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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 11, NO. 11

MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

50 CENTS

NOVEMBER 9, 2007

Republicans Win Control of Council



Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak congratulate each other on their success Tuesday night.

McConville, Rusnak Win Gives Republicans 4-2 Majority

Republicans will control the South Plainfield Borough Council for the first time in more than a decade with their victory on Tuesday. Republicans Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak defeated incumbent Democrats Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas. Cerami had been on the council since 1996, while Thomas served three short terms during the past few years. McConville and Rusnak will both be serving a first term on the council.

The control of the council

will take affect at the January 2008 reorganization meeting. At that time the Republicans will announce what changes they intend to make. One change will be the position of borough attorney, which was an issue addressed in campaign literature. Voter turnout was 35.51 percent, or 12,800 eligible voters, and is down from last year's 52.11 percent turnout.

Republican Tim McConville was the top vote getter with 2,407 votes, followed by Ray Rusnak with 2,400.

Democratic candidates Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas received 1,951 and 1,890 respectively.

"I am here for the people of the town. I don't care about parties. The only decisions I'm going to make are for the people," said Councilman-elect Ray Rusnak.

"I would like to say thank you to the people of South Plainfield for electing both Ray and I and my wife, who has supported me throughout the entire ordeal. I look forward to working for the people to

make South Plainfield even better. And definitely, thank you Bob Jones for all of your hard work. I will be doing what is right for the people of South Plainfield," said Councilman-elect Tim McConville.

After thanking those who worked on the campaign, Democratic Chairman Patrick Diegnan said, "The people have spoken. Obviously the residents of South Plainfield wanted to go in another direction. We want to congratulate our opponents and

(Continued on page 7)

Legislature Honors Mingle



Tulio Capparelli (left) presents Pastor Charles Mingle, pictured with his wife Jean, a Joint Legislative Resolution for his commitment to South Plainfield.

growing and adding the nave section of the building, but he always gave time to minister to all of them.

In 1978 Pastor Mingle was asked by parishioners at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church to become the spiritual advisor of a Spirit of Christ Prayer Fellowship they wished to start. Mingle met regularly with the prayer fellowship until a priest from St. Mary's in Plainfield was able to take over.

Pastor Mingle also spent many years with Boy Scout Troops 309 and 324, while his son, Philip, advanced to the rank of Eagle Scout. Pastor Mingle has also been a member of the Greater Plainfield Clergy Association and FISH in South Plainfield.

Recognizing his "service and commitment to the community of South Plainfield and on behalf of the citizens of Middlesex County," members of the New Jersey State Legislature honored Pastor Mingle with a Joint Legislative Resolution initiated by Senator Barbara Buono and Assemblymen Peter Barnes and Patrick Diegnan, who presented

(Continued on page 9)



C.E.R.T. volunteers distribute medication in a First Responders exercise.

First Responders Train for Crisis

Middlesex County recently tested its First Responder Distribution Program during a county-wide, full-scale event to demonstrate how medication would be distributed to emergency personnel throughout the county in the event of a public health emergency.

The distribution program offers oral medication to first

responders, critical infrastructure personnel and those living in their households during a public health emergency, in case of an attack of bacterial agents such as Anthrax, Plague and Tularemia. It will enable them to distribute medication in order to provide emergency services to the community.

The exercise took place in a borough warehouse and included 25 municipalities and agencies throughout Middlesex

County. Bulk medication was received, boxed and distributed to other municipalities, county departments and participating agencies. The exercise began early in the morning when an alert went out to all county agencies of a potential attack of a bacterial agent. Each agency was advised where to pick up the medication for their first responders at a location in South Plainfield. As each agency arrived, they received only their allotted amount of medication. Police were on hand to make sure only the proper personnel were allowed to enter the warehouse. Each allotment was determined by the number of first responders and their families living in that district. In case of a medical emergency it is important the first responders receive the medication so they are healthy enough to help distribute medication to the general population.

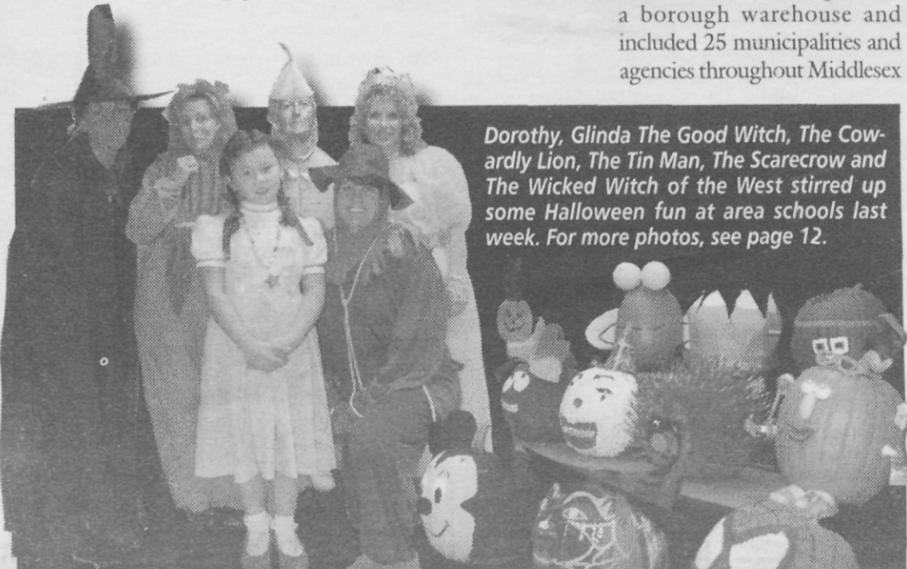
"Emergency first responders are the individuals who are

(Continued on page 9)

Come to Our OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1-5 P.M.
AT THE **South Plainfield Senior Citizen Center**

Young and old are invited to discover all that the Senior Center has to offer to our residents age 55 and older. Learn about all of our programs and services and check out our facilities. Become a Community Outreach Volunteer. There will be a variety of volunteer opportunities for both individuals and families who want to become part of our team.

For info, call us at (908) 754-1047



Dorothy, Glinda The Good Witch, The Cowardly Lion, The Tin Man, The Scarecrow and The Wicked Witch of the West stirred up some Halloween fun at area schools last week. For more photos, see page 12.

Congratulations!

2007-08

JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Charlie and Debbie Kurland present dinner to Junior Journalist winner Tatiana Ishod, pictured with her mom Cassandra and grandmother Evone.

PLEASE NOTE! There will be a Special Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council at the Municipal Building on Monday, Nov. 12 at 7p.m.

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



The October 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.

councilmeetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday

Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

Table with 3 columns: Date, Agenda Meeting, Public Meeting. Rows for Dec 4 and Dec 18.

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

planningboard

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, *except where noted.

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641 Nov. 27 and Dec. 11.

zoningboardofadjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, *except where noted.

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641 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.

recreationcommission

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August

PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716

South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

G&G Graphics, Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B South Plainfield, NJ 07080

(908) 668-0010 FAX (908) 668-8819

NANCY GRENNIER Publisher/Editor-in-Chief Web page: www.sobserver.com (updated each Thursday)

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

WAYNE GRENNIER Associate Publisher SUSAN KANEPS Art Director/Associate Editor

PATRICIA ABBOTT Staff Writer/Photographer

LIBBY BARKSY Staff Writer

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JEAN FULTZ NATIA KATSANTONIS TARYN BILlich Production Assistants

ROXANNE CORTESE JANE DORNICK Advertising Sales

The South Plainfield Observer (U.S.P.S. 018253) is published weekly, except Thanksgiving week, by G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Second class postage paid at South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080-9998. POSTMASTER: Forward change of address orders to G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Subscription rates \$25 per year in South Plainfield; \$30 per year out of town. To subscribe: 908-668-0010.

SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

IN MY OPINION

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

To the Editor

I would like to thank Dr. May, the Emergency Management Department and the South Plainfield Police Department for the wonderful job they did on the lockdown. Mike Zushma came into the building and immediately took things under control and called other towns for assistance. Within no time, things were in progress to make sure our building was safe. Thank you so much for all the work that you do and for making our building a safe and secure place.

On behalf of myself and the staff at South Plainfield High School, we would like to thank you, Mary Sacks, for your kindness and generosity. It was so nice of you to send that wonderful breakfast thanking us for the work done on the lockdown. Again, thank you very much.

PAULA DICK

LOOK WHO'S SMILING NOW



Willie Bledsoe

To All My New Friends

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped in any way to make my impossible dream come true. Thanks to all of you I can smile and not hide my mouth. I can eat foods I haven't been able to eat in years and my life has changed 100%, mainly from attitude. Again, thanks for believing in me and helping to create a new me.

SMILING NOW, WILLIE BLEDSOE

Dear Marty

Wow! Thank you so much for everything you've done for my brother, Willie. Your generosity has given him the feeling of self-worth that he lost years ago! What a priceless gift!

Please pass along my gratitude to your friends and clients. Although, knowing you, all your clients soon become your friends!

You get my vote for Woman of the Year!

WILLIE'S SISTER, DONETTA

To All My Friends

We should all feel a bit of the warm fuzzies in our hearts.

My friend, Willie, is a new man with a new life. His dental work was a success. The dentist and oral surgeons in Florida worked with us. They understood the situation and seemed to take a personal interest in Willie. The cost went from \$10,000 to \$4,700. Yes, there are still "those" kind of people in the world. Kudos to our doctors in St. Pete, Fla.

The winners of our chance drawing were Theresa Bielinski and Helen Meliche. But the biggest winner in this was me. I have learned that anything is possible, if you believe.

Thanks, and thanks a million!

MARTY PAPA (THE TOOTH FAIRY)



To the SPHS Class of 1977

Greetings from Taji, Iraq. I hope this finds everyone in good health and spirits. I thought I'd scratch down a few words since it's nearly impossible to join you this evening and I most certainly regret being preoccupied.

You must wonder what a 48-year-old middle aged man (wake up folks, we are middle aged) is doing in a war zone. Well, I remained in the Navy Reserves after my four year hitch out of high school and traveled around the world doing some interesting things. In February I retired from Delta Airlines after 25 years and went to work for the FAA. I also had the opportunity and was selected to do some work with Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) in the Navy, which brought me back on active duty in May of this year.

I've been in theater now since July in command of a UAV team and also flying as a mission commander. I have a split crew of military and civilians and all I can really say is we work for some special folks doing special things.

Yes, the bad guys are lobbing mortars and rockets at us here. They use 3,500 lbs. of explosives in vehicles in an attempt to ruin our day and hide behind women and children taking pot shots at coalition forces. Other than the rocket and mortar attacks here, I get to see all the rest safely from my ground control station. But hey, let's not dwell on sound bites from the six o'clock news.

Contrary to those sound bites, what you don't hear is the number of bad guys we are scooping up by the bus loads. You also won't see these young American men and women go outside the wire every night in convoys, working long hours and are proud to serve. I'm sure everyone knows someone or of someone that is supporting this effort. So regardless of your political affiliations or opinions on this war, take a minute to reflect on these brave young warriors and hoist your spirits in their honor.

I would be greatly entertained to here from you at jwalko@yahoo.com. My best wishes to everyone.

SINCERELY, JOE WALKO

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

We have a quick breather between the Halloween and holiday seasons. So, as we recover from all that candy and prepare for all that turkey, let's stop for some news from the South Plainfield Library. The library will be closed on Monday in observance of Veterans Day. However, it will be open normal hours from 1:30 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 11.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday evening at 7:30. Members of the public are invited to attend and learn more about the library's current and future plans, including the proposed new library building and important matters of library policy. There will be a public comment time early in the meeting.

Our regular children's programs have been cancelled next week. However, we do have one special kids program next week. Tony Guzzi, author of the children's book, "Pearl the Pink Dolphin," will make an appearance at the library on Wednesday evening at 6:30. He'll answer questions about his work and copies of his book will be available for signing. By the way, half of the proceeds from the sale of these books will benefit the library. There will also be a children's craft activity. The program is for children ages three to eight; pre-registration is requested, but not required. For more details, please call us and ask for Miss Linda or Miss Mija. You can learn more about Guzzi by going to www.pearlthepinkdolphin.com.

We're not about to leave the adults out, though. Our adult craft series,

Display Your House Number on Your Curb

Black four-inch stenciled numbers on a reflective background will make your home easier to locate especially when a matter of seconds can save lives.

The Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross is working hard to help people avoid and prepare for disasters. Don't get caught unprepared! A visible display of your house number on your curb will allow emergency services to quickly find your home.

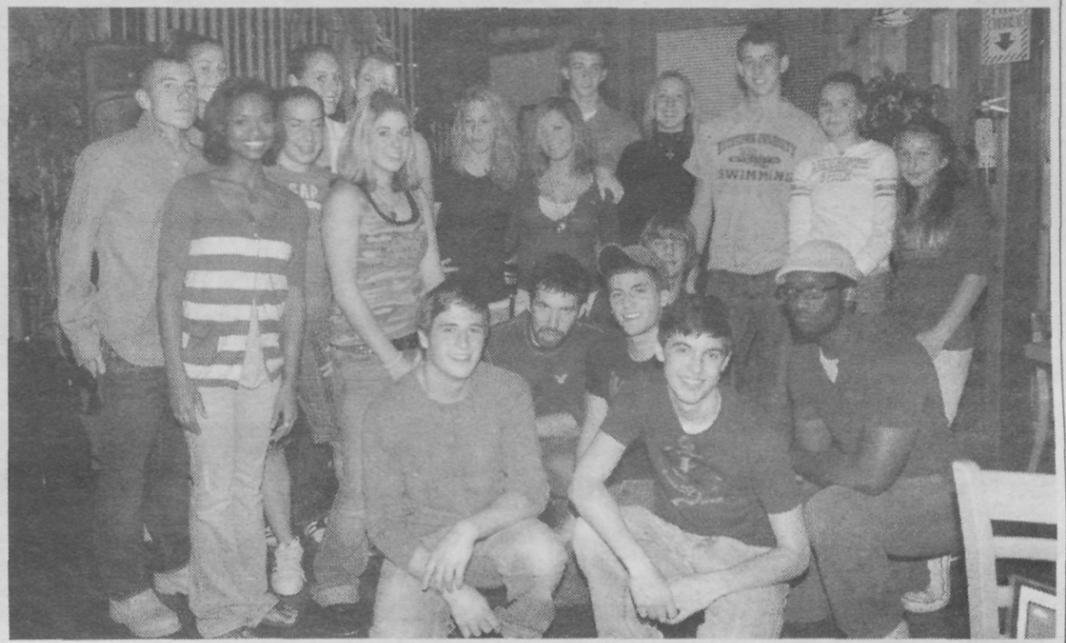
For information or to participate, call (908) 756-6414, ext. 21 or visit www.tricountyredcross.org.

"Come Together to Create," will hold its next sessions today and next Friday morning at 10:30. Art therapist Donna Montilli, MA, ATR, leads the program. Participants may bring in whatever project they're working on, regardless of medium and continue it alongside other crafters. This series is being presented free of charge. Space is limited, so pre-registration is requested. While the library will provide some craft materials, participants are suggested to bring their own supplies, as well.

We've got room this week for a reminder and a question. First, the reminder. Many people come to the library to use our computers and bring along their own storage media (like discs and flash drives) to save their work. Unfortunately, they don't always leave with them. We've had several instances where people will forget their storage items and leave them in the computers. Even worse, most of these items aren't labeled, so we aren't able to find out who they belong to. So, we ask that you make sure you have all your materials before you leave the computer. In fact, make sure you have all your stuff (like keys, bags, wallets, etc.) before you leave the building. It'll save you a massive amount of hassle.

Finally, a patron recently asked if we stocked HD or Blu-Ray DVDs in our collection. Well, at the present moment, we only stock one HD-DVD; it's a combo copy (both standard and HD) of "Music and Lyrics," starring Hugh Grant and Drew Barrymore. Beyond that, we don't stock either of the new formats either in our permanent collection or via the DVD circuit. This is because, at the moment, most of our patrons don't have the more advanced equipment for these new formats, so there's no need to stock the new stuff. Also, there's the titanic and as-yet-undecided struggle between HD and Blu-Ray to be the dominant format (think VHS vs. Beta for reference). That said, once there's a higher demand for the new stuff and a better idea of which format is more prevalent, we'll see about adding HD or Blu-Ray to the collection. (Looks like we'll have to get "Star Wars" again, not that I'm complaining.)

That's all for now. For more details, call (908) 754-7885 or visit our Web site at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. See you next Friday.



Several members of the future South Plainfield High School Swim Team (standing) were on hand to hear The Command Radio (kneeling) perform at their fundraiser held at Gabriele's Bar & Grill on October 21.

Local Knights of Columbus Council Receives Top International Award

Knights of Columbus Council #6203 has earned the distinction of Star Council, one of the organization's top awards, for the 2006-2007 fraternal year. The award recognizes overall excellence in the areas of member-

ship recruitment and retention, promotion of the fraternal insurance program and sponsorship of service-related activities. The award was presented to the membership by District Deputy Vincent Covino at a

special ceremony held on October 24.

In announcing the local winner of the Star Council Award, Carl A. Anderson, chief executive officer of the organization, said, "Please accept my sincere congratulations upon attaining this prestigious award. Your dedication to the order is seen in the high standard of excellence you have achieved. At the same time, I encourage you to carry forward this enthusiasm to meet the challenges that will face the Knights of Columbus in the years ahead. May this award be a reminder and an inspiration to the members of your council to continue to promote the ideals of Columbianism for the good of the Church, your community, and the order."

"Receiving the Star Council Award is quite an honor for us. We're extremely proud of this accomplishment," proclaimed Past Grand Knight Anthony J. Moskal.

Middlesex Co. Surrogate's Office to Celebrate National Adoption Day

The Middlesex County Surrogate Court will recognize National Adoption Day 2007 on Thursday, Nov. 29 to promote adoptions and highlight the process.

Surrogate Kevin J. Hoagland, whose office facilitates the process in Middlesex County, said the national event is held to raise awareness about the more than 114,000 children across the country in foster care waiting for permanent homes.

The Surrogate's Office works with the State Superior Court, judges, at-

torneys and advocates to finalize adoptions. The county processes between 175 and 200 adoptions each year.

The county is looking for local families to participate in the ceremony by scheduling to finalize their adoptions on November 29. National Adoption Day is November 17 this year, but adoptions in Middlesex County are only finalized once a month.

For more information on adoption or on participating in the ceremony, call the Middlesex County Surrogate's Office at (732) 745-3055.

Fall Nature Walk and Open House

Highland Avenue Woods Environmental Education Reserve and Nature Center, 115 Sylvania Place, is holding a fall nature walk and open house on Sunday, Nov. 18 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. featuring a guided walk through the 35-acre nature preserve, conducted by volunteer staff members of the Friends of the Woods. Tour upland and wetland habits, ice-age pingos, native plant species, archaeo-

logical features, wintering birds. Easy-walking trails. Enjoy free exhibits at the Nature Center. No registration is required; recommended for all ages. Restroom facilities and handicap parking.

For more information, call Alice Tempel at (908) 226-7621 or visit www.geocities.com/friendsof_highlandwoods or E-mail spnaturetrails@verizon.net.

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**Bright Horizons
Concert with YOSI**

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11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Explore your child's musical talents at this special event.
It's fun, festive, and free!

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1 Cragwood Road
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
For more information, call 908-822-2900

Save the Date!
November 17, 2007

- Sing along with award winning children's performer YOSI from 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
- Raffles, refreshments, giveaways and more
- Center visits will be available after the concert

Bright Horizons
FAMILY SOLUTIONS®
Child Care and Early Education
www.brighthorizons.com

Around Town

Eagle Cheerleaders Yard Sale

November 10

The SP Eagles Pee Wee Cheerleaders will hold a yard sale on Saturday, Nov. 10 in the parking lot of the field house on Kenneth Avenue from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Proceeds will be used to support the girls on the road to the National Competition in Orlando, Fla.

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.

Veterans Day Services at VFW

November 11

The VFW, located on Front Street, will hold Veterans Day services on Sunday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

Volleyball Tournament

November 15

The 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 student council and a borough infant with cancer.

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

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. Join us for an evening

What's happening at the South Plainfield SENIOR CENTER NOVEMBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>UPCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>November 11 – Open House – 1-5 p.m. Discover Everything We Do</p> <p>Flu Shots at Senior Center Friday, Nov. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon</p>				<p>Bingo 10am-2pm 9</p>
<p>CLOSED FOR VETERANS DAY 12</p>	<p>Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am Senior Board 4:30pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>Aerobics 8:30 am Line Dancing 10am Computer Classes 10am, 11:30am, 1pm Cocheting 1pm Tai Chi 2pm</p>	<p>14</p>
			<p>Pathmark Shopping 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 10am 11:30am, 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm</p>	<p>15</p>
				<p>Bingo 10am-2pm 16</p>

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

of shopping. Space is still available for vendors. If interested, call Stephanie at (908) 930-7744.

EVP Presents "Talking With..." Monologues

November 16

The Edison Valley Playhouse presents "Talking With..." an evening of monologues by women written by Jane Martin on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 16, 17, 23 and 24 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 18 at 3 p.m. Ticket are \$15 for adults, \$12 for students and seniors.

For information call (908) 755-4654 or go to www.evplayhouse.com.

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, as

well as Longaberger baskets, Discovery Toys, Dove Chocolate at Home, Tastefully Simple, Creative Memories and more. There will be a variety of foods. Children can create their own gift or ornament at our "make-take table."

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

Thanksgiving Bake Sale at St. Stephen Church

November 18

St. Stephen Church, located at 609 Lane Ave., is holding a Thanksgiving baklava bake sale on Sunday, Nov. 18. Half tray is \$12 and a full tray is \$20.

To place an order, call (908) 231-8262 or (732) 548-4947 or E-mail to joanja6@aol.com. Please place orders by November 13 for pickup on November 18.

Fall Nature Walk and Open House

November 18

Highland Avenue Woods Environmental Education Reserve and Nature Center, 115 Sylvania Place, is holding a fall nature walk and open house on Sunday, Nov. 18 from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Visit www.geocities.com/friendsofhighlandwoods.

Pancake Breakfast

November 18

On Sunday, Nov. 18, from 8 a.m. until noon, the American Legion Chaumont Post 243, located on Oak Tree Avenue, will be hosting a pancake breakfast to benefit their scholarship fund. All you can eat; adults \$5 and children \$3. Children under three are free. Everyone is welcome.

St. Peter-by-the-Sea Orchestra Concert

November 25

The Orchestra of St. Peter-by-the-Sea, conducted by Rev. Alphonse Stephenson, will perform a Christmas Concert at Sacred Heart Church, located on South Plainfield Avenue, on Sunday, Nov. 25 at 3 p.m. General admission tickets are \$25, seniors/students cost is \$20.

For tickets, call (908) 756-0633, ext. 10 or (732) 549-9633.

— Out of Town —

Middlesex WOWs

November 9

The Middlesex East Widows Or Widowers will hold an open dance on Friday, Nov. 7 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall in Carteret. Admission is \$10. For information call Dorothy at (732) 541-2174 or Lois at (908) 757-06515.

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.

For more information, contact Sophie Exarchakis at (732) 723-9088.

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 include dinner, wine, beer, dancing and live entertainment.

For more information, call the advancement office at (856) 662-3045.

Salute to Veterans

November 11

Trinity Reformed Church, located at 401 Greenbrook Rd. in North Plainfield, will hold a salute to Veterans on Sunday, Nov. 11 at 2 p.m. Light refreshments following the event.

Woodbridge WOWs

November 14

The Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will hold a business meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. in the children's room of the main library on Rt. 35 in Woodbridge. Light refreshments. For information, contact Phyllis at (732) 381-3255 or Lois at (908) 757-0515.

Annual Brass Lantern Holiday Open House

November 15, 16

On Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 15 and 16, The Brass Lantern in Metuchen will be holding their annual holiday open house from 7 to 9 p.m.

For further information, please call (732) 548-5442.

Annual Tricky Tray

November 16

The Daughters of Penelope, Tethys Chapter #229 will hold their annual tricky tray fundraiser on Friday, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. in St. George Greek Orthodox Church on River Road in Piscataway. Admission is \$7.

For information or to make a reservation, contact Alice Kartikis at (732) 297-0581 or Polly Ploussiou at (732) 297-6246.

Bollywood Musical Bonanza

November 17

Mark G. Etes Arena, Trump Taj Mahal Casino in Atlantic City, is hosting a Bollywood Musical Bonanza on Saturday, Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m. Entertainment and surprises. Live performances by topmost singers from Bollywood, Pakistan, U.S.A., U.K., Canada and the Caribbean. Tickets from \$25-\$200; group discounts available.

For information, call (516) 248-8777 or visit www.BollywoodAwards.com.

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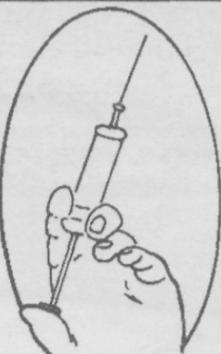
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LIFE LINES

At this time of year, our thoughts turn toward the holidays. Holidays can be wonderful times to celebrate the blessings that we have in this life—family, friends, food to eat, a warm place to live—but even as we reflect on these things, Thanksgiving, in particular, challenges us to consider the needs of others.

As we remember the first Thanksgiving, we recall that the Pilgrims' celebration, shared with their native neighbors, was a time of giving thanks to God for having survived the first difficult year in New England. Half of their original group had perished, yet those who remained were grateful for the help of the Native Americans. The Pilgrims' thanks was not only to God, but also to their neighbors. The Pilgrims were the recipients of the Narragansetts' charity, and for that, they gave thanks!

As we enter the holiday season, let

Help "Keep Our Kids Warm"

The McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals is holding a 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.

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

us remember our neighbors in need, just as the Native Americans did for those struggling Pilgrims. Many businesses, churches and community organizations organize special collections to help others during this time of year. As a community, South Plainfield's churches participated in the annual CROP Walk last month, raising funds and emphasizing the need to be aware of those who go to bed hungry some, or most nights. These caring acts benefit those who need our help—but there is more. Other side effects result from kindness.

The act of helping others—and of giving thanks—helps us, too. How? Studies have shown that reaching out and helping someone in need—visiting a shut-in, serving a meal at a soup kitchen, giving to a worthy cause—lifts our mood. And the practice of thanksgiving yields similar results. In a controlled study among people suffering from depression, the group was divided into two smaller groups. One group was given the daily task of writing down, before bedtime, 10 things for which they could give thanks, even something as small as hearing a bird's song, or the smell of freshly baked cookies. The other group was given no special task. At the end of one month, the group with the "thanksgiving" writing assignment showed a statistically significant improvement in their illness, while the group that was not required to give thanks showed no significant change.

This year, I encourage each of us not only to give thanks, but to get involved in helping someone else. It not only does good for them—it does good for us, too.

LifeLines is a monthly Observer column written by area churches. This article comes from Gordon Braun, pastor of the First Baptist Church in South Plainfield.

Dan Uken Presented with Lifetime Membership

South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298 recently honored longtime member Daniel Uken, past exalted ruler and district Americanism chairman, with a Lifetime Membership at a special dinner which included family, friends and fellow Elk members.

John Kormendy, the lodge's first exalted ruler, presented Dan with the Proclamation of Lifetime Membership and a plaque honoring his service to the lodge. John Shuleski, PER and longtime friend, emceed the affair which included a slideshow of pictures, bagpipers, toasts and a few roasts for the guest of honor.

Dan has been a member for 35 years. He is a Vietnam veteran and proud American, as well as a devoted husband, father and family man. His dedication to Americanism and patriotism is unwavering. His leadership as past exalted ruler (1976), lodge officer, trustee, Elk of the Year and district chairman of Americanism has enabled the lodge to prosper in many ways.

For the past 17 years, Dan has coordinated the Citizen of the Year events, Americanism essay contests, flag memorial services and has represented 13 area lodges at the district level. In addition, he has supported and assisted the charitable committees with fundraising activities and run



John Kormedy, Lifetime Member Dan Uken and John Shuleski.

many lodge picnics.

He has long been impressed with the traditions and benevolence of the Elks. His love of patriotism, veterans and the lifelong friendships he has made through the years, has made Dan a committed Elk. Dan is a highly

regarded, invaluable lodge member who truly lives and loves being an Elk. His sincere devotion and commitment to the Order of Elks is an inspiration to all. The Elks are proud to honor this outstanding lifetime member.

Submitted by Debra Czech

After School Cooking Rocks

Debbie Boehm is offering private cooking lessons for tweens and teens to help kids feel at home in their kitchen. Debbie has had years of experience teaching thousands of students. She has tailored classes for all skill levels. Start learning early about healthy eating! Learn kitchen basics,

nutritious snacks and custom meals. First session is free and four one-hour lessons will be in the student's home.

If interested or for more information, contact Debbie Boehm at (732) 317-3758 or (908) 405-9001. Professional references upon request! Cooking birthday parties are also available!

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 Latour Beaujolais Villages Young & Vivacious Red On Sale 7.57	 Clos du Bois Chardonnay Full Flavored White On Sale 9.69	 Louis Jadot Pouilly Fuisse Fruit Driven White On Sale 16.49
 Mark West Pinot Noir Complex & Intruiging Red On Sale 9.33	 Estancia Chardonnay Full Flavored White On Sale 8.29	 La Crema Chardonnay Full Flavored White On Sale 13.33
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Mark Your Calendars...Next One Day Sale – Tuesday 11/27/07

<p>1.5 Liter</p> <p>ON SALE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Stone Cellars 1.5L On Sale \$9.33 Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot  Sutter Home 1.5L On Sale \$6.29 White Zinfandel & White Merlot  Turning Leaf 1.5L On Sale \$11.09 Chardonnay, Merlot, Cabernet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Woodbridge 1.5L On Sale \$10.09 Chardonnay, Cabernet, Merlot  Fish Eye 1.5L On Sale \$10.00 Chardonnay, Merlot, Pinot Grigio
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Prices effective until 11/24/07. 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.

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Priest Arrested for Sex Crimes

On October 23, Reverend Edgardo D. Abano, 51, was charged with criminal sexual contact and arrested by members of the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office Sex Crimes/Child Abuse Unit and the Piscataway Police Department's Special Victim's Unit. Criminal sexual contact is a fourth degree crime which carries an 18-month maximum sentence.

At the time of his arrest, Albano was the pastor of the Saint Francis Cabrini Roman Catholic Church in Piscataway. Albano served at various parishes in New Jersey: Our Lady of Lourdes in Whitehouse Station, Immaculate Conception Church in Somerville, Saint Philip and Saint James Church in Phillipsburg and Our Lady of Fatima in Piscataway.

According to the Diocese, Abano has taken a voluntarily leave of absence and has voluntarily agreed to have his priestly faculties suspended.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation, should contact Investigator Michael Daniewicz at (732) 745-3600 or Detective Michael Trojanowski at (732) 562-2370 anytime day or night. As in all criminal matters, the defendant must be presumed innocent at this stage of the proceedings.



Borough employees (above) prepare to register dogs during last week's rabies clinic. Residents were also able to purchase a cat or dog license, if they had not yet done so this year. Dr. Scott Linick (right) from Plainfield Animal Hospital gives a rabies shot to a reluctant customer. The borough holds two free rabies clinics each year.



Patricia Lacasale Named Junior Journalist Winner!



Franklin School third grade student Patricia Lacasale with teacher Lara Kensey (left) and school principal, Ellen Decker-Lorys.

Patricia Lacasale, Franklin School third grader, is this week's winner in the Hometown Heros and South Plainfield Observer-sponsored 2007-08

Junior Journalist Contest with her story, "What A Veteran Is To Me."

Patricia 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.

What A Veteran Is To Me

By Patricia Lacasale

When I look veteran up in the dictionary it describes a person who has served in military force. It also describes a person having experience with war. Although these definitions may be true, a veteran is much more to me. To me, a veteran is someone brave who has stood up for their country at a time of need. A veteran is someone who is not selfish but gives from his or her heart for others. A veteran is kind and helps all people-

not just certain kinds and colors. A veteran is strong to fight many fights to win the freedom of those they protect.

Veterans are special to me because without them the choices I am used to may have been taken away. I was born during a peaceful time, when no wars were taking place, but since I was born, America has entered war and the Twin Towers have fallen. Before my birth, many wars took place and it was because of the men and women who joined the military that my freedom still exists.

No matter what a dictionary says, a veteran is more than a person served in the military. A veteran is a true American—someone just like me—someone who stands up for the United States and is happy to be free.

Did you know you can subscribe to the *Observer* 24 hours a day? Email your request to spobserver@comcast.net

AristaCare at Cedar Oaks announces its new Stroke Support Group: "STROKE? R.E.A.C.T."

HOLD THE DATES

Wed., November 14 & 28, 2007

6:00pm—7:00pm

(first two meetings feature Dr. Michael Merkin, Neurologist)

Mon., November 19, 2007

Noon—1:00pm

(afternoon meeting features Dr. Paul Abend, Psychiatrist) (a physician specializing in Rehabilitation Medicine)



Rehabilitation Expectations Answers Concerns & Treatments

Our support group for stroke survivors, stroke patients, family members, and friends, features noted speakers who are extremely knowledgeable in the area of strokes. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and recovery of strokes, ranging from mild to severe, in an informal, friendly setting. Various rehabilitation topics related to strokes and stroke awareness will be presented by the Doctors and followed by a question and answer period. MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT CEDAR OAKS.



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We would appreciate RSVPs as we will be preparing a meal for all attendees. Kindly call Kathy Sherry, Admissions Director at (732) 287-9555, ext 123 to make a reservation.

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County Seeks Grant For Shared Services Web Site

Middlesex County's newly formed Shared Services Department is seeking a \$200,000 State grant to establish an Internet portal, or Web site, that all municipalities, agencies, authorities and school districts throughout the county can use when looking to explore shared services in the areas of specialized equipment or vehicles, combining professional services and purchasing supplies.

The graphic rich, easy-to-use Middlesex County Shared Services Portal will allow users to sign in on a secure site to communicate with one another their interests and needs for shared services initiatives of all types.

Towns may pool their resources to purchase such equipment as street sweepers or share administrative services.

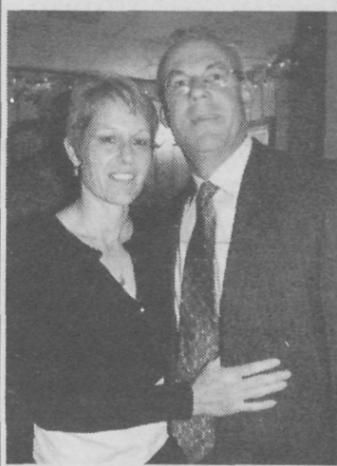
An interactive pricing database will enable local and school officials to see what other municipalities are paying for things such as vehicles, equipment, janitorial, office supplies and rock salt.

They then can shop for the best price and purchase directly from the vendor or join with another entity and create joint bid specification. This aspect of the site ties into the county's highly successful Common Cents cooperative purchasing program.

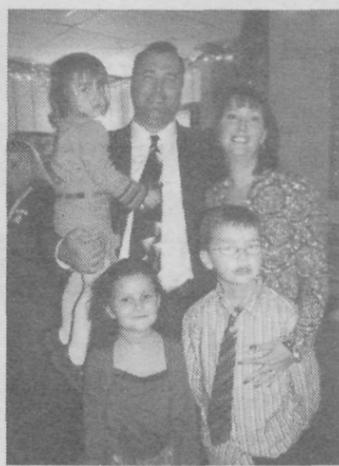
Currently, all 25 Middlesex County municipalities, 10 school districts and three authorities participate in the County's Shared Services program.

The shared services Web site will be built onto the existing Middlesex County Web site and will have real-time and dynamic data content. Users may upload and download information from the site, which will also have extensive search capability.

The site also will feature an E-mail notification engine enabling the Shared Services Department to send newsletters and product list updates.



Ray Rusnak and his wife, Robyn.



Tim McConville with wife, Gina, son, Sean and daughters, Caitlin and Jillian.

Republicans Win Council Seats

(Continued from page 1)

promise to work with them in the future."

After the vote count gave them a victory, Bob Jones announced that he will be stepping down as Republican Chairman.

Voters in New Jersey also rejected referendum question one, which would have dedicated one percent of the sales tax to property tax relief and question two, referring to borrowing money for stem cell research.

They approved question three, referring to borrowing money for open space and question four, which will change the wording on the constitution to remove offensive phrases such as "idiot" or "insane" person.

Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan was re-elected, receiving 18,121 votes; and his running mate Peter Barnes III was elected to his first term in the Assembly with 17,844. Republican opponents Joseph Sinagra received 13,597 and William England had 13,431 votes.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN

FROM A BUSY BUSY MOM *jd*

All South Plainfield schools will be closed on Monday, Nov. 12, 22 and 23 with a half-day on Wednesday, Nov. 21 for Thanksgiving. The second marking period begins on November 7. High school conferences will be held on Thursday evening, Nov. 29.

The middle school drama club auditions begin on Tuesday, Nov. 13 and they will hold a cookie dough sale to benefit the club. The student council volleyball tournament playoffs are taking place with the finals on Thursday, Nov. 15 beginning at 6 p.m. Please support this exciting fundraising event which includes the students and staff.

The Grant Elementary School PTO meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 13. The school store is on Wednesday, Nov. 14 and parent/guardian/teacher conferences are on the Thursday, Nov. 15 with early dismissal at 12:12 p.m. Battle of the Books practice is on Friday, Nov. 16; an assembly and the chess club meets on Tuesday, Nov. 13 and 27.

A Franklin School math assembly will take place on the Wednesday, Nov. 14. Parent/guardian/teacher conferences with early dismissal will be held on November 15 and 16.

Kennedy School will have a Veter-

ans Day presentation on Tuesday, Nov. 13. Fall fundraiser pickup is on Tuesday, Nov. 20; school store is on Wednesday, Nov. 28 and family shopping night is on Friday, Nov. 30.

Riley School store will take place during lunch on Wednesday, Nov. 14. The character trait for the month is citizenship and the color is purple.

Roosevelt School logo fundraiser ends on the Wednesday, Nov. 14. Spirit Day (PJ's) and the PTO school store is on Monday, Nov. 19. Sally Foster order pick-up day is on Tuesday, Nov. 20 and the character trait of the month is citizenship, along with the color purple.

All elementary school K-4 conferences will take place on Thursday, Nov. 15 and Friday, Nov. 16 with early dismissal at 1 p.m.

Everyone with school-age children should have received the Community Contact newsletter from the Board of Education. Thank you to school and borough officials, the police department, staff and students who participating in the high school lockdown on October 26. Your cooperation helps insure that procedures are followed and carried out.

A Great Idea!!!

When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, please include the following: A Recovering American Soldier, c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

-Submitted by Jeanne Gruber



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Monday-Saturday 10 am-8 pm, Sunday 11 am-5 pm

Sports

SOCCER

U-14 Bullets Blow Away Bloomfield

The U-14 boys traveling soccer team played against the Bloomfield Thunderwolves last Sunday and totally blew them away by a score of 11-1.

After playing most of the game with no substitutes, and being scored

against in the first few minutes of the game, the Bullets proved how strong of a team they truly are.

They played hard to win after the goal was scored against them, and they did just that. With their powerful

passes, tremendous footwork and communication between players, the Bullets proved how far they have come as a team and how well they play together. Communication is key to having a great game.

The goals were scored by Jelani Pthah 2, Ryan Riccardi, Ryan Marcoux 2, Joe Krawiec, Shaun Alers 2, Anthony Quadrel, Zach Noll and Kevin Flanagan. Congratulations to Edgar Callegas, David Forero, Tony Franczak and Jimmy Gerber for their great performance and teamwork. Alex Valladares and Marc Paez were out for medical reasons.

There are only two games left in the season, so please come out and show your support.

Submitted by Chris Paez

Arsenal Blows Away Bridgewater

Last Sunday the U-9 boys traveling soccer team defeated the Bridgewater Metros 6-1. Arsenal dominated the entire game, keeping the pressure on the opposition. They were determined to win and keep their opponents from getting any goals past them.

This held true until the fourth quarter when Bridgewater caught Arsenal off guard and scored their first and

only goal of the game.

Goals were made by Alec Paez, Jake Hoffman, Ricky Pellegrino, Jake Giordano, Samardhi Jeedigunta, and Jared Marks. Great defensive work was played by Nicholas Plate, Jake Smith, Jason Cieszkiewicz, Nicholas Pezzolla, Jose Arrubla and Tyler Curtis.

Arsenal has only two games left in the fall season, so please come out and show your support.



Left to right: Richie Pangborn, Louie Girardi, Courtney Alloco and Brian McCarthy show off their best Halloween pose at TBSA last Saturday night.

Fantastic Fridays for Sports, Recreation and Fun!

Every Friday night at TBSA Sports Academy children of all ages can enter the facility at 76 Carter Dr. in Edison and use all of the equipment available for just an admission fee of \$10. "Fantastic Fridays" is a family friendly event and it is a great opportunity for children and their parents to come in and work on their sports skills or just hang out and have a good time.

Children can be dropped off at TBSA as early as 6 p.m. and be picked up by 10 p.m. Anyone entering the facility is invited to play basketball or use the recreational games that are set up for the evening including air hockey, foosball, ping pong, table hockey, pop-a-shot basketball.

Keep in mind that this is a great chance to use the state of the art equipment that TBSA offers every day at a tremendously discounted price. The shooting guns are basketball repetition shooting machines that allow players to take hundreds of shots in an hour and the baseball and batting cages are complete with pitching machines that pitch accurately to players at various speeds. The pitching machines are able to throw pitches for baseball and soft-

ball. Please note that in order to use the shooting guns or pitching machines, a parent or responsible adult must come and supervise the use of any of this equipment for children under 16 years of age.

Refreshments are available during the night. Pizza is available for sale after 8 p.m. and drinks and snacks are available for sale throughout the night.

To check out all of the activities that go on at TBSA visit our Web site at www.tbsanj.com.

Bring your friends and have a great time at any of the family friendly nights.

Starting in December TBSA will be hosting a basketball league and clinic with eight foot baskets for children ages six to nine. More information will be available next week. This is for beginner players to learn the basics and fundamentals of basketball in a clinic type setting and to enjoy game playing after the clinic is over.

For more information, please email Mike Allocco at mike24@tbsanj.com or call TBSA at (732) 650-1224. The first clinic will be offered the first week in December with league sign-ups available after the clinic is over.

By Gary Lampasona

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB FALL BALL NOTES



We have just completed a very successful Fall Ball campaign. Mother nature provided spring-like weather for the entire season. B-League Manager Scott Waters summed it up, "The kids learned to play numerous positions and had a lot of fun; Fall Ball was a great experience for all. We hope to see all players next spring!"

Many thanks to Tom Scalera, Mark Resende, the managers and coaches, along with the throng of other volun-

teers that made it possible.

Next registration is Saturday, Nov. 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will hold our last registration in 2007 for spring baseball in 2008. It's important that you register now so we can plan for the season's activities. Sign up to manage, coach, umpire or be part of a committee at that time, too. Visit our Web site at www.league lineup.com/spjbc for more details.

Jr. Midget and Pee Wee Cheerleaders to Compete

The South Plainfield Eagles Junior Midget Cheerleaders will be competing on Saturday, Nov. 10 at the Pop Warner Garden State Cheer Competition held at Ritacco Center in Toms River. Come cheer on New Jersey's finest.

The Eagles Pee Wee Cheerleaders compete on Saturday, Nov. 17 at the Pop Warner Eastern Region Cheer Competition as they vie for a chance to compete at the National Competition in Orlando, Fla. Visit the calendar on the Eagles Web site at www.speagles.com for additional information.

HELP WANTED

Attention High School students... The Observer needs writers to cover sports at SPSHS and middle school level. Contact the editor at ggnan@aol.com or call 908-668-0010.

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NEW MASS SCHEDULE

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Tues.-Miraculous Medal Novena followed by Mass

Weekend Schedule: Saturday evenings 4:30 pm
Sunday mornings 8am and 11am



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South Plainfield Observer

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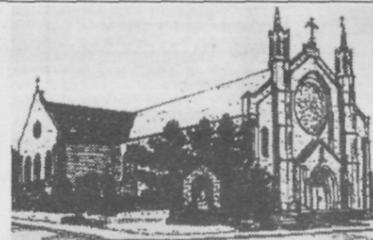
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Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor



Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

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

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

Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

Holy Days 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

FANTASTIC FRIDAYS

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\$10 6:00 PM til 10:00 PM **\$10**
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email: mike24@tbsanj.com

First Responders

(Continued from page 1)

responsible for the protection and preservation of life and property," said Freeholder John Pulomena, chair of the County Public Health and Education Committee. "They are continuously thinking of other people's well-being, even before their own."

The distribution program was developed by the Middlesex County Public Health Department, but has since been adopted by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services as a model to be used statewide. South Plainfield serves as the base for the program.

In the event of a public health emergency, more than 20,000 Middlesex County first responders and their household members would potentially receive the antibiotics. The First Responder Program is one of several elements within the County Public Health Department's Bulk Antibiotic Distribution Program.

Freeholder Christopher D. Rafano, chair of the County's Law and Public Safety Committee, explained that the recent exercise was a culmination of a training program that began in June to strengthen the county's first responder program.

"The exercise focuses on how we can protect our most important emergency asset, the emergency first responder," Rafano said. "This program protects them, so that they can protect all of us."

Mingle

(Continued from page 1)

the plaque to him at the October 16 Borough Council meeting. The resolution was signed by Senate President Richard Codey and Speaker of the General Assembly Joseph Roberts.

In July 2005, Pastor Mingle also received the prestigious John A. Price Award for Excellence in Chaplaincy at the International Conference of Police Chaplaincy at their Annual San Antonio, Texas Training Seminar. The award noted Pastor Mingle possessed three vital components: excellence in administering his ministry, encouraging excellence in others and giving recognition to others for their excellence. The award stated these traits enabled him to be one of the best chaplains in his field testified to by the members of the fire and police departments.

Pastor Mingle and wife Jean have one son, Philip, who lives with his wife and four children in Sussex.

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey on **NOVEMBER 21, 2007 at ***10:00 AM***** prevailing time in the Council Chambers of the municipal building 2490 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at which time and place bids will be opened and read in public for:

JANITORIAL SERVICES AT THE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE BUILDING

Specifications and other bid information may be obtained at the Municipal Clerk's office in the municipal building at the above address during regular business hours 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Only bidders who have picked up specifications will be allowed to submit bids. All bids must be submitted on the Proposal Forms furnished by the Borough. A bid bond in the form of a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond payable to the **BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD** in the amount equal to 10% of the highest bid amount, including alternates, if any, but not to exceed \$20,000 and a duly executed Consent of Surety. Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq.), the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.25, Employment on Public Works N.J.S.A. 10:2. EOE, ADA.

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Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

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Kurt H. Beese, 80

Kurt H. Beese died on Tuesday, Oct. 30 in the Haven Hospice at John E. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Newark to the late Erna and Hans Beese, Kurt had resided there for a number of years before he and his wife settled in South Plainfield 48 years ago.

A veteran of the United States Navy, he served stateside during WWII as a seaman first class before being honorably discharged in 1946.

Kurt had been employed as a lab technician for Lucent Technologies for 30 years, retiring in February of 1990, and was a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America.

Surviving are his wife of 48 years, Pauline (Devine) Beese; two sons, Kurt and wife Karen Beese and Paul Beese; a sister, Charlotte Mello and two grandsons, Daniel and Michael. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 2600 U.S. Hwy. 1, North Brunswick, N.J. 08902.

Catherine Cinelli, 83

Catherine Cinelli of Spanish Lakes Country Club in Fort Pierce, Fla. died on Sunday, Oct. 28 at Treasure Coast Hospices in Fort Pierce.

Mrs. Cinelli was born June 17, 1924 in Cleveland, Ohio and moved to Spanish Lakes Country Club in 1984 from Pittsburgh, Pa.

Prior to moving to Pittsburgh, she was a longtime resident of South Plainfield. Active in the South Plainfield Junior Woman's Club, Mrs. Cinelli was a founding member of the South Plainfield PAL. Mrs. Cinelli was also a volunteer at Sacred Heart School.

In Florida, she was a member of St. Helen Catholic Church in Vero Beach and was a national Delta Queen tour coordinator.

Mrs. Cinelli was predeceased by a brother, John Markovich.

She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Ralph J. Cinelli of Fort Pierce; a son, Raphael Cinelli of Fort Pierce; three daughters, Carol DiGangi of Vero Beach, Lori Stofman and Donna Baughman, both of Pittsburgh; 10 grandchildren, Jennifer Falcone, Kristy Falcone, Paul and Marc Chemidlin, Anthony Cinelli, Nicole, Danielle and Tyler Delaney, Kati and Leah Baughman and three great-grandchildren, Christopher Falcone and Zoe and Matthew Falcone.

A mass was celebrated on November 2 at St. Helen Catholic Church in Vero Beach. A memorial mass will be scheduled at Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield at a future date.

Memorial contributions may be made to Treasure Coast Hospice Foundation, 1201 SE Indian St., Stuart, Fla. 34997.

Paul A. Bogden, 91

Paul A. Bogden died on Friday Nov. 2, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Robertsdale, Pa. in 1916, he moved with his family at a young age to Jersey City. He resided there until 1953 when he and his family

settled in South Plainfield.

He was employed as an electrician for Westinghouse in Jersey City, where he worked with the company for over 40 years. With many years of experience, Paul also served as a group leader before his retirement at age 65.

Paul had a passion for baseball. He played semi-professional baseball for the former Alamos of Jersey City as a catcher during the late 1930s and early 1940s and was named league MVP several times. He later instilled his love for baseball in others by managing and coaching with the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club for many years.

As a member of Sacred Heart RC Church, Paul served the parish as a longtime and faithfully active member for numerous years.

Paul had a great love for his grandchildren and spent many hours with them. Additionally, he enjoyed working in his vegetable garden at his home.

He was predeceased by a sister, Mary, and a brother, John.

Surviving is his wife of 66 years, Anne (Stepanik); four sons and their wives, John and Doreen of South Plainfield, Paul and Beverly of Flemington, Kenneth and Susan of Summit and Jim and Carol of Mercer Island, Wash. Also surviving are eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

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

William G. Whitton, 88

William G. Whitton died on Thursday, Nov. 1 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Lanark, Scotland, Whitton was raised in Tarrytown, N.Y. and lived in Bethlehem, Pa. and South Plainfield before settling in Plainfield in 1969.

He graduated from St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y. in 1947,

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Obituaries

earning a bachelor of arts degree in both English and history.

From college, Whitton began his coaching career as a football coach for North Tarrytown High School in New York. Following the high school level, he made his way to the collegiate level of coaching football. He started at Lehigh University in Pa. and went on to Princeton University, before earning the job at Holy Cross College in Massachusetts as head coach of their football program.

After coaching at the college level, Whitton went back to coaching high school football. He coached in North Plainfield where he also taught social studies, before finishing his coaching career at St. Pius High School in Piscataway.

An army veteran who earned two Bronze Stars during WWII, Bill served in the European theater. He was an avid reader and enjoyed gardening.

He was predeceased by his wife, Roberta Hamilton Whitton, who died in 2002 and a sister, Emily Emslie, who died earlier this year.

Surviving are a daughter, Joanne McGonigle and husband Frank of South Plainfield; a son, Brother Robert Whitton of the Holy Apostle Seminary in Cromwell, Conn. and four grandchildren, Elizabeth Larson, Ian

McGonigle, Katie Flammer and Brian McGonigle. Also surviving are three great grandchildren, Mary, Andrew, and Michael Larson.

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

Michael Prehodka, 89

Michael Prehodka of South Plainfield passed away peacefully on Sunday, Nov. 4 at his home.

Mr. Prehodka was born in South Plainfield and resided here all of his life.

Michael served in the United States Army and later worked for Metropolitan Life Insurance Company as an insurance agent for 22 years.

Mr. Prehodka was a member of the American Legion in South Plainfield and served as a chairman on the South Plainfield Board of Adjustments for numerous years.

Michael is predeceased by his wife, Eleanor and a son, Michael P. Prehodka.

Mr. Prehodka is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Sandy and James Barth and two grandchildren, Paige and Max, all of New Providence.

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

Hillside Cemetery

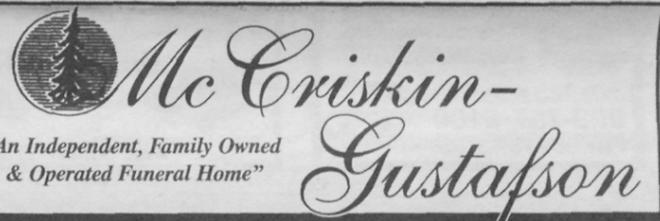
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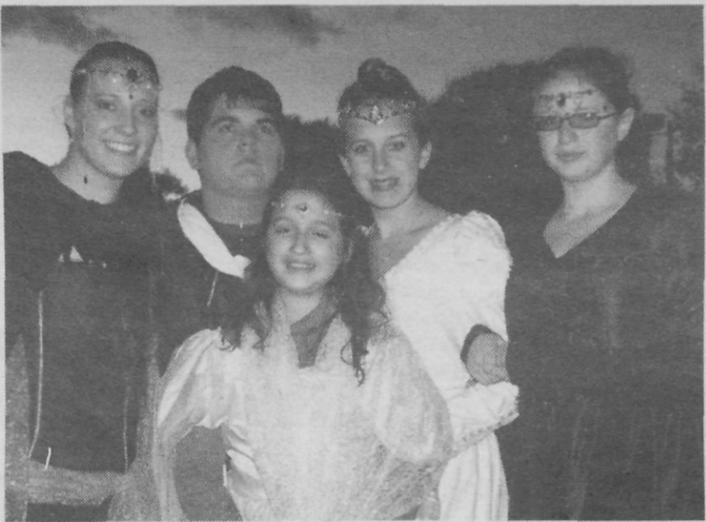
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Almost Famous Players provide frights and fun at annual tour.

Frights Galore at Haunted Tour

Almost Famous Players (AFP) Fifth Annual Haunted Woods Tour had a slow, damp opening night and was rained out on Friday, but Saturday crowds kept the actors working non-stop. Missing from production was tech genius Danny Nigro, who was unable to create set and lighting magic due to work commitments.

A regular visitor to the show, Mayor Charlie Butrico said, "This year I attended the performance on Sunday and, as always, was very pleased with the performance given

by the kids. You can see a lot of work went into the production and everyone did a great job. It's amazing how that small area of trees and paths seems to go on forever. I liked the story and the enthusiasm of the acting by everyone. I was also happy to see that when I left the performance, there was a long line of people there to see it. I look forward to next year's performance."

AFP has several fundraising projects upcoming and a tentative children's Christmas show.

VSA Accepting Applications for Awards

VSA Arts of New Jersey (VSA/NJ), a statewide not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting the creative power of people with disabilities, is accepting applications for the 2008 Arts Achievement Awards. VSA/NJ is an affiliate of VSA arts, which is designated by Congress and the national coordinating agency for arts programs for people with disabilities.

The annual VSA/NJ Arts Achievement Awards include the Student Arts Excellence Awards, presented to students with disabilities who are classified (mainstreamed, inclusion, self-contained classes or activities), 14-21 years old, not to exceed twelfth grade level, who show outstanding achievement in and commitment to an art form; and the Education in the Arts Awards presented to outstanding educators and administrators for establishing high quality arts program for classified students. Award recipients become candidates for the distinguished N.J. Governor's Awards in Arts Education. Application deadline is January 7, 2008.

Funding for VSA/NJ is provided in part by the Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission, N.J. State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and the cen-

tral office of VSA arts, under an award from the U.S. Department of Education. However, the content does not necessarily reflect the policy of the U.S. Department of Education and endorsement should not be assumed.

For application and registration information, contact VSA Arts of New Jersey, 703 Jersey Ave., New Brunswick, N.J. 08901, (732) 745-3885, 745-3913 (TTY), or info@vsan.org.

Scandinavian Christmas Bazaar in Old Bridge

Sons of Norway Noreg Lodge of Marlboro is sponsoring the 27th Annual Scandinavian Christmas Bazaar. This event will be held at Old Bridge Community Center, 1 Old Bridge Plaza, Old Bridge, on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 17 and 18. The bazaar will be open to the public on Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Folks come from far and wide to shop at this renowned bazaar organized by Noreg Lodge. Come join us for an afternoon in "Scandinavia" and enjoy one of the largest Scandinavian bazaars on the east coast.

Merchandise for sale will include items imported from Scandinavian

countries, including jewelry, solver solje, krumkake irons, waffle irons, and much, much more. You will also find imported foods, such as cheese, fish, lignonberries, a variety of chocolates and other gift items. The bakery department will offer mouth-watering pastries and breads. The dining area will offer pea soup, lapskaus and dinners.

Noreg Lodge is a non-profit fraternal organization and offers the public classes in rosemaking, sewing, embroidery, knitting, wood carving, music, folk dancing and language classes. Stop by and sign up for one of our classes.

For further information contact Lisa Kristiansen at (732) 462-6792.

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police report

- On October 30, Abigail L. Hanson, 18, Melissa Londono, 18, both of Edison and Faizah Khalid, 18, of Woodbridge were arrested at Sears Essentials for shoplifting \$191 worth of underwear, makeup and two Armitron watches.
- A Montrose Avenue resident reported that eggs had been thrown at the front of their home.
- A Dawes Street resident reported that two of their fences had been knocked down by contractors pulling out tree roots at the property next door.
- A Perry Street resident reported that eggs had been thrown at their vehicle and there were scratches to the trunk and rear door frame while it was parked on South Plainfield Avenue.
- On October 31, Juan Jose Rosales Rubi, 26, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated, maintenance of lamps, speeding, no license and reckless driving.
- Omar Jobe, 24, of South Plainfield was arrested for hindering apprehension and possession of a fake ID.
- A Bleecker Street resident reported the theft of a N.J. State P.B.A. shield from the truck of their vehicle.
- Federal Metals on South Clinton Avenue reported that a hole had been cut in their fence and \$5,000 worth of aluminum rims had been taken.
- A Hamilton Boulevard resident reported the theft of a power washer

- that was left behind shrubbery and covered on South 10th Street.
- A Revere Road resident reported that the right rear window of their vehicle had been smashed.
- A Kosciusco Avenue resident reported that paint had been thrown on their vehicle and also poured on their front steps and driveway, three potted plants had been thrown in the rear yard, pumpkins had been smashed on the front lawn, bags of garbage were thrown around the yard, along with eggs and toilet paper.
- On Nov. 1, Sunday Ogbevoen, 50, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, speeding and an outstanding warrant.
- An Oakland Avenue resident reported the theft of an antique Coca Cola machine that was on the side of the residence.
- A Selene Avenue resident reported that the right front passenger window of their vehicle had been smashed.
- On November 2, Joshua Blair Holt, 25, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.
- On November 3, La Donna A. Scafe, 19, of Franklin Township was arrested at Sears Essentials for shoplifting \$35 worth of costume jewelry.
- Two residents on Oxford Avenue and one on Maple Avenue reported that their tires had been slashed.

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