

South Plainfield OBSERVER

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Member New Jersey Press Association

60 CENTS

OCTOBER 5, 2012



Members of the South Plainfield High School Varsity Field Hockey Team take part in the Susan G. Komen For the Cure cancer awareness walk for the fourth year in a row on September 30 at Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson. The team is undefeated with a record of 10-0.

Taste of South Plainfield Tickets Now on Sale

Tickets for the South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA) Taste of South Plainfield are now on sale. The event will be held 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 samplings from a variety of local restaurants.

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

Participating restaurants include Flanagan's Restaurant, Corner Deli, Subway, Sherban's, Paulo's Barbeque, Hometown Heros, KC's Korner, Chef Rodney Jackson, Mr. Subs, Uncle Louie G, Ciccio's, Muscle Maker Grill and Mei Haus.

Taste of South Plainfield tickets can be purchased at the *Observer*, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B or from any committee member. Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. 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 should call for more information.

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

Paper Shredding Event Tomorrow

Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders in conjunction with the Borough of South Plainfield will sponsor a free paper shredding event tomorrow 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 in the parking lot from 9 a.m. to noon, or until it fills up. Please note that this is a new location.

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.

Buddy Walk Tomorrow

The ninth annual Buddy Walk of South Plainfield will be held tomorrow at Putnam Park, located off of Oak Tree Avenue. Registration starts at 11:30 a.m. and the walk begins at 1 p.m., rain or shine.

The cost to participate is \$10 for adults (13 and over); kids are \$5. There will be a DJ, raffles, face painting and additional children's activities. Lunch and refreshments will be provided after the walk.

The park has swings, tennis courts and bathroom facilities.

The Buddy Walk of South Plainfield was started in 2004 by Michele Both



after her son Kyle was born. Michele wanted to bring awareness to the community that children and adults with Down Syndrome are people too.

Proceeds from the walk will be donated to the National Down Syndrome Society, Network 21, Central NJ DS PAG, DSRTE, creating packets/gift baskets for new parents of children with Down Syndrome and implementing a program on educating healthcare professionals.

Your support will help all people with Down Syndrome take steps for a brighter tomorrow.

Questions? Call (908) 531-5100.

Meet the BOE Candidates Monday

The South Plainfield Education Foundation will sponsor a Board of Education (BOE) Meet the Candidates Night on Monday, Oct. 8 at Kennedy School beginning at 7 p.m.

Three incumbents are running for reelection to the three-year seats, Board President Jim Giannakis, Carol Byrne and Bill Seesselberg. All three candidates ran unopposed three years ago.

Jeff Seider and Steve Bohn, who are previous BOE members, are also running. Bohn was defeated last year.

Michael Gregov, who ran last year, is running again, and Kimberly De Angelis Anesh, wife of Mayor Matt Anesh, is a first-time candidate.

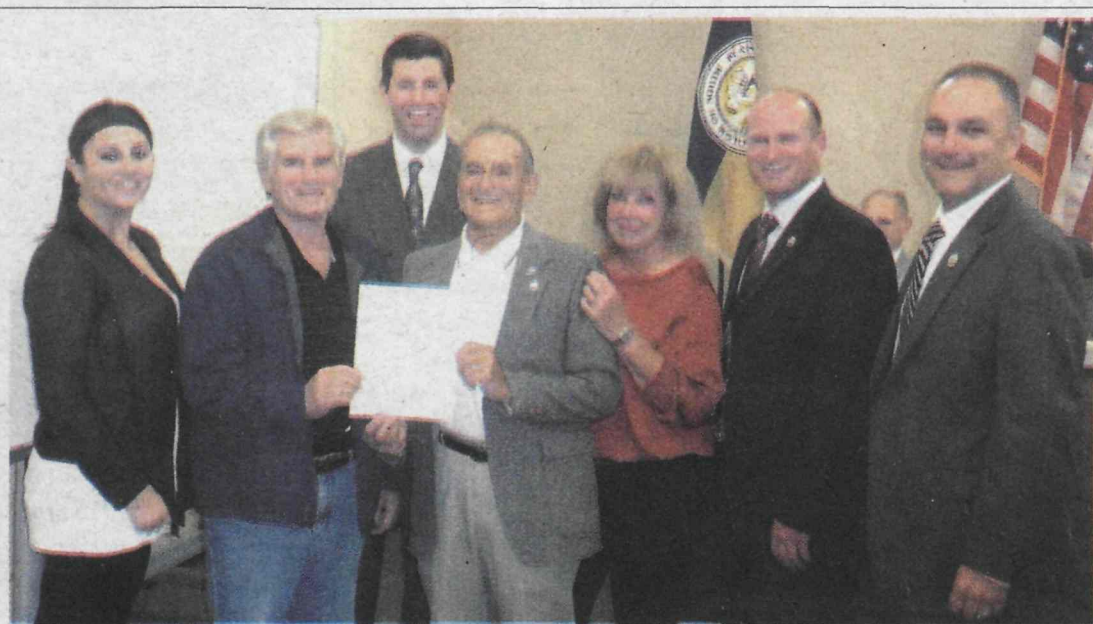
Also on the ballot is the one-year unexpired term of former Board Vice President Debbie Boyle, who resigned in July. According to Boyle, the BOE attorney advised her that she is eligible to run for her own seat in the election, and she is running unopposed.

Bill Cochrane, moderator for the evening, will take questions from the audience. Light refreshments will be served.

This Election Day, November 6, will be the first time voters will be asked to elect BOE members, local and county officials and a president all in the same election.

In an effort to increase voter participation and save on the cost of special elections, Governor Chris Christie in January signed into law Bill A-4394/S-3148, which moves school board elections to November. The board voted in February to adopt the resolution. The bill also includes a stipulation that voters no longer have the right to vote on a school budget with an increase of less than two percent over the previous year's budget.

The board voted in April to increase the 2012/2013 budget two percent over the previous year, which is in keeping with the tax levy cap. Some items, such as healthcare costs, are excluded from the cap. The bill also says that any budget increase that would exceed the two percent must be presented for voter approval.



Plainfields' Chapter UNICO National NJ District X Governor NJ Robert Bengivenga, President John DeAndrea, Plainfields' Chapter, and members Stephanie Bartfalvi and Debbie Boyle accept a proclamation from Mayor Matt Anesh and councilmembers Rob Bengivenga and Alex Barletta declaring October 2012 Italian Heritage and Culture Month.

UNICO to Host Columbus Day Ceremony

The Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO National will host the annual Columbus Day ceremony on Monday, Oct. 8 at 9 a.m. at the South Plainfield Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Ave.

The ceremony will include remarks by dignitaries representing state and local governing bodies commemorating this national holiday as well as the presentation of a wreath in honor of the occasion and a flag raising ceremony honoring the discovery of America. Refreshments will be served following the festivities for all who attend.

An invitation is extended to everyone to be present for this brief exercise marking the event which has charted the course for the entire civilized world.



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.)

councilmeetings

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

Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
Monday, October 15	Monday, October 15
Monday, November 5	Monday, November 5

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.

planningboard

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

zoningboardofadjustment

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

boardofeducation

Meets Wednesdays at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave.
Committee of the Whole meetings (begin at 6:00 p.m.) Oct. 10, Nov. 7, Dec. 12
Regular Public Meeting (begin at 6:30 p.m.) except where noted* Oct. 17, Nov. 14, Dec. 19

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

culturalarts commission

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

libraryboard of trustees

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday, at the library at 7 p.m.
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
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.

siteplansub-committee

Meets once a month (third Wednesday), 7 p.m.
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
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)

ad hoc alternative truck route committee

To be announced. 7:30 p.m. in the Senior Center Questions? 908-226-7605

In My Opinion

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

Residents of South Plainfield:

As I reflect on the past three years and five months that made up my first term on the Board of Education, one conclusion that I can make is that it was a unique time to serve the students, staff and residents of South Plainfield.

In that time, we had the unprecedented situation where all three top administrators were replaced with interim administrators. The state severely cut back our funding for a time, while changing some of the rules affecting our schools and personnel. All of our schools received new principals; some promoted from our ranks, some shifted to another building, and some hired from the outside. Test scores were not where we hoped they would be, and certain assessments showed areas where the district was lacking.

We finally have a strong, talented, proven and enthusiastic administrative team that is bringing new ideas to help our district move forward in a direction that will achieve great results in the future. Some problem areas have been corrected, and test scores are heading in the right direction.

Our students deserve the best education possible, and the board of education is charged with providing that education, while balancing the available resources of funding, facilities and staff. New state mandates in the core curriculum standards require a cohesive course of study throughout all the grades, with achievement assessments more detailed than ever before. The addition of staff supervisors in math, science, literacy, special education and gifted and talented will ensure that our students are given the best assistance in achieving their education.

Our technology has also been addressed, with a supervisor of technology with experience in the classroom, and can identify new tools that can serve the classroom environment well. The board has made sure that funding has been available for upgrades in hardware and software, as well as infrastructure that will keep our district on the right pace towards educational achievement. Future course offerings will include more use of technology in education.

During the time when our state funding was cut, we unfortunately had to eliminate some teaching positions and defer maintenance on some of our facilities. Although we

regretted having to do these things, the board worked through the hard times. Fortunately, in the past year we have been able to bring back some of those positions, including a music teacher for the elementary schools and cooperative education teacher in the high school.

Facilities improvements include new lighting in the middle school and high school, improved athletic fields, refurbished stage floor at the high school, a new stage at Kennedy, new air conditioning systems at the high school and the beginning of a roof repair program. Our school buildings are assets to our entire community, and all of us should share in the concern regarding their upkeep and operation. Small repairs done early will cost less than larger repairs later on. We went down that road 10 years ago when we finally passed a bond issue that addressed many neglected items in the district. Also, by bringing all our bus transportation needs in house we are better able to schedule the service and manage costs.

Never underestimate the potential of our students. Our goal is to provide the best opportunities for achievement, and the environment and tools for them to thrive. Increased course offerings should be available. Education costs money. Good education costs good money. I believe that every dollar raised for education should be used for education.

As a member of the board of education, it is my duty to put the students first and foremost in every decision. Directly or indirectly, every decision affects the children in the classroom. I believe we have navigated the turbulence well, and have a course set for horizons that will bring great things to our district. I ask for your support on November 6 for reelection to the board of education, to continue working for the future of South Plainfield—our students.

SINCERELY,
BILL SEESSELBERG,
BOE CANDIDATE

To the Editor:

If you have never voted for an independent candidate before, now might be a good time to do it. I am asking for you to support and vote for Pat DeSantis. I have known Pat for many years and I have come to realize that she has the interest of the people in South Plainfield first and foremost in

Submit Your Letters to the Editor

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

her heart and mind.

Pat's integrity is beyond measure. She is an honest and upfront person who will weigh all the material before making a decision. I had the opportunity to work with her in public office in the past and I saw that she checked all the information in order that her decisions were the best for South Plainfield. As an independent, she is answerable only to the residents of South Plainfield. Give her your vote. You will not be disappointed.

DORIS HALEY

To the Editor:

In response to the letter from Mr. Sullivan in the September 28 *Observer*:

You asked how can someone who supports taking money away from our children's education, with respect to tax appeals, ask to be elected to the BOE? The answer is simple. Because it is the right thing to do.

Is that not what we are trying to teach our children? To do the right thing. That in and of itself is an education. Ask yourself this: What message are we sending our children, if we tell them it is ok to ignore your responsibilities and let someone else deal with it? In my opinion, the wrong message.

Furthermore, if the board had made the budget correctly, they would have taken into account that some of these tax appeals would be won and they would need to give back some of the money. I would even accept the board saying they do not have the money this year, but will pay the town back in installments, or from future budgets. They did not even offer that as a solution. They simply said no.

I am not asking that money be taken from our children's education. I am asking that we, as the adults, show our children the difference between right

(Continued on page 12)

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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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Coat Drive to Help Children Stay Warm

The need has never been greater and it's never been easier to make a difference in your community. Here is your opportunity to make sure that nobody goes without such a basic necessity as a coat this winter.

South Plainfield elementary schools will be collecting clean, gently used children's coats and jackets as part of the One Warm Coat community service project. One Warm Coat is dedicated to distributing reusable coats, free of charge, directly to local children. The program is an easy way for you and your family to pass along coats and jackets that you no longer need.

Brittany Okoszko and Brianna Harris have made donating a coat simple. Just bring your clean, gently used coats and jackets to any of the four elementary schools: Kennedy, Riley, Roosevelt or Franklin during the school day hours. Coats will be collected through October 31. Brittany and Brianna will take care of the rest. All donated coats will be given to Jefferson Elementary School in Plainfield for children in need.

"More people than ever need help these days. I am proud of the thousands of coat drive organizers whose creativity and generosity of spirit are making a real difference in their own communities," commented Sherri Wood, president and national coordinator for One Warm Coat.

One Warm Coat is a national non-profit organization that supports and encourages coat drives. It helps individuals, groups, companies and organizations across the country collect coats and deliver them to local agencies that distribute the coats free to people in need. More than one million coats have been provided to those in need at no cost since its inception in 1992.

Christian Church Holding Car Wash To Benefit FISH

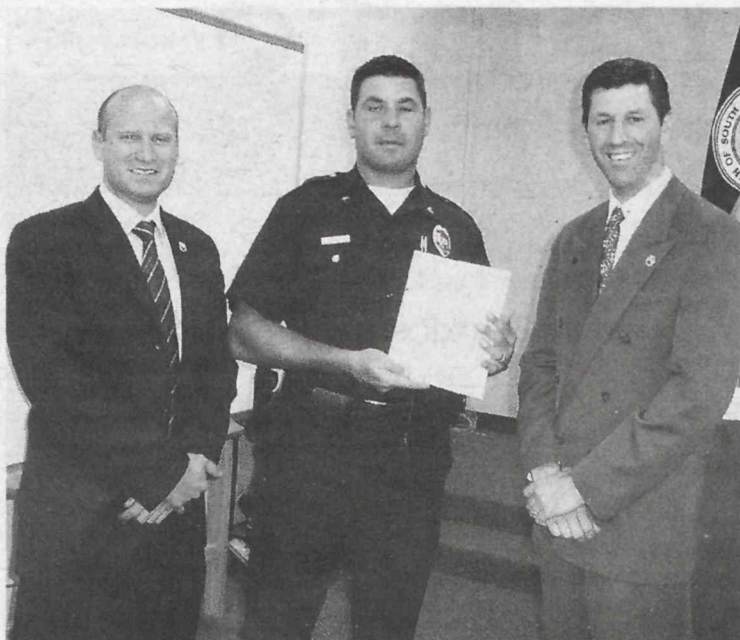
Oasis-Church-NJ.com, a two year old casual Christian church in Central Jersey, will be sponsoring a car wash on Saturday, Oct. 6 at the Applebees Restaurant, 1282 Centennial Ave. in Piscataway from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with donations/proceeds to be given to FISH, an area non-profit that helps to feed and house the poor and homeless in the Middlesex County area. The event is being hosted by the Oasis Church Regal Hadley Cinema Launch Team, which is spearheading the launching of the church's second location at the Regal Hadley Cinema Theater in South Plainfield.

Oasis celebrated its first Sunday morning service on September 9 with over 220 people in attendance. Weekly services are slated for sometime in 2013, with the next Sunday morning service scheduled for December 9 at 10 a.m. at Regal Cinema.

According to Dave Butler, lead pastor at Oasis, having a church service in a movie theater is a great way to break through barriers that keep people away from church because it "meets them where they're at." If you are looking for a church that is casual yet serious about finding out more about God, then this is the place to be.

Oasis meets weekly at its first location at Hotel 304 West, 304 Rt. 22 West in Springfield on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. The Sunday worship experiences combine awesome Christian rock with a live band, multi-media and practical messages relevant to the needs of people today. After the services there is always food and a chance to meet and greet with new friends.

For more information about Oasis, call us at (732) 406-7821.



Councilman Rob Bengivenga, left, and Mayor Matt Anesh, right, present Police Chief James Parker a proclamation declaring October 10 "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day."

South Plainfield Police Promote "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day"

Motorists throughout New Jersey and the nation are asked to join a day-long effort on Wednesday, Oct. 10 that is designed to increase awareness about safe driving behaviors and keep the state's roadways fatality free for one day.

Known as "Put The Brakes On Fatalities Day," the national initiative was designed to unite the country in moving toward zero fatalities for one full day by encouraging motorists to obey all traffic laws, including buckling up every ride, driving the posted speed limit, avoiding distractions while driving and always being safe and sober behind the wheel.

To support this effort, the South Plainfield Police Department will be stepping up enforcement of all traffic laws on October 10 to deter motor vehicle crashes and promote safe driving.

Last year in New Jersey, 627 individuals lost their lives in motor vehicle-related crashes, up from 556 in 2010. Although nationally there is a downward trend in motor vehicle fatalities, in 2011 in New Jersey fatalities increased over 2010 by 71 deaths.

"Clearly, this effort will go a long way in our continuing efforts to stem the tide of tragedies that occur every

day on New Jersey's roadways," said Lt. Kevin Murtagh. "Shining the spotlight on this one day can help create a groundswell of support for good driving behaviors that can carry over throughout the year."

"Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day" not only raises awareness about the individual responsibility we have for our driving behaviors, but also engages drivers in making positive changes behind-the-wheel every day of the year," Officer Peter Magnani added.

Additional information on the "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day" is available by logging on to www.brakesonfatalities.org.

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Holding Food/Bake Sale

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church, 400 Delmore Ave., will hold a food and bake sale on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pierogi, kielbasa/kraut, borscht soup, pumpkin breads, cakes, cookies and more. Cash or check only.

For more information, call (908) 561-6366 or email nbvocpierogi@gmail.com.

Call For Entries: Annual Junior Journalist Program Kicks Off

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

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

for the winner's entire family.

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

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

borough notes

Borough Council Meetings
Sept. 17 & Oct. 1

The following took place at the September 17 and October 1 meeting:

- Accept a \$500 donation for the purchase of a digital sign from the South Plainfield Wrestling Club.
- Authorize refunds for cancelled trips to various seniors in amounts between \$20 and \$68 each.
- Refund a \$1,200.88 tax appeal judgment to Younes Khadiga.
- Award a contract to Jen Electric Inc. for emergency traffic light repair at the corner of Durham Avenue and Helen Street in an amount not to exceed \$6,310.50.
- Hire three temporary part-time helpers for the Public Works Department at an hourly rate.
- Award a contract to T&M Associates for construction management and inspection for 2012 road resurfacing in an amount not to exceed \$22,000.
- Authorize the settlement of the claim of Rapid Release Bail Bonds/Financial Casualty & Surety.
- Authorize the purchase of cell block cameras and DVR from Garden State Fire & Security in an amount not to exceed \$4,466.
- Authorize the purchase of PowerEdge R520 to replace QED Server

from Dell USA in an amount not to exceed \$5,842.32.

- Appoint Kathleen Murano to the Traffic Safety Advisory Board to replace Dennis Scalera.
- Cancel taxes levied to Michael and Linda Sala (qualified as a 100% disabled veteran) for the fourth quarter of 2011 in the amount of \$1,396.46 and refund \$55.17.
- Authorize a refund of \$6,840.53 to Bit Holdings Fifty-Three Inc. due to overpayment of sewer taxes.
- Authorize waiver of the \$42 fire permit fee for St. Stephens Orthodox Church for its annual Tricky Tray on October 20.
- Cancel taxes levied to Frank Rivers (qualified as a 100% disabled veteran) for the second quarter of 2012 and the remaining balance of 2012 in an amount totaling \$3,208.38 and taxes levied for the first and second quarter of 2013 totaling \$2,898.17.
- Authorize a shared service agreement between the County of Middlesex and the Borough of South Plainfield for radio network services.
- Purchase fire equipment (carbon wrap cylinder and valve) from New Jersey Fire Equipment in an amount not to exceed \$3,919.50.

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FOR INFORMATION OR TICKETS CALL:
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visit our website - www.ststephenchurch.net

events

Around Town

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

**ARISTACARE AT CEDAR OAKS
PRESENTS A LAUGHTER THERAPY
SESSION—October 23, 9-9:45 am**

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
Zumba Gold..... 10:15 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

Knights of Columbus Annual Mum Sale

October 6, 7, 13, 14

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203's ninth annual fall mum sale will be held the following weekends: 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.

Wesley Church Garage Sale for MS

October 6

Wesley United Methodist Church will hold a multi-family garage sale on Saturday, Oct. 6 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Ron Winner's house, 2100 Plainfield Ave. Ron will participate in the NYC Marathon on November 4, and all proceeds from the sale will go to the MS Society. Our recycled treasures may become your new treasures.

For more information, call (908) 757-2838, email wumcsp@verizon.net, or make a tax-deductible donation on Ron's website, main.nationalmssociety.org/goto/RonWinner.

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.

Suburban Woman's Club Flea Market

October 6

The Suburban Woman's Club and the American Legion's Women Auxiliary will host a flea market/boutique/yard sale on Saturday, Oct. 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the American Legion grounds, 243 Oak Tree Ave. Open to the public.

Tables for rent: \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members. Non-members

can bring your own table for \$15.

For more informatin, call or text (908) 403-4292 to reserve a table.

VFW Country Breakfast

October 7

The South Plainfield VFW, 155 Front St., will hold a country breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 7 from 8-11 a.m. Come in and enjoy a tasty breakfast and you may be the winner of one of our door prizes.

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

Annual Blessing of The Animals

October 7

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 3145 Park Ave., will be blessing animals in honor of the Feast of St. Francis on Sunday, Oct. 7 during worship service, which begins at 10:30 a.m. If your animal might get unruly during the service, please bring a picture and we will pray for a blessing by proxy.

Annual Columbus Day Ceremony

October 8

The Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO National will host the annual Columbus Day Ceremony at the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Ave., on Monday, Oct. 8 at 9 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

BOE Meet the Candidates Night

October 8

The South Plainfield Education Foundation will sponsor the Board

of Education Meet the Candidates Night on Monday, Oct. 8 at Kennedy School at 7 p.m.

BOE candidates will answer questions submitted by audience members. All are invited to attend.

Historical Society Monthly Meeting

October 9

The next meeting of the South Plainfield Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. in the History Center at the Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Ave. All are welcome to attend.

Fabulous 50s Weekend in Wildwood

October 12-14

Pack your bags for a "Fabulous 50s Weekend" with the South Plainfield Senior Center, Friday-Sunday, Oct. 12-14. The trip to Wildwood includes roundtrip deluxe motor coach transportation, two nights oceanfront hotel, two full breakfasts, two sumptuous dinners and a fabulous 50s concert on Friday night; Saturday afternoon street fair features car show, vendors, doo wop back to the 50s tour, a visit to Cape May, Atlantic City and so much more! Cost is \$260pp. Reservations required; booking up fast!

For reservations, call Grace at the Senior Center at (908) 754-1047.

Taste of South Plainfield

October 12-

The South Plainfield Business Association will host the second annual Taste of South Plainfield on Friday, Oct. 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. Sample a variety of gourmet and ethnic specialties, desserts, wine and spirits all

offered by local establishments.

Advanced tickets are \$30, or \$35 at the door. Tickets available at the Observer office, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., or by calling (908) 803-1573 or (908) 668-0010.

Fire Department Open House

October 13

To celebrate Fire Prevention Day the South Plainfield Fire Department will host an open house on Saturday, Oct. 13 from 12 to 4 p.m. at fire headquarters. Activities include safety information, vehicle extrication demo, fire smoke house, kitchen fire demo and firefighter search and rescue demo. Bring the whole family.

Mayor's Annual Health & Safety Fair

October 13

The Mayor's Wellness Committee, in conjunction with St. Peter's Healthcare System, will present the second annual Family Health & Safety Fair on Saturday, Oct. 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Senior Center.

The event will feature free health screenings, and the launch of the kickoff of "The Biggest Loser South Plainfield" contest. The day will also include entertainment, face painting, glitter tattoos, giveaways and prizes.

For more information, visit www.southplainfieldnj.com.

Blessing of the Animals at Wesley

October 14

Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave., annual Blessing of the Animals service will be held on the side lawn of the church on



Borough Council Candidates

Dick Frank Rob Bengivenga Paul McCullen Pat DeSantis

Want the Facts? Don't miss the Candidates' Debate on October 17.

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



Where: Senior Center, Maple Avenue

When: Wednesday, October 17, 7 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served.

VOTE 2012

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events

Around Town

Sunday, Oct. 14 at 3 p.m. Each pet will receive an individual blessing. All pets are welcome; no reservations needed. Dogs must be on leashes; other pets in carriers. In case of inclement weather, the service will take place on the sheltered front steps of the church. Afterwards, meet with other animal lovers and share stories about your pets. If you don't have a pet, come anyway!

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

Columbiettes Vendor Night

October 19

The South Plainfield Columbiettes will hold its first vendor night on Friday, Oct. 19 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 334 Hamilton Blvd. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the event will run until 9 p.m. Admission is free.

Coffee will be provided and food will be available for purchase throughout the evening.

Among the vendors already committed are Tastefully Simple, Scentsy Candles, Jay's Wood Crafts, Lia Sophia Jewelry, Mary Kay, Beauty Control, Grace Adele (pocketbooks and accessories), Creative Memories (scrapbooking), Thirty-One (pocketbooks), Velata (fondue), Celebrating Home and Ribbons Gift Albums. Others are being added daily.

For more information, call Kathy at (908) 756-3772.

Special Athletes Character Breakfast

October 20

The South Plainfield Special Athletes will hold a "Character Breakfast" on Saturday, Oct. 20 from 9-11 a.m. at the Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. The breakfast buffet, with activities for the kids, will have a pirate and princess theme and include many character friends. Tickets: \$10; only one seating. Also, the place mats for the sponsors will be \$10.

Young ladies can have their hair done and the boys will become pirates. Proceeds help purchase new uniforms or other items needed for the athletes. Coaches for the group are Heather Hearne and Britney DeNitzio.

For information, call (908) 531-5100.

Marching Band Festival

October 20

South Plainfield High School will host the 31st annual Marching Band Festival on Saturday, Oct. 20 starting at 5 p.m. at Frank Jost Memorial Field. Tickets: \$9-adult; \$7-students/seniors. Performances by local high school bands and color guards.

Tricky Tray at St. Stephen Church

October 20

St. Stephen Orthodox Church, 609 Lane Ave., will host a tricky tray on Saturday, Oct. 20. Doors open at 6 p.m. Drawings start at 7:30 p.m.

Columbiettes Outlet Shopping Trip

November 3

The South Plainfield Columbiettes are sponsoring a trip to the outlets in Reading, Pa. on Saturday, Nov. 3. Buses will leave from Sacred Heart Church parking lot at 8 a.m. sharp and will return at approximately 7 p.m. Cost: \$45, includes bus, driver's tip, snacks and a stop at Cracker Barrel in Fogelsville, Pa. on the return trip, with dinner on your own.

For more information or to reserve your spot, call Kathy at (908) 756-3772 or Linda at (908) 834-2269.

Irish Wake Show

November 5

The Senior Center is planning a trip to the Irish Wake Show on Monday, Nov. 5 at Doolan's in Spring Lake. Bus leaves at 10 a.m. and returns at 5 p.m. Cost: \$68pp; lunch with open bar. Registration required.

Sign up at the senior center or call Grace at (908) 754-1047.

25th Reunion SPHS Class of 1987

November 24

The SPHS Class of 1987 will hold its 25th reunion on Saturday, Nov. 24 at 7 p.m. at Snuffy's in Scotch Plains. Visit the reunion web site for more information and to buy your tickets at www.southplainfieldhighclassof1987.myevent.com.

Email questions to Lisa (Klukoski) Kaylen at lkaylen@innovativehealthservices.com.

— Out of Town —

St. Mary's Church Tricky Tray Auction

October 5

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, 1900 Brooks Blvd. in Hillsborough, will present a tricky tray auction in the parish center on Friday, Oct. 5. Doors open 5 p.m.; auction begins 7 p.m. Over 100 gift certificates; 42" TV, outdoor grill, Kindle,

appliances, food and 50/50.

Tickets: \$10; includes one sheet of tickets, desserts, coffee and tea. Pre-order tickets by mail. Send a check payable to: St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, 1900 Brooks Blvd., Hillsborough, N.J. 08844.

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

Open House at Flight School

October 6

American Flyers Flight School, 50 Airport Rd. in Morristown, will host an open house and barbecue on Saturday, Oct. 6 beginning at 12 p.m. Free. Arrive 10-15 minutes early.

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

Singles Dance Party

October 6

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting an upscale singles dance party on Saturday, Oct. 6 at 8 p.m. at the Woodbridge Hilton, 120 Wood Ave. South in Iselin. Ages 40 and up. No jeans/t-shirts/sneakers/shorts. Admission: \$15.

For more information, call the 24-hour hotline at (862) 397-4723.

Send Your Community Events to:
spobservers@comcast.net

Octoberfest

October 6

Deutscher Club of Clark, 787 Featherbed Lane, will hold Octoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 6. Indoors; open to the public. Bernie's Orchestra, 7-11 p.m. German and American beverages and dinners available from 6-9 p.m. No outside food or beverages permitted. No jeans or sneakers allowed. German attire encouraged. Free parking. Admission: \$6, non-members; \$3, members.

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

JB's Harmonica at Plays-in-the-Park

October 6-7, 13-14, 20

Plays-in-the-Park, located within Roosevelt Park in Edison, will present a new children's musical, *JB's Harmonica*, on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 6-7, 13-14 and Saturday, Oct. 20 at noon and 3 p.m. Children age 12 and under, \$2; adults, \$3. Purchase tickets during the week at the production office or through the mail. Download order form at www.playsinthepark.com/index.php/season/current/childrens-show-tbd.

Woodbridge Corvette Club Car Show

October 7

The Woodbridge Corvette Club will host its 27th annual Corvette &

Classic Car & Truck Show on Sunday Oct. 7 at The Arenas at Woodbridge, 600 Main St. Partial proceeds go to support the NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park, the Woodbridge Food Bank, and other local charities. Register 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.; judging starts at 11 a.m.

For information, call George Anest (732) at 388-8285 or Bob Ackerman at (908) 753-7229.

Middlesex East WOWs Open Dance

October 12

Middlesex East Widows Or Widowers, Carteret Chapter, will hold an open dance on Friday, Oct. 12 from 7:30 to 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.

Casino Night Fundraiser at MCC

October 18

Middlesex County College will hold a casino night fundraiser on Thursday, Oct. 18 at the Rosewood, 2863 Woodbridge Ave. in Edison. Doors open: 5:30 p.m.; games begin 6 p.m. Admission: \$75; includes \$50 in fake chips, buffet with desserts and one drink per person. Cash bar. Must be 21 years old. Business attire required.

For more information, call Venetta Ellerbe at (732) 906-2564.

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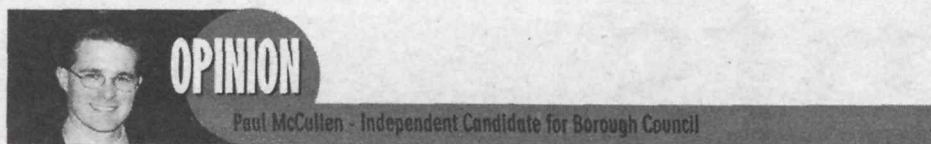
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OPINION

Paul McCullen - Independent Candidate for Borough Council

Improving our Community...

I have great pride in our town, but I am saddened by its poor condition. From our crumbling roads to our underfunded education system; there are many critical issues that need to be addressed. You want change, but more importantly, you want to see results!

The condition of our roads is shameful. I believe that when you're going to fix something, fix it once and fix it right; what has happened are things fixed on the cheap needing continuous repairs. This is not efficient, cost effective, or a good use of your precious tax dollars. Our roads need to be maintained properly and the DPW needs the right tools to do so. It's time to figure out why so many of our secondary roads are being neglected. Street repairs should and must be a priority for our community.

Next, let's look to our parks. We need to make improvements and the county must chip in their fair share. Why is our county park kept in such poor condition compared to others? In fact, why do we pay a mandatory open space tax if we get nothing for our money? It is time for us to get our fair share to improve our parks and enjoy open spaces closer to home. Doing so adds value and

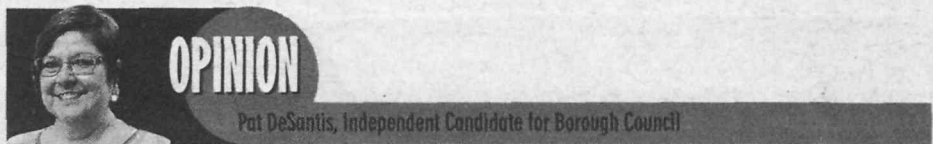
enriches our community.

We need better code enforcement, especially when it comes to homes that have been foreclosed on. We shouldn't accept that billion-dollar banks neglect maintaining these properties. We should expect the same from them that we do from each other as members of our community.

We'd also like to see our community work towards that "small town" feel. Putting a stop to large developments isn't the only solution. We need to develop our downtown area by creating a space that we, and those from neighboring towns, want to visit. It will improve our community and our tax base. It also means creating a pedestrian friendly town that people can walk through.

These things cost money. Some things we can pay for now, some we will have to plan for responsibly, and others will require we demand get fixed by those responsible for neglect. I believe we can do it and I need your support in order to make such improvements. Only an Independent can see these changes through and get the results you and this town deserve!

On Nov. 6 vote Paul McCullen, Independent for Town Council.



OPINION

Pat DeSantis, Independent Candidate for Borough Council

South Plainfield Deserves More Than The Proverbial Party "Rubber Stamp"

I don't know about you, but I am tired of our local elected officials from both political parties voting along party lines or giving the proverbial "rubber stamp" of approval because they are beholden to their affiliation in a political party. You know what I mean. The Democrats say one thing and the Republicans automatically say the opposite. The Republicans say one thing, the Democrats automatically say the opposite. When it comes time to casting votes, most votes are completely down party lines. Where is the independent voice? Where is the debate on the issues?

Policy matters are not black and white, Democrat or Republican. Decisions should not be made solely based by which political party one is affiliated with. Sometimes the best approach or decision is somewhere in the middle. That is why I believe it is so important to have an Independent voice on the council.

For example, in recent history when our town budget is voted upon, everyone on the council votes along party lines. This is one of the most

important votes a council member has to make each year; it is the vote that determines how much our residents pay in property taxes. Yet, the vote is taken along party lines. South Plainfield needs an independent voice on the council to aid in a healthy debate, not a debate based on party affiliation.

If elected, I promise to look at all issues not from a political party perspective, but from an independent point of view. I believe the more perspectives voiced on an issue, the better the outcome.

Having an independent voice on the council will ensure both political parties have a healthy debate on the issues and not put the rubber stamp of approval on matters that are so important to our town. You can count on me to fulfill my duties as a council member and attend meetings to keep a critical eye on matters coming before the council.

Pat DeSantis, an Independent voice is needed on our council.

police report

• On September 15 Kiki M. Abdelhady was arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting jewelry valued at \$170.

• An employee of Hobby Lobby on Hadley Road reported the theft of cash from their purse that was left in the employee break room.

• On September 16 Salerno Pizza on Park Avenue reported that the front door had been pried open. Nothing was taken. The Yummy Kitchen front door window had also been broken.

• On September 17 Tane S. Moss was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

• Issa Jamal Ghanim was arrested for the theft of carpenter tools valued at \$1,600.

• An English Court resident reported that assorted jewelry had been taken from their home.

• On September 20 Jason Thomas Kollarik, 30, of South Plainfield was

arrested for possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

• Charlesworth Casius Josiah, 48, of New York, N.Y. was arrested for failure to observe a traffic signal and an outstanding warrant.

• A Piscataway resident reported the theft of an IBM Think Pad from their vehicle that was parked at the Brick House Tavern + Tap.

• On September 21 Mikel A. Bazil, 24, of Plainfield was arrested for refusal to exhibit documents, failure to maintain lamps and an outstanding warrant.

• CVS on Oak Tree Road reported the theft of four cans of Enfamil and one can of Similac valued at \$180 by a man who fled the store.

• On September 22 Jaime A. Buonavolonta, 31, of Fords was arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting clothing valued

at \$176.

• A Watchung resident reported the theft of personal paperwork that was dropped in the parking lot of the Motor Vehicle Commission.

• On September 23 Travis J. Hansen, 30, of Piscataway was arrested for disorderly conduct.

• A South Plainfield resident reported the theft of their wallet that was left in the parking lot of Target.

• On September 24 Chanelle N. Smith, 28, of New Brunswick and Keith E. Toney, 30; Jaron Issac Flowers, 19; Kashif Totten, 20; and Jerrod Terrell Sinkfield, 18, all of Somerset, were arrested for fraud and conspiracy to commit fraud.

• On September 26 Calvin Morris Harrison, 42, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on an expired registration and two outstanding warrants.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Chris Grippio

We have a busy week coming up at the South Plainfield Public Library. We will be open on Sunday, but closed Monday in honor of Columbus Day. Tuesday is the monthly Board of Trustees meeting at 7 p.m. at the library.

Thursday is the next meeting of the popular History of Ancient Philosophy Lecture Series. This week the topic will be Ancient India (yoga, Buddhism, Nyaya, etc.). The program will start at 7 p.m. Registration is required and there are still a few seats left; call to register.

Friday afternoon will be An Introduction to the Japanese Tea Ceremony at 1 p.m. Learn about the ancient Japanese ritual of the tea ceremony from a student of the art. We will see how traditional tea is prepared as well as sample some. The program is free; registration is required. You can do so by calling the library at (908) 754-7885.

Saturday will be the first meeting of the Crochet Class for Beginners. Classes will be held over four Saturdays (October 13 and 27, November 10 and 17) and start at 10 a.m. In this program you will learn the basics of crocheting. Registration is required for this free class and space is limited. Should a demand exist, we will start offering this class during the week.

The last day to register to vote is October 16. The borough clerk will be available on Monday, Oct. 15 until 7 p.m. for in-person registration at Borough Hall. Also, we have been receiving requests for absentee ballots. The only way to get an absentee ballot is to go to the municipal clerk to obtain one. The requirements are the same as for in-person voting. You must show identification.

The Friends of the South Plainfield Public Library are sponsoring a return visit by Nancy Leary, who is

doing her Create Your Own Marbleized Silk Scarf program on Thursday, Oct. 18 at 6:30 p.m. You will make a unique 60" silk scarf. The program is free, but registration is required and space is limited to 20 people.

Due to the popularity of the adult book club, we are starting a second one on Tuesday, Oct. 30 at 2 p.m. This is totally separate from the Thursday night book club and will be facilitated by Miss Eve. As this will be the first meeting, you do not need to register.

If you know a resident of South Plainfield who loves to read but cannot get to the library, let them know about our Edith Goodrich Homebound Delivery Service. Funded by the Goodrich Family, the service will deliver books and other materials to residents who have trouble getting to the library. This can include anyone—from the elderly who have mobility problems to women who are restricted to bed for pregnancy issues, to those who are temporarily disabled. Call the library and we will arrange for you to get an application.

Miss Mija and Miss Linda are back on their usual schedule of story and craft times. For children ages three and up, programs are held Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m. and 1:15 p.m. on Thursdays. Times for 2s and 3s are held Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m., and Books and Babies is on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. For those a little older (seven+) we will again have Friday Fun from 3:30-5:30 p.m. This program will include a variety of activities that the older children will enjoy. All programs are free and no registration is required.

If you have any questions, feel free to call the library at (908) 754-7885 or visit us at 2484 Plainfield Ave. (next to borough hall). You can always keep up with library events on our website, www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

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OPINION

Dick Frank, Rob Bengivenga - Republican Candidates for Borough Council

Bengivenga and Frank: "You Deserve Smarter Government"

Residents deserve smarter government, Council candidates Rob Bengivenga and Richard "Dick" Frank said this week. "This means doing more with less and constantly finding ways to do better."

Councilman Dick Frank pointed to the new Pickups on Demand program as an example of this approach. "The program is delivering better service at a lower cost. We've already saved over \$70,000 by making the change."

Pickups on Demand replaces the annual bulk pickups from the past. Now, residents can call in the late spring, summer and early fall to schedule their two pickups when it's best for them.

"The results have exceeded our expectations," said Bengivenga.

According to Frank, almost a thousand families have taken advantage of the program. But that's not what Frank likes about it the most. "Residents decide when's best for them. It's not some government official deciding."

But it's not just convenience that makes the program an example of smarter government. There's a huge savings from taking the program in-house and using our DPW employees.

"The costs are almost half of what they've been the past two years," explained Bengivenga.

The borough will save over \$70,000 this year

alone—which is more than the total cost for the trucks the Borough purchased.

"We've made back our investment in one year," Frank explained.

The two candidates also pointed to other ways the borough is doing more with less:

- The council renegotiated the contract for ambulance services and reduced the costs by \$45,000 over three years.

- Public works overtime is down 75.4% so far this year. Police overtime is also down, for the second year in a row.

- The council worked with the PBA on a new contract that phases out longevity, reduces starting salaries, and controls healthcare costs. A renegotiated Public Works contract reduces starting salaries by 30% and limits increases to less than two percent.

"These are just examples," said Bengivenga.

"Our opponents had control of the governing body for more than a decade, and they never came close to seeing these types of results," added Dick Frank.

"We want to keep these types of results going," said Bengivenga. "If re-elected, we want to continue the get-it-done mindset and continue to make smaller, more efficient government a reality for South Plainfield."


OPINION

C.J. Diana, Frank Salerno - Democratic Candidates for Borough Council

Know The Truth... Taxes Are Up 33% Since The Republicans Took Control!

Democrats C.J. Diana and Frank Salerno ask that every resident look at the tax bill which came in this week's mail and the letter that came with it.

Diana commented, "First, the tax letter is nothing more than a campaign piece for the Republicans sent out at taxpayers' expense. Sadly this is one more example of the lack of checks and balances when you have one party rule. The letter says that taxes are down, using 2009 as a point of reference. Here's the slight of hand the Republicans are playing on the taxpayers. In 2009 the council decided to switch from a fiscal budget year, which started in July, to a calendar budget year which starts in January. As a result, the tax rate for 2009 covered 18 months rather than 12 months. If you apportion the rate over 12 months, the 2009 rate was actually lower than 2008. The Republicans are purposely misleading our residents. The last year that the Democrats had control of the budget the municipal tax rate was .89. This year the tax rate is 1.201. That's over a 33% increase in the portion of your tax bill that's controlled by the mayor and council. No wonder more tax appeals were filed this year than in the history of the borough. Sadly, the average homeowner doesn't have the money to retain a lawyer to file a tax appeal. Once again the middle class taxpayer is stuck holding the bag."

Salerno expanded on his runningmate's comments: "It's bad enough that taxes have gone up 33% under one party Republican rule but they didn't stop there. The sewer tax is up 50%! For residents on a fixed income, it's like paying five quarters of taxes rather than four. Of equal importance, the high sewer tax is running businesses out of town. I was recently talking with a small business owner who told me his sewer tax is almost equal to his property taxes. The cherry on the cake is borrowing: the Republicans have borrowed almost \$3M in the last year to balance the budget. They are spending like there's no tomorrow. C.J. and I will put a stop to this borrow, tax and spend one party rule in South Plainfield."

Diana and Salerno make a pledge; they will not support any tax increase for the next three years, they will oppose any additional borrowing and they will introduce an ordinance to roll back the sewer tax.

Diana concluded, "South Plainfield's Republicans continue to 'get it done' by selling our residents a bill of goods. Franky and I strongly believe that we have to learn to live within our means. Middle class families like mine will no longer be able to live in South Plainfield if the Republicans are allowed to continue their arrogant and deceptive borrow, tax and spend policies."

JOE FASANO

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The popular Junior Journalist program is kicking off. Winners will receive a catered dinner courtesy of Hometown Heros and you will be in the running for a \$1,000 savings bond. Your winning entry will appear in the Observer and you (and your family) will be honored at a year end banquet in May. What are you waiting for? Tell your teachers that you want your poems, short stories, essays, etc. entered in the contest, or bring your entries to the Observer at 1110 Hamilton Blvd. or to Hometown Heros at 340 Hamilton Blvd.

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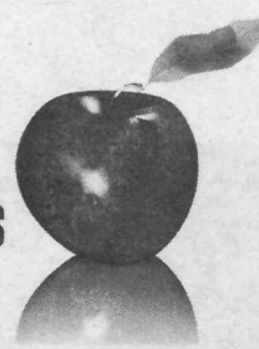
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Exp. 12/31/12



Celebrate
South Plainfield! milestones

Cristina Sa, Andrew Babajko Wed

Antonio and Aurora Sa are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Cristina Sa, to Andrew Babajko III on June 1, 2012 at the Primavera Regency in Stirling.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Dimesa of Staten Island, N.Y. and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Babajko Jr. of Long Island, NY.

The bride is a 2005 gradu-

ate of South Plainfield High School and is currently a student at the College of Staten Island pursuing a degree in Elementary Education. The groom is a 2004 graduate of Tottenville High School in Staten Island, N.Y. and is a police officer for the city of New York.

The two spent their honeymoon in Aruba and now reside in Staten Island.



Cristina and Andrew Babajko III

Kelly Thomas, Vicente Velez Engagement Announced

William and Kathleen Thomas are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kelly Michelle, to Vicente Velez, son of Ramon and Elizabeth Velez of Green Brook (formerly of South Plainfield).

The bride-to-be is a 2005 graduate of South Plainfield High School. She received a bachelor of science in marketing from the McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. She is currently employed as a digital capabilities manager in Global Merchant Services at American Express in New York City.

The future groom is a 2005 graduate of St. Joseph's High

School in Metuchen. He received a bachelor of science from the McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., where he was a finance and accounting double major. He currently works within the investment banking department covering technology, media and telecom companies at Credit Suisse in New York City.

The couple will reside on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

A wedding is planned for October 13, 2012 at the Church of the Sacred Heart, South Plainfield.



Lindsay and Marc Foster

Lindsay Christine Ardis and Marc Charles Foster Wed

Robert and Adele Ardis of South Plainfield are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Lindsay Christine, to Marc Charles Foster, son of Greg and Laurie Foster of Somerset.

The wedding was held on September 15 at the Smithville Inn in Smithville with the reception following. The Right Reverend Lou Bender officiated the nonsectarian ceremony.

The maid of honor was Lindsay's sister, Jessica, and the best man was Marc's brother, Brett, along with four bridesmaids and four groomsmen.

The bride and groom are both graduates of Rutgers University where they met. A February honeymoon is planned. The happy couple will be residing in Minnesota with their dogs, Rilo and Dwight.



Kelly Thomas and Vicente Velez

Adam Campbell Graduates From Marine Training

Private Adam Christopher Campbell of the Second Battalion Fox Company graduated from Marine Recruit Training at a ceremony held at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina on August 31.

Adam, the son of Keith and Marilyn Campbell, graduated from South Plainfield High School in 2012.



Adam Christopher Campbell

Michael Pullen Graduates From Marine Training



Michael R. Pullen

Michael R. Pullen graduated from Marine Recruit Training on August 31 at a ceremony held at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina. He will continue his training at the School of Infantry-East at Camp Geiger, North Carolina followed by Military Occupational Specialty School.

Michael is the son of Brian and Lynda Pullen and a 2011 graduate of South Plainfield High School.

Allison White Receives Wakefern-ShopRite Scholarship

Allison White of South Plainfield is a recipient of the 2012 Wakefern-ShopRite Scholarship. The award, which was announced by Wakefern Food Corp., gives Allison \$2,000 for her undergraduate studies.

Allison will attend the College of New Jersey where she will pursue a degree in nursing. She graduated from South Plainfield High School and has received honors throughout her high school career.

"We are honored to recognize our local students for their academic achievement and we

are proud to offer them help to support their educational goals," stated Joe Sheridan, Wakefern-ShopRite president and COO.

The 27 year-old Wakefern-ShopRite Scholarship Program is designed to help Wakefern-ShopRite associates' children or grandchildren further their education. The selection of winners was administered by Scholarship Management Services, a department of Scholarship America, a national non-profit educational support and student aid service organization.

Share your good news... Send us your milestones!

Send your story and high resolution photo to spobserver@comcast.net or mail to 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

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2012 South Plainfield Board of Education Election

The South Plainfield Education Foundation will sponsor a Board of Education

Meet the Candidates Night

Monday, October 8 • 7 p.m.
Kennedy School, Norwood Avenue

CANDIDATES FOR 3-YEAR SEATS
(3 Available)
Jim Giannakis, Carol Byrne, Jeff Seider, Bill Seesselberg, Michael Gregov, Kimberly De Angelis Anesh, Steve Bohn

CANDIDATE FOR 1-YEAR SEAT
(Unexpired)
Debbie Boyle

Moderator Bill Cochrane will take questions from audience.
Light refreshments will be served.

American Legion Hosts Veterans Outreach Program

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield American Legion Chaumont Post 243 joined forces with the Ladies Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion to sponsor a Veteran's Outreach and Open House on September 15.

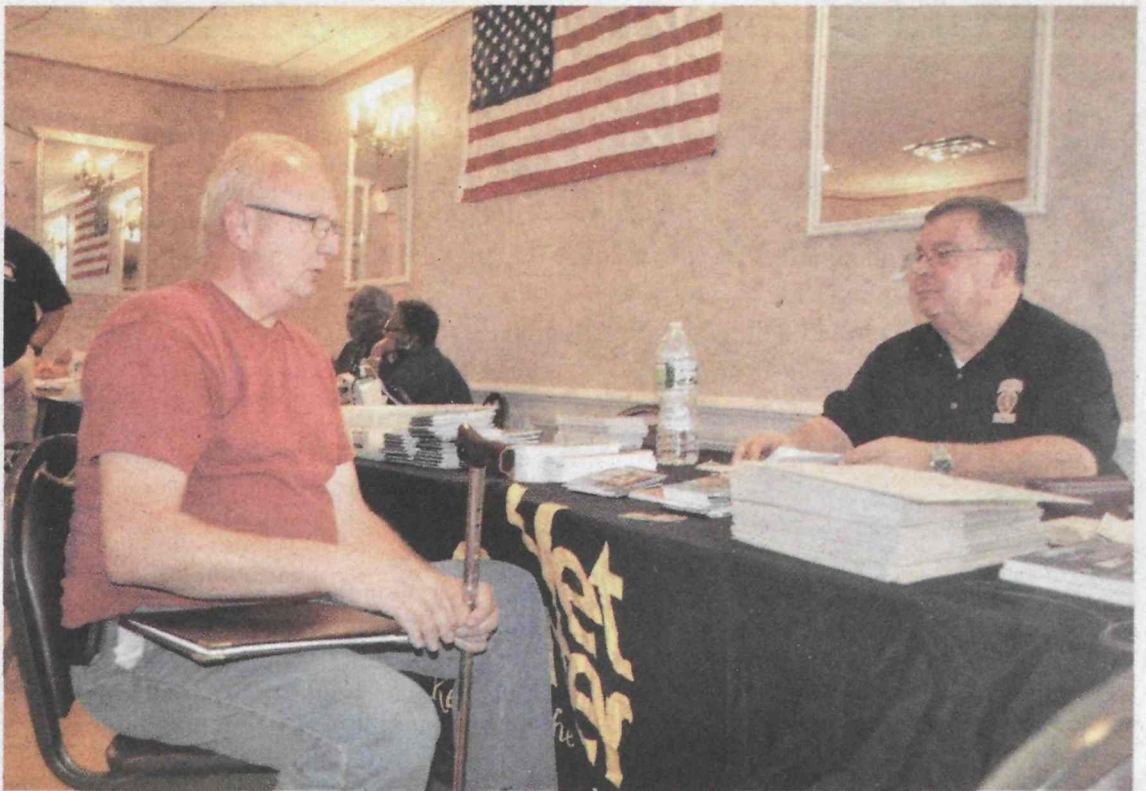
The outreach was intended to help veterans and their dependents who may be unaware of the benefits for which they are eligible, such as health and pension benefits, various awards, vocational rehab, employment issues and more. Additionally, veterans often need assistance while going through the various channels and paperwork involved in order to get the help they need.

This is where the Veterans Administration (VA) comes in. Several VA representatives were on hand at the outreach to talk to veterans, offer them advice and lend a helping hand.

Veterans and family members who arrived throughout the afternoon and early evening were warmly greeted by committee members and members of the American Legion. More than 100 people from South Plainfield, Middlesex, Union and Somerset counties attended. The successful program assisted 62 veterans.

The State of New Jersey offers five medals to those veterans who qualify: The Distinguished Service Medal, N.J. Vietnam Service Medal, N.J. Meritorious Service Medal, N.J. Korean Service Medal and the N.J. POW/MIA Service Medal. Applications for the medals and benefits were available during the open house.

Also available was a comprehensive listing of pertinent phone numbers ranging from various regional VA offices to a nurse help line, prescription refills, education and training, medical support for survivors and their depen-



A veteran discusses benefit issues with a Veterans Center volunteer.

dents and more.

Members of the VA offered small laminated notebooks filled with more detail than could be offered in one afternoon.

Free scrubs were offered to all attendees by NurseJoe.com.

The Veterans Center of Secaucus was on hand to offer counseling to address any concerns a veteran or their dependents might have, including the serious subject of suicide. Information is also available at more than a dozen VA offices in New Jersey.

The event was organized by Chairman John Welgos and committee member Rich Duer. Welgos noted

that it was a joint effort between the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion and the Ladies Auxiliary and the three groups plan to make it an annual event.

The VA Health Care Administration

can be reached at 1-877-222-8397 or www.va.gov/healthbenefits. The N.J. Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs can be reached at 1-888-8NJ-VETS or at www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/programs.html.

The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea

The Sacred Heart Rosary Altar Society of Sacred Heart Church will present The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea with the Reverend Alphonse Stephenson conducting on Sunday, Nov. 25 at 3 p.m. in the church at 149 South Plainfield Ave.

Tickets in advance: \$30, general

admission; \$25, seniors (aged 62 and older); and \$15, students (under 17). Tickets at the door, additional \$5 each. Special family rate, \$50 for two adults plus \$10 for two children, \$10 for each additional child.

For information or to purchase tickets, call (908) 756-0633, ext. 147.



John Welgos and wife Karen enjoy a slow dance.

American Legion Hosts Car Show And Dance

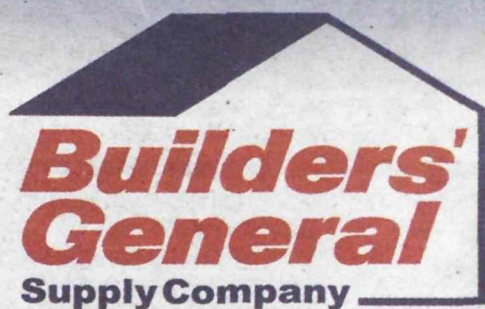
By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield American Legion Chaumont Post 243 Sons of the American Legion had a hectic weekend, sponsoring not one, but two, events on September 15.

In the early part of the day a car show was held on the grounds of the Post. Guests enjoyed browsing the variety of vehicles. Approximately a dozen cars registered to compete for prizes.

Later that same day, the group sponsored a doo-wop dance. DJ Stick Shift Eddie cranked out oldies while guests hit the dance floor. The event included door prizes and a 50/50.

The dance is an annual event.



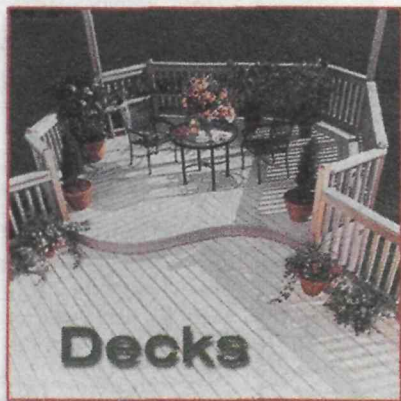
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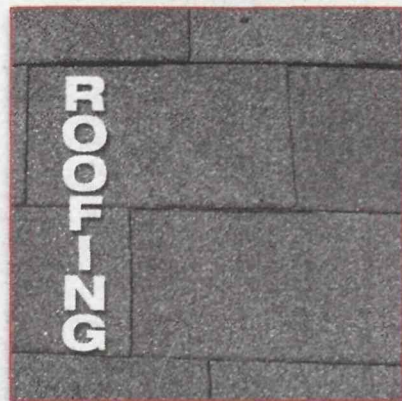
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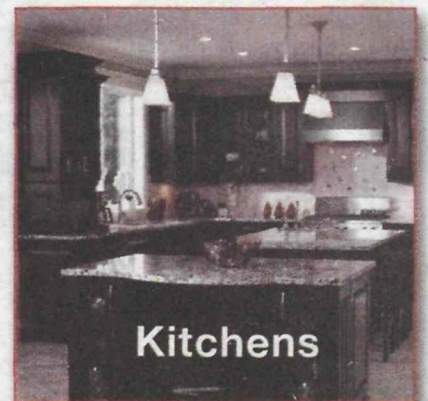
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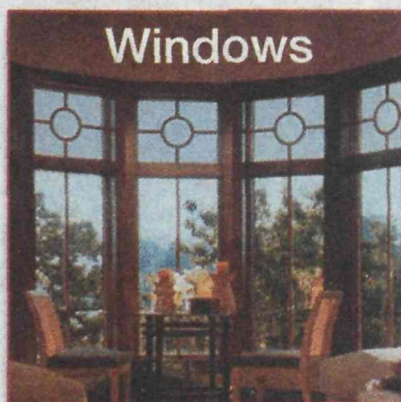
Decks



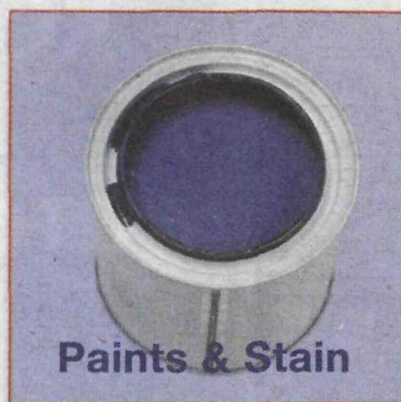
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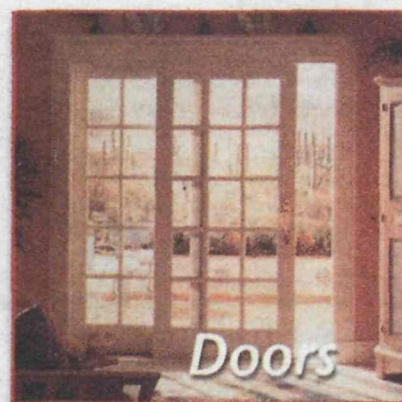
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Charting the Life of a Middlesex County Leaf From Yard Waste to Compost, the MCIA Process



Middlesex County Improvement Authority's windrow turner turns and fluffs curbside by way of a rotating drum with fins.

Only a few weeks from now, piles of rustic-colored leaves will blanket countless curbs across the county, marking autumn's official arrival.

But few area residents, who contribute to those stockpiles with their own personal yard waste, are aware of the broad impact their small efforts make—both ecologically and financially.

Through the Middlesex County Improvement Authority's (MCIA) Yard Waste Recycling Program, much of those curbside leaves are processed into compost or decayed organic matter used to improve soil structure and nutrient levels. More importantly, it is also made available to the county's 24 participating municipalities, free-of-charge.

Each year, between 15,000 and 20,000 tons of leaves make their way to municipal curbs—either through bags or in loose piles—and eventually to

municipal or county regional yard waste sites, said MCIA Recycling Division Manager Ed Windas.

All leaves are composted and about 3,500-plus tons are transported to the county's Quarry Lane facility in North Brunswick. They are then arranged into rows that span approximately 14 feet in width, seven feet in height and between 200 and 300 feet in length.

"The way it's processed, we have a windrow turner that straddles the row and turns it," Windas said. "A windrow turner is a piece of heavy equipment that turns and fluffs the material by way of a rotating drum with fins."

This monthly process only begins when employees, using a long-stem thermometer, determine that the material has reached its peak temperature of 140 degrees within the core.

"As the leaves within the rows decompose they generate heat," Windas

said. "If you stuck your hand into the core, it's very warm and when they are turned during the winter, you can see steam rise from the piles."

After about nine months and prior to distribution, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection requires Windas to test the material for heavy metals in compliance with the standards set forth in the facility's operating permit.

In order to do this, Windas must provide a state-certified laboratory with a representative sample from the approximately 2,000 cubic yards of processed compost.

Once the lab determines the material has reached maturity and is contaminant-free—an annual occurrence in Middlesex County since the state first required sample testing in 2003—the compost is then made available and local officials are notified.

While some communities use the compost for municipal purposes, others offer it up to residents.

This compost is comparative to top soil, which in New Jersey retails for about \$20 a cubic yard, and similarly acts as an additive for the existing soils that are lacking in organic nutrients, Windas said.

On a few rare occasions, the MCIA's excess compost has gone unclaimed and area landscapers are given the opportunity to purchase the remains. In that case, the money is then reinvested into the county's recycling program to help sustain operational costs.

For more information on the MCIA's recycling program, log onto www.mciauth.com.

sports



Members of Plainfields' UNICO presented Ramapo Aquamasters swimmer Amy Bengivenga-Johnson with UNICO shirts. The team will proudly wear the UNICO logo throughout the U.S. Synchronized Swimming Master's Nationals in Sarasota, Fla. during October. (L-R) UNICO Past National President Renato Biribin, Amy Bengivenga-Johnson, who swims competitively with the Ramapo Aquamasters; her father, UNICO District X Governor Robert Bengivenga, and Plainfields' UNICO President John DeAndrea. UNICO National was founded in Waterbury, Conn. in 1922 and is the nation's largest Italian-American service group. For more information, visit UNICO's website at www.unico.org.

SPHS

South Plainfield High School

SPORTS SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

3:45pm Fr Football-Bishop Ahr (A) Bus
2:30pm
3:45pm V Field Hockey-S. Brunswick
JV/5:15pm (H)
4pm GV Tennis-Perth Amboy (A) Bus
2:30pm
4pm FR Field Hockey-S. Brunswick (A)
Bus 2:30pm
5:30pm V Volleyball-Timothy Christian
JV/4pm (H)
7pm V Football-Bishop Ahr (H)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

10am BV&JV Soccer-Edison (A) Bus 8:30
10am GV&JV Soccer-Perth Amboy (H)
2pm GV Tennis-Ranney (A) Bus 12:45
3:30pm V Field Hockey-Cranford
JV/2:00pm (H)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8

3:45pm JV Football-Bishop Ahr (A)
Bus 2:30pm
4pm GV Tennis-Mother Seton (H)
5:30pm V Volleyball-JFK JV/4pm (A)
Bus 2:30pm

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9

3:45pm BV&JV Soccer-Perth Amboy
(A) Bus 2:30pm
3:45pm V Field Hockey-Metuchen
JV/5:30pm Bus 2:30pm
4pm B&GV Cross Country-Metuchen
(A) Bus 2:30pm

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9 (CONT.)

4pm Fr Field Hockey-Metuchen (H)
4pm GV&JV Soccer-No. Brunswick (H)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

5:30pm V Volleyball-Wardlaw (H)
JV/4pm (H)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

4pm GV&JV Soccer-Perth Amboy (A)
Bus 2:30pm
4pm V Field Hockey-Sayreville
JV/5:30pm Bus 2:30pm
4pm BV&JV Soccer-Woodbridge (H)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

3:45pm FR Football-Colonia (H)
4pm GV Tennis-Woodbridge (H)
4:30pm V Gymnastics-Somerville (A)
Bus 2:30pm
5:30pm V Volleyball-Perth Amboy
JV/4pm (A) Bus 2:30pm

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

9am V Field Hockey-Morristown Beard
JV/10:30am Bus 7:30am
11am GV Tennis-Wardlaw (A) Bus
10:15am
11am GV&JV Soccer-Woodbridge (A)
Bus 9:30am
1pm V Football-Colonia (A) 2 Buses
10:45am
1pm V Cheerleaders-Colonia (A) Bus
11:30am

Knights of Columbus 2012 Soccer Shoot

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus are calling all boys and girls, ages 10-14 for the 2012 Soccer Shoot, which will take place tomorrow at 3 p.m. (rain date: October 13) at the Kenneth

Avenue Soccer Fields.

All participants should bring a copy of their birth certificate.

For more information, call Al Vill at (908) 421-5386.

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Cht. St. Michelle Riesling, S. Blanc 750mL	8.97
Cupcake Vineyards All Types 750mL	8.97
Kendall Jackson S. Blanc, Riesling 750mL	8.97
Mirassou All Types 750mL	8.97
Smoking Loon All Types 750mL	8.97
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FlipFlop Wines All Types 1.5L	9.97
J. Lohr Chardonnay 750mL	9.97
Mark West Pinot Noir 750mL	9.97
Barefoot Wines All Types 1.5L	10.97
CK Mondavi All Types 1.5L	10.97
Kendall Jackson Chardonnay 750mL	10.97
R. Mondavi Woodbridge All Types 1.5L	10.97
Yellow Tail All Types 1.5L	10.97
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J. Lohr Merlot 750mL	11.97
Korbel Brut, Extra Dry 750mL	11.97
Cht. St. Michelle Cabernet, Merlot 750mL	12.97
Franzia House Favorites All Types 5L	12.97
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Cavit Pinot Grigio 1.5L	13.97
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Kendall Jackson Pinot Noir 750mL	13.97
Coppola Diamond Claret, P. Noir 750mL	14.97
Kendall Jackson Cabernet 750mL	14.97
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Franciscan Cabernet Sauvignon 750mL	19.97
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Svedka Vodka 1.75L	19.97
Bacardi Light Rum 1.75L	21.97
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Captain Morgan Spiced Rum 1.75L	26.97
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Jack Daniels Black 1.75L	41.97

Twisted Tea 6pks all types	\$6.99
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DosXX Lager/ Amber 12pk	10.99
Long Trail Variety 12pk	12.99
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Tecate 24pk cns	16.99
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Yuengling Lager/Lt 24pk cns/btls	16.99
Busch/Lt 30pk cns	\$17.99
Labatts Blue 30pk cns	18.99
Corona/Lt 18pk btls	19.99
Heineken/Lt 18pk btls	19.99
Molson Ice 24pk cns	19.99
Mike's Party Pack case	22.99
Blue Moon 2/12pk btls	26.99
Sam Adams Lager/Lt 2/12pk btls	26.99

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at KC'S

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Saturday, October 6
4 p.m.

Traditional German Food & German Craft Beers

LiveMusic! Amp'd will perform beginning at 9 p.m.

Lunch Served Mon-Sat, 11:30am to 3:30pm
Dinner-Mon 4-8 pm, Tues-Thurs 4-9 pm, Fri-Sat 4-10 pm; Sun Noon-8pm

Obituaries

John A. "Butch" Gallagher, 70

John A. "Butch" Gallagher died on Tuesday, Sept. 25 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born and raised in West Orange, he was a graduate of the Class of 1960. John served in the United States Army from 1961-1963 and attended Rutgers University, majoring in accounting.

He had resided in East Orange for 10 years before settling in South Plainfield in 1976.

Before retirement in 2009 from Fisher Scientific in Somerville where he worked as a warehouseman, John worked in the accounting department of Sweda International of Orange.

John is a former member of the South Plainfield Elks. He enjoyed fresh water fishing, coaching softball and volunteering his time.

John was very proud of his Irish heritage and his involvement with several Irish organizations.

Surviving are his loving wife, Nina (Razzo); a daughter, Lisa Gallagher; two sons, John and wife Monica and Patrick and wife Kristina; a brother, Michael; and his mother-in-law, Phyllis Razzo. He is also survived by five



John A. "Butch" Gallagher

beloved grandchildren, Nicholas, Matthew, Ryan, Daniel and Kiera.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Somerset Medical Center Foundation for the Steeplechase Cancer Center, 110 Rehill Ave., Somerville, N.J. 08876-2958 or through the website, www.steeplechasecancercenter.com/steeplechase.

Margaret M. "Peggy" Benedict, 91

Margaret M. "Peggy" Benedict died on Saturday, Sept. 22 at the University of Miami Medical Center in Miami, Fla.

Born and raised in North Plainfield, Peggy graduated from North Plainfield High School and resided in South Plainfield for 54 years before relocating to Florida in 2004.

For many years Mrs. Benedict worked alongside her late husband Charles as a bookkeeper for the former Colonial Meat Market in Plainfield. She then worked at the former Lazaar's Stationary also located in Plainfield until her retirement.

She was a former communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield and was an avid cat lover.

In addition to her late husband, Peggy is predeceased by a brother, Edward Acker.

Surviving are three daughters, Judith A. Benedict and husband Mark Tappen

of Winterhaven, N.Y., Patricia M. Hammock and husband Craig of Scotch Plains and Kathleen M. Smith and husband Hearshel of Deerfield Beach, Fla.; and a son, Robert C. Benedict of Key West, Fla. Also surviving is a great-grandchild, Charles Brooks Smith.

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

Elizabeth E. (Yurko) Glowatsky, 84

Elizabeth E. (Yurko) Glowatsky passed away on Thursday, Sept. 27 in the Haven Hospice within JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Larksville, Pa., she grew up in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., then Westfield before settling in South Plainfield where she resided for a number of years.

Elizabeth moved into the Cedarbrook Apartments 22 years ago as one of the original tenants and has resided there ever since.

Elizabeth was a homemaker for most of her life and enjoyed spending time with her family, doing puzzles and watching TV. She is also a former member of the South Plainfield VFW and American Legion Women's Auxiliary and a longtime member of the St. John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church in Rahway.

She is predeceased by her husband, Paul, who died in 1986; a son, Paul Jr., who died in 2011; and a sister, Margaret Modla.

Surviving are two daughters, Paulette Almquist and husband Stewart and Diana Dover and husband Frank; six grandchildren, Diana Lee, Stewart Jr., Cindy, Steven Sr., Christina and Scott; and five great-grandchildren, Alexander, Trey, Steven Jr., Grace and Annalisa.

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

Mary Finnerty, 82

Mary Finnerty of Mountainside, formerly of South Plainfield, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 30 at The Center for Hope Hospice in Scotch Plains.

She was born in Jersey City to the late James and Mary Devaney Cunningham and lived there before moving to South Plainfield in 1964.

Mrs. Finnerty was employed as a computer analyst for Airco in Murray Hill for over 40 years before retiring in 1994. She was a communicant of Sacred Heart R.C. Church in South Plainfield before moving to Mountainside in 2007. Traveling, cooking and entertaining friends and family were some of the many ways Mary and her husband Jimmy generously shared their lives.

Mrs. Finnerty was predeceased by her husband of 42 years, James M.; two brothers, Rev. James Cunningham O.P. and Joseph Cunningham; and a niece, Therese Miranda.

She is survived a sister-in-law, Marjorie Cunningham of Waverly, N.Y.; three

nieces, Mary Beth Thomas, Barbara Uihlein and Kathleen O'Connor; and three nephews, Joseph Cunningham, James Cunningham and Michael Cunningham. She is also survived by several cousins, grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

Funeral services were held at South Plainfield Funeral Home.

Memorial remembrances may be made to the Center for Hope Hospice, 1900 Raritan Rd., Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076.

John Marciniak, 61

John Marciniak died on Tuesday, Sept. 25 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Plainfield, John, for the majority of his life, resided in South Plainfield.

For many years John worked at the Vaccaros Bakery in Clark formerly located in Colonia. In addition, he was an avid hunter and fisherman.

He is survived by a daughter, Tamara Marciniak of Heightstown; his parents, Albert and Anne Kavka of South Plainfield; two sisters, Ann Marie Watkins, and husband Robert of Meyerstown, Pa. and Theresa Hellebrand of South Plainfield. Also surviving are two grandchildren, Vincent and Helena, as well as several nieces and nephews.

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

For all the news about your town, subscribe to the Observer.

Free Middlesex County IDs for Military Veterans

A county photo identification card is now available free of charge to all U.S. military veterans living in Middlesex County according to Elaine M. Flynn, Middlesex County clerk.

Flynn said the clerk's office is offering the card to better serve Middlesex County veterans and make it easier for them to qualify for certain benefits.

"Filing for this new identification card creates a permanent record in the county clerk's office in the event your DD-214 (discharge papers) become lost or damaged, and is needed as proof for property tax deductions or for V.A. benefits," she said.

Flynn also added that the card can be used to participate in various discount

programs and for identification when courtesies are extended to military personnel.

Veterans can get their photo ID card by visiting the county clerk's office in the Middlesex County Administration Building, 75 Bayard St. in New Brunswick, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. There is no charge for the card and no appointment is required.

Please bring your original DD-214 to be recorded by the county clerk's office along with one of the following: a driver's license, business mail or property tax bill. Married females requesting ID cards listing a name other than what appears on their DD-214 must also present legal documents that show that

name change.

"As a county government, we are consistently seeking out new services that work to benefit our residents," said Freeholder Director Christopher D. Rafano. "Because military papers can get damaged or lost, I urge Middlesex County veterans to take advantage of this opportunity and file copies of their DD-214 with the clerk's office."

For more information on obtaining a Middlesex County Veteran's ID card, please contact the Middlesex County Clerk's Office at (732) 745-5722 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday.

"I want to commend the county clerk's office for making this new ID

card available," said Freeholder Blanca B. Valenti, chair of the county's Department of Community Services. "This initiative is a great addition to our successful programming for our veterans, including the new Housing Assistance program," Valenti said. "It is another way we can give back to the men and women who have put themselves into harm's way to protect our freedom."

For more information on services for veterans, including the Veterans Housing Assistance Program, please contact Middlesex County Veteran Services Coordinator Doug Breen at (732) 745-4051 between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

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Kennedy School special education teacher Brittany DeNitzio, kindergarten teacher Lauren Haus (both SPHS graduates) and Kennedy/Franklin Student Assistant Counselor Joretta Strayhorn receive tenure certificates from Kennedy Principal Lisa Parker at the September 19 BOE meeting.

Teens for Jeans Collection

Now is the time everyone is getting new school clothes. The South Plainfield Middle School will be running a jeans collection January 15 to February 14, 2013.

Last year the students collected 3,960 pairs of jeans in only two weeks. DoSomething.org, along with Aeropostale runs the contest. The

middle school came in fifth place last year and this year they want to win, so they are starting early asking for donated jeans. They can be used, but not ripped. Any size will do.

The jeans are given to area homeless shelters. The contest doesn't start until January, but you can bring in the jeans now. There is a bin near the main office

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

In My Opinion

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

(Continued from page 2)

and wrong, and that we set a good example. By denying the town's request, I believe we are not setting a good example. That is a lesson they will carry with them their entire lives. Whether in school or in the real world.

MICHAEL GREGOV

Dear Editor,

I am thrilled to see Paul McCullen running as an Independent for Borough Council this November. I agree with what he has to say and am glad that your paper has been giving the Independents an equal voice this year.

I've known Paul for some time and he cares deeply about this community. His commitment to understanding the issues at hand are commendable. If he doesn't have the answer to a concern he makes sure to find the answer for you to make the next step.

Paul cares passionately about the environment here in South Plainfield. He's helped me in my work to fix flooding issues in my neighborhood, which has led to later work with NJ DOT and NJ Mosquito Control. Paul has gotten to know the issue, has been able to offer solutions, and has worked helping me with my projects.

While many of us don't have time to attend meetings, Paul sees to it to attend council meetings and even EPA hearings to keep up on the issues and then he shares what he has learned. He speaks out on things that strike him as wrong or need improvement. Paul has great ideas and I'll be voting for him on November 6.

LARRY MURRELL

Dear Editor,

I learned some interesting things reading the paper last week. Apparently, former Councilman Franky Salerno is a friendly guy, he likes kids, he served in the Navy and he coaches football. Those who wrote said some nice things about him. I'm sure we can all agree that he seems like a nice enough young man.

What those who wrote did not say, however, was anything about whether Mr. Salerno was a good councilman. This is not a young man who is making his first run for public office. He has a track record. He apparently doesn't have many accomplishments, and in fact, seems to have been missing much of the time.

Council members have important

responsibilities for running our town. For example, they deal with public safety issues, manage the borough's finances, make sure our children have recreation programs and ensure that our roads are safe. The question for me is not whether Mr. Salerno is a nice guy. The question is whether he can handle this job. Unfortunately, he has shown he can't.

MR. RICH VALVANO

Dear Editor,

In considering who gets my vote this year for Borough Council, I've decided to go with Rob Bengivena and Richard "Dick" Frank. Here's why.

The two top issues in my mind are 1. controlling taxes and spending, and 2. bringing back business and jobs. From what I've seen, Bengivena and Frank have a record of success with both these things.

In this economy, it's amazing to see how spending has been held in check. I don't know of another town where spending increases have been held under one percent over three years. In addition, the part of the tax bill controlled by the council is lower now than it was when Rob got elected in 2009 (and the Democrats were in control).

I also can't help but notice all the new businesses in town. It seems like every other week I see another grand opening in the *Observer*. New businesses mean more jobs. Granted, not every job will go to someone in town, but there has to be a reason South Plainfield's unemployment rate is only 6.2% (two points better than the county and state average).

Rob Bengivena and Dick Frank are getting results for South Plainfield. Our town is on the right track, so they will definitely have my support in November.

SINCERELY,
MICHAEL MARTINEZ

Dear Editor,

In these times of political posturing I firmly believe that an Independent is the breath of fresh air this town needs. I am lucky enough to be neighbors with one such person, considering him a trusting and honest family friend.

I've been in this town long enough to know that "we" as a community need to move forward, and make this a place where people would love to live, visit and do business. Having said this, I know a person that has the intelligence, skill, desire and passion to im-

prove and keep us moving forward in a positive way.

Paul McCullen will do much for this town because he has walked, run and cycled from one end to the other seeing all that we have to offer and all that needs improving. He is honest, approachable, and is one of the biggest assets to this community. Electing Paul as a council member would be one of the biggest benefits to this town, and I advise you to contact him with any questions you might have.

I will be voting for Paul McCullen, Independent for Borough Council on November 6, and you should to.

ANDREW RUIZ

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pat DeSantis for her guidance, caring and her genuine concern in dealing with the run down foreclosed house on our block. For three years this house was nothing but an eyesore that caused many problems in our neighborhood, from environmental conditions to safety hazards.

Finally, at our wits end and after discussing the issue with Pat, she told us the appropriate steps to take. Several of our neighbors attended a council meeting and voiced their concerns. Within days the house was cleaned up, bushes were cut and the pool was drained. A thank you also to the party that initiated the clean up.

Thank you again Pat for your concern and guidance. We are grateful!

SINCERELY,
VAL GENOVA, PATRICK BAYAK
AND BILL STOLZ

To the Editor:

I'm saddened to learn that South Plainfield's Republican Party is conducting negative "push polling" for this year's council elections. They have hired a firm to actually call registered voters and disparage one of the Democratic candidates. South Plainfield, a community where most of us know each other one way or another, doesn't need this type of 'insider' politics. It strikes me as though the Republicans are more concerned with keeping power rather than being on the side of what is best for South Plainfield and its residents.

Between the harsh politically-motivated attacks on their opponents and the naked political maneuvers like this polling, I become less and less con-

(Continued on next page)

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION

This Ordinance #1968 published herewith was introduced and passed upon first reading at the regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield held on October 1, 2012. It will be further considered for final passage after a public hearing to be held on October 15, 2012, at the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at which time and place any persons desire to be heard upon the same will be given an opportunity to be heard. Copies are available free of charge at the Municipal Clerk's Office prior to the public hearing. This ordinance shall take effect immediately after final passage and publication according to law.

ORDINANCE NO.1968 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 1935 REGARDING THE SALE OF SURPLUS MUNICIPAL PROPERTY.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield previously determined that the right-of-way owned by the Borough and abutting Lot 4.01, Block 380 is not needed for public use and pursuant to Ordinance 1934 vacated the rights of the borough to said property; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council enacted Ordinance 1935 on July 11, 2012 which provided, in part, that the property may be sold to the only contiguous property owner, Susan Krystopik, by private sale for \$12,500.00; and

WHEREAS, the Borough and Susan Krystopik entered into a contract for the sale at said price; and

WHEREAS, thereafter, Ms. Krystopik advised that as a result of the property being located in a wetlands transmission area, making nearly all the land unsuitable for development, she had incurred unexpected expenses in excess of \$5,000.00 and requested a reduction in the sale price; and

WHEREAS, the terms of the agreement with Ms. Krystopik entitled her to void the agreement, and the Borough being aware there were no other viable purchasers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that the sale price for

sale of the property known as the right-of-way abutting Lot 4.01, Block 380 to Susan Krystopik be reduced from \$12,500.00 to \$8,000.00.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication in accordance with New Jersey law.

Amy Antonides, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

\$42.68 October 5, 2012

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Jaime Grubesch requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a corner yard fence. Section 508: Corner yard fences can only be 6' beginning at the rear of the structure; and any other variances that may be required, said property being located at 601 Harrison Ave., Block 151, Lot 6, R-7.5 zone on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 16 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m.

The files and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Planning/Zoning Office in Borough Hall between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

\$38.50 October 5, 2012

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

September 27, 2012-Notice of time change for the Tuesday, November 20, 2012 Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting:

Please note that Quick Chek at Durham Avenue and Helen Street, ZBOA # 2-12 will be the only applicant at the above stated meeting. This meeting will commence at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre

\$26.14 October 5, 2012

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Chandresh Mody requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a 6' deep by 20' wide front porch. Requires a 30' front yard setback; 25' proposed; and any other variances that may be required, said property being located at 21 O'oughlin Drive, Block 254.01, Lot 13, R-10 zone on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 16 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m.

The files and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Planning/Zoning Office in Borough Hall between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

\$38.50 October 5, 2012

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

September 26, 2012- Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its' meeting held on September 25, 2012.

A. Case #748/Site-Royal Coffee of New York, Inc. Block 528; Lot 46.12; M-2 Zone. 661 Hadley Road. The applicant's request for a parking space variance, (7) waivers and preliminary and final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Recording Secretary-Planning Board

\$27.56 October 5, 2012

In My Opinion

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

vinced every day that the Republicans care about anything other than retaining their stranglehold on South Plainfield's governing body. I certainly think we see enough nastiness and scheming on the state and national levels and that we don't need to stoop to that level here in South Plainfield.

Count me among the voters who will be voting for a return to community-oriented and honest governance when I cast my vote for C.J. Diana and Franky Salerno on November 6.

JON BLOODGOOD

To the Editor:

I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you why Pat DeSantis has my vote in the upcoming election for Borough Council. I have known Pat for 22 years, and can honestly say that I don't know anyone who compares in terms of energy, dedication and willingness to serve in any capacity, to support her community. Pat has worked on behalf of our children, serving on the Board of Education, and as an athletic booster. She serves the Sacred Heart Church community as a volunteer teacher in the religious education program, as a Eucharistic Minister, and as a member of the Music Ministry.

Pat has never been the sort to sit back and complain. Where she sees a need, she applies tremendous energy and generosity towards filling that need. I know she will do the same as a council member.

LIZ HARRINGTON

Dear Editor,

An ordinance should be written into law in South Plainfield regarding home maintenance concerning property maintenance code enforcement.

Our code enforcement officer and board of health officials inspect properties when a complaint is made of poor maintenance and down right dirty yards and health violations. South Plainfield has numerous property codes in effect which also include safety issues.

As it stands now the code officials make periodic calls and if need be a summons is issued to the homeowner and resident living in the home and responsible for property maintenance. The person is taken to court and fined according to the violation. However, after the fine is paid and no cleanup is done, they can't go back again and reissue an additional summons. If this is the case, a new law should be written that after a certain amount of time if no clean up is done, the DPW or a

private company should do the cleanup and add the cost to the tax bill of this property owner.

Maybe then the homeowner or resident will take it seriously and clean their properties. This would help clean up certain homes that are extremely dirty, and keep the town clean.

DONNA PISANIELLO

To the Editor:

On Election Day, I am going to support C.J. Diana and Franky Salerno for Borough Council. When you look at the background of these two fine men, you can only conclude that they are hardworking young people who will keep their promises.

C.J. and Franky have promised to bring fiscal sanity back to South Plainfield. They have promised to stop the wild borrowing of the Republicans who have borrowed over \$3M to balance the budget. C.J. and Franky have promised to cut expenses and not raise property taxes for the next three years. They have also promised to roll back the sewer tax increase which has increased 50% over a very short time.

It's time to put an end to the one party rule of the Republicans. We simply can't afford it any longer. Please vote

for C.J. Diana and Franky Salerno for borough council. They will work hard for resident's best interests and they will keep their promises.

MARCELLA THOMAS

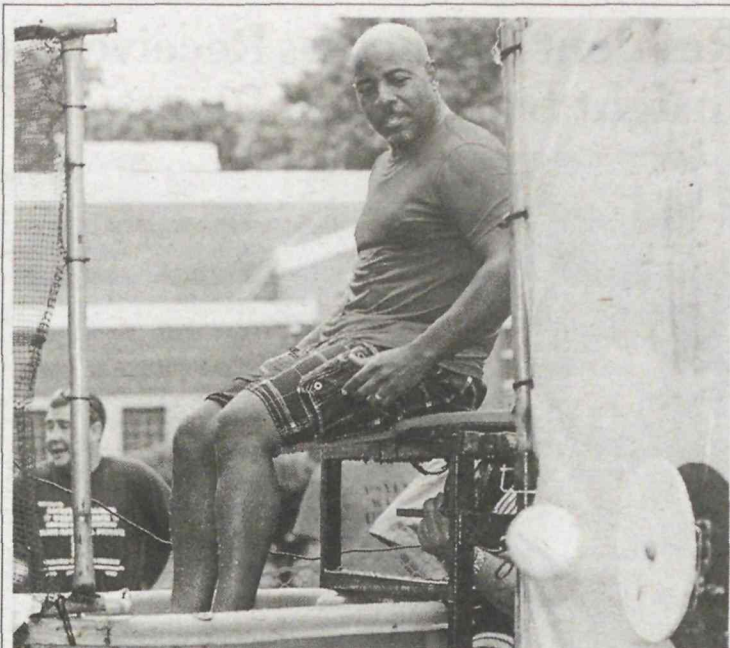
To the Editor:

On Election Day, please elect Franky Salerno and C.J. Diana to the South Plainfield Borough Council. These Democratic candidates promise to end one party rule and make South Plainfield an affordable place to live.

When the Republican Party regained control of the borough council a few years ago, they immediately went back to their old ways. The Republicans have given us huge property tax increases, including 20% this year alone, major increases in the sewer tax, big raises and contracts were given to their friends, and they have borrowed millions just to balance the budget. The residents of South Plainfield cannot afford any more unchecked Republican rule.

On November 6th, I urge you to end the one party rule of the Republicans and get South Plainfield moving in the right direction by voting for Franky Salerno and C.J. Diana for borough council.

MICHELLE CERAMI



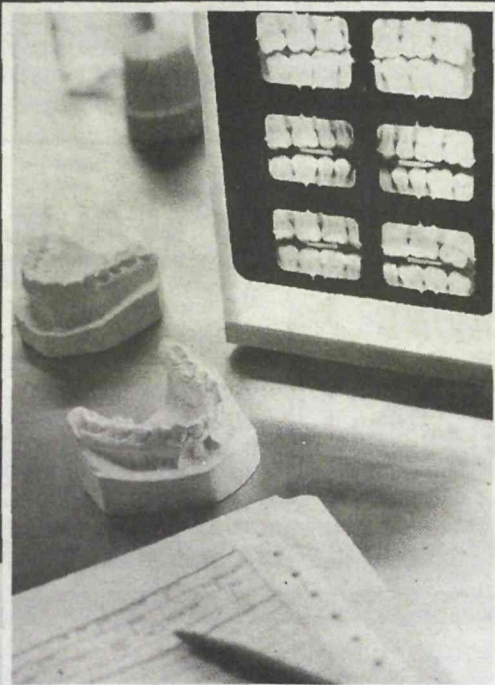
Councilman Derryck White prepares to get dunked in the Lions dunk tank held on the Middle School lawn following the Labor Day parade.

Time2Shine Auction and Family Fun Day

The Time2Shine Foundation, a non-profit organization formed in 2011 in memory of South Plainfield resident, Mike Fry, will hold a Chinese auction and family fun day on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the South Plainfield Italian-American Club, 1001 Garibaldi Ave. Admission: \$5, adults; children are free. Photos with Santa, face painting, food, bake sale and door

prizes. Auction features theme baskets, gift cards, TV, a laptop, iPad, Kindle, airline tickets and more.

For more information or to make a donation, call Rosemary at (908) 816-0901 or Angela at (908) 400-7259. Funds raised will be given to young students interested in continuing their education in the arts and sports.



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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.

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.

Resident Physicians Receive Tourette Syndrome Insight from South Plainfield Teenager



JFK Family Medicine resident physicians listen to Tommy Licato (far left) talk about life with Tourette Syndrome.

The New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome & Associated Disorders (NJCTS) on August 30 made the JFK Family Medicine Residency Program at JFK Medical Center a stop on its yearlong, statewide tour for its Patient-Centered Medical Education (PCME) program. South Plainfield teenager Tommy Licato, 14, joined NJCTS Education Outreach Coordinator Melissa Fowler and NJCTS Executive Director Faith W. Rice for the training, at which Licato described his experience with Tourette Syndrome (TS) at school, at

home and in his community.

Attending doctors, physicians and residents learned the basics about TS, an often misdiagnosed, misunderstood, inherited neurological disorder that affects 1 in 100 children. They also absorbed information that they never before had heard about TS, considering that—by their own admission—the majority of their educational experience with TS came in the form of brief exposure in medical school.

Licato's presentation focused on the experience of initial diagnosis, on quality of life and on encounters with

physicians and the health-care system. The goal of the PCME program is to help resident physicians enhance their understanding of the perspectives, stresses and needs of patients with neurological disorders such as TS—and their families—to improve interpersonal and communication skills in patient encounters.

The residents were interested in how often Licato visits his primary care physician since being diagnosed with TS, as well as how many medicines he had tried before finding one that worked for him. Also addressed was how to tell the difference between symptoms resulting directly from TS as opposed to those from co-morbid disorders such as OCD and anxiety.

"I think the residents really enjoyed hearing directly from Tommy about his experience," said Dr. Anne Picciano, the associate director of the JFK Family Medicine Residency Program. "It's always very helpful to put a human (and especially such a young human) face on disorders the residents normally just read about. Tommy is a terrific ambassador! It's also good to know we have such a great resource in the NJCTS so close to home."

Cops Trade in Handcuffs For Gourmet Burgers

Local law enforcement will trade in their handcuffs and badges for gourmet burgers and aprons at the South Plainfield Red Robin restaurant located on Hadley Road as part of the national Tip-A-Cop® event benefiting Special Olympics New Jersey.

Law enforcement will collect tips and help serve Red Robin restaurant guests on Saturday, Oct. 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 4 to 8 p.m.

Supporting local and national causes, like Special Olympics, that promote the health and welfare of families and citizens in local communities is an important part of the Red Robin culture. Red Robin has been supporting Special Olympics programs across the country for the past six years and has helped raise more than \$1.5 million for Special Olympics.

Tip-A-Cop® is an official Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) fundraising event. The LETR is part of an international campaign for Special Olympics coordinated and managed by all divisions of Law Enforcement officers and officials from throughout the world whose mission is to raise dollars and awareness of the Special Olympics movement worldwide.

The statewide Law Enforcement

Torch Run for Special Olympics New Jersey has been recognized in the world for many years as one of the top grassroots fundraising organizations for Special Olympics.

Other fundraising events conducted in New Jersey include the annual Torch Run, three Polar Bear Plunges, the Lincoln Tunnel Challenge 5K/Fun Run/Walk, the United Airlines Plane Pull, golf outings and much more. In addition, members of law enforcement volunteer at athletic competitions and events year-round while serving as ambassadors in local communities.

For more information, call (609) 896-8000 or visit www.sonj.org.

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Lincoln Tech participates in the South Plainfield 55th Annual Labor Day Parade—Marchers included Sarah Braslavets, Andrey Braslavets, David Solano, Justin Carter, Chris Hickey, Corey Jozowski, Garret Schlosser, David Montalvo Jr., James Hennings, Juan Cobar, Sean Maher, Karen Romeo, Peter Pereillo, Nick Ayers, Boris Radovanovic, Rob Ondesko, Jeff Diner, Keene Caines, Jonathan Raposa, David Burrell, Michael Guerrieo, George David and Leroy Copper.

Middlesex Vicinage to Conduct Criminal and Juvenile Record Expungement Workshop

The Superior Court of New Jersey, Middlesex Vicinage; the Middlesex County Bar Association and the North Brunswick Public Library will host an expungement workshop on Wednesday, Oct. 10 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the North Brunswick Public Library, 880 Hermann Rd. in North Brunswick.

The workshop will provide participants with information about recent changes in the expungement law, who is eligible for expungement, which types of convictions can be expunged, how an expungement is filed and what happens at an expungement hearing. Local attorneys will be available

to answer general questions. Forms and instructions will be provided to participants who want to file as self-represented litigants. This is an informational workshop; no personal cases can be discussed. To reserve a seat, call Ombudsman Lus Hernandez at (732) 519-3344.

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(L-R) Isabella Mont, Jordan Sacco, Brianna Harris and Natalie Leonardi attend the Kennedy School annual Back to School Dance on September 21. Nearly 100 families showed up that evening to have a good time. The theme was "Kennedy Rocks!" and students wore their school t-shirts, danced to music by DJ Mel from Be Our Guest and snacked on baked goods provided by the PTSO. The DJ also kept everyone entertained with a variety of games. What a way to kick off the new school year!

Today's Table at Middlesex County College: Learn to be a Great Cook

This fall, you can learn how to be a great chef. "Today's Table: Classes for Contemporary Cooks" will be held in the Crabiel Hall culinary lab and include tastings of food prepared by the chef and a copy of the recipes.

"This program is for cooks and non-cooks, and it is both instructive and entertaining," said Lynn Lederer, director of Professional and Community Programs at the college. "You will develop techniques to optimize your recipes. For example, you'll learn how to slice a tomato for maximum

flavor, and why one omelet tastes better than another even though they have the exact same ingredients. This is a comprehensive cooking program that is both fun and educational."

You may register a la carte at \$30 for each class or choose any three classes for \$75. The savings are available to anyone who registers with payment for the three classes at the same time; this offer is not valid on the full day Saturday classes or the wine appreciation program. Except for the full day Saturday classes, all meet from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

For more information, visit www.middlesexcc.edu/profcom; to register please call (732) 906-2556. Menus are subject to change.

Classes include:

Spanish Tapas—Popular throughout Spain in bars, restaurants and tapas bars, tapas are small plates of flavorful foods that usually accompany cocktails. They can also form an entire meal. Tuesday, Oct. 9.

Hors d'oeuvre Party Ideas—Included are Asian grilled tuna sliders with wasabi mayo and crunchy slaw, mini

vegetarian muffuletta, mushroom and polenta diamonds, mini crab cakes with wasabi and pickled ginger, cheddar and cilantro gougeres. Tuesday, Oct. 16.

Behind the Bonefish Grill—Chef-owner E. Jay Myers of Bonefish Grill in Iselin will be preparing menu items such as wild drunken fish, shrimp & scallops saucy shrimp, Kate's fish with feta and artichoke hearts. He will finish the evening with a chocolate crème brûlée with Grand Marnier. Thursday, Oct. 18.

Fall Soups—Learn the techniques of making your own chicken stock and

how to prepare the following soups: chicken barley, escarole and sausage, corn and clam chowder and more! Tuesday, Oct. 23.

Tea for YOU!—Join Kathy Hippeli from the newly opened One Steep at a Thyme Tea Room in Jamesburg for an evening filled with tea tasting, tea history, tea sandwiches and dessert bars. You will learn the art of pairing and balancing specific teas and tea flavors with foods that complement rather than detract from full tea enjoyment. Thursday, Oct. 25.

Slushies, Smoothies and Mocktails—Make refreshing drinks using fresh fruits, coffee, ice cream and yogurt to compliment any party or special occasion. Tuesday, Oct. 30.

Parisian Dinner Party—Experience the unbridled celebration of Parisian food right here in New Jersey. Enjoy boeuf bourguignon, dauphinois potatoes and an olive tapenade that is sometimes called "the butter of Provence." Finish the evening off with a fresh fruit soufflé! Thursday, Nov. 1.

Asian Dinner Party—Learn the simple and healthy techniques of a traditional Asian dinner party, including edamame, sushi and chicken and shiitake dumplings with ginger dipping sauce and green tea ice cream for dessert! Wednesday, Nov. 7.

Italian Seafood—This program will feature an Italian inspired ceviche, linguine with white and red clam sauce, cioppino and homemade cannolis. Tuesday, Nov. 13.

All Things Gingerbread—Learn how to make gingerbread houses, ornaments, baskets, bowls, wreaths, sleighs and castles. Thursday, Nov. 15.

Titanic...First Class Menu Sampling—On the evening of April 14, 1912, the sinking of the Titanic shocked the world. Join us as we salute those who sailed on that voyage with samples of foods enjoyed by the first class passengers, including consommé Olga, sauté of chicken, Lyonnais chateau potatoes and French ice cream. Tuesday, Nov. 20.

Mediterranean Grilling—In the Mediterranean, grilling is the cooking method of choice. This class will include Mediterranean grilled shrimp with white bean hummus, Turkish chicken kabobs over freshly prepared tabouli and chocolate gelato. Tuesday, Nov. 27.

Al Fresco Italian—Starting with a pear and pine nut salad with honey vinaigrette, this class includes grilled salmon salad with olive oil and fresh lemon, plus a dessert of grilled balsamic glazed peaches with mascarpone. Thursday, Nov. 29.

Pasta Making—After learning how to make basic pasta dough and mastering several ravioli techniques, you will never buy dried pasta again. Menu includes: lemon pepper linguine, shrimp and crab ravioli, tomato and pesto linguini and several others. Tuesday, Dec. 4.

Vegetarian Dinner Party—Deliciously seasoned vegetarian cuisine will be featured in this class, including eggplant roulades with oven-dried tomatoes and chèvre cream sauce; roasted cauliflower with lemon, capers and olives; broccoli rabe with caramelized onion and roasted garlic; butternut squash risotto and stuffed mushrooms; plus baked Alaska. Tuesday, Dec. 11.

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