

South Plainfield OBSERVER

VOL. 16, NO. 9

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60 CENTS

OCTOBER 26, 2012



Frank Diana

Former Volunteer Fire Department Chief Dies

Frank Diana, who passed away on Thursday, Oct. 18, served as a South Plainfield volunteer firefighter for 41 years, was a member of the Board of Education, Planning Board, South Plainfield Lions Club and served as 1982 Labor Day parade grand marshal.

A celebration of Frank's life will be held on Saturday, Oct. 27 at 2 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 16 Virginia Ave., Manasquan, N.J. 08736.

For complete obituary, see page 11.

Mayor Issues Mischief Night/Halloween Proclamation

WHEREAS, the children of the Borough of South Plainfield are entitled to the fun and festivity associated with the observance of the Halloween "Trick or Treat" custom, that is going from door to door in their neighborhoods, displaying their costumes and requesting "treats"; and

WHEREAS, the increasing possibility of accidents is an ever present threat; and

WHEREAS, the night before Halloween Tuesday, October 30, 2012 is known as "Mischief Night" and has been traditionally a night when childish pranks have been played, some of said pranks have resulted in physical harm to others as well as damage to automobiles and properties of innocent owners.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Matthew P. Anesh, Mayor of the Borough of South Plainfield, do hereby proclaim that a curfew of 7:00 PM on Mischief Night, Tuesday, October 30, 2012, be imposed and enforced for all minor residents of the Borough to protect residents and their properties; and

I further proclaim Wednesday, October 31, 2012 as "Trick or Treat Day" in the Borough with all trick or treat activities to be conducted between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

I also ask that young children be accompanied by parents or other responsible adults. I further request that households indicate their willingness to welcome children by keeping their porch or exterior lights on and that youngsters only call on homes so lighted. I encourage the cooperation of all citizens, young and old, in making this a happy and safe occasion for children.

I further request because there have been, in recent years, incidents of children receiving and consuming articles of food or candy that have been tampered with by the inclusion of dangerous items, controlled dangerous substances and poison and these incidents have been highly publicized when discovered, it is the recommendation of this office that parental supervision be extended to include insistence that children do not consume any "treats" until closely examined by their parents.

It is further advised that all parents follow the rule "if in doubt-throw it out" where any evidence of tampering with packaging or surfaces of consumable products exists.

— Matthew P. Anesh, Mayor

Candidates Face Off to Debate the Issues

By Jane Dornick

Four of the six candidates vying for the two available seats on the Borough Council squared off to debate the issues at the Meet the Candidates event held at the Senior Center last Wednesday. Democratic candidates C.J. Diana and Franky Salerno declined participation, citing not wanting to be subjected to "negative attacks." Salerno previously served on the council from 2008 through 2011.

The event was co-sponsored by the South Plainfield Observer and the South Plainfield Business Association. Moderator was Dawn Clarke from the League of Women Voters and the timekeeper was Toni Moretti.

Answering questions put forth by the public via email to the Observer and in-person were Republican incumbents Robert Bengivenga, Jr., a two-term veteran, and Dick Frank, who was elected last year to fill the one-year unexpired term of Mayor Matt Anesh.

Also participating were Independent candidate Paul McCullen and unaffiliated candidate Pat DeSantis. All six candidates will be vying for three-year terms on the borough council.

The first question asked of the candidates was regarding the candidates' work experience and how it has prepared them to serve on the council.

McCullen responded that he has worked in the private sector for small businesses and has learned to be "proactive" and "prudent" with managing other people's money. Frank spoke about his experience with the Marines and having owned his own businesses aside from managing others for over 30 years. Bengivenga said that from 2007 through 2011 he had been a manager for a Fortune 200 company. At his new place of employment, he manages a \$100M budget giving him experience in controlling expenses. "I want to put the residents first," said Bengivenga. DeSantis explained that



Dawn Clarke (center) from the League of Women Voters served as moderator for the Borough Council debate. Candidates who participated are (L-R) Pat DeSantis, Dick Frank, Rob Bengivenga, Jr. and Paul McCullen.

while on the Board of Education she was the chair of the Finance Committee and that for 36 years she was in charge of accounting departments which included budgets and human resources.

Controlling the growth of commercial real estate and strip mall building is a topic reiterated at debates each year. Bengivenga explained that he wants to "work with businesses" to bring in ratables, but is not in favor of strip malls as much as light industry. "Smart business decisions make sense," commented Bengivenga, who wants to bring down the tax base. DeSantis believes that we are "overdeveloped" and does not support strip mall building. Frank wants to "curb tax appeals"; however, he does not feel that there is a problem. McCullen commended the current administration and feels that the town has to "work with what they have and build it up."

When asked what the town can do about the large number of foreclosures, Frank replied that they



need to "keep taxes in line and watch spending"; however, the borough "can't bail out people," McCullen wants to "keep ratables high enough to keep taxes coming in" and suggested forcing banks to maintain their foreclosure properties so as not to lower current property values. Bengivenga agreed with McCullen and Frank about keeping taxes under control and having banks maintain their properties. DeSantis said that we need to "stop spending more than we have and spend wisely."

The candidates were asked their thoughts on how to make the borough "more desirable to attract more families to move here." DeSantis feels that youth growing up in a safe environment is key and that we have "the best athletic programs." She added that possibly attracting soda or coffee shop businesses would be appealing to young people and she welcomed suggestions from the public. Bengivenga said that new residents he has spoken with brag about the recreational pro-

grams we currently have and that taxes are lower than in other towns. He wants to "revitalize our parks," "encourage volunteerism" and maintain the "small town atmosphere." Frank said that there are many opportunities for children here, that the town is "admired by everyone" and he wants to continue to make South Plainfield a "wonderful place to live." McCullen agreed with the attractiveness of the town, but would like to see the county make improvements at Spring Lake Park. Additionally, he would like to "revitalize the downtown area to attract outsiders."

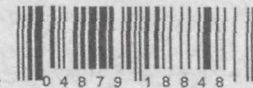
Speeding is a predominant concern of residents and they want to know how the candidates would see the 25mph speed limits enforced. McCullen replied that "speed humps work in some areas and not in others." He would like to add pedestrian rumble strips around town and is "looking forward to the truck bypass." Frank stated that the police chief listens to residents, but wants to continue to make him aware of enforcing the speed limit. Bengivenga said a November 7 meeting is scheduled to determine how to obtain grant money for the Hollywood Avenue Truck Bypass. He added that the Metuchen Road extension was paved to ease traffic. He also claims that the usage of digital signs curbs speeding and that grants were obtained for the addition of crosswalks around the schools for increased safety. DeSantis wants to use the Traffic Safety Advisory group to educate young drivers, and she supports four-way stop signs. She also would like to see better enforcement of the truck ban.

Candidates were asked how they would improve the recreation department. Bengivenga feels that the recreation director does a "fine job." He added that a bocce ball court was recently added to Putnam Park. DeSantis feels that we have the "best

(Continued on page 10)



Pat DeSantis (far right) joins Paulo's Barbeque, one of the vendors participating in the Taste of South Plainfield on October 12. For story and additional photos, see page 9.





Election
Day is
Nov. 6.

Council Debate on Comcast

The Borough Council Candidates Debate can be viewed on Comcast Ch. 96 on Saturday, Oct. 27 and Nov. 3 at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. and on Wednesday, Oct. 31 at 8:30 p.m.

BOE Meet the Candidates Night

The Board of Education Candidates Debate can be viewed on Verizon Ch. 35 on Monday, October 29 at 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
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

boardofeducation

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

BOEcurriculum/technology/student activities

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

BOEbuildings & grounds

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

culturalarts commission

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

libraryboard of trustees

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

recreationcommission

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

taxpayersadvisorygroup

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

siteplansub-committee

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

South Plainfield OBSERVER

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WE ENCOURAGE THE SUBMISSION OF STORIES AND PHOTOS. To have an article published: Type (double spaced) the article and mail, email or fax. Include name, address and telephone number. **Deadline for submission is Monday, 5 p.m.**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

In My Opinion

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

To the Editor:

This past September we recognized Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. For the parents and the children who have to endure this dreaded disease, the month means so much more. On June 9 we held our ninth annual sold out Coaches Care golf classic at Heron Glen Golf Course. With the help of our board, volunteers, sponsors and golfers, we raised over \$35,000 during the event and following months. Building upon our success in forming the Coaches Care classroom at JFK Medical Center in 2010, we partnered with the hospital to take our cause outside and will be building the Coaches Care Playground at JFK. The playground will help meet the needs of children stricken with brain cancer in their diagnosis; treatment and rehabilitation as well as helping other children with special needs such as autism.

We are fortunate to have the greatest group of friends and extended family in our community and none of this would be possible without their collective efforts. To my friends on the board, Ted Tucker, Tony Cassano, Bill DeNitzio, Keith Heckel, Kurt Ullom, Charlie Decker Jr., Chris Hubner and Rich Little, a world of thanks for all of your help and finding the new road to the golf course. To my friend and co-chair, Thom Lanza, who works feverishly every year to ensure our participants a great event, words cannot express my gratitude and what you do for the kids of JFK. A special thank you to our volunteers, Maryanne Decker, Colleen Hubner, Marie Benak, Nicole Benak, Alyssa McCreesh, Carol Ullom, Mary Sikanowicz, Toni Moretti, Chris Hubner, Bill DeNitzio and Laura McCreesh, who are the keys to having a successful tournament. Each year they give selflessly and we are extremely grateful for your efforts.

We would like to thank the following companies that were Tee Sponsors: Andy and Eva Singer, Brenda Vallecilla, Clarkin and Vignuolo, Warren Tamaroff, Edison-Metuchen Orthopaedic Group, Sales Team Solutions, Witty's Liquors, Meyer and Depew, Gray Metal Products, SPGA, R.T. Tech Electric, Frank Licato Agency,

Kraus and Naimer, Nicholas Boxter, Santoro and Santoro, Haisch's Bakery, Nischwitz and Co., Sovereign Title Agency, Lynn Reed, Lombardi and Lombardi, Lanza and Lanza, Anna-belle Lanza, Joan McCreesh, Ron Pacconi, East Coast Title, HBC Electric, Goodwin Associates, Len and Lisa Olim, Dunphy-Smith, Harris Realty Co., McCrisky-Gustafson Home For Funerals, Thomas Ernst and Associates, John Stallone, Jeff McCreesh and Glenn Gerber.

Thank you to the following companies and people that donated auction items: Mohn's Florist, Paul Shane, Larry Cohen, Nancy O'Shea, James Fiorentino, Sam DalFonzo, Vinnie Hager, Charlie Decker III, Jeff McCreesh, Armand Pizza and the Houston Texans. Also a big thanks to those companies and people who donate the door prizes that allow most, if not all, of our 144 participants leave with something and also lets me work on my throwing motion for the year: Mary DeNitzio and Ski Setting, Carmen's Trattoria, Mr. Subs, Joe's Crab Shack, Munchies, Sal's Spirit Shoppe, Bagel Pantry, Sherban's Diner, Paulo's, New York Jets, Imperial Deli, New York Giants, New Jersey Devils, New York Red Bulls, New York Rangers, Giakas Cleaners, Mei Haus, Lobster Shanty, Cindy Michael's Jewelers, Fedway Distributors, Mangia Bene, Tony's Pizza, Mike Alvarez, Flanagan's Restaurant, Kathy Smith and Foot Locker, Hometown Heros, Investors Bank, Vincenzo's, Capelli's, Pizza and Pasta, Fountainbleau Diner, Thai Basil, Dunellen BBQ, Gabriele's, Ciccio's Pizza, Edith's Hair Salon, Angelone's Florist, Somerset Patriots, Pizza Stop, Lou's Deli, Red Robin, Brick House and Park Ave Diner. Our breakfast was sponsored by Gerber Metals, with donuts provided by Haisch's and bagels by the Bagel Pantry.

We would also like to thank JFK for providing all of the participants and volunteers with golf shirts. The putting contest was sponsored by EWC Controls, and the chipping contest was sponsored by Duro Dyne. Our gold sponsors were The Newmark Schools and Southwark Metal Prod-

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.

ucts and our platinum sponsor was L and F Martin Landscape Company.

In addition to these sponsors, we were also the fortunate recipient of a Platinum Plus donation from the Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation as they dissolved their charity. The Moretti Family and all those that worked feverishly throughout the years should be proud of their accomplishments. We are blessed and proud to carry on their tradition.

As we enter our 13th year of existence, we are extremely proud of all that we have accomplished and look forward to better things ahead. While this was our first RH-less year, we know that prayers are answered. To the Big Guy, thanks for the good weather, and for continuing to shine down. To the hundreds of people that make this charity a success—thank you.

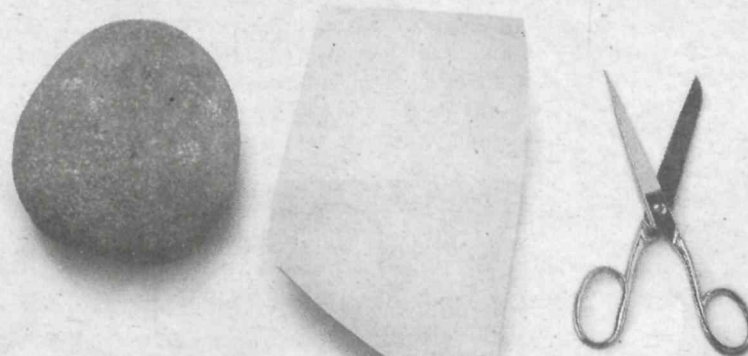
TOM MCCREESH

Fellow South Plainfield Residents:

In a little over a week it will be Election Day. This is a defining moment not only for our country, but for our hometown. President Obama, Senator Menendez and Congressman Pallone have a record of fighting for middle class families. Under our president's leadership, with the support of Democrats like Senator Menendez and Congressman Pallone, our country is rebounding from the disastrous economic policies of the Bush Administration and we are once again a respected and admired member of the international community. President Obama, Senator Menendez and Congressman Pallone have earned our support.

(Continued on page 7)

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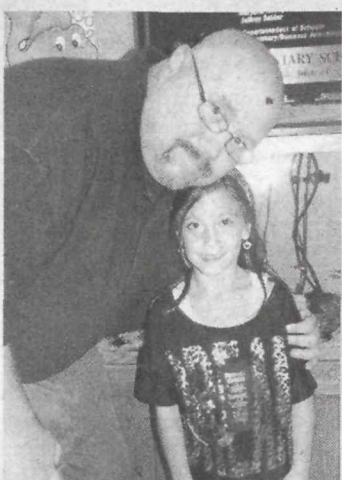
This Week's Junior Journalist winners is...

Gianna Tomei

Gianna Tomei, Roosevelt School third grader, is this year's first winner in the Junior Journalist program. Her untitled poem has earned Gianna dinner for her family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

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

At the end of the school year in May, Hometown Heros and the *Observer* host a banquet celebrating all the weekly winners and their families. Students are recognized by the mayor and the state assembly.



Junior Journalist winner Gianna Tomei with teacher Mike Bertram.

A \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond is awarded to one student by Hometown Heros; additional prizes are also awarded.

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

One scary night,
I was going down into the woods.
I saw spooky eyes on the fence.
I couldn't see the house.
The fog was glowing like the moonlight.
The clouds were soaring ghosts.
In the graveyard, I touched ketchup on the tombstones.
THAT'S NOT KETCHUP!
That's blood! AAaaaaa!
I don't want to go inside.
I feel zombies grabbing me by the arm.
I snap free.
Enter if you dare.

— Gianna Tomei —

First Baptist Homecoming Sunday Service

Homecoming Sunday will be held on Sunday, Nov. 18 at 10:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield located at 201 Hamilton Blvd. A pot luck luncheon will be offered at the conclusion of the service along with a special display entitled

"Visual Expressions of Faith." If attendance is not possible please feel free to send a letter of greeting.

To RSVP for the pot luck lunch or for more information, leave a message at (908) 753-2382 for the Homecoming Committee.

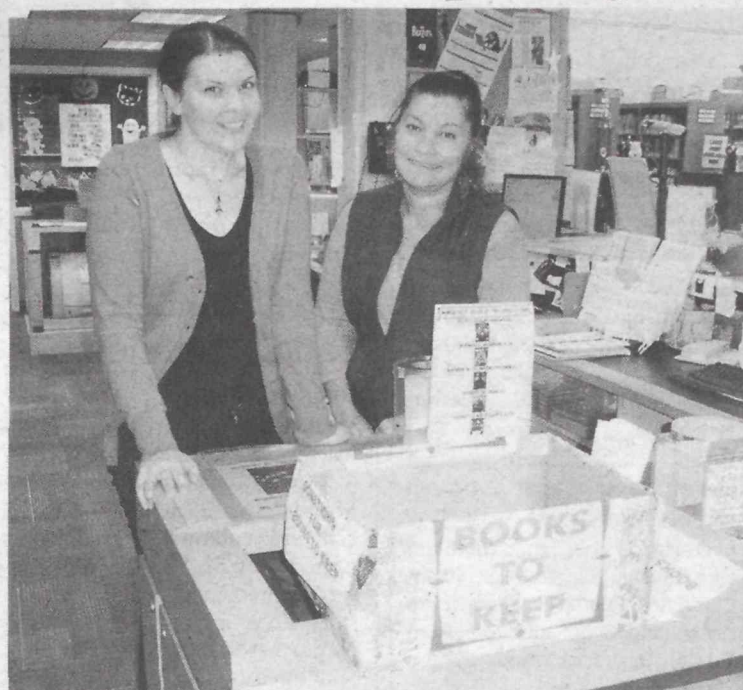
Library Joins in Books to Keep Program

This year, the South Plainfield Public Library is once again participating in the Books to Keep program.

Since 1990, the Books to Keep program has collected and distributed new hardcover and paperback books for needy children in Middlesex County during the holiday season. Founded by the Libraries of Middlesex, a consortium of New Jersey Public Libraries and the Middlesex County College Library, Books to Keep distributes books through area service clubs and social service agencies. Nearly 180,000 books have been collected and distributed since the program's inception.

The South Plainfield Library has been an active participant in the program for many years. Senior Library Assistant Kenneth Morgan coordinates the program for South Plainfield. "This year, we're starting our collection a bit earlier than usual. We hope this will give the community more of an opportunity to donate." Morgan is optimistic about this year's drive, saying, "Over 340 books were donated to the program from South Plainfield, and I'm confident we'll do even better this year. Our patrons have always been very generous in giving to this worthy cause."

The library will be accepting donations of new books, both hardcover and paperback, for children and young



Library Director Linda Hansen and Children's Librarian Mija Clemente

adults. The drive will run in South Plainfield until December 3. Monetary donations are also being accepted. Donation envelopes are available next to the Books to Keep collection box, near the library's Circulation Desk. Contributions may be made payable to Libraries of Middlesex and mailed to Books to Keep, c/o Monroe Township Library, 4 Municipal Plaza,

Monroe Township, N.J. 08831.

South Plainfield Free Public Library is located at 2484 Plainfield Ave.

For more information, call the library at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Morgan, or visit the library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. More information is also available on the library's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/southplainfieldlibrary.

Kennedy School Trunk-R-Treat Fundraiser Tonight

The John F Kennedy School PTSO is hosting the annual Trunk-R-Treat fundraising event called on Friday, Oct. 26 from 6-8:30 p.m., and all are invited! Trunk-R-Treat 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 'r Treat in their costumes from trunk to trunk and then everyone is invited inside 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.

You can drive into the loop in front of Kennedy School tonight

at 5:15 p.m. and pay \$5 admission (discounted rate). You and your family will have until 6 p.m. to decorate your vehicle with supplies from home.

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 is Monday, Oct. 29.

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events

Around Town

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

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

Pilgrim Covenant Harvest Festival

October 27

The first Harvest Festival will be held at Pilgrim Covenant Church, 3121 Park Ave. on Saturday, Oct. 27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is sponsored by Pilgrim Covenant Church and Iglesia Nuevo Pacto (New Covenant Church), a new Latino Christian church. Attractions include a bouncy house, face painting, vendors, yard sale items, karaoke and dance.

Proceeds will help to support handicapped accessibility to the church and Fellowship Hall. Admission is free.

For more information, contact Chris Sienkiewski at (908) 561-8057 or Teresa M. Rodriguez at (732) 331-5485.

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.

Halloween Costume Party at Combinations

October 27

Combinations Martial Arts, located at 901 Montrose Ave., will host a Halloween costume party featuring introductory martial arts training, games, Halloween safety advice and self-defense tactics for kids on Saturday, Oct. 27 from 1 to 3 p.m. All are welcome.

For more information, call (347) 203-6297.

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

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

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.

Sacred Heart: Matters Of Life & Death

October 30, November 5, 13

A three-part presentation on life's important issues surrounding death and dying will be presented at Sacred Heart Church, 149 South Plainfield Ave., by Rev. John P. Alvarado, pastor; Sr. Kathleen Rooney, SSJ, pastoral associate; Lynda Yelenovsky, business administrator-Holy Redeemer Cemetery; and other guest speakers on Tuesday, Oct. 30 from 7-8:30 p.m.; Monday, Nov. 5 from 7:30-9 p.m.; and Tuesday, Nov. 13 from 7-8:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

For more information, call (908) 756-0633.

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.

VFW Country Breakfast

November 4

The South Plainfield VFW, 155

Front St., will hold a country breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 4 from 8 to 11 a.m.

Come in and maybe you will win a free breakfast. The public is welcome. Any questions, call (908) 668-0751.

Irish Wake Show

November 5

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

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

Knights of Columbus Annual Trivia Night

November 10

South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 will host its annual Trivia Night on Saturday, Nov. 10 at the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. Doors open: 6:30 p.m.; first question at 7:02 p.m. sharp!

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

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

Annual Ceremonial Flag Retirement

November 10

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

Members of the public are invited to bring American Flags ready to be retired that have become torn, worn, faded or badly soiled to the point that it is no longer a fitting emblem.

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.

Food and Bake Sale

November 17

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

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

Wrestling Club Fundraising Dinner

November 17

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

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

— Out of Town —

Service Auction

October 26

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

An Evening of Chocolate, Wine and Murder!

October 27

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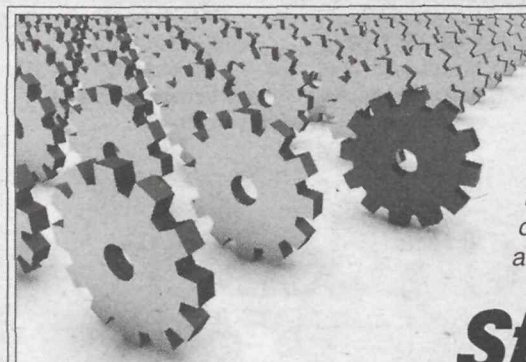
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South Plainfield
OBSERVER

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

Stand Out From The Crowd!

Don't miss this opportunity... the next borough-wide issue hits newsstands December 7.

For information on rates and deadlines, call 908-668-0010 or email spobserver@comcast.net.

events

Around Town

Fanwood Presbyterian Church, 74 S. Martine Ave., invites members of the community to join in the fun for a live show by The Murder Mystery Company, the nation's most popular mystery group, on Saturday, Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m. Wine and chocolate desserts will be served. Tickets: \$36.

To purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.sholomnj.org or call (908) 889-4900. All funds raised will be used for Temple Sholom's numerous community, educational and religious programs.

Family Fitness and Nutrition Festival

October 27

The Newark Museum will host a free family fitness and nutrition festival on Saturday, Oct. 27 from 12-4:30 p.m. Health professionals will be on hand to help determine body mass index (BMI), athletic assessment, health and wellness screening. Zumba dance and Yoga classes, play games, learn about healthy choices in nutrition and exercise.

For more information, visit www.NewarkMuseum.org.

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.

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 or visit 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.

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.

Morristown Airport Open House

November 3

American Flyers Flight School at the Morristown Airport will be hosting an open house and barbeque on Saturday, Nov. 3. American Flyers is welcoming everyone with an interest in aviation to come to the airport for a fun-filled and informative afternoon. This free event begins at noon with a BBQ lunch, and continues with a facility tour and a presentation by a certificated flight instructor.

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

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.

Harvey Stein to Speak at MCC

November 5

World-renowned photographer Harvey Stein will present an illustrated talk on his book, *Coney Island: 40 Years*, at Middlesex County College on Monday, Nov. 5 from 5-7 p.m. in the Corral Restaurant on the top floor of the College Center on the Edison campus. Free and open to the public.

St. Helen's Caregiver Support Group

November 5

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

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

Floral Fashion Show

November 5

"A Floral Fashion Show-Intriguing Wearable Fashion Designs Inspired by Nature" will be presented at the

next meeting of the Garden Club of Metuchen on Monday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, corner of Rt. 27 and Oak Avenues. Light refreshments. All are welcome to attend.

For more information, please email gsdittman@optimum.net.

Tastefully Simple Demonstration

November 7

The Metuchen-Edison Women's Club will hold a free Tastefully Simple demonstration and fundraiser on Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at The Heritage at Clara Barton, 1015 Amboy Ave. in Edison.

Cassie Catenaro, senior consultant, will take us on a taste-testing tour of her delectable selection of easy-to-prepare foods. Treat yourself to these delicious gifts which are a perfect complement for your dinner table and for holiday entertaining.

For more information, call Diana at (732) 548-0925. Open to the public.

Johanna's Creations to Host Open House

November 10 & 11

Johanna's Creations will host a Fall Open House on Saturday, Nov. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 11 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Vermeule Mansion, 614 Greenbrook Rd. in North Plainfield.

Visitors will have the opportunity to see the new showroom with numerous examples of framed prints and memorabilia, watch demonstrations of a computerized mat cutter, production of a photo into a large poster print and understand how visualization software helps customers frame their art and memorabilia. There will also be refreshments and giveaways.

Johanna's Creations is located in the Vermeule Mansion, home of the Fleetwood Museum of Art and Photographica, which will be open.

For more information, call Johanna Salvemini at (908) 757-6976 or email jo@johannas.com.

Depression/Bipolar Support Meeting

November 14

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance will feature Richard DiTuri, M.D. at its monthly meeting at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd. on Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 7:45 p.m. His presentation will be followed by an extensive question and answer period about "Mood Disorders in Children and Adolescents."

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

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OPINION

Dick Frank, Rob Bengivenga - Republican Candidates for Borough Council

Salerno Needs to Explain Voting For \$404 Tax Hike in 2009

In 2009 when Democrats controlled the council, taxes shot up \$404. After promising "no tax increase" during his campaign in 2008, then-Councilman Franky Salerno voted for that increase.

"It's troubling," said Councilman Rob Bengivenga, who is running for re-election. "The public deserves to know why he voted for a \$404 tax hike, but he and C.J. Diana ducked the debate, so that question remains unanswered."

Councilman Dick Frank, also a candidate, said there is a huge contrast between his team and the Salerno-Diana team. "There's a big difference between raising taxes and lowering them."

Frank was referring to the 2010 tax cut that Bengivenga helped spearhead. In 2010 the council lowered the municipal part of the tax bill (the part it controls) by \$178 for the average home.

Much of the 2010 tax cut remains intact. Today, homeowners still pay \$100 less than they did in 2009 when the Democrats ran things.

"The Salerno-Diana group had their chance to show what they could do, and the results were unacceptable," explained Bengivenga. "Our team has proven we can do better."

Dick Frank pointed to several ways the council is continuing to save money and be more ef-

ficient:

- The town is using a "blend" of public works employees and contractors to pave roads. This allowed us to pave more roads for less money this year. Contractors compete via public bidding for the jobs.

- The new AFSCME contract holds wages flat the first year, keeps increases under two percent for the remainder of the agreement, and includes givebacks on uniform allowances and healthcare.

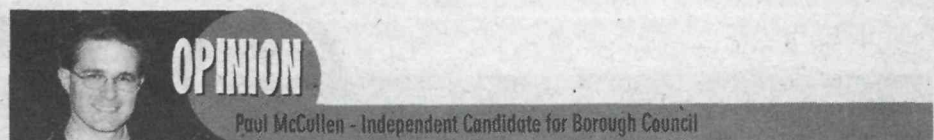
- The new *Pickups on Demand* program has already saved \$75,000. In fact, the savings paid off the entire capital investment in one year. It's unbelievable that Salerno and Diana want to go back to using expensive private haulers.

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

- The council reduced overtime by 22% this year.

Bengivenga noted how these are just examples of what he, Dick Frank and the council are doing to control costs. "Our focus is on the taxpayer," he said, "and if reelected, the taxpayer will continue to come first."

For more information, you can "Friend" Rob and Dick at Bengivenga Frank on Facebook.



OPINION

Paul McCullen - Independent Candidate for Borough Council

There's the Truth... Then There's Stretching the Truth

Lately we've been hearing from the Republican Party about the steady progress they've been making for the past few years. Like you I've read the articles and listened firsthand at the debate. So how can I not be impressed? The problem is I am not; nor do I believe the Republicans are sticking to the whole truth. Just like the Democrats, they are picking the truth that is to their advantage.

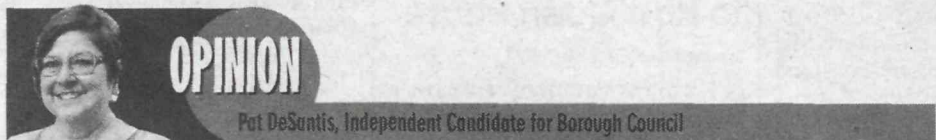
We're being told that taxes and spending are down, and just like you I'd like to believe the Republicans. Like the Democrats, they point fingers wherever they can, and in turn use whatever numbers best suite them: So let's look at things this way. The Republicans have controlled the council since 2010. The municipal rate in 2010 was 1.226 and the average municipal part of the tax bill was \$1,506.75. Today the rate is 1.293 and the bill is \$1,589.10. In 2010 the municipal budget was \$25.9 million and today it is \$26.5 million. We are to trust these gentlemen as the financial stewards, who advocate "small government." The information shows that the Republicans are being dishonest with the voters. Running on this record, taxes are up \$83.35 and spending up over \$500,000. That is the truth.

Businesses are opening in South Plainfield. The

current candidates are quick to tell us all about it. Now I am thankful that we are recognizing businesses that relocate to South Plainfield, it only took the Republicans two years to start working on the situation. Now they have politicized it to no end. Is it wise to campaign on the name of these businesses? Is that something they are really comfortable with and what kind of message does it send to businesses looking to relocate? PSE&G has always been here, Sears Appliance was already in South Plainfield and Progressive Insurance was handled by the former mayor. South Plainfield has drawn businesses because of keeping property taxes lower than the surrounding area and this is due to years of lower taxes. I am sure goodwill on the part of the current administration has helped businesses feel welcome, but they are not the only reason.

Once we allow any group of people to start stretching the truth, what happens next? A big shock when we find out the whole truth. This doesn't have to be the case. This November 6 break the cycle, let's make a change, and let's restore trust to government. Vote Independent!

Paul McCullen, Independent for Town Council.



OPINION

Pat DeSantis, Independent Candidate for Borough Council

Residents Need Independent Perspective on Borough Council

As I have been walking door-to-door and speaking with residents at church and town functions, the one consistent message I hear is that partisan politics is out of control and a fresh, independent perspective is needed.

Having been involved in town for over 25 years through Sacred Heart Church, field hockey, Ponytail Softball, and in our schools, residents know that I care about their well-being and quality of life. Whether the topic of discussion is taxes, traffic or public safety, you, the residents of South Plainfield, can rest assured that my only concern is you and what is in your best interest.

I can lend an honest, independent perspective to all matters before the council. There is no Democratic or Republican way to address taxes, traffic, over-congestion or public safety. All too often we read in the newspaper one party is for something and automatically the other party is against it.

More times than not, the solution is somewhere in between. Compromise. Unbiased perspectives. Isn't that what government is all about, representing the interests of all, not just some?

Throughout the campaign we have heard both major political parties claim victory on the issues. The fact is, both sides have been stretching the truth. We all realize that, but we don't have a voice on the council to point out that fact. That is why South Plainfield residents need an Independent voice on the council.

I don't pretend to have all the answers to solve every issue, but I can promise you that I will do my homework and educate myself on every matter that comes before me.

Please vote Pat DeSantis on Tuesday, November 6. Vote Independent, Column D. You will not regret your decision.



OPINION

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

Republicans Continue to Refuse To Answer Questions

C.J. Diana and Franky Salerno again this week called attention to their Republican opponent's refusal to answer questions about their plans for South Plainfield's future. Candidate Diana said, "As we meet and visit with residents around town, people have been congratulating us on running a clean, issue-oriented campaign. Conversely, and unfortunately, South Plainfield's local Tea Party Republicans think they can distract the voters by throwing mud and ducking questions. I have news for Bengivenga and company; South Plainfield's residents are intelligent people who want answers. Franky and I have used this forum every week to set forth our program for improving our lifelong hometown. By comparison, the Republicans have avoided every issue. There is one week remaining in the campaign. We would like to give them one last chance to respond:

(1) Why has the committee to keep trucks off Hamilton Boulevard stopped meeting and why did you remove the engineering firm that was moving the alternate truck route forward?

(2) Are the rumors true that you plan to install red light cameras throughout the borough and impose \$85 fines on our residents?

(3) Whose idea was it to purchase two junk garbage trucks and hire 10 employees to run bulk pickups? Were the trucks previously owned by the employer of several Republican council members?

(4) Is another sewer tax increase planned for next year? How will you stop businesses like Campbell's Soup from moving out of town because of the 50% increase in their sewer tax?

(5) Will you agree to a moratorium on borrowing and stop using borrowed money to pay the day-to-day expenses of the borough?

(6) Will you join us in committing to no tax increase for the next three years?

(7) Will you ever explain why you fired Joann Graf as borough clerk? Why are partisan politics running wild in borough hall?

Franky Salerno expanded on his runningmates comments, "C.J. and I aren't hiding from the issues. We want you to know what we stand for. Trucks will never be allowed back on Hamilton Boulevard and we will rehire the firm that was getting the alternate truck route done. There will be no red light cameras taking money out of our resident's pockets. We will auction off the junk garbage trucks and reinstate the more efficient borough-wide pickups. We will roll back the outrageous sewer tax and will not support any tax increase for the next three years. We will go back to 'pay as you go' government. Most importantly politics will never take precedence over doing what's right. We will start by bringing back Joann Graf as borough clerk."

C.J. Diana summed up the Democrats position saying, "The voters deserve to know what each party stands for. Rather than running on their less than impressive record, the Republicans have instead opted for what is without question the most divisive, aggressive and destructive campaign I am able to recall. We may self-identify as Republican or Democrat-progressive or conservative, but we're all friends, neighbors—members of the South Plainfield family. Our one ultimate goal should always remain the same; make South Plainfield the best it can possibly be. We have faith in our residents and we are confident that they will support our clear and decisive plan for South Plainfield's future."

You want to vote, but are you eligible?

Find out at www.canivote.org

or call the League of Women Voters of New Jersey's toll-free voter assistance hotline, 1-800-792-VOTE (8683).

Election Day is November 6. Polls are open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

DECIDE YES OR NO ON TWO BALLOT QUESTIONS

Public Question #1 - BUILDING OUR FUTURE BOND ACT

QUESTION: Do you approve the "Building Our Future Bond Act"? This bond act authorizes the State to issue bonds in the aggregate principal amount of \$750 million to provide matching grants to New Jersey's colleges and universities. Money from the grants will be used to build, equip and expand higher education facilities for the purpose of increasing academic capacity.

INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT: Approval of this act will allow the State to issue bonds in the total principal amount of \$750 million. Proceeds from the bonds will be used to provide grants to New Jersey's public and private colleges and universities to construct and equip higher education buildings to increase academic capacity. Bond proceeds will be allocated as follows: \$300 million for public research universities; \$247.5 million for State colleges and State universities; \$150 million for county colleges; and \$52.5 million for private institutions with an endowment of \$1 billion or less. Public and private colleges and universities which receive grants will be required to provide funds to support 25% of a project.

BACKGROUND: If approved, the State of New Jersey can borrow \$750 million for capital project grants as allocated above. The institutions seeking bond funds will submit long range facility plans to the Secretary of Higher Education. The plans must list the institutional proposals to address those needs. Only projects which increase the academic capacity of the institutions, such as classrooms, laboratories, libraries, computer facilities, and other academic buildings are eligible. Projects such as dormitories, administrative buildings, athletic facilities or other revenue-producing facilities are not eligible for grants. The Secretary of Higher Education will prepare a list of eligible projects with priority given to those deemed construction-ready. The Secretary will submit the list to the Legislature and, absent objections within 60 days, the list will be deemed approved in its entirety. Issued grants will support 75% of the cost of the project and the institution will be required to fund the 25% balance. Funds are to be appropriated no later than June 30, 2013. There are 31 public colleges in New Jersey, which include 3 research institutions, 4 state colleges, 5 state universities and 19 community colleges. There are also 35 independent colleges and universities in the State.

REASONS TO VOTE YES: 1. A highly qualified workforce is necessary for competing in a global economy and for keeping and attracting businesses to New Jersey. 2. In November 2011, the New Jersey Presidents' Council issued a report entitled, Highest Priority Capital Needs - New Jersey Colleges and Universities, which totaled \$6 billion. A general obligation bond is one means of financing these projects other than with campus backed debt, (which can lead to increased tuition.) The last bond was approved in 1988 for \$350 million dollars.

REASONS TO VOTE NO: 1. During an economic downturn and slow recovery, taking on additional state debt may be unwise. 2. \$750 million falls far short of the \$6 billion the college and university Presidents have identified. 3. The amount is very restricted in purpose, and does not allow the institutions to apply the grants flexibly to their greatest needs, which may not be more classroom and academic space.

Public Question #2 - CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ALLOWING CONTRIBUTION TO BE TAKEN FROM JUSTICES' AND JUDGES' SALARIES FOR THEIR EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

QUESTION: Do you approve an amendment to the New Jersey Constitution, as agreed to by the Legislature, to allow contributions set by law to be taken from the salaries of Supreme Court Justices and Superior Court Judges for their employee benefits?

INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT: This amendment clarifies the Legislature's authority to pass laws requiring contributions be taken from the salaries of Supreme Court Justices and Superior Court Judges for their employee benefits. These benefits include their pension and health care coverage. The amendment responds to a question raised in a 2011 lawsuit filed by a judge after the Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law PL 2011, c. 78. That law increased the contributions taken from current and future justices' and judges' salaries for their benefits, starting in October 2011. The lawsuit, which was appealed to the New Jersey Supreme Court, argued against taking the higher contributions from currently appointed justices and judges, citing language in the Constitution that their salaries cannot be reduced during their appointed terms. The amendment clarifies that such contributions, set by law, may be taken from justices' and judges' salaries during their terms. It would also allow for the higher contributions set by PL 2011, c. 78 to be deducted from current and future justices' and judges' salaries.

BACKGROUND: The Public Employee Pension and Health Care Benefits Act was signed into law in 2011. This Act increased employee contribution rates for teachers, judges, public employees, police and firemen. A lawsuit claiming the law was unconstitutional with respect to sitting Supreme Court and Superior Court judges was upheld based on Article VI, Section VI Paragraph 6 which says: "The Justices of the Supreme Court and the Judges of the Superior Court shall receive for their services such salaries as may be provided by law, which shall not be diminished during the term of their appointment. They shall not, while in office, engage in the practice of law or other gainful pursuit." The Supreme Court found the higher benefit contributions were a reduction of salary and stated that although the pension law "serves a legitimate public policy goal" it must be achieved through constitutional means if it is to be applied to sitting judges and justices. Therefore it becomes necessary to amend the constitution to allow that change. The amendment adds the following language after "shall not be diminished during the term of their appointment", except for deductions from such salaries for contributions established by law from time to time for pensions, health benefits, and other benefits. A YES vote will add this language to Article VI, Section VI, Paragraph 6 and thereby make The Public Employee Pension and Health Care Benefits Act applicable to sitting judges and justices. A NO vote will leave the language as it stands and the Supreme Court ruling will prohibit increasing judicial contributions toward benefits during the term of their appointment.

REASONS TO VOTE YES: 1. It is an issue of fairness. If change in pension and benefit contributions is a legitimate public policy goal, then judges and justices should be treated the same as other public sector employees. 2. The major part of the salary of judges and justices would continue to be protected from reduction during their term. Only increased deductions to fund benefits would be permitted.

REASONS TO VOTE NO: 1. Judges are treated differently than other government employees so they will be free to decide issues that come before them without fear of retribution from other branches of government. 2. Judges are also treated differently because they are prohibited from earning additional income and they are not covered by any collective bargaining agreement that provides for increases in salaries or benefits.

In My Opinion

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

(Continued from page 2)

On the local level, we are fortunate to have two intelligent and focused young men running for Borough Council. C.J. Diana and Franky Salerno are Democrats we can all be proud of. Franky Salerno was a senior in South Plainfield High School when our nation was attacked on 9/11. He enlisted in the Navy and began his service immediately after graduation. He actually served on a prison ship off the coast of Iraq. Even his Republican opponents compliment Franky as a person of principle who always tries to do the right thing. C.J. Diana is South Plainfield through and through. His dad's and mom's families have a long history of service to our borough. His father Wayne has been a member of our police department for over 20 years. If you ever visit Flanagan's Restaurant you may remember C.J. working there while he was getting his college degree. He is now employed by one of the leading law firms in New Jersey. He and his wife Courtney, who is a teacher, recently bought a house on Leeds Drive.

One party Republican rule has our town on the brink of the same type of financial disaster which President Obama had to clean up in Washington. Property taxes have gone up 33%, borrowing is up \$3 million in one year and spending is out of control. The local Tea Party Republicans have conducted the nastiest campaign I can remember because they are afraid to run on their tax, borrow and spend record. C.J. Diana and Franky Salerno will restore transparency and accountability to borough government.

Please join me on November 6 by voting for President Barack Obama, Senator Bob Menendez, Congressman Frank Pallone, Surrogate Kevin Hoagland, Freeholders Jim Polos and Ron Rios and C.J. Diana and Franky Salerno for Borough Council.

ASSEMBLYMAN PATRICK DIEGNAN

To the Editor:

My name is Debbie Boyle and I have been a Board of Education member since 2007 and in 2011/12, board vice president. My decision to run for election was because of my involvement with the PTO's, attending BOE meetings for three years prior on a bi-monthly basis and listening and asking questions. I became interested in every facet of the job that a board of education member is involved in. I dedicated my interests to the fullest, continually seeking information on the budget, improving academics and field/grounds maintenance. I have attended all of the concerts, plays, band recitals and have supported athletic and Music

Boosters, not just when I was up for election, but all of these years. The students are my priority, along with helping to provide tools for our teachers, aides and secretaries.

I have been chief negotiator for the BOE for the principals, administrators, teachers and staff units. They are the teaching force for our children and without them there is no longer an instructional institution. A BOE member announced at a public meeting how it was an atrocity that teachers and staff were assembled outside the building dressed in black and she wanted to announce all negotiation details to the public. But has all that been forgotten? A BOE member questioned how the teachers/staff received four professional days; that's because they had no time to participate. This is not how a team works; we all need to work together.

I have studied BOE budgets for hours on end so that I can understand the figures and be a part of the budget building process. When there have been various proposals to cut teachers/staff, I have always asked to find a way to keep those people. A proposal was given to cut the third and fourth grade strings and bands. Steve Bohn and I were the only board members to vote against cutting the strings and bands.

A well-rounded student must have numerous opportunities for academics, music, arts, extra curricular activities and sports. When budgets are prepared these are the first things that are cut. AP teachers were replaced with online courses. Much needed math interventions were recommended to be discontinued for lack of funding—really? After a public struggle they were reinstated.

We are here for every aspect of education including the taxpayers dollars. Careful consideration must be paid to every portion of the board of education. Over the past five years the "BOE Team" relationships have been about self-created power; board members who micromanage and possess a self delusional sense of power. This practice has to stop. All board members must be

PLEASE NOTE:

As has been our policy in the past, we will only be accepting positive letters about the candidates for next week's Observer. The deadline for all letters is 5 p.m. Monday.

given the same information. This does not always happen. A board member continually uses character assassination which prevents promotions of staff and applicants to positions.

A public discussion on the Borough Council's request to help with funds for tax appeals was never held.

Teachers spent their entire summer writing curriculum, yet there were no language arts or social studies text books for those teachers to use to teach. The majority of my colleagues and friends on the board just wasted approximately \$600 on frivolous resolutions and letters to the Ethic Commission, which included attorney fees charged for every fifteen minutes of their time, all to overstep their bounds. You have conflicted board members who involve themselves in negotiations and bully and threaten other board members. Is this what you want sitting on the board of education?

Please take your time to carefully choose the candidates you would like to represent you and your tax dollars. The taped BOE meetings broadcast on Comcast for the past six years have shown that actions speak louder than words. Is "same ole, same ole" good enough for you? It's your decision; but don't complain because the "ball is in your court" on who fills those seats.

DEBBIE BOYLE

Dear Editor,

As head of the Department of Public Works, I'm writing to correct several statements made by Council Candidates Franky Salerno and C.J. Diana in last week's paper. Since taking over the DPW, I've worked hard to make sure South Plainfield residents not only receive outstanding service, but also to make sure that we run an efficient opera-

tion that safeguards taxpayer money.

In their article, Salerno and Diana emphatically state that my department hired 10 new full-time employees for the Pickups on Demand program. That is just plain wrong. We have two employees who work that program twice a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays).

Those reading this letter should understand that this program is saving the town money. When you count everything (salaries, benefits, dumping costs and the truck payments), we will be saving \$75,000 this year. Why pay an outside contractor when we can do it cheaper?

That brings me to the next correction. My department has not purchased a "fleet" of trucks. We purchased two used garbage trucks through public bidding. The trucks are in excellent condition and should last at least a decade. The \$75,000 savings this year is actually slightly more than we paid for the trucks. So, in essence, the program has made up the investment in the first year.

My family and I have lived in South Plainfield for decades and we've always tried to avoid getting involved in the back and forth of politics. It is not my intent to change that now. I simply want to correct inaccurate statements that disparage the department that I've been serving my entire adult life.

**ROBERT CAPPARELLI,
GENERAL SUPERVISOR D.P.W.**

To the Editor:

Having proudly and humbly served the people and the Borough of South Plainfield for over 23 years, I believe I am positioned to know the important issues and those most qualified and dedicated to successfully address them.

The ongoing loss of business interests in our borough, the resulting loss of tax dollars, jobs, ratables and the unprecedented rise in tax appeals all compounded by increases in our property tax, 20% this year; increases in our sewer tax, 50% this year; and costly increases in borrowing, \$3M this year, clearly shows that we need a change in

our borough government.

The team of C.J. Diana and Franky Salerno represent our future. Two vibrant, caring young men who know how to get the job done and make South Plainfield a clean, safe and affordable place to live and raise our families.

If you, as I, are tired of tax increases, no major projects done, no public improvement, then know the change begins Election Day with your support for Diana and Salerno. Let's work for South Plainfield again.

**RESPECTFULLY,
DANIEL GALLAGHER**

Dear Editor,

I am writing to remind everyone to go out and vote on November 6 and to cast your vote for Pat DeSantis, Independent running for council.

Pat is honest, trustworthy and civic-minded. She wants the best for South Plainfield and will work hard on behalf of its citizens. I've known Pat for many years as a colleague and friend. As a woman she understands the issues we women face. She cares deeply and wants a better life for everyone. As an Independent she will have the freedom to strive for and achieve a better South Plainfield for all of us.

So, vote for Pat DeSantis for Borough Council.

**SINCERELY,
UNA M. MORGAN**

To the Editor:

I was asked during the BOE Meet the Candidates night whether I would support redistricting. The truth is, I do not know enough about it to give you an answer, one way or another.

What I can tell you, is that I do not support paying a former superintendent upwards of \$15,000 to determine whether or not redistricting is a good idea, and how it can be done. That money could have been added back to the budget and spent on books, computers or any number of things that would benefit the students.

(Continued on page 12)

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD,
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Vivek Patel requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit an addition. Proposed addition lacks 30' front yard setback; 22' is proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 10 Trista's Way, Block 282, Lot 51.06, R-10 zone on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 4, 2012 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, at 7:00 p.m.

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

\$38.50 October 26, 2012

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

October 17, 2012—Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on October 16, 2012.

A. Case #16-11—A. Stanley Mundy & Co. Block 304; Lot 5.01; M-3 Zone. 2401 Roosevelt Avenue. The application was hereby DISMISSED without prejudice.

B. Case #14-12—Moon Builders, LLC. Block 3; Lot 7; R-10 Zone. Meister Street. The applicant's request for (2) bulk variances in order to erect a single family home was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

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

\$28.50 October 26, 2012

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Fire department members prepare hamburgers and hot dogs for open house attendees.



A vehicle extrication demonstration was part of the open house.



Sparky the Fire Dog waves to passing cars at the fire department annual open house on October 13.

Fire Department Holds Open House

By Jane Dornick

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department annual Fire Prevention Day open house on October 13 featured the borough's fire and rescue equipment on display along with a blow-up fire truck for children to enjoy.

Safety officials demonstrated a vehicle extrication and the extinguishing of a kitchen fire. A special smoked-filled trailer offered families the opportunity to practice home fire drill skills.

Firefighter uniforms were available for children to try on. Hot dogs, hamburgers, cotton candy, popcorn and drinks were provided for all. Halloween safety trick-or-treat bags were distributed to youngsters along with fire hats and other giveaways. A 50/50 raffle was also held.

Sparky the Fire Dog, the official mascot of the National Fire Protection Association, was on hand to interact

with the children.

The aim of Fire Prevention Day is to keep the public informed about the importance of fire safety, and to offer practical advice in the identification and prevention of fires.

The open house was held in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week, which always falls during the week of October 9.

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. The fire burned for more than 27 hours. When it was over, more than 300 people were killed and more than 100,000 people were left homeless.

The Great Chicago fire sparked major efforts in fire prevention. Forty years later, the Fire Marshall's Association of North America held the first Fire Prevention Day. In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Fire Prevention Week.

The Saturday during Fire Preven-

tion Week is also Fire Service Recognition Day.



Kids enjoy the fun along with the fire safety education.

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Taste of South Plainfield

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Corner Deli	Mr. Subs
Diosdado Asian BBQ	Muscle Maker Grill
Flanagan's Restaurant & Pub	Oak Tree Discount Wine
Hometown Heros	& Spirits
Personal Chef Rodney Jackson	Paulo's Barbeque
KC's Korner	Sherban's Restaurant
La Bonbonniere Bake Shoppe	Subway
Luigi's Pizza-New York Style	Uncle Louie G's Italian Ices

Special thanks to Investors Bank, Rich D'Urso, South Plainfield Funeral Home and volunteers Marge Reedy, Shannon Jeffreys, Barbara Smith, Cindy and Dave Eichler, Wayne Grennier, Jen Ratti, Patrick Boyle, Adam Butrico, Jason Belanger and Andrew Catalina

Sponsored by the South Plainfield Business Association
Committee Members: Debbie Boyle, April Bengivenga, Robert Bengivenga, Chrissy Buteas, Rita Doell, Darlene Tedesco Cullen, Nancy Grennier, Joyce Signorile and Johanna Salvemini



Taste of South Plainfield committee member April Bengivenga (left) talks with Knights of Columbus volunteer Joe Scrudato, who assisted vendors. Above right, a guest samples fare from KC's Korner and LaBonbonniere Bake Shoppe prepares for guests to sample the desserts.

SPBA Benefit Attracts Diners to 'Taste' South Plainfield



One of the 18 vendors, courtesy of Oak Tree Discount Wine & Spirits, who offered samplings to Taste of South Plainfield attendees.

The second annual Taste of South Plainfield, hosted by the South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA), was once again a successful event for both the participating vendors and the guests who attended the event. The SPBA raised more than \$3,100, which will be used for scholarships for high school seniors.

Held at the Senior Center on October 12, the event featured a wide assortment of culinary dishes—encompassing appetizers to desserts—as well as a sampling of wine and liquors from 18 dealers, courtesy of Oak Tree Discount Wine & Spirits. Many who attended this year's event said that the food was even better than last year. There was plenty to go around, and some guests took home leftovers. Leftover sandwiches were donated for volunteers at the Mayor's Health and Wellness Fair scheduled for the following day at the Senior Center.

In addition to raising money for scholarships, the Taste of South Plainfield gives residents the opportunity to sample an assortment of dishes and desserts from local restaurants. Both the guests and those representing the restaurants were able to get to know each other as they sampled their fare. The evening was a win-win situation for everyone involved.

Several dealers and foundations displayed their goods and services in the hallway outside the main room where the food was served. They included Combination Martial Arts, Johanna's Creations, Scentsy Products, Grace Adele Handbags and the South Plainfield Education Foundation.

Taste of South Plainfield participants were: Ciccio's Pizza, Corner Deli, Diosdado Asian BBQ, Flanagan's Restaurant & Pub, Hometown Heros, Personal Chef Rodney Jackson, KC's Korner, La Bonbonniere Bake Shoppe, Luigi's Pizza-New York Style, Mei Haus Restaurant, Mr. Subs, Muscle Maker Grill, Oak Tree Discount Wine & Spirits, Paulo's Barbeque, Sherban's Restaurant, Subway and Uncle Louie G's Italian Ices.

The SPBA would like to thank the committee members who worked hard to make this year's event a success: Chairman Debbie Boyle, April Bengivenga, Robert Bengivenga, Chrissy Buteas, Rita Doell, Darlene Tedesco Cullen, Nancy Grennier, Joyce Signorile and Joanna Salvemini.

Special thanks to the volunteers who helped set up tables, sell tickets, serve water and coffee and clean up. They include Marge Reedy, Shannon Jeffreys, Johanna Salvemini, Barbara Smith, Cindy and Dave Eichler, Wayne Grennier and Jen Ratti. SPSHS Peer Leader President Patrick Boyle helped to serve as well as Squires Adam Butrico, Jason Belanger and Andrew Catalina.

The SPBA is looking forward to repeating this successful fundraiser next year.

JIM

PATTI

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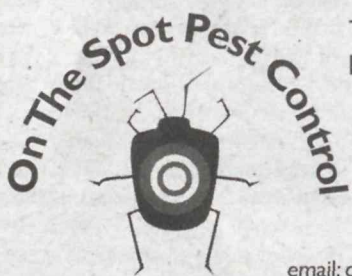
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SPORTS



The SPSA U-10 Fury girls competed in their first tournament this past weekend. They attended the Freehold Frightfest XIV which provided two games for the day, costume and pumpkin contests and lots of fun! It was a great day spent with the girls and their families. The Fury are Olivia Ardito, Nadia Blouin, Deleaney Born, Tori Euston, Gianna Glover, Lauren Hutchison, Courtney Nagy, Olivia Olano, Lena Parlapiano, Alexis Robinson and Amanda Yuill.

SPHS	South Plainfield High School	SPORTS SCHEDULE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26		TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30
3:45pm Fr Football-JFK (H)		3:45pm B&G V Cross Country-Middlesex (A) Bus 2:30pm
4:30pm V Gymnastics-Montgomery (A) Bus 2:30pm		
7 pm V Football-JFK (A) 2 Buses		FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2
4:30pm		3:45pm Fr Football-P. Amboy (H)
7pm V Cheerleaders-JFK Bus 5:30pm		7pm V Football-P. Amboy (A) 2 Buses
7pm V Volleyball-Wardlaw (H)		4:30pm
JV/5:30pm		7pm V Cheerleaders-P. Amboy (A) Bus 5:30pm
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27		SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3
12pm B&G V Cross-Country-GMC (A)		10am B&GV Cross Country-Sectionals (A) Bus TBA
Bus 11am		GV Gymnastics-Sectionals (A) Bus TBA
MONDAY, OCTOBER 29		
3:45pm JV Football-JFK (H)		

Golden Tee RESULTS

Jim Lenox came in first place, and George McDonald and Jack Ford tied for second place in the weekly individual golf tournament held on October 16 at the Plainfield West Nine. Tournaments are held every Wednesday

day at 8:30 a.m. and are open to all golfers. For more information, call Bill Castner, PGA golf pro, or Larry Johnson, tournament director at (908) 769-3672.

Candidates Face Off to Debate

(Continued from page 1) athletic programs" and Frank noted recent improvements to Cotton Street Park, the community pool and new benches and equipment that had been placed in the parks. McCullen commented on the fine wrestling program run by the recreation department and he wants to keep the current programs for kids. How the borough can curb the railroad crossing whistle noise was asked, and Frank replied that "quiet zones" are expensive; however, there is something new and less expensive that is coming out. "We can't afford to make a change," said Frank. McCullen would look into the use of "quiet zones" or "something cheaper" as it is a "quality of life issue." He also said that the loss of trees near train tracks creates more noise and possibly planting more trees would help. Bengivenga stated that the council had looked into "quiet zones" in 2009 at a cost of \$1.2M for which there are no grants available; however, he added that he would look into economical solutions. DeSantis agreed with finding a more cost-effective remedy and is interested in planting more trees.

Working with the Board of Education to improve education came into question: DeSantis remarked that she works for them and "supports the schools." Bengivenga touted shared services already in place with the board. Frank felt that the borough is a "good place to raise children," and McCullen commented that the town has to keep its ratable base stable in order to fund a quality education.

Residents asked if red light cameras are being considered in the borough to raise revenue. McCullen does not think they are a good idea. He opposes cameras installed by Piscataway on Stelton Road that charge the South Plainfield side drivers with tickets. "We don't get the revenue," said McCullen, who thinks that driving offenses should be at a police officer's discretion. Bengivenga, who chairs Public Safety, feels the camera facing South Plainfield should be removed, and he suggested a possible lawsuit.

When asked how the borough can control the sewer tax, most agreed that it is out of their hands. Bengivenga said that the tax is regulated by the county, and DeSantis feels it can be brought down by "controlling spending, reviewing budgets and utilizing more shared services, grants and seeking more state aid." Frank replied that it is impossible for the Democrats to cut the tax by 50% as stated in their campaign, and McCullen feels that they have to be proactive with Plainfield Area Regional

Sewerage Authority (PARSA), which controls the rates.

Another question was what is being done about the "poor state of our parks." Frank reiterated the fact that new benches, equipment and a bocce ball court have been installed. McCullen thinks that the council has done a "good job on the town parks," but Spring Lake Park, which is maintained by the county, is in need of revitalization. "If we are paying an Open Space Tax for improvements, maybe we shouldn't pay it," said McCullen. "If they are not investing in our community, then why should we double their investment back?" Bengivenga remarked that even though the borough has paid millions into the Open Space Fund and applied for grants, "we have not gotten a dime over the last three years."

The "need for a new library" was discussed, as it has been for several years now. DeSantis "supports things that educate our students and residents." Bengivenga mentioned that a "new addition" was being talked about. Frank said that he "can't wait for the opportunity to see the new plans" for the library. McCullen feels a library is important. "Libraries can give cheaper services for the NY Times and job searches," stated McCullen. "They are vital to children and the community." He considers the idea of a new library to be a "political football" over the years.

Residents wanted to know what issues the candidates feel are of concern to the town other than taxes and business issues. McCullen wants to see improvements to the "aging infrastructure" and that public spaces and buildings are in need of improvement. "We want to be a model for other communities," said McCullen. Frank replied to McCullen, saying that "almost everything you said we are already getting done," including improvements to infrastructure, parks, new fire equipment and the new K-9 Unit. Bengivenga wants to maintain the "small knit community" feel to the borough in addition to investing in infrastructure improvement as well as the Department of Public Works and Police Department. DeSantis wants to "rejuvenate the Open Space program and use green energy." She suggested placing solar panels at the Cornell-Dubilier site, and if elected, would like to serve on the Business Advisory Group.

The community can view the Candidates Debate on Comcast Channel 96 on Saturday, Oct. 27 and Nov. 3 at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. and Wednesday, Oct. 31 at 8:30 p.m. Voting will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 6. The poles are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Wrestling Club Fundraising Dinner November 17

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

Tickets are \$20. Cash bar will be available and Gamin' Ride Truck for the kids. We will also be drawing the winning ticket for our Super 50/50.

Proceeds to benefit the SPSHS wrestling team's trip to the Virginia Duals. Tickets will be available for sale at the door. For tickets or more information, call Pam Heilmann at (908) 294-6009.

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Jim Beam Bourbon 1.75L	28.97	Barefoot Wines All Types 1.5L	10.97
Grey Goose Vodka 750mL	29.97	CK Mondavi All Types 1.5L	10.97
Dewars White Label 1.75L	32.97	Kendall Jackson Chardonnay 750mL	10.97
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Obituaries

Joseph P. Glick, 95



Joseph P. Glick

Joseph P. Glick died on Monday, Oct. 15 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Newark, Mr. Glick resided in Irvington

for 30 years before relocating to South Plainfield in 1993.

Mr. Glick was a truck driver for the former Consolidated Freightways in Newark and was a member of the Teamsters Local 478 located in Union.

Joe served with the U.S. Army during WWII and was a member of the former Belleville VFW Post #6265.

Mr. Glick was an avid Yankees fan but will always be remembered for his famous riddles.

He is predeceased by his wife, Madeline, who died in 1998; a sister and three brothers.

Surviving are two sons, Ronald of South Plainfield and Dennis of Eatontown; a sister, Elizabeth Kennedy of Iselin; four grandchildren, Anthony Glick and wife Susan, Melanie Santiago and husband Tim, Melissa Glick and Justine Glick. Also surviving is a great grandson, Jaden; and his angel of a caretaker, Belinda Langford.

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

Henry A. Kochut, 63

Henry A. Kochut died on Friday, Oct. 19 in the Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Plainfield, Mr. Kochut was raised in Scotch Plains and graduated from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. Prior to settling in South Plainfield in 1983, Henry resided in Plainfield and North Plainfield.

He worked for the United States Postal Service as a superintendent of postal operations.

An avid Dale Earnhardt fan, Henry was a loyal N.Y. Jets fan as well as a University of Alabama football fan.

He is predeceased by his father, Harry Kochut.

Surviving are his wife, Sally; two daughters, Lori Gleason and husband Stephen of West Seneca, N.Y. and Vicki Collura of South Plainfield; his mother, Teresa Kochut of Scotch Plains; a sister, Jan Duffy and husband Tom of Warren; and five grandchildren, Jessica, Brianna and Annalesse Collura and Kayla and Alyson Gleason.

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

Louise (Gerhardt) Quiram, 94

Louise (Gerhardt) Quiram died on Thursday, Oct. 18 at home.



Louise Quiram

Born and raised in Elizabeth, Mrs. Quiram settled in South Plainfield in 1965.

Louise was a longtime and faithful member of the former Third Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth. She was a devout homemaker and enjoyed gardening, cooking and sewing.

Mrs. Quiram is predeceased by her husband of 64 years, Ernest, who died in 2006.

Surviving are two daughters, Ann Becker (Robert) of Stockton and Linda Bartok (Michael Lasko) of Monmouth Beach; three grandchildren, Jill Carlin, Jennifer Paccione and Todd Becker; and three great-grandchildren, Courtney, Brooke and Matthew Paccione.

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

Catherine Anna Anastasio, 76

Catherine Anna Anastasio of Brick passed away on Thursday, Oct. 18 at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City.

Born on November 1, 1935 in East Orange to Thomas and Pauline M. (Villano) Sisbarro, she lived in South Plainfield before moving to Brick.

Catherine was a data processor for Revlon in Edison, retiring in 1997.

Mrs. Anastasio was predeceased by

her husband, Donald P. Anastasio.

She is survived by a son, Donald J. Anastasio of Selden, N.Y.; two daughters, Kimberly A. Hunter and Jennifer M. Carman, both of Bethlehem, Pa.; nine grandchildren; and a sister, Margie Egbert of Neptune.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of the South Plainfield Funeral Home.

Marlene O'Neill Gaines, 66

Marlene O'Neill Gaines died on Friday, Oct. 19 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born September 11, 1946, in Buffalo, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late Harold and Marcella O'Neill of Carlisle, Pa.

Marlene lived the nomadic life of an Army brat before her father retired in 1961 and the family settled in Carlisle, where Marlene finished high school.

Marlene knew at a very early age that she wanted to be a teacher. In 1968, she graduated from Shippensburg College (now Shippensburg University) with a BA in elementary education, and married Bob Gaines that July. The newlyweds moved to Reading, Pa., where Marlene taught sixth grade and received her MA in elementary education from Kutztown University. In 1978, Marlene and Bob moved to South Plainfield, and Marlene went to work for Middlesex County Probation as an investigator in child support in 1979. She was a supervising probation officer for the State of New Jersey court system in both Middlesex and Union counties, continuing to teach by mentoring her team and colleagues. She retired in 2008.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Gaines of South Plainfield; a sister, Claudia O'Neill of Carlisle, Pa.; two dogs, Charlie and Pluto; two step-brothers, Steve Dee and wife Gaby of Bethlehem, Pa. and Tim Dee and wife Carol of Denver, Colo.; and a sister-in-law, Kathryn Welsh and husband Daniel of Orlando, Fla.

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

In honor of Marlene's lifelong devotion to dogs, the family is asking that in lieu of flowers memorial contributions be made to The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

(ASPCA) or the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

Frank Diana, 88

Frank Diana, formerly of South Plainfield, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 18 in Manasquan after a long battle with vascular dementia.

Born June 14, 1924 he was proud to be one of the few natural born South Plainfielders.

Frank graduated from North Plainfield High School and attended Union Junior College. Frank enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1943 and served his country during WWII and the Korea Conflict as a first lieutenant. He was employed by NJ Bell and retired after 37 years as an engineer.

Frank was active in South Plainfield as a volunteer firefighter for 41 years, serving as chief for three years. He was elected to the Board of Education and served as president from 1976-77. He was also president of the Planning Board, Lions Club and was the grand marshal of the 1982 Labor Day Parade. After moving to Manasquan in 1984 he became active on the Planning Board, Manasquan Beach Association and the Manasquan Elks.

Frank is predeceased by his parents, Frank and Elma Diana and two brothers, Donald and Russell Diana.

Frank is survived by his wife of 63 years, June; two daughters, Gail Diana Wylam and husband Paul of South Plainfield and Jill Diana Synosky and husband Steve of Green Brook; a son, Dr. Kenneth Diana and wife Susan of Manasquan; 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

A celebration of Frank's life will be held on Saturday, Oct. 27 at 2 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 16 Virginia Ave., Manasquan, N.J. 08736.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department, 123 Maple Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.



Frank Diana

Dianne J. Colburn, 66

Dianne J. Colburn passed away on Sunday, Oct. 21 at Hospice of New Jersey in St. Joseph's Hospital in Wayne.

Born in Newark to the late Howard and Ellen, she has been a resident of South Plainfield for the past 20 years.

Dianne was an employee of Verizon for over 40 years in Newark and had recently retired.

She enjoyed a love and desire for education and continued her higher learning throughout her life. Dianne was continually enrolled in various programs at various institutions her whole life until her passing.

In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by a brother, George.

Surviving are several beloved and dear friends.

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

Eileen Marie Kildea, 67

Eileen Marie Kildea passed away on Friday, Oct. 19 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Eileen will always be remembered for the contagious love she had for her family and friends, and a smile that would light up any room. Eileen cherished family vacations at Disney World and frequent trips to the Jersey Shore. She was a member of Sacred Heart Church since moving to New Jersey in 1987.

She is survived by her husband, Thomas; two sons, her oldest Kevin and wife Denise and Timothy and wife Michelle; a daughter, Jennifer and husband Colin; five grandchildren, Ethan, Kathryn, Faith, Sean and Olivia; two sisters, Sarah and Geraldine; and a brother, Joseph.

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

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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 7)

This is just another example of a school board wasting money and lining the pockets of their friends, instead of doing what is in the best interest of the students and taxpayers of this town.

MICHAEL GREGOV
SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE

To the Editor:

Paul McCullen is the right choice for Borough Council. He has studied the issues confronting the residents of South Plainfield. Most importantly, he showed up to discuss and debate in support of the needs and desires of the residents.

When the candidates for the two major parties are more interested in towing the party line, bickering over who gets credit or blame for any wins or losses, and doing everything possible to ensure their future reelections, it is essential that we support an independent voice not beholden to partisan machinations and political greed.

I urge all voters to go out on November 6 and show your support for Paul McCullen for Borough Council.

MICHELLE KALMAN

To the Editor:

In last week's *Observer* if the remarks by the Board of Education candidates were accurate, the comments were conflicting and disturbing. Byrne and Giannakis seemed to defend Jose Neg-

ron's extended pay for eight months.

Negron made it possible for an associate to commit theft of services from South Plainfield. He should have been prosecuted, with the family of the student involved, instead of receiving a salary while not performing any duties. Then we have Byrne claiming coaches salaries were frozen and Boyle stating additional coaches were hired. Maybe both are correct, but the bottom line is that expenses went up.

Seesselberg says the ticket takers salaries were frozen and Seider claims they received a raise. The use of parents or grandparents to perform this job will cut the cost and before someone writes about the lack of help, I will volunteer. Also, Seider made a pertinent observation about uniforms being in the annual budget, when in fact they are not an annual expense.

The subject of candidates having relatives in the school system was nonchalantly dismissed by Seesselberg as "so be it." Byrne claims that past members handled this problem well. Did any board members, with relatives in the school system, ever recuse themselves from contract negotiations? I also feel that Byrne's comment "Family members bring insight into matters in the district," is self-serving at the least.

With the economy in the shape it is in, I don't think too much money should be set aside for monetary in-

PLEASE NOTE:

As has been our policy in the past, we will only be accepting positive letters about the candidates for next week's *Observer*. The deadline for all letters is 5 p.m. Monday.

creases. The teachers' union got the Obamacare they wanted, and they should not expect retirees and the struggling citizens in South Plainfield to finance it. I feel that the budget is the utmost important factor in this election, and citizens should vote that way.

BILL MCCARTHY

Dear Editor,

I feel strongly compelled to respond to the letter published on October 19 from Dave Suppa. Mr. Suppa accuses the Republican Party of attacking the character of Franky Salerno. He then proceeds to list many of Mr. Salerno's positive attributes.

I think many of us, including the Republicans, can agree that Mr. Salerno is a nice guy. But I take issue with Mr. Suppa's assertion that the Republicans are attacking his character. On the contrary, they are simply commenting on his performance while he served on the council.

For Mr. Suppa to stoop to attacking Mr. Bengivenga and his family on a personal level is both abhorrent and offensive. It certainly does not serve to further the political debate in a respectful and thoughtful manner. Why not stick to the issues instead of resorting to innuendo and snide comments.

RESPECTFULLY,
JOANNE O'SULLIVAN

To the Editor:

Mr. Czech made a good point in his letter last week—the meetings of the Board of Education should be scheduled so that the public can more easily attend, and run so that the public can more easily participate. I agree that making it harder for the public to do either, and then asking for the public's support at election time, is somewhat hypocritical.

My second comment on last week's letters has to do with Ms. Graf's letter. She writes about what she believes to be unsavory, unethical or hypocritical actions by unnamed although partially-identified individuals. Why aren't they named, and completely identified?

Maybe you and your friends know who you're talking about, but you aren't really writing to them, are you? And I am not singling out Ms. Graf—this occurs too frequently in this paper. If you don't have enough certainty in what you say to specify who you are saying it about, then what's the point?

And finally, I noted that Mr. Gregov has company in his belief that it is appropriate for the board of education to voluntarily provide money to the borough to partially offset what the borough lost due to tax appeals. According to the *Observer* account of the BOE Meet the Candidates event, Mr. Bohn, Mr. Seider and Ms. Anesh also believe that this is appropriate. To me this is clear—this money was requested by the board and provided to it to pay costs associated with education, costs that it has established as, if not necessary, then needed. Someone who wants to take this money and give it away—and that's what we are talking about, since there is no obligation involved—should not be given authority over that money. They won't get my vote.

RICHARD J. SULLIVAN

Residents of South Plainfield:

On November 6 you will have the chance to exercise your right to vote for national, state, county and local offices. This year among all the presidential, senate, house, council and other candidates you will see the candidates for our Board of Education.

Please be sure to review your sample ballot when it arrives in the mail, bring it with you, and take the time in the voting booth to make your selections for all the offices. Every person on the ballot will serve in office for the next one, two, three or four years. Whether on a national level or close to home, you have the privilege to have a voice in your government.

As a candidate for reelection to the board of education, I ask for your support to continue serving the students and residents as a member of the board. We have built a good foundation over the past few years, and look forward to great achievement in our district.

Personally, I have found my time on the board to be challenging and rewarding. Our administrators and staff truly have the best interests of the students in focus, and part of the board's responsibility is to support them with the tools

and facilities they require. We have done a good job in that regard.

Throughout my time on the board and in other endeavors, I have worked behind the scenes with administrators to achieve results. Sometimes the quiet way to resolution is better than a public confrontation or pronouncement of results.

If reelected, I will be able to participate in all discussions that come before the board, with no conflicts, family or professional. While I understand some conflicts may occur and can be managed, I believe at some point the effectiveness of the complete board may be diminished, and the public deserves the most complete participation of its elected officials.

As we progress through each school year, our budget sometimes drifts from the predictions made months earlier. Sometimes it is in our favor, sometimes it is not. Our administrators are charged with managing this budget with oversight by the board, and we fulfill our obligations to the students and community, as well as our business, legal and educational requirements. If properly managed, and we are fortunate to have funds available when the budget is being prepared for the next year, we can use these funds in any combination to set aside for capital projects, maintenance or tax relief. By prudently allocating excess funds, the need to borrow or have separate ballot questions to raise taxes for specific or emergency projects is reduced.

If you would like more information on my background or positions, please visit www.billseess.com.

Your vote on November 6 is important for every office on the ballot.

SINCERELY,
BILL SEESSELBERG, CANDIDATE
FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dear South Plainfield Residents,

Here's something to think about when you go to the polls: Even Democrats are not supporting the Democrat ticket this year. Two are running as "Independents," and a well-known former Democrat councilman is so embarrassed by one of the Democrat candidates that he wrote the *Observer* to say that he cannot support the guy.

We all remember Franky Salerno and how he embarrassed our town. It was reported in several newspapers. The last thing residents should do is vote him

Scouts Kick Off Annual Food Drive

Fall is here and it is time for the annual Scouting for Food drive in South Plainfield. Both Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will be undertaking this worthy cause to help feed area residents as most, if not all, of the food collected stays in South Plainfield.

The drive will start with a bag drop off the weekends of October 27,

November 3 and 10, and finish up on November 17. Bags will be collected the following weekend during which they were dropped off.

Please have the bags out on Saturday by 9 a.m. Let's all pitch in and try to make this the best year yet!

—Submitted by Jeff Pauls

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In My Opinion

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

back into office.

We need smart, dedicated leaders. The Democrat ticket simply does not offer that this year.

ROBERT HUGHES

Dear Editor,

Several Democrats who support Franky Salerno and C.J. Diana wrote the paper last week and commented about decisions the council made to replace employees who engaged in dubious practices while employed. It's unfortunate that these types of letters appear in the newspaper. As a councilman, I can't comment on any specific employee (past or present), but I do have a few questions for Salerno and Diana.

Franky and C.J., please tell the public how you would handle these situations:

1) Would you keep an employee who is under indictment for theft of taxpayer money?

2) Would you keep an employee when the prosecutor's office found that the employee was engaging in questionable transactions and when audits revealed grossly improper accounting practices?

3) Would you keep an employee who the police barred from Borough Hall because that employee made threats about using a weapon against a public official?

Loyalty is one thing, but when you're elected to the council you have a responsibility to the residents, not to those who think that their pedigree makes them immune from accountability. The governing body should treat all employees the same. No employee is above the rules, especially when taxpayer funds are involved.

Here's one final thought for Salerno and Diana: If you want to criticize the council for protecting residents from graft, corruption and dishonesty, that's your decision. Just tell the public straight out that you'll look the other way when one of your own is feathering his or her nest at the taxpayer's expense. That you'd embrace these types of people is telling.

COUNCILMAN TIM MCCONVILLE

Dear Editor,

As a resident of South Plainfield, I find it disappointing that in 2012 the South Plainfield Borough Council is completely comprised of men. Women make up over 50% of our population and we should have representation not just nationally, but at our local level as well.

We are fortunate to have a very qualified woman running for Borough Council on the Independent ticket, Pat DeSantis. She is involved in Sacred Heart Church, our sports programs and the schools. I can't think of anyone better to represent my interests in town than Pat. There is no better candidate running for office this year than Pat. She has my complete support on Election Day.

**SINCERELY,
MARY OTLOWSKI**

Dear Editor,

One has to question whether Democrats Franky Salerno and C.J. Diana seriously want to serve on our Borough Council. Anyone who reads the *Observer* knows about Salerno's poor attendance record while serving in 2010 and 2011. He missed a third of the meetings.

With his attendance record a major issue, you'd think that he would be on his best behavior. Well, think again.

Salerno has attended only one council meeting since Labor Day, and in fact, he was nowhere to be found for the last three. He missed every single meeting over the summer, too. And no, he was not working. His Facebook page said he was down the shore "partying."

Salerno's runningmate, C.J. Diana, isn't much better. Since January he's missed more than half the meetings. In addition, neither he nor Salerno bothered to attend the meeting on October 1. They were both no-shows.

How can you run for council and

not even bother to attend the meetings? I can understand why two staunch Democrats like Paul McCullen and Pat DeSantis decided to run independently. Like many Democrats, they apparently realized that Salerno and Diana aren't serious candidates and they wanted to offer the people in their party a credible alternative.

My alternative, though, is Rob Bengivenga and Dick Frank. Whether its controlling taxes and spending or bringing back business and jobs, they're getting the job done. They are the best choice for Borough Council.

FRANK LEMOS

Dear Editor,

What is going on with our local Democrats?

Over the past two months, they've called their opponents, the South Plainfield Republicans specifically, "arrogant" and "delusional" in the paper, and they've also gone as far as to ridicule one candidate's family (Rob Bengivenga) and make untrue statements about him.

I'm calling on Diana and Salerno to put a stop to this malignant behavior right now. This type of rhetoric has no place in our hometown of South Plainfield.

**THANK YOU,
LOUIS J. PIROZZOLI, JR.**

To the Editor:

Last week's debate proved one thing to me, and that's that Rob Bengivenga and Dick Frank are head and shoulders above the rest of the people running for council. Rob and Dick have the right plans for our town, and they have a proven record of success in getting the job done.

Since the Democrats were told not to attend the debate, we won't ever know

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where they stand or how they would defend all the outrageous things they've been saying in the paper.

I give a lot of credit to the Independent Democrats. They were there and represented themselves well. But in my mind, they do not have the record of results or the right ideas for our town.

I urge all residents to look carefully at the candidates. If you do, I think you'll agree that Bengivenga and Frank are the best choice.

ALLEN LEVINE, DMD

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to Rob Bengivenga and Dick Frank for showing up and doing a superb job at last week's debate. Both candidates had a great command of the issues, and more importantly, offered a vision for an even better South Plainfield.

With Bengivenga and Frank, voters know they will get results. Just look at the results to date: They've held down spending and taxes. They've brought in new businesses and jobs. They've worked to improve our roads and parks. And they've brought a new sense of vitality to our community.

You can't go anywhere in South Plainfield without seeing the good work Rob and Dick are doing. They are getting the job done for South Plainfield and they deserve our support.

**SINCERELY,
RENATO R. BIRIBIN**

Dear Editor,

Every week I read the columns from

the candidates for local office. This year the whole debate seems to be about taxes. The Republicans are saying that taxes are down and the Democrats are saying they are up 33%.

Here's the facts without any political spin. In 2008 right after I bought my house my property taxes were \$6,404 per year. This year they are \$7,896. That is an increase of almost \$1,500. I don't know what calculator the Republicans are using but they better change the batteries. It's bad enough that South Plainfield's taxes are so high, but it's actually insulting that the Republicans think we're all dumb enough to not check. I've had enough of this kind of abuse. Democratic candidates C.J. Diana and Franky Salerno are on record that they will oppose any tax increase for the next three years. They have my vote.

SHERRI DAILEY

To the Editor:

I am proud to endorse C.J. Diana and Franky Salerno for Borough Council on November 6. We have the opportunity to make sure that all of our voices are heard on Election Day. Unfortunately, today under the current Republican control, only a few voices are heard, and it is usually their own.

By electing C.J. Diana and Franky Salerno, your voice will be heard. They will bring to our town new ideas that truly represent all of what makes South Plainfield a great place to live.

These are two fine young men who were born and raised in South Plainfield. I have watched Franky Salerno grow up to be an upstanding citizen in this community. Those of you who know Franky and C.J. know their commitment to our town. They have been involved in the community and have given much to our recreational

programs. One of our greatest assets is our ability to make sure our kids have a bright future. They have been an integral part of this investment in our children.

They come to this election with no self motivation other than making sure this town is run with professionalism and ensuring our hard earned tax dollars are not wasted. They will stop the "borrow and spend" mentality this Republican mayor and council has allowed, which our children will pay for in years to come. We must not allow this to happen. It is time to bring positive change to South Plainfield. It is time to elect C.J. Diana and Franky Salerno to the Borough Council.

JOHN PULOMENA

Dear Editor,

Only two people running for Borough Council have a proven record of getting results for our town, and they are Rob Bengivenga and Dick Frank.

After more than a decade on the wrong track, South Plainfield is heading in the right direction once again. I attribute that to Mayor Anesh and the people the mayor has working with him. A key part of that team is Rob Bengivenga and Dick Frank.

Rob has worked tirelessly for our town. Just look around, and you'll see him at practically every event.

Rob also knows how it is for families to make ends meet nowadays. That's why he has a reputation on the council for watching every penny. It's actually to the point where people kid him about it. If something costs a dime, Rob wants to know if we can get it for a nickel.

Rob Bengivenga deserves to get reelected. He and Dick Frank are my choices for Borough Council.

STEPHANIE BONANNO

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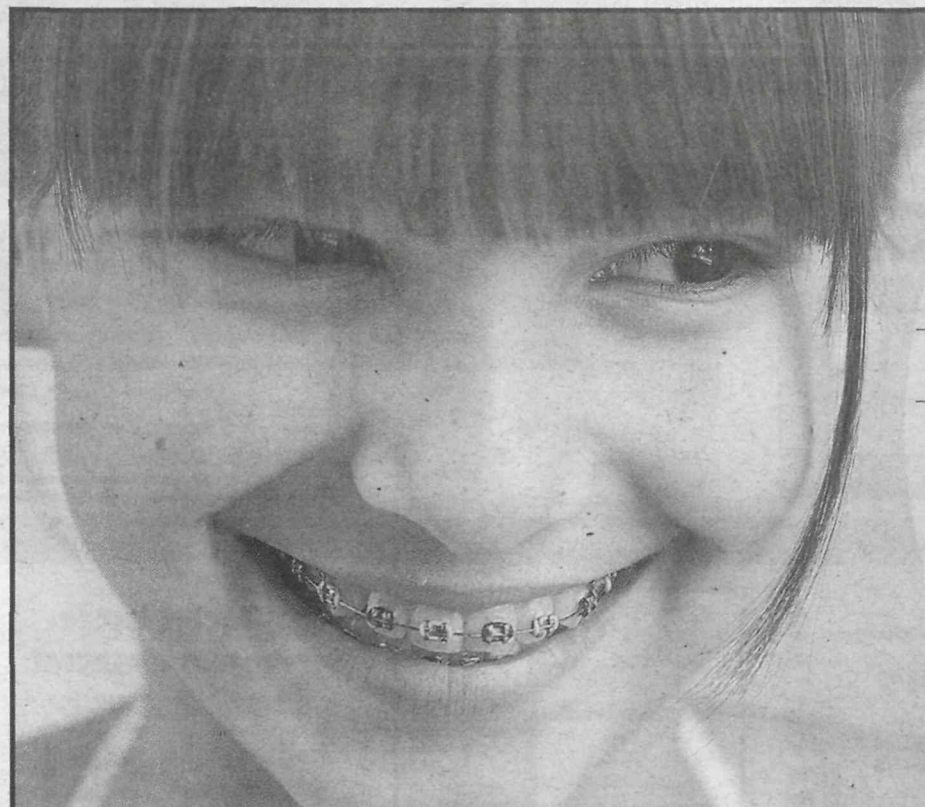
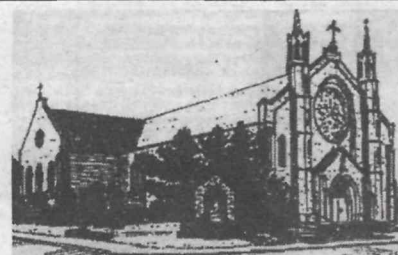
Sunday 9:00, 11:30 a.m.

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

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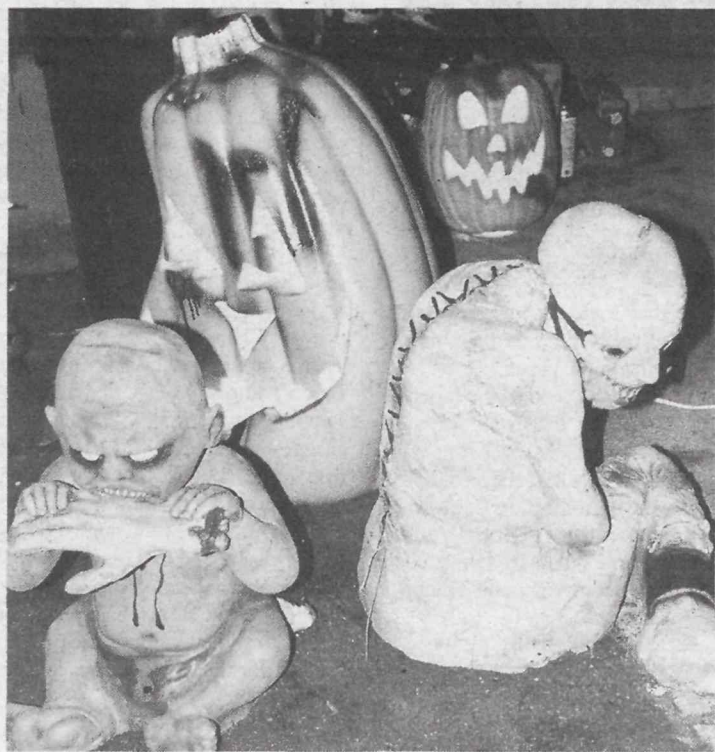


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police report

- On Oct. 8 Andrew L. Torres, 22, of South Plainfield was arrested for destruction of property with a spray paint can.
- New York Carolina Express on Kennedy Road reported the theft of boxes of footwear from their loading dock.
- On Oct. 9 the owner of Dublin Maintenance Contractors reported the theft of the tailgate from a pickup truck.
- A Cliffwood Beach resident reported an attempt had been made to remove a Pioneer stereo from their car parked at Lincoln Technical Institute.
- On Oct. 10 a Leeds Drive resident reported the theft of their wallet from their unlocked vehicle.
- On Oct. 11 a Sampton Avenue resident reported fraudulent activity on their checking account.
- A Mellon Street resident reported the theft of an industrial water hose and reel from the rear of their yard.
- On Oct. 13 a Plainfield resident reported the theft of their purse from a shopping cart at Shoppers World.
- A West Nassau Avenue resident reported that their Volkswagen CC had been scratched.
- Shahina S. Ali, 53, of Somerset was arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting \$210 worth of men's underwear.



The Almost Famous Players will host a Haunted Lawn Display on Page Court, located off of New Brunswick Ave. near 7th St. (about three blocks from Franklin School). The Haunted Lawn is not a full tour, but hopefully it will give visitors a fright. The show runs Saturday, Oct. 27 through Halloween from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. A donation of a non-perishable food item for the South Plainfield Food Pantry is requested. A donation of \$2 towards operating expenses would help greatly as well. If anyone would like to volunteer to provide "scares," please contact us. For more information or to volunteer, call (908) 346-2290 or email angelonly@aol.com.

Yard Waste Site Leaf Season And Holiday Schedule

The South Plainfield Yard Waste Site at the end of Kenneth Avenue will go on its leaf season schedule beginning Monday, Oct. 29. The yard waste site will be open to residents from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday and until 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, through December 1. A current yard waste decal must be mounted on the vehicle for access. Decals are available from the municipal clerk in Borough Hall and from the borough garage at 405 Spicer Ave. Bring the registration of the vehicle you will be using.

Leaf bags will be available at the borough garage Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. until November 23, and on Saturday, Nov. 3 and 10 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring the coupon from the yellow Bulky Waste Program flier. DPW will collect from the curb leaves bagged only in biodegradable paper bags.

The recycling complex will be closed for the November holidays. The recycling drop-off center on Kenneth Avenue is open 12-7 p.m. on Tuesdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. It will be closed on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 6, and open instead on Wednesday, Nov. 7 from 12-7 p.m.; the yard waste site will be closed on Veterans Day, Monday, Nov. 12. For the Thanks-

giving Holiday, it will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 22 and Friday, Nov. 23, but will be open as usual on Saturday, Nov. 24 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The curbside collection schedule will be affected only by Thanksgiving Day. Recyclables in Section 9 will be collected on Saturday, Nov. 24 instead of on Thursday, Nov. 22.

Note that the "2012 Guide to Recycling in South Plainfield" brochure contains an error in the collection schedule for Sections 4 and 5. The correct schedule of pickups in Section 4 (Thursday) is November 1, 15 and 29. The correct schedule for Section 5 (Friday) is November 2, 16 and 30.

For updates, call the recycling hotline at (908) 226-7620.

VFW Looking for Photos of Veterans

The South Plainfield VFW is looking for photos of veterans Edward K. Kissam, Donald M. Rustay and Andrew Poamfani. Obtaining these photos will complete the VFW's collection of South Plainfield veterans killed in the line of duty. If you wish to donate a photo of one of these veterans, contact Dennis Scalera at (908) 222-2683.

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"Biggest Loser" Weight Loss Contest Rules

The South Plainfield Wellness Committee is responsible for developing and planning programs to help South Plainfield attain the "Healthy Town" designation from the State of New Jersey. The ultimate goal of the wellness campaign is to improve public health.

The "Biggest Loser" Weight Loss Contest was developed as a way to improve the health of the community and have fun doing it.

The contest enlists community-based health and fitness centers to support the goals and efforts of the contest participants. The contest was designed to build health and camaraderie across South Plainfield. All contestants will follow the rules below to ensure a lively, fun and challenging contest. The contest is open to South Plainfield residents only.

Community Weigh-In Locations: Weigh-ins will be conducted at contest-sanctioned weigh-in centers throughout the South Plainfield community. The sanctioned weigh-in centers will report your weight loss confidentially, using your contest registration number only. To ensure a fun and fair contest, we are measuring the percent of body weight lost. The calculation will use your actual weight (from day of weigh-in) and subtract it from your initial weight. That number will then be divided by your initial (starting) weight. Example: Initial weight: 175 lbs. Weigh-in weight: 165 lbs. Loss equals 10 lbs. /175 lbs. equals 5.7% body weight lost. Weigh-in locations

are Fitness 19, 903 Oak Tree Ave., (908) 222-0119; The Club at Ricochet, 219 Saint Nicholas Ave., (908) 753-2300; and LA Fitness, 200 New World Way, (908) 755-3104.

Contest Entry and Weigh-Ins: Self-reported weigh-in's can be submitted at any time during the contest to assess and monitor progress. Officially sanctioned weigh-ins will be reported to the contest committee by the participating weigh-in centers during times below. Contestants are encouraged to weigh-in wearing only a shirt (no jacket, coat, sweater), pants or skirt, and socks/hose (no shoes) and with empty pockets (no keys, cell phones, beepers, etc.).

Initial weigh-ins will be held from October 13-28; mid-point weigh-ins will be held from December 9-16; final weigh-ins will be held from February 3-10, 2013. Winners will be announced on February 16, 2012.

Competitors can join the contest anytime between October 13-28. Spread the word to family and friends. Prizes will include a Wii game system with "Wii Fit" video game, local gym memberships, gift certificates and a 2013 family membership to the South Plainfield Community Pool.

To monitor results, check the South Plainfield Wellness Committee website regularly at www.southplainfieldnj.com. Under Quick Links, click on Mayor's Wellness Committee to review results and participate. Leave a word of support for your fellow competitors.

CLASSIFIEDS

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SR. STATISTICAL PROGRAMMER wanted to create, modify, and test the code, forms, and script that allow computer applications to run for the purpose of statistical analysis. Mentoring other programmers and software developers in programming for statistical analysis purposes. All will work in South Plainfield, NJ and various client locations in the U.S. as assigned. Resumes to Eteam Inc., Attn: Abhishek Agarwal, 1001 Durham Ave., Suite # 201, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Resume must specifically identify all skills relevant to job offered.

SR. ORACLE WAREHOUSE DEVELOPER needed to design and document the ETL components of the project; Work with Business Analyst and end users to assist in requirement gathering. Create Technical Specification to document the design process of each business logic. Review ETL developer's code and unit test scripts to ensure the validation of ETL logic against design specs and business rules; Coordinate meetings with Project Manager and DB architects for any development related issues and status updates; Analyze source data and perform data validation to ensure the accuracy of data; involved in Production Trouble shooting, program debugging and testing; Coordinate with Oracle DBA to prepare production deployment tasks and recovery plan; Assist in test phase application support as required for QA activities; Present proof of concepts on ETL architecture to the client and provide recommendations on ETL tools; Develop ETL processes using Oracle Warehouse Builder as an ETL tool. All will work in South Plainfield, NJ and various client locations in the U.S. as assigned. Resumes to Eteam Inc., Attn: Abhishek Agarwal, 1001 Durham Ave., Suite # 201, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Resume must specifically identify all skills relevant to job offered.

SOFTWARE ENGINEER wanted to develop, create, and modify general computer applications software or specialized utility programs, analyze user needs and develop software solutions and design software or customize software for client use with the aim of optimizing operational efficiency using a wide variety of computer software, most importantly Oracle iOg/9i, Oracle 11g, PL/SQL, SQL, Toad, SQL Developer, Oracle Warehouse Builder 11g R1/R2. All will work in South Plainfield, NJ and various client locations in the U.S. as assigned. Resumes to Eteam Inc., Attn: Abhishek Agarwal, 1001 Durham Ave., Suite # 201, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Resume must specifically identify all skills relevant to job offered.

PART-TIME HELP WANTED FOR SMALL company in South Plainfield. Mornings, approx. 15 hours/week. Accounts receivable, billing, invoicing, filing. Call Karen at (908) 754-2652 between 10 a.m. and noon.

CROSSING GUARDS-PART-TIME IN South Plainfield area. Call (201) 795-0189.

INTERNET RESEARCH FOR BUSINESS credit reporting agency. Must be web savvy and have experience using Google and other search engines. Attention to detail and ability to work within deadlines. Earn \$12-\$14 per hour, Part Time 30 hours, or Full time 40 hours, from our South Plainfield office during regular business hours. Email resume to: kmccann@smmyth.com or fax to: 908-755-7451.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Danielle Aronowitz

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Missed a movie you wanted to see in the theaters and don't want to pay for the DVD? Come to Monday Night Movies at the library. It's all the fun of a movie theater, but none of the cost. We are showing brand new releases every Monday night at 6:30 p.m. We also provide popcorn for all who attend. There is no registration required. You can call the library for title information or stop by and pick up a schedule of all the upcoming movies.

On Thursday, Nov. 8, the library will be having a special Diwali program. Enjoy stories, music and dance, and learn about traditions connected with Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. You will have a chance to wear beautiful Indian clothes and jewelry and learn the famous garba dance performed during this festival season. It will be presented by Seema Moondra from Enjoy Explore India. It is geared for all ages. This program will be held at the South Plainfield

Time2Shine Auction And Family Fun Day

The Time2Shine Foundation, a non-profit organization formed in 2011 in memory of South Plainfield resident, Mike Fry, will hold a Chinese auction and family fun day on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the PAL Building on Maple Avenue.

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

Funds raised will be given to students interested in continuing their education in the arts and sports and to assist sports programs where those programs are supported by donations.

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

Senior Center at 6:30 p.m. and no registration is required.

We will be following our regular schedule for the children's programs. The Storytime program for two and three year olds is held Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 10:30. Storytime for ages three and up is held Tuesday mornings at 10:30, Wednesday night at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. The Babytime program for ages up to two years old is held Friday morning at 10:30. These programs do not require registration. Please try to get to the storytime programs on time because it can be very disruptive for Miss Linda and Miss Mija and the children if people come in the middle of the program.

The library is open seven days a week except on holidays. Our hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 1:30 to 5 p.m.

To find out more, or if there are any questions, visit our Facebook page, call (908) 754-7885 or visit us on the web at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

St. Stephen Church Hosts International Festival

By Patricia Abbott

Saint Stephen Church, located on Lane Avenue near the high school, took community members around the world in a single weekend as they hosted their fifth annual International Festival. The event took place September 14 through 16.

The church's parking lot was filled with activities and games for the younger set. They enjoyed face painting, sand art, fish pond game, tie dye t-shirts, necklace beading and various boardwalk games. A new addition to the festival this year was a moon walk.

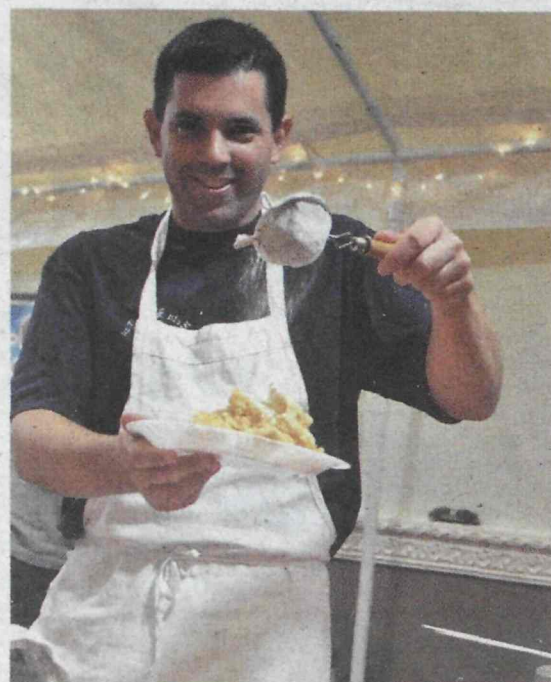
Music filled the air as Parishioner DJ Nadi Pasha took requests throughout the day and into the evening.

Co-chairs for the festival were Joe Keepers and Ted Mandalakis. Parishioners volunteered on committees for food activities, publicity, advertising, set up and clean up.

The church's huge hall held the main attraction of the festival with a wide variety of international food. Mouthwatering scents from different ethnic booths filled the hall. Guests were able to choose from Greek, Slavic, Middle Eastern and American cuisine. Featured dishes included, grape leaves, falafel, kifka kabobs, musaka, pierogies, kielbasa, chicken souvlaki, gyros, spanakopita, Greek salad, hamburgers, hotdogs, French fries, a clam and shrimp bar and a dessert booth. Parishioner Peter Day was the master chef, but many parishioners were involved in preparing the food.

Raffle tickets were sold for chances to win an iPad, LCD TV, Coach pocketbook and a Playstation. There was also a book bazaar and booths selling sports apparel and holiday gifts, as well as a 50/50 drawing.

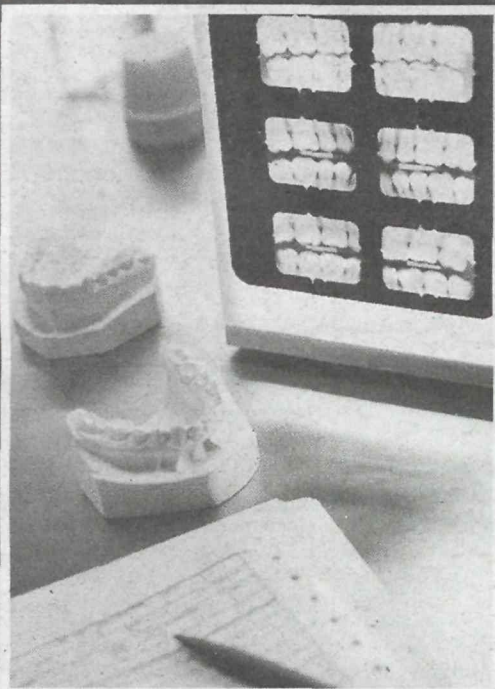
Ted Mandalakis said, "We have received such great support from the South Plainfield community, especially our neighbors. Many neighbors stopped in to sample our



Brian Scarpa

very diverse menu. They have stated that they enjoy the extremely friendly atmosphere and of course the delicious and diverse food offerings."

Many residents still refer to the building as "The Little Church." Despite the church's small beginnings, a tiny chapel on Lane Avenue, it has grown in leaps and bounds. The church was most recently expanded in 2007 with a hall, full service kitchen and full basement, allowing them to expand and doubling their worship space.



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