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TWO SECTIO

## Council anticipates start of library, Esposito work

By David Learn  
Managing Editor

The tone was mostly reflective Monday night as about 40 people gathered in the township courtroom for the first municipal meeting of the year.

The event, an annual milestone of the township's progress included the annual slate of appointments, and addresses by Clark's elected officials.

Mayor Sal Bonaccorso unveiled little new in his State of the Township address, generally the highlight of a reorganization meeting. Two of the chief goals he named for 2004 are the expansion to Clark Public Library, a project the council approved early last year, and the construction of Peter J. Esposito Park, a project being overseen by Union County.

The mayor did mention an upcoming overhaul of children's playgrounds in Clark, but provided little in the way of details.

"I had directed our recreation director, Keith Dolan, to set a plan for renovation, and I'm glad to report to you that plan landed in my office just last week," Bonaccorso said. "I will be meeting with the Recreation Committee this month to share our vision."

The bulk of the mayor's address dealt with the administration's accomplishments of the last three years, as he drew a sharp contrast between his administration and the

Democratic administration that preceded him.

The major theme of his address was Bonaccorso's oft-repeated theme of providing tangible services for tax money. In this vein, he cited the addition of daytime emergency medical services in 2001, drastically reducing the response time for medical emergencies.

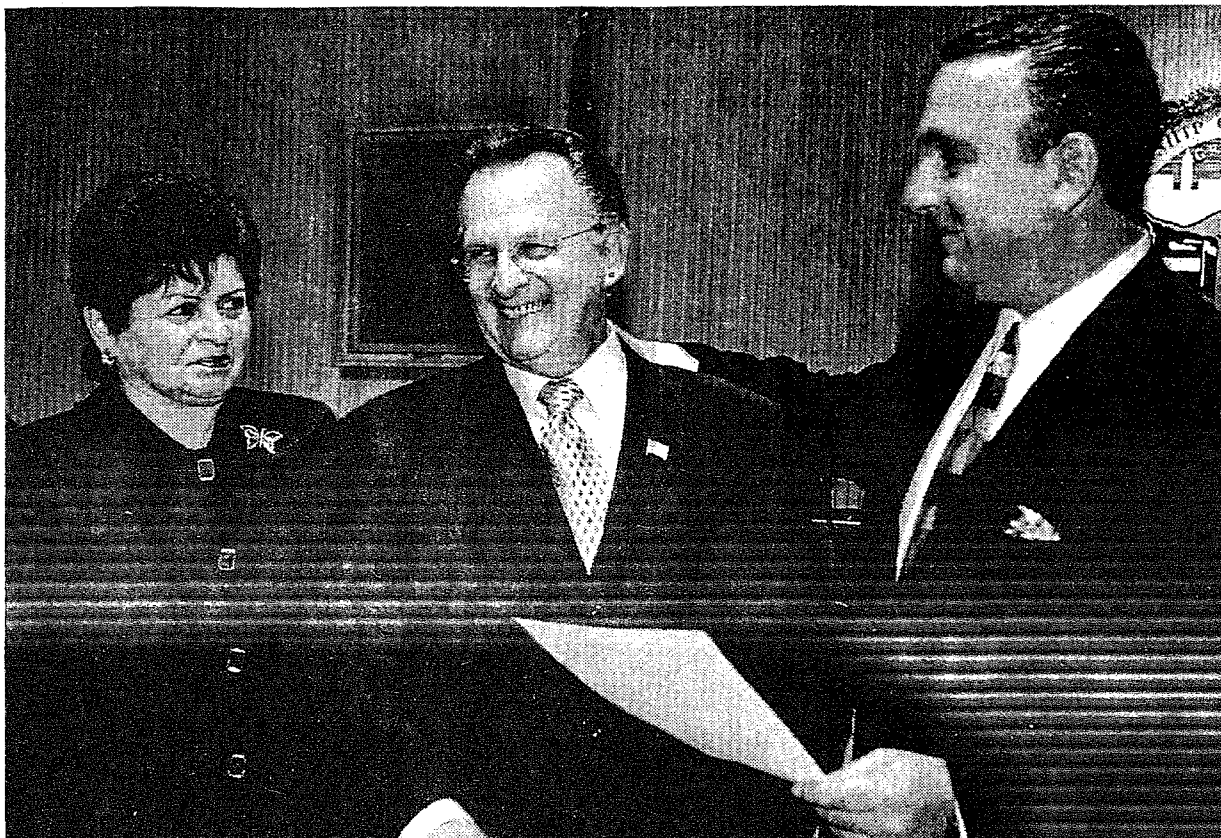
The mayor also gave his administration credit for attention to children's recreation programs, including new field houses for the Clark girls softball and Pop Warner leagues, and the new lights on the soccer field.

"Four years ago, I pledged to the citizens of this township that our children, the future of our community, along with our seniors, would be the focus of my administration, and I intend to continue to fulfill that promise," he said.

The mayor also gave a nod to the Public Works Department, which he called more "service oriented" as he said the township's leaf and snow removal have become faster and more efficient than ever.

He gave a special tip of the hat to his father, Shade Tree Commissioner Joseph Bonaccorso. The Shade Tree Department has trimmed 2,216 trees and removed more than 350 stumps since the elder Bonaccorso was appointed, according to the mayor's speech.

The department also maintains a computer database of its shade trees with current evaluations of the trees'



Mayor Sal Bonaccorso, right, congratulates Councilman at-Large Alvin Barr on his election to the post of council president. With Barr is his wife, Barbara.

health and condition.

In addition, Clark this year had the lowest municipal tax increase in Union County. Like his colleagues on the Township Council, Bonaccorso credited much of that to Business Administrator John Laezza, appointed in early 2001.

"Our town is a cleaner town overall, and our citizens are finally enjoying service for their tax dollars," he said. "But all of this could not be accomplished without a team effort. I've been blessed with a Township Council that has always put Clark first."

Photo By Reena Rose Sibayan

took office in 2001.

"My first promise was to restore integrity in town management," she said. "The mayor and our business administrator, John Laezza; and our chief finance officer, Bob Stanley; have worked very hard to make sure that needed improvements in our financial reporting process and internal controls were implemented."

Second Ward Councilman Peter Nevargic, who is not up for re-election this year, took the opportunity Monday night to inveigh against the politicking that is sure to come later this year.

"There might be some institutions out there that would like to see this return to its roughness from a few years ago," he said. "You saw the improvement with the roads, with the trees, with the snow removal. I didn't hear anybody complain."

The meeting itself held no surprises. Councilman at-Large Alvin Barr, the council vice president in 2003, was sworn in as council president for the new year by unanimous vote of his colleagues; and 1st Ward Councilman Frank Mazzarella became council vice president.

"That was the second election you won by a landslide," the mayor told Barr as he swore him in. "Now take that gavel and make it work."

In November, the three at-large seats on the council and the mayor's seat will be up for election.

## History, but with a twist

By David Learn  
Managing Editor

History isn't what it used to be. At every township meeting since he took office on Jan. 1, 2003, 4th Ward Councilman Brian Toal — who also serves as municipal historian — has kept an alarm clock in plain view. The purpose, he has said, is to remind everyone of the presence of history and that time is continually marching on.

The clock, which Toal says was a gift, looks like an old-fashioned silver-plated model with bells on top that let off loud peals when they are struck. It's the sort of clock one imagines would have been right at home on a Clark nightstand 50 or 60 years ago.

Appearances can be deceiving, though, as former council President Jim Ulrich revealed from the vantage of his new seat to Toal's right.

"One of the advantages of not being council president any more is I can sit next to Brian, and I can see this old clock is made in China," said Ulrich. "It's not as old as it seems."

## Colleagues give leader a boost up

By David Learn  
Managing Editor

Township Council President Al Barr got a lift from his friends Monday night.

Barr is 5-foot-6, making him the shortest member of the Township Council. James Ulrich, his immediate predecessor as council president, is 5-foot-11.

Barr has noticed that when he leans forward in his seat, it's easy to accidentally dip nearly out of sight behind the dais.

Help came in the form of a thoughtful gift from Mayor Sal Bonaccorso: a 2-inch-thick copy of the 2004 New Jersey Lawyers Diary and Manual that he was encouraged to place on his chair before sitting down.

"Because I'm short, Sal thought I would need this to raise me up," said Barr, who also was appointed the council's liaison to the Clark Board of Education.

Despite his appreciation for the gift, Barr left the manual out on his work area, and sat squarely on the chair that Ulrich used, with no ill effects.

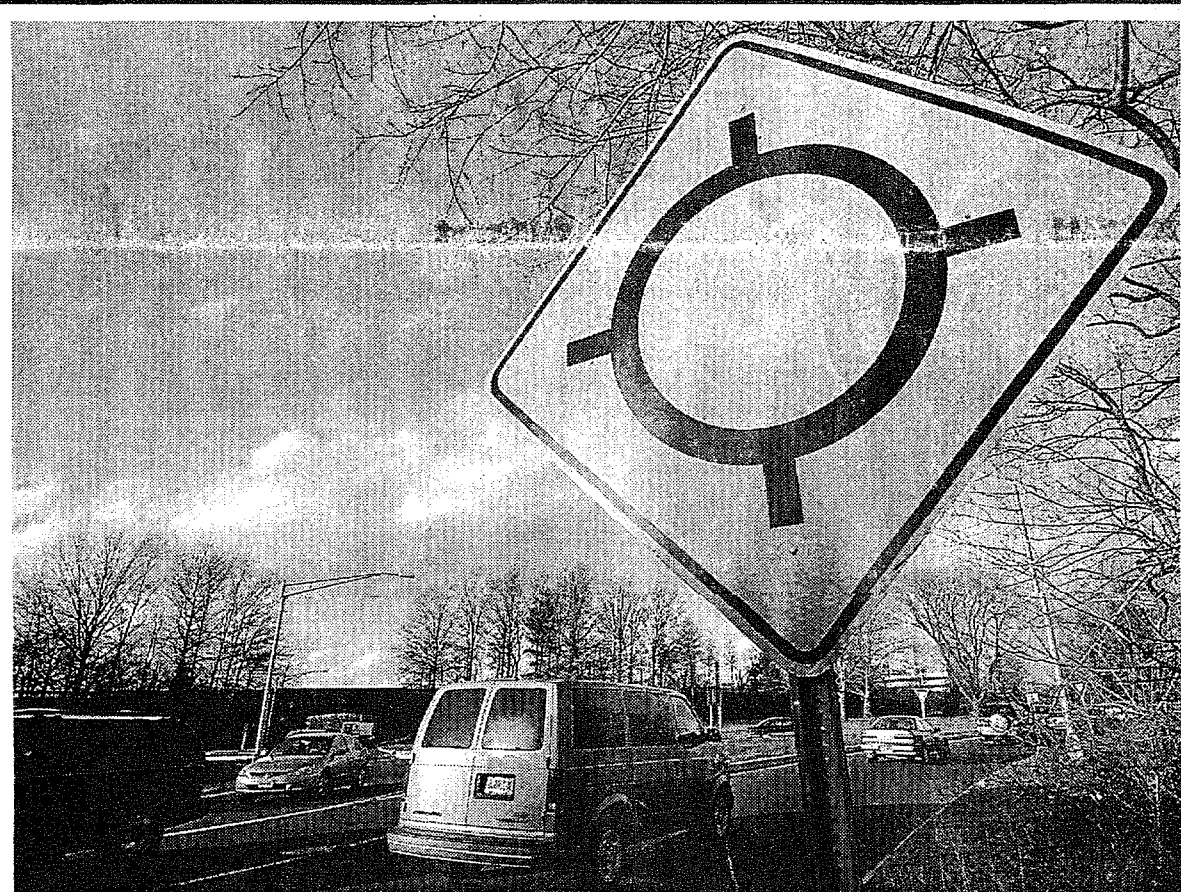


Photo By Reena Rose Sibayan

A sign on Brant Avenue warns motorists about the upcoming traffic circle at Garden State Parkway Exit 135. Under the current design, the circle receives traffic from major spoke spokes, but if Clark officials get their way, it will be possible for some of those motorists to bypass the circle entirely.

## State open to circle changes

Town also plans to seek Parkway exit in Woodbridge

By David Learn  
Managing Editor

State officials probably will be open to altering the traffic circle at the Garden State Parkway exit, a spokesman for the state Highway Authority said Tuesday.

The Township Council on Dec. 15 formally requested county and state assistance in redesigning the circle to make traffic there flow more smoothly. Mayor Sal Bonaccorso said he hopes to follow through on the request before the council next meets, on Jan. 19.

"As of this moment, I'm not aware of any contact we've had," said Joe Orlando, a spokesman for the authority, which oversees the Garden State Parkway. "It's not on the radar screen."

He added that the authority often works with municipalities for redesigning Parkway exits, and that Clark's request probably would be no different.

On the average, anywhere from 12,000 to 15,000 cars pour down the northbound and southbound exit ramps and into the traffic circle every day, Orlando said.

During periods of peak volume, streets feeding into the circle can transform into a nightmare of bumper-to-bumper traffic as motorists wait endlessly for a chance to enter the circle. Cars pile up on Brant Avenue back nearly to Westfield Avenue, and motorists on Valley Road experience similar delays.

Even on the Parkway itself, the queue to enter the circle can stretch back dozens of cars, with the resulting traffic delay felt as far away as a mile.

The township's plan is to connect Brant Avenue directly to Valley Road so that motorists interested in making only the right turn won't need to enter the circle for the handful of yards they would need to drive.

Bonaccorso is confident the project will succeed.

"That is a priority item for this year," he said. "That is something that is going pedal to the metal, shoulder to

*'That is a priority item for this year. That is something that is going pedal to the metal, shoulder to the grindstone.'*

— Sal Bonaccorso

the grindstone."

On the larger issue of reducing the traffic load on the circle, he is far less hopeful: "The chances of this happening are slim to none. But I still think it's my obligation as an elected official to try," he said.

The Township Council on Jan. 19 formally will request that the Highway Authority add another Parkway exit, at Inman Avenue in Woodbridge. Similar requests were made during the administrations of former mayors Robert Ellenport and Bernie Yurasavage, with no success.

"This is not something that's done on a whim," said Orlando.

If the authority decides to pursue the matter, it would have to perform traffic studies to determine whether the new exit is needed and how the exit would affect the area where it is built. When those studies finish, it would have to hold public meetings to gauge reaction.

"It's usually a lengthy process," Orlando said.

Clark officials believe it is a process that is unlikely to work out in the township's favor, particularly since the sitting governor, James McGreevey, is a former mayor of Woodbridge, where the new exit would be built.

Bonaccorso said informal discussions began early last year, when he met with former Union County Engineer Bruce Connor.

Some time after that, Connor left the county and took a position with the state Highway Authority.

## The New Year gets councilor's goatee

By David Learn  
Managing Editor

Although he probably won't receive the attention former Vice President Al Gore did with his beard in 2001, Rob Bothe has drawn some attention with his new facial hair.

Bothe, who has been filling the 3rd Ward Township Council seat since Jan. 1, 2003, appeared at the council's annual reorganization meeting sporting a new goatee.

"I call it my Frankie M.," Bothe said Monday night, with a nod to 1st Ward Councilman Frank Mazzarella, who recently grew a goatee of his own but got rid of it since it was too gray for his liking. "He had a goatee and shaved it off. Frank inspired me."

Goatees are a form of facial hair that include the mustache and a beard with the cheeks shaved clean. And like any other growth of facial hair, goatees say something about a man's maturity and sex appeal.

"It does have a masculine image to it. Females can't grow beards. Men can," said Andy Wolman, who owns Checkmate Hair Styling on Westfield Avenue. "It's an individual type of statement that you're making with facial hair."

For some people, that statement may be countercultural, although for others it's as simple as making a statement to distract other people from noticing the hair loss higher up.

"I recommend to a lot of guys with a lot of hair loss to grow a beard so they don't look as bald," said Wolman. "If he has a beard or a mustache or a goatee, that's one of the first things you're going to remember."

And of course, there's the other popular standby: Growing a beard — even a partial one like a goatee — can make a person look two or three years older.

Not letting the sideburns grow also can add a little extra zing to a person's image: Goatees stand out more than a conventional beard.

"It's just not as common as the full beard," said Wolman. "You're just trying to be individualistic."

According to Bothe himself — who has what appears to be a full head of hair — he owes the change in his look to nothing more spectacular than discovering some old pictures taken when he and his wife, Joanne, were first dating.

"When I met my wife, I had a goatee," he said.

Given the relatively recent re-emergence of goatees after two decades of scarcity — they were largely absent from American faces



Photo By Reena Rose Sibayan

Third Ward Councilman Rob Bothe sports a new goatee at the Township Council meeting Monday night.

during the 1970s and 1980s — younger men might think that goatees are a recent innovation. The truth is that they are at least as old as Western civilization.

John Sulak, a journalist writing a history of the goatee for Request magazine's online edition in September 1996, traced the goatee's origins to early artistic depictions of Old Scratch himself. Drawing on images of Pan, the Greek god of nature, early Christian artists depicted Satan with cloven hooves, a pointed tail ... and a pointed goatee.

Despite such an inauspicious source of inspiration, or perhaps because of it, goatees have been worn by colorful characters from history like Buffalo Bill, the French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte and Shaggy, of "Scooby Doo" fame.

A hallmark of the beatnik movement in the 1950s, goatees maintained something of the mystique of the counterculture, but during the 1990s they roared back into mainstream style. Film actors like Ben Affleck and Will Smith, movie director Spike Lee and baseball star Mark McGwire all have been known to sport goatees in their time.

Those who are keeping score now can add Bothe to that roster.

His goatee prompted no commentary at Monday night's meeting, but during a conversation Tuesday evening, Mayor Sal Bonaccorso offered his own speculation on Bothe's motivations for growing the goatee.

"I guess he's trying to improve his look," he said. "The jury's still out."



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Woman charged in ShopRite theft

A Middlesex County woman is free after being charged with shoplifting at a Central Avenue supermarket late last week.  
Jacqueline Boehm, 26, of 66 Christopher St., Carteret, allegedly shoplifted \$143 worth of merchandise from ShopRite, at 3:43 p.m. Saturday. She was charged with theft, and released on her own recognizance, pending her court date.  
• Unlisted items were reported stolen from a Coldevin Road garage at 2:34 p.m. Sunday.  
Police did not say whether there was evidence of forced entry.

**POLICE BLOTTER**  
• Someone reported a theft at Bally Fitness Center on Central Avenue at 12:49 p.m. Dec. 29.  
Police did not identify the stolen items, or say whether the victim was an employee or a customer of the fitness center.  
• A motorist reported criminal mischief to a vehicle parked at a Ross Street residence, at 7:21 p.m. Dec. 29. Police provided no other details about the incident.  
A second vehicle, on Westfield

Avenue, was reported damaged at 12:52 p.m. Jan. 2.  
A third incident also is under investigation, reported at 7:20 a.m. Monday.  
• Authorities are investigating a criminal mischief incident at a Lake Avenue residence, reported at 8:14 p.m. Dec. 30.  
No information was available about the incident.  
• A woman's purse was stolen while she was at ShopRite on Central Avenue, according to an 11:54 a.m. Jan. 2 police report. Police did not say what was in the purse.

Marine isn't the girl they knew

Pvt. Erica Malpera of the U.S. Marine Corps, a 2003 Arthur L. Johnson High School alumna, recently returned to the school to talk with seniors about opportunities in the Marine Corps.  
As part of Kurt Epps' senior English class, Malpera, accompanied by another Marine, addressed the students as to what a military future might offer.  
"She was very effective, especially since many of the students she addressed knew her from last year," said Epps, who was Malpera's former teacher. "This was a different person than the girl they remembered and many students sat entranced by the transformation."  
Decked out in her dress blues and spit-shined shoes, Malpera spoke of the trials and tribulations of boot camp at Parris Island, S.C., pulling no punches about how difficult it was. But her pride in completing the process was also evident as she poked of her feelings on the day she became a Marine.

"The Marine Corps is a very special group of soldiers," she said. "I cried at graduation. When I was in high school, I never thought too much about pride in my country. But that has changed. I now have great pride in my country and my fellow Marines; we really are the few and the proud."  
Malpera also said that she was proud to have become part of an even more select group — women Marines.  
"There aren't many of us and maybe some senior girls will take up the challenge," she said.  
Malpera and her partner, a 2003 graduate of Union High School, fielded questions and told stories about the Corps.  
"In many good ways, she's still the Erica I remember," said Epps. "But Erica last year and Erica this year are wonderfully different. She's mature, focused, an outstanding representative of the Corps and a great example to the other students. I'm very proud of her."

Musical troupe to play at temple

The Hester Street Troupe will open the Combined Cultural Series with an evening of Klezmer and Jewish music at Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah at 8 p.m. Jan. 17.  
The combined series is hosted by Congregation Anshe Chesed, Linden, Temple Beth El-Mekor Chayim, Cranford and Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah.  
The Hester Street Troupe consists of Jay Swifack on the keyboard, Alan Swifack on clarinet and Jim Bazewick, the percussionist.  
The trio sings and plays the wide

scope of Jewish music, including music from the Jewish theater, klezmer, and classic and contemporary melodies.  
The second offering of the series will come April 25, with Howard Blum, author of "Eve of Destruction: The Untold Story of the Yom Kippur War."  
Blum based his book on declassified Israeli government documents and revealing interviews with soldiers, generals and intelligence operatives on both sides of the conflict.

Blum, an award-winning journalist formerly with *The New York Times*, has authored several best-selling books, including "The Brigade" and "The Gold of Exodus."  
Tickets for the Hester Street Troupe can be purchased at each of the cooperating synagogues. Members of the congregation can purchase series tickets for \$15 each. Children are admitted free.  
For more information and tickets, contact the temple at 732-381-8403.

EDUCATION

**Hehnlly students extend goodwill to foster kids**  
The Frank K. Hehnlly School Student Council during December participated in a project sponsored by the state Division of Youth and Family Services.  
Called Sweet Dreams, the project is designed to provide new pajamas and a new book for the children in foster care during the holiday season.  
The student council, under advisors Diane Rizzo and Mary Arrowood,

along with guidance counselor Barbara Russ and school nurse, Donna Kircher, collected 214 sets of pajamas, 42 teddy bears, and 45 books from the students in this schoolwide project.  
**Valley Road students build 'explorer's ship'**  
Students in Room One at Valley Road School built an explorer's ship as the culmination of a unit on European exploration of North America.

Included in the unit was research using a variety of sources both traditional and technical. The students, working as partners, made use of the town and school libraries and computers. This cross-curricular study embodied such areas as spelling, writing, math, researching, editing, proof-reading and publishing.  
The final published reports, aligned with state curriculum standards, reflect the three forms of communication: written, oral and artwork.

STUDENT UPDATE

**Mecke passes exam on network management**  
Andrew Mecke of Clark, a recent graduate of The Cititone Institute in Edison, passed the Managing a Microsoft Windows 2000 Network Environment examination.  
On previous occasions Mecke has passed the Installing, Configuring, and Administering Microsoft Windows 2000 Server; the CompTIA — Computer Technology Industry of America — A-plus and Network-plus examinations.  
Mecke is a graduate of Gloucester County Christian High School in Pitman. The son of Mr. and Mrs. David Mecke of Clayton, he is married to Jillian C. Meake.  
The Edison School is one of 23 schools operated nationally by Lincoln Educational Services, which has been providing career education for more than a half century.

The school also offers programs for business administration specialist, graphics Web design, medical administrative assistant, network systems administrator and pharmacy technician.  
The Cititone Institute is accredited by the Accrediting Council of Independence Colleges and Schools.  
**Seton Hall Prep honors**  
A number of Clark residents were named to the first trimester honor roll at Seton Hall Preparatory School in West Orange.  
Achieving second honors were Gregory Cancro, 12th grade; and Rodrigo Curiba, ninth grade.  
Earning commended status were Gary Cancro and Christopher Drejaj, both 10th-graders.  
First honors comprises students whose grade-point average is above 4.0; second honors, between 3.5 and

4.0; commended, between 3.0 and 3.49.  
**Laura Renna earns degree from Kean University**  
Lauren Renna graduated in January from Kean University in Union.  
Renna graduated with a bachelor's degree in both psychology and elementary education and is a certified teacher for kindergarten and eighth grade.  
She is a member of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology, Kappa Delta Pi, the National Honor Society in Education, and Phi Kappa Phi, Kean University's National Honor Society.  
Her grade point average of 3.95 has earned her the honor of summa cum laude. She plans to pursue a career in elementary education.  
Renna is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Renna of Clark.

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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**  
• The Friends of Clark Public Library will meet at 7:30 p.m. at Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave.  
**Monday**  
• Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will launch its winter pajama storytimes. Offered for families with children of all ages, the event includes stories with a simple activity and runs from 7 to 7:30 p.m. Register by calling the library at 732-388-5999.  
**Tuesday**  
• The Board of Education will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Arthur L. Johnson High School library.

**Upcoming Jan. 15**  
• Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will hold a Toddler Time program for babies and toddlers up to 2½ years old. The program runs from 10 to 10:20 a.m.  
This program includes nursery rhymes, songs, stories and movement activities. No registration is required.  
• The Clark Seniors will meet at 1 p.m. at the senior center, 450 Westfield Ave. Free blood pressure, blood sugar and quick cholesterol testing are available before meetings, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
For more information, call Lillian B. Krov. 732-381-3823.

**Jan. 17**  
• The Hester Street Troupe will open the Combined Cultural Series with an evening of klezmer and Jewish music at Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah on Valley Road at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 each. Children are admitted free.  
For more information and tickets, contact the temple at 732-381-8403.

**Jan. 18**  
• Bishop Justin J. McCarthy Knights of Columbus Council 5503, 27 Westfield Ave., will offer its monthly family dinner from 1 to 5 p.m. Cost is \$7.50 for adults, and \$3.50 for children 4 to 10 years old. Children younger than 3 eat free.  
For more information, call Grand Knight Tony Fiorillo at 732-340-9781, or the council home at 732-574-9067.

**Jan. 23**  
• Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will hold a Readers' Theater program for elementary school-age kids who can read and would like to act. There is no memorization involved.  
The program will run from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. Register by calling the library at 732-388-5999.

**Jan. 27**  
• The Board of Education will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Arthur L. Johnson High School library.

**Jan. 28**  
• Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will launch its winter Tots' Storytimes. Offered for children 2½ to 4 years old, the event includes stories with a simple activity and runs from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Register by calling the library at 732-388-5999.  
• The Clark Public Library Board of Trustees will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Ayers Community Room of Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave.

**Jan. 29**  
• Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will hold a Toddler Time program for babies and toddlers up to 2½ years old. The program runs from 10 to 10:20 a.m.  
This program includes nursery rhymes, songs, stories and movement activities. No registration is required.

**Jan. 30**  
• Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will hold a Readers' Theater program for elementary school-age kids who can read and would like to act. There is no memorization involved.  
The program will run from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. Register by calling the library at 732-388-5999.

**Feb. 5**  
• Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will hold a Toddler Time program for babies and toddlers up to 2½ years old. The program runs from 10 to 10:20 a.m.  
This program includes nursery rhymes, songs, stories and movement activities. No registration is required.

**Feb. 6**  
• Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will hold its first meeting of the Teen Advisory Group. The group will include youths 11 and older interested in acting as artists, book reviewers, compact disc reviewers and movie reviewers for the library.  
Contact Youth Services Librarian Kathy Percoco at 732-388-5999 to register. Participants must be at least 11 years old to attend.

**Feb. 7**  
• Clark Benefit Fund Inc. will host its 11th annual Winter Benefit Ball at The Westwood in Garwood from 7 p.m. to midnight, featuring an open bar, cocktail hour, dinner and dancing to the music of "Be Our Guest Entertainment."  
Tickets are available by calling Kim Carnovale at 732-382-1556. The executive committee is creating an advertisement journal to distribute at the ball. Call Donna Kircher at 732-382-8714 for details.

**Feb. 12**  
• Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will hold a Toddler Time program for babies and toddlers up to 2½ years old. The program runs from 10 to 10:20 a.m.  
This program includes nursery rhymes, songs, stories and movement activities. No registration is required.

**Feb. 19**  
• Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will hold a Toddler Time program for babies and toddlers up to 2½ years old. The program runs from 10 to 10:20 a.m.

**Feb. 21**  
• Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will present a dramatic version of Jack and the Beanstalk at 11 a.m. for children from 4 to 12 years old. Register by calling the library at 732-388-5999.

**Ongoing**  
• Skulski Art Gallery, 177 Skulway, is presenting an exhibit of tapestry by Nina Kedzierska and photography by Jim Hons, through Friday. The gallery is open to the public 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturdays.  
For more information, call Aleksandra K. Nowak at 732-382-7197.

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# Arcing wires reported at Brewer Municipal Building

The Fire Department responded to the Charles H. Brewer Municipal Building, 303 Westfield Ave., for a report of arcing electrical wires at 11:01 a.m. Dec. 30.

Upon arrival, no arcing electrical wires were found but Public Service Electric and Gas Co. crews were working on the scene because an electrical transformer had burned out.

Firefighters were drawn to a series of false alarms with carbon monoxide detectors, but no actual poi-

## FIRE BLOTTER

soning incidents during December.

The first report came from a Surrey Drive residence, at 11 a.m. Dec. 21. A second came from a Dawn Drive residence at 11:42 a.m. Dec. 30, and the third came at the start of the new year, when an alarm went off at an Oak Ridge Road residence at 8:20 p.m. Jan. 1.

Firefighters were unable to detect

any substantial amounts of carbon monoxide in any of the incidents, although they asked Elizabethtown Gas Co. to ensure there were no problems, as a precaution.

The Fire Department responded to a Terminal Avenue manufacturing facility after for a fire alarm at 3:30 p.m. Dec. 21. A flow detector in the sprinkler system had been activated.

Building security was to place the alarm system into test mode until the system could be repaired.

The Fire Department was called twice to a Westfield Avenue bank, for fire alarms at 6:31 p.m. and 10:12 p.m. Dec. 21.

Firefighters were unable to determine why the smoke detector had activated.

The Fire Department was dispatched to a Prescott Turn residence for a 911 report of smoke in the residence at 8:21 a.m. Dec. 24.

The smoke was found to be coming from a vent on top of the newly

installed stove. The smell and type of smoke was consistent with burning plastic, but firefighters could not find the source of smoke.

The Fire Department was dispatched to a Skyline Drive residence for a 911 report of an oven fire, at 12:58 p.m. Dec. 24.

The fire was the result of cooking. The fire was extinguished and the building was checked to ensure that the fire had not extended to other parts of the structure.

The Fire Department went to Raritan Road and Featherbed Lane for a report of smoke in the area, at 11:29 p.m. Dec. 29. The source of the smoke was determined to be a resident burning paper in a backyard grill.

The Fire Department responded to a Central Avenue bank for a fire alarm activation at 1 p.m. Dec. 31.

The alarm company had received both fire and burglar alarms from the premises, but there was no problem at the bank.

## AT THE LIBRARY

### Pajama Storytime

Come wearing pajamas, if you like. For families with children of all ages. Stories with a simple activity. Registration is requested. Meets from 7 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, Feb. 9, Feb. 23, March 8 and March 15.

Register by calling the library at 732-388-5999.

### Toddler time

For babies and toddlers up to 2½ years old. This program includes nursery rhymes, songs, stories and movement activities.

No registration is required. Toddler Time meets from 10 to 10:20 a.m. Jan. 15, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Feb. 12, Feb. 19 and 26.

**Readers' theater invites aspiring child thespians**

Like to act? Come try Readers' Theater. No memorizing, ever! This

program is for elementary school-aged kids who can read.

The program will run from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. Jan. 23 and Jan. 30. Register by calling the library at 732-388-5999.

### Tots' Storytime

For children 2½ to 4 years old. Stories with a simple activity.

Storytime meets 10:30 to 11 a.m. Jan. 28, Feb. 4, Feb. 18, Feb. 25, March 3 and March 17.

Register by calling the library at 732-388-5999.

### Jack and the Beanstalk done as interactive drama

This dramatic version of Jack's traditional tale of magic and humor is not to be missed.

The performance will be at 11 a.m. Feb. 21.

All children from 4 to 12 are invited. Register by calling the library at 732-388-5999.

### Teenagers sought for advisory group

Clark Public Library is seeking teenagers to act as artists, book reviewers, compact disc reviewers and movie reviewers.

The Teen Advisory Group will meet at 3:15 p.m. Feb. 6, Feb. 13, Feb. 27, March 5, March 12 and March 26.

Contact Youth Services Librarian Kathy Percoco at 732-388-5999 to register. You must be at least 11 years old to attend.

### 'Seussentennial' marks 100 years of Dr. Seuss

Clark Public Library is planning a celebration for the 100th birthday of Theodor Giesel, popularly known as Dr. Seuss.

The Seussentennial will be held at 3:30 p.m. March 2. Come enjoy some classic Seuss stories, and join in an

activity to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. For all ages.

Register by calling the library at 732-388-5999.

### 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 a home computer.

The library Web site is [www.clark-library.org](http://www.clark-library.org).

For more information, call 732-388-5999.

### Videos, DVDs available for rental at low cost

Videocassettes and DVDs are available for adults and young adults 16 and older with a valid library card. Children younger than 16 may not use a parent's card to borrow.

Library patrons may borrow a total of four videos or DVDs for up to three days. A nonrefundable \$1 service charge applies to each feature film borrowed.

Library patrons with a discount card, sold by the Friends of the Clark Library and available at the library for \$10, can borrow one free video or DVD from the library each Tuesday.

Library users can reserve material online at [www.clarklibrary.org](http://www.clarklibrary.org).

The library will hold reserved videos or DVDs for one day before giving them to the next person or returning them to the shelf.

Videos and DVDs must be returned to the circulation desk in the library because the outside drop box damages the material.

Fines for overdue videos and DVDs are 50 cents a day. There is a \$5 fine if videos are placed in the outside book drop, and a 50-cent fine for videos that are not rewound. Damaged videos or DVDs are assessed a \$25 replacement cost, plus a \$3 service fee.

Head cleaners are lent free of charge but must be checked out at the desk.

For more information, call 732-388-5999.

### Join Clark Public Library at absolutely no cost

Clark residents, employers and employees of Clark businesses are invited to come to Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., to get a free library card.

The only thing needed to get a library card is valid identification and proof of living, working or attending school in Clark.

A library card entitles the cardholder to all available library services, including borrowing any of the books,

videos, audio books, music compact discs and more.

For more information, call 732-388-5999.

### Club matches wits, skill over chess board

Fancy a nice game of chess? Chess enthusiasts are welcome to drop in for a game from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Fridays.

The chess club meets in the small meeting room in Clark Public Library's downstairs area.

For more information, call 732-388-5999.

### Check blood pressure at free monthly clinic

Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., holds a free blood pressure clinic in the Ayers room from 9:15 to 11:30 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month.

For more information, call 732-388-5999.

### Attention churches and social clubs

This newspaper encourages congregations, temples, social and civic organizations to inform the editors about scheduled events and activities.

Releases should be typed, double-spaced, and include a phone number where a representative may be reached during the day.

## SENIOR NEWS

### AARP chapter seeks potential members

The Clark Chapter 3733 AARP will meet at 1 p.m. Friday in the Charles H. Brewer Senior Center, 400 Westfield Ave. Social hour, with refreshments, begins at noon.

Guest speaker will be a representative from Vitalize, a geriatric care management practice located at 136 Central Ave.

Vitalize specialists arrange many services for senior citizens, including companionship, relocation services, physicians referrals and legal service.

The chapter meets at 1 p.m. the second Friday of each month.

The following trips have been scheduled:

- March 15 — Doolan's Luncheon Theater, St. Patty's Day Festival, luncheon at Doolan's with choices. \$62.
- April 21 — King Henry's Pocono Mountain Opry. Full course luncheon with choices, "This Is My Country." \$58.
- May 12 — Renault Winery 7 Casino, luncheon at Winery and on to Atlantic City \$39.
- Sept. 15 — Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum's 7 South Street Sea-

port. Luncheon at area restaurant with choices \$62.

Ongoing activities include the Volunteer programs at Runnells Hospital, under the leadership of Marian Connally.

The chapter invites area residents with membership in the National AARP to join the local group and enjoy the social gatherings, trips and volunteer programs and to keep abreast of matters of interest to retirees and those anticipating retirement.

Ongoing AARP activities include volunteer programs at Runnells Hospital under the leadership of Marian Connally.

For more information, call Ann Miskovic, AARP trip coordinator, at 732-388-4033.

### Free blood pressure, sugar tests offered

The Clark Seniors will meet at the senior center, 450 Westfield Ave., at 1 p.m. Jan. 15. Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month.

Free blood pressure, blood sugar and quick cholesterol testing are available before meetings, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, call Lillian B. Krov. 732-381-3823.

### Senior bus service

For free senior bus service, call the Municipal Building at 732-388-3600 from 9 to 11 a.m. one day in advance to reserve a seat on the bus, Mondays through Fridays, except holidays.

The schedule is subject to change.

Mondays: morning, ShopRite; afternoon, Clark shops, library, Municipal Building.

Tuesdays: morning, Union Plaza, Pathmark/National Wholesale Liquidators; afternoon, Watchung/Blue Star.

Wednesdays: first Wednesday, Woodbridge Mall; second Wednesday, Menlo Park Mall; third Wednesday, Woodbridge Mall; fourth Wednesday, Middlesex Mall; if a fifth Wednesday, Woodbridge Mall.

Thursdays: morning, ShopRite; afternoon, Clark shops, library and Municipal Building.

Fridays: morning, A&P, KMart and Wal-Mart; afternoon, Aviation Plaza, Linden; last Friday of month: A&P and Route 1 East Brunswick Flea Market, weather permitting.

## Sheriff's office promotes previous PBA local president

A former Clark resident was promoted during a ceremony at the Union County Courthouse on Dec. 22.

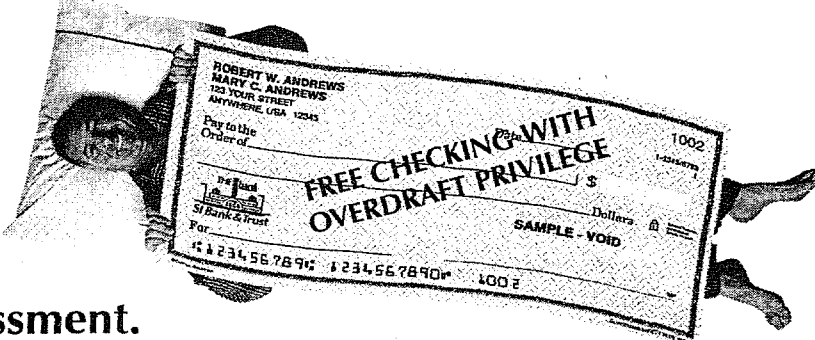
Sgt. Greg Schubert, is an eight-year veteran of the sheriff's office. He is the recipient of a Unit Commendation Award; he is a former PBA Local

108 president.

He one of eight Union County sheriff's officers to be promoted during the ceremony.

"These three lieutenants and five sergeants being promoted here today represent the best traditions of this

office. Through testing and personnel review, they have been identified as the best candidates for these leadership positions," said Union County Sheriff Ralph Froehlich, who presided over the ceremony. "They make me look good — and that's a luxury."



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<b>CRANFORD</b> 104 Walnut Ave.	<b>EAST BRUNSWICK</b> 227 Route 18S	<b>KENILWORTH</b> 470 Boulevard	<b>MARLBORO</b> 342 Route 9N	<b>TOMS RIVER</b> 1400 Hooper Ave.

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ALJ girls' hoops off to a good start

**By Jeff Wolfrum  
Staff Writer**

Four minutes from a perfect record. Without that exception of time, the Johnson High School girls' basketball team has been very good so far this season.

As of Tuesday's scheduled game against visiting Newark Central, Johnson's record stood at 3-1.

Included in that mark was two victories in the Roselle Park Tournament. The Panthers defeated Mount St. Mary's 40-32 in first-round play on

Dec. 26 before topping Hanover Park 39-27 in the final the next day.

"We got off to a slow start in our first-round game, but we played well in the second half," Johnson head coach Steve Kaelblein said. "In the final over Hanover Park, we played great defense."

However, it was a defensive lapse at Hillside on Dec. 23 that cost the Crusaders a victory.

Johnson was ahead 35-27 to start the fourth quarter, but was outscored 17-7 in the final period to fall by a

score of 44-42.

Hillside closed to within 42-39 with a minute to play before registering two baskets and a free throw to win the game.

"It was a tough loss, but we were able to follow it up by playing well in our next game," Kaelblein said. "The loss dropped us a game behind Hillside in our conference, but we'll play them again later in the season."

Johnson, which finished with a 15-5 mark and qualified for the state playoffs a year ago, also captured the Mountain Valley Conference-Sky Division crown.

In last year's North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2 quarterfinals, the top-seeded Crusaders dropped a 54-40 decision at home to eighth-seeded and defending champion Roselle.

"We want to improve on our record from last season and defend our MVC-Sky Division title," Kaelblein said. "We also want to reach the semifinals of the Union County Tourna-

ment and go further in the states."

Johnson's roster consists of 14 players. That list includes seniors Lynsay Molloy, Lauren Tomasovic, Stephanie Parrott and Stephanie Parin.

"Lauren is our emotional leader on the floor," Kaelblein said. "She had a very solid tournament and was named MVP."

Juniors include Kerry Sullivan, Lynne Kovolisky and Katie Mulligan, while sophomores consist of Jamilee Pflug, Samantha Parin, Jillian Whiting, Kelly Helfrich, Jessica Lewis and Michelle Nardilli. The lone freshman is Kelli Pflug.

"Jamilee has been our leading scorer in our first four games," Kaelblein said. "Her sister Kelli is our first person off the bench."

Kaelblein feels Samantha Parin, the team's MVP last year as a freshman, will come on strong as the season progresses after being slowed early by an ankle injury.

"I have enough players with a lot of

ability," Kaelblein said. "My job is to find more minutes for everyone."

On offense, Johnson likes to set up screens and isolation plays.

"I have a lot of good ball handlers that play the game smart," Kaelblein said. "We also have some nice size inside, so we're very well-balanced offensively."

The Crusader defense is usually a man-to-man scheme, but is adaptable to a zone switch, depending upon the opponent.

"We're flexible when it comes to playing defense," Kaelblein said.

"Against Hanover Park, we played man-to-man exclusively, but against Hillside, we played mainly a zone to slow them up because of their athleticism."

Johnson is scheduled to host Manville today at 4 p.m. and play at Brearley tomorrow night at 7.

Brearley entered Tuesday night's scheduled home game against Hillside with the team's first-ever 5-0 start.

"I want the kids to have fun and don't dread playing," Kaelblein said. "The girls work very hard and have really good team chemistry."

Cranford Diamonds clinic begins again Saturday

The Cranford Diamonds, softball division of the Cranford Baseball Softball League, sponsors a fastpitch softball clinic during the fall, winter and spring seasons. The clinic is for Cranford girls, ages 7-18, who desire learning to pitch fastpitch softball. Beginners, intermediate and advance levels are all welcome.

The clinic will continue to be offered every Saturday from January through March at the Orange Avenue School gym, unless the school is closed or another school event is functioning.

For the present, the clinic will commence at 2:30 p.m., starting this Saturday. More information may be obtained by calling Bob or Joanne St. Amand at 908-272-0399 or 908-497-4239.



The Cranford 11-year-old baseball team had a season to remember in 2003, finishing 28-10 and capturing a third consecutive District 12 championship. Kneeling, from left, are Andrew O'Neill, Patrick Gilstrap, Robert Ghiretti, Paul Nyitray, Ryan Lopes and Tom Hearon. Standing, from left, are Niko Rydelek, Pat Hartnett, Nicholas Cook, Tim Flannery, Nicholas Pace and Keith Powell. Coaches, from left, are John Hearon, Joe Nyitray, Tom Cook, Nick Pace and Greg Hartnett.

Cranford baseball team had season to remember

The Cranford 11-year-old baseball team had a season to remember in 2003.

In all six tournaments it entered, Cranford qualified for the playoffs and ended up in either first, second or third place.

Cranford posted an outstanding overall record of 28-10, won its District 12 title for a third year in a row and played in the Cal Ripken State Tournament once again.

Cranford played 38 games in 33 days during the summer and twice played tripleheaders.

The team was made up of 10 returning players from the previous season's 10-year-old team. Those players included centerfielder Pat Hartnett, shortstop Nicholas Pace, first baseman and pitcher Nick Cook, second baseman and first baseman Paul Nyitray, catcher Tom Hearon, second baseman Keith Powell, leftfielder and pitcher Niko Rydelek, pitcher Tim Flannery, outfielder Andrew O'Neill and third baseman Robert Ghiretti.

The two boys added to the team were pitcher Patrick Gilstrap and rightfielder Ryan Lopes.

The tournaments Cranford participated in were Colonia, Cranford, Union, Elmora, Linden, District 12 and the states.

Cranford began its season by excelling in the Colonia and Cranford tournaments. Cranford went 9-1 and averaged nine runs in its first 10 games.

In the Union Tournament, Cranford dominated its first two foes by scores of 13-0 and 11-1. The outburst of power and hitting were paced by Cook, with multiple home runs and extra-base hits, and by O'Neill, who blasted a home run.

In the first game of the Colonia Tournament, Hartnett reached base four times and scored each time. Nyitray drove him in with crucial hits as Cranford went on to best North Edison 11-1.

Ghiretti went 3-for-3 and stole five bases and Cook and Nyitray each had two RBI and a triple in a 10-0 win over Bridgewater. Gilstrap and Cook combined for a no-hitter on the mound.

Rydelek and Hearon had three hits each in a 10-7 win over Scotch Plains. Cranford was defeated by East Brunswick 5-3 before taking taking third in the consolation game.

Cranford began its own tournament against Piscataway in the second game

of a doubleheader and was defeated by a 3-2 score in a game that featured both teams making several spectacular defensive plays. Pace paced Cranford offensively with a single and double.

Cranford bounced back the next day by beating an experienced Union team 5-0 on a combined two-hit shutout by Gilstrap and Cook. The hitting was led by Nyitray and a key, two-out bases-loaded single by Lopes.

In the next game, Cranford hammered out 12 runs on 12 hits against Holmdel. Pace and Powell each banged out three hits, while O'Neill blasted a home run.

In the last game of the round robin tourney, Cranford played Long Hill in a must-win situation for both teams to advance. The Long Hill team was a combined 111-10 in the last three years.

Long Hill began the game with a home run. Cranford answered right back with a booming home run by Cook in the bottom of the first.

Cranford opened its hitting barrage in the fourth inning by scoring 10 runs on seven hits. The team also drew three walks and received a double from Rydelek and singles by Cook, Ghiretti, Powell and Hartnett.

Cranford ended up in fourth place out of 12 teams after losses to Piscataway and South Plainfield.

During the same time, Cranford was playing in the Union Tournament, where it dismantled the Ironbound 13-0 on South Amboy 10-2. Cranford also defeated a tough New Providence team 4-2 and then downed Union 12-2 on its own home field.

In the Ironbound game, Hartnett led the attack with three hits, while Cook, Pace, O'Neill, Rydelek and Hearon had two each. In the South Amboy game, which was the third game of a tripleheader, the boys were promised Dairy Queen if they won the third game of the day.

The team was paced by Cook's home run, triple and five-RBI performance. Powell also contributed big with two key doubles during the game and spectacular defensive plays at second base.

In the New Providence game, Pace reached base all three teams he was up. He had two key singles and four stolen bases.

In a tough pitchers' duel, the boys manufactured four runs on three hits and were led by the pitching of Flannery. Rydelek and closer Cook, keeping the other team at bay.

Cranford came back a week later to finish up round-robin play against Union for the third game of another tripleheader.

With most of the boys exhausted, Cranford laid down six bunts and created 12 runs on only eight hits to dominate a very strong Union team. Key hits were delivered by Hearon, Hartnett and Ghiretti.

As Cranford headed into the semifinals against the eventual state champ - Edison boys - it started up its District 12 Tournament and had a key game against Scotch Plains on the same night.

Strategy by the manager in the Edison game was to play all out unless the lead was lost and hold the key pitchers for the night game in the District Tournament.

With Edison leading and only one run by Cook's first inning home run the strategy employed, the game was eventually lost. Eventually, the Cranford boys received third place in the Union Tournament.

In the District 12 Tournament, Cranford went 4-0 for the third year in a row. Cranford defeated Warren 16-6, Scotch Plains 7-6 in a nine-inning thriller, Westfield 7-4 and Westfield again in the title game by a score of 8-6 to place in the state tournament.

Cranford hosted the District 12 Tournament and began in the preliminary bracket against Warren. Hartnett started the game with an opposite field double and was followed by another opposite field double by Pace, who then went on to steal third base.

Cook followed with a blast to left that got the run in from third. Warren came back in the second to tie the score at 2-2, but the boys once again exploded with an eight-run third inning with infectious hitting.

Rydelek and Hearon led the inning off with singles and then after two were out, Hartnett singled home both runners and went to second on the throw to home. Pace scored Hartnett with his own single and then Cook, Nyitray and Flannery hit three doubles in a row to put the game out of reach.

The next game was against a tough Scotch Plains team that was expected to challenge Cranford for the title. This was an epic event, where it was unfortunate that one of the teams had to lose.

Under all the pressure, and it was the second tough game of the night with four of the boys sick with a stomach virus, Cranford rose to the occa-

sion. The game started bad as Scotch Plains scored five runs in the first inning.

Cranford scored three of its own in the bottom of the inning to get right back in the game, now down 5-3. Cranford scored its first three runs of the game on three walks and slick baserunning.

In the third inning, the Scotch Plains' pitcher pitched around Cook and Nyitray and then Rydelek came up big with a two-out single that scored both of them to tie the game at 5-5. Both teams added a run in the fifth inning and the score remained tied at 6-6.

At this point, it became a pitchers' duel between Scotch Plains' Binkowitz and Cook, with Cook keeping batters off balance with his knuckleball and curve. The turning point of the game came in the top of the eighth when Scotch Plains had a runner on third base with one out and the batter hit a long line drive to left-center.

O'Neill ran from left field and in full stride caught the ball and then spun and threw home to Hearon who put the tag on the Scotch Plains' runner just before he reached home plate.

The inning-ending double play sparked Cranford as it went on to rally in the top of the ninth for what would be the game-winning runs. Pace and Cook reached base and scored.

Cranford went on to play Westfield and jumped out to a 5-0 lead, with Hartnett going 3-for-3 and Pace and Nyitray banging out key extra-base hits.

Gilstrap kept Westfield in check for three innings with a nasty cutter.

Cranford then met Westfield in the championship game. Westfield jumped out to a three-run lead in the first inning, but, again, Cranford went about its business in the bottom of the first to get right back into the game. Pace got on by running out an infield single. Cook then sliced a single to left, giving Cranford two baserunners.

Nyitray blasted a double to drive in Pace and Cook and then he scored on a line drive hit by O'Neill that tied the game. Gilstrap settled down to get the next six batters out.

In the third inning, Pace led off with a walk. Later in the inning with two runners on, Cook blasted at three-run homer to give Cranford a 6-3 lead.

Westfield came back with two runs before Cook led off the fifth with a double and then scored on a single by Flannery to give Cranford an 8-5 lead.

Westfield scored one more run to make the final 8-6 in favor of Cranford and give Cranford its third consecutive District 12 championship.

After the game the boys enjoyed a victory lap with the District 12 banner.

In the Linden Tournament, Cranford continued its winning ways by beating Elmora 7-5, St. Elizabeth 13-0, Kenilworth 5-1 and Iselin 1-0.

In the Elmora game, Hartnett had two key hits to drive in three runs, Gilstrap had two hits and two RBI and Pace belted two doubles.

In the St. Elizabeth's game, Rydelek and Gilstrap combined for a one-hit shutout as everyone reached base and scored. Flannery led the attack with two doubles.

In the Kenilworth game, Flannery pitched a four-hit masterpiece, while Nyitray and Rydelek banged out two singles each and Cook a double.

In the Iselin game, Gilstrap and Cook combined for a seven-hit shutout. The key hit and only run in the game came in the first inning when Cook crushed a 240-foot home run into the street.

Each team was outstanding on defense, with Gilstrap throwing to Hearon for a putout at home plate for the game's final out.

In the playoffs, Cranford played the always-tough Merrill Park AAU team. In an exciting pitching duel, Gilstrap matched Merrill Park in the first three innings of a 0-0 deadlock.

In the fourth inning, Merrill Park scored three runs on a key two-out double and it looked like a comfortable lead with their best pitcher going. However, in the bottom of the fourth, Cook blasted an opposite field home run to put Cranford on the board and breathe life back into the boys.

In the next inning, Ghiretti led off with a walk and Hartnett singled. Pace then delivered a crucial two-run single to right to tie the game.

Cook matched the Merrill Park team right into the seventh inning when Powell reached base on an error. After Ghiretti forced Powell out, Hartnett singled to move Ghiretti to third.

Pace came up big again by delivering a game-winning single. Cook got the win. In the championship game against arch rival Scotch Plains, Cranford just came off a loss in the states to the previous season's champion Monroe. In a superbly played and pitched game by both teams, Cranford lost a heartbreaker 2-0 on a key hit in the fourth inning. Still, Cranford finished

second.

In the state tournament, the boys opened up against Mount Olive and lost a tough one by an 8-6 count in eight innings.

Rydelek and Hartnett led the hitting with a triple and single. In the next game, Cranford played Westfield and Cook, who was out the last two games, played in pain and later was diagnosed with a ruptured appendix.

With Cook in the lineup as inspiration, Cranford rallied to win 4-2. Cook was on base each time and scored the go-ahead run. Hartnett and Rydelek each had a hit, run and RBI.

This win put the boys against Monroe, the previous season's champ. Monroe jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the third before Cranford came right back and tied it up with consecutive hits by Ghiretti, Pace and Hartnett. However, Cranford couldn't keep the Monroe team down and was defeated by a 6-3 score and knocked out of the state tournament.

In the Elmora Tournament, the boys continued to play well in round robin play. Cranford defeated Linden 9-4, St. Elizabeth 12-1 and Union 6-3, but lost to Elmora 9-4, although it still qualified for the playoffs.

In the Union game, Rydelek came away with the mound victory and went 2-for-3 with three RBI. In the Linden game, Powell had four singles, Hartnett two, Gilstrap a double and single and Lopes two hits. Pace pitched three innings for the win and Nyitray got the save.

In the St. Elizabeth game, Cranford jumped out with 11 runs in the first inning, Hartnett leading the way with a triple and single in the inning. Nyitray connected on three singles and Pace and Ghiretti each banged out a double.

In the playoffs, the boys met up with a tough Piscataway team again and lost a 3-1 game on a Piscataway two-run homer. In the consolation game against Union, Cranford bounced back to win third place by winning the game 8-4. Cranford scored five runs in the first to support winning pitcher Rydelek. Nyitray earned another save during the team's last game of the season.

**NOTES:** The final statistics were impressive.

Cranford batted .362 and scored 210 runs.

The boys banged out 276 hits, 36 of which were doubles and eight home runs.



# EDUCATION

TOO MUCH WORK TO HANDLE!

By: GREG DIGIOVINE



BOOKS AND BINDERS AND HOMEWORK! OH MY!

## Tenure helps retain dedicated educators

It is a brick wall that can be knocked down with a missile, but not bullet. It is accepted by most school districts around the country. What is it? It is teacher tenure.

Teacher tenure helps and supports intelligent, experienced teachers by keeping their jobs safe. Teachers receive tenure by working a certain amount of time, and because of hard work, good teaching skills and effort.

Tenure prevents them from being fired and having a new, inexperienced teacher who does not know what they are doing take their place. Teacher tenure is a good efficient way in keeping teachers jobs.

It is a fact that schools with tenured teachers have higher education levels than those without. For example, Nebraska does not have a tenure law. This allows Nebraska's school districts to hire lower-paid, inexperienced teachers. They can fire a teacher who works less than three years for any reason they like. This is absolutely not fair for students, and the law should be taken up by Nebraska.

Academic freedom is as much an issue today as that of any time in the past. Students deserve more academic freedom. Teacher tenure helps students get that freedom. A tenured teacher can teach things besides the curriculum and can try new teaching

ways. Tenured teachers work better with students and make them feel more confident about their work.

When professors work better with scholars it makes them feel calmer and relieves the tension of the children. An enthusiastic professor and a calm, confident student can increase the student's learning.

Not all teachers should be allowed to have tenure. Teachers are observed thoroughly by administrators at various times and days throughout the year. Tenure should be given to teachers who are well fit for the job and who are very productive.

Many professors without job security are afraid to teach their own for fear they might get fired, even though most of the time the teacher's methods are better. Teachers without tenure are afraid to use their own methods and ways inside a classroom.

Schools without tenure are like cups of hot chocolate without the marshmallows. We say that because the student will still be educated but not as advanced as the school is capable of. Capability creates a standard and tenure raises the bar to maintain that standard. Schools have to face many difficulties and finding a new teacher repetitively should not be one of those difficulties.

— Christina Grossi

## Tenure provides haven to unqualified teachers

It is a job security that teachers receive after a certain amount of time. It is an outdated concept that is in the way of a great educational policy. Or is it just to protect teachers from the unruly acts of administrators and school boards? "It" is teacher tenure, and it should not be upheld in schools.

Teacher tenure allows teachers to slack off while getting paid. Once a teacher has obtained tenure, there are very few ways for them to become fired. The only ways for a teacher who has tenure to be fired are for serious cases such as hurting or molesting a child or stealing from a bank.

After attaining permanent status, teachers can teach by minimal standards and with no level of care and not get fired as long as their students learn.

"The number of incompetent teachers ranges from a low of 5 percent to as many as 18 percent of the 2.6 million total, or between 135,000 and 468,000 bad teachers," said *Investors Business Daily*.

To fire a tenured teacher takes a long, time-consuming process. Time is the only thing. A 1994 study done by New York State School Boards Asso-

ciation shows that dismissing a tenured teacher there costs about \$177,000 and takes 455 days — if there are no objections from any of these teachers.

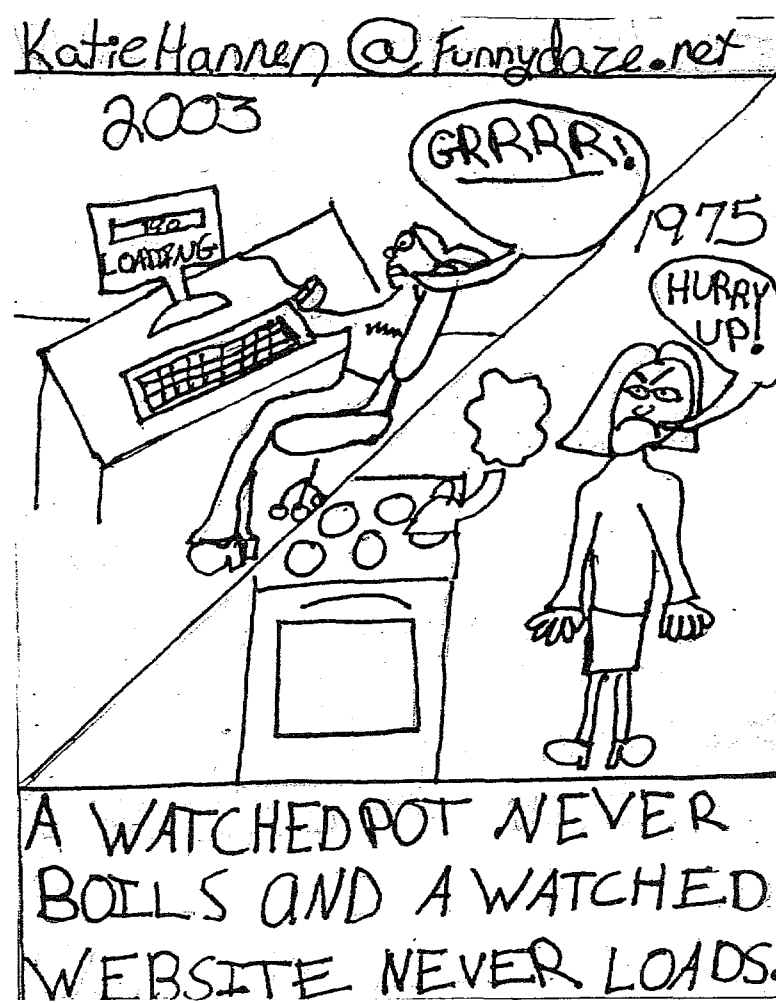
Have you ever thought of a teacher who steals, drinks or does drugs? Some do these things and do not receive any punishments from the school board because of tenure.

An example is Christine Bradley's case. A few years ago, Bradley was convicted of her third shoplifting offense in her 12 years of teaching. They had to pay her \$37,000 to resign. It would have cost them at least \$20,000 in legal fees, as well as her full salary during this "due process."

Teacher tenure can create a dreadful educational learning facility for pupils and teachers alike. If you add to the complaints the school board receives about tenure, you may then help dismiss tenure from your society.

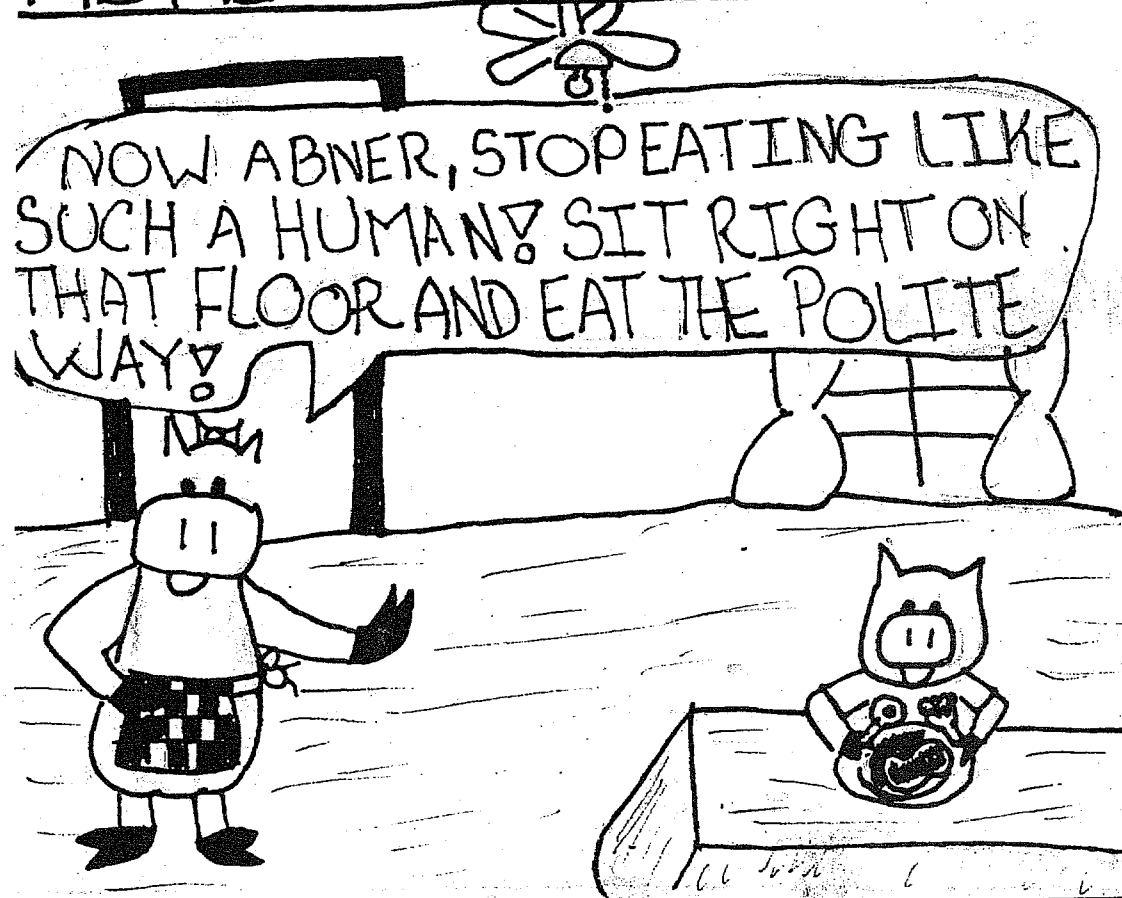
You may as well send a letter to the Senate for they can outlaw tenure from the state and this may encourage other states as well to do so. Hopefully, in the near future, this protection will be dismissed.

— Kevin Ferreira



ABNER!

Alicia Markuske



## Homework does not belong in education

Why do students hate homework so much? Isn't it supposed to help them have a better understanding of the lesson? Maybe, but it is also a complete waste of time.

Students are already in school a whopping seven to eight hours, five days a week, and have to come home to loads of homework. Some pupils even get homework on the weekends.

Homework should be banned from the educational society.

Homework can be a total waste of time. Adolescents who know the lessons they learned in school do not want to spend time doing more of it at home. Children do not want to be bothered by things they already know extremely well. Studies have shown that the majority of children can get a 90 on an exam without doing any studying or any homework.

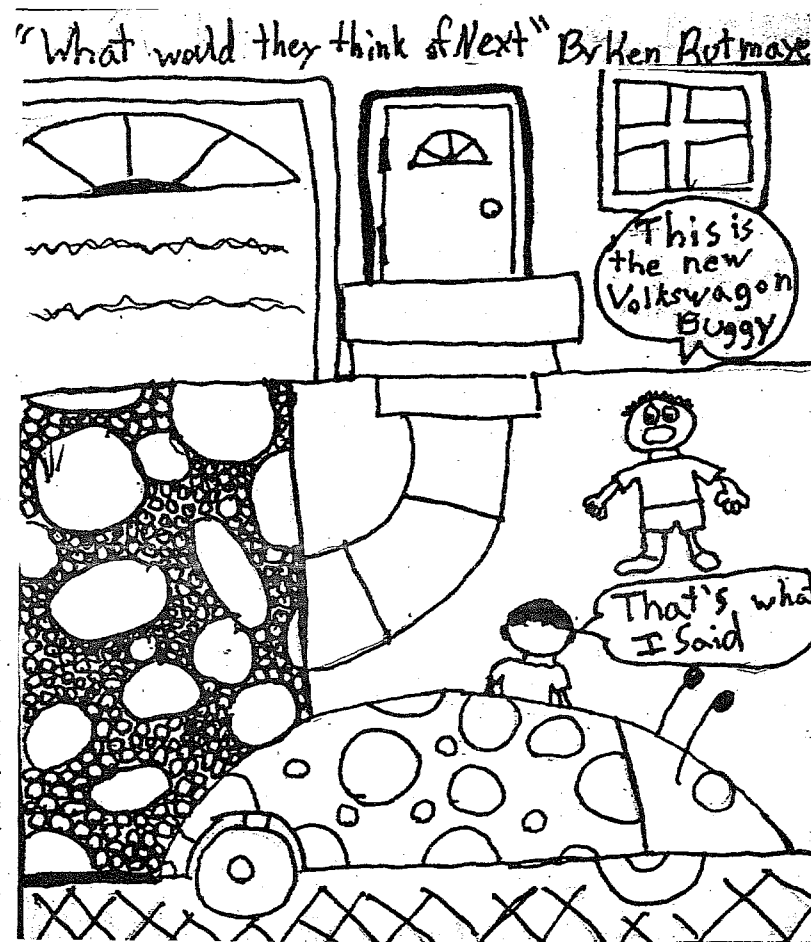
Much more than you think, homework barges in on family issues and responsibilities. Some parents working full time come home wanting to

spend time with their children, only to find they have hours of homework to be done.

Younger children are likely to want to spend quality time with their family and often have difficult homework in every subject, while older adolescents and teenagers want to have a social life with their friends but cannot, due to the large amount of homework they are given. Although school is a very important priority, your family and friends always come first.

Homework is not just an enormous waste of time, it also can cause physical as well as emotional fatigue. Studies have shown that students can fail a course simply because of homework. Parents may also stress out their children by pressuring them to do a perfect job on homework, do well in school, and excel in sports and other extracurricular activities. Does the society really need to do this to our nation's children?

— Liz Curran



## Homework should be phased out

Are teachers giving out too much homework? Some people think it helps your study habits, but we do not think it is needed. Homework in school should not be given out because students do enough work in class during the school day.

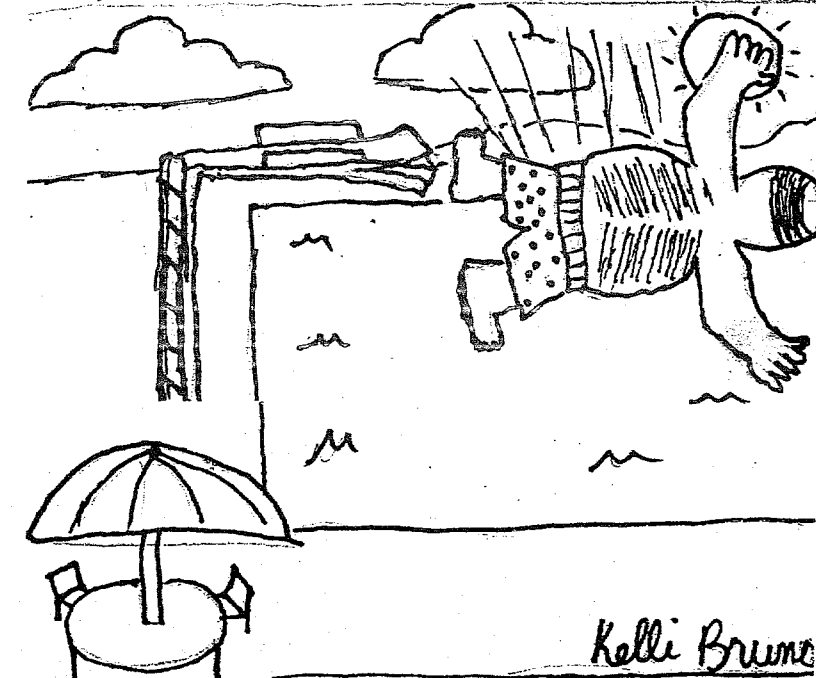
As students get older, teachers give out more homework. The average seventh-grader has 71 minutes of homework a night. Teachers are getting more subjects to teach so that will double up the homework.

People are forgetting the purpose of homework. Homework is getting longer and more pointless so parents are trying to end it. School boards are also trying to get the teachers to give less homework. Students drop their grade because of homework.

Homework does not ensure the quality of an educational environment. To make sure it is ended, students can talk to teachers and the principal. If this does not work, apprentices can write letters to the Board of Education suggesting less homework.

— Richie Vasquez

THE POWER OF MOTHER EARTH



Kelli Brune

OH NO, I HATE GRAVITY.

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EDITORIALS

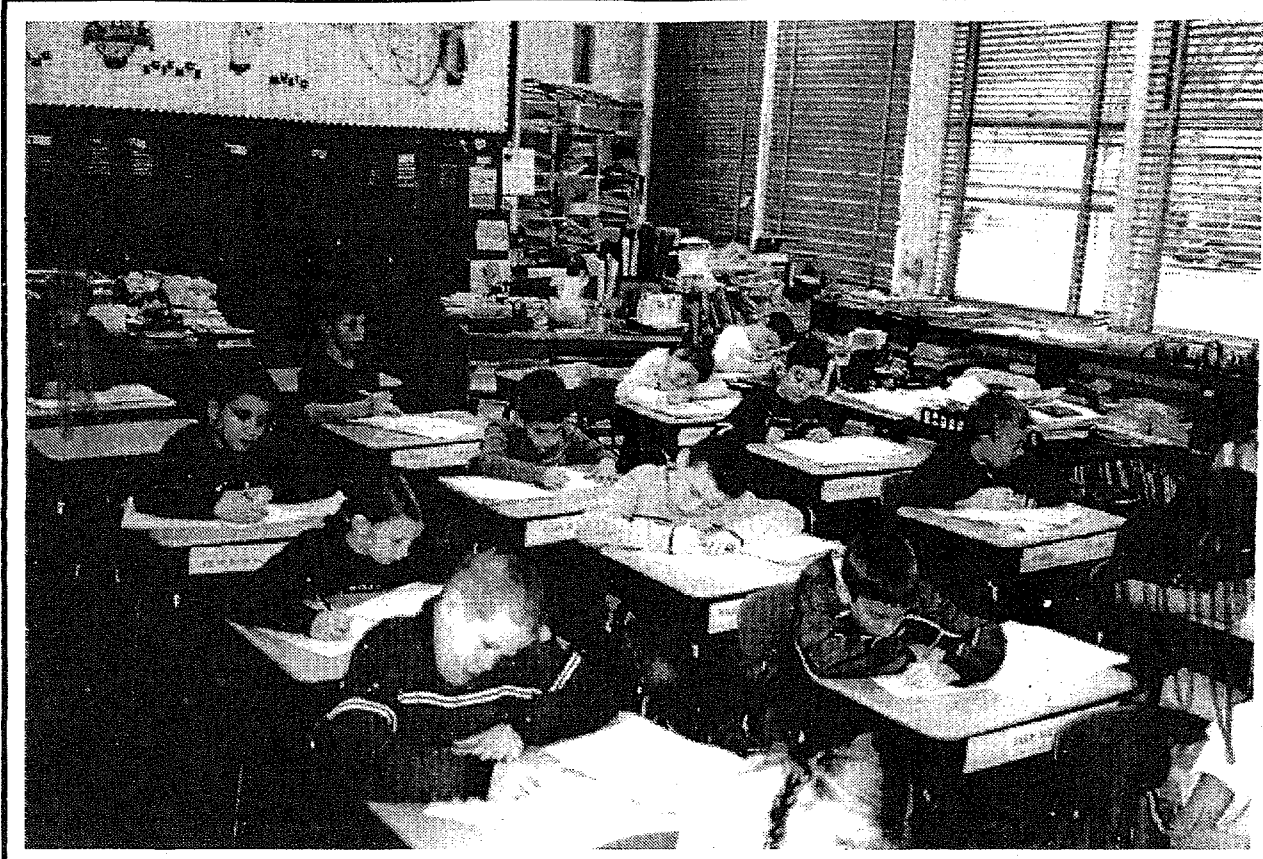
Ask for seconds

In three months, the community is going to vote on a school budget for the 2004-05 school year. With that April deadline approaching, board members need to introduce a budget that will avoid the headaches generated by this year's projected shortfall. In other words, if the board is unwilling to cut more programs, it's time for the school board to start thinking about a second and possibly even a third budget question.

The board for the past several years has avoided such budget questions, which are viewed with understandable distrust by a public that regards them as an attempt to raise taxes beyond state-imposed limits. This coming year, if the school board wants to continue the high-quality programs that Clark is accustomed to, it may not have that luxury. School Business Administrator William Takacs has projected that the school budget will need to be \$2 million more than the state-imposed budget cap. And that's just to keep things as they are and to fund to their full need accounts that are projected to run short, such as salaries and utility bills.

The board can handle that with some additional budget questions, but if officials take that route, they will need to be careful how they approach it. Seeking voter approval for additional programs beyond the basic budget can increase the chances of the main budget question being defeated. Worse, if voters approve the second question, the school district could find itself in the sticky situation of being obliged to provide popular but ultimately unnecessary classes while it scrambles for the financial resources to meet state core curriculum requirements. That, obviously, is a situation the school board must avoid.

Voting on the budget is the most significant voice residents have in the school district, as it provides the ways and means for school administrators to keep the district operating.



HARD AT WORK — Students at Valley Road School get cracking on a writing assignment before school lets out for the holidays.

Clark will need strong, keen leadership in 2004

Looking ahead to 2004, we see that Clark is at a crossroads. In many ways, it is still the vibrant, small town community that brought many of us here to begin with, away from the problems and congestion of city life.

In other ways, changes have begun to affect the quality of life in town: ever-increasing traffic, uncontrolled, haphazard development that has been choking our roadways and eating up our last remaining green spaces and spiraling taxes that have made the town unaffordable for many.

It's time we started to realize the potential of what our town can become — and to take control of our destiny. This means making choices as to what type of community we want to be in one, five and 10 years from now. With vision and commitment, we can change the pattern of sprawl, traffic and random development — and maintain an attractive and affordable community.

We need to make specific choices and enact new ordinances to prevent more high-traffic development that will further clog our streets and degrade the appearance of Clark.

The current administration has not committed to specific guidelines for the future development in Clark. As things now stand, there is nothing to stop factories, hotels or taverns from moving in next to certain residential neighborhoods, as this is what current zoning allows.

One of our goals should be to work toward developing a real downtown business area. Having a downtown



Point  
Of  
View

By Nancy Sheridan

area helps give a town an identity and has been proven to increase housing values. It also helps to eliminate extra driving, and the stop-and-go traffic that goes with it.

Many of our residents are burdened with parking and traffic congestion that comes with increased commercial development in their neighborhoods. Another benefit of a downtown is that it helps to keep businesses in commercial areas.

Our Westfield Avenue shopping area has not changed significantly over the past several years. The streetscape, planned during the last administration, was scaled down from the original plans.

While Clark has stalled, our neighbors in Cranford, Rahway and Linden have taken major steps in revitalizing their downtown areas. If Clark is to compete as an attractive community, we will need to act quickly.

As a solution to increased traffic, the current administration has continually pushed for further road widening that brings traffic to the front doors of many of our neighbors. Further widening of Raritan Road will create an "airport runway" effect that can become irreversible and encour-

age more out-of-towners to use the road as a thoroughfare.

While Clark has pursued this strategy, our neighbors in Cranford, Westfield and Plainfield have installed traffic-calming measures that discourage additional through traffic.

These measures also help protect the safety of their residents and promote a pedestrian-friendly atmosphere, which, in turn, cuts down on extra driving. We need to examine these solutions based on our own traffic study, instead of retreating to past policies of ever-widening roads and ever-increasing development.

It is vital that we preserve and make the best use of what green space we still have available. We encouraged the county's purchase of the Espósito family farm and, along with many other local residents, actively supported the decision to turn the land into a park.

There is still more that we can do. Several years ago, the current administration suddenly dropped plans for making improvements in the Clark Wildlife Preserve and Habitat property, even though substantial grant money had already been received for this project.

We need to resurrect this effort and work with the dedicated citizens who are committed to revitalizing the reservoir so that our residents can enjoy it.

In the past few years, Clark's tax base has eroded — and scores of jobs have been lost — by the departure and bankruptcy of local businesses. New

local businesses have not come in to replace them.

This has contributed to one of the biggest challenges we face — controlling our spiraling tax rate. Over the past three years alone, our municipal tax rate has risen 17½ percent. That's nearly 6 percent each year, about double the rate of inflation. During these same years, we've seen a reduction in our police force, a cut in health benefits for township employees and abandonment of recreational plans for the Clark Wildlife Preserve and Habitat.

At the same time, selected municipal officials recently received hefty pay increases, with some being paid as much as 40 percent more than those that served before them. Several key municipal employees who benefited from this windfall are related to the mayor. In this time of fiscal restraint, it makes no sense that residents are paying nearly 18 percent more in taxes to help finance the inflated salaries of the mayor's relatives and political supporters. We need to examine these expenses, and work to encourage businesses that will enhance our town and help keep our taxes in check.

Many challenges still await us. Increasing school costs, a continuing threat of unwanted and high-density development, and competition for our remaining open spaces will continue to challenge us. We can meet these challenges through cooperation, open discussion, and a vision for the future.


Nancy Sheridan is the Clark Democratic municipal chairwoman.

American prosperity depends on our industry

The Star-Ledger on Dec. 23 published an article "Made in China" by Froma Harrop, a columnist for The Providence Journal. Instead of wasting my time making New Year's resolutions, which I never keep, and prompted from the article, I decided to look at the Christmas presents from our children to see where they came from.

Our son's family gave us a huge basket full of goodies: chocolates from Sweden, cookies from Denmark, jam from Ireland, olive oil and wine from Italy. I did find a package of cocktail napkins from the USA. Surely the beautiful basket was made in the USA? No, made in Mexico.

Our daughter gave each of us a Metuchen Bulldog sweatshirt. Made in Mexico. Easy-lift corkscrew set, made in China. Sweaters, pants, slippers, blouses, cosmetic bag, made in China.



Point  
Of  
View

By Bob Barrett

My wife said, "What's all the fuss about? Everything we gave the kids was made in China, including the DVD/VCR player."

I checked the tree ornaments and small things that we purchased for under the tree. Made in China.

I did get some gratification when I looked at the "West Side Story" DVD that our grandson gave us. It did not say where it was made, but I assume it was the USA.

Harrop cites some of the following facts for the enormous imports from China: China's large work force

working for very small wages; China's artificially low currency value relative to our dollar, and large discount stores eager to replace American suppliers with cheap foreign sweatshop goods.

Harrop also stated, "It's hard to imagine an American economy — or culture — that doesn't include making things."

But it wasn't always that way. Below are some quotes from an article in The Saturday Evening Post by Charles R. Flint. Can you guess the year it was published?

"American brains have won the foreign markets for American manufacturers"; "American furniture is selling in London, Berlin, Paris and Vienna"; "American machinery has the call from Mediterranean to the Baltic"; "American shoes are being worn by the rich and poor in England and throughout the continent."

"The American metal worker, the American miller, the American spinner, the ink maker, the paper maker, the lumberman, and the butcher and the baker and the candlestick maker, are all living better than they ever lived before in any country on earth."

One of the points that Flint makes for America's prosperity is that we export more than we import. He cautions that to hold these markets and continue the prosperity, we must depend on our young men entering business to be trained and educated and never forget that domestic prosperity is based on foreign trade and producing the best-quality products desired by all nations.

Flint's article was published on Sept. 7, 1901, in Philadelphia, and cost 5 cents per copy.

Bob Barrett is a resident of Clark.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Postal service shows failings of gov't

To the Editor:  
The U.S. Postal Service has been announcing plans to remove mailboxes from street corners. The rationale for this latest reduction in service should prove instructive regarding the pitfalls of depending upon our federal bureaucracy for other services as well. The postal service justifies this reduction, along with other major cutbacks nationwide, with the excuse that increasingly cost-effective competition has led to reduced utilization of postal services overall.

Now tell me please what privately run, for-profit company would dream of addressing its loss of business to competitors by reducing services and increasing charges to its remaining customers? This strategy can only operate in the context of a monolithic government-run monopoly. Escalate cost, slash service

and outlaw competition. We are reinventing Romania.  
Please remember the mailboxes, the next time you are tempted to support the government take-over of all healthcare in the United States. These are the people who cannot manage a mailbox. Do you want to put them in sole charge of your health and your family's well-being?

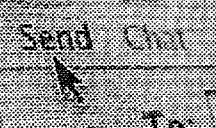
Richard A. Watson  
Mountainside

Our policy on letters and columns

The Clark Eagle welcomes submissions from its readers. Letters to the editor or opinion pieces on any subject will be considered for publication on the opinion pages.

The Eagle reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and content.

What is your opinion about this subject?  
Send us an e-mail and let us know.  
Responses will be published next week.  
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Stay alert

Another New Year's celebration has come and gone, and because of the prevailing Orange Alert, nothing disastrous has happened. There have been no bombings, no gas attacks, no fresh moments of terror. In short, there have been no successful terror strikes here in America since 9-11. Thank God.

That relative quiet does not mean we should lessen our vigilance. Changes in the nation's alert level no longer grab our attention the way they used to, but that does not diminish the importance of staying vigilant. We've heard this all too often since 9-11. But in a community such as Clark, terror alerts hardly seem as pressing as they should in obvious targets such as Washington, D.C., or other metropolitan population centers. Clark is not the cultural capital that New York City is, and it lacks the obvious target like the gas refineries in Linden. What should an orange alert mean to someone who lives on Schuyler Drive or Goodmans Crossing? Unlike the days immediately after 9-11, when we all nervously waited for the next shoe to drop, it's increasingly easy to go about business as usual.

At the beginning, we were told to look for suspicious people. The problem with that, of course, is that in a society as fragmented as New Jersey — where, thanks to the Internet, we know people from Colorado Springs, Colo., and Macon, Ga., better than we do people who live across the street — everyone we meet seems suspicious. Immediately after 9-11, many people unfairly targeted those of a Mediterranean cast or who otherwise fit the stereotypical mental image of terrorists.

In communities such as Clark, the way for us to be aware and to respond to the shadowy threat of terrorism is not to let terror establish a foothold. As the new year dawns, we must remember not to let fear run our lives. Remain aware, but not fearful, since this is no way to live a life.

By the same token, the new year offers an opportunity for us to reflect on those who have a deep meaning in our lives. Renew old friendships. Make a commitment to tell people who are close to you how much they mean to you. Every day.

"Freedom is not given. I believe we must earn freedom. We must take freedom. We must demand and preserve freedom."

—L. Fletcher Prouty, author  
1992

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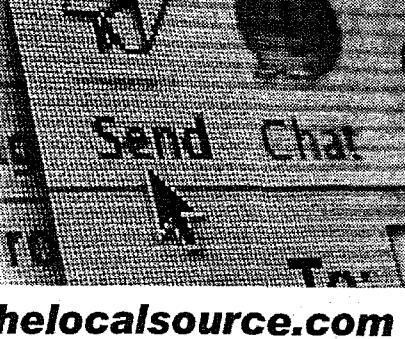
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# County easily could have avoided reactivating rail line by buying land

Frank Capece's "A better deal" (*The Eagle*, Dec. 11) is correct in lamenting the loss of our ability to negotiate the future use of the previously abandoned rail beds of the Rahway Valley Railway and the Staten Island Railway.

Unfortunately, instead of advocating the customary approach of negotiating before going to contract, Capece would seem to suggest that no level of protection for the residents of Union County should have or could have been negotiated before the contract with the Morristown and Erie Railway was signed.

Contrary to Capece's assertion that the county had a "weak legal position," the county always had the option of acquiring the former rail beds for open space. Middlesex County did just that when it bought a section of the Lehigh Valley Railroad in Metuchen and Woodbridge from the state for greenway use.

The state Department of Environmental Protection already had gone on record that it would not object to a



By William Fidurski

conversion to green space on the Union County shortlines.

Imagine if Union County actually gave the affected communities a choice between reactivation and open space. Widespread knowledge of the threat of reactivation would have generated massive public and political support for conversion to greenway. By converting the rail beds to green space, Union County would have shut out any rail companies with any interest in reactivating the lines.

Instead, Union County entered into a no-bid contract that charges the Morristown and Erie \$2 a year. For its two dollars, M&E gets entry to the Port of New York/New Jersey, the right to transport in interstate com-

merce, and the right to transport whatever freight it wants, whether that freight be marine cargo, hazardous chemicals, containerized solid waste or radioactive waste.

The reactivations are supposed to attract new industry to Union County, but the contract does not provide for preferential terms for new firms, even though Bayway Refining Company will receive "limitations on charges."

Bayway Refining is already here. If Union County wanted to promote new business, the contract could have designated specific areas that would be given specific financial considerations for use of rail service. Instead of negotiating a no-bid contract, any of these provisions could have been put into a contract that could have been put out to bid.

Since Canadian Pacific and CSX also were interested in running the shortlines, the county may have actually got more than \$2 a year. Furthermore, the county-negotiated considerations that purport to limit service on the lines are equally nonsensical.

What difference does limiting service for three years make, when M&E will be laying track for most of the first three years? The contract was signed on May 9, 2002, and a train has yet to run.

Similarly, the agreement to only service Union County "final destinations" is equally meaningless. Has it occurred to anyone that the Port of New York/New Jersey is the official "final destination" for an ever-growing millions of freight containers every year?

Furthermore, Capece's assertion that trash and hazardous waste will not move by rail is contradicted by existing circumstances. Garbage and hazardous chemical cars already are moving along the Lehigh Valley Railroad through Union County, much to the chagrin of those along the way.

The county contract specifically states that M&E will interline freight with Conrail, Norfolk Southern and CSX at Cranford, Bayway, and Bound Brook, and operate over New Jersey Transit at Cranford Junction.

Notably, the Lehigh Valley is the connector to the Union County shortlines at Cranford Junction.

Although Gov. James McGreevey was against moving New York trash through Middlesex County by rail when he was mayor of Woodbridge, he has now proposed looking at Linden as a site to load containers of trash onto ships to go to some undetermined location.

Several particulars of the new proposal don't make any sense. Where would New York ship all its garbage? Wouldn't the sheer volume overwhelm any nearby port facilities and be too expensive to ship out of country? Why would New York opt for a plan that would double the handling of its garbage?

One proposal would require containerizing the trash in New York, loading the containers on rail or barge for transfer to Linden, unloading at Linden, loading onto a freighter, unloading from the ship at an undetermined location, and loading the containers for rail and/or truck transfer to

a disposal facility.

Unfortunately, Union County has given M&E the right to operate in interstate commerce and facilitated the building of rail infrastructure that will provide the needed carrying capacity. Unfortunately, even "sealed" garbage cars have to vent out odors or else the cars would explode from gas pressure built up by fermentation. Unfortunately, the communities along rail routes in Union and Middlesex counties will get to sit smelling garbage in their automobiles and as freight trains block street crossings.

Thwarted in its attempts to move New York garbage through Woodbridge, Union County moved to start its own rail service. Along the way, we have been falsely told that any of the affected communities could veto rail reactivation.

Why would we not feel that the county has sold us out?

William T. Fidurski is a resident of Union County.

## There is no stopping Cranford when we all work together as a team

This past year we saw the retirement of Police Chief Harry Wilde, who served our community for 40 years, and we welcomed our new chief, Eric Mason. There were promotions within the department, and also appointments of new officers. Upon the resignation of Jeff Sias, we welcomed a new township engineer, Bill Gobel.

After five years of debate, negotiations and litigation, we were able to finally solidify Cranford Crossing, and now we look forward to the building of this most important complex, which should start in the Spring of this year.

Phase I and Phase II of the flood project are in place, ready to begin. We worked through all of the requirements for permitting with the state Department of Environmental Protection, and if all goes well, we will break ground by the summer of 2004. This was accomplished by working closely with the residents in the affected area. We kept them informed and welcomed their input regarding the project.



By Barbara Bilger

For our young people, the Field of Dreams and the lighting of Memorial Field became a reality. We now have night football games, which have been heavily attended and enjoyed by the residents of Cranford, including

our teenagers.

The township, working together with the Board of Education and Jack Hicks is looking forward to further upgrading Memorial Field by building much-needed bathroom facilities and a new concession stand.

Another great addition to our town has been the beautiful Hyatt Hills Golf Complex and its new gourmet restaurant, Lana's. It is a pleasure to watch all the golfers and the families enjoying this facility, which is truly an asset to Cranford.

We also have one of the most beautiful additions to our town, the Cranford World Trade Center Memorial in Crane's Park. This not only honors the six local victims, but it also provides a tranquil and peaceful park for all to enjoy. My sincere thanks goes out to the committee and

the volunteers who worked so hard to raise the money to build this beautiful park and memorial.

These are just a few of our accomplishments as a Township Committee, but there is still much more work to be done.

It is imperative that we continue to develop our downtown area. I see Cranford Crossing as just the beginning of a massive job ahead. We already are talking to potential renters who will bring many customers to our downtown.

The Riverfront development will be another area that we must address in the future. Last year we were fortunate to have many new businesses and restaurants open in our downtown, but we must bring in a variety of different shops and businesses to continue to keep our downtown appealing.

We are at the beginning of what I anticipate as the turning point in our community. Our Township Committee must continue to work together as we did this past year, in order to accomplish all that we hope to accomplish in the coming year.

The beautification of Cranford has always been a high priority to me. I am pleased to see the improvements taking place in the downtown, but there is much more that can be done. Soon we will see the start of another project that will improve the center of town, when very shortly, the redesign of the Post Office Plaza will begin.

This past year Cranford was designated as a Transit Village and, as such, we will be eligible to receive state grants and planning services that will be used for the redevelopment and improvement of our downtown.

I am a strong believer in volunteerism. Because of the many wonderful volunteers we are blessed with, I believe Cranford is one of the finest communities in New Jersey. The municipal appointments made this year all involve highly qualified volunteers, who bring with them experience and expertise. Much thought was given to each appointment.

There is much talent in Cranford and I urge any and all residents who have ideas or expertise to please come forward and volunteers to serve on one of our many committees. Please feel free to contact me or any one of the other commissioners.

When we work together as a team, there is no stopping us.

Barbara Bilger is mayor of Cranford.

## 2004 will be a year for commissioners to meet, face down challenges

As I read the local newspapers recently, I saw lengthy articles containing Year in Review summaries. It caused me to fast forward and imagine what the same articles might contain 12 months from now.

I daydreamed a bit and concluded that the headline I'd like to see in 2004's wrap-up might go something like this: "Cranford's 2004 Township Committee worked productively in true bipartisan fashion, exceeding all expectations and achieving significant progress on a number of fronts."

Reading further into the body of the article, I imagined it would include details of an exciting and long-awaited Cranford Crossing groundbreaking in March, and the chronicling of a swift and smooth start to the construction of



By Ann Darby

our new parking garage and the building of 50 new residential units.

There would be further announcements heralding the pending arrival of exciting new tenants contracted for the 22,000 square feet of additional retail space that will compose Cranford Crossing — tenants who will enhance our downtown and make it a more frequent destination for the residents of

Cranford and our neighboring communities.

And wouldn't it be thrilling to finally read about tangible progress on the northeast quadrant flood project, details of how it has moved past the talking and permitting stages and into the execution phase; the same sort of progress on the Orchard Brook Project would make welcome copy too.

I hope that 2004's Year in Review outlines additional initiatives relating to the downtown, including the Riverfront Redevelopment project, the tangible benefits to Cranford of being designated as a Transit Village and references to businesses opening within the Special Improvement District and the news that they are thriving.

In short, I look forward to reading that this Township Committee reached its potential in 2004.

So you ask, is this an idle daydream of someone who had a very restless Christmas holiday? Perhaps, but it can certainly be more. For as I look around at my colleagues on this day, I know that with a little hard

work, this daydream can become a reality.

Last year's Township Committee, with Dan Aschenbach as mayor, made strong strides on a number of fronts. I would be remiss if I did not publicly thank Dan for his leadership during 2003. Dan put in a tremendous amount of time, effort and energy into the responsibility of serving as Cranford's mayor.

Looking ahead, I trust that Mayor Barbara Bilger will pick up where Dan left off, that she will work hard to provide the leadership necessary to maintain the momentum on the many important initiatives that occupied this committee's time in 2003.

I am confident that among her first priorities is the establishment of a Township Committee agenda for 2004, one where the committee sets the priorities which will guide us during the year, allowing us to maintain focus and optimize the results of our time together.

As I look ahead, I see 2004 as a

year of challenges, but I also choose to see a Township Committee that does not agree in its own way but instead steps up to successfully meet the challenges before us.

Fortunately, our committee continues to be ably assisted by a strong professional staff. While members of the Township Committee get the face time in front of the TV cameras and are the ones often quoted in the local papers, the day-to-day heavy lifting that allows this township to function is done by the capable group of professionals in the township's employ.

Cranford is also very fortunate to have tremendous support from the community. We have very involved and interested residents who routinely

share their views and perspectives.

2003 was a tremendous learning experience for me. Among the many lessons I learned, the most striking was that there is much more that unites us on the Township Committee in terms of our common interests for Cranford than divides us.

I look forward to working again with my Township Committee colleagues with an emphasis on exploring and accentuating our common ground.

One thing we know for sure: We'll be spending a lot of time together again, so let's make it as productive as possible.

Ann Darby is a township commissioner.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are hereby advised that the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation has received a Diagnostic Team Report recommending revisions to the highway-rail at-grade crossing of South Avenue (County Route 610) across the tracks of the former Staten Island Rapid Transit Line in the Township of Cranford, County of Union, Docket No. DOT 04-2003P. Revisions to the at-grade crossing on South Avenue (County Route 610) would include the installation of two (2) new cantilever structures with new twelve (12) inch railroad flashing lights and railroad related signs, new twelve (12) inch railroad flashing lights post-mounted, crossing bells, railroad related signs (Lincoln Avenue included), and pavement markings.

The Department's Railroad Engineering and Safety Unit recommends to the Commissioner the above mentioned revisions be approved, unless contested.

All related documents are available for inspection between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Railroad Engineering and Safety Unit, Division of Design Services, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey. Please call Mario Ritualo at (609) 530-3645 to schedule an appointment to review the documents.

Any interested party may submit questions, comments or objections in writing no later than January 23, 2004. All submissions regarding this matter should be directed to: Paul F. Schneider, Supervising Engineer, Railroad Engineering and Safety Unit, New Jersey Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 600, E & O Building, 4th Floor, Trenton, New Jersey 08625. Dec. 31, 2003 & Jan. 8, 2004. U9727 CCE (45.57)

#### LEGAL NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Clark Board of Adjustment will hold a Public Meeting on January 26, 2004 at 8:00 P.M. at the Municipal Court Room, 315 Westfield Avenue, Clark, New Jersey, at which

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Time the following application will be heard:

Application of William H. Hoepfel Jr. for construction of detached garage at the premises located at: Rand Road, Clark, NJ, in Lot: 25 Block: 34.01, in a R-150 District. Violation of Chapter 34, Section 8.3, 11 Sub-Section C-3 and B, 8-1.

The file papers for the above application are available for inspection at the Clark Township Building, Department, Clark Municipal Building, 430 Westfield Avenue, Clark, New Jersey Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM. William J. Hoepfel, Jr. U9753 CCE Jan. 8, 2004 (\$9.00)

#### LEGAL NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Board of Adjustment (Zoning), Township of Cranford, County of Union, New Jersey will hold a reorganization meeting on Monday, January 12, 2004 at 7:45 p.m. in Room 107 of the Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey.

Barbara Ginsberg, Secretary U9774 CCE January 8, 2004 (\$5.25)

#### LEGAL NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board, Township of Cranford, County of Union, New Jersey will hold a reorganization meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 107 of the Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey.

Edward M. Schmidt, Secretary U9775 CCE January 8, 2004 (\$5.25)

#### TOWNSHIP OF CLARK PUBLIC NOTICE

The previously advertised Planning Board Meeting for January 12, 2004 has been cancelled. Lisa McCabe, Clark Planning Board Secretary U9777 CCE Jan. 8, 2004 (\$3.38)

### Newspaper policy on weddings, engagements

Couples are encouraged to send their engagement and wedding announcements to the lifestyle editor. Announcements should be typed and double-spaced, no longer than one page. All announcements should have a daytime phone number for verification or if questions arise.

Information requested for engagements are parents names, high school name and town, college name, town and degree, name of employer and town where located, job title, and the date of marriage.

For more information, call 908-686-7700.



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## EVENTS

## Rutgers professor speaks on Poland and the E.U.

The Polish University Club of New Jersey will hold its regular monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 21 at the Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway.

The meeting will consist of regular and new business, as well as a presentation of interest to our members. Presentations vary monthly and touch on a variety of subjects.

January speaker Jan Kubik is the director of the center for Russian, Central and Eastern European Studies at Rutgers University and a professor in the political science department. He will speak to attendees on Poland and the European Union.

Kubik holds a master's degree from Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, and a doctorate from

Columbia University.

His interests include the post-Communist transformations in Eastern Europe and the relationship between cultures and politics and contentious politics.

Club officers are Wes Warchol, president; Audrey J. Lewandowski-Foley, first vice president; Andrzej Welenc, second vice president; James Barwick, treasurer; and Diane Martin, recording secretary.

## University club holds 76th anniversary ball

The Polish University Club of New Jersey will host its 76th anniversary ball at the Airport Marriott Hotel in Newark, on Feb. 7.

Honored at the dinner portion of

the ball will be PUC Outstanding Citizen of The Year, Christine J. McMullan.

Proceeds from the ball will be applied to the Polish University Scholarship Fund.

Cocktail hour begins at 6:30 p.m.; dinner at 7:30 p.m. with an open bar throughout the evening. The individual cost of the dinner dance is \$90 a person; \$65 a student; a choice of chicken, filet mignon, or salmon can be ordered for the dinner. The Music House Band will provide music for attendees' dancing pleasure.

The scholarship ball is the highlight of the Polish University Club's winter season and should not be missed. Tickets can be obtained by calling 732-382-4281.

The Club meets at 7:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month, except

July and August, at the Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway.

## ALJ Booster Club meets in high school library

The A.L.J.Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 5 in the library of Arthur L. Johnson High School, 365 Westfield Ave.

Meetings are held in the library at 7:30 p.m. the first Thursday of every month.

For more information, call Jim Molloy at 732-388-4543.

## Clark Benefit Fund seeks advertisers

Clark Benefit Fund Inc. will host its 11th annual Winter Benefit Ball at The Westwood in Garwood on Feb. 7.

The Mardi Gras theme event will feature an open bar, cocktail hour, dinner and dancing to the music of "Be Our Guest Entertainment" from 7 p.m. to midnight.

Tickets are available by calling Kim Carnovale at 732-382-1556.

The executive committee is in the process of creating an advertisement journal, which is given out at the ball. Call Donna Kircher at 732-382-8714.

Clark Benefit Fund has raised nearly \$125,000 during the past 11 years.

This organization aids Clark youth and athletic associations, PTAs and other community groups based on their "wish list" requests.

The money also has endowed scholarships for seniors attending Arthur L. Johnson High Schools who have demonstrated their commitment to volunteerism.

Members of Clark Benefit Fund

include Kimberly Carnovale, Lori Eipel, Donna Kircher, Cynthia Seng and Donna Roglieri.

## Trade show highlights trends in rescue work

Clark Volunteer First Aid Squad will host an EMS and Fire Trade Show on Feb. 28.

The trade show will be at St. Thomas the Apostle Church hall, 1407 St. Georges Ave., Rahway. Admission costs \$3.

This will offer an opportunity to see new trends in the EMS and fire communities.

Vendors are still needed for this event on a first come, first-served basis.

For more information, call Chris at 732-574-0214 or Rob at 732-382-2155.

## OBITUARIES

## Selma Kovitz

Selma Kovitz, 75, of Clark died Dec. 31 in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Plainfield.

Born in Bayonne, Mrs. Kovitz lived in Clark for 45 years.

She was a librarian in Union Township Public Library for 10 years and retired in 1990.

Mrs. Kovitz also was a librarian at the East Brunswick Public Library.

She received a bachelor's degree in library science from Kean University, Union, in 1975, and a master's degree in library science from Seton Hall University, South Orange.

Mrs. Kovitz was active with Temple Beth Or in Clark. She was the temple's librarian, a past president of the temple's board of education and a member of its Sisterhood. Mrs. Kovitz also was a member of the Clark chapter of Hadassah.

Surviving are her husband, Alan; two daughters, Beth Fields and Elaine

Rosenwald; and seven grandchildren.

## Elizabeth Koniuszy

Elizabeth "Betty" Koniuszy, 80, of Hudson, Fla., formerly of Rahway and Clark, died Nov. 25 in Tampa Florida General Hospital.

Born in Milford, Mrs. Koniuszy lived in Rahway and Clark before moving to Hudson.

She was a member of St. Theresa's Rosary Society in Bayonet Point.

Surviving are a son, Richard; four daughters, Pauline Young, Caroline Wencher, Linda Allen and Deborah Foreman; two sisters, Agnes Boschen and Albina Ault; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

## Warren Young

Warren A. Young, 76, of Toms River, formerly of Clark, died Jan. 3 at home.

Born in Keansburg, Mr. Young

lived in Clark before moving to Toms River in 1989.

He was a packaging supervisor for Schering-Plough, Union, for 43 years and retired in 1990. Mr. Young was a Navy veteran of World War II.

He was a member of the Amateur Ham Radio Operators Club and a former member of the Power Squadron, a division of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Surviving are his wife of 56 years, Florence M.; two sons, Warren A. and Kevin M.; a daughter, Kris O'Brien; two brothers, Jack C. and Kenneth Young; and a grandchild.

## Helen Tapovci

Helen M. Tapovci, 74, of Point Pleasant, formerly of Clark, died Dec. 29 in the Medical Center of Ocean County, Brick.

Born in Aliquippa, Pa., Mrs. Tapovci lived in Clark before moving to Point Pleasant nine years ago.

She was a clerk for ABC Caging

and Fulfillment Service Inc., Toms River.

Mrs. Tapovci was a secretary and treasurer of the Altar Rosary Society at Holy Family Church, Linden, and a Rosarian at St. Agnes Church, Clark.

Surviving are three daughters, Regina Zarembo, Martha Casey and Rose Ann Melillo; a brother, Steve Tapolski; and two sisters, Rose DuDash and Margaret Sabatini.

## Joshua Meltzer

Joshua Meltzer of Clark died Dec. 30 in Trinitas Hospital, Elizabeth.

Born in Englewood, Mr. Meltzer lived in Clark most of his life. He was a construction worker for Schifano Construction.

Surviving is his father, Alan Meltzer.

## Leona Seig

Leona Seig, 87, of Clark, formerly of Elizabeth, died Dec. 31 at home.

Born in Elizabeth, Mrs. Seig moved to Clark 50 years ago.

She was a floor lady for Simmons Department Store, Elizabeth, for more than 20 years before retiring.

During World War II, Mrs. Seig was a production inspector for United States Aircraft.

Surviving is a brother, Erwin Szela.

## WORSHIP CALENDAR

## APOSTOLIC CORNERSTONE APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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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 (908) 272-6788 THF1@juno.com

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROSELLE

First Presbyterian Church of Roselle  
Chestnut and W 5th Ave., Roselle 908-241-9596  
www.rosellechurch.org  
Alternative Worship Service: Sunday - 9 a.m.  
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.

NOTE: All copy changes must be made in writing and received by Worrall Community Newspapers no later than 12:00 Noon, Fridays prior to the following week's publication. Please address changes to: U/S

Connie Sloan  
Worrall Community Newspapers  
1291 Stuyvesant Ave.  
Union, NJ 07083

## NEWS CLIPS

## Knights of Columbus offers family dinners

Bishop Justin J. McCarthy Knights of Columbus Council 5503 will offer its monthly family dinner from 1 to 5 p.m. Jan. 18.

The theme of this month's dinner will be a "Summer Picnic in January." The menu will include hamburgers, hot dogs, ribs, barbecue chicken, salads and other summer favorites.

Cost is \$7.50 for adults, and \$3.50 for children 4 to 10 years old. Children younger than 3 eat free.

The council hall is located at 27 Westfield Ave. For more information, call Grand Knight Tony Fiorillo at 732-340-9781, or the council home at 732-574-9067.

## Play bingo on Saturdays, Tuesdays at foundation

The Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway, has changed its bingo sessions to 11 a.m. Saturdays and 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

For more information, call 732-382-7197.

## Volunteers are needed to man Noah's Ark shelter

Noah's Ark Animal Rescue and Placement is looking for volunteers to help with a variety of tasks.

The Clark-based group is an all-volunteer, nonprofit humane rescue organization. Noah's Ark has been in existence about 10 years and is looking for people who can help for a few

hours each week. No experience is necessary.

Especially needed are volunteers to socialize, clean and feed the many cats and dogs during the daytime hours and on weekends. Volunteers also are needed several afternoons and evenings during the week.

In addition, Noah's Ark takes animals into nursing homes Sundays and would love to have people join them.

The greatest need at this time is foster homes for cats, dogs, kittens

and puppies. For more information, call 732-815-1633.

## Homebound can get food via Mobile Meals

Mobile Meals, a private, not-for-profit organization that delivers meals to housebound people of all ages or income in the Clark area, is accepting new clients.

Volunteers deliver nutritious dinners and lunches to homes Monday to

Friday at a cost of \$30 per week or dinner-only for \$20 per week. Meals are packed and delivered by volunteers in reheatable aluminum trays.

For more information, call 732-233-6146.

## Editorial deadlines

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

Entertainment - Friday noon.

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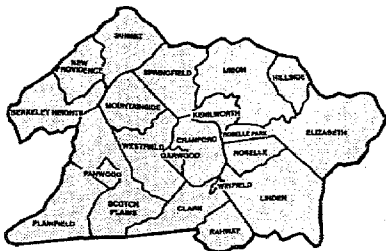
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# Union County

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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2004 - SECTION B

<http://www.localsource.com>

## What they said

"There will be no municipal tax increase for the year 2004."

— Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage in his annual State of the City address on New Year's Day in Elizabeth City Hall.

"We have become a destination for raising families, business and commerce and the best is yet to come."

— Bollwage, on the future of Elizabeth.

"I am pleased to watch the children and adults playing. It is truly an asset to Cranford."

— Mayor Barbara Bilger on the Hyatt Hills Golf Course.

## Left Out

By Frank Capece

"Please feel free to contact us at any time."

— Bilger on her continuing efforts to encourage volunteers to participate on the various boards and agencies in the township.

"To the faith-based community, to the ministers who stuck with me through thick and thin, who pushed me up the high hills, and slowed me down when I was going down the downhill road, thank you so much for your support."

— Plainfield Mayor Albert McWilliams at the State of the City.

"I am pleased to announce that based on the current FBI Uniform Crime Report Statistics, Plainfield's crime rate has continued to decline and is now almost 50 percent lower than it was in 1986."

— McWilliams on his anti-crime initiatives.

"We were a team and we stood for something."

— Deborah Scanlon, outgoing chairwoman of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders at the reorganization on Sunday in the Union County Courthouse.

"I have learned that the questions and needs of the community must be answered in a more direct fashion. There are gaps that need to be bridged. For example, there are seniors that are looking for transportation assistance, families looking for day care, people in need of mental health services, and citizens requesting essential services such as food and shelter."

— Freeholder Chairman Angel Estrada on his planned 211 Info Line for the county.

"I'm proud to say that more than a thousand households in Union County have signed up for this program and have saved money on the life-improving and life-saving pharmaceuticals."

— Estrada on the county's pharmaceutical assistance program.

"I haven't been up here for a while. So I have to check that on the agenda."

— Elizabeth City Council President Angelo Paternoster on resuming the role he has held in the past.

"Choose life, your mother did."

— A pro-life bumper sticker in front of a Springfield eatery on Monday afternoon.

"Here comes another bridge and tunnel."

— An unarmed bartender, referring to New Jersey girls visiting a New York tavern.

"There's an old saying, 'It's a sorry frog that doesn't praise its own pond.'"

— Mayor Albert McWilliams on his plan to promote the city.

"Many of you have heard me often say that Winfield is the 'twinkle' in God's eye, and I truly feel honored and privileged to serve the citizens of Winfield."

— Winfield Mayor Norman "Duke" Whitehouse.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capece is an attorney.



Photos By Joseph A. Sorrentino

Freeholder Deborah Scanlon takes the oath of office for her third term on the county's governing body by Assemblyman Joseph Cryan, with the help of husband, Patrick, and granddaughter, Alyssa Chacon.

## Estrada leads board into '04

By Joshua Zaitz  
Staff Writer

Serving as freeholder chairman for 2004 will be Angel Estrada, who becomes the first Latino to ever hold that position on the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

"County government plays a critical role in the lives of more than half a million people who live in our 21 towns," said Estrada. "It is imperative to continue to provide vital services that keep families safe and improve our quality of life. It is also the business of government to invest in the future of our community and to foster economic development."

Along with Estrada's appointment, freeholders unanimously approved Rick Proctor as this year's vice chairman. The appointments came at the county's annual reorganization meeting on Sunday.

Estrada called his appointment as freeholder chairman the "beginning of the road towards equality."

During the meeting, freeholders Alexander Mirabella,

Deborah Scanlon and Chester Holmes were sworn in to their new three-year terms on the board. The three Democrat incumbents defeated Republican candidates, a Green Party candidate and an independent candidate in November to retain their seats on the board.

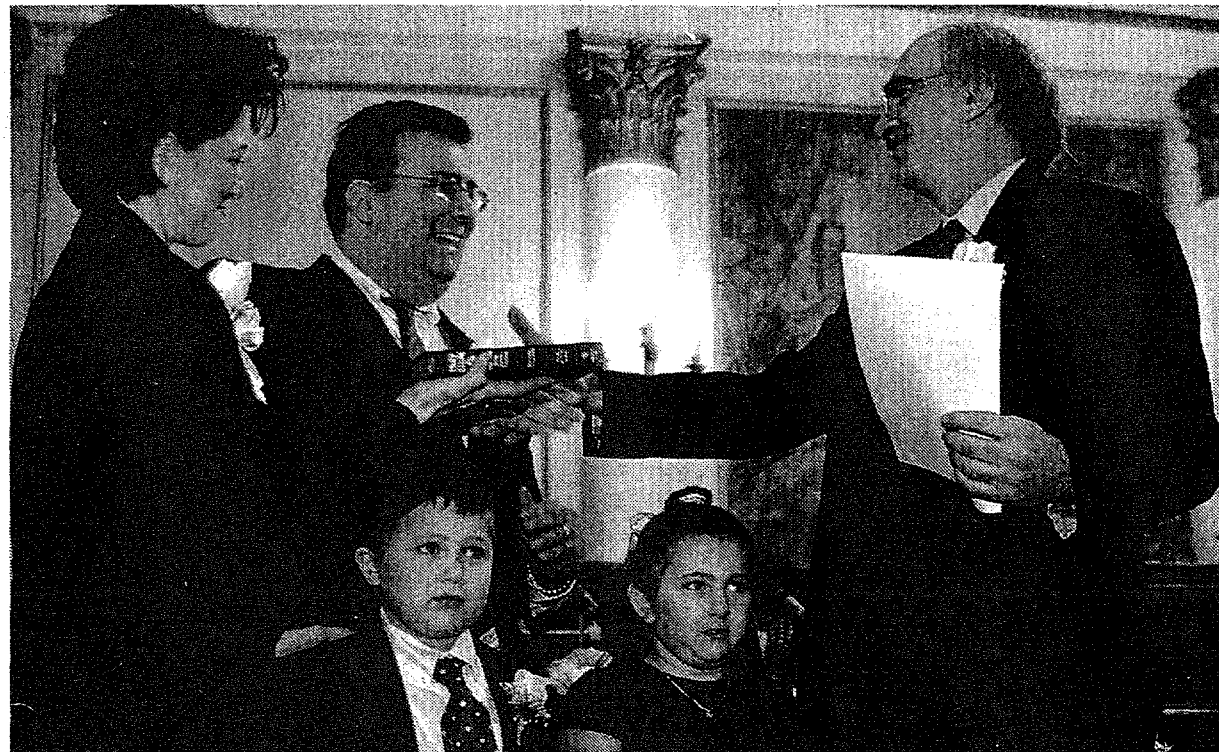
Freeholders are considered their part-time positions, with annual salaries of \$28,013. The freeholder chairman and vice chairman earn \$30,088 and \$29,050, respectively.

"Public service is a privilege and I will not take the opportunity lightly," said Holmes.

Forty-two years ago, Estrada fled communist Cuba, along with his brother and sisters.

"Who would have guessed a little kid from a small town in Cuba would stand before you as chairman of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders?" said Estrada.

Estrada, an Elizabeth resident, was elected to his first term on the freeholder board in 1999 and was re-elected in 2002. Estrada served as vice chairman of the board last year. Prior to his terms on the freeholder board, Estrada was elected to the Elizabeth Board of Education in 1994.



Alexander Mirabella of Fanwood is sworn in to his third term during Sunday's reorganization meeting by Assemblyman Neil Cohen, right, with his wife, Phyllis, children, Alexander and Micayla, looking on.

## Prosecutor takes stock in first full year in office

By Joshua Zaitz  
Staff Writer

The county patrols county roads. Municipalities patrol municipal roads. But the police force that moves from town to town, protecting everyone, is the Union County Prosecutor's Office.

"We're out there," said Union County Prosecutor Theodore Romankow. "It's helped with the neighbors because they feel more confident. They can go in their park at night in certain areas where they couldn't."

Since taking over the Prosecutor's Office 18 months ago, Romankow has aggressively pursued gang members and drug dealers and has also initiated several advanced technological changes.

"It's a whole new progressive office," said Executive Assistant Prosecutor Robert O'Leary.

One of the things the prosecutor said he was most proud of was the increased awareness about the existence of gangs in Union County as well as a more committed effort to stop the development and recruitment of additional gang members.

Throughout 2003, the Prosecutor's Office was instrumental in training police chiefs, school officials, local politicians and the general public about gang awareness.

"Along with just telling them about

it we had to teach them — what a gang is, what a gang member is," said Romankow. "More importantly we had to try to determine why there are gangs and why these kids are pulled into this way of life."

Gangs transcend every type of race and ethnic origin.

"Name it and they're involved," said Romankow.

Romankow said that he feels kids would not be pressured to join gangs if they had a good support system in their home life.

"They don't have that," he said. "They don't have guidance."

Gangs often act as a surrogate family for a child.

"They receive love from these people," said Romankow.

Romankow emphasized that Union County is not overrun by gangs but there is a serious problem.

The Prosecutor's Office has created a gang directory — a book which contains pictures of confirmed gang members. The directory has been distributed to other counties as well as police departments within Union County.

Romankow said that as long as he is prosecutor he will continue to fight the sale and distribution of drugs.

"Over the last few years the sale of drugs has reached such an epidemic proportion that the only way I feel we

can stop the tide is to stop the sale," said Romankow.

Working cooperatively with the chiefs of police throughout the county, as well as the Sheriff's Office, the Prosecutor's Office arrested several individuals involved in a major drug trafficking network throughout the county. The eight-month investigation ended last month with the raid of a Garwood home where 30 grams of heroin and 16 kilograms of cocaine were found.

"Drugs drive the vast majority of crimes," said Romankow. "It motivates people. It's the root cause of most of the crimes that we see."

Cocaine, Romankow said, is the new drug of choice. Last year, the Prosecutor's Office doubled the amount of cocaine recovered.

Since taking over the Prosecutor's Office in July 2002, Romankow has been successful in receiving grant money. In 2002 the office received \$2.1 million in grant money. Last year, the office received even more grant money, \$2.5 million.

"I've been very, very aggressive about trying to obtain grant money from the state and federal government," said Romankow.

Perhaps the biggest change that Romankow has initiated is the increase in technological resources.

"We use a lot of new things with

## County targets rec programs

Purchase of Rahway arts center eyed

By Joshua Zaitz  
Staff Writer

Freeholder Chairman Angel Estrada's initiatives for 2004 share a common theme of building better communities.

The initiatives, which include a county information line, an expanded prescription drug plan, an investment in the arts, a Kids' Recreation Trust and a greener Union County, have not yet been mapped out financially.

"The initiatives are policy directions and for all of them we're still working out numbers," said county spokesman John Salerno.

The county declined to release preliminary estimates of the costs of the initiatives because it is still negotiating to receive better prices, he added.

However, some of money for the initiatives may come from public/private partnerships with the county, as well as the Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund.

Estrada, who will lead the all-Democratic freeholder board in 2004, announced his initiatives during the county's annual reorganization meeting Sunday.

"So much of this stuff is just fluff," said Union County Republican Chairman Ron Frigerio of the board's initiatives.

Frigerio said he would have liked to see the freeholder chairman take on some real issues facing Union County residents.

"It seems these are just ideas to fill a speech," he said.

One of the real needs of the county, Frigerio said, is the construction of a new juvenile detention center.

"We had a lot of trouble with that last year," he said.

Following the suicide of an inmate last spring, the state's Juvenile Justice Commission mandated that the county build a new juvenile detention center facility to replace the current George W. Herlich Juvenile Detention Center in Elizabeth.

County officials have been studying potential sites the last several months and appear close to selecting a finalist.

Estrada's first initiative, a 2-1-1 Information Line, will be paid for by the county working with both non-profit organizations and government agencies to pursue grant dollars.

The county recently completed a gaps assessment of social services and learned that access to information and services needed improvement.

"There are gaps that need to be bridged," Estrada said.

Throughout the county, the chairman said, there are seniors looking for transportation assistance, families looking for day care, people in need of mental health services, and citizens

requesting essential services such as food and shelter.

"In hopes of providing direction through the maze of social service agencies, residents will have one easy-to-remember number: 2-1-1," said Estrada.

Frigerio said there's no harm in having an information line but questioned whether it was really an initiative.

"Is that an initiative? That should just be something that's automatic," he said.

Another initiative in 2004 will be to ease the growing concerns families have about the rising cost of prescription drugs.

According to recent studies, spending on prescription drugs is the fastest-growing component of health care in the United States. The cost of prescription drugs has risen 15 percent in the past several years. Prescription drug costs account for more than one-quarter of the increase of health care costs in the country.

Last year, the county developed a pharmaceutical assistance program to help residents over the age of 55, or those with disabilities, purchase drugs at a lower cost.

"This year we will make our prescription drug plan available to all Union County families," said Estrada.

The initiative, Estrada said, will be accomplished at no cost to taxpayers. It is based on a user fee which is offset by savings the participants will realize.

The county also will make an investment in the arts in 2004.

"The arts enrich our lives," said Estrada. "They bring new energy to our communities and our families. They also bring new visitors to our communities, and with them, economic activity."

The focus of the county's arts initiative will be the Union County Arts Center in Rahway. The center will become the centerpiece of an arts district in the city's downtown.

"Our goal is to further elevate and establish the Union County Arts Center as a premier Northern New Jersey performing arts establishment," said Estrada.

The initiative will include the purchasing of the art center and several adjoining properties and transferring this area into a year-round cultural center.

The purchase of the property is currently under negotiation and figures for the total cost will not be made public prior to the purchase, said Salerno.

The nonprofit art center's Board of Directors will continue to run the programs and day-to-day operations of the facility.

"With these investments in the arts

See COUNTY, Page B2



Theodore Romankow

half-an-hour, you'll find whether or not there's a warrant out for that person anywhere in the United States," said Romankow.

The Union County Prosecutor's Office is the only prosecutors office in the state that has full-time analysts on its Intelligence Unit.

The analysts review information throughout the county and look for possible links to similar crimes in other counties.

"They follow the pattern of it and then they pass the information on if they can project where the crime is going to be committed next," said Romankow.



## COUNTY NEWS

## Counselors association selling 2004 books

The Union County School Counselors Association is selling Entertainment '04 Books to fund "We Care" awards granted to chosen high school students in Union County.

Students who have made significant contributions in their communities and in helping others in need are chosen by guidance counselors throughout the county to receive these monetary awards in recognition of their good deeds.

Entertainment Books offer discounts for fine dining, casual dining, special attractions, hotels, airlines, movies, dry cleaning, and car washes to name a few. Books are available covering the northern, central, and southern sections of New Jersey at costs of \$20 and \$30.

To obtain books, call Carmine Venes, president of UCSCA, at 908-233-1086.

## 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.

Recipients of the Union County 2003 Women of Excellence awards were:

- Edith Coogan of Cranford, Women's Advocacy;
- Stephanie Laucius of Elizabeth, Community Service;
- Carmella Marucci in the field of Business/Entrepreneurship;
- Nancy Piwowar of Plainfield, Arts and Humanities;
- Union Mayor Brenda Restivo, Government;
- Avonia Richardson-Miller, Plainfield, Business and Entrepreneurship;
- Cynthia Roemer of Union County College in Cranford, Education;
- Harriet Gibbs Russell of Union, lifetime achievement in Education.
- Evelyn Stanislavczyk of Elizabeth, Medicine.

Due to the overwhelming interest in this annual event, the Union Coun-

ty 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.

## Tax volunteers sought

RSVP and AARP both are 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.

During December and January, men and women volunteers receive tax training, directed by U.S. Internal Revenue Service and New Jersey Tax Department, in order to give free income tax help to seniors and lower-income taxpayers in the February to April tax season.

For more information, call Sal Conforti, AARP Union County tax aide coordinator, at 908-351-9050 or Jim Walsh at 908-276-3152.

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

## 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, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., St. John the Apostle Church, 1805 Penbrook Terrace, Linden; 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Moose Lodge 913, 43/115 Luttgen Place, Linden; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Deutscher Club, Featherbed Lane, Clark.

• Sunday, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Temple Beth Israel, 18 Shalom Way, Scotch Plains; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Mary's Parish, 232 Central Ave., Rahway.

• Monday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Kenilworth Public Library, 548 Boulevard, Kenilworth; 4 to 8 p.m., Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Park Avenue and Randolph Road, Plainfield.

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.

## Discount prescription drug program available

Union County residents who are 55 years of age or older, as well as qualified disabled residents of any age will be eligible for discounted prescription drugs under a program announced by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Discounts can range from 20 percent to 50 percent depending on the prescription's classification as either a brand name drug or its generic equivalent.

AddHealth Inc., a Clinton-based company specializing in healthcare saving programs will administer the plan. To sign up, all it will take is one call to AddHealth's toll-free number, 1-800-733-8546.

Residents will have the ability to fill their prescriptions at neighborhood pharmacies, or a national chain store.

There are no income or asset limitations to qualify for the county's program. However, residents who are currently enrolled in state-funded prescription coverage programs may already have maximum discounts on their prescriptions.

The enrollment form must be returned with documentation that includes a clear, legible copy of the applicants drivers license or a utility bill reflecting a Union County residence, and, if handicapped and under age 55, documentation reflecting disabled status. Coverage should begin seven to 10 business days after the application is received and approved.

Only a single card is needed if both husband and wife meet the eligibility requirements. Both names will be listed for just one enrollment fee.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, of Union County's 522,541 residents, 117,976, or 22.6 percent, are age 55 and older.

## 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.

## Grants are available to help fight litter

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders invites non-profit

groups to fight litter in parks and playgrounds, along stream banks, and on the streets by participating in the Union County Clean Communities Program.

Funds are available to non-profit groups of 10 or more volunteers who are willing to clean up targeted Union County parks, streams and roadways.

Each non-profit group must agree to provide a minimum of 10 workers. The Union County mini-grants will be based on the number of volunteers, with the grants ranging from \$100 for the smallest group to \$300 for a group of 40 or more volunteers.

Union County received nearly \$25,000 in state funds generated by the Clean Communities Act and is making these funds available to community groups that volunteer their time and energy.

The Clean Communities Program will determine which areas will be targeted for clean-up. Gloves, garbage bags and safety vests will be available for the volunteers. Youth groups will need at least one adult to accompany every 10 youth workers.

To request a mini-grant application for more information about the Clean Communities Program, contact the Union County Bureau of Environmental Services, 300 North Ave. East, second floor, Westfield, 07090, or call 908-654-9890.

## Open house Saturday

Interested in going back to school, but aren't sure what you're interested in? Come to the open house on Saturday at 10 a.m. on Union County College's Cranford campus, 1033 Springfield Ave. The Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education will be giving presentations on its various certificate and licensing programs, computer course offerings, life and leisure courses, and College for Kids.

Information will be available on its Institute of Real Estate and Appraisal, Computer Driver's License Program, Homeland Security Project-IT Security Specialist, Six Sigma, Certified Patient Care Technician, Medical Coding, Children's Care-Giver Program, Interior Design, Floral Design, Substitute Teacher Specialist Certificate, Practical Accounting, Pharmacy Technician, Emergency Medical Technician, Cisco Networking Academy, Cisco Certified Networking Associate and more.

The open house is free, but pre-registration is highly recommended. To pre-register, call 908-709-7600 and give code AED 001 Sec 160.

## Prevention Links board names new president

Michel Bitritto of Summit was sworn in as president of the Board of Trustees of Prevention Links, the non-profit substance abuse prevention education agency that services all of Union County.

Bitritto is a community leader, elected municipal official, and a New Jersey Chemical Industry Executive. In 2001, she ran for public office on Summit's Common Council. She was elected to the state Democratic Committee in 2003. In addition to serving as president of the Board of Trustees of Prevention Links, Bitritto is on the boards of Runnells Specialized Hospital, the Cultural and Heritage Program Advisory of Union County, and the Stanford Executive Women's Leadership Forum. She has been the vice chairwoman of Summit's Municipal Alliance and served on the TWIN Management Forum.

Bitritto received the Star Award from the Women's Resource Center for community service and is an honoree of the Plainfield YMCA Twin Program for contributions at Celanese Corporation in Summit. She holds a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Connecticut, master's degree in chemistry from the New York Polytechnic Institute, and a bachelor's degree in chemistry and math from Douglass College.

Also elected to serve as officers on the Board of Trustees were Geri Samuel of Scotch Plains, Fred Chemidlin Jr. of Westfield and Susan Dimetros Ucci of Elizabeth. Other members of the Prevention Links Board are Ron Allen, Howard Bekker, Ray Jajko, Susan McCrea, Dot Teller and Larry Williams.

For more information about the agency or for volunteer opportunities, call 732-381-4100 or visit the Web site at [www.preventionlinks.org](http://www.preventionlinks.org).

Prevention Links is an affiliate of the New Jersey Prevention Network and is one of 19 independent community and based nonprofit organizations serving all 21 counties in New Jersey. The network is dedicated to prevention and early intervention for alcoholism, tobacco, drug abuse, and other related problems.

## County unveils agenda

(Continued from Page B1)

center, we will create a major performance space for northern New Jersey with the potential to attract new performers and bring new vitality to a great town," said Estrada.

Frigerio said he doesn't see a need to revamp the arts center.

"It's already a very fine facility and is funded properly," he said.

The chairman also announced an initiative directed toward helping the county's children.

Funded through a public/private partnership, the Kids' Recreation Trust will help low-income children participate in athletics with scholarships to Pop Warner, the Little League, Pee-Wee athletics and other non-profit recreation programs throughout the county.

"Low-income children will be able to play soccer, baseball, softball, football or any other group sport without worrying about the expense to their family," said Estrada.

The Kids' Recreation Trust will also help youth leagues in every municipality purchase new, safer equipment, as well as assist in making field and recreation center improvements.

"This initiative is an investment in healthier, stronger children — and in doing so, a healthier, stronger communities," said Estrada.

The chairman's final initiative, known as Greening Union County, aims at helping to improve the environment of the county.

The county has plans to plant almost 4,000 trees throughout every municipality this year.

"By planting trees in urban areas, we can lower air pollution, improve the air that we breathe, lower energy costs, and improve the overall quality of life," said Estrada.

Each municipality will have the opportunity to apply for a Greening Union County Grant. The county's portion of the money will come from the Open Space Trust Fund.



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Choral Art to kick off year with Haydn

The Choral Art Society of New Jersey Inc. will perform Joseph Haydn's "Mass in Time of War" ("Paukenmesse") and Four Motets of Anton Bruckner on Jan. 17 at 8 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, located on Mountain Avenue at East Broad Street.

James S. Little, musical director of the society, will conduct the evening's performance. Soloists include soprano Andi Campbell, mezzo-soprano Sharon Morrison, tenor Matthew Hughes, and bass Dale Livingston. The Choral Art Society Orchestra will accompany the chorus. Admission is \$15 for general admission, \$10 for senior citizens and students.

Little has been the director of the Choral Art Society of New Jersey since the spring of 1999. In addition to his duties with the Choral Art Society, he is director of music at Calvary Episcopal Church in Summit, where he directs several choruses, most notably the Calvary Chorale and the Calvary Concert Series.

Haydn's "Mass in Time of War" ("Paukenmesse") was first performed at the Church of the Piarist, Vienna on Dec. 26, 1796. It is one of a series of Masses Haydn wrote to celebrate the name day of Princess Maria Hermenegild.

The "Ave Maria" is considered Bruckner's first miniature masterpiece. It was written for the offertory for a Mass celebrated in the old Linz Cathedral on May 12, 1861. The "Os Justi" was written during the summer of 1879 as a birthday present for Bruckner's longtime friend, Ignaz Trauttmüller, music director at St. Florian. "Locus iste," composed in 1869 during a visit to Linz, was performed with the "Mass in E minor" at the dedication ceremony of the Votive Chapel of that city's new cathedral.

Andi Campbell, soprano, grew up in a musical family playing piano and oboe and singing in competitions from an early age. Later, she studied German literature and music at Brown University. She has been soloist with the First Unitarian Church of Providence, R.I., and with St. Rose of Lima and the Community Congregational Churches, both of Short Hills, and has performed as guest soloist at many temples throughout New Jersey. Campbell is presently a professional soloist with the Calvary Chorale and is also affiliated with the Summit Chorale. Her most recent solo appearances with the Choral Art Society were performances of Haydn's "The Seasons," Mozart's "Requiem," Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms," and Verdi's "Requiem."

Sharon Morrison, mezzo-soprano, has a bachelor of music education from Westminster Choir College where

she sang with the Westminster Conservatory Chorale. While studying at Westminster, she performed at Carnegie Hall and toured Europe and the Far East with the critically acclaimed Westminster Choir. She is a music teacher in the Millburn school system. She has also appeared as soloist with area choirs and orchestras. Her most recent appearance with the Choral Art Society was Mozart's "Requiem" and Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms." Verdi's "Requiem" and Handel's "Judas Macchabeus," Bach's "Mass in B Minor" and "St. John Passion," and Beethoven's "Mass in C." Currently, she is a member of Antioch Chamber Ensemble, and is a professional soloist with the Calvary Chorale.

Matthew Hughes, tenor, is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University with a bachelor's degree in vocal performance. He made his operatic debut while a student there and has performed such roles as Camille in "The Merry Widow" and the title role in "Albert Herring." He is no stranger to early music having sung with Apollos Fire in their numerous oratorio presentations as well as their staged productions of "Les Indes Gallantes" and Purcell's "Dido and Aeneas" in cooperation with Opera Atelier. He has soloed with the Ohio Chamber Orchestra, ensemble REBEL and the River City Brass Band. In addition to singing with Antioch, Hughes can be heard each week in the choir of Trinity Church, Wall Street, New York.

Dale Livingston, bass, has been active as a concert soloist, recitalist and opera singer since he made his recital debut at New York's Carnegie Recital Hall in 1972. He presented a solo recital at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center, and three highly praised solo recitals at the Montclair Art Museum. His operatic roles include, among others, Guglielmo in "Così fan tutte," Lescart in "Manon," Sharpless in "Madama Butterfly," and Shunard in "La Bohème." Livingston has performed many bass and baritone oratorio solos from the works of Bach, Beethoven, Berlioz, Brahms, Duruflé, Faure, and Handel. His recent appearances with the Choral Art Society were Haydn's "The Seasons," Mozart's "Requiem," Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms," and Verdi's "Requiem," Bach's "Mass in B Minor" and "St. John Passion," and Beethoven's "Mass in C." He is currently a bass soloist with the Calvary Chorale.

Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council of the Arts/Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and also by a HEART — History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands — Grant provided by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

## Another Saturday night



Danzig and Woolley will bring their self-proclaimed 'dysfunctional folk' to the Second Saturdays Coffee House in Summit this Saturday. The concert series benefits the Keith Knost Special Needs Trust. For information, see the 'Concerts' listing in the Stepping Out calendar on Page B6.

## New edition of Exit 13 available

The new issue of Exit 13 Magazine, an annual publication described as, "the Crossroads of the Poetry World," is now available from Fanwood resident, editor and publisher Tom Plante.

Issue number 11 of this independent journal of contemporary poetry includes the work of 39 poets, including nine New Jersey writers. Local contributors to the new issue of Exit 13 include Adele Kenny of Fanwood, who writes about her childhood in East Rahway; John McDermott of Cranford, who teaches at Union County College; Deborah LaVeglia of Cranford, who co-directs the Poets/Wednesday series in at the Barron Arts Center in Woodbridge; David Alpaugh, a Plainfield native who returns to Exit 13 from California with thoughts of a special car and the open road; and Plante himself, whose subjects range from the Blue Star Shopping Center to the Wright Brothers at

Kitty Hawk, NC.

Exit 13 Magazine takes special pride in being accessible to poets of all ages and degrees of experience. It's a rest stop for wordsmiths in transit, with a focus on geography, travel and human experience wherever the road may lead us. The famous and infamous take their place in its pages alongside newcomers to the field and old friends who have quietly worked the fertile ground of the imagination for decades.

Among the other Garden State poets in Exit 13, No. 11, are Kathe Palka of Flemington, Gilda Kreuter of Brick Township, Sharon Lynn Griffiths of Jersey City, Joel Lewis of Hoboken, and Beverly Rosenblum of Marlboro Township.

Plante named his magazine after the Elizabeth exit off the New Jersey Turnpike. He has assembled and published Exit 13 in Fanwood since 1988, the year that he and his wife moved

out of the Elmora section of Elizabeth. The poetry journal has featured snapshots of Exit 13 road signs ever since, including photographs contributed by correspondents from throughout the United States and overseas. Plante sends a copy of the magazine to each shutterbug if their photo is published.

Poetry contributors from as far away as Ireland and Scotland have discovered Exit 13 Magazine, as have Lyn Lifshin of Vienna, Va.; Hugh Fox of Lansing, Mich.; Ruth Moon Kemper of St. Augustine, Fla.; Corey Mesler of Memphis, Tenn.; Randy Fingland of Berkeley, Calif.; June Owens of Zephyrhills, Fla.; and Don Thompson of Buttonwillow, Calif.

Exit 13 Magazine, No. 11, is available for \$7 form Exit 13 Publications, P.O. Box 423, Fanwood, 07023. The journal may also be enjoyed in the periodicals section of the Fanwood Memorial Library.

## Teen Arts is seeking volunteers

Do you like working with artists, teachers, and students? The Union County Teen Arts Festival provides an opportunity for volunteers to get involved.

The Union County Teen Arts Festival, sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Department of Economic Development, is a two-day celebration of the arts held annually at the Union County College campus in Cranford.

The event, scheduled for March 18 and 19, is open to all students from public, private and parochial middle and high schools in Union County.

"At the Teens Arts Festival, more than 3,000 students participate in performances, critiquing seminars, master classes and workshops with a staff of 50 professional artists in every discipline — visual art, music, writing, theater and dance," said Freeholder Chester Holmes, liaison to the

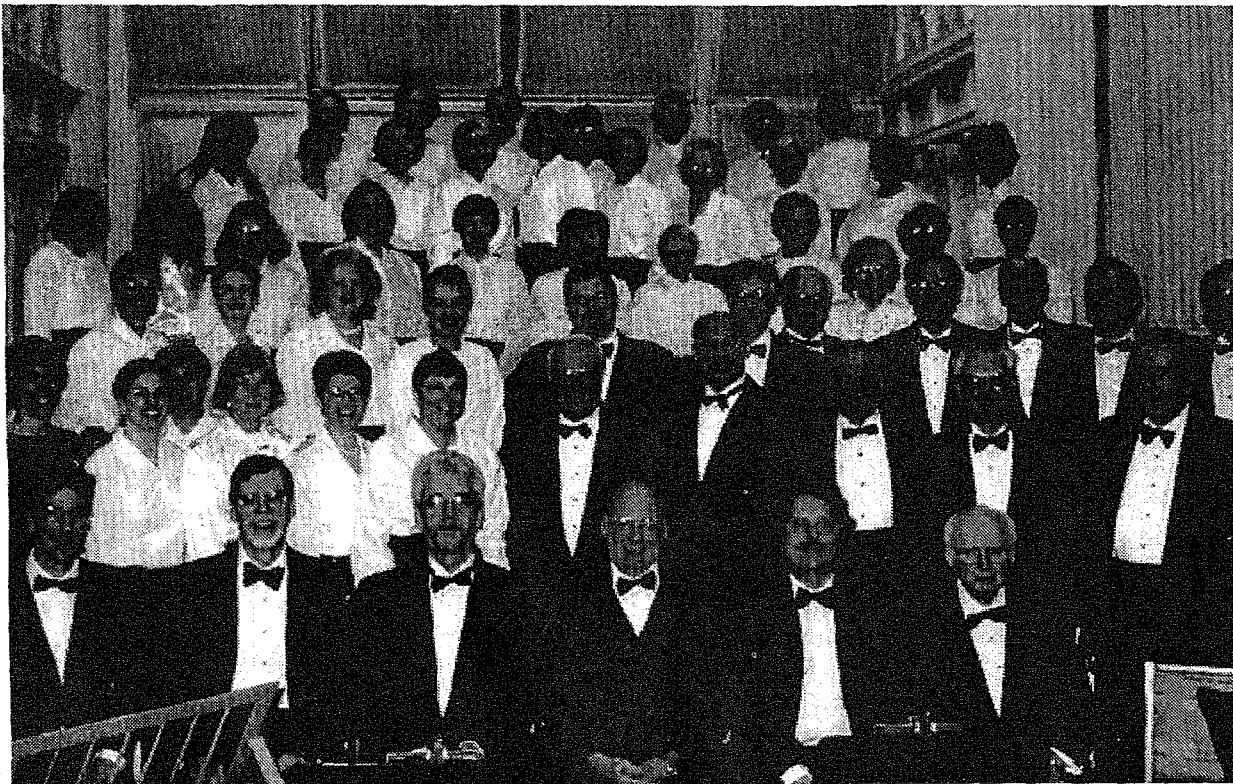
*'We appreciate the invaluable assistance of Union County residents.'*

— Freeholder Chester Holmes

Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board.

"Volunteers are needed to assist artists with workshops, manage performance sites and staff information stations," Holmes added. "We appreciate the invaluable assistance of Union County residents with this exciting program."

For information, contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth, 07202; call 908-558-2550; Relay users call 800-852-7899; or send e-mail to kleary@ucnj.org.



The Choral Art Society of New Jersey will begin 2004 with a performance of Joseph Haydn's 'Mass in Time of War.' Under the direction of James S. Little, seated fourth from left, the Jan. 17 concert will be presented at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield and will also feature Four Motets of Anton Bruckner.

## N.J. Youth Symphony musicians earn honors

Students form the New Jersey Youth Symphony have been selected through competitive auditions as the 2003-04 six recipients of merit scholarships provided by the Frank and Lydia Bergen Foundation of Summit. The six competition winners, members of the Youth Symphony and the Youth Orchestra, performed concertos at the Nov. 15 competition held at the New Jersey Youth Symphony. Judges for the competition were Elaine Douvas, principal oboe of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra; Nicholas Tzavaras, cellist with the Shanghai String Quartet; and Patrick Milando, freelance hornist with major orchestras in the metropolitan New York area.

The foundation is mandated through Charlotte Bergen's will to aid worthy students of music in securing a complete and adequate musical education. Competition prizes will assist

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New Jersey Youth Symphony students in their private music studies during the academic year and Youth Orchestra members with summer study at music camps.

Youth Orchestra students selected as the 2003-04 competition winners are Bradley Robinson, French horn, West Orange; and Elizabeth Engelberth, oboe, Denville. Youth Symphony awards went to Carl Baron, cello,

Westfield; Sara Kim, violin, Clark; Sofia Nowik, cello, North Plainfield; and Grace Kim, violin, Millburn.

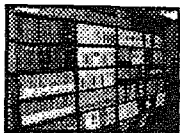
The New Jersey Youth Symphony Inc. the only youth symphony in New Jersey recognized by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts for its statewide training of talented young musicians, has received the prestigious "Citation of Excellence" from the Arts Council.

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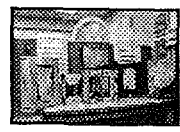
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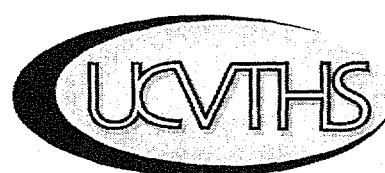
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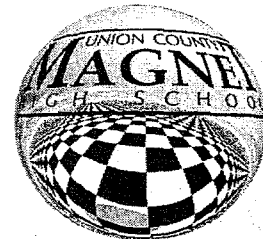
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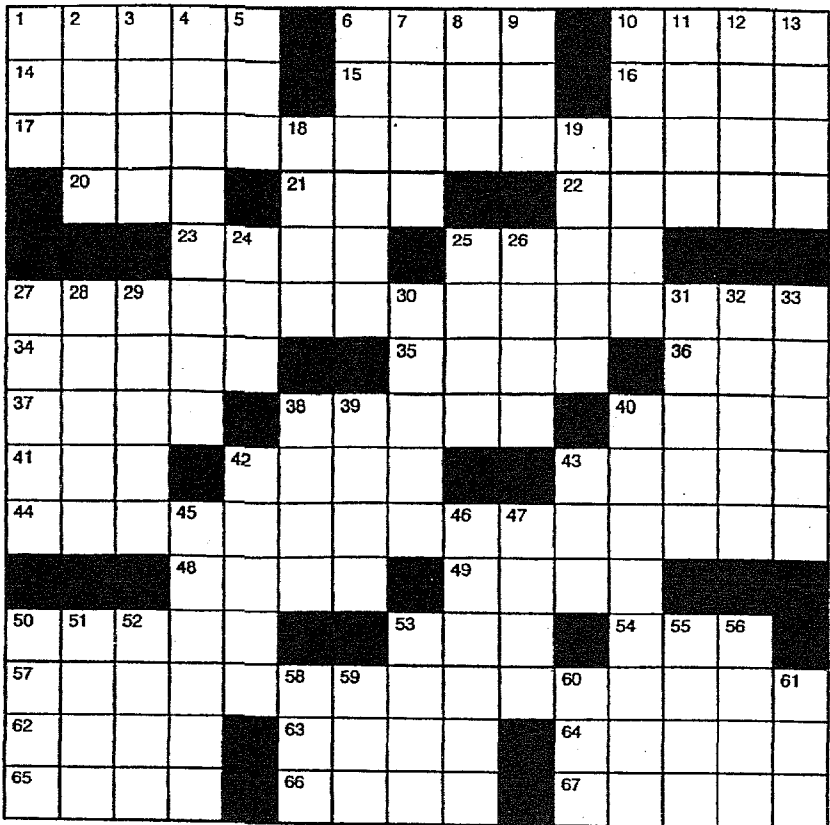
ACROSS

- 1 Madagascar mammal
- 6 13 Down, in a way
- 10 Not up
- 14 Home
- 15 Composer Satie
- 16 Monica or moniker
- 17 9:46 a.m. collapse
- 20 Born, to Bardot
- 21 Female ruff
- 22 Kind of board
- 23 Wings, to Cato
- 25 Persian sprite
- 27 11:52 a.m. crack
- 34 Antonym for 38 Across
- 35 Tiller locale
- 36 Antique car
- 37 Impersonated
- 38 See 34 Across
- 40 Essen's basin
- 41 Sine non
- 42 Dry to the bone
- 43 Bizarre
- 44 4:16 p.m. cleft
- 48 Actor Franco
- 49 Lend a hand?
- 50 Hey you, Bluto!
- 53 Net giant: abbr.
- 54 Trail
- 57 5:53 p.m. concession
- 62 CBER's go head!
- 63 Shed
- 64 Springe
- 65 Boss Tweed lampooner
- 66 Certain charts
- 67 Fix hair

DOWN

- 1 Water dog, familiarly
- 2 Carolina college

BAD HAIR DAY



COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

- 3 Pouty look
- 4 Like God, in the New Testament
- 5 Kin of 58 Down: abbr.
- 6 Outward appearance
- 7 Russian-born designer
- 8 Mini-spasm
- 9 Ore's river
- 10 Inspid
- 11 Low
- 12 Omani mogul
- 13 See 6 Across
- 18 12 Down, e.g.
- 19 Poesy
- 24 Book rental cos.
- 25 Like Death's horse
- 26 Gets by, with out abbr.
- 27 Cager O'Neal, and namesakes, familiarly
- 28 Gymnastic feat
- 29 "Let's Make"
- 30 Like otaries
- 31 Pontificate
- 32 Actress Anne
- 33 Shipworm
- 38 Kind of hall or bust
- 39 Florence's river
- 40 Take the place of
- 42 Cancels a dele
- 43 WWII agency
- 45 Put in
- 46 Outriders
- 47 Associate
- 50 Theatrical conflict
- 51 "Zapata!"
- 52 Prayers
- 53 Qualified
- 55 Golfer's position
- 56 Kind of talk
- 58 See 5 Down: abbr.
- 59 Taro treat
- 60 Old draft inits.
- 61 Gravity unit,

See ANSWERS on Page B11

# What's Going On?

AUCTION

FRIDAY  
January 16th, 2004

EVENT: Tricky Tray Auction  
PLACE: Roselle Catholic High School, 1 Raritan Road, Roselle  
TIME: Doors Open At 5:30PM  
Calling Starts at 7:00PM  
PRICE: Ticket Price: \$8.00 in advance and \$10.00 at door. No One Under 18 Admitted. Call for ticket information 908-486-3541  
ORGANIZATION: Roselle Catholic High School Mothers' Club



OTHER

THURSDAY  
January 15th, 2004

EVENT: ACAP Open House: Celebrating our Masters Degree in Psychoanalysis  
PLACE: The Academy of Clinical and Applied Psychoanalysis, 769 Northfield Avenue, Suite LL2, West Orange  
INFORMATION: The ACAP in affiliation with Centenary College established the first graduate degree granting program in Psychoanalysis to be offered in New Jersey. Fall semester classes are now in session. Applications for the Spring 2004 semester are now being accepted. For information and seating arrangements, please contact 973-736-7600 or e-mail (speud@aol.com) via the internet (www.pcnj.org). All are welcome  
ORGANIZATION: Academy of Clinical and Applied Psychoanalysis.

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.

Sell it with a classified ad, 1-800-564-8911.

## Workshops set for playwright competition

The Theater Project, Union County College's professional theater company, has announced its second annual Young Playwrights Competition.

The contest was made possible by a donation from Bill Mesce of Linden, author of the Bantam Books "The Advocate."

The 2003 competition was won by Manohar Finston of Springfield and Jonathan Schwartz of Cranford.

The Playwriting Contest is open to students in Union County in grades nine to 12. Scripts at any stage of completion are eligible. Deadline for submission is Jan. 31. There is a \$5 entry fee.

First, second and third prizewinners will receive \$300, \$200, and \$100 U.S. Savings Bonds, respectively. The winning scripts will be honored with script-in-hand performances during

AT&T Family Week at the Theater in March, when professional theaters in New Jersey offer free programming for young people. The Savings Bond will be presented at that time.

To facilitate entry into the competition, Playwriting Workshops will be offered by award-winning playwright Jewel Seehaus-Fisher, whose "Wilde Night in the Rockies" was produced by the Theater Project this past summer.

The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, 150 E. Broad St., Westfield, will host a Playwriting Workshop on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Stagestruck Kids in New Providence will hold the second workshop Jan. 18 from 2 to 4 p.m. The workshop is open to students in grades nine to 12 and admission is free to both workshops. It is not necessary to attend the workshop in order

to enter the contest, but they offered to encourage more young people to participate.

The Theater Project's programs are made possible in part by grants from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation; the Union County College Foundation; a HEART — History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands — Grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders; by the New Jersey Council on the Arts/Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs; and by the generosity of J. Edward Cecala.

To register for the workshop and for further information about the workshop or the contest, call Mark Spina at the Theater Project at 908-659-5189 or Jewel Seehaus-Fisher at 732-572-7340.

## HOROSCOPE

Jan. 12-18

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Act now in order to take advantage of a well-deserved business opportunity. If you hesitate because of doubt or fear, all could be lost.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You have amazing insights and understanding of a philosophical or political topic. Seriously consider sharing or publishing your ideas.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Figure out a way to stretch your dollars. While shopping for a specific item, do not be afraid to negotiate with the seller for the best possible deal.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): The power of attraction is very strong. Use this to draw your partners closer or to attain many of the material things you desire.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): This would be a great time to catch up on your paperwork. Dive into that pile of mail on your desk or in the drawer and sort it out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Social activities are highlighted this week. Throw caution to the wind, put your worries aside and go out to have some fun.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): For everything there is a season. Relax into a period of low energy and make the best of it. Pamper yourself and take time to hug your loved ones.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): In many cases your actions will speak louder

than any words. Practice what you preach or demonstrate what you mean to a child.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): This could be a very beneficial financial period for you. Investigate some exciting speculative ventures or other thrilling investments.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Do your best to be more open and trusting with a loved one. A shared intimacy or closeness is the best payoff for letting your guard down.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Believe it or not, you can create the ideal situation with your thoughts. Put your fears to bed and focus on the desired outcome.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take your time and process information related to your work or profession accurately. A creative friend has a lot to offer. Listen and take notes.

If your birthday is this week, stay away from negative-thinking people who are only good for creating a melancholy mood during the coming year. Seek excitement and change through romantic or social activities. Share some of your unusual thoughts and ideas about making money with peers or with someone who is in a position to help you implement these plans. Put it out there and cash in. Also born this week: The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., A.J. Foyt, LL Cool J, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, and Andy Lawrence.

### 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

To place a classified ad call 1-800-564-8911 by 3 p.m. Tuesday.

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## UCAC to screen Hollywood gems

RKO films will be saluted

As the month of January fades to black, the Union County Arts Center in Rahway salute the silver screen with RKO Tribute movies.

On Jan. 23 at 8 p.m., UCAC will present "King Kong," followed by the musical "Swing Time" on Jan. 24 at 2:30 p.m.

That evening will bring a double feature: "My Favorite Wife" at 7:30 p.m., followed by the legendary "Citizen Kane" at 9:40 p.m.

Bringing the series to a close will be "My Best Girl" on Jan. 25 at 2:30 p.m.

All tickets are priced at \$5. For information, call the box office at 732-499-8226 or visit www.ucac.org.

### Editorial deadlines

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

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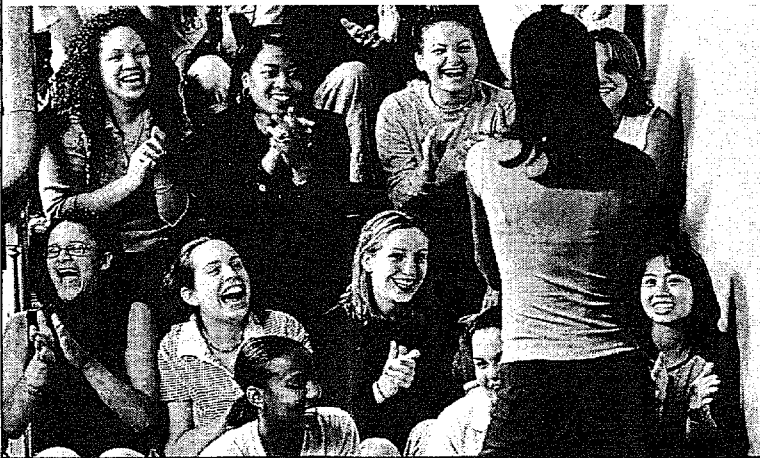
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# Technology proves that dead celebrities are good for the box office

Have you heard Frank Sinatra made an encore appearance at Radio City Music Hall?

"Isn't he dead?" you ask. Right, but let's not let such a small thing stand in the way of promoting a huge concert. And so, Frank Sinatra, through the benefit of today's modern technology, was being brought back to perform with — are you ready? — the Rockettes. Scooby-doo doo and a lineup of kicky-bicky-booo dancers performing together. No, Frank didn't dance with them, he was an image projected on 40-foot moving screens with the Rockettes dancing in front.

Icky? Sticky? Or a triumph of technology over death itself. Wow! Either way, can't you just see the amazing possibilities. In keeping with this concept, how about bringing back for encore performances Laurence Olivier — on the same 40-foot spirit screens — reciting his most famous Shakespearean soliloquies while in

## The Art of Laughter

By Helen Argers

the forefront the Rockettes tap out the rhythm of the Bard? Not dignified enough? All right, how about ballet dancers twirling to his cadenced, clipped tones. Can't you see what will happen? We'll all be saying, "I see dead people," except we have to change that to "I sell dead people."

Let's go further than entertainment. Coming soon, in un-living black-and-white slides, Abraham Lincoln appearing on that screen with a dubbed voice-over booming out his historic words. In front will be a chorus of Stephen Foster minstrels do-dahing, joined by current-day politicians with their specialty number of tap-dancing around any topic; trying to disprove Old Abe's message that

you can't fool all the people all the time.

How about featuring, in addition to the monuments in Yankee Stadium, 40-foot screens constantly showing Bake Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle hitting home runs with deadly accuracy? Would a current Yankee dare to pop up?

Who else would you technologically disinter — and have them go from die to sine die? For romantic interludes — such as backdrops in honeymoon suites — how about screens featuring a selection of departed stars from Rudolph Valentino, Clark Gable, Greta Garbo or Marilyn Monroe saying encouraging remarks, including: "I am the Sheik and you are my shiska," "Frankly, my dear, I may be damned, but I've made a comeback for you," "I wanted to be alone ... till there was you," and "Happy Birthday" (breathe, breathe) "to all of you in your birthday suits." (Exhale.)

With this great advance of technology, we can exhume celebrities — not having been milked enough in life — and parade them at your own neighborhood theater. We'll give them a lively touch by linking them with still-breathing stars and create strange stagefellows; then watch to see which couple scores. Would you vote for the romantic, foreign Sheik and the epitome of the American girl-next-door, Katie Couric, riding off together? Or Charlie Chaplin tramping about on screen and Madonna tramping about on stage? Or sharing pantyhoses: J. Edgar Hoover and Dame Edna — dragging it out?

So many people have passed on, and yet somehow are still in our daily conversations. Elvis sighting, anyone? Maybe we can bring him back on a split screen as Elvis, the younger and Elvis, the fatter — fronted by rows of Elvis impersonators trying to equal the King, while marrying couples on the side. In this Elvis mania

we'll hear "Hound Dog," "Blue Suede Shoes," "Jailhouse Rock" till we're elegiacally singing, "Death where is thy sing?" Or is it sting? No matter, we've got a Sting to sing and we'll back him up with Boris Karloff's Mummy. Who else can we spirit back? Have you missed Lucky Luciano? He'd be a perfect pairing with Tony Soprano with a matching-gun-blasting finish tap-danced by the Rockettes again.

Pick your own dream deceased to team with a current great star. I'm voting Caruso becoming the Fourth Tenor. Scarlett O'Hara/Vivien Leigh messing up the cast of "Friends." For two people everybody loves, there's Raymond and the equally lovable and hairy Lassie. Another interesting combination: The Marx Brothers on screen and fronting them, Oprah, because she, accustomed to talking to Brothers, and has a great laugh that the Marx Brothers can bring out. As a

special added attraction, Dr. Phil will be there to take the pies in his face, shouting, "What were you thinking!"

With this new technology we can, henceforth, turn to the Hollywood cemetery for our future casting. All we have to do is tiptoe through the headstones, instead of our Rolodexes, and pick out the next leading men and women. And thus, the great stars will not just be remembered, put posthumously continue earning incomes for producers, agents and inheritors. All future epitaphs of deceased legends will read: "Rest in Fleeced." But their resurrections will at least rub off a bit of their class on their living costars, as well as bequeathing them the hope that they too will some day, even when past their dates of expiration, still continue to be dead giveaways.

Helen Argers is an award-winning published novelist and playwright.

# NJPAC welcomes composer Carnelia to Chase Room cabaret series

As part of its successful Cabaret at the Chase series, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center will present Broadway songwriter and singer Craig Carnelia, with special guest Lisa Asher, in an intimate evening of his work Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Ticket are \$46, and may be purchased by telephone at 888-466-5722, at the NJPAC box office at 1 Center St. in downtown Newark, or by visiting the NJPAC Web site at [www.njpac.org](http://www.njpac.org).

NJPAC's Cabaret at the Chase series recreates the intimate setting of a cabaret with bistro-style table seating as well as a cash bar and other refreshments available for purchase. Cabaret at the Chase is made possible through the generosity of the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation.

A New Jersey resident, composer, lyricist and singer, Craig Carnelia is one of the newer generation of Broadway composers — an acclaimed songwriter who has helped establish a new standard for the American musical. Howard Kissel of *The Daily News* describes Carnelia as "a composer of great intelligence." Working with composer Marvin Hamlisch, he most recently wrote the lyrics for two Broadway shows: "Imaginary Friends," written with playwright Nora Ephron, starring Swoosie Kurtz and Cherry Jones, a drama with songs about literary

icons Lillian Hellman and Mary McCarthy; and the Tony Award-winning "Sweet Smell of Success," written with John Guare, starring John Lithgow and Brian D'Arcy James, based on the gritty 1957 film about the underside of celebrity in New York City. Hamlisch and Carnelia received Drama Desk and Tony award nominations for their score for "Sweet Smell of Success," and Carnelia received a Drama Desk nomination for his lyrics in "Imaginary Friends." At the moment, Carnelia and Hamlisch are at work on another new musical, an adaptation of Woody Allen's 1994 film, "Bullets Over Broadway," to be produced by Marty Richards and Harvey Weinstein, producers of last year's Oscar-winning film, "Chicago."

Carnelia's career began during the late 1970s and early 1980s, when he contributed four songs to Studs Terkel's "Working," for which he received his first Tony nomination, and wrote the score for the Broadway musical "Is There Life After High School?" Along the way, Carnelia continued to hone his skills by working off-Broadway, most notably writing both music and lyrics for the award-winning "Three Postcards," written with playwright Craig Lucas; with a collection of songs titled "Notes," presented at the Manhattan Theatre Club; and with contributions to "The No-Frills Revue," "Diamonds," and "A ... My Name

is Still Alice."

Along with the cast albums of his theater scores, there are two critically acclaimed compilation recordings of his songs: "Pictures in the Hall," performed by the composer along with actress/singer Maureen Silliman, and "Cast of Thousands," performed by Broadway and cabaret star Eric Michael Gillette, as well as a published collection of his work, "The Songs of Craig Carnelia."

From the very beginning of his career, Carnelia's sophisticated, deeply evocative material has attracted the talents of many of today's top musical performers who have performed and/or recorded his work, including Barbara Cook, Barry Manilow, Andrea Marcovicci, Betty Buckley, Karen Mason, Amanda McBroom, Karen Akers, Bernadette Peters, and Julie Wilson.

Lisa Asher has appeared as a featured vocalist and actress in numerous concert and theatrical venues around the country. She recently starred in the world premiere of the new musical, "Almost Heaven ... Songs and Stories of John Denver." She performed in the off-Broadway hit, "Woody Guthrie's American Song," and later toured with the production. *Back Stage* said that Asher is "one of that small number of performers destined to climb to the top of the music business."

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center, located in the heart of an emerging downtown Newark, is the sixth largest performing arts center in the United States.

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**Two Tony's is two treats in one**

By: By Bill VanSant  
Associate Editor  
\*\*\*\*\*

Whether looking for a place to grab a hot, hearty pizza or someplace to enjoy a sumptuous dinner in a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere, area residents need go no further than Two Tony's Pizza Cafe in Linden for a two-fold culinary delight.

Located on North Stiles Street, Two Tony's features both a traditional pizzeria as well as a dining room, accommodating every need for diners seeking delicious Italian fare.

While the pizzeria boasts standard offerings - pizzas with a wide variety of toppings, subs, calzones, hot sandwiches and the like - the dining room menu is equally comprehensive, making final selections a deliciously arduous task.

The extensive list of appetizers ranges from hot and cold antipastos to an impressive selection of hot dishes. Among the cold antipastos, I selected the Mozzarella Fantasy, a fantasia of deliciously fresh mozzarella, prosciutto, sun-dried tomatoes and roasted peppers. Delicately but richly seasoned and marinated, each component wonderfully complemented the flavor of the next, yet retained its own unique identity on the palate.

Also featured on the appetizer and salad sections of the menu are traditional antipastos as well as several tempting varieties featuring such ingredients as olives, artichoke hearts, a variety of meats, hot peppers and much more; grilled marinated Portabella mushroom with Gorgonzola cheese and field greens; a hot antipasto for two featuring baked clams, mussels and shrimp; hot and cold appetizers encompassing shrimp cocktail to fried calamari to mussels and beyond; and salads ranging from garden salad to Caesar salad to spinach salad. One could easily make an entire, filling meal without venturing into the main course offerings.

However, venture I did!

For my main course, I selected one of my all-time favorite dishes -veal Marsala - and Two Tony's did it justice and then some. The veal was succulently tender, cooked to perfection, and swimming in a richly delicious Marsala sauce with generous chunks of mushrooms. My side dish of pasta was perfectly prepared - neither over- nor undercooked - and boasted a freshness that made it light while at the same time hearty.

Also featured among the main course selections are traditional Italian fare: a variety of chicken and veal dishes including Parmigiana, Franchise and Florentine; seafood, most notably shrimp scampi; a wealth of pasta, from penne to linguine to ziti and more, and vegetarian selections such as baked ziti Sicilian made with eggplant.

In addition to the regular menu, Two Tony's offers daily specials, not all of which are Italian, such as the popular chicken Murphy.

With the pizzeria for eat-in or take-out and the dining room for a more traditional dining experience, Two Tony's is the best of both worlds!

Two Tony's Pizza Cafe is conveniently located at 628 N. Stiles St. in Linden. Reservations are recommended on weekends, especially for larger parties, but are not necessary Mondays through Thursdays. For information, call 908-925-1977.

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SUN, JAN 25TH 4PM	WILLI LYNCH DINNER SHOW
SUN, JAN 25TH 5PM	JOE MORAN

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## 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.ccfou.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.nutley.pet.com>  
Pet Watchers.....<http://www.petwatchersnj.com>  
Rets Institute.....<http://www.rets-institute.com>  
SkinCare Products.....<http://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.summitvems.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.firstru.essex.nj.uua.org>  
United Way of Bloomfield.....<http://www.unitedwaybloomfield.org>

**To be listed call**  
**908-686-7700**



*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 973-763-2557.*

## ART SHOWS

**COLOR AND TEXTURE**, works by Eli Serfaty, will be on exhibit at the Les Malamut Art Gallery in Union Public Library to Jan. 21.

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.

**CHRISTMAS MINIATURES** will be on exhibit at Swain Galleries in Plainfield through Jan. 30. An opening reception will take place Saturday from 5 to 7 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 Sun-



**PHOTOGRAPHER MARIE BURNS** will have her work on exhibit in Wisner House at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit through March 6. Burns' work — such as this landscape of the La Sal Mountains in Moab, Utah — include shots of the Pacific coastline, California missions, deserts, mountains, and flora. See 'Art Shows' on this page.

days, noon to 4 p.m. Swain Galleries is located at 703 Watchung Ave., Plainfield. For information, call 908-756-1707.

**PORTFOLIO**, the works of photographer Barbara Wirkus, will be on exhibit through Jan. 30 at the Pearl Street Gallery in the offices of the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Pearl Street Gallery is located at 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth. For information, call 908-558-2550, NJ Relay users dial 711; or send inquiries via e-mail to culturalinfo@ucnj.org.

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

**AN EDGE IN SPACE/A SPACE IN TIME** will be on exhibit at the Arts Guild of Rahway from Sunday through Feb. 6. An opening reception will take place Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Gallery hours are Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m.; Thursdays 1 to 3 and 5 to 7 p.m. The Arts Guild of Rahway is located at 1670 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call 732-381-7511, send e-mail to artsguild1670@earthlink.net, or visit [www.rahwayartsguild.org](http://www.rahwayartsguild.org).

**FROM THE ROCKIES TO THE PACIFIC**, works by photographer Marie Burns, will be on exhibit in the Wisner House at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit through March 8. An artist's reception will take place Jan. 25 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Exhibit hours are weekdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Reeves-Reed Arboretum is located at 165 Hobart Ave., Summit. For information, call 908-273-8787 or visit [www.reeves-reedarboretum.org](http://www.reeves-reedarboretum.org).

**PAINTINGS BY MATT JOHNSON** will be on exhibit in The Commons at Union County College in Cranford from Jan. 23 through March 22. An opening reception will take place Jan. 23 from 7 to 9 p.m.

The Cranford campus of UCC is located at 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. For information, including exhibit hours, call 908-709-7155.

## AUDITIONS

**SUMMIT CHORALE** will conduct auditions for all voice parts — SATB — on Tuesday by appointment at Drew University in Madison. Call 732-698-1433 to schedule an appointment. Rehearsals are Tuesdays at Drew. Upcoming concert dates are March 6 and May 1.

## BOOKS

**BOOKS BY WOMEN, ABOUT**

# Stepping Out

**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

Jan. 17: Stephanie Corby and Chris Rosser, Westfield

Feb. 14: Songwriters in the Round, hosted by acoustic duo Open Book, Springfield

Feb. 21: DaVinci's Notebook, Westfield

March 13: Songwriters in the Round, hosted by Bob Malone, Springfield

March 20: We're About Nine, with opener Devon Sproule, Westfield

April 17: Caroline Aiken, Westfield  
May 8: Songwriters in the Round, hosted by Ritt Henn, Springfield

May 15: Sonia/Disappear Fear, with opener Chris Glenn, Westfield  
June 12: Songwriters in the Round, hosted by Jessica Owen, Springfield  
June 19: Zoë Lewis, 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

general admission, \$10 for students and senior citizens.

**BERLIN STATE OPERA ORCHESTRA** will appear in concert Jan. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$16 to \$69.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit [www.njpac.org](http://www.njpac.org).

**CHILDREN OF UGANDA** will appear in "Tour of Light," a concert of music and dance, Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$19 for adults, \$10 for children younger than 14 years old. A parent-child workshop is offered in conjunction with the performance; 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](http://www.njpac.org).

**EAST-WEST ENSEMBLE** will appear in concert Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$26.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit [www.njpac.org](http://www.njpac.org).

## DANCE

**STARS OF THE ROYAL DANISH BALLET** will be presented Jan. 29 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](http://www.njpac.org).

**NAI-NI CHEN DANCE COMPANY** will present "The Year of the Monkey" on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 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](http://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. Hehny 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

**ELIZABETH PUBLIC LIBRARY** will sponsor a series of free film classics at the Main Branch. All films begin at 10 a.m. The Main Branch is of the Elizabeth Public Library located at 11 S. Broad St., Elizabeth. For information, call 908-354-6060.

## HOBBIES

**THE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB INC.** meets at 295 Jefferson Ave., Union, behind Home Depot on Route 22 East. The club is open to the public Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. For information, call 908-964-9724 or 908-964-8808, send inquiries via e-mail to [TMRCInc@aol.com](mailto:TMRCInc@aol.com) or visit the Web site at [www.tmrcl.com](http://www.tmrcl.com).

## JAZZ

**THE JULLIARD JAZZ ORCHESTRA**

will appear in concert Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$36.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit [www.njpac.org](http://www.njpac.org).

**LINCOLN CENTER JAZZ ORCHESTRA** will appear in concert Jan. 23 at 8 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$16 to \$69.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit [www.njpac.org](http://www.njpac.org).

## KIDS

**CRAFT TIME** for children ages 5 to 10 years old will take place every Monday at 11 a.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

**BARNES AND NOBLE**, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield, will sponsor Tales for Tots Preschool Storytime, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m., and the Kids' Writing Workshop, Saturdays at 10 a.m. For information, call 973-376-8544.

## POETRY

**POETRY OUT LOUD!** will take place at Barnes and Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

**OPEN MIKE POETRY NIGHT** takes place the second Sunday of every month at 7 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

## RADIO

**TRI-COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION** will meet at 8 p.m. the first and third Mondays of the month at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church on Old Raritan Road in Scotch Plains. For information, call 908-241-5758.

## SINGLES

**DINNERMATES** and Entrepreneurs Group invites business and professional singles to dinner at a local restaurant; wine and mingling is at 8 p.m., dinner is at 9 p.m. Two age groups are available. For information on dates and locations, call 732-822-9796 or visit [www.dinnermates.com](http://www.dinnermates.com).

**INTERFAITH SINGLES**, for single adults older than 45 years old, will meet every Sunday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for discussion and continental breakfast at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield. Donation is \$2. For information, call 908-889-5265 or 908-889-4751.

## THEATER

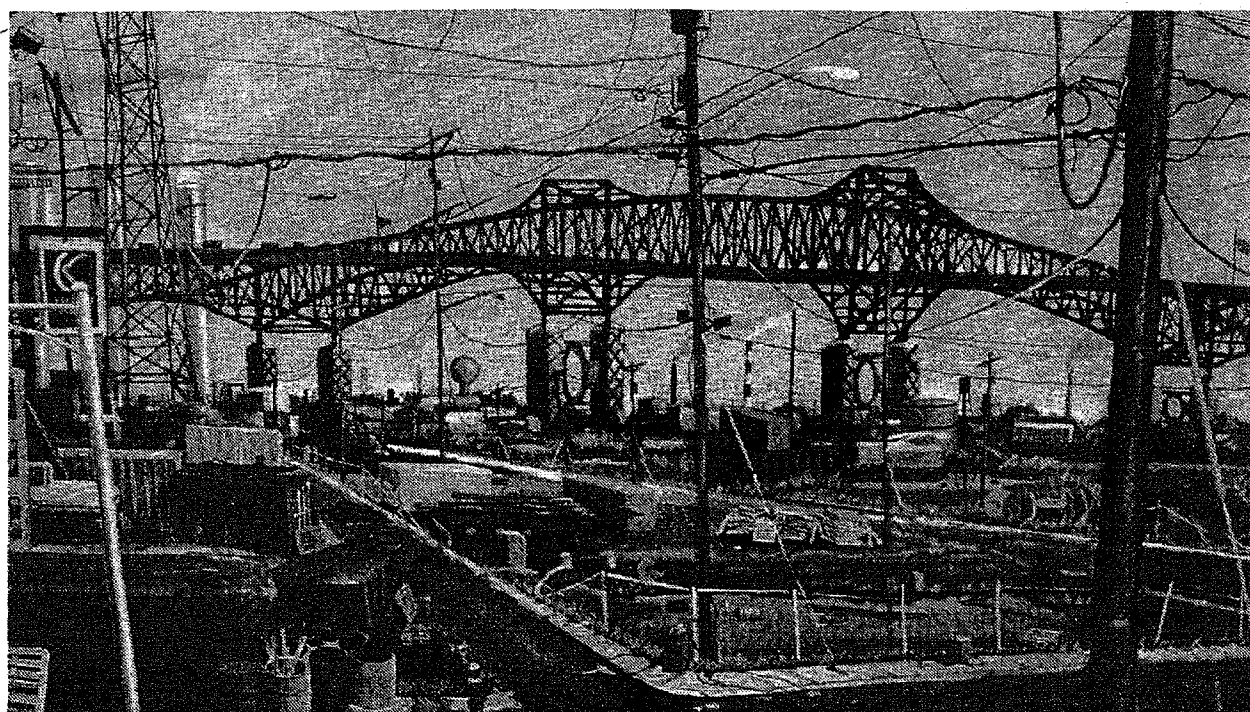
**PAPER MILL:** The State Theater of New Jersey will present "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife" by Charles Busch through Feb. 8. Shows are Wednesdays to Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 7:30 p.m.; matinees are Thursdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. and Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. Ticket are \$30 to \$67.

Special performances are the *Conversation Series*, Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the mezzanine, Jan. 15 to Feb. 5; audio-described performances, with sensory seminar 90 minutes prior to curtain, Feb. 5 at 2 p.m., Feb. 7 at 2:30 p.m. and Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m.; and a sign-interpreted performance Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Paper Mill is located on Brookside Drive in Millburn. For information, call 973-376-4343 or visit the Web site at [www.papermill.org](http://www.papermill.org).

## VARIETY

**SINGER-SONGWRITER CRAIG CARNELIA** will appear Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Chase Room as part of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center's "Cabaret at the Chase" series. Tickets are \$46.



**'SKYWAY,'** a 2002 oil on canvas measuring 170 by 72 inches, is representative of the paintings of Matt Johnson, on exhibit in The Commons at Union County College's Cranford campus from Jan. 23 through March 25. The exhibit is in The Commons while the Tomasulo Gallery undergoes renovations. See 'Art Shows' on this page.

## CLASSES

**SPRING SEMESTER COURSES** are offered at duCret School for Art, Plainfield. Day and evening courses are offered on a full- or part-time basis. Classes meet once a week for three hours. The spring semester begins Jan. 19 and ends May 14. For more information and course availability, call the school at 908-757-7171, fax 908-757-2626 or visit [www.ducret.edu/](http://www.ducret.edu/).

## CONCERTS

**COFFEE WITH CONSCIENCE CONCERT SERIES** in Westfield and Springfield will present a series of artists through June at two locations through June.

at [www.coffeewithconscience.com](http://www.coffeewithconscience.com).

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

Saturday: David Roth  
Jan. 24: Comic/singer-songwriter Cheryl Wheeler

Feb. 14: The Best of Jersey acoustic performers

Feb. 22: Tom Rush  
Concerts are presented at Union Village Methodist Church, 1130 Mountain Ave., Berkeley Heights. For information, call 973-376-4946 or visit [www.sanctuaryconcerts.org](http://www.sanctuaryconcerts.org).

**NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** will appear present "The Dvorak Centenary: Inspiring America" from Friday through Jan. 25 in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, as well as at other locations in the state. Tickets are \$17 to \$79.

Friday: "Dvorak's American Concerto," 8 p.m., \$17 to \$69

Sunday: "Dvorak's American Concerto," 3 p.m., \$17 to \$69

Jan. 16 and 17: "The Bohemian Dvorak," 8 p.m., \$21 to \$79

Jan. 22: "From the New World," 7:30 p.m., \$21 to \$79

Jan. 24: "From the New World," 8 p.m., \$21 to \$79

Jan. 25: "From the New World," 3 p.m., \$21 to \$79

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call NJPAC at 888-466-5722 or NJSO at 800-255-3476, or visit their respective Web sites at [www.njpac.org](http://www.njpac.org) or [www.njsymphony.org](http://www.njsymphony.org).

**RETUMBA** will appear in the Three Kings Day Celebration on Saturday 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](http://www.njpac.org).

**SECOND SATURDAYS COFFEE HOUSE** in Summit will present the "dysfunctional folk" duo Danzig and Woolley on Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Summit Unitarian Church, 4 Waldron Ave., Summit. Tickets are \$12; proceeds benefit the Keith Knost Special Needs Trust. For information, call 908-928-0127 or visit the Web site at [www.secondsaturdays.org](http://www.secondsaturdays.org).

**MOSTLY MUSIC** will present several musicians in a concert of Dvorak, Tchaikovsky and Tower on Sunday at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, 756 E. Broad St., Westfield. Tickets are \$25 for general admission, \$22 for senior citizens. For information, call 973-762-0108.

**THE CHORAL ART SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY INC.** will perform Joseph Haydn's "Mass in Time of War" and four motets by Anton Bruckner on Jan. 17 at 8 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, East Broad Street at Mountain Avenue. Tickets are \$15 for

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit [www.njpac.org](http://www.njpac.org).

**TAKE 6** and guest speaker Gwendolyn Boyd will appear in the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$15 to \$37 for adults, \$18 for children younger than 14; tickets for the pre-performance reception are \$31.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit [www.njpac.org](http://www.njpac.org).

**UNION COUNTY ARTS CENTER** in Rahway will present its Diamond Jubilee Benefit and Cocktail Party on Jan. 17 at 7 p.m., featuring Uncle Floyd. Tickets are \$25. UCAC is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call 732-499-8226 or visit [www.ucac.org](http://www.ucac.org).

**THE BACK PORCH** in Rahway will present Open Mic 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.

Saturday: Bad Attitude

Jan. 17: Verligo  
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

For information, call 908-232-5666 or visit [www.xxroads.com](http://www.xxroads.com)

**'AT TO THE BEAT** Coffeehouse in Rahway will feature appearances by musical artists. Eat to the Beat is located on East Cherry Street, Rahway. For information, call 732-381-0505.

**MOLLY MAGUIRE'S IRISH PUB** in Clark will present entertainment in the coming weeks. Thursdays are Ladies Nights, and Sundays feature NFL games and \$2 drafts.

Molly Maguire's is located at 1085 Central Ave., Clark. For information, call 732-388-6511.

**SECOND SATURDAYS COFFEEHOUSE** will take place the second Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Summit Unitarian Church, 4 Waldron Ave., Summit. Featured will be an "open mic" forum of music, poetry, comedy and performance art. Refreshments are served. Admission is \$4. Talent is sought for future dates.

For information, call 908-928-0127 or send e-mail to [info@secondsaturdays.org](mailto:info@secondsaturdays.org).

**TAVERN IN THE PARK** in Roselle Park will present Teddy Halek in "An Evening of Frank Sinatra" Saturdays at 9 p.m. Tavern in the Park is located at 147 W. Westfield Ave., Roselle Park. For information, call 908-241-7400.

**VAN GOGH'S EAR**, 1017 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, will present a series of musical events. Tuesdays are "Acoustic Tuesday," some of which feature open mic from 8 to 9 p.m. for folk singers, poets and comedians, followed by a featured folk performer. Open-mic participants sign up at 7:30 p.m., and get 10 minutes at the microphone. Jazz and blues are featured Sundays at 8 p.m. Cover charge is \$3 for all Sunday concerts.

For information, call 908-810-1844.

**THE WAITING ROOM**, 1431 Irving St., Rahway, at the corner of Lewis Street, presents Open Mike Night every Wednesday night. For information, call 732-815-1042.

**THE WASHINGTON AVENUE PUB**, 704 Washington Ave., Linden, will present karaoke and the 100-Proof Duo Band every Saturday night. In addition, Thursday is Ladies Night. For information, call 908-925-3707.



Arboretum turns gardens into a winter wonderland

The daffodils are dormant, the roses are resting, but some of the plants at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit are actually more interesting in the winter.

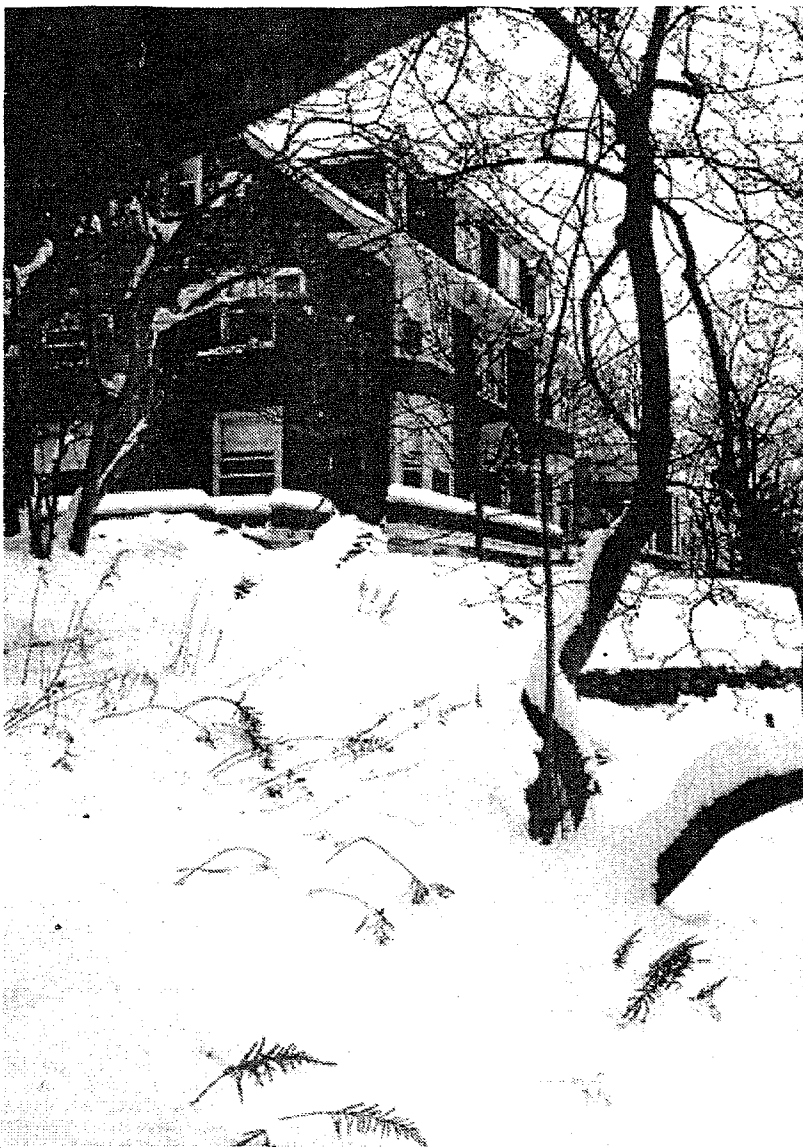
Thanks to a grant from the New Jersey Committee of the Garden Club of America, Reeves-Reed Arboretum has planted a winter interest garden, featuring plants with interesting textures or shapes.

The \$4,000 grant received this year permitted the arboretum's horticulturist to put in trees and shrubs including kousa dogwood, Harry Lauder's Walking Stick, viburnums, witch hazels, long stalk holly, and winterberry holly. They are underplanted with early-blooming daffodils and fritillaria. Winter jasmine graces the garden as well.

"This garden has something for everyone," says Assistant Horticulturist Marta McDowell. "If you want to have something flowering outside every month of the year, you will find blooms on Christmas roses, with hazels and winter jasmine in the coldest stretches." Little bulbs will start opening before the vernal equinox. The plants are all labeled with arboretum display labels so that visitors will allow what varieties to select in the nurseries in the spring.

The trees in the Winter Interest Garden show off their structure and bark. When the leaves drop from the Korean dogwood (*Cornus Kousa*), the mottled bark is unveiled. The bark of the paperbark maple (*Acer griseum*) peels in orange-red strips. "My favorite is Harry Lauder's Walking Stick," says Assistant Horticulturist Karen Moore of the *Corylus Avellana* "Contorta." "The branches twist like corkscrews." Harry Lauder's Walking Stick is also known as contorted filbert.

"Don't neglect the rest of the arboretum's gardens in the winter-



Though winter brings frost and snow, the grounds of Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit greet the cold with horticultural options that bring gardening wonder to the winter season.

time," said Moore. There is always something in bloom in the greenhouse, open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. The oldest winterberry hollies (*Ilex verticillata*) are located in the Wildlife Habitat and above the lilac garden. Evergreens such as the Japanese Umbrella Pine (*Sciadopitys verticillata*) on the lawn contrast sharply with the snow.

Reeves-Reed Arboretum is a 12.5-acre suburban conservancy dedicated to horticultural and environmental education for children and adults, and to the enjoyment of nature through the professional care and preservation of a historic country estate.

The grounds of the arboretum are open to the public free of charge daily from dawn to dusk.

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. General - Monday 5 p.m.

Arts Guild opens sculpture show

The fourth art exhibit for the sixth season at the Arts Guild of Rahway is "An Edge in Space/ A Space in Time," sculpture by Union artist Robert Rakita and Barbara Wallace of Elizabeth.

The exhibit runs from Sunday through Feb. 6. There will be an opening reception on Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

Sculptor Robert Rakita has lived in numerous places around the United States and moved to New Jersey just a few years ago. His sculpture is as unconventional as his lifestyle has been. Inspiration for his shaped and painted wooden abstract works in this exhibit come from diverse sources including some of Albert Einstein's theories of physics and cosmology. He has also been an avid reader of contemporary ideas in physics which led him to contact physicist Stephen Hawking about the visual images he was inspired to create after reading with comments on Rakita's sculptural concepts. Some of his art featured at the Arts Guild this month is assembled on a thin wooden framework, and is freestanding or leans against a wall or across the floor. Each piece is painted in black and white with an almost "op-art" stylized geometric design. Though born of musing on scientific theory, these sculptures reflect a desire to make the abstract into a solid, delineated form, as unique as the ideas that inspire each piece.

Barbara Wallace of Elizabeth is represented by a group of sculptures created from *papier mache*. While simplified in form due to the process of sculpting with paper, these

works are clearly representational and often evocative of archetypes and/or mythological figures. There is an almost biblical profundity to the form and expressiveness of Wallace's figures and drawn studies included in the exhibition.

Wallace began studying the figure at the age of 16 at the Art Students League of New York. She continued at Pratt Institute studying with Rudolph Baranik and received a BFA in painting. At the University of Pennsylvania, she was the assistant of Maurice Lowe and was awarded an MFA in sculpture. The figures in this show are made of *papier mache*, done in additive as well as subtractive processes and painted with acrylics. The hammered metal disks on some pieces are recent addition to her figurative work. Both the paper and metal components are created with recycled materials. The great male/female theme as well as the fertile emotional/psychological grounds of relationship are deeply explored in these artworks.

"An Edge in Space/A Space in Time" is sponsored by Merck and Co. Inc.

The Arts Guild of Rahway is a nonprofit arts organization located at 1670 Irving St., Rahway. Gallery hours are Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m., and Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Appointments are available for school visits and groups. For more information, call 732-381-7511, send e-mail to arts-guild1670@earthlink.net or visit the Web site online at www.rahwayartsguild.org.

Contestants being sought for Mrs. N.J.

Applications are now being accepted for the title of Mrs. New Jersey International 2004, an official preliminary to the Mrs. International Pageant, which will be held at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts Theater in Chicago, Ill. with television host Bob Eubanks and Star Search super model Debbie James as the

celebrity hosts! The dates are July 19 to 24, 2004.

Competitions will include private one-on-one interviews, with each contestant selecting a platform which she will speak about, aerobic wear and evening gown with husbands escorting his wife

on stage. There is no swimsuit competition.

Married women between the ages 21 and 56 living in New Jersey that are interested should call Mary Richardson, national executive director, at 540-982-5992 of send e-mail to MRSINTLPAG@aol.com.

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★★★★ by Anne Santos

Many times I have been walking on Chestnut Street in Union and each time I observed a constant flow of customers going into Il Forno. Finally a companion and I decided to go and see what compelled so many people to dine there. Upon entering I noticed the owner - Alfredo Marano enjoying a moment of camaraderie with his customers. Alfredo has owned the restaurant for over 5 years, and his entire focus is his clients & the food he serves them. The food is a mix of different regions of Italy & a fusion of his family's secret recipes.

We selected a table and started to look at the menu. So many choices and we were hungry. We wanted to start with a slice of pizza. Il Forno is famous for their pizza. The eatery has 13 varieties & will make your choice of pizza if it's not on the menu. The pizzeria is very accommodating when it comes to requests. We chose the "Blanco" which is made of ricotta, mozzarella, fresh garlic & basil & the "Caper" - capers, onions, black olives, fresh garlic, mozzarella cheese with homemade tomato sauce. Both were steaming hot & indescribably delicious. My companion after consuming the "Caper" said this variety is now his favorite pizza.

Next we ordered the Cold Antipasto & the Fried Calamari. The Antipasto was splendid & it was filled with Genoa Salami, Capicola, Provolone, Ham, Mozzarella, on top of a bed of greens, red peppers, bermuda onion, cucumbers & tomato, misted with a very light vinaigrette which complimented the meat & cheese. The calamari was lightly coated & fried - served with marinara. The marinara gently enhanced the taste of the calamari - it was very good. Judging by what we have already tasted, Alfredo uses only the freshest & finest ingredients in his food.

For our main meal our request was a sampler - small portions of our desired selections. We selected the Lasagna, Eggplant Rollatine, Ravioli, Chicken Parmigiana and Shrimp Parmigiana. Upon arrival the aroma of the freshly prepared food filled the air & delighted the senses. We ate the lasagna first. The noodles were very tender filled with meat & cheese covered with sauce. The Chicken Parmigiana is breaded chicken cutlet topped with melted mozzarella covered with sauce - it was fabulous. The Shrimp Parmigiana - seasoned coating on shrimp with melted mozzarella & sauce - fresh from the sea and very tasty. We saved the Eggplant Rollatini for last & it was the best. Breaded Eggplant rolled with ham & ricotta covered with sauce & baked. For after dinner coffee we both chose expresso - full bodied but no bitterness. While drinking our coffee I observed the remaining diners all of them as we were totally content & having the remainder of their meal wrapped.

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Leisure Lifestyles

The Cook's Nook

# Variations on hot chocolate add warmth and excitement to winter

When mittens and scarves aren't enough to keep out the winter chill, hot chocolate may be just the answer. And, when it's made with milk, your drink is not only delicious; it's packed with calcium, as well as eight other nutrients to keep your bones strong and healthy.

For the simplest hot chocolate, microwave store-bought chocolate milk for 90 seconds. Or, use milk instead of water in packaged hot chocolate mix. Then, spice up your drink by adding one of the following mix-ins:

- A spoonful of melted peanut butter
- Vanilla, peppermint or orange extract
- Instant espresso or coffee powder
- Two or three peppermint or butterscotch hard candies, crushed
- One or two small chocolate-covered peppermint patties, broken up
- One tablespoon caramel or butterscotch ice cream topping
- Several shakes of ground cinnamon

Don't forget the marshmallows for the top!

With just a little more time and a few added ingredients, you can create a drink that's truly special. The following recipes are courtesy of Wen Zientek-Sico, webmaster of [www.perfectentertaining.com](http://www.perfectentertaining.com) and recipe developer based in Baldwinsville, N.Y. "Growing up and living in central New York, and having to deal with our challenging winters, really made me develop a fine appreciation for great hot chocolate. While powdered mixes can be fine in a pinch, preparing hot chocolate from scratch is surprisingly quick and easy, requiring only about as much time as it takes for water to boil. Using ingredients like good-quality chocolate, Dutch processed cocoa, milk, half-and-half, and real whipped cream ensures that your hot chocolate will be delicious, rich, and creamy each and every time." For more great recipes, menus, and tips on entertaining, visit [www.perfectentertaining.com](http://www.perfectentertaining.com).

This winter, the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council Inc. has presented this collection of hot chocolate recipes and information.

When you want a luscious, decadent chocolate drink, this is the one for you. Try the variations for something heavenly as well. This recipe doubles and triples easily. Choose your favorite eating chocolate for this recipe as that will really influence the flavor of the final drink.

**Decadent Hot Chocolate**  
Yield: 2 servings  
[www.perfectentertaining.com](http://www.perfectentertaining.com)  
1 cup milk  
1 cup half-and-half  
8 teaspoons sugar  
1 ounce semisweet chocolate, finely chopped  
1 ounce unsweetened chocolate, finely chopped  
1 tablespoon brown sugar  
½ teaspoon pure vanilla extract  
In a small heavy saucepan over medium heat mix together the milk, half-and-half, sugar, chocolates, and brown sugar. Heat until the chocolate

melts and the sugar dissolves. Do not bring to a boil, but make sure the mixture gets steaming hot. Reduce the heat and keep the chocolate hot. Place half of the mixture in a blender and mix until frothy. Return to the pan, add the vanilla, and pour into glasses. Serve immediately.

This pale pink white hot chocolate is bursting with flavor and makes for a wonderful winter treat. If you do not have candy canes, hard red and white peppermint candies can be used instead for the crushed candy canes and spoons for stirring. For the best flavor, use a high quality white chocolate.

**Minty White Hot Chocolate**  
Yield: 6 servings  
[www.perfectentertaining.com](http://www.perfectentertaining.com)  
4 cups milk  
1/3 cup crushed candy canes  
pinch of salt  
4 ounces chopped white chocolate  
whipped cream  
6 full-sized candy canes  
Place the milk, candy canes, and salt in a large heavy saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until the milk comes to a simmer and the candy melts. Add the chocolate and turn off the heat. Stir until the chocolate is melted and the hot chocolate is smooth and thick. Pour or ladle into mugs or cups and top with whipped cream. Add candy canes as stirrers and serve hot.

This delicious hot cocoa has extra depth and richness from using three different chocolates, all of which add a different and exciting flavor to the cocoa. Make sure to use high-quality chocolates for the best flavor.

**Triple Chocolate Hot Chocolate**  
Yield: 6 servings  
[www.perfectentertaining.com](http://www.perfectentertaining.com)  
4 cups milk  
1/4 cup sugar  
1/4 cup unsweetened Dutch processed cocoa  
pinch of salt  
2 ounces chopped bittersweet chocolate  
2 ounces chopped milk chocolate  
whipped cream (optional)  
bittersweet and milk chocolate shavings (optional)  
Combine the milk, sugar, cocoa, and salt in a large heavy saucepan over medium-high heat. Whisking constantly, bring to a boil. Add the chopped chocolates and remove from the heat. Whisk the mixture until the chocolate melts to make a thick and smooth hot chocolate. Ladle or pour into mugs or cups. Top with the whipped cream and sprinkle with the chocolate shavings. Serve hot.

Chocolate and butterscotch make absolutely delicious partners, and this recipe really highlights the delicious flavors of both. For an extra dose of flavor, add a dash of butterscotch schnapps. Make sure to use high-quality chocolates for the best flavor.

**Butterscotch Hot Chocolate**  
Yield: 6 servings  
[www.perfectentertaining.com](http://www.perfectentertaining.com)  
4 cups milk  
1/4 cup unsweetened Dutch

processed cocoa  
2 tablespoons brown sugar  
2 tablespoons sugar  
pinch of salt  
4 ounces chopped bittersweet or semi-sweet chocolate  
1/4 cup butterscotch ice cream topping  
whipped cream (optional)  
Combine the milk, cocoa, sugars, and salt in a large heavy saucepan over medium-high heat. Whisking constantly, bring to a boil. Add the chopped chocolate and butterscotch topping and remove from the heat. Whisk the mixture until the chocolate melts to make a thick and smooth hot chocolate. Ladle or pour into mugs or cups. To with whipped cream if desired and serve hot.

Fans of chocolate and coffee will love this sublime mixture of the two in a hot, creamy drink that makes even the coldest of days seem much more bearable. This recipe divides or multiplies easily for smaller or larger crowds.

**Mocha Hot Chocolate**  
Yield: 4 servings  
[www.perfectentertaining.com](http://www.perfectentertaining.com)  
1 cup strong coffee  
½ cup sugar  
½ cup Dutch processed cocoa powder

2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract  
pinch of salt  
2 cups milk  
1½ cups half-and-half  
whipped cream (optional)  
Combine the coffee, sugar, cocoa powder, vanilla, and salt in a large heavy saucepan. Cook over low heat, stirring occasionally, until the sugar dissolves and the mixture is smooth. While the cocoa mixture is cooking, heat the milk and half-and-half until piping hot in the microwave or another saucepan. Slowly whisk the hot milk mixture into the cocoa mixture. Raise the heat to medium, and cook until the cocoa is completely heated through. Do not let the mixture come to a boil. Pour or ladle the cocoa into cups or mugs. Top with whipped cream if desired and serve hot.

A very generous dose of peppermint and a candy can stirrer makes this hot chocolate extra special for Christmas. While a garnish of real whipped cream and crushed peppermint candy canes add a nice extra




Hot chocolate made with milk is the perfect way to warm up this winter.

touch, this drink is also excellent served plain.

**Christmas Mint Hot Chocolate**  
Yield: 6 servings  
[www.perfectentertaining.com](http://www.perfectentertaining.com)  
4 cups milk  
1/3 cup crushed candy canes  
3 tablespoons sugar  
1/4 cup unsweetened Dutch processed cocoa  
1/4 teaspoon peppermint extract  
pinch of salt  
4 ounces chopped bittersweet chocolate  
6 candy canes  
whipped cream (optional)  
additional crushed candy canes (optional)  
Combine the milk, crushed candy canes, sugar, cocoa, peppermint extract, and salt in a large heavy saucepan over medium high heat. Whisking constantly, bring to a boil. Add the chopped chocolate and remove from the heat. Whisk the mixture until the chocolate melts to make

a thick and smooth hot chocolate. Ladle or pour into tall mugs or cups. Add a candy can stirrer and top with

the whipped cream and sprinkle with the additional crushed candy canes if desired. Serve hot.



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## Weather extends mini show

Historic Swain Galleries, a family-owned art enterprise in Plainfield since 1868, will celebrate "A 135th Christmas Weekend" with a "Christmas Miniatures" exhibit of small-scale art by 19 noted gallery artists this month. The exhibit continues through Jan. 30.

Due to inclement weather in early December, the opening reception has been rescheduled for Jan. 10 from 5 to 7 p.m.

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.

The exhibit continues through

Jan. 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.

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.

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# CAREER & EDUCATION

## Variety of classes available at Montclair's Makeready's Gallery

Studio Art Workshops at Makeready's Gallery 214 Artspace, 214 Glenridge Ave. in Montclair, has announced that classes will begin Jan. 13. For information, call 973-744-1940.

Makeready's Gallery 214 Artspace is an excellent workspace for artists. It is equipped with halogen track-lighting and fluorescent lighting, 10-foot ceilings, easels, work tables, chairs, a Charles Brant etching press and a book-binding press. The studio is centrally air-conditioned. Call for class details.

On staff is teacher Jael, who has completed hundreds of bookcover illustrations and private commissions during her 45 year career. A book of her life and her art, titled "Perceptualistics," was published by Paper Tiger/Sterling Publishing, Co. Jael obtained a BFA/Secondary Certification, summa cum laude from the University of Utah in 1973. She is featured in numerous editions of Spectrum, a publication showcasing the best of contemporary fantastic art and in The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction Art Techniques. Jael was a 2002 nominee for the Chesley Bonestell Award, the most prestigious award for Fantasy and Science Fiction Art. For more information on her, visit [www.jael.net](http://www.jael.net).

**Open Studio Life Drawing** for adults will meet Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9:30 p.m. or Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to noon for 10 sessions. Fee is \$100. The class comprises independent sketching from the model without instructor. A different model will take quick and sustained poses each week. All model fees are included. Classes are ongoing. Register any time.

**Color, Color, Everywhere: Creative Drawing and Painting for Adults** meets Wednesdays from 1 to 3:30 p.m. for 10 classes. The fee is \$210. The teacher is Jael.

Beat those winter blues! Come join us and explore the vibrant joy and fascinations within the multiple areas of the visual arts. Guest lecturers will include an art licensing agent, who

inspiring use of color, using the mediums of your choice. Personal supplies needed. Beginning airbrushing included for all with the basics clearly demonstrated. The class is geared to fun and independent explorations of painting and drawing, theories and psychology of color. You'll have a variety of personal choices from abstraction, still life, realism, portraiture, landscape and life drawing. Three model sessions are planned. These sessions will re-enforce your academic understanding of values, composition, negative/positive space, rule of thumb, textures, etc. The course is good for beginners as well as for those who have drawn and painted for years. We will have two professional guest lecturers, explaining how they have created their successfully written for major art magazines and a graphic artist from Manhattan, who

does cover designing for publishing companies such as Time Warner and others. A list of supplies needed for the most popular media will be available when signing up for the class. The sooner the better, as class size is limited, enabling much personal attention. Model fees included for three sessions. Class size limited to 12 students. This session will be the first of many, continuing on again with a spring session with new professional visual art lectures. Classes will stay small for the sake of valuable personal attention.

**Creative Drawing and Painting for Teens**, ages 13 and older, will meet Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. for 10 classes. The fee is \$210, with all supplies included. The course is taught by Jael.

Explore techniques and methods used by history's great fine artists,

today's top fine artists, illustrators, fantasy, gaming, and special effects geniuses. This course — the first of three progressive sessions — will include an introduction to drawing, painting, pastels, airbrush technique and incorporate a strong foundation of basic drawing skills. The focus will be on individual creativity, implementing composition and design, perspective, values, anatomy and color theory. Students will be given much personal attention strengthening their individual abilities, in a relaxed comfortable atmosphere. Model fees are included for three sessions. Class size is limited to 12 students. Supplies will be available, but personal favorites are welcome.

**Portfolio Power: Creative a Working Portfolio That Really Works**, for ages 17 and older, meets Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. for 10

classes. The fee is \$210. A basic knowledge of drawing is a prerequisite.

Students are asked to bring a selection of work to the first class.

The teacher is Jael. This class will help students begin to put together a portfolio for college, technical schools and job interviews opening a door to what ever field they decide to go into. The artistic emphasis will be based on structure and drawing techniques given in a com-

fortable, supportive and creative atmosphere. It will incorporate innovative and unique still life projects, including several life drawing sessions. Discussions about how to best present your art, and when and where to look for schools will be included. Students can flesh out new or ongoing projects and fill in gaps in their portfolios while maintaining their own individual styles. Model fees are included for three sessions. Class size is limited to 10 students.

## CCI makes for a healthy choice

Condensed Curriculum International is a well-established company with emphasis on entry-level training in the healthcare field.

In business for more than 10 years, the company has grown to meet the demand for entry-level healthcare workers and continually updates their programs based upon developments in the field.

CCI provides a host of affordable programs for individuals looking to gain access to healthcare jobs. Enrollment in any one of the many courses offered can increase your opportunity of attaining gainful employment and be well on your way to a better paying job. If you are looking for certification in your chosen field, or simply to upgrade your skills, Condensed Curriculum can help you achieve all this and more. The entry-level courses are taught by instructors highly qualified in their respective fields, and with an on-site placement assistance department and friendly and courteous staff, this free assistance in your job search is a big plus to help you reach your goal.

Sidney Gilman R.Ph., the president of the company, travels extensively across the country meeting with continuing education personnel at various colleges and universities, providing them with information on all the certificate programs and assistance in order that they might have the opportunity to outsource all or part of their allied health programs to the general public.

Since the population of the United States is now mostly senior citizens, healthcare is and will continue to be an important industry in the future. The field is virtually recession-proof, according to a CCI representative.

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(ATTENTION: Parents of Prospective Students!)

## OPEN HOUSE!

Tuesday, January 27 (9:30 am - 11:00 am)

## REGISTRATION (New Students)

Thurs., January 29 (9:00 am - 11:00 am) & (1:00 pm - 2:00 pm)  
Fri., January 30 (9:00 am - 11:00 am)



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Jan. 8th at 7:00 pm.

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## REGISTRATION FOR SPRING SEMESTER 2004

Saturday, January 10, 9 am - 3 pm

in the Memorial Auditorium Lobby

Montclair State University Campus

For more information contact: 973-655-4443 or  
Visit us on the Web at [WWW.MONTCLAIR.EDU/MUSIC/](http://WWW.MONTCLAIR.EDU/MUSIC/)  
click on the Preparatory Center for the Arts Button

## Teacher Education Info Session

7 pm on Wednesday, January 14

on the Rutherford Campus at 223 Montross Ave, in the Student Center Building

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Monday through Friday  
9:00 AM - 5 PM  
E-Mail your ad to us anytime at  
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## ADDRESS

Classified Advertising  
Worrall Newspapers  
P.O. Box 158  
Maplewood, NJ 07040

Phone: 800-564-8911 Fax: 973-763-2557  
Offices where ads can be placed in person:

**UNION COUNTY**  
1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union

**ESSEX COUNTY**  
463 Valley Street, Maplewood  
266 Liberty Street, Bloomfield

## NEWSPAPERS

**UNION COUNTY**  
Union Leader • Echo Leader  
The Eagle (Cranford/Clark) • The Leader  
Spectator Leader • Gazette Leader  
Rahway Progress • Summit Observer

**ESSEX COUNTY**  
News-Record of Maplewood & South Orange  
West Orange Chronicle • East Orange Record  
Orange Transcript • The Glen Ridge Paper  
Nutley Journal • Belleville Post  
Irvington Herald • Vailsburg Leader  
The Independent Press of Bloomfield

## RATES

**CLASSIFIED RATES**  
20 words or less.....\$20.00 per insertion  
Additional 10 words.....\$6.00 per insertion  
Display Rates.....\$25.50 per column inch  
Contract Rates Available  
Blind Box Number.....\$20.00 per insertion

## BEST BUY

**CLASSIFIED COMBINATION RATES**  
Ad appears in all 18 newspapers  
20 words or less.....\$30.00 per insertion  
Additional 10 words.....\$10.00 per insertion  
Display Rates.....\$47.50 per column inch  
Contract Rates Available

## DEADLINES

In-column 3 PM Tuesday  
Display - Space reservation 5 PM Friday  
Ad Copy 12 noon Monday  
Business Directory 4 PM Thursday

## ADJUSTMENTS

Adjustments: We make every effort to avoid mistakes in your classified advertisement. Please check your ad the first day it runs! We cannot be responsible beyond the first insertion. Should an error occur please notify the classified department. Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc., shall not be liable for errors or omissions in cost of actual space occupied by item in which error or omissions occurred. We can not be held liable for failure, for any cause, to insert an ad. Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc. reserves the right to reject, revise or reclassify any advertisement at any time.

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All classified ads require prepayment.  
Please have your card and expiration date.



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### GARAGE SALES

30 words \$31.00 or \$45.00 combo  
Garage Sale signs, price stickers, balloons,  
helpful hints, inventory sheet and Rain  
Insurance.

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20 words \$8.00 or \$12.00 combo items for  
sale under \$200.00 One item per ad price  
must appear.

### AUTOS FOR SALE

20 words - 10 weeks \$39.00 or \$59.00  
combo no copy charges

## EMPLOYMENT

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\$250 to \$500 a week. Will train to work at home helping the U.S. Government file HUD/FHA mortgage refunds. No experience necessary. Call Toll Free 1-866-537-2906.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.** Executive recruiting firm seeks part time/full time Administrative Assistant with strong communication and computer (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) skills. Email resume with salary requirements to: msledgeboyd@comcast.com

**ANNOUNCEMENT: NOW Hiring** For 2004 Postal Jobs! \$16.20-\$39.00/hour. Full Federal Benefits. Paid training. No experience required. Green Card OK. Call 1-866-895-3696 Extension 2400

**BABYSITTER WANTED:** Millburn family, to watch two boys 8 and 10, weekdays, part time. Must have references and car. 201-819-7437.

**CHILD CARE** Mondays & Wednesdays for twin girls (age 2). English speaking and references required. 908-273-5058.

Clerical

### Executive Secretary

This full-time, Monday-Friday position reports to the General Manager and offers a unique opportunity to combine clerical responsibilities with the exciting atmosphere of a retail leader!

An exceptional, friendly personality is our top requirement! Applicants should also possess excellent communication and organizational skills. Computer experience with a desire to learn more and an ability to work in a fast-paced, multi-task environment.

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**COMPANY EXPANDING** in your area \$1380 Weekly at home Full Time/Part Time No Experience Necessary! \$50 Cash Hiring Bonus! Guaranteed in Writing! Call now 888-225-8917 or 888-312-2633

**COUNTER PERSON** for health food store in Union. Full/ Part Time. Nutritional background a plus Call Gene, 908-964-0540.

**CURVES FOR WOMEN.** World's largest fitness organization is seeking full/ part time people. If you are energetic, self motivated, have personality and love to work with people, send resume to: Curves, 1000 South Elmora Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ, 07202 or fax to 908-289-8030. Perfect opportunity for someone returning to the work force or interested in flexible hours..

**CUSTOMER SERVICE Representative.** Customer contact by phone and mail; varied other duties. Qualifications: PC-savvy, lively personality, articulate, friendly phone manner, good letter writing, comfortable with numbers and office experience. Full time and part time 30 hour/ week minimum; some days to 6:00. Chatham. Call Angie: 973-635-7800.

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### HELP WANTED

**DATA ENTRY** Could Earn \$15/ Hour and up! Medical Billing. Training Provided. PC Required! Call 7 Days 1-800-935-1311 extension 308

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** full time. Expanded functions for top quality orthodontic office. We are moving to a larger brand new Chatham office and need a team player. Monday-Thursday. Fax resume to: 973-467-1895.

**DENTAL OFFICE** seeks dental assistant student for part time position. Interested individuals willing to learn all aspects of assisting. Knowledge of dental terminology is required. All interested candidates call Miss Armstrong at 973-672-1717.

**DRIVER COVENANT** Transport. Teams and Solos check out our new pay plan. Ask about our Regional Dedicated Runs. Owner Operators, Experienced Drivers, Solos, Teams, and Graduate Students. Call 1-888-MORE-PAY (1-888-667-3729).

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**DRIVERS WANTED:** Suburban Essex Cab company seeking part/ full time help. 30-50 hours week. Good pay. Steady work. 973-762-5700.

**DRIVER WANTED:** full time Union county area \$8.00-\$9.00 per hour. Monday thru Friday, Saturday a must! 908-624-0490.

**EARN \$1,000- \$3,500 WEEKLY!** Taking Simple Surveys Online! \$75.00 Per Survey! Free Registration! Guaranteed Paychecks! Free Government Grants! \$10,000-\$250,000 Never Repay! Everyone Qualifies! Incredible Opportunities! www.FastCashAtHome.com.

**EDITOR, PRODUCTION** for Newsletters. Part Time/ Flex Time. Proof reading, copy editing, fact checking, layout, Quark experienced. Must be detail oriented. Fax resume and salary history to: 973-467-2460, e-mail publisher@wpicomm.com, or mail to: WPI Communications, Inc., 55 Morris Avenue, Springfield, NJ, 07081.

**EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY,** must have experience with A/P, Word Processing, Flexible hours. Fax resume 973-564-9725.

**GET PAID To Shop.** Pose as customers for store evaluations. Secret shoppers needed for local stores, restaurants and theaters. Flexible hours. e-mail required. 1-800-585-9024, ext. 6069.

**GET PAID to shop!** Pose as customers in local stores, restaurants and theaters. No experience required. www.Search4Shoppers.com/job

**GOVERNMENT AND Postal Jobs** Public Announcement. Now hiring up to \$47,578. Full/Part positions. Benefits and training for application and information 800-573-8565 Dept.P369. 8am-11pm/ 7 days. E & E Services.

**GOVERNMENT POSTAL Jobs** Announcement -#PS2479. Up to \$54,481 year. Now hiring select areas. Free call Application Examination Information, Federal Benefits. 1-800-892-5549 extension 91. 7 days natefiliwsp

### HELP WANTED

**GOVERNMENT JOBS** Earn \$12-\$48.00 an hour. Full Benefits, paid training on Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Wildlife, Clerical, Administrative and More. 1-800-320-9353 extension 2200

**HAIR STYLIST,** experienced/ license to work in Linden/Roselle area. For great opportunity call 908-482-6498.

**HIRING FOR 2004 Postal Positions** \$14.80-\$36.00+/ Hour. Federal Hire with Full Benefits. No Experience necessary, Paid Training and Vacations. Green Card OK. Call 1-866-317-0558 extension 4001.

**HIRING FOR 2004 Postal Positions** \$14.80-\$36.00+/ Hour. Federal Hire with Full Benefits. No Experience necessary, Paid Training and Vacations. Green Card OK. Call 1-866-317-0558 extension 375.

**HIRING FOR 2004 Postal Positions** \$600-\$1520/ Weekly plus full federal benefits. Entry -Professional level. No experience necessary. Paid training/ Vacations. Green Card OK 1-866-317-0558 extension 805

**HOMEWORKERS!** Earn Extra Cash\$\$\$! Processing and Mailing our Brochures! Free Supplies and Postage! Genuine Opportunity! Call Toll Free 1-800-749-5782 (24 hrs)

**MENTAL HEALTH** Counselor/Addiction Specialist-Youth: If you love kids, join our adolescents partial care program. Counselor needed to work with adolescents age 12-18 who have drug, alcohol & mental health issues. Individual, group, case management resp. CADC/BA + 2 years experience working w/adolescents. Hours: School year 11:30am-6:30pm; Summers 10:30am-5:30pm Monday-Friday. Salary mid 30's. Great team! Interesting training! good benefits! Reply to Clinical Manager. GTBMC PO Box 1393, Trenton, NJ 08607 Fax 609-396-0881. EOE.

**MENTAL HEALTH** Home based clinician: Become part of our Youth In-Home Services team. Work in Trenton & vicinity w/strong professional team. Provide intensive counseling w/at-risk youth & families in their homes. Outstanding benefits. MA/LSW required. Send resume & cover letter: Olivia Toca. GTBMC, PO Box 1393, Trenton, NJ 08607 or fax 609-989-1245, or email otoca@gtbmc.org EOE

**MEDICAL BILLER/ Collector,** Full Time. Minimum 2-3 years experience required Medical Receptionist, Previous experience in fast paced medical practice necessary. Fax resume: 908-964-7646

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**PART TIME** (to 20 hours weekly) Bi-Lingual (English/Spanish) Administrative Associate for South Orange non-profit. Proficient in MS Word, Excel, Outlook, Internet, PowerPoint and database software. Fax resume 973-762-8267 e-mail: jlivens@communicationforsocialchange.org

### HELP WANTED

#### PART TIME

After School Program of Maplewood/South Orange seeks Adult Leaders for state licensed recreational program designed for children of working parents from 2:30-6:00pm daily following school district calendar. Qualified applicants must be reliable, have EXPERIENCE leading groups of children and have own transportation. Hourly salary based upon experience. Call 973-762-0183 or fax cover letter and resume to: 973-275-1692 or mail to: After School Program, 124 Dunnell Road, Maplewood, 07040.

#### PART TIME

Part time position available in small office for reliable person with excellent telephone and secretarial skills to handle accounts receivable Monday-Friday, 3:30pm-6:30pm. Computer experience a plus! Call 973-762-0183 or sendS resume to: After School Program, 124 Dunnell Road, Maplewood, 07040, or fax resume to 973-275-1692.

**PART TIME** Insurance Agency in Bloomfield has an opening for a Receptionist. Hours 1:00pm-5:00pm. Must have phone and office experience. For appointment call 973-429-8100 ext. 0 between 9:30am-3:30pm.

**PAINTER/ HANDYMAN** experienced wanted full time to work in Irvington area. Please call 718-605-6852 between the hours of 10:00am-2:00pm.

**PIZZA PERSON/ Counter Person/ Kitchen Help.** Full time and Part time Position in Union. Weekends available. Call 908-403-1060

**POSTAL JOBS** \*\*Announcement/ Public USPS2475\*\* Up to \$29.16 Hour, Application/ Information. Free Call. Now hiring 2004 Federal Hire- Full Benefits, 1-800-892-5144 extension 97 natefiliwsp

Restaurant

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Full-Time and Part-Time, with storewide discount.  
Apply at:

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EOE

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### EMPLOYMENT WANTED

**GENTLE RESPONSIBLE** woman seeks night time watch/care position with elderly or children. 10:00pm-7:00am. Excellent references. Jean. 973-985-1173, 973-672-5911.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

BUY NEW JERSEY for \$399! The New Jersey Press Association can place your 25-word classified ad in over 150 NJ newspapers throughout the state - a combined circulation of over 2 million households. Call Diane Trent at NJPA at 609-406-0600 extension 24, or e-mail dtrent@njpa.org or visit [www.njpa.org](http://www.njpa.org) for more information (Nationwide placement available).

REACH OVER 1.5 million households! The New Jersey Press Association can place your 2x2 Display Ad in over 130 NJ weekly newspapers for ONLY \$1050. Call Diane Trent at NJPA at 609-406-0600 extension 24 or e-mail dtrent@njpa.org for more information. (Nationwide placement available).

## PERSONALS

PREGNANT? CONSIDERING adoption? We can help! We specialize in matching families with birth mothers nationwide. Toll Free 24 hours a day 866-921-0565. One True Gift Adoptions.

## LOST &amp; FOUND

LOST LARGE Diamond engagement ring outside Blockbusters in 5 points, Union. Very generous reward. 908-561-7744.

## INSTRUCTION

## INSTRUCTION

EXPERIENCED REMEDIAL Tutor: Reading Skills (Phonics). Help with Homework: Reading Comprehension, Writing Papers, Elementary Math; SAT, GEPA, GRADES 3-12. For Brochure, References 973-763-3059.

LEARN TO ice Climb! Introductory Ice Climbing Seminars at Smuggler's Notch, Vt. February 8-10 Or 12-14 2004. (Private dates also available) No experience necessary. [www.GoTeck.com](http://www.GoTeck.com) Click on "Ice Climb Vermont."

MATH TUTOR - Alg. 1 through calculus and statistics. SAT'S, Midterms. Effective, experienced teacher. Reasonable Rates. Sue 973-763-4833.

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## MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

3 BEDROOM SETS, end tables, lamps, dressers, couch, etc. Great Prices. Call 908-964-4703 for appointment.

BEAUTIFUL LIVING ROOM furniture, like new, white camelback sofa, 2 chairs, cocktail table, 8 Parson chairs, 2-rugs, very reasonable. 908-277-3439

BEDROOM SET-7 piece. Sleigh bed, dresser/mirror, chest, night stand. Brand new. Suggested \$3000 sell \$975. 732-259-6690.

BEDROOM SET- 5 piece. New in box. List \$1299 sacrifice \$565. 732-259-6690.

DINING ROOM -Cherry set with 1 piece hutch, table/ chairs, new in boxes list \$2200, sell \$825. Can deliver. 732-259-6690.

DINING ROOM Set (black) oval table with leaf, 6 chairs, glass china cabinet, 3 drawer chest. Asking \$500. 973-748-1895.

FREE GRANTS NEVER-Repay, Results - Guaranteed. \$500.00-\$500,000.00 Homes, Repairs, Education, Business, Emergencies, Nonprofits, Writers, Live Operators 9am-9pm 1-800-613-5447 Extension #9007

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FREE QUEEN size futon. You haul away/ 973-218-1274.

M.I.HUMMEL FIGURINES made in Germany for sale. St. Paul's Church, 80 Elm Avenue, Rahway, Saturday, January 10th, 1pm-3pm. Must See!

## MATTRESSES &amp; BOX SPRINGS

Twin \$49 each, Full \$59 each, Queen \$69 each, King \$79 each, Refrigerators \$79 up

A-1 FURNITURE 908-688-7354  
Route 22 W. (Next to Shop Rite) Hillside 124 Locust St., Roselle - 908-245-3550  
Free Delivery within 5 miles, Phone Orders Accepted

MAPLEWOOD, (CORNER Pierson Road and Burnet Street) Multiple Houses. All Kinds of treasures!! Saturday, May 11th, 10am-5pm.

MATTRESS SET. New Queen double pillow top in bags, with warranty \$165. Can deliver. 732-259-6690.

MATTRESS-FULL size set, Ortho/plush, new in bags. \$110. Call 732-259-6690

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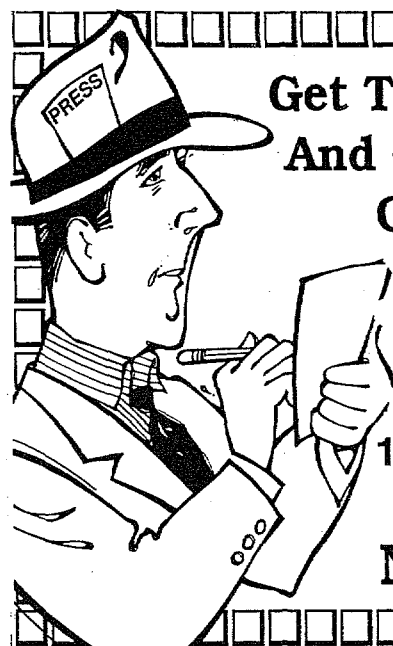
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# Impala will continue to evolve

By Mark Maynard  
Copley News Service

I promised Chevy chief Kurt Ritter that I'd revisit the Impala. He was bragging that sales were so brisk he had to order another shift to keep up with demand. When I mentioned "rental fleets," he said only about 30 percent went there.

When this full-size sedan came out new in 2000, it was the replacement for the Lumina. The new car was supposed to be so improved that it deserved a new name.

Bigger, roomier inside, stronger and faster, Impala was a big improvement as a flagship Chevy, but it lacked attention to detail when compared with the popular Japanese imports.

It has taken Chevrolet a few years, but the rough edges on Impala have been filed down or covered up. I doubt its new "Corvette-inspired" tail lights will be a deal breaker, but the revised tail design is a creative use of space.

It's somewhat rare to find an Impala in the media fleet, and when they appear, it's likely to be a well-optioned model to pamper the whiny auto writer.

The test car was just such an example — and handsome in monochromatic black paint, lowered front fascia, blacked-out logos and silver alloy wheels.

The as-tested price of \$27,015 was a couple clicks beyond that mental number of what seemed right for this car, especially when the resale values don't hold up as well as a comparably equipped import.

But for the money, Chevrolet is good at supersizing the features.

It's sold in just two models. The base Impala starts at \$21,695 and comes with a 180-hp, 3.4-liter V-6, four-speed automatic and choice of a

front bench seat for six-passenger capacity.

Standard equipment on both models includes remote locking, lighting in the glove box and trunk, electric rear window defogger, delayed exit/entry lighting, intermittent variable-speed windshield wipers, four-wheel disc brakes with ABS and 16-inch tires on aluminum wheels.

The uplevel LS starts at \$24,795 and comes with the 200-hp, 3.8-liter V-6, automatic transmission and such convenience features as split-folding rear seatback, trunk cargo net and cruise control.

New this year is the XM satellite radio option — \$325, then \$9.99 a month — which pipes in 100 coast-to-coast digital channels, including 71 music channels, many commercial free, and 29 channels of sports, talk, children's, entertainment and 24-hour news programs.

Standard safety features include a five-star rating from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for front- and side-impact testing for front and rear passengers.

Both models come with front air bags, driver's side-impact air bag, remote keyless entry, traction control, tire inflation monitoring system and anti-lock brakes.

Chevy knows what works for American drivers and gives them plenty in Impala. The cabin has 39 inches of headroom and a wide 59 inches of shoulder room. The driver's area puts everything in easy reach, with an ignition on the dashboard and other switches and controls large enough to manipulate with a gloved hand.

Visibility is good over the hood and front fenders but a little constricted over the shoulder at the high rear seatback. The rear bench will fit a car seat in the middle and an adult on

each side. The trunk is huge, enhanced by the split-folding seatback offered only on the LS.

Other handy designs include theater seating to the back seat and the reading lights at each overhead grab handle. A fold-down armrest keeps kids separated and the split-folding seatback drops with a quick pull and push.

I didn't see a rough edge anywhere in the car, though Chevy still won't spend the extra 50 cents to cover screw heads. That's not a big issue, I suppose, unless the buyer is coming out of a Camry or Accord and giving the U.S. contender another try.

Substance is built into the Impala from the ground up, and the driver can feel that in the ride and handling.

A little more sound isolation to the suspension or body mounts and it could be as quiet as a Camry.

There's enough horsepower from the V-6 to handle passing maneuvers and enough fuel economy to pass a few gas stations — 20 mpg around town and 30 on the highway with regular unleaded.

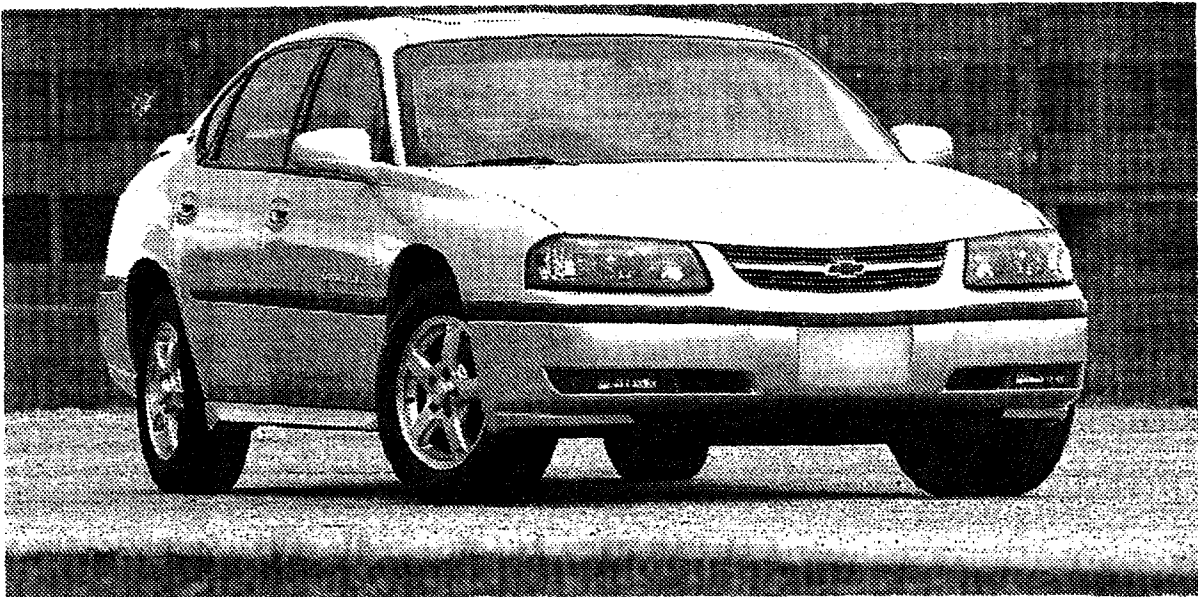
Unlike some of us, the years have been kind to Impala and it probably will continue to evolve and get better.

Since my dinner with Ritter a couple of months ago, GM has called on his marketing skills to head a newly formed marketing division for Buick and Pontiac-GMC.

The two groups are not united, but Ritter will find more ways to sell more cars. Every time we talk, he asks me, "How can I sell more cars in California?"

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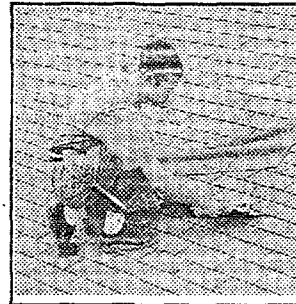


It has taken Chevrolet a few years, but the rough edges on Impala have been filed down or covered up.

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## OFFICE TO LET

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WEST ORANGE. Main Street location, 800 square feet, 2 offices and reception area. Share utilities. Parking. Available January 2004. 973-746-4825

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by Jill Guzman

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## ERA offers services for seniors

In 2000, 27 percent of the population was 50 or older. By 2020, this segment is forecast to be more than 35 percent of the population, and during the next 35 years, the senior market will more than double from what it is currently. These demographic shifts have resulted in increased activity in the senior segment of the real estate market.

Today's mature market has unique needs and resources. They want to focus on their lifestyle, not their age, and many have financial security and discretionary income. At this point in their lives, many mature adults begin to re-evaluate their housing situation and think about moving. For some, the house and yard are more than they want to maintain. For others, living alone in the old neighborhood is isolating and inconvenient.

"Mature adults differ from other segments in several ways. From our experience, they have significant equity from selling their primary residence — 90 percent are cash buyers,"

according to Louisa Tsaptsinos, office manager/vice president, ERA American Towne Realty. "While the goal of this group is generally to simplify their lives — downsizing their homes, giving up lawn and other maintenance — many mature buyers choose to move into upscale adult communities which resemble country clubs, with beautiful homes, golf courses, club houses and activities to suit every interest."

To help associates understand the special needs and concerns of mature buyers and sellers, ERA offers the Seniors Real Estate Specialist designation, a unique program which teaches agents about tax and estate implications in the real estate process, financing options, counseling tools and more.

ERA also offers products and services to help make buying and/or selling a home more convenient for seniors. "Our mature clients appreciate that we offer the ERA home protection plan which protects both sellers and

buyers against unexpected costly repairs during the listing period and after closing," added Tsaptsinos. "They like the savings from using the security system and moving-service providers that participate in ERA's select services client assistance program."

Through this program, ERA customers receive valuable savings from both national companies and local service providers on useful products and services.

For more information on ERA's mature market programs and services, consumers can contact their local ERA office which can be found by visiting [www.ERANJ.com](http://www.ERANJ.com). ERA is a global leader in the residential real estate industry with more than 30 years of experience in developing consumer-oriented products and services.

The ERA Real Estate network includes more than 28,000 brokers and sales associates throughout the United States and 30 other countries and territories.

## Many careers possible through real estate

People considering a career in real estate are in for a pleasant surprise. Today's real estate profession has expanded to encompass one of the widest career selections in the business world.

What are today's career opportunities for a real estate professional? Here, from Weichert, Realtors, are the most popular areas of concentration.

• Residential. Real estate sales agents help people buy and sell homes. Following the fair housing laws, they are key to facilitating the entire complex transaction to closure, aiding with financing, mortgages, and a growing list of vital services surrounding a move.

• Commercial. Brokers specialize in income-producing properties, such as apartment and office buildings, retail stores and warehouses, shopping centers and industrial parks.

• Industrial and office. Brokers specialize in developing, selling or leasing property used for industry or manufacturing.

• Farm and land. Brokers deal in

land for farming, as well as acquisition of rural land by cities for residential, commercial and industrial expansion.

• Appraisal. Real estate appraisers determine the value of properties for tax purposes, investment, accounting, income projections and insurance.

• Property management. Primary function is to maintain the property or groups of properties to produce the highest possible financial return over the longest period of time, while protecting the owner's investment.

• Land development. A challenging and important specialty. Developers turn land into profitable and marketable residential, commercial or industrial developments. Detailed planning, cost analyzing, financing and site selection skills are involved.

• Urban planning. Work with local governments and other civic groups to anticipate their city's future growth, then propose physical changes, environmental improvements, and quality-of-life

enhancements.

• Counseling. Counselors must know every phase of the real estate business to answer queries about property, investment potential, and development.

• Research. Researchers contribute to the decisions of many other real estate specialists.

The two main categories of research are physical, such as buildings and structures, and economic, such as statistics and information.

For information on schools and licensing, call Weichert's career hot line at 800-301-3000.

## 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.

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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

## Alexander completes class on needs of senior citizens

Local real estate professional Roz Alexander of Burgdorff ERA's Westfield office recently completed a certification program to make her especially suited to serve the needs of senior citizens. A Realtor with more than 20 successful years of experience, Alexander expertly assists customers considering retirement moves, buying or selling homes, obtaining rental property or making other life-changing real estate decisions.

The Seniors Real Estate Specialist designation equips Alexander to address the concerns and realize the dreams of seniors, who are one of the fastest-growing segments of the American population and can have considerations that go beyond those of the average homebuyer or seller.

"The real estate transaction is one of the most complex and potentially daunting experiences for any customer

because it's one of the most important decisions one can make, financially and emotionally," said Alexander. "Some seniors may be moving for the first time in decades, or they may be selling a beloved family home. There are unique concerns for seniors, which require a unique level of service. It is my pleasure to assist seniors during the moving process, and to make their transition a pleasant experience."

Adding to her SRES designation, Alexander is a relocation specialist, a luxury homes specialist, and a historic home specialist. She is a member of Burgdorff's President's Club.

Alexander also received the Distinguished Sales Club Award for achieving membership in the New Jersey Association of Realtors Million Dollar Sales Club for more than 10 years.

Alexander can be reached at 908-233-6572, by e-mail at roz-alexander@burgdorff.com, or by visiting her at the Burgdorff ERA Westfield office located at 600 North Avenue West.

## Summit's ERA associates win honors for sales

Pat Hoferkamp, president and chief operating officer of Burgdorff ERA, announce the sales associates from the Summit office who ranked in the top 10 percent in the entire company for sales volume and/or for the number of properties sold during the first eight months of 2003.

Sales associates who placed in the top 10 percent for the number of properties sold are Kim Cannon, Madeleine Diab, Mike Del Duca, Eileen Sergeant, Christine Niedzielski, Lori Dahl and Macy Egerton.

Sales associates ranking in the top 10 percent for sales volume include Kim Cannon, Lori Dahl, Macy Egerton, Madeleine Diab, Toni George, Karen Howells, Eileen Sergeant, Mike Del Duca, Christine Niedzielski, Virginia Jordan, and Elin Zazzara.

Kim Cannon, Lori Dahl, Madeleine Diab, Mike Del Duca,

Eileen Sergeant, Christine Niedzielski and Macy Egerton earned both awards.

"Our sales associates are exceptional professionals who exceed real estate standards through their commitment to excellence and client satisfaction," said Joanne Tedesco-Kloud, vice president and manager of the Burgdorff ERA Summit office. "They continually demonstrate the integrity and professionalism that are the hallmark of Burgdorff ERA. I am extremely proud of their hard work, and wish them continued success through the end of the year."

The Burgdorff ERA is a full-service real estate office. For all of your real estate needs, or to inquire about a career in real estate, contact 908-522-1800, or visit the Burgdorff ERA Summit office located at 401 Springfield Avenue.

## Reese-Turner joins ERA

Burgdorff ERA recently announced that Eulondia "Kaye" Reese-Turner has joined the company as a sales associate in its Westfield office, located at 600 North Avenue West.

Eulondia is a licensed New Jersey real estate sales associate and member of the Greater Union County Association of Realtors. Known for her excellent communication, organization and

negotiation skills, she is a former consultant/technical support coordinator for Newark Beth Israel Medical Center with more than 27 years of information-technology experience. Additionally, she has experience as a systems service representative for MBL Life Assurance Corporation.

Computer literate in many programs, Reese-Turner has attended numerous professional workshops throughout her career. She attended Chubb Computer Services School, CALC Canterbury, American Research Group and TRACOM Corporation for computer and technology courses.

She is an active member and volunteer for the Clinton Avenue Presbyterian Church in Newark, where she received the "Woman of the Year" award. She is also a founding board member and secretary of Clinton Avenue People's Development Corporation, the building and property maintenance chairwoman and personnel committee co-person for the church.

Additionally, Reese-Turner is a member of the Newark Presbyterian Women's Association, the NAACP of Plainfield, and a business manager for performing artists. She was also a mentor for Newark Boys and Girls Club's READY Scholars program. She received the Presbyterian Church USA Certificate of Appreciation, and she is a Newark YM/WCA Black

Achiever Award recipient.

A resident of Roselle and an Irvington native, she is married to Anthony Turner Sr., and has three stepchildren, Brittany, David and Bernard.

The Burgdorff ERA Westfield office is a full-service real estate office. For real estate assistance, or to inquire about a career in real estate call the office at 908-233-0065.

## Gwaldis earns award for August listings

Bob Spillane, branch manager, announced that sales associate Kathleen Gwaldis earned an August regional award in the category of resale listings.

Gwaldis is a member of the 2002 NJAR Circle of Excellence at the silver level, Weichert's President's Club, and the Weichert Sales and Marketed Clubs. Membership in the President's Club ranks Gwaldis among the top 1 percent of the company's 10,000 sales associates.

The region is comprised of 13 offices throughout Essex, Morris, and Union counties.

Invite Gwaldis to learn about all the real estate services Weichert has to offer. She can be reached at 908-687-4800, located at 1307 Stuyvesant Ave.

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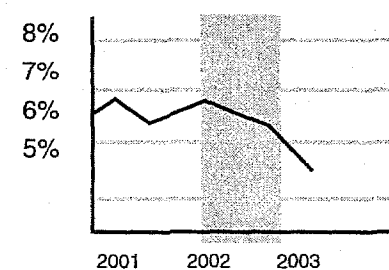
Lenders, to be listed in this paid advertised column, call 1-800-CNS-8525

Information is current as of January 5, 2004. For information on specific mortgage programs, call the lender. Rates, points, and programs are subject to change daily and cannot be guaranteed. Points include discount and origination fees. Quotes = rate + discount points/apr (annual percentage rate), calculated as follows: conventional 20% down and \$100,000 mortgage; jumbo 20% down and \$322,700 mortgage; FHA 3% - 3% down and \$100,000 mortgage. Most quotes are for 30-day lock-ins, but can vary. Maximum conventional loan amount is \$322,700; jumbo loans are in excess of \$322,700. ARM-adjustable rate mortgage. ARM rates are quoted as follows: rate + discount points/APR (type of ARM program is listed in parentheses). LTV-loan to value. MI-mortgage insurance. NA-not available. NQ-rates not quoted. Mortgage rates and programs are updated online daily. To calculate your exact mortgage payments using our electronic payment calculator, and for other extensive mortgage, real estate, consumer financial information—including tips and definitions of terms—please visit our Web site www.CNSfn.com Copyright 2003 Consumer News Systems

## National Averages

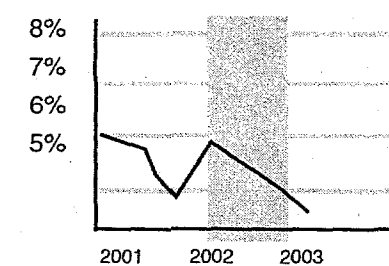
## 30-year mortgage

- National Average: 5.47%
- National Three-year Average:



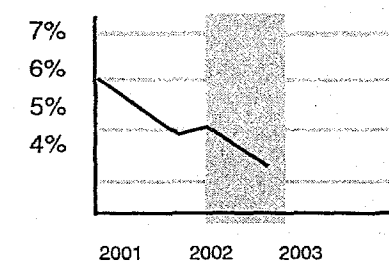
## 15-year mortgage

- National Average: 4.78%
- National Three-year Average:



## 5/1 ARM

- National Average: 4.24%
- National Three-year Average:



## Weekly Mortgage News

McLean, VA — In Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage (FRM) averaged 5.85 percent, with an average 0.7 point, for the week ending January 2, 2004, up just a few basis points from 5.81 percent last week. Last year at this time, the 30-year FRM averaged 5.85 percent.

The average for the 15-year FRM this week is 5.15 percent, with an average 0.7 point, up slightly from last week's average of 5.13 percent. A year ago, the 15-year FRM averaged 5.24 percent.

One-year Treasury-indexed adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 3.72 percent this week, with an average 0.7 point, down very slightly from 3.73 percent last week. At this time last year, the one-year ARM averaged 4.06 percent.

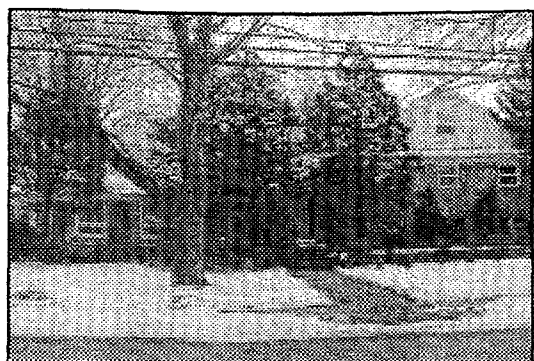
"The yield curve, at its steepest annual level since 1992, is indicative of a favorable ARM market," said Amy Crews Cutts, Freddie Mac deputy chief economist. "We have already seen the ARM share of applications double from January to December of this year, and it now represents almost a third of the market."

"With the Federal Reserve on hold until at least June, the yield curve should continue to be steep and once we begin to see signs of inflation, it may well become even steeper, at least until the Fed raises short-term rates. Until then, the savvy homebuyer or refinancer has the option of lowering monthly mortgage payments by choosing one of the many ARM products available today."

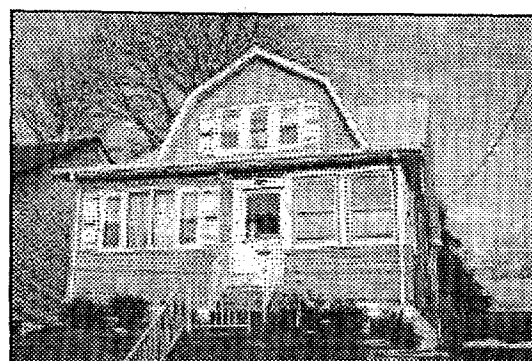


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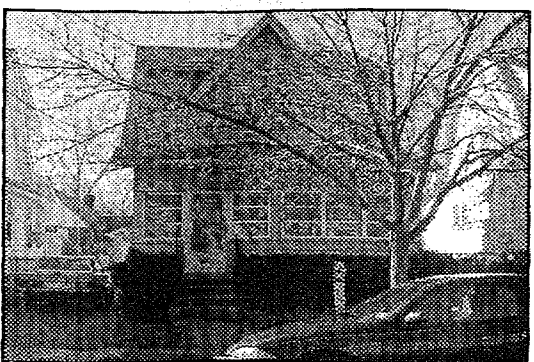
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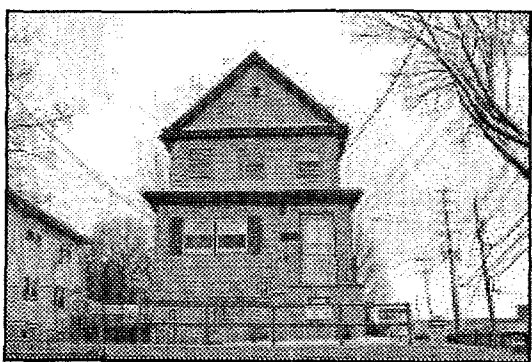
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UN18510 **Offered at \$659,900**



**UNION** - Well kept 2 Family Home features 2 Bedrooms on each floor & Finished Basement w/Summer Kitchen, Recreation Room & Full Bath.  
UN18505 **Offered at \$389,900**



**UNION** - Very nice Colonial w/large porch, LR, FDR, EIK & BR's. Clean & in move in condition. Nice yd & long driveway to garage. Great area!  
UN18515 **Offered at \$249,900**



**ROSELLE PARK** - Nice 2 Family in move in condition w/ many possibilities to expand. Features include walk up attic, lg kitchens & dining areas & fin bsmt. Must see!  
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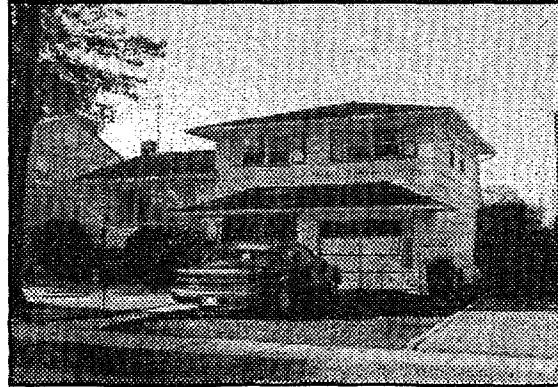
**UNION TOWNSHIP** - Magnificent Colonial in Washington School area. Living Room with fireplace, state-of-the-art eat-in kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, new windows & roof, gas. hot water base board heat, Central Air, Gardeners Delight!  
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**UNION TOWNSHIP** - Fabulous Split Level Home! Features include 3 bedrooms, Central Air, a family room, new roof, 1 car garage and so much more!  
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EAGLE, TALON, 1992.5 speed manual, 2-door hatchback, turbo, new clutch, Pirelli tires red, 123,000 miles, \$1700/ Best Offer. 908-688-7737.

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FORD, EXPLORER, XLT, 1996, V-6, 4X4, 4-Door, green/tan interior, garaged, 165K, runs, looks great. Power windows, \$3,300. 973-761-0555.

HONDA PRELUDE, 1994, black, 2 door, well maintained, sunroof, 133,000 miles. \$3,500, or best offer. 917-805-2191.

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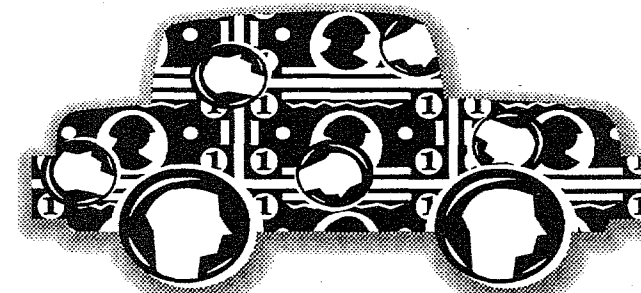
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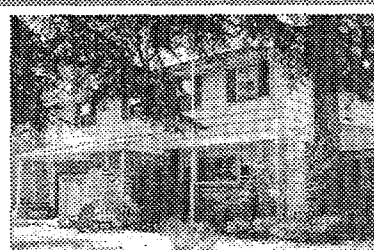
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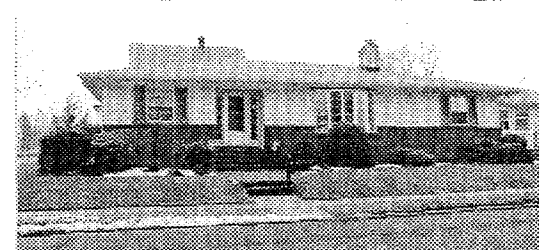
**\$589,900**



**FANWOOD**

Don't miss this opportunity to own a new home. Great floor plan, 3 Bedrooms, 2.1 baths, close to town, train and schools.

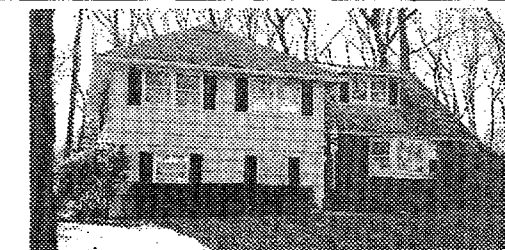
**\$489,900**



**GARWOOD**

No more steps! It's what you've been dreaming of. A 3 Bedroom, 3 bath home all on one level. Great for both relaxing or entertaining. Located on a corner lot. It's spacious both inside and out. Take a look!

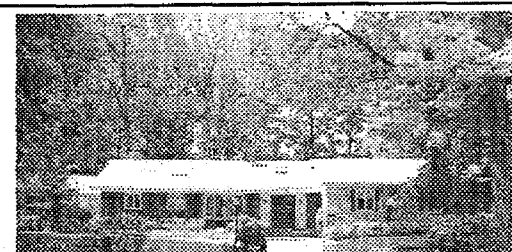
**\$419,000**



**MOUNTAINSIDE**

Exceptional, 4 Bedroom, 2.5 bath Split Level on outstanding 1/3 acre level property offers a Family Room, designer 2001 Kitchen with Pulla doors to 24' x 20' Epoch deck, crown moldings, Central Air Conditioning, 2-car garage and much, much more.

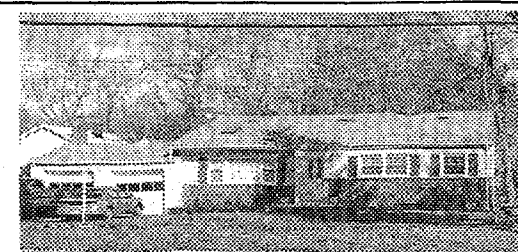
**\$599,900**



**SCOTCH PLAINS**

Pastoral beauty envelops this spacious home offering one floor living filled with hardwood floors, beamed and cathedral ceilings, lots of windows, skylights and built-ins. A newer Eat-In Kitchen, generous Master Suite and finished basement is enhanced by towering trees shading a large yard with superb plantings and deck.

**\$665,000**



**WESTFIELD**

Fabulous 3 Bedroom, 2 full bath, completely renovated home. Updates galore including gorgeous custom Kitchen, 2 full baths, skylights, roof, windows, CAC, furnace, gleaming hardwood floors and much, much more.

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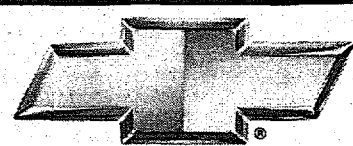
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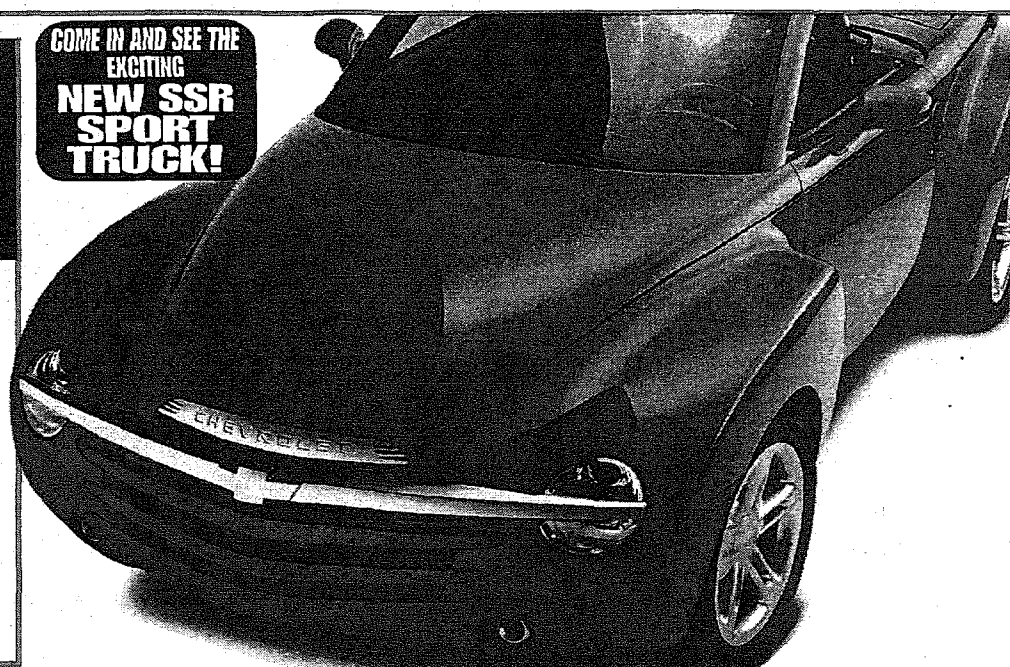
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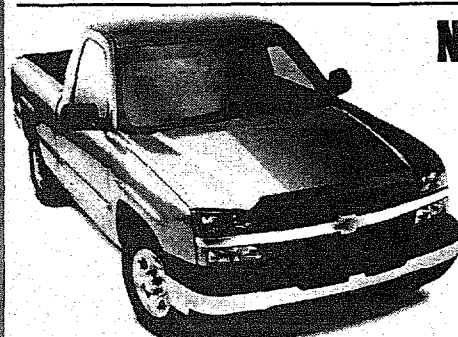
### ALL-NEW 2004 CHEVROLET AVEO 4 DR

4 cyl. auto, p/str/bkts, air, cd, r/def, airbags, B/W A/S radials. SIK#40473. VIN#48133227. MSRP \$12,840. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.



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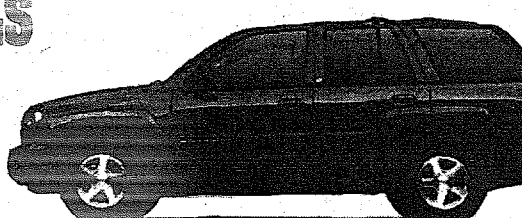
6 cyl. auto, p/str/ABS, air, am/fm stereo, tilt, airbags, cloth int., A/S radials, lock r/differential, heavy duty susp. SIK#40452. VIN#4214196. MSRP \$20,860. Price Includes \$2500 Factory & \$500 Bonus Cash Rebates also \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

buy for **\$16,104**

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### NEW 2004 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LS 4X4 4 DR

6 cyl. auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cd, tilt, r/def airbags, cloth bkts, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. SIK#215. VIN#42187891. MSRP \$30,450. Price Includes \$2500 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.



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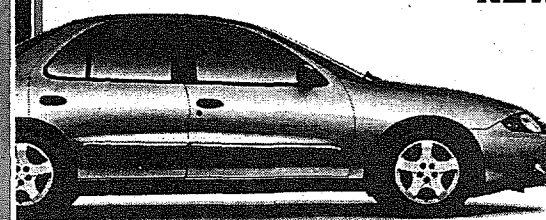


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### ALL-NEW 2004 CHEVROLET COLORADO LS EXT-CAB Z71 4X4

5 cyl. auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cd, tilt, airbags, cloth bkts, B/W A/S radials. SIK#40450. VIN#48109192. MSRP \$27,525. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

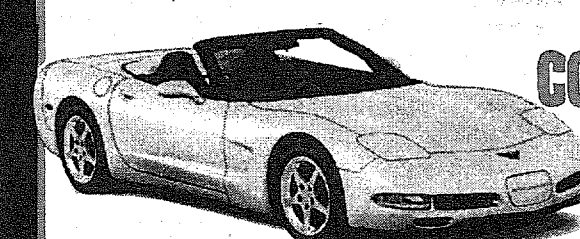


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### NEW 2002 CHEVROLET CORVETTE CONVERTIBLE

8 cyl. auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/12 disc cd changer, tilt, cruise, r/def, leather bkts, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 1,247 demo miles. SIK#195. VIN#25126974. MSRP \$53,560.



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**\$9504**

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 bkts, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 30,000 mi. SIK#40388A. VIN#48109192. MSRP \$19,904. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

**\$19,904**

2002 JEEP

### LIBERTY LIMITED 4X4 4 DR



6 cyl. auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, leather bkts, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 30,000 mi. SIK#40388A. VIN#48109192. MSRP \$19,904. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

**\$19,904**

**1994 FORD  
RANGER EXT-CAB 4X4 2 DR**  
5 cyl. auto, p/str/bkts/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cass/12 disc cd changer, tilt, cruise, r/def, leather bkts, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 139,138 mi. SIK#40252AA. VIN#48109192. MSRP \$5904. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

**1998 TOYOTA  
COROLLA 4 DR**  
4 cyl. 5 spd man, p/str/bkts/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cass/12 disc cd changer, tilt, cruise, r/def, leather bkts, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 71,000 mi. SIK#40388A. VIN#48109192. MSRP \$5904. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

**1998 HONDA  
CIVIC LX 4 DR**  
4 cyl. auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs, air, am/fm stereo, tilt, cruise, r/def, leather bkts, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 48,046 mi. SIK#40388A. VIN#48109192. MSRP \$8904. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

**2000 CHEVROLET  
TRACKER 4X4 4 DR**  
4 cyl. auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, leather bkts, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 33,107 mi. SIK#40388A. VIN#48109192. MSRP \$9504. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

**2000 CHEVROLET  
SILVERADO 4X4 PICKUP**  
6 cyl. auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs, air, am/fm stereo, airbags, cloth bench seat, B/W A/S radials. 72,552 mi. SIK#40388A. VIN#48109192. MSRP \$11,504. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

**2001 CHEVY  
EXPRESS 12 PASS VAN 4 DR**  
8 cyl. auto, p/str/bkts, air, am/fm stereo, airbags, cloth bench seat, B/W A/S radials. 35,715 mi. SIK#40388A. VIN#48109192. MSRP \$14,504. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

**1999 CHEVROLET  
SUBURBAN LS 4X4 4 DR**  
8 cyl. auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/12 disc cd changer, tilt, cruise, r/def, leather bkts, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 72,552 mi. SIK#40388A. VIN#48109192. MSRP \$17,504. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

**2001 FORD  
EXPEDITION 4 DR**  
8 cyl. auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/12 disc cd changer, tilt, cruise, r/def, leather bkts, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 38,293 mi. SIK#40388A. VIN#48109192. MSRP \$20,504. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

**1999 LEXUS  
GS400 4 DR**  
8 cyl. auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/12 disc cd changer, tilt, cruise, r/def, leather bkts, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 45,100 mi. SIK#40388A. VIN#48109192. MSRP \$21,504. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

**2000 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 bkts, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 69,223 mi. SIK#40388A. VIN#48109192. MSRP \$23,504. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

**2002 CHEVROLET  
AVALANCHE 4X4 Z71 4 DR**  
8 cyl. auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/12 disc cd changer, tilt, cruise, r/def, leather bkts, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 32,382 mi. SIK#40388A. VIN#48109192. MSRP \$27,904. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

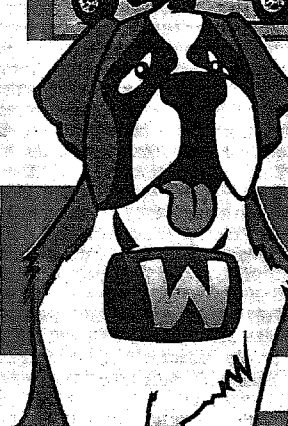
**2001 MERCEDES-BENZ  
ML 430 4X4 4 DR**  
8 cyl. auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/12 disc cd changer, tilt, cruise, r/def, leather bkts, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 41,334 mi. SIK#40388A. VIN#48109192. MSRP \$29,704. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

**2003 DODGE  
DAKOTA SLT QUAD-CAB 4X4 4 DR**  
8 cyl. auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, leather bkts, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 38,293 mi. SIK#40388A. VIN#48109192. MSRP \$23,304. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

**2001 TOYOTA  
SEQUOIA LTD 4X4 4 DR**  
8 cyl. auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/12 disc cd changer, tilt, cruise, r/def, leather bkts, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 45,100 mi. SIK#40388A. VIN#48109192. MSRP \$32,504. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

**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 bkts, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 69,223 mi. SIK#40388A. VIN#48109192. MSRP \$38,904. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

**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 bkts, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. 30,945 mi. SIK#40388A. VIN#48109192. MSRP \$28,704. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.



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