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The last day to Register to
Vote for the upcoming General
Election is October 16, 2007. In
an effort to accommodate anyone
who wishes to register, the
Borough Clerk's Office will be
open until 9:00 p.m. on

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2007

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 11, NO. 7

MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

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SOUTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
OCT 12 2007
OCTOBER 12, 2007



Plainfield Chapter of UNICO celebrated Columbus Day at Borough Hall on Monday.

UNICO Sponsors Columbus Day Program

Plainfield's Chapter of UNICO held their annual Columbus Day program on the front lawn of Borough Hall on Monday. Chairman for this year's event was Councilman Rob Bengivenga and master of ceremonies was Frank Licato.

This is the 38th year UNICO has sponsored the Columbus Day program to help keep Italian heritage alive. The ceremonies were originally

held in Plainfield, and later rotated between North Plainfield, Plainfield and South Plainfield, until South Plainfield became their permanent host several years ago.

The program began outside with an invocation by Deacon Robert Gursky of St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church, followed by "The Star Spangled Banner," performed by the South Plainfield High School

Band, under the direction of Roger Vroom.

The program proceeded inside to the municipal chambers. Guest speakers included Senator Barbara Buono, Plainfield Mayor Sharon Robinson, BOE Director of Operations Jose Negrón, American Legion Post Commander Richard Frank, Councilmen Robert Bengivenga, Jr. and Dennis Cerami, Board of Education members Debbie Boyle and Bob Jones and South Plainfield Police Chief John Ferraro. The keynote speaker was Congressman Mike Ferguson. Past UNICO President Renalto Biribin, Esq. gave closing remarks.

Attending were members of Plainfield's Chapter of UNICO, as well as their president, Robert Bengivenga, Sr. Also attending were members of the Suburban Woman's Club.

The closing ceremonies took place outdoors. Placing a wreath next to the flag pole were American Legion Post Commander Richard Frank and suburban Women's Club President Mary Ann Iannitto. The Italian flag was raised in front of borough hall and remained on display for the day. The band played "God Bless America," followed by a reception.



Walkers participate in the South Plainfield Buddy Walk held last Saturday. See next week's *Observer* for story and photos.

One Man History Show Entertains, Educates

Neill Hartley is Washington Irving in a one-man living history presentation from the American Historical Theatre. The program, which will be held on Sunday, Oct. 14 beginning promptly at 2 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center, is designed to educate and entertain audiences of all ages.

The audience will meet Irving as he tells about his early life and the beginnings of his great literary career. He then becomes narrator and actor of his own famous horror story, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," and becomes his alter ego, Ichabod Crane.

The audience will see Ichabod in the classroom and at a party where he dances with the girl he loves before following him on his fateful journey where he encounters the Headless Horseman.

At the end of the story, Neill Hartley, as Irving, will speak about his later life and read passages from some of his other works. Hear about his far-flung travels and his fascinating political career. The afternoon concludes with questions from the audience.

Hartley is a professional actor who performs with a great many local and regional theaters. He is on the faculty

of Philadelphia's University of the Arts Theater School.

Sunday's event is sponsored by the South Plainfield Historical Society and is free of charge. No reservations are required. The program is offered through the Horizons Speakers Bureau of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information, contact Dorothy Miele at (908) 754-3073 or log on to the South Plainfield Historical Society Web site at www.geocities.com/sphistoricalsociety.

Seniors "Futurama" Leaves Lasting Mark

By Natia Katsantonis

For a few dedicated seniors, July and August were not just about sun bathing on the beach; they were about making South Plainfield High School a more colorful place to come and learn. With a little help from Ciccio's Pizza and some Dunkin' Donuts coffee, students from the SPHS Class of 2008 devoted their time to painting the walls of one of the cafeteria's in the high school themed "South Plainfield: Past, Present and Future." Following chronological order, the murals depict South Plainfield from the 1950's, complete with farmland from half a

century ago, to South Plainfield in the distant future, decorated with metallic buildings and a "futurama" high school.

Take a trip down memory lane and see Hadley Airport (now Middlesex Mall) or jump into the future to see what Sherban's Diner may look like in the next millennium.

The public is encouraged to take a look at the cafeteria and see how the seniors' hard work paid off!

Special thanks go to SPHS Spanish teacher Anthony Encinas for his commitment to the students and for supervising the entire senior project.



Painters, standing in front of the "Futurama" South Plainfield High School: top (L-R): Anthony Encinas, Michael Oprysk, Kristin Billich, Natia Katsantonis, Rachel Milliron and Nicole Cosma; center: Elizabeth Flannery, Shivana Maraj, Lillian Blanco, Stephanie Kelly, Brittany Penevolpe, Lauren O'Day, Stephanie Szeliga and Amanda Alemazohu; bottom: Katherine Gorman, Erica Linick, Dana Alexa, Natasha Jaikaran, Andrea Lozarito, Brooke DeNitzio, Alison Smith, Elizabeth Rodger, Ashley Alvarado, Constance Flanagan and Danielle Heilmann.

Fire Prevention Awareness Highlights SPVFD Open House

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual open house on Saturday, Oct. 13 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Food and refresh-

ments will be provided. All of the fire apparatus and equipment will be on display. Games will be provided for children.

The SPVFD will give away a number of door prizes to coincide with Fire Prevention Week. Two bikes, a DVD

player, a digital camera, a fire safe and a tool kit are just a few of the gifts that will be given away at no cost. All you have to do is attend.

For more information, call Chief Del-Negro at (908) 226-7715.





Borough Council meetings air on Comcast Channel 74, Mondays at 8 p.m.

(Except for Holidays)

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest meeting agenda

councilmeetings

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

Date	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
October 16	7 p.m.	Immediately following
Monday, November 5	7 p.m.	Immediately following

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

planningboard

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

zoningboardofadjustment

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

boardofeducationmeetings

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

taxpayersadvisorygroup

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

siteplansub-committee

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

recreationcommission

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

environmentalcommission

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

businessadvisorygroup

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

trafficsafetyadvisorycommission

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

boardofeducationcurriculum/technology meetings

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

South Plainfield Observer

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To the Editor:

It was with great pride that I read last week's *Observer* concerning South Plainfield's commitment to help end domestic violence by making residents aware that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. As you drive and walk through the streets of South Plainfield and see the purple ribbons, also be aware that there is much that you can do to help end abuse of all kinds.

Congress reauthorized and expanded the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 2005, and President Bush signed it into law in January of 2006. The new bill is a major step forward that can significantly improve the nation's response to domestic, sexual and dating violence, and stalking—if it is fully funded. To date, funding has fallen far short. VAWA contains groundbreaking new initiatives to help children exposed to violence, train health care providers to support victims of abuse, encourage men to teach the next generation that violence is wrong, and provide crisis services for victims of rape and sexual assault. It also continues efforts to improve the law enforcement response to violence against women and provide supportive services, such as traditional housing to women and children forced to leave their homes because of violence. Congress is working right now on the fiscal year 2008 appropriations bills that fund critical programs in the VAWA. But Congress has not yet funded the new programs the law contains. 2007 is a key year when advocates are pressing Congress to fully fund the Violence Against Women Act, and realize the promise of this law.

Members of Congress need to hear from all citizens, so they know their constituents want them to fund violence prevention programs. Now is the time to contact your representative and senators to urge them to support full funding for VAWA programs

IN MY OPINION

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

in FY 2008. Call the capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and give them your name and the city and state you live in.

When you call, your call will be answered by a receptionist. Tell him or her that you want to talk with the staff person who handles domestic and sexual violence issues. He or she will tell you the name of a staff person and connect you with that person or his/her voicemail.

People in our community deserve the right to feel safe in their homes in their schools and in their communities. Please exercise your advocacy rights and ask for support in making our community a safe place, and violence-free.

CHRIS SIENKIELEWSKI
LEGISLATION/RESOLUTIONS
CHAIRMAN, NJ STATE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

Dear Editor:

I am proud of my six years of service in the General Assembly on behalf of the residents of the 18th District. I am particularly proud to represent the people of South Plainfield, my home town. Whether sponsoring legislation to save our Future Stars Program or obtaining needed funds for our police, recreation programs and board of education, I have always committed myself to working not only for the residents of our borough, but the state as a whole.

Election day is a little over four weeks away. Senator Buono, Assemblyman Barnes and I have opened a campaign headquarters at 1963 Oak Tree Rd. in Edison, next to the Sunnyside Deli. If anyone is interested in helping in the campaign, please give me a call. In addition if you would be willing to place a small campaign sign on your lawn, we will arrange to have one delivered to you. You can call me at (908) 753-7200.

Everyone is predicting a low voter turnout this year. It is therefore very important that we work extra hard to get our message out. Thank you in advance for your support. I promise to continue to work to improve the lives of all of those who live in the

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.

great State of New Jersey.

ASSEMBLYMAN PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the turf field committee, I would like to thank everyone involved in this endeavor. For more than a year, we all worked together in the best interest of South Plainfield, the residents and our children: Dan Smith, Patricia DeSantis, Debra Krawiec, Kurt Ullom, Dr. Robert Rosado-liaison from the Board of Education, Senator Barbara Buono, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Freeholder John Pulomena, Mayor Charlie Butrico, Councilman and recreation liaison Ray Petronko, Kevin Hughes-recreation director and SPSHS Athletic Director Michael Buggie. Without your dedication, participation and the magnitude of everyone's efforts, a new turf field would not have come to fruition. Thank you to the Middlesex County Freeholders for this truly magnificent grant.

WITH GRATEFUL APPRECIATION,
DEBBIE BOYLE, TURF FIELD
COMMITTEE MEMBER

Dear Editor,

When people vote for elected officials, they put their trust in candidates who they hope will do the right thing and work hard for the people who elected them. Having said that, I know who I will support in November, and my choices are Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak.

We can trust Tim and Ray to help lead our town. They have innovative plans to make South Plainfield better, including ideas for safeguarding our

(Continued on page 10)

HOME TIP:

If you have questions about the current real estate market—I'm here to answer all your questions. With my knowledge of the market and my experience, I'll show you how finding the right home can also be a fun one! Give me a call today.



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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: spobserver@comcast.net or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 200 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the *Observer*. All letters must be submitted with name and phone number, for verification.



Borough teachers who were awarded tenure at the September 19 Board of Education meeting—Michele Wrublewski, secretary to the athletic director; Sandra Acker, Lizbet Arriola, Dana Curcio, Orlando Garcia, David Knarr, Michele O'Toole and Steven Valente.

Borough Recipient of Grant for Artificial Turf Field

Mayor Charles Butrico announced at last week's Borough Council meeting that South Plainfield will receive a grant of \$1.5M for the installation of an artificial turf field on a borough-owned sports field. Funding for the field will come from a grant from the Middlesex County Open Space Trust Fund.

The location hasn't been officially announced, but preliminary soil tests have been made on the field directly behind the P.A.L. When completed, the field will be under the supervision of the recreation department.

The Board of Education has long shared its fields and school buildings

Haunted Woods Tickets on Sale

The Almost Famous Players will be presenting their fifth annual Putnam Park Haunted Woods Show, "Jester's Folly, The Search For The Goblet," Thursday through Sunday, Oct. 25, 26, 27 and 28. Tours begin at 6:30 and run every 20 minutes. Prices are \$6 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under with an adult.

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Card #: _____ Exp Date: _____
Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Cornell-Dubilier Clean-up Progresses

By Libby Barsky

The area near 333 Hamilton Boulevard and New Market Avenue has been undergoing a change. Since January 18 warehouses bordering the road have been torn down. As of last week, the remaining buildings had a wall removed, and the soil was surrounded by fencing and covered with plastic.

The site, once home to Cornell-Dubilier Electronics, Inc. from 1936 to 1962, is now referred to as the Hamilton Industrial Park.

Last Thursday, Peter Mannino, remedial project manager for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), told residents that work will begin shortly to eliminate the contaminated

materials in the soil as well as the debris from a capacitor dumpsite buried behind the former buildings. According to the Cornell-Dubilier Web site, Dubilier Electronics was the manufacturer of the first aluminum capacitors in 1936 in South Plainfield. The EPA found that carcinogenic materials used in the manufacturing process included polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and trichloethene (TCE). The carcinogens migrated to nearby areas and the groundwater and sediment of the Bound Brook.

In 1997, the New Jersey EPA issued a fish advisory warning against eating fish caught in Bound Brook, New Market Pond and Spring Lake. The advisory is still in effect. The policy is for fishermen to catch and release—not to consume, said Mannino.

Mannino focused on the manage-

ment of the clean-up of the dump, including the installation of security fencing around work zones, the covering of storm sewers and catch basins with geotextile membranes surrounded by hay bales to protect sediment from migrating, and the installation of silt fences around the work zone to prevent the movement of soil.

To keep dust at a minimum during the soil evacuation, trucks and equipment will be misted and their wheels will be washed on a plastic covered area. The trailers will be tarped while in transit, placed in lined plastic box-cars and then wrapped up when transferred by rail to be disposed of in special locations in Michigan and Utah.

The project is expected to excavate approximately 21,000 tons of soil. The cost of the project is estimated at \$62 million.

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.

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 work will be published in the *Observer*, along with their photo.

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 in May and each will receive a certificate of achievement for their efforts.

Students through grade 12 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.

Wine Tasting Networking Event


Thursday, October 18 • 5 to 7 p.m.

featuring

2002 Silver Oak Cabernet Sauvignon

Bring your business cards for networking and gift basket drawing. Great holiday gift ideas will be showcased. Gourmet selections will be provided by Nanking Restaurant and Bear Rock Cafe.

Wine Tasting Event



Hosted by
Wine Country
Hadley Shopping Center
South Plainfield
(908) 754-0752

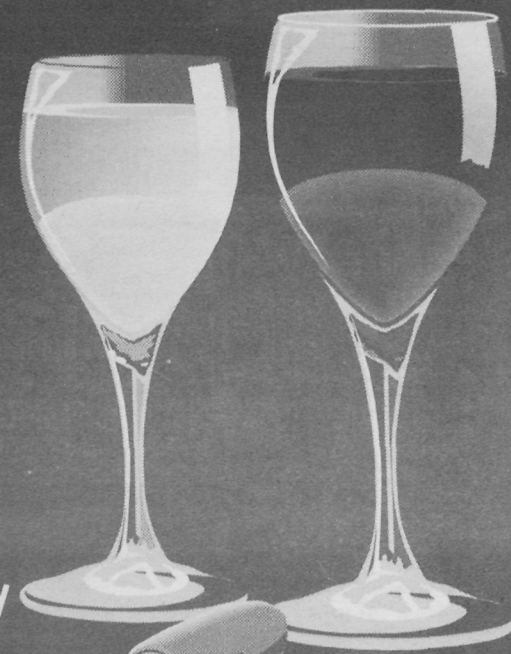
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Around Town

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 event will be held at the Black United Fund, 403 West 7th St. 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 Neill 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.

SPHS Swim Team Swim-A-Thon

October 13

The future SPHS Swim Team is hosting a swim-a-thon on Saturday, Oct. 13, 4 to 6 p.m. at JCC of Middlesex County, Oak Tree Road in Edison.

What's happening at the South Plainfield

SENIOR CENTER

OCTOBER

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ichabod Crane Program by Historical Society
October 14 • 2 p.m.

Trip to AC Claridge Casino
October 18 • 9 a.m.

Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am
Yoga 10:30-11:30am
Art Class 11:30am
Senior Board 4 pm

15

Bingo 10am-2pm
Ladies Social Group 10am

16

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

17

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

18

Bingo 10am-2pm

19

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

For information on how to sponsor a swimmer, call Debbie Boyle at (908) 791-9439.

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.

SPHS Swim Team Breakfast

October 14

The South Plainfield Elks, located on New Market Avenue, will be hosting a fundraising breakfast for the SPHS Swim Team on Sunday, Oct. 14 from 8 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$6 per person and everyone is welcome. Come before or after religious services and help raise money for the team.

For more information, contact Debbie Boyle at (908) 791-9439. The swim team students and parents will be serving breakfast.

Religion and Science Discussion

October 14

A discussion on religion and science at Wesley Church will be held on Sundays at 7 p.m. beginning on October 14. Open to the public, this is a book study club; you will receive a book at the first meeting. Explore how science and religion can co-exist. Come and enjoy lively discussion/refreshments. Register by calling (908) 757-2838.

AARP #4144 Meeting

October 15

AARP #4144 will meet at the senior center on Monday, Oct. 15 at 12:30 p.m. Attorney Charles Clarkson will speak on identity theft, how to prevent it and on the new changes in Medicare.

AARP will be holding a defensive driving class on Thursday, Oct. 18 at the senior center. Register by calling Mary at (732) 752-3764. A \$10 fee will get a licensed driver a three-year discount on auto insurance. Needlecrafters meet on Wednesdays

at 1:30 p.m. Call Georgie at (732) 968-3128. Refreshments served. New members and guests are welcome.

GOP Meeting

October 18

The regular monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held on Thursday, Oct. 18 at 8 p.m. at Sherban's Restaurant. All residents are invited to attend to meet council candidates Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak and bring their concerns and comments for a discussion on solutions that could benefit South Plainfield.

Wine Tasting/Networking Event

October 18

Wine Country at Hadley Shopping Center is hosting a free wine tasting/networking event on Thursday, Oct. 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. featuring 2002 Silver Oak Cabernet Sauvignon.

Bring your business cards for networking and gift basket drawing. Great holiday gift ideas will be showcased. Gourmet selections will be provided by Nanking Restaurant and Bear Rock Cafe.

For more information call Wine Country at (908) 754-0752.

VFW Pork Dinner

October 19

The South Plainfield VFW, located on Front Street, will hold a roast pork dinner on Friday, Oct. 19 from 5 to 8 p.m. Public is welcome.

— Out of Town —

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.

Boat Building Demonstration

October 14

On Sunday, Oct. 14 from 1 to 4 p.m., the Cornelius Low House Museum, 1225 River Rd., Piscataway, presents a boat building demonstration with Gus Heinrichs of Tuckerton Seaport, and will focus on traditional New Jersey sneakboxes. The free demonstration will take place rain or shine under a canopy on the museum's patio.

To register, call (732) 745-4177.

Shoo The Flu.

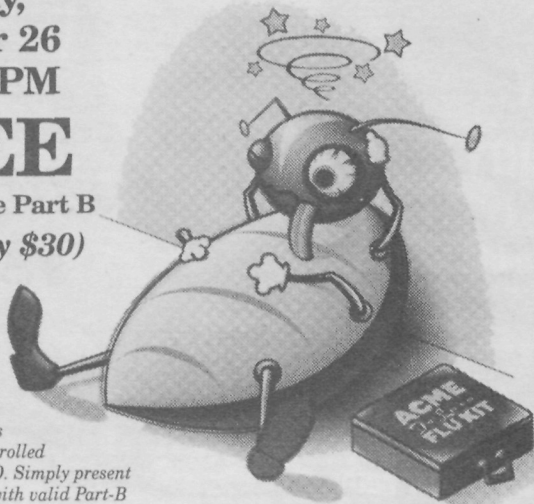
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Corporate Accounts Welcome



Touch A Truck Charity Event

October 14

The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield is holding its first ever Touch A Truck charity event on Sunday, Oct. 14 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the South Avenue train station parking lot in Westfield. Admission is \$5 per person or \$20 for a family of four.

For more information about the event, visit www.jlepj.org.

Somerset Ostomy Association Meeting

October 16

The Ostomy Association of Somerset County will hold their meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 16 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville. Guest will be Beverly Phillips, certified ostomy/wound care nurse.

The OASC is a support group for ostomates, their families and loved ones. All are welcome, along with physicians, nurses, social workers, physical therapists, and other interested parties. Refreshments will be served.

For further information, please contact Ed Wheeler at (908) 534-7897.

Job Fair

October 16

On Tuesday, Oct. 16, the New Jersey Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development and the Middlesex County One-Stop Career Center will host a job fair at 506 Jersey Ave. in New Brunswick, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participating employers include Verizon, FedEx, PNC Bank, Accumed, NCG Energy Solutions, Home Depot, SilverLine, UPS, Comcast, Norwegian Cruise Line and the New Jersey Department of Personnel.

Job seekers are asked to dress appropriately and to bring plenty of resumes with them. For more information call (732) 937-6200 or visit wnjpin.net.



How many of us actually walk to our daily destinations? Walking, for a good number of us, seems to be the exception, rather than the norm, for how we get around from place to place during the course of our day.

But walking is still the primary means of transportation for millions of people all over the world, especially in South and Central American countries, and many countries of Asia and Africa. Where do they walk? They walk to school, to work, to take care of a loved one, to get water. Why do they walk? They walk because they have no money for the bus—they are poor. Many have only one meal a day. Some children in India walk to school just for the free midday meal—it's the only food they have.

"We Walk Because They Walk" is the theme of this year's CROP Hunger Walk. Because they walk out of necessity, we walk in solidarity. The walk will take place on Saturday, Oct. 13 in South Plainfield, starting at 9 a.m. at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church on Park Avenue. Stops will then be made

at Pilgrim Covenant Church, Sacred Heart RC, First Baptist Church and at Spring Lake Park gazebo where the Rescue House of Prayer will conduct a prayer service. Walkers will then move on together to participate in the closing prayer at Wesley.

Please join us on October 13 at St. Stephen's. Of course, you can ask your friends and relatives to give you donations for your walk. If you can't participate yourself, consider helping to sponsor someone who can. The money raised will go to construct wells for water and purchase agricultural equipment for the poor in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Remember—what you can raise as an individual could give new life to someone in need. Consider it seriously—walk with your friends. Why not choose to walk—because others have no choice!

Life Lines is a monthly column that appears in the Observer, submitted by area churches. This article comes from Nehemiah Thompson, pastor of Wesley Church in South Plainfield.

Elks Army of Hope Raises Over \$108,000 For Soldiers

On September 16, the NJ State Elks Association held its third annual Army of Hope Picnic to honor our fallen heroes from New Jersey, who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedoms during the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts. Among those honored was the family of Sgt. Trista Moretti from South Plainfield. Her parents received a Medal of Valor during a poignant ceremony honoring these heroes. Members of the South Plainfield Elks took a bus trip to the Lacey Township ceremony in show of support to the family.

The Army of Hope Committee has also pledged to assist those families of our fallen heroes in the Army of Hope fund of the New Jersey State Elks Charities, Inc. Through donations, fundraiser raffles and the annual picnic sponsored by the Elks have raised over \$350,000, which has been distributed to our wounded soldiers and families of our fallen heroes. The fund will continue as long as we are fighting this war.

This year, the picnic raised over \$108,000 in support of this mission. It has enabled the Elks to assist more



than 90 families. It is important to the Elks organization to show our thanks and support to the families of our fallen heroes, to our wounded warriors from New Jersey and to the brave men and women of the military for their dedication and defense of our Freedoms.

Unfortunately, many of our soldiers are returning with grave injuries and disabilities. The funding enables the Elks to assist these soldiers with housing needs, medical care and prosthetics, rehabilitation and more. As loyal Americans, we need to show our support of our brave heroes that have disrupted their lives so we did not have to disrupt ours.

If you are interested in supporting the Army of Hope, contact Debra Czech, exalted ruler and Army of Hope chairperson at (908) 668-9750.

Please join us in paying tribute to their bravery. God bless our troops and God bless America!

Submitted by Exalted Ruler, Army of Hope Chairperson, Debra Czech

South Plainfield Monday Morning Group Forming

Jackie Jackson is a resident of South Plainfield as well as a Monday Morning facilitator for the Monday Morning Project, which is the largest disability organization in New Jersey.

Monday Morning is a grass-roots organization of advocates concerned with issues affecting the disabled community about transportation, employment, housing, transition services, ADA enforcement. Made up of county-based networks, Monday Morning has become the voice of people with disabilities speaking out for justice, equal opportunities, improved public access and a greater voice on community planning. The group is the largest grassroots activists in the state and has more than 2,500 members and 19 networks throughout the state.

Jackson recently met with Mayor Charles Butrico to discuss starting a network in South Plainfield and re-

ceived his endorsement.

She is asking for volunteers to come to an open mike event at the senior center on Monday, Oct. 22 and learn more about the network. The event will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. Mayor Butrico, County Coordinator Luke Koppisch and Middlesex County Facilitators Anita Clavering and Jackie Jackson will be available to answer questions. The event will give residents with disabilities and their families a chance to discuss issues that affect them, as well as share their concerns.

The Monday Morning Project also has a statewide effort to change the inappropriate language in the New Jersey State Constitution and replace it with appropriate language.

On Election Day, November 6, New Jersey voters will have an opportunity to vote on a very important ballot question. Ballot question number

four asks voters to approve amending the New Jersey State Constitution to delete the words "idiot" and "insane." Since, 1844, the sentence "no idiot or insane person shall enjoy the right of suffrage," has been part of our constitution. It is up to the voters.

For information or to RSVP, contact Jackie Jackson at (908) 561-6470 or E-mail jackiejackson@aol.com.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD - OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, October 14th - 1 PM TO 4 PM - 432 Spicer Ave.

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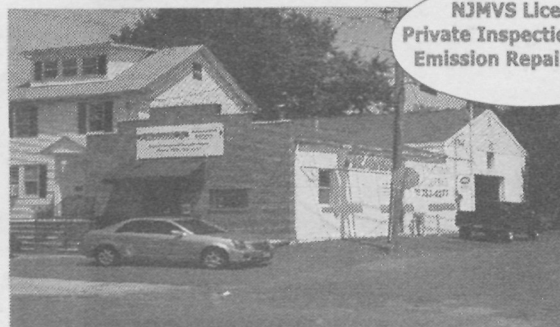
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The opinions expressed here are those of the organizations submitting the stories. They do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher, nor do we attest to their accuracy.

New Southside Park Highlights Rusnak, McConville Plan to Revitalize Parks

—Submitted by South Plainfield Republican Organization

Council candidates Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak this week announced a plan to rejuvenate South Plainfield's parks and open space. The centerpiece is the addition of a new park on the south side of town, the first new park in decades.

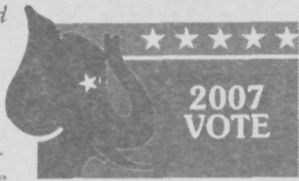
"Residents on the south side don't have a nearby park for their kids if they live on the east side of Hamilton Boulevard," explained McConville. "A safe, new park would fit right in."

Rusnak expanded on this: "We all know how important parks and recreation are to the lifestyle we want for our families, and adding a park in this area is one way we can protect the quality of life for people in that neighborhood, which is experiencing a tidal wave of development."

We're looking at several locations," McConville added. "The town already owns property in that area, so adding a park will not require any land purchases. We also hope to get funding for the project from the Open Space Trust Fund we all pay into with our taxes. This would minimize, if not totally offset, the costs for taxpayers."

But adding a new park is just one part of the plan. It also includes:

- **Adding dog parks to two of our existing parks.** With less and less open areas, dogs have less area to run and be free. Other towns have found that dog parks are a great, low-cost investment.



- **Putting in a jogging-fitness trail at the Tompkins Avenue Open Space Preserve.** The trail would let people enjoy the beauty of this site. Imagine being able to walk and enjoy the woods.

- **Supporting the plan to add a turf field to the PAL.** Tim and Ray support the plan proposed by parents to add a turf field behind the PAL. They will work hand-in-hand with the county to get the project done quickly and efficiently.

- **Dedicating our open space so it will never again be sold to developers.** Open space should be permanently preserved, like the signs say.

McConville explained why dedicating open space is important: "In August our opponents voted to sell open-space property on Harvard Avenue. A sign on the property said it would never be developed, yet it soon will be."

"There was even a letter signed by the mayor saying it was open space," added Rusnak. "But Thomas and Cerami voted to sell it anyway. This should never happen again."

The parks plan is just one part of Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak's plan for a better South Plainfield. McConville thinks it's one of the most important parts: "I come from a big family, and growing up in South Plainfield we enjoyed a great lifestyle, one I'd like all our families to enjoy," McConville explained. "To do that, however, we have to invest in our parks and open space and be innovative about using and conserving what we have. Our parks plan does just that."

Cerami and Thomas Are Proud of Road Reconstruction Program

—Submitted by South Plainfield Democratic Organization

Council members Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas this week spoke with pride about the borough's innovative road reconstruction program.

Council President Cerami said, "When the Democrats became the majority on the borough council South Plainfield's infrastructure had basically been ignored for over a decade. Under the leadership of Mayor Dan Gallagher, an agreement was reached with Middlesex County to establish an annual road reconstruction program."

The results speak for themselves. In the last 12 years over 38 miles of borough roads have been repaved... that's right 38 miles! Add to that total the reconstruction of Hamilton Boulevard all the way from New Market Avenue to Stelton Road and the widening of Durham Avenue to four lanes. This year we repaved and repaired curbs on a portion of South Plainfield Avenue. We also repaved Oak Tree Avenue, Wood Avenue, Bell Place and Lexington Avenue, Reiffle Street and a portion of Linden Avenue. Best of all, every inch of those 38 miles have been done on a 'pay as you go' basis.

The opposition party continues to ask how it is possible to have a tax cut in South Plainfield while other towns throughout the state are experiencing astronomical property tax increases. There is no secret to how this remarkable result was achieved. It happened because of budgetary discipline. Our outstanding 'pay as you go' road reconstruction program is just one example of the



Democrats' responsible approach to government."

Council member Kathy Thomas expanded on her running mates comments. "South Plainfield was the first town to enter into a cooperative program with

Middlesex County to repave local roads. Now every town in the county participates in the program. We estimate that we save about 25% by having the county do the work. It's a sterling example of how shared services should work. Even more importantly, we put money aside in every year's budget to pay for these projects as they are completed. Gone are the days of borrow, tax and spend of the prior Republican Administration.

As chair of the budget committee I am so pleased when council members from other towns come up to me and ask how South Plainfield has been able to cut taxes and reduce its debt by half while at the same time improving its parks, senior facilities and infrastructure. I can assure you that as long as the Democrats are in control, we will stay the course.

Next year we are committed to repave the remainder of South Plainfield Avenue and Linden Avenue. If you think your street should be added to upcoming projects list, just give Dennis or me a call or call the Borough Administrator's office.

If you care about the future not only of our roads but of our borough's finances and programs, the choice on Election Day is clear. Please vote for the team of Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas for South Plainfield Council."

Animal Licenses, Building Permits Fees to Increase

By Libby Barsky

Residents will be paying \$3 more for licenses for their pets. An ordinance passed at last Tuesday's Borough Council meeting means pet owners will pay \$14 for a license for each dog or cat they own, or \$11 if the animal is neutered.

Fees are used for tags, mailings and

free rabbies shots offered at two yearly rabbies clinics given by the borough.

"The clinics may be free for the dog or cat owners, but there is a cost for the borough. We still have to pay a veterinarian and those who work the clinic," explained Cynthia Ockay, clerk for the South Plainfield Health Advisory Board. Ockay said she has been working for the borough for 10 years

and there has been no increase in license fees during that time.

"The state recognized that the fees weren't covering our costs and gave us a range of up to \$22 (or double the new fee) to charge for a license. We increased it by \$3," said Ockay. "Whatever we take in doesn't cover the increase in costs," she added.

The new fee for license begins on January 1, 2008. There will still be a monthly late fee if a new license isn't acquired in January.

There is also a \$3 increase, from \$7 to \$10, in the price of a certified copy of any legal certificate, including marriage license.

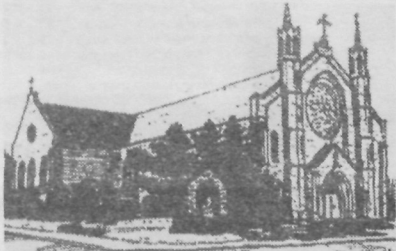
Charges for permit subcode fees for residential and other groups for new construction, additions, alterations, renovations, reconstructions and repairs will see an increase of between \$25 and \$100 or more depending on the project. For instance, a certificate of occupancy will increase from \$50 to \$75 per dwelling unit.

The last time the building permit rates were adjusted was in 1991.

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Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor



Sacrament of Reconciliation

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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.

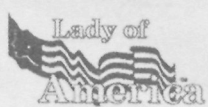
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Marching Band USSBA Competition October 20

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.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN

FROM A BUSY BUSY MOM *jd*

The South Plainfield Elks will be sponsoring a fundraising breakfast for the high school swim team on Sunday, Oct. 14 from 8 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$6 per person. Ryan Egan's band, The Command Radio, will also be performing at another swim team fundraiser at Gabriele's Bar & Grill, 1351 Centennial Ave., Piscataway on Saturday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. The Saturday, Oct. 13 swim team fundraising dance for high school students at The Basketball Shooting Academy in Edison has been cancelled due to the lack of participation at the previous dance on October 6.

The September 11 "Meet the Coaches Night," sponsored by the SPHS Athletic Booster Club, was very informative for the large turnout of interested parents. Thank you to Flanagan's Restaurant and April and Kathy for providing the buffet dinner.

Congratulations to Dr. Martin and his wife, Senator Barbara Buono, on the marriage of her daughter on October 7.

Brenda Vallecilla, Esq.

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Milestones



Marion Perogoff and Edward Gahrman, Jr. in 1957.

Gahrmanns Celebrate Silver Wedding Anniversary

Couple Returns to Polish National Home to Celebrate 50 Years

Marion B. Perogoff and Edward H. Gahrman Jr. were married at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Piscataway at the 11 a.m. mass on Saturday, Sept. 14, 1957. Their wedding reception followed at the Polish National Home in South Plainfield later that evening.

The Gahrman's children thought it would be special to mark their parents' fiftieth wedding anniversary by celebrating the milestone at the Polish National Home.

Plans to make the anniversary celebration special occurred for more than a year. "Save-the-date" cards went out to guests in January. Formal gold invitations were sent out in July for a "black-tie optional, golden evening of deja vu memories."

The theme of the evening focused on the 50 years of the Gahrman Family. The hall was decorated with oversized, dated portraits on cut-out cardboard—six baby pictures, one of each child; six baby pictures of the grandchildren and portraits from the Gahrman's wedding day.

The hall was further adorned with re-creation photos of the head table from the original wedding party. Photos from the couple's wedding album were blown up and printed to create life-size portraits of the bridal party and the bride and groom.

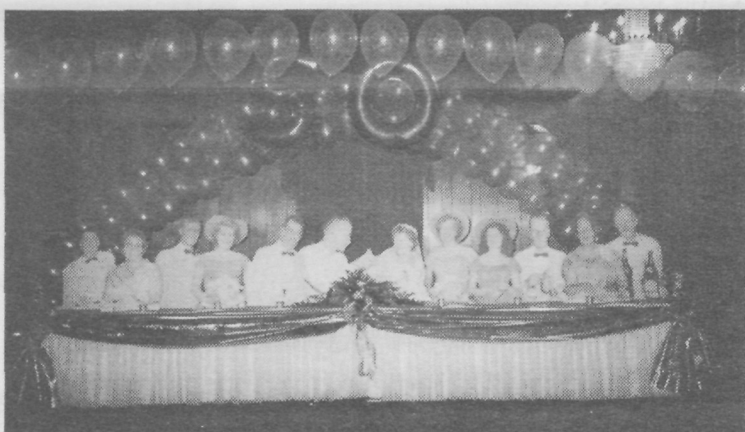
Each table's theme was centered around the children and grandchildren. Each table was named after a son or grandchild and included at each table setting was a different picture of that son/grandchild with their parents throughout the years.

The hall was decorated in gold with deep pink accents, the original color of the bridesmaids dresses.

Gold lame tablecloths, gold lame seat covers, gold draperies in the ladies bathroom and men's bathroom and gold skirting above and around the bar were used. Pink napkins, pink monogrammed 'G' coffee mugs and



Marion Perogoff and Edward Gahrman, Jr. celebrate 50 years of marriage at a party in their honor.



Gahrman's Family created a life-sized scene of the original wedding party.

flowers in all shades of pink accented the room. Gold helium balloon arches covered the dance floor, the head table and an eight-piece band.

The Gahrman Family put a tremendous amount of effort into the planning of this milestone anniversary for their parents.

The Gahrman's have six sons, Michael, David and Joseph of Piscataway, Richard and wife Natalie of Hillsborough, Charles and wife Shar-

on of East Brunswick and Edward and his partner Don of Somerset.

The Gahrman's also have six grandchildren, Stephen, Adam, Matthew, Kaitlyn, Justin and Hunter.

—Submitted by Edward Gahrman

SPHS Sweethearts Wed July 20

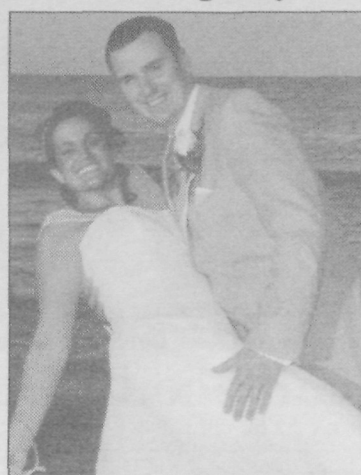
It was love at first sight in 1997 when SPHS junior Randy Kuhn and Theresa Lamastro, SPHS sophomore, met in school. Ten years later, on July 20, they were married as the sun set on a gorgeous evening on the beach in Long Branch at Ocean Place Resort and Spa, followed by a reception with 200 guests.

Officiating was the groom's sister, Emily Kuhn. In attendance were the bride's parents, Bill and Kathy Lamastro and the groom's parents, Harry and Dominique Kuhn, all of South Plainfield; the groom's brother and wife, Gregory and Diane Kuhn and the groom's sister, Sandrine Kuhn.

The maid-of-honor was Erin O'Keefe, formerly of South Plainfield. The best man was John McDermott, formerly of Norwood. The bride's brother, William Lamastro, served as usher. The bride's god-daughter, Nicole Brandt, and the groom's niece, Danielle Kuhn, served as flower girls.

The newlyweds honeymooned on the Gulf Coast of Mexico.

Randy and Theresa both graduated



Mr. and Mrs. Randy Kuhn

from St. Peter's College, he with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and she with a bachelor's degree in elementary education.

Randy is a real estate investor and the owner and CEO of Affordable Real Estate Options, Inc. Theresa is a first grade teacher in the South Brunswick Public School District. The couple resides in North Plainfield.

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Sunday mornings 8am and 11am

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SOUTH PLAINFIELD Monday Morning Network

Concerned about transportation, employment, housing, transition services, ADA enforcement? Have questions about your right to vote?

The Monday Morning Project, an initiative of the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities, is the largest movement of grassroots activists in the state. Monday Morning has over 2,500 members and 19 networks throughout the state.

The South Plainfield Network is now forming!

New Members are Welcome!

The Missing Link is YOU! So Join Us...

Please come out to hear more about the Monday Morning Network and talk with Mayor Butrico, County Coordinator Luke Koppisch and Middlesex County Facilitators Anita Clavering and Jackie Jackson.

The OPEN MIKE EVENT gives South Plainfield residents with disabilities and their families a chance to discuss the issues that affect them.



Come out and

SHARE YOUR CONCERNS and IDEAS!

OPEN MIKE EVENT

Where: South Plainfield Senior Center
90 Maple Avenue
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
(908) 754-1047

When: Monday, October 22nd, 2007
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Hope to see you there!

For more information or to RSVP contact:
Jackie Jackson, South Plainfield Facilitator
at (908) 561-6470 or
jackeejackson@aol.com

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South Plainfield Scouting



Washington Rock Girl Scouts at Liberty Hall Museum.

Girl Scouts Go Back In Time

Over 200 girl scouts of all levels from throughout the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council's (GSWRC) 25-community jurisdiction descended upon Liberty Hall Museum for "A Girl's Life Before Girl Scouting," run in conjunction with Liberty Hall and took participants on a journey back into time.

With the expansive museum and adjoining campus as its backdrop, the day featured tea in a colonial carriage house, a lesson in 18th century dancing, an old-fashion bucket brigade exercise as well as a tour of the property's

main home. Brownie Girl Scouts earned the Listening to the Past Try-It, Junior Girl Scouts worked towards the Local Lore Badge while cadettes and seniors completed requirements towards the Women Through Time and Museum Discovery IPP's.

In the midst of celebrating its 50th anniversary, GSWRC proudly delivers the optimal Girl Scout experience to over 11,000 girls and adults. The council sponsors a plethora of exciting and educational programs open to Girl Scouts of all ages.

Girl Scouts Plan Octoberfest Fun

Come join GSWRC for some good ol' fashion girl scout fun the weekend of October 19-21 as Octoberfest is once again held at Camp Lou Henry Hoover. The fun gets underway Friday evening and lasts through mid-morning on Sunday. This event is for registered adult girl scouts as well as

former girl scouts looking to reconnect. Open to women aged 21 and over, the event is a perfect opportunity to escape the rigors and pressures of everyday life while enjoying the 340-acre camp has to offer.

For information, call Coleen Hay at (908) 232-3236, ext. 1213.

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Sports

SOCCER

Bullets Blast Monroe

By Chris Paez

What a way to end a beautiful Saturday afternoon. The weather was perfect for watching the boys U-14 traveling soccer team take on the Monroe Scorpions. While dominating most of the game, the boys displayed great ball control and tremendous teamwork.

During the first half of the game, the players passed the ball back and forth preventing their opponents from scoring any goals. Meanwhile, Shaun Alers scored two goals to give the Bullets a 2-0 lead over the Scorpions.

The second half was just like the first. The players had many shots on goal, but it wasn't until almost the end of the half that Jimmy Gerber took a shot from midfield to give the Bullets their 3-0 win.

Congrats to the rest of the team consisting of Joe Krawiec, David Forero, Alex Valladares, Ryan Riccardi, Jelani Ptaah, Marc Paez, Zach Noll, Kevin Flanagan, Anthony Quadrel, Ryan Marcoux, Edgar Callegas and Tony Franczak.

The Bullets have a by-weekend next week, so their next game isn't until Saturday, Oct. 20 and is away in Linden.

Traveling Soccer Team Magic vs. Berkeley Heights

By Margaret Pezzolla

Magic, the girls U13 South Plainfield traveling soccer team, participated in the benefit Lainie's Angels at St. Joseph's High School on Oct. 7. The benefit was for children with cancer and blood disorders and was sponsored by Rovers Soccer Camp and initiated by Spencer Rockman. What an honor to be part of such a worthy cause. We hope all those children lead a healthier and happy lifestyle.

The South Plainfield girls traveling soccer team played Berkeley Heights on Oct. 7 and had a very interesting game.

During the first half, Berkeley Heights had led the game by a score of 1-0. The girls made an amazing comeback in the second half. They all worked together and managed to win

the game by a score of 7-1. The team is still undefeated with a record of 3-1-0.

Girls who scored were Emily Skula and Brooke Penik each scoring two goals. Kaitlyn McHugh, Marissa Smith and Carlee Gonzalez scored one each, also.

Goal keepers Jacqueline Dvorak and Annie Pezzolla allowed only three goals in four games. They both made excellent saves. Offensive and defensive players, Marie Lanza, Danielle Butrico, Allison Ratti, Jessica Bishop, Kim Walsh, Alexa Douras and Taylor Cruz, really held their ground.

Magic's next game is home on October 14 against Hillsborough at 12:30 p.m. at the Kenneth Avenue field. Please come out and show your support.

Rec Youth Wrestling Registration Oct. 27

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.

South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department Open House

Saturday, October 13th

1pm to 5pm

At the Senior's Recreation Center
Across from the Firehouse

Parking available at Veterans Park

BRING THE FAMILY

Come visit the South Plainfield Volunteer Firefighters and see the Fire Department equipment up close.

Demonstrations on kitchen fire extinguishment, extrication, rescue air bags.

Door prizes will be given: T.V., Ipod, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, bikes, tools and more. Door Prizes will be awarded in a Chinese auction style format.

FREE REFRESHMENTS

NOTES FROM RECREATION

- Youth basketball registration ends on October 16.
- Tickets for Disney on Ice/High School Musical are now on sale. Show is November 21 at 3 p.m.
- Cappy Award dinner tickets are on sale at the P.A.L. at \$15 per person. Dinner is Saturday, Nov. 17. This year's recipients are Owen Kelly and Nancy Pauls (posthumously).

SPJBC 2008 Baseball Registration

Registration for the SPJBC 2008 season will be held at the clubhouse on Kenneth Avenue on Friday, Oct. 19 from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Annual registration fee is \$95. For new sign-ups, please bring a copy of your child's birth certificate and a \$75 bond fee. Be prepared to select uniform sizes for your child. Sign-up to be a manager, coach or umpire at this time. Committee sign-ups are also available, just ask.

By registering your child to play next season at this time, it allows the club to better prepare for every aspect of the upcoming year—from deciding on the number of teams in each league, the number of managers and coaches, equipment purchases—to the amount to budget for improvements in our facilities.

Visit our Web site at www.league lineup.com/spjbc for more details. Baseball registration for 2007 increased over previous years and the interest in fall baseball has been overwhelming. Let's play ball!

Submitted by Gary Lampasona

SP Soccer Club Meet and Greet

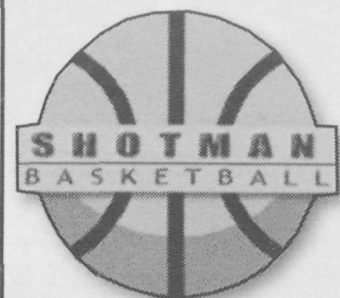
The South Plainfield Soccer Club will hold a Meet and Greet on Monday, Oct. 15 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Grant School gym.

U-12 boys birth dates between August 1995 and July 1996; U-11 girls birth dates between August 1996 and September 1997.

For more information call (908) 966-7704 or visit our Web site at <http://www.soplfdsoccerclub.com/>

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Student Council elections were recently held at Sacred Heart School for the 2007-2008 school year. Students pictured above were elected by students in grades five through eight. (L-R): Katilyn Moctezuma, secretary; Andrea Muglia, vice president; Carla Palma, president; Rhel Lapitan, treasurer and Anthony Cardosa, secretary.

New Jersey's First Rett Syndrome Awareness Day

Assemblyman Patrick J. Diegnan Jr. commended efforts for New Jersey to have its first multi-disciplinary clinic for Rett Syndrome in the run up to New Jersey's first Rett Syndrome Awareness Day on Tuesday, Oct. 16.

"A Rett Syndrome clinic would make it possible for individuals suffering from this disorder to receive quality, integrated and multidisciplinary care at one center," said Diegnan. "It would enhance the functioning of individuals with Rett Syndrome."

Diegnan also encouraged activities and events to step up awareness of Rett Syndrome on October 16.

Under a measure sponsored by Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula, the third Tuesday in October of each year will be observed as "Rett Syndrome Awareness Day," with 2007 being the first year.

The law was crafted to help raise public awareness of Rett Syndrome (RS)—a rare and debilitating disorder that almost exclusively strikes young females. The affliction affects infants at a critical stage of development, leaving many of them incapacitated and unable to speak.

"The tragedy of Rett Syndrome is that there is no cure and too many

medical professionals have little or no knowledge of this devastating neurological disorder," said Diegnan. "By planning events and activities to raise public awareness of this disorder on Rett Syndrome Awareness Day, we are taking the first step to help prescribe greater relief to the millions who suffer from this affliction."

Rett Syndrome is believed to strike 1 out of 10,000 births and it is estimated that up to 10,000 young girls with the affliction may be undiagnosed or misdiagnosed.

At present, there is no multidisciplinary clinic for Rett Syndrome (RS) in New Jersey or neighboring states, resulting in patients receiving different specialty care at different places without effective communication between providers.

RS advocates hope to set up a clinic at the UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School as a collaborative effort with the International Rett Syndrome Association. Nationwide, there are three Rett Syndrome research centers, one in Alabama, one in North Carolina, and one in Texas.

Rett Syndrome was first identified by Dr. Andreas Rett in 1964. Most girls with RS need assistance with daily activities, including feeding, dressing and toileting. It's estimated that 25 percent of girls with RS may never walk at all and about half of those who do walk will lose the ability at some point later in their development.

The bipartisan legislation, sponsored by Assemblymen Upendra Chivukula, Patrick Diegnan, Peter Barnes and Guy Gregg was signed into law by Governor Jon S. Corzine at a ceremony held at the UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson New Jersey Child Health Institute of New Jersey.

Carolyn (Babula) Winsmann, 85

Carolyn Winsmann died on Tuesday, Oct. 2 at JFK Hartwyck Nursing Home in Edison.

Born and raised in Jersey City, Carolyn had resided in Bayonne before moving to South Plainfield in 1950.

She was employed in sales with the former Great Eastern Mills in North Plainfield. Mrs. Winsmann was a former member of the South Plainfield American Legion's Women's Auxiliary and she enjoyed playing bingo in South Plainfield and Piscataway.

She was predeceased by her husband, Adolph, who died in 2006 and three sisters.

Surviving are a daughter, Wendy Zimmerman and husband Warren of Piscataway; a son, Wayne Winsmann and wife Kathy of South Plainfield and a sister, Irene Schwendel. Also surviving are five grandchildren, Scott, Kevin and Keith Winsmann, Cindy and Michael Colocci and one great-grandchild, Leah Elizabeth Winsmann.

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

Donations may be made in her memory to the South Plainfield Fire Department or the South Plainfield Rescue Squad.

Albina "Lil" (Niemczyk) Bradford, 93

Albina "Lil" (Niemczyk) Bradford died on Monday, Oct. 8 at the Woodlands Genesis Elder care in Plainfield.

Born in New Castle, Pa., Lil was raised in South Plainfield. For 30 years, Mrs. Bradford resided in Reno, Nev. where she worked as an executive maid for Harolds Casino retiring in 1989. In 1995, Lil moved back to New Jersey settling in Edison.

She was employed by the former Romeo Bag Co., as well as the former Cornell-Dubilier, both of South Plainfield. During WWII, Mrs. Bradford worked in production for the former

Mack Truck Co. in Plainfield.

She was predeceased by eight brothers and sisters.

Surviving is a sister, Lee Allerton of Riverside, Ca. and a brother, George Niemczyk of Edison.

Also surviving are several nieces and nephews, as well as several great nieces and great nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals

Louis W. Valenti, 82

Louis W. Valenti died on Sunday, Oct. 7, at Muhlenberg Hospital in Plainfield.

Born in Newark, Louis resided in South Plainfield for more than 30 years. Louis was a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving during World War II.

He was employed as a computer operator for RCA and Olympia before retiring in 1990. After retiring, he worked for the Borough of South Plainfield as a crossing guard at the intersection of Grant and Tompkins avenues.

Louis was predeceased by all of his brothers and sisters.

Surviving is his beloved wife of 29 years, Ruth (Hall) Valenti of South Plainfield; a son Thomas Hall and wife Dorothy of East Brunswick; a daughter, Kim Hall of Middlesex; a nephew John and wife Lisa and a niece, Connie and husband Bill.

Also surviving are four grandchildren, Kenny, Wendy, Russell, and Richie and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

Funeral services were held on at McCriskin-Gustafson Home for Funerals.

Margaret E. (Schwartz) McElhaney, 83

Margaret McElhaney died on Sunday, Oct. 7 in the Huron Valley Hospital, Commerce Twp., Mich.

Born in Plainfield, she resided in the Arbor section of Piscataway and E. Millstone before moving to South Plainfield in 1951. She moved to

Commerce Twp., Mich. in 2005.

Margaret was employed as an assembler for the Temple Company of South Plainfield for 20 years before retiring in 1992.

She taught Sunday school and was a member of the choir for the Messiah Lutheran Church in Plainfield. Margaret had also enjoyed being a Girl Scout leader for many years.

She was predeceased by a son, Matthew and two brothers, Theodore and Walter Schwartz.

Surviving are her husband, Matthew McElhaney; two daughters, Patricia Smith of Alexandria, Va., and Maureen and her husband, Pat Izzo of Commerce, Mich.; a son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Barbara McElhaney.

Also surviving are seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Oct. 13 at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals. Interment will follow in Hillside Cemetery. Relatives and friends may call at the funeral home on Friday, 5-8 p.m.

5th Anniversary in Heaven Happy 5th Birthday in Heaven



Emil R. Leporino

Oct. 12, 1939
to
Oct. 10, 2002

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

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

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IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

tax dollars, reforming ethics, revitalizing our business districts, and adding to our parks and open space.

Tim and Ray also have the right combination of leadership, experience, ideas and values. Tim's family is a fixture in the community, and he's chosen to raise his own family right here in the town he was raised in. He's trying to make South Plainfield better for his family and yours.

Ray would also be an asset. People want independence from elected officials, and he will add that to the council. We've already seen that the Republican council members are independent, not even always agreeing with each other. That's a good thing, something I think Ray will continue. We elect people to talk about ideas and debate them, not just go with the flow. I think Ray will be a much-needed independent voice.

In November, please support Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak.

SIL GOVER

Dear Editor,

I was reluctant to write this letter, but after reading last week's letter to the editor by Lt. Kevin Murtagh, I felt

it important to do so.

Before making any comments, I want to thank Lt. Murtagh for having the courage to stand up for his principles. He is a credit to our police department's traffic-safety division, and he deserves the community's respect.

Lt. Murtagh's letter is a clear warning about the danger of the alternate route that puts trucks on New Market Avenue. Like Lt. Murtagh, I live in an area that benefits from this route. Yet like him, I too believe that safety comes before convenience.

The most troubling part of Lt. Murtagh's letter explains how our town has ignored an unsafe situation. Last year when I ran for council I expressed my concerns about the alternate route's safety and was told it was safe. My friend, Councilman Rob Bengivenga, did the same thing at recent council meetings and was also told that the route's safe. In fact, the Democrats treated him like he was foolish for even asking the question, trying to label him an obstructionist. Yet he was right.

Despite repeated warnings, the mayor, Public Safety Chairman Dennis Cerami, and the Democrats on the council have ignored the dangers of

this route.

As the lieutenant explained, a DOT investigator found the route unsafe. What's more, despite claiming to have a letter saying the route is safe, the mayor has yet to produce it for a member of the public who has repeatedly asked for it.

Regardless of what the reports say, however, we now know that truck crashes are up 50%. We all see what happens at the intersections of New Market Avenue, Hamilton Boulevard and Spicer Avenue. Trucks have actually sent traffic signals and traffic posts crashing to the ground, and they often go up and over the curbs when making turns, all at an intersection through which students walk and ride their bikes to school.

It's time to put safety before politics. Residents have a right to a safe place to drive, to walk, and to live. The alternate route should be temporarily dismantled until we can put into place a safe route that takes traffic off Hamilton Boulevard. Let's not look back and wish we hadn't ignored the warnings.

ALEX BARLETTA

To the Editor:

I follow politics regularly, especially

local politics, and I was extremely happy that South Plainfield Council President Dennis Cerami decided to run again for Borough Council. During his four terms on the council, he has made it his personal mission to see that our police, fire, rescue squad and emergency management are given all the resources and personnel they need to ensure our safety. Undoubtedly, that is no small task and should not be taken lightly. With everything going on overseas, safety isn't something any of us take lightly and it takes a special leader to see that and work to make sure South Plainfield remains a safe place to call home.

I want to personally thank him and the best way to do that is to elect him to the borough council. I will also be supporting Dennis's running mate, Councilwoman Kathy Thomas. They both need to continue to serve the residents of South Plainfield and I am begging all voters to support them on November 6.

JOY D. WIERDO

police report

- On Oct. 3, Jean-Nicole Howard, 21, of Irvington and Kadijah D. Lowry, 24, of Plainfield were arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting \$64 worth of clothing.
- On Oct. 4, William M. Keyes, 42, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and registration, no insurance and an outstanding warrant.
- A Kendall Park resident reported that the front passenger window of their vehicle had been smashed and a Mio GPS was taken while parked at 50 Cragwood Rd.
- On Oct. 7, Kevin McGrory, 51, of Edison was arrested for driving on a suspended license, unregistered vehicle and an outstanding warrant.
- An O'Loughlin Drive resident reported their curbside mailbox had been knocked over.
- A Plainfield Avenue resident reported the theft of two bicycles from the rear of their yard.



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Seventeen parishioners from Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, including Pastor Rev. J. Maciej Melaniuk, visited Poland September 7-18. They visited Warsaw and Czestochowa, where they saw the Jasna Gora Monastery with its holiest icon, the "Black Madonna." They continued on to Krakow, stopped in Auschwitz to see the famous Nazi concentration camp and then traveled to Wroclaw, Poznan, Lichen and returned to Warsaw. Pictured kneeling (L-R) in Wroclaw, in front of the Hotel Pension of Pope John Paul II, are Peggy Archutowski, Darren Kaczowski, Joe Bielinski and Diane Kaczowski. Standing in the second row are Margo Pisack, Irene Butrico, Father Maciej, Shannon White, Ann Wanca, Jean Popik, Katie Pollock, Jane Pollock and Theresa Bielinski. In the third row are John Rosko, Joseph Archutowski, Tom Pisack and Harry Popik.

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From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Well, some of you are getting a slight jump on Halloween and putting up those cobwebs already. And others of you (primarily the stores) are getting a huge leap on the holiday season by putting up tinsel and fake snow. But, with your permission, let's focus on relatively recent events and look at news from the South Plainfield Public Library.

Following the September hiatus, our children's story programs have returned. For those of you who may have forgotten the schedule during the down time, here it is again: Storytime, for children age three and over, is held on Tuesday mornings at 10:30, Wednesday evenings at 6:30 and Thursday afternoons at 1:15. Time for 2's & 3's, for children ages two and three, is held on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 10:30. And Books & Babies, for children ages three and under, is held on Friday mornings at (all together now!) 10:30. Each program lasts about an hour; no pre-registration is required. For more details, call and ask for Miss Linda or Miss Mija. (See phone number below.)

We've also got two special children's programs coming up. Tomorrow, we'll have a pumpkin painting program for children of all ages. It'll run from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Space (meaning pumpkins) is limited, so pre-registration is required. There's a \$1 materials fee, payable upon registration. Then, on Wednesday, Oct. 24, we'll be holding a special Halloween program for kids ages three and over at 6:30 p.m. It'll feature magician/ventriloquist Brian Eslick. Be advised that this program will be held over at the South Plainfield Senior Center (two doors down from us, on the other side of memorial park). Registration is requested for this program, but not required.

We've got stuff for teens, as well. Next week, for Teen Read Week, we've got three programs. Our Teen Advisory Group will meet on Monday afternoon at 4 to discuss the library and

its programs. There will be a Poetry Slam on Wednesday afternoon at 4, where teens can learn about poetry and share their own writings. And on Thursday evening at 6:30 teens can participate in the Candy Sushi program. These programs are for teens in grades six through 12; the programs are free, but pre-registration is required. Refreshments will be served. For details or to register, please call and ask for Jaimie.

And, so the adults don't feel left out, we've got a program for them, too. On Sunday, Oct. 28, Alan G. Snyder will be back for more antiques appraisals from 2 to 4 p.m. Participants are limited to two items each; appraisals will be done on a "first come, first served" basis. The program is being presented free; no pre-registration is required.

In observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the library will once again host a domestic violence display throughout October. The display, "Silent Witness," along with more information regarding domestic violence, may be seen at the library during normal operating hours. The display is provided by the South Plainfield Domestic Violence Educational Outreach Program, in cooperation with the SPPD, Women Aware, Inc. and the South Plainfield Domestic Violence Crisis Intervention Team.

We're currently between groups on the Audiobook Circuit. The latest group will be available later this month. One note: be advised that this will be the last group from that circuit. Unfortunately, due to space limitations, we'll be leaving the Audiobook Circuit early next year. However, if you're looking for audio books we don't have in our permanent collection, we can still try and get them for you via interlibrary loan. Check with the reference librarian for more details.

That's about all for now. To learn more, call us at (908) 754-7885 or visit our Web site at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. See you next Friday. Now, you'd better stock up on candy while you can, not to mention gift wrap.

SCHOOL BOARD Notes

- Richard Recine was appointed as residency investigation consultant.
- William Helmsetter, Ardis DeCamp and Tammy Zurka were appointed as high school Saturday detention advisors.
- Jose Negron was appointed as affirmative action officer.
- A special executive meeting was held on Monday, Sept. 24, for the purpose of interviewing for the position of facilities director.
- The appointment of Jose Negron to the temporary position of director of operations was approved effective September 19 through October 17.
- Anthony Massaro's duties as assistant to the superintendent were terminated at the close of business on September 21.

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

Volunteers Still Needed for Walnut St. Park Cleanup

Residents living along the stream that runs through Walnut Street Park are organizing additional cleanups. The group has been clearing the stream bed of fallen branches, trash, matted vegetation and silt.

On October 6 they planted over 350 native shrubs, grasses, hedges and wildflowers to replace the weeds that had been choking the stream. The plants will need to be watered and monitored until they become established.

Also, weekly litter cleanups are continuing. Anyone interested in helping can meet in the park on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 9 a.m. Gloves and trash bags will be provided, but volunteers should bring useful tools if they have them. Boots are recommended.

This is an opportunity to get involved with a project that will make a long-term improvement in the Borough's environment.

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

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