

THE CLARK EAGLE

CLARK, N.J., VOL. 14 NO. 10

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2003

myclark.com

TWO SECTIO

Towering Santas adorn landscape

By David Learn
Managing Editor

Never mind blue plastic icicles, have you got a 10-foot Santa?

The jolly old elf is larger than ever this year and happens to be one of the fastest-selling Christmas decorations at Town Ace Hardware on Westfield Avenue. The business, after stocking up on 400 inflatable decorations, had only 50 left in stock on Monday night.

"It's been all about inflatables this year," said Augie Tobia, store owner. "I think it's a novelty. It's just different. It's never been out before. It's taken the place of some of the wire things that have been out."

The decorations this year have included the Christmas-hating Grinch, giant teddy bears, supersize sleds and snowmen in all shapes and sizes, including parent snowmen with their little — at least by comparison — snowchildren.

Made from parachute canvas, the inflatable decorations stand anywhere from 8 feet to 12 feet high and can range in cost from \$39.99 to \$75.99. Lit from inside, the decorations self-inflate when they've been plugged in. Add a timer and you can even make Santa magically rise from the ground like clockwork.

They're also sturdy, owing to the material they're cut from. If Santa tears his sleeve on a fence, he can be stitched back together and will reinflate, even if he's not airtight.

"This will last," said Tobia. "You'll get a couple years out of it."

Turned off by the craze for inflatable giants? No problem. Other crazes linger from Christmas past, like the wire-frame reindeer and even the blue plastic icicles, and the perennial holiday decorations remain, particularly trees and all their trimmings.

"Right now, it's still a little slow," said Bob Juzefyk, who with Jayne Bonner is selling Christmas trees for Juzefyk Tree Land in the parking lot of Bartell Farm and Garden Supplies on Central Avenue. "It's still a little early and the weather hasn't been helping."

Juzefyk sells the three classic kinds of Christmas tree — the Fraser fir, known for its bluish tint and long-lasting needles; the Douglas fir, prized for long needles and a full appearance; and the balsam fir, valued chiefly for its small size.

Then there's that other kind of Christmas tree, the one immortalized in the 1965 TV special "A



Photos By Reena Rose Sibayan

Charles Chiarello of 12 Janie Lane anchors his inflatable Santa Claus to the ground of his front lawn. This is Santa's second year with the Chiarellos, who had hoped to add something different, such as a penguin sitting on an igloo.

Charlie Brown Christmas." It's the small, unassuming tree that gets overlooked amid all the glitz and glamour of the bigger firs.

"It's funny, because we do have people who come in and want the 'Charlie Brown tree' because they don't want it to be the last tree on the lot," said Bonner.

A Charlie Brown tree — properly called a tabletop tree — goes for about \$15. Larger evergreens that can be potted for outdoor Christmas festivities can go for as much as \$125.

"The majority of the people when they come in usually know

what they want," said Bonner. "Or they say, 'I want to spend \$30. Find me a tree.'"

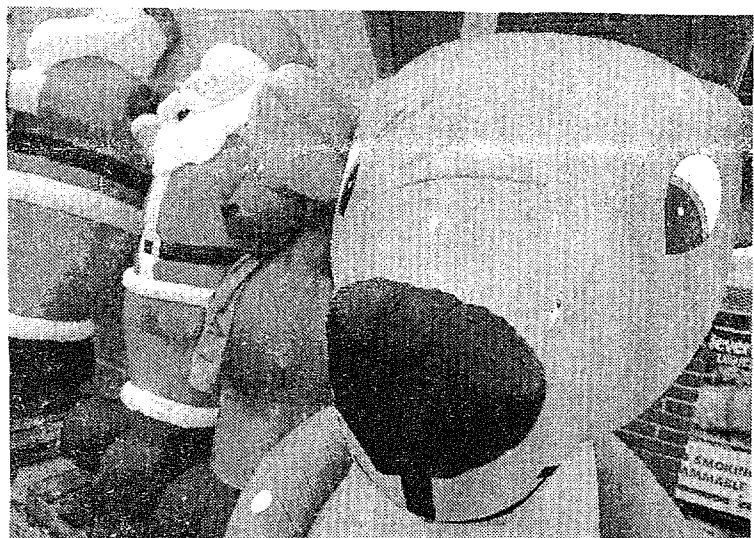
Unlike the venerable Christmas tree, which some histories say has been shaped by British and German royalty and even by Protestant reformer Martin Luther, the giant inflatable Santa Claus probably will not leave a lasting influence on Christmas celebrations.

"Like all things, it will run its course, when they come out with something different," Tobia said.

Still, that day hasn't come yet. Love them or hate them, the giant inflatable Santa Clauses are merely the forerunner of what it is to come.

As the fad builds, stores that sell them will bring a number of other inflatables to the market. Look for giant birthday cakes, oversize flamingos and enormous Easter bunnies in the spring, star-spangled Mickey Mouses and other larger-than-life patriotic displays by Independence Day.

"It began to get popular last year," said Tobia. "Basically, what you had out there last year was Santa and a couple snowmen. This year, they've just taken off."



For those hoping for a larger-than-life Christmas display, there's always this dashing inflatable creature. And Clement St. Moore thought they were 'tiny reindeer.'



An inflatable soldier from 'The Nutcracker Suite' stands guard at the exit from Town Ace Hardware on Westfield Avenue.

Snow heralds winter

By David Learn
Managing Editor

For a brief blessed time Tuesday, Clark was filled with the magic of the first snowfall of the season.

The unexpected flurry hit around 11 a.m. and left only a dash of snow on lawns and rooftops to mark its passing. For those who enjoy the boundless opportunities of winter, it was enough.

"I love it. I love this weather," said Beth Adamusik as snowflakes spun through the air outside her Armstrong Drive home. "It's the beginning of the holiday season, and I have a (sport utility vehicle), so I don't mind driving around in it."

Two hours later, the snow had melted, a victim of the vagaries of early-winter weather.

The snow flurries, which led to accidents and a tangled mass of commuters in Mercer and Sussex counties, had their origins in a storm system that brought a mass of cold air from the north.

'I love snow. I love the coldness. I love the whole thing.'

— Beth Adamusik

"You'll have a lot of cold air aloft and some unstable air, and you'll get these squalls forming," said state climatologist David Robinson at Rutgers University. "But as soon as they're done, the sun comes out and it melts away."

At its peak, the flurry masqueraded as a blizzard, sharply reducing visibility and dropping a half-inch of snow in some parts of the state in just 15 minutes.

In Clark, that tantalizing whiff of winter was enough to conjure visions of skiing, toboggans and snowmen for those, like Adamusik, fortunate enough to catch it.

"I want to get the snow stuff out and hit the slopes," said Adamusik. "I love snow. I love the coldness. I love the whole thing."

Unfortunately, as exciting as it might be to go on a toboggan ride at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside, or to shed wet, besnowballed winter clothes in the mud room before tramping off to find a mug of hot chocolate, the time for such things has not come.

Winter lovers dreaming of rolling snowmen in the front yard on a white Christmas will have to content themselves with those dreams a little while longer. It might snow this weekend, or it might not.

"Right now the best I can say is there's a threat of a storm in the area," said Robinson. "This time of year, whenever you get that threat, your first thought is rain or snow."

Council fights gas tax

By David Learn
Managing Editor

Local motorists opposed to a proposed 12.5 cent gas tax increase can take comfort in this — the Township Council doesn't like it either.

The council plans to pass a formal resolution opposing the proposed tax when it meets Dec. 15. The resolution, which has the support of the entire council and mayor, has no official effect on how the state Legislature will vote on the proposal.

"I think they'll probably push it through next year," Council President Jim Ulrich predicted.

A commission appointed by Gov. James McGreevey recommended the increase in the gas tax to boost the state's Transportation Trust Fund, which provides revenue for the state's annual capital roads projects, including rehabilitation of the state's highways and bridges and other improvements to the state's transportation infrastructure.



Photo By Barbara Kokkalis

Firefighters John Mueller and Greg Ofenlager use the Fire Department's meter equipment to check the carbon monoxide levels near the department's gas range, a common source of carbon monoxide.

Carbon monoxide detectors urged

By David Learn
Managing Editor

It is colorless, odorless and deadly. "It" is carbon monoxide, a gas that poisons by entering the bloodstream and preventing the body from absorbing oxygen. More than 500 Americans die from carbon monoxide poisoning each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

Despite an upswing in carbon monoxide alarm activations, there are no recorded deaths from carbon

monoxide poisoning in Clark.

"We've had instances where it was a good thing they were there," said Clark Fire Official Frank Cerasa.

Officials credit the increase in carbon monoxide-related calls — mostly false alarms — to an increased awareness of carbon monoxide poisoning, mixed with an unfamiliarity with how the alarms actually work.

"When they go off, maybe the people aren't as educated as what to do with these," said Cerasa. "We get a lot

of simple calls, where the battery's dying."

The Legislature earlier this year passed a law requiring carbon monoxide detectors as a condition of house sales.

The law, which took effect April 7, makes homeowners responsible for having a functioning carbon monoxide detector in the home before it can be sold.

Carbon monoxide detectors previously had been required only for

See CARBON, Page 2

Keep the Homecoming fires burning



Photo By Reena Rose Sibayan

The flames burn hot, but not out of control, as they consume a stack of wooden pallets at the Arthur L. Johnson High School Homecoming bonfire on Nov. 26. A trio of Clark firefighters stand at a safe distance to supervise.

Welcome to THE EAGLE

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The Eagle is published every Thursday by Worrall Community Newspapers, an independent, family owned newspaper company. Our offices are located at 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. Call us at one of the telephone numbers listed below:

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The Eagle has a large, well read classified advertising section. Advertisements must be in our office by Tuesday at 3 p.m. for publication that week. All classified ads are payable in advance. We accept Mastercard, Visa, American Express or Discover. A classified representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Please stop by our office during regular business hours or call 800-564-8911, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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The Eagle is equipped to accept your ads, releases, etc. by fax. Our fax lines are open 24 hours a day. For classified please dial 973-763-2557. For all other transmissions please dial 908-686-4169.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by The Clark Eagle to inform residents of various community activities and governmental meetings. To publicize your community events, mail your schedule to: The Clark Eagle, Attn: managing editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union, NJ 07083.

Today

- Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will show "Cider House Rules" at 1 p.m. as part of its film series on movies adapted from books. There is no charge for the program.
- For more information contact Director Maureen Baker Wilkinson at 732-388-5999.
- The A.L.J. Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Arthur L. Johnson High School library.
- For more information, call Jim Molloy at 732-388-4543.
- The Clark Senior monthly meeting will be held at 1 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Senior Center, 430 Westfield Ave.
- Free blood pressure, blood sugar and quick cholesterol testing will be available before the meeting, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call Lillian B. Krov. 732-381-3823.

Saturday

- Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will host a book launch and book signing for Municipal Historian Brian Toal's new book, "Clark" from 1 to 4 p.m.
- The library is selling the book for \$19.99, with proceeds benefitting Friends of the Clark Public Library.
- Sunday
- Mother Seton Regional High School alumnae will celebrate the school's 40th anniversary with a liturgy at 2:30 p.m., and a reception in the school's gymnasium from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- The school is trying to locate all alumnae for its 40th anniversary event. Graduates who have not received an invitation to the event are asked to call the Development Office at 732-382-1952.

Wednesday

- Mother Seton Regional High School, Valley Road, will hold an informal open house from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. for all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade girls planning to enter high school in the near future, and their parents.
- There will be an opportunity to tour the school, examine the curricular and co-curricular programs, investigate transportation and meet with administration, guidance and faculty members.

Upcoming Dec. 11

- Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will show "The Client" at 1 p.m. as part of its film series on movies adapted from books. There is no charge for the program.
- For more information contact Director Maureen Baker Wilkinson at 732-388-5999.

Dec. 13

- Clark children from birth to 10 years old are invited to the township's fourth annual Breakfast with Santa.
- The breakfast will be held 9 to 11 a.m. at Gran Centurions, 440 Madison Hill Road. There is no charge to attend.
- To register, call 732-388-3600.
- The Starlite Choral, a mixed adult chorus, and The Starlite Sparklers, a children's choir, will present "Home for the Holidays" at 7:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 559 Raritan Road.
- Tickets cost \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and nothing for children. For ticket reservations, call 973-667-9575.

Dec. 14

- The Starlite Choral, a mixed adult chorus, and The Starlite Sparklers, a children's choir, will present "Home for the Holidays" at 4:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 559 Raritan Road.
- Tickets cost \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and nothing for children. For ticket reservations, call 973-667-9575.


Dec. 15

- The Township Council will meet at 8 p.m. in council chambers, 315 Westfield Ave.

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Carbon monoxide detectors urged

(Continued from Page 1)
apartment buildings and hotels.
"People should definitely have them," said Cerasa. "If they don't, they should get them."

Carbon monoxide can be found in combustion fumes, such as those produced by cars and trucks, stoves, gas ovens and heating systems.

In enclosed spaces, carbon monoxide from these sources can reach poisonous levels. Carbon monoxide poisoning manifests itself in flulike symptoms like headaches, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain and confusion.

High levels of carbon monoxide can lead to unconsciousness and ultimately to death.

Because the symptoms mirror other illnesses, people suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning may be unaware of the cause of their symptoms if they do not have carbon monoxide detectors.

To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, the CDC issues common sense precautions like never heating a house with a gas oven or running a generator in an enclosed space like the basement or garage.

The risk of carbon monoxide poisoning also can be reduced through the regular maintenance of gas-burning appliances such as the stove, furnace and water heater and having chimneys annually cleaned.

EDUCATION

Patel in competition for national scholarship

Dipal Patel, an Arthur L. Johnson High School senior, has been nominated to compete in the national Principal's Leadership Award scholarship program, sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Principal Robert Taylor of Arthur L. Johnson High School recently announced the nomination, which places Patel in the national competition. One hundred fifty national PLA winners will be chosen this spring to receive \$1,000 college scholarships.

Nominees were selected based on their leadership skills, participation in service organizations and clubs, achievements in the arts and sciences, employment experience and academic record. They also were required to write an essay.

In recognizing leadership in co-curricular activities as well as academic performance, the scholarship recognizes the importance of a well-rounded education. Co-curricular activities are an essential part of the school curriculum.

While at Arthur L. Johnson, Patel has been a peer leader, treasurer of the National Honor Society, vice president of the Key Club, a member of the volleyball team, as well as a National Merit Commended Student.

She plans to attend college in the fall to study genetic engineering.

Edison Rotary Club cites Mulcahy of Clark

Shea Mulcahy, a resident of Clark, was honored as senior of the month at a Nov. 12 breakfast by the Rotary Club of Edison.

This recognition is given to a student who exhibits outstanding community service.

Mulcahy is an honors student at St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen.

N.J. Schoolmasters Club inducts Paul Palozzola

Paul Palozzola, director of special services for the Clark School District, was inducted as a member of the New Jersey Schoolmasters Club at its October meeting.

Palozzola has state certification as a supervisor/principal, school administrator and school business administrator.

For more than 80 years, the New Jersey Schoolmasters Club has been enhancing the professional lives of its members by providing a social environment for educational leaders to promote opportunities for fellowship, networking, sharing ideas and learning.

As a member of the New Jersey Schoolmasters Club, Palozzola will benefit from the experiences and expertise of fellow school administrators.

AT THE LIBRARY

Film series highlights books-turned-movies

Many of the books people have enjoyed have been turned into feature films by Hollywood.

Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will feature some of these films in a program for adults at 1

p.m. Thursdays. There is no charge for the program.

Seniors can use the Clark Seniors Bus for transportation to the library for the program.

Remaining films in the series are:

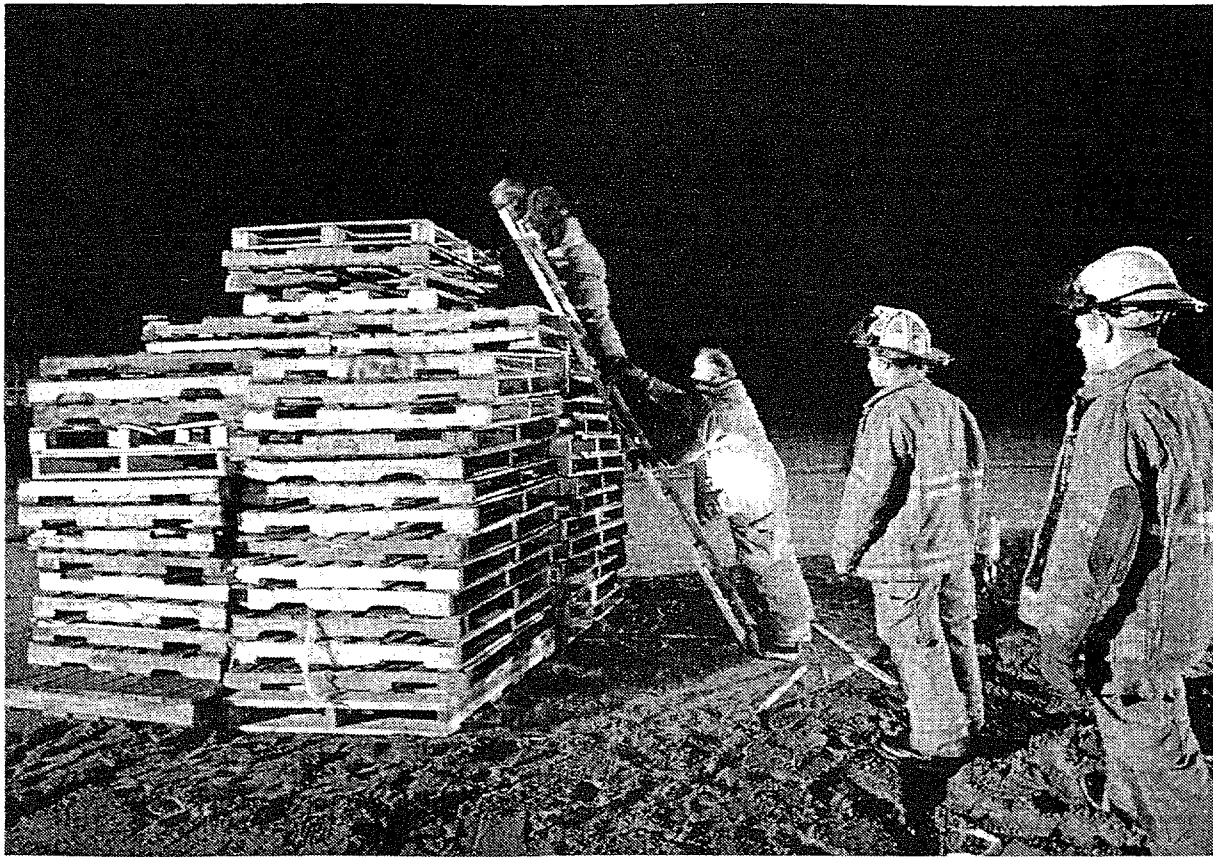
- "Cider House Rules," today.
- "The Client," Dec. 11.
- "Circle of Friends," Dec. 18.

Reserve must-read books from a home computer

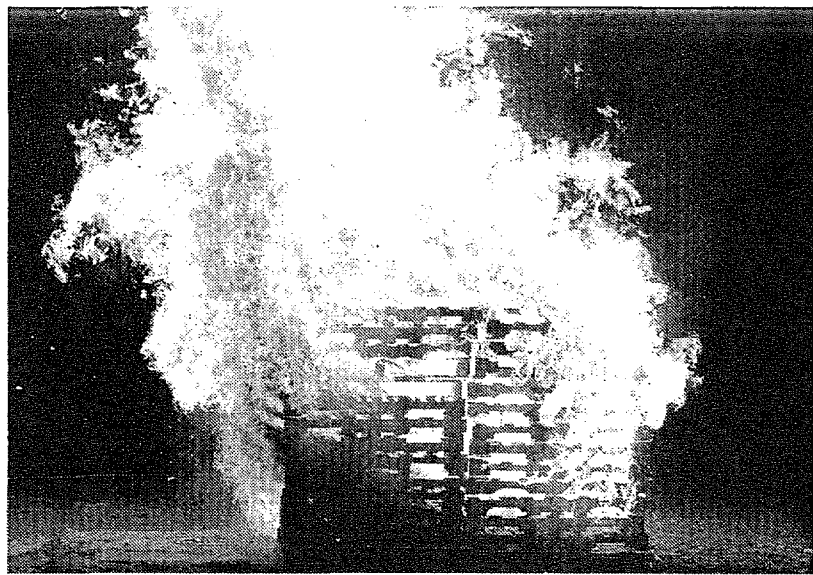
Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., offers a remote service that allows library cardholders to place reserve holds on books from their own home computer.

For more information, call 732-388-5999.

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From atop a ladder, firefighter Scott McCabe pours diesel fuel onto a stack of wooden pallets to prepare the wood for the Arthur L. Johnson High School Homecoming bonfire Nov. 26. Standing by to assist are other Clark firefighters.



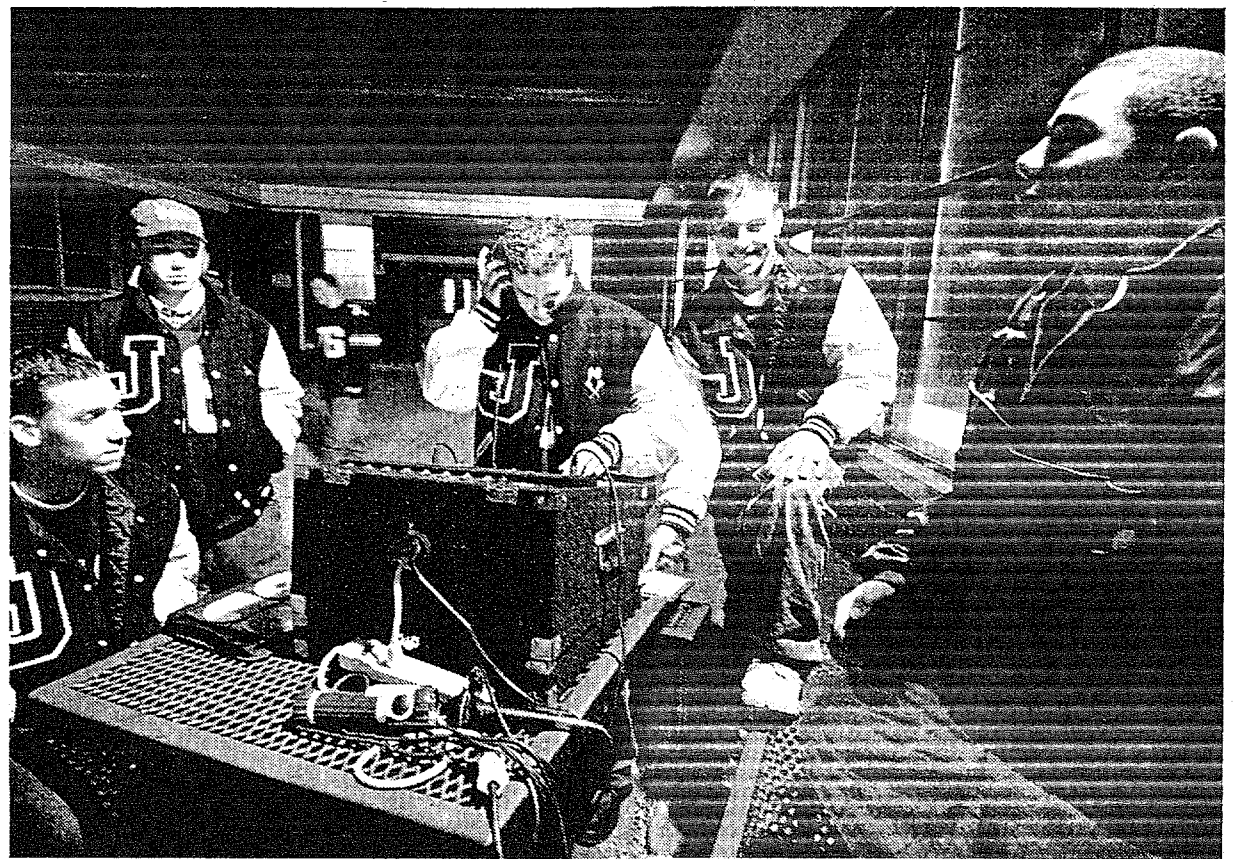
Wood cracks and splinters as it is consumed by flame during the annual Homecoming bonfire. The flames climb high into the night, casting the field into brilliant relief.

Fires of Homecoming

Photos By Reena Rose Sibayan



Flames from the bonfire cast flickering light across the face of an Arthur L. Johnson High School student as he watches through the safety of a chain-link fence.



In addition to the ever-popular spectacle of the bonfire, Homecoming on Nov. 26 featured music brought to attendees by Jeff Smith and Mike Siessel, center, and their Crusader teammates, Ray Dobroski, Joe Dudas and Mark Washington, all juniors.

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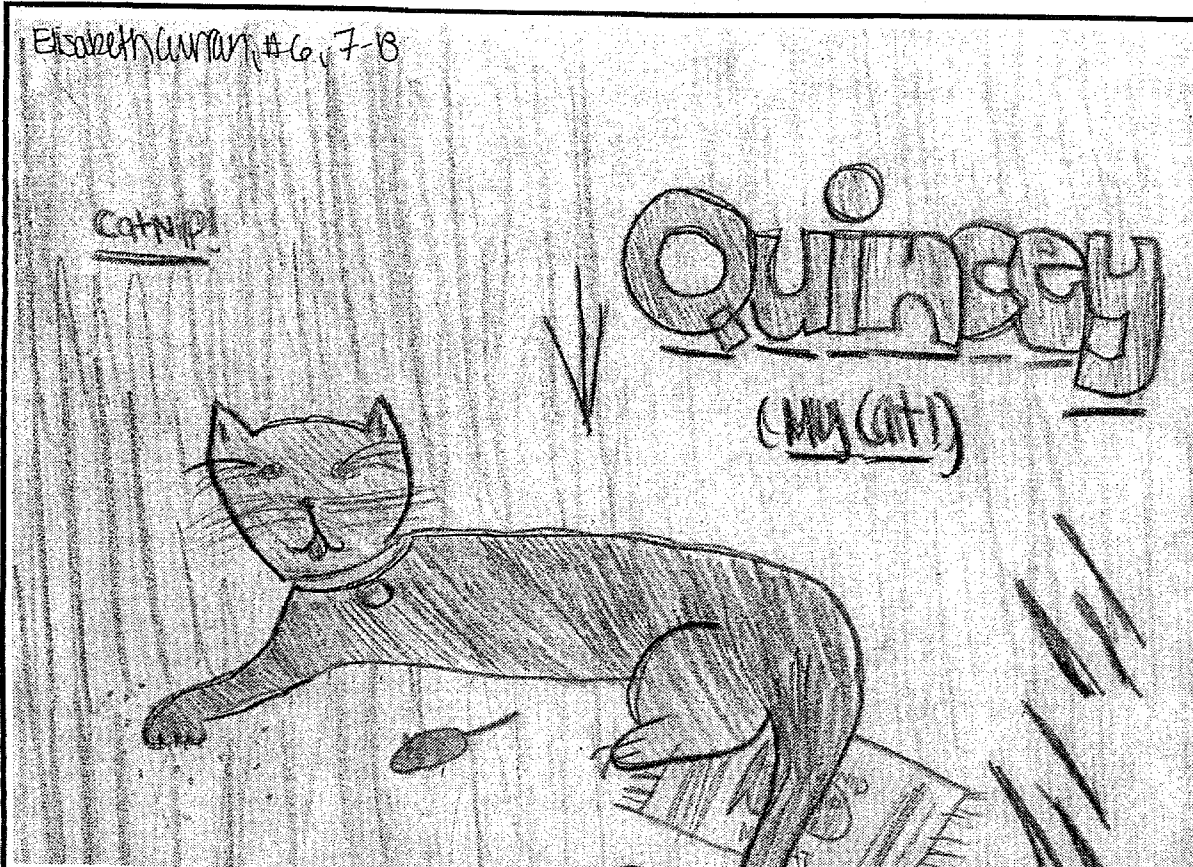
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EDUCATION



The Christmas tree that the cat tore up

My best holiday memory, by far, was Christmas about two years ago. Recently, we had found and brought home a young, adorable, and of course, energetic kitten who we decided to name Quincey. For that Christmas, we got him tons of gifts—almost more than we got for my sister and myself.

Christmas Eve finally came and we placed Quincey's presents —

which consisted of catnip, fluffy toys, and delicious kitty treats — under the tree.

In the morning when we went downstairs, we saw Quincey, along with his toys, which were unwrapped, clawed up, and scattered all around.

We guessed that our kitten found his toys and decided to play. The living room was a wreck as

well. There were evergreen branches all over the floor, catnip everywhere, and even some tiny claw marks.

My parents were a little upset, but my sister and I thought it was pretty funny and eventually my parents did too.

I think this is the best holiday memory I've ever had.

— Elisabeth Curran

Cherished gift keeps past Christmases alive

My favorite holiday memories are always around Christmas. I guess that's because that's when you're closest to your family.

Every year, since I was little, we have gone to my great-aunt and great-uncle's home in Lakehurst. Everyone from my dad's side of the family would be there, and we would exchange gifts and have a Christmas dinner.

There's one Christmas I remember in particular, when I was about 7 years old. We were giving and receiving gifts at my aunt and uncle's house, and my aunt gave me a small diamond angel in my birthstone color.

It's probably my favorite thing that my aunt has ever given me for Christmas. I'm not sure why it meant so much to me, but it did and still does. I still have it, of course, but a few accidents have happened to it over the years, such as the wings falling off.

Every time I look at it I think of my family, and I remember all the Christmases that I have had and will still spend with them. I don't even know if the angel is real or not, but it doesn't matter to me at all because the thought is what makes it so special.

— Blaire Fraser

The year Santa's pants ripped on the fireplace

I remember walking down the steps early one peaceful Christmas morning. The snow was falling outside and our tree was shining and decorated.

My sister and I hurried down the steps and found our presents and our stockings filled.

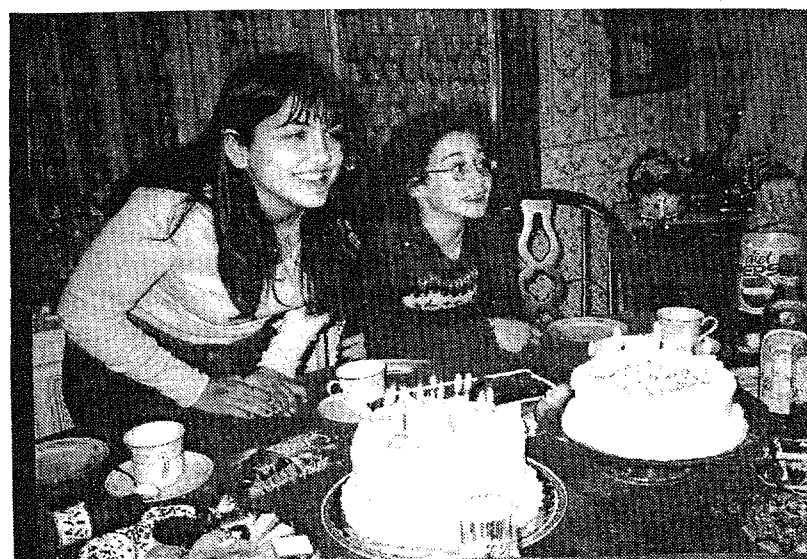
We searched around for signs of Santa Claus. We noticed that our cookies, cheese, and carrots we left for Santa and his reindeer were all gone.

Then my sister Laura discovered red fabric attached to the fireplace, where we assumed Santa had ripped his pants.

Before my family arrived we played in the snow while my mom was getting things ready for them.

My dad built igloos and a Dumbo replica out of snow in the back yard, and then we all had a snowball fight.

It is my birthday as well as my cousin Joanna's on Christmas, and when she and the rest of my family arrived, we hastily unwrapped all of our Christmas presents. Our family then ate antipasto, lasagna, meatballs, and sausage.



Later we unwrapped our birthday presents and ate dessert, which was birthday cake, cannoli and other sweets.

We joked around, listened to

Christmas music, and we stayed up late.

That Christmas was filled with joy and happiness and also was the best Christmas I ever had.

This page contains some of the favorite holiday memories of students of Jennifer Brooks at Orange Avenue School.

New brother helps make the day better

The best presents come in small packages.

When I was in third grade I had two sisters and another sibling on the way. Then, on Dec. 22, 1999, I received an early Christmas present: My brother Daniel was born. I was so happy that I got a brother and not another sister.

The next day I had a very important job, to tell the whole world that I had a new brother. My mom and new brother came home from the hospital the day before Christmas.

The next day we had my whole family over for Christmas dinner and



of course the star of the show was Dan. That year I received the best Christmas present ever and it did not come from a box with bows.

— Emily Luppino

A magical holiday at Disney

My favorite holiday memory is Christmas 1999, when all my family decided to go to Disney World for two weeks.

We had a limousine come to our house and take us to the airport. The hotel was decorated with many lights and beautiful Christmas decorations. We stayed at the Coronado Springs inside Disney. I won a special-edition Mickey Mouse collectible at the hotel.

On Christmas Day, every single guest of the hotel received a gift, and we went to see a Christmas show

every night. We had a special dinner and a heated swimming pool. I had the most fantastic time of my life.

We went to the parks one hour earlier than the general public and did not have to wait in long lines. The decorations at Disney were amazing, and the best part was that when I returned home, another limousine was waiting for us.

At home, I had more presents waiting for me, and my family. It was a Christmas that I will never forget.

— David Hummer

Growing into the holiday

My favorite holiday memory occurred in the Christmas season of 1995, when I was 5 years old. That Christmas season stands out prominently in my mind because it was the first time I fully appreciated all the effort that went into making Christmas a special time for my sister, Alicia, and my brother, Trevor. (Tess, our little sister hadn't been born yet).

I suddenly realized that decorating the tree and hanging up the wreath were almost as fun as unwrapping

gifts. It was also the first time I was awake enough to take a walk around the block to look at the candles in small paper bags on our neighbor's front lawns.

Though I can't remember all the presents I received from my family that year, I remember the greatest gift that anyone could give me is doing something out of the pure goodness of their heart. It not only feels excellent when you are doing it, but feels even better later, and pays off.

Playing at Secret Santa

My favorite holiday memory is from when I was 10 years old. It was great!

My family got together on Christmas Eve, it is like a family tradition.

Every year, one month before

Christmas we gathered and put all my cousins' name in a bowl and pick it out. On Christmas, we gave the person we got a present without telling them before, and then we gave them the Christmas present.

Hanukkah bag is special

My favorite holiday memory was when I celebrated Hanukkah. When I was 3½ I made a Hanukkah bag with my mom. Together we decorated a white pillowcase with fabric paints. We designed a gold menorah with pink and blue candles and yellow flames.

A menorah is a candelabra that holds nine candles to celebrate Hanukkah. You light one candle each of the eight nights with the *shamash* or the helper candle. The bag also has a

Jewish star and the date of 1994.

Every year since then, I still use this bag to get presents. Instead of wasting wrapping paper, my mom puts one present every night in the bag.

After we light the candles and say the prayers, my brother and I get out Hanukkah bags. I get very excited to see what my present is.

My Hanukkah bag makes celebrating very special to my family and me.

— Emily Montouri

The best present ever given

It was Christmas Eve; I was on the computer with my mom looking for the kind of dog we might buy. We were mostly looking to buy a West Highlander white terrier. We were supposed to get a dog the day after Christmas.

I was so excited. I had desperately wanted a dog ever since I was 2 years old. Actually, my first words were dog-dog. I was suspicious, so I asked if I was getting a dog sooner. Like today? They said, "No after Christmas."

That night my mom and dad made sure that I was in my room early. They told me to get some sleep. They didn't want me to be tired for Christmas. I fell asleep quickly. I awoke around three, in the morning, to check and see if Santa had been here. I heard a noise.

I looked out the window and I saw my dad and my uncle drive up in his car. I quickly ran up the stairs but sat watching them. They came in the door. My dad had something in his arms.

Was it a hamster, cat, or could it possibly be a dog?

It was a dog — not a Westy, but a different kind of dog. A small fluffy kind of dog with eyes so blue I could see them in the dark. I raced up stairs and went back to bed. I couldn't sleep. I thought the next day would never come.

The next morning I awoke and ran to my parents' room. My mom was there alone. My dad was downstairs making breakfast. My mom and I went downstairs together. I looked at the Christmas tree but there was no dog. Could I have been dreaming?

I sat on the floor and looked around. All of a sudden, the dog I saw the night before came running into the living room from the kitchen. It was an Australian shepherd. We named her Aussie.

Aussie is now 2 years old. She has grown bigger but she is still the best holiday memory ever.

Family makes day special

My favorite holiday memories are from when I was 10, Christmas 2000.

Our kitchen was being redone so we had to have everything in our basement. We usually get a 7-foot tree to put in our living room, with the stockings hung from the mantle and little people and houses sitting on top.

That year, we had a little tree about half the size, stockings hanging on different poles, and we could not think of a place for the houses and people. That

did not stop us from having a great Christmas.

So, on Christmas morning, we all got up, went to the basement and opened our presents. For some bizarre reason or another, Christmas was better than ever!

That year, we all realized that it did not matter if you had a 7-foot tree, a 4-foot tree or even no tree at all. All that matters is who you share it with.

— Liz Stapleton

Magic Christmas snowfall

My favorite holiday memory is from last year, on Christmas Eve. In my family, we spend Christmas Eve with my dad's family, and we had been home from dinner for a little while, playing with the gifts we had received.

It was around 11:30, and my mom decided we should all go to sleep. A tradition in my house is to read "The Night Before Christmas" before we go to sleep on Christmas Eve.

My mom had just finished the story, and we were starting to go upstairs and get ready for bed, when I opened the shade on the window. I looked out, and I saw snow, something I do not think I have ever seen on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

I called my brothers and my mom, and we stood there for a second, watching the magic of Christmas. That is my favorite holiday memory.

— Dana Fanelli

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COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

Talks affect more than union

As the Board of Education and Clark teachers begin talks for the teachers' next three-year contract, there are two other groups that need to be considered during negotiations: students and taxpayers.

It's far too easy for teachers' unions to use students as negotiation hostages during protracted talks. That was the case in the Clark School District three years ago, when teachers stopped providing students with after-hours help; and it has been the case in many other districts where teachers have resorted to tactics such as refusing to write recommendations for students to submit with applications for college and scholarships.

When that behavior rears its ugly head, it's not just irresponsible, it's downright cruel. It uses students, who have no involvement in contract negotiations, as a bargaining tool, and if it goes on long enough, it can affect negatively their chances of getting financial aid and which schools they can enter. It's also important to remember the strength of the relationship between children and their teachers. While few of us can remember more than a handful of movie stars from 10 years ago, nearly all of us can recall with little effort the teachers we had from kindergarten through 12th grade, whether good, bad or indifferent. To exploit that relationship for negotiating leverage is inexcusable, and sends an unthinkable amoral message to students about how to get what they want.

School board members also must deliver a contract that recognizes the importance of good teachers and solid education, without giving away the farm. Teaching is one of the noblest of professions and teachers usually deserve far more than they are paid — but something has to be done about the skyrocketing cost of health insurance. Employee contributions for health benefits, and co-payments for prescriptions and for doctors visits are the norm rather than the exception in the private sector; it is time that employees in the public sector bore a similar share of their insurance costs. Board members must be firm and hold to this as negotiations get under way in earnest.

When all is said and done, the contract talks now beginning are one of the most significant triennial events in the township. The condition of our schools and the quality of the education schools provide for our students are our insurance for the future of Clark.

Shop locally

The holiday season has begun. And with Thanksgiving falling late on the calendar, the number of available shopping days are fewer than most years. Christmas Day, after all, is just three weeks away.

A survey released last week by the Conference Board, the Manhattan-based business analyzer, indicates consumer confidence is growing; in fact, consumers felt better about the economy in November than they have in more than a year. This news is promising for local merchants; however, whether it will translate into a boost in holiday sales at the retail level is never easy to predict. But one thing is certain this December just as it has been every December. The stores will be crowded, parking spaces will be scarce, and most of us will be spending plenty of time walking the aisles of retail establishments.

May we make a suggestion? Visit our local shops. Spend time shopping in those very same stores you know and trust and that have served you and your family so well.

No shopping plan is complete without a trip to our local stores. These are the merchants who serve us all year long. They know our family. They know our town. They know what's happening in our schools. They will take the time to answer our questions because we are neighbors. Throughout the year, they have tried to stock their shelves with products they know we need and want. The December holiday season is no different. A visit downtown to these shops just might surprise you.

And commercial districts become so festive during the holidays. Lights decorate the trees and shop windows. Traditional music often can be heard. Special events are to be seen. It's a wonderful time to visit and see what your local neighborhood merchants have placed on display for the 2003 holiday season.

"The media [are] the most powerful entity on earth. . . . They have the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent . . . because they control the minds of the masses."

**—Malcolm X, activist
1963**

The Eagle

Your Best Source for Community Information
Published Weekly Since 1999

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HELP ON THE COURT — Bob Farrell of Clark, head coach of Seton Hall Preparatory School, third from left, is helping other area residents organize the Scholarship Basketball Festival, a high school boys triple-header to be held at Yanitelli Center in Jersey City on Jan. 4. Six parochial school teams will play to benefit The Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children. For more information, call 973-497-4279. Also pictured are MetroTV broadcaster Mike Curci, St. Benedict's Preparatory School head coach Dan Hurley, and SFIC trustee Bill Fitzpatrick of Westfield.

State commission gives rail plan rubber stamp

Testifying before the Blue Ribbon Transportation Commission, I hoped for understanding that the reinstitution of archaic rail freight service at street level to carry marine cargo and trash out of Staten Island would create commuter gridlock at road crossings and along track shared with passenger rail throughout Northern New Jersey.

I had hoped that state Department of Transportation Commissioner Jack Lettiere would understand that existing freight lines like the Lehigh Valley, Erie-Lackawanna and the Reading and those planned for reactivation like the Rahway Valley and Staten Island were laid out through farmland more than a century ago, and that 50 years of disuse had caused the freight lines to be displaced by a road and rail commuter economy that is both fragile and already overtaxed.

I had hoped that the commission would understand that the unrelenting movement of marine cargo and trash trains across local streets and commuter rail lines would result in tens of thousands of hours of lost productivity as commuters waited for the passage of freight trains, immense amounts of air pollution from idling vehicles and locomotives, and significant losses of truck and automobile capacity on roadways as areas near freight movements become impassable.

Instead, the commission's report reads like a rubber stamp for endorsement of a DOT wish list so that Gov. James McGreevey could distance himself from the accompanying proposal for increasing the state gasoline tax by 12.5 cents per gallon.

Point of View

By William Fidurski

Unfortunately, the DOT is willing to move port-related projects forward without any environmental impact studies, despite the far reaching consequences to northern New Jersey.

If these plans go forward, New Jerseyans will have the ignominious distinction of paying additional taxes so that Staten Island can ship imported goods and trash to Roanoke, Scranton, Pittsburgh, Buffalo and Montreal, on the Staten Island and Rahway Valley railways in Union County, across the Raritan Valley Line in Cranford and Roselle Park; on the Lehigh Valley through Union, Middlesex, Somerset and Hunterdon counties; along the Reading System from Port Reading to Bound Brook; on the Passaic and Harsimus; on the Morris and Essex; and on the Erie-Lackawanna through Summit, Morristown, Dover and beyond.

Those unaware of the local impacts of increased freight movements over time may want to consider that movements along the Reading System would block Route 35 near Woodbridge Public Library. That shipping on the Rahway Valley would block Route 22 in Union. That the Gladstone Branch already has a freight stop at a chemical company in Berkeley Heights and a currently

unused freight siding in Millington. That the commuter trains on the Morris and Essex are already experiencing delays from equipment failures. That the Lehigh Valley crossing in Westfield already causes gridlocking conditions. That the Raritan Valley commuter line at Cranford shares track with both the Lehigh Valley and Staten Island Railway freight lines.

For our trouble, we will sit in commuter gridlock in our trains and cars along the affected routes.

As things stand, by 2010, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey plans to double the amount of marine cargo brought through the harbor area, increasing the annual number of truck containers by 2.2 million, more than 6,000 additional truck containers each day.

Public concern over the impact on local road and rail can be expressed at open meetings today at Newark's East Side High School, Jan. 13 at Jersey City's Cordero School and Jan. 15 at Bayonne City Hall. The need for additional meetings in affected communities along freight lines should be clearly stated for the meeting record.

Although planners at the Port Authority have been looking at impacts caused by port operations in terms of truck movements, the Port Authority needs to consider the vehicular impacts it creates from personnel movements, service vehicles and port-dependent operations cited for port-related economic contributions.

"Economic benefits" of port expansion need to be considered in relation to increases in air pollution and lost productivity, including losses

to all commuters, related to delays caused on road and rail and any job losses caused by "modernizing operating practices and equipment" and "modifying working practices."

In addition, considering the fact that container traffic in the port has doubled since 1991, ports along the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway system, such as Montreal, Buffalo and Chicago, might be better served by more efficient and less impactful rail facilities at the Port of Halifax, rather than forcing heavy freight through one of the most densely populated areas of New Jersey.

Diversion to Halifax would also support the ongoing scoping study for channel and lock improvement in the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence system, which would provide efficient, environmental and economical access of container ships to ports along the northern tier as far west as Duluth.

For that matter, considering the traffic congestion in northern New Jersey, options for alternative-deep-water-port development in the Northeast, such as on the Delaware Bay near Camden, could be more viable.

Furthermore, given the DOT's intention to use the proposed gas tax increase to fund rail freight development to force port cargo through city, suburban and rural municipalities, our state legislators need to be told that there should be no increase in the gas tax.

William T. Fidurski is the Clark Environmental Commission chairman.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Freeholder pay raises no surprise

To the Editor:

It is with no surprise that I read in the Nov. 20 edition of your newspaper that the Union County Democrat freeholders have again proposed salary increases for themselves and the department heads. With all the political advertising that they did during the last campaign, I never did see the salary increase proposal advertised in their literature.

While property tax was touted as being a top priority issue during the campaign, the taxpayers who again voted these people into office took the bait with a bigger bite. Instead of trying to decrease the county budget, which would be very easy to do, the freeholders are simply ignoring their responsibilities to the public.

The average worker in the public sector is not receiving a 6-percent salary increase this year like the county manager. By implementing such high increases, they are setting a precedent whereby all county employees would expect to receive the equivalent. The county must have torn a page from the teachers union's play book.

Kevin Retcho
Linden

AARP has violated its commitment

To the Editor:

The AARP, also known as the American Society for Retired Persons, has continually violated its commitment to its members.

During the past five years, the AARP national dues have been raised two times without any input from the general membership. Now, the hierarchy of the AARP at its posh headquarters in Washington, D.C., complete with its president, William Novelli, who earns about \$300,000 per year, together with other highly paid executives, have suddenly switched their weeks of opposition to officially approving the disastrous Congressional bill for revising Medicare and providing an expensive scheme for senior citizens to obtain prescription drugs.

My dues have been paid, but my fellow members and I have not been asked for our opinions on this issue. AARP members, particularly those who belong to local AARP chapters around the state of New Jersey, plus many senior citizen clubs, are steadfastly questioning and protesting many of the revisions contained in the Congressional bill. Many members are tearing up their membership cards or letting their already paid dues expire.

Affordable Medicare, as we now know it, will be virtually abolished for the middle class. The only persons who will benefit more are those who have less than \$6,000 in assets and/or those with incomes below the so-called poverty level. A built-in feature will be millions to be spent for the health care of aliens. There will be an option to privatize Medicare so that private insurance companies will be able to sell health benefit deals with escalating premiums. Among those offering health benefit insurance is the AARP, which also promotes sales of bonds, automobile insurance similar to AAA, and other commodities.

AARP tries to pass itself off as being the spokesman for retiring persons and works desperately to direct the senior citizen vote at the polling places to follow its recommendations. It forgets that the older person has a great deal of wisdom and has spent years researching, analyzing and making prudent individual decisions. The AARP has very little influence on molding the minds of older persons, and it should consult with its general membership on major decisions.

Hazel Hardgrove
Springfield

Remember Salvation Army this year

To the Editor:

At this time of the year, most people focus their thoughts on the upcoming holiday season. Stores are stocked with winter merchandise, decorated trees are on display and lists are made so that no one is forgotten. Yet there will be many people without a gift, warm clothes or even food on the table. And, there are a number of people who will be without shelter, living on the streets and in alleys.

The Salvation Army strives to help people in need, 365 days a year. Our annual red kettle appeal, from mid-November to Dec. 24, provides the funds we use all year long, not just for the holidays. We rely on your generosity and pray that this year, you will be able to help even more. Our corps locations, throughout New Jersey, have seen a dramatic rise in the number of people asking for help. The Salvation Army can only provide the help that is needed, if our kettles are full this Christmas.

To learn more about The Salvation Army in New Jersey, I invite you to visit our Web site, www.salvationarmynewjersey.org. For information on other ways to help, please call Tricia Pellegrini at our Divisional Headquarters in Union, 908-851-9300.

Major Stephen Banfield
NJ State Commander

WHAT? WHY?

HERE'S A CHANCE for all readers to share their answer to questions presented in this column. We will publish responses a week later. Send comments or suggest another question to WHAT and WHY, P.O. Box 3109, Union, N.J. 07083 or e-mail to editorial@thelocalsource.com. Please include your town name.

SHOULD THE SUPREME COURT REMOVE "ONE NATION UNDER GOD" FROM THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND DECLARE IT UNCONSTITUTIONAL?

RELIGION

Hadassah lauds member for lifetime of service

The Northern New Jersey region of Hadassah will present its annual Myrtle Wreath Awards recognizing the Women of the Year at a celebration brunch on Sunday at the Venetian in Garfield.

Each of the 40 chapters in the region has designated a Woman of the Year for her outstanding activities. The Roselle-Cranford chapter of Hadassah has chosen Harriet Scheiner.

She has been a life member of Hadassah for 25 years; her involvement has been a family affair. Scheiner's husband, Max, is an associate, and her daughter and four granddaughters are all life members.

Her participation in Hadassah, activities includes "bulk card" chairwoman, and co-chairwoman for the donor dinner for 12 years.

As a means for increasing the chapter contribution to Hadassah she was instrumental in changing from an outside caterer for the donor dinner to in-house catering thus increasing the contribution to \$2,750.

Her contribution to the community includes, active membership in Temple Beth-El Mevor Chayem for 35 years, and maintaining the Judaica gift shop for 12 years. Her activities in the wider community included preparing soup in the local churches for the homeless.

U.S. Sen. Jon Corzine, and Letty Cottin Pogrebin, an author and advocate for women's rights will also be honored at the brunch.

Hanukkah celebration holds special tribute

Roselle-Cranford Chapter of Hadassah will hold its annual Hanukkah party at 8 p.m. Tuesday, at Temple Beth El Mevor Chayim, 338 Walnut Ave. The public is welcome.

The program will feature a tribute to the men in the members' lives. Refreshments will be served.

Hope for the holidays extended to the grieving

Since many people find that the holidays can be lonely and or painful, First Presbyterian Church of Cranford

invites the community to A Day of Healing and Hope from 3:30 to 9 p.m. Sunday.

The featured speaker will be Susan Corso, author of "God's Dictionary" and founder of the Web-based spiritual community, Sanctuary.

The program will be presented in four components including a preliminary workshop, a light meal, and a healing service in our sanctuary followed by a fellowship time at the end of the evening.

Reservations are requested for the workshop and/or meal and can be made by contacting the church office at 908-276-8440.

St. Michael's collects gifts for the needy

Heard of a Giving Tree? St. Michael's Parish will have a St. Nicholas gift-giving shrine during the first weeks of Advent.

This shrine will contain a statue of St. Nicholas and will be located inside the sacred space of the church building.

In addition to the statue, this shrine will contain candles with labels naming gift items for a needy person.

Parishioners are invited to take a candle home, purchase the gift stated on the candle and return the gift to the church.

All gifts donated will be given to Cranford Family Care, Catholic Family Services and the Cerebral Palsy League. Gifts will be delivered Dec. 15.

Collection of gifts will begin at Mass at 5:30 p.m. Saturday and continue through noon Mass on Dec. 14.

For more information, call the church office at 908-276-0360.

Walk the Labyrinth and uphold tradition

First Presbyterian Church of Cranford is sponsoring an ongoing series of open labyrinth walks.

The next labyrinth walk is scheduled for Sunday. Participants are invited to come and walk the Labyrinth any time between 1 and 4 p.m., but walks should begin by 3:30 p.m. so they can finish by 4 p.m. Walks are held the first Sunday of every month.

Walks will be held in Bates Hall in First Presbyterian Church, 11 Springfield Ave. The community and surrounding towns are invited to participate.

Walking the labyrinth is an ancient spiritual practice of prayer and meditation. For more information the labyrinth walks, call the church at 908-276-8440.

Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news: Church, club and social - Thursday noon.

Entertainment - Friday noon.

Sports - Monday noon.

Letters to the Editor - Monday 9 a.m.

General - Monday 5 p.m.

Holiday shopping



Trailside Nature and Science Center volunteer Veronica Evans of Cranford gets some holiday shopping done at the annual Nature Craft Show last year. This year the craft show will join the holiday tree lighting at Watchung Stables from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. In addition to the shopping, visitors can enjoy barn tours, a petting zoo, roaming holiday singers and demonstrations by the Watchung Mounted Drill Team, beginning at noon. Highlighting the afternoon will be Santa's arrival at 1 p.m. and the tree lighting at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Trailside Nature and Science Center at 908-789-3670 or Watchung Stables at 908-789-3665.

EVENTS

Historical society marks Christmas Victorian way

Cranford Historical Society will celebrate 'A Victorian Christmas' from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday at the Crane-Phillips House Museum, 124 N. Union Ave.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on hand at the historic cottage, where children will be able to have their pictures taken with Santa for \$3.

Visitors will see how Christmas was celebrated in the 19th century and how homes were decorated before the era of electric lights and plastic.

Beautiful, natural, garden-fresh decorations will adorn the "little house." Visitors will see theme trees and learn about Victorian kissing balls. They will also see antique toys, 100-plus years old, that ran on child power and imagination instead of batteries.

Another highlight of the day will be fine Victorian Christmas caroling. Members of the First Presbyterian Church choir will be on hand to perform traditional Christmas carols.

Children will also be able to gath-

er around the tree and hear "Henry Phillips" read Clement C. Moore's famous "A Visit From St. Nicholas."

And "Kate Phillips" will be there visiting her Uncle Henry and Aunt Cecelia for the holidays and will be able to show children her room.

It will be an entertaining way for the entire family to kick off the holiday season, and it will give children a chance to see what the holidays were like when their great-grandparents were small.

The Crane-Phillips House Living Museum is open 2 to 4 p.m. Sundays September through June.

Hillside School presents annual winter concert

Hillside Avenue School will present its annual elementary winter concert at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11. The orchestra, chorus and band will perform.

There also will be a senior citizens performance under the direction of Halpern, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Dec. 19. Coffee and cake prepared by the Stitching and Stirring Club will be served.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

APOSTOLIC
CORNERSTONE APOSTOLIC
CHURCH

Currently meeting at St. Luke's Episcopal Church
398 Chestnut Street, Union, NJ 07083
Pastor Michael Gibney
973-912-0522 or web site:
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Services: Sunday 11AM, Thursday 7:30 PM
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PENTECOSTAL
TRINITY PENTECOSTAL
HOLINESS FELLOWSHIP

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm Midweek Service. Sun. 10am Nursing Home Ministry. Sun. 11 am Sunday School. Sun. 6:30pm Worship. Sat. 7:30pm Pentecostal Prayer. (Call for location information)

Pastor Frank Sforza
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Traditional Worship Service: Sunday - 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Youth Group: Sunday - 6-8 p.m.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

ST. LEO'S CHURCH 103 Myrtle Ave., Irvington, 372-1272. Schedule for Masses: Saturday Eve. 5:30 p.m., Sunday 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. (Spanish); Weekdays: Monday to Friday: 7:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 12 noon. Saturdays: 8:00 a.m., 12:00 noon. Holydays: Eve 7:30 p.m., Holyday: 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 12:00 noon. Miraculous Medal Novena: Mondays following the 12:00 noon Mass and at 7:15 p.m. Sacrament of Penance: Saturday: 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. and following the 5:30 p.m. Mass.

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Connie Sloan
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SPORTS

Sports Numbers
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THIS IS H.S. FOOTBALL

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

Union last won in 1993.
Scotch Plains' only playoff title came in 1990.

Both towns will be representing Union County football Saturday in East Rutherford, playing in back-to-back sectional championship games.

Union (10-1) will face Piscataway (8-3) in the North 2, Group 4 final at 4:30 p.m. before Scotch Plains (10-1) lines up against Ridge (10-1) in the North 2, Group 3 title game at 7:30.

Union has won the most playoff titles in North 2, Group 4 with 10 and has a 10-3 record in the title game, which it last appeared in in 1996.

Scotch Plains, which has won a school-record 10 games, defeated West Morris 25-12 in the 1990 North 2, Group 3 final for its only playoff championship.

As many as nine of the 16 football playing schools in the county finished with winning records, while Johnson finished an even .500 at 5-5.

Elizabeth (6-4) lost four games in the regular season for the first time since 1980 when it finished with a 4-5 mark. That was Elizabeth's last sub-.500 campaign as the Minutemen now have a streak of 23 consecutive winning seasons.

The Watchung Conference champions are Union in the American Division and Scotch Plains in the National Division.

The Mountain Valley Conference champs are Immaculata in the Mountain Division and New Providence in the Valley Division.

Immaculata and Ridge will be leaving the MVC. Immaculata won the Mountain Division for the seventh straight season and captured the crown 16 times in its 22-year run in the MVC.

Roselle Park, which finished one game better than last year with a 4-6 mark, will enter the 2004 season with a two-game winning streak after gaining victories over Metuchen and then Roselle on Thanksgiving.

Hillside improved a great deal, going from 2-8 to 6-4 and making the state playoffs.

NJSIAA FINALS (2)
Saturday, Dec. 6
at Giants Stadium
in East Rutherford
North 2, Group 4
8-Piscataway vs. 2-Union, 4:30
North 2, Group 3
7-Ridge vs. 4-S. Plains, 7:30

THANKSGIVING SCORES
Wednesday, Nov. 26 (1)
Immaculata 35, Rahway 0
Thursday, Nov. 27 (7)
Union 14, Linden 7
Scotch Plains 6, Elizabeth 0
Spotswood 31, Johnson 15
Hillside 18, Brearley 12
New Providence 10, GL 0
Roselle Park 13, Roselle 12
Plainfield 9, Westfield 7
Summit and Cranford seasons were complete.

NJSIAA FINALS PICKS (2)
Union 14, Piscataway 13
Scotch Plains 21, Ridge 12
Last week: 6-2
This year: 89-25-1 (.781)

UNION COUNTY
1. Union (10-1)
2. Scotch Plains (10-1)
3. Summit (9-1-1)
4. Plainfield (7-3)
5. Elizabeth (6-4)
6. Cranford (8-3)
7. New Providence (8-3)
8. Westfield (4-6)
9. Hillside (6-4)
10. Brearley (6-4)
Johnson (5-5)
Gov. Livingston (4-6)
Roselle Park (4-6)
Rahway (2-8)
Linden (2-8)
Roselle (1-9)

Soccer standouts



The Cranford Lightning 10-and-under traveling boys' soccer team went 7-1-2 and outscored foes 45-20. Coached by Barbara El-Khoury and Randy Muckenthaler, the squad was trained by MetroStars midfielder Mark Lisi. With Lisi, from left, are Sean Babos, Randall Muckenthaler, Joseph Joyce, Michael Zanfardino, Glenn Heller, Jeffrey Francis, Sean McGovern, George El-Khoury, Ian Henry, Danny Weber, Johnny Albert and Dean Vogel. Team members not in picture are Derrick Hoff and Eric Pawlick.

Cranford ice hockey to face Mendham in Cron Tourney

One of 8 teams that will vie for the crown

The 21st annual George T. Cron High School Ice Hockey Tournament will commence Monday night at 6 at the Warinanco Ice Skating Center in Roselle.

Eight of the best ice hockey teams in New Jersey will compete at the Warinanco rink, located in Warinanco Park, a facility of the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation.

The first round schedule is as follows:

Monday: Old Bridge vs. Summit, 6 p.m.

Morris Knolls vs. Westfield, 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday: West Essex vs. St. Joseph's, Mont., 6 p.m.

Cranford vs. Mendham, 8:30 p.m.

The second round is scheduled to commence Thursday and then continue on Dec. 15.

The semifinals are set for Dec. 16 and the finals will take place on Dec. 17.

Spectator admission to the tournament is \$2 for adults and \$1 for those 17 and under.

Warinanco Ice Skating Center is located off Thompson and Seventh avenues in Roselle and can also be approached from the St. Georges Avenue and Park Street entrances to Warinanco Park.

More information about the tournament may be obtained by calling 908-298-7850.

Johnson finishes 5-5 after falling short vs. Spotswood

Heeren closes with 163 yards rushing, 2 TDs

By Jeff Wolfrum
Staff Writer

Despite a 31-15 loss to visiting Spotswood on Thanksgiving Day, the Johnson High School football team received a great effort from senior running back Don Heeren, who rushed for 163 yards on 26 carries and scored twice.

It was the first Thanksgiving Day meeting between the schools.

With the loss, Johnson finished its season at 5-5, while Spotswood ended with a mark of 9-2.

Spotswood, which was coming off a loss to New Brunswick in the Central Jersey, Group 2 semifinals, needed less than a minute to score on its opening possession.

Senior running back Nelson Stryker, who rushed for 175 yards and scored two touchdowns, galloped for 26 yards on the first snap from scrimmage to bring the ball to the Johnson 38. On the next play, Stryker found a hole up the middle and scored, virtually untouched, to give Spotswood a 7-0 lead with 11:21 remaining in the first quarter.

Early in the second quarter, Spotswood padded its lead to 10-0 after James Corbett booted a 29-yard field goal.

However, the Crusaders responded much to the joy of the 450 fans in

attendance at Nolan Field, when Heeren capped off a five-play, 71-yard drive on a 14-yard scamper to close the deficit to 10-7.

Spotswood would go into halftime up 17-7 after senior quarterback Danny Osofsky connected with Gene Scheicher on a nine-yard touchdown pass on a slant pattern over the middle.

The five-play, 71-yard march was keyed by a 35-yard completion from Osofsky to Derek Katcher at the Johnson 38.

Osofsky, who completed five-of-14 passes for 144 yards and two touchdowns, hooked up with Katcher early

JOHNSON (5-5)

(H) Johnson 41, Roselle 0

(A) Johnson 35, Roselle Park 7

(H) Immaculata 7, Johnson 6

(A) Ridge 33, Johnson 14

(A) Johnson 35, Rahway 7

(H) Johnson 16, Gov. Liv. 14

(A) Hillside 27, Johnson 20

(A) North Plain. 41, Johnson 14

(A) Johnson 20, Freehold Boro 16

(H) Spotswood 31, Johnson 15

Record: 5-5

MVC-Mountain: 3-4

Home: 2-2

Away: 3-3

Points for: 216

Points against: 173

Shutouts: 1

in the third quarter on a 75-yard touchdown strike. Corbett banged in the extra point to up Spotswood's lead to 24-7.

Stryker then closed out the Chargers' scoring early in the fourth quarter when he added a 21-yard touchdown run. Corbett hit the PAT and Spotswood was ahead 31-7.

Midway through the fourth quarter, Heeren added a 23-yard scoring run to bring the score to its 31-15 final.

NOTES: Johnson began the season with convincing wins over Roselle and Roselle Park to extend a winning streak to 10 games.

The Crusaders were then edged by Immaculata 7-6 at home, with all of the scoring coming in the first half.

Johnson was also bested by Ridge, Hillside and North Plainfield in Mountain Valley Conference-Mountain Division competition.

Like Spotswood, Immaculata, Ridge, Hillside and North Plainfield qualified for the state playoffs.

Immaculata, which finished 8-2, and Ridge will be leaving the MVC.

Immaculata won the Mountain Division for the seventh straight season (1997-2003). Johnson won the crown in 1995 and 1996.

Immaculata won the Mountain Division a total of 16 times during its 22-year run in the MVC.

Cranford's Zuravnsky scores for Muhlenberg

Helps lift men's hoop squad

Freshman guard Brian Zuravnsky, who starred at Cranford High School, helped the Muhlenberg College men's basketball team to one of its best offensive outputs ever in the consolation game of the Mules' season-opening Scotty Wood Tournament.

Zuravnsky played the final nine minutes at point guard and scored three points while committing no turnovers as Muhlenberg toppled Elms (Mass.), 115-68 on Nov. 23. The 115 points matched the most scored by the Mules since the 1971-72 season and were six shy of the school record.

Zuravnsky is one of nine freshmen on a young Muhlenberg team that has no seniors.

Last season, Zuravnsky helped lead the Cougars to their first sectional championship since 1959. Cranford finished 18-11 and reached the Group 3 state championship game for the first time, falling to Franklin 66-59 at Rutgers.

Zuravnsky scored 18 points in the North 2, Group 3 final against top-seeded Mendham, which was a 70-69 win at Plainfield.

He poured in 15 in Cranford's 73-63 victory against Northern Highlands in a Group 3 semifinal in Vernon. Against Franklin, Zuravnsky scored 18.

Basketball festival features some of state's top squads

St. Patrick's High School of Elizabeth, last winter's NJSIAA Tournament of Champions winner, and St. Anthony's of Jersey City, the 2001 and 2002 state title holder, will highlight the field at the inaugural Scholarship Basketball Festival to take place in Jersey City on Jan. 4. The Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children (SFIC) Board of Trustees announced that this high school basketball event to benefit inner-city children will take place at St. Peter's College's Yanitelli Center.

The Scholarship Basketball Festival will feature six of New Jersey's top boys' basketball programs in a tripleheader to raise funds to assist low-income families to pay tuition at parochial schools in Essex, Hudson, Union and Bergen Counties.

"St. Patrick's is very excited to be playing in the inaugural Scholarship Basketball Festival. The event promises exciting basketball for fans and will raise awareness of the excellent work of the inner-city parochial schools and the Scholarship Fund in helping many low-income families with tuition assistance," commented Kevin Boyle, a long-time coach and teacher at the Elizabeth school.

Boyle starred in high school at Johnson, helping lead the Crusaders to the 1981 Union County Tournament championship as a senior.

Bob Hurley, coach of the St. Anthony's team which was won eight Tournament of Champions titles in the 16-year history of the NJSIAA playoff format added, "I am personally excited that the inaugural Scholarship Basketball Festival will take place in Jersey City at St. Peter's College which has been the venue for many terrific basketball games over the years. The Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children is a very worthy cause which has helped hundreds of Jersey City children over the last two decades," said Hurley, who is also Jersey City's Director of Recreation and is entering his 32nd year as head coach of the Friars.

The tripleheader will take place at the Yanitelli Life Center, located on Kennedy Boulevard on the campus of St. Peter's College. The 1:30 p.m. opening game will feature St. Anthony's versus perennial Jersey Shore power Christian Brothers Academy. Seton Hall Prep of West Orange will challenge St. Patrick's in the second game. Local favorite Hudson Catholic will go up against a very talented squad from St. Benedict's Prep of Newark in the third game.

Event director and SFIC Trustee Bill Fitzpatrick announced that tickets went on sale and can be purchased through the event's new website: www.BasketballFestival.com and through the Scholarship Fund office at 973- 497-4279. Game-day ticket prices are \$25, \$12 and \$8.



File photo

The Johnson High School football team, sparked by the play of senior defensive linemen Michael Kretchmer (No. 60) and Kevin Webb (No. 64), here combining their efforts to bring down an Immaculata runner earlier in the year, finished the season with a 5-5 record.

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All donations will be distributed to local charities, including Derek Jeter's Turn 2 Foundation.

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Fire department responds to Oak Ridge Road residence for alarm

The Fire Department was dispatched to an Oak Ridge Road residence for a fire alarm at 3:35 a.m. Nov. 16.

A second floor hallway smoke detector had been activated for no apparent cause. The fire alarm could not be reset and the homeowner was instructed to contact the fire alarm company to make the necessary repairs.

The Fire Department responded to a Central Avenue bank for a fire alarm at 7:30 a.m. Nov. 18.

Upon arrival, there was no alarm sounding and the occupants in the

FIRE BLOTTER

bank were unaware of any alarm activations. Firefighters determined the alarm system was malfunctioning.

The Fire Department was dispatched to a Raritan Road church for a fire alarm at 4:59 p.m. Nov. 19.

A smoke detector in a basement bathroom had been activated for no apparent reason.

The Fire Department responded to a 911 call at a Madison Hill Road residence reporting a carbon monoxide alarm at 9:57 p.m. Nov. 21.

Carbon monoxide readings by the Fire Department did not indicate the presence of any measurable carbon monoxide concentrations in the residence.

Elizabethtown Gas Co. responded to the scene to determine whether repairs were necessary.

The Fire Department responded to Fairview Road and Mountainview Drive for a report of an odor of natural gas at 9:53 a.m. Nov. 22.

No odor was found in the area, but firefighters asked Elizabethtown Gas Co. to respond to the scene to ensure that there were no problems.

The Fire Department responded to a Mae Belle Drive residence for a 911 call at 7:06 p.m. Nov. 25 reporting an activated carbon monoxide alarm.

Carbon monoxide readings did not detect any measurable concentrations in the residence. Elizabethtown Gas Co. responded to the scene to determine whether repairs were necessary.

The Fire Department responded to a Walnut Avenue office building for a report of two occupants trapped in an elevator that was stuck between the third and fourth floors, at 7:45 a.m. Nov. 26.

Power to the elevator was turned off and the occupants were let out on the fourth floor.

The Fire Department responded to a Briar Heath Lane residence for a report of a grease fire at 2:15 p.m. Nov. 27.

The fire was extinguished before the Fire Department arrived.

The house was ventilated with a fan to remove smoke.

The Fire Department responded to a Parkway Drive residence for a report of a fire alarm at 5:05 p.m. Nov. 2.

Firefighters determined that a

smoke detector had been activated by some excess smoke from a fire in the fireplace.

The Fire Department responded to a Goodmans Crossing apartment at 10:38 p.m. Nov. 29 for a 911 call reporting an activated carbon monoxide alarm.

Carbon monoxide readings by the Fire Department did not indicate the presence of any measurable carbon monoxide concentrations in the residence.

Elizabethtown Gas Co. responded to the scene to determine whether any repairs were necessary.

NEWS CLIPS

Fund-raiser aims to help measles victims in Africa

The American Red Cross Tri-County Chapter will work with Barnes & Nobles Bookstores in Clark to raise money to help the Youth Council and Youth Services Department to support the Measles Initiative.

The Red Cross will have donation boxes set up next to gift tables to receive donations for the Measles Initiative.

To volunteer, call Victor Webb Jr. at 908-756-6415, ext. 21. Scheduled times to volunteer will be 4 to 10 p.m. Tuesday.

Mention days available and shifts to work.

Each year, measles kills nearly 1 million children, including a half-million in Africa alone.

This makes measles the largest vaccine-preventable cause of death among children in Africa — more than AIDS, more than tuberculosis, and more than malnutrition.

In a place where health conditions are extremely poor, living conditions are more than difficult and access to health care is minimal, measles easily can be prevented with a simple vaccination that costs less than a dollar per child.

Visit the Measles Initiative Web site at www.measlesinitiative.org for more information.

Tapestry, photo artists exhibit at Skulski Gallery

Skulski Art Gallery of the Polish Cultural Foundation will present an exhibit of tapestry by Nina Kedzierska and photography by Jim Hons, through Dec. 19.

Shoplifter nabs items from Rite-Aid

POLICE BLOTTER

Someone stole a car trailer from a Walnut Avenue business overnight Nov. 18.

The business is located at 29 Walnut Ave., an address for both Partners in Printing Inc. and Halcyon Roofing Solutions. Police did not say which business owned the stolen car trailer. No other information was available.

A Bienko Court resident complained to police that the home's mailbox had been damaged by vandals, at 9:32 a.m. Nov. 20.

Separate incidents also were reported at a Raritan residence Road at 3:51 a.m. Nov. 21, and at a residence on Emerald Place and Gibson Boule-

vard at 9:50 a.m. Nov. 24. Police described those incidents only as criminal mischief, and did not supply any details.

In a third incident of criminal mischief, a Lexington Boulevard resident complained of vandalism to a motor vehicle. A similar incident was reported at 6:34 a.m. Nov. 24, on Linda Lane.

Police arrested a Winfield woman at Annandale Correctional Facility at 9:39 a.m. Nov. 20.

Police identified the woman as Sandy Gouvela, 21, of 4C Pacific Drive, but did not specify the warrant under which she was arrested. Gouvela was taken to Union County Jail.

A Linden man wanted for contempt of court in that city was arrested at 6:11 p.m. Nov. 20 at Brant and Westfield avenues.

Police identified the man as Stephan Poggiolo, 40, of 431 Academy Terrace. No other information was released.

A Crowne Plaza hotel employee reported her purse had been stolen, at 10:03 p.m. Nov. 20.

Police arrested Marlin Pritchard, no age or address listed, at the Glen Ridge Police Department on unlisted moving violations at 12:18 p.m. Nov. 21.

Pritchard was taken to Union County Jail in lieu of \$500 bail.

A customer at Target complained that somebody had stolen money from her purse, at 8:11 p.m. Nov. 23.

Unlisted items were reported stolen from a Raritan Road business, at 1:43 p.m. Nov. 11.

Police did not indicate the value of the stolen items.

OBITUARIES

Evelyn L. Terpak

Evelyn L. Terpak, 74, of Clark, formerly of Rahway, died Dec. 1 in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway.

Born in Providence, R.I., Mrs. Terpak lived in Rahway for 50 years before moving to Clark.

Surviving are a daughter, Diane Kimsey; a sister, Marian Marbach; and three grandchildren.

Elzbieta Jarosz

Elzbieta Jarosz, 96, of Clark, formerly of Union, died Nov. 21 in Union Hospital.

Born in Poland, Mrs. Jarosz came to the United States in 1966 and lived in Newark and Union before moving to Clark in 1992.

She was a member of the Rosary Society of St. Casimir Church, Newark.

Surviving are two sons, Bronislaw and Stanislaw; two daughters, Romuakia Wozniak and Janina

Falkowski; 10 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

Mildred Spatz

Mildred Spatz, 86, of Union, formerly of Clark, died Nov. 21 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Newark, Mrs. Spatz lived in Clark before moving to Union 19 years ago.

She was a member of both the Sara Slifer Organization and the Organization of Rehabilitation through Training in Union.

Mrs. Spatz was secretary of the Senior Citizens and past president and secretary of the Hadassah, both in Clark.

Surviving are a son, Sheldon; a daughter, Linda LaBelle; and two grandchildren.

Dennis Gillen Jr.

Dennis E. Gillen Jr., 69, of Ocean Grove, formerly of Elizabeth and Clark, died Nov. 24 in Jersey Shore Medical Center, Neptune.

Born in Elizabeth, Mr. Gillen lived most of his life in Clark before moving to Ocean Grove four years ago.

He was a box man at Caesar's Palace, Atlantic City, for 19 years and retired in 2000.

Previously, Mr. Gillen owned and operated Denny's Liquors, Elizabeth, for more than 20 years until 1979.

He was an Army veteran of the Korean War. Mr. Gillen was a member of the Ocean Grove Fishing Club.

Surviving are his wife, Patricia; a son, Dennis J.; a daughter, Linda Gillen Preston; a sister, Marita Cassi; and two grandchildren.

Bessie Lubowitz

Bessie Lubowitz, 98, of Berkeley Heights, formerly of Clark, died Nov. 25 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Mrs. Lubowitz lived in Newark and Clark before moving to Berkeley Heights.

Minnie Koznetzow

Minnie Koznetzow of Clark, formerly of Linden, died Nov. 25 in the Clark Rehabilitation Center.

Born in Hoboken, Mrs. Koznetzow lived in Linden before moving to Clark two years ago.

Surviving are a daughter, Edith Lampert; a son, Howard; seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Edward Genowitz

Edward A. Genowitz, 81, of Clark died Nov. 25 in the Village at Sullivan Trail, Forks Township, Pa.

Born in Hillside, Mr. Genowitz lived in Clark for several years.

He was a maintenance man for Jiffy Manufacturing Co., Franklin Township, for 40 years and retired in 1986.

Mr. Genowitz served in the Navy during World War II.

He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in Brick and the

Landing Ship Tank, a national organization.

Surviving are a son, Mark, three grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Stanley Guteri

Stanley Guteri, 66, of Toms River, formerly of Clark, died Nov. 26 at home.

Born in Elizabeth, Mrs. Guteri lived in Clark before moving to Toms River nine years ago.

She also maintained a residence in Old Orchard Beach, Maine.

Surviving are her husband of 50 years, Harold; a daughter, Kathleen Romzie; three sons, Robert, Thomas and William; and 11 grandchildren.

Ann Hammell

Ann (Elizabeth) Hammell, 53, a lifelong resident of Rahway, who

served as a substitute teacher in Clark, died Nov. 28 in Trenton Hospital.

Miss Hammell was a substitute teacher in Rahway, Clark and Linden for many years.

She graduated from Kean University, Union, where she received a bachelor's degree in English.

Surviving are a son, Christopher; her mother, Ella Hammell; and three brothers, Don, Tom and Paul.

Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news: Church, club and social - Thursday noon. Entertainment - Friday noon. Sports - Monday noon. Letters to the Editor - Monday 9 a.m. General - Monday 5 p.m.

Save your newspaper for recycling.

Aspiring artists



Nichola Correia and Kyle Gregorio were two of the winners of a recent "Pumpkins and Poems" Halloween contest at Valley Road School, where students were encouraged to decorate original pumpkins and write poems about Halloween. More than 200 students participated in the contest sponsored by the school PTA.

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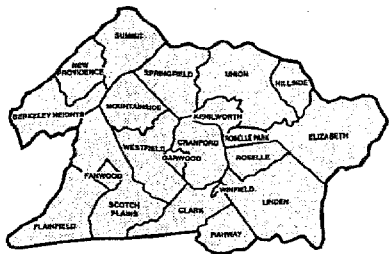
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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2003 - SECTION B

<http://www.localsource.com>

Fiber of community

The two volunteer firemen standing erect at the casket of Harry Krouse were young enough to have been his grandchildren. Along with many in Roselle Park, they showed their respect at Mastapeters Funeral Home last week for a good man, who raised a family, ran a local business and volunteered to help improve the fiber of his community.

The firetruck in the parking lot was shiny as usual. The flowers in the carriage were fitting. Inside, the mourners listed the attributes of a good man who also dedicated 40 years of his life to serving the community as a volunteer firefighter.

Left Out

By Frank Capece

Seven years earlier, they actually renamed the Lorraine Hose Company in his honor. Krouse moved to the borough in 1935, saw a brother killed in World War II, and even though exempt by age, served on a minesweeper in the Atlantic, and came back to live a valuable life.

Lately, visits to Mastapeters are coming more frequently. They remind you of your own mortality. You also appreciate that a community is made up of the people who find time to make things better for others.

The cost of community seems to be on a lot of people's minds lately. Gov. James McGreevey is joining the bevy of editorial writers complaining about how balkanized New Jersey has become and high property taxes. The hue and cry is that towns and school districts must consolidate and merge anything to cut property taxes.

Here's an alternate position. The cost of consolidation may be a whole lot more expensive. Oh sure, there are probably inefficiencies in having smaller communities. I'm still not sold by a long shot that bigger is so much better. When the chief of police lives in the town, and his wife shops at the local store, that is still in my mind a big plus. It's still the case in most of our county's communities.

When the guy plowing your snow knows he will hear about any problems Saturday at the ShopRite or Sunday at Assumption Church, that is a very big plus. As an example, the people running the tree lighting ceremony in Cranford this Saturday are giving their valuable time to benefit their community. It really matters.

I guess some consolidation could be helpful. Let's start with merging out the Roselle Park High School girls' tennis team. After all, they consistently beat the day-lights out of communities a whole lot bigger. In the name of consolidation, we can end the embarrassment.

The two big fears of inefficiency and duplication imply that bigger schools, regional negotiations for teacher salaries, or town mergers mean better quality. Based on New Jersey's high rank in test scores, we must be doing something right.

In lieu of consolidation, let's move for some real efficiency. McGreevey speaks about ending the "fruitless chasing of ratables for development they don't want for tax revenues they desperately need." That's something everybody buys into.

Let's also examine the tenure laws and the bevy of mandated costs. A constitutional convention where teachers and mayors list the 10 impediments to cutting costs that they have to struggle with daily might be a valuable exercise.

The proof is that the average resident likes his community as it is, and understands you get what you pay for. He also appreciates the value of community spirit. The cost of not losing that fiber is probably the best bargain we could have.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capece is an attorney.

Estrada expected to be next chairman

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

The next chairman of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is expected to be Angel Estrada of Elizabeth, who served as the vice chairman in 2003. Freeholder Rick Proctor of Rahway is expected to be the next vice chairman.

Estrada and Proctor would be sworn in at Union County's annual reorganization meeting on Jan. 4. Freeholders Deborah Scanlon of Union, Alexander Mirabella of Fanwood and Chester Holmes of Rahway will be sworn in to new three-year terms on the county's governing body. The trio was re-elected to their third term in November's General Election.

"I think Angel is going to do great," said Freeholder Nicholas Scutari. "He's a hard-working guy. He's looking forward to taking the leadership role. He's been my running mate and I think he's going to do an excellent job."

The current freeholder chairwoman, Scanlon said she is looking forward to Estrada taking over the chairmanship.

"I know that he'll do an outstanding job," said Scanlon. "He's an exceptionally bright man who really puts the interests of the county ahead of everything else."

Estrada has served on the freeholder board since 1999.

Freeholder Daniel Sullivan, who also served on the Elizabeth Board of Education with Estrada, said he is confident Estrada will do a fine job as chairman.

"I'm sure he's sitting down now thinking about what his plans are for the coming year," said Sullivan.

This year, Estrada served as chairman of the Fiscal Affairs Committee. Sullivan said that seat should give Estrada a lot of insight into the budget process.

"We're certainly going to support whatever initiatives he has and where he wants to take us," said Sullivan. The freeholder chairman traditionally announced this year's new initiatives during the annual reorganization meeting. Last year, Scanlon announced the commitment of \$1 million to a children's museum and a Preserve Union County historic preservation grant program, among her several initiatives.

Aside from setting the freeholder agenda, Sullivan said the chairman is responsible for providing leadership for the county.

"The leadership will come from his own personal style that he wants to pursue," said Sullivan.

Scanlon said it is difficult but rewarding when serving as chair of the nine-member freeholder board, which currently is dominated by Democrats.

"There are a lot of different personalities you need to deal with, not just from within the county but also from outside," she said. "There are all kinds of different issues."

Some of the biggest issues Scanlon said she had to deal with as chairwoman were the removal of geese from county property and the location of a new juvenile detention center because the current facility is overcrowded. Many county residents voiced their displeasure over the way the geese were killed, through the use of gas.

"I enjoyed my tenure as chairwoman," said Scanlon. "I thought I



Angel Estrada

was effective. Everyone on the board worked very closely with me and was very helpful. I will miss being chairwoman."

Estrada, who emigrated to the U.S. 42 years ago as a 10-year-old refugee from Cuba, is employed as a Department of Motor Vehicles agent in Elizabeth, where he also resides. He declined comment.

Appointed to the freeholder board in 2002 to replace Linda Stender, Proctor was elected to the board in 2002.

A Rahway resident, Proctor serves as his city's Democratic chairman. He is employed as the city's health officer and as the health officer of Scotch Plains.

The chairman of the freeholder board earns an annual salary of \$29,000, compared to \$28,000 for the vice chairman and \$27,000 for freeholders. All are considered part-time positions.

In the past several years, the next year's chairman has been selected during the annual League of Municipalities Convention in Atlantic City, which took place the week of Nov. 17.

NUI Corporation to sell by early '04

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

NUI Corporation, the parent company of Elizabethtown Gas Company, anticipates reaching a final agreement on its sale in the first quarter of next year. "The process leading up to the purchase will be invisible to our customers," NUI spokesman Christopher Reardon said. NUI announced the pursuit of selling the company in September, as a result of the negative impact on the company arising from recent credit downgrades and adverse business conditions.

"We are in the process of seeking a purchaser," said Reardon. "In the meantime, we are continuing to operate the company."

Before the purchase is finalized, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities will conduct a nine- to 12-month regulatory review process and based on its finding will then decide whether or not to approve the purchase.

"The BPU is still gathering information," said BPU spokeswoman Gloria Montealegre. The BPU is a regulatory authority mandated to ensure safe, adequate, and proper utility services at reasonable rates for New Jersey customers. Services regulated by the BPU include natural gas, electricity, water, wastewater, telecommunications and cable television. The BPU has general oversight responsibility for monitoring utility service, responding to consumer complaints, and investigating utility accidents.

The board will review the specifics of the sales agreement and determine if there's any impact on the customers. "They will ensure that the interests of the customers are paramount," said Reardon.

The BPU currently has a focused audit under way of NUI and its subsidiaries. The audit will be completed by the end of the year.

"The company must file for approval of any sale of NUI and the BPU will conduct an investigation to determine the impact of the sale on the competition in the industry, the effects on employees and customers," said Montealegre, explaining that the entire process typically takes between nine to 12 months.

Reardon said it would be "speculative" to determine if the sale of NUI will result in an increase in customer fees. Gas rates are regulated by the state. "Any impact on rates would be reviewed and approved by the state," said Reardon.

NUI, based in Bedminster, is an energy company that operates natural gas utilities, as well as businesses involved in natural gas storage, pipeline activities, wholesale energy portfolios and risk management. NUI Utilities' companies include Elizabethtown Gas Company in Elizabeth, City Gas Company of Florida and Elkton Gas Company in Maryland.

Reardon said NUI is seeking a buyer who will purchase the company as a whole, including all its entities.

Elizabethtown Gas was founded in 1855 to provide energy for the 300 gaslights lining the streets of Elizabeth. The company became part of NUI Corporation when NUI was created in 1969. Today, Elizabethtown Gas serves more than a quarter of a million residential, commercial and industrial customers. All of Union County is served by NUI, with the exception of Berkeley Heights, New Providence, Plainfield, Springfield and Summit.

Legislation would ban nepotism, dual offices

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

Hoping to jumpstart ethics reforms, state Senate Co-President Richard Codey, D-Essex, is expected to introduce legislation today to ban nepotism, dual office holding and professional employment contracts for legislators within their district.

"I believe that by the end of this legislative session, we can begin making substantial progress towards shaking the public's perception that we run for office to enrich ourselves and families," Codey said in a prepared statement.

Bill S-2756 will forbid lawmakers from hiring their mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons and daughters in their district offices or for partisan staff positions in the State House. The ban on dual office holding would apply to all elected officials throughout the state.

To implement the ban effectively, Codey said dual office holders would be authorized to complete the terms of their current public positions under a "grandfather clause."

The contract ban would not be designed to apply to teachers, firefighters or any full-time municipal employees who wish to serve in the Legislature.

Codey's legislation falls along similar lines to an order issued by Assembly Speaker Albio Sires, D-Hudson, which prohibits members of the Assembly from hiring relatives to serve on their staffs.

"Voters in the recent election clearly expressed dissatisfaction with the long-standing practice of individual legislators hiring relatives to work in their respective district offices," Sires said in a prepared statement. "Although the hiring of relatives is not specifically prohibited by law, it is my intent to use my powers as presiding officer of the General Assembly to put an end to nepotism by individual legislators."

Sires' order does not state exactly which relatives are considered family members. The order would also still allow the spouse or child of a legislator to work in the district office of another lawmaker or in the Assembly's main office in Trenton.

However, Sires is a dual office holder, as he has been the mayor of West New York since 1995.

Sen. Raymond Lesniak, D-Union, said he would be supportive of Codey's legislation, though he would not elaborate on whether or not there's a negative perception from the general public in regard to nepotism and dual office holding.

Freeholder Nicholas Scutari, a Democrat, was recently elected to represent the 22nd District. He said he would have to take a close look at Codey's initiative before he decides if he's in favor of it.

"It really depends upon the breath of what he's looking to do," said Scutari. Scutari, who also serves as Linden's prosecutor, does not see a conflict between holding two government positions.

"I would oppose any legislation that would not allow me to hold both of those positions," he said.

Scutari, who will be sworn into the Senate on Jan. 13, will remain as a freeholder until he's ready to step down later in the year.

"I've said consistently if the voters put you in there I don't see the problem in dual office holding," he said.

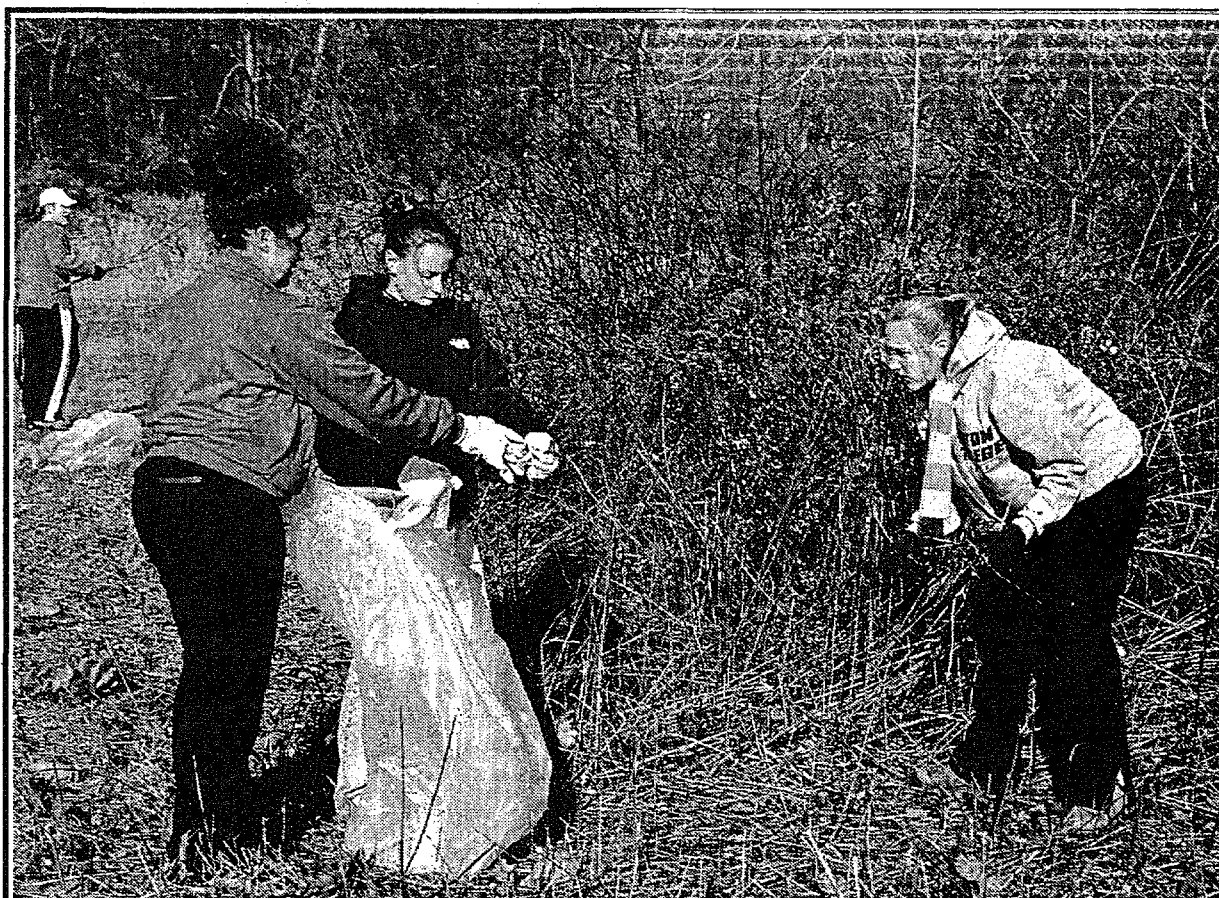
Although supportive of Codey's legislation, Republican legislators in the 21st District said they have introduced similar legislation to ban nepotism and dual office holding in the past.

Assembly Eric Munoz, R-Union, introduced a bill on May 5 — A-3619 — which would prohibit legislators from gainfully employing a member's relative in any position in a legislative office that the member maintains in his or her legislative district.

"It'll ban the really abominable stuff that is going on," he said. State sen. Thomas Kean, R-Union, said dual office holding for members of the Legislature leads to conflicts of interest.

"Which set of constituencies is that individual seeking to serve?" said Kean. For example, if a legislator is also the mayor of one of the municipalities he represents, is he biasing things toward that municipality, asked Kean.

See MEASURE, Page B2



LENAPE PARK CLEAN-UP — Cranford High School seniors, above, from left, Ruthanne McCarthy, Krista Fincke and Suzanne Morris volunteer their time Saturday to help clean up Lenape Park. Below, brothers Ben Wei and Albert Wei of Mountainside get to work with pitchforks. Several volunteers gathered Saturday morning to clean the county park that stretches from Westfield into Cranford and Springfield, eventually connecting with Echo Lake Park.





Staff Sgt. James Russo, left, presents Prosecutor Theodore Romankow with the American Flag at the Prosecutor's Office in Elizabeth at the courthouse complex. Russo, a Prosecutor's Office detective, is back serving in Iraq, helping U.S. forces create a national police force.

Detective helps create Iraqi police force

For one year now, a Union County Prosecutor's Office detective has been serving his country in Iraq by helping the country develop its own national police force.

Staff Sgt. James Russo, who left his assignment as a training instructor and task force supervisor last December with the Essex-Union Auto Theft Task Force, came home for a few days over the Thanksgiving holiday and is back on assignment now with Special Forces in Iraq.

"It's truly been an honor for me," said Russo, who had to say goodbye to his wife and children again this week to return to Mosul and Kirkuk in Iraq for four more months of duty in the 404th Civil Affairs Unit.

Russo, who was a lead instructor at the John H. Stamler Union County Police Academy in Scotch Plains, has tremendous field experience as well as five years of teaching courses such as physical training, verbal judo and officer safety and survival. For that reason, he is working with the Tenth Group, Special Forces, in Iraq assisting in the development of the new national police force.

"Yes it's true he left behind a legacy of service and a void at the Auto Theft Task Force but we are totally behind him and proud of him in every way," said Prosecutor Theodore Romankow, who was extremely moved last week when Russo took the time to come in a present him with an American Flag.

The prosecutor said that Investigator/Auditor Joseph

Heuer, who serves in the Special Prosecutions Unit and is an expert in dealing with all types of economic crime investigations, has also served the country since March as a lieutenant colonel in the United States National Guard.

The prosecutor said he was grateful that the Union County Board of Freeholders approved medical coverage and other compensation for employees serving in the military during the current campaign.

"For me, it really has been an honor," Russo said. He said his only real disappointment coming home was being surprised at some of the media coverage portraying some of the negative aspects of the rebuilding process.

"While there we found the Iraqi people, by and large, totally supportive of what we're trying to do and the atmosphere really is much more positive than it is being reflected back home here in the States," he said.

Lt. Joseph Vitelli, commander of the Auto Theft Task Force, said he misses Russo in so many ways but all of his colleagues are filled with admiration and respect for his commitment to duty. He said Russo is also putting his experience as a field supervisor and sniper expert with the Union County Emergency Response Team to good use in training Iraqi police officers.

"He is a heck of a guy, a great father, a loyal soldier and a man who had to leave his job and family again to serve America," Vitelli said.

Measure would ban dual office holding

(Continued from Page B1)

Kean introduced a Senate bill last January, S-2273, which would ban dual office holding for members of the Legislature.

Under the bill, legislators would be limited to one elected office, meaning they could not also hold the office of freeholder, mayor or council member.

However, a legislator could still hold an appointed government position, such as municipal prosecutor.

"Sen. Codey's bill goes further to include, for example, prosecutor and I would be very supportive," said Kean.

He said it's been frustrating that his bill to ban dual office holding has been opposed for about a year now.

However, he said the bigger issue is his pay-to-play bill, S-2392, which would prohibit contributions by certain entities doing business with government; limit campaign contributions by businesses and contributions from political party committees to candidates and certain committees.

COUNTY NEWS

Nominations sought for Women of Excellence

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Commission on the Status of Women are accepting nominations for the 12th annual Women of Excellence Awards.

The commission is looking for outstanding women nominees of Union County who have distinguished themselves in one or more of the following categories: Arts and Humanities; Business/Entrepreneur; Community Service; Education; Government; Law; Law Enforcement; Medicine/Health Care, and/or Women's Advocacy.

The women selected from the nominees will be honored at The Westwood, 438 North Ave., Garwood, on March 12 at 7 p.m.

Due to the overwhelming interest in this annual event, the Union County Commission on the Status of Women is encouraging all nominations to be submitted as soon as possible.

To submit a nomination, send a cover letter, resume and biographical statement about the woman, highlighting her accomplishment in a particular category to Joan Abitante, 322 Dietz St., Roselle, 07203.

For more information, call Abitante at 908-241-4889.

Volunteer recruiting fair

Potential volunteers will be able to find an unprecedented amount of information about groups that need their help at the first-ever countywide volunteer recruiting fair, sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the United Way of Greater Union County, at Jersey Gardens Mall on Friday from 2 to 8 p.m. The county's Office of Volunteer Services will also release a greatly expanded second edition of its Volunteer Directory on that date.

More than 30 organizations and agencies that rely on volunteers to provide important services from feeding the hungry to tutoring schoolchildren will participate in the fair, titled "Expanding the Caring Community." The event and the directory have been supported in part by a grant from Verizon.

The Office of Volunteer Services released the first Union County Volunteer Directory in April. Created with the United Way of Greater Union County, the directory is an unprecedented resource to connect those in need with those who can help.

The new edition has doubled in size to list more than 100 nonprofit organizations and agencies and hun-

dreds of volunteer opportunities. It includes an alphabetical list of groups, followed with a list of volunteer interests referenced by category.

The directory will also be available at the official County of Union Web site, www.ucnj.org. Updates on group projects can be found online by visiting the United Way's Web site at www.uwguc.org.

For a copy of the Union County Volunteer Directory, to add your organization's volunteer needs to future editions of the directory, or for more information, call the Office of Volunteer Services at 908-527-4753 or the United Way of Greater Union County at 908-353-7171, ext. 15.

Sheriff on 'Newsmakers'

Union County Sheriff Ralph Froehlich appears on two editions of "Comcast Newsmakers" airing on cable television stations this month.

In the first program, "Crime Scene Investigation," Froehlich describes the instrumental part his office's Identification Bureau plays in investigating major crimes in Union County.

"It is one of our primary functions," Froehlich said. "These officers do an amazing job with the scientific and technical aspects of criminal investigation."

In the second program, "More Than Enforcers," the sheriff discusses the many charitable causes and other community-service projects in which his sheriff's officers participate. From helping to feed hungry families through "Operation Breadbasket" to funding transmitters for Alzheimer's disease patients in "Project Lifesaver," the officers take part in a large number of activities.

"Comcast Newsmakers," a five-minute interview program, is seen throughout New Jersey and surrounding states. It airs at the end of every half-hour on channels showing CNN Headline News.

For more information, call the Office of the Sheriff at 908-527-4450.

Community blood drives

The Blood Center of New Jersey and the Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross will sponsor the following blood drives:

- Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Masonic Lafayette Lodge, 1550 Irving St., Rahway.

- Monday, 4 to 8 p.m., Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Park Avenue and Randolph Road.

- Dec. 13, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Parish Hall, 111 South St., New Providence.

- Dec. 14, 1 to 4 p.m., Westfield First Street Block Association, 539 First St., Westfield.

Donors must be 17 years of age. There is no upper age limit to donors provided they meet health requirements. Donors should know their Social Security number and bring a signed or picture form of identification.

For more information, call the Blood Center at 1-800-652-5663, ext. 140, or the Red Cross at 908-353-2500.

UCUA annual meeting

The Union County Utilities Authority, 1499 Routes 1&9, Rahway, will convene its annual public meeting Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. regarding the Union County Resource Recovery Facility, to be conducted by Covanta Union Inc., formerly Ogden Martin of Union Inc., as the solid waste facility permittee.

The open public meeting is to provide local officials and the general public with an annual forum to allow public input and exchange of ideas relating to the Union County Resource Recovery Facility.

Following the special meeting, the UCUA's regular meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call 732-382-9400.

Tax volunteers sought

RSVP is recruiting seniors, 55 and older to volunteer to help prepare tax returns for the elderly, frail, low-income and disabled citizens of Union County. Tax counseling will be offered at various sites within Union County. A special tax law training session will be offered free at Community Access Unlimited for the volunteer tax counselors in early January.

Last year hundreds of tax returns were completed through this program.

If you are interested in becoming an RSVP volunteer tax counselor, call Steve at 908-354-3040, Ext. 369.

Volunteers sought

The YWCA of Eastern Union County, 1131 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth, is seeking volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, call Lynn at 908-355-1500, ext. 18.

Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news: Church, club and social — Friday noon.

Entertainment — Friday noon.

Sports — Monday noon.

Letter to the Editor — Monday 9 a.m.

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Sat. Feb. 7	Rutgers	7:00 p.m.	Mon. Feb. 9	Pittsburgh	8:00 p.m.
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

It's a wonderful show



Liz Zazzi and Gary Glor rehearse for 'It's a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play,' to be presented Saturday by the Theater Project at Union County College in Cranford. See 'Theater' in the Stepping Out calendar on Page B8.

Bill VanSant, Editor

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Organizations submitting releases to the entertainment section can mail copy to 463 Valley Street, P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, NJ 07040

For Noone, the music is what really matters

By Bill VanSant
Associate Editor

Almost 40 years ago, they topped the charts and set adolescent hearts a-flutter.

Today, as Irving Berlin put it, the melody lingers on.

Led by Peter Noone, Herman's Hermits took the world by storm, outselling every recording artist on the planet in 1965 — including The Beatles. The band's prolific body of work ensconced into pop-culture consciousness such timeless hits as "Mrs. Brown, You've Got a Lovely Daughter," "I'm Henry VIII," "There's a Kind of Hush" and "I'm Into Something Good," among many others.

Fast-forward to 2003, and the British band is ready to take central Jersey by storm, with an appearance this Saturday at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway.

While much has changed in the music industry in roughly four decades, one thing has remained a constant for Noone.

"I'm excited to play," he said excitedly. "I love to work. I had a few weeks off, so I'm chomping at the bit again."

Noone shared his enthusiasm for playing large showplaces such as UCAC, pointing out that such venues lend themselves to his style of music.

"You see a building like that," he said, "and you go, 'Ah ha, this is a better room for rock 'n' roll.'"

And he would know, having been among the rock era's early superstars, a status he still enjoys with today's music fans.

"The audience got younger and younger, the fan club got younger," he noted. "Because they know that we're not preposterous sex symbols."

However, once upon a time, Noone and his mates were indeed sex symbols, joining the ranks of the Brit equivalents of America's Fabian and Frankie Avalon.

"We never wanted to be," he said of his former heartthrob status. "That's why we called it Herman's Hermits; we didn't call it Billy Fury and the Sexpots. We came up to destroy all those guys; we wanted those people out of the way."

The concept of "sex appeal over musicianship" somewhat rankles Noone, though his good nature prevails. In discussing today's pre-packaged pop stars — the Britneys, the Justins — his graciousness comes through.

"I like the records, and they're nice people," he said. "These guys'll do good because they're nice people and you can take your kids to see them."

There's the real heart of the matter: the fact that people will come to see an artist.

"What makes musicians famous is the people who like them," he observed. Such a symbiotic relationship has its parameters, though, and Noone has little patience for artists insulting the fans' taste by putting down their own past songs — music the fans loved and bought, thus assuring stardom for the singer.

Such behavior is not in keeping with Noone's approach to celebrity, or to music. But it's a byproduct of the "manufacturing" of "stars" that's infected the music industry.

Noone mentions greats such as The Who and Fleetwood Mac as being "bands

that drove around in a van before the records were hits."

Now, however, that proving ground is lost, as is the opportunity for an artist to find his or her own voice. Instead, today's rock world is populated with "people who begin as touring 'artists,' finding their style on the road."

If all this sounds a bit nostalgic for a simpler time in rock, it probably is. "Nostalgia" is a concept that somewhat intrigues Noone, who offered an interesting observation.

"Nostalgia is forever," he said, "because it keeps getting restarted. People are nostalgic for Nirvana already."

Noone believes that this appreciation of days gone by isn't limited to Baby Boomers, but has extended to their children and grandchildren.

"I love to go into record stores and see what's going on. Nobody's buying new records, they're all buying bloody old records," he said with a triumphant laugh.

This bodes well for the future of music, he feels, pointing out that tomorrow's rockers are influenced by yesterday's masters.

"Now there'll be all these bands in garages saying, 'I'm not gonna dance on stage. I'm gonna be like Bruce Springsteen, not Justin Timberlake.'"

And Noone knows whereof he speaks from first-hand experience: his own daughter turned down a recording deal because she didn't want to be packaged as a Britney wannabe.

Perhaps it's genetic. In the 1960s, Noone eschewed cranking out cover versions and being a sex symbol. For Noone, it all comes down to one thing: getting out there and singing their songs to appreciative fans, something he feels is common to most musicians.

"If somebody said to us in 1964, 'Would you like to go to the Philippines?,' 'How much will they pay?' wasn't part of the deal," he said. "'When?' was the first question, 'When?'"

For area residents, "When?" is Saturday night — whether the fans are the nostalgic Boomers who made Herman's Hermits famous in the '60s or their retro children discovering a whole new world of classic rock and pop.

"The truth is that most entertainers would pay to work," he said. "I'm just lucky enough to have made money."

So, it's back to the '60s this weekend.

However, today's music scene isn't entirely without its appeal.

"I wish one of these rap guys would make one of my songs famous again," Noone said with his trademark dry humor.

Herman's Hermits will appear at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway on Saturday at 8 p.m. For information, see the "Concerts" listing in the Stepping Out calendar on Page B8.

Railroaders honor responders

The Model Railroad Club Inc., an activity of the Union County Park System, announced that it will be honoring first responders during the second weekend of the club's annual Sound and Light Show.

This Saturday is "Armed Services Appreciation Day." Active military personnel showing their military I.D. at the ticket window will be admitted free of charge. Sunday is "Police, Fire, and EMT Appreciation Day." Guests showing a valid, current police, fire, or EMT I.D. at the ticket window will be admitted free of charge.

"These people are true heroes," said club President Ray Russell. "They put their lives on the line for

us every day of the year. Some of our members belong to their local volunteer rescue squads and know first-hand the tremendous job first responders do. We're please to be able to honor them with this token of our appreciation."

The show runs through Dec. 14 at the club building, located on Jefferson Avenue, off Route 22 east in Union, behind The Home Depot. Free parking is available on site and the club is wheelchair-accessible.

For information, contact the club at 908-964-9724 on Saturdays between 1 and 5 p.m. or 908-964-8808 for a recorded message, or by visiting the club's Web site at www.tmrcl.com.

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NEWS CLIPS

Artist 'spits' for his art

Now through Dec. 18, the exhibition "111 First Street," featuring the works of artist Edward Fausty, will be on display in the Tomasulo Gallery, located on the first floor of the Kenneth MacKay Library on the Cranford campus of Union County College.

Fausty's exhibition is a series of pigmented digital inkjet prints, known as *giclee* — in French, mean-

ing "to spit" — output on plain, uncoated "Arches" cover, which is 100-percent rag cotton paper.

The Tomasulo Gallery is located on the first floor of the MacKay Library at Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. Gallery hours are from 1 to 4 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and on Saturdays; and from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays. For information, call 908-709-7155.

Holiday house tour is set

One of the houses on this year's Reeves-Reed Arboretum Holiday House Tour is a doll house, which, like the six full-size houses on the tour will be lavishly decorated for the holidays.

The Holiday House Tour is scheduled for Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Proceeds from the tour benefit Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit.

Three of the houses on the tour are Tudor-style; one is Georgian; and one

is Arts-and-Crafts. Wisner House at Reeves-Reed will be decorated in a Victorian style. House tour participants are invited to enjoy punch and cookies at Wisner House during the tour.

More information about the tour is available on the Arboretum's Web site, www.reeves-reedarboretum.org, or by calling 908-277-1190. Tickets will be available for \$25 at the Garden Shop at Reeves-Reed, 165 Hobart Ave.

Miller-Cory welcomes 'Belsnickel' on Sunday

The Miller-Cory House Museum, located at 614 Mountain Ave. in Westfield, will celebrate German Christmas customs with the arrival of the Belsnickel and a traditional German dinner cooked over the open hearth on Sunday.

The program will be from 2 to 5 p.m.; the last tour begins at 4 p.m.

Jack Petersen of Westfield will portray the "Belsnickel," a figure from German folklore who visited the homes of children on Christmas Eve. He is a scary visitor dressed in a cape of ratty old pelts and worn-out clothes. The Belsnickel is nervously awaited by the children, especially children who have been naughty. He throws candies to the children and then disappears until the next Christmas. Visitors to the museum will meet the Belsnickel, and children can try to catch some of the candies that he scatters.

Costumed docents will greet visitors and guide them through the historic farmhouse. Deborah Bailey of Westfield also will present a program on German

Christmas customs.

Sherry Lange of Cranford and Arlene Soong of Plainfield will prepare a traditional German Christmas dinner over the open hearth. Visitors to the museum will be able to taste treats as prepared by the cooks, while learning about 18th-century cooking techniques and methods.

The museum's gift shop offers many unique gift items, such as colonial reproductions, toys, cookbooks, recipes, teas, etc. Admission to the museum is \$2 for adults and 50 cents for students. Children younger than 6 years of age are admitted free of charge.

The holiday spirit continues at the Miller-Cory House Museum with Gingerbread Sunday, a program for young children, Dec. 14. For information about the museum and its winter schedule of events, call the museum office at 908-232-1776.

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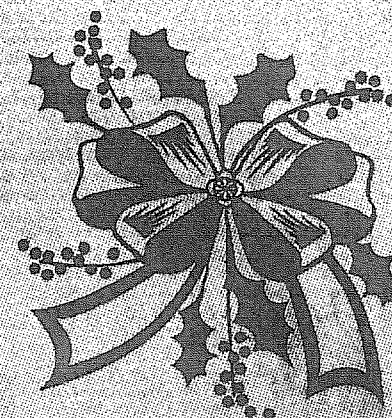
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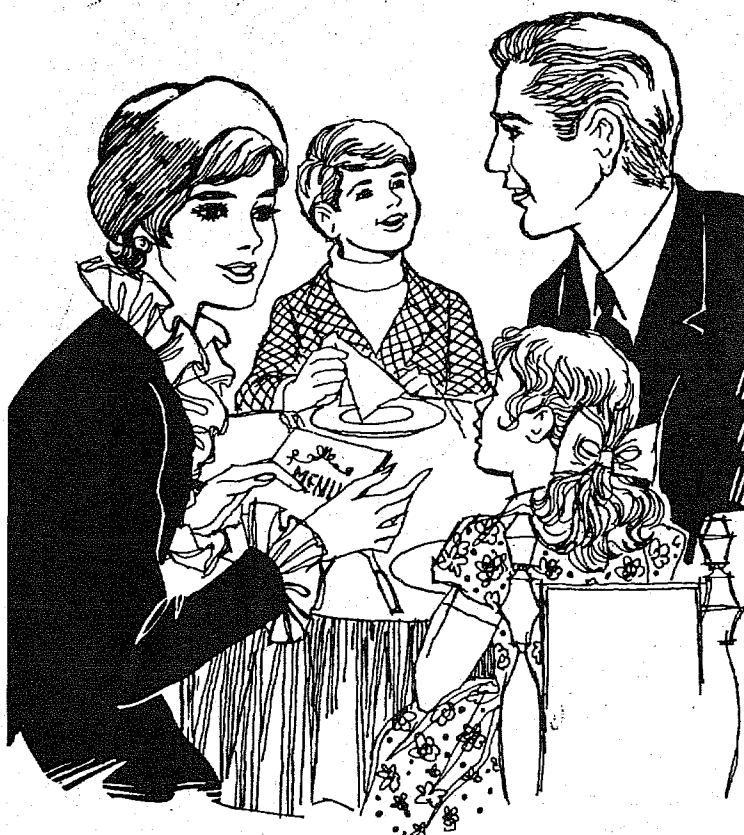
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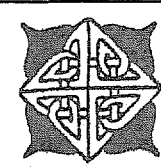
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JUNIOR'S CAFE

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Menu



By Steven Reilly
Staff Writer

There is a quaint cafe conveniently located in the heart of Union Center that offers quality dishes and friendly service for reasonable prices.

Junior's Cafe, directly across from Union Theater on Stuyvesant Avenue, has something for everyone. Soups, salads and sandwiches are just some of the many dishes this family run eatery serves. The casual setting is perfect for the informal service and family like atmosphere.

The food is an adventure offering such culinary delights as Rosemary prosciutto with mozzarella, penna ala vodka with chicken and Da New Yorker wrap. Co-owner Julio Velasco Jr. has built a menu that includes some old favorites as well as some new twists on traditional dishes.

"The quality of our food and good service is something we always offer to our customers," Velasco said. "No matter if someone comes in for a sandwich or has a catered event, we always give them whatever they want."

One popular dish is the Cuban sandwich. A lean pork loin with ham and swiss cheese are piled onto a roll and hand grilled to perfection. The juices from the pork blend with the swiss cheese to create a delicious meal.

Besides the Cuban, Junior's Cafe offers a wide variety of sandwiches and wraps that will satisfy anyone's appetite. If you're hungry for something homemade try the lasagna or one of the many pasta dishes that fill the menu. But the real treat is the many Spanish dishes which are made fresh each day. These tantalizing meals add a whole new flavor from the many restaurants in Union. The roasted chicken served with a sides of vegetables and rice and beans has a crisp skin that helps keep the tender meat inside nice and juicy.

Junior's Cafe offers a wide variety of delicious meals all for about \$6.00 daily. There are not many places that offer Spanish beef stew and roast pork with red onions and hominy beans alongside Italian hot dogs and Jersey cheese steak sandwiches.

Junior's will help start your day off right with breakfast egg sandwiches or pancakes and help you finish off the evening with a hot cappuccino and a piece of tiramisu.

Junior's Cafe is located at 985 B Stuyvesant Avenue in Union. Parking is available in the free municipal lots located in the rear of the restaurant.

Junior's offers catering services and delivery. The hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Phone 908-688-7336, fax 908-688-6877.

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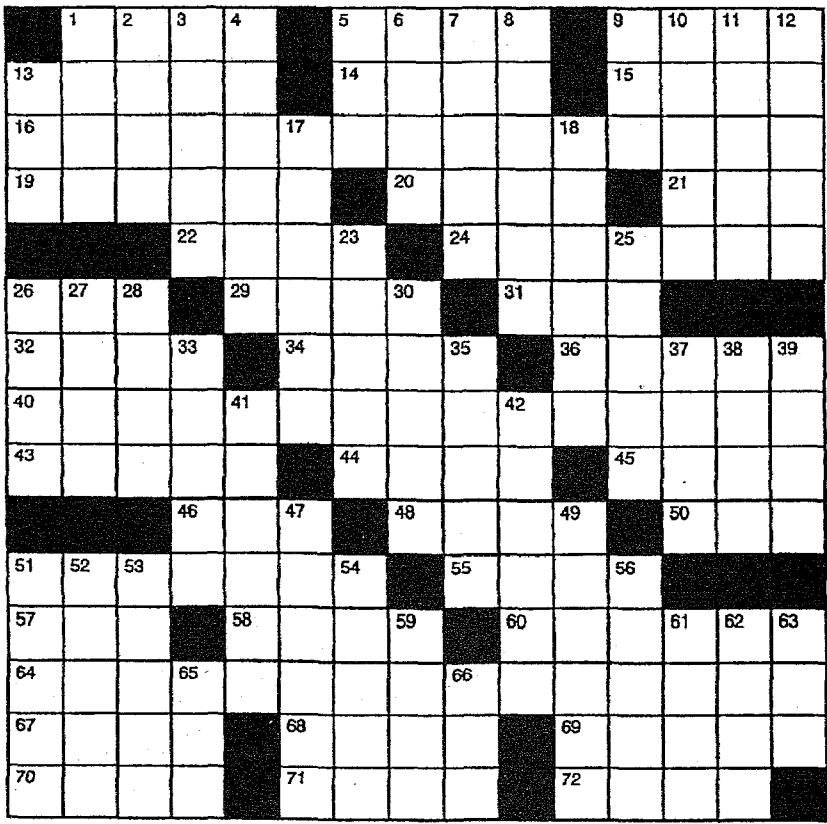
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9 Skip
13 Does road work
14 Oil exporter, briefly
15 Adjutant
16 Happy-go-lucky type
19 Teeming with bees
20 Chimney accumulation
21 Long, long time
22 Times around
24 Julia or Mr.
26 Tomcat
29 Fluff
31 Author Deighton
32 Great Barrier Island
34 Char
36 Glass features
40 Outwits
43 Triple Crown winner of '35
44 Kind of movie cop
45 Pro follower
46 Antiquity
48 Law
50 Kind of pot?
51 Start a Model T
55 Part-time steno
57 _____
58 Curved molding
60 1950 Hilliard-Mann song
64 1943 Lucille Ball movie
67 "... I go to find my faun"-Shakespeare
68 Commandment word
69 Actress Rowlands, et al.
70 Country music's Loretta
71 Chinook salmon
72 Rim

POSITIVE MOOD



COPELEY NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

DOWN

- 1 Cambodia's neighbor
2 Declare
3 Olympics award
4 Stary
5 Dot follower?
6 Tarzan's friends
7 Furnishings
8 Train
9 Paddle
10 Sebastian Coe, for one
11 Moron
12 Age group
13 Golfers' org.
17 Mischievous
18 Maximally
23 Scoff
25 Stage direction
26 Kind of dancer
27 Detail
28 Key letter
30 Small drum
33 Pale
35 Disprove
37 Historic chapters
38 Speck
39 Tunisian port
41 "... the ____ the town"
42 Holy city?
47 Canoe
49 Appear
51 Pilot
52 Like an oboe sound
53 Fiery crime
54 Garden bloom
56 Handled roughly
59 Kitchen end
61 Pealed
62 Dies ____
63 Both Begleys
65 Athlete's perfect score
66 Enemy

See ANSWERS on Page B12

HOROSCOPE

Dec. 8-14

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your conversations are lively and interesting. Share your most guarded thoughts and opinions with people you know care.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Realize the power you have to take dreams or ideas and make them come true. Tune into your creative center and work you magic.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21): You tend to be emotionally unconnected at different times during this forecast period. Pay attention and be more responsive to your partner's needs.
CANCER (June 22-July 22): Stick to your routine or instructions and a major project runs smoothly. If you choose to wander off course, you can expect chaos and confusion.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Watch out for Cupid's arrow because it's aimed straight at your heart. Follow up on a social or romantic opportunity and have a great time.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Enjoy spending quality time with family. Discuss some of your most cherished

memories and make sure that they last forever.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Get involved in activities that will benefit your community. Remain open-minded about a friend and judge with your heart.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Your income or financial outlook shows signs of improvement. Profit profusely and quickly by pooling your resources with others.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Spontaneity fits your mood, but you must be aware of the consequences. Act on an impulsive hunch and a solid deal could fall through.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your subconscious is very active and reveals a lot of useful information. Strive to pay more attention to your dreams.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It pays to be assertive in a club or group environment. Reach out and initiate contact with a bashful member who could become a friend.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Expect on-the-job success this week. Handle

business affairs with confidence and a sense of self-assurance. Let nothing stand in your way.
If your birthday is this week, a hidden aspect of your personality will be brought to light during the coming year. Put your best foot forward and make sure that it is something that you can be proud of. Expansion is beneficial if a vow of moderation is incorporated. A cycle of transformation positions you to complete old lessons and start over. Use logic as your anchor and stay focused.
Also born this week: Diego Rivera, John Milton, Emily Dickinson, Brenda Lee, Frank Sinatra, Dick Van Dyke and Nostradamus.

Bill VanSant, Editor

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Organizations submitting releases to the entertainment section can mail copy to 463 Valley Street, P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, NJ 07040

Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news: Church, club and social - Thursday noon.
Entertainment - Friday noon.
Sports - Monday noon.
Letters to the Editor - Monday 9 a.m.

REUNIONS

- Union High School Class of 1954 will conduct its 50-year reunion June 4 to 6, 2004. For information, write to Class of '54 Reunion Committee, 250 Globe Ave., Union, 07083.
- Linden High School Class of

1959 will conduct its 45-year reunion June 19, 2004 at the Sheraton Woodbridge. For information, call Jan Murawski at 732-381-1763.

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60 PRIOR COLLEGE CREDITS OR AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE REQUIRED TO ENROLL

What's Going On?

FAIR

SATURDAY
December 6th, 2003

EVENT: Annual Holiday Craft Fair
PLACE: St. John Vianney Church, 420 Inman Avenue, Colonia, NJ 07607
TIME: 9am to 4 pm
PRICE: Free Parking/Free Admission, Handicapped Accessible. Over 125 Crafters - Breakfast - Lunch available.
ORGANIZATION: St. John Vianney Craft Fair Committee.

SALE

SATURDAY
December 6th, 2003

EVENT: CRAFT FAIR
PLACE: Mother Seton Regional High School, Valley Road, Clark, NJ
TIME: 9:00am-5:00pm
PRICE: Admission is FREE
"Peppermint Boutique" - 150 crafters Food available. For info 732-381-9739
ORGANIZATION: Mother Seton Regional High School Parent's Guild

FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
December 6th, 7th, 2003

EVENT: HOLIDAY FLEA MARKET & COLLECTIBLE SHOW
PLACE: Belleville High School, 100 Passaic Ave., Belleville (OFF JORALE-MON ST)
TIME: Saturday 9am-5pm Outdoors 6pm-10pm Indoors

Sunday 9am-5pm Indoors & Outdoors
DETAILS: SANTA will be arriving Saturday December 6th - 6-9PM & Sunday December 7th, 1-3PM Take pictures with Santa (Bring your camera)
New merchandise, crafts, collectibles and a garage/tag sale section! For information call 908-997-9535.
ORGANIZATION: Sponsored by: Graduation Celebration & SEPPO

FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY
December 6th, 2003

EVENT: Big Indoor Flea-Market
PLACE: Roselle Catholic High School, 1 Raritan Road, Roselle
TIME: 9am-4pm
PRICE: Free Admission. Call for information 908-245-2350
ORGANIZATION: Roselle Catholic High School

AUCTION

SATURDAY
December 6th, 2003

EVENT: ANNUAL HOLIDAY AUCTION
PLACE: St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 721 Rahway Avenue Union, NJ (off of Morris Avenue)
TIME: 1pm-5pm
DETAILS: Lots of prizes: Crystal, small appliances, food baskets, gift certificates, toys, Holiday items and many more. Call 908-964-7957 for more information and directions
ORGANIZATION: Philoptochos Adelphotis "St. Irene" of St. Demetrios Gree Orthodox Church

What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non profit organizations. It is prepaid and costs just \$20.00 (for 2 weeks) for Essex County or Union County and just \$30.00 for both Counties. Your notice must be in our Maplewood office (463 Valley Street) by 4:00 P.M. on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Advertisement may also be placed at 170 Scotland Road, Orange, 266 Liberty St., Bloomfield or 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union. For more information call 973-763-9411.

OTHER

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
December 6th, 7th, 2003

EVENT: The 11th Annual Holiday Art and Craft Show to Benefit HOME Corp of Montclair
PLACE: 106 South Fullerton Ave., Montclair (3 blocks off Bloomfield Avenue)
TIME: Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday, 11am-5pm
PRICE: Admission is Free.
DETAILS: Featured will be Handmade gifts, ornaments, jewelry, furniture, pillows, scarves, floral, pottery, painting prints, sculpture, quilts, woodwork, clothing and more. For more information call 973-783-5902.
ORGANIZATION: Kuhl Designs and local crafters

SALE

SATURDAY
December 6th, 2003

EVENT: HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE
PLACE: The Battle Hill Community Moravian Church, 777 Liberty Avenue, Union.
TIME: 10AM-4PM
PRICE: Free Admission -Wreaths Ceramics and other Holiday Items will be on sale. Lunch and Baked goods will be available also. For more information call 908-686-LAMB.
ORGANIZATION: The Moravian Women of the Battle Hill Church

SALE

SATURDAY
December 6th, 2003

EVENT: Holiday Jewelry and Giftware Sale
PLACE: New Eyes for the Needy, 549 Millburn Avenue, Short Hills
TIME: 10am-3pm
PRICE: Free Admission - Antique and costume jewelry, watches, silver, crystal and porcelain at reasonable prices. For information call 973-376-4903.
ORGANIZATION: New Eyes for the Needy

NEWS CLIPS

Arboretum hosts author

Arthur Vanderbilt II wears many hats, from attorney to gardener to author.

He has combined the latter two avocations by writing "Gardening in Eden: The Joys of Planning and Tending a Garden," published this year by Simon and Schuster.

Vanderbilt is a resident of northern New Jersey who enjoys visiting Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit. On Saturday, he will autograph copies of his new book at The Garden Shop at Reeves-Reed Arboretum, 165 Hobart Ave., from 2 to 4 p.m.

He has written many works of non-fiction, including "Fortune's Children," "Golden Days," and "The Making of a Bestseller."

The Garden Shop at Reeves-Reed Arboretum is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The book signing will be Dec. 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, call 908-277-1190.

scheduled from noon to 4 p.m. with refreshments served and a display of old photographs, memorabilia and the original "Philip Swain, Practical Gilder" sign. Philip Swain, founder, was the great-grandfather of current proprietor Ann Swain, the fourth generation of Swains to run the business and the first woman.

The multi-media showcase of "Miniatures" features the works of Douglas Allen, Judy Banyas, Kat Block, Nancy Brangaccio, Patricia Brentano, Leslie Delgyer, Mark deMos, Andrew Engel, Helen Jacobs, Timothy Jahn, Carroll Jones, Louis Lanzafama, Nat Lewis, Karen McCormack, Paul McCormack, Richard Nagrodsky, Dean Ostrum, John Reilly, and S. Allyn Schaeffer.

"Christmas Miniatures" Artists
Basking Ridge: Nancy Brangaccio
Caldwell: Nat Lewis
Califon: John Reilly
Fanwood: S. Allyn Schaeffer
Jersey City: Carroll Jones

Morristown: Mark deMos
Neshanic: Douglas Allen
Paramus: Helen Jacobs
Piscataway: Timothy Jahn
Roselle: Judy Banyas
North Plainfield: Leslie Delgyer
Springfield: Kat Block
Toms River: Louis Lanzafama
Westfield: Patricia Brentano
New York City: Richard Nagrodsky and Dean Ostrum

New York State: Karen McCormack and Paul McCormack

The exhibit continues through Dec. 30, Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. at Swain Galleries, 703 Watchung Ave. in the historic Crescent District of Plainfield. For more details, call 908-756-1707. On view will be florals, portraits, still lifes, landscapes, animals and wildlife and more in oils, watercolors, acrylics, gouaches, pastels, cut paper collage, pen-and-ink, colored pencil, calligraphy, and others.

Swain to go 'mini'

Historic Swain Galleries, a family-owned art enterprise in Plainfield since 1868, will celebrate "A 135th Christmas Weekend" on Saturday and Sunday.

The celebration will begin with the opening reception on Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m. for the "Christmas Miniatures" exhibit of small-scale art by 19 noted gallery artists. Following on Sunday, a Holiday Open House is

Miniature art on exhibit at duCret

The deCret School of Art in Plainfield will sponsor its annual Miniature Art Show and Sale in the school gallery from Sunday to Dec. 12. There will be a variety of paintings, prints, and drawings available for sale, none larger than 12 inches square. The opening reception and sale will be Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m.

The deCret School of Art is located

at 1030 Central Ave. and is situated on a seven-acre campus in a historic residential area of Plainfield. The school offers full- and part-time day and evening classes in fine art, graphic design/computer graphics and illustration. For information about the spring term that begins Jan. 19, call 908-757-7171, fax to 908-757-2626, or visit www.duCretArtSchool.com.

KENT PLACE SCHOOL



You're invited to experience
a school where girls are focused,
self-reliant, and leading the way.

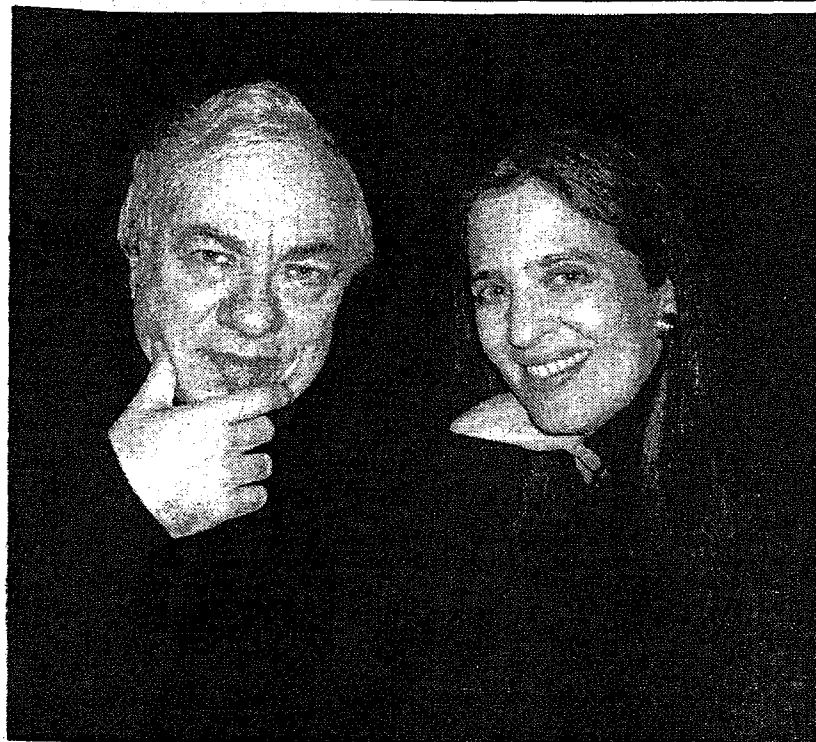
ALL SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE • GRADES K-12

Sunday, December 7, 2003, 1-3 p.m.

Open House Program

- 1:00 - 1:15 | Refreshments & Registration
1:15 - 2:00 | Information Session
2:00 - 3:00 | Tours

Kent Place School • 42 Norwood Avenue • Summit, NJ 07902-0308 • 908.273.0900 • www.kentplace.org



Husband-and-wife duo, pianist Richard Goode and violinist Marcia Weinfeld, will appear in recital this weekend with Arbor Chamber Music. The program features works by Mozart, Beethoven, Janacek, and Brahms.

Husband and wife pair up for Arbor recital Sunday

Pianist Richard Goode will perform with his wife, violinist Marcia Weinfeld, in recital on Sunday at 4 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church, East Broad Street and Mountain Avenue, Westfield.

The program includes both duos and solos: Mozart's Sonata in A for Violin and piano, K. 526; Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 26, "Les Adieux;" Janacek's Piano Sonata October 1, 1905; and Brahms' Sonata in G for Violin and Piano.

Tickets, available by calling 908-232-1116, are priced at \$20 for general admission, \$15 for senior citizens, and \$10 for college students; children are admitted free. The performance includes a pre-concert lecture by John Sichel.

Hailed for making music of tremendous emotional power, depth and sensitivity, Goode is acknowledged as one of the leading interpreters of Beethoven and Mozart. His recitals regularly take him to the major centers of the United States, Europe and Japan, including New York, Paris, London, Amsterdam, Milan, and Berlin.

Goode and Weinfeld performed an all-Bach program together during Arbor Chamber Music's 2001 series.

Arbor Chamber Music is now in its 13th season. Funding for the series is provided by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Hayward Industries, The Westfield Foundation, and McCarter and English LLP.

The Presbyterian Church is handicapped-accessible.

Annual 'Messiah' Sing is planned by Choral Society

The Choral Art Society of New Jersey Inc. has scheduled its annual "Messiah" Community Sing for Dec. 12 at 8 p.m. at St. Helen's R.C. Church, 1600 R. way Ave., Westfield.

James S. Little, musical director of the society, will conduct the beloved Handel oratorio. Audience members are invited to bring scores and join in the singing of both choruses and solo sections, or simply come to listen.

The Community Sing has become a Westfield tradition and is an ideal way to kick off the holiday season. Admission to the "Messiah" Community Sing is \$10 at the door, where scores may be borrowed for the evening.

Little is not stranger to the "Messiah" community event, having previously both accompanied and directed the performance. In addition to his duties as the director of the Choral Art Society, he has been the organist and choirmaster of Calvary Episcopal Church in Summit since 1993, having previously held similar positions at Mountainside's Community Presbyterian Church. At Calvary Church, Little directs an adult choir, two youth choirs, and the Calvary Concert Series.

The "Messiah" Sing will also feature the talents of Trent Johnson at the organ. Johnson is organist and choir director at the First United Methodist Church in Westfield.

Other Choral Art Society performances for the 2003-04 season will be a performance of Joseph Haydn's "Mass in Time of War" and Four Motets by Anton Bruckner on Jan. 17 at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, Mountain Avenue and East Broad Street.

The society's Spring Concert will be Durufle "Requiem" and "Sinfonia Sacra" by local composer Sabin Pautza on May 8 at 8 p.m., also at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

The Choral Art Society of New Jersey Inc. is a nonprofit, community chorus of about 80 singers dedicated to the study and performance of great choral works. The chorus has earned the accolades of the public and critics since its beginnings. Evelyn Bleeke directed the group from 1963 until her retirement in 1995. Thomas Booth of Maplewood and Kathleen Healy-Wedsworth also served stints as directors of the Choral Art Society. James S. Little was appointed as the society's director in the spring of 1999.

For tickets or information, call 908-654-3260.

Kean Affiliates mix art and jazz in concert

Area music lovers are invited to stay tuned for a unique jazz experience in Kean University's newly remodeled Wilkins Theater.

Renowned jazz musicians will present a concert, "Jazz Pictures," on Dec. 11 at 8 p.m. in the 950-seat theater on the main campus at 1000 Morris Ave. in Union.

The program, reflecting great art, will feature Kean's affiliate artist in saxophone and jazz, Andy Fusco, who will present the eminent Walt Weiskopf Sextet, of which Fusco is a member. The concert is the second in this year's Affiliate Artist Concert Series. It will feature a single composition, Weiskopf's "Sight to Sound," made possible by a grant from Chamber Music America's New Works Creation and Presentation program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

"Sight to Sound" is a multi-movement work with each section reflecting a famous artist or aspect of the graphic arts. The movement titles are "Salvador," for Dali; "Pablo," for Picasso; "Sight, Sound;" "Vincent," for Van Gogh; "Canvas;" "Toulouse," for Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec; and "Camille," for Pissarro. The use of first or nicknames as movement titles is a reflection of a practice in the jazz community of identifying great musicians with only their colorful first names, like Dizzy, Miles, Ornette and Thelonious. "Sight to Sound" will be performed as a multi-media presentation: images and great art, appropriate to each musical section, will be projected as the band plays.

"Walt" and "Andy" are also musicians of the highest caliber, and Weiskopf, a tenor saxophonist, is famous in other than jazz circles, touring regularly with Steely Dan. Recognized as composer and teacher, Weiskopf has received three grants from the National Endowment for the Arts to fund New York performances of his music.

He has given clinics and concerts at the Paris Conservatory, the Richard Strauss Conservatory in Munich, Germany, and at a number of outstanding music schools in the United States. He has lectured and coached at the Manhattan School of Music, the Eastman School of Music, and the Aaron Copland School of Music, and is currently on the faculty at New Jersey University.

Fusco — in addition to being an affiliate artist at Kean, where he runs its jazz program — is the leader of several of his own jazz ensembles, and also performs with the John Pizzarelli Octet, well known for its Foxwoods Casino commercial and CD. Fusco first came to fame as a member of the Buddy Rich Big Band. From 1978 to 1983, he was the lead alto saxophonist of the band and has since toured with a number of esteemed performers including Gerry Mulligan, Mel Lewis, and Frank Sinatra.

Weiskopf and Fusco are linked in a number of ways. They are both internationally acclaimed. Weiskopf credits Fusco as being a mentor and an important influence. Both performed with Buddy Rich. They often perform in small ensembles together, and both musicians have CDs that have been awarded impressive 4½-star reviews in Down Beat magazine.

Weiskopf, Fusco and Billy Drummond, the drummer with the sextet, were all featured in *The Star-Ledger* in September 2002. The 24-page Sunday supplement, "A Great Day in Jersey," was a celebration of jazz in the Garden State — its rich history, jubilant present and promising future. It was sponsored by Kean University.

"Andy has performed a brilliant jazz recital at Kean every year since the Affiliate Artist Concert Program began," said Anthony Scelba, program founder and director. "This year, we anticipate his concert being the best ever. I can't wait!"

Admission is \$10, and tickets are available at the door and from the Wilkins Theater box office at 908-737-7469. Discounts are available for students, alumni, faculty, staff, and senior citizens.

Bill VanSant, Editor

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Organizations submitting releases to the entertainment section can mail copy to 463 Valley Street, P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, NJ 07040

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INSTANT DECISION DAYS DECEMBER 1-5 & 8-12

Bring high school transcripts (or G.E.D.) and all college transcripts.

We'll evaluate your transcripts, make a decision, and offer you admission—all in one day! Plus we'll waive the \$30 application fee.

Interested in applying for Financial Aid? Bring a copy of your 2002 tax return to receive a financial aid estimate.

No appointment necessary. At 262 South Main St. in Lodi, NJ, our hours are 9am to 7pm Mon.—Thurs. and 9am to 4:30pm on Friday.

Open to all new and transfer students, full-time & part-time undergraduates. Admission is based on eligibility.

FELICIAN COLLEGE

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World Trade Center PATH Station Has Reopened

Remembering Reconnecting Rebuilding

On Sunday November 23, 2003, the Port Authority reopened the World Trade Center PATH Station, beginning a new era for Lower Manhattan.

- A winged canopy on Church Street, between Vesey and Fulton Streets, marks the entrance to the temporary open-air facility.

- Newark and Hoboken service is resumed to the World Trade Center.

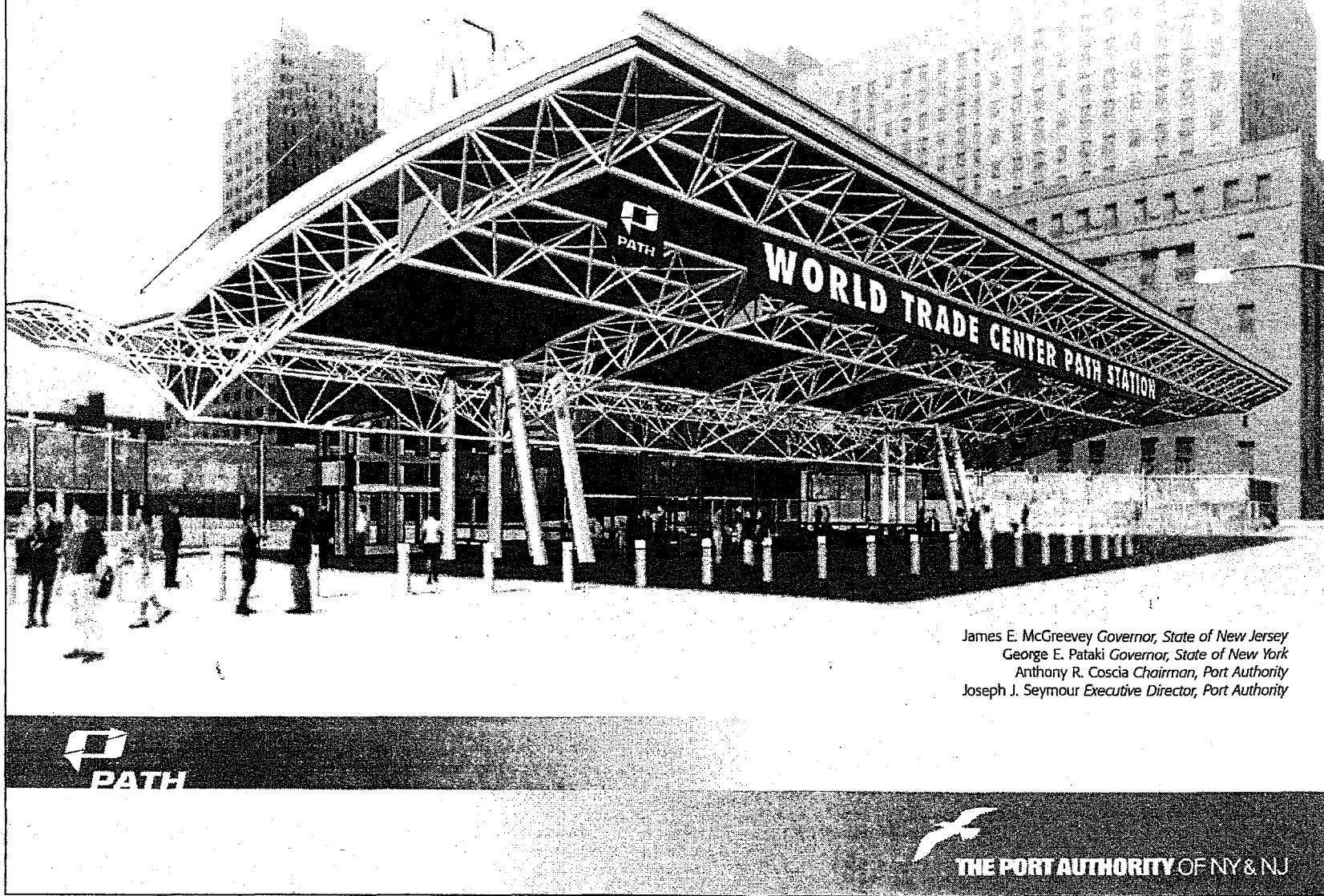
- Rush hour service runs approximately every five minutes. Look for new timetables at all PATH stations.

- Both PATH QuickCard and MTA Pay-Per-Ride MetroCard are accepted.

- ADA compliant elevator service is accessible for passengers who need assistance.

- Subway connections are available to the A/C/E and N/R/W trains.

For more information, visit www.panynj.gov/path, or call 1-800-234-PATH.



James E. McGreevey Governor, State of New Jersey
George E. Pataki Governor, State of New York
Anthony R. Coscia Chairman, Port Authority
Joseph J. Seymour Executive Director, Port Authority

THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANT (L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO:

William Patrick; Robert Painter, Jr.; Amy R. Painter; Albert Figliuolo; Bernice M. Baldassarre; Margaret M. Newmann; Seldon, Inc.; Harmon Publishing Company, Inc.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon GOLDBECK McCAFFERTY & McKEEVER, A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION, plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Suite 420, Century Office Plaza, 216 Haddon Avenue, Westmont, NJ 08108, phone (856)858-3242, an answer to the Complaint (and Amendment to Complaint, if any), filed in a civil action, in which Countrywide Home Loans, Inc. is plaintiff and Paul M. DiFrancesco and Gerlinde DiFrancesco, h/w are the defendant(s), pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Union County, and bearing Docket No. F-16435-03 within thirty-five (35) days after December 4, 2003 exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint (and Amendment to Complaint, if any). You shall file your answer and proof of service duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Justice Complex - CN 971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, in accordance with the rules of civil practice and procedure.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a mortgage dated June 10, 1988 made by Paul M. DiFrancesco and Gerlinde DiFrancesco, h/w, as mortgagor(s), to The Dime Savings Bank of New York, FSB recorded on June 21, 1988, for Union County in Book 3878, page 275 of Mortgages for said County, which mortgage was assigned to the plaintiff, Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., by Assignment recorded on January 31, 2002 for Union County in Book AB1285, Page 0195; and (2) to recover possession of, and concerns premises commonly known as 2214 Edgewood Terrace, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076. If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the New Jersey State Bar Association by calling 1-(732)-249-5000. You may also contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of venue by calling 1-(908) 353-4715. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services offices of the County of venue by calling 1-(908) 354-3340.

YOU, William Patrick, are hereby

PUBLIC NOTICE

made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because of the judgment entered on March 31, 1992 in Superior Court of New Jersey against defendant, Paul M. DiFrancesco, Jr., in the amount of \$37,015.00 and known as J-078717-1992 and Case No. L-005132-90, and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

YOU, Robert Painter, Jr. and Amy R. Painter, are hereby made party defendants to this foreclosure action because of the judgment entered on April 8, 1993 in Superior Court of New Jersey against defendant, Paul M. DiFrancesco, Jr., in the amount of \$13,000.00 and known as J-038884-1993 and Case No. L-006121-91, and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

YOU, Albert Figliuolo, are hereby made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because of the judgment entered on May 19, 1993 in Superior Court of New Jersey against defendant, Paul M. DiFrancesco, Jr., in the amount of \$60,000 and known as J-050849-1993 and Case No. L-07055-91, and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

YOU, Bernice M. Baldassarre and Margaret M. Newmann, are hereby made party defendants to this foreclosure action because of the judgment entered on August 16, 1993 in Superior Court of New Jersey against defendant, Paul M. DiFrancesco, Jr., in the amount of \$310,480.97 and known as J-093658-1993 and Case No. L-001609-92, and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

YOU, Seldon, Inc., are hereby made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because of the judgment entered on October 8, 1993 in Superior Court of New Jersey against defendant, Paul M. DiFrancesco, Jr., in the amount of \$1,992.16 and known as J-078594-1993 and Case No.484146, and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

DONALD F. PHELAN, Clerk Superior Court of New Jersey U9378 WCN Dec. 4, 2003 (\$96.75)

Stepping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area. The calendar is open to all groups and organizations in the Union County area. To place your free listing, send information to Arts and Entertainment Editor Bill VanSant, Worrall Community Newspapers, 463 Valley St., P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, NJ 07040. Faxes may be sent to 973-776-2557.

ART SHOWS

ITALIAN SCULPTURAL IMAGES: "Rome, Florence, Venice," photographs by Ron Brown, will be on exhibit at the Donald B. Palmer Museum in Springfield Free Public Library through today.

Gallery hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m. Springfield Free Public Library is located at 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield. For information, call 973-376-4930.

FACE TO FACE: "Environmental Portrait Photography" will be on exhibit at the Arts Guild of Rahway through Dec. 12.

Gallery hours are Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m., and Thursdays, 1 to 3 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. The Arts Guild of Rahway is located at 1670 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call 973-381-7511, send e-mail to artsguild1670@earthlink.net, or visit www.rahwayartsguild.org.

ANNUAL MINIATURE ART SHOW AND SALE will be presented by the duCret School of Art in Plainfield from Sunday to Dec. 12. An opening reception will take place Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m.

The duCret School of Art is located at 1030 Central Ave., Plainfield. For information, call 908-757-7171 or visit www.duCretArtSchool.com.

THE LES MALAMUT ART GALLERY in Union Public Library will present an exhibit of 5-by-7-inch original paintings Tuesday to Dec. 14. All paintings can be purchased for \$10 Dec. 14 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Union Public Library is located at 1980 Morris Ave. in Friberger Park, Union. For information, call 908-851-5450.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTIN DEUTSCH will be on exhibit through Dec. 15 in the new gallery space in the offices of the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. For information, call 908-558-2550, NJ Relay users dial 711, or send e-mail to culturalinfo@ucnj.org.

111 FIRST STREET, works by Edward Fausty, will be on exhibit in the Tomasulo Gallery in Kenneth MacKay Library at Union County College, Cranford, through Dec. 18.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Thursdays and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m.; and Tuesdays to Thursdays, 6 to 9 p.m. UCC is located at 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. For information, call 908-709-7155.

TEAROOMS, TEMPLES AND CEREMONIAL SPACES, works by print-maker Francesca DeMasi Mucciolo, will be on exhibit at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit through Dec. 29.

NJCVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information, including gallery hours, call 908-273-9121 or visit www.njcva.org.

CHRISTMAS MINIATURES will be on exhibit at Swain Galleries in Plainfield from Saturday to Dec. 30. "A 135th Christmas Weekend" will take place Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

Gallery hours are Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. Swain Galleries is located at 703 Watchung Ave., Plainfield. For information, call 908-756-1707.

BOURAS GALLERIES in Summit will exhibit the works of the Mountain Gallery Artists through the end of December.

Gallery hours are by appointment. Bouras Properties is located at 25 Deforest Ave., Summit. For information and to schedule an appointment, call 908-277-6054.

CONTEMPORARY TAPESTRY, works by Archie Brennan and Susan Martin Maffei, will be on exhibit at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit through Jan. 4.

NJCVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information, including gallery hours, call 908-273-9121 or visit www.njcva.org.

COLOR AND TEXTURE, works by Eli Serfaty, will be on exhibit at the Les Malamut Art Gallery in Union Public Library from Saturday to Jan. 21. An opening reception will take place Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Union Public Library is located at 1980 Morris Ave. in Friberger Park, Union. For information, call 908-851-5450.

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL in Mountainside will exhibit the works of Jerry Winick and members of the New Jersey Photography Forum throughout the months of December and January. CHS is located on New Providence Road in Mountainside.

BOOKS

AUTHOR LIZ SCOTT will appear at the Town Book Store in Westfield on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to sign copies of her new cookbook, "Sober Kitchen: Recipes and Advice for a Lifetime of Sobriety." The Town Book Store is located at 255 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call 908-233-3535 or visit the Web site at www.townbookstore.com.

AUTHOR WILLIAM TAAFFE will appear at the Town Book Store in Westfield on Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. to sign copies of his new book, "The Sports of the Times: A Day-to-Day Selection of the Most Important, Thrilling and Inspired Events of the Past 150 Years." The Town Book Store is located at 255 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call 908-233-3535 or visit the Web site at www.townbookstore.com.

AUTHOR ARTHUR VANDERBILT II will appear at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit on Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. to sign copies of his new book, "Gardening in Eden: The Joys of Planning and Tending a Garden." Reeves-Reed Arboretum is located at 165 Hobart Ave., Summit. For information, call 908-277-1190 or visit www.reeves-reedarboretum.org.

BOOKS BY WOMEN, ABOUT WOMEN meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

THE 'LORD OF THE RINGS' READING GROUP meets the first Wednesday of the month at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

EDISON ARTS SOCIETY WRITERS' CIRCLE, led by Cheryl Racanelli, meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

CLASSICS BOOK CLUB meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

CLOAK AND DAGGER READING GROUP will meet the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN INTERESTS meets the second Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

MYSTERY READING GROUP meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION BOOK GROUP, a monthly reading group featuring staff members' favorite books, meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

JEWISH BOOK LOVERS meets the third Monday of the month at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

BOOKS WE LIKE, a reading group featuring staff recommendations, will meet the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

SHAKESPEARE OUT LOUD Reading Group meets the third Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark to read a Shakespeare play out loud. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

WOMEN'S READING GROUP meets the last Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

CONCERTS

THE BROWN BAG CONCERT SERIES will be sponsored Fridays by Central Presbyterian Church in Summit.

Friday: The Plainfield Girl Choir
Dec. 12: "The Other Three Tenors," Bill Dembaugh and friends
Dec. 19: "A Jazzy Christmas," Bill Robinson and John Carlini

All concerts are from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. at the church, 70 Maple St., Summit. Attendees are encouraged to bring brown-bag lunches. Admission is free. For information, call 908-273-0441, ext. 16.

COFFEE WITH CONSCIENCE CONCERT SERIES in Westfield and Springfield will present a series of

artists through June at two locations through June 2004.

Dec. 13: Greg Greenway, Westfield
Jan. 17: Stephanie Corby and Chris Rosser, Westfield

Westfield concerts are presented at the First United Methodist Church, 1 E. Broad St., Westfield; Springfield concerts are presented at Emanuel United Methodist Church, 40 Church Mall, Springfield. Tickets are \$12 and include refreshments. For information, call 908-232-8723 or visit the Web site at www.coffeewithconscience.com.

SANCTUARY CONCERTS in Berkeley Heights will present musical acts in the coming weeks.

Dec. 13: Artisan, \$15
Dec. 27: Christine Lavin
Jan. 10: David Roth
Concerts are presented at Union Village Methodist Church, 1130 Mountain Ave., Berkeley Heights. For information, call 973-376-4946 or visit www.sanctuaryconcerts.org.

A "ROCKAPELLA" CHRISTMAS will be presented Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m. in the Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$23 for adults, \$10 for children younger than 14.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org.

HERMAN'S HERMITS, starring Peter Noone, will appear in concert Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway. Tickets are \$40 to \$75. UCAC is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call 732-499-8226 or visit www.ucac.org.

URBAN BUSH WOMEN will appear in concert Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Chase Room at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$15.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org.

ARBOR CHAMBER MUSIC will present husband-and-wife pianist Richard Goode and violinist Marcia Weinfeld in concert Sunday at 4 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church, East Broad Street and Mountain Avenue, Westfield. Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$15 for senior citizens, \$10 for college students; children are admitted free. For information, call 908-232-1116.

THE COLORS OF CHRISTMAS, featuring Peabo Bryson, Sheena Easton, Christopher Cross, and Irene Cara, will be presented Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$13 to \$59.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org.

THE MUSICAL CLUB OF WESTFIELD will present its Holiday Program on Wednesday at 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield.

PIANIST GEORGE WINSTON will appear in concert Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$11 to \$49.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org.

KEAN UNIVERSITY Department of Music Concert Band will appear in concert Wednesday at 8 p.m. in Wilkins Theater, 1000 Morris Ave., Union. Admission is free. For information, call 908-737-7469.

UNION COUNTY COLLEGE will sponsor a World Music Concert Series, an afternoon of improvised music and visual art, in The Commons on the Cranford campus Dec. 11 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. UCC is located at 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. For information, call 908-709-7000 or 732-745-6751, or visit www.ucc.edu.

UNION HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR will appear in concert Dec. 11 at 8 p.m. at Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church, Stuyvesant Avenue and Chestnut Street, Union. Admission is free. For information, call 908-688-3164.

CELEBRATION SINGERS and Children's Chorus of Cranford will appear in the annual Holiday Concert on Dec. 12 and 13 at the Cranford United Methodist Church, Walnut and Lincoln avenues, Cranford.

THE CHORAL ART SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY will present its annual "Messiah" Sing on Dec. 12 at 8 p.m. at St. Helen's R.C. Church, 1600 Rahway Ave., Westfield. Admission is \$10; scores may be borrowed for the evening. For information, call 908-654-3260.

THE AMERICAN BOYCHOIR will appear in concert, "Songs of the Season," on Dec. 13 at 2 and 7 p.m. in the Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$19 for adults, \$10 for children younger than 14.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org.

THE CONCORD SINGERS AND THE MAPLEWOOD GLEE CLUB will jointly present "Célébration," featuring harpist Merynda Adams, on Dec. 13 at 8 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, DeForest and Woodland avenues, Summit. Admission is a \$10 donation for adults, \$6 for students and senior citizens. For information, call 908-771-0978.

THE ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC, under conductor Zubin Mehta, will appear in concert Dec. 13 at 8 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$19 to \$76.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org.

THE ORCHESTRA OF ST. PETER BY THE SEA, under conductor Father Alphonse Stephenson, will appear in concert Dec. 13 at 8 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway. Tickets are \$25 and benefit UCAC. UCAC is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call 732-499-8226 or visit www.ucac.org.

THE MADRIGAL SINGERS will present "From Heaven High," a holiday program, Dec. 14 at 4 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 1 E. Broad St., Westfield. Admission is by donation. For information, call 908-233-1570.

THE BOSTON POPS ESPLANADE ORCHESTRA, under conductor Keith Lockhart, will appear in concert Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$19 to \$81.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org.

THE NJPAC JUBILATION CHOIR, with special guest Tramaine Hawkins, will present "A Joyous Gospel Holiday" on Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$15 to \$37, \$18 for children younger than 14.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org.

DANCE

"THE NUTCRACKER" will be presented by the American Repertory Ballet and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra on Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m. at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$20 to \$45.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 800-255-3476 or visit www.njsymphony.org.

MUNTU DANCE THEATER OF CHICAGO will appear in "The Spirit of Kwanzaa" on Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 20 at 2 and 5 p.m. in the Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$19 for adults, \$10 for children younger than 14. A Parent/Child Workshop is available in conjunction with the 2 p.m. performance Dec. 20; fee is \$11 for adults, \$6 for children.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org.

SUMMIT FOLK DANCERS will sponsor evenings of international dance throughout the year at The Connection for Women and Families, 79 Maple St., Summit. Sessions are alternate Fridays from 8 to 10:30 p.m. Admission is \$2, or \$12 for half the season; workshops are \$5. For information, call 973-467-8278.

Y-SQUARES, a local square dance club, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Frank K. Hehnlly School, Raritan Road, Clark. Fee for each lesson is \$4. For information, call 908-298-1851, 732-381-2535 or 908-241-9492.

DISCUSSION

JOURNAL WRITING GROUP, led by professional life coach Jami Novak, meets the fourth Thursday of each month at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

WRITERS' WORKSHOP will meet every other Monday at Barnes and Noble in Springfield, 240 Route 22 West. For information, call 973-376-8544.

FILM

UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY will conclude its Fall 2003 International Film Festival next week.

Tuesday: "8 Women," French
All films are free and are shown at 2 and 7 p.m. on each date. Union Public Library is located at 1980 Morris Ave. in Friberger Park, Union. For information, call 908-851-5450.

HOBBIES

THE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB INC. of Union will present its annual "Sound and Light Show" through Dec. 14 at the club building, 295 Jefferson Ave., Union, behind Home Depot on Route 22 East. Shows are Fridays, 5 to 7 p.m.; Saturdays, noon to 9 p.m.; and Sundays, noon to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for children 12 and younger. For information, call 908-964-9724 or 908-964-8808, send inquiries via e-mail to TMRcInc@aol.com or visit the Web site at www.tmrcl.com.

HOLIDAYS

REEVES-REED ARBORETUM in Summit will sponsor its "Holiday House Tour" on Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$25; proceeds

benefit the arboretum. Reeves-Reed Arboretum is located at 165 Hobart Ave., Summit. For information, call 908-277-1190 or visit the Web site at www.reeves-reedarboretum.org.

"FROM ST. NICHOLAS TO SANTA CLAUS," highlighting the history of Christmas traditions, will be sponsored by Liberty Hall Museum in Union on Friday and Saturday evenings, Dec. 12, 13, 19 and 20. Tours begin every 15 minutes from 5 to 8 p.m. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens, \$6 for children 6 to 17; children younger than 6 are admitted free. Liberty Hall is located at 1003 Morris Ave., Union. For information, call 908-527-0400 or visit the Web site at www.libertyhallnj.org.

JAZZ

KEAN UNIVERSITY Affiliate Artists will present various artists in "Jazz Pictures" on Dec. 11 at 8 p.m. in Wilkins Theater on the main campus, 1000 Morris Ave., Union. Tickets are \$10. For information, call 908-737-7469.

KIDS

CRANFORD DRAMATIC CLUB will present "Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr." from Friday to Sunday. Shows are 7:30 p.m. Friday; 1:30, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday; and 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$8. CDC is located at 78 Winans Ave., Cranford. For information, call 908-276-7611.

"A GARFIELD CHRISTMAS" will be presented Saturday at 3 and 7 p.m. in Wilkins Theater, Kean University, 1000 Morris Ave., Union. Tickets are \$15 for general admission; \$11 for senior citizens, alumni, faculty and staff; and \$9 for children and students. For information, call 908-737-7469.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE WORKSHOPS will be sponsored by Liberty Hall Museum in Union on Saturdays, Dec. 6 to 20, from 10 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Recommended for children 6 to 10. Fee is \$15 per child and includes materials. Reservations are required. Liberty Hall is located at 1003 Morris Ave., Union. For information, call 908-527-0400 or visit the Web site at www.libertyhallnj.org.

HOLIDAY CRAFTERS will be sponsored by Trailside Nature and Science Center on Tuesday from 9:45 to 11 a.m. as part of its Small Fry Days drop-off program for 4- and 5-year-olds. Fee is \$8 for in-county residents, \$10 for out-of-county residents; pre-registration is required. Trailside is located at 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside. For information, call 908-789-3670.

RECYCLE FOR THE HOLIDAYS will be sponsored by Trailside Nature and Science Center on Tuesday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. as part of its Two of Us workshops for 3- and 4-year-olds and an adult. Fee is \$8 for in-county residents, \$10 for out-of-county residents; pre-registration is required. Trailside is located at 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside. For information, call 908-789-3670.

"CLARA'S DREAM: A JAZZ NUTCRACKER" will be presented as part of Kean University's Children's Hour series Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 14 and 15 at 3 and 7 p.m. in Wilkins Theater, 1000 Morris Ave., Union. Tickets are \$15 for the public; \$11 for senior citizens, and Kean alumni, faculty and staff; \$9 for children and students. For information, call 908-737-7469.

"THE LAST, THE VERY LAST ... BUTTERFLY" will be presented by Pushcart Players on Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. in the Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$19 for adults, \$10 for children younger than 14.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org.

THEATER

THE THEATER PROJECT at Union County College in Cranford will present "It's a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play" on Saturday at 3 p.m. Admission is a suggested donation of \$5. UCC is located at 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. For information, call 908-659-5189.

PAPER MILL: The State Theater of New Jersey will present Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The Sound of Music" through Dec. 14. Shows are at 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. Thursdays and Sundays, and 2:30 p.m. Saturdays. Tickets are \$30 to \$67.

Special performances are the Conversation Series, Thursdays in the mezzanine at 7 p.m.; an audio-described performance Sunday at 7:30 p.m.; sign-interpreted/open-captioned performances Friday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 7:30 p.m., and Lambda Night, Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Paper Mill is located on Brookside Drive, Millburn. For information, call 973-376-4343 or visit the Web site at www.papermill.org.

THE ELIZABETH PLAYHOUSE will present "Play It Again, Sam" by Woody Allen through Dec. 21. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$10 for

general admission, \$6 for students and senior citizens. The Elizabeth Playhouse is located at 1100 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth. For information, call 908-533-0077 or visit the Web site at www.elizabethplayhouse.com.

SHAKESPEARE THEATER OF NEW JERSEY will present "A Child's Christmas in Wales" through Dec. 28. Shows are Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 7 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$33 to \$53. The Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey performs at the F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theater on the campus of Drew University, 36 Madison Ave., Madison. For information, call 973-408-5600 or visit the Web site at www.ShakespeareNJ.org.

VARIETY

THE BACK PORCH in Rahway will present Open Mike Night every Thursday night, a disc jockey every Friday night, and solo artists and bands on Saturdays. Happy Hour is 4 to 7 p.m. Mondays to Fridays, with \$1 drafts and \$3 Long Island iced teas. Mondays are Mexican Mondays with \$2 shot specials, \$2 Coronas, \$2 margaritas and \$1 tacos. Wednesdays are Ladies Nights and karaoke.

The Back Porch is located at 1505 Main St., Rahway. For information, call 732-381-6544.

CROSSROADS, 78 North Ave., Garwood, presents a series of jazz, blues and comedy concerts, as well as football-themed nights.

Every Sunday: Live comedy, funk and poetry

Every Monday: Open Mic Night, Happy Hour all night

Every Tuesday: Jazz Jam, all pints are \$2

Every Wednesday: Hi-Fi Wednesdays with G.L.O. with DJs and musicians; Corona, Cuervo, Margaritas, \$2 all night

Every Thursday: Rolling Rock beer, \$2 all night

Today: Secret Sound, Zen Trickers

Friday: Booscuttle Five

Saturday: Soft Parade in a tribute to The Doors

Dec. 11: Al Madison, Ether Soul

Dec. 13: The Beats in a tribute to The Beatles

For information, call 908-232-5666

Groups pair up to voice 'Celebration'

The Concord Singers of Summit and the Maplewood Glee Club have announced they have combined their distinct sounds in two upcoming holiday performances, titled "Celebration."

The dates are Dec. 12 at 8 p.m. at Maplewood Middle School, 7 Burnet St. at Baker Street, Maplewood; and Dec. 13 at 8 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, corner of DeForest and Woodland avenues, Summit.

The choruses will perform "Fros-tiana" by Robert Frost and Randall Thompson, and "Choral Dances" from Benjamin Britten's "Gloriana," in addition to other works which will be performed separately.

The featured artist will be Merynda Adams, principal harpist with the Orchestra at William Paterson University and a renowned soloist.

The Concord Singers is a women's community chorus based in Summit; the Maplewood Glee Club is a men's chorus based in Maplewood. Both groups perform concerts in December and May. They also bring their musical talents to local nursing homes, hospitals and retirement communities. Additionally, each group provides scholarships to musically talented high school students.

Michael Sanfilippo, director of the Concord Singers, also directs the Apprentice Chorus of the Newark Boys Chorus School, where he teaches theory and ear-training. Jason Tramm, director of the Maplewood Glee Club, is pursuing his doctorate in conducting at Rutgers University, where he teaches an undergraduate conducting class and simultaneously serves as the assistant director for several musical groups.



Merynda Adams

Caroline Parody, accompanist for the Concord Singers, teaches piano and voice at Montclair State University and is a vocal coach and accompanist for the Newark Boys Chorus School. She also performs with various opera groups and will be the featured soprano soloist for "Cantique de Noel."

Thomas Cuffari, accompanist for the Maplewood Glee Club, also is an accomplished organist. He is the music director at the Scarborough Presbyterian Church, he directs the Westchester Women's Chorale, and has appeared on stage in the United States, Europe and Asia. Recently, he has been playing with big bands and jazz quartets.

Tickets for either "Celebration" concert are available for a donation of \$10 for adults, \$6 for students and senior citizens, and can be obtained at the door.

For information, call Deborah Boyman at 908-771-0978.

'Nutcracker' set to return to Paper Mill stage

Paper Mill: The State Theater of New Jersey will play host to New Jersey Ballet's 33rd anniversary production of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker."

Bring the entire family to this perennial tale of holiday enchantment live on stage for 16 performances only from Dec. 19 to 28.

The cast of 100 dancers from around New Jersey also features the renowned Paper Mill orchestra, stunning sets by Michael Anania, the Sugar Plum Fairy, toy soldiers, an enormous Christmas tree, the villainous Mouse King and, of course, Clara and her valiant Nutcracker Prince.

Tickets are priced at \$24 to \$54 and can be obtained by calling 973-376-4343, stopping by the box office on Brookside Drive in Millburn, or buying directly online at the theater's Web site, www.papermill.org. Amex, Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted.

The perennial tale of holiday enchantment, New Jersey Ballet's acclaimed production of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" returns to the Paper Mill stage for its 33rd presentation Dec. 19 to 28. Ticket buyers and family audiences will also note that some performances this year — Dec. 26 to 28 — are held the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Tickets are on sale now by calling 973-376-4343.

Hailed as the premiere "Nutcracker" in New Jersey, this production by the state's leading dance company features a cast of more than 200 children from New Jersey in alternating casts, lavish sets by Paper Mill's award-winning resident scenic designer, Michael Anania, and the renowned Paper Mill orchestra.

"The Nutcracker"

Performance schedule

Dec. 19 at 8 p.m., Dec. 20 at 2 and 7 p.m., Dec. 21 at 1 and 6 p.m., Dec. 22 at 2 and 7 p.m., Dec. 23 at 2 and 7 p.m., Dec. 24 at 1 p.m., Dec. 26 at 2 and 7 p.m., Dec. 27 at 2 and 7 p.m., and Dec. 28 at 1 and 6 p.m.

There is no performance on Christmas Day, Dec. 25.

Tickets for New Jersey Ballet's "The Nutcracker" at Paper Mill range in price from \$24 to \$54. A limited number of box seats are available for \$54. AMEX, Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted. Group rates are available for groups of 20 or more at 973-379-3636, ext. 2438.

For information and reservations, call 973-376-4343 or buy directly online at www.papermill.org.

Holiday Sights & Sounds

THE 31ST ANNUAL
Montclair
CRAFT SHOW
Hillside School, 54 Orange Road, Montclair
One block south of Bloomfield Ave.
December 6 & 7
Saturday & Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM

Showing a marvelous array of the finest in
Juried American Crafts
Over 90 craft artists from 10 states
will bring their best work in

- Glass • Leather
- Wearable Art
- Wood • Ceramics
- Jewelry • Folk Art

Admission: Adults \$5.00, Seniors \$4, Children \$1, Babes-in-arms free.
***1 OFF one adult admission with this advertisement.**
No baby strollers permitted.
Sponsored by the Montclair Craft Guild.

CDC to rock the 'Schoolhouse'

The Cranford Dramatic Club will present its Children's Theater production — this year, "Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr." — on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

This fun and energetic musical is based on the Emmy Award-winning educational cartoon series, and continues CDC's annual holiday tradition of shows for the young and young at heart.

Carl Barber Steele, a CDC veteran popular in both local and professional theatrical venues, directs this year's production.

Art Kusiv, producer, says, "It's a lively show filled with catchy tunes, dancing, and interaction with the audience. It's a great favorite of children of all ages, as well as adults, and will stimulate the imagination of all."

"Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr." includes a cast of both CDC veterans and newcomers.

Rick Brown returns to the CDC stage as Tom, the school teacher who anxiously awaits his first day on the job.

Arriving just in time to provide Tom with the inspiration he needs is the Schoolhouse Rock bunch, portrayed by CDC veterans Ed Wittel, Melissa Loderstedt and Paul Sadowski Jr., and newcomers Freddi Mack and Brittanae Smith McGee.

The Cranford Dramatic Club is located at 78 Winans Ave., off Centennial Avenue near Exit 136 of the Garden State Parkway, in Cranford.

Performances are Friday at

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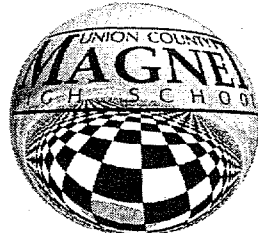
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Celebrate Christmas Eve With Us!*

2 Candlelight Celebrations for YOU
December 24, 5 & 7 PM
REAL-ly Great Music REAL-life Messages
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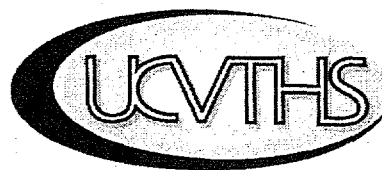
Attention 8th Graders
You're invited to an Information Session
Saturday, December 6

1776 Raritan Road
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076



Union County Magnet High School
9:00 a.m.

- Full-time, four-year high school
- Engineering design and technology curriculum
- Intensive study in science, mathematics, and technology
- Competitive admissions process
- 100% college placement



Union County Vocational-Technical High School
10:30 a.m.

- Full-time, four-year high school
- Two curriculum tracks:
-Academy of Information Technology
-Career and Technical Education Options
- Competitive admissions process
- Options at graduation for continuing education or immediate employment

To register or for more information call
908-889-8288 ext. 201 908-889-8288 ext. 339

COUNTRY FOLK ART CRAFT SHOW
December 5-6-7
EDISON
NEW JERSEY CONVENTION & EXPO CENTER
Please call (732) 417-1400 for driving directions
FREE PARKING
200+ ARTISANS!

Country Folk Art Shows, Inc.
15045 Dixie Hwy, Holly, MI 48442
Ph: (248) 634-4151, Fx: 634-3718
email: info@countryfolkart.com

SHOW HOURS: Friday 3 pm - 9 pm
Sat. 10 am - 5 pm & Sun. 10 am - 4 pm • Adm. \$7
Children Under 10 • Adm. \$2 • NO STROLLERS PLEASE!!!

YOUR HANDSTAMP RE-ADmits YOU ALL 3 DAYS!

More show info & directions at: CountryFolkArt.com

The Longest Running Community Theater in New Jersey
Founded 1919
THE CRANFORD DRAMATIC CLUB
presents

Schoolhouse Rock Live, Jr.

FRIDAY ★ DECEMBER 5
7:30pm

SATURDAY ★ DECEMBER 6
1:30, 4:30, 7:30pm

SUNDAY ★ DECEMBER 7
1:30, 4:30pm

Tickets ★ \$8.00
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908-276-7611
Group sales of 25 - 74 tickets
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SCHOOLHOUSE

CRANFORD DRAMATIC CLUB
CDC THEATRE
78 WINANS AVE. CRANFORD, N.J. 07015

HOLIDAY EVENTS IN SUMMIT

SANTA ARRIVES!
Friday, December 5, 6:30pm
SANTA PARADE
FLOATS MUSIC REFRESHMENTS
(Along Springfield Ave., Beechwood Rd., Union Pl.)
Bring a can/box of non-perishable food or diapers for the FoodBank.

HOLIDAY PUPPET SHOWS
Sunday, December 14, 12:30 & 2:00 pm
The Square Yard, 343 Springfield Ave.
Info and Tickets - 908-522-1700

HORSE AND CARRIAGE RIDES
Sundays, December 7, 14, & 21 12:00-2:30 pm
Climb aboard at corner of Beechwood Rd. and De Forest Ave. FREE, but bring a can/box of food or diapers for the FoodBank.

BREAKFASTS WITH SANTA
Saturdays & Sundays in December
@ The Office Restaurant (908-522-0550),
Winberies Restaurant (908-277-4224),
Broadway Grill (908-277-6222)
(Call for exact times & to make reservations.)

HOLIDAY MOVIES
Saturday, December 6, 10:30 & 11:15 AM
Beacon Hill 5 Cinema
FREE, but bring a can or box of food for the Community FoodBank.

ANGEL TREES
Buy a gift for the less fortunate; look for the Angel Signs on the doors of participating stores.

Information: Call 908-522-1700

Paper Mill honors its corporate benefactors at annual celebration

Paper Mill Playhouse recently hosted its eighth annual Chairman's Circle Celebration at The Manor in West Orange to honor the contributions of corporations, foundations and individuals whose support and leadership help further it as the State Theater of New Jersey.

AT&T received special recognition for its commitment to Paper Mill's productions and nationally recognized access and outreach programs.

Paper Mill Board of Trustees Chairman Ken Thorn and President-CEO Michael Gennaro welcomed 200 people to this annual event with members of the Paper Mill board and staff, along with representatives from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, New Jersey Theater Alliance, the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, and the Provident and Sovereign banks.

"The Chairman's Circle Celebration acknowledges those who enable Paper Mill to provide cultural nourishment to New Jersey through entertainment, education and community outreach," said Thorn in his opening remarks. "We are deeply grateful for their belief in the importance and mission of Paper Mill."

Special guest Laura Aden of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation officially introduced Gennaro as Paper Mill's president and CEO and "the keeper of the legacy of Paper Mill."

"Long before Broadway created the Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical, Paper Mill recognized musical theater for the magnificent art form it is, and honored that art form by staging celebrated reinterpretations and revivals," Gennaro said. "With contributions from companies like AT&T, children are able to see 'The Sound of Music' and leave the theater inspired, the visually impaired enjoy the theater

by attending special audio-described performances, and audience members alike continue to experience the power of the performing arts."

Carol Stone, director of AT&T Business Services, said, "We take special pride in making the arts available to a wide audience. New Jersey is

AT&T's home state, and Paper Mill performances help enrich the lives of many of our employees, stakeholders and customers who live here."



At Paper Mill's annual Chairman's Circle Celebration at The Manor, Carol Stone of AT&T, second from right, presents a check worth \$10,000 to, from left, Paper Mill's Angelo Del-Rossi, Board Chairman Ken Thorn, and President-CEO Michael Gennaro. The recent event honored contributors to Paper Mill, designated the State Theater of New Jersey.

Entertainment was provided by tone; and Amanda Watkins, the star of Susan Speidel, Paper Mill's director of education; New Voices Conservatory students Leah Bozozo and Lucia Cut-

Dec. 14.

Serfaty exhibits at Malamut

Renowned Israeli artist Eli Serfaty will present an exhibition of paintings, "Color and Texture," in the Les Malamut Gallery in the Union Public Library on Morris Avenue in Union.

The show will open with a reception Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. The exhibit will continue through Jan. 21. The public is invited.

Born in Paz, Morocco in 1942, his family left there to migrate to Israel by way of France and included a forced detention in Cyprus before arriving in Israel in 1948. He served in the military as an airplane mechanic but soon became the local artist. In 1962, he prepared and painted the set for a performance by Frank Sinatra at his military base. He then studied graphic art at the famous Bezalel Art Academy in Jerusalem. There he met and married a fellow student, Erelle, who is also a designer. While a student at the school, he joined an international mission to Venice to save the art treasures that were damaged there during the catastrophic floods of 1964.

Upon graduation from art school, Serfaty developed a technique to etch creative images on brass. His art objects were sold throughout the world and given by Israeli officials to foreign dignitaries including President Anwar Sedat of Egypt. Several of these artworks will also be on display at the gallery.

In his current work, he employs a special technique to produce unique surface textures to convey both figurative and abstract themes.

Serfaty has received numerous awards for poster and product designs. He has exhibited in group shows in Hadera, Israel, and Siegen, Germany. He was invited by the Jewish Community of Cincinnati to be the Israeli Artist of the Year exhibitor in 1986. The Museum of Cincinnati bought some of his paintings for permanent exhibition.

The gallery is open during regular library hours, Mondays to Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Union Public Library is located at 1980 Morris Ave., Union. For information, call the library at 908-851-5450.

www.localsource.com

Internet Directory

- Agape Family Worship Center.....<http://www.agapecenter.org>
- American Savings Bank.....<http://www.americansavingsnj.com>
- Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce.....<http://www.compunite.com/bcc>
- Burgdorff ERA.....<http://www.burgdorff.com>
- Crossroads Christian Fellowship.....<http://www.ccfo.org>
- Eye Care Center of NJ.....<http://www.eyecarenj.com>
- First Night of Maplewood/So. Orange.....<http://community.nj.com/cc/firstnight-soma>
- Forest Hill Properties Apartments.....<http://www.springstreet.com/propid/389126>
- Grand Sanitation.....<http://www.grandsanitation.com>
- Holy Cross Church.....<http://www.holycrossnj.org>
- Hospital Center at Orange.....<http://www.cathedralhealthcare.org>
- JRS Realty.....<http://www.century21jrs.com>
- LaSalle Travel Service.....<http://www.lasalletravel.com>
- Mountainside Hospital.....<http://www.atlantichealth.org>
- Nutley Pet Center.....<http://www.nutleypet.com>
- Pet Watchers.....<http://www.petwatchersnj.com>
- Rets Institute.....<http://www.rets-institute.com>
- Skincare Products.....www.marykay.com/chandrac
- South Orange Chiropractic.....<http://www.sochiro.com>
- Summit Area Jaycees.....<http://www.angelfire.com/nj/summitjc>
- Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad.....<http://www.summitvols.org>
- Synergy Federal Savings Bank.....<http://www.synergyonthenet.com>
- Trinitas Hospital.....<http://www.trinitashospital.com>
- Turning Point.....<http://www.turningpointnj.org>
- Union Center National Bank.....<http://www.ucnb.com>
- Unitarian Universalist Church.....<http://www.firstuu.essex.nj.uua.org>
- United Way of Bloomfield.....<http://www.unitedwaybloomfield.org>

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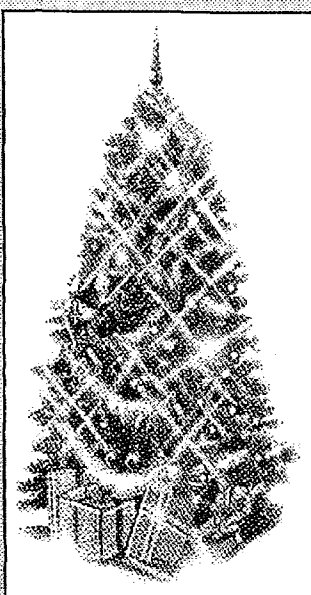
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170 Scotland Road, Orange
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Spectator Leader • Gazette Leader
Railway Progress • Summit Observer

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West Orange Chronicle • East Orange Record
Orange Transcript • The Glen Ridge Paper
Nutley Journal • Belleville Post
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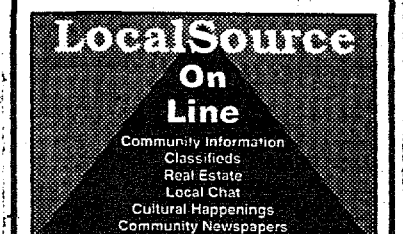
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KENILWORTH: SPACIOUS 1/2 duplex. Enclosed front porch, eat-in-kitchen, 3 bedrooms, living room, dining room, partially finished basement. Deck & pool. \$256,000. 908-276-4617.

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Wonderful Colonial recently painted offers 9 rooms and includes 5 bedrooms, 3 full baths, many new features including eat-in-kitchen with pantry, living room with fireplace, roof, heating system, central air conditioning and electric, addition. In master bedroom, sunroom and new windows. Second floor has excellent potential as Mother/Daughter. \$439,900.

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UNION
Lovely Center Hall Colonial located on nice street boasts 3 Bedrooms, 1.1 baths, Living Room with fireplace, Formal Dining Room and Eat-in-Kitchen. Convenient to transportation and shopping. All appliances and window AC included. Sold as is. UNI 8202 \$269,000

Charming 3 Bedroom Dutch Colonial boasts Living Room, Dining Room, Eat-in-Kitchen, 1.1 baths, finished basement, hardwood floors and 2-car garage. Close to school and transportation
UNIB344 \$305,000

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UNION

Beautiful Colonial offers 7 rooms and includes 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, hardwood floors, beautiful moldings, newer kitchen with tile floor, oak cabinets, formal dining room, living room with wood burning fireplace. Ready to move in. \$309,00

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Townhouses in Springfield provide spacious elegance

Eight newly constructed townhomes are available at Spring's Edge in Springfield, an elegant community comprised of bright and spacious three-level residences. Each of the three bedroom, two-and-one-half bath units has a number of upscale features including dramatic two-story entry foyers with an oversized Palladian window, gourmet kitchens and master bedroom suites with private balconies.

The exteriors are equally appealing, with brick facades, Pella windows and paved driveways leading to a one-car garage with automatic openers.

Open floor plans make the homes at Spring's Edge ideal for entertaining and comfortable for everyday living. The gracious living/dining room combination has hardwood floors and nine-foot first-floor ceiling heights. Inviting eat-in kitchens are fitted with custom cabinetry in a choice of finishes, granite countertops, a GE designer appliance package, and kitchen island.

One of the highlights of each home at Spring's Edge is the master bedroom suite with its cathedral ceiling and private balcony. The master bath features a Jacuzzi-like tub and American Standard fixtures. Two more bedrooms and another full ceramic bath are found on the second floor, each bedroom fitted with plush wall-to-wall carpeting. On the lower level, a basement can be finished as an optional recreation room. Homes also have full attics for storage.

Each of the residences has a full array of standard features including granite kitchen countertops, gas fireplaces, a recessed lighting package, central air conditioning, high-efficiency, gas-forced air heat and hardwired smoke detectors. A Verizon Advanced Home wiring system adds to the long list of amenities. There are also many available upgrades for the homes such as custom wood trim and

moldings, Smart House wiring, rear decks and more.

This carefully planned community has taken great care to provide a welcoming environment with handsome historical-style lighting fixtures, Belgian-block curbing, and professionally designed landscaping with sprinkler systems. It is served by underground utilities, city water and sewer.

Spring's Edge has an enviable location just two miles from Routes 24 and 78, three miles from the Garden State Parkway and 15 minutes from Newark Liberty International Airport. A community jitney provides transportation to the nearby Short Hills train station for Midtown Direct service to Manhattan.

The township of Springfield is an attractive suburban community providing many shopping options including Short Hills Mall, one of the country's top-rated malls. There are many schools, houses of worship, restaurants, and cultural and recreational opportunities nearby.

Architect and developer Nicholas J. Netta designed these stylish townhomes to appeal to the buyer who seeks both the advantage of home ownership and a carefree condominium lifestyle. Netta has equipped each home with many standards features that are often considered upgrades in other new home communities. Additionally, buyers can customize their new townhouse with a host of selections which express their personality.

The finely detailed townhomes at Spring's Edge are priced from \$382,900.

For further information, contact Burgdorff ERA sales associate Louise Biunno, GRI, in the Summit office. She can be reached at 908-522-3874.

Founded in 1958, Burgdorff ERA is the top producing ERA real estate firm in dollar volume nationally, with 16 offices and more than 700 sales associates in New Jersey.



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Let's Ask Jill

by Jill Guzman

Look for the R and the MLS
Signs of Success!!

If you are a homeowner thinking of the possibility of selling your home, you want the best Ethics, professionalism, honesty, service, and consumer exposure are all the factors that will open the doors to a successful Real Estate transaction.

The "R" represents "Realtor". Knowing that a Real Estate professional proudly wears the "R" symbol next to the name, is as reassuring as MD, next to your physician title. The "R" signifies that your Real Estate Agent and Brokerage are members of the local, state, and National Boards of Realtors. It means they follow and subscribe to the highest rules of Ethics and are well educated professionals in their field.

The "MLS" signifies Multiple Listing Services and assures you as a home owner that your home will be offered to all Real Estate professionals in the MLS ensuring top activity and then many more offers which lead to a better price!

Caveat Emptor - let the consumer beware! Make certain when listing your home that the Brokerage will offer you the type of activity you deserve by placing your home on the MLS. Many discount brokers do not offer that opportunity for your home, they promise to save you money in the long run, cause you to sell your home under its value, thereby costing you a substantial amount! We at Jill Guzman Realty, Inc. now proudly celebrating our 15th year of success, pride ourselves on the "R" that stands next to

our name and the Garden State MLS in which we place our homes as per owners request. We take pride in ourselves for having received the honor of being the #1 in Elizabeth in value brought to homeowners.

Thinking of selling? Look for the "R" and the MLS and make your decision the right one. We look forward to seeing you!!!

Jill Guzman has achieved the ultimate distinction of being among the TOP 1% of more than (approx.) 7,040 Active Real Estate Professionals by units of listings sold in the year 2000!

P.S. The professionals at Jill Guzman Realty are achieving honors and distinctions year after year. They offer personal service, true knowledge of market value, and a marketing program to enhance your home together with honesty and integrity. Their best reference is, and always will be, your neighbor.

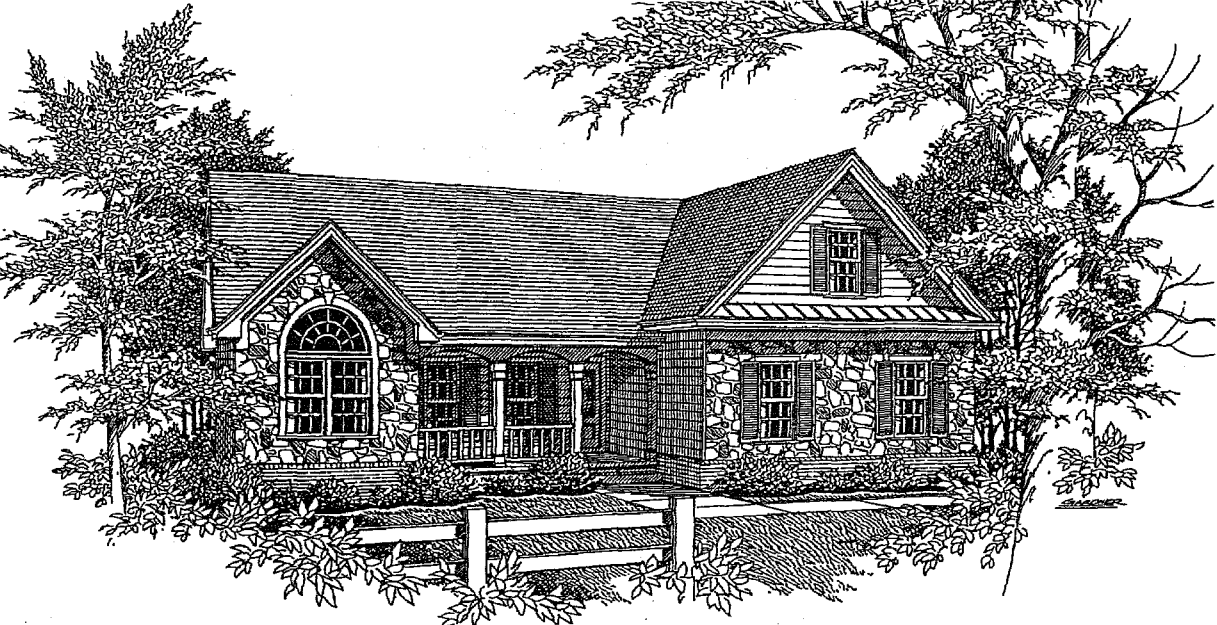
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The airy, restful master bedroom is embellished with a tray ceiling while the master bath includes a sloped ceiling. The bath may accommodate a double vanity and a separate shower and tub. The room also has an adjacent walk-in closet

Home has informal comfort

Expansion options are an impressive feature of this home. Over the garage is a 12-by-23 room, which has limitless possibilities. Additional expansion space is also provided in the basement of the home.

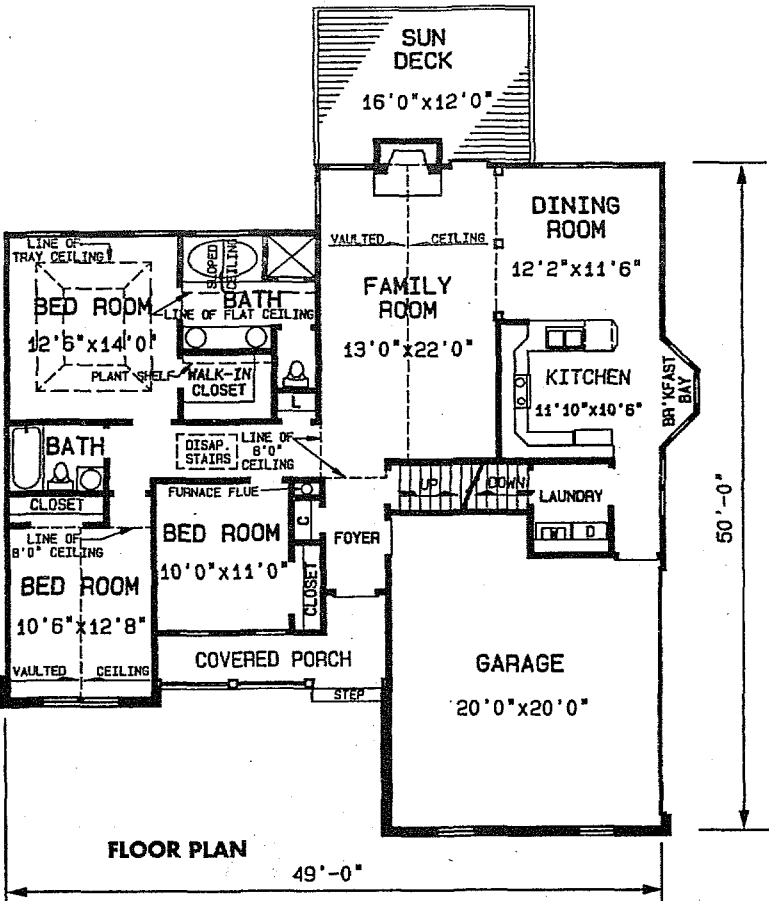
Entry to the home is from a covered, front porch with a recessed door. A foyer continues back to the vaulted family room with a fireplace and rear sun deck access. Alongside is a dining room, which is only visually separated by columns from the family room.

The kitchen is U-shaped with one side being open to the dining room. A small breakfast bay is indicated for those quick meals on the go. A laundry room is tucked away at the entrance to the garage, and basement access is from this room.

The quiet zone of the house includes three bedrooms and two baths. One bedroom is adorned with an arch top window and includes a vaulted ceiling.

The airy, restful master bedroom is embellished with a tray ceiling while the master bath includes a sloped ceiling. The bath is shown with a double vanity and separate shower and tub.

Dramatic impressions are created by a combination of stone and horizontal siding, multiple roof lines and



a covered porch. All W.D. Farmer plans include construction details for substituting brick, frame or stucco exterior finish.

Plan number Z-522 includes 1,523 square feet of space on the first floor and 283 square feet of space in the bonus room. The basement is under the entire heated space of the first

floor.

To receive an information packet on the plans, call W.D. Farmer Residence Design Inc. at 800-225-7526 or 800-221-7256 in Georgia. You can write to request the information at P.O. Box 450025, Atlanta, Ga. 31145. Visit their Web site: www.wdfplans.com.

Weichert Financial, RRI to merge

Fred Watkins, president of Weichert Financial Services announced that RRI Mortgage Services has reached a formal agreement to merge with Weichert Financial Services. This announcement comes as part of the acquisition of RRI that closed on April 16.

"The addition of RRI Mortgage

Services and its exceptional staff to our already successful Weichert Financial Services team will only enhance the level of service we are able to provide to our customer base," said Watkins. "Their expertise in servicing the specialized needs of relocating employees will come as a great compliment to the hundreds of mort-

gage products Weichert Financial Services has to offer."

RRI Mortgage Services will continue to operate under its original name for the near future to ensure that RRI clients experience a continuation of the excellent service that they have grown accustomed to receiving.

Home equity borrowing has advantages

While the country has enjoyed record-low interest rates during the past 24 months, there has been a great deal of talk about mortgage refinancing and home equity loans. Many consumers have taken advantage of the opportunity to save money each month by refinancing to a lower interest rate, obtain a cash-out refinance to pay for much-needed home improvements or consolidate credit card debt, or change the terms of their mortgage from 30 to 15 years.

But that boom is nearing the end and interest rates are starting to rise. And when interest rates begin to rise, there is typically a shift in the source of consumer financing.

In the case of homeowners who may be looking at the equity in their home to help out with bills or life's big expenses, the shift usually is from home equity loans to home equity lines of credit (HELOCs). The reason being is that with interest rates on the rise, a HELOC allows you to borrow smaller amounts at a time and therefore only pay interest on smaller

chunks of money at a time — saving you interest.

Like a home equity loan, a home equity line of credit is a source of money available to homeowners who have equity in their home — either from an increased value of the home, a large down payment or having paid down a first mortgage over a number of years.

Unlike a traditional mortgage, a HELOC gives homeowners access to a pre-determined amount of money over time — a revolving credit account. It operates similar to a credit card or a checking account — you draw upon the funds as you need them and likewise, as you pay off your balance, your credit revolves and can be used again.

Home equity lines of credit can be used for almost any need. They can pay off high-interest credit card debt, pay for college tuition, car repairs, home remodeling, medical expenses, or act as a safety net during times of financial uncertainty. An added benefit of a HELOC is that the interest is often tax deductible. Be sure to check with

your tax advisor for more details.

Generally created with a 10-year "draw period," during which homeowners can access their money, a home equity line of credit sometimes offers starting interest rates lower than fixed-rate or adjustable-rate mortgages.

Homeowners considering tapping into their equity should always do so in the context of an overall financial plan. Always use caution when working with a mortgage lender to obtain a home equity loan or home equity line of credit — always work with a reputable lender who will only make a loan that is in your best interest.

The benefits of a home equity line of credit are:

- borrow money only as you need it;
- pay interest only on the outstanding amount;
- monthly payment is based on amount used; and
- access credit line by using checks as many times as you like during the draw period, up to your credit limit.

Burgdorff ERA buys Schweppe

Burgdorff ERA's parent company, NRT Incorporated, announced the acquisition of Schweppe & Co. Realtors in Upper Montclair. Schweppe & Co. Realtors' single-office firm is one of the most productive individual offices in the state, generating \$11 million gross commission during the past 12 months.

Pat Hoferkamp will continue in her role as president and chief operating officer of Burgdorff ERA. Jay Schweppe, president and chief executive officer of Schweppe & Co., will become NRT vice president of strategic initiatives for the Northeast region. He will continue to co-manage the Upper Montclair office, which will do business as Schweppe Burgdorff ERA, along with Denise Riordan, who will continue as co-manager and become vice president.

"Over the past 40 years, Burgdorff ERA and Schweppe & Co. have evolved to become the two stellar companies in the Upper Montclair marketplace," said Hoferkamp. "By uniting these powerful forces, we believe the synergies will shine brightly for consumers looking for superior market knowledge, experience and an unwavering commitment to excellent service."

In 2002, Schweppe & Co. accounted for \$290 million in total closed sales volume.

Schweppe & Co. was founded in 1960 by Jim and Mary Schweppe, parents of Jay Schweppe. It has grown since then from a four-agent storefront office to a team of 56 sales associates who are highly trained in the industry's state-of-the-art technological advancements.

"By joining NRT and Burgdorff ERA, we are able to tap immediately into opportunities for growth of our Upper Montclair office that extend far beyond our local marketplace and into an established network across 30 major metropolitan markets," said Jay Schweppe.

"We see this as a terrific opportunity for our agents to gain more referrals and traffic to their listings — which is an excellent upshot for the consumer," he said.

With this announcement, Burgdorff ERA now has 16 offices and 700 sales associates serving northern and central New Jersey.

During the last 12 months, Burgdorff ERA and Schweppe & Co. Realtors generated a combined \$2.2 billion closed sales volume.

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15 YEAR FIXED	4.50	3.00	5.01	FEE	15 YEAR FIXED	4.88	0.00	4.94	FEE		
5/1-30 YR	4.63	0.00	4.31	\$ 350	5/1-30 YR	4.50	0.00	4.22	\$ 495		
15 year fixed is biweekly											
Fleet 800-465-3070, press 1					North American Mtge 973-903-3252						
30 YEAR FIXED	5.75	0.00	5.88	APP	30 YEAR FIXED	5.75	0.00	5.92	APP		
15 YEAR FIXED	5.00	0.00	5.23	FEE	15 YEAR FIXED	5.13	0.00	5.45	FEE		
30 YR JUMBO	6.13	0.00	6.19	N/P	30 YR JUMBO	5.75	0.00	5.99	\$ 250		
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N/P — Not provided by institution					30 YEAR FIXED	6.00	0.00	6.05	APP		
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UNION - Lovely Center Hall Colonial located on nice street boasts 3 BR's, 1.1 baths, LR w/flr, FDR & EIK. Convenient to transportation & shopping. All appl. & window A/C incl. Sold as is. UN18202
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ADVERTISE

Mercedes SL 500 wins Silver Award

The Mercedes-Benz SL 500 coupe/roadster has been selected as the Silver Award winner in the 2003 Industrial Design Excellence Awards, IDEA, competition, co-sponsored by The Industrial Designers Society of America and Business Week magazine.

The IDEA competition showcases some of the hottest industrial designs from across the United States and around the globe.

As this year's Silver IDEA award winner, the SL500 was distinguished for its contemporary design that, at the same time, preserves classic elegance.

"Design gives an individual vehicle, as well as the brand as a whole, its character and individuality. We treat each vehicle as an original, fascinating sculpture," said Peter Pfeiffer, head of design, DaimlerChrysler AG.

The original 300SL Gullwing of 1954 was a trendsetter in both technological advances and styling when it first debuted, and five generations of SL roadsters later, the 2003-model SL500 is no less.

Its innovative retractable hardtop transforms the SL from coupe to roadster in 16 seconds, while Mercedes inventions such as SBC electronic braking, ABC active suspension and ESP stability control work behind the scenes to enhance safety and driving pleasure alike.

Mercedes-Benz is the only automotive company to offer convertibles continuously since the 1950s.

Since its introduction in March 2002, demand for the current-generation SL has been phenomenal, recording the highest-ever SL-Class sales for MBUSA in 2002 with 13,717 cars, compared to an annual average of 5,300 over the previous 10 years.

The SL500 model covers 93 percent of these sales with 12,711 cars.

In addition to the SL500, the SL55 AMG and a V12-powered SL600.

Multi-Chevrolet collecting 'Toys for Tots' donations

Multi-Chevrolet is partnering with the Marine Corps to again serve as an official drop-off site for the "Toys for Tots" program. Residents of Union and surrounding communities are being invited to participate by bringing unwrapped toys for children of all ages to the dealership.

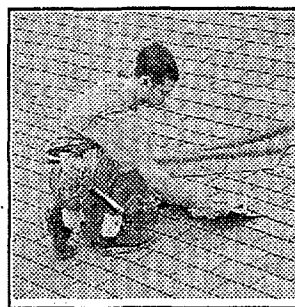
Multi-Chevrolet will collect the toys from now through approximately Dec. 15, at which time the Marine Corps will collect them and distribute them to needy children in time for Christmas.

Multi-Chevrolet is located at 2675 Route 22 West in Union. For information or store hours, contact a sales consultant at 908-686-2800.

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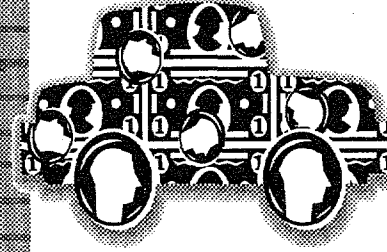
Union County Publications

Union, Kenilworth, Roselle Park, Summit, Mountainside, Springfield, Linden, Roselle, Rahway, Clark, Cranford, Elizabeth

Essex County Publications

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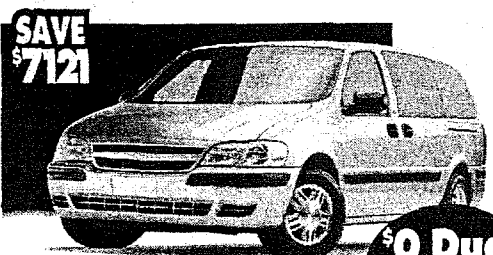
\$0 Due At Signing

The All-New 2004 CHEVROLET SSR Now In Stock! Ready For Immediate Delivery!

BRAND NEW 2004 CHEVROLET MALIBU SEDAN

4 cyl, auto trans, pwr strng/brks/wind/locks, AIR, floor mats & much more! VIN#4F128890, MSRP \$19,075. Buy price incl \$1000 GM Rebate, 48 mo. GMAC Smart Buy w/12,000 mi/yr. 20¢ thereafter. Incl. \$1500 Down Pymnt Assist. \$0 due at signing. Ttl Pymnts = \$7473. Ttl Cost = \$7473. 48th Pymnt is Balloon Pymnt = \$7820.75***

GMAC SMARTBUY OR BUY FOR ONLY \$159 \$13,999 PER MO. 48 MOS. NOT A LEASE... YOU OWN IT! SAVE \$5076

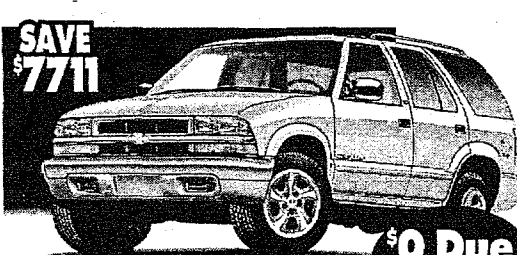


SAVE \$721

BRAND NEW 2004 CHEVROLET VENTURE MINIVAN

4 dr, 6 cyl, auto trans, pwr strng/brks, AIR, AM/FM Stereo, CD, deep t/gls, keyless entry, r/wip, VIN#4D145422, MSRP \$23,120. Buy price incl \$2500 GM Rebate, 36 mo. GMAC Smart Buy w/12,000 mi/yr. 20¢ thereafter. Incl. \$2250 Down Pymnt Assist. \$0 due at signing. Ttl Pymnts = \$6930. Ttl Cost = \$6930. 36th Pymnt is Balloon Pymnt = \$10,635.20***

GMAC SMARTBUY OR BUY FOR ONLY \$198 \$15,999 PER MO. 36 MOS. NOT A LEASE... YOU OWN IT!



SAVE \$7711

BRAND NEW 2004 CHEVROLET BLAZER LS 4x4 4DR

V6, auto trans, pwr strng/brks, AIR, AM/FM Stereo, tilt, cruise, locking diff, full size spare & much more! VIN#4K100960, MSRP \$27,710. Buy price incl \$2500 GM Rebate, 36 mo. GMAC Smart Buy w/12,000 mi/yr. 20¢ thereafter. Incl. \$2250 Down Pymnt Assist. \$500 Cc-R. \$0 due at signing. Ttl Pymnts = \$6965. Ttl Cost = \$6965. 36th Pymnt is Balloon Pymnt = \$13,300.80***

GMAC SMARTBUY OR BUY FOR ONLY \$199 \$19,999 PER MO. 36 MOS. NOT A LEASE... YOU OWN IT!



SAVE \$7471

BRAND NEW 2004 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LS 4x4

4 dr, V6, auto trans, pwr strng/brks/wind/locks/seats/trunk mirror, AIR, AM/FM Stereo, CD, tilt, cruise, r/del, t/gls, keyless entry, theft deterrent sys, VIN#42252148, MSRP \$31,470. Buy price incl \$2500 GM Rebate, 24 mo. GMAC Smart Buy w/12,000 mi/yr. 20¢ thereafter. Incl. \$1000 Down Pymnt Assist. \$500 Cc-R. \$0 due at signing. Ttl Pymnts = \$5267. Ttl Cost = \$5267. 24th Pymnt is Balloon Pymnt = \$20,770.20***

GMAC SMARTBUY OR BUY FOR ONLY \$229 \$23,999 PER MO. 24 MOS. NOT A LEASE... YOU OWN IT!

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'01 MERCURY SABLE LS 4 dr, 6 cyl, auto OD trans, pwr strng/ABS/wind/locks/seats/trunk mirror, AIR, AM/FM Stereo, CD, tilt, cruise, r/del, t/gls, b/s mldgs, moonroof, tilt, all sun rds, dual air bags, fog ls, 34,152 mi. Sdk#12803A, VIN#1A610801

\$11,999

'01 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER 4 dr, 6 cyl, auto OD trans, pwr strng/ABS/wind/locks/seats/trunk mirror, AIR, AM/FM Stereo, CD, tilt, cruise, r/del, t/gls, b/s mldgs, alloy wheels, moonroof, dual air bags, fog ls, 34,152 mi. Sdk#12803A, VIN#1A610801

\$11,999

'01 MAZDA TRIBUTE 4X4 4 dr, 6 cyl, auto OD trans, pwr strng/ABS/wind/locks/seats/trunk mirror, AIR, AM/FM Stereo, CD, tilt, cruise, r/del, t/gls, b/s mldgs, cloth int, alloy wheels, lugg rack, int wip, 27,582 mi. Sdk#12908A, VIN#1K4M3430

\$13,999

'00 CHEVROLET BLAZER LS 4X4 4 dr, 6 cyl, auto OD trans, pwr strng/ABS/wind/locks/seats/trunk mirror, AIR, AM/FM Stereo, CD, tilt, cruise, r/del, t/gls, b/s mldgs, alloy wheels, moonroof, dual air bags, fog ls, 34,152 mi. Sdk#12316A, VIN#42201157

\$14,399

'02 MITSUBISHI DIAMANTE 4 dr, 6 cyl, auto OD trans, pwr strng/ABS/wind/locks/seats/trunk mirror, AIR, AM/FM Stereo, CD, tilt, cruise, r/del, t/gls, b/s mldgs, moonroof, tilt, all sun rds, dual air bags, 17,505 mi. Sdk#12941A, VIN#2T021467

\$16,599

'00 CHEVROLET BLAZER LT 4 dr, 6 cyl, auto OD trans, pwr strng/ABS/wind/locks/seats/trunk mirror, AIR, AM/FM Stereo, CD, tilt, cruise, r/del, t/gls, b/s mldgs, alloy wheels, moonroof, dual air bags, 16,379 mi. Sdk#12589A, VIN#42231828

\$17,399

'01 CHRYSLER 300M 4 dr, 6 cyl, auto OD trans, pwr strng/ABS/wind/locks/seats/trunk mirror, AIR, AM/FM Stereo, CD, tilt, cruise, r/del, t/gls, b/s mldgs, alloy wheels, moonroof, tilt, all sun rds, dual air bags, 33,550 mi. Sdk#12875A, VIN#1H704437

\$17,999

'02 AUDI A4 QUATTRO 4 dr, 4 cyl, auto OD trans, pwr strng/ABS/wind/locks/seats/trunk mirror, AIR, AM/FM Stereo, CD, tilt, cruise, r/del, t/gls, b/s mldgs, moonroof, tilt, all sun rds, dual air bags, 14,847 mi. Sdk#12055A, VIN#2K309118

\$25,999

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NEW 2004 CHEVROLET CAVALIER 4 DR

4 cyl, auto, p/str/bkrs, air, cd, tilt, r/def, airbags, cloth bks, B/W A/S radials. S/N#40335. VIN#47244790. MSRP \$15,995. Price Includes \$4000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

SAVE OVER \$5350 OFF MSRP

\$10,612

buy for

NEW 2004 CHEVROLET MALIBU 4 DR

4 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/adj pedals, air, cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, airbags, cloth bks, remote keyless entry, B/W A/S radials. S/N#40404. VIN#4F130661. MSRP \$20,230. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

SAVE OVER \$2900 OFF MSRP

\$17,312

buy for

NEW 2003 CHEVROLET BLAZER EXTREME 2 DR

6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cd, cruise, tilt, r/def, airbags, cloth bks, locking rr diff, B/W A/S radials. S/N#837. VIN#3D164895. MSRP \$26,145. Price Includes \$3500 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

SAVE OVER \$6200 OFF MSRP

\$19,912

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COME SEE THE ALL NEW 2004 CHEVY COLORADO PICK-UP

0% APR FINANCING AVAILABLE FOR 72 MONTHS ON SELECT VEHICLES OR \$4500 CUSTOMER CASH

NEW 2004 CHEVROLET SILVERADO EXT-CAB W/T 4X4

8 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS, air, cd, tilt, airbags, cloth split seats, HD trailering deep tint gls, HD susp, B/W A/S radials. S/N#212. VIN#4E159518. MSRP \$29,682. Price Includes \$3500 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

SAVE OVER \$4750 OFF MSRP

\$22,212

buy for

NEW 2004 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LS 4X4 4 DR

6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks, air, cass, tilt, r/def, airbags, cloth bks, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. S/N#215. VIN#42187891. MSRP \$30,450. Price Includes \$2500 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

SAVE OVER \$5500 OFF MSRP

\$24,912

buy for

NEW 2002 CHEVROLET CORVETTE CONVERTIBLE

8 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/12 disc cd changer, tilt, cruise, r/def, leather bks, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 1,247 demo miles. S/N#195. VIN#25126974. MSRP \$53,560.

SAVE OVER \$7200 OFF MSRP

\$46,312

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SPECIAL CAR-CAR PRICING ON ALL PRE-OWNED!

2000 PONTIAC GRAND AM GT 2 DR LIKE NEW SILVER

4 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/12 disc cd changer, tilt, cruise, r/def, leather bks, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 62,753 mi. S/N#4239. VIN#3G9A79417.

\$10,512

2001 FORD EXPLORER SPORT TRAC XLT 4X4 4 DR

6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/12 disc cd changer, tilt, cruise, r/def, leather bks, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 22,500 mi. S/N#6302. VIN#F7282529.

\$19,912

1999 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN LT 4X4 4 DR

8 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/12 disc cd changer, tilt, cruise, r/def, leather bks, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 62,753 mi. S/N#4239. VIN#3G9A79417.

\$19,912

1998 TOYOTA COROLLA 4 DR 5 SPEED DREAM

4 cyl, 5 spd man, p/str/bkrs/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cass, tilt, r/def, airbags, cloth bks, A/S radials. 71,000 mi. S/N#311A. VIN#F0C48014.

\$5912

2001 CHEVROLET PRIZM 4 DR

4 cyl, auto, p/str/bkrs/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cass, tilt, cruise, r/def, airbags, cloth bks, A/S radials. 28,296 mi. S/N#6304. VIN#12408825.

\$7712

1998 HONDA CIVIC LX 4 DR

4 cyl, auto, p/str/bkrs/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cass, tilt, cruise, r/def, airbags, cloth bks, A/S radials. 48,046 mi. S/N#432. VIN#WH608191.

\$8912

2000 CHEVROLET CAVALIER 2 DR

4 cyl, auto, p/str/bkrs, air, cd, tilt, airbags, cloth bks, B/W A/S radials. 22,500 mi. S/N#6302. VIN#F7282529.

\$9412

2000 CHEVROLET TRACKER 4X4 4 DR BEAT THE SHOW

4 cyl, auto, p/str/bkrs, air, cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, airbags, cloth bks, A/S radials. 33,107 mi. S/N#344. VIN#F6925002.

\$9512

2000 CHEVROLET TRACKER 4X4 4 DR

4 cyl, auto, p/str/bkrs/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cass, tilt, roof rack, airbags, cloth bks, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 35,439 mi. S/N#347. VIN#F6925122.

\$9912

1999 CHEVROLET VENTURE EXT LS 5 DR

6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cass, tilt, cruise, r/def, airbags, cloth bks, A/S radials. 71,000 mi. S/N#311A. VIN#F0C48014.

\$9912

2001 NISSAN ALTIMA 4 DR REMOTE START KEEP WARM

4 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cass, tilt, cruise, r/def, airbags, cloth bks, A/S radials. 29,916 mi. S/N#6439. VIN#12408825.

\$11,512

2001 NISSAN XTERRA 4X4 4 DR EXTRA CLEAN SILVER

4 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cass, tilt, cruise, r/def, roof rack, airbags, cloth bks, alum whls, security sys, A/S radials. 64,303 mi. S/N#716A. VIN#F1C25096.

\$12,512

2000 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 4X4 PICKUP

6 cyl, auto, p/str/bkrs, air, cass, tilt, cruise, r/def, airbags, cloth bks, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 22,500 mi. S/N#6302. VIN#F7282529.

\$13,312

1997 FORD E250 ECONOLINE CARGO VAN 4 DR REFRIGERATED

8 cyl, auto, p/str/bkrs, no air, am/fm stereo, tilt, cruise, airbags, A/S radials. 77,713 mi. S/N#0028. VIN#F1H17201.

\$13,512

2001 CHEVROLET EXPRESS 12 PASS VAN 4 DR LIKE NEW 3500 BLUE

8 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/12 disc cd changer, tilt, cruise, r/def, leather bks, alum whls, security sys, A/S radials. 35,731 mi. S/N#054. VIN#1N000505.

\$14,512

2002 CHEVROLET TAHOE LT 4X4 4 DR

8 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/12 disc cd changer, tilt, cruise, r/def, leather bks, alum whls, security sys, A/S radials. 30,943 mi. S/N#2434. VIN#218455.

\$28,712

2000 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN LT 4X4 4 DR KIDS & GIFTS WILL FIT

8 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/12 disc cd changer, tilt, cruise, r/def, roof rack, airbags, leather bks, alum whls, security sys, A/S radials. 69,223 mi. S/N#9021. VIN#F1C21091.

\$23,512

2001 TOYOTA SEQUOIA LTD 4X4 4 DR BLACK - READY FOR WINTER

8 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/12 disc cd changer, tilt, cruise, r/def, roof rack, airbags, leather bks, alum whls, security sys, A/S radials. 25,209 mi. S/N#40402A. VIN#15064256.

\$34,512

2001 AUDI A8L QUATRO 4 DR

8 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/12 disc cd changer, tilt, cruise, r/def, leather bks, alum whls, security sys, A/S radials. 16,446 mi. S/N#471A. VIN#1N000505.

\$39,912

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