

# South Plainfield OBSERVER

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South Plainfield High School Marching Band performs at the reviewing stand during the 55th annual Labor Day parade on Monday. For the winning parade entries, turn to pages 6 and 7.

## 2 Police Officers Injured in Lakeview Overpass Collision

Two off-duty South Plainfield Police officers were involved in a head-on collision at the intersection of Lakeview Avenue and Church Street with a car driven by a motorist who fell asleep at the wheel on Tuesday around 4 p.m.

Officer Peter Magnani, who was operating a 2006 Jeep Commander, was stopped northbound on Lakeview Avenue waiting to make a left turn on to Church Street. Magnani and his passenger, Lt. Kevin Murtagh, noticed a 2005 Ford Explorer driven by Olguer Lascano, 43, of Plainfield cross over the double yellow line into

oncoming traffic as it traveled down from the overpass. Magnani was unable to avoid the collision.

Lascano, who stated that he fell asleep at the wheel, had no recollection of the impact. He was charged with careless driving, failure to keep right and failure to maintain a lane. Alcohol was not a factor in the accident.

Both officers suffered minor injuries and were taken to JFK Medical Center in Edison. Both were released the following day. Lascano also suffered minor injuries and was treated and released.

## First Baptist Church Hosts Special 9/11 Prayer Service: Renewed Hope

The First Baptist Church of South Plainfield is inviting the public to join them along with other congregations and ministries in a special prayer service entitled, "Renewed Hope." The service focuses on remembering those affected by some of the world's most challenging events. While prayers are submitted in remembrance of 9/11 and other trials faced by the world's people, the service also fosters hope, celebrating the triumphs they have faced as well.

The Renewed Hope Service of

Prayer and Reflection will be held on Sunday, Sept. 9 at 3:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield located at 201 Hamilton Blvd. A special offering will be collected toward the Renewed Hope Scholarship sponsored by the American Baptist Churches of New Jersey. The scholarship provides educational support to those affected by major calamities. Light refreshments will be served after the service.

For more information, contact Reverend Tamara Davis at (908) 753-2382.

## BOE Denies Council's Request to Cover Tax Appeals

By Libby Barsky

It took the Board of Education (BOE) just a few minutes during a special meeting on August 29 to deny the Borough Council's request to return the more than \$350,000 it paid on its behalf for tax appeals over the past two years.

The borough council gave out \$147,808.98 in tax appeal judgments to 83 residential property owners and four commercial property owners at its August 20 meeting.

Council President Ray Rusnak has on several occasions asked the BOE to contribute \$158,000, the amount the borough refunded on their behalf for 2011 tax appeals. With the board's share of the total tax bill being approximately 57%, the borough has had to refund \$196,692 so far this year in tax appeals on the BOE's behalf.

According to CFO Glenn Cullen, the only option for the borough would be to increase their portion of the tax bill to cover the loss to the BOE.

Rusnak had announced that the BOE would be voting on returning tax appeal money at its Wednesday, Sept. 12 meeting. Board member Joe Sorrentino was not present at last Wednesday's meeting to vote and Board President Jim Giannakis did not vote at all.

In other business, the district school busses will now be driving to Piscataway to purchase gas at \$2.93 a gallon plus a 5% administration fee for a total of \$3.04 a gallon. The deal is

a shared service with the Piscataway Board of Education. The BOE had been purchasing gas locally through a borough shared service at \$3.49 a gallon. According to Business Administrator James Olobardi, the lower price represents a 5% savings because state and federal taxes are omitted.

The district will be using the New Jersey Department of Education's Textbook Sharing program to provide free textbooks for algebra, geometry and environmental science previously used

at Verona High School. One hundred eighth grade math books will be coming from the Hazlet School District.

Two new instructional aides, Gail Bori at Franklin School and Donna Teller at Riley School, were hired.

Two teachers were also hired: Amy Ross, ESL teacher at Roosevelt School, replaces Mariela Hidalgo, and Michelle Milleras, special education teacher at the Roosevelt Administration building, replaces Kristin Redziniaik, who resigned.

## Squires Respond to a Fellow Knight in Need

The South Plainfield Squires once again have helped out a resident in need. Twenty-two Squires came together from August 24-26 to build a handicap ramp for fellow Knights of Columbus member Richard Yurek.

The Squires were under the supervision of Knights John DeAndrea, Pat Flanagan, Tom Walsh, Steve Belanger, Tim Nagel, Grand Knight Brian Cargill, Joe Scrudato and Bill Butrico. This is the third handicap ramp built by the Squires, in addition to numerous other projects they have undertaken for residents in South Plainfield.

The Squires dug holes for the footings, chopped roots, cut all

the wood, drilled, leveled, nailed, landscaped and performed any other tasks required to complete the project. The Squires who built the ramp are Kevin Belanger, Matt Belanger, Jayson Belanger, Brendan Berry, Colin Berry, Nolan Berry, James Boettcher, Adam Butrico, Chris Butrico, James Butrico, Mark Butrico, Sean Flanagan, Caleb Kubereit, Chris Kubereit, Liam Nagel, Scott Riccardi, Tommy Riccardi, Brian Roesch, Matt Roesch, Jack Scrudato, Joe Waldrop and William Walsh.

The Squires are a youth group that helps and assists fellow residents and are always looking for projects. If anyone knows a resident in need of the Squires' help, please contact Bill Butrico at (908) 346-2491.

-Submitted by Joe Scrudato



Some of the South Plainfield Squires and Knights who built a ramp for a fellow Knights member in need.





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

**FYI**

**Borough Council & BOE**

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

To purchase a complete copy of a council or BOE meeting, contact the Observer. (Check Comcast community bulletin board for last minute time changes.)

**council meetings**

**Meets twice a month on Mondays, \*except where noted.**  
**Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605**

<b>Agenda Meeting</b>	<b>Public Meeting</b>
Monday, September 17	Monday, September 17
Monday, October 1	Monday, October 1

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

**planning board**

**Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, \*except where noted.**  
**Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641**  
Sept. 11, Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Oct. 23, Nov. 13, Nov. 27, Dec. 11

**zoning board of adjustment**

**Meets first and third Tuesdays of the month, \*except where noted.**  
**Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641**  
Sept. 18, Oct. 2, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 4, Dec. 18

**board of education**

**Meets Wednesdays at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave.**  
**Committee of the Whole meetings (begin at 6:00 p.m.) Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 7, Dec. 12**  
**Regular Public Meeting (begin at 6:30 p.m.) except where noted\* Sept. 19, Oct. 17**

**BOE curriculum/technology/student activities**

**Meets once a month at 4:30 p.m. in 2nd floor conference room,**  
**Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.**

**BOE buildings & grounds**

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

**cultural arts commission**

**Meets the third Tuesday of the month at the PAL at 7:30 p.m.**  
Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 18

**library board of trustees**

**Meets once a month on the second Tuesday, at the library at 7 p.m.**  
Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

**recreation commission**

**Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August**  
**PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7716**  
Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

**taxpayers advisory group**

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

**site plan sub-committee**

**Meets once a month (third Wednesday), 7 p.m.**  
Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, Dec. 19

**environmental commission**

**Meets once a month (second Wednesday) Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m.**  
**Questions? 908-226-7621**  
Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9

**business advisory group**

**Meets once a month (first Wednesday) Borough Hall Council Chambers, 6:30 p.m.**  
**(No meetings July and August)**

# In My Opinion

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

**To the Editor:**

The South Plainfield Education Foundation held its 22nd annual 5K Race and 1.5 Mile Family Fitness Walk on Labor Day. There are many people that we need to thank for making this event such a huge success. First, I would like to thank all of the people from our foundation who helped with the event: Shannon Jefferys and son Dylan, Debbie and Bob Boyle, Linda Kelly, her husband and daughter, Jim Gustafson, AnneMarie Stoeckel, Mike Reedy and Sandy Reedy.

We also need to thank all of our sponsors of this event: Twin City Pharmacy for being a corporate sponsor and for providing the bananas; The Boyle Memorial Foundation for being a corporate sponsor; R&C Auto Body for being a corporate sponsor; Plainfield Animal Hospital for being a corporate sponsor; Investors Savings Bank for being a corporate sponsor; Joe Romer Trophies for supplying all of the trophies; Bagel Pantry for supplying the bagels; Park Avenue Cleaners for supplying all the safety pins; Columbia Bank and TD Bank for supplying water and the bags for the runners and for the stuffing of all of the bags; the staff at TD Bank and Barbara Whitefleet for helping to hand out water to the runners; Flanagan's Restaurant for helping us with tables and water for the runners; Rudy at The Club at Ricochet for supplying all the t-shirts; Kevin Hughes at the PAL building for the tables and chairs; McCrisky-Gustafson Home For Funerals for help with our mailing; South Plainfield Funeral Home for being a corporate sponsor; Erika Lynn Foundation for being a corporate sponsor; The Salon Professional Academy for supplying goodie bags for our runners and walkers; Mohn's Florist, Hometown Heros, Presto Printing Services and the South Plainfield Board of Education for their continued support of the South Plainfield Education Foundation. Please patronize all of our sponsors. They all do so much for South Plainfield!

This was our 22nd year of hosting the 5K Race and Family Fitness Walk. William Beegle had started this event

22 years ago in conjunction with SPASA (South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness). When Beegle retired from the South Plainfield school district, he approached the South Plainfield Education Foundation to see if we would be interested in continuing to run the race.

Because of this event, we have been able to continue a scholarship in Mr. Beegle's name each year for \$1,000. This year, we again partnered with the Brayden-Carr Foundation to establish a scholarship in Brayden Carr's name for a graduating senior from South Plainfield High School.

This year we had over 300 people participate! We want to express our gratitude to all who participated and those that sponsored us. We are looking forward to next year's race.

I would also like to thank the Public Celebrations Committee for selecting me to be the Honorary Grand Marshal of the 55th annual South Plainfield Labor Day Parade. I would like to thank my daughter, Sandy, for nominating me, and thank my family for supporting me throughout my various endeavors over the years. I would also like to thank the owners of Lynn and Hudd Steel, Joe Chanley and Bill Lynch, for allowing me the time to work on so many projects during the year.

Again, I would like to thank the South Plainfield community for their continuous support of the Education Foundation.

**SINCERELY,**  
**MARJORIE M. REEDY,**  
**PRESIDENT-SOUTH PLAINFIELD**  
**EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

**To the Editor:**

As a former professional photographer, I felt compelled to respond to the disparaging letter (August 24 issue of the *Observer*) regarding the high school graduation photos.

I felt the photos were very professionally posed and lighted. We were able to choose from a number of poses, including a casually dressed pose (in both color and black and white!), and one of my son in a sharp-looking tuxedo. He had a great smile

**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](mailto: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.

in all of them, something we rarely see at home!

We spoke to a nice, friendly and helpful customer service rep on the phone who helped us create a package that we felt was perfect for us. I know that photos are printed in units (1-8x10, 2-5x7s, 4-4x5s, 8 wallets); we did not need 24 wallets, and were able to substitute 1-9x10 and 2-5x7s. I think \$169 is very reasonable for a package like this, of a once-in-a-lifetime moment in my son's life. He was very concerned about his blemishes, but they did a great job retouching his face, and he looked perfect for a mere \$40, about the cost of a tank of gas.

I was also pleased to learn Prestige Portraits has a location here in South Plainfield. One should not use words like "extortion", "coercion", and "robbery" regarding a fine, local professional group of artists. A photograph is not just a piece of paper, but a work of art created by a trained artist who has taken years to master their craft.

We were very pleased with Prestige Portraits. My package, including an 11x14, was \$300, and I didn't declare bankruptcy! (PS: Less than you would probably spend at a Yankees game, or for a prom dress!)

**TIM O'LEARY**

**Dear Editor,**

While most people may be focusing on the presidential race, there is an important race going on locally that affects South Plainfield residents just as much, if not more. That's the race for Borough Council.

*(Continued on page 5)*

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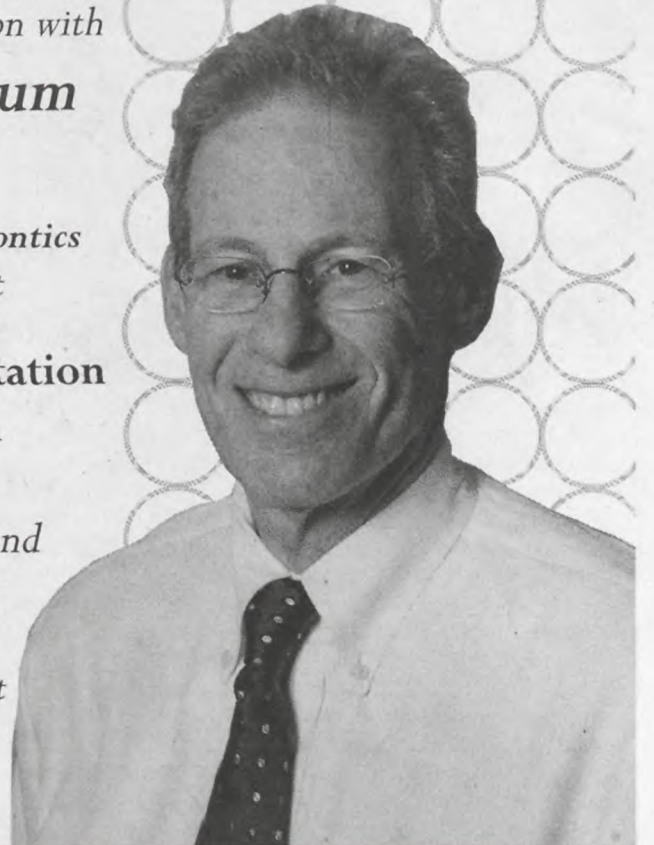
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## South Plainfield OBSERVER

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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.**

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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

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

*The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.*



## police report

• On August 22 Macy's reported that a male fled the store without paying for a pair of jeans and two shirts worth \$213.

• A Famularo Drive resident reported two fraudulent transactions in their checking account.

• On August 23 Timothy C. Price, 53, of Edison was arrested for driving while intoxicated, maintenance of lamps, careless driving and failure to exhibit documents.

• Delric B. Pollins, 26, of Matawan was arrested for driving while intoxicated and driving on a suspended license.

• A South Central Avenue resident reported the theft of medication, various tools and three Playstation games from their residence. The side door was left unlocked.

• On August 24 Dionne N. Eaddy, 38, of Perth Amboy was arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting \$224 worth of baby clothes.

• Michael A. Ferrara, 19, of Rahway was arrested for driving while intoxicated, consumption of alcohol in a motor vehicle and careless driving.

• Royal Deli on New Brunswick Avenue reported that their front door had been smashed. Nothing was taken.

• On August 25 an Adeline Avenue resident reported that the emblem on the front grill of their vehicle had been broken.

• A South 11th Street resident reported an attempt had been made to pry open the window of their garage.

• A Delaney Court resident reported the theft of two BMX bicycles from their driveway.

## Volunteers Needed For Fall Clean-Up Day

Enjoy the fall weather out of doors! The South Plainfield Clean Communities Advisory Board will be sponsoring a targeted litter cleanup on Saturday, Sept. 29.

Volunteers will meet at 1 p.m. at the Nature Center at 115 Sylvania Place. They will be working on the roadside along the Tyler Place and New Brunswick Avenue vacant lands.

Bags, gloves, and safety vests will be provided. Participants are welcome to organize a crew, or to come on their own.

Call Alice Tempel, the clean communities coordinator, at (908) 226-7621 for more information, or email atempel@southplainfieldnj.com.

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Mihir Desai, owner of A&M Convenience Store on South Clinton Avenue, sold a \$50,000 NJ Lottery scratch off ticket on August 27. On November 11, 2010 the store sold a scratch off lottery ticket with a \$1M prize, and previous to that a winning Cash 5 ticket worth \$67,000 was also sold.

## Nominating Petitions Available For Unexpired BOE Term

Any qualified citizen interested in running for the one-year unexpired Board of Education seat vacated when Debbie Boyle resigned in July must file a nominating petition for their name to appear on the November 6, 2012 General Election ballot.

The nominating petition should be filed with the Middlesex County Clerk, Elaine Flynn. The deadline for filing the nominating petition is Thursday, Sept. 13. Please note that this deadline is only for the one-year unexpired term.

To qualify, you must be a U.S. citizen at least 18 years of age; be able to read and write; be a resident of South Plainfield for at least one year

preceding the date of the election; not be disqualified as a voter; and be a registered voter in the district.

Within 30 days of the election or an appointment to the board, a member must undergo a criminal history background investigation through the NJ Department of Education.

Nominating petitions are available on the South Plainfield Schools website: www.spboe.org and in the office of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mr. James Olobardi, Roosevelt Administration Bldg., 125 Jackson Ave.

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## SPHS Music Boosters MUSIC NOTES



The South Plainfield High School music students are completing a busy summer and looking forward to an even busier new school year. Marching band students practiced through the summer, ending it in style by spending the traditional five days at band camp in Pennsylvania. They continue to work hard to prepare for the upcoming SPHS football and USBands competition season. Chorus students also prepared during the summer to perform for SPHS teachers returning to the classroom this past Tuesday.

The South Plainfield High School Music Boosters meet monthly with our next meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. We welcome parents of all

music students to join us. You will be able to meet the music teachers and to learn more about our organization and how it supports our music students and programs. We plan to have order information and samples from our upcoming Tastefully Simple fundraiser, as well as information about other music fundraisers. As an added treat, marching band parents should arrive at 6 p.m. to have an opportunity to preview their children in action and "walk in their shoes," weather permitting. Then stay for our Music Booster meeting. This is a great group of people, and we look forward to meeting new members!

-Submitted by Madeline Christilles

## Business Association to Host Taste of South Plainfield

The South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA) will be hosting the second annual Taste of South Plainfield on Friday, Oct. 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave.

Last year's Taste of South Plainfield was a huge success with more than 250 guests enjoying samples from a variety of local restaurants. Many of the restaurants reported an increase in clientele due to their participation in the event. Representatives from the restaurants had an opportunity to meet with current and future customers.

Dan Ratti, owner of Oak Tree Discount Liquors, will again offer plenty of sample wines and liquors on hand.

Restaurants that have already signed up for the Taste of South Plainfield include Flanagan's Restaurant, Corner

Deli, Subway, Sherban's, Hometown Heros, KC's Korner, Chef Rodney Jackson, Mr. Subs, Uncle Louie G, Ciccio's and Mei Haus.

Tickets will go on sale next month. Pre-sale tickets are \$30, tickets at the door are \$35. Plan on coming out to support the SPBA and enjoy an evening of gourmet food. Proceeds go toward scholarships for South Plainfield High School graduates.

Restaurants interested in participating should contact Debbie Boyle at the number below. Space is limited. Any vendor who does not want to sell food but would like to set up a table in the hallway the night of the event, call for more information.

For information, call Debbie Boyle at (908) 803-1573, Darlene Pinto at (908) 591-9355, Chrissy Butcas at (908) 447-3466 or Nancy Grennier at (908) 668-0010.

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# events

## Around Town

### SPHS Varsity Football Home Opener

September 7

The South Plainfield High School Varsity Football team home opener vs. New Brunswick High School will be held tonight at 7 p.m. at Frank Jost Field. The theme of this game is "Black Out Night." All fans are encouraged to wear black.

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### 2012 New Jersey Senior Olympics

September 7-9

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For more information, call (908) 754-1047.

### Wesley Methodist Church Rally Day

September 9

Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave., is celebrating Rally Day on Sunday, Sept. 9 beginning at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is invited. Food, fellowship and fun. Outdoor service (weather permitting); picnic lunch; games and other fun activities.

Send Your  
Community Events to:  
spobserver@comcast.net

For information, call (908) 757-2838 or email wumcsp@verizon.net.

### Historical Society Monthly Meeting

September 11

The South Plainfield Historical Society's first meeting of the season will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month in the History Center on the lower level of the Board of Education Administration Building. All are welcome to attend.

### Annual Sacred Heart Golf Outing

September 12

Sacred Heart Church will host its third annual golf outing on Wednesday, Sept. 12 at the Cranbury Golf Course in West Windsor. Shotgun start at 9 a.m. Prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive and hit the green. Snacks at the turn and a luncheon buffet.

Register online with a credit card at [www.churchofthesacredheart.net](http://www.churchofthesacredheart.net).

### Car Show and Doo Wop Dance

September 15

American Legion Post #243, 243 Oak Tree Ave., will be the venue for a car show and doo wop dance "Hosted by Sal" on Saturday, Sept. 15. Car

show, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; doo wop dance, 6-11 p.m. Car show registration, \$15; doo wop dance, \$15; car show and dance, \$23. Music by DJ Stick Shift Eddie. Giveaways, 50/50 raffle. Food, soda, water, beverages will be sold on premises. Proceeds to benefit Fallen Soldiers.

For more information, call Glenn Raeuber at (908) 377-9426.

### Veteran's Outreach Program/Open House

September 15

A veteran's benefits outreach program and open house will be held at the American Legion Post #243 on Oak Tree Avenue on Saturday, Sept. 15 from noon to 5 p.m. VA medical representatives will be available regarding medical, compensation and pension benefits. Service officers will also be available. This event is free to all.

For more information call, John Welgos at (732) 261-9931.

### Meet The Coaches Night at SPHS

September 18

Come meet all the South Plainfield High School coaches on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. in the SPHS Cafeteria C&D. Coffee and dessert will be served.

Sponsored by the South Plainfield High School Athletic Booster Club.

### SENIOR CENTER Calendar

**ZUMBA** Fitness at the Senior Center, Monday and Wednesday, 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$7 per class. Call (908) 754-1047 for more info.

#### MONDAYS

Zumba Gold ..... 9:30-10:30 am  
Crocheting ..... 9:30-11:30 am  
Yoga ..... 10:30 am  
Art Class ..... 11:30 am

#### TUESDAYS

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

#### WEDNESDAYS

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

#### THURSDAYS

Active Seniors ..... 9:00 am  
Crafts Class ..... 10 am  
Computer.. 10, 11:30 am, 1:00 pm  
Exercise Class ..... 1:15 pm

#### FRIDAYS

Bingo ..... 10 am-2 pm

Senior Center is open daily 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays & Sundays.  
(908) 754-1047

### Senior Health & Fitness Walk 2012

September 19

Middlesex County Senior Health & Fitness Walk 2012 will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 19 from 10 a.m.

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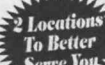
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James Kim RPh

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# events

## Around Town

to 1 p.m. at Roosevelt Park in Edison. Join our group as we "walk into better health." Health screenings, wellness info, entertainment, box lunch and giveaways. Registration required. Sign up at the Senior Center or call (908) 754-1047.

### American Legion Flea Market

September 22

The American Legion Post #243, 243 Oak Tree Ave., will host a flea market on Saturday, Sept. 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Open to the public.

Members tables for \$10, non-members \$20. Non-members can bring own table for \$15. Call (908) 403-4292 if interested in renting a table.

### Knights of Columbus Annual Mum Sale

September 22, 23, 29, 30, October 6, 7, 13, 14

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 ninth annual fall mum sale will be held the following weekends: September 22 and 23, September 29 and 30, October 6 and 7 and October 13 and 14.

Mums in various colors will be on sale at the rescue squad, 2506 Plainfield Ave. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Prices are \$7 for 8-inch pots and \$25 for large pots. This fundraiser supports the Knights various charitable works.

### Wednesday at 7 Meet & Greet

October 2

Grow your business with Wednes-

day at 7 Networking Meet and Greet on Tuesday, Oct. 2 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Paulo's BBQ, 2341 Plainfield Ave. Refreshments and light fare will be served. Bring your business cards; door prizes.

For more information, call Jill Pavel at (732) 423-7727.

### — Out of Town —

### American Flyers Career Day

September 8

American Flyers Flight School at the Morristown Airport, 50 Airport Rd., will be hosting a career day and open house starting at noon on Saturday, Sept. 8. Free lunch; meet and interact with aviation experts.

For more information, call (973) 267-3223.

### Middlesex East WOWs Memorial Mass

September 10

Middlesex East Widows Or Widowers will hold a memorial Mass for deceased spouses at Sacred Heart RC Church, 67 Fitch St. in Carteret starting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 10. After the Mass, there will be a business meeting at the Carteret Senior Center, Pershing and Cooke avenues. Refreshments to follow. All widows and widowers are welcome.

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

### St. Helen's Caregiver Support Group

September 10

St. Helen's Church Caregiver Support Group, for those caring for elderly or chronically ill loved ones, will meet on Monday, Sept. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center on Lamberts Mill Road in Westfield. Informational and sharing sessions.

For more information, call Marilyn Ryan at (908) 232-1214.

### Woodbridge WOWs Business Meeting

September 12

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will conduct a business meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the children's room of the Main Library, George Fredrick Plaza, Rt. 35 in Woodbridge. All widows and widowers are welcome to attend.

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

### Free Family Day at Montclair Museum

September 15

The Montclair Art Museum will offer a special free family day on Saturday, Sept. 15 from 1-4 p.m. entitled, O'Keeffe in the Garden at Van Vleck House and Gardens, 21 Van Vleck St. in Montclair. Visitors will create artwork, explore the garden, take part in scavenger hunts, enjoy storytime, live music and more.

For more information, call (973) 746-5555.

### Connect with Crescent Church

September 16

The Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Ave. in Plainfield, will hold an open house for all ages entitled, "Connect with Crescent Celebration" on Sunday, Sept. 16 from noon to 4 p.m. Worship service will be held at 10:30 a.m.; guests will receive a welcoming gift.

Tour the New Jersey State landmark church. Food vendors, giant inflatable bouncers, popcorn, cotton candy, special activities throughout the afternoon and informational booths.

For more information, contact the church office at (908) 756-2468.

## Cory Singer to Perform National Anthem at Patriots Stadium

S P H S

Senior Cory Singer will perform the National Anthem on Wednesday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Somerset Patriots Ballpark in Bridgewater.



Cory Singer

Cory is the national spokesperson for Wish Upon a Hero, the world's largest social helping network designed to help anyone in need. He will be granting a wish at the game to a child with autism.

Tickets for South Plainfield residents are \$5 and can be purchased at the Observer office, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Yoga enthusiasts are also invited to bring their mats at 6 p.m. where a yoga class will be given on the field.

## In My Opinion

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

(Continued from page 2)

This year's race is unique. In addition to Republican and Democrat candidates, the race will feature two "independent" candidates, both of whom are former Democrats (and one of whom actually ran on the Democrat ticket last year). These "independent Democrats" offer a choice to those who are disenchanted with the official Democrat ticket, the group I like to call the "Old Democrats." Unfortunately, the Old Democrats are putting up less-than-qualified candidates, most notably, former Councilman Franky Salerno.

Don't get me wrong. Salerno is a nice enough guy and got along with everybody when he served. But his record on the council was abysmal.

Salerno constantly failed to attend council meetings, and in fact, didn't bother to show up to a third of them his last two years. In addition, even though he chaired the Public Works Committee, he was nowhere to be found during townwide emergencies, including snowstorms, Hurricane

Irene and the 2010 blizzard. It was so bad that Council President Ray Rusnak had to take on Salerno's responsibilities (in addition to his own).

But it gets even worse. In his time on the council, Salerno did not propose a single piece of legislation, nor did he contribute to the discussion when issues were being debated. He just sat there. He does not have a single accomplishment, and he has no command of the issues. In fact, he never had anything to report during council meetings. Traditionally, if a councilperson has nothing to report, he or she says "progress" when called upon by the mayor. Salerno reported "progress" repeatedly, especially during his last year on the council.

Being on the council means committing to certain responsibilities, and Salerno's record shows that he does not take these responsibilities seriously. He's a less-than-serious candidate, and putting him back on the council would be a mistake.

**COUNCILMAN ALEX BARLETTA**

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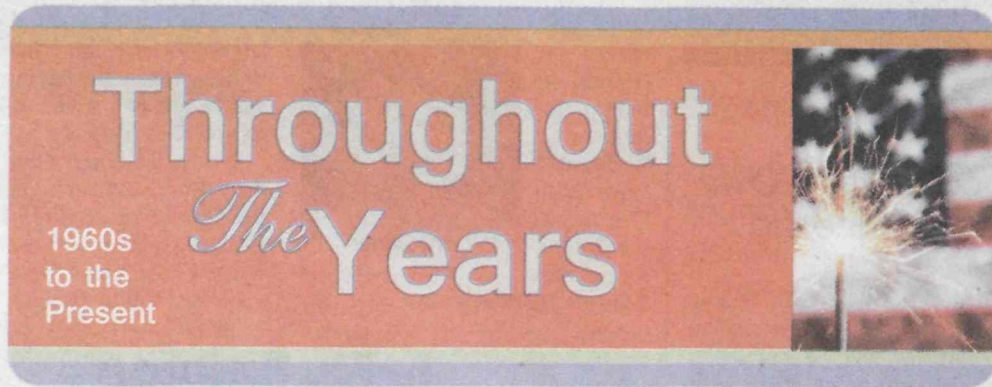
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# Pop Warner Earns Labor Day Parade's Trophy for Best Overall



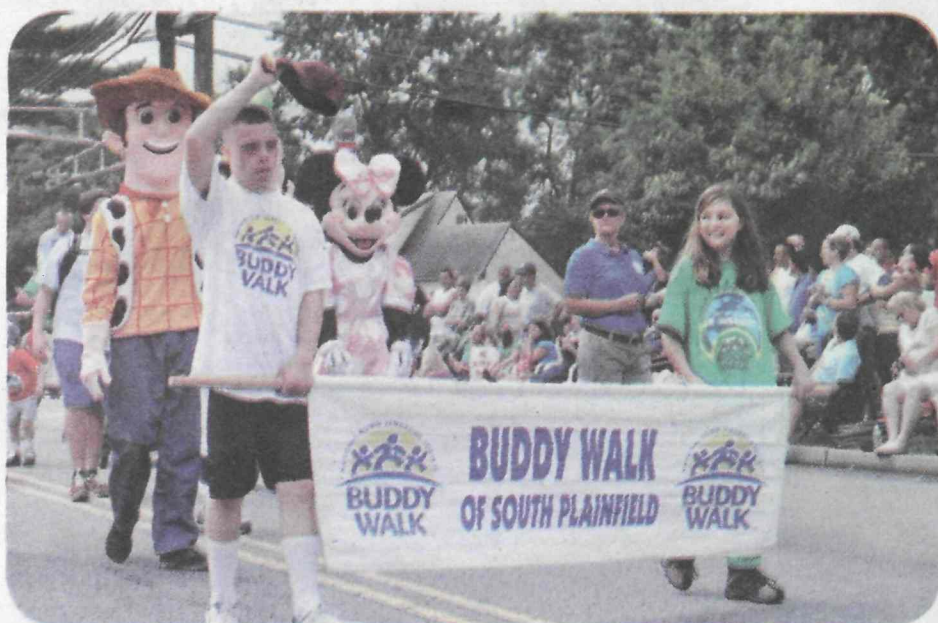
Parade Judges  
Award Trophies in  
10 Categories.  
And the winners are.....



**JUDGES TROPHY**  
Pop Warner Football Eagles & Cheerleaders  
*Best overall entry as determined by judges*



**HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL TROPHY**  
South Plainfield Girl Scouts  
*Given by Honorary Grand Marshal to best overall entry in her opinion*



**MARIE D. PAGE TROPHY**  
Buddy Walk / Special Olympics  
*Best overall marching entry*



**MOST OUTSTANDING FLOAT**  
South Plainfield Soccer Club  
*Best overall*



**GEORGE W. L. PAGE TROPHY**  
Sacred Heart Church  
*Best civic entry*



**BEST YOUTH ENTRY**  
South Plainfield Boy Scouts  
*Best youth group*

*See next week's issue for additional Labor Day coverage*





**BEST THEMED ENTRY**  
Holy Savior Academy



**MOST PATRIOTIC ENTRY**  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)



**MOST OUTSTANDING VISITING ENTRY**  
Branchburg Bulldogs - U14 Babe Ruth Little League World Champions  
*Best appearing entry from outside of South Plainfield*



**BEST ANTIQUE VEHICLE**  
1909 Model T Ford - Eric & Nancy Wagner  
*Best appearing antique vehicle entry of any kind entered as a separate unit*



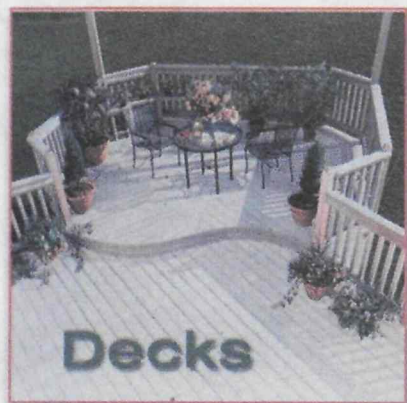
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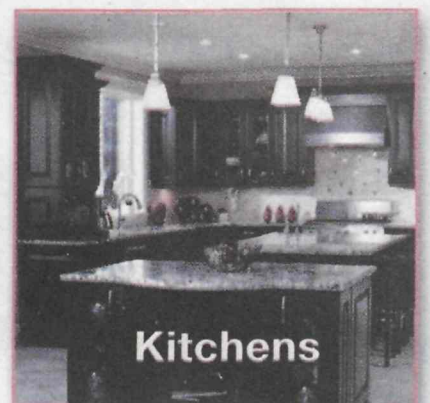
**Tools**



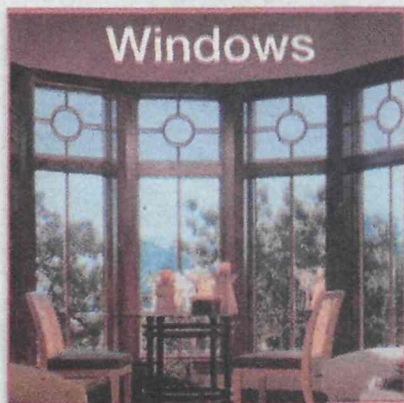
**Decks**



**ROOFING**



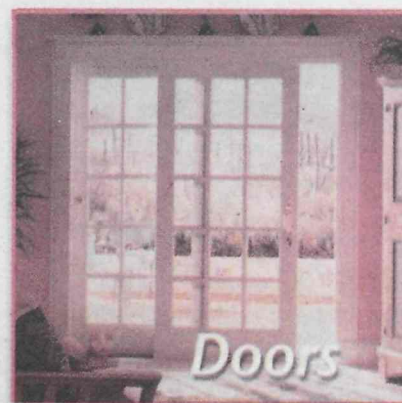
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# sports

## Annual Battle of the Badges Softball Game

The annual benefit softball game between the South Plainfield Police and South Plainfield Fire departments is back and will take place on Saturday, Sept. 8. The event will be held at the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club, Field 4, 450 Kenneth Ave. Raindate is Saturday, Sept. 22.

The first event of the evening will be the third annual Home Run Derby

which is open to the public. Participants can enter the contest for a nominal fee of \$15 and compete for home run bragging rights and prizes. The number of rounds in the contest will depend on the number of entries.

The home run derby will begin at 4 p.m. and the benefit softball game will follow. There will be hot food, beer and soda available throughout the evening.

Refills of beer will be available with the purchase of a \$15 commemorative mug.

Last year, the police department took back the trophy after a loss in 2010. This year, the fire department is looking to rebound and reclaim the trophy.

Proceeds from the event will go towards helping a few less fortunate families from South Plainfield at Thanksgiving and Christmastime, along with additional scholarships to graduating seniors. Each year, South Plainfield PBA Local #100 and South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department offer multiple scholarships to graduating seniors based on merit, school activities and community involvement. These proceeds will help the departments reward additional deserving students from South Plainfield.

If you are interested in entering the home run derby or if you are a local business who would like to sponsor part of the event with a sign, banner, beer or food/product, please call Officer Pete Magnani at (908) 226-7678 or email him at [pmagnani@southplainfieldnj.com](mailto:pmagnani@southplainfieldnj.com). Updated information can be found at [Facebook.com/pba100](http://Facebook.com/pba100).

## SPHS Varsity Football Home Opener vs. New Brunswick

The South Plainfield Varsity Football Team Home Opener vs. New Brunswick High School will be held tonight at 7 p.m. at Frank Jost Field. The theme of the game is "Black Out Night." All fans are encouraged to wear black.

Come early and get your terrible towels and mini-football giveaways. Come support your Tigers!



## SPHS

South Plainfield High School

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

4pm GV Tennis-P. Amboy (H)  
7pm V Football-New Brunswick (H)

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

9am V Volleyball-Madison (A) Bus 7:30am  
10am Fr Football-New Brunswick (A) Bus 8:30am  
10am BV&JV Soccer-Colonia (H)  
12pm GV Soccer-Colonia (H) JV/10am

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

3:45pm JV Football-New Brunswick (A) Bus 2:30pm  
4pm GV Tennis-Mother Seton (A) Bus 2:30pm  
4pm Fr Field Hockey-Old Bridge (A) Bus 2:30pm  
4pm V Hockey-Old Bridge JV/5:30pm (H)  
5:30pm V Volleyball-Tim. Christ. JV/4pm (A) Bus 2:30pm

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

3:45pm BV&JV Soccer-Sayreville (H)  
4pm B&GV CrCountry-Bishop Ahr (A) Bus 2:30pm

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 (cont)

4:30pm V Gymnastics-Old Bridge (A) Bus 2:30pm  
6pm GV Soccer-Sayreville JV/4pm (A) Bus 2:30pm

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

4pm Fr Field Hockey-Monroe (A) Bus 2:30pm  
4pm BFr Soccer-Colonia (A) Bus 2:30pm  
4pm GV Tennis-Wardlaw (H)  
4pm V FHockey-Monroe JV/5:30pm (H)  
5:30pm V Volleyball-JFK JV/4pm (H)

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

4pm BV&JV Soccer-New Brunswick (A) Bus 2:30pm  
4pm GV&JV Soccer-Wardlaw (A) Bus 2:30pm

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

4pm GV Tennis-Woodbridge (A) Bus 2:30pm  
4pm V Field Hockey-S. Bruns. JV/5:30pm (A) Bus 2:30pm  
4pm Fr Field Hockey-S. Brunswick (H)  
5:30pm V Volleyball-Wardlaw JV/4pm Bus 2:30pm



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## Meet the Coaches Night At SPHS

Come meet all the South Plainfield High School coaches on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the SPHS Cafeteria C&D. Coffee and dessert will be served.

Sponsored by the South Plainfield High School Athletic Booster Club.

## Sacred Heart Golf Outing On Wednesday

Sacred Heart Church will hold the third annual golf outing on Wednesday, Sept. 12 at the Cranbury Golf Course in West Windsor.

Registration and continental breakfast at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. Fee per golfer is \$130 and \$520 per foursome. Prizes will be awarded for closest to the pin, longest drive and hit the green. Hot dogs and soda or beer at the turn and luncheon buffet is included.

Four prizes (one per par 3) include a Ka'anapali golf package for two, a Mexico Tres Marias golf package for two, a Mandalay Bay package for two and a Samsung 51" plasma HDTV.

The proceeds from this golf outing will fund much needed scholarships for parish children on the elementary, high school and college levels.

In today's world, much of the vital infrastructure of any organization is built on technology and the church is no exception. Parish data storage and management, daily communication among staff, 2,243 parish families, church organizations, diocesan and secular business activity, and ministerial outreach and support are among the many reasons why upgrades to computers, equipment and technical systems are needed.

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From the South Plainfield Library

# Bookmarks

By Eve Pasternak

September is a month of transitions. It starts out as summer, but ends as autumn. School starts again. Everyone is returning to old schedules after summer vacations and travel. Here at the library change is in the air—new programs are starting up, hours increase and of course, there is always the ebb and flow of the books you have just finished and returned, and the books you will check out to read next.

One big change is to the library schedule. Starting Sunday, Sept. 9 the library will be open on Sunday afternoons from 1:30-5 p.m.

When it comes time to choose what you will read next, wouldn't it be great to have a list of new books you'd be interested in? You can have one delivered to your email inbox each month. Sign up for the NextReads newsletters by clicking on the icon on our homepage. Choose as many newsletters as you like; you'll discover some that list new books in subjects (such as current events or science) or genres (including mystery, historical fiction, and more) that are sure to spark your interest. Most issues include five or six new books and a few older titles you may have missed.

If you've gone to our website to sign up for newsletters, you'll find a sneak preview of our updated home page. You'll still be able to use all your favorite resources and services, but you'll follow a better organized path. Take a look at the new design and tell us what you think.

Here's something else to think about. The library is presenting a new series of programs on the History of Philosophy. The first one, on Thursday, Sept. 13, will cover Ancient China. Join us at 7 p.m. for a lecture and discussion. Greece, the Near East and India are the topics for later classes. Please let us know if you plan to attend.

There are two more new programs

in this season of transition. In response to the wonderful participation in the youth chess club over the summer, we are starting an adult chess club. The initial meeting will be on Thursday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. All levels of experience are welcome, from new players to masters. There will be instructors available to help you learn the game.

The library is also exploring the possibility of a book club for adults, to meet one Thursday evening a month. Come to the first planning meeting on Thursday, Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. to let us know that you are interested and what you'd like to read together.

In addition to all the new events, some programs are continuing, such as the always popular Monday Night Movie. Every Monday at 6:30 p.m., come to the library to watch a newly released DVD—popcorn is served. Call or come to the library to find out what is showing this week.

The Genealogy Association will have its regular meeting on Thursday, Sept. 13 at 6:30 p.m. The topic for this month's meeting is sources for family history in Europe, especially in Italy. All are welcome.

Children's programming is in transition, on a break after the busy, fun-filled summer. Storytimes will resume in October. There are lots of new books, DVDs, and other wonderful material to keep you busy until then.

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. There will be time for public comment about midway through the meeting.

Don't forget about the big Book and Bake Sale being planned by the Friends of the Library on Saturday, Sept. 22. This will be the day to find hundreds of books at bargain prices and lots of tasty baked goods, too!

For more, visit us at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us/](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us/), call us at (908) 754-7885, or follow us on Facebook!

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NOTICE OF ADOPTION

"AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 1760A ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION FOR THE YEAR 2012 THROUGH 2014"

The ordinance #1967 read by title upon second reading herewith has been adopted at the meeting of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, held on September 4, 2012, and the 20 day period of limitation within which a suit, action or the validity of such ordinance can be commenced, has begun to run from the date of the publication of this notice.

Amy Antonides, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk

\$27.56

September 7, 2012

SOUTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
NOMINATING PETITION  
SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ONE-YEAR UNEXPIRED TERM

Notice is hereby given that a one-year unexpired seat on the South Plainfield Board of Education will appear on the November 6, 2012 General Election ballot.

Any qualified citizen interested in running for the vacant one-year unexpired term must file a Nominating Petition with Ms. Elaine Flynn, Middlesex County Clerk, in New Brunswick in order to get their name on the ballot for the November 6, 2012 Election. The deadline for filing the Nominating Petition is **Thursday, September 13, 2012**. PLEASE NOTE: This deadline is for the one-year unexpired term ONLY.

Qualifications: Citizen of the United States of America; at least 18 years of age; must be able to read and write; has been a resident of South Plainfield for at least one (1) year preceding the date of the election; is not disqualified as a voter pursuant to R.S. 19:4-1; is a registered voter in the district.

Within 30 days of election or appointment to the Board, a member must undergo a criminal history background investigation through the NJ Department of Education.

Nominating Petitions will be available on the South Plainfield District website at [www.spboe.org](http://www.spboe.org) or in the office of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mr. James Olobardi, Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

James Olobardi, Board Secretary  
South Plainfield Board of Education

\$33.23

September 7, 2012



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## Frances T. (Dimestria) Kopidowski, 89

Frances T. (Dimestria) Kopidowski died on Monday, Aug. 27 at Willow Creek Rehabilitation & Care Center in Somerset.

Born and raised in Newark, Frances settled in Piscataway in 1964. Mrs. Kopidowski and her late husband, Jacob, owned and operated the former Fran's Bakery in Piscataway.

She was a devoted Democratic committeewoman in Piscataway for 39 years.

In addition to her late husband Jacob, who died in 1994, she is predeceased by two sisters, Pauline Manbianco and Domenica Mayo; and two brothers, Vito and Nicholas Dimestria.

Surviving are three children, Diane Higgins and husband Nick, Nick Kopidowski and wife Teresa of Toms River and Jack Kopidowski and wife Loretta of Nutley; a sister, Anna Hanas; a brother, James Dimestria; and three grandchildren, Joseph and Jaclyn Kopidowski and Nicholas J. Higgins.

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



Frances Kopidowski

## Obituaries

and nephews.

A memorial gathering will be held on Saturday, Sept. 8 from 1-3 p.m. at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, followed by a memorial service beginning at 3 p.m. Cremation will be held privately.

The family kindly requests donation be made to the Carolina Water Fowl Rescue at [www.carolinawaterfowlrescue.com](http://www.carolinawaterfowlrescue.com).

## Philip Cortese Jr., 81

Philip J. Cortese Jr. died on Sunday, Aug. 26 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway.

Born in Belleville, Mr. Cortese resided in various towns throughout New Jersey prior to settling in South Plainfield 49 years ago.

He served with the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict and was a recipient of three Purple Hearts.

Phil was active with several organizations throughout South Plainfield. He served as past commander of the VFW Post #6763, American Legion Chaumont Post #243, Elks Lodge #2298, and he was also a member of the South Plainfield Exempt Fireman's Association. In addition, Phil was a member of the J.J. Gardner Detachment, Marine Corps League.

While serving as commander of the VFW post, one of Philip's most notable accomplishments was the planning of the South Plainfield Monument Park project. He was one of the original founders of the landmark and helped procure the AH-1G Cobra Helicopter, which currently stands enhancing the significance of the park.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Marianne (Nemeth); a daughter, Theresa Lake and husband Russ of Middletown; two sons, Philip of Hellertown, Pa. and Kurt and wife Karen of South Plainfield; a sister, Carol Bartolotta and husband Joseph; and two brothers, Robert of Delaware and John and wife Mary of Toms River. Also surviving are seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

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



Philip Cortese

## Zoltan J. Dohanyos, 90

Zoltan J. Dohanyos died on Monday, Aug. 27 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in New Salem, Pa. to the late Mary (Toth) and Stephen, Zoltan grew up in Perth Amboy, and was a graduate of the Perth Amboy High School's Class of 1940.

He entered the United States Navy, served his country proudly as a motor machinist mate second class during WWII and settled in South Plainfield in 1950.

Zoltan began his career as a carpenter by trade and became a long time project supervisor for Torcon Inc., a construction company based in Westfield. He retired in 1991.

He was a member of the Carpenters Local 254, South Plainfield VFW Post #6763 and a longtime parishioner of St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church in Perth Amboy.

His hobbies included being an artist, spending time oil painting and sketch drawing, playing the violin in his younger years, bowling, coin collecting and gardening. Above all, he will be remembered as a dedicated and devoted husband to his wife of 66 years, C. Theresa Dohanyos, who died in May.

In addition, he is predeceased by five siblings, Mary Domini, Steve Pivarnyk, Elizabeth Pellegrino, Goldie Johnson and Ernest Dohanyos.

Surviving is a sister, Irene Gregowicz and many nieces, nephews and cousins of multiple generations who were fortunate to have him as an uncle.

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



Zoltan Dohanyos

## Fortunata "Fudgie" Guidone, 97

Fortunata "Fudgie" Guidone died on Thursday, Aug. 30 at Foothill Acres Nursing Home in Hillsborough.

Surviving are two sisters, Eleanor Haines of South Plainfield and Julia Diem of Piscataway, as well as several loving nieces and nephews.

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

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## OPINION

South Plainfield Democrats



### Diana and Salerno Go On Record Opposing Traffic Light Cameras

C.J. Diana and Franky Salerno, Democratic candidates for Borough Council, have gone on record opposing traffic light cameras in South Plainfield. Diana explained the Democrats opposition saying, "Franky and I have heard that the mayor and council are considering installing six traffic light cameras in town. We strongly urge them to join us in opposing any such installations. These cameras are potential safety hazards; there are in fact reports of traffic light cameras causing nearly as many accidents as they are

intended to prevent. Most importantly, traffic light cameras are contrary to the basis of our jurisprudence... 'innocent until proven guilty'. It is virtually impossible to have a camera charge dismissed in court because the police are not the enforcement authority. I'm simply unsure if this is right for our community."

Salerno expanded upon candidate Diana's comments: "These cameras are just an excuse to raise money. Experience in other towns shows that local residents are the ones who suffer the most. The fine

is \$85 per occurrence. If six cameras are installed, homeowners in those six neighborhoods will be paying the fines and safety will actually be reduced not enhanced. I hope that the rumor C.J. and I heard is just that... 'a rumor'. The Republican candidates should disclose if any discussions have taken place and if the installation of the cameras is being considered. The best thing would be for all of us to join together and say traffic cameras will not be installed in South Plainfield."

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

#### Save the Date!

*A candidates' debate will be held on October 17 at the Senior Center. Watch the Observer for more details.*

## OPINION

South Plainfield Republicans



### Salerno and Diana's Promises Can't be Taken Seriously

A week after local Democrats announced their platform, Republican leaders are questioning whether the plan can be taken seriously.

"It's not credible," said Council President Ray Rusnak, a spokesman for the GOP ticket. "Salerno and Diana are making empty promises they don't have the ability to keep."

"Look at Salerno's record last time he was on the council," said Tim McConville, a two-term councilmember. "He promised to hold taxes flat when he ran in 2008. Then, after he got elected, he voted to raise them \$404."

"Now he's inflating his promises even more," added McConville. "He's promising no tax increase for the next three years. Does that mean he'll really raise them \$404 each year?"

But it gets worse. Neither Salerno nor Diana have done their homework. They used

made up numbers in last week's article in the *Observer*. What's really scary, though, is that Salerno's record is actually worse than the one he made up for his opponents. His record on taxes, spending and borrowing is awful.

Salerno and Diana also say they are going to stop borrowing. Yet when Salerno and his party were in control in 2009, they borrowed over \$2 million. Republicans cut borrowing three years in a row, and this year it will be down by half a million dollars.

"Anyone who knows Franky Salerno, knows he has no idea how to keep the promises he and his runningmate are making," said Councilman Alex Barletta. "He might as well promise everybody in town a shiny new BMW. It would be just as credible."

But it's not just borrowing where the rhetoric and the record don't match. Salerno

and the Democrats proved they don't know how to control spending either.

When Democrats ran the council over the last decade, spending went up on average each year by over \$800,000. By contrast, spending under Republicans rose less than one percent in the last three years. That's less than a third of a percent each year.

"If Salerno had some brilliant way to cut spending, he sure didn't bother to tell anyone during his three years on the council," added McConville. "His promises simply can't be taken seriously."

Rusnak agreed, "Anyone running for office can make promises, but the real challenge is keeping them. Residents deserve results, not empty promises. The Salerno-Diana promises are not credible and can't be taken seriously."

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## OPINION

South Plainfield Independent

## Restoring Our Town.... Improving Our Community

I want to start by thanking everyone who has supported my campaign bid for this November: those of you who supported by signing my petition to be on the ballot, those who have offered their time to volunteer, and those that have supported my campaign financially. I thank you. You have made a bold choice to support someone new to politics with the hope that we can finally change politics here in South Plainfield.

For those of you that are Democrats, Republicans and Independents, I ask for your support once again this year. It is time for us to think freely and boldly. Every year we hear the same from two parties that twists facts to promote their own interests. They get ahead while we fall behind. This year doesn't have to be more of the same. I'll be working for you, not the

interests of party officials and what they want, but what you need.

My message is "Restoring our Town... Improving our Community" and it is about restoring our finances, lowering taxes and making improvements throughout the community, which we all will benefit from. This election season I will be discussing with you how we can start taking real action to make our community stronger.

This will be a pivotal year in South Plainfield, with choices to make. For the first time, you can elect someone free from party politics that will work tirelessly to make our town better. I loved the chance to meet so many of you last year, and this fall I'm even more excited by the possibility of serving you all next year.

Independent Paul McCullen

**Thanks for reading the Observer!**  
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## Scouts Plan End of Summer Fun Night

Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts of South Plainfield, Piscataway and Plainfield plus the Girl Scouts of South Plainfield invites you, your sons and your daughters to be part of the country's largest youth programs.

Formerly known as Scout Fun Night Jamboree, the event will take place on Friday, Sept. 21 at Veteran's Memorial Park from 2-9 p.m.

"Its name was changed back at the end of May to make it more appealing and exciting for our church groups and civic groups coming out in support of the event," says Scoutmaster Jim Donelson of Boy Scout Troop 125.

The events feature a model campsite, dessert cooking samples, outdoor games and lots of other activities throughout the evening. There will also be church and civic groups on hand with informational tables. "This event is an exciting blockbuster event where on the same field we have all these organizations here who not only support each other, but as a community, are here in support of the scouting movement," says Donelson.

For more, email Jim Donelson at [rvtroop125@aol.com](mailto:rvtroop125@aol.com) or stop by VFW Post #6763 any Monday after 4 p.m.

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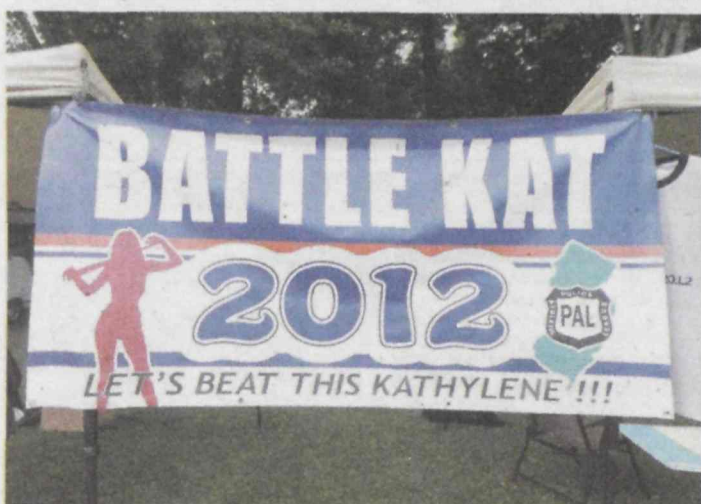
## South Plainfield OBSERVER

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Residents rally in support of Kathylene Moench (pictured in the center) at the "Battle Kat" softball tournament. Moench is pictured with (L-R) Sal Severini, Jay Coppola, Danielle Cohen, Danny Nuzzo, Jack Gustafson and Franco Mitrano.

## Community Rallies in "Battle Kat" to Help Ailing Resident

By Jane Dornick

A borough-wide softball tournament dubbed "Battle Kat 2012" was held on August 25 and raised \$10,000 to benefit resident Kathylene Moench, who was diagnosed five months ago with uterine and cervical cancer.

Moench has lived in town for 12 years, is engaged to be married and has three boys ages 13, nine and eight. She is also a part time bartender at Sal's Spirit Shoppe.

The event was organized by friend Mike Tortorelli and featured 14 men's

teams competing from the Central Jersey area and 12 local co-ed teams.

Sponsored by the South Plainfield Police Athletic League, the fields used to host the games were Veterans Park, the middle school, high school, Riley School and Ponytail Park. Veterans Park was the center of activity which featured a DJ, 50/50 raffle, food and drinks along with a slip and slide and dunk tank for the kids.

Competing in the men's division were Kohl & The Gang, Petriello Landscaping, ACS, ACS + 40, Rimex Leftovers, Brown Stone,

Zupko's, Ellery's Assassins, Ellery's Hitmen, Irvington Fire, The MC Lesta's, Moosemen, Telemundo and Overall Flooring. Co-teams consisted of Island Title, Bound Brook Hotel, Westbrook/Northside, Sons of Pitches, Scuba Steves, Mickey's Gang, Isagenix, Creative Kids Academy, Warriors, The Battle Kats, American Legion and Sal's Spirits.

There were trophies for the Men's Most Valuable Player, 2012 Co-Ed Champs, Champion, Men's Division, Co-Ed Most Valuable Player and two Runners' Up. The Men's Champion

was Ellery's Assassins and the Co-Ed Champions were the American Legion.

"It was such a surprise," said Moench, about the softball tournament on her behalf. "Mike just said to me 'don't do anything. Just be there for that day.'"

Event sponsors and volunteers were Recreation Director Kevin Hughes and Detectives Gary Cassio and Chris Colucci, Rick McCriscin, Ken Kirchofer of Hygrade (beverages), Sal Severini (cooking the food), Hall's Fast Motor Freight (use of a re-

frigerated truck), the fire department (filling up the dunk tank), DPW General Supervisor Bob Capparelli, high school Athletic Director Al Czech and Jim Curcio (umpiring).

A golf tournament at Concordia in Monroe Township in July was sponsored by Sal's Spirit Shoppe and raised money to help Moench with medical bills.

For more information about Moench, you can email her at kathylenelive.com or call Tortorelli at (908) 300-7301.

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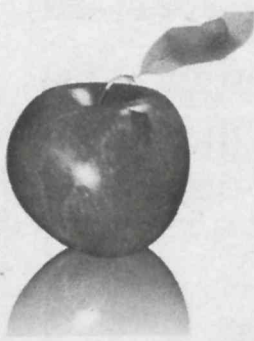
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