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Show runs Oct. 24-26 & Oct. 31-Nov. 1. Tours start at 6:15-6:30 p.m. Children 12 & under must be accompanied by adult. Call (908) 346-2290.

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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 12, NO. 9

MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

50 CENTS

OCTOBER 24, 2008

Eagle Cheerleaders Dominate at MVCs

The South Plainfield Eagles Junior Midget and Pee Wee Cheer squads took first place at the Mountain Valley Conference Cheer and Dance Competition held at Bridgewater High School on October 18. The Junior Pee Wee Cheer squad took second place in their division.

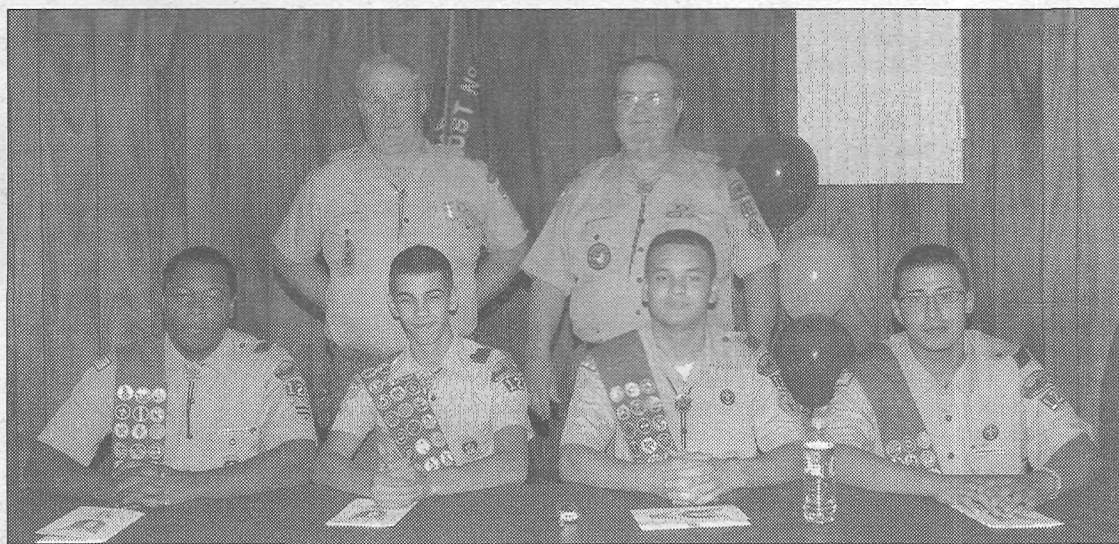
The 2008 Junior Midget Cheer Squad, comprised of girls ages 12-13, took first place in the Large Intermediate category scoring an all time high for South Plainfield Pop Warner. They outscored Del Val to take the title of MVC champions. This team of 27 girls cheered and danced their way to victory with five scorpions, an impressive pyramid and dance that rocked the floor.

On October 11 the Junior Midget

Cheer Squad also competed in the North Hunterdon Icebreaker Classic against six teams, including three non-Pop Warner teams. South Plainfield stole the show, dominated their competition, and came home with the first place trophy. The JM team will be going on to the Central Qualifier at Sovereign Bank Arena next week.

The 2008 Pee Wee Cheer Squad, comprised of 20 girls ages 10-12, took first place in the Small Novice division at the MVC Conference Competition on October 18, beating out tough competition from three other towns. This squad's routine had the highest level of difficulty of any squad in their division, and included five scales, show-n-go's, five teddy-bear straddle

(Continued on page 6)



Troop 125 Eagle Scouts: Omar Rodriguez, Joseph Ragno, Chris Esposito and Jonathan Montoya. Standing are Michael Corvelyn and Robert Vincent.

Four Scouts Achieve Eagle Award

Troop 125 held an Eagle Court of Honor and dinner on October 13. Eagle Scout Awards were presented to Chris Esposito, Jonathan Montoya, Joseph Ragno and Omar Rodriguez.

Troop 125, sponsored by the VFW Post 6763, is just two years away from celebrating their 75th anniversary and over the years 55 scouts have earned the Eagle Scout Award.

Chris Esposito is a 2008 graduate of South Plainfield High School and is attending Middlesex County College. For his Eagle project he volunteered to perform landscaping and helped refurbish the walking trail at the Plainfield Humane Society.

Jonathan Montoya is a graduate of North Plainfield High School and plans to attend Rutgers. For his Eagle project he cleaned the area surround-

ing the outside altar at St. Joseph's in North Plainfield. He cut weeds and shrubs and planted flowers around the altar.

Joseph Ragno, a graduate of South Plainfield High School, is attending Middlesex County College. For his project he painted the halls at St. Mary's in Plainfield.

Omar Rodriguez, a graduate of South Plainfield High School, is attending New Jersey City University. For his

project he volunteered at St. Mary's in Plainfield, painting and sprucing up the landscaping.

Mayor Charles Butrico, keynote speaker for the evening, presented the scouts with a proclamation from the borough council for their achievements. The scouts were also presented with presidential and senatorial citations and received awards from the Flint & Steel Association, the American Legion and the VFW.



Eagles Junior Pee Wee Cheer squad takes second place last Saturday at the Mountain Valley Conference Cheer and Dance Competition.



Mayor Charles Butrico Mischievous Night & Halloween PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the children of the Borough of South Plainfield are entitled to the fun and festivity associated with the observance of the Halloween "Trick or Treat" custom, that is going from door-to-door in the immediate neighborhoods, displaying their costumes and requesting "treats", and

WHEREAS, the increasing possibility of accidents is an ever present threat, and **WHEREAS**, the night before Halloween, Thursday, October 30, 2008 is known as "Mischievous Night" and has been traditionally a night when childish pranks have been played, some of said pranks have resulted in physical harm to others as well as damage to automobiles and properties of innocent owners.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charles F. Butrico, Jr., Mayor of the Borough of South Plainfield, do hereby proclaim that a curfew of 7:00 p.m. on Mischievous Night, Thursday, October 30, 2008, be imposed and enforced for all minor residents of the Borough to protect residents and their properties, and

I further proclaim Friday, October 31, 2008 as "Trick or Treat Day" in the Borough with all trick or treat activities to be conducted between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

I also ask that young children be accompanied by parents or other responsible adults. I further request that households indicate their willingness to welcome children by keeping their porch or exterior lights on and that youngsters call only on homes so lighted. I encourage the cooperation of all citizens, young and old, in making this a happy and safe occasion for children.

I further request because there have been, in recent years, incidents of children receiving and consuming articles of food or candy that have been tampered with by the inclusion of dangerous items, controlled dangerous substances and poison and these incidents have been highly publicized when discovered, it is the recommendation of this office that parental supervision be extended to include insistence that children do not consume any "treats" until closely examined by their parents.

It is further advised that all parents follow the rule "if in doubt - throw it out" where any evidence of tampering with packaging or surfaces of consumable products exists.

Charles Butrico, Mayor - Borough of South Plainfield

Almost Famous Players Robbed

Group Targeted Twice in Two Weeks

The Almost Famous Players (AFP), which donates the proceeds of its annual Haunted Woods Tour to local charitable organizations, has been the victim of a crime for the second time in just two weeks.

On October 4 vandals destroyed set decorations built by the group in preparation for the Friday, Oct. 24 "Devil's Island," the AFP's sixth annual Halloween show.

In a separate incident on October 12, a perpetrator entered the van of AFP founder Patricia Abbott and stole \$100 of advanced ticket sales that she had collected.

Abbott said someone approached her to tell her that they found two checks and a \$20 bill outside of her van. Nothing else was taken.

Abbott filed a police report, but as of yet no one has been charged.

The Almost Famous Players are asking local businesses for assistance, as well as accepting any donations.

The Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour starts tonight. See box at top of page for tour specifics.



Young spectators brace the cold at last Saturday's 27th Annual Marching Band Festival USSBA Competition at Jost Field. For more information, see Music Notes on page 8.

Dems Fuming Over Surprise Resolution

Mayor Charles Butrico and Democratic Councilmen Ray Petronko and Joe Scrudato remain dismayed over the lack of communication between the entire governing body and the passage of a surprise resolution introduced at the start of the October 14 council meeting.

The resolution asks U.S. Attorney Chris Christie to investigate the 2006 Suburban Transit Corp. land purchase. Scrudato and Petronko were both out-voted by their four Republican counterparts, who were in favor of adding the last minute resolution to the agenda. During the final vote on the resolution, both decided to abstain because they lacked enough information to make a decision on short notice.

The Democrats were not aware that Council President Bengivenga had been gathering information about the

land purchase for several months until a story appeared in *The Courier News* on October 13. They are also upset that the Republicans did not bring up the land purchase issue or share any of the information gathered at the agenda meeting held the week before.

Councilman Ray Petronko said this week that he is still baffled as to why the Republican council members waited until three weeks before election time to bring the matter up. "Why didn't he [Rob Bengivenga] bring this to the Recreation Commission," said Petronko, since Bengivenga is the council liaison to Recreation. "It's just politics as usual," he added. According to Recreation Commission minutes, Petronko announced on January 9, 2007, just a day after PMK Group Inc. released their report on the bus site contam-

(Continued on page 5)



Can't Make a Council Meeting?

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
November 3	October 27
November 17	November 10
	November 24

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.

zoning board adjustments

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
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.: November 12,
December 10, January 14, February 11, March 11 and April 1.
Regular Public Meeting, Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.: 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.

site plans sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.
November 18, December 16.

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621
November 12, December 10, January 14

business advisory group

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

traffic safety advisory commission

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.

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In My Opinion

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SUBMIT YOUR 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 not a guarantee of publication. We do not accept anonymous letters. Letters are strictly opinion. NOTE: We will not accept any negative letters next week.

Franky Salerno are just what we need to put South Plainfield back on track.

**VERY TRULY YOURS,
PATRICK DIEGNAN, JR.**

To the Editor:

A few years ago I had the great fortune to meet Robert Bengivenga and Matt Anesh. They took the time to discuss some of my concerns about South Plainfield and promised when they were elected that they would do what they could to right several wrongs in the town. They were elected and kept these promises.

I appreciate the honesty and integrity with which they have approached these situations, some of them are not very pleasant problems, but they meet them head on, and they don't bury them in the sand for future elected officials to find!

Their jobs are not "glory" jobs and often keep them from their families and friends with late night meetings and functions to attend. I thank them for their time and efforts and plan to vote in November to keep change going.

LINDA MACKENZIE

Dear Editor,

After all the political rhetoric is over, we have a very different choice for Borough Council in South Plainfield this year. We can vote for two people who have stated their vision for the future of our borough or we can vote for two people who have an abysmal record of service and have offered nothing in this campaign to explain their vision for the borough. I choose to vote for the two people who have articulated their vision for the future—Chrissy Buteas and Franky Salerno, Democrats.

Chrissy and Franky have served the borough for many years in different capacities. Chrissy on the Zoning Board, Recreation Commission and Public Celebrations Committee while Franky has served on the Planning Board, as a Pop Warner football coach, a member of the Italian American Club and the VFW. Chrissy was an athlete who, through her hard work and determination, became an NCAA Field Hockey champion. Franky, after the attacks of 9/11, opted to serve our

Country in the U.S. Navy. This alone speaks volumes about these two extraordinary young people.

But in addition to these items, Chrissy and Franky have spoken about the South Plainfield they envision. One that has our children being able to attend school without being harmed by an eighteen-wheeler rumbling down Hamilton Boulevard. One that has our taxes being kept under control and not being raised 15 points in seven months. One that preserves open space. One that expands and improves our recreational facilities. This is the South Plainfield that Chrissy Buteas and Franky Salerno envision and this is the South Plainfield I envision.

I urge everyone to join me and vote for the Democratic team of Chrissy Buteas and Franky Salerno for the South Plainfield Borough Council on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

HARRY KUHN

To the Editor:

Rob Bengivenga and Matt Anesh deserve re-election. They've represented the taxpayers well by cutting spending and borrowing, as well as by digging us out of the huge hole left by the prior administration. In just nine months as part of the new majority, they've done some great work.

Just look at the "Safe Streets, Safe Kids" program as an example. Dangerous speeding on cut-thru streets is a real problem. Anesh and Bengivenga

(Continued on page 10)

South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published weekly on Friday by G&G Graphics Inc.

How to Reach Us



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

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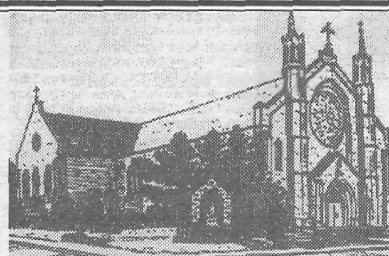
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Additional Speed Humps Coming

By Libby Barsky

Council members have been discussing speed humps to determine the most effective way to reduce vehicles speeding on residential streets. Mayor Charlie Butrico noted that four-way stop signs would be less expensive. Councilman Ray Petrofko added that the Department of Transportation advocates speed humps as a more effective way to slow traffic.

As a result of these earlier discussions, the Borough Council approved a resolution on October 14 to pay T&M Associates \$11,500 to develop the necessary design and cost estimate for installing approximately 12 speed humps in three locations: Walnut Street between Clinton Avenue and the border with Piscataway; Rahway Avenue between Plainfield Avenue and Lake Avenue and on Oak Tree Avenue on both sides of the Post Office cross walk.

The installation of approximately seven speed tables—long flat topped speed humps—are also included in the traffic improvement plan. They will be positioned near the high school, middle school and Grant school complex and at the intersections of Plainfield Avenue with Lake Street and Lane Avenue.

Before starting with the proposed project the following information is needed: traffic counts from the police department showing an average daily traffic count of 3,000 vehicles per day or less on the designated residential streets; the concurrence of the Board of Education for installing speed tables on Lake Street and Lane Avenue and residents' input on the installation of speed humps on their streets.

According to T&M Associates, the borough is currently adding speed humps to the ongoing Linden Avenue and East Hendricks Boulevard projects, which are under construction.

Voters: Help Feed the Hungry Nov. 4

All South Plainfield residents are asked to bring a can or box of food to their polling place when voting on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 4.

The food donations will be used to help replenish the food bank, which is running very low at the present time.

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Knights of Columbus adults and youth group members put the finishing touches on a new sidewalk for a local resident.

Knights of Columbus Come to the Aid of a Resident in Need

On September 13 the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus, along with its youth group, Squires, replaced the front sidewalk at the Clinton Terrace home of Dot Rotola. Mrs. Rotola is a member of the Columbiettes, which is a women's group affiliated with the Knights. The original sidewalk had fallen into disrepair and become a safety hazard. The Knights also replaced the lock on the side door of her home because the original lock

was inoperable.

Knights who worked on the project were Bill Butrico, Mark Resende and Steve Belanger. Squires who also worked very hard on the project were Luke Sprenger, Tommy Ricciardi, Matthew Resende, Mason Resende, Matthew Belanger and Kevin Belanger. The materials were donated by the Knights and paid for with money raised by the entire Squires group through their volunteer efforts at a spaghetti dinner.

NEWS

From Suburban Woman's Club

The day was crisp and cool and the Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield was happy to be on the American Legion lawn on Oak Tree Avenue. We held our annual fall yard sale and, as usual, our faithful members and friends turned out to make it successful. Thank you to all who helped make this a profitable endeavor.

The funds raised at events like this are used for our scholarship fund and towards our yearly project, which this year is to raise money for research for the causes and alleviation of autism.

We are now spending our time learning about autism in hopes of being able to make others familiar with the incidence of autism in our area. New Jersey has one of the highest incidences in the nation. Research will help to find the cause of this.

On a more cheerful note, the Suburban Woman's Club is sponsoring a theater party on Sunday, Nov. 9 at the Circle Theaters Players, 416 Victoria Rd. in Piscataway. The play will be "The Clean House," by Sarah Ruhl, a comedy and wildly romantic quest for the perfect joke. House cleaning and joke telling take on a new meaning in the lives of four extraordinary women. The play will begin at 2 p.m.

Refreshments, tea and coffee will be served during intermission. Door prizes will be distributed at the same time. Tickets will be \$17 and can be obtained from club members or by calling (908) 757-3680.

Election Day, Nov. 4, will soon be upon us. Please do not fail to vote!

—Submitted by Gloria M. Breuninger

Police Seek Info on Carjacking

A carjacking took place in the Burger King parking lot on Park Avenue on October 22 at 1 a.m.

The victim told police that as he attempted to exit the parking lot he was approached by a black male who inquired about a ride. When the victim refused to provide transportation the suspect brandished a 10-inch knife and placed it to the victim's chest.

The suspect entered the vehicle then fled northbound into the City of

Plainfield, leaving the victim behind.

The victim was not injured as a result of this incident and remained at the scene. The suspect is described as approximately 25 to 30 years old, 5'7" to 5'9", 200 lbs., shoulder length dreadlock hair, wearing a dark colored coat and a Yankee baseball cap.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Sgt. Dan Noonan or Det. Vincent Campagna at (908) 226-7660.

SCHOOL BOARD Notes

- A tenure certificate was presented to Melody Haggerty.

- The Superintendent's Goals and Objectives 2008-2009 were approved.

- The BOE approved the following: School Violence Awareness Week October 2008, the Pandemic Influenza Management Plan, the Annual Report of Vandalism, Violence and Substance Abuse for 2007-2008 school year, District Testing Report Approval of Foodservice Biosecurity Management Plan, the high school leadership group trip and the high school social studies trip to Rutgers Model United Nations.

- The BOE introduced the first reading of Policy No. 2452-Community Education; Policy No. 8540-Free and Reduced Rate Meals; First Reading Policy No. 7410-Maintenance and Repair.

- Alicia Torchia, Riley School instructional support aide, resigned and was appointed Riley School Elementary long term substitute teacher, a temporary replacement for Angela Raimondo-Hajduk.

- High school sixth period teaching appointments were Andrew Casano, Allison Dressler and Loretta Tansey.

The BOE approved the following appointments:

- Franklin Ferrara as adult high school Saturday ESL teacher; Kristen Bennett as middle school homework club advisor; Alyson Oller as field hockey co-head; Vera Agee as aftercare latchkey aide and Robert Walker Integrated Pest Management coordinator;
- The 2008-2009 winter and spring

coach appointments;

- George Sarnoff, special assistant to the business administrator, a newly created position.

- The BOE approved the removal and installation of eighth grade corridor lockers at the middle school.

- High school fire alarm panels will be replaced.

Students from John E. Riley Elementary School gave a Character Education presentation at the October 15 public meeting. Thank you to Principal Al Czech and staff.

Thank you to Debbie Schroeder and Kay Mindler in the Board of Education business office for the extensive research on business minutes items.

The BOE and borough shared services continue. Handicap-accessible ramps have been placed in and around Riley School at no cost to the BOE through a grant received by the borough. Speed tables will also be placed on various streets leading to the high school. Thank you to Borough Council Shared Services Chairman Council President Robert Bengivenga, Jr., and Councilman Ray Rusnak and BOE shared service members Robert Jones and Debbie Boyle.

Correction

The Old Timers would like to thank Debra Leporino, president of the South Plainfield Business Association; George Yanik; Steve Balzer and Angelo's Ice, for their support of The Run for the Children Battling Cancer. They were omitted from the Oct. 17 article, "Old Timers Motorcycle Club Run for the Children Draws 700."

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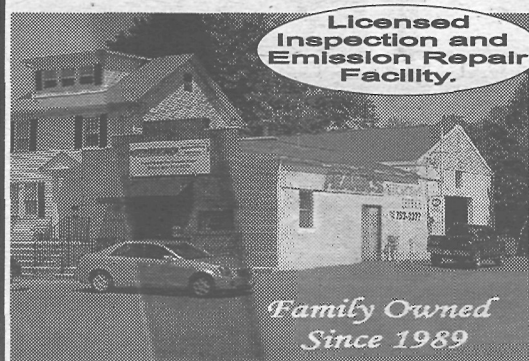
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Around Town

SPHS Class of 1978 30th Reunion

October 25

SPHS Class of 1978 will hold their 30th class reunion on Saturday, Oct. 25 at the Crown Plaza Hotel (formally known as Clarion Hotel & Towers) in Edison. Pre-paid entry only; no tickets will be sold at the door.

For information or to purchase tickets, please E-mail sphs30yrgmail.com or call Janie at (908) 755-0959.

SPHS Football Parents Yard Sale

October 25

The South Plainfield High School football parents will be holding a yard sale on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Middle School on Plainfield Avenue. Donations accepted.

Kennedy Trunk-r-Treat

October 28 (raindate October 29)

Kennedy Elementary School is having a Trunk-r-Treat fundraising event on Tuesday, Oct. 28. Cars will be decorated between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.; trick or treating from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Food, raffles and games in cafeteria. Cost is \$10 per family.

Any questions, call Barbara Bythell at (908) 754-9629.

SPBA/Commerce Bank Meet & Greet

October 29

The directors and officers of Commerce Bank, along with the South Plainfield Business Association, cordially invite you to attend a Meet & Greet Business Reception on Wednesday, Oct. 29 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Commerce Bank, 2473 Plainfield

Ave. Guest speaker will be Frank Winters, AVP, financial advisor with Commerce Wealth Management.

RSVP by October 24 to Carolyn Allen at (908) 561-3275 or Debra Anne Leporino at (908) 754-6914.

Edison Valley Playhouse Halloween Production

October 31-November 15

Edison Valley Playhouse presents "The Mystery of Irma Vep," based on Hitchcock's film "Rebecca," as well as other recognizable films.

The play opens Halloween Night, Friday, Oct. 31st at 8 p.m. and runs every weekend through Saturday, Nov. 15. Tickets: \$15 adults; \$12-students/seniors. Dinner packages are available.

Tickets are available at the door, or by phone (908) 755-4654 or via E-mail: info@evplayhouse.com. Visa/MC accepted.

Columbiettes Plan Trip to Reading

November 1

The South Plainfield Columbiettes are sponsoring a trip to the outlets in Reading, Pa. on Saturday, Nov. 1. Bus leaves the Sacred Heart Church parking lot, off South Plainfield Avenue, at 8 a.m. sharp and returns by 7 p.m. Cost is \$35 and includes driver's tip, lunch voucher, coupon book and shopping bag. Bus will stop at the Cracker Barrel in Fogelsville, Pa. on return, with dinner on your own.

For reservations or information, call Kathy at (908) 756-3772.

Scouting for Food

November 1-15

The annual Scouting for Food drive will be held November 1-15 by our towns' Boy Scout troops and Cub

Scout packs. Flyers or bags for donations will be distributed the weekends of either November 1 or 8 and collected the weekends of November 8 or 15. If every household put out at least one item in each of the bags, we would surpass our previous years of collecting, replenish our depleted food pantries and challenge our Scouts by working harder to "do a good deed."

OLC Election Day Spaghetti Supper

November 4

Our Lady of Czestochowa Rosary Society will be holding an election day spaghetti supper at the parish hall from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Adults \$8, senior citizens \$7, children 5-12 \$5 and children under five are free. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Take out available, call (908) 753-4077 to order.

JFK Vendor/Craft Fair

November 20

JFK Elementary, 2900 Norwood Ave., will hold their annual vendor/craft fair on Thursday, Nov. 20 from 6-9 p.m. Vendors and crafters wanted!

Please contact Jennifer at (908) 755-8912 or Janice at (908) 756-4175 for more information.

— Out of Town —

Yvette Glover Returns

October 24

An evening with Yvette Glover and her trio, sponsored by the Metuchen Cultural Arts Commission, will be held Friday, Oct. 24 at 8 p.m. at Metuchen High School. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$7 for students. Also performing will be Steve Kaplan.

For more information, call (732) 632-8502.

Critical Life Issues Conference

October 25

The seventh annual Critical Life Issues Conference, sponsored by the Diocese of Metuchen Office of Respect for

Life, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane in Piscataway. Pre-registration is required. Admission is \$40; \$20 for students, priests, deacons, religious or parish pro-life representatives. Lunch is included.

To register, call (732) 562-1990, ext. 1543 or visit www.diometuchen.org.

Dinner With An Australian Flair

October 25

St. Francis' Episcopal Church, 400 New Market Road in Dunellen, will host a dinner on Saturday, Oct. 25. Food provided by Outback Steakhouse of Green Brook. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; dinner at 6 p.m. Tickets: \$20 adults; \$10 children under 12.

For information call (732) 968-6781 or (732) 752-5608.

Monmouth Symphony Opens Season

October 26

The Monmouth Symphony Orchestra will open its 60th anniversary season with a program of classical music on Sunday, Oct. 26 at 3 p.m. at the Axelrod Performing Arts Center, 100 Grant Ave. in Deal Park.

Tickets: adults \$30; seniors \$25 and students \$5.

For information, call (732) 531-9100, ext. 142.

CHATS Meeting

October 27

CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support) will hold a meeting on Monday, Oct. 27 from 7:15-9:15 p.m. at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave., North Plainfield. We have light refreshments and time for sharing stories. Everyone is welcome!

Depression/Bipolar Support Meeting

October 29

The public is cordially invited to attend the monthly educational meet-

ing of the depression and bipolar support alliance on Wednesday, Oct. 29 at 7:45 p.m. using the facilities of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd. in Morristown. Nominal donation for non-members.

Morristown Madams

November 1

The Morristown Madams Women's Flat Track Roller Derby Team will square off against Lehigh Valley's Special Vixen's Unit on Saturday, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. at the Morristown Rink, 38 Dumont St. in Morristown. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 online at www.morristownmadams.com; \$12 at the door; students and seniors \$5; children under 12 free.

For more information, E-mail Dee Licious at info@morristownmadams.com or call (973) 879-7431.

Metuchen Edison Women's Club Meeting

November 5

The Metuchen-Edison Women's Club will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at The Heritage at Clara Barton, 1015 Amboy Ave. in Edison. The program will feature candle painting by Christel Takacs. Guests are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

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

Country Store and Church Bazaar

November 7 & 8

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 264 New Market Ave. in Dunellen will hold their 38th Annual Country Store and Church Bazaar on Friday, Nov. 7 from 6 to 9 p.m. and on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Handmade needlework, homemade baked goods and gently used items for sale. All are welcome!

MOMS Club Open House

November 13

The MOMS Club of South Plainfield is holding an open house on Thursday, Nov. 13 at 10 a.m. Meet some of our members and see what we're about.

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

**Search the
MLS at**

www.MikePfeifer.com

The South Plainfield Health Department
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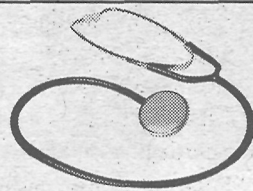
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Sunday mornings 8am and 11am

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Progressive Insurance Considering Building in Borough

By Libby Barsky

When traffic comes off Route 287 into the Borough, the gateway could have a different look. The former junk yard on McKinley Avenue will be the home for a new business—an insurance claims center contained within a new building—that is if Progressive management approves the site.

At an informal hearing, Kevin P. McGrath, manager of development for Progressive Insurance, brought in a rendering of a proposed building and explained its function to members of the planning board in August.

McGrath had been before the Zoning Board of Adjustment previously for an interpretation of the zoning regulations of the McKinley Avenue property. At that time, the site was zoned M-3 heavy industrial. The area



Rendering of proposed Progressive claim center.

has since been rezoned as OPA and the building would comply with the new zoning.

In 2003 Progressive Insurance developed the concept of a concierge level of claims service where customers drop off their cars at a claims service center and pick them up once repairs were completed, and all elements of the claims/repair process is taken care of in one place.

McGrath said he expected a total of 10 to 12 vehicles would be serviced in daily. He also expected the claims center would employ from 10 to 12 employees when it opened and that it would grow. The proposed center would also contain offices for up to 200 agents within the building.

According to McGrath there are 52 claims centers operational throughout the country.

Dems Fuming Over Surprise Resolution

(Continued from page 5)

nation, that the mayor and council wanted them to use the property for an expansion of the Ponytail Park. Petronko claims he had no knowledge at the time that the property was contaminated and said from what he now knows that “this [the bus site] will not turn into a superfund site.”

N.J. Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Records Access Manager Matt Koufer said that the former bus company site is still an active case and was called to their attention in May 2005, after a 3,000 ton underground heating old tank was removed. According to NJDEP records, there is still soil contamination and no remedial action documents have been filed.

Suburban Transit Corp. had been leasing the New Market Avenue address for many years from Sidney Kuchin, owner of Malmok Leasing Co., until they bought the property on October 21, 2004 for \$250,000 from Kuchin’s estate. The borough then purchased the 2.6 acre property from Suburban on December 29, 2006 for \$675,000. A Middlesex County Open Space Trust Fund grant for \$750,000 covered the purchase with \$75,000 going toward anticipated site remediation costs. An appraisal of the property for Middlesex County, performed by Fleming White

Appraisals, Inc., valued the land at \$775,000 and deducted \$75,000 for remedial costs with a final property value of \$700,000.

When the resolution was introduced at the December 5 council meeting, Councilmen Charles Butrico, Ray Petronko, Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga all voted yes to purchase the property.

“I want to see the right thing done here,” said Democratic Councilman Joe Scrudato, who was not on the council at the time the property was purchased. But after obtaining documentation on the sale he said he believes that a state investigation is not necessarily a bad idea. “I know we [the Democrats] will come out good in the end. The site will be a huge addition to Ponytail Park and South Plainfield.”

Council President Bengivenga said, “I am putting the pieces to the puzzle together in the clerk’s office.” He added that he has found additional correspondence dating back to 2005 between Suburban and the borough. Bengivenga said, “Patrick Diegnan knew about the contamination” and the borough was “letting polluters off the hook” by signing a hold harmless agreement. He added, “It was a done deal and I don’t know why the council was never notified of this.”

“We need to move ahead with this,” said Mayor Charles Butrico. “We knew there was some level of contamination and we needed to take a risk and purchase the property.” He explained how a developer was ready to build 15 homes on the property and “the borough worked around the builder” to preserve the space. He said that while he was on the council during that time, he was not directly involved with the decision making. Butrico estimated that with some extra money spent on the site for clean-up it would be worth approximately \$1.6M. “When you look at the big picture, it was a win for South Plainfield.”

It is still not clear as to why the borough signed a hold harmless agreement with the seller at the time of purchase and why the ordinance and resolution to purchase the property had never taken place. Borough Attorney Paul Rizzo is currently researching the matter in regards to the legal aspect of the land sale transaction along with how the borough should proceed from this point.

PAL Aerobics Classes

It’s time to get in shape for the holiday. The South Plainfield PAL will be starting aerobics and toning classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning November 4, from 9 to 10 a.m.

Register at the PAL.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Chris Grippo

Incredibly, next Friday is Halloween and the library has a lot of different items to help you celebrate the holiday. To begin with there is “Halloween Pumpkins and Parties” (745.5941), a book that will give you suggestions for everything from what to cook to how to decorate. And then to set the mood we have audio CDs of scary sounds including screeches, clanks and howls, scary sound effects, and chiller, which contains scary music as well as digital sound effects.

We also have a large selection of Halloween themed craft books, including everything from “Pumpkin Chic” to “Hocus Pocus: Halloween Crafts for a Spooktacular Holiday,” which does include ideas for creating appropriate invitations for your Halloween Party. All are located in the 745.594 and 745.5941 area of the library. To give you further ideas we have cookbooks in 641.568 that will give you suggestions for treats and “The Halloween Handbook: 447 Costumes” (for both children and adults) in 394.2646 CLA for dressing up. And finally we have a large selection of scary movies from the serious, the Halloween series, to the silly, “Mystery Science Theater.” For more suggestions, you can just stop by the reference desk and we will help you find what you want. Taken together we can help you celebrate a wild and crazy Halloween.

In keeping with the Halloween theme of the week, Mr. Kurt will be here on Wednesday, Oct. 29 at 6:30 p.m. This is a drop in activity so you

do not need to register. Otherwise Miss Linda and Miss Mija are on their regular schedule of programs. Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. for three year-olds and up, Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. for two year-olds and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. for Books & Babies, a sing-a-long and storytelling hour.

Also, the library has two display cases which are available for individuals or groups to displays their hobbies, handicrafts, or any other material you think would be of interest to your fellow patrons. If you would like to schedule either or both cases, please contact Michelle Lavoie at (908) 754-7885.

If you have any questions, call the library at (908) 754-7885 or visit us at 2484 Plainfield Avenue, across the parking lot from Borough Hall.

Edison Valley Playhouse Auditions

Edison Valley Playhouse is looking for singers, actors and musicians 18 and over, for the holiday production of “Striking 12,” a contemporary pop-rock musical comedy/concert written by Brendan Milburn, Rachel Sheinkin and Valerie Vigoda.

Bring eight bars of up-tempo jazz/pop/rock audition piece to perform. Musicians are needed who can read music: guitar, drums, bass guitar, violin, cello and keyboards.

Open auditions will be held at the theater, 2196 Oak Tree Rd. in Edison on Saturday, Nov. 1, 1 to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 2 from 5 to 9 pm.

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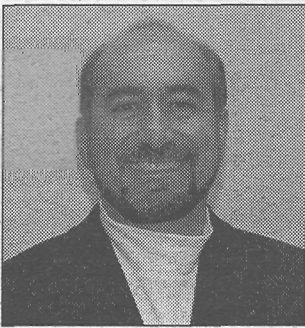


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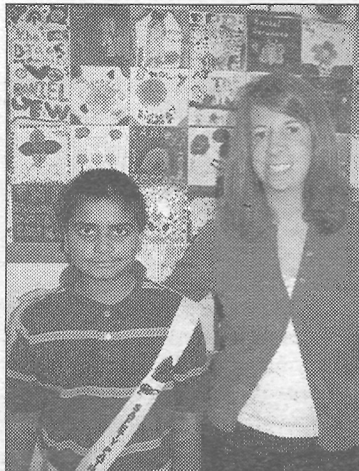
2008-09 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Leon Dass Named Junior Journalist

Leon Dass, Roosevelt School fourth grader, is this week's winner in the 2008-09 Junior Journalist program. His submission has earned him dinner for his family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

Students should submit their original written works to their teachers, school principal, Hometown Heros on Hamilton Blvd. or the *Observer* office at 1110 Hamilton Blvd.

The winners will receive a catered dinner for their families from Hometown Heros and will be honored at a year-end banquet in May of 2009, where they will additionally be recognized for their efforts. Junior Journalists also have the opportunity to win the Ruth Kurland Memorial \$1,000 savings bond which will be awarded at the banquet.



Junior Journalist winner Leon Dass with teacher Laura Mottley

For more information, call the *Observer* at (908) 668-0010 or Hometown Heros at (908) 755-4376.

The Ending of Summer

By Leon Dass

Summer comes to an end.
The sparkling yellow sun heats the leaves.
The crisp brown leaves fall like rain.
The howling wind combined with a powerful gust
comes in at full speed
with the cold air making you shiver.
Old worn out twigs crackling,
SNAP!
It spins in a circle.
It does not stop in the powerful air.
The ending of summer is here.

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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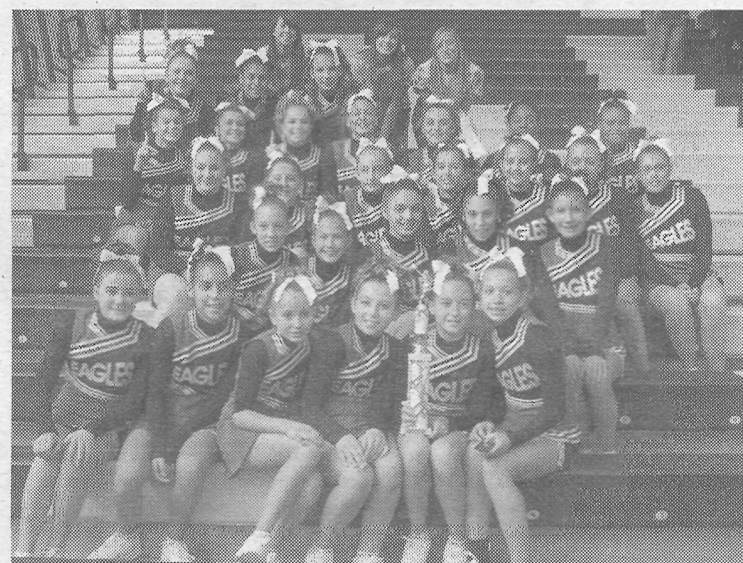
Eagle Cheerleaders Dominate at MVCs

(Continued from page 1)

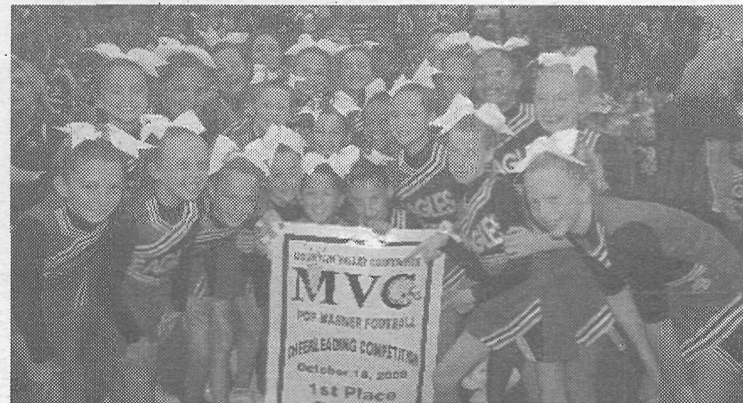
sits, one-legged stunts, and a fast and entertaining dance routine. Their tumbling runs included front- and back-walkovers, cartwheels, round-offs, handstand forward rolls and back rolls. The girls performance was near-perfect, landing them the highest score of a Pee Wee squad in South Plainfield history. Expectations are high for this squad as they move on to Central Qualifiers next week. The Pee Wee squad came in fifth place in Eastern Region in 2007, but they are looking to improve on that record for 2008.

The 2008 Junior Pee Wee Cheer Squad took second place in the large novice division. The team, comprised of 31 fourth and fifth graders, proudly performed their routine with an electrifying combination of stunts, jumps and tumbling. The crowd eagerly participated by cheering "green, black and white!" Their routine included a variety of stunts ranging from thigh stands, to hitches, to a multi-level pyramid. "All of the girls performed like a team and it showed," said Allison Parajon, head coach. "The girls feel extremely honored to represent South Plainfield JPW. I am so proud of them." This win advances the girls to the Central Qualifiers at the Sovereign Bank Arena in Trenton.

It was a full day for all five cheer squads, as the MVC Cheer Competition allows the younger Mitey Mite and Flag Cheer squads to exhibit their routines as well. While these squads are not ranked, it gives the girls an



The 2008 Junior Midget Cheer squad



The 2008 Pee Wee Cheer squad

opportunity to show their stuff.

The Mitey Mite Cheer squad contains 25 girls ages seven to nine. They performed to "Mama I'm a Big Girl

Now" and "Big Girls Don't Cry" by Fergie. Their routine was composed of several stunting groups. They did preps, thigh stands, cartwheels, splits and an awesome rotating teddy bear. The Mitey Mites outshined their competitors by doing outstanding jumps and ripples in their routine.

The Flag cheer squad contains 42 girls, all of them five or six years old. South Plainfield had by far the largest Flag squad at the competition. The Flag girls performed to music by Danity Kane ("Damaged") and Rihanna ("SOS"). Their routine included cartwheels, splits, tuck jumps, thigh stands and amazing dance moves. Despite their young age and extremely large group size, these girls performed flawlessly and stole the show. They also started the day for other Flag teams where they set a high standard that could not be beat.

Everyone had a fun day supporting their sister squads and cheering them on to victory!

The Junior Pee Wee, Pee Wee and Junior Midget squads now move on to the Central Qualifiers to be held today at the Sovereign Bank Arena in Trenton. Go Eagles!

policereport

- On Oct. 15 Claudio J. Bosa, 43, of Freehold was arrested at the MVA for exhibiting fraudulent documents.
- A Front Street resident reported the lock to their apartment door had been tampered with. No entry was gained.
- On Oct. 16 Cheryl M. Bizer, 40, of South Plainfield was arrested for arson at the Spring Lake Park restrooms.
- David E. Ascencio, 45, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated.
- Chintamanis, Inc. on Durham Avenue reported that a woman had left the store without paying for a ring worth \$130.
- On Oct. 17 Douglas N. Albert, 48, of Westfield was arrested for not having a light on a bicycle and an out-

standing warrant.

• An employee of Jafco Supply Corp. on So. Clinton Avenue reported that the lock on their truck had been pried open and an Ipod, cell phone, lottery tickets and jacket and been taken.

• Golden West Paper Converting on Helen Street reported that their front glass door had been smashed and a Nikon camera was taken from an office.

• On Oct. 18 Philip Stragapede, 31, of Colonia was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

• Miguel E. Ruiz, 49, of North Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, no insurance and refusal to take a breathalyzer test.

• On Oct. 19 Thomas Z. Willbergh, 20, of Monroe was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

• A Hillside Avenue resident reported the theft of an antique cast iron water pump from their front lawn.

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPERIOR COURT
ORDER OF NOTICE IN FAMILY CASES
Judicial District of New Britain
Docket No. FA-08-4018144
Plaintiff's Name: Rosa Suarez
Defendant's Name: Abraham Suarez
Notice to Abraham Suarez
Return Date: 11/4/08

The Court has reviewed the Motion for Order of Notice and the Complaint/Application/Motion which asks for divorce (dissolution of marriage).

The Court finds that the current address of the party to be notified is unknown and that all reasonable efforts to find him have failed.

The COURT ORDERS that notice be given to the party to be notified by placing a legal notice in South Plainfield Observer, a newspaper circulating in South Plainfield, N.J. 07080 containing a true and attested copy of this Order of Notice, and, if accompanying a Complaint for divorce (dissolution of marriage), complaint for dissolution of civil union, legal separation or annulment, or if accompanying an application for custody or visitation, a statement that Automatic Court Orders have been issued in the case as required by Section 25-5 of the Connecticut Practice Book and are a part of the Complaint/Application on file with the Court.

The notice should appear before October 25, 2008 and proof of service shall be filed with this Court.

The notice shall appear once a week for two successive weeks commencing on or before October 25, 2008 and proof of service shall be filed with this Court.

ATTEST:
Andrew Holden, Assistant Clerk
September 18, 2008

ATTEST:
Alan F. Zaniewski, State Marshal, Hartford County
\$77.00 October 24 & 31, 2008

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Another Outrageous Scandal

from the

South Plainfield Democrats

Courier News
Editorial—10/14/08

S. Plainfield cleanup deal smells like a scandal

Something feels a little dirty about South Plainfield's cleanup problems at an old bus depot site. The land in question is the former Suburban Transit Corp. property on New Market Avenue at Rio Street. The Borough bought it for \$750,000 with the

HOME NEWS TRIBUNE
Thursday, October 16, 2008

U.S. AG asked to probe South Plainfield land deal

"Something feels a little dirty about South Plainfield's cleanup problems at an old bus depot... Connect a few dots, and there's cause for deep skepticism, if not outrage."

Courier News Editorial
10/14/08

The Star Ledger
Friday, October 17, 2008

Democrats' Purchase is assailed

BY SHARON ADARLO
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

As election season heats up in South Plainfield, local Republican leaders are blaming Democrats for using Middlesex County open space money to purchase a piece of contaminated land, putting the borough on the hook for as much as \$442,000 for cleanup after town officials agreed to not hold the former owner liable for the pollution.

"I think there is more to it than mere irresponsibility,"

HOME NEWS TRIBUNE
Monday, October 13, 2008

Contamination could cost borough \$500,000

By JARED KALTWASSER
STAFF WRITER

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The borough is facing up to

\$500,000 in environmental remediation costs after it used Middlesex County open space funds to buy a parcel of contaminated land two years ago and agreed to not hold the then-owner responsible for its cleanup. The controversy surrounds the former Suburban Transit Corp. property on New Market Avenue at Rio Street. The property was used as a bus terminal from approximately 1956 to 1999, when it was va-

To read the full articles simply go to www.spgop.com

Do We Really Want to Put the South Plainfield Democrats Back in Charge and Let them Squander Our Tax Dollars Again?

Major newspapers are reporting how the local Democrats bought contaminated property on New Market Ave. for \$500,000 more than it was worth. Worse yet, taxpayers are stuck with half-a-million dollars in cleanup costs. This is because they signed a hold-harmless agreement with the seller, which prevents the town from recouping the remediation costs.

They let the polluters off the hook and saddled taxpayers with the costs for cleanup!

But it gets even worse. The purchase was illegal. The council never approved it by ordinance, nor did the council approve the

agreement that let the polluters off the hook.

This is the most recent in a series of Democratic scandals. In 2006 they bought three shacks along Hamilton Boulevard for \$1.6 million, well more than what they were worth. Two of these properties were owned by relatives of a campaign contributor, who got paid over \$150,000 more than appraised value.

They also sold a campaign contributor our open space for \$100,000 under appraised value. Neighboring properties sold for over \$100,000 more at auction. How much more can South Plainfield taxpayers take?

Don't Turn Back!

Do we really want to put the Democrats back in charge by electing Salerno & Buteas?

Red Cross Offers Halloween "Trick" to Safety

On Halloween local ghouls and goblins will take over the night. But even scary creatures need to be safe and celebrate Halloween right. Halloween's greatest hazards aren't vampires and villains, but falls, costume mishaps and automobile collisions. The Tri-County Red Cross wants your family to have a safe Halloween so they're providing these tips, the Lucky 13:

"Halloween is a lot of fun for both children and their parents, but there is also the risk of injury that needs to be taken into account," said Nathan Rudy, Tri-County Red Cross executive director. "In addition to following the Lucky 13 steps to safety, parents should consider taking first aid and CPR classes to be ready in case of emergency."

1. Map out the route that your chil-

- dren plan to roam, so adults are assured they will find their way home!
2. From the bravest of superheroes to the noblest of knights, everyone should remember to bring flashlights!
3. If you visit a house where a stranger resides, accept treats at the door but, please, don't go inside.
4. When you get ready to put on your disguise, use face paint instead of masks, which cover your eyes.
5. Always remember, before you embark, to wear light-colored clothing to be seen in the dark! (And remember to use reflective tape, even on bikes, skateboards and brooms!)
6. Whether you walk, slither or sneak, do it on the sidewalks and not in the street.
7. As you roam through the neighborhood collecting your treats, please look both ways before crossing the street! (And cross from the corner!)
8. Wigs, capes and costumes are flammable attire, so avoid open flames to prevent a fire!
9. Use a glow stick instead of a candle so your jack-o-lantern isn't a

safety gamble!

10. You may fly on a broom or a space ship from Mars, but please be on the lookout for drivers in cars! (And don't hide between parked vehicles).

11. Monsters and zombies should stay off the lawn, and only visit homes with their porch lights turned on!

12. You may be dressed as a werewolf, a cat or a frog, but be cautious around strange animals, especially dogs.

13. Have a grown-up inspect your candy when you're done trick-or-treating to remove open packages and choking hazards before eating.

First Aid and CPR classes are available weekly in the Tri-County Red Cross Plainfield and Elizabeth offices, alternating weeks. More information on safety and other disaster preparedness is available on our Web site at www.tricountyredcross.org.

For a detailed list of Halloween safety tips, contact Corinna Krauskopf of the Tri-County Red Cross at (908) 756-6414.



The SPHS Marching Band performs at 27th Annual Marching Band Festival USSBA Competition.

SPHS Music Boosters

MUSIC NOTES



Thank you to everyone who attended our 27th Annual Marching Band Festival USSBA Competition on October 18. While the weather was quite chilly, our hearts and minds were warmed by the music in the air. The highlight of the night was watching our marching band and color guard perform their show, Cirque du Soleil's "Quidam."

Thanks to the following for their generous donations and support of the event: Roma Foods, Applebee's, Salsons Bakery, Hometown Heros, Angelo's Ice, Nischwitz, Sodexo, 800 Flowers, Conti Construction, South Plainfield Rescue Squad, police and fire departments. There are many others to thank: Rich Moury, Mr. Murray and the high school concert choir, Dr. May, Mr. Errico, the high school athletic department, Mr. Ullom, the district administration, Mr. Negron, Donna Rann and the Board of Education, Bill Seesselberg, the PAL and all of our trophy sponsors. Special thanks to Marianne Decker for hosting the judges, Beverly Blanco, show coordinator-logistics, Nancy Wagner, show coordinator-bands, Sue Hageman and Cynthia Pellicia-food coordinators, Tracy Hartman-gate team leader, Sandy Sierzega-senior student and trophy coordinator, Bob Rann-security coordinator, Karen Blackford and Mike Brazza and the *Observer* staff.

In addition, I'd like to thank those amazing families whose tireless efforts were much appreciated during the entire day: Mike Poland, the Ranns, the Sierzegas, Al Aiello, Mac Sambat, the Pierces, the Jacksons, the entire

Rutowski family, the Wagners, the Blackfords, the Roseos, the Martins, the Tellors and the Andersons. Thanks to the alumni parents who helped and to all the volunteers—those who baked, donated and gave their time to help make the competition a success.

The next marching band competition is the N.J. State Championship on Sunday, Oct. 26 at Sayreville War Memorial High School. The marching band and color guard are scheduled to compete at approximately 4:40 p.m. Be there early to get a great seat.

Fundraiser updates—(See any student in the music department to place an order.) Gourmet popcorn orders must be turned in by Nov. 3. Popcorn will be delivered before Thanksgiving. We have also started the Yankee Candle fundraiser. Get your holiday shopping done early by placing your order today. Yankee Candle fundraiser ends October 31 to meet holiday season delivery, so don't delay. The citrus fruit fundraiser is now underway. All orders must be in by Nov. 5 with payment, so the fruit can be delivered to the high school around December 15, just in time for the holidays. If you would like to send fruit as a gift outside of the area, we have three options available at a slightly higher cost that includes shipping and handling. Call Pam at (908) 412-9704.

The next meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. in the chorus room. Please come for lots of information regarding future concerts, fundraisers, trips and events.

—Submitted by Pamela Hussey, President, SPHS Music Boosters

Help Keep Our Kids Warm

McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals is asking for the public's participation in their annual program, "Keep Our Kids Warm." With the success of last year's sweatshirt drive, McCriskin's is asking for sweatshirts to be donated for children between five and 17 years old. Only newly purchased, or never worn, sweatshirts will be accepted.

The project is being run in accordance with the borough's director of Social Services, Marge Ackerman. The

sweatshirts that are donated will be distributed to underprivileged children throughout our community for the upcoming winter season.

Donations will be accepted in the main entrance of the funeral home on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 10:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.

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

As an added addition to the drive, for every 10 sweatshirts donated, the funeral home will make a \$10 donation to the Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.

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

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

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Dr. Loosen Riesling "Dr. L." 2006..... 7.99 750 ml Apple and peach notes are backed by lively acidity in this elegant white. Has nice balance and length. Drink now through 2012. — Rated a Best Value by the Wine Spectator on April 30, 2008.	Don Miguel Gascon Malbec 2006..... 8.99 750 ml Bright red-ruby, with blackberry, mocha, smoked meat and nuts on the nose. Supple, pliant and sweet, with good viscosity to the flavors of black fruits, smoke and mocha. The moderately persistent finish features smooth tannins and a bit of unabsorbed acidity. — Rated a Best Value by the Wine Advocate.	The Crossings Sauvignon Blanc 2007..... 10.99 750 ml A light nose with touches of white peach, apricot and a touch of passion fruit. Good definition, quite feminine. Vibrant entry, racy acidity, brimming full of lemon zest, apple and lime. Very focused and full of joie-de-vivre. Simple, but a joy to drink. Drink now. — Rated by the Wine Advocate.	Ravenswood Chard. Sonoma 2006..... 11.99 750 ml Bright yellow in color, with subdued citrus, apple and spice scents slowly open to offer orange and poached pear. Fleishy but focused, with tangy citrus and orchard fruit flavors, gentle acidity and a light dusting of chalky minerals. Delivers good focus and energy, with nice finishing cut and length. — Rated by the International Wine Cellar in May/June '08.
Corbett Canyon Coastal Cellars All Types 5.99 1.5 liter	Barefoot Cellars Cabernet, Merlot, Chardonnay 9.99 1.5 liter	Bridlewood Chardonnay, Syrah 10.99 750 ml	ENTER TO WIN TRIP FOR 2 TO NY Giants vs Dallas Cowboys DECEMBER 13-15 www.succoos.com
Francis Ford Coppola Diamond Series Chard., Sauv. Blanc 10.99 750 ml	Georges Duboeuf Cabernet, Merlot, Chardonnay 11.99 1.5 liter	Lindemans All Bins 11.99 1.5 liter	Beringer White Zinfandel 4.99 750 ml
Harvey's Bristol Cream Sherry 11.99 750 ml	Maso Canali Pinot Grigio 12.99 750 ml	Clos Du Bois Reserve Chardonnay 13.99 750 ml	Il Principe Chianti 6.99 750 ml
Rodney Strong Sonoma Cabernet, Merlot 12.99 750 ml	Clos Du Bois Reserve Cabernet, Merlot 16.99 750 ml	Franciscan Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon 18.99 750 ml	Yellow Tail All Types 6.99 750 ml
Livingston Cellars Cab., Merlot, Chardonnay, 8.99 3 liter jug	Almaden Mountain Burg., Chablis, Blush, Rhine 11.99 5 liter box	Peter Vella Cab., Merlot, Chardonnay, White Zinf. 12.99 5 liter box	Chat. Ste. Michelle Gewurztraminer, Sauvignon Blanc 7.99 750 ml
MARTINI & ROSSI Dry or Sweet Vermouth..... 5.99 750 ml WOLFSCHMIDT Vodka 80°..... 13.99 1.75L CANADIAN MIST Canadian Whisky..... 15.99 1.75L CLAN MACGREGOR Scotch Whisky..... 15.99 1.75L RON RICO Silver or Gold Rum..... 15.99 1.75L NEW AMSTERDAM Gin..... 18.99 1.75L FRIS Vodka 80°..... 18.99 1.75L E & J GALLO Brandy VS..... 18.99 1.75L BACARDI Mojito RTD..... 18.99 1.75L BAILEY'S IRISH CREAM Liqueur & Flavors..... 20.99 750 ml BACARDI Light or Gold Rum..... 20.99 1.75L PLYMOUTH Gin..... 21.99 750 ml 1800 Reposado or Silver Tequila..... 21.99 750 ml MAKER'S MARK Bourbon..... 23.99 750 ml CAPTAIN MORGAN 100° Rum..... 29.99 1.75L COINTREAU Liqueur..... 29.99 750 ml COURVOISIER Cognac VSOP..... 32.99 750 ml THE SINGLETON 12 Year Old Single Malt Whisky..... 34.99 750 ml JACK DANIEL'S Whiskey..... 38.99 1.75L	LIQUOR AND SPIRITS	BEER SPECIALS	SKYY Vodka Infusions All Types..... 13.99 750 ml AMARETTO DI SARONNO Cordial..... 20.99 750 ml CUTTY SARK Scotch Whisky..... 24.99 1.75 liter BOMBAY Gin..... 28.99 1.75 liter BEVEDERE Vodka 80°..... 28.99 750 ml STOLICHNAYA Vodka 80°..... 33.99 1.75 liter DON JULIO Silver Tequila..... 36.99 750 ml CHIVAS REGAL 12 Year Old Premium Scotch Whisky..... 49.99 1.75 liter
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Obituaries

Thomas P. McCauley, 78

Thomas P. McCauley died on Tuesday, Oct. 14 at home after a five-year battle with Alzheimer's and heart disease.

Born and raised in Jersey City, Tom lived in Weehawken before settling in South Plainfield in 1962.

He began his 30-year bus driving career as a public service driver out of Maplewood prior to driving for the former Scalera and Suburban Bus companies in South Plainfield, retiring in 1988.



Thomas P. McCauley

Tom was a family man who lovingly cared for his wife, Barbara, of 54 years, his children and grandchildren. His door was always open and he enjoyed helping others in any fashion possible. He served as a foster parent to as many as 13 children of all ages over the course of 19 years.

A member of various organizations in South Plainfield, Tom was a life member of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad where he served as a day sergeant, South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203, South Plainfield BPOE Elks Lodge #2298 and he was also a devout member of Sacred Heart RC Church.

Tom had also served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

He is survived by his loving wife, Barbara; six children, Ginny Buttrico and husband Dave of South Plainfield, Janet Finamore and husband Steve of Hillsdale, Carol McCauley of Greensboro, N.C., James McCauley of Yuma, Colo., Thomas McCauley and wife Gulia of Wind Gap, Pa. and Robert McCauley and wife Amy of Simpsonville, S.C.; two brothers, James of Maryland and Edward of New York; 18 grandchildren, Sara, Christina, Michael and Corinne Finamore, David, Alyse and Kelly Buttrico, Samantha and Robby McCauley, Dominica, Ryan and Ethan McCauley and Felicia, Elizabeth, Kristine, Steven, Justin and Amber McCauley. Also surviving are two great-grandchildren, David Buttrico and Joey Martinez, as well as his caretaker, Sophia.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Embracing Hospice Care, 109 South Main St., Cranbury, N.J. 08512 or to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

Surviving is a daughter, Kelly Raiti of Allentown, Pa.; her father, Dominick J. Raiti, Sr. of South Plainfield; a sister, Nancy Biddle of New Brunswick; three brothers, Joseph Raiti and wife Rose of California, Dominick J. Raiti, Jr. of South Plainfield and Paul Raiti and wife Debbie of Georgia. Also surviving is her beloved grandson, James Mack.

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

Jerry D. Cummings, 75

Jerry D. Cummings died on Wednesday, Oct. 15 at Haven Hospice in Edison.

Born in Dayton, Ohio he lived in Scotch Plains for many years and had recently resided in South Plainfield.

Before his retirement he was owner of CPS, Inc. of South Plainfield.

He was predeceased by his wife, Arlene, in 1999.

He is survived by a daughter, Rosanna Breneiser and husband Ray; a son, Steve Cummings; two grandchildren and his companion, Maria Falsetta.

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

Julia D. Nichuk, 94

Julia D. Nichuk of Hobe Sound, Fla. passed into God's arms on Saturday, Oct. 18 at The Manor's Hobe Sound.

She was born in Plainfield and lived in Manahawkin for 30 years, moving to Florida in 2000.

Julia was a generous, strong, independent, loving woman who was devoted to family and friends. She spent her youth surrounded by a large Italian family and enjoying music and family holidays. She was a centering force in her family and will be sadly missed, but will live on forever in the hearts and spirit of all those who knew and loved her.

Julia was a retired Lockheed Martin bookkeeper, both in North Plainfield and Metuchen. Julia was a long-standing member of the Lockheed Stardusters and loved knowing about her former co-workers.

She is survived by two daughters, Carol D'Andrea of Hobe Sound, Fla. and Maureen Curry and husband Thomas Curry of Laguna Beach, Calif. and 11 grandchildren, Michele Nichols and husband Garry Nichols of LaGrange, Ill., SPC Adam D'Andrea in the U.S. Army, Aaron D'Andrea and wife Stephanie of West Palm Beach, Fla., Anthony D'Andrea of Tequesta, Fla., Jennifer Curry of Orange, Calif., Erin Seeneey and husband T.J. Sweeney of Longmont, Colo., Juliet Curry Parker and husband Trevor of Santa Monica, Calif., Ellen Curry Denys and husband Steven of Oak Park, Calif., Charles Curry of Fremont, Calif., Clifford Curry of Los Angeles, Calif. and James Curry of San Diego, Calif. and a nephew, James Caserta of Monroe Township, whom she raised. She is also survived by nine great-grandchildren, Jena Curry, Brian and Joesey Mathews, Aaron D'Andrea Jr., Kyle and Sam Gosiewski, Rachel Nicholas and Alana and Evan Sweeney.

Funeral services were held at Aycok Funeral Home in Tequesta, Fla. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Treasure Coast Hospice, 1201 SE Indian, Stuart, Fla. 34997.



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Sports

Traveling Soccer



Hammertime Has Back-to-Back Wins Last Weekend

Hammertime played in the Mt. Olive soccer tournament over the weekend. After a very chilly and early start, the girls played to a third place victory. This was Hammertime's first time playing in a tournament and we are all really proud of them.

On Sunday, they took on the Cosmos of Cranford. After coming off the win on Saturday, the girls were looking to keep their streak going. Hammertime scored right off the bat and continued throughout the first half.

Showing very impressive moves, the girls were on a roll. They were up 4-0 going into the second half. Hammertime held their positions and played a very impressive game. The final score was 4-0 and a awesome victory for the girls.

Many thanks to Mrs. Vill for stepping in to help Coach Nagel. Hammertime's next game is on Saturday at New Providence and Sunday at Middlesex. Keep up the great work!

-Submitted by Sandy Surowiec

Register for Youth Wrestling Saturday

Registration for the South Plainfield Recreation Youth Wrestling program will be held on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the PAL building located on Maple Avenue.

Registration is open to all South

Plainfield children ages 5-11 as of October 1, 2008. Cost is \$35 per child. Parents must accompany child at registration. A birth certificate is needed for first time sign-ups and proof of residency is required.

South Plainfield Represented In Hot Chicago Marathon

Mike Loenser, 26, of South Plainfield, finished 130th out of 33,033 runners in the 2008 Chicago Marathon on October 12.

Under extremely hot conditions, Mike ran the 26.2 miles in 2 hours, 43 minutes and 30 seconds, a 6:14 pace per mile. He finished 39 out of 4,025 for his age group. While not his personal best, he ran in conditions that are less than favorable for marathon runners. Runners like the temperature in the mid 50s but this race started at 8 a.m. at 65 degrees and ended the race at around 82 degrees.

Out of all the racers from New Jersey, Mike finished number four and second in his age group of M25-29. The course takes the runners through 29 different neighborhoods throughout Chicago.

Mike currently teaches physical, health and drivers' education at Elizabeth High School. He runs for Runners High Running Club of Metuchen.

Mike's next running adventure will probably be a half marathon in Philadelphia in mid-November. Congratulations Mike on a great accomplishment.

Sign Up for Ski Club Trips

The South Plainfield Ski Club still has 20 available spots open for our four Friday afternoon ski/snowboard trips to Mountain Creek. Any interested students in grades six through eight should call Rob Breslau at (908) 553-3009 by Thursday, Oct. 30. Openings will be filled on a first come basis.

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Kathryn Raiti, 53

Kathryn Raiti died on Wednesday, Oct. 15 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in Perth Amboy, Kathy resided in South Plainfield for most of her life.

Kathy offered the gift of life, and through her loving and generous spirit, it was her decision to donate so others can live.

She was predeceased by her mother, Rosita Raiti.

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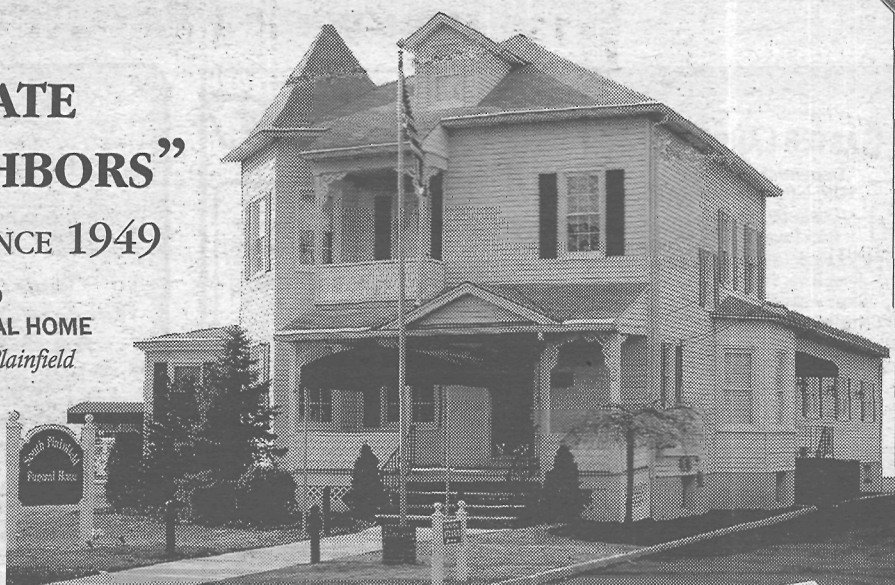
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In My Opinion

The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the publisher, nor do we guarantee their accuracy.

(Continued from page 2)

ga's plan tests a variety of traffic-calming devices, including speed humps, speed tables, and enhanced road markings. This is a program that won't break the bank and will return huge dividends for South Plainfield neighborhoods.

Anesh and Bengivenga are looking out for families like mine. Please support them on Election Day.

**SINCERELY,
BETTY LUNDQUIST**

To the Editor:

One of the issues in the election is about the acquired land on New Market Avenue. The land was purchased through the County Open Space Program at no cost to the borough. The land will not be used for homes, thus saving it for open space, and there are funds through grants that will help clean up the area with no cost to the borough.

Please come out to vote for Chrissy Buteas and Frank Salerno for council in our town. We need the rest of the Democratic team so remember to vote for Linda Stender and Frank Lautenberg also.

WALTER KALMAN

Dear Editor,

I would like to submit the follow-

ing regarding what I hope will clear up where I got the information regarding the facts as I quoted in my letter of September 19 and the response from Mrs. Thomas on the 26th.

My letter quoted "fiscal year" which ended June 30, 2000, a rate of .073; Thomas's letter quoted an "annual rate" for 2001, a rate of .086.

My letter quoted "fiscal year" which ended June 30, 2007, a rate of 1.002; Thomas's "annual year" ended December 31, 2007, a rate of .089. This is not an apples to apples comparison.

Since Thomas was chair of Administration and Finance in the borough, she had to know I was speaking about fiscal year because I quoted in my letter, "since we are on a fiscal year."

She did not mention the other information I quoted regarding open space and budget information regarding budget highlights because she must have agreed with them. Yet she said I was using "every excuse imaginable except for the effects of global warming," etc. How quoting facts is an excuse, I cannot imagine. This has nothing to do with global warming. This has everything to do with the residents of South Plainfield paying taxes.

My information was taken from the following borough documents as follows: Borough of South Plainfield

Municipal Tax Rate, covers the fiscal tax years from 1994 to 2008; Borough of South Plainfield SFY 2009 Budget Highlights; and my own tax bill for the years of 2000 and 2007 regarding "open space."

**RESPECTFULLY,
RICHARD PETRONE**

To the Editor:

I had the honor and privilege of serving the borough as both councilman and municipal clerk/administrator. During that time, I always prided myself on treating all residents fairly, honestly and with the respect they deserved. I was raised under the premise that you treat people the way you want them to treat you. Although I don't have a masters degree, I think that I've mastered that concept pretty well. To me, honesty, integrity and fairness are the critical aspects when selecting a leader. That's why I have to urge everyone to support Chrissy Buteas and Frank Salerno for borough council.

While Mr. Bengivenga and Mr. Anesh ask for your support for re-election, what have they done to warrant it? Well, here's what they've done—they raised taxes 15 points since January, they overturned the Hamilton Boulevard/Belmont Avenue truck ban, they

spent hundreds of thousands of dollars paving a road that very few people travel on, they have preserved no open space, they held private meetings with professionals in one of Mr. Bengivenga's fathers properties prior to the public interviews for professional services. And they talk about ethics. Please.

I first met Franky Salerno when he was about eight or nine years old and he was an altar boy at Sacred Heart Church. He knew the meaning of service even at that young age. He continued that sense of service when he enlisted in the United States Navy after the attacks of 9/11. He didn't stop when he returned home, volunteering to serve as a member of the planning board and a Pop Warner football coach. He will be a tremendous councilman. I'm honored to call him a friend.

Chrissy Buteas is as dedicated, intelligent and hardworking a person you'll ever meet. Her hard work and determination led her to be a goalie on the NCAA Division III Championship field hockey team. She is bright, articulate and sincere. She, like Franky, has served the borough in many capacities—the zoning board, recreation commission and public celebrations committee. She has also served in leadership positions on various state and county organizations.

She, too, is a great friend and will be a great addition to the council.

Both Chrissy Buteas and Franky Salerno have proposed a vision for the borough that is solid and open. They will not put trucks back on Hamilton Boulevard. They will preserve open space. They will improve our recreation facilities. They will bring green energy provisions to the borough. And, they will not raise municipal taxes to do so. What more can we ask of our leaders?

I believe that Chrissy Buteas and Franky Salerno are the best candidates for borough council. They will bring honest leadership from a new generation. They deserve our votes on Election Day.

**RESPECTFULLY,
VINNIE BUTTIGLIERI**

Dear Editor,

Like everyone, I was shocked to learn the Democrats bought the old bus depot on New Market Avenue for \$500,000 more than it was worth and how they signed a contract letting the polluters off the hook, which forces taxpayers to fund the half-million-dollar cleanup.

But it gets worse. Last week the Democrats refused to vote to investigate the matter. Their excuse? They

(Continued on page 12)

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ELECTION 2008

Refusal to Disclose Business, Real Estate Holdings is the Real Scandal

With only two weeks left before Election Day, Democrats Chrissy Buteas and Franky Salerno demanded that their opponents come clean and disclose the myriad of potential conflicts which they and their family members have in South Plainfield. Chrissy Buteas stated the candidates' position: "Every year the Republican party in South Plainfield comes up with some baseless accusation a couple of weeks before election to deflect attention from their ethical lapses. This year it's the open space acquisition of the bus lot on New Market Avenue. They now oppose the acquisition which they actually voted for in December 2006. They claim they didn't know there was some pollution on the site. Who are they kidding? Of course Bengivenga and Anesh knew there would be some contamination at a location where they serviced buses. Come on... they voted for two resolutions, one on May 1, 2007 and another on July 17, 2007

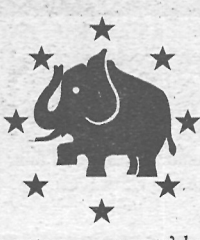


authorizing demolition and the placing of monitoring wells on the site. Mr. Bengivenga is the former president of one of his father's construction companies. He knows land as well as anyone. Acquiring this awful site was a home run for the town, particularly the residents along New Market Avenue and near Pitt Street Park that had to put up with the fumes and noise of buses running all day and night. Bengivenga and Anesh are calling it a scandal to deflect attention from their abysmal record on the council. Raising taxes 15 points in seven months, having no green energy plan, not acquiring one inch of open space, supporting a dangerous plan to put trucks back on the residential portion of Hamilton Boulevard...now that's a scandal. But the biggest scandal of all is Bengivenga's and Anesh's arrogant avoidance of Mayor Buttrico's ethical disclosure order. What do they have to hide? Why do they refuse to disclose

the names of family owned businesses and real estate in town?" Franky Salerno expanded upon his runningmate's comments: "Chrissy and I have nothing to hide. When we become members of the council Mayor Buttrico's ethics directive will become the law. What are Matt and Rob afraid of? We have been able to uncover 12 different business names used by the Bengivengas and dozens of properties around town. How many more are there? Word around town says that they are planning a strip mall in the downtown area and another one on Park Avenue at Van Graff florist. As a member of the governing body that sets the zoning ordinance, our residents have a right to know what a council member's family is up to. "Remember Councilmember Bengivenga did not disclose his family owned the property which sued to put up a billboard and did not disclose his ties to the trucking industry. Our residents deserve better than candidates who make up scandals and fail to disclose conflicts of interest. It's time for honest service from a new generation. Please vote for Chrissy Buteas and Franky Salerno."

Anesh & Bengivenga: Honesty Starts with a Truthful Campaign

Citing less-than-truthful advertising by their Democratic rivals, Councilman Matt Anesh and Councilman Rob Bengivenga this week challenged their opponents to be honest with voters. "They're running on 'honest service,' but practically every campaign piece they produce contains an outright falsehood or deception," said Bengivenga. Residents across the town agree: "I was hoping for an honest debate," said St. James Place resident Lillian Smith. "I don't see that from Salerno and Buteas." Senior citizen Marie DeSabbato is equally frustrated. "Salerno and Buteas keep rewriting the truth. How can we trust them in office when they won't deal truthfully now?" Taxes are the best example according to Anesh: "At various times they've said taxes went up 18 points, 16 points and 15 points, which they claim is more than the last five years, or (sometimes) the last seven years, combined. They can't keep their stories straight." The truth? Taxes went up eight points in January, which com-



pared to six points last year and eight the year before. "What's really deceptive," added Bengivenga, "is that January's tax increase resulted from the Democrats' budget, not ours. They conveniently ignore that." Salerno and Buteas are also promoting a phony on-line "tax test." Oddly, it's a different test than they mailed out several months back. "Apparently the principles of math changed since spring," said Anesh. Anesh is proud of his party's campaign: "If you notice, the staged letters from relatives of Mayor Buttrico (two so far) and Democratic Party Boss Diegnan (three so far) can't contradict our figures. We use real figures from verifiable sources." "In fact," added Anesh, "if anyone can find a false figure in our advertising, we'll immediately pull the ad. We challenge the Democrats to do the same." The mistruths are not just about taxes though. For instance, Buteas and Salerno claim the GOP has done nothing to preserve open space. But actually, in June the new majority applied for

one of the biggest open-space purchases in the area. These decisions, however, are controlled by the all-Democratic freeholder board. As a lobbyist, Christine Buteas of all people should know this. Metuchen Road is another example. A Democratic committee member wrote recently and said the town paid \$200,000 to pave that street. The truth? It actually cost a third of that, and by doing it with Borough employees, taxpayers saved about 12%. "And as usual, they've already started attacking Rob's family," added Anesh. "They sent out paid phone calls calling his dad the biggest developer in town, even though his father hasn't built here since the early 90s." "When I ran two years ago, the Democrats got even sleazier," added Bengivenga. "They sent flyers to different areas of town telling people that my dad would be building something in their neighborhood if I got elected. They told one neighborhood he'd build a bank, another that he'd build condos, and another that he'd build a truck terminal. Of course, this was all fiction." "The Democrats also want you to believe they will keep taxes flat," said Anesh. "But last time they said that, they raised taxes right after the election." "If their tax pledge had any credibility, they'd say how they're going to do it," said Anesh. "But they refuse to say." "The contrast is stark," explained Oakland Avenue resident Derryck White. White noted how Anesh and Bengivenga haven't made false promises, but rather, have demonstrated their ability to slash spending and borrowing. "They're also concentrating on low-cost projects that benefit families and neighborhoods, like 'Safe Streets, Safe Kids' and revitalizing Cotton Street Park." "If you like the change that's happening in South Plainfield," said Anesh, "please support us, so we can keep the change going." To find out more about Matt and Rob, go to www.spgop.com.

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In My Opinion

(Continued from page 10) needed time to consider whether an independent investigation was warranted. In fact, rather than join the call for an investigation, the mayor started harassing Councilman Bengivenga, blaming Bengivenga for all things, "bringing this up at the last minute." That's nonsense. Their party boss, Democrat Patrick Diegnan, handled the closing (and hasn't returned press calls about it). Their borough clerk, former Democratic Councilman Vincent Buttiglieri, participated in

the closing and controlled the records until March. And it is the mayor who had copies of the contamination reports, never sharing them with the Republican councilmen. Bengivenga connected the dots through available public records, records that were never disclosed when they should have been. If it had not been for Bengivenga's efforts to uncover this scandal, residents would still be in the dark, never knowing how their tax dollars were flung down the sewer. The *Courier News* got it

right: this transaction smells. Residents have a right to some answers. **COUNCILMAN RAY RUSNAK** To the Editor: If they wrote a book, they'd call it "The Fleecing of South Plainfield." That's what I call the last three years under the Democrats. It's one bad deal after another. First they paid \$1.6 million for those three shacks on Hamilton Boulevard. For the two owned by relatives of a big-time

Democratic contributor taxpayers paid well above appraised value. Yet, interestingly, the one owned by the person without any influence didn't get this type of deal. Their next boondoggle was to sell open space property to a campaign contributor for \$100,000 under fair market value. The latest scandal is probably the worst. According to the *Courier News*, the Democrats bought contaminated property for half a million more than it was worth. And as if that weren't enough, they signed an

agreement so the polluters can't be held liable for the cleanup, which will cost taxpayers nearly \$500,000. The only way to stop these scandals is by telling the Democrats we've had enough and by voting Republican. If we elect Salerno and Buteas, our tax dollars will once again be wasted. The Democrats talk about taxes as if their antics have nothing to do with increases in the tax rate. Baloney. If the Democrats want to see who raised taxes, they should look in the mirror. **DENNIS LITTLE**

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