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South Plainfield

OBSERVER

VOL. 15, NO. 9

Member New Jersey Press Association

60 CENTS

OCTOBER 28, 2011



September Rotary Students of the Month Casey Butrico and Matthew Valencia with Marla Vandermark.



October Rotary Students of the Month Dylan Dorey and Rachel Scrudato with Anthony Encinas.

SPHS Rotary Students of the Month

Dr. James Pedersen, South Plainfield High School principal, is pleased to announce the September and October Rotary Students of the Month. Each month, senior students are nominated for their volunteerism and community service. The students are recognized at a monthly breakfast organized by the Edison Rotary Club.

September's students were Casey Butrico and Matthew Valencia.

While maintaining a 4.65 GPA, Casey is enrolled in AP and Honor classes. She is president of the Juniorettes, active in Peer Leadership, vice president of the Student Council and Jerseyan History Club, and is National Honor Society treasurer. Casey is also a member of the Spanish Honor Society, captain of the cross country, winter track and spring track teams. Casey's volunteer work includes Battered Women's Shelter, Ronald McDonald House, Foster and Adoptive Family Services, Tiger 24 and tutoring and mentoring fellow students.

Matthew has maintained a 3.2 GPA while participating in football and the Peer Leadership group. Matthew received the Jimmy Baton Award of Courage during his junior year; he was nominated by his football coaches for this prestigious award. He was also voted captain of this year's football team by his teammates. Matthew is actively involved in the Peer Leadership group. He volunteers his time within the community with the annual Tiger 24, Toys for Tots and Adopt-A-Family during the holidays. Outside of school, Matthew volunteers his time assisting his neighbors with maintaining their lawns and shoveling their snow.

October's students are Dylan Dorey and Rachel Scrudato.

(Continued on page 9)

Music Boosters, Marching Band Host 30th Festival

Drumline, Pitt take first place in Group III Class A Percussion at Somerville competition

The South Plainfield Boosters of the Musical Arts and the South Plainfield High School Tiger Marching Band hosted the 30th annual Marching Band Festival/US Scholastic Band Association Competition on October 15.

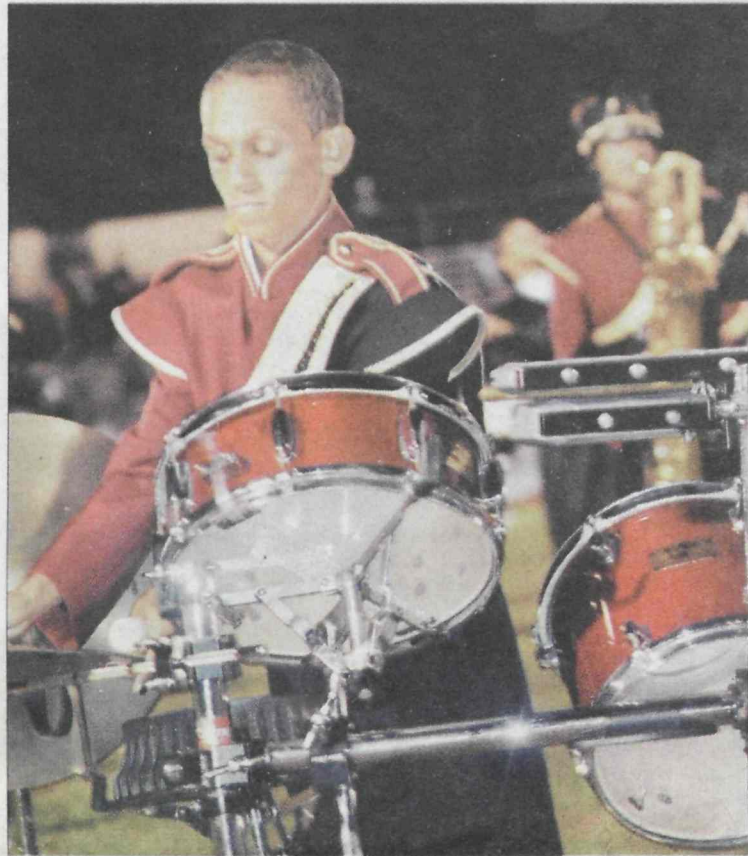
South Plainfield hosted 12 of the finest bands from New Jersey and New York. The Music Boosters are very proud to be carrying on the tradition of so many other music booster families before them. They are also very proud in keeping with the tradition of having the proceeds from this event go towards scholarships for graduating high school students who have participated in the musical

arts programs.

The evening started with the SPHS Chorus led by Director Joan Stasio singing the National Anthem. The night seemed to fly by as one by one the 12 visiting marching bands began to perform to the very large audience.

The crowd went wild as the SPHS Tiger Marching Band performed, led by the dedicated and talented band staff: Director of Bands Roger Vroom III, Assistant Band Director Lauren Hartong, Guard Advisor Julie McCullough and Percussion Instructor Joan Stasio. The club is tremendously appreciative of all your efforts. The Tiger Marching

(Continued on page 16)



Union High School Marching Band was the final band to compete at the SPHS 30th annual USSBA Competition.



Participants at Buddy Walk 2011

Buddy Walk Raises \$31K for Advocacy

By Patricia Abbott

The Buddy Walk 2011 was held on October 1 at Putnam Park. The Buddy Walk of South Plainfield-Serving Central New Jersey was founded by resident Michele Both eight years ago after her son Kyle was born with Down Syndrome. The walk was originally established in 1995 by the National Down Syndrome Society to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October and to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down Syndrome.

More than 550 attended the annual walk which began at 1 p.m. The huge group assembled on the paved trail; they carried balloons, banners, signs, flags and sported homemade and Buddy Walk t-shirts. After the walk, a bagged lunch was served. The hundreds of walkers settled around the park to enjoy their lunches.

Twenty eight "teams" participated. Parents, family members and friends each organized a team for their family

member with Down Syndrome.

South Plainfield resident Michael Olano is a regular at the event, walking to show his local support to raise awareness. Teams from all over Central New Jersey joined the walk, including from Kean College and a child education group from the school.

The walk would not be possible without the dozens of volunteers who assisted with every aspect of planning. Costumed volunteers dressed as Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Blue, Elmo and Winnie the Pooh.

Both noted that a young lady named Olivia, a classmate of her eldest son, spent the afternoon thrilling the children by creating balloon animals, swords and much more. Entertainment was provided by South Plainfield resident Randy Jenkins, deejay with JVE Entertainment Partners. Both's friend volunteered to take group candid photos throughout the day.

At day's end, many gifts were raffled off, including grand prizes of

(Continued on page 9)

Borough of South Plainfield Office of the Mayor

PROCLAMATION

Mischief Night & Halloween 2011

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

WHEREAS, the night before Halloween Sunday, October 30, 2011 is known as "Mischief Night" and has been traditionally a night when childish pranks have been played, some of said pranks have resulted in physical harm to others as well as damage to automobiles and properties of innocent owners.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Matthew P. Anesh, Mayor of the Borough of South Plainfield, do hereby proclaim that a curfew of 7:00 PM on Mischief Night, Sunday, October 30, 2011, be imposed and enforced for all minor residents of the Borough to protect residents and their properties; and

I further proclaim Monday, October 31, 2011 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. Parents should follow the rule "if in doubt—throw it out" where evidence of tampering with packaging or surfaces of consumable products exists.

— Matthew P. Anesh, Mayor



Mayor Matt Anesh helps kick off Halloween festivities with students at Riley Elementary School. He was joined by previous Riley students who now attend the high and middle schools. Standing (back) L-R: Camryn Schaeffer, Nicole Croce, Alfred Pace, Chloe Smith, Dillon Harris, Madison Faustini and Chioma Ibeku; kneeling (bottom) L-R: Harrison Anesh, Dominic Faustini, Ikenna Ibeku and Obinna Ibeku.



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

FYI

Borough Council & BOE

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

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

councilmeetings

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

Table with 2 columns: Agenda Meeting, Public Meeting. Rows for November 7 and November 21.

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

planningboard

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

zoningboardofadjustment

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

boardofeducation

Meets Wednesdays at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. Committee of the Whole meetings (begin at 6:00 p.m.) Nov. 9, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 14 and April 4. Regular Public Meeting (begin at 7:30 p.m.) *except where noted* *Nov. 16 meeting time changed to 8 p.m.; Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 21, April 11.

BOEcurriculum/technology/student activities

Meets once a month at 4:30 p.m. in 2nd floor conference room, Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave. Monday, Nov. 21, Monday, Dec. 19

BOEbuildings & grounds

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

culturalarts commission

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

libraryboard of trustees

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

recreationcommission

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

taxpayersadvisorygroup

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

siteplansub-committee

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

environmentalcommission

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

businessadvisorygroup

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

ad hoc alternative truck route committee

To be announced. 7:30 p.m. in the Senior Center Questions? 908-226-7605

South Plainfield Observer advertisement including contact info, editorial/circulation/advertising rates, and staff list.

In My Opinion

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

PLEASE NOTE:

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

To the Editor:

This morning (Friday, Oct. 21) our neighborhood was awakened at 3:30 a.m. by the sounds of yet another crash at the intersection of Grant and Franklin avenues. My daughter went out to see what was going on and later told my wife that there were two cars involved in the accident. There were four or five police and emergency vehicles on the scene with the rescue squad. They were there for at least 45 minutes.

I think one of the reasons for the incident is the fact that many of the street lights in this area have been out since "Irene" and "Katia" came to visit us. The light at that corner is one of them, plus the one on the corner of Franklin and Plainfield avenues, along with many others. I mention these two lights specifically because these are busy intersections.

My wife and I and a few neighbors have made phone calls about this situation to the borough and Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G). When we called PSE&G we were asked to give them the number of the pole involved. Why do I have to give them a number of a pole when I am telling them the location of the pole? In the first place, I think it is not my (our) job to climb a pole to get a number.

As a last resort, I have written to Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, who is chairperson of the state Public Safety Committee, about the situation.

I ask readers if they have a similar problem, let PSE&G know about it—now!

WILLIAM TUTHILL

To the Editor:

For a person seeking a lecture of sophistry that would put Niccolo Machiavelli's book, The Prince, to shame, the letter from SPEA President Diana Joffe is a must read. In her letter, Mrs. Joffe states, "the SPEA cannot fire anybody... no coach has tenure or a lifetime right to his or her position. Every season that coach has to apply or reapply. It is the decision of the athletic director to recommend a candidate for

the upcoming season. The BOE must vote to support or deny the recommendation."

Apparently in the particular case of retired teachers as coaches (which are not paying NJEA dues anymore), it is beneficial for the "education of our kids" that the coaches do not have tenure, and every year they must reapply for a job. Unfortunately, the same standard is not used by the SPEA or the NJEA where the lifetime job guarantee for a public school teacher is concerned. Apparently in this case the tenure is good for "our first priority—the children," because NJEA members live in the land where there are no lousy teachers and every public school teacher is well above average.

As for the part of the statement, "SPEA cannot fire anybody," I understand from the letters to the Observer that Coach Fech was introduced as a supposedly independent athletic director Al Czech. But as soon as Mrs. Joffe started to play her fiddle, Mr. Czech did a somersault (after all he is a highly qualified athletic director), and reversed his recommendation.

Naturally the BOE, in which many members have a clear conflict of interest (for example, two outstanding members of the NJEA from this Princeton University on the banks of the Rahway River, where the average SAT score over the last three years is a pitiful 1301, while NJ's average is 1506), applauded Mr. Al Czech's spectacular somersault. So much for the athletic director's independence and recommendation.

BOGDAN FRYSZCZYK

Dear Editor,

As I read about Congresswoman and Republican presidential candidate Michele Bachman's call to dismantle the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am relieved that in New Jersey we still

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: spobsobserver@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.

have politicians willing to fight for our health, safety and environment.

Assemblymen Patrick Diegnan and Peter Barnes understand that agencies and regulations are indeed necessary in order to preserve our last remaining natural areas, clean our polluted air and protect our drinking water for the future generations.

I am proud that our assemblymen stood strong, and supported a ban on "hydrofracking" in our already densely populated Garden State. This controversial process involves injecting water mixed with highly toxic chemicals and sand into wells to release the natural gas stored below the bedrock. Unfortunately, these chemicals are not safe and are continuing to contaminate our precious drinking water, despite claims made by the natural gas industry.

Without people like Diegnan and Barnes, the families of New Jersey would be at the mercy of corporate polluters. Despite claims of naysayers, we do not have to choose between our environment and economy when it comes to job creation. In fact, there are clean, safe alternative energy options, like wind and solar, that will create a steady number of green-collared jobs.

I thank Assemblyman Diegnan and Assemblyman Barnes for becoming the voices of reason in Trenton and standing up for the citizens of New Jersey.

DANA PATTERSON

(Continued on page 10)

C.J. Scotti Services advertisement for gutter specialists, listing services like cleaning, repairing, and installing.

Mohr's Florist advertisement featuring floral arrangements and contact information.

ONE CALL ELECTRICAL SERVICE advertisement with list of services and emergency contact info.

Sherban's Diner advertisement listing lunch and dinner specials.

Lyte Family Adopts Walnut Street Park

Suzanne Lyte has signed an agreement with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association to adopt Walnut Street Park. Suzanne and Steve, with their two children, will be removing litter from the park at least twice a month. The Lyte Family read about the Adopt-A-Spot program in the *South Plainfield Observer* and thought it was something they wanted to become involved with.

The only issue was finding a spot that would be safe for children to work in. Heavily traveled roads such as Belmont Avenue and Metuchen Road would be too dangerous. Walnut Street Park seemed like a good fit. In addition to the every day litter that accumulates in playgrounds, the wooded area on the other side of the stream attracts illegal dumping. It is important to have this area monitored for prompt cleanup, because allowing trash to accumulate attracts even more dumping. Studies have shown that people are less likely to litter or dump in a clean area than in one which is already littered.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact the Clean Communities coordinator at (908) 226-7621 or email at atempel@southplainfieldnj.com.

Brownies Running Food and Stuffed Animal Drives

Brownie Troop 214 of the South Plainfield Girl Scouts is in the process of running a food drive and a stuffed animal drive. The stuffed animal drive runs until November 1, and the food drive runs until November 9.

Non-perishable food items that are needed most are canned foods, one-dish meals such as canned pasta or stews, and staple foods such as tuna and canned meats, along with hot and cold cereal products. Personal items such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and antiperspirant are also welcome.

New or gently-used stuffed animals will be refurbished and sanitized for distribution to children and seniors. Your donation will provide comfort for those in need in hospitals and nursing homes and for social services in New Jersey and other neighboring states.

All donations can be dropped off in the main lobby of Franklin Elementary School on Franklin Avenue.

For information regarding food donations, please call Stacie Marish at (908) 755-3317. For information regarding stuffed animals, please call Dawn Hutchison at (908) 754-2716. If you are going to make a sizeable donation, please call ahead so arrangements can be made in advance if needed.

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Fiza Rizvi Named Junior Journalist

Fiza Rizvi, a fourth grader at Roosevelt School, is this year's first winner in the Junior Journalist program. Her poem, "Halloween," has earned Fiza dinner for her family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

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

At the end of the school year in May, Hometown Heros and the *Observer* hosts a banquet celebrating all of the weekly winners and their families. A \$1,000 U.S. Savings



Junior Journalist winner Fiza Rizvi with teacher Danielle Chiera.

Bond is awarded to one student by Hometown Heros; additional U.S. Savings Bonds are also awarded. Students are recognized by the mayor and the state assembly as well.

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

Halloween

By Fiza Rizvi

Halloween is a spooky day,
When all the children come out to play.
Ghosts, zombies, witches and more,
All ringing the bell at my door, "ding dong."
I hope my bag will come in handy,
I hope my bag can fit all the candy.
Witches in the air,
And ghosts flying everywhere.
Halloween such a spooky day,
Everywhere in every way.
Halloween, such a scary sight,
When the vampires come out for a big, big bite.
Watch out you don't know what's coming this way. Boo!



LED- The Sustainable Lighting Choice

By Jonathan Walezak, SP Green Team

Now that fall is here and daylight is shortening, the need for safe and effective lighting is becoming more of a necessity. With the economy "in the tank," it's now even more important for consumers to explore alternate ways of saving money, while increasing efficiency. Switching common household bulbs from incandescent to LED is a great way to do both.

Traditionally, incandescent lamps have dominated the market as an inexpensive and readily available source of candle power. In recent years, environmental awareness and an ailing economy (plagued by soaring fuel costs) has heightened the need for more efficient lighting devices. The most buzz-worthy advance to date has been the light-emitting diode.

A light-emitting diode (LED) is a solid-state device used for converting electrical current into visible light of a single color.

The first LED that was visible to the human eye was the red LED, developed in 1962 by Nick Holonyak, Jr. while working for General Electric. Early uses of the device as indicator lamps for communication equipment and lighting simple displays were expensive and primitive. In more recent years, LED technology has grown and developed into forms that appeal to the everyday consumer at an affordable price.

LED components are both decorative and functional, and readily available in most traditional types and styles. They are applicable for most residential, commercial and industrial uses. Fixtures are manufactured in both

low (12v) and line (110v) voltage options, as well as with solar cells for maximum energy efficiency. Recent advances in light color/quality and available photometrics make LEDs a true competitor in a market dominated by aging technology.

Cost: Prices for LED devices are initially more expensive than for their more common incandescent and halogen counterparts. Lower energy consumption and longer lamp life equates to greater savings over time. Low-voltage versions draw much less power (most can be powered using a simple 9v battery).

Sustainability: On average, LED lamps last approximately 40,000 hours and are 80% more efficient than any other type. Such longevity cuts down on overall system maintenance and product waste, making LED components the best choice for the environmentally responsible designer/consumer.

Availability: From tableside lamps to mast-mount street lights, LED fixtures are available in most traditional forms. Bulb types are available in a variety of strengths, colors and beam angles to maximize usability.

For more information on LED lighting, visit the Lighting Research Center (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) website or contact your local lighting representative. Visit the IALD (International Association of Lighting Designers) website for more information on lighting design and/or to contact a lighting design consultant; Lighting Research Center www.lrc.rpi.edu/ and International Association of Lighting Designers, www.iald.org/.

Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Mass 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

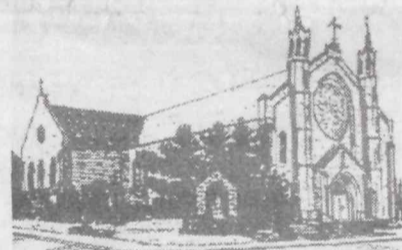
Sunday 9:00, 11:30 a.m.

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

7:00 p.m. Monday (Church), Thursday (Parish Center Chapel)

Holy Days 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m.

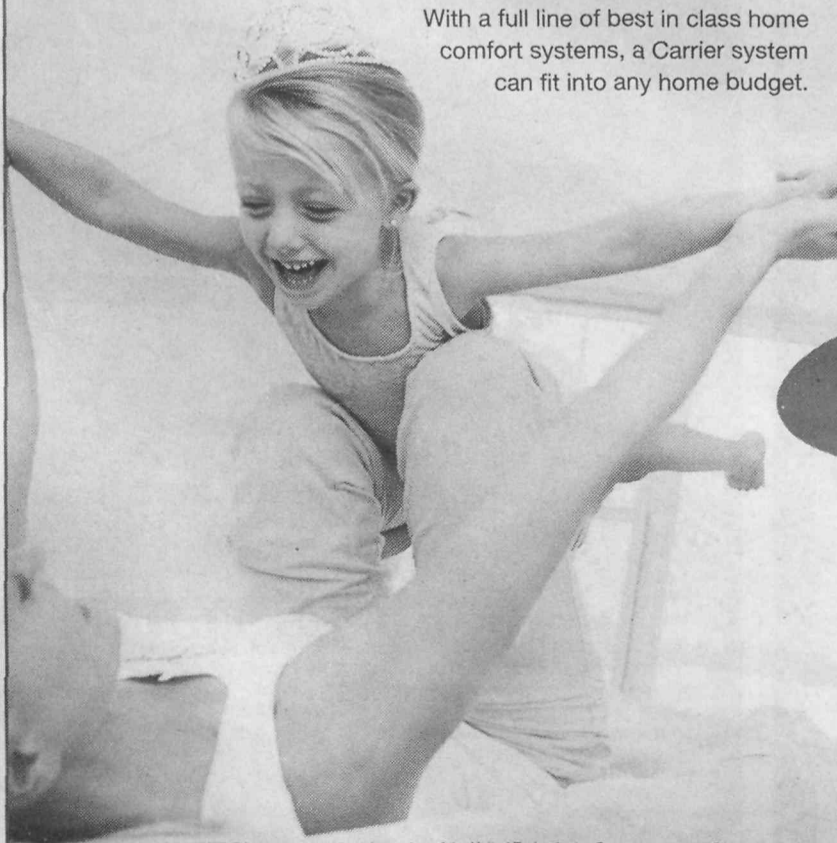
Sacrament of Reconciliation-Saturday 10-11:30 a.m. and at other times by appointment



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events

Around Town

Red Robin Fundraiser for HS Music Boosters

November 3

Get together with family and friends to support music in SPHS! Red Robin on Hadley Road will donate a portion of the food sales on Thursday, Nov. 3 from 4 to 9 p.m. to support SPHS Music Boosters when you present our flyer. Print the flyer through our calendar at www.sphsmusicboosters.webs.com. Must bring flyer.

Grant School Vendor Night

November 4

Grant School's Vendor Night/Craft Fair will be held on Friday, Nov. 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Grant School, 305 Cromwell Pl. There will also be items raffled off that evening from vendors like Arbonne Cosmetics, Beauti Control, Braced-let's, Lia Sophia Jewelry, Scentsy Wickless Candles, Tastefully Simple and many more!

Sands Casino Trip

November 5

The South Plainfield American Legion Post #243, 243 Oak Tree Ave., is sponsoring an evening trip to the Sands Casino in Pennsylvania on Saturday, Nov. 5 leaving at 4 p.m. Cost is \$30 with a \$25 return! Light refreshments will be served on the bus, which departs from the post parking lot.

For more information, call (908) 668-9414.

VFW Country Breakfast

November 6

The South Plainfield VFW, 155 Front St., is holding a country breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 6 from 8 to 11 a.m. The public is welcome.

For more information, call (908) 668-9751.

"Bullied" Documentary At Sacred Heart Church

November 6

Sacred Heart RC Church will host a documentary screening and discussion on the film "Bullied" on Sunday, Nov. 6 at 3 p.m. in the church. The film tells the story of a young man who took a stand against the bullying he experienced through elementary and high school. All are welcome to attend.

For more information, call Sr. Kathleen at (908) 756-0633, ext. 142 or visit www.tolerance.org/bullied.

Sons of the Legion Oldies' Dance

November 12

The Sons of the American Legion are hosting an oldies dance on Saturday, Nov. 12 at 8 p.m. at Chaumont Post #243 on Oak Tree Avenue. \$15 per person includes beer, wine, soda and snacks. DJ "Stick Shift Eddie" will provide the 50s and 60s music for dancing. Open to the public.

Wrestling Club Fundraising Dinner

November 19

The South Plainfield Wrestling Club will be hosting its third annual Tiger Takedown Buffet on Saturday, Nov. 19 at the South Plainfield Polish Home.

Proceeds will benefit the SPHS wrestling team's trip to the Virginia Duals. Tickets are \$20 and will be sold at the door. Cash bar will be available and a Gamin' Ride Truck for the kids. We will also be drawing the winning ticket for our Super 50/50.

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

Nativity of Blessed Virgin Food Festival

November 19

A food festival will be held at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church, 400 Delmore Ave., on Saturday, Nov. 19 from 10 a.m to

2 p.m. featuring homemade stuffed cabbage, pierogies, soups and cakes. Cash or check only.

For more information, call (908) 561-6366.

American Legion Country Breakfast

November 20

American Legion Chaumont Post #243, 243 Oak Tree Ave., will be the site for the auxiliary country breakfast buffet on Sunday, Nov. 20. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. The buffet will feature breakfast casseroles, eggs, pancakes, sausage and more. Serving times are 8 a.m. until noon. The public is invited.

— Out of Town —

Mr. Ray's Halloween Happening!

October 29

Mr. Ray returns to the Forum Theater stage with his not-so-spooky Halloween show on Saturday, Oct. 29 at 11:30 a.m. The Forum Theatre Arts Center is located at 314 Main St. in Metuchen. General admission is \$14. Tickets are on sale at www.forumtheatrearts.org.

Blackrose to Perform

October 29

Blackrose, a band performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will perform at the Cambridge Inn, 19 Summer Hill Rd. in Spotswood on Saturday, Oct. 29 at 10 p.m. No cover.

Woodbridge WOWs Halloween Dance

October 30

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will hold an open Halloween dance on Sunday, Oct. 30 from 7 to 11 p.m. at The Knights of Columbus Hall, Morrissey Ave. in Avenel. Light refreshments. Everyone is welcome. Admission: \$10 members; \$12 guests.

For more information, call (732) 381-3255 or (908) 757-0515.

Metuchen-Edison Women's Club Mtg.

November 2

Metuchen-Edison Women's Club will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. at The Heritage at Clara Barton, 1015 Amboy Ave. in Edison. Guest speaker Dyane McMahon, CEO of Gilda's Club of Northern New Jersey. The Northern New Jersey Gilda's Club and The Wellness Community have been named as the N.J. State Federation of Women's Clubs Special State Project for 2010-2012. An overview of the programs provided at no charge to anyone whose life has been impacted by any type of cancer. Question and answer session will follow.

Guests are welcome and light refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Diana at (732) 548-0925.

World Community Day 2011

November 4

"Living Our Faith: Unlocking Action," in conjunction with the 2011 World Community Day Service and sponsored by the Church Women United Plainfield Area, will be held on Friday, Nov. 4 at 1 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church, 324 Monroe Ave. in Plainfield.

For information, call Winnie Neal at (908) 755-4229.

Open House at Morristown Airport

November 5

American Flyers Flight School at the Morristown Airport, 50 Airport Road, will host an open house and cookout on Saturday, Nov. 5. Free BBQ lunch at noon, followed by facility tour by a certified flight instructor. Arrive 10-15 minutes early.

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

Shabbat Pray & Play

November 5

Temple Sholom of Fanwood/

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

HUNTERDON HILLS

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

MONDAYS

Active Seniors 8:30 am
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
Line Dancing 10 am
Computer..10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm
Crocheting 1 pm
Tai Chi 2 pm

THURSDAYS

Active Seniors 9:30 am
Crafts Class 10 am
Computer..10, 11:30 am, 1:30 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.

Scotch Plains invites families with children ages four and under to a Shabbat Pray & Play on Saturday, Nov. 5. Music, maracas, puppets and parachutes. Thirty minute interactive service begins at 10 a.m. followed by a free bagel brunch in the playground. Older siblings are welcome. Temple Sholom is located in Fanwood Presbyterian Church at the corner of Martine and LaGrande avenues in Fanwood.

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

Fall Fundraising Dinner at St. Francis

November 5

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 400 New Market Rd. in Dunellen, will hold its annual fall fundraising dinner on Saturday, Nov. 5. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; dinner at 6 p.m. Cost: \$20/adults; \$10/children under 12.

For more information, call (732) 968-6781 or (732) 752-5608.

Salute to Veterans

November 6

Trinity Reformed Church, 401 Greenbrook Rd. in North Plainfield, will hold a program entitled, "A Salute to Veterans" on Sunday, Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. Guest speaker Trish Chambers' topic is "Rosie the Riveter and Her Sisters-The Women of World War II." Light Refreshments will be served.

Harmony Harvest Tricky Tray

November 6

Jersey Harmony Chorus presents Harmony Harvest Tricky Tray Basket Auction on Sunday, Nov. 6 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Princeton Elks Lodge, 354 Rt. 518 in Skillman. Cost: \$20 and includes one sheet of tickets, gift bag, dessert, coffee and tea.

Delightful and delectable prizes include flat screen TV and Caribbean hotel stay. 50/50 drawing, door prizes, mystery prize, Ben the DJ and performances by Jersey Harmony Chorus. Cash bar.

For more information, call (732) 469-3983 or (732) 236-6803 or visit www.jerseyharmonytrickytray.com.

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Carone Family Chiropractic Thanksgiving Food Drive

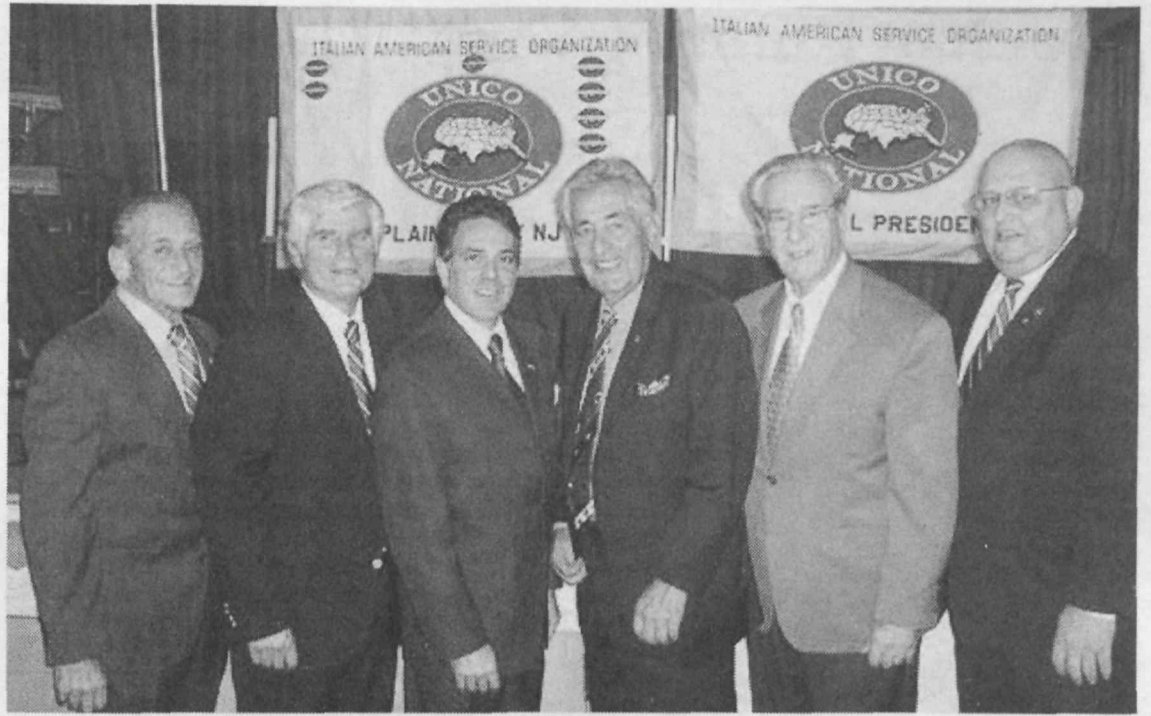
As the Thanksgiving season approaches, Carone Family Chiropractic wishes to celebrate in a way that will make a difference in other people's lives. They have decided to give their time and services to new patients in exchange for the new patients donating food items for families in need. "We have been blessed with so much that we want to give something back to someone in need. We will be accepting new patients that have never been to our office. This would be the perfect time to get started with chiropractic care and at the same time, help us put food on the table for needy families this year," said Dr. William Carone.

Between now and Thanksgiving, new patients will receive all first day services at no charge. The only thing

they have to do is bring a minimum of five canned goods or non-perishable items. Carone Family Chiropractic, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., has also set aside Saturday, Nov. 19 from 9 a.m. to noon for their current patients to receive an adjustment by bringing in a minimum of five canned goods or non-perishable items.

The donated items will be given to the South Plainfield Food Pantry, which is an outstanding organization committed to knowing who is really in need and getting those food items to the proper people. Help make this a special year for families in need. Plan now to participate and share in this giving time of year.

Please schedule your appointment by calling Dr. Carone at (908) 757-2330.



(L-R) Plainfields' UNICO President John DeAndrea, District X Governor Robert Bengivenga, Sr., National President Glenn Pettinato, Past National presidents Renato Biribin, Paul Alongi and Joe Agresti.

POLICE REPORT

- On Oct. 14 a Whispering Hills Road resident reported that eggs had been thrown at their vehicle.
- On Oct. 15 Cassidy Lee Dischryver-Sharr, 23, of Piscataway was arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting assorted jewelry worth \$137.
- On Oct. 16 Mariya Zafihurna, 50, of Linden was arrested at Macy's for shoplifting clothing worth \$105.
- Solomon Nyonyo, 61, of Somerset was arrested for driving while intoxicated, driving on a suspended license and reckless driving.
- A Buffalo, N.Y. resident reported that the driver's side door of their

vehicle had been pried open and the convertible top was down while parked at the Holiday Inn. Nothing was taken.

- A Wooden Avenue resident reported that the rear passenger side window of their vehicle had been smashed. Nothing was taken.
- On Oct. 18 Marcus J. Bryant, 34, of Berkley Heights was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and no license.
- A Diana Drive resident reported the theft of a Dodge Ram truck. It was later recovered in Plainfield.

Food Pantry in Need of Donations

The South Plainfield Food Pantry is in desperate need of food donations. Any food item is greatly appreciated. Food may be dropped off anytime at the municipal building in the Social Services Department located at 2480 Plainfield Ave.

We especially need the following items: one dish meals (canned pasta, spam, tuna, stew, etc.), cereal, canned fruit, pasta sauce, peanut butter and jelly.

Plainfields' UNICO Celebrates 41st Anniversary

Well over 200 people attended the 41st anniversary celebration for the Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO on October 15 at the South Plainfield Senior Center.

Three past UNICO National Presidents, Paul Alongi, Renato Biribin and Joe Agresti, attended as well as current UNICO National President Glenn Pettinato. Formal presentations were made to Assunta "Susie" Leonardis, who received UNICO National's Philip Mazzei-Civil Illustris award and Dr. Ann Walko, who received UNICO National's Philip Mazzei-Grand Patriot Award. Both are among UNICO's highest awards presented for outstanding public achievement. Leonardis, a resident of South Plainfield, and Walko, a resident of Scotch Plains, are both members of Plainfields' UNICO.

Marianna Giancarla Biribin, daughter of Renato Biribin, accompanied by Steve Berger on keyboards, was the featured entertainer and singer for the evening. South Plainfield Councilman and Plainfields' UNICO member Robert Bengivenga, Jr. em-

ceed the program, which also featured remarks from Pettinato, a presentation of flowers to UNICO First Lady

Terri Pettinato, and remarks by Renato Biribin, John DeAndrea and Robert Bengivenga, Sr.



(L-R) UNICO National President Glenn Pettinato, Dr. Ann Walko and John DeAndrea, Plainfields' UNICO president.

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Resident Running For a "Paws Cause"



Mike Talbot

Mike Talbot of South Plainfield has taken on the challenge of running the ING NYC 2011 Marathon for a special cause—the homeless dogs, cats, puppies and kittens of North Shore Animal League America, headquar-

tered in Port Washington, N.Y. Mike is one of 50 athletes who make up Team Animal League, aiming to raise \$200,000 through donations and pledges for the Animal League.

Talbot was driven to run with

Team Animal League by his love for animals; he is the proud pet parent of three dogs and a cat who he loves very much. After buying his first two dogs from a puppy store, he learned about the horrors of inhumane breeding operations and decided from then on to always adopt, and teach others about how rewarding adopting from a shelter can be. "If people stop buying dogs and start rescuing, there will be so much less suffering of animals. I really value and respect the Animal League because they really care for their animals."

Since its inception in 2008, Team Animal League has raised more than \$600,000 to help save animals' lives. North Shore Animal League America is the world's largest no-kill rescue and adoption organization.

The Animal League reaches across the country to rescue, nurture and adopt 20,000 pets into happy and loving homes each year. Over the past decade, the Animal League saved over 200,000 lives and has saved 1,000,000 animals since its inception.

To donate to Mike's personal fundraising page or for more information on the Animal League, visit www.AnimalLeague.org.



Robert Church performed at The Church of the Holy Cross in North Plainfield.

Former Resident Performs to Benefit Organ Restoration Project

Robert Church performed a Halloween-themed concert at The Church of the Holy Cross in North Plainfield last Saturday to raise money for the restoration of the church's pipe organ.

The concert, which included singers in costume performing selections from the *Phantom of the Opera*, was so well received that the church was able to take in a large amount of donations to put towards the restoration.

Church is originally from South Plainfield and currently serves as director of music at St. David's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C.

He began his organ training at the age of 14 with Russell Hayton, former music director of St. James and composer and professor emeritus of Montclair State University in Montclair. While attending George Washington University, Church studied organ with Dr. Eileen Guenther, then minister of music at Foundry United Methodist Church.

Before accepting the position at St. David's, Church served as the director of music at United Church in Washington, D.C. for more than four years. He has also served as organist at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Great Falls, Va. and as interim organist/music director at The Lutheran Church of the Reformation on Capitol Hill and the Church of St. Mary Virgin in New York City.

Church has performed extensively in Washington, D.C., Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, New York City and Canada.

Dr. DeCosta Hosting Annual Food Drive

It is approaching that time of year when we very often count our blessings and think of ways we can share our good fortune with others.

The Association of New Jersey Chiropractors, a non-profit state organization, is sponsoring a statewide food drive. There are offices throughout the state where people can drop off non-perishable food for those in need. Food will be donated to local food banks in that region.

The office in our area is Dr. Anthony J. DeCosta, located at 129 South Plainfield Ave.

All non-perishable foods will be donated to FISH Hospitality Program. FISH has been serving homeless women and families since 1990, providing shelter and meals, as well as offering assistance locating employment and affordable housing.

Please drop off all items at the office starting Wednesday, Nov. 2 through Monday, Nov. 21. Dr. DeCosta's office is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 3:30 to 7 p.m.

In these most difficult times, we should pause to reflect how truly blessed we are compared to others who don't even have a roof over their heads or food to eat.

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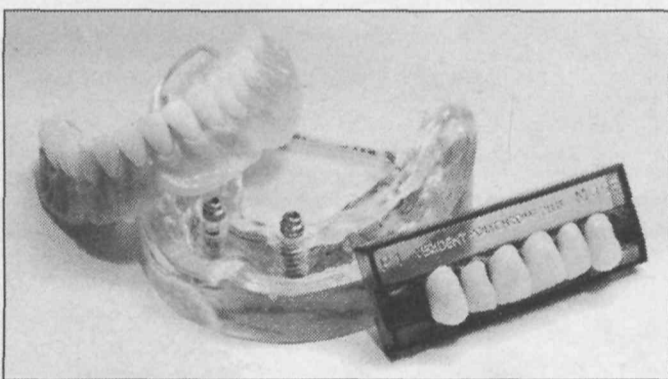
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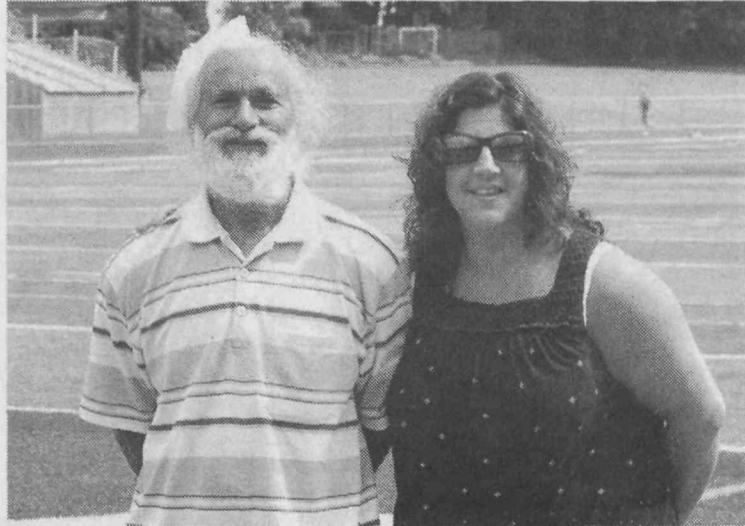
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Milestones



Sujam Puar with Senior Center Recreation Director Tree Olano.

Puar Takes Gold in Senior Olympics

Sujam Puar, 69 years young, competed for the second time on September 11 in the NJ Senior Olympics Track and Field competition at Woodbridge High School.

Puar took gold in the 1500M racewalk with a time of 10:21.7. Puar also took a silver (second place) in the 1500M run with a time of 8:06.1.

Tree Olano, director of recreation

at the South Plainfield Senior Center, said, "We are all so proud of Sujam. I see him in our gym every day. When South Plainfield received the information about the Senior Olympics I asked Sujam to register. I went to support Sujam in Woodbridge with my own family. We all were yelling and cheering him on. What a great day!"

Senator Barbara Buono Earns YMCA "Friend of The Y" Award

The New Jersey YMCA State Alliance recognized Senate Majority Leader Barbara Buono (D-Middlesex) with its "Friend of the Y" award this month. On October 6, Senator Buono received the award at the annual YMCA Awards Dinner held at the Forsgate Country Club in Monroe Township.

"Being a 'Friend of the Y' means being a friend to all that binds us together as a community," said Buono. "In order for our children and our families to grow, we need organizations like this and the volunteers to nurture and support them, to foster the notion that regardless of color or creed, age or economic background, we can build bridges, come together, and see that the sum of our similarities and common goals is greater than any perceived differences. That's what the YMCA is all about, and I'm honored that I can be a part of that."

The New Jersey YMCA State Alliance presents its annual "Friend of the Y" award to legislators who support the YMCA in its mission to improve communities across the state. Buono said the YMCA provides stability for youngsters, from which her own children benefited.

"As a parent, I always felt comforted to know that when my children were at the Y, whether for after school programs, basketball or camp, that they were being cared for and

their lives were being enriched," said Buono. "Year after year, as technology and our economy and all of our world change, we can all count on one thing—the YMCA—as a constant giving us peace of mind."

The New Jersey YMCA State Alliance is a not-for-profit association made up of 44 local YMCA facilities across the state. The association works to strengthen and enhance services available at individual YMCAs to further the mission of building strong kids, strong families and strong communities.

Brianna Harris Named State Ambassador of NJ

Brianna Alexandra Harris of South Plainfield competed in the National American Miss Pageant where she won five trophies along with the title of State Ambassador of New Jersey, second runner-up for the casual wear model and finalist for the overall title of Princess of New Jersey. She received an invitation to compete in the Nationals at Disney.

Because of her state ambassador title, Brianna was permitted to be in this year's Labor Day Parade and will be making other appearances throughout the coming year.

Brianna is the daughter of Devon and Mary Ellen (Heim) Harris.



Brianna Alexandra Harris



Tom and Dolores Heim celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Heims Celebrate Golden Anniversary

Congratulations to Tom and Dolores Heim on their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on October 28, 1961 and have resided in South Plainfield for the last 48 years.

A party was thrown in their honor at the Galloping Hill Inn by their

six children, Colleen Arndt, Joanne Okosko, Sally Baker, Susie Loiacono, Tom Heim Jr. and Mary Ellen Harris.

Tom and Dolores have 18 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. It was a fabulous celebration shared with family and friends.

Danyo Honored by United Church of Christ

A dinner was held in honor of borough resident Steve Danyo on September 23 at the United Church of Christ Congregational in Plainfield. He was recognized for his many years of dedicated volunteer service.

Danyo is a man for all seasons. He rakes leaves in the fall; removes snow from the steps and sidewalks in the winter; takes care of the lawn and repairs the fence in the spring; and throughout the summer, he mows the grass. He has also fixed the cement steps and foundation cracks, and takes care of a lot of maintenance

inside the church including patching and painting, minor plumbing and electrical repairs, stubborn doors, window caulking, loose tiles and changing light bulbs in the sanctuary on a 40 ft. ladder (the last such job during the earthquake!)

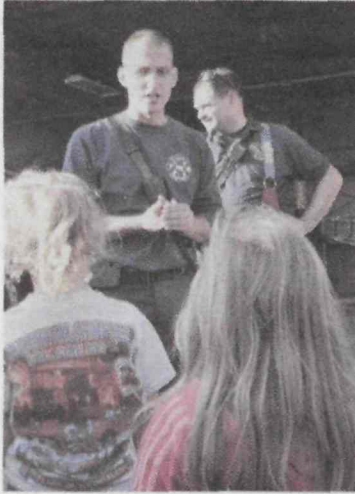
He spends countless hours at the church and this honor was long overdue. He was given a monetary gift by the congregation and in typical fashion said, "Thanks! The outside pillars need painting and this will help pay for the supplies."

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Kids Learn Fire Safety Up Close at Public Safety Day

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield's annual Public Safety Day on October 15 offered fire and safety facts combined with fun, food, adventure and an all around favorite—freebies.

The early part of the day featured the police department, rescue squad and the Office of Emergency Management to offer children and adults first-hand experience about the important work they do.

D.A.R.E. police officers were on hand to fingerprint children. The rescue squad displayed their rigs and assisted in an automobile extrication

demonstration. The Office of Emergency Management was on hand to answer questions and talk about their procedures in the event of an emergency.

The fire department apparatus was available for a close up inspection. The children had the chance to climb up and sit in a fire truck and try on the firefighters' protective coats and pants.

Parents had the opportunity to photograph their children on the heavy equipment.

The fire department presented a demonstration on how to use a fire extinguisher and a 'smoke house' visit in a bay of the firehouse. They created

a room with a door and window and a tarp covering the ceiling. Children and parents filled the small mock room to learn the signs of smoke and fire and how to evacuate a burning house.

After explaining the safety rules, a fog machine filled the room with 'smoke.' A firefighter in full gear entered (Samantha Hogan) and assisted the children in exiting through the window. Outside the window, firefighter Keisha Carroll helped children and adults exit the window.

Clutching goodie bags, the children quickly exited the window after learning the importance of setting up a meeting place to go to once leaving

a burning house and heading to a designated area.

In addition to the fun safety lessons, kids had the opportunity to play on an inflated fire truck slide.

The day was not just about safety. The children had their choice of a variety of complimentary items, including fire department helmets in black or pink, balloons, stickers, pencils, silly bands, rubber bracelets, plastic cups, finger paint pictures and Halloween trick or treat bags—all depicting a firefighting theme. They also enjoyed free hot dogs, hamburgers, popcorn and soft drinks.

Door prizes that were raffled off included fire extinguishers donated by Approved Fire Protection, Foremost Fire Protection and Fyre Technology.

Close to 200 people attended the annual event.



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And look what's happening this year...

PSE&G - Just announced two major expansions in South Plainfield — over 300 jobs.

Ferro Corporation - Working with the Lt. Governor's Office on a multi-million dollar expansion that will add 120 to 150 jobs.

Weight Watchers - Just opened—over two dozen jobs.

Park Avenue Bridge - Worked with Governor's office to obtain funding to rebuild bridge (2012 start)—at least 100 jobs.

365 Bistro - Just opened on Stelton Road—more than 75 jobs.

Glo-Pak - Just relocated to town, along with 30 jobs.

...and more!

Gloria Dittman Knows How to Bring Jobs Back to New Jersey!

- ◆ Voted Woman of the Year by the American Business Woman's Association.
- ◆ Endorsed by PENPAC—a leading business and industry group
- ◆ Former President, Edison Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Has a plan to roll back fees and other obstacles to small-business growth.

MCC to Hold Open House On Nov. 6

An open house for prospective Middlesex County College students will be held Sunday, Nov. 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the College Center on the Edison campus.

High school students who are considering continuing their education at Middlesex, as well as anyone who is thinking about taking a course at the college, are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served. To register online, visit www.mccopenhouse.com.

The college offers formal credit articulation transfer agreements and/or dual-degree admissions programs with more than 50 four-year institutions, including Rutgers, Montclair State, Kean and NYU. It has always been the largest "feeder" school to the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) where its graduates are continually recognized for their outstanding academic achievements.

The open house will include workshops and information sessions addressing everything a student needs to know about attending and being successful at Middlesex.

For more information, visit www.middlesexcc.edu.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Rudy and Karen Aguilar requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit (1) existing deck lacks 5' side setback, 76" being proposed; (2) existing shed lacks 5' rear setback, 36" proposed; (3) existing shed lacks 5' side setback, 4' proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 2604 Maple Avenue, Block 75, Lot 2, 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, November 10, 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.

DITTMAN for State Senate
BARLETTA - WHITE - FRANK for Council

Rotary Students Of the Month

(Continued from page 1)

Dylan maintains a 3.0 GPA while actively volunteering his time with our Peer Leadership group and athletics. Dylan is a two sport varsity letter winner (spring and winter track) and received All Division Honors in the programs. He has also been involved in baseball, basketball and wrestling (for the school and with recreation). Dylan has volunteered his time at the Special Olympics, fundraising for breast cancer awareness, Toys for Tots and Adopt-A-Family for the holidays. He is also active in the Heroes and Cool Kids program where he mentors fifth and sixth grade students on drug and alcohol abuse and bullying. He plans on attending college in the fall to study sports management.

While maintaining a 3.2 GPA, Rachel is involved in the cheerleading program, spring track, student leaders, and the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus. Rachel has been on the varsity squad since her freshman year in fall, winter and competition cheerleading. Rachel's volunteering began while in Girl Scouts. Rachel has continued her community service with Peer Leaders and Knights of Columbus. Some community events she volunteered with were our annual Tiger 24, Adopt-A-Family and Passionately Pink for the Cure Fridays to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Rachel has also volunteered with the Knights of Columbus dinners and a Keystone Community holiday party.

Middlesex County Holding More Vaccination Clinics

Middlesex County Office of Public Health Acting Director-Health Officer Katherine Antonitis announced that 21 additional flu clinics will be held through December in New Brunswick, East Brunswick and Edison locations. (The East Brunswick clinic will be held in the evening from 3-7 p.m.)

Flu immunizations will be provided to Middlesex County residents six months of age and over. No appointment is necessary. There will be a charge of \$15 per vaccination. The \$15 fee will be accepted in "cash only" and exact change is strongly recommended. No bill larger than a \$20 will be accepted.

Medicare will be billed where applicable: Residents with a valid Medicare card must present the card at the time of registration. If the Medicare card is not available, the resident will be asked to pay the fee or attend another clinic.

Pneumococcal immunizations will be available to Middlesex County residents who are 65 years of age and older and have not previously received this vaccine. There will be a charge of \$20 per vaccination. The \$20 fee will be accepted in "cash only" and exact change is strongly recommended. No bill larger than a \$20 will be accepted.

Medicare will be billed where applicable: Residents with a valid Medicare card must present the card at the time of registration. If the Medicare card is not available, the resident will be asked to pay the fee or attend another clinic.

You can also help reduce the spread of flu if you:

- Stay home when you are sick;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth as much as possible;
- Get regular exercise, enough rest and eat healthy, balanced meals.

Call the Middlesex County Office of Public Health at (732) 745-3100 or visit www.co.middlesex.nj.us/publichealth/flu-clinics.asp to view the schedule.



Buddy Walk Raises \$31K

(Continued from page 1)

Both spends many months each year organizing the walk, including the major task of setting up the park for the event and all its activities. "My family is a huge support," said Both. "They work all day from beginning to end helping set up and break down. They run the food area as well as the registration and raffle areas. My Aunt Patti and Mom donated many of the raffle items."

This year's event was a huge success and raised over \$31,000.

South Plainfield School District showed its support by sponsoring a jean day on September 30 for teachers and administrators who donated \$5 each for the opportunity to wear

jeans to work that day. The same day students donated \$1 for the chance to wear a hat to school. Proceeds from the day exceeded \$1,300.

The Buddy Walk program is supported nationally by NDSS and organized at the local level by parent support groups, schools and other organizations and individuals. Over the past 16 years, the Buddy Walk program has grown from 17 walks to nearly 300 expected in 2011 across the country and around the world. Last year alone, 285,000 people participated in a Buddy Walk, and raised more than \$11.2 million to benefit local programs and services as well as the national advocacy initiatives that benefit all individuals with Down Syndrome.



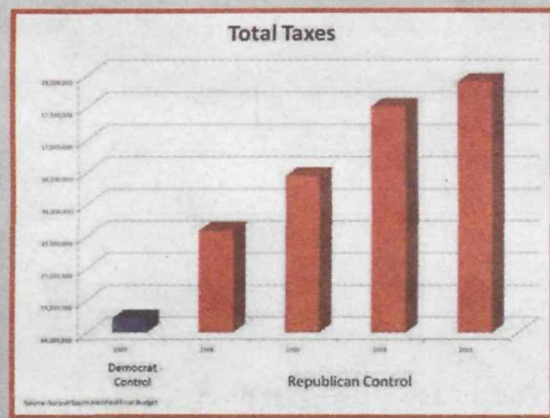
WHAT IS THE COST OF ONE PARTY RULE?

REPUBLICANS RAISE TAXES. AND EVERYBODY ELSE GOES ALONG.

Over the last four years, the Republican-controlled council raised South Plainfield's property taxes almost 26%.

South Plainfield received the 5th largest tax increase out of 25 towns in Middlesex County, according to The Home News Tribune.

This is what happens when only one party has control. Who will be there to stop them from raising our taxes next year?



2011 average property taxes
Twenty-four out of 26 municipalities had average property tax increases that were above the 2 percent cap imposed this year. This chart shows the tax changes in dollars and percentage from 2010 rates. A town with "a" next to its name shows a tax increase above 2 percent.

Municipality	2011 tax	\$ change	% change
Middlesex County			
Cartersville	\$6,392	\$213	3.4%
Cranbury	\$10,573	\$469	4.4%
Dunellen	\$7,861	\$174	2.2%
East Brunswick	\$8,726	\$340	4.1%
Edison	\$7,912	\$434	5.6%
Halifax	\$5,701	\$146	2.6%
Highland Park	\$9,561	\$313	3.4%
Jarvisburg	\$6,345	\$91	1.5%
Middletown	\$8,052	\$363	4.5%
Middlesex	\$7,045	\$253	3.7%
Milpitas	\$7,617	\$183	2.5%
Monroe	\$6,261	\$89	1.4%
New Brunswick	\$6,291	\$207	3.3%
North Brunswick	\$7,593	\$305	4.0%
Old Bridge	\$6,588	\$173	2.7%
Perth Amboy	\$7,249	\$378	5.2%
Princeton	\$7,025	\$272	3.9%
South Plainfield	\$6,277	\$296	4.9%
South Plainfield	\$6,277	\$296	4.9%
South River	\$5,941	\$399	6.7%
Spotswood	\$7,727	\$322	4.2%
Westfield	\$6,643	\$333	5.0%
Union County			
Linden	\$7,739	\$275	3.7%
Rahway	NA	NA	NA
Somerset County			
Franklin	NA	NA	NA

Sources: County tax boards and municipalities. Tax rates, based on property assessments. Not available for some municipalities.

The Home News Tribune, Oct. 23, 2011

THAT'S THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD REPUBLICANS. THAT'S THE COST OF ONE PARTY RULE.

In My Opinion

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

(Continued from page 2)

Dear Editor,

As the time draws near for us to go to the polls and cast our votes, I thought it appropriate to provide a personal opinion about Derryck White, from someone who knows him best.

This experience has been amazing for my husband and our family. We have seen firsthand how Derryck's life has been enriched by going door to door and interacting with fellow residents. The warm reception and strong dialogue served as daily motivation. My hope is that those who met Derryck were able to get a small glimpse of the man that I see every day.

We have been married for 12 years, and Derryck has always been a wonderfully thoughtful husband and father. Through his genuine love for others, there is much that I have learned from my husband throughout the years. Before meeting him, I had never met anyone who cares about others the way he does. Every day, every person matters, and that is how he treats people. Regardless of who you are, where you come from, or what you believe, Derryck is always willing to see the best in you.

Empathy can be defined as being able to truly place yourself in someone else's shoes and not only understand how they feel, but allow yourself to feel it along with them. That's who Derryck is. He not only listens intently, but has a sincere willingness to help.

Derryck is a genuinely kind and caring man, who tries to never lose sight of the truly important things in life. Faith, family and our future are the priorities, and each is given consistent deliberate focus as he selflessly puts us first every day.

Strong leadership is also an important part of who Derryck is. I have never seen him try to lead by demanding respect or getting angry; but instead always tries to lead by example, service

and putting others first.

Derryck is a very patient man. He doesn't make hasty or rash decisions, but thoughtfully considers all the options and implications. He is consistently level headed and doesn't seem to ever get overwhelmed by life's problems or challenges. They just seem to make him work harder.

He is not the type of man who cares about who is getting the credit for what. What he cares about is truth, fairness and people.

Honestly, my husband is not perfect; however, I do believe that he personifies the qualities that most of us are looking for in our public servants.

SINCERELY,
LISA WHITE

Dear Editor,

Two weeks from now we'll all be heading off to the polls and voting. Like all of you I want what is best for South Plainfield; I want taxes to stay stable, I want services, I want the town to look good now and into the future. Rather than harping on the past I want to be the go-getter working on the problems of today and the future.

More than ever before we need bipartisanship in politics. It would be foolish of us to think that allowing men of like minds to sit around with no counter-argument is good for anyone. Just look at what like minds did to our national economy. Even in our own lives we must be willing to welcome in a fresh view. It is what keeps us honest and decent people.

I don't think my counterparts are dishonest people, I just feel that we need to keep opposing views in the public sphere. Bipartisanship will allow us all to stay honest to the purpose of working for the people of South Plainfield.

PAUL MCCULLEN,
COUNCIL CANDIDATE

Dear Editor,

For the past few weeks questions

PLEASE NOTE:

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

have been raised to Councilwoman Buteas. She's been asked, 1) why she refused to take a stand on putting 700 apartments in town. No response.

She's been asked why she tried to vote herself a raise. No response.

Now she's been asked why she voted to raise taxes \$404 in 2009. We'll see how she responds.

If Buteas will not answer these simple questions, how can we vote to put her back on the council. She and her fellow Democrats just don't seem to be in touch with the town and our needs.

I'm disappointed in Buteas, and as a result, she will not have my support. In my mind, she's just too political for South Plainfield.

KENNETH BONANNO

Dear Editor,

We'll be voting for Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas this November. She works hard for the residents of South Plainfield and listens to their needs. Just look at her dedication towards limiting trucks on Hamilton Boulevard. She helped the citizens and didn't sway in her commitment.

While people would have you believe otherwise, Ms. Buteas has worked hard on some great initiatives here in South Plainfield. She co-started the student internship program, she was able to get our town an audience in Trenton concerning the south side truck extension, she initiated an energy audit of all borough buildings, and she worked hard to bring a piece of World Trade Center steel here to South Plainfield, just to name a few. Unfortunately, due to political games by others, Ms. Buteas has lost credit where credit is due.

Neighbors, we have attended council meeting for numerous years and we do not trust the Republican Party with absolute control. We may not agree on everything, but we need debate, someone that is critical of thought, and a second opinion. Currently, it is obvious to us that the Republican council does their own business, and if you disagree with them, they don't care and allow for you to be heckled in the process. This is simply unacceptable.

We'll be voting for Chrissy Buteas, John Sorrentino and Paul McCullen this November. We need to keep bipartisan politics and opposing views alive in this town.

LES AND DEB BERGEN

Dear Editor,

I believe we all have an obligation to not only spread the word, but to also try everyday to do God's work here on earth. We must do our best to help educate our young, feed the poor, house the homeless and give comfort to those in need. I have great respect for those public and community servants who are toiling daily to improve the quality of life for all Americans.

Over the last few years I have had the pleasure to count Assemblyman Patrick Diegman, his wife Anita and his wonderful family among my friends. The selfless service and compassion that Patrick offers to citizens of all ages and backgrounds in the entire state is evidenced by his accomplishments as chairman of the Education Committee, his advocacy in preventing concussions in student athletes and opposing the proposed closing of the Hagedorn psychiatric facility.

Sadly, we are all too often disappointed by our elected officials. I can assure you that Patrick, through his work in the state legislature and in his personal life, is a person of honor and integrity. The residents of East Brunswick, Edison, Helmetta, Highland Park, Metuchen, South Plainfield and

South River are fortunate to be represented by an individual of such high moral character. I can attest firsthand that Assemblyman Patrick Diegman is a public servant we all can be proud of.

REVEREND BRUCE M. WILLIAMS

Dear Editor,

Over the past few years we've been electing people to council who've had business backgrounds, and the results are showing. South Plainfield has the best tax record in the county, and we're number 13 in the state. Spending is down the second year in a row, and the part of the tax bill controlled by the council is \$138 lower than in 2009, when the Democrats ran things.

This year, let's keep things going in the right direction by continuing to elect people with the right type of experience. Between the three of them, Alex Barletta, Dick Frank and Derryck White have over 75 years of business experience. That experience will serve us well.

The experience on the other side doesn't meet these needs. Buteas is a Trenton lobbyist, Sorrentino is in HVAC and McCullen does something in music. Nothing is wrong with these careers, but the three don't have the business experience our town needs. Buteas, Sorrentino and McCullen also don't seem to be in touch with our town and its voters.

Derryck White, Alex Barletta and Dick Frank have the right type of backgrounds to keep our town moving forward. They deserve our votes.

SINCERELY,
FRANK J. CIRIGLIANO

To the Editor:

This weekend something occurred to me while reading the *Home News Tribune*: Either they made up a story about taxes or the South Plainfield Republican Party has been lying to us for several months. My thought is that the Republicans are the ones lying.

(Continued on next page)

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In My Opinion

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

I received my tax bill and my taxes are up. Yet the Republicans are trying to sell the idea to me that they are for? The *Home News* sets it straight. Taxes are up 4.9% for 2011 and South Plainfield had the fifth largest increase in the county. So let me guess, the *Home News* is publishing false and misleading information against the Republicans of South Plainfield, right? Why do I think this is probably not the case.

Republicans are lying to us. Coming to our homes trying to sell us lies with faulty math. What do they take us for? Neighbors, the Republican Party does not deserve to run the council on their own. How can we know if they are being truthful with us? We need Democrats up there keeping the system honest for us all.

I'll be voting for Buteas, Sorrentino and McCullen this November 8 to keep honesty and bipartisanship on the council.

LARRY WILCOX

Dear Editor,

I want to congratulate Councilman Alex Barletta on his work to bring jobs and business back to South Plainfield. I was very happy to hear about PSE&G expanding in town and bringing over 300 jobs with them.

Some people talk about bringing business and jobs back, and others actually get the job done. Great job, Alex.

LAURA LEMOS

To the Editor:

This November I will be voting for the Democratic team of Buteas, Sorrentino and McCullen. With the election fast approaching, like so many of you, I am sick of being inundated with materials telling me why the Democratic candidates are not good for South Plainfield. At the same time the Republicans cannot give me one reason, other than faulty math, to explain why I should vote for them.

If all the Republicans can do is attack and dissuade, what do they really hope to do for our town? The Democrats understand that things are no longer the "status quo." They are looking to aggressively find solutions to our current conditions and to those that will arise in the future. Bringing in business to stabilize taxes, fixing infrastructure, working to increase our open space and making a commitment towards a plan for the future well-being of the town, that is what we need. That is what I want to hear about. Who cares about the past? We need answers for now and the future.

Join me in looking towards our future and vote for Buteas, Sorrentino, and McCullen this November.

PAT DE SANTIS

Dear Editor,

I keep reading in the paper about the Democrats and their comments about one party rule. I find their comments are bit insincere. Here's why.

Last year South Plainfield's own Dick Frank ran for freeholder as a Republican. The freeholder board is all Democrat and has been for more than 15 years. That was the perfect chance for Buteas, Sorrentino and McCullen to support a Republican, one from our own town. Did they? No.

They apparently have no problem with one party control when it's them.

It's also puzzling that the Democratic Party is talking about one party control when they have wasted one of their seats on the council. One of the Democrat council members has such a bad record attending meetings that he's missed more than half. And he was Chrissy Buteas's runningmate!

The chant for stopping one party rule from the Democrats rings hollow. Things are going in the right direction under the Republicans. It makes no sense to switch back to the other side again, especially for such a flimsy reason.

LINDA SANTORE

To the Editor:

We all know how the recession is hurting families across the country. People are losing their jobs and their homes, and those who haven't lost them wonder if they're next.

To solve these problems we need fiscal discipline, not more of the same tax-and-spend mentality. It's time for less government, not more government.

Smaller, more efficient government is just as important at the local level, and that's why, in my opinion, the Democrats are the wrong choice for Borough Council. This is especially true for Paul McCullen. Back at the December 20, 2010 council meeting I had the chance to speak to Mr. McCullen, and he revealed quite a bit about his philosophy for governing when he said to me that he was a socialist. Now people are entitled to their opinions. But in my opinion, that type of big-government philosophy is out of touch with South Plainfield.

In contrast, Alex Barletta, Derryck White and Dick Frank know we need smaller, more efficient government. They are part of a team that has the best record on taxes in the county and one of the best in the state. If you think it's important to control taxes and spending, then these are the three that should get your vote: Barletta, White and Frank.

DENNIS LITTLE

Library Cleanup Progresses Insurance, FEMA Fund Flood Restoration Project

By Libby Barsky

Library Director Sunnie Randolph announced during the October 11 Board of Trustees meeting that after initially denying an insurance payment to the South Plainfield Public Library the borough's insurance carrier, New Jersey Municipal Self Insurers Joint Insurance Fund, will allocate \$49,000 to cover the costs of the damage incurred by Hurricane Irene. Also, additional reimbursement for damages will be coming from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The contents of the library required more than the two trailers donated by Halls for storage. Randolph praised CFO Glenn Cullen for his quick response to the situation in having Halls send another donated trailer to be used by the library. With the books in the trailers, the repairs were performed.

During the meeting three proposals were approved by the Board of Trustees for Miglis Enterprises: remove sheetrock at a cost of \$3,375, paint the library at a cost of \$5,877 and \$840 to install a new fire door.

The library selected Amboy Floors, Inc. of Perth Amboy to install 529 square yards of carpet tile. As of press-time, the carpet has been installed.

The Library Board also approved the revised weekly price of storage containers at \$3.10 per crate at 300 crates.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. The tentative date for the library to open is November 7. Watch the *Observer* for more updates.

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Obituaries

Vincent J. Costantino, 66

Vincent J. Costantino died on Saturday, Oct. 22 at St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick.



Born and raised in Edison, Vincent resided in South Plainfield since 1973.

For 34 years, Mr. Costantino was employed by the former Mayfair Supermarkets based in Elizabeth. He retired as regional director.

A proud owner of his Cadillac, Vincent was an avid Yankees fan and enjoyed trips down to Atlantic City. Vincent found peace working with his hands. He was a skilled woodworker and gardener but more importantly he adored his grandchildren.

In addition, Mr. Costantino was a member of Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church and he recently celebrated his 40th wedding anniversary.

He is predeceased by his parents as well as a sister, Mary Farrell.

Surviving are his loving family; his wife Karen (Horky) Costantino; two daughters, Tracy Scott and husband Jonathan of Dunellen and Kim Baskiewicz and husband Jesse of Edison; and four grandchildren, Mark and Jason Scott and Kaitlyn and Karen Baskiewicz.

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

Robert H. Tunison Sr., 65

Robert H. Tunison Sr. died on Wednesday, Oct. 19 at the Somerset Valley Rehabilitation Center in Bound Brook.

He was born in Plainfield, resided in South Plainfield and was currently residing in North Plainfield.

Bob is survived by his companion, Wendy Scott of North Plainfield; two daughters, Doreen Miller of Hackettstown and Melissa Tunison of Florida; three sons, Robert H. Tunison Jr. and Walter Tunison, both of Dunellen and Anthony Tunison. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren.

Funeral services were under the direction of McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Chris Grippo

There is significant progress being made in the rehabilitation of the South Plainfield Public Library. The wall repairs have been completed and the new carpeting has been installed. Now comes the fun part of putting all our materials back on the shelves which will be a major project.

As always you can check our website (www.southplainfieldlib.nj.us) or our Facebook page for updates. In the meantime please remember that the South Plainfield Public Library has reciprocal borrowing with surrounding libraries. We do not share a circulation system with those libraries so they

might have to put you in their circulation system (if you are not already registered). Also, there are many online databases that are accessible through our website (plus many downloadable audio and e-books). And, finally, we are not charging overdue fines for any material currently checked out. So please do not return the items until we reopen as at this point we still do not have a place to put them.

We want to thank the patrons of the South Plainfield Public Library for their understanding in this time of distress and they should take solace in the fact that we are working as fast as possible to get the library open again.

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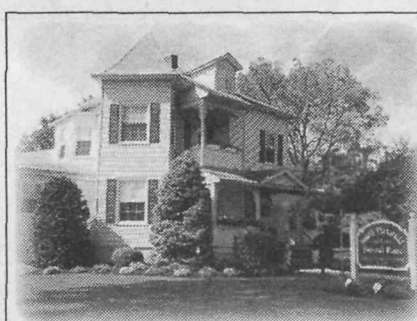
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OPINION

South Plainfield Democrats



South Plainfield Had 5th Highest Tax Increase

This past Sunday, the *Home News Tribune* reported that South Plainfield had the fifth highest tax increase in Middlesex County—up by 4.9% in 2011. This is why your tax bills went up so much and why you have less money to pay for other expenses. Who voted for this tax increase? Councilman Alex Barletta voted for this tax increase. In one year, he raised South Plainfield's taxes by 4.9%. Can you imagine what he'd do if he was on the council for three more years?

Councilman Alex Barletta also voted to spend over \$30,000 to pave a road in town—the problem is, the road had already been paved! Even worse—he did it without going to a vote on the council and public discussion and community input. Can you imagine what else he has kept from the public?

Several months ago there was a discussion of the increases in property taxes in town. Councilman Barletta stated that he had no control of the tax base and ratables in town. That means he believes the local governing body can do nothing to stimulate business activity in town.

It's your choice. Just make one. Please exercise the privilege you are afforded. Cast your vote on Nov. 8.

Can you imagine the number of vacant store fronts and empty business establishments if Councilman Alex Barletta won a full term on the council?

The icing on the cake is the misleading announcement last week from Barletta that the unemployment rate in South Plainfield is 6.4%. That was two years ago. Today it is almost 9%.

There was one really bright spot in the news article on Sunday. The average property taxes in South Plainfield—a figure that takes into account several years of property tax analysis—are the second lowest in the county. You have the Democrats to thank for this. For the past three decades, the Democratic Party controlled the council over 85% of the time.

Apparently the Republicans have a problem with math and accuracy. Not only that, the South Plainfield Republicans seem to think they are beyond the law in making closed door deals and circumventing the democratic process.

We can not afford Republican control of our town anymore. On November 8, vote for Better Solutions for a Brighter Future. Vote for Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas, John Sorrentino and Paul McCullen—Line B.

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.

OPINION

South Plainfield Republicans



Candidates Use Dirty Campaigning to Mask Horrible Tax Record

The Republican candidates for Borough Council this week called upon their opponents to be honest with voters and get back to a real discussion on the issues. The call comes after Democratic candidates have used a series of deceptive campaign tactics.

"I'm extremely disappointed in Buteas, Sorrentino and McCullen," said Mayor Matt Anesh when told about the tactics. "People want an honest debate, not falsehoods."

The Buteas, Sorrentino and McCullen ad from last weekend is a perfect example of these falsehoods. The ad supposedly depicts taxes for the last five years, and it shows Republican control for the last four, even though the Democrats ran the council in 2009.

"Chrissy Buteas was on the council, and she can't remember who was in the majority?" asked Alex Barletta, who is seeking a three-year council seat. "She had to know her chart was incorrect."

"Apparently Buteas would like to forget 2009," added candidate Dick Frank. "That's when she and her Democrat majority voted to raise municipal taxes \$404."

The GOP candidates also pointed to a distortion involving the numbers the ad uses. They

reflect total taxes, not the part controlled by the council. Total taxes include the part controlled by the county Democrats.

"They forget to tell you that their party raised county taxes 19% over the last two years," said Derryck White. "No wonder the numbers on the chart are so small you can't even read them with a magnifying glass."

The GOP also pointed to a whisper campaign by their opponents as another example of dirty campaigning.

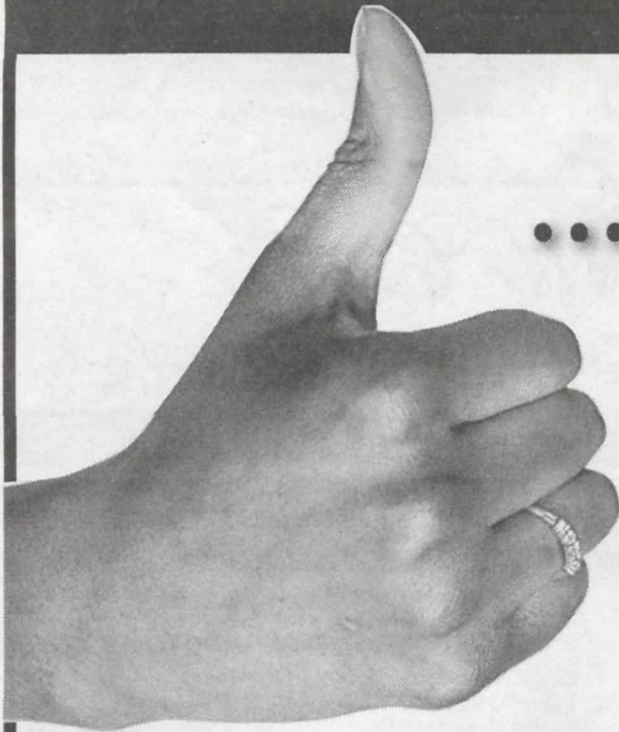
"They're going door to door telling people in the Hamilton Boulevard area that trucks will be returning if Republicans are elected," Barletta explained. "That's dead wrong and they know it."

"They're manufacturing other stories as well," added White. "They know it's almost impossible to correct them if they do that."

Mayor Anesh called the Buteas campaign's tactics regrettable and noted that it's a sign of frustration: "It's what desperate candidates do when they have a horrible record. Buteas certainly can't campaign on voting against the 2010 tax cut."

Anesh believes voters will reject these tactics on Election Day, and he urged people to support the Republican team. "Alex Barletta, Derryck White and Dick Frank are running an honest campaign. I know that if elected they'll work together to get results for South Plainfield."

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Why Advertise in Newspapers?

A study commissioned by the New Jersey Press Association (NJPA) and conducted by Belden Associates revealed that newspapers are the number one choice for news among New Jersey residents and that 93% of adults with a media preference choose a newspaper for local community and neighborhood news.

The study also revealed that 73% of New Jersey shoppers use newspapers as their primary source for local shopping information and 2 out of 3 consumers rely on newspapers for information related to purchases. You may also be interested to know that the average number of days a weekly paper is kept is 4.2 and the

average number of readers per copy in a household is 2.0. And that ads are second only to local events in reader interest. Statistics also reveal that more South Plainfielders rely on the Observer for local news than any of the dailies, surpassing the local circulation of The Home News-Tribune, the Courier News, and The Newark Star-Ledger.

To reserve space or for more information, call 908-668-0010.

Girl Scouts to Celebrate 100th Anniversary

The Girl Scout Councils of New Jersey will hold two ceremonial "bridging" events on Sunday, Nov. 13 at 9 a.m., with thousands of Girl Scouts simultaneously walking across the George Washington Bridge and the Ben Franklin Bridge. One hundred years in the making, the Girl Scouts anticipate as many as 10,000 members, volunteers and alumnae to be part of this once in a lifetime experience of "bridging" into the next century of Girl Scouting. This traditional Girl Scout ceremony, where girls walk across a bridge to signify passage from one level of Girl Scouting to another, is being done on a very large scale to mark the start of the 100th anniversary celebration of Girl Scouting. Girl Scouts and their accompanying leaders or parents are encouraged to sign up quickly, since only a limited number of people can be accommodated at each bridge. This event is a great opportunity to join the Girl Scouts and experience the fun, friendship and power of girls together!

"Bridging is such a significant part of Girl Scouting which is why these two historic bridging events are the perfect way to kick off our 100th anniversary celebration," said Susan Brooks, CEO of Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey. "Bridging represents an important transition in a Girl Scout's life. It's a defining moment when a girl becomes aware of her achievements and is ready for new adventures and responsibilities. All four New Jersey councils will join together to celebrate this milestone as Girl Scouting bridges into the next century of nurturing and empowering girls of courage, confidence and character."

Registration for both events is now open for all current New Jersey Girl Scouts, and spots are limited.

To register, all participants including adults must be registered with the Girl Scouts. To register for the event, visit www.girlscouts100nj.org.

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the Entertainment Book for \$30. Contact Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.



Supplemental Heating Equipment Can Add Warmth But Also Danger in the Home

One Call Electrical, Heating & Cooling Service Inc. offers Safety Tips as a Part of National Fire Safety Month

October is National Fire Safety month, and One Call is celebrating it by providing a series of safety tips that homeowners should know. This is the third of five releases with helpful information, and it discusses an important topic: eliminating home fires due to supplemental heating equipment.

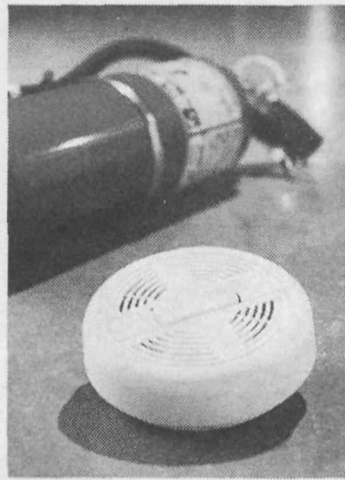
According to the Home Safety Council, the second leading cause of home fires is supplemental heating equipment, such as portable heaters, wood stoves, and fireplaces.

"If something combustible is placed too close to one it can catch fire due to the radiant heat or sparks from a fire," said Mark Hollain, owner of One Call. "That's why we warn so many people about using portable heaters in bedrooms, especially considering they will be asleep and unable to react should a fire occur."

Here are some home safety tips relating to supplemental heating equipment that everyone should know:

Never leave a heater working if you are out of the room or asleep; purchase space heaters and other electrical equipment and woodstoves that have been tested for safety and listed by a testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL); make sure that portable heaters have a tip-over feature that will automatically turn it off if tipped over; read operating instructions before use and keep the instructions handy for referral;

use space heaters that have guards that help prevent combustible items from coming in contact with heating elements; move all combustibles three feet away from space heaters, fireplaces and woodstoves when in use; closely supervise children so they stay a safe distance away from the woodstove, fireplace or space heater when in use; install woodstoves in compliance with local building and fire codes; install a barrier between the woodstove and the floor to protect combustible flooring from extreme heat; have fireplace and woodstove chimneys inspected each year and cleaned of built-up creosote as needed; have chimney connectors inspected every year and cleaned as necessary; keep a sturdy screen in front of the fireplace opening to keep hot embers inside; maintain a safety distance of three feet for all combustibles from the furnace and water heater also; have your furnace serviced each year before the heating season; store volatile products such as paint thinner in the garage or shed away from the house; gasoline is highly flammable and should never be brought into the home. It should be stored in an approved gasoline container in a garage or shed, away from children's



hands. Of course, another safety concern of portable heaters is the extension cords used with them. Extension cords should not be coiled up while plugged in, and they should not be underneath carpet or rugs; both are major fire hazards.

During National Fire Safety month, homeowners can receive a 100 percent free fire safety inspection by a trained electrician from One Call. The electrician will identify potential fire hazards, as well as check all smoke detectors and install new batteries. In addition, he will inspect the home's electrical panel/fuse box, all outlets, and all other electrical components to ensure that none are malfunctioning and a fire risk.

"This is a typical \$249 service, but we're doing it for free to raise awareness. It's a big concern that we want to alert as many people as possible to," Hollain explained.

For more information on One Call Electrical, Heating & Cooling Service Inc., visit www.onecallelectrical.com and to schedule a free electrical safety inspection, call (908) 769-8200.

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SPORts

Coaches Named for Winter Sports

By Libby Barsky

Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gary Bowen found the method of selecting coaches wanting.

"There needs to be a review of the job description for all coaching positions. The criteria is to find the most certified and qualified," Bowen said at the October 19 Board of Education meeting when this year's coaches were approved.

The winter coaches for the high school in track and wrestling remain the same as last year: Christopher Fish will be the head coach for track, and the assistant coach will be Bryan Holt. In wrestling, Kevin McCann will be the head coach with assistant coaches John Foscolo and Steven Johnston.

Volunteers for wrestling are Matthew Anderson and Roberto Ramos.

The new head coach for the high school boy's basketball team is Justin Chiera and assistant coaches are Matthew Connell and Willard Schulte; volunteers are Nick Allen and Ken Lucky. The head coach for girl's basketball remains Kevin Hughes with assistants Sally Gillis and Paulo Correia.

Georgeann Larsen remains head coach for high school cheerleading along with assistant coach Devon Cosenza and Jennifer Jantas. The new head coach for the high school swim team is Mary Otlowski.

The two co-head coaches for the high school bowling team are David Knarr and Brian Panck.

Philip McGuanne will be the weight trainer at the high school.

The name of the head coach for the middle school wrestling team was withdrawn, but volunteers Bill Ashnault and Kevin Crilley were approved.

"A head coach will be appointed and the middle school wrestling program will continue," said Dr. Bowen.

The middle school head coach for girl's basketball is Alyson Oller and the head coach for boy's basketball is Michael Stallone; the volunteer is Ryan Curtis.

Joanne Otlowski will be a volunteer in the Information Center at the high school.

SPHS Weekly Sports Schedule

South Plainfield High School

Friday, Oct. 28

- 3:45pm Fr Football - Carteret (H)
- 7:00pm V Football - Carteret (A) 2 Buses 4:30pm
- 7:00pm V Cheerleaders - Carteret (A) Bus 5:30pm
- 7:00pm V Volleyball - Edison JV/5:00pm

Saturday, Oct. 29

- 10:00am B&GV Cross Country - GMCs (A) Bus TBA

Monday, Oct. 31

- 3:45pm JV Football - Carteret (H)

Tuesday, Nov. 1

- 3:45pm V G&B Cross Country - Middlesex (H)

Friday, Nov. 4

- 3:45pm Fr Football - No. Brunswick (A) Bus 2:30pm
- 7:00pm V Football - No. Brunswick (H)

Volleyball Match to Benefit Breast Cancer Awareness

South Plainfield High School Girls' Volleyball team will conduct a fundraiser for Susan G. Komen Foundation in support of breast cancer awareness on

Friday, Oct. 28. The team will host the Edison Eagles in a volleyball match starting at 7 p.m. in the SPHS gymnasium.

Refreshments will be available, as well as items supporting breast cancer awareness. The team is requesting a donation upon entry for which a person will receive a raffle ticket for various items which have been donated.

Please make an effort to attend this very important event in support of breast cancer awareness.

Submitted by
Coach John Ferguson

Wrestling Club Fundraising Dinner

The South Plainfield Wrestling Club will be hosting its third annual Tiger Takedown Buffet on Saturday, Nov. 19 at the South Plainfield Polish Home.

Proceeds will benefit the SPHS wrestling team's trip to the Virginia Duals. Tickets are \$20 and will be

sold at the door. Cash bar will be available and there will be a Gamin' Ride Truck for the kids. We will also be drawing the winning ticket for our Super 50/50.

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

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RWJ Hospital, Safe Kids Share Halloween Safety Tips

On average, twice as many kids are killed while out trick-or-treating on Halloween night compared to other days of the year.

As Halloween approaches, the Level I Trauma Center at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJ) and Safe Kids Middlesex County urge parents to prepare children to act safely and drivers to take extra precautions.

"Many children will be out trick-or-treating while it's dark, when it is more difficult for drivers to see them. There are several easy and effective behaviors that adults can share with youngsters to help reduce their risk of injury," says Diana Starace, injury prevention coordinator for the Level I Trauma Center at RWJ and Safe Kids Middlesex County Coordinator.

For example, children younger than age 12 shouldn't cross streets alone on Halloween without an adult," Starace suggests. "If older children are mature enough to go trick-or-treating without adult supervision, parents should encourage them to walk together, in a group, and stick to a predetermined route with good lighting."

At the 21st Annual Safe Kids Fair at RWJ today, the Injury Prevention Program of the Level I Trauma Center at RWJ will feature eight safety stations, one of them focusing on Halloween and pedestrian safety. More than 600 second and third graders from area elementary schools are expected to attend this event, and they will receive reflective materials to promote visibility, including zipper tags that can be attached to costumes and trick-or-treat bags. Safety information for children, parents and drivers will also be available.

Here are more safety tips to help ensure children's safety on

Halloween night:

- Cross the street safely at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Look left, look right and look left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross. Walk, don't run, across the street.

- Walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.

- Slow down and stay alert: Watch out for cars that are turning or backing up and never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.

- Costumes can be both creative and safe. Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors. Masks can obstruct a child's vision, so choose non-toxic face paint and make-up whenever possible. Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights so they can see better and be seen by drivers.

Motorists who plan to be on the streets on Halloween should plan to be extra alert as there will be more children on the streets and sidewalks—and those kids may be focused on gathering candy and the excitement of Halloween rather than being careful while crossing streets. "Slow down on neighborhood roads. This may help save lives," adds Starace.

Here are more tips for motorists out and about on Halloween night:

- Slow down in residential neighborhoods. Remember that popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

- Be especially alert and take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.

Keep Halloween Safe and Fun for Little Monsters, Ghosts and Goblins

Tips from the Poison Experts Steven Marcus, Executive and Medical Director, Dr. Bruce Ruck, Director, Drug Information and Professional Education New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES)

It's easy to be scared about Halloween, especially if you're a parent trying to supervise your child's safety. The key concerns about safety, however, particularly in regard to candy poisonings, are no different in October than during the rest of the year, according to NJPIES, the New Jersey Poison Information & Education System, also known as poison control. Experts at NJPIES (www.njpies.org) urge parents and caregivers to be alert and take precautions to avoid unpleasant incidents and keep these delightful annual treks safe and fun.

"Halloween is one of the busiest times of the year for the doctors, pharmacists and nurses who answer the hot line at our 24-hour call center," said Dr. Steven Marcus, executive and medical director of NJPIES. "This time of year, we get calls about anything from bug bites to stomach aches (usually due to consumption of too much candy—not necessarily tainted candy). But mishaps can occur at any time, and being prepared and informed about how to handle them in advance can ensure an enjoyable experience."

He said that one of the topics unique to this time of year is accidental ingestion of glow stick liquid. "The substance in glow sticks is not a toxin, just an irritant," said Dr. Marcus. "But very often, parents call 9-1-1 or spend hours in the emergency room, only to be told that the resulting sore throat and upset stomach can be relieved with a little milk—advice that would



have been quickly provided over the phone by one of our trained medical professionals."

Dr. Marcus provided some additional tips for a variety of fall activities that warrant keeping the NJPIES toll-free hot line number handy:

- Trick-or-treat at homes of friends and neighbors you know—never accept candy or fruit from strangers.

- Supervise children when sorting and consuming candy—be sure all edible items are in original packaging, and are separated from inedible items.

- Always keep medications safely stored in locked cabinets and out of reach of children. Some medications, which come in various colors, look similar to and can be easily mistaken for candy.

- Wash hands thoroughly or use a hand sanitizer—this is especially important for trips to local farms for apple and pumpkin picking or feeding and petting farm animals.

- Avoid drinking fresh, unpasteurized cider.

- "Bee" aware—yellow jackets are often active around farms and garden centers during the warm days and cool nights of fall, especially around fallen

or rotting fruit. Those with sensitivity to stings should carry an antihistamine or bee sting therapy.

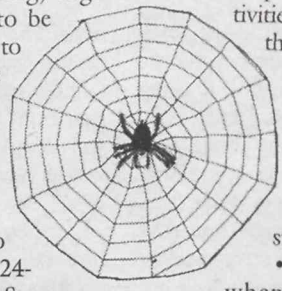
Dr. Marcus added that the most important thing is not to panic and to have the poison control center's hot line number close by—program it into home and cell phones for quick access. Help is just a phone call away.

Call to Action

NJPIES leaders urge medical professionals, parents, educators, caregivers and the general public to call the toll-free poison center hot line, (800) 222-1222, with any questions about Halloween safety or for any poisoning emergency.

NJPIES coordinates state poison education and research and is designated as the regional poison center by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services and the American Association of Poison Control Centers. It tracks incidences of adverse reactions to food, drugs and vaccines in order to monitor potential public health issues.

Residents seeking immediate information about treating poison emergencies should call the toll-free hot line, (800) 222-1222, any time. The hearing impaired may call (973) 926-8008. For more information, visit www.njpies.org or call (973) 972-9280.



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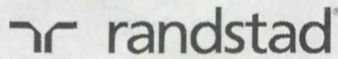
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Union High School Marching Band was the first place winner in Group IV, Class A Division.



Members of the South Plainfield High School Marching Band



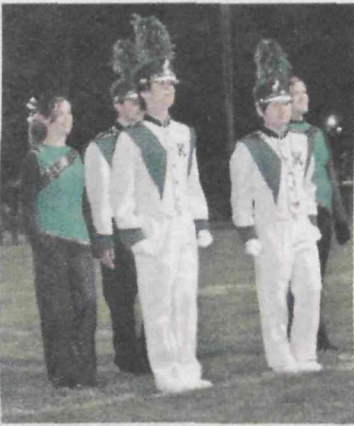
The SPHS Tiger Marching Band received the second place award for Group III Class A with a score of 82.400 at the Somerville High School USSBA Competition on October 22. The Drumline and Pitt received the award for best Percussion in Group III Class A.

Music Boosters Host 30th Festival

(Continued from page 1)

Band performed the 2011 program, "Fantasmic" with music from the Walt Disney World Spectacular.

The evening ended with a mass drum cadence, with the following schools joining the Tiger Marching Band drum line for the "PIRT" Drum Cadence (USSBA cadence): Watchung Hills Regional HS, Voorhees



HS and Westfield HS.

In order for this event to be a huge success it takes many long and hard hours of work. The Music Booster families truly did an extraordinary job this year and are thanked for all their dedicated hard work. These families have made many generous donations and put in long hours of preparation which started many months ago. They are a fantastic group of people who spent so much time to make sure that the 30th annual festival/USSBA competition was one of the finest that South Plainfield has ever hosted.

The Music Boosters would like to thank the following for their generous donations and support: Mayor Matthew Anesh, SPHS Principal Dr. James Pedersen, Ralph Errico, Bruce Mikolon, Joan Stasio and the SPHS Choir, SPHS administration, John F. Kennedy School, the Board of Education, Debbie Boyle, Office of Emergency Management-Mike Zushma and Mario Abbruzzese, SPHS Ath-

letic Department-Al Czech, Athletic Boosters, the PAL and Recreation Department-Kevin Hughes, the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, Police and Fire Departments, John Schurr, Lt. Kevin Murtagh, South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop, Music Booster alumni volunteers, Andrew Veiss and the middle school runners, our trophy sponsors, Angelo's Ice, The Boyle Memorial Foundation, Bruno's Pizza Factory, Carmen's Trattoria, Ciccio's Pizza, Dolce Pizza, Dunkin' Donuts, Herr's, Hometown Heros, KC's Korner, Nischwitz & Co., Pat Mahoney, Pizza Stop, Rich Mowery, Sam Ash Music, Sodexo, Tony's Pizza, Crisdel Construction and Stilo Paving.

Congratulations to the SPHS Tiger Marching Band, Drumline and Pitt. They competed on October 22 at Somerville High Schools' USSBA competition. The band placed second in Group III Class A with an overall score of 82.400. The Drumline and

Pitt took first place in Group III Class A Percussion.

The Tiger Marching Band will be competing again on Saturday, Oct. 29 at Hillsborough High School; please come out and show your support.

Important Dates to Remember:

October 29-competition at Hillsborough. Step off time: 2:20 p.m.; November 2-Music Boosters general meeting at 7 p.m. in the high school chorus room. All citrus fruit sales and Snackin in the USA orders are due; November 3-Music Booster Night at Red Robin Restaurant on Hadley

Road from 4 to 9 p.m. Red Robin will donate a portion of food sales to support SPHS Music Boosters when you present our flier. Print the flier from our web page at www.sphs-musicboosters.webs.com; November 4-home football game, Senior Night; November 5-Competition NJ States; November 13-USSBA Championships in Allentown, Pa.

All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend as they are throughout the year, to keep informed of all the Music Booster activities.

-Submitted by Donna Teller, president SPHS Music Boosters

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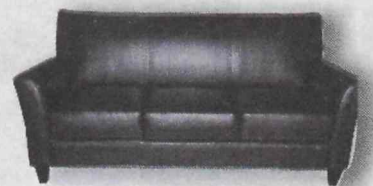


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