

# South Plainfield OBSERVER

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60 CENTS

SEPTEMBER 14, 2012



Luke Sprenger

## Local Scout Attains Rank Of Eagle

Luke Sprenger from Troop 124 earned the rank of Eagle Scout on February 20. He is the 40th Eagle Scout from Troop 124 in its 50 year history.

Luke is the second of three sons of Darvene Adams and Mark Sprenger. He joined scouting as a Tiger Cub and completed his Cub Scout career by earning the Arrow of Light. Once in Boy Scouts he became a den chief and was awarded the Raritan Valley District Scout of the Year in 2009. Luke was presented his Eagle rank on July 23 at a court of honor held at the American Legion Post #243 in South Plainfield. His Eagle Scout service project involved the planning and construction of a picnic area pad at St. Joseph High School in Metuchen.

Luke was an altar server at Sacred Heart Church throughout middle and high school. He was a member of the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Squires and volunteered at the Plainfield Humane Society.

Through middle school Luke played the violin in the school orchestra. In seventh grade he began running, and in eighth grade he won the Greater Middlesex County Middle School Cross Country Championship.

Luke attended St. Joseph High School where he graduated cum laude and was selected as a member of the National Honor Society. While at St. Joe's he ran varsity cross country, winter track and spring track, and was a member of the German Club in addition to being active in other school activities.

Luke is a recipient of an American Legion Chaumont Post #243 scholarship.

He is a freshman at Norwich University in Vermont and has been selected with a limited number of other freshmen into the honors program at Norwich. He plans on joining the cross country team and several of the clubs/organizations at Norwich, including the Mountain Cold Weather Unit.

Luke will be participating in the Marine Corps option of the Navy ROTC program and is currently applying to become an officer candidate through the Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Class (PLC) program.

Luke would like to pursue a career in the Marine Corps.

## Council Votes for Sharing Burden of Tax Appeals

By Libby Barsky

The Borough Council voted unanimously to support Assembly Bill A-1503 and Senate Bill S-1896 regarding proposed legislation to require fire districts, school districts and county governments to pay their fair share of tax appeal refunds and settlements at the September 4 meeting.

The vote came after the council received a letter from the Board of Education denying their request to

return over \$350,000 toward tax appeal refunds that were paid out over the past two years on their behalf. The decision was agreed upon by the BOE at the August 29 meeting. The letter stated: "At this time we are unable to honor your request."

On May 14, Senator Anthony Bucco (R-Morris) introduced Bill S-1896 which would require county governments, school districts, fire districts and other taxing districts to share in the burden of paying for property

tax refunds. Under current law, only the county shares in this burden with municipalities through the county tax equalization process. The bill requires the municipal tax collector to send a notice of the pro rata share of the property tax appeal refunds paid by the municipality during the tax year to the county, school districts and fire districts for inclusion into their annual budgets. In the year following the tax year in which the refunds were paid, the municipal tax collector is then

required to deduct the applicable pro rata share of the property tax refunds from the amounts to be paid to the county and each school district and fire district as required by N.J.S.40A:14-79, R.S. 54:4-74 and R.S.54:4-75.

In January 2009, Bucco was appointed Republican Budget Officer of the Senate and is the ranking Republican member of the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

According to Council President Ray Rusnak, "Since the board won't do it [return the money] voluntarily, we are in full support of the bill that is in Trenton. Hopefully, they will pass it and enforce it." He has also been in contact with Governor Chris Christie's office in regard to the fact that despite the Board of Education showing a \$1.3M excess surplus last year they received an additional \$700,000 this year in state aid. When Christie first took office in 2010, the aid was slashed by \$700,000 and the BOE used \$1.2M in excess surplus toward the budget.



Officer Mike Grasso, Chief Jim Parker, Captain Matt Koep and Officer Mark Bullock with the new K-9 dogs.

## Handlers, Dogs to Begin Training Next Week

By Jane Dornick

The two new South Plainfield Police German Shepherd K-9 dogs arrived last Thursday and will begin training on September 17 with their new handlers, Officers Mike Grasso and

Mark Bullock, at the training facility at the Union County Sheriff's Office.

The dogs will aid officers in solving burglaries, recovering evidence, facility searches, locating missing persons, serving warrants and making arrests. They are also intended to be

the department's "good will ambassador" and their presence will create a positive connection between the public and police.

Cages will be purchased for the dogs from Triangle Communications, LLC of Scotch Plains at a cost of \$9,240.68 along with the installation of electronics and equipment for two patrol vehicles priced at \$25,583.60.

The specially bred dogs were born in Hungary and purchased through Birkenhof Kennels of Derby, Conn. for \$12,400.

Both the borough and the police department are currently accepting donations and any open grants to help offset the K-9 unit's startup costs. Corporate or private donations would be graciously appreciated.

The police department also held a dog naming contest for elementary school children from kindergarten through sixth grade. Students were asked to submit a name and why they chose it. The winner or winners will be announced during the upcoming week and will also be recognized at a future borough council meeting.

Rich from Presto Printing donated the materials (paper and printing) for the naming contests.

Any additional questions regarding donations can be directed to Det. Sgt. David DeLair at (908) 226-7682 or email ddelair@southplainfieldnj.com.



South Plainfield Middle School holds a ceremony to honor the victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. For story, see page 12.

## Free Paper Shredding Event At New Location

South Plainfield residents, it's time to begin sorting through those shoeboxes in the attic. Do you really need gas station credit card receipts from 1989? Bank statements from the savings account you closed in 2000? If you have not put these at the curb for recycling because of privacy concerns, we have an event for you.

The Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders in conjunction with the Borough of South Plainfield will sponsor a free paper shredding event on Saturday, Oct. 6 at the community pool parking lot, next to the PAL Building, 1250 Maple Ave. Residents can bring confidential papers—old files, receipts, bills, financial statements—to be shredded for recycling. There is no need to remove staples, paper clips or paperboard binder covers. The mobile truck shreds the paper on-site, so residents can watch their papers being destroyed.

The truck will be at the community pool parking lot from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., or until it fills up. This is a new location and was chosen because it has more room for vehicles to queue than does the Senior Center.

Do not bring books, magazines, newspapers or anything made of plastic. These should be placed at the curb in the blue recycling box or brought to the borough's recycling center on Kenneth Avenue.

For more information, email the Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management at solidwaste@co.middlesex.nj.us or call (732) 745-4170.





# In My Opinion

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

## To the Editor:

On behalf of Holy Savior Academy, I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank Joe Tomei and Glenn Bach from Hall's Fast Motor Freight for coordinating the truck and flatbed for our Labor Day parade float. Thanks also to RAM Trucking for donating the flatbed for our use. The support from Hall's truly makes the Labor Day parade something special for all of us. Special thanks to the Villavicencio Family for the safe, smooth ride during the parade.

**SINCERELY,  
DEBBIE METZ FOR  
HOLY SAVIOR ACADEMY**

## To the Editor:

To the Republican Party regarding last week's desperate uncalled for attack on Franky Salerno: You guys must be worried about this November's election. What happened to all the letters your party wrote about Franky saying, "More council members need to be like Frank Salerno." We spoke to Franky and he told us that he doesn't plan on firing any shots back at the local Republicans, saying, "There is no need to stoop to that level of low."

I think all the parties in town can learn a valuable lesson from Franky. Local government is not about the party. It's supposed to be about South Plainfield's people. Try to remember

that next time you guys paint a negative picture about a good person doing good things for the town he grew up in. The residents are sick of the degrading of others just to win an election. That's not a good example for our youth to see.

We can only hope that Mr. Barletta's letter does not reflect the attitude of the entire South Plainfield Republican Party. There is only one way to find out. We ask that Mayor Anesh and all members of the council, including council candidates Bengivenga and Frank, put a letter in next week's paper repudiating Mr. Barletta's behavior and apologizing not only to our son but to all of the residents of our great borough.

**PROUD PARENTS  
JOHN & APRIL SALERNO**

## Dear Editor,

It's refreshing to see people running for office who are actually getting things done for our town. By that, I mean that it's good to see Rob Bengivenga and Dick Frank running for council again.

Over the past three years, I've seen some good things happening. For one thing, the town is being well managed. Gone are the days when the council is wasting hundreds of thousands of dollars at a clip. Rather, the money is being spent wisely and in a cost-effective manner.

The numbers tell the story. What other town saw spending rise less than one percent in three years? That's impressive.

What's even more impressive is how things are still getting done and how our services are intact. We didn't see mass layoffs like some other towns, and yet spending is under control.

It's so easy to be cynical about people who run for office. In South Plainfield, though, we have a good crew in charge, and things are on the right track. Like their signs say, Bengivenga and Frank are getting it done for our town. Let's keep it going!

**KAREN PALLEIJA**

## Dear Editor,

One of the things I'm most proud of in my life is my years as a member of the South Plainfield Borough Council. People warned me not to get involved. They said politics was nasty and I would regret running for office. I am happy to say my experience proves that politics doesn't have to be that way.

I always tell people that South Plainfield is a small town where everyone knows each other and that's why politics here isn't personal. Some of the finest people I know I have met because of my service on the borough council. One of those people is Franky Salerno. He is a young man who always tries to do the right thing. He treats everyone with respect. When you're around him all you see is people saying hello and Franky responding with a big smile and a warm handshake or hug.

Franky Salerno never has a bad word to say about anybody. That is why the letter from Republican Councilmember Alex Barletta is so disturbing. How can he harbor such hostility towards such a nice guy?

Clearly the Republicans running for office put Barletta up to it which makes the letter even sadder. Do they really crave power so much as to attack the character and reputation of such a fine young man?

There is only one way to stop this

type of garbage. Send Barletta and the entire South Plainfield Republican Party a message on election day by voting for Franky Salerno and his runningmate, C.J. Diana.

**VINCENT BUTTIGLIERI**

## Dear Editor,

I am thrilled that Pat DeSantis has decided to run for South Plainfield council as an Independent this November. Anyone who knows Pat is fully aware of her dedication to the community through her involvement at Sacred Heart Church, unyielding support of the South Plainfield field hockey team, South Plainfield Athletic Booster Club, and the list goes on. If you are out and about in town, you are bound to run into Pat.

When speaking with Pat about her campaign, I could tell immediately she has the passion to serve the town on the council. She is not affiliated with a political party and wants to assist fellow residents with issues big and small—she wants to be our voice on our governing body.

As the only woman candidate for South Plainfield council this year, I know Pat will dedicate herself to the council the same way she does to the countless organizations she is affiliated with.

I frequently hear voters complain that they can only choose between the Democrats and Republicans on Election Day. This November we have an opportunity to vote for an Independent candidate who is one of the most involved people in the community. I will be voting for Pat DeSantis for South Plainfield council and ask for your consideration of her candidacy as well.

**SINCERELY,  
MARIA JOSE FERRERE**

## To the Editor:

Since September 11, 2011, more than 6,357 have given their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan in defense of this nation. I think often of these young service members whose lives have been tragically cut short.

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

**FYI**

**Borough Council & BOE**

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

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

## council meetings

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

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

### Agenda Meeting

Monday, September 17  
Monday, October 1

### Public Meeting

Monday, September 17  
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. 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

## South Plainfield OBSERVER

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### How to Reach Us



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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

We encourage the submission of stories and photos. To 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.

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I think of their families; grieving parents who have lost their young sons and daughters; little girls who will not have their fathers to walk them down the aisle; young spouses who now have to cope with being widowed long before their time. This is war, and why do we have to get used to it?

Well, according to the Associated Press, U.S. Embassy spokesman Gavin Sundwall and U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker have a draft agreement that the U.S. and Afghanistan have reached a deal, a couple of months ago, for a long-delayed strategic partnership agreement that ensures Americans will provide military and financial support to the Afghan people for at least a decade beyond 2014, the deadline for most foreign forces to withdraw. While the U.S. forces have continued to pull out ever so slowly, the death toll of our military increases.

With this election coming rapidly comes a couple of phrases or words that most Americans are flat out sick of. President Obama has over and over stated, "We will stay the course." Great idea, huh? One word really stands out, "Change." Let's figure out some changes; unemployment, healthcare that I'll guarantee most cannot figure out, Afghanistan, Russia and China, coal, illegal immigration, etc., etc.

Change is an alteration of a current condition. Put together a list; label one column "Good Change" and the other "Bad." The rest is self-explanatory. Either way, Clint Eastwood said it best: "We own this country and the government officials are our employees." It is us that can make the change.

In ending, I am sincere when I say I truly love President Obama. He will, no matter what, be in our children's lives and so on, and be in every history book forever.

Please, we need to help our troops and our beloved veterans and never forget the disabled and paralyzed vets. Thank you *Observer* for all you do; you put out what we need to know.

**SINCERELY,  
DAVID N. BARNES JR.**

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## NEWS

### Suburban Woman's Club

The Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield held its opening 2012-2013 club year meeting at the American Legion on September 6 and the members hit the ground running!

President Lucy Hudson greeted everyone and thanked those who were already planning the events and programs to make the new year a resounding success. She also announced that Marge Reidy has stepped up to fill the position of vice president and program chairman due to the recent health setback suffered by Vice President Natalie Bergen. Marge will fill these posts admirably. Natalie will continue to head the Fundraising Committee and the Special State Project "Family Promise" and her committee members are happy to have her again at the helm of these important fundraising efforts.

The 2012-2013 Special State Project "Family Promise" is a national organization dedicated to helping homeless and low income families achieve financial independence. Founded here in New Jersey in 1988, the organization assists about 50,000 people annually; more than half of those served are children. They operate more than 180 affiliates in 41 states, including in 15 New Jersey counties. The Federation hopes to raise money to expand into five additional New Jersey counties, allowing Family Promise to serve the entire state.

Club members will be attending the College District Fall Council at the New Jersey State Federation Headquarters in New Brunswick on September 27 where the club will be in charge of registration. They will also be attending NJSFWC State Fall Conference on October 22 at the Imperia on Easton Avenue in Somerset.

Bergen called on Reidy, the chairman of the wrapping paper/Christmas

gift and candy fundraiser, to distribute the brochures to members. Orders can be given to Reidy at the October meeting so that she can send them off in time for delivery before Christmas. Bergen then called on Grace Farinella, co-chairman of the upcoming yard sale/boutique, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 6 on the American Legion grounds with a raindate of October 7. Farinella has been collecting yard sale items and her co-chairman, Grace Bertucci, is organizing boutique items donated by members for sale. Members should mark prices on the yard sale items they are donating. Theater Party Fundraiser Chairman Diana Cottone reported that she contacted Bill Seesselberg, manager of the Edison Valley Playhouse, and booked the theater for a performance of *Nunsense* on Sunday, Dec. 9.

Legislation Chairman Cathy Wells has been working through the summer contacting legislators in support of the New Jersey Residential Foreclosure Transformation Act (Bill S1566).

Membership Chairman Kathy Tracy announced that she expects to install two new members at the October meeting.

President Hudson and Communications Chairman Mary Ann Iannitto will be attending a Communications Workshop at Federation Headquarters on October 10.

The annual husbands/guest night covered dish supper will be held at the Thursday, Oct. 4 meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. Oaktree Wine and Spirits will provide a wine tasting program to add to the festivities.

Any woman who wishes to become a member and participate in any of the club's worthwhile activities is welcome to call Membership Chairman Kathy Tracy at (908) 756-3772.

### Fundraiser for Social Services Food Pantry

Mr. Subs, located at 100 South Plainfield Ave., will hold a fundraiser on Tuesday, Sept. 18 from 4-8 p.m. A percentage of sales will be donated to the South Plainfield Social Service Department Food Pantry. Also, donations of non-perishable food items and personal care products for the food pantry will be collected inside Mr. Subs.

The following are a list of needed

items: canned pasta (with meatballs, lasagne, etc.), tuna, peanut butter and jelly, spaghetti sauce, canned fruits, deodorants, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet tissue, paper towels, napkins, cleaning supplies, canned meats, cereal, pancake mix and syrup, coffee, mayonnaise, ketchup and mustard, snacks, pork and beans and food store gift cards.

## Head High School Custodian Retires After 16 Years

South Plainfield High School Head Custodian Billy Lewis has retired from the district after 16 years of service. He primarily worked for Sodexo, the previous maintenance company, over the years; however, Pritchard Industries took over the janitorial services back on July 1.

Lewis began working at the Middle School in 1995 and was transferred to the high school the following year where he was given the title of head custodian. Prior to his employment in the borough, he was a foreman at Kentile for 16 years. There were eight employees who work for him at the school.

"This had been a wonderful school," said Lewis. "I couldn't have done my job without the help of the teachers."

One of the events that Lewis took pride in working at over the years was the Gold Card picnic held outside the



(L-R) Vice principals Kelly Richkus and Ronnie Spring, Athletic Director Al Czech, Billy Lewis, Principal Dr. James Pedersen, Vice Principal Joe Cirigliano and Guidance Director Elaine Gallo.

school each year.

Lewis lives in Plainfield and has five children and 12 grandchildren. In his

retirement he plans to go fishing and visit his relatives down south. His last day was September 4.

## Road Paving Projects Approved

The borough will be paving several streets and installing speed tables along three roads within the next couple of months.

Fifteen hundred tons of asphalt will be purchased at the current tonnage price of the Middlesex County Co-op Program from Stavola Construction of Tinton Falls in an amount not to exceed \$110,000.

Fischer Contracting Inc. of Scotch Plains provided the lowest bid at \$67,371.25 which will include daily rental of an HMA paver with one operator and two men and a vibratory roller with one operator. They will also be milling the roads to be paved and expedite milling for the speed table placement. Signage consisting of 14 combination speed hump signs, six "Speed Hump Ahead" signs and 16 speed table traffic markings will also

be provided by Fischer.

Department of Public Works equipment and its employees along with equipment from the Middlesex County Co-Op will be used to complete the project. According to CFO Glenn Cullen, by utilizing the borough's equipment and manpower they are saving approximately \$100,000 as opposed to bidding out the entire project. The borough is also considering paving Susan Terrace and Brenda Place with the potential savings.

Roads to be paved are E. Nassau Avenue, E. Elmwood Drive, Caffrey Terrace, W. 8th Street and Oak Tree Avenue from the post office to Front Street. A total of eight speed tables

will be placed throughout Fairmount Avenue, West Street and W. 8th Street. One table on Oak Tree Avenue will be replaced.

Bids for repaving Sampton Avenue and Nunnick Lane bids were received last week. Both projects should be completed by late October early November.

### BOE Meet the Candidates Night

The South Plainfield Education Foundation is sponsoring the Board of Education Meet the Candidates Night on Monday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. at Kennedy School. Look for more details in next week's *Observer*.

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# events

## Around Town

### SENIOR CENTER Calendar

**SENIOR PICNIC— 12 to 3 p.m.**  
**Wednesday, Sept. 26**  
Cost of \$12 includes hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken, sausage and peppers, salads, iced tea, dessert, coffee, tea and music. Sign up at Senior Center.

**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

### 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 Rauber 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. The event is free.

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

### Back to Church Sunday

**September 16**  
"Back to Church Sunday," part of a national movement of churches across America, will be held at The Tabernacle Church, 1253 New Market Ave., on Sunday, Sept. 16 at 9 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

More information regarding The Tabernacle Church and their ongoing initiatives can be found at [www.thetabernacle.com](http://www.thetabernacle.com).

### Pub Theology

**September 18**  
St. Stephen Lutheran Church will be hosting a discussion entitled, "Constantine—Culture and Christ" on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 8 p.m. at Flanagan's Pub, 2501 Plainfield Ave.

### 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 Health & Fitness Walk 2012

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

### Medicare Presentation At the Senior Center

**October 5**  
You are invited to a free no obligation Medicare presentation on Friday, Oct. 5 at 8:30 a.m. at the Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. Learn about and explore your Medicare Advantage, Supplement and Prescription Part D plan options for this year's annual election period (October 15-December 7). A salesperson will be present with information and applications. Presented by Catherine M. Pegeron.

For more information and to sign up, call (908) 754-1047.

### Annual Buddy Walk

**October 6**  
The ninth annual Buddy Walk of South Plainfield will be held on Saturday, Oct. 6 at Putnam Park. Registration starts at 11:30 a.m. and the walk begins at 1 p.m. Cost is \$10 for adults (13 and over); kids are \$5. There will be a DJ, raffles, face painting, other kids activities and lunch.

For more information, call (908) 531-5100.

### — Out of Town —

### Middlesex East WOWs Open Dance

**September 14**  
Middlesex East Widows Or Widowers, Carteret Chapter, will hold an open dance tonight from 7:30-11:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 1155 Roosevelt Ave. in Carteret. Refreshments. Admission: \$10 members; \$12 guests.

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

### Little Servant Sisters 44th Fundraiser

**September 14 & 15**  
Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, 1000 Cropwell Rd. in Cherry Hill, will hold their 44th fundraiser today from noon to 4 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Yard sale, Polish and other food, prizes.

For information, call Rosemarie Grabowski at (856) 235-1521.

**Send Your Community Events to:**  
[spobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net)

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(4) See below for offer details and Important Special Financing/Deferred Interest Details. Offer good thru 9/15/12.

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Kenmore® white 3.4 cu. ft. capacity top load washer 02620022 Reg. 528.99 ea.

Kenmore white 6.0 cu. ft. capacity electric dryer 02660022 Gas dryer priced higher.

**SAVING \$328 ON THE PAIR**

**\$499<sup>99</sup> EA.**

Kenmore white 3.6 cu. ft. high efficiency washer 02621302 Reg. 704.99

Kenmore white 7.0 cu. ft. capacity electric dryer 02661202 Reg. 822.99 Gas dryer priced higher.

**SAVING \$482 ON THE PAIR**

**\$699<sup>99</sup> EA.**

Kenmore 3.6 cu. ft. capacity front load washer 02641172 Reg. 940.99 ea.

Kenmore 7.1 cu. ft. capacity electric dryer 02681172 Gas dryer priced higher. Optional pedestals sold separately.

**SAVING \$446 ON THE PAIR**

**\$599<sup>99</sup> EA.**

Kenmore white 3.6 cu. ft. capacity top load washer 02626002 Reg. 822.99 ea.

Kenmore white 7.5 cu. ft. capacity electric dryer 02666002 Gas dryer priced higher.

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**\$429<sup>99</sup>**

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**SAVE \$300**

**\$999<sup>99</sup>**

b. Kenmore 27-cu. ft. refrigerator \*UltraCool™ enhanced ice production. 04651022 Reg. 1299.99

**SAVE \$250**

**\$1199<sup>99</sup>**

c. Frigidaire Gallery® 26-cu. ft. side-by-side refrigerator 04634693/FGUS2642LF Reg. 1449.99

**SAVE \$400**

**\$1649<sup>99</sup>**

d. Samsung® 26-cu. ft. refrigerator with LED lighting and Twin Cooling Plus System® 04692036/RF261BEAESP/AA Reg. 2049.99

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## 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.

## Blackrose to Perform

September 15

Blackrose, the band, playing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will be performing at the Stagehouse Tavern, 1719 Amwell Rd. in Somerset on Saturday, Sept. 15 at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

## Woodbridge WOWs Open Dance

September 16

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will hold an open dance on Sunday, Sept. 16 from 7:30-11 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Morrissey Ave. in Avenel. Everyone is welcome. Admission: \$10 members; \$12 guests. Refreshments.

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

## 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.

## Deutscher Tag-German Day

September 16

Deutscher Club of Clark, 787 Featherbed Lane, is hosting Deutscher Tag-German Day on Sunday, Sept. 16 from 12 to 6 p.m. Food, fun and family entertainment; open to the public. Music by German Band, Schpritz and Blooskapell. Outdoors rain or shine. Free parking. German and American food and beverages available. Admission: \$5 per person, children under 12 free.

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

## Temple Sholom High Holy Days

September 17, 26

Temple Sholom of Fanwood/Scotch Plains, located at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, invites members of the community to free, family-oriented religious services on Rosh Hashanah, Monday, Sept. 17 and Yom Kippur, Wednesday, Sept. 26.

On both days a young family service will be held at 10 a.m. and a family Torah service will be held at 2 p.m. in the main sanctuary.

RSVP to (908) 889-4900 or email office@sholomnj.org.

## Allstate New Jersey Lends A Hand in Cancer Fight

When one thinks of a "quote," words of wisdom usually come to mind. But in talking about an annual campaign with Allstate New Jersey Insurance Company that benefits The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ), the word "quote" takes on a different meaning—one with impact on saving lives.

Now through October 1, Allstate New Jersey will donate \$10 to the CINJ Foundation for every life or auto insurance quote requested (up to \$20 per person) through any of Allstate's 230 New Jersey agents (www.allstateagencies.com). The 2012 "Quotes for a Cure" effort will support research, treatment, prevention and education programs at CINJ, which is a Center of Excellence of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Having raised nearly \$100,000 over the past three years, this year's campaign has a goal of raising \$50,000.

"Allstate New Jersey is proud to be a part of the communities we serve. We help protect our customers from life's uncertainties, and through 'Quotes for a Cure,' we have a great opportunity to support The Cancer

Institute of New Jersey and make an impact against cancer," said Allstate New Jersey President Rich Crist.

"Allstate New Jersey's continued commitment to CINJ will benefit the many residents statewide whose lives are touched by cancer. From research and treatment to prevention and cancer awareness education initiatives, the 'Quotes for a Cure' campaign will support all aspects of CINJ's core mission. We are pleased once again to have Allstate New Jersey as a community partner in these efforts," said CINJ Foundation Director of Major Gifts Leanne Kochy.

More about the program can be found at www.cinjfoundation.org.

For a quote on auto or life insurance, call Allstate agent Robert Knox at (732) 540-8566. Also providing homeowners and business insurance, the Robert Knox Agency is located at 537 Inman Ave. in Colonia.

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

Contact Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.



Lukoil, located on Stelton Road, joined other Lukoil dealers that jacked up the price of its gas to \$8.99 in a one day protest for what they claim are unfair pricing practices by Lukoil North America.

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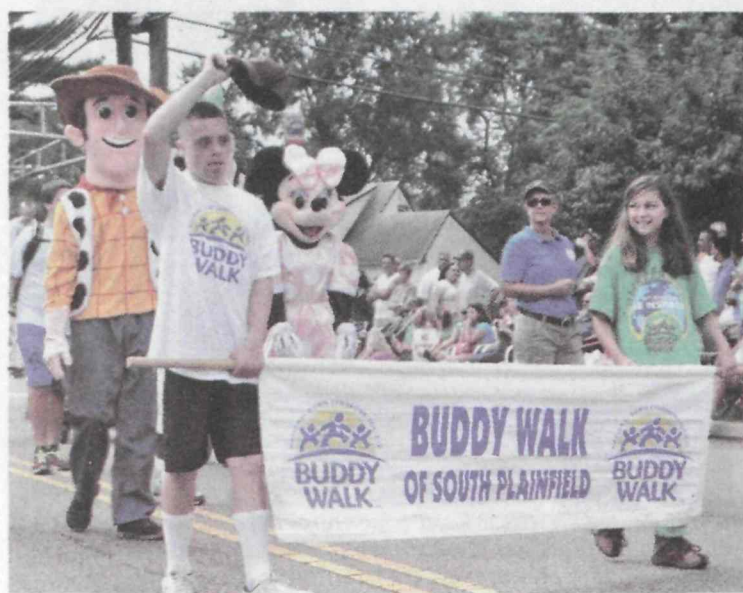


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### Scenes from the 55th Annual Labor Day Parade



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### Event Photos For Sale

Photographs of local events by South Plainfield Observer contributing photographer Louis Mormile are available for purchase at [www.louisormilephotography.com](http://www.louisormilephotography.com).

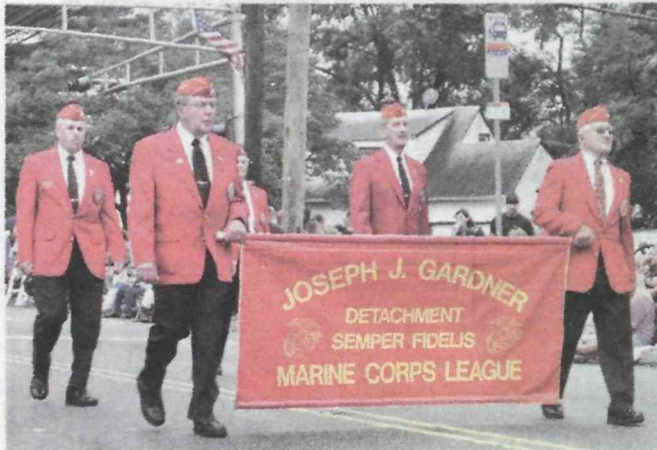
The website has password protected photo galleries. To request the password, click on "Contact" at the bottom of the web page and fill out the form by providing the name of the event you are inquiring about, along with your name, address and telephone number.

Currently available are more than 240 photos of the Labor Day Parade and Lions Club dunk tank, 300 photos of the Labor Day 5K race and 1.5M walk, SPHS Varsity Football home opener and Rescue Squad Car, Truck and Bike show.

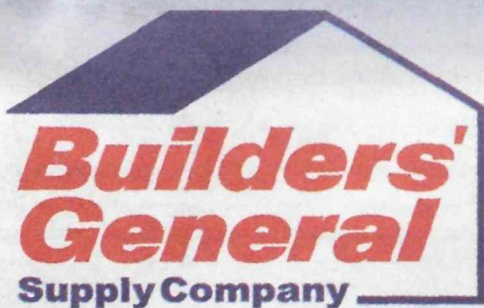
Additional photos of various local sporting events, etc. are also available.



Scenes from the 55th Annual Labor Day Parade



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



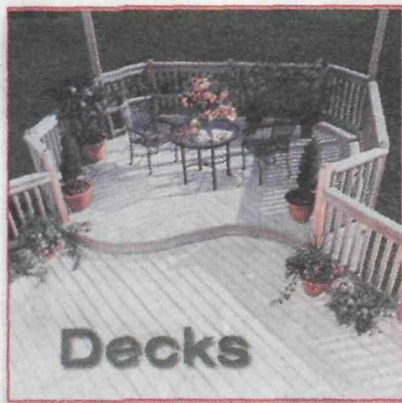
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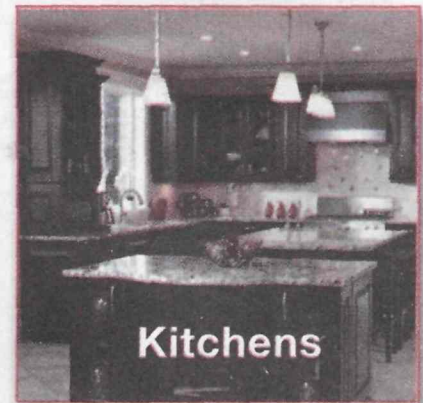
Tools



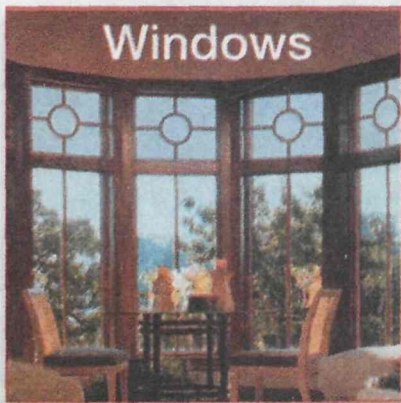
Decks



ROOFING



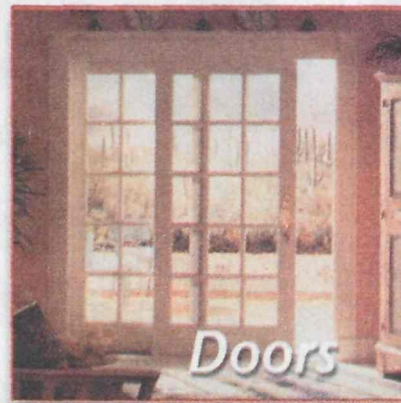
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# SPORTS



The South Plainfield High School Varsity Football Tigers won their home opening game on Friday night against New Brunswick High School, 27-6.  
-Photo courtesy of Louis Mormile

## Tigers Crush New Brunswick 27-6

In their home opener, the South Plainfield High School Varsity Football Tigers took on the New Brunswick High School Zebras last Friday evening dominating 27-6.

It was Head Coach Gary Cassio's debut at the helm after coaching the Middle School and Pop Warner football teams.

Tiger Quarterback Kyle Moroney scored a rushing touchdown. Also

scoring six points were tailbacks Joe Pellegrino and Roemello Monroe and defensive end Anthony Torchia.

Lightning halted play for over an hour.

This week is a bye week for the Tigers who will face Carteret High School at home on Friday, Sept. 21 at 7 p.m.

Call 908-668-0010 and ask us how you can get the absolute lowest rates for advertising your business in the Observer.

## 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.

## SPHS South Plainfield High School SPORTS SCHEDULE

### 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

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

8:30am V Gymnastics-Hillsborough (A) Bus 7:30am  
10am GV&JV Soccer-Edison (A) Bus 8:30am  
10am BV&JV Soccer-Edison (H)

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

4pm GV&JV Soccer-No. Brunswick (A) Bus 2:30pm

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

3:45pm V Field Hockey-Piscataway JV/5:15pm Bus 2:30pm  
4pm B&GV Cross Country-JFK/Monroe (H)  
5:30pm V Volleyball-P. Amboy JV/4pm (H)

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

4pm Fr Field Hockey-Metuchen (A) Bus 2:30pm  
4pm V Gymnastics-East Brunswick (A) Bus 2:30pm  
4pm BV&JV Soccer-Perth Amboy (H) 4pm V Field Hockey-Metuchen JV/5:30pm (H)  
5:30pm V Volleyball-St. Patricks (H) JV/4pm

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

3:45pm Fr Football-Carteret (A) Bus 2:30pm  
5:30pm V Volleyball-Monroe JV/4pm (A) Bus 2:30pm  
7pm V Football-Carteret (H)

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

9:30am V Field Hockey-Sayreville JV/11am  
10am BV&JV Soccer-Woodbridge (A) Bus 8:15am  
1pm GV&JV Soccer-Bishop Ahr (H)

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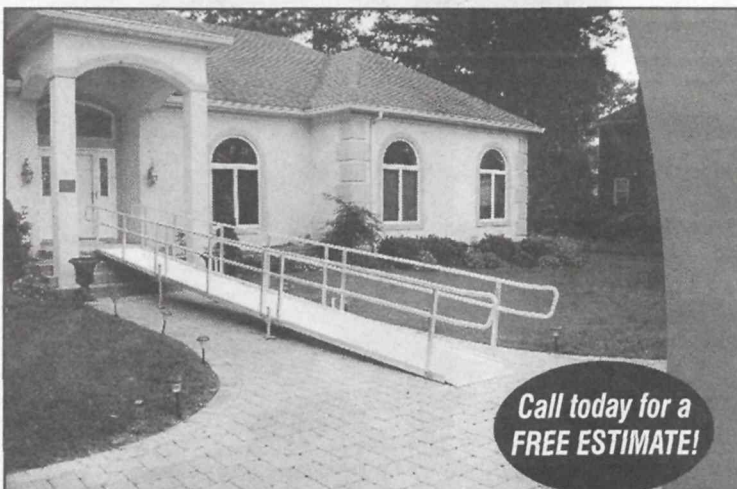
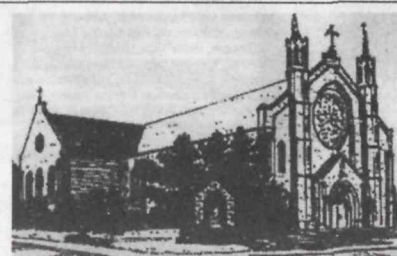
Sunday 9:00, 11:30 a.m.

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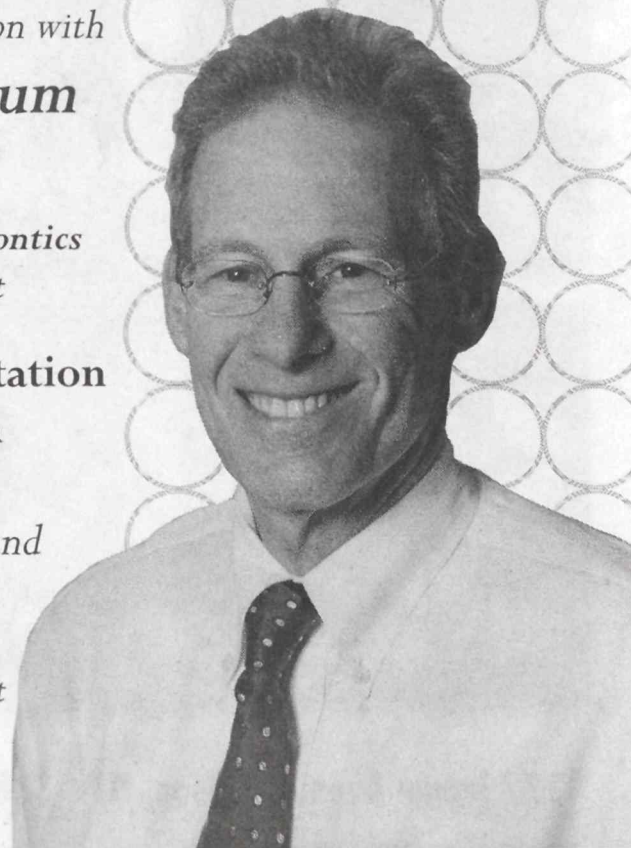
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From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

As Eve noted last week, we're kind of in a gray area right about now. The summer vacation season has ended, but autumn doesn't officially start until next week and some stores may be breaking out the Christmas ornaments at this moment. Before you start working on just what time of the year this actually is, here are a few news items from the South Plainfield Library.

Just a reminder about our schedule. We've re-started our Sunday hours. We'll be open 1:30-5 p.m. And we may as well remind you of our schedule for the rest of the week. We're open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Our Monday Night Movie program is still going strong. The movie will start in our main room at 6:30 p.m. The movie is being presented free of charge; no pre-registration is required. Refreshments are permitted, as long as you don't spill anything on our equipment. Please call us for title, content and running time information. Riffing is discouraged, unless you're a trained professional and everyone else in the audience doesn't mind.

Our children's programming is still on hiatus until October, with one little

exception: it's a program called, "When Animals Attack." It's presented by Eyes of the Wild, an NJ-based group that presents wildlife-based educational programs. This program, featuring live animals, will be held down the street at the South Plainfield Senior Center on Thursday, Sept. 20 at 6:30 p.m. It's for children ages five and over. Pre-registration is not required. It's being presented free, but we ask that you bring non-perishable food items for the South Plainfield food drive.

Meanwhile, we have some programs for adults on the schedule.

On Thursday, Sept. 20, we'll have the first meeting of the Adult Chess Club at 7 p.m. The club is for players of all skill levels; no pre-registration is required. Players may bring their own chess sets, or use one belonging to the library. Sets using holograms are permitted, as long as you let the Wookie win.

On Thursday, Sept. 27, we'll have the first meeting of the Adult Book Club at 7 p.m. No pre-registration is required. We'll have details on selected books at the meeting.

While that's going on, we'll have the next installment of our lecture series, "History of Ancient Philosophy." The next presentation will focus on the systems of the Ancient Near East. Pre-registration for the lecture is requested; it's being presented free of charge.

And here's another upcoming program that, for a change of pace, isn't on a Thursday night. Our big book and bake sale is set for Saturday, Sept. 22 starting at 9 a.m. We'll have a wide variety of books, A/V items and baked goods on sale at competitive prices. If you'd like to donate baked goods for the sale, please call us to register.

That's about all for now. For more information, call us at (908) 754-7885. (For the kids' program, ask for Mija. For the adult programs, ask for Chris. For the lectures, ask for Jeff.) You can also check our website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us), or look us up on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/southplainfieldlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/southplainfieldlibrary). Also you can learn more about the wildlife program at [www.eyeswild.com](http://www.eyeswild.com). Catch you later.

## High School Wins First Round of "Last School Standing" Contest

South Plainfield High School took first place for Middlesex County in the first voting round of the Last School Standing 2012 Back to School Concert With Cher Lloyd sponsored by 92.3 NOW (WXRK-FM) on Wednesday.

The three top schools from the 21 counties throughout New Jersey, New York and Connecticut were semi-finalists. The 63 semi-finalists moved on to the next phase of the contest. On Wednesday, listeners voted for one or more of the listed semi-finalists at [www.923now.com](http://www.923now.com).

The 10 schools remaining in contention at 3 p.m. today will be designated as "finalists" and move on to the finals. The five schools remaining in contention at 12 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 17 will again be finalists. On Thursday, Sept. 20 at 5 p.m., the voting polls will close and the school with the most votes will be announced live on-air after 7 p.m.

The winning school will receive a concert in the school's auditorium (or other location designated) on Friday, Oct. 5.

Voting is conducted via web poll by the "vote" buttons on each school's listing on the 923now.com website. Listeners are restricted to one vote per hour. Participants need not listen to the station for their participating school to win.

Cher Lloyd is an English recording artist who finished fourth in the seventh series of *The X Factor*. She recently made a live appearance on Channel 7's *Good Morning America* concert series singing her hit, *Want U Back*.

## Obituaries

### Marion (Walker) Berberick, 86

Marion (Walker) Berberick died suddenly on Friday, Sept. 7 at home.

Born in Newark, Marion moved to Jersey City in 1948, then finally settled in South Plainfield in 1988. She was a longtime member of Sacred Heart RC Church.

She is predeceased by a brother, George Walker of Phoenix, Ariz.

Marion was the beloved wife of William W. Berberick for 67 years; the devoted mother to their daughters, Jean Ann Fry (Frederick), Barbara Wilson and Elaine Bladon (Frederick); the loving grandmother to Dawn Wilson, Tara Murphy (Bruno), Dana Bladon-Reuter (Charles), Jessica Bladon (Sean Walsh) and Lindsey Fry; and great-grandmother of Mercedes, William and Thomas Murphy. She is also survived by a brother, Raymond Walker of Texas.

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



Marion Berberick

### Fred A. Koehler, 78

Fred A. Koehler passed away on Saturday, Sept. 8 at Haven Hospice in Edison.

He was born in Somerville, but was a lifelong resident of Bound Brook. Fred

was the son of Fred and Irene Koehler.

Fred was a proud member of the United States Marine Corps. He was employed by Union Carbide of Bound Brook for 30 years before retiring.

He is predeceased by his first wife, Anita (Rizzo) Koehler, who was his high school sweetheart.

Fred is survived by two daughters, Beverly Koehler Arat and son-in-law Ron of Glen Gardner and Lynne Capik and son-in-law Steve of Yardley, Pa., and two grandchildren, Alyssa and Jack Capik of Yardley, Pa.

Fred was able to find love and happiness again with his second wife and family.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife, MaryAnn Royce-Koehler of Bound Brook; a stepdaughter, Kellyann Rivera and son-in-law Jorge of Easton, Pa.; and three grandchildren, Breanne, Jordan and Savannah Giberson of Easton, Pa.

Fred was a wonderful family man. He adored his grandchildren and also loved his best friend, his dog, Molly. Fred will also be sadly missed by his cousins and many friends.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals. Donations can be made to the Adult

Day Center of Somerset County, Inc., 872 East Main St., Bridgewater, N.J. 08807, where Fred was known for frequently volunteering his time.

### Hiep Nghia Ho, 61

Hiep Nghia Ho of Plainfield passed away peacefully at home on Monday, Sept. 10, surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Vietnam, Hiep was the second of seven children. He served in the South Vietnamese Navy and came to the United States in 1975, where he worked as a mechanic. He enjoyed many hobbies including making models of cars and ships, playing chess and spending time with his many friends and family members.

He is predeceased by a sister, Nga Ho.

Surviving are his parents, Ba and Ry Ho; two brothers, Dung Ho and Liem Ho; three sisters, Lien Ho, Thuy Ho and Hong Ho, as well as his brothers and sisters-in-law and several nieces and nephews.

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

### One Year Anniversary



On September 15, 2012, The Villamarin family will be having a one year memorial mass for their beloved son, Jonathan Villamarin.

The location of the mass is St. Joseph's RC Church located on the corner of Watchung Ave and Jackson Ave. in North Plainfield, NJ 07060. The mass will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be given in English. All family and friends are invited to attend.

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## OPINION

South Plainfield Democrats



# Republican Attack on Franky Salerno Is a New Low in So. Plainfield Politics

C.J. Diana, Democratic candidate for Borough Council, made the following statement:

"I asked my runningmate, Franky Salerno, to allow me to handle this week's campaign release alone.

"Having known Franky for most of my life, I can say without hesitation that he is amongst the most well-intentioned people I know. It was his running that helped provide comfort and motivate me in my decision to also run, as I knew that there was no person I could find as a runningmate who is more dedicated to doing right by South Plainfield and its people than Franky. The Republicans would be wise to take a lesson from Franky; he listens, considers the opinions of others and seeks out as many of the facts available to him before he acts. The party line is of no concern to him. The full frontal assault on his reputation by councilmen Bengivenga, Frank and Barletta is discouraging, disappointing

and frankly beneath the offices that these gentlemen hold. It is exactly these types of tactics that prevent decent citizens from becoming involved in politics. That having been said, you don't have to be politically astute to know the reason the Republicans have headed to the gutter this early on in the campaign; they are afraid to run on their tax, borrow and spend record. Any party would be happy to have a candidate who possessed Franky Salerno's level of passion and integrity. You don't have to take me at my word though... here's what South Plainfield's Republicans have said about Franky:

"Republican Councilman Tim McConville wrote: 'The better example is Councilman Franky Salerno, who has tried to work in a bipartisan manner on several issues. Franky can serve as a role model for his fellow Democrats.' (Letter to the Editor, *Observer*)"

"Councilman Rob Bengivenga, one of the authors of last week's

attack, wrote: 'While we don't always agree on the issues, Councilman Salerno is trying to work with the new administration and we're trying to work with him. I give Councilman Salerno credit. He gets it. He knows the most important thing we can do is work together for a better town. I again encourage his fellow party members to follow his lead. If they do, we'll all benefit.' (Letter to the Editor, *Observer*)"

"I was born and raised in South Plainfield. My wife and I never gave a second thought to leaving South Plainfield because we are a community which is above this level of discourse. It appears that this is not the case with our current Republican administration. I am confident that our residents will send a message loud and clear on election day that they expect better by removing Bengivenga and Frank from the council and electing Franky and I to bring the type of integrity that our residents deserve to borough hall."

## OPINION

South Plainfield Republicans



# Bengivenga & Frank: Smaller, More Efficient Government is Working

Saying that results make the difference, councilmen Rob Bengivenga and Dick Frank this week pointed to their record of controlling spending as one of their most important accomplishments.

"Smaller, more efficient government is working in South Plainfield," said Bengivenga. "We've been holding the line on spending, and our plan is to continue to do so."

Both candidates pointed to examples of ways the borough is becoming more efficient:

- By taking bulk and leaf pickups in-house, the borough is saving more than \$75,000 this year. Plus, with the new "Pickups on Demand" program residents can schedule pickups during most of the year when it's convenient for them.

- Tax payments are now accepted online, which is more efficient than logging them by hand.

- By using existing public works employees to pave roads, we're saving on contract costs.

- By bidding out our recycling programs we've saved well over \$100,000 since 2010.

- New labor agreements are well below the two percent cap set by the state and include givebacks that save taxpayer dollars.

- Grants and donations are funding much of the cost for the new K-9 unit. The dogs can perform certain tasks, like drug searches, in a fraction of the time it takes by hand.

- Borrowing is down the third year in a row and is about 30% less than when the Democrats ran things.

- We maintained a "AA" credit rating when other towns were getting their ratings reduced. And by refinancing our debt to take advantage of this rating, we'll save about a quarter million dollars.

- We renegotiated our con-

tract for daytime ambulance services and will save \$15,000 a year.

- The borough saved \$10,000 on website costs, while at the same time, making it more user-friendly and functional.

"These are just a few examples of how we're saving taxpayer money," said Frank.

"The contrast to the Democrat spending record is stark," added Bengivenga. "When the Democrats were in control, spending went up \$800,000 a year on average. Yet under GOP control, spending is up less than a percent over three years. And this is despite huge increases in pension and healthcare costs."

"Our goal is to continue to keep a lid on spending," said Frank. "The key, though, is to control costs while keeping services intact and even improving them. It's all about getting it done for South Plainfield."

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## OPINION

South Plainfield Independent



Paul McCullen

### Taxes... Part I

The first step to "Restoring our Town" will be to address finances. It means looking at what we take in and how we spend it. This week we look at what is wrong with revenues and why our property taxes continue to climb against our best attempts.

First let's look at the ratable base. Ratables are the value of properties which towns collect a percentage of in order to pay for services. *Lower ratables = Less revenues.* In order to keep the same level of services (police, fire, education, public works) the town either has to raise taxes or cut services.

Our ratable base is now equivalent to what it was in 2002 in large part because of tax appeals by commercial property owners. Appeals approved by the Republicans and Democrats.

What have our politicians done to fix this? Not much. The Republican council shrugs their shoulders and says there is nothing they can do.

But there are things that we can do. If given the opportunity to serve, this is an area that I will work to rectify. By bringing more businesses to South Plainfield we can raise the ratable base and lower taxes.

Another reason for tax increases? The loss of state aid for our town; which the council has made no effort in rectifying. Why not appeal for our portion of aid we rightfully deserve from the state?

Taking this, and other measures, can help put cops back on the beat, books back in our library, and our schools providing the best education possible.

## OPINION

South Plainfield Independent



Pat DeSantis

### Independent of Party and Politics

I would like to introduce myself again. My name is Pat DeSantis, and I am the "only" woman running for the Borough Council elections.

Some people have labeled me a Democrat/Independent. To set the record straight, I have always and will continue to make decisions that are not based on party lines. I have always looked at each issue separately, and as an individual I will choose what best benefits my country, my state and my town. These decisions are independent of parties and party politics.

To be clear, I have no political agenda. My only concern is the current

residents and the future generations. I would like to reinforce the fact that I work in our school district, I raised my children in this district, and I pay my bills and taxes like everyone in the community. I want what is best for all of us.

The parties are playing so much politics that they are forgetting about the little things and don't seem to listen to the concerns of the people.

My agenda is to listen to residents, and act on their behalf. I am a fiscally conservative person, and my goal is to maintain the same level of services while controlling spending. The only

promise I can make is that I will work hard for you.

I would like to thank my family and friends who have been helping me from the start of this campaign (and you know who you are). I am blessed knowing that you have my back.

I know that we cannot have it all, and having it all is not even a valid concept. We are always reaching for things that are outside our means; the more we have the more we want, and for this reason we never have it all. Given the opportunity I will try to achieve the best with what we have, and for what we need.

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Election 2012

## OPINION

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

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

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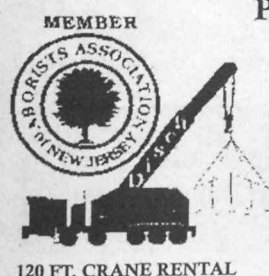
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# Heroes of 9/11 Honored at Middle School Ceremony

By Jane Dornick

Students, staff, administrators, board members, borough officials and members of the police and fire departments came together on Tuesday in the Middle School courtyard to pay tribute to the nearly 3,000 people who lost their lives during the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Curriculum Coordinator Paul Rafalowski welcomed the crowd. The National Anthem was played by the school's clarinet ensemble led by music teacher, Andy Veiss.

Principal Kevin Hajduk gave opening remarks and explained that students would be learning about a man named Welles Crowther, also known as the "Man with the Red Bandana," during lunch that day. He had worked for Sandler O'Neill Partners on the 104th floor of the South Tower of the World Trade Center. Witnesses reported that after the plane hit, Crowther, with a red bandana covering his mouth and nose to protect him from debris, re-entered the building

at least three times to rescue people. He is directly responsible for saving the lives of at least 12 people.

Hajduk also remarked that seventh grade student Joe Lanzetta's Uncle Frank was an FDNY fire chief who saved over 40 lives that day. He eventually passed away due to complications from exposure to the toxic debris.

"Learn to give a hand to each other every day," said Hajduk. "It's time to remember the victims and celebrate the heroes."

Student Emily Kuchinski read a piece by Bill Holicky called, *They Took a Vote*, and Thomas Licato read the poem entitled, *I Am the Flag of the US of America*.

Guest speaker Mayor Matt Anesh offered his recollection of the fateful day 11 years ago and his sentiments at the time. "Never forget. If we never forget the past 11 years and we pay tribute to those who answered the call, I am confident that we will be protected in the future," he said.

An Executive Order was signed



The Middle School community gathers around the school's 9/11 memorial to remember the victims.

by Gov. Chris Christie on September 11 proclaiming September 11 Patriot Day and a National Day of Service and Remembrance. Anesh presented Hajduk with his own proclamation from the borough stating the same.

A moment of silence was followed by *Taps* performed by Tomasz Tarnawski on trumpet and an FDNY Pipes and Drums recording of *Amazing Grace*.

In closing, Hajduk recognized

former teachers Jeff Spezio and Bill Mosca who were present and Student Council Advisor Joe Blondo, all of whom had taken part in the design and creation of the Twin Tower Memorial in the school's courtyard.

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