

9/11 Remembrance—Thursday, Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m. Gazebo at Spring Lake Park

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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 12, NO. 2

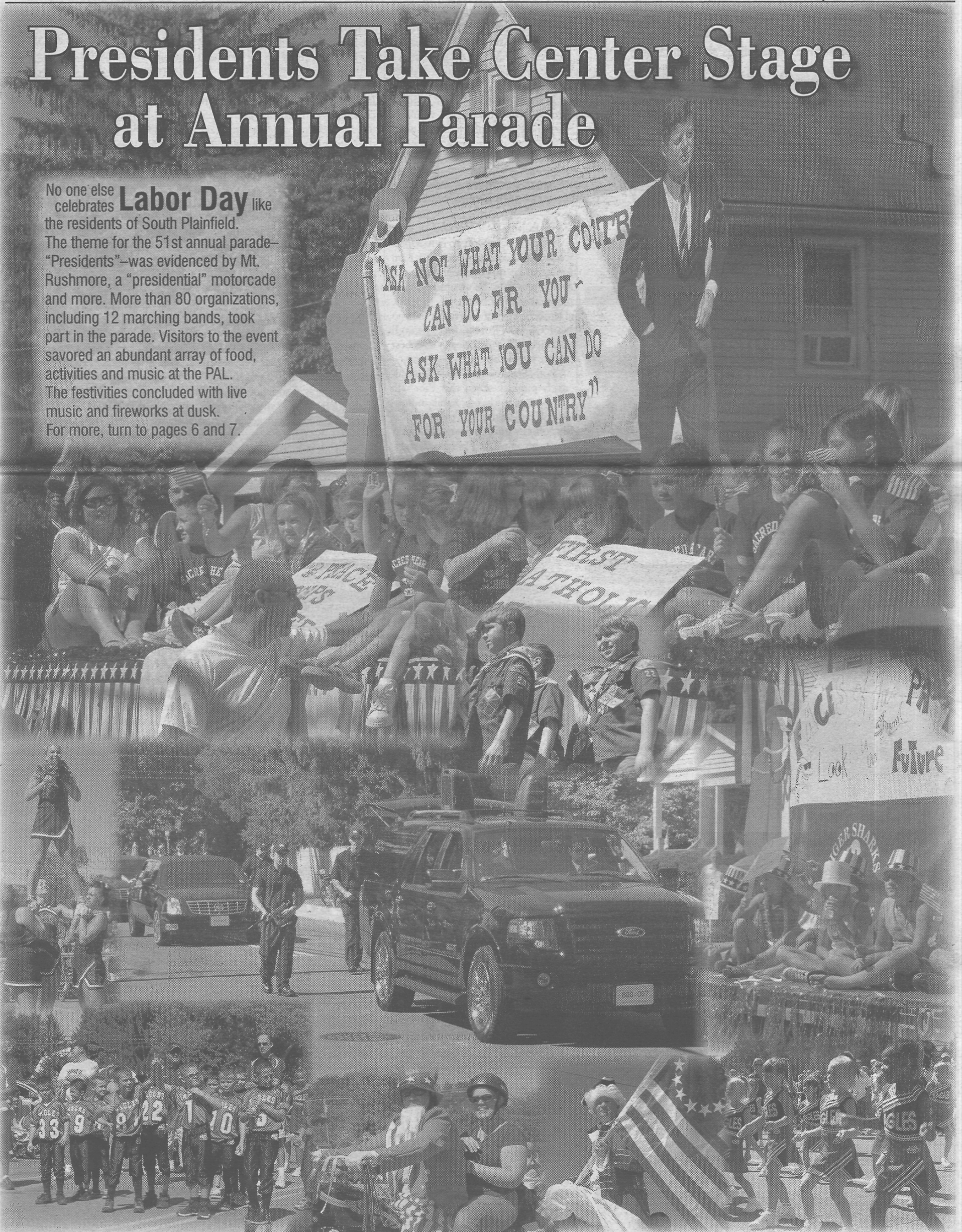
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50 CENTS

SEPTEMBER 5, 2008

Presidents Take Center Stage at Annual Parade

No one else celebrates **Labor Day** like the residents of South Plainfield. The theme for the 51st annual parade—"Presidents"—was evidenced by Mt. Rushmore, a "presidential" motorcade and more. More than 80 organizations, including 12 marching bands, took part in the parade. Visitors to the event savored an abundant array of food, activities and music at the PAL. The festivities concluded with live music and fireworks at dusk. For more, turn to pages 6 and 7.



Police Chief Alerts Residents on Recent Thefts and Crime Deterrence

The South Plainfield Police Department has arrested two individuals and charged them with several counts of burglary and theft. They were interviewed by detectives in reference to those crimes. The thieves said that they would target vehicles that were unlocked and looked for valuables that were visible.

Residents are reminded to lock all vehicles and either remove or place valuable items out of site. The most

common items targeted are GPS units, cell phones, cash and jewelry.

Residents are encouraged to call police and report any suspicious vehicles, persons or activities. Residents may receive a home security inspection by calling the Crime Prevention Unit at (908) 226-7716 or 7717.

According to Police Chief John Ferraro, "The department will continue to take proactive steps ensure the safety of our Borough."

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS air on Comcast Chaneel 74 Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

AGENDA and/or Other SPECIAL Meetings air Saturday at 8 p.m.

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



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

council meetings

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 8	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 seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

ad hoc alternative truck route committee

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

September 12, September 26

zoning board of adjustment

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

September 11 and 25, October 9 and 23, November 13*, December 11*.

board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7:30 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.: September 17, October 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17, January 21, February 18, March 18 and April 8.

recreation commission

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

taxpayers advisory group

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.

IN MY OPINION

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

Dear Editor,

I returned from a long holiday weekend to find the tiniest kitten tucked under our bay window and seemingly abandoned. We are all allergic to cats, so I was unable to keep him.

After calling a few people, my son Alex remembered that Dr. Scott Linick is our neighbor. He knew Scott's daughter, Ashley, and the rest as they say, is history.

Dr. Linick came down in a matter of minutes and told us he was a male kitten, barely a week old and needed to be bottled fed. A barrage of Alex's friends came over and his friend, Sara DeLair, agreed to take him for the night, bottle feed him, etc. and the next day return him to Dr. Linick's office and his able-bodied staff at Plainfield Animal Hospital.

I cannot thank Dr. Linick enough. I'm sure that tiny "tiger" wouldn't have made it through the night without so many caring hands and hearts. Kudos to all of you and again many thanks to Dr. Linick for being so kind.

**MOST SINCERELY,
MARY BETH KHIDRE**

Dear Editor,

I usually don't write to newspapers regarding those individuals that I am going to be supporting in elections, but in this case, I must make an exception. I will be supporting the Democratic team of Franky Salerno and Chrissy Buteas for Borough Council. They are clearly the best choice for the borough.

Both Franky and Chrissy have already publicly stated that they will never allow trucks on Hamilton Boulevard and Belmont Avenue, regardless of how much pressure the trucking companies put on them. I know the current Republican Majority can't boast the same claim.

Both Franky and Chrissy have stated that they, along with Mayor Butrico, will continue the Democrats' approach by applying for any and all open space funding that is available so that they can continue to preserve as much open space as possible. I know the current Republican Majority can't make that same claim. The

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Please be advised that the Observer does not publish anonymous letters.

Letters may be submitted to the *Observer*, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax 908-668-8819 or by email: spobserver@comcast.net. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Please limit letters to no more than 200 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and to limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject.

Republicans didn't even bother to apply for any open space funds from Middlesex County this year. This is the same fund that Mayor Butrico and the Democrats received \$1.5 million for the new turf field that is going behind the PAL. Talk about having your head in the sand.

Franky and Chrissy will work hand in hand with Mayor Butrico, Councilmen Ray Petronko and Joe Scudato to craft a budget that does not raise the borough budget 2.3 million dollars from the previous year. The current Republican Majority can't make that same claim.

Franky and Chrissy have proposed that the borough look into "going green" in all borough buildings in an effort to be both environmentally and

fiscally responsible. Franky even does this for a living. How great is that!

Franky Salerno and Chrissy Buteas are exactly what this borough needs. They are young, energetic people who have a vision for the borough. I can't impress on everyone that this election is critical to the well being of our borough. We need to elect the people who will help move this borough forward. We can't afford to leave the status quo. On election day, we need to elect Franky Salerno and Chrissy Buteas to the Borough Council.

WILLIAM A. NAGY, JR.

Dear Editor,

Parents were told at the BOE budget presentations that supplies would be provided to their children and to please come out and vote.

On July 9, 2008, seven members of the Board of Education decided to change the promise of providing school supplies to students.

A vote was taken and the superintendent was instructed not to give out the supplies as promised. I did not support the change and voted no.

You decide if this is right or wrong.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER
STEVEN D. BOHN**

James W. Conroy Funeral Home Adopts Monument Park

The South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home has become the first member of the South Plainfield Clean Business Association (CBA) to adopt two spots at the same time. Franklin Rainear, manager and local owner of the funeral home, recently renewed his Adopt-A-Spot on New Market Avenue. He has now signed an agreement to take over the care of Monument Park.

Monument Park, situated on Plainfield Avenue across from Spring Lake Park, was created in 2004 to recognize the contributions of those in uniform who have served their country and community. Panzarella Contracting had this Adopt-A-Spot until this spring. The CBA feels that this highly visible spot is a Borough showpiece

and must be kept in impeccable condition to honor the veterans. Rainear's adoption is therefore especially welcome.

As many as six people will be policing the grounds daily for litter. They will also keep the flower beds weeded and will plant flowers where needed. These are the same part-time employees, with whom Rainear also works on the volunteer fire department and rescue squad, who have been removing litter and weeds from New Market Avenue. The Funeral Home won the CBA's Glitter Award in 2007.

For information about the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact the Clean Communities Coordinator at (908) 226-7621 or E-mail attempel@southplainfieldnj.com.

BOE Public Hearing September 17

The South Plainfield Board of Education will conduct a public hearing as a part of the regular public meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Roosevelt Administration Building

to discuss the adoption of Policy Number 5131.8-Substance Abuse-Random Student Substance Testing. Formal action to adopt the policy will be taken.

Public comments are invited.

South Plainfield Observer

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Former Police Detective Dies

We regret to announce the passing of Gary Muccigrossi, a former South Plainfield police detective, on Wednesday. Our prayers go to his family. See next week's *Observer* for obituary and story.

Two Injured in Truck Accident

Around 2:30 on Tuesday afternoon, an 1996 International tractor trailer owned by Estes Express Lines in Morrisville, N.C., collided with a 2005 Freightliner tractor trailer, owned by Penske Trucking and leased to Veckridge Chemical Company in Kearney.

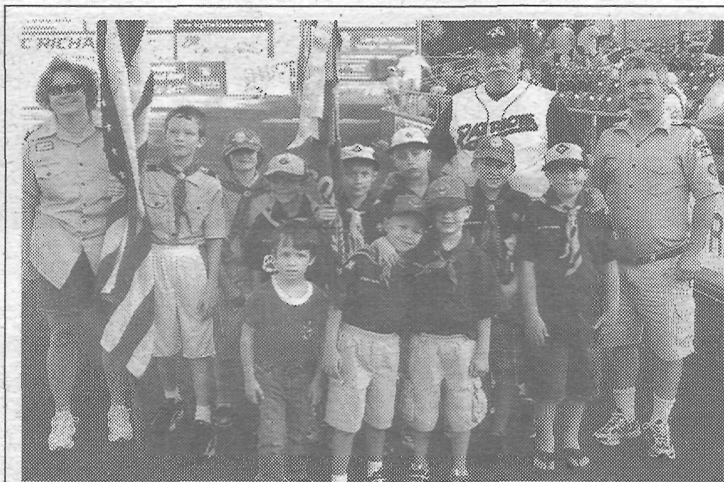
The operator of the Estes truck was Nelson Medina, 52, of Jersey City. He was traveling northbound on South Clinton Avenue near Ingelsol Road when the vehicle jackknifed and crossed into the southbound lane where it was struck by the other tractor trailer, driven by Darrel Woodards, 43, of Jersey City. The Estes truck was empty and the Veckridge Chemical truck contained 20 empty chemical drums.

Medina was trapped in his vehicle for approximately 20 minutes when he was extricated by the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department and treated at the scene by paramedics from Muhlenberg Hospital. He was airlifted to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH) in New Brunswick where he was admitted with serious internal injuries and numerous broken bones. Woodard was being treated at RWJUH for minor injuries.

Middlesex County Haz Mat responded to address the large diesel fuel spill. South Clinton Avenue was closed for approximately five hours.

The investigation is ongoing and no summonses were issued.

Anyone who witnessed the crash or has additional information should contact Lt. Kevin Murtaugh at (908) 226-7679.



Cub Scout Pack 207 was honored to serve as the color guard for the Somerset Patriots baseball game on August 16. Pictured with Patriots manager and former Yankee great Sparky Lyle are Cubmaster Tom Berry, Den Leader Linda McGeehan and Scouts Nolan Berry, Nicholas Scalera, Joseph McGeehan, Alec Paez, Salvatore Dente, Thomas Tarnowski, Braedon Dobrynio, Noah Karch, Jared DeGraw, Justin Bell, Austin Fritze, Nicholas McGeehan and Patrick Berry. The game ended with fireworks and a rousing win for the Patriots. The scouts had a great time and want to thank the Patriots for this honor.

Two Indicted in Resident's Murder

David Jordan, 36, of the Somerset section of Franklin, and Antoine Williams, 34, of Elizabeth, were recently indicted by a Middlesex County Grand Jury in New Brunswick in the shooting death of Woodland Avenue resident Mustafa Rodriques, 30, on April 14.

Police say the pair were posing as cable repairmen when they cut the cable lines to the victims home the previous day and returned early the next morning in an attempted robbery gone bad. The two apparently forced their way in the home and once inside, Rodriques grabbed a gun and fired it, striking Jordan in the hand and neck

during a struggle. Williams shot Rodriques in the chest before the men fled with a safe containing jewelry. Rodriques was found dead on the floor of his bedroom by his brother, who he shared the home with, at about 9 p.m.

Both men were charged with murder, felony murder, armed robbery, conspiracy and weapons offenses and pleaded not guilty, but face 30 years to life if convicted. They are being held at the Middlesex County Adult Correction Center in North Brunswick in lieu of \$1.5 million each. No trial date has been set.

MOMS Club Seeks Members

The MOMS Club of South Plainfield and Piscataway, is looking for new members. Come meet our members and see what we're all about!

The MOMS Club is an international support group for mothers who stay at home with their children. The group offers a wide range of daytime

activities including playgroups, park days, a monthly moms night out, kids in the kitchen, movie time, craft time, special programs for mothers and children and get-togethers for the whole family. The MOMS Club also performs service projects benefitting needy children in our community. Children are welcome at all MOMS Club activities.

For information about us, check us out online at www.momsclubofsouthplainfield.com or call Nancy at (732) 236-3229.

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Borough Plans 9/11 Remembrance

To mark the seventh anniversary of September 11, residents are invited and encouraged to come together for the Borough's annual remembrance ceremony. By gathering as a community each year, we continue to remember and honor those who lost their lives because of a senseless act of terrorism, those who responded to the aftermath of September 11 and those who bravely serve to protect and defend our country. We will come together for a

candlelight vigil on Thursday evening, September 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the gazebo in Spring Lake Park. Bring a candle (and matches) to be placed at the shoreline of Spring Lake at the ceremony's conclusion. If an individual resident would like to act as a speaker to share a few thoughts or a prayer, your participation is welcomed. To be a part of the ceremony, or to offer suggestions for the ceremony itself, contact the Borough Clerk's Office at (908) 226-7606.

Remembering
**September 11
2001**

Candidates' Debate Set for October 1 at Senior Center

Mark your calendar! The four candidates running for Borough 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 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 retake 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 Franky 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 dis-

Municipal Budget Hearings Scheduled

SFY 2009 Municipal Budget hearings will take place on the following dates in Municipal Court. The public is welcome.

September 9 at 5 p.m.

Department	Manager
Court	Karen Costantino
Police	John Ferraro
911	John Ferraro
Fire Department	Larry DelNegro
Environmental/	
Recycling	Alice Tempel
Environmental	Dorothy Miele
Municipal Clerk	Joann Graf
Office on Aging	Joann Graf

September 10 at 4 p.m.

Department	Manager
Code	John Pabst
Emer. Management	Mike Zushma
Assessing	Gary Toth
DPW	Joseph Glowacki
Fire Prevention	Joe Abbruzzese
Administration	Glenn Cullen
Finance	Glenn Cullen
Recreation	Kevin Hughes

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Around Town

VFW Annual Picnic

September 6

South Plainfield VFW Post #6763 will hold its annual picnic/pig roast on Saturday, Sept. 6 from noon to 5 p.m. All are welcome.

Adult tickets are \$17 in advance or \$19 at the gate; seniors are \$15; children ages six to 12 are \$7; under five are free. Great food, games, door prizes, a moonwalk and DJ.

For information or tickets, call (908) 688-9751.

Edison Valley Playhouse Auditions

September 6 and 7

Edison Valley Playhouse announces auditions for Charles Ludlum's hilarious penny dreadful, "The Mystery of Irma Vep," on Saturday, Sept. 6 at 2 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. at the playhouse, 2196 Oak Tree Rd., Edison. Director Michael T. Mooney seeks two versatile performers with a keen sense of verbal and physical comedy. Familiarity with old films, Victorian literature and British dialects a plus. Show opens on Halloween. Also needed is a stage manager/dresser.

For information, E-mail info@evplayhouse.com.

First Baptist Sunday School Classes

September 7

First Baptist Church, 201 Hamilton Blvd., Sunday School classes will be-

gin Sunday, Sept. 7, 9:30 to 10:20 a.m. for children preschool through 12th grade. Please join us—building a strong foundation of faith for our children.

For information, call (908) 753-2382 or visit www.fbcsouthplainfield.com. All are welcome.

Boy Scouts Open House

September 8

If you are a boy between the ages of 11 and 17 years of age and would like to camp, learn skills and just have fun, Boy Scouts may be for you. The Boy Scout program objectives are to enhance development of character, citizenship, personal fitness qualities and leadership.

We look forward to meeting you on Monday, Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. at the VFW on Front Street. If you have questions, please call Bob at (908) 561-1631.

Historical Society Meeting

September 9

The South Plainfield Historical Society will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. at the History Center in the Roosevelt Administration Building. Parking and entrance to the lower level are on Jackson Avenue. New members welcome. Marge Reedy won the quilt raffled on Labor Day.

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. Tiger merchandise will be available and a membership table for those interested in joining the Booster Club. All are en-

couraged to attend this meeting to learn about the SPHS athletic program and to meet your child's coaching staff.

OLC Blood Drive

September 12

Our Lady of Czestochowa will hold a blood drive on Friday, Sept. 12, 3 to 8 p.m. at the parish hall on Hamilton Boulevard. Come and give the gift of life.

For information, call (908) 757-4490.

Elks 9/11 Memorial

September 13

The South Plainfield Elks Lodge will hold a Memorial for 9/11 on Saturday, Sept. 13. The South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298 of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks is pleased to invite you and your family to our festivities for National Patriotism Week (September 8-14).

Hosted by the Americanism, Army of Hope and Veterans Committee of our lodge on Saturday, Sept. 13, 7-10 p.m. Refreshments and appetizers, coffee and desserts will be served. Casual dress. No t-shirts, shorts or jeans.

For more information, call (908) 346-5049.

Huge Yard Sale/Car Wash Fundraiser

September 13

The South Plainfield Tigers Football Parents Committee is holding a huge yard sale and car wash fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Middle School. Come out and show your support for the team!

Outdoor Flea Market

October 4

J.J. Gardner Detachment Marine Corps League is sponsoring an outdoor flea market on Sunday, Oct. 4 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post 243 on Oak Tree Ave. Rain or shine.

For information call (908) 527-9260 or (908) 289-8068.

Fourth Annual Buddy Walk at Putnam Park

October 4

The 2008 Buddy Walk of South Plainfield will take place on Saturday, Oct. 4 at Putnam Park. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. and the walk kicks off at 1 p.m. Benefits Central New Jersey Down Syndrome Parent Advocacy Support Group and Network 21. Come join us!

Old Timers/Run for the Children

October 5

Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc., The Old Timers Motorcycle Club and Moretti Realty will hold the third annual "Run for the Children" on Sunday, Oct. 5 (rain date Sunday, Oct. 12). Sign-in 9:30-11 a.m. Cost is \$20 per rider, \$10 per passenger; non-riders and the public \$10 per person. Raffle tickets \$5 each for the chance to win a 50cc motor scooter. See page 12 for more details.

For more information, contact Rich D'Urso (732) 406-2826, Greg Rhein at (908) 405-7753 or Guy Moretti at (908) 755-5300, E-mail morettirealty.com.

— Out of Town —

Extreme Yard Sale

September 6

Our Lady of Mount Virgin School, 450 Drake Ave. in Middlesex, is holding an "extreme" yard sale on Saturday, Sept. 6 (rain date: September 13) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information or to reserve selling space, please call (732) 560-4347 or visit olmv.net.

Middlesex WOWs Memorial Mass

September 8

Middlesex East Widows Or Widowers will have a memorial mass for departed spouses on Monday, Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. at St. Elizabeth of Hungary R.C. Church, Washington Ave., Carteret.

After the mass will be the regular business meeting at the Carteret Community Center, Pershing and Cooke Aves., Carteret. Light refreshments to follow. All widows and widowers are welcome to attend.

For information, call Dorothy at (732) 541-2174 or Lois at (908) 757-0515.

Center For Hope Hospice Golf Outing

September 8

The 22nd annual golf outing to benefit the Center For Hope Hospice & Palliative Care will be held on Monday, Sept. 8 at Oak Ridge Golf Course in Clark. Cost: \$185 pp; includes 18 holes of golf, cart BBQ lunch, cocktail hour and dinner at The Gran Centurions. Dinner: \$60.

For information, call Larry Reagan at (732) 244-1044.

Metuchen-Edison Women's Club

September 10

The Metuchen-Edison Women's Club will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. at The Heritage at Clara Barton, 1015 Amboy Ave., Edison. Guests are welcome and light refreshments will be served.

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

Back-To-School Prayer Rally

September 10

The Apostolic Church of Truth & Spirit is hosting the fifth annual Back-To-School Prayer Rally on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., 24 Patrick Ave., Edison (off Rt. 1 So., behind Office Depot) to pray for a safe and successful 2008-2009 school year.

For information, call (732) 906-8002 or www.webacts.org.

Woodbridge WOWs Meeting

September 10

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers (WOWs) will conduct a business meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. in the main library, located at George Fredrick Plaza, Rte. 35 in Woodbridge. Light refreshments to follow. All widows and widowers are welcome.

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

Golf Outing/Our Lady of Mount Virgin

September 12

Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church in Middlesex is hosting a golf outing on Friday, Sept. 12 at Bunker Hill Golf Course, 220 Bunker Hill Rd., Princeton. Tee time 1 p.m., shotgun start; modified scramble. Dinner at the Middlesex Elks. Cost is \$90 including dinner; \$30 dinner only.

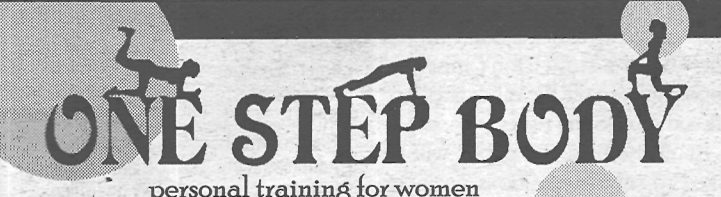
Call (732) 563-0262 or (732) 868-8299, E-mail olmvlgolf@msn.com or visit www.olmv.net/golffouting.

Blackrose Performing at Edison Festival

September 13

Blackrose, a band performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will perform at the Edison Fall Family Festival, on the corner of Amboy Avenue (off Rt. 1) and 6th Street on the main stage with the Smithereens Band from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

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southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Burnham Competes in Skateboard Tour

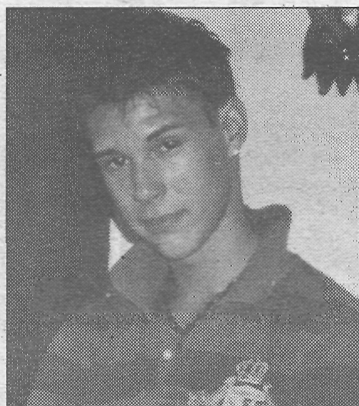


Eric Burnham

Congratulations to Eric Burnham who competed in Volcom's Wild in The Park Skateboard Tour #12 at the Sayreville Skatepark on August 23.

Eric competed against a field of 80 skaters to place sixth overall, and earned him an "invitation only" to compete on October 18 in the Volcom Pro/Am \$30,000 Championships to be held in Rio Vista Skatepark in Peoria, Az.

Eric will be representing Central Jersey Skateshop, "Are You Old School" Skateboards of Woodbridge and Doink Clothing Company.



Kevin Garman

Kevin Garman Completes Training

Private Kevin Garman has successfully completed his training at Parris Island Sc., with the 3rd Battalion L Company 3067. He will be stationed at Camp Lejuene, N.C., where he will join his brother, Corporal Shawn Garman.

Garman is the son of Frances Rogers and Edward Marsk. He is the stepson of Joseph Salsgiver and brother of Brain Marski, all of South Plainfield. Kevin is a 2007 SPSHS graduate.

Barrett Graduates from Boston University

Heather Barrett graduated cum laude from Boston University on May 18 with a bachelor of arts degree in environmental science and a minor in biology, as well as a master of arts in energy and environmental analysis. Heather achieved dean's list status, and was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Society, earning an overall GPA of 3.54.

The daughter of Tom and Cindy Barrett of South Plainfield, Heather is a 2003 graduate of South Plainfield High School.

Beginning in September, Heather will join the AmeriCorps program with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's division of Watershed Management.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Jaimie Donnelly

It does not have to be spring to clean out that corner, room or even the house that you have been avoiding all summer. With the cold months just around the corner, now is the perfect time to tackle those jobs you have had on your list. With our September 21 De-Cluttering and Organizing Workshop and the dozens of house cleaning books in the library we can assist you in making this task less painful.

If organizing your home and keeping it that way is your ultimate goal, then I have some tutorials that can assist with that. A great start is "The Everything Organize Your Home Book" by Jason Rich. Other books you should check out are "Cut the Clutter and Stow the Stuff," edited by Lori Baird or "The Queen of Clutter Conquers Clutter" by Linda Cobb. I have referenced "Solutions" by Amanda Hinnant several times over the past year. Her book gave me many creative ideas from storing my towels to grooming my cat.

For more in-depth cleaning, such as carpet cleaning or removing stains, check out "Heloise Conquers Stinks and Stains." Going green is a trend that is here to stay and I swear by many of

the tasks I have learned. Do you know how to unclog a shower head? Soak it in a plastic bag full of vinegar for several hours, rinse with lukewarm water and no clogged shower!

For more healthy tips, check out "Home Hints & Tips the New Guide to Natural, Safe and Healthy Living" by Rosamond Richardson. Then after all your cleaning is done for the day, relax and entertain yourself by watching the movie, "Maid in Manhattan."

As stated before, there will be a De-Cluttering and Organizing Workshop on Sunday, Sept. 21 at 2 p.m. This is a free program; pre-registratin is required.

Miss Linda and Miss Mija's story-times are on vacation until October 3. We had a successful summer reading program with over 600 children who signed up and read thousands of books and won fun prizes.

The young adult program was equally successful. The most read teen-with 230 books read-won an MP3 player!

Lastly, the library will be open on Sundays beginning this Sunday, Sept. 7. If you have any further questions please feel free to call the library at (908) 754-7885.

Correction

There was an error in the Pop Warner Football article regarding the Giants game in last week's *Observer*. The person who donated the Giants tickets to the organization was Dennis Lynch, NOT Brian Lynch.

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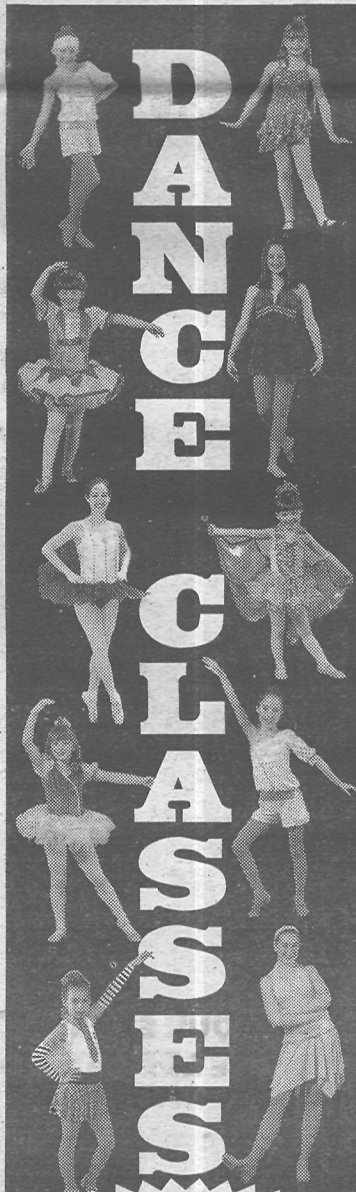
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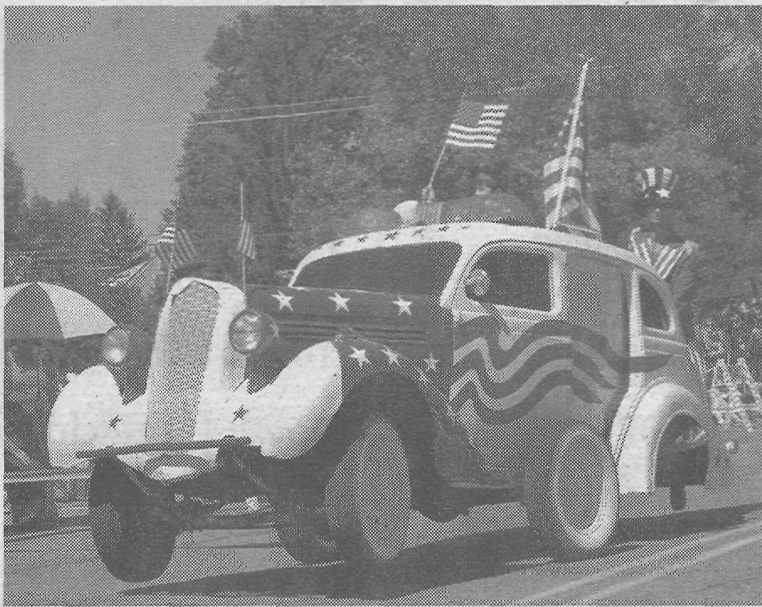
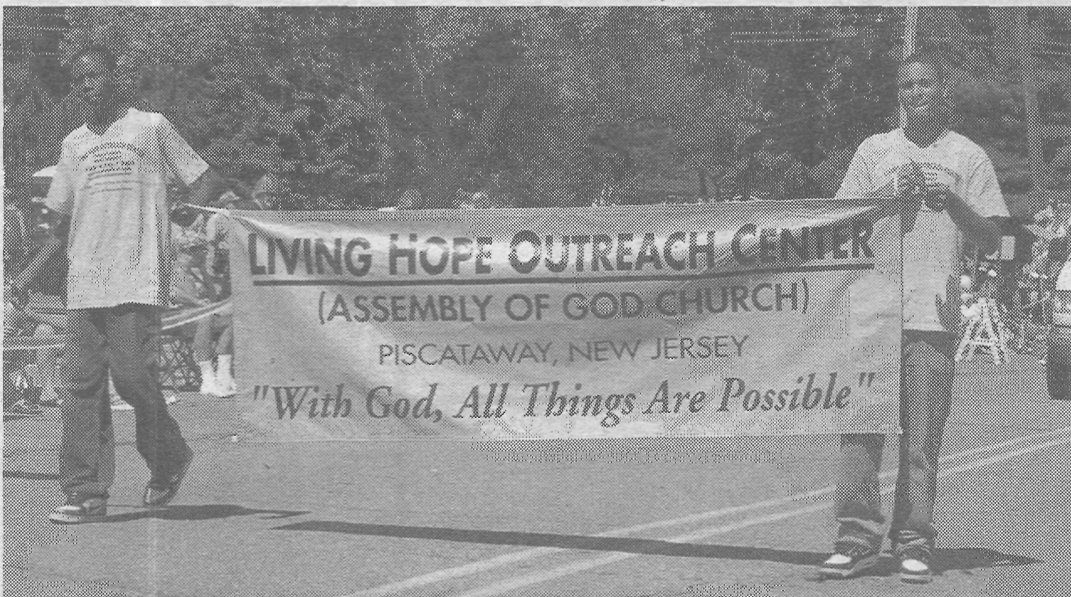
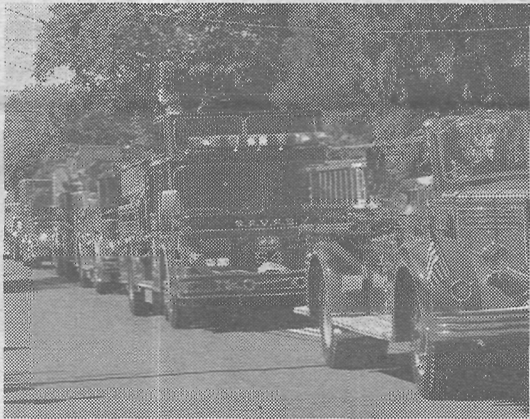
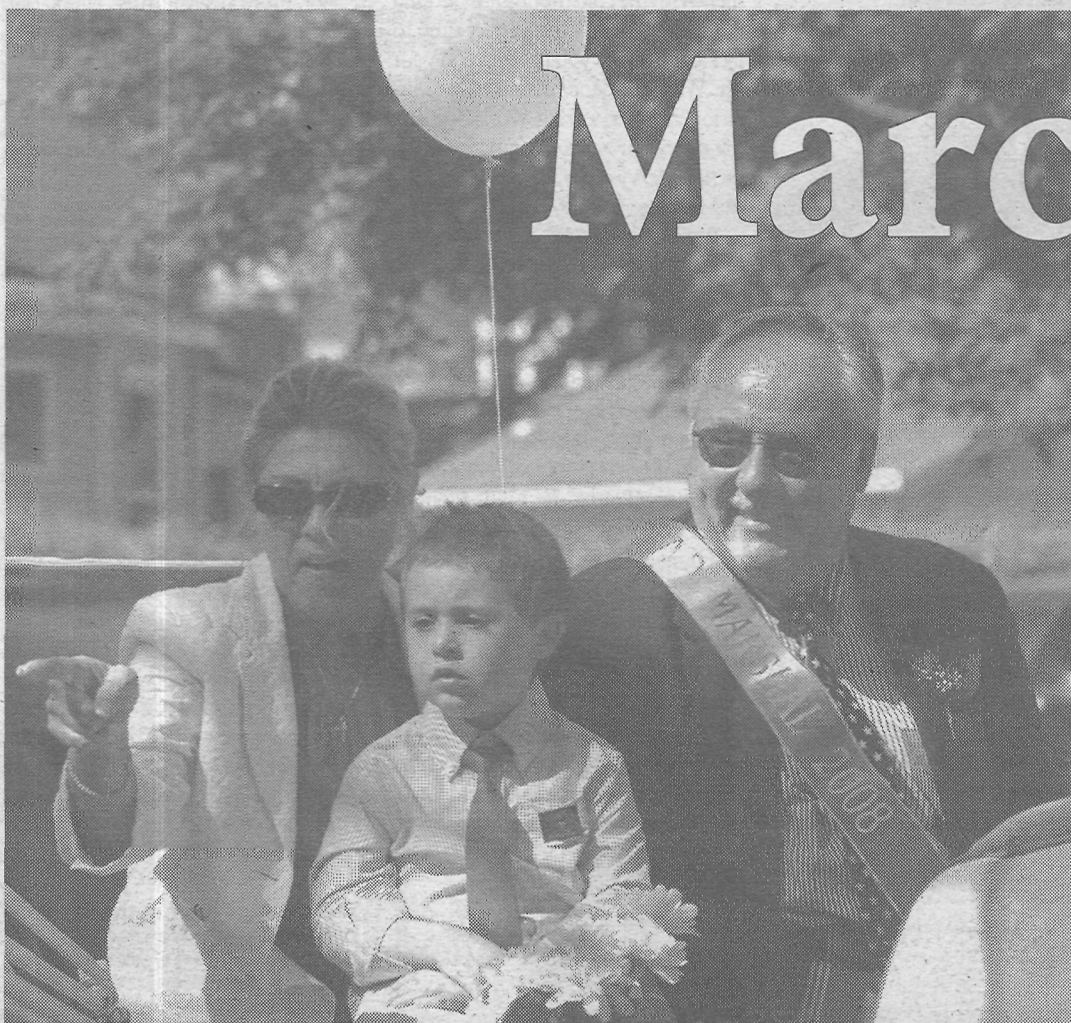
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Borough Celebrates 51st Annual Labor Day Parade

Time

Marches

On...



Borough of South Plainfield Public Celebrations Committee
51th Annual Labor Day Parade

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HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL TROPHY

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SACRED HEART SCHOOL

JUDGES' TROPHY

Best overall entry as determined by judges
CEDARCROFT BIBLE CHAPEL

GEORGE W. L. PAGE TROPHY

Given to the best civic entry
SOUTH PLAINFIELD KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

MOST OUTSTANDING FLOAT

Best Overall
SOUTH PLAINFIELD TIGER SHARKS

BEST YOUTH ENTRY

SOUTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS

BEST THEME RELATED ENTRY
OLD TIMERS MOTORCYCLE CLUB

MOST PATRIOTIC ENTRY
SOUTH PLAINFIELD CUB SCOUTS

MOST OUTSTANDING VISITING ENTRY

Awarded to the best appearing entry from out of South Plainfield.
LIVING HOPE OUTREACH CENTER

BEST ANTIQUE VEHICLE

Awarded to the best appearing antique vehicle entry of any kind entered as a separate unit.
CAR-NUTZ CLUB

MARIE D. PAGE TROPHY

Awarded to the best overall marching entry
SOUTH PLAINFIELD FOOTBALL EAGLES & CHEERLEADERS



ELECTION 2008

Democrats Buteas and Salerno Pledge "No Tax Increase Next Year"

As the 2008 council campaign begins Democrats Chrissy Buteas and Franky Salerno addressed property taxes which is always a top priority to South Plainfield residents. Chrissy Buteas stated the Democrats position: "If you elect Franky Salerno and me to the borough council there will be no tax increase next year. *No maybe, no perhaps, no tax increase.* South Plainfield is a middle class town. Our residents work hard to pay the bills and make a good life for their families. The Republican Majority has done a lot of damage in seven short months of control but nothing is more outrageous than their 15 point tax increase. The Republicans raised your municipal taxes by more in seven months than the prior seven years of Democratic control combined. To make matters worse they recently disclosed that they plan on raising taxes by four more tax points in January. Republican councilmembers Bengivenga and Anesh actually boasted in last week's paper that they want to continue their new programs of "change" for three more years if they are elected. Well if you multiply 3 times 15 that equals a 45 point tax increase for the home owners of our borough. The average homeowner in South Plainfield would pay over \$1,000 more for just the local portion of their taxes. That's in addition to the Board of Education and county portion. That's the type of "change" we don't need."

Franky Salerno expanded upon his running mates comments: "Since I joined the service af-

ter high school I got a little late start on saving to buy a home. I can see how tough it is on my parents to pay the bills on our modest Geary Park home. Utility bills are going through the roof and everything is more expensive. We must keep property taxes under control. \$100 per month could very well be the difference between young people like me being able to afford to buy a home. I'm an electrician. I don't get a big bonus like those folks that work for Wall Street firms. My parents don't have the kind of income to give me the down payment on a home. I can relate to how tough it is on the hard working families of South Plainfield. Our opponents actually brag that this year's tax increase was only a few hundred dollars. At one point they said it wasn't much different than going out to a movie and dinner. Talk about being out of touch! This financial mess didn't happen by mistake. Councilmembers Bengivenga, and Anesh have simply spent our tax dollars without thinking of the bottom line. Of course it's hard to keep spending under control but I can assure you Chrissy Buteas and Franky Salerno working alongside Mayor Butrico and Councilmembers Petronko and Scudato will return South Plainfield to financial sanity. Remember on election day.....Buteas + Salerno = No Tax Increase."

Opinions expressed here are those of the organizations submitting them. They are not edited, are printed in their entirety and do not necessarily attest to their accuracy.

**Mark Your Calendars....
Borough Council Candidates Debate
Oct. 1 at 7:30 p.m. Senior Center**

Anesh & Bengivenga: "Eight Months Of Progress, But Lots of Work Left"

While pointing to solid progress in the eight months Republicans have been in the majority, Councilmen Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga still know there's lots of work to do. That's why the two are asking voters to give them a second term and the chance to keep change going in South Plainfield.

"In the last eight months, lots has happened," said Bengivenga. "We've been working hard to dig us out of the fiscal mess we were handed by the Democrats, and we've made great progress in starting low-cost projects that make a better South Plainfield."

Anesh agreed. "We've got some great results to show. Borrowing is down by two-thirds, and we've cut so far by \$700,000. But there's still more to do. I'd like to see us reduce spending even more before we adopt the budget."

According to Bengivenga, the council has made some wise choices for public-works projects. "All our projects have come in under budget, and most are funded with money from grants," he said. "That's why we're able to cut back so far on borrowing."

"The Metuchen Road extension tops the list of accomplishments," said Anesh. "The project was approved at a council meeting on a Monday and then finished by the next week. By using our public works crew to do the work we saved thousands of dollars, and more importantly, we now have an alternate route that takes a couple hundred cars a day off Oak Tree Road."

Anesh and Bengivenga are also pleased with the revitalization of Cotton Street Park. For years the park would flood and residents complained that it was barely usable for weeks after a solid rain. "We were able to arrange for a local contractor to do-

nate topsoil, we re-graded the entire park, and we added new storm sewers," said Bengivenga.

"Now that the weather's cooler, we'll be re-seeding the park," Anesh added. "The neighborhood tells us the change is remarkable."

Other projects in the works include installing handicapped ramps near several schools, resurfacing Tompkins Avenue, and resurfacing South Plainfield Avenue. All three of these projects are funded by grants, and according to Bengivenga, have come in well under budget. Unfortunately, the Democrats have opposed all these projects—even though they were being financed by the state.

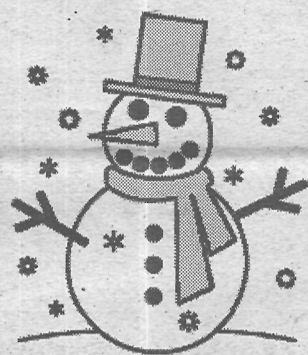
Other changes are also in the works. What's most exciting according to Anesh are the changes at Borough Hall: "We've appointed some top-flight people from town to fill key posts, and we've been able to cut back administrative costs by more than \$100,000."

Bengivenga expanded on these thoughts: "We made sure to hire the best people, regardless of party affiliation. For example, we just hired Joann Graf, a former Democratic Council President, as our Borough Clerk. And we hired Glenn Cullen as our administrator. Both were raised in South Plainfield and are Democrats. But that didn't matter. We wanted the best people, not simply the best people from our party."

"These are the kinds of changes that are putting South Plainfield back on the right track, and they are the kind of changes we'd like to continue for our town," added Anesh. "We hope voters will keep change going in November."

To find out more about Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga, visit the new Republican Web site at www.spgop.com.

Opinions expressed here are those of the organizations submitting them. They are not edited, are printed in their entirety and do not necessarily attest to their accuracy.



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Residents to Receive Special Needs Registry Form in Mail

Residents of South Plainfield should have received a Special Delivery Needs Registry Form in the mail. This form was sent to the residents from the South Plainfield Office of Emergency Management, in partnership with the New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management.

The Special Needs Registry will be used to establish a confidential program designed to assist people with special needs who may find it difficult to get to safety in the event of an emergency.

The form will be sent to every homeowner and renter in South Plainfield and every effort will be made to ensure confidentiality of information.

In order for this program to be

effective during floods, storms, hurricanes, and common emergencies, it will be necessary to receive the information forms as soon as possible.

All forms are to be sent to the South Plainfield Office of Emergency Management to the attention of Michael Zushma, coordinator.

All inquiries are to be directed to the South Plainfield Office of Emergency Management at (908) 753-3775.

Cooperation by all residents is greatly appreciated in order that all persons with special needs get the proper assistance necessary during a crisis or emergency.

If you do not receive this form by September 22 please call the South Plainfield Office of Emergency Management.

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Breakfast Menu Being Offered Students

By Libby Barsky

"Eat your breakfast!" will be heard soon in many households as students head back to school.

Starting each day eating a nutritious breakfast is essential because it helps students to be alert and awake in the classroom, dieticians say. For a variety of reasons many students come to school without eating breakfast.

This school year, students will have the opportunity to eat breakfast in school. The district will offer a breakfast menu to students in the Middle School, Grant School and all four elementary schools.

It will be the first time since Sodexho began providing food service to the district that they will also serve breakfast.

The School Breakfast Program is a Federal program through the United States Department of Agriculture's

Food and Nutrition Service that provides cash assistance to states to operate non-profit breakfast programs. State education agencies administer the program. The district has been providing free and reduced lunches to students.

"The new breakfast program is being instituted by the state [Department of Education] based on the number of students who are in the free and reduced lunch program. If that number is up to 10 percent of the student enrollment, the state provides the funding," said Board Secretary Richard Guarini.

The price for breakfast will be \$1.25 and the reduced price will be \$.30.

The lunch prices remain the same as last year, with Type A student lunches in the high school costing \$2.25, Middle School \$2, Grant School \$2, Elementary School \$1.85, Adult Lunch \$2.75 and reduced lunch \$.40.

"The new breakfast program will be available for all students," said Grant School Principal Whalen.

"Each school is handling the distribution of the breakfast in its own way," said Whalen. "For us at Grant, it'll be a 'Grab n' Go' where the kids will go in and then take it to their homerooms and eat it there. It really doesn't take that long to eat breakfast."

At the June public meeting the Board of Education approved a food service management agreement for 2008/2009 with Sodexho School Services for operation and management of the food service program at a cost of \$111,000 with \$58,500 for administrative allowance and a \$52,500 management fee. The fee includes the cost for the breakfast program. The agreement calls for Sodexho to invest up to \$68,400 for the purchase of an electronic point-of-sale system and an additional \$5,600 for marketing.

Variance Sought for Teeple Place Duplexes

Developer Lorinda Builders has made application to the Zoning Board of Adjustment to build six, two-family homes on a triangular 2.9 acre lot on Teeple Place. The property is designed as a cul de sac off Teeple Place with the base of the triangle backing onto the property of the Lehigh Railroad. The homes are arranged with four duplexes on one side of the cul de sac and two duplexes and a detention basin area on the other side. This arrangement calls for the homes to be individually owned and the grounds to be held in common. Because of the triangular shape, the application is for a bulk variance because four of the lots do not conform to the Borough's code for a residential zone of 100 sq. ft. by 100 sq. ft. lots.

All 12 units will have two floors, with 1,600 square feet of living space on the first floor, with a large combination living/dining room and kitchen in back, three bedrooms, 1½ bathrooms, a garage and an unfinished basement.

A detention basin is planned adjacent to the Lehigh railroad tracks. Approval for the installation of a drainage pipe to relieve the collected storm

water in the basin to empty on land privately held by the railroad has not yet been approved by railroad management according to Planner/Engineer James DeMuro, who has contacted the railroad for their authorization. Although the builder's design allows for two parking spaces for each of the 12 units, residents currently living on Teeple Place find the subdivision plans lacking in parking space for future residents. Currently there is a "no parking" sign on one side of Teeple Place and residents have received tickets when their cars were parked there.

The case has come before the Board twice when only five voting members were present. Attorney Bob Smith requested the matter be carried to October 9 when all voting members would be in attendance.

In other business, the Board unanimously approved the application of Tara Diegnan to demolish the existing home at 111 Front Street in the area designated as the Borough's historic area and replace it with a two-

family home, 40 sq. ft. by 29 sq. ft., with a setback of 25 feet from the road. The new building would have two floors with two bathrooms; three rooms on the upper floor. The smaller room [den] would have no doors or closets. In order to preserve an existing tree, there would be no garage, but a driveway for two cars.

The application of Garrett Cassio to erect a front porch, and of Joseph Lemmo to use his business site on Carnegie Street to park trucks, was also approved at the August 28 meeting.

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

August 27, 2008

Public notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on August 26, 2008.

A. Case #05-06/S-455 Highland Avenue, LLC. Block 311; Lot 15. The applicant's request for a waiver, and minor sub division approval was GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

B. Case #714-Daveco Industrial, LLC. Block 524; Lot 4.01; Durham and Bushwick Avenues. The applicant's request for a waiver and minor site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary/Planning Board

\$26.60 September 5, 2008

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

August 29, 2008

Public notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on August 29, 2008.

A. Case #20-08-Dana Ricciardi. Block 266; Lot 18; 126 Lincoln Avenue. The applicant's request for a lot coverage and a front yard setback variance in order to erect an above ground pool was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary/Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$22.80 September 5, 2008

Obituaries

George H. Popik, 83

George H. Popik, husband and father, died on Friday, Aug. 29 at home, surrounded by his family after a long illness.

George was married to Virginia Voorhees Popik for 60 years. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He was a mechanical engineer, avid golfer, artist and naturalist.

George studied at Cornell University graduating in 1947 with a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering. As a student, he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.

George was a member of the West Nine Men's League at the West Nine Golf Course, Plainfield Country Club, where he was president emeritus for 10 ten years and where he enjoyed playing golf for more than 20 years. He was a caddy at Plainfield Country Club in his youth. He belonged to the Cornell Alumni Association and was a member of Sacred Heart Parish.

George was recognized for his leadership, his wit, his art and his love of family.

He was predeceased by his parents, Michael and Anne Popik and a brother and sister, Michael and Mary.

George is survived by his wife, Virginia of South Plainfield; three daughters, Linda Erickson of Greensboro, N.C., Lecann Lavin of Atlantic Highlands and New York City and Sharon Watkinson of Flemington; a son, James Popik of Hopewell Township; a son-in-law, William H. Lavin; a daughter-in-law, Donna Popik; six grandchildren, Lauren and Marissa Erickson, Kevin and Garrett Watkinson and Tara and Erin Popik; siblings

Charles Popik of Cranford, Harry Popik of Watchung and Anne Wanca of South Plainfield.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to www.firsttee.org.

Joseph J. Sacco, 80

Joseph J. Sacco, Sr. of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (formerly of Hopatcong) died Thursday, Aug. 28 at Vitas Healthcare, Lauderdale Lakes, Fla.

Born in Jersey City, he lived in Hopatcong before moving to Fort Lauderdale 15 years ago.

He was a technical writer for Sperry Univac in Dayton. before retiring in 1992.

A WWII Army veteran, he was a N.Y.U. graduate who enjoyed golfing.

Joseph was the beloved husband of the late Julia E. (Moeller); devoted father of Joseph J. Jr. and wife Daniella of Hopatcong, Lynn Donnelly of South Plainfield and Debra Dearborn and husband Richard of Valrico, Fla.; brother of Stephen of Orlando, Fla.; grandfather of six grandchildren, and dear companion of Katherine Curreri of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Arrangements were by Leber-Lakeside Funeral Home in Landing. Internment was at Locust Hill Cemetery in Dover.

Memorial donations in his memory may be made to a charity of a person's choice.

For further information and to offer online condolences please visit Leber-Lakeside's Internet address at www.leberlakeside.com

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AFP Haunted Woods Halloween Tour Auditions

Almost Famous Players will hold registration/auditions for the 2008 Putnam Park Haunted Woods Halloween tour on Friday, Sept. 5 and Thursday and Friday, Sept. 11 and 12 at the PAL starting at 5:30 p.m.

There are fewer speaking roles this year, but a lot more scary scenes for people to perform to terrify the audience. Auditions are not necessary. Those interested can have parents fill out the forms on these dates. However, if you want to audition, come prepared to show off your screams, howls, maniacal laughter and anything else you can do to scare people.

Registration fee is \$20, and a \$20 deposit check will be required. The deposit will be returned when costume and props are returned and clean up duty is fulfilled. Parents are required to assist on two evenings. Show dates are October 24, 25, 26, 31 and November 1.

You can call (908) 346-2290 to set a specific time if you prefer. If you want to participate, but cannot attend the above dates, please call to set up registration.

Support the Sisters of Mercy at Golf Classic

The 14th Annual Sisters of Mercy Golf Classic, will take place at the Navesink Country Club in Middletown on Thursday, Sept. 11. This 18-hole private course, designed by Hal C. Purdy and opened in 1963, is a soft spike course.

Sisters of Mercy have touched many lives during the past century and continue to do so in non-traditional ways, but as the community ages, the sisters are more and more in need of our help and support.

So gather your golfing buddies, grab those clubs and come to the Navesink Country Club for a day of great golfing on the banks of the Navesink River in Monmouth County. Registration starts at 11 a.m. with a luncheon following. A shotgun start begins at 1 p.m. Hole-in-one prizes at designated holes include a 2008 Nissan Altima courtesy of North

Plainfield Nissan and four 2009 reserved season tickets to see the Lakewood BlueClaws, a minor league team at the Jersey Shore.

A dinner reception and award presentations are slated to begin at 6 p.m. A silent auction will also be part of the evening's festivities with many exciting prizes and gifts such as complimentary tickets to the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, Two River Theatre Company in Red Bank, and the State Theatre in New Brunswick. Also in the auction are a golf bag, golf balls and four rounds of golf at Pebble Creek in East Colts Neck as well as gift certificates to a number of excellent restaurants such as Bahr's Landing, McLoone's and Dublin House, to name a few.

Noted sports artist James Fiorentino, renowned for his ability to create fantastic likenesses of sports fig-

ures in action, will be on hand during the evening. Several of his limited edition lithographs and giclées will be in the auction including Mickey Mantle-Life of a Legend, Yogi, Yankee Stadium-A Night in the Bronx, Cal Ripken, Jr. "2131" with Lou Gehrig, Funnycide and many more.

The golf classic individual fee is \$350 with a foursome paying \$1,400. All golfers will receive gift packs and both the luncheon and dinner receptions are included in the fees. A variety of sponsorships are available from \$200 to \$3,000. Non-golfers may also join in the fun of the silent auction and dinner for \$75.

All proceeds benefit retired and infirmed Sisters of Mercy, many of whom are at McAuley Hall in Watchung. These women gave thousands of hours of service to the communities and people of New Jersey. Sisters of Mercy still teach at Red Bank Catholic High School, St. Ann's in Keansburg, Holy Cross in Rumson, St. Joseph's in Keyport, Mount Saint Mary's in Watchung and Georgian Court University in Lakewood.

If you are interested in participating in this event or would like to make a donation, you may contact Linda Cavallo at (908) 756-0994, ext. 4006, fax her at (908) 0754-0164 or E-mail lcavallo@newjerseymercy.org.

policereport

- On Aug. 26 a Van Fleet Avenue resident reported that the rear window of their vehicle had been smashed.
- An E. Golf Avenue resident reported that \$60 in cash and change, a Mega Million lottery ticket, a Swiss army knife and headphones were removed from their unlocked vehicle.
- On Aug. 28 Miguel A. Lopez, 27, of Plainfield was arrested for hindering apprehension and no drivers license.
- An Edgar Avenue resident reported the theft of an unlocked bike from the rear of the yard.
- On Aug. 29 Alexander J. Giambra, 38, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated.
- J.T.'s Tire Service on West Street reported the theft of 400 gallons of diesel fuel from their trucks.
- On Aug. 30 Flavio L. Uguna-Tamay, 25, of East Windsor was arrested for driving while intoxicated.
- A Tooz Place resident reported the theft of a BMX bike worth \$339 from their garage.
- On Sept. 1 a Trinity Street resident reported that the tires on their three vehicles had been punctured.

Aerobics Courses at Recreation

Aerobics courses offered Mon., Wed., Fri. 9-10 a.m. for \$35. An intermediate aerobics course is offered Tues. and Thurs. 9-10 a.m. for \$35. Register at the PAL on Maple Ave.

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Motorcycle Club/Moretti Realty to Run for the Children

Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc. in cooperation with The Old Timers Motorcycle Club and Moretti Realty, will hold the third annual "Run for the Children" on Sunday, Oct. 5 (rain date Sunday, Oct. 12) beginning with sign-in from 9:30-11 a.m. Cost is \$20 per rider, \$10 per passenger. Also open to non-riders and the public for \$10 per person. Food donated by Roma Foods and Freihofer's, with music provided by Mirage. Raffle tickets are also being sold at a cost of \$5 each for the chance to win a 50cc motor scooter

that averages 60 mpg.

This year will also feature a car show. To register in advance, call Ron Fusco at (908) 482-0008, or register at the PAL field at noon. Cost is \$20 per car; \$10 per guest. The registration fee includes food and refreshments.

If interested in riding or attending the after-ride festivities, contact Rich D'Urso at (732) 406-2826 (ofthebear@aol.com), Greg Rhein at (908) 405-7753 (congoman63@yahoo.com) or Guy Moretti at (908) 755-5300 (morettig@morettiirealty.com).



Sacred Heart School Varsity Cheerleaders

SHS Varsity Cheerleaders Gear Up for New Season

Despite the summer heat, the Sacred Heart School varsity cheerleaders are hard at work preparing for the upcoming season. From July 28 through 31 the squad spent four days at the Rutgers University Livingston Campus at a camp run by the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA).

Being the youngest team there did not stop the girls from performing many difficulty skills and near-flawless routines. The 15 members of the Sacred Heart squad learned many cheers, chants and dance routines to use throughout the 2008-2009 cheer-

leading season.

The girls earned many awards during their four days with NCA, including a bid to Nationals in Dallas, Texas, two Spirit Sticks and a Game Day Top Team trophy.

Individuals were recognized for outstanding performances while at camp. Six members of the Sacred Heart squad were afforded the opportunity to tryout for the NCA All-American team that travels and performs at notable events such as the Christmas Parade in Walt Disney World, the Orange Bowl in Miami, Fla. or the Luau Bowl in Maui, Hawaii. These girls were Rose Bach, Jenna Bengivenga, Laura Boyce, Stephanie Kearney, Jacqueline Stener-

sen and Aryanna Torres-Lewis. Jacqueline was awarded a spot on the team.

Stephanie Kearney was given the Leadership Award, having demonstrated her ability to guide the team to the level at which they performed.

"I am so impressed with how hard the girls worked at camp this summer," says Kristen DiGregorio, head coach. "They really came together as a team and showed everyone around that they deserved to be counted in with the high schools that were present. I expect great things from them this season."

The Sacred Heart School varsity cheerleaders kicked off their season by marching in the South Plainfield Labor Day Parade on Monday.

Diocese to Host Symposium On Conscience and Voting

The Diocese of Metuchen will host a symposium, "The Catholic Voter: Forming Conscience and Forming Society," on Tuesday, Sept. 16, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Bakita Hall at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center.

The symposium will examine the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' document, "Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility" from the Catholic Bishops of the United States; the role of Catholics in the public square; and how to form and exercise one's conscience.

Featured speakers at the event will be Joan Rosenhauer, associate director of the USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, and Father John Fell, moral theologian and pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bernardville.

Rosenhauer will discuss the USCCB's document, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship." Issued quadrennially, Faithful Citizenship is the USCCB's guide that encourages Catholics to use the values of their faith when they participate in the political sphere. The document addresses the role of conscience in making sound

moral judgments as well as four key issues: human life, family life, social justice and global solidarity.

Father Fell will speak about the formation and exercise of conscience. Following their presentations, attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions of the speakers.

Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski emphasized that the symposium will be non-partisan and will not tell Catholics how to cast their ballots.

The symposium is sponsored by *The Catholic Spirit*, the weekly newspaper of the Diocese of Metuchen, and the Offices of Family Life, Respect for Life and Catechesis.

The public is invited to attend this free symposium. To pre-register call (732) 562-2424 or E-mail news@ catholicspirit.com. For directions, visit www.diometuchen.org.

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Largest Coin Show at the Jersey Shore

The largest coin show at the Jersey Shore will take place on Saturday, Sept. 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Laurelton Fire House in Brick.

Thirty tables of dealers will be available for buying, selling and/or trading coins, paper money, medals and tokens.

A table for juniors will be available for them to sign-up for a treasure hunt in the firehouse of which they will receive free collectible coins

and foreign paper money to either add or begin a collection. There will also be a number of hand-outs, and door prizes and wooden nickels will be distributed. Admission and parking is free and refreshments are available.

The firehouse is located in Brick on Route 88 West, one block from the Laurelton Intersection.

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