

Ceremonies honoring veterans
will be held at the Middle
School on Monday, Nov. 10 at
9 a.m. and at Franklin School on
Thursday, Nov. 13 at 10 a.m.

South Observer

VOL. 12, NO. 11

MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

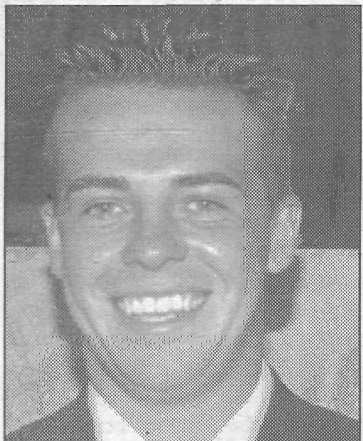
50 CENTS

NOVEMBER 7, 2008

Democrats Regain Control of Borough Council



Chrissy Buteas



Franky Salerno

Huge Turnout Gives Buteas, Salerno Victory

Democratic newcomers Chrissy Buteas and Franky Salerno defeated Republican incumbents Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga for two seats on the Borough Council. Democrats will hold a majority on the council come January. Last year's Republican victory gave the party a majority after more than a decade of Democratic control.

Voter turnout was 70 percent or 10,145 eligible voters, an increase over last year's 35.5 percent turnout.

Democrat Chrissy Buteas was the top vote getter with 5,390 votes, followed by Franky Salerno with 5,054. Repub-

lican incumbents Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga received 4,093 and 4,037 votes, respectively.

"This victory was a team effort," said Buteas. She thanked all who came out to vote and those who worked so hard on the campaign. "The citizens voted today and they don't want trucks on Hamilton Boulevard," she added.

"I'm so happy tonight," exclaimed Salerno. "Our generation needs to step up, and Chrissy and I are here to do just that—serve the people of South Plainfield."

"I want to congratulate Chrissy and

Franky on their win. I'm sure they will serve the people of South Plainfield honorably and with the best interest of all the residents in mind. It's been a profound honor serving on the council and as council president," said Rob Bengivenga. "I'm proud that the Republican Majority has left the borough in better condition than it was a year ago, especially financially, and I hope the new administration will continue to build on that progress. In addition, I'm thankful to the many volunteers who worked tirelessly on our campaign. They've been tremendous. I also want to thank Councilman Matt Anesh, my running-mate, for his service to our town. You can't find a better public servant than Matt, and it's been an honor serving with him," he added.

"I want to wish Chrissy and Franky the best of luck on the council. I'm sure they have the good judgment and intelligence to do what's best for our town. My advice is this: Be independent, trust your own judgment, and you'll do well," said Matt Anesh. "The past three years have been an amazing experience, and it's been a pleasure to serve the public. I want to thank the people who worked so hard on our campaign. It's humbling when people devote so much time and

effort on your behalf. Our volunteers were phenomenal."

On the National level, South Plainfield voters chose Obama over McCain, 5,432 to 4,524.

Senator Frank Lautenberg defeated Dick Zimmer and made history in New Jersey when he won his fifth term in the Senate. Lautenberg is the first New Jersey ever elected to five terms in

the U.S. Senate.

Republican State Senator Leonard Lance of Clinton Township defeated Democratic opponent, Assemblywoman Linda Stender, for a 7th District U.S. Congress seat.

Democrats, Freeholder Director David Crabel, Mildred "Millie" Scott and Ron Rios, also swept the Middlesex County freeholder race.

Resident Drives Pickup Truck Into Worth Drive Home



The home of Daniel and Elizabeth Smith of Worth Drive was damaged when Anthony Vajda of South Plainfield drove into it.

Anthony Vajda, 47, of South Plainfield, operating a 2006 Ford F250 Pickup truck struck a garage and home located at 909 Worth Drive on October 23 at approximately 4 p.m. The truck caused extensive damage to the garage and front porch.

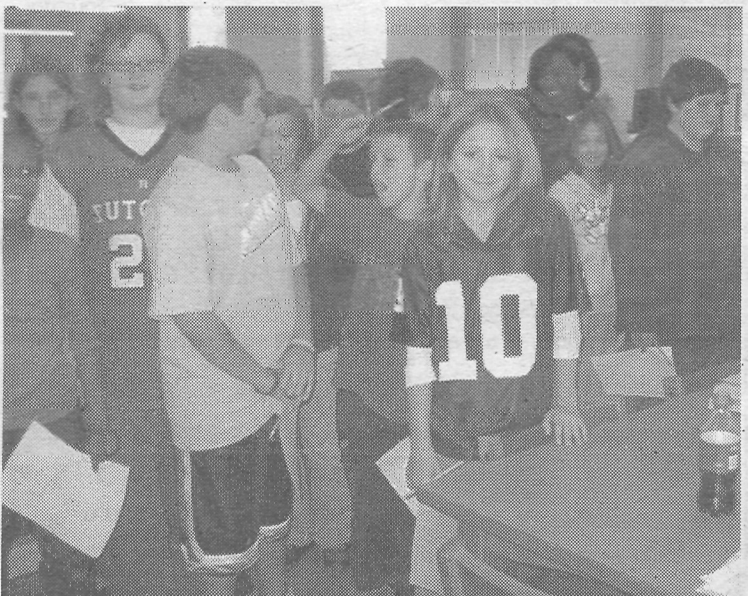
Vajda was traveling north on Blecker Street when he drove into the driveway at Worth Dr., striking the residence. Vajda, who reported

no injuries, was transported to JFK Medical Center in Edison for a medical evaluation.

The home, owned by Daniel and Elizabeth Smith, was occupied by the owners and their two teenage daughters when the crash occurred. The occupants reported no injuries.

The crash is being investigated and no summonses have been issued at this time.

Local Students Have Their Votes Counted



Grant School sixth grade students line up to receive election ballots after being checked off by Librarian Maria Bartolo.

By Libby Barsky

Six hundred Grant School students and 103 students in South Plainfield High School Government and Law class took part in the National Student/Parent Mock Election, along with 988 schools throughout the State of New Jersey.

Traditionally SPHS students vote for presidential candidates in an election year. However, this was the first time the high school's votes were tabulated with other schools participating in the mock election, according to SPHS Government teacher Brandon Crosby who coordinated the program with Social Studies Team Leader Joe Cirigliano.

This was the first time Grant School held an election involving everyone in the school. Sixth grade Social Studies teacher Rebecca Gross was the coordinator of the program with the help of Social Studies teacher Scott Culver and fifth grade staff members.

Prior to the actual voting, students learned about the other eight Presidential candidates also running in addition to Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain. All candidates were listed on the ballots at Grant School. The ballot also allowed for a "write in" candidate. Students learned about the electoral process, what the electoral college is, and its role in determining the final results of

the presidential election.

In their government classes, high school students covered not only the presidential candidates but also those running for the Senate and Congress in the 7th District: Richard Zimmer for the Senate and Leonard Lance and Linda Stender for Congress.

Republican Leonard Lance came to class and talked to the students. Democratic candidates for Borough Council, Franky Salerno and Chrissy Buteas, also introduced themselves, as did Council President Rob Bengivenga and Councilman Matt Anesh.

At Grant School, the ballot contained the names of all 10 presidential candidates and those seeking a congressional spot.

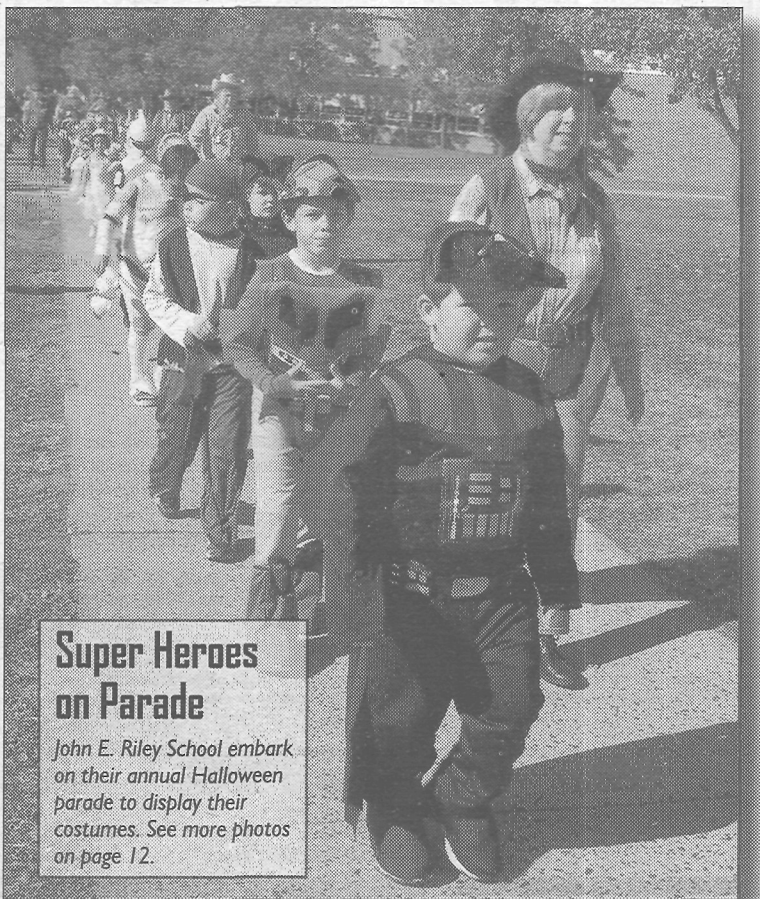
After the high school students voted on October 30, Crosby tabulated the ballots and announced the following results: President: Obama 57, McCain 39; Boss 1 and Nader 3. For the U.S. Senate: Lautenberg 50, Zimmer 28, Lobman 6, Boss 9, Brooks 5 and Scheurer 1. For House of Representatives: Stender 23, Lance 55, Abrams 2, Greco 9 and Hsing 6.

High school ballots included the Senate and Congressional race for District 7, as well as the presidential candidates.

Also included on the ballot at the high school were the photos and names of past presidents with the question, "If miracles could happen, which one of these presidents would you want to lead the nation?"

The following were the results: George Washington 5, Thomas Jeffer-

(Continued on page 6)



Super Heroes on Parade

John E. Riley School embark on their annual Halloween parade to display their costumes. See more photos on page 12.

In My Opinion

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

Dear South Plainfield Friends,

We are approaching the time of year when we very often count our blessings and think of ways we can share our good fortune with others. We hope that you will consider sharing your blessings to help a family in need.

The Association of New Jersey Chiropractors, a non-profit state organization, is sponsoring a statewide

food drive. There will be offices throughout the state where people can drop off non-perishable food for those in need. Food will be donated to local food banks in that region.

The office in your local area is Dr. Anthony J. DeCosta's Office, located at 129 South Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield.

All non-perishable food will be do-

nated to FISH Hospitality Program. FISH has been serving homeless women and families since 1990, providing shelter and meals, as well as offering assistance locating employment and affordable housing.

Please drop off all items at the office starting Monday, Nov. 3 through Monday, Nov. 24. (Dr. DeCosta's office is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.)

Thank you for helping those most in need.

SINCERELY,
ANTHONY J. DECOSTA, DC

To the Editor:

In regards to an article printed in the *South Plainfield Observer* titled, "Crossing Guard Speaks Out for Safety of Kids," DMS System has never made any statements to any newspaper, nor were we ever contacted by your newspaper to make a statement or interview. An individual crossing guard making a statement does not reflect the opinions or statements of DMS Systems.

However, let me comment on the topic of your article. The posts involved are Hamilton Boulevard and Evona Avenue and Hamilton Boulevard and Jackson Avenue.

Both posts are staffed by crossing guards; originally both posts, Hamilton Boulevard and Evona Avenue and Hamilton Boulevard and Jackson Avenue, were staffed from 2:45 p.m. until 3:45 p.m. During the week of January 14, 2008, Lt. Kevin Murtagh, from Traffic Safety, by citizen request, observed the posts in questions and made changes based upon what he had observed. The post in question, Hamilton and Evona, was rightfully changed from 2:45 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. to accommodate the arrival of the bus.

Lt. Kevin Murtagh has been the coordinator between South Plainfield and DMS Systems for six years in reference to the crossing guard post duties. His guidance in regards to traffic safety has been an invaluable resource for DMS Systems and for the people he serves in South Plainfield.

DORETTA MCCARTHY,
DMS SYSTEMS INC.

Editor's Note: We apologize for the misunderstanding in the October 10 article, which stated, "Guard employer DMS Security of Jersey City said that they are aware of the problem..." The article should have read, "According to the crossing guard, DMS Security of Jersey City said that they are aware of the problem..." We apologize for the error.

Want to Stay Informed But 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.
Current BOE Meetings air on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

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 10	November 10
November 17	November 24
December 1	December 8

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/adjudication

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 plan 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.



Children of Knights of Columbus Council #6203 members, Alyssa Scrudato, Joelle Butrico and Dana Alexa, assist with the mum sale.

Mums the Word for Knights of Columbus Charity Fundraiser

The Knights of Columbus Council #6203 were hard at work with one of their biggest fundraisers of the year. During the months of September and October the Knights could be found at the South Plainfield Rescue Squad selling mums on weekends.

The fundraiser was started four years ago by co-chairmen Vincent Butrico and Gerry Butrico. The \$5,550 in proceeds collected from this year's mum sale will go towards the Knights General Charity fund.

One of the Knights' principles is charity. This general charity fund is used to support local residents who have charitable needs.

During the four weeks of selling, the Knights sold 1,158 small mums, 54 large mums, 50 hanging plants and 50 kale plants. That is an amazing 1,312 mums and plants sold over the four weekends.

The Knights would like to thank all

of the residents who bought mums and for spreading the word about the fundraiser. They would also like to thank South Plainfield Funeral Home, McCrisky-Gustafson Home For Funerals and Middlesex Funeral Home for purchasing mums, as well as all the local business that purchased mums.

Thanks goes to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad for the use of their parking lot.

The Knights could not have succeeded this year without the help of the following Knights who volunteered many hours selling the mums: Grand Knight Bill Butrico, Vinny Butrico, Gerry Butrico, Joe Bielinski, Bob Tortorelli, Ted Rubino, Joe McGeehan, Brian Cargill, Fred Brisebois, John Lobosco, Tony Costantino and Joe Scrudato.

Correction

Food Bags Instructions Misleading Donors

There is confusion in regards to the bags being distributed to residents to be used for Scouting for Food. Instructions on the pre-printed bags ask for canned goods only. Please do not follow these directions as all non-perishable food for distribution to the needy will be accepted. Bags dropped off last weekend will be picked up this Saturday. Bags dropped off this Saturday will be picked up next weekend. Thank you for your donations.

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South Plainfield Observer

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

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

We encourage the submission of stories and photos. To get an article published: Type (double spaced) the article and mail, email or fax. Include name, address and telephone number. **Deadline for submission is Monday, 5 p.m.**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Submit letters to the editor by mail, email or fax. Letters should not exceed 200 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. Letters must include name and phone number, for verification.

To comment on the content or to suggest a special story idea, contact the publisher at (908) 668-0010.

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

LIFELINES

Each fall, I eagerly await the changing colors of the leaves. The maples flaming into red, the oaks fading to brown, the beeches turning yellow and the many other varieties of trees each play their part in the exuberance of the autumnal extravaganza. But then, all too soon the leaves fall and are carted away, having blazed in their few moments of glory, too quickly forgotten until next year.

I am reminded of the day, just over seven years ago, when fire lit the skies over the World Trade Center towers. For several weeks afterwards, people showed their beautiful colors: speaking and driving politely, coming together as one people, showing a unity of community that hadn't been seen for too long a time. Then, just like the fallen leaves, that beauty of "we're in this together-ness" seemed to disappear.

I ponder why it is that tragedy seems to pull us together more strongly than joy, but then the news update on the radio interrupts my reverie and calls me back to the ever worsening economy. I wonder whether this next period of financial distress will pull us together as a nation, similar to what happened in my grandparents' time, or will serve to pull us even further apart.

We were put on Earth to live in community, not an easy task by any means, but a rewarding one nonetheless. In the aftermath of another bitter and divisive election, can we stop for a moment to reflect on the beauty of the autumn leaves and think about the greater things that bind us together as a nation—and as a community—and dedicate ourselves to seeking and serving the common good? Can we put aside the "me-first" attitude which is so pervasive today and adopt an attitude which seeks to bless and benefit all of us who live in this place?

Even though the leaves fall and are gathered together after they have lost their beauty, they still serve an important, if less visible function. As they decompose and decay, they give their lives for the renewal of the soil—the earth—that future generations may find and enjoy a fruitful and fertile life. May our lives be as beautiful and useful, as the leaves which have hung so brightly around us this autumn season.

God Bless.

LifeLines is a monthly Observer column written by area churches. This article comes from Rev. D. Gordon Braun, Jr., Pastor of First Baptist Church of South Plainfield.

Phil Veinott Returning to Vietnam

Phil Veinott, son of Maureen and George Veinott, graduated from William Paterson University in August with a bachelor of science degree in business administration.

Last February, Veinott traveled to Lon An in Vietnam at the invitation of his boss at Costco. He spent two weeks with the family of his boss, sharing space and learning to share two

buckets of water with 10 others.

His experience living in Vietnam and seeing firsthand the needs of school children made him set a goal of relocating to Vietnam and helping Vietnamese students receive learning tools. He will be returning to Vietnam in February and is currently taking classes in the Vietnamese language to be able to teach English.



Silver Creek Landscaping designed and installed landscaping at the entrance to Jost Field in appreciation of the town's excellent sports programs. The landscaping was completed in time for South Plainfield High School's Senior Night held last Friday. Barton Nursery donated plants for the project and KLK provided the mulch and stone at no charge.

Austin Family Renews Plainfield Avenue Adopt-A-Spot Contract

The Austin Family has renewed its adoption of Plainfield Avenue for another year. Elizabeth Austin and her son Anthony first adopted this spot in 2006 and have been clearing litter from the roadsides between Sampton Avenue and Maple Avenue every other month for the last two years.

This stretch of road passes the mu-

nicipal complex, including Borough Hall, the library, the rescue squad and the fire department. Spring Lake Park, Monument Park, the fireman's memorial and the senior center all front on this street.

Ms. Austin undertook this adoption because she wanted residents and visitors to get a good first impression of the borough when passing through this town center.

The Clean Business Association is looking for more adopters for commercial areas including Hamilton Boulevard, Church Street, South Plainfield Avenue and Oak Tree Avenue.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact the Clean Communities Coordinator at (908) 226-7621.

Veterans Day Service at Trinity Reform Church

Trinity Reformed Church, 401 Greenbrook Rd. in North Plainfield, will hold a Veterans Day Remembrance service on Sunday, Nov. 9 at 3 p.m. Plan to attend this program. Refreshments following ceremonies.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOE

Annual Report of Violence, Vandalism and Substance Abuse

2007-2008

Violence	15
Vandalism	18
Weapons	1
Substance abuse	3
Cost of incidents to district	17
Cost to the district	\$3,900

Actions taken

Police notified/no complaints	3
Police notified/complaints filed	9
Expulsion	1
Short-term suspensions	23
Long-term suspensions	0
Detentions	0
Other discipline	0

Offender information

Regular education student	22
Student with a disability	3
Student from another district	0
Non-student	0
Unknown	1

Victim information

Regular education student	4
Student with a disability	2
Student from another district	0
School personnel	4
Victim of a violent criminal offense	0

27 Convenient Locations

Extended Lobby Hours

Contact: Darlene Pinto
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Around Town

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

Coming Up.....

November 14, 1-3 pm

Passport Applications and Renewals

November 15

Cappy Awards Dinner, \$15

November 19, 9:30 am

Trip to LaNeve Restaurant Luncheon & Show, \$52

November 20, 9 am

Bally's Trip

December 11

Hunterdon Hills Playhouse Christmas Show-Bus, show, luncheon, dessert buffet, \$66

MONDAYS

Silver Sneakers 8:30 am
Crocheting 9:30 am
Yoga 10:30 am
Art Class 11:30 am

TUESDAYS

Center Closed Nov. 11 Veteran's Day
Bingo 10 am-2 pm
Ladies Group 10 am

WEDNESDAYS

Aerobics 8:30 am
Line Dancing 10 am
Computer 10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm
Crocheting 1 pm
Tai Chi 2 pm

THURSDAYS

Pathmark 9 am
Crafts Class 10 am
Computer 10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm
Exercise Class 1:15 pm

FRIDAYS

Bingo 10 am-2 pm

Daily Activities: Morning coffee, pool, cards, board games, crafts

908-756-1047

Center open daily 9 am - 12:30 pm
Saturdays 9 am - 13:30
Closed Sundays

Edison Valley Playhouse Halloween Production

Through November 15

Edison Valley Playhouse presents "The Mystery of Irma Vep," based on Hitchcock's film "Rebecca," as well as other recognizable films. Tickets available at the door or call (908) 755-4654.

Theater Party

November 9

The Suburban Woman's Club is sponsoring a theater party at the Circle Theater Players, 416 Victoria Rd. in Piscataway on Sunday, Nov. 9 at 2 p.m. The play is "The Clean House" by Sarah Ruhl. Refreshments will be served during intermission.

Tickets are \$17 and can be obtained by calling (908) 757-3680.

Historical Society Monthly Meeting

November 11

The South Plainfield Historical Society November meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. at the history center in the Board of Education Building on Jackson Avenue.

New members welcome. Come and learn something about your town.

MOMS Club Open House

November 13

The MOMS Club of South Plainfield is holding an open house on Thursday, Nov. 13, 10 a.m. Meet some of our members and see what we're about. For more info, visit www.momsclubofsouthplainfield.com or call Nancy at (732) 236-3229.

Future Stars Vendor Night

November 13

Future Stars Preschool is hosting a vendor night on Thursday, Nov. 13, 6 to 9 p.m. in the Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Ave.

Stop by and get a start on your holiday. Vendor space is available. Call Stephanie Salerno at (908) 930-7744. For info, call (908) 405-5643.

Model UN Club Fundraiser

November 13

South Plainfield High School Model UN Club is holding a three-on-three basketball tournament at the PAL on Thursday, Nov. 13, 6-8 p.m. SPHS students can sign up for \$30 per team. Tickets are \$5 per person.

To register a team or buy a ticket, see Mr. Shah in SPHS Room 332.

Cappy Award Dinner

November 15

The Recreation Department and the Police Athletic League will present the Cappy Award posthumously to Jack English at dinner on Saturday, Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. at the senior center.

English, a lifelong resident who died 21 years ago, was a pioneer in organizing youth oriented sports in South Plainfield. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the PAL.

Pancake Breakfast at American Legion

November 16

The American Legion Chaumont Post 243 on Oak Tree Avenue will hold an all-you-can eat pancake breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 16 from 8 a.m. to noon. Adults \$5; children \$3; under six are free. All profits go to the scholarship fund.

SPBA meeting

November 20

South Plainfield Business Association will hold the next monthly meet-

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ing on Thursday, Nov. 20, 9 a.m. at Sherban's Diner on Front Street. This month's "Spotlight on Business" presentation will be by Curves of South Plainfield and the Community Projects presentation will be by Marge Ackerman, director, South Plainfield Social Services.

Call Debra Anne Leporino at (908) 754-6914 if you would like to be a guest or speaker at the next meeting.

JFK Vendor/Craft Fair

November 20

JFK Elementary School will hold the annual vendor/craft fair on Thursday, Nov. 20 from 6-9 p.m. Vendors and crafters wanted. Contact Jennifer at (908) 755-8912 or Janice at (908) 756-4175 for information.

— Out of Town —

World Community Day

November 7

An Annual World Community Day sponsored by Church Women United, Plainfield Area will be held at St. John's Baptist Church, 2387 Morse Ave. in Scotch Plains at 1:30 p.m.

For more info, call (908) 232-6972.

Country Store and Church Bazaar

November 7 & 8

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

Rummage Sale

November 7 & 8

Resurrection of Christ Church, 649 Bound Brook Rd., Dunellen will hold a rummage sale on Friday, Nov. 7, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 8, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Clean and new and almost new items. Great for Christmas gifts. Collectibles, household, electronic, new and gently used clothes, jewelry.

German Dinner-Dance

November 8

Join us on Saturday, Nov. 8 for an evening of fun at Singer Hall on Som-

erset Street, North Plainfield for a German Schlachtfest at 6:30 p.m. Coffee, homebaked cakes will be served. Music provided by the Werner Goebel Band. \$20 members; \$22 non-members.

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

Tai Chi and Qigong Classes Offered

November 10

The following eight week classes will be held in Ryno Hall in Scotch Plains on Monday nights starting November 10: Tai Chi and Qigong, 7-7:50, Kung Fu basics, 8-8:50.

For more, call Lena Anderson (908) 591-1602 or Cara Gutentag (732) 752-9057.

Depression/Bipolar Support Meeting

November 12

The public is invited to the monthly educational meeting of the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 7:45 p.m., Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd. in Morristown. Nominal donation for non-members.

Woodbridge WOWs

November 12

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will conduct a business meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. in the children's room of the main library, George Fredrick Plaza, Rt. 35, Woodbridge. Light refreshments. For more information, call (732) 381-3255 or (908) 757-0515.

Daughters of Penelope Tricky Tray

November 14

The Daughters of Penelope, Tethys Chapter #229, will hold the annual tricky tray fundraiser on Friday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m., Community Center of St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 1101 River Rd., Piscataway. Admission: \$7 includes one sheet of auction tickets, coffee and desserts. Other refreshments will be available. Proceeds benefit various Central Jersey charity and scholarship funds.

For more information, call Alice Kartikis at (732) 297-0581 or Polly Ploussiou at (732) 297-6246.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Well, the election of 2008 is over, as is the seemingly endless campaign preceding it. (Unless, of course, recounts and lawsuits are pending.) Now, before we start obsessing over the already-begun and truly endless campaign for the 2012 election, let's pause for news from the South Plainfield Library.

The library will be closed on Tuesday in observance of Veteran's Day.

Throughout November, we've added a new kids' program. It's the Monday Morning Movie, shown (guess when?) on Monday mornings at 10:30. The movie is appropriate for preschoolers and runs approximately 40 minutes. No pre-registration is required. Unfortunately, rights issues prevent us from publishing the individual title; please call us for that information.

Beyond the movie, we'll have a slightly abbreviated schedule of children's programming next week. Due to the Tuesday closing, we'll only have our "Storytime" programs for children ages three and over on Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. Our "Time for 2's & 3's" programs for children ages two and three will still be held on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 10:30. And the "Baby Time" program for children ages three and under will be held on Friday morning at 10:30. (You could almost set your watch by our programs!) Each program lasts about an hour and features stories, songs and a craft activity for older kids. No pre-registration is required. For more information, call and ask for Miss Linda or Miss Mija.

One last children's note: be advised that children's programming has been cancelled several days this week. Please check our on-line schedule or the printed library calendars for exact details.

While the library will be closed on Tuesday, there will still be a meeting of the Library Board of Trustees that evening at 7 p.m. Members of the public are invited to attend and learn more about the library's current and future plans, including important matters of library policy and needed repairs to the building. There will be a public com-

ment time early in the meeting.

On the A/V Circuit front, the latest group of Circuit CDs is now in circulation. Artists in this group include Amy Winehouse, Etta James, Gordon Lightfoot, Bob Marley, the Beastie Boys and Count Basie and his Orchestra. The group also includes the soundtrack CD to the "Sex & the City" movie, the DVD of which was recently added to our own collection. CDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two weeks. Meanwhile, the latest group from the DVD Circuit should be ready for check-out today. Specific titles are unavailable at this writing. DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days.

Here's a serious announcement: as you may know, we've recently had some problems with rowdy teens showing up here after school. This relatively small group has been disruptive and caused problems for both our staff and other patrons. As a result, we've arranged for a South Plainfield Police officer to stop by the library on weekday afternoons, when the problems have been the worst. While things have calmed down somewhat over the past few days, be advised that bad behavior won't be tolerated. Disruptive young people (or older people, for that matter) who won't settle down will be asked to leave the premises. If necessary, the officer in attendance will escort the offender out and, in the case of young people, contact their parents to arrange for an immediate ride home. We would greatly appreciate your consideration regarding this situation and are always available to listen to your views on it.

That's about all for now. As noted, we're always interested in your questions or comments. Please call (908) 754-7885 for more information, or visit the Web site at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. Catch you later.



Curves of South Plainfield recently participated in the tenth anniversary of Strides Against Breast Cancer. Jerri and Elissa, owners of South Plainfield Curves, 27 South Plainfield Ave., are proud to be a part of the company that pledged \$100,000 as a national co-sponsor of this American Cancer Society walk. If you would like further information about Curves and its programs, call (908) 757-4422.

Historical Society Offering Abraham Lincoln Program

The South Plainfield Historical Society presents "Abraham Lincoln: Man of Sorrow" on Sunday, Nov. 23 at 2 p.m. The program is offered free to the public and will be held at the senior center at 90 Maple Avenue.

Please join us and Christian Johnson of The American Historical The-

atre as he gives special insights into our country's great emancipator. Johnson's numerous appearances, including the White House and the National Archives, have made him one of the premier presenters of the Civil War president. While Lincoln the president struggles with the wrenching experi-

ences of a country divided, Lincoln the family man deals with an irrational wife and the deaths of dearly loved sons. Through it all, Lincoln was known to be a clever, even funny man who, when faced with a question he did not wish to answer, was often known to reply, "That reminds me of a story..."

The program is offered through the Horizons Speakers Bureau of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Wesley Methodist Church Holiday Boutique

Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave., is holding its annual holiday boutique and tea room on Saturday, Nov. 22, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Unique handcrafted items include jewelry, knitted and crocheted apparel, Longaberger Baskets, Discovery Toys and Dove Chocolate at Home.

The tea room will offer a variety of foods including quiche, homemade soup, sandwiches and salads. Enjoy homemade baked goods to end your meal and take some home. While you enjoy a relaxing lunch your children

can create their own gift or ornament at our "make-take" table.

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

2008-09 Junior Journalist Winner



Congratulations!
2008-09
JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Debbie and Charlie Kurland present dinner to Junior Journalist winner Zachary Wolpin and his parents, Cathy and Ken; brother, Connor; and grandmother, Vera Koprowski.

IRS Seeks to Return \$6.98 Million in Undelivered Refunds

The Internal Revenue Service is looking for Middlesex County residents who are missing 465 economic stimulus checks totaling \$309,797 and 266 regular refund checks totaling \$297,207 that were returned by the U.S. Postal Service due to mailing address errors. The average undelivered stimulus payment is \$666 and the average undelivered regular refund is \$1,117. In some instances, a taxpayer may have both an undelivered stimulus payment and a regular refund.

In South Plainfield, the following residents checks were returned: Moises R. Aviles, Jaiam Behari, Bill Cawthra, Ivan D. Corredor, Theresa Costigan, Clarissa Diniz, Christina N. Dominguez, Marie E. Duvaiz, Blanco Escobar, Barbara Hendricks, Fikandar Karim, Christopher T. and Maxine L. Palmer, Denise L. Shanabrook, Amy Uken and Resham K. Virk.

Taxpayers checking on a refund over the phone will be given instructions on how to update their addresses. Taxpayers can access a telephone version of "Where's My Refund?" by calling (800) 829-1954.



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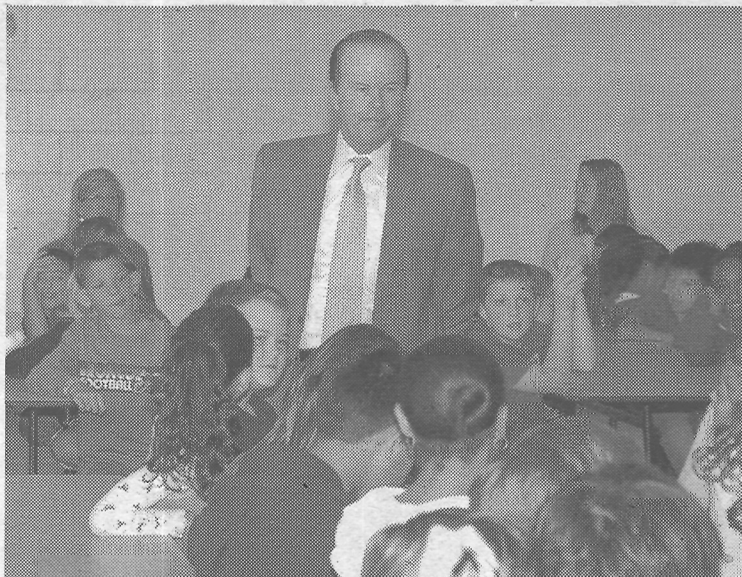
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Assemblyman Diegnan answers questions from fourth grade students at Franklin School.

Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan Goes Back to School

Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan paid a visit to the fourth grade students at Franklin School on February 23 as part of the 10th annual National Legislators-Go-Back-To-School Program, which is celebrated during the month of October. Diegnan has been a New Jersey State Assemblyman for eight years.

Diegnan began his visit by explaining what his job as an assemblyman entails. He then opened up the discussion to questions from the students. They jumped right in and asked questions that ranged from how many bills he has introduced, how he was elected, how many days he works and why he wanted to be an assemblyman. He said that of the hundreds of bills

introduced each session only about one percent actually passes.

Diegnan, chairman of Higher Education Committee, explained that he is honored to serve the people of New Jersey. He says that as an assemblyman he has been able to meet the nicest people from all over the state, including many who volunteer their time to make things better for others.

The program is sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), which aims to combat cynicism in young people through interaction with their local legislators. Last year 50 members of the New Jersey Legislature visited with more than 20,000 students.

police report

• On Oct. 21 Hector Biaggi, 46, of Rochester, N.Y. was arrested at the MVC for exhibiting fraudulent government documents for identification.

• On Oct. 22 an employee of Nutro Labs on Hadley Road reported the theft of their 1997 Acura Integra from the parking lot.

• Panel Oven on Sage Street reported the lock to the gate was removed and \$2,500 in coated copper wire was taken.

• On Oct. 24 Robert P. Evans, 32, of Rahway was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving and failure to observe a signal.

• Ahmed M. Alimazen, 35, of North Plainfield was arrested at the MVC for forgery and a fugitive charge out of Brooklyn, N.Y.

• A Holly Park Driver resident reported that a rock had been thrown at their home, denting the siding.

• An Evergreen Lane resident reported the theft of a 1997 Pontiac Grand Am.

• On Oct. 25 an Audubon Avenue resident reported the theft of four political signs from their front lawn.

• On Oct. 26 a Florence Place resident reported a window in their home had been broken by a pellet gun.

SPHS Music Boosters



MUSIC NOTES

The Marching Tigers performed on October 26 in Sayreville for the States regional competition. While they came in 11th overall with a score of 84.5, it was the best score they all received so far this season. Their final marching band competition will be on Saturday, Nov. 8 for the competition finals in Allentown, Pa. Be there by 5 p.m. to get the best parking and seating.

Parents, friends and family: Let's all group together on the 45-yard line so we can really make some noise. Before leaving for Allentown, Cowbells will be available at the high school on Saturday for \$3 each. The more noise we make, the better.

To help with your holiday shopping, the music department is now offering a Southern Living home interiors fundraiser. Check with any music department student or color guard member to review a catalog and place your order. More updates on what's happening in the music department coming soon.

Submitted by Pamela Hussey, president, SPHS Music Boosters

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN

FROM A BUSY BUSY MOM *jd*

The SPHS boys soccer dinner will take place at the South Plainfield Italian/American Club, catered by Flanagan's Restaurant, on Friday, Nov. 14. Cost is \$25 per person.

The Middle School Veterans Day presentation will take place on Monday, Nov. 10 at 9 a.m.

Thank you to the Borough Council for sharing services with the BOE by placing speed tables on Lake and Lane avenues for the safety of the children and residents at no cost to the Board of Education. A notice from Borough Council Public Safety Chairman/liaison Matt Anesh and the shared services committee was sent to all Grant, middle and high school students.

Middle School computer teacher John Hanlon was invited as a guest speaker to the New Jersey Education Association Conference in Atlantic

City. His seminar was entitled, "Tune in Your Students to Database Concepts with iTunes."

Thank you to the BOE administration, in conjunction with the police department and borough council, for providing additional police protection at the SPHS football game and senior night last Friday.

The newly implemented message phone system from the BOE was tested during the first week of November with a message from the superintendent stating the days off from school in November. If you have not filled out the required information sheet with your phone number for the call system, please contact your child's school to obtain one and return it with your child.

The Franklin School Veterans Day assembly will take place on Thursday, Nov. 13 at 10 a.m.

Local Students Votes Are Counted

(Continued from page 1)

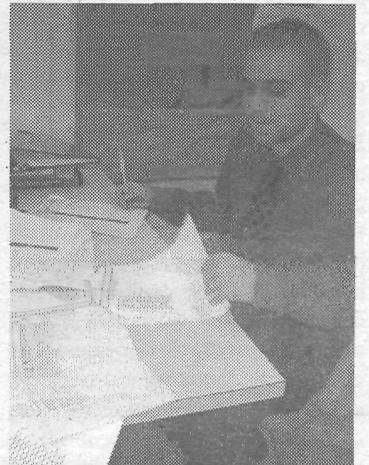
son 2, Lincoln 11, Teddy Roosevelt 8, Franklin D. Roosevelt 31, Harry Truman 4, Eisenhower 0, John F. Kennedy 17, Ronald Reagan 5 and Bill Clinton, 19.

At Grant the voting took place in the Information Center. Students lined up and gave their names to Librarian Maria Bartolo and were given a simplified paper ballot listing the names of the 10 the presidential candidates.

The results of the Grant School vote were tabulated at all school locations by School Perceptions, a polling company, and the results were posted on www.njpa.org/mock/index.html or www.njmock.election.org.

"It's been very exciting," said Gross about having a mock election in Grant during this election period.

Crosby said that his students were more enthusiastic about this election compared to the last one. Thirty of the 103 high school students in the



SPHS Government Teacher Brandon Crosby counting results of the election ballots for the student mock election.

class are 18 years-old and registered to vote in this year's election. Fifteen students in other classes area also registered to vote this year.

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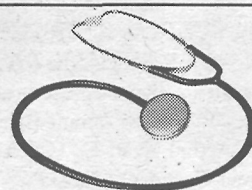
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NEWS

From Suburban Woman's Club

The Suburban Woman's Club was well represented at the State Fall Conference of the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC by Mary Ann Iannitto, president; Frieda Walker, federation/corresponding secretary; Lucy Hudson, treasurer; and Cathy Wells, legislative chairman. They were among the 350 attendees welcomed to the state fall conference of the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC by President Anne H. Redlus of Westhampton.

Irene Cash of Berkeley Heights was chairman of the event held on October 27 at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Bridgewater. Morning workshops featured a series of joint sessions including arts/creative, conservation, membership, leadership, education, public affairs, home life, international affairs, legislation/resolutions and communications featuring presenter Carly Rothman, Continuous News Desk, *The Star Ledger*.

The goals of the NJSFWC 2008-2020 Special State Project, The New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the Autistic Community were addressed at the state project workshop.

The afternoon session featured a panel of speakers led by Linda Meyer, executive director of COSAC, (NJ's autism resource). The panel presented information about autism from differ-

ent viewpoints. To support the NJSFWC Special State Project, members donated T.G.I.E gift cards to enable families with an autistic member to participate in T.G.I. Friday's Restaurant special dining out night.

The GFWC Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield is a member of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs which was founded in 1894 and headquartered on the campus of Douglass College in New Brunswick since 1966. The federation is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the oldest and largest women's volunteer service organization in the world. Opportunities are provided to women in education, leadership training and community service through participation in local clubs, enabling members to make a difference in the lives of others, one project at a time.

For more information about the club or any projects, please call (908) 755-1427 to learn more about the NJSFWC, visit the federation Web site at www.njsfwd.org or call (732) 249-5474.

—Submitted by Gloria M. Breuning,
Publicity Chairman

Riley School Receives Donation of Books From Hello Friend/Ennis Cosby Foundation

The area residents of Brattleboro, Vt. were so concerned for Edwin Medina's family after he was tragically killed in a tractor trailer accident there in February 2008, they presented the family with gifts and donations to help with their needs. In return, Edwin's children gave the representatives a poster expressing their appreciation and a photo of their father.

The poster had been brought back to Brattleboro and was displayed in the town's chamber of commerce, public library and high school.

This past June, the third grade students of Mrs. Giakas' reading class were honored to have received a classroom library of Scholastic Books from Bill and Camille Cosby's Hello Friend/Ennis William Cosby Foundation. Medina's daughters, Thais Lopez and Gabriela Medina, graciously accepted the library and anxiously opened the boxes to choose their favorite book to keep at home as a remembrance.

The actor, Bill Cosby, and his wife, Camille, established the foundation in 1997 to fulfill the goals of their son Ennis, a college student who aspired to be a special education teacher. His life was cut short by a carjacking. The



Thais Lopez and Gabriela Medina display some of the books they received from actor Bill Cosby and his wife Camille and their foundation, Hello Friend/Ennis Cosby Foundation.

Cosbys hope these books will help entice children to read and foster their love for reading.

Representatives from the Foundation visited with the Medina Family,

which also includes Edwin's son, Eduardo, and his wife, Maria. Coincidentally, Maria is the custodian at John E. Riley School, where her children attend school.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANT
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
CHANCERY DIVISION
Middlesex County
DOCKET NO. F-35094-08

(U.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: Carmela Valentin and Antoine Fountain

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon GOLDBECK McCAFFERTY & McKEEVER, A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION, plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Suite 5000-Mellon Independence Center, 701 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106-1532, phone # (215) 627-1322, an answer to the Complaint, filed in a civil action, in which Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee, in trust for the registered Holders of Ameriquest Mortgage Securities Inc., Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates is plaintiff, and Felix Rodriguez and Mrs. Felix Rodriguez, wife of Felix Rodriguez, et al are the defendant(s), pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Middlesex County, and bearing Docket No. F-35094-08 within thirty-five (35) days after November 7, 2008 exclusive of such date or if published after November 7, 2008 (35) days after the actual dated of such publication, exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. You shall file your answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Justice Complex - CN 971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, in accordance with the rules of governing the courts.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a mortgage dated August 01, 2006, made by Felix Rodriguez as mortgagor(s), to Argent Mortgage Company, LLC recorded on August 15, 2006, for Middlesex County in Book 11761 Page 384 of Mortgages for said County, which mortgage was assigned to the plaintiff, Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee, in trust for the registered Holders of Ameriquest Mortgage Securities Inc., Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, by Assignment dated September 11, 2008; and (2) to recover possession of, and concerns premises commonly known as 55 Ellen Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Lot: 11 & 12 Block: 307.

If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the New Jersey State Bar Association by calling 1-732-249-5000. You may also contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of venue by calling 1-(732) 828-0053. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services offices of the County of venue by calling 1-(732) 249-7600.

YOU, Carmela Valentin, are hereby made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because of a judgment entered by you against Felix Rodriguez in the Superior Court of New Jersey on May 8, 1990 known as Judgment No. J-00049891-1990 and Case No. W-017895-89 to secure a debt in an amount of \$12,500.00, and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

YOU, Antoine Fountain, are hereby made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because of a judgment entered by you against Felix Rodriguez in the Superior Court of New Jersey on July 2, 1991 known as Judgment No. J-00072375-1991 and Case No. L-100673-88 to secure a debt in an amount of \$3,500.00, and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

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Superior Court of New Jersey

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Girl Scouts and leaders visit Overlook Hospital for a breast cancer education program.

Girl Scouts Think 'Pink' in Educational Program

More than 20 girls from throughout the Girl Scout Heart of New Jersey's jurisdiction ventured to Overlook Hospital in Summit on October 29 for "In the Pink."

In its second year of existence, the event was created in conjunction with the hospital and the Susan G. Komen

Foundation. Girls in attendance were Cadette, Senior and Ambassador scouts and were accompanied by the adult women in their lives.

Program participants were educated on the topic of breast health by three professionals. They also heard the experience of a breast cancer survivor

firsthand and took a tour of the newly-constructed breast center.

GSHNJ enthusiastically delivers the optimal Girl Scout experience to nearly 40,000 girls and adults in 138 communities covering seven counties.

For more on Girl Scouting, visit www.gshnj.org.

Residents, Members Have "Nothing To Lose"

They're nerve-wracking and stressful, taunting with their sugar gum drops—yes, the holidays are upon us. And this time of year wreaks havoc on our healthy eating and regular exercise ambitions; however, Curves of South Plainfield is inviting its members and area residents to participate in the "Nothing to Lose" holiday challenge.

Just as the name implies, the promotion, which begins November 10, encourages members to not gain any weight by sticking with their good exercise habits and being conscious of what they eat during the holiday season. "We want to help local women persevere," said Jerri and Elissa, owners of Curves of South Plainfield, located at 27 S. Plainfield Ave. Working out and eating right has the dual ben-

efit of helping eliminate some of the holiday stress, promoting weight loss or at the very least, minimizing weight gain.

According to Jerri and Elissa, the promotion is also designed to provide the opportunity for members to work out with friends and family and challenge them by recording and tracking their weight loss for five weeks, making them eligible for prizes.

Curves provides an exercise and weight control program designed specifically for women. Whether you're interested in getting more exercise for health and general condition, or want to lose weight or tone your muscles, Curves can help you establish a regimen to help you meet your goal, said Jerri and Elissa. Curves of South Plainfield is a Curves Smart facility, featur-

ing the most advanced fitness training system. You will receive a personally designed workout, moment to moment feedback and immediate results to keep you motivated. Members can burn 200-600 calories in a 30-minute session.

"We're always dedicated to working directly with our members and helping them create and maintain a healthy lifestyle—and the holiday season is a time when everyone needs a little extra motivation. We hope this challenge will encourage our members to enjoy the holidays in a healthy way and to invite the South Plainfield community to take advantage of this special offer," said Jerri and Elissa.

For questions about the program, drop in or call (908) 757-4422.

Sports

Traveling Soccer



Lightning Defeat North Plainfield 2-1 for First Win

The South Plainfield Soccer Club's U-10 Lightning won their first game of the season in a tight defensive battle against the North Plainfield Firestorm. Leading the way in goal was Nick Pezzolla, recording seven saves in eight chances, four of which came in the fourth quarter as the Firestorm unleashed a fury of shots as they frantically tried to tie the score. Even after taking a knee to the head, Pezzolla stayed in the game to close out the victory.

Anthony Villaciencio and Joey Venitelli also held the Firestorm scoreless in goal. Anchoring the great defensive effort was Joffre Ramos, Jose Arubla and James Piedilato.

For the second week in a row forward Brandon Wizda got the Lightning started as he slammed the ball

through the goalie's legs early in the first quarter. Halfback Mason Resende added what would be the winning goal in the third period on a break-away. Mason has now scored in three consecutive games for the up and coming Lightning. Also showing a strong effort on the front line were forwards Eric Akpan and Nick Farinella.

With only four games to go in the fall season, this team continues to improve and build momentum. Catch their next game Saturday, Nov. 8 against the Edison Tigers. Their next home game will be Sunday, Nov. 9 against the Matawan Sharks.

The Lightning are coached by Margaret Pezzolla, Dawn Farinella, Eddie Alvarez, Laura Sansone and Mark Resende. —Submitted by John Wizda

Hammertime Dominates Against Scotch Plains 5-1

Hammertime claimed victory last Saturday after taking on the Scotch Plains Cougars. The girls came out with a bang and started scoring right off the bat continuing throughout the entire game.

Hammertime played together, held their positions and dominated against a tough Scotch Plains. Scotch Plains

hadn't allowed an opponent to score more than two goals, and Hammertime scored five.

The team has come a long way since the beginning of the season.

South Plainfield finishes up their fall season playing their last game against West Windsor-Plainsboro on Sunday, Nov. 16 in West Windsor-Plainsboro.

Juliette Low Golf Classic a Hole-in-One for Girl Scouting

Nearly 130 people took part in the 11th annual Juliette Low Golf Classic held under sunny skies and pleasant temperatures on October 20 at Shackamaxon Golf and Country Club in Scotch Plains. The event was the first-ever fundraising venture by the newly-formed Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey (GSHNJ). All proceeds from the event will benefit Girl Scouting throughout GSHNJ's jurisdiction.

Nearly 80 golfers took their best shot at conquering Shackamaxon's challenging and pristine 18-hole layout. Another 20 participated in the women's golf clinic in an effort to learn the basics and fundamentals on the game under the watchful eye of a pair of PGA professionals.

The scene then shifted to the club's

dining room for a cocktail hour and dinner program. Guests had the opportunity to come away with the 30 prizes graciously donated by countless individuals and companies.

The event's success was due in large part to the financial commitment on the part of over 100 sponsors. The event's two Gold Sponsors were Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey and KPMG.

GSHNJ enthusiastically delivers the optimal Girl Scout experience to nearly 40,000 girls and adults in seven counties. The council operates fully-functional service centers and shops in Montclair, North Branch and Westfield.

For more, be sure to visit www.gshnj.org.

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

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Jack Sprat, his wife, Gloria and MC "Old Mutha" Hubbard and students Kyrsten Grabinsky, Courtney Maino, Becky Birath and Kevin Buschan.

Grant Students Learn About Healthy Living

By Jane Dornick

The Jack Sprat Low-Fat World Tour, an interactive musical revue about healthy eating, performed at Grant Elementary School on October 29.

With news headlines about the alarming increase in childhood obesity appearing nearly every day, the three-man production drives home the importance of healthy eating in the fight against heart disease and obesity.

Jack Sprat can eat no fat. His wife, Gloria, can eat no lean. So Jack decides it is time for Gloria to learn some healthy habits. He enlists the help of MC "Old Mutha" Hubbard, who rids

Gloria's cupboard of junk food and takes her on a whirlwind tour of the grocery store, where Gloria learns a world of knowledge about good living through nutritious food choices.

This 60-minute educational musical program featured lots of audience participation with students pretend-

ing to be antibodies fighting disease, dishing their feelings about vegetables on "The Okra Winfrey Show," and even danced the Vitamin C conga.

The show was commissioned and endorsed by the American Cancer Society and was sponsored by the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission.

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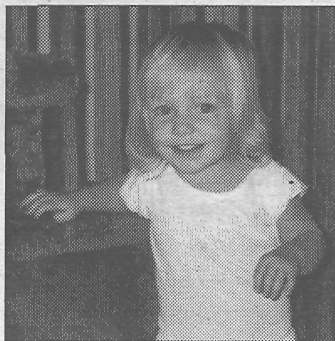
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*Daddy, Mommy, Christopher,
Caleb and Celeste*



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 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.

Obituaries

Dorothy Lorraine (Apgar) Seitzmeyer, 80

Dorothy "Dottie" Lorraine (Apgar) Seitzmeyer departed this life in the comfort of her own home in South Plainfield after years of struggling with Alzheimers.

The daughter of the late Stacey and Theresa Apgar, she was born in Newark and grew up in Irvington graduating in 1947 from Irvington High. Dorothy was a devoted lifetime member of the girl scouts, diligently taking on the job of cookie chairwoman for many years for the Washington Rock Council.

Volunteering at Muhlenberg Hospital, working at McDonald's in Scotch Plains and trips she took with family and friends rounded out the rest of her life.

She loved animals and treasured her years with her dachshund Hilda.

Remaining to cherish her memories are her son, Robert; granddaughters, Tracy Sesta and Rebecca Seitzmeyer; grandson, Ryan Edmondson; twin great-grandchildren, Grace and Brian Sesta; sister-in-law, Vera Apgar; son, George; husband, George; brother, Kenneth Apgar and her devoted caregiver Cecilia.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory to the Plainfield Area Humane Society, 75 Rock Ave., Plainfield, N.J. 07060 would be appreciated.

Paul P. Micali, 95

Paul P. Micali died on Monday, Nov. 3 at his home in Stroudsburg, Pa.

Born in Galton, Pa., Mr. Micali had resided in Middlesex and South Plainfield for many years before moving to Stroudsburg five years ago.

Mr. Micali had been employed as a welder for the former Woods Machine Company in Plainfield for 37 years before retiring in 1975.

Paul was a member of the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers Lodge #167 of Plainfield. He was also an honorary member of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, a member of the senior citizens and the BPO Elks lodge #2298, both of South Plainfield.

In addition, Mr. Micali was a Life Member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles in Plainfield Aerle #866 and a member of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield.

He was predeceased by wife, Theresa "Tessie" Micali; a daughter, Roberta Micali, and his brother, James.

Surviving are his son and daughter-in-law, Edward and Linda Micali of Stroudsburg, Pa.; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

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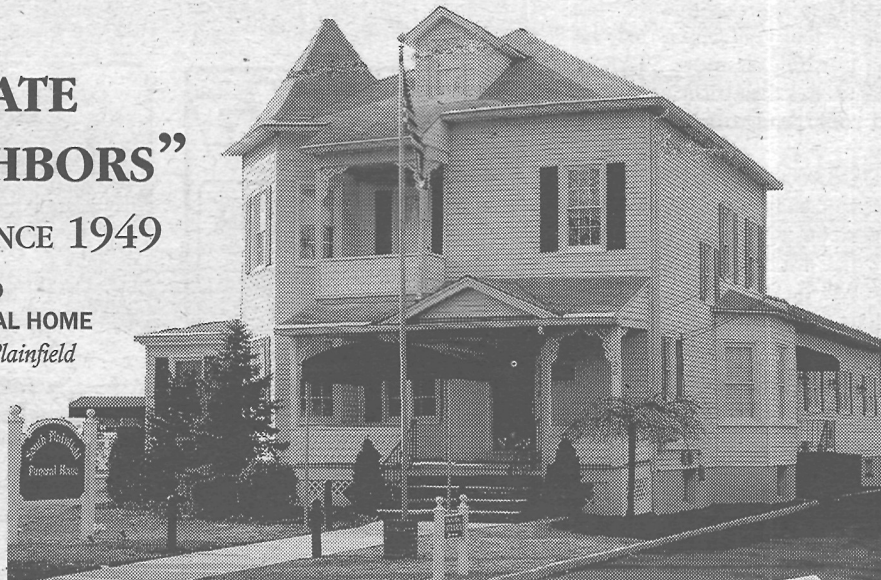
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Middlesex Co. Fights No. 1 Cause of Teen Deaths

"Don't Learn By Accident" campaign targets risks to be the number one cause of death among teens. Studies have confirmed the connection between teen drivers transporting peer passengers and increased risk of fatal crashes.

The presence of one passenger doubles the fatal crash risk for a teen driver. The risk increases with each additional passenger, yet recent research shows few teens recognize the impact passengers have on safety.

To combat this trend, the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, the Middlesex County Association of Chiefs of Police and the Middlesex County Superintendent of

Schools are launching "Don't Learn By Accident," a campaign to promote safe driver and passenger behaviors.

Earlier this year the commission made 47 recommendations in categories including driver education, driver training, enforcement, insurance, schools and technology.

The "Don't Learn By Accident" campaign is being rolled out in schools countrywide to encourage driver and passenger behaviors that can reduce teen's crash risk.

Traditionally law enforcement has focused on drivers alone, but the focus shifted to passengers following a study published by The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). In a national survey of 5,665 ninth to

11th graders, CHOP found that few teens view their friends as inexperienced drivers and even fewer believe that having passengers can significantly affect driver safety.

Rafano said some of the recommendations made by the Teen Driver Study Commission speak directly to passengers. Specifically, they call for limiting the number of passengers in the probationary phase to one regardless of passenger's relationship to driver and sanctioning, in addition to the teen driver, all passengers age 16 to 20 on a permit, probationary or basic license, who violate the GDL passenger and safety belt restrictions.

More information for parents is available at www.njsaferoads.com.

Diegnan Introduces NJ Stars Reform Legislation

Legislation Assembly Higher Education Chairman Patrick J. Diegnan and Vice-Chairwoman Pamela Lampitt legislation to revise the popular NJ STARS I and NJ STARS II college scholarship programs to ensure their long-term viability was released from the Assembly Higher Education Committee by a vote of 7-2, with two abstentions.

Diegnan and Lampitt were members of a 12-member task force Gov. Jon S. Corzine convened in the summer to examine the NJ STARS program. The task force developed a plan to strengthen eligibility standards for entrance to and continuation in the program, ease the financial burden on the state's four-year colleges and, most notably, ensure the program's stability.

"NJ STARS has become a great source of pride for countless students across the state, but the program is at risk of becoming a victim of its own success," said Diegnan (D-Middlesex). "We've got to make sure these scholarships get to the smartest, most hard working kids out there—and that it keeps working for them as long as they need it. We need to make these changes to ensure this program will be able to help high-achieving students for years to come."

The NJ STARS I scholarship program provides a full community college scholarship to more than 4,100 students who graduated in the top 20 percent of their high school class. The STARS II program extends \$4,000 scholarships at any state college or university for roughly 1,200 STARS I participants who graduated with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher.

Diegnan and Lampitt noted that the task force learned that some NJ STARS recipients need to take remedial courses to bring them up-to-par with their community college classmates. They also said that the costs borne by four-year schools may become crushing as more STARS I graduates seek their bachelors degrees—and could lead to further tuition hikes.

"There is no doubt that the students who graduate from NJ STARS truly are stars, but we need to ensure that more than just this generation of students will be able to benefit," said Lampitt (D-Camden).

The Diegnan/Lampitt reform legislation (A-3373) would:

- Enhance the eligibility requirements for NJ STARS I from the top 20 percent to the top 15 percent of one's high school graduating class;

- Increase the minimum GPA necessary to qualify for NJ STARS II from 3.0 to 3.25;
- Limit NJ STARS II funds to cover tuition only with a maximum benefit of \$7,000 to be covered equally by the institution and the state;
- Bifurcate the benefits available through NJ STARS II based on GPA — \$7,000 for GPA of 3.5 or better, \$6,000 for GPA between 3.25 and 3.49;
- Allow NJ STARS and NJ

STARS II students to take more than 15 credits per semester;

- Place a cap on family income at \$250,000 for Stars II.

"These reforms will serve a dual purpose of rewarding New Jersey scholars by increasing benefits while also ensuring the long-term financial stability of the program," said Diegnan. "Students who excel in school and want to go to college in New Jersey should have every opportunity to do so."

2008-09

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Olivia O'Leary Named Junior Journalist

Olivia O'Leary, Franklin Elementary School fourth grader, is this week's winner in the 2008-09 Junior Journalist program. Her submission has earned her dinner for her 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.

Winners 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 be additionally recognized for their efforts. Junior Journalists also have the opportunity to win the Ruth Kurland Memorial \$1,000 savings bond which



Olivia O'Leary and teacher Kim Broggi.

will be awarded at the banquet.

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

Yesterday and Today – A Tribute to Our Veterans

By Olivia N. O'Leary

Today, our young men and women are fighting in Iraq
Yesterday, You were fighting in Korea
Today, they are fighting in Afghanistan
Yesterday, You were fighting in Vietnam
Today, they are fighting in Pakistan
Yesterday, You fought in World War II
Today, their bravery is saving our country
Yesterday, your bravery saved our lives
Thank you to our troops of today
Thank you to our Veterans of yesterday

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Juniorettes Seek New Members

The South Plainfield Juniorettes are a group of young women who improve the community through volunteer projects. They meet new people and always have fun. They receive recognition and numerous awards throughout the year.

If you are interested in becoming a member, E-mail Jessica Vasquez at josblink1825@comcast.net.



Cub scouts and leaders enjoy a hike in The Great Swamp.

Cub Scouts Get Inspired with Nature in The Great Swamp

When you think of The Great Swamp does your mind fill with images of water, mud, flies and good old fashion gunk? Most people do, but a few young explorers along with their guides found out that this swamp is so much more.

Den 4, a group of young Cub Scouts from Pack 224, went on an inspiring hike to The Great Swamp in Basking Ridge. On their journey they met a variety of people and nature's citizens—including turtles, snakes, dragon flies and a numerous variety of birds indigenous to the area.

As they hiked through the trail, the scouts' minds opened up with excitement and questions about nature and the inhabitants of the area. The hike not only opened the scouts' eyes to the different forms of life in the area, but also enlightened the scouts to the importance of nature and the environment around them. As scouts helping people in society, this adventure taught them how to live with nature in harmony.

This journey through nature gave the scouts the opportunity to see nature close up and at its best.

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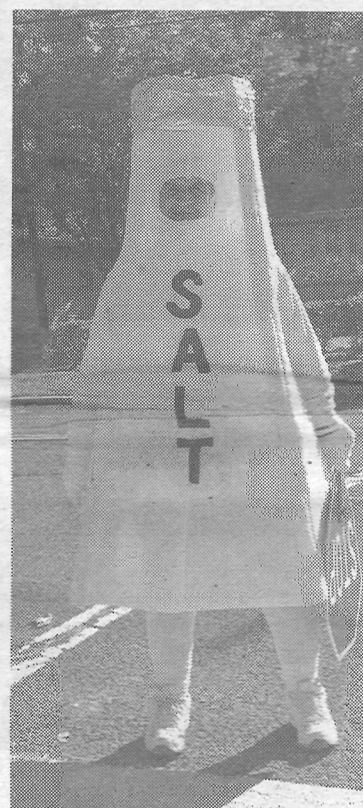
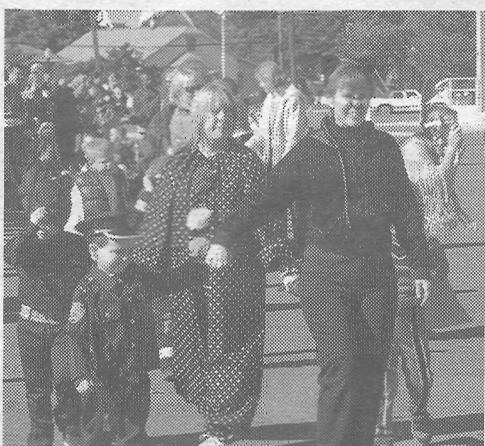
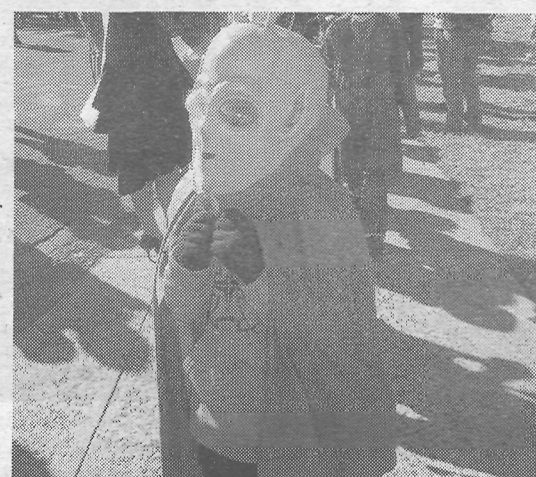
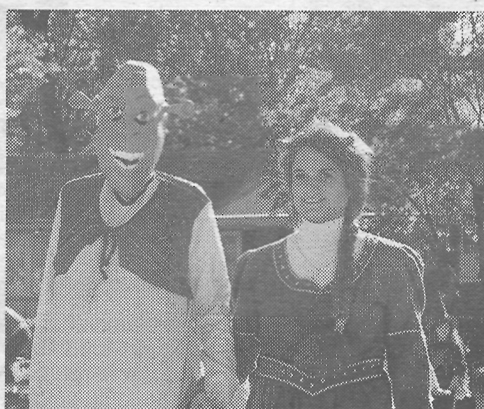
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