

South Plainfield Observer

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60 CENTS

SEPTEMBER 23, 2011



Holy Savior Academy students and principal Melinda Hanlon are joined by Bishop Paul Bootkowski for the school's inaugural Mass last week.

Bishop Presides Over Inaugural Mass for Holy Savior Academy

Most Reverend Paul G. Bootkowski visited the newly opened Holy Savior Academy on September 15 to preside over the school's inaugural Mass in Sacred Heart Church. Afterwards, Bishop Bootkowski led a procession of clergy, students and guests to the new school where he blessed the commemorative plaque in the school lobby.

Monsignor Michael J. Corona,

director of the Diocese of Metuchen's Department of Education, gave the homily at the mass. The student body, attired in new red, white and blue uniforms, as well as clergy and special guests, attended the Mass.

Holy Savior Academy is a newly formed school comprised of students from four Catholic schools in the area that closed their doors last year—Our

Lady of Fatima School in Piscataway, Our Lady of Mt. Virgin School in Middlesex Borough, Holy Family Academy in Bound Brook and Sacred Heart School in South Plainfield. The schools were experiencing continually falling enrollment and revenue.

Holy Savior Academy is located in the former Sacred Heart School building which closed its doors on July 1. The school has 16 classrooms and had undergone extensive renovations in 2006. The school is equipped with wireless Internet access, science labs, an electronic library system, new computers and updated classroom floors and gymnasium lights.

The school, which can accommodate up to 500 students, welcomed 275 students earlier this month. School Principal Melinda Hanlon anticipates increased enrollment as the word spreads about the new school.

SPJBC to Commemorate 9/11 Memorial



Please join us on Saturday, Sept. 24 at 7 p.m. for a candlelight vigil to unveil the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club 9/11 Memorial. All are invited to be a part of this commemoration. The memorial is located in front of the backstop of Field #3.

Town Hall to Address Health Concerns of Senior Citizens

The Arthritis Foundation, New Jersey Chapter will sponsor a town hall meeting breakfast with Senator Barbara Buono on Wednesday, Sept. 28 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at the senior Center, 90 Maple Ave.

Topics of discussion and moderators will be Medicare and Medicaid Changes: The Impact on Seniors—Senator Barbara Buono, and Arthritis Research Update: The

Impact on Quality of Life—Peggy Lotkowitz, vice president, Mission Delivery, Arthritis Foundation.

To register, contact Phyllis Freed, program coordinator, The Arthritis Foundation, at (732) 283-4300, ext. 307 or pfreed@arthritis.org. A complimentary continental breakfast will be served.

For more information, call the senior center at (908) 412-1517.



Mayor Matthew Anesh presents a proclamation at Monday's Borough Council meeting declaring October 1 Down Syndrome Buddy Walk Day in the Borough of South Plainfield, and inviting all citizens to take note and to support the efforts of our local Buddy Walk organization to Michele Both (left) with sons Kyle and Ryan, and Barbara Cochrane with daughter Charlee.



(L to R) Christopher Born, Brandon Shine and Deleaney Born, a.k.a. The Bananas, were so excited about participating in the 5K race on Labor Day that they made their own t-shirts to wear.

More Labor Day parade coverage on pages 6 and 7. The parade can be viewed on Comcast Channel 96 tomorrow at 11 a.m., 3 and 8 p.m.



The South Plainfield Public Library's collection is packed and ready for storage behind the library while the building undergoes flood restoration. The book return outside the library is temporarily unavailable to accept books.

SPBA Taste of the Town To Feature Local Eateries

The South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA) will host its first Taste of the Town on Friday, Oct. 7 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the senior center.

Local borough restaurants will showcase their specialty foods for guests to sample. Approximately 20-25 restaurants are expected to participate. This is a great way for residents to taste some of the delicious cuisine that is available in South Plainfield and an opportunity for local restaurants to connect with present and future customers.

Dan Ratti, owner of Oak Tree Discount Liquors, has signed on and will

offer wine and liquor tastings.

Tickets may be purchased for \$25 at the door.

Come out and enjoy an evening of gourmet food and support the SPBA. The SPBA is a non profit 501c association. All proceeds will go to scholarships for South Plainfield High School graduates.

Any restaurant interested in participating and has yet to be contacted, or anyone wishing to purchase advance sale tickets at the discounted price of \$20, should contact Debbie Boyle at (908) 803-1573, Chrissy Buteas at (908) 447-3466 or Nancy Grennier at (908) 668-0010. Tickets may also be purchased at the office of the South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Boulevard.



The parade can be seen on Comcast Channel 96 Saturday, Sept. 24 at 11 a.m. 3 and 8 p.m.

Want to stay informed about the business of your Council and BOE?

FYI Borough Council & BOE Council meetings air on Comcast Channel 96 Mondays at 7 p.m. BOE meetings air on Thursdays at 7 p.m.

To purchase a complete copy of a council or BOE meeting, contact the *Observer*. (Check Comcast community bulletin board for last minute time changes.)

council meetings

Meets twice a month on Mondays, *except where noted. Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
October 3	October 3
October 17	October 17

All Agenda Meetings begin at 7 p.m. followed immediately by the Public Meeting, unless otherwise noted. Meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with the N.J. Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Ave.

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, *except where noted. Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641 Sept. 27, Oct. 11, 25, Nov. 1,* Dec. 13*

zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, *except where noted. Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641 Oct. 13, Oct. 27, Nov. 10*, Dec. 8*

board of education

Meets Wednesdays at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. Committee of the Whole meetings (begin at 6:00 p.m.) Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 14 and April 4. Regular Public Meeting (begin at 7:30 p.m.) Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 21 and April 11.

BOE curriculum/technology/student activities

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

BOE buildings & grounds

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

cultural arts commission

Meets the third Tuesday of the month at the PAL at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20

library board of trustees

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday, at the library at 7 p.m. Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13

recreation commission

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7716 Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13

taxpayers advisory group

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

site plans sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20

environmental commission

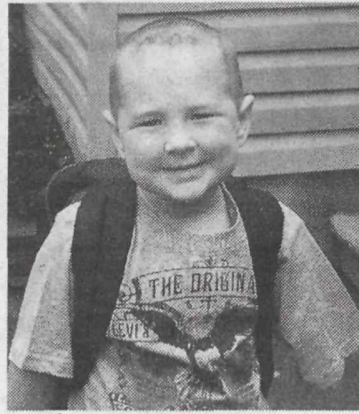
Meets once a month (second Wednesday) Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7621

business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday) Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m.

In My Opinion

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



Matthew Hannon

To our Family/Friends/Neighbors:

It has been over four years since Matthew was diagnosed with cancer. We have seen such amazing support from our family/friends/neighbors over the past four years. I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all. This journey that we were given with Matty has been one of the most difficult and challenging. I truly believe we have come through with all of your support.

I have been debating on sending this probably for the past year, but I felt this would be a great time to give you an update on him. Matthew turned five in August. He has accomplished such milestones with all he has been through, one of the biggest is he played t-ball this year with his one arm! He is amazing to all of us and most who have come in contact with him. He is an inspirational little boy and we are so proud of him. He has a personality and a smile that just lights up a room.

Matthew entered kindergarten this school year and was so happy to go and join his new school. He looked forward all summer to going and meeting his teacher and making new friends.

He continues to have his regular visits with his oncologist and to date all is still clear! Our goal date for Matthew is December 24, 2012. That is

when we will hear the official word that he is cancer free!

As always we thank all of you for your prayers and support! The photo (at left) is of Matthew on his way to kindergarten.

**WITH MUCH THANKS AND LOVE,
KERI HANNON AND THE
ENTIRE HANNON FAMILY**

To the Editor:

I attended the South Plainfield Labor Day parade as I have done every year for the past 39 years, and although I enjoy all of the participants in the parade, I enjoy the various bands the most.

My family and I sat near the reviewing stand because we knew the people who had been selected to serve as grand marshals, especially Joe Belardo, and wanted to be close by to lend our enthusiastic support for their selection.

Unfortunately, this year our choice to sit in this location as we had done the previous year, was marred by the fact that the deejay that was chosen to perform for the post-parade festivities made a nuisance of himself by insisting on playing as loudly as possible just after the parade approached the reviewing stand while the marching band proceeded to perform.

I understand the purpose of the deejay for this occasion, but I felt that the timing of his performance during the actual parade, which drowned out anything that might have been heard, was very rude on the deejay's part and poor planning on the part of the parade committee.

I hope that this problem will be addressed and corrected in the future so that those of us who are there to see, hear and enjoy the parade as we always have, can actually do so.

**SINCERELY YOURS,
WAYNE J. OTLOWSKI**

Dear Editor,

On Monday, Sept. 12 as I was leaving work about 4:15 in the afternoon,

Submit Your Letters to the Editor

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

I was flagged down by my co-worker saying I had a flower delivery. As I pulled around the front of the building, I saw the van from Mohn's, and I was happy that my husband and daughter chose to send me a beautiful bouquet for my birthday. But apparently the flowers were to be delivered earlier in the day and there was some mix-up.

The next morning at work I was called to the front desk. There was a second gorgeous bouquet, along with a note of apology from Mohn's for delivering the previous day's flowers late. I was stunned and very pleased that Mohn's would go the extra mile to ensure their customer's satisfaction. This is an example of why we all need to continue to patronize our local businesses; the little shops that go out of their way to provide excellent customer service. This is why our family will continue to visit Mohn's in the future for our floral needs!

**SINCERELY,
SHARON REUTER**

Dear Residents,

So much has happened with the national economy recently that I wanted to take a moment to update you about the state of our town's finances.

As you surely know, the national economy is still suffering, with federal spending and borrowing at an all-time high. In addition, the stock market is tanking, and one of the major rating firms just downgraded our nation's debt rating. Given all this bad economic news, it's fair to ask where we stand locally. Here's a rundown:

South Plainfield's finances are among the best in the state. Spending is lower than it was two years ago, with practically every department spending less. In fact, we saw the borough payroll go down a quarter million dollars this year after being flat last year, without the massive layoffs that were the norm elsewhere.

Some things are out of the council's control. Healthcare costs are up, state aid is down, and revenue is declining due to falling ratables caused by the slumping real-estate market. If it weren't for the council's work to reduce the budget, we would have seen a hefty tax increase due to these things.

Borrowing is also heading in the right direction. It was down a half-

(Continued on page 10)

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

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

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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Green Mapping Neighborhoods from the Past

By Dorothy Miele,
Green Team Chairperson

A water-stained artifact found in the basement at Borough Hall by the South Plainfield Public Works Department has become a source of information for the Green Team/Sustainable Jersey Community Asset Mapping Project.

The artifact is a borough map dated 1929, three years after the borough's split with Piscataway Township. Though slightly stained at the bottom, the large street map reveals monikers designating local neighborhoods. Some of the names are still familiar, thanks to the long memory of residents and the South Plainfield Historical Society's oral history project. Many people can still remember where Cherry Dell Gardens, Holly Park and New Petrograd were located. But new names were revealed on the map, which now hangs in the chief financial officer's office at borough hall. Names such as Centralia Manor, Holly-wood Farms, Nova Ukraina, Brookside Manor, Holly Crest and Mountain View Heights were handwritten on the map. Large tracts were noted as being owned by a few of the most important founding citizens of South Plainfield—Hamilton and the McDonough Brothers—as well as the Field Family who also owned large tracts of land known as Fieldville in Piscataway.

The Community Asset Mapping project, also known as Green Mapping, will provide a collective web-based inventory of the positive and valued aspects of South Plainfield, such as locations of educational facilities; parks, recreation and open space sites; natural assets including wetlands

and trails; locations of civic, scout and faith-based organizations, as well as business associations and locations. The information newly discovered in the borough's basement will be included on the Green Map overlay designating past and present sites of historical interest.

The Green Team is recruiting members of the public to join in collecting and sharing data for the mapping project. Your ideas and participation are important to the success of this project. An online survey is available on the borough webpage, www.southplainfieldnj.com. Share your time, information and suggestions as to what you would like included in the Green Map inventory or join the team that makes the final selections and updates to the map.

Printed surveys are available at the South Plainfield Environmental Specialist's office and the South Plainfield Senior Center.

Contact Green Team member/Green Map coordinator Jonathan Walczak at jwalczak@gmail.com or the South Plainfield Environmental Commission at spnatrains@verizon.net for further information.

We're on Facebook, too.



Top row (L-R): Frank Chupko (CCDB), Metro Kopchak (KWVAP), Frank C. Rivers Sr., (SS) Otto Sodoma (PGC-Sky Pilot), George Jepsen (HG). Bottom row: Redolphus Montford (TW-Shyster). Not pictured is Phil Cortese, Jr. (KWVA-treasurer).

Korean War Vets Support VFW Work at VA Hospital

Pup Tent #41 Military Order of the Cootie (MOC) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of New Jersey received a donation of \$1,002.66 on September 12 from Metro Kopchak, president of the Korean War Veterans Association of Middlesex County Chapter #87 of New Jersey, to use for their monthly hospital party visits at the Lyons VA Hospital.

The Military Order of the Cootie is the Honor Society of the Veteran of Foreign Wars.

Pup Tent #41 hosts a breakfast every first Sunday of the month through June 1 at the VFW Post #6763, 155 Front St. The public is invited to attend. Post Commander Vincent Berry and cooks; Hank and Mary Ann Rauer are top shelf chefs.

BOROUGH NOTES

The following took place at the September 6 council meeting:

- Awarded a contract to Midco Waste, for the annual leaf pick up program at a rate of \$34,164.

- Tax Collector Kimberly Clifford's position was amended to part time, effective September 13, excluding health benefits, plus payment at an hourly rate for any additional services required by the borough.

- Dawn Hutchinson was promoted to full time clerk typist in the Tax Department, effective September 13.

- The CFO was authorized to issue a refund check in the amount of \$2,067.20 for 2100 South Clinton Ave. and \$12,696.43 for 105 Snyder Rd. to Daniel G. Keough, Trustee, Ventura, Micsowitz, Keough, Warner, 783 Springfield Ave in Summit.

- Pinto Brothers Disposal was awarded the contract for an emergency borough-wide storm clean-up for \$54,500 plus tipping fees, not to exceed \$81.70 per ton.

- An inter-local agreement was approved between South Plainfield and Middlesex County to participate in the Automatic License Plate Recognition System program.

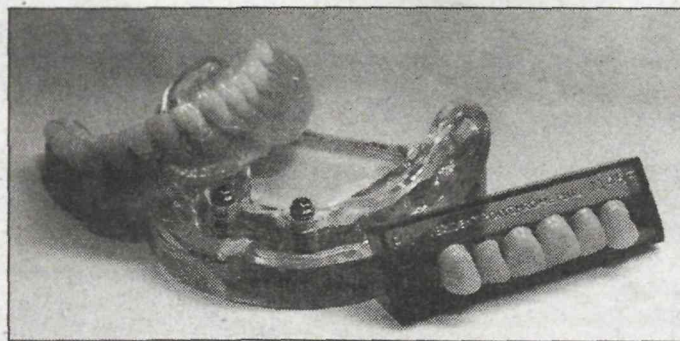
- Building permit fees for residents' replacement of hot water heater or furnaces/boilers were waived due to the damage caused the recent hurricane. Waiver is valid through the remainder of 2011.

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events

Around Town

School Night for Scouting

September 23

The Boy Scouts of America invite any boys interested in joining scouts, from first grade through the age of 18, to a "School Night for Scouting" on Friday, Sept. 23 at Roosevelt School, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Stop by if you are interested or have any questions regarding scouting.

Knights of Columbus Fall Mum Sale

September 24-25;
October 1-2 & 8-9

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 will be holding its fall mum sale the following weekends: September 24/25, October 1/2 and 8/9.

Mums in various colors will be on sale at the rescue squad located at 2506 Plainfield Ave., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Prices are \$7 for eight inch pots; \$25 for large pots with beautiful blooms. This fundraiser supports the Knights various charitable works.

Thank you for your support.

Senior Center Picnic

September 29

The South Plainfield Senior Center picnic will be held on Thursday, Sept. 29 at the senior center from 1 to 4 p.m. Delicious food. Catering by Elmer's: chicken, fries, onion rings,

corn on the cob, coffee and dessert. Entertainment by Ian Gallagher.

Tickets are \$15. Don't miss out—sign up at the senior center.

Buddy Walk

October 1

The annual South Plainfield Buddy Walk will be held on Saturday, Oct. 1 at Putnam Park. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. The walk begins at 1 p.m. Register online at www.bwosp.kintera.org. \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids under 13; a shirt and lunch are included as well as raffles, face painting, other activities and a deejay.

Paper Shredding Scheduled

October 1

Recycle your old documents and confidential files safely and securely. Come to a free mobile paper shredding event for Middlesex County residents on Saturday, Oct. 1. The event will take place from 9 a.m. until noon (or when the shredding truck is filled—whichever comes first) in the South Plainfield Senior Center parking lot at 90 Maple Ave.

For any questions, call (732) 745-4170.

1961 Class Reunion

October 1

South Plainfield High School Class of 1961 will host a 50th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 1 at the Hilton Garden Inn at Raritan Center in Edison.

For information, email Brenda Belardo Ribar at class1961sphs@gmail.com.

Send Your Community Events to:

spobserver@comcast.net

Music Boosters Friendly's Fundraiser

October 3-16 (All day)

Good food, great ice cream. Friendly's Piscataway and Somerville locations will donate a portion of food sales from your entire table to support SPHS Music Boosters when you present their voucher between October 3 and 16.

For more fundraisers, view our calendar at www.sphsmusicboosters.webs.com. Vouchers can be obtained through SPHS music department or from madelinec00@aol.com or by calling Madeline at (908) 337-4563. Must bring voucher.

Bible Study at OLC

October 4

"A Quick Journey Through The Bible" study will be offered at Our Lady of Czestochowa at the parish office for eight Tuesdays, beginning October 4, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Registration is \$20 (to cover cost of materials).

The Bible is more than a book; it is the incredible story of salvation history—God's glorious plan for leading his people to an intimate relationship with Himself.

For more information, call Marie at (908) 561-2215 or (732) 562-1990, ext. 1703.

Taste of the Town

October 7

The South Plainfield Business Association will host the first Taste of the Town on Friday, Oct. 7 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the senior center.

Local restaurants will showcase their specialty foods for guests to sample. Advance purchase tickets are \$20; \$25 at the door.

Restaurants interested in participating or those wishing to purchase tickets should call Debbie Boyle at (908) 803-1573, Chrissy Buteas at (908) 447-3466 or Nancy Grennier at (908) 668-0010.

Humane Society Annual Tricky Tray

October 8

The Plainfield Humane Society will host the third annual Tricky Tray at the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave., on Saturday, Oct. 8. Doors open at 5 p.m.; calling begins 7:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the animals in their care. Any questions, call (908) 754-0300.

Tricky Tray at St. Stephen Church

October 15

St. Stephen Orthodox Church, located at 609 Lane Ave., will host a tricky tray event on Saturday, Oct. 15. Doors open at 6 p.m. Drawings start at 7:30 p.m.

UNICO Celebrates 41st Anniversary

October 15

Plainfields' UNICO will celebrate the 41st anniversary of the Unification of Italy on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 6:30 to 11 p.m. at the senior center located at 90 Maple Ave.

A \$25 donation per person includes Italian food and soft drinks; BYOB.

For tickets, call Robert Bengivenga at (908) 753-0247 or Renato Biribin at (908) 561-6685. No tickets will be sold at the door.

— Out of Town —

The Seeing Eye Open House

September 24

The Seeing Eye, Inc. will hold an open house on Saturday, Sept. 24 from 1-4 p.m. Take a guided tour of the campus, watch training demonstrations, meet Seeing Eye® dog handlers and puppy raisers, and talk to instructors. Tickets: \$5/adults and children over five years; children under five are free. Purchase tickets in advance.

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

TOWN HALL MEETING
Breakfast with Senator Barbara Buono
September 28, 8-9:30 a.m.

ANNUAL SENIOR PICNIC
September 29, 1-4 p.m.—\$15

GERMANFEST
October 27, 8 a.m-6 p.m.—\$60

HUNTERDON HILLS
December 8, 4:30-9:30 p.m.—\$60

MONDAYS
Crocheting 9:30 am
Yoga 10:30 am
Art Class 11:30 am

TUESDAYS
Bingo 10 am-2 pm
Ladies Group 10 am

WEDNESDAYS
Aerobics 8:45 am
Shopping 9 am
Computer.. 10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm
Crocheting 1 pm
Tai Chi..... 2 pm

THURSDAYS
Active Seniors 8:45 am
Crafts Class 10 am
Computer.. 10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm
Exercise Class..... 1:15 pm

FRIDAYS
Bingo 10 am-2 pm

****BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!****
Looking for members 55 or older to join our Billiards Club. Ladies are welcome.
If you enjoy shooting pool, stop in the senior center to sign up. It's fun and FREE!
Daily Activities: Morning coffee, pool, cards, board games, art, yoga and crafts.
Call (908) 754-1047 for more info or visit www.southplainfieldnj.com

Senior Center is open daily 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays & Sundays.

For more information, visit www.SeeingEye.org, call (973) 539-4425 or email info@seeingeye.org.

Free Car Seat Checks

September 24

A National Seat Check will be held at the Brunswick Town Center, located at the corner of Handy Street and Jersey Avenue in New Brunswick on Saturday, Sept. 24, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The free event is part of Child Passenger Safety Week.

Hydewood Park Baptist Seminar

September 24

A seminar, "Connecting with Today's Youth Culture," will be held at

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events

Around Town

Hydewood Park Baptist Church, 100 Norwood Ave. in North Plainfield, on Saturday, Sept. 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The seminar will be presented by Dave Huizing, church youth specialist with Word of Life. Pre-register. The \$20 registration fee includes lunch.

For more information, please call (908) 754-6363 or visit the church's website at www.hydewood.org.

Singles Dance Party

September 24

Steppin' Out Singles will host an upscale singles dance party on Saturday, Sept. 24 at 8 p.m. in the Woodbridge Hilton, off the GSP Exit 131A. Ages 40 and up; no jeans/t-shirts/sneakers/shorts. Admission: \$17.

For more information, call (732) 656-1801.

Blessing of Pets at Willow Grove Church

September 25

Bring your dogs, cats, hamsters, gerbils and hermit crabs to the Willow Grove Church lawn on Sunday, Sept. 25 between 4 and 5:30 p.m. to receive a blessing. If your pet is sick or has died, bring a photo and your pet will be included in the blessing. All pets and animals are welcome, but must be leashed or caged.

For more information, call the office Monday through Friday at (908) 232-5678.

Learning for Life Courses Starting

September 26

Senior citizens will gather at the Plainfield United Presbyterian Church, 525 East Front St., to enjoy

the 40th year of Learning for Life on Monday, Sept. 26 at 10 a.m. Eight courses will be offered over 10 Mondays covering topics such as history, travel, Tai Chi, drawing and sketching, knitting and crocheting, gardening, music and issues and answers. Bag lunch follows; coffee and tea available. \$20 fee for insurance and facility cost.

European Seminary Choir Concert

September 30

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church will host a concert of sacred music from the Carpathian Mountains of Eastern Europe on Friday, Sept. 30 at 7 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public; a free will offering request will support the seminary. St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church is located at 1900 Brooks Blvd. in Hillsborough.

For more information, contact the parish office at (908) 725-0615.

Blackrose to Perform

October 1

Blackrose, a band performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will perform at Rugs and Riffy's, located on Rahway Avenue in Woodbridge on Saturday, Oct. 1 at 9 p.m. No cover.

Steppin' Out Singles Upscale Dance

October 1

The night you've all been waiting for, a Steppin' Out Singles upscale singles dance will be held on Saturday, Oct. 1 at 8 p.m. at the Hilton Short Hills Grand Ballroom, 41 John F. Kennedy Pkwy. in Short Hills. Ages 40 and up; \$20 admission.



Grand Knight Joe Scudato (center) presents checks to Phil Gartlin, Ray Fantusi, Brenda Powell and Irene Thomas and Knights of Columbus Treasurer Gerry Butrico, who works at the Midland School Adult Service Center.

Knights of Columbus Present Checks to Special Citizens

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 presented four checks totalling more than \$11,000 on September 6 raised from the "Special Citizens Drive" held last April and dedicated to help New Jersey Special Citizens.

Over \$9,000 was collected during the four day canning drive and over \$2,000 was donated by local businesses in South Plainfield for this great cause.

Directors from the four organizations attended the Knights meeting where Grand Knight Joe Scudato presented the proceeds to the organizations.

Accepting the checks were Director Ray Fantusi from the South Plainfield Keystone Community, Executive Director Phil Gartlin from the Midland School for the Disabled and the Adult Service Center and Director Brenda Powell and Irene Thomas from Camp Sun and Fun from the ARC of Glou-

ester County. Sister Lee Ann Amico from the McCauley School was not able to attend.

The directors each gave short talks about their organization and explained how the donations would benefit their residents. The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus have supported special citizens through these organizations for many years.

The Knights would like to thank the following local businesses for letting them collect in front of their stores last April, Super Stop And Shop in Piscataway, A&P, Quick Chek, 7/11, Bagel Pantry, CVS, Witty's, Dunkin Donuts, Harvest Market, Oak Tree Liquors, TD Bank, Ciccio's and ShopRite of Piscataway. The Knights also thank local businesses as well as the community for donating to this drive.

Chairman for the Special Citizens Drive is Grand Knight Joe Scudato.

Celebrate the High Holy Days At Temple Sholom

Temple Sholom of Fanwood/Scotch Plains invites the South Plainfield community to free family-oriented religious services on Rosh Hashanah, Thursday, Sept. 29 and on Yom Kippur, Saturday, Oct. 8.

The congregation will hold a young family service on both days at 10 a.m. in the Temple Sholom chapel located at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church. Led by Director of Education Michelle Shapiro Abraham and guitarist Rebekah Sedwin, this service intertwines music, storytelling and age-appropriate worship to create a High Holy Day experience for families with children up to age seven. R.S.V.P. to (908) 889-4900 or email office@sholomnj.org.

Also on both days at 2 p.m., there will be a family Torah service in the main sanctuary. Join Rabbi Joel Abraham and student Cantor Vicky Glikin for an interactive family service for all ages. Stand with the rabbi on the bimah as he reads Torah, hear the High Holy Day melodies, and get a taste of the congregation's High Holy Day liturgy. No R.S.V.P. is required.

Call (908) 889-4900 for information about acquiring High Holy Day tickets. To find out if you are eligible for free tickets through Central Pass, visit www.jewishjerseycentral.org.

Founded in 1913, Temple Sholom is a Reform Jewish Congregation led by Rabbi Joel N. Abraham. The temple and its religious school is home to about 250 families from the greater Scotch Plains-Fanwood area.

For more information about the temple or joining the congregation, call (908) 889-4900, email sholom@sholomnj.org or visit www.sholomnj.org.

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Raymond G. Hallock, President and CEO (left), and Thomas J. Kemly, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

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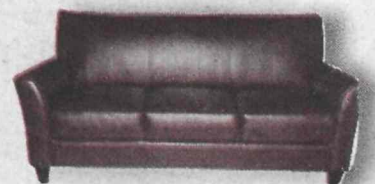


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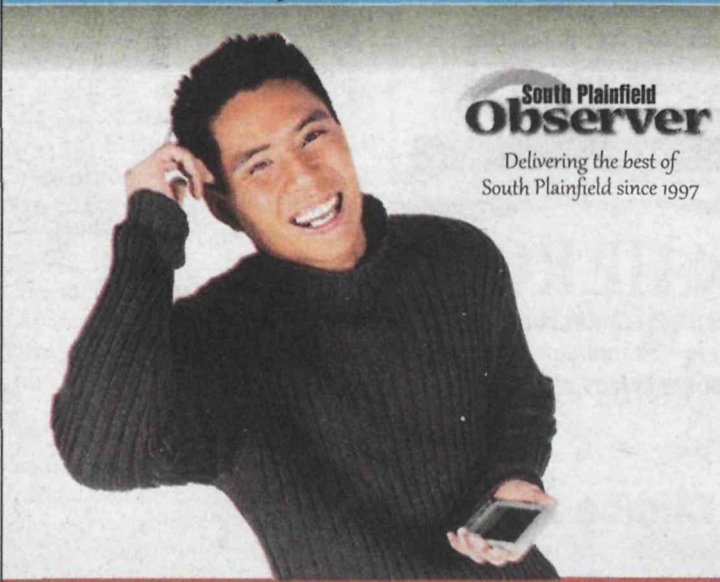
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SPORTS WEEKLY RESULTS

SPHS Weekly Sports Schedule

South Plainfield High School

Friday, September 23

- 3:45pm FR Football - P. Amboy (H)
- 3:45pm V Field Hockey - S. Brunswick (H) JV/5:15
- 4:00pm FR Field Hockey - S. Brunswick (A) Bus 2:30
- 5:30pm V Volleyball - New Brunswick/JV 3:45 Bus 2:30
- 7:00pm V Football - Perth Amboy (A) 2 buses 4:30PM
- 7:00pm V Cheerleaders - P. Amboy (A) Bus 5:30

Saturday, September 24

- 9:00am V Tennis - GMC Finals @ TEdison Pk (A) Bus 8:00am
- 10:00am BV & JV Soccer - New Brunswick (A) Bus 8:15
- 10:00am B FR Soccer - New Brunswick (H)
- 10:00am GV & JV Soccer - Monroe (H)

Monday, September 26

- 3:45pm BG MS Cross Country @ Perth Amboy HS
- 3:45pm B JV Football vs. Perth Amboy HS
- 3:45pm B MS Soccer @ Sandberg
- 3:45pm GV Tennis @ Bishop George Ahr HS
- 3:45pm GV Field Hockey @ Piscataway HS
- 3:45pm G JV Volleyball @ Timothy Christian School
- 4:00pm G FR Field Hockey vs. Piscataway HS
- 5:30pm G JV Field Hockey @ Piscataway HS
- 5:30pm G V Volleyball @ Timothy Christian School
- 6:00pm G FR Soccer @ Livingston

Tuesday, September 27

- 3:45pm BGV Cross Country @ Woodbridge HS
- 3:45pm BV Soccer vs. John F. Kennedy Memorial HS
- 3:45pm GV Soccer @ Spotswood
- 3:45pm B MS Soccer @ Salk
- 3:45pm G MS Soccer @ Salk
- 3:45pm G MS Field Hockey vs. South Brunswick H.S.
- 4:00pm B JV Soccer vs. John F. Kennedy Memorial HS
- 4:00pm G JV Soccer @ Spotswood
- 4:30pm GV Gymnastics @ East Brunswick HS

Wednesday, September 28

- 3:45pm GV Tennis vs. Colonia HS
- 3:45pm G JV Volleyball vs. Mother Seton Regional HS
- 5:30pm G V Volleyball vs. Mother Seton Regional HS

SOUTH PLAINFIELD SOCCER

By Dom Cirilli, SPSA Pres.

Vote on Clubhouse Set for Oct. Meeting

If you've attended any of our general meetings this year, you may be familiar with our discussion of the proposed clubhouse. After many months of examining the pros and cons and addressing any questions from membership, the time has come to vote for the approval and construction of the clubhouse.

This vote will be held at the October general meeting (date TBD). All members are welcome to vote; however, according to the bylaws, for any member to be considered in good standing and be able to vote, he/she must attend two consecutive general meetings.

This note is coming in advance of

the September meeting, which will be held on September 28 at 7:30 p.m. as usual at the VFW. By attending this meeting and the October one as well, members will be eligible to cast a vote.

For those who have not attended any of the meetings, the club hopes that this note has peaked your interest, and we welcome you to attend the next meeting with any questions or concerns you may have.

SPSA is looking forward to the approval of the clubhouse; we believe it will bring stability to the club and be:

- A place to finally house documents that have been scattered in every board members house;
- A place where we can hold regis-

tration for new players;

- A place where we can hold board meetings;
- A place where we can show off our player's trophies; and
- A place where we can meet with you!

We look forward to your attendance on the 28th.

The fall season is underway and we are all set for week number two. Great job to all our teams! Be sure to come out and cheer our teams on at our home fields, at Kenneth Avenue and Memorial Turf fields this weekend. It's guaranteed to be a lot of fun and excitement out there.

U-13 SOCCER ARSENAL

Submitted By Mark Resende

Arsenal Opens Season With Tough Loss

The fall portion of the travel soccer season got underway this past weekend with the South Plainfield Soccer Club's U-13 Boys team, Arsenal, traveling to Westfield to square off against Juventus on Sunday. The game was played under mostly sunny skies in cool temperatures—perfect weather for soccer.

The first half was controlled early by Arsenal, but Juventus was able to withstand the constant pressure to keep the game scoreless at halftime. Juventus took a 1-0 lead in the second half on a penalty kick in the 51st minute after Arsenal was called for a foul in the penalty area. Moments later, Ar-

senal goalkeeper Nicholas Plate made a spectacular diving save to his right to keep his team in the game. Both teams had great chances the rest of the way, but came up empty, and Juventus came away with the 1-0 victory.

Arsenal has 11 players returning from last season's Flight 6 championship squad. They are Jason Belanger, Jason Cieszkiewicz, Jake Hoffman, Caleb Kuberiet, Jared Marks, Dylan O'Connor, Alec Paez, Ricky Pellegrino, Nicholas Plate, Mason Resende and Edwin Rivas. Four new players—William Arias, Elijah Robinson, Kevin Solano and Wallace Truesdale—have joined the team for the

2011-2012 season as they now compete in the more challenging Flight 4.

The young men of Arsenal played a very good game to start the season; there was good passing and good communication, and the new players fit right in. A lot of this can be attributed to the hard work put in during the summer practice sessions by the players and coaches alike.

The head coach is David Cieszkiewicz, and the assistant coaches are Greg Hoffman and Steve Belanger.

Arsenal's next game is Sunday, Sept. 25, at 1:30 p.m. on Memorial Field against the Woodbridge Warriors. Come out and support the team. Go Arsenal!

U-11 ECLIPSE

Submitted by Michelle Billich

SP Eclipse U11 Girls Calm the Chaos

Team Eclipse opened the Fall 2011 season with a 4-1 victory over Piscataway Chaos last Sunday.

Jillian Holoboski scored the first goal off of Kristyn Smith's corner kick. Chaos erupted with a goal of their own in the first half. Mackenzie O'Brien defended the goal for the first half and Kaitlyn Smith defended for the second half.

Coach Gino Leonardis and Assistant Coach Ken Curtis pumped up their players during the break, and the girls came back in the second half to bring their own form of chaos.

Olivia Leonardis scored the second goal with a penalty kick. After that, Linda Farinella made things final with a one, two punch of her own—scoring goals three and four with help from Alexis Davis, Samantha Pullen and Catherine Delair. Cameron Marks, Kaitlyn Smith, Gianna Sacco and Victoria Meono helped keep Chaos at bay throughout the game. Christina Romano might be new to the team, but she proved that she's not new to the game.

Come out and cheer the U11 girls on Sunday, Sept. 25 in their first home

game at 11:30 a.m. on the Kenneth Avenue fields.

Team Eclipse is made up of Alexis Curtis, Catherine Delair, Lynda Farinella, Sarah Gwiazda, Jillian Holoboski, Olivia Leonardis, Cameron Marks, Victoria Meono, Mackenzie O'Brien, Julia Parker, Samantha Pullen, Christina Romano, Gianna Sacco, Kaitlyn Smith and Kristyn Smith.



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Obituaries

Danielle M. Blackford, 20



Danielle M. Blackford

Danielle M. Blackford died on Saturday, Sept. 17 in the Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Somerville, Danielle had resided in South Plainfield prior to moving to Piscataway seven years ago.

Danielle graduated from Piscataway High School in 2009. She enjoyed being around children and was an animal enthusiast.

She will be sadly missed by her family and friends, as well as her family at the Pizza and Pasta in Manville.

Danielle is predeceased by her father, Bruce Blackford; her maternal grandmother, Margeret Lawless, as well as two uncles, Frank and Mitchell Blackford.

Surviving is her mother, Susan Lawless, and a brother, Bruce, both of Piscataway; her maternal grandfather, Frank Lawless; her paternal grandparents, Albert and Pauline Blackford; and her aunts, Lottie and Dawn Lawless, Christine and Denise Blackford, Alyson Potts, Erin Byrne and Tara Kollmar. Also surviving are several cousins.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Haven Hospice, c/o JFK Medical Center 65 James St. Edison, N.J. 08818.

Jonathan Villamarin, 21

Airman 1st Class Jonathan Villamarin of the United States Air Force died suddenly at the Anchorage Air Force Base in Anchorage, AK on September 15.

Born in Queens, N.Y., Jonathan had been a resident of South Plainfield since 2000. After graduating South Plainfield High School, he joined the United States Air Force. He was stationed in Alaska where he furthered his education and was a Weapon Load Crew Member in Aircraft Maintenance.

He leaves behind his parents, Gloria and Davismar Villamarin, and his brother, Bryant, all of South Plainfield as well as many extended family and friends.

Funeral services will take place on Monday, Sept. 26 beginning at 9:15 a.m. in McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Ave. followed by a 10 a.m. funeral Mass at Sacred Heart RC Church, South Plainfield.

Prayers and full military honors will follow in the memorial garden of Rosehill Crematory in Linden.

Visitation will be held in the funeral home on Sunday, Sept. 25 from 3-7 p.m.

Our beloved son, Jonathan, has been taken by the hands of God to Heaven. Jonathan will be missed by so many because he has touched so many people's lives. Jonathan will always be remembered by that infectious and beautiful smile that he always had. His charisma filled everyone's lives with happiness and joy. He was a best friend to all and a loving son to us. He was always dedicated to flying and one day being a pilot. We know that he is flying high above us and watching over us.

Jonathan, we love you and miss you so much son.

Vincent L. DiDomenico, 86



Vincent DiDomenico

Vincent L. DiDomenico passed away on Thursday, Sept. 15 at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston.

Born in Brooklyn, Vincent grew up in Staten Island and later settled in New Jersey, living in Plainfield and North Plainfield for most of his life.

He served in the Merchant Marines and was an Army Veteran of World War II.

A hairstylist by profession, Vincent was the owner and operator of Desmond's in Millburn (also known as the Stage Door) for many years before his retirement. He had previously owned and operated Desmond's in New York City and had also worked as a stylist at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York City.

Vincent will be remembered for his witty personality, passion for laughter and his exceptional love for his family and friends. He was also an exceptional artist, tennis player and an inspiration to all. Some would refer to Vincent as their hero or mentor.

He was a long time member of the SPG Tennis group of Edison and the Cramer Park Group in Scotch Plains. He enjoyed spending time with his family, painting and doing various arts.

He is predeceased by his parents, Raphael and Antoniette, and three siblings, Sue Lamperelli, Tommy and Bart DiDomenico.

He is survived by two daughters, Lisa DiDomenico and Cara Mitchell and husband Bruce, and two grandchildren, Adam and Alison Sue Mitchell, all of Maryland.

Private services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Those wishing to express their sympathies may make a donation in his memory to the duCret School of Art, 1030 Central Ave., Plainfield, N.J. 07060. www.ducret.edu.

Peter Henry Kowalski, Sr., 81

Peter Henry Kowalski, Sr. of Peoria, Ariz. passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 6.

Born on August 6, 1930 in Easthampton, Mass. to Alexander and Adele (Brummer) Kowalski, he lived in Scotch Plains, Edison and Colonia before eventually retiring in Arizona.

Mr. Kowalski was a proud member of the U.S. Navy from 1947 to 1951, serving on the USS Missouri. He was the owner of Pete's Mobil Service Center in Mountainside, retiring after 27 years.

Mr. Kowalski was predeceased by his wife, Dorothy Ann (Schriek) Kowalski, and six siblings.

He is survived by six children, Peter Jr. of South Plainfield, Susan Gruning of Ringoes, Stephen of Westfield, Karen Kowalski of Florham Park, Michele Eulner of Union Beach and Michael of Franklin Park. He is also survived by 14 grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at South Plainfield Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial dona-

tions may be sent in his honor to the Scotch Plains Volunteer Firefighters Assoc., the Westfield, N.J. Volunteer Rescue Squad, the Wesley United Methodist Church or the Diabetes Foundation.

Lillian J. (Evans) Bell, 75



Lillian J. Bell

Lillian J. (Evans) Bell went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, Sept. 13.

Born in Whinton, Pa., Lillian had lived in South Plainfield since 1968. When she was a teenager, she became a born-again Christian and enjoyed reading scripture. She was known to many as a loving and giving person. She also adored her grandchildren and enjoyed gardening and cooking.

She was employed for many years with Quick-Chek of South Plainfield and prior to that, Shop-Rite of Edison.

She is predeceased by her siblings, Walter, Betty and Tommy.

She is survived by her devoted husband of 49 years, Donald R. Bell; her children and their spouses, Cheryl and Rob Bell, Elaine and JT Kurzeja, Denise and John Allen, and her son, Stephen. She will be missed by her seven grandchildren, Johnny, Kristen, Kristie, Jennifer, Katelyn, Thomas and Ava; two sisters, Maryann Hayden and Alice Marra, both of Pa., and many extended family and friends.

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

Luisa A. Duarte, 95

Luisa A. Duarte died on Saturday, Sept. 17 in Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

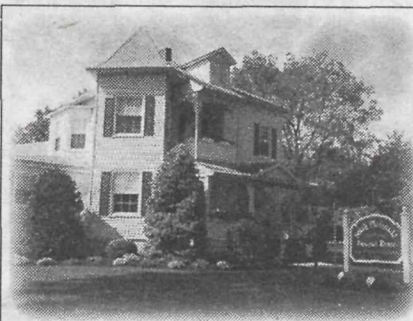
She is survived by two daughters, Edelmira Deaza and Rosa Chavarria, and her son, Moises. Also surviving are seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Yes, we're still closed to the public, but that doesn't mean there isn't news from the South Plainfield Library.

First of all, here's some big news: at the last Library Board of Trustees meeting held on September 13, the board voted to hire people to repair the flood damage to the library building. University Van Lines will take care of packing away the bulk of our collection, placing it in secure storage (in trailers provided by locally-based Hall's), and then putting it all back again later. Between the moving operations, the First Response Company will come in and take care of the damage. We expect that this will involve removing the carpeting on the ground floor (the mezzanine was unaffected) and, possibly, part of the walls near the floor. Afterwards, they'll see to the removal of damaged material and the drying and cleaning of building surfaces. While this is going on, inquiries are being made into bringing in an as-yet-to-be-determined company to see about replacing the carpeting.

Sorry, but at this point we can't give you an exact timeline on how long the operation will last, except that we'll see that it gets done as soon as possible. With that in mind, if all goes well (and we REALLY hope it does) we hope to reopen to the public in time for Halloween. We can't promise you that it'll be a brand-new, refurbished building, but it'll be a lot better than it was after Irene got through with it.

Now, what does that mean for you, our loyal patrons? Well, you're going to have to do without us in person for a little while longer. In the interim, we've taken steps to renew the items people have currently checked out. If you need to return something, the book and A/V drops will be open and will be cleared on a regular basis for as long as possible. Be advised, though, that the building will be off-limits to

staff during much of the cleaning, so our drop boxes will be locked and inaccessible. When that happens, we ask that you don't try to return our items to other libraries. Just hang onto them until the drops are available again. As far as overdue fines are concerned, we're taking the flood and the closing into account, so don't worry about it.

Meanwhile, our website will still be available, so you can make use of our linked databases. We'll also have carts with our book sale items outside, now being offered for the bargain price of absolutely free. And if you utterly, positively need to borrow something, your South Plainfield card should be accepted at the vast majority of area libraries, including Piscataway, Edison, Dunellen and Plainfield. You'll find the full list on the website, but be advised that borrowing rules and restrictions vary depending on the library.

Well, that's about all we have for you now. By the time you read this, the whole project should be up and running. We understand that you'd like to have your library back, and we'd like to get back to work. We just ask that you continue to be patient while we make sure the building is safe and accessible for you. And we'd also like to thank you for your consideration and good wishes up until now; we really appreciate it.

If you need more information, please check our website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/southplainfieldlibrary. You may also call us at (908) 754-7885 and leave a message. We'll make sure to check them and, if necessary, get back to you when we're able. Thanks very much for your attention, and we'll pass along updated information when we have it.

In the meantime, let's hope for a good stretch of dry weather. We could use it.

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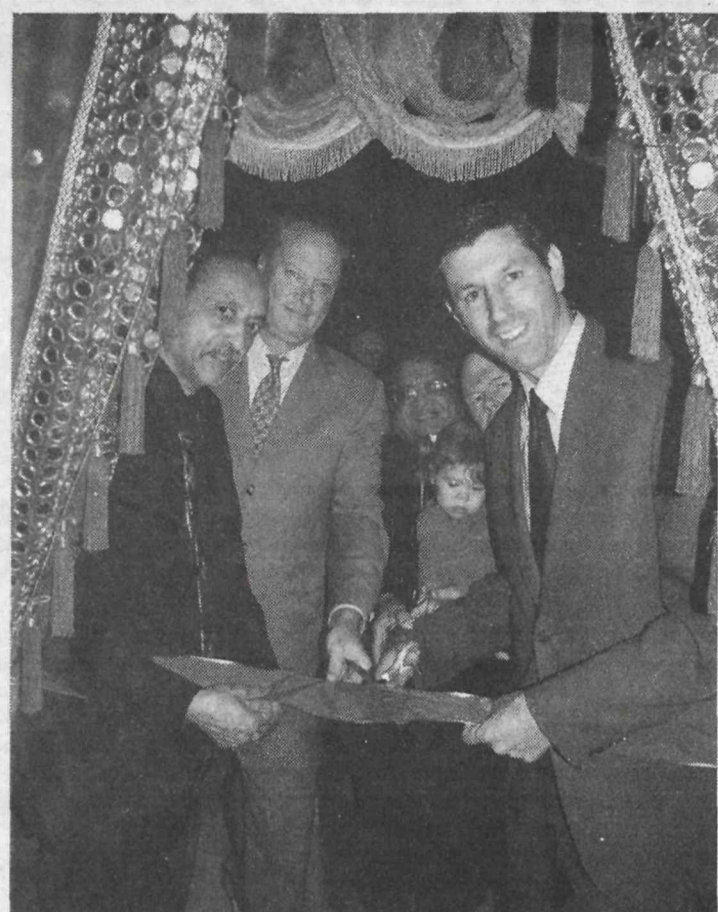
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Rajendra Amin and son Rinku Amin, owners of Habaneros Mexican Grill on Park Avenue held a grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony on September 15. Located in the Golden Acres Shopping Center, Habaneros offers build-your-own breakfast omelets and lunch and dinner burritos, quesadillas, bhel and enchiladas. Pictured (L-R) are Rajendra Amin, Assemblyman Peter J. Barnes, III, Community Leader Peter Kothari, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan with his granddaughter, Vanessa Paragano; and Mayor Matt Anesh cutting the ribbon.

POLICE REPORT

- On August 29 a Hillside Avenue resident reported the theft of a telephoto lens, power hammer drill, chop saw, circular saw, Sawzall, biscuit joiner, base speaker, amplifier and boom box radio from their shed. The door had been forced open with a crow bar.
- On August 31 Payless Shoesource on Hadley Road reported that three pairs of men's shoes were taken by a man carrying a backpack.
- A Dunellen resident reported their vehicle had been kicked and dented by a male who fled the scene while parked at Everest Institute on Hadley Road.
- On September 3 a Robert Place resident reported that the windshield and driver's side window of their vehicle had been smashed. The hood and both doors were also dented.
- A Spicer Avenue resident reported the theft of two cordless drills and a saw from their garage.
- On September 6 Juan J. Wall, 34, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving.
- A Pomponio Avenue resident reported the theft of five drills, chop saw, nail gun, two finishing nailers and a Sawzall from their garage and truck.
- A Montrose Avenue resident reported the theft of a gas generator from their unlocked shed.
- A Montrose Avenue resident reported the theft of a gas generator from their shed, but it was left in the rear of the yard. Another shed was entered and a box of jewelry was taken.
- A Montrose Avenue resident reported that two sheds and a truck were ransacked. Nothing was taken.
- A Montrose Avenue resident reported that various power tools were taken from their unlocked shed.
- A Lexington Avenue resident reported the theft of a gas generator and various power tools were taken from their unlocked shed.
- A Peek Street resident reported the

- rear window of their truck was smashed and various power tools were taken.
- On September 7 Asion Q. Harris, 22, of South Plainfield was arrested for hindering apprehension, driving on a suspended license, no insurance, maintenance of lamps and operating a vehicle without the owner's permission.
- Lakeya C. Rapley, 26, of Morristown was arrested for no license and two outstanding warrants.
- James P. Jakaria, 54, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.
- Sookram Behari, 42, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated.
- A Jacobus Street resident reported the rear windshield of their vehicle had been smashed.
- On September 8 a Thomas Street resident reported the theft of an iPod docking station and Blackberry cell phone charger from their unlocked vehicle.
- On September 9 Paul C. Gordon was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.
- Osbaldo S. Reyes was arrested at BrickHouse Tavern & Tap for obstruction.
- A customer at Brick House Tavern & Tap reported the theft of an Apple iPhone that was left on a table.
- On September 10 Kimberly D. Slaton was arrested for driving on a suspended license, no insurance, unregistered vehicle and three outstanding warrants.
- On September 11 Chima B. Eziaghala, 25, of Plainfield was arrested for possession of a weapon and possession of a weapon for unlawful purposes.
- A Piscataway resident reported the theft of a wallet that was left on the floor at LA Fitness.
- On September 12 a Bell Place resident reported the theft of 100 CDs from their unlocked vehicle.
- On September 13 a Maple Avenue resident reported the theft of a gas powered generator from their back porch.

In My Opinion

(Continued from page 2)

million dollars last year, and we're on track to see it go down again this year.

On the property tax front, we will see a small increase this year in municipal taxes (the part controlled by the council). Even with that increase, however, the municipal part of the average tax bill will be down \$138 from 2009. In other words, most of the 2010 tax cut remains intact.

I don't know any other town seeing these types of results. Taxes and spending are up all over the state. Granted, South Plainfield school taxes are up slightly over two years (2.3%), and county taxes are up a lot (19.3% over two years), but the part of the tax bill controlled by the council is down 8.2% over the same period.

This progress has been a joint effort. Our borough employees, most notably the police and public works employees, worked with us to develop contracts that reduced starting salaries, that increased the employee share for benefits and that phase out longevity. These changes offer long- and short-term savings.

In short, smaller, more efficient government is becoming a reality in South Plainfield. We know we have to continue to hold the line in 2012. But in the meantime, you can be assured that the governing body is working hard to make sure what is happening elsewhere does not happen in South Plainfield.

SINCERELY,
MAYOR MATT ANESH

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LEGAL NOTICES

MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Ana C. Argueta requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a proposed use that is contrary to the ordinance in the following:

*508. Fences or Walls. No wall, fence or hedge in a residential district shall be erected or altered so that said wall, fence or hedge shall be over four (4) feet in height and in the required principal front yard, not more than six (6) feet in height in the required side, rear or secondary front yard starting at the rear of the structure. Front yard fences shall be restricted to open mesh material with no slats and are required to meet the provision of Section 509, Obstructions to Vision at Intersections.

Fences in business and industrial zones shall not exceed ten (10) feet in height. No spite fences or walls shall be permitted. No material shall be used in any fence that would pose a safety hazard";

and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 207 Cedarbrook Avenue, Block 190, Lot 1, R-10 Zone on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 13, 2011 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m.

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

\$28.50 September 23, 2011

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

September 14, 2011

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on September 13, 2011.

A. Case # 738/Site/V—Denholtz SP II, LLC. Block 256; Lots 1-7 & 9-13; Hamilton Blvd. Redevelopment Area. The applicant's request for preliminary and final site plan approval, preliminary and final subdivision approval, a planning variance, (2) bulk variances and (3) waivers was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Recording Secretary-Planning Board

\$28.50 September 23, 2011

Observer Classifieds

LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

HOME FOR SALE—OVER 55

SOMERSET RUN—2 BDR ranch in Somerset Run (a 55+ gated community). Located just off 287 in Somerset, this home boasts 2 baths, huge master BDR, gourmet kitchen, luxury clubhouse amenities, indoor & outdoor pools and much more! \$399,000. Visit realtor.com. Search MLS ID# 2848916-8412 or call Susan at (732) 710-8412. Realtors—Earn 2.5% on this Garden State listing. Seller will pay 6 mos. assoc. dues for Sept. sale.



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Saturday, September 24

9 am to 4 pm

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145 Ivy Street
(Off Clinton Avenue)

Fri. & Sat., Sept. 23 & 24

(Rain or Shine)

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ESTATE SALE

220 Hillside Avenue
(Off Hamilton Boulevard)

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9 am to 1 pm

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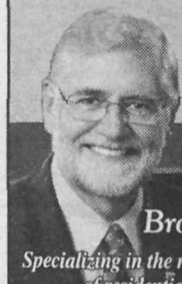
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Why One Party Rule is Bad for So. Plainfield

Tax hikes... unauthorized spending... violation of election laws... patronage appointments. If you never thought about the dangers of one-party rule, now is a good time to start. Republicans have abused the power of their offices on the backs of the people of South Plainfield. Democrats believe you deserve better.

Republicans promised lower taxes and fiscal responsibility, but under their rule, residents have seen their property tax bills rise while spending on projects to benefit the community decreased. They have tried to hide the truth and fool you with accounting gimmicks, but the facts don't lie. Under Republican rule, you pay more to get less. Just check your tax bills. Democrats believe you deserve better.

Republicans spent your money without your input and broke the law when they failed to get council approval to spend public funds to repave McKinley Street, a road that serves a limited number of people. They then attempted to get approval for the road after the work was already done—clearly a violation of the law. Republicans have racked up the public debt and spent taxpayer dollars without your knowledge or approval. Democrats believe you deserve better.

Democrats would have held a public discussion to give residents a voice in setting priorities. Would you have opted to repave Sampton Avenue or Cedarbrook Avenue instead of McKinley? Or add a police officer or improve signage to reduce speeding and increase public safety? How about having the borough pur-

chase flood insurance that could have helped rebuild our library after Hurricane Irene? Better solutions for a brighter future.

In a power-grabbing attempt, then council member and now Mayor Matt Anesh allowed Republican party "boss" Bob Jones to rewrite the council bylaws and then lied about his role in it. The council Republicans deny transparency in government. They have been found guilty of violating Election Law and censored portions of public comment in televised council meetings. New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission has filed a complaint against the South Plainfield Republican Party for failing to comply with campaign finance laws. Republicans then made Bob Jones the Zoning Board attorney. Absolute power corrupts absolutely. Democrats believe you deserve better.

Now, at a time when the Republican Party seeks to expand its power by taking over every aspect of borough government, it is more important than ever for all of us to demand a system of checks and balances. Electing more Democrats to the council will help prevent the abuses we have seen under the current Republican administration. Buteas, Sorrentino and McCullen believe you deserve better. Buteas, Sorrentino and McCullen are the better solution for a brighter future.

The opinions expressed here are those solely expressed by the organizations submitting the articles. They do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher, nor do we

Long-Term Road and Infrastructure Plan

Councilman Alex Barletta, Derryck White and Dick Frank this week announced a major plan to improve the town's roads and infrastructure, something they say is much needed after over a decade of neglect under the prior administration.

"If we don't maintain things now, it will cost us more in the long run," explained White. "That's why we're proposing a multi-year plan in addition to the council's current capital plan."

"Our roads are crumbling," White explained. "But they didn't get there overnight, and fixing things won't happen overnight either."

"The key is a long-term plan," said Barletta. "Something that's doable now that our finances are back on track."

All three candidates pointed to a string of improvements as examples of the work that's needed:

- The council repaved Tompkins Avenue, Linden Avenue, Metuchen Road, Rahway Avenue, Cherry Street and parts of New Market Avenue, Durham Avenue, South Plainfield Avenue and Kenyon Avenue. A majority of these projects were grant funded.

- Storm sewers were added in the Linden Avenue, East Crescent Parkway and Oxford Avenue area. Stage II should begin in 2012 (Clark Avenue, Holly Avenue, Audubon Av-

enue and part of Linden Avenue).
• Part of Oxford Avenue and McKinley Street are being repaved this fall.

• Public works recently started an aggressive tree-maintenance program. Dozens of dangerous trees and hundreds of low-hanging branches have been removed.

• Hundreds of handicapped ramps have been installed using grant money, with more being added this year.

"The key to all this is having our financial house in order," explained Frank. "Spending, borrowing and reliance on one-time revenue are down, so we're now in a position to devote more attention to infrastructure."

White agreed, saying we need to do things responsibly. "We learned by having our DPW pave Metuchen Road that we can cut costs by doing some work in-house. So that's part of the plan."

"Aggressively seeking grant money is a big part too," added Barletta. "For example, we've applied for grant money to repave Sampton Avenue, and the state just announced \$3.5 million for the Park Avenue bridge replacement."

"We have three goals if elected," added White. "First is to control taxes, second is to hold the line on spending and third is to preserve South Plainfield's small-town atmosphere. A long-term road and infrastructure plan is a big part of all three."

Borough Council Candidates to Debate October 26

The Observer and the South Plainfield Business Association will co-sponsor a Meet the Candidates Night on Wednesday, Oct. 26 at the Senior Center at 7 p.m.

The candidates for Borough Council are incumbents Alex Barletta (R) and Chrissy Buteas (D). Candidates vying for first time seats

are Democrats John Sorrentino and Paul McCullen and Republicans Derryck White and Dick Frank.

Questions for the candidates will be submitted by members of the audience that evening. The moderator will decide which questions will be asked and in what order. Candidates will alternate responses;

time for rebuttal comments will also be included.

The Meet the Candidates event will be the sole opportunity prior to Election Day that both parties will meet to debate and explicate their positions on relevant issues affecting the borough.

The public is invited to attend and encouraged to submit questions.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8. **VOTE**

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