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VOL. 11, NO. 10

Member New Jersey Press Association

50 CENTS

NOVEMBER 2, 2007

rrests Prompt SPHS Lock

five physical fights at various locations in the Borough last Thursday involving high school students and subsequently made three arrests.

After an altercation near Clarke Avenue with three other individuals, Jerome J. Brooks, 18, of Maple Avenue was charged with aggravated assault on a police officer, resisting arrest and obstruction. Quabid Turner, 18, of Wooden Avenue was charged with disorderly conduct. A 16 year-old female was also taken into protective custody. Brooks' bail was set at \$5,000.

South Plainfield Police responded to He was remanded to the Middlesex County Adult Correction Facility and posted bail early Friday morning. Turner was released on a summons and the female was released to a guardian.

> After conducting interviews with SPHS students, police informed school administrators about a possible weapon siting at the school. Administrators had also received information from students about guns being brought into the high school. This information prompted a lockdown on Friday.

> High school Principal Dr. Kenneth May said, "A decision was made to err

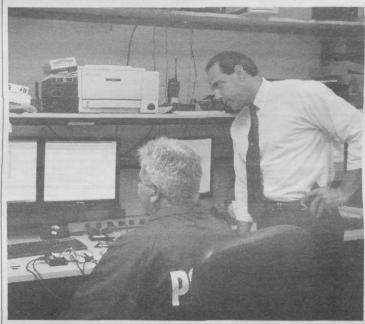
lockdown of the school.'

Superintendent Jose Negron explained, "The lockdown began at approximately 9:15 a.m. and followed procedures detailed in our Crisis Management Plan. The lockdown was conducted by the high school administrators and the police department. Due to the size of our high school, the police department requested assistance from neighboring police departments." Search dogs were also brought into the school to conduct a weapons search.

"No weapons were found and the search was terminated at approximately 1:15," said Police Chief John Ferraro. After an abbreviated lunch schedule, students continued their regular activities and were dismissed at the normal time.

Negron said that on Monday morning police officers were assigned to the high school "to ensure that students and staff were provided with a safe environment and one that is conducive to learning." He also personally thanked the members of the police department, neighboring police departments and Mayor Charles Butrico for their assistance and concern.

On Monday, a 17 year-old male was charged with possession of a weapon-a retractable box cutter-that had been found in his backpack during the lockdown. The student claimed it was from one of the shop classes, but further investigation revealed that it was not school property. The juvenile was transported to the Middlesex County Juvenile Detention Center.



South Plainfield Police Chief John Ferraro with Sergeant James Foran in the department's computer forensics lab.

Police Dept. Expands Computer Forensic Lab

The South Plainfield Police Department's Computer Forensic Lab (the "Lab") is evolving to meet the needs of law enforcement and rapidly advancing technologies.

The Lab was established in July 2001 through the use of forfeiture funds. In its early stages the lab had one forensic computer platform and password breaking abilities. More forensic analysis was conducted using DOS based utilities.

As technology evolved, so has the Lab. Several forensic platforms have been added, allowing police to process a vast majority of the current technology available. The Lab has shared their services with several Federal agencies, as well as other departments throughout Middlesex County.

To date, the Lab has processed digital evidence in support of many criminal investigations. Among these are: murder [Paul Cibelli] and [Jonathan Moorman], sexual assault, child pornography and crimes against children, money laundering and racketeering, stalking, identity theft, forgery, theft of human remains, fraud, distribution of controlled dangerous substances and prostitution.

In response to the ever growing popularity and capabilities of cell phones and PDAs, the Lab has expanded its forensics providing analysis of these items as well. The department is now working to increase their expertise to include video forensics. Funding has come from more forfeiture funds, Homeland Security grants and the local council. Training has been provided through grants and initiatives from the National Institute of Justice.

The Lab continues to receive requests from outside agencies for computer forensic cases. The increase in computer crime has led to the need for a full-time position. It requires continuous updating of hardware, software and training of personnel. Knowledge of advanced computer techniques are mandatory to ensure compliance with certification as a forensic computer examiner and entitles the individual to be recognized nationally as a computer forensic expert in regards to court testimony.

From the Office of the Chief Of Police **Emergency Response Team Formed**

response to specific crisis situations, the South Plainfield Police Department has been training and is now implementing the use of a highly trained Emergency Response Team (ERT).

The ERT will respond rapidly to immediate dangerous operations which can include serving high-risk arrest warrants, an active shooter, performing hostage rescue, security of critical infrastructure during heightened terrorist alerts and engaging heavily armed criminals not usually undertaken by a patrol officer. Team members are trained in the use of and equipped with specialized firearms, including submachine guns, carbine, riot/crowd control agents and high-powered

In order to provide an immediate equipment, including heavy body armor, ballistic helmets, shields and entry tools, etc.

The team is commanded by a police lieutenant and sergeant and consists of 10 other officers/detectives. The lieutenant and sergeant have been trained at S.W.A.T. supervision classes, hostage/crisis negotiation and S.W.A.T. entry and tactics classes. The officers have been, and are continually being, trained in entry techniques, vehicle assaults, advanced surveillance techniques, hostage/crisis negotiation and firearms training.

The E.R.T. will respond to all critical incidents where additional manpower/equipment is needed for the successful and safe conclusion of

rifles. The team has specialized a high risk critical incident.

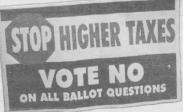
Signs have popped up around South Plainfield in the past few weeks that proclaim, "Stop Higher Taxes. Vote No On All Ballot Questions."

An investigation revealed that these signs were paid for by Americans For Prosperity, a National group which claims their position has been endorsed in editorials in The Star Ledger and The Record.

After sending an E-mail to the local contact listed on their Web site, Joe Schilp, Middlesex County Coordinator for Americans For Prosperity New Jersey Chapter, the Observer received a phone call from a woman from Americans For Prosperity who was not aware that there was a

fourth question on the ballot in New Jersey that

persons with developmental disabili-

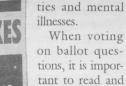


Ignorance Is Bliss-To an informed has nothing to voter, this sign posted around town national organido with spending clearly makes no sense. It's obvious zation that has no or higher taxes; the author has no idea as to what ties to New Jersey it asks voters to questions are actually on the ballot. decide how you

change the wording in the New Jersey should vote. Voters should read all State Constitution when referring to four ballot questions and decide for

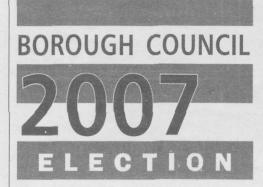
on the Borough Council. Democrats on the council.

Kathy Thomas and Dennis Cerami



understand what you are voting on. Don't let a

themselves (see pages 10 and 11).



Vote Tuesday, November 6 Polls are open 6 am to 8 pm



Kathy Thomas



Dennis Cerami

are seeking re-election. Also running opportunity to interview the candi-



Ray Rusnak

On Tuesday, Nov. 6 voters will challengers Ray Rusnak and Tim issues discussed in their weekly

Last week the Observer had the

decide the fate of the four candidates McConville. If the Republicans win columns in the Observer, as well as

running for the two available seats the seats, they will hold a majority /other campaign issues. Those inter-



Tim McConville

views can be found on pages 10 and

11. You can watch the interviews on

Comcast Channel 74 this Friday and



Read the candidates' words from an interview taped last week. See pages 10 & 11.

senior center. Call the center, (908) 754-1047, for date and time.

We thank the candidates for taking time to talk with us. We want to share their thoughts so that residents cast informed votes on for Council seats are Republican dates and ask them questions about Saturday at 8 p.m., as well as at the Election Day.

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

The September 17 Board of Education Public Meeting will air on Comcast Channel 74 Thursdays at 8 p.m. until their next public meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 28.

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

councilmeeting

Meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday

Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605 Agenda Meeting **Public Meeting** Immediately following Monday, November 5

December 4 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

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

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, *except where noted. Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641 Nov. 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, Nov. 28, Dec. 19, Jan. 16, Feb. 20, March 19 and April 19.

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.

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

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

(Please note: the November meeting has been changed to November 17)

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

Meets once a month (fourth Wednesday) at 7 p.m.

n the Conference Room, Borough Hall

boardofeducationcurriculum/technology meetings

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



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Change

Date

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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:

Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.

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 num-

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" to not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer. All letters must be submitted with name and phone number, for verification.

INMYOPINION

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

To the Editor,

Junior Girl Scout Troop 120 is working towards earning their Bronze Award and needs your help! We are collecting the following birthday party supplies for a women and children's' shelter: party hats, frosting, confetti, cups, streamers, cake mix, plates, toys, napkins, noise makers, sprinkles, party favors, wrapping paper, ribbons, balloons and anything else for a child's birthday party. No candles please!

Boxes will be placed in the elementary schools and Grant School. Items may also be dropped off at 1890 Second Place in South Plainfield. For more information, contact Jeanne Gruver at (908) 548-8518 or E-mail jgruver562@comcast.net. Thanks so much for your support!

JEANNE GRUVER & THE GIRLS OF **JUNIOR GIRL SCOUT TROOP 120**

Dear Friends,

We are approaching the time of year when we very often count our blessings and think of ways we can share our good fortune with others. We hope that you will consider sharing your blessings to help a family in need.

The Association of New Jersey Chiropractors, a non-profit state organization, is sponsoring a statewide food drive. There will be offices throughout the state where people can drop off non-perishable food for those in need. Food will be donated to local food banks in that region.

The office in your local area is Dr. Anthony J. DeCosta's office, located at 129 South Plainfield Ave.

All non-perishable food will be donated to FISH Hospitality Program. FISH has been serving homeless women and families since 1990, providing shelter and meals, as well as offering assistance locating employment and affordable housing

Please drop off all items at the office starting Friday, Nov. 2 through Monday, Nov. 19. Dr. DeCosta's office is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Thank you for helping those most in need.

SINCERELY, ANTHONY J. DECOSTA, DC

To the Editor,

I would like to thank the Public Works Department for trimming back the overgrown bushes on a wooded lot on Baker Avenue. There are no sidewalks on that portion of Baker and the branches had grown so far into the street that elementary school students walking home from Franklin School were forced to walk in the middle of the road to get around them.

I notified the public works department and they were on the scene by 8 a.m. the following day. It's gratifying to know our borough employees are there when we need them. **MARY ANN BOURBEAU**

Dear Editor,

Every year candidates running for council ask for our votes, and every year we have to choose which candidates have earned those votes. This year the choice should be Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak.

Tim and Ray have solid plans for a better South Plainfield. One of their best ideas is adding a new park for our south side, but I also like Tim and Ray's plans to add a jogging-fitness trail to the Tompkins Open Space Preserve and to add two dog parks.

Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak have the right ideas for South Plainfield, and they'll have my vote on election day.

KIMBERLY DEANGELIS

To the Editor:

It is once again election time, so please mark your calendar to come out and vote on November 6. Look at the positive work that the Democratic council has accomplished. The county and the town have repaved many roads in the borough, the Cornell-Dubilier project has been started and we have also seen an increase in recreational areas.

The schools have done a good job in educating our children, and our police and fire departments along with the rescue squad respond quickly to

Think of the positive things that have been done and vote for Kathy Thomas and Dennis Cerami when you vote on November 6.

WALTER KALMAN

To the Editor:

During the last two months I have had the pleasure of talking to a large number of people in town. Campaigning reinforces what I have always believed; that it is the people who live here that make this town great. It has been an honor to serve the residents of South Plainfield as a member of the Borough Council. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and proud of the things I have been able to accomplish to improve the quality of life in our town.

As chairperson of the Administration and Finance Committee I am responsible for the municipal budget. The municipal property tax levy in South Plainfield will be one tax point less in 2008 than it was in 2007. This is the first time in recent history that the municipal taxes are less than the year before. Despite huge increases in pension payments, rising energy costs, and inflation, we were still able to produce a budget with a tax decrease. This tax cut was achieved the old fashioned way, through hard work and a sound fiscal plan. It is the result of making the tough decisions, economizing

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.

where possible, instituting and following sound financial policies and controlling expenses. It provides real property tax relief for our residents and it did not happen by accident. Over the last seven years, South Plainfield's municipal tax has the lowest rate of increase in Middlesex County. The Democrats are extremely proud of that record. Other towns look to us as a model of fiscal responsibility.

I am proud to be running with a person with the dedication and integrity of Dennis Cerami. His service and devotion to South Plainfield is unmatched. Dennis is completing his fourth term on the council and his leadership has been a key factor in the success of the governing body over the last decade. As council president and chairman of the Public Safety Committee, Dennis has made the safety and security of our residents his highest priority. He has made certain that the police, fire, rescue squad, and Office of Emergency Management personnel are well trained and have the state-of-the-art equipment they need to protect our residents and businesses.

If the people of South Plainfield honor me with re-election, I will continue to look for ways to improve the quality of life for all residents. I will work hard to make sure that the new library will be an asset that the residents will be proud of for many years to come. I will work to promote Helen Street and the New Market Extension, ensuring that trucks will never return to Hamilton Boulevard. I will also continue to work at keeping our financial house in order by controlling spending and seeking new revenue sources.

My husband and I were raised in South Plainfield and we are raising our family here. I love this town and would like the opportunity to continue to make it better. I respectfully ask that you support the Democratic team of Kathy Thomas and Dennis Cerami on Election Day, November 6.

KATHY THOMAS

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to ask for your support and vote of confidence for Kathy Thomas and myself on November 6. As council president, I clearly recognize the fact that the residents of South Plainfield

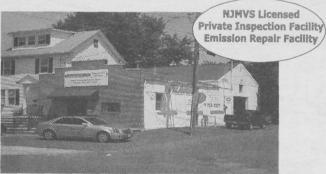
(Continued on page 8)

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Knights of Columbus members children with the mums: Alyssa Scrudato, Joelle Butrico and Dana Alexa.

Annual Knights Flower Sale Benefits Charities

Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 have been hard at work with one of their biggest fundraisers of the year-the mum sale at the South Plainfield Rescue Squad from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekend.

The fundraiser was started three years ago by co-chairmen Vincent Butrico and Gerry Butrico and the \$4,389 proceeds collected from this years mums sale go toward the Knights General Charity Fund.

One of the Knights of Columbus' principles is charity. This general charity fund is used to support local residents who have charitable needs. In the four weeks of selling mums the Knights sold 1,180 small and 64 large mums-that is amazing-1,244 mums. The Knights would like to thank every resident who bought mums and for telling other residents about this fundraiser. They would like to thank all the local business that bought mums, especially McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals and South Plainfield Funeral Home for purchasing more than 70 mums each. The Knights would also like to thank the

For the past four weeks the South South Plainfield Rescue Squad for the use of their parking lot. After four weeks of selling mums the Knights had some 70 mums left, so in their charitable way, they decided not to throw the mums away and instead donated all the remaining mums to the South Plainfield Middle School.

> The Knights could not have succeeded this year without the help of the following Knights who volunteered many hours selling the mums: Grand Knight Bill Butrico, Billy Kelly, Bob Tortorelli, Ted Rubino, Tony Moskal, Joe McGeehan, Mostilo Garcia, Brian Cargill, Ed Koznowicz Sr., Fred Brisebois, Tony Costantino and Joe Scrudato-PGK. The Knights also had five additional helpers who spent many hours helping sell mums and the Knights want to recognize these people for all of there help: Sarah Blessing, Liz Valentino, Pat Valentino, Matt Moates and James Butrico.

-Submitted by Joe Scrudato

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling Entertainment books. Cost is \$25. Contact Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.

Help "Keep Kids Warm" Program

The McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals is asking for participation in their sweatshirt drive, "Keep Our Kids Warm." They are asking for sweatshirts to be donated for children between the age of five to 17. Sweatshirts should be newly purchased or never been worn. No other clothing will be accepted.

The project is being run in accordance with the borough's director of social services, Marge Ackerman. The sweatshirts will be distributed to underprivileged children throughout the community.

Sweatshirts will be accepted in the main entrance of the funeral home on Saturday, Nov. 10 between 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Let us come together and show the children of South Plainfield who are less fortunate that they are cared for.

For more information, call the funeral home at (908) 561-8000.

Adopt a Family for the Holidays

South Plainfield Social Services is conducting its annual "Holiday Food and Gift Project." This program seeks individual people, groups or organizations to adopt needy families in our community and provide them with food and gifts for the holiday season.

If you don't have time to shop, you can still help by purchasing gift certificates at local department stores or grocery stores.

By participating in this program, your holiday season will be more meaningful and make life easier for our less fortunate families

To adopt a family or for more information, please contact Marge Ackerman, Director of Social Services for the Borough of South Plainfield at (908) 226-7625.



Wine Country Wine Tasting/ **Networking Event Draws 200**

More than 200 people attended a wine tasting event hosted by Wine Country at Hadley Center on October 18. Nanking Restaurant and Bear Rock Cafe provided gourmet food selections that complemented the 2002 Silver Oak Cabernet Sauvignon that was showcased. Wine Country staff pictured are (L-R): Michael Gagliardi, Vice President Mack Amin, General Manager Mario DeChellis, President Scott Maybaum, Kristen Getler, Tim McGovern, Jennifer Silhanek, Benny Rivera and James Vogelsang.

From the South Plainfield Library

By Jaimie Donnelly

Recently I have noticed that my friends and relatives have the same answer when I ask what's for dinner. Their response-anything that can be cooked in a crock pot or Dutch ovenso I decided to go with popular demand and dust off my crock pot and begin creating delicious dinners that keep my taste buds dancing. These recipes could not have been possible without the usage of the library's 40 stew, soup and crock pot books.

If you are new to slow-cooker creations like myself I highly suggest starting off with "Simple Soups & Stews" by Better Homes and Gardens or "Easy Soups & Stews" by various authors. For all things crock pot cooking I highly recommend checking out "Crock Pot Cooking" by various authors. A friend of mine who is a cooking expert just purchased a brand new Dutch oven and she swears by the

book "101 Things to do with a Dutch Oven" by Vernon Winterton.

For other delicious recipes, I rec-ommend "Biggest Book of Slow Cooker Recipes" by various authors and "Not Your Mother's Slow Cooker Recipes for Entertaining" by Beth Hensperger. For general year round casseroles check out "The 125 Best Casseroles & One-Pot Meals" by Rose Murray or "One Dish Dinners" by Winifred Moranville.

Join us every Friday at 11:30 a.m. in November, except the 23rd, for the adult craft series, "Coming Together to Create." Programs are free; however, pre-registration is requested and participants must bring in their own

Children's storytimes are on normal schedule. Story and crafttime 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, Nov. 12 in observation of Veteran's Day.

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



CareOne at The Highlands

1350 Inman Avenue, Edison, New Jersey 08820





Notes from The Senior Cen

Open House

The South Plainfield Senior Center will host an Open House on Sunday, Nov. 11 from 1 to 5 p.m. All South Plainfield residents, young and old, are invited to stop in and get acquainted with the center and all the programs and services we offer to our residents-services like door-to-door transportation, help with property tax relief, help with health insurance questions, Medicare, Social Security, elder law issues, help with bookkeeping and extensive outreach services. Come and learn about the many volunteer opportunities we have available for individuals, families and organizations to become a Community Outreach volunteer. Take a tour of our facilities. Get a Middlesex County Photo ID card. We are so much more than a bingo hall. Please come and get to know us.

• Flu Shots Scheduled

The Middlesex County Health Department will be at the senior center on Friday, Nov. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon to give flu shots. Flu shots are free to Middlesex County residents ages 18 and older. Pneumonia shots will also be available for residents 65 and older, but you must make an appointment in advance to receive this immunization. To make an appointment, please call (732) 745-3100.



If Respite Care seems like a good option for you, please

call our Admissions Office at 908.754.7100, to learn

more about our special rates and availability.

Kennedy Vendor Night November 2

Kennedy School vendor night will be held on Friday, Nov. 2 in the gym from 6 to 9 p.m.

K of C-Don't Cook on Friday Night

November 2

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their annual "Don't Cook on Friday" Italian dinner on Friday, Nov. 2 in the Knights of Columbus Hall located at 334 Hamilton Blvd., from 4 until 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$4 for children under 12. Dinner includes pasta, sausage and meatballs, salad, bread and dessert with coffee/tea.

For more details, contact Bill Butrico at (908) 561-8128.

Columbiettes Shopping Trip

November 3

The South Plainfield Columbiettes will sponsor their annual shopping trip to the outlets in Reading, Pa. on Saturday, Nov. 3. Bus leaves Sacred Heart Church parking lot, off South Plainfield Avenue, at 8 a.m. sharp.

Cost is \$25 and includes the bus driver's tip. When you reach Reading, you will be given a shopping bag and coupon book, as well as a voucher towards lunch. Bus will stop at the Cracker Barrel in Fogelsville, Pa. for additional shopping and dinner on your own and return at 7 p.m.

To reserve your seat, or for additional information, contact Kathy at (908) 756-3772 or Linda at (908)

Country Breakfast and Bake Sale

o the Holy Land

ebruary 10-19

Vovember 4

The South Plainfield VFW will host

56-0633, ext. 39 or E-mail dan410@aol.com.

acred Heart Sponsoring Pilgrimage

What's **NOVEMBER** South Plainfield SENIOR CENTER happening at the **THURSDAY FRIDAY** WEDNESDAY MONDAY **TUESDAY** Bingo November 11 – Open House – 1-5 p.m. 10am-2pm Discover Everything We Do **UPCOMING** EVENTS November 7 – 9:30 a.m. Departure Viva Las Vegas at the Brownstone Restaurant 5 Bingo 10am-2pm Aerobics 8:30 am Pathmark Bingo 9:30am-11:30am Line Dancing 10am Shopping 9am 10am-2pm Yoga 10:30-11:30am Group 10am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Classes Computer Class 10am Art Class 11:30am 10am, 11:30am, 1pm Crocheting 1pm 11:30am, 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm Tai Chi 2pm TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.

a country breakfast and bake sale on Sunday, Nov. 4 from 8 to 11 a.m. Come enjoy breakfast and then take home a cake! The public is welcome.

Election Day Spaghetti Supper

November 6

Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish Hall on Hamilton Boulevard is holding an Election Day spaghetti supper on Tuesday, Nov. 6 from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Adults \$8, seniors \$7, children ages 5-12 are \$5. Children under 5 are free. Dessert and salad is included. Tickets can also be purchased at the door. For more information, please call (908) 757-4490.

Brownstone Trip 2nd Bus Added! November 7

The Senior Center was able to get additional tickets to the Brownstone Restaurant for the "Viva Las Vegas" show, so we have added a second bus and seats are now available. The cost is \$49.50 and includes transportation, a one-hour cocktail hour, full luncheon and the show. Bus leaves at 9:30 a.m.

and returns at 4 p.m. This is sure to sell out again so call now.

For more information, please call (908) 756-4135.

Blackrose, The Band November 10

Blackrose, performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will be performing at Rugs and Riffy's, 493 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge, on Saturday, Nov. 10 at 10 p.m. There is no cover charge.

Vendor Night

November 15

The Future Stars Pre-School Parents Group will hold their annual vendor night on Thursday, Nov. 15 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Roosevelt Administration Building. Please join us for an evening of shopping. We still have space available for vendors, so if you are interested, please call Stephanie at (908) 930-7744.

Holiday Boutique And Tea Room

November 17

Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave., is holding a Holiday Boutique and Tea Room on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Unique handcrafted items include jewelry, knitted and crocheted apparel and home items, wood crafted decorations, original paintings, stationery, ceramics and handbags, as well as Longaberger baskets, Discovery Toys, Dove Chocolate at Home, Tastefully Simple, Creative Memories and more. The tea room will offer a variety of foods, including quiche, homemade soup, sandwiches and salads. Children can create their own gift or ornament at our "make-take table."

For more information or for directions, call (908) 755-3850.

— Out of Town —

International Night

November 3

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 400 New Market Rd. in Dunellen, is hosting an International Night on Saturday, Nov. 3. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$10 for children under 12.

For information, call the church at (732) 968-6781 or (732) 752-5608

Healing Body and Soul at Willow Grove

November 3 & December 8

Medical Qi Gong is a course of meditation exercises being offered free at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains on Saturdays, 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 Email jermar107@themannfamily.org.

Metuchen-Edison Women's Club Mta.

November 7

The Metuchen-Edison Women's

Club will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m., at The Heritage at Clara Barton on Amboy Avenue in Edison. Guests are welcome and light refreshments will

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

Women in Business **Networking Event**

November 7

National Association of Women Business Owners North Central Jersey Chapter (NAWBONCJ) invites you to a night of dinner and networking at the Harvest Moon Brewery, located at 392 George St. in New Brunswick on Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$45 for non-members. Register at www.whoscoming.com/ nawboncjevents. Call Allison Verrino at (888) 458-0688 for more information. For directions, call Harvest Moon at (732) 249-6666.

St. Cecilia 80th Anniversary Benefit

November 10

St. Cecilia School in Pennsauken will be celebrating its 80th anniversary on Saturday, Nov. 10 at the Woodbine in Pennsauken.

Tickets are \$80 per person and includes dinner. Wine and beer bar, dancing and live entertainment. Proceeds will benefit the children of St. Cecilia School.

Send ticket requests to St. Cecilia School, 4851 Camden Ave., Pennsauken, N.J. 08110.

For more information, call the Advancement Office at (856) 662-3045.

5th Annual Greek Night Dinner Dance

November 10

On Saturday, Nov. 10, St. George Greek Orthodox Church Youth Association (GOYA) presents its fifth annual Greek Night charity dinner dance from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

For more information, to make reservations, or to donate your hair during the event, please contact Sophie Exarchakis at (732) 723-9088.

Send Your Events to:

spobserver@comcast.net or Fax: 908-668-8819

Protect Yourself and Your Loved Ones

The Very Reverend John P. Alvarado, Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, an-

ounces a unique 10-day pilgrimage and study tour to the Holy Land, Febru-

y 10-19, 2008. This extraordinary experience is open to all families and friends

Sacred Heart Church and neighboring parish communities. Join Fr. Alvarado

or a unique experience in the land where the word became flesh (John 1:14).

Valk "In the Footsteps of Jesus" in Nazareth, Galilee, Jerusalem, Bethlehem

nd recognize Him in the breaking of the bread, as the disciples did, on the tual road to Emmaus! For more information, contact Dan Mahoney at (732)

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TWIN CITY PHARMACY Thursday, November 15 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

\$25 per participant

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

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

USE THE OBSERVER AS AN ADVERTISING TOOL. Introduce your business to the commu-

nity. Promote your specials. Residents would rather patronize local businesses than travel out of town. It is more convenient and it's good for the local economy.

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restaurant or service

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

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

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

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

> SUBSCRIBE. It's \$25. (in town) for through email at: spobserver@comcast.net

southplainfieldpeople Milestones



Twin City Pharmacy received the Small Business of the Year Spirit of Hospice Award. Pictured standing (L-R): Pharmacist James Kim, owner Tom Cassio, retired owner Tom Cassio, Chris Kulawiak, owner/pharmacist Bill Ashnault. Standing in the center is Marissa Judd, sales associate. Front row (L-R): Pharmacy tech/manager Lindsey Bechtle, sales associate Jackie Vill, Sandy Severini, Maureen Noll, HME assistant and Lauren Smithline, sales associate.

Twin City Pharmacy Wins 2007 Spirit of Hospice Award

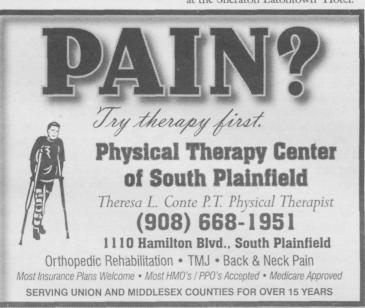
The 10th annual NJHPCO Awards Program recognizing excellence in hospice care has honored 21 winners from hospice agencies and supportive entities in the community. Twin City Pharmacy, located on Park Avenue, was awarded the Small Business of the Year, Spirit of Hospice Award. They were nominated by Homeside Hos-

Spirit of Hospice Awards are a trib-

ute to individuals and companies in the community that have been especially supportive of hospice care. Hospice Team Awards laud hospice employees and volunteers who serve as role models for their counterparts around the state and nation.

Winners were selected by judges unaffiliated with any award nominee.

All awards will be presented at the awards dinner on Wednesday, Nov. 7 at the Sheraton Eatontown Hotel.



South Plainfield New Listing

Wonderful 3 bedroom starter cape featuring new kitchen with recessed lighting and pergo floors, living room with wood burning



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South Plainfield High School Rotary Students of the Month

South Plainfield High School, is pleased to announce the September Rotary Students of the Month, seniors Blaire Houston and Christopher

Blaire has a GPA of 3.6 and has had the good fortune to meet President Nelson Mandela and visit deprived children of Soweto and other townships in South Africa.

She has volunteered her time by mentoring elementary school students, at senior citizen dances, working with local Adopt-a-Family during the holiday season and Tiger 24. Blaire

Dr. Kenneth May, Principal of has been a key player on the girl's varsity basketball team and plans to attend college and major in advertising with a minor in Spanish.

Chris has a GPA of 4.2 and is currently taking AP courses. He is a fouryear varsity soccer starter and three year varsity baseball player.

Christopher is actively involved in student council and student leaders and has volunteered his time with Heroes and Cool Kids, Litter Clean-Up Week, Adopt-a-Family and Tiger 24. Christopher plans on majoring in criminal justice in college.



Donna Tolley received tenure for her position as business administrator/secretary to the South Plainfield Board of Education.



Rotary Students of the Month (left to right) Christopher Pennisi and Blaire Houston with SPHS Principal Dr. Kenneth May.

Share Your Good News .. Send us your Milestones!

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Danger: Carbon Monoxide Can Kill

As the season changes and the weather becomes colder, extreme caution is urged when using sources of carbon monoxide such as unvented kerosene and gas space heaters, gas water heaters, wood stoves, leaking chimneys and furnaces, fireplaces and gas stoves. Other common sources are automobile exhaust from attached or unvented garages and "patched" vent pipes using tape, gum or other substances.

Carbon monoxide is an odorless and colorless gas that can deprive the body of oxygen, the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES) encourages everyone to install carbon monoxide detectors in

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South Plainfield oserver his or her home. Exposure can produce headaches, sleepiness, fatigue, confusion and irritability at low levels. At higher levels, it can result in nausea, vomiting, irregular heartbeat, impaired vision and coordination, and death.

Life-Saving Tips

- · Open flues when fireplaces are in
- Chimneys should be inspected and cleaned annually.
- · DO NOT idle the car inside the
- Use the correct fuel in kerosene
- NEVER use charcoal indoors or in areas with inadequate ventilation.

· Have a trained professional inspect, clean and tune-up central heating systems like the furnace every year.

· Gas appliances must have adequate ventilation so that carbon monoxide will not accumulate.

Remember, help is just a phone call away! If you suspect a poisoning, call the poison control center at 1-800-222-122 for immediate treatment advice as well as for prevention informa-

Trained medical professionals will provide you with the most up to date emergency treatment advice, and will answer any drug or poison information question you may have.



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

McConville, Rusnak: "Imagine a Better South Plainfield"

Council candidates Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak this week thanked voters for the overwhelming support shown for their "Plan for a Better South Plainfield."

"Going door to door, residents have been eager to embrace our plan," said McConville. "They care about things like getting a handle on traffic and overdevelopment, and they want to see investments in expanded parks and revitalized business districts."

Over the past few weeks, Tim and Ray have offered a comprehensive plan that includes:

· Enhancing Public Safety-Investment in public safety is vital, because families must feel secure. That's why Tim and Ray support the work of Councilmen Rob Bengivenga and Matt Anesh, who have been pushing for increased public-safety funding and who worked with Congressman Mike Ferguson to get a \$100,000 federal grant for our police-department.

The two candidates also back a shared-services program that places a police resource officer in our high school. Councilman Rob Bengivenga and School Board President Jeff Seider have been spearheading this plan for over a year, and it's scheduled to begin on December 1.

• Fighting Against Traffic and Overdevelopment-These are two of South Plainfield's biggest challenges. To control traffic, Tim and Ray will push for the extension of Hollywood Avenue, which would take trucks off Hamilton Boulevard, New Market Avenue, and other residential streets. They'll also fight to resurrect the Helen Street Project. Tim and Ray also know that we'll never reduce traffic unless we get a Ray Rusnak, go to www.spgop.com.

* * * * handle on overdevelopment.

· Safeguarding Our Tax Dollars-Tim and Ray want to restore accountability. For example, they stood firmly against selling town property to a Democratic contribu-

tor recently when it was learned that he was receiving it at almost \$100,000 below market value. They will continue to stand up for us and against wasteful spending.

 Expanding Our Parks and Open Space-Tim and Ray's plans include adding a south-side park and a walking-fitness trail at the Tomkins Open Space Preserve. They also want to dedicate our open space so it will never again be sold to developers.

· Revitalizing Our Business Districts-Park Avenue and Plainfield Avenue are gateways into our community. Through a mixture of incentives (grants, low-interest loans, etc.) and strict enforcement, Tim and Ray want to revitalize these areas and showcase what our town has to offer. This is a balanced approach that will encourage investment by local businesses.

These innovative ideas are just part of the McConville-Rusnak plan for a better South Plainfield. According to McConville, their plan includes both long- and short-term solutions. "We won't promise change overnight, but we will promise a better alternative," he said.

Ray Rusnak said it best when he talked about the GOP plan: "Imagine a better South Plainfield. If you can, please support Tim McConville and me on Election Day. You won't be disap-

To find out more about Tim McConville and

Cerami and Thomas Are Proud Of Positive Campaign by Dems

As election campaign 2007 draws to a close Democrats Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas expressed their pride over their positive, issue oriented campaign.

Council President Cerami said: "It's a tradition in the South Plainfield Democratic party to keep things positive. That's one of the main reasons I first ran for council on the Democratic ticket. We talk about our accomplishments and our vision for South Plainfield. The Republicans by comparison call us names, question the honesty of everyone that disagrees with them and never come up with one suggestion about improving the borough. I'm not going to mislead you. It's tough sometimes not to go back at them but in the long run, I know the voters are intelligent enough to know the truth.

"Every September we challenge the opposition to run on the issues-you can look it up in the Observer-and every year they revert to the same old garbage. If you have received any of the Republican slick flyers you have already seen their gutter campaign tactics. Well there is only way to stop their slash and burn campaigns. Vote for the team that talks about the issues and the future.

"I am happy to run with a person of intelligence, dedication and character. Kathy Thomas has been an outstanding council member and she will continue to dedicate herself to making South Plainfield an even better place to live. One of the main reasons that South Plainfield has the best record on taxes of any of the 25 towns in Middlesex County for seven straight years is because Kathy Thomas is the chairperson of the committee that develops the borough budget. This year's tax cut is reason alone to reelect her."

Council member Thomas agreed with her running mate saying: "The Democrats don't need to

 $\star\star\star\star$ confuse the facts. They speak for themselves. South Plainfield is the only town in Middlesex County to have a tax cut this year. We have reduced the borough debt by \$8 million and we will reduce it by

\$2 million more next year. We have preserved over 200 acres of open space including the old bus lot on New Market Avenue and the acreage next to Halls Trucking on Oak Tree Avenue that was targeted for condos. Under Democratic leadership every park and recreational facility, including the PAL and community pool, have been improved and our senior services have been expanded, including improvements to the senior center and a new senior van.

"We have the best equipped and best trained police, fire, rescue squad and emergency management departments in the state. Almost 40 miles of roads have been repaved on a pay-as-you-go basis and we have permanently banned trucks from the beautiful new Hamilton Boulevard. But we don't rest on our laurels. We pledge to continue to keep taxes, spending and borrowing under control. Next year at least 20 more acres of open space will be permanently protected from development. Our new library will be under construction in 2008 and next year at this time the New Market Avenue extension will be completed.

"The team of Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas are proud of the outstanding record achieved by the Democratic majority led by Mayor Charlie Butrico. We make a simple request of the voters. Look at the record of the candidates, look at their plans for the future of South Plainfield and then make your decision. After you do so we are confident that the choice will be clear. The team of Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas have earned your support on Election Day."

OLC Plans Construction of New Rectory

The Zoning Board of Adjustment recently gave final approval of the site plan and variance for Our Lady of Czestochowa to build a rectory. It will be a two story building containing a first floor with a study, guest room, dining room, kitchen, powder room, bathroom and laundry room and a two car garage. The second floor will have two bedroom suites, with sitting rooms and a bathroom.

Middlesex Co. Holding Influenza, Pneumococcal Immunization Clinics at the Senior Center

The Middlesex County Public Health and Education Committee will be offering flu and pneumococcal vaccines to Middlesex County residents who are aged 18 and older.

The Middlesex County Public Health Department will be at the South Plainfield Senior Center, located at 90 Maple Ave. on Friday, Nov. 16 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

'The single best way to prevent the flu is to get vaccinated each year but good health habits can also help protect against the flu," stated David A. Papi, director-health officer of the Middlesex County Public Health Department.

You can help reduce the spread of flu to yourself and others if you:

- · Stay home when you are sick.
- · Avoid close contact with people
- · Clean your hands often. (Keep alcohol-based hand sanitizers in your purse, car and backpack, when soap and water is not available).
- · Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth as much as possible.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, and then throw away your used tis-
- · Get regular exercise, enough rest and eat healthy, balanced meals.

Medicare will be billed for influenza and pneumococcal immunizations. Residents without Medicare coverage will not be charged for the immunizations. Proof of age and residency is required and no one under 18 years of age will be vaccinated.

Pneumococcal immunizations will also be available by appointment only to Middlesex County residents who are 65 years of age and older and have not previously received this vaccine. Medicare will be billed where applicable. Proof of age is required. For a pneumococcal vaccine appointment, call (732) 745-3100 Monday-Friday between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Call the Middlesex County Public Health Department Hotline at (732) 745-4344 or visit their website at www.co.middlesex.nj.us/publichealth/ fluclinics.asp for flu vaccine clinic dis-

You can also utilize Info-line of Central New Jersey by the Internet at www.info-line.org/ or by phone tollfree by dialing 2-1-1 or 1-888-908-INFO (4636) for Middlesex County Public Health Department flu clinic information.

You are cordially invited to make a difference in vour own future.

It's not about which side of the fence you sit on, but that get off the fence and vote!





what's going on where you live.

South Plainfield Observer

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Music Boosters Music Notes



Wow, what a crazy couple of weekends. The weather was warm and the air was filled with music, music, music! It all started Saturday morning, October 20. Our marching band and color guard went to Colonia to support our football team. They returned to prepare for our USSBA competition, seniors hosting the participating bands. After a long day, they were the highlight of the show.

Our 26th annual Marching Band Festival and USSBA competition was a huge success. We had 10 marching bands from around New Jersev come and perform. I'd like to thank some of the many who helped make our event happen: all of the schools who participated; the USSBA staff and judges; Applebee's for their donation of product and volunteers to grill; Roma Food for the use of the pizza truck and providing the volunteers to cook; 1-800-Flowers retail store for your assistance with the flowers; Angelo's Ice; Conti Construction for the lights; everyone in the school district who assisted us in our efforts; South Plainfield Police Department; South Plainfield Rescue Squad; the Girl Scouts for helping our judges; the SPEA and all of our trophy sponsors; the SPHS Concert Choir, as directed by Tracy Glen Murray; the crew at Sodexho; the athletic boosters; our many parents from chorus, orchestra and band who donated and/or volunteered; the alumni parents for your knowledge, expertise and time, including those who volunteered.

I'd like to send a special thanks to the Music Booster board who organized the event: Beverly Blanco, Joe and Sandy Sierzega, JoAnn Seigel and Nancy Wagner. If I have forgotten to list someone, please note that you have our heartfelt thanks from all of us on the executive board for all your efforts!

The weekend of music continued on Sunday, Oct. 21. Our marching band and color guard competed at The College of New Jersey. They did a phenomenal job, placing third in the Class 3A Division with a score of 81.85. The competition was fierce.

On Saturday, Oct. 27 while our football team was busy beating Monroe, our band was practicing for our competition at East Brunswick High School. This was a unique experience for the freshmen as it was their first indoor "stand-still" competition. We were a few students short that week, but the band and guard filled in the gaps and performed their best. What a wonderful show they had. We placed third with a score of 88.54, our best score so far this season. Only one competition to go-the championships are being held on Sunday, Nov. 11 in Allentown. Check the USSBA Web site for directions, times and details at www.us bands.org.

A few select students from chorus took a field trip to The Metropolitan Opera House on October 26 to see "The Magic Flute." Since only 20 seats were available, Murray drew names from a hat. After speaking to a few students about the trip, it was clear that the experience they had was amazing.

Our fruit fundraiser is ending on Nov. 7. Please see a music department student to place your order. If you wish to order by credit card, please visit the following secure Web site: www.fruitorder.com and click on fundraising. Enter code #107000 for SPHS. Don't forget to click on the student you want to have credit for the sale. Fruit orders with payment are due on November 7 to ensure delivery to the high school by December 15. Remember, if you are paying by cash or check, write it out to SPHS Music Boosters.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. in the chorus room. Lots to discuss, including some new and interesting ways to raise money for the entire music department. Don't forget to bring in your fruit orders—they will be collected for final order placement at the meeting. Hope to see you there.

Submitted by Pamela Hussey, co-president



Buono, Diegnan, Barnes Endorsed By Environmental Organizations

Senator Barbara Buono, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan and Assemblyman Peter Barnes III announced their endorsement by the New Jersey Environmental Federation and the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club. A non-profit environmental organization, The New Jersey Environmental Federation works to organize citizen efforts to protect the environment, public health, economic well-being and quality of life in New Jersey. The Sierra Club is a national, member-supported environmental organization with chapters in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. With approximately 20,000

members, the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club is the 10th largest chapter.

"As the sponsor of legislation recently signed into law mandating significant reductions in green houses gases through the next half century and beyond, I am committed to working with the environmental community to achieve the ambitious goals set forth in my bill," said Senator Buono. "As a ticket, we are proud to partner with the environmental community to stop global warming and to protect and preserve New Jersey's natural resources."

"Despite its dense population, the 18th District is home to hundreds of species of birds and wildlife due in large part to open space preservation," said Assemblyman Diegnan, "Senator Buono, Assemblyman Barnes and I will continue to fight to protect this diversity."

"On the Edison council, I strove to protect the environment. If given the opportunity to continue serving the 18th District, my running mates and I pledge our unrelenting support," said Assemblyman Barnes. "Preserving New Jersey's remaining natural treasures will be among our top priorities."

Diocese of Metuchen to Celebrate Red Mass

The Diocese of Metuchen will celebrate its third annual Red Mass on Sunday, Nov. 4 at St. Peter the Apostle Church in New Brunswick. The 11 a.m. liturgy will be celebrated by the Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen. Delivering the homily at the Mass will be Rev. Msgr. William Benwell, J.C.L., vicar general and moderator of the curia for the diocese.

In conjunction with the Red Mass, which honors all those in the judicial system and legal profession, John A. Hoffman will receive the diocese's 2007 St. Thomas More Award. It will be presented at a brunch to be held after the Mass at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick.

in New Brunswick.

Active in business, legal and community affairs for 40 years, Hoffman is a former managing partner and cur-

rent treasurer and member of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A. He joined the firm in 1963.

Hoffman has served as counsel to Middlesex County College since its establishment in 1964, and is a board member of its foundation.

Hoffman is a board member and chairman of the Finance Committee at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and past chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Foundation. He has served on the UMDNJ Board of Trustees since May 2003 and is chairman of its Finance Committee. For the past eight years, he has been a trustee of the Diocese of Metuchen's Flame of Charity Foundation

In 2000, Hoffman was voted "Citizen of the Year" by the Woodbridge

Chamber of Commerce. He received the "Torch of Liberty" award from the Anti-Defamation League in 1998. The Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce and the American Cancer Society have also honored Hoffman.

A resident of Piscataway, Hoffman has been a communicant of St. Peter the Apostle Parish in New Brunswick for 20 years.

Previous St. Thomas More Award recipients include John J Hoagland, Esq. and the Hon. David G. Lucas.

Tickets for the brunch are \$50 per person. For information, call (732) 562-2461 or visit www.diometuchen.org

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XPIRES 11/29/07 EXPIRES 11/29/07 Sale Items Excluded

Prices effective until 11/15/07. The information in this ad is only good at 5016 Hadley Center Drive, South Plainfield, NJ. Not responsible for typographical errors. NJ laws prevail. Prices do not include NJ sales tax.

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

(Continued from page 2)

are hard working people. South Plainfield is one of the most affordable places to live within Middlesex County. To my knowledge, no other town in the state of New Jersey has introduced a budget that has a municipal tax cut. We manage the borough budget the same way our families manage their household budget.

As council liaison to Public Safety, I have 12 years experience in providing for the most essential services, that is, police, fire, rescue, emergency management and domestic violence intervention. Public Safety has been, and will continue to be, my top priority. law enforcement officers, volunteer firefighters and volunteer rescue squad personnel will always get the support and funding that they need to keep South Plainfield one of the safest towns in New Jersey. Just a few weeks ago, the Home News Tribune released the FBI crime statistics and South Plainfield was down in every important category. The Democrats have never put a price tag on the safety of our residents nor the community in which we live. We will continue to provide equipment and training for all of our emergency services personnel to insure their safety first and foremost.

Furthermore, I ask for your patience while we are in the process of completing the New Market Avenue extension, which in itself will eliminate the congestion at the intersection of Hamilton Boulevard and New Market Avenue. Clearly, you can see the progress being made as we speak; demolition of the building is underway and the condemnation of the necessary land from Cornell-Dubilier has been filed with the court. The New Market Avenue extension will be completed by next summer and tractor trailers will never again be allowed to travel Hamilton Boulevard.

My running mate Kathy Thomas and I have unconditionally renewed our pledge to keep trucks off Hamilton Boulevard . I am a firm believer that all tractor trailers should travel the perimeter of our community by way of South Clinton Avenue and be restricted against traveling directly through the center of our residential

The bottom line is my running mate, Kathy Thomas, who is spearheading the construction of a new li-

brary will have the project underway by the spring and together we will have the New Market Extension completed. In order to continue moving forward with Mayor Charles F. Butrico Jr.'s vision for South Plainfield, please vote for the team of Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas for South Plainfield Council.

THANK YOU, COUNCIL PRESIDENT **DENNIS CERAMI**

To the Editor:

As I went door to door around our community, I listened to what people in various neighborhoods had to say. To the people on Pershing Place who last year were promised to have their street repaved; the young woman on May Avenue who voiced concerns; and the folks in the New Market area whose troubles are well documented, I hear you loud and clear!

For someone running for public office to make promises just to get elected, should not be accepted. People who are voted in to office to represent the community should be held to a higher standard. We should be the examples of the rule not exceptions to the rule. Tim McConville and I intend to be those examples along with current councilmen Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga. Anything less should not be tolerated. No false promises or unacceptable behavior. Just make decisions for the benefit of the community.

We, as candidates, should run for office based on our merit and independent views, not as "party" representatives. Don't vote for Tim and me because we are Republicans or against us because we are not Democrats. Vote for us based on our merits and community concerns.

To those of you who will vote for us thank you in advance! And to those who vote for the other side I would hope that if elected, we will gain your confidence and trust.

RAY RUSNAK COUNCIL CANDIDATE

To the Editor:

Your Your

For subscription and

call 908-668-0010.

Next week, voters have an important choice when they go to the polls to elect two new members of the Borough Council. I'm writing this letter so voters will know a little more about me as a person and why I think I can represent them well.

I decided to run for office because I saw a need to help take South Plainfield in a better direction. I grew up in town, as did my wife Gina, and we both graduated from SPHS. Gina and I chose our hometown as the place to raise our family. We have a son, Sean, and two young daughters, Caitlin and Jillian. Having grown up here and having chosen South Plainfield as the place to raise our children, Gina and I feel we have an investment in making sure our town is a great place to live and raise a family. Our entire family feels the same way.

If elected, I think the best attribute I can offer is independence. I'll always vote my conscience, not necessarily with my party. In that respect, I'd model myself after Councilmen Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga. Like Matt and Rob, I'll listen to all sides of an issue and then vote for what I think is right.

I'd also bring a new perspective to the council. The council needs some new blood and new ideas, and the members need to look at things with an open mind. Most important, they need to listen. I believe I can do that.

My running mate, Ray Rusnak, will also bring a new perspective to the council. I did not know Ray before we started our campaign. Each day I come to respect his dedication and wisdom more. He is a thoughtful person with a solid grasp of what needs to be done, and I know he would be a superb member of the council.

While I've stayed away from making promises, I will make one. If elected, you can count on me to work hard on your behalf and on behalf of your families. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about where I stand on the issues or what I'd like to accomplish as a council member. I hope that Ray and I can earn your vote on Election Day.

TIM MCCONVILLE, **COUNCIL CANDIDATE**

To the Editor:

Over the last decade, a lot of wonderful things have been accomplished in South Plainfield. The Democratic team has controlled spending and kept municipal taxes under control and even introduced a tax decrease for fiscal year 2008. South Plainfield is ranked number one in the county as the town with the lowest municipal tax increase since 2001. We introduced the pay-as-you-go approach to managing tax dollars and in doing that we've reduced our debt considerably.

In addition to these cost saving measures, the following projects have been completed in just the last year. We have created a "no truck route" in the borough to keep trucks off Hamilton Boulevard and Belmont Avenue and away from our schools and churches. We have installed new curbs and repaved a portion of South Plainfield Avenue and the entire length of Oak Tree Avenue. We have prethe Texas Eastern property in the Dismal Swamp. We are in the process of working with the county to complete Phase 2 of the Hamilton Boulevard reconstruction project. We have worked with the USEPA to remove the buildings on the Cornell Dubilier site. The cost of these projects was supplemented by utilizing funding from the state and county as well as smart financial management. These were all completed while keeping our municipal tax rate one of the lowest in New Jersey.

Looking forward, there are a number of projects on the horizon that will further enhance South Plainfield. These include just to name a few, extending New Market Avenue through the Cornell site to allow better movement of trucks. Begin the construction of a new 16,000 square foot public library in the spring. Expand the recreation facilities at Putnam Park to utilize the old bus company lot. Installing a turf field behind the PAL to be used by both recreation and school sports.

I, for one, would like to continue to see progressive changes we have seen in our borough during the last few years, but I can't do that alone. As mayor, I rely on the council to work with me to get things done and I need council people who are willing to work hard and have a proven track record. Both Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas have demonstrated their ability to get the job done. Both of these individuals truly care about South Plainfield. They both have a vision and continually bring fresh ideas to the council for consideration. This differs sharply from the Republican candidates who have never once even made a comment or suggestion at a council

As a resident of South Plainfield for over 48 years, I have a great deal of pride in this community and only want to continue to improve it. When you go to the polls this year, I ask you to join me and to cast your vote to reelect Dennis and Kathy who have proven they have what it takes to make South Plainfield a great town.

Thank you for your support. MAYOR CHARLES BUTRICO

To the Editor:

Next week when voters go to the polls, I hope they seriously consider two outstanding candidates for council, Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak. South Plainfield needs these two leaders. There's so much work to do, and they have the right ideas for our town.

If Tim and Ray are elected, Republicans will hold a majority on the council for the first time since the early 90's. In the short time that Matt Anesh and I have been on the council, we've tried to earn your trust and demonstrate that we know how to take South Plainfield in a better direction.

Look what we've been able to accomplish as members of the minority. Public safety is a priority, so Matt and I worked with Congressman Mike Ferguson to get a first-ever federal

grant for our police department. At this point the House of Representatives has approved more than \$100,000 for South Plainfield.

We've also worked with the school board to enhance safety through shared services. School Board President Jeff Seider and I have been pushing for over a year to get a police resource officer for the high school. The idea got a luke-warm reception from the council at first, but last month everyone got on board, and the plan is for the officer to start his duties on December 1. I want to thank Jeff for his dedication to this project.

We've also supported new programs for our seniors, like the one that organizes volunteers to help seniors with chores around their homes. Kudos to Joann Graf, the director of the Office on Aging for getting this off the ground. Her talent made this idea a

Another innovative idea was Matt Anesh's proposal for keeping secondhand smoke away from children at our parks. Matt and I also worked to propose and pass an ethics reform plan that requires disclosure of campaign contributions by developers who want to build large projects. We still have lots of work to do on ethics reform, but this was a good start.

We have so much more to do. We want to expand our parks and dedicate our open space so it will never again be sold. We want to revitalize our business districts along Plainfield Avenue and Park Avenue, and we want to finally get a handle on traffic and overdevelopment. We've heard loud and clear your concerns about traffic!

Without Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak on the council, these things will never get done. We need their help to make a better South Plainfield a reality. Please consider them when you vote on Tuesday. You'll be glad you did.

COUNCILMAN ROB BENGIVENGA

Residents of South Plainfield:

Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 6, is one of the most important days in an American's life. It is a day when you, as a resident of South Plainfield, will choose who represents you and be your voice on the South Plainfield Borough Council for the next three years. I cannot stress how important this election is to the borough and that's why I am asking for your support for Council President Dennis Cerami and Councilperson Kathy Thomas.

Council President Dennis Cerami has served our town for 12 years and he is one of the most respected and honest people I know. Dennis has helped with significant improvements in our borough such as the new improvements to the PAL building and the total reconstruction of Hamilton Boulevard. Dennis has also worked very hard to take truck traffic off of Hamilton Boulevard. Dennis has also fought hard to make sure that our police, fire, rescue and EMT's are outfitted with the best equipment that money can buy. Dennis has made their safety just as much a priority as yours and mine.

Councilperson Kathy Thomas is chair of the Administration and Finance Committee and as such, sprearheaded the first-ever municipal tax

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

decease in our history. Kathy is also working very hard to see that our new library is built that will meet everyone's needs, both today and in the future.

Both Dennis and Kathy have also worked very hard to preserve "Open Space" throughout our town. To date over 100 acres have been preserved. Just this year they have helped preserve another 80 acres, what with the acquisition of the old bus company on New Market Avenue and another 69 acres along Metuchen Road.

As you can see, South Plainfield needs Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas on the borough council. Please vote for them on Election Day and keep our town moving forward.

THANK YOU, **COUNCILMAN JOE SCRUDATO**

Dear Editor,

The position of councilperson is made easier by the department heads, committees and boards that manage our borough. The message and ideas that the committees, boards and department heads bring forth come from knowledge and understanding of what our town really wants.

Kathy Thomas is the liaison to the Library Board that holds the knowledge store for our children and adults. Kathy is also the chair to the Finance Committee. Under the leadership of Kathy Thomas, this committee has kept its promise of no tax increase and has a sound fiscal policy.

Our council has made it obvious that a new library is about to be built and of course our borough is eager to see it completed. What the people in town do not see is the many meetings with the Library Board that started with a concept, to a working drawing, and finally a new library building. The initial concept to completed drawing takes many steps; after it appears that an idea is cast in stone, another thought emerges, and it's put on paper. The senior center was built this way, along with the PAL expansion, and that is how the council can best serve the needs of our borough and why Kathy Thomas is integral to building a terrific library. She listens and moves forward with ideas and in the end the citizens will be well served. It is a true pleasure to have someone on the council that has no agenda, but only wants to move ideas forward.

Dennis Cerami has been the liaison to four critical departments. When you hear a siren, you know that one of South Plainfield's finest is responding to someone in need. The police department, first aid, emergency management and the fire department are always on the move and changing continuously. These departments require the best and latest equipment to meet the challenges in the time of need and I think we all take pride in our emergency services that the borough provides and all that happens under the leadership of Dennis Cerami. I don't know of a more conscientious individual who spends so much time researching the facts before a vote and eventual change is made. Dennis thinks of everything and responds promptly and his preparation and love of the job is how South Plainfield can truly feel that safety of the people in the borough is our #1 priority.

See the candidates interview with the Observer on Comcast Channel 74 on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.

In recent news, Dennis has researched banning large trucks off Sampton Avenue and drafted an ordinance. Dennis then pulled the proposed legislation when a potential loophole was realized in the proposed route. This is the way good government is supposed to work

Our new turf field came about from many meetings with the Recreation Commission, local residents, Board of Education and Middlesex Freeholders. As a result, we are looking forward to the many benefits and activities this new field will bring. Our Democratic council is not driven by sound bites and weekly headlines just to get

Democratic council people Kathy Thomas and Dennis Cerami know that the borough's tradition of volunteerism on our committees and boards is the genesis of progress. We need Kathy Thomas and Dennis Cerami to make those ideas happen!

Please vote Democratic-you do

COUNCILMAN RAY PETRONKO

Dear Editor,

You couldn't ask for anyone better than Tim McConville on the Borough Council. I, for one, think he'd be a superb councilman, and I'm writing to support him wholeheartedly.

Tim is a down-to-earth guy, and everyone who knows him respects him. He's the type of guy who you can meet and instantly feel like you've known him for years, because you can see that he cares about people. He also cares about this town and the people in it.

Tim is dedicated to the community, serving as a member of the Sons of the American Legion and as a volunteer coach for his son's soccer team. In fact, the whole McConville family is dedicated to our town. His father is a leader at the American Legion, and his mom works tirelessly as a volunteer. Both his brothers are police officers, and his sister works as a dispatcher for the police department. Talk about a family dedicated to public service!

I support Tim, and I hope you will too. Good luck on Election Day Tim! **DENA CARLSON**

To the Editor:

I see that the Borough Council,

under the leadership of Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas, has brought in a budget and tax decrease. This is an amazing accomplishment in New Jersey where so much of the tax burden rests on property taxes. This shows that the Democrats' strategy of payas-you-go works for the residents of South Plainfield. The borough should operate like any household in South Plainfield-within a strict budget and the Democrats have done that. Our borough leaders should not be writing checks on the backs of our children and grandchildren by borrowing wildly and the Democrats have gotten us back on sound fiscal ground by significantly cutting the borough's debt over the last few years. This conservative financial policy is also amazing when you consider all of the improvements in South Plainfield over the past few years such as the preservation of acres of open space, the improvements to Putnam Park, the expanded PAL and the reconstruction of Hamilton Boulevard. Quite clearly, the Democrats are doing something right and they deserve the chance to keep doing it. As past chairman of the Finance Committee, I know what efforts must be made in order to keep the complex financial condition of our great borough in check and I commend Dennis and Kathy for their efforts and commitment to fiscal responsibility and so should you by casting your precious vote for Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas. Please re-elect Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas to the borough council on Election Day.

Thank you for your considerations. ED P. KUBALA

Dear Editor,

It's easy to see which council candidates are right for South Plainfield: Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak.

Tim and Ray have an exciting plan to keep South Plainfield moving forward. This includes some great ideas for South Plainfield families, like adding a park on the south side of town. Anyone who lives on the east side of Hamilton Boulevard knows what a growing area's back there and how it's an area that can really use a park.

I also think it's a good idea to work on our business districts along Park Avenue and Plainfield Avenue. As

people enter town they should see a clean, vibrant gateway into our com-

One of the most important things I like about Tim and Ray's plan is their focus on overdevelopment. We'll never solve the traffic in town unless we get a handle on development.

Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak have all the right plans for South Plainfield and deserve our support.

DERRYCK WHITE

To the Editor: On Election Day, I think everyone should vote for Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas for Borough Council. They have delivered a tax cut to the taxpayers of South Plainfield. That alone is a great reason to vote for them. But when you consider the major improvements that they have brought to South Plainfield, such as the preservation of over 100 acres of open space and improvements to Putnam Park, you can see that Dennis and Kathy are leaders who have earned your vote. Their plans for the future include completion of the New Market Avenue Extension to keep trucks off Hamilton Boulevard and a new library. Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas are working hard to make South Plainfield better and I urge everyone to vote for them on Election Day.

JERRY COSTANTI

Dear Editor,

Only two candidates have the innovative new ideas that I think South Plainfield needs, and they are Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak.

McConville and Rusnak are the ones who can get things back on track. They know we need to control traffic and overdevelopment, and they want to get a handle on the wasteful spending at town hall. These are things our town needs.

They also have some great plans if elected. Expanding our parks is a great idea, especially adding a park on the south side. Families between Hamilton Boulevard and Metuchen Road could use a safe place for their children to play, and the need is there with new houses going up every day.

Revitalizing our business districts along Park Avenue and Plainfield Avenue is also important. I'm sure we all want South Plainfield to look its best as people come into town.

Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak have the right ideas to make South Plainfield a better place. Please support them on Tuesday.

ROBERT WEINBERGER

To the Editor:

I was pleased to see that the last two newspaper columns by the Democratic candidates were about their plans for controlling costs and lowering taxes. The fact that they devoted two weeks of comments to this subject shows me that the Democrats are as concerned with taxes as South Plainfield residents are. Property taxes take a large bite out of a paycheck and it gets harder all the time to pay the bills. Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas understand this. They take a practical approach to the town's budget by looking at how they can provide what the residents need and want for the least amount of money. They are always looking for ways other than taxes to pay for things. The Democrats' approach appears to be working. As a result of their policies the part of the tax rate that the mayor and council control, the municipal rate, has not increased in four of the last six years. This year we are even getting a decrease! That is impressive. I believe that Democratic candidates Kathy Thomas and Dennis Cerami are the ones who can keep South Plainfield affordable for working families. Please join me in voting for them on Election Day.

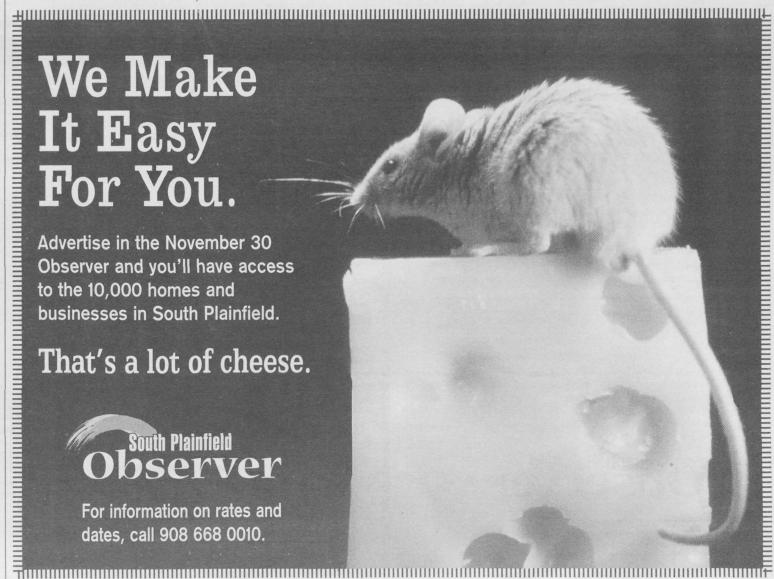
NINA ROHRER

To the Editor:

I'm writing this letter to support Tim McConville for borough council. Tim is a sincere person who wants to make our town better for his family and ours.

Tim grew up in town and stayed here with his wife Gina so they could raise their three kids in their hometown. He is a sincere and honest person, and I know his first priority will be doing what's best for South Plainfield.

Please support Tim and his running mate, Ray Rusnak, on Election Day. CHRISTINE FAUSTINI



IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Ray Rusnak and Tim McConville





about the truck route, it seems like it is starting to

divide the town. You have the people who live on Hamilton that no longer want trucks coming

down there and the people who live on New Mar-

ket that don't want them coming that way. I can understand the concerns of both neighborhoods.

It seems to me, and I think Tim agrees, that the

only possible solution is to try to get the truck route out of a neighborhood, whether it be the

one on Hamilton or the one on New Market and

we have to somehow or someway find a way to get the Helen Street or Hollywood Avenue ex-

tension completed. It seems to be the only viable

solution to keep the trucks out of town. Let them

go down through the industrial route and this

proof that it is unsafe, or do you think it is just more

Rusnak: Based upon the story that he

[Murtaugh] put into the paper and the results that he had, it sounds like there were 50% more

incidents now than when they just came straight

down Hamilton onto Belmont. I pretty much

think that answers the question. There didn't seem

to be any issue before. It was only one mile that

went from 287 to Belmont and straight across

Belmont to Metuchen Road. Now it is a 31/2 mile

route and it just seems to cause more incidents,

more traffic, more pollution and more aggrava-

tion for people trying to get from one end of town

Q: If elected, would you propose that trucks go back

McConville: My honest opinion would be yes.

If New Market is the way to go and if it is the

only way to go, first things first, is make it safe

to the other.

YES

NO

to Hamilton Boulevard?

Q: Do you believe that New Market Avenue is an unsafe road for truck traffic? And do you have any

way they are out of everybody's way.

Ray Rusnak has resided in South Plainfield for the past 9½ years. He and his wife, Robyn, live on Field Avenue. He has been involved in the community and ran for council in 2003. Ray attends council meetings, as well as meetings dealing with the truck routes and library. He decided to get involved one more time because of the things he sees happening that he doesn't necessarily agree with. Ray is a senior personal banking representative for Sovereign Bank in Stirling. Before that he worked for Wachovia and Equitable Life Insurance, now called Axia. He has a financial background totaling 25 years.

Q: What do you see as two important issues that eging to be facing South Plainfield in the next McConville: Yes, I would propose to open

are going to be facing South Plainfield in the next few years? What would you do about them? Hamilton Boulevard back up and at least fix New McConville: One thing is definitely the truck Market Avenue. If New Market is the only way route in town. I'm pretty sure that a lot of us are to go, then that's fine. You are spending all this in agreement that basically the current situation money at the end of New Market Avenue. Let's get everything safe before putting trucks onto a basically isn't feasible. We need to somehow correct it, whether it be Hollywood Avenue or Helen route. As of right now, Hamilton Boulevard is Street. We need to get something started with that; the safest way to go. You are going past a school, yes, but it has always gone past a school. As far as it is plain and simple. That is the only thing we can do to get it out of a residential area. I can recall there hasn't been any accident due to Rusnak: To backtrack on what Tim is saying trucks going past the school before.

Q: Are you in favor of Joann Graf's idea of forming an ad hoc committee dedicated to the Helen Street Project?

Rusnak: I think that would be a great idea. The reason why is because it would get opinions from a lot of different people. Just because Pm running for a political office or get elected to a political office doesn't mean I have all the answers, but I am willing to at least sit down and speak to a lot of other people, get some other opinions, come up with some solutions, and maybe put a couple of different things together to get the job complete.

Q: Do you have any thoughts on how we can get the Helen Street Project moving? Is there anything that you could do that isn't being done right now? Rusnak: I think the first thing Tim and I would

Rusnak: I think the first thing Tim and I would do is try to reach out to Congressman Ferguson. Find out if there is anything that he might be able to help us with, and then proceed from there and just take it as far as we need to take it. At this point we are being held hostage by the Edison Wetlands Association and I just don't understand why Edison can extend Talmadge Road and build a bridge along with condos and single family homes, apartments, townhouses and, from what I understand, there is also a proposal to have another community of single family homes put back in that same area, along with a religious center and we can't get a road complete. Something just doesn't seem to make sense to me.

McConville: I agree 100% with Ray!

Q: As you are going house to house, what are the issues people are bringing up?

McConville: Basically people talk of taxes and trucks. Recently, we heard comments about the development of local businesses, which is one of the things we also support, including revitalizing Park Avenue, Plainfield Avenue and the down-

town district. That will probably be taken care of a lot more once the new condos and stores are built in the downtown area. That will probably get a lot started there once that's done.

Q: What about the issue you raised on taxes going up \$90 in January and then going down now? Do you think they purposely raised taxes so they could lower them?

Rusnak: I'll answer your questions with one

word, and that is, no. I don't think they purposely raised taxes, but I think what disturbs me and I am sure that Tim will agree, is that last year and even at their debate, they promised no tax increase. Now they went and raised taxes and I don't care how you want to break it down, for the fiscal year, whether you want to talk January to December or July 1 'til June 30, taxes were raised. After the taxes were raised, now they are saying we are having a tax decrease for the next budget. That tax decrease is coming out to \$14.50 per house, per year. If everybody thinks that's a great decrease and that's up to you, everybody has an opinion on something like that. For me, I would not have even advertised it, but that's just me. To really answer the question, why did that happen? Money came in that they weren't expecting, to the tune of about \$500,000. For them to try to take credit for something that Glenn Cullen, who is the chief financial officer of the town, is doing, bothers me a little bit. Just pat him on the back and say what a great job he's doing, but don't try to run on something somebody else did. Like I said, if people are happy with a \$14.50 per year tax decrease, fine. I would be willing to donate mine back for some other good cause.

Q: If you win, you have the majority. What changes will you implement aside from replacing Borough Attorney Patrick Diegnan?

Rusnak: It's hard to say what the first thing is going to be and it is even hard to say what the second will be. You really don't have a hands on right now of what's going on there. So you have to kind of get a feel for what is happening, see where things are going and then make the changes that way. I am not going to go in and get sworn in on January 5 and change things on January 6. It is not the smart thing to do. You're better off getting a feel for what is happening. The only thing I can think of that we would probably try to pursue right off the bat and get on as quickly as possible is getting back to the truck route and finding out what we need to do to get this ac-

YES

NO

complished going forward. Other than that, I am not going to sit here and say, this one's going to have a job, or that we are going to eliminate these positions. It just doesn't make sense, because those people have been there for so long. I am not here to start chopping heads and I know that Tim doesn't want to do the same thing. Everybody wants a job, everybody wants to work, so anything that might be floating around out there that we are going to change is all speculation at this point.

Tim McConville and wife Gina have three children and are

active in town. Gina is active in the PTSO. Tim says he is running because he wants to get involved with trying to make South

Plainfield a safe place for his kids to grow up in. He works at

Packeteers as a systems administrator. The McConville family

has deep roots in South Plainfield. Tim's dad is active with the

American Legion, his mom is a devoted volunteer, brothers

Jim and John are both police officers and sister Kelly also works

for the police department.

Q: What would you recommend doing to get the library moving, if you don't think it's moving fast enough, or would you just let it go at the same pace?

Rusnak: When I ran in 2003, it was guaran-

teed to be completed within three years. At that time councilmen Cusick and Petronko were running on that ticket and they both guaranteed that the library was going to be completed within three years. Here it is now 2007 and it is five years. If you take those five years, as opposed to the three years it was supposed to be completed, it is already going to be two years behind schedule. At the time when it was announced, they were going to be getting grants which were going to pay for about 25% of the cost, which are no longer available, which means it will be 25% more costly to the taxpayers. To say what can we do to get it going, it's hard to say. Because we don't know where it stands at this point, because whenever you try to get an answer you never get a firm definite answer on here is where we are and here is where need to go. Everything is just pure specula-

Q: Do you want a new library?
Rusnak: I think having a new library is a great idea, and I am sure Tim feels the same way.

McConville: Yes, my kids utilize that library as it is. Making something newer with more books and more activities inside there which they are proposing, I think is great.

Rusnak: The only thing we were against originally, and always gets a spin on it and gets twisted, is we didn't feel the place that they wanted to put the library was large enough. If you're going to build a library and enhance the things for the community, put it in a place where it will be ample enough for the community right now.

Q: Is there anything we could do about that? Rusnak: At this point, from what I understand (Continued on page 12)

Park Avenue

Public Question #1

The following Public Question will appear on the November 6, 2007 General Election Ballot

DEDICATES ANNUAL REVENUE OF AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO A TAX RATE OF 1% UNDER THE STATE SALES TAX FOR PROPERTY TAX REFORM

Do you approve the amendment of Article VIII, Section I of the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, to provide for the annual dedication and annual appropriation of an amount equal to the annual revenue derived from a tax rate of 1% imposed under the New Jersey Sales and Use Tax, exclusively for the purpose of property tax reform, through a special Property Tax Reform Account established in the constitutionally dedicated Property Tax Relief Fund?

INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT

This constitutional amendment provides that an amount equal to the annual revenue derived from a tax rate of 1% imposed under the New Jersey Sales and Use Tax Act shall be annually dedicated in a special account in the Property Tax Relief Fund and annually appropriated for property tax reform.

Anne Milgram, Attorney General

Public Question #2

The following Public Question will appear on the November 6, 2007 General Election Ballot

STEM CELL RESEARCH BOND ISSUE

Shall the "New Jersey Stem Cell Research Bond Act," which authorizes the State to issue bonds in the amount of \$450 million for grants to fund "stem cell research projects," as defined in the act, at institutions of higher education and other entities in the State conducting scientific and medical research, and providing the ways and means to pay the interest on the debt and also to pay and discharge the principal thereof, provided that recurring revenues of the State are certified by the State Treasurer to be available in an amount equal to the sum necessary to satisfy the annual debt service obligations related to such bonds, be approved?

INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT

Approval of this act would authorize the sale of \$450 million in State general obligation bonds to provide grants for stem cell, scientific, and medical research, as defined in the act, at institutions of higher education and other nonprofit and for profit entities in the State conducting scientific and medical research, provided that recurring revenues of the State are certified by the State Treasurer to be available in an amount equal to the sum necessary to satisfy the annual debt service obligations related to such bonds. Grants would be awarded by the Commission on Science and Technology, subject to evaluation by an independent research review panel composed of experts in stem cell and related research and by an independent ethics review panel. If a grant recipient realizes a financial gain or benefit directly associated with the research funded by its grant, the act requires the recipient to make payments to the State in an amount representing a reasonable return on the State's investment, as determined by the State Treasurer. The purpose of providing these funds is to promote research that could benefit State residents afflicted with diseases and severe injuries such as Alzheimer's disease, cancer, diabetes, Lou Gehrig's disease, Parkinson's disease, sickle cell anemia and spinal cord injuries.

Anne Milgram, Attorney General

IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas





Dennis Cerami has been a resident of South Plainfield for 26 years. He and his wife Michelle just celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary. They have three children. Dennis is a graduate of Univ. of Monmouth College, with a degree in business administration. For the past 12 years he has been the liaison for public safety-police, fire, rescue, Office of Emergency Management and the domestic violence intervention team. His utmost concern is to try to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people of South Plainfield. His top priority is public safety. He wants to ensure that residents, whether home or away, are safe and secure and their properties are protected.

Q: What do you see as two important issues facing South Plainfield in the near future and have you thought about solutions for them?

Cerami: Obviously the answer to one of the questions is truck traffic, which is a main concern and an issue. The New Market Extension, which we are working on right now, isn't just something that came about this year. I believe the plan, the feasibility study, was back in 2005, so it has taken two years to get where we are today. So we plan for the future of South Plainfield. It is quite an undertaking and it is a DOT approved route. We are working very hard and you can see the progress we are making along Hamilton Boulevard, where it is going to be four lanes with a traffic light at South Clinton. We recognized the problems that needed to be adjusted through the route and that is why we acquired the property at the end of New Market and South Clinton, basically to cut that corner. The utilities have already been moved already; so that is another project that is underway. As you can see, the buildings are coming down. So the bottom line is we have a plan in place and because we work on a pay-as-you-go basis, we try to do what we can do within our means. We apply for grant monies and things of that nature. That makes the process a little slower, but we're making progress. The bottom line is that is going to address the main concern in town and that has to do with the traffic and trucks.

Thomas: I believe that the other large issue is, as always, taxes. It is very expensive to live in New Jersey-everywhere. So here in South Plainfield we try to do what we can to keep taxes reasonable, to keep people in their houses, to allow young families to be able to move into town. We do that in a lot of ways. Over the last 10 years, we've had a flat or decreased tax rate seven times. It doesn't happen by accident. It takes a lot of hard work, of implementing sound fiscal policies, which through the years then come to fruition, and save money time and time again, because your costs are always going up in certain areas. Your employees have to have increases to maintain their standard of living, your utilities are always going up and those are things we can't control. What we can control, we

Cerami: If I can just add to that. Quite honestly, contractual increases, whether 3.5, 3.8 or 3.75 percent, contracts are contracts and negotiated in good faith, and there are costs associated

YES

NO

with that. But, we have to credit our department heads. We have to give credit to our CFO Glenn Cullen and the tremendous job he does and the knowledge that he has. When you put the whole package together, our department heads all live and reside in South Plainfield and are taxpayers and have families, and we all have the same energy towards keeping things as stable as we can, without cutting costs in any of the services. And we are fortunate that we have people who work along with us

Q: Do either of you have any thoughts or ideas on how we can proceed on Helen Street to get it to move forward? Do you think it is at a standstill?

Thomas: No we are not at a standstill. What happens is every time we get to point A where we are just ready to move forward, then new issues come up and the new issues have to be addressed. Right now, the issue is an environmental impact study and that is what is being done. That is the next thing required by us in order to move forward. Who knows what the thing after that is going to be? Initially that was not a requirement, but now it is, so each one of those things takes time. That is the direction we are moving in. We have a commitment. But at this point in time we have to do what is required of us and just keep plugging away. The New Market Extension is something to do in the interim to make the quality of life here better. It was just unacceptable that trucks were constantly barreling past Roosevelt School. That is a dangerous situation. You have a truck accidentally go over a curb and into the fence and your hitting a child and that is not an acceptable situation. So the New Market Extension, although not ideal, is relieving that issue and we will continue to press Helen Street and deal with whatever additional issue they come up with.

Cerami: The Helen Street Project probably began—I am on the council 12 years—it was probably in the making then. It is a Federally funded project. I have to give credit to our mayor, Charles Butrico. He's been down in Trenton numerous times. I've actually gone down and sat in one of the meetings and I was quite amazed by some of the fish and game and wildlife people. Their issues that they have with the different species, etc. and to them they far outweigh the quality of life of the residents of South Plainfield. At one point they even discussed a sound wall. I was thinking there are not homes back there, why take on that



Kathy Thomas is serving her third year on the council, though not consecutively. She majored in accounting and graduated from Rutgers University. Kathy and husband Bill were raised in South Plainfield and are raising their children in South Plainfield. They have two children, ages 20 and 17, who have both gone through our public school system. Kathy is the chairman of the Administration, Finance and Public Information Committee. She is running because she feels very proud of what South Plainfield is about and believes you should always give back from what you have benefitted.

expense. That was to protect the butterflies and the birds from the noises of the trucks in order to get that project underway. It is a very difficult task. We all know that we have to deal with Edison Wetlands Association, a very strong organization, and the EPA. We are fighting the fight and I have to give credit to all those involved, because I have to say, it is the best route to Metuchen Road. No question about it. Much more upsetting is that when you look a little beyond that and you see Talmadge Road and you see the bridge they put up in the same properties in the Dismal Swamp area. I find it very hard to believe that one community could do something like that to alleviate all of their problems and, on top of that, build all of the condos and all of the other things associated with Talmadge Road and at the same time put a sign up that does not allow trucks on Talmadge Road, which forces them onto Durham Road into South Plainfield. And we take the brunt of all of it. And yet we are not allowed to work around the Dismal Swamp to get this project underway. But our mayor is not going to give up.

Q: What do you think of the idea that Joann Graf brought up about forming an ad hoc committee consisting of various people in town, to work on the project solely?

Cerami: Yes, most definitely. The more noise you make, the more voices you have, the more time that you put into this is good. There may be people in town who have that environment background, maybe an attorney. Maybe there are residents that would like to be on this ad hoc committee that have expertise in this and will donate their time and energy. It is like anything else; if they make enough noise and get enough people together and you do it at the right time of the year, which is probably now, you may be able to accomplish something. We can only do so much as elected officials. Our families come first, we have our jobs. If anyone tells you being an elected official is only two or three nights a month, that's far and beyond. But we give what we can give and we will take all the help we can get.

Q: Do you feel in anyway that the truck route is unsafe or that New Market Avenue is unsafe? Do you see an increase in accidents?

Cerami: No, I really don't see an increase in accidents. I wish I had brought the traffic reports back. I wish I had brought my reports. I have been looking at them from 2007, 2006 and 2005.

YES

NO

Ironically, Hamilton Boulevard, Stelton Road, those are areas that are high volume areas and those are the areas where there are motor vehicle accidents in higher numbers. I think last month there may have been 33 motor vehicle accidents on local roadways-side streets, stop and go's, minor collisions. The number of accidents involving tractor trailer trucks, commercial vehicles-I think there were two last month. So I can't honestly say there has been an increase. I will tell you this. The motor vehicle traffic on Hamilton Boulevard has basically doubled since we've taken the trucks off of that road. The residents from the north, south or west, or whatever side of South Plainfield, use that as a main artery to get out of town right now. Esthetically, it is pleasing to the eye; it is the main artery into town. As many cars as there are on the road now, it flows very nicely. When you find a flaw, you correct it, such as the right hand turn at Quick Chek, the two lanes coming off 287. We work aggressively to make it as best as we possibly can, and it's worked, and people are really utilizing it. I think all of the residents appreciate that. But to come out and just say we have had more motor vehicle, or commercial, accidents along the truck route is absolutely a false

Q: Please explain the controversy of having a tax decrease this year and yet an increase in January?

Thomas: That has to do with timing and fiscal year. If you look at the tax rate, which I have with me, you can see that the tax rate in the last 10 years was either stable or has gone down for seven. There was not a huge increase and then a decrease. The tax rate is almost the same for the previous two years and then it did go down this year. So that statement is a fallacy. There was a tax rate decrease this year by one point.

rate decrease this year by one point.

Q: Did taxes actually go up in January by \$90?

Thomas: No. It may have to do with the billing. The way the borough bills for taxes is not 50% for the first half and 50% for second, but 45% and 55%. One payment will be slightly larger than the other just from the nature of the way it is billed. That's because when we first set the rate in August, the budget frequently is not accepted until the end of the year. So we bill an estimated rate. And when it is finally approved by the state, we bill the balance.

Q: As you are going house to house, do you hear (Continued on page 12)

Public Question #3

The following Public Question will appear on the November 6, 2007 General Election Ballot

GREENACRES, FARMLAND, BLUEACRES, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOND ACT OF 2007

Shall the "Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres, and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2007," which authorizes the State to issue bonds in the amount of \$200 million to provide moneys for (1) the acquisition and development of lands for recreation and conservation purposes, (2) the preservation of farmland for agricultural or horticultural use and production, (3) the acquisition, for recreation and conservation purposes, of properties in the floodways of the Delaware River, Passaic River, and Raritan River, and their tributaries, that are prone to or have incurred flood or storm damage, and (4) funding historic preservation projects; and providing the ways and means to pay the interest on the debt and also to pay and discharge the principal thereof, be approved?

INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT

Approval of this act would authorize \$200 million in funding for Green Acres, farmland, Blue Acres, and historic preservation projects through the sale of State general obligation bonds. The Green Acres program preserves open space, including parks, fish and wildlife habitat, flood prone or affected areas, and lands that protect water supplies. It also funds park improvements and facilities. Of the total sum authorized: (1) \$109 million will be used for Green Acres; (2) \$73 million will be used for farmland preservation purposes; (3) \$12 million will be used to fund a new "BlueAcres" program by which the State may purchase from willing sellers, for open space preservation purposes, properties in the Delaware River, Passaic River, and Raritan River basin floodways that are prone to or have incurred flood or storm damage; and (4) \$6 million will be used for historic preservation purposes.

Anne Milgram, Attorney General

Public Question #4

The following Public Question will appear on the November 6, 2007 General Election Ballot

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CONCERNING THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR CERTAIN PERSONS

Shall the amendment of Article II, Section I, paragraph 6 of the Constitution, agreed to by the Legislature, revising the current constitutional language concerning denial of the right to vote by deleting the phrase "idiot or insane person" and providing instead that a "person who has been adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction to lack the capacity to understand the act of voting" shall not enjoy the right of suffrage, be adopted?

INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT

Approval of this amendment concerning the denial of the right to vote would delete the phrase "idiot or insane person" and replace that phrase with "person who has been adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction to lack the capacity to understand the act of voting" in describing those persons who shall be denied the right to vote. The phrase "idiot or insane person" is outdated, vague, offensive to many, and may be subject to misinterpretation. This constitutional amendment acknowledges that individuals with cognitive or emotional disabilities may otherwise be capable of making decisions in the voting booth and that their right of self-determination should be respected and protected in this regard. The amendment only denies the right of suffrage to those individuals determined by a court, on a case-by-case basis, to lack the capacity to understand the act of voting.

Anne Milgram, Attorney General

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Ray Rusnak and Tim McConville

(Continued from page 10) stand they are dead set at it going right where it is. I even remember when Mayor Gallagher was in office, he said that people could then go and park in the municipal parking lot. Unfortunately you can't see what it is like outside right now because we are inside, but on a cool, damp, rainy night I want to see a mom with two little kids dragging her kids across the parking lot to get into the new library. It just doesn't make sense to me. But again, they are dead set on it going there and we have to work on what we've got and some-

Q: Would like you to tell the voters some of the ideas you have if you are elected?

how figure it out.

McConville: One of the things we have mentioned in our weekly column is a dog park. We would like to put another park in the south side of town. There are a few areas discussed. We are not set in stone as to where we would want to put a park, but one place was towards the end of Harvard Avenue. But now, all of a sudden they are taking away the bus depot and there would be a great area right there. It's all open space and it would also be a nice great big open area just right for a nice park in there. We are hearing pros and cons about the dog park. Of course, it will be up to the dog owners to actually come if they want to use it. There are other areas we also discussed, having some type of open trails through the wooded areas, such as Tompkins and Clinton avenues. It would be nice. You have all that wooded area and it is open space. I'm not saying to do a lot, just a little trail going through. You can start off with a little dirt trail going through and maybe eventually make it some kind of a walking path. It would be nice. And possibly you can put some picnic tables in that area, parking spots, so a family can enjoy a nice little lunch in an area that is open to the public.

Rusnak: Getting back to the open space, there was a little controversy this past summer on whether open space was sold. Whether it was open space,

Watch the candidates interview on Comcast Channel 74 on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.

not open space, there was a sign there and yet it really didn't mean it was for this property and so on and so forth. I think going forward if it is going to be declared open space we need to put some sort of registry together saying what exactly it is, the lot, the block, the size of the lot, so on and so forth. So going forward, there won't be any controversy such as—there was open space, but it didn't pertain to this lot, but it pertained to that lot. We will have everything listed and something like that won't be able to happen again. Closing statements:

McConville: Get out and vote. We can use all the support we can get. Get your neighbors out. I think it is going to be a close fight, so please come and please support us.

Rusnak: A couple weeks ago a friend of mine called me and he said to me, "You know what, you won't make a good politician?" I was taken back by that and I asked him why. He said, "Because you have too much common sense and too much common decency." Although I was flattered by the remark, I was kind of bothered by it also thinking, it's funny how people look at politicians that way and I think we need to change that view. If Tim and I are elected, I think the people in town will have a different point of view and realize that we can have people and I am not saying that our opponents aren't decent people, or don't have common sense, but at least they will know going forward you will have those type of people in office and people will not be afraid to come up and talk to you or express their views or come to a meeting and maybe have a suggestion and we would be willing to sit down and listen to them. To the people that are going to support us, I would like to thank you in advance. Tim and I have been out there working hard, knocking on doors. And again, if you have questions feel free to touch base. To the people who aren't going to support us, hopefully when we do get elected, we can gain your trust and you can be on our side too.

To contact the Republicans, log on to their Web site spgop.com. Contact Tim McConville at (908) 757-7672 or tmconville@comcast.net. Contact Ray Rusnack at (908) 561-7076 or robraysp@aol.com.

(Continued from page 11) any new issues other than traffic and truck traffic from the residents?

Cerami: We come across some minor things. Things that residents don't know how to get taken care of. Someone might have a problem with water ponding, storm drainage, overgrown trees, the need for a street light and they ask to be put on the road repaving list. The only way to see that is going door to door. Someone complained about a problem with Oak Tree Avenue and a waffling effect around the bend. We sent the road department out and got it done. By going door to door, we do find out things that need to be done.

Thomas: I think a common theme from every neighborhood in town is speeding. People are very concerned with the way that people move throughout the borough. Dennis and I have talked and traffic patterns change all the time. People decide they don't want to wait for the light at Woodland and Maple and cut down all the side streets off of Park and when they do that they go 40 miles an hour. What we have done is increase police presence in the areas where residents have identified that speeding has been a problem. All police cars have radar in them now. We bought electronic speed signs to make people more aware of their speed. Also, we have to take a look at the traffic and see if we need to switch a few stop signs on some of the big thoroughfares, so you can't pick up speed, but stop. At some point you will have to slow and stop

and then continue. Cerami: I am in favor of four-way stop signs. I see them in many municipalities. Unfortunately, traffic safety is not in favor of that item. The mindset is to slow the traffic down on a cut through street. If we have stop signs one way and it is a clear view from point A to point B to avoid a traffic light, we need to stop them midway at intersecting streets so they need to slow down as they apporach that stop sign. Then they have to start up all over again and maybe they will say it isn't worth cutting because they have to stop at all the stop signs. Stop streets on Calvert in Edison, they work. They are there for a reason, because of pedestrians, children at play, etc. They make you stop and look for kids on bicycles. I am a proponent of four-way stop in some areas of South Plainfield

which will work in residential areas. Other issues that came up near Grant School and the high school, were installing speed bumps on Lane, Cromwell and Wickford going into the old Grant School. Residents actually requested speed bumps prior to the entrance of the school in each direction, so that with signage with speed bump ahead, will slow cars down. No one likes to drive over speed bumps even in parking lots, so if you put them on the roadway, it has to slow the cars coming in and out of the school campuses. I would like to start with all school areas and the streets that enter that, I would like to get speed bumps put in with the proper signage. I will tell you that a lot of the residents are very happy with what they see in South Plainfield, from Memorial Park, to Hamilton Boulevard and the lighting. This year we are going to have Christmas decorations on the lights and it is going to look beautiful coming into town. There's a lot of talk about the turf field that's going to be built. The bottom line is we can keep taxes flat because we have good government on the county level and the county is always behind South Plainfield as long as I have been on the council. They always come forward for us, most often with recreation and what they did with Hamilton Boulevard. Long term, I really think the democratic majority has done a tremendous job for South Plainfield.

Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas

Q: What's happening with the library? Thomas: As we stand right now the construction drive is being finalized. There is one more meeting to finalize very minute details, such as

finalize very minute details, such as furniture styles, the ends of the bookcases, the circulation desks and all those kinds of things in a particular style, so it all goes together. Once that's decided, the construction drawings will be finished and the project can go out to bid. We are waiting for our permits. We need all of our environmental permits, stream encroachment and some other DEP permits. As of right now, we are about 30-days into a 90-day wait period. We have been

in technical review.

Q: Do you feel the library is taking longer than you thought it would?

through administrative review and are

Thomas: Yes and no. This project has probably had more input than any project in the borough. We have had patrons of the library come to meetings, there is also a building committee within the library board, then things are brought before the full board. This library will be what everybody needs it to be and that takes time. You have an idea and you go forward with it and then someone says, well this isn't exactly going to work and you go back to the drawing

board. It has taken a little longer. I had hoped that by now we would be breaking ground, but we will be breaking ground by the spring.

Q: How are you going to finance the

Thomas: It will be bonded and then we will continue to raise money through the foundation. We will also continue to seek bonding. We already got a half a million dollars for handicapped accessible items in the library. We also have other things we are going to pursue. When you first bond for a project you do short term bonding, so that is what we will to do. And in the meantime we will do all these other things. So by the time we do the long term financing, hopefully that won't be very much. We have done some small projects, but now that the building is drawn, we go do some large scale fundraising and go out to businesses and individuals and see if they want to name a room. It will be based on square footage of the floor space, so many dollars per square foot.

Q: Will there be room in the final plans for the historical society to have a spot?

Thomas: They will have an office to keep all of their paper records and to do their interviewing and things of that nature. We hope to work in their displays throughout the building and change them as they want.

Closing statements:

Cerami: Get out and vote! There is no presidential or governor election this year. We are working very hard as the democratic majority. We have a new mayor and he has a vision for South Plainfield. In order for that vision to come true, which will definitely serve the greatest number of the residents of South Plainfield, we need to get people to go out to vote. As much as they love South Plainfield, as much as they are happy with South Plainfield and the job we are doing, we still need them and need their vote of confidence on November 6. Thank you.

Thomas: It is very important for people to go out and vote and be involved in your community. If there is any place you are going to make a difference by which you elect, it is in your local community, because these people affect your life directly. It's up to everybody to make this a better place and by voting, that is one way you can do that. I think the Democrats have done a great job. The crime is low in this town, everybody feels safe, people comment on how happy they are here. They are raising their families here. We have great recreation, great facilities for families, parks that are beyond compare and we are constantly improving them based on what people need. I think that in order for us to continue doing all these great things, people need to go out and vote and support us.

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Sports

SOCCER

Bullets Blow Away Opposition

Last Sunday, the boys U-14 traveling soccer team took on the Watchung Hills Revolution and won with a score of 8-1. This was their highest scoring game this season.

Goals were made non-stop throughout the game. The first goal, scored by Joe Krawiec, was made in the first few minutes of play, while the final goal, scored by Tony Franczak, took place in the last second of the game.

The Bullets dominated for the entire game, which made it hard for their opponent to have an opportunity to attempt to score a goal. The players contributing to the goal scoring were Joe Krawiec and Ryan Marcoux, each

scoring two goals; Tony Franczak scored three, and Alex Valladares scored one.

The entire team did a fantastic job on defending their goal. They were Jimmy Gerber, Ryan Riccardi, Jelani Ptah, Edgar Callegas, Shaun Alers, Kevin Flanagan, Zach Noll, Anthony Quadrel and David Forero, who played the entire game in net.

Congratulations to the team on a job well done. Their next game is on Sunday, Nov. 4 at 3 p.m. at the Kenneth Avenue fields. Come out and show your support.

-Submitted by Chris Paez

Arsenal Wins with Shutout 9-0

The boys U-9 traveling soccer team, Arsenal, had their first major blowout last Sunday, beating Westfield-Lazio 9-0. Their passing capabilities allowed them to dominate the entire game.

The players' passion for the game allowed them to stay focused and never give up on their desire to win the game without giving up a goal.

The goal scorers in this game were Jose Arrubla and Jake Hoffman, each with two goals; Alec Paez, Jared Marks,

Ricky Pellegrino, Jake Giordano and Jake Smith, scoring his first goal.

Congratulations to the rest of the team on their hard work defending the goal. Those players are Jason Cieszkiewicz, Tyler Curtis, Nicholas Plate, Samardhi Jeedigunta and Nicholas Pezzolla. Arsenal's next game is on Sunday, Nov. 4 at the Kenneth Avenue fields at 12 p.m. Please come out and support the team.

-Submitted by Chris Paez

Eagles Coaches Flag Football Saturday

The South Plainfield Eagles will hold their second annual Coaches Flag Football Game at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 3 followed immediately by the

annual bonfire!

Come on out, cheer on the coaches and enjoy an evening filled with Eagles spirit!

Elks Host Soccer Shoot

The South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298 were proud to host the Central District Soccer Shoot on October 13. The South Plainfield Soccer Club generously opened their fields to approximately 40 children who represented various Elks lodges.

The winners were: U-8–Ethan Tu from Watchung Hills and Meliania Lukianor from South River; U-10–Christopher Rios and Alyssa Andrejic, both from South River; U-12–Bryan Gerber and Nicole Zanchelli, both from Watchung Hills; U-14–Christian Vergilio from Watchung Hills and our own Marissa Smith from South Plainfield.

They will now advance to the state finals to be held on January 12, 2008 in East Hanover. Congratulations and best of luck to all.

-Submitted by Sharon Reuter, Co-chairman youth activities

Middle School to Host Volleyball Tournament

The South Plainfield Middle School is hosting its first annual volleyball tournament on Thursday, Nov. 15 starting at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$2 for adults and \$1 for seniors and students. Money raised will go to the school's student council and a charity to be announced.

For more information, contact Joe Blondo at (908) 754-4620 ext. 423 or jblondo@spnet.k12.nj.us

Obituaries

Dolores E. (Bergin) Formanek, 80

Dolores E. (Bergin) Formanek died on Monday, Oct. 22 at Genesis Elder Care at The Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Mrs. Formanek moved to Edison in 1962. She resided there for several years before settling in Toms River where she resided for 20 years.

She worked for the Middlesex County Board of Elections in New Brunswick for 10 years throughout the 1970's.

She was predeceased by her husband, Jerome in 2006; a son, James and a brother, John Henry, Jr.

Surviving are a daughter, Christine Brown and husband Russell of South Plainfield; two sons, David and wife Karen of Toms River and Thomas and wife Joyce of Waverly, N.Y. and eight grandchildren, Rachel and Colin Formanek, Justin Formanek, Jennifer and Jaclyn Formanek, Jessica Whitworth and Andrew and Angela Brown. Also surviving are three greatgrandchildren

Funeral services were held at Mc-Criskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals. as a telephone operator.

She was a member of The Church of the Holy Cross in North Plainfield, a member of the Plainfield Senior Citizens Club and a secretary for the Cedar Brook Tenants Association.

She is predeceased by a grandson, Steven Wingard, Jr., who died in 1989.

She is survived by two daughters, Allison Wingard and partner Linda Anderson of Rochester, N.H., Sandra Sierzega and husband Joseph of South Plainfield; two sons, William Wingard and wife Denise of Lancaster Ohio and Steven Wingard and wife Christine of Summerville, S.C.; seven grandchildren, Joey Jr., Danny and Ricky Sierzega, Billy Jr., Becky, Zack and Stefanie Wingard; a sister, Doris Smith of Medford and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held last Saturday at The Church of the Holy Cross in North Plainfield. If desired, contributions may be made in her memory to the Church of the Holy Cross.

Local arrangements were made under the direction of the Flynn and Son Funeral Home.

Barbara A. Wingard, 74

Barbara Wingard of Plainfield died suddenly on Sunday, Oct. 21 while visiting her daughter in Rochester, N.H.

She was born in Summit and was formerly of Cranford and Elizabeth and resided in Plainfield for the last two years.

She was retired ten years ago after 15 years with the Cranford-Kenilworth Answering Service in Cranford



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Juliette Low Golf Classic a Success

Under sunny skies and comfortable temperatures the 10th Annual Juliette Low Golf Classic was held on October 15 at Shackamaxon Golf and Country Club in Scotch Plains. The event was a joint collaboration between the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council and the Girl Scout Council of Greater Essex and Hudson Counties and all proceeds from the day went to benefit over 17,000 Girl Scouts in 62 communities spanning five counties.

Some 80 golfers took to Shackamaxon's well-manicured fairways for a round of golf while nearly 20 more took part in the event's first-ever women's golf clinic. Golfers competed for prizes and even keys to a brand new automobile as part of the hole-in-one shootout.

Staged in the afternoon on the driving range and practice putting green, the clinic taught its participants the finer points of the game thanks to the expert instruction of PGA teaching professionals Scott Barnaby and Bill Castner.

The scene shifted inside for a cocktail hour and dinner, all the while guests took in the nearly 30-item silent auction featuring gifts and prizes suitable for everyone. Prizes were awarded for the top three teams as well as those belting the longest drive, keeping their ball closest to the line and

having it come closest to the pin.

The day was a rousing success as supporters of girl scouting banded together once again for some unforgettable times on the golf course and beyond for an extremely worthy cause. Amongst those in attendance were board members from both councils as well as representatives from the corporate sectors hailing from both councils' jurisdictions.

In the midst of celebrating its 50th anniversary, GSWRC proudly delivers the optimal girl scout experience to over 11,000 girls and adults in 25 communities.

For more information, be sure to consult www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts.

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Stormwater Management Rules Lead to New Ordinances

This is the last in a series of columns highlighting ordinances that our Mayor and Council have recently adopted.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has adopted comprehensive regulations intended

Ichabod Crane

South Plainfield

Approximately 35 people, includ-

ing many South Plainfield Histori-

cal Society members, were in atten-

dance at the Ichabod Crane, Wash-

ington Irving and the Legend of

Sleepy Hollow event. The show was

and performed by Neill Hartly of the

American Historical Theatre. After

the performance he provided back-

ground on the legend and its author.

South Plainfield Historical Society

and was offered through the Hori-

zons Speakers Bureau of NJ Coun-

cil for Humanities, a state partner

of the National Endowment for the

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Humanities.

The show was sponsored by the

The one-man show was prepared

held at the senior center.

Spotted in

By Patricia Abbott

to improve the water quality in our streams, lakes and coastal areas. All municipalities are adopting local ordinances to comply.

Ordinance #1769 is "An Ordinance to Prohibit Illicit Connections to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System(s) Operated by the Borough of South Plainfield, so as to Protect Public Health, Safety and Welfare, and to Prescribe Penalties for Failure to

The ordinance prohibits the discharge of domestic sewage waste, industrial waste, industrial processing water or non-contact cooling water into the borough's separate storm sewer system. "Separate" refers to the fact that our storm sewers are designed to convey rainwater into the nearest stream and are separate from the sanitary sewer system that carries sewage to the treatment plant in Sayreville.

This ordinance is primarily directed at industry. Any new dwelling that is constructed to code has its plumbing properly hooked into the sanitary sewer system. The homeowner certainly has no reason to alter the connection.

On the other hand, there might be a financial incentive for an industrial waste generator to discharge to the storm sewers. The Middlesex County Utilities Authority does not accept contaminated sewage at the sewage treatment plant. They market their end product as a soil amendment, so they must keep heavy metal concentrations low. Therefore, the MCUA requires industrial discharges to be pretreated to remove contaminants. This may be expensive, and a manufacturer might save a considerable sum by sending his waste water into a storm sewer instead of the sanitary sewer.

There have been some discharges in the past. For instance, there is a stream that runs through the borough's nature reserve. There used to be a zinc smelting plant on Sylvania Place that ran a pipe out back to the stream. The site was cleaned up to state standards in the early 1990's. Because of the state's environmental regulations, pollutant point-sources like this have been largely eliminated.

Nevertheless, the borough needs

this ordinance in place so that it can be enforced at the municipal level should a violation be discovered.

Report any suspected violation to the police department (908) 755-0700, the board of health (908) 226-7630 or the code enforcement office (908) 753-3775. Any person found to be in violation will be subject to a fine up to \$2,000.

This information is provided by the Clean Communities Advisory Board. For more information about the Clean Communities program, contact the Coordinator at (908) 226-7621 or E-mail atempel@southplainfieldnj.



The Almost Famous Players Haunted Woods Tour got off to a slow start, but the weather turned around and they enjoyed their 5th season of

scares and screams.

Area businesses have been very generous. Photos and story next week.

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policereport

Borough Council President's Auto Damaged by Unknown Assailant

On October 28 Councilman Dennis Cerami, 125 Strong Pl., reported that the driver's side door of his 2004 Dodge Ram and been dented. Cerami's wife, Michelle, said she awoke at approximately 3:30 a.m. to the sound of a car pulling away and heard someone say, "Cerami running," fol-

· On Oct. 23, Quick Chek on Sampton Avenue reported the theft of \$50 worth of Red Bull drinks.

· On Oct. 24, Airamist Star Darby, 19, of Plainfield was arrested for having tinted windows on their vehicle and three outstanding warrants.

· On Oct. 25, Taria Myaka Lewton, 20, of North Plainfield was arrested at MJM Designer Shoes on Hadley Road for shoplifting \$159 worth of

· A Margaret Court resident reported that the passenger side window of their vehicle had been smashed and a TomTom GPS navigation unit was lowed by a loud bang. In the morning they discovered the damage to their vehicle and called police.

Cerami also told police that he has had a problem with his campaign signs being knocked down around town and was willing to sign a complaint if a suspect was identified.

· A Lucy Court resident reported that the drivers side window of their vehicle had been smashed and a TomTom GPS navigation unit was

· On Oct. 26, Brendan P. Mess, 25, of Harrison was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.

· On Oct. 28, Michael L. Laurel, 55, of Piscataway was arrested for not wearing a set belt and three outstanding warrants.

\$15/3 lines, \$1 for each additional line. Deadline: Monday, 5 pm. Run an ad 4 consecutive issues, get a 10% discount. Call 908-668-0010; or email ad to: spobserver@comcast.net.

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Local Curves to Conduct Fitness Study With Non-Exercisers

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Curves, an exercise facility for women featuring a 30-minute circuit using hydraulic equipment designed to help decrease body fat, increase strength and endurance is conducting a 21-Day Fitness Study. The purpose is to determine what positive effects non-exercisers can expect by completing the Curves 30-minute circuit three times per week for three weeks. There are requirements to be a participant:

• They must not be exercising cur-

• They must agree to complete three 30 minute circuits per week for three weeks:

• They will complete a brief fitness profile at the beginning and end of the

• They agree to give the club a \$20 refundable deposit which is returned when they complete the study.

The fitness profile will measure the following medical components: resting heart rate, blood pressure, percentage of body fat and body mass index.

Curves is conducting this study nationally and will be gathering results from hundreds of clubs. Individual results will be kept confidential, how-

" Nobody knows

South Plainfield

like Joe Diegnan."

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ever Curves reserves the right to use group results for promotional pur-

The only thing in our bodies that burns fat is muscle. As we age, we lose muscle. On average adults lose seven to 10 lbs. of muscle every 10 years after the age of 26. Muscle controls metabolism, which is the rate at which we burn fat. The less muscle density the less efficiently we burn fat. The Curves circuit is designed to burn fat and increase cardiovascular endurance. It also increases muscle density, which increases metabolism.

Elissa and Jerri, co-owners of Curves in South Plainfield, state, "Many new exercisers experience a lower resting heart rate and lower blood pressure. We are determined to record the data and share it with women everywhere." Consider thisdropping the average heart rate just three beats per minute at the conclusion of the fitness study means the heart is beating 180 times less per hour and 4,320 less beats per day.

To volunteer for the fitness study, please call the South Plainfield location at (908) 757-4422.

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Franklin Rainear, local owner and manager of the South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home, donated team logo shirts to the South Plainfield Middle School Tigers Football team. His commitment to the community of South Plainfield continues as a proud resident and business owner in the community. All team members and coaches received a shirt. Many thanks to the coaches, the team and Bob Dolan and Lou Mormile for their part in this vital project. Best wishes to all of South Plainfield's sports teams for a successful and healthy season.

Scouts Collecting Food For Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is almost upon us and it's time for "Scouting for Food."

Cub Scout packs and Boy Scout troops will be distributing "Scouting for Food" bags on either November 3 to be picked up on November 10, or on November 10 and collected on November 17. The scouts are asking the citizens of South Plainfield to rise to the occasion and meet or exceed lasts year's harvest.

For more info, call (908) 279-4684.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

October 26, 2007–Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on October

Case # 37-07-Alfred Schroeder, Block 157; Lot 21; 2035 Greenwich Street. The applicant's request for side and rear yard setback variances in order to allow an 8' by 10' shed with an 8' height to remain where located was hereby GRANTED subject to (1)

B. Case # 38-07-Dana A. Rapatski. Block 284; Lot 12; 1050 New Market Avenue. The applicant's request for an expansion of a non-conforming use, a new easterly side yard setback for a deck 11'3" by 8" and the continuation of the non conforming conditions was hereby GRANTED subject to (1) additional voluntary condition.

Respectfully Submitted, Mary Beth Khidre

Secretary-Zoning Board of Adjustment

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Public Notice

RETURN OF PERFORMANCE BOND

To Clara Anderson for public improvements at 506 Edgar Ave. in South Plainfield, Lot 4; Block 191.

A public meeting has been scheduled by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield to hear objections, if any, to the release of a Performance Bond posted by Clara Anderson for public improvements at 506 Edgar Ave. in South Plainfield know as Lot 4, Block 191 listed on the official tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held December 4, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Cham-bers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plain-field, New Jersey 07080.

Clara Anderson 506 Edgar Avenue South Plainfield, NJ 07080

November 2, 2007

2007-08

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Shayna Hodge Named Junior Journalist Winner!



Grant School fifth grade student Shayna Hodge with teacher Lori Chabrak.

Shayna Hodge, Grant School fifth grader, is this week's winner in the Hometown Heros and South Plain-

field Observer-sponsored 2007-08 Jun-

ior Journalist Contest with her story, "Zoya, A Hero."

Shavna will be the recipient of a dinner for her family courtesy of Hometown Heros. She will also receive a t-shirt. At the end of the school year, she will be honored at a banquet, along with all the contest winners.

Open to all school-aged children in South Plainfield, The Junior Journalist Contest is a weekly program promoting the art of writing.

Students should submit their original poetry, articles, opinion pieces or essays to their English teachers, who will submit them to the Observer

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.

Zoya, A Hero By Shayna Hodge

My sister Zoya is my hero. She's twelve years old. Since she is older, I learn from her mistakes. She doesn't make many though. I gets lots of good advice from her and my other sister Shannon. Some of the advice she gives me is about school, friends, sports and much more. She has always been there for me.

Zoya has known me since I was born. She went through really bad times. Billy my brother threw a shovel at her when she was only one and half. It almost took out Zoya. She has been

afraid of my brother all this time and I thought she wasn't afraid of anything all this time, but you don't have to be brave to be a hero.

Wow, I can't believe she is a straight A student and is my hero. Zoya has been on high honor roll and honor roll ever since fifth grade. Now she's in middle school and I

know she will do great in all her sports and in school. Even though we always fight about things, she is my sister and I love her. Keep aiming for the sky!



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