VOL. 11, NO. 50

Member New Jersey Press Association

50 CENTS

AUGUST 15, 2008



Student delegates to the National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

Student Leadership Conference Makes a Lasting Impression

South Plainfield High School Junior Kirsten Nuber was invited to attend the National Leadership Conference held in Washington, D.C. last month. For 10 days, she attended lectures and conferences and visited some of the sights. The following are her thoughts and impressions from the experience.

"Decorum!" The gavel slammed against the desk, but not without some hesitancy and the word was accompanied by a sound of amused silence. AIDS and International Security was the topic of our debate today. It was sort of an informal debate, but it could get very intense in that room; the gavel brought us back down to earth. It told us that people much greater and wiser than us had debated this topic.

The challenge we were facing was no different than those of the leaders of the world, and day after day we struggled as they did to reach a solution. After the last Security Council session, I walked out of the room feeling as if I had accomplished something even though I knew that both resolutions we had passed could never work, but my satisfaction came from the

Homeowner Surprised in **Shower by Two Alarm Fire**

South Plainfield Fire Dept. responded to 115 Walter St. last Friday evening on the report of a structural fire.

Mocharski arrived he found heavy smoke coming out of the side of the wood frame house and called in a second alarm. Homeowner Ralph Hodges, 76, stated that he was taking a shower when he heard the smoke detector alarm sound. He exited the bathroom and could not see due to the heavy smoke, but believed the fire was coming from the kitchen area. Hodges was transported to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital trauma center in New Brunswick for burns to his hands and face obtained

while attempting to extinguish the fire. He was released and is recovering.

Thermal imaging cameras were When Deputy Captain John used in the attic area to help contain the fire. The Plainfield and Piscataway New Market Fire companies assisted in fighting the fire. Engines from North Stelton and Metuchen and a truck from Colonia were detailed to standby duties. EMS units also setup a rehab sector and provided medical monitoring and fluid replenishment for firefighters. The fire was placed under control and turned over to the South Plainfield Bureau of Fire Prevention for origin and cause investigation, although it did not appear to be suspicious in nature.



A two-alarm fire at a Walter Street home left the building uninhabitable.

fact that we had created them through our own hard work and through our own intelligence.

Going to the National Student Leadership Conference (NSLC) taught me many things, but one quote will remain in my head forever: "Sometimes we forget that in the struggle, we learn."

Dustin Williams, our head team advisor, always made sure that while we were having fun in activities, or intensely debating, or walking solemnly through the Holocaust Museum, that we were, above all, learning. Besides learning about diplomacy itself through lectures and guest speakers, we participated in leadership activities.

Robert Pruitt, a motivational speaker and leadership expert, taught us a lot about leading by serving others. He taught us to become comfortable with ourselves so that we could be comfortable with other people.

Not only was NSLC a great learning experience, it was fun. I made friends and went on field trips to Georgetown, Baltimore Harbor, the Jamaican Embassy and the Embassy of El Salvador. It was as if we were a family for those

We accomplished so much in such a short period. When my mom asked me what I did it took me three hours to describe my trip, and I could have talked twice that long. This experience will always stay with me; it has helped me grow as a person and I encourage anyone who is invited to participate in this wonderful opportunity.

The National Student Leadership Conference has been held once a year at American University since 1989. Tens of thousands of outstanding high school students from across the United States and more than 45 countries have attended the conference. They've tested their courage on ropes courses, built and run businesses, tried cases in real courtrooms, played the roles of U.S. Senators and presidential candidatesand even drilled holes in skulls! Students can participate in programs ranging from engineering to law to medicine and a study abroad program. Each program offers an indepth inside look at what the business is really about. To learn more about NSLC or to enroll go to http://www.nslcleaders.org.

McCriskin Named Labor Day Parade Grand Marshal

Richard McCriskin, lifelong resident of South Plainfield, has been named the 2008 Labor Day Parade Honorary Grand Marshal. He was nominated by South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203.

Rich was born in 1951 to Patricia and the late Bill McCriskin. He graduated from Holy Trinity High School in Westfield in 1969 and briefly attended college in the Boston area. In 1971 he attended Middlesex County College in Edison and graduated with an associates degree and earned his practitioner of mortuary science license in 1974. In 1976, Rich, along with his brother, Bill, founded McCriskin's Home For

Rich was married to wife Kathy for 27 years until her death in 2000. They have one son, Rick. Rich is remarried to his current wife, Dolores.

Rich is actively involved with many organizations throughout South Plainfield, including the Knights of Columbus, Elks, VFW, Sacred Heart Church, Lions Club, volunteer fire department, and is co-founder of the South Plainfield Business Association. He has been a member of the land management and zoning boards for many years. Rich also coached his son Rick for many years at the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club.

Parade Committee member Debbie Boyle added that he organized a coat and a sweatshirt drive to help the less



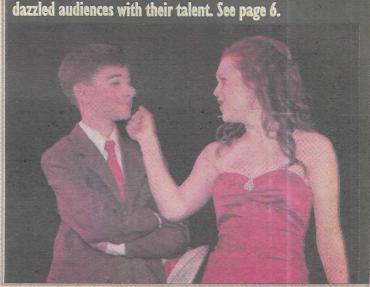
Richard McCriskin

fortunate. She said, "The criteria for the person actually nominated has to do with what they have given back to the community through volunteering, not monetary. It is about how they help our community by giving their time and more, and Rich is the epitome of one giving back to the community."

A letter from the Knights of Columbus reads, "Rich has served South Plainfield residents during their time of need and has given back to our community in just about every way. In all, Rich is a great man with a big heart who really could never say no to anyone when someone needed something. For all of these reasons and many more the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus feel Rich would make the perfect Labor Day Parade Honorary Grand Marshal."

Watch upcoming issues for more on the Labor Day Parade.

Damn Yankees, Summer Drama Workshop's 2008 production, dazzled audiences with their talent. See page 6.



Hey Junior Journalists... Come Float with Us

The Observer and Hometown Heros will be participating in the Labor Day Parade with a float again this year. Planning, decorating the float and marching in the parade were a great experience and our Junior Journalist float won a trophy last year.

We are asking all past Junior Journalist winners to join us on our float and show South Plainfield how proud we are of all the students who have won during the past years. Roosevelt School teacher Michael Bertram has also been invited to ride on the float with the winners.

The Observer and Hometown Heros are honored to be participating in South Plainfield's Labor Day Parade along with the Junior Journalist winners

If you were a winner and would like to participate, please call Charlie at Hometown Heros at (908) 755-4376 or Nancy at the Observer at (908) 668-0010 to sign up. Participants will receive a t-shirt and refreshments.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS air on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. AGENDA and/or Other SPECIAL Meetings air Saturday at 8 p.m.



(Check community bulletin board for last minute time changes.)

To purchase a copy of a complete Borough Council meeting, contact the Observer.

council

Meets twice a month on Mondays, except as noted.* All meetings begin at 7 p.m. Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

Agenda Meeting Public Meeting September 2 (Tuesday) September 8 September 15 September 22 October 6 October 14 (Tuesday)

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

ad hoc alternative truck route committee

Meets second and fourthThursday of the month Senior Center, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7605

August 28, September 12, September 26

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

August 28, September 11 and 25, October 9 and 23, November 30*, December 11*.

boardofeducationmeetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.: August 20 (6:30 p.m.), September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10, January 14, February 11, March 11 and April 1. Regular Public Meeting, Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.: August 20 (7:30 p.m.), September 17, October 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17, January 21, February 18, March 18 and April 8.

recreation

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

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.

siteplan

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18, December 16.

environmentalcommission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621

September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10, January 14.

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

trafficsafety

Meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

boardofeducationcurriculum/technology meetings

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

Get the Observer delivered to your mailbox every Friday... Call 908-668-0010 to subscribe!

South Plainfield oserver

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

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

Dear Editor,

The family of Melanie McCarthy would like to take this opportunity to thank James Gustafson, along with McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals, during the time of our loss and sorrow. We cannot say enough for all they did and the manner in which they did it. It gave us all much comfort knowing that we didn't have to ask for anything because it had already been taken care of, right down to the last detail. It helped take worry off of our shoulders during this difficult time and made our situation more bearable. James's attention to detail and assistance in all aspects of the funeral were handled with the very highest standards of dignity and respect. The professionalism and the courtesy extended by James and his staff were greatly appreciated.

We would like to say thank you for your kindness and support during a very difficult time for our family.

THE FAMILY OF **MELANIE MCCARTHY** JOAN FOX, BRETT AND **BLAISE MCCARTHY**

To the Editor:

The South Plainfield Police Athletic League held its seventh annual charity softball tournament on July 26. The day was a great success and would not have been at all possible without the volunteers, umpires, participants and donations received for Lauren Annetta. We would like to take the time to recognize those who were instrumental in making the day a great success.

Concession sales team-Carly Ashnault, Chelsey Colucci, Annie Jackson and Brigitte Kelly.

On the grill-Sal Severini and his crew, Mike Alvarez and Nick Cesare, with the technical support of Jim Patti. Umpires-Mike Alvarez, Lou Coli-

cchio, Jim Curcio, Tim Dziomba, Raymond Jazikoff, Raymond Jazikoff, Jr., Kevin Schweers and Guy Severini.

Participants-Bada Bing, Bada Bang, C-Towners, Ellery's, Hillside Trucking, Jersey Tank, McCriskin's, Our Town, Pro Care, Schweers Contracting, Scotch Plains Pizza, Scuba Steve's, Shockers, Smith Home Improvements, South Plainfield GOP, South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club, SP Coaches, Twin City, Universal Nutrition, Zupkos I and Zupkos II.

Food donations-Bett-a-Way and Laura Vaccaro, Freihofers and Jim Reid, Hall's Warehouse, Buckhead Beef and Tim Brady, Restaurant Depot, Jim Furlong and Charlie and Sal's Spirit Shop.

Service donations-Billy Ashnault, Jr., Danielle Schweers, Guy Severini, Silver Creek Landscaping, South Plainfield Department of Public Works and South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department for doing a remarkable job preparing the fields; Wendell Born for his annual donation of the tent; Vincent Campagna and Shaun Clifford for helping load the supplies and food onto the trucks; James Parker for helping with pre-game day set-up; Penske Trucking; Shannon Colucci and Danielle Schweers for registering the teams and handling the brackets.

And thanks to AKA, Inc., who donated the beautiful trophies presented to this year's winners, Bada Bing (Men's Division) and Ellery's (Co-Ed Division).

Thanks again for all of your sup-

GARY CASSIO, PAL VICE PRESIDENT; CHRIS COLUCCI, PAL PRESIDENT; KEVIN HUGHES, **RECREATION DIRECTOR**

Dear Editor,

As a sophomore in the high school, I must say I am strongly against the proposed random drug testing, mainly because it is only for those in athletics and extra-curricular activities. The people in school on drugs and alcohol are not in these activities. They are too busy lighting a smoke in Spring Lake Park or outside the school. All this testing will do is waste money on all negative results. Also, the draft says it is not disciplinary or punitive. Yet, the person must attend 10 sessions with the SAC counselor, [will be] temporarily suspended from the activities and may be pulled out of school. Again, the addicts will not attend.

I believe the testing should be based on profiling and evidence of suspicion of drugs. I also believe it should not be mandatory for all activities. If the parents do not want their child to be tested, the child shouldn't be forced

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.

to leave their activities. I urge all parents to go to the next Board of Education meeting and argue against this plan.

SINCERELY. **WILLIAM HARTMANN**

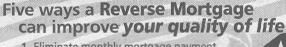
To Our South Plainfield Neighbors:

In May while stopped for a school crossing, our car was hit from behind by a large truck, causing a four-vehicle, chain-reaction crash. The injuries we received are being treated in the comfort of our home by South Plainfield's own native son, Dr. Patrick Aiello. His experience in treating accident victims enables him to anticipate and meet our needs. His knowledge of the insurance/accident process has helped us weed through and complete all of the intimidating paperwork. At a time when it is difficult to get into and out of a car, the convenience and expertise of Dr. Pat coming to our home is above and beyond any care provided in a "production line" facility.

With regard to the damage to our vehicle, we found that the law provides that we may have it repaired in a facility of our own choosing. We could not have been better directed; we went to Staats Auto Body on New Market Avenue. Randee Staats and his staff took the time to explain the detailed, itemized estimate and the process we would be going through by using our own or the causing party's insurance

(Continued on page 11)





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BOROUGH NOTES

- Carmen Monticchio has been hired as a part time summer employee for borough hall maintenance.
- The municipal clerk has been authorized to solicit bids for wrestling mats for recreation and a backhoe for public works.
- The agreement between the borough and PBA Local 100 was approved.
- The following block parties have been approved: Kim Luster on Saturday, Sept. 20 (rain date Sept. 27) from 2 to 10 p.m. on Ada Place from Oakland Avenue to the dead end; Mark Zeliff on Saturday, Sept. 6 (rain date Sept. 13) from 1 to 10 p.m. on Ten Eyck Street from Maple Avenue to DeFillipo Drive; Marguerite Fusco on Sunday, Aug. 31, 2008 (rain date of Sept. 7) on Holly Park Drive at each end of Clarke Avenue from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and for Stephen and Connie Macellara on Sunday, Aug. 31 (no rain date) on Revere Road between May Avenue and Putnam Avenue from noon to 10 p.m.
- Jessica Scarpitto and Brigitte Kelly have been hired as seasonal workers at the community pool from August 1 to September 1.
- A credit in the amount of \$1,923.22 has been issued to L. Shreedharan and K. Ganesan of 1301 Joseph Court.
- The council accepted the resignation of Alexandra Santos as a probationary part-time telecommunications operator.
- Alice Tempel and Robert Capparelli have been authorized to apply for a 2008 Middlesex County Recycling Enhancement Grant (REG) on behalf of the Borough of South Plainfield.
- The council will ask the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Middlesex County Open Space Advisory Committee to dedicate funds from the Middlesex County Open Space Trust Fund for the purchase of Block 263, Lot 3 also known as 114 Lakeview Ave.
- Daniel Morley was appointed to the South Plainfield Environmental Commission effective immediately.
- The person to person transfer of Liquor License No. 1222-33-003-005 from Uno Restaurants, Inc. to Uno Restaurants LLC have been met.
- The borough attorney will execute a settlement relative to USLR-New Durham Road to reduce their assessed value by \$615,000.



CFO Glenn Cullen shakes hands with Frank Kurtes at his retirement party attended by Councilman Robert Bengivenga, Jr., Acting Borough Clerk Joann Graf and other borough employees. Kurtes retired last month after 39 years in the Public Works department.

Auditions Announced for AFP Haunted Woods Tour

Almost Famous Players (AFP) Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour 2008 is well into the planning stages. This year will be the sixth Halloween show at the park. AFP is proud to say they have the full support of the mayor and council.

The first audition will be held on Thursday, Aug. 21 at 2 Page Court from 6 to 9 p.m. Students in grade eight and up are eligible; younger students will be accepted only with previous experience or if a parent agrees to chaperone at performances. The show will have fewer scenes and speaking lines, but will feature more intense scares.

Those planning to audition should come prepared to demonstrate yells, screams, howls, zombie movements or other 'scary' moves/sounds of their choice. Previous stage combat or our free combat classes are necessary for lead roles. Parents need to be aware that two of the rehearsal/performance nights are school nights. Students must be able to stay until the end.

This year's show is tentatively scheduled for Friday through Sunday,

CORRECTION

In the story, "Planning Board Approves Two New Homes" in the August 1 Observer, the lot size should have read "23,700 sq. ft." Also, the initial application was denied in May 2006 because of lack of finality wetland and stream encroachment. The case was heard in Superior Court, and once land development permits were received from the New Jersey Department of Environmental protection, the case was remanded back to the Planning Board. We regret the error and omission.

Oct. 24, 25 and 26 and Halloween, October 31 and November 1. The show is recommended for ages seven and up. This year's show will be much darker and scarier. The Halloween and November 1 show will feature additional scares; suggested age for these shows is 12 and up. Parents are advised to be aware of what their children can handle. No refunds will be issued after the tour begins.

The show is in need of monetary/ supply donations such as wood, paint, material, costumes and other items yet to be determined. Volunteers are also needed to help with security during the show. Paid positions in set construction and setting/running lights/ sound/ special effects are available.

AFP is also seeking donations for their upcoming garage sale. Call (908) 756-8011 for information and drop off location. Pick up is also available. Watch the *Observer* for updated information.

Little Treasures Learning Center Holding Registration

Little Treasures Learning Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Road, is registering for classes starting September 2.

Little Treasures offers infant care to pre-kindergarten to fit the needs of children ages six weeks to seven years.

Those interested are also invited to meet the staff and visit the center for a tour during normal operating hours, 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For directions and additional information, call (908) 769-3224 and or visit www.LTLC.net.

Candidates' Debate Set for Oct. 1 at Senior Center

Mark your calendar! The four candidates running for council will be at the Senior Center ready to debate and answer your questions on Wednesday, Oct. 1 at 7:30 p.m.

The present council is made up of four Republicans and two Democrats with a democratic mayor. This election will determine which party will have majority control of the borough council.

Last year's election changed the makeup of the council when the Republicans won two seats. In this year's election Democrats have the opportunity to re-take control by securing just one seat. The council will then be divided evenly, and because the mayor only votes if there is a tie, the Democrats would have voting control. This election is very important to both parties and every vote will be hotly contested.

Voters will choose between Republican incumbent candidates Councilmen Robert Bengivenga, Jr. and Matt Anesh and Democratic candidates Frankie Salerno and Christine Buteas,

both running for the first time.

The debate, sponsored by the South Plainfield Observer and the South Plainfield Business Association, may be the only opportunity to hear the candidates speak on the same subject and in front of each other. Letters, signs and campaign literature only tell one side of a story. Don't miss this opportunity to see the candidates face off and discuss the issues.

As in the past, the public will be asked to submit questions on index cards. Both parties will be asked to submit topics they would like to discuss. Audience questions will have priority. Only issue-oriented questions will be accepted, and no personal attacks on any candidate will be allowed.

The event promises to be an informative evening for all residents. Please plan on coming out and asking your question to get both sides of the story directly from the candidates. The last debate was held with a standing room only crowd, so come early and get a good seat.

Keystone Vocational Renews Adopt-a-Spot Contract

Mary Ann Williams, program director of Keystone Vocational Enhancement Program, has renewed the Adopt-A-Spot agreement with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association for the coming year. A crew of about 10 people will continue to provide weekly litter removal services along the entire length of Front Street, from Maple Avenue to the railroad tracks. The agreement also includes sweeping the sidewalks and pulling weeds out of the curb. Keystone workers have been maintaining this street since 1997.

The Keystone Vocational Program has a separate contract with the borough to remove litter from the parks and around various municipal build-

ings. Last year, the crew bagged an estimated 800 pounds of litter and trash.

The CBA is looking for adopters for additional commercial locations.

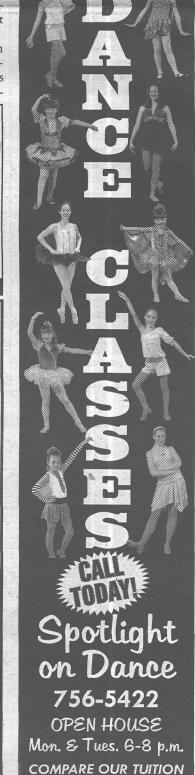
A crew of nue to produce to

(908) 226-7621.









Around Town

Blood Drive

August 17

A blood drive, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, will be held Sunday, Aug. 17 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Sacred Heart School cafeteria. For more information, call the Parish Center at (908) 756-0633.

AARP Chapter #4144 Bus Trip

August 18 to 22

Call immediately! Seats are still available for the AARP #4144 five-day charter bus to the New York Catskill Resort Hotel from August 18-22. Cost includes transportation, room, all meals, use of two pools, gym and spa, daytime games, nighttime dancing, entertainment and more! Adults only; non-members are welcome. Double occupancy \$530 pp. Singles \$630.

Call Mary (732) 752-3764 or Chuck (908) 268-0345.

Grant School PTO Meeting

August 20

Grant School PTO will be holding a meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 20 in the school library at 11:15 a.m.

Premise for the meeting is to vote in the new 2008/2009 board members and briefly discuss upcoming activities at the school. All are welcome.

9th Grade Orientation August 20

An orientation program for incoming ninth graders will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 20 from 9 to 11 a.m. in the high school cafeteria. During the program, incoming freshmen will become familiar with some basic operating procedures. Students should bring their class schedule to the orientation program. Duplicate schedules will be available in the Guidance Office.

Students will be required to sign an attendance register and are urged to dress in a manner more consistent with coming to school than a summer vacation day.

Troop #267 Car Wash

Boy Scout Troop #267 will be holding a car wash at the middle

Is your organization holding an event? Publicize it in

aoyonts,

E-mail your event to spobserver@comcast.net.

What's happening at the **SEN**MONDAY TUESDAY

UPCOMING

SENIOR CENTER

VULNILIN

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

AUGUST

Bingo 10am-2pm 15

Borough Council Candidates Debate Wednesday, Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center

minimal attendance. However, if you have suggestions for programs for Saturdays, let us know and we can possibly schedule something.

Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am

Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am Aerobics 8:30 am Computer 10am, 11:30am, 1pm Line Dancing 10am Crocheting 1pm Tai Chi 2pm

Pathmark Shopping 9am Computer Class 10am, 11:30am,1pm Bingo 10am-2pm 24

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

school on Saturday, August 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Your support is appreciated!

Ritz Novelty Act at Spring Lake Park August 24

The Rootin Tootin' High Falootin' Puttin' on the Ritz Novelty Act will be performing some of the most famous melodies of all time with some shtick in Spring Lake Park on Sunday, Aug. 24 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The free concert is sponsored by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Parks and Recreation Commission. This is a virtuoso group of seven players including zylophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar/banjo, clarinet, bass and drums.

7th Grade Orientation

August 28
Seventh gr

Seventh grade orientation will take place on Thursday, Aug. 28 at 9 a.m. in the cafeteria. Green middle school t-shirts will be on sale for gym class. The PTO will also be selling shorts, t-shirts and black socks. Various literature for parents will be available. It is very important for all seventh grade students to attend.

SPHS Meet The Coaches Night

September 9

Meet the Coaches Night will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 9 in the high school cafeteria C/D at 6:30 p.m. All sporting seasons will be represented by a coach and the Booster Club will have a buffet dinner, dessert and coffee available for attendees. There will

be promotional Tiger merchandise available and a membership table for anyone interested in joining our Booster Club. Everyone is encouraged to attend this meeting to learn about the athletic program at the high school and meet your child's coaching staff.

— Out of Town -

Book Signing

August 16

Wilmington, Del. author Richard Francis and dog, "LT," will appear at Barnes & Noble, Lanes Mill Marketplace, 4831 U.S. Hwy. 9 in Howell on Saturday, Aug. 16 at 1 p.m. to sign his book "Team." The book is an exciting tale of an ex-marine and a special dog in an anti-terrorism plot.

Fallen Rider Charity Run August 16

The Fallen Rider Charity Run for MA3 Nathan Dewalt will be held on Saturday, Aug. 16. The ride will end at the Colts Neck Navy base after a 55-mile ride. Rolling Thunder, New Jersey #2, the Blue Knights and the Green Knights have already signed up.

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732-424-0702 3201 Hamilton Blvd. **So Plainfield** Registration is \$10 per rider and \$5 per passenger. All proceeds go to the Dewalt family. Registration begins at Mount Holly Powersports, 1799 Rt. 38, Lumberton at 11 a.m.; kick stand up is scheduled for 11:30 a.m.

For more information, contact MAIWashington at (609) 556-4052, (732) 866-2416 or 2417, or E-mail john.e.washington@navy.mil

Adopt a Cat or Kitten

August 16 & 17

People for Animals, a nonprofit animal welfare organization serving New Jersey, will sponsor cat and kitten adoption events on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 16 and 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the PetSmart store in Bridgewater's Promenade Mall, intersection of Route 28 and Route 287.

For low cost spay/neuter information, call (973) 282-0890.

Augustober Festival

The 134th Augustober Festival sponsored by the Plattchuetsche Volksfest-Vereen of New York and New Jersey will be celebrated at the historic Schuetzen Park, located on Bergen Turnpike and Kennedy Boulevard in North Bergen on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 16 and 17 from noon until 10 p.m. each day. The event is open to the general public; admission is \$5 adults, children are free.

For more information, call Kathryn Brinkrode at (201) 290-8147.

Woodbridge WOWs

August 17

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will be holding an open dance on Sunday, Aug. 17 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at The Elks, 665 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge. Refreshments. Everyone is welcome. Admission \$10 members, \$12 guests.

For more information call (732) 381-3255 or (908) 757-0515.

Alzheimer's Seminar

The Diocese of Metuchen's Office of Family Life is sponsoring a seminar for family and friends of individuals who may be exhibiting the early signs of dementia or Alzheimer's disease at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center in Piscataway on Wednesday, Aug. 20. First session is 1 to 3 p.m. and second session is 7 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person, or \$5 per person for families of three or more.

For more information, call (732) 562-1990, ext. 1624.

Hawaiian Night

The Deutscher Club of Clark, 787 Featherbed Lane, is hosting a Hawaiian night outside on Saturday, Aug. 23 from 5 to 10 p.m. Live music by Norbert Ludewig Orchestra. Wooden dance floor, covered pavilion, picnic tables. No outside food or beverages permitted. Donation \$5 per person, children under 12 free. Free parking. Rain or shine.

For more information, call (732) 5574-8600.



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The announcement of new satellite offices in Summit, Somerville, New Brunswick and Monroe Township to follow



Joe Scrudato dishes up ice cream at the Knighs ice cream social.

Knights Ice Cream Social

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 held an ice cream social at their council hall on August 10. It was a great way for Knights, their family members and the community to meet each other and enjoy ice cream treats. More than 50 people attended the social, including Sister Nadine, principal at Sacred

Heart School. Vanilla, cookies and cream, peanut butter and pistachio ice cream were served as well as banana splits and orange soda floats. There were also games for the children who attended.

The chairman for this event was Grand Knight Bill Butrico and the ice cream server was Joe Scrudato.

Middle School: Seventh grade orientation will take place on Thursday, Aug. 28 at 9 a.m. in the cafeteria. Green middle school t-shirts will be on sale for gym class. The PTO will also be selling shorts, t-shirts and black socks. Various literature for parents will be available. It is very important for all seventh grade students to attend. Eighth grade schedules will be going out in the mail the week of August 20. Back to school night will be held on Thursday, Sept. 18. Welcome to Middle School Assistant Principal Kevin Hajduk.

Grant School: Locker Camp is on Thursday, Aug. 21 beginning at 6 p.m. Back to school night is Wednesday, Sept. 17 and the Stokes Trip is scheduled the week of October 13.

SPHS: The Athletic Booster Club will hold their "Meet the Coaches Night" on Tuesday, Sept. 9 with a hot buffet. Meet all of the coaching staff for the upcoming year. Football season will be here before you know it and it is very important for parents/ guardians to sign-up to help in the snack stand. The money raised helps to supply the teams with equipment that are not in the budget.

The Board of Education approved the following:

• Bilingual/ESL Three-Year Plan for the school years 2008-2011.

 Approval of Grant School Group I and II trip to the New Jersey School of Conservation (Stokes)

The board announced the following appointments:

special education teacher; Danielle

teacher; Marissa Greenstein, high school instructional support aide; Nancy McMahon, preschool instructional support aide; 2008/2009 fall coaches; Elise Cosma, latchkey after school care aide; Carol Ullom, summer nurse to review sports physicals; Veronica Davis, athletic van driver; Julie Zoleta, middle school science teacher; Betsy Spayder, substitute secretary/clerk typist; summer curriculum writing, Robert Conway and Anthony Emmons and the 2008/2009 State Certified Substitute Teachers; substitute instructional support/duty bus aides.

· Perfect attendance stipend in the amount of \$300 each to staff members were approved.

 Director of Buildings and Grounds position creation and job description was

 The board accepted a grant fund in the amount of \$2,000 from Target for books to be purchased at the John E. Riley School.

 A donation of five Prisoner of War flags was accepted from the South Plainfield American Legion to be distributed to the elementary schools.

• An amendment for renewal of the Sodexho Management, Inc. contract

 The board approved the purchase of a school messaging system to alert parents, staff and board members of emergency situations, school closings, etc. from Reliance Communications, Inc. in the amount of \$19,543.

The Board of Education Commit-

SPEA Congratualtes Four Retirees

The South Plainfield Education Association would like to congratulate the veteran faculty members who retired at the end of the school year. They include Thomas Baker, Diane Boyle, Ann Ribinsky Brown, Christine Soletsz and Denise Timinski. As a group they have served the students and community of South Plainfield for

Thomas Baker is currently the Student Assistance Counselor (SAC) at the high school. He has been a teacher for 39 years, employed in the district his entire career. In the past he also taught physical education and health. He was also a football and wrestling coach and advisor for Peer Leaders and RARE. Baker received his B.S. degree in psychology, sociology and physical education from Missouri and a B.S. plus 15 credits from Kean.

In his spare time he enjoys riding his horse. He has also been honored as a Governor's Teacher Recognition Award recipient.

Diane Boyle, a John F. Kennedy School second grade teacher, has worked in this school district for 38 years, since first becoming an educator. She has also taught first, third and fourth grades at JFK. Boyle received her undergraduate degrees in elementary education from William Paterson University. She is the recipient of the New Jersey Governor's Teacher Recognition Award and served as JFK Student Council advisor and the Sunshine Committee. She has also been a member of the South Plainfield Welfare Board, SPHS Music Boosters, NEA and NJEA.

She enjoys spending time at the shore with her family, granddaughter and three dogs, Alannah, Trinity and

Ann Ribinsky Brown has taught English at South Plainfield High School for 37 years and was also a team leader for the English Department. She has been an educator for 39 years. Brown received her undergraduate degree in English from Caldwell College and an M.A. in American Studies from Seton Hall University. In 2003, she was named a Fellow for the National Endowment for the Humanities. At the high school, she was internal coordinator for Middle States AFG for 2001 and 2008 and a member of the district

curriculum and technology committees. Her professional associations include NJEA, NEA, NCTE and NJCTE. She also served as president of the Branchburg Woman's Club.

Upon retirement Brown is looking forward to spending time with her grandson, Hayden and spending September on Long Beach Island.

Christine Soltesz, a South Plainfield reading teacher for 26 years, is currently on the Roosevelt Elementary School staff, but also taught at the middle school. She has been an educator for a total of 30 years. She is a graduate of Trenton State College (currently The College of New Jersey), with a degree in elementary education K-8. Additionally, she has earned a number of graduate degrees and certifications. From Kean University she received a reading teacher certification, reading specialist with a master of arts degree, supervisor certification and principal certification. She also received a teacher of dyslexics certification and dyslexia specialist certification from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Soltesz is also a member of the adjunct faculty at FDU. Professional groups and associations she belongs to are NEA, NJEA, SPEA, New Jersey Reading Association, International Reading Association, New Jersey Dyslexia Association, National Dyslexia Associa-

tion, International Multisensory Structured Language Educational Council (IMSLEC) and Kappa Delta Pi. She has been honored as Governor's Teacher Recognition Award recipient. At school Soltesz has volunteered to work on school magazines, school-wide reading programs (such as Read Across America), and to assist student council with monthly bulletin boards and decorations for performances. She is also active in her community as a Girl Scout co-leader and CCD teacher and director. In addition, she has participated in fundraisers for Susan G. Komen walk-a-thons and St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Upon retirement, she plans to continue working to help students become independent readers and as a supervisor of teachers at the Children's Learning Center in Scotch Plains.

Denise Timinski has taught fine art, grades 9-12 at South Plainfield High School for 39 years. She received an undergraduate degree in art education K-12 from Glassboro State (Rowan University) and an M.A. in art education from Paterson State. Timinski is the district team leader for the art department and National Art Honor Society advisor as well as a member of the National Art Education Association and NEA.

She enjoys cross country skiing, hiking, sewing and art (painting).

Help for Homeowners **Facing Foreclosure**

Middlesex County Clerk Elaine M. Flynn has announced that help and information is available for homeowners facing foreclosure.

"As news reports have shown, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of mortgage foreclosures due to the sub-prime mortgage crisis, predatory lending and the loss of jobs," Flynn said. "These are uncertain times for many homeowners and they need to know help is available."

While homeowners are encouraged to consult an attorney, Flynn said individuals may also seek help from New Jersey State Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Consumer Affairs and the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance.

developed materials to assist homeowners in need of guidance. Materials include downloadable booklets, frequently asked questions and schedules of seminars, all of which are available in English and Spanish.

The Department of Banking and Insurance has set up a toll-free hotline (1-800-446-7467) to offer guidance, direction and the schedules and locations of foreclosure seminars.

Both departments have Web sites that contain links for refinancing programs through the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency and credit counseling.

Information is available at www.state. nj.us/oag/ca/foreclosures.htmandwww. state.nj.us/dobi/division_consumers/ Flynn said the departments have finance/foreclose_subprime.html.

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Damn Yankees" Another Summer Drama

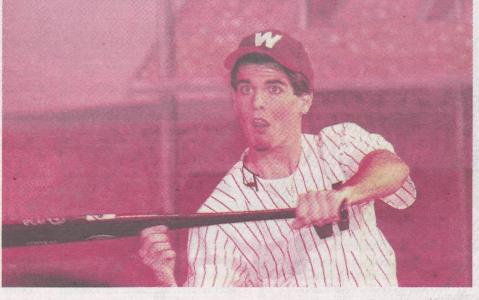
By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop (SDW) cast hit a serious home run with the 2008 production of "Damn Yankees." The youth theater group, formed in 1972, began rehearsing in late June.

The group spent their summer evenings not in leisurely endeavors, but rehearsing five days a week from 6 to 10 p.m., stopping only for a half hour dinner break. They had just five weeks to learn lines, blocking, songs and dances. There were sets to be built, numerous props to be found and costumes

to be fitted. Add conductor Duane Cosby rehearsing his orchestra to both learn and perfect the music, then add rehearsing with the cast. Let's not leave out stage managers, sound, lighting, stage crew and more-the result-four full house performances, presenting a full scale musical that pleased all.

While not a difficult show, there were many students new to performing. Director Eric Hafen said, "Lots of new raw talent performed alongside some of the best musically talented older students the program has produced in years! New blood will keep the program active along with new parental involvement. Despite the large ensemble, the plot leans heavily on the lead and support-



ing roles. "While the chorus doesn't do much in this type of show, what they did was extraordinary. Lots of smart young actors 'staying in the story' creating their own worlds."

President and Producer Bill Mott said, "This year's production proved to be a huge success. The students' energy and dynamics built as the nights went on. Summer Drama is about the kids. They come to the program and whether they are one of the lead roles, or in the ensemble, they are all given an opportunity to shine, by small scenes within the scenes, with or without speaking each gained confidence to go on and believe that they can do whatever they like either in or out of theater. And best of all, they have fun throughout the process. It is great to see how

each of the students grows through the years, and how they create each of their characters on stage."

The colorful and diversified costumes, detailed sets and wide array of props only enhanced the work of the cast. The dance numbers choreographed by Emma Fulton, a SDW alumni, were amazing, allowing those new to dance to perform in numbers alongside experienced dancers. Those experienced dancers were also given an opportunity to shine themselves. One such number featured reporter Gloria Thorpe (Susan Mott) and ensemble in "Shoeless Joe from Hannibal Mo." Applegate, the Devil (Joey Palazzo) and Lola (Kelly Kline), his loyal assistant, were a match made in heaven on stage and thrilled the audience with songs such as "A Little Brains, a Little Talent," "Whatever Lola Wants" and "Those Were the Good Old Days." "Goodbye Old Girl," sung by Joe Boyd (Paul Assad) and later in the show by his alter ego, Joe Hardy (Chris Fulton), were heart touching songs. Meg, wife of Joe Boyd, touched the heart of baseball widows with her rousing "Six Months Out of Every Year." The "Heart-reprise" showed off supporting players and a few ensemble members. The quartet, Chris DeOliveira, Justin DeOliveria, Nathanael Udell and Will Mott (who also played team manager Van Buren) had a ball with "Heart," the ballplayers

joined in the stadium fun with "The Game," a fast-paced, fun song about concentrating on the upcoming game and nothing else. The finale song was "Heart" featuring the entire cast. The curtain call brought the audience to their feet night after night. Characters Doris (Brittany Penevolpe) and sister (Nora Stasio) kept the audience in stitches as did team owner Welch (Ryan Miller), SDW veterans Edie (Lauren O'Day) and Erica Linick were among the featured dancers. It is impossible to name all the wonderful actors individually.

Emma Fulton expressed her reaction to "Damn Yankees," saying, "I was very pleased with how the show turned out this year! There were

From the South Plainfield Republican Organization

No-Frills Spending Plan Introduced; Cuts Total \$700,000

administrative costs by combining

positions and eliminating some higher-

engineering costs, as well as expected

The budget also includes reduced

many new students in the program, but they all worked hard and put on a very good show! We also had three excellent interns, Pat Cantarella, Pete Assad and Jeff Seesselberg who went above and beyond their duties to make sure that this production was successful."

Eric commented on the interns as well saying, "These three all contributed a great deal, especially Peter. He and Jeff jumped right in to fill voids when they came up. Pat even choreographed the 'Heart' number."

The show could not have been a success without the year-long work of the SDW producing board and the hard work of parents that ran from the first rehearsal to the close of the Sunday night cast party at the American Legion.

Board of Education member Debbie Boyle, who attended the Friday show was thrilled with the production saying, "Once again, I commend the directors, the actors and the musicians and all the parent volunteers for a job well done on this fabulous singing and dancing musical with expert lighting. My visions of the performance exceeded my expectations. This is definitely a 'Broadway' performance. Be proud!"

Taking their final curtain call with Summer Drama Workshop were Paul Assad, Sarah Brooks, Darren Kaczowski Marissa Kline, Susan Mott and Gabrielle Nilla. Hopefully, some will return as interns in the not-so-distant future.

For more information on the program, visit www.spsdw.com.

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"The administration went in looking reductions in tax appeals. to cut as much as possible," he said. "It's After unexpectedly having to refund a no-frills budget." Spending goes up less than one percent, according to Rusnak. "This is the smallest increase in recent memory," said Council President Rob

The Borough Council Monday night administrative salaries. "We reduced

paying ones."

Bengivenga, also a member of the finance and administration committee. "Spending is actually down if you

introduced a new budget that calls

for \$700,000 in cuts, including over

\$100,000 in salary reductions, accord-

ing to Councilman Ray Rusnak, chair-

man of administration and finance.

don't include state-mandated pension increases," explained Councilman Matt Anesh. "The state required us to increase pension costs by almost half a million dollars."

Rusnak said much of the cuts are in

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more than half a million dollars last year, the council in January hired a law firm with a tax-appeal specialist. "We saw that tax appeals were hurting us," explained Bengivenga. "So we hired a new appraiser and an attorney who is known to be aggressive with these appeals. It seems to be working.

I actually had one business tell me it would not be filing an appeal when they heard who represents us now

The budget introduction is just the beginning of the process. The council will hold budget workshops in September, and further cuts are expected.

"This is already a lean budget, but we're still looking for more to cut," said Bengivenga. "I want to bring the budget down even more."

Anesh said he also wants to look for more savings: "We have to offset a quarter-million-dollar state aid reduction and increased pension costs. We also have reduced ratables to contend with."







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Tiger Sharks Swim Team

Tiger Sharks Lose to Roycefield

Swim Team lost 168-131 to Roycefield, the same team they had overwhelmingly defeated earlier in the sea-

In the boys individual medley events, Cristian Butrico (10 and under) placed third, while his brother Charlie Butrico (11/12) and teammate Joey Valentino placed second and third, respectively.

In the longer freestyle events the girls were able to capture a first place win when Ali Huber (11/12) outtouched the others. Megan McDermott and Brianna Tang (8 and under) placed second and third. Taylor Aljian also placed third for the 11/12 group. Veteran swimmer Emily Piekarski placed third for the 13-18 age group.

The boys were able to capture three first place ribbons in the butterfly events. They were Nick Gurrieri (9/

The South Plainfield Tiger Sharks 10), brother Anthony Gurrieri (13/ 14) and Matt Moates (15-18). Second place ribbons went to Michael Stanczak (8 and under) and Enzo Butrico (11/12). Brendan Tang (8 and under) and Charlie Butrico (11/12) placed third. In the breaststroke events only Jenna Yan (8 and under) placed first. Megan McDermott (9/10), Ali Huber (11/12) and Cristina Butrico (13/14) captured second place wins. Third place ribbons went to Geri Huber (9/ 10), Maggie Valentino (13/14) and Chelsea Cullen (15-18).

In the shorter freestyle events the Gurrieri brothers, Nick and Anthony, were able to take first place. Michael Stanczak and Cristian Butrico (8 and under) placed second and third. The only 11/12 boy to place was Enzo Butrico, who took a second place ribbon. The same situation took place for the older boys with Matt Moates winning second place.

Taylor Aljian (11/12) was the only girl to win the blue ribbon for backstroke. Jenna Yan and Vicky Tumati placed second and third for the 8 and under girls. Brianna Tang (9/10) and Chelsea Cullen (15-18) placed third in the backstroke.

South Plainfield won two medley relays for the boys. Michael Stanczak, Cristian Butrico, Joseph Anesh and Brendan Tang (8 and under) placed first. Matt Lind, Nick Gurrieri, Enzo Butrico and Charlie Butrico (9-12) placed first.

We celebrate our older swimmers, many who have swum for the South Plainfield Tiger Sharks since they were 8 and under, and many who swim for their high school teams in the area: Brian Babinetz, JP Barry, Greg Bellizzi, Zachary Bishara, Jennifer Boyle, Michael Boyle, Chelsea Cullen, Brenna Dean, Michelle Gustafson, Teresa Gustafson, Alan Kasmer, Sarah Konops, Ryan Lind, Jillian Murphy, Matt Moates, Abby Petritsch, Emily Piekarski, Bilal Rice, Lauren Shea and Ellen Zinsky.

The Tiger Sharks must bid farewell to two veteran swimmers who have been on the team since they were very young. According to the league rules, swimmers can only compete until age 18. Abby Petritsch will attend Lycoming College in the fall and major in archaeology. Abby is giving up swimming laps for the tennis court at Lycoming. Matt Moates will attend Kutztown University and major in business and marketing. He will be swimming for Kutztown. We wish them much success and happiness as they pursue their academic endeavors.

-Submitted by Cheryl Nagel-Smiley

Submitted By Bob Nilan

It not only came down to the final night-it came down to the final hole and the final putt before the Hackers pulled out the narrowest of victories, 101/2-91/2, over Buy-Rite Liquors in one of the best matches ever in league history.

For the Hackers, Bill Mann turned in his best round of the season, a sparkling even-par 33, while teammates Todd Sherman and Jeremy Szoc fired a pair of 35's. Buy-Rite Liquors also played superbly well with John Gaven posting a beautiful 1-under 32. Irish Danny Griffin carded a nifty 35 and Mike King was sharp in registering a 36.

With this stirring victory, the Hackers earned the American Division title and finished 11 wins and three losses, the best record in the league and a major improvement over their 7-7 records the past two seasons.

Over in the National Division, the league-leading Roughriders got another tremendous performance from the "Very Best of All Possible Subs," Fred "Catfish" Kirchofer who chipped in for an eagle on the fourth hole on his way to a terrific 2-under par round of 31 to tie for the low round of the season. Kirchofer had a lip-out on his birdie try on the ninth hole and came that close to shooting a 30. His stellar performance sparked the Roughriders to a 14-6 victory and to the championship in the National Division. Teammate Frank Weingart put on another impressive display of power and accuracy in recording his best round of the season, an even-par 33. Jerry Foglia was hurting and still came through with a 37. For the B-Datt Squad, Danny McCreesh shot another fabulous round, 1-under 32, and Tom McCreesh carded a solid 36.

Captain Chris Dillon of Unique Sports Accessories had another good round with a 37. Jack Todaro shot a 36 and Jay Bertleson posted a 38-three scores usually good enough to win, but USA had a lot of strokes to give and they went down to defeat at the hands of Pornovets, 16-4. Marty "I Know I'm Late, But I'm Back" Van De Varrst showed his old form in re-

American Division

Hackers 11 3 0

Buy-Rite 10 4 0

USA 7 7 0

PAH 7 7 0 Witty's 5 9 0

Pornovets 4 10 0

cording a 35 and Robert Pornovets hit some titanic tee shots on his way to a 37. After a fine first half of the season when they were 5-2 and tied for first South Plainfield place, USA finished with Golf League a disappointing 2-5 second half and ended up in a

tie for third place in the

Twin City Pharmacy also concluded its season with a downer, losing to KC's Korner for the second time by the lopsided score of 17-3.

American Division.

Rich Steele of the victorious KC's Korner had one of his best rounds a 35, a score that was matched by Dan "I've learned to control my new driver" Conti who improved significantly in the past few years. In 2004, Conti was still carrying a 9-handicap. Mark Dugan pitched in with a 37 and Twin City had no chance. Guy Severini earned the medal for Twin City with his 37 and they did get some consolation by ending the year in second

Plainfield Animal Hospital had one of those special nights where all four golfers broke 40 so they cruised to a 14-6 victory over Witty's Liquors. Mark "Mr. Steady" Chichvar shot his usual 37 and his score was matched by Steve Schock and by Wally Heinzer who had one of his finest nights and Mike "Mr. Bank Shot" Cortese contributed a 39. For Witty's, Kevin "Boom Boom" Bickunas hit a couple of awesome drives on the final two holes that left contrails on his way to a terrific 1-over 34 and Mike Graham

Dennis Bibby of Sport & Social was the lone golfer to break 40 as he led his Sport & Social team to 12-8 victory over 2 Buds, 2 Dubes in a match that was played just for the fun of it. Both teams struggled throughout the 2008 season and are already looking forward to a fresh start next year.

Low scores for the night: Fred Kirchofer, 21; John Gaven, 32; Danny McCreesh, 32; Bill Mann, 33; Frank Weingart, 33; Kevin Bickunas, 34; Rich Steele, 35; Dan Conti, 35; Danny Griffin, 35; Todd Sherman, 35; Jeremy Szoc, 35; Marty Van DeVaarst, 35.

National Division

Roughriders 10 3 1

Twin City 8 5 1

B-Datt Squad 8 6 0

KC's Korner 7 0

Sport & Social 3 11 0

2 Buds, 2 Dubes 3 11 0

First Tee Youth Golf Camp

The first event to take place via a partnership of the First Tee Middlesex & Somerset Counties and the Middlesex County Improvement Authority (MCIA) will be a golf camp at Tamarack Golf Course in East Brunswick, August 25-29.

The First Tee is a chapter of an international non-profit youth initiative that encourages young people of all ethnic and economic backgrounds to take part in character development through golf and education. The program develops life-enhancing values such as honesty, integrity and sportsmanship. The First Tee and the MCIA, which operates Middlesex County golf courses, will be working together to promote life skills and golf at the

Middlesex County golf courses.

The camp is open to youth ages 7 to 14 and will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Monday-Friday, August 25-29. Monday-Wednesday sessions will be devoted to golf fundamentals and life skills. Thursday will be a competition day with long drive, putting and chipping contests so that participants can show off their new skills. The Friday climax will be a nine-hole scramble tournament and awards ceremony. The cost for each participant is \$200 for the week and scholarships are available according to need.

For more information on camp fees and registration, visit www.thefirst eemsc.org or call Robert Valentino at (908) 432-1358.

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SPECIAL ORDINANCE 1830

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLE-SEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ord. No. 1830 entitled: AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14) was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, August 15, 2008, and that a public hearing be scheduled for Monday, September 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1830

AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

WHEREAS the Local Government Cap Law N.J.S.40A:4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to

WHEREAS N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14 provides that municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% rate a exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and

WHEREAS the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield in the County of Middlesex finds it advisable and necessary to increase its SFY 2009 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and

WHEREAS the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield hereby determines that a 1% increa in the budget for said year, amounting to \$182,991.06 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and

WHEREAS the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, in the and council or the Borough or South Plainniel, in the County of Middlesex, a majority of the full membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the SFY 2009 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of South Plainfield shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$640,486.71 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, and that the SFY 2009 municipal budget for the Borough of South Plainfield be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director

of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Joann Graf/Acting Municipal Clerk

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE **ORDINANCE 1831**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ord. No. 1831 entitled: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 620 ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF A LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION" was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, August 15, 2008, and that a public hearing be scheduled for Monday, September 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1831

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 620

"AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF A LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION".

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, in the County of Middlesex, and State of New Jersey that Ordinance No.620 entitled: "An Ordinance Providing For The Creation Of A Local Environmental Commission" is hereby amended to increase the Commission's membership to include two (2) "Alternate" members in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:56A-1. Section 2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 2. That the Mayor in his discretion shall appoint the members of the Environmental Commission which shall consist of seven (7) Members, one of whom shall also be a member of the Borough Plan-ning Board, and two (2) Alternate Members. All nine members shall be citizens and residents of the Borough of South Plainfield. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term only. Should a vacancy occur for a seat as a full voting member, an Alternate Member shall be appointed to fill said vacancy after which a new Alternate member will then be appointed. Members shall receive no compensation for their services

Section 12. Should any section, clause or phrase of this ordinance be declared by the Courts to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof other than the part so declared to be invalid.

Section 13. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately as provided by law.

Joann Graf/Acting Municipal Clerk

August 15, 2008 \$64.60

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE 1832 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ord. No. 1832 entitled: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE INSTALLATION OF SPEED HUMPS ON METUCHEN ROAD IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, August 15, 2008, and that a public hearing be scheduled for Monday, September 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ORDINANCE NO.1832

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLA-TION OF SPEED HUMPS ON METUCHEN ROAD.

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2008, Lt. Kevin Murtagh, Traffic Officer for the Borough of South Plainfield, advised the Borough Administrator by memorandum that a portion of Metuchen Road, south of Harmich Road, was in deplorable and unsafe condition, and recommended that potholes, ruts and other roadway deficiencies be addressed immediately so that police and emergency personnel could safely respond to calls for service in the area; and

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2008, the Borough of South Plainfield resolved to rent paving equipment and purchase asphalt to repair and repave Metuchen

WHEREAS, Metuchen Road was subsequently repaired and repayed; and

WHEREAS, after repairing and repaving, it was reported that there was a significant amount of drag racing occurring at night and on weekends on said road, and at least one accident as a result of such activity was reported; and

WHEREAS, as a result of such report and with a concern for safety, three speed humps were installed as safety measures, in accordance with the direction and specifications of the Borough Engineer; and

WHEREAS, an Ordinance of the Borough Council was not passed prior to installation of the speed humps and the Attorney for the Borough of South Plainfield has advised that such install tion should be done NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor

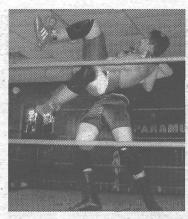
and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that the installation of three speed humps on Metuchen Road south of Harmich Road are deemed to have been appropriate and are hereby authorized retroactive to the date of installation, based upon the advice of the Borough Attorney and Borough Engineer that such speed humps do not provide a liability for the Borough of South Plainfield and were installed in accordance with appropriate specifications.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication according to law.

Joann Graf/Acting Municipal Clerk August 15, 2008

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LEAGUE STANDINGS



East Coast Pro Wrestling Perform Live on Labor Day

Hey all you pro wrestling fans, the moment you've been waiting for is coming soon to South Plainfield. East Coast Pro Wrestling located in Lake Hiawatha will be coming to South Plainfield for a special appearance both during and after the Labor Day parade. There will be a free show after the parade that will feature many of ECPW's superstar wrestlers, including CK Kross, Andrew Anderson, Donny "The Body" Johnson, Jay Santana, .Creeper, Dan De Man, Red Hot Russ and South Plainfield's own Romano Gualano. The show will feature both adult and junior pro wrestling matches.

East Coast Pro Wrestling is one of the longest running pro wrestling schools anywhere, having been in the business for over 16 years. They train wrestlers, referees, ring announcers, television commentators, managers and every other occupation associated with professional wrestling. Head trainer, "Mr. Italy" Gino Caruso, has been in the business over 20 years wrestling for WWE, WCW, ECW and NWA. Some of ECPW's famous alumni include WWE Superstars Nunzio, Devon "Crowbar" Storm, "Inferno" Dan Gimondo, Judas Young, Deuce, Cherry, Mike Cruel and Strongko.

Come on out and cheer for your favorite wrestlers, take a few photos and get some autographs. Everyone both young and old is guaranteed an exciting time.





LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Garrett Casio requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Borough of South Plainfield to erect a front porch. Proposed porch lacks required 30' setback; 23.4' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 223 Tremont Avenue, Block 345, Lot 8, R-10 zone on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plain-field Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 28, 2008 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m.

The files and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Planning/Zoning Office in Borough Hall between the hours of 8:00 a.m and 4:00 pm.

\$38.50

August 15, 2008

Obituaries

John F. McNerney, 86

John F. McNerney died on Wednesday, Aug. 6 at home.

John was born to Andrew and Bridget (McCabe) McNerney in New York City and grew up in Brooklyn. In 1954 he



married Mary John F. McNerney

T. McEvoy and moved to East Orange. In 1960 they moved to South Plainfield and have resided there ever since.

During WWII, John served in the U.S. Army and was attached to the 60th Engineers. He saw battle action in Normandy and in Northern France.

John worked as a machinist and tool and dye maker for the former Airco Co. of Union before he retired 25 years ago.

He was a member of AARP #4144 of South Plainfield and the Knights of Columbus Watchung Council #552. He was also a longtime member of Sacred Heart Church.

John's greatest loves were his family and his faith, and in his spare time he enjoyed woodworking and fishing.

He was predeceased by a sister, Kathleen Burke and two brothers, Andrew and Vincent McNerney.

Surviving is his wife of 53 years, Mary T. McNerney; two daughters and sons-in-law, Kathleen and Gary Harty of Forks Twsp., Pa. and Denise and Jeff Schreier of Edison; four sons, Kevin McNerney and his girlfriend Kim Conner of Ocean Grove, Eric and wife Kate McNerney of Shark River Hills, John McNerney of Ortley Beach and Dennis McNerney of South Plainfield; five grandchildren, Kevin, Maura, Jonathan and Caitlin Harty and Colleen Schreier; a sister-in-law, Geneieve McNerney of Red Bank and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at Mc-Criskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations may be made to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, c/o Sacred Heart Parish, 260 Randolph Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

Helen Katherine (Garrison) Dyke, 86

Helen Katherine (Garrison) Dyke died peacefully at home on Saturday, Aug. 9 with her loving family by her

She was born on Valentine's Day,

Feb. 14, 1922 in Jersey City where she also grew up. She resided in Maplewood and Waretown before settling in South Plain-



Helen graduated from William Dickinson High School in the June Class of 1940.

Shortly thereafter she took a position with William Rowe located in Newark. It was in Newark that she met her future husband. On August 15, 1943 she married William Stanley Dyke of Maplewood. As a "war bride" she traveled around the country with her husband while he served during WWII. She lived in several states during this time, including California, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Later in life, Helen was an avid traveler. She visited the countries of China, Japan and Egypt, as well as England and all of Europe. She had many detailed memories of her travels that she shared through her beautiful scrap-

Helen was a member of The Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield and was employed there as church secretary from the late 1960s through the early 1980s. She was a

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member of the church hand bell choir and Woman's Guild and various other church organizations and committees.

Helen served on the Plainfield Area YWCA Board of Directors as secretary for many years as well. She was a member of The Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield as a young woman and enjoyed participating in the club's many activities.

Her favorite times included Christmas and the fragrances of the season. She loved the snow during the winter, gardening during the spring and spending many summers at the family cottage in Ortley Beach. She cherished the company and companionship of her dogs, Tinkerbell, Cleo, Sam and Mabel. She also enjoyed writing poetry.

Helen was predeceased by her parents, Helen (Becker) and William J. Garrison and three brothers, William, Calvin and Arthur.

Helen leaves behind her loving husband of 65 years, Bill; three children, Sharon Patricia Dyke and partner Barbara Hals of Lovettsville, Va., Robin Til Dyke and husband Vinnie Stagnitto of South Plainfield and Glenn Garrison Dyke and wife Debra of Brick Township. She will be deeply missed by her four cherished grandchildren, Rachel Elizabeth Deluca and husband Todd, Logan Reid Dyke Stagnitto, Lark Arielle Dyke Stagnitto and Lauren Nicole Dyke and her adored triplet great-grandchildren, Ella Grace, Nicholas Vincent and Payton Elizabeth Deluca. In addition to her sister, Cecila Hnida who resides in Wisconsin, she also leaves behind special godchildren

and favorite nieces and nephews.

A memorial service reflecting on the life of Helen will be held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals on Saturday, Sept. 27 at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, a tax-deductible donation may be made in Helen's name to Haven Hospice, JFK Medical Center Foundation, 65 James St., Edison, N.J. 08817.

Robert Tetel, 82

Robert Tefel died on Tuesday, Aug. 5 at Greenbrook Manor Care Center.

Born and raised in New York City, he had resided there for a number of years and in Seattle, before settling in Piscataway 10 years ago.

He was employed as a printer with Business Letter Services in New York for 33 years before his retirement.

He was predeceased by his wife, Theresa De Jesus-Diaz Tefel.

Surviving is a daughter, Linda Tefel; a sister-in-law, Christina Sweet; a niece and nephew, Theresa and Lenny, as well as a host of additional family and

Funeral services were held at Mc-Criskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Linda Vance

Linda Vance of South Plainfield passed away in Maryland on Saturday,

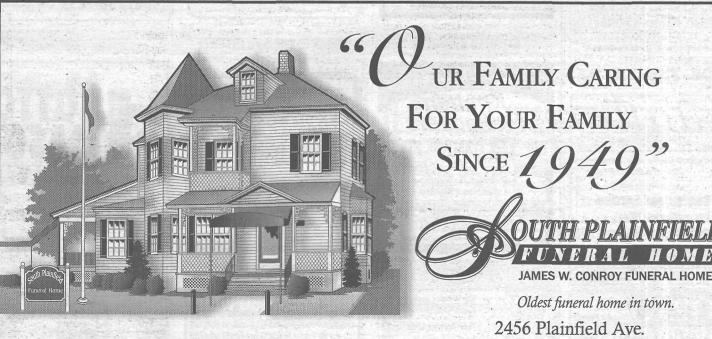
Funeral services were held at The South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home.



Richard W. McCriskin, Dir. • N.J. Lic. No. 3147 William C. McCriskin, Dir. • N.J. Lic. No. 3382

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Bill to Move Nonpartisan Municipal Elections Passes Gen. Assembly

Legislation sponsored by Assemblymen Patrick Diegnan, Jr. and Peter J. Barnes III that allows New Jersey towns that hold May nonpartisan municipal elections to move the date of the election to the same day as the November general election has passed the General Assembly.

Currently, nonpartisan municipal elections are held on the second Tuesday in May.

"Allowing towns that hold May nonpartisan elections to move those elections to November without jeopardizing their nonpartisan status is a win for everyone," said Diegnan. "Municipalities win because they save money while being able to keep their unique form of government; voters and candidates win because the electorate is more engaged and more active in November elections."

The bill would allow any municipality with a population of 10,000 or less and certain other municipalities that meet special size, placement and population criteria that holds nonpartisan municipal elections to move, through passage of an ordinance, the election to the same date as the general election-the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

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POOL SALES/SERVICE





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

(Continued from page 2)

company. Randee handled all communication with the insurance company and saw to it that we had a rental vehicle provided and returned our car completely back to its pre-accident condition.

At a time when our stress levels were pushed to the limit and our pain was inhibiting our lifestyle, Dr. Patrick Aiello and Staats Auto Body relieved this stress and helped us overcome the extremely negative impact of a rear-end collision. Our sincere thanks goes out to them; we will be eternally grateful.

MARIA SELIGA

To the Editor:

I want to offer a special thank you to the Knights of Columbus and their newly formed youth group, the Squires. They recently added a new addition to my concrete patio, over 12 square feet. When speaking to a member of the Knights several months ago, I commented on how the contractor who had renovated my house and yard left the yard with a very steep grade making it nearly impossible for me to use most of the yard. I was limited to the patio and if I went off the concrete with the wheel chair, I would find myself stuck on the steep lawn.

Within a few weeks I was contacted by the Knights and told they would create an addition for me. About three weeks ago 12 teenagers and several fathers filled my backyard, measuring out footage, framing, clearing and leveling the lawn. A few days later they poured the concrete. The boys had a hand in every aspect of the job. Last week soil, seed and hay were put down around the edges of the new patio, as well as in other areas of the lawn. Suffice it to say they did a wonderful job and I am very happy with the extended patio and the extra freedom it gives me. This job was their first official project. South Plainfield can expect big things from these wonderful teenagers, their advisor Billy Butrico and the Knights. Watch for a full story on the young Squires in an upcoming issue of the Observer.

Again, thank you to the Squires and Knights of Columbus.

SINCERELY, **PATRICIA ABBOTT**

Dear Editor,

One of the things voters want to see in elected officials is bipartisan cooperation. After an election, both sides should shed their party names and do what's best. That often means cooperating with the other side, even when it might be politically expedient not

That being said, I want to commend the new Republican Majority on the positive change I'm seeing. Let me give a few examples.

One of the first things the Republicans did was hire Glenn Cullen, a Democrat, as administrator. They didn't go outside town and hire someone from their party, but instead, picked a talented lifelong resident, even though he was one of the other side's top officials.

Shortly after, the GOP had a chance to pick a new borough clerk. Again, there were plenty of Republicans who would have loved the job. But they chose a Democrat, Joann Graf. Joann isn't just any Democrat though. She is a former Democratic Council President. Anyone who knows Joann can attest: she puts South Plainfield first.

And when the ad hoc truck committee needed a new chair, who did they pick? Former Democratic Mayor Mike English. This is another example of the new majority trying to work with the whole town and be biparti-

Even when in the minority, the Republicans have shown that they only want to do what's best for our town. Yes, there were times when Rob Bengivenga and Matt Anesh voted against things they thought were wrong, like selling open space, payto-play appointments, and land sales to Democratic contributors that were well below market value. But when a project benefited South Plainfield, Anesh and Bengivenga voted "yes."

I wish the other side would take this approach. The Democrats (now in the minority) have voted against almost every project that will make our town better, including the repaving and upgrading of Tompkins and South Plainfield avenues, the work on the Metuchen Road extension, the curb restoration program and the installation of handicapped ramps on Sampton Avenue, as well as other streets. They even gave a lukewarm reception to the "Safe Streets, Safe Kids" pilot project and revitalizing Cotton Street Park.

There's a lesson for the Democrats: work together. Yes, there will be times when the two parties disagree. That's fine. But don't just oppose something simply because the suggestion came from the other side.

The Republican Majority, led by Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga, have focused on what's best for South Plainfield. It's refreshing. If this is the change they promised, then keep change going!

DR. JOSEPH IAVARONE

Dear Editor,

It has come to my attention that at last Monday's council meeting the Republican Majority introduced a budget that calls for almost a \$1M tax increase. This is on top of the \$1.3M increase that occurred in January.

It appears to me that the members of the Finance Committee have missed the fact that we are in a recession and they should be looking for ways to lower our taxes.

As I recall, Councilman Ray Rusnak stated that I would only see a \$100 tax increase this year. It now appears that in addition to the \$250 increase I have already seen, I can expect to see another \$200 increase this year. This is totally unacceptable and I ask the council to reassess this budget and look for ways to reduce spending.

ROSEMARY ORLANDINI

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