

SOUTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

# South Plainfield OBSERVER

VOL. 16, NO. 7

Member New Jersey Press Association

60 CENTS

OCTOBER 12, 2012

## Enjoy a Taste of South Plainfield

The South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA) sponsored second annual Taste of South Plainfield kicks off tonight at 6 p.m. Attendees will sample delicious fare from local eateries as well as wines and liquors courtesy of Oak Tree Discount Liquors.

The event will be held 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 establishments include

Taste of South Plainfield provides scholarships to college-bound high school seniors.

Join us tonight at 6 p.m.

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, Mei Haus, Luigi's Pizza-New York Style, Diosdado Asian BBQ and La Bonbonniere Bake Shoppe.

Advance tickets can still be purchased at a discount prior to the event 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.

For more info, call (908) 668-0010.



More than 250 people enjoy the fare at last year's Taste of South Plainfield.

## Meet the Candidates Night Next Wednesday



Election Day is Nov. 6.

The Observer and the South Plainfield Business Association are co-sponsoring a Meet the Candidates Night on Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. The moderator for the evening will be Dawn Clarke from the League of Women Voters.

There are six candidates for Borough Council vying for two, three-year council seats.

Republican candidates are incumbents Rob Bengivenga and Dick Frank. Democratic candidates are former councilman Franky Salerno and newcomer C.J. Diana. Paul McCullen and Pat DeSantis are running as Independents.

Democratic candidates Salerno and Diana have declined to participate in the debate.

Questions for candidates may be submitted by members of the

audience that evening. Anyone wishing to submit a question ahead of time should email questions to the Observer at spobservers@comcast.net. The candidates will not be privy to any questions prior to the debate; it will be the moderator's decision as to which questions will be asked and in what order.

The debate will begin with the candidates' opening statements which will be determined

by a coin toss. Candidates will alternate answering questions, and time for rebuttal will be allowed.

This will be the only opportunity prior to Election Day that both parties will meet face to face to debate the issues and set the record straight on their positions.

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

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 6.

### The Mayor's Wellness Committee

## Second Annual Health & Safety Fair Tomorrow

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 screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar, skin cancer, dental health as well as vision testing, flu shots, height, weight and BMI, car seat safety checks, nutritional information, ask the doctor, ask the pharmacist, plus the launch of the kick off of "The Biggest Loser South Plainfield" contest. The day will also include entertainment, face painting, glitter tattoos, giveaways and prizes.

Participating providers and organizations are Walgreens, The Club at Ricochet, Fitness 19, LA Fitness, Muscle Maker Grill, Pro-Care, Douglas Klein, D.M.D., Weight Watchers, ATA Karate, the South Plainfield Police, EMS and Volunteer Fire Department.

Also on Saturday, National Fire Prevention Day, the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department will host an open house at the firehouse from 12 to 4 p.m. Activities include safety information and fire safety demonstrations.

For more information, visit [www.southplainfieldnj.com](http://www.southplainfieldnj.com) or the borough's Facebook page.

## You want to vote. Are you eligible?



If you are not sure if you are registered to vote, you can check at: [www.canivote.org](http://www.canivote.org).

If you would like to register, see the municipal clerk at borough hall. The deadline is October 16. You can register in-person on October 16 until 7 p.m. Absentee ballots are available from the municipal clerk. Identification is required.

## Call For Entries: Annual Junior Journalist Program Kicks Off

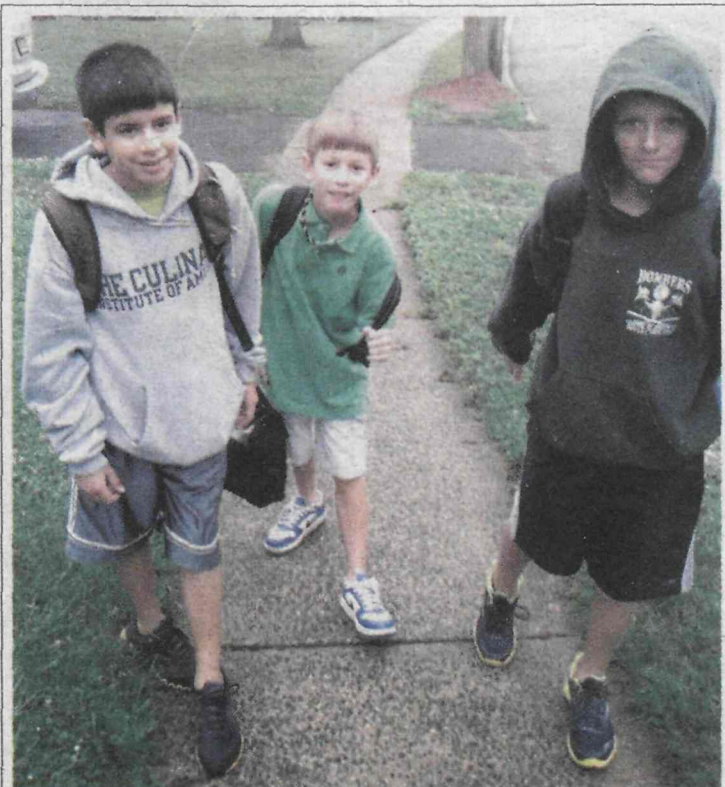
Entries are being accepted for the tenth annual Junior Journalist program for South Plainfield students.

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.



Riley School students take part in the National Walk to School Day on October 3 sponsored by the Mayor's Wellness Committee. For story and additional photos, see page 8.



JOIN US!  
The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department will host an open house tomorrow on Fire Prevention Day at the fire house from 12 to 4 p.m.





**\*\* Board of Education Meet the Candidates Night \*\***  
**Watch on Comcast Ch. 96 on Saturday, Oct. 13 at 11 a.m.**  
**and 7 p.m. and on Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 8:30 p.m.**

**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**

Monday, October 15  
 Monday, November 5

**Public Meeting**

Monday, October 15  
 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. 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.) Nov. 7, Dec. 12**

**Regular Public Meeting (begin at 6:30 p.m.) except where noted\* Oct. 17, Nov. 14, Dec. 19**

**BOEcurriculum/technology/student activities**

**Meets once a month at 4:30 p.m. in 2nd floor conference room,**

**Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.**

**BOEbuildings & 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.**

Nov. 13, Dec. 11

**recreationcommission**

**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**

Nov. 13, Dec. 11

**taxpayersadvisorygroup**

**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

**environmentalcommission**

**Meets once a month (second Wednesday) Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m.**

**Questions? 908-226-7621**

Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9

**South Plainfield OBSERVER**

The South Plainfield Observer is published weekly on Fridays by G&G Graphics Inc.

How to Reach Us



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**SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES**

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

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

**In My Opinion**

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

Dear Editor,

This letter is to the customers of The Front Street/Harvest Farmers Market of South Plainfield. I wanted to take the time to say "thank you" for your friendship and continued support during the time the store was open. I truly enjoyed your smiling faces each and every day, as you brightened my day when you came in to say hello. I miss you all and hope to have you visit me at a deli in the area soon.

**THANK YOU AGAIN,  
 JEANNE, DELI MGR.,  
 FRONT STREET/HARVEST  
 FARMERS MARKET**

To the Editor:

On behalf of the South Plainfield Friends of the Library, I would like to thank all the wonderful people who donated books and baked goods for our recent Book & Bake Sale. Thanks also to all the folks who purchased books and cookies and cakes. We also greatly appreciate all those who worked at the sale. Special thanks to the Knights of Columbus and the Squires who helped with the set up and clean up and general "buggy-lugging." Through the efforts of all these generous people, we were able to raise over \$1,000 to help fund the various programs we sponsor at the library, as well as support special purchases for the library.

The Friends is a very worthwhile organization and we encourage all South Plainfield residents to join. We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the library. Our next meeting is Thursday, Nov. 1. Come and join us!

**JEANNE GRIESI  
 CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,  
 FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY**

South Plainfield Residents:

I have thought long and hard to write this letter. Many people in town know me as a person who speaks his mind and the truth, even when people don't want to hear the truth. Also, many of the people reading this letter will remember that I served as a Democratic councilman for three years. It

was a true honor to serve the people of South Plainfield; it was a lifelong dream of mine and it is something I look back on with great pride and joy.

When I served on the council, the members of both parties took their jobs very seriously and worked amazingly hard for all South Plainfield residents. Granted, we did not always agree, but regardless of party, everyone dedicated a great deal of time to serving the public. This meant attending meetings, going to events, working with our town's volunteers, and being there for residents who needed our help. During my three years on the council I missed only one meeting due to a death in my family, and the same can be said for Mayor Butrico and other council members I served with on both sides of the council. There was one exception—Franky Salerno.

After I left the council I still wanted to attend meetings to stay abreast of things going on in our town and was very surprised to see Franky was never at any of these meetings. Franky's attendance got so bad that I actually went to a council meeting to raise the issue publicly. I was told he missed meetings because of his job, or worse yet, he didn't give a reason. Franky constantly also missed Planning Board meetings, and he had no command of town issues. And even worse, he was nowhere to be found when our residents needed his help the most. When every other council member was out doing what they could to help during emergencies, Franky Salerno was missing. Hurricane Irene, the 2010 blizzard and the 2011 floods are just some examples.

Given his past record, I simply cannot support Franky Salerno.

**RESPECTFULLY,  
 JOE SCRUDATO**

Dear Editor,

As a former school board member, I can't help but comment on the recent actions by the board majority. Apparently they think so little of the public that they saw fit to urge the Legislature to change the laws of the State of New

**Submit Your Letters to the Editor**

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

Jersey, all in a silly attempt to thwart Debbie Boyle's campaign to fill a one-year term. In addition, they tried to obtain an opinion from the School Ethics Commission that would bar her from serving even if elected. They did all this, so they say, in the name of setting higher "ethical" standards. What they really did, however, is try to diminish our right to choose the candidates of our choice when we vote in November.

We do not need the board telling us who can and can't run for office. Nor do we need the board telling us for whom we should be able to cast our votes. If I choose to vote for Debbie Boyle, knowing full well that her daughter is a recently hired teacher, that is my choice. We elect school board members to manage our schools, not to waste valuable time and resources trying to convince the Legislature that we're not intelligent enough to vote for the "right" candidates.

I also question the board's sincerity, or at least the sincerity of some of those advancing the measure. One of those voting for the resolution actually has a family member working for the board, works for a company that has a million-dollar contract with the board, and is also on the ballot. Yet the resolution does not suggest that those in his position be barred from running.

The timing also begs this question: Why the need to enact a resolution at the last minute and without any time for public scrutiny? In my opinion, the board is using ethics as a pretense. The real problem is that some board members want to hush a dissenting voice. And they figured they had a chance to do so in the name of ethics.

But regardless of the real motives, the board members have overstepped their bounds. Their jobs are not to try to limit your choices at the ballot box or mine. Moreover, their attempt to do so, for self-serving reasons, reflects poorly on their ability to do the job for which they were elected.

**BOB JONES**

To the Editor:

In response to Carol Byrne's letter to the editor of two weeks ago, this letter is to help the people of South (Continued on page 12)

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**TRICKY TRAY**

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 visit our website - [www.ststephenchurch.net](http://www.ststephenchurch.net)

**Event Photos For Sale**

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



## Volunteers Turn Out For Fall Litter Clean-up

A large number of volunteers showed up on a recent September afternoon to get the litter off borough roadsides.

Members of Boy Scout troops 309, 124 and 224; volunteers from the Maria Luisa de Moreno International Foundation and members of the Al Minhaal Academy came to the Highland Woods Nature Center on September 29 to gather their gloves, pick up sticks, orange vests and trash bags before heading out to selected areas of the borough.

Al Minhaal students and teachers scoured the streets in the Park Avenue/Maple Avenue section. Maria Luisa de Moreno volunteers extended their South Clinton Avenue Adopt-A-Spot into the industrial side streets. Troops 124 and 224 tackled Tyler Place, and Troop 309 spread out along New Brunswick Avenue. Several troop members stayed to police the woods around the Nature Center. In addition to these groups, a number of individual residents worked alongside the scouts.

These 78 volunteers collected 25 bags of litter, with an estimated weight of nearly half a ton. Over three miles of roadside and about an acre of open space land were cleaned. This was a record turnout for a fall cleanup. But even with the extra help, the borough will need another cleanup in the spring. Volunteers commented that they thought they had not gotten up everything that was there, because long grass and brush were probably hiding trash. Still, it is better than trying to do this job only once a year. On the busier roadsides, a full year's accumulation would take more than a couple of hours on an April morning to pick up.

Call Alice Tempel, the clean communities coordinator, at (908) 226-7621 for more information about volunteer cleanups or the Adopt-A-Spot program.

## LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY

Public Notice

RETURN OF PERFORMANCE BOND

To Fischer Group LLC for public improvements at 2237 Hamilton Boulevard, South Plainfield, Lot 4, Block 401.

A public meeting has been scheduled by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield to hear objections, if any, to the release of a Performance Bond posted by Fischer Group LLC for public improvements at 2237 Hamilton Boulevard, South Plainfield, NJ known as Lot 4, in Block 401 listed on the official tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 5, 2012 in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Fischer Group LLC  
10 Short Hills Lane  
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

\$38.50 October 12, 2012

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

October 3, 2012—Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on October 2, 2012.

A. Case #13-12-FB. Diaz and M.L. Delsalto. Block 136; Lot 24; R-7-5 Zone. 1240 South 11th Street. The applicant's request to allow an existing 120 sq. ft. wood shed to remain in its present location was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

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

\$27.56 October 12, 2012

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(L-R) Coaches Chris Fish, Steve Johnston, John Foscolo and Bryan Holt attend the annual high school Meet the Coaches Night held on October 3. The event provided parents of athletes the opportunity to introduce themselves and ask questions of coaches from all sports.

## Redistricting Task Force Considers Grant Alternative

By Libby Barsky

The last of three meetings of the Redistricting Task Force took place at the high school on October 2. In June, the Board of Education requested that a task force be formed made up of school staff, board members and residents to study the effectiveness of the district's current grade configuration model. Former interim superintendent Dr. Gary Bowen and his partner, Dr. Lisa Antunes, an assistant superintendent in Hillsborough, had

been asked by Board President Jim Giannakis to conduct the study. The cost of the study is \$15,000.

Before Bowen gave his final report, he introduced an additional option aside from the one that the audience at the August 14 endorsed which was to keep the current configuration and possibly move the boundaries of existing neighborhood schools. Bowen suggested that Grant School, which now houses the fifth and sixth grades, become a fifth elementary school. The five elementary schools will all

## Five Week Leaf Collection Program Begins October 29

The annual leaf collection is scheduled to begin on Monday of the week of October 29 and runs for five successive weeks. All pickups will take place on the designated week except if weather conditions are severe. Pick up schedules are as follows:

Week 1: Oct. 29-Nov. 2, Section 1  
Week 2: Nov. 5-9, Section 2  
Week 3: Nov. 12-16, Section 3  
Week 4: Nov. 19-23, Section 4  
Week 5: Nov. 26-30, Section 5

All trucks will continue leaf pickups in all sections until December 21.

Anyone who wishes to have their leaves picked up by the borough must place the filled biodegradable

bags at the curb for collection. Each homeowner will be provided 20 free biodegradable bags that may be picked up at the Public Works garage until November 23, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. Also, the Public Works garage will be open on Saturday, Nov. 3 and 10 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Residents must present the coupon which was mailed to every homeowner in September to obtain these bags. You may also pick up your 2013 Yard Waste stickers and compactor coupons at the same time. They will not be picking up any leaves bagged in plastic.

If a homeowner needs additional biodegradable bags, they can purchase at a store that sells bags. Residents can also bring their leaves to the borough's compost facility, located on Kenneth Avenue, bagged in biodegradable bags or in plastic. In order to comply with the composting rules and regulations, leaves must be emptied from the plastic bags and the plastic bags discarded in the designated receptacles located at the site.

The compost area will be open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. from October 29 through December 21.

For more information, call (908) 755-2187.

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# 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

### 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 from 17 local establishments.

Wine and spirits courtesy of Oak Tree Discount Liquors.

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.

### Knights of Columbus Annual Mum Sale

October 13, 14

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203's ninth annual fall mum sale will be held Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 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.

### Fire Department Open House

October 13

In recognition of Fire Prevention Day the South Plainfield Volunteer 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.

**Send Your  
Community Events to:**  
spobserver@comcast.net

### 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 kick off 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](http://www.southplainfieldnj.com).

### Oktoberfest at St. Stephen Church

October 13

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 3145 Park Ave., will hold its 15th annual Oktoberfest German dinner on Saturday, Oct. 13 from 5-7 p.m. All you can eat authentic German food. Menu: Pork roast and gravy (hot dogs available for children), sauerkraut, red cabbage, green beans, applesauce, mashed potatoes, rolls and butter, beverages and desserts. Takeout dinners will be available. Adults, \$11; seniors, \$8; children 5-12, \$5; under five, free. All proceeds go to charity.

For more information, call (908) 757-4474.

### 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 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](mailto: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.

For information or tickets, call (732) 688-6883.

### AristaCare Laughter Therapy Session

October 23

You're invited to an AristaCare Laughter Therapy Session on Tuesday, Oct. 23 from 9-9:45 a.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. No cost to register!

Laughter is different from humor. What one thinks is funny might be very different from another. That's humor. Laughter is a physical action, is universal and can be used as medicine for your body, mind and spirit. Through laughter, we can lead the world to a healthier and happier place. Come and join AristaCare at Cedar Oaks to learn why laughter really is the best medicine!

Taught by Lori Theiss, certified laughter leader and creative director, AristaCare Health Services.

For more information or to RSVP, call Tree Olano at the Senior Center, (908) 754-1047.

### Elks Blood Drive

October 28

The members of the Elks Lodge, 1254 New Market Ave., will hold a blood drive on Sunday, Oct. 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Appointments can be made through the [www.nybc.org](http://www.nybc.org) website. Walk-ins are welcome.

### 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 Bar-

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# events

## Around Town

rel 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.

### Knights of Columbus Annual Trivia Night

**November 10**

South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6023 will host its annual Trivia Night on Saturday, Nov. 10 at the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. Doors open: 6:30 p.m.; first question at 7:02 p.m. sharp!

Gather your table of party friends and join the fun! Entertaining categories—something for everyone! Cash prize for first place; door prizes. Bring your favorite party snacks to share at your table; don't forget your table decorations! Table of eight only \$160!

For reservations, call Brian Cargill at (908) 405-8963. Proceeds to benefit the Middlesex County Make a Wish Foundation.

### Food and Bake Sale

**November 17**

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.

### Wrestling Club Fundraising Dinner

**November 17**

The South Plainfield Wrestling Club will be hosting its fourth annual Tiger Takedown Buffet on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 7 p.m. to midnight at the South Plainfield Polish Home on New Market Avenue. Tickets: \$20. Cash bar; Gamin' Ride Truck for the kids. Drawing for Super 50/50. Proceeds to benefit the SPHS wrestling team's trip to the Virginia Duals. Tickets will be available for sale at the door.

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

### 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 website for more information and to buy tickets at [www.southplainfieldhighclassof1987.myevent.com](http://www.southplainfieldhighclassof1987.myevent.com).

Email questions to Lisa (Klukoski) Kaylen at [lkaylen@innovativehealthservices.com](mailto:lkaylen@innovativehealthservices.com).

### — Out of Town —

### 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.

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

**October 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. 13 and 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](http://www.playsinthepark.com/index.php/season/current/childrens-show-tbd).

### 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, or register online at [www.mcc-foundation.org](http://www.mcc-foundation.org).

### Singles Dance Party

**October 19**

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting a dance party on Friday, Oct. 19 at 8 p.m. at Snuffy's, 250 Park Ave. in Scotch Plains. Ages 40 and up. No jeans/t-shirts/sneakers/shorts. Admission: \$15.

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

### Shen Yun Performing Arts

**October 27**

Shen Yun 2012 will be presented on Saturday, Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave. in New Brunswick.

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### Depression/Bipolar Support Meeting

**October 31**

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance will feature at its monthly educational meeting Jeffrey Wolff, M.D., vice chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at Morristown Memorial Hospital, on Wednesday, Oct. 31 at 7:45 p.m. using the facilities of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Road in Morristown. The public is cordially invited; a nominal donation is requested from non-members. Free literature is available to all attendees.

For further local information, call (973) 994-1143 or the New Jersey Self-Help Group Clearing House at (800) 367-6274.

### Calvary Baptist 115th Anniversary

**November 3**

Calvary Baptist Church celebrates 115 years in service with an anni-

versary banquet on Saturday, Nov. 3 from 5-9 p.m. at the Pines Manor, Rt. 27 in Edison. Guest speaker Rev. Dr. Lester Taylor, Jr.; featured soloist, Sister Janice Harrison Aiken; music by Brother Rayman Wyatt. Tickets: \$75pp; includes hors d'oeuvres, fruit cup, green salad, main entrée, sodas and water, coffee, tea and dessert.

Mail payments to: The Calvary Baptist Church, 324 Monroe Ave., Plainfield, N.J. 07062.

### St. Helen's Caregiver Support Group

**November 5**

St. Helen's Church Caregiver Support Group, for those caring for elderly or chronically ill loved ones, will meet on Monday, Nov. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center on Lamberts Mill Road in Westfield. Informational and sharing sessions.

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

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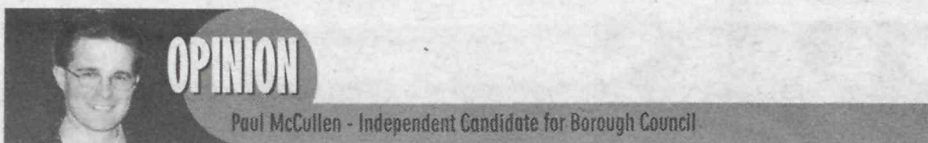
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## OPINION

Paul McCullen - Independent Candidate for Borough Council

### Time to debate...

This coming Wednesday will give you the chance to come hear what the candidates have to say about the questions important to you. Often we are too busy to set time aside, but if there were ever a time to come out, now is that time. I'd like for you to consider that my platform isn't just about restoring basic finances and improving facilities, but it is also about having a plan for the future.

Historically, South Plainfield has just been a two-party town, but this year you have the chance to not only hear from Democrats and Republicans, but also from two Independents. Wait, I stand corrected. You can come and hear Republicans and Independents debate the issues, because the Democrats have something else better to do that evening.

The reason to debate is to talk about ideas, question the actions of the opposition, and most importantly, to see how a candidate can handle themselves in a public situation. When a party has developed a platform to challenge one party rule and then won't come out to publicly support their claims, what does that say about them? What does it say about the party? This type of action by parties and individuals is exactly what you and I are sick of. If they can't be trusted to come out before being in office, what will that

mean once they are elected?

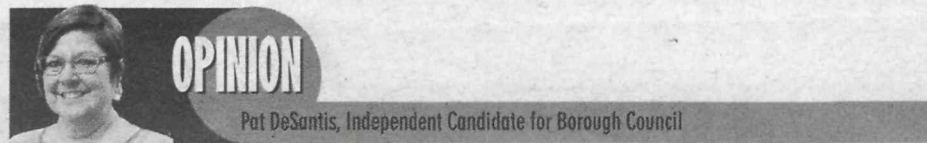
The Democrats apparently have no vision for us. Yes, trucks on Hamilton Boulevard present a real safety issue. We cannot continue to divide this town over the route of trucks, though. What we need is a concrete plan that benefits us all and makes South Plainfield a better place to live. A truck bypass, one that will be planned for and properly financed, is the right answer.

The Republicans again offer us no vision. Our town needs a master plan. Yes, businesses are opening in South Plainfield; 20 years of prudent fiscal management has kept our property taxes low, making South Plainfield attractive to businesses. It is long term planning which will allow our community to continue to thrive, not yearly political whims.

We all must work towards bipartisan agreement to make South Plainfield a model for the future. Years of petty bickering and political grandstanding have done nothing for us. Voting Independent on November 6 can break this cycle.

I hope to see you all at the town council debate so I can share my plan for South Plainfield and hear what matters to you.

Paul McCullen, Independent for Town Council



## OPINION

Pat DeSantis, Independent Candidate for Borough Council

### Taxes Up Under Both Parties.... Time for an Independent Voice

For years, we have heard from the Democrats and Republicans promises to keep taxes flat or claims that taxes have gone down. Truth be told, I checked my tax bills and taxes have gone up under both political parties. I promise to do all I can to keep our borough taxes flat.

With the economy struggling and residents worried about finances, the time has come for an independent perspective when making decisions on how our taxpayer money is spent.

By choosing not to receive a dime from political contributors, I am obligated to no one. If elected to the council, my only priority will be doing what is best for the taxpayers, not companies or individuals contributing to campaigns with favorable expectations.

For example, we need to objectively evaluate all bids for borough engineering projects. The awarded contracts should not be driven by political affiliation. Furthermore, we need to have each and every borough department justify how money is spent in their respective departments. If it doesn't make sense, it needs to be cut.

This is not the time for empty promises or political rhetoric on how and where our money is spent. You have my word, that if elected, I will cut wasteful spending and put your priorities first when it comes to how your money is spent.

I hear you South Plainfield, and now its time to have your voice heard. Vote on November 6.

Pat DeSantis, Independent Working for You and South Plainfield



## OPINION

CJ Diana, Franky Salerno - Democratic Candidates for Borough Council

### Campbell Soup is Latest Example of Republicans Sewer Tax Running Businesses Out of Borough

C.J. Diana and Franky Salerno, Democratic candidates for borough council, called attention to the outrageous increase in the sewer tax under Republican reign.

Candidate Diana said, "This past week's Republican release really gave me pause. They would somehow like our residents to believe that the borough's low unemployment rate has something to do with them? Stunning! 95% of our residents don't work in town. Is it actually possible that South Plainfield's Republicans are this delusional?"

"The real fact is that businesses are ready to pack up and leave town because of the unbelievable sewer tax imposed on them by Bengivenga and company. The sewer tax has gone up a whopping 50% in three years!"

"The most recent example of Republican policy gone awry is Campbell Soup, which announced it is relocating its South Clinton Avenue facility. Campbell pays one of the largest sewer taxes in the borough, averaging about \$150,000 per year. Under the new Republican sewer tax, Campbell's bill would increase to over \$200,000 per year, with more on the way. Between the hundreds of successful tax appeals and businesses being forced out of town, middle income homeowners will again be left to suffer the consequences of Republican mismanagement."

Candidate Salerno expanded upon his running-mates' comments. "The sewer tax has reached a crisis level. I have talked to businesses all over town that are being strangled by it. Our local restaurants are particularly being hit hard because the sewer tax is based on water usage. This craziness has to stop. C.J. and I promise that within one month of taking office we will introduce an ordinance rolling back the sewer tax. Campbell Soup is just the beginning of a business exodus from South Plainfield. The Republicans are living in a fantasy land. I can't believe they actually equated the unemployment level of our residents with businesses that operate in town. Don't they know that South Plainfield is known for its hardworking families? They shouldn't be used as a cover for bad policy. Rather, our residents should be given tax relief to help them pay the bills."

C.J. Diana summed up the Democrats' position saying, "This is yet another example of the consequences of one party rule. Councilmember Bengivenga makes an out-of-touch statement about employment in South Plainfield and his runningmate says 'me too'. We can, and must, do better than that. Franky and I will roll back the sewer tax and will not support a tax increase for the next three years under any circumstances. 'Getting it done' policies simply aren't good enough; please vote Democratic on November 6."

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



## OPINION

Dick Frank, Rob Bengivenga - Republican Candidates for Borough Council

### Is Salerno Ducking Debate Because He'd Have to Explain Trying to Vote Himself a Raise?

Republicans this week are asking Democrat candidate Franky Salerno why he tried to raise the pay for council members, including himself, shortly after taking office last time he was elected.

"I just can't understand it. People are losing their jobs and their homes," said Councilman Dick Frank. "I wasn't on the council then, but I was shocked sitting in the audience and hearing that they were trying to give themselves raises."

"Luckily, it didn't pass," added Councilman Rob Bengivenga. "Salerno and the Democrats dropped the idea after the public got wind."

Salerno voted "yes" on the measure the first time it was presented. It was only after Republican Councilman Ray Rusnak exposed the proposal and wrote the newspapers that Democrats backtracked and tried to call it a "mistake."

Rusnak thinks Salerno should explain himself and is disappointed that the Democrats refuse to attend this year's debate where Salerno could be questioned.

"Salerno should explain why he originally thought giving himself a raise was a good idea. But since he and his runningmate are refusing to debate, the public will never learn the answer

to that question."

Councilman Tim McConville, who also opposed raising council salaries, saw the irony in it all: "Salerno constantly missed meetings, but he had no problem getting there when his own raise was on the agenda, or for that matter, when he voted to raise taxes on the average home by \$404."

In addition to objecting to the raise itself, Republicans questioned how Salerno could justify giving himself one when he was missing so many meetings.

In fact, according to Dick Frank, even Democrats have questioned whether Salerno should have taken his salary given the number of times he missed meetings.

Bengivenga said that the council has put in place a pay freeze since he joined the governing body in 2010.

"If we're going to ask our employees to help out in hard times," Bengivenga explained, "we should be setting the example. We need to work together for South Plainfield's families and should not be advancing our own interests. If Dick and I are reelected, residents have our word that their families will come first."

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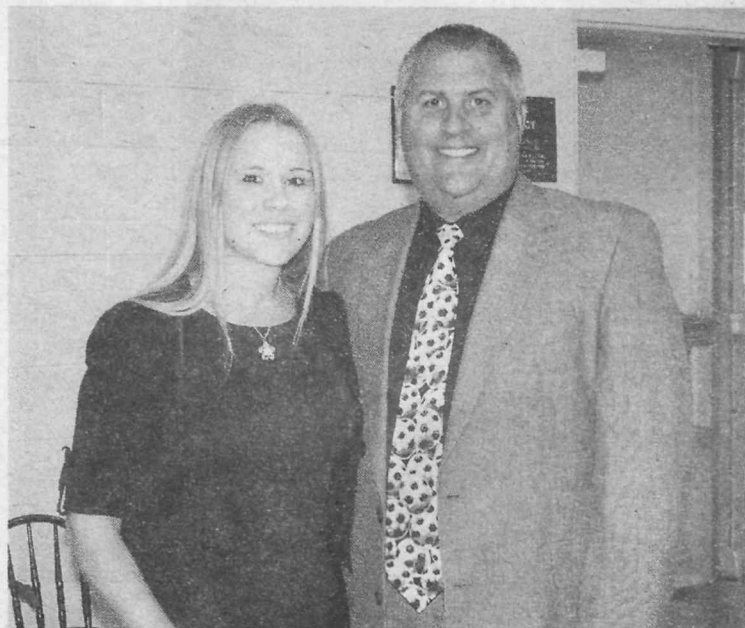
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# Fifteen Staff Members Receive Tenure Certificates



Riley School Principal Leo Whalen and teacher Nicole Wrublewski



South Plainfield High School Principal Dr. James Pedersen presents tenure certificate to Jessica Wilson.



Franklin School Principal Ralph Erico with Spanish teacher Francisco Guerrero and school nurse Mary Altomare.



South Plainfield High School Principal Dr. James Pedersen and Assistant Principal Kelly Richkus present tenure certificates to teachers Steven Johnston, Yaritza Albarran and Jessica Wilson.

By Libby Barsky

Fifteen South Plainfield schools staff members were granted tenure at the Board of Education regular meeting held on September 19.

South Plainfield High School Principal Dr. James Pedersen presented tenure certificates to Spanish teacher Yaritza Albarran, special education teachers Steven Johnston and Jessica

Wilson and mathematics teacher Jessica Kubek.

Middle School Principal Kevin Hajduk presented social studies teacher John Foscolo, a graduate of South Plainfield High School, with a tenure certificate.

Franklin School Spanish teacher Francisco Guerrero and school nurse Mary Altomare received tenure certificates from Principal Ralph Erico.

Riley School Principal Leo Whalen presented elementary teacher Nicole Wrublewski, a SPHS graduate, with a tenure certificate.

Roosevelt School Principal Robert Diehl presented computer teacher Desiree Noland and two SPHS graduates, second grade teacher Shannon Boyles Brace and kindergarten teacher Kristen Kunie, with tenure certificates.



Principal Robert Diehl presents tenure certificates to Roosevelt School teachers Desiree Noland, Shannon Boyles Brace and Kristen Kunie.

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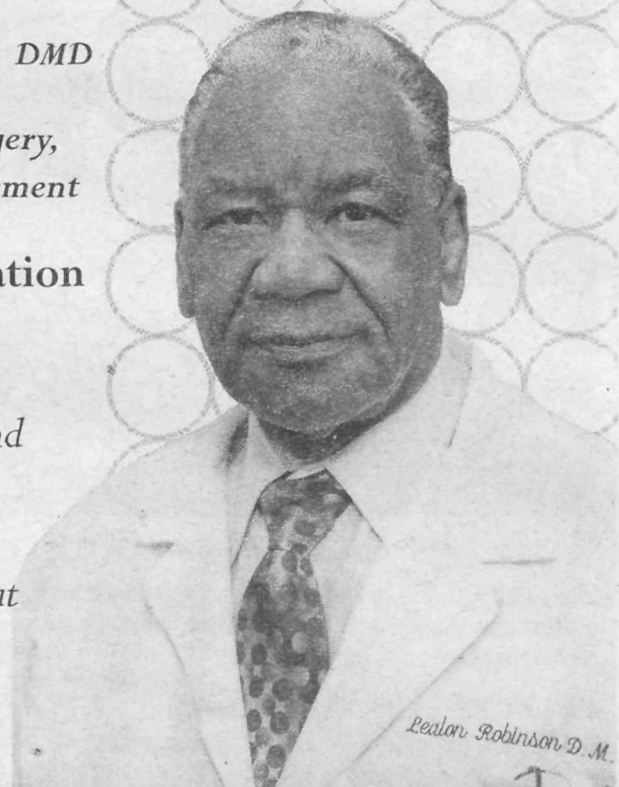
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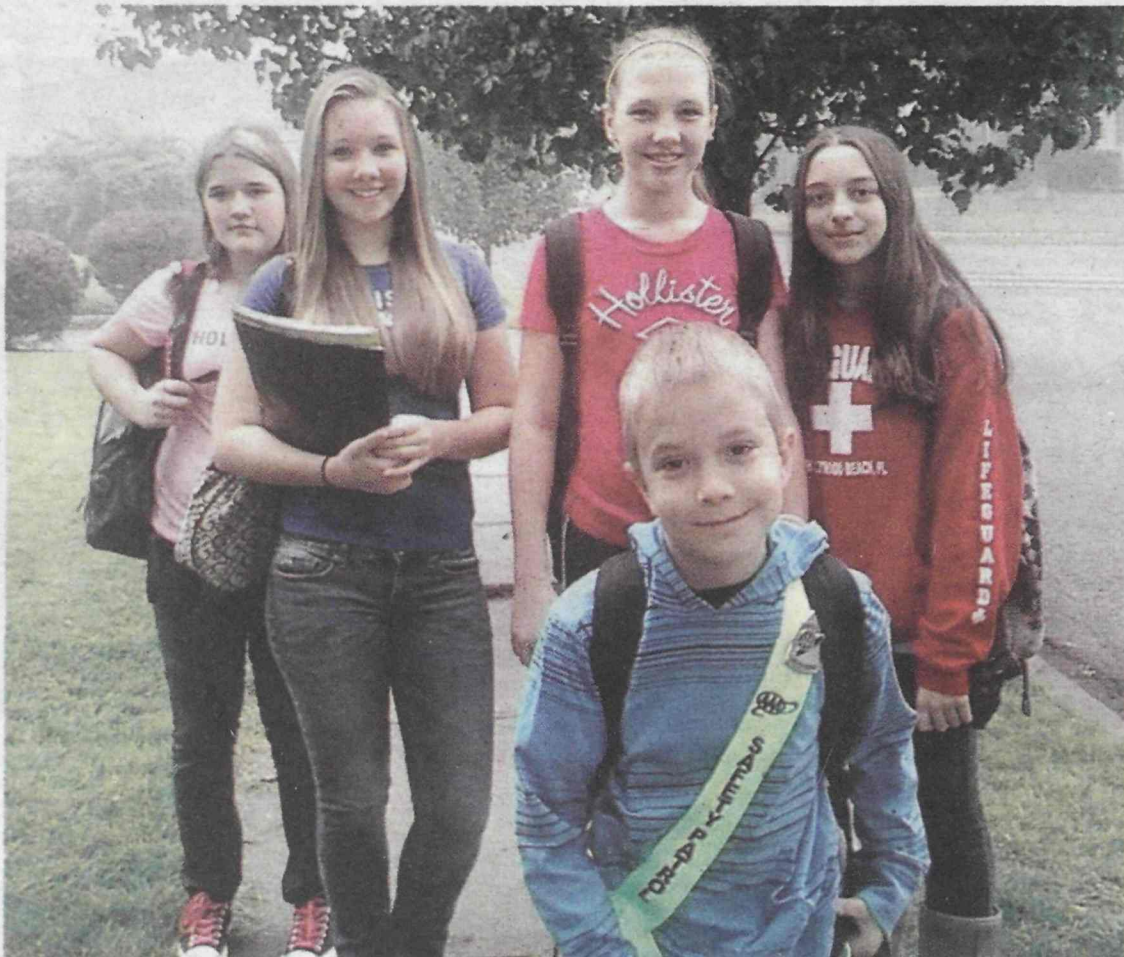
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## Borough Kids Take Part in the Mayor's Initiative to Improve Wellness

The Mayor's Wellness Committee sponsored Walk to School Day which coincided with National Walk to School Day on October 3. A total of 382 students participated from among the district schools and Holy Savior Academy. Some children enjoyed the walk with their adult escorts so much that they asked to do it more often.

Communities and schools are using Walk or Bike to School Day as the first

step to change community culture and to create options for getting around that are more inviting for everyone, both young and old.

Some of the reasons to support walking and bicycling to school are that they bring a sense of joy and independence and it is a chance for children and adults to get the physical activity they need.

Replacing car trips to school with walking or bicycling can reduce conges-

tion and air-polluting emissions. Building sidewalks, providing education programs and adding traffic calming measures are some of the ways to improve safety. Encouraging walking and bicycling to school can help build support for infrastructure improvements in the broader community.

International Walk to School Day is a global event that involves communities from more than 40 countries walking and biking to school on the same day. It began in 1997 as a one-day event. Over time, this event has become part of a movement for year-round safe routes to school and a celebration with record breaking participation each October. On October 3, thousands of schools across America, from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, participate each year.

Members of the Mayor's Wellness

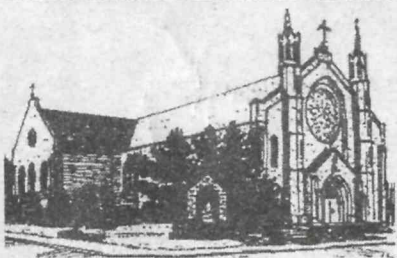
Committee are Mayor Matt Anesh, Carey, Allison Gibson, Bob Jones, Debbie Boyle, Janice Campos, Scott David Jaipersuad and Tree Olano.



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Rev. John Paul  
Alvarado, Pastor



#### Mass Schedule:

Saturday Mass 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

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

Daily 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

7:00 p.m. Monday (Church), Thursday (Parish Center Chapel)

Holy Days 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation—Saturday 10-11:30 a.m. and at other times by appointment

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Join us tonight from 6-9 p.m. at the Senior Center

## A GREAT TASTE



Photo courtesy of Tom Stillman

The South Plainfield Business Association is proud to sponsor the

### Second annual Taste of South Plainfield

Sample international cuisine, gourmet and ethnic specialties and desserts, along with wine and spirit tastings offered by South Plainfield establishments. Tonight from 6-9 p.m. • South Plainfield Senior Center

- Advance Tickets: \$30; At the Door: \$35
- For tickets, call 908-668-0010 or (908) 803-1573.

Participating establishments serving food and drinks 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, Mei Haus, Luigi's Pizza-New York Style, Diosdado Asian BBQ, La Bonbonniere Bake Shoppe, Oak Tree Discount Liquors.

Taste of South Plainfield provides scholarships to college-bound high school seniors.

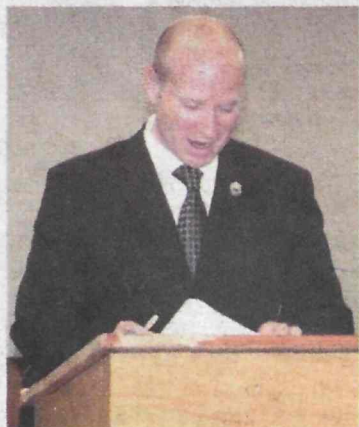
Join us tonight at 6 p.m.





The South Plainfield High School Chorus perform The Star-Spangled Banner.

## UNICO Hosts Columbus Day Ceremony



Master of Ceremonies Councilman Rob Bengivenga, Jr.

Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO sponsored the annual Columbus Day program on Monday at the South Plainfield Municipal Building. Dignitaries from throughout the state, as well as guests, attended the ceremonies, who

on this day were all Italian. Columbus Day became an official federal holiday in 1968.

The ceremony began on the front lawn of Borough Hall with an invocation by Deacon Robert Gurske of St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church and a flag salute by UNICO District X Governor Robert Bengivenga, Sr. followed by the South Plainfield High School Chorus, under the direction of Dr. Donna Markiewicz, performing *The Star-Spangled Banner*. Guests were then invited into council chambers where Master of Ceremonies Robert Bengivenga, Jr. welcomed everyone and introduced the dignitaries and guests.

Guests included keynote speaker Mayor Matt Anesh, Assemblyman Pat Diegnan, Edison Mayor Antonia Ricigliano, members of the Borough Council, BOE member Carol Byrne, Police Chief James Parker, Superinten-

dent of Schools Dr. Stephen Genco, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Nicole Pormilli, SPHS Assistant Principal Kelly Richkus and representatives from the Suburban Woman's Club.

The ceremony then returned to the front lawn of borough hall. A wreath was placed in front of the building by Robert Bengivenga, Sr., Lucy Hudson and Grace Farinella from the Suburban Woman's Club.

The Italian Flag was raised by Robert Bengivenga, Sr., Plainfields' UNICO President John DeAndrea and UNICO Past National President Renato Biribin. The SPHS Band, under the direction of Roger Vroom, performed *God Bless America* to end the ceremony. All those in attendance were invited back into borough hall for refreshments.

The UNICO Columbus Day Ceremony Committee was chaired by Alex Barletta and vice-chaired by Debbie Boyle.



Members of Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO hoist the Italian Flag.



The South Plainfield High School Marching Band performs God Bless America.

## Middlesex County College to Hold Tri-State Writers' Workshop

A writers' workshop open to the public will be held at Middlesex County College on Saturday, Oct. 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The program mixes sessions on writing skills with practical tips on selling what you have written.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to spend the day with published writers and learn their secrets," said Professor Melissa Edwards, who is coordinating the program. "We'll have sessions on blogging, writing children's books,

memoirs, poetry, writing research papers, journalism, playwriting, how to teach creative writing, plus one on how to market your work. It promises to be an excellent program—and very valuable for writers and aspiring writers. This is the fourth writers' workshop; the first three were very well received."

Public school teachers may earn six Professional Development Credits at the workshop.

Attendees may take part in a "spoken

word/essay" contest, in which they present their own work. The winner will receive \$100.

Lunch is provided. Workshops include: Writing about the Law, Ron Goldfarb; Writing the Research Paper, Melissa Edwards; Poetry Workshop, Emanuel di Pasquale and Hank Kalet; Writing for the Stage and Screen, Ben Marshall; Writing About Nature, Gert Coleman; Blogging, Chandra Hayslett; Marketing Your Books and Magazine

Articles, Shirley Wachtel; How to Write Children's Books, Frank Finale; The Memoir, Shirley Wachtel; Teaching Creative Writing to Children, Melissa Edwards; and Journalism in the Digital Age, Hank Kalet.

"Express Yourself" is being offered as a fundraiser to support the publication of the Middlesex County College literary journal. The registration fee is \$75 (same day registration is \$80); students are \$35. Teachers who enroll

five students may attend for free.

There is also a spoken word contest; the winner will receive \$100.

For a flyer or to enroll, please visit [www.middlesexcc.edu/express](http://www.middlesexcc.edu/express), email [lfriedman@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:lfriedman@middlesexcc.edu) or call (732) 906-4250.

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...Will it be you?

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# Sports

**SPHS**

South Plainfield High School

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

### 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

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 15

3:45pm GV Tennis-No. Brunswick (A)  
Bus 2:30pm  
3:45pm JV Football-Colonia (H)  
4pm BV&JV Soccer-Bound Brook (A)  
Bus 2:30pm  
4pm GV&JV Soccer-S. Brunswick (A)  
Bus 2:30pm  
4pm GV Field Hockey-GMC (H)  
5:30pm V Volleyball-Monroe JV/4pm (H)  
BV Soccer-GMC Play Ins (A) Bus TBA

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16

3:45pm BV&JV Soccer-Peddle (A) Bus  
2:30pm  
3:45pm B&GV Cross Country-Colonia (H)

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16 (CONT.)

4pm GV Tennis-Monroe (A) Bus  
2:30pm  
4pm GV&JV Soccer-Peddle (H)  
4:30pm V Gymnastics-Bishop Ahr (H)  
GV Soccer-GMC Play In (A) Bus TBA

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

4pm GV Tennis-Colonia (A) Bus  
2:30pm  
4pm GV Field Hockey-GMC (H)  
5:30pm V Volleyball-Edison JV/4pm (A)  
Bus 2:30pm  
BV Soccer-GMC Prelim (A) Bus TBA

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

4pm BV&JV Soccer-Somerville (H)  
5:30pm V Volleyball-Woodbridge  
JV/4pm (H)  
GV Soccer-GMC Prel (A) Bus TBA

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

4pm Fr Football-St. Joes (A) Bus  
2:30pm  
4pm GV Tennis-JFK (A) Bus 2:30pm  
6:30pm Fall Sports Senior Night @  
Jost Field  
7pm V Football-St. Joes (H) 2 Buses  
Jost 8:30pm  
VB Soccer-GMC First Round (A) Bus  
TBA

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

1pm GV Gymnastics-GMC @ S. Brunswick (A) Bus 10am  
VG Soccer-GMC 1st Round (A) Bus TBA  
GV Field Hockey-GMC (H)



The South Plainfield 12U Outlaws participate in a special tournament at Newark Bears Stadium.

## 12U Outlaws Play at Newark Bears Stadium

The 12U South Plainfield Outlaws All Star baseball team played in a special one-day invitational tournament on September 29 at Newark Bears Stadium. The team played an all-star team from Carteret and won 2-0 in a very exciting game. Pitching and great hits won the game for the Outlaws.

Four pitchers, Jean Sapini, Mike Stanczak, Marco Giordano and Andrew Bisgaard, pitched a combined no hitter and struck out 15 batters. Stanczak alone struck out all six batters he faced.

Hits were at a premium for both

teams; the Outlaws only managed two hits but made the most of them with clutch hits to drive in those two runs in the fifth inning.

Coach Angelo Rivera set up the game and all the players were very excited to play at Newark Bears Stadium and being on the field. In a special moment, Sarah Delrio threw out the first pitch, and even though Jacob Rivera hurt his leg in a Pop Warner Football game and was on crutches, he was still there to support his team.

The 12U South Plainfield Outlaws All Star team players are: Conner (Spi-

der Man) Adams, Andrew (Big Red) Bisgaard, Austin (The Six Million Dollar Man) Feltham, Marco (Beach Boy) Giordano, Billy (The Rocket) Keane, Jacob (Speedy) Rivera, Jean (Mean Jean) Sapini, Jack (The Hammer) Scudato, Mike (The Polish Hammer) Stanczak, Luke (The Duke) Tamburro, Niko (Tremendo) Vasquez, Conner (The Kid) Wolpin and Brandon (Wiz Kid) Wizda.

The team was managed by Joe Scudato with assistant coaches John Wizda, Dave Delrio, Dan Tamburro and Angelo Rivera.

By Gary Lampasona

## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB

### Spring 2013 Registration

Registration for the Spring 2013 season will be held at the clubhouse on Friday, Oct. 26 from 6-9 p.m. and on Saturday, Oct. 27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Children seven to 18 years old can sign up to play next season. Your child must turn seven years old before May 1, 2013 to be eligible to play. If your child is a first time player, please bring their birth certificate.

If you are interested in managing or coaching, please sign up at the time you register your child. If you or your child is interested in becoming an umpire, the sign up sheet for classes will be avail-

able. Umpires must be 13 years old or older.

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

We will hold our next monthly meeting on Monday, Nov. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the clubhouse. All are invited to join us.



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

## South Plainfield Recreation Wrestling Sign-Ups

The South Plainfield Recreation Department will be holding wrestling sign ups on Saturday, Oct. 20 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the PAL Building on Maple Avenue. Registration is open to all South Plainfield children ages five to 11 (as of October 1, 2012). Registration is \$40. Birth certificate and proof of residency is required for first time registrants. Practice begins on Monday, Nov. 12.

Practices are held on weeknights with most matches and events occurring on Saturdays and Sundays. Children are separated by age with

younger wrestlers participating in instructional level events while older and experienced wrestlers participate in competitive travel events. Our rec program is currently the defending Central Jersey League Champions and is proud to have a 30-0 record over the past two seasons and a 56-4 record over the past four seasons.

Come find out what youth wrestling is all about and be a part of our winning tradition.

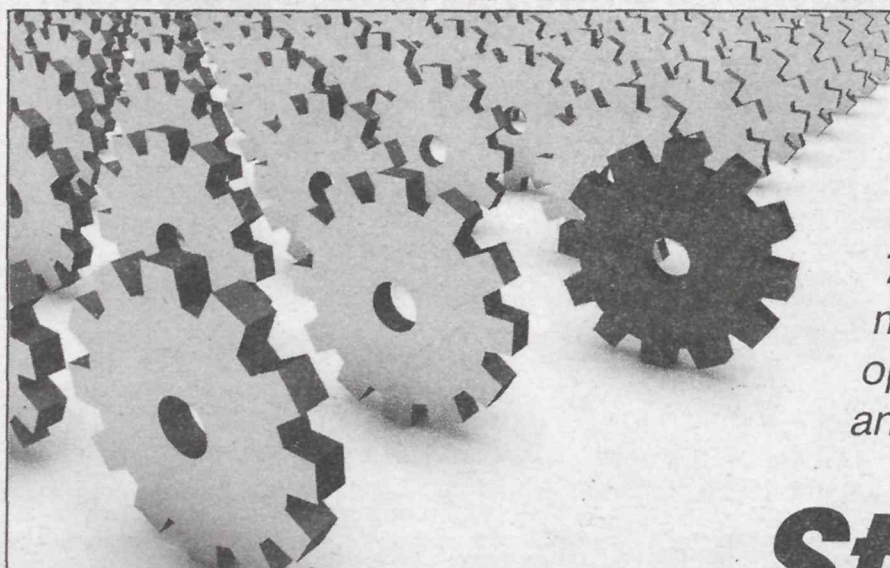
For more information, please contact Joe Sacco at (908) 500-7336 or email [joesacco@spwrestling.com](mailto:joesacco@spwrestling.com).

## Wrestling Club Fundraising Dinner

The South Plainfield Wrestling Club will be hosting its fourth annual Tiger Takedown Buffet on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 7 p.m. to midnight at the South Plainfield Polish Home on New Market Avenue.

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

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



South Plainfield  
**OBSERVER**

The Observer delivers the best of South Plainfield since 1997 and the borough-wide special issue is the number one vehicle to reach the people who live and work in South Plainfield. The December 7 issue of the South Plainfield Observer will be mailed to every home and business; that's an opportunity for access to the 11,000 homes and businesses here.

# Stand Out From The Crowd!

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For information on rates and deadlines, call 908-668-0010 or email [spobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net).



# sports

**U10 SP Fury Traveling Soccer Team** continued their excellent team play and huge turnaround this fall season. After going winless last season, the Fury girls have sprinted out to a 3-0-1 record and are playing with a lot of energy and focus. Team Fury played in Berkeley Heights (BH) and were able to notch another victory. BH took a 1-0 lead within the first three minutes of play but Alexis Robinson alertly tied the game on a rebound shot from the right side. Both teams played evenly to half-time with scoring chances and defensive stops throughout. The second half was a different story with Lauren Hutchison bending one in from a very tough angle that gave the Fury the lead. Lauren was not finished as she scored her second of the game on a PK; it was a rocket off of the goalkeeper's outstretched hands. Minutes later, Olivia Olano scored as she dribbled through traffic and fired one into the corner of the net and the rout was on. With the score 4-1, BH didn't quit as they made a run towards the goal, but Tori Euston and Lena Parlapiano converged on the ball to deny the scoring chance. Their defensive efforts along with those of Nadia Blouin have become the catalyst to several scoring chances as they are able to stop the opposing team and quickly get the ball up to the midfielders. Birthday girl Amanda Yuill was able to capitalize on a long pass from defender Courtney Nagy for a blast of her own to the back of the net. The icing on the cake was put on by Gianna Glover as she converted for her first goal off a chip pass from Livvie Ardito which followed a sliding steal by Delaney Born. Every member of the Fury continues to work as a team, propelling them to a great start of the season.

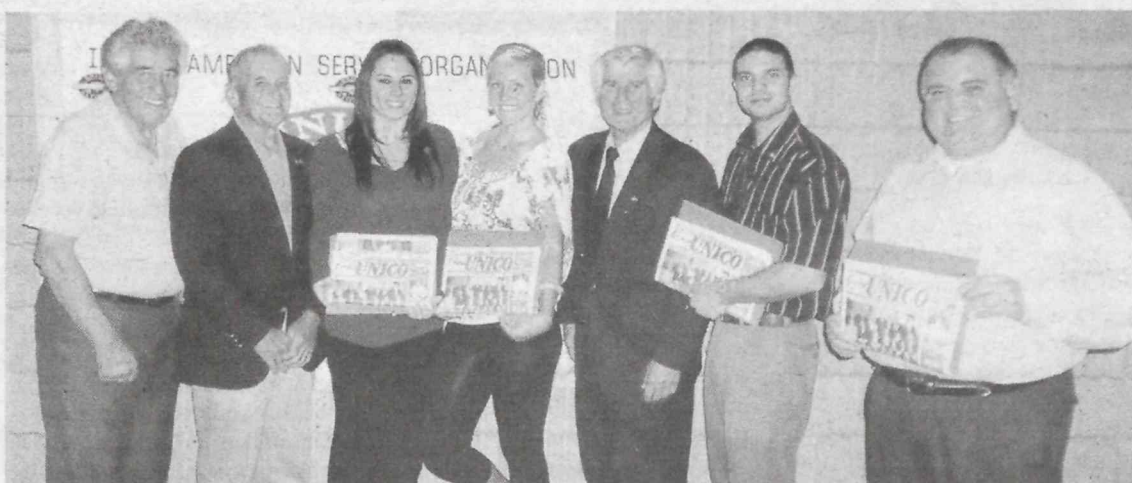
**Team Eclipse U12G**—The rain didn't dampen Team Eclipse's never give up spirit in their 1-0 victory over East Brunswick on October 7. The girls battled against poor weather and field conditions to once again come out on top. Linda Farinella scored the only goal in the game in the middle of the first half. Excellent goalkeeping by Julia Parker kept East Brunswick scoreless throughout the entire game. Jillian Holoboski kept busy throughout the game and showed off some fancy



footwork with an awesome bicycle kick to keep the ball on the offensive side of the field. Great game by all of the girls—Alexis Curtis, Cameron Marks, Catherine Delair, Christina Romano, Gianna Sacco, Jillian Ho-

loboski, Julia Parker, Kaitlyn Smith, Kristyn Smith, Kelly Lizano, Lauren Zultowski, Linda Farinella, Mackenzie O'Brien, Melanie Lizano, Olivia Leonardis, Samantha Pullen and Sarah Gwiazda. Head Coach is Gino Leonardis and Assistant Coach is Ken Curtis.

**Team SP Express**—After opening league play with three victories, SP Express suffered their first loss in a hard fought physical match against Plainfield Elite Soccer Club. SP faced Plainfield four weeks ago in tournament play when Elite thoroughly dominated the game with the ball played mostly in SP's side of the field. Last Saturday, SP was able to compete much better, almost equalize time of possession, create various scoring chances including scoring a few goals. The team showed major improvement over the last time they faced each other. It is important to mention that the team was able to adjust their tactical formation played in previous games to face this tough opponent and did it superbly. In order to accomplish this, many players were asked to make sacrifices for their team and they all responded. Overall an excellent team effort once again. Some of the players worthy of special mention are Andrew Loniewsky who played excellent man on man coverage on Elite's best player, and provided the team with superb saves as a goalkeeper. John Michael Danks stepped up as a team vocal leader and spoke to his teammates before the game to encourage them to play their best. In addition, John Michael along with Anthony Cortese played solid free midfield position and they both scored goals. Karol Wojewodka was also one of the players asked to play tough as a defender and did accordingly to help his team compete. SP played Plainfield much better in their second game this season. Thanks to the progress and dedication of their players, so far this season, SP Express has improved and is becoming one of the best teams in the league.



(L-R) Past National President Renato Biribin, Plainfields' UNICO President John DeAndrea, new member Stephanie Bartfalvi of South Plainfield, new member Megan Boyle of South Plainfield, UNICO District X Governor Robert Ben-givenga, Sr., new member Mike DiMonte of Hillsborough and new member Giuseppe Razzano of South Plainfield.

## Plainfields' UNICO Swears in New Members

The Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO recently swore in four new members at its monthly meeting at Giovanna's in Plainfield. On hand to witness the swearing in were their sponsors.

UNICO National, founded in 1922, is the largest Italian American service organization in America. Its' volunteer members support charitable, educational and community service projects

while promoting Italian heritage.

For more information on UNICO or joining Plainfields' Chapter, please visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/plainfields.unico](http://www.facebook.com/plainfields.unico).

## ProCare Physical Therapy Hosts Free Screenings

ProCare Physical Therapy, located at 201 Durham Ave., will host free screenings throughout the month of October in commemoration of National Physical Therapy Month. No matter what area of the body ails you—neck, back, shoulder, knee and more—physical therapists have an established history of helping individuals improve their quality of life. A physical therapist can help you move freely again without pain and discomfort and feeling renewed and ready to do what you enjoy doing most. They can even help you prevent an injury altogether.

Because physical therapists receive specialized education in a variety of sciences including physics, human

anatomy, kinesiology (human movement) to name a few, they understand how the body works and how to get you moving again. They know how to manage all four of the body's major systems—musculoskeletal, neuromuscular, cardiovascular/pulmonary and integumentary (skin)—to restore and maximize mobility.

Whether you are living with a disease or recovering from an illness, surgery, a fall or a sports injury, a physical therapist is a trusted health care professional who will work closely with you to evaluate your condition and develop an effective, personalized plan of care.

This year the American Physical Therapy Association is launching its Fit

after 50 Campaign. A physical therapist plays an important role in the health and wellness for people age 50 and older to help them remain active and fit.

For information, visit [www.ProCarePT.us](http://www.ProCarePT.us) or call (908) 205-8625 to schedule your free screening. Follow us on twitter @ProCarePTNJ and Facebook at [www.facebook.com/procarept](http://www.facebook.com/procarept) for tips on how to stay fit after 50!

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## Real Estate Market Update

"We are now half way through the 2012 year and we have a mixed bag of real estate information to share with you," according to Guy Moretti, team leader for the Moretti Team with Prudential New Jersey Properties.

South Plainfield has closed 142 properties the first six months of the year as compared to 123 home sales for the same period of time in 2011. This means 15.4% more homes sold in 2012 as compared to the same period of time in 2011. The average home sale in 2012 in South Plainfield was \$278,400 for the first six months of this year as compared to \$292,900 for the first six months of 2011. These numbers represent a decline of five percent in the average sale price in South Plainfield in 2012. This information on the surface

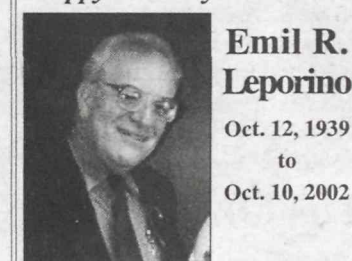
is alarming and would infer prices are continuing to soften in 2012.

Moretti believes that our market area is the first time buyers represent a larger percentage of sales than in the past and more houses in the lower price ranges are selling as compared to the upper price ranges. Higher priced homes have not felt the same increased market activity as the entry level homes.

Moretti thinks this increased activity at the entry level has skewed our numbers inaccurately to reflect a decrease in price when in fact the value of a five room cape cod in South Plainfield is today selling for as much or even more than the same time last year.

For information on the local market, visit [MorettiTeam.com](http://MorettiTeam.com) or call (908) 912-5295. —Submitted by Guy Moretti

## 10th Anniversary in Heaven Happy Birthday in Heaven



**Emil R. Leporino**

Oct. 12, 1939  
to  
Oct. 10, 2002

It broke our hearts to lose you  
But you did not go alone  
For part of us went with you  
The day the dear Lord called you home.  
You left us precious memories  
Your love is still our guide  
And though we cannot see you  
You're always at our side.  
Our family chain is broken  
And nothing seems the same  
But as the dear Lord calls us one by one  
The chain will link again.

Sadly Missed By:  
Daughters: Debra, Patricia, Christina; Son:  
Paul; Son-in-law Noray; Grandchildren:  
Andrew, Brandon, Christopher, Matthew,  
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From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Don't have much space available this week, folks. So, here's the latest news from the South Plainfield Library.

First of all, our regular slate of children's programming has returned. For those of you who forgot the schedule over the hiatus, here it is again: "Storytime" for children age three and over is held on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 1:15 p.m. "Toddler Time" for children age two and three is held on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. "Babytime" for children age two and under is held on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. Each of these programs lasts about an hour, and features stories, songs and a craft activity for older kids. Don't forget our newest addition, "Friday Fun" for children age seven and over. It's held on Fridays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and features games and crafts. You don't need to pre-register for these programs.

There are also a couple of kids programs on the horizon. On Monday, Oct. 22 we'll have a pumpkin painting program from 6:30-8:15 p.m. Kids can stop by anytime during that period. While they must bring their own pumpkins, we'll supply all the other materials. Later that week, on Thursday, Oct. 25, we'll have "Halloween Tricks," a children's magic show featuring Joe Fischer. That program starts at 6:30 p.m., is for children age three and over, and will be held down the street at the Senior Center. No pre-registration is needed for either of these programs, and both are presented free; however, for "Halloween Tricks," we ask that you bring non-perishable food items for the South Plainfield Social Services Food Pantry.

Turning to the adult programs, at this writing there is still space available for two of those programs: "Introduction to the Japanese Tea Ceremony" on Friday, Oct. 12 at 1 p.m. and "Silk Scarf Marbleizing" on Thursday, Oct. 18 at 6:30 p.m. Both programs are be-

ing presented free, but you must sign up in advance.

Meanwhile, the "Monday Evening Movie" presentation is set for Monday evening (hence the title) at 6:30 p.m. It's being presented free; no pre-registration is required. Refreshments are permitted, within reason. (A catered dinner is probably too much.) Please contact us for information on titles, running times and content.

We've got another couple of instructional programs coming soon. "101 Ways to Make Your Job Search Successful" will be held on Saturday, Oct. 20 at 10 a.m. and the computer class, "Introduction to the Internet" is set for Tuesday, Oct. 23 at 2 p.m. Both of these are free; pre-registration is requested in the former, required in the latter.

We have a few club meetings coming soon, as well. Our informal Knitting & Crochet group meets each Thursday night at 6:30 p.m., and may be found at whatever table space is left for them. (Thursdays have gotten a bit crowded of late.) The next meeting of the Genealogy Society of South Plainfield is set for this Thursday evening at 7 p.m. And, due to high demand, we now have two independent book clubs. Book Club I (*The Phantom Menace*), led by Chris, will be meeting on Thursday, Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. Book Club II (*The Wrath of Khan*), led by Eve, will have their first meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 30 at 2 p.m. You don't need to sign up for these.

And we may as well plug the next "History of Ancient Philosophy" lecture by Jeff Cupo. That's set for Thursday, Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. (concurrent with Book Club I and the knitting group) and will focus on the philosophy of Ancient Greece. No pre-registration is required.

That's about all I can fit in for this column. For more details, please call us at (908) 754-7885 or visit our website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us). You can also visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/southplainfieldlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/southplainfieldlibrary). See you soon.

## The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea

The Sacred Heart Altar Rosary 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.

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(Continued from page 2)

Plainfield understand some of the things going on with the BOE over the last three years.

About 2½ years ago Superintendent of Schools Jose Negron was up to have his contract renewed by the BOE and before the vote by board members, Carol Byrne read a beautiful letter in favor of Mr. Negron receiving a renewal. The majority of the board went on to vote against a new contract. Later, the board ended up putting Mr. Negron on administrative leave with pay and hired Dr. Bowen as interim superintendent. This meant that we were paying two superintendents at the same time for almost one year. Also, when Dr. Bowen's term was up Carol Byrne wrote another beautiful letter saying what a great job he did and that South Plainfield was in a bad way when he started. It seems to us that she doesn't know who's good or bad.

Carol Byrne talks about all the money they have in reserve accounts. At the end of the 2011/2012 school year the board was audited by a firm that they had hired. They were told that they have too much money and should give back \$1.3M to the taxpayers, which they didn't do. In addition, they didn't extend that auditor's contract and rehired someone they used before that didn't do a good job.

When the borough council members asked if the BOE would contribute money to help with their share of the tax appeals, the majority of the board members refused. This is in spite of raising their budget by 2% thus adding a tax increase of \$88.49 to the average household. We don't think that's watching the bottom line for the taxpayers of South Plainfield.

Academically, we believe there are a few schools within the district that do not meet the state requirements and haven't met them for a few years.

We feel it's time for new, young blood on the board and we will not be supporting Carol Byrne, Jim Giannakis and William Seesselberg for reelection.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
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SOUTH PLAINFIELD**

To the Editor:

In last week's issue, Mr. Gregov said that it would be "the right thing to do"

## In My Opinion

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

to comply with the borough's request to contribute to the funds needed to satisfy tax appeals. I see his point, but I just disagree.

Generosity is great when it's your own money, but it is not the same when other people's money is involved. To me, this is simple—the BOE budget was established to meet certain education needs, and returning money to the borough means that some of those needs will not be met. In the absence of a genuine emergency, this willingness to subordinate the needs of the group you want to represent—basically, the school children of South Plainfield—to the needs of some other group does not make you the type of representative I would vote for.

Another letter last week spoke about "push polling," apparently conducted on behalf of the Republican party. That writer did not provide specifics, but I will. All the questions regarding Democratic candidates were of the form, "If you were told that this candidate did this bad thing [specifics were provided] would you be more or less likely to vote for this candidate?" All of the questions regarding the Republican party were of the form, "If you were told that these good things happened [again, specifics were provided] while the Republicans held the majority, would you be more or less likely to vote for their candidates?" This is not a true survey—this is an attack disguised as a survey. These tactics are distasteful, and they have no place in South Plainfield. Do you seriously want to vote for a party that sanctions this type of behavior? (And, if you contributed to the Republican Party, did you want your money used to pay for this type of behavior?)

If you're voting for a particular Republican candidate because you believe that person is worthy, I can't argue against it—but if you plan to vote Republican only to support your party, I suggest you reconsider.

**RICHARD J. SULLIVAN**

Dear Fellow Residents,

I wanted to write expressing my support of Paul McCullen for council. For much of recent history the council has been dominated by one party rule with the Democratic and Republican parties failing us at every turn. Paul offers a refreshing option for those who want to have their needs voiced outside of the

two-party system. He truly believes in doing what's best for this town's future and most importantly the residents. He does not have to take into account party politics when making decisions; he'll do what is right and needed.

Paul's running a true "grassroots" campaign walking to have meaningful conversations with you and me. Unlike some of the other candidates running for council he truly believes that he should be listening to your concerns and as a result working on your behalf to make sure that your interests are represented.

South Plainfield has tried the "All Republican" and "All Democratic" routes. Voting for Paul won't be "throwing away" a vote. On the contrary, at the local level we can make a difference and ensure that our everyday interests are heard. I urge you to say hello when he's walking through your neighborhood and vote for someone who truly has your interests in mind. I'll be voting for Paul McCullen, Independent for Borough Council.

**SINCERELY,  
CARLOS ROMASCINDO**

Dear Editor,

We now know why Franky Salerno and CJ Diana refuse to debate: They would have to defend the wild numbers they've been tossing out, and they'd have to present a feasible plan to explain how they'd keep all the promises they're making. And they can't.

Salerno couldn't keep his promises last time, and now he and Diana want us to believe they can keep their super-sized ones. Does anyone really think that either is capable of keeping taxes flat for three years? They've never presented a single idea to control spending, not one. They can't even make it to council meetings. Worse yet, last time Salerno ran he made the same promise and then voted for a \$404 tax hike.

And what plan have they offered to "stop all borrowing," which is another of their promises? They have no plan. It's simply another empty promise. They might as well promise to end rainy days or to put up a bridge over the Atlantic Ocean. We're just as likely to see them keep those promises.

There's a difference between candidates who offer workable plans and those who pander. Unfortunately, Salerno and Diana fall into the latter

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## In My Opinion

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category. Rather than have an intelligent conversation about the issues, they make up facts and figures and then make any promise they think might get them a vote. They are not serious candidates.

**JAMES TANZOLA**

Dear Editor,

Like many of my friends, I'm pleased with the direction our town is heading. I'm sure if you ask most people, they'll tell you that South Plainfield is on the right track, and the people to thank for that are Mayor Matt Anesh and his team on the council.

Two of those council members are running again this year, and I wholeheartedly support them. They are Rob Bengivenga and Dick Frank.

Rob and Dick are there for the town, and they've shown they can get results for the people who live and work here. Despite the recession, spending is just about flat, and taxes are stable. I constantly read in the newspapers about other towns and their financial problems, and it's reassuring to see that South Plainfield is never one of them.

I'm also pleased to see that Rob and Dick are focusing on the right priorities, which include bringing new businesses and jobs back to town. It seems like almost every week or so I see a picture in the *Observer* of a grand opening. It's also nice to see the mayor and council visiting our high-tech businesses and showcasing them. That's the way to get new businesses to come here and that's how to get the ones who are here to expand.

If we want to keep South Plainfield on the right track, we should vote for Rob Bengivenga and Dick Frank in November. To quote their advertising, they are "getting it done" for our town.

**SUE GOULET**

Dear Editor,

It's that time of year again when our politicians waste their money and pollute our town with those ugly signs. Once again nobody listens to the people of South Plainfield—we don't like the signs! Take that money and donate it to a needy organization and do something good.

I realize you won't listen to us because you think the people of South Plainfield will vote for you because of a sign and not for what you can do for us. Then again the only person running that actually cares what we want is Pat DeSantis. Based on what I read in the *Observer* and with talking to the candidates, she is the only one who asks "what can she do for you." The other two parties just point fingers and bash each other. Tell me what you are going to do for me and how!

It's funny how the one party doesn't

like one party rule, but when they were the one party, you never heard about one party from them? Who is Diana Salerno, I thought Franky was running? The other party just comes to any photo opportunity. I witnessed them first hand at an event where they stood around talking to each other and then when the camera came out, there they were. Then they left after not talking to anyone at the event.

I am not recommending anyone to vote for—just vote November 6.

**NORM LOENSER**

Dear Editor,

As a longtime Democrat, I'm disappointed with this year's Democratic candidates, especially former Councilman Franky Salerno. Because of that, I will not be voting for the Democrats in November.

I simply can't understand why Salerno would run again, or for that matter, why the party would choose him. He showed no interest in the job when he was on the council, and now that he's announced that he'll be running again, he's still a no-show at council meetings. His runningmate's attendance record isn't much better.

Gentlemen, you can't get things done if you don't show up. It's no wonder so many of us are saying "no" to Salerno and Diana.

**SANDY CASTAGNO**

To the Editor:

We all should remember that history repeats itself. If we don't learn from the past, we are doomed to make the same mistakes again.

One of the things I am most proud of is my years serving on the borough council. When Jim Vokral and I first ran, both the council and the mayor were Republican. Taxes were going through the roof, expenses were out of control and borrowing was skyrocketing.

Jim and I ran on a platform of restoring "Pay As You Go Government." The Republicans actually laughed at us at council meetings. They sent out nasty political flyers mocking us and saying we didn't understand how government worked. The Democratic team didn't stoop to their level and we had an overwhelming victory on Election Day. Actually the taxpayers were the victors because we didn't borrow one cent for the next six years and we cut expenses and kept taxes virtually flat for that entire time.

It is amazing how similar things are this year. The incumbent Republicans have raised taxes 33%, borrowed over \$3M in one year and are spending like the proverbial drunken sailor. Rather than engage in a healthy debate about their ill-advised policies, they mock and

insult their opponents.

Join me in giving Republican Bengivenga and his runningmate a history lesson on November 6. Cast your vote for two intelligent young men who will put South Plainfield's financial house back in order. Vote for the Democratic team of C.J. Diana and Franky Salerno.

**ED P. KUBALA**

Dear South Plainfield Residents;

I am supporting Paul McCullen for Borough Council this year. Knowing Paul for over 16 years, he has demonstrated a passion for helping others in need and contributing to the well-being of this community.

As a lifelong resident of South Plainfield, it is important to me to have a representative on the council who has a vision for the future of the town making it a place for young families to settle, raise their children and live their lives.

Having been raised in South Plainfield, Paul's continued interest and pride in South Plainfield makes him an ideal candidate to not only represent myself, but represent other residents who want to continue to make South Plainfield a safe and secure place to live and prosper. His knowledge will ensure that the needs of South Plainfield are met in the future for families and residents of the borough. His addition to the town council would add diversity to ensure the checks and balances of democracy are correctly followed.

As a young resident of this town, I have much concern for the future vision and direction of South Plainfield. This is why on November 6 I'll be voting for Paul McCullen, Independent for Town Council.

**SINCERELY,  
THAIS K. PETROCELLI-MIGLIARO**



South Plainfield Elks hosted the semi-annual picnic last month at the Menlo Park Veterans Home in Edison. Elks members served lunch to 75 veterans and their families.

## Time2Shine Foundation Chinese 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 PAL Building on Maple Avenue.

Admission is \$5 for adults and children are free. Photos with Santa, face painting, food, bake sale, door prizes and the Chinese auction, featuring prizes such as theme baskets, gift cards, a TV, a laptop, iPad, Kindle, airline tickets and more.

Funds raised will be given to young students interested in continuing their education in the arts and sports. In addition, we will look to assist sports programs for children where those programs are supported by donations.

Last year, \$10,000 in scholarships were given to 2012 South Plainfield High School graduates from proceeds raised in 2011.

For more information or to make a donation, call Rosemary at (908) 816-0901 or Angela at (908) 400-7259.

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## Automated IRS System Helps College-Bound Students with Financial Aid Application Process

College-bound students and their parents sometimes face last minute requests to complete or provide additional information for financial aid applications.

The Internal Revenue Service wants to help by minimizing time spent on the completion of the Department of Education's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). By using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT), applicants can automatically transfer required

tax data from their federal tax returns directly to their FAFSA form.

This IRS tool is a free, easy and secure way to access and transfer tax return information onto the FAFSA form. Using the tool saves time, improves accuracy and may reduce the likelihood of the school's financial aid office requesting that you verify the information.

Here are some tips on using the IRS DRT:

- Eligibility Criteria. To use the

IRS DRT to complete their 2012-2013 FAFSA form, taxpayers must: have filed a Federal 2011 tax return; possess a valid Social Security number; have a Federal Student Aid PIN (individuals who don't have a PIN will be given the option to apply for one through the FAFSA application process); and have not changed marital status since December 31, 2011.

• Exceptions. If any of the following conditions apply to the student or parents, the IRS DRT cannot be used for the 2012 FAFSA application: an amended tax return was filed for 2011; no federal tax return was filed for 2011; the federal tax filing status on the 2011 return is married filing separately; or a Puerto Rican or other foreign tax return has been filed.

Applicants who cannot use the IRS DRT to meet college requests for verification may have to obtain an official transcript from the IRS. Transcripts are not available until the IRS has processed the related tax return. To order tax return or tax account transcripts, visit IRS.gov and select "Order a Transcript" or call the toll-free transcript line at 1-800-908-9946.

## police report

• On Sept. 27 Wiseman Glenn, 40, of Dunellen was arrested at Bravo Supermarket for shoplifting Head & Shoulders Shampoo valued at \$58.

• A Plainfield Avenue resident reported that their rear bedroom window was found open and a Sony computer and food were taken.

• An Edison resident reported the theft of their Apple iPhone from a classroom at Everest Institute on Hadley Road.

• A South Plainfield resident reported the theft of a license plate from their tractor trailer that was parked at 329 Durham Avenue.

• On Sept. 28 a South Plainfield resident reported that their credit card had been fraudulently used to make 22 purchases.

• A Hillsborough resident reported the theft of a wheel and tire from their 2002 Chrysler Town & Country that was parked at Arista Care on Cragwood Road.

• On Sept. 29 Marjorie Boncy, 39, of Roselle was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and possession of an open container

of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

• The property manager of 219 Metuchen Ave. reported the theft of five plastic traffic barriers from the entrance and rear of the property.

• On Sept. 30 a South Plainfield resident reported that they had been pushed down by two males while walking on New Brunswick Avenue and their groceries had been taken.

• On Oct. 1 CVS on Oak Tree Road reported the attempted theft of Enfamil baby formula and two boxes of Magnum condoms valued at \$75. The store manager grabbed the items before the male fled the store.

• On Oct. 2 a Somerset resident reported the theft of Oxycodone and acetaminophen pills from the glove compartment of their vehicle that was parked at the Ramada Inn.

• On Oct. 3 Issa Jamal Ghanim, 34, of Atlantic City was arrested for theft of a Dell laptop and Galaxy cell phone from occupants of the Ramada Inn.

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(L-R) Councilman and Public Safety Chairman Rob Bengivenga, FM Global Town Engineer John Antola, The Tabernacle Church Sr. Pastor De'Andre Salter, Fire Chief Tom Scalera and members of the volunteer fire department.

## Fire Dept. Receives Grant for Smoke Detectors

By Jane Dornick

The Tabernacle Church of South Plainfield presented the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department \$2,500 for the purchase and distribution of smoke detectors to those who need them in the borough.

As a part of FM Global's 2012 Fire Prevention Program, The Tabernacle Church was recently awarded the \$2,500 grant to help spread the word of fire prevention in their local community.

The roots of The Tabernacle began in 1913 when Fletcher Mills, a young Baptist preacher from Columbus, Ohio founded The Tabernacle Churches of God as part of the Ap-

ostolic church movement.

In 2006, Pastor De'Andre Salter placed his mark on the ministry by changing the name of the church to The Tabernacle Church. The church moved from its Newark roots in the state to South Plainfield to connect more with its membership base which had moved to Central New Jersey.

The church conducts blood drives, distributes discount prescription drug cards in the community, provides food baskets for hungry families, collects and distributes toys for children at St. Peter's Children's Hospital and more.

The Tabernacle Church will have a booth at the fire department's open house tomorrow and will help share fire safety and prevention tips through

brochures, videos and other activities, and serve as a source to answer questions regarding fire safety.

Smoke detectors can be obtained and/or installed by calling the Fire Prevention Bureau at (908) 756-4760 or contact Chief Tom Scalera at (908) 769-9817 for further information.

The Tabernacle Church is located at 1253 New Market Ave. They can be reached at (908) 222-9990.

FM Global is a Johnston, Rhode Island-based mutual insurance company, with offices worldwide, that specializes in loss prevention services primarily to large corporations throughout the world in the highly protected risk property insurance market sector.

## NEWS

### Suburban Woman's Club



Anne Demico and Diane Gallo, co-chairs of the covered dish supper.



Club President Lucy Hudson presents a pot of mums to College District Vice President Rosemary Seghatoleslami.

The Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield held its annual husbands/guest night covered dish supper at the American Legion hall. Co-chairmen of evening were Anne Demico and Diane Gallo who organized the menu and decked the halls with pots of chrysanthemums. A wine tasting side bar added to the festivities! Special honored guest was the NJSFWC College District Vice President, Rosemary J. Seghatoleslami, who brought greetings from the Federation.

Brief reports were given by events Co-Chairmen Grace Farinella and Diana Cotone on the G&G Boutique/Yard Sale held on October 6 on the American Legion grounds and the Theater Party set for December 9 at the Edison Valley Playhouse featuring the musical *Nunsense*.

Federation events discussed included a Communications Workshop that was held at Federation

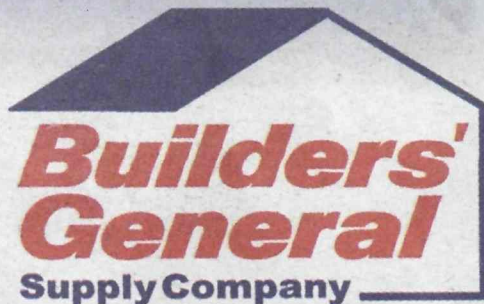
Headquarters in New Brunswick on October 10 and the upcoming NJSFWC Fall Conference to be held at The Imperia in Somerset on Monday, Oct. 22, as were reported by Mary Ann Iannitto, Federation secretary.

A 50/50 raffle and chances were taken on the pots of chrysanthemums. Grace Farinella won the 50/50 raffle prize and pots of flowers were won by other members. Honored guest Rosemary Seghatoleslami was also presented with flowers by club President Lucy Hudson.

New members are always welcome. Regular club meetings are held at the American Legion hall on the first Thursday of each month at 2 p.m.

For more information, or if you are interested in taking part in the club's activities, call Membership Chairman Kathy Tracy at (908) 756-3772.

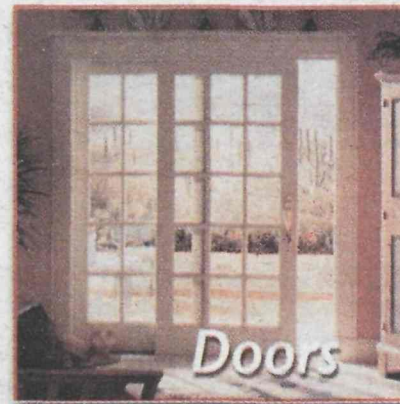
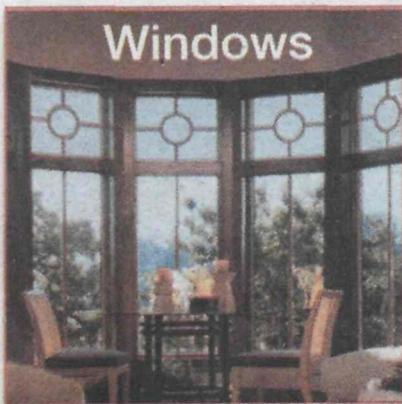
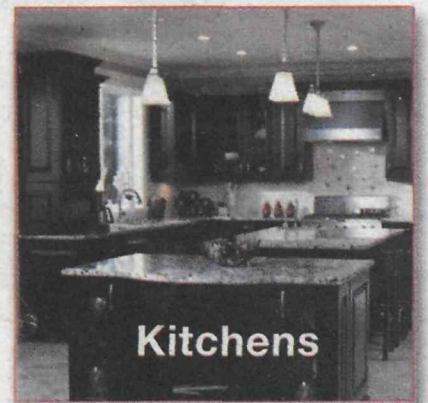
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