that the Attorney General's guidelines call for breaking off pursuits when a suspect has been identified.

"We must adhere to strict Attorney General guidelines when conducting internal affairs investigations. If a case is under investigation by the prosecutor's office, we must wait until their investigation is complete before we conduct any additional investigations. We are not permitted to release information on a case that is under investigation by the prosecutor's office. At this point the investigation has been turned over to the police department's internal affairs lieutenant for further investigation. This is now a personnel issue which will be investigated thoroughly and dealt with appropriately," explained Ferraro.

According to Prosecutor Abramowitz, Officer Cochran intends to apply for pre-trial intervention. The probation-like program allows those accused of crimes to eventually erase their criminal records if they successfully complete the program's conditions.

Officer Cochran was suspended from his \$75,957-a-year job with pay shortly after the August incident. Now that he is charged, he will remain suspended without pay.

UNICO Celebrates Columbus Day With Annual Ceremony

The Plainfields' Chapter UNICO will hold its annual Columbus Day ceremony on Monday, Oct. 8, Columbus Day, in Borough Hall at 9 a.m. Residents are welcome to join us in remembering the discovery of America. The event will start with a flag salute and playing of the "The Star-Spangled Banner" by the SPHS band. It will continue with comments from visiting dignitaries and honored guests and will conclude with a wreath ceremony, raising of the Italian Flag and the playing of "God Bless America." Guests are invited to stay for refreshments and coffee immediately following the ceremony.



For more information, contact Robert Bengivenga, Jr., chairman of the event, at (908) 966-1491 or E-mail RobBengivenga@yahoo.com.

Old Timers Club Hosting Annual Run For Children



Mini chopper to be raffled.

The Old Timers Motorcycle Club hopes to raise \$30,000 through donations, sponsors and riders' contributions for Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc. during the Second Annual Run for the Children Battling Cancer on Sunday, Oct. 7 (raindate: Sunday, Oct. 14), according to Rich D'Urso, one of the club's founding members.

The run will be led by the South Plainfield Police Department and the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department. Approximately 1,000 riders are expected to participate from New

Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

The riders will depart from the PAL parking lot on Maple Avenue around 11:15 a.m. for a 55-mile round trip ride from South Plainfield to Peapack-Gladstone before returning to the PAL at 1 p.m. As the motorcycles return, the Old Timers have coordinated the day's events, including a "family" picnic.

The band, Mirage, will provide music. The Old Timers are also raffling off a mini chopper this year and you need not be present to win. Raffle tickets are \$5 per chance and can be purchased at the Corner Deli on Hamilton Boulevard or at Century 21 Moretti Realty on Maple Avenue, where the mini chopper is on display.

For information or for sponsorship opportunities, contact Rich D'Urso at www.offthebear@aol.com or Guy Moretti at (908) 755-5300.



Michele Both, South Plainfield resident who established the local Buddy Walk, with children Kyle and Patrick, invite those who would like to participate in this year's walk to benefit children with Down Syndrome, to join them this Saturday, Oct. 6. Registration starts at 11:30. Walk starts at 1 p.m. at Putnam Park.

INMYOPINION

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

Dear Editor,

As a 22 year-old Asian-American female native to South Plainfield, I sometimes wonder if our town is sensitive to the social and cultural needs of the growing diverse population. Although our residents welcome every ethnicity into our borders, I fear that we lack the unity and cultural understanding that is necessary for our community to thrive together.

It seems as though the adolescents of our community are more aware of South Plainfield's diversity than many of the adults. For example, for many years, South Plainfield High School has celebrated our community's richness through their Day for Cultural Diversity. Yet many adults are still segregated, unable to find a common bridge between their own cultures and those of their immigrant neighbors.

To address this issue, a small assorted group of residents have come together to form The South Plainfield Coalition for Cultural Diversity. Our aim is to create awareness and appreciation for all ethnicities as well as encourage and support all residents to become involved in South Plainfield. Overall, I believe that this multi-cultural group can create bridges and build a more culturally aware community for our adults and children.

The coalition welcomes all interested residents, and can be contacted by asking Brough Hall for more information.

NICOLE WOO

Dear Editor:

Two weeks ago a reader wrote a letter to the paper asking the Democrats to explain their "tax cut" advertising campaign. She asked the amount of the so-called tax cut, whether it was bigger or smaller than the tax hike in January, and why we were promised "no tax increase" last October, only to have them go up in January.

Neither Dennis Cerami nor Kathy Thomas cared to respond to this resident, so I thought I would.

After promising "no tax increase" during last year's election, the Democrats raised taxes for the average taxpayer by nearly \$90 in January. They voted to do this in December, less than two months after making their pledge. Councilman Bengivenga and I voted against this tax increase.

After raising taxes \$90 in January, Cerami and Thomas are now trying to say they are giving residents a "tax cut" because they are lowering that increase by \$14.50. This is not a real tax cut, but rather, an election-year ploy.

What happened is straightforward. The Democrats raised taxes in January so they could lower them in August and tell people they "cut" taxes. It's like the store that raises prices right before a "sale."

South Plainfield needs honest answers on taxes, not advertising gimmicks that wouldn't even pass muster in the sale of used cars. Isn't it time we held election campaigns to a higher standard?

COUNCILMAN MATT ANESH

Dear Editor,

The most important investment people make is their home. They pour their blood, sweat and tears into it, and they hope they can enjoy it, along with a peaceful quality of life.

Unfortunately, people who live along Fairmount Avenue don't enjoy the quality of life most people have in town. Cars race down our road. We wake up to find beer bottles on our lawns. We have to deal with noise and drugs, and we even look out our doors to find people urinating on our lawns, all because Sal's bar is nearby.

When my husband tried to put a stop to these problems by petitioning the council, one would think they would come to our aid. But no, after my husband attended council meetings for months, Dennis Cerami and Ray Petronko attacked him rather than the problem. In fact, it took the ABC coming to town to show he was right.

I have to live on Fairmount Avenue, Mr. Cerami. Maybe you don't care about the quality of life on Fairmount Avenue, but my neighbors and I do. You were happy to spend millions to take truck traffic away from your neighborhood, but you apparently couldn't care less about mine.

And Mr. Petronko, you start your letter by saying you "don't slander people," "don't try to win the elections by making things up" and don't "throw mud." Yet that's exactly what you did in your letter, all so you could try to score political points for Cerami's council campaign.

I want to set the record straight on your allegation that my husband took a "cheap shot" at our police. Asking for help is not a "cheap shot." The police chief suggested that we have the neighbors sign a petition. So we did.

My husband is a retired police officer and respects the officers who serve this town more than you will ever know, Mr. Cerami. Your attempt to drive a wedge between him and his former colleagues by grandstanding and orchestrating a political stunt is despicable.

Jake Cataldo is a lifelong resident and served this town as a public servant and volunteer for more years than you are alive, Mr. Petronko. He's worked with little league, the fire department, Pop Warner and the recreation commission. For you to trash him just because he is trying to protect me and our neighbors is a new low for you and your party.

P.S. My husband has been bringing our concerns to the council for 10 months. Where were you walking the neighborhood before election time, Mr. Cerami?

LOIS CATALDO

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to inform all the residents of South Plainfield that I will be supporting the Democratic team for Borough Council, Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas. Let me tell everyone why.

Under the leadership of Dennis and Kathy, South Plainfield experienced a first—a tax decrease! That has never happened before in South Plainfield and probably hasn't happened anywhere in the state. Dennis, who spearheads the Public Safety Department, has worked hard to keep our Borough safe and secure. Kathy, who chairs the finance committee, has done a herculean job of watching the taxpayers pocket books and in today's economy of increasing costs, deserve major credit for crafting a budget that has yielded a tax decrease.

As everyone knows, in today's society, the safety of our borough and keeping it affordable are the two major tasks and I'm certainly glad we have two of the best leaders to oversee those areas. Let's make sure that we still have Dennis and Kathy leading this Bor-

ough into the next decade.

Please vote for the Democratic team of Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 6. We need and deserve to have the best and Dennis and Kathy are the best candidates for borough council.

MARY BETH NAGY

To the Editor:

As a citizen of South Plainfield for 23 years and a police officer in the borough for 19 years I have developed strong opinions on many topics. I am in a unique position, having interests in town as a citizen and as a police officer. I can no longer remain silent and I must respond to the letter to the editor published in the August 31 issue of the *Observer*, authored by Councilman Scudato. This letter is not intended to be political in nature, as I am disappointed with both political parties with respect to this issue.

The topic of this letter is the truck route that now exists in South Plainfield. I have a unique perspective of this issue. One perspective is as a homeowner, whose backyard borders Belmont Avenue and one as a police officer supervising the traffic safety unit. The new truck route prohibits trucks over four tons on sections of Hamilton Boulevard and Belmont Avenue. As a homeowner, it is a pleasure to sit on my deck and not have 1,300 trucks a day travel down Belmont Avenue. However, as a police officer, I am forced to deal with a truck route that is poorly designed and unsafe.

I will attempt to refrain from bringing politics into this discussion; however, politics has played an integral part in the establishment of the truck route. I wish to bring forward the facts behind the truck route and seek to bring common sense to this discussion.

My underlying premise is: The borough desperately needs a truck route to take trucks from Rt. 287 to Metuchen Road; however, this truck route is not an appropriate one.

The facts are as follows: No matter what improvements are made along the new truck route (i.e., New Market Avenue extension, South Clinton/New Market Avenue curb relocation), it is a fatally flawed truck route that will always place the citizens of South Plainfield at risk. A truck route should be the shortest distance from Rt. 287 to the industrial area of Metuchen Road. The "old" route had trucks traveling one mile from Rt. 287 to Metuchen Road. The "new" truck route forces trucks to travel 3.5 miles through the borough, on roads that were not designed to accommodate neither the size nor volume of these trucks. As each truck is required to travel more vehicle miles on our roads, the likelihood of being involved in a crash is greatly increased. Another fundamental flaw in the new design is the fact that as trucks travel north on Durham Avenue and then Hamilton

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.

Boulevard, they are forced to travel in the left lane. This is contrary to state law, which requires all vehicles to stay to the right. This causes congestion at the intersections in this area and confusion between the motorists.

The rationale for establishing this truck route and banning trucks from Hamilton Boulevard, a county road, still remains a mystery to me. The borough and Middlesex County spent over \$7M to rebuild Hamilton Boulevard (Phase 1). After the completion of Phase 1, a weight restriction was placed on Hamilton Boulevard and Belmont Avenue. While a weight restriction on Belmont Avenue can be supported, a weight restriction on a county road, which by design is supposed to be used as a truck route, can not be supported. Hamilton Boulevard is now one of two Middlesex County roads with a weight restriction. The other county road has a restriction due to a bridge which cannot support truck traffic.

Establishing the weight restriction and the adoption of the truck route was accomplished by political influence at both the county and state level. The truck route was established during the reconstruction of Hamilton Boulevard as a temporary means to route the trucks from the construction zones. It then became a campaign issue when proposed as a permanent solution. While the traffic safety unit was consulted during the planning of the construction detour, the unit was not consulted when the truck route was proposed during the 2006 campaign. The plans for this route were submitted to the NJDOT. An investigator from NJDOT authored a report on November 8, 2006 stating the requested weight restrictions on Hamilton Boulevard and Belmont Avenue could be granted. However, the investigator stated the proposed truck route is unsafe and should not be approved. On November 9, 2006, contrary to what the DOT investigator recommends, Commissioner Kolluri approved the truck route. The approval appears to be contingent on the borough making various improvements to the truck route. The improvements were detailed to the NJDOT by borough politicians and engineers in a meeting in Trenton just before election day. The improvements are still not defined clearly in docu-

(Continued on page 9)



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*.

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(908) 668-0010
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NANCY GRENNIER
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief
Web page:
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WAYNE GRENNIER
Associate Publisher
SUSAN KANEPS
Art Director/Associate Editor

PATRICIA ABBOTT
Staff Writer/Photographer

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Staff Writer

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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

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PROCEEDS FROM OCT 6 & OCT 13 DANCES TO BENEFIT PROPOSED FORMATION OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD VARSITY SWIM TEAM

HIGH SCHOOL DANCE - \$15
Saturday, October 13 - 8:00PM - 11:00 PM

And....Don't Forget our October 27...Intermediate & Middle School



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PRIZES AWARDED FOR BEST COSTUMES....JOIN THE FUN!!

Don't Forget...\$10 - FANTASTIC FRIDAYS...Every Friday 6:00 - 10:00 PM

Animal Hospitals Merge

After nearly a year of planning, Dr. Scott Linick, owner of Plainfield Animal Hospital, and Dr. Kurt Blaicher, owner of the Animal Medical Group of Plainfield, have announced the merger of their practices effective October 8. Essentially, the Animal Medical Group office at 947 Prospect Ave. in Plainfield will close. Dr. Blaicher, along with Dr. Al Latschar, their receptionists Bonnie and Sheila and technician Kelly, will immediately resume practicing veterinary medicine and surgery at Plainfield Animal Hospital located at 2215 Park Ave., just 1.5 miles from the Animal Medical Group's present location.

"We are extremely energized and excited about the prospect of caring for your beloved pets, with a combined staff of unparalleled professionals, in a beautiful, new, award-winning facility built by Dr. Scott Linick. It is our belief that this merger will create a general practice that will raise the already lofty bar of veterinary care in New Jersey. Rest assured, we are trying to anticipate any and all logistic headaches a move of this proportion inherently creates for our clients, and are striving to seamlessly continue the exceptional care you and your pets deserve," said Dr. Blaicher.

The present phone number at the Animal Medical Group, (908) 756-1488, will be operational after the move. The Plainfield Animal Hospital number is (908) 755-2428.

Check out Plainfield Animal Hospital's Web site, www.plainfieldanimalhospital.com.

Glitterbugs Scaring Up Halloween Costumes for Needy

As one of our "Out of the Recycle Bin Projects," the South Plainfield Glitterbugs will be collecting new and gently used Halloween costumes to be donated to local families in need. If you have a costume that no longer fits, don't throw it into the garbage, give it to us. We will have collection bins at Borough Hall, South Plainfield Library and The P.A.L. We thank each



Nancy Grennier, publisher of the South Plainfield Observer, was presented with proclamations from the borough and the State of New Jersey General Assembly by Mayor Charles Butrico and State Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan on the 10th anniversary of the newspaper's founding.

Calling All Student Writers! Observer, Hometown Heros Resume Journalist Contest

The South Plainfield Observer and Hometown Heros are once again co-sponsoring "The Junior Journalist Contest." The weekly writing program—which encourages students to write—has been very successful. The Observer has published more than 90 essays, poems and stories by students throughout the district.

Last May, winners and their families were recognized at a banquet, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

The rules are the same as last year: students should submit their original poetry, articles, opinion pieces or essays to their English teachers.

Teachers have already agreed to help with and submit the students' original works to either Hometown Heros or the Observer. Each week, after judging students' works, a winner will be selected, and his or her article

will be published in the Observer, along with a byline and their picture.

Winners will receive a t-shirt and a catered dinner for their family from Hometown Heros, which will be delivered to their homes. At the end of the school year, winning students and their parents will be honored at a banquet and each will receive a certificate of achievement for their efforts.

All students are encouraged to submit their entries. Every school has been notified about the rules on submissions. If you have any questions, call the Observer at (908) 668-0010, stop by Hometown Heros, located at 340 Hamilton Blvd. or call them at (908) 755-4376.

Coalition of Cultural Diversity Meeting

The South Plainfield Coalition of Cultural Diversity will meet on Monday, Oct. 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room at Borough Hall. It is open to public.

For more information, please call Nehemiah Thompson at (908) 756-1044.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Jaimie Donnelly

Autumn is here and it's time for leaves changing colors, apple cider and pumpkin pie. It is also a wonderful time for creating imaginative crafts. The library has over a hundred seasonal craft books for you to check out.

For children, the library has several fall-themed craft books. We highly recommend "Crafts to Make in the Fall" and "Step-by-Step Crafts for the Fall" by Kathy Ross. Other children's autumn themed books we recommend are "Fall" by Anna Claybourne, "Autumn: Signs of the Season Around North America" by Mary Pat Finnegan and "Hello Harvest Moon" by Ralph Fletcher.

For craft making adults, we have "Naturecrafts: Seasonal Projects From Natural Materials" by Mary Elizabeth Huff and "Easy Does it Nature Crafts" by Launder Publishers.

There are also children and young adult crafts at the library during the month of October. Our popular pumpkin painting program will take place on Saturday, Oct. 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration is required and a \$1 materials fee is payable upon registration. On Wednesday, Oct. 24, there will be a special

children's program by Brian Eslick.

Teen Read Week is October 14 to 20 and the library will be hosting three programs for our patrons in grade six to 12. On Monday, Oct. 15 at 4 p.m., we will be having a T.A.G. Teen Advisory Group meeting. On Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 4 p.m., we invite all poets and poetry lovers to "Poetry Slam!" where prizes will be given out for the best poems. Finally, on Thursday, Oct. 18 at 6:30 p.m., Candy Sushi is back by popular demand. Snacks will be served at each event. Teen Read Week programs are free, but registration is required. For information, contact Miss Jaimie at the library or E-mail her at majaimie@yahoo.com.

Children storytimes are on normal schedule. Story and craft time for children ages three and older are 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 is 10:30 a.m. on Friday. All programs are free.

Lastly, the library will be closed on Monday, Oct. 8 in observance of Columbus Day.

If you have any questions, contact the library at (908) 754-7885.

Curves Teams Up with American Cancer Society

Curves of South Plainfield has announced it will be teaming with the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer fundraiser during October Breast Cancer Awareness month to create awareness of breast cancer and to raise funds to help eliminate it. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women in the United States.

Curves of South Plainfield has plenty of ways for everyone to get involved. New members who join between October 8 and 20 will pay only \$25 for the service fee when they bring in a minimum \$25 donation

for the American Cancer Society or show proof of a current mammogram.

Current members who make a minimum \$5 donation to the American Cancer Society will receive a donation certificate that will hang in the club, and can be filled out "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one. Each \$5 donation also entitles the member to put her name in a treasure chest and be eligible for weekly prize drawings all through October.

"Curves of South Plainfield is committed to helping the women in our community live healthier, stronger lives," said Elissa and Jerri. "Breast cancer will touch about one in every eight women, but breast cancer death rates are going down. By encouraging women to get mammograms and rewarding them for doing so, we are helping to fight and even eliminate breast cancer in our lifetime. That's something we take very seriously."

HOME TIP:

Don't forget to keep showers and bathtub areas clean. Remove and replace old shower curtain liners, treat mildew stains on tile and grout. If you want an agent that knows your area and will give you exceptional service, call me.



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Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc.

Casino Night

OCTOBER 27, 2007

DOORS OPEN 6:30PM
PLAY BEGINS 7:00PM

\$40.00 PER PERSON

INCLUDES WINE, BEER, SODA, PLAYING CHIPS

BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND BRING YOUR FOOD!

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No. of Tickets

Total amount of this order:

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Westfield, NJ 07090

908-757-4422

27 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

curves.com

Join us in Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.



Bring proof of a mammogram or make a contribution. Join for \$25 service fee.*

From October 8th - October 20th, join for only \$25 when you bring proof of a current mammogram or make a contribution of at least \$25 to the American Cancer Society.

The American Cancer Society will receive 100% of the contribution. The American Cancer Society does not endorse any service or product. *Offer based on first visit enrollment, minimum 12 mo. c.d. program. New members only. Not valid with any other offer. Valid only at participating locations through 10/20/07. ©2007 Curves International



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Proud Making Strides National Corporate Team Program member

Around Town

Yard Sale to Benefit SPHS Football Team

October 6

The SPHS Football Parents Group is holding a yard sale on Saturday, Oct. 6 on the front lawn of the middle school from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the high school football team. Housewares, clothes, electronics, too many items to list.

Sacred Heart Blessing of the Animals

October 6

Sacred Heart, located on South Plainfield Avenue, will hold a Blessing of the Animals in the church parking lot on Saturday, Oct. 6 at noon.

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.

Knights Selling Mums, Mums, Mums

Oct. 6 and 7

The Knights of Columbus are conducting their fourth annual mum's sale October 6 and 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!

VFW Country Breakfast

October 7

The South Plainfield VFW, located on Front Street, will hold a country breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 7 from 8 to 11 a.m. Public is welcome.

Wesley Blessing of The Animals

October 7

Wesley United Methodist Church, Plainfield Avenue, is holding a Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, Oct. 7

What's
happening at the
South Plainfield

SENIOR CENTER

OCTOBER

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

UPCOMING
EVENTS

Dance Party, Saturday, Sept. 29
7 to 11 p.m. Cost \$5

Icabod Crane Program by Historical Society
October 14, 2 p.m.

Closed for
Columbus
Day

8 Bingo 10am-2pm
Ladies Social
Group 10am

9 Aerobics 8:30 am
Line Dancing 10am
Computer Classes
10am, 11:20am, 1pm
Crocheting 1pm
Tai Chi 2pm

10 Pathmark
Shopping 9am
Practical Crafts 10am
Computer Class 10am
11:30am, 1pm
Exercise Class 1:15pm

11 Bingo 10am-2pm

12

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

at 3 p.m. In addition, a car wash will be held from noon to 4 p.m. Cars \$5, SUVs and vans \$7; pick-up trucks \$10. All are welcome to attend.

Limburg Cathedral Boys Choir

October 9

The 52 member Limburg Cathedral choir will present a concert on Tuesday, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church. The choir is considered one of the most famous boys choirs in Germany. Founded in 1967 by Bishop Dr. Wilhelm Kemp, the choir has attained public acclaim through national and international concert tours, recordings and opera.

Historical Society Meeting

October 9

The South Plainfield Historical Society will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Historical Society Museum room at the old Roosevelt School.

Marching Band USSBA Competition

On Saturday, Oct. 20 at 6 p.m. the South Plainfield High School Marching Band will host the 26th annual USSBA Marching Band Festival at Jost Memorial Field (behind the PAL building). Tickets are \$8 adults and \$6 students/senior citizens. You will receive a free gift with paid admission (while supplies last). Over 10 local high school bands and color guards will perform. Hot food will be sold. For more information please call (908) 754-4620.

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. For tickets, call (908) 499-0176.

Legend of Sleepy Hollow at Senior Center

October 14

Ichabod Crane, Washington Irving and the Legend of Sleepy Hollow: A one-man living history presentation by Neil Hartley of the American Historical Theatre will be held on Sunday, Oct. 14 at 2 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center. The event is sponsored by the South Plainfield Historical Society. For more information contact Dorothy Miele at (908) 754-3073.

Columbiettes Fall Fashion Show

October 14

The South Plainfield Columbiettes will host their annual luncheon and fall fashion show on Sunday, Oct. 14 at the Spain Inn in Piscataway. Proceeds go toward local community charities. Fall styles from Dress Barn and Dress Barn Women will be modeled. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Cost of \$35 includes an all-you-can-eat buffet. For information, call Emma at (732) 287-2346 or Kathy at (908) 756-3772.

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 —

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 raining. 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; day of tour tickets are \$25 and available at Ellarslie, the Museum of the City of Trenton.

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

Homecoming Weekend at Stockton

October 6 and 7

Richard Stockton College has announced an action-packed homecoming weekend for Saturday and Sunday, October 6 and 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.

Tricky Tray

October 7

The Resurrection of Christ Church, 649 Bound Brook Rd. (Rt. 28) in Dunellen is hosting a Tricky Tray on Sunday, Oct. 7. Doors open at noon; drawings begin at 1:30 p.m. Digital

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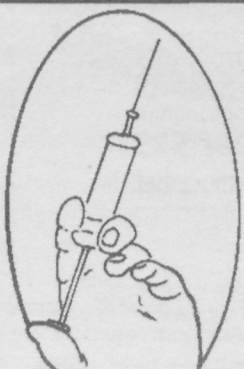
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For information, call (732) 968-1364, (732) 873-1731 or (732) 752-5741.

Blacksmith Shop Open to Public

October 7

Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and East Jersey Olde Towne Village, 1050 River Rd., Piscataway, announce the opening of the Farley Blacksmith Shop on Sunday, Oct. 7 as part of the annual Village Founder's Day celebration.

To register for this free program or information, call (732) 745-3030

Healing Body and Soul at Willow Grove

Oct 6., Nov. 3, Dec. 8

Medical Qi Gong is a course of meditation exercises offered free at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains on Saturdays, Oct. 6, Nov. 3 and Dec. 8, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Ryno Hall.

For more information, contact Margo Mann (908) 757-2495 or jermar107@themannfamily.org.

St. Lukes Church Spaghetti Dinner

October 13

St. Lukes Church, Rt. 27, Metuchen, will hold a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Oct. 13 from 4 to 9 p.m. to raise money for Have a Chance Walk to fight brain tumors. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for children under 10 and includes dinner, dessert and coffee or tea. Tickets are available at the door.

For information, call (908) 217-9029 or at (908) 208-4136.

Garden State Fall Stamp Fair

October 13-14

The New Jersey Stamp Dealers Association will stage its 2007 Garden State Fall Stamp Fair at the La Quinta on Route 46 West in Fairfield on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 13 and 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission and parking will be free.

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The high school varsity swim team parents and swimmers are busy fundraising in hopes of having a competitive team this upcoming season. They had a program table at the high school football game at Jost field last Friday, handing out information on the team and will also be there at the Thursday, Oct. 12 game.

The athletes will be canning, in conjunction with The Boyle Foundation, Friday, Oct. 5 and Friday, Oct. 12.

The JCC on Oak Tree Road in Edison will host a "swim-a-thon" on Saturday, Oct. 13 from 4 to 6 p.m. for the team. The athletes need sponsors with pledges for laps they swim.

The Basketball Shooting Academy (TBSA), 110-C Talmadge Rd. in Edison, in conjunction with the Boyle Memorial Foundation, will host a middle school dance on Saturday, Oct. 6 from 7 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$10 per student. Middle school students from surrounding towns are also invited. Parents must drop off their children and pick them up at the end of the dance. TBSA will also host a high school dance on Saturday, Oct. 12 from 8 to 11 p.m. Cost is \$15 per student. High

school IDs are required for admission. TBSA will donate half of the funds from both nights to the swim team. For more information call TBSA at (732) 650-1224.

Gabriele's Bar & Grill, 1351 Centennial Ave., Piscataway will donate 10% of every check accompanied with a flyer from Monday, Oct. 15 through Friday, Oct. 20. The flyers will be handed out at the schools shortly. On Friday, Oct. 20 at 6 p.m., Ryan Egan's band, "Sixth Man Radio," will be playing there to benefit the swim team.

Any donation amount would be greatly appreciated in cash or check. Please make your donations payable to: The Boyle Memorial Foundation, 209 Van Fleet Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080. The money will be held in an account until it needed by the Board of Education on November 1. All donations will be recorded. If the \$9,620 cost to fund the team is not reached, all checks will be returned. The swimmers are counting on your generous donations to make their dream come true. All students are welcome to participate on the team, but they need the community's support.

Recycling Center Columbus Holiday/Winter Hours

The South Plainfield Recycling Center on Kenneth Avenue will be closed on Tuesday, Oct. 9 because of the Columbus Day holiday weekend. Recycling will be open instead from noon to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 10. The yard waste site is on winter hours and will be open only on Saturdays until leaf collection starts in mid-November. Both the recycling center and the yard waste site will be open as usual from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 13.

Regular recycling drop-off center hours are noon to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Regular winter yard waste hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

2007 yard waste decals are available in the municipal clerk's office in borough hall from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Bring the registration of the vehicle you will be using.

For updates, call the recycling hotline at (908) 226-7620.

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Chief John Ferraro Answers Fairmont Residents Petition

At the September 18 Borough Council meeting, Police Chief John Ferraro responded to allegations of neglect by the department made by resident Jake Cataldo. Cataldo presented a petition to the council on September 4, signed by him, residents of Fairmont Avenue and surrounding streets. Cataldo read the petition before he presented it, stating, "the residents of Fairmont Avenue demand help from our elected officials" and "our neighborhood has changed for the worse due to the presence of Sal's Spirit Shoppe." The petitioners charge that "drunk driving, crime and drug use is rampant. We are constantly under attack by patrons of the bar who use our street as a drag strip and our lawns as a place to urinate, and use our gardens as a garbage can for empty beer bottles. There is also uncontrolled noise especially from bikers who frequent the bar at night." Cataldo said that "he met with the police chief, Mayor Buttrico and Council President Cerami—all to no avail and that calls to the police are similarly useless."

Council President Cerami addressed Cataldo's petition, saying, "I had knocked on every door in the neighborhood on Fairmont. There were people who never read the petition." However, Cerami added, "I will do what needs to be done. I need to speak to the owner of the bar."

"I am tired of you badgering the police department. Don't come here and publicly demoralize our police department," said Cerami, who has spent several evenings in the area and said he will return on a weekly basis to see firsthand what is going on.

Cataldo replied, "I asked for assistance like every other taxpayer in this community. We have the right to have peace and quiet."

Chief Ferraro also responded to Cataldo's petition saying, "The department takes offense to the perception that was put out two weeks ago that we are not addressing these issues. We have documentation on everything that is done. On Fairmont Avenue, there were 74 calls from all of the people on the petition between 2003 and 2007. Fifty calls were from residents others from Cataldo. He had 24

calls. Not one person in the petition, except for Mr. Cataldo, called about speeding or complaints about Sal's."

Cataldo had also complained at prior council meetings about motorcycles that are loud in the vicinity of Sal's. Ferraro stated that he, along with Cerami, observed traffic, and as promised, increased patrol and radar units. They spent overtime for an officer using radar early in the morning hours looking for a motorcyclist, but saw nothing. "To say that promises are unkept it untrue."

The petition also stated that "It can take up to an hour for a police car to respond, if they do respond. He said he learned that a police dispatcher called Sal's to tip the owner off that the police were on their way. And it wasn't until the Alcohol Beverage Commission raided the bar that their plight got any attention and it had to come from an outside agency."

Ferraro explained that sometimes it is easier to call an establishment to solve a problem and that he could not disclose all of the facts involved in an investigation especially with the ABC. "I can tell you that the ABC did not act alone," said Ferraro.

Ferraro has met with Sal's owner, Sal Severini, and discussed widening the fence behind the business and possibly putting up "no parking" signs in the area. Also he explained the reason why one call for assistance on Fairmont took a half an hour response time. It was because the call was in reference to a smashed mailbox and calls are prioritized and that other calls took priority at that time. However, a report was taken on the complaint by an officer. With regard to the garbage and urination in the area he commented, "We have increased patrol and the involvement of the neighbors is the only way we can stop this. This is not uncommon in a mixed use neighborhood where there are eating and drinking establishments nearby."

"My door is always open and my phone number is on the borough Web site. I will not stand by while these allegations are made when the officers are out there doing the best they can every day. We strive to make this the best and safest town that there is," Ferraro said.

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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.

Cerami and Thomas Are Proud of South Plainfield's Record on Public Safety

Democrats Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas this week called attention to South Plainfield's impressive record on public safety. Council President Cerami commented: "Let me put this as simply as I can, South Plainfield is one of the safest communities in New Jersey. Just look at the FBI annual crime statistics which were released this week. We are down in every important category. Sadly more towns than ever are concerned about rising crime. Not in our borough. I hear stories all the time of residents leaving their keys in their car by mistake or forgetting to close the garage door when they went to sleep. One of the things that makes South Plainfield such a great place to live in and raise a family is that you don't have to worry about your kids when they go outside or your family at night. This kind of outstanding result doesn't happen by mistake. We have the best police, fire, rescue squad and emergency management personnel. They always go the extra mile to keep our residents safe and secure. I am proud to be the council liaison for public safety. We have always and we will always give these men and women the support they need to do their job."



Kathy Thomas expanded upon her running mates comments: "Dennis doesn't like to take credit, but he has led the way in assuring that public safety is the top priority for the governing body. I was really proud of him at the last council meeting when he came to the defense of our police department against an unfounded attack by the former Republican mayoral candidate. I have to be honest when I say I was disappointed that the Republicans on the council didn't join with Dennis in standing up for the police. It really concerns me that for the first time ever the Republican Party seems to be trying to bring politics into the area of public safety. Just a couple of meetings ago, Republican Council Member Bengivenga tried to block the purchase of needed equipment by our Emergency Management Department. I think an appropriate action by this year's Republican candidates would be an open letter repudiating these petty actions by their party's leaders. You never have to wonder where the Democrats stand on the issue of public safety. We are proud of our police, fire, rescue squad and emergency management departments and we will always give them the support they need to keep us safe and secure."

Ferguson Effort to Aid First Responders Lauded by McConville and Rusnak

For the second time in as many months, Congressman Mike Ferguson came to South Plainfield last week to announce special funding for public-safety projects. Council candidates Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak applauded Congressman Ferguson's efforts, and this week they pledged to continue to work with him to make sure South Plainfield's first responders are at the head of the line for federal funding and grants.

"I want to thank Congressman Ferguson," said Rusnak. "I also want to thank Republican Councilmen Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga, who worked with the congressman to get a \$100,000 appropriation for our police department so it can enhance communications for our first responders. This is the first time South Plainfield has ever received this type of appropriation from Congress."

"Rob and Matt approached Congressman Ferguson for help earlier this year, and he delivered," added McConville. "If elected, Ray Rusnak and I will continue to work with the congressman to seek out federal funding for our first responders."



"My family has a long history of supporting public safety and serving our town," added McConville. "I know how important it is to support our police department, fire department, and rescue squad. These are people who put their safety on the line to protect us, and they deserve our respect. I know they have mine."

Rusnak couldn't agree more: "Tim and I know that our police, fire and rescue workers deserve the best and safest equipment, and we're committed to making sure they get it. That's why it's important to look beyond traditional funding sources and find innovative ways to fund these needs through state and federal grants."

After getting sworn in as council members in 2006, Anesh and Bengivenga went to Washington to meet with Ferguson and discuss ways he could help South Plainfield, which is one of about 50 towns the congressman represents. Anesh pointed to this as an important first step in developing a relationship that is just starting to bring dividends to South Plainfield. Up until then, council members weren't taking advantage of opportunities for federal funding, which is an important alternative to using tax dollars for special projects.

Anesh knows that Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak will join in what he and Bengivenga started. "Tim and Ray are committed to seeking out funding that will ease the burden on taxpayers," Anesh said.

In addition to the police funding, Congressman Ferguson came to town in August to announce a \$106,000 grant for our fire department. The grant will be used to buy new turnout gear, which will make our firefighters safer when they go on calls. Fire Chief Larry DeNegro and his team spent many hours researching the need for this equipment and did a spectacular job putting the application together. "He and his volunteers deserve everyone's thanks," Rusnak said.

Public safety will be a top priority for the Republicans if elected. McConville summed it up best. "We want to watch out for the people who watch out for us," he said. "If elected, you have our word that we will."

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NEWS FROM THE Suburban Woman's Club

One of the best liked meetings of the Suburban Woman's Club, our Husband's/Guest Nite/Covered Dish Supper, will be held on Thursday, Oct. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post, 243 Oak Tree Ave. It is our opportunity to invite our husbands and friends to join us and enjoy a delicious dinner and entertainment. The chairperson for the evening will be Ann Demico.

This year we will hear the sound of Kevin Ronan and his guitar. Ronan's rendition of the music of Lloyd Webber, Lennon and McCarthy and more will come alive through the artistic interpretation of a rich baritone voice and the intimate classical guitar. We are all eagerly awaiting this musical interlude.

Also on the agenda for that weekend is our fall yard sale on Saturday, Oct. 6 on the front lawn of the American Legion, which will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come and feast your eyes on the terrific items displayed and take home lots of bargains.

The proceeds of this yard sale will go to assist us in our many charities. We certainly are appreciative of your generous help in our endeavors for South Plainfield!

*Submitted by Gloria M. Breuning,
publicity chairman*



Front row, left to right: Kerry Aissa (actor), Kristin Salvatore (PA), Aidan Sullivan (actress), Anastasia Konstantinou (make-up/wardrobe), Billy Mulligan (Producer), Tracy Utley (script supervisor), George Alvarez (first assistant camera), Matthew J. Pellowski (Producer), Allison Carter Thomas (actress), Emily Parker (actress), Jake Cashill (writer/director), Kate Barton (prop master). Back row, left to right: Anthony Panicioli (sound PA), Simon Macarthur (gaffer), Dan Burkhart (grip), Paul Sharrett (grip), Aidan Sleeper (grip), Anthony Fisher (PA), Neil Stephens (cinematographer), Chris Kies (actor), Bill Donnelly (sound design) and Jim Doherty (on-set photography).

The Making of the Movie "Rachel Marks"

By Jean Fultz

As the Red Line Studios production crew was transforming Adelines Restaurant into a Hollywood movie set, writer/director Jake Cashill spoke to the *Observer* about his original screenplay, "Rachel Marks," being filmed locally.

Observer: Could you tell us about your movie, "Rachel Marks," from a local perspective.

Cashill: I'm glad you're here; this is great! Yes, a lot of locals are involved in [the production] in North Plainfield, South Plainfield, all the Plainfields.

Observer: We were told that your mom lives in Plainfield. Did you grow up in Plainfield?

Cashill: I didn't. My dad is originally from Newark. My folks have been in Plainfield for 13 years, happily. I've been around Plainfield and North Plainfield and I've seen the wealth of locations that could be used, and I basically wrote the film around things I thought I could get locally with some community support. So from the very, very beginning that was the idea, to write something small that could be done locally on a low-budget without sacrificing production value. This is a wonderful place [Adelines Restaurant] to begin with, but once we get it lit and the extras in here, it's gonna look like a Hollywood set. The same has been true of the North Plainfield Municipal Building, the jail, Plainfield City Hall—[they have] a great brick walkway."

Observer: Didn't you shoot scenes at a dentist office in South Plainfield?

Cashill: The dentist office was great. Dr. Brant Mozo. That was overwhelming in not only its perfectness for the film, but for its availability and its proximity to the crew house where everyone was staying. They basically gave us the keys to the kingdom for three days and you wouldn't find that in New York.

Observer: If you were filming in New

York, would you have to pay a fee to the city to shoot there?

Cashill: An immense amount, not only in New York. In Westfield, a thousand dollars a day to shoot anywhere.

Observer: Did South Plainfield charge you to film here?

Cashill: No. We didn't shoot on any municipal property here, but we did in North Plainfield and it didn't cost a dime. It was wonderful.

Observer: Tell us about your idea for the story, because it has been described as a thriller in the vein of "The Hand That Rocks the Cradle" and "Fatal Attraction."

Cashill: Influenced by both those films, both look-wise and more story-wise. It's about a woman who is obsessed with her dentist. This obsession drives her to masochism where she breaks her own teeth to be seen by him, to have a reason to go and be treated by him. She tries—in not typical, but normal thriller fashion—to get rid of the wife.

Observer: How long did it take you to write the screenplay?

Cashill: The original draft never takes that long, a couple months, but that was four years ago. I didn't have any money [to produce the movie] so it was kept on the back burner.

Observer: And how did you come to use Red Line Studios?

Cashill: I knew Billy [Mulligan] and Billy knew Matt [Pellowski] and knew Matt was excellent and could stretch the dollar and make a two million dollar film look like a 20 million dollar film.

Observer: Is the movie going to be released in theaters?

Cashill: Ideally, yes.

Observer: Are you going to shop the movie around festivals?

Cashill: The goal of a festival is to get it purchased, to get a distributor to buy it and then to get it in theaters. Distributors have read the script and enjoyed it and are eager to take a look at

the finished product. The goal is to sell it for more than it cost to make.

Observer: Thank you so much for your time. Is there anything else you would like to tell our readers?

Cashill: I would like to say that I am overwhelmed and thankful for the support that everyone has given us in North, South and plain Plainfield. It's been great.

For more information on Red Line Studios, the cast and crew of "Rachel Marks," and additional photos from Adelines Restaurant, visit our Web site at www.spobserver.com.

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Staats Welcome Birth of a Son

Billy and Erin Staats are proud to announce the birth of their son, Nathan William Staats. Nathan was born on September 13 at 10:51 p.m. He weighed 6 lbs. 5 oz. and measured 19 inches.

Also welcoming Nathan are sister Skyler, grandparents Jaclyn King and Bill and Heather Staats, as well as his aunts and uncles.



Erica Palma Receives AP Scholar With Distinction Award

Erica Palma of South Plainfield has earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of her exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program. Erica is a student at Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung. Erica is one of 19 students who earned the designation at her school.

Said Sr. Lisa Gambacorto, RSM, directress of the academy, "We continue to be very proud of our scholars. These awards are a tribute to the consistent hard work these young women put into their studies and to the teachers who guide them. It gives us great pleasure to announce these 19 AP Scholar Awards."

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Sports



Karate Team Champions

Ernie Temple School of Karate women's team took home the Isshinryu Team Fighting Championship belts recently in Bayonne. The event marked the 50th year of Isshinryu karate in the U.S., under the late Grand Master Don Nagle.

Temple's team won a decisive victory over the defending champions from Tennessee. Members of the team are Captain Heather Fuenzalida of Middlesex, Darlene Drexinger of Branchburg,

Ashley Murray of Piscataway, Marybeth Krupa of Morris Plains and Cheryl Ambicki of Middlesex.

The men's team took home the second place award after losing a tough match against the defending champs. East Coast and Canada teams participated in the highly fought divisions.

Temple's school is located at 316 Jackson Ave. in Dunellen. For class information, call (908) 561-6464 or visit www.temple-school-of-karate.com.

SOCCER

Submitted By Chris Paez

South Plainfield Hotspurs Go to 3-0

In a hard fought and evenly matched game, the South Plainfield Soccer Club U13 boy's team, the Hotspurs, notched their third victory of the season on Sunday. John "E" Cotone scored the first goal for the Hotspurs in the beginning of the first half on a looping right footed shot that went over the goalie and into the net. The Princeton team, AC Milan, however, came back and scored two goals before halftime to take the lead 2-1.

At the start of the second half, AC Milan was awarded a penalty kick, which they converted to go up 3-1. The deficit seemed to motivate the Hotspurs as they roared back soon after the penalty. At the kick off, Paul "E" Seyffart stormed down the left side and made a terrific shot to make the score 3-2. Within moments, Terrance Dubasak made a great pass to set up another Seyffart goal and evened the tally, 3-3. Both sides fought up and down the

field until the last minute of the game, when Seyffart again charged down the left side, centering the ball to Mike Polizzano, who hit a perfect strike for the winning goal. The Hotspurs won, 4-3.

This was truly a team effort and all the players on the Hotspurs contributed to the win.

Other offensive players not mentioned above are Johnnie Sottiriou and Ricky Zekas; midfielders: Liam McDermott, Tommy Riccardi, Dan Sanko and Matt Ward; defenders: Taylor Born, Chris Butrico, AJ Celentano and Jesse Deffler; and last but certainly not least, goal keeper Cory Harrell.

Bullets Record is Now 3-0

The boys U-14 traveling soccer team won their third game of the season on Sunday when they beat the South Brunswick Twisters 2-0.

It was an aggressive and unfortunately a physical game, but the boys stuck together as a team to reach their "goal." With David Forero in net, the Bullets weren't letting their opponent score at all.

Ryan Marcoux scored the first point on a corner kick, and Edgar Callegas

scored the second on a penalty shot.

The rest of the team, consisting of Jimmy Gerber, Toni Franczak, Marc Paez, Shaun Alers, Kevin Flanagan, Zach Noll, Joseph Krawiec, Jelani Prah, Anthony Quadrel, Ryan Riccardi and Alex Valladares, kept the pressure on both offensive and defensively.

The Bullets next game is on Saturday, Oct. 6 at Kenneth Avenue Field at 6 p.m. Please come out and show your support.

Arsenal Does it Again

The boys U-9 traveling soccer team, Arsenal, added one more win to their record last Sunday. They played against the Berkeley Heights Bears on their Memorial Field.

It was an exciting game because these teams have played against each other a couple of times before. This time though, Arsenal didn't let their opponents score a goal. The final score was 3-0.

The first goal of the game was

scored by Nicholas Plate in the first quarter. The other two goals were scored by Ricky Pellegrino and Jake Hoffman. Jose Arrubla, Alec Paez, Tyler Curtis, Jake Smith, Nicholas Pezzolla, Samardhi Jeedigunta, Jason Cieszkiewicz, Jared Marks and Jake Giordano did a fantastic job on offense and defense.

Arsenal's next game is at St. Joe's in Metuchen on Saturday. Come out and support Lainies Angles.

Basketball Skill Clinics Announced

Shotman Basketball Clinic will begin on October 9 and run on Tuesdays through October 30 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Watchung Hills High School. Boys, grades five through eight and girls, grades five through nine are welcome.

Shotman Shooting Clinics began in 1989. While playing basketball at local parks and recreation center, Shotman discovered a need for kids to have proper instruction in the fundamentals of shooting the basketball. The clinics evolved from neighborhood driveways to high school and college gymnasiums. The shooting clinics have proven to be a benefit to many, programs providing a fun experience for all players. "One of the most reward-

ing aspects of the Shotman clinics is the noted improvements in the shooting skills of every player," said Mike "Shotman" Lanza.

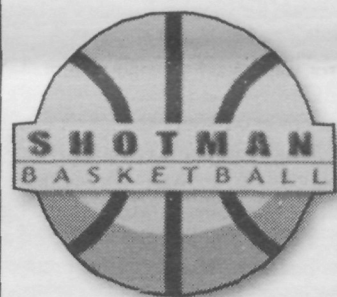
Each clinic participant receives individual instruction on foul line shooting using game simulated drills. This includes shooting techniques, as well as foul line approach and psychology (anchoring).

Clinic participants drill in the lost art of stationary shooting. Proper stationary shooting includes moving without the ball, catching, squaring up to the basket and using the "open window" technique.

For information on registering, call (908) 754-2692.

Register for Rec Youth Wrestling

Registration for the South Plainfield Recreation Youth Wrestling Program will be held on Saturday, Oct. 27 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the PAL building. Registration is open to all South Plainfield children ages 5-11 as of October 1, 2007. The cost is \$35 per child. Parents must accompany child at registration. Birth certificates, as well as proof of residency, are required for first time sign-ups. Practice starts on November 12.



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October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

(Continued from page 1)

awareness of domestic violence deaths. Since then, NCADV has been collecting information on women who have been killed by an intimate partner and produces a poster each October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, listing the names of those documented in that year.

In remembrance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the South Plainfield Public Library has an exhibit on display of red silhouetted figures representing women from Middlesex

County who were murdered in an act of domestic violence. The display also includes various literature on all aspects of domestic violence. Working in conjunction with the police department, the borough has its own Domestic Violence Crisis Intervention Team (DVCIT). Trained volunteer advocates provide 24-hour on-call services to assist victims of domestic violence. The primary purpose of the team is to offer emergency support, alternatives and referrals to victims of domestic violence including their chil-

dren and families. Members are screened by the police department and trained and certified in domestic violence intervention by Women Aware, Inc. in New Brunswick. The goal of the DVCIT is to provide a neutral, less authoritarian atmosphere to victims who are traumatized, confused and uncertain or reluctant to seek help. They are there to listen and help.

Domestic violence is not only a personal tragedy, it is a serious crime that negatively affects women, men, children, neighborhoods and communities. The DVCIT can be reached 24-hours a day at (908) 755-0700 where a team member will meet with a victim privately at police headquarters and will provide transportation, if needed. If someone is not ready or able to leave an abusive situation at the present time, a team member can explain the importance of safety planning to help minimize injury. In an emergency, always dial 911.

SPHS Music Boosters

MUSIC NOTES



Submitted by Pamela Hussey, Co-president & ad book director, SPHS BMA

Our first two marching band competitions of the season are now behind us. For our first competition, we competed in Edison on September 22, finishing in second place with a score of 67.55. Our second competition was on September 29 at Piscataway High School. Out of a total of five bands in our division (both "A" and "Open" class) we came in first for the "A" class and third overall with a score of 69.9. Everyone looked and sounded great! The band and color guard continues to improve every week, and we're all looking forward to our next competition on Sunday, Oct. 14 at Scotch Plains High School. Times have not been posted yet; be sure to check the USSBA Web site: www.usbands.org. Click on Northeast region and then

look at show schedules for updates.

Our festival is fast approaching on Saturday, Oct. 20. We have over 10 bands performing. Come join the fun! There will be plenty of hot food available. Opening ceremonies at 6 p.m.

Our fruit fundraiser is well underway. Please see a music department student to place your order. We have been having technical difficulties with the online ordering, but keep trying. We hope to have it up and running soon. Web site address: www.fruitorder.com, click on fundraising, enter code #107000 for SPHS. Fruit orders with payment are due on Monday, Nov. 5 to ensure delivery to the high school by Saturday, Dec. 15. If you are paying by cash or check, make out to SPHS Music Boosters.

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policereport

• On Sept. 27, Stacy Reidinger, 25, of Gillette was arrested for speeding and an outstanding warrant.

• On Sept. 28, William Ashby Weaver, 21, of South Plainfield was

arrested for obstruction.

• On Sept. 30, Dominick Joseph Raiti, 21, of South Plainfield was arrested for burglary and theft.

• Prasanna Gamage, 39, of Sri Lanka, was arrested at Sears Essentials for shoplifting a digital camera and

two pair of sunglasses worth \$93.

• A Joan Street resident reported that his stockade fence had been spray painted.

• On Oct. 1, Daniel J. DeFalco, 23, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.

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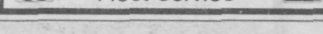
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