

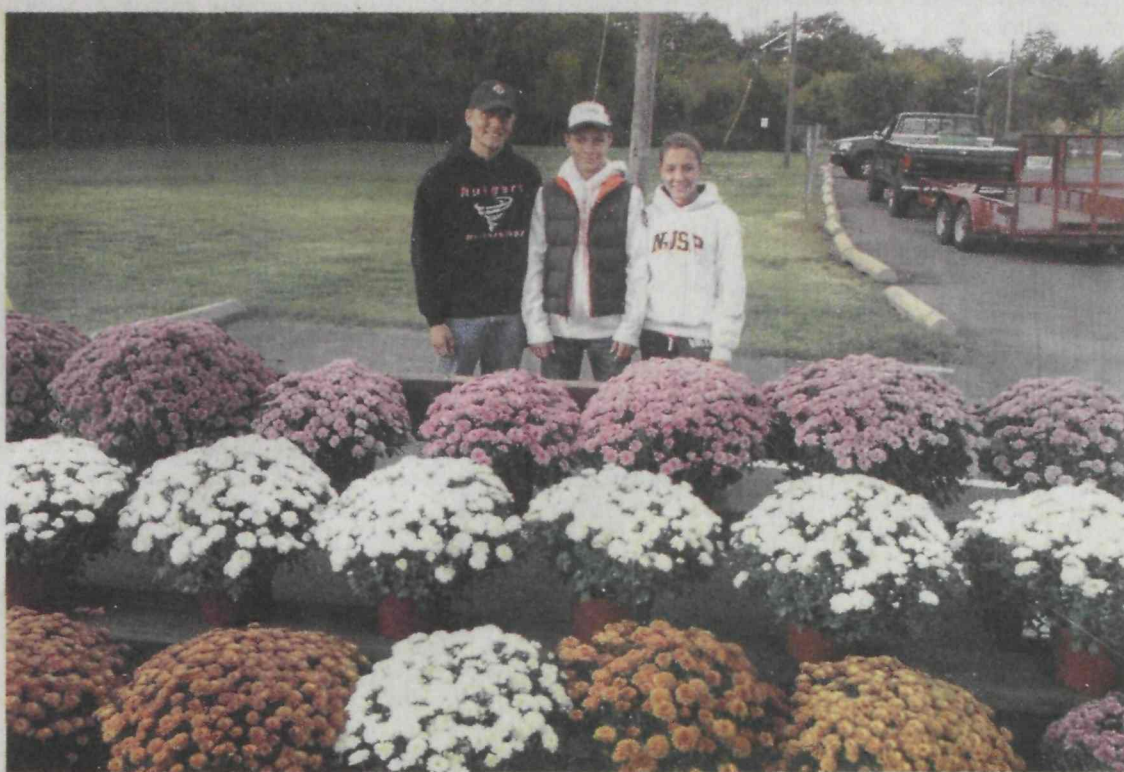
# South Plainfield OBSERVER

VOL. 16, NO. 8

Member New Jersey Press Association

60 CENTS

OCTOBER 19, 2012



Knights of Columbus mum sale chairman Gerry Butrico along with helpers.

## Sale of 590 Mums Benefits Local Needy

For three weeks in September and October the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 have been hard at work with one of their biggest fundraisers of the year. On weekends, the Knights have been at the South Plainfield Rescue Squad selling mums. This fundraiser was initiated nine years ago by Gerry and Vinny Butrico.

The proceeds of more than \$3,000 will go into the Knights General Charity Fund. One of the Knights of Columbus principles is charity. The general charity fund is used to support

local residents in need. In just three weeks, the Knights sold all 500 small mums and 90 large mums. That is an amazing 590 mums sold in just six days over three weekends.

The Knights extend gratitude to all fellow brother Knights and residents who bought mums and for getting the word out to other residents about the fundraiser.

The Knights would also like to thank the businesses that have supported this event for many years. Gerry Butrico, Vinny Butrico and Joe Scrudato went door to door this year

to sell mums to many local businesses and individuals.

Lastly, the Knights would like to thank the South Plainfield Rescue Squad for use of the parking lot to sell the mums.

The Knights could not have succeeded this year without the help of the following Knights who volunteered many hours selling the mums: Joe Belinski, Joe and Nicole Wilkowski, Norm Chicarelli, Cassie D'Urso, Ted Rubino, Vinny Butrico, Gerry Butrico, Grand Knight Brian Cargill and Joe Scrudato.

## BOE Reinstates High School Co-op Program

The South Plainfield Board of Education has reinstated the highly successful Cooperative Education (CE) program at South Plainfield High School. The program returns after a two year hiatus after longtime program coordinator Dee Falato retired in 2010.

The CE program provides seniors with the opportunity to combine an academic schedule with work in a job setting to practice the occupational skills they have learned in the career and technical education program. The program is open to any student who meets the graduation requirements and will be able to meet a program's guidelines.

Newly hired CE Coordinator Jamie Tesoro will meet with students on a daily basis. They will also be supervised on the job by their employer.

Students will have the opportunity

to be employed in a variety of work environments including retail, banking, office, food service or other coordinator-approved job. The related class will meet to reinforce competencies previously acquired and provide for further instruction required for successful employment, career exploration and post secondary education.

The class curriculum provides opportunities that include job orientation and workplace readiness skills, job application process, resume preparation, interviewing, communication skills, NJ Department of Safety Guidelines, work ethics, human relations and managing personal finances.

Students will be provided individualized career guidance, including career exploration via the Internet as well as career awareness through

(Continued on page 6)

## Jersey Oil Robbed at Gunpoint; Suspect Apprehended, Charged

A 28 year-old Jersey Oil gas station employee was robbed at gunpoint at 9:47 p.m. on October 9.

Police say Carl Murray, 27, of Phillipsburg pulled into the Hamilton Boulevard station and requested \$18 worth of gas. When the worker approached the driver's side window to obtain payment, the suspect pulled out a handgun and demanded cash.

Murray fled the scene southbound on Hamilton Boulevard with \$400

and was nabbed a couple of minutes later on Rt. 287 by Police Officer Brian Zielinski and Det. Anthony Pacillo.

The officers found the cash and a blank-firing pistol resembling a Beretta Model 92 handgun in the car.

Murray is being held at the Middlesex County Jail on \$50,000 bail. He is charged with robbery, possession of a firearm for unlawful purpose, unlawful possession of a weapon, theft and aggravated assault.



Election Day is Nov. 6.

## BOE Candidates Respond to Voters' Questions

By Jane Dornick

The South Plainfield Education Foundation sponsored the annual Board of Education (BOE) Meet the Candidates night on October 8 at Kennedy School. The eight candidates, incumbents Carol Byrne, Jim Giannakis and Bill Seesselberg, and challengers Steve Bohn, Kimberly De Angelis Anesh, Michael Gregov and Jeff Seider, answered questions from a crowd of approximately 50 residents. Debbie Boyle, who is running unopposed for her own one-year unexpired term, was also included on the panel.

Some of the questions submitted by the audience included the following:

Why are there schools in the district that do not meet state standards? Seesselberg explained that the district now has a stable central administration and that there has been a change of staff and standards. "I think you will be pleased," said Seesselberg. Byrne added that the staff is doing a good job with the students.

The \$1.3M in excess surplus was discussed. Seesselberg remarked that

the district has the second lowest budget in the county. "You generate money if you run it efficiently," said Seesselberg. Byrne stated that the board has to anticipate budget costs for special education and is unaware of incoming grants and state aid until later on in the year. She also stated that a warm winter last year contributed to lower heating costs than what was budgeted and that some contracts settled for a lesser amount; therefore, a savings was generated.

Seider remarked that although the administration was given a memo showing an 8.7% increase, the board budgeted 13.6% for healthcare costs. "The board told the borough council that state aid had been cut, yet they received \$1.2M more than in previous years," said Seider.

Bohn added, that the memo regarding the healthcare cost reduction was withheld from the board, and former Interim Superintendent Gary Bowen said it was too late to adjust the budget. "We have to believe the administrators," said Bohn.

A question was asked about taking away the public's right to vote on school budgets and the board's 2% increase in its budget this year. Gregov replied that he would do his best not to increase taxes; however, if he had

no choice he would. De Angelis Anesh explained that she wanted to "do what's in the best interest of students, but not raise taxes any more than they have in the past." Seider said that after looking at the past few year's budgets and surpluses, he would not vote for any increase.

Heatedly discussed by all candidates was the issue of the BOE reimbursing the borough for tax appeal money paid out on the board's behalf. Gian-

nakis said that he was not in favor of returning money now and that the board would have to look at next year's budget. "We are trying to be fiscally responsible," stated Giannakis. Seesselberg felt that either the borough was not assessing properties properly nor defending the tax appeals successfully and was not in favor of reimbursement. Bohn supports returning money to the borough due to the size of the surplus. Boyle was

concerned due to the lack of formal discussion prior to the board's vote on the matter. Byrne felt it should be enforced through state law. Gregov thought that giving back the money would be the "right thing to do," and that the board is "sending the wrong message to children" by prolonging it another year. Seider agreed with Gregov saying, "It's unbelievable to accuse the town of not budgeting

(Continued on page 7)



Candidates for the Board of Education are (L-R) Jim Giannakis, Carol Byrne, Bill Seesselberg, Michael Gregov, Kimberly De Angelis Anesh, Steve Bohn, Debbie Boyle and Jeff Seider.





## In My Opinion

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

### To the Editor:

I would like to thank the South Plainfield Education Foundation for hosting the Board of Education Meet the Candidates Night held on October 8. I would also like to thank Bill Cochrane for moderating, Wayne Grenier as the timekeeper and the Board of Education and Principal Lisa Parker for allowing me the use of Kennedy School for hosting the event.

It was an informative evening and I wish all of the candidates the best of luck on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 6. If you missed it, you can view Meet the Candidates Night on Comcast Channel 96 on Saturday, Oct. 20 at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

**JANE DORNICK**

### To the Editor:

Thanksgiving is a great American holiday during which we celebrate the fruitfulness of our nation, reflect on our own bounty and spend time with family and friends. It is also a fantastic day to watch the traditional South Plainfield High School vs. North Plainfield High School football game.

This year at the Thanksgiving Day football game, the school would like to recognize all those who are serving our

country in the armed forces. SPHS has a proud history of graduates who have entered our armed forces and serve our great nation. As a token of our appreciation for their service, all active duty and reserve servicemen and women will be allowed to come to the football game for free by just showing their identification card at the gate. The school will also conduct a small ceremony during the game to honor those who are serving us in the armed forces.

If you are aware of any servicemen or women who will be home on leave during Thanksgiving, please let me know. We would like to invite them to the game and recognize them for their service.

**SINCERELY,  
AL CZECH, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

### To the Editor:

I attended the BOE debate on October 8 and realized something about the three incumbents running for reelection (Carol Byrne, Bill Seesselberg and Jim Giannakis). They ask us to support them, yet what have they done to support us? They hold the public meetings at 6 p.m. (as opposed to the town council meetings that are at 7 p.m.). Six o'clock is not conve-

nient for many of the families in town as it is often dinner time or the time that many come home from work. If there is the need for an executive session, they hold it during the meeting rather than waiting until the end. This gives the appearance that they don't care about our time and commitments to our families and other activities. They also limit the amount of time that the public has to ask a question during the meeting. This seems to say that they really don't want to hear from us. There is no limit at the town council meetings. Lastly, they have given themselves the last word at the meetings. This is when they can say whatever they want and, in most cases, are not held accountable for it.

The BOE incumbents tried to paint a picture that they have done great things for the borough since elected three years ago. As I see it, we have had tax increases each year while they painted a picture of being poor and having to lay off teachers. We later found out through an audit that this wasn't true and that they had a \$3M surplus. Mrs. Byrne commented that the cost of the roofs came from this and that we had saved the money over time to pay for the roofs. This sounds to me like she knew that the money was there all along. They also refused on several occasions to give back to the town the tax relief that was requested. They did not do this and continue to talk around the issue. This seems pretty disrespectful to the townspeople and ultimately to the children of the borough.

Our BOE has lost all credibility with me, and therefore I cannot support any of these incumbents in their reelection campaigns. We need new people with new ideas running our schools. I hope that everyone else can see through their double talk and vote for the other candidates. They may not have the experience of being a BOE member, but that isn't a bad thing.

**SINCERELY,  
AL LEPORE**

### Dear Editor,

I have been following the local election from my new home in Florida. I appreciate more than ever what a special place South Plainfield is, and I really miss everyone back home. We are a community that cares about each other, and that is why I am writing this letter today to urge you to give careful consideration to which candidates will best represent your interests as members of the Borough Council for the next three years. I think I have a pretty good point of reference given

my background in borough government. My mother and father were involved in borough government since I was a little girl. My first appointment was in 1973 when I was appointed to the Mayor's Advisory Board on the Aged. I was elected to the council in 1982 and I have worked with borough councils for close to 40 years in one role or another. I have seen the best and the worst of local politics.

The group that is now controlling the borough is like none that has come before it. They are mean-spirited and self-serving and put their political agenda before all else. I learned the hard way that it's their way or no way. They don't even deny that I was removed as municipal clerk because I spoke my mind and stood up for what I believed was right. I asked the administrator and borough attorney the reason why I was being terminated. Their reply was, "You can ask, but we don't have to tell you." Outrageous, right? No. It's just their typical arrogant attitude. They did the same thing to my predecessor, Vinnie Buttiglieri, when they stripped him of his administrator's position.

But my termination is insignificant when put in the context of this council's other actions. During my years as municipal clerk, I witnessed numerous actions that were questionable at best. This type of behavior happens when one political party holds complete control over the decision-making. If you are with them, you get taken care of with titles and raises and other perks. If you question their actions or challenge them, you get taken care of too! For example, they and their chief administrative operative at borough hall have been trying to put a former employee in jail and spending thousands of your tax dollars on legal fees to do so. The administrator doesn't deny that the employee worked the hours she was paid for, but because she didn't have the back up paperwork to prove it, she lost her job and may lose her pension after 23+ years of service to the borough.

Meanwhile, it's okay that the borough administrator/CFO is making \$200K per year in salary and benefits for multiple job titles in South Plainfield while he also works as CFO for the City of Plainfield, where he is paid an additional salary. Property taxes are out of control for the average homeowner, while the same individual who prepares the budget filed a tax appeal and had his taxes lowered. The purchase of two used garbage trucks from the employer of several current council members is yet another example of

### Submit Your Letters to the Editor

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

their arrogance and self-interest.

They have raided the library fund and are attempting to raid the board of education reserve to meet their own budget expenses. In the last year, the present council borrowed nearly \$3M with absolutely nothing to show for it. I could go on and on. I know they will attack me and say it's sour grapes. But I can't just sit by and let the town I love be destroyed. This is as important an election as will ever face South Plainfield. Sunlight is the best disinfectant. Put two new faces on the council to keep an eye on things for you and to hold the "powers that be" accountable for their action. It's at least a start.

Thank you for your consideration.  
**JOANN GRAF**

### To the Editor:

Facts not fiction—not getting the job done! Last Friday I was coming home from work. I travel north on 287 to the South Plainfield exit. You take your life in your hands trying to maneuver between the large commercial trucks on the highway. I know that it will take me 15 to 20 minutes to go half a mile on Durham Avenue to reach Hamilton Boulevard. But after that, it should be easy to proceed across town to Maple Avenue. Well, it wasn't and hasn't been for months now. I counted seven large commercial trucks in front of me on Hamilton Boulevard even though they are not supposed to be on the road. This was about three o'clock in the afternoon, and Roosevelt School was just getting out. What a tragedy it would be if a child gets hurt because of the dangerous situation

(Continued on page 9)

**\*\* Board of Education Meet the Candidates Night \*\***  
**Watch on Comcast Ch. 96 on**  
**Saturday, Oct. 20 at 11 a.m. & 7 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, November 5

**Public Meeting**  
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**  
Nov. 20, Dec. 4, Dec. 18

## South Plainfield OBSERVER

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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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### Prayer to Blessed Virgin

Oh Most Beautiful Flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times) Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive & forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as your mercy towards me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.



From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Eve Pasternak

October means something different to everyone. Most importantly, for all the mothers, daughters and sisters out there, and for the dads, sons and brothers who love them, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Come to the library to find reliable information on prevention, treatment and care. Use our online databases to find the most up-to-date research news. Ask any librarian to show you how to search for current health articles.

October has its lighter side, too. Lots of people associate it with Halloween, and that's the theme for storytimes this month. Toddlers ages two and three should come Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Children ages three and up are welcome Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 1:15 p.m. for spooky stories and age-appropriate crafts. Even babies can get in on the fun with a special babytime for children under two with a caregiver on Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

More Halloween fun is coming on Monday, Oct. 22 for pumpkin painting. Come between 6:30 and 8 p.m. with your own pumpkin (and a box to take it home in). The library will supply the rest of the materials needed to create a masterpiece. Children don't have to sign up in advance and there's no fee—just bring a pumpkin!

Also, Magician Joe Fisher will perform his crowd-pleasing show at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center on Thursday, Oct. 25. Come in costume if you wish. There's no registration or fee for this program, but please bring a new, unopened non-perishable food item which will be given to the Middlesex County Community Food Drive.

October has been declared by some to be National Computer Learning Month. If you haven't started exploring the cyber world, this is a great time

to do it. Come to the Introduction to the Internet class on Tuesday, Oct. 23 at 2 p.m. The class is for absolute beginners who want to learn how to navigate the "information super highway" and "surf the net." The class is free, but space is limited. Please sign up in advance.

Family History Month also comes in October. The Genealogy Society won't be meeting again at the library until next month, but if you are interested in other people's family history, you'll enjoy the book selected by the library's new book discussion group for adults. The first meeting will be on Thursday, Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. The group is reading *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford. Set in the ethnic neighborhoods of Seattle during World War II and Japanese American internment camps of the era, this debut novel tells the heartwarming story of widower Henry Lee, his father and his first love, Keiko Okabe.

For those of you who like to read ahead, the second selection is *Devil in the White City* by Erik Larsen, a true story of murder, magic and madness at the World's Columbian Exposition, the fair that took place in Chicago in 1893. The group will be discussing it on Thursday, Nov. 29 at 7 p.m.

If you aren't available Thursdays, we would like to have a second discussion group on Tuesday afternoons. Join us for a planning meeting Tuesday, Oct. 30 at 2 p.m. We will be choosing titles and dates for the first few meetings.

National Crochet Month is technically in March, but you can start learning now. Adults and teens ages 15 and over can learn the basics of crocheting on Saturday, Oct. 27 at 10 a.m. The workshop is free, but space is limited.

For more information, call us at (908) 754-7885, or visit us at 2484 Plainfield Ave., across from Borough Hall.

## Junior Journalist Contest Kicks Off Next Week

Entries are being accepted for the tenth annual Junior Journalist program for South Plainfield students. The first Junior Journalist winner will be chosen next week.

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.

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 VHome-town 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.

## Al Musmanno Publishes First Book

Albert J. Musmanno, Sr., who published his first book *Little Poems About Big Ideas in Science* last month, believes that the "magic of rhyme" makes learning about science easier and more enjoyable for students.

A retired Plainfield science teacher for 41 years, Musmanno wrote his first science poem and song, *The Cell*, in his early years.

"When I first started teaching, I was told that the vice principal would be coming in to evaluate my lesson on the upcoming Monday," said Musmanno. "I was worried and wanted to do my best. We were studying the cell and the vocabulary included the words endoplasmic reticulum, mitochondrion, protoplasm, etc. A lot of my students had trouble reading, so I had to develop a lesson that would enable them to be able to pronounce, read and understand the vocabulary and the lesson about the cell. I drew the parts of the cell on the board, labeled them and explained what the parts did. The students copied the drawing and the information. Then, as a review of the lesson, we read the cell poem. I was a lead singer in a band in my younger years and realized that the rhymes to the lyrics of the songs made it easy for me to remember and understand."

Musmanno, a member of the National Science Teachers Association, presented workshops for 20 years as

well as teaching summer programs at Fairleigh Dickinson University. He was sponsored by Merck & Co., along with four other professors, to share his rhyming science lessons to teachers in Puerto Rico for three summers. He was also invited to Korea for two weeks to spend time with teachers and principals there. "I was worried about the translation," said Musmanno; however, everyone enjoyed his poems, songs and teaching method. "They all loved them."

Aside from teaching, Musmanno coached wrestling for 19 years, track for 25 years and cross country for seven years. He was an assistant varsity and junior varsity wrestling coach for South Plainfield High School the first year they won the state championship.

A native of North Plainfield, Musmanno moved to South Plainfield with his wife, Maxine, and two children 41 years ago. He now has five grandchildren.

Musmanno is best known for hav-

ing chaired the annual Feast of St. Anthony at Our Lady of Czestochowa for 37 years and is now a consultant. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus and has held the titles of Past Grand Knight and Past Faithful Navigator.

Due to a spinal injury, Musmanno is now forced to use a scooter to be mobile. His future plans include writing another book of poems and songs as well as a guide to fundraising. He presents workshops at book stores and hopes to work with the local schools.

*Little Poems About Big Ideas in Science* meets New Jersey Science Core Curriculum content standards and can be purchased online at BarnesandNoble.com or Amazon.com.



## Annual Ceremonial Flag Retirement

The South Plainfield American Legion and Boy Scout Troop 207 will hold its annual flag retirement ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 10 at 10 a.m. at the South Plainfield American Legion Post, 243 Oak Tree Ave.

Members of the public are invited to attend and bring with them any American Flag that has become torn,

worn, faded or badly soiled to the point that it is no longer a fitting emblem and is ready to be retired.

Flags may also be dropped off at the American Legion Post on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m. or in the drop box at McCriscin-Gustafson Home for Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield.

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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

### Columbiettes Vendor Night

October 19

The South Plainfield Columbiettes will hold its first vendor night this evening 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.

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

### OLC Blood Drive

October 19

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in conjunction with NJ Blood Services will hold a blood drive today from 3-8 p.m. in the Church Hall, 809 Hamilton Blvd.

For more information, call Dawn Tomei at (908) 444-8994.

### 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.

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 more 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.

### Blessing of the Medical Professionals

October 21

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 3145 Park Ave., will be blessing medical professionals during regular worship services on Sunday, Oct. 21 at 10:30 a.m. in honor of the Feast of St. Luke the Physician. Please feel free to wear your smocks, lab coats, stethoscopes, etc.

### Celebrate "Kenya Connection" at Wesley

October 21

Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave., invites the community to join us in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Oct. 21 at 3 p.m. for an informative multimedia presentation of how the actions of a small church in a small town in New Jersey were able to impact a marginalized village near Lake Victoria in Kenya. Light refreshments.

For more information, call Connie Palmer at (908) 755-3850, the church office at (908) 757-2838 or email us at wumcsp@verizon.net.

### 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. taught by Lori Theiss, certified laughter leader and creative director, AristaCare Health Services. 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 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!

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

### International Food Fest/Octoberfest

October 27

Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish will hold its third annual Octoberfest & International Food Festival on Saturday, Oct. 27 at the OLC Parish Hall on Hamilton Boulevard. Doors open: 5:30 p.m. Sign up to bring a special international/ethnic dish and stay with your family to eat for free, or purchase a ticket for \$10 each. Sponsored by Our Lady of Czestochowa Rosary Altar Society. Tickets are available after all Masses.

For more information, call Diane at (908) 756-7525.

### 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 website. Walk-ins are welcome.

### Cheerleader Zumba Fitness Fundraiser

October 28

Let's Get Ready to...Zumba! Join us at the PAL for a fundraiser benefitting the South Plainfield High School Fall Cheerleaders on Sunday, Oct. 28 from 1 to 2 p.m. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. for registration; \$10 per person!

Any questions, please contact Diane at (908) 432-8853.

### Columbiettes Outlet Shopping Trip

November 3

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

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

### — Out of Town —

### Singles Dance Party

October 19

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting a dance party tonight 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.

### Woodbridge WOWs Open Dance

October 21

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will hold an open dance on Sunday, Oct. 21 from 7:30 to 11 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Morrissey Ave. in Avenel. Everyone is welcome. Admission: \$10 members; \$12 guests. Refreshments.

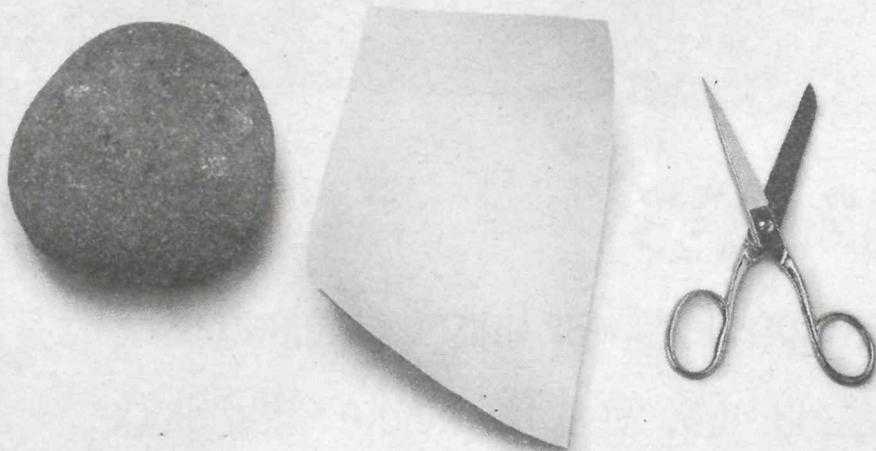
For more information, call (732) 381-3255 or (908) 757-0515.

### Service Auction

October 26

Deutscher Club of Clark, 787 Featherbed Lane, will hold a service

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# events

## Around Town

auction on Friday, Oct. 26 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Price includes German food (choice of four entrees), beer, wine, soda, hot pretzels, dessert and coffee. Raffles for door prizes. Items/services \$40, 50% off.

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

### 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.

For Chinese, the words Shen Yun evoke a sense of wonder, magic and the divine. To audiences who have seen it, they recall the experience of a lifetime—a moment so powerfully beautiful it touches the soul. Discover the glory of a fantastically rich culture, that of classical China, brought to life through brilliantly choreographed dance and mesmerizing, all-original orchestral compositions.

For ticket information, call (888) 974-3698, email [info@ticketingbox.com](mailto:info@ticketingbox.com) or visit [www.ShenYun2012.com](http://www.ShenYun2012.com).

### Dog Ownership Day/ Blessing of the Pets

October 28

Willow Grove Church, 1961 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains, will hold a responsible dog ownership day and blessing of the pets on Sunday, Oct. 28 from 2-5 p.m. All animals are invited (even cats)! Pet questions and problems regarding health, behavior, etc. Dress your pet for the costume parade at 3:30 p.m.; prizes for the best costume. Blessing of the pets at 4 p.m.

For more information, call Herb O'Brien at (908) 757-0009 or email

[hobrien1950@comcast.net](mailto:hobrien1950@comcast.net).

### 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 anniversary 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, soda, water, coffee, tea and dessert.

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

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



Members of the Sacred Heart Music Ministry

### Sacred Heart Music Ministry Records *Music of the Heart*

The Sacred Heart Music Ministry professionally recorded a CD entitled, *Music of the Heart* on October 7.

The Music Ministry is under the direction of Dan Mahoney and is accompanied by Jack Bender and includes an adult choir, middle choir, children's choir and youth handbell choir.

The handbell choir is made up of 15 children in grades eight through 12 who perform four solo pieces on the CD including beautiful renditions of Haydn's *The Heavens are Telling* and the Christmas classic, *The Carol of the Bells*.

The children's choir is composed of 10 young voices in first and second

grades who sang along with the 26 member middle choir, grades three to eight. The children performed two musical favorites, *The Bare Necessities* from *The Jungle Book* and *I Won't Grow Up* from *Peter Pan* featuring solos by Faith Dodge, Julianne DeCastro and Jackson Gaffney. They also performed the children's hymn, *Gentle Shepherd, Kind and True*.

The 40 member adult choir completes the CD with several traditional favorites such as Mozart's *Gloria in Excelsis Deo*, *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* and *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*. The choirs were accompanied by Bill Berg on organ, Patricia Hunt playing flute, John Metz on percus-

sion and Christopher Jones on violin. The adults featured several soloists including Julie Defillipo on *My Lord, What a Morning* and Larry Budden and Nicole Scavone performing *Be Our Guest* from *Beauty and the Beast*.

All the choirs were able to combine for one piece, *My Song Will Be for You Forever* with a duet by Julie Defillipo and Jillian Bengivenga.

The CD was professionally recorded by John C. Baker Recordings; photography and graphic design for the CD cover and liner notes are being done by Mark Rosal Photography.

The CDs will be available for sale in early December at the Sacred Heart Parish Center on Randolph Road.

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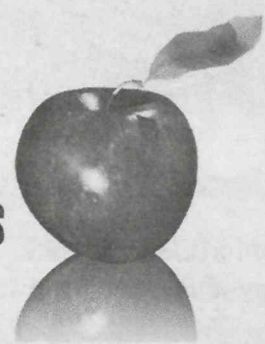
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## Record Numbers Support Local Buddy Walk



Some of the 400 participants traverse Putnam Park at the Buddy Walk.

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Buddy Walk on September 15 was an overwhelming success. The local walk was organized by Michele Both, parent of a child with Down Syndrome. Held in Putnam Park on Oak Tree Avenue,

it began at 11 a.m. to allow time for additional registrants and to give the walkers a chance to greet friends, wander amongst the vendors, dance to music provided by DJ Matt Victoria and make new friends.

Approximately 400 people gathered at the park on the cool autumn day. Thirty-one teams donned in Buddy Walk t-shirts provided by a company used by the national organization traversed the paved track around the park. A portion of the registration fees were donated to the National Down Syndrome Society to aid in their efforts to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down Syndrome.

Adding to the excitement for the children was the arrival of the beloved characters Mickey and Minnie, Donald and Daisy Duck, Goofy, Tigger, Pooh, Elmo and others. The younger ones giggled and embraced their favorites with huge hugs and smiles.

Four vendors offered a variety of

products, many donated by Michele's parents and relatives. They included Laura Cavaliere-Origami Owl, who offered jewelry and tote bags; Christy Lee's daughter sold bracelets, and Barbara Cochrane sold handmade scarves and hats. Guests enjoyed face painting and tattoos. Volunteer Olivia Leonardis earned many happy smiles with her amazing animal and flower balloons.

After the walk, each participant received a boxed lunch consisting of a hotdog, chips, cookies and bottled water. This massive task was handled by Michele's brothers, uncle and friends.

Michele was overwhelmed with the success of this year's walk, saying, "Even though things get stressful for me during the lead up to the walk, I love it. I never want any family to feel alone when they receive a diagnosis of Down Syndrome."

The Buddy Walk was established in 1995 by the National Down Syndrome Society to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October.



## police report

- On Oct. 4 Jose Paulino, 54, of Perth Amboy was arrested for unregistered vehicle, driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.
- Ashley R. Good, 22, of South Plainfield was arrested for theft.
- Cindy Michael Jewelers reported that a Hispanic male ran out of the store with a tray of diamond engagement rings worth \$8,750.
- A Metuchen resident reported the theft of their iPhone that was left on a bench at LA Fitness.
- Haron Navarro Gonzalez, 37, of Westfield was arrested at the MVC for presenting fraudulent documents.
- On Oct. 5 a Lexington Avenue resident reported that a fraudulent

check had been cashed against their credit union checking account.

• A Geary Drive resident reported the theft of the top of a fence post rail from their front yard. This is the third time this has happened.

• On Oct. 6 a South Plainfield resident reported the theft of a credit card and cash from their locker at LA Fitness.

• On Oct. 7 Anna Marchwinski, 20, of Edison was arrested for a stop sign parking violation and an outstanding warrant.

• A Frank Court resident reported that the front door of their residence had been dented with a two by four piece of lumber.

## High School Co-op Program

(Continued from page 1)

guest speakers and external sources. They will also learn how to compose business letters, reports, presentations, etc. Their performance will be evaluated by their employer.

Grades are based on class assignments, projects, quizzes, tests and employer evaluations.

When students express an interest in the CE program they are neither guaranteed nor assigned a job. If they meet entrance qualifications and become employed in an approved training job station, they may enter the CE program.

Participants are expected to be mature enough to enter the program and must maintain regular school attendance. Students are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from the work place, but are not required to hold a license. Jobs must be approved by the CE coordinator.

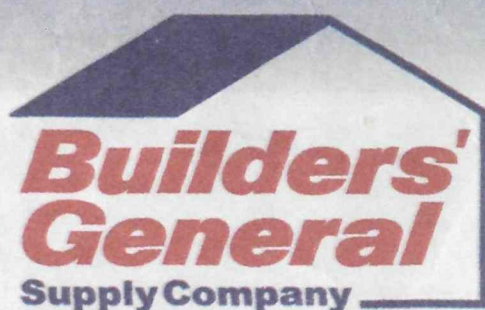
The program requires participants to

work a minimum of 540 hours or an average of 15 hours per week from September through June in order to receive the 15 credits. A verified weekly job report is required from employers to include accurate accounting of wages and hours.

To date this year, students are currently employed at Quick Chek and Stepping Stones Learning Center in South Plainfield, Little Treasures in Edison and Sun Tavern Pizzeria in Fanwood.

Any student interested in career exploration, attending college, technical school or the military is encouraged to contact Tesoro or their guidance counselor to learn more. Any local businesses willing to offer employment to a CE student are asked to contact Tesoro at (908) 754-3420, ext. 533 or email [jtesoro@spboe.org](mailto:jtesoro@spboe.org).

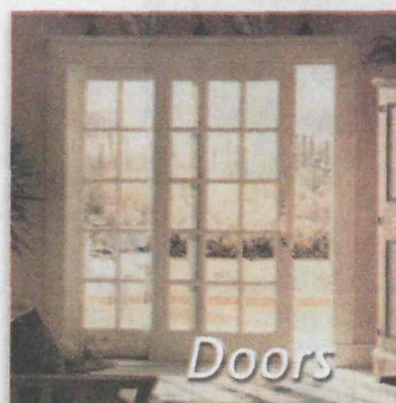
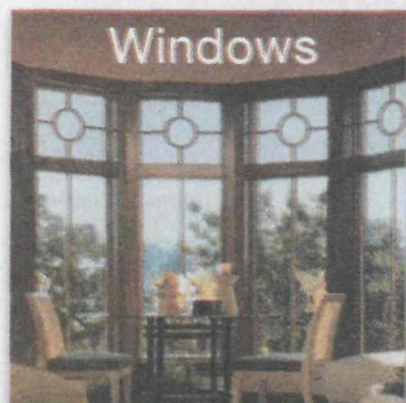
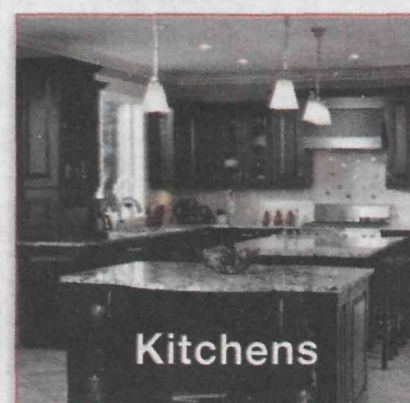
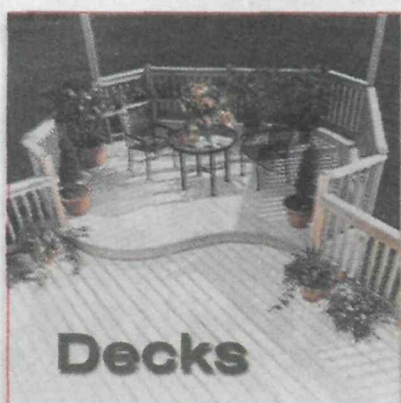
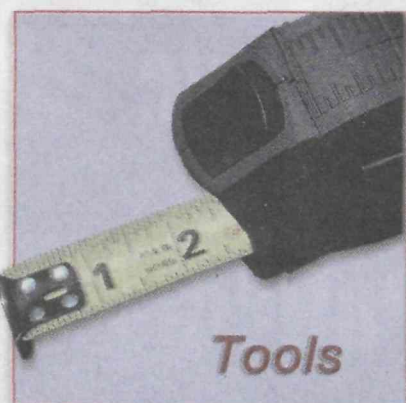
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## Kennedy School Trunk-R-Treat Fundraiser Next Friday

The John F. Kennedy School PTSO is hosting its annual fundraising event called Trunk-R-Treat on Friday, Oct. 26 from 6-8:30 p.m. and you are all invited! What is Trunk-R-Treat?

It is a wonderful event that provides a safe and fun evening for the school-aged children of South Plainfield to celebrate Halloween with family and friends. From 6 to 7 p.m. children will trick or treat in their costumes from trunk to trunk and then everyone is invited inside John F. Kennedy Elementary School for a Halloween dance. The all purpose room will be filled with awesome music and light refreshments.

Admission is \$5 per person with a \$15 max per family. Admission includes candy, food, drinks and admission to the dance.

To make this year's Trunk-R-Treat successful, we need your help! We are



looking for residents of South Plainfield who would be interested in decorating their car for the Trunk-R-Treat. If you are interested in decorating a car, please pre-register with Lisa by emailing her at lgeurts@yahoo.com. On Friday, Oct. 26, drive into the loop in front of Kennedy School at 5:15 p.m. and pay \$5 admission (discounted rate). From 5:15 to 6 p.m. you and your family will have the time (with supplies from home) to decorate your vehicle.

We will also supply all of the candy for the children. Prizes for the best decorated vehicles will be given!

If you would like more information regarding this year's Trunk-R-Treat, please contact Lisa Geurts at lgeurts@yahoo.com or Donna Donovan at dl2donovan@comcast.net. Rain date for this event will be Monday, Oct. 29.

## Gustafson Named President of NJSFDA

James Gustafson, co-owner of McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals, was recently named the 110th president of the New Jersey State Funeral Directors Association (NJSFDA).

The NJSFDA is nationally recognized for providing funeral-related services and programs, including education and information, and an array of funeral pre-funding options to the public and its members.

Founded in 1902, the NJSFDA is a not-for-profit trade organization that is committed to ensuring that communities receive professional and ethical funeral care. The NJSFDA helps professionals and the public with funeral related issues every day, from directing families to funeral payment resources to mediating funeral home-client disputes.

Gustafson began his career in funeral service at the age of 12 after the sudden death of his father in 1986. At the time, he was an ambitious young man helping elderly neighbors with small yard work tasks. Richard McCriskin, who was of great support



James Gustafson

to his family, heard of Gustafson's endeavors and asked if he would like to help in the same capacity around the funeral home.

A 1991 graduate of South Plainfield High School, he continued his education at Kean University where he earned a BS in management science and furthered his education at Mercer County Community College with an associates of science degree and

a certificate of proficiency in funeral services. After successful completion of his National Boards Exam, State of NJ Law Exam and a Practical Examination, Gustafson was awarded his Practitioner of Mortuary Science License from the State of New Jersey in July of 1996.

On January 1, 2007, Gustafson and McCriskin's son, Ricky, took over McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Born and raised in South Plainfield, Gustafson continues to reside in the borough with his wife, Jessica, and their two sons, Jack and Cole. He is currently a member of the Italian American Club of South Plainfield, Elks, American Legion, Knights of Columbus, the Education Foundation and also sits on the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

As well as being an active member of the NJSFD, Gustafson is also active with the Middlesex and Somerset Counties Funeral Directors Association. He has served on various boards and committees and has held numerous board positions over the past 13 years.

## BOE Candidates Respond to Voters' Questions

(Continued from page 1)

properly. The board of education is no example." DeAngelis Anesh was appalled at accusations of the borough failing to budget appropriately and said that "their fair share should come from the board of education."

Giannakis was asked why he did not vote on returning tax appeal money to the borough. He said that "this year's budget was already set" and that "they can't operate with a small surplus."

Audience members asked about former Superintendent Jose Negrón's contract renewal and ultimate dismissal. Seesselberg stated that "we had to pay him per his contract." Byrne said that his contract was not extended and he received no raise. "It was in the best interest to put him on administrative leave, and by law we have to pay him," said Byrne. Giannakis explained that Negrón was only paid for the eight months left on his contract. "We recognized deficiencies. Sometimes you have to take a small step backward to go forward," commented Giannakis.

Regarding incumbents' support of cost cutting measures, Bohn replied that he would like to see administrative costs reduced. DeAngelis Anesh said it was a good idea as long as it did not affect programs. Gregov would base his decision on the size of any particular surplus, and Seider agreed. Seider asked that the BOE and public review where surplus is generated and that there is

a big "spend down" in the first three months of any given year. "The fat in the budget is in healthcare and athletics," commented Seider.

Shared services with the borough was a topic. Giannakis felt that obtaining fuel for buses from another source was more cost effective and that someone had reached out to the borough's business administrator for pricing. He added that the board and the borough currently share many services. Boyle contradicted Giannakis, saying that the council was "never given a phone call."

The rising cost of the athletic budget and coaching stipends came into question. Giannakis thought that transportation for the scheduling of additional games may be an issue. Byrne commented that the coaching salaries have been frozen. Boyle said more coaches have been added. Seesselberg stated that they reduced the pay of the ticket takers. Seider responded that according to the 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 budgets, ticket collectors and ticket takers were making \$70 and \$40 a game, respectively, and that they received a raise. He feels that parent volunteers should be used as is done in other towns. Seider wanted to know why team uniforms are in the budget every year when they are not actually purchased on an annual basis. This is where he believes some of the surplus comes from. "Board members need to look at the budget and hold administra-

tors accountable," said Seider.

Pay to play for school sports was also mentioned, with the consensus being that calculating the amount for lower income students would be difficult and if students pay, they must then play; therefore, decreasing the competitiveness of the teams. DeAngelis Anesh felt that middle school sports should be pay to play, which would free up money for other activities at the school.

The new bullying law was discussed. Giannakis thinks the law is important, but needs to be "tweaked." Byrne thought it was a "good idea" and "necessary." Bohn felt that not enough was being done as in the past, and he would rather have it "too strong." Gregov believes that the law is "carrying things too far."

Candidates were asked how they felt about board members having relatives working in the school system. Seesselberg said, "If a candidate is running and has a conflict, then so be it." Byrne thought that in the past board members have handled the issue well and they "segregated themselves if need be." Bohn felt that there was no problem with it, and family members "bring insight" into matters in the district.

Candidates were asked to comment

on the recent \$1.8M roof replacement and repairs. Byrne said that most of the roofs were done and that recent rains have led to completion delays and leakage which is being repaired by the roofing company. She felt that the board saved money by paying for the work in full and that they are "doing what is necessary and fiscally responsible." Seider stated that the roofs have been leaking for years, and it was the failure of the maintenance staff for lack of reporting. He also felt that the 20 year warranty from the previous roofer should have been enforced over the years.

When it came to why the new school budget was never presented to the public, Boyle replied, "Bowen didn't want to." Byrne felt that there should have been a separate meeting. Giannakis said that the budget was on the school website and that there should have been a presentation. Bohn stated that the board should have insisted on a presentation.

Seider was questioned about the \$4M found by auditors that was spent during the final two days of the fiscal year when he was board president. "There were handwritten checks and purchase orders for goods and ser-

vices that were not received," explained Seider. "That was how a surplus was generated. It was a technique used by administrations that tried to encumber surpluses unbeknownst to the public and the board."

Upcoming teacher's contract negotiations came into question. Seesselberg, who is on the negotiating team, said that he was unable to get into specifics in public. Boyle stated that the board has to set aside a certain percentage in their budget to cover any increase.

Tenure and teacher evaluations were pondered, and the incumbents all felt that the new legislature was too confusing and hoped that it will be fine tuned in the future.

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## Sports

## Clean Sweep for Soccer Teams This Week

**Team Fury Does it Again!** The undefeated U10 girls travel soccer team pushed their record to 4-0-1 as they beat the Clark Comets. It was another tough game as the Fury started slow, but their defense led by Torie Euston, Nadia Blouin, Lena Parlapiano and Courtney Nagy thwarted several of the Comets' attempts and sparked the team. Team Fury struck first as Olivia Olano blasted a shot through traffic into the corner of the net. Assisting on the score was Amanda Yuill from her midfield position. After Clark tied the game, Lauren Hutchison put the Fury on top to stay with a perfect PK shot past the goalkeeper. The PK was awarded after Team Fury players Delaney Born, Olivia Arditto and Gianna Glover constantly pressured the Clark defense. The scoring concluded as forward Alexis Robinson took a cross-pass from midfielder Olivia Olano and kicked a rocket by the goalie. Go Team Fury!

**Team Eclipse U12 Girls travel soccer team**—On their home field Team Eclipse manages to come up big and



capture another win for their record! The girls played against Aberdeen/Matawan and came out to hold their ground. Linda Farinella scored both goals for the win. Once again, excellent defense in the back by Olivia Leonardis, Kristyn Smith, Alexis Curtis, Cameron Marks and goalkeeper Julia Parker held Aberdeen scoreless. In the first half, both teams battled back and forth, and the score was 0-0. After the break, Team Eclipse stood posed and ready to strike. Linda scored five minutes into the second half, with an assist from Jillian Holoboski. At 12 minutes in, Linda scored again. Great job, girls!

Team Eclipse is made up of Alexis Curtis, Cameron Marks, Catherine Delair, Christina Romano, Gianna Sacco, Jillian Holoboski, 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.

**The Sharks win again!**—The Sharks

took their winning streak on the road this weekend and once again came up with a win. Their 6-0 victory was fueled by three goals from Kenny Clevenger and one goal each for Justin Plate, Byran Alvarez and Kenny Munoz. Congratulations, Sharks!

Congratulations to all of our teams, especially our newest ones—Starburst, Xpress and Hurricanes. You are doing great and having fun—that's what counts!

**Reminder:** Team pictures will be taken at the baseball clubhouse on Friday, Oct. 19. The schedule will be provided by the coaches.

—Submitted by Kathleen Smith

## Golfers Compete for a Good Cause

Golfers from the Monday Night League at West Nine, the Italian-American Club League and the Tuesday Night League, the Jim Parnovets Memorial Golf League got together on October 12 for a day of challenge matches for the benefit of a South Plainfield resident who has been diagnosed with cancer.

The golfers chose to make the charity event a full-day affair with 27 holes of golf following the format used in Ryder

By Gary Lampasona

## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB

## Spring 2013 Registration

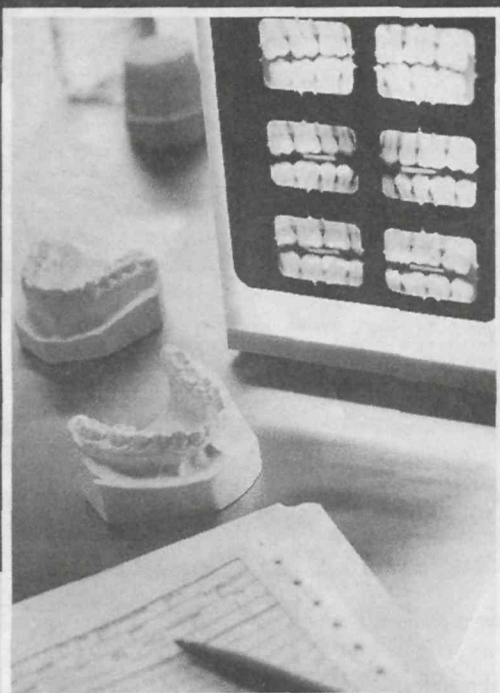
Registration for the Spring 2013 season will be held at the clubhouse on Friday, Oct. 26 from 6-9 p.m. and on Saturday, Oct. 27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Children seven to 18 years old can sign up to play next season. Your child must turn seven years old before May 1, 2013 to be eligible to play. If your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

available. 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.league-lineup.com/spjbc](http://www.league-lineup.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.



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by a final score of 30½-19½. The true winner, of course, was the local resident who will be the beneficiary of all the funds raised by this charitable activity.

Guy Severini, the captain of the Twin City Pharmacy team that plays on Tuesday nights, did a masterful job in coordinating all the day's activities. He received extremely valuable assistance from Frank Capparelli of the Monday Night League.

At the awards ceremony that followed the golf competition, Severini expressed his heartfelt thanks to Bill Castner, the golf pro at West Nine, for making the course available for this event, and to the staff at West Nine who did their customary superlative job in making sure all aspects of the tournament ran smoothly.

Warmest gratitude was extended to the many sponsors and individuals for their support that included: Bagel Pantry, Hometown Heroes, Rich and Pat Steele, Bill Mann, Budweiser, Sal's Spirit Shoppe, Twin City Pharmacy, The Italian-American Club, KC's Korner, Power Solutions, Frank and Marie Matthews, Creative Kids Academy, Inc., Howard Paving and Excavating Co., Inc., McCriscin-Gustafson Home For Funerals, First Class Travel, Pinto Brothers Disposal, Frank and Sal Capparelli of Supreme Silk Screening, Flooring America, Disch Tree Experts, Windows Plus, JDM Trucking and Rigging, FGF Heating and Cooling, Above All Landscaping, Clown Construction (Joe Sacco, Jay Coppola Construction), EZ Pack, Grime Stoppers, Cooper Electric Supply Co., John Gaven of D.E.S.S. and Metuchen Door.

Many of the golfers expressed their fond hope that this charity event could be held again next year for the benefit of a worthy cause in South Plainfield.

—Submitted by Bob Nilan



## Golden Tee RESULTS

George McDonald and Jim Cavallano won the six hole scramble, six hole best ball and six hole alternate shot event with seven under par in the Golden Tee event held at the Plainfield West Nine Golf Course on September 26. Chico Perez placed first, Ron Lonecker placed second and Herb Bradley came in third in the individual stroke play tournament held on October 3. Chico Perez and Ron Lonecker won the team event held on October 10.

Tournaments are scheduled for every Wednesday through November 30 at the Plainfield West Nine and are open to all golfers.

Call Bill Castner, PGA professional, or Larry Johnson, tournament coordinator, at (908) 769-3672 for information.

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## Obituaries

### Franklin Wyckoff, 90

Franklin Wyckoff died on Monday, Oct. 8 in the St. Barnabas Hospice and Palliative Care Center at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch.



Franklin Wyckoff

Born and raised in South Plainfield, Franklin resided in town for nearly 80 years prior to relocating to Shrewsbury in 2002.

During his time in South Plainfield, Mr. Wyckoff served on the police department for 25 years and retired as a detective sergeant. He served as a committee charter member of the PAL Building, was a member of the American Legion Post #243 and also

served as a past president of the South Plainfield PBA Local #100.

Mr. Wyckoff served with the Navy during WWII as a rear gunner. He was an avid hunter and fisherman throughout his life. Frank will especially be remembered for his sense of humor, enthusiasm for life and his passion for working on his boats. He also loved his many friends at the Brandywine Sycamore Assisted Living facility in Shrewsbury.

He is predeceased by his beloved wife of 66 years, Elvira, who died in 2008 and a sister, Jean Furino.

Surviving are two sons, Franklin Jr. and wife Christine of Leonardo and Tom and wife Paddy of South Plainfield; a sister, Edith Egan and husband Edward of Sun City West, Ariz.; a brother, Harold Wyckoff and wife Pauline of Ortleigh Beach; four grandchildren, Jennifer and Brad Augusta, Robbie Gaydos and Mary Hawkins;

and four great-grandchildren, Holly, Erica, Steven and Roxy. Also surviving are three great-great grandchildren, Dylan, Lilly and Charlotte.

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

### Lawrence J. Massaro, 77

Lawrence J. Massaro died suddenly on Saturday, Oct. 13 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.



Lawrence Massaro

Born in Newark, Larry grew up in Kearny and resided in East Newark before settling in South Plainfield in 1965. Upon graduating from Queen of Peace High School in North

Arlington, he served in the United States Army during the Korean War.

Larry initially worked as the co-owner and operator of Milar Electro Devices. He later started Lordina Builders Inc. in South Plainfield which he owned and operated for 35 years prior to his retirement.

Throughout most of his life, Larry was an active and committed volunteer for the Lion's Club. For over 50+ years of his membership, he served in various capacities from the state level (District 16D) to his hometown club in South Plainfield. Larry also had a love of horse racing. He co-owned several thoroughbred horses through the years and operated Hard Four Stables out of Monmouth Park.

Larry was known to so many people, none more important than his family. His grandchildren affectionately called him "Budda," a name which he became known by many.

He is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife of 52 years, Doris (Shaughnessy); a son, Lawrence Massaro and wife Nancy of San Diego, Calif. and two daughters, Lorri Brown and husband Aaron and Dina Caparelli and husband Brian, all of South Plainfield; a brother, Eugene Massaro and wife Helen of South Plainfield; and a sister, Elvira Larsen and husband Richard of Toms River.

Also surviving are eight grandchildren, Samantha, Jennifer, Alex, Ashley, Cassie, Tracey, Emilia and Rachel, all of whom will deeply miss their "Budda."

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

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in honor of Larry's memory to the South Plainfield Lion's Club, P.O. Box 721, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080 which will be donated in his memory to a charity of the family's choice.

## In My Opinion

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

(Continued from page 2)

with the trucks on the boulevard. Why aren't the laws being enforced by the mayor and council? These are the facts.

A year and a half ago the ad hoc committee presented to the mayor and council all the necessary engineering and site plan work needed to get a permit for the Hollywood Avenue extension which would permanently keep truck traffic off the boulevard. What has happened since? The mayor and council fired the engineering firm that had been working on the project for two years and gave it to their own engineering firm. The mayor and council have seen no reason to ask for the committee to meet again, they have given their engineering firm tens of thousands dollars of taxpayers' monies, and no one knows if the permits have even been submitted. These are the facts.

Two weeks ago I got my latest tax bill. I compared it to my tax bills from the past two years. My municipal tax rate has gone up two years in a row. The mayor and council have increased their share of my tax bill for two years in a row. Why should we give them another chance to increase it again next year. My sewer bill has gone up two years in a row. These are the facts.

Our current mayor and council have added more than 14 new full time or part time employees. Some people in borough hall make more money than the governor of the State of New Jersey. And they chose to fire one of the most dedicated workers this town has ever seen—Joann Graf. Why? Because she was an independent thinker. These are the facts.

MIKE ENGLISH

Dear Editor,

I've written few letters to the paper, and I've worked hard to emphasize cooperation since becoming mayor. But over the past few weeks, it's been hard to keep from commenting about this year's election. That's because two council candidates, Frank Salerno and C.J. Diana, have been making the most reckless statements one can imagine. It's finally gotten to the point where I need to say something. They've dreamed up so many facts that I can't fit them all in this letter, but I will share a few with you.

They say my administration has not paved a single road. What about Cherry Street, Tompkins Avenue, Metuchen Road and New Marker Avenue? What about McKinley Street, Oxford Avenue (part) and Rahway Avenue? What about the ones currently under construction (Sampton Avenue, West 8th Street and eight others)?

They say my administration has not been successful in courting new businesses. Apparently, they not only miss council meetings, but they don't read the *Observer* either. Here are just a few: Royal Coffee, Hobby Lobby, Progressive Insurance (coming soon), 365 Bistro, Chipotle, Cups, Sears Appliance, Glo Pak, Pat-A-Cake Bakers, ProCare, Everest Institute, Hibachi Grill and PSE&G's major expansion.

They say they'll cut the sewer tax in half. Yet, where were Salerno's magical solutions when he was a councilman? And does he even realize that the town does not have 100% control over the costs?

They say they have heard a "rumor" about red light cameras. Do they realize the county Democrats (their own

party) just put them up at the Piscataway border?

They say taxes are up. Do they realize that since 2009 the part of the tax bill controlled by the council is down 5.8% and that the part controlled by the county Democrats is up 23.1%? And does Salerno even realize he voted for a \$404 tax increase while on the council?

These two young men seem to think they can simply toss out any statement, regardless of the facts. You have to ask: Are Salerno and Diana that misinformed or are they trying to misinform the public?

MAYOR MATTHEW ANESH

To the Editor:

As an educator, I take very seriously the endorsement of a candidate for school board. So, it is with that in mind I state that my choice in this election is Carol Byrne, Line 6. She has always tried to make the choices that had to be made, whether they were popular or not. Carol has kept herself informed on all the aspects of education that are necessary to the proper running of the South Plainfield School District.

Carol is an advocate for children, for parents, for teachers and for taxpayers. She works tirelessly for the town she loves, and makes a decided difference for all of us. There are no hidden agendas there, just an honest desire to give back to her community and to give children a healthy, secure place to begin their lifelong learning.

Too many times, people with special interests are placed in office; that isn't the case here. Carol Byrne works only for us, no one else, and that's why she should be reelected on November 6. Join me in giving her the place she deserves and the place we need her to be, on the South Plainfield school board. Carol Byrne Line 6.

FRANK FURINO

To the Editor:

I can no longer sit silent and allow the local Republican Party to attack the character of one of the finest young men I know, Frank Salerno.

Let me give you some history. When our country was attacked on 9/11, Frank decided he wanted to defend his country; before he even graduated from South Plainfield High School he enlisted in the Navy. He actually served on a prison ship off the coast of Iraq. Can Robert Bengivenga, Jr. who is about the same age, say the same? While Robert was comfortably sleeping in the family estate, Frank was serving our country. This is not a knock on Robert. Most kids didn't sign up for the service. It only shows what a special person Frank is.

Frank doesn't come from a wealthy family. His dad isn't a big time builder and his mom wasn't invited to hang out with the famous folks at the convention; but his parents gave him something much more valuable than money—it's called integrity and independence. Yeah, he missed some council meetings because he was working nights to make ends meet. Something all of us can relate to. He wasn't fortunate enough to have mom and dad give him a house at age 25. Frank has to work for what he has. But he always gives himself to

others. How many young guys would give up their spare time to coach Pop Warner football?

The thing I find most amazing is Robert Bengivenga, Jr. wrote a letter to the paper just about a year ago saying that Frank was a model leader whose example others should follow. He is now attacking Frank because he knows the Republicans can't control him. Don't let him and his followers get away with it—let's vote a landslide for the Democrats: Frank Salerno and C.J. Diana.

SINCERELY,  
DAVE SUPPA

Dear Editor,

What an odd race for Borough Council we have this year. We essentially have four Democrats running against two Republicans.

I know the so-called Independents don't want to be called Democrats, but they really are. Paul McCullen ran as a Democrat just last year, and he's about as dedicated to Democratic causes as they come. I bet if you ask him, he'll be supporting President Obama and most of the Democrats up and down the ticket.

(Continued on page 12)

## LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD,  
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AN ORDINANCE AMENDING  
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The ordinance #1968 read by title upon second reading herewith has been adopted at the meeting of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, held on October 15, 2012, and the 20 day period of limitation within which a suit, action or the validity of such ordinance can be commenced, has begun to run from the date of the publication of this notice.

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## OPINION

CJ Diana, Franky Salerno - Democratic Candidates for Borough Council

# Republicans Purchase of Two Junk Garbage Trucks Doesn't Pass the Smell Test

C.J. Diana and Franky Salerno, the Democratic candidates for borough council, this week called attention to the misuse of taxpayers' dollars to buy two virtually junk garbage trucks. Candidate Diana stated, "Over the last several months we have heard the Republican mayor and council brag about buying two garbage trucks and doing away with the borough-wide bulk pickups that were previously done by Pinto Disposal. Let's start from the beginning; who first suggested that the borough buy junk garbage trucks? Candidate Bengivenga and two fellow Republican council mates work in the garbage industry. Is it possible that this is a coincidence? An Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request was made asking for the name of the garbage company that previously owned the trucks; however, the borough clerk refused to provide the name of the company. These trucks were sent to auction because the garbage company that owned them knew they were outdated and virtually useless. In fact, the borough started up a motor pool to maintain them."

Candidate Salerno expanded, "Pinto was doing a great job at an economical price. Why, out of the blue, would the Republicans saddle the taxpayers with the responsibility of running a hauling company? The claim that they are saving money would be funny if it wasn't so disingenuous. The Republicans hired 10—that's right TEN new full-time employees at Public Works to run this new

program. They have two employees on each truck plus the new motor pool to maintain them. How about the cost of insurance and gas? In addition, the borough was forced to enter into a contract with Plainfield to pay them to dispose of the bulk waste. This is on top of the purchase price of the two junk vehicles. Have you ever heard the expression of 'putting lipstick on a pig'? Well, painting two pieces of junk doesn't make them new garbage trucks."

Diana continued, "Most importantly, this new pick up program is less effective than the former borough wide pickup. In the past, everyone knew that twice a year everything would be picked up. Now you have to make an appointment for each individual house. I guess they hired a new employee to handle the scheduling—a garbage concierge, as it were. While other towns are exploring consolidation and shared services, the local Republicans are setting up a municipal garbage company. It's almost incomprehensible."

Salerno summed up the Democrats' position, "Sadly, the conflicted purchase of two junk garbage trucks is just one example of wasteful spending. It's no wonder municipal taxes are up 33%, borrowing is up \$3M and the sewer tax is up 50%. On Election Day, tell the Republicans you have had enough of this garbage. A vote for Diana and Salerno will restore balance and responsibility to borough government."

Visit the Democrats website, [www.spdems.org](http://www.spdems.org).



## OPINION

Dick Frank, Rob Bengivenga - Republican Candidates for Borough Council

# Taxes Controlled by GOP Down 5.8%, While Taxes Controlled by County Dems up 23.1%

Saying that results count, especially in this economy, Councilman Rob Bengivenga and Councilman Dick Frank this week urged residents to compare taxes and spending under the Democrats to the results under Republicans.

"The part of the tax bill controlled by the council is down \$100 for the average home since 2009 when the Democrats were in control," said Bengivenga.

"No other town is seeing results like that," added Dick Frank. "Other towns are seeing large tax hikes. Just ask your friends and family in other towns how much they pay."

"We realize council candidates Franky Salerno and CJ Diana gave the public different numbers recently," Bengivenga added. "Unfortunately, those numbers are false."

Every year the Democrats try to find another way to pretend the 2010 tax cut didn't happen. They can't even be consistent. Last year they gave a different bizarre calculation than they did this year. Last year they used figures that had Republicans running the town in 2009, even though there was a Democrat mayor and four out of six council members were Democrats. That didn't work, so this year they are trying to use some twisted formula that compares 12 months to 18 months.

"It's simple," explained Dick Frank. "I urge

people to pull out their 2009 and 2012 tax bills. For each year, add up the municipal part, which is the part controlled by the council. You decide whether 2012 is less than 2009."

According to Bengivenga, not every part of the bill will be down though. "Since 2009, county taxes, solely controlled by the Democrats, are up 23 percent."

Locally the Democrats have fared no better. Last time the Democrats were in charge, the municipal part of the tax bill shot up \$404. Franky Salerno voted for that \$404 increase.

"Salerno and the Democrats had their chance to show what they could do with property taxes, and the results weren't good," added Mayor Matt Anesh, who supports Bengivenga and Frank. "You have to wonder when the same people who couldn't get the job done are now criticizing the people who have."

"Controlling taxes and holding the line on spending are two of our major goals if elected," explained Bengivenga. "We're the only team that has proven results, and we ask residents to support us so we can continue to get the job done."

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

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## OPINION

Pat DeSantis, Independent Candidate for Borough Council

# An Independent Voice for Our Seniors and Taxpayers

Every person has a unique set of priorities as they go through life. We need to educate our youth and make sure they are provided extracurricular activities, we need to make sure we have a safe community with great schools available to growing families and we need to make sure seniors can afford to live in the community many have spent most of their lives.

While speaking with our residents, including many seniors, taxes are of top concern. Seniors do not want to be told false promises for a political vote or pie in the sky schemes promising to keep taxes flat. All of our residents recognize political rhetoric and frankly find it insulting.

To my fellow residents, rising taxes are not viewed as a political talking point. It is the determining factor if they can remain in their homes. This should not be taken lightly, and I feel for far too long both political parties have used the issue of taxes as a political football rather than a major factor in a person's quality of life.

During these tough times, I promise our residents that I will not treat the issue of taxes as political rhetoric, but rather as the serious matter that it is. When our two major political parties make outlandish promises or misguide residents about their record on taxes, it is clear to me they do not understand the seriousness of this issue.

You have my word that if elected to the council, my first priority will be to do everything I can to keep our town affordable. I know that if I am elected, I will have to make difficult decisions and I welcome the challenge.

By running as an Independent, you can be assured my priority will be keeping South Plainfield affordable, while maintaining a good quality of life. My decisions will not be based on political contributions or party. A fresh, Independent perspective is needed in our local government.

Vote on November 6.

—Pat DeSantis, An Independent Working for You and South Plainfield



## OPINION

Paul McCullen - Independent Candidate for Borough Council

# One Party Getting It Done...

For weeks now, we have heard from both parties about what they plan to do for us and how horrible their opponents are. As the election season wears on, I think we're all getting tired of the finger pointing. It is the responsibility of the council to address the town's issues. The only finger they should be pointing is at themselves.

South Plainfield needs political change. Time and again, we get the same old message from both sides. They galvanize us over hot button issues and then what do they do? Nothing, and we get stuck with stagnation. This year, you have fresh opinions and outlooks as to how our local government can operate.

The major parties say that voting for an Independent is throwing away your vote. The truth is, they're scared of a strong Independent candidate. They don't want to see a third party in public office, because a third party means change. And they've grown too comfortable and have held power for too long to change.

Just look at the Democratic Party.

They have chosen two men that do not attend public meetings, do not speak at the meetings, and decided that the debate was not worth their time. Why on earth should we elect someone who couldn't be bothered to do the job and takes the stipend for doing nothing? What does the Democratic Party take us for?

The Democrats have spent the last few weeks writing half-truths and blatant lies in the paper. We don't get to hold them accountable because they've decided not to attend the debate. I've attended the meetings and I can tell you they don't know what they are talking about. Take the sewer rates. Despite their saying otherwise, the sewer budget suffered a massive revenue loss. Would they

care to elaborate on how you correct for something like that? The rates fluctuated between 10-20%, but not 50% as they've been touting.

The Democratic Party blatantly denies the existence of Independent candidates, and think that their candidates will get elected because voters will always follow the party line. What they fail to realize is that people will not vote for candidates who can't be bothered with meetings or facts.

If you don't vote for someone who cares, what kind of governance do you think we'll get in return?

It's time for change, you deserve better. Vote Independent this November 6. You won't be disappointed.

—Paul McCullen, Independent for Town Council

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## In My Opinion

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

(Continued from page 9)

Pat DeSantis is the same. For the past year or two, people have been saying that Pat wanted to run for council as a Democrat. She volunteered for the Chrissy Buteas campaign last year, and she's been a registered Democrat for years.

I'm not knocking these two candidates. They are apparently unhappy with Franky Salerno and C.J. Diana as representatives for the Democrat Party. Who wouldn't be? But let's not be fooled. Both McCullen and DeSantis have roots in the Democrat Party and offer a choice to Democrats who think Salerno and Diana are the wrong people for the job. They are not true "independents" though.

**LORI IAVARONE**

### To the Editor:

Having lived in South Plainfield nearly 50 years, we have been through our share of political campaigns, with each party promising to solve all our problems (without help from the other party, of course). The bickering that exists between the two parties suggests that if one side agrees to support an idea, the other side automatically opposes it. Just once, we would like to see some members from each party see eye to eye on any issue.

When we heard that Paul McCullen was running—and as an Independent—we were thrilled. We know him personally: know his ethics, his intellect and his enthusiasm for what he believes in. As a lifelong South Plainfielder, Paul has always been interested in borough politics, attending board of education meetings as a high school student and then council meetings once he returned home from college.

What we like most about Paul is that he is an Independent and will be able to act on the best ideas from each party—without being a turncoat. A vote for Paul is a vote for South Plainfield!

**EDWARD AND VIRGINIA GREEN**

### Dear South Plainfield Residents:

Two gentlemen running for the town council deserve our votes. They are Dick Frank and Robert Bengivenga.

I enjoy living in South Plainfield, and over the past few years I've seen

things getting even better. When I read the *Observer*, it seems like all the bickering has ended and everyone is heading in the same direction, the right direction. I see our roads getting paved and I see our parks getting much needed facelifts.

I'm excited about the new K-9 unit because I don't think we can ever do enough to keep the town safe. I'm also happy to see that taxes aren't going up. I keep reading in the paper about the financial problems in nearby towns, especially Edison and Plainfield, and I thank goodness that we're not seeing those things happen here.

I feel like things are going in the right direction here in South Plainfield, and I thank the Republicans for that, especially Dick and Robert.

They say if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Why mess with a good thing? Vote for Bengivenga and Frank.

**JENNIFER RISPOLI**

### Dear Editor,

As someone who thinks controlling taxes and spending is vital, I'll be casting my vote for Rob Bengivenga and Dick Frank this year.

I am someone who double checks every figure and watches every penny. Rob and Dick have done a good job controlling spending and keeping a lid on taxes. It is impressive to see that taxes for the council's part of the tax bill are down since Rob was elected in 2009. I am even more impressed that spending is up less than one percent in three years.

I am less impressed with the competition. How could Franky Salerno vote to raise taxes \$404 and try to vote himself a raise all in the same year? I also did some research and see that spending went up \$1M for each of the last two years Pat DeSantis was on the school board.

I don't think the other two are much better when it comes to guarding our tax dollars. While Paul McCullen seems to speak well, he is a notorious big-government guy. We don't need a tax and spend mentality on the council, especially during a recession. And as for C.J. Diana, he attached himself to the Democrat machine, which raised taxes \$404 in one year the last time they were in office.

In short, if you want people who will watch over your tax dollars, Rob Bengivenga and Dick Frank are the way to go.

**CHARLES C. HAUS**

### To the Editor:

My father was involved in South Plainfield government in the 1960s and early 1970s, and we have always been a passionate political family.

I've always admired people that can put their lives on public display to serve their communities. It takes an enormous toll on their personal and professional lives. It can be a very tough job. I remember my dad being out all night during the riots, constant meetings, phone calls at all hours, campaigning and the constant battle with your adversaries. And, he did this all after commuting to and from NYC every day.

I am in awe of people like my father. They are the type of individuals that make our communities and country the great place it is.

A few months ago a very good friend, Pat DeSantis, told me she was considering running for town council. She felt that there were issues in town that she thought weren't being addressed. A few weeks later we spoke again, and she told me she was running as an Independent. I was encouraged listening to her talk of the love she has for our town, and how she felt, as an Independent, she would be a voice of the people. Pat feels she can express an opposite point of view, if necessary, without the usual partisan bickering.

Pat is a caring, dedicated, smart and hardworking person. She would be a great asset to our council. She will be an advocate for the taxpayer and will work well with her fellow council members. Her fresh perspective, sense of humor and passion to make a difference for South Plainfield remind me of how my father approached serving our community.

Please consider casting your vote for Pat DeSantis on November 6. South Plainfield will be well served with her strong independent voice of the people.

**SINCERELY,  
GARY PRENDERGAST**

## Leaf Collection 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:

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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 be purchased 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.

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