



SOUTHINGTON

THE OBSERVER

LOOK INSIDE

TERRYVILLE COUNTRY FAIR

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FREE

New selections set for Southington High Wall of Honor, Page 3

Town set to take the correct STEPS into the future, Page 4

Locals play well in annual CT-RI football game, Page 21

Continuing the renaissance

Officials face key decisions on Plantsville

By ROB GLIDDEN
STAFF WRITER

The Town Council examined designs for the Plantsville Renaissance Project during a special meeting Monday, and will have to make key decisions soon in order to move forward and potentially find grants for the initiative.

Engineers Eugene

Bolinger and Frank Dawidowicz of Weston and Sampson gave the presentation. The company was chosen for the design work last year.

With design and engineering costs combined, the project could cost approximately \$1.4 million. However, depending on decisions the council makes, the total cost may

be reduced. Some money, \$60,000 for design costs, had already been placed in Southington's 2008-09 budget.

The selected color of the sidewalks is "terracotta," a hue that blends red and gray. The Weston and Sampson design suggests

See PLANTSVILLE, page 17

West Street could boost tax base

Economic Development

**Editor's note-The following is the second article in a special five part series that outlines the economic development history of five key locations throughout Southington.*

By ROB GLIDDEN
STAFF WRITER

West Street is home to businesses, houses, churches and even an antique schoolhouse, but officials see it as full of potential for boosting Southington's tax base.

The street is one of Southington's longest, stretching from Plantsville to the Bristol border. The southern half is still almost entirely residential, while the northern end has undergone rapid development over the last several years.

The center of the activ-

ity has been the Northstar plaza, the current home of Target and Lowe's, both of which had their grand openings within the last year.

The tax revenue from Target was given some of the credit for the net increase in Southington's 2009 grand list despite a tough economy. Economic Development Coordinator Lou Perillo said eight more new businesses were slated

to join Target and Lowe's in that plaza, but the economic downtown had slowed the process.

"Once the economy comes around, it will spur even more development," Perillo said. "I see huge possibilities there. 74,000 cars a day drive on I-84 and go past Exit 31."

As the development in

See DEVELOPMENT, page 17



TAMMI KNAPIK

Lowe's is just one of the new businesses that has opened on West Street.



TAMMI KNAPIK

Officer John Marenholtz, left, participates in a training exercise as Sgt. Bobby Wilson looks on Monday afternoon. For more photos of the training, see page 20.

Police undergo virtual training

By ROB GLIDDEN
STAFF WRITER

Southington's police officers tested their mettle in several dangerous, high-pressure simulations, all safely within the confines of their headquarters on Lazy Lane.

The department spent two days training with an advanced law enforcement simulator, thanks to a free demonstration from Grey Wolf training specialists.

"This is fantastic training," said Sergeant Bob Wilson. "It gives officers a chance to react to real situations in a controlled environment."

The simulator uses live-action footage to present scenarios to officers, who are given modified guns which are meant to work within the program. The guns use an invisible

laser to interact with the footage and the computer is able to know exactly what (or who) the officer shoots.

A technician at the computer quietly manages

See POLICE, page 17

Local takes home crown

By MIKE CHAIKEN
Editions Editor

There is a new queen of Connecticut and she calls Southington home.

Twenty-two year old Sharalynn Kuziak, who was competing as Miss Constitution, was crowned as Miss Connecticut 2009 on Saturday. She was selected from a pool of 19 girls at the Garde Arts Center in New London in a scholarship pageant held from Thursday to Saturday.

Kuziak, a former Miss Southington, is a recent graduate of Quinnipiac

See Miss CT, page 4



MIKE CHAIKEN

Sharalynn Kuziak is Miss Connecticut.

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