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NOVEMBER 4, 2011



Borough Council debate moderator Marylea Schmidt (center) with council candidates (L-R) Derryck White, Dick Frank, Councilman Alex Barletta, Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas, John Sorrentino and Paul McCullen.

Candidates Discuss the Issues At Borough Council Debate

By Jane Dornick

The South Plainfield Borough Council candidates debate held at the Senior Center last Wednesday drew a large crowd and gave residents the opportunity to listen to the three Democratic and three Republican candidates speak about issues affecting the borough. The event was co-sponsored by the *South Plainfield Observer* and the South Plainfield Business Association which provided moderator Marylea Schmidt from the League of Women Voters.

Republican candidate Dick Frank and Democratic candidate Paul McCullen are seeking the one-year unexpired term vacated by Matt Anesh when he was elected mayor in 2010. At that time Alex Barletta was appointed to fill that seat until this November's election.

Incumbent council candidates Chrissy Buteas and Alex Barletta, as well as newcomers Derryck White and John Sorrentino, will vie for two, three-year seats.

Incumbent Republican Councilman Alex Barletta was raised in the borough. He has held a variety of management positions and recently opened up his own business. Barletta coached recreation baseball, teener ball and basketball and was vice-chair and chair of the Zoning Board.

Incumbent Democratic Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas, a lifelong resident of South Plainfield, has served on the council for the past three years. She holds a master's degree in public administration and served on the Board of Adjustment, Recreation Commission, Health Advisory Board, Senior Advisory Board, the Green Team, Environmental Commission, Booster Club, Suburban Woman's Club and the Public Celebrations Committee.

Republican candidate Dick Frank served as a U.S. Marine for eight years,

POLLS OPEN NOV. 8-6 A.M. TO 8 P.M.



**Borough Council
DECISION 2011**

and was honorably discharged. Subsequently he was given an elite assignment with the State Department Security Service. He is a former American Legion commander and a commandant of the Marine Corps League. He has 30 years of experience in the corporate and private sectors in diversified management positions.

Democratic candidate Paul McCullen was raised in South Plainfield. He received his bachelor's degree in music performance from William Paterson University and a minor in political science.

Democratic candidate John Sorrentino has resided in the borough for the past 25 years with his wife and three children. He has been a member of the Public Celebrations Committee for 16 years and has been chairman for the past nine.

Republican candidate Derryck White has been a resident for the past six years. He and his wife have coached recreation basketball and soccer. White is a CERT member and has served on the Zoning Board. He is the Riley School PTSO liaison to the school board. He is a division sales supervisor and is also an ordained deacon at Christ Fellowship Church in Elizabeth.

The candidates presented opening remarks followed by questions that were submitted by the audience and asked by the moderator.

Attracting new businesses to the borough was one of the questions asked. Barletta stated that he is proud of redoing the awning ordinance in the downtown area. Frank added that the new lease with PSE&G will bring a "large amount of jobs" to the borough. McCullen made a suggestion that the council hold an "economic summit." Sorrentino added, "we need to attract a decent supermarket such as Trader Joe's or Wegmans."

A question about the need for bipar-

tisanship was asked and Buteas said that it is "beneficial for both parties to be represented. The Republicans have pointed out things that I could do better and I'm grateful and hope that I have done the same." White stated that "on the local level from a party perspective it's not what you are, it's who you are" and "It's about results."

In regard to the issue of flooding in the borough, Sorrentino suggested cleaning catch basins and clearing downed trees near the streams. McCullen wants to educate the public and encouraged the cleanup of garbage and leaves from storm drains in a volunteer effort to save money. White suggested the dredging of Spring Lake and the area behind Sampton Avenue near Fred Allen Drive.

When asked why they [the candidates] are running for office, Barletta said that serving the community "gives him a sense of purpose." Frank said that "he wants to be part of a group that takes us into a far more civil society." White stated that he wants to be "accountable for the direction that the community is going in." Sorrentino said that he loves his town and "wants to give back in what I do." Buteas stated that she loves what she does sitting on

(Continued on page 2)

SUSPECTS AT LARGE

Quick Food Store Robbed at Gunpoint

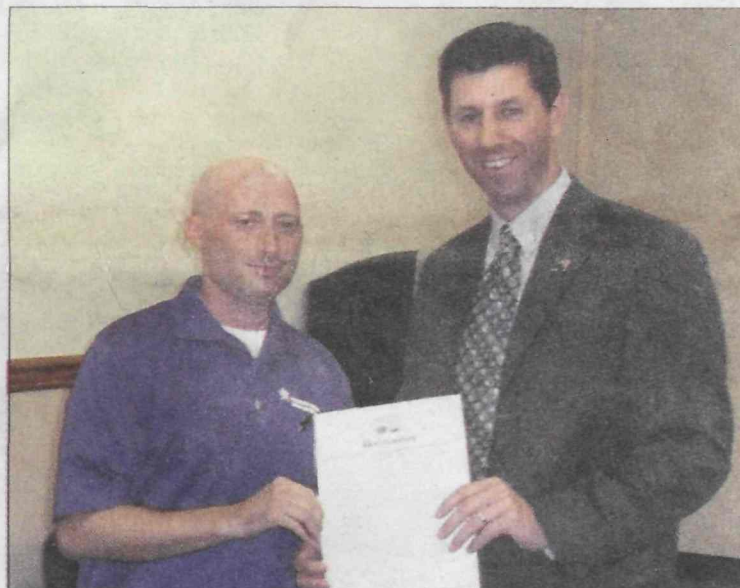
An employee of Quick Food Stores, 1721 Park Avenue, was robbed at gunpoint on October 20 at approximately 8:49 p.m.

The victim stated that he was standing near the front door of the store when the two suspects entered and confronted him with a handgun. One of the suspects ordered the employee to go behind the counter where he gave them cash from the lottery register while the other suspect stood near the door. The suspect stated that

he wanted more money and reached into the regular store cash register and took an additional amount of money. Both fled on foot. It is unknown how much cash was taken.

The suspects are described as black males, 5'5" to 5'8" and between the ages of 20 and 25. Both were wearing black masks over their faces.

Anyone with information regarding the incident is encouraged to contact the South Plainfield Police Department at (908) 755-0700.



Mayor Matt Anesh presents a proclamation to Todd Cohen.

November Designated Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month

By Libby Barsky

Mayor Matt Anesh issued a proclamation at a recent Borough Council meeting declaring November Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month and presented it to Todd Cohen, volunteer for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network whose father died of the disease.

Cohen, formerly of the *New York Daily News* and currently a sports writer for the *Millburn Patch*, remembers his father whose Ranger Rick personality made him a popular nature counselor specializing in holiday cookouts and nature walks at a local day camp.

"My father seemed like the most indestructible man in the world until late June 2001 when he started seeking medical help for exhaustion and jaundice. In September he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, the kryptonite for our superman and a disease that forever changed our family," said Cohen.

Pancreatic cancer is the most deadly and least known cancer compared to breast, colon or prostate cancer. The fourth leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, pancreatic cancer is a sneaky disease whose symptoms are rarely identified, making early detection almost impossible and death within a year for 75% of those correctly diagnosed. Pancreatic cancer

attacks the pancreas and the liver. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the 1971 National Cancer Act, but while the other cancer death rates are slowing, rates for pancreatic cancer have been on the rise by .8% for men and 1% for women each year. The prediction for 2011 is that 44,030 people will be diagnosed and 37,660 of those will die. Jewish families, where members have a history of multiple cancers, should be tested for the genetic mutation since studies reflect a tendency to the disease.

After the death of his father, Cohen became a volunteer for the Pancreatic Cancer Network, an organization whose goal is to double the survival rate by 2020. The network provides information about the disease and resources, and offers grants to research scientists on its website, www.pancan.org.

With currently research on pancreatic cancer receives only two percent of federal research funding distributed by the National Cancer Institute. The network is calling on legislators to endorse a bill introduced in the house by Representative Leonard Lance with Anna Eshoo of California to ensure the National Cancer Institute develops a long-term comprehensive plan to develop early diagnostic and treatment options for pancreatic cancer.

Storm Debris Pickup... See page 3.

Inside This Week

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

FYI

Borough Council & BOE

Council Debate airs on Comcast Channel 96 on Saturday, Nov. 5 at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. 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.)

Borough Council Candidates Debate

(Continued from page 1)

the council and wants to "continue to serve the people." McCullen would like to "give back to those who have helped him" and wants to "move forward in a bipartisan manner."

Truck traffic solutions have been asked of candidates for many years. Buteas said she is "100% behind keeping trucks off Hamilton Boulevard and Belmont Avenue" and she would like to see the bypass route completed. Barletta agreed that they are "absolutely not in favor" of bringing trucks back and that "Hollywood Avenue is the right direction."

Enhancing the library has been a recent topic. White stated that there is "a need for a new library that should not put an undue burden on taxpayers." Barletta feels that relocating the library to the Walgreen's shopping center downtown is the "best solution for the borough." Buteas questioned why the deal has not come to fruition and said she is in favor of the solution suggested last year that was an addition at the current location. "It's a perfect solution for everyone," commented Buteas.

In regard to increasing shared services, McCullen said it requires "downward pressure from the government and county" and we could "get more done if both were willing to make sacrifices." Barletta boasted that "South Plainfield has one of the best shared services in the area" and would like to come up with additional ideas.

White would like to see traffic conditions improved in the borough through an "evaluation" involving the police Traffic Safety Department. Barletta felt that the Safe Kids, Safe Streets program implementing speed humps and signage has been a success. McCullen agreed with the need for the Safe Kids program; however, he felt that it was "flawed." "It works briefly, but doesn't solve the problem," said McCullen, adding that the program should include rumble strips and lighted crosswalks.

Residents asked why council members voted themselves a raise last year. Buteas, who was the only voting member present, explained that the Democratic Majority in 2010 re-negotiated the borough administrator's contract after the

Republican-controlled council in 2009 gave them a 3.5% pay raise. "By doing so, we saved \$48,000 over three years. It was a slight oversight and was corrected and we [council members and mayor] haven't had a raise in years." White said that after looking at the budget he did not see any money saved and Barletta reiterated that Chrissy "voted for it and when it was brought to your attention you voted against it."

Controlling taxes and spending are the main concerns addressed by residents. Frank claimed that in 2010 "South Plainfield had the best record on taxes in the county, ranking 13th out of 560 other towns in the state." Barletta said that last year the Republicans lowered taxes by \$179 per average household and that the municipal portion of the tax bill is less in 2011 than in 2009. Buteas stated that 2009 was a transition year when the borough switched from a fiscal to calendar year budget cycle and should not be compared. "Last year taxes were down and they increased this year," said Buteas. Both parties urged audience members to examine their tax bills to form a conclusion.

Both parties' candidates were asked about their plans and goals for the future of the borough. McCullen suggested "proactive plans" to get businesses to move into town. He said a new library would add value to homes and the level of education of the children. White wants to see taxes controlled and lower spending and borrowing by budgeting less in one-time revenues. He also wants to bring in new businesses, see more shared services and would like to maintain the "community feel." Barletta said, "I want to continue progress as we have done with the Republican Majority-controlling taxes and spending, keeping the small town atmosphere and bringing new businesses to town." Buteas also wants to keep the "small town atmosphere" and wants to bring new businesses to town, as well as "control traffic, taxes and spending."

Voters can view the debate in its entirety on Comcast Channel 96 tomorrow at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Voting will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 8. The poles are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

In My Opinion

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

Residents of South Plainfield:

My name is Shirley Thompson. For the past nine Christmases, I have organized a local effort to provide a hot Christmas dinner and Christmas presents for families in South Plainfield, who without our help, may not have Christmas presents for their children. We also deliver hot Christmas dinner to senior citizens in South Plainfield, who normally receive Meals on Wheels, which does not deliver on Christmas Day.

All gifts for the children and the food needed to prepare the Christmas dinners are purchased through donations received from local businesses, friends, family and neighbors.

Once again this year we expect the needs to be greater than in past years and would like to ask for your assistance in donating any of the following items (all items should be new and unwrapped): Book bags, children's and teenager's size clothing and pajamas, hats, gloves and scarves, socks, purses for teenagers, toys (no war toys), games, puzzles, coloring books. We also need tape to wrap the presents. All items should be age-appropriate for children in elementary through high school. We will also be collecting non-perishable food which we will distribute to the families. We could also use gift cards to purchase presents for the children or for food and other items needed to prepare Christmas dinner.

This year we have a few different drop off points. All donated items can be dropped off any day before 7 p.m. through November 30 at any of the following locations:

- South Plainfield Rescue Squad: We will have collection boxes in the front of the building;
- 131 Montrose Avenue or 140 Montrose Avenue: Please place items in container on side porch;
- The South Plainfield Observer office: 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please be sure to put your name on the package so we can thank you in our yearly article in the *Observer*.

If you already participate in a holiday fund drive, please continue. I am not looking to replace something you already have in place. Please feel free to share this letter with anyone you feel would like to help. If you are a local business and would like to hold a toy, clothing or non-

perishable food drive, or if anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at (908) 756-7686.

Thank you for your consideration.

**SINCERELY,
SHIRLEY THOMPSON**

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the article last week from Bogdan Fryszyzyn. I am dismayed that a person can publish a letter in the *Observer* that is filled with erroneous information and facts seemingly pulled out of thin air.

The first of numerous errors is the statement that the South Plainfield Board of Education has "two outstanding members of the NJEA." The fact is that there is only one NJEA member on our board, and that is me!

Bogdan's second error came when he mentioned that the BOE supported Al Czech's recommendation for bowling coach. Mr. Fryszyzyn, before you write to a newspaper, please ensure the supposed facts you are supplying are substantiated before you submit it for public perusal. If you had reviewed the board minutes from October 19, you would have seen that BOE member Sorrentino did not support the recommendation by the athletic director and superintendent, and voted against the appointment of the two bowling coaches. Yes, an NJEA member voted no against two other members.

I am an educator and union member; however, when I am involved with the Board of Education I vote for what is best for the students. I believed Mr. Feh was the best choice to coach the bowling team. I understand your anger at the decision that was reached, but before you attempt to attack someone publicly, please try to do a little fact-checking and make sure you know exactly what happened. A failure to do so is a waste of time for everyone involved, and, rather than establishing that you are a concerned citizen whose only interest is the betterment of our school system, it makes you sound like someone with a personal vendetta against certain board members. It also makes you sound like someone who is determined to say anything in order to turn public opinion against anyone who does not share your views.

I find the casually demeaning manner in which you speak of the students of Rahway appalling; unfortunately, not

Submit Your Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax to 908-668-8819, or via email: spobserver@comcast.net. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Limit letters to no more than 200 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and to limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject. Submission is not a guarantee of publication. We do not accept anonymous letters. Letters are strictly opinion.

every single school district is able to offer the same advantages to its students that South Plainfield does. Your failure to understand the very issues you are crowing about shines brightly in your opinion of Rahway students. The SATs are administered at the high school level, usually when students are juniors or seniors, and not every student chooses to take them. If you had done your research, you would discover that I work at a middle school as a special education teacher. To insinuate that SAT preparation should be my top priority when working with seventh grade students with disabilities simply shows a lack of reason and a desire to sling mud at any target, regardless of whether or not said target is deserving of your barbs.

I am inviting you to stop hiding behind your keyboard and come to the South Plainfield Board of Education Public Meeting on November 16. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Roosevelt Administration Building. I would be happy to discuss matters further with you, so you then can be armed with accurate information before you decide to launch another misinformed tirade. FYI, three board members are up for election in April; as can be clearly inferred by the tone of your letters, you feel that you can do a better job than anyone else who has taken the rather large step of actually running. If this is the case, please be a candidate, and volunteer your time for our community. Otherwise, consider your position before you decide to solve the district's issues from your comfortable seat at your computer.

Although I am a member of the Board of Education, this letter is not authorized, nor written on behalf of the Board of Education and it expresses my own views on this matter.

**JOSEPH SORRENTINO
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER**

(For more letters see pages 12-15)

South Plainfield Observer

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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.**

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

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

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MEMBER: Early American Coppers Club, Numismatic Literary Guild, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, NJ Numismatic Society



Nicholas Sparks "Skypes" with South Plainfield High School students.

Authors "Skype" With Students

The South Plainfield High School World Language classes recently had the opportunity to "Skype" with authors Seth Godin and Nicholas Sparks. Each author held a 30 minute Skype session in the high school auditorium.

The students met with Seth Godin, author of *Poke the Box*, on October 17 to discuss his experiences with bullying. Nicholas Sparks, author of *The Notebook*, spoke on October 18 about motivation to the students, as well as to students in another high school who were also participating in the session from their school. The authors took about 15 minutes to

discuss their personal experiences and then spent the last 15 minutes to answer student questions from the audience.

Skype in the Classroom is a free global community that invites teachers to collaborate on classroom projects using video calls over the Internet. World Languages teacher Shannon Lorenzo heard about the project through her involvement with the professional learning network, TED21c (Transforming Education for the 21st Century). She was instrumental in organizing the sessions.

Submitted by Annemarie Stoeckel,
Supervisor of Technology

Yard Waste Site, Leaf Season And Holiday Schedule

The South Plainfield Yard Waste Site at the end of Kenneth Avenue will go on its leaf season schedule beginning Monday, Nov. 14. Yard waste will be open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday and until 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, through December 10. A current yard waste decal must be mounted on your vehicle for access. Decals are available

from the municipal clerk in borough hall. Bring the registration of the vehicle you will be using.

Leaf bags will be available at the borough garage Monday through Friday until November 10. Bring the coupon from the pink curbside pickup program flier.

The recycling drop-off center on Kenneth Avenue is open from noon to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

The recycling complex will be closed on Veterans Day, November 11, and on Thanksgiving Day, November 24.

For updates, call the recycling hotline at (908) 226-7620.

POLICE REPORT

• On Oct. 20 the Gulf Station on Plainfield Avenue reported that a vending machine had been broken into and \$70 in change was taken.

• On Oct. 21 Sharon M. Chamorro, 23, of North Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and failure to stop.

• An employee of G&W Labs on Coolidge Street reported that their vehicle had been scratched.

• On Oct. 22 Edward P. Jackson, 42, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, driving on a suspended license, reckless driving, possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle, failure to keep right and failure to wear a seatbelt.

• On Oct. 23 a Woodbridge resident reported the theft of a Samsung Galaxy Tablet that was left on a table at McDonald's.

• Kennedy School reported that the park bench in the rear of the building had been broken.

• On Oct. 24 a Bollinger Way resident reported that their Discover Card had several fraudulent cash advance charges.

• An Edison resident reported that their debit card had been fraudulently used to make a purchase at Burger King.

• The South Plainfield Observer reported that four bank checks were fraudulently cashed from the business checking account.

• Andrea C. Scott, 36, of Plainfield was arrested at Shoppers World for shoplifting \$167 worth of clothing.

• On Oct. 25 N.J. American Water reported that copper pipes, a faucet and a water meter were taken from a vacant home on Foster Avenue.

• A Schillaci Lane resident reported that eggs had been thrown at their home and vehicle.

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

Contact

Lou Peralta at
(908) 756-6406.



Art Sabino Sr. (left), Better Parades chairman, and Exalted Ruler Dan Uken.

Elks Win Best Civic Organization Trophy at Labor Day Parade

For more than 40 years the South Plainfield Elks have been serving the community with generosity and volunteerism. The programs extend far and wide, ranging from scholarships to youth activities, soccer and hoop shoots, the dictionary project, drug awareness, children with special needs and Elks Camp Moore, Americanism, veterans and the Army of Hope for Fallen and Wounded Soldiers.

At this year's Labor Day Parade, the South Plainfield Elks were honored with the trophy for Best Civic Organization. The trophy was presented by Elks member Frederick Moretti on

behalf of his daughter and grand marshal, Sergeant Trista Moretti, our fallen hero. It was fitting that this award be presented by Fred, a longtime member of the Special Children's Committee and also a veteran.

The award was accepted by Exalted Ruler Dan Uken, PER and Better Parade's Chairman Arthur Sabino, Sr., past exalted ruler.

The Elks are proud to be the premier charitable organization in our community. Stop by and inquire about becoming part of this wonderful organization or call (908) 668-9750.

—Submitted by Debra Czech

Special Planning Board Meeting

In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act-Chapter 231-PL 1975, requiring public bodies to transmit notices of future meetings, notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the South Plainfield Planning Board will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

Questions should be directed to the board secretary's office at (908) 226-7641. Notice of this meeting has been posted on the borough website and duly advertised according to law.

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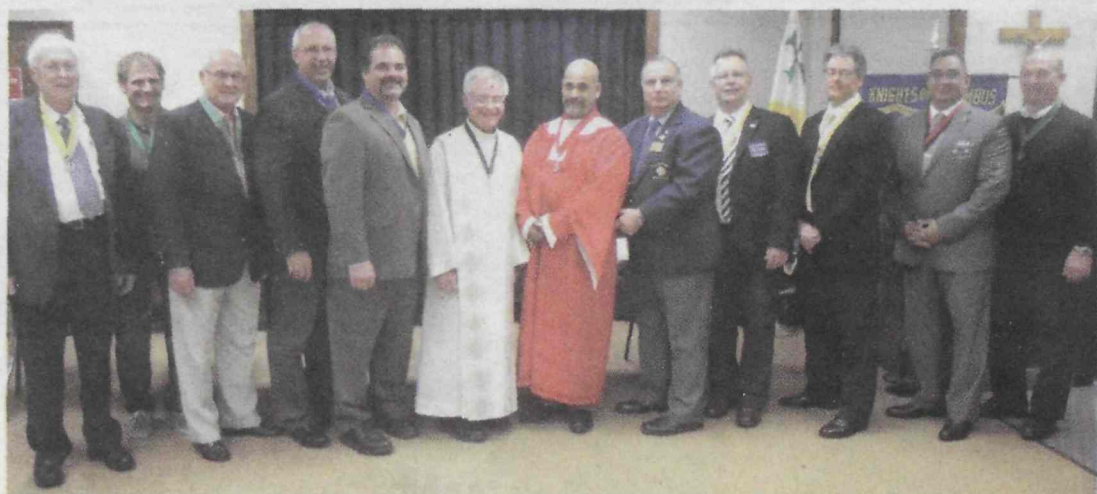
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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS INSTALL NEW OFFICERS—South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 held the installation of officers for the 2011-2012 Columbian year on October 8. The installation was followed by a dinner. The installation was run by District Deputy John Scioscia and Father John Paul Alvarado, Sacred Heart Church pastor. The 2011-2012 officers are Chaplin-Father John Paul Alvarado, Grand Knight-Joe Scudato, Deputy Grand Knight-Brian Cargill, Chancellor-Greg Gaydos, Recorder-Tom Pollock, Treasurer-Gerry Butrico, Financial Secretary-Joe Wilkowski, Advocate-Gene Baker, Warden-Roberto Morales, Inside Guards-Joe Polakowski and John Eder, Outside Guards-Dan Ratti and Rob Richkus, One Year Trustee-Lenny Kleczkowski, Two Year Trustee-Bob Walker, Three Year Trustee-Bill Butrico and Lecturer-Joe McGeehan.

Free “Retro On Demand” Fitness Classes

Retro Fitness Edison will roll out the latest in fitness classes on Friday, Nov. 11 when the 1,100 sq. ft. mezzanine that overlooks the park-like setting of the gym opens. Leading each class is a “virtual” instructor whose image is projected on a wide screen at the front of the class. The best part? The classes are free to all, members and non-members alike, through December 31.

Among the classes being offered are jibe (zumba), Pilates, yoga, kickboxing, stretching, conditioning, strengthening, aerobics and senior classes.

“We are offering free classes to the community so everyone can experience the wonderful difference of working out with a ‘virtual’ teacher,” explained Mitch Kurtzer, co-owner of Retro Fitness Edison. “After that, you can join Retro On Demand for just \$10 a month for unlimited classes if you are a member of the gym, or \$20 a month for non-members.”

Original plans called for utilizing the mezzanine for yoga, Pilates and Zumba classes, as suggested by Kurtzer’s girlfriend, Maggie Cardenas during the construction phase of the

gym last year.

“The advantages of having a virtual teacher is that the classes will be programmed to run automatically,” said Kurtzer. “You can join a class when it’s convenient for you, and try different classes that will match your fitness level.”

For information on joining Retro Fitness, call (732) 549-7387 or stop by for a tour at 3775 Park Ave. in Edison.

Storm Debris Pickup Begins

Residents are advised to place debris from last Saturday’s storm at the curb for pickup by the borough. The pickup will continue through November until all fallen branches have been collected.

In addition, the leaf pickup that was scheduled to begin on Monday will not begin until November 14.

For more information, call Public Works at (908) 755-2187, visit the borough’s website at www.southplainfieldnj.com or visit us on Facebook.

Trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse

The Senior Center is planning a trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to see *Christmas 2011* on Thursday, Dec. 8 from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. \$60 per person includes full course meal, show, desserts, tip and tax (transportation not included).

An ensemble cast of multi-talented performers celebrate Christmas in an original holiday song and dance fest featuring traditional carols, classic and contemporary Yuletide compositions, humorous skits and spectacular dance numbers, all backed by a live orchestra.

For more information, call the senior center at (908) 754-1047.

Transportation may be provided with the reservation of 30 or more for a nominal fee.



Girirajan Named Junior Journalist

Vaishnavi Girirajan, a third grader at Roosevelt School, is this week’s winner in the Junior Journalist program. Her poem, “The Divine Night Sky,” has earned Vaishnavi dinner for her family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

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 Home-



Junior Journalist winner Vaishnavi Girirajan with teacher Michael Bertram (right) and Principal Bob Diehl (left).

town Heros; additional U.S. Savings Bonds are also awarded. Students are recognized by the mayor and the state assembly as well.

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

The Divine Night Sky

By Vaishnavi Girirajan

Oh’ moon, oh’ moon
Where have you been?
Were you anywhere?

We can see the stars sparkling in the glorious night sky.
Twinkle, twinkle, twinkle.

We can taste the air in our mouth.
Aahhh!

We can touch the wetted grass on the mud.
We can hear the owl howl when the hunt.

Hoo, hoo, hoo, hoo.
We can smell the delicious dinner cooking in the kitchen.

Yummy, yum, yum!
All these things we do at night.
Oh’ moon you are right
HERE!

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Daniel Aronowitz

Greetings from the library.

The library is still closed to the public for repairs due to hurricane Irene. Things are moving along very well. We hope to reopen to the public by the middle of November. Even though we are still closed, you can return items that you have checked out. Both of our drops outside are unlocked and there will be staff members there everyday to empty the drops and check the items in. There will be no fines for items that were overdue and

returned during the period that we have been closed.

To keep up to date with what is going on at the library, visit our Facebook page which can be accessed by clicking on the link on our website, www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

We hope to see you soon!

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There's a **Brighter** Future Ahead in South Plainfield

**And it starts with Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas,
John Sorrentino and Paul McCullen**



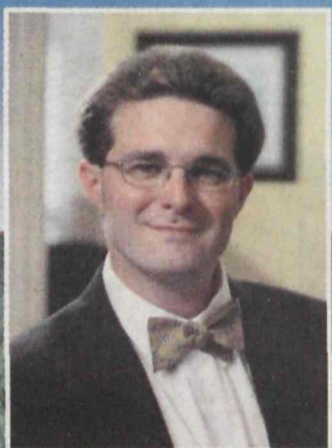
COUNCILWOMAN CHRISSY BUTEAS

"As the only woman on the council, I have taken a stand and made the tough decisions to protect our residents. I am the only person who voted against the property tax increase that resulted in South Plainfield receiving the fifth highest property tax increase in Middlesex County. I voted against the construction of 700 apartments. And I voted to make South Plainfield safer by moving truck traffic off of Hamilton Boulevard."



JOHN SORRENTINO

"As a former independent, I always voted for the person who worked the hardest for South Plainfield. As a Democrat, I'm working with the team who puts South Plainfield first. I want to stop the mounting tax burden on South Plainfield – and that means creating solutions – both short and long term – that take the burden off South Plainfield residents."



PAUL MCCULLEN

"Property taxes are higher than they have ever been. We need to stop the rising burden on taxpayers and create a council that will work together to create long term solutions to make South Plainfield work for us – not the other way around."

VOTE Column B

Tuesday, November 8th

www.facebook.com/ButeasSorrentinoMcCullenforSPCouncil

Chrissy Buteas ★ John Sorrentino ★ Paul McCullen
SOUTH PLAINFIELD'S DEMOCRATS. BETTER SOLUTIONS FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

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
Line Dancing 10 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!

Daily Activities: Morning coffee, pool, cards, board games, art, yoga and crafts.

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.

events Around Town

Grant School Vendor Night

November 4

Grant School's Vendor Night/Craft Fair will be held on Friday, Nov. 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Grant School, 305 Cromwell Pl. Items raffled off will include vendors Arbonne Cosmetics, Beauti Control, Braced-let's, Lia Sophia Jewelry, Scentsy Wickless Candles, Tastefully Simple and many more!

Sands Casino Trip

November 5

The South Plainfield American Legion Post #243, 243 Oak Tree Ave., is sponsoring an evening trip to the Sands Casino in Pennsylvania on Saturday, Nov. 5 leaving at 4 p.m. Cost is \$30 with a \$25 return! Light refreshments on the bus, which departs from the post parking lot.

For more information, call (908) 668-9414.

Send Your Community Events to: spobserver@comcast.net

VFW Country Breakfast

November 6

The South Plainfield VFW, 155 Front St., is holding a country breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 6 from 8 to 11 a.m. The public is welcome.

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

"Bullied" Documentary At Sacred Heart Church

November 6

Sacred Heart RC Church will host a screening and discussion on the film "Bullied" on Sunday, Nov. 6 at 3 p.m. in the church. The film tells the story of a young man who took a stand against bullying. All are welcome to attend.

For more information, call Sr. Kathleen at (908) 756-0633, ext. 142.

Historical Society Monthly Meeting

November 8

The South Plainfield Historical

Society will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. at The History Center, Roosevelt Administration Building, lower level on the Jackson Avenue side. Find out about the history of your town.

All are invited to attend; new members welcome.

Sons of the Legion Oldies' Dance

November 12

The Sons of the American Legion are hosting an oldies dance on Saturday, Nov. 12 at 8 p.m. at Chaumont Post #243 on Oak Tree Avenue. \$15 per person includes beer, wine, soda and snacks. DJ "Stick Shift Eddie" will provide the 50s and 60s music for dancing. Open to the public.

Knights of Columbus Annual Trivia Night

November 12

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 annual trivia night will be held on Saturday,

Nov. 12 at the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. First question at 7:02 p.m. sharp! Gather your table of party friends and join the fun. Entertaining categories—something for everyone. Complementary soda, popcorn and pretzels. Cash prize for first place. Door prizes. Bring your favorite snacks to share at your table and your personal table decorations. Table of eight only \$160.

For reservations, call Joe Scrudato at (908) 406-5920.

Proceeds to benefit the Middlesex County Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Business Association Monthly Meeting

November 17

The South Plainfield Business Association will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, Nov. 17 at 8:30 a.m. at Sherban's Diner. All businesses are welcome to attend.

For information about the business association, call Nancy Grennier at (908) 668-0010 or visit spba.biz.

Wrestling Club Fundraising Dinner

November 19

South Plainfield Wrestling Club will host the third annual Tiger Take-down Buffet on Saturday, Nov. 19 at the South Plainfield Polish Home.

Proceeds will benefit the SPHS wrestling team's trip to the Virginia Duals. Tickets are \$20 and will be sold at the door. Cash bar. Gamín Ride Truck for the kids. We will also be drawing the winning ticket for our Super 50/50.

For more information, call Pam Heilmann at (908) 294-6009.

Nativity of Blessed Virgin Food Festival

November 19

A food festival will be held at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church, 400 Delmore Ave., on Saturday, Nov. 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. featuring homemade stuffed cabbage, pierogies, soups and cakes. Cash or check only.

For more information, call (908) 561-6366.

American Legion Country Breakfast

November 20

American Legion Chaumont Post #243, 243 Oak Tree Ave., will be the site for the auxiliary country breakfast buffet on Sunday, Nov. 20. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. The buffet will feature breakfast casseroles, eggs, pancakes, sausage and more. Serving times are 8 a.m. until noon. The public is invited.

— Out of Town —

World Community Day 2011

November 4

"Living Our Faith: Unlocking Action," in conjunction with the 2011 World Community Day Service and sponsored by the Church Women United Plainfield Area, will be held on Friday, Nov. 4 at 1 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church, 324 Monroe Ave. in Plainfield.

For information, call Winnie Neal at (908) 755-4229.

Open House at Morristown Airport

November 5

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events

Around Town

Road, will host an open house and cookout on Saturday, Nov. 5. Free BBQ lunch at noon, followed by facility tour by a certified flight instructor. Arrive 10-15 minutes early.

For more information, call (973) 267-3223 or visit www.american-flyers.net/about/aviation_seminars.asp.

German Schlachtfest Dinner/Dance

November 5

Plainfield Gesang- und Turn-Verein, Inc. will hold a German Schlachtfest dinner/dance on Saturday, Nov. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at Singer Hall, 220 Somerset St. in North Plainfield. Pork roast, sausages, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, applesauce and much more will be served. Coffee and cakes. Tickets: \$20 members; \$22 non-members.

For reservations, call Victor at (908) 276-8572 or Joan at (908) 647-0819.

Shabbat Pray & Play

November 5

Temple Shalom of Fanwood/Scotch Plains, located in Fanwood Presbyterian Church at the corner of Martine and LaGrande avenues, invites families with children ages four and under to a Shabbat Pray & Play on Saturday, Nov. 5. Music, maracas, puppets and parachutes. Interactive service at 10 a.m. followed by a free bagel brunch in the playroom. Older siblings are welcome.

For more information, call (908) 889-4900 or visit www.sholomnj.org.

Fall Fundraising Dinner at St. Francis

November 5

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 400 New Market Rd. in Dunellen, will

hold its annual fall fundraising dinner on Saturday, Nov. 5. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; dinner at 6 p.m. Cost: \$20/adults; \$10/children under 12.

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

Blackrose to Perform

November 5

Blackrose, a band performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will perform at the Stagehouse Tavern, 336 Park Ave. in Scotch Plains on Saturday, Nov. 5 at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

Harmony Harvest Chorus Tricky Tray

November 6

Jersey Harmony Chorus presents Harmony Harvest Tricky Tray Basket Auction on Sunday, Nov. 6 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Princeton Elks Lodge, 354 Rt. 518 in Skillman. Cost: \$20 and includes one sheet of tickets, gift bag, dessert, coffee and tea.

Prizes include flat screen TV and Caribbean hotel stay. 50/50 drawing, door prizes, mystery prize, Ben the DJ and performances by Jersey Harmony Chorus. Cash bar.

For more information, call (732) 469-3983 or (732) 236-6803, or visit www.jerseyharmonytrickytray.com.

Salute to Veterans

November 6

Trinity Reformed Church, 401 Greenbrook Rd. in North Plainfield, will hold a program entitled, "A Salute to Veterans" on Sunday, Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. Guest speaker Trish Chambers' topic is "Rosie the Riveter and Her Sisters—The Women of World War II." Light refreshments will be served.

Middlesex East WOWs Meeting

November 7

Middlesex East Widows Or Widowers will conduct a business meeting on Monday, Nov. 7 starting at 7 p.m. at the Carteret Community Center located at Pershing and Cooke avenues in Carteret. All widows or widowers are invited to attend.

For more information, call (732) 969-2228 or (908) 757-0515.

Depression/Bipolar Support Meeting

November 9

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance will feature Jill Brown on Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 7:45 p.m. at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd. The public is invited.

For information, call (973) 994-1143.

Singles Dance Party

November 12

Steppin' Out Singles will hold an upscale singles dance party on Saturday, Nov. 12 at 8 p.m. at the Woodbridge Hilton, 20 Wood Ave. South in Iselin. Ages 40 and up; no jeans/t-shirts/sneakers/shorts. Admission: \$17.

For information, call (732) 656-1801.

Authentic Christkindlmarket

November 13

Deutscher Club of Clark, 787 Featherbed Ln. is holding an authentic Christkindlmarket (Christmas market) on Sunday, Nov. 13, noon to 5 p.m. Imported German gifts. Dinners available.

For more information, call (732) 574-8600.

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BBQ Spare Ribs

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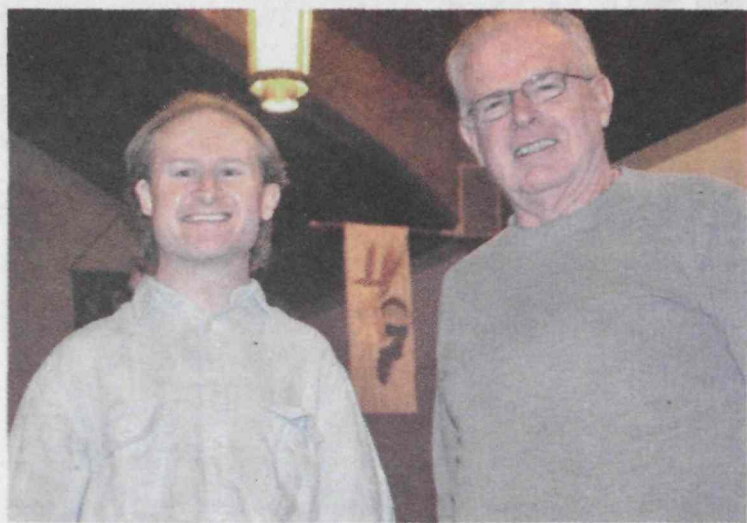
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Annual Oktoberfest Features Authentic German Fare



Pastor Chris Halberson and Bill Cochrane at the St. Stephen's Lutheran Church annual Oktoberfest dinner.

By Patricia Abbott

The month of October brings autumn, Halloween and worldwide Oktoberfest celebrations. St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, located on Park Avenue, has been holding its own Oktoberfest dinner for 14 years. This year's dinner was a huge success with more than 100 in attendance.

The dinner is served in the church. Volunteers and committee members removed the pews and set up tables and chairs for the buffet dinner.

German ancestry or not, young and old alike attended the dinner to enjoy an authentic German meal of roast pork and gravy, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut and red cabbage, green beans, dinner rolls, assorted desserts and beverages.

The meal was cooked by Dale Morin and Frank Gianneschi. The event was organized by the church's Social Ministries Committee. The committee consists of congregation members Morin, Ginneschi, Cathy Newman, Linda and Russ Hansen,

Kathy Cortese, Nancy Moore, Chrystal Takacs and Lou Hasbrouck.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the South Plainfield Social Ministries, Lutheran World Hunger and Lutheran World Relief.

St. Stephen's Pastor Chris Halberson, who experienced his first Oktoberfest with the parish, commented, "I was really impressed with the number of people who showed up, with the quality of the food, as well as the attitude of fellowship found here tonight."

Oktoberfest is a 16-18 day event held annually in Munich and Bavaria, Germany which runs from late September to the first weekend in October. It is one of the most popular events in Germany and is the world's largest fair, with more than five million people attending every year. Oktoberfest has been held since 1810. German-Americans are the country's largest self-reported ancestral group. Hundreds of different Oktoberfest celebrations are held annually throughout the country.

For up to the minute info, visit the South Plainfield Observer on

facebook



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MIDDLESEX COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

By Ronald G. Rios, Chair, Committee of Law and Public Safety

Shine the Light Highlights Awareness of Domestic Abuse

Domestic violence is a devastating form of physical and mental abuse that affects men, women and children and causes damage to our entire society. Given the overwhelming statistics, it may even be likely that someone you know has been a silent victim of this type of attack.

In Middlesex County alone, there have been over 500 reported cases of domestic violence this year. This number represents only a fraction of the instances of domestic abuse since, unfortunately, many cases go unreported. Just as unfortunate is the fact that, in nearly every case, victims who do file reports change their minds and drop the charges, leaving violent offenders out on the street.

Several years ago, Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce J. Kaplan developed

a new method of recording the initial events and collecting evidence, so, in cases where victims decide not to press charges, the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office is still able to pursue cases and convict violent offenders.

During this month of outreach and recognition, I am pleased to report that Prosecutor Kaplan has streamlined this system even more, by creating a new domestic violence reporting form. The form requires police to fill out a checklist that not only reminds them to be certain each step in the gathering of evidence is completed, but requires police to file the form with the prosecutor's office within 24 hours of the time the crime is reported.

In this fashion, police will remember, for example, to be sure to collect a threatening text message or voice mail, while investigators in the prosecutor's office see to it that each victim gets counseling quickly. By reaching victims quickly, investigators will have a better chance of arresting and prosecuting the violent offenders who have harmed them.

Also in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Women Aware of Middlesex County encouraged residents to take part in its new awareness program, Shine the Light on Domestic Violence.

Shine the Light is a countywide initiative that encourages residents to replace white light bulbs with purple colored ones or display purple string lights to mark Domestic Violence Awareness Month as a way to bring attention to this devastating problem and to show support to those who have suffered its effects.

In October I presented Phyllis Adams, the executive director of Women Aware, with a resolution on behalf of the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the county and lending support to the Shine the Light on Domestic Violence program.

No one should have to live in fear and no one should have to suffer in silence. In coming together as a community, we can make our county stronger. I applaud and support the efforts of the Middlesex County Prosecutor's office and Women Aware and I would like to ask you to lend your support and help bring attention to this very devastating form of abuse.

For more information, call Women Aware's 24-hour hotline at (732) 249-4504 or visit www.womenaware.net.

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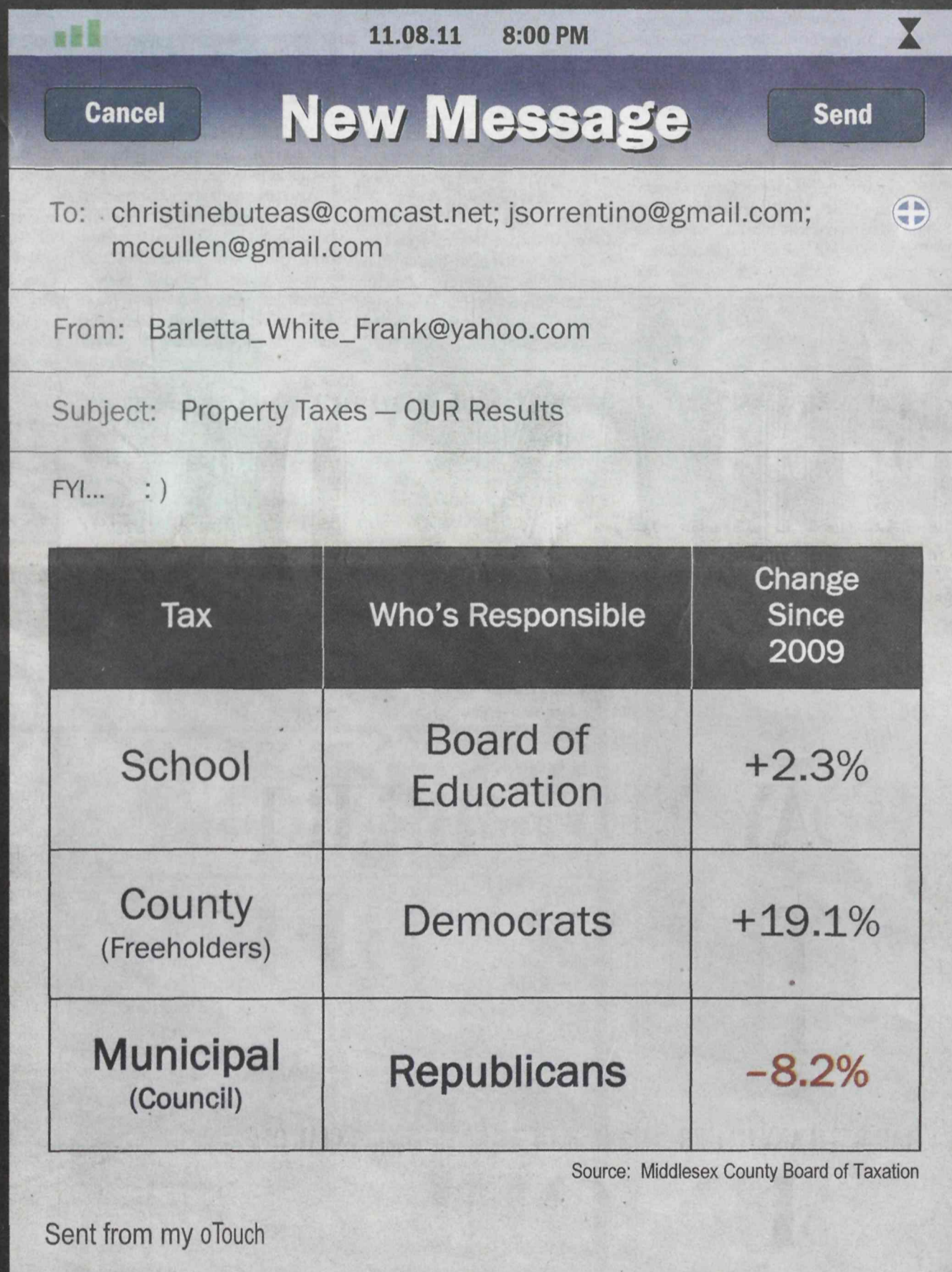
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New Music Venue to Open

The official opening of 10th Street Live, a music venue/bar and grill located in Kenilworth, is still a few weeks away, but is already being talked about as the "venue to save the scene." The long anticipated venue will feature live music multiple days of the week and offer food and drink all seven days.

With close affiliation to the popular Soundwaves Studios in Union, 10th Street Live will be the premier venue for up and coming local artists as well as national touring acts.

"We strive to make this place the setting for the next chapter in the revitalization of the New Jersey music scene," explained co-owner Thomas

Stratton. Stratton is a longtime native of the local music scene having played with the New Jersey band Socratic for over a decade and in recent years built a reputation as head producer/engineer at Soundwaves Studios.

Stratton, alongside partners and co-owners Bob Vetter, Steven Blau and Kevin Bryan, chose the location at 104 North 10th Street, the former site of Apples, and began planning out the design over a year ago. Vetter has been in the construction business for over 20 years at V&J Construction, Inc., also in Kenilworth, and was in charge of overseeing the entire project.

"Having known the way things are run at Soundwaves and the dedication behind every aspect of their business, I knew when they bought this place it would be huge," claims local musician Taylor Mandel, who plays for both The Ugly Club and Chocolate Bread.

"This is exactly what artists and bands need and have been looking for. I can't wait to play there," said Joe Capone of the local rock band, Streets of Fire.

It is well known in Union County that these guys are an intricate part of the music scene and 10th Street Live will be just one more example of it.

Submitted by Steven Buckley

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.

Sports

U-11 ECLIPSE
Submitted by Kathleen Smith

Eclipse U-11 Girls Win Against Piscataway Chaos

Team Eclipse dominated Piscataway Chaos on October 23 in a 2-0 win. Samantha Pullen scored the first goal with a rocket of a shot fired from outside of the box. Olivia Leonardis scored goal number two with a penalty shot late in the first half.

Team Eclipse kept the pressure up the entire game by allowing only a few shots on goal. Mackenzie O'Brien, Samantha Pullen, Jillian Holoboski and Linda Farinella consistently battled to keep driving the ball towards Piscataway defense. Meanwhile, Alexis Curtis, Catherine Delair, Olivia Leonardis, Gianna Sacco and Kristyn Smith continued to keep the defensive side of the field clean. Kaitlyn Smith protected against Piscataway's two shots on goal allowing for the shutout.

Team Eclipse is made up of Alexis Curtis, Catherine Delair, Lynda Farinella, Sarah Gwiazda, Jillian Holoboski, Olivia Leonardis, Cameron Marks, Victoria Meono, Mackenzie O'Brien, Julia Parker, Samantha Pullen, Christina Romano, Gianna Sacco, Kaitlyn Smith and Kristyn Smith.

Wrestling Club Fundraising Dinner

The South Plainfield Wrestling Club will be hosting its third annual Tiger Takedown Buffet on Saturday, Nov. 19 at the South Plainfield Polish Home.

Proceeds will benefit the SPHS wrestling team's trip to the Virginia

SPHS Weekly Sports Schedule

Friday, November 4

3:45pm Fr Football - North Brunswick (A) Bus 2:30
7:00pm V Football - North Brunswick (H)
BV Soccer - State Tournament TBA (A)

Saturday, November 5

8:30am V Gymnastics - Sectionals (A) Hillsborough (A)
Bus 7:30 a.m.
11:00am B&GV Cross Country St. Sec @ Warinaco
Bus 10:00 a.m.

Monday, November 7

3:45 JV Football - North Brunswick (A) Bus 2:30 p.m.

U-13 SOCCER ARSENAL

Submitted By Steve Belanger

U-13 Arsenal Defeats Westfield

The U-13 Arsenal team won in convincing fashion last Sunday, defeating Westfield Juventus by a score of 2-0.

Arsenal opened the scoring in the 12th minute off a well-played combination. Jake Hoffman took control of the ball in the midfield and passed it up to Wallace Truesdale. Wallace turned and centered the ball to Jason Belanger, who promptly buried the ball in the net. Jake added the second goal in the 24th minute when he

dribbled past several Westfield defenders and kicked a rocket into the upper part of the goal.

Nick Plate preserved his third shut-out of the season with a diving save in the closing minutes of the game.

William Arias, Jason Cieszkiewicz, Caleb Kuberiet, Alec Paez, Ricky Pellegrino, Mason Resende, Elijah Robinson, Edwin Rivas and Kevin Solano all contributed to the win, exhibiting great teamwork throughout with sharp passing and solid defending.

Arsenal plays at home against Somerset Hills on Sunday, Nov. 6.

South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the Entertainment book for \$30. To purchase, contact Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.

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Obituaries

Joanne Hart, 61



Joanne Hart

Joanne Hart entered into eternal rest on Friday, Oct. 28 in the Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Joanne fought a valiant battle with cancer for five years. Born on February 16, 1950 to Leo J. Hart and Angie (Previte) Hart, Joanne was raised in New Brunswick and moved to Plainfield many years ago.

She graduated from St. Peter's High School and Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey) and embarked on a 36 year teaching career. She was the school teacher/librarian at Evergreen School in Plainfield for 33 years where she was well loved and respected by all of the administrators, teachers and students. She was a dedicated teacher who loved her profession.

She touched the lives of many and it was truly a privilege to know her. Joanne was a devoted wife, daughter, sister and aunt who will be dearly missed by all.

Joanne's passion was her family. She will also be remembered for her great sense of style and innovative thinking.

She is predeceased by her father, Leo J. Hart and a niece, Shannon Hart; as well as several well loved aunts and uncles.

She is survived by her adoring husband and caregiver of 32 years, J. Jake Martinez, retired precision sheet metal foreman and past post commander of the South Plainfield Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post #6763 and past district commander of the VFW (Middlesex County).

Joanne will be sadly missed by her mother, Angie Hart of North Brunswick; a sister, Patricia Bello and husband Gary of Parlin; two brothers, Robert and wife Renee of Point Pleasant and William and wife Debra of Somerset. Joanne was a very "special"

aunt to Jason Frey, Sean, Ryan, Kevin, Robert, Allison and Kelly Hart, who will truly miss her. She will be dearly missed by her many aunts, uncles and cousins as well as the extended families of Valerie (Bello) Cannan and Diane Buckalew of South Amboy and Donna Haydu of Sayreville.

Although a petite woman, she had a huge heart and so is the magnitude of our loss. God only takes the very best.

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

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Joanne's memory may be made payable to The American Cancer Society, noting "Rahway Regional Center-RFL" and sent to the attention of Christina Andrascik, 986 South Springfield Ave., Springfield, N.J. 07081.

Elena (GianAndrea) Tamilio, 90

Elena (GianAndrea) Tamilio died on Thursday, Oct. 27 at Arista Care at Cedar Oaks Care Center in South Plainfield.

Born in New York City, Elena resided in South Plainfield since 1954.

Elena was a member of Sacred Heart RC Church and devoted her time as a homemaker caring for her family. She enjoyed baking, loved her garden and was an avid N.Y. Yankees fan.

She is predeceased by her husband, Fernando, and by three sisters.

Elena is survived by five children, Anita Tartaglia and husband Peter of Hillside, Rhonda Tamilio of South Plainfield, Fernando Tamilio and wife Maryann of Wildwood, Warren Tamilio and wife June of Piscataway and Alfred Tamilio and wife Alicia of Pittstown. Also surviving are six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

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

Joan G. Cantamessa, 81

Joan G. Cantamessa passed away peacefully in her sleep on Wednesday,

Oct. 26 at home.

Born to the late Robert and Gladys in Westfield, Joan grew up working on the family farm, Ditzel Farm, in Scotch Plains. She later resided in South Plainfield for most of her life before settling in Piscataway in 2001.

In her younger years, Joan was an avid bowler and a girl scout leader. She had always enjoyed reading, taking trips to Atlantic City and watching T.V. In addition, Joan was a life member of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad where she was an active member for 36 years. As one of the first women members, she volunteered at various capacities within the squad, was the recipient of several awards and was instrumental with the women's auxiliary as well.

Joan is predeceased by her husband, Louis; a daughter, Joanne Eroglu; a grandson, Jeffrey Jr.; a son-in-law, John Fize; a twin sister, Doris Tripet and two brothers, Richard and Robert Ditzel.

Surviving are three daughters, Dianne Mills and husband Robert, Nancy Colvard and husband Roger and Patricia Fize; a son, Jeffrey Cantamessa and wife Barbara; and a sister, Eleanor Sieke; 10 grandchildren, Tracy, Michele, Kristie, Robbie, Melissa, Laura, Eric, Jessica, Matthew and Faith, and 14 great-grandchildren. In addition, she also leaves behind her dedicated caregiver, Elena Fabian, and many nieces and nephews.

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

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

Lydia (Caruso) "Nana" DeAndrea, 88

Lydia (Caruso) "Nana" DeAndrea died on Monday, Oct. 31 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Somerville, Mrs. DeAndrea lived in Plainfield and South Plainfield prior to settling in Metuchen in 1948.

Lydia was referred to as Nana not only by her family, but by friends as well. She had a heart as big as the world, was a fabulous cook and her

grandchildren were the joys of her life.

Nana was a longtime communicant of St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen and she will be sadly missed by her entire family.

Her beloved husband of 66 years, Vincent P. Sr., died in 2008. In addition to her husband, Mrs. DeAndrea is predeceased by a son, Vincent P. Jr. and a brother, Giatano Caruso.

Surviving are two children, Richard DeAndrea (Cindy Pukash) of South Plainfield and Denise Sneddon and husband Bob of Metuchen; a brother-in-law who she considered as a child of her own, Joseph B. DeAndrea, Sr. and wife Rose of Pennsylvania; two sisters, Elsie Watson and Enes Accardi; and a sister-in-law, Louise Petrella, all of Florida. Also surviving are the joys of her life—11 grandchildren, Christina Large and husband Dale, Dawn Santos and husband Peter, Maria DeAndrea, Alicia Sneddon Killcan and husband Tommy, Robyn Stuart and husband Billy, Dori Sneddon, Ricky DeAndrea, Vincent DeAndrea, III, Bobby Sneddon and fiancé Tiffany Festa, Michael Sneddon and Daniel DeAndrea, and 10 great-grandchildren, Danielle, Olivia, Erik, Noah, Paige, Emily, Cooper, Alli, Kate and Lucy.

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

Donations in her memory may be made to the Metuchen Rescue Squad, c/o The Metuchen Safety Council, P.O. Box 8, Metuchen, N.J. 08840.

Edward J. Kobilis, 77

Edward J. Kobilis died on Sunday, Oct. 23 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Shamokin, Pa., Ed moved to New Jersey, living in Edison for many years, and has been a resident of South Plainfield since 1991.

Ed served his country proudly in the United States Navy during the Korean Conflict where he was

stationed on a destroyer. In 1954, he was awarded with the Spirit of Honor Medal. Ed was very active in the American Legion Post #234 of Edison where he was a past post commander. For 10 years, he coached for the Fords Clara Barton Little League and Fords Bearcat Pop Warner Football Organization. He was a member of Pilgrim Covenant Church in South Plainfield.

He was employed for many years as a research technician for Exxon Research and Engineering Company as well as Envirotech Corporation.

Ed was an avid sports fan who rooted very hard for the Phillies, Eagles and Penn State Football.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his wife, Barbara (Kashuba) Kobilis, who died on October 30, 2010.

Ed leaves behind three sons, Eddie and wife Maryann and Danny, all of South Plainfield, Scott and wife Leslie of Middlesex; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a brother, John and wife Joan of Edison; and a sister, Ruth Blass of Shamokin, Pa.

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

Memorial Service for Gordon Holz

There will be a memorial service for the late Gordon Holz on Saturday, Nov. 12 at 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield.

Mr. Holz was well-known throughout the community as he was involved in the construction industry, and was the caretaker of the Hillside of Samp-town Cemetery. All are invited to pay their respects to Mr. Holz.

For more information, call the church office at (908) 753-2382.

Submitted by Rev. D. Gordon Braun, Jr., Pastor, First Baptist Church of South Plainfield

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Charlie and Debbie Kurland deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Fiza Rizvi, pictured with Fiza's mom and sister, Shamaila and Rida.

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Borough Council DECISION 2011

A Few Final Words from



Dear Voters,

The election that will take place on Tuesday offers a sharp contrast for voters. Do we go back to the same policies that didn't work? Or do we continue to go with a team that is getting better results.

My choice is obvious. I want to be one of the people who takes the town in a better direction. I grew up here, met my wife here and raised my family here. I'm invested in our town and I want to see it move forward, in the right direction.

It's been a short time since 2010 when Republicans took control. That year the council cut its part of the tax bill by \$179. Most of that reduction remains intact, with the average family still paying \$138 less than it did in 2009. I want to keep that type of progress going.

Let's talk about spending. It's down the second year in a row. These are results South Plainfield has never seen before. Let's keep this progress going.

On the jobs front, the figures show we have one of the best employment rates in the county, only 6.4% unemployment last year. That beats the county, state and national averages. We're starting to see new businesses come to town, and others, like PSE&G are expanding. I want to keep this progress going too.

But let's not look at the past. Let's look to the future.

As we continue to control expenses, bring in new business and invest in the right things, we can make South

Plainfield a stronger, more vibrant community.

Much has been done, and much remains to be done. I've only been on the council 10 months, and I'd like to continue. I don't know all the answers, but I do know that if you give me the chance, we can work together and get the job done.

COUNCILMAN ALEX BARLETTA



Dear Voters,

It has been an honor to serve as your councilwoman for the past three years. I am proud of my work on the council and take pride in the position I was elected to. Over the last few months, many letters and releases written by my opponents distorted my record. I have taken the high road, but now want to take this opportunity to set the record straight:

- I am the only person who voted against this year's property tax increase, which resulted in South Plainfield receiving the fifth largest tax increase in Middlesex County. My fellow Republican colleagues have only themselves to blame for this increase.

- Contrary to my Republican colleagues, in my only opportunity to vote on the issue, I voted against the construction of 700 apartments. Indeed, my Republican colleagues voted to support this project in 2009 when it was first introduced to the borough.

It is apparent to residents on both sides of the aisle that I love what I do. I enjoy being your councilwoman and

working on matters to improve your quality of life in town. That is what serving is all about. As the only woman and as one of two Democrats on the council, I make tough decisions and stand up for what's right for South Plainfield. I would rather be criticized for standing up for what I believe in than criticized for doing nothing at all. Here are a few of my proudest accomplishments over the past few years:

- Removing trucks from Hamilton Boulevard even though my opponents devoted tons of money and years to fight against me and the residents on the south side;

- I support efforts to build a new public library in South Plainfield;

- I promised to keep taxes flat in 2009 and I did just that;

- I initiated the energy audit for our local borough government and serve on the Green Team to create a sustainable South Plainfield;

- I co-initiated the borough's high school internship program with BOE member and friend, Debbie Boyle.

This year, my runningmates and I worked to create better solutions for a brighter future. My runningmates—John Sorrentino and Paul McCullen—are two people who share my values for working with the county and state to stem rising property taxes, to bring back what's ours and take the burden off of South Plainfield residents; to create an economic summit to bring good, new businesses back to South Plainfield; and to provide a safer, greener and cleaner South Plainfield.

This year's election is pivotal. Your taxes increased under Republican control and if my Republican colleagues are successful, you will no longer have two-

party government in South Plainfield.

I ask that you vote for John Sorrentino, Paul McCullen and me on Election Day. Vote Democratic, Line B on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

**VERY TRULY YOURS,
COUNCILWOMAN CHRISSE BUTEAS**



Dear Voters,

As a candidate for Borough Council, I hope to earn your support on Tuesday. My life has been about service, and I'm hoping one more time to step into that role and serve the people of South Plainfield.

As a former Marine and a former commander of the American Legion, service is important to me. I want to see our town move forward, and I truly believe I can help do that.

We've made great strides since Mayor Matt Anesh's team started managing the town in 2010. Things are getting done, and they're getting done the right way.

What other town can say that spending is down the second year in a row? And what other town can say that the municipal part of the tax bill is lower than it was two years ago? The rest of the state is in a fiscal crisis, but South Plainfield is actually doing what the others haven't been able to.

I want to be part of the exciting things that are happening in South Plainfield. I'm asking you to give me that chance, and I'm asking for your support on Tuesday.

RICHARD "DICK" FRANK



Dear Voters,

Next Tuesday we head to the polls and have the ability to stick with failed policy or engage in something new for South Plainfield. It has been a humbling experience to meet and talk with you about the issues and your personal needs. Some things are clear: We need to stabilize taxes, be proactive about bringing business to South Plainfield, reduce traffic issues, transform our town into a "green" community, explore all shared services options, and obtain proper county and state aid. Above all, this must be accomplished in a bipartisan manner.

What bothers me is the work of my detractors. Resurrecting tactics akin to McCarthyism is part of a greater pattern in which scare tactics are used to detract attention from the main issues. People that resort to bullying and slander cannot be trusted with any power. I consider myself to be level-headed, passionate, independent of mind, and above all, a critical thinker. My greatest offense has been to speak of what is right for helping the citizens of South Plainfield. If all my detractors can do is engage in personal attacks, do they really intend to do what is best for the people of this town?

As I've stated, we can continue to dwell on the past and go nowhere, or we can move into the future. I want the opportunity to serve this community next year. Vote Democratic November 8 for a brighter future.

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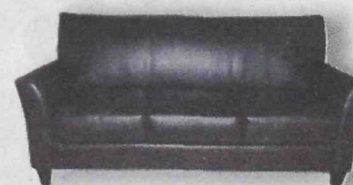


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Dear Voters,

I would like to start out by saying that I love South Plainfield and take a lot of pride in it. I've lived in South Plainfield for 25 years with my wife, Maryann. We've raised our three children, Angela, Anthony and Joey here and have volunteered our time to their activities, sports and school functions. We have always been involved in South Plainfield.

As chairman of the Public Celebrations Committee, it is my job to make sure the committee works as a team. Politics aside, we are all there to bring our town a great Labor Day.

As a councilman, I will work together with the mayor and council as one because I am here to help make South Plainfield a great place to live.

I have been walking door to door since July 5 listening to the residents' ideas and concerns about a lot of different things in South Plainfield. Most complaints were about speeding, rising taxes, less services and empty buildings. I want to help them as much as I can. One of my goals will be to bring in businesses to our empty buildings. This will offset the tax burden on our community by raising the tax rate.

I was an independent. I decided to become a Democrat on the Democratic ticket because I believe in what they are doing and what they stand for. I believe that together we will be able to help our town become a better place to live and raise a family.

We need a two party voice on the council like our forefathers intended it to be. If elected, I promise you that I will do my very best to make South Plainfield the best place to live. Remember, I live here too. I've been

blessed with a beautiful wife, three great children and their spouses. I have a loving and supportive extended family, wonderful neighbors and great friends.

I feel I can devote the next three years of my life to the community of South Plainfield and its citizens if you give me that opportunity by electing me.

Please vote for me and my running-mates, Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas and Paul McCullen on November 8.

THANK YOU,
JOHN SORRENTINO,

Polls are open from 6 a.m.
until 8 p.m. on November 8.

Do your part...



Dear Voters,

With Tuesday's election fast approaching, I'd like to use this opportunity to ask one more time for your support.

It's an honor to be running and to have the chance to earn your trust. It's also an honor to have the opportunity to continue to make a difference in a community that my family and I have truly grown to love.

I know firsthand the importance of fiscal responsibility. When my company closed its doors a few years ago, I was unemployed for five months. I thank God my family was okay. However, it wasn't because of the decisions we made the day I lost my job; it was all the sound financial decisions we made leading up to that day that made the difference.

It's no different for our town. We need to make sound financial decisions so that we can weather any storm.

Under Mayor Anesh's team we've seen the town finally start to control municipal taxes and spending, and we've seen that smaller, more efficient government can work. In fact, unlike other towns, South Plainfield's bond rating improved last year. This is even more evidence that professional management is making a difference.

But there's still more to be done. That's where I believe I can help.

As an independent-minded, critical thinker, I have a proven track record of getting the job done, bringing people together and making tough decisions.

I've always believed in the saying that there are three types of people in the world: Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened.

I'm a person that makes things happen. That's why I'm asking for your confidence, your trust and your vote on November 8.

DERRYCK WHITE

In My Opinion

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

Dear Editor,

It has been an honor serving the residents of the 18th Legislative District for the last nine years. Along with my family and my reputation as an attorney, I am proud of my record in the New Jersey General Assembly.

As chairman first of the Higher Education Committee and then as chairman of the Education Committee I have sponsored numerous pieces of legislation to improve the quality and availability of education in our state. In addition I was the prime sponsor of the law to protect student athletes and cheerleaders from concussions.

I have sponsored over 30 bills which have been signed into law supporting business growth in our state, in particular small businesses. You have my commitment to continue to work with members of both political parties to spur economic growth in our state and put people back to work. We must also address the ever increasing burden of property taxes on our hard working middle class families.

I am fortunate to run with two of the finest legislators in our state. Senator Barbara Buono, who serves as the majority leader in the senate, is the leading advocate in the state senate for proper funding for our suburban school districts, protecting senior property tax relief and providing affordable health care for women and working families. Assemblyman Peter Barnes is recognized state-wide for his efforts to protect our environment. He was the driving force behind protecting the Dismal Swamp, which is located in Edison, Metuchen and South Plainfield, from development. As chairman of the Judiciary Committee Peter has spearheaded proper oversight of our judicial system which is the cornerstone of a free society.

I respectfully ask for your vote on Election Day, next Tuesday, for the entire Democratic slate of Buono, Diegnan and Barnes. We have always dedicated ourselves to serve our district in an honest manner. I also ask that you vote for the entire Democratic team of Freeholders Charlie Tomaro and Carol Barrett and our local ticket of Chrissy Buteas, John Sorrentino and Paul McCullen. I can attest to all of their intelligence, ability and dedication to doing what is right for our residents.

ASSEMBLYMAN PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

Dear Editor,

Patrick and Anita Diegnan have been friends of mine and my wife Marion for over 25 years. Anyone who knows Patrick can attest to what I am about to say. He is as honest and capable a person as you could ever know. We in South Plainfield are fortunate to have Patrick Diegnan working for us in the New Jersey Assembly.

When I was mayor, all I had to do was pick up the phone and Assemblyman Diegnan would deliver for his hometown.

Whether it was securing the funds for the decorative lights on Hamilton Boulevard, securing open space money, helping with a grant for the playhouse on the corner of Oak Tree and Woodland avenues or fighting for state funds for our public safety departments, Mr. Diegnan always came through.

The single accomplishment which stands out most for me is Assemblyman Diegnan's singlehandedly saving our Future Stars Preschool program. The Board of Education was told by the State Department of Education to discontinue the program because it required a small tuition component. The Assemblyman wrote the law to save Future Stars—simple as that. The law was signed six years ago. How many young children have benefited from that single action?

I also know and have worked with Senator Barbara Buono and Assemblyman Peter Barnes. They are individuals of integrity and ability. They always tell me they think of South Plainfield as a second home.

No person accomplishes anything alone. Senator Buono, Assemblyman Barnes and Assemblyman Diegnan work together for our residents. It's reassuring to read that they are recognized as one of the most respected legislative teams in New Jersey.

This is called an "off year election" because it is not a presidential year; however, it's not an off year for South Plainfield. It would be an incredible loss for our residents if we no longer had a voice in Trenton. Whether you are a Democrat, Republican or Independent, show your South Plainfield pride and vote for the team of Senator Buono, Assemblyman Diegnan and Assemblyman Barnes.

DANIEL GALLAGHER

Dear Editor,

I have now known Derryck White for 2½ years. In what may appear to be a short time I can with certainty speak volumes to the direct impact of his character and integrity. I have had the honor of interacting with Derryck and his lovely

family on a personal level as well as being a firsthand witness to the consistency of his desire to serve his community on a public scale. I have known Derryck to be loving, candid and consistent in his views with a sincere desire to improve the lives of others in his sphere. I couldn't recommend a better candidate to represent the Borough of South Plainfield.

SINCERELY YOURS,
DAVID TYREE

Dear Editor,

I don't know about you, but I for one am glad that this is the last paper before election. Like many of you, I have had the opportunity to review each party's campaign literature over the last 10 weeks. To my dismay, I have seen a sharp and disappointing contrast on the message that each party decided to use to win the residents support.

As a Democrat and a former mayor, I am proud that the Democratic Party didn't take the tactic of personal attacks on people to better their campaign and that we didn't misrepresent facts. I am proud that our candidates presented a plan for how they will improve South Plainfield instead of criticizing the work of our opponents. I am proud that we have three outstanding individuals that will look out for the best interest of the residents of our borough and not just give lip service to get reelected. And finally, I am looking forward to seeing open, honest and ethical government restored to South Plainfield by keeping two party government alive.

We all have the opportunity to support three outstanding people to represent us for the next three years. Now it's time to get out and have your voice heard. Join me on November 8 by casting your vote for the Democratic team of Chrissy Buteas, John Sorrentino and Paul McCullen. You won't be disappointed.

THANK YOU,
CHARLES BUTRICO, FORMER MAYOR
OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

Dear Editor,

The candidates I truly think will serve South Plainfield best on the council are Derryck White, Alex Barletta and Dick Frank. These three are in touch with South Plainfield and its residents, and they will make superb public officials.

Alex, Derryck and Dick are real people who know how to solve real problems. They're not running to build a resume or climb the political ladder. Just the opposite: They're running because they are our neighbors, people who are invested in the town and have been active in our community long before choosing to run for office.

Alex grew up in town, and both he and Derryck own homes and are raising their families here. Dick is the epitome of public service, someone who spent

eight years protecting our country and now continues to serve as a leader in the veteran's community.

All three of these candidates will put the town first and will continue to push for the results South Plainfield needs to keep moving forward. They'll have my support on Tuesday, and I hope they'll have yours too.

ELAINE BIRIBIN

To the Editor:

I am taking more interest than normal in this year's borough council election because one of the candidates I have personally known for many years. Paul McCullen grew up with my sons and attended Wesley United Methodist Church

(Continued on page 14)

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In My Opinion

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(Continued from page 13)

where we were members. We sang in the church choir together and share the love of long distance running.

I know Paul as an honest and hard working young adult who cares very deeply about his family and the community of South Plainfield where he has lived most of his life. In my recent discussions with Paul over the past few months, I discovered he has a good grasp of the issues which South Plainfield faces. He is passionate about doing what is best for the citizens of South Plainfield.

I believe Paul will be a good steward of the borough's resources. He has the foresight and innovative thinking to guide the borough through the many problems it may face in the coming term which Paul seeks. I hope you have the opportunity to speak with Paul during his appearances throughout the borough. I am sure you will be impressed with his keen insight into the problems facing the borough and his ideas to help solve them.

I hope you consider electing Paul to the borough council this year. If elected I am sure you will be satisfied with his willing and devoted spirit to do what is right for South Plainfield.

RON WINNER

Dear Editor,

I noticed in last week's paper under the Democratic opinion they really fudged on their remarks about the taxes being the highest in South Plainfield. In the October 23 issue of the *Star Ledger* it listed the towns with the lowest taxes and South Plainfield was one of them and East Brunswick was next as they are copying what was done in South Plainfield. In fact South Plainfield was on the minus side.

I do believe the Republican Party has made a big difference in South Plainfield than the Democrats did when they were in power. We gained more services at better costs, jobs were saved and consolidated. No more

wasting of money for political hires.

The Republicans offer a professional group of men with business experience.

That is why we are supporting the ticket of Barletta, White and Frank for Borough Council and the other Republicans on Line A.

TONY AND DONNA PISANIELLO

Dear Editor,

"What is past is prologue," and we should plan a future for ourselves as a community. We need to look beyond today and figure out what is the best possible course for this town, and we need leaders with ideas and ways to bring these ideas to fruition. This town deserves a balance of power and a system of checks and balances. It is our right as American citizens.

Doing what is right for your community as a whole, and doing what is in the best interest for the future of your town takes honesty, conviction and depth of character. Paul McCullen has those traits which make him the person perfect for borough council. He has been more than a neighbor and has become a very close family friend. He is someone I trust with my children and with the future of this town. He is willing to put his intelligence, skills and passion to good use for the town and keep politics out of things.

I will be voting for Paul McCullen November 8. Remember we are a community, and should start acting like one, learning to help others and do what is best for the town.

**SINCERELY
ANDREW RUIZ**

Dear Editor,

While our endorsement of Alex Barletta, Derryck White and Dick Frank may seem a forgone conclusion, we nonetheless wanted to take the time to offer our support for them without reservation. South Plainfield would be fortunate to have them on the council, and we urge residents to support them

on Tuesday.

We could not have been more proud watching Alex, Derryck and Dick at the debate. They came across as the professionals they are, and they demonstrated a true depth of knowledge about the town, its challenges, and the needed solutions.

We also could not be more proud of their campaign. They've run a hard-fought, honest campaign. In a time when some politicians will say anything to get elected, it's refreshing to see people who will run a campaign with the integrity these three have. Look closely at what they've been saying. Every fact is documented, and every statement verified.

Also watch carefully what you hear and read as the election approaches. The council controls the municipal part of the tax bill, not the entire bill. Some people may want to divert your attention and point to the total bill in their ads, even though most of that bill is not controlled by the council. Be wary of that.

Alex, Derryck and Dick have been correctly pointing out that the municipal part of the bill is down 8.2% since 2009, which is a savings of \$138 this year for the average homeowner. Over that same time, the county portion is up over 19%. That part of the bill is controlled by the county Democrats, not the council. We urge people to take out their old tax bills and see this for themselves. Since 2009 the Republican part of the tax bill is down and the Democrat part is up. These are the facts.

One final point: Having come to know Alex, Derryck and Dick, we can say unequivocally that they are running for the right reasons and that they will put our town first. They're not politicians. Yes, they are running for office, but they are doing so to serve their neighbors. They're not people who are trying to build a name so they can be the next rising-star politician. Instead, they're people who believe in our town

and think they can help keep it going in the right direction. We believe in them and know they will be assets on the governing body.

**MAYOR MATT ANESH
COUNCIL PRESIDENT RAY
RUSNAK
COUNCILMAN ROB BENGIVENGA
COUNCILMAN TIM MCCONVILLE**

Dear Editor,

The choice is very clear this election: Vote Democratic. For years, the Democrats kept our taxes stable and now they are going up under Republican control.

The ticket is headed by Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas, known around town as the hardest working, most dedicated and caring member of our governing body. She goes out of her way to help people and is always working to tackle the tough issues our borough faces. She initiated almost every green energy action taken in South Plainfield, kept the trucks off of Hamilton Boulevard and Belmont Avenue, kept taxes flat in 2009, and works with countless non-profit organizations in South Plainfield. From the 9/11 ceremony, to Breakfast with Santa, to the Booster Club, Green Team, Health Advisory Board, South Plainfield parade, working with our Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Councilwoman Buteas is there to make South Plainfield a better place to live. You name it, she is there to help and support.

I will be voting for the Democratic candidates Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas and her runningmates, John Sorrentino and Paul McCullen.

**SINCERELY,
DAN MORLEY**

Dear Editor,

Over the past two years I've seen unprecedented improvements in the way South Plainfield is being managed. The results are exactly what was

needed for South Plainfield to prosper, and for that we can thank the new Republican Majority. The council's part of the tax bill is lower, spending is lower, borrowing is down, and things are moving in the right direction.

This turn around is no accident. It is the result of the application of sound management practices by the council majority and careful consideration of things that are important to the people of South Plainfield. When I look around and see the disarray and waste in nearby towns, I'm proud of what is happening here. What other town is seeing these results in this economy?

To change management teams now would be a step backward. When you have a good team, you support them and give them what they need to continue to put South Plainfield and it's citizens first. What they need to keep the progress going is Alex Barletta, Derryck White and Dick Frank. Let's give them that on Election Day.

BILL GARNER

To the Editor:

Will someone please help those of us who are curious and not to up to date on our math skills. The tax rate in 2010 was 1.226. The tax rate in 2011 is 1.261 or a difference of .035. I have tried to figure out how to multiply 1.226 by 4.9% and come up with .035. Where am I going wrong?

R. PETRONE

Dear Editor,

The best choice for council this year is Barletta, White and Frank.

The town was heading in the wrong direction financially, but now under Republican control things are finally getting on the right track. It would be a shame to go backwards.

Alex Barletta, Derryck White and Dick Frank are the ones who will keep us heading in the right direction.

DAVID MIGLIS

(Continued on next page)

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In My Opinion

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

Dear Editor,

I've been impressed with how things in South Plainfield have come around over the past two years under Mayor Matt Anesh's team. As a result, I'll be voting for Alex Barletta, Dick Frank and Derryck White.

I'm not looking for the candidates with the most "ideas." Instead, I'm looking for people who will deliver results. That's what we're getting.

Whether it's controlling taxes, bringing jobs back to town, or holding the line on spending, we're actually seeing people get the job done.

That's why we need Barletta, White and Frank on the council. They'll continue to get results.

**SINCERELY,
FRANK LEMOS**

Dear Editor,

As a former tax collector I know my way around a tax bill pretty well. There are several parts, including the municipal part (controlled by the council), the county part (controlled by the Freeholders) and the school part (controlled by the Board of Education).

Just like you wouldn't grade a student based upon someone else's work in the class, you can't judge the borough council based upon the total tax bill. You have to look at the council's part.

The council's part of the tax bill in South Plainfield is down 8.2% since 2009. For the average home that means a \$138 savings this year alone.

Why is the total bill up? Because the county portion is up 19%.

The county is controlled by Democrats, and the council is controlled by Republicans.

In my mind, the council has done a great job with taxes. Look around. Other towns are seeing double-digit increases and massive police layoffs. Not South Plainfield. It's one of the best managed towns in Central Jersey.

Alex Barletta, Derryck White and

Dick Frank will continue these outstanding results, and they deserve our support on Election Day.

CHARLES C. HAUS

Dear Editor,

Next Tuesday we'll all be heading to the polls to cast our votes. I'll be supporting Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas, John Sorrentino and Paul McCullen this year for Borough Council.

I like what they have to say about our town and the future of it. They understand that it isn't just about taxes and spending, but that you also need a plan in order to govern a town. A plan that takes into consideration stabilizing taxes, creating jobs, improving our parks, addressing traffic, getting proper funding from the state and county, and working for the people above all else.

We need to keep bipartisan politics alive in South Plainfield and we need Democrats on the council to keep our politicians honest. Buteas, Sorrentino and McCullen have my support this November 8.

**SINCERELY,
AL MUSMANNO**

Dear Editor,

There's been a lot of talk about taxes lately, so I took out my bills. I checked the part of the bill controlled by the council, and I compared my 2009 to this year and last year.

What I saw confirms everything candidates Alex Barletta, Dick Frank and Derryck White have been saying. The municipal part of the tax bill is down 8.2% from 2009, just like their advertising says.

Things in South Plainfield have been going in the right direction for the past year, and I'm not just talking taxes. The town is simply running much better. The results are there. In my mind, the best people to keep that going are Barletta, White and Frank.

TOM LASKOWSKI

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OPINION

South Plainfield Republicans



Barletta, White and Frank: "Results Count"

Saying results speak louder than words, Councilman Alex Barletta, Derryck White and Dick Frank this week asked voters to consider their team's record when they vote on Tuesday for Borough Council.

"Our team is delivering results," said Barletta. "And we want to continue these results."

The three pointed to controlling taxes and spending as a major accomplishment. Spending is down the second year in a row and municipal taxes are down since 2009.

"We're talking about the council's part of the tax bill, not parts controlled by others," said White.

"Grade us on what our team accomplished," he added. "Since 2009 the municipal part of the bill, which Republicans control, is down on average \$138."

"Our friends on the other side want to lump in county and school taxes," added Frank. "But the Democrats control county taxes, and they're up over 19%. By contrast, the council's part of the bill (the Republican part) dropped 8.2%."

In addition to taxes and spending, the three candidates pointed to a string of accomplishments by the council while under GOP control:

- South Plainfield has one of the best records on jobs in the county. And thanks in part to Alex Barletta, PSE&G will be bringing 300+ more jobs to town.

- Republicans successfully fought the plan to

add 700 apartments by Harris Steel.

- More than a dozen roads received long overdue repaving. Cherry Street, Tompkins Avenue, Rahway Avenue, McKinley Street, South Plainfield

Avenue (Stage II) and New Market Avenue (Stages I and II) are just a few.

Sampton Avenue is scheduled for next year.

- The borough workforce is about 15% smaller, something the council accomplished without the huge police layoffs seen in other towns.

- Borrowing is down the second year in a row.

- The council worked together with the PBA on a new contract that phases out longevity and reduces starting salaries. A renegotiated public works contract cuts starting salaries 30%.

- The borough has a new, improved website that's about one-third the cost of the old one.

- Residents no longer have to separate recyclables, even though the town is paying less. This happened when the council bid out recycling for the first time.

"These are just examples," explained Barletta.

"We want to keep things going in the right direction. If elected, we'll continue to work together and get the job done."

The opinions expressed here are those of the organizations submitting the articles.

They do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher; nor do we attest to their accuracy.

OPINION

South Plainfield Democrats



We Thank Residents of South Plainfield And Look Forward to a Brighter Future

Democratic Candidates Chrissy Buteas, John Sorrentino and Paul McCullen want to thank all the residents of South Plainfield they have had the chance to meet over the course of the campaign. Sadly, the message was the same—property taxes have gone up and it is more difficult to make ends meet. But as Chrissy, John and Paul discussed their solutions to make South

Plainfield a better place to live, residents were reminded of what South Plainfield can achieve with good leadership and sound solutions. Under past Democratic leadership, South Plainfield enjoyed a long list of achievements including:

- Recreational improvements;
- The construction of the Senior Citizen Housing Complex and the total redesign of Spring Lake Park;

- Hundreds of repaved roads;

- A truck-free Hamilton Boulevard;

- A new senior citizen center;

- Hundreds of acres of Open Space;

- A reconstructed community pool complex and a new turf field.

And they did this with a record of decades of financial stability that has resulted in the second lowest average tax bill in Middlesex County.

Chrissy, John and Paul want to continue this

great tradition of improving South Plainfield.

Here are just a few of their innovative solutions:

- Working with the county and state to bring back our fair share of money and take the burden off taxpayers.

- An economic summit to bring together a unique group of business leaders, educational leaders, advertising leaders and government leaders to bring good, new businesses to town.

- A traffic plan that separates commercial and residential traffic on our roads and measures to control speeding.

- The immediate call to the county to get our fair share of future Open Space monies from Middlesex County. The candidates know that millions of dollars of past Democratic improvements came from county funds and they are disappointed that for the past two years these funds were not applied for, but Chrissy, John and Paul are committed to getting our town's share back.

South Plainfield needs solutions, not blame. This year, South Plainfield has a chance to vote for a political balance back on the council so that both parties can put their ideas to work for the borough.

Chrissy, John and Paul have a plan—now is the time to put these solutions to work for South Plainfield. On Tuesday, vote for better solutions for a brighter future in South Plainfield—Vote Line B.

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A study commissioned by the New Jersey Press Association (NJPA) and conducted by Belden Associates revealed that newspapers are the number one choice for news among New Jersey residents and that 93% of adults with a media preference choose a newspaper for local community and neighborhood news.

The study also revealed that 73% of New Jersey shoppers use newspapers as their primary source for local shopping information and 2 out of 3 consumers rely on newspapers for information related to purchases. You may also be interested to know that the average number of days a weekly paper is kept is 4.2 and the

average number of readers per copy in a household is 2.0. And that ads are second only to local events in reader interest. Statistics also reveal that more South Plainfielders rely on the Observer for local news than any of the dailies, surpassing the local circulation of The Home News-Tribune, the Courier News, and The Newark Star-Ledger.

To reserve space or for more information, call 908-668-0010.

Scouting for Food to Help Food Pantries

The Cub Scout and Boy Scout units of South Plainfield will again be conducting their "Scouting for Food" program. Bags will be dropped off to be filled and collected the following week, where they will be distributed to either Sacred Heart Social Concerns Food Pantry or to the South Plainfield Social Services Food Pantry, and then given to the needy.

Thank you in advance for your generosity during this holiday season.

—Submitted by Jeff Pauls

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

October 28, 2011—Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on October 27, 2011.

A. Case #1-11—Sanjay Patel, Block 298; Lot 4; M-3 Zone. 2100 South Clinton Avenue. The applicant's request for preliminary and final site plan approval in addition to an EIS waiver was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

B. Case #19-11—Middlesex Burgers of Hadley, LLC, Block 528; Lot 46.27; OBC-3 Zone. 5020 Hadley Center Drive. The applicant's request to dismiss this application without prejudice was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

C. Case #31-11—Feijun Wang, Block 118; Lot 3; R-10 Zone. 421 Walter Street. The applicant's request to keep an existing fence in its current location was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

D. Case #32-11—Ana Argueta, Block 190; Lot 1; R-10 Zone. 207 Cedarbrook Avenue. The applicant's request to keep an existing fence in its current location was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary-Zoning Board of Adjustment

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November 4, 2011

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