

South Plainfield Observer

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OCTOBER 7, 2011

Train Strikes Disabled Auto; No Injuries

A Norfolk Southern Railroad train struck a disabled auto on the tracks at the crossing on New Brunswick Avenue last Saturday.

Alejandro Figueroa, 46 of Fanwood, was traveling with his wife, Lisette, and following his GPS system when he left the roadway and became disabled on the train tracks at the grade crossing. Police units responded and were unable to move the vehicle. A tow truck from Butrico's Auto Body responded to move the vehicle.

Norfolk Southern Railroad was notified that a vehicle was disabled on the tracks; however, a westbound train was unable to stop and struck the vehicle, pushing it into the tow

truck and then into a gate crossing assembly.

The train consisted of two engines and was traveling west on the south track of the Lehigh Valley Railroad. The engine was operated by George Miller Jr., 67 of Harrisburg, Pa. The conductor was Robert Gunderman, 38 of Lebanon, Pa. and the engineer trainee was Jeffrey Phillips, 44 of Harrisburg.

There were no reported injuries as both the disabled vehicle and the tow truck were unoccupied when struck. Both vehicles were extensively damaged. No charges have been filed.

The crash was investigated by Officer John Petricello.



Members of the South Plainfield High School Jersey Club held the first in a series of fundraisers with a car wash at the South Plainfield Middle School last Sunday.
—Photo courtesy of Louis Mormile



Renato Biribin, UNICO National past president; Robert Bengivenga, UNICO National District X governor; and John De Andrea, president, Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO accept a proclamation from Mayor Matt Anesh declaring October Italian Heritage & Culture Month at Monday's Borough Council meeting. UNICO is sponsoring a Columbus Day program on Monday, Oct. 10 at 9 a.m. in the municipal building. The public is invited; refreshments will be served.

Join Us!

COLUMBUS DAY PROGRAM
October 10 • 9 a.m.
South Plainfield Municipal Building

Four Nominated for Perry Awards

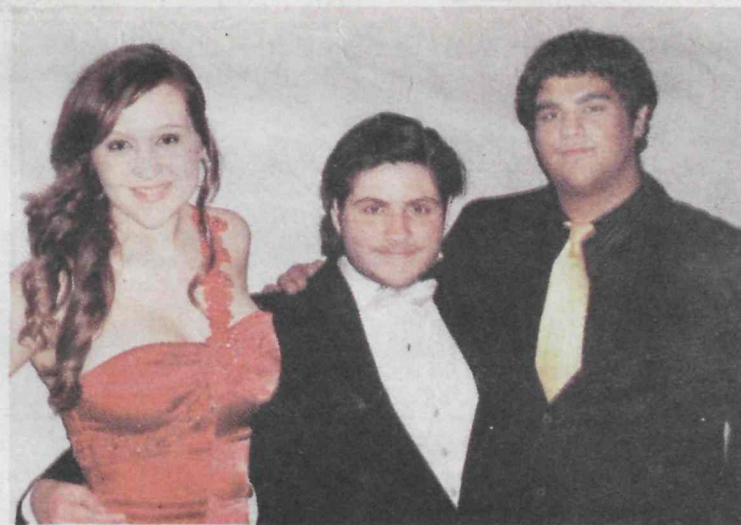
By Patricia Abbott

Four South Plainfield residents were honored recently with nominations for the prestigious Perry Awards.

South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop was proud to receive three nominations for their 2010 production of the Broadway hit musical, *Sensical*, a story based on the beloved characters from favorite childhood story teller, Dr. Seuss.

Rocco Severini, 20, was nominated for Outstanding Youth Male in a Musical. He portrayed the popular Horton the Elephant. Cory Singer, 17, was nominated for Outstanding Youth Male in a Musical. His role was the mayor of Whoville. Kelly Kline, 19, was nominated for Outstanding Youth Female in a Musical. She played Maize. The nominees were cheered on by three tables of board members, friends and family.

South Plainfield resident Bill Sees- selberg, from Edison Valley Playhouse, was nominated for Best Production of



Perry Award nominees Kelly Kline, Cory Singer and Rocco Severini.

a Play. The theater, located on the corner of Oak Tree Road and Wood- land Avenue, received a total of 10 nominations.

The awards ceremony was held at a dinner on September 18 at the Doubletree Hilton in Somerset where

all the nominees were recognized for their work and performances.

The entertainment portion of the evening offered highlights from each of the shows nominated for best musical. During the awards ceremony, each

(Continued on page 14)

SPBA Taste of the Town to Benefit Graduating Seniors

The South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA) will host its first Taste of the Town tonight from 6 to 9 p.m. at the senior center.

Local restaurants will be showcasing their specialty foods for guests to sample. The growing roster of participating restaurants includes KC's Korner, Ciccio's, Mei Haus, Dunkin Donuts, Paulo's Bar & Restaurant, Haisch's Bakery, Subway on Plainfield Ave., Harvest Market, Corner Deli, Rita's, Nanking, Dolce Cafe, Hometown Heros, Baha Fresh Mexican Grill, Park Avenue Diner, Bagel Pantry and Sonia's Kitchen.

Guests can enjoy a wide variety of dishes, including meatballs, kielbasa, chili, pumpkin soup, rice and beans, jerk pork, desserts, Italian, Indian and

Mexican food, just to name a few. This is a great opportunity for residents to taste some of South Plainfield's local cuisine and for restaurants to connect with present and future customers.

Dan Ratti, owner of Oak Tree Discount Liquors, will also be on hand to offer a variety of wines and liquors. All in all, it should be a great night.

All proceeds will go to scholarships for South Plainfield High School graduates.

Tickets are \$20 in advance (\$25 at the door). For tickets or information, contact Debbie Boyle at (908) 803-1573, Chrissy Buteas at (908) 447-3466 or Nancy Grennier at (908) 668-0010. Tickets may also be purchased at the office of the *South Plainfield Observer*, 1110 Hamilton Boulevard and the Senior Center.

BOE Starts Superintendent Search

By Libby Barsky

The district has started advertising for a new superintendent of schools—three months after Jose Negron's contract was officially completed.

"The South Plainfield Board of Education is seeking an educational leader with a vision of academic excellence and a commitment to providing a learning environment designed to meet the needs and interests of a talented and diverse student population," states the introduction of the ad published in the *Star Ledger* on October 2. Candidates for the position of superintendent of schools have a deadline of October 28 to send in their resumes, cover letters and PDF of a NJ Administrative Certificate.

In the week before the ad was published, the district placed a five-page survey on the district's website,

spboe.org, identifying the various aspects of the superintendent's job. The survey listed the activities of the job of superintendent and gave the public an opportunity to approve or disapprove. Activities included establishing, maintaining and evaluating instructional plans, preparing the annual budget and recommending its adoption, and developing strategic planning for the schools. The survey also offered a write-in section for the public to add comments voicing their concerns. Approximately 450 completed surveys were received according to BOE member Carol Byrne.

In addition to the superintendent's position, there are 13 other positions currently advertised on the district website including:

- Two separate positions—secondary and elementary coordinator of curriculum in language arts and social

studies to assure continuity for every grade in the district;

- Assistant High School Principal—A replacement is needed for Ralph Errico, who was appointed Franklin School principal in September when Ellen Decker-Lorys was appointed Grant School principal;

- Interim Grant School Assistant Principal—To cover for Richard Richkus, who is recovering from an injury;

- Director of Special Services on a randomly selected targeted review by the New Jersey Department of Education Peggy McDonald, interim director of the Office of Special Education, who determined the South Plainfield School district's planning procedures

(Continued on page 14)



Town-Wide Curbside Pickup Schedule

The borough-wide storm cleanup began September 12. This cleanup replaces the previously scheduled fall bulk pickup. The storm cleanup is taking place over seven weeks. Brochures were mailed to residents. Week 5 begins October 17 for District 5

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

FYI Borough Council & BOE

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
October 17	October 17
November 7	November 7

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

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641
Oct. 11, 25, Nov. 1, * Dec. 13*

zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641
Oct. 13, Oct. 27, Nov. 10*, Dec. 8*

board of education

Meets Wednesdays at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave.
Committee of the Whole meetings (begin at 6:00 p.m.)
Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 14 and April 4.
Regular Public Meeting (begin at 7:30 p.m.) Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 21,
Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 21 and April 11.

BOE curriculum/technology/student activities

Meets once a month at 4:30 p.m. in 2nd floor conference room,
Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.
Thursday, Oct. 20; Monday, Nov. 21, Monday, Dec. 19

BOE buildings & grounds

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

cultural arts commission

Meets the third Tuesday of the month at the PAL at 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20

library board of trustees

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday, at the library at 7 p.m.
Oct. 11 (Senior Center), Nov. 8, Dec. 13

recreation commission

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7716
Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13

taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at
Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-769-0786.

site plan sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.
Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20

environmental commission

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

South Plainfield Observer

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How to Reach Us



1110 Hamilton Boulevard, Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080
Ph: 908-668-0010 • Fax: 908-668-8819
Email: spobsobserver@comcast.net
www.spobsobserver.com

EDITORIAL
908-668-0010

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Associate Publisher..... Wayne Grennier	Kelly Stashko, Payal Sindha,
Art Director/Associate Editor..... Susan Kaneps	Rebecca Bianchi
Staff Writer/Photographer..... Patricia Abbott	Contributing Photographers..... Louis Mormile
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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

In My Opinion

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

Dear Editor,

Donna Macan from Prudential Moretti Realty has done it again! I was treated like family. Let me explain. When you are treated like family by someone, you are treated with knowing that person will have your best interest at heart at all times no matter how much you drive them nuts. That person will put up with so much craziness from you each day and still be ready to help you the next day. That person will make sure you get nothing but honesty—even if you don't want to hear it.

My husband and I recently sold our home. It was going to be a difficult, complicated sale and we knew we would need someone who knew what they were doing and would be able to handle me. LOL. I am the type of person that wants answers yesterday, to be kept in the loop 24/7, etc.

We first met Donna when we were looking to rent a home. When we decided to buy instead we called Donna. She understood my crazy personality and was fantastic in the buying process. Naturally, when we decided to sell and we knew it wouldn't be easy and in this market it seemed it would almost be impossible, we called Donna.

It was like calling an old friend. She was honest with us in what to expect. I felt she went above and beyond right from the beginning.

This was going to be a hard sale and I almost expected any regular realtor not to take much interest in selling it, but she did! I joked with her in the very beginning that I knew she had other clients, but I would probably expect to feel like I was the only one. She laughed and said, "No problem, Nanette. We worked together before."

Well, as we started the selling process I have to say yes, I started acting like I was Donna's only customer. I know I drove her crazy. I drive me crazy, but she never let me know it or feel it. She worked so well with me. Many times because of her level of service I thought I was her only client. Because of her,

I honestly feel it is one of the reasons we got a buyer as quick as we did and we closed as soon as we did. I am not good at letting go and letting someone else handle things, but with Donna handling our home, I knew we would be fine. We were family after all.

So, I am sorry for all I put you through, and thank you Donna Macan for everything you did for our family. We were blessed to have you not once, but twice involved in important seasons of our lives—they say three times is the charm!

NANETTE BABINETZ

To the Editor:

Read the report of the BOE appointing a new business administrator/board secretary at a salary of \$151,000 per year. I was wondering how long he has been in the education business. That's a darn good salary in these troubled times. It really bothers me that the South Plainfield Board of Education doesn't seem able to retain good people at the top of the educational tier. We change superintendents at the drop of a hat, we are paying double salaries to the outgoing and incoming people at the same time, and we never appear to have any stability at the higher levels.

Which brings me to this: The article goes on to say the BOE agreed to hire an educational consultant who's salary will be \$9,366.55 and \$12,000 collectively for a total of 152 hours of work. By my math that comes out to \$140.57 per hour. Unless something was omitted in the article, the pay rate seems to be excessive. What the devil does he do to charge these rates?

We, the taxpayers, are assuming we are getting professional performance from the people who are hired to run the schools. Why are we hiring consultants to do the job that the school people are hired to do? From my viewpoint, we are not getting the performance out of the people running the schools. They are costing us

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.

money we don't have.

ROBERT MESSER

Dear Editor,

The recent political comments by the Democrat campaign can be described in one word: insincere. Either that, or this group is totally out of touch.

A few examples will show why. First, in a recent column they suggested that the council should have used money from a bond ordinance to purchase insurance or hire a police officer instead of pave McKinley Street. I'm surprised that Chrissy Buteas, who's a lobbyist and should understand the law, would suggest this. Bonded money cannot legally be used for either purpose. Buteas has been on the council for three years, so how does she not know this?

I'm also surprised that this group would complain about the borough's insurance coverage, especially when the plan coverage was set up under the Democrats. In fact, Buteas voted for the renewal in 2010. Only in the political world do people vote for something and then bash others for the decision like they had nothing to do with it.

In fact, our administrator actually saved the town money. A job we paid about \$29,000 to do would have cost more than \$50,000 if it had been done the way the Democrats wanted.

In leveling his baseless charges, English apparently thinks he knows the law better than the attorneys—not

(Continued on page 13)

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Sudarshan Uppuluri of Trade Lines, Inc. accepts the Glitter Award from SPCBA President Joseph Diegnan.

Trade Lines Inc. Wins CBA Glitter Award

Sudarshan Uppuluri recently accepted the South Plainfield Clean Business Association's (SPCBA) Glitter Award on behalf of Trade Lines, Inc. SPCBA President Joseph Diegnan presented the certificate and Glitter Award sign to Uppuluri at 660 Montrose Ave.

Trade Lines, Inc. is an international importer of household textiles and home furnishings such as decorative pillows, pet beds and table linens. With offices in Shanghai and Mumbai, their headquarters has been in South Plainfield for the past eight years. They had been renting a building in Woodbridge, but in 2003 they purchased the industrial building on Montrose and completely renovated it into corporate offices and design studios. They send their textile designs to factories in China and India and import the resulting products.

Their goods can be found at stores such as TJ Maxx, Marshall's and Burlington Coat Factory.

There is no look of a factory left in this property, which is immaculate inside and out, from the neatly trimmed landscaping to the aquarium in the reception area. The loading dock and trash enclosure are clean, and there is even a litter can in the parking lot for use by the employees. Uppuluri commented that since their business is to beautify people's homes, they take care to keep their own business beautiful as well.

Membership in the SPCBA is open to all businesses that share its goal of enhancing the appearance of commercial districts through property maintenance and litter control.

For more information, contact the Clean Communities coordinator at (908) 226-7621.

SPHS Marching Band Festival October 15

The South Plainfield High School Boosters of the Musical Arts invite everyone to attend the 30th annual Marching Band Festival on Saturday, Oct. 15 at 5 p.m. Musical performances will be held at the Frank Jost Memorial Field behind the PAL building off Maple Avenue. Featured at the festival this year will be at least 14 scholastic marching bands from high schools throughout New Jersey and New York. The SPHS Tiger Marching Band will conclude the evening performances under the direction of Roger A. Vroom III, with this year's show titled "Fantasmic."

Tickets will be available at the gate for \$10 and \$5 for senior citizens/students. A selection of items will be available for purchase during the festival, including a wide assortment of food and baked goods.

The festival is a USSBA competition whose focus is on music education from the local to the national level. With their support, the SPHS Music Boosters hosts this event to fund our music scholarship program each year.

Food Pantry Hours

The South Plainfield Social Services food pantry, located in the Municipal Building, is available for needy families on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8 to 11:30 a.m. All new families need to bring proof of address.

If these hours do not work well for interested parties, please call (908) 226-7625 to arrange for an appointment.



Peggy Lotkowitz and Senator Barbara Bouno at the senior center.

Arthritis Topic at Senior Center Town Hall Breakfast

The Arthritis Foundation, New Jersey Chapter sponsored a town hall breakfast meeting with New Jersey State Senator Barbara Buono on September 28 at the South Plainfield Senior Center. More than 40 seniors were present for the breakfast.

Sen. Buono introduced the guest speaker, Vice President Mission Delivery Peggy Litkowitz from the Arthritis Foundation.

Litkowitz spoke about the latest arthritis research and the impact arthritis has on quality of life. She explained the different types of arthritis and the symptoms. The most common symptoms are pain, fatigue and inflammation. She emphasized the importance of moderate exercise

swimming and walking which has been proven to alleviate pain.

At the end of her presentation, there was a question and answer session.

For more information on arthritis symptoms, treatment and medication, log on to the Arthritis Foundation's website at www.arthritis.org.

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the Entertainment Book for \$30.

Contact

Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.

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Raymond G. Hallock, President and CEO (left), and Thomas J. Kemly, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

Our Leadership is Changing.

An exciting transition is taking place at Columbia Bank. Raymond G. Hallock, our President and CEO, has announced his decision to retire following an impressive 33-year Columbia Bank career. Mr. Hallock will remain a member of our Board of Directors.

Thomas J. Kemly, a seasoned community banker and Columbia Bank executive since 1981, will succeed Mr. Hallock as our new President and CEO on January 1, 2012.

Mr. Kemly is equally passionate about the need for financial stability, community banking and the importance of local support.

So, what will you experience from this leadership change? Nothing but more of the same you have come to expect from Columbia Bank. Rest assured that the way we conduct our business...our solid financial position...our quality service commitment to our customers...and our community support efforts will remain unchanged. You can count on it.

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events

Around Town

Taste of the Town

October 7

The South Plainfield Business Association will host the first Taste of the Town on Friday, Oct. 7 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the senior center.

To date, 18 participants have signed on to showcase their specialty foods and beverages. Advance purchase tickets are \$20; \$25 at the door.

To purchase tickets, call Debbie Boyle at (908) 803-1573, Chrissy Buteas at (908) 447-3466 or Nancy Grennier at (908) 668-0010.

Suburban Woman's Club Yard Sale

October 8

The Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield will hold the G&G Boutique and yard sale on Saturday, Oct. 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the American Legion, 243 Oak Tree Ave. Raindate: October 9.

Flea Market at American Legion

October 8

Have things you want to get rid of from fall clean up? Do you have crafts or specialty items you want to sell? The American Legion Post #243 is sponsoring a flea market on Saturday, Oct. 8 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This event is open to the public with tables for rent at the cost of \$10 for Legion members and \$20 for non-members.

To reserve a table, call MaryAnn at (732) 644-4376.

Vendors Needed

The 2012 Grant Stokes Committee is sponsoring a vendor night at Grant School on Friday, Nov. 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Anyone interested in sponsoring a table, please contact Kim Van Herk at (201) 935-6855 or email vanherk@verizon.net for more information.

Humane Society Annual Tricky Tray

October 8

The Plainfield Humane Society will host the third annual tricky tray at the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave., on Saturday, Oct. 8. Doors open at 5 p.m.; calling begins at 7:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the animals in their care. Any questions, call (908) 754-0300.

For the Love of Latvia Concert and Talk

October 8

David Michael Carillo will perform an evening concert at the First Baptist Church, 201 Hamilton Blvd., on Saturday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. Carillo has been serving as a "musicianary" in Latvia since November. He will be performing songs from his new album, "For the Love of Latvia." He will also speak about how he is serving the people of Latvia.

For more information, call (908) 753-2382 and leave a message.

Knights of Columbus Fall Mum Sale

October 8-9

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 will be holding its fall mum sale on October 8 and 9 at the rescue squad located at 2506 Plainfield Ave., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Prices are \$7 for eight inch pots; \$25 for large pots with beautiful blooms. This fundraiser supports the Knights various charitable works.

David Carillo Leading Worship at First Baptist

October 9

World traveling "musicianary" David Michael Carrillo will lead worship at the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield on Sunday, Oct. 9, at 10:30 a.m. The church is located at the intersection of Church Street

and Hamilton Boulevard. Join us for a morning of great music and a dynamic message.

Blessing of the Animals At Pilgrim Covenant

October 9

A Blessing of the Animals service will be held at Pilgrim Covenant Church on Sunday, Oct. 9 at 2 p.m. Families are encouraged to bring their dogs, cats, birds, lizards, rabbits, guinea pigs, fish, turtles, etc. to receive a special blessing from Rev. Lori Neff. For safety reasons, all animals should be on a leash or in a carrier. If you cannot transport your pet, feel free to bring a photo.

For additional information on the event, please call (908) 756-2474.

Blessing of the Animals at Wesley

October 9

Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave., is hosting the annual Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday, Oct. 9 at 3 p.m. in the church parking lot. Open to everyone in the community. Bring your dogs, cats, guinea pigs, bunny rabbits, iguanas, hamsters, snakes, goats, camels and other pets. Please leash or cage your pets for their protection.

For more information, call (908) 757-2838, visit www.wesleyumcsp.com or email wumcsp@verizon.net.

Boy Scout Troop 125 Open House

October 10

Come check out the adventures of scouting—hiking, camping, fishing, canoeing, snowboarding, skiing and cycling. Troop 125 will be doing most of these again this year.

Please join us on Monday, Oct. 10 from 6 to 8 p.m. and check out what Troop 125 can offer your son. Can't come until after 7 p.m.? That's okay, the troop meets on Monday nights at the VFW Post #6763, 155 Front St. You can see the troop in action and partake just like a scout.

For more information, call Jim at (908) 361-9699 or email rvtroop125@aol.com.

Library Board Meeting

October 11

The Library Board of Trustees will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. in the senior center.

Historical Society Trivia Night

October 11

South Plainfield Historical Society is holding a special trivia night at its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. The public is invited. Catch up on some fundamental and fun facts of the borough's history and share some of your knowledge, too. How much do you know? Better yet, how much don't you know?

The center is located in the BOE Administration Building, 125 Jackson Ave. on the lower level. The Historical Society meets there the second Tuesday of the month. The history center is open to the public free of charge every Tuesday from 2-4 p.m.

Tricky Tray at St. Stephen Church

October 15

St. Stephen Orthodox Church, 609 Lane Ave., will host a tricky tray on Saturday, Oct. 15. Doors open at 6 p.m. Drawings start at 7:30 p.m.

SPHS 30th Marching Band Festival

October 15

The 30th Marching Band Festival for South Plainfield High School will be held on Saturday, Oct. 15 at Frank Jost Memorial Field. The USSBA event begins at 5 p.m. The festival will include over 15 area high school marching bands and color guards.

Event ad book advertising is available. Please contact Charles Decker at (908) 902-9406.

Blackrose to Perform

October 15

Blackrose, a band performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will perform at KC's Korner, 100 Oak Tree Ave. on Saturday, Oct. 15 at 10 p.m. No cover.

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

GERMANFEST

October 27, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.—\$60

HUNTERDON HILLS

December 8, 4:30-9:30 p.m.—\$60

MONDAYS

Active Seniors 8:30 am
Crocheting 9:30 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
Shopping 9 am
Computer..10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm
Crocheting 1 pm
Tai Chi 2 pm

THURSDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

Bingo 10 am-2 pm

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Looking for members 55 or older to join our Billiards Club. Ladies are welcome. If you enjoy shooting pool, stop in the senior center to sign up. It's fun and FREE!

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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.

SPHS Booster Club Meeting

October 18

The South Plainfield High School Athletic Booster Club will hold its next monthly meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Our meetings last approximately 30 minutes.

Parents and guardians of athletes are welcome to attend. We hope to see more new faces in the crowd.

Cindy Winds Trio at Sacred Heart

October 23

The City Winds Trio will be performing at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, Oct. 23 at 3 p.m. City Winds Trio includes Crispian Fordham on flute, Meredyth Coleman on oboe and Jack Bender on piano. They will



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events

Around Town

perform chamber works by Dring, Ibert, Telemann, Mochels, ending with William Tell.

A free will offering will be taken at the door.

Country Breakfast at American Legion

October 23

The Ladies Auxiliary of American Legion Post #243 located on Oak Tree Avenue will hold a country breakfast and craft show on Sunday, Oct. 23 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The all-you-can-eat buffet includes pancakes, French toast, ham, bacon, muffins and more. Cost: \$6/adults; \$3/children under 12.

— Out of Town —

Tricky Tray Auction

October 7

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, 1900 Brooks Blvd. in Hillsborough, will present a tricky tray auction on Friday, Oct. 7. Over 100 gift certificates and many prizes will be auctioned.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Auction begins at 7:30 p.m. Cost of \$10 includes one sheet of tickets, desserts, coffee and tea. Stuffed cabbage, kielbasa, sauerkraut, sandwiches, baked ziti, hotdogs, hamburgers, soda and water can be purchased.

For tickets, call Betty at (908) 782-8325 or Marge at (908) 722-5894.

Send Your Community

Events to:

spobserver@comcast.net

Octoberfest at Deutscher Club

October 8

Deutscher Club of Clark, 787 Featherbed Ln. in Clark, will hold an indoor Octoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 8. German American beverages and dinners served 5 to 9 p.m. Music by Bernie's Orchestra from 7 to 11 p.m. Donation: \$6 non-members; \$3 members. No jeans or sneakers allowed. German outfits encouraged.

For information, call (732) 574-8600 or visit www.deutscherclub.us.

Walk For Autism

October 9

Autism Speaks 12th annual Central New Jersey Walk Now for Autism Speaks fundraising and awareness event will take place on Sunday, Oct. 9 at Mercer County Community College. Proceeds will support Autism Speaks, both locally and nationally.

Singles Dance Party

October 9

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting a Columbus Day dance party at the Woodbridge Hilton Grand Ballroom, 20 Wood Ave. South in Iselin on Sunday, Oct. 9 at 8 p.m. Ages 40 and up; no jeans/t-shirts/sneakers/shorts. Admission: \$17.

For more information, call (732) 656-1801.

Woodbridge WOWs Business Meeting

October 12

Woodbridge Widows Or Widow-

ers will conduct a business meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Children's Room of the Main Library, George Fredrick Plaza, Rt. 35 in Woodbridge. All widows and widowers are welcome to attend.

For more information, call (732) 381-3255 or (908) 757-0515.

Jack & The Beanstalk

October 15-16, 22-23

Jack and the Beanstalk will be performed at the Forum Theatre Arts Center, 314 Main St. in Metuchen, on Saturday, Oct. 15 and 22 at 11 a.m. and Sunday, Oct. 16 and 23 at 1:30 p.m. All seats \$14 with discounts for groups of 20 or more. Tickets are on sale at www.forumtheatrearts.org.

Qi Gong Class At Willow Grove

October 15

Medical Qi Gong is a course of meditation exercises that is being offered at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please be on time as once the class begins we will not be able to interrupt the session.

For more information, call (908) 232-5678 or email us at info@willowgrovechurch.org.

Walk4Hearing®

October 15

The Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey will host the fourth annual Garden State 5K Walk4Hearing® at Mercer County Park West, Hughes Dr. in West Windsor on Saturday,

Oct. 15. Registration at 9 a.m.; walk starts at 10 a.m. Help raise awareness and money, and support education for those with hearing loss.

For more information, email Laura Lindson at Walk4Hearing@hearing-loss-nj.org.

Multi-Vendor Yard Sale in Green Brook

October 15

The Green Brook Swim Club, 59 Greenbrook Rd., will hold a multi-vendor yard sale on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free and open to the public. Vendors welcome. Vendor fee is \$25/two parking spaces or \$40/four parking spaces.

For information, call Jolaine at (732) 570-0961 or email jolainem@optonline.net. Raindate: Oct. 22.

Kean Stage Presents Esperanza Spalding

October 15

Kean Stage presents Esperanza Spalding on Saturday, Oct. 15 at 7:30

p.m. in Wilkins Theatre, Kean University. This year's Grammy® Award winner for "Best New Artist," Spalding will deftly blend classical and jazz to create modern chamber music with touches of folk. Tickets are \$35; \$20/seniors and students.

For tickets, call (908) 737-7469, order online at www.keanstage.com, or at the theatre box office, 1000 Morris Ave. in Union.

Concert at Crescent Avenue Church

October 18

"The History of the World through Music" will be presented by the ensemble Solid Brass, Sunday, Oct. 18 at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary of the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, the corner of 7th Street and Watchung Avenue in Plainfield. The concert is the first in Crescent Concert's current season.

Tickets are \$20, \$15 for seniors and \$5 for students and can be purchased at the door. For more information, call (908) 756-2468.

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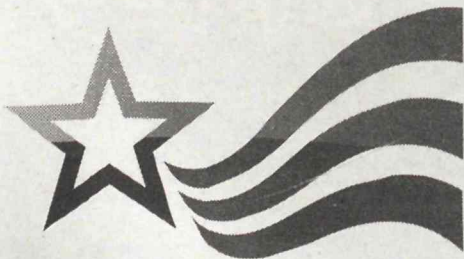
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Councilman

Dick Frank

Derryck White

Want the Facts? Don't miss the Candidates' Debate on October 26.

Come out and hear the candidates
for Borough Council debate the issues affecting you.



Where: Senior Center, Maple Avenue

When: Wednesday, October 26, 7 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served.

VOTE 2011

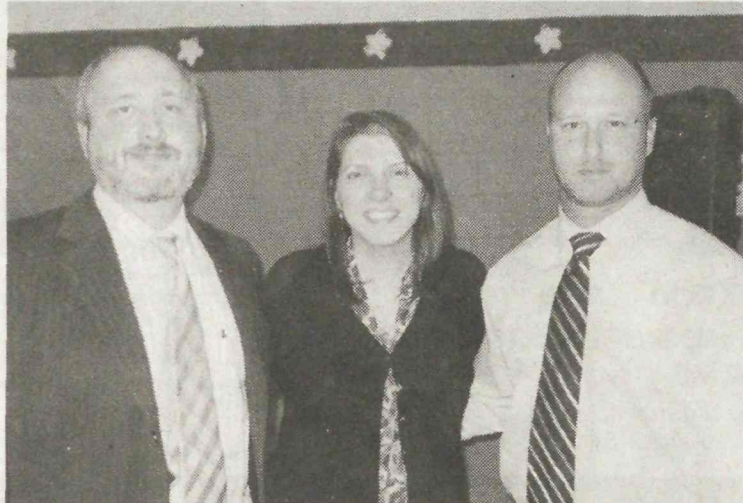
Election Day is November 8.

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TEACHERS RECEIVE TENURE CERTIFICATES—Five of the 12 teachers who received tenure certificates are Tracey Gerlitz, Rowena Wu, Allison Dressler, Christina Briskin and Julie Zoleta.



South Plainfield High School Assistant Principal Joseph Cirigliano receives his tenure certificate from Principal James Pedersen and Assistant Principal Kelly Richkus.

BOE Releases Spring 2011 Test Results

By Libby Barsky

Three of the borough's four elementary schools—Kennedy, Riley and Franklin—met all 40 indicators for achieving Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status under requirements of the No Child Left Behind act (NCLB).

Since 1996, the state has mandated testing programs to determine if students achieve satisfactory progress according to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content. With the implementation of NCLB in 2002, the federal government required test data to be applied to 40 subgroups, including students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged, limited English proficient students and ethnicity, and devised the AYP

benchmarks indicating the percent of all students and subgroups that must fall into the proficient or advanced proficient categories for each test.

Four schools in the district—South Plainfield High School, South Plainfield Middle School, Grant School and Roosevelt School—did not meet one or two out of the designated 40 subgroups. The high school met 39 out of 40 indicators with African American students not meeting the math requirement. The middle school met 35 out of the 40 indicators; the total school population did not meet the language arts and math requirements, but received Safe Harbor in math. Safe Harbor is when a percentage of students achieved higher scores compared to the previous year.

The other four indicators—stu-

dents with disabilities, white, African American and economically disadvantaged—did not make AYP in language arts. The same groups failed to achieve AYP in math, except white students, who with the Asian and Hispanic subgroup, did achieve AYP in math.

Different AYP outcomes are expected from the sixth grade students than from the fifth grade students at Grant School. Sixth graders achieved 39 out of 40 indicators, with Hispanic students not meeting the AYP in language arts. Fifth grade students met 38 out of 40 indicators in AYP in language arts.

Roosevelt School made 39 out of the 40 indicators, with economically disadvantaged students failing to achieve AYP in math.

Homeowners Urged to Clean Dryer Vents During National Fire Prevention Week

National Fire Prevention Week takes place from October 9-15. According to a study published by the National Fire Prevention Association, there were 17,700 reports of home structure fires involving clothes dryers or washing machines in 2006. Those fires caused 15 civilian deaths, 360 civilian injuries, as well as \$194 million in direct property damage.

DUCTZ in Hazlet, an air duct and dryer vent cleaning franchise, is using this time to educate the public about dryer vent fire prevention.

People should be diligent about keeping their vents clean. Households should clean their dryer vents at least once a year depending on the frequency of use of their dryers.

Following are some tips to avoid dangerous and expensive dryer vent fires:

- Have dryer vents inspected and cleaned annually. Regular dryer vent cleaning promotes dryer safety and efficiency. Homes with pets and dryers that are used several times a week may require more frequent attention.
- Be careful not to crush dryer vent transition duct. Dryers pushed too close against the wall can damage the flexible transition duct behind the dryer, causing dangerous leaks.

- Never use a vinyl transition. Many dryers are connected to the wall exhaust by a vinyl transition piece. This is not only a code violation in most areas, it also voids dryer manufacturer warranties.

- When moving into a new home, it is vital that new homeowners should ask the age of the dryer vent, its size and where it exits the home.

- New homeowners should also inquire about when the dryer vents and air ducts were last cleaned, and request that the vent is cleaned before moving.

- Use a "critter cage" to prevent nesting in the dryer vent. Birds and other animals often create nests inside dryer vents, causing a severe blockage. A critter cage can prevent the animal from gaining access to the dryer vent while allowing dryer

exhaust to safely leave the home.

- Don't forget to maintain your lint trap or lint filter. The dryer's removable lint trap should be cleaned before each dryer cycle. Lint traps that are damaged should be replaced. While cleaning and maintaining the lint trap will not substitute for regular cleaning of the dryer vent, it is an important step to ensure safe and efficient dryer operation.

- With energy-efficiency being one of today's most important features of a household, keeping air and dryer vents clean can greatly reduce monthly bills.

DUCTZ works with home and business owners to improve indoor air quality from the ground up. For more, visit www.ductz.com.

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NEWS

Suburban Woman's Club

The Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield Board of Directors met at the home of Mary Ann Iannitto and discussed the New Jersey State Federation College District Fall Council Meeting attended by club President Lucy Hudson, Frieda Walker, Vice President Natalie Bergen and Iannitto. Information was shared by district members' clubs about upcoming fundraising events and Hudson invited attendance at the club's G&G Boutique and Yard Sale scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 8 at the American Legion grounds on Oak Tree Ave.

Bergen reported on the programs she has scheduled for the upcoming club meetings. The club met on October 6 at the American Legion Hall and held a covered dish supper. The Vin Maiolo Trio performed numbers by Irving Berlin, Johnny Mercer and Hoagy Carmichael.

Bergen also reported that the Special State Project, Cancer Support Community Committee which she chairs, has selected an outdoor fountain as well as an indoor wall mounted fountain to be installed at the community facility in Bridgewater, has been purchased and will be dedicated on Tuesday, Oct. 25. This

gift has been made possible through the proceeds of the luncheon/fashion show held last spring. The current committee has met and is planning another luncheon/fashion show in April of 2012.

Chairperson Frieda Walker reported that she is in the process of making arrangements for the club's annual theater party when club members make their favorite treats to be enjoyed during intermission. Details will be announced at a later date.

Women are invited to join this energetic group of women who meet the first Thursday of every month, except July and August, usually at 2 p.m. The covered dish supper is the only meeting held in the evening.

Please call Membership Chairperson Grace Bertucci at (732) 549-9633 for information.

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the Entertainment Book for \$30.

Contact
Lou Peralta at
(908) 756-6406.

Clean Business Assoc. Needs Your Help

The South Plainfield Clean Business Association (SPCBA) is dedicated to keeping South Plainfield litter free and is asking borough businesses and residents for help.

The SPCBA is striving to keep South Plainfield free of litter, which not only can cause disease, but is unsightly for our neighborhood, by sponsoring the Adopt-A-Spot program. Through this program, businesses or families adopt a small parcel of land and pledge to keep it clear of litter. Presently, 17 spots are adopted with 13 spots remaining.

For more information, call Alice Tempel, South Plainfield's environmental specialist, at (908) 226-7621.

Purchase SPHS Football Shirts

The South Plainfield High School Athletic Department has been receiving calls regarding how to purchase football shirts which were sold on Back to School night. A limited supply is still available.

Discount cards, which are good until 2012, are also available as well as Kid's Stuff Books.

If you would like to purchase any of the above, please call Debbie Malecki at (908) 208-4136.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
Public Notice
RETURN OF PERFORMANCE BOND

TAKE NOTICE that on Monday, October 17, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the municipal building, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080, the Mayor and Council will conduct a public hearing to consider the application of Moon Builders, LLC. The application is for the release of a Performance Bond relating to improvements made with respect to property known as Lot 11 in Block 144 of the Tax Map, located on the southerly side of Walnut Street in the Borough of South Plainfield and commonly known as 1453 Walnut Street, South Plainfield, NJ.

Any interested party may appear at said hearing either personally or through an agent or attorney and participate therein in accordance with the Rules of the Mayor and Council.

Vastola, Fackelman & Sullivan
Attorneys for Moon Builders, LLC
495 Union Avenue, Suite 2D
P.O. Box 7
Middlesex, NJ 08846
\$38.50

October 7, 2011

POLICE REPORT

On Sept. 21 Compton A. Henry, 25, of Newark was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

Adam J. Partridge, 26, of Miami, Fla. was arrested for possession of three weapons.

On Sept. 22 Devakumaran Kanthinathan, 33, of Bedford, Mass. was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and speeding.

A Hamilton Boulevard resident reported the theft of their wallet from the roof of their car by a man who ran up to the vehicle while they were driving away from the Ramada Inn.

On Sept. 23 Grainger Industrial Supply on Hadley Road reported the theft of various tools by two males.

On Sept. 24 a Clinton Avenue resident reported that the bedroom of their home had been ransacked after leaving the door unlocked to walk the dog. Various costume jewelry was taken.

On Sept. 25 Michael Guzman, 19, of Plainfield was arrested for no front license plate, no insurance, prohibited parking and an outstanding warrant.

On Sept. 26 Michael Glenn Napolitano, 31, of Ocean was arrested

for no seatbelt and an outstanding warrant.

Thomas Adams, 53, of South Plainfield was arrested for simple assault.

A Day Street resident reported that two of their vehicle's tires had been punctured.

On Sept. 27 Nita D. Parwani, 42, of Piscataway was arrested at Target for shoplifting various jewelry and

clothing worth \$3,198.

An official for the middle school football team reported that the hood of their vehicle had been punched and dented while driving away from the Kenneth Avenue field by a coach from the opposing team.

On Sept. 28 Laksh V. Vaswani, 37, of Piscataway was arrested at Target for shoplifting \$1,184 worth of various items.

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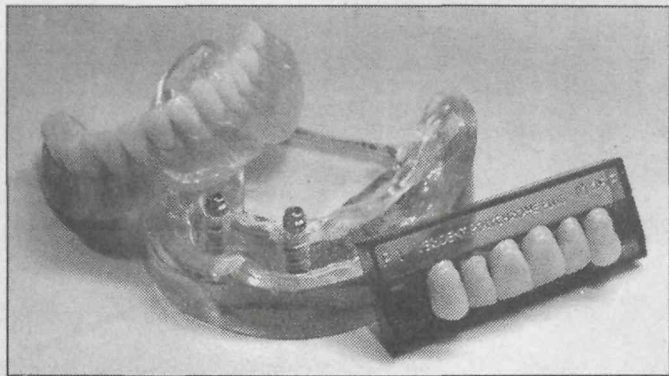
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A visitor to the St. Stephen Orthodox Church International Festival has her face painted.

International Festival a Feast of Fun and Food

By Patricia Abbott

Saint Stephen Orthodox Church, located on Lane Avenue hosted the fourth annual International Festival September 16 through 18. The three-day event began on Friday evening and continued until Sunday afternoon. Friday was very busy both indoors and out. Saturday drew a small crowd because of the gloomy weather, but the evening was more crowded. Sunday's perfect fall weather drew a large number of visitors to the festival.

The festival offered a wide variety of activities for kids, including face painting, sand art, a moon walk, fish pond game, tie-dyed t-shirts, necklace beading and boardwalk games. Deejay for the event was Nadi Pasha, one of the church's parishioners, who took requests throughout the day and

evening. A tent for festival goers who wanted to rest or preferred to dine outdoors was provided.

Inside the hall there was a feast of food and fun. The festival menu featured homemade foods from around the world, including an American menu—hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, fries, a clam bar and peel and eat shrimp; a Slavic menu that included pierogies, kielbasa and holupki (stuffed cabbage); Middle Eastern selections of falafel and humus; and Greek gyros and stuffed grape leaves (dolmades). Desserts included baklava, harissch, brownies and kourabiedes. There was also an international selection of beers from Greece, Germany, Italy, Belgium and the United States.

A variety of raffles were available with numerous prizes—an iPad 2

3G-64GB, 26" LCD HDTV, Coach pocketbook and matching wristlet and a \$200 Apple gift card. Indoor tables displayed jewelry and accessories at Pearla Boutique, a book bazaar, sports apparel, carpet remnants and a 50/50 raffle.

Chairmen for the festival were Joe Keepers and Ted Mandalakis. "Our theme has been to build our festival around the many nationalities that attend our church, hence the diverse menu and music. We also wanted to ensure we have many activities for the children who visit our event. This is a family event—activities for the children and delicious food and music for all. The booths are created and staffed by our parishioners; this part of our event continues to grow each year," said Mandalakis.

Voters Are Encouraged to Ensure Information is Updated

The Middlesex County Board of Elections is encouraging residents who have recently moved, changed their name or are new residents in Middlesex County to check their personal voter information by visiting the State Division of Elections website.

"It is important that everyone who wants to vote can vote with ease," said Middlesex County Freeholder Deputy Director Ronald G. Rios, chair of the county's Law and Public Safety Committee.

"Many times, voters move and do not notify us. As a result, their name may not be in the poll book at their new polling place, causing them to have to vote by a provisional (paper) ballot," said James Vokral, administrator of the Middlesex County Board of Elections. "If they normally vote by a mail-in ballot and haven't updated their voter record, that ballot could be sent to their old address and returned to the county clerk as undeliverable. Also, if you have changed your name and haven't updated your record, you may have difficulty voting or your vote may be challenged."

To check or update your information go to www.njelections.org.

Once on the Elections website, click "Voter Information" in the list on the left side of the page, then select "Am I Registered" and follow the prompts to verify your information. If you cannot find your record or it is incorrect, you will need to complete a new registration form and send it in to have your record updated.

To vote in this November's election, the deadline to update records or to register for the first time is Tuesday, Oct. 18. Forms are available online at www.nj.gov/state/elections/voter-registration-application, from Middlesex County Board of Elections, 777 Jersey Ave. in New Brunswick or at your local municipal clerk's office. All forms are postage paid.

The Board of Elections normal operating hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays. The board will be open on October 18 until 9 p.m. to accommodate registrants.

SPHS Booster Club Meeting

South Plainfield High School Athletic Booster Club will hold its next monthly meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. in the SPHS cafeteria.

All parents and guardians of our student athletes are welcome to attend. The SPHS Athletic Booster Club supports every sport program offered in our school. Membership is \$5 and our members input is highly valued.

Our fundraising efforts are all done for the sole purpose of giving back to our athletic program and our athletes. We sell SPHS clothing from hats, t-shirts, shorts and sweatshirts in various designs and colors. Our clothing

booth is open at each home football game and if we don't have your size or color, we take orders. Order forms are also available.

Our members help work the snack stands during football and basketball games as well as wrestling matches and track meets. We know your time is valuable and we appreciate every one's effort, but we could always use more help. Meetings last approximately 30 minutes and start promptly at 7 p.m. We encourage participation from all sports at all levels and hope to see more new faces in the crowd.

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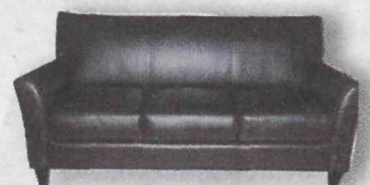


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Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas and Paul McCullen volunteer at the borough's fall litter clean up.

Volunteers Turn Out for Fall Litter Clean-up

A group of volunteers showed up on a beautiful September morning to get the litter off borough roadsides. About 25 residents came to the Highland Woods Nature Center at 9 a.m. on September 17 and gathered their gloves, pick up sticks, orange vests and trash bags before heading out, up and down the length of South Clinton Avenue and its side streets, the Hadley Road median and preserved open space sites on Park Avenue and the corner of New Market and Elsie avenues.

South Clinton runs through an industrial section and carries a lot of truck traffic. Even with regular street sweeping and property maintenance by the businesses along the road, litter accumulates. Unfortunately, Hurricane Irene had already washed a lot of litter into the storm drains, but there was plenty left to deal with. The Elsie Avenue corner of the Highland Woods Environmental Education Reserve has been a long-term illegal dumping ground. Volunteers felt they were on an archeological expedition. They unearthed glass bottles and jars from decades ago, such as milk glass Ponds cold cream jars and even an ornamental glass Wishbone salad dressing bottle which had turned itself into a terrarium, complete with a small fern growing inside.

The volunteers collected over 40 bags of litter, recyclables and trash. Pinto Brothers Disposal picked up the



Volunteers collect litter, recyclables and trash.

bags for disposal at no charge.

As a small thank you, the Clean Communities Advisory Board distributed stainless steel water bottles donated by KKK Trucking and A-Tech Landscaping. The South Plainfield Green Team partnered with the CCAB on this project to promote

the use of reusable water bottles over disposables. A good part of the litter that was picked up consisted of various plastic beverage bottles.

Call Alice Tempel, the Clean Communities coordinator, at (908) 226-7621 for more information about volunteer cleanups or the Adopt-A-

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Middle School Science Showcase Preparations Underway

Students at South Plainfield Middle School will have the opportunity to participate in the first annual Science Showcase scheduled for February 16. Participation in the showcase is voluntary, and it is open to all seventh and eighth grade students.

Science Department staff members at the middle school have prepared a schedule of biweekly after-school meetings to guide students through the process of preparing a showcase project. Beginning with an orientation meeting next week, participants will work through the scientific method—from observations that generate questions to forming a hypothesis and organizing a plan for testing the hypothesis. After students' investigations are completed in early December, they will be assisted with data analysis, data display

and proper communication of the results of their project. A celebration to congratulate and reward student participants is planned for late February.

Science Showcase projects will be on display in the school cafeteria during the February parent conferences. In addition to the displays, there will be a short video of each young scientist explaining their investigation. Because all work except the actual experiment will be done at school, parents, peers and teachers will see authentic student products.

Parents who want more information about how to participate in the showcase should contact the middle school by phone or email through the SPMS website. Students need only to listen to morning announcements to find out when and where to attend the first meeting.

Public Is Invited to Borough Council Candidates Debate

The South Plainfield Observer and the South Plainfield Business Association will co-sponsor a Meet the Candidates Night on Wednesday, Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center.

The candidates for Borough Council are incumbents Alex Barletta (R) and Chrissy Bureas (D). Candidates vying for first time seats are Democrats John Sorrentino and Paul McCullen and Republicans Derryck White and Dick Frank.

Questions for the candidates will

be submitted by members of the audience that evening. The moderator will decide which questions will be asked and in what order. Candidates will alternate responses; time for rebuttal comments will also be included.

The Meet the Candidates event will be the sole opportunity prior to Election Day that both parties will meet to debate and explicate their positions on relevant issues affecting the borough.

The public is invited to attend and encouraged to submit questions.

Food Pantry in Need of Donations

The South Plainfield Food Pantry is in desperate need of food donations. Any food item is greatly appreciated. Food can be dropped off anytime at the South Plainfield Municipal Building in the Social Services Department

located at 2480 Plainfield Ave.

We are especially in need of the following items: one dish meals (canned pasta, Spam, tuna, stew, etc.), cereal, canned fruit, pasta sauce, peanut butter and jelly.

Threat of Rain Moves VFW Picnic Inside

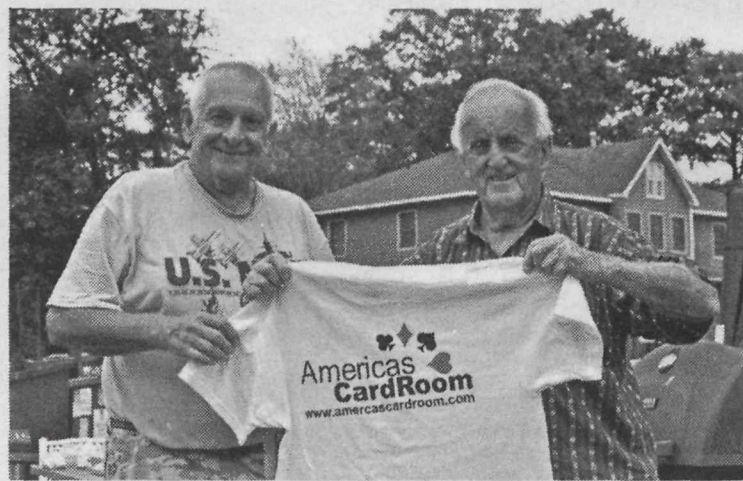
By Patricia Abbott

The dreary weather didn't dampen the South Plainfield VFW Post #6763's annual picnic. While tents and seating were set up outside, the threat of rain moved the event indoors in the hall. The change in plans did not affect the guests' afternoon. They enjoyed food, fun and more. Commander Vincent Perry said that approximately 50 attended the picnic; the smaller crowd may have been due to the threat of rain and the fact that some people are still dealing with the destruction of Hurricane Irene.

The menu included regular picnic fare of hot dogs, hamburgers, corn on the cob, sausage and peppers, meatballs, baked ziti, clams, salads, cold beverages, cake, coffee and more.

The post-sponsored Boy Scout Troop 125 assisted in the cooking of hamburgers and hot dogs. They ran a variety of programs and games for children, including lessons in knot tying, water balloon toss and sail boat races. The troop also sponsored a tent offering popcorn for sale as a fundraiser for future activities.

Just prior to the end of the afternoon, post members held a 50/50 raffle. The winner was Bruce Bruno, who took home \$40. They also raffled off t-shirts, knapsacks, pill boxes and hats. The post has been sponsoring the annual picnic for almost 50 years.



Police to Receive Community Policing Grant

South Plainfield will be one of 12 towns to receive a Middlesex County grant to develop community policing programs.

The grant money will be used to create a variety of programs aimed at enhancing public awareness while combating such crimes as bias intimidation, bullying and vandalism.

The \$5,000 "Law Enforcement Response to Community Concerns Grant" will be awarded to 22 mu-

nicipal police departments in the county, and to the Rutgers University Police Department and the Middlesex County Sheriff's Department.

The grant will be used to help enforce laws aimed at protecting the quality of life for Middlesex County residents. The grant program is sponsored by the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office and the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The funds will be allocated from funds that were seized from criminal defendants who had obtained proceeds through illegal activities, such as selling drugs.

In order to qualify for a grant, each police department was required to develop a plan that seeks to deal with a quality-of-life issue, such as curbing graffiti, criminal mischief, bullying or bias-related crimes.

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Taxes Are Up-Republicans Are Moving South Plainfield In The Wrong Direction

The Republican-controlled council just patted themselves on the backs for increasing taxes and reducing spending. That's right-South Plainfield residents are paying more for less. Instead of mapping out ways to fix this problem, the Republicans are pointing fingers and overlooking the bigger picture. People are out of work, families are struggling, our residents are losing their homes because they can not afford any more increases. South Plainfield's residents deserve more than empty praise, they deserve a plan to make things in South Plainfield better-and not at their expense.

"Budget decisions can not be short sighted, but must take into account our long term needs," said Democratic Council Candidate Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas. "Saving a dollar by cutting corners today could cost us a lot of money in the long run."

The goal of government is to do more with less. That's why South Plainfield's Democratic candidates Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas, John Sorrentino and Paul McCullen have focused on a plan to maximize resources, bring good, new businesses into town and make South Plainfield more accessible to our residents who need the most help.

"Spending may be down, but so are valuable resources to our residents," pointed out Democratic Council Candidate John Sorrentino. "We're finding ourselves with roads in disrepair, empty storefronts and dwindling services."



The Republicans attacked Democrats for voting to preserve funding for the library-which is badly in need of updating-rather than use it to provide a one shot tax cut. The library fell victim to Hurricane Irene and suffered tens of thousands of dollars in damage. Without those funds, South Plainfield would be in a position of having to find the funding for the library or lose a valuable resource for our residents, including our children. If the Republicans had their way, there would be no library. This is but one example of poor decision-making at the expense of posturing to make their message seem better.

"South Plainfield cannot afford one shot gimmicks," said Democratic Council Candidate Paul McCullen. "We need to halt the irresponsible decisions that led South Plainfield to pay more for less."

Doing more for less. Maximizing our resources to take the burden off the backs of South Plainfield's residents. Now that's a better solution for a brighter future. That's Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas, John Sorrentino and Paul McCullen.

Want more better solutions for a brighter future? Vote Democratic, Line B on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

The opinions expressed here are those solely expressed by the organizations submitting the articles. They do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher; nor do we attest to their accuracy.



Buteas Needs to Explain Why She Tried to Vote Herself a Raise

Republicans this week are asking Democrat candidate Chrissy Buteas why she tried to raise the pay for council members, including herself, shortly after getting elected. The move, they say, is an example of being out of touch with voters.

"People are losing their jobs and their homes," said GOP candidate Dick Frank. "I was shocked sitting in the audience at the council meeting when the raise was brought to light."

"Luckily it did not pass," added Councilman Alex Barletta. "The Democrats dropped it at the next meeting after the public got wind."

But Buteas voted "yes" on the measure that would have raised her pay the first time it was presented. That part of the ordinance was deleted at the next meeting. After Republican Councilman Ray Rusnak brought it to light, the Democrat ex-mayor tried to call it a "mistake."

"It's an example of a pattern of out-of-touch decisions," explained Frank. He said another example is Buteas's decision to vote against the 2010 tax cut while voting to raise taxes \$404 a year earlier.

"The only tax cut in recent memory, and the

Democrats would not support it," added Frank. "This is after years of spending increases under their administration."

White said he thinks that Buteas and her team are simply out of touch with South Plainfield. "They have a big-government mindset. People have the right to their opinions, but I don't think those views are what most South Plainfield residents would want."

"I agree," added Barletta. "Bigger government is not the answer. But that's what we've seen under the Democrats. In 2009 under Buteas and her party, taxes, spending and borrowing all went up, a lot."

White said this is the opposite of his team's record. "All three are down under Mayor Matt Anesh and the new GOP majority. Since 2009 the part of the tax bill controlled by the council is down, as is spending and borrowing. This is the opposite of what's happening everywhere else in New Jersey."

"Our team has three main goals if elected," added White. "First is to control taxes, second is to hold the line on spending, and third is to preserve South Plainfield's small-town atmosphere. We'll continue to work together to get it done."

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PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 3)



Anthony Bengivenga, past president Plainfields Chapter of UNICO; Dr. Ann Walko, Grand Patriot Award recipient; John DeAndrea, president of Plainfields Chapter UNICO; Susie Leonardis, "Civis Illustris" Award recipient; Robert Bengivenga, Gov. District X NJ UNICO; and Renato Biribin, past national president of UNICO National.

Local Resident Receives Civis Illustris Award

Dr. Ann Walko, Ed.D, a resident of Scotch Plains and past president of the Plainfields Chapter of UNICO, was presented the prestigious Grand Patriot Award. Dr. Walko is a professor of education at Kean University and has accomplished many years of service in various civic organizations. The Grand Patriot Award is presented for "Americanism" to someone who "carries the torch of freedom" and for rendering patriotic service in time of both war and freedom.

Almost Famous Players Gearing Up

South Plainfield's Almost Famous Players is tentatively planning a mini version of Haunted Woods, called Haunted Scenes, to be held at a yet to be determined location in late October. They need a wide variety of items, including old white or black sheets, dark material, old tarps, large plywood scraps, pieces of 2x4 or 4x4, rope, large

unwanted stuffed animals and dolls, scarecrows, lab coats, old chains, paint, unwanted or broken Halloween props, milk crates, mannikin parts, fencing rolled chain or snow and a rocking chair. If you have an unusual item you think might be a great prop, they are interested. Please contact AFP at (908) 346-2290 or email angelonly@aol.com.

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sports WEEKLY RESULTS

BY GARY LAMPASONA

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB

Spring 2012 Registration

Registration for the Spring 2012 season will be held at the clubhouse on Friday, Oct. 21 from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Children seven to 18 years old can sign up to play next season. Your child must turn seven years old before May 1, 2012 to be eligible to play. If your child is a first time player, please bring their birth certificate.

Early registration fees are \$110 for a single child, \$160 for two children and \$210 for three children. If you prefer, you can also download the forms directly from our website, www.leaguline.com/spjbc and mail them to the address on the form. We look forward to seeing you.

U-14 SOCCER THUNDER

Submitted By Jenn Curtis

After Hard Fought Battle, Thunder Ties Bloomfield 1-1

The South Plainfield Soccer Club Boys U-14 Team Thunder evened its record to 1-1-1 last Sunday against a tough Bloomfield team. Team Thunder led the entire game until the last minute when Bloomfield tied it in a two minute overtime period.

Thunder scored early on a strong goal from Gavin Castro and led until the overtime period. All of the boys fought hard in a physical game that saw Thunder members fight for each possession, both offensively and defensively and dominate throughout. Kyle Delapoli had an excellent game

as goalkeeper. Thunder is comprised of Nick Battista, Nolan Berry, Gavin Castro, Matthew Celentano, Tyler Curtis, Kyle Delapoli, Nick Gavilanes, Christian Gonzalez, Chris Kuberiet, Richard Marcovecchio, Joe Mcgeehan, John Pareja, James Piedalato, Jack Townley, and Jonathan Veras. The boys are coached by Phil Battista, Joe Mcgeehan and Carlos Gonzalez and their next game is on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at the Memorial Turf field. Come out and support the boys.

SPHS

South Plainfield High School

Weekly Sports Schedule

Saturday, October 8

9:00AM GV Gymnastics @ Bishop George Ahr HS (Think Pink)

10:00AM BV Soccer @ St. Joseph HS (Metuchen)

10:00AM BJV Soccer @ St. Joseph HS (Metuchen)

Monday, October 10

3:45PM B FR Soccer @ Woodbridge HS

3:45PM B MS Soccer vs. Linwood MS

3:45PM G MS Soccer vs. Linwood MS

3:45PM GV Tennis @ Carteret

3:45PM GV Field Hockey @ South Brunswick H.S.

3:45PM G JV Volleyball vs. New Brunswick HS

4:00PM B JV Football vs. John F. Kennedy Memorial HS

4:00PM G FR Field Hockey vs. South Brunswick HS

4:15PM GV Soccer vs. Wardlaw - Hartridge School

5:15PM G JV Field Hockey @ South Brunswick HS

5:30PM GV Volleyball at New Brunswick HS

Tuesday, October 11

3:45PM BGV Cross Country @ Perth Amboy

3:45PM B JV Soccer @ Sayreville War Memorial HS

3:45PM G JV Volleyball @ Monroe Township HS

4:30PM G JV Soccer vs. Sayreville War Memorial HS

4:30PM GV Gymnastics @ Old Bridge HS

5:30PM GV Volleyball @ Monroe Township HS

6:00PM BV Soccer @ Sayreville War Memorial HS

6:00PM GV Soccer vs. Sayreville War Memorial HS

Wednesday, October 12

3:45PM B FR Soccer @ Sayreville War Memorial HS

3:45PM G FR Soccer vs. Sayreville War Memorial HS

3:45PM B MS Soccer @ Piscataway HS

3:45PM G MS Soccer vs. Piscataway HS

3:45PM GV Tennis vs. John F. Kennedy Memorial HS

4:00PM G JV Field Hockey @ Old Bridge

4:00PM G FR Field Hockey @ Old Bridge

6:00PM GV Field Hockey vs. Old Bridge

Thursday, October 13

3:45PM BV Soccer vs. Colonia HS

3:45PM GV Soccer @ Colonia HS

3:45PM B JV Soccer vs. Colonia HS

3:45PM G JV Soccer @ Colonia HS

3:45PM G FR Field Hockey vs. Livingston

3:45PM G JV Volleyball vs. J.P. Stevens HS

4:00PM B MS Football @ Linden Schools

5:15PM GV Volleyball vs. J.P. Stevens HS

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In My Opinion

(Continued from page 2)

just our attorneys, but all the attorneys who advise the many, many towns that do things the same way South Plainfield does (and has done for years). As usual, English has no idea what he is talking about.

English owes our administrator, Glenn Cullen, a written apology. If he does not provide one, the Buteas campaign should immediately disassociate itself from him.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT
RAY RUSNAK**

Dear Editor,

In just over a month we, in South Plainfield, will have the opportunity to re-elect our hometown assemblyman, Patrick Diegnan.

Of course, as a lifelong resident of South Plainfield, I am proud that one of our own is serving in the state legislature, but it is more than that. Assemblyman Diegnan is someone that our entire state is proud of. A recent online rundown of leaders in the assembly commented that Patrick Diegnan is "universally respected."

It's no accident that he has that reputation. Assemblyman Diegnan has taken a leadership role in issue after issue facing our state. Whether it's the heartless closing of the Hagedorn Psychiatric facility, or protecting our kids from concussions, or raising awareness among student athletes about heart disease or opposing the disbanding of NJN, Assemblyman Diegnan is the one others look to for direction.

Most importantly, as chair of the Education Committee, he has championed the push for proper funding of public education. He sponsored the law which saved the STARS scholarship program which guarantees free tuition at our county colleges to our best and brightest high school students. Of course, we in South Plainfield are not surprised since one of Patrick's first initiatives was writing the law to save our Future Stars preschool program.

Join me in voting for Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan and his outstanding runningmates, Senator Barbara Buono, who is the majority leader in the State Senate, and Assemblyman Peter Barnes, who is the chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee. They are three terrific public servants who deserve our support.

KATHY THOMAS

Dear Editor,

From what I've been seeing, South Plainfield is going in the right direction. And the credit for that goes to the new Republican Majority, which includes Councilman Alex Barletta.

The numbers tell the story. Taxes went up in 2009 under the Democrats. In 2010 the Republicans cut taxes. Most of that tax cut remains intact today. At the same time, both spending and borrowing are down versus when the Democrats ran things.

Despite the good things that are happening, it seems like the Democrats, especially Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas, vote against anything good that goes on. For instance, she voted against the 2010 tax cut. She voted against repaving Rahway Avenue, and she voted against replacing unsafe park equipment at Shadyside Park.

Other times she refused to make the hard decisions. For example, she wouldn't take a stand when it came time to vote on the PBA contract, and she tried to straddle the issue when the Republicans were trying to stop the Democrat plan to add 700 apartments.

It's one thing to be the "loyal opposition," but it's another to work against the town's best interest. Because of this, Barletta, White and Frank will have my vote.

**SINCERELY,
MICHAEL MARTINEZ**

Hello South Plainfield Residents,

I would like to take some time out to write about the candidacy of my good friend, Paul McCullen, for South

Plainfield Borough Council. I have known Paul since grade school and I'm glad that he has decided to channel his passion for South Plainfield into this candidacy for public office.

Paul may not have the experience or political connections that some of the other candidates have, but he understands the political process. Whether he is going to town council meetings to voice his opinions or working to help clean up the town, it is always to make sure the future of South Plainfield is a bright one. He's interested in keeping this town safe, prosperous and a place that all South Plainfield residents can be proud to call home.

A common complaint that you hear about politics or politicians is that "they don't care about our interests" or "things never change." Paul wants to hear you out and is about giving those who are outside the political process a true voice in how this town is governed. Election Day is the day to show what you care about and a chance to bring about real change. Vote for the Democratic ticket and check off Paul's name. If you do that, you are making sure a candidate gets elected that will look out for your best interests regardless of partisan politics.

**SINCERELY,
CARLOS ROMASCINDO**

Dear Editor,

The most important issue for me as a voter is controlling taxes and spending, and because of that, I'll be supporting Republicans Alex Barletta, Derryck White and Dick Frank for Borough Council.

Under Republicans, the municipal part of the tax bill is lower than it was two years ago under the Democrats. Think about that. This is New Jersey, where taxes only go up. Yet, the part of the tax bill controlled by the council is actually down since 2009!

Just think what our tax bills would look like if the county (controlled by Democrats) had done the same thing, instead of raising taxes 19% since 2009. That's a huge increase the Democrats gave us.

The Republicans have been doing a solid job on taxes and spending. Let's give them the chance to continue taking things in the right direction by electing Barletta, White and Frank.

KAREN PALLEIJA

Dear Editor,

As a Democrat, I am excited by this year's candidates for the town council. Councilwoman Buteas has served this town well for the last two and a half years. Her service stretches from the creation of an internship program for high school students at borough hall, to obtaining a piece of World Trade Center steel for the borough, and now working on the Green Team to better the livability of South Plainfield. She is always there to help and find you the answer to your problem.

I'm also happy to see our party take in new members, John Sorrentino and Paul McCullen. They offer fresh perspectives and it is great to see these two men on the ticket. John's work on the parade committee for many years and commitment to doing what is right for the citizens is great. Paul's knowledge of government, desire to make improvements to town and environmental outreach are particularly interesting and rare to see in a candidate.

Again, a great ticket and I wish them all the best this November. When they come to your neighborhood, I encourage you to speak with them. You won't be disappointed, I know I'm not.

**SINCERELY,
BEN ASCENSIO**

Dear Editor,

I noticed on the signs for Councilman Alex Barletta, Derryck White and Dick Frank the motto, "Working Together. Getting it Done." Well, their team certainly has.

I've noticed a positive change that you just don't see in other towns. These

guys are controlling taxes and spending, which in other towns is skyrocketing. I'm also seeing much better management of not only our tax dollars, but the borough itself.

While spending and borrowing are down, things are still getting done. Roads are getting paved, parks are getting the attention they need, and things are on the upswing.

They've also worked together with various groups to "get it done." For example, they worked with the PBA to trim salary costs and phase out longevity. When most towns and their unions are at each other's throats, ours actually worked to benefit the taxpayers. The same thing happened with the DPW contract.

South Plainfield is on the right track, and I'd hate to see that change. That's why we need Barletta, Frank and White.

DAVID MIGLIS

Dear South Plainfield Residents,

As you may be aware the November town council election is approaching. As a resident of South Plainfield you probably know that in the last two years the Republican Party has managed to drastically decrease both spending and borrowing in South Plainfield. As a result of this, the town has been able to overhaul public works programs and

help revitalize and improve town parks and facilities.

The team of Alex Barletta, Derryck White and Dick Frank present an excellent track record that will continue to look after both the people and town of South Plainfield. As a team they will continue to increase town safety through the Safe Kids, Safe Streets Program. In the last three years that program has installed speed humps and speed tables, which have significantly improved safety within the town.

Additionally, the team's overall experience and knowledge will ensure that they make the best decisions for the hard working people of South Plainfield. Because of the recent economic downturn in our country, many towns in New Jersey are seeing drastic increases in taxes and spending, along with massive layoffs and reduced services. Because of the hard work of the Republican Party, South Plainfield has managed to avoid these problems, and by voting Alex Barletta, Derryck White, and Dick Frank, both the town and people of South Plainfield will continue to grow.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME,
WILLIAM J. MOATES III**

Dear Editor,

I am completely baffled by the cur-

rent tax bill with accompanying letter I received. Is the council congratulating themselves on a job well done even though my taxes went up? I thought that our governor was going to make sure that our property taxes would stay in line with a new two percent cap? I know my taxes increased more than two percent. The Republicans here in town blame several things including a loss in state aid for the increase; maybe they should call up the governor and let him know his policies aren't really helping us.

We keep being promised things but it seems no one can deliver. Republicans have done nothing to bring back county dollars to South Plainfield. They continue to borrow for projects big and small and tell us we are running a leaner and more efficient government here in South Plainfield. Sounds like paying more and getting a lot less.

Times are tough; glad the council noticed and it is unfortunate to see them doing nothing about it. Republicans think that with complete control of the council we will be better off? Why do I doubt this? I like that the Democrats are trying to think of solutions to our problems. It would be nice if the Republicans had that type of foresight.

**SINCERELY,
JOE SCRUDATO**

Obituaries

Eleanor V. Wanagieli, 85

Eleanor V. (Wisniewski) Wanagieli died on Saturday, Oct. 1 at the Somerset Valley Rehabilitation & Nursing Center in Bound Brook where she was a temporary resident for rehabilitation.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., she moved to Franklin Square, L.I., N.Y. in 1952 and has been a resident of North Plainfield since 1972.

She retired from Somerset School in the North Plainfield School District as a teacher's aide in the early 1990s. While living in New York, she was a longtime volunteer in the Garden City South Little League. She has been a member of St. Joseph's RC Church in North Plainfield and was active with their Altar Rosary Society.

She is predeceased by her beloved husband Henry, who died after 61 years of marriage, in 2007 and by two siblings, Regina in 2005 and Edward in 2003.

Eleanor leaves behind two children, Robert Wanagieli of North Plainfield and Judith Bloom and husband Andrew of Moorpark, Calif. She will be missed by two grandchildren, David Bloom of Chicago, Ill. and Karin Sexton of Agoura Hills, Calif.

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

Elaine Dassing Resetar

Elaine Dassing Resetar of Lakewood died on Sunday, Oct. 2 at her residence.

She was born in Essex County to the late Edmund Dassing and Juliette Steiner Dassing.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Michael John Resetar.

She loved her family dearly and is survived by three sons, Michael John Resetar, Jr. and wife Debrah, Robert James Resetar and wife Sherry and Tommy Resetar and wife Jayne; a daughter, Kathy Ruth Fredericks and husband Mark; six grandchildren, Corey, Janice, Matthew, Lorri, Jonathan and Kristen; eight great-grandchildren; and Stephanie Duncan.

A memorial service was held at Hillsborough United Methodist Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Amedisys Home Health, 120 Providence Rd., Ste. 200, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

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Borough Council candidates John Sorrentino and Chrissy Buteas with a team of ice cream sundae servers.

Dems Sponsor Meet and Greet Ice Cream Social

By Pattie Abbott

The South Plainfield Democrats held a meet and greet ice cream social on September 18 that offered free sundaes.

Community members were encouraged to stop by for ice cream and a chance to meet borough council candidates Chrissy Buteas and John Sorrentino. Paul McCullen was unable to attend.

"I truly enjoyed meeting with residents who came out to enjoy ice cream

sundaes with us on Sunday. Even though a lot of activities were going on in town, we had a big turnout and served gallons of ice cream, not to mention all the toppings. I thank everyone for coming out to meet and eat with us," said Buteas.

The event was held at the senior center. Ice cream servers were Kathy Buteas, Dee Stayvas, Charlie Butrico, Mary Ann Sorrentino and Natalie Bergen.

"South Plainfield is all about community. Nothing better than holding

a community event, with some ice cream, to discuss the issues that are on the minds of our neighbors," said John Sorrentino.

Buteas is running for a second term on the council, and Paul and John are running for the first time. Buteas summed up the afternoon by saying, "The Dems are an approachable group and easy to talk with. We care about people's concerns. We want to listen and learn from our residents. They know best and we work for them."

Four Nominated for Perry Awards

(Continued from page 1)

nominee was named and followed by the announcement of the winner. The New Jersey Association of Community Theaters (NJACT) announced the 2011 nominees in late July.

The NJACT website (NJACT.org) offers a detailed look into the organization and its New Jersey roots. The Perry Awards are named in honor of William Perry Morgan. Perry, as his friends have always known him, was a gifted director, actor, composer and musician who was once a driving force in New Jersey community the-

ater. During his time in New Jersey, Morgan and several of his close colleagues came to the realization that there was a need to recognize the many great accomplishments of their fellow thespians.

The AVY Awards were born in 1973, named after the town of Avenel, where Morgan lived. Morgan created a movement in the New Jersey theater community that thrives today. Each year at the Perry Awards Gala, they celebrate not only outstanding artistic achievement, but the sense of pride and community that started

with Perry Morgan and his friends over 35 years ago.

Perry Morgan stated, "The acknowledgment of excellence in community theater by any award serves only to reinforce that which is already known: that some of the finest theatrical productions ever produced are done so year after year in community theaters throughout New Jersey."

Homestead Benefit Applications/ Senior Freeze Filing Deadline Oct. 31

The New Jersey Treasury mailed approximately 1.5 million eligible homeowners Homestead Benefit applications recently.

New Jersey will provide property tax relief through credits on property tax bills. Homeowners who meet the eligibility requirements will receive a partial credit for property taxes they paid for 2010 against their property tax bills for 2012. The deadline to file is October 31.

New Jersey residents who owned a principal residence on October 1, 2010 and paid property taxes on that home will be eligible to receive the Homestead Benefit if they reported \$75,000 or less in New Jersey gross income for 2010, or if they are disabled or age 65 or older and had 2010 gross income of \$150,000 or less.

For information on the program, call the Division of Taxation's Homestead Benefit Hotline at

1-888-238-1233 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Homestead Benefit information is also available at www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/2009homesteadinfo.shtml and through the Automated Tax Information System at 1-800-323-4400. Text telephone service for the hearing impaired is provided at 1-800-286-6613 or (609) 984 7300. Once they receive their applications, homeowners can file online at www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ or by phone by calling 1-877-658-2972.

Homeowners who filed their 2009 Homestead Benefit applications online and indicated that they wanted to receive this year's application electronically will be sent an email containing instructions for downloading their 2010 application packet in early June.

The deadline for filing Senior Freeze (Property Tax Reimbursement) applications has been extended to October 31. The Senior Freeze and the Homestead Benefit are distinct property tax relief programs with different eligibility requirements and applications.

For information about the Senior Freeze Program, or to obtain an application, contact the Property Tax Reimbursement Hotline at 1-800-882-6597 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Information is also available at www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/propfrez.shtml.

BOE Search for Superintendent

(Continued from page 1)

for transition to adult life for students age 16 were not in compliance;

- Grant School long term sixth grade math substitute needed from October 17 to December 2;
- Grant School Elementary long term substitute from September 30 to November 4;
- Franklin School long term substitute from October 3 to November 4;
- High school long term high school physical education teacher from September 27 to December 22;
- Roosevelt School duty aide;
- Adult high school teachers; and
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sively in S. Plainfield, NJ. Resumes to eTeam Inc., Attn: Abhishek Agarwal, 1001 Durham Ave., Suite # 201, S. Plainfield, NJ 07080. Except for applications for the position of VP of Sales - Strategic Accounts, resume must specifically identify all computer related education & experience and all software, languages or tools in which applicant has education, training or experience.

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southplainfieldpeople Milestones

CONTACT We Care Names Joanne Oppelt New Executive Director



Joanne Oppelt

CONTACT We Care, a New Jersey-based nonprofit dedicated to crisis intervention suicide prevention through its telephone hotline, has named Joanne Oppelt of South Plainfield executive director. Oppelt will replace interim executive director Melanie Lester.

Oppelt most recently served as development director for Community Access Unlimited (CAU), a nonprofit human services agency serving people with disabilities and at-risk youth. During her nine years at CAU, Oppelt authored and reviewed grant proposals and managed grant funding; served as the agency's liaison to funders and the business community, including building the CAU Community Network; managed marketing and public relations; and served as an advocate for CAU, its members and in the areas of supportive housing and community integration.

While at CAU Oppelt raised more than \$9 million in grant funding, increased annual operating revenue by \$1.75 million, increased corporate sponsorship by 25 percent and significantly raised public awareness of the agency through marketing and public relations, including regular media coverage.

Oppelt also serves as an adjunct professor at Kean University. She has nearly 20 years experience in the human services sector. Prior to joining CAU she served as a consultant to health, education and nonprofit organizations; Parental Assistance project director and Parents As Teachers coordinator at Prevent Child Abuse, New Jersey Chapter; director community services at March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, Central

Jersey Chapter; and program development manager at Maternal and Family Health Services.

The new executive director will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the agency, as well as fundraising, public relations, financial management, board communications and community and nonprofit industry representation. Oppelt also will oversee the execution of the agency's mission with a goal of expanding its capabilities, funding, resources and image—and ultimately, its ability to help as many people as possible.

Oppelt is the author of a recently-released book, *Confessions of a Successful Grant Writer*, which reveals her keys to successful grant writing. She is a graduate of Bethany College (Calif.) with a bachelor of arts degree in education and Wilkes University (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.) with a master of health administration degree. She holds a grants professional certification and is a member of the Grants Professionals Association and Association of Fundraising Professionals.



Charles L. Decker III

Charles Decker III Earns BS Degree

Charles L. Decker III graduated from Coastal Carolina University on May 7 with a bachelor of science degree in business administration from the E. Craig Wall College of Business. He has completed his studies in the areas of resort tourism management and international business. Having worked an internship during his undergraduate studies at The Caravelle Resort in Myrtle Beach, S.C., Charlie has accepted a position there as their golf representative.

Charlie, a 2007 graduate of South Plainfield High School, is the son of Charles and Marianne Decker.



Investors Bank Manager Daniel Eatman and Regional Manager Jacqueline Pena present Eugene and Dianne Chmielewski with Paper Mill Playhouse tickets, the door prize at the bank's one year anniversary VIP wine and cheese reception held on September 21.

Junior Journalist Program Kicks Off

Entries are being accepted for the ninth annual Junior Journalist program for South Plainfield students.

The program, which encourages students to express themselves through creative writing, is a joint cooperation between Hometown Heros and the *South Plainfield Observer*. Students should submit their original works to their teachers, the *Observer* or to Hometown Heros. Winners are selected weekly; students and their works are published in the *Observer*. Hometown Heros makes

arrangements to deliver dinner for the winner's entire family.

At the end of the school year in May, Hometown Heros and the *Observer* hosts a banquet celebrating all of the weekly winners and their families. A \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond is awarded to one student by Hometown Heros; additional U.S. Savings Bonds are also awarded. Students are recognized by the mayor and the state assembly as well.

Call the *Observer* at (908) 668-0010 for more information.



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