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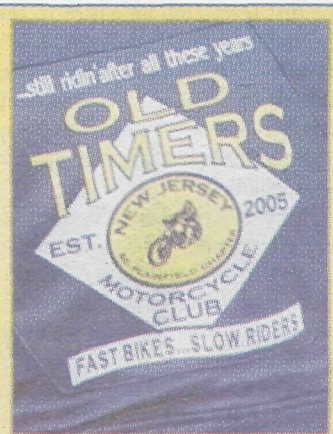
South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 12, NO. 6

MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

50 CENTS

OCTOBER 3, 2008



Motorcycle Run to Benefit Kids

Old Timers Motorcycle Club partners with Moretti Realty for the Third Annual Run for the Children this Sunday, Oct. 5. Sign in at the PAL beginning at 9:30 a.m. Call (732) 406-2826 or (908) 755-5300 for more information.

Cultural Arts: 25 Years in Review

South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission Celebrates a Quarter Century Birthday

Celebrating 25 Years

SOUTH PLAINFIELD Cultural Arts Commission

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission (SPCAC) celebrated its 25th Anniversary on September 20 along with 200 special invited guests by doing what they have done for 25 years, showing that cultural arts are alive and well in South Plainfield.

The celebration mixed music with comedy and dance, and featured performances by singer Karen Egert accompanied by Rich Eisenstein; three ballroom dances performed by Martha (Marty) Papa with partners Sergei and Max; Indian dancing by Suma Akella and Tanya Joshi; singer Barbra Lynne Lawson and comedian and ventriloquist Phil Hughes.

Mayor Charles Butrico presented a proclamation to members of the commission from the council commending the Cultural Arts Commission on 25 years of bringing cultural arts to South Plainfield. The members

of the Cultural Arts Commission presented plaques to Gordon Fladger (posthumous recognition), John Graf and Joann Graf. While serving on the Borough Council in 1983, Joann asked then Mayor Michael English to appoint a committee whose responsibility would be to develop and coordinate a cultural arts commission in South Plainfield. Thus was born the Cultural Arts Commission and John Graf was its first chairperson.

The 25th silver anniversary celebration was dedicated to Gordon Fladger, one of the original members, as well as a former chairperson of the Cultural Arts Commission. Gordon passed (Continued on page 6)



The Cultural Arts Commission anniversary celebration included the performance of a Bharat Natyam dance. See page 6 for more photos.



Mayor Charles Butrico presents Bob Bengivenga, president of The Plainfields Chapter of UNICO, with a proclamation declaring October Italian and Italian-American Heritage Culture Month. UNICO will hold Columbus Day ceremonies at Borough Hall on Monday, Oct. 13 at 9 a.m. The public is invited.

Fifth Annual Buddy Walk Saturday

By Patricia Abbott

October is National Down Syndrome Awareness Month. In support of this cause, Buddy Walks will take place throughout the country, as well as internationally.

The walk was originally developed in 1995 by the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) to promote awareness and inclusion for people with Down Syndrome, as well as raise funds for research and education. More than 260 walks will take place across the U.S.

The annual Buddy Walk of South Plainfield-Serving Central New Jersey will be held Saturday, Oct. 4 at Putnam Park on Oak Tree Avenue (opposite Big Lots). The local walk was initiated and organized by resident Michele Both five years ago. It has grown by leaps and bounds over the past four years.

Booth conveyed what inspired her to organize the South Plainfield walk. "I started the walk after we went to

a Buddy Walk in North Jersey when Kyle was eight months old. There was nothing in this area to bring awareness to individuals with Down Syndrome, so I talked to the national coordinator and started the process of getting a walk together. The rest is history!"

Two local support groups will receive funds from the walk, Central NJ Down Syndrome Advocacy Group and Network 21, as well as the NDSS. According to a Buddy Walk fact sheet, "The mile-long walk in which children, young adults, adults with Down Syndrome, family members, friends, healthcare professionals, corporate

teams and members of the community participate." No special training is necessary and everyone is welcome.

Registration at Putnam Park begins at 11:30 a.m. The walk starts at 1 p.m. (rain or shine). When the walk has been completed, registered guests will receive a box lunch. There will be a variety of vendors, face painting, raffles, entertainment and more. Approximately 320 are already pre-registered. Last year the walk raised over \$31,000.

For more information visit www.buddywalkofsouthplainfield.com, E-mail bwofsouthplainfield@hotmail.com or call Both at (908) 531-5100.



Michele Both, South Plainfield resident who established the local Buddy Walk, with children Kyle and Patrick.

PAL to Start Bidding for Turf Field

By Libby Barsky

This was the last summer that grass will grow on the field behind the South Plainfield Police Athletic League (PAL). The installation of an artificial turf field to replace the "very broken down field" has been a goal of Recreation Director Kevin Hughes since he started his position at the PAL.

A grant of \$1.5M from Middlesex County Open Space, Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund last September will provide the funds to install the turf field.

In June \$91,500 of the grant money was used to design, engineer and devel-

op the bid specifications for the project.

At the September 23 Planning Board meeting, Hughes told the board that advertising for bids would begin in October and a contractor will be selected during the first week of November. Hughes expects the turf field to be completed in May 2009.

Hughes said the turf field would be lined 110 x 70 yards for soccer and 100 x 60 yards for field hockey. Plans also include enclosing the field with an eight foot fence and the installation of a playground. There will no lights on the field, nor in the parking lot.

The field will be named The Cady and Conklin Memorial Police Field, in

honor of two police officers, William Cady and Richard Conklin, who were killed in the line of duty.

Board members inquired about the possibility of lead exposure affecting the athletes who play on the field. Hughes explained that older turf fields were manufactured from old tires and other materials, but now the materials used do not contain hazardous materials and the field is approved by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Committee.

"The field is beneficial, and the project is in conformance with our zoning plan in its use of parkland," said planner Len Nebenzahl.

Can't Make a Council Meeting? See it on Comcast Channel 74.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS air on Comcast Channel 74 Mondays, 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
October 6.....	October 14 (Tuesday)
October 20.....	October 27
November 3.....	November 10

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

zoning

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

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.: October 8, November 12,
December 10, January 14, February 11, March 11 and April 1.

Regular Public Meeting, Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.: 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

taxpayers

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.

site plan sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.

October 21, November 18, December 16.

environmental commission

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

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

business

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

traffic safety

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

board of education curriculum/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.

ad hoc alternative truck route committee

Senior Center, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7605
Tuesday, October 20

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South Plainfield Observer

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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 num-
ber.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

In My Opinion

Submit Letters to the Editor:

The *Observer* accepts letters to the editor to be considered for publication. Send your letters to
South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax to 908-
668-8819, or via E mail: spobserver@comcast.net. **Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m.** Letters must be
accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. 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. Submission is a not a guarantee of publication. We do not
accept anonymous letters.

Dear Editor,

Recently, the South Plainfield Elks
#2298 held their annual soccer shoot.
The winners were:

U-8 Boys-Christopher Born, U-8
Girls-Deleaney Born and U-10 Boys-
Jefri Ramos.

U-10 Girls-Katherine Vill; U-12
Boys-Christopher Villacies and U-12
Girls-Nicole Sottiriu.

U-14 Boys-Taylor Born and U-14
Girls-Jessica Bishop.

These children now go on to the
district shoot, which will be held on
October 10 at the soccer club fields.

Thanks to the unwavering support
of Al Vill, we had a terrific turnout.
Thanks to Paul Baldassare, Tony Cel-
antano and Tim Nagel for jumping in
to help (sorry if we missed anyone!)
Thanks also go out to the coaches and
parents from the South Plainfield Soc-
cer Club for coming out; next year
we'll start a little earlier so we can get
done before 9:30 p.m. A special
thanks to all the children who partici-
pated, you are all winners in our eyes!
And thanks to our fellow Elks Debbie
Czech, Tom Brady, Manny Pereira and
District Chairman Pat McDonnell.

**SINCERELY,
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Dear Editor,

I agree with the letter writer in the
September 19 *Observer*. It is shameful
that our troops lack the most basic
supplies, much less the essential mili-
tary equipment needed. I think the
poor choice of the word "outraged"
has clouded a common thread here.
We must hold all levels of our govern-
ment accountable. To not hold offi-
cials to their word is irresponsible.
It was not that parents had to go

out and buy the school supplies, which
they have always done in years past.
It was that as late as Grant School's
locker camp on August 21, parents
were being told that these supplies
would be provided. I believe what
annoyed parents was the mad dash on
the first few nights of school to find
the required items among the left-
overs. Some had returned things when
assured they weren't needed. Addi-
tionally, last year's budget was passed
with the understanding that supplies
were included.

Just as it is the duty of both citizen
and government to support and re-
spect those who serve, it is the duty of
those who serve in government to
keep their word. This is what instills
in our children the sense of honesty
and duty to serve in our armed forces.

JANET MOYERS BOWMER

To the Editor:

Thank you Councilman Anesh for
caring about the safety of the children
in South Plainfield.

Dismissal time along Lake Street is
a nightmare for parents, bus drivers
and more importantly the students.

I noticed a police officer there re-
cently and was told he was there due
to your concern. I am so glad that

(Continued on page 10)

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SCHOOL BOARD Notes

The BOE took the following action at the September 17 meeting.

- A public hearing was held on Policy #5131.8 Substance Abuse-Random Student Substance Testing and passed after a second reading.

- Lt. Seidenburg and lifeguard Destiny Jazikoff were recognition for outstanding community service during the 2008 DARE picnic

- Tenure certificates were presented to Brandon Crosby, Ellen Decker, John Gonzalez, Lisa Heim, Michelle Hottendorf, Cheryl Hughes, Janet Kanaley, Maria Leonardis, Jessica Kriskowski, Jennifer Pascale, Joseph Perry, Paula Rendon, Wendy Su, Jillian Tortora and Roger Vroom III.

- The Board approved the revised curricula for 2008-2009 school year for language arts, grades K-12.

- Resigning are Christopher Burns, high school business education teacher effective September 2 and Franklin School B.S.I. reading specialist long term substitute teacher Amy Leso.

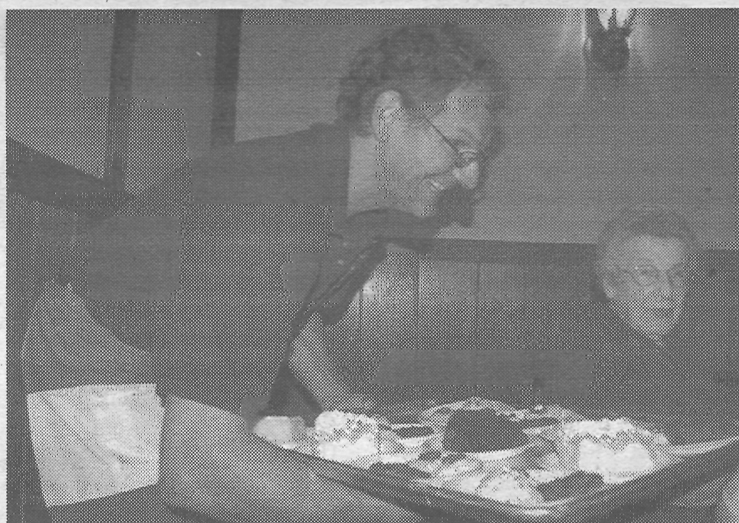
- The following appointments were made: Isabel Clark-Grant School duty aide; American Martial Arts to give martial art lessons at adult and continuing education program; 2008 summer latchkey/kindergarten enrichment staff appointments-Patricia Santillo, Nicole Wrublevski, Gail Bori, Moira Demico, Susan Dezmin, Donna Teller; Donna Helgesen-after school latchkey aide; Lisa Santone-substitute instructional support aide; Kelly Buttrich-high school business education teacher; Christina Ginter-high school special education teacher; John Angeline-high school stage director.

- The Board renewed the contract with Sodexo Management, Inc.

- In-house transportation routes for 2008-2009 were approved.

- Bids were awarded for the removal and installation of eighth grade corridor lockers at the middle school and the replacement of fire alarm panels at the high school.

Thank you to Flanagan's Restaurant and John, Kathy and Sara for their help during Meet the Coaches Night. There were 165 in attendance, the largest number ever. Thank you to Athletic Booster Club President Kurt Ullom for a great job as MC and all the coaches, booster club officers, borough council members and parents who signed up to help in the snack stands.



Bill Butrico serves dessert at the Knights "Don't Cook Friday" dinner.

Knights "Don't Cook Friday" Italian Dinner

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 held their popular "Don't Cook Friday" Italian dinner on September 19. The event is held several times each year, with all proceeds going towards the Knights General Charity Fund.

Once again, the food was delicious, the Italian music set the mood, and the atmosphere was friendly and relaxed.

Helping run this event were the following Knights: maitre'd for this event was Grand Knight Billy Butrico; the kitchen was run by head chef Joe McGeehan with Charlie Butrico, Gerry Butrico and Chris Foulds; servers were Sharon Scrudato and Knights of Columbus Squire members Luke Sprenger, James Butrico, Albert Vill, Brandon Pauls, Joey Skwiat, Austin Jenkin, Kevin Flanagan, Tommy Riccardi and Kevin and Matt Belanger; bartenders were Lenny Kleczkowski and Frank Rainear; selling tickets at the door was Joe Scrudato and his daughter, Rachel; salad and bread prep was run by Steve Belanger, Kevin Keane and Mike Tabachnick; and helping to set up and clean up the hall were Tim Nagel and Joe

Polakowski.

The Knights would like to thank all of the 150 residents who attended the Italian dinner. Without your support this event would not have been as successful as it was.

Please look for more of the Knights "Don't Cook Friday" Italian dinners in the future.

Flu Shots at Senior Center

The Middlesex County Health Department will be offering flu vaccines and pneumococcal immunization to South Plainfield residents who are 18 and older. Shots will be available at the South Plainfield Senior Center on Friday, Oct. 26 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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

be vaccinated.

Pneumococcal immunizations will also be available by appointment only to Middlesex County residents who are 65 years of age and older and have not previously received this vaccine. Medicare will be billed where applicable. Proof of age is required.

For a pneumococcal vaccine appointment call (732) 745-3100 Monday-Friday between 2 and 4 p.m.

For more information, call the senior center at (908) 754-1047.

Why Should You Get a Flu Shot?

Flu is a disease of the breathing passages caused by the influenza virus. The virus is spread through the air and is as contagious as the common cold. It can be spread by anyone who already has the flu, as well as by people who have been exposed but haven't developed symptoms yet. That means you can be exposed and not even know it.

The flu is much more serious than a cold. Symptoms can be severe, including body aches, exhaustion, high fever, respiratory inflammation, congestion, cough and more. For certain people consequences of the flu may be fatal, especially for people over 65,

anyone with a chronic medical condition, and those with an impaired immune system.

In order for the flu shot to be effective, you must get a flu shot every year because each year the flu strains change. The flu shot does not cause the flu—the viruses contained in the shot have been made noninfectious.

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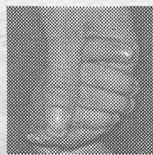
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Around Town

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 more 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. Walk kicks off at 1 p.m. Come join us!

Square/Line Dancing

October 4

Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave., is hosting an evening of square and line dancing on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 8 to 10 p.m. Caller Wayne Applegate will walk you through all the steps; no experience necessary. Tickets are \$5 per person.

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

VFW Country Breakfast

October 5

We're back! The South Plainfield VFW, on Front St., will hold a country breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 5 from 8 to 11 a.m. The public is welcome.

Any questions, call (908) 668-9751.

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 and \$10 per passenger, non-riders and the public. Raffle tickets \$5 each for a chance to win a 50cc motor scooter.

For more information, call (732) 406-2826, (908) 405-7753 or (908) 755-5300.

All-Day Scrapbooking at Wesley Methodist

October 11

Wesley Methodist Church is hosting a Creative Memories Croptoberfest All-Day Scrapbooking Workshop on Saturday, Oct. 11 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fee is \$25 and includes eight hours of cropping time, prizes, snacks, drinks, a pizza and salad lunch and seven break-out learning sessions (optional).

For more information, call Dayel Giammarino at (908) 754-4255.

Tricky Tray at St. Stephen's Church

October 11

St. Stephen's will be hosting a tricky tray event on Saturday, Oct. 11 in the church hall. Doors open at 6 p.m. and calling begins at 7:30 p.m. Super raffle includes a 32" LCD HDTV and BlueRay DVD player and Nintendo Wii. Mystery prizes, door prizes and 50/50 raffle. For tickets or information, call (908) 806-8770.

Blackrose to Perform

October 11

Blackrose, a band performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will perform at Season's Restaurant, located on Rt. 27 in Edison, on Saturday, Oct. 11 at 10 p.m.

Historical Society Monthly Meeting

October 14

The South Plainfield Historical Society will hold their monthly meeting Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. in the history center, located in the Board of Education building (old Roosevelt School.) Parking and entrance on Jackson Avenue.

SPHS 27th Marching Band Festival

October 18

South Plainfield High School is hosting the 27th Annual Marching Band Festival USSBA Competition on Saturday, Oct. 18 beginning at 6 p.m. at Frank R. Jost Memorial Field. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 students/senior citizens. Hot food, refreshments, baked goods and more! Over 12 local high school bands and color guards.

Questions? Call (908) 754-4620.

St. Stephens Oktoberfest

October 18

The 11th annual Oktoberfest will be held at St. Stephens Lutheran Church, 3145 Park Ave. on Saturday, Oct. 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. All-you-can-eat German dinner. Cost is \$11 adults, \$8 seniors, \$5 children 5-12 and children under five are free. Reservations are recommended but walk-ins accepted. Take-out dinners will be available. All proceeds will go to charity.

For reservations or more information, call (908) 757-4474.

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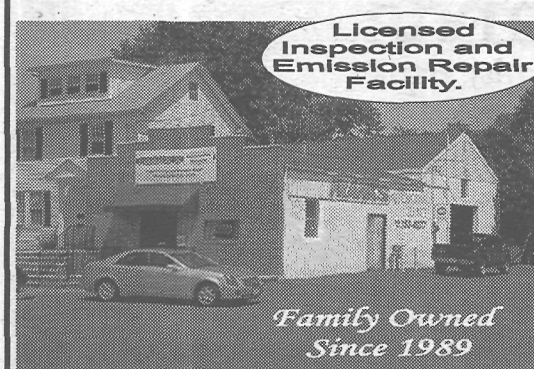
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— Out of Town —

Rummage Sale for Visiting Nurse Programs

October 3

The Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills will host their semi-annual rummage sale at the Far Hills Fairgrounds, on the corner of Route 202 and Peapack Road, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 3 and 4, and 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 5.

For more information, call (908) 766-0180.

Art Exhibit at Barrons Art Center

October 4-31

Works of Art on Paper is an invitational exhibit at the Barron Arts Center, 582 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge, by members and friends of The Edison Arts Society. The exhibit will showcase contemporary works of art that reflect innovative use of the medium, technical excellence and personal vision.

For information, call (732) 634-0413 or (908) 753-2787.

October Fest

October 4

The Plainfield Gesang-und Turn-Verein, Inc. will hold an October Fest on Saturday, Oct. 4 at Singer Hall, 330 Somerset St. in North Plainfield.

This is the first dinner-dance for the fall season. Music will be provided by the Mountain Tops. Donation is \$16 for members and \$18 for non-members.

Call Joan at (908) 647-0819 or Victor at (908) 276-8572.

St. Francis Blessing of the Animals

October 5

St. Francis Church's annual Blessing of the Animals service will be held on Saturday, Oct. 5 at noon on the lawn of the church located at 400 New

Market Ave., Dunellen (weather permitting) or in Milbank Hall (if inclement weather). All pets, caged or leashed, are welcome! Free of charge.

Tricky Tray

October 5

Resurrection of Christ Church, located at 649 Bound Brook Rd. in Dunellen, will hold a tricky tray on Sunday, Oct. 5. Doors open at noon, drawing at 1:30 p.m. Gift certificates, baskets, grand prize, holiday items and more. Donation \$5.

For information, call (732) 873-1731 or (732) 968-1369.

Indoor Octoberfest

October 11

Deutscher Club Of Clark, 787 Featherbed Lane, is holding an indoor Octoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 11 from 5 to 11 p.m. Kitchen opens at 5:30 p.m. German and American food available. Live music from 7 to 11 p.m. Donation is \$6. Free parking.

For more information, call (732) 574-8600.

Edison Arts Society 10th Anniversary

October 11

The Edison Arts Society will present its 10th anniversary season with the Edison Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, Oct. 11 at 8 p.m. at the Middlesex County College Performing Arts Center, 2600 Woodbridge Ave. in Edison. All tickets are \$25.

For tickets and reserved seating, visit www.edisonarts.org.

Allentown Art Guild Art Show/Yard Sale

October 11 & 12

The Allentown Art Guild will hold a two-day fall art show and sale at the Jeff Martin Photography Studio in Allentown on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 11 and 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For information, call 259-0455, or (609) 259-4292.

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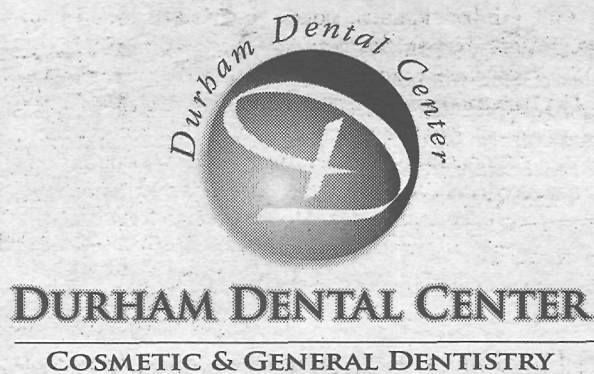
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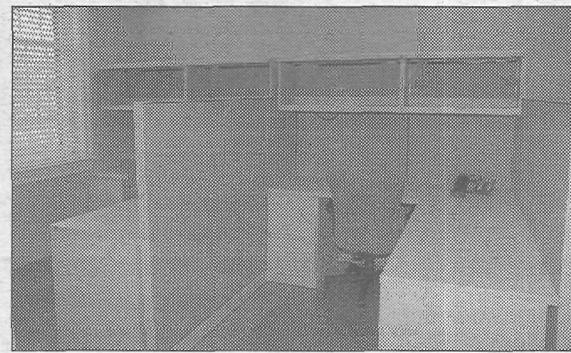
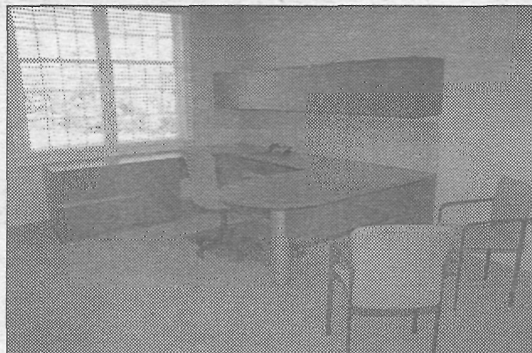
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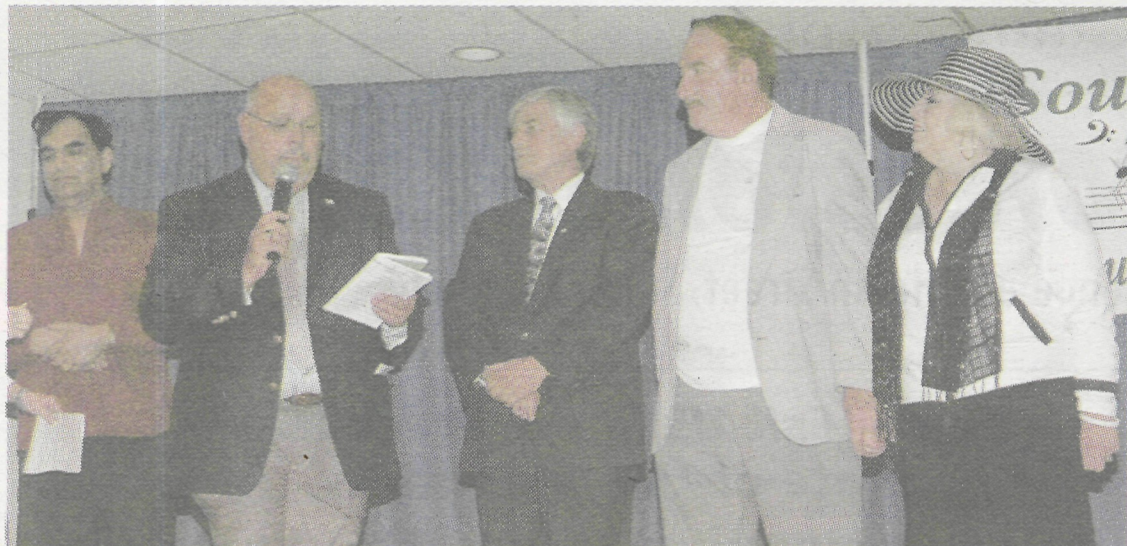
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Cultural Arts Commission Board members David Joshi, Frank Furino, Robert Bengivenga Sr., and Ken and Audrey Reisch.



Martha (Marty) Papa and Max take the stage and perform a cha cha.



Brenda Long-Fladger accepts a plaque on behalf of her husband, who was a past chairperson.

Celebrating 25 Years

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD
Cultural Arts Commission**

Cultural Arts Commission: 25 Years in Review

(Continued from page 1)

away on October 19, 2007. He was a true friend of the arts and volunteered much of his time to the organization.

Past SPCAC chairpersons are: John Graf, Dorothy Bellew, Carol Cuneo, Betty Street, Thomas Guaraci, Anita Lepelstat, Gordon Fladger, Suzanne Lyte, Terence Julian and Nancy Field.

Current SPCAC members are: Chairperson and Treasurer Pamela Stefanek, Vice Chairperson Kenneth Reisch, Commission Secretary Melanie Friedman and members Suzanne Lyte, Frank Furino, Robert Bengivenga Sr., Beverly Krausse, Audrey Reisch and David Joshi.

If you are interested in becoming a member, E-mail spcac@aol.com or call Ken Reisch at (908) 754-2381.



A volunteer from the audience learns how to wear an Indian sari.



Robyn Rusnak interacts with "Simon."



Karen Egert performs.



Barbara Lawson performs.



Frank Furino presents a plaque of appreciation to Joann Graf for her contribution to the commission.

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Bookmarks

From the
South Plainfield Library

By Jaimie Donnelly

The unpleasant economy has been in the headlines for months with many economic articles now listing ways to cut costs in everyday lives. Many of those lists state how to receive a movie night for free—renting from the library! Do you know you can rent classics to the latest movies and DVDs for free at our library? Check out a movie for Friday night and bring it back by Monday morning without any late fees.

With over 1,800 adult, children and non-fiction DVD titles there is a guarantee there is something for everyone. Our latest movie list includes "Iron Man," an action packed movie starring Robert Downey Jr. and Gwyneth Paltrow. If suspense dramas are your taste I suggest checking out Brad Pitt in "The Assassination of Jesse James." If you are a Tina Fey fan, like myself, and love a good laugh I highly recommend checking her out in "Baby Mama." Finally for all the fashionable women we have the "chick-flick" of the year, "Sex and the City."

Our DVD collection is not just limited to movies. We have television series on DVDs from "Bones" to "Dexter." Some of our latest arrivals include "Inspector Lewis," "NCIS" and "CSI Miami." Other titles include the ever popular "Heroes" and "Entourage." If you are stuck at home with an autumn cold they do say laughter is the best medicine so I highly prescribe checking out our four seasons of "The Office."

Lastly, we have all the latest movies and television shows for the children.

What's Going On In My School?

FROM A BUSY MOM

The middle school PTO Joe Corbi cookie dough and pizza fundraiser runs through Monday, Oct. 13. Their next meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 7 in the library. The spirit wear sale and book fair have ended. Thank you to all those parents who chaperoned the Back to School Dance on September 26. Please do not forget to send in your \$25 per child activity fee. This fee and the fundraisers help pay for cultural arts programs like basketball's Harlem Wizard's character education show next month along with Poetry Slam, Battle of the Teams, Battle of the Books, seventh grade picnic and eighth grade dinner dance.

Grant School also needs parents to send in their activity fees to pay for cultural arts programs and other school events throughout the year. The PTO is still looking for officers. If you are interested, leave your name and phone number with the office secretaries and someone will contact you.

The high school senior class will also be having fundraisers for project graduation. Teacher Marla Vandermark is currently holding an Arbonne fundraiser and will be donating a percentage of her profits toward project graduation. Contact her for more information.

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the **ENTERTAINMENT BOOK** for \$25. Call Lou Peralta at 908-756-6406.

Real Estate Questions?

Visit www.MikePfeifer.com

Our list includes "Speed Racer" or the "Sword and the Stone." Our children's collection even includes "Dora the Explorer" and "Wiggles."

The library will be hosting several children and young adult programs in the month of October. On Monday, Oct. 6 at 6:30 p.m., children age six and older can join us for a Halloween craft. Pre-registration for this program is required, as is a \$2 materials fee upon registration. Then on Saturday, Oct. 18 at 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. there will be our annual pumpkin painting program. Please note that you must bring in your own pumpkin to decorate. There is no registration required and decorating materials are free.

Our regularly scheduled children's programs will begin again on Tuesday, Oct. 7. Please check out our Web site, www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us, or stop by the library for the children's program calendar.

Finally, for young adults age 13 and older we have a free Thursday movie night on October 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 6:30 p.m. Movies are scary and silly in theme and will be rated either PG or PG-13. Registration is requested and refreshments will be served.

Council Approves Free Tuition for Firefighters and Medical Volunteers

By Libby Barsky

Free tuition for college will be available for borough firefighters and emergency medical volunteers through the Volunteer Tuition Credit Program established by state law P.L. 1998, c145. There will be no cost to the municipal government.

The Borough Council voted on a resolution on September 22 to adopt the program established to recruit and retain volunteers. The amount of \$2,400 would be available for college over a four-year period with tuition credit of up to \$600 each year over that time period. The resolution also assigns an official the responsibility of maintaining the files and authorizing volunteer participation.

Fire Chief Larry DelNegro will administer the volunteer tuition program. He sees it as basically a reimbursement program. "For every calendar year the fireman can get a \$600 tuition reimbursement for being a volunteer. For every year he signs up for this tuition reimbursement he is basically under contract with the Borough of South Plainfield for four years. Every year you sign up it's four years from that date," DelNegro said.

The tuition credit applies to a vol-

unteer being accepted and enrolled in a county college, county vocational school or county technical institute. The tuition credit can be applied toward courses taken by spouses or dependent children with the provision that the student maintain a "C" average to continue to be eligible for the tuition credit program.

The number of volunteer firefighters is between 50-55 members. Chief DelNegro stated that number recently increased when five volunteers, Christopher Spayder, Ryan Szumski, Robert Barone, Jr., Anthony Simms and Gilbert McKimm, were appointed probationary firefighters for the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department. Four of the five were in the junior fire program held throughout the year.

"The program takes individuals between the ages of 15 and 17 and teaches them about firefighting at weekly meetings on Wednesday nights. They are trained on the same tactics and materials that senior firemen are but because of child labor laws they can't fight a fire. It's pretty extensive training during the year. If they do well during that training they have to take a proficiency test based on how they would perform at a fire. After passing this they can be in the 'Observer Program.' They can go to

the fire and act as an observer and be outside of the fire scene and help out with some of the logistical support we need. But they can't physically put on an air pack and go into the building," said Chief DelNegro.

For those interested in learning more about the junior firemen program, contact, Chief DelNegro at (908) 226-7715.



Halloween Kidcraft At Library Oct. 6

There will be a Halloween "Kidcraft" program on Monday, Oct. 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the public library.

The program is for children ages six and over. Participants will make a Halloween door decoration. Space is limited; pre-registration is required. \$2 materials fee, payable upon registration. To register, call (908) 754-7885. You may also get more information by visiting the library's Web site at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

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ELECTION 2008

Open Space Will Once Again Become a Priority With Buteas and Salerno



Democratic candidates for Borough Council, Chrissy Buteas and Franky Salerno are strong advocates of restoring South Plainfield's commitment to preserving open space from development. Chrissy Buteas stated the Democrats commitment saying: "There are many differences between the Democratic and Republican philosophies. We support 'pay as you go' government, keeping taxes under control and full disclosure. Under Councilmembers Bengivenga and Anesh, taxes have gone up more in seven months than the prior seven years combined, virtually every project has been done with borrowed money and they continue to stonewall Mayor Butrico's ethics plan and divert campaign contributions to a political front group called the coalition. However I can't believe the Republicans have totally ignored open space preservation. For the first time in a decade, South Plainfield has not preserved one inch of open space. I can only presume because of the campaign they have just started the process of asking the county to look at some parcels. Every year of Democratic control open space had already been protected by September. It really is a tragedy that this opportunity has been lost. All 25 towns in Middlesex County compete for the same open space grants. South Plainfield is at the bottom of the list because of the Republicans lack of attention."

Franky Salerno expanded upon his running mates comments: "I have done some research

and discovered that over 200 acres of land were permanently preserved from development when the Democrats were in control. This year is the first time nothing has been done. The property at the corner of Tompkins and Clinton Avenue, the large parcel next to the A&P on Park Avenue, the corner of Oak Tree Avenue which is now part of Putnam Park, the former WERA site on Oak Tree Avenue, the former bus lot on New Market Avenue and last year's 60-plus acre acquisition are just a few examples of what Democratic leadership accomplished. Chrissy and I will make New Market Avenue the top priority for open space preservation next year. We know that it is tough on those residents to deal with the trucks. They should be given the opportunity to sell their homes at fair market value if they so choose. No one is going to force them to sell. We are proposing a plan that unites our town rather than the Bengivenga/Anesh divide and conquer approach. I know that our former hometown Freeholder John Pulomena, who is now the county administrator, and Freeholder Director David Crabel will work with us on this issue. In fact Chrissy and I have met with them and they are very receptive."

Chrissy Buteas summed up the Democrats position saying, "Everything in life is about priorities. Franky and I will work to restore fiscal sanity and ethics to the borough. We will never seek to divide our residents and we are committed to once again make open space a priority in South Plainfield."

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

Anesh & Bengivenga Offer Innovative Plans to Keep Change Going



Councilman Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga are proud of their record. In just eight months, they've gotten more accomplished than anyone expected. But they know that's not enough. They've got to offer a plan for our town and keep the change going.

"Our plan for South Plainfield is straightforward," said Anesh. "We want to get our town back on track financially, make South Plainfield an even better place to raise a family, and revitalize our parks, roads, and neighborhoods."

"We also want to continue to reform the way our town does business and bring back open, honest government," added Bengivenga. "Families in South Plainfield are looking for accountability and results."

Here's Part I of the Anesh-Bengivenga plan:

Continue Cutting Spending and Reducing Borrowing—Over the last five years, spending went up on average 4.9% a year under the Democrats. Despite 3.9% salary increases required by contract, our first budget is flat compared to last year's. But a flat budget's not good enough. Our goal is to bring it in under last year.

In addition, borrowing is down by two-thirds under the new majority. The Democrats borrowed an average of two million dollars a year for the last five years. And they had plans to borrow millions of dollars more. "We've reversed that trend," said Bengivenga.

Expand the "Safe Streets, Safe Kids" Pilot Project—Speeding in neighborhoods is a dangerous problem. "That's why we're testing speed

humps, enhanced road markings, and other ideas to slow cars down," explained Anesh.

"We're also looking at speed tables, speed cushions, flashing speed signs, and other innovative ideas to make the areas around our schools safer." A committee to look into these ideas should be established within the next few weeks.

Continue to Root Out Waste and Abuse—The Democrats wasted millions of our tax dollars. For example, they paid \$1.6 million for three shacks on Hamilton Boulevard because they wanted to put a road over them into a contaminated Superfund site. Even when our attorneys told them we'd face millions of dollars in potential liability by putting the road through, they still kept pushing their risky plan.

"And we can't forget how they sold an open space parcel to one of their campaign contributors for less than fair-market value," added Bengivenga. "We'll make sure these types of abuses don't ever happen again."

Be Honest with Residents—Residents want honesty and accountability, not promises. "Our opponents are promising no tax increase, even though the last time they made this promise they raised taxes a month after the election," explained Anesh. "Then last year they promised a tax cut, even though their budget didn't have the funding for it."

"By contrast, when Republicans realized they inherited a huge deficit and something needed to be done, we were honest about it, even though it was something we weren't happy about."

Keep Open Government Going—Even though the other side fought us, we brought back Democracy Day and reinvented it as Democracy Week. We actually gave residents a voice on whether it was the right time for a new library and whether they were happy with the plans. We'll continue to listen to the public.

These are just some of the ways Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga want to keep change going in South Plainfield. See next week's paper for more of their plan.

To find out more about Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga, to get a lawn sign, or to volunteer for the campaign, 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 we do not attest to their accuracy.

Diocese of Metuchen to Celebrate Annual Blue Mass

Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski will serve as principal celebrant and homilist of the Diocese of Metuchen's seventh annual Blue Mass to be held at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church, Bridgewater, Tuesday, Oct. 7, 10:30 a.m.

The Mass honors all active, retired and deceased law enforcement officials from Somerset, Middlesex, Hunterdon and Warren, the four counties served by the diocese. Federal, state, county and local police, sheriff and corrections departments along with members of the Port Authority Police Department will be participating in the Blue Mass.

"Our law enforcement officers deserve our support and appreciation for keeping our communities for keeping our communities safe. They dedicate their lives to protecting others, and in doing so are called upon to make many sacri-

fices, some even the ultimate sacrifice," Bishop Bootkoski said.

This year during the remembrance of fallen officers at the Mass, Officer Thomas Raji of the Perth Amboy Police Department and Lt. Christopher Zerby of the North Brunswick Police Department will be remembered in a special way.

Following presentations by the Bishop to the Raji and Zerby families, there will be a 21-gun salute and Taps.

After Mass, there will be a flyover by a State

police aircraft as Bishop Bootkoski blesses and reviews the officers. Immediately afterwards a luncheon will be held.

"With bagpipers, color guards, commemorative pins and a special liturgy, our Blue Mass is truly inspiring. We hope officers of all faiths will attend and invite the public to join in honoring those who serve us through law enforcement," Bishop Bootkoski said.

For more information, visit www.diometuchen.org or call (732) 562-2461.

REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS. APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT BOROUGH HALL. DEADLINE IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14.

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Funeral Home Collecting Items For Troops

Franklin Rainear, owner and manager of The South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home, located at 2456 Plainfield Ave., in cooperation with Operation Jersey Cares, a group that helps the troops overseas as well as the returning soldiers and Marines that have been wounded in combat, is collecting donated items for the troops.

"I am excited to say that we have just become a drop-off point for the many items needed for our men and women of the United States Military," said Rainear.

Items needed are (new items only):

- **Food**—Beef jerky/turkey jerky, gum, SlimJims, breath mints, hard candy, snack foods (chips, nuts, etc.), cereal (small boxes), hot chocolate, sugar-free items, cereal bars, instant coffee (non-breakable container), tea bags, coffee, microwaveable foods (non-perishable), trail mix, coffee creamer, powdered drink mix, tuna (canned or packaged), cookies (non-chocolate), protein bars, twizzlers candy, granola bars and pumpkin/sunflower seeds.

- **Toiletries**—Baby powder, foot powder, Stridex cleansing pads, bug repellent wipes, gel facial sunscreen, Chapstick, hand lotion, tissues, conditioner, over-the-counter medications, toilet paper, dental floss, Q-tips, toothbrushes, deodorant (non-aerosol), razors (disposable), toothpaste, disposable baby wipes, saline nasal spray, wash pads, eye moisture drops, shampoo, waterless hand sanitizer, feminine hygiene products, shaving gel (non-aerosol), first aid items and soap.

Volunteers are needed for upcoming events. For more information, please call (908) 725-1264.

Financial contributions to Operation Jersey Cares are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to: VVA Chapter 452 with "Operation Jersey Cares" on the memo line. Mail contribution to: Operation Jersey Cares, 20 West Somerset St., Raritan, N.J. 08869.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

September 24, 2008—Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on September 23, 2008.

A. Case #08-05—Estate of Nancy Pauls, Block 14; Lot 40; 970 Dumas Avenue. The applicant's request for (3) waivers and preliminary major subdivision approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Recording Secretary-Planning Board

\$20.90

October 3, 2008

Sports



Reece Young



Cole Young

Reece and Cole Young Compete in Hockey Jamboree

Reece and Cole Young of South Plainfield competed in the Atlantic District Hockey Jamboree in Wayne the weekend of September 27-28.

Reece led his Squirt Protec Hockey Ducks to a first place championship

finish with 11 personal goals.

Cole led the way with his Mite Protec Hockey Ducks with a third place finish and six personal goals.

Protec Hockey Ponds is located in Somerset on Worlds Fair Drive.

By Gary Lampasona

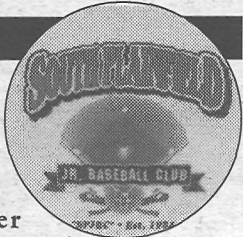
JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

Fall Ball: Fall Ball is well under way, and we are dancing through the rain drops playing baseball. With so much rain, we are in need of good help at the fields to prepare them for play, especially Saturday mornings from 8 to 10 a.m. We play as a team and we need to prepare the fields for play as a team. It cannot be done without your help.

2009 Registration: We are already preparing for the Spring 2009 season and registration is under way. Anyone can register during fall baseball games; just see a board member. We will also have registration at the clubhouse on Friday, Oct. 17 from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can also download the forms directly from our Web site and mail them to: SPJBC, P.O. Box 166, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

October Monthly Meeting: We will hold our general monthly meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 7:30 p.m. Come join us at the clubhouse to find out what's happening in baseball in your town.

For more information, please visit our Web site at www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc.



Traveling Soccer

Hammertime Loses to Flemington, 3-2

Hammertime took on Flemington's Blue Lightning on September 28, playing their most exciting game yet. In the first five minutes Sarah Cargill scored the first goal. Michaela Buttrick assisted by Gabby Cusick scored the second goal of the half. The girls were pumped and ahead by a score of 2-1. Sydni Surowiec made some great saves in goal to hold Flemington off.

Hammertime came out for the second half ready to go, and so did Flemington. They scored their second goal

to tie the game.

Despite the continuing rain, Claire Nagel scored Hammertime's third goal, putting them ahead by a score of 3-2 for most of the game. In the end, Flemington managed to score two more goals and beat Hammertime by a score of 4-3.

The girls showed great effort. They are improving and making great strides.

Their next game is on Sunday, Oct. 5 against Colonia.

Submitted by Sandy Surowiec

Arsenal Beats Bridgewater, 4-2

Last Sunday the boys U-10 traveling soccer team took on the equally matched Cosmos from Bridgewater, on what was a severely drenched field. The team started off strong, even more determined to win after they suffered a loss the week before.

Their passing skills really showed through as they passed the ball down to their goal, giving Ricky Pellegrino the opportunity to score the first goal of the game minutes after it began.

The next three quarters started off just as strong as the first. The teamwork that the players showed really paid off when Jake Hoffman scored the second goal giving Arsenal a 2-0 lead over the Cosmos. Bridgewater came back quickly scoring their first goal almost at halftime.

After a little regrouping and communication amongst the team, newcomer Jason Belanger scored the third goal for Arsenal. With Bridgewater soon scoring again, Arsenal knew they had to protect their lead. Shortly after, Jason Cieszkiewicz scored Arsenal's final goal of the game on a direct kick from the sideline.

These goals would not have been possible without tremendous teamwork from the rest of the players, including Tyler Curtis, Nicholas Plate, Caleb Kuberiet, Jake Giordano, Alec Paez, Jared Marks, Jake Smith, and newcomer Cristian Buttrick.

Coaches Rich Paez, Dave Cieszkiewicz and Greg Hoffman couldn't be more proud of their team for all of their efforts. Come out and show your support when Arsenal faces the Vikings from Scotch Plains/Fanwood on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. away at their Memorial Field. *—Submitted by Chris Paez*

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PUBLIC NOTICE: The City of Your Town will hold a public hearing at 5:15 p.m. Friday at City Hall, 123 Any Street, Your Town, USA, in regard to an application to build a new sewer plant in your backyard. The purpose of this meeting is to give you an opportunity to discuss the sewer plant and its location.

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IN MY OPINION

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

(Continued from page 2)

there is finally someone paying attention to that area and taking action.

JOAN ROCHOTTE

To the Editor:

With all the talk about who the next President of the United States is going to be, let's not forget that we have an equally important decision to make about who is going to lead the Borough of South Plainfield for the next three years.

On one hand, Councilmen Anesh and Bengivenga are running for reelection. They have been the self-proclaimed leaders and driving force behind the largest municipal tax increase our residents have been saddled with in the last 10 years. They are also leaders who feel that the borough doesn't need to preserve any open space, as evidenced by the fact that the borough didn't even bother to submit an application for funding from the Middlesex County Open Space Trust Fund until late in the year. They have removed key employees that were doing excellent jobs and replaced them with other employees at higher paid salaries. In today's tough economic times, we can't afford three more years of Anesh and Bengivenga.

On the other hand, Democrats

Chrissy Buteas and Franky Salerno have a proven record of service and accomplishment. Chrissy has served on numerous boards and agencies in the borough while Franky is an volunteer football coach for our youth. Chrissy led her college field hockey team to an NCAA championship while Franky has served our country as a member of the United States Navy. Both Chrissy and Franky have the experience and desire to serve the borough and they deserve that chance.

On November 4, vote for the Democratic team of Chrissy Buteas and Franky Salerno for Borough Council. We can't afford not to.

ANGIE MANNO

To the Editor:

It is becoming increasingly concerning that the Democratic council candidates continue to give misleading information to our community. Over the past few weeks they placed a misleading full-page ad in this paper about taxes, accused the Republicans of failing to seek out open space, and suggested that we are not interested in reducing energy costs.

Let me clarify a few things. I asked the Democratic candidates three times to please supply me with the tax bills

they used in their ad. They have yet to provide this to me.

The Republican Majority has slashed spending by approximately \$700,000, along with cutting borrowing by two thirds. All this and at the same time completing projects throughout the borough, not just one neighborhood.

As far as open space, they forget that Councilman Bengivenga proposed, and the council passed, a resolution for the county trust fund to buy 26 acres in the Dismal Swamp slated for development. Democratic Candidate Salerno should know about this, because he sits on the Planning Board, which approved the development.

They also forget it was Republicans who first proposed reducing energy costs by looking into solar energy and by reducing borough vehicle use. It was on the front page of this paper!

They also complain about so-called useless projects. Which projects do they mean? The curb restoration project? Revitalizing Cotton Street Park? Handicapped curbs for veterans and families near schools? Or maybe it is speed humps to try to control speeding in the neighborhoods where our kids play?

I'm concerned with their misinformation, and you should be also.

COUNCILMAN RAY RUSNAK

Dear Editor,

I have known council candidates Chrissy Buteas and Franky Salerno for a number of years and know they have the best interests of the people of South Plainfield in mind. They are two energetic people and they care about South Plainfield and the people that live here. They bring a fresh perspective to local government and will work hard for all the residents of South Plainfield. Please join me this year by casting your vote for the Democratic team of Buteas and Salerno.

KAREN GROSS

Dear Editor,

In her letter of September 20 to the *Observer* Kathy Thomas says, "I served as chair of Administration and Finance on the Borough Council." Therefore she and the Democrats deserve the credit and responsibility for the fiscal year budget covering July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. That budget which was not approved until late December 2007 failed to appropriate or reserve \$500,000 for tax appeals and used \$1.8 million of municipal land sale proceeds. You can review the 2007/2008 budget documents and clearly see on page 20a that there were no appropriations or reserves for the tax appeals and on page

10 of General Revenue Sales Contract Receivable most of that amount from land sales. Unfortunately, all the money for the land sales were not received as of December 2007.

Therefore, when the Republican Majority took over in January 2008, they were faced with this shortfall of approximately \$1.2 million with seven months of the fiscal year completed. There were only several options available to cover these deficits—borrow money or increase taxes. The municipality should not borrow money to cover operating budget deficits and the reason you had a tax increase was to cover the deficit. It should be clear to everyone that the 2007/2008 fiscal year budget was the product of the Democratic Majority.

I appreciate Kathy Thomas for having reminded us who was in charge and responsible for the 2007/2008 fiscal year budget.

Council President Rob Bengivenga and Councilman Matt Anesh deserve to be re-elected. They brought integrity and fiscal discipline to the budget process. What we cannot afford is to have budgets that are not developed on a sound fiscal basis.

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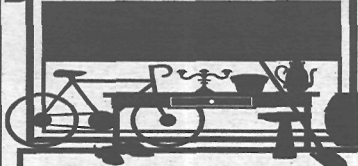
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Obituaries

Joseph Andrew Bazsika, 83

Joseph Andrew Bazsika was born March 21, 1925 to Frank and Mary (Bokor), and departed this life on Saturday, Sept. 27 at the Genesis Elder Care-The Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born in Perth Amboy, he resided there until the late 1950s when he and his wife settled in South Plainfield and have been residents ever since.

A veteran of the United States Army, Mr. Bazsika served during WWII with the 359th Infantry Regiment before being honorably discharged in December 1945.

He ended his professional career at Lockheed Electronics in Watchung. After retirement, he enjoyed talking to people around the world and around the block on his ham radio, call sign N2NVW.

Joseph loved to travel, taking his family on adventures throughout the United States, and when his children caught his wanderlust, he visited them in New Zealand, France, Italy and Hungary where he met people with the same last name.

An avid fisherman, he loved the water and enjoyed many weekends at his shore house with the dock for his boats and tossing out crab nets.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Margaret (Basarab) Bazsika; two daughters, Maryann and husband Bill Mosca of Branchburg

and Margaret of Las Vegas, Nev.; two sons, James of New Zealand and Joseph Jr., of Thailand; two sisters, Matilda Fizer and Elenore Heinig; five grandchildren, Lily, Joseph and Kathryn Mosca and Matthew and Caroline Bazsika and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 400 Morris Ave., Suite 251, Denville, N.J. 07834.

Gloria L. (Fusco) Barras, 78

Gloria Louise (Fusco) Barras died on Wednesday, Aug. 27 in Pompano Beach, Fla.

Born in Plainfield on June 22, 1931, Gloria was a former resident of North Plainfield and a 25-year resident of Toms River prior to settling in Lantana, Fla.

Employed by Wal-Mart in Lantana, Fla. for 10 years, Gloria loved to play bingo and spend time with her family.

She was predeceased by her husband, Earl W. Barras Jr.; a sister, Frances Masacoli, and a brother, Louis Fusco.

Surviving are two sons, Richard Barras of Deerfield Beach, Fla. and Gary D. Barras, Sr. of Clarendon, Ark.; three brothers, Charles, Dominic

and August Fusco and a sister, Virginia Flash, all of New Jersey.

She is also survived by six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, several nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

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

Ruth E. (Lawrence) Apgar, 93

Ruth E. (Lawrence) Apgar died on Friday, Sept. 26 at Manor by the Sea in Ocean Grove.

Born in Plainfield on September 23, 1915, the daughter of John Benjamin Lawrence and Mary Krist DeRemer, Mrs. Apgar had resided in Plainfield and South Plainfield for more than 85 years before settling in Ocean Grove.

Ruth was employed by the former Montgomery Ward Department Store of Plainfield and Menlo Park for 23 years before her retirement in 1971.

She was a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens Council, the South Plainfield Senior Adult Programs Advisory Council, the Advisory Council to the South Plainfield Adult School and a trustee of the Apgar Family Association. Mrs. Apgar was also a former member of the Trinity Reformed Church in North Plainfield.

Her husband, Henry E. Apgar, a former mayor of South Plainfield, died on June 1, 1998.

Her siblings, Goodwin Black, Anna Courtney Schley, Rosella Marsh Barbuty, Ethel Higgins, Russell Lawrence, Charles Lawrence, George Lawrence and Andrew Lawrence also predeceased her.

Surviving are two daughters, Darlene (Jim) Sidie of Collegeville, Pa. and Virginia (Jack) Henry of Neptune City and a son, Henry (Dulcie) Apgar Jr. of Thousand Oaks, Calif.

Also surviving are six grandchildren, Jonathan Sidie, Timothy Sidie, Jennifer Greffen, Kevin Henry, Jane Sommers and Henry Apgar III, as well as three great-grandchildren, Gabrielle

Greffen, Luke Henry and Jack Henry.

Funeral services were under the direction of McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Donations in her memory may be made to Manor by the Sea, 160 Main St., Ocean Grove, N.J. 07756.

Frank Hreshko Sr., 77

Frank Hreshko Sr., long-time business owner of the Piscataway Coin Op, died on Friday, Sept. 26 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville after a long illness.

Born in Frackville, Pa. on February 23, 1931, Frank was the son of the late Sallie Hreshko-Starkey and Michael Hreshko. Frank graduated from Frackville High School in 1948 and enlisted in the U.S. Army for five years during the Korean Conflict, where he attained the rank of corporal and was a member of the All Europe-U.S. Army Championship Softball team. He and his wife, Mary Lou, married on November 26, 1953 and had resided in Piscataway since 1958.

His career started as a service technician at Canada Dry Beverage Company where he was employed for 33 years, from 1956 to his retirement in 1989.

Frank was very active in the Piscataway Chamber of Commerce, and in addition to his career with Canada Dry, he was the owner of the Piscataway Coin Op, one of the community's largest laundry and dry cleaning establishments, from 1970 to 1995 when he sold the business to travel with his wife.

Other community activities include active memberships in American Le-

gion Post #261 and Disabled American Veterans Chapter #7. Frank was also a member of the Piscataway Township Traffic Commission for many years, as he was very committed to all aspects of his community.

A communicant of Our Lady Of Fatima Roman Catholic Church since 1958, Frank was an Ordained Extra Ordinary Eucharistic Minister and past president of the Holy Name Society. He held a seat on the Parish Council Finance Committee where his greatest contribution was developing The Fatima Fair, which continues today to be a source of revenue for the parish. Additionally, Frank was a 4th Degree Member of the Commodore John Barry Chapter of the Knights of Columbus where he was past chairman of The Right To Life Committee, annual Christmas Children's Toy Drive, and Mentally Handicapped Children's Fund Drive and sponsor of the Piscataway Coin-Op Bowling Team.

Frank is survived by his wife, Mary Lou; three children, Frank Hreshko Jr., Mary Lou Huber and Julie Gennies; six grandchildren, Charles Lehmann of Easton, Pa., Mary Beth Lehmann of Whitehall, Pa., Christina Hreshko and Jenna Hreshko of Belle Mead, Stephan Huber and Kevin Huber of Stroudsburg, Pa. and two great-grandchildren, Charles Edward Lehmann III and Alexis Paige Lehmann of Easton, Pa.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be sent to The American Heart Association.

Devil's Island to Offer Frights and Thrills at Haunted Woods Tour

Almost Famous Players is proud to announce their sixth annual Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour Halloween Show. This year's show, "Devil's Island," will take the guides and audience on a search for stolen pirate treasure. The supposedly deserted island is now a contagious disease center research site and has numerous oddities. Keep in mind that the island was cursed by the devil himself hundreds of years ago, so anything can happen. Join the brave tour guides in their journey across the island to claim their ancestor's fortune.

Show dates are October 24, 25, 26, 31 and November 1 (tentatively). Tours begin at 6:30 p.m. and run ev-

ery 25 minutes. Tickets are \$6. This year's show has more scares and a dark theme. Recommended for ages nine and up. Parents should be aware of their children's fear level. No refunds after tour has begun. Reservations are recommended. Birthday party tours are available for groups of 15 and up.

For information, call (908) 756-8011.

Food Donations Sought for Drive

Franklin Rainear, manager and local owner of South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home, is asking for community support for a food drive covering all of Middlesex County. The items that he receives will be donated to the St. Vincent DePaul Society, Sacred Heart Church. The drop off location is the funeral home, 2456 Plainfield Ave. Food can be dropped off 24/7 in the flower room.

Please donate food items that do not require refrigeration.

We at the South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home are working with the community to help those in need and will continue our efforts to do so.

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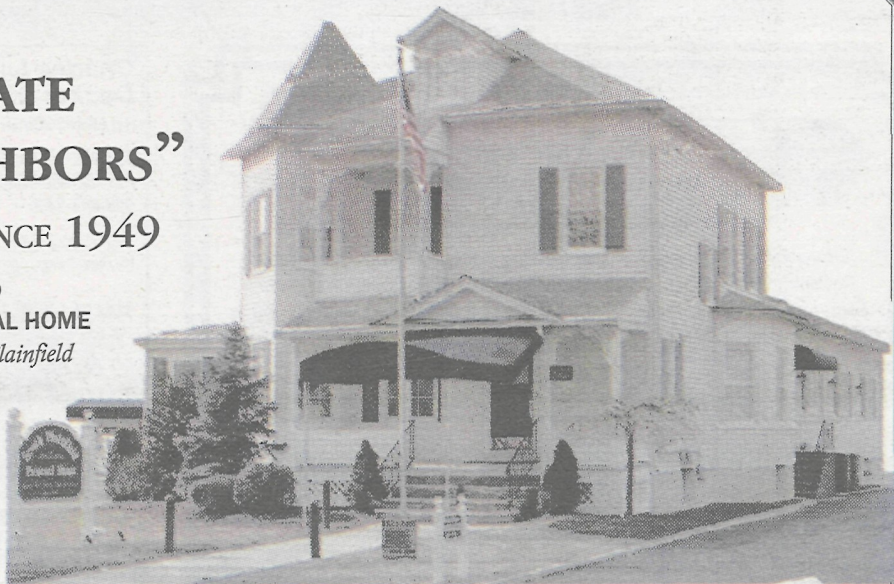
Franklin H. Rainear Jr.,
Local Owner/Manager
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