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South Plainfield Council of Christian Churches invites you to put your faith into action. Walk with friends, neighbors & fellow parishioners to help stop hunger around the world. The Crop Walk this year will be on Saturday, Oct. 28 and steps off at St. Stephen's Church. For info, visit www.CROPWALK.org

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OCT 20 2006

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 10, NO. 8

50 CENTS

OCTOBER 20, 2006

SOUTH PLAINFIELD FIREFIGHTERS EARN A

Place of Honor



Firefighters' Memorial Dedicated to Chief John Cotone

The South Plainfield Firefighters' Memorial was officially dedicated last Saturday morning, in memory of Fire Chief John Cotone, who was a member of SPFD for 43 years and chief for 18 years. The ceremonies were attended by more than 200 dignitaries and residents.

Past and present members of the South Plainfield Fire Department, led by Fire Chief Larry DelNegro, lined one side of memorial park, while Duncan McCaskill and Paul

Delco played the bagpipes. Master of ceremonies for the dedication was former fire chief, Joe Abbruzzese. The American flag that was raised during the ceremony was loaned for the day by the Cotone family.

Rev. Charles Mingle and Bob Harding began with prayers, and both spoke of the dedication of all firefighters, as well as those who volunteer their services to help others.

Present were Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Mayor Dan Gallagher, Po-

lice Chief John Ferraro, former Fire Chief Frank Diana, councilmen Matthew Anesh, Robert Bengivenga, Jr., Charles Butrico, Dennis Cerami and Ray Petronko and many who helped design and build the memorial site. Also attending were family members of John Cotone.

The memorial is the result of a dream and years of planning, with the design changing many times. About six years ago the dream became a reality when Rich D'Urso's high school graphic arts class created a vision of the final design. The first thing the public saw were the three lighted flag poles. Later, bricks were placed along the path, as well as a memorial with the names of those who have volunteered, and a chief's memorial was dedicated. Landscaping added the finishing touches to a memorial where visitors can come to remember and pay their respects.

Members of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company Memorial Committee were Chief John R. Cotone (deceased), Deputy Chief Thomas Scalera, Richard McCriskin, John Celentano, Mario Abbruzzese, Joseph Abbruzzese, Michael Pellegrino, Jack Kirchner

More than 200 attend ceremonies to dedicate the memorial that was six years in the making.



Councilman Dennis Cerami speaks at the dedication.



From the left, Former Fire Chief Joe Abbruzzese, firefighter Mario Abbruzzese and former firefighter Lenny Capraro, Jr., who now resides in Oklahoma.

(Continued on page 8)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Log on to southplainfieldnj.com for the latest meeting agenda

Note: Council meetings are broadcast on Comcast Channel 74 every Monday at 8 p.m. The candidates debate will be aired on Thursday, Oct. 26 at 8 p.m.

councilmeetings

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

Date	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
Monday, November 13	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 5	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 (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

planningboard

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
Oct. 24, Nov. 28, Dec. 12 and Dec. 26.

zoningboardofadjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
Oct. 26, Nov. 30* and Dec. 14.

boardofeducationmeetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted
Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7 p.m.—
Nov. 8, Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 14 and March 28.
Regular Meeting Wednesdays 8 p.m.—
Nov. 15, Dec. 20, Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March and April 4.

taxpayersadvisorygroup

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

siteplan.sub-committee

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

recreationcommission

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716
Nov. 14 and Dec. 12

environmentalcommission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621
Nov. 8, Dec. 13 and Jan. 10.

businessadvisorygroup

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

trafficsafetyadvisorycommission

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

boardofeducationcurriculum/technology meetings

Meets once a month on Mondays at 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.



The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

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South Plainfield, NJ 07080
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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:
- Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
 - 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. Include your name, address, telephone number.

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 or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 200 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.

IN YOUR OPINION

The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the publisher.

To the Editor,

I just wanted to take a minute to say that the fire department did a great job at their open house! The kids had a great time while also learning about fire safety. They enjoyed climbing on the fire trucks and getting to try on all the firemen's gear. Our firemen even took the time to grill everyone hamburgers and hot dogs! Goodie bags were given out for the kids to take home, which included items for them to play with that further enforced fire safety. Sparky was a big hit. Kids were able to have their picture taken with him and then have the pictures turned into a button for them to wear.

We all had a great time and the kids still can't stop talking about sitting in the fire truck. I think the fire department deserves a huge thank you for putting this event together every year and making it as fun for the kids as it is educational.

SINCERELY,
KIMBERLY ANESH

Dear Editor,

I am writing in regard to the recent issues going on at South Plainfield High School. If you have not heard, our teachers have been working without a contract since it expired at the end of the last school year. Recently, they decided to cease most of the after school programs and clubs, run by teachers who voluntarily give up their time and effort for their students. However, whoever decided to pass this obviously was not thinking about the students. We have nothing to do with the contracts and therefore should not be punished by taking away something that a lot of us take great pride in. Clubs are something we work hard for, and along with the countless hours we spend, most of our clubs give right back to the community through money and awareness. I am very proud of the number of students who participate in clubs and show dedication. How could people take this away? It is truly a shame and definitely a huge let down that people feel the need to take such a drastic step.

However, for the first time in my life, I can not take a side. I feel sorry for the teachers who are working hard to make an honest living. Our teachers are parents, mothers and fathers, husbands, wives, neighbors and friends. Personally, my father works in the police union and I know how outraged my family would be if he was working without a contract.

But then, try taking it from a student's point of view. We already know that we attend a broke school with very serious budget issues. Now, you take away our clubs, something we do have reasons to be proud of? I feel bad for everyone, but I feel worse for the people who ultimately felt the need to take such a huge step with this dilemma by taking away our clubs. Just remember, we did not do anything to be caught in the middle.

SINCERELY,
ASHLEY SACKS, SPHS JUNIOR

To the Editor,

I was ecstatic the other day when I saw who was running for the Democrats on Election Day. Charlie Butrico,

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Please be advised that the Observer will no longer publish anonymous letters. Any letter received without identification will be discarded.

Letters may be submitted to the Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax 908-668-8819 or by email: sposerver@comcast.net. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Please limit letters to no more than 200 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject.

Ray Petronko and Joe Scudato, respectively, are running for mayor and council. What a fantastic team.

Charlie Butrico has been a great councilman. As a member of the Administration and Finance Committee, Charlie has been a driving force that has resulted in our borough having one of the lowest municipal tax rates in Middlesex County. During his tenure on the council, South Plainfield has had no municipal tax increase in three of his five years. That is just remarkable. Charlie's business approach has certainly paid off where taxes are concerned. I couldn't be happier than to have him occupying the mayor's office with his record. Our borough will be in good hands.

Ray Petronko has been a dynamic leader for our Recreation Department throughout his tenure on the council, which is in its ninth year. Our recreation programs are second to none in the county and probably the state. Ray has certainly made his imprint. Just this year, new diving boards have been installed at the community pool and comfort stations and concession stands have been added to the football and soccer complex. As a parent, I want to say—thanks Ray and keep up the good work!

Ray's running mate for council, Joe Scudato, is a fine young man. He is a dedicated father and husband. As past Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus, he has dedicated many hours to improving the lives of so many people. Think of how lucky we will be to have Joe working for us.

On Election Day, please join me in voting for the democratic team of Charlie Butrico for mayor, Ray Petronko and Joe Scudato for council. We could not be luckier than having these three fine men working for us.

BARBARA COSTANTI

To the Editor:

Last week's letters to the editor in the Observer were disappointing to say the least. The letters to the editor depicted totally inaccurate accounts of what occurred at the candidates' debate. As a result, we could not help but write to set the record straight.

Each of us attended the debate, and we could not disagree more with the descriptions of what happened. The Republican candidates were outstanding. If any candidates did not live up to their expectations, it was the Democrats.

Robert Bengivena, Alex Barletta and Dave Sesok demonstrated that night why they deserve to be elected in November. These three candidates knew their stuff, and their preparation was exceptional. What's more,

they gave a compelling basis to vote for change in our town. They presented a positive agenda with new ideas and solutions for South Plainfield. It's a shame more of what they said was not reported and that people with their own agendas wrote such nasty letters.

Bengivena, Barletta and Sesok performed superbly, and anyone who says otherwise is "spinning" the truth in the most deceptive of ways. If you want to see for yourself, check out the debate on cable TV.

Congratulations Robert, Alex and Dave on a job well done.

Derryck White, Jeff Johnson, Judy Dileo, Cecilia Hogan, Sam Ghanim, Sil Gover, James Edmondson, Theresa Edmondson, DJ Hunsinger, Glenn Jones, Ray Rusnak, Mike Giurgius, Paul Garellick, Anita Hogan, Katherine Seesselberg and Cynthia Frank

Dear Editor,

Taxes! Taxes! Taxes! That is all you hear the Republican candidates for mayor and council talk about in this election. I have always been the type of voter to look at the facts. While the taxes have gone up in South Plainfield, I believe a wise and educated voter will look at the facts. First and foremost, taxes have gone up. I moved here approximately 16 years ago and I am paying more in taxes than I did in 1990. But what hasn't gone up? Percentage-wise I am paying more for my garbage bill, cable, electric and gas, water and telephone than I did in 1990. It is a fact of life. If you look at rising taxes, the majority of the increases have been due to the school budget, which is voted upon by the citizens of this community. So, in fact we can say that it was the voters in school board elections that increased our taxes, not the Democrats. Also during these past 16 years, property values have increased. Most houses in town are worth twice their value since 1990. Check out the neighboring towns surrounding South Plainfield and look at the average taxes paid in those communities. The facts will show that South Plainfield is probably one of the best kept secrets because our taxes are far lower than our neighboring communities, perhaps the lowest in Middlesex County.

The facts speak for themselves. Yes, the taxes have gone up and so has everything else. South Plainfield has made vast improvements and is a community we can be proud to live in. The Democratic candidates have made wise decisions, have foresight, and have definitive plans to keep improving our town. My vote is for Butrico, Petronko and Scudato.

CHERYL NAGEL-SMILEY

To the Editor,

After reading last week's letters to the editor I began to wonder what debate some of the writers attended. The mayoral debate had a clear winner, Robert Bengivena, Jr. This wasn't just my opinion. All the people seated around me also thought Bengivena was the better candidate. His answers were well thought out, and he mastered the facts. He was also

(Continued on page 14)



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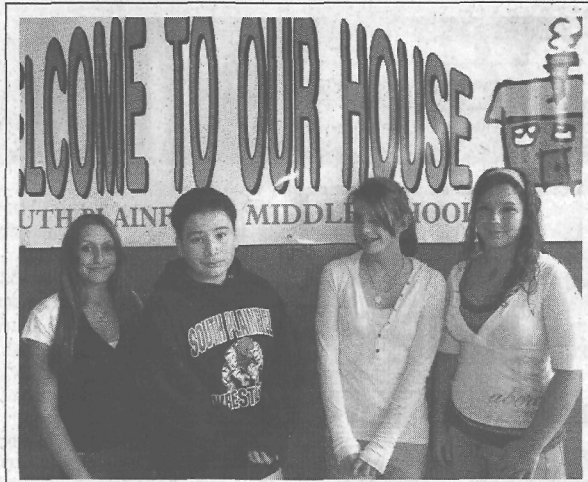
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The South Plainfield Middle School recently held its elections for student council. Pictured (l to r) is the newly elected Student Council President, Connie Caldrony; Vice President, Bacilio Alvarado; Secretary, Karly Sanko and Treasurer, Cassie Prendergast.

Congressman Mike Ferguson Visits SPHS

By Libby Barsky

Former teacher Congressman Mike Ferguson (R-7th Congressional District) spent an hour with Brandon Crosby and Joe Cirigliano's Government and Law classes on Oct. 10 at South Plainfield High School.

"Most students find government boring," said Ferguson, who found the study of government exciting when he attended Notre Dame University.

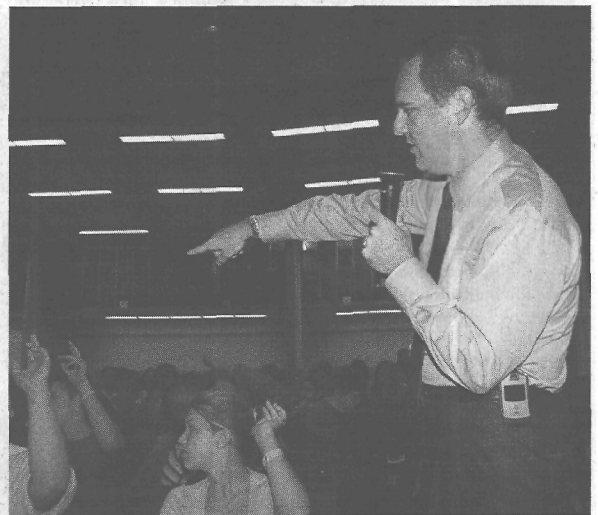
To show how government affects students, Ferguson began by asking the students a few questions. What did you eat for breakfast? How did you get to school? The answers emphasized government's impact on students' lives, from requiring the listing of nutritional ingredients on cereal boxes to setting the speed limit when a student drives to school.

"What is a public servant?" asked Ferguson. After students named specific jobs—fireman, teacher, policeman—Ferguson gave his "broad definition." "Someone who makes a sacrifice in their life to make someone else's life better."

"It's not an easy job," Ferguson noted speaking personally. "You have to live in Washington and in New Jersey, raise the money (\$2.5M) to run campaigns and why go to all that trouble?" he asked.

Answering his own question, he said, "It's a real opportunity to make good laws that can improve the quality of people's lives."

He cited the "No Child Left Behind" law instituted in 2000, the year he went to Congress, as one where "we are waiting to see how the dust settles." One of the problems he noted with the program that needs to be corrected is how a lot of good schools are being classified as



Congressman Mike Ferguson answered students questions during his visit to South Plainfield High School last week.

underperforming right now. Next year the law comes up for reauthorization, which will give lawmakers an opportunity to revise it before it's passed again.

Asking for a show of hands for those who were 18 and registered to vote, he warned, "If you aren't registered, you're not deciding who should make the laws. You're not being represented."

Then he asked, "Is anyone involved in anything where you do something for someone else?" Students replied that they were—as members of the High School's Peer Leadership program, scouting and other areas.

"Nothing is as important as teaching a young child to read," Ferguson noted and urged students to read to their younger siblings. "Know that

your brother or sister wants your attention and will do everything to get it. What can be more important than showing a young child that he is valuable and they are worth your time?"

Before leaving Ferguson gave this challenge to the students. "Do more of what you are you doing to make someone else's life better."

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Historical Society's Fourth Annual Town History Day

The South Plainfield Historical Society will hold its Fourth Annual Town History Day on Sunday, Oct. 29, from 1 to 4 p.m. at its headquarters in the Roosevelt Administration Building (old Roosevelt Elementary School) on Jackson Ave.

This year's event honors the memory of the "The New Brooklyn Five," five Civil War soldiers from the area who perished in the war. Inside, 10 tables of authentic Union and Confederate Civil War artifacts presented by Custer Camp #17 will include an array of carbines, rifles, swords, knives, tin types, currency, letters and stamps, posters, portraits, newspapers, books, uniforms, hats and shoes, coins, cannon shot and shells, autographs, med-

als and buckles, and an original newspaper announcing the assassination of President Lincoln. In addition, visitors can peruse.

The History Center's archives of photographs, memorabilia, artifacts, vintage clothing, newspapers, books and so much more. Outside, Civil War Living History reenactors will set up camp along Jackson Ave. and Hamilton Blvd. and entertain questions on the Civil War. Eleven vintage cars will be displayed in the Jackson Ave. parking lot, and a refreshment tent at the building's entrance will provide free snacks and drinks.

For more information, contact SPHistoricalSoc@cs.com or log on to: <http://geocities.com/sphistoricalociety>

Motorcycle and Truck Collide on Belmont

Robin Mikuski, 36, of Edison was seriously injured on Oct. 11 at 2:27 p.m. when the 2003 Buell motorcycle she was operating struck a pickup truck making a left turn from Belmont Ave. The truck, a 2004 Dodge Ram pickup truck owned by Jorge Contreras of South Plainfield, was being driven by Irma Pons, 32, of South Plainfield. There was also a five year old female in the Dodge at the time of the accident who was not injured.

A preliminary investigation showed that Pons was traveling east on Belmont Ave., making a left turn onto

northbound Harvard Ave. There was also a vehicle turning left from Belmont Ave. onto southbound Harvard Ave. When the left turning vehicles began their turns, Mikuski passed an unknown vehicle on the right and struck the right rear of the Dodge pickup truck, causing extensive damage.

Mikuski was treated by paramedics from Mercy 6, Muhlenberg Hospital, and transported to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital for treatment of a serious injury to her right leg. Pons was transported to Muhlen-

berg Hospital on a reported complaint of pain.

Numerous charges were filed regarding this crash. Mikuski was charged with driving while intoxicated in a school zone, possessing an open alcoholic container, improper passing and no insurance. Pons was charged with driving while suspended, failure to change an address and making an improper left turn.

The crash is being investigated by Officers Brian Iarrapino, Vincent Campagna and Lt. Kevin Murtagh. Anyone with additional information should contact the Traffic Safety Unit at (908) 226-7679.

State Police Academy Day a Success

Nearly 160 Girl Scouts in grades 6-12 throughout the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council's 24-community jurisdiction attended a day at the New Jersey State Police Academy in Sea Girt. The girls took part in a program with Girl Scouts from all 11 New Jersey councils. The collaborative state-wide program gave participants a glimpse at the day-to-day activities of the Police Academy as well as a look into law enforcement. Among the topics covered during the chilly day were polygraph, canine units, SWAT team, traffic safety, Haz-Mat response and much more. The program allowed girls to complete the requirements for the "Uncovering the Evidence" Interest Project.

Founded in 1957, GSWRC pro-

vides the optimal Girl Scout experience to over 11,000 girls and adults in 24 communities. Be sure to log on to www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts or call (908) 232-3236 ext. 1209.

Residents may bring their left over paint to the Recycling Center THIS SATURDAY, OCT. 21.

Correction
In last week's page one debate story, we failed to name all the participants. Council candidates were Dave Sesok, Alex Barletta, Joe Scrudato and Councilman Ray Petronko. Mayoral candidates were Councilmen Robert Bengivenga, Jr. and Charles Butrico. We regret the omission.

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Andrea Lacerda Team Leader
Jesse Lacerda Client Care Manager
Michele Leavy Buyer Specialist
Susan Espin Processing & Marketing Assistant

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Around Town

VFW Cabbage Dinner

October 20
The South Plainfield VFW will be holding a stuffed cabbage dinner on Friday, Oct. 20 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost for salad, dinner, dessert, coffee and tea is \$8. Public is welcome. For information call (908) 668-9751.

SPHS Marching Band 25th Festival

October 21
The SPHS Marching Band and Color Guard will be hosting the 25th Annual Marching Band Festival and USSBA Competition on Saturday, Oct. 21 at Frank R. Jost Field behind the PAL. Gates open at 3 p.m.; discount tickets will be available for seniors and students.

Wear your school colors and cheer them on while you enjoy a great show! Look for our surprise guest! Come hungry-hot food available.

Trunk-R-Treating

October 27
Kennedy School annual Trunk-R-Treating will be held on Friday, Oct. 27 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the school parking lot. Prizes given for the best decorated vehicles. Fee is \$10 per family. Food, drinks, games, raffle, 50/50. Any questions call Barbara Bythell at (908) 754-9629.

Vendor's Night at Sacred Heart

October 27
A Ladies' Night Out Vendors Night will be held at Sacred Heart School on Friday, Oct. 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. Free admission.
Over 15 vendors, including Longaberger Baskets, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Discover Toys, Tastefully Yours, and many more. All proceeds benefit the Sacred Heart School HSA.

Anointing the Sick at Sacred Heart

October 28
Sacred Heart Catholic Church will celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, within the context of the Mass, on Oct. 28 at 1:30 p.m. Individuals who are preparing for surgery, have a serious, chronic, or terminal illness and those of frail physical and/or mental health who are seeking the healing comfort are invited. Transportation is not available. The church is handicapped accessible.
Any questions, contact Sr. Kathleen at (908) 756-0633 ext. 42.

Trip to Woodloch Pines

October 30
Two rooms have become available for the annual Pocono Resort vacation to Woodloch Pines. Dates are

South Plainfield SENIOR CENTER

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

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

What's happening in
OCTOBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
UPCOMING EVENTS Octoberfest Trip to Hofbrauhaus in Atlantic Highlands, Thursday, October 26 \$35 per person/bus departs 10:30 a.m. Call the Center to make reservations.				Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available 20
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am 23	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am Airing of Candidates Debate 2pm 24	Exercise 8:45 am Computer Classes 10am, 11am & 1pm Tai Chi Class 2pm 25	Pathmark Shopping 9 am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm 26	Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available Airing of Candidates Debate 2pm 27
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

Oct. 30 to Nov. 3. Cost is \$505 per person based on double occupancy and includes round trip motor coach, four nights hotel, breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, daytime activities, nightly entertainment, hotel taxes and gratuities. Call the Senior Center at (908) 754-1047 for tickets.

Kennedy Vendor Night

November 3
Do your holiday shopping at Kennedy School's Vendor Night on Friday, Nov. 3 from 6 to 9 p.m. Home Interiors, Southern Living, Tastefully Simple, Italian Charms, Tupperware, Party Lite and more. Vendor Night organizers are looking for vendors to participate. If you are interested or would like more information, please call Jill Quadrel at (908) 769-7456.

SP Columbiettes Shopping Trip

November 4
The South Plainfield Columbiettes will sponsor their annual shopping trip to the outlets in Reading, Pa. on Saturday, Nov. 4. Bus leaves Sacred Heart Church at 8 a.m. sharp. This is a change from last year's departure site.
Cost of the trip is \$25 and includes the bus driver's tip. At Reading, you will receive a shopping bag, coupon book and a ticket for a free lunch.
Bus will stop at the Cracker Barrel in Fogelsville, Pa. for additional shopping and dinner on your own and returns at approximately 7 p.m.
To reserve a seat or for information, contact Kathy at (908) 756-3772.

American Legion Woman's Auxiliary Mtg.

November 6
Do you have a family member who

is or was serving in the military? If so, please join us for an introductory meeting on Monday, Nov. 6 at 8 p.m. at the American Legion Post 243 on Oak Tree Ave. Representatives from the state and county woman's auxiliary will be present. Coffee, tea and cake will be served. Please come and meet other like-minded women.

Vision Screening at Senior Center

November 9
There will be a Vision Screening program at the South Plainfield Senior Center on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 2:30 p.m., sponsored by State Senator Barbara Buono and conducted by Dr. Bruce Kastner of Iselin. Dr. Kastner will have three staff members with him to conduct vision screenings. There will also be a question and answer period for any seniors with specific concerns about vision issues.
Eye diseases such as cataracts, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and macular degeneration are some conditions a screening can identify. All local seniors are invited to this important program. For information, call the Office on Aging at (908) 754-1047.

AARP Driving Class

November 9 & 16
A defensive driving class will be held two Thursdays, Nov. 9 and 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at South Plainfield Senior Center. Cost is \$10. You must attend both sessions to receive three year discount on auto insurance. Registration required.
Call Mary at (732) 752-3764.

Elks Dinner/Dance

December 9
Live entertainment, dinner and dancing, featuring Bill Turner and Blue Smoke Band playing country, oldies, Elvis, top 40 and more on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 8 p.m. to midnight. \$20 per person. Dinner includes chicken, ribs, potato, baked beans, vegetable, desserts, coffee, tea and soda. Cash bar. Tickets must be purchased in advance only at the Elks Club, 1254 New Market Ave. See the bartender.
For more information, call Debbie at (732) 491-5310.

Class of 1966 Members
The South Plainfield Class of 1966 is planning a reunion on Nov. 25 and looking for classmates. For information, contact Frank Furino (908) 754-5167.

Out of Town

Crystal Singles 45+

October 20
Crystal Singles 45+ Asians and Americans dinner on Friday, Oct. 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Grand Buffet, 875 Route 17 South, Ramsey. \$17 includes full all-you-can-eat Chinese buffet, a soda, tax and tips.
RSVP is required by noon on Oct. 20 noon to AngelButterfly37@aol.com or (732) 764-9073.

Golf Ball Drop Fundraiser

October 21
The Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross is sponsoring a "Golf Ball Drop" on Saturday, Oct. 21. NJ 101.5 radio personalities will play in a charity softball game at Warinaco Park in Roselle against members of the police, fire and rescue departments from 22 towns in the Tri-County service area. 5,000 numbered golf balls will be dropped on the field. Balls that land closest to the flag pole win \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,000, respectively.
For more information, call Alan Karmin at (908) 756-6414, ext. 20, karmina@usa.redcross.org.

New Jersey's Cultural Festival

October 22
A free cultural celebration to showcase art, music, dance, crafts and food will be held on Sunday, Oct. 22 at South Riverwalk Park, River View Plaza (above Rte. 29 South) in Trenton. For more information call (732) 745-4489.

Adoption Support

October 23
CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support) meeting, Monday, Oct. 23, 7:15 to 9:15 p.m., Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church,

170 Watchung Ave. in North Plainfield. Open sharing of adoption stories; light refreshments.
For information call Alyce (732) 227-0607 or visit www.chatsnj.com.

"We The People" Lecture Series

October 22
The Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission presents the lecture, "The Life of Elizabeth Downes Franklin," wife of William Franklin, the last royal governor of New Jersey, on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 2 p.m. at East Jersey Olde Towne Village, 1050 River Rd. in Piscataway.
For information, call (732) 745-4489.

Depression/Bipolar Support Meeting

October 25
The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) educational meeting will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 7:45 p.m., Morristown Unitarian Fellowship in Morristown. The public is invited to attend.
For information, call (973) 994-1143 or the New Jersey Self-Help Group Clearinghouse at (800) 367-6274, or visit <http://dbsanewjersey.org>.

Celtic All-Stars To Perform

October 27
L.E. McCullough's Celtic All-Stars celebrate the Celtic holiday of Halloween with a lively mix of Irish dance tunes, haunting slow airs and boisterous ballads Oct. 27 at 8 p.m. at the Barron Arts Center on Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge. Concert is free, but call (732) 634-0413 for reservations.
The concert is sponsored by the Woodbridge Township Cultural Arts Commission.

Willow Grove Festival

October 29
Willow Grove Church in Scotch Plains will hold a fall festival on Sunday, Oct. 29 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Games, cookies to make, arts and crafts, tattoos and storytelling for everyone to enjoy. Weather permitting, the festival will be held in the church parking lot, otherwise inside Ryno Hall.
For more information, call the church office at (908) 232-5678.

Halloween Dance Woodbridge WOWs

October 29
Woodbridge Widows and Widowers will hold a Halloween dance on Sunday, Oct. 29 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the Elks Hall, 665 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge. Music by Jimmy Ray. Refreshments. Everyone is welcome. Costumes are optional. Admission \$8 members, \$9 guests.
For more information, call (732) 381-7239 or (908) 757-0515.

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All Accessories Drums Too!	✓	-	Free Parking	✓	-
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			Cable TV	✓	-

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

So, stocking up on candy? Checking out the costume rental places? Making sure the local outlet has videos featuring Lugosi, Karloff, Cushing and Lee? Making sure those fake cobwebs are non-toxic? Well, let's take a break from that and read news from the South Plainfield Library:

Next week, we'll have a slightly abbreviated version of our usual schedule of children's programming. By "slightly abbreviated," we mean this: our Storytime programs for children ages three and over will be held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. "Time for 2's & 3's," for children age 2 and 3, will be held on Wednesday morning at 10:30 and Thursday evening at 6:30. And "Books-N-Babies," for children under age 3, will be held on Friday morning at 10:30. Each program lasts about an hour and is presented free of charge; no pre-registration is needed. If you'd like more information, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

You may have noticed that the plug for our usual Wednesday night Storytime is missing. That's because it's been preempted next week, in favor of the children's magic show, "Hocus Pocus with Joe Fisher." This special program is set for Wednesday at 7 p.m. and it will be held at the South Plainfield Senior Center, down the street from us. The program is suggested for children ages three and over, and they may come in costume, if they wish. It's being presented free of charge, but pre-registration is requested.

On the Circuit front, we're between groups on both the Audiobook Circuit and the CD Circuit. The latest Audiobook group should be available early next week, with the Circuit CDs returning in early November. Meanwhile, next Friday is the last day of availability for the current group from the DVD Circuit. So, if there's a title you're interested in, get yourself in

gear and pick it up.

Throughout October, the library will host an exhibit in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It can be seen during the library's regular operating hours, and includes further information regarding domestic violence, including pamphlets and emergency phone numbers. The exhibit is provided by the South Plainfield Domestic Violence Educational Outreach Program, in cooperation with the South Plainfield Police Department, Women Aware, Inc. and South Plainfield Domestic Violence Crisis Intervention Team.

Here's some advance word on a program: on Thursday, Nov. 9, we'll host another craft program for patrons age 14 and older. Local resident Valerie Mollineaux will lead participants in making designer bracelets. The program is being presented free, but space is limited, so pre-registration is required. Please call us for more details; ask for Millie or Jaimie. You can also e-mail Jaimie for details at missjaimie@yahoo.com.

In the past, our patrons have been very generous when it comes to donations of books and A/V items. Some of these donations are placed in our collection, others end up in our ongoing book sale, and all are appreciated. Now, we have one request of our generous patrons: Hold it! Due to space restrictions (that new library won't be ready for a while yet), we're unable to accept material donations at this present time. In other words, thanks but no thanks. We'll let you know when we'll start accepting donated items again. The exceptions to this request are plastic shopping bags (which we use for packing and our book sale customers) and monetary donations (which have any number of uses).

That's all for now. You can learn more on our website at www.south-plainfield.lib.nj.us. See you next week. And, though it's a bit early... BOO!

Entertainment Books 2007 are now available at the Sacred Heart Parish Center. Books are valid through Nov. 1, 2007 and cost \$25. Great Christmas gifts. The parish center is located on Randolph Ave.

Haunted Woods Tour Accepting Reservations

Don't wait till it's too late! Time is running out to reserve tickets for the 2006 Almost Famous Players (AFP) Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour. Show dates are Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 26, 27 and 28. Tours begin approximately 6:30 p.m. The Sunday, Oct. 29 show has been canceled.

This year's theme is the Pine Barrens and legends. We must not forget the show's comedic poke at the upcoming election. An interesting change of pace for this year offers the audience two different sets of tour guides to choose from or they can just take the tour twice!

Playing tour guides Gail and Connie are Jessica Musolino, a two-year member of AFP, who is a student at Middlesex County College majoring in Theater and Brittany Penevolpe, a three year AFP member and a junior at SPHS. The other set of guides are Conner and Gallagher, Scottish exchange students. Conner is played by Darren Kaczowski, a two-year AFP member and a senior at SPHS, who has appeared in many shows. Gall-



Ian McGregor and Megan Hartman rehearse for the Haunted Woods Tour.

agher is portrayed by Chris Abbott, a life long member of AFP and a student at MCC, majoring in theater.

Other actors include: Marissa Kline, Ian McGregor, Meghan Hartman, Eric Nuber, Rocco Severini, Tim Ratti, Shannen Rivers, Lisa Flammer, Angelica Keller, Patricia Abbott, Ken

and Audrey Reisch, Morgan Davison and Jackie and Jesse Ostrowski of Bound Brook, plus many others providing scares along the trail. Lighting and sets were designed by the AFP tech genius Danny Nigro. Danny has an awesome running crew that keeps the show on track.

There are still plenty of tours available. Reservations are not necessary, but recommended. Sell out tours are not unusual. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for 11 and under. Buy five tickets in advance and receive a sixth (lowest priced) ticket free.

For more information and reservations call (908) 346-2290, leave your name and number and your call will be returned promptly.

Curves Waives Initiation Fee For Breast Cancer Awareness

Curves, the world's largest chain of fitness and weight loss centers, will waive the service fee for women who have had a mammogram within the last 12 months and who join during the week of October 23.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It is designed to encourage early detection.

"Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women aside from skin cancer," said Elissa and Jerri, owners of the South Plainfield location. "We at Curves are committed to improving the health of women in your town. Waiving the \$149 fee is significant because it allows us to talk about the importance of mammograms, which are a women's best chance for the early detection of breast cancer."

Women who are interested in getting more information about breast cancer and breast cancer risk factors should visit the official National Breast Cancer Awareness Month website at www.nbcam.com.

Curves, South Plainfield, opened in February, 2004 and offers a 30-minute workout that combines strength training and sustained car-

diovascular activity through safe and effective hydraulic resistance. Curves is located at 27 South Plainfield Ave. The phone number is (908) 757-4422. Find out more about Curves at www.curves.com.

Know what's happening?

Read about what's going on in South Plainfield every Friday in the Observer. You'll never know what you missed.

To request home delivery of the Observer, call 908-668-0010.



1110 Hamilton Boulevard, South Plainfield
Or email your request to spobserver@comcast.net



Shoo The Flu.

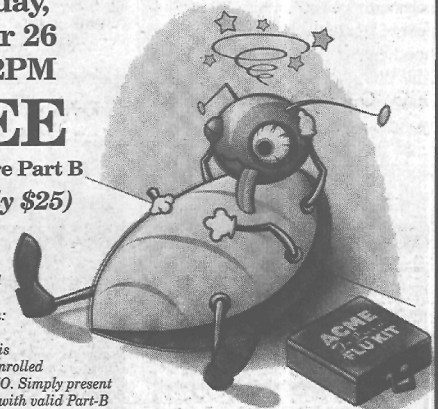
The flu isn't a harmless bug. It's a serious illness. Get your annual flu vaccination at Rich's Pharmacy.

Thursday, October 26
10AM-2PM

FREE

with Medicare Part B
(Normally \$25)

Must be 18 years old or older to receive a flu vaccination. Attn: Medicare recipients. The flu vaccination is free unless you are enrolled under Medicare HMO. Simply present your Medicare card with valid Part-B (Medical) coverage.



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Monday-Friday 9am-6pm & Saturday 9am-1pm

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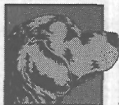
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COMPLETE MAKEOVERS starting at \$100 ... call for details.

<p>Men's Haircut \$10</p> <p><small>With this coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Expires 12-3-06.</small></p>	<p>Kids Haircut as low as \$8 7 yrs and under</p> <p><small>With this coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Expires 12-3-06.</small></p>	<p>Facial \$30</p> <p><small>With this coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Expires 12-3-06.</small></p>	<p>FREE Haircut with Color Service</p> <p><small>With this coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Expires 12-3-06.</small></p>	<p>\$5 OFF Any Service Valued \$15 or More</p> <p><small>With this coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Expires 12-3-06.</small></p>	<p>Complete Manicure & Pedicure \$30</p> <p><small>With this coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Expires 12-3-06.</small></p>
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All About Pets....

Dr. Anthony Loomis
Plainfield Animal Hospital



Halloween can be a frightening and dangerous holiday for pets. It is important to take a few precautions to ensure a happy and safe celebration for all family members.

When opening the door for trick-or-treaters, take care that your pet doesn't dart outside.

Make sure all your pets are wearing current identification, just in case. It may be wise to put them in a separate room during peak trick-or-treat visiting hours. Too many strangers in unusual costumes can be scary and stressful for pets.

Don't leave your pet outside unattended on Halloween (or on the days preceding or following this holiday). Halloween pranks committed against pets can be vicious, and black cats are particularly at risk.

Make sure you keep candy away from your pets. Chocolate can be poisonous to animals, even wrap-

pers can be hazardous if swallowed. If you have any concerns on what your pet may have gotten into contact your veterinarian for immediate advice. Remember Halloween treats are for people, not pets.

Don't dress up your dog or cat unless you know he or she loves it and is comfortable. If you do dress your pet, be sure that its costume doesn't interfere with the pet's ability to breathe, see, hear, move, or bark. Make sure an adult supervises pets in costume at all times.

By following these few simple tips, I hope everyone has a Happy Halloween!!!

Anthony Loomis, DVM grew up in Scotch Plains and attended St. Joseph's High School. He majored in Animal Health at the University of Georgia and attended Oklahoma State University for veterinary school. His special interest is exotic animal medicine and surgery.



Girl Scout Troops 485 and 917 from Sacred Heart School visited Unity Bank on Oct 5. Branch Manager Chris Bono provided a tour for all 50 girls through the facility and explained how a bank works.

Diocese of Metuchen to Celebrate World Mission Sunday

The Diocese of Metuchen will observe World Mission Sunday on Oct. 22 with a talk by a tsunami survivor, a mile walk, special liturgy and mission lunch. Sponsored by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, a pontifical mission society, World Mission Sunday is a day set aside for Catholics to recommit themselves through prayer and sacrifice to the church's missionary activities.

"World Mission Sunday does not just occur here in our diocese or only in the United States," said Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski. "It is really a universal celebration—a worldwide recommitment to the church's evangelizing mission. Therefore, let us unite with Catholics throughout the world, praying for the church's missionary work and making personal sacrifices."

The diocese's celebration will begin at St. Joseph High School in Metuchen at 10 a.m. with registration, an opening prayer and a presentation by 27-year-old Theresia Sinaga.

Sinaga, born and raised in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, is the only woman from her village to survive the Dec. 26, 2004 tsunami that hit the coastal communities of South and Southeast Asia, including parts of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand.

Following Sinaga's presentation, participants will walk to St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral with the Holy Childhood Association's Going the Extra Mile Walk. During the walk, five prayer stations will be made to represent the world's five continents.

At the cathedral, Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski will celebrate noon Mass with the homily by Father Scott Binet, who is establishing a Camillian Task Force to provide worldwide medical and pastoral care to people suffering from disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes and wars.

Father Binet, a family physician, was ordained a priest of the Order of St.

Camillus in November 2003 and has served in Honduras, Haiti, El Salvador, the Philippines, Indonesia, Kenya and Uganda.

Following Mass, the Holy Childhood Association will recognize the students who won this year's art contest. A mission lunch will then be served.

For information about the activities at St. Joseph High School and St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral, contact the Office of the Pontifical Mission Societies at (732) 562-1990, ext. 1707 or 1703.

Grading Method to Change to Numerical

By Libby Barsky

The Board of Education at its Committee of the Whole meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 11 approved changing the grading method from one of scaled value to a numerical standard.

The change in policy comes after parents' strenuous discussion with school administrators and board members about a grading system they saw as recording results in the student transcript as inconsistent with what students had received according to the marking periods. The parents contended that the quality points method used in developing the FV column lowered grades and they wanted only a numerical standard for recording grades.

Dr. Rosado noted that the difficulty

with a straight numerical standard would be for students who would receive grades lower than 55 for the first two marking periods. If this occurred then the student making a much lower score would have no possibility of passing the class during the year. The policy in the district has been to keep the lowest grade at 55 as failure during two marking periods, allowing students to pass when grades moved upward.

This feature of the lowest grade recorded for two grading periods will be retained in the new numerical grad-

ing system. Four marking periods count as 80% towards the final grade with the mid-term and final exam results each receiving 10% in the final grade, then are divided by five.

The middle school already has this data based numerical system of grading.

The parents of high school seniors seeking early admission to college requested that the grading system be retroactive.

"They will be," said Board member Pio Pennisi.

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Open Tues-Sat 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

NEW!! Eyelash Extensions! Starting Oct. 25 See Oscar for eyelash perms & tints

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908-769-8330 25 South Plainfield Ave.

HOME TIP:

Prunes shrubs and trees to keep them clear of the home's foundation, exterior walls and roof. Shrubbery that's too close to the house can promote the growth of mildew, mold and algae. Please call me if I can be of service to you.

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2006 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Mr. Gonzalez

By Monisha Smith
Middle School Eighth Grader



Manly

Rough

Good teachergives enough homework.

On me all the time

Never stops calling my mom

Zany

Always around

Loud and funny

Every class I have he walks past

Zesty

Monisha Smith
Named Junior Journalist

Monisha Smith, eighth grader at the middle school, is this week's winner in the 2006-07 Junior Journalist program. Her poem, "Mr. Gonzalez," has earned her dinner for her family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

Students should submit their original written works to their teachers, school principal, Hometown Heros on Hamilton Blvd. or the *Observer* office at 1110 Hamilton Blvd.

Winners and their families will receive a catered dinner from Hometown Heros and will be honored at a year-end banquet in May of 2007.

For more information, call the *Observer* at (908) 668-0010 or Hometown Heros at (908) 755-4376.

Going "Batty" at
The H.A.W.
Nature Center

Kids of all ages are invited to the new nature center at Highland Avenue Woods Environmental Education Reserve on Saturday, Oct. 21 and Saturday, Oct. 28 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. to learn about bats.

Kids will have a choice of making a bat craft (bat mobile, finger puppet or bat mask), do a bat crossword puzzle, and take a bat quiz that will facilitate learning about one of nature's most misunderstood creatures. The bat activities are free, require no pre-registration and are sponsored by the Friends of the Woods.

The Budding Young Animal Artist class for ages five to six will draw a bat on Tuesday, Oct. 17 from 4-5 p.m. Then on Tuesday, Oct. 24 from 4-5 p.m., budding young animal artists ages seven to 10 will tackle bats in their art class. A fee of \$2 per art student is charged and payable at the door. There is no pre-registration.

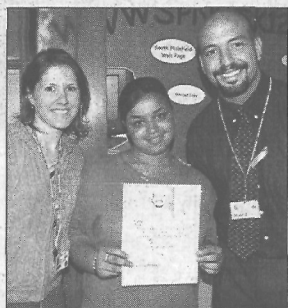
The nature center is located at the trail head of the Highland Woods Reserve, 115 Sylvania Pl., off So. Clinton Ave.

For further information, log on to: <http://geocities.com/friendsofthewoods> or <http://geocities.com/friendsofhighlandwoods>.

Wheels of Love

All Medicare recipients should now be aware that they may be eligible to receive a power wheelchair, paid for by Medicare, if they suffer from conditions such as arthritis, respiratory disorders, cardiovascular disease, pain, gait instability, and other conditions that impair a beneficiary's ability to participate in completing activities of daily living.

For more information on Medicare eligibility call 1-866-631-3022.



Eighth grader Monisha Smith with John Gonzalez and former Language Arts teacher Susan Schocklin. Her poem was submitted last June.

Help Keep Kids Warm

The McCriskin Home For Funerals is asking for the public's participation in their coat drive called, "Keep Our Kids Warm."

We are asking for coats to be donated for children between the age of five to 17 years old. We can only accept coats that are cleaned and/or dry cleaned. No other clothing material will be accepted.

This project is being run in accordance with our borough's director of Social Services, Marge Ackerman. The coats that are donated will be distributed to the underprivileged children throughout the community for this upcoming winter season.

Coats will be accepted in the main entrance of the funeral home on Saturday, Nov. 4 and Sunday, Nov. 5 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Your cooperation is greatly needed and appreciated. And remember, a coat will help!

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to call the funeral home at (908) 561-8000.

Get Noticed.

Advertise in the *Observer*, Call 908-668-0010.



(Left to right) Gloria Laube, hospitality; Muriel Delano, treasurer/recording secretary; Elizabeth McNish, club education chairman; Kathleen Casserino, corresponding secretary; Mildred E. Colley, communications chairman and D. Margaret Messemer, club president.

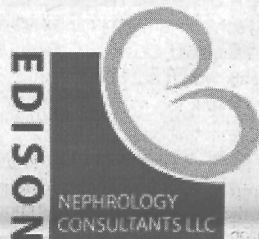
News from the Monday Afternoon Club

Members of the Monday Afternoon Club of Plainfield, stand in front of the YWCA where they toured the historic facility. The YMCA is located on Front St. in Plainfield and is currently undergo-

ing a comprehensive renovation and restoration which will restore it to the community hub it once was. The Monday Afternoon Club recently gave \$1,000 to the Early Childcare Center at the YWCA.



The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the ENTERTAINMENT BOOK for \$25. Contact Lou Peralta at 908-756-6406.



For a free consultation, call

(908) 769-1440 English

(908) 769-5206 Spanish

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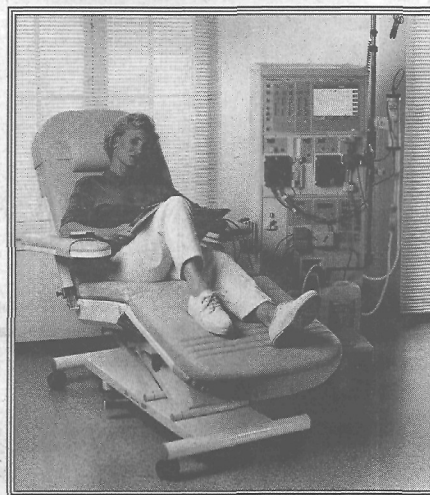
Hear what some of our patients have to say:

"I have been on hemodialysis almost 10 years under Dr. Kim's care. I owe my life to Dr. Kim." —Mr. Manuel Lago

"Dr. Kim has been an excellent and compassionate doctor who has been treating me for the last 10 years." —Mr. James Watson

"I cannot forget the day when Dr. Czyzewski told me that I do not need any more dialysis." —Mr. Julio Ruiz

"I thank Dr. Kim for receiving kidney transplant without going through dialysis." —Ms. Mary Fulton



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34-36 Progress St. A-7,
Edison, NJ 08820

Visit us on the web at:
www.kidneyusa.com

Third Annual Buddy Walk Nets \$15K for Down Syndrome

By Patricia Abbott

On Saturday, Oct. 7 close to 400 people enjoyed a walk in the park during the South Plainfield Buddy Walk. The National Down Syndrome Society established the Buddy Walk in 1995. The purpose of the walk according to their website, www.buddywalk.org is "to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome and to celebrate October, National Down Syndrome Awareness Month. The Buddy Walk has become the premier advocacy event for Down syndrome and has become a major platform for inclusion in communities

The afternoon offered a wide variety of activities. Kids enjoyed face painting, sand art and other crafts. They had a band, The 13th Hour. They had popcorn and many other food dishes donated by area businesses. The drummer is Michele's neighbor and the band donated their services. There were 78 raffle items including a grand prize of a \$250 voucher for First Class Travel.

Michele noted that the event takes a year to organize and plan. She said, "I get a lot of help from my family and my friend Sandy Dodd. I am always thinking about new ideas or things that need tweaking." The booths were run by Michele's family. There was also a booth with a representative from the Special Olympics. A support group called Network 21 also walked. Network 21 donated half of the money they raised to the Buddy Walk.

Planning has already started for the 4th Annual Buddy Walk of South Plainfield. It is scheduled for Oct. 6, 2007. Michele said, "We would also like to extend a special thanks to all our friends and family who helped again this year. Without their help the week leading up to the walk and the day of the walk, it just would not be possible."

The website notes: "In 2005 more than 260 walks were held across the country and abroad. More than 225,000 individuals participated. Approximately 5.5 million dollars were raised nationwide. These funds were distributed among sponsoring Buddy Walk Organizations and the National Down Syndrome Society. Since the event was created in 1995 over 1,500,000 people have participated in a Buddy Walk worldwide."



across the country."

Resident Michele Both established the South Plainfield walk three years ago. Michele was shocked at the overwhelming success of the first event. The walk was held at Spring Lake Park for two years. This year it was moved to Putnam Park. Michele said, "What an awesome day it turned out to be! We raised nearly \$15,000. Donations are still coming in."



Dear South Plainfield Observer,

On Saturday, Oct. 7, the third Annual Buddy Walk of South Plainfield was held at Putnam Park. What an awesome day it turned out to be. Over 350 people participated in the walk with nearly \$15,000 being raised, with additional donations still being received.

We would like to thank all that participated. You truly helped make this event another success. We would like to thank all the local business that also helped. These included Hometown Heros, Carmen's Trattoria, Our Town Deli, Presto Printing, AKA Printing, ATA Black Belt Academy, MedTech Group, Dr. Frank Licato, Rich's Pharmacy, Cindy Michael's, the PAL and the South Plainfield Observer. Without your continued support, the walk would not have been successful. We would also like to thank the members of the band, "The 13th Hour."

We would also like to extend a special thanks to all of our friends and family who helped again this year. A lot of planning and organizing goes into this event. Without their help the week leading up to the walk and the day of the walk, it just would not be possible.

Planning has already started for the 4th Annual Buddy Walk of South Plainfield. It is scheduled for Oct. 6, 2007. We look forward to seeing everyone again come out and support a great cause.

Sincerely, Michele & Keith Both



Michele Both, founder of the local Buddy Walk.

A PLACE OF HONOR

Firefighters' Memorial Dedicated to Cotone

(Continued from page 1)

and David Pellegrino, Jack Kirchner and David Zushma.

Eagle Scout Dan Delinsky was also recognized for volunteering to clean up the creek area next to the memorial. A tree has been planted behind the memorial which will have his name placed at the bottom.

The members of the Bureau of Fire Prevention presented a fire bell to be used wherever needed.

In a final tribute to Chief Cotone, Abbruzzese announced that his badge, 210, would be retired forever. He presented the badge to his son,

John A., and a replica of the badge was also presented to members of the Cotone family.

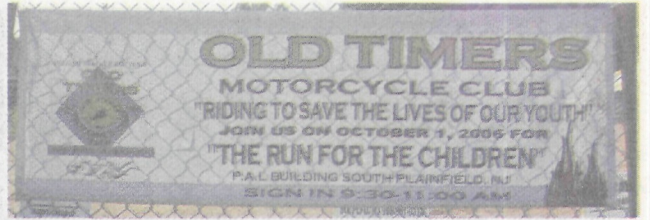
Coming all the way from Oklahoma to be present at the dedication was Lenny Capraro, Jr., who served on the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department for 18 years before moving to Oklahoma 30 years ago. His father, Lenny Sr., also served on the department for 54 years.

The ceremonies concluded with "Taps" played by Al Palmer. Following the ceremonies, the South Plainfield Fire Department held their annual open house.





Two hundred and fifty motorcyclists assemble at the PAL prior to the start of the 55-mile round-trip run through Somerset County. The group was led by the South Plainfield Police and Fire departments.



Billy Furze, 2, (left) covers his ears as the roar of motorcycles leaves the PAL, as his mom, Kim, holds him. At right Tim Kelly cooks for the crowd.

South Plainfield Takes to the Road and Opens Its Heart

The First Annual Run for the Children Battling Cancer Raises Over \$18K

More than \$18,000 was raised through donations and sponsors, along with the riders contributions, for The Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc. during the First Annual Run For the Children Battling Cancer held at the PAL on Sunday, Oct. 8.

The motorcycle run and community picnic, sponsored by the Old Timers Motorcycle Club and Century 21 Moretti Realty, was a huge success

pulled off without a hitch on a gorgeous, sun-drenched fall day.

Led by the South Plainfield Police Department and the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department, 250 motorcyclists from New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania pulled out of the PAL parking lot on to Maple Ave. at 11:15 a.m. Turning left on to Park Ave., the riders enjoyed a 55-mile round-trip ride through Plainfield and North Plainfield, up Washington

Valley Rd. through Bridgewater, then crossed over Rt. 206 through Peapack-Gladstone, before returning to the PAL at 1 p.m.

Along the route, crowds gathered on the streets to cheer and wave the riders on. Thanks to the local police in Plainfield, North Plainfield, Bridgewater and Peapack-Gladstone, roads were cleared and closed along the route, allowing the motorcycles a clear passage through

traffic lights and intersections.

As the motorcycles returned and riders hopped off their bikes, run organizers Rich D'Urso, Rufus "Rudy" Adams and Guy Moretti, and members of the Old Timers Motorcycle Club, including Mel Tomei, Donna Adams, Tom Allen, Kathy McGinness, Bill Weaver and others who stayed behind to coordinate the day's events, were congratulated over and over again on a fabulous turnout and a job well done.

After the run, a "family" picnic was held on the PAL field, where Sal Severini's volunteers cooked up hundreds of hamburgers, hot dogs and sausages for the crowd. The band, Mirage, provided music as a backdrop for the activities provided by various vendors for young and old alike.

Run organizers are already thinking ahead to next year, and hope to repeat the huge success of this year's event.



Holding the check for The Open Your Heart To Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc., from left to right, are Rich D'Urso, founder and Rufus "Rudy" Adams, first officer of the Old Timers Motorcycle Club, with Guy Moretti from Century 21 Moretti Realty and members of the Old Timers Motorcycle Club.

Run Organizers Extend Their Thanks...

To the Editor,

The Old Timers Motorcycle Club would like to thank all of its supporters, riders, club members and workers for helping create, initiate and coordinate this successful event. Were it not for the efforts of all these individuals, an event like this could not have taken place. Because of the success of the run, the club plans to make it an annual event. The club would like to thank its corporate sponsors and all of its contributors for

helping make this day one to remember. Club founder Rich D'Urso and first officer Rudy Adams have worked closely with Moretti Realty and the Old Timers club to coordinate the process and look forward to working again together to raise funds for youth and people in need of assistance.

Club member Gregg Rhein engineered a campaign to raise over \$1,500 for the Ricciardi family of South Plainfield to assist them with their daughter, Alyssa.

The generous donations made by local and outside organizations and individuals will help save "Our Most Precious Asset... Our Youth."

Corporate sponsors included Moretti Realty, Halls Fast Motor Freight, Roma Food, Integrated Wealth Management, Telecable, VIP Honda, South Plainfield Funeral Home, McCriskin Home For Funerals, Unity Bank, Sal's Spirit Shoppe, South Plainfield Elks and Armpco Office Machines.

Additional sponsors included Tom Fahy, Krauszer's, Coury's Auto Body, Quality Auto Glass, European Hair, Nischwitz, Rider Insurance, Dick Harts Auto Body, Park Ave. Travel, J. DeAndrea, South Plainfield Eagles, Gargoyle Costumes, Guerin Family, Doll Family, Masonry By Bill Weaver, Restaurant Depot, Bagel Pantry, South Plainfield Democratic Party, Rent Rite, Peter Kwan/Neurology, Dina Pascaio/Dentist, Di-Lex Trucking, Absolute Fire Protection, Smith Home Improvements, American Residential Mortgage, Matina & Son, Buck Head Beef, Jeff's Auto Body, Windsor Park, Corner Deli, Dufek Inc., Cesar Mollo, Mo's Salon, Panzarella



Contracting, South Plainfield GOP, Freihofer's, Jesco, Lowes, One Call Electric, Bubba's Bikers, Kobo Products, Stilo Excavating, Macallara Family, Snap-On Tools, D & D Graphics, Denise Lopes, Angelo's Ice, Springer Tool Sales, and Vespia's Tire.

Additional contributors included Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mikorski, Good Time Gulf Auto Repair, D & D Auto Supply, Ciccio's Pizza, Annie Mellilo, Lombardi Striping, Sportworld, Goyal & Natarajan MD's, KC's Korner, Brunswick

Edison Bowl, Sherban's Diner, Rich's Pharmacy, Mei Haus, Paulo's Barbeque, Oak Tree Discount Spirits and Inches-A-Weigh. Thanks to all our vendors for gift certificates and contributions.

Special thanks to Kevin Hughes, Dave Donatelli, Kevin Murtagh, South Plainfield Police, Rescue Squad and Fire Department, Mel Tomei, Sal Severini and his crew, Guy and Toni Moretti and staff, our road captains, set-up crews, cooks and all workers.

-Rich D'Urso and Rudy Adams





Middle School students wear green Tiger t-shirts that Principal Steve Novak and the Physical Education Department are selling to promote improved attendance and dress code during gym. To date, 400 t-shirts have been sold. Purchasing a shirt will ensure that the student has something to wear to gym class. "Students and parents must understand that physical education is a vital part of a student's development and part of the Middle School curriculum," said Novak. The shirts will continue to be sold throughout the year at a reduced price and can be purchased at the school bookstore and at other special events.

PAL Slated for Upgraded Lobby and New Kitchen

By Libby Barsky

The PAL building will be getting an upgrade that will give its interior a new look and at the same time improve its security.

The Borough Council on Oct. 3 held a final hearing and adoption of an ordinance that approved a \$323,000 grant from the Middlesex County Open Space Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund. The ordinance also includes \$150,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for improvements to the intersection of Metuchen Rd. and Belmont Ave. The money will be used to install a new kitchen in the PAL where the multi-purpose room is now located and create a front desk area to greet those who enter the building.

"A front desk will be built for the lobby, so there will be someone there

to meet and greet people as soon as they come through the door. Joe De-Andrea made up the plans for the kitchen and the plans for the lobby. Contractors are giving me quotes now for the lobby and soon we'll be going out to bid for the kitchen," explained Kevin Hughes, director of recreation.

"The kitchen is the little room off the current wrestling area. My supervisor's desk and computer is there, as well as a refrigerator and some cabinets. We will enclose that room and it will become a full kitchen. With the supervisor tucked in the room checking IDs on his computer, he can't see down the hallway in that area. I wanted someone to be able to see all entrances and exits. Kids sometimes let their friends in from the back door," said Hughes.

Hughes expects work to start on the lobby soon, possibly by the end of the month once the contract is awarded. The need is there.

"We are open seven days a week and there's a lot of traffic going through here," said Hughes.



Republicans Stress Protecting Neighborhoods From Traffic and Overdevelopment

Republican candidates have been stressing the need to protect our neighborhoods from traffic and overdevelopment for many years. This includes creating alternate routes, controlling overbuilding, and adding to our parks and open space. Mayoral candidate Robert Bengivenga and council candidates Alex Barletta and Dave Sesok have plans that meet all these goals, and this week they talked about them.

1. Developing Alternate Routes

Creating new routes that take truck traffic out of residential areas is vital. That's why Republicans favor Hollywood Ave. as an immediate answer to the problem. That does not mean giving up on Helen St., but Helen St. is 14 years behind schedule. So far that project is a failure, and we can't continue to wait for traffic relief.

"I said at the debate that Helen St. is the ultimate solution," explained Councilman Bengivenga. "But in the meantime we've got to extend Hollywood Ave. We can't let truck traffic race down New Market Ave., which has no sidewalks. It's putting children along that road and the side streets in jeopardy, especially when cars are using the side streets as shortcuts. This is a safety issue."

"Buttrico and the Democrats put us in a horrible position," added Sesok.

"They bungled the Helen St. Project, and now they're scrambling. But their plan isn't well thought out."

"Trucks can't speed down New Market Ave. for the next five years, but that's what the Democrats have in mind," Alex Barletta explained. "And we all know that Helen St. won't be done in five years like they say. Helen St. will be in litigation for the next 10 years, if not more, because environmental groups plan to challenge the project each step of the way in the courts."

"The plan proposed by Buttrico and the Democrats doesn't make sense," Bengivenga added. "It's also too expensive for a temporary solution. Alex Barletta set out the costs in the paper two weeks ago, and since then they've actually gone up."

"The Democrats' traffic plan will take up to \$1,000 out of each homeowner's pocket, if not more," he added. "That's a conservative estimate too. For example, they just voted to borrow \$1.6 million to buy three small rundown houses on Hamilton Blvd. They are not worth nearly that much, and two of the houses are owned by relatives of Jack Morris, which makes the whole transaction suspect."

The Democrats' plan also goes right through one of the worst Superfund sites in the country. According to Sesok, the public has not been pro-

vided with a single environmental study by the EPA indicating the impact of putting a truck route through the site.

"Our solution, Hollywood Ave., is the best plan," explained Councilman Bengivenga. "It's the most direct route, and wetlands maps show it has minimal impact compared to Helen St. Again, we'll continue to push Helen St., but we need relief sooner."

2. Controlling Overdevelopment

"Our opponents have no plan to control overdevelopment. We do," explained Alex Barletta.

"One way to control overbuilding," added Bengivenga, "is to revamp some of our zoning regulations. Other towns are doing this, and we should too."

"We also need to enact a developer disclosure ordinance," said Sesok. "Developers with big projects often donate to the Democrats right before or after their application is heard. Residents have a right to know this is happening, and the ordinance would require this information be provided on the zoning application."

3. Expanding Our Parks

"We have an aggressive plan to upgrade our parks and open-space areas," added Dave Sesok. "It includes adding two dog parks, adding a walking/jogging trail and nature walk to the Tompkins Open Space Preserve,

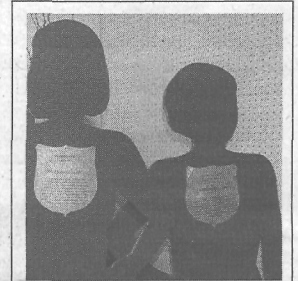
and upgrading several of our playgrounds."

"Given our focus on parks, I was disappointed in comments made by our opponents last week," Bengivenga added. "The Democrats fabricated a story about our traffic plan that is plainly untrue. Our plan does not affect, in any way, the ball fields. It's absurd that the Democrats would spread false rumors like that."

Council candidate Alex Barletta is also disappointed in those statements: "I've coached at those fields, and it offends me that the Democrats would stoop to making up stories like that. I walked the area just two weeks ago, and I would be happy to walk it again with anyone who has any concerns."

Bengivenga summed up his team's plans best: "Let's have an honest discussion about protecting our neighborhoods from traffic and overdevelopment and about how we can make our parks and open space areas even better. Rants in the paper like we saw from the other side last week don't help. Rather than engage in negative attacks, let's work to make South Plainfield the best it can be."

This article was submitted by the South Plainfield Republicans and is printed in its entirety, unedited. We neither endorse nor guarantee its accuracy.



Domestic Violence Display at Library

The library is hosting an exhibit this month in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It can be seen during the library's regular operating hours, and includes further information regarding domestic violence, including pamphlets and emergency phone numbers. The exhibit is provided by the South Plainfield Domestic Violence Educational Outreach Program, in cooperation with the local police dept., Women Aware, Inc. and South Plainfield Domestic Violence Crisis Intervention Team. For more information, call the library (908) 754-7885 or visit www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

Pasta Bonanza

Monday, October 23 thru Saturday, October 28

Only \$19.49 Pasta of your choice
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Choose any pasta Entrée Pasta Sauce

Gorgonzola Cream • Alfredo • Four Cheese Cream
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Dinner served Mon. thru Wed., 4:30-8:30 p.m.,
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DEAR FRIENDS,

I am pleased to announce that after 43 years in dentistry I will be retiring. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for having allowed me to serve your dental needs and to be a part of your lives. However, the good news is that after a long and careful search for a highly qualified and compassionate dentist, I have found Dr. Joseph Aiello.

Dr. Aiello is a graduate of New York University College of Dentistry and has had extensive experience in the treatment of all phases of dentistry. While attending NYU, Dr. Aiello honored in Aesthetic Dentistry and since then has completed a residency program in Implant Dentistry directed by John. C. Minichetti DMD, one of the most respected clinicians and educators in the field. Dr. Aiello has committed himself to continuing education and using the latest techniques and technologies in providing the highest standard of dental care. He is a member of the America Dental Association, the New Jersey Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry and the Bergen County Implant Study Group. We look forward to having Dr. Aiello join us and are confident that you will be very pleased with the quality of service and care he will be providing you.

To further expand our services we also have an experienced periodontist, Dr. Michael Strassberg, joining our group. Dr. Strassberg graduated from Tufts University School of Dentistry in 1982 and from Tufts periodontics residency program in 1987. Therefore, we are adding implants, periodontics and TMJ treatment to all our other services to better serve the public.

This is certainly not a goodbye letter because I will be in the office for several months during the transition. Bobbie, Laura and the entire staff will remain as an integral part of the practice. Dr. Aiello will also continue to be a participant in our existing insurance plans as well as new plans.

Once again, thank you for making 160 Oak Tree much more than just a "dental office," but rather, a dental home all these years.

WITH FONDEST REGARDS AND MEMORIES, ANTHONY R. DI NARDO, DDS



Left to right are Patricia Sims, eighth grade teacher at SHS, Airman Todman, Amanda Caruso, SHS student, Tia Manning and Debra Pinto, SHS Nurse.

They've Come A Long Way, Baby!

Sacred Heart School alumnae Airman First Class Danielle Todman and Tia Manning, soon to be an M.D., spoke to Sacred Heart School second through eighth grade students at an assembly on Oct. 6. They each shared their stories of success which began during their years at SHS.

Todman is currently serving with the Air Force in Italy. As a member of the USAF Track Team, she will be

competing in the 2008 Olympics. Manning, a 1994 Sacred Heart School graduate, is now studying for her board certification in pediatrics.

Todman is a 1998 graduate of the school who, when she transferred at the start of sixth grade, was a C/D student with low self-esteem. But she credits her sixth and seventh grade teachers and her track coach, Mr. McHugh, with helping her become

an honor roll student with a love for learning and a talent for track.

Danielle went on to graduate from Bishop Ahr High School and attend Bucknell University on a full academic and athletic scholarship. She entered the U.S. Air Force and is stationed in Venice, Italy. Danielle recently made the USAF Track Team, guaranteeing her a position on team USA in the 2008 Olympics.

4-H Teens Devote Halloween Season to Help Others

The 4-H House of Horrors in East Brunswick may require lots of planning and preparation, and every weekend evening in October is spoken for, but the Teen Council of Middlesex County 4-H are serious about their cause. That's because the House of Horrors that they put so much effort into is really a fundraiser in disguise. While the thousands of guests that experience the haunted house see ghosts and goblins, these 4-H'ers see funding that goes toward their next big event, Project GIFT.

Project GIFT takes place in December and is a charitable holiday shop-

ping event. Proceeds from the House of Horrors allow the 4-H Teen Council to buy presents, refreshments and all things necessary to host nearly 200 limited resource families at the 4-H Log Cabin, where they can 'shop' for gifts for their children and have them wrapped, free of charge.

In many cases, this would be the only way that these children would be able to receive gifts from their families during the holiday season.

So, if you're looking for a good scare this Halloween season, and want to help out a good cause at the same time, join Middlesex County's 4-H Teen Council at their house of horrors each Friday and Saturday through Halloween weekend, 7 to 11 p.m.

To experience the House of Horrors, come to the Middlesex County 4-H Center on the corner of Cranbury and Fern Rd. in East Brunswick, and be prepared to scream. The haunted house is a fundraising event and the

\$2 admission fee will go toward Project GIFT.

For directions, visit http://co.midlex.nj.us/extensionservices/4hclubs_directions.asp.

4-H offers educational programs to all youth, grades K through 12 on an age appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

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VICE PRESIDENT
BRANCH MANAGER

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Open Space Preservation is Important to Borough's Future

This week Democratic candidates Charlie Butrico, Ray Petronko and Joe Scrudato stressed the importance of open space preservation in South Plainfield. Ray Petronko commented: "Charlie Butrico has done a tremendous job in taking the lead on preserving open space. When the Democrats became the majority on the council, they committed themselves to permanently protecting crucial parcels of land from development. As amazing as it may seem, when the Republicans were in control, they didn't protect one inch of open space. During his term on the Borough Council, Mayoral candidate Charlie Butrico has worked hard to expand the open space inventory as well as securing outside funding to purchase the properties. As a result, over 100 acres of land will never be developed. Hundreds of homes with the resulting impact on our schools and municipal services will never be built because of our proactive approach to open space."

Council Candidate Joe Scrudato expanded upon his running mate's comments. "The Democrats' record on open space preservation is impressive. A developer wanted to put a drug store at the corner of Oak Tree Ave. and Park Ave., but instead we were able to preserve the land and do the beautiful expansion of Putnam Park. Apartments were proposed for the forestry site that runs from Park Ave. to Woodland Ave. next to the A&P shopping center. There were 40 homes

planned for the open space piece at the intersection of Tompkins Ave. and Clinton Ave. Our soccer complex would be a housing development if not for the foresight of our Mayor and Council. The Highland Avenue nature preserve and environmental center, which has won numerous awards and recognitions, was a wonderful open space acquisition."

Mayoral candidate Charlie Butrico summed up the Democrats commitment to open space. "The Democrats on the council have a record that is second to none in preserving open space while at the same time keeping taxes and spending under control. Just this year we have added 20 more acres of permanently preserved land including the former bus lot on New Market Ave. We will be taking down the buildings on that lot and keeping it as open space, possibly using it to add sports fields. We are also finalizing the purchase of approximately 10 acres across from the Elks lodge. The quality of life of the residents of South Plainfield will be adversely affected in the future if we do not make the commitment to preserve land from development today. You have the commitment of me, Ray Petronko and Joe Scrudato to continue to increase our open space inventory every year."

This article was submitted by the South Plainfield Democrats and is printed in its entirety, unedited. We neither endorse nor guarantee its accuracy.



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Borough of South Plainfield's official web site at
southplainfieldnj.com

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- Police - Fire - Rescue Squad
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- Senior Corner • Professional & Business Directory
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Corporate Accounts Welcome

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

October 11, 2006—Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on October 10, 2006.

A. Case #701/Site—Durham Plaza, LLC. Block 541; Lots 10.02 & 15; Main Street & Durham Texas Avenue. The applicant's request for preliminary & final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

B. Adoption of Master Plan Revision of 2006: Reexamination Report & Development Regulations dated June 16, 2006.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Planning Board Secretary

October 20, 2006

2006 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Charlie Kurland of Hometown Heros delivers dinner to Junior Journalist winner Danielle Devizio, who is pictured here with her parents, Bettina and Danny, and sister Deanna.

CONGRATS!

2006 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros delivers dinner to Junior Journalist winner Jason Rambharose, who is pictured here with his parents, Rebekah and Aaron, and brother Joshua.

CONGRATS!

ATTENTION STUDENT WRITERS, ENTER TO WIN A FREE HOMETOWN HEROS DINNER FOR YOUR FAMILY.
Submit your poems, stories or essays to your English teachers, Hometown Heros or the Observer. Every week the observer will announce another winner! Don't wait, we're hungry for your words! Call 908-668-0010 for information.

Sports

By Glen Cullen

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES



The Junior Baseball Club (SPJBC) is holding registration for the 2007 season on Friday, Oct. 20 from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration is \$95 per child, with discounts for those families with two or more children. This upcoming year's \$75 work bond applies only to new SPJBC members and those that requested refunds in 2006.

At registration there will be managing and coaching forms available for the 2007 season, as well as umpiring

information. Also, the SPJBC is looking for snack stand captains for the 2007 season.

If anyone has any questions, contact the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090. Registration forms can also be downloaded from the SPJBC website, www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc and mailed to P.O. Box 166, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

SPJBC had a very successful 2006 season with nearly 400 children playing baseball. The upcoming 2007 season is poised to be just as exciting. Come on out and enjoy the fun at the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club.

SOCCER

Team Effort Keys Fusion Victory

The U-14 Fusion rolled to a 4-0 victory on Sunday over the Berkeley Heights Boomers. The Fusion controlled play all game with strong defense and opportunistic offense. The defense led by Jesse Allen, Ryan Billich, Lucas Goitiandia, Ryan Hutchison and Kyle Pompilio shut down the Boomers offense and combined with goalkeepers Will Mott and Nick Ross for the shutout. The offense moved

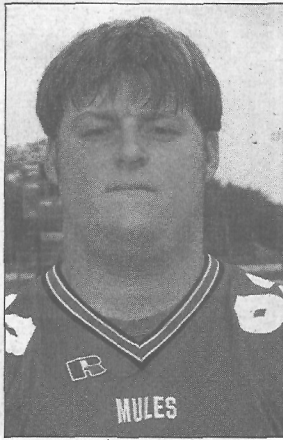
the ball up field efficiently all day with precision passing from Edgar Callejas, Mike Dispenziere, Edwin Molina, Matias Palma and Jake Salerno leading to numerous shots on goal. Jeff Gillen, Stephen Lanza, Jason Patison and Mike Zelasko converted their shots into goals and gave team Fusion the victory. The Fusions next game is Sunday, Oct. 22 at 1 p.m. against Highland Park at home.

Cappy Award Dinner Tickets on Sale Now

This year's Cappy Award recipients, the late Armando "Artie" Fiore and Richard Curcio, will be honored at a dinner at the Senior Center on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 6:30 p.m. The Cappy

Award is presented by the South Plainfield Police Athletic League and Recreation Department.

Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased at the PAL.



William Moates

Moates Helps Mules To Win

Sophomore nose tackle William Moates of South Plainfield helped the Muhlenberg College football team in Allentown to a 22-6 homecoming victory against previously undefeated Ursinus.

Moates recorded two tackles and broke up two passes with tips at the line of scrimmage. His pressure on the quarterback was a key factor in the Bears completing only 16 of 45 pass attempts. He also helped clog up the middle and shut down the Ursinus running game.

Moates has been one of Muhlenberg's top defensive players in his first season as a starter. He has 13 tackles, including two for losses.

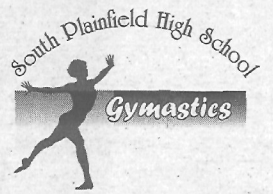
SPHS GYMNASTICS

Tiger Gymnast Score 101.7

When coach Meredith Garafolo took over the reigns as head coach of the SPHS Girls Gymnastics Team three years ago, she set certain goals. One was to have an overall winning record; the other was to eclipse the 100-point total. Last year her Tigers accomplished both. They finished the year with a 5-3 mark and scored 100.675 against Somerville at the final dual meet.

Last Tuesday the Tigers eclipsed that total by scoring 101.765 in a victory over Old Bridge. The SPHS team consists of freshmen Kristy Ray and Amber Miller, sophomores Dani Butrico and Michelle Kobilis, junior Gabby Abon and senior captain Heather Ray. Assistant coach Vicki Uniacke teams up with Garafolo to guide the Tigers.

Michelle Kobilis broke her own previous all-around score with a near-flawless performance. She took first place in all four events and took home an all-around score of 36.60. Kobilis finished first on vault (9.25). Heather



Ray was second with an 8.55.

The Tigers swept the balance beam with Kobilis (9.225) Dani Butrico (8.55) and promising freshman Kristy Ray (8.35) finishing 1-2-3. On the uneven bars Michelle Kobilis led the way with a score of 9.15, followed by Heather Ray's 8.175 and Old Bridge's Marissa Simone's 8.175. On the floor Kobilis and Heather Ray took the top two spots. Kobilis extended her streak to five by taking the top all-around in every dual meet this season.

The Tigers raised their record to 3-2 with two more head to head contests remaining.

North-South Football Reunion

A reunion of NPHS and SPHS football players, cheerleaders and alumni will be held on Thanksgiving eve, Wednesday, Nov. 22 at the North Plainfield Italian-American Club on Somerset St. at 6 p.m. Beer, soda and pizza will be served.

Tickets are on sale and may also be available at the door for a higher price.

Over 300 attended the last reunion, so everyone is encouraged to purchase tickets early.

Coaches of both past teams will be invited to help celebrate the annual Thanksgiving rivalry between these two teams. A short video of past games will be shown.

Tickets are available at South Plainfield High School and the middle school, the South Plainfield PAC, Bagelmaster in North Plainfield and Caruso Haircutters.

Any questions, call Steve Novak, Jr. at (908) 753-9338.

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Obituaries

Robert W. Zitsch, 56

Robert W. Zitsch died on Sunday, Oct. 8 at home. Born and raised in Elizabeth, he lived in Scotch Plains before moving to South Plainfield in 1975.

Mr. Zitsch was employed with the Merit Corporation in Belleville as a customer service manager for the past three years. He had been previously employed with Sears in Watchung and Kitchen Expo in Edison.

An active member of the Plainfield Elks Lodge #885, Bob was a former exalted ruler, past vice president of central district and served as chairman of several committees. Mr. Zitsch was also highly involved with the South Plainfield Athletic Booster Club and will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

He was predeceased by his mother, Edna Zitsch, who died in September.

Surviving are his wife of 31 years, Colleen V. (Dougherty); a daughter, Stephanie of South Plainfield; his father, Donald C. and a brother, Donald G. and wife, Pamela all of Scotch Plains. Also surviving are numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Robert's name can be made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or to the Elks National Foun-

ation, 2750 N. Lakeview Ave., Chicago, IL 60614.

Elvira (Rojas) Parra, 72

Elvira (Rojas) Parra died on Friday, Oct. 13 at the Greenbrook Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Green Brook.

Born and raised in Colombia, Elvira migrated to the United States in 1976 residing in Piscataway. Living in New Jersey, she also spent time residing with her children in North Carolina, Florida and Colombia.

Having a passion for helping those who are less fortunate, Mrs. Parra had a great love for animals as well as plants.

She is predeceased by her mother, Carmen Rojas; two sisters, Teresa Lopez and Cecilia Mendoza.

She is survived by her former husband, Jorge Parra of Plainfield; a daughter, Elsie Parra (David) of Piscataway; five sons, Alberto and wife Roslo of Colombia, Jorge and wife Adriana of Dunellen, Oswaldo and wife Nydia of Columbia, Jairo and wife Maria of North Carolina, and Oscar and wife Sandra of Florida; a sister, Julia Gonzalez and two brothers, Gustavo and Jaime Rojas, all of Colombia.

Also surviving are 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Stephen D. Barnacz, 59

Stephen D. Barnacz passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 10 after a long illness.

Born in Plainfield, he resided in Trenton and South Plainfield before moving to Edison 27 years ago.

He was previously employed by the former K&S Television in South Plainfield before retiring in 1989 from Webcraft Technologies in Metuchen as a material handler.

Stephen was predeceased by his mother, Virginia (Rotola), a daughter, Tara and a granddaughter, Faith.

Surviving are four children and their spouses, Laura and Barry Sebok, Scott and Melodie, Stephen and Andrea, and Joseph and Allyson; wife, Kim Vandevender; a stepson, Danny Lee and wife Beth; his father, Joseph, E. Sr.; a sister, Barbara Watson and three brothers, Joseph Jr., Phillip and Frank.

Also surviving are seven grandchildren, James, Amanda, Kayla, Kelsey, Clayton, Kamryn and Paige.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Deborah Heart & Lung Center, P.O. Box 820, Browns Mills, NJ 08015.

Rose A (Rubbo) Frele, 85

Rose A. (Rubbo) Frele died on Thursday, Oct. 12 in Haven Hospice at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born and raised in Plainfield, Mrs. Frele had resided for a short time in Seattle, Wa. prior to moving to South Plainfield 50 years ago.

She was employed as the office manager for Queen City Fuel Oil in Plainfield. Mrs. Frele retired in the early 1980's after many years with the company. She had previously been employed by the former Cornell Dubilier Company of South Plainfield.

She was a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church and a member of the AARP Chapter, both of South Plainfield.

Predeceased by her husband, James A., who died in 1985, she is also predeceased by a brother, Andrew Rubbo and a sister, Mary, who died on Sept. 21.

Surviving are two children, Patricia Frele and James C. Frele, numerous nieces and nephews and many extended family members.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

policereport

On Oct. 11 Hampton Inn on New World Way reported the theft of a 400-watt outside floodlight.

On Oct. 13 Adam P. Henderson, 40, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

Doris D. Greggs, 52, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, no insurance, unregistered vehicle, fictitious plates and an outstanding warrant.

On Oct. 14 Jacquelyn Molina, 22, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving.

Ardell Kelly Roberts, 26, of

Piscataway was arrested for hindering apprehension and several outstanding warrants after a report of a fight at White Castle.

A Princeton resident reported the theft of her pocketbook that was left at Monsoon Express on Oak Tree Ave.

On Oct. 15 Vikram Chaudhary, 29, of Edison was arrested for driving on a suspended license, no insurance and three outstanding warrants.

On Oct. 16 Ashok Diwaker, 51, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, failure to stop, no turn on red and an expired registration.

Senator Buono Honored by Easter Seals of New Jersey

Easter Seals of New Jersey recently honored Senator Barbara Buono for her leadership in sponsoring S-487, a bill offering tax credit incentives for businesses that employ developmentally disabled individuals. Senator Buono was presented the Easter Seals 2006 Distinguished Service Award to recognize her efforts assisting Easter Seals and other non-profit organizations find jobs for the developmentally disabled.

"For organizations like Easter Seals, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find companies willing to hire the developmentally disabled individuals who work in their sheltered workshops," said Senator Buono, D-Middlesex. "Competition from factories located abroad where wages are drastically lower has dramatically decreased the potential for contracting with local companies. These tax credits will allow those nonprofits running sheltered workshops to be an economically viable option for local businesses when contracting product assembly and packaging services."

Offering services such as job training and other educational and recreational programs, Easter Seals seeks to empower individuals with developmental disabilities to lead more independent lives. Nationally, Easter Seals serves more than one million adults and children with disabilities and their families through a nationwide network of more than 450 service sites. In New Jersey, the organization itself provides work for over 700 people in three locations. Additionally, Senator Buono's legislation has enabled approximately 3,400 individuals to seek employment through separate not-for-profit, community based organizations.

Senator Buono began advocating for the tax credits in 2002 after touring the Easter Seals sheltered workshop in New Brunswick. In early 2006, this legislation was signed into law. Her hard work on the passage of this legislation was recognized at the Easter Seals Annual Dinner Dance held Oct. 12.

"I am deeply flattered and humbled by this recognition," said Senator Buono. "I commend Easter Seals for being a leading voice on statewide mental health issues and reiterate my strong support for Easter Seals and the important work they are doing. I look forward to working with the organization in the future so we can continue to serve the disabled community."

Influence Tomorrow With World Heritage

World Heritage, a non-profit student exchange program, is seeking a local representative to provide local program support to high school students from several countries around the world.

Community representatives screen potential host families, plan annual orientations, meet with local high schools, provide support counseling for participants and visit with the exchange students and families on a monthly basis. Annual and on-going training is provided.

World Heritage is in the process of building their team of reputable community representatives.

To become involved in this very rewarding experience, please contact Sue at info@world-heritage.org.

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IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

his sincerity. More importantly, though, his answers talked about the solutions that would make our town a better place.

I get the feeling that the people who wrote to the paper last week had their letters written before they even attended the debate.

Just talk to anyone who attended the debate. Bengivenga was clearly the better of the two candidates for mayor.

DR. ALLEN LEVINE

To the Editor,

Eighty-six years ago women won the right to vote. Women have run for public office, and when elected, have done an exceptional job. You may or may not agree with them. We do need more women in office to work for social programs, women's rights, etc. Vote to send Linda Stender to Washington, D.C. as our New Jersey Representative in the 7th Congressional District, by voting for her on Tuesday, Nov 7.

Vote for Linda Stender to protect our Social Security and Medicare programs.

**THANK YOU,
WALTER KALMAN**

To the Editor,

How do some companies stay in business? When you call a contractor to get estimates, you're lucky if half of them return your call. Out of those who do, you're lucky if one or two actually show up. Why do these people advertise their services if they don't want to work?

Finally, I got a cleaning service that actually showed up... now I wish they hadn't. Affordable Quality Cleaning out of Bound Brook can't be trusted. They attempted to charge more than the agreed upon amount several times and refused to make good on broken items. Rarely did they show up at their scheduled time and I never knew which crew or how many would be here. Needless to say, I had to be home the entire time they were here. I spoke to the owner, Georgine, about several matters over a six month period. She had an excuse for everything and refused to take responsibility for her crews. A warning to all...if you have any ideas about hiring Affordable Cleaning or their sister company, All Star Maids, also owned by Georgine, please think twice. These companies are unreliable and do not take responsibility for their actions.

FRAN TRAMUTOLA

'Celebrate NJ!' School Program to Kick Off

Fourth graders throughout New Jersey are getting their thinking caps on and their pencils ready. Celebrate NJ!, a grass roots effort to bring pride to the Garden State, has launched its second annual school program. The program, designed to encourage, excite and foster pride in fourth graders, will target 20,000 students this year.

An interactive WebQuest accessed through the Celebrate NJ! website will guide students to research and write articles about state history, people and places. The challenge: to create a newspaper written by and for New Jersey kids. The state requires fourth graders to study the history of New Jersey. This program includes the state requirements and provides teachers with an engaging tool they can teach and create interest at the same time.

Karen Hatcher, coordinator of Celebrate NJ!, explains, "The idea behind the campaign is to reawaken our pride in the state. The school program helps instill pride in our children as they are connected to all of the wonderful things New Jersey has to offer. At the same time, they are learning about the rich history and heritage of the place they call home."

The website also provides a page for parents with activities and trips intended to reinforce learning. Last year, more than 8,000 students were registered. Students were recognized for their work publicly. Articles were published in local newspapers and on the Celebrate NJ! website. They also received awards at ceremonies at bookstores across the state and were given tickets to minor league baseball games

in exchange for their hard work.

This year, Celebrate NJ! has connected with the New Jersey Education Association and the State Department of Education in an effort to reach more teachers and more students. Deadline for class registration is Nov. 30. Teachers have until Feb. 15, 2007 to submit student articles. Winners will be announced April 1, 2007. Local minor and independent league baseball teams will be hosting Celebrate NJ! game nights in June. For full details and information on the celebration and events, visit www.CelebrateNJ.org.

Volunteers Wanted for Conservation Corps

Individuals are being sought for the Middlesex County Conservation Corps, whose mission is "to protect and preserve natural areas from misuse, pollutants and the forces of nature" at the more than 6,000 acres of Open Space owned and maintained by Middlesex County.

Volunteer work will begin at the 1,700-acre John A. Phillips Preserve

in Old Bridge. Opportunities include plant and animal inventories, trail reconnaissance and monitoring, invasive plant removal, trash clean-up and more. No special skills are required. Days and times are flexible. Individuals and groups are welcome.

For information, contact Rick Lear at the Middlesex County Parks and Recreation Dept. at (732) 745-5988.



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FROM THE DESK OF DEBBIE BOYLE

South Plainfield residents, if you do not quite fully understand the Helen Street Project, please read Jane Dornick's "In My Opinion" letter in the Oct 13 *Observer*. Jane, you did an excellent job with your facts. Please continue to let your voices be heard at the Department of Environmental Protection, for the safety of your lives and the lives of your children. Remember, 'force in numbers' and 'the squeaky wheel gets the grease,' so continue to support and ensure your safety, loudly.

Jane Dornick and I would like to thank Tom Walsh of Parker Gardens and A-Tech Landscaping and staff. Both Tom and the owner of A-Tech have children in Grant School. Also, Four Seasons Landscaping, who spent five hours and worked along with us on beautifying the front of Grant Elementary. Also the donated time, expertise and beautiful mums, plants and shrubs from Four Seasons, located on the intersection of Spicer Ave. and Hamilton Blvd., are so greatly appreciated. We are stylin'!

Once again, thank you to The Old Timers Motorcycle Club and founder Rich D'Urso for raising over \$18K for The Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc.. Scenes from the event will be shown on Comcast Channel 74 within the next two weeks.

Please join the South Plainfield High School Athletic Booster Club on Sunday, Oct. 22 for our Walk-A-Thon in Spring Lake Park from 12:30

until 2 p.m. The donation requested to walk the park twice to participate in the fundraiser is \$5 per person. The walk-a-thon will benefit the Jost Field ticket booth and the indoor high school bleachers. All ages are welcome.

Thank you to the South Plainfield Education Foundation for your extremely generous donation to the South Plainfield High School Athletic Booster Club. Please continue to support the Education Foundation's Super 50-50. The Education Foundation in conjunction with the Grant Elementary PTO is considering entertaining a Harlem Wizard event, which should prove to be really exciting, in the near future.

Congratulations to Chiantyanna Beckett on the birth of your lil' bro

Jaylin.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Zitsch Family and the Brady Family.

Thank you to Kevin Farrell for the donation of t-shirts.

Please support the Almost Famous Players, under the direction of Patrica Abbott, at the annual Haunted Woods tour, scheduled at the end of October. Their proceeds are donated to the fire and rescue squads in town.

A great time was enjoyed by all children and chaperones who attended the Grant Elementary Stokes Trip during the week of Oct. 9 through 13. Thank you to Principal Whalen for attending the week-long trip and being there for the kids.



This is just one of the many original pumpkin creations children made during the pumpkin painting day at the South Plainfield Library last Saturday. Both children and their parents had a great time painting and decorating pumpkins.

Vandalism Tops Violence in 2005-2006 Report

By Libby Barsky

According to the school districts annual 2005-2006 violence and vandalism report, vandalism increased to 46 incidents while violent incidents decreased to 30 incidents, down six from last year. There were no substance abuse incidents at any school, but four weapons incidents did occur, the same as the previous year.

Twenty-eight of the vandalism incidents cost the district \$23,651. There were 13 vandalism incidents at the high school (\$4,378 in damages), five at the Middle School (\$13,538 in damages), none at Grant Elementary, two at Franklin (\$2,660), two at Kennedy (\$2,850), one at Riley (\$225) and none at Roosevelt. According to Dr. Robert Rosado, the culprits causing these acts of vandalism remain unknown because the incidents occurred after school or when the buildings were closed on the weekend. Insurance doesn't cover the bills to repair the vandalism entirely, since deductibles are as high as \$5,000 before insurance will pay.

In contrast to this year's record, the 2004-2005 report stated that there were 13 vandalism incidents at two schools with eight at the high school and five at Franklin, which cost the district \$2,587.

Overall school violence fell from 36 incidents of violence in 2004-2005 to 30 incidents in 2005-2006. Twenty-four of the violence incidents were in the high school, six at the middle school and none at any of the elementary schools.

Various programs in character education have been instituted in the elementary schools to decrease violence, while a Peer Leadership program is also in effect at the high school and middle school.



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