

# South Plainfield Observer

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OCTOBER 22, 2010



Assemblyman Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr. (center), Pamela Brown, board chair of the Metuchen-Edison YMCA and Gary Graham, executive director of the YMCA State Alliance.

## Diegnan Earns Friend of YMCA Award

Assemblyman Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr. (D-18) was presented with the "Friend of the YMCA" award by the New Jersey State Alliance of YMCAs on October 7. Other honorees included Senator Diane Allen (R-7), Christopher J. Daggett, president and CEO, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, and exceptional youth volunteers from YMCAs throughout the state. The event was held at the Forsgate Country Club in Monroe.

The "Friend of the YMCA" award is presented annually to one legislator from each political party who has, through legislation and community

outreach, helped to advance the mission of the YMCA. Assemblyman Diegnan has worked closely with the Woodbridge-Metuchen-Edison YMCA throughout the years in order to advance initiatives that are also critical to YMCAs across the state. During his address at the event Assemblyman Diegnan spoke of the importance of the Y's mission. "The inverted triangle, the Y's symbol represents its three core principles: healthy spirit, healthy mind and healthy body. It sounds so simple—if every one of us dedicates ourselves to those principles, the world will be a

much better place in which to live."

The New Jersey Alliance of YMCAs is a not-for-profit association made up of 44 YMCAs from the State of New Jersey. It brings the independent YMCAs of New Jersey together to collaborate and work on areas of mutual benefit. Everyday, YMCA staff members and volunteers throughout the State of New Jersey are providing programs and services to children, youth, adults, seniors, families, those with special needs, and others based on the four core values of the YMCA: caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

## BOE Names Gary Bowen Acting Superintendent

By Libby Barsky

Dr. Gary R. Bowen, who spent just three days as interim principal at South Plainfield High School, was appointed acting superintendent by the Board of Education (BOE) at the Committee of the Whole meeting held October 13. He took over the next day for Assistant Superintendent Dr. Lorraine Cella, who filled the position temporarily when Superintendent Jose Negrón was placed on administrative leave on September 30.

Dr. Bowen had been superintendent of schools for Montville Public Schools for nine years prior to his retirement in June. He had also served as superintendent in Jefferson Township from 1999-2006 and Galloway Township from 1993-1999. From 1988 to 1993 he worked in the Sewell school district as director of federally funded projects (K-12), testing and assessment (K-12) and middle level education, as well as served in the role of principal at two middle schools. From 1972 to 1988 he was an elementary school teacher, middle school assistant principal and elementary principal in Keyser, W.Va. Dr. Bowen received his doctor of educational administration from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pa. in 1999.

The BOE also appointed Dr. Bowen to the Representative Assembly of the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission from October 15, 2010 through May 31, 2011.



Dr. Gary R. Bowen

His salary will be \$750 per day until a new superintendent is found. Taxpayers are currently footing the bill for Negrón's \$177,498 salary for the remainder of his contract through June of 2012.

Board President Jim Giannakis said the BOE intends to form a committee at its next meeting to search for a permanent superintendent. The group will consist of representatives from the educational community, parents, teachers and school board members. Interviews (Continued on page 11)

## Man Pleads Self Defense in Hotel Murder

Harold A. Tucker, 29, of Plainfield pled not guilty last Friday in the shooting death of Quadir Ali-Muslim, 32, of Plainfield at the Best Western Hotel on Stelton Road on August 22. He was apprehended by the U.S. Marshal Service after he was spotted riding in a vehicle in Plainfield on October 13.

Hotel patrons called 911 on August 22 after hearing gunshots. Police found the victim lying in the first floor hallway. He was pronounced dead from a single gunshot wound at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

An initial investigation by Det. Shaun Clifford and Prosecutor's Office Investigator Scott Crocco revealed that the shooting was not random and the men knew each other. Tucker's attorney, Neil Duffy III, claims that he was staying with a woman for the night at the hotel, that his life had been threatened by people associated with Ali-Muslim and that his cousin had been shot by them a few days prior. Assistant Middlesex County Prosecutor Manny Sameiro said the hotel surveillance video shows Tucker chasing Ali-Muslim and shooting at him. Mayor Charles Buttrick stated at the time that it appeared the murder was gang-related.

Both men have long criminal histories. Tucker previously served time in state prison from September 2000 to May 2004 on drug charges and from December 2004 to October 2007 for aggravated assault. Ali-Muslim was charged in a 2008 homicide, but a grand jury instead indicted him on aggravated assault charges. He served state prison time for assault, and had arrests for drug and weapons offenses.

Tucker was charged with murder (Continued on page 11)

## Annual Buddy Walk Raises Awareness for Down Syndrome

By Patricia Abbott

More than 500 people participated in this year's South Plainfield Buddy Walk 2010. The walk, held to raise awareness and funds for Down Syndrome, was started by South Plainfield resident, Michele Both, seven years ago. This year the walk raised \$21,000.

The walk was originally held at Spring Lake Park for two years before being moved to Putnam Park. Many of the friends and family who began helping Michele with the huge task of organizing and planning the event are still helping today. They work throughout the year performing a myriad of little, but necessary, things in preparation for the walk. Word of mouth has helped the walk grow. "A lot of regulars attended, but there were more newbies this year. We have people from all over—Edison, Somerset, Woodbridge, all over Central New Jersey," noted Both.

Twenty-six teams participated in

this year's walk. Michele made each team a banner and buttons with their child's picture on it. Some teams personalized their shirts to reflect their individual personalities. Family pets, too, got into the act with their own t-shirts. The group made two circuits around the park.

After the walk, people settled down to enjoy a well-earned bagged lunch provided by the Buddy Walk staff. The Knights of Columbus donated 10 cases of water. Music was provided by Party on DJ. There were balloons and cartoon characters everywhere.

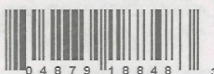
Guests had a chance to participate in face painting, temporary tattoos and making balloon animals.

The Buddy Walk is truly a family affair. Raffle items are provided almost exclusively by the family, and Both purchases items to create the baskets. Her mom bought the TV and her aunt provided raffle items. An uncle who works for L'Oréal donated hair care products. The N.Y. Giants sent a poster. Both noted, "Not much is donated by restaurants, stores or families. We wish more families would donate a little something."

(Continued on page 8)



Tina Flesch with her son, Alexander



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Want to stay informed about the business of your Council and BOE?

**FYI**

**Borough Council**

Council meetings air on Comcast Channel 96 Mondays at 7 p.m. BOE meetings air on Thursdays at 7 p.m.

To purchase a complete copy of a council or BOE meeting, contact the Observer.

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

### council meetings

Meets twice a month on Mondays, \*except where noted.

Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

Agenda Meeting ..... Public Meeting

November 8 ..... November 8

November 22 ..... November 22

All Agenda Meetings begin at 7 p.m. followed immediately by the Public Meeting, unless otherwise noted. Meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with the N.J. Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Ave.

### planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, \*except where noted.

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641

Oct. 26, Nov. 9 Dec. 7.

### zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, \*except where noted.

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641

Oct. 28, Nov. 4 (date change), Dec. 9.\*

### board of education

Meets Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave.

Committee of the whole meetings: Nov. 10, Dec. 8.

2011: Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 2 and March 30.

Regular Public Meeting: Nov. 17, Dec. 15.

2011: Jan. 19, Feb. 16, March 16, April 6.

### BOE curriculum/technology/student activities

Meets once a month on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in 2nd floor conference room, Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.

### BOE buildings & grounds

Meets second Monday of the month at 7 p.m., 2nd floor conference room, Roosevelt Administration Building

### library board of trustees

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday, at the library at 7 p.m.

### 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. Nov. 16, Dec. 21

### environmental commission

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

Nov. 10, Dec. 8, Jan. 12 2011

### business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday) Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m.

### ad hoc alternative truck route committee

October 25 at 7 p.m. in the Senior Center Questions? 908-226-7605

## South Plainfield Observer

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How to Reach Us



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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.

## In My Opinion

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

### To the Editor:

I thought when I saw a letter in the paper from Mike English he was finally going to explain why he raised taxes 55% in one year last time he was mayor. Instead, English set out a litany of half-baked statements that don't withstand the slightest scrutiny. Here are some.

English talked about spending going up 400% since he was mayor (1983-86). Maybe he forgets that Democrats controlled the town for the lion's share of those years. So, in essence, he was criticizing his own party. He's right though. Democrats did a horrible job controlling spending. Do we want to go back to that?

English criticized fees too. I guess he forgot as mayor he raised fees up to 20% in one year. If he did forget, he can check the *South Plainfield Reporter* (9/15/83).

English also gets his history wrong. Anesh, Rusnak and McConville were not elected four years ago. Democrats were. Also, I'm not sure why English thinks these three are responsible for tax increases when his party controlled things, especially when they voted against Democrat tax hikes.

English also misses the point on borrowing. Borrowing is down over 30% under Republicans, a point he seems oblivious to. Apparently he won't let facts get in the way of his positions.

And while English criticized the council for its bipartisan handling of this year's unprecedented employee retirement costs, this is an area where he could have been proactive but was not. If he had changed the rules back in 1983 and capped reimbursement of sick and vacation time, like other towns have, we would not have had payouts for some employees exceeding \$100,000.

Instead, English took advantage of the very system he's now criticizing. He received seven months pay for sick and vacation time when he retired as recreation director. For him to criticize the council for dealing with a problem he capitalized on and could have prevented is unbelievable.

All these things prove one thing: English will say anything to get elected. He did that last time he ran for mayor and he's trying to do it again.

**ROB BENGIVENGA**

### Dear Friends,

I wish I had the words to express to you how much my term as your mayor has meant to me. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve my hometown. Through all of the de-

mands and challenges of public service, I have always held your best interests at the forefront of every initiative, and this has truly been a labor of love. It's because of my ongoing commitment to you that I write this today.

Public service demands our very best. It demands dedication, selflessness and absolute integrity. Public service is supposed to be about serving the people. Unfortunately, there are always individuals willing to use public service for personal or political gain. Very soon, you will have to choose the people who will represent your interests on the South Plainfield Council. Make no mistake about it—this is a critical time and there are clear differences between the candidates.

The Republicans on the council have manipulated statistics to create the appearance of lower taxes. The truth is that, in real numbers, over the same time period, the tax levy increased over \$1M. Democrats give you the truth you deserve.

The Republicans on the council blame Democrats for a 700-unit apartment building. Republicans would have you believe that they took no part in this. The truth is that, in December of 2008, Councilmembers Anesh, McConville and Rusnak all supported the resolution to place the 700 units on that property as part of our commitment to affordable housing. Democrats give you the truth you deserve.

The Republicans on the council deny the people transparency in government. They have been found guilty of violating election law and have even censored the council meetings by cutting off a portion of the public comment section when they were recording the meeting for Comcast. In a power-grabbing attempt, Republican council members allowed their party "boss" to rewrite the council bylaws and then lied about their role in it. Party "bosses" have a clear conflict of interest and should never be allowed to write the core documents for a governing body that is supposed to serve all the people. Democrats give you the truth you deserve.

When you go in to the voting booth on November 2, I urge you to choose Michael English, Jeff Williams and John Sorrentino. They will bring integrity, trustworthiness and public service to South Plainfield government and they

### Submit Your Letters to the Editor:

Send your letters to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax to 908-668-8819, or via email: 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.

will always give you the truth you deserve.

I thank you again for allowing me the honor of serving as your mayor and I look forward to continuing to share many good times as your neighbor and friend.

**CHARLES BUTRICO  
MAYOR**

### Dear Editor,

The Republicans did an excellent job controlling the taxes and decreasing them and they all should be elected to office this year. It was a blessing instead of the Democrats being in power and doing the usual spend and tax ideas they usually have. Especially during these hard times and with more job loss predicted when the stimulus package expires, we need to save every penny we have.

The Republicans did an excellent job with saving jobs and consolidating positions to save on more money. They are the party to support, locally and nationally and not the Democrats as their plans aren't working.

I support Matt Anesh, Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak accordingly, they are experienced where it is needed most.

The Democratic candidates offer no experience or knowledge.

**THANK YOU,  
DONNA M. PISANIELLO**

### Dear Editor,

I couldn't be happier to voice my undying support of John Sorrentino who is running for borough council on election day.

I've known John for many years and know that he'll do an outstanding job on the council. John has been a tireless worker for our borough for many years and I know that he'll bring

(Continued on page 12)

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## Paul Cibelli, Jr. Charged with Harassment

Paul Cibelli, Jr., who was originally convicted in May 2007 of killing his estranged girlfriend in his Robert Place home, was arrested on October 12 for harassing his ex-girlfriend while he was being retried on the murder charge.

**Paul Cibelli, Jr.**

A Bayonne woman, who had severed their year-long relationship in September, filed for a temporary restraining order against Cibelli. She contends that she continued to receive text messages thereafter which led to the recent charge.

A state appeals court ruled in June 2009 that Cibelli's ex-wife's testimony recounting his violent past prejudiced the jury. In light of his recent detention, Middlesex County Assistant Prosecutor Neil Casey asked Superior Court Judge Bradley Ferencz to revoke Cibelli's \$1M bail based on his history of domestic violence and the murder charge. However, Ferencz stated that the law does not allow this and instead raised bail another \$300,000. Cibelli remained a free man after family members put up their homes as collateral for the initial bail.

It took a jury only three hours of deliberation to find Cibelli guilty of murdering 35-year-old Tania Silva on October 7, 2005. He was an unemployed aviation mechanic who prosecutors say bludgeoned her with a roofing stapler, strangled her and then tied her up in garbage bags and threw the body in a recycling bin in Pennsylvania.

## Domestic Violence Volunteers Needed

The South Plainfield Domestic Violence Response Team is looking for interested volunteers. A 40-hour training class will be sponsored along with team support and training.

Interested persons should email [mackerman@southplainfieldnj.com](mailto:mackerman@southplainfieldnj.com) for additional details and specific requirements.



A variety of pets and their owners were on hand for the annual Blessing of the Animals by Rev. John P. Alvarado, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, on October 10.

—Photo courtesy of Louis Mormile

## 2010-2011 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

### Annual Writing Contest Kicks Off Call for Entries; Win a \$1,000 Savings Bond

The Junior Journalist program was founded in 2003 as a joint cooperation between Hometown Heros and the *South Plainfield Observer*. The goal of the program is to encourage local youth to express themselves through creative stories and poems and to be recognized for their efforts.

Students should submit their original works directly to their teachers, to the *Observer* or to Hometown Heros. Once a winner is selected by the *Observer*, a photographer will go the winner's school and take the students picture, along with their teacher or principal.

The winner will receive a phone call from Hometown Heros, and they will make arrangements with the winner's family to deliver dinner for the entire family.

Near the end of the school year, Hometown Heros and the *Observer* hosts a banquet celebrating all of the weekly winners. Students are accompanied by their parents and siblings. The banquet is attended by the mayor of South Plainfield, school superintendent, principals, teachers and guest

speakers. The families are treated to a full dinner buffet prepared by Hometown Heros and the students read their works to the audience.

Students are presented with medals and certificates of achievement from the mayor, New Jersey State Assembly and the *Observer*/Hometown Heros.

In 2007 Hometown Heros commissioned the Ruth Kurland Memorial Award, a \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond presented to one outstanding Junior Journalist. At the most recent banquet several students were awarded U.S. Savings Bonds on behalf of local businesses.

Support for the Junior Journalist program continues to grow annually with many businesses recognizing the value of writing.

For more information about the program, call the *Observer* at (908) 668-0010.

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## November is Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month

By Libby Barsky

A proclamation announcing that November is Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month was presented to Michael Weinstein, a pancreatic cancer survivor and volunteer for Pancreatic Cancer Action Network at the October 4 Borough Council meeting.

According to the National Cancer Institute, pancreatic cancer accounts for only three percent of all new cancer cases in the U.S., but is the fourth leading cause of death. The odds of surviving are low; of the estimated 43,140 people who will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the United States in 2010, 36,800 will die and approximately 1,130 of those deaths will occur in New Jersey. Although the disease can strike younger victims, the occurrence of pancreatic cancer increases after age 50 with most deaths occurring in those 65 and older. Only six percent of those survive who have had the disease for five years.

Weinstein is a five-year survivor of the disease. An x-ray scan to determine the status of his diverticulosis in 2005 probably saved his life. The scan showed a tumor and a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. The tumor was removed.

"I was 56. I didn't smoke or have diabetes—two risk factors for pancreatic cancer. I never felt anything. That's why pancreatic cancer is called 'the silent disease.' So many who get it never know it's in their body until the cancer is at an advanced stage," Weinstein said.

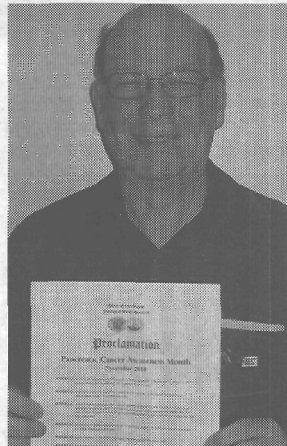
Weinstein is committed to making the public aware of how deadly pancreatic cancer is and the need for more research devoted to finding a cure.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) announced its first research on pancreatic cancer in 2000 with 85 projects. In 2009 there were 319 research projects.

According to Weinstein, more research is needed. NCI only devotes two percent of its budget on research, compared to other cancers.

Weinstein said two bills urging more research for pancreatic cancer will soon be heard in both houses in Trenton.

A volunteer for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, the first and only national patient advocacy organization serving the pancreatic cancer community through research, patient support and outreach in South Plain-



Michael Weinstein with Proclamation for Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

field and the nation, Weinstein is promoting a 5K PurpleStride Walk to raise funds for the organization. The walk will take place on Sunday, Nov. 7 at Mack Cali Business Campus in Parsippany.

For more information, email [mweinstein@pancanvolunteer.org](mailto:mweinstein@pancanvolunteer.org).

## ALERT

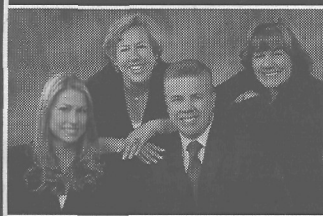
### BOE Meeting Date & Time Change

The Board of Education Regular Public Meeting scheduled for Monday, Oct. 18 has been changed to Wednesday, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in the gymnasium of the Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Ave.

### Zoning Board Date Change

The regular Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 11 has been rescheduled for Thursday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m.

### The Lacerda Team



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# Events

## Knights Mum Sale

**This Weekend**

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 annual fall mum sale ends this weekend. High quality mums in various colors are on sale at the rescue squad. \$7 for eight-inch pots and \$25 for huge pots.

This fundraiser supports the Knights various charitable works.

## Tricky Tray at St. Stephen Church

**October 23**

St. Stephen Orthodox Church, 609 Lane Ave., is holding its annual tricky tray on Saturday, Oct. 23. Admission: \$8 per person. Doors open 6 p.m.; calling starts 7:30 p.m. Refreshments available for purchase. Super raffle, 42" LCD HDTV, Sony 14.0 megapixel camera, 8GB iPod Touch, mystery prize, door prizes, 50/50 raffle. Home décor, kitchen appliances, jewelry, electronics and much more.

For information, call Sonia at (908) 806-7776 or call (908) 756-0410.

## Knights Benefit Concert for Autism

**October 23**

An evening with Billy and Rose Falcon will be held on Saturday, Oct. 23 at 8 p.m. at the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Hall located at 334 Hamilton Blvd. Tickets are \$20 each. Proceeds benefit Autism New Jersey.

To purchase tickets, call Brian Cargill at (908) 755-9717.

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## Tiger Sharks Dive Team Fundraiser

**October 24**

Spooky Vendor Day, a fundraiser to benefit the South Plainfield Tiger Sharks Dive Team, will be held on Sunday, Oct. 24 at the PAL building, 1250 Maple Ave. Dunk Mayor Charles Butrico, Councilpersons Chrissy Butreas and Rob Bengivenga into the dunk tank. Cash prize costume contest, face painting, balloon animals, carnival attractions, moon bounce, sand art, business and community vendors, food and more. Admission: \$3 donation per person; children under 5 are free.

For more information or to donate, call Jill at (732) 423-7727 or email jill@youareventsolutionsllc.com.

## Joe's Crab Shack Grant Fundraiser

**October 26**

Moms, don't cook tonight! All day on Tuesday, Oct. 26 Joe's Crab Shack on Stelton Road will donate a portion of its profits to support Grant School's 2011 Stokes Trip. Must have flyer! Print flyer at <http://stokes2011.webs.com/apps/calendar/>.

For more information, call Madeleine Christilles at (908) 337-4563.

## Oktoberfest/International Food Festival at OLC

**October 30**

The Rosary Altar Society of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish is hosting its annual Oktoberfest and International Food Festival on Saturday, Oct. 30 at 6 p.m. in the parish hall. Admission: \$10 per person; dinner 6 to 8 p.m.; happy hour 8 to 10 p.m. All-you-can-eat dinner buffet; exotic delicacies from different continents and unlimited beer and wine.

For information and tickets, call Raul Rodriguez at (908) 755-7277 or Diane Kaczowski at (908) 765-7525. Proceeds will benefit the construction repair fund of the parish.

## Knights of Columbus Halloween Party

**October 31**

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes will host its annual Halloween party on Sun-

day, Oct. 31 at 6 p.m. at the Knights hall, 334 Hamilton Boulevard.

There will be food, games and prizes. The event is open to all. Admission is free.

## Flag Retirement Ceremony

**November 7**

South Plainfield American Legion Chaumont Post #243, along with Boy Scout Troop 207, will be holding a flag retirement ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 7 at 1 p.m. at the American Legion on Oak Tree Avenue.

If you have an Old Glory that is worn or torn beyond repair and can no longer fulfill its duties and would like to have your flag retired, you may drop your flag off prior to that Sunday in the drop box outside of McCriscin-Gustafson Home For Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Ave. or you may bring your flag to the American Legion Post on that Sunday at 12:30 p.m. Please do not drop off flags still attached to poles or stick. All are welcome.

Should you have any questions, please contact Scoutmaster John Mocharski at (908) 757-3369 or email troop207@comcast.net.

## — Out of Town —

## Annual Fall Fundraising Dinner

**October 23**

St. Francis' Episcopal Church, 400 New Market Rd. in Dunellen is hosting its annual fall fundraising dinner on Saturday, Oct. 23. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; dinner at 6 p.m. Cost: \$20/adults; \$10/children under 12.

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

## Blood Drive at Deutscher Club

**October 23**

Deutscher Club, 787 Featherbed Ln. in Clark will hold a blood drive on Saturday, Oct. 23 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. A \$15 gas card will be offered to all donors.

Healthy donors at least 16 years of age (must be accompanied by parent/guardian) can register in advance. Picture ID required.

For more information, call the blood center at 1-800-652-5663, ext. 140.

## Monmouth Symphony Presents Ode to Joy

**October 24**

The Monmouth Symphony Orchestra will present a classical music concert, *Ode to Joy*, conducted by Roy Gussman on Sunday, Oct. 24 at 3 p.m. at the Count Basie Theatre, 99 Monmouth St. in Red Bank. A preconcert talk will be presented in the theatre at 2:15 p.m. Ticket prices are adults \$35, seniors \$30 and students \$5.

For tickets, call (732) 842-9000.

## Depression/Bipolar Support Meeting

**October 27**

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance will feature Ivan Goldberg, M.D., noted psycho-pharmacologist, at its meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 27 at 7:45 p.m. using the facilities of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Road in Morristown. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings; a nominal donation is requested from non-members.

For further local information, call (973) 994-1143 or the New Jersey Self-Help Group Clearinghouse at (800) 367-6274.

## Shabbat Pray & Play

**October 30**

Temple Shalom of Fanwood/Scotch Plains, Martine and LaGrande avenues in Fanwood invites families with children ages four and under to a Shabbat Pray & Play featuring music, maracas, puppets and parachutes. Thirty minute interactive service begins at 10 a.m. followed by a free bagel brunch in our playroom. Older siblings are welcome.

For more information, call (908) 889-4900, email sholom@sholomnj.org or visit [www.sholomnj.org](http://www.sholomnj.org).

## Singles Halloween Dance Party

**October 30**

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting an upscale singles dance party at the Woodbridge Hilton, 120 Wood Ave. South in Iselin on Saturday, Oct. 30 at 8:30 p.m. Costumes optional. Prizes for best costumes. Admission: \$15; ages 40 and up; no jeans/shorts/

## SENIOR CENTER Calendar

### Coming Up....

Nov 14 State Theatre: In the Mood, Big Band Music, \$35, noon (Call the center for more info)

### MONDAYS

Silver Sneakers ..... 8:45 am  
Crocheting ..... 9:30-11:30 am  
Yoga ..... 10:30 am  
Art Class ..... 11:30 am

### TUESDAYS

Bingo ..... 10 am-2 pm  
Ladies Group ..... 10 am

### WEDNESDAYS

Aerobics ..... 8:45 am  
Line Dancing ..... 10 am  
Computer...10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm  
Crocheting ..... 1 pm  
Tai Chi ..... 2 pm

### THURSDAYS

Active Seniors ..... 8:45 am  
Shopping Trip ..... 9 am  
Crafts Class ..... 10 am  
Computer ..... 10 am, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm  
Exercise Class ..... 1:15 pm

### FRIDAYS

Bingo ..... 10 am-2 pm

Daily Activities: Morning coffee, pool, cards, board games, computer classes, exercise, art, Tai Chi, yoga and crafts. Lunch Served Monday-Friday.

Call (908) 754-1047 for more info or visit [www.southplainfieldnj.com](http://www.southplainfieldnj.com)

Senior Center is open daily 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays & Sundays.

t-shirts/sneakers.

For more information, call (732) 656-1801 or email [info@steppinout-singles.com](mailto:info@steppinout-singles.com).

## Halloween House at Wagner College

**October 31**

The Wagner College Marketing Club invites children of all ages to its fifth annual Halloween House on Sunday, Oct. 31 from 1 to 4 p.m. in the historic main hall, 631 Howard Ave., Grymes Hill, Staten Island.

This event is well supervised, safe and free. Costumes are encouraged for all who attend. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Ample and convenient free parking is available.

For more information, email [marketing@wagner.edu](mailto:marketing@wagner.edu).

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## South Plainfield Girls Participate in Avon Walk for Breast Cancer

Two South Plainfield residents, Katie Egan and Jackie MacDougall, made a pact last spring to raise enough money to take part in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer; this past weekend the girls realized their goal of participating in the New York City event that covered a distance of 39 miles.

Together the girls raised over \$3,600. The minimum needed to participate in the walk was \$1,800 each, and they managed to walk 26 of the 39 miles. In total, participants in the New York City event raised \$9.4 million.

Katie and Jackie are both 2008 graduates of South Plainfield High School. Katie is currently a junior at Rutgers College majoring in sociology, and Jackie is enrolled in the nursing program at Stanford-Brown.

Both girls have had relatives and friends touched by cancer and wanted to do the walk as a tribute to everyone in that situation.

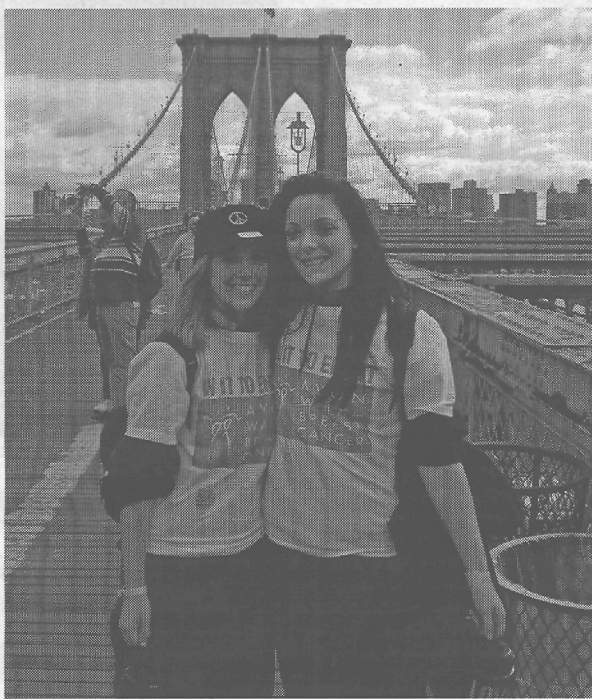
Novice walkers who had never taken part in a distance walk, the girls joined a gym and began preparing for their walk during the summer. While fundraisers can donate any amount to the cause, in order to qualify as a walker in the event, the minimum amount needed to be raised. To meet that goal, the girls sent out emails explaining the cause, collected donations from friends, family and even strangers who heard about their fundraising effort. They also began a series of fundraisers including a spaghetti dinner, where Jackie's mother became the chief cook; a marathon baking session that yielded over eight dozen cupcakes and four dozen cookies, many decorated with the pink ribbon for the cause; a night of band music where six local bands and individual singers performed for audiences; and a motorcycle run for breast cancer awareness.

Local businesses came to the rescue with donations of money and services, and the Moose Lodge of Edison and the Warren American Legion donated its premises for fundraisers.

The girls extend their thanks and gratitude to all the businesses and residents who banded together to help them meet their goal over the past several months.

The weekend walk was a learning experience for the girls in many ways. One of the perks of their weekend was meeting the nutritionist for the Pittsburgh Steelers who spoke to participants about the importance of nutrition with relation to cancer. Many of the walkers were cancer survivors and some of them shared their stories during opening and closing ceremonies.

Another unique experience was that the girls got to walk across the Brook-



(L-R): On the Brooklyn Bridge, Katie Egan and Jackie MacDougall

lyn and Manhattan bridges which cover roughly two miles. They met up with many other New Jersey and New York participants, walking part of the way with a new acquaintance from East Brunswick and also making friends with a family from Frederick, Md. Along the way, they met someone whose dog was also making the walk and were told that the dog's "girlfriend" had had cancer as well.

The girls covered two thirds of the route on Saturday, which equaled to 26 miles (the first leg of the walk) making it to the overnight rest stop on Randall's Island, which had been turned into a tent city to accommodate all of the walkers. Each walker was allowed an overnight bag and backpack and needed to bring most of their supplies. Tents were provided by the walk organizers and volun-

teers moved all individual belongings to the tents.

On Sunday, walkers were to cover the remaining 13 miles to the finish line but the girls, along with other walkers, were sidelined by swollen feet and blisters, achy knees and ankles. A shuttle delivered the injured walkers to the finish line and closing ceremonies before the event came to an end.

One of the things the girls made sure to do was to take a lot of pictures for their photo albums. The walking route passed many landmarks in addition to the bridges, including St. Mark's Cathedral, Lincoln Center and the Chrysler Building. Katie said that the weekend was the most inspiring experience and meeting the cancer survivors and everyone else was worth every minute of any pain.

—Submitted by Donna Egan



To Promote & Protect Public Health & Welfare

MIDDLESEX COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

By Ronald G. Rios, Chair, Committee of Public Health & Education

## National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

For a quarter of a century, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month has provided quality education and empowerment to women and their families and helped bring national attention to this devastating illness.

To mark the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month's 25th anniversary in October, the Middlesex County Cancer Coalition is offering a series of community outreach programs at community and fitness centers throughout the county. Dates and locations can be viewed by visiting the community events tab at [www.co.middlesex.nj.us/publichealth/community-events.asp](http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us/publichealth/community-events.asp).

It is important that we educate ourselves and our families about the importance of early detection of breast cancer. Not counting some kinds of skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer in women, regardless of race or ethnicity, in the United States. Men can also get breast cancer.

Warning signs include: new lump in the breast or underarm (armpit); thickening or swelling of part of the breast; irritation or dimpling of breast skin; scaly, red or swollen skin on the breast, nipple or areola; pulling in of the nipple or pain in the nipple area; nipple discharge other than breast milk, including blood; any change in the size or shape of the breast; or pain in any area of the breast.

Keep in mind that some of these warning signs also occur with other conditions that are not cancer. If you have these or any symptoms that con-

cern you, be sure to see your doctor right away.

One of the most effective ways to detect breast cancer early on is to have a mammogram. A mammogram is an x-ray, which is used to detect even the earliest stages of breast cancer in women. According to the National Cancer Institute, having a regular mammogram reduces the number of deaths from breast cancer for women ages 40 to 69, especially for those over age 50. It is recommended that women over age 40 and younger women with a family history of the disease receive regular mammogram screenings every one to two years.

Women age 40 or over or those with a family history of breast cancer may qualify for a free clinical breast exam and mammogram through the Middlesex County Public Health Department's Cancer Education and Early Detection (CEED) program. You may qualify for services if you meet the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services' family income guidelines.

Call the Middlesex County Public Health Department's Cancer Education and Early Detection (CEED) Program at (732) 745-3127 for more information. Spanish is available at (732) 745-3107.

For more about breast cancer, visit the following websites: [www.nbcam.org](http://www.nbcam.org); [www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast/index.htm); [www.cancer.gov/cancer/topics/types/breast](http://www.cancer.gov/cancer/topics/types/breast); and [www.nj.gov/health/ccp/breast\\_cancer.shtml](http://www.nj.gov/health/ccp/breast_cancer.shtml).

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## Residents Concerned About Drainage At Proposed Storage Area Site

By Libby Barsky

More than a dozen residents, many concerned about future drainage problems should a contractor's storage yard and office building be built on a neighboring site, attended the September 23 Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting.

D'Annunzio & Sons, Inc. is proposing to build an office facility with a contractor's storage yard for earth moving equipment and dump trucks at the rear of the 18.74-acre site located at 3730 Park Ave.

The zoning board approved a use variance for the project on March 13, 2008 and on June 26, 2008 a site plan approval "subject to preliminary and final approval." After purchasing an adjoining lot for additional space, the application was recertified in 2009 and has received approvals from the Department of Environmental Protection. The zoning board began to review the plans for final approvals to proceed during the summer.

According to Michael D'Annunzio, plans call for an office building fronting Park Avenue, a storage area in the back and access on to the site from Park Avenue only. There will be 25-30 employees working on-site. Hours of operation will be 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., six days a week with occasional night hours.

Trees situated on portions of the rear property will be cut down to provide earth moving equipment storage and a parking lot. As a buffer to neighboring properties, an eight-foot high tan privacy fence will be installed on a four-foot earthen berm, with a staggered double row of 134 trees.

With the property nearby its site, the Edison Wetlands Association hired Princeton Hydro LLC, a consultant specializing in assessment, management and restoration of water, wetlands and soil resources. Water resource engineer, John A. Miller, P.E. CFM, reviewed the site plan and drainage report by D'Annunzio & Sons Construction and evaluated it against the borough ordinances and noted significant deficiencies in non-structural stormwater management, peak rate reduction, water quality and infiltration.

Non-structural deficiencies include no protection for areas providing water quality benefits. Existing wetlands are proposed to be filled and woods are proposed to be completely cleared with all the site trees eliminated as well as the vegetation in the wetland areas of the site. With no vegetated conveyances systems all areas of the site will drain over pavement and gravel into the basins.

The site was previously owned by Coastal Oil, a supplier of heating oil. The question of possible contamination in the soil wasn't addressed by EKA Associates with the following statement: "No determination was made as to the presence and or non-existence of toxic wastes. The client should pursue this matter as a separate item and apart from this plan."

Miller noted that runoff from the contractor's yard will contain a number of materials including fuel, lubricants, oils and off-site materials that are inappropriate for groundwater recharge, adding, "There is no pretreatment to the infiltration basin."

Attorney John Wiley represented the Edison Wetlands Association to

elicit testimony on the storm water management plans developed by engineer Jeff Cadoff L.P.E. of EKA Associates of Scotch Plains for D'Annunzio.

At the September 23 zoning board meeting, Jeffrey Cadoff testified to the site having two recharge basins—one at the north side and the other at the south, both lined with sand—for water to seep into the ground.

"There will be inlets and pipes to bring water into the southern infiltration recharging basin located along the property line designed with walls and holding a six-inch layer of sand for water to seep into the ground. In the northwest corner of the property where water flows to wetlands, there will be a recharge basin lined with sand," Cadoff said. Fifteen willows will be planted along the sides of the berm to buffer the lot and absorb water. Cadoff emphasized efforts are being made to reduce the impervious surface and break up the parking lot by using gravel (100 tons over 17 acres).

Wiley then called on Geoffrey Goll, a water resources engineer, who testified, "When the DEP approved these plans, the DEP had gone to sleep."

Zoning board attorney William Lane noted that the DEP's goal is to get groundwater into the ground as quickly as possible without undue hardship to neighbors.

Walter Abrams, attorney for D'Annunzio, said, "This project was begun in 1989. The DEP reviewed drainage and made a lot of revisions. It's gone through many revisions." Abrams plans to call more witnesses at the October 28 board meeting.

See related story below.



Suburban Woman's Club President Lucy Hudson, Mayor Charles Butrico and Natalie Bergen, Special State Project chairperson.

## NEWS

### Suburban Woman's Club

The New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs Fall Conference was held at the Bridgewater Marriott on October 18.

Members of the Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield attended the conference and sat in on workshops featuring speakers and addressing nutrition, club finances, community service programs and the Special State Project to support Gilda's Club/The Wellness Community.

At Monday's Borough Council meeting, Mayor Charles Butrico presented Lucy Hudson, club president

and Natalie Bergen, Special State Project chairperson with a proclamation declaring October National Breast Cancer Awareness month and recognizing Gilda's Club/The Wellness Community.

The proclamation honored Gilda Radner, who received care while she had cancer, and called for the establishment of centers which would be available at no cost to people living with cancer.

The Special State Project involves the Suburban Woman's Club and other NJSFWC clubs in raising funds for these care-giving centers.

## History of BP in South Plainfield

By Libby Barsky

Wanda and Andrew Stankowitz, married for 62 years, have been living near the Dismal Swamp at 22 Universal Ave. since their home was built there 50 years ago.

"Our home was built on a lovely wooded lot," Wanda recalled. "There were many who wanted to build homes behind me, and I was told by the zoning officer, 'as long as I'm the inspector here, a house will never be built there because it will never pass the percolation test—until sewers are put in,'" she said.

In 1962, two years after they moved into their home, Coastal Oil

Company built a storage facility for a home heating oil business situated on a 6.718 acre site off Park Avenue at the end of Fleet Avenue, between Universal Avenue to the south and the Lehigh Valley Railroad to the north, an area zoned M-3 for heavy industry. Coastal Oil received heating oil from a terminal at Port Newark by means of a pipeline and served as a wholesale source of supply to home heating dealers.

In October 1980 Coastal Oil Company was acquired as a subsidiary of BP North America Trading Inc. as an oil storage facility in South Plainfield. BP also purchased an additional 12 acres adjoining the prop-

erty. In May of 1981, BP applied to the zoning board for permission to expand its facilities for home heating oil storage and increase the number of storage tanks from the two already on the site to seven, enabling BP to increase storage from 264,000 to 1,259,000 barrels of oil.

In BP's legal advertisement asking to bring more tanks on its property, they noted that the property had been zoned M-3 since 1932. Wanda said she never received notice regarding the use of the property.

"We live just outside of 200 ft. of the property and have never received a notice," she said.

It was Wanda's Edison neighbors,

including Irene Wall who lived on Fleet Street and Edison resident Jane Tausman, whose concerns with the environmental impact of the project, convinced neighbors in the Universal Avenue area to form the No Tank Farm Committee and hire a lawyer to oppose BP's plan to install additional oil tanks on the property.

After months of several large public meetings, some held at the senior center, BP gave up its request for the tanks by sending a letter of withdrawal which was formally read at the Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting on May 25, 1982.

Although BP didn't provide a reason for its withdrawal, newspaper

accounts at the time reported that there was a worldwide drop in demand for petroleum, a drop in the value of the pound against the dollar and plans to close an English refinery to improve its financials in 1981.

Before the withdrawal, Michael English, a borough council member in 1982, wrote a memo stating, "I am emphatically against the construction of any more large oil storage tanks in our borough." He later tried to have the zoning board change the M-3 zoning status of the site. Only one other councilman voted with him, Republican John Wilson. The site still remains zoned M-3.

(Continued on next page)

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## Bullying and Harassment: Not at Our School

By Natalie Madurski

(Natalie Madurski, a senior at South Plainfield High School, wrote this article for the school's Jerseyan History Club Newsletter regarding bullying and harassment.)

This September, a nauseating invasion of privacy and case of harassment led to the suicide of a freshman named Tyler Clementi at Rutgers University. Tyler's roommate, Dharun Ravi, set up a webcam which live-streamed Tyler partaking in a "sexual encounter" with another male to anyone who "dared to iChat" with him. Ravi had originally posted on his Twitter, "Roommate asked for the room till midnight. I went into Molly's room and turned on my webcam. I saw him making out with a dude. Yay."

Tyler, who was allegedly not yet comfortable about being open with his sexuality, then went on to jump off the George Washington Bridge, instantly killing himself. Tyler was clearly victimized, bullied and harassed through his roommate's evident invasion of his privacy.

However, this is not just about Tyler Clementi's tragic suicide; it is about something much bigger. In the past year, the media has picked up more stories of teen suicides from accounts of bullying and harassment than ever before. Another big story was that of Phoebe Prince, a 15 year-old girl who killed herself nine months ago as a result of being taunted by her classmates. Every single day teenagers, just like the ones we pass here in our hallways, are committing suicide as a result of

being bullied and harassed based on who they are. Every single day these teens experience feelings of loneliness, worthlessness and isolation. Harassment is preventing these young adults from simply living their lives. A person should not have to die just to bring attention to this matter. As students, faculty and staff we need to be mindful of these horrifying situations, and we need to step up to make sure South Plainfield High School is not the home of bullying or harassment in any form. We need to make sure a tragedy of this magnitude does not happen at our school. Students should be embraced for who they are, not tormented.

To all my fellow students, I hope this story is in the back of your head the next time you talk bad about someone, whether behind his or her back or to his or her face. I hope you think about your actions before you laugh at someone, tease them, or do anything else to make an individual feel victimized. When we were younger, we were taught that time-old saying: "Sticks and stones may break our bones, but words will never hurt us." However, by now we should be grown up enough to realize that that is a complete and utter lie; words hurt. If we could all just respect our peers and embrace them for who they are, we would not have to be reading tragic stories of teen suicide in the media. This story is a prime example that we all need to wake up and face the fact that what we may view as pranks or harmless teasing can have enough impact to end a person's life forever.



Brigitte Kelly, SPHS Vice Principal Ralph Errico and Rachel Alexa

## SPHS September Rotary Students of the Month

South Plainfield High School announced the September Rotary Students of the Month are seniors Rachel Alexa and Brigitte Kelly.

Rachel has a GPA of 3.9. She is co-captain of the high school cheerleading team and has participated since her freshman year. She is very involved in the Student Leadership program and has actively participated in numerous fundraisers in the community. Rachel would like to attend Montclair State

University or Rutgers University and major in health and nutrition.

Brigitte has a GPA of 3.8. She is co-captain of the high school cheerleading team and has participated since her freshman year. Brigitte has been involved in the Student Leadership program, Tiger 24, and other community fundraising events. Brigitte plans on attending college in the fall to pursue a degree in nursing.

## Skylands Bank Hosts Community Event

Skylands Community Bank held its first event to "Meet Your Local Community Banking Leaders" on September 30. The event was hosted by Regional Vice President Darlene Pinto, along with Joe Valenzuela, vice president of commercial lending, and Don and Frank Marano from Fulton Financial Advisors. Fulton Financial is the parent company of Skylands Community Bank, and has been named one of the Nation's 100 Most Trustworthy Companies by Forbes.

Pinto elaborated, "The community banking teams value the relationships we have with our customers and gaining their trust is our number one pri-

ority. Skylands is proud to be part of a company that is viewed so positively by an internationally recognized organization such as Forbes."

Skylands is a community-oriented bank dedicated to providing quality service in a comfortable banking environment.

Skylands will be hosting events for local businesses in the areas they serve, and will have banking teams on hand to answer any questions businesses may have.

Some areas covered during this event were that Skylands is in the market to lend to commercial and residential customers. Other investment are products are also available.

The event was very well attended with over 30 local businesses from South Plainfield. For information regarding the next event, or Skylands products and services, please contact Darlene Pinto at (908) 561-1279.

## Halloween Tricks Magic Show at Library

The South Plainfield Public Library will present the children's magic show "Halloween Tricks" on Monday, Oct. 25 at 6:30 p.m.

The program will feature Joe Fischer, who has performed at library programs many times before and is a favorite with audiences. The program is for children ages four and over; no pre-registration required. In lieu of admission charge, participants should bring non-perishable food items for the Middlesex County Community Food Drive. The program will be held at the nearby senior center, located at 90 Maple Ave.

The library is located in the South Plainfield Municipal Complex at 2484 Plainfield Ave.

For more information, please call (908) 754-7885 and ask for Linda or Mija or visit the library's website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

## policereport

- On October 10 Kenneth Worthy, 33, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving.
- Saul Arruda, 34, of Bound Brook was arrested for driving while intoxicated.
- On October 12 a Celentano Court resident reported that eggs and cottage cheese had been thrown at their vehicle.
- A W. 8th Street resident reported that the driver's side rear window of their vehicle had been shattered.

## Education Foundation Raffle Tickets Still Available

The South Plainfield Education Foundation is currently selling its annual 50/50 raffle tickets. The winning tickets will be drawn on December 9. Tickets cost \$5 each and the cash prizes are 25% or maximum \$1,250-first prize, 10% or maximum \$500-second prize, 7½% or maximum \$375-third prize, 5% or maximum \$250-fourth prize and 2.5% or maximum \$125-fifth prize.

To purchase tickets, contact Marge Reedy at (909) 561-5800, ext. 302.

## History of BP

(Continued from previous page)

Coastal Oil was no longer in business in 1992 and the site was considered for a Hindu temple.

A letter from the Department of Environmental Protection dated December 30, 1992 stated that the Coastal Oil property was in full compliance of environmental clean-up and a final inspection had been held on December 15, 1992.

Hearings went forward on the building of a 14,000 sq. ft. Hindu temple for 250 congregants on the former site of Coastal Oil. The group never received a use variance to go forward with its plans because it was deemed that access would cause safety and congestion problems while getting into and out of the site. The

Stankowitz's also attended those hearings, even though they weren't notified they would be affected by the increase of traffic on their street.

They have been attending most of the Zoning Board of Adjustment hearings on how the site will be utilized because they want to be assured they will not have drainage problems when D'Annunzio & Sons Inc. builds its office facility with a contractor's storage yard for earthmoving equipment and dump trucks at the rear of the 18.74-acre property.

The next zoning board hearing will be held on Thursday, Oct. 28 at 7 p.m. at Borough Hall.

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# Novak Honored at Retirement Dinner



Middle school teachers (L-R) Wendy Su, Michelle Hottendorf, Donna Markiewicz and Robyn Mikaelian with Steve Novak.

dents Len Tobias and Dr. Robert Rosado. Friend and former teacher and assistant baseball coach for 20 years, Bill Mosca, who attended elementary school with Novak in North Plainfield, recalled numerous entertaining stories of the two together.

Several of Novak's former government class students who are now involved in politics were at the dinner, including Borough Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas and Council President Matt Anesh.

Presentations were made by middle school PTO President Debbie Boyle, Leo Whalen from Principals Unit as well as a proclamation from Mayor Charles Butrico. Novak also received a generous gift from those attending which was presented by high school secretary Debbie Czech and teacher Angela Hajduk.

Also attending were teachers from the middle and high schools and throughout the district and former baseball players of Novak's, including Robert McCauley, who traveled from South Carolina. All-State player Jim Kohl and Tom McCreesh, a 1981 first baseman from the championship team. Novak received a large sign from the former students with his famous saying, "It's Nice to be Important, But it's Important to be Nice." Throughout the evening there were many barbs about his fishing skills, loud voice and unique style of teaching.

Guest family members of Novak's included his wife, Barbara, a 1965 South Plainfield High School graduate, his brother Bob, and his two sons, Tom and Steven III, an assistant athletic director at Boston College. A video presentation was made by former student and high school graphic arts teacher Rich D'Urso which featured pictures of Novak from birth, through high school, his time teaching and coaching high school varsity baseball and soccer, and as former mayor of North Plainfield.

*I would like to thank Joanne Plate for arranging the date, menu and the venue; Kevin and Angela Hajduk and Debbie Czech for all the other arrangements and John Limansky, former middle school teacher, for deejaying and for playing Frank Sinatra's song My Way when I was introduced.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire South Plainfield community for many good memories during the past 42 years. As a school administrator, teacher and coach, I had the privilege of meeting great parents, working with excellent educators, and most importantly, working with the tremendous students of South Plainfield. I will always cherish these memories and consider South Plainfield as my home away from home.*

*I wish South Plainfield success in all its future endeavors.*

Gratefully,  
Steve Novak Jr.

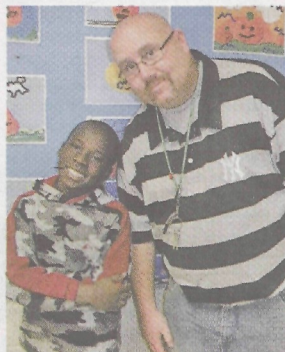
Nearly 170 people attended a dinner for former middle school Principal Steve Novak who retired in June after serving the district for 42 years. The event, held at Primavera Regency in Sterling on October 14, featured hot hors d'oeuvres, salad, a pasta entree and dessert.

Emcees for the evening were Middle School Principal Kevin Hajduk and SPSHS Assistant Principal Joe Cirigliano, both of whom were former students of Novak's. Guest speakers were high school social studies teacher Fran Flannery, former high school social studies teacher and principal Tony Massaro and former high school student council president and student John Graf. Former high school principal Dr. Ken May recited a prayer and commented on Novak's accomplishments, as well as former Superintendent

2010-2011

## JUNIOR JOURNALIST

### David Delice Is This Week's Junior Journalist



Junior Journalist winner David Delice with teacher Michael Bertram.

David Delice, Roosevelt School third grader, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist program. His poem, "Fall is the Greatest," has earned him dinner for his family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

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

Winners and their families will receive a catered dinner from Hometown Heros and will be honored at a year-end banquet in May of 2011.

For more information, call the Observer at (908) 668-0010.

### Fall is the Greatest!

By David Delice

**September:** I love to see the beautiful sunshine, the wind blowing and of course school starts. I see the new world of third grade. There's new friends, my favorite teachers, Mr. B and Mrs. Agee.

**October:** Summer's over and there's twizzlers, hot apple cider, apple pie, nerds, Frankenberry cereal and there's more. I can see birds flying, squirrels collecting nuts. I can smell fresh air, pumpkin pie. I hear people ding dong on the door. They say "Boo! Boo!"

**November:** Mmmmm. I smell a feast, hot chocolate and cherry pie. The taste of chicken, rice, blueberry pie, fish, eggs, sandwiches, bacon and cake. I almost forget winter's coming!

### Buddy Walk Raises Awareness



to see what it is like to have a child with a disability. They ask us whatever they want and we let them know about our experiences with doctors. Some doctors are up to date on information, others are not. We then tell them how to handle giving a diagnosis and treating people as a person and not just another patient. Our pediatrician used the word 'mongoloid' to tell me about Kyle's diagnosis, which was the day after he was born. We did not know he had Downs until after he was born. I am not 're-educating' doctors, just giving them updated information and how things have changed. We are also trying to get people to use the 'R' word a little less. Yes, we all may have said it, but when you are personally affected, you change what you do and say. It may

(Continued from page 1)

There was also a 50/50 and the winner took home \$360.

The job of spreading the word about Down Syndrome doesn't end with the walk. "We do a med student program out of Robert Wood Johnson where we have two residents over for dinner and they get

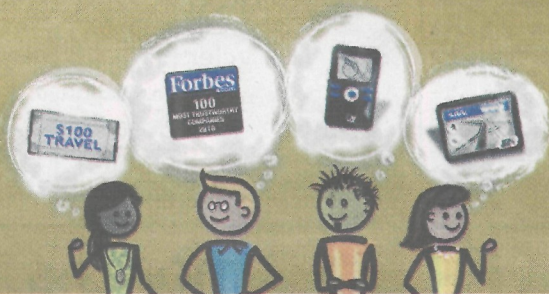


not be meant to hurt someone, but it is still not a nice word. I tell my kids all the time to not judge people on how they look or act. Like any parent, we want our child to be known for who they are, not the child with (pick your condition). He is Kyle," explained Both.

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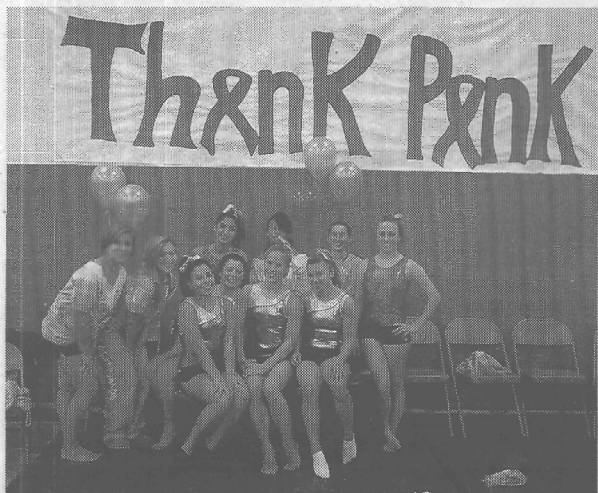
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# Sports

## Gymnastics Team Competes In "Think Pink" Meet



South Plainfield Girls Gymnastics team at the "Think Pink" invitational.

South Plainfield Girls Gymnastics team took part in a "Think Pink" invitational meet hosted by Bishop Ahr this past Saturday. This was the first annual breast cancer fundraiser to raise money and awareness for a cure. The gymnastics meet was open to the entire state and had an overwhelming

response. The gymnastics community raised over \$1,500 and they predict an even bigger turnout next year.

Nicolette Wilson from Toms River East took first in the all around with an impressive 38.875 taking the top spots in all four events. Lindsay Carbone from South Brunswick took second in the all around with a 36.35 and a 9.4 on the vault, giving her second place. Alexis Alba of South Plainfield competed in the all around for the first time this season since returning from an injury. She placed second on the balance beam with a 9.325 and finished third in the all around with a 36.15. Everyone is looking forward to having her at full strength at the GMC meet on Saturday, Oct. 23 at South Brunswick High School.

The meet was a great start to help bring awareness to breast cancer and the girls had a blast doing it. Bishop Ahr did a wonderful job offering pink leotards, signs and contests, while making sure the point of the meet was clear—that we could all do a little more.

—Submitted by Meredith Garofalo

### U-12 ARSENAL

By Mark Resende

## Arsenal Comes Back to Earn Hard-fought Draw

The Wizards of Watchung Hills came to the South Plainfield Soccer Club complex on Kenneth Avenue to face off against Arsenal in a U-12 Boys contest that would prove to be a physical one. The game was played under a

clear sky on a cool autumn Sunday afternoon—absolutely perfect weather for soccer.

Watchung Hills came out strong and controlled the early part of the game, scoring in the seventh minute for a 1-0 lead. Arsenal withstood the attack and eventually was able to gain some control and maintain ball possession. The home team's first goal would come in the 26th minute off the foot of Jake Hoffman, who received a nice up-field pass from Jason Cieszkiewicz and capitalized to even the score at one goal apiece. The Wizards regained the lead in the 30th minute with a long, high shot that was just out of the reach of Arsenal goalie Caleb Kuberiet. The halftime score was 2-1 in favor of the visitors.

The second half was evenly played,

with both teams having several scoring chances. Arsenal's defense, anchored by Tyler Curtis, Ricky Pellegrino and Mason Resende, kept the Wizards in check and allowed few quality chances. The Arsenal midfield, comprised of Ryan Stankan, Cristian Butrico, Jack Cochrane and Jason Belanger, did a great job of feeding the ball to the forwards, including Jake Smith and Dylan O'Connor. Finally, Arsenal's relentless hard work paid off in the 59th minute when a Jared Marks corner kick found Jake Hoffman in the box and Hoffman drilled it home for the equalizer. This would be the last goal of the game, making the final tally 2-2.

Regular starting defender Alec Pacz missed this game due to injury and is hopeful to return on October 31. Arsenal's next game will be played on Memorial Field on Sunday, Oct. 24 at 2 p.m., so please come out and support them.

The team is led by head coach David Cieszkiewicz, and assistant coaches Greg Hoffman and Steve Belanger. Their record now stands at 3-1-1, with 13 goals scored and five goals allowed. Go Arsenal!

### Support the Rescue Squad With Your Pumpkin Purchase

The Rescue Squad will sponsor a pumpkin sale on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 23 and 24, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the squad building, 2520 Plainfield Ave. Stop by and show your support.

Call (908) 917-7920 for more information.

### Recreation Wrestling Sign Ups

The South Plainfield Recreation Department will be holding wrestling sign ups on Saturday, Oct. 23 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the PAL Building on Maple Avenue. Registration is open to all South Plainfield children ages

five to 11 (as of October 1). Registration is \$40. Birth certificate and proof of residency is required for first time registrants.

Practice begins on Monday, Nov. 15.

### SOCCER CLUB

By Dawn Hutchison



Several U-12 Ambush players take time out from training to have fun.

## Next SPSC Meeting Oct. 28

Be sure to register for the upcoming Teacher's Convention Soccer Camp. The SPSC together with the South Plainfield Recreation Department have joined forces once again with Spencer Rockman and the Rovers Soccer program to bring the Teachers Convention Soccer Camp, Thursday, Nov. 4 and Thursday, Nov. 5. This two day program of fun, skills and drills runs both days from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Memorial Turf Field at the PAL. Rain or shine. Cost is \$49 per person for the two days. Camp is open to boys and girls, ages five through 14. Players will be divided into groups according to age. Children will be required to bring cleats and shin guards. Food, drinks and snacks will be available for purchase. For more information, contact Dawn Farinella at (908) 769-6959 or email: dawnfarinella@comcast.net. Registration forms can be downloaded from our website: www.soplfdssoccerclub.com. Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

Our next general meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 28 at 7:30 p.m. downstairs at the VFW located on Front Street. Please come out and get involved. We invite and encourage all player's parents to be a part of all that happens at the SPSC.

Here's a quick note on a few of our teams:

**Ambush moves to 5-0.** The U-12 Ambush is really on the move with an undefeated season. Ambush is one of the newest girls teams formed this season. This week they dominated with a 6-0 victory over the Somerset Hills Rally Cats with goals from Caitly Hughes and Sarah Cargill, and a first goal of the season by Grace Ochoa and Nubia Calderon. Claire Nagel is credited with two goals and an assist for Jackie Battista. The defense was anchored by Katherine Vill, Megan Celentano, Sierra Pasquella and goalie Justice Lipuma, who didn't allow a

goal. Coaches Nagel, Battista and Hughes could not be more proud. Great job to all the girls!

**Team Thunder moves to 3-1** on the season. Thunder hosted the West Orange Warriors, who were undefeated and had zero goals

scored against them all season. Thunder battled hard for the first 50 minutes of play with the score tied 0-0 until Gavin Castro scored the game's only goal, giving Thunder the win. Goalies Nick Battista and Christopher Kuberiet combined for a shutout of the Warriors. The defense was led by Christian Gonzalez, Jonathan Veras, Nolan Berry and James "Brick Wall" Pidalato. Congratulations to all of the boys on an impressive victory.

**Arsenal goes 3-1-1.** Arsenal faced Watchung this past weekend and had a tough fight on their hands. Both teams battled throughout the game. At one point Arsenal was down, 2-1 and with the first goal by Jake Hoffman, assisted by Jason Cieszkiewicz, Arsenal pulled out a second goal by Jake Hoffman, assisted by Jared Marks to tie it up. According to the coaches, the team has really stepped up to the plate with lots of teamwork, communicating and being out there in the game. The coaches are very proud of them for all their hard work. Congratulations to Jake Smith for his first career goal, scored on October 10. Keep up the great work Arsenal!

Be sure to catch this week's home games:

**Saturday's Games:** Mustangs-1 p.m. at Kenneth Avenue Field 1 and Sharks-3 p.m. at Kenneth Avenue Field 2.

**Sunday's Games:** Ambush-2 p.m. at Kenneth Avenue Field 1; Strikerz-4 p.m. at Kenneth Avenue Field 1; Storm-1:30 p.m. at Memorial Turf Field, PAL and Arsenal-3:30 p.m. at Memorial Turf Field, PAL.

Thanks again for all your continued support. Go SPSC!

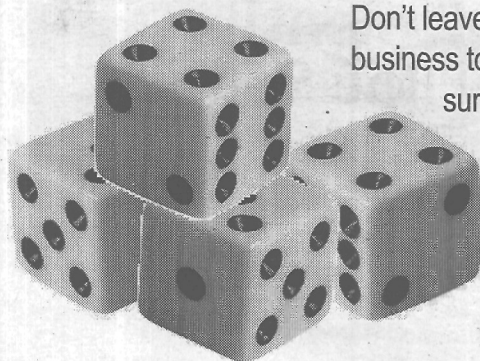
## WJC Sports Kids Student-Athlete College Recruiting Seminar

WJC Sports Kids is conducting its student-athlete college recruiting seminar featuring guest speakers from Rutgers University's Athletic Department on Tuesday, Nov. 9. The seminar will take place at South Plainfield High School's auditorium from 7 to 9 p.m. The seminar is to bring awareness to student-athletes grades 7-12 and their parents on the process on how to become a college recruit for athletics. The seminar is free for South Plainfield residents and a \$5 donation per person will be requested from non-South Plainfield residents. Student-athletes will learn NCAA

compliance rules and eligibility requirements. They will also learn how important academics and behavior conduct are to the recruiting process, and how to be proactive in marketing yourself to the university or college of preferences with your highlight reel, etc.

WJC Sports Kids is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides education and recreational events for youth. They also produce highlight reels for student-athletes. For more information on the seminar, please contact Willie at (201) 745-4491 or willie@wjcsports.com.

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## From the Democrats

| OPINION

### Our Seniors and Our Town Deserve Better

The Democratic Team of Mike English, John Sorrentino and Jeff Williams want to continue our conversation with the people of South Plainfield about straight and honest talk. Did you know that the Republican Party, led by Matt Anesh, had to pay thousands of dollars in fines because they refused to file contribution forms mandated by the state. They violated the law and lost the trust of every resident in town because they don't want anyone to know who contributed to their campaigns and how much. Mike English, John Sorrentino and Jeff Williams have filed all the state forms. That is straight and honest talk.

Did you know that the Democratic Team confronted the Republican-Lie-Machine three weeks ago at a council meeting. Mike, Jeff and John publicly announced that they have never advocated the proposed buildings on the Harris Steel site. Everyone in South Plainfield should have seen it on cable TV last week, but didn't because the tape was never released by Republican Councilman McConville, who was in charge of taping the meeting. Do the Republicans think they can keep the truth from the good people of our town? That is straight and honest talk.

The Democratic Team wants to have a very frank discussion with everyone concerning the activities at our Senior Citizen Center. For two years now there have been delays, management changeovers and program cancellations at the center. The Democratic Team wants to see the Senior Citizen organization become the primary organizer of events at the center. We also want to see better use of the kitchen facilities to provide state-of-the-art-meals all through the day,

including supper if the demand is there. The Republican council has seen fit to ask the recreation director, who also oversees the community pool operations to manage the center as well. Our recreation director is doing a fantastic job at the PAL, but how much can one person do? Our seniors deserve better treatment from the council. We cannot replace Joann Graf, but we pledge to make our seniors a priority if we are elected.

The Democratic Team is so grateful that Mayor Charles Butrico has made sure that the library issue is well on its way to being resolved. We are committed to an expanded library that will serve the needs of all the people of South Plainfield. This is an issue that has divided our community unnecessarily for years and it must be resolved now. We need a larger library so the staff can continue to offer the fantastic programs they do now.

Finally, the Democratic Team of Mike, John and Jeff want to restore a level of civility at the council meetings. One of the reasons our mayor decided not to seek reelection was because he was threatened at a council meeting. This extreme negative approach to politics must stop. We want to bring back an atmosphere of respect at council meetings. This is straight and honest talk. If you have questions and/or suggestions please contact Mike, John or Jeff.

**Vote 2010**  
Watch. Listen.  
Learn. Vote.

*The opinions expressed here are solely those of the organizations that submitted the articles. They do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher, nor do we attest to their accuracy.*

## From the Republicans

| OPINION

### Democrat Budget Proposal Would Mean Large Tax Hike

Calling a recent Democrat budget proposal "poorly thought out," council candidates Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak this week suggested that their rivals should rethink their plans.

"English, Sorrentino and Williams simply don't understand the town's budget," said Rusnak, who chairs the council's finance committee. "Their proposal would mean a huge tax increase, as much as \$300 a home."

Rusnak was referring to a Sorrentino-Williams proposal to stop using state aid for ongoing budget expenses.

The proposal comes from the Democrat Party website, where the candidates said: "The Democrats also pledge to reduce the borough's reliance on state funding to balance the town's budget. John [Sorrentino] knows that state funds should be used for one-time expenses so they will never again be expected to pay for the day-to-day expenses of government."

"State aid is intended to pay for day-to-day expenses," explained Rusnak. "We pay sales tax and state income tax to offset property taxes. I can't believe Sorrentino and Williams don't know this."

"This is money targeted for tax relief," added McConville. "To take it out of the current-expense budget would raise taxes."

Anesh campaign spokesman Rob Bengivenga was shocked by the proposal. "It's bad enough English touted bizarre schemes like this when he was mayor last time. But now Sorrentino and

Williams are also making proposals that don't make sense."

State aid totals about 15% of the borough budget—about \$3.5 million from all the different programs. Taking that out of current expenses would mean a tax increase of about \$300 for the average family.

"It's bad enough English refuses to explain why he raised taxes 55% last time he was mayor," said Bengivenga. "But now he and his team are floating irresponsible ideas in an effort to pandering for votes."

Anesh agreed, pointing out that the idea is coming from the same party that used a full year's worth of state aid in last year's six-month budget. "When that was going on English, Sorrentino and Williams were mysteriously quiet."

According to McConville, the contrast between the two teams is stark: "We cut taxes. English raised taxes. We made hard choices to cut expenses. Sorrentino and Williams are floating half-baked gimmicks, hoping people won't understand they don't make sense financially."

"Voters are smarter than that," explained Anesh. "We've gone back and looked at the newspapers from the last time English ran for mayor. He made the same types of promises then, but when he got elected he raised taxes 55%."

Under Republican control, taxes are down, spending is down, and borrowing is down. The borough's finances are better than ever, and according to the GOP candidates, they will continue to make South Plainfield more affordable if the voters select them in November.

As one resident said while Anesh was at his door: "Some people talk about cutting taxes and spending. You guys actually did."

## Curves Wants to Help Save 17,257 Lives During Breast Cancer Awareness Month

According to statistics from the American Cancer Society, approximately 207,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in the U.S. this year. That's over 17,000 cases in October alone. And sadly, more than 3,300 women will lose their lives to this disease in October as well. But these aren't just numbers. These are our mothers, sisters, daughters, friends.

In response, Curves has taken a leadership role in the fight against breast cancer. As part of Curves of South Plainfield mission to strengthen women and in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the wo-

men's fitness center is waiving the joining fee for new members who show proof of a recent mammogram or make a \$25 donation to the American Cancer Society. Since only about 5-10 percent of breast cancers are hereditary, it's all about prevention.

"Early detection saves lives," said Jerri and Elissa, Curves co-owners. "There's so much you can do to significantly reduce your risk of getting breast cancer. These include eating a nutritious diet, getting regular exercise and maintaining a healthy weight. And then there are annual doctor visits and monthly breast self exam."

According to world-renowned breast cancer surgeon Dr. Ernie Bodai, more than 95 percent of women whose breast cancer is caught in its earliest stages will be healthy and disease-free five years after their diagnosis and treatment. And, women themselves, through breast self examination, find 80 percent of breast cancers not discovered by mammography.

To help make monthly breast self examination easier and less intimidating, Curves offers a nifty FDA approved tool called the Liv Aid. It's a heart shaped, fluid filled pad designed to enhance a woman's ability to notice changes in her breast tissue and feel lumps or irregularities. Interested people should stop by Curves during open hours for a sugar demonstration which uses grains of sugar to simulate the often microscopic lumps in breast tissue that may be missed with mammography or self exam.

Researchers know that physical activity in the form of exercise reduces breast cancer risk. Every woman in the South Plainfield area is encouraged to come in and see a demonstration of the Liv Aid and learn how exercising just three times a week at Curves can help reduce your risk of developing this frightening disease.

For more information, contact Curves at (908) 757-4422.

## BOE Names Acting Superintendent

(Continued from page 1)  
should begin next month.

The board also voted 8-1 to hire former assistant superintendent and Principal Anthony Massaro as interim principal at the high school. He will receive \$500 per day and started on Monday. He intends to contribute \$150 of his salary toward the South Plainfield Education Foundation's Principal's Scholarship. Board member Bill Seesselberg voted against Massaro's appointment saying they should look to promote from within the district to fill the position permanently.

Business Administrator and Board Secretary Richard A. Guarini announced that he will be leaving the district on Friday, Dec. 3 and has accepted a similar position with the Ridgewood Board of Education. He has been working in the district since May 2008.

Dorothea Bohn was reassigned to the middle school as a 10 month secretary at the prorated salary of \$25,752 per year. Previously she was a part time secretary at Roosevelt School. Michelle Kirchofer began working as a Grant School special education long term substitute teacher at

\$120 a day. She is the temporary replacement for Amy Arnold who is on a leave of absence.

Sunday's *Star Ledger* contained advertisements for the positions of business administrator and high school principal. Vacancies still exist for supervisor of technology and a long term substitute for high school assistant principal Kelly Richkus who is currently on maternity leave and scheduled to return in February.

The board intends to vote on candidates for these jobs at the next regular public meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m..

## Hotel Murder

(Continued from page 1)  
and unlawful possession of a weapon at an arraignment in Superior Court, New Brunswick last Friday. He is being held at the Middlesex County Adult Correction Center in North Brunswick in lieu of \$2M bail.

Anyone with information on the shooting is asked to call Sgt. Dan Noonan at (908) 226-7664 or Investigator Crocco of the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office at (732) 745-4471.



A crowd of about 160 enjoyed Sacred Heart's Food Fest Italiano held at the school on October 17. It is almost unbelievable that pasta could be served in so many different ways.  
—Submitted by Bill Tuthill

## SPOOKY VENDOR DAY FUNDRAISER

Support the South Plainfield TigerSharks Dive Team!

P.A.L. 1250 Maple Ave So. Plainfield

Dunk Tank with the Mayor & Local Representatives!

Featuring:

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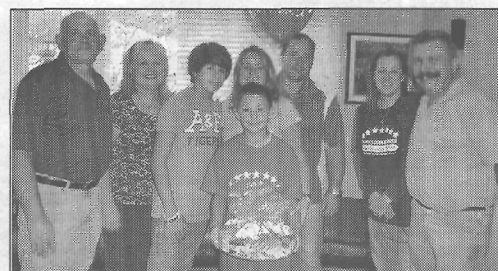
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John Cecchetti Insurance Agency

Congratulations Michael!

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

#1



Junior Journalist Michael Marrero with mom Lian, dad John, brother Chris and grandparents Ray and Martha Rodriguez.

# In My Opinion

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

(Continued from page 2)  
that same effort and enthusiasm to his duties as a councilman.

For many years, John has volunteered his time in different aspects of our community. Whether coaching his kids as they pursued their activities in the Ponytail Softball league, little league and the football Eagles to serving on the Public Celebrations Committee, John has been an individual who has made a positive contribution to South Plainfield for many years. Now, we have the ability to elect John Sorrentino to the borough council and have him serve the entire borough. It doesn't get any better than that.

Please join me in electing John Sorrentino, Democrat for borough council, and his running mates, Michael English for mayor and Jeff Williams for council.

**SINCERELY,  
KEN WIECZOREK**

## To the Editor:

As November 2 draws near and we contemplate who we are going to vote for, we should view the rhetoric and economic data with a jaundiced eye. The old adage, "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely," certainly applies to most of our senators and representatives now up for reelection and those in the senate who aren't. The only certainty in the upcoming elections is that politicians lie and they have become so adept at it that many of them even convince themselves that they are telling the truth.

The first fabrication is, "The stimulus worked and the economy is improving." Historically, in the United States approximately 37% of the workforce was engaged in manufacturing; it is now less than 10%. The erosion of our manufacturing base began years ago with the passage of NAFTA, tax codes which allowed corporate profits made overseas to receive special treatment, and the ratification of sweetheart trade deals with foreign governments. Consequently, stimulus spending does not work to significantly improve the economy since the multiplier effect is absent or severely diminished. In far too many instances, it has resulted in only a single domestic purchase followed by the transfer of the money overseas. There is even considerable doubt that we could produce what is necessary to

defend ourselves in a prolonged conventional conflict with a major military power.

Both of our major parties have bought into this so called global economy perspective and are culpable for our present economic circumstances. This is not a new approach and was attempted in the beginning of the nineteenth century, but quickly abandoned because it threatened the security of many nations. Any doubts, the next time you purchase an item—check and see where it was made. "Made in the USA" has become a rare find.

The next fabrication is that unemployment figures and the stock markets are improving. Unemployment figures as presented today by the government do not reflect the true level of the number of people out of work and have been subject to manipulation according to the definition of "unemployed" that is applied. The true figures are much higher than those published and are well over 10%.

The stock market is normally a leading indicator of economic activity; however, it too is subject to distortion and a degree of manipulation. The big question is if it is being distorted by a flight from bonds and cash caused by anticipation of inflation, higher interest rates and a devaluation of the dollar due to the excessive and irresponsible spending of the federal government, which if allowed to continue will have disastrous consequences.

The best thing for our future, our children's futures, and our country's future would be to cast a vote on November 2 which in regard to most incumbents is nicely summed up in a line from a WWII era song: "So we're saying goodbye to them all, the long and the short and the tall."

**FRANK MCGONIGLE**

## Follow South Plainfield Residents,

Mike English is one of the finest people I know. He loves his wife Susan, his sons Shawn and Brian and his daughter-in-law Jenna. He adores his grandsons. Mike was and will again be, a great mayor. Mayor Michael English will once again make us proud.

Jeff Williams is a product of our school system. He was both an honor student and the most valuable player in track and field when he was at South Plainfield High. Anyone who knows the Williams family recognizes that

they are individuals with impeccable integrity. Jeff Williams will bring honesty, intelligence and positive energy to the borough council.

John Sorrentino prides himself on being a "regular guy." But John is anything but ordinary. John doesn't care about politics. He only cares about South Plainfield's future. If you want a job done well, then John Sorrentino is your man.

Mike, Jeff and John aren't just great people. Property taxes are out of control. Over \$1.5M was borrowed this year alone and our sewer tax went up again. Mike, Jeff and John believe it's time we live within our means. They have a plan to reduce the size of local government. They will pursue shared services and eliminate unneeded positions. They also believe that the borough should be friendlier to the taxpayer. They will eliminate red tape for things like building a new deck or shed and will waive the building permit fees for replacement items like a water heater or a furnace.

On November 2, join me in supporting the outstanding team of Mike English for mayor, Jeff Williams and John Sorrentino for borough council.

**ASSEMBLYMAN PATRICK DIEGNAN**

## Dear Editor,

They say that "those who forget history are doomed to repeat it."

That being said, I can't think of anything more important than a political candidates' record.

While a lot of people are talking about Michael English's record as mayor, I remember it because I lived through it. Like he's doing now, back then English promised "fiscal responsibility." Unfortunately, he never lived up to that promise. In fact, when he raised taxes 55% his first year, people were up in arms.

It was so bad, English wrote a front-page letter to the editor in the local newspaper. Everyone was extremely disappointed because rather than explain why he raised taxes 55%, he just blamed others, even though he and his party controlled both the mayor's seat and the majority of the council.

English's record on the school board cemented his reputation as a tax-and-spend politician. I remember the tax hike he gave us in 2005. A \$375 tax increase was not only unprecedented, it was unnecessary, which

has been demonstrated by the huge surpluses the board saw in the years that followed.

History demonstrates that Michael English doesn't understand finances and budgets, nor does he have the effective management skills that are needed by the town's chief executive. He makes lots of promises, and he says he's going to perform all sorts of miracles if elected, but as soon as he gets in office, things fall apart, and it's one disaster after another.

We've heard Michael English's promises many times. I hope he doesn't fool us again.

**CORDIALLY,  
BRUCE MADDEN**

## Dear Editor,

Everyone who cares about keeping trucks off Hamilton Boulevard should read the letter which appeared in last week's *Observer* from Richard V. Petrone. In his letter, Petrone, who doesn't support Democrat Mike English's campaign, questions the cost of taking trucks off Hamilton Boulevard. He goes on to belittle the improvements to the boulevard which is the gateway of our town. He then criticizes the need of Phase 2 of the New Market Avenue extension.

Petrone ends his letter by opposing the Hollywood Avenue truck route saying, "It will take four to five years and plenty of taxes to pay for it."

The most interesting thing about Petrone's letter is these are the identical arguments Republican mayoral candidate Matt Anesh used when he last ran for council. There is only one slate running for office this year that tells you the straight, honest facts when it comes to keeping trucks off Hamilton Boulevard and Belmont Avenue. Democrats Mike English for mayor and council candidates Jeff Williams and John Sorrentino will never let it happen.

**DON ALEXA**

## Dear Editor,

Over a month ago I wrote a letter to the *Observer* asking the local Republicans to apologize for their slanderous literature during last year's campaign. Mr. Anesh and his party resorted to their traditional attack strategy because the Democrats brought to light the charges which were filed against

the Republican Party by the state election commission. When Anesh and company had to pay a fine for their finance violations, I suggested that the decent thing to do would be to admit they misled the public and apologize for their unethical actions.

Guess what? No apology was forthcoming. No surprise there. They have run for six years with the same game plan. Do what's necessary to win and forget about what's right.

Now they are attacking one of the finest people I know—Mike English.

Mike is a family man. He loves his wife and kids. He adores his grandkids. He was one of the best teachers in our high school. One of the best things I did as mayor was appointing Mike English our recreation director. Mike was the driving force behind saving the community pool and expanding the PAL. When he was mayor he started the process which led to our senior housing complex. He worked with Middlesex County to create the beautiful Spring Lake Park.

The Republicans are trying to say they are making South Plainfield affordable. Here's a fact: The budget was half of what it is today when Mike was mayor and borrowing was virtually nonexistent.

This year we can teach the Republicans two lessons: (1) Slash and burn politics doesn't work in South Plainfield; (2) We are voting for the most qualified people who bring competence, experience and character to their positions.

Join me in voting for Mike English and his outstanding running mates, Jeff Williams and John Sorrentino, Democrats for mayor and council.

**DANIEL J. GALLAGHER**

## Dear Editor,

I'm writing to express my support for Matt Anesh who's running for mayor, and Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak, who are running for council. Things in South Plainfield are starting to go in the right direction and these three people are the ones responsible.

This is the first year I can ever recall my taxes going down and I am pleased to see that spending is lower as well. A

(Continued on page 14)

## LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANT

**SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
Middlesex County  
DOCKET NO. F-043796-10**

**(L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO:**  
Charles Bolton

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon GOLDBECK McCAFFERTY & McKEEVER, A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION, plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Suite 5000 - Mellon Intendence Center; 701 Market Street; Philadelphia, PA 19108-1532, phone # (215) 627-1322, an answer to the Complaint, filed in a civil action, in which Midfirst Bank is plaintiff, and Paula Bolton and Charles Bolton, husband of Paula Bolton, et al are the defendant(s), pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Middlesex County, and bearing Docket No. F-043796-10 within thirty-five (35) days after October 22, 2010 exclusive of such date or if published after October 22, 2010 (35) days after the actual date 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 March 28, 2001, made by Paula Bolton and Charles Bolton, husband of Paula Bolton as mortgagor(s), to Homestead Landing, Inc. recorded on April 16, 2001, for Middlesex County in Book 6597 Page 726 of Mortgages for said plaintiff, which mortgage was assigned to the plaintiff, by Assignment dated May 31, 2002; and (2) to recover possession of, and concerns premises commonly known as 4 Langley Place, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Lot 16 Block 505.

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) 249-7800.

YOU, Charles Bolton, are hereby made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because you are the husband of Paula Bolton, the record owner of the mortgaged premises who executed the bond or note and mortgage being foreclosed herein, and because you executed the mortgage being foreclosed herein and may be liable for any deficiency thereon, and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, or against the mortgaged premises.

**Jennifer M. Perez, Clerk**  
Superior Court of New Jersey  
\$47.40 October 22, 2010

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

#### LEGAL NOTICE

##### ORDINANCE NO. 1902

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 1840 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE LICENSING AND REGULATION OF CHARITABLE CLOTHING BINS"** was adopted on first reading and advertised in the *Observer* on Friday, October 22, 2010 and that a public hearing be scheduled for Monday, November 8, 2010 at the Public Meeting which will begin immediately following the 7:00pm Agenda Meeting in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of South Plainfield enacted Ordinance No. 1840 pursuant to the provisions of State statute N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.60, et seq., which provides that effective January 1, 2009, no person or entity can place a charitable clothing bin in a municipality without obtaining a permit complying with provisions set forth in said statute; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been a proliferation of clothing bins throughout the Borough which are not maintained, and which constitute a nuisance and/or blight upon the Borough;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that Ordinance No. 1840 entitled "An Ordinance Providing for the Licensing and Regulation of Charitable Clothing Bins Pursuant to the Provisions

of New Jersey Statute 40:48-2.60, et seq.," be amended as follows:

#### SECTION 2(A)(1)(d)

An expiring permit for a donation clothing bin may be renewed upon application for renewal and payment of the \$25.00 fee. Any such application for renewal shall include the location where the bid is situated as precisely as possible, and if the person intends the move it, the new location where the bin would be situated after the renewal is granted, and written consent from the property owner to place the bin on his/her property; the manner in which the person has used, sold or disbursed any clothing or other donations collected by the bin (to include the name and address of each and every person or entity that received clothing or other donations from the collection the prior year), the method by which the proceeds of collected donations have been allocated or spent, an accounting of the expenditure of proceeds of collected donations from the prior year, including the name and address of each person or entity that received any proceeds whether for expenses or as a donation, and any changes the person anticipates they may make in these processes during the period covered by the renewal; and the name and telephone number of the bona fide office of any entity or person that shared or profited by any clothing or other donations collected by the bin, and of any entities or person that may do so during the period covered by the renewal.

#### SECTION 2(A)(1)(e)

The permit number, its date of expiration and destination of clothing (i.e., sale to textile firms, distribution to people in need, etc.) shall be clearly and conspicuously displayed on the exterior of the donation clothing bin.

#### SECTION 5 - LIMITATIONS ON NUMBERS AND LOCATIONS OF CLOTHING BINS.

A. Clothing bins may be placed only on property within those zones within the Borough that have been designated for or allow business, commercial, industrial, religious or governmental use;

B. No more than three clothing bins (regardless of ownership) may be placed on any one lot within the Borough, and must be placed in such a manner that they abut one another;

C. All clothing bins must be located in such a manner that they do not reduce the number of parking spaces required for the property below the minimum number of parking spaces required either by application of the parking requirements under the zoning ordinance, by a previously granted variance, by developer's agreement, or otherwise;

D. Placement of clothing bins shall be such that they meet the minimum setback requirements for all accessory structures within the zone in which they are being placed, and otherwise meet all other zoning requirements for accessory structures within the zone in which they are being placed;

E. There may be no more than three lots within any one zone upon which clothing bins may be placed, and clothing bins may not be placed upon any lot within 1,000 feet of a lot upon which one or more clothing bins exist; and

F. The Borough Clerk shall refer each application to the Zoning Office, which shall be responsible to confirm compliance with this Ordinance by each owner of a clothing bin.

G. All penalties and remedies set forth in Ordinance 1840 shall be applicable to any violation of the regulations set forth herein.

After introduction, the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to submit a copy of the within Ordinance to the Planning Board of the Borough of South Plainfield for its review in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:55D-64. The Planning Board is directed to make and transmit to the Borough Governing Body, within 35 days after referral, a report, including identification of any provisions in the proposed Ordinance which are inconsistent with the Master Plan and recommendations concerning any inconsistencies in any other matter as the Board deems appropriate.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption and publication in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey.

**ATTEST:**  
Joann Graf/Municipal Clerk

\$67.25 October 22, 2010

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

#### LEGAL NOTICE

##### ORDINANCE NO. 1904

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE # 1622 and 1869, ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF PAYMENT FOR POLICE OFFICERS RENDERING SERVICE FOR PRIVATE OR QUASI-PUBLIC FUNCTIONS AND COMPENSATION TO POLICE OFFICERS FOR SERVICE FOR PRIVATE OR QUASI-PUBLIC FUNCTIONS** was adopted after a Public Hearing and final reading were conducted on Monday, October 18, 2010 at the Public Meeting of the Governing Body which began at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 and is being advertised in The Observer on Friday, October 22, 2010.

**ATTEST:**  
Joann Graf/Municipal Clerk  
\$29.45 October 22, 2010

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

#### LEGAL NOTICE

October 18, 2010—Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on October 14, 2010.

A. Case #22-10-George Zereconski. Block 84; Lot 10; 2603 Park Avenue. The applicant's request for a use variance to permit the conversion of the existing premises into a dental office is hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

B. Case #31-10-Watchung Hills Group, Inc. (Remax). Block 258; Lot 1; 30-32 South Plainfield Avenue. The applicant's request for a signage variance was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Beth Kildre  
Secretary-Board of Adjustment

\$30.40 October 22, 2010

# Obituaries

## Evelyn (Bongard) MacDonald, 59

Evelyn (Bongard) MacDonald died on Wednesday, Oct. 13 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway.

Born in Elizabeth, Evelyn was raised and resided in Roselle Park. She moved to Edison in 2006 and worked for Precision Escalator in Kenilworth for several years.

She is predeceased by her husband, Arthur, who died in 2003; a sister, Carol Kuchera and a brother, Paul Bongard.

Surviving is a daughter, Dawn Tomei and husband Dave of South Plainfield; a brother, Robert Bongard; and two grandchildren, Gianna and Anthony.

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

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to The Miracle Walk, c/o St. Barnabas Center Foundation, 95 Old Short Hills Rd., West Orange, N.J. 07052.

## Walter A. Rachwal, 81

Walter A. Rachwal passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 13 in Portsmouth, Ohio.

Born in Philadelphia, Pa. he resided in South Plainfield for 45 years before settling in Ohio in the late 1990s.

He had served his country well as a proud Marine and was one of the "Frozen Chosin" who served during the Korean War's battle at the Chosin Reservoir. He was a Marine who loved serving his country and had all the values of a good man.

Walter worked as a production

manager prior to his retirement and most importantly will be remembered as a devoted husband, an inspiring father and grandfather and caring companion.

His wife, Gladys, died in 1994.

Surviving are two sons, Robert of Florida and Pete and wife Monica of South Plainfield; his companion, Janet Shope; and two dear grandchildren, Kristen and Andrew.

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

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Disabled American Vets, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250-0301.

## Ruth (Wood) Whitsitt, 84

Ruth (Wood) Whitsitt died on Monday, Oct. 11 at the Manor Care Health Services in Silver Spring, Md.

Ruth was born and raised in North Carolina. She moved to Michigan where she met and married Julius Terrill Whitsitt, had five children and moved to South Plainfield in 1967 when their youngest child, Linda, was two years old. In the spring of 2005 Ruth moved to Pennsylvania and this past July, her family moved her to Maryland.

She worked for AT&T and Union Carbide, both in Piscataway for several years. Ruth was a longtime member of the Wesley United Methodist Church in South Plainfield. She was a member of Wesley's Women's Club and was active with E.I.S.H., an organization to help feed the homeless.

Mrs. Whitsitt enjoyed walking around Spring Lake Park and attending the concerts in the park held Sun-

day evenings in the summer.

In addition Ruth participated in a neighborhood bible study group, was a class mother and a member of the P.T.A. as well as a member of the Junior Baseball Club Women's Auxiliary. Mrs. Whitsitt was extremely loving, giving, kind and patient and her family was very important to her. She was loved dearly by her family, friends, church and all who knew her.

She is predeceased by her husband, Julius, who died in 1984; a son, Michael Terrill; a sister, Naomi Johnson; and by two brothers, Willie and Isaac Wood.

Surviving are four children, Barbara Carol Whitsitt of Ellicott City, Md., Linda Kaye Whitsitt of Laurel, Md., Gordon Wesley of Bethlehem, Pa. and Wayne Ernest of Shohola, Pa.; five sisters, Caroline Martin of Forest City, N.C., Annie Logan, Louise Logan and Rachel James, all of Detroit, Mich. and Joyce W. Richards of Harrison Twp., Mich.; and two brothers, Joseph Wood of Greenville, S.C. and David Wood of Spindale, N.C.. Also surviving are six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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

Donations can be made to the American Diabetes Association, [www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org) or to the Alzheimers Association, [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org).

## Orville J. Macan, Jr, 83

Orville J. Macan, Jr. died on Thursday, Oct. 14 at the Roosevelt Care Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Perth Amboy, Mr. Macan resided in Edison.

He was a career ironworker for 43 years and was a member of the Ironworkers Local 373.

For nearly 25 years he worked for Weber Engineering in East Orange and retired as superintendent. Upon his retirement from Weber Engineering, Orville worked for Formula One

Driving School in New York.

He served with the U.S. Navy during WWII.

Mr. Macan enjoyed spending time with his family but he also had a love for the water. He was an avid fisherman and had a passion for boating.

In addition, he was also a member of the Edison Senior Citizens.

He is predeceased by his wife, Rita and a sister, Ruth Macan.

Surviving are four children, Ellen Turano and husband Joseph of Edison, Glen Macan and wife Donna, also of Edison, Jeff Macan and wife Gina of Woodbridge and Orville Macan, also of Woodbridge; and a sister, Helen Volk of Matawan. Also surviving are 10 grandchildren.

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

## Lawrence E. (Larry) Possien, 66

Lawrence (Larry) Possien passed away at home in Dunellen, after a prolonged, valiant battle with cancer on Monday, Oct. 18.

Larry was born on November 23, 1943 in Plainfield to Caroline and the late Ernest Possien. He grew up in Warren Twp., where his keen sense of figuring things out led to his future careers. He graduated from Watchung Hills Regional High School in 1962.

Larry worked at various area automobile dealerships for over 35 years as a master mechanic and service manager. Desiring a career change, he entered the construction industry in 1998 and most recently was employed by Sweetwater Construction Corp. of Cranbury as a site supervisor.

Larry served in the United States Army Reserve from 1967-1973. He enjoyed all sports especially NASCAR, played semi-pro soccer and coached children's soccer teams. He was a member of the Elks BPOE Somerville Lodge No. 1068 where he was a dedicated member of the Handicapped Children's Committee.

He is survived by his mother; his loving wife of 21 years, Mae (Batog); two sons, Thomas and Kevin; a daughter, Dana Cameron; a sister, Anne Caamano; two nephews; a niece and a granddaughter. Also surviving are his devoted step-daughter and son-in-law, Kerri and Brian Celentano of South Plainfield as well as extended family and many friends who were so helpful during his illness. He will be deeply missed for his knowledge and generosity to all who loved him.

Funeral services were held at the South Plainfield Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, Larry's wish was that memorial gifts be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105 or [www.StJude.org](http://www.StJude.org).

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*Happy Anniversary in Heaven*



*Janice & Emil Leporino  
October 21, 1961*

It broke our hearts to lose you  
But you did not go alone  
For part of us went with you  
The day the dear Lord called you home.  
You left us precious memories  
Your love is still our guide  
And though we cannot see you  
You're always at our side.  
Our family chain is broken  
And nothing seems the same  
But as the dear Lord calls us one by one  
The chain will link again.

*Sadly Missed By  
Daughters Debra, Patricia, Christina;  
Son Paul; Son-in-law Noray;  
Grandchildren Andrew, Brandon,  
Christopher, Matthew, Danielle and Kimberly*

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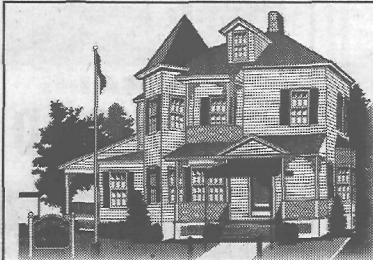
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## In My Opinion

(Continued from page 12)

lot of people promise to control spending, but Anesh, McConville and Rusnak actually did.

I'm also proud of the way that they stood up for us when a developer wanted to put 700 apartments on New Brunswick Avenue. I can only imagine the negative impact this would have had to both our schools and small-town atmosphere.

I hope everyone will join me in supporting Matt, Tim and Ray on November 2. Anesh, McConville and Rusnak have earned our support.

**FRAN RYZOFF**

### To the Editor:

Every once in a while, something so great happens that you just have to tell people. One of those things has happened—Jeff Williams is running for the borough council.

Jeff is a neighbor of mine. I know firsthand what an outstanding person he is. Jeff is a fantastic husband, son, brother and neighbor. He will soon be an outstanding father, too. He is a young man that any parent would be extremely proud to have. I'm sure his parents feel exactly that way.

Jeff has always been someone who's been extremely motivated to do great things with his life—and he has. He graduated from South Plainfield High School, where he was voted the most valuable player on the varsity track team. He won the Group III Championship during his tenure. And, if that's not enough, Jeff was a presidential award recipient in 2003! He went on to graduate, with honors, from High Point University and is now working for Assemblyman Jerry Green, Speaker Pro Tempore of the New Jersey General Assembly.

In addition to his dedication to his family and career, Jeff is dedicated to the young people of our area. He serves as a youth minister for his church. What an outstanding young man Jeff Williams is.

Please help elect Democrat Jeff Williams to the borough council. We need this fine young man to lead us into the future with the dedication and compassion that he has demonstrated throughout his entire life.

**PROUDLY SUBMITTED,  
VITO COSENZA**

### To the Editor:

As a former borough CFO, I started to chuckle when I read comments by the Democrats about how they'd manage the borough's finances. The more I thought about what I read, though, the more I realized it was more scary than humorous.

The ideas set out by Mr. English and his running mates show a profound lack of understanding regarding how municipal finance works. It's not surprising. Not one of the people on their ticket have any business or financial experience. The lack of experience wouldn't be so bad if these three candidates tried to stick with what they know. But one of the ideas they are suggesting is so absurd that it's actually dangerous.

To suggest that the borough not use state aid to offset current expenses is ludicrous. State aid is intended for tax relief. That's why we pay sales and income tax, to reduce the property tax burden. To stop using state aid for current expenses would do only one thing, increase property taxes, and I'm not talking a small increase. I'm talking a big increase. Only people who have no idea about municipal finance would suggest such a thing.

Let me also remind the Democrats that they've run the town for more than 15 of the last 17 years. If they are unhappy with taxes, spending and borrowing, they should look in the mirror. All the things they now criticize were ushered in by their own party. Finally, under Republican

control, we are seeing taxes, spending and borrowing go down. Lastly, before throwing stones, the three Democrat candidates should take the time to check the facts. The borough's bond rating improved this year. That people running for mayor and council did not know this is mind-boggling. How do they think they can run the town when they don't have a minimal understanding of what's going on?

Here's my suggestion: Mr. English and his running mates should take some time to learn and understand the borough's finances before running for office. They have not done their homework and it shows.

**CHARLES C. HAUS**

### Dear Editor,

When you examine the candidates running for mayor this year, there is only one choice—Mike English!

Mike English has been involved in just about every aspect of our borough throughout his life. He served as a mayor for four years and was a two-term councilman prior to that. He later served as the borough's recreation director and it was during that time that Mike facilitated the building of the Senior Center on Maple Avenue, bringing together the various senior groups into a state-of-the-art single facility that they could call "home." Additionally, Mike worked day and night preserving our community pool, when others just wanted it to "go away." Mike wouldn't let that happen and for that, our entire community should be grateful. Through Mike's vision, this wonderful facility is now one of the crown jewels of the borough.

In these few short sentences, I have hopefully imparted my feelings on why South Plainfield needs Mike English as our next mayor. Please

support Mike English and his running mates for council, Jeff Williams and John Sorrentino.

**WILLIAM A. NAGY, JR.**

### Dear Editor,

Most folks are frustrated with politics. You start to think it doesn't make a difference who you vote for. Beware of that attitude in South Plainfield this year. I have followed the last few elections pretty closely because of the issue over letting trucks back on Hamilton Boulevard. The person who is running for mayor on the Republican ticket this year is the same person who tried to put the trucks back after Mayor Butrico took them off. Mr. Anesh hopes we forgot. To make matters worse his supporters continue to question the plan to keep the trucks off.

The letter from one Republican supporter in the *Observer* two weeks ago was enough to put my antenna up. One of the main reasons I support Mike English for mayor and John Sorrentino and Jeff Williams for borough council is their total and complete commitment to finishing New Market Avenue all the way past the public works building and working with the state to complete the truck bypass on Hollywood Avenue.

This election does make a difference if you care about the quality of life on the south side of town.

**JOHN GORMAN**

### Dear Editor,

Now more than ever we need to elect people to the borough council who are looking to do what is right. We need good, honest, hardworking individuals whose only agenda is what is good for South Plainfield. For that reason I will be supporting John Sorrentino.

John is a regular guy who doesn't

like politics. He believes that teamwork and discipline are what gets the job done. In his 15 years on the Public Celebrations Committee, John has not allowed politics to play into the work of the committee. As the chairperson of that committee for eight years, John has gotten everyone to work together to allow South Plainfield to shine at its Labor Day celebrations. He has done a wonderful job! We need people like this in local government.

Please vote for John Sorrentino and Jeff Williams for borough council and Mike English for mayor because they will do what's right for the residents of this town.

**JOANN AND LARRY WILCOX**

### To the Editor:

This year the Democratic Party must win and keep control of the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives. The other party and their screaming know nothing members will gut Social Security, Medicare, education and health programs. These programs help and benefit all Americans. Please vote for Edward Potosnak to the House of Representatives.

The Middlesex County Democrats have done an excellent job on building and maintaining roads, and also the parks in the county. They have held down the cost of county government.

Vote for Millie Scott for sheriff, Elaine Flynn for county clerk, and for county freeholders, Pete Dalina, Chris Rafano and Blanquita Valenti. Mike English, former mayor, can be a guidance and council to the council members. The two members will bring new and fresh input and ideas to the council. Vote for Jeff Williams and John Sorrentino for borough council.

**WALTER KALMAN**

### To the Editor:

Over the years South Plainfield businesses and other organizations have staunchly supported South Plainfield's Almost Famous Players and the Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour in a variety of ways. We are proud that we were able to donate to other groups, such as a donation of \$1,000 to the local Lions Club. We want to take this opportunity to thank those who offered their support and belief in us.

It appears that this year we are unable to produce our annual community Halloween show. For the past two years vandalism and theft have left us minus the funds we need to proceed with the show. Add to that the bad weather that forced us to cancel three shows last year and two the year before, we were losing money rather than building our funds.

Also our lengthy list of performers and tech help has dwindled due to college, work and other endeavors.

The Halloween show is only a small part of what we try to do. We have performed for the Saint Peter's Hospital Cancer Survivor's Picnic for three years, as well as the Middlesex County Foster Family Christmas party and the annual family picnic and the Page Court Block Party.

If you would like to help us with next year's Halloween show, we will pick up any material, wood, paint you can donate. If you would like to make a cash donation, which is desperately needed, be assured we will deposit all funds into our business account and save them for next year.

We are planning another coffee-house and hopefully a Christmas children's show. We'll be back!

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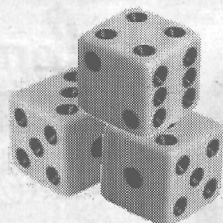
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**214 Front Street,  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080**

at the end of Oak Tree Ave,  
next to Sherban's Diner.

**908-941-5598**

**Open: Mon-Sat. 8am-7pm**

Deli closes at 6:30pm

**Sun. 8am-5pm**

Deli closes at 4:30pm

Come check out our produce stand, we have over 25 items 99¢ or less! Our market offers delicious homemade dishes, fresh mozzarella, Sapore products, Boar's head products, fresh dairy products, breads from American Bakery, Gianella Bakery, Calandra Bakery and rolls from the former Johnson Avenue Bakery of Plainfield, and bakery items from our own bakery!

**5 weeks to Thanksgiving! 9 weeks to Christmas!**

Stop in and pick up our new catering menu. Let Farmer's Market cater your next event!

We are now taking orders for Gift Baskets!

**Congratulations!** To Tom English, who won our GIANT pumpkin and a \$10 Farmer's Market Gift Certificate. Watch for our Thanksgiving give-away, coming soon!

**This weekend!** Stop in for our "In-House Coupon Special"!  
Sat. & Sun Oct. 23 & 24. **\$5 Off purchase of \$25 or more!**

**This week's specials:** prices valid Thurs, Oct. 21 to Wed, Oct. 27.  
while supplies last.

Red Leaf Green Leaf Romaine LETTUCE	3 lbs. <b>ONIONS</b>	Sweet Baby <b>CARROTS</b>	Jersey <b>ESCAROLE</b>	Large <b>ORANGES</b>	Fresh <b>PUMPKINS</b>	Large <b>MUMS</b>
<b>79¢</b> hd.	<b>\$1.29</b> bag.	<b>89¢</b> bag	<b>79¢</b> lb.	<b>6 for \$1.00</b>	<b>29¢</b> lb.	<b>3 for \$10.00</b>

Fresh Daily! Mozzarella	Boar's Head Ever Roast Chicken	Boar's Head American Cheese	Boar's Head Delux Ham	Boar's Head Pouch Pepperoni	Boar's Head Combo 2/3 lb. Genoa Salami 1/3 lb. Provolone
<b>\$6.99</b> lb.	<b>\$5.99</b> lb.	<b>\$3.99</b> lb.	<b>\$5.99</b> lb.	<b>2 for \$5.00</b>	<b>\$6.99</b>

**This week's  
bakery  
specials:**

6" Assorted  
Natural  
Reduced Sugar  
**PIES**  
**\$4.50** ea.

Assorted Italian  
**BUTTER  
COOKIES**  
**\$6.99** lb.

**OUR BAKERY**  
carries  
reduced sugar  
and sugar-free  
products!

Check out our  
Daily Lunch  
Specials!  
and our  
'Grab n Go'  
items!

Call ahead  
to place  
your  
lunch orders!