

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 8, NO. 6

50 CENTS

OCTOBER 8, 2004

## Interim Administrator to Tackle BOE Financial Dilemma

Members of the Board of Education voted to hire Robert Davis as interim business administrator/board secretary as of Oct. 6 at \$500 per day until a qualified replacement is hired.

More than 20 residents attended the meeting and waited patiently for more than an hour and a half while the BOE went into executive session to interview Davis.

Davis has been a consultant since 1998, working in the Carteret, Paterson and Union Township school systems, among others. In 1995, he was appointed as state school business administrator in the Paterson State Operated School District, to help resolve their financial problems. He has also served as assistant commission of education for finance for the State of New

Jersey, Department of Education.

Except for Steve Bohn and Ken LaFreniere, who were absent, the vote to hire Davis was unanimous.

Former Board member John Markum was the only one who spoke before the vote. He said \$500 was an outrageous amount to spend when the district is having financial difficulties and asked that the board table the vote.

Board member Sue Peck said she originally felt the same way about hiring an interim, until she met and spoke to Davis. After the interview she felt that he would be of help in making suggestions to the board on their fiscal matters and accounting procedures. "He is also a consultant and we need that. We will not only be getting a business administrator, but

a consultant as well," said Peck. "Rest assured, we will hold him accountable for his actions."

Board President Pio Pennisi added that with Davis' 20 years of experience and recent appointment to the Paterson School District, where the state stepped in when Paterson was in fiscal disarray, he could help solve some issues in our district.

## Sports Memorabilia Headline Sales At Premier Jr. Baseball Art Auction

By Patricia Abbott

Over \$14,000 of art was sold last Friday at the Junior Baseball Club Art Auction held at SPSHS. The event, run by Ross Gallery and co-chaired by Debbie Boyle and Tony Celentano, netted the club \$4,000. Approximately 50 people attended.

In addition to paintings, a variety of autographed sports memorabilia, including a Derek Jeter bat, Tiger Woods ball, and a rare painting signed by Yankees Manager Joe Torre, third baseman Alex Rodriguez (Arod) and shortstop Derek Jeter, were up for grabs. The \$2,700 piece is one of only four in the world. Auction goes also had the opportunity to bid on jewelry, signed Thomas Kincade paintings, a Bruce Springsteen album, and guitars signed by Paul McCartney and Sting.

The bidding opened with two photographs taken right here in South Plainfield—photos of club president Lee Flannagan in blissful slumber. The lucky winner of the one-of-a-kind photos was Andy Pinto.

Chairman Debbie Boyle said, "The officials and members of the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club created a great team effort in making the Ross Gallery art show a huge success. These people purchased \$14,000 in art and collector's memorabilia and raised \$4,000 for the baseball club. Thank you everybody for coming out and supporting the club."

## Meet the Candidates At Council Debate October 25

The date has been set, the parties committed. All we need is you, the public.

On Nov. 2 voters will go the polls to decide the fate of national, as well as local, elections. Every vote counts. To help voters decide on the local level, the South Plainfield Observer, along with the Business Association, will sponsor a candidates debate on Monday, Oct. 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center on Maple Ave. Come out, listen to candidates on both sides discuss issues that affect you, and then cast an educated vote this November.



Mayor Dan Gallagher flips the switch and lights up the night at the Kenneth Ave. Soccer Field.

## Freeholders Illuminate Evening Sports in Borough

With the help of a grant from the Middlesex County Freeholders, South Plainfield's youth sporting fields have new lights installed. Saturday evening Mayor Dan Gallagher was on hand, along with Councilmen Ray Petronko and Dennis Cerami and Councilwoman Kathy Thomas, to officially turn on the lights at the Kenneth Soccer Field.

New lights were also installed at Pitt Street Park, used by the South Plainfield Ponytail League, at the Jr. Baseball Club Complex and the

Eagles Football Field, allowing the youth of our town to play night games.

South Plainfield Soccer Club President Al Vill thanked the Mayor, council and freeholders for their support of the youth of our town. He said one just has to look around and see the many recreation facilities around town to know how dedicated South Plainfield is to their youth. Also on hand was Mark Sutherland, representing the South Plainfield Ponytail Association.



Father John Alvarado, Sacred Heart Church pastor, anoints animals at the parish's annual blessing of the animals last Sunday. See story on page 7.



AJ Celentano displays a print at the Junior Baseball Art Auction.

## Curbside Pickups Underway

Curbside pickups are underway in the borough. The new program automatically schedules two pickups a year: one in October and one in April to all households in town. Every resident was mailed a flyer listing the scheduled pickup and a map of five districts. Previously, residents had to bring bulk items to the compactor to dispose of them. The first pickup began this week in District 1. Residents in District 2 should place their items at the curb this Sunday evening. Large household items, excluding concrete, recyclable items, yard debris and automotive items, are acceptable.

Debris should be placed neatly at the curb in front of their residence on the Sunday night prior to the week in which the collection is to occur. When possible, items should be either tied or boxed. Waste can-

not exceed 12 ft. x 3 ft by 3 ft.

The curbside pickup program is separate from the leaf pickup program which begins Nov. 15. That schedule also was included in the mailed flyer, along with a coupon for leaf bags. Bags can be picked up at Public Works Monday-Friday from Oct. 25 to Nov. 24. Public Works will also be open on Saturday, Nov. 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Apartments and condominium/townhouse complexes are excluded.

The compactor and yard waste facilities are still available for residential use. Compactor coupons and yard waste decals are available at the municipal clerk's office on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday between 1 and 5 p.m. and Tuesday and Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

**Deadline for October 15 issue is Monday, October 11 at 5 p.m.**

### Mark Your Calendars

Log on to [southplainfieldnj.com](http://southplainfieldnj.com) for the latest meeting agenda

#### council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Monday.  
Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
Monday, October 18	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 16	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (NJSA 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

#### recreation commission

Meets once a month on the first Tuesday of the month, except July and August  
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716  
Nov. 2 and Dec. 7

#### planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641  
Oct. 12 and 26, Nov. 16 and 30 and Dec. 14 and 28

#### zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641  
Oct. 14 and 28, Nov. 4 and 18 and Dec. 2 and 16

#### board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted  
Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.— Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, 2005, Feb. 8, March 8 and April 5  
Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m.—Oct. 18, Nov. 16, Dec. 21, Jan. 18 2005, Feb. 15, March 15 and April 12

#### taxpayers advisory group

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

#### site plans sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.  
Oct. 19, Nov. 16 and Dec. 21

#### recreation commission

Meets once a month on the first Tuesday of the month, except July and August  
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716  
Nov. 2 and Dec. 7

#### environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)  
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621  
October 13, November 10, December 8 and January 12, 2005

#### business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

#### traffic safety advisory commission

Meets once a month (fourth Wednesday) at 7 p.m.  
in the Conference Room, Borough Hall (No Meeting in August)

#### board of education curriculum/technology meetings

Meets once a month on Mondays, (except where noted) at 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave. (No meeting in October), November 15, December 13, January 31, 2005, (No meeting February) and March 21

## South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

We look forward to hearing from all of you and encourage you to send in your stories and photos. The South Plainfield Observer is your paper. Please let us know what you would like to see in it.

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Department, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave., fax us at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at [sposerver@comcast.net](mailto:sposerver@comcast.net). Include your name, address, telephone number. You can subscribe or contact us at: [sposerver.com](mailto:sposerver.com).

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: [sposerver@comcast.net](mailto:sposerver@comcast.net) or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer. All letters must be submitted with name and phone number, for verification.

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## IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

Can you hear me now? Can you hear me now? Good! Like the Verizon commercials, I feel redundant!

By now you have either heard or read the prepared statement of Board President Pennisi explaining why the South Plainfield Public School district is in the mess we are in. It is very much like hearing Bill Clinton tell all how he did not have sex with that woman.

The alibi was carefully scripted; I can't stop myself from splitting hairs.

In an effort to place blame in any direction other than the sitting board, the date of April 2003 is used as a date when the Board realized something was amiss. Actually, the fact is that just prior to the election of new Board of Education members and the school budget, Frank Mikorski called attention to the fact that the numbers in the proposed budget were not adding up. It was Frank who discovered 22 teachers were unaccounted for in that budget. The information provided to the Board was the work product of Mario Barbieri and was verified by Ed Izbicki. When this mistake was pointed out by Mr. Mikorski, a meeting was held with the board explaining that because the balloon payment to our healthcare provider to the tune of \$631,000 was not going to be needed due to Mr. Mikorski's various discussions with the healthcare provider in which he proved our experience did not warrant said balloon payment. It was also pointed out throughout that same meeting, which included a memo that the IDEA grant \$304,000, DEPA \$145,289, Supplemental \$97,863, Title I \$75,650 and Preschool Handicap \$7,341 funds, totaling \$630,143 would offset the shortfall of the 22 teacher salaries, a shortfall of \$171,118 which was not budgeted. This also outlined positions that would no longer have to be cut from the budget—four World Language teachers for elementary schools, PE at Grant, Social Studies at Grant, nurse at the high school and a high school math teacher. This calculation showed the board that we were in the black by \$88,882. This memo was authored by Dr. Rosado. I have the memo available for anyone who would like to see it. I also have a memo authored by that same person of the anticipated settlement of three percent for the teachers' contract; a number that I have been accused of making up, and that the negotiations committee refused to abide by, and that the business administrator and superintendent could not show me where the money in excess of that was in the budget. I would be happy to share that document as well. The sitting board can claim ignorance and shock at the state they are in, but I have the documentation that proves otherwise.

In small defense of the Superintendent, he had just arrived to the district, and was kept abreast of the budget preparation by numerous telephone calls, faxes and meetings with then interim Superintendent Tom Butler, Mario Barbieri and Ed Izbicki. Dr. Rosado arrived in the district, and upon further review of that budget and as a result of a meeting held with Traffic Safety and the Chief of Police, he proposed we add an additional \$900,000 to the budget to address the safety of elementary students and to spend that sum to address the traffic flow and parking around each elementary school.

After the election—you remember, the one that failed to re-elect Frank Mikorski, the board president assigned committees. I was no longer assigned to the Finance committee, but continued to request the financial reports. At the first COW of the newly reorganized Board of Education, I pointed out to the business administrator and the Chair of Finance Ken LaFrenierre that the district's financials were incorrect. The following week the Board was assured the financial matters of the board were in order and voted to accept the Finance Committee's report and payment of bills. When that meeting concluded, I asked for the corrected financials and found out the Finance Committee never received corrected reports, and the board had just voted. It was then I refused to vote on any finance without accurate reports. That was April and May, 2003.

Yet negotiations continued, without costing out the changes in salaries or healthcare changes, even though I repeatedly asked for that information. The board continually ignored my request for proceeding with caution without knowing the impact of such decisions. When I finally resigned, it was the night the board was ratifying the contract. I stated that I had no objection to the settlement; that my objection was to the ignorance in which the board was proceeding.

The board is claiming ignorance. They cannot claim they did not know. I was practically screaming it at every meeting! They proceeded in spite of the warnings. The auditors met with every member of the board and verified my warnings, yet they continued on as if everything was fine.

Now we have board member Dan Smith telling us that sacrifices will have to be made, but since we are such a strong community of family valued people we will weather it out. I don't know about you, but I realize the only people who will be making sacrifices will be our children; oh, and the taxpayers who will have to foot the bill with a substantial tax increase so the district can become unrestricted. Meanwhile, Sodexo is laying off peo-

ple—secretaries are told not to order paper supplies and printer cartridges. There will be no sophomore English trips to see plays that correspond with their literature, no mulch for the playgrounds, no grounds people to move the track equipment off the field to protect it from the weather. The list goes on and on. So who, Mr. Smith, will be making a sacrifice? The children and taxpayers you all were elected to serve? Certainly not those drawing ten percent increases! Unless I have not been informed, I haven't heard that the administrators are refusing their raises!

I have asked for a county investigation. I have asked the state to investigate. The only people I haven't asked to investigate were our local officials. Maybe our Mayor and Council would like to step in and check it out? Oh that's right! Another clue, the former treasurer of school monies resigned when he would not sign off on the district financials!

**DAWN JEFFERYS**

### To the Observer,

With the aftermath of four hurricanes leaving a trail of devastation in Florida, and the heightened awareness of family and community preparedness, the public has become increasingly important in terms of helping out their community.

Nowhere is this more evident than in South Plainfield. Under the direction of the South Plainfield Office of Emergency Management, the newly formed Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers have been busy helping out when called upon. The 27 team members enrolled in a nine week course held at the Emergency Management building under the direction of Emergency Management coordinator Michael Zushma and the Emergency Response Team. The CERT volunteers were utilized during the Labor Day Parade and firework festivities and they will be called upon to assist in a large scale drill scheduled for December. In addition, six members have volunteered to help in Florida, recently overwhelmed by four hurricanes.

The Office of Emergency Management continues to provide the residents of South Plainfield the preparedness services they expect and deserve. Their ongoing training and emergency planning reflects the hard work and dedication of this department.

The spirit of volunteerism is so unmistakably apparent in our community. It is with pride and gratitude I commend the Office of Emergency Management and the CERT volunteers for their dedication and commitment.

**DENNIS CERAMI, COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

(Continued on page 6)

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## Halloween Arranging Classes at Mohn's

Georgeann DiGrazi of Mohn's Florist will be holding a special class for children to learn how to make their own original Halloween arrangement. Georgeann has scheduled two separate Saturday classes, Oct. 16 or 23. Times will be determined at registration.

Each child who participates in the class will be given a Halloween cup. Georgeann will help kids decorate that cup with flowers and decorations which they can take home and display on Halloween.

Classes are limited to size. Cost for materials is \$10 per child. All children must be preregistered and prepaid and be over five years old.

To preregister, submit your child's name, address, phone number and age, along with a check for \$10 to: Mohn's 2325 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or you can register in person at Mohn's. If you have questions, call (908) 561-2808.

## Justin King Sentenced in Auto Death

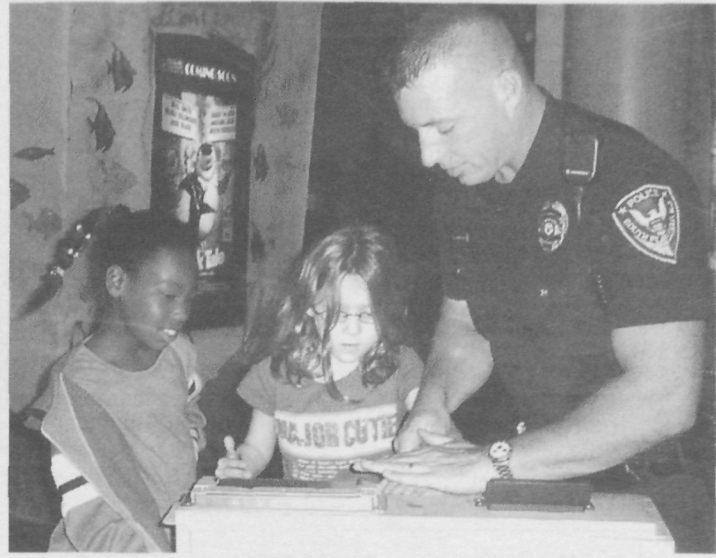
Justin King, a resident of South Plainfield, pleaded guilty to vehicular homicide, which occurred in July of 2001. He was sentenced to four years in prison last week in Superior Court in New Brunswick.

King had a blood-alcohol level of .154 two hours after the accident. Ronald Hurst, who was a passenger in a car driven by Mary Ludlow, was seriously injured and died in the hospital. Ludlow was also injured and required six months rehabilitation for her injuries.

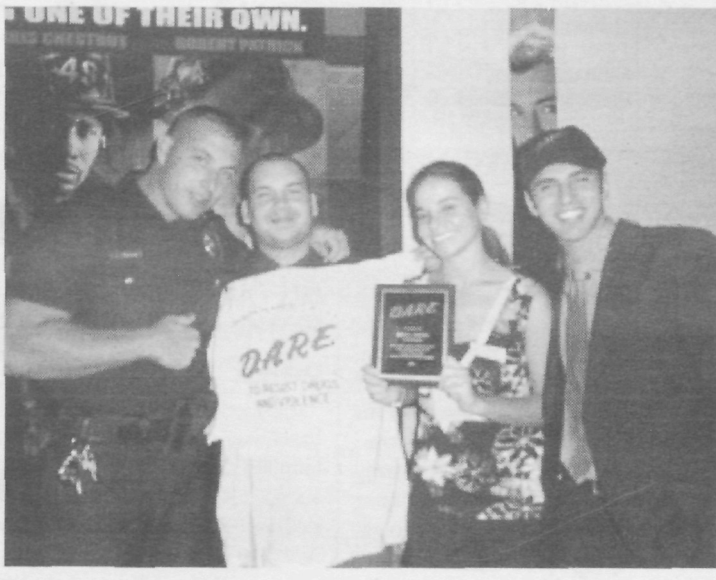
King's Dodge Ram collided with Ludlow's Geo Tracker on Hamilton Blvd. in front of Roosevelt School.

According to prosecutor's, King lost control of his truck when the rear end started to fishtail and slid sideways into the path of Ludlow's car.

King must serve 3½ years before being eligible for parole.



In honor of "Shark Tale Saturday," South Plainfield DARE Police Officer Dave Franchak spent the afternoon at Regal Cinema fingerprinting youngsters attending the movie. Parents were handed a form with their child's handprints for identification purposes to be used in case of emergency. Franchak also presented the theater's managers with a plaque on behalf of Chief Robert Merkler, Sgt. Chuck Seidenburg, DARE Officer Al LaMonda and himself in appreciation of the help they give to the DARE program. Pictured below left to right are: Officer Dave Franchak, Manager Will Cintron, Asst. Manager Dina Pasco and Manager Carlos Restrepo.



## Antiques Appraisal at Library

There will be an antiques appraisal program at South Plainfield Public Library on Sunday, Oct. 17, from 2 to 4 p.m.

By popular demand, Watchung-based appraiser Allan G. Snyder will once again conduct the program. He will offer brief appraisals of antiques and collectibles brought by members

of the public. Participants are limited to two items each. Appraisals will be conducted on a "first come, first serve" basis. There is no charge for this program and preregistration is not required.

For more information, call (908) 754-7885 or visit the Library's website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

## Pumpkin Painting at Library

The library will host a pumpkin painting program for children on Saturday, Oct. 23, at 10 a.m.

The program is for children of all ages. All materials will be provided by the Library. There is a materials charge of \$1 per person. Preregistration is required for this program.

For more information, call (908) 754-7885 or visit the Library's website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

## Budget Woes Mean 11 Sodexo Employees Get Pink Slips

Last week 10 custodians and one maintenance worker of Sodexo were told they were laid off due to the budget issues in the South Plainfield School District. Sodexo Management Services maintains the schools and grounds in the district.

Parents in the district schools were very upset to see their janitors had been laid off last week and expressed anger that the first cuts were being made in the lower paying jobs in the district. Sodexo employees were also told there would be no overtime and they will have forced layoffs during the upcoming teachers conference, holiday vacations and spring break; meaning if they want to get paid for those days, they will have to take vacation days.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rosado said he regretted having to cut back the amount money paid to Sodexo, but it was his job to keep the district running in the black. No date has been set when these employees might be recalled.

Last month Dr. Edward Izbicki resigned as the district's Business Administrator. Several questionable accounting practices were found during the recent audit process. The Board has since made changes in the accounting procedures in the business office.

In a statement which was read by

Board President Pio Pennisi at last months meeting he said, "The 2003-2004 budget did not have sufficient funding for capital projects and should have been capped to simply cover the remaining operational expenses for the district. The information presented to the Board on the other hand, painted this budget as one that had more than sufficient funds to allow for this capital project."

Also an increasing amount of line item transfers had been occurring every month. Line item transfers are the moving of money budgeted for a certain account, such as repairs or salaries, to another account, such as supplies. Transfers were made from several accounts, but most were moved into the current expense account. Auditors have been instructed to audit the referendum budget to insure funds were properly allotted and that monies are available to complete additional projects.

According to Rosado, a final report from the auditors should be available by the November Board of Education meeting. In the meantime, the district is under a spending freeze that allows emergency purchases only if they are cleared by Dr. Rosado. However, it must be noted that most departments should already have the supplies needed for the remainder of the year.

## Recycling Center Columbus Day Schedule

The Recycling Center on Kenneth Ave. will be closed on Tuesday, Oct. 12, due to the Columbus Day holiday. It will be open instead from noon to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 13.

The Yard Waste Site is now on its fall/winter schedule, and is open only on Saturdays. Both facilities will be open as usual from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 9.

Regular hours at the Recycling

Center are noon to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Yard Waste winter hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

2004 Yard Waste Decals are available in the municipal clerk's office in Borough Hall. Bring the registration of the vehicle you will be using.

For updates, call the Recycling Hotline: (908) 226-7620.

## Former Resident Pleads Guilty to Misconduct

Gregory Palmer, 39, a former resident of South Plainfield, who now lives in Florida has pleaded guilty to third-degree official misconduct, burglary and fourth degree sexual contact in connection to three incidents with a 16-year-old boy.

The incidents took place in Sayreville, where Palmer had taught school high school for seven years. Palmer was a CCD teacher at Sacred Heart, but was removed after being charged. Palmer is scheduled to be sentenced on Dec. 10.

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# Events Around Town

## VFW Flea Market

October 9

The VFW Post 6763 will hold a Flea Market on Saturday, Oct. 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the VFW Post, 155 Front St. Information can be obtained by calling (908) 668-9751.

## Fiddler on the Roof

October 10

The Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip to Broadway to see the musical revival "Fiddler on the Roof" on Sunday, Oct. 10. Bus leaves the PAL at 11 a.m., performance starts at 3 p.m. Bus arrives back at the PAL at 6:30 p.m. Price is \$95 a person. Purchase tickets at the PAL.

## American Legion Pancake Breakfast

October 10

The American Legion Chaumont Post 243, located on Oak Tree Ave., is holding a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 10 from 8 a.m. until noon.

Adults are \$5 and children are \$3. All profits will be donated to our South Plainfield Scholarship Fund.

## Annual Columbus Day Ceremony

October 11

On Monday, Oct. 11 at 9 a.m., the Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO National will host the Annual Columbus Day Ceremony at the Municipal Building.

Speaking will be dignitaries representing the state and local governing bodies commemorating this National Holiday. A wreath in honor of the occasion and a flag-raising ceremony honoring the discovery of America will also be held. Refreshments will be served following the festivities. Everyone is invited to attend.

## Sacred Heart Holding A Chef's Night

October 11

A Chef's Night is planned for Monday, Oct. 11 featuring Chef Mavid Martone, CCP from Classic Thyme Cooking School in Westfield.

The evening promises to be fun for all attending and you get to enjoy the great food prepared that evening. The cost is \$35 per person. BYOB if desired. Seating is limited. For tickets or information call Sandy Severini at (908) 757-9358.

## Historical Society Montly Meeting

October 12

The South Plainfield Historical Society will hold their monthly meeting

## Longaberger Basket Bingo/Raffle

November 2

The Sacred Heart Home School Association is sponsoring a Longaberger® Basket Bingo/Raffle on Saturday, Nov. 20. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the games begin at 7 p.m. Admission is \$20 (\$5 for admission and \$15 for Bingo sheets). Extra boards will also be sold. In addition to the Bingo prizes, Longaberger® baskets will also be raffled. Basket raffle tickets will be sold for three/\$5 or grand prize tickets for \$5 each. Space is limited.

To reserve tickets or for more information, call Kathy Thomas at (908) 755-0891 or Sacred Heart School at (908) 756-0632.

## What's happening in OCTOBER

Daily Events  
9-11 AM Coffee & Cake  
9 AM-4 PM Cards & Pool  
(908) 754-1047

## Senior Center EVENTS

The Senior Citizen's Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
NOW OPEN SATURDAYS 9:00 AM-12:30 PM—CREATIVE PAINTING 10AM

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>EVENTS</b>				
<b>ATTENTION: Flu Shots Have Been Suspended Nov. 2-Election Day</b>				
11 Center Closed Columbus Day	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am 12	Exercise 8:30am Line Dancing 10am Computer Classes 10, 11:30, 1pm AARP Crafts 1pm Listening to Children 9:30 13	Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10-11am Computer Class 11 & 1pm Nutrition for Seniors Program, 1pm 7	Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza lunch available 8
			Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafting 10am Computer Class 11&1pm 14	Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch available 15
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

on Tuesday, October 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center on Maple Ave.

## VFW Holding Dinner

October 15

The VFW Post 6763, located at 155 Front St., will be holding a dinner on Friday, Oct. 15 from 5 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$7 per person. For information, please call (908) 668-9751.

## Columbiettes Fall Charity Fashion Show

October 17

The South Plainfield Columbiettes and Knights of Columbus Council 6203 will host a joint fall charity fashion show on Sunday, Oct. 17 at the Spain Inn Restaurant in Piscataway. Doors open at 12:30 p.m.

Women will be modeling fashions from Coldwater Creek, while the men will don outfits from Eddie Bauer, both stores located in Menlo Park Mall.

The luncheon will offer an all-you-can-eat buffet. A cash bar will be available. There will also be a basket raffle with over two dozen baskets. All proceeds go to the organizations' local charities.

Tickets cost \$28 and must be purchased in advance by calling Geri at (908) 753-2032. Deadline is Saturday, Oct. 9.

## Cafe Everest Supports Lupus Walk

October 17

Chris Kousouris and Anna Hatzinikitas, owners of the Cafe Everest Diners on Park Ave., are enthusiastically supporting the Lupus Walk, which takes place in Johnson Park on Oct. 17 in Piscataway. Registration begins at 9 a.m., walk starts at 10 a.m. Rain or shine. Chris and Debie Ostapovich, one of their popular waitresses, will also be walking along with friends and employees who might join them.

Not only has Cafe Everest provided space in the diner for advertising the walk, but the waiters and waitresses will wear shirts and hats displaying the Lupus logo on special days. Help Chris, Debi and the team raise funds for Lupus. Your dollars can support the Lupus Foundation, too! Bring this article to Cafe Everest and 10% of your purchase will be donated to The Lupus Foundation of America, NJ Chapter.

Donations can be sent to :Lupus, New Jersey Chapter, PO Box 1184, 150 Morris Ave., Springfield, NJ 07081, (800) 322-5816, [nj4lupus@aol.com](mailto:nj4lupus@aol.com).

## AARP Oct. Meeting

October 18

The October meeting of the South Plainfield Chapter #4144 will be held on Monday, Oct. 18 at the Senior Center on Maple Ave. A speaker from our State Office will discuss the hope for establishment of the MFP programs, which have been successful in many states. The principle of these "Money Follows Person" programs is to increase the choices available in community and home-based care.

Also, Sgt. John Gillespie of the Middlesex County Sheriff's office will bring animals from the K-9 Unit to show the expertise of the handling and training of the Search and Rescue Unit.

## SP Fire Dept. Bingo

October 22

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department will be honoring all its members by constructing a Firefighters Memorial. They will be holding a bingo to help support the construction of the memorial on Friday, Oct. 22 at 7:30 p.m. Food and drinks will be available. Prices are reduced from the last bingo and are as follows: \$1 (Packet 2 face); Extra packets- 4 face (\$2), 6 face (\$3); 50/50 Bingo games- 4 face \$1 a sheet.

The Bingo takes place at the Sacred Heart School on South Plainfield Ave.

## Sexual Harassment, Assault, Rape Seminar

October 22

Woman's S.H.A.R.P. (Sexual Harassment Assault Rape Protection) Seminar will be held at the South Plainfield Senior Center on Friday, Oct. 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. The mini-course will deal with the psychology of predators and victims, safety awareness and effective defensive skills. The course will be presented by the ATA Black belt Academy. Speakers include the South Plainfield Police, Crime Prevention Officers, Gail Dougherty, LCSW of Domestic Violence Intervention Team and Master Tom Guerin (S.H.A.R.P. certified). The donation of \$20 goes to Women Aware, the South Plainfield Team. To register, contact the ATA Black Belt Academy at (908) 755-5440.

## Main Street Brass Quintet to Perform

The Mainstreet Brass Quintet will perform a concert at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, Oct. 24 at 3 p.m. Tickets are adults \$10, seniors \$8. To purchase tickets, call (908) 756-0632 ext.

## — Out of Town —

## Art Auction to Help Homeless Families

October 7

FISH Hospitality Program, a faith-based organization aiding homeless families, will host a fundraising art auction on Thursday, Oct. 7 at Our Lady of Mount Virgin at 600 Harris Ave. in Middlesex.

The evening will begin at 7 p.m. with a preview of the artpieces, live auction begins at 8 p.m. Price per person is \$10 or \$15 per couple. Major credit cards will be accepted for purchases. For tickets, call Cynthia Garrett at (732) 463-9214. The auction will be conducted by Ross Galleries.

## Tables and Shelves, Needle and Thread

October 9-November 8

"Tables and Shelves, Needle and Thread," an exhibition of three-dimensional still life by potter/painter Judy Keenan and hand-stitched fibre art by Pat Klein, will be on view from Oct. 9-Nov. 8 at the Riverrun Gallery at the Laceworks, 287 S. Main St. in Lambertville. The gallery is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. The gallery is closed on Tuesdays. For information, call (609) 397-3349.

## Kaitlyn's Walk for Diabetes

October 10

This year, Fitness by Design will be taking part in their first walk to help find a cure for Diabetes. Please come out for a beautiful day at the Somerset Patriots Ballpark on Sunday, Oct. 10 at 8:30 a.m. in Bridgewater.

Kaitlyn, a six-year-old, was diagnosed with Type I Diabetes, a life threatening disease that could kill her any day without warning.

To register to walk with Fitness by Design or to make a donation, call Norma or Amie at (732) 885-1200.

## Workshop to Help Slash College Costs

October 11 & 13

Free workshops, presented by Mark J. Mauro, CPA, are being held for the

parents of college bound high school students at Raritan Valley Community College on Monday, Oct. 11 and Wednesday, Oct. 13, from 7-8:30 p.m. The workshops focus on little-known ways of getting money for college, no matter how much income you make, or how good a student you have.

Seating is free, but limited. To reserve a seat, call toll free: (877) 656-2727.

## Free Anonymous Mental Health Screenings

October 12

Are you one of millions of Americans who feels like they're losing control of their emotions? A Center for Individual & Family Growth, a department of Jewish Family & Vocational Service is holding free anonymous mental health screenings on Oct. 12. You will also receive information and have a confidential screening interview with a mental health professional.

For screening times and more information, call (732) 777-1940.

## Woodbridge WOWs

October 13

The Woodbridge Area Chapter of Widows or Widowers (WOWs) will have a business meeting and social hour on Wednesday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Main Public Library, Amboy Ave. in Woodbridge. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call (732) 297-1775.

## Evenings For Singles

October 16

Young professional singles 25 to 49 will hold a singles dinner at the Morristown Headquarters Plaza Grill in Morristown on Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. Cost is \$37 in advance and includes buffet dinner, dessert, soda, coffee, tax, tip and movie ticket or \$42 on day of event.

RSVP required by Oct. 15 to Diana at (732) 764-9073 or [angelicbutterfly@iwon.com](mailto:angelicbutterfly@iwon.com). Gentlemen needed.

## Colonia High Reunion

October 16

Colonia High School Class of 1969 will hold their 35th class reunion at LaGriglia in Kenilworth on Saturday, Oct. 16 from 7 to 11 p.m.

Contact Robin Zeiger at (908) 654-8813 or [promarengine@aol.com](mailto:promarengine@aol.com). You can also visit [classmates.com](http://classmates.com) for more information.

## Women Aware Fundraiser

October 9

Women Aware is holding a fund raiser, an Amazing Acapella Amalgamation Concert at the Crossroads Theatre in New Brunswick. The date of the event is Oct. 9 at 8 p.m.

Performing will be Key of Sher, Pieces of 8, Vox Bob, Harmontrix and Mystery Group.

Adults are \$20 and seniors are \$15. Ticket cost and donations are tax deductible.

To purchase tickets call (732) 249-4242 or Crossroads box office at (732) 246-7469. Mail donations to: Women Aware, P.O. Box 7565, North Brunswick, NJ 08902.

## southplainfieldpeople Milestones



Walter and Patricia Janus at their wedding 50 years ago (left). They looking forward to celebrating their golden wedding anniversary.

### Januses Celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Walter and Patricia Janus (nee Glynn) of South Plainfield were married on Oct. 30, 1952 at St. Aloysius Church in Newark and will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year.

The Januses moved to South Plainfield in 1957 on Thanksgiving Day. This November they will also celebrate their 47<sup>th</sup> year of living in South Plainfield.

Walter retired from the borough as

a building maintenance worker in 1992. Pat retired in 1995.

They have five children, Cathy of Pa.; Walter, Jr. of South Plainfield; Susie of Arizona; Mark of Frenchtown and Joe of South Plainfield. They also have seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Walter is a post commander of the American Legion Post 243, a Life Member of the VFW and also belongs to the Elks.

### Mikorskis Welcome First Great Child



Owen Jack Tuleya

Frank and Florence Mikorski of South Plainfield have recently welcomed their first great grandson into the family.

Owen Jack Tuleya, born on Sept.

21, weighed in at a healthy 9 lbs. 1 oz. Owen's parents are Jonathan and Stephanie Tuleya.

Congratulations to the proud parents and great grandparents.

## Benefit Coffeehouse Set for October 16

Almost Famous Players, the innovative theater group that thrilled visitors with their thrilling 2003 Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour, will present South Plainfield with their second coffeehouse on Oct. 16 at the Senior Citizens Center from 7 to 10 p.m. There will be a drawing for free tickets to the Halloween show, as well as a chance to order advance tickets.

To date, Almost Famous Players have an exciting line up of entertainment. Heading the show is local resident Bernie Brausewetter, of BB and the Stingers. Bernie is a 1973 graduate of SPHS. His music credits are more than just impressive. Bernie will

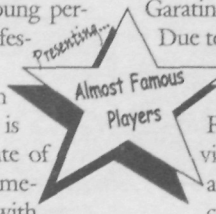
be joined by a host of young performers ranging from professional to amateur.

Following that hard won trail to professional status is Justina Carubia, a graduate of SPHS. Justina was a home-grown singer/songwriter with unrealized dreams. She hesitantly picked up a guitar, and with the help of her dad quickly excelled. She combined her amazing songwriting skills and has made a name for herself at various local clubs as well as the venues along the Jersey shore.

Other performers include Eva and Tim Barkalow, Chris Abbott, David

Garatino, Cassie Krajcik and more. Due to the high volume of walk-in patrons last year, as well as the backup of tours, Almost Famous Players strongly advises reserved tickets. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$4 for senior citizens and children under 10

accompanied by a parent. Halloween prices are \$7 adults and \$5 for children. Please call (908) 756-8011. Leave name, phone number and the date you'd like to reserve. A return call will be made as soon as possible. There are still spots for singers/etc.; please call the number above ASAP for information.



## Open House, Ribbon Cutting Celebration at Curves

By Roxanne Cortese

On Saturday, Sept. 18, Curves, located on South Plainfield Ave., held their official open house and ribbon cutting ceremony. The event was attended by Mayor Dan Gallagher, Councilman Dennis Cerami and Councilwoman Kathy Thomas, who were on hand to welcome the new business to town and to help cut the ribbon. Curves actually opened its doors last winter, but decided to wait for better weather to hold their official grand opening ceremonies.

Co-owners Elissa Bennett and Jerri Hochron opened their first Curves franchise in Westfield and then chose South Plainfield as their second location. The location of Curves on South Plainfield Ave. has brought many people to the downtown area, giving them a chance to visit other stores in that same location.

Curves has greatly improved their



Curves owners Elissa Bennett and Jerri Hochron (second from left), employees, Councilwoman Kathy Thomas and Councilman Dennis Cerami watch as Mayor Dan Gallagher cuts the ribbon.

corner location, using color a modern decor and decorative awnings.

During their grand opening, visitors had an opportunity to use the equipment, ask questions and meet the

owners and staff. There were plenty of refreshments served and drawings for prizes. It was a wonderful opportunity and everyone who attended had a great time.

## Sacred Heart Sponsoring Chef's Night

A chef's night is planned for Monday, Oct. 11 featuring Chef Mavid Martone, CCP from Classic Thyme Cooking School in Westfield. This is just one of the many events which are being held by Sacred Heart Church in celebration of their 100th anniversary. Enjoy an evening of fun and great food. The cost for the event is \$35 per person.

Chef Martone will guide the audience through the preparation of a fabulous menu that everyone will want to repeat for their own cocktail party. He will be making such tempting treats as: Chicken Satay with peanut sauce, handmade egg rolls, baked

shrimp wontons, Gruyere cheese fondue served with green apples and French bread, smoked salmon quesadilla, seasoned ground beef on Italian bread rounds, (a take off of an Arthur Schwartz recipe "Manly Meatballs," basic sushi rolls, spicy tuna, California and vegetable bacon wrapped apricots.

After graduating 1989 from The French Culinary Institute under the direction of Jacques Pepin, he went to work at Chez Catherine in Westfield where he spent the next 18 months.

David started teaching in 1991 and pursued a higher level of education,

earning the designation of C.C.P. (certified culinary professional) through the International Association of Culinary Professionals. He is currently a board member of The New York Association of Cooking Teachers.

In September of 1995, he opened a cooking school and retail store, which was met with extraordinary interest and support. The cooking school, recognized the need for educating children at a young age and started conducting children's 'Chef For A Day' kid's birthday parties.

Seating is limited. To reserve your spot, call Sandy Severini at (908) 757-9358.

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## Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.  
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul  
Alvarado, Pastor

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10-11 a.m., 4-4:45 p.m.  
and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass

Mass Schedule:

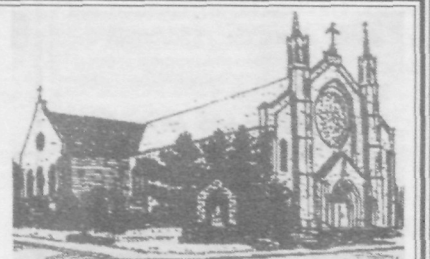
Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

Weekdays 6:30 a.m. (except Monday) 9:00 a.m. (church)

Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

Holy Days 7 p.m. (Vigil); 6:30 and 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.



# IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

### To South Plainfield's Voters:

The Democrats have put up their signs, with the recurring theme of "No Tax Increase for the 5<sup>th</sup> time." Here are some other taglines they can use, ones that are all true.

"No Helen Street for the ninth year!"

"No Hamilton Boulevard Reconstruction for the fourth year!"

"Huge raises for Borough Hall buddies every year!"

"No bid contracts for campaign contributors for another year!"

If they want to show their consistency, let them show it all.

**ED LYONS**

Dear Editor,

Growing up, I went to South Plainfield High School and Rutgers University with Bob Jones. We've been friends for more than 25 years and I probably know him better than almost anybody.

Knowing Bob that well makes me certain that the voters of South Plainfield would be passing up a great opportunity if they failed to elect Bob to the Borough Council. He's hard-working, intelligent and most importantly, he cares about this town.

Bob's opponents have tried to throw mud at him recently and I'd laugh at the things they said if the accusations weren't so underhanded. Apparently for Bob's opponents, impossibility doesn't stand in the way of their baseless charges. They'd rather make things up about him than debate him on the issues. I guess they know they'd lose.

Bob Jones will be a top-notch councilman if elected. It's an honor to endorse him.

**ROBERT JERONOWITZ**

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club, we would like to thank the following persons for all their help in making our Art Auction a huge success. Fourteen-thousand dollars worth of art and sports memorabilia was sold, resulting in a \$4,000 donation to the baseball club.

The list of people that must be thanked are as follows: Chris Hansen, Bill Butrico, Stacy Lake, Wendel and Kim Born, Lee Flanagan, Rick Walton, Mike Salici, Tom White, Jeff Marcoux, John Polizzano, Jack and Eileen Brady, Bob Bors, Marjorie Reedy, Charlie Decker, Pat DeSantis for all your help from start to finish; Bob Boyle, Roma Food for all the delicious desserts and water; Nancy Grennier, Pattie and Chris Abbott for the newspaper coverage; Patrick Boyle and AJ Celentano for being "art runners" and Taylor Born for your good intentions of helping but the pneumonia bug zapped him; Nick DeMarco and Cody Decker, Miss Marsha, the auctioneer from Ross Galleries and her two assistants and Margaret Celentano. Without everyone's help and attendance this fundraiser would not have been so successful. Thank you for those in attendance that made art purchases. This benefits the children and it's always about the children all the time!

**SINCERELY,  
DEBBIE BOYLE AND ANTHONY  
CELENTANO**

Dear Editor,

The choice in this year's election for Borough Council is easy. Charlie Butrico, Kathy Thomas and Dennis Cerami have an exceptional record. To see this, you just have to drive around South Plainfield. If you're on Maple Ave., you can see the improvements to the PAL and the community pool. If you continue down Maple Ave., you can see the newest fire truck at the firehouse and the Senior Citizen Rec-

reation Center. If you go down Park Ave. or Clinton Ave., you can see the open space that has been preserved. If you're driving on Plainfield Ave., you can see the space where they are going to build the new library and the skateboard park behind Borough Hall. And while driving around town, you'll be traveling on over 130 roads that have been repaved without borrowing a single dime. Now that's a record to be proud of. Everywhere you look in So. Plainfield, you can see where Charlie Butrico, Kathy Thomas and Dennis Cerami have made the town better. And that's why I'll be voting for them for Borough Council on Election Day.

**YVONNE T. SAGGI**

Dear Editor,

Now that the election season is here, the one thing you won't hear the Republican candidates for Borough Council and their supporters talking about is how many good things the Democrats have done in the past few years. Just look at the improvements to our borough, such as a stable municipal tax rate with no increase in five out of the last seven years, a significant reduction in borrowing, the up-

grades to the parks, the new liner in the Community Pool, the senior recreation center, the senior housing and the addition to the PAL. These are things that are real and make South Plainfield a better place to live. The bottom line in an election is whether the elected officials have made life better for the residents. Charlie Butrico, Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas have shown that they know how to make our borough government work better for the residents. On Election Day, vote for Charlie Butrico, Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas because they make So. Plainfield a better place to live.

**FELIX J. MALECKI**

Dear Editor,

Many times we may be unsure as to whom we should vote for in the upcoming elections. Locally, the choice is very easy. I will be supporting Council President Dennis Cerami. Let me tell you why you should also.

Dennis Cerami has served on the Borough Council since 1996. Throughout his time on the Council, he has chaired the Public Safety Committee, which encompasses police, fire, rescue, Office of Emergency Management and the Municipal Court. In

today's society, that's no small task. Council President Cerami has made sure that our Borough has the best possible equipment and manpower to handle any situation that may arise. Under his leadership, the borough has purchased a state-of-the-art police communication system, three new ambulances for our volunteer rescue squad, new fire trucks for our volunteer fire company and he helped secure a grant from Middlesex County that enabled the borough to build a new emergency management building at no cost to the taxpayers. If that wasn't enough, he made sure that South Plainfield was one of the first towns that implemented the LOSAP Program as a small way to thank the volunteers who give up so much to our community. Dennis Cerami has worked tirelessly to see that our emergency services are given the resources to do what magnificent job that they do. Each resident should thank Council President Cerami for fighting for the safety of all the residents of our Borough.

As I previously stated, the choice this Election Day is easy. I am re-electing Council President Dennis Cerami for the Borough Council. I will also be casting a vote for his running mates,

Councilman Charlie Butrico and Councilwoman Kathy Thomas. They deserve our thanks and our support. I urge you to do the same.

**DEBRA KRAWIEC**

Dear Editor,

One of the best signs that the finances of South Plainfield Borough Council are in good hands has been the improvement in the Borough's credit rating with Standard and Poor's. Every taxpayer in South Plainfield should know about this important development. Standard and Poor's is the recognized leader in rating the credit of municipal governments and analyzing the ability of towns to repay their debts on time. Every time the Borough borrows money, Standard and Poor's rates the risk of the Borough's municipal bonds. The S&P rating is one of the principle factors used by investors in making the decision of which municipal bonds to buy.

South Plainfield now has one of the best credit ratings of any town in New Jersey. This credit rating means that So. Plainfield can borrow money at lower interest rates, saving its taxpayers millions of dollars in the long term. This credit rating proves that the Pay-

(Continued on page 12)

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**From the Democrats**

# Hamilton Blvd. Reconstruction Ready to Start

Democratic Council members Charlie Butrico, Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas this week officially announced the scheduled start of the Hamilton Blvd. reconstruction project. Councilmember Butrico set forth the details of the project. "Hamilton Blvd. will be totally reconstructed all the way from New Market Ave. to Stelton Rd. with a new turning lane from New Market Ave. onto Hamilton Blvd. That stucco style structure at the intersection of Hamilton and New Market will be demolished and the curb line will be moved in with a wider turning radius. In addition the traffic signal will be moved back. No longer will trucks be forced to veer into oncoming traffic when turning onto Hamilton Blvd., but that is just a small part of the project. New traffic signals will be installed at St. Nicholas Ave. and Ryan St. so that truck traffic can move onto the industrial roads without tying up traffic. Hamilton Blvd. will be widened to four lanes from the Valley Bank at the intersection of Durham Ave. all the way to Stelton Rd. A new traffic signal will be installed at South Clinton Ave. Best of all, the section of Hamilton Blvd. from the overpass near Durham Ave. all the way to the overpass at New Market Ave. will have new drainage and curbs along with decorative pavers and lights. The area as you enter town along Hamilton Blvd. will have a nice residential feel to it. This project will both help move traffic and enhance the quality of life on the south side of the borough."

Councilmember Kathy Thomas expanded upon her running mate's comments. "The total construction costs of close to \$15 million are being paid from a grant from Middlesex County. This is one of the largest municipal road projects ever funded by our freeholders. We must thank Freeholder Director Dave Crabiel and Freeholders Jane Brady, Pete Dalina, Camille Fernacola, Jim Polos, Chris Rafano and, of course, our hometown Freeholder John Pulomena for coming through for the residents of our borough. In addition, our hometown Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan and fellow Assemblyman Peter Barnes are working to

get a grant from the state to defray most of the cost of the decorative lights along Hamilton Blvd. This is just another example of how fortunate we in South Plainfield are to have individuals at all levels of government working for us. It's because of this proactive approach to expensive and difficult projects that we have been able to deliver no municipal tax increase for the fifth time in seven years. This week the freeholders passed a resolution sending the Hamilton Blvd. reconstruction project out for bid. You will soon see signs going up along Hamilton Blvd. Preliminary work will start immediately after the contract award with most of the heavy construction to take place next spring and summer."

Council President Dennis Cerami expanded, "We are all excited that the Hamilton Blvd. project is about to begin. However, I have asked Mayor Gallagher and the other members of the council to consider taking it a step further. I propose that we explore extending New Market Ave. through the Hamilton Blvd. Industrial site to connect up with Belmont Ave. near the Public Works building. The Hamilton Blvd. Industrial site is in the process of being cleaned up and will be redeveloped with clean commercial uses. If we extend New Market Ave., we can direct all truck traffic away from Belmont Ave. and Hamilton Blvd. and create a truck route from New Market to South Clinton. With the new traffic signal at South Clinton Ave. and Hamilton Blvd., trucks can move quickly without traveling on Hamilton Blvd. We could then designate Hamilton Blvd. as a light traffic street from St. Nicholas Ave. to New Market Ave. By extending New Market Ave. along with the Helen Street Extension, which is back on track, we can once and for all keep truck traffic off the residential areas on the south side of the borough. Although in and of itself, the Hamilton Blvd. reconstruction project is a terrific improvement for the borough, we should always go the extra mile for residents. Rest assured that the team of Charlie Butrico, Kathy Thomas and Dennis Cerami will always work as hard as they can to continue to improve the quality of life in South Plainfield."

**From the Republicans**

# The Myth of Pay-as-You-Go Government

Pay-as-you-go government has been a Democratic campaign slogan for a decade, but according to GOP candidates Marge Reedy, Ray Rusnak, and Bob Jones, Democrats are feeding voters a catchy slogan that fails to tell the true story. "Sadly, it's a myth rather than a reality," said Jones. In reality South Plainfield's debt jumped more than \$800,000 last year (copies of the annual debt statements for 2003 and 2004 are available at [www.spgop.com](http://www.spgop.com)). "How is that pay as you go?"

In addition to borrowing, the Democrats are also leasing, Reedy explained. The 2005 budget includes almost \$400,000 in lease payments.

## 2004 VOTE

While it's not technically borrowing, it's still a long-term obligation."

"Nothing is wrong with leasing if it makes fiscal sense," added Rusnak, a financial specialist with Wachovia Bank. "But don't tell us you are running a pay-as-you-go government when you're still indebted to us. The leases are for needed items, and if leasing is the better way to go, fine. But the pay-as-you-go slogan is deceptive. The slogan's what should go."

Jones took it a bit further: "The Democrats would have us believe they weaved 'fiscal responsibility' out of 'financial chaos.' When you think about it, it sounds pretty good. But did

they? Taxes are skyrocketing, with the sewer tax shooting up 25% in just one year. And they're selling off assets—borough land—to prop up the budget. They say they're not incurring debt, but debt went up more than \$800,000 last year. And on top of that they're incurring other long-term obligations. They promised to pave 11 roads last year but ran out of money to finish them. Is this what they mean when they say they've restored fiscal integrity?"

"If the Democrats failed at achieving their pay-as-you-go promise, you can't fault them for trying. But they should be candid about it. They shouldn't repackage their failings as accomplishments via campaign slogans. People would respect them more if they were straightforward about their shortcomings," added Reedy.

Rusnak explained that his slate plans to take a hard line on spending. "Marge, Bob and I are not making a lot of big-money campaign promises. But we will promise one thing. We won't sugar coat things. If there's a problem, we'll do our best to deal with it and be honest with voters."

"It's time to Take Back South Plainfield," Reedy added. "While the Democrats will still control the governing body if we're elected, at least someone will be looking over their shoulders. Absolute one-party control is hurting our town, and the financial mess we're in is an example of that."

To find out more about Marge, Ray, and Bob's plans if elected, go to [www.spgop.com](http://www.spgop.com). Copies of documents supporting factual statements made by the candidates are available at the site, and visitors can also order yard signs and contact the candidates via e-mail.

## Have you made your choice?

Don't miss the candidates debate on October 25, Senior Center, 7:30 pm.

## VOTE IN LOCAL ELECTIONS NOVEMBER 2

# Blessing of Animals at Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart Church held their annual Blessing of the Animals ceremony on Sunday.

The lawn of Sacred Heart School was filled with dogs, cats, birds, hermit crabs and fish, along with their owners. Father John Paul Alvarado led the prayer and blessing.

Volunteers from the Plainfield

Area Humane Society were on hand to pass out literature. They also ran a raffle as a fundraiser.

A contest was held after the blessing to judge the animals in several categories, including obedience. Awards included best looking, most well behaved and best tail wagger.

Girl Scout Troops #232 and #431

sold homemade doggy biscuits as a fundraiser.

## Main Street Brass Quintet to Perform

The Mainstreet Brass Quintet, who recently returned from its inaugural concert tour of United Kingdom on July 25, completing a 10-day journey that took the quintet from the picturesque shores of western Scotland to historic, inspiring settings such as Great St. Mary's Church at Cambridge University, will perform a concert at Sacred Heart Church as part of their 100th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, Oct. 24 at 3 p.m.

To purchase tickets, which are \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors, call (908) 756-0632 ext.

From the South Plainfield Library

# Bookmarks

By Chris Grippo

Domestic violence is a perennial problem in the United States, and in recognition of that problem, October has been declared Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The South Plainfield Domestic Violence Educational Outreach Program has mounted an exhibit at the library for the entire month on that topic. Highlighting individual cases of domestic violence in which the victim was murdered by their spouse/partner, the exhibit also has information on various programs around town that aid victims of domestic violence as well as programs to teach women self-defense. Furthermore, if you would like

to speak to a team member, there will be one present every Thursday at the exhibit during the month of October between 7 and 9 pm.

And don't forget to check out the books the library owns on this topic.

Also this month, we will have our annual children's Pumpkin Painting Craft on Saturday, Oct. 23 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the library. Registration is required (so we are sure to have enough pumpkins), and there is a \$1 fee which must be paid at the time of registration. Also, Miss Linda and Miss Cheryl are looking for any donations of buttons, pins, lace, yarn, etc. which the children will put on the pumpkins. You can drop off any donations at the library.

A reminder! The library will be closed Sunday, Oct. 10 and Monday, Oct. 11 for the Columbus Day Holiday.

Miss Linda has started her fall storytime/craft programs. No registration is required. They will be held Tuesday 10:30 a.m., Wednesday 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m.

Finally, please remember we have received our video circuit for this month and there are lots of good titles, including *Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star* with David Spade, *Punch-Drunk Love* with Adam Sandler, *Dummy* with Adrien Brody (the Oscar winner for the *Pianist*) and many more. All the above mentioned are DVDs and supplement the library's large and constantly growing DVD collection, which includes everything from television shows (*CSI*, *Friends*, etc.) to hot new releases, including *Cold Mountain*, *Bad Santa* and *Along Came Polly*.

See you at the South Plainfield Public Library right next to Borough Hall.

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# Sports

## South Plainfield Soccer Club Weekly Roundup

**U-8 Storm**—Defeated the North Hunterdon Gunners on Oct. 2 at South Plainfield's Kenneth Ave. 5-3 improving their record to 2-1-0. The Storm will play Piscataway Anaconda in Piscataway on Saturday, Oct. 9.

**U-9 Thunder**—played the Cranbury Force on Oct. 3. The Thunder will compete in the Wall Fall Tournament on Oct. 9 and 10 at Wall.

**U-9 Rockets**—tied the North Hunterdon Grizzlies 1-1. The Rockets improved their record to 0-2-1. The Rockets played most of the game in the Grizzlies half of the field. The Rockets will play in the Wall Fall Tournament on Oct. 9 and 10 at Wall.

**U-10 Hotspurs**—Hot spurs defeated the North Brunswick Patriots. The Hot Spurs will play the North Hunterdon Rage at South Plainfield's Kenneth Ave. Field at 11:30 a.m. on

Sunday, Oct. 10.

**U-11 Bullets**—defeated the Montgomery Mach IV 3-2 in a thrilling night game at Kenneth Ave. The Bullets remain undefeated with a record of 3-0-0, and will play in the Wall Fall Tournament on Oct. 9 and 10 at Wall.

**U-12 Power (Girls)**—Played the Watchung Hills Rockets on Oct. 3. The next game is against Monroe Twp. Lady Hawks in Monroe on Oct. 10.

**U-12 Spirit**—The Spirit played the New Providence Rowdies on Oct. 3. The Spirit will play the West Windsor-Plainsboro Eclipse at Kenneth Ave. fields on Sunday, Oct. 10 at 1:30 p.m.

**U-12 Sonics**—Defeated the Somerset Hills Hurricanes 2-1. The Sonics record stands at 2-0-1. The next game for the Sonics is against Aberdeen-Matawan Pythons at Kenneth Ave. Field on Sunday, Oct. 10

at 11:30 a.m.

**U-13 Fire**— Played the Hunterdon Rovers on Oct. 3. The Fire will play against the South Brunswick Soccer Club at South Brunswick's Sondek field #7 on Sunday, Oct. 10 at 3 p.m.

**U-13 Ice**—Improved their record to 3-0-0 by defeating the Central Jersey Sliver Bullet Wolfpack. The Ice will play against the Manville Thunder at Manville on Sunday, Oct. 10.

**U-14 Blast**—Played the Scotch Plains Blue Thunder on Oct. 3. The next game for the Blast is against Millburn Soccer Club Cyclones at Kenneth Ave. Field on Oct. 10, 1:30 p.m.

These players play great games that are always entertaining, so please come out and support them at any of their future games. For more information on the South Plainfield Soccer Club visit <http://www.soplfdsoccerclub.com>.

## Blast Perfect In Win Over Scotch Plains Blue Thunder

The Blast played their best game of the year by coming away with a convincing 5-0 win against the Scotch Plains Blue Thunder.

After losing two Blast players to injuries during the first two weeks, Jorge Alvarez with a broken leg and James Seyffart with an ankle injury, the Blast were determined to come out playing strong at home for their fans. A few minutes into the game saw the Blast lose Joseph Gonzalez to a knee injury. Fortunately for the Blast, Joe's injury was not serious and he was able to return to action in the second half.

Leading the scoring with two goals each were Jose Fernandez and Max Cordova. The first goal of the game was scored by Christian Barrientos.

The game started fast and furious with the Blast taking the first five shots on net without a goal being scored. The best scoring chance game on a pass from Jose Fernandez to Alan Garcia, who hooked the shot just left of the goal.

The defensive trio of Ian Collins, Joseph Lacerda and Joseph Gonzalez played an excellent game in not al-

lowing many shots to be taken against Goalie Nick Jeglinski. The Blue Thunder could not get the ball past these three defenders all game. The quickness of Ian Collins and the blinding speed of Joey Lacerda were more than the Thunder could handle.

Mid-fielders Kenny Breslau and 15 Alan Garcia also played great all game. Alan was constantly involved in many plays and had a few good scoring chances.

Because goalie Jared Christopher was sidelined with a heel injury, Nick Jeglinski played the whole game in goal and recorded his first win by holding the Blue Thunder scoreless throughout the game.

The next game for the Blast will see them pitted against the Millburn Club Cyclones at home.

## High School Volleyball Team Showing Impressive Skills

By Michael Duquette

South Plainfield High School's precedent for athletic excellence continues in the shape of its girls' volleyball team. The team has made quite a name for itself despite entering only its second season, impressing spectators with spectacular teamwork and expert sportsmanship.

Last Friday, the varsity volleyball team displayed an impressive showing against Hillsborough. Although the team did not emerge victorious from the three-game set, their performance was something to commend.

The first game was close with a score of 25-20, the second game was a win at 28-26. The final game of the match was another close call, although Hillsborough prevailed with a total of 25-21.

When asked about the current standings of the team, head Coach John Ferguson explained, "The team's been working hard, but they haven't been as successful as they wanted to be." He says that the team is "displaying an athletic mindset" instead of the "volleyball mindset" characteristic of a seasoned team. But for just a recently created team, South Plainfield's girls are sure to continue to impress sports fans in town.

## Varsity Girls' Softball Preview

By Tim Morgan



Tim Morgan, Jr.

This past season, the South Plainfield High School Varsity Girls' Softball team went 20-5, placing second in the White Division only to Carteret. When it came to the end-of-season play though, the Lady Tigers just could not produce the results they were after.

They failed to advance past the quarterfinals in the GMC Tournament, losing an eighteen inning game to Edison by only 3-2.

They encountered another tough defeat at the Group III North Jersey Section II Tournament, this time advancing to the semi-finals before losing a 1-0 heartbreaker to Raritan.

Despite these dissatisfactions though, twenty-third year Head Coach refused to walk away embittered. "Anytime you win twenty games in the conference we play in, it's a good season. Although I'm disappointed that we faltered toward the end (at the state and county levels), I'm still satisfied overall with the girls," he said.

Panzarella felt that the girls displayed great defense and team effort that was aided further by solid pitching. What he attributes most to their anticlimactic end is their lack of timely hitting. He alleges that pitching has become more and more dominant in the game of softball in recent years, which explains why games are so typically low-scoring. The pitching at the high school level has become stronger than ever and, while the Lady Tigers had no difficulty dispensing their own brand of pitching, not connecting the bat to the ball from their opposition's

pitching frequently enough or well enough was primarily what kept them from reaching their goals.

The other consideration is the tight competition in their division. It is one where "anybody could beat anybody" and where not being constantly sharp costs games,

Panzarella claims. "You gotta be ready to play each week and that's what makes the sport exciting," he said.

Panzarella further added that seeing the kids working well in practices and competition not only kept them in every game but keeps him going in the sport as well. He said that it makes it not only more fun, but it feels good and accomplishing to see and teach a group of girls that listen well, work together, and want to learn.

"They were a hard working bunch of girls," Panzarella said. "I can't be disappointed considering the effort they showed."

We just weren't hot at the right times."

Junior Jessica Miller and sophomore Carlie Kazmir were the first basemen, sophomore Lacey Santone covered second, senior Vicki Boley covered third, senior Johanna Hedler played shortstop, senior Marissa Judd and sophomore Melissa Szeliga rotated in left field, senior Jessa Jones took center field, junior Caitlin English took right field, junior Jessica Senz was the pitcher, and senior Chiara Tomei was the catcher. (Class years are as of last year.)

"I thought they were an outstanding team," Panzarella said. "It's a team you go into the season knowing they're going to be competitive because they'll leave it all on the field. There's no quitting with these girls."

Senz, who Panzarella credited with keeping the team in the game at all times, was the MVP and Judd was Rookie of the Year.

Hedler and Jones were the team captains. Charlie Garcia was the Assistant Coach, Nick Scalzo was the Junior Varsity Coach, and Joe Blondo was the Freshmen Coach.

## SP Soccer Club U-12 Spirit Highlights

The U-12 Spirit scored an impressive 6-0 victory on Sunday over the New Providence Rowdies.

Teamwork was the key to victory as the Spirit's rock solid defense and precise passing kept the Rowdies off balance all game.

The team was led by the scoring

of Edwin Molina, Danny Zwatschka, Agu Ufodu, Ryan Billich(2) and Joe Krawiec.

Goal keepers were Nicholas Tuyt and Joe Krawiec.

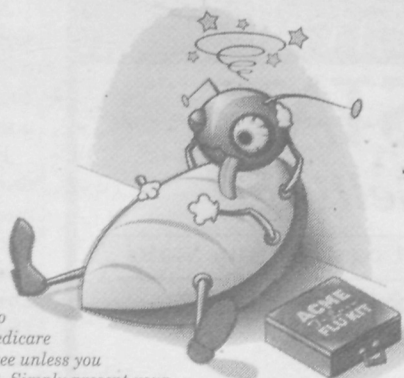
The Spirit's next game is at home, this Sunday, Oct. 10, against the West Windsor/Plainsboro Eclipse.

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# Sports

## More Excitement For SPHS Field Hockey Team

by Michael Duquette

South Plainfield High School's Varsity Field Hockey Team continues to amaze local fans, having recently captured accolades for two more superb games.

On Monday, the Lady Tigers took on Old Bridge at home in a tense, action-packed match-up. The team scored early in the first half, but their opponents evened out the score before the half was over. The remainder of the game had spectators on the edge of their seats as South Plainfield spent much of it within close range of Old Bridge's goal. Although overtime seemed inevitable, South Plainfield scored just 19 seconds before the end of the game to continue their winning streak.

Friday saw the Lady Tigers playing

at Jost Field against Sayreville. The game began with a presentation of the team before their admirers, and then it was on with the action. Although the visitors scored the first goal of the night less than six minutes into the match-up, Jessica Miller retaliated with a goal for the girls.

At the half both teams were even. Then, things started to go a little crazy. Neither team scored in the second half, which brought the game into overtime for 10 minutes. When this period ended, the score was still even. Not even after double overtime could a winner be declared, putting the team's impressive record at 4-0-1.

The Lady Tigers are clearly showing no signs of slowing down. Keep reading the *Observer* for continuing coverage of another amazing field hockey season in the making!

By Lee Flanagan

## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

Bob Bors, director of Buildings and Grounds, is calling for another fall work detail for this Saturday, Oct. 9. I would like to thank all the volunteers that came out and worked on Field #3 this past Saturday. Those individuals that volunteer their time now will be given first consideration when selecting managers and coaches for the 2005 season.

Volunteering now when you are not assigned a work detail really shows your interest in the SPJBC. We are here to make the playing conditions better for the kids.

Again, this Saturday, Oct. 9 we are seeking volunteers again from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. There are families that

did not complete their obligation to the SPJBC in the spring and summer, so now is the time to fulfill that obligation. Many tasks need to be completed. See you on Saturday.

The SPJBC Art Auction was a great success last Friday at the South Plainfield High School. Huge thanks go out to Debbie Boyle and Anthony Celentano for organizing this event. Special thanks to Bob Boyle and Roma Foods for their donations to this event.

The registration fee for the 2005 season will be \$95. Our next registration dates are Oct. 14, 15 and 16. This is our early bird sign up. If you wait to January 2005, registration will then be \$20 more. Come on

out and get your child registered for our new and exciting season. You can also sign-up to manage/coach and umpire at this time. Opening Day for 2005 is April 9.

This fall we will be revisiting the SPJBC Rules and Bylaws. Any recommended changes must be submitted by Nov. 1, 2004. If you have a recommendation to the Rules and Bylaws committee please visit our website: [www.spjbc.com](http://www.spjbc.com). Charlie Huber is the chairperson of the committee. He is looking for two other individuals to serve on the committee.



## South Plainfield Football Eagles

Field House  
753-6344  
[www.speagles.com](http://www.speagles.com)

On Saturday, Oct. 2, the South Plainfield *Mitey Mites* played their first game under the new lights against Maplewood. Matt Gruver had a good game at quarterback by leading the offensive line down the field with help from John DiDolce playing a strong game at center. Ryan Harris had a few nice runs from running back and also helped support the team on the offensive line. Jared Agee and Josh Coupe played a good game for the offense, making several key blocks. Jeffery Pellegrino had a nice interception and Nick Graves had a fumble recovery.

Our *Junior Pee Wee Eagles* faced the tough West Orange Mustangs away on Sunday, October 3, which resulted in a 18-6 loss.

The Eagle Offense was once again led by Troy Heilmann and Mark Tomei. The only touchdown of the game came from a quarterback keeper by Troy Heilmann from the two yard line. Also, helping the Eagles move the ball down the field were Jordan Gamble, Tyler Hunt, and Mike Molinaro.

The Defense was led by Tyler Hunt, Anthony Torchia and Stephen Petriello when they came up with backfield tackles while Eric Burnham, Dylan Dorey and Mike Molinaro sacked the Mustang's quarterback. The Mustang could not convert on the extra point due to hard hitting tackles by Stephen Petriello and Eric Burnham.

The *Junior Midgets* also played away in West Orange, on Sunday resulting in a loss of 13-0.

Although the Jr. Midget offense came close to scoring the Mustang defense prevented the score. Offensive leaders were Seth Yocum, David Smith, and Anthony Cianfrocca. Kyle Hughes led as quarterback, Mike

Wagner, Nick Heilmann, John Wylam and Tareek Wakins each took turns running the ball coming close several times.

On defense Shawn Gorman, Matt Quadrel, Mike Farrell, and Jimmy Gorman returning from injury made many saving tackles. Jimmy Gorman also sacked the Mustang quarterback resulting in a loss of yards.

The South Plainfield Eagles hosted Phillipsburg on Sunday, Sept. 26.

The *Flag* squad faced Phillipsburg with great sportsmanship. Standouts this week were: Christopher Kuberiet, William McLaughlin, Kyle Moroney, Dylan O'Connor, Dion Pender and Nicholas Pezzolla.

The *Mitey Mites* had a very exciting game. Joe Jakubik had an interception and several tackles on the defensive side of the ball. Jared Jirari played a strong game at left tackle with many assists. Brian Schillaci played well on the offensive line providing many key blocks. Kyle Dickerson and Dante Peoples had several good tackles to stop the offensive run. Joey Pellegrino had a punt return for a touchdown. Matt Hurst again had a strong game playing both sides of the ball.

Our *Junior PeeWee Eagles* played a tough Phillipsburg team that resulted in a 0-0 tie. The Eagle offense was led by Troy Heilmann and Mark Tomei with Mark Tomei completing two long passes for 30 yards each to Mike Molinaro and Claude Payne. The defense was led by Mike Molinaro with 10+ tackles and three interceptions by Stephen Petriello. The defensive line consisting of Anthony Torchia, Troy Heilmann and Eric Burnham all had great tackles in the backfield. Strong defense was provided by Jordan Gamble, Troy Russell, Erick Rodriguez, Ryan Hughes, Dylan Dorey and Raymond Perez.

The *Junior Midget Eagles* played a tough Phillipsburg team resulting in a loss for the Eagles 8-14. John Wylam

had an excellent game recovering a fumble, a sack for a big loss in yards and scoring the Eagles only touchdown. Matt Cooper kicked for the extra points putting the Eagles ahead by one. Mike Jefferys and John Wylam made a saving tackle on the 10 yard line preventing Phillipsburg from scoring. Brandon Downes had an interception and provided great defense. Jarrell Wakins was responsible for a sack. Brian Babinetz, Anthony Cianfrocca and Michael Farrell played well on the offensive line. Marcell Counts, David Smith and Shawn Gorman provided several good tackles to stop the offensive run.

Our *Eagles Cheerleaders* are preparing for the Mountain Valley Cheerleading Competition on Oct. 10, each game they provide a half time show of their routine which they will perform at competition. They look great and we are all wishing them well at competition.

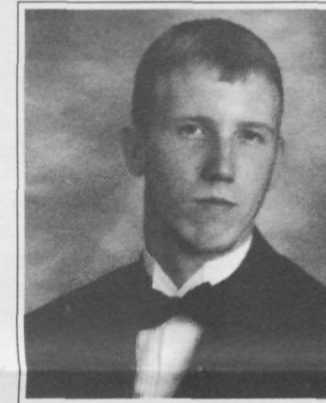
## Phillip Veinott Honored By College Basketball Team

by Michael Duquette

Phillip Veinott, a graduate of South Plainfield High School's Class of 2003, was honored this past spring by his college basketball team at the California University of Pennsylvania.

Veinott was accepted on scholarship to play for the university in the 2003-2004 season. That year saw the California Vulcans capture the PSAC West Conference title and finish twelfth in Division II of the NCAA. In addition, Phillip was named "Most Improved Player" at the team's annual awards banquet held on April 25.

Head Coach Bill Brown, who has led his team to become PSAC West champions six times in just eight years of coaching the Vulcans, said that Phillip "earned me respect of [his] teammates and coaches with [his]



Phillip Veinott

play and work ethic this season. We expect Phil to keep improving his overall game."

Phillip, a lifelong resident of South Plainfield, is sure to continue his success in the years to come as he pursues a major of Sports Management at California University.

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## police report

• On Sept. 30 David Randall Hindermeyer, 28, of Clementon was arrested for having an expired inspection sticker and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• Kennedy School reported that \$195 in cash from the PTSO mailbox in the main office was missing.

• On Oct. 1 the Gulf gas station on Stelton Rd. reported that a driver had left without paying for \$41.29 worth of gas.

• On Oct. 2 Susan Ann Conner, 42, of Bayonne was arrested for possession of controlled substance and the driver Sean Michael Cornell, 35, of Piscataway was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and failure to have a drivers licence in possession at a motor vehicle accident.

• A John St. resident reported that a brick had been thrown at the side of his vehicle causing a large dent in his door while driving down Sampton Ave.

• On Oct. 3 Ralph Henry English, 60, of Yorktown, NJ was arrested for driving while intoxicated and driving on a revoked license at a motor vehicle stop.

• An employee of Innovative Folding Carton on Durham Ave. reported that all of the windows in his vehicle has been broken in with a hammer.

• An Orchard Dr. resident reported that his house had been shot with a paintball gun.

• A Fairmount Ave. resident reported that his vehicle had been sprayed with yellow spray paint.

• A Ritter Ave. resident reported the theft of a 3-D archery target from his rear yard.

• On Oct. 4 an employee of Ronpak on New Brunswick Ave. reported that the drivers side window of his vehicle had been smashed. Nothing was taken.

• On Oct. 5 an Orchard Dr. resident reported that a Snapple bottle had been thrown at his vehicle breaking the left side rear window.

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Public Notice

RETURN OF PERFORMANCE BOND

To Paul J. and Susan Panzarella for public improvements at 426 Kosciusko Ave. in South Plainfield, Block 346, Lot 8.

A public meeting has been scheduled by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield to hear objections, if any, to the release of a Performance Bond posted by Paul J. and Susan Panzarella for public improvements at 426 Kosciusko Ave. in South Plainfield known as Lot 8, Block 346 listed on the official tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held on Monday, October 18, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Paul J. and Susan Panzarella  
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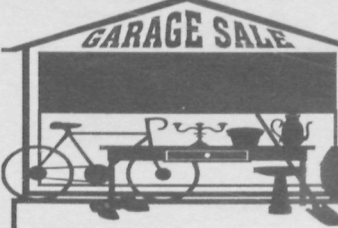
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South Plainfield

# IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

This credit rating proves that the Pay-As-You-Go philosophy adopted by the Mayor and Council really does work. It has reduced our Borough's debt by 50 percent, brought in a zero tax increase in five out of the last seven years and will help save millions of dollars in the future. This smart financial planning also demonstrates why Charlie Butrico, Kathy Thomas and Dennis Cerami deserve your vote for Borough Council on Election Day.

**WILLIAM A. NAGY, JR.**

### To the Editor,

I have been following the news in the *Observer* about our Board of Education (BOE) and the issue of what appears to be missing money. I noted with some dismay the headline "Where's the money?" in the latest issue and was more concerned when the article under the headline didn't have any real answers. So I read the letter from Daniel Smith, a BOE member, with substantial interest. And what did I find? He wrote, "neither I, nor any of the other currently seated Board members plan on quitting and shirking responsibilities and obligations we

were entrusted with..."

Well, at this point it seems as though that ship has sailed — any talk of shirking responsibilities and obligations should be in the past tense. His own letter notes that this is not a problem that just arose—there were questions about the budget over the past couple of years. What didn't I find in his letter? The words "sorry" or "apology".

The focus of his letter was on working to solve the problem. However, until we know exactly how bad the situation is and how we got there, talk from a current BOE member about solving the problem is premature. After all, you don't ask a fox to solve a problem concerning missing chickens, at least until you know what he had for dinner; and you don't ask the sheepdog to solve a problem of missing sheep, if you think he's been sleeping rather than guarding.

**RICHARD J. SULLIVAN**

### Dear Editor,

Last year voters almost elected Marge Reedy as the first Republican council member in almost a decade. Fifteen more votes in each district and she would have won a seat on the

council. I hope this year Marge vaults that hurdle and gets elected.

I can't think of a more deserving candidate. She works hard for our town, and especially our youth. I'm going to support Marge, and I hope you will too.

**LINDA R. MACKENZIE**

### Dear Editor,

For several weeks the Republican candidates for council have been talking about their plans for our town. One of the most important things to me in this election is hearing where the candidates stand on overdevelopment, a problem that is hurting our quality of life.

Marge Reedy, Ray Rusnak and Bob Jones have been talking about several things they want to do to curb this problem, including stopping selling land to big builders and reevaluating the zoning ordinance. By contrast, the Democrats have been silent. This bothers me, especially because they receive campaign contributions from some of these builders.

I have no problem with planned and controlled growth, but new homes, condos, strip malls, and apartments are

springing up at an alarming rate. Unbridled growth strangles our town's resources—things like our schools, roads and other services. We need to slow things down, but for some reason the Democrats just don't grasp this and are doing the opposite. The builders have carte blanche.

If we don't get a handle on overbuilding soon, it will be too late. I believe controlling overbuilding must become a priority if we want to salvage our quality of life, and that's why I'm voting for Reedy, Jones and Rusnak in November.

**MERYL SCHOEN-NOBLE**

### Dear Editor,

I have been honored to serve as your councilman for seven years. During that time, I have been a part of the election campaigns every year. As Democrats, we always pride ourselves on running on our record and setting forth what we want to see done if we are re-elected. Every year the Republican Party runs the same three-phase campaign. In Phase 1 they accuse the Democrats of making things up.

For example, for years they said we were never really going to build affordable senior housing across from Riley School. They said that we were just making an empty campaign promise about building a new state-of-the-art Senior Recreation Center. They said we'd never actually double the size of the PAL or save the corner of Oak Tree Ave. and Park Ave. from a drug store. I could give many more examples, but I'm sure you're getting the drift of what the Republicans do during Phase 1 of their yearly campaign plan.

Next comes Phase 2. After the Democrats keep their campaign promises the Republicans say "Sure it's a

great thing but it took too long." Phase 2 is followed quickly by Phase 3 when the Republicans say, "Well we could have done that too, if we had the chance." Never mind that they never came up with the proposal in the first place and haven't proposed one new idea in as long as I can remember. The reason I bring this up is because one of the Republican spymasters wrote a letter last week saying that the plan to reconstruct Hamilton Blvd. is an empty campaign promise (remember this is a Phase 1 attack).

The timing couldn't have been worse for the Republicans. They must have cringed when they saw the signs go up this week announcing that the reconstruction of Hamilton Boulevard is about to start. Be prepared for Phase 2 assault. It might even be in this newspaper. The Republicans will be saying it took too long to start the project even though its taken less than two years to design and make over 60 property acquisitions which is one of the fastest time periods in the history of county road projects. Next week be prepared for Phase 3 when one of the Republican candidates will claim... "We were planning on doing Hamilton Blvd. too, we just forgot to tell anybody during our last ten campaigns."

I think its time the Republicans come up with a new campaign plan. The choice for council is easy. Vote for the Democrats who have a plan and keep their promises. Charlie Butrico, Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas will continue to work as hard as they can to keep South Plainfield a great town to live in.

**RAYMOND PETRONKO**

## Obituaries

### Edward Flesher, 79

Edward Flesher died on Sunday, Oct. 3 at JFK Haven Hospice in Edison.

Born in Garwood, he had been a resident of South Plainfield for 50 years.

He served in the United States Navy during World War II in the Pacific. Upon his discharge, he was employed by the Central Railroad of NJ as a fireman and engineer.

He enlisted in the State Police in 1950, rising through the ranks, obtaining the rank of captain before his retirement in 1980. He served in Troop B Morristown, Troop C Princeton, the Garden State Parkway, the Turnpike and then as an aide to Governor Robert B. Meyner. In 1980, he retired from Division Headquarters in Trenton, where he was Personnel officer and fiscal officer.

He was a member of the associa-



Edward Flesher

tion of Former NJ Troopers, Inc. and has been an avid saltwater fisherman.

He is predeceased by a brother, Walter J. Flesher, formerly of Garwood.

He is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Marion (Walsh) Flesher; a son, David and his wife, Maria of Bremerton, Washington; a daughter, Karen and her husband, Alan P. Greene of Guilford, Connecticut and a sister, Lillian Hodges of Point Pleasant. Also surviving are four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Former Troopers Association, 1351 Kuser Road, Hamilton Twp., NJ 08619 or the Haven Hospice c/o JFK Hospital, 65 James St., Edison, NJ 08808.

### Diamond L. Ronzo, 92

Diamond L. Ronzo died on Thursday, Sept. 30 at the Muhlenberg Regional Center in Plainfield.

Born in Newark, he grew up in Plainfield and North Plainfield. He resided in South Plainfield for the past 50 years.

Diamond retired in 1977 after working as a wire man for Panel Oven in South Plainfield for 15 years. Prior to that, he had been a presser with the Plainfield Knitting Mill and he also had worked for two years in the stock department with Mack Motors, which had been located in Plainfield.

He was a long-time and the oldest living member of the Malinase Club in Plainfield. He was a hard working man who enjoyed his garden and working with the earth.

His wife, Elizabeth Cortese Ronzo, died last year. Being one of six, he was predeceased by all of his brothers and sisters.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Marie E. and Walter Thompson, Sr. and two sons and daughters-in-law, Louis S. and Mary Ann Ronzo and Joseph A. and Sandra Ronzo, all of South Plainfield. Also surviving are five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### William (Willie) Raimondi, Sr., 79

William (Willie) Raimondi, Sr. of South Plainfield died Saturday, Oct. 2 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Willie was born in Newark and was a resident of Rahway before moving to South Plainfield 16 years ago.

Willie was a foreman for the former A&P Bakery in Newark for 27 years.

Willie served his country during WWII in the United States Army. He was a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 in South Plainfield and the Knights of Columbus Council 1146 in Rahway.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Emma Florence Batterson Raimondi, who died in 1988.

He is survived by two sons, William Raimondi, Jr. of Jackson and Daniel Raimondi of Toms River; a daughter, Frances Gielen of South Plainfield; two sisters, Louise Brown of Linden and Rose Peasley of St. Paul, Minn.; 10 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Prader-Willi Syndrome Association, 5700 Midnight Pass Rd. Suite 6, Sarasota, FL 34242.



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