

THE CLARK EAGLE

CLARK, N.J., VOL. 14 NO. 19

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2004

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TWO SECT

Budget cuts are projected

By David Learn
Managing Editor

The Board of Education's budget committee gave the public its first preview of the proposed budget for the 2004-05 school year, and it was not a preview that is likely to be welcomed with much enthusiasm.

A preliminary schools budget is due to Union County Superintendent of Schools Glenn Tillou by mid-February. The preliminary budget does not have to have exact disbursements of money for individual budget items, or even for classes of anticipated expenses. Instead it provides Tillou will a projection for the district's overall budget, which will be fine-tuned before going to voters April 20.

The budget committee is recommending the board keep the district budget within a projected 4 percent cap, the state-set limit on budget increases. In order to do that and not seek voter approval on supplemental budget questions, the board will need to cut \$665,000 from the budget.

The biggest chunk of those cuts would come from personnel, where the budget committee is recommending \$450,000 in cuts. Another \$100,000 would come from sports, followed by \$70,000 in maintenance supplies and \$50,000 from clerical expenses.

The budget, if it were introduced like this, would translate into a 25-cent tax increase for every \$100 of assessed property value. The tax increase would work out to about \$295 for the owner of a home assessed at \$118,000, the township average.

"None of this is written in stone," said Diane Lanigan, who made the presentation on behalf of the budget committee. "In order to submit this to the Union County superintendent, you have to make the cuts somewhere to stay in cap, and this is the only way to stay in cap without cutting programs."

The tentative budget also takes into consideration ongoing contract negotiations with the teachers union, with a projection of what contract settlements would translate in terms of added cost.

It does not, however, include the tax hike residents can expect with the districtwide repair project approved last summer by state Commissioner of Education William Librera. Board members Tuesday night said the cost of that project this year works out to a 12-cent tax increase for every \$100 of assessed value, or \$141.60 for a home assessed at \$118,000.

Nor does it include the anticipated semiannual payments to Garwood and Mountainside school districts as part of the break up of the regional district. An administrative law judge has recommended payments begin in April and continue for the next four years.

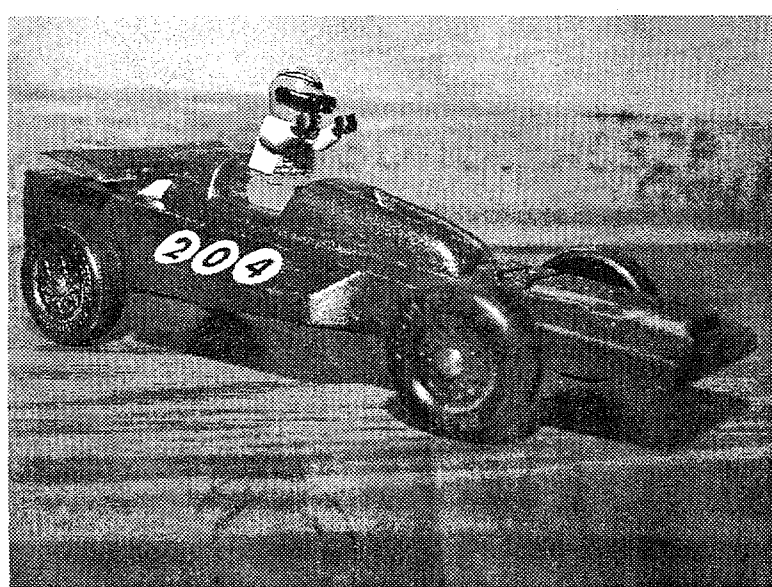
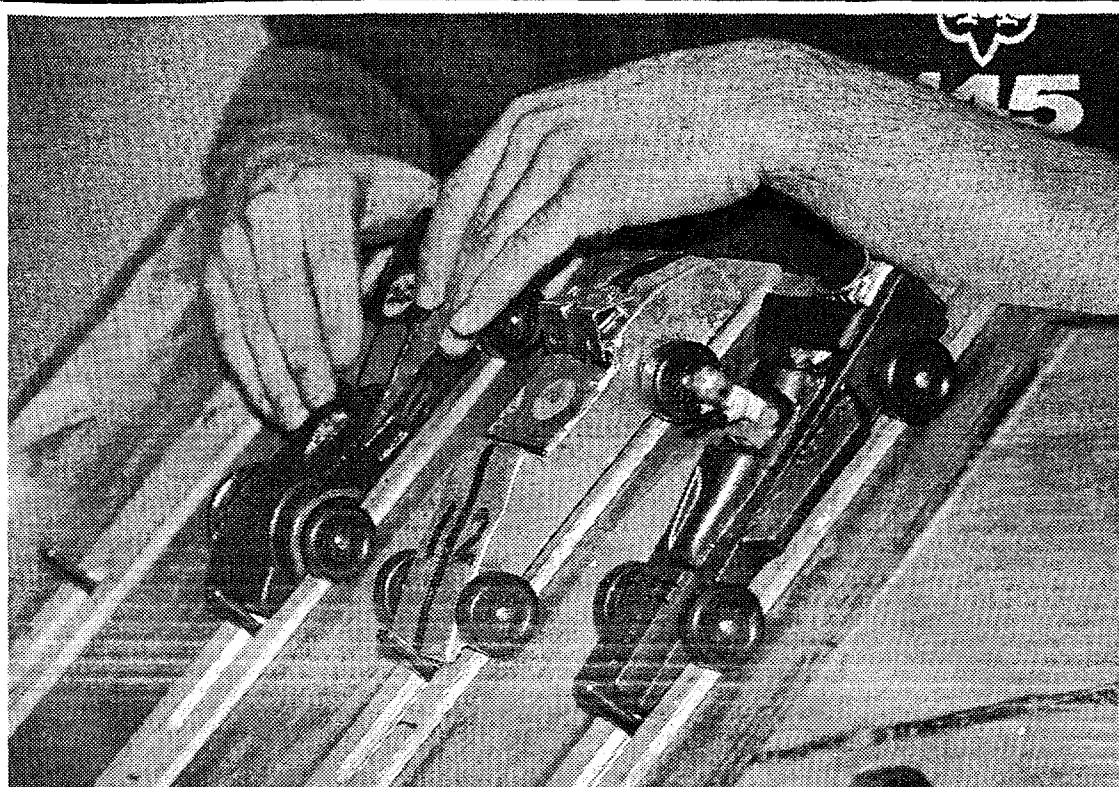
The school district is waiting to see how Librera decides. "You still have to reserve that money now," Superintendent of Schools Paul Ortenzio told board members. "There may be some legislative assistance, but I wouldn't hold my breath."

At the same time that voters decide on the school budget, they also will vote to fill three three-year seats on the nine-member Board of Education. The terms of board members Joe Papetti, Sheila Whiting and Bruce Best all are expiring. Of the three, only Papetti — like the other two, a freshman board member — publicly has stated he will not seek re-election.

Residents interested in running for a seat have until 4 p.m. March 1 to register their candidacy at the Board of Education offices in Arthur L. Johnson High School.

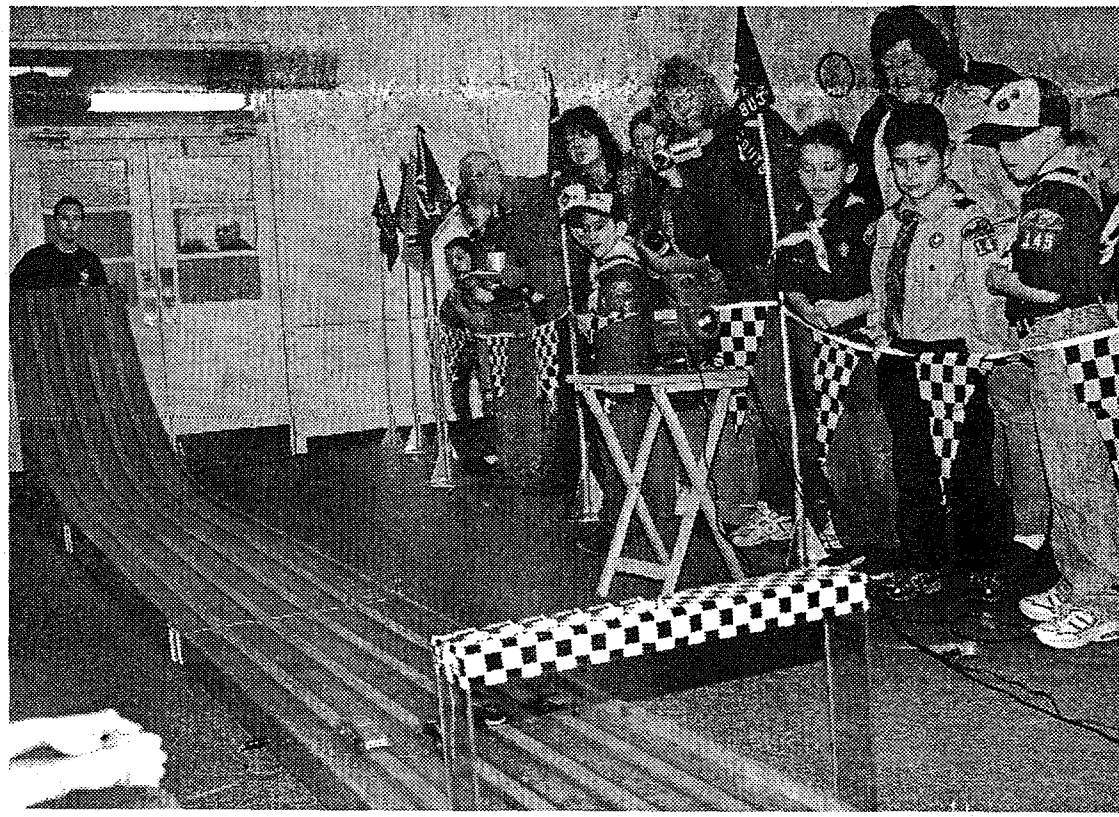
Prospective candidates will be given an information packet with details about legal qualifications for school board candidacy, campaign procedures, and the role of the school board member, published by the Published by the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Information about the New Jersey School Ethics Act, important dates in the school election process, and briefing sessions for school board candidates also are included in the information packet.



AT THE RACE TRACKS — Almost 100 boys from 11 different Cub Scout dens and their families participated in the Clark Cub Scout Pack 145 annual Pinewood Derby races on Saturday. Above, three cars line up at the starting point of the race, moments before they jet into action. Left, Car 204 includes a touch of realism with a Legos driver behind the wheel. Below, the cars roll to a finish as spectators watch.

Photos By
Barbara Kokkalis



'Cruel and neglectful'

Charges filed against couple in grisly situation

By David Learn
Managing Editor

A Clark couple has been charged with child cruelty for allegedly having their teenage foster daughter care for her grandfather even as he lay dead.

Nicola Lombardi's badly decomposed body was found in his bedroom at 10:49 p.m. Aug. 28. His daughter, Donna Keaveney, 36, and son-in-law, Kenneth Keaveney, 37, of 310 Willow Way, have been charged with neglect in connection with his death.

They also have been charged with child cruelty for having their 13-year-old foster daughter take meals to Lombardi, 82, after he had died.

The Keaveneys themselves could not be reached for comment.

"The evidence in this case, the review of the sworn statements and the forensic analysis point to only one conclusion — they both knew the grandfather had passed away and was rotting to the point where the house reeked of death," Union County Prosecutor Theodore Romankow said in a prepared statement Tuesday.

An autopsy performed by the Union County medical examiner on Aug. 29 found no evidence of foul play in Lombardi's death.

The Keaveneys are scheduled to appear in state Superior Court in Elizabeth Wednesday morning before Judge Joan Robinson Gross.

The charges — fourth-degree child cruelty and third-degree elder neglect — potentially could carry jail time in a state prison. They come at the culmination of a five-month investigation by DYFS, the county prosecutor's office and the Clark Police Department.

Foster parents with a clean record from 1998 until their license was revoked last August, the Keaveneys had a total three children living with them at the time of the incident. In addition to the 13-year-old girl charged with taking Lombardi his meals, the Keaveneys had a 4-year-old foster child and an 11-year-old whom they had adopted.

All three children were removed from the home immediately. None has been returned.

"We obviously wouldn't say it's not possible. Usually that's a court decision," said Andy Williams, a DYFS spokesman.

Firm is mullied to mend house

Trenton company favored for Dr. Robinson restoration

By David Learn
Managing Editor

A Trenton architecture firm is the leading candidate for a project to save Clark's oldest building.

Historic Building Architects LLC is expected to receive a \$22,595 contract to plan the restoration of the Dr. William Robinson Plantation House. Built in 1690, the plantation house has been closed since early 2003.

Mike Calafati, principal architect at Historic Building Architects, did not return a phone call seeking comment Tuesday.

The company is expected to be hired at the Feb. 16 Township Council meeting.

A report prepared in 2001 by the late architect Herb Githens claimed the main support beam for the building had deteriorated badly, and projected a cost of \$114,000 to repair the building and bring its electric system up to current safety regulations.

"We know what is wrong, but we need to know what's happened in the last two years since it was diagnosed," said 4th Ward Councilman Brian Toal, who has been following the project closely in his capacity as municipal historian. "They're going to be giving us an update of what's going on in that building, what has to be repaired, and how long it's going to take."

Historic Building Architects has engaged in a number of other restoration projects around the state, including Church of the Presidents in Long Branch, an 1879 church attended over the years by presidents Grant, McKinley and Wilson. The firm completed work there in May.

'We know what is wrong, but we need to know what's happened in the last two years since it was diagnosed.'

— Brian Toal

Toal said he expects the project to take from 10 to 12 months, followed by work on the building's electric system.

Located on Madison Hill Road near the planned Peter J. Esposito Park, the plantation house has gone through a series of ups and downs the last few decades.

It last was restored in the early 1970s, after the township bought it. For the past several years, it has been in the care of the Clark Historical Society.

The plantation house is a regular feature on Union County's annual Four Centuries in a Weekend tour, which involves stops at other historic buildings.

With the house no longer open for visitors, the Clark Historical Society has been holding regularly scheduled open houses outside the Charles H. Brewer Municipal Building to highlight different elements of Clark's history.

The society also is trying to build itself a new membership base in an attempt to reinvigorate itself and boost its prominence in the township.

Heavy snowfalls threaten to cut in to spring break

By David Learn
Managing Editor

Clark students undoubtedly thrilled at waking up a few recent mornings to find the road to school blocked by snow.

But if the snow keeps up, they may find themselves with a rapidly disappearing spring vacation. The Board of Education already has noticed that, and its members are trying to figure out how to handle it.

School already has been canceled for snow twice, in a year without any scheduled snow days. Those days are now scheduled to come out of the district's scheduled spring break, which is built around the Easter holiday.

"The biggest problem we have is people say, 'I planned this vacation and have a ticket,'" said Superintendent of Schools Paul Ortenzio. "We tell people at the beginning of the year, don't do that."

The two days already likely to be shaved off the spring break easily could be joined by other days, leaving students in school all the way until Memorial Day — a long stretch with no break besides weekends to prevent cabin fever from setting in.

That's of special concern since cold weather is expected to continue through the next few weeks, meaning that conditions will remain conducive to snow and more unscheduled snow days.

"The potential is still there for a few more snowstorms this winter," said David Robinson, state climatologist at Rutgers University. "It doesn't

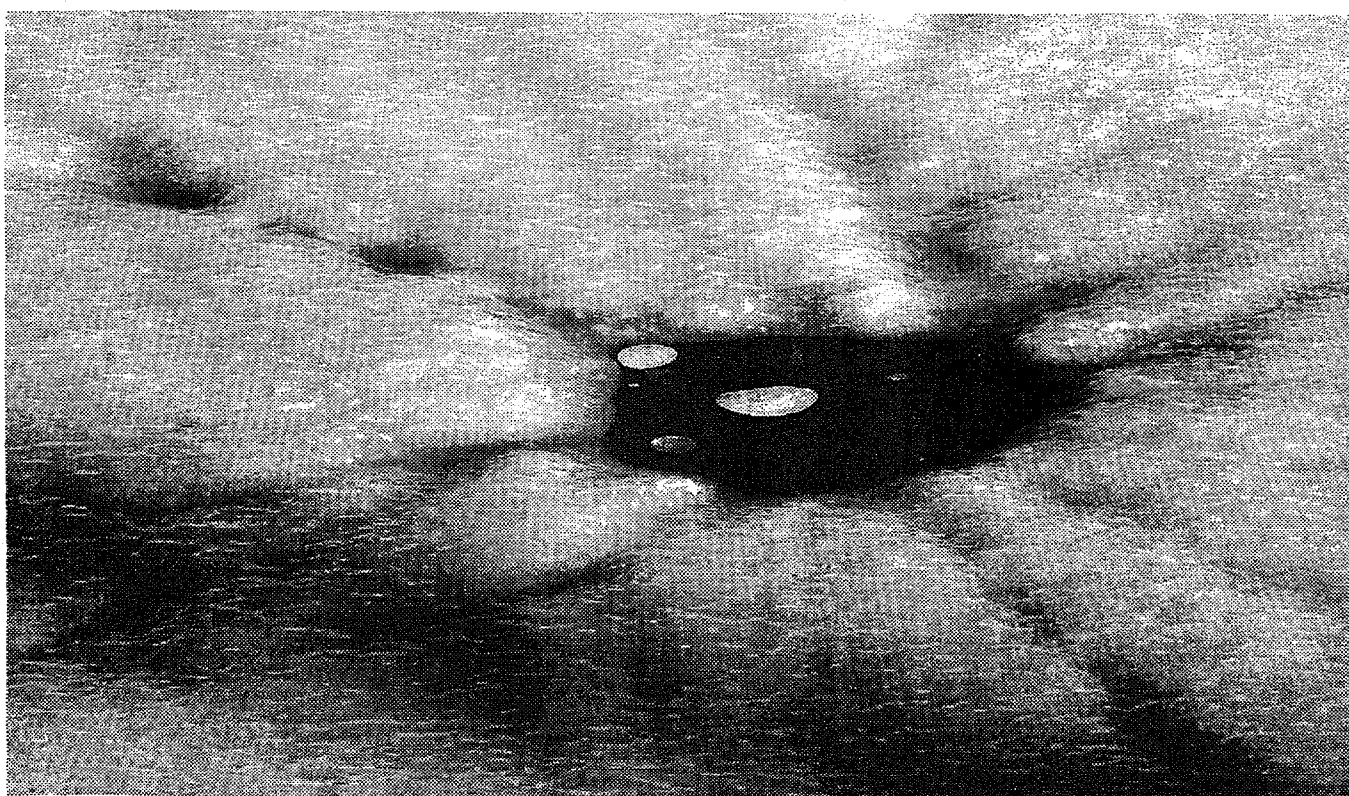


Photo By Reena Rose Sibayan

Ice coats the surface of the reservoir off Raritan Road. Though Mother Nature's etchings can be fetching to behold, if the snow and cold of recent weeks continues, students could find themselves snow day'd clean out of spring break.

feel like we're going to see much in the way of warming."

The district is locked in even more by Project Graduation. An annual rite provided by parents who hope to keep students from celebrating the end of high school with alcohol or drugs, Project Graduation is locked in at June 17.

That, in turn, leaves district offi-

cials feeling obligated to stick to a June 17 graduation, rather than making up for snow days by pushing back high school graduation.

Board member Joseph Papetti suggested the board next year consider not allowing itself to be locked in to a specific graduation date.

"It's a crime to disrupt the whole

district because of Project Graduation," he said.

The Board of Education drafted the school calendar without snow days last spring. Students did get an entire week off in early November owing to a string of in-service days around Election Day, when schools were closed so they could serve as polling places.

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Police arrest two men in shoplifting attempts

Adam Schwartzman, 28, of 7 Church St., Edison, was charged with shoplifting at ShopRite, at 12:38 p.m. Jan. 26.

A second man, 46-year-old John Checchio of 401 Aracia Road, Scotch Plains, also was charged with shoplifting at ShopRite, at 9:27 a.m. Sunday.

Police did not list the items Schwartzman allegedly tried to steal.

A 25-year-old construction worker from 437 William St., Bound Brook, was arrested at 2:46 p.m. Monday on an outstanding warrant for \$800 in outstanding motor-vehicle fines.

The worker, identified as Gurdeep Singh, was handed over to the Union County Sheriff's Department.

Allen Bethea Jr., 55, of 25 Tremont St., Irvington, was arrested at 12:27 p.m. Jan. 27 on an outstanding contempt-of-court warrant from Orange.

Betha, whom police stopped on the Garden State Parkway and also

POLICE BLOTTER

charged with other, unlisted violations, was released after posting bail. His car was impounded.

Someone reported receiving a fraudulent check at American Legion Post 328 on Westfield Avenue, at 4:08 p.m. Jan. 27.

No other information was available.

A Tudor Drive resident reported being the victim of identity theft, at 6:56 p.m. Jan. 28.

No other information was released.

Police are investigating a vandalism incident at a Harrison Street residence, reported at 8:59 a.m. Friday.

A hit-and-run that happened at 6:35 p.m. Nov. 30 is under investigation.

The motor-vehicle accident took place at Madison Hill and Winthrop roads. No other information was available.

Mayor holds fund-raiser

Mayor Sal Bonaccorso kicked off his re-election campaign on Jan. 29, in front of 148 supporters and well-wishers at Aliperti's Restaurant on Raritan Road.

Introducing the mayor, Clark Republican Chairman John Desimore described the past three years in Clark as the most progressive three years that he had witnessed in his more than 30 years in politics.

All seven Republican council representatives had joined the mayor at the podium.

The ward councilmen — Pete Nev-ergic, Frank Mazzarella, Brian Toal and Rob Bothe — served as co-chairmen for the event. This was the mayor's first fund-raiser of the year.

Although his running mates did not announce with the mayor, Council

President Al Barr and At large council members Angel Albanese and Jim Ulrich were at the mayor's side. The three ran with him for office in 2000.

Calling himself proud to be mayor, Bonaccorso joked about senior members of his administration, as he believes "that snow are years of wisdom." Bonaccorso also touched on many of the accomplishments of his tenure.

Also joining Bonaccorso were his wife, Geraldine, who is expecting their third child; his parents, Joe and Ann; and other family members.

The mayor thanked all for their support and kind words and promised to run an issues-oriented campaign, leaving personal attacks and political games behind.

The 2004 election is Nov. 2.

STUDENT UPDATE

Nicholas White to pursue biomechanics doctorate

Nicholas A. White graduated magna cum laude in December 2003 from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y.

He received bachelor's degrees in biomedical engineering and in mechanical engineering. White, a 1999 graduate of Arthur L. Johnson High School, plans to pursue a doctorate in injury biomechanics this fall.

He is the son of Barbara and John White of Clark.



Nicholas White

Carrick on dean's list

Lindsey A. Carrick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne F. Carrick of Clark has earned dean's list honors for the fall semester in the School of Health Sciences at Quinnipiac University located in Hamden, Conn.

Carrick is a candidate for her bachelor's degree during May commencement.

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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, 07083.

Today

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

Principal Robert Taylor and Vice Principal Patricia Qualshie will speak on middle states accreditation at the meeting.

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

Friday

Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will hold its first meeting of the Teen Advisory Group at 3:15 p.m. The group will include youths 11 and older interested in acting as artists, book reviewers, CD reviewers and movie reviewers for the library.

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

Skulski Art Gallery of the Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway, will hold an opening reception from 8 to 11 p.m. to present the work of young artists from Ivan Bratko's Art School. The exhibit will be open through Feb. 27.

The public will see paintings, drawing, sculpture and ceramic works of the advanced students and beginners and can meet the young artists. Admission is free. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Aleksandra K. Nowak at 732-382-7197.

Mother Seton Regional High School will sponsor a gift auction in the evening. General admission costs \$7. Advanced sale tickets cost \$5 and can be purchased at the school office from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays.

Saturday

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.

Sunday

The Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee will sponsor a grand marshal investiture Mass at St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church, Madison Hill Road, at 2 p.m., honoring Grand Marshal Matthew P. Glackin.

A reception will immediately follow in the auditorium with music by the "Round the House" band. Admission to the reception costs \$25. Tickets are limited.

Monday

Project Graduation will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of Arthur L. Johnson High School, 365 Westfield Ave.

The meeting is open to all parents of high school sen-

iors. Project Graduation plans safe graduation celebrations that do not involve alcohol or drugs.

For more information, call Marianne Serratelli at 732-381-6731.

Advocates for a Better Clark will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 16 of the Charles H. Brewer Municipal Building, 450 Westfield Ave.

The meeting will include a community update on various school issues, including the superintendent search, and will rally residents and gain volunteer support for the upcoming school board election.

For more information, call Laura Caliguire at 732-827-0584 or Jill Curran at 732-574-3278.

The Clark Democratic Club will hold its monthly meeting at 8 p.m. in the downstairs room of Molly Maguire's, 1085 Central Ave.

Everyone interested in helping to plan the fall campaign is invited to attend. Issues and selection of candidates will be discussed.

For more information call Democratic Chairwoman Nancy Sheridan at 732-382-6884, Vice Chairwoman Rose Tomchak at 732-388-1022 or Vice Chairman John Lukac at 732-382-5690.

Tuesday

The Board of Education will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Arthur L. Johnson High School library, 365 Westfield Ave.

Wednesday

The Friends of Clark Public Library will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment will meet from 8 to 11 p.m. in Room 16 of the Charles H. Brewer Municipal Building, 430 Westfield Ave.

Upcoming

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. 17

The Township Council will meet at 8 p.m. in the municipal courtroom, 315 Westfield Ave.

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.

This program includes nursery rhymes, songs, stories and movement activities. No registration is required.

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

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program sponsored by Community Access Unlimited will again offer free tax assistance for Union County citizens who earn less than \$34,000 per year, are disabled or elderly.

The free tax assistance will be offered from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays, from Feb. 1 to April 15 at Clark Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 1213 Westfield Ave. Call 732-396-7100 for an appointment.

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Seniors keep fighting to keep out the chill

By Josh Saltzman
Staff Writer

She isn't poor by most people's standards, but like many Cranford seniors, she's had to cut back this winter.

"We're all in the same situation," said the Cranford senior, who asked that her name be withheld. "We're keeping the thermostats down and kind of closing part of the house, and not running the dryer, not keeping the lights on as often," she said.

An unseasonably cold winter has brought more than nuisance and discomfort to some residents. For some, especially seniors and the poor, the cold also has brought financial burden.

An 11 percent rate hike in gas heating costs, coupled with the increase in gas use due to the cold, has meant that some residents, particularly the elderly and poor, have found heating bills more difficult to deal with.

The senior said that the cold brings

hidden costs. It not only takes more gas to heat a house in this weather, but seniors also stay home more due to the cold.

She also said that the winter brought added health concerns, which could increase doctor and prescription bills.

"The weather doesn't add to one's health," she said.

She added that she uses a budgeting plan offered by the gas utility to help spread the cost over the course of the year. The plan allows users to pay a fixed amount per month — significantly lower than typical winter costs, but significantly higher than typical summer costs — which is then adjusted for gas usage at the end of each year.

"That we know you've got to pay," she said.

Kathleen Willis, director of Cranford Family Care, a nonprofit organi-

zation that helps Cranford residents with basic needs like food, clothing, and utility bills, said the problem is a looming one for her organization this winter.

"I have had a couple people coming in with shut-offs," Willis said.

Willis said that, while her organization has been able to help those few residents faced with gas shut-off so far, she expects many more requests for help to come in at the end of March.

Utilities like Elizabethtown Gas Co. allow elderly people and people with illnesses to submit letters from their doctors protecting them from having their heat shut off.

That moratorium lasts from November through March. Once it's over, the customer is responsible for all unpaid costs.

"If you haven't paid your gas in a couple of months you're going to have

a nice big whopping bill by the end of March," Willis said.

Even seniors who generally are stable financially, but live on fixed incomes, have difficulties with the bills.

Seema Singh, the New Jersey ratepayer advocate, said the gas prices had risen for a variety of reasons.

Natural gas production in the United States has been lower than usual due to depletion. More natural gas also is being used for electricity generation. And a bitterly cold winter in 2003 led to higher-than-average consumption, leaving less for this year.

"Because of all these factors there is a shortage of natural gas," Singh said.

Elizabethtown Gas had the legal opportunity to raise its prices by significantly more than the 11 percent increase it did, but did not take advantage of that opportunity.



Bernadette and Mark Baron

Matten and Baron marry

The Cranford gazebo at Mayors Park became a focal point in the November wedding of Bernadette Matten and Mark Baron.

The groom had proposed to his bride in a gazebo and the couple wanted to remember by using the gazebo as a wedding theme.

The two were married at First Presbyterian Church on Nov. 2, 2003. Bridesmaids were Michele Matten, Danielle Baron, and Kathleen Campbell. Grooms-men were Ian Matten, Gary Matten, and Ian August. Maid of honor was Lisa VanLuvane and the best man was William Wiest.

The couple spent their honeymoon in Puerto Rico and Antigua, and they now reside in Middlesex County.

The bride is an employee of Schering-Plough in Kenilworth as well as a dancer and dance instructor. She teaches at Yvette Dance Studio in Cranford and at Montclair State University.

The groom is musical director for the Duprees and is resident musical director at Plays-in-the-Park, Edison. He is the composer for "Frankenstein: The Musical," being produced by Curio Productions.

CLUBS IN THE NEWS

Swim club preparing 50th anniversary party

Over the years, quite a number of Cranford area families have spent summers enjoying the privacy, camaraderie and well-kept facilities of the Cranford Swimming Club.

Founded in 1954, the club is entering its 51st year and is planning to celebrate its 50th anniversary in September 2004. The site for the festivities has not yet been chosen.

While the club is relatively small, it boasts one large pool, a fenced baby pool, shuffleboard, volleyball, a half basketball court, three tennis courts, picnic area and a lighted paddle tennis court. The centerpiece of the season is the Union County Outdoor Swim League, attended by more than 100 Cranford children.

Many current members of the Cranford Swimming Club recall having never heard about or seen the facility until a friend or neighbor introduced them. The club is tucked away at the end of County Park Drive, off Kenilworth Boulevard.

Past members interested in attending the 50th anniversary celebration, and anyone interested in membership, should visit www.cranfordswimclub.com or contact Karen Hamilton, membership chairwoman, at 908-276-7151.

Mars ongoings subject of upcoming lecture

Al Witzgall, a past president of Amateur Astronomers Inc., will give a lecture before the Cranford club at 8:30 p.m. Friday on "What's Happening on Mars?"

Witzgall, chairman of the club's

Instrument Qualification Committee, will discuss the Mars rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, their quest for life on the red planet, and some of the challenges associated with this ambitious NASA project.

The free lecture will be held at the William Miller Sperry Observatory, Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave.

If weather permits, a celestial viewing using the club's two large telescopes will focusing on Mars, which will be low in the western sky, and on Saturn, which will be high in the southern sky.

For directions and more information on Amateur Astronomers Inc., visit www.asterism.org or call 908-276-STAR.

Wed. Morning Club to see 'Smokey Joe's Cafe'

The Wednesday Morning Club, a woman's study group, has scheduled the following department meetings:

- The Drama/Music department will meet at the Cranford Dramatic Club at 7:30 p.m. today to see the dress rehearsal of "Smokey Joe's Cafe."

- The public affairs department will hear Frank D'Antonio speak about the Cranford Community Center at the home of Fran Huckel at 1 p.m. Feb. 10.

- The literature department will meet at the home of Ludo Spokoyny at 1 p.m. Feb. 12 to hear her speak about "Stephen Wolf" by Herman Hesse and "A German Translation" by Thomas Mann.

New members are welcome. For more information, call Marie Mastorakis at 908-272-6243.

AT THE LIBRARY

New DVDs purchased for movie collections

The Cranford Public Library audiovisual collection received a significant boost recently from The Friends the Cranford Public Library, which funded the purchase of 39 feature-length films on DVD for the children's collection, as well as 48 films on DVD for the main collection.

Children's titles include "Beauty and the Beast," "Hey Arnold!," "Jungle Book 2," "Pete's Dragon," "Sleeping Beauty" and "Finding Nemo."

Additions to the main collection include "The English Patient," "Gandhi," "Out of Africa," "Patton," "Gentleman's Agreement," and "Silence of the Lambs."

All these titles, plus more than 1,400 other films on DVD and video in the library collection, circulate free for seven days.

The library catalog can be accessed online at www.cranford.com/library.

It's all about The Beatles in upcoming presentation

Guest lecturer Vincent Bruno will speak about The Beatles in a free lecture at Cranford Public Library, 224 Walnut Ave.

The program will be held at 7:30 p.m. today in the multi-media room. Admission is free.

Bruno is a record collector and rock historian whose major concentration is on The Beatles and the 1960s.

A teacher on the university level, Bruno recently has developed a Beatles lecture series called "From Liverpool to Abbey Road" and has lectured extensively at public libraries and colleges throughout the metropolitan area.

Preschool storytimes scheduled for spring

Cranford Public Library has announced its spring schedule of preschool story hours. The sessions will run through April 1. These programs are for Cranford residents and holders of paid Cranford out-of-town library cards.

The session for 3-year-olds will be held Tuesday mornings, beginning at 10:15 a.m. Tuesday and continuing through March 30. Children attending must have had their third birthday before the first meeting.

The sessions for 4-year-olds will be held Wednesdays, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday through March 31. Children who attend must have had their fourth birthday before the first

scheduled session and not yet be in kindergarten.

There will be an additional drop-in session for 3-, 4- and pre-kindergarten 5-year-olds on Tuesday afternoons, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday and ending March 30. This session is for children who cannot attend the other sessions; no pre-registration is required.

There will be four sessions for 2-year-olds and their accompanying adults of four weeks each session, to be held at 10:15 a.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. The first sessions will be held from Wednesday and Feb. 12 through March 3 and 4. The second sessions will be held from March 10 and 11 through March 31 and April 1. Pre-registration is required for these programs.

Registration for any group must be made in person by a parent at the library. Registration is limited to a minimum 12 in any group, a maximum of 15 3-year-olds and 20 4-year-olds for each group.

An adult responsible for the child must remain in the library during story hour. An adult must accompany each 2-year-old in story hour.

Board of Trustees holds meeting for planning

The long range planning committee of the Cranford Public Library Board of Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. Feb. 19 in the director's office of Cranford Public Library, 224 Walnut Ave.

No formal action will be taken at this meeting.

Buy postage stamps while borrowing books

Cranford Public Library is now selling postage stamps.

Standard 37-cent stamps are available at the main desk in booklets of twenty for \$7.40. Payment must be in cash.

The library is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Friends group desires donations for book sale

The Friends of Cranford Public Library will hold a used book sale Feb. 27 and Feb. 28.

The group is asking for donations of hardcover books, both fiction and nonfiction, in good condition, including children's books.

Also wanted are audiotapes of books, videos and compact discs. Donations can be brought to the circula-

tion desk on the main floor of the library during library hours. Donations will be accepted through Feb. 25.

The book sale will run from 10:15 a.m. to noon Feb. 27 for members of the Friends group only, with a general sale from noon to 4:45 p.m. Feb. 27 and Feb. 28.

For more information, call 908-709-7272.

Readers hit the books together in special forum

The Reader's Forum, the book discussion group of Cranford Public Library, is in its 11th year of reading and discussing literature.

Remaining titles and dates for the 2003-04 reading year are:

- "Disobedience" by Jane Hamilton, Feb. 9.
- "White Teeth" by Zadie Smith, March 8.
- "The Magician's Assistant" by Ann Patchett, April 12.
- "The Family Orchard" by Naomi Eve, May 10.

The forum has been led since its inception by librarian Muriel Baumwoll and still boasts a number of original members. New members are welcome at any time.

Sessions start at 7 p.m. and are held in the library's Robert J. Fridlington Room.

For more information, call the library at 908-709-7272 or e-mail the library at library@cranfordnj.org.

Raise money by donating used inkjet cartridges

Cranford Public Library, 224 Walnut Ave., is participating in a program that offers cash for empty inkjet printer cartridges.

Dropping used ink cartridges off at the library, rather than throwing them in the trash, will raise money to supplement the library's book budget.

Cartridges must be in boxes, so library officials recommend putting the used cartridge into the box for the new cartridge.

Cartridges can be dropped off at the main desk of the library.

The program does not include laser printer cartridges.

Yearbooks wanted

Cranford Public Library, 224 Walnut Ave., is seeking Cranford High School yearbooks for 1933 and any years prior to 1933, 1935 through 1937, 1939 through 1948, 1958 through 1956, 1958 and 1959.

To donate a yearbook, call Ben Stanley, Fran Houston or John Malar

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

TAKE NOTICE that on the 26th day of January, 2004, the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union took the following actions:

1. Application #29-03: Granted a variance to Randhir and Bharti Chauhan to permit a conditional residential use and alterations to an existing one-story dwelling including the construction of a new two-story apartment with less than the required parking spaces and to exceed the maximum height for the principal structure in a B-3 zone on Centennial Avenue, Block 517, Lot 12 as designated on the Township Tax Map, also known as 226 Centennial Avenue in the B-3 Zone.

2. Application #30-03: Granted a variance to Robert and Colleen Vetter to permit construction of a side addition with less than the minimum combined side yard setbacks on Yale Terrace, Block 124, Lot 5 as designated on the Township Tax Map, also known as 17 Yale Terrace in the R-3 Zone.

3. Application #32-03: Granted a variance with conditions to Paul and Sandra Jaouen to permit construction of a replacement garage with a screened gazebo which exceeds the maximum height permitted for an accessory structure on Retford Avenue, Block 486, Lot 31 as designated by the Township Tax Map, also known as 20 Retford Avenue in the R-4 Zone.

Barbara Ginsberg
Secretary

U1580 CCE Feb. 5, 2004 (\$16.88)

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-91

WHEREAS, the Director of Finance has certified to the availability of funds which is on file in the office of the Township Clerk; and

WHEREAS, at a meeting held October 7, 2003, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford adopted Resolution No. 2003-312, authorizing an amendment to an agreement with RT Environmental Services, Inc., in connection with the remediation of property located at 2 South Avenue West (Cranford Crossing Redevelopment Project); and

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Township Committee that additional professional services are required concerning additional ground water remedial actions/update letter report for said property; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A.40A:11-1 et. seq.) requires that notice with respect to contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids must be publicly advertised.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, New Jersey as follows:

1. The Contract with RT Environmental Services, Inc., Suite 306, Pureland Complex, 551 Heron Drive, Bridgeport, NJ 08014, dated June 27, 2003 is hereby amended as follows:

2. RT Environmental Services, Inc. shall receive fees not to exceed \$5,055.00;

3. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Services" under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because the professional services contemplated are of such a nature that they do not lend itself to competitive bidding; and

4. A copy of this resolution shall be published as required as required by law within twenty (20) days of its adoption.

Certified to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held January 27, 2004.

Rosalie Hellenbrecht, RMC
Township Clerk

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-92

WHEREAS, the Director of Finance has certified to the availability of funds which is on file in the office of the Township Clerk; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that there exists a need to engage an expert for the remaining engineering services in connection with the Orchard Street Brook Project, including redesign, permitting, construction management and construction stake out; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts

PUBLIC NOTICE

that a resolution of the governing body authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids must be publicly advertised.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, New Jersey as follows:

1. The Mayor and Township Clerk of the Township of Cranford be, and hereby are, authorized and directed to execute an agreement with Concept Engineering Consultants, 116 North Broadway, P.O. Box 726, South Amboy, New Jersey for said services.

2. Concept Engineering Consultants shall receive fees not to exceed \$22,000.00;

3. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Services" under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because the professional services contemplated are of such a nature that they do not lend itself to competitive bidding; and

4. A copy of this resolution shall be published as required as required by law within twenty (20) days of its adoption.

Certified to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held January 27, 2004.

Rosalie Hellenbrecht
Township Clerk

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-93

WHEREAS, the Director of Finance has certified to the availability of funds which is on file in the office of the Township Clerk; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that there exists a need to engage an expert for the remaining engineering services in connection with the Orchard Street Brook Project, including redesign, permitting, construction management and construction stake out; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts

Barbara Ginsberg
Secretary

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-94

WHEREAS, the Director of Finance has certified to the availability of funds which is on file in the office of the Township Clerk; and

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EDUCATION

Final exams should be for all

Some people think that students with an A- average or better should not have to take a final test. This vexes me, and I think that all students should have to take a final examination regardless of their average.

First of all, nothing makes them different from other students. Every other student has to take a final test. Why shouldn't they be treated equally? It's unfair to exclude some students and not everyone. It could make other students feel as if they aren't as smart as the ones who didn't have to take the test. If some students are excused then others might complain. I know I wouldn't want to take a test if not everyone had to take it.

If A- or better students don't have to take a final test, how would teachers know what they learned? They may have forgotten things or not even know things. A final test would be a good review. If a test wasn't taken things could be forgotten more easily.

All students should have to take a final test regardless of their average. I don't know why some students would be exempt from a final test. While other students are doing all this grueling studying, others don't have to. Everyone should be treated equally. I'm intolerant of this; you should be too. What gives them special privileges?

— Adam Anstatt

GEPA weighted too much

This year, as in every other, all of the eighth-grade students will be taking the GEPA tests, and the high school students will be taking the SATs. The students have been preparing for these tests for a long time. For eighth-graders, this means learning all about the tests and practicing. Although everyone wants to do well, are the standardized tests that important?

Since the beginning of the year, we have been writing essays and answering open-ended math problems. But some kids will not do well on the test not because they are smart, but because they are not good at taking tests. These kinds of people do poorly on tests in general. For these kids, it seems like the end of the world if they score poorly on such important tests. If we got rid of so much pressure to do well, it would alleviate a lot of stress from them.

Some students may be better in subjects that are not on the test. For example they could be a talented artist, great singer, or hard worker. These kinds of talent can't be graded on a rubric like the tests are because they are different for every person. Not even someone who is a hard worker will show that talent on the tests because the test are on what we've learned over the years and you can't study for them.

Another example of the way the tests miss the intelligence of certain people is the timed writing on the GEPAs. Like me, many others take a lot of time to develop their thoughts to come up with a final product that is worth the effort. These people's writing skills can't be shown in a confined situation like this, so this method of testing isn't efficient for testing the writing skills of all the students.

Too much emphasis is put on standardized tests rather than simply learning these subject or other skills for life. The tests may be standardized, but the people are not; some people's intelligence can't be graded. You want to do well at whatever you do, but doing poorly on this test is not the end of the world, as it sometimes seems.

— Michele Ellenbacher

Use the death penalty more

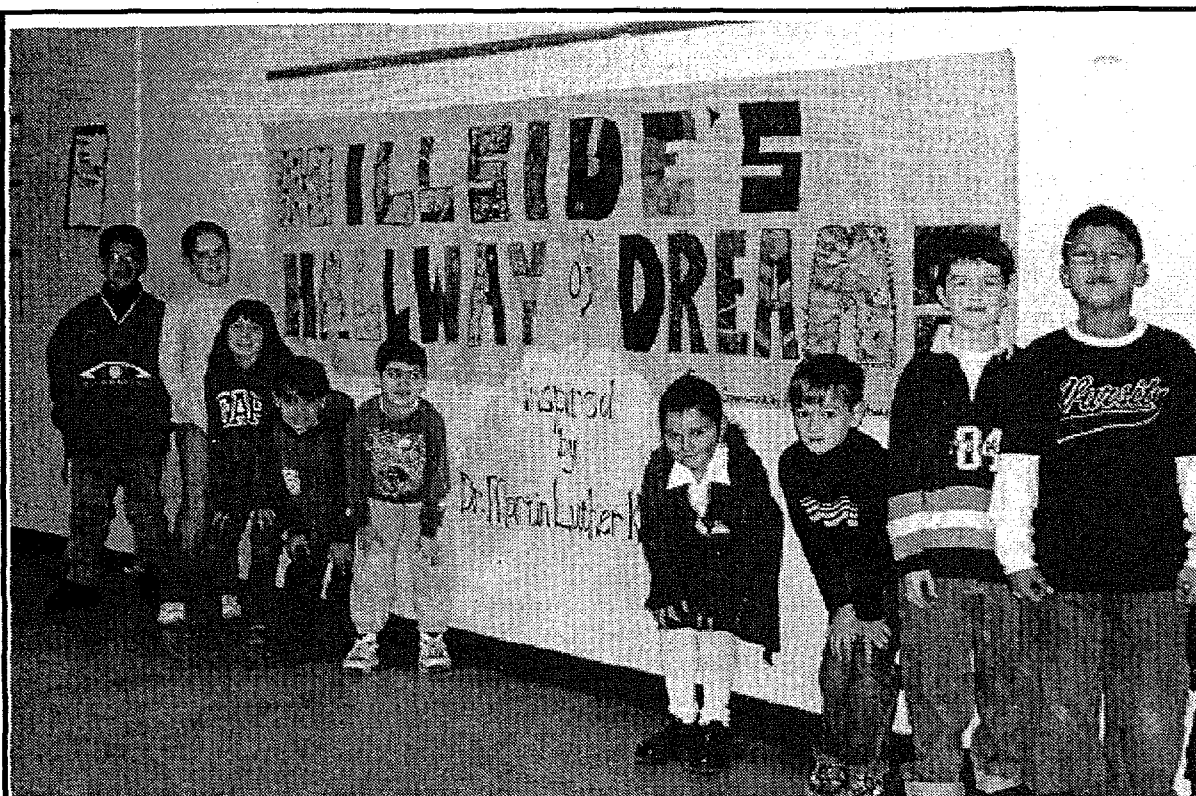
All over the world, but especially in the United States, there are many illegal things going on. Some of these things are murders, robberies and rapes. Most of the time these kinds of things are noticed and something is done about it. I think these people should get the death sentence. Sometimes it takes a couple of weeks, months, or years; and sometimes they never get caught. The person or persons get dealt with and everything is usually okay afterward. Even though most things get caught not all things get noticed. Some things like smuggling, putting someone on your payroll, and drug dealing are not noticed right away.

There was this one case in a small suburban town where this one guy would get the drugs directly from South America and then sell them to street sellers around the county. These drugs get smuggled in unnoticed, or if they are noticed no one can be arrested since no connections between anyone was made. When connections finally are made, it takes authorities a while to get a warrant and catch them (the drugs and the seller) together.

I think people who do crimes this big should get punished hugely. They should be given the death penalty. Even though these punishments may be absurd, the person was putting other peoples' lives in danger and they knew they were doing something wrong, since they snuck the drugs in illegally without anyone knowing that they did it. It was very irresponsible of them and many people could have been very seriously hurt or even killed.

By giving people the death penalty it will alleviate the amount of major crimes. If these people were punished badly, there would be a decrease in the amount of major crimes or none at all. Some of those punishments could be something like life in prison, or if the crime was bad enough they should possibly be given the death sentence.

— Matthew Trapani



Students at Hillside Avenue School line a hallway adorned with their "I Have a Dream" essays, written in connection with Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Hillside students have a dream

Hillside Avenue's Elementary Student Council sponsored an activity to help remember, celebrate and honor Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and work.

Representatives from the elementary student council visited classrooms and presented a minilesson on Martin Luther King Jr.'s memorable speech "I Have a Dream."

Representatives then asked students to write about their dreams, whether they were about themselves, the nation or the world.

Students' essays were displayed throughout the hallways for fellow classmates and administration to read. Students also were selected to read and share their essays over the loudspeaker to the student body.

Allison Conroy, the student council co-adviser, noticed that a common theme among the essays focused on world peace.

"There were also many essays that focused on other things as well, such as becoming a town mayor, wishing cigarettes were destroyed, and one student's hope for their sibling's recovery from arthritis," Conroy said. "The essays were very altruistic, something that I am sure Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would be very proud of."

The students selected to share and read their "I Have a Dream" essays to the student body were Kelsie Kreitz and Raquel Farmer, fifth grade; Anthony DaSilva and Mary Kate Mueller, fourth grade; James Budries and Andrew Trejo, third grade; Katie Rediger and Jimmy Sweeney, second grade; Jason Cabrita and Joseph Wilson, first grade; Dylan Grady and Khaleem Rajahn, kindergarten.

These essays were selected to be read to the student body over the loudspeaker.

"My dream is for the world to be safe."

— Dylan Grady
morning kindergarten

"My dream is for all people to get along."

— Khaleem Rajahn
afternoon kindergarten
"My dream is for everyone to be friends!"

— Jason Cabrita
first grade

"I have a dream that when I grow up I'll be mayor so I can help people."

— Joseph Wilson
first grade

"I have a dream and it would be to be a teacher. I want to be a teacher. I do not want anyone to cheat. I do not want anyone to fight because it would help kids to learn things! If I was a teacher right now I would like it!"

— Katie Rediger
second grade

"My dream is that everyone treats everyone else as they want to be treated. I do not want anyone to cheat. I do not want anyone to fight either. I also do not want anyone to be treated better or worse than others. Everyone should be treated equally!"

— Jimmy Sweeney
second grade

"I have a dream that one day people will not hate. I have a dream that people would not kill and that we put aside our differences and start to talk to fix our problems instead of fighting. I have a dream that one day there will be peace in the world."

— Andrew Trejo
third grade

"I have a dream that the United States would have no cigarettes or cigars. I dreamed that because it is bad for you. They hurt your lungs, causing breathing problems. Also once you start there is no finish line. Smoking could kill you. That's what my dream is."

— James Budries
third grade

"My first dream is that there is peace on Earth. I don't want any more fighting. Also I think that fighting kills more people. Why can't we be like Martin Luther King Jr. and fight with words not with our fists?"

"I also have another dream that when I grow up I can become a professional baseball, football, or basketball player. Maybe I even might become a Marine."

— Anthony DaSilva
fourth grade

"I have a dream that my sister's arthritis will go away. I dream this because my sister has to go through lots of pain ever since she was born. 'Also I dream this because sometimes her arthritis stops my sister from doing some fun activities. I dream this because I do not want her to go through pain anymore."

"If my dream does come true, it would be the happiest thing that ever happened to my sister, my family and myself. That is my dream."

— Mary Kate Mueller
fourth grade

"Some days I dream that the hungry and homeless will be fed; cigarettes will be destroyed and doctors will find a cure for cancer and AIDS."

"Some days I dream that hate, greed and envy will be cured by love and anger be cured by laughter. I wish that all our problems would float away and bullying will stop and turn into play. I wish that the homeless would find a home and animals too!"

"I wish that alcohol be destroyed that the world be free of evil. Even though this is just a dream it might come true if you believe."

— Raquel Farmer
fifth grade

"I have a dream that one day there will be no more wars and everyone will be happy, kind and peaceful. The world would be a nice and loving place where people would be grateful that they are alive."

"I have a dream that one day people will judge people from all over the world as their friends not their enemies. All countries would try to be friends with one another."

— Kelsie Kreitz
fifth grade

No time for students to eat

I think that all middle school students should have a longer lunch period. At Hillside Avenue School students have 43-minute classes, and we only a 23-minute lunch period. If we took one minute off each of our classes we would have a 34-minute lunch period. That is not fair time. Kids don't have enough time to eat anymore.

If our lunch period was expanded we would have more time to socialize with our friends. We would have more time to socialize with our friends. We would be able to see what we are doing in our classes.

I have a personal experience of being late for lunch. Sometimes, our fourth-period teacher lets us out late and I have hardly anytime to eat. When our class doesn't finish our work before the period is over, she makes us stay after.

My last reason is I never get enough time to finish my whole lunch. I can only finish my sandwich and maybe half of my snack. If we had more time we could infuse ourselves with food. Plus we can only buy snack with 10 minutes left in the lunch period.

If you take my advice the students would have the luxury of taking their time when they eat and enjoying it. The students would have more fun at lunch. I hope you can take this suggestion.

— Chris Pilger

Downtown is in decline

What had happened to downtown Cranford? The whole town is going from shops to cafes. Does anybody remember when the town sidewalk sale would infuse the sidewalks and the streets? Streets would be closed and the whole town would come out and shop. You don't see any of those sidewalk sales in Cranford anymore. Now the town sidewalk sale hardly takes up the sidewalk. Our town is boring.

In less than a year Cranford has closed more shops than I have ever seen close in my whole life. The Cranford Guitar Center in Cranford closed and is now in Garwood. Dave's Wide Shoes closed down also. Other stores are also closing down just leaving more empty stores for people to rent out. In Cranford there are already five pizza parlors and another one is going to open up. Like we need anymore of any kind of restaurant or cafes. Cranford already has more than enough.

Along with all the shops closing and sometimes opening in Cranford, what happened to the used to be the Cranford Sports Shop? In less than a year the building has been three different stores. It started out as the Cranford Sports Shop for many years. Last year it closed down and a few months later the Romanza Cafe opened up. It only lasted for a few months because it would soon close down. Now that building is the store Kodi Accessories. That shows that Cranford is not a good place to open up a new business. I wonder how long it will take before Cranford has no more shops.

With many stores closing and cafes or restaurants opening, Cranford is losing a lot of its business from teenagers and children. I know that Cranford does not revolve around kids but it needs a few more places for kids to go than the community center or hang out in the center of town. Many kids trek to Westfield to go places like shop or go to movies. Cranford does show movies but does not have the greatest selection for kids and adults to watch. All the big hit movies are being shown at Westfield making all the kids here go there. I am one of the many kids who are intolerant of what is happening to our town and want it to be fixed as soon as possible.

— Raymond A. Felipe

Sports need more support

Do you wonder where the taxes you pay go? Well, they go to a lot of things for the town and school and I respect that, but they should go to a lot of other things for school. I think some of the money our parents pay should go to school activities and school sports.

The school sports and activities have poor materials and uniforms. The things we have and even the fields are in very bad shape and affect the way we play and the way we have to use the material. I play field hockey and softball and both fields have many dogged-up holes and mounds that affect our playing. The ball bounces up, gets stuck in holes, and when it rains we can't play even a few days after the rain stopped. The field hockey field is very dangerous! People have fallen, sprained arms and ankles; even a referee has fallen because she tripped from a hole that slumped.

The materials and uniforms are smelly and old. The apparatus we have for gym and sports should be replaced with new ones. They affect the way we play because we have to be careful with most of the equipment. They are falling apart, and then they become of no use and no one replaces them. This is not just for sports; the gym has the same problem with equipment. The school is putting a rock-climbing wall in the gym; we don't need even need it. They should replace the old stuff and then put in new things.

I'm sure I am not the only person who brought this subject up before in the past. It's not fair to the kids that want to or are involved in sports and hate it because of the materials and uniforms. You should all think about this matter. How would you feel if you did a sport and in gym class had the materials and uniforms we have.

— Amanda Stryker

Students given too much homework over course of school

Did you know that students do 4,320 hours of homework from first grade to their senior year in high school? There is far too much homework for the students in Cranford, and I'm intolerant to the work given to us. Homework is supposed to be a review of the work that was done that day, but some teachers give us work that we have never seen before.

If I do my homework the entire year except for one day because maybe I forgot a book, or had family problems, or sports, and I tried my best to do my homework a teacher

would just put a big zero on my paper without even knowing the reason I didn't finish or how much effort I put into trying to do the homework.

I realize how important school and homework are, but kids have other things that they like to do for fun and that shouldn't be taken away from them. I hope some teachers will think before they give lots of homework or put a zero on your paper. I think there should be one day each week when teachers can't give homework.

— Michael Ozolnieks

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COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

Unrealized value

Sometimes, the adage goes, we miss the forest for the trees. A saying that warns against focusing on the details to the exclusion of the big picture, it certainly seems appropriate in the case of the Hyatt Hills Golf Complex. Despite the occasional bump in the road in its first year, Hyatt Hills remains an asset whose value has yet to be fully realized.

When commissioners opened Hyatt Hills for business on Aug. 22, 2002, the aura of expectation surrounding the golf complex was almost palpable. Built on the site of an industrial brownfield, the golf complex was a welcome open space alternative to a housing or retail complex, the grounds were fertilized with a nontoxic organic fertilizer, and — best of all — the golf complex was going to put money in the municipal coffers of both Clark and Cranford townships.

Fast forward 16 months, and things still look good, but for one detail: The money hasn't materialized. During its first full year of letting golfers tee off, the complex failed to deliver any money. Instead of being a highly profitable venture, it landed \$9,724 in the hole.

It happens. Anyone familiar with launching a new business venture knows the terrific challenge of building a reliable customer base during that crucial first year. First there is the hurdle of getting people to know about you. Then there's the hurdle of getting them to try what you have to offer for the first time. And once they're there, the most important challenge is making it so they'll want to give you return business.

All things considered, for a business the size and scope of the Hyatt Hills Golf Complex, a \$9,724 net loss in the first year isn't that bad, especially when you consider that it also was at the mercy of the elements during a wet year.

If commission Chairman Robert Hoeffler is to be believed, the picture is looking rosier for the coming year. In 2003, the golf complex hosted six Monday afternoon golf outings of 60 people or more, the type of event where the complex is going to make the most money. With the new year only barely into February, the complex already has four outings scheduled. That looks promising.

Another major point in the complex's favor is the arrival of Lana's. Having the restaurant open on site increases the complex's profit on catered golf outings, since food no longer has to be brought in from off-site, and it makes the complex more attractive to families looking for a night out with an eye for recreation opportunities for the children who like to play golf on the 18-hole miniature golf course.

The restaurant and the upsurge in golf outings, combined with a more advisable marketing strategy of focusing on local, rather than national, media, should be enough to satisfy reasonable concerns about the profitability of the complex in the long haul. According to terms of the contract with General Motors, which still owns the site, the complex only has to begin making a profit during one of its first five years. There are no stipulations setting a minimum amount for the profit, or even that it be a net profit for the entire five years — just that it make money during one of the years. Under the scenario presented by Hoeffler, that seems likely.

At this time last year, there were calls from Cranford for replacing the golf commission with a management firm. Those calls, stemming from an overblown sense of indignation at lifetime golf franking for commission members, were premature at the time, and they would be premature now if they should resurface. Dissolving the commission would require negotiating a new contract with General Motors, which would be under no obligation either to extend Clark and Cranford a percentage of the complex's profits, or even necessarily to leave Hyatt Hills in business as a golf complex.

What would be appropriate at this point is for golf commissioners to consider hiring someone to manage and oversee the complex on their behalf. That's a common enough practice in municipal government, where elected officials hire and appoint professionals to run a township on their behalf. A professional manager could provide the day-to-day business acumen and expertise to make sure the complex runs smoothly and profitably, and can make sure that commissioners, who volunteer their time, don't overlook arrangements that could cost the complex money in the long run.

What is your opinion about this subject?
Send us an e-mail and let us know.
Responses will be published next week.
Send e-mails to
editorial@thelocalsource.com

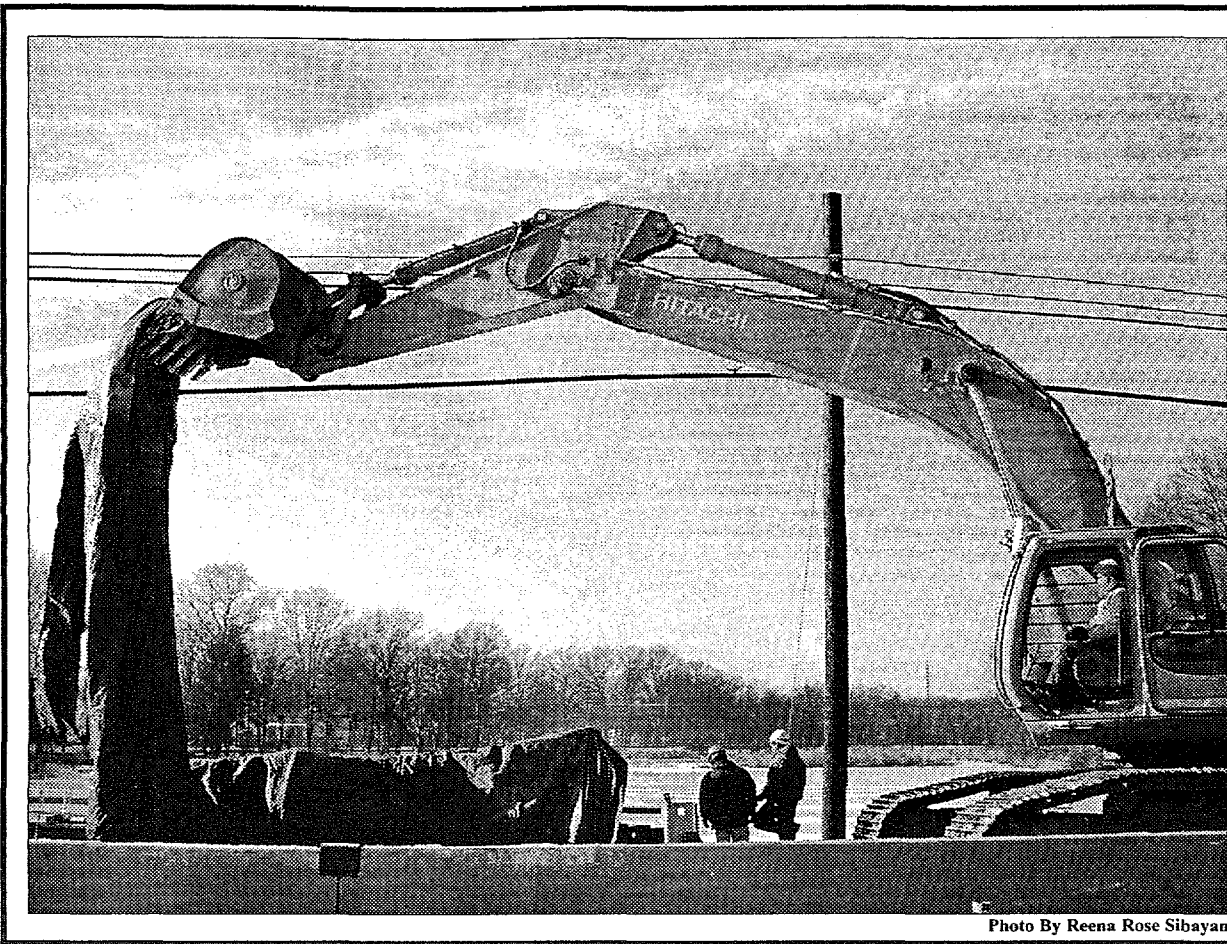


Photo By Reena Rose Sibayan

ON THE JOB — Work crews continue reconstruction of the Raritan Road bridge over the reservoir, despite biting cold weather recently.

They're not only caring, they're a grateful group

It wasn't too difficult to discover that nurses are a grateful group of people. And they're not afraid to show their gratitude. I learned that shortly after we published a column of mine in which I asked for respect for nurses and not contempt.

That column, published Jan. 15, was the result of an advertisement that appeared in *The Star-Ledger* in December by attorney Anthony Macri of Denville seeking business from families of patients who were "killed" by a nurse in the state of New Jersey.

The way the ad was published made it sound as if nurses throughout the state use euthanasia as some kind of sporting event. I was disgusted by the ad, and I quickly discovered that nurses, at least in this part of the state, felt the same way.

This is the first time in 16 years that I'm using responses to a column as the subject of a subsequent column, but after reading the gratitude and sincerity of the nurses who responded, I decided that readers should know how these nurses felt.

Ronnie is a registered nurse, but she didn't tell me where she worked.

"I just want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your column about nurses. I am a registered nurse who deeply cares about her patients. I go to work every day expecting to make a difference in lives. I enjoy my practice. I was horrified by all that is going on with the press with Mr.

For The Record

By Tom Canavan
Editor in Chief



Cullen. He is obviously a very troubled man. What he is accused of is horrific. But he is in the minority, as your column states. At work, we made copies of your column and passed it around."

When Ronnie referred to Mr. Cullen, she was referring to Charles Cullen, the nurse who has admitted to killing as many as 40 terminally ill patients during his 16-year career as a nurse in 10 medical facilities in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. She also referred to making copies of the column at work and distributing them.

She wasn't the only one. They're apparently posted throughout Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway, JFK Medical Center and St. Barnabas Medical Center. I haven't had this much exposure in a long time, and when I heard how the column was received, I was thrilled.

There is no greater feeling among journalists than the knowledge that we made a difference in someone's life.

Karen, an administrative assistant at Mountainside Hospital in Glen

Ridge-Montclair, wrote, "Although I am not a nurse but the administrative assistant in the Cardiac Rehab Department at Mountainside Hospital and the mother of an Emergency Room nurse, I would like to commend you on the wonderful column in response to Mr. Macri's insult to all in the nursing profession. In my years at Mountainside, yes, I have seen the good and I have seen the bad, but the bottom line is that all cared. Just that some did it better than others."

Fides is a nurse manager at St. Barnabas with more than 20 years of experience. And she was angry when she saw the advertisement.

"I was one of the angry nurses who called attorney Macri when I saw the ad in the paper, but like you, I did not get a return call. How dare he put that kind of an ad in the paper! I hope for his sake that he will never need to go to a hospital. Thank you for your touching article. We need more people like you to appreciate the hard work and dedication of every nurse in this country. It is through you that people get a better understanding and appreciation of the nurses' contribution toward health care. Your article is now posted in every nursing unit in St. Barnabas."

Clint is a nurse in the Critical Care Unit at St. Barnabas. "Thanks for the article you wrote about respect for nurses and the nursing profession. It's uplifting to find that someone out

there still appreciates what we do."

Steve's response was extremely genuine and the epitome of how caring nurses can be. An open heart surgery stepdown nurse, he said, "You wrote a heartfelt article that was admired by my unit at St. Barnabas. It is now posted at the nursing station. I am sure we are not the only nurses who are grateful for your words. Thank you again and I hope your recovery goes well. Cancer is a difficult hurdle to face for you and your family. I wish you all the best. If there is anything that I personally can do for you, do not hesitate to ask. I will try my best to help. That is what nurses are all about."

The amazing thing about these responses is the sincerity in every word these nurses wrote, and I never met even one of them.

A gentleman from Nutley, a layman whose sister-in-law is a retired nurse, said nurses are "the greatest people based on my many experiences with them and they do not deserve any cheap shots being taken at them. Thanks again for a beautiful article and godspeed."

He obviously didn't think highly of the ad and closed with a rhetorical and interesting aside: "Do you suppose that there are some corrupt attorneys out there somewhere?"

Tom Canavan can be reached at
tcavanav@thelocalsource.com.

Mandatory drug testing in schools is sensible

Presidents Bush's proposal to increase funding for drug testing at schools has ignited the emotions of opponents to test high school students who participate in extracurricular activities.

USA Today published an article on Jan. 28 citing some of the concerns of those opposed: "There is little evidence that testing deters drug use," "Drug testing actually drives students away from extracurricular activities if they fear drug testing" and "Testing is an expensive venture and providing treatment is a bigger obstacle."

All the above concerns are ridiculous and don't recognize the threat that exists today when some of our young men and women experiment with drugs that can result in drug addiction.

According to the New Jersey Department of Corrections, there are 23,000 inmates in our state prisons

The View from Here

By Bob Barrett

and 35 percent are for drug-related crimes. The cost to house each inmate is about \$28,000 annually. That amounts to almost \$225 million annually for direct drug crimes.

The majority of high school and college graduates searching for employment will discover that large companies require testing for illegal drug use as a condition of employment. Federal law requires that employers provide a safe work environment for employees. Accidents that occur on the job due to illegal drug use put the employer at risk for injuries to fellow employees and litigation.

Eventually, all employers will require drug testing of employees to protect their business.

Prior to my retirement, Public Service Electric and Gas Co. started a drug testing program for all employees of contractors we hired to work at our electric and gas facilities. The number of workers who tested positive for illegal drug use averaged about 5 percent every month.

Some of those drug users who were not addicted were able to stop using drugs because it threatened their ability to earn a good salary. They had to make a choice. Many others who were addicted sought counseling and assistance.

Darryl Strawberry is a prime example of the tragedy of becoming a drug addict. A gifted athlete who never realized his full potential as a baseball player due to his constant battle with

addiction. There are numerous other stories similar to Strawberry.

The big question is, how many of the tragic stories of drug addiction could have been prevented if drug testing was done at an early age? Drug tests are performed on a sample of urine. Urine samples are usually taken at physical exams as a general accepted procedure.

I encourage parents to support drug tests for all students not only those who participate in extracurricular activities.

We must stop the destruction of our youth who are inclined to experiment with illegal drugs. The cost of prevention and counseling is a small cost compared to the potential for death, crime and disability.

Bob Barrett is a frequent contributor to this newspaper.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Nothing wrong in campaign donations

To the Editor:

If the recent statements of Clark Democratic Chairman Nancy Sheridan and former 3rd Ward Councilman Richard Kazanowski in the Jan. 22 issue of *The Eagle* are any indication, their plan of action in this year's campaign will be to mislead the public and make unsupportable negative allegations.

As an elected member of the Union County Republican Committee executive board, I unequivocally can state that the contributions made to the Clark mayoral and council candidates were not given by county Chairman Frigerio. Chairman Frigerio and the Finance Committee apprise the executive members of the available funds and based on this information, contributions are distributed to

local communities. All contributions by the county committee to any local race must be unanimously approved by the executive board members.

As Sheridan and Kazanowski well know from their own dealings with the Union County Democratic organization, one of the primary purposes of the county political committees is to financially assist local candidates in their campaigns. It shouldn't surprise anyone, including Ms. Sheridan and Mr. Kazanowski, that the Clark Republican candidates received contributions from their county committee.

John DeSimone
Clark

Editor's note: The writer is chairman of the Clark Republican municipal committee.

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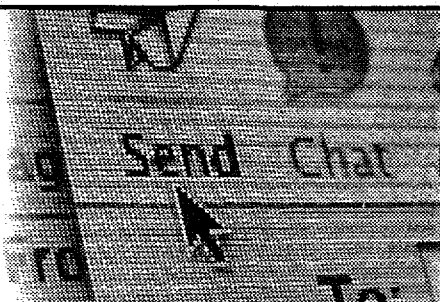
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Never mind the rovers, the Martians are among us

Irony of ironies. We're spending \$320 million looking for signs of life on Mars and Martians are already here.

Yes, Martians! They've been here since the mid-1980s and they've taken over almost the entire customer service industry. How do I know? For one thing, I've conducted exhaustive research and for another I hear voices in my head, which can be an excellent source of information once you sort out who's who.

Let me emphasize that Martians do not have it out for us. Their physical makeup and cognitive abilities are simply not suited to our planet or to the tasks required to provide adequate customer service.

If you promise to reserve judgment to the end, I promise to make believers out of all of you by citing several deficiencies in the physical makeup of Martians that correspond directly to specific examples of horrible customer service we've all experienced.

And no snickering under your breath, I'm providing valuable information for free. It's not as if I'm charging you \$320 million to reveal the mysteries of Martian dirt.

Dirt. Here we are spending tens of millions of dollars each year on door mats and dust busters to get rid of dirt and NASA's spending hundreds of millions to get it. That's the government for you. Anyway, back to my theory on how Martians have taken over the customer service industry.

Martians have remarkably poor eyesight and hearing. Ever walk into a store and not have a single employee acknowledge your presence even

Now What?

By John Hartnett

though you heard the little bell ring above the door as you entered?

When an employee is on the phone in front of you but fails to make eye contact to let you know that they know you are there, do you ever pinch yourself to confirm that you are an actual physical entity and not a wraith from the spirit world in search of a curtain rod? Don't worry; you're completely human. The employees? Martians.

While they see each and hear each other just fine, witness the jolly, jabbering conversations they have while you stand unnoticed before them, Martians cannot differentiate between animate or inanimate earthly objects.

Martians can't distinguish human voices on the telephone. Ever had a real conversation when calling the phone company, a department store, a consumer product company or government office?

If your answer is yes, consider yourself lucky. You reached a human being. If you ever hear the automated words, "Your call is important to us," that's a company run by Martians. Hang up and don't try again.

Earthly foods create confusion in Martians. Ever been to a restaurant where the waiter takes your order, taking great pains to go around the table one by one? Later someone else comes out with your food and proceeds to ask each person at the table

who had what until all the food is cold and the once witty and bubbling dinner conversation is replaced with requests to reheat dishes and whispered accusations as to whose idea it was to come to this restaurant anyway.

Humans can both take dinner orders and hand out food, distributing the right dish to the right person. Martians experience disorientation when handling food.

Scientists have not pinpointed the exact cause but theorize it may have something to do with the uncanny resemblance between the head of their planet and calamari.

Martians can't comprehend mathematics. Ever hand a 20-dollar bill to a person operating a cash register to pay for an item that costs \$10.53 and then admittedly at the 11th hour, hand that person another dollar so you could receive a 10-dollar bill and 47 cents in change?

If that "person" begins to mop its brow, mutter profanities and glare at you as if you were one who recommended they invest in Rosie O'Donnell's musical "Taboo," rest assured that "person" hails from the Red Planet.

Martians have no concept of time as we know it. Ever said this to a friend who has invited you for dinner? "Thank you for your thoughtful invitation! I will be there between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 1:30 a.m. Please confirm that you will be home and the meal will be hot during that time."

Of course you've never said that. If you're human. Have you ordered phone or cable service and the representative informs you that someone

will be at your house between 9 a.m. and 2:30 in the afternoon? Got to be Martians, right?

No concept of time whatsoever, let alone human courtesy. Need further proof? Do they ask you to wait at home for six hours when they shut off your service for failing to pay the bill? No way. Why? Humans handle that side of the operation.

Through a chemical reaction in the body, Martians convert oxygen into ether, creating a somnolent physical state commonly referred to as the "Where in God's Name Did They Go?" syndrome in which all mental and physical response rates are slowed dramatically.

The cashier asks a colleague for a price on a sweater. The colleague disappears only to return 15 minutes later with the price for a pair of culottes.

You make the universal "Bring me the check" pantomime to your waitress. She smiles, nods affirmatively and then disappears for so long you have to file an Amber Alert.

Studies indicate that for every minute it takes a human to complete a task, it takes a Martian 17 minutes, with the exception of the South, where it takes a Martian 34 minutes.

That's it. I rest my case that it is the Martian who has made a shambles of our once proud customer service industry. I'm also hearing rumblings that they've infiltrated Congress. You may now snicker at will.

A resident of Cranford, John Hartnett can be reached at johnhartnett@earlybirdpublishing.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Drug discounts not what county said

To the Editor:

This is in response to the rambling explanation of Human Services Director Frank Guzzo of the county's drug plan as reported by Robert Misseck in *The Star-Ledger* on Jan. 18. What Mr. Guzzo's 1 to 50 percent plan has to do with the County's stated 20 to 50 percent is baffling.

I know it's a skunk when I smell its excrement. I know that the Union County freeholders' prescription plan is phony when I do some simple arithmetic and test it out at the pharmacy. That the freeholders' prescription plan would provide discounts of 20 to 50 percent to county residents over 55 is false and a gross misrepresentation.

From my personal experience, for the purchase of a name-brand drug listed at \$233.79, I was given a discount of \$10.90. For the purchase of another name-brand drug listed at \$162.70, I was given a discount of 79 cents. These discounts fly in the face of the discounts of about \$45 and \$30, respectively, which I should have received under the county's stated 20 to 50 percent plan.

I have spent more than 40 years scrutinizing local governments, having held both elected and appointed offices in Roselle, where I was councilman and borough engineer; township engineer in Cranford; and even to this day I serve as engineering consultant to the Cranford Flood Advisory Committee.

I have kept abreast of local issues and stand prepared to speak out when ones like this one crop out.

Gregory A. Sgroi
Cranford

Eliminate county superintendent posts

To the Editor:

Recently, Gov. James McGreevey stated that the only way we are going to get property taxes under control is to cut costs. I believe most people would agree. One recommendation was to develop a plan to eliminate 23 school districts that do not have their own schools. However, this proposal will not find any real cost efficiency because these districts are sending their school children to neighboring districts and have very little other costs. Isn't sharing services a goal?

So, where else can we cut? The governor suggested establishing limits on administrative and noninstructional costs. This sounds reasonable, however, according to the state Department of Education, New Jersey ranks 21st in the nation with only 8.3 percent of school expenditures going toward administration. The State Commission of Investigation is now investigating 50 school district's superintendent's salaries, which some educators are calling a political move. Instead of investigating the folks who oversee the education of thousands of New Jersey school children, I would suggest that the governor cut the number of county superintendent offices. Do we really need 21 County Superintendent Offices with approximately 84 administrators who have non-instructional positions and do not administer any schools? I hope the SCI looks at their salaries.

Even if these country administrators provide useful advice to local school administrators, could we not do the same job with far fewer than 21 offices, multiple administrators and support staff? With statewide property taxes increasing 14.1 percent since 2002, and Union County property taxes growing by 19.3 percent in the last two years, eliminating or regionalizing these services into a few offices could save the state and county taxpayers millions of dollars.

If the governor truly wants to control property taxes he needs to eliminate redundancy and duplication of services in our three levels of government, the 21 county superintendent offices is a good place to start.

P. Kelly Hatfield
Summit

Our policy on letters and columns

The Cranford 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.

Letters must be no more than 500 words long; longer pieces must be arranged in advance with the editor. *The Eagle* accepts letters to the editor and guest columns via e-mail. The address is editorial@thelocalsource.com.

Letters may be sent via U.S. mail to 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, 07083.

Forsake control and embrace freedom for all

I keep hearing people complain about how every aspect of life is changing. People complain that their communities are no longer the ones they remember when they first moved in, or that kids today have become a bunch of spoiled, rude thugs.

The complaints range from the smallest aspect of life all the way to the most significant. Take marriage, for example. People have been arguing and complaining about who should be allowed to get married and how our government should control them.

If there was a better time for publishers to reprint George Orwell's classic novel, "1984," I can't think of one.

We have become so lazy as a society that we demand our government to tell us how we should live. If that is not an open invitation for Big Brother to come for a visit, I don't know what is.

I was recently reminded of how all things change in life and how we must all learn to accept the change and make it work for us.

A close friend of my family died this month. This gentleman was more than just a close friend. As a matter of fact, he was our neighbor for most of our lives. He was also my youngest sister's father-in-law.

In my youth, I took to calling him Uncle Ken and he took to the task of becoming one of the more influential

Reporter's Notebook

By Steven Reilly
Staff Writer

men in my life, just steps behind my own father.

I speak of him because it was his lessons that have helped me get through these changing times with a grain of sanity. He was one of the many influences in my life who taught me one simple fact — that you are the one who makes your world what you want it to be, and no one can ever change that fact.

The sad part is this: For a very long time, the people who have been shaping our world have been small-minded people who want a world of conformity, not freedom.

Most of the complaints I hear these days involve one group trying to exclude others from one aspect of society. My Uncle Ken taught me the opposite. He showed me that we are all much better off than previous generations.

He did this quietly, without long speeches or overbearing lessons. He did it by opening his heart and showing the power of love and understanding.

I took the long way to his wake in

my old neighborhood. I rode the new and improved Newark city subway, which was changed two years ago. I was disappointed that the windows of the new cars had dark tint that blocked the wonderful views of Branch Brook Park.

In a way, the new cars symbolized what our society has become. Our new technology allows us to live in virtual isolation from the rest of humanity. The tinted windows blocked the view of the world just as our tainted perspective blocks the reality of life.

We should not be striving to control the world around us, but embracing the differences that make us human. It is this isolation that cuts

parents from the lives of their children, who eventually grow into the very characters that society tries so hard to destroy.

Government control will not solve this problem. It all boils down to parents providing their children with the love and understanding that can get them through life. These days, too many parents have no love and understanding to give.

That is where men such as my Uncle Ken rise to the occasion. I have met such men in our communities. Some wear uniforms while others keep a low profile, but they are there. Instead of complaining about our lives, we should all take a moment and learn from them. That is how the world will change for the better.

EDUCATION

Kindergarten registration forms available at schools

First-grade registration forms may be picked up at Cranford elementary schools from 8 to 11:45 a.m. and from 1 to 4 p.m. weekdays.

Registration of first-grade children not already in Cranford kindergarten classes will be conducted between 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 24 and Feb. 26 at Bloomingdale Avenue School, Brookside Place School, Hillside Avenue School and

Walnut Avenue School.

Parents should bring a birth certificate, immunization records, a completed enrollment form, an affidavit of residency, a deed, mortgage statement or rental lease, and a recent utility bill to the registration.

Children are eligible for first grade if they are 6 on or before Oct. 1.

This registration is for first-grade students new to Cranford School District in September. Parents with children in a Cranford public school kindergarten class are not required to

re-register their children.

Applications available for PTC scholarship

The Cranford Parent Teacher Council is accepting applications from Cranford High School seniors for scholarships based on financial need.

The applications are available in the high school guidance office and at Cranford Public Library. Completed applications are due March 15.

The PTC is comprised of PTA representatives from every school, teacher representatives, and members

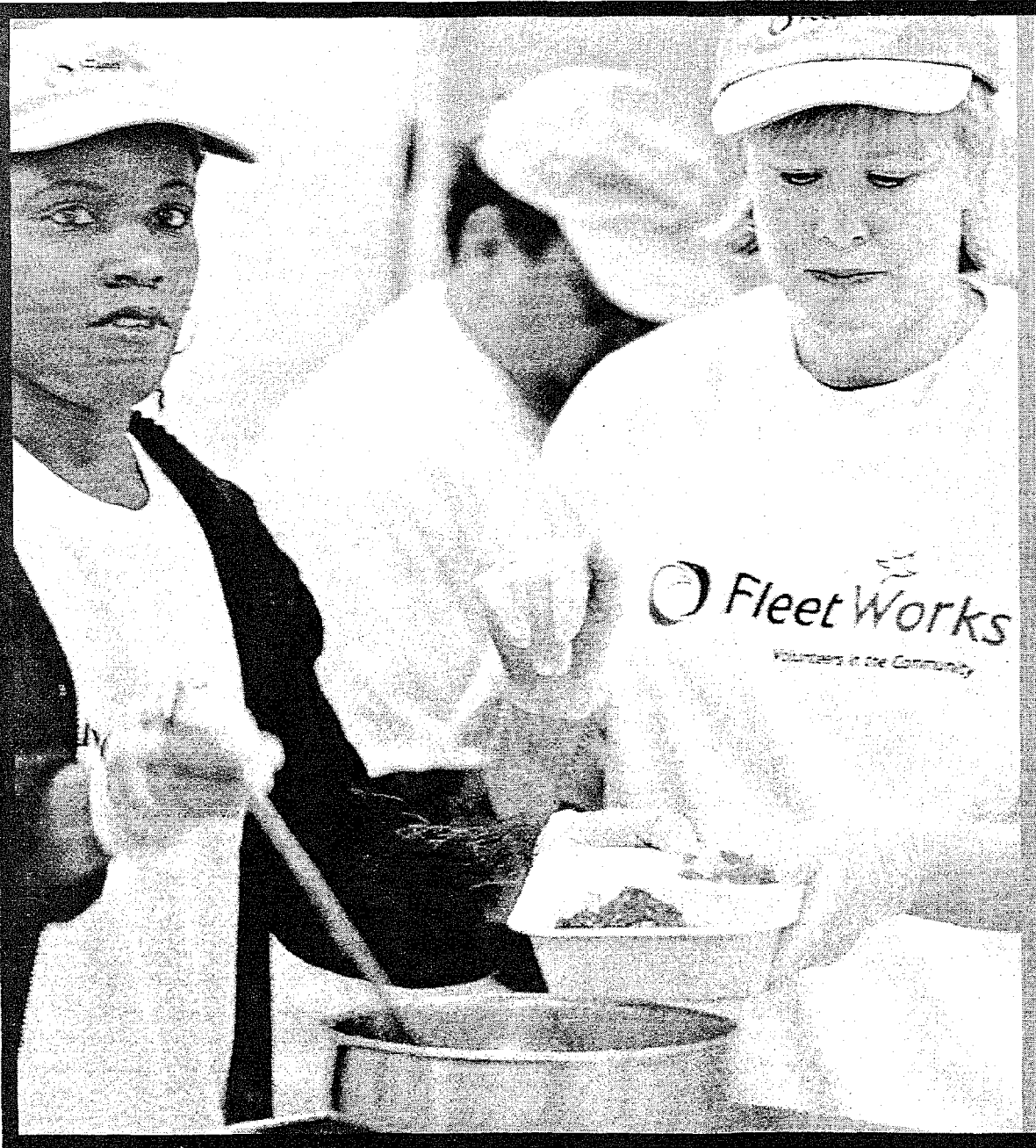
of the Board of Education, and the administration to share information.

It raises money through wreath sales, other events and donations for the scholarship fund.

Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news: Entertainment — noon Friday. Sports — noon Monday. General — 5 p.m. Monday. Church, club and social — noon Friday.

Letter to the Editor — 9 a.m. Monday.



In the office, they're committed, hard-working and versatile. Outside, they're so much more.

Through the Fleet Works volunteer program, our employees are dedicated to making a difference in their communities. Each year thousands of Fleet employees, from executives to branch staff, work together to give their time where they're needed most. Whether they're mentoring children, sprucing up community centers, or serving meals to those in need, Fleet employees are committed to their communities, today and tomorrow.



SENIOR NEWS

Friday club

The Cranford Seniors Friday Club meets at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., at 1 p.m. Fridays.

Feb. 6 — Business meeting/social.

Feb. 14 — Valentine sweets.

Feb. 20 — Social/bingo.

Feb. 27 — Social/bingo.

Happy birthday to Andrew Markowich, Feb. 11.

The following trips are planned:

Wednesday — Atlantic City bus trip. Cost is \$17, with a noon departure from Centennial Avenue Pool Complex. Other trips scheduled for March 12, April 14, May 12 and June 9.

March 17 — St. Patrick's Day celebration. Mt. Haven Resort, Milford, Pa., from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Trip includes a breakfast buffet; activities and shopping on premises; a live Irish show; a buffet dinner, including corned beef and cabbage, with open bar. Cost is \$53.

June 15 — Longwood Gardens, Kennet Square, Pa. Festival of Fountains. Trip runs from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., with dining in the Terrace Restaurant, which is handicapped accessible. Cost is \$53.

July 19 to 23 — Cape Cod, Mass., trip. Five days and four nights. Cost is \$395/double, including four breakfasts and four dinners. Visit Martha's Vineyard, Chatham, Provincetown, Hyannis, JFK museum, and much more. Sign up now for this year's price on the next year's trip.

Dec. 12 — Lily Langtry-Christmas Show, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Show and meal included, for a total \$63 cost.

For reservations and more information on trips, call Helen at 908-276-2849.

Happy birthday to Betty Butler, Ann Fairchild, Marian Clay, Mary Zavila, Noreen Genova, Marge Daly, Rosalie Bagenski, Fran Baker, Midge Jones, Mary Occi, Eileen Smith, Arleen Walsh.

Happy anniversary to Nancy and Bill Babos, 60 years; Judy and Frank Mastriano, 44 years.

Community Center shows 'Alex and Emma' movie

Senior movies will be shown in the audiovisual room on the second floor of the Cranford Community Center during February. Movies start at 11 a.m. and run until about 12:40 p.m. The following movies will be shown:

- Monday — "Alex & Emma," 96 minutes. Luke Wilson and Kate Hudson star in this romantic comedy about an author and his secretary.
- Feb. 19 — No movie. Community Center closed.
- Feb. 23 — "Under the Tuscan Sun," 113 minutes. A woman starts her life over with a new home in a new land in this romantic comedy drama starring Diane Lane.

There will be no movies shown during March. Movies will resume in April.

Free tax assistance available by appointment

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department and the AARP will take appointments for free tax assistance. Cranford taxpayers 60 and older can call the Recreation and Parks Department at 908-709-7283 to reserve a time slot with a tax practitioner.

Appointments are being made at noon, 1 p.m. 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Mondays and Fridays, beginning Friday. Appointments will be held at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. in Room 205.

Tax assistance will end April 12. No appointments will be made Feb. 16 or April 9. The Community Center will be closed on those dates.

Taxpayers should bring copies of last year's state and federal returns;

this year's state and federal tax return booklets and all information pertinent to this year's return, such as W-2 forms, 1099 interest forms, dividends, pension statements, Social Security forms and property tax bills.

Cranford shut-ins or those physically unable to come to the Community Center can call with their name, telephone number and address, and a tax consultant will call for an appointment at the home.

Learn to sink balls with billiards program

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department will sponsor an introduction to pool and billiards at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

The program will meet from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays through March 18. Cost of the program is \$15.

Play canasta, mah-jongg at community center

Cranford seniors are invited to join a Senior Canasta Club from 10 a.m. to noon Fridays at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

The goal of canasta is to accumulate 5,000 points through a series of games. Limited instruction will be available from current players. Actual play is often the best way to learn a new game.

Mah-jongg is held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursdays, also at the Community Center. The object of mah-jongg is to remove matched pairs of tiles from the board until none are left.

Participants must register prior to the class by filling out a senior registration form.

For more information, call the Recreation and Parks Department at 709-76283.

Tai chi offers exercise to build strength, posture

The Recreation and Parks Department is offering a beginners' tai chi class for Cranford seniors 60 and older, with classes from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. Fridays at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

Tai chi can be thought of as a moving form of yoga and meditation combined. Sets of movements are performed in a slow, soft and graceful manner with even transitions between them.

Benefits include better muscle strength, flexibility and posture and are known to promote a calming/relaxing effect.

Register by calling the Recreation Department at 908-709-7283. Men and women are welcome.

Professional instructor leads social dance classes

Cranford seniors 60 and older can participate in a social dance class at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. Tuesdays. A professional dance instructor is available at every class.

The instructor will lead the class through various dance steps with a follow-up practice period, including the rumba, tango, foxtrot, cha-cha, waltz and meringue.

Men and women, beginners and experienced dancers are welcome to attend. A partner is not needed to participate.

Social dancing reduces stress, increases energy, and improves strength, muscle tone and coordination. Class is free, but registration is required.

For more information, call the Cranford Parks and Recreation Department at 908-709-7283.

AARP Chapter 4269

Cranford AARP Chapter 4269 will offer a trip to Showboat casino in Atlantic City Jan. 28, leaving from the Centennial Avenue Pool Complex at 8:45 a.m. The cost is \$16, with a casino bonus.

Call Michael Doncrank at 908-486-6679 for reservations and information.

AARP meetings are held at Lincoln Avenue School on Centennial Avenue, at 9:30 a.m., and are open to the public.

Call Ethyl McEntrye at 908-245-9018 for more information.

Wednesday club

Cranford Seniors Wednesday Club meets Wednesdays at Community Center 220 Walnut Ave., at 1 p.m.

The following trips have been scheduled:

- Monday — Atlantic City trips to Showboat casino. Cost is \$16. Bus leaves at 11 a.m. from Meeker Avenue. Other trips will be held March 8 and April 12.

For more information, call Arleen Borden at 908-272-5441.

Keep youthful vitality with active walking club

Did you know that walking helps

slow the aging process? Walking is a natural exercise for fun and fitness and a one-hour walk can burn as many as 400 calories.

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department invites Cranford seniors 60 and older to join the Walking Club. The club meets at 10 a.m. Tuesdays in the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

For more information, call the Recreation Department at 908-709-7283. Registration for the program is required prior to participation.

Senior alley cats take trips to Linden Lanes

Cranford seniors are welcome to enjoy bowling at Linden Lanes at 10 a.m. Mondays.

Teams consist of five members. Three games are played each week.

To sign up for the program or for more information, call Linden Lanes at 908-925-3550.

For more information, call the Recreation and Parks Department at 908-709-7283.

Bridge on Thursdays

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department offers Cranford seniors a Bridge Club that meets Thursdays at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

The morning session is from 10 a.m. to noon, and the afternoon session is from 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. Beginners and advanced players are welcome.

All games are played in an air-conditioned room.

For more information, call 908-709-7283.

EVENTS

Presentations planned on Washington, Lincoln

"Lincoln's Gettysburg Address" will be the first of two programs to celebrate Presidents Day at the Cranford Historical Society's Crane-Phillips House Museum.

The Lincoln program will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, and will feature a presentation of Lincoln's greatest speech, and talk about the events leading up to and following it.

Various items of Lincoln memorabilia will be on display, as well as a number of Civil War artifacts in the museum's permanent collection.

Henry J. Phillips, who lived in the Victorian cottage that now houses the museum, served in the New York 7th Regiment Militia of the National Guard as a private in H Company. Phillips' wife, Cecilia, was from Maryland, a bitterly divided, war-torn Southern border state.

The New York 7th was the first group to march to the defense of Washington, D.C., after the fall of Fort Sumter in April of 1861. The 991 officers and men of the 7th Regiment met with President Lincoln himself at the White House. Lincoln reviewed the troops several times during their stay in the nation's capital.

The second of two Presidents Day programs will see a George Washington actor visit the Crane-Phillips House from 2 to 4 p.m. Feb. 22 to celebrate Washington's Birthday.

"A Visit with George Washington"

will feature historic re-enactor Carl Halgren of Cranford portraying George Washington on a fictitious visit to Crane's Mills, today's Cranford, in winter of 1780 to inspect the front lines of defense for his Continental Army.

Halgren has more than 20 years experience as a historic re-enactor. "General Washington" will speak about the American Revolution and the events of the day, and answer polite questions about himself, the Continental Army and the battle for independence.

The Cranford area was the headquarters for the front line of defense during the winter of 1780, when Washington's army was camped for the winter in Morristown.

Brig. Gen. William S. Irvine established his headquarters here in December 1779 and wrote a letter to Washington dated "Crane's Mills January 1, 1780," telling the commander in chief of establishing post here.

Lord Stirling, a major general named William Alexander, who was heir to a British nobility, also was here with his troops. Washington sent one of his aides, a 22-year-old lieutenant colonel named Alexander Hamilton, to Crane's Mills to meet up with Lord Stirling for a secret mission. Alexander Hamilton went on to become secretary of the treasury under Washington.

Though Washington never "slept here" it is known that he was in nearby Elizabethtown — present-day Eliz-

abeth — and other locations around this area.

Visitors who come to the Crane-Phillips House can have a Polaroid picture taken with Halgren dressed as Washington.

The Crane-Phillips House, 124 Union Ave. N., living museum is open 2 to 4 p.m. Sundays September through June.

will host Union County Sheriff Ralph Froehlich on Wednesday, as part of the club's ongoing lecture series. The sheriff will talk about how his department serves Cranford.

All residents are invited to the 7:30 p.m. meeting at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. Refreshments will be served.

The Cranford Democratic Club meets the second Wednesday of every month through June. Guest speakers are invited on a regular basis to discuss issues and programs affecting Cranford.

Ice hockey team invites community to pasta night

The Cranford High School ice hockey team will have its annual pasta night from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the Cranford Hotel.

Tickets cost \$7 and are available at the door or from hockey team members.

For more information, call Gail at 908-276-2209 or 908-276-4350.

County sheriff to address Cranford Democratic club

The Cranford Democratic Club

WORSHIP CALENDAR

APOSTOLIC
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Currently meeting at St. Lukes Episcopal Church 398 Chestnut Street, Union, NJ 07083

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PENTECOSTAL
TRINITY PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS FELLOWSHIP

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Traditional Worship Service: Sunday - 10:30 a.m.


Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.

Youth Group: Sunday - 6-8 p.m.

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

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

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SPORTS

Sports Numbers
Phone: 973-763-0700
Fax: 973-763-2557

Barbosa 2nd in high jump at Union County track meet

Boys' is rescheduled for Saturday at Dunn

While it will be decided Saturday now just who the top boys' track and field athletes are in Union County this winter, it has already been decided on the girls' side.

The annual Union County girls' indoor championships took place last week at the Dunn Sport Center in Elizabeth, with every team in the county gaining representation.

While Westfield outpointed Plainfield and Elizabeth for team honors, individual winners came from Rahway, Elizabeth, Westfield, Cranford and Plainfield.

As many as 14 Union County schools scored points in the meet.

The boys' meet, originally scheduled to take place Jan. 28 but postponed because of last week's snowstorm, was rescheduled for Saturday at 1 p.m. at Dunn.

Westfield gained 52 points, Plainfield 41 and Elizabeth 39. Next were Scotch Plains with 29, Rahway with 24 and Summit with 23.

La'Shonda Carter of Rahway won the 60-yard dash in 7.1, tying the meet record established in 1997 by Charmaine Walker of Plainfield.

Ebony Barnes of Elizabeth captured the 440-yard run in 1:03.2.

Emily MacNeil of Westfield was first in the 880-yard run in 2:31.0.

Mallory Harlin of Cranford captured the one-mile run in 5:30.8 and the two-mile run in 12:21.4.

Leticia Taylor of Plainfield was first in the 60-yard hurdles in 8.5, while teammate Shakiera Stenbridge led the high jump field with a mark of 5-0.

Lizzelle Cintron of Elizabeth was first in the shot put at 42-6, winning a tiebreaker over sister Michelle Cintron.

Summit was sixth with 23 points, Cranford seventh with 20 and Roselle Catholic eighth with 16.

Westfield captured the one-mile relay in 4:31.3 behind MacNeil, Meg Driscoll, Mika Cruz and Annie Onishi.

Union was ninth with nine points, Roselle 10th with eight, Johnson 11th with seven, Linden and Governor Livingston 12th with four and Hillside 14th with two.

NOTES: The Cintron twins threw a 42-6 in the shot put each, but Lizzelle won the tiebreaker because her second throw was a bit better at 41-9.5 to Michelle's 41-6. Michelle won the event last year.

Harlin was the meet's only double-winner. Westfield, second last season, also won this year's county relays.

Carter also finished fifth in the 440-yard run and Barnes was second in the 60-yard dash in 7.2.

Jessica Rodriguez of Roselle Catholic was second in the one-mile run in 5:38.5, while Summit's Samantha Lee was third in 5:38.9.

UC GIRLS' WINTER TRACK AT DUNN SPORT CENTER

TEAMS: 1-Westfield 52. 2-Plainfield 41. 3-Elizabeth 39. 4-Scotch Plains 29. 5-Rahway 24. 6-Summit 23. 7-Cranford 20. 8-Roselle Catholic 16. 9-Union 9. 10-Roselle 8. 11-Johnson 7. 12-Linden and Governor Livingston 4. 14-Hillside 2.

60-YARD DASH: 1-La'Shonda Carter, Rahway, 7.1, tied record: tied Charmaine Walker, Plainfield, 1997. 2-Ebony Barnes, Elizabeth 7.2. 3-Aneka Brown, Union, 7.6. 4-India Walker, Rahway, 7.6. 5-Ja'Net Tiller, Westfield, 7.7.

440-YARD RUN: 1-Ebony Barnes, Elizabeth, 1:03.3. 2-Emily MacNeil, Westfield, 1:04.1. 3-Aja Bundy, Scotch Plains, 1:05.6. 4-Meaghan Kelly, Scotch Plains, 1:06.0. 5-La'Shonda Carter, Rahway, 1:06.9. 6-Andrea Antwi, Union, 1:08.5.

880-YARD RUN: 1-Emily MacNeil, Westfield, 2:31.0. 2-Annie Onishi, Westfield, 2:31.2. 3-Meg Driscoll, Westfield, 2:31.9. 4-Caroline Mannaerts, Summit, 2:34.8. 5-Kim Appezato, Scotch Plains, 2:37.2. 6-Aracelis Lantigua, Elizabeth, 2:37.8.

ONE-MILE RUN: 1-Mallory Harlin, Cranford, 5:30.8. 2-Jessica Rodriguez, Roselle Catholic, 5:38.5. 3-Samantha Lee, Summit, 5:38.9. 4-Chrissey Sidie, Governor Livingston, 5:43.4. 5-Caroline Mannaerts, Summit, 5:48.0. 6-Jahisa Smith, Plainfield, 5:49.2.

TWO-MILE RUN: 1-Mallory Harlin, Cranford, 12:21.4. 2-Mary Shashaty, Scotch Plains, 12:30.9. 3-Deenie Quinn, Westfield, 12:45.9. 4-Jessica Rodriguez, Roselle Catholic, 12:49.4. 5-Care Needham, Summit, 12:54.2. 6-Liz Elko, Scotch Plains, 13:14.0.

60-YARD HURDLES: 1-Leticia Taylor, Plainfield, 8.5. 2-Jennifer Cosby, Roselle, 8.6. 3-Ashley Adams, Plainfield, 8.9. 4-Sunita Braithwaite, Linden, 9.5. 5-Monique Jackson, Rahway, 9.5. 6-Mika Cruz, Westfield, 12.3.

HIGH JUMP: 1-Shakiera Stenbridge, Plainfield, 5-0. 2-Ashley Adams, Plainfield and Stephanie Barbosa, Johnson, 4-10. 4-Heather Scudellari, Summit, 4-10. 5-Lizzelle Cintron, Elizabeth, 4-10. 6-Carrienne Zielinski, Roselle Catholic, 36-9. 5-Shakira Hauser, Hillside, 35-6.25. 6-Alison Petrow, Westfield, 35-3.75.

SHOT PUT: 1-Lizzelle Cintron, Elizabeth, 42-6 (won on tiebreaker). 2-Michelle Cintron, Elizabeth, 42-6. 3-T.K. Lawson, Plainfield 36-10. 4-Carrienne Zielinski, Roselle Catholic, 36-9. 5-Shakira Hauser, Hillside, 35-6.25. 6-Alison Petrow, Westfield, 35-3.75.

ONE-MILE RELAY: 1-Westfield (Emily MacNeil, Meg Driscoll, Mika Cruz and Annie Onishi) 4:31.3. 2-Scotch Plains 4:32.5. 3-Rahway 4:35.0. 4-Summit 4:42.3. 5-Union 4:50.9. Plainfield 4:51.3.

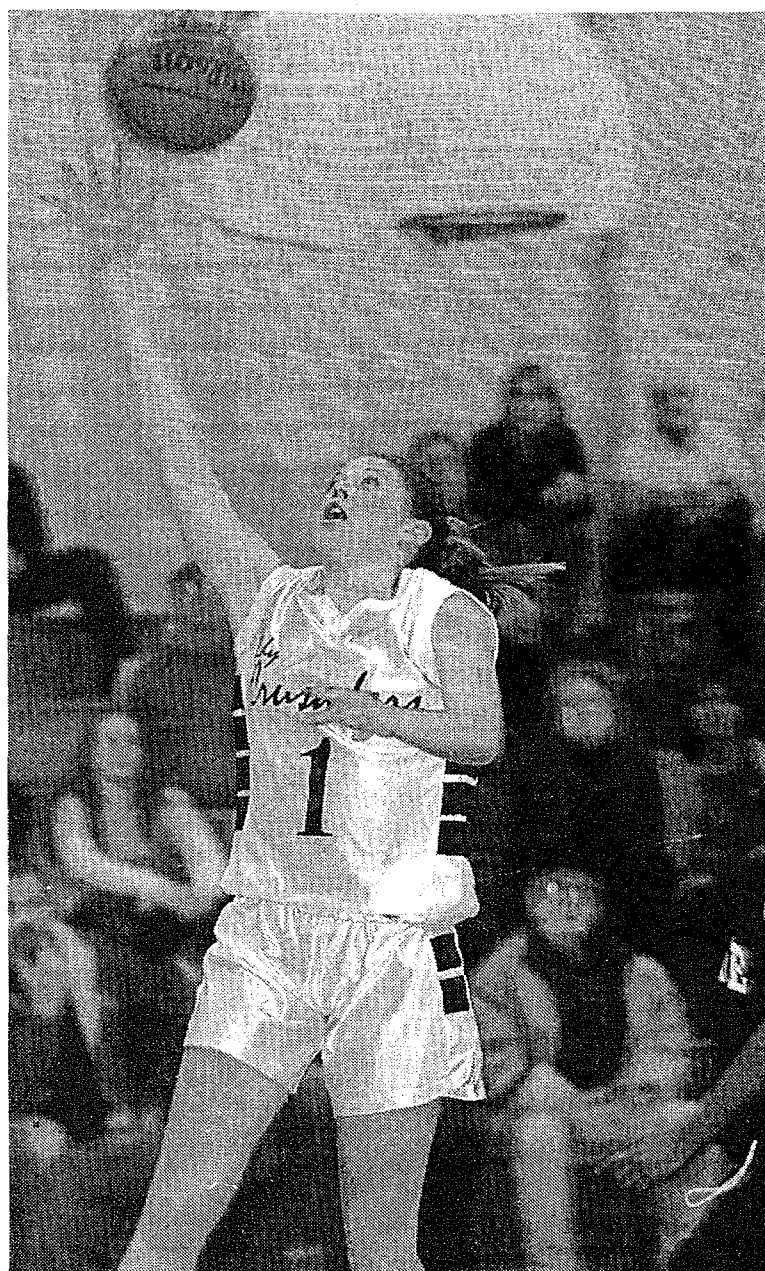


Photo by Reena Rose Sibayan

Johnson High School girls' basketball star Jamilee Pflug (No. 1) poured in a game-high 21 points in a 62-42 home loss to Hillside on Jan. 20 and then was high-scorer again Tuesday in a home win over Brearley by a convincing score of 65-26. Johnson improve its record to 11-3 and is scheduled to play at New Providence tonight at 7.

Johnson girls' don't miss a beat in defeating Brearley

Zawoysky guides 11-3 Crusaders to victory

By Jeff Wolfrum
Staff Writer

CLARK - Not missing a beat. Despite being without head coach Steve Kaelblein, the Johnson High School girls' basketball team kept rolling along as it took a 65-26 decision over visiting Brearley Tuesday afternoon.

With Kaelblein attending to matters at home, assistant and junior varsity coach Danielle Zawoysky stepped in and did a wonderful job in leading the Crusaders to the victory.

The win gave Johnson an 11-3 mark. Brearley's record fell to 11-4, two of its losses coming to Johnson.

"Our press worked really well and we got points off of it," Zawoysky said.

The Crusaders "D" didn't waste any time coming up with a few turnovers as Johnson took a 12-0 advantage.

Sophomore forward Samantha Parin, who finished with 11 points, had the hot hand in the surge as she scored six.

After Brearley went on a 7-0 run to cut the deficit to a count of 12-7, Johnson sophomore guard Jamilee Pflug pumped in a pair of layups to up her team's lead to 15-7.

Brearley cut it to 15-9 on a five-footer by Allison Shields, but Johnson closed out the quarter with a 4-0 run to bring the score to 19-9.

Pflug, who had a game-high 13 points, capped the drive with a layup off an outlet pass.

"Our goal all season has been to move the ball up court quickly," Zawoysky said. "Our scoring is well-rounded because we usually have two or three girls score in double digits."

After Brearley's Jill Kelly scored on a layup to make it 19-11, Johnson responded with a 9-0 run to boost its lead to 28-11.

Jamilee's younger sister, freshman guard Kerri, sparked the surge with five points.

Kelly cut the deficit to 28-13 on a layup before the Crusaders closed out the half with an 8-0 run to take a lead of 36-13.

Parin brought the contest to intermission after hitting an eight-foot turnaround shot and a 15-footer off an inbounds pass.

"All the girls work well together," Zawoysky said. "I think playing together over the years has helped them click so well."

Johnson put the game away in the third quarter as it outscored its Mountain Valley Conference foe 12-2 to take a 48-15 edge.

"We took off the press after we got our lead," Zawoysky said. "We then went to a straight up defense."

That sudden change helped the Bears trade baskets with the Crusaders on their next two possessions as the score went to 52-19.

After a "trey" upped Johnson's lead to 55-19, Brearley managed to cut it to 55-22 on a layup by Melissa Perkins and a free throw by Ashley Dotter.

Johnson's Jill Whiting then made a pair of free throws to bring the score to 57-22 before Dotter scored the Bears' final points on a putback and a steal and layup.

Whiting, who finished with 10 points, then helped the Crusaders close out the contest with an 8-0 run.

The sophomore guard pumped in six points in the surge. "The girls have a great attitude," Zawoysky said. "They also have a lot of heart and great desire to play."

Johnson previously defeated Brearley 70-37 in Kenilworth back on Jan. 9.

The only three losses Johnson has suffered this season have been to Hillside twice and Dayton.

NOTES: Johnson is now gearing up for the upcoming Union County Tournament and Central Jersey, Group 2 playoffs.

The UCT has first-round games scheduled for Feb. 16, while the state playoffs begin on March 1.

Johnson is scheduled to play at New Providence tonight at 7 and next week has games scheduled at Manville Tuesday night at 7 and at Newark Technology on Feb. 13 at 4 p.m.

ALJ swimmers excel in conference competition

The Johnson High School swimming teams excelled at the Mountain Valley Conference meets held Jan. 25 at Drew University in Madison.

The boys' team finished ninth with 23 points and the girls' seventh with 80.

The Johnson girls' team received a strong performance from Kristine Bates, who placed in two events.

Bates finished fourth in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 26.01. She then took sixth in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 59.12.

The Crusaders also had a fine showing in the 200-yard freestyle relay as they took fourth in 1:50.65. Johnson also placed in the 200-yard medley relay as it took sixth with a time of 2:05.87.

Johnson's girls' team was seventh in last week's Union County meet at the Elizabeth Dunn Sport Center, while the boys' were 14th in theirs.

Wrestlers in UCT this weekend

Johnson wrestlers will be competing in the Union County Tournament tomorrow and Saturday at Union.

The seeding meeting is today at 5:30 p.m. at UHS.

Tomorrow's competition gets going at 5 p.m., with the quarterfinals set for 7:30.

Saturday's action begins with the semifinals at 10 a.m., followed by the finals at 4 p.m.

Johnson finished 10th last year with 75 points. The Crusaders battled Governor Livingston to a 39-39 tie in Clark last Saturday.

Johnson was scheduled to wrestle at North Plainfield yesterday afternoon.

Hockey faces Summit, Cranford

Johnson's ice hockey team was defeated by Cranford 11-1 Monday night at Warinanco Ice Rink in Roselle.

The Crusaders were scheduled to skate against Wayne Valley last night.

Johnson has games scheduled at Summit Tuesday night at 8:30 and vs. Cranford Wednesday night at 6 at Warinanco.

Girls' hoops in Bernoskie Games

The Fourth Annual Bernoskie Games, featuring some of Union County's finest basketball talent, will be held tomorrow and Saturday at Rahway High School.

Proceeds from the Bernoskie Games are given to the Rahway High School Student Scholarship Program.

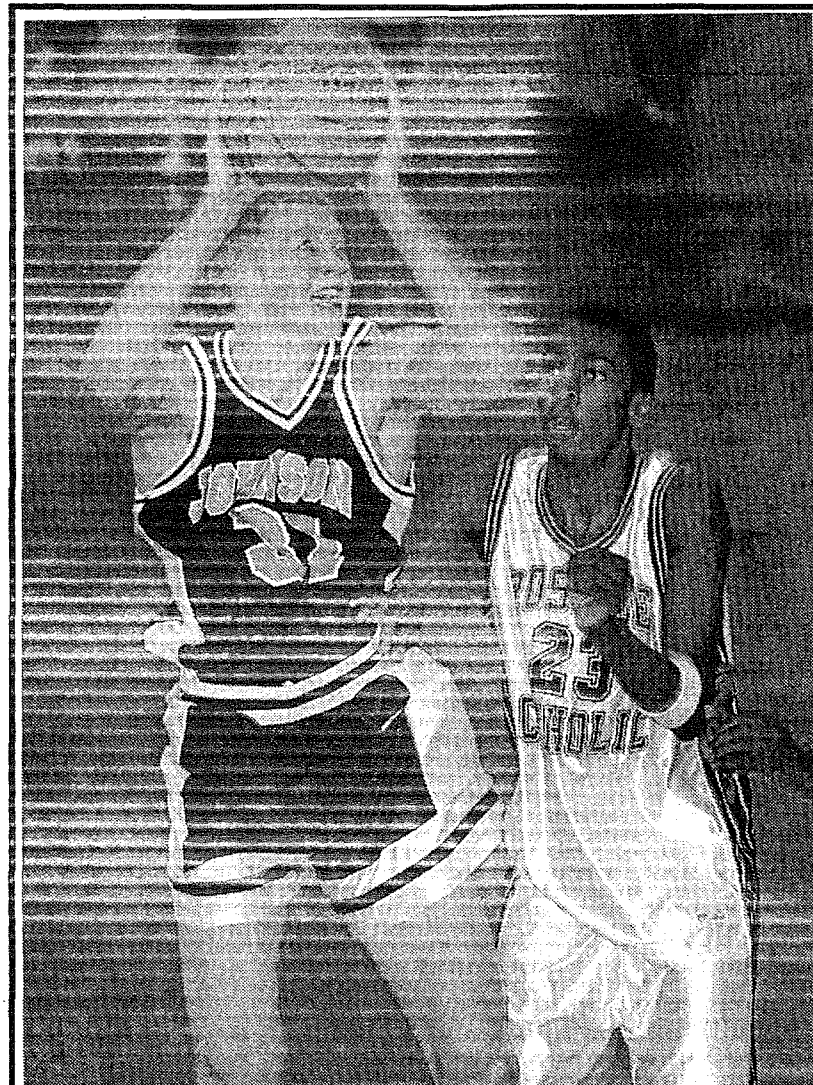
Tomorrow at 5 p.m., the Bernoskie Games will open with a girls' contest between Johnson and Rahway. In the second game, defending Union County Tournament champion Roselle Catholic will face Cranford at 6:30 p.m.

At 8 p.m., a boys' game is scheduled between Roselle Catholic and Cranford.

The Saturday schedule will excite any basketball fan and draw spectators from throughout New Jersey. In the 6 p.m. opener, Linden will take on neighboring Roselle. In the 8 p.m. finale, Rahway will host Scotch Plains.

Tickets for tomorrow's games are \$5 and for the Saturday games \$10.

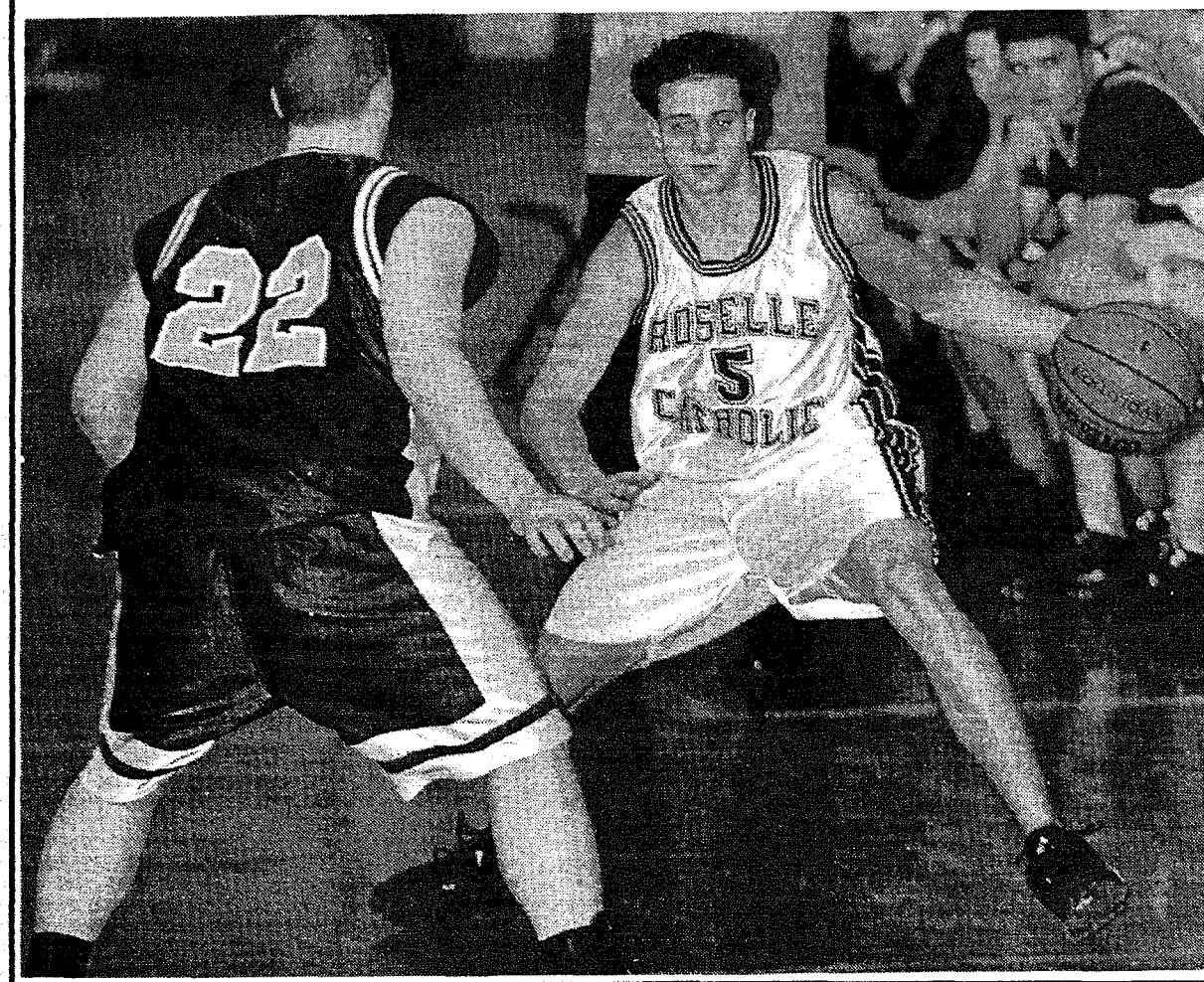
Tickets are available in advance by calling Lewis at 732-396-1196, Bernoskie Games chairman Peter Kowal at 732-574-8457 or Bob Gregory, chairman of the Merck Volunteer Focus Group, at 732-594-4535.



Photos by Reena Rose Sibayan

STATES AT STAKE -

The Johnson High School boys' basketball team needed to win all three of its scheduled games this week to qualify for the Central Jersey, Group 2 playoffs. The Crusaders were scheduled to host St. Mary's of Elizabeth Tuesday night and are set to host Roselle tonight at 7 and play at Immaculata tomorrow night at 7. At left, Steve Dunn (No. 31) brings down a rebound in last Friday's 53-40 loss at Roselle Catholic. Below, Roselle's Jesse Allen (No. 5) tries to dribble past a Johnson defender.



OBITUARIES

W.T. Sangiuliano

William T. Sangiuliano, 85, of Clark, formerly of Cranford, died Jan. 30 in Overlook Hospital, Summit. Born in Cranford, Mr. Sangiuliano moved to Clark 51 years ago. He was the service manager at Barnes Chevrolet, Summit, for 10 years and retired in 1984. Mr. Sangiuliano was a member of the Atlas Pythagorus Freemasons Lodge 10 of Westfield, a charter member of Clark Lions Club and a member

of the Clark Scholarship Fund. He was a substitute teacher at the Union County Vocational Technical School, a volunteer for the Retired Seniors Volunteer Group of Union County, a guardianship overseer for the Union County Surrogates Court, an election worker in Clark and a night supervisor at Cranford United Methodist Church. Surviving are his wife, Mildred; two daughters, Deborah Pierson and Bonnie; two sisters, Ann Everett and

Yolanda Colombari; three brothers, Arthur, Ernest and Leonard, and two grandchildren.

Ida Mayer

Ida Mayer, 97, of Clark, formerly of Elizabeth, died Jan. 29 at home. Born in Newark, Mrs. Mayer also lived in Elizabeth for 30 years. She was a member of the Wednesday Seniors of Union. Surviving are three daughters, Claire Speziale, Joan Simon and

Shirley Augenstein; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Katherine Suchocki

Katherine Suchocki of Middlesex, formerly of Clark, died Jan. 31 in Somerset Medical Center, Somerville. Born in Brooklyn, Mrs. Suchocki lived in Clark before moving to Middlesex five years ago. Surviving are two daughters, Frances Galvez and Kathleen Talavera; a son, Robert; a sister, Ethel Leo-

taskous; 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Sylvia Schwartz

Sylvia Schwartz, 82, of Clark died Jan. 26 in Union Hospital. Born in St. Louis, Mo., Mrs. Schwartz lived in Newark and Irvington before moving to Clark 16 years ago. She was a vice president and 40-year member of the Sara Slifer Orthopedic Relief of North Jersey. Surviving are her husband, Cole-

man; two daughters, Martha Moss and Sandra; two brothers, Irving and Herman Finkelstein, and a grandchild.

Dorothy B. Fink

Dorothy B. Fink, 87, of Clark, formerly of Roselle, died Jan. 29 at home. Born in Elizabeth, Mrs. Fink lived in Roselle before moving to Clark 41 years ago. Surviving are a son, Dr. Richard Fink, and two grandchildren.

EVENTS

Mother Seton sells tickets to auction

Mother Seton Regional High School will sponsor a gift auction Friday evening. General admission costs \$7. Advance sale tickets cost \$5 and can be purchased at the school office from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays.

Art gallery to showcase work by young artists

Skulski Art Gallery of the Polish Cultural Foundation will present the young talents from the Ivan Bratko's Art School from Friday through Feb. 27. The opening reception is scheduled for from 8 to 11 p.m. Friday. The public is welcome. Admission is free. Refreshments will be served. The public will see paintings, drawing, sculpture and ceramic works of the advanced students and beginners and can meet the young artists. The Polish Cultural Foundation is located at 177 Broadway. The gallery

is open to the public 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, contact Aleksandra K. Nowak at 732-382-7197.

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 Saturday. 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 pm; dinner at 7:30 pm 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

the dancing pleasure of those attending. 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 908 889-8988 from Dec. 12 to Jan. 2. After Jan. 2, call 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.

Clark Benefit Fund holds 11th annual winter ball

Clark Benefit Fund Inc. will host its 11th annual Winter Benefit Ball at The Westwood in Garwood Saturday night. 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.

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.

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.

Clark Democrats to lay fall campaign groundwork

The Clark Democratic Club will hold its monthly meeting at 8 p.m. Monday in the downstairs room of Molly Maguire's, 1085 Central Ave. Everyone interested in helping to plan the fall campaign is invited to attend. Issues and selection of candidates will be discussed. For more information call Democratic Chairwoman Nancy Sheridan at 732-382-6884, Vice Chairwoman Rose Tomchak at 732-388-1022 or Vice Chairman John Lukac at 732-382-5690.

ABC meeting to discuss state of Clark's schools

Advocates for a Better Clark will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday in Room 16 of the Charles H. Brewer Municipal Building, 450 Westfield Ave. The meeting will include a com-

munity update on various school issues, including the superintendent search, and an update on Fund for DaSilva Family, which benefits the victims of a recent fatal fire on Dawn Drive. The meeting also will address concerns about Clark School District and will rally residents and gain volunteer support for the upcoming school board election. For more information, call Laura Caliguire at 732-827-0584.

Aid Project Graduation at breakfast fund-raiser

There will be a breakfast fund-raiser for Project Graduation at the Gran Centurions hall on Madison Hill Road on March 14. There will be continuous seating from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$12 for adults, and \$8 for senior citizens and children younger than 12. For more information, call Diane at 732-388-4543 or Regina at 732-396-8709.

SENIOR NEWS

Education continues at Brewer center

Instructor Phyllis McGarry will provide line dancing lessons in the Brewer gym from 10 a.m. to noon Monday; March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; April 5, 12, 19, 26; May 3, 10, 17, 24; and June 7, 14, 21, 28. Instructor Anthony Troncone will teach Contemporary American Issues, a Union County College L.I.F.E. class, from 1 to 3 p.m. Monday; Feb. 23; March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; April 5, 12, 19, 26; May 3, 10, 17. Evelyn Panish will lead exercise sessions in the cafeteria from 9 to 10 a.m. today, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 17, 19; March 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30; April 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29;

May 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27; and June 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29.

State officer to address consumer awareness

The Clark Seniors will meet at the senior center, 450 Westfield Ave., at 1 p.m. Feb. 19. Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month. Guest speaker will be Principal Investigator James F. Lavery of the state Department of Banking and Insurance, who will make the second of four presentations to the seniors. A question-and-answer session will follow.

Refreshments will be served. Other meetings will be held March 18, April 15, May 20 and June 17. For more information, call Lillian B. Krov. 732-381-3823.

AARP chapter seeks potential members

The Clark Chapter 3733 AARP meets at 1 p.m. the second Friday of each month in the Charles H. Brewer Senior Center, 400 Westfield Ave. Social hour, with refreshments, begins at noon. The next AARP meeting will be at 1 p.m. Feb. 13.

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 Seaport. 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.

Senior bus service

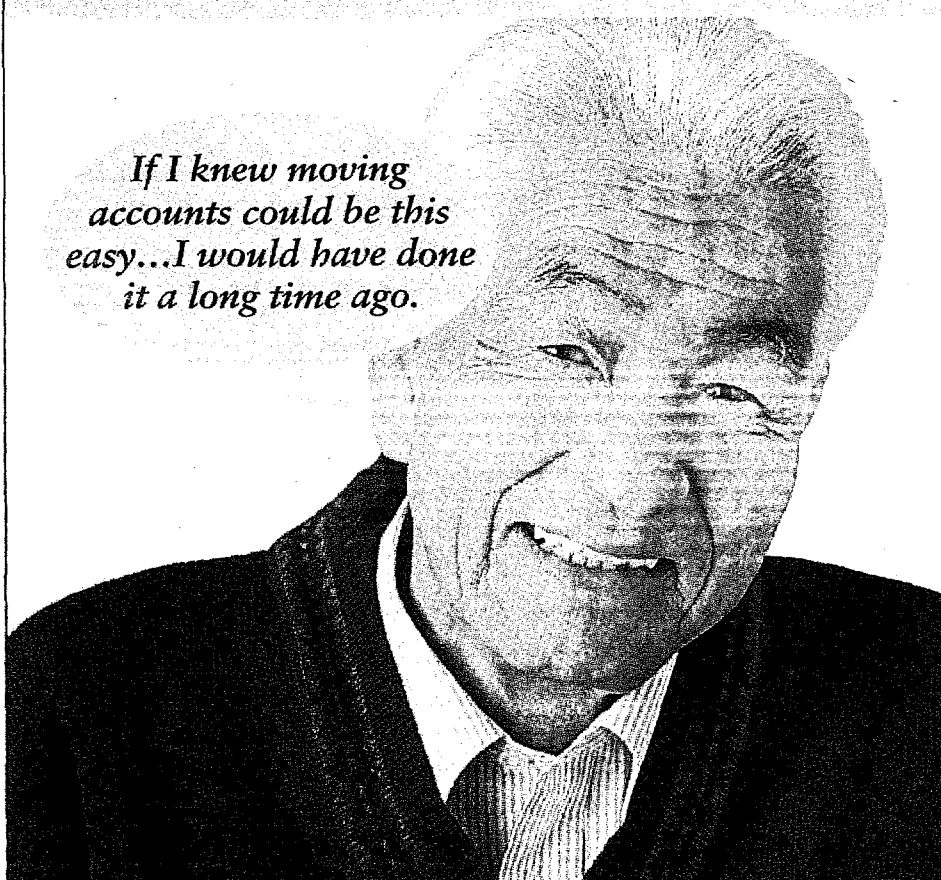
For free senior bus service, call the Municipal Building at 732-388-3600 from 9 to 11 a.m. one day in advance to reserve a seat on the bus, Mondays through Fridays, except holidays. Call the same number if it becomes necessary to cancel a reservation. Mondays: morning, ShopRite; afternoon, Clark shops, library, Municipal Building.

Y-Squares members share square dance

Usually when active young folks want to learn how to square dance, the classes held are their sole activity. Members of the Tuesday evening Y-Squares Square Dance class of Clark occasionally are invited to another square dance club dance for new dancers. The latest one was Dec. 26, when Bee Sharps Square Dance Club at Bound Brook became a fun dance activity for all. More recently Y-Squares members have attended dances hosted by the Northern New Jersey Square Dancers Association on Jan. 25, and will attend others by The Callers Council of New Jersey in February. Y-Squares meets 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Frank K. Hehny School on Raritan Road. For more information, call Janice Ubhlig at 732-381-2535 or Don Madden at 908-241-9492.

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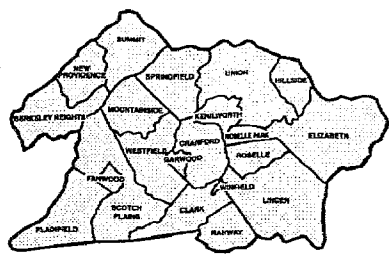
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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2004 - SECTION B

<http://www.localsource.com>

It doesn't always work

Resolutions 100 and 101 passed last week at the freeholder meeting with scant notice. No press coverage, no letters to the editor, just unanimous approval. They direct the county manager to enter into memorandum of understandings with both Overlook Hospital in Summit and Robert Wood Johnson Hospital at Rahway for the "outstationing" of an employee at these facilities.

A part-time employee from the Division of Social Services is sent to help patients process Medicaid applications. No big deal? Actually, it is pretty innovative.

Left Out

By Frank Capece

For our most vulnerable, there is somebody at the hospital to cut through the red tape, counsel family members, and get the patient financial assistance.

For the hospital it's a win-win situation. They actually reimburse the county for the employee's time. Not out of the goodness of their heart mind you, but the program means that the employee armed with a laptop gets the information quickly and accurately.

The hospital gets its money quicker and the county maximizes assistance to patients who would otherwise often find themselves lost in the maze of paperwork.

The program has been in effect for eight years. Sometimes when government works in a quiet, efficient way it gets lost. Still there is a certain fascination watching this program.

It's akin to the experience of Beth-Ann Bodek of Linden. On her 17th birthday last week she showed the skills that make her an honor student. She had the foresight to schedule her driver's test for that date. She arranged to meet all the ID criteria of the Division of Motor Vehicles, notified the family insurance carrier of the household's new driver, passed the driver's test, and informed her parents of the completion.

But not all stories have the happy ending. There is an episode of Andy Griffith where Barney, after first intimidating a bully with tough talk, finds a second guy respond with a hard shot to his gut. It leaves Griffith to remind him, it doesn't always work.

So is the case on Berkeley Place in Cranford. The street adjacent to the high school is swamped with teens who drive to school. There are some slobos who not only park their cars, but leave some garbage behind.

Enter Cranford Commissioner Scott Mease whose folksy solutions are starting to grade. After first knocking the Board of Education for not meeting to solve a problem for which they have no authority, his less-than-clever solution was to map out a distance where students should walk.

The fact that this age probation is an irrational class distinction which wouldn't stand legal muster doesn't faze Mease. Heck, it still sounds good for the people on the street. Residents deserve relief like maybe resident parking and tough litter enforcement by the township.

We also need tough talk to the presidential candidates. State Department of Labor figures reveal over the past two years a loss of 11,400 computer systems design or related jobs. It's part of the wave of sending jobs to India and other parts to be done by cheap labor.

This simple-sounding but disastrous technique of "offshore outsourcing" is becoming a wave. Companies such as IBM and Bank of America are devotees of the new tactic. Our government should step in. But like Andy Griffith said, "It doesn't always work."

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capece is an attorney.

Weather delays Rizzuto Park

Completion expected by summer

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

Construction of Phil Rizzuto Park in Elizabeth is scheduled to be completed by early summer.

Groundbreaking on the 10.4-acre recreational area named in honor of the Baseball Hall of Fame legend for the New York Yankees and longtime resident of Hillside took place in 2002. The park was supposed to be completed in 2003. However, actual construction did not begin until August.

"There was a delay from the time of the ceremonial groundbreaking to the actual groundbreaking," Union County Manager George Devaney said.

The delay was a result of the county trying to acquire state Department of Environmental Protection permits for the property's floodlines.

"There was a discrepancy between the county and the state on floodlines that required some reconciliation," said Devaney.

Currently, work on the park has been temporarily halted due to inclement weather, the county manager explained.

"As soon as the weather breaks, construction will resume and the park will be completed," he said.

Phil Rizzuto Park will contain a soccer field, para-course fitness stations, as well as a "Boundless Playground" — a fully accessible play area for children of all physical abilities.

The park will be decorated with baseball themes, including a concrete baseball seating area, gazebo with stadium-theme overhead, and a granite dedication monument. Other attractions will include a spray pool and pedestrian bridge.

So far, construction on the gazebo, and the playground are nearly completed. Grating is up on the walking path and the curbing has been put down for parking. Several trees have also been cleared to make way for the park.

"The park is very far along," said Devaney.

Initially, the cost to construct the park was \$1.8 million. However, at the Jan. 22 Board of Chosen Freeholder regular meeting, freeholders approved a change order, funding an additional \$87,000 to increase the size of the park's bridge.

The DEP mandated that the length of the bridge over the park's stream be doubled in size.

Devaney said he does not anticipate any additional change orders.



Photo By Barbara Kokkalis

Phil Rizzuto Park, located near the Kean University campus at the corner of Morris and North avenues, is expected to be completed by the summer. Construction, which began last summer, has been delayed the past several weeks due to inclement weather.

"We're expecting it to be done on time and within budget," said Devaney.

The county purchased the land for the park, located at the southeast corner of Morris and North avenues, in 1998. The property, located across the street from the Kean University campus, borders Elizabeth, Hillside and Union.

"Boundless Playgrounds" are designed so that children with disabilities can enjoy outdoor recreation, while encouraging children without disabilities to play alongside.

In a "Boundless Playground" project, children who use wheelchairs, leg braces, or walkers can play on at least 70 percent of the playground without having to leave their support equipment behind.

Additionally, "Boundless Playgrounds" are considerate of the

needs of children with vision or hearing impairment and children with developmental disabilities.

While the park may be open for the public's use this summer, the soccer field may not be ready.

"We may have to wait and make a determination later, depending on when it's complete and what the weather is at that time we'll determine whether it's full usage or limited usage," said Devaney.

State pledges \$1.2 million for acquisitions

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

Union County will receive \$1.2 million from the state's Green Acres Program to help finance the county's open space acquisitions in Summit, Clark and Union.

The properties include 63 acres of open space once owned by New Jersey-American Water Co. in Summit, the 13-acre Esposito Farm in Clark, and a little less than 5 acres on Green Lane in Union.

The three pieces of property were purchased using the county's Open Space, Historic and Recreation Trust Fund. The county spent \$7.5 million to acquire the Summit property, \$5.45 million for the Clark property and \$3.4 million for the Union land.

County officials said they do not know

what the break down of the \$1.2 million will be in regard to helping to finance each property.

The county has acquired a total of 104 acres of open space since the Open Space, Historic and Recreation Trust Fund was approved by voters in 2000.

Voters approved the trust fund by a 60-to-40 percent margin in a November 2000 referendum that established a tax of \$0.15 per \$100 of assessed value dedicated to open space, recreation and historic preservation purposes.

In addition to the three properties, the county acquired the 23-acre Ponderosa Farm in Scotch Plains last year for \$10 million.

The county received \$1.5 million in 2001 from the state Green Acres program when it first acquired the 63-acre New Jersey-Ameri-

can Water Co. property located in Summit.

For the first time, the county manager's executive budget for 2004 contains a line item of \$1.25 million for debt service on open space.

The Green Acres funding comes as part of a package of seven bills Gov. James McGreevey has signed that will provide over \$175 million to open space and park improvements in all 21 counties throughout the state.

"If we are to preserve our quality of life, we must act now to save open space and parks," McGreevey said in a prepared statement. "Our quick action on these bills demonstrates our commitment to stopping overdevelopment and sprawl. Nearly \$175 million is being allocated to projects in every county in this state, including Union County."

"This major investment will ensure that

these open spaces, parks and recreation areas will be protected from future development."

Three municipalities within the county will also receive a combined \$1.2 million for local projects.

Cranford will be provided with \$150,000 for improvements to its Canoe Club, located between Orange and Springfield avenues, and to enhance the grounds surrounding the historic Hanson House, located in Hanson Park at Holly Street and Springfield Avenue.

Elizabeth will receive \$800,000 to restore the Elmora Racquet Club on Fernwood Terrace.

Plainfield will see \$250,000 in funding to continue the rehabilitation of the swimming pools at Rushmore Park on Rushmore Avenue and Seidler Field Park on Garfield Avenue.

Companies of the year



The Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce honored its three companies of the year during the 92nd annual meeting at the Wyndham Hotel in Elizabeth. For more, see Page B2.

Local Democrat gets nod as commissioner

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

A prominent Democratic fund-raiser landed a plum appointment this week. George Castro II of Elizabeth was appointed a commissioner to the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority board by Gov. James McGreevey Tuesday, following approval by the state Senate.

Castro, the first Hispanic commissioner, will serve a four-year term on the 11-member board that oversees the Meadowlands Racetrack, Giants Stadium and Continental Airlines Arena in East Rutherford, as well as Monmouth Park Racetrack and Atlantic City Convention Center. Authority commissioners are unsalaried.

Castro, 43, was born in Colombia and came to the United States in 1985. The president and chief executive officer of Century 21 Atlantic Realtors Inc. in Roselle Park, Castro is a member of the Elizabeth Zoning Board of Adjustment, the Union County Motion Picture Advisory Board and past president of the Hispanic American Association for Political Awareness. He also owns the Ritz Theatre in Midtown Elizabeth.

Castro last year contributed more than \$4,000 to Democratic campaigns last year, including \$1,000 to state Sen. Nicholas Scutari, \$2,200 to state Sen. Raymond Lesniak, \$370 to former state Sen. Joseph Suliga and \$500 to Assemblyman Joseph Vas, also the mayor of Perth Amboy, according to documents filed with the state Election Law Enforcement Commission. He also gave \$2,540 to the Union County Democratic Committee last year and contributed \$2,600 to McGreevey's gubernatorial campaign in 2001.

"This appointment is a result of Governor McGreevey's commitment to opportunity, to participation and to the advancement of Hispanics in New Jersey," Castro said in a prepared statement from the governor's office. "I am highly honored to be part of this prestigious authority and accept the challenge to continue the significant achievements made by its board."

County's park system offers winter sports activities

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders invites the public to visit the Union County park system for the purpose of enjoying seasonal activities.

Winter sports — cross-country skiing, sledding and ice skating — are permitted in several locations, weather, snow and ice conditions permitting. Cross-country skiing will be allowed at the Ash Brook and Oak Ridge golf courses and at the Watchung Reservation, conditions permitting, but there is no location in the park system suitable for downhill skiing activities.

The Union County park system is heavily wooded, sits in proximity to roadways and bodies of water and has other park amenities that can be hazardous to sledders and snowboarders.

Suggested sledding areas include:

- Briant Park in Summit;
- The Springfield Avenue end of Echo Lake Park in Westfield/Mountainside;
- The Springfield Avenue end of Lenape Park in Westfield/Mountainside;

- Lenape Park in Cranford, away from the water, and;
- Unami Park in Garwood.

All areas are unattended and used at the patrons' own risk.

Toboggans, bobsleds and other non-steerable devices are strongly discouraged and park supervisors may suspend sledding activities if there is not enough snow on the hill or if there are severe ice conditions. Children should be supervised at all times. Snowmobiles are strictly prohibited.

Galloping Hill Golf Course is not available for winter sports activities. Given the terrain of the course, there are many areas that are considered too hazardous for this use.

Additionally, with \$4.7 million of renovations to the course complete, protecting the turf and the investment made in this area is a priority.

Snowboarding and sledding are also prohibited at Ash Brook and Oak Ridge golf courses. Along with skating at the county's ice rink at Warinanco Park, many lighted and non-lighted options for ice skating in natural areas are available.

Signs announcing the suitability of any natural area for skating will be posted. The public is urged to observe any restrictions, which are based upon the lake's ice thickness and other safety concerns.

Ice hockey is permitted at designated skating areas at the discretion of the Union County Police, based upon the ratio of ice hockey skaters and non-hockey skaters, proportionate to the size of the skating area. It is the county's intention to provide adequate ice area for the enjoyment and safety of all skaters.

The Union County Department of Parks and Recreation reserves the right to cancel winter sports at any park at any time if the conditions of the park are such that the safety of the public is in jeopardy.

For more information regarding winter sports, call the Department of Parks and Recreation at 908-527-4900 weekdays.

Information on natural skating areas can also be obtained by calling the County Police at 908-654-9800.

Gateway chamber of commerce recognizes three companies

Heritage Foundation data analyst William Beach praised President Bush's handling of the economy and said it was miraculous the recent recession was not worse than it was. His remarks were delivered at the 92nd annual meeting of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce held at the Wyndham Hotel in Elizabeth on Jan. 27.

Beach said that the Bush administration's economic plan was working, despite the worst collapse of equity markets since 1987, the economic harm caused by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and unprecedented boardroom corruption.

"I think it's just short of miraculous that the recession lasted only eight months and that the unemployment rate never rose above 7 percent, given the multiple blows to the economy," Beach said.

Beach scored the president on how well his total economic plan — tax cuts, spending changes, and trade policy — had performed. "On balance, the president should have little difficulty presenting his handling of the economy to the voters. Since most of them pay taxes and have jobs, the performance of the economy and the president's tax policy can only help his prospects for a second term."

Beach is the John M. Olin Senior Fellow in Economics

and director of the Center for Data Analysis at The Heritage Foundation. As CDA Director, Beach oversees Heritage's original statistical research on Social Security, crime, education, trade and a host of other issues, ensuring it is both rigorous in its technical scholarship and produced in time to help inform the public debate over the issue.

Beach was the keynote speaker at the annual dinner at which awards also were presented to the Small, Medium and Large Companies of the Year. The winners this year were Kaplan Consulting Group of Livingston, ATX Communications in Woodbridge, and Comcast, which has 1.4 million customers statewide and 365,000 in Union, Essex, Somerset, Middlesex and Hudson counties.

In accepting the Small Business of the Year Award, Paul Kaplan, chief executive officer of Kaplan Consulting, said "I would like, in some small way, to share this with every other small business owner, who, day in and day out, works to make the next sale or the next payroll, and works with employees to offer them benefits. They do this because many, if not all of the employees, are like family, and they do it all the while trying to find the wherewithal for these benefits along with everything else they have to do."

Christopher J. McGurk, vice president of vertical mar-

kets for ATX, said in accepting the award, "ATX is proud and honored to be recognized by the Gateway Chamber of Commerce as their Mid-Size Business of the Year. This award is particularly pleasing for ATX because of the reputation, credibility, success and professionalism of the organization honoring us — Jim Coyle and The Gateway Chamber of Commerce."

Accepting the Large Business of the Year Award for Comcast was John DelViscio, Comcast area vice president for northern New Jersey, who said, "Doing business with 70 percent of the community confers a responsibility to connect with more than just a high-tech wire. You'll find us in our trucks, offices, payment windows, and call centers, but you'll also find us in a host of other places — fixing up a home for Habitat for Humanity, collecting and distributing food for the FoodBank in Hillside, serving on the boards and committees of not-for-profits, churches and civic organizations, and many others."

"In the big picture, we're committed to using our strength as a company to make a difference in our communities," DelViscio added. "We're proud of the fact that we are one of the few businesses that gives away its core product to schools and municipal facilities. On behalf of all my

colleagues and co-workers, our humble thanks for this award, and for making us the company you turn to for the connections that are important in your lives."

Kevin T. Gillen, senior vice president of Commerce Bank for central New Jersey and chairman of the Gateway Chamber, used the dinner as an opportunity to emphasize the importance for all businesses to take advantage of the many affinity programs offered by the chamber.

"The chamber has programs to offer substantial savings to members in telecommunications services, office supplies, dental benefits, credit card processing, the importing and exporting of foods and chemicals, human resources services and others," Gillen said.

"A member taking advantage of these programs can save hundreds of dollars to hundreds of thousands of dollars," Gillen said. "These benefits are there for the asking and a member is doing himself a real fiduciary disservice if he or she does not take advantage of them."

The Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce is by far the largest business organization in northern New Jersey and is one of the fastest growing chambers in the nation, in part because of the many money-saving programs offered to its members.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Open Book, the duo of Rick Gedney and Michele Rubin, will be the hosts of the first Songwriters in the Round event, to be presented by the Coffee With Conscience Concert Series in Springfield on Feb. 14. The featured guests will be Ina May Wool and Dan Bonis.

Series to kick off 'Songwriters' concerts

The Coffee With Conscience Concert Series of Springfield will present the first of four evenings of its Songwriters in the Round Sub Series on Feb. 14 at the Emanuel United Methodist Church of Springfield, 40 Church Mall in downtown Springfield.

Pop duo Open Book will host the first in this series of four shows, and will present special guests Ina May Wool and Dan Bonis.

Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and the concert begins at 8 p.m. Admission is \$12, which includes an evening of live entertainment and all manner of treats and refreshments.

In keeping with the mission of the Coffee With Conscience Concert Series, the proceeds from each concert will benefit a charitable organization. The beneficiary of this concert will be named at a later date.

Four intimate evenings of acoustic music and harmony will be presented between February and June, where audience members are introduced to the varying musical styles of several touring singer-songwriters. Each of the four events will be hosted by a singer-songwriter of some prominence who has selected two others as his or her guests. The setting will be cozy, the atmosphere will be warm and magic is guaranteed!

Open Book, the duo of Michele Rubin and Rick Gedney, has gained a loyal following of listeners drawn to the beautiful melodies, harmonies and honest, hopeful lyrics. Their live show is intimate and compelling, with their individual writing styles, guitars and voices weaving seamlessly. Hugh Blumenfeld writes of their midway performance at Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, "You don't hear such careful attention to the sounds of words very often in folk music, and they were fine musicians to boot."

Rubin and Gedney met in 1999 at a New York-area open mic. Their musical connection began when Rubin asked Gedney to play mandolin with her at a subsequent gig. That first show led to others and soon Gedney began to write his own material as well. During the next couple of years, they honed their material and did many shows backing each other up instrumentally and vocally. The response to their collaboration was met with a great deal of enthusiasm on the part of musical friends and club owners. The path became clear: they would become a duo. Although they have only been playing publicly for three years, they have individually and privately been moving toward this their

whole lives.

For information on Open Book, visit the Web site at www.OpenBookMusic.com/index.html.

Ina May Wool has garnered her share of affirmation and acclaim. Representatives from BMI and ASCAP — the world's top two music publishers — chose one of her songs for a CD of the 15 best unsigned acoustic artists worldwide.

She has also been a finalist in the New Jersey Folk Festival Songwriter Contest and the Plowshares Songwriting Competition. The Just Plain Folks Music Awards named one of her songs, "Elephant Learning to Dance," the best song by a female singer-songwriter and placed her first CD, "Moon Over 97th Street," in the top five albums worldwide. Suzanne Vega included one of Wool's tunes on the "Vigil" CD, a collection by New York songwriters after Sept. 11, 2001, also featuring Vega, Christine Lavin, Richard Julian, and Jack Hardy. For information on Wool, visit www.InaMayWool.com.

Dan Bonis is an accomplished multi-instrumentalist and composer who plays a variety of lap steel instruments and the mandolin. He is an in-demand sideman and has just completed his first soon-to-be-released CD of original material called "Delivering the Cake," produced by Billy Masters, Suzanne Vega's guitarist who toured with Cry, Cry and produced Open Book's "Out of Time" CD. For information on Bonis, visit the Web site at www.dan-bonis.com.

There will be three more Songwriters in the Round events this season. On March 13, Bob Malone will host and present his guests, Kristy Jackson and Carla Ulbrich. On May 8, Ritt Henn will host and present his guests, Noam Weinstein and pop-duo Too Human. Finally, on June 12, Jessica Owen will host and present her special guests, Scott E. Moore and Rod Picott.

Several of the hosts have been featured before at other Coffee With Conscience concerts and all are among the finest in professional and touring singer-songwriters.

For more information about the Coffee With Conscience Concert Series, the Songwriters in the Round Sub-Series, the upcoming performance, or ways in which to get involved with the series, call Ahre Maros, owner of Ahre's Coffee Roastery in Westfield, at 908-232-8723. Information also is available online on the series' Web site at www.coffeewithconscience.com.

For audiences, position is everything

Have you read the recent survey that claimed to determine what kind of person you are by whether you sleep on your side, in fetal position, or on your back?

That made me wonder whether other positions we take in life are equally representative of our secret natures. For instance, where do you sit in a theater? What kind of position do you take while watching television? Or even, what do you do while listening to the radio?

Let's start this psycho-babble with the first-case scenario: the theater. People who sit in the orchestra at the front are obviously: A, Richer; B, Nearsighted; C, Hard-of-hearing; D, Exhibitionists; or E, Joiners. A, B, and C are self-explanatory. D and E need some delving into your personality before deciding which one is you. D, or Exhibitionists, are the kind of people who see themselves on the stage with the actors or musicians. They wink at the performers, hoping they can be spotted despite the footlights. Having heard that an actor often picks one person and plays to him, Exhibitionists are determined to be chosen. They applaud with hands raised over their heads, so everyone will notice, hoping to set the tone for the rest of the audience to follow along. They are also the first ones to stand up after the performance and yell, "Bravo," encouraging the more reticent audience members to join in. E, or Joiners, have some characteristics in common with the Exhibitionists, but their motives are purer. They just want to be one with the performers — to come as close to them as possible, so they can synergistically achieve something they cannot perform alone. First row is the dream seat for D and E who, being that close to the stage, can easily boast, "I performed with the Metropolitan Opera Company last night!"

How about those who sit in the back of the audience? They are: A, Poorer; B, Farsighted; C, Continnence

The Art of Laughter

By Helen Argers

Problem, which demands closer egress when nature calls; D, Sports Fans; or E, Greta Garbos. Again A, B, and C are self-explanatory. D stands for husbands who would rather be at home watching football and poised to leave the moment the curtain falls. E means "You want to be alone." This group wants to be as far away from the action as possible and still see it. For them, real live people performing are too intrusive — they must keep some boundaries, after all. They are the first ones to leave before the actors come out for acknowledgement — especially before a third curtain call, when only a handful of front-row people are still valiantly, generously applauding to prevent the performers being embarrassed.

Balcony people are similar to those in the back-of-the-audience, only poorer. Other balcony types are students who come in groups, and sing along — which would get them thrown out of the orchestra — or hoot and boo — ditto. Box audience sitters are similar to the front-of-the-audience crowd, but richer. Or they know the producer, have slept with the producer, or backed the producer. Last of all are the Royalty Impersonators, who see themselves as Queen Elizabeth with her crown, hoping the peasants below will notice their jewels as they walk in and out.

Television watchers and radio listeners reveal their personalities by whether or not they keep busy while watching or listening to shows, sports or discussions. Those who do homework, housework, write letters, make love, or talk on cells while watching or listening are obviously people who would rather live their own lives than

subliminally share the lives of others. Further denizens of this category are the Limited Attention Spanners. They need several jobs at once. They would never be able to stare at a chess piece for 20 minutes figuring out all the possible moves. They'd move, and the hell with the results! Or there is the single working mother who has to feed her child, wash the floor, and keep one ear open for the telephone's announcing a second job offer. The rest of the world coming through radio or television is mere background noise. Only occasionally does she pay attention if someone yells, a bulletin interrupts, or a particularly sensitive, caring, handsome man comes on, verifying that his kind still exist even if only too far across the airwaves to do her any good.

The audience that sits and watches television at full attention is: A, Sports Fans, self-explanatory since nothing else is going on for a sports fan but the game; B, Sleepers, or those who use the television as a night light and the radio as soothing sound to cover up snores or, in extreme cases, the sounds of the possible intruder who is lurking out there ready to break in and get grandfather's goldwatch hidden under the bed; C, Dreamers, who see themselves starring in every movie, debating on "Hardball" and fixing Katie Couric's hair.

Do you have a better understanding of who you are? In any position, you are free to psychoanalyze yourselves. I'm too busy sleeping in front of my television, writing this to the sound of the radio, dancing with the ballet, and running out before the boos begin. So, in short, I believe that you and I are not A, B, C, D or E, but all-of-the-above at different times. But it's nice to know how predictable other people are, isn't it?

Helen Argers is an award-winning novelist and playwright.

Scholis' works are on exhibit at Pearl Street

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders announces the opening of an exhibit of paintings by Dario Scholis of Elizabeth in the gallery space at the offices of the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, located at 633 Pearl St. in downtown Elizabeth.

"Mr. Scholis won the competition to design the city of Elizabeth's 9-11 commemorative monument," said Freeholder Chairman Angel G. Estrada. "The 8-foot monument that pays special tribute to the Elizabeth residents who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, is in the new pedestrian plaza in front of the historic Midtown Train Station. We are proud to display paintings by this talented artist."

Scholis was born in Ecuador and studied art at the Escuela de Bellas Artes of the Universidad Central del Ecuador and at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D.C. His work has been exhibited in cities throughout the United States, Europe and Latin America.

Scholis' painting are on display at the Pearl Street Gallery through March 15. Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

"Mr. Scholis works in mixed media, acrylics and intaglios in color-



Artist Dario Scholis will exhibit his work at the Pearl Street Gallery in the offices of the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. The space features the work county artists.

ful, traditional South American and contemporary styles," said Freeholder Mary Ruotolo, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board. "We thank Dario Scholis for sharing his inspired and distinctive vision."

Union County artists — whose works can be hung on a wall — inter-

ested in exhibiting in the gallery are welcome to apply. For more information about the Pearl Street Gallery, contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs by writing to 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth, 07202; calling 908-558-2550, NJ Relay users can dial 711; or sending e-mail to culturalinfo@ucnj.org.

Crafters are sought for acclaimed regional market

The Morristown CraftMarket, one of the most prestigious shows of fine American crafts in the country, is inviting applications from artisans interested in participating in the 2004 show.

The 2004 Morristown CraftMarket, the 28th annual show, is planned for Oct. 22 to 24 at the National Guard Armory in Morristown. The deadline

for applications is April 1.

Exhibitors at the Morristown CraftMarket show and sell exquisite hand-crafted pieces, ranging from stunning jewelry and woven clothing to magnificent stained-glass panels, hand-blown glass vases and ornaments, stylish leather and canvas bags, elegant handmade paper, striking ceramic vessels, brilliant and hand-painted silk

scarves, sleek hand-carved wood furniture, and whimsical wooden toys.

To send for an application to be part of the 2004 Morristown CraftMarket, write to Barbara and Michael Feno, technical directors, Morristown CraftMarket, P.O. Box 2305, Morristown, 07962-2305; fax an application request to 973-263-2866; or call 973-895-3356.

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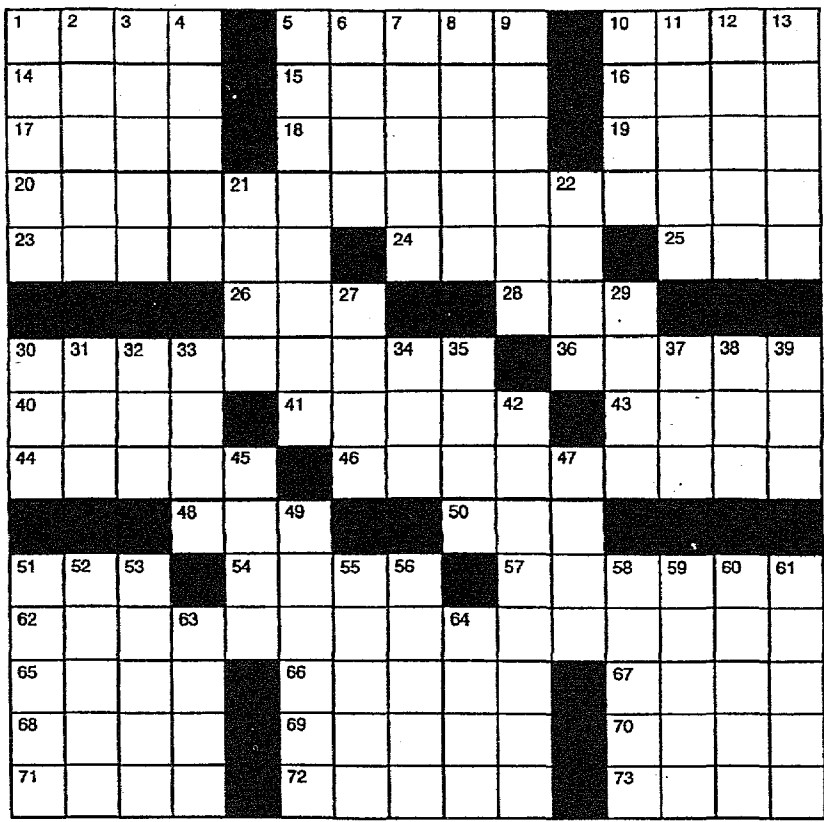
ACROSS

- 1 Window part
- 5 Type of tire
- 10 Maintain
- 14 Middle East bigwig
- 15 Featured Bacon
- 16 Cordoba currency
- 17 Sandwich side
- 18 Queen of Italy
- 19 Have top billing
- 20 Last minute purchase, frequently
- 23 Open closer
- 24 Nice head
- 25 Toque or kepi
- 26 Sit, in a different way
- 28 Stallone, to his friends
- 30 A good place to hit
- 36 Tiny flycatcher?
- 40 Ireland, once
- 41 Brads
- 43 Small boys
- 44 French states
- 46 They flock to Florida in February
- 48 Coal scuttle
- 50 Barcelona uncle
- 51 Chicken/king connector
- 54 Cincinnati nine
- 57 Leo G. Carroll character
- 62 A way to go hopping
- 65 CEO or COO
- 66 Islamic god
- 67 Top Broadway hit
- 68 City on the Truckee
- 69 An Allen
- 70 Patella's place
- 71 Cereal ingredient
- 72 Assuaged
- 73 Ilk

DOWN

- 1 Banters
- 2 Florence's love
- 3 He had a golden touch

TIME OFF FOR BEHAVIOR



COPYLEFT NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

- 4 Aria acclamation
 - 5 Radius's milieu
 - 6 Former soccer great
 - 7 Ward off
 - 8 Washing machine cycle
 - 9 Makes law
 - 10 Church projection
 - 11 This may be bitter
 - 12 Honshu port
 - 13 Case for consideration
 - 21 Expressionist Nolde
 - 22 Be a good Samaritan
- 27 Health resorts
 - 29 Abominable snowman
 - 30 Understand
 - 31 Baby beaver
 - 32 Saver's device
 - 33 He followed Cain and Abel
 - 34 Drei less zwei
 - 35 Machine entry point
 - 37 Child's card game
 - 38 Hall-of-Famer Roush
 - 39 Highway curve
 - 42 Let there be light
 - 45 Fruit of the rowan
- 47 Bumpkin
 - 49 Vitiate
 - 51 Sharp in taste
 - 52 More lenient
 - 53 Center of action
 - 55 Triangular alluvial deposit
 - 56 Career choice
 - 58 They're gathered by the goalie
 - 59 Type of bar
 - 60 Organic compound
 - 61 Bowling alley button
 - 63 Representation
 - 64 Wheel hub

See ANSWERS on Page B11

HOROSCOPE

Feb. 9-15

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can be quite convincing or persuasive when necessary. Speak your mind and quickly win over doubting friends or associates.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A powerful mentor or elder plays an important role in your professional success. Play it smart and heed the guidance and advice.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): A change of scenery is just what the doctor ordered. Ask a loved one to join you on what should be a fascinating and eye-opening journey.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): Your financial portfolio is in dire need of change. Transform your money situation with some magical help or input from a partner.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Romance is highlighted. Put aside your personal or professional concerns and offer your full emotional support to a partner or mate.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): This would be a great time to consider a new diet or exercise routine. Take it one step at a time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Avoid manipulating or verbally abusing a loved one to get your way. Take a kinder, gentler approach to amicably reach an agreement.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Play a gracious host or hostess as you welcome friends and family to your home this week. Prepare for a special celebration.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Welcome changes in your immediate environment. Organize and unite your neighbors for a community decorating or improvement project.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It takes determination to stick to your budget this week. Avoid the mall or a store where you'll be tempted to buy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Armed with a strong sense of self-confidence, you have what it takes to face the chal-

lenges in your life. Walk tall and conquer all.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Soul-searching will provide valuable insights. Unlock the door to your subconscious to realize your dreams.

If your birthday is this week, don't be surprised by the opportunities that are available to you during the coming year. This good fortune is the visible result of the transformation that is taking place on a deeper level. You will emerge from this cycle with a different perspective. As your goals and dreams take shape, welcome a professional role or life purpose and discover how you can really make a difference.

Also born this week: Carmen Miranda, Mia Farrow, Travis Tritt, Robert Wagner, Roberta Flack, Tina Louise, Burt Reynolds, Sheryl Crowe, Paula Zahn, Christina Ricci, Chuck Yeager, Kim Novak, George Segal, Stockard Channing, Florence Henderson, Kevin McCarthy, Jane Seymour, and Chris Farley.



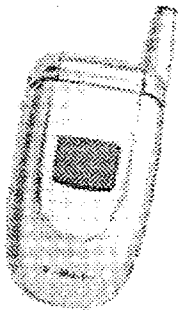
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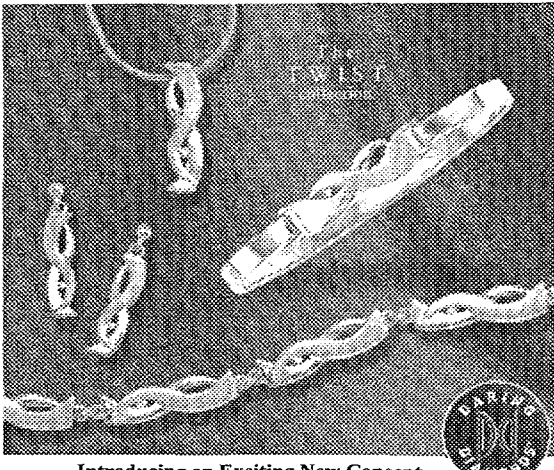
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Gathered in Paper Mill's balcony are, standing from left, student Amy Santiago, Provident Senior Vice President Mike Revesz, Paper Mill Manager of Outreach and Access Michael Mooney, Provident Vice President Freeman Ingram, student Santos Medina, and seated, student Crystal Lee Santiago, student Juan Quiles, and Ferris drama specialist Susan Murphy.

Film symposium is ready for 'Action!'

Imagine seeing a major motion picture before anyone, then the lights come up, and there in front of you are the creators of the film, ready to answer questions and discuss their work.

Widely praised as one of the best film series in the world, Filmmakers Symposium has hosted 951 movie premieres in the past 12 years.

Filmmakers Symposium will take place at two locations: Loews Mountaintide on Monday evenings starting Feb. 23, with the second session beginning April 7; or at Loews Monmouth Mall on Tuesday evenings starting Feb. 24, with the second session beginning April 8.

For information or to register, call 800-531-9416.

The series is open to anyone, but seating is limited, so early enrollment is advised. Subscription is \$131 for six weeks or \$249 for 12 weeks, plus \$20 registration fee.

Confirmed films and those under consideration for the upcoming spring session include "The Agronomist," directed by Jonathan Demme; "The Clearing," with Robert Redford and Helen Mirren, directed by Pieter Jan Brugge; "Danny Deckchair," with Rhys Ifans and Miranda Otto, directed by Jeff Balmeyer; "Dogville," with Nicole Kidman and James Caan, directed by Lars von Trier; "Ella Enchanted," with Anne Hathaway and Cary Elwes, directed by Tommy O'Haver; "Envy," with Ben Stiller, Jack Black and Rachel Weisz, directed by Barry Levinson; "Final Cut," with Robin Williams and Jim Caviezel, directed by Omar Naim; "Godsend," with Robert De Niro, Greg Kinnear and Rebecca Romijn Stamos, directed by Nick Hamm; "Hidalgo," with Viggo Mortensen, directed by Joe Johnston; "I'll Sleep When I'm Dead," with Clive Owen and Charlotte Rampling, directed by Mike Hodges; "I'm Not Scared," with Aitana Sanchez-Gijon and Dino Abbrescia, directed by Gabriele Salvatores; "The Intended," with Olympia Dukakis and Janet McTeer, directed by Kristian Levring; "Intermission," with Cillian Murphy and Colin Farrell, directed by John Crowley; "The Ladykillers," with Tom Hanks and Marlon Wayans, directed by Joel Coen; "Laws of Attraction," with Pierce Brosnan and Julianne Moore, directed by Peter Howitt; "Man on Fire," with Denzel Washington and Christopher Walken, directed by Tony Scott; "The Note-

book," with Ryan Gosling and Joan Allen, directed by Nick Cassavetes; "The Reckoning," with Paul Bettany and Willem Dafoe, directed by Paul McGuigan; "Sex Is Comedy," with Anne Parillaud and Gregoire Colin, directed by Catherine Breillat; "Since Otar Left," with Esther Gorintin and Nino Khomassouridze, directed by Julie Betucelli; "Slipping Down Life," with Lili Taylor and Guy Pearce, directed by Toni Kalem; "Spartan," with Val Kilmer, Derek Luke and William H. Macy, directed by David Mamet; "The Story of the Weeping Camel," with Ingen Teme, Botok and Uuganbaatar Ikhbayar, directed by Luigi Falorni and Byambasuren Davaa; "This So-Called Disaster," with Sean Penn, Nick Nolte and Sam Shepard, directed by Michael Almereyda; "Troy," with Brad Pitt and Peter O'Toole, directed by Wolfgang Petersen; "Wilbur Wants To Kill Himself," with Jamie Sives and Adrian Rawlins, directed by Lone Scherfig; and "Zatoichi," with Beat Takeshi and Tadanobu Asano, directed by Takeshi Kitano.

Oscar-winners and -nominees Danny Aiello, Alan Arkin, James

Cromwell, Frank Darabont, Jean-Pierre Jeunet, Richard LaGravenese, John Sayles and Marc Shaiman have joined Suzy Amis, Dylan Baker, Bob Balaban, Jim Breuer, Al Franken, Ethan Hawke, Famke Janssen, Delroy Lindo, Derek Luke, David Morse, Viggo Mortensen, Mary Kay Place, Kevin Smith, Fisher Stevens, David Strathairn, Henry Thomas and Wendy Wasserstein as guest speakers who have come to share their insights with symposium participants.

Symposium director Chuck Rose promises, "The series will always be flexible in order to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. Wonderful surprises and fantastic celebrities can pop up out of nowhere, so I try to keep the schedule as fluid as possible. In the past two years, we premiered 91 movies which later earned a total of 38 Oscar, 44 British Academy, 33 Golden Globe, and 50 Independent Spirit Award nominations."

Your abilities can earn extra income. Advertise them with a classified ad by calling 1-800-564-8911.

Paper Mill outreach program receives donation

The Paper Mill Playhouse Adopt-a-School program recently received a grant from the Provident Bank Foundation, helping the theater to continue its popular outreach program.

More than 400 students in 10 high schools participate in the program, which includes seeing a performance at the

Paper Mill, working with in-school artists, attending master workshops, and career exploration.

A group of students from Ferris High School in Jersey City attended a recent performance with their drama specialist, Susan Murphy, and met with representatives from the theater and the Provident Bank.

Miller-Cory celebrates Valentine's Day, Colonial-style

St. Valentine's Day will be celebrated on Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Miller-Cory House Museum in Westfield.

The museum is located at 614 Mountain Ave. in Westfield.

Evelyn Kennely of Westfield will demonstrate how early Americans made valentines using techniques of the period. A variety of valentines will be on display for visitors to view, and children will be able to make a valentine to take home and give to that special someone.

Named in honor of St. Valentine, a Roman martyr priest of the third century who was known as the patron saint of lovers, this festive occasion became a welcomed winter treat. The custom of exchanging valentines was

brought to America by the English settlers, but was not widely celebrated during the 1700s. Lace paper and hearts produced in England and Germany were often assembled by hand and sold in America in the 1800s.

The Miller-Cory House Museum is a living museum that offers visitors the opportunity to step back into the past and experience life as it was in colonial New Jersey. Every room in the farmhouse captures the atmosphere of the colonial era, complete with volunteers dressed in authentic clothing. The volunteers guide visitors through the 1740 house.

While at the museum, be sure to

visit the museum's gift shop. The shop carries a wide variety of colonial reproductions, cookbooks, crafts, and educational materials.

Admission the museum is \$2 for adults, 50 cents for students and children younger than 6 years old are admitted free of charge. On Feb. 22, the museum will present "Patriotic Sunday."

Call the museum office at 908-232-1776 for information about weekly tours for school groups or the museum's outreach program, which visits local schools. The museum office is open weekdays mornings until noon.

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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
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Trinitas Hospital.....http://www.trinitashospital.com
Turning Point.....http://www.turningpointnj.org
Union County National Bank.....http://www.ucnb.com
Unitarian Universalist Church.....http://www.firstuu.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

AN EDGE IN SPACE/A SPACE IN TIME will be on exhibit at the Arts Guild of Rahway through Friday. 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 973-381-7511, send e-mail to artsguild1670@earthlink.net, or visit 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.

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.

ODYSSEY WITH AN OPEN EYE, works by photographer Sheila Lenga of Union, will be on exhibit at the Les Malamut Art Gallery in Union Public Library through March 10. Gallery hours are Mondays to Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; 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.

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR, artists' self-portraits, will be on exhibit at the Arts Guild of Rahway from Feb. 15 through March 12. An opening reception will take place Feb. 15 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 973-381-7511, send e-mail to artsguild1670@earthlink.net, or visit www.rahwayartsguild.org.

PAINTINGS BY DARIO SCHOLIS will be on exhibit through March 15 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@uncj.org.

PAINTINGS BY MATT JOHNSON will be on exhibit in The Commons at Union County College in Cranford through March 22.

The Cranford campus of UCC is located at 1033 Springfield Ave., Cran-

Stepping Out

ford. For information, including exhibit hours, call 908-709-7155.

BOOKS

AUTHOR CAROLINE LEAVITT will appear at the Town Book Store in Westfield on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to sign copies of her new book, "Girls in Trouble." The Town Book Store is located at 255 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call 908-233-3535 or visit the Web site at www.townbookstore.com.

AUTHOR JEFF TAMARKIN will appear at the Town Book Store of Westfield on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to sign copies of his new book, "Got a Revolution! — The Turbulent Flight of Jefferson Airplane." The Town Book Store is located at 255 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call 908-233-3535 or visit the Web site at www.townbookstore.com.

TEEN-AGE AUTHOR TIMOTHY OLSEN will appear at the Town Book Store in Westfield on Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. to sign copies of his new book, "Teenage Investor: How to Start Early, Invest Often and Build Wealth." The Town Book Store is located at 255 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call 908-233-3535 or visit the Web site at www.townbookstore.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

CONCERTS

COFFEE WITH CONSCIENCE CONCERT SERIES in Westfield and Springfield will present a series of artists through June at two locations through June.

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

Feb. 21: DaVinci's Notebook, Westfield

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

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

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.

VOCALIST PETER CINCOTTI will appear in concert today at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark as part of the Cabaret at the Chase series. Tickets are \$45 and \$56.

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

WESTFIELD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA will appear in concert Saturday at 8 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, East Broad Street and Mountain Avenue. For information, including ticket prices, call 908-232-9400.

THE MUSICAL CLUB OF WESTFIELD will present flautist Jenny Cline, clarinetist George Toenes, pianist John Blasdale, and vocalist Suzanne Beeny Jones in concert Wednesday at 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield.

DANCE

JANT-BI: THE GERMAINE ACOGNY COMPANY will appear in "Rwanda: Fagaala" on Feb. 13 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.

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. Hehnly School, Raritan Road, Clark. Fee for each lesson is \$4. For information, call 908-298-1851, 732-381-2535 or 908-241-9492.

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 or visit the Web site at www.tmrcl.com.

JAZZ

VOCALIST NNENNA FREELON will appear in concert Feb. 14 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.

KIDS

TRAILSIDE NATURE AND SCIENCE CENTER in Mountainside will sponsor several workshops for the whole family in the coming weeks.

• "Explore Your Senses" — Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m.; admission is by donation

• "The Journey of Sap to Syrup" — Feb. 14 from 10 to 11 a.m., Feb. 16 and 17 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.; \$4 for Union County residents, \$5 for out-of-county residents; pre-registration required

• "The World of the Coyote" — Feb. 14 from 1 to 2 p.m.; 6 years old and older with an adult; \$4 for Union County residents, \$5 for out-of-county residents; pre-registration required

• "Vertebrates of New Jersey" — Feb. 16 and 17 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.; 6 years old and older with an adult; \$4 for Union County residents, \$5 for out-of-county residents; pre-registration required

• "Wildlife Watch" — Feb. 16 and 17 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.; 6 years old and older with an adult; \$4 for Union County residents, \$5 for out-of-county residents; pre-registration required
Trailside Nature and Science Center is located at 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside. For information, call 908-789-3670.

POETRY

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

OPEN MIC 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.

THEATER

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER in Newark will present "The Full Monty" through Sunday in Prudential Hall. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. today, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, with matinees today at 1:30 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$12 to \$54 today, \$14 to \$64 Friday to Sunday.

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

THE THEATER PROJECT at Union County College will present a staged reading of "Flirt" by Marie Truist on Sunday at 3 p.m. in the atrium of The Commons on the Cranford campus, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. Admission is free. For information, call 908-659-5189.

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE in Millburn will present "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife" by Charles Busch through Sunday. 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, today; audio-described performances, with sensory seminar 90 minutes prior to curtain, today at 2 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 p.m., and Sunday at 7:30 p.m.; and a sign-interpreted performance Sunday 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.

CRANFORD DRAMATIC CLUB will present "Smokey Joe's Cafe" from Friday through Feb. 21. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$18, with a discount available for senior citizens. The CDC Playhouse is located at 78 Winans Ave., Cranford. For information, call 908-276-7611.

KEAN UNIVERSITY will present "Joe Turner's Come and Gone" by August Wilson from Feb. 13 to 22 in Wilkins Theater on the Union campus, 1000 Morris Ave., Union. Shows are Wednesdays to Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$12 for senior citizens and Kean alumni, \$10 for students and children. For information, call 908-737-7469.

ELIZABETH PLAYHOUSE in Elizabeth will present "The Great God Brown" by Eugene O'Neill from Friday through March 7. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$6 for students and senior

citizens. The Elizabeth Playhouse is located at 1100 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth. For information, call 908-355-0077 or visit the Web site at www.ElizabethPlayhouse.com.

VARIETY

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.

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; "Live at Instant Coffee," 8 p.m.

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 through Feb. 18; beginning Feb. 25, Karaoke Night; Corona, Cuervo, Margaritas, \$2 all night

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

Today: Snafoo

Friday: Amorica in a tribute to the Black Crowes, No Code in a tribute to Pearl Jam

Saturday: Brother John Brown
Feb. 12: Remount, and Universal Datatone

For information, call 908-232-5666 or visit www.xxroads.com

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.

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.

Y Day Camps 2004

Springfield YMCA Summer Camp

Register now at the Y located at the Chisholm Community Center

For campers entering pre-kindergarten - grade 5
Weekly sessions: June 21 - August 27

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Register now at the Y located at 67 Maple Street, Summit

For campers ages 3 - 17
Weekly sessions: June 21 - August 20

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VALENTINE GREETINGS

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Thursday, February 12, 2004
Copy Deadline February 6, 2004

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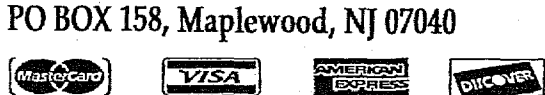
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ARTS CLIPS

Musical Club tunes up

The fourth concert of the Musical Club of Westfield will be presented Wednesday at 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield.

The first two compositions in this concert were written originally for virtuoso wind instrumentalists.

Flautist Jenny Cline of Westfield will perform "Concerto for Flute" by Otar Gordini. She will be accompanied on the piano by Mary Beth McFall of Roselle. Clarinetist George Toenes of Westfield will perform C.M. von Weber's "Grand Duo Concertante for Clarinet and Piano." McFall is not a piano accompanist in this piece, but an equal partner. This composition was written for Germany's No. 1 clarinetist, Heinrich Baermann, in 1816.

Pianist John Blasdale of Whippany will perform "Arabesques No. 1 in E Major" by Claude Debussy, and "Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue" by Bach.

Vocalist Suzanne Beeny Jones of Hackensack will sing "Flammende Rose" and "Susse Stille." Both of these compositions are by G.F. Handel, and have flute obligati played by Cline. McFall will be at the piano. Beeny Jones will also perform a selection from Mozart's "La Nozze di Figaro."

The "Hungarian Dance Suite No. 1" by Johannes Brahms will be performed by Cline, Toenes, and McFall.

Refreshments will be served. The public is invited.

Free spruces available

Ten free Colorado blue spruce trees will be given to each person who joins the National Arbor Day Foundation during February 2004.

The free trees are part of the non-profit foundation's Trees for America campaign.

Colorado blue spruces have a silver-blue-green color and a compact conical shape. They can be used as individual ornamentals, an energy-

saving windbreak, a privacy screen, or as a living Christmas tree.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between March 1 and May 31 with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow, or they will be replaced free of charge.

To become a member of the foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to "Ten Free Colorado Blue Spruce Trees," National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, by Feb. 29, 2004; or go online to www.arborday.org.

Volunteers are sought for annual Teen Arts Festival

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 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 Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at 908-558-2550; Relay users call 800-852-7899; or send e-mail to klearly@ucnj.org.

UCAC lists upcoming gigs

The Union County Arts Center in Rahway has announced its Winter/Spring 2003-04 75th Anniversary season. For information, call 732-499-8226 or visit the Web site at www.ucac.org.

• Feb. 20, 8 p.m.: "My Way: A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra." All tickets are \$5.

• Feb. 21, 8 p.m.: Richard Nader's Doo Wop Reunion Tour with Lou Christie, Emil Stucchio and The Classics, and The Chicettes. Tickets are \$40, \$35 and \$30.

• Feb. 22, 3 p.m.: Children's show, "Martin Luther King Jr.," a musical tribute. All tickets are \$10.

• Feb. 28, 8 p.m.: Gospel Fest starring Yolanda Adams. Tickets \$40, \$35, \$26.

• March 20, 8 p.m.: The Black Brothers and The Aofie Clancy Band. Tickets are \$40, \$35 and \$30.

• March 21, 3 p.m.: Duck Soup Magic Show. All tickets are \$10.

• March 26, 8 p.m.: "Sophisticated Ladies: The Music of Duke Ellington." All tickets \$35.

• March 27, 8 p.m.: The Amazing Kreskin. Tickets are \$40, \$30.

• April 3, 2:30 p.m.: Movie Matinee, "Sons of the Desert" with Laurel and Hardy. All tickets \$5.

• April 3, 7:30 p.m.: Movie double feature, National Lampoon's "Animal House" and "The Blues Brothers." All tickets are \$5.



Harmony Excursion, one of the barbershop quartets composed of members from the Rahway Valley Jerseyaires Chorus, is ready for Valentine's Day. Among those performing singing Valentines are, from left, tenor Tom Walsh, lead Doug Brown, bass Chris MacVicar, and baritone Ed Ringel.

Barbershoppers have love songs for Valentines

The Rahway Valley Jerseyaires Barbershop Chorus, a nonprofit musical and educational chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America Inc. announces its 11th year of performing "Singing Valentines" for that special person.

Send a musical Valentine that your sweetheart or someone special will never forget. A barbershop quartet dressed in formal attire will sing a love-song serenade at a location of

choice, such as workplace, residence, restaurant, etc. The recipient will also receive a special chocolate candy, a flower, and a picture of the event. This service will be available Feb. 13, 14 and 15 for \$50; other dates are accommodated if possible.

"Availability of quartets is limited, so reserve your serenade now," said Ken Friedlander, president of the Rahway Valley Jerseyaires Chorus.

For more information or to arrange

the time and place for your special singing Valentine, call 908-272-1503 or 888-480-0901, send inquiries via e-mail to lugeman@msn.com, or visit www.geocities.com/rvjerseyaires/.

The Rahway Valley Chapter's funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

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NINO'S Ristorante & Pizzeria

*Everyday Is Valentine's Day At Nino's
Come & Fall In Love*
**** by Anne Santos

Mr. Nino's has a choice of 2 dining room alternatives. One dining room is for light meals of pizza or fast food.

Parents with children, business people on the go make this part of the establishment their home. The other dining room that we enjoyed was decorated very nicely...recessed lighting, cloth tablecloths, napkins, silverware & flowers in bud vases graced the table. A tranquil seascape covered two walls. Soft music made one relax upon entering the dining room. Another nice aspect of the room was the large windows facing the street - you could people watch while enjoying the food & talking.

For starters my companion and I enjoyed Bruschetta. It is a fresh Italian bread toasted to a golden hue topped with diced tomatoes, red onions & garlic drizzled lightly with olive oil - a perfect opener for any meal. Freshly made warm twisted garlic knots arrived - the knots were irresistibly good served with a tasty, light marinara. For appetizers we ordered the fresh mozzarella salad and the hot antipasto. The presentation of the mozzarella salad was exceptional - mozzarella, fresh tomatoes, roasted peppers in a vinaigrette arranged in a pinwheel design garnished with fresh parsley. The antipasto was a sampler of stuffed mushrooms & clams, breaded fried calamari, mussels topped with marinara eggplant/spinach rollatone. The appetizers were extremely fresh, steaming hot & a wonderful choice - delicious.

For the entree we ordered the shrimp parm & the chicken marsala. The shrimp parm was cooked to perfection, accompanied by angel hair pasta topped with marinara & a salad. The chicken marsala was absolutely the best I have ever had. We ended the meal with expresso & shared the homemade black & white cheesecake. The expresso was a rich brew of the finest beans. The cheesecake was as light and fluffy as a mousse. The portion's of everything was so plentiful needless to say - we had leftovers for another meal at home. Our waitress throughout the meal was cheerful and very attentive. Mr. Nino's has been in business since 1990 and the owners aspiration to be great hosts have been mastered. This is one special, wonderful restaurant. Mr. Nino also offers an Early Bird Special - Eat In Only from 3 to 6. The Early Bird Special is a tremendous value for anyone but especially the seniors. Catering is also available. Reservations are now being accepted for Valentine Day - it will be a meal she will surely remember.

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© VIRGINIA THEATRE, 245 West 52nd St. Running time: 2 hours New Broadway cast album on CD

Travels enhance photographer's 'eye' in Union exhibit

Making a return appearance, Sheila Lenga of Union will hold her second solo exhibit of photographs in the Les Malamut Art Gallery in the Union Public Library on Morris Avenue.

Since her first show in the gallery seven years ago, Lenga has traveled extensively and developed an unusual and keen perspective of her subjects. Thus the title of the exhibit, "Odyssey With an Open Eye," is very appropriate. The exhibit will continue through March 10.

Although Lenga has been a photographer since she was a child, her father, a famous artist, wanted her to become a pianist. She studied at the Juilliard School of Music and performed concerts with her violinist brother, Mark. After marriage and raising three children, she was ready to pursue her true love — photography. She has since studied at the New School of Social Research and photographic workshops across the country.

She is continuing her love of music and is a board member of the New Jersey Jazz Society. She is on the board of many photographic organizations, the

Westfield Art Association, the New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs, the Cranford/Millburn Camera Club, the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit, the Photographic Society of America, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

Some of her other solo exhibits include Children's Specialized Hospital, Mountainside; the Westfield Art Gallery; the Jewish Community Center of Edison; the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts in Westfield; the North Edison Library; and Traders of the Lost Ark, New Hope, Pa. Many of her group exhibits include the Westfield Art Association; the Watchung Arts Center; the New Jersey Photo Forum; the Diversity Arts Gallery in Clark; and the Arts Guild of Rahway.

The gallery is open during regular library hours: Mondays to Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Union Public Library is located at 1980 Morris Ave., Union, in Friberger Park. For information, call 908-851-5450.

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Celebrating 94 Years

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

VISION STATEMENT

The Boy Scouts of America is the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training.

In the future Scouting will continue to

- Offer young people responsible fun and adventure;
- Instill in young people lifetime values and develop in them ethical character as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law;
- Train young people in citizenship, service, and leadership;
- Serve America's communities and families with its quality, values-based program.

BECOMING A BOY SCOUT

At first, who wanted you to become a Boy Scout? Did you want to be a Boy Scout? Do you want to be a Boy Scout?

Question yourself. The life of a Boy Scout is to become a man with experience of knowledge and to know himself to survive. Boy Scouts will give you life to make most of your dreams to come true and to also make your life easy to do in planning and setting goals. Boy Scouts can be a fun and joyful thing to do in your spare time.

Have your friends join the fun of Boy Scouts as you gain experience and a chance to make things easy in your life. Talk to teachers, friends, family members or anybody that knows Boy Scouts and ask how to join the Boy Scouts.



John Pender and his son Scott represent two generations of a longstanding family involvement in Scouting

THE RANKS IN BOY SCOUTS

Here are the ranks from Boy Scout to Eagle Scout

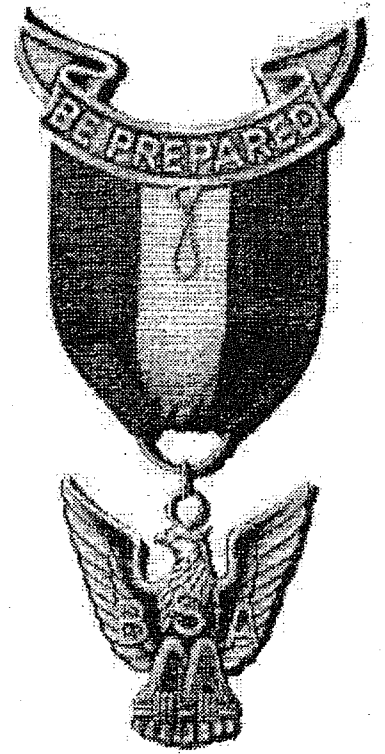
1: Boy Scout (Scout) 2: Tenderfoot 3: Second Class 4: First Class
5: Star Scout 6: Life Scout 7: Eagle Scout

Scouting is a generational thing for Pender family

Scott, a third-generation Scout, became the fifth Pender to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. Scott's grandfather, father, two uncles, two first cousins, and sister are or were all Scouts.

John Pender achieved the rank of Life Scout himself and later became his son's troop's cubmaster when Scott entered at the age of 7.

Scott received his Eagle Scout award in May 2003, for which he had to complete 21 merit badges as well as a service project. Scott helped build wooden benches out of log rounds at Watchung Reservation.



FAMOUS SCOUTS

Famous former Scouts include President John F. Kennedy, Henry Fonda, Hank Aaron, James Stewart, astronaut Neil Armstrong, Senator E. Benjamin Nelson, Dem. Nebraska and astronaut/senator John Glenn.

Eagle Scout Paul Siple sailed to Antarctica with Commander Byrd in 1928.

Since 1926, Boy Scouts of America honored American adults for noteworthy service to the nation's youth by awarding them the silver Buffalo, the highest award in scouting. Recipients have included Charles Lindbergh, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Norman Rockwell, Walt Disney, and President Ronald Reagan.

Eagle Scout John Stanford from Limestone NY earned the most merit badges ever - total was 142 and he had a total of 8 silver palms by his 18th birthday.

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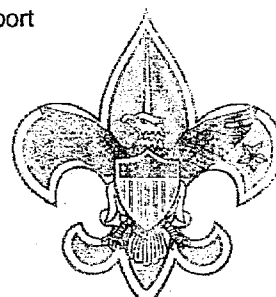
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SCHOOLS, Kids & CAMPS

Long-standing traditions of excellence continue at nearby school

When Kathy Middleton started teaching the children of her former students, she knew she had reached a milestone in her career.

"It is the most rewarding experience — that many former pupils would seek me out to educate their children was the greatest compliment I could receive," Middleton said.

Kathleen S. Middleton — "Mrs. Middleton" to her student population — celebrates her 31st school year as an early childhood program director, and 36th as an educator — honorable milestones for a highly lauded teacher.

"When I was looking into pre-schools for my daughter, I polled many friends who had the ways and means to send their children to anywhere in the area," said Betsy Sagges, a Middleton Early Learning Center Mother and board member. "Most parents casually named their school of choice, but two in particular responded so passionately, I felt compelled to find out why they felt so strongly about this Middleton program. I was extremely impressed."

Clearly, many of Middleton's supporters are impressed. Six years ago, when Middleton's program moved from one space to its current location, the school faced the daunting task of trying to establish itself in a new neighborhood and needing all new furnishings and surroundings. In less than three months, Elisabeth Ginsburg, a former board member and current president of the Glen Ridge Board of Education, reveals, "We had to leave everything — more than \$60,000 in equipment and supplies at the school's old location. So we contacted our supporters and all the parents who had sent a child through Kathy's program, and every single one of them reached into their pockets to help." In addition,

local grants reinforced their opinions that Middleton's school deserved such fervent support.

The Middleton Early Learning Center opened its doors to its pre-school students in September 1998 and has maintained a full enrollment ever since. Middleton's program is based on a blend of educational philosophies, including Montessori, Reggio Emilia, Piaget, and other recognized early childhood authorities. There are areas in the classrooms for mathematics, language, reading-readiness, role play, "manipulatives," sensory-tactile materials, practical life skills, creative arts, social studies, block party, science, physical education, books, and music.

A graduate of Glen Ridge High School, Middleton earned a B.A. in English and speech from Montclair State University. She received state certification in early childhood education at Kean College of New Jersey, and went on to receive certification in Montessori education at the Early Learning Center of Stamford, Conn. After three years teaching in high school English in Bloomfield, Middleton shifted gears to teach pre-schoolers in Cedar Grove. Then in 1972, she became the educational director at the Nursery School at Christ Church in Glen Ridge, where she developed and ran the pre-school program for 27 years. Her role ran the gamut from program and curriculum development to staffing and children's assessments; from facility maintenance and upkeep to public relations and office administration. In 1998, well armed with the knowledge and acumen to run her own program, Middleton founded the Middleton Early Learning Center in a location all her own.

But Middleton's passion for teaching goes beyond her in-school responsibilities. For seven years, she served on the Glen Ridge Board of Education, elected vice president and president twice. She was appointed by the mayor to serve on the Glen Ridge Historic Preservation Commission and the Mayor's Committee on Alcohol/Drug Abuse. She remains an active member of the Theresians Women's Association, and St. Peter Claver Church. Middleton has also served as a volunteer and trustee of the Montclair Adult School since 1980. "If it's worth doing, it's worth doing it right" is a familiar Middleton mantra heard by friends, family, and co-workers over the years. That rings true as Middleton has maintained a strong following over the years. At her pre-school's annual fund-raiser, parents of former students regularly turn out in support of Middleton and her center. But Middleton's greatest asset goes beyond the environment she has created and the teachers she has trained; Kathy Middleton has given her pre-schoolers the gift of feeling special, secure, loved, capable, and happy in their first school experience — a solid educational foundation that a new generation of parents and students can feel good about.

Situated on the border of Glen Ridge and East Orange, the Middleton Learning Center offers a pre-school program based on tested principles of early childhood education. Under the direction of Kathleen Middleton, the program boasts a long-standing tradition of educational excellence and loving care. M.E.L.C. is a nonprofit organization, governed by an independent board. For more information call 973-677-4176.

Immaculate Conception philosophy aims to meet the needs of the 'whole person'

Immaculate Conception High School is a private, Catholic, co-educational, college-preparatory high school in Montclair.

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Immaculate is administered by the Sisters of Charity and governed by its own board of trustees. The school is fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, as well as the Archdiocese of Newark, and is a scholastic and athletic member of the Colonial Hills Conference.

Immaculate offers students a multicultural experience, a family atmosphere, and a community environment where they can discuss and live out the values upon which their education is based. A 10-to-1 student-teacher ratio ensures a personalized education.

Immaculate students excel academically, athletically, and socially. More than 98 percent of the graduates are accepted into four-year colleges and have earned more than \$21.5 million in scholarships since 1994.

Immaculate emphasizes the development of the whole person, with very strong, and highly successful community service, peer ministry, character education, senior hospital and research experience, success in school, and student mentoring programs. The athletic program provides a wide variety of opportunities for competition on the freshman, junior varsity and varsity levels, with a no-cut policy.

Immaculate offers a solid curriculum in the fine arts. Students are encouraged to develop their skills through music and arts programs. The administration and faculty encourage extracurricular participation as further aid in the growth of the whole person. A widely recognized and acclaimed United People of Color Performance Troupe is one example of the many

non-athletic extracurricular activities also available. Other activities include the Gospel Choir, Shakespeare Troupe, Clown Ministry, Art Club, Computer Club, and the Time Line Committee.

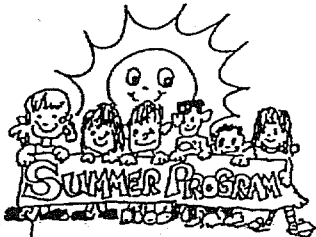
At Immaculate, students are challenged to fulfill their potential so they may be prepared for life experiences

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AFTER SCHOOL Supervisor: Part time, 19 hours/week. \$10.00/hour. Maplewood Memorial Library, 51 Baker Street. Responsible for working with Middle School students in the public library after school, including crowd control and occasional discipline. Other library duties may also be assigned. For more information contact Katherine LaRocca at 973-762-1622, extension 5013 or pick up an application at the library.

AMERICA'S AIR Force: Jobs available in over 150 careers plus enlistment bonus for certain careers. Up to \$10,000 student loan repayment. Up to 100% Tuition assistance. High Tech training. High School grads age 17-27 or prior service members from any branch, call 1-800-423-USAF or visit AIRFORCE.com. U.S. Air Force. Cross Into The Blue

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

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AWESOME CAREER for 2004 Postal positions \$14.80-\$36.00 /hour. Federal hire with full benefits. Call 7:00am-7:00pm. CST 1-800-651-7024. extension 2048. Test Prep.

BABYSITTER NEEDED to pick-up 2 boys, 3 days per week from 2:30-7:00 in Livingston. Car required. Call Suzanne 973-332-2706

BOOKKEEPER/CLERICAL busy West Orange Alarm Company seeks organized detail, oriented individual with good communication skills. Must know Excel and Word. Fax resume to: 973-672-0731.

CASHIER NEEDED for upscale shoe salon in Millburn. Around 25-30 hours, 4-5 days per week. Good pay, benefits and discount. Typing skills and experience a must. Call Sarah, 973-379-2085 extension 2

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DATA ENTRY Great Pay. Flexible Hours! Computer required. 1-800-382-4282 extension #63

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DENTAL RECEPTIONIST needed for Orthodontic Millburn office. Full time and/or part time. Computer skills a must. Dental experience a plus. No Saturdays. Call Cheryl D. between (9:00am-2:00pm.ONLY) 973-376-7131.

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LADY WANTED To Clean/ Iron one day weekly. Reference required. Please call 973-761-1897.

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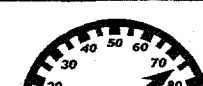
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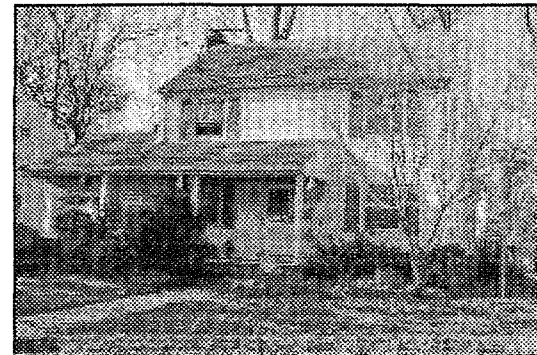
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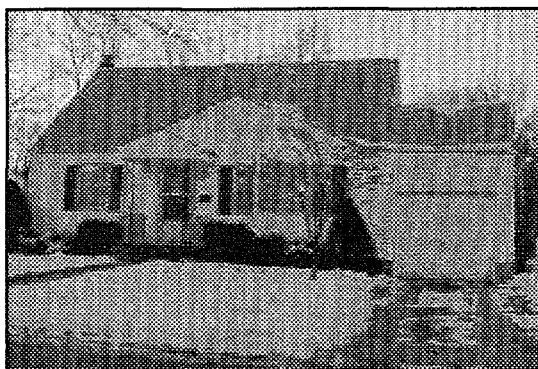


Our Featured Agent this week is Linda Shans. A consistent top producer, Linda has earned the NJAR Circle of Excellence again this year and is a member of the Coldwell Banker Presidents Club. Her attention to detail and the customers' needs makes Linda an

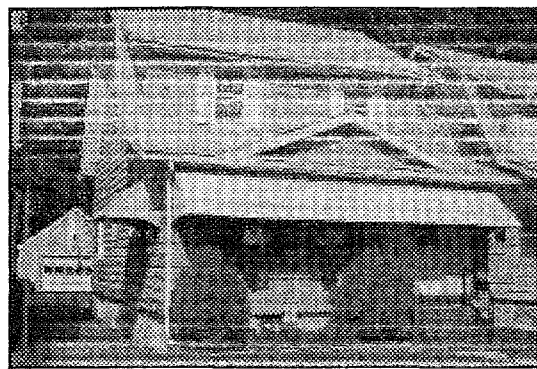
excellent choice to help you sell your home. A thirty year resident of Union and expert in relocation, Linda can assist in all your local Real Estate needs whether you are staying local or moving across the country.



416 Forest Dr. - Mint condition Colonial in the desirable Washington School section features LR w/ flr, 15 ft front porch, bsmt w/dry bar, new dishwasher, newer roof, vinyl siding, H2O heater & CAC. Home warranty incl. UN18490
Offered at \$319,900



414 Princeton Rd. - Adorable 4 Bedroom Cape in Sunnyside section. Recent renovations include kitchen, CAC, vinyl siding & roof. Beautiful yard with Perennial flower gardens. UN17032
Offered at \$274,900



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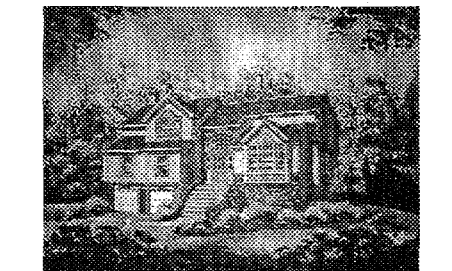
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Thanking Jill Guzman Realty, Inc.

Dear Jill:

We'd been looking for a house for a few weeks with no luck. One Sunday, we looked at a house in Roselle. We weren't crazy about the house but we liked the neighborhood so we drove around and saw a house for sale. The sign in front said "Call Cecile Do Amaral, Guzman Realty." The next day we did and we scheduled an appointment to look at the house. Cecile met us on a Saturday in front of this big - really big, white Colonial. Cecile was polite, professional and friendly. She let us in the side door and - wow, look at those floors!!! The beautiful inlaid wood floors knocked us over. We were hooked. The rooms were big - the kitchen tile was gorgeous, new cabinets... By the time we made it up to the huge attic (you can hold square dances in here!!!), we were on the line. "If we can stand up in the basement, we are buying this house." We could. And we did. Getting from the falling in love with the house to moving into it was a tough and loooong journey. But Cecile helped us every step of the way. From our first meeting through closing she was our guide, confidante, shoulder to cry on, "Help us fit it!!", go to girl. When, on the night before closing, everything was falling apart, it was Cecile who kept us going, calmed us down and got us to the table. Thank you Cecile. Thank you Guzman Realty. We love our new home!!!!

Thank you., Kelly Masterson & Leslie Daniels

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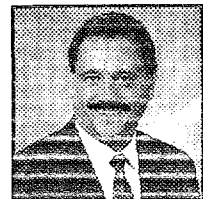
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	5.375+0/5.490	4.625+0/4.816	4.5+0/3.879(5/1)	2nd & invest homes. Affordable housing discount
	5.625+0/5.649	4.875+0/4.915	4.875+0/4.817(7/1)	80/10/10 no PMI prog reduced doc & many more
FLEET	5.75+0/5.883	5.125+0/5.425	4.75+0/4.338(5yr)	Call 1-800-9FLEET-1
800-466-3070				
INVESTORS SAVINGS	5.625+0/5.65	4.875+0/4.91	4.5+0/4.04(5/1)	Other loan programs available.
BANK			5+0/4.37(7/1)	Loans to \$1.5 million.
800-252-8119			5.375+0/4.81(10/1)	Jumbo rates the same as conforming rates.
				Portfolio lender.
LIGHTHOUSE	5.5+0/5.62	4.875+0/4.93	Call	Call for great rates and great service!
MORTGAGE				
800-784-1331				
LOAN SEARCH	5.75+0/5.82	4.88+0/4.94	5+0/4.67(10/1b)	N.J.'s lowest mortgage rates! Jumbo specialists.
800-591-3279			5.75+0/5.84(5/1 b)	www.loansearch.com
			4.63+0/4.44(30yrjb)	
PARTNERS	5.25+0/5.29	4.625+0/4.67	4.25+0/4.12	Zero pts., zero fee loans available.
MORTGAGE				Free refinance forever.
732-634-8050				partnersm@aol.com
SYNERGY BANK	Call	Call	Call	Call us about our latest rates!
800-693-3838				
UNION CENTER NAT'L	5.625+0/5.683	4.875+0/4.907	4.5+0/4.634(10)	We offer some of the lowest ARM rates available.
BANK			4.5+0/4.553(7/1)	Up to \$1,000,000.
908-688-9500				

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www.LOCALSOURCE.COM

Lenders, to be listed in this paid, advertised
column, call 1-800-CNS-8525

Information is current as of February 2, 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% - 5% 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. AI - 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

Weekly Mortgage News

McLean, VA - In Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage (FRM) averaged 5.68 percent, with an average 0.7 point, for the week ending January 29, 2004, up slightly from 5.64 percent last week. Last year at this time, the 30-year FRM averaged 5.90 percent.

The average for the 15-year FRM this week is 4.97 percent, with an average 0.7 point, up very slightly from last week's average of 4.95 percent. A year ago, the 15-year FRM averaged 5.28 percent.

One-year Treasury-indexed adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 3.59 percent this week, with an average 0.6 point, up also very slightly from 3.56 percent last week. At this time last year, the one-year ARM averaged 3.89 percent.

(Average commitment rates should be reported along with average fees and points to reflect the total cost of obtaining the mortgage.)

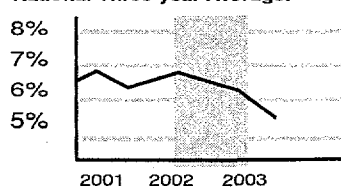
"Mortgage rates were basically unchanged leading up to the FOMC's announcement that opened the door to the possibility the Fed would raise rates sooner than expected," said Frank Nothaft, Freddie Mac's Chief Economist. "Following the policy statement, bond yields shot up, taking mortgage rates with them, raising the prospect that mortgage rates will be even higher next week."

"However, even at higher levels next week, mortgage rates remain incredibly low and affordable and shouldn't starve off the demand for housing in 2004. The real estate market, although slowing from last year's blockbuster pace, will continue to be robust this year."

National Averages

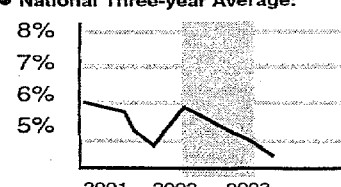
30-year mortgage

- National Average: 5.40%
- National Three-year Average:



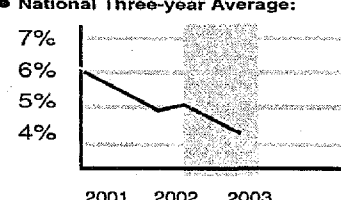
15-year mortgage

- National Average: 4.70%
- National Three-year Average:



5/1 ARM

- National Average: 4.13%
- National Three-year Average:



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BMW 330i, 2001 SILVER. Great Condition, 43,000 miles, manual, cold weather, premium, H/K sound, alarm, cd changer, \$28,500, obo 973-495-1258.

BMW, 525i, 1995. Clean, black with black, 160+k. \$6,000. Evenings. 973-763-8121

CHRYSLER LHS, 2000. 76,200 highway miles, gold, loaded, tires 1 year old. Mag wheels. Sporty. Very clean. Asking \$8500. 908-578-7365.

FORD ESCORT, 1996, Red, Automatic, 4 door Hatchback, AM/FM CD Stereo, 70,000 miles, great condition. Asking \$3000. 201-247-2081.

AUTO FOR SALE

FORD, EXPLORER, XLT, 1996, V-6, 4X4, 4-Door, green/tan interior, garaged. 165K, runs, looks great. Power windows, \$3,300. 973-761-0555.

DODGE DURANGO, SLT, 1999 fully loaded, excellent condition, 65,000 miles, asking \$12,400. Call 973-564-7721.

JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT 2000 -Powerful 4X4, 69K miles, Runs great, excellent condition, loaded, AC, Power Everything, 6 CD, Midnight Blue/ Grey interior, new tires. \$10,300. 973-768-5674

MAZDA MIATA 1991 low mileage, 69,000 miles. Convertible with hard top, am/fm, cd/cassette. Security system. \$3500. 908-322-0849, Ken.

NISSAN, SENTRA, XE, 1994, 4 door sedan, 5 speed, original owner, excellent running condition, 113,000 miles. Asking \$1,900. 908-353-5467.

AUTO FOR SALE

PONTIAC, GRAND Am SE, 1997, 80K, automatic, loaded, excellent condition, \$3,800. 973-736-0560.

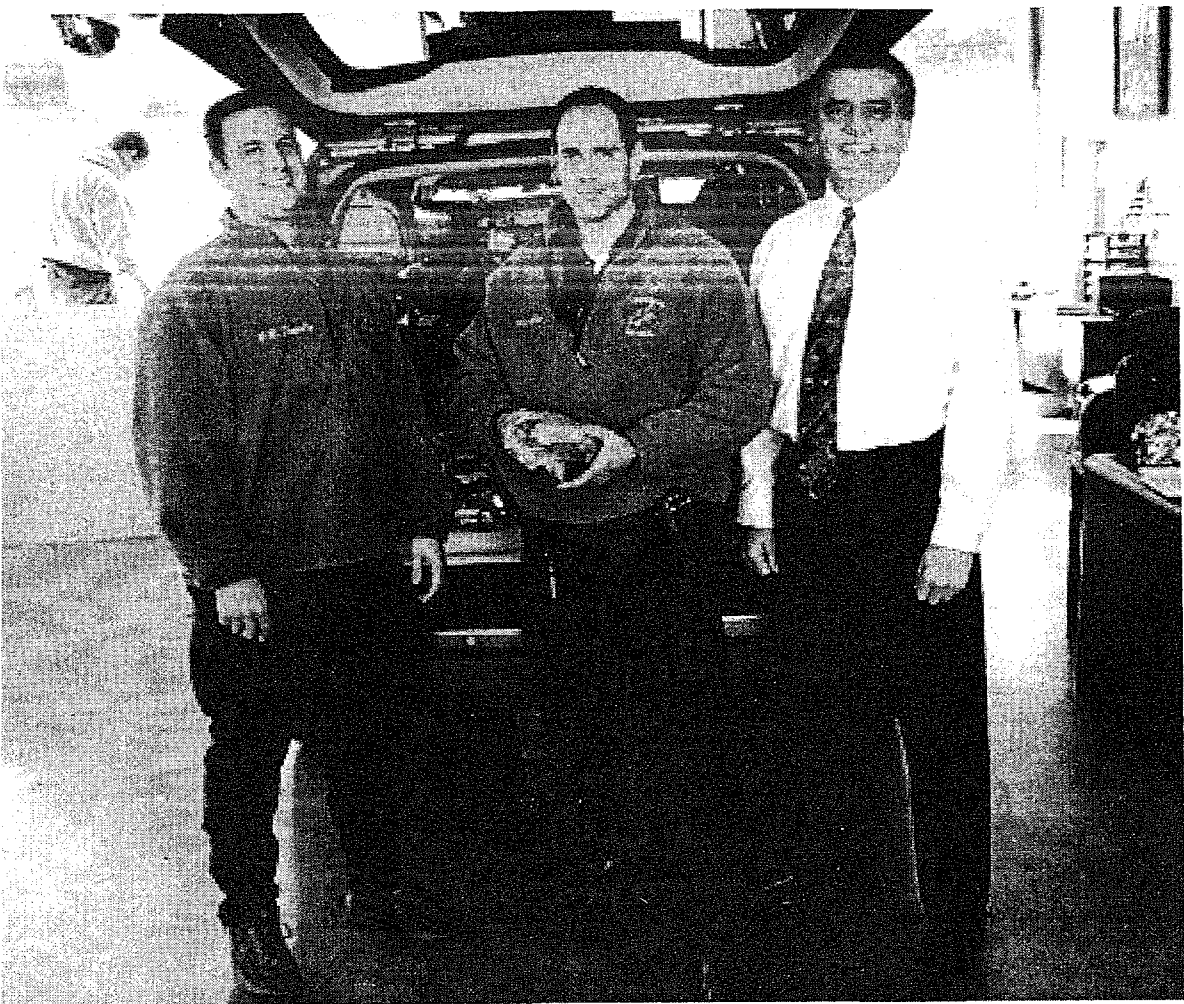
TOYOTA COROLLA 1992. For sale by original owner. 65,000 miles. A/C, 4 door. \$2,200. Call before 4pm 908-351-4126

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Spreading joy for the holidays



Maplecrest Lincoln Mercury, 2800 Springfield Ave. in Union, participated in the Toys for Tots program during the recent holiday season. Before Christmas, Tom Ziropoulos, right, general sales manager, turned over to Union Police Officers Michael Boll, left, and Christopher Donnelly more than 100 toys that had been collected at the dealership.

UNION COUNTY CLASSIFIED

**Just \$20.00 for first 20 words
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PONTIAC GRAND AM, 1992, 4 door, fully loaded, 60,000 miles. Like new \$4,500 or best offer. Call after 6 PM 000-0000.

UNION - 1 Bedroom apartment, heat and hot water supplied. Newly painted and remolded. Rent for \$700.00 a month. Call 000-0000.

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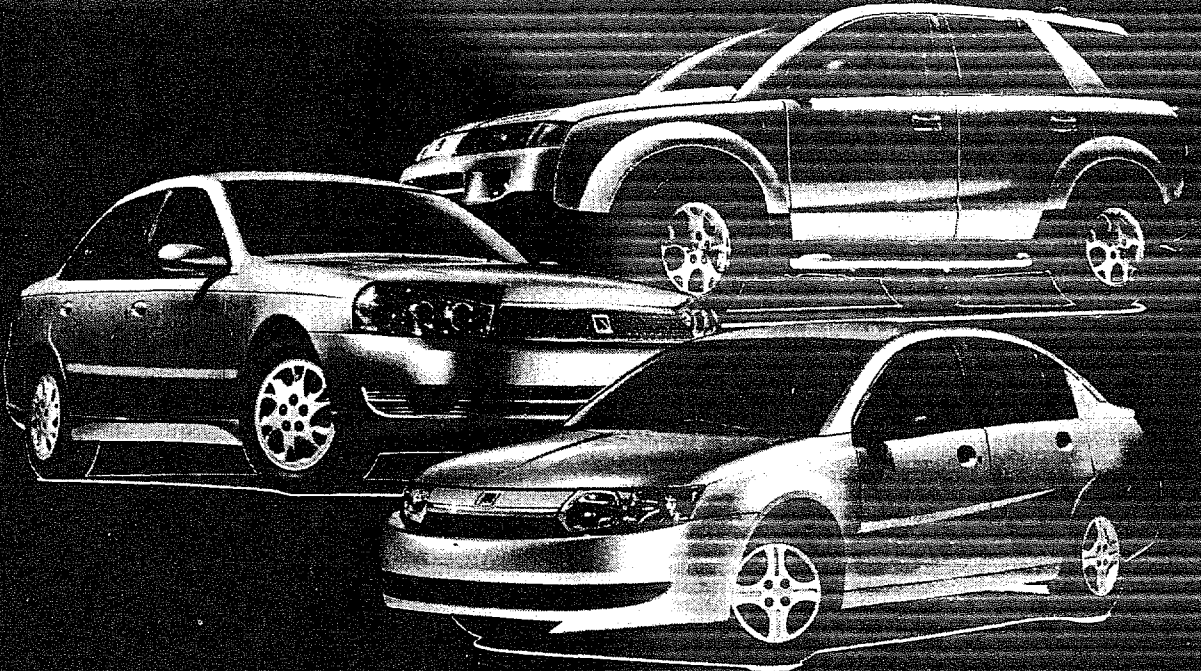
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Your \$2,000 is NOW \$6,000!

*'03 models only, max \$2,000

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Pay Only ONE DOLLAR DOWN And Take Over Payments From THE BANK!

Saturn of Union and Saturn of Green Brook have over 200 vehicles on their lots to dispose of immediately and all you do is pay one dollar (to make it legal) and then take over the payments directly from the bank. These are brand new Saturn vehicles and over 100 used cars, trucks, vans and SUVs brought here courtesy of the bank and Saturn of Union and Saturn of Green Brook have been contracted to sell them immediately!

ONE DOLLAR IS ALL YOU PAY DOWN TO TAKE OVER THE PAYMENTS FROM THE BANK.

**Do you want a \$129 payment with \$1 down? Do you want a \$150 payment with \$1 down?
Do you want a \$199 payment with \$1 down? Well it can happen with these vehicles!**

The bank owns these cars, trucks, vans and SUVs - Saturn of Union and Saturn of Green Brook are the sites they have selected to sell them. And remember, THESE ARE NOT BANK REPOS - these are brand new and used vehicles shipped here from around the country made possible by the bank to dispose of immediately.

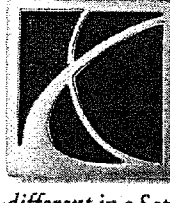
Bring ONE DOLLAR for the bank and bring Saturn of Union and Saturn of Green Brook your trade.

All payments plus tax, tag and title. See dealer for details. All offers with approved credit. Dealer retains all rebates. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer.

NEW & USED CARS, TRUCKS, VANS AND SPORT UTILITIES AVAILABLE...

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Camaros.....\$1 DOWN	Silverados....\$1 DOWN	Ions.....\$1 DOWN	Grand Ams....\$1 DOWN
S-10's\$1 DOWN	Tahoes\$1 DOWN	Mustangs.....\$1 DOWN	Intrepids\$1 DOWN
Blazers.....\$1 DOWN	Camrys\$1 DOWN	Explorers\$1 DOWN	Breezes\$1 DOWN
Astros\$1 DOWN	L-Wagons\$1 DOWN	Auroras\$1 DOWN	Vues\$1 DOWN
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Ventures\$1 DOWN	Civics\$1 DOWN	Altimas\$1 DOWN	Avalons\$1 DOWN
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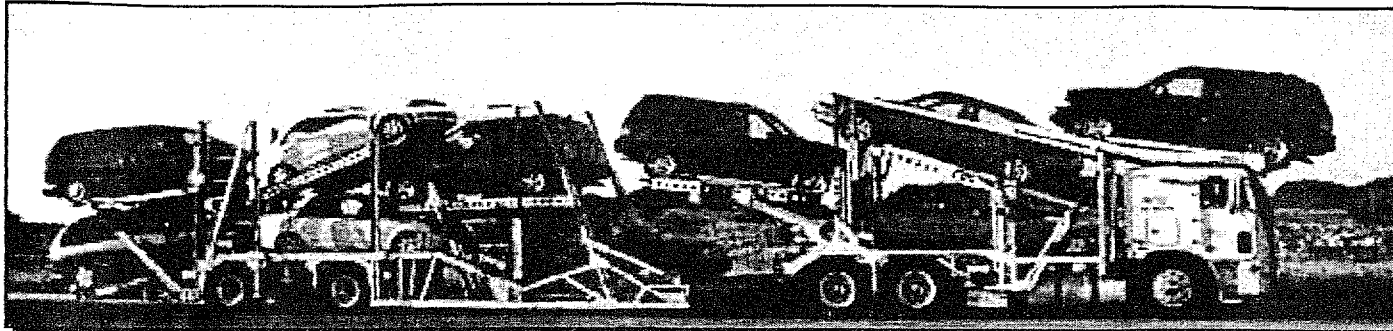


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\$6,000
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NEW 2002 MONTE CARLO SS COUPE



SAVE \$11,040

\$18,400

V6, Auto, Leather Accent Bucket Seats, Sunroof, Front Heated Seats, 6-Speaker AM/FM Stereo w/CD & Cass, 16" Alum. Wheels, Stk#A7788, VIN#25328483, MSRP *29,440.

NEW 2003 TAHOE 4WD

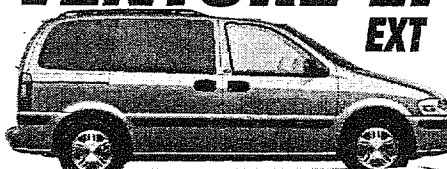


SAVE \$11,925

\$28,995

INCLUDES MULTI DISCOUNT OF \$9,775. *1,000 OLDS LOYALTY, *750 MILITARY REBATE, *400 COLLEGE GRAD REBATE. V8, Auto, Front High Back Bucket Seats, Luggage Rack Cross Bars, 3rd Row Seat, Trailering Equip., AM/FM Stereo w/CD & Cass, Bose Speakers, LS Preferred Equip. Group, Stk#B1534, VIN#3J33652, MSRP *40,920.

NEW 2003 VENTURE LT EXT

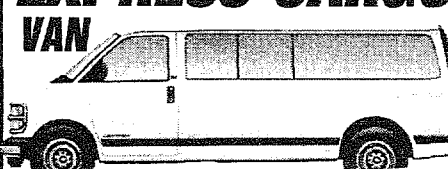


SAVE \$7,955

\$22,495

INCLUDES MULTI DISCOUNT OF \$5,805. *1,000 OLDS LOYALTY, *750 MILITARY REBATE, *400 COLLEGE GRAD REBATE. Power Sliding Driver Side Rear Door, Alarm System, AM/FM Stereo w/CD & Cass., Rear Seat Audio Controls, Cargo Net, Venture LT Equip. Group, Stk#B5355, VIN#30175082, MSRP *30,450.

NEW 2003 EXPRESS CARGO VAN



SAVE \$7,560

\$17,795

INCLUDES MULTI DISCOUNT OF \$5,410. *1,000 OLDS LOYALTY, *750 MILITARY REBATE, *400 COLLEGE GRAD REBATE. GVW Rating 7,300 lbs., Auto, V8, Door Side Cargo Hinged, High Back Bucket Seats, Fixed Glass-Side and Rear Doors, Preferred Equip. Group, Stk#B9201, VIN#31139465, MSRP *25,355.

NEW 2004 SUBURBAN 1500 4WD



SAVE \$11,546

\$31,999

INCLUDES GM REBATE OF \$3,000. *1,000 OLDS LOYALTY, *750 MILITARY REBATE, *400 COLLEGE GRAD REBATE. Demo w/768 Miles, V8, Auto, Liftgate/Liftglass, Front High Back Bucket Seats, Rear Seat Audio Controls, Bose Premium Speakers, DVD System, Stk#C2148, VIN#4G107447, MSRP *43,545.

NEW 2003 SILVERADO 2500HD EXT



SAVE \$8,016

\$20,995

INCLUDES MULTI DISCOUNT OF \$5,866. *1,000 OLDS LOYALTY, *750 MILITARY REBATE, *400 COLLEGE GRAD REBATE. 2WD, V8, Auto, Deep Tinted Glass, Elec. Rear Window Defogger, AM/FM Stereo w/4 Speakers, Dual Zone Manual A/C, Heavy Duty Trailering Equip., Stk#B1310, VIN#3C336778, MSRP *29,011.

NEW 2003 ASTRO VAN



SAVE \$7,338

\$19,995

INCLUDES MULTI DISCOUNT OF \$5,188. *1,000 OLDS LOYALTY, *750 MILITARY REBATE, *400 COLLEGE GRAD REBATE. V6 w/Overdrive, Auto, High Back Bucket Seats, Running Boards, Rear A/C, "Dutch Door" w/Liftgate, Roof Console w/Electronics, AM/FM Stereo w/CD & Cass., Roof Luggage Carrier, Alum. Wheels, Stk#B3309, VIN#3B126344, MSRP *27,333.

NEW 2003 IMPALA SEDAN



SAVE \$5,948

\$19,943

INCLUDES GM REBATE OF \$3,000. *1,000 OLDS LOYALTY, *750 MILITARY REBATE, *400 COLLEGE GRAD REBATE. V6, Auto, Custom Trim Bucket Seats, Split & Folding Rear Seat, Antilock Brakes, AM/FM Stereo w/CD & Cass. w/Premium Sound System, Cruise, Cargo Net, Overhead Console, Alum. Wheels, 6-Way Power Driver's Seat, Stk#B1409, VIN#39442728, MSRP *25,891.

NEW 2004 MALIBU SEDAN



SAVE \$4,448

\$15,382

INCLUDES GM REBATE OF \$1,000. *1,000 OLDS LOYALTY, *750 MILITARY REBATE, *400 COLLEGE GRAD REBATE. 4-Cyl, Auto, Cruise, Remote Keyless Entry, Cargo Rack, Front & Rear Floor Mats, Front License Plate Bracket, Stk#C2535, VIN#4F133634, MSRP *19,830.

NEW 2004 AVALANCHE 1500



SAVE \$10,000

\$24,285

INCLUDES MULTI DISCOUNT OF \$4,350. *3,500 GM REBATE, *1,000 OLDS LOYALTY, *750 MILITARY REBATE, *400 COLLEGE GRAD REBATE. V8, Auto, Cruise, Reclining Bucket Seats, 6 CD Player w/Bose Speakers, Heavy Duty Trailering Equip., Stk#C2086, VIN#4G101835, MSRP *34,285.

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'02 BUICK RENDEZVOUS

4X4, CXL Pkg., 4-Dr., Auto w/Overdrive, Overdrive, 6 Cyl., P/Steering, P/Brakes, A/C, AM/FM Stereo w/CD & Cass., P/Windows, P/Seats, P/Locks, P/Ant., P/Mirrors, Cruise, R/Defog, Tint, Moonroof, Leather Int., All Wipers, Alum. Wheels, Dual Air Bag, Antilock Brakes, 22,840 MI., Stk#13097-A, VIN#25503063.

\$14,943

\$21,499

60% OFF Original MSRP

'01 CHEVY IMPALA LS

4-Dr., Auto w/Overdrive, 6 Cyl., P/Steering, P/Brakes, A/C, AM/FM Stereo w/CD & Cass., P/Windows, P/Seats, P/Locks, P/Ant., P/Mirrors, Cruise, R/Defog, Tint, Moonroof, Leather Int., All Wipers, Alum. Wheels, Dual Air Bag, Antilock Brakes, 35,003 MI., Stk#14032-A, VIN#19291651.

\$28,878

\$13,577

\$22,499

'02 CADILLAC STS

4-Dr., Auto w/Overdrive, 6 Cyl., P/Steering, P/Brakes, A/C, AM/FM Stereo w/CD & Cass., P/Windows, P/Seats, P/Locks, P/Ant., P/Mirrors, Cruise, R/Defog, Tint, Moonroof, Leather Int., Buckets, Console, Alum. Wheels, Dual Air Bag, Antilock Brakes, 40,179 MI., Stk#17940A, VIN#20138725.

\$16,012

\$17,877

\$16,999

'01 BUICK REGAL LS

4-Dr., Auto w/Overdrive, 6 Cyl., P/Steering, P/Brakes, A/C, AM/FM Stereo w/CD & Cass., P/Windows, P/Seats, P/Locks, P/Ant., P/Mirrors, Cruise, R/Defog, Tint, Moonroof, Leather Int., All Wipers, Alum. Wheels, 40,110 MI., Stk#12960-A, VIN#11153651.

\$16,012

\$17,877

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'02 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER LS

4X4, 4-Dr., Auto w/Overdrive, Overdrive, 6 Cyl., P/Steering, P/Brakes, A/C, AM/FM Stereo w/CD & Cass., P/Windows, P/Seats, P/Locks, P/Ant., P/Mirrors, Cruise, R/Defog, Tint, Cloth Int., Bucket Seats, Radial Tires, Int. Wipers, Alum. Wheels, Dual Air Bags, Antilock Brakes, 24,301 MI., Stk#12760-A, VIN#22119558.

\$16,012

\$17,877

\$16,999

'03 CHEVY CARGO VAN

3/4 Ton Extended Auto w/Overdrive, 8 Cyl., P/Steering, P/Brakes, A/C, AM/FM Stereo, Radial All-Season Tires, Int. Wipers, Dual Air Bags, Antilock Brakes, 23,011 MI., Stk#13012-A, VIN#3117800.

\$17,628

'99 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY

Van, Auto w/Overdrive, 6 Cyl., P/Steering, P/Brakes, A/C, AM/FM Stereo w/CD & Cass., P/Windows, P/Seats, P/Locks, P/Ant., P/Mirrors, Cruise, R/Defog, Tint, Leather Int., All Season Radial Tires, Alum. Wheels, Dual Air Bags, Antilock Brakes, 51,295 MI., Stk#14021-A, VIN#X8B11002.

\$11,999

'01 GMC SONOMA

Ext-Cab Auto w/Overdrive, 6 Cyl., P/Steering, P/Brakes, A/C, AM/FM Stereo w/CD & Cass., Radial Tires, Antilock Brakes, 28,726 MI., Stk#14043-A, VIN#1B184918.

\$16,012

'01 GMC JIMMY SLT

4-Dr., 4X4, Auto w/Overdrive, 6 Cyl., P/Steering, P/Brakes, A/C, AM/FM Stereo w/CD & Cass., P/Windows, P/Seats, P/Locks, P/Ant., P/Mirrors, Cruise, R/Defog, Tint, Alum. Wheels, Moonroof, Radial Tires, Int. Wipers, Dual Air Bag, Antilock Brakes, 26,060 MI., Stk#14033-A, VIN#12142103.

\$17,877

'02 DODGE DURANGO

4-Dr., 4X4, Auto w/Overdrive, 6 Cyl., P/Steering, P/Brakes, A/C, AM/FM Stereo w/CD & Cass., P/Windows, P/Seats, P/Locks, P/Ant., P/Mirrors, Cruise, R/Defog, Tint, Cloth Int., Radial Tires, Int. Wipers, Luggage Rack, Dual Air Bag, Antilock Brakes, 22,307 MI., Stk#12638A, VIN#2F187633.

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