

South Plainfield Observer

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OCTOBER 29, 2010



Members of the South Plainfield High School Football Tigers and cheerleaders donate three baskets of Halloween goodies to members of the Senior Center. Presenting the baskets on October 22 are Frank Malecki and Will Whitefleet, representing the football team, and Chelsey Colucci, representing the cheerleaders. Accepting the baskets on behalf of the seniors were (not pictured) Borough Administrator/CFO Glenn Cullen, Councilman Ray Rusnak and senior center volunteer Lillian Smith.

Council Rejects Residents' Petition to Remove Speed Hump

A petition signed by residents requesting the removal of a speed hump installed in 2008 on Clarke Avenue was rejected by the Borough Council at the September 7 meeting.

The council concluded that the borough was not willing to incur the

expense of removing the speed hump.

The petition, originally submitted in June 2009, was placed on the agenda after a second request was made by Clarke Avenue resident Jane Dornick. Her neighbors had complained that

(Continued on page 6)



An automobile slows down to cross the speed hump on Clarke Avenue.

Belief in Friend's Recovery Inspires Worldwide Response

By Jean Fultz

Erica Bowden, a Rutgers University junior, was devastated when her friend of four years, Rutgers defensive tackle Eric LeGrand, was paralyzed from the neck down during the Rutgers/Amy football game on October 16. Bowden wanted to do something to help Eric and his family cope with the tragedy, and she came up with the idea to sell wristbands to raise money to present to Eric's mother.

The red and black wristbands, with "Eric LeGrand" on the front and "#52 Believe" on the back, are available for \$5 each. "Erica's original idea was to sell 200 wristbands at the college's student center," said Bill Bowden, Erica's father. "She wanted to present the money to Eric's mother because of their friendship."

Erica and Eric met while they were both in high school; she at South Plainfield High and he a student at Colonia. Both ended up going to Rutgers University, and they renewed their friendship after running into each other on campus. Last year, Eric was a dinner guest at the Bowden home during Christmas on December 27 where he met Erica's entire family.

Once word got out about the wristbands, Erica began to receive requests from all over the country, which led to an initial order of 5,000. Villanova's football coach emailed Erica and ordered 11 wristbands for his wide receivers. Requests came from as far away as New Zealand and the UK. As of last Sunday, with only had 500 wristbands left, Bill planned to place an order for 5,000 more.

"I met this young man and he is a terrific human being," said Bill, who was equally affected along with his daughter by the tragic accident that left LeGrand paralyzed.

"Believe" has become pretty much the motto for Eric right now. The football team has put "Believe" decals on their helmets," Erica told a Channel 7 Eyewitness News reporter during an interview last Friday from the living room of her South Plainfield



Eric LeGrand with Erica Bowden at her home last December 27.

home. The full news clip can be viewed online at 7online.com, then search for "Wristbands for LeGrand." The *Star Ledger* and *Daily Targum*, the Rutgers' student newspaper, have also covered Erica's fundraiser.

Steve Ostergren, owner of Scarlet

Fever on Somerset Street in New Brunswick, has sold about 900 wristbands for Erica, along with hundreds of No. 52 shirts that say "Rutgers" on the front and "Keep Chopping" on the back. All money raised from the

(Continued on page 6)

PROCLAMATION Mischief Night and Halloween

WHEREAS, the children of the Borough of South Plainfield are entitled to the fun and festivity associated with the observance of the Halloween "Trick or Treat" custom, going from door to door in the immediate neighborhoods, displaying their costumes and requesting "treats"; and WHEREAS, the increasing possibility of accidents is an ever present threat; and WHEREAS, the night before Halloween, Saturday, October 30, 2010 is known as "Mischief Night" and has been traditionally a night when childish pranks have been played, some of said pranks have resulted in physical harm to others as well as damage to automobiles and properties of innocent owners.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charles F. Butrico, Jr., Mayor of the Borough of South Plainfield, do hereby proclaim that a curfew of 7 PM on Mischief Night, October 30, 2010, be imposed and enforced for all minor residents of the Borough to protect residents and their properties; and I further proclaim October 31, 2010 as "Trick or Treat Day" in the Borough with all trick or treat activities to be conducted between the hours of 2 and 7 p.m. I also ask that young children be accompanied by parents or other responsible adults. I request that households indicate their willingness to welcome children by keeping their porch or exterior lights on and that youngsters only call on homes so lighted. I encourage the cooperation of all citizens in making this a happy and safe occasion. I further request parental supervision be extended to include insistence that children do not consume any "treats" until closely examined by their parents. It is further advised that all parents follow the rule "if in doubt - throw it out" where any evidence of tampering with packaging or surfaces of consumable product exists.

—Borough of South Plainfield, Office of the Mayor

Residents Pack Senior Center for Council/Mayoral Debate

By Jane Dornick

Borough Council incumbents, Republicans Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak, faced off against Democratic challengers John Sorrentino and Jeff Williams in a candidates' debate last Thursday evening at the Senior Center. Mayoral candidates, Council President Matt Anesh and former borough mayor and councilman, Michael English, also took questions from the audience posed by League of Women Voters moderator, Linda Mather.

The South Plainfield Business Association, in conjunction with the *South Plainfield Observer*, sponsored the debate that drew more than 200 residents.

VOTE Election Day is Tuesday, November 2.
You have the power to decide who makes the decisions affecting your life.

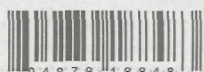
Questions for the candidates came from audience members and were screened by representatives of both parties. A member of the Business Association presided as the deciding vote in the event of a dispute regarding questions. The candidates had two minutes to respond and the opposing party was provided a one-minute rebuttal.

McConville and Rusnak stressed the importance of keeping taxes down, stating that they have made "hard decisions" to keep the borough affordable, including streamlining depart-

(Continued on page 7)



Candidates for mayor and Council (L-R): Michael English, Tim McConville, Ray Rusnak, Matt Anesh, Jeff Williams and John Sorrentino. In front is debate moderator, Linda Mather from the League of Women Voters.



In My Opinion

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

To the Editor:

The South Plainfield High School Boosters of the Musical Arts hosted the 29th annual Marching Band Festival-USSBA Competition on October 16. The event is held every year to earn money for scholarships that are awarded to any South Plainfield High School student who has participated in any of the musical arts programs.

The festival would not have been such a big success without the generous donations and support from the following: Sam Ash Music, for the donation of gift cards to all of the visiting marching bands; Paul Blackford and Modern Equipment Rental, for the use of the construction site lights; Bob Boyle, the Boyle Family Memorial Foundation; Debbie Boyle, for always supporting the Music Boosters and her last minute hamburger run; Mike and Pina Brazza, for taking good care of our USSBA staff; our announcer, Bill Seesselberg; the South Plainfield Rescue Squad and police and fire departments, Pat Mahoney and Sodexo; Mr. Buggy and the Athletic Dept., the SPHS Athletic Boosters; SPHS school administration, Rich Mowery, Acting Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gary

Bowen, Interim High School Principal Anthony Massaro, the South Plainfield Board of Education, the South Plainfield PAL and Recreation Department, Applebee's, Angelo's Ice, Nischwitz & Co., Rich D'Urso and the graphics art department students, South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop, Herr's, Event Solutions and Jill Pavel, SPHS Music Booster alumni volunteers, Pam and Mike Poland, Carmen's Trattoria, Pizza Stop, Bruno's Pizza Factory, Gianna's Pizza, Buon Appetito, Dolce Pizza, Hometown Heros, A&P, Stop and Shop, The Makowski Family, the Knights of Columbus, the Observer, all our trophy sponsors, Jennifer and Mary Odlowski, and our terrific SPHS parent volunteers.

Your generosity and support is very much appreciated.

**THANK YOU,
DONNA TELLER, PRESIDENT OF
THE SPHS BOOSTERS**
(See next week's Observer for story and photos of the band competition.)

To the Editor:

I don't know about anyone else, but I'm tired of these local politicians bashing each other. My mother always said, "If you don't have anything nice

PLEASE NOTE: The Candidates' Debate held at the Senior Center on October 21 will air on Comcast Channel 96 on Friday, Oct. 29 at 8:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 31 at 10 p.m.

to say, then don't say anything." I guess the fliers they send home would be blank. (By the way, we don't read them.)

Both parties should be ashamed of themselves. Everything is about what happened in the past and nobody says what they are going to do for the future of South Plainfield. Don't just tell me I'm going to do this or do that but tell me how you are going to do it.

Thanks to both parties for again making this the ugliest town with your signs. Again, I ask the mayor and council to enact an ordinance banning or limiting the size and number of political signage. Take the \$7,000-\$10,000 spent on signs and donate it to the local food bank where the money can actually do some good.

Make sure you get out and vote on November 2. Not sure for who, but vote!

NORM LOENSER

Dear Editor,

Now that Superintendent Jose Negron is gone, I would hope that the new administrators will take a look at reopening the gate on the side of the high school and the one between the middle school and high school parking lots. I know for a fact that closing and locking them permanently was a pet peeve of Negron's. Members of the borough's emergency services do not have keys to these gates and their comments on the situation fell on deaf ears as it is Board of Education property.

Closing the gate between the middle and high school parking lots only during lunch hour seemed to work well. Forcing vehicles, including buses, to have only two main roads to enter and exit the schools is more of a safety risk to children and a traffic nightmare for drivers and residents in the area. There are nearly 2,400 students in that area, which includes Grant School, which makes the likelihood of a tragedy inevitable.

I understand that Sodexo is now closing one of its gates between the middle and high schools because driv-

ers are using that as a cut-through to avoid the traffic tie-ups. A lack of viable entrances and exits to the two schools, in my opinion, poses more of a hazard to drivers and pedestrians and even to emergency vehicles in a crisis than if the gates were reopened.

I am appealing to the new acting superintendent, board members and principals to reevaluate Negron's decision and return the situation to its prior state.

**SINCERELY,
JANE DORNICK**

Residents of South Plainfield,

I want to thank all of you for a fantastic experience. I pledged in June to try to go to every door in town. I have been on every street and have talked to most of you. Everyone has been gracious and polite and exhibited the kindness that makes our town such a great place to live in.

I told everyone five months ago that I wanted to give you the chance to know what I would do for the next four years if you elected me. I think I have done that. My running mates, John Sorrentino and Jeff Williams, have done everything asked of them during the campaign. I am sure that they will be a great asset to the Borough of South Plainfield. A special note of thanks to my wife, Sue; her patience is limitless. As we await the birth of our third grandson any day now I am both anxious and grateful. Thank you again for your support.

MIKE ENGLISH

Dear Editor,

The election that will take place on Tuesday offers a decision for voters. Do we go back to the same policies that got us into trouble or do we continue to take South Plainfield in a better direction? I want to take the borough in a better direction.

It has been only nine months since Republicans became the council majority and began getting things back on track. Since then, taxes are down \$178 for the average family, and spending is lower than it was the last two years. The borough workforce is 15% smaller and more efficient, and borrowing is down over 30%.

If we continue to control expenses

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: spobsobserver@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.

and invest in the right things, like we're doing now, we can make South Plainfield a stronger, more vibrant community. We can prove, like we're starting to, that smaller more efficient government works.

There's more to running the town than just numbers though. For example, when Tim McConville, Ray Rusnak and I saw an opening to stop the proposed 700-unit apartment complex on New Brunswick Avenue, we took it. Just imagine what 700 apartments would do to taxes and our schools.

We have also pushed forward on key projects. These include solving the flooding at Cotton Street Park, revitalizing the outdated playground at Shadyside Park and repaving South Plainfield Avenue, Tompkins Avenue, New Market Avenue (stage 1), Linden Avenue and now Cherry Street.

We've also been working hard on Hollywood Avenue. I spoke to Governor Christie about this project a few weeks ago and he is well aware of how it would benefit our town. In fact, he told me he would ask his DEP commissioner to make the review of the project a priority. In addition, I've met with Congressman Lance, who is looking for federal dollars to help fund the project.

We've also expanded the Safe Streets, Safe Kids program and just two weeks ago we received a grant that will allow us to solve the insulation problems at the Senior Center that send our utility bills sky high.

We've accomplished much since January. This race is about the future, though, and not the past. In my heart, I know that I represent the future. I thank you for sharing your time, thoughts and concerns with me as I went door to door. I would like to

(Continued on page 12)

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

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



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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.**

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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.

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Pictured are Cancer Awareness Club members, bottom row (L-R) Xylia Bruff, Karina Gaitan and Taylor Henry. Top row (L-R) Kim Stanczak, Aaliyah King, Danielle DeVizio, Katelyn Wolak, Kayla Massaro and club moderator Barbara Lucas next to a sign provided by Assistant Principal Tamekia Grier.

Middle School Club Raises Breast Cancer Awareness

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Middle School Cancer Awareness Club hung pink ribbons on the trees outside the school and sold pink rubber ducks and bracelets and handed out ribbons. The proceeds will be donated to a local family at the end of the month.

The premise of the club is to bring

attention to sufferers and survivors of all types of cancer. The meetings are a safe place for students to talk about the disease and how it affects lives. The club will continue to raise money throughout the year.

Club moderators are Cheryl Hughes and Barbara Lucas.

Plans for New Library Move Forward

By Libby Barsky

The plans for a new public library building continue to move forward. At the October 15 Borough Council meeting, architect Robert Longo was hired at a cost of \$7,500. Longo's task will be to determine the cost of constructing a new building on the library's current site.

The library board began a search for an alternative site shortly after a Democracy Week, held in 2008, in which South Plainfield residents voted 673 to 489 to reject plans to bond \$4.5M for a new library.

After the Zoning Board of Adjustment denied the library's request to lease space in a Montrose Avenue warehouse this past spring, there have been several ideas brought forward on where the library might be relocated.

Mayor Charles Butrico organized and headed a seven member committee which included Library Board of Trustees President Eric Aronowitz and member Nina Rohrer, Borough Councilmembers Rob Bengivena and Chrissy Buteas and residents Suzan Lepore and Bob Golon.

At its first meeting in September, the committee reviewed the possibility of renting, swapping properties or building a new facility. In the process they examined the existing footprint of the current building. "We found we couldn't build on the previous site on Plainfield Avenue because the DEP had changed its requirements, but we learned that we could build on the current site because it is in a flood plain not a flood zone," explained Mayor Butrico.

According to Butrico, building a new library two to three times the size of the current library on its present site would require a one-and-one-half to two feet elevation of the property in order to allow water to flow under the building.

The committee voted unanimously, and with bipartisan support, to recommend building a new library located where the present library stands, with the understanding that the existing library would continue to serve the public while the process of constructing the new building was ongoing.

"The next step is to determine the total cost to build the library. Once we have that information, we will be holding a public information meeting to

make the public aware of our position. Then we will need to bond for the new building and go out to bid. I would hope that we would have the pricing from the architect done in November. We could then do our public information session in either December or January, and put it in front of the council for a vote by February. That should allow us to begin construction sometime in the spring," said Mayor Butrico.

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From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Chris Grippio

Happy Halloween! The library will be closed this Sunday, Oct. 31 so everyone can go out trick or treating. Remember to have a safe and happy day.

The library would like to remind everyone that there are multiple ways to renew items. We would prefer that you renew items rather than allowing them to become overdue and accumulate fines. There are three ways to renew materials: you can call the library at (908) 754-7885 when we are open and speak to a staff member, or call Elvis, our automated renewal system, at (908) 757-3280. To use this system you need to have your South Plainfield Library card on hand and the materials you wish to renew.

The third is to log on to www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us and click on "library catalog". Enter your last name in the first box, your entire South Plainfield barcode in the second and your pin number in the third. This will then take you to your account. It is actually the clearest way to renew since you can see exactly what you have checked out and what you can and can't renew. Remember there are certain items that can't be renewed except by calling the library (interlibrary loans, items which have reached their maximum renewals, etc.) and any item which has a hold on it. It is always best not to wait until the last minute to try to renew items. Also, and this is very important, items deposited in the book/audio drops by the library front door are manually checked in on the date that the library was previously open, except Mondays when the system is set back to Saturday. Again this is done manually. Otherwise at 12:01 a.m. the system switches to the next day. So if you renew an item either through ways two or three

after midnight on the day it is due you will be charged a fine. Often people plan on dropping an item that was due that day in the drop, but think they can also renew it between midnight and opening. If they do they will be charged a fine. Again we give you a receipt showing the due dates of your material. Please note those dates and take whatever action is necessary so that they won't be overdue.

Miss Linda and Miss Mija are back to their full program. Story and craft times for three-year-olds and up are Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.; Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 1:15 p.m. "Time for 2s and 3s" are Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and Friday's at 10:30 a.m. it is Books and Babies. All programs are free and no registration is required; however, it is very important to arrive on time for these programs. It is very disruptive when children come in after the program has begun. They want these times to be a happy time for all involved and it won't be when people are coming in late or when adults carry on conversations during the program. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

If you have any questions, feel free to call the library at the above number or visit us at 2484 Plainfield Ave. (next to Borough Hall). We are open Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday and Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1:30 to 5 p.m.

Guilty Verdict at Cibelli Retrial

Paul Cibelli, Jr. was found guilty of murder, hindering his own apprehension and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose in the death on October 5, 2005 of Tania Silva, 35, in his Robert Place home in Middlesex County Court on October 21.

During the eight-day trial that began on October 6, Middlesex County Assistant Prosecutor Neil J. Casey presented evidence and testimony showing that Cibelli stunned Silva when he struck her over the head with a heavy hammer stapler gun, strangled her and then took her body and other evidence to a recycling center in Philadelphia, Pa.

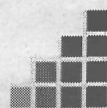
The jury deliberated for nearly five hours over two days before returning its guilty verdict during Cibelli's second trial. He was initially convicted in May 2007, but granted a retrial in June 2009 after filing an appeal.

Cibelli, 48, faces a prison term of 55 years when sentenced on January 5, 2011. Following his conviction, the judge revoked Cibelli's bail, which had been set at \$1.3M.

Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan again thanked the South Plainfield Police Department and the FBI for their invaluable assistance in the prosecution of this case.

Correction

Superintendent of Schools Jose Negron's contract with the South Plainfield Board of Education ends in June 2011, not in June 2012. We regret the error.



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Around Town

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.

Healing Service at Wesley Church

October 31

There will be a healing service at Wesley Church on Sunday, Oct. 31 at 9 a.m. with contemporary worship. Pastor Nehemiah Thompson will perform a healing ceremony with ointment. If you suffer from anxiety, perpetual worry, non-clinical depression, grief and pain please come and pray with the church and you will feel the difference. Christ being is the healer.

For information, call Pastor Nehemiah at (908) 251-3992.

Knights of Columbus Halloween Party

October 31

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus and Columbietes will host its annual Halloween party on Sunday, Oct. 31 at 6 p.m. at the Knights hall, 334 Hamilton Blvd.

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

Grant School Panda Express Fundraiser

November 2

Grant School will hold a Panda Express fundraiser on Tuesday, Nov. 2 (a half day). Moms can pick the kids up from school and take them to Panda Express for lunch or dinner (Stelton Road by Target). Present the flyer between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and Panda Express will donate 20% of its profits to support Grant School's 2011 Stokes trip. Print the flyer at <http://stokes2011.webs.com/apps/calendar>.

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

Grant School and Wendy's Get Together

November 2

Mom's don't cook tonight! Bring the kids to Wendy's for dinner on Tuesday, Nov. 2 from 5 to 8 p.m. Print and present the flyer (<http://stokes2011.webs.com/apps/calendar>) and Wendy's will donate 20% of the sales to support Grant School's 2011 Stokes trip. This fundraiser will run the first Tuesday of every month through June.

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

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 sticks. All are welcome.

For information, call Scoutmaster John Mocharski at (908) 757-3369 or email troop207@comcast.net.

VFW Country Breakfast

November 7

South Plainfield VFW on Front Street will hold a country breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 7 from 8 to 11 a.m. The public is welcome.

For more information, call (908) 668-9751.

Student-Athlete College Recruiting Seminar

November 9

WJC Sports Kids will conduct a student-athlete college recruiting seminar featuring guest speakers from Rutgers University's Athletic Department on Tuesday, Nov. 9 at SPHS auditorium from 7 to 9 p.m.

The free (to local residents) 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. \$5 donation for non-residents.

For more information on the seminar, please contact Willie at (201) 745-4491 or willie@wjcsports.com.

Knights Annual Trivia Night

November 13

Knights of Columbus Council #6203 is holding its annual trivia night on Saturday, Nov. 13 at the Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. Doors open 6:30 p.m.; first question at 7:02 p.m. sharp. Gather your table of party friends and join the fun. Entertaining categories—something for everyone. Free soda, popcorn and pretzels. Cash prize for first place. Door prizes. Bring your favorite party snacks to share at your table and don't forget your personal table decorations. Table of 8 only \$160!

To reserve a table, call Joe Scrudato at (908) 406-5920. Benefits Middlesex County Make A Wish Foundation.

Sacred Heart Christmas Concert

November 28

Sacred Heart Church's 11th annual Christmas concert featuring The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea, conducted by the Rev. Alphonse Stephenson will be held on Sunday, Nov. 28 at 3 p.m. Tickets are available by calling (908) 756-0633, ext. 110 or 111. Come and enjoy the wonderful music and welcome in the holiday season.

Following the concert the Knights of Columbus will host a dinner in the school cafeteria. To purchase tickets (\$15), call Kevin Keane at (908) 753-2976 or the parish center at (908) 756-0633, ext. 110.

— Out of Town —

Blackrose to Perform

October 30

Blackrose, the band, playing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will be performing at Rocky's Bar & Grill, 710 West Grand Ave. in Rahway on Saturday, Oct. 30 at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

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.

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/t-shirts/sneakers.

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

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

For more information, call (732) 656-1801 or email info@steppinout.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.

Secret Army Plays New Brunswick

November 2

Danny Bedrosian and the band, Secret Army, will perform at the Court Tavern in New Brunswick on Tuesday, Nov. 2 at 10 p.m.

Metuchen-Edison Women's Club Mtg.

November 3

The Metuchen-Edison Women's Club will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 3 at 7:30 p.m. at The Heritage at Clara Barton, 1015 Amboy Ave. in Edison. Norma Brady, travel consultant and Mary Araneo, travel consultant/president of Metuchen Travel will present a program on fall and winter vacation trips. Light refreshments. Guests are welcome.

For more information, contact Karen at (732) 742-6869.

Singles Dinner

November 3

A singles dinner for those 45 and over will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 3 at 6 p.m. at the Fountainbleau Diner, 1052 Stelton Rd. in Piscataway.

For information and to register, call Dennis Scalera at (908) 222-2683.

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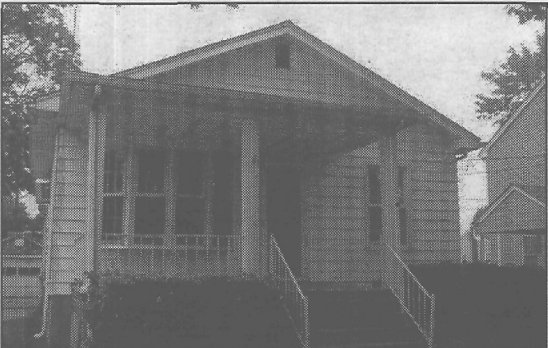
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Squad • Recreation • Seniors Corner • Youth Activities • Professional &
Business Directory • Community Bulletin Board • Yard & Garage Sales,
Classifieds, Messages

Harvest Moon Basket Raffle

November 5

Our Lady of Mount Virgin School, 450 Drake Ave. in Middlesex is holding its fifth annual Harvest Moon Basket Raffle on Friday, Nov. 5. Doors open 6 p.m.; calling starts at 7:30 p.m. sharp. Admission: \$15; includes door prize entry, one sheet of tickets and light refreshments. Bring your own snacks. Over 18 only.

For more information, visit olmv.net or call Katie at (732) 469-2658.

Indoor Sale at Resurrection Church

November 5 & 6

Resurrection of Christ Church, 649 Bound Brook Road in Dunellen is holding an indoor sale on Friday, Nov. 5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. New assortment of items. Houseware, furniture, jewelry, electronics, tools, books, gently used clean clothing, Christmas items, linens, toys, etc. Very well organized.

Open House/ Canned Food Drive

November 6

Lady of America of Edison, located at 1199 Amboy Ave. in the Tano Mall, will hold an open house/Thanksgiving canned food drive on Saturday, Nov. 6 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., with a "Zumba Party" starting at 9:30 a.m. Donate a canned food and you will be entered into a raffle for a women's mountain bike valued at \$299.

Shabbat Exhibit at Olde Town Village

November 7

The Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Folklife Program for New Jersey are proud to present, "Joyful Rest: Shabbat in the Context of Daily Life," an exhibit, a full-color monograph, lectures and discussions and storytelling. The free exhibit takes place in the Runyon House at East Jersey Olde Towne Village, 1050 River Rd. in Piscataway and is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday 1-4 p.m.

For more information and to register for the opening reception, call (732) 745-4489.

Visit our website:
www.spobserver.com

southplainfieldpeople

Milestones



Deacon Kurilew, the son of Michael and Michelle Kurilew, received the Sacrament of Baptism at Sacred Heart Church on October 24. Godparents are Marla and Matt Kurilew.

Renato Biribin to Appear in "The Cemetery Club" in Plainfield

South Plainfield's own Renato Biribin will appear as Sam in "The Cemetery Club." In this funny and touching play, three Jewish widows—Ida, Lucille, and Doris—meet once a month for tea before going to visit their husbands' graves. Friendships are tested when devotion and romance collide.

Biribin was active in theater in high school and college. He took a hiatus to marry and raise five children, complete his education and start a law practice.

At age 60, he received a birthday gift from his wife and children of acting lessons in New York City. He has become involved in cast improvisation as well as performing various roles in independent theater projects in New York and regional theater in New Jersey. Recent roles he has performed were Big Boy in *Trouble*, Cheswick in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Frank in *Over the River and Through the Woods*, and Juror Eleven in *12*



Renato Biribin

Angry Men, as well as performances in the 2007 and 2008 Eight Minute Madness Festivals in Times Square Arts Center in New York City. He has also appeared in several cast improv shows in Manhattan and New Jersey.

Most recently he played the role of Cinderella's father in *Into the Woods*, Al Lewis in *Sunshine Boys* and presently landed a lead in an independent film *Saturnalia*. The film is currently in post-production status. Last year's roles were General MacKenzie in *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie and Leonato in Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Performances are Thursdays and Fridays, Nov. 12, 13, 19 and 20 at 8 p.m.; and Sundays, Nov. 14 and 21 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15. The venue for the production is the Parish Hall at the First Unitarian Church of Plainfield, 726 Park Ave. in Plainfield. Directions are available at www.fusp.org. Call (908) 756-0750 for more information.

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Ordinance Introduces New Rules for Clothing Bins

By Libby Barsky

In an effort to limit the number of donation clothing bins in the borough, an amended ordinance was introduced at the October 18 Borough Council meeting which provides for the licensing and regulation of the bins.

With more than 40 clothing bins throughout the borough, the ordinance is aimed at not only limiting the bins already in place, but also limiting the number and locations of new bins, according to Borough Clerk Joann Graf. She noted the amount of clothing bins have increased over the years and some were not well maintained.

Clothing donation bins are only permitted in locations zoned for commercial and industrial business; and on religious or government sites. The new rules call for only three lots within one zone with no more than three bins within one lot, and they may not be placed on any lot within 1,000 feet of an existing bin. The

placement of the bins must meet the zoning setback requirements and not reduce the number of parking spaces required for the property. Clothing bins are not permitted on residential property, and because of the potential danger if a clothing bin were to catch on fire, they are not permitted at gas stations.

The application for a renewal of a permit to have a clothing bin includes a \$25 state-mandated annual fee. The application must include where the bin is located, consent from the property owner and if the applicant intends to move the bin, where the new location would be.

The exterior of the bin must clearly display the permit number, destination of where the donated clothing will be used—whether distributed to people or to be sold to textile firms—and the date of expiration.

Each application will be referred to the zoning office for review, confirmation and to provide for enforcement.

BOE to Receive \$548,000 in Grants

By Jane Dornick

The South Plainfield Board of Education (BOE) will receive the \$548,000 in grant money that the district had applied for to help fund renovations to the elementary schools in the summer of 2009.

The Schools Development Authority's (SDA) Regular Operating District Grant Program is funding 40 percent of the cost to build new kindergarten classrooms with a bathroom to accommodate the new, full-day program and new bathrooms at Grant Elementary School. The BOE spent \$1,370,000 on the project with the anticipation of receiving the grant money to assist in the cost.

BOE Finance Committee Chair Steve Bohn said the board will discuss ways to incorporate the revenue at their next meeting. He suggests hiring an auditing firm to assist with next year's budget. "I think it's worth spending the bucks," said Bohn, who feels he will also have a more "honest

budget" if he includes borough council members and the public in the budget process. "I want to keep down taxes, cover costs, and not hurt the kids."

SDA Chief Executive Officer Marc Larkins, in cooperation with the Department of Education, announced the resumption of the grant program in May 2010. Since then, the SDA has executed 314 grants. The state grant program funds at least 40 percent of eligible costs for projects addressing health and safety issues, student overcrowding and other critical needs.

Since the school construction program's inception in 2001, the state has provided more than 3,200 grants to regular operating districts, totaling more than \$2.4B.

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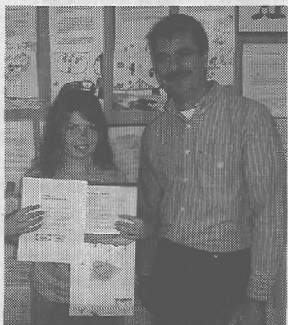
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JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Shea Price Is This Week's Junior Journalist



Junior Journalist winner Shea Price with teacher John Orfan.

Shea Price, fifth grader at Grant Elementary School, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist program. Her essay, "My Water Dream," has earned her dinner for her 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.

My Water Dream

By Shea Price

I lay watching the cold sky. When it snowed, new drops came and went. I just laid there. One day the sea got rough. The iceberg started shaking. I fell off into the Arctic Ocean. About one day later, it started to get warmer. All of a sudden I was rising into the air. I was evaporating! As I went up, my little iceberg got smaller and smaller. I was finally in the Water Cycle.

While going up, it got colder and colder. It started to fog up. I saw other drops huddling together for warmth. I joined in. I was part of a cloud. I had condensed. The wind started, and the cloud moved. I hoped I would rain in Paris. I've always wanted to go there!

The wind stopped and I felt heavier. All of a sudden, we started falling as rain. We were precipitating! I looked below me, I saw the Eiffel Tower! My dream was coming true! I was going to Paris!

I fell on the Eiffel Tower. I met a nice drop, who made me a necklace out of ice. He even placed it around my neck. Then something amazing happened: I saw my Mom. When I was born, we were separated. I never thought I'd see her again. "Mom," I shouted. "Honey," she shouted back. I started to slip and fell off the Eiffel Tower right into my mom's arms. "I'm so happy to see you," she said. "You too," I answered. We hugged until she evaporated. "Bye dear," she said as she went up. "Bye Mom," I said. I missed her even more now. Plus, now I thought I would be stuck in Paris, just like I was on the iceberg.

I was only in Paris for a couple of days. After that, I evaporated and rained. Now I am in Spring Lake Park in South Plainfield, New Jersey. I know I will not be here for very long, but I've kind of gotten used to it. Well, that's the end of my story. See you next rain!

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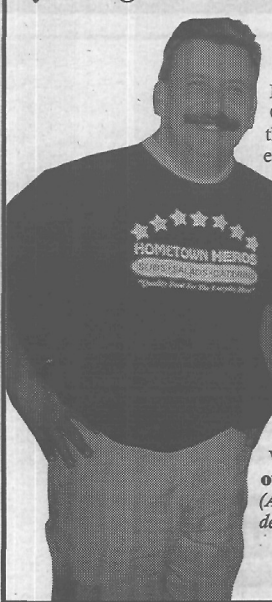
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(And while you are there, try one of his delicious sandwiches!)

South Plainfield Observer

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Council Rejects Petition to Remove Speed Hump

(Continued from page 1)

the positioning of the speed hump on Clarke Avenue was useless and bothersome and Dornick volunteered to initiate the petition to have it removed.

Most of the signatures on the petition were from residents of Oxford Avenue, an adjoining street, who must use either Clarke, East Crescent or Linden avenues that already contain speed humps, to reach their homes.

Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas noted, "When you are going to put a speed hump on one street, you obviously impact the streets around it. It's really shortsightedness to say it affects just the person whose house it is going to be in front of."

The neighbors reaction to the news of their petition being rejected was not only disappointment, but anger.

Larry Brandt, who resides around the corner from Clarke on Oxford, said he replaced the shocks on his 1990 Toyota 4-Runner two years ago after more than 100K miles on them. After a year of driving over the humps, sometimes four or five times a day, his shocks need to be replaced again.

Anthony Capone, who lives on Clarke, said, "They [speed humps] are a nuisance and a waste of money." Stacy Bavos, who lives on East Crescent, said, "They are a waste of taxpayer dollars. People still fly up and down the street."

A resident of Linden Avenue, whose home is directly in front of one of the speed humps, said, "I think it's too low. The intentions were there, but it has not served its purpose. Make them higher." However, higher speed humps

are not recommended for use on residential streets; rather they are for parking lots and private driveways.

Another resident of Clarke Avenue, who asked to remain anonymous and lives in front of the speed hump, said, "Definitely a waste of money. No one that I know of on this street requested them. People are still speeding and you can hear the cars when they go over the hump." She also claimed that she was never informed that the hump was going to be installed in front of her house, and that had she known that there was a petition to have it removed, she would have signed it.

John and Kathy Bisci, 40 year residents of Clarke Avenue, said they never requested the speed hump, and were never informed that one would be installed in front of their house. "One day we heard noise and looked outside and a guy was measuring in the road. We thought it was for a water line," John said. "I don't mind going over them, but it definitely affects your quality of life hearing cars bottom out when they go too fast. If they are going to continue to spend thousands of dollars on more speed humps, where does it end?"

According to Councilman Ray Rusnak, it was during a campaign walk through the neighborhood when he and Councilman Matt Anesh were asked by a Linden Avenue resident about a petition they had submitted to the borough. In that letter they complained about speeding cars and cut through traffic on their block, and asked for the 25 mph speed limit to be enforced. They promised to look into the matter, and the "Safe Streets, Safe

Kids" program was born.

The original plan called for repaving Linden and installing two speed humps, which are longer and flatter than speed bumps, one on East Crescent and one on Clarke. After discussions with Administrator/CFO Glenn Cullen and Borough Engineer Len Miller of T&M Associates, Dornick was told that Clarke was never a part of the plan. Upon completion of the Linden Avenue project, three speed humps were installed on Linden, two on East Crescent and one on Clarke. Cullen did confirm that putting a speed hump on Clarke was an "afterthought." The cost of the Linden Avenue project was covered by a state grant and each hump cost approximately \$5,000.

When asked about the placement of the speed hump on Clarke, Cullen said, "At rush hour there were times the traffic backs up at the light as far back as Clarke Avenue, so we put a speed hump [there] to keep cars from leaving Park to cut through to Maple."

When asked if the speed hump on Clarke Avenue would be removed if every resident on Clarke signed a new petition, Cullen said, "We don't need everyone on Clarke to sign the petition, but at least 70% of the residents." The cost to remove a speed hump is between \$2,000-\$2,500.

"That is why we need to be careful moving forward," Buteas said, when discussing the installation of speed tables on Cherry Street. Speed tables are being installed instead of speed humps because of heavy school bus traffic in that area.

"There was no process in place, you [the Republican Majority] just kind of haphazardly placed it because somebody said 'hey I'd like one,' so we said 'OK, it works for us.' Now we have a process, and that process has to be adhered to," Buttrick said, referring to a new ordinance adopted June 25 which is the blueprint to use for requesting, installing and removing speed humps or tables throughout the borough.

If any resident is interested in signing a new petition for the removal of the speed hump, they can contact Jane Dornick at (908) 754-3420.

Wristbands

(Continued from page 1)

sale of the wristbands and the shirts will be donated to a fund the school has set up for Eric and his family.

"He's a fighter and he'll be able to pull through. I just can't wait to see him lead the team out of the tunnel again," Erica said.

If you are interested in purchasing a wristband, email Erica at ebowden14@verizon.net, or call and leave a message at (908) 755-8068. You can also search for "Wristbands for LeGrand" on Facebook. The bands are \$5 each, and if you would like them mailed to you, please add \$1 more per band.

policereport

- On October 16 Allien R. Payne, 41, of Milltown was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving.
- A Conklin Street resident reported that the driver's side front door of their vehicle had been scratched.
- On October 17 Jose Manuel Cruz, 23, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving, driving on a suspended license, refusal to submit to breath testing and possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

- On October 18 Nazreen Rushiannally, 24, of Plainfield was arrested for maintenance of lamps and an outstanding warrant.
- Roosevelt Administration reported that the preschool plastic playground equipment was removed from behind the fence and used for skateboards. Some of the insulation for the new siding on the preschool building was also damaged.

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Front Street Farmers Market Store Manager Vincent Tramontano with giant pumpkin and \$10 gift certificate winner Tom English. Front Street Farmers Market will be holding more raffles for Thanksgiving. Visit their store at 214 Front Street for more details.

SPHS Music Boosters

MUSIC NOTES

On October 16, the South Plainfield Boosters of the Musical Arts and the South Plainfield High School Marching Band hosted their 29th annual Marching Band Festival-USSBA Competition. Twelve of the finest high school marching bands from New Jersey competed at this event.

The competition started with the South Plainfield High School Chorus, lead by Mr. Baltimore, singing our *National Anthem*. Then the 12 visiting marching bands performed to a very large audience.

In between all of the excitement, we had South Plainfield High School Marching Bands biggest fan, Ralph Errico, cooking up some special treats. The Music Boosters would like to thank Mr. Errico for not only cooking the fried Oreos and Twinkies, but for always supporting the Music Boosters and the kids. We do appreciate you always being there for us.

The crowd went wild for the South Plainfield High School Marching Band, lead by our very dedicated and talented marching band staff, Director of Bands Roger Vroom, Assistant Band Director Lauren Hartong, Guard Advisor Julie McCullough and Percussion Instructor Bob Publik. We are tremendously appreciative of all your efforts.

In order to keep everything organized and running smoothly, the Music Boosters Executive Board outdid themselves this year. Tracey Hartmann, Carol McCarthy, Sue Hageman, Laura

Conrad and Pam Rutowski—way to go ladies, you are a great team!

In order for this event to be a huge success it took many long and hard hours of work. The Music Booster parents truly did an extraordinary job this year. The dedicated parents have put in many long hours of preparation which started many months ago. To all of you very special parents who worked so hard to make this festival a very large success, we thank you.

Once again we are proud that we are able to keep with the tradition of having the proceeds from this event go towards scholarships for our graduating high school students who have participated in the musical arts programs.

Important Upcoming Music Booster Dates to remember:

October 29—Senior Night, Home Football Game

October 29—\$200 deposit due for Marching Band/Orchestra trip.

October 30—USSBA Competition at Ridge High School in Basking Ridge.

November 3—general booster meeting at 7 p.m. in the high school chorus room.

November 7—USSBA Championships in Allentown, Pa.

November 10—marching band/orchestra trip meeting 7 p.m. in the high school chorus room.

November 20—Applebee's Fund-raiser.

Submitted by Donna Teller

Residents Pack Senior Center for Debates

(Continued from page 1)

ments, renegotiating contracts and increased bidding out for services.

Council candidates John Sorrentino and Jeff Williams stressed the "pay-as-you-go" system and sharing services with the Board of Education and other surrounding municipalities. They also want to waive permit fees for seniors, disabled veterans, volunteer firemen and rescue squad personnel and to ease the process of obtaining permits.

Both parties agreed that the "quiet zones" proposed last year to keep noise levels at bay for residents near train crossings were a good idea, but not affordable at this time.

Rusnak stated that the Republicans support the truck ban on Hamilton Boulevard even though they were against it two years ago, saying that putting trucks back at this point is a "dead issue." He added that New Market Avenue is being partially upgraded with paving, new curbing and sidewalks.

Sorrentino said he would push for the Hollywood Avenue extension to reduce truck traffic on New Market Avenue, and that permits for the new truck route will be submitted shortly.

Both sides felt that an expanded library is a viable solution to the current inadequate facility, although Rusnak did express concern about cost. Sorrentino suggested seeking grant money and making the structure energy friendly by going "green" to offset cost.

In regard to expanding senior citizen services, Rusnak said Office on Aging/Senior Center and Recreation Department Director Kevin Hughes has some "innovative ideas," while Sorrentino thought the senior center should have its own coordinator so as not to "cut up Kevin."

Reducing crime in the borough is an issue of concern at each debate. Williams proposed more police patrols and youth mentoring programs, while Rusnak touted the borough's low crime rate and said he believes that the police will address the council with any suggestions they have to offer.

Another question addressed to the candidates was that of a youth gathering place. While Williams advocated park revitalization, McConville suggested working with the schools. Both agreed that the PAL building could be utilized for this purpose.

When a question was raised about rezoning industrial property to residential status, both parties denounced the idea. Rusnak reiterated his opposition to rezoning of the old Tingley Rubber site near Rt. 287.

Rusnak said that next year's budget should remain flat, although he could not guarantee it. He said the council

saved \$700,000 this year and is looking to save an additional \$1.4M next year.

Sorrentino, however, noted that this year's tax levy is \$1M more than last year and that the Republican Majority borrowed nearly \$1M this year. "This is poor fiscal management," commented Sorrentino.

In closing arguments, McConville said his "proudest accomplishment" was helping to stop the 700 apartments on the Harris Steel property.

Sorrentino reminded both McConville and Rusnak that they had originally voted in favor of the project in 2008.

He also took offense that his public statement at a recent council meeting whereby he denied being in favor of the 700-apartment complex was eliminated from the videotaped recording. Councilman McConville was responsible for taping the meeting that was to be aired on Comcast Channel 96. Sorrentino feels that his comments were censored.

Anesh, English Debate

Mayoral candidates Matt Anesh and Mike English also had an opportunity to speak about issues affecting the borough and to clarify allegations made during their campaigns.

Republican Council President Matt Anesh, who is in his second three-year term on the council, said he wants to "take the borough in a better direction" saying taxes are down an average of \$178 per family. The Republican Party, while in the majority for two out of three years prior has been able to do that and spend less. They have worked to keep the borough workforce smaller and more efficient. He would like to improve parks and rebuild the infrastructure. "The race is about the future, not the past," said Anesh, referring to English, who previously served as mayor of the borough from 1983 to 1987.

English, a teacher, former recreation director and BOE member, said he would like to keep the borough "a great, safe, affordable community." He would do so by lowering taxes, cutting spending, completing the Hollywood Avenue truck route, making permit applications easier and more affordable, expanding the PAL, redesigning Veterans Park, using the "pay as you go" method for spending and making senior services a priority.

Keeping taxes reasonable was a main topic of discussion. Anesh claims that spending rose 400% since English was mayor and taxes were raised 55% in one year. Also, 13 out of the last 15

years under Democratic control their party "did not do a good job controlling spending."

English reminded Anesh that he could not vote on the budget when he was mayor and went on to say that the reason for the increase was due to Republican borrowing in excess of \$6M during the previous five years. "We had to start paying the bills," said English, who noted that three years ago when the Republicans took office, taxes rose 16%. His goals, if elected, are to reduce taxes by 5% over the next four years and to control expenses by sharing BOE similar positions, such as payroll, insurance and the business administrators.

Both Anesh and English agree we should explore shared services. Anesh added that he believes that shared services could include other municipalities, such as a borough clerk, insurance providers, fire inspectors and 911 operators. He also stated that the mayor's office does have some influence on voting and that the first year of English's term the council borrowed \$515,000.

Both candidates agreed that the "downtown" area, at South Plainfield Avenue and Front Street, requires some improving. "We need to advertise to bring businesses in and give people a reason to stay in town," said English, and Anesh would like to "identify businesses that we need to bring into the community so they stay."

English repeated that the 700 proposed low income apartments on the Harris Steel property should not go through and that he would like to see the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) disbanded by the current governor. "We, the Democratic Team [English, Sorrentino and Williams], never supported low income housing or highrises in town."

Anesh said the Democratic Party has been taking campaign contributions from the developers who want to develop the Harris Steel property.

"You start by talking about my record 29 years ago and then say who cares. You only want to take what happened in the past when it is applicable or helps you. Be consistent," countered English.

The Safe Streets/Safe Kids program was touted by Anesh who initiated the speed hump petition process saying he would like to expand on it with raised crosswalks at schools. English, however, considers the concept a failure. "We are going to a last resort. Cops should be giving tickets," said English. "We need to fix the problem not add to it."

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Eagles Cheer Squads Set New Record and Sweep First Place at MVC Championship



Mitey Mite Cheerleaders perform a double based full extension.

The Eagles Pop Warner Cheer squads successfully competed at the Mountain Valley Conference (MVC) Championships at Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School on October 16. Over 50 squads were in attendance. All three of South Plainfield's competition level squads wowed the judges and the crowd, and will advance to the Pop Warner Eastern Regional Central Qualifier at Sun Bank Arena in Trenton on Sunday. This was the first time in the Eagles history that all three competition level squads took first place in their respective divisions.

Midget (11-13)—The Eagles

Midget squad once again came home Mountain Valley champions. This squad of 19 girls opened their routine with a powerful cheer which included four arabesque stunts into walking full extensions. Once the music began it was packed with action, starting with outstanding tumbling passes, including cartwheels, roundoffs, front walkovers and back walkovers, and then into an impressive four scorpion stunt with a power press transition into scales. This moved right into a pyramid with a bow and arrow and heel stretch hitches. The squad is hoping to repeat its prior



Members of the JPW Cheer Squad celebrate their first place victory.

years' accomplishments and advance all the way to Eastern Region and Nationals in Disney World.

Junior Midget (10-12)—The Eagles Junior Midget cheer squad took first place in the Small Novice Division. The team is led by eight seventh graders, 10 sixth graders and two fifth graders. The girls performed a high energy routine consisting of dance and cheer. The crowd responded to the cheer by chanting, "Eagles that's right, the green, black, white." Many of the girls have been cheering together since they were in kindergarten and first grade. The girls have become a top notch team over the years, and are looking forward to the Central Qualifier Competition to show their impressive routine again with a goal of advancing to the Eastern Region competition and beyond.

Junior Pee Wee (9-11)—The Eagles JPW squad took first place in the Large Novice Division. The 25 girls had a great time doing their routine and completed with lots of spirit. This young squad consists of third, fourth and fifth graders. First, the girls executed a crowd pleasing cheer that included double based stunts and liberties, and ended in a dynamic pyramid. To end the routine, the girls danced to the current music of Justin Bieber and some old school Michael Jackson. The girls made their routine even more entertaining by adding front walkovers, forward rolls and cartwheels. Not only did this squad impress the judges, but also their coaches and families. The Junior Pee Wee cheerleaders are an intelligent, hard working, and ambitious group of young ladies who have worked hard since the beginning of August. Through this time, these girls have truly come together as a team to achieve anything they put their mind to, and they look forward to their next competition at the qualifiers.

In addition to the older girls, the Eagles Flag and Mitey-Mite squads exhibited their non-competition routines at the MVC Championships.

Flag (5-7)—The Eagles Flag squad performed an outstanding routine and enjoyed the experience. The squad made a lasting impression on the crowd; with 34 girls they were the largest squad in the conference. They started their performance with a dance to *Party In The USA* by Miley Cyrus, which included waves, tuck jumps and hip shimmies. This was followed by chants that encouraged the fans to join in, shouting "Football and cheer is what we're about!" The routine ended with simultaneous tumbling runs of cartwheels and roundoffs, followed by thigh stand stunts and a scale. For many of these girls, this was their first time performing to such a large crowd, and their composure and presence on the mat was truly astounding given their very young age. Head coach Danielle Mendez, assistant coaches Liz Costello, Terry Housel and Nadine Sacco, and team parent Elise Betyeman are so proud of the



Flag cheerleaders Jenna Sacco, Jocelyn Mortensen, Maria Callanan, Jordan Sacco, Alexandra Mendez and Madison Geis assemble for the award ceremony.



Midget Squad completes their pyramid formation.



Junior Midget squad in their pyramid formation.

hard work these girls put in all year.

Mitey Mite (7-9)—For the second year in a row, the Eagles Mitey Mite Cheerleaders closed out the day of the competition with a bang. They started off with a forward roll to the song *Tik Tok* by Kesha, and then went into a routine which included teddy bears, thigh stands and a prep. They continued with an outstanding middle cheer, which ended with piggy backs, thigh stands and an awesome full extended prep, one of the only squads at this age to perform such an advanced move.

The squad then danced to *Rock That Body* by Black Eyed Peas, with show stopping dance steps, cartwheels and splits. For the final portion of the

routine they positioned themselves in a "V" position for victory and showed how exciting and dynamite they were by dancing to *Dynamite* by Taio Cruz. Head coach Christine Stankan, assistant coaches Tanya Blouin, Georgia Lambert, Nancy Padovano, Yolanda Scipio; team parent Lynn Tamburro; and trainer Debra DeCarlo were so impressed by this amazing group.

Abra Hodge, cheer commissioner for the Eagles, said, "I am honored to represent all of the talented coaches and cheerleaders and am looking forward to an exciting day in Trenton on October 31, watching all three of our competition level squads perform."

Go Eagles!

—Submitted by Terry Housel

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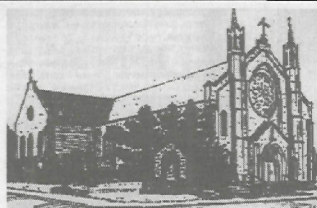
Sunday 9:00, 11:30 a.m.

Daily 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

7:00 p.m. Monday (Church), Thursday (Parish Center Chapel)

Holy Days 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation—Saturday 10-11:30 a.m. and at other times
by appointment



Knights Sponsoring Soccer Challenge

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus #6203 is sponsoring the 2010 Soccer Challenge on Saturday, Oct. 30 at 3 p.m. at the soccer fields on Kenneth Avenue. All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition.

All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in the event; winners will go onto the state level of competition. Participants are required to furnish proof of age (birth certificate) and written parental consent.

For more information, call Robbi Matusz at (973) 534-6447.

Motorcycle Club Takes 60-Mile Ride to Fight Childhood Cancer



The Old Timers Motorcycle Club once again came to the aid of children battling cancer.

After experiencing the anguish of a friend whose four-year-old child was diagnosed with leukemia, Guy Moretti was moved to make a difference in the lives of children with cancer. He, along with a group of realtors from Century 21 Moretti Realty, founded Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc. The organization is dedicated to providing non-medical services to families, supporting pediatric oncology research and enhance the quality of life and care for children with cancer and blood disorders.

Teaming up with the Open Your Heart Foundation, the Old Timers were able to help raise nearly \$26,000 to fight this disease. In its fifth year, the club has raised close to \$140,000.

Over 300 bikers came out on October 3, and met at the Kenneth Avenue Pop Warner field. After a 60-mile run through Somerset County, the bikers returned to the field for a barbecue, live music and a car and bike show. Many vendors were also on site.

Police, fire and the rescue squads from South Plainfield were available

to lead the ride. Numerous organizations contributed through donations or offered their services at no charge.

The South Plainfield Department of Public Works lent a hand with the set up, and nearly 50 men and women were available to set up the field as well. Friends, neighbors and newcomers came out to help the fifth annual event to ensure it was successful. The cooking crew, led by John Timm and Domenic Demico, provided hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage and kielbasa for the hungry crowd.

Ride chairmen Greg Rhein and Dan Hogan led the bikers safely back from Somerset County. Ron Fusco organized a successful car show with his club, Street Dreams Car

"Sincerest thanks to all who contributed to another successful 'Run for the Children'."

—Rich D'Urso, Greg Rhein, Guy Moretti & Toni Moretti



Club. A bike show was organized by Tom Kaiser. The coffee and sign-in was handled by the Century 21 staff.

Much of the food was donated by Bob Boyle; rolls and bread were donated by Joey D's and Freihofer's/Bimbo products.

Special thanks to our contributors for their kind donations, and extra thanks goes to Greg Rhein and Mel Tomei for their hard work planning this event throughout the year.

Attempting to list all who volunteered and contributed would surely risk a mistake, so from myself, Greg Rhein and Guy and Toni Moretti, I offer our sincerest thanks to all who contributed to another successful "Run for the Children."

For more information about Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc. or to donate, please call (908) 755-5051, ext. 406.

—Submitted by Rich D'Urso



Local Boys Are Scouting for Food

The Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of South Plainfield would like to help those who are not as fortunate and are in need of basic food supplies. They will be conducting "Scouting for Food" the first three weeks of November.

Most units will be dropping off food collection bags on Saturday, Nov. 6, and some will be dropping off bags on Saturday, Nov. 14. Bags will be collected on the Saturday after they are dropped.

In the past, South Plainfield has risen to the challenge and has shown how big of a heart it really has by donating hundreds of filled bags each year. The bags are then turned over to the various food pantries which operate here in South Plainfield.

The scouts look forward to another prosperous year for our food pantries and the opportunity to help those who will be thankful for your generosity.

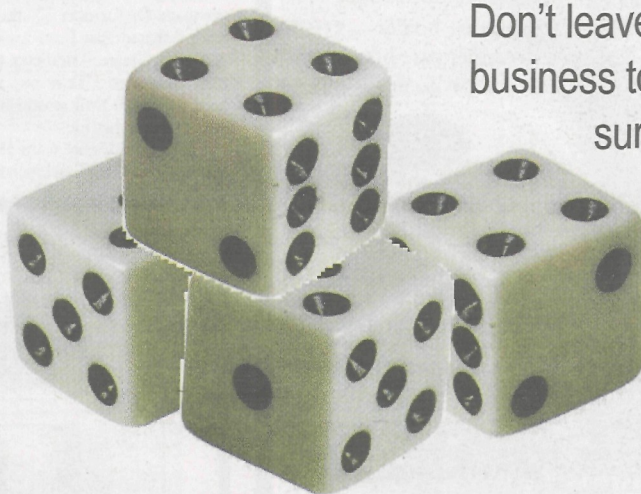
—Submitted by Jeffrey Pauls

Girl Scouts Seeking Food Donations

South Plainfield Girl Scout Troop 65091 is working toward their bronze award. They are collecting non-perishable items for South Plainfield's food bank, specifically items for Thanksgiving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Donation boxes are located in the Grant School lobby through November 12.

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2:30 P.M. ROOM 557

Sports

SOCCER CLUB

By Dawn Hutchison

Ambush 6-0 in Undefeated Season, Club Sponsors Camp

It's just a week away—be sure to register for the upcoming Teacher's Convention Soccer Camp. The SPSC and South Plainfield Recreation Department have joined forces once again with Spencer Rockman and the Rovers Soccer program to sponsor the Teachers Convention Soccer Camp on November 4 and 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. The cost is \$49 per person for the two days.

The camp is open to boys and girls, ages 5 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, please contact Dawn Farinella at (908) 769-6959 or by email at dawnfarinella@comcast.net. Registration forms can be downloaded from www.sopflsoccerclub.com. Don't miss out on this



great opportunity!

The soccer club is doing its part to assist Eric LeGrand, the Rutgers defensive tackle who was paralyzed during a Rutgers football game. South Plainfield's Erica Bowden, friend and classmate of Eric LeGrand, created an "Eric Believes" wristband fundraiser to benefit her friend in his time of need. Erica designed the wristbands, had them manufactured and started selling them. Her first order of 5,000 bands sold out almost instantly. As word grows, the bands are selling and everyone is pulling together to try to help Eric and his family in their time of need.

In addition to everyone's thoughts and prayers, the funds raised will assist the family with the growing costs of medical attention. We at the SPSC will be offering the bands for sale at our snack stand during all home games at Kenneth Avenue and our hot dog cart at the Memorial Turf Field games.

If you would like to purchase a

wristband (\$5) and cannot make it to the snack stand, please contact Dawn Hutchison at (908) 754-2716. If you would like to make a donation directly to the fund, you can mail your checks, made out to "Eric Believes" to Eric Believes Fund, c/o Erica Bowden, 223 West Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080. Our thoughts and prayers are with Eric and his family.

Ambush moves to 6-0 and continues their undefeated season by beating South Brunswick 6-0. Sara Cargill started with the first goal two minutes into the first half. Ambush continued to roll with goals from Claire Nagel, Caity Hughes and first goals of the season for Jackie Battista, Brianna Noriega and Sierra Pasquerella. Goalies Justice Lipuma and Nubia Calderone and the defense combined for a shutout of South Brunswick. Great job to all the girls.

Hard to believe, but the fall season is winding down. With just about three weeks left of our regular schedule, the teams have once again enjoyed a great season. The weather will turn cooler and the days will be shorter, but one thing will remain the same—the intensity and the drive with which the SPSC teams all play in each and every game. It has been so great to see all of our teams do so well. Most of all, the growth of all of our players throughout the season has been wonderful to watch. Please come out and support the teams as they continue with the season. At left is this week's home schedule. Go SPSC!

U-9 SHARKS

By Nicole Plate



U-9 Sharks

Sharks Defeat Middlesex and Bloomfield

On Saturday the U-9 Sharks defeated the Middlesex Rangers by a score of 3-1. The offense worked fast, scoring the first goal within the first five minutes of the game. The goal came off the foot of Ashwin DeGroot, who kicked the ball over the head of the Rangers' goalie.

In the second quarter, the Sharks scored again. This time Kevin Veliz passed the ball to Justin Plate, who kicked it in the goal. The halftime score was 2-0 with the Sharks looking to hold their lead with Nick Archortua, Justin Plate and Kevin Veliz splitting their time in goal. The third quarter started off the same way, with the Sharks playing hard defense behind Cooper Smith, Samir Daoud and Sebastian Hughes. The Sharks' offense was up and down the field looking for another opportunity to score, which came when Ashwin kicked in his second goal of the game from an assist from Justin. The Sharks had great offensive work from Tav Baldassarre, Bryan Cruz, Cooper Smith, Sebastian Cordoba and Nick Smiljanic. Middlesex Rangers scored their only goal of the game in the third quarter. Due to an injury, Nick Smiljanic was unavailable for the game.

The Sharks' second game of the weekend was Sunday in Bloomfield. The Sharks scored two goals early in the first quarter off the foot of Ashwin DeGroot, who lifted both goals over the head of the Wolves' goalie. With the Sharks' offense playing very well, Ashwin passed the ball to Kevin Veliz who shot and scored his first goal of the year. Nick Archortua was in goal for the first half of the game and didn't let any balls pass him. The second half of the game was a little harder. Bloomfield scored three goals to make it 3-3 going into the final quarter.

The hard defensive work of Sebastian Hughes, Samir Daoud and Justin Plate proved to be too much for Bloomfield. In the final minute of the game Ashwin scored what would be the winning goal for the Sharks. The final score was 4-3.

The Sharks' team has great defensive and offensive players, including Gabe Mont, Nick Archortua, Tav Baldassarre, Bryan Cruz, Cooper Smith, Sebastian Cordoba and Nick Smiljanic.

Thanks to the parents and coaches Baldassarre and Henry for their time and dedication to the Sharks.

SPHS FIELD HOCKEY

By Pat DeSantis

Field Hockey Corner

Last week the South Plainfield Field Hockey team went down in history yet again. On October 20, the varsity team defeated East Brunswick to become the Greater Middlesex Conference champions. They put a lot of hard work into their season and definitely earned the title.

The Junior Varsity team also won the GMC Championship, crushing

Metuchen on our grass field. The girls were also able to pick up an extra game this past Wednesday against Bridgewater-Raritan, which showed how the team would be looking in states.

The Tigers will continue to the second round of states this upcoming week. Thanks again to all who support our team and help out with everything. Good luck ladies!

Upcoming Games - Come Out and Support Us!			
Warriors	10/30/10 (Sat)	11:30 a.m.	Kenneth #2
Sharks	10/30/10 (Sat)	1:00 p.m.	Kenneth #2
Storm	10/31/10 (Sun)	11:00 a.m.	Kenneth #1
Spartans	10/31/10 (Sun)	11:30 a.m.	Kenneth #2
Eclipse	10/31/10 (Sun)	1:00 p.m.	Kenneth #2
Ambush	10/31/10 (Sun)	11:30 a.m.	Memorial Turf Field
Mustangs ...	10/31/10 (Sun)	1:30 p.m.	Memorial Turf Field

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Refreshing White, Sangria 5L — \$11.99	Rhine, Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot, White Zin — \$8.99

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JUNIOR JOURNALIST

#1



Junior Journalist David Delice with mom Marie and brothers Jonathan and Mike.

From the Republicans

OPINION

Saying he will continue to fight for South Plainfield's families and seniors if elected mayor, Council President Matt Anesh this week stressed his team's plans for 2011 and beyond.

"We want to continue to make South Plainfield more affordable," said Anesh. "We know the two most important issues people care about are controlling taxes and cutting wasteful spending, and that's what we'll do."

Anesh pointed to this year's tax cut as the starting point. "The average family saw taxes drop \$178, but I urge people to see exactly how much they saved themselves by adding up their bills from 2010 and comparing them to 2009."

Anesh also pointed to his team's success at halting the proposed 700-unit apartment complex slated for New Brunswick Avenue as a sign that they understand where South Plainfield should be headed.

"We were the only ones to stand up against the developer," Anesh said. "When we saw Governor Christie's proposals to change the low-income housing rules, we knew we could use them as a way to derail the project."

Councilman Tim McConville, who helped lead that effort, said he doesn't want to see South Plainfield's small-town atmosphere change. "It would have a horrible effect on our town, especially our schools."

"We'll let voters decide which team will fight these types of projects," said Anesh. "But look at our record. We're fighting the 700 apartments, and we also spoke out against the Tingley project, which unfortunately was passed when we were not in charge. We're proud of our record."

Councilman Ray Rusnak agreed with Anesh and said he was also proud of how their team handled the school budget.

When voters turned down the school budget, the council trimmed it and eliminated the board's planned \$100 tax increase.

"I can't believe how many parents and teachers complimented us for finding ways to trim spending that would not result in more teacher or program cuts," said Rusnak. "In fact, we suggested ways to bring back teachers and programs, some of which is now happening."

As head of the council's finance committee, Rusnak is also looking forward to 2011, when he says the town's finances will see even more benefits from what began this year: "Many of the cost savings won't take full effect until next year."

"But that's not all," added Anesh. "We'll continue to invest in our parks and roads. Stage II of the New Market Avenue reconstruction will begin in 2011, and we plan to continue to revitalize our parks. One thing my opponent and I agree on is the need to reinvest in parks and roads. Unfortunately, that was not done as much as was needed over the past decade under the other party."

"We hope voters will judge us on our record," said Anesh. "Tim, Ray and I have a record of achievement that's unmatched in Central Jersey. No other town saw taxes go down \$178. In addition, important projects are moving forward."

"We've only had a short time to prove ourselves," added Anesh, "but the results are there. We promised accountability last year when you put us in charge. We believe we've kept our promise, and we hope you'll give us the chance to continue."

From the Democrats

OPINION

The Democratic Team of Mike English, Jeff Williams and John Sorrentino want to thank everyone who has been willing to take time to talk to us during this campaign. We pledged months ago that we would run a positive issue-oriented discussion with the good people of South Plainfield. Mike, Jeff and John want to revisit those issues with you.

First and foremost, we promise to reduce municipal expenses every year for the next four years. We truly understand that taxes are the most important issue with all of the residents of our town. We want to achieve this by combining some of the services provided by the borough government and the Board of Education. We also must look into sharing some services with other local communities and the county. And finally we must construct a budget that does not rely on borrowing to pay our bills. As we all know in our own households when the credit card bills are out of control someone else dictates how and where to spend our money. We will not let that happen to South Plainfield under our administration.

The traffic problem in South Plainfield must be resolved. We will complete the necessary engineering work, apply for the appropriate state permits, and seek out federal funds to build the alternate truck route. We must make our roads as safe as possible.

Mike, Jeff and John want to make our senior citizens a priority again. If elected they pledge to appoint a full time senior citizen coordinator and want to give control of most of the activities back to the senior citizen club. They also want to make sure that the Senior Center is used to its fullest potential.

The Democratic Team wants to put an addition onto the PAL Recreation Center and concentrate on upgrading Veterans Park. Our kids and our seniors deserve it.

We want to see the work of Mayor Buttrico's library committee move forward. We need to expand the one we have now or we need to build a new one where the library is now. It is the perfect location for such a facility.

Mike, Jeff and John want to make it easier and cheaper for our residents to improve their homes. We will give seniors, firemen, rescue squad personnel and members of EMS access to building permits with no charge for the permits. To all our residents, we will do the same if they are replacing an old hot water heater or an air conditioner.

Finally, we want to bring back civility and respect to council meetings. Our residents should enjoy coming to council meetings and discussing their concerns with members of the governing body.

This has been a tremendous opportunity for all three of us to share with you our vision for the future. This is straight and honest talk. We hope you give us the chance to carry out these programs next year by electing Mike English, John Sorrentino and Jeff Williams to the borough government on November 2.

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.

Obituaries

Michelle Marie Ficorilli, 34



Michelle Marie Ficorilli died on Saturday, Oct. 9 at home.

Born in Muhlenberg Hospital in Plainfield, Michelle resided most of her life in South Plainfield.

Michelle attended East Brunswick Vocational & Technical High School and graduated from Johnson & Wales University in 1996. She moved to Tennessee several years ago.

She is predeceased by her loving grandparents, Eugene and Agnes Ficorilli.

Michelle, the daughter of Michael Ficorilli and Roxanne Baita, is survived by her father and step-mother, Michael and Jeanmarie Ficorilli; a brother, Michael Ficorilli, all of Shelbyville, Tenn.; husband Jeff Thompson of Bell Buckle, Tenn.; an aunt, Marie (Ficorilli); an uncle, Frank Benak; three cousins, Michael, Nicole and Mark Benak, all of South Plainfield, and many more friends and relatives.

A memorial service was held in Shelbyville, Tenn.

Rodriguez, Jose Montes, Onil Montes and Elias Montes. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the South Plainfield Funeral Home.

Margaret R. Lynch Ferraro, 84

Margaret R. Lynch Ferraro of West Hanover Township, Pa., formerly of South Plainfield, passed away on Friday, Oct. 22 at her home surrounded by her loving family.

Born in Bayonne on May 15, 1926, she was the daughter of the late Daniel and Anna Domanac Lynch.

Margaret was a retired legal secretary. She was a former model, and sang and danced off-Broadway.

Margaret was a member of St. Joan of Arc Roman Catholic Church in Hershey, Pa. She loved music, but most of all she loved and cherished spending time with her family.

Margaret is survived by her beloved husband of 55 years, John M. Ferraro, whom she married on January 22, 1955; five daughters, Mary Ferraro, Lisa Mazzetta and husband Edward, Angela Onorato and husband David, Rita Lepping and husband Ken and Gina DiCindio and husband Vince; three sons, John Ferraro and wife Cindy, Thomas Ferraro and wife Cathy and Raymond Ferraro and wife Lorraine; a brother, Jeremiah Lynch; and 17 grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at Trefz and Bowser Funeral Home, Inc. in Hummelstown, Pa.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute, c/o Penn State Hershey Medical Center, Penn State College of Medicine, Office of Development & Alumni Relations, A120, P.O. Box 852, Hershey, Pa. 17033-0852.



Margaret R. Lynch Ferraro

David Montes, 76

David Montes of Green Brook passed away on Monday, Oct. 25 in the Green Brook Manor & Rehabilitation Center in Green Brook.

Born in Yauco, Puerto Rico, Mr. Montes immigrated to the United States in 1954 and resided in New Brunswick and Middlesex before moving to Green Brook a year ago.

Mr. Montes was pastor of the Iams Temple of Plainfield for many years.

He is the devoted father of Sylvia Rivera and husband Wil, David Montes and wife Jeannine, Iraida Leguizamon, Raquel K. Sanchez and husband Felix; loving brother of Eugene Montes, Ester Burgos, Manuel Montes, Ramon Montes, Nilda Montes, Irma

Twin City Pharmacy Earns Pharmacists of the Year Award

Twin City Pharmacy & Surgical has received the Pharmacists of the Year Award from NJHPCO (New Jersey Hospice & Palliative Care Organization). Pharmacists Bill Ashnault and James Kim have been selected by NJHPCO award judges to receive this prestigious award.

NJHPCO, founded in 1979, is a nonprofit public service organization that promotes use of hospice and palliative care at the end of life.

By attaining this award, Twin City Pharmacy & Surgical has demonstrated its commitment to maintain a higher level of competency and strive for excellence in its services, customer satisfaction and best-in-class performance. Referring to the honor of this award, pharmacist and co-owner Bill Ashnault stated, "We are continually

striving to clarify our strengths and improve our weaknesses. This award recognizes the value given to all our hard work and dedication to our patients. We are a team here at Twin City Pharmacy & Surgical, and it is with great delight James and I share this award with our entire staff."

Twin City Pharmacy & Surgical maintains multiple relationships with homecare patients, rehabilitation facilities, discharge nurses and hospice programs. The company provides both medication and equipment, including hospital beds, oxygen, CPAP machines and accessories. Its delivery territory covers Somerset, Union, Middlesex, Monmouth and parts of Ocean County. Staff pharmacists are available to assist with medication concerns and special requests, as well

as compounding for special needs. A full time DME staff and 24 hour emergency care services are also available.

Twin City Pharmacy & Surgical builds lasting relationships through compassion, attentiveness and availability to its customers directly or through their doctors or caregivers. Its business is built on service to their customers. "We are passionate about educating our staff so that together, with medical professionals, we are able to achieve extraordinary levels of service, care and comfort," Ashnault added.

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In My Opinion

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(Continued from page 2)

offer a special thanks to my wife Kimberly and twin boys Harrison and Joseph for allowing me to serve our great borough.

Finally, I ask for your support and the chance to prove myself as your mayor. I can promise you that I will dedicate the next four years to improving South Plainfield for all of our residents.

**MATT ANESH
CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR**

Dear Neighbors,

Just after I received the Democratic endorsement for Borough Council in June, I knew this would be a campaign I would never forget. Since June, Mike, John and I walked all but 10 streets, and will have knocked on every household door by Election Day.

Knocking on every household door by Election Day was one of our top priorities because you deserve nothing less. We wanted to deliver that personal touch so that we could share with you the vision we have for South Plainfield, the vision of innovation, family and industry. My wife and I are expecting our first child this December, and I want to make sure that the South Plainfield he grows up in is affordable, safe and friendly. This is why, upon election, I seek to implement shared service programs which will save taxpayers money. I want to go back to a pay-as-you-go government which will increase the efficacy of our government and also stabilize spending.

These are straight and honest facts. As a minister, each time I stand behind the pulpit, I am sure to have studied and researched my message. As your elected councilman, I will carry that same honesty, integrity and discipline while sitting on the dais, representing and serving you, my very neighbor.

With all due humility, I thank you for your support and I encourage you to vote November 2 for the straight talk team of Mike English for mayor, and John Sorrentino and Jeff Williams for council.

**RESPECTFULLY YOURS,
JEFF WILLIAMS,
CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL**

Dear Editor,

A few weeks ago I had a letter in the paper saying my proudest vote on the council was the one where I helped stop the 700-unit apartment complex proposed for New Brunswick Avenue.

I know what I said in that letter ruffled a few feathers, but I stand by it.

The only reason that project is stalled is because Matt Anesh, Ray Rusnak, Rob Bengivenga and I fought against it and said, "let's see if Governor Christie's efforts to reform the low-income housing rules can save us from this huge apartment complex."

Well, so far it's worked.

A court just threw out the rules that were forcing us to add the apartments, and the Legislature is considering bills to change the whole low-income housing scheme. If we had gone through with signing a deal with the developer in December, as the mayor was urging us to, we would have been stuck with that project.

I'm not saying we're out of the woods. We aren't by any means. The developer will be back, and we will need to keep fighting to keep South Plainfield's small-town atmosphere. I want to be re-elected to do just that: Keep fighting for our town.

I'll also continue to work to make our town more affordable. Families are hurting, with people losing their jobs and homes. And even people who have a job don't know what's around the corner. I understand how important controlling taxes and cutting unnecessary spending is, and I'll work hard to continue to do that. With this year's tax cut, I think we're off to a good start.

I care about our community. It's the same town I grew up in, met my wife in, and am raising my children in. I've worked hard on the council, hopefully hard enough to earn your support again.

COUNCILMAN TIM MCCONVILLE

To My Fellow South Plainfielders:

I would like to start out by saying that I love our town and take a lot of pride in it. I've lived in South Plainfield for 24 years with my wife Maryann. Here is where we raised our three children, Angela, Anthony and Joseph. My wife and I have always volunteered our time to our children's activities, sports and school functions. We have always been involved in South Plainfield.

As chairman of the Public Celebrations Committee, it is my job to make sure the committee works as a team. Politics aside, we are all there to bring our town a great Labor Day parade, festivities and fireworks. We all work well together. When faced this year with a budget problem we put our heads together and came up with the idea of fundraising for advertisement banners to supplement the money needed to have the fireworks. As you may know, a lot of towns had to cancel their fireworks this year due to budget problems.

As a councilman I will work together with the mayor and council as one, because I am here to help make South Plainfield a great place to live. I will spend taxpayer's money wisely, as if it were my own.

Walking door to door for the past three months and listening to the residents of South Plainfield, I have heard their concerns about paying their mortgage, putting food on the table, being able to afford to raise their children and will they have a job tomorrow.



Governor Chris Christie this week endorsed South Plainfield Council President Matt Anesh (right) in his bid to be the borough's next mayor. Christie also endorsed Councilmen Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak (left), who are both seeking reelection.

row. I want to help them as much as I can. Continuing to look into shared services even more and combining departments are a couple ways this may help to keep taxes flat or even lower them. I will work with everyone on the council to try to come up with new ways to help improve the functionality of our town.

One of my goals is to waive permit fees for our senior citizens, our disabled vets and all our volunteer fire fighters and first aiders. They have done, and continue to do, a lot for our town and our country. It would be fulfilling to give them something back.

I will also try to make it easier for our residents to obtain permits without being crippled by red tape and confusing paperwork.

I am not a politician, just a regular guy with concerns for our town. I've been blessed with a beautiful wife and great children. I have a loving and supportive extended family, wonderful neighbors and great friends. I feel I can devote the next three years of my life to the community of South Plainfield and its citizens. If elected I can promise you that I will give 100% to my job as councilman. Please support me and my running mates, Mike English and Jeff Williams, on Election Day, November 2 for the betterment of South Plainfield. I hope you give me the opportunity to serve you.

**THANK YOU,
JOHN C. SORRENTINO**

To the Editor:

Three years sure go by rapidly. Over that time I've dealt with personnel issues, budget issues (both municipal and school board) and a variety of other issues too numerous to mention, and

the one thing they all have in common is, I met them head on. We all have choices to make when elected to public office. You can lead, follow or get out of the way. I truly believe my actions have proven that I chose to lead.

Because of the \$700,000 in budget cuts we made this year, you the taxpayer benefited by receiving a lower 2010 tax bill. I also spearheaded the defeated school board budget this past spring, and the result was a \$1.2M budget reduction. What was going to be a \$100 school tax increase became zero—all without sacrificing programs for the students.

Along with all this, the borough's financial rating has improved, (increasing to AA), which means we can borrow and refinance at a rate less than 1%. So when we refinanced our debt this year, we saved \$200,000.

One of the nicest things said to me last year was by a former Democratic councilman, who said, "Keep doing what you are doing, because you are doing a great job for the borough."

I ask for your support on Election Day so I can continue to help lead our town in its current positive direction.

COUNCILMAN RAY RUSNAK

Dear Editor,

I have known Mike English for many years. His years of service to the people of South Plainfield and his many accomplishments, particularly to our youth, make him an excellent choice for mayor. I have also seen John Sorrentino work on the parade committee and see him to be one to make needed changes on the borough council. I met Jeff Williams and believe his plans on merging services and reducing costs to be much needed.

I have had enough of increased taxes year after year and then one reduction at election time to know a change is needed. I am voting for Mike English, Jeff Williams and John Sorrentino.

MAY LESO

Dear Editor,

Anyone who knows Tim McConville knows he has South Plainfield's best interest at heart. Tim is not slick or flashy. With Tim, what you see is what you get.

Tim is currently leading the fight to stop another massive apartment development. To him no means no. They say the best way to know someone is to know what they are doing when no one is looking. Well, when no one is looking Tim is fighting to keep South Plainfield's small-town atmosphere alive.

Anyone who has grown up in town or has lived in town knows exactly what I mean. South Plainfield's small-town atmosphere is one of the things that makes being a South Plainfielder so special.

In November I will be voting for Tim McConville, Ray Rusnak and Matt Anesh. They are fighting to preserve something that is very endangered. The small town atmosphere that makes South Plainfield so great.

LAUREN ALLEGRETTO

To the Editor:

Michael English is running for mayor! That's great news for South Plainfield.

I've been fortunate to know Michael for many years and I can say without hesitation that you will not find a more honest and dedicated person to lead our borough. Michael English was born and raised in South Plainfield. He has taught many of our children, and in some cases, has taught some of us. He has dedicated his life to work on improving the quality of life for everyone he comes in contact with.

Michael English is a courageous leader who won't be afraid to make tough decisions, even if they may not be popular. That's what I want from my mayor. I want him to lead! That's what Michael English will do as the next mayor of the Borough of South Plainfield.

Vote for Michael English for mayor of South Plainfield. I also ask you to support his running mates-Jeff Williams and John Sorrentino for borough council.

**THANK YOU,
JAMES J. WIERDO**

To the Editor:

Beyond a doubt, Matt Anesh is the most qualified to be mayor of our town. He is a businessman who is also raising his family, volunteering and dedicated to the town he grew up in. When Matt makes a commitment, he

Thank you....

The October 21 Mayoral and Council Candidates debate was the best ever! The evening would not have been a success without the volunteers who gave their time.

I would like to personally thank everyone who helped make it such a success, especially Linda Mather from the League of Women Voters, who moderated the debate and made sure questions were asked of each candidate; the council and mayoral candidates, who stayed on topic and were respectful of each other; members of the community who came out to be involved in their borough government; Mayor Charles Butrico, Robert Bengivenga, Sr. and Bob Longo, who helped screen the questions; Toni Moretti, who collected questions from members of the audience; Carolyn Allen, who donated the delicious snacks; Barbara Smith, who manned the kitchen; Marge Reedy, who opened the debate by introducing the moderator and reading the rules and then volunteered in the kitchen; Linda and Angelo from the senior center, for setting up the room and making us feel welcome; the Board of Education, for loaning us their sound system; Debbie Boyle, for taping the debate and my husband, Wayne Grennier, who helped put up and take down the debate signs.

Nancy Grennier

**South Plainfield
Observer**

In My Opinion

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

follows through and gets the job done. He is totally trustworthy and incorruptible. Matt along with the rest of his team, Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak are honest people in government. The team is held accountable for their actions and has promoted an atmosphere of openness not only in the area of finances, but in every aspect of local government.

Most people distrust politicians, which is why we need to elect Tim and Ray to council and Matt for mayor. They are men dedicated to their family, friends and the betterment of South Plainfield, not to party bosses. We need Matt, Tim and Ray, and they need you. Please join me in voting for them on November 2.

SILVANA GOVER

Dear Editor,

As Election Day draws near (Tuesday, Nov. 2), I have only one question to ask the voters of South Plainfield: "What makes a good mayor?" Many voters desire an experienced leader who puts people ahead of politics. Ask voters what they're looking for in a mayor and they might tell you they want someone who is straight forward, honest and open, with a knack for working well with others. Or maybe they want someone who has the intelligence, knowledge and experience to lead the borough council and get things done without the petty politics. Translation—they want and deserve to have Michael English as their trusted mayor.

I have known Mike English all my life and he was always a role model for me growing up. His character, qualifications and dedication are all beyond reproach. His past and present service to the Borough of South Plainfield is well known and impressive.

When I was a resident of South Plainfield, I watched as my sister Joann Graf served with Mike on the borough council back in the early 80s. I vividly remember his many contributions as councilman and mayor. One of Mike English's greatest accomplishments as mayor was his efforts working with Middlesex County to bring about the redevelopment of Spring Lake Park—today enjoyed by thousands of residents young and old alike. He was also a fierce defender of the borough against the Mount Laurel mandate forcing hundreds of low income housing units on the borough, and even went to court to fight to preserve our single family home community.

My proudest moment with former Mayor English was partnering with him and my sister in establishing the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Council—an effective organization that is still thriving today to make for a better

quality of life for so many. Mike English's many accomplishments through the years are significant and for this he is more than worthy of the voters support on Election Day.

Mike is a strong and caring family man who has spent his entire adult life working for the people of South Plainfield in a variety of roles—teacher, coach, councilman, mayor, recreation director, recreation commissioner, senior citizen advocate, chairman of the Alternate Truck Route Committee, volunteer CCD teacher at Sacred Heart Church, and much, much more. In my opinion, South Plainfield is fortunate to have Mike English agree to return to local government. He will have a tremendous positive influence on the future of South Plainfield.

Mike English is the rare individual who has the skills to lead, the passion for service and the personality to get things done. He is a proven leader who puts what's best for the borough first. He has no hidden agenda and seeks this office not for political power, but rather for the common-sense values and betterment of his community.

On Election Day, I encourage Democrats, Republicans and Independents alike to cast their vote for Mike English and his running mates—Jeff Williams and John Sorrentino. When they win, South Plainfield wins!

**REVEREND JOHN GRAF, JR.
PROUD FORMER SOUTH
PLAINFIELD RESIDENT**

Dear Editor,

As a candidate for freeholder from South Plainfield, I get to visit towns all over Middlesex County. When I do, I'm proud to tell them about what happened in South Plainfield this year. Our town is the only one I've visited where taxes have actually dropped, going down \$178 a home on average.

This tax reduction was no accident. Led by Matt Anesh, Ray Rusnak and Tim McConville, the council took a smart, professional approach to cutting spending. They lowered the towns' payroll, reduced borrowing, refinanced debt and bid out services to reap savings. The result: spending is lower than it was two years ago.

If I am fortunate enough to be elected as a freeholder, I want to bring these same practices to Middlesex County. The county part of your tax bill is the only part to rise his year, and its been rising too much for too long. With your support, we can reverse this trend.

RICHARD "DICK" FRANK

Dear Editor,

It is an absolute privilege to serve as your councilwoman. I thoroughly enjoy working on the many projects

PLEASE NOTE: The Candidates' Debate held at the Senior Center on October 21 will air on Comcast Channel 96 on Friday, Oct. 29 at 8:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 31 at 10 p.m.

and concerns raised by fellow neighbors and I understand the importance of being responsive and going the extra mile to make our borough a better place to live.

Based on my experience, I recognize the importance of electing local officials that go above and beyond the call of duty. Mike English, John Sorrentino and Jeff Williams regularly demonstrate their commitment and desire to serve our town. As we all know, Mike English is leading the charge on finding a permanent route for the many trucks that drive through our town. John and Jeff for years have worked to make the Labor Day festivities the success that they are. These men, without being elected, have already taken on leadership roles and demonstrated their commitment to get the job done.

I can assure you their service on the council will result in more projects being completed such as, renovation of existing parks, expansion of the PAL, preservation of more open space, and working with our seniors and emergency volunteers to provide them with the services they deserve. We all need elected officials that attend meetings, respond to residents in a timely manner and go the extra step. The days of just "showing up" are over. The days of running on nasty political platforms are over. The days of pointing out the shortcomings of everyone else are over. We need local representatives that step up to the plate and focus on moving our town forward with honest talk and hard work.

I ask you to join me in supporting Mike English for mayor, and John Sorrentino and Jeff Williams for council. They have made a difference in South Plainfield and will continue to do so if honored with the opportunity to serve as your elected representatives.

**REGARDS,
CHRISSE BUTEAS
COUNCILWOMAN**

Dear Editor,

People running for political office often make promises to get elected and then forget them once in office. Having voted for Matt Anesh in the past, I was happy to see that he's been working hard to keep his promises.

Matt promised to focus on families, and he's done just that. His Safe Streets, Safe Kids program is probably one of the most innovative safety programs in the state.

Matt also promised to tackle taxes and spending. He and his party only took control in January, and since then they've cut taxes and reduced spending by doing the right things, not using short-term gimmicks like borrowing (which is down).

Finally, Matt said he would work on revitalizing our parks. Two years ago he pushed to solve the flooding problem at Cotton Street Park, and this year he worked with the council to replace the park equipment at Shady Side Park (which was over 20 years old and unsafe).

South Plainfield families need someone like Matt Anesh as mayor. He'll have my support on Election Day.

ALEX BARLETTA

Dear Editor,

In the last month we have been bombarded with a seemingly endless stream of information about the candidates running for Borough Council and mayor. Election Day is Tuesday, so now we need to sift through all the information and make a decision. The problem is that the information is contradictory and confusing. Who is telling the truth? Who will make a good leader? Who do I want making the decisions which greatly affect my daily life? I choose to look at what people have done rather than what they say.

Mike English, a lifelong resident of South Plainfield, has spent his entire life looking for ways to contribute to making South Plainfield a better place to live. He has served this community wherever and whenever his services were needed. Mike has taught our children both in the high school and as a CCD instructor at Sacred Heart Church and supported athletic pro-

grams at all levels as a coach, a booster club member and the recreation director. He has been a council person, a Board of Education member and the mayor. Mike English loves his family, and he loves this town. People like Mike make South Plainfield the great town that it is.

John Sorrentino is an honest, hard-working guy who believes in discipline and teamwork. He has tried to impart these values to the youth of our town by serving for many years as a coach and sports supporter. John has served for 15 years, the last eight as chairperson, on the Public Celebrations Committee. He is well-respected on that committee, particularly for his ability to get people of differing opinions or approaches to work together.

Jeff Williams is an outstanding young man who believes success is achieved through dedication and discipline. He is committed to the service of God and others. Jeff serves his church as a minister and youth volunteer and he serves his town as a member of the Housing and Community Development Committee and the Public Celebrations Committee.

South Plainfield needs leaders who have integrity and are dedicated to serving the residents to the best of their ability. The tasks to be performed by a councilperson or mayor can be learned, but values are something you bring to the job. Mike English, John Sorrentino and Jeff Williams have shown by their actions that they will be the kind of leaders South Plainfield needs. Please vote on November 2 for English, Sorrentino and Williams.

KATHY THOMAS

Dear Editor,

After looking at my tax bill, the choice for mayor and council is a no-brainer. It's Anesh, McConville and Rusnak.

I look around at other towns in the area and all I see are taxes going up, a lot. Not in South Plainfield though. This is the only town I know of where taxes went down.

I think the difference is the way the council approached the budget. They've done an excellent job trimming costs and getting rid of wasteful spending.

The professionals who evaluate mu-

(Continued on page 14)

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Photos By Christopher Abbott

Linda Hansen serves a guest at St. Stephen's Oktoberfest.

St. Stephen's Hosts Oktoberfest

By Patricia Abbott

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, located on Park Avenue, celebrated its annual Oktoberfest with an authentic German dinner on October 16. The all-you-can-eat-meal featured something for everyone. While reservations were recommended, walk-ins were also accepted. For those who could not stay and enjoy the meal, take out dinners were available.

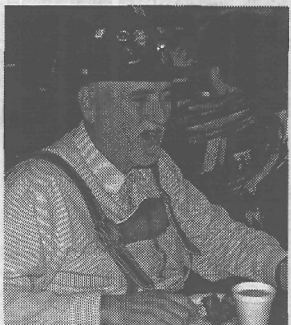
The menu consisted of roast pork

and gravy, sauerkraut, red cabbage, green beans, apple sauce, mashed potatoes, roll, beverages and desserts. There were hot dogs available for kids who might not be old enough to appreciate a traditional German meal. The dessert table was filled with a wide variety of goodies.

Cooking for the evening was Jim Miller, who was assisted by the Oktoberfest Committee: Dale Morin, Linda Hansen, Cathy Newman, Nancy Moore and many others. There were over 105 people coming and going, which kept them busy throughout the evening.

This year's Oktoberfest dinner was declared one of St. Stephen's best held events to date. All proceeds were donated to various charities.

An unusual aspect of St. Stephen's dinners is that it is held in the church proper, because the church does not have a separate hall. This means there is a lot of extra work for the many volunteers who had to move the pews and set up tables and chairs prior to the event and then reverse the process at evening's end.



Richard Newton Sr.

In My Opinion

(Continued from page 12)

municipal governments must agree, because South Plainfield was one of only a handful of towns that saw its bond rating improve. In fact, it's so good that we are now paying an interest rate of less than one percent.

Much of the town's financial turnaround is due to Matt Anesh. Matt is a vice president of a Fortune 100 financial company and is bringing that expertise to our local government. We need someone with that type of background as mayor.

In the short time they've been in charge, Matt Anesh, Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak are starting to do great things. They are definitely getting things back on track. They've earned my support.

DR. ALLEN LEVINE

To the Editor:

Matt Anesh is an excellent candidate for Mayor of South Plainfield. He has a proven record, along with his running mates, Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak, of controlling taxes and making the town more affordable.

As council president Matt has spearheaded the move to reduce the size of the town government and he has introduced free market competition in things such as recycling. Matt has supported shared services with a number of other local governments, but also knows there are certain things government just cannot do as efficiently as private industry.

This reasoned approach and insight is something our town needs. Strong discipline and fiscally responsible leadership seem to be qualities that are missing most in today's political leaders. These qualities, however, exemplify Matt's approach in operating the borough, and they are why he would be such a successful mayor.

Anesh, McConville and Rusnak are experienced leaders that have the fis-

cal wisdom, discipline and know-how to lead South Plainfield in 2011 and beyond. Please join me in voting for them on November 2.

TIM VIOLA

Dear Editor,

We'll be supporting Matt Anesh, Ray Rusnak and Tim McConville for mayor and council this year. The choice was easy once we saw our tax bills. When we added up 2009 and compared it to 2010, we saw a nice drop in what we paid. Never before have we seen our taxes go down. Anesh, McConville and Rusnak are taking a long-term approach and cutting spending the right way. That they are reducing borrowing is also smart.

We should reward those in office who do what they said they would. That's why on Election Day we'll be supporting Matt Anesh for mayor and Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak for council.

MARK & AMY JOHNSON

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about my husband, Matthew Anesh, who is running for mayor in this year's election. Matthew has been my best friend since I was 17 years old. We started dating when I was 19 and were married a few years later. I couldn't imagine my life without him and I couldn't ask for a better father for my children. Matthew is one of the most honest people I have ever met.

When he told me he wanted to run for town council a few years ago, he said it was because he thought he could make a difference. Over the years I have watched him try to do just that. I have been there when he has personally returned phone calls, I have seen him go to residents homes to hear their concerns and I have watched him endlessly research the issues that are brought to his attention. I also

watched him enjoy every minute of it. When he told me he wanted to run for mayor I could not be more proud!

I hope that you will give him the opportunity to continue to make South Plainfield the best town that it can be, not only for our family but for all the residents of our town. South Plainfield is a great town and deserves great leadership.

**SINCERELY,
KIMBERLY ANESH**

Dear Editor,

Over the last several months I have been kind of out of the loop because of health issues; however, I have been able to keep up with our local issues by reading the *Observer*. One of the greatest honors of my life was serving on the Borough Council. Jim Vokral and I always gave the voters credit for being able to handle the truth. We realized that honesty is more important than winning elections. That is why I am so proud to be a member of the same political party as Mike English, Jeff Williams and John Sorrentino.

I have known Mike for over 20 years and I can tell you that he is smart, an innovator and doesn't mince words. Although I don't know Jeff Williams and John Sorrentino as well, I am very impressed by their resumes. Jeff is a young man of intellect and integrity. John is the model of the South Plainfield volunteer. Being a former Grand Marshal of the Labor Day parade I know firsthand how much work John and his team put in each year.

This is a very important election for our town. On Tuesday we will not only choose a new mayor but the council majority. The Democratic Party has always prided itself on running people of character and dedication. Mike English, Jeff Williams and John Sorrentino will continue that tradition. I respectfully ask that you support them with your vote.

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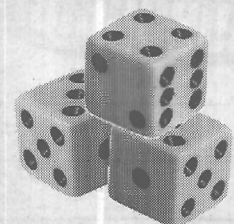
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