

The Observer is interviewing the candidates for Borough Council this week. We will be publishing their views in next week's Observer.

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# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 11, NO. 9

MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

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SOUTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY OCTOBER 26, 2007

## Notable SPHS Student



Kristen Partesi puts the finishing touches on the entrance to Jost Field.

## SPHS Senior Shares Talent

SPHS Senior Kristen Partesi donated her time and artistic talent by painting the school's mascot at Jost Field.

Kristen, who holds a 4.6 GPA, was nominated for the Governor's School of the Arts in her junior year and is a member of the Art National Honor Society and National Honor Society. She is actively involved in Help Darfur Now, Student Leadership Organization, Jerseyan History Club and Tiger's Tale Literary Magazine.

After completing the project at Jost Field, Kristen has accepted a project at Borough Hall.

Upon graduation, she plans to pursue a career in art education. She is applying to Appalachian State University in North Carolina, The College of New Jersey, and Rowan University in Glassboro.

Dr. May, South Plainfield High School principal, has commended Kristen for her contributions to the high school and community.

## Pinto Settlement Made Public

By Jane Dornick

The South Plainfield Republican Organization received the long awaited settlement agreement last Wednesday in the discrimination case against the borough and its officials brought by former Democratic Councilwoman Darlene Pinto.

In the settlement Pinto received \$125,000 from the borough's insurance provider, the Middlesex County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund, a group of 26 governing bodies. According to Borough Clerk Vinnie Buttiglieri, the settlement did not increase the premium paid by the borough.

According to the settlement agreement, Pinto gave up any and all claims and rights against the Borough of South Plainfield in consideration of the payment of the amount of \$125,000. Pinto incurred legal fees in the sum of \$71,464, which had to be paid out of the settlement. It also stated that settlement of the lawsuit "does not constitute an admission of wrongdoing or fault on the part of any

party to this lawsuit." All parties also agreed to make no effort to publicize or publish the terms and that "the settling defendants would not initiate oral or written communications about the settlement with anyone." It was a mutual obligation of the parties, including the non-settling defendants, regarding confidentiality provisions.

Pinto's attorney, Wong Fleming, PC, formally filed suit in April of 2003 seeking compensatory and punitive damages from the Borough of South Plainfield, former Mayor Daniel Gallagher, the Borough Council and Democratic Party Chairman Patrick Diegman.

Pinto alleged that they refused to hire her as a deputy tax collector, citing the fact that she was a divorced mother of three young children and that she received a substantial divorce settlement. In addition, Pinto was seeking removal of Mayor Gallagher and Councilman Dennis Cerami. The suit also alleged that a secret meeting to discuss her job candidacy was held at Cerami's home in violation of the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act. Pinto claimed that at the meeting Gallagher produced information regarding her confidential divorce settlement, which he and Cerami used to convince council members that she did not need the job.

As part of the settlement agreement the allegations against all of the defendants were dropped, with the exception of the borough. The settlement states that the resolution

(Continued on page 12)



## Haunted Tour This Weekend

It's not too late to join in as the Almost Famous Players celebrate the fifth year of the Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour with the 2007 production of "Jester's Folly-Search for the Goblet."

Halloween shows abound, but why sit in a nice, safe hay ride when you can travel back to the Medieval era and follow a brave knight or princess through the cursed forest on a search for a powerful family heirloom. Stay close as many evil creatures lurk just out of sight. The evil Desmond and the Demented Jester especially like to steal small children, but feed on adults as well. Darkness rules the forest. Can you help the knight and princess and their assistants find their way safely through the mayhem and retrieve the goblet? Special effects may take you by surprise, what lies beyond that fog?

There are two different tours. The

(Continued on page 6)



Youngsters enjoy the equipment at fire department's open house.

## Fire Prevention Hot Topic At SPFVD Open House

By Jane Dornick

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department held an open house on October 13 in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week. This year, the annual event was held in the senior center parking lot this year to accommodate new live demonstrations and more entertainment for children.

Sparky the Fire Dog stood at the

entrance waving to passersby encouraging them to stop in and greeted families as they entered. The volunteer firemen exhibited their extrication skills using an old vehicle. A mini-kitchen was constructed and used to educate the crowd about stove safety and what to do in an emergency. The youngsters enjoyed trying on the firemen's gear and sliding down the giant blow-up hook and ladder fire truck.

(Continued on page 7)

## Cub Scouts Spread Anti-Drug Message

James Markey, Frank Ferraro and Daniel Pacheco, Cub Scouts from Franklin School's Pack 207 who attend Grant School, hung ribbons around town to educate the community about Red Ribbon Week. This marks the fifth year that ribbons were hung by the cub scouts and the ninth year the scouts have done this project which was originated by the cub scouts in Markey's older brother's den and passed down to this troop. The scouts look forward to taking this project with them to Boy Scouts to continue their crusade.

Red ribbon week originated in 1985 after DEA Special Agent Enrique S. "Kiki" Camarena was kidnapped in Guadalajara, Mexico and killed by drug traffickers. Shortly after his death, citizens from his hometown of Calexico, Calif. began to wear red ribbons to remember him and commemorate his sacrifice. The anti-drug message spread quickly and in 1988,

the National Family Partnership took the Red Ribbon Celebration nationwide. The Red Ribbon itself now

symbolizes a continuing commitment to reducing the demand for illicit drugs within our communities.



Pack 207 Cub Scouts James Markey, Frank Ferraro and Daniel Pacheco hang ribbons around town to raise awareness of Red Ribbon week.

## Office of the Mayor

### PROCLAMATION

### Mischief Night & Halloween

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

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

WHEREAS the night before Halloween, Tuesday, October 30, 2007 is known as "Mischief Night" and has been traditionally a night when childish pranks have been played, some of said pranks have resulted in physical harm to others as well as damage to automobiles and properties of innocent owners.

NOW THEREFORE I, Charles F. Butrico, Jr., Mayor of the Borough of South Plainfield, do hereby proclaim that a curfew of 7:00 PM on Mischief Night, Tuesday, October 31, 2007, be imposed and enforced for all minor residents of the Borough to protect residents and their properties; and

I further proclaim Wednesday, October 31, 2007 as "Trick or Treat Day" in the Borough with all trick or treat activities to be conducted between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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





# IN MY OPINION

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

Dear Editor,

We would like to share a situation with the residents of South Plainfield and thought your "letter to the editor" column would be a good way to do so.

There are currently two foreign exchange students at the high school, Tomas, who is a 17-year-old senior from Slovakia and Fred, who is a 16-year-old junior from Germany. The boys were living together with a "host family" in South Plainfield and due to a "sensitive situation" at the host residence, they were not able to stay there. We learned of their plight through our daughter, who is a classmate of the boys. We took the boys into our home on a temporary basis, hoping that a suitable permanent "host family" could be found. If one is not found, the boys would have no option but to return to their homes. Our understanding is that it is very costly to put them in the exchange program and is non-refundable. It would be a shame for their families to lose so much money, but a bigger shame for the boys to lose out on such a valuable life experience.

So, how about it South Plainfield...Is there anybody out there willing to open their heart and their home to two wonderful young men and allow them to complete the experience of a lifetime here in South Plainfield? If you can help, please call (908) 757-4073.

**WAYNE AND JANICE DIANA AND FAMILY**

To the Editor,

The Buddy Walk of South Plainfield serving Central New Jersey would like to thank everyone for their support and participation on October 6. This year, the walk was the biggest yet and we hope to continue to grow with each year that passes. Thus far, we have raised over \$31,000 and had over 450 people walk. Proceeds from the walk will benefit the National Down Syndrome Society, Central NJ DS PAG and Network 21.

There are many local sponsors we would like to thank: Our Town Deli and Hometown Heros for generously donating subs; McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals for donating the chips and Coca Cola for donating water. We would also like to thank the following local businesses for their donations and support: Dr. Licato, South Plainfield PAL, Rich's Pharmacy, Hall's Trucking, The Medtech Group, Ed's Tent Rental, The Club at Ricochet and Presto Printing for donating all of our printing this year.

A big thank you to our vendors and their representatives: ATA Black Belt Academy in South Plainfield, Slim and Tone (Debbie Leporino), AVON (Deanna Mata), SILPADA (Jean Marie Vreeland), Mary Kay Cosmetics (Lynne Fudenna), Longaberger (Diane O'Day), Learning is an Art (Catherine and Frank Inzitari), WildTree (Linda Larson) and MetLife (Melanie Wester).

We cannot thank all of the sponsors enough for everything they have done. We would also like to thank the sponsors outside of town that supported us with their donations.

**THANK YOU, MICHELE BOTH, BUDDY WALK COORDINATOR**

### Additional Thanks and Regrets,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank some additional individuals for their help and donations for the motorcycle rally held here in town on October 7 at the PAL building. Mel Tomei, for his leg work on donations and his work on the mini-chopper; Sharie Fileppi, for not giving the *Observer* her last name; The Bagel Pantry, for their donation of bagels and thanks to the *Observer* for always helping with photos and articles on these events. Many thanks to all the wives for their patience and help at the field that day, and also thanks to Tommy Aimone for helping with the set-up. Another thank you goes to S&S Valve and to Burch Piazza. In the many years I have been a resident of South Plainfield, I have been fortunate to have been involved in many fundraising events which have brought funds to families of the World Trade Center bombing, the soldiers in the Desert Storm conflict and other tragedies of life. It is without reservation that I again thank everyone who helped make this event a \$37,000 reality for children battling cancer.

In the wake of so much controversy that follows our everyday lives, it is refreshing to know and be involved with so many people who are willing to extend themselves to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Regrets again if I have missed anyone, and I assure you that your contributions will be acknowledged in any upcoming information about our events.

**RICH D'URSO**

Dear South Plainfield Residents:

As I have done so often, I again thank you for allowing me to serve the people of our Borough as a council member and mayor.

Together, we have many accomplishments to be proud of: our roads, parks, emergency services, police department, fire department, rescue squad, senior citizen housing, senior citizen recreation center, the PAL, community pool, emergency operations center, Monument Park and our Firefighters Memorial Park.

All of the above was done while reducing our debt, maintaining one of the lowest municipal tax rates in the county and providing services within our ability to pay for them.

The promise to clean the old Cornell-Dubilier site was kept and work is well underway. Trucks have been removed from Hamilton Boulevard, in spite of Republican oppo-

sition and will be kept off the boulevard. Our municipal tax rate, as promised, has been reduced.

Services and results such as these do not just happen. They follow hard work, dedication and a vision of our future. Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas have been at the forefront, working for us and our families. Both deserve our continued support.

Please join with me and tell Dennis and Kathy that we support them, believe them and trust them.

On Election Day, cast your vote and your voice for Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas for borough council.

**THANK YOU, AND BEST WISHES, DAN GALLAGHER**

Dear Editor,

The Democrats seem to always state "they are proud to run on their record." They point to road improvements, increases in services and equipment as their accomplishments. What specific role did either Dennis Cerami or Kathy Thomas play in these projects? Other than voting in favor of a project introduced by others, they had nothing to do with them. They take credit for Hamilton Boulevard, which is a county road, and for the extra lane coming off 287, which is a DOT project. They should be thanking our freeholders and state officials. They take credit for expanding senior citizen services and adding a new van. Instead they should acknowledge the efforts put forth by Senior Center Director Joann Graf and her staff. They take credit for improvements in the area of public safety. Instead they should give credit to Police Chief John Ferraro, Fire Chief Larry Del Negro and Rescue Squad Captain Ed LaFerrera. They should thank the department heads for all the hard work they put in for this great borough. All of these public servants are on the job full time making things happen-not the council.

If the truth be told, the Democratic candidates' primary accomplishment is "following their leader." I'm referring to Assemblyman/Borough Attorney/Democratic Chairman Patrick Diegnan. Mr. Diegnan runs the Democratic Party in South Plainfield and pretty much dictates everything that goes on in this town. It has been this way for many years. The democratic council people do as they are told.

### Submit Letters to the Editor:

Please be advised that the *Observer* does not publish anonymous letters.

Letters may be submitted to the *Observer*, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax 908-668-8819 or by email: spobserver@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 to limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject.

No one in South Plainfield has more to profit by the Democrats keeping control of the governing body in this year's election than Mr. Diegnan. If the Democrats are unsuccessful in retaining their two seats in the November election, the Democrats will become the minority party and Diegnan will lose his lucrative (\$100,000+) position as the borough attorney.

Let's stop the cronyism and nepotism by getting rid of the old and bring new faces to the council.

**ALLEN LEVINE**

To the Editor,

Some people just don't get it. At a recent meeting of the Borough Council, the Republican members of the council voted against the town acquiring properties to implement the New Market Avenue extension in order to complete the truck route and permanently keep truck traffic off Hamilton Boulevard. Don't Mr. Bengivenga and Mr. Anesh live in South Plainfield? Did they ever try to turn onto Hamilton Boulevard in the morning when dozens of trucks are coming in each direction? Getting trucks off Hamilton Boulevard away from Roosevelt School has been a focus of the borough for a decade. Now when the mayor and council are trying to make it a reality, Bengivenga and Anesh want to play political games.

The safety of our children is at stake here and I think we should support the people who are trying to protect us. That's why I will be voting for the Democratic team of Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas for borough council. The safety of our borough has always been one of their top concerns.

**SONIA OKADIKE**

(Continued on page 10)



**Borough Council meetings air on Comcast Channel 74, Mondays at 8 p.m. (Except for Holidays)**

**The September 17 Board of Education Public Meeting will air on Comcast Channel 74 Thursdays at 8 p.m. until their next public meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 28.**

Comcast will air two hours of a meeting. To purchase a copy of a complete council meeting, contact the *Observer*.

### council meetings

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 5	7 p.m.	Immediately following
December 4	7 p.m.	Immediately following

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

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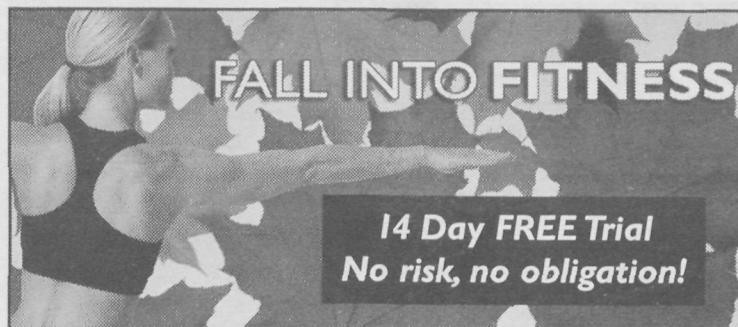
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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Jay Rodriguez performs a daring bicycle stunt by jumping over eight volunteer teachers.

## High-Flying Bike Team Promotes Education

By Jane Dornick

The high flying BMX bike FreeCycle Action Sports Team rolled into Grant School with awesome entertainment and important educational messages for students recently. The outdoor



FreeCycle Action Sport Team BMX bicyclists Collin Evans and Pat Laughlin performed stunts in the Grant School parking lot.

ramp show featured stunt bicyclists doing 360 degree turns and flips on a 10 foot-high ramp.

In between cyclists' performances, announcer and cyclist Jay Rodriguez incorporated the importance of bike safety, encouraging students to always wear helmets, remain drug free, and focus on the positives in life, ignoring negative influences and staying in school and getting an education.

The FreeCycle Action Sports Team

consists of many athletes from all over the country, and soon from all over the world. They are trained professionals who have competed in national event competitions such as The X-Games, Gravity Games and Vans Triple Crowns. With dramatic acts and comical actions, the cyclists kept the crowd laughing and applauding throughout the show. Their goal is to focus on health, educational importance and action sports safety.

## Chemical Spill Leads to Evacuation

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department responded to electronics manufacturer Ferro Corp. on Wade Avenue for an unknown chemical spill last Friday morning.

While workers were being evacuated, the fire department located approximately 300 gallons of a chemical mixture that had spilled on the floor of a room used to process chemi-

cals. According to Fire Chief Larry DeNegro, the spill was caused by a pipe or flange leak. No one was injured.

Members of Middlesex County Hazmat responded to the scene, along with fire companies from Piscataway, Plainfield, Colonia and Metuchen.

The fire department had responded to a nitric acid spill at Ferro's South Clinton Avenue building only two months prior.

From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Chris Grippo

Every year there are over half a million books published in the world. And that doesn't include videos, audio-books and the wide variety of entertainment options available in today's world. No library can collect all those materials (the closest is the Library of Congress which is the copyright repository of all materials published in the United States). So every library tries to purchase those materials of greatest interest to their local population. But even this can be overwhelming, so libraries have created a system called inter-library loans. This is a situation whereby one library will loan materials to a second library for the second library to check-out to its patrons. Here in New Jersey, the State Library pays for a system called Jersey-Cat. This allows individual libraries (including public, school, special, and academic) to request materials for their patrons. The actual process which the request goes through is rather complicated and if you are interested, please stop by the reference desk and we will demonstrate the system.

Because of this system, libraries and their patrons have access to a much bigger world than just their local library. However, we do rely exclusively on this system as the number of inter-library loans throughout the state exceed one million per year and any other system would collapse under the weight of requests. In our library, we have filled over 3,000 requests this year alone. So if you need, want, or are interested in any item which we do not own, please call us and speak to someone at the reference desk. Stop in and see us at the library, or you can submit a request through our Web

site at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us). We cannot guarantee that we can get anything, but we will try our best.

Also this upcoming Wednesday is Halloween. In anticipation of children being out trick-or-treating, Miss Linda has cancelled the regular Wednesday night storytime. However, she will be here with treats should anyone want to stop by. There will be the regular Wednesday morning Time for 2s and 3s storytime at 10:30. And remember the rest of our regularly scheduled children's programs for the week; for children three-years-old and up there will be storytime at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday. There will also be a Books & Babies program on Friday at 10:30 a.m.

Don't forget our adult program, "Coming Together to Create." This four week program is designed for adults who want to explore self-expression in art. Led by an art therapist, each session facilitates tapping inner resources of joyful creativity. Many adults remember themselves as children loving to paint and draw, but as adults feel inhibited picking up a pencil or brush. So this will give you the opportunity to banish those inhibitions and express your inner self.

The classes will be on Fridays, Nov. 2, 9, 16 and 30 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. There is no cost for this program, but we do request that you register which can be done over the phone (908) 754-7885 or in person.

We look forward to meeting your information and entertainment needs at the library.

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans committee is selling Entertainment books. Cost is \$25. Contact Lou Peralta (908) 756-6406.

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# Around Town

## Richard Veit Featured on NJN October 26 and 31

This week's episode of *State of the Arts* on New Jersey Network (NJN-Comcast channel 23), explores the art of the grotesque, the macabre and the simply spooky. One features will include anthropologists and historians Richard Veit of South Plainfield and Mark Nonestied discussing their new book, "Cemeteries and Tombstones," which gives a sweeping tour of New Jersey's burial sites from the 17th century through today.

The program airs on Friday, Oct. 26 at 8:30 p.m., with a rebroadcast on Wednesday, Oct. 31 at 11:30 p.m.

## Mad Hatter Tea/ Time Change

October 28

The Suburban Woman's Club is hosting a Mad Hatter Tea on Sunday, Oct. 28 at 2 p.m. (not 3 p.m. as previously published) at the senior center. (Full story on page 7) Tickets are \$15 and will be available at the door or by calling (908) 756-8679.

## Mass of Anointing at Sacred Heart

October 27

A Mass of Anointing will take place at the 9 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Church on Saturday, Oct. 27.

Those invited to the sacrament include individuals undergoing surgery, who have serious, chronic or terminal illness and of frail physical or mental health. This is not a Charismatic healing Mass.

## Knights Host Halloween Party

October 27

The South Plainfield Knights of

What's happening at the South Plainfield **SENIOR CENTER** OCT/NOV

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Suburban Woman's Club Mad Hatter Tea Party</b> October 28 at 2 p.m.				Bingo 10am-2pm <b>26</b>
<b>Woodloch Pines Trip</b> October 29 - November 2				
Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am <b>29</b>	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am <b>30</b>	Aerobics 8:30 am Line Dancing 10am Computer Classes 10am, 11:20am, 1pm Crocheting 1pm Tai Chi 2pm <b>31</b>	Pathmark Shopping 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 10am 11:30am, 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm <b>1</b>	Bingo 10am-2pm <b>2</b>

TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.

Columbus and Columbiettes will host their annual Halloween party on Saturday, Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. in the Sacred Heart School cafeteria, located off South Plainfield Avenue. There will be food, fun, games and a costume parade for adults, as well as children. The event is free and open to the public.

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

## Town History Day V October 28

South Plainfield Town History Day V Open House will be held at the History Center in the Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Avenue on Sunday, Oct. 28 from 1 to 4 p.m. Displays of memorabilia, photographs, maps, newspapers, vintage clothing and much more. Free.

## K of C Don't Cook on Friday Nite

November 2

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their annual

"Don't Cook on Friday" Italian dinner on Friday, Nov. 2 in the Knights of Columbus Hall located at 334 Hamilton Blvd., from 4 until 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$4 for children under 12. Dinner includes pasta, sausage and meatballs, salad, bread, dessert with coffee/tea.

For more details, contact Bill Butrico at (908) 561-8128.

## Columbiettes Shopping Trip

November 3

The South Plainfield Columbiettes will sponsor their annual shopping trip to the outlets in Reading, Pa. on Saturday, Nov. 3. Bus leaves Sacred Heart Church parking lot, off South Plainfield Avenue, at 8 a.m. sharp.

Cost is \$25 and includes the bus driver's tip. When you reach Reading, you will be given a shopping bag and coupon book, as well as a voucher towards lunch. Bus will stop at the Cracker Barrel in Fogelsville, Pa. for additional shopping and dinner on your own and return at 7 p.m.

To reserve your seat, or for additional information, contact Kathy at (908) 756-3772 or Linda at (908) 754-5239.

## Country Breakfast and Bake Sale

November 4

The South Plainfield VFW will be hosting a country breakfast and bake sale on Sunday, Nov. 4 from 8 to 11 a.m. Come enjoy breakfast and then take home a cake! Public is welcome.

## — Out of Town —

### Clothing Drive

October 27

Our Lady of Mount Virgin School, 450 Drake Ave. in Middlesex, will hold a clothing drive on Saturday, Oct. 27 from 8:30 to 11 a.m. to collect wearable used clothing, shoes, belts, handbags, linens and stuffed animals. Place your items in sturdy bags and drop off in the school parking lot. A portion of the money collected will go to Our Lady of Mount Virgin School.

For more information, please call (732) 356-6560.

### Willow Grove Fun And Games For Children

October 27

Come to the Fall Festival at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains. The festival will be held Saturday, Oct. 27 from 2:30 to 5 p.m. in Ryno Hall. This year the festival is geared towards children preschool to fourth grade dressed in costume.

For more information, please call the church office at (908) 232-5678.

### Bipolar Support Group

October 31

On Wednesday, Oct. 31 at 7:45 p.m., the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance will meet at the Mor-

ristown Unitarian Fellowship in Morristown. The public is cordially invited.

For information, call (973) 994-1143 or (800) 367-6274.

## World Community Day November 2

"Embracing Justice Under God's Tent," a worship service lifting concerns of homelessness, immigration, and responses to disaster based on familiar scriptures, will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2 at 1:30 p.m. at the Wallace Chapel AME Zion in Summit.

For information, contact Evelyn Troy at (908) 889-8955.

## International Night

November 3

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 400 New Market Rd. in Dunellen is hosting an International Night on Saturday, Nov. 3. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$10 for children under 12.

For information, call the church at (732) 968-6781 or (732) 752-5608.

## Healing Body and Soul at Willow Grove

November 3 & December 8

Medical Qi Gong is a course of meditation exercises being offered free at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains on Saturdays, Oct. 6, Nov. 3 and Dec. 8 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Ryno Hall.

For more information, contact Margo Mann (908) 757-2495 or E-mail [jermar107@themannfamily.org](mailto:jermar107@themannfamily.org).

## 5th Annual Greek-Night Dinner Dance

November 5

On Saturday, Nov. 10, the St. George Greek Orthodox Church Youth Association (GOYA) presents its 5th Annual Greek-Night Charity Dinner Dance from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

For more information regarding this event, to make reservations, or to donate your hair during the event, please contact Sophie Exarchakis at (732) 723-9088.



## Scotch Plains Music Center

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Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc.

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Email: [moretitt@moretirealty.com](mailto:moretitt@moretirealty.com)

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Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount of this order: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed Charge my:  Visa  MasterCard  American Express

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## southplainfieldpeople Milestones

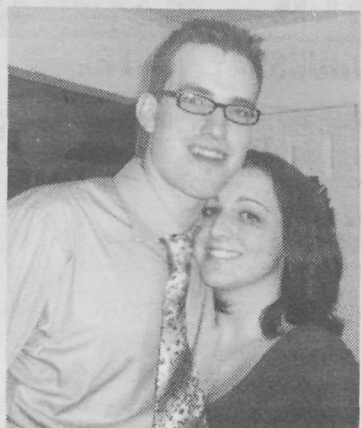
### Dana Marie Butrico and Benjamin James Rodger Engagement Announced

Charles and Sherry Butrico have announced the engagement of their daughter, Dana Marie, to Benjamin James Rodger, the son of William and Mary Rodger of South Plainfield.

The bride-to-be is the oldest granddaughter of Irene Butrico and the late Charles Butrico Sr., and Angie and Gennaro Manno, all who reside in South Plainfield.

Dana is a 2006 graduate of Penn State University and holds a bachelor's degree in professional writing. She is currently employed at Baker & Taylor as a bibliographer.

The groom-to-be is the oldest grandson to Jack Rodger and the late Ellen Rodger of Linden, and Maryann and Norbert Kosinski of Lakewood. Ben is currently employed by the city of Rahway as a police and 911 emergency dispatcher.



Benjamin Rodger and Dana Butrico.

Dana and Ben are high school sweethearts who began dating their senior year at South Plainfield High School. They will exchange vows at Sacred Heart Church in Fall 2008.

### Michelle Ficorilli and Jeffrey Thompson Wed



Jeffrey and Michelle Thompson.

Michelle Ficorilli and Jeffrey Thompson were wed on July 7. Both were born and raised in South Plainfield.

Michelle is a graduate of Johnson and Wales and Jeff is a graduate of the Nascar Institute. They now reside in Tennessee with their quarter horses.

Michelle is the daughter of Michael Ficorilli who also resides in Tennessee and Jeff is the son of Marie Thompson of South Plainfield and the late Walter Thompson.

### Mulvaney Joins Albert Einstein Medical Center

Former South Plainfield resident Sylvie Mulvaney, RN, BSN, has joined Albert Einstein Medical Center, a Level I trauma hospital in Philadelphia, as an ER nurse.

She earned her bachelor of science in nursing from La Salle University, Philadelphia in May 2007 as a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the international nursing honor society.

She is a former member of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad and has been a New Jersey certified volunteer EMT for 12 years. Mulvaney also holds a B.A. in journalism from Rutgers University and continues writing and public relations work as a freelancer.



Sylvie Mulvaney

## Full-Time Police Officer Assigned to Schools

The South Plainfield Police Department, in cooperation with the South Plainfield Board of Education, is instituting a School Resource Officer Program. A police officer will be assigned to the schools on a full-time basis to assist in reducing juvenile delinquency through a collaborative effort between law enforcement and school staff. The focus will be on education, prevention, communication and the exchange of information. The program will also assist school administrators in responding to school safety issues and problems by having a full-time police officer available to them. Some of the school resource officer's duties include:

- Developing a rapport with students, teachers and administrators in an effort to create a network to obtain and track information related to offenses which endanger students, teachers and the community.
- Provide immediate action in handling unlawful trespassers.
- Allow for the informal handling of minor offenses through warnings, meetings with parents/guardians, introducing them to a diversionary program or other efforts to keep offenders from entering the juvenile justice system.
- Allow for close case monitoring.
- A collaborative effort between police and school administrators to creatively address student problems.
- Sharing information in an effort to prevent the escalation of minor issues, making intervention more effective.
- Provide education to school personnel and students about New Jersey Laws and the juvenile or criminal justice systems.
- Identify high risk students and reduce risk factors.
- Assisting the school district in addressing chronic truancy.
- Strengthen school administrator's efforts to provide students, faculty and staff with a secure building and an effective crisis emergency management response plan by conducting security surveys and making the appropriate recommendations to administrators.
- Provide an immediate response to critical situations in an effort to prevent escalation. The highly trained officer will be an active member of the department's emergency response and entry team.

Police Officer Daryl Strother has been chosen as the school resource officer. Officer Strother is a seven year veteran of the South Plainfield Police Department. Prior to transferring to South Plainfield, he was a Plainfield Police Officer for two years. He successfully passed the National Teacher's

Exam and had been a substitute teacher in the Newark school system. Strother also holds a Bachelors Degree in business management.

Strother will have an office in the high school and be assigned a marked police vehicle. He will patrol the high school, middle school and Grant School and will also be available as a

resource to the other schools in the district. The department will continue to respond to calls at the schools.

"Our department is eager to participate in this venture with the Board of Education, the administration, faculty, staff and students," said Police Chief John Ferraro.

## SCHOOL BOARD Notes

- Teri-Lyn Pileggi and Charles Ford were presented tenure certificates.
- A presentation of the 2006/2007 School Year Audit by Lerch, Vinci and Higgins, LLP commended Business Administrator Donna Tolley and her staff for their extraordinary file and record keeping.
- The Annual Report of Vandalism, Violence and Substance Abuse Report for the 2006/2007 school year was presented.
- The Crisis Management Plans for all school buildings and the high school trip to Model United Nations Conference were approved.
- The board accepted the resignation of secretaries Paula Dick and Virginia Bruno effective January 1, 2008.
- Anthony Massaro was appointed as assistant to the superintendent until a suitable replacement is hired.
- The 2007/2008 winter coach appointments were approved.

The following positions were approved: William Scesselberg-drama coach, Lori Jackson-stage director and Tracy Murray-choral and musical vocal director.

- Rosanne Larsen was appointed as a home instructor effective October 18.
- Frank Bodner was appointed as adult school Tai-Chi instructor.
- Jose Negron officially began his duties as superintendent of schools on October 18 and Dr. Robert Rosado officially began his duties as deputy superintendent effective October 18.
- Daryl Strother was appointed as a school resource officer, with benefits provided by the Borough of South Plainfield.
- The board has been discussing possible upgrades needed for the Roosevelt Administration Building. There are Future Stars and preschool handicapped children who attend school in the building.

## Bravo Employee Injured in Fire

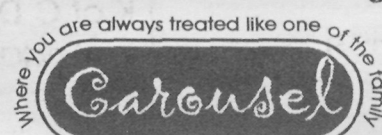
An employee of Bravo Supermarket on W. 7th Street was severely burned by a flash fire from a stove at approximately 8 a.m. on Tuesday shortly before the store was due to open.

The employee was taken to Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in

Plainfield and flown to a burn center, according to South Plainfield Fire Chief Larry DelNegro. The fire department ventilated the building.

No one else was injured and the incident appears to be accidental; however, fire investigators are still trying to determine the cause of the fire.

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## HALLOWEEN DANCE & COSTUME CONTEST

October 27...Intermediate & Middle School...5th through 8th Grade Students



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**7:00 PM til 10:00 PM**

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ADMISSION

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

## McConville & Rusnak: "Dems Failed On Traffic, Give Us a Chance"

The biggest issue on people's minds as Election Day approaches is traffic. Trucks are all over town and congestion is rampant. Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak know the importance of this issue and this week they discussed with residents their plans to get a handle on traffic.

"When we go door to door, the first question people ask is about traffic," explained Rusnak. "They tell us that the Democrats' traffic plan made things worse, not better."

McConville agreed. "Standing outside the bagel place last weekend, practically everyone I spoke to said traffic is worse than ever."

"Tim and I have offered several solutions. We know there are no easy answers. A decade of neglect by the Democrats got us into this mess, so the problems will not be solved overnight."

If elected, McConville and Rusnak want to pursue Hollywood Avenue as an alternate route for trucks. It will take trucks off both New Market Avenue and Hamilton Boulevard.

McConville and Rusnak would also do a top-down review of the Helen Street project to see whether it can be resurrected.

"We would first establish a blue-ribbon committee to work on these projects," said McConville. "Joann Graf first suggested this and I think that it's a great idea. We'll get South Plainfield's sharpest minds together and push for a solution. Whether it's Hollywood Avenue or Helen Street doesn't matter. A solution matters."

"We know there are doubters who say Hollywood Avenue won't work. But these are the same people who 12 years ago said they would complete Helen Street and that it was a certainty. They said we could 'count on it' and that construction was just about to begin. They were dead wrong and have no credibility on this issue."

"Hollywood Avenue is a shorter, more direct

route than Helen Street, and it offers ways to avoid the wetlands. It's worth pursuing," added Rusnak. "We won't make promises like the other side, but we think this alternative has merit."

"We also would not do anything without proper planning," he added. "South Plainfield needs a town-wide traffic study. One of the problems with the new truck route is that it was thrown together without any advice from traffic experts. It was a political idea designed for an election, not a plan designed by professionals."

"We should not be shifting traffic patterns before we see what will happen as a result," added McConville. "For example, Ray and I suggested taking traffic off several residential streets last week. We would not do that, however, until a traffic study confirmed that it could be done safely and without hurting other areas of town."

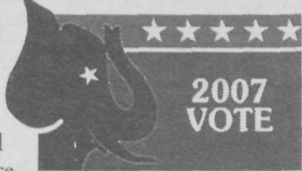
"Safety is the first priority," Rusnak explained. "The Democrats sent trucks down New Market Avenue even after traffic experts told them it was dangerous and that the intersections with Hamilton Boulevard and Spicer Avenue would be hazardous."

"I had a mom who lives on New Market Avenue call me Friday," added McConville. "Her daughter was almost run down by a truck after getting off a school bus. It's a dangerous situation."

"We also can't forget the other half of the equation," McConville reminded everyone. "Until we get a handle on overdevelopment, anything we do about traffic will be wasted. The Democrats allowed a tidal wave of building, and we now see the results."

"If I could sum up our plan in one word," added Rusnak, "it would be *planning*. Rather than short-term ill-conceived fixes, we want to make sure the council institutes a long-term plan to control traffic in South Plainfield."

To find out more about Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak, go to [www.spgop.com](http://www.spgop.com).



## Cerami, Thomas Proud That Borough's Finances Are the Best in Middlesex Cty.

With Election Day less than two weeks away Democrats Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas promise to keep South Plainfield's finances the best in Middlesex County. Council member Kathy Thomas quoted long time Yankee manager Casey Stengel: "Casey Stengel would always say 'you can look it up' if someone challenged his knowledge of player's statistics. Well when it comes to the borough's fiscal house you can look it up. The Middlesex County Board of Taxation last week issued its annual report which lists the financial record of the 25 municipalities in Middlesex County. For the seventh straight year, of every town in the county, South Plainfield has the number one record on controlling taxes. That's right *seven straight years with the best record on taxes!* Of course, Dennis and I are especially proud that South Plainfield is the only town that actually cut municipal taxes this year, but we are even more proud that this is not a one shot deal. Over the last seven years, South Plainfield's municipal tax rate increased on average less than one percent per year. Compare that with some towns whose rates have increased over 10%. Keep in mind that our taxes have remained flat in spite of the fact that fixed expenses such as utilities and health costs have increased dramatically. We even put enough money aside to cover the cost of increased pension payments, which increased approximately one half of a million dollars this year."

Council President Dennis Cerami complemented his running mate for South Plainfield's impressive record on finances: "As chair of the

Finance Committee on the Council, Kathy Thomas brings intelligence and discipline to the process of preparing the borough budget. As you may know, Kathy graduated from Rutgers University as an accounting major. She understands budgets. She literally works 12 months a year with our Chief Financial Officer Glenn Cullen and our Borough Administrator Vinnie Buttiglieri to save every tax dollar they can. It isn't just taxes. Our borough debt has been reduced by over \$8M and it will go down another \$2M next year. When the Democrats took the council back from the borrow, tax and spend Republicans, the borough debt was over three percent of the annual budget. It is now less than one half of one percent. These kinds of results don't happen by accident. They happen the old fashioned way...through hard work. I can assure you of one thing. If you reelect the Democratic team of Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas to the borough council, you can be rest assured that keeping borrowing, spending and taxes under control will always be a top priority in South Plainfield."



**Make a Difference in South Plainfield.**

**Vote**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6**  
Polls are open 6 am to 8 pm

## Deadline to File Rebate Applications is Oct. 31

Approximately 25,000 residents of Middlesex County have yet to apply for property tax rebate checks worth an average of \$1,051, said Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan.

In total, Diegnan said that approximately \$200 million in overall property tax relief has yet to be claimed by roughly 200,000 taxpayers throughout New Jersey.

The application deadline for the rebate program is October 31.

Diegnan noted dramatic differences in this year's program from last year:

- Non-senior homeowners are eligible for rebates averaging \$966, an amount three times the average amount for this group of taxpayers last year.
- Non-senior tenants are eligible to receive as much as \$350, an amount four-and-a half times greater than last year's \$75 maximum.
- The average check for senior/disabled homeowners is \$1,275, up from last year's average of \$1,150.

Homeowners with incomes below \$250,000 are eligible for property tax cuts as high as 20% off their local tax bill. The amount of money for renters' rebates was doubled; eligible senior tenants may receive checks up to \$850 and non-senior tenants may receive checks up to \$350.

Eligible senior citizen homeowners and homeowners with disabilities are guaranteed to receive either the amount of property tax savings they currently receive or the amount provided under the new program—which ever is greater.

The improved rebate program was the capstone of the past year's landmark legislative effort to lower property taxes in the short-term while instituting long-term reforms to make the tax savings sustainable.

The rebates were complemented by laws that included the establishment of a state comptroller to combat wasteful practices and the placement of a 4% cap on property tax levies for

schools, municipalities and counties. Overall, 46 separate relief and reform measures were enacted to address New Jersey's high property taxes.

October 31 is the deadline! Homeowners may file (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) by phone (1-877-658-2972) or online at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/).

Tenants can complete and file a paper Homestead Rebate Application, Form TR-1040. Copies of form TR-1040 and instructions are available on the Division of Taxation's Web site at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/prntgit.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/prntgit.htm). Tenants can also use NJ WebFile, the division's free Internet filing system, which is available at [www.njwebfile.com](http://www.njwebfile.com).

If you have already filed and not received your check, check the status by calling 1-877-658-2972, or going online at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/homestead/06hrintro.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/homestead/06hrintro.htm).

You may call Assemblyman Diegnan's office at (908) 757-1677 if you need further help.

### WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN

FROM A BUSY BUSY MOM *jd*

A car wash will be held on Saturday, Oct. 27 at the middle school from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., sponsored by the South Plainfield Education Foundation to benefit the SPHS Swim Team. Cost is \$5 per vehicle. Gabriele's Bar and Grill hosted a fundraiser for the swim team on October 20 and South Plainfield's own The Command Radio performed. Thank you to Gabriele's, the band, and all the supporters who came out to this, as well as the Elk's breakfast.

The middle school Halloween dance scheduled for Friday, Oct. 26 has been changed to Friday, Nov. 2 from 7 to 9 p.m. Costumes are optional. The student council will host a volleyball tournament on Thursday, Nov. 15 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the school gym. Cost per student is \$5. The PTO will hold a used clothing drive on February 23, 2008 in the middle school parking lot from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Look for the Roma Food truck.

The new BOE Community Contact Newsletter, with Superintendent Negron's message and Dr. Rosado's farewell message, will be mailed to students' homes within the next three weeks. The newsletter, prepared by board member Carol Byrne, the Public Relations Committee and Superintendent Negron, will also include biographies on new staff members.

Please remember the curfew hours are 7 p.m. for Mischief Night on Tuesday, Oct. 30 and Halloween on Wednesday, Oct. 31. Trick-or-treating will take place from 3 to 7 p.m. The borough is asking that all homes participating keep their porch lights on.

### policereport

- On Oct. 16, a Brennen Court resident reported that the windshield of their vehicle had been damaged by a rock from a landscaper.
- On Oct. 17, Carl J. Hunter, 31, of North Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, speeding and three outstanding warrants.
- On Oct. 18, Jason K. McKned, 27, of Brooklyn, N.Y. was arrested for speeding and an outstanding warrant.
- On Oct. 19, a Franklin Avenue resident reported the drivers side rear vent window of their vehicle had been smashed and a Sony CD radio player was taken.
- A Melrose Avenue resident reported that the passenger side rear small window had been smashed and a JVC CD radio player was taken.
- On Oct. 21, John Jeglinski, 49, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and having an open alcoholic beverage container in a motor vehicle.
- Roberto Martinez, 30, of Plainfield was arrested for obstruction at Sal's Spirit Shoppe.
- Sandro Galarza, 27, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.

## Haunted Tour This Weekend

(Continued from page 1) Knight and Rouge features South Plainfield residents Chris Abbott and Darren Kaczowski and the Princess and Old Woman tour features Shannen Rivers and Raven Dunbarr from North Brunswick. Tours run about 25 minutes each.

The actors are ready to make visitors scream and laugh. The show is recommended for ages eight and up. Parents should use discretion. Show dates are October 25-28. First tour begins at approximately 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$6 adults and \$5 for 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Refreshments and novelties will be sold. The SPHS Swim Team will be selling hot chocolate. Reservations recommended. Call (908) 756-8011; press # to bypass message. Leave clear name and number or call (908) 346-2290. Calls for reservations

made after 2 p.m. on show dates will not be taken until the next day. The park is located on Oak Tree Avenue at the corner of Park Avenue. Entrance is across from the Big Lot store. Friday night's show is dedicated to Danny Nigro, who volunteered as our tech/set/lighting genius for four years. Work commitments have made it impossible for him to do so any longer. Sunday's show is in memory of Middle School Drama Director and teacher Dale Salisbury, who passed away last year.

Please note that despite the scares and screams, the actors will never touch visitors. There is security throughout the park.

No refunds after tour has started. Donations from proceeds are donated to the SPVED, rescue squad and other organizations. Call for more information and reservations.

## Shear Style Hair Salon

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Owner *Matta*





The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department's annual open house was held in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week to promote fire safety.



# Fire Prevention Hot Topic At SPVFD Annual Open House

(Continued from page 1)

There were plenty of grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, popcorn and Haagen Dazs ice cream served, and raffle items that included gift certificates to A&P and The Home Depot, bicycles, electronic equipment and an iPod Nano.

The Middlesex County Fire Academy had a fire education trailer with firemen explaining kitchen safety to children. During the month of October the fire department has also been traveling to local elementary and pre-schools, speaking extensively to students about the importance of fire safety in school and at home.

The history of National Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the Great

Chicago Fire, which occurred on October 8, 1871. This tragic conflagration killed some 300 people, left 100,000 homeless and destroyed more than 17,000 structures. The origin of the fire has generated speculation since its occurrence, with fact and fiction becoming blurred over the years. A

popular legend has it that Mrs. O'Leary was milking her cow when the animal kicked over a lamp, setting the O'Leary barn on fire and starting the blaze. However, when the massive fire began it swiftly took its toll burning more than 2,000 acres in 27 hours. The city of Chicago quickly rebuilt and

within a couple of years residents began celebrating their successful restoration to memorialize the anniversary of the fire with festivities.

Intending to observe the fire's anniversary with a more serious commemoration, the Fire Marshals Association of North America, the oldest membership section of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), decided that the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should be observed not with festivities, but in a way that would keep the public informed about fire prevention.

When President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the first National Fire Prevention Week, October 4-10, 1925, he noted that in the previous year nearly 15,000 lives were lost to fire in the United States, calling the loss "startling."

NFPA continues today to make National Fire Prevention Week a priority and counts on the participation and efforts of tens of thousands of fire and safety professionals, emergency volunteers, and other individuals working to reduce the risk of fire and the toll it takes on our society.

## Sampton Truck Ban Postponed

At the October 16 South Plainfield Borough Council meeting, an ordinance was introduced to prohibit trucks over four tons along Sampton Avenue between Clinton and Plainfield avenues. After resident Frank Mikorski questioned the direc-

tion trucks would take around Sampton Avenue, Council President Dennis Cerami requested that the ordinance be tabled until after the New Market Extension was complete. The entire council then voted to postpone the ordinance.

## Adult Crafts at Public Library

The South Plainfield Library will host the adult craft program, "Coming Together to Create," in November.

The program will be led by art therapist Donna Montilli, MA, ATR. Participants may bring in whatever project they're working on, regardless of medium, and continue it alongside other crafters. The program has four

installments on four consecutive Fridays beginning November 2 through November 30, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The program is being presented free of charge. Space is limited, so pre-registration is requested. While the library will provide some materials, participants are suggested to bring their own supplies, as well.

## Tea and the Mad Hatter

A tea and the Mad Hatter Tea Program will be hosted by the Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield on Sunday, Oct. 28 at the South Plainfield Senior Center.

Remember Alice and the Mad Hatter's Tea Party? In the 1860's when Lewis Carroll wrote his "Alice" books, tea gathering was very popular.

The afternoon program will feature the history of this fascinating beverage. Discover what tea connoisseurs meant by cream tea, high tea, afternoon tea and royal tea.

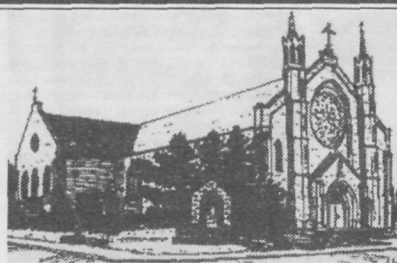
Proper tea etiquette will be discussed. There will also be a demonstration on how to brew the "perfect" pot of tea and several teas to taste. Remember to wear the hat you created for our contest. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the door.

-Submitted by Natalie Bergen

## Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave. South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor



### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10-11:30 a.m. and by appointment

### Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

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

Weekdays Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9 am; Mon. and Thurs. 7 p.m.

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

Holy Days 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

**Our Lady Of Czestochowa R.C. Church**  
 807 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield  
**NEW MASS SCHEDULE**  
 Daily at 8am except Wednesdays  
 (908) 756-1333  
 Tues.-Miraculous Medal Novena followed by Mass  
 Weekend Schedule: Saturday evenings 4:30 pm  
 Sunday mornings 8am and 11am

## LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE

### ADVERTISEMENT AND NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the Borough of South Plainfield for the "Spicer Avenue Curb and Sidewalk Improvements" and publicly opened and read aloud at the Borough of South Plainfield, Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080 on Friday, November 2, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. prevailing local time.

The project generally consists of the installation of missing sections of curb and sidewalk on Spicer Avenue from Hamilton Boulevard to Belmont Avenue including construction of handicap ramps, the reconstruction of damaged sections of concrete sidewalk, curb and/or curb and gutter, reconstruction of existing inlets and related work within the Borough of South Plainfield, and all other associated work as contained in the Contract Documents or as ordered by the Engineer.

Contract documents and plans for the proposed work prepared by David J. Samuel, P.E., Borough Engineer, CME Associates, may be examined at the office of said engineer at 3141 Bordentown Avenue, Paris, New Jersey, and at the office of the Borough Clerk, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, during business hours and may be obtained at the Borough Engineer's office until 48 hours prior to the time set for the opening of bids upon payment of \$75.00 per set. No refunds will be made. Proposals and the Contract Documents must be enclosed in sealed envelopes bearing the name and address of the Bidder and the name of the work on the outside addressed to Mayor and Borough Council, Borough of South Plainfield and must be accompanied by a Statement of Consent of Surety from a surety company authorized to do business in the State of New Jersey and acceptable to the owner. All bids submitted prior to the bid opening shall be mailed or delivered to the Borough Clerk at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check or cash in the amount of not less than ten (10) percent of the bid payable without any conditional endorsement as a guarantee that in case the contract is awarded to the bidder, he will within ten (10) days thereafter execute such contract and furnish satisfactory performance bond. Upon failure to do so he shall forfeit the deposit as liquidated damages and the acceptance of the bid will be contingent upon the fulfillment of this requirement by the bidder. No interest shall be allowed upon any such certified check or cash. A bid bond in the amount of ten (10) percent of the bid may be substituted for certified check or cash.

Each bid must also be accompanied by a certificate from a bonding company licensed to do business in the State of New Jersey guaranteeing that if the proposal of the bidder be accepted they will furnish the bond set forth in paragraph one of the General Conditions of the contract and the acceptance of the bid will be contingent upon the fulfillment of this requirement.

The Borough reserves the right to increase or decrease

quantities specified in the manner designated in the Specifications. The Borough reserves the right to award this contract based on funds available.

All bidders are required to be registered with the New Jersey Department of Labor if they elect to bid public works projects. The bidder shall be required to comply with "The Public Works Contractor Registration Act" (N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.48), as identified in Section B-Instruction to Bidders paragraph B3.13 and in the Appendix of the Specifications and Contract Documents. All Contractors and Subcontractors working on prevailing wage projects, which have a public building component, must attach a certificate of registration from the Department of Labor, to all bids.

All bidders are required to submit "Proof of Business Registration" to the contracting agency if they elect to bid public works projects. Proof of business registration shall be a copy of a Business Registration Certificate issued by the Department of the Treasury, Division of Revenue. The bidder shall be required to comply with business registration provisions of N.J.S.A. 52:33-44 (PL 2004, C.57), as identified in Section B-Instruction to Bidders paragraph B3.14 and in the Appendix of the specifications and Contract Documents. All Contractors and Subcontractors working on public work projects must attach a Business Registration Certificate to all bids.

The successful bidder shall be required to comply with the provisions of the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, Chapter 150 of the laws of 1963, effective January 1, 1964.

During the performance of this contract the Contractor agrees to comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 and N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq., all requirements of the State of New Jersey Worker Health and Safety Act (N.J.A.C. 12:110 et seq.) as amended and the United States Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) (29 CFR 1910), as amended with regard to worker and jobsite safety.

No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening thereof. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a surety company bond in the full amount of contract price indemnifying the Borough of South Plainfield, New Jersey, for all proceedings, suits or actions of any kind of description and conditional for the faithful performance of the work.

All bid security will be returned to all Bidders except the three (3) apparent lowest bidders within 10 working days after the opening of bids, and to the three (3) apparent lowest Bidders within three (3) working days after the successful Bidder has executed the Contract and his Contract security has been approved by the Borough.

The Borough reserves the right to reject any or all bids if in its opinion it is in the best interest to do so and to award the contract for any and/or all items.

BY ORDER OF THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$150.10

October 26, 2007

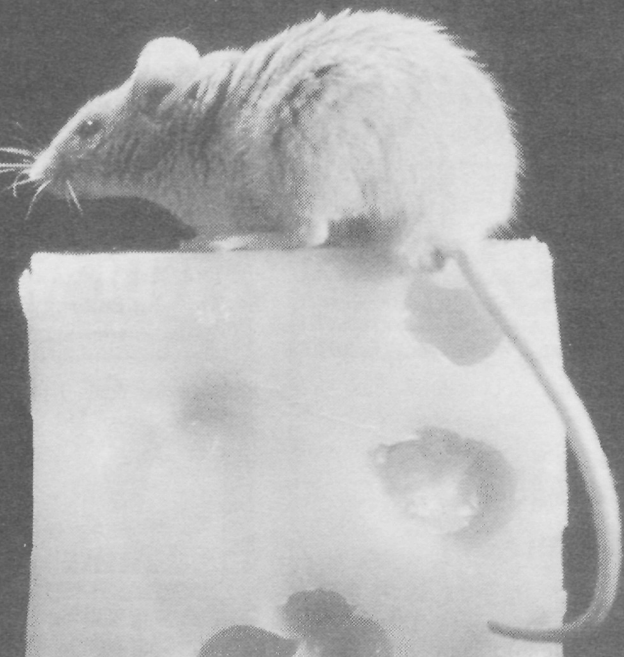
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That's a lot of cheese.



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# Sports



Members of SPHS Swim Team hosted a fundraising breakfast at the Elks lodge last Saturday. Back row (L-R): Theresa Gustafson, Michael Boyle, Michelle Gustafson and JP Barry. Front row: Lucy Roseo, Katie Egan, Allyson and Kathryn Paterek. Also helping out were Emily and Gracie Piekarski, Liz and Maggie Valentino, Matt Moates and Stephanie Kelly.

## SOCCER

### With Minutes Left, Arsenal Wins Game

The U-9 boys Traveling Soccer team took on the West Windsor Anandas last Sunday. These were two equally matched teams who both had a strong desire to win.

The first goal of the game was scored by Jake Giordano in the first quarter. This made Arsenal's opponents step up their game a little bit more. They quickly came back and scored two goals on Arsenal before the first quarter was over.

The team regrouped and came out during the second quarter determined not to let the opposition score any more goals. Their determination paid off and West Windsor was unable to score because of Arsenal's strong offense and defense. Their teamwork was phenomenal.

Arsenal scored two more goals before the game was over, one in the third quarter by Jared Marks and another by Jake Giordano with just a minute to go in the game.

These goals wouldn't have been possible without the help of the rest of the team, which consists of Jose Arubla, Nicholas Pezzolla, Jake Smith,

Nicholas Plate, Alec Paez, Jake Hoffman, Samardhi Jeedigunta, Jason Cieszkiewicz, Ricky Pellegrino and Tyler Curtis.

Arsenal's next game is home at Kenneth Avenue Field on Sunday, Oct. 28 at 3:30 p.m. against Westfield. Please come out and show your support.

-Submitted by Chris Paez

### Bullets Defeat Edison Storm

The boys U-14 Traveling Soccer team took on the Storm from Edison last Sunday, beating them by a score of 4-0.

The team was determined to win and it showed by the way they constantly dominated the game. They were passing the ball in circles around their opponent, never allowing them to get close enough to score. The Bullets' fancy footwork and passing skills really showed through as the players communicated to each other, making their plays a success.

This showed true when the Bullets ended the first half of the game with a score of 3-0. The first goal was scored by Alex Valladares and the next two

were scored by Ryan Marcoux. Ryan Riccardi had a fantastic penalty shot in the second half which brought the score up to 4-0.

With David Forero in net and the rest of the team, consisting of Shaun Alers, Edgar Callegas, Kevin Flanagan, Tony Franczak, Jimmy Gerber, Joe Krawiec, Zach Noll, Jelani Ptaah and Anthony Quadrel, they all made it a very exciting game. Marc Paez, who is out the rest of the season with a broken arm, supported his team from the sideline.

The Bullets' next game is away on Sunday, Oct. 28 against Watchung.

-Submitted by Chris Paez

### Magic Still Undefeated

Magic, the girls U-13 South Plainfield Traveling Soccer Team, had a very challenging weekend on October 20 and 21.

At the Magic vs. Pennington Power game, the girls dominated the entire time. They displayed a lot of team effort in a very exciting game to watch. Magic finalized the game with a score of 0-0. Captains were Taylor Crews and Kim Walsh.

The offensive and defensive players really worked together as a team. They were: Annie Pezzolla, Marissa Smith, Jessica Bishop, Danielle Butrico, Emily Skula, Marie Lanza, Taylor Crews, Alexa Douras, Allison Ratti, Kim Walsh, Brooke Penik, Kaitlin McHugh and Carlee Gonzalez. Jackie Dvorak played in goal.

The Magic vs. West Windsor game

on October 21 was very intense. Magic defeated their opponent by a score of 3-2. All three goals were scored by Emily Skula. Magic is still undefeated, with a record of 5-0-2. Captains were Jessica Bishop and Annie Pezzolla.

The offensive and defensive players were Emily Skula, Alexa Douras, Carlee Gonzalez, Marie Lanza, Danielle Butrico, Kaitlin McHugh, Taylor Crews, Marissa Smith, Jessica Bishop, Allison Ratti, Kim Walsh, Brooke Penik and Annie Pezzolla. Jackie Dvorak was at goal and made some nice saves.

Magic's next game is Saturday, Oct. 27 at 3:30 in Piscataway at Green Acres Field. Please come out and show your support.

-Submitted by Margaret Pezzolla

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<b>ALTA NUTA</b> Pinot Grigio 750 ml 11.99 Better Than Santa Marg!	<b>BRANCOTT</b> Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2006 750 ml 8.99 This wine is streamlined, with very good concentration to lime juice, grass and guava flavors highlighted by wet stone character. Drink now. - Rated by the Wine Spectator on April 30, 2007.	<b>YELLOW TAIL RESERVE</b> Shiraz 2005 750 ml 9.99 This Shiraz is bright, lively, harmonious and generous. Has a sleek mouthful of blueberry, currant and plum flavors, neatly packaged with hints of cream and spice as the finish sails on. Drink now through 2015. - Rated by the Wine Spectator on October 15, 2007.	<b>CHONO</b> San Lorenzo Estate 2004 750 ml 14.99 Has medium-weight, with notes of loam, tobacco and currant fruit that linger on the moderately juicy finish. Cabernet, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now. - Rated by the Wine Spectator on May 31, 2007.
<b>CONCHA Y TORO</b> Casillero Del Diablo Chardonnay 2005 750 ml 8.99 This Chardonnay is forward, with pear, fig and butter notes backed by a hint of hazelnut on the soft finish. Drink now. - Rated by the Wine Spectator on April 30, 2007.	<b>BRANCOTT</b> Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2006 750 ml 8.99 This wine is streamlined, with very good concentration to lime juice, grass and guava flavors highlighted by wet stone character. Drink now. - Rated by the Wine Spectator on April 30, 2007.	<b>YELLOW TAIL RESERVE</b> Shiraz 2005 750 ml 9.99 This Shiraz is bright, lively, harmonious and generous. Has a sleek mouthful of blueberry, currant and plum flavors, neatly packaged with hints of cream and spice as the finish sails on. Drink now through 2015. - Rated by the Wine Spectator on October 15, 2007.	<b>CHONO</b> San Lorenzo Estate 2004 750 ml 14.99 Has medium-weight, with notes of loam, tobacco and currant fruit that linger on the moderately juicy finish. Cabernet, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now. - Rated by the Wine Spectator on May 31, 2007.
<b>BERINGER</b> White Zinfandel 750 ml 4.99	<b>FISH EYE</b> All Types 750 ml 6.99	<b>SUTTER HOME</b> White Zinfandel 1.5 liter 6.99	<b>BY COASTAL</b> All Types 750 ml 7.99
<b>SUTTER HOME</b> Cabernet, Chard., Merlot, Pinot Grigio 1.5 liter 8.99	<b>BERINGER</b> Pinot Grigio 1.5 liter 9.99	<b>FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA DIAMOND SERIES</b> Chard., Sauv. Blanc 750 ml 10.99	<b>COLUMBIA CREST TWO VINES</b> All Types 1.5 liter 11.99
<b>CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE</b> Merlot, Cab. Sauv. 750 ml 11.99	<b>SIMI</b> Chardonnay 750 ml 13.99	<b>SERENITY</b> Pinot Noir 750 ml 14.99	<b>SIMI</b> Cabernet 750 ml 18.99
<b>CARLO ROSSI</b> Burgundy, White Grenache, Chablis, Sang., Chianti 4 liter jug 8.99	<b>ALMADEN MOUNTAIN</b> Burgundy, Chablis, Blush, Rhine 5 liter box 10.99	<b>FRANZIA</b> Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot, White Zinfandel 5 liter box 12.99	<b>PIPER SONOMA</b> Brut Cuvee 750 ml 12.99
<b>MARTINI &amp; ROSSI</b> Dry or Sweet Vermouth 750 ml 5.99	<b>PHILADELPHIA</b> Blended Whiskey 1.75L 11.99	<b>WOLFSCHMIDT</b> Vodka 80° 1.75L 13.99	<b>CANADIAN MIST</b> Canadian Whisky 1.75L 14.99
<b>E &amp; J GALLO</b> Brandy VS 1.75L 16.99	<b>DEKUYPER</b> Pucker Sour Apple 1.75L 16.99	<b>JIM BEAM BLACK</b> 8 Year Old Bourbon 750 ml 18.99	<b>FRIS</b> Vodka 80° 1.75L 18.99
<b>FRANGLICO</b> Hazelnut Liqueur 750 ml 20.99	<b>CAPTAIN MORGAN</b> Private Stock Rum 750 ml 21.99	<b>J &amp; B</b> Scotch Whisky Rare 80 1.75L 29.99	<b>COURVOISIER VSOP</b> Cognac 750 ml 30.99
<b>DON JULIO</b> Silver Tequila 750 ml 35.99	<b>MARTINI &amp; ROSSI</b> Dry or Sweet Vermouth 750 ml 5.99	<b>PHILADELPHIA</b> Blended Whiskey 1.75L 11.99	<b>WOLFSCHMIDT</b> Vodka 80° 1.75L 13.99
<b>CANADIAN MIST</b> Canadian Whisky 1.75L 14.99	<b>E &amp; J GALLO</b> Brandy VS 1.75L 16.99	<b>DEKUYPER</b> Pucker Sour Apple 1.75L 16.99	<b>JIM BEAM BLACK</b> 8 Year Old Bourbon 750 ml 18.99
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<b>COURVOISIER VSOP</b> Cognac 750 ml 30.99	<b>DON JULIO</b> Silver Tequila 750 ml 35.99	<b>MARTINI &amp; ROSSI</b> Dry or Sweet Vermouth 750 ml 5.99	<b>PHILADELPHIA</b> Blended Whiskey 1.75L 11.99
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<b>DEKUYPER</b> Pucker Sour Apple 1.75L 16.99	<b>JIM BEAM BLACK</b> 8 Year Old Bourbon 750 ml 18.99	<b>FRIS</b> Vodka 80° 1.75L 18.99	<b>FRANGLICO</b> Hazelnut Liqueur 750 ml 20.99
<b>CAPTAIN MORGAN</b> Private Stock Rum 750 ml 21.99	<b>J &amp; B</b> Scotch Whisky Rare 80 1.75L 29.99	<b>COURVOISIER VSOP</b> Cognac 750 ml 30.99	<b>DON JULIO</b> Silver Tequila 750 ml 35.99

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Sun 10-6

### Rec Youth Wrestling Registration Oct. 27

Registration for the South Plainfield Recreation Youth Wrestling Program will be held on Saturday, Oct. 27 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the PAL building. Registration is open to all South Plainfield children ages 5-11 as of October 1, 2007. The cost is \$35 per child. Parents must accompany child at registration. Birth certificates, as well as proof of residency, are required for first time sign-ups. Practice starts on November 12.

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Obituaries

Rastas Frank Stonewall Earl, 79

Rastas Frank Stonewall Earl passed away on Saturday, Oct. 13 at Muhlenberg Medical Center in Plainfield.



Rastas Frank Stonewall Earl

Rastas was born in Fort Myers, Fla. and moved to Newark when he was 13 years old. Following his enlisted term in the Navy, Rastas moved to Plainfield. He was member of the Masons.

Mr. Earl worked for Hatfield Wire & Cable where he started out sweeping floors and retired as plant manager after 33 years of continuous service without missing one day of work. Following retirement Rastas worked at Whighams Funeral Home, Newark and Eastern Wire.

In his spare time Rastas enjoyed going to the horse races.

He was predeceased by his parents, Viola Peoples and Joe Earle, Sr., his beloved wife of 54 years, Zelma Earl in 2004; brother Sandy Campbell and sister Bessie Boatwright.

Rastas is survived by eight devoted children, Frank Earl, Jr. and wife Cynthia Earl, Veronica Earl-Byers and husband Theodore Byers Sr., Joseph E. Earl, Wayne Earl Sr. and wife Christine Earl, Zelma P. Earl, Darin E. Earl, Sr., Daryl Earl, Sr. and Kevin Earl, Sr., 19 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

In addition to his children he is survived by three sisters, Elnora (Sister) Dixon, Bertha M. Roddey, Deborah Earle and a brother, Joseph Earle.

Funeral services were held at The South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

Steven "Steve" Ales

Steven "Steve" Ales passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on Tuesday, Oct. 16 after a courageous, two-year battle with brain cancer.

Steve was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. where he was raised by his grandmother who adored and cared for him as a child. He moved to South Plainfield 24 years ago.

He worked in computer sales for Arrow Electronics of Melville, N.Y.

Steve was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

In his spare time Steve enjoyed gar-

dening, was an avid sports enthusiast, enjoyed the love of his family and traveled extensively. Steve had a positive outlook and his spark for life was truly priceless.

Steve was predeceased by his father, Frank Ales, and an uncle, John Letteriello.

He is survived by his loving wife of 27 years, Rochelle Marie Barbieri Ales and two sons, Christopher A. Ales of South Plainfield and fiance Jennifer R. Kregeloh of Edison and James S. Ales of South Plainfield and girlfriend Tara C. Gerhardt of Edison. In addition, he is survived by his mother-in-law, Theresa M. Barbieri of Edison who endeared Steve as one of her own sons, and a brother-in-law, Joseph Barbieri of Queens, N.Y.

Funeral services were held at The South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made in Steve's name to the American Brain Tumor Association, 2720 River Road, Des Plaines, Ill. 90018 or Haven Hospice, James St., Edison, N.J. 08820.

Barbara L. Bray, 77

Barbara L. Bray of Edison passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 9 at J.E.K. Medical Center in Edison.

Mrs. Bray was born in Somerville and grew up in Dunellen and resided in South Plainfield for many years before recently moving to Edison.

Barbara was a registered nurse at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Somerset Medical Center and The Birchwood Nursing Home.

Mrs. Bray will be sadly missed by all those who were fortunate enough to have known her.

Barbara was predeceased by her beloved husband, Donald S., and a son, Robert C. Bray.

She is survived by a son, Donald W. Bray of Edison, and many friends.

Funeral services were under the direction of The South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

Gordon Edwin Berkeley Fladger, 82

Gordon Edwin Berkeley Fladger, the only child born to Hattie Belle Mundle Fladger and Berkley Edwin Fladger, was born February 2, 1925 in Latta, S.C. His eventual return to our creator was on Friday, Oct. 19. May God bless and receive his spirit.

He loved and married the incomparable Brenda Long Fladger and to this union two children were born, Edwin and Matthew Fladger.

Gordon or "Dad," as he was called by many, graduated from St. Emma Military High School. Shortly thereafter he proudly served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Always in hot pursuit of education, Gordon attended Voorhees Junior College, Rhodes Preparatory, Columbia University, Baruch College and Hunter College.

He always had the dream of being a journalist. Gordon worked diligently for 40 years at Time Warner and he loved the arts, especially dance. He founded the American Youth Theatre and Kinetic Energy Dance Troupe, and also served as chairperson for NJ Cultural Arts Commission in South Plainfield. His passion for life was passed on to countless youths through his involvement and commitments to the theatrical arts. He will forever live and rest in the hearts of all who cared and embraced him.

Gordon B. Fladger is survived by his loving wife, Brenda; two daughters, Stephanie and Gina; daughter-in-law Linda; son-in-law Theodore; three sons, Gordon, Jr., Edwin and Matthew; three grandchildren, Georgina, Adina and Cyrano; one great-grandchild, Jordan; six sister-in-laws, Esther Fowlkes, Edith Smith, Ann Nelson, Evelyn Long, Jackie Smith and Carolyn Long, and three brother-in-laws Samuel Long, James Nelson and Charles Smith. Also surviving are a host of family and friends.

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

Anthony R. Malec, 70

Anthony R. Malec died suddenly on Thursday, Oct. 18 at his home.

Born in South Plainfield, Anthony had resided in the borough for most of his life and had served in the New Jersey National Guard.

After high school, he graduated from Bloomfield College with a bachelors degree in history and later received his masters degree from Penn State. Anthony taught history for Madison Township and South Plainfield Board of Education prior to teaching at the Centennial Joint School District William Tenant High School in Johnsville, Pa. He retired in 1966. In the early 1960's, he received an award for Outstanding Teaching from William Tenant.

Anthony was a true outdoors man who loved to hunt and fish and whose home was filled with all the fishing and hunting equipment needed. Although he could always be seen with a fishing pole in hand, his favorite passion was for archery. He was also an accomplished trumpet player. He began playing in high school and continued to play until today. He was often seen playing at Sherban's Diner and local parks around the holidays.

He is predeceased by his father, Walter, who died in May of 2007 and his mother, Teresa, who died in July of 2006.

He is survived by his two sisters, Jane Doherty and Pat Kudrick and husband Jack, who all reside in South Plainfield; two nephews, John Kudrick, DC and wife Jen and Jimmy Doherty; a niece, Teri Ann Doherty, and a great niece and nephew, Taylor and Jack. Also surviving are many local friends and neighbors from his favorite local spots, including Sherban's.

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

Agnes T. Jarvis, 89

Agnes Theresa (Galati) Jarvis entered into eternal life on Thursday, Oct. 18 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Agnes was born in N.Y.C. and had

resided in New Jersey prior to moving to Pennsylvania before returning to New Jersey where she settled with her daughter in South Plainfield.

She was predeceased by her husband, William Alexander Jarvis, who died on May 25, 1987 and a granddaughter, Elizabeth D. Penik-Walsh, who died on June 19, 2007.

She will be sadly missed.

Surviving is a daughter, Antoinette Penik of South Plainfield; three grandchildren, Julia Penik-Gates of Middlesex, Vincent M. Penik of Edison and William P. Penik of South Plainfield and eight great-grandchildren.

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

Gabriele M. Duch, 66

Gabriele M. Duch died on Friday, October 19 at her home.

Born in Warsaw, Poland she came to the United States in 1974, had lived in Summit and settled in South Plainfield six years ago.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Adam; a dear daughter, Bisia of Belmar and a sister, Xawera Rzepecka.

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

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# IN YOUR OPINION

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

(Continued from page 2)

To the Editor,

I wanted to respond to the letter published in the recent edition of the *Observer* written by Lt. Kevin Murtagh, who went into great detail explaining the issues the South Plainfield community faces as a result of the recent traffic rerouting of large trucks. His unique perspective as both a resident and a member of the local law enforcement gave him insight to the complexity of the issues at hand and I want to commend him on his thoughtfulness and his respect for all parties involved in this community problem.

I also have a unique perspective and felt compelled to write to the *Observer* and express my thoughts and concerns. I am the executive vice president and chief operating officer of New England Motor Freight Trucking Company (NEMF) and my vehicles and drivers have also been directly affected by the recent changes in South Plainfield. As a trucking company, it's our obligation to reach out to let the community know that we share in their concerns with regard to safety, traffic congestion and noise pollution. And let me say that these

concerns are indeed our concerns as well. We are proud of the fact that our drivers and workers at NEMF are not simply part of a faceless trucking company, but they are your neighbors and we share your desire to find a common-ground solution. When our drivers drive the new routes and they are met on the roads with frustrated and angry citizens, they share in your frustrations. To be blunt, this new truck route on Hamilton Boulevard is dangerous and inconvenient for our drivers and cause an unsafe passing situation for all other automobile and tractor-trailer traffic. Furthermore, it is much more congested and difficult to access with St. Nicholas and South Clinton avenues as the main route. New Market Avenue is too narrow and was not meant to accommodate large vehicles. We acknowledge that this was done to keep trucks out of a residential neighborhood, but the fact remains the old route was considerably more accommodating to truck traffic and is a county road. There has to be a better 'big-picture' solution because while traffic may be alleviated on one area, the problems it has caused overall has far greater long term implications.

We as a company do years of planning and research to see what impact we will have on a community before

we open our doors. We factor in traffic patterns, environmental issues, job growth and economic viability and the same planning and research was done prior to rolling out the first trucks at our South Plainfield facility back in 1991. We would welcome the opportunity to work directly with the local South Plainfield officials as well as law enforcement, city planners and residential representatives to resolve these matters. Hopefully, we can come together on a viable solution that respects the local businesses, encourages economic growth and above all else, considers the safety of all the residents of the South Plainfield community.

**WITH RESPECT,  
TOM CONNERY, EXECUTIVE VP AND  
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER  
NEW ENGLAND MOTOR FREIGHT**

To the Editor,

I'm writing this letter to support Tim McConville. I've known Tim as my brother-in-law for years and I can honestly say he would make a superb councilman.

Tim grew up in town, and a few years after graduating from SPHS married his wife Gina, who also comes from town. Tim and Gina chose to stay in town and raise their three kids here, in the same town in which they

grew up.

Anyone who knows South Plainfield probably knows one of the McConvilles. Tim's dad is a fixture at the American Legion and his mom is a devoted volunteer. His twin brother, Jim (my husband), is a police officer, as is his brother John, who recently served our country in Iraq. His sister, Kelly, also works for the police department. Talk about a family committed to public service!

Tim McConville cares about South Plainfield and he is the right choice for Borough Council.

Good luck to Tim. South Plainfield would be lucky to have him.

**LAUREN MCCONVILLE**

To the Editor,

I was very happy to find out that Councilwoman Kathy Thomas is running for re-election to the Borough Council. Kathy will be getting my vote and I am urging you to give her your vote also.

Kathy was a driving force behind the first-ever tax decrease. In today's society, when every town is asking its residents to pay more and more taxes, Kathy has led the charge that has resulted in us paying less! How about that? Although that would certainly

warrant re-election alone, Kathy has not rested on that monumental accomplishment. She is also the liaison to the library board and is working with them to build a state-of-the-art library that will be suitable for everyone's needs—young and old alike. Once again, Kathy's vision for a better South Plainfield will benefit us many years into the future. Thank you very much Kathy Thomas.

I am asking everyone to join me in re-electing Kathy Thomas and her running mate, Council President Dennis Cerami, to the borough council. They deserve our votes and we deserve to have them working for us for the next three years.

**SINCERELY,  
ELIZABETH DRESSLER**

Dear Editor,

Last year the Democrats announced a traffic plan they said would solve South Plainfield's traffic problems. The idea was to shift trucks off Hamilton Boulevard and on to New Market Avenue.

Nobody wants trucks on Hamilton Boulevard, but the New Market alternative is not the right solution for several reasons.

First, it's unsafe. The State says this,

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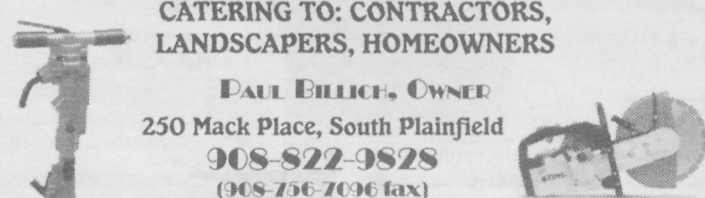
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# IN YOUR OPINION

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as does our own traffic-safety officer. Second, it's unfair. People on New Market Avenue did not buy their homes along a truck route. The New Market Avenue plan just takes the trucks and spreads them around. They take them out of one neighborhood (where some of the Democrats, including Cerami, live) and put them in another.

Third, the new route pushes trucks on to the north side of town, including Sampton, Plainfield and Clinton avenues.

The Democrats will not acknowledge the problems their plan created and they have no solid ideas to move forward. They don't deserve our support on November 6.

**TERESA VEIT**

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter of endorsement for my friend, Council President Dennis Cerami, who is running for reelection to the South Plainfield Borough Council. I have known Dennis for many years and I can unequivocally say that he is as loyal and dedicated a man as you will ever know.

No matter when you reach out to Dennis for help, he is always there. He brings that same spirit to his duties

on the borough council. Whether the task at hand deals with the borough's public safety departments, which he is the liaison to, or another in need of help, Dennis is right there to lend his expertise and assistance. Just ask the health department. When the Plainfield Humane Society was going to double the fee they charge the borough for animal control, Dennis reached out to Edison Township to see if they would be receptive to entering into an inter-local agreement to handle that responsibility for South Plainfield. Not only did they agree, they agreed at one-third the cost that Plainfield was going to raise our fee to. That's the type of man Dennis Cerami is. Whatever is best for South Plainfield is what Dennis gets done. He is a true public servant.

Let's re-elect Dennis Cerami to the borough council, along with his running mate Councilwoman Kathy Thomas, on Election Day, November 6.

**NIKI PALMIERO**

Dear Editor,

In looking at this year's election, I've decided there are good reasons to vote for one side and against the other. Here are my thoughts.

Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak

have some great plans for our town, which include revitalization of our business districts along Park Avenue and Plainfield Avenue, and expansion of our parks and open space. They also want to restore open government and enact ethics reforms. They also want to instill long-range planning, something desperately needed in our town.

Thomas and Cerami want to continue flying by the seat of their pants. They have no long-term plans, but instead, say whatever will get them through the next election. Their plans are always behind schedule and over budget. For example, they had 10 years to deal with traffic and overdevelopment and look where we are. Lots of money is being spent and we're only looking at short-term fixes. In addition, overdevelopment, and the additional traffic it brings, has been ignored.

Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak represent the right direction for South Plainfield. Please support them on Election Day.

**JUNE SCHULKES**

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# Pinto Settlement Made Public

(Continued from page 1)

of the matter is between the borough and Pinto. The borough admitted no fault.

The release of the December 2004 agreement stems from an Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request made by Republican Party Chairman Bob Jones in February 2005 seeking settlement terms and deposition transcripts. Jones has contended that a settlement constituted the use of taxpayer money and that residents should be privy to information disclosed by the defendants during the negotiations. He filed suit on behalf of the South Plainfield Republican Organization in September of 2005.

A judge granted the release of the settlement, but denied the release of any transcripts. According to Jones, both sides asked the judge to reconsider, but the judge held to the original decision.

Another appeal was filed by the Republican Organization, which included a request for reimbursement of legal fees. Jones said, "We challenged the decision not to award attorney fees, which we argued we were entitled to by law. They challenged the order requiring them to turn over the settlement."

The appeal was decided in July 2007 when the court overturned the

previous decision stating that OPRA required that the Republican Organization get at least part of their attorney fees. The Republicans' attorney wrote Buttafuoco Arce & Price, the borough's attorney, asking for the settlement within 10 days pursuant to the order and received no response. Jones asked the court to hold the borough in contempt. The Democrats wrote the court saying they did not object to the court releasing the settlement. Jones contended that the court did not have the settlement. The hearing was postponed because of the sudden death of Joseph Buttafuoco, attorney for the borough handling the case.

Last week Jones' attorney received a faxed letter dated October 15 and addressed to the court. Attached to the fax was a copy of the settlement agreement. According to Jones, in that letter Buttafuoco Arce & Price admit that their office had the settlement and that the court did not.

Jones said, "It took the threat of contempt of court to get the Democrats to turn over the settlement is sad. Mayor Charles Butrico has called the suit for the documents 'political.' What's really political is a group of government officials who will go so far as to defy a court order to hide in-

formation from the public. This is a victory for democracy and open government."

The Republicans are no longer pursuing the depositions. However, David Albert, the attorney representing the Republicans, went before a judge last Friday to determine if he is entitled to be paid by the borough for providing the work required to file the application to hold the borough in contempt. "It should be decided shortly," said Jones.

Mayor Charlie Butrico stated that the release of the settlement by Buttafuoco Arce & Price last Wednesday was due to a "misunderstanding." He said, "Because of this political game, it will cost the residents money out of the borough coffers to pay for the Republicans' legal fees. The settlement did not. They are not looking out for the betterment of South Plainfield." Butrico also believes that the borough could have easily won the case and he would like to have seen it go to trial; however, it would have cost the insurance company more than the \$125,000 settlement in legal fees to do so. "We have nothing to hide. I would love to see everything released although Ms. Pinto didn't want it out. This settlement cost was fully covered by our insurance company."

When asked to comment on the release of the document, Pinto said, "I didn't quite understand what the disclosure of this settlement would prove and still don't understand the motivation of it. Anyone that has been involved in a lawsuit that settles out of court knows there are concessions made by both sides in order to reach that settlement and there are a wide variety of reasons why parties want to settle. I assumed after this settlement that this chapter of my life was over and I moved on. It was disheartening every so many months to be constantly reminded of this hurtful time in my life. I am once again assuming now that this information has been made public, that the powers to be or want to be will move on."

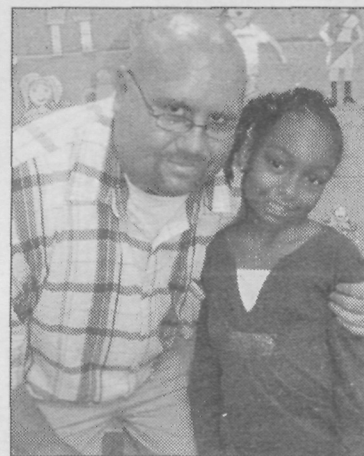
"I do want to take this opportunity to thank those that were deposed for this lawsuit, for being true and honestly stating the facts. For those that when I pass you on the street and you intentionally do not make eye contact or put your head down, I am 'smirking' and you and I both know why. If this lawsuit helped one woman to stand up and have the courage against alleged discrimination, then it has served its purpose."

2007-08

## JUNIOR JOURNALIST



### Tatiana Ishod Named Junior Journalist Winner!



Roosevelt School third grade student Tatiana Ishod with teacher Michael Bertram.

Tatiana Ishod, Roosevelt School third grader, is this weeks winner in the Hometown Heros and South Plainfield Observer-sponsored 2007-08 Junior Journalist Contest with her untitled poem about Fall.

Tatiana will be the recipient of a dinner for her family courtesy of Hometown Heros. She will also receive a t-shirt. At the end of the school year, she will be honored at a banquet, along with all the contest winners.

Open to all school-aged children

in South Plainfield, The Junior Journalist Contest is a weekly program promoting the art of writing.

Students should submit their original poetry, articles, opinion pieces or essays to their English teachers, who will submit them to the Observer.

If you have any questions, call the Observer at (908) 668-0010, stop by Hometown Heros, located at 340 Hamilton Blvd. or call them at (908) 755-4376.

#### Untitled

By Tatiana Ishod

The leaves of fall sound like rice krispies crackling when you add milk. CRUNCH! CRACKLE! Fall smells like hot chocolate in the fresh air. Fall tastes like hot sweet potato pie straight from the oven. Do you see the changing color leaves falling from the tree? Let's rake them up and jump in Weeeee! Watch out here I come, SPLASH! What a great time in fall.

### Congratulations!

2007-08

## JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Charlie and Debbie Kurland present dinner on October 19 to Junior Journalist winner Joanna Marston pictured with her mom, Susan; cousin, Kelly and brother, Ryan.

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## Help "Keep Our Kids Warm" Program

The McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals is asking for participation in their sweatshirt drive, "Keep Our Kids Warm." They are asking for sweatshirts to be donated for children between the age of five to 17. Sweatshirts should be newly purchased or never been worn. No other clothing

will be accepted.

The project is being run in accordance with the borough's director of social services, Marge Ackerman. The sweatshirts will be distributed to underprivileged children throughout the community.

Sweatshirts will be accepted in the

main entrance of the funeral home on Saturday, Nov. 10 between 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Let us come together and show the children of South Plainfield who are less fortunate that they are cared for.

For more information, call the funeral home at (908) 561-8000.

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